

The Greenville Sun

6:32 pm EST | Friday, February 22, 2016 | Make us your homepage | 423-638-4181

MLS# 369659

\$169,900

Click for info

(423) 639-2345

Hometown Realty & Auction Inc.

39°

Clear

Search GreenvilleSun.com...

Thanks for visiting GreenvilleSun.com. You're entitled to view 12 free articles every 30 days. You will see 3 articles for free before being asked to register, and then you can view 9 additional articles by registering or logging in. Then, if you enjoy our site and want full access, we'll ask you to purchase an affordable subscription.

11

Remaining

Home

News

Local News

Sun Staff Writer Receives National Journalism Award

Story

Comments

Print

Font Size: - +

f Recommend

97

G+1

0

Pinit

0

Share

0

Posted: Monday, February 22, 2016 10:46 am

0 comments

Greenville Sun Staff Writer Ken Little has won the 2016 Public Notice Journalism Prize for coverage of the John M. Reed Nursing Home in Limestone.

The nursing home's Medicare/Medicaid coverage was revoked by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Little's story, published Dec. 4, 2015, followed the Nov. 23 publication of an official newspaper notice by HHS in the Sun noting "deficiencies" by the hospital.

The award will be presented March 17 by the Public Notice Resource Center at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with National Newspaper Association's Community Newspaper Leadership Summit.

Little and Sun Co-Publisher Gregg Jones will be present to receive the prize.

Little's story was submitted by the Tennessee Press Association, which also recognized the coverage in its annual newspaper contest.

Sun Advertising Account Manager Brenda Weems first noticed the public notice shortly after its publication. She alerted Sun General Manager Steve Harbison, who then alerted the Sun's news staff.

Bradley L. Thompson II, president of the Public Notice Resource Center, said judges found Little's coverage compelling and important to readers, according to a news release from the Public Notice Resource Center. The story noted shortcomings of the John M. Reed Health and Rehabilitation Nursing Home cited by HHS.

Among them were a report from a housekeeper who said she had checked a patient's vital signs one night because of a shortage of nursing staff, a failure to maintain antibiotics ordered by physicians and failure to prevent pressure sores.

The public notice advised readers that Medicare/Medicaid coverage would cease as of Nov. 28, 2015.

Thompson said he was particularly pleased that the Sun picked up the story because HHS had proposed at one time eliminating the newspaper notices, an action PNRC had criticized as harmful to the public's awareness of the agency's activities.

"Reporters hold a compelling trust to help readers find and understand these important public notices," Thompson said. "The wording of a notice is usually prescribed by regulation to convey precise information. But to put the information in context, the journalist has to develop the background and guide readers to appreciate the meaning of the notice. Little did exactly what newsrooms across America are doing, and must increasingly do, every day."

Jones applauded Little's work and said this illustrates why public notices are so valuable to citizens.

"Public notices in newspapers provide an indispensable way to educate the public on many things that citizens need and want to know, but probably wouldn't learn otherwise," Jones said. "However, often a public notice is so brief or is worded in such technical language that the 'real,' or full, story is unclear even though the matter is something which could affect people in the community in a significant way.

"That's when it becomes important for us at The Greenville Sun to dig a little deeper into the situation to provide the context and substance essential to ensuring that citizens who are potentially affected by the public notice can make well-informed decisions.

"Follow-up of this kind is exactly what Ken did in the case of a public notice published in the Sun several months ago about a local nursing home's having had its Medicare/Medicaid payments canceled by the federal government.

"If the public notice had not been published in the newspaper's Classifieds advertising section, as the law requires in such situations, the Sun might not have discovered that there was a local matter needing further explanation.

"And without Ken's careful follow-up to find and report the full story behind the public notice about the nursing home, most readers of the Sun probably wouldn't have known about a serious problem that might have affected the well-being of one of their loved ones or friends.

"I am very proud of Ken Little for being nationally recognized for doing something the members of our news staff at the Sun strive to do any time it seems needed -- shine a spotlight on possible problems in the community so that they can be suitably addressed.

"That kind of reporting is an important part of our overall effort to make sure our readers are clearly informed about things that are relevant to them, and that help them live better lives."

Greg Sherrill, executive director of Tennessee Press Association, echoed Jones' and Thompson's praise of the work.

"We were thrilled to learn that the public notice story by Ken Little has been chosen as the national winner for the PNRC Public Notice Contest," Sherrill said. "Little's use of a public notice as a genesis for his story and the excellent coverage that has followed led us to choose it as the Tennessee Public Notice Contest winner this winter.

"As this was the first year Tennessee has sponsored such a contest, we were excited to learn that Little's work has now been recognized in the national contest. We congratulate Little and The Greenville Sun for outstanding public service work, which highlights the importance of public notices in the community."

Little is a native of western New York and received a communications degree from Buffalo State College. He served as editor of a weekly newspaper in the Buffalo area and has also worked as a staff writer at daily newspapers in Oswego, N.Y., Niagara Falls, N.Y., Lansdale, Pa., Utica, N.Y. and Wilmington, N.C.

He has served as a staff writer at The Greenville Sun since 2011.

He also has experience as a television news producer at the CBS affiliate in Buffalo and provided on-air reports for the National Public Radio affiliate in Wilmington, N.C.

More about John M. Reed Nursing Home

ARTICLE: Sun Reporter's National Award Underscores Importance Of Public Notices

ARTICLE: John M. Reed Nursing Home Under New Management

f Recommend

97

G+1

0

Pinit

0

Share

0

Discuss

Print

Posted in Local News on Monday, February 22, 2016 10:46 am.

John M. Reed Nursing Home

More From This Site

"Criminally Negligent Homicide" Charges Read In Court

Woman describes rape she said preceded 10-year abduction

Early Cherokee Village Discovered In ET

Blanchard, 18, Served With Murder Charges

Chief Deputy: Corpse Had Been In Forest For Weeks

From Around The Web

Recent Research Suggests It May Be Possible to Reverse Mitochondrial Decay (Fast Company)

8 Chicken Sauces That Should Be in Your Kitchen Repertoire (AARP)

Do You Know This Antiaging Secret? A New Pill Can Keep You Young (Scientific American)

Doctor Loses Lawsuit and Job after Patient Secretly Records Awful Discussion (Kevin, M.D. - Medical Weblog)

How To: Fix "Spider Veins" (Beverly Hills MD)

Recommended by Outbrain

From The Web

The Fastest Way To Pay Off \$10,000 In Credit Card Debt

LendingTree

Will This Startup Kill The ETF Revolution?

Yahoo! Finance | Motif Investing

You'll Never Go Back to a "Normal" Belt After You See This

SlideBelts

Changes To Social Security Hit April 30th: Here's The Scoop

Stansberry Research

Sponsored Links by Taboola

Rules of Conduct

1

Keep it Clean.

Please avoid obscene, vulgar, lewd, racist or sexually-oriented language.

2

Don't Threaten or Abuse.

Threats of harming another person will not be tolerated. AND PLEASE TURN OFF CAPS LOCK.

3

Be Truthful.

Don't knowingly lie about anyone or anything.

4

Be Nice.

No racism, sexism or any sort of -ism that is degrading to another person.

5

Be Proactive.

Use the 'Report' link on each comment to let us know of abusive posts.

6

Share with Us.

We'd love to hear eyewitness accounts, the history behind an article.

Welcome to the discussion.

Log In

Register

Current users sign in here.

Print comments

Subscriber Rewards

Enjoy Big Discounts from local Merchants

Food • Fun • Retail • Services • Auto

The Greenville Sun

DOWN LOAD OUR MOBILE APP TO SEE WHAT YOU ARE MISSING!

The Greenville Sun

f

Local News

Greenville TN News

Greenville Business

Greene County Sports

Features

Contact News

Sports

Landair Ladies' Classic

Greenville TN Sports

Sports Photos

The Running Journal

Contact Sports

Obituaries

Greenville TN Obituaries

Community

Public Notices

Guidebook

Public Records

Greene County Partnership Directory

TN.gov

GreeneCountyTNGovt.com

Greene County / Greenville City Schools

Local Library

Chamber of Commerce

Multimedia

Photo Galleries

Sports Photos

Videos

Video Search

Marketplace

Greenville Marketplace

Advertising

Retail Advertising

Advertising Terms and Conditions

Place Your Classified Ad Online

Contact Us

Subscribe

New Subscription

Convert to EZ-Pay

Renew Subscription

I'm Going On Vacation

Change of Address

Delivery Problems?

Places to Buy The Sun

Places to Get The GNN

Questions/Comments

Contact Circulation

Our Partners

Newport Plain Talk

The Rogersville Review

The Daily Times

Watauga Democrat

The Mountain Times

Lenoir City News-Herald

Advocate & Democrat

The Daily Post Athenian

Dayton Herald-News

MAG7

Contact Us

© Copyright 2016, The Greenville Sun, Greenville, TN. Powered by BLOX Content Management System from TownNews.com. [Terms of Use | Privacy Policy]