

Butler Eagle

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News Release – 10/20/2022

Statement from Ron Vodenichar, president and publisher, Butler Eagle, regarding the Post-Gazette labor dispute

The Butler Eagle is currently serving as one of the printers of The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, which is involved in a labor dispute with a minority of its employees.

The Eagle made the decision to try and assist all Post-Gazette employees as well as management in surviving through this turmoil.

It is our firm belief that if the Post-Gazette fails to distribute a print product for any length of time it would cause the end of the Post-Gazette. Only through the assistance of a third party will the jobs of the workers -- and maybe even the future of the company --- survive.

No industry is suffering more today than the newspaper business. It is a fact that newspapers are losing money and having to struggle to survive.

Some of it is the fault of the industry for not transforming itself in a successful manner as times changed. Some of it can be blamed on unfair business practices which steal the work of news organizations without compensating them.

Regardless, that is why workers are on the picket line, why companies are seeking willing partners to keep them in business, and why third-party printers are stepping up to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

We are certain that the workers and the company want to come back after the labor issues are resolved. If someone doesn't keep the product viable until the issues are resolved, they can turn off the lights and the presses forever because the people that currently support the newspaper will have moved on to other options.

That is why we, the Butler Eagle, are temporarily printing the Post-Gazette, hoping to help preserve that newspaper for its staff as well as its readers who value the importance of local journalism as we do.

Ron Vodenichar,
President & Publisher

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