Noel Nash is more than the owner of a small-town newspaper. Inspiring, approachable and kind, Nash is the type of person one would be eager to learn from. His mission is to serve unique and hyper-local news to the Creswell, Cottage Grove, Pleasant Hill and Springfield communities, as he dedicates himself to serving his readers.

Nash is the owner and publisher of *The Chronicle* newspaper. The newspaper was titled "2022 Business of the Year" by <u>Springfield Chamber</u>, according to community news.

Living his dream job, Nash is perfectly content with publishing the local stories in his area. "I love it here, people are so hungry for this," Nash said. From high-school sports games to sustainable health care, *The Chronicle* covers what it can and continues to expand. "They strive to make sure that the truth is told and the solutions are the main focus on their reporting," said Rachael Landi, an employee.

Around 2,200 local newspapers have been lost since 2005 according to the <u>Washington Post</u>. Since the turn of the century, newspapers across America have significantly decreased. This begs the question of what caused local newspapers to die?

"There were so many bad decisions that killed newspapers," Nash said. "The lack of vision and leadership by the newspaper's owners in the early 2000s allowed all of the classified advertising to just walk out of our lives."

From an early age, Nash had a passion for journalism. Starting as a paper boy in the heart of Miami, he pursued a degree in journalism from Miami Dade College. Nash started his career working for the *Miami Herald* then branched into sports journalism and rose to the senior director at ESPN. After years of working in a large corporation, he desired to return to his passion—working for a hyper-local newspaper.

Determined to focus on their communities, Nash and his team are passionate to produce hyper-local news. Local newspapers around the country are struggling, but not *The Chronicle*. The newspaper is only growing from here.

"I don't believe print is dead. I think bad print is dead," Nash said.