

# NEWSBLUEZETTE

A DAILY INSIDER NEWSLETTER FOR TV NEWS PROFESSIONALS

Home Page

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Comment

## ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT



We told you last week about [Kris Anderson](#), the morning and noon news anchor at Local TV's WREG-3-CBS in Memphis (Market #50), who made a public statement of innocence Thursday, following his arrest on assault charges in Southaven, MS, a suburb of Memphis, where he lived with his longtime girlfriend and their twin boys and a daughter from a previous relationship. According to an anonymous source inside the station, "Anderson ended the relationship with the mother of his two sons but continued to have her live in his home to be close to the children."

WREG management reportedly called an "emergency meeting" of newsroom staff on Thursday to outline how the station would handle coverage of the incident. The station walked a difficult line because of extensive coverage being giving to the unrelated arrest of Memphis City Councilman Marco McClendon on domestic violence charges. A tipster claims News Director Bruce Moore was sent to Southaven to "help calm the waters with local police."

During the 4:30 p.m. newscast Thursday, April 22, veteran anchor Alex Coleman announced: "WREG Newschannel 3 anchor Kris Anderson has been arrested and charged with simple assault following an altercation outside his ex-girlfriend's house last night."

"Anderson allegedly got into an altercation with the former girlfriend's new boyfriend," explained Coleman. "The police report says Anderson went to his ex-girlfriend's home in Olive Branch to check on his children, when he was asked to leave the property. When he didn't, the report says, the new boyfriend stepped outside the



home where the alleged altercation took place. Anderson told us today, 'I want to assure you I am innocent of the charge. The truth will bear out my innocence in a court of law.'



Although Anderson was reportedly taken from the scene in handcuffs and loaded into a squad car, local media outlets have been unable to find the police report referred to in WREG's news story. Sources also claim they have been unable to find a booking report or reference to any future court appearances.

Anderson was off the air Thursday and Friday but returned to work Monday, did his full shift, and made no further mention of the arrest.

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[The New York Post claims NBC](#) has dropped Tiki Barber as a result of publicity surrounding his marriage infidelities.

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## ROLLOVER

A Ford F150 Econoline live truck, owned by Smith Media's KEYT-3-ABC in Santa Barbara (Market #120), blew a tire yesterday afternoon on U.S. 101 near Santa Maria, CA, and rolled several times, coming to rest on its side in the center median.



Photog Oscar Flores, who was driving, and reporter John Palminteri were hospitalized in Santa Maria.

"We want to let you know they are both fine. They are safe," said news anchor Paula Lopez during the 6:00 p.m. newscast, adding, "We also want to thank all of you *out there* for all of your concern."

Competitors KSBY-6-NBC and KCOY-12-CBS both had photos of the rollover scene. KEYT, for obvious reasons, did not.

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## BRAZEN BURGLARY



When the transmitter for Hearst Television's KMBC-9-ABC in Kansas City (Market #31) suddenly shut down Sunday night, engineers were dispatched to find out what happened.

[Cops arrived first](#) and found a large section of 2-inch copper conduit cut away from the side of the transmitter building and green coolant everywhere.

The tubing circulated liquid around two \$40,000 transmitter tubes. A gauge detected the sudden loss in pressure and shut down the transmitter. Whether it happened in time to save the tubes is a question that KMBC-KCWE Director of Engineering Jerry Agresti said won't be known until today. The damage could reach \$100,000.



Either the robbers knew exactly what they were doing or were incredibly brazen. "They could've gotten scalded by the hot fluid, and there's extremely high-voltage equipment there," said Agresti. "If they'd touched the wrong wire, they'd be found dead."

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Joe Duke, the popular director of recruitment at CBS Newspath and, for many years, the main talent gatekeeper for CBS News, has joined star-laden [Headline Media Management](#) in New York as a talent agent. He was a victim of staff cuts at CBS News in February.

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## I'M A BUDGET CUT



Steve Rondinaro, former radio entrepreneur and ex-TV news anchor in Orlando, is out the door after three years as primary news reader and managing editor of Morris Multimedia's WWAY-3-ABC in Wilmington, NC (Market #132).

He "disappeared" from the air April 8 and finally got a chance to say goodbye to viewers [by penning an op-ed piece for the local news rag](#). "I'm a budget cut," he explained, noting, "The writing was on the wall several months ago."

"Unfortunately I didn't get a chance to explain that to our viewers before disappearing from the air. That happens all too often in the TV world," wrote Rondinaro. "If you're kind enough

to invite us into your home on a nightly basis, we should have the manners to offer a proper goodbye. It's business. I'm simply another in an ongoing series of budget cuts at Channel 3. Like our local governments and about every other media business, revenue is down at WWAY, too. My contract was in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Rondinaro, who used to own three small radio stations in rural North Carolina and a low-power TV station in Boone, NC, [writes on his blog about visiting the unemployment office for the first time](#) to pick up his weekly \$153 check. "Despite my tasteful Hawaiiin [sic] shirt, or maybe because of it, I got some interesting looks as I sat in the front waiting with 15 to 20 other people," he writes. "'Isn't that the TV guy? Where's his camera?' Not this time, my friend. I'm one of you."

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Blondiful Lauren Dorsett [debuts Thursday as the new 5:00 p.m. news anchor](#) at Calkins Media-owned WWSB-40-ABC in Sarasota (Tampa-Market #14). She replaces veteran news anchor Heidi Godman, who signed off Friday after failing to come to terms on a new contract. Godman was with the station 22 years. Dorsett arrives from Calkins sister-station WTXL-27-ABC in Tallahassee (Market #106).

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Blondiful CNBC Asia anchor [Amanda Drury starts May 10th](#) as Melissa Francis's maternity leave replacement on CNBC's "The Call." Drury has been with the network nine years, working out of the CNBC Australia headquarters in Sydney.



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Blondiful Fox News anchoress Courtney Friel, wearing a diamond tiara, [takes blogger Julia Allison on a tour of her Upper West Side clothes closet](#), which used to be a bedroom.

Friel is wearing a tiara because, as she explains, "It's my 30th birthday, and I'm allowed to wear one."

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Speaking of closets: Former HLN anchor Thomas Roberts is doing fill-in, freelance work for MSNBC's "First Look" and NBC's "Early Today" this week.

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Brad Hawkins, a former morning news anchor at Belo's WFAA-8-ABC in Dallas (Market #5), who left the station in Dec. 2008 to become the principal media spokesman for Dallas-based Southwest Airlines, still has his job at Southwest, despite being arrested last week on a charge of public lewdness. [The LGBT-centric Dallasvoice.com has more.](#)



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MSNBC's Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski [are taking a "brief hiatus" from their two-hour radio show](#) to develop "a new three-hour program."

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It's Derby Week in Louisville (Market #49) and Churchill Downs reports that after a down year in 2009, [media credential requests have rebounded](#). The track typically issues between 1,900 and 2,000 credentials.

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## BRANDED AND MARKED



Our story yesterday about the trademark logo behind the "Taking ACTION. Getting RESULTS.® " branding slogan at Local TV's WHNT-19-CBS in Huntsville (Market #81) drew the attention Stan Pylant, the station's president and general manager.

Pylant noted that Local TV Alabama LLC filed for, and was granted, a trademark on the phrase on March 31, 2009, by the [U.S Patent & Trademark Office. \(Reg# 3,597,686\)](#).

We checked. He's right. Other stations can't Take **ACTION** or Get **RESULTS** without Pylant's permission. But they *can* be **ON YOUR SIDE** and **LOOKING OUT FOR YOU**.

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Bob Ramsey has resigned as vice president and general manager of Tribune's KTXL-40-Fox in Sacramento (Market #20). He says he plans to "take some time off and do some traveling, relaxing, and then get back at it."

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WMDT-47-ABC in Salisbury, MD (Market #144), [has more on the Saturday death](#) of longtime News Director Dawn Mitchell.

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Meredith's KPTV-12-Fox in Portland (Market #22) [is shuffling anchors](#).

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## IPHONY INTRIGUE

Remember last week when Gawker Media-owned Gizmodo aired video of what it claimed to be a top-secret "4G iPhone"?

Gizmodo reportedly paid \$5,000 to a man who says [he found it in a bar in Redwood City](#), near Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, CA. The phone was reportedly lost by Apple engineer Gray Powell, 27, who spent the night sampling German beers and walked away without the top-secret gadget. [Powell may \(or may not\) have been fired](#), depending on who's spinning the story.



Apple wrote to Gizmodo with a "formal request that you return the device." Gizmodo said it would, although it's unclear if it actually did.

Friday night, the California Rapid Enforcement Allied Computer Team broke down the door of Gizmodo Editor Jason Chen's house and executed a search warrant. [They seized four computers and two servers](#) along with cameras and an iPhone. Chen was not home at the time. The warrant was issued by a Superior Court judge and described the phone as "stolen," rather than merely found.

Gawker Media claims the search was illegal since it was conducted at night and broke the US "shield law" which protects journalists and their sources.

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## MRS. BLUEZETTE'S GRAMMAR YAMMER

"A PBS mind in an MTV world." [MrsB\\_@NewsBlues.com](mailto:MrsB_@NewsBlues.com)

One of Mrs. B's friends who is a proofreader for court reporters writes:

*From a Minneapolis Star Tribune article:*

*Mary Kenning, a psychologist who has worked on more than 100 civil commitment cases, said the public should understand that "they go over every page of the person's prison file with a fine-tooth comb." (4-19-10)*

*That should be "**fine-toothed**," right? Similarly, a **short-sleeved** shirt (not short-sleeve) and **old-fashioned** rather than old-fashion. I'm sure there are more, but it's too early to think of them right now!*

*Brenda Peterson  
Grand Rapids, Minnesota*

Yes. And note the "d's" at the end of middle-aged and middle-sized.

~Police arrested a middle-aged man at the convenience store.

~She ordered a middle-sized coffee on the way to the liveshot.

Mrs. B is sometimes called old-fashioned because of her belief that anchors, reporters, and producers should set the example with their grammar and usage.

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