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Two more nationally prominent journalists have joined the advisory board of OurTown.com, which has launched more than 70,000 hyperlocal news sites across the U.S.A.

Reid Miller and **Tony Pederson** are the new advisers.

They join board members **Gil Thelen**, and **Marilyn Greene**.

Miller spent 43 years with The Associated Press, serving as chief of bureau in Salt Lake City and Miami and assistant chief of bureau in Washington, D.C., before going abroad in 1983. Reid was AP's roving correspondent for Central America until 1988, covering, among other things, the Contra war in Nicaragua (during which he was badly wounded) and bloody civil conflicts in El Salvador and Guatemala. He spent the next eight years as chief of bureau for East Africa, based in Nairobi, Kenya. In that capacity, Reid covered and supervised coverage of the overthrow of dictators Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia and Siad Barre of Somalia, the subsequent famine and US/UN intervention in Somalia and the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, for which The AP won Pulitzer prizes for international reporting and spot photos. As bureau chief in Seoul, Korea, from 1995 until he retired in 1999, Reid played a significant role in uncovering the massacre of innocent civilians by U.S. troops near the village of No Gun Ri during the early days of the Korean War, for which The AP won the 1999 Pulitzer for investigative reporting.

Pederson holds the Belo Distinguished Chair in Journalism at the Meadows School of the Arts, Southern Methodist University. He is former senior vice president and executive editor of *The Houston Chronicle* and is a longtime activist in First Amendment issues and international press freedom issues, especially in Latin America. He was president of the Inter American Press Association in 1999-2000. He has received the James Madison Award from the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas for his work on First Amendment issues and the Jack Douglas Award from the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors Association for service to Texas newspapers. Pederson serves as a director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas and the Inter American Press Association and is a member of the board of advisers for the International Center for Journalists.

“Both Reid and Tony are great additions to our advisory board,” said George Blake, OurTown.com chief news officer. “They will offer feedback to our local editors, provide writing tips and general direction for this successful and important new venture in journalism.”

The other advisory board members:

Marilyn Greene. Marilyn is the former executive director of the World Press Freedom Committee in Washington, D.C. John S. and James L. Knight International Press Fellow. She is a former international affairs reporter for USA Today and a former reporter and editor on Gannett New York newspapers.

Gil Thelen. Gil is Executive Director of Florida Society of Newspaper Editors and James A. Clendinen Professor in Editorial and Critical Writing at the University of South Florida. He is the retired Publisher and President of the Tampa Tribune and former executive editor of The State, Columbia, S.C., and the Myrtle Beach Sun-News, also in South Carolina.

Chief News Officer Blake is former editor and vice president of the Cincinnati Enquirer, editor of the Fort Myers News-Press and executive editor of the Pacific Daily News. He was a three-time Best of Gannett editor. He is chairman and CEO of the Private Data Corporation (Pridatco Inc.) and chairman of InQbate Corp. He also has been chairman of BrandWatch Global Technologies.

ABOUT OURTOWN, LLC

OurTown, LLC™ is a nationally branded, interactive, hyper-local network for news and community information covering 70,000 local sites for every populated ZIP in the U.S. OurTown™ publishes national and regional news, sports, content and local weather to each ZIP. The company recently announced partnerships with Topix.com on local news reporting and with AnnesDiary.com on safe social networking for younger web users.