

 **MediaNews Group**

December 4, 2008

TO: Denver Post and DNA Colleagues

FROM: Dean Singleton

RE: The Rocky Mountain News

E. W. Scripps Company announced today that it has put The Rocky Mountain News up for sale until mid-January, when it will “examine other options”.

Scripps notified MediaNews Group on November 19 that it planned to close the Rocky Mountain News as soon as practical.

Since then, MediaNews Group, parent of The Denver Post, has negotiated with Scripps on the financial details of the Scripps departure from the market. MediaNews has sought assurance from Scripps that it would fund its share of Denver Newspaper Agency obligations, such as pensions, among others.

MediaNews was surprised that Scripps made the Thursday announcement without resolving the open financial issues. But I’m sure these issues will be worked out either amicably or otherwise.

As you know, an announced sale is usually the first step leading to a failing newspaper’s closure. While I doubt a buyer will emerge, The Denver Post has a right of first refusal on the sale of The Rocky and its DNA ownership.

It is no secret that the newspaper industry is going through unprecedented difficulty and change. The Rocky Mountain News, with only a small percentage of Denver Newspaper Agency’s advertising revenue but an equal percentage of its costs has been a serious drain on the performance of The Denver Post for years. With the latest economic downturn, both newspapers have seen losses reach levels that have not been seen before.

We wish Scripps well as it leaves the Denver newspaper market. MediaNews is committed to doing its utmost to preserve The Denver Post as the “Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire” and to take whatever steps necessary to preserve this great institution.

While those of us who love newspapers are not happy with where we find our industry today, I for one believe we will emerge as a changed but successful medium providing a necessary service to our readers and advertisers.

Finally, let me thank every Denver Post and Denver Newspaper Agency employee for your hard work and dedication. These are difficult times, but I’m honored to be on your team.