

METRO® Reinventing Special Sections











































Reinventing Special Sections | Comparison |





















"This Magazine Section forms a part of our paper every week. Every article is written especially for it, and does not appear elsewhere."

1918 MICHIGAN FARMER LIVESTOCK JOURNAL



















"Everything has been thought of before, but the problem is to think of it again."

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



















Special Sections

Special sections give readers content that differs from the normal flow of news, sports, ads, articles and other features in the newspaper.

Special Timing

Special sections are created in advance of the seasonal topic you are targeting. Back to School sections in July, Holiday Gift Guides in October.





















Special sections provide readers with tangible information to help them improve their lives: tips, advice or how-tos.

Special Editors

Special sections aren't always managed by a managing editor or features editor. Advertising sales teams and publishers frequently manage special ad-supported seasonal sections.

Special Results

Special sections guarantee interested readers and work because of their timely hooks, useful content and attentiongrabbing headlines. Placement near ads often energized reader response as they can directly relate to editorial content.



^{*(}Ed Henniger, wannews.com,2018)

^{*(}StatePoint Media, Why Special Sections Work)



















SUMMER LIVING

The Ozark Horse Trader/ Ozark Marketing West Plains, MO

- Lively, well-designed layout
- Customized Contents page
- Great display ads throughout
- Local historical content
- Maps, campgrounds, rivers/creeks
- Editorial content: Home Improvement, Summer Camps, Grilling Feature, Did You Know?































EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

West Volusia Beacon DeLand, FL

- Weather is a huge, trending topic
- Created section ahead of hurricane season
- Customized with local emergency numbers and resources
- Matched articles with relevant advertisers
- Ran as an insert, with 17K copies appearing in their weekly publication

























FITNESS & NUTRITION

Freestone County Times Fairfield, TX

- Coordinated with services offered by local advertisers
- Used premium-quality paper to enhance appeal
- Distributed at local events
- One advertiser incorporated native advertising from a local Pilates studio





























WEDDING PLANNER

The Daily Review Towanda, PA

- Features, tips, trends and advice from local wedding venues and vendors
- Section ran online and as a print insert
- Placed overrun copies in high-traffic locations around town





























SPECIAL EDITION WRAP

The Holton Recorder Holton, KS

- Owners of paper did custom wrap for daughter's wedding
- Distributed to all guests at wedding as keepsake
- Concept is adaptable to focus on local business or any other local event















































Special Printing

Custom wrap to heighten awareness

- Special occasion
- Business highlight
- Weekend event
- Special sale

Structure cost to profit from special wrap offering





















Different Configuration

No rule says that a section has to be in a tab or magazine format

Draw attention to a section topic by delivering bite-sized features over a few days

Create more focused content and a serial effect of the information























Mining Your Existing Local Content

- Community information
- Maps & Guides
- Local history, 100 years ago today: Include stories about local long-time businesses





















Readers Love Photos

Connect with readers through photography

- A Day In The Community Photo portfolio of your area in 24 hours
- Reader submitted local photos: Parks Local Architecture (Barns) **Portraits**





















Targeted Sections Zip Codes Communities in Larger Areas

Reach optimal readers with targeted advertising within a section

 Ability to customize Local content Community information **Emergency numbers**





















Contests, Contests, Contests

- Readers' Choice
- 'Best of' Guides
- Local Favorites

Scalable event/section -Can be smaller and local or large with peripheral events

Generates interest Engages advertisers and readers Profitable





















Classic section solution, but done with a twist: Feature local advertisers, history, etc.

- 25 Local Gifts Under \$25 Feature local craftsmen & craft shows
- Christmas through local eyes over the years Use archived nostalgic content



METRO:

TEMPLATED SPECIAL SECTIONS (TSS)

























"Plug-and-Play Solutions **That Work for Your Customers** While Saving You Time and Money" - Wesner Publications, Texas "The quality content, artwork, and low cost make Metro's themed special sections a no-brainer." - West Volusia Beacon, Florida



















SECTION SPECS

- 20-page layouts with ad spots in place
- 12 to 15 professionally written articles
- 10.5" x 11.25" tab or 8.25" x 10.75" magazine
- InDesign® or Quark® formats
- Free Google font links



8.25" x 10.75" magazine

Fonts Used

We are currently using Google free fonts only. You can download the fonts used in this section from Google Fonts site:

- · Lora https://fonts.google.com/specimen/Lora
- Lavishly Yours https://fonts.google.com/specimen/Lavishly+Yours

Google Font Download links SectionSetupandFonts.pdf







National spending stats

















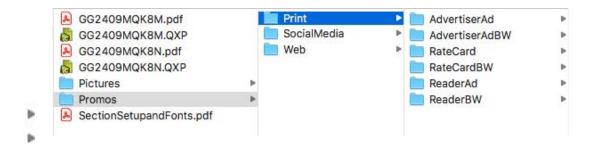


WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Cover design
- Copyright-free editorial features
- Photos and art
- Rate card and promotional materials



























"LOCALIZE" IT

 Unbranded, copyright-free editorial features can be edited to match your legacy titles or "localize" any way you like



A comprehensive guide to gifting fitness fans

Physical activity is an important component of a healthy lifestyle. Exercise guidelines supported by the medical community indicate most adults should get at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity each week, or at least 75 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity each week.

Upgrade a membership

Do some research to learn where your fitness lover spends most time working out. If it is a traditional gym, a kick-boxing studio or a H.I.I.T establishment, speak with the staff to see if you can upgrade the member's plan to receive more perks. For example, a base gym membership may only include use of the floor machines and weights, but another may include all that as well as access to massage chairs, spa services and more.

Gym Memberships:

Name Business Special offer Name Business Special offer

Massager or massage package

Working out muscles can lead to soreness each time a new milestone is reached. Help soothe those tired muscles with the gift of a neck, back and shoulder massager. Or go a step further and purchase a few sessions at a massage therapy location near the recipient's home.

Where to get a massage:

Name Business Special offer Name Business Special offer

Insulated water bottle or tumbler

Staying hydrated is important when working out. An insulated water bottle ensures that fitness fans can enjoy cold water or a sports drink throughout their exercise sessions. There's even a water bottle that self-cleans using UV light to kill bacteria in the bottle.

Where to buy tumblers locally: Name Business Special offer

Name Business Special offer

Treadmill or stationary bike

If you know a loved one has had eyes on improving a home gym, a treadmill or stationary bike can bring the space to the next level. There is home equipment for every budget.

Where to buy locally: Name Business Special offer

Name Business Special offer

New kicks

Comfortable, supportive athletic shoes ensure workouts aren't hindered by sore feet. Since shoe fit and style is a personal choice, it might be a safer bet to give a gift card to a popular athletic store or online retailer rather than purchasing the footwear yourself.

Where to buy sneakers locally:

Name Business Special offer Name Business Special offer

Fitness monitor or smart watch

It seems like everyone now has some sort of smart device, but if the person on your list still hasn't made the switch to a watch that tracks various health data, then that can make for a perfect gift. Smart watches and fitness trackers monitor steps and various health markers such as pulse, elevation climbed and distance, and can even detect if a user has a burgeoning health problem. When pairing the watch with popular fitness apps, users can log daily activities and their diets to get a bigger picture of their overall health. Those who prioritize fitness can

benefit from any number of healthand fitness-minded gifts this season.

Where to buy locally:

Name Business Special offer Name Business Special offer

Build your gift list for DIY enthusiasts



Business Owner of NAME BUSINESS

Business Owner shares his gift ideas for all of the handymen and hanywomen in the area! Stop in and ask him any questions on the prducts listed.

- · Magnetic wristband
- · Painting essentials kit
- · Rolling work bench
- · Hearing protection
- · Headlamp
- · Laser measuring tape
- Sawhorse

- · Magnetic wristband: Keeping items close at hand takes on new meaning when one utilizes a magnetic wristband. The BinyaTools Magnetic Wristband is just one of the versions of this handy tool that's ideal for wrangling screws, nails, washers, and any other ferrous items. It's also a great option for crafters and jewelry makers.
- · Painting essentials kit: Painting is an easy and effective way to transform a room. For those DIYers who have yet to compile all of their painting gear, local home improvement retailers often package kits that include a dropcloth, assorted roller sizes, brushes, a paint tray, and even painter's tape to get started on projects
- · Rolling work bench: People serious about projects will need a place to store all the tools they have collected. A rolling work bench, such as the Gladiator nine-drawer work bench, has drawers to store tools and a wooden top on which smaller tasks can be tackled. Roll it where needed.
- · Hearing protection: Drills, sanders and other power tools can be noisy. DIYers will want to protect their hearing, and a set of workshop earmuffs can be a thoughtful gift. Some, like the 3M WorkTunes headphones, even come with Bluetooth technology to offer both hearing protection and the ability to listen to tunes while working.
- · Headlamp: DIYers need both hands to tackle jobs effectively, which can make holding a flashlight to illuminate the area challenging. Hands-free lighting is possible with an LED headlamp. The light is easily focused where the user is
- · Laser measuring tape: A smart measuring tape utilizes a laser to increase measuring size, calculate distances and ensure that every home improvement project lines
- · Sawhorse: DIYers working on large projects can benefit from an adjustable saw horse to support materials and ensure safer cuts. The ToughBuilt C700 is an option to consider since it has support pegs that fold out of the legs to allow for greater ease of use.























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QUOTED BUSINESS AD HERE

Why you should shop local for the holidays and beyond

ocal businesses love the holidays! Name business lowner says it's her favorite part of the holiday

"I love interacting with customers and helping them find the perfect gift!"

Business Owner Name Business

According to the American Express Business Economic Impact Study, more than two-thirds of every dollar spent with a local business stays in the community. Indeed, shopping local benefits consumer and community alike. The following are some of the many perks to shopping locally throughout the holiday

- · Personalized attention: Small businesses are known for their personalized customer service and owners and staff are often lauded for taking the time to interact and learn about their customers, a dynamic that is impossible at larger retailers.
- · Meet and interact with people: Shopping in-person at local stores, you'll see faces from your

- known in the local area.
- · Shorter lines: Local stores are bound to have smaller crowds and thus shorter lines. That translates to less stress and bassle when it comes to getting in and out with holiday
- · Smaller carbon footprint: Pollution. traffic congestion, habitat loss, and resource depletion may not occur on the same levels when shopping locally compared to patronizing big box stores. That's because local retailers tend to create or source their products locally, whereas many big box stores secure their
- · Easier parking: This goes hand-inhand with smaller crowds, as shopping locally does not typically require driving up and down endless aisles at malls or standalone retail stores in an effort to find a parking spot. Local retailers in town may have on-street parking or closed lots that are convenient to shoppers.
- · Small batch shopping experience: Consumers can secure items in small businesses that are not carbon copies of those found across the country at major retail chains. When seeking a unique, thoughtful gift, shopping locally is the way to go. Shopping locally this holiday season provides an array of benefits to consumers, and helps to solidify a strong Main Street in communities





















"LOCALIZE" IT

 Easy-to-swap photos and artwork to make it local











Summer is the unofficial season of vacations, especially for families. School is not in session in summer, and kids' often busy schedules may grind to a halt in summer, when sports leagues, dance classes and other activities between games as well.

School closures and a largely empty obligation schedule makes summer a great time for families to go on vacation Traditional vacation hotspots like consideration, but the following are some unique family vacation ideas that can help parents and their children make lasting

memories.

Ballpark tour: For families that love baseball, a summer landmarks dot the North ballpark tour can be a truly unique American landscape, making a experience. Whether families prefer Major League Baseball and hit the road and learn a little its large ballparks or the more intimate settings at minor league American history buffs have no

a ballpark tour. Both MLB and minor league stadiums tend to be located in large or mid-size cities, which means there's plenty to do in which is the largest historical

vacation in a camper or RV is a cozy way for families to bond as they varation at their own pace States and Canada make for each country in a camper or RV But there's really no limit to the experiences families can enjoy or self-driving trips when their beds are on board for the ride.

history road trip a fun way to something along the way. stadiums, there's no shortage of shortage of historic sites to see

or which period of history nost intrigues them, from the Revolutionary War to the California Gold Rush to the American Civil War and more Canadian history buffs can go all the way back to the days of the dinosaurs at the Dinosaur Provincial Park in Alberta or visit Nova Scotia to see the eighteenth century economic and military hub the Fortress of Louisbourg,

 Urban tours: One of the joys of visiting Europe is the chance to travel from city to city without spending too much time in the car or on the train between stops. Though

reconstruction in North

North America might be more spread out, families can still tour various urban locales in a single vacation. Parents can pick a region of the country (such as the northeastern road trips that enable them. area over the course of a

CONTENTS

- Unique family vacation idea
- Paddling Trails
- Current River II - Current River III
- 11 Keep Summer Days Fun & Busy
- North Fork, White River, Bryant Creek
- 14 Grill Safely - Installing a Poo
- Outdoor Living Space
 Must Have Items
- Relaxing Respite - Maximize Getaways
- Missouri Jacks Fork Riv
- Waterways Mile by Mile
- Eleven Point River
- Dark Sky Parks
- Art in the Ozarks
- Day at the Lake



week to two weeks. Make an effort to try the foods each city is known for and visit a local landmark making sure to leave time to walk around so everyone can get a feel for what a day in each city

Family vacations can be as unique as the individuals taking them.

SUMMER LIVING

The Ozark Horse Trader/ Ozark Marketing West Plains, MO



















CUSTOMIZE IT

- Completely customizable for alternate page counts and printing requirements
- Create various sizes and reproductions

Graphic Header











The different types

Invasive ductal carcinoma accounts for 70 to

80 percent of all women and men.

The benefits of breast

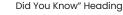
cancer support groups

Description Breast Cancer Gwareness

KNOV

antituted to potentially modifiable risk factors. That finding, cleds in the organizations' Therest Cancer: Facts & Figures, 2022-204* report, means as many as three in 10 breast cancer diagnoses in postmeropassal women may have been shiftbubble to variables within postmeropassal women may have been shiftbubble to variables within postmeropassal women and physical activity levels. The same report action of the postmeropassal women and younger women could potentially lower their risk for breast cancer for the making a vomen and younger women could potentially lower their risk for breast cancer for making a making women and younger younger to the postmeropassal women and younger to the postmerop oncerted effort to achieve and maintain a healthy body weight, redu

YOGA STUDIO





HEALTH FOODS STORE

HAIR SALON

CAFE

SUPPLEMENT SHOP

MEDICAL GROUP

THERAPIST

DRUG ADDICTION COUNSELOR





















SELL IT

- Rate sheet
- Advertiser and reader promotional ads print & web versions
- Social media posts
- Ready-to-show pages













Reinventing Special Sections



















SELL IT

- Run sections online.
- Create a call list.
- Show and sell.
- Market to advertisers and readers.
- Present a spec ad.
- Overcome objections.
- Offer package deals.
- Localize articles.
- Evaluate your current program.
- Think outside the section.

Special Section Selling Tips

to maximize ad revenue



Run sections online.

If printing is too costly, it's easy to run a PDF of your special section on your website. You can even offer to include advertiser URLs for driving readers to advertiser websites. If you run your section in print, an online companion gives you the option to promote print and digital package rates.

Create a call list.

Themed sections are a great way to approach new advertiser prospects with a niche product, Metro's Themed Special Sections have advertiser suggestions in place to help you jump-start a call list. Metro's online planning calendar is another helpful resource for brainstorming prospects.

Show and sell.

Present the ready-made section to prospects in person or by email, so they can visualize their ad in the finished product. Offer the option to choose the available ad spot that best complements their business offerings.

Market to advertisers and readers.

Metro's Themed Special Sections include rate card and promotional ad layouts, as well as social media posts, geared toward both readers and advertisers for print and online promotion.

Present a spec ad.

It's a fact that spec ads help close more sales, and your Metro subscription provides access to thousands of spec ads that are ready to personalize and present for virtually every type of advertiser. Sales reps can also use Metro's site tools to personalize their spec ad presentations online, and email them directly to prospects.

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Collaborate to overcome objections.

By sharing the most commonly heard reasons why businesses don't want to advertise, your sales team can work together in developing responses to overcome those objections.

Offer package deals.

The diversity of titles in Metro's Themed Special Section program helps you develop advertising and sponsorship package deals for local businesses, giving them the opportunity reach a wider audience.

Localize articles.

All of the features in Metro's Themed Special Sections are unsponsored and copyright-free, so you can edit them any way you like to incorporate native advertising with tips, advice or even events from local businesses.

Evaluate vour current sections program.

Figure out which sections are performing well, and which sections you should consider replacing. Metro's Themed Special Sections program offers 24 titles, giving you ideas and options for trying something new.

Think outside the section.

If you're short on prospects for a particular section, consider publishing single pages within your paper for a targeted group of small advertisers, or sell pages as a series for a single large-scale sponsor.

Reinventing Special Sections































- Rate Card
- Advertiser Web Ads

+ GO DIGITAL

 Coordinated Themed Websites & Digital Directories are available to pair with print sections.

2025 SCHEDULE - Titles & Publication Dates

Health & Wellness 11/5/2024

Brides Today 11/20/2024

Spring Home 12/5/2024

Living 50 Plus 12/20/2024

Children's Health 1/3/2025

On the Road 1/17/2025

Home Interiors 2/5/2025

Confetti 2/20/2025

Senior Living 3/5/2025

How To 3/20/2025

Weddings 4/4/2025

Summer Fun & Games 4/18/2025

Outdoor Living 5/5/2025

Our Neighborhood 5/20/2025

Back to School 6/5/2025

Emergency 6/20/2025

Fall Home 7/3/2025

Senior Health 7/18/2025

Holiday Gift Guide 8/5/2025

Breast Cancer Awareness 8/20/2025

Holiday Lifestyle 9/5/2025

Modern Parenting 9/19/2025

Winter Fun & Games 10/6/2025

Money Matters 10/20/2025

"Metro themed sections provide a yearly dose of new, broad copy and art to supplement our own local content, and are easily customizable to fit our unique needs."

– Pulaski Citizen, Tennessee



CODE to read section summaries and learn more

Reinventing Special Sections

















2024/2025 THEMED SECTIONS SCHEDULE

Download 2024 Schedule | Download 2025 Schedule

First Quarter

Health & Wellness - 11/5/2024

Readers turning over a healthier leaf at the start of a new year won't want to miss Health & Wellness. A focus on healthy lifestyles makes this section the perfect place to introduce health-conscious readers to the many local businesses who can help them achieve their health and wellness goals in the year ahead.

Brides Today - 11/20/2024

As the calendar turns to a new year, engaged couples direct their focus to wedding planning. Brides presents the perfect opportunity for local wedding vendors to showcase their services to happy couples on the cusp of tying the knot.

Spring Home - 12/5/2024

As spring flowers get ready to bloom, homeowners begin to revisit their renovation plans. Spring Home shines a light on the latest remodeling trends and popular projects while serving as the ideal space for contractors to connect with renovation-minded homeowners.

Living 50 Plus - 12/20/2024

Life after 50 is filled with adventure, and Living 50 Plus has all readers need to make the most of this exciting time in their lives. Advertisers from various industries can utilize this unique section to connect with this influential and growing demographic.

Children's Health - 1/3/2025

Parents know that no concern is too small when it comes to their children's well-being. Children's Health draws attention to issues that can affect youngsters' mental and physical health so parents have all they need to raise happy, healthy children.

Second Quarter	+
Third Quarter	+
Fourth Quarter	-

Confetti - 2/20/2025

Graduations, children's birthdays and anniversaries are just a few of the milestone moments worthy of celebration. Confetti can help families make the most of these special events and connect them with the local businesses who specialize in celebrating.

How To - 3/20/2025

Home, health and recreation are high on readers' priority lists. How To includes a range of features focusing on these important topics, making this a great opportunity for local businesses across various industries to showcase their goods and services.

Our Neighborhood - 5/20/2025

Local businesses are the backbones of their communities. Our Neighborhood shines a spotlight on all restaurants and retailers do to make their communities great places to live while also providing a showcase for those firms to connect with local residents.

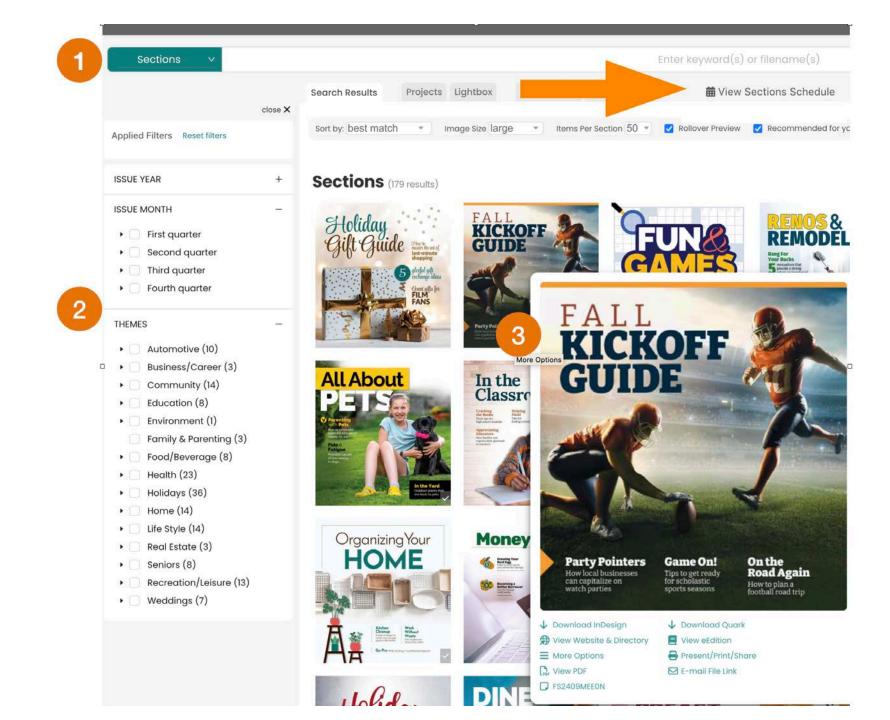
Emergency - 6/20/2025

Weather events are the new normal, and that only underscores the importance of being prepared and the significant role local heroes play to keep their communities safe. Emergency Preparedness brings all that together, making this a go-to guide for communities everywhere.

Themed Special Sections -

How to Find on Metro

- 1. Select Sections from the Main Pulldown
- 2. Use Filters to
 Narrow Down Results
- 3. Select More Options to View & Download



From More Options

Get in the Game With Special Section Advertising





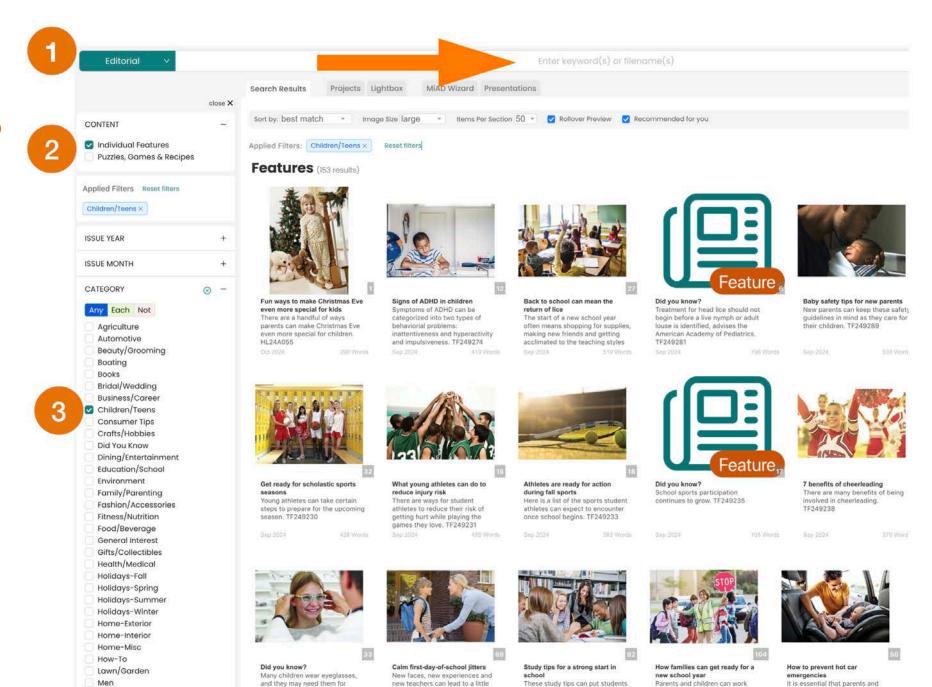


- 1. Download Sections
- 2. View Entire Sections
- 3. View Corresponding Website & Directory
- **4.** Download Marketing Material

Editorial Content -

How to Find on Metro

- 1. Select Editorial from the Main Pulldown
- 2. Choose Individual Features OR Puzzles, Games & Recipes
- **3.** Enter a Keyword or Choose Category



anxiety. Here are some ways to

on a path for success. TF248222

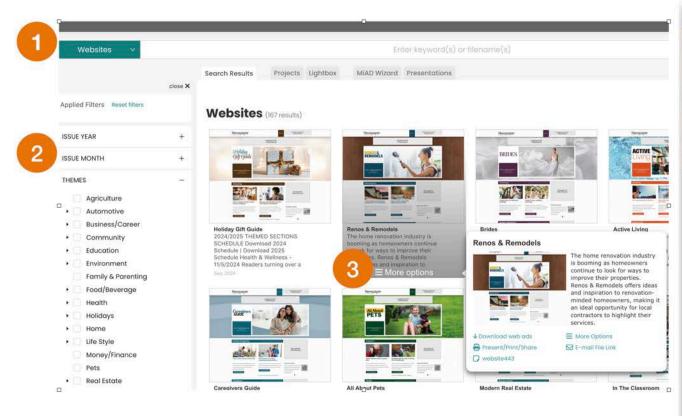
together to ensure the transition

caregivers get in the habit of

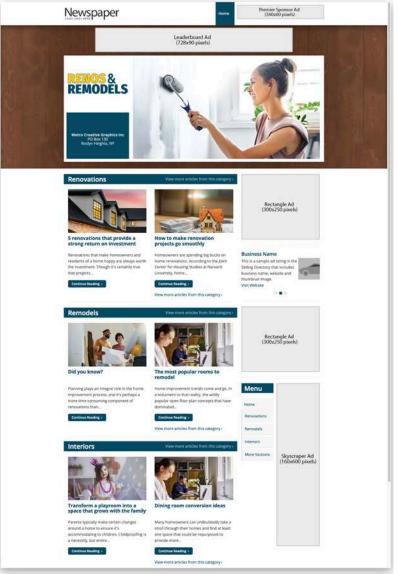
different reasons, TF248211

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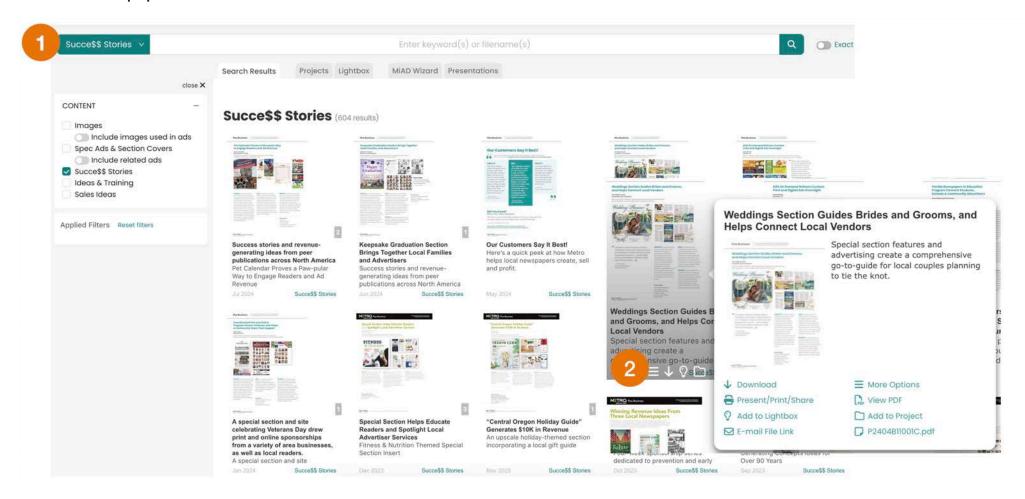
Themed Websites & Directories - How to Find on Metro



- 1. Select Websites from Main Pulldown
- 2. Use Filters to
 Narrow Down Results
- 3. Select More Options to View Website & Directory



Succe\$\$ Stories - How to Find on Metro



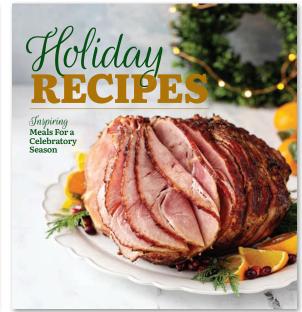
- 1. Select Succe\$\$
 Stories from the Main
 Pulldown
- 2. Select More Options to View, Download & Share

Holiday TSSs Included FREE with the purchase of Holiday Advertising

















15 Minutes to a Successful Holiday Advertising Program

Thursday, September 12, 2024 1:00 pm, EST

Make your game plan ahead of the pivotal fourth quarter with best practices for utilizing every sales and creative asset included with the 2024 Holiday Advertising Service from Metro. This webinar will outline all-new features focused on local holiday shopping and events, as well as fresh holiday greeting ads, to help you engage new and returning advertisers and your community. We'll also take a peek at the four ready-made special sections that come with this year's Holiday Advertising Service, including a new Holiday Recipes guide. Don't miss this opportunity to get inspired and organized to "sleigh" Christmas season sales!

Holiday Webinar -How to Find on Metro

- 1. From our Homepage Select Support
- 2. Then Choose Live **Training Webinars**
- 3. Click to Register



Start Searching Services/Products Ideas & Communications Promotions Co

Help & Support

Contact Us



Need assistance updating logins or adding users? Call 800,223,1600 or email

service@metro-email.com

Getting Started



Video Tutorials Browser/Software Requirements Schedule Free Training Live Training Webinars - register & Requests Info/Pricing

Free Trial Add/Update User Info

Art

Spec Ad Editorial

More

Subscriber Benefits

Email Ideas - view archive & sign up

Sales Resources & Tips

Community Forum

My Account

Feedback

Font Guide



Webinar Topic: Reinventing Special Sections



Creating a fresh, relevant and profitable special sections program year after year is an important part of every newspaper's revenue strategy, and a challenge for many. As you prep to strategize for 2025, join us for a free webinar focused on developing a program and products that will maximize reader and advertiser engagement. This workshop will give you fresh perspectives on creating successful print and online sections from every angle, including best practices for designing covers, mastheads and page layouts; combining stock editorial content with personalized local features; opportunities for native advertising; section ad selling tips; monetizing wraps and covers; and much more. We'll also present Metro's new 2025 Therned Special Section titles and schedule. Don't miss this opportunity to get inspired and optimize planning for a prosperous new year!

Click here to register →

Webinar Topic: 15 Minutes to a Successful Holiday Advertising Program

Thursday, September 12, 2024 1:00 pm, Eastern Standard Time

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Click here to register →

For additional questions or information call 800-223-1600 or email us at service@metro-email.com

Do you have any special section ideas to share?

Thank You!

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