

McDonald comes home as publisher

Veteran executive leads Bremerton, Silverdale

A veteran Western Washington newspaperman has taken the helm of the *Central Kitsap Reporter* and *Bremerton Patriot*.

On Feb. 16 Sean McDonald was appointed publisher of the two weekly newspapers serving central Kitsap, along with the *Kitsap Northwest Navigator*.

"It's fantastic to be home," said McDonald, 39. "I'm looking forward to helping the community and being a part of the community."

Lori Maxim, vice president of West Sound Operations for Sound Publishing, Inc., said McDonald's appointment would ensure long-term growth for the newspapers.

McDonald replaces Rob White as publisher.

"We would like to thank Rob for his many years of service to Sound Publishing and wish him the best in his future endeavors," Maxim said.

McDonald has 17 years of daily newspaper advertising experience in multiple markets, including the East Coast.

He was most recently the publisher of the *Sentinel* and *Enterprise* daily newspapers in Fitchburg, Mass. and vice president of advertising for a cluster of papers including the *Lowell Sun*, a 50,000-circulation daily, and Nashoba Publications, a group of eight paid and free circulation weekly newspapers.

Prior to his positions in the Boston area, he spent almost 10 years as the advertising director of the *Peninsula Daily News* in Port Angeles.

McDonald and his wife have a teen-age daughter.

Aberdeen to drop Monday editions

Economics force move to six days, executives say

The Daily World, Aberdeen

The *Daily World* of Aberdeen will cease publication and delivery of its printed Monday edition at the end of May, it was announced last month.

Citing financial reasons for cutting back to a six-day-a-week publication schedule, Publisher

& Editor Chris Rush made the announcement to employees of the Grays Harbor County daily on March 15.

The newspaper's management had been studying the possibility of dropping a day of publication for more than two years.

"Economic reality dictates this move. It has become abundantly clear to us over the past few years that this day was coming soon. There's no reason to delay the inevitable any longer," said Rush. "Printing

and delivering the newspaper is the most expensive part of our business. There's just simply not enough advertising revenue out there to support a seven-day-a-week publication."

However, Rush said the newspaper does not intend to shortchange its readers by depriving them of breaking local news on Sundays or Mondays. The newspaper will continue to post breaking news on its Web site, www.thedailyworld.com.

Newspaper office hours will

remain the same, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, and editorial staff will continue to be on duty gathering news on Mondays.

"There will be no effect on the amount of local news we run," said Managing Editor Doug Barker. "We still have the same number of reporters, editors and photographers and they'll be working just as hard as ever. When significant news can't wait for Tuesday's print edition, we'll publish it on our

See **WORLD**, page 2

FAERIE QUEENE



Damian Mulinix/*Chinook Observer*, Long Beach

At the Pacific County Courthouse, where more than 50 couples exchange vows each year, Mulinix photographed Charlie Kimmel embracing his new wife Crystal as her children photographed the scene. The shot won first place in Best Feature Photo, Black and White, for Circulation Groups II-IV combined in the 2009 Washington Better Newspaper Contest.

Grays Harbor judge rules to release critical report

County had cited privacy rights in bid to keep item sealed

The Vidette, Montesano

After weighing privacy and public interest arguments, Grays Harbor Superior Court Judge David Edwards removed an injunction March 10 that had blocked the release of a critical report on the county Planning and Building Division.

Though division director Brian Shea and the staff's union dispute many findings in the report, Edwards said citizens

must have access to the report to evaluate the operations of the public department and understand all sides of the debate.

"This report needs to be reviewed under a bright light," he said, adding, "The voters of this county have an absolute right to hold their government accountable."

Grays Harbor County commissioners agreed to release the report after public records act requests were filed by *The (Aberdeen) Daily World*, *The (Montesano) Vidette* and Ron Armstrong, a citizen.

When Superior Court Judge Gordon Godfrey granted the

injunction halting release, the Prosecutor's Office filed a motion to have the injunction dissolved. *The Daily World*, *The Vidette* and Ron Armstrong immediately moved to intervene in the case to argue for the report's release.

The International Code Council reviewed operations at the Planning & Building Division last year at the request of county commissioners. The county authorized payment of about \$20,000 for the evaluation, which offered some criticism of the department's procedures and recommendations for improvement.

"The public has a legitimate interest and concern," Edwards said. "The public interest in these records is substantial, and it is real."

At the hearing on the injunction March 10, Deputy Prosecutor Jim Baker, representing the county, pointed out that initially commissioners wanted to hold the report to allow for deliberation and private feedback. But once finalized, it should be made public.

"Individual privacy rights must be weighed against public interest in these documents," he said. "Withholding these documents is not in the public's

interest."

Attorneys for Shea and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal employees, Local 275, argued releasing the report could damage the reputations of Shea and his staff by disseminating personal information and evaluations of their performance.

Shea's attorney, James Laukkonen, argued much of the report was based on supposition. "This sensitivity goes beyond mere embarrassment," he said.

Attorney Audrey Eide, on behalf of the AFSCME union,

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State fumbles the ball; student journalists lose

I had to shake my head sadly while I read the stories late last month about how a sexually charged story in a high school newspaper two years ago landed the Puyallup School District in court defending an invasion of privacy lawsuit.

This all could have been prevented. Puyallup would have been off the hook on a potentially multi-million dollar damage award had the Washington Legislature passed the Student Press Freedom Act in the winter of 2007, a year before the offending article went to press. That bill passed one chamber in the 2007 session but died (irony alert) mostly as a result of heavy pressure against it from the lobbies for school directors and superintendents.

In essence, the bill would have granted editorial

independence to college and high school journalists in public schools. In exchange for not interfering in editorial policies, high school and college administrators gained immunity from liability. Taxpayers were off the hook if the papers were on the losing end of a libel—or invasion of privacy—suit.

Regardless of the outcome of the current lawsuit, the real losers in the case will be high school journalists. The fallout from the Puyallup incident will ensure that the Student Press Freedom Act is dead in



Bill Will
General manager
WNPA

the legislative water for the foreseeable future. The fact that it would have rendered the Puyallup lawsuit moot will be ignored.

And the prospect, however remote, of facing a civil suit with a multimillion price tag will prompt even more timid school administrators to demand a school newspaper full of nothing more than pep rally puff pieces. If they risk allowing one to publish at all.

Good journalism invites controversy, and a package of four stories published by the JagWire at Emerald Ridge High School in February 2008 seemed designed to create it. The pieces took an unflinching look at the prevalence of oral sex among Emerald Ridge students. Not exactly a preview of the winter formal. But student reporters

and editors rightly decided the subject needed scrutiny because the topic was ignored in formal sex education classes, it carried health risks that many kids (and adults) were unaware of, and they were curious if the Emerald Ridge student body mirrored national numbers, which showed that up to half of high schoolers had engaged in oral sex.

Even more boldly, the stories named names. Scattered through the stories were pull quotes of on-the-record statements made by Emerald Ridge students, identified by full first and last names. The student editors and their journalism adviser made the decision to use real names based on their belief that quoting students anonymously would water down the impact of the stories.

The young journalists took

pains to ensure than anyone quoted was over 18 and had agreed to be on the record. (Note to student editors: get that in writing!)

Not surprisingly, controversy ensued. The series cost the JagWire its editorial independence. That newspaper, like most high school publications, is now vetted by school administrators before it goes to press. And four students named in the article are seeking damages, claiming they never agreed to have their names used and suffered taunts and humiliation after the stories ran.

It's a legal longshot that any of the allegedly aggrieved students will ever collect a dime. But the chilling effects of this lawsuit portend many cold years ahead in terms of press freedom of student journalists.



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After the collapse, take time to rebuild

On the plus side, when I finally cracked, it was in front of two mental health professionals.

They were at *The News Tribune* on Jan. 27, offering guidelines on how journalists can be precise and realistic in reporting on mental health.

Most people living with mental illness are not dangerous, they said. The disease does not define the person. We could write about the progress and the successes, they suggested. Treatment can work.

In what alternative universe, I asked, will there ever be the money, will and laws to confine and treat people who are a danger to themselves, their families, strangers and four Lakewood police officers?

The months of horrible events slogged over me that day. Since Thanksgiving weekend, I had covered the massacre of those Lakewood officers, the hunt for their killer, their memorials, the murder of a Pierce County deputy, and his memorial, the search for a young local woman in quake-devastated Haiti, and her memorial, and the tragic deaths of children.

I started rambling to the mental health visitors about how the Western State campus reminds me of the mental hospital where, as a kid, I visited my grandmother.

I went back to my desk and

cried.

"Go home," my editor told me, in the nicest possible way. "Go home."

I did, for the six weeks it has taken to rebuild myself from the inside out.

Turns out, over 30-plus years as a reporter, I'd allowed the news to erode my inner resources. My resilience has gotten stiff and creaky, and the fact that I have depression hasn't helped.

The Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare counselor who gave me the tools to fix myself called it vicarious trauma, a form of post-traumatic stress. It's a hazard in any occupation where witnessing other people's pain is part of the job.

It's been studied and documented. For example, The Dart Center for Journalism & Trauma (dartcenter.org) trains reporters who cover violence to do so with compassion for the victims, and to care for their own mental health.

Still, I felt like a wimp. I'd been afraid of coming to work, and had the urge to hide under my desk when I got there. I'd stopped smiling, my eyes started leaking, and I had headaches. I didn't want to go



Kathleen Merryman
Staff writer,
The News Tribune, Tacoma

anywhere or see anyone.

I must be a wimp. Stop it, my counselor said. It's not true, and it's not helpful to slap yourself when you're down.

It's fine with me if you consider me a wimp, but I'm thinking of myself more as an object lesson. That's why I'm writing this.

There are thousands of people feeling the same things, but who don't have an insurance plan that covers five visits with a counselor.

They're the merchants who knew the murdered police and deputies. They're the employees left standing after half their colleagues have been laid off. They're the teachers who've sympathized with families who have to move because they've lost their homes.

They're losing sleep, or having bad dreams. They're wondering why they ever smiled, and when they last had a spring in their step. They're not calling their friends, not going to movies. They're spacing out at work, at home, behind the wheel.

They might be self-medicating. They're snappish. They're replaying sorrowful encounters and blaming themselves because they can't fix pain they're seeing.

Sometimes, they just cry. Personally, I spent three days in bed, sleeping and reading before I got the energy to start

getting help.

My counselor noted on our first session that I looked gray.

Go to the gym, he advised. Get some endorphins on your side. Go to a funny movie. Call a friend and do something you love. Find a project around the house that makes you happy, and do it.

Later, find a project that's been bugging you, and get it done.

Keep a journal. Write down your dreams. Get enough sleep. Eat properly.

Now, I'm back at my desk in the day, at the gym in the evening and the yard in the weekend.

Thank you for bearing with me.

Please take good care of yourself.

And remember, treatment can work.

Kathleen Merryman: 253-597-8677, kathleen.merryman@thenewstribune.com

Reprinted with permission. Editor's note: Merryman's column ran March 17. On March 24, TNT hosted a Web chat on surviving stress.

Joining 248 readers were Merryman, Sheriff Paul Pastor, and three mental health and trauma experts. Read the transcript at <http://blog.thenewstribune.com/street>

WORLD from page 1

Web site. Frankly, our staff is stretched pretty thin staffing seven papers each week. This will give us some breathing room to do a better job on those six days."

The Daily World joins more than 100 other daily newspapers across the country that have eliminated at least one day of home delivery over the past two years.

"Newspapers have found that the overhead associated with the production and delivery of their products, whether by carrier or by mail, is very high," said Rush. "We're no different. Our aim is that by eliminating a weaker publication day we will

be able to divert much of those resources to more local news gathering and strengthening of our six remaining publication days. We hope readers will notice improved local news products Tuesday through Sunday."

The final Monday edition will be published May 24. The first Monday without a printed edition will occur on Memorial Day, May 31.

With this latest change, the newspaper will return to a six-day-a-week format for the first time in four decades.

On March 2, 1969, the same day it changed its name to *The Daily World* to signify that it

was "more than an Aberdeen paper," the newspaper's ownership announced that the Saturday edition was being jettisoned in favor of a Sunday paper, the first in 60 years. The company reinstated the Saturday edition in April of 1970. At that time, *The Daily World* became a seven-day-a-week paper for the first time since 1909.

By one name or another, the newspaper has been serving Grays Harbor and northern Pacific counties since 1889.

"This is another important milestone in the newspaper's long and colorful history," said Rush. "And I am convinced it

is a very necessary next step in our evolution and long-term sustainability."

The Daily World, owned by Stephens Media LLC, also publishes the *East County News*, a total-market-coverage free publication of 8,100 weekly copies serving eastern Grays Harbor County; *The Vidette*, a 3,500-circulation paid weekly newspaper based in Montesano; the *South Beach Bulletin*, a 5,500-circulation free distribution weekly newspaper based in Westport; and the *North Coast News*, a 2,000-circulation paid weekly newspaper based in Ocean Shores.

OPEN ACCESS & LEGAL ISSUES

Battle Ground probe yields no criminal action

Investigation results to stay under wraps

The Columbian, Vancouver

After months of fingerprinting and thousands of dollars spent, the findings from a probe into who was leaking privileged information from Battle Ground City Council executive sessions were released but do not warrant pursuing criminal action, according to the city's attorney.

Patrick Brock, who was hired to advise the city during the investigation, released a public statement regarding the investigation March 9. The city council met behind closed doors for nearly three hours the previous night to discuss the findings, but the details of the investigation will not be released to the public.

Investigators learned of four scenarios where leaks were alleged. But none of the evidence suggested the alleged leaks were made with the intent to materially benefit the leaker or any third party, Brock said in the news release.

Mayor Michael Ciraulo said he is satisfied with the findings of the investigation.

"I feel comfortable it was a comprehensive, competent investigation of all the facts," Ciraulo said.

Not everyone agrees, though. Councilman Paul Zandamela said he was not surprised the investigation found no evidence of criminal wrongdoing.

"This was not about the leak investigation, the way I see it," he said. "It was not about finding the truth. I think this was about revenge. This was a political ploy to change the subject."

Zandamela said he would let people draw their own conclusions about his statement, but added, "This supposed investigation came at a time when we were dealing with the (former police Chief James) McDaniel issue."

Councilman Alex Reinhold pushed for the investigation in December. He became concerned information from executive sessions was being leaked after receiving e-mails from people in the community after City Manager Dennis Osborn fired McDaniel Dec. 17.

The investigation was conducted last month by Jon Walters and William Curtright of Public Safety Testing Inc. of Lynnwood. The investigators interviewed all participants in Battle Ground City Council executive sessions from January 1, 2009, to the present, as well as anyone else who was identified as the recipient of confidential information.

Last month, the city approved spending up to \$23,000 for the investigation. The council also approved paying no more than \$5,250 to hire Brock as outside legal counsel. The actual cost of the probe has not been determined.

See PROBE, page 4

High court wants sealing records open

'05 double homicide at center of lawsuit

Yakima Herald-Republic

The Washington Supreme Court has ordered Yakima County to provide a copy of all sealing orders in a 2005 double-homicide case that is at the center of a public records lawsuit by the *Yakima Herald-Republic*.

The high court directed County Clerk Kim Eaton to produce the documents, saying it can't resolve the dispute without seeing the sealing orders for murder defendant Jose Luis Sanchez Jr. issued by Superior Court Judge James Lust. The sealing orders themselves were sealed.

"The record is not sufficiently complete to permit a decision on the merits of the issues presented for review without inclusion of the sealing orders," Justice Charles Johnson wrote March 11.

The court's action comes on the heels of oral arguments March 9 over the *Herald-*

Republic's lawsuit against Yakima County for refusing to turn over financial records that would show how court-appointed defense attorneys for Sanchez and Mario Gil Mendez racked up more than \$2 million in fees and expenses.

Lust was assigned to oversee spending by the defense attorneys and placed the billing records under seal. When the *Herald-Republic* made a request in March 2008 to obtain the billing records, county officials said they feared a citation for contempt of court because the judiciary is exempt from the state Public Records Act.

The newspaper and its lawyers contend the records are administrative in nature and that Public Records law therefore applies because copies of the documents were sent to the county commissioners and the county auditor so the lawyers could get paid.

When oral arguments were presented to the Supreme Court, several justices seemed concerned that not only were the sealing orders themselves

sealed but that county officials denied the *Herald-Republic's* request without having seen them.

"We cannot rule on your objection without adequate information," Justice Tom Chambers said at one point during the hearing, adding, "Our problem is, we're swinging in the dark."

Stephanie Weigand, a Yakima County deputy civil prosecutor, said the county is not trying to hide anything and is anxious to see how the Supreme Court reconciles the Public Records Act against a court order.

"Yakima County takes no position on this," she said. "We simply went to the court promptly seeking guidance in this matter."

A lawyer for the *Herald-Republic*, meanwhile, said she was pleased the justices appear



Michele Earl-Hubbard

to be digging into the dispute over the nature of the sealing orders rather than kicking the case back to Lust for further review.

"It's encouraging," Michele Earl-Hubbard said, adding, "It suggests the court wants a fuller picture than the county provided ... Ultimately the sealing orders will show the county's response was improper."

Sanchez and Mendez were charged in the 2005 shooting deaths of Ricky Causor, 21, and his 3-year-old daughter, Mya, during a home invasion and robbery in search of drugs at their South 18th Avenue apartment.

Sanchez was convicted of aggravated first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole, a conviction he is appealing. Mendez testified against Sanchez and was sentenced to 30 years in prison for his guilty plea to a lesser murder charge.

A ruling by the Supreme Court is not expected for months.

Gregoire signs tougher anti-SLAPP measure

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Washington news media received an important new legal tool March 18, as Gov. Chris Gregoire signed an enhanced anti-SLAPP statute. The law, which takes effect June 9, will provide important procedural safeguards against unwarranted defamation suits and similar claims based on news content and other speech.

The legislation protects the public (including the news media) from "Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation," or SLAPPs, which are lawsuits or counterclaims filed to deter or punish statements on issues of public interest. SLAPPs typically include claims such as defamation, malicious prosecution, and interference with contracts, with the goal of discouraging

the defendant from engaging in public debate.

Washington led the nation in 1989 by passing the first anti-SLAPP statute, RCW 4.24.510. The law allows a defendant to bring a motion to defeat SLAPP claims, and to recover fines and attorneys' fees for the cost of defending against the SLAPP claim. However, the statute's protections were limited to claims based on statements made to government officials in the course of government decision making.

The Washington bill was drafted by attorneys at Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, who also testified in support of the proposed law. It is modeled after California's anti-SLAPP statute, which has been used successfully by the news media and other speakers to deter and defeat frivolous defamation claims.

BEEFED-UP ANTI-SLAPP LAW:

The revised anti-SLAPP law expands the existing statute in the following ways:

- Broader definition of protected conduct. The law protects not only statements aimed at influencing a government agency or judicial body, but also any public statements and documents submitted to a public forum and "any lawful conduct in furtherance of the exercise of the constitutional right of free speech" that are related to issues of public concern.

- Expedited dismissal procedure. The law provides for early "special motions to strike," which require SLAPP plaintiffs to demonstrate, at the outset of litigation, that they can establish the required elements of their case with convincing clarity. If the plaintiff is unable to do so, the case will be dismissed.

- Discovery is put on hold. All discovery and any pending hearings or motions will be postponed until the court rules on the motion.

- Fines and costs of defending against the claim. As with the previous law, a defendant who prevails on a special motion to strike will be entitled to a fine of \$10,000, reasonable attorneys' fees, and the costs of litigation. A frivolous motion to strike will be subject to similar sanctions.

- Expedited appeal. Under the law, either party has the right to seek an expedited appeal to a higher court if a court fails to promptly rule on a motion to dismiss.

- Extensive legislative findings. These should provide guidance to the judiciary when it interprets the statute. For instance, the findings make clear that the law must be applied and construed liberally to bring about the goal of protecting the right of citizens to participate in public debate and without fear of reprisal from SLAPP lawsuits. The legislative findings also acknowledge the need for expedited judicial review and a speedy decision on SLAPP lawsuits.

Oak Harbor, state official differ on notice

At issue: Meeting attended by a city council quorum

Whidbey News-Times, Oak Harbor

A quorum of Oak Harbor City Council members likely violated the Open Public Meetings Act last month when they attended a public works standing committee meeting and discussed Pioneer Way plans.

Councilman Jim Campbell was the only member of the seven-person council who didn't attend. He said the mayor's office invited the entire council to the public works committee meeting, but he refused because he felt it would violate state law.

"I chose not to do that because I was concerned about having too many of the council in one spot," he said. "I'm concerned about the Open Public Meetings Act and I'm really concerned about the perception of something not being right."

While the city attorney strongly feels the city did nothing wrong, Assistant State Attorney General for Government Accountability Tim Ford — an expert in this area of law — agrees with Campbell's interpretation of the act. Reached by the *News-Times*, Ford said the city should have provided proper notice of a special council meeting.

The monthly gathering was advertised as a public meeting — with three councilmen present — on the city's Web site and on the meeting agenda delivered to the newspaper; however, it was not marked as a "special meeting of the council."

A "special meeting" designation is required if the majority, or a quorum, of council members are expected to attend, according to the Open Public Meetings Act.

After reviewing the meeting agenda, Ford said it was proper notice of a committee meeting, but that's entirely different than a full council meeting.

"I don't know of any authority in statute or case law that concludes that notice of a committee meeting meets the requirements

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Board gets break in meetings suit

Arlington schools must pay, far less than asked, though

The Herald, Everett

Arlington School District must pay nearly \$29,000 in attorney's fees to the watchdog group that brought suit for the school board's violations of the state Open Public Meetings Act.

The nonprofit, Spokane-based Center for Justice sued the district in 2008 as part of the group's statewide effort to bring attention to enforcement of the meetings act.

Snohomish County Superior Court Judge Ellen Fair recently awarded what she termed "reasonable, if not generous" fees and costs to the center.

The district, which acknowledged that the Arlington School Board repeatedly violated the Open Public Meetings Act, was ready to pay the center's attorney's fees, district lawyer David Hokit said.

The meetings act contains a provision that if a party brings a suit and prevails, it is entitled to its attorney's fees.

"But the Center for Justice had asked for \$210,000 in fees, so in the face of the requested amount, the district was pleased with the judge's award," Hokit said.

Center for Justice lawyer Michele Earl-Hubbard said the center is not happy with the judge's award.

"We don't think the amount was sufficient," Earl-Hubbard said.

The Center for Justice plans to file an appeal, she said.

"From day one the school district has tried to portray the Center for Justice as being opportunistic," Earl-Hubbard said. "But the school board had a recurring pattern of open meetings violations that needed to be stopped."

The Center for Justice learned about the school board's meetings violations in 2007 when the state Auditor's Office told the school district it needed to change its practices on open meetings.

At the time, the board regularly conducted executive sessions before starting most of its scheduled public meetings. District officials said they thought they were doing people a favor. The idea was they could have the regular meetings and not make people wait around for the board to finish closed-door sessions.

State auditors, however, told school officials that the law required the school board to first meet in public before convening an executive session. Further, auditors said the district was doing an inadequate job of explaining the board's legal grounds for taking the public's business behind closed doors. The school district agreed with the auditors' findings and changed its practices, Hokit said.

However, the Center for Justice maintained that even

'(T)he school board had a recurring pattern of open meetings violations ...'

— Michele Earl-Hubbard, Center for Justice

after the state issued its audit, the school district continued to violate the Open Public Meetings Act.

About a year after the Center for Justice sued the school district, both the public-interest group and the school district asked Judge Fair for summary judgment in the case.

In October, Fair ruled that school board members did not intentionally hide information from the public and so were not required to pay individual fines.

She also told lawyers for the center that they failed to prove that the school board conducted study sessions and special meetings without giving adequate public notice.

The remaining issue in the litigation is whether or not the school board met for dinner and a retreat without giving proper public notice. The Center for Justice can't file its appeal until this is resolved and the case is closed, so it has asked to drop these allegations, Earl-Hubbard said.

The appeal on the study session claims and the attorney's fee award will be filed at the state Court of Appeals.

"The school district could have avoided all of this, as well as their own attorney's fees, if they had just admitted two years ago that the board violated the Open Public Meetings Act and paid our costs back then," Earl-Hubbard said.

After suing the Arlington School District, Earl-Hubbard sent a letter in March 2008 to the school board offering to settle the matter for about \$11,000 in costs and fees. The settlement demand also included payment of a penalty of \$100 for each violation of the Open Public Meetings Act from each board member.

"Ms. Earl-Hubbard frequently says that the district had opportunities to settle the case, but what she fails to mention is that the school board penalties would have amounted to as much as \$50,000," Hokit said.

Instead, the school district chose to fight the lawsuit, Earl-Hubbard said.

"Mr. Hokit and I could have had a conversation and we could have dropped the penalties against individual board members," she said. "We just wanted to make sure these violations would never happen again. This case was a good illustration of why the law needs to be followed."

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for notice of a council meeting," he said. "But if that were the case, then I would prefer that notice for both the council and the committee be provided for the same meeting."

"What I would suggest is that they re-do it," he added. "That's my interpretation of the law."

Ford's role in the Attorney General's Office is to provide assistance to the public and agencies for compliance with the Public Records Act and the Open Public Meetings Act, but not to investigate or enforce possible violations.

In a phone interview with the *Whidbey News-Times*, City Attorney Margery Hite strongly defended the city. She said the notice that was given for the three-member committee meeting was adequate.

But Ford, who discussed the matter with Hite, disagreed. He indicated Hite was rather upset with him.

"Again, if a majority of the council wants to attend the committee meeting, then it should be noticed as a special meeting of the council. However, the notice was not for a meeting of a majority of the council. The notice specifically identified only three of seven council members who would be present," he said. "The city attorney told me repeatedly that she had not seen the notice. However, it didn't seem to matter that she hadn't seen the notice as she was convinced that nothing was wrong."

Ford called the Municipal Research and Services Center to clarify the issue.

"They agreed that the meet-

ing should be noticed as a special meeting of the council," he said.

In a letter to Ford, Hite argued that the meeting was advertised as a "special open public meeting." The advertisement itself does not use the word "special," but states it is a "public works and utilities standing committee." It identified three councilmen: Danny Paggao, Rick Almborg and Scott Dudley.

"The City of Oak Harbor respectfully disagrees with your interpretation of the Open Public Meetings Act," Hite wrote.

Hite continued, "While the notice of the special meeting indicated it was a meeting of the Public Works Standing Committee, the Public Works Standing Committee is either not covered by the Open Public Meetings Act at all (because it is not the governing body of any public agency) or it is covered because it is a meeting of the City Council."

Hite wrote that the city conducted its standing committee meetings based on advice gleaned from the state Attorney General's Office approximately two years ago.

"On your advice, the City began noticing the standing committee meetings as special meetings and city council members were not excluded if a quorum resulted since the meetings were open and publicly noticed," she wrote.

In an interview with the *Whidbey News-Times*, Hite called Ford's stance "puzzling."

"It's a very peculiar thing for an attorney general to do

without hearing both sides," she said. "It's very unusual as a process goes and it's somewhat surprising."

During the meeting, council members Paggao, Almborg, Dudley, Beth Munns, Jim Palmer and Bob Severns discussed the Pioneer Way downtown revitalization project design with city engineers.

Mayor Jim Slowik also attended the meeting in question and was unaware that the council was in possible violation of the Open Public Meetings Act. "I still don't think we're in violation," he said in a telephone interview. "One of the main things I wanted to do is open up city government and make it accessible. I'm finding out it's harder than I thought."

The mayor insists that he's in favor of open city government, and will continue to further improve the transparency of Oak Harbor city government through taped meetings, minimal use of executive (closed) sessions and proper meeting notice.

Slowik started the standing committees after taking office. At the time, some community members argued that the committee meetings were a way for council members to discuss issues outside of televised council meetings.

After Ford discussed the issue with Hite, his interpretation remained the same.

"I stand by my opinion that they should re-do the meeting," Ford said. "They should provide notice of a new special meeting of the council and allow the public the opportunity to view the deliberations of the council."

PROBE from page 3

When asked if he believed the cost of the investigation was money well-spent, Ciraulo would not give a "yes" or "no" answer, but instead said it was money that had to be spent.

"I think the public deserved an answer to the accusations that were posed, and I thought it was a wise decision," he said. "There was no choice."

Zandamela, however, said he does not believe the probe was a good use of taxpayer money and wants the findings released to the public.

"We spent \$23,000. I think the people deserve to know, whatever the case may be," he said.

The *Columbian* asked the city to cite specific state statutes allowing the city to keep the information privileged. The city has not yet provided that information.

At a meeting in February, Ciraulo said the city needed to continue the investigation, despite the price tag, to assure the public that the council had nothing to hide. On March 9, Ciraulo acknowledged some people may see the council keeping the findings confidential as hiding information but insisted that is not the case.

Reinhold also supported keeping the information confidential.

"There's certain things that could damage folks," he said. "And you don't want to damage folks. There's been enough of

that already."

Ciraulo and Reinhold said completing the investigation will allow the city council to focus its attention on other issues.

"I think this is the next step of the healing process for the city, for the council," Ciraulo said. "I know the majority of the council is committed to move forward from this point and serve the citizens in the best way possible."

But Zandamela does not believe the council is acting in a way that will allow the city to move on.

"Moving forward is not about burying the past or pretending nothing ever happened. Moving forward is not about hiding behind a press release cropped by (public relations) firms," he said. "Moving forward is about

telling the truth."

Zandamela said the council needs to recognize its mistakes and make amends.

"One of those things is bringing back Chief McDaniel," he said. "That's moving forward."

Brock also reviewed state law and city ordinances and policies that could potentially be used as a basis for legal action or prosecution of someone who might have leaked information. The city's governmental manual requires all information in executive session to be kept confidential but states only the city council and city manager can enforce the rules. In regard to state law, only one isolated provision exists prohibiting disclosure of confidential information, but it does not define "confidential information" or specify a penalty.



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State Supreme Court halves King County's fine

Penalty for keeping records out of sight amounts to \$45 a day

The Associated Press

After tossing out its own landmark Public Records Act ruling last year over a justice's potential conflict of interest, the state Supreme Court issued a new opinion in the case March 25 — keeping much of the same reasoning but cutting by about half the fine King County must pay for inexcusable delays in responding to a 1997 request for documents.

The court ruled 5-4 that the county must pay \$371,340 to Armen Yousoufian, a Vashon Island businessman who sought copies of economic studies for the then-proposed new Seahawks stadium. The amount tripled the \$124,000 award a King County judge had granted, which itself was the biggest fine ever imposed under the law.

Last year, in a ruling by Justice Richard Sanders, the Supreme Court said \$124,000 was far too low, and an appropriate award would be closer to \$800,000. That court then withdrew that opinion after Sanders was accused of a conflict of interest because he had a public-records lawsuit pending against the state. The case was reargued without Sanders, and the March 25 majority opinion was written by Justice Gerry Alexander.

The ruling largely preserved the analysis that Sanders proposed for trial courts to consider in setting fines under the Public Records Act, including whether an agency acted in bad faith, was negligent or failed to train staff in public-records disclosure.

But where Sanders' opinion ordered the trial court to set the fine near the top of the \$5-\$100 per-record, per-day penalty called for in the law, the high court this time set the fine itself, ending a decade of litigation.

Alexander, joined by Justices Charles Johnson, James Johnson, Tom Chambers and the temporarily sitting Dean Morgan, set the fine at \$45 per day for 8,252 days, or \$371,340 in all.

Kevin Wright, King County's chief civil deputy prosecutor, called the ruling a "fair resolution of a difficult legal issue," and pointed to improvements the county has made in how it handles and tracks records requests.

But public-records activists were baffled at how the case could warrant a penalty below the midpoint of the \$5-\$100 range, or \$52.50 per day.

The county was found to be negligent in having untrained staff handle the request, in providing incorrect information to Yousoufian, and in otherwise taking four years to turn over documents it could have given him in five business days. Judges ruled that the county acted out of incompetence, not bad faith.

"If they give a \$45-a-day fine in this case, when are

they ever going to give a high-end penalty?" asked Michele Earl-Hubbard, a Seattle open-government lawyer who wrote friend-of-the-court briefs in the case on behalf of Washington newspapers.

Some open-government activists argue that higher fines are necessary to prompt government agencies to obey the law. But Ramsey Ramerman, president of the Washington Association of Public Records Officers, insisted that the Yousoufian case has already prompted jurisdictions around the state to begin earnestly complying with the law.

In a fierce dissent, Justice Susan Owens insisted the King County judge did nothing wrong by setting the fine at \$124,000.

"This outsized award tramples the trial court's discretion," Owens wrote.

Yousoufian said he spent 5,000 to 6,000 hours working on the case, and the fine awarded Thursday wasn't worth it — especially since any legal fees

granted by the court likely won't be enough to cover his lawyers' actual expenses.

"Twelve or 13 years, and considering the magnitude of the violations, for it to take this long — who would go through such a journey?" Yousoufian asked.

He's especially disappointed, he said, in how little attention has been paid to what he argues the studies revealed: The economic benefits they projected from the stadium were based on wild assumptions, yet King County leaders repeatedly cited them persuading voters to help Seahawks owner Paul Allen build the \$300 million stadium now known as Qwest Field.

"The people voted without knowledge of what those studies said, and it was all for the benefit of a private citizen," Yousoufian said. "The documents that I wanted to get ultimately revealed the studies were cooked."

BRIEFLY

Chronicle enters 'real-time' era

The *Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle* took its first step toward real-time journalism at the state 1B girls basketball tournament in late February.

Publisher Roger Harnack attended the Liberty Bell-Asotin basketball game in the Spokane Arena on behalf of the newspaper. During the game, he used *The Chronicle's* Facebook and Twitter pages to keep online readers apprised of game action as each quarter unfolded.

The Facebook page was developed in late January by reporter Sheila Corson, who generally manages its day-to-day content. Harnack set up the Twitter page about the same time.

At tournament time, the *Chronicle* had 76 friends and 282 fans on Facebook and was also read by 90 followers on Twitter.

Both social media sites direct readers back to the newspaper's Web site, www.omakchronicle.com.

PSBJ, Times, TNT win business honors

Winners of the Society of American Business Editors and Writers' reporting competition were announced during SABEW's annual convention, held in Phoenix last month.

Top among the Washington winners was the *Puget Sound Business Journal*.

PSBJ brought home four awards including general excellence among weekly business newspapers, an enterprise award for coverage of Washington Mutual, and project awards for in-depth coverage of the foreclosures in King County and "WaMu's final days."

The Seattle Times also won a project award for "Inside the Collapse of WaMu."

For reporting on the Boeing 787's first flight, *The (Everett) Herald* won a breaking news award.

And Bill Virgin, former columnist for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, was honored for his columns, which he now writes for *The News Tribune* in Tacoma.

The 163 winners in the Best of the Best in Business Awards were selected from 796 entries, the second-highest number of entries in the contest's history.

8 state papers in digital archive program

Site to allow online access to early pages

Eight Washington newspapers have been included in *Chronicling America*, an online site of the National Digital Newspaper Program.

Eventually users will be able to search and view newspaper pages dating between 1836 and 1922 and find information about American newspapers published between 1690 and the present.

The program, being implemented across the country in phases, is a joint project of the Library of Congress

ON THE WEB

National Digital Newspaper Program's Chronicling America program:
chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/

and the National Endowment of the Humanities.

Washington's newspapers were selected and scanned by the Washington State Library with an NDNP grant for 2008 for 1880-1910.

Included were the *Leavenworth Echo*, *Colfax Gazette*, *Colville Examiner*, the *Commonwealth* newspaper of Everett, the *Pullman Herald*, the *Ranch*

newspaper of Yakima, the *Seattle Republican* and *Washington Farmer*.

Each NDNP grant recipient selects and digitizes about 100,000 newspaper pages with a year's grant.

Selections are intended to represent the state's regional history, geographic coverage, and events of the particular time period being covered during the grant period.

Grantees are encouraged to digitize from microfilm holdings, to select publications on technically suitable film that are bibliographically complete, and to include newspapers that have ceased publication.

Centralia updates print workflow

The Chronicle Printing Division of Lafromboise Newspapers Inc. in Centralia recently upgraded their prepress workflow to achieve greater production efficiencies and quality control in plate production and in the pressroom by installing Workflow ESP from Fusion Systems International of Portland.

The company prints the *Chronicle* newspaper Monday-Saturday, as well as the weekly *Nisqually Valley News* of Yelm, Southwest Washington Family and a wide range of commercial work on both cold-set WEB and sheet-fed presses.

Chronicle Printing has been running computer-to-plate imaging for several years and needed to replace their existing Panther RIPs with a more modern workflow. The new ROOM workflow system provides inline pre-flighting and file correction, advanced file format processing, post-RIP soft-proofing, automated post-RIP imposition and more.

The system also provides internet based soft-proofing and approval capabilities along with new quality control tools for plating

across both the newspaper and commercial printing operations.

The *Chronicle's* newspaper office, in downtown Centralia, is across town from the Chronicle Printing Division production facility. Production efficiencies have resulted from the new ability to print files directly to the Fusion Systems workflow server over a dedicated network connection.

"Being able to print directly out of InDesign to the prepress workflow, across town, and automatically get back post-RIP PDF proofs in the web-browser interface has been a huge time saver," said Doug Branson, prepress systems manager at Chronicle Printing.

This press-accurate proofing and approval capability has reduced production time by eliminating the need to first distill pages to PDF or eps formats prior to sending files to the prepress and printing facility for imposition and plating.

As soon as files are received they are processed on a page by page basis, and press-accurate proofs are automatically posted in the new internet based Publication Proofing System.

Page proofs automatically flow by publication name, date, section and page number into the system and are immediately available for viewing via a secure login. Both internal and external client can view their own page proofs quickly and easily, using common internet browsers.

"Everyone loves the ability to quickly proof their work from anywhere on the Internet and the ability to control quality and approval," said Branson.

As page proofs are approved, they are automatically forwarded and placed into imposition and page pairing templates for direct output to plating. Additional high resolution soft-proofing and hard copy proofing tools are now in place to ensure perfect plating.

All adjustments for offsets and fan-out, if necessary, are applied automatically along with all standard or custom plate marks.

In the press room the new workflow accelerates make-ready and improves registration by making digital adjustments to automatically correct for web-growth and fan-out issues.

Nonprofit puts probe on the Web

InvestigateWest, in partnership with *Seattlepi.com*, published a group of stories about campus sexual assault at *Seattlepi.com* on Feb. 26.

The stories included profiles of two women who were assaulted while attending college, one at Gonzaga University in Spokane and the other at the University of Washington in Seattle.

InvestigateWest, a Seattle-based nonprofit, was formed in July 2009 by former *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reporters including Rita Hibbard and Robert McClure.

It supports itself with memberships and grants, and recently secured a \$100,000 grant from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation based in Oklahoma City.

InvestigateWest's work also has appeared on KUOW radio and on MSNBC.com.

It focuses on environment, health and social justice issues and is online at www.invw.org.

Journal backs '\$25 on 25th' promotion Effort supports local merchants

At the top of the March 18 front page, *Shelton-Mason County Journal* featured a collage of headlines: Bringing the bucks back home, \$25 on the 25th, Give Mason County's economy a jumpstart.

The accompanying story, intended to inspire the community to become more locally focused and intentional with their budgeted spending, suggests every adult, 18 and older, plan to spend \$25 at the area's local businesses on March 25.

The story quotes a business owner on the ripple effect of money spent at his business, publisher Dan Mancuso on the resulting increased tax revenues, and the executive director of the Shelton-Mason County Chamber of Commerce on the overall outcome.

"Each of us has an opportunity to do our part to build a strong local economy, ensure ample job opportunities and a wide variety of goods and services, and fund the local government services we've come to expect," said the chamber's Terri Jeffreys.

Mancuso heard about the idea from a sister newspaper in South Dakota, and his editor interviewed local businesses and others for the story on this Journal promotion.

Some businesses are advertising a special sale or offer related to the \$25 on the 25th promotion.

As the project takes hold, Mancuso expects to write follow-up stories the week following the 25th to build additional interest and understanding of the power of local spending.

"From what I've heard, it has been received quite well," Mancuso reported March 30.

The *Journal* plans to publish some variation on the \$25 on the 25th story twice a month, the week before and the week after the 25th, through November.

BNC entries open April 8; due May 7

WNPA regular members may begin submitting entries in the 2010 Better Newspaper Contest at www.betternewspapercontest.com on April 8.

The deadline for regular entries is May 7 and for Tourism Special Sections, June 4.

The 2010 Better Newspaper Contest Rules and preparation guidelines are available on WNPA's Web site, www.wnpa.com/better_newspaper_contest/

Member newspapers that provide judges for the South Dakota or Oregon newspaper contest this year receive a credit against 2010 entry fees. Details are in the rules.

All members will log into the contest site the first time using the password provided on the contest deadlines poster, circulated in the Publishers eBulletin on March 12 and March 26 and also faxed to members in March.

ON THE WEB

Submit entries:
www.betternewspapercontest.com
Contest rules:
www.wnpa.com/better_newspaper_contest

Once logged in, each member will create a password for the newspaper to share with staff members this year.

The contest site is again produced by SmallTownPapers, a WNPA affiliate member based in Seattle.

The site has become popular across the country, and many other press associations are using it for their contests.

(subhead) New in 2010

The contest is paperless (no tearsheets, please). All entries will be submitted as PDF, image file or by URL. Details on

entry preparation and files size are on WNPA's Web site. Take a quick look to help your staff get up to speed on organizing their entries. All rules sections are available for downloading and printing.

• SmallTownPapers has made a variety of upgrades to the site this year, including adding a separate field for the a URL so members can easily provide both a title and a URL for each entry.

• Photographers are asked to mail one tearsheet or printout of all entries to WNPA by May 5. Few newspapers sent in tearsheets last year, and the photo boards that usually fill the walls at our convention were sorely missed. Please write the category number at the top of each tearsheet so the photos can be grouped by category on the display boards. The boards will be on view throughout the WNPA convention Sept. 30-Oct. 2, in Wenatchee.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 8	Begin submitting Better Newspaper Contest Entries at www.betternewspapercontest.com
April 9	SPJ Spring Conference, Seattle
April 15	WNPA Board Meeting, Seattle
April 22*	Ad Rep Teleconference
May 7	WNPA Better Newspaper Contest Regular Entries due
May 10-28	Judge Oregon's Better Newspaper Contest - Editorial
May 13*	Ad Managers Teleconference
June 4	WNPA BNC Tourism Special Sections due
June 25-July 19	Judge Oregon Better Newspaper Contest - Advertising
July 15	WNPA Board Meeting, Seattle
Sept. 30-Oct. 2	WNPA Convention, Wenatchee

* Details at www.wnpa.com/other_events

Who wants to be a judge? Call goes out for contest

WNPA members and Washington dailies are invited to judge the Oregon Newspaper Publishers' contests this spring and summer.

Both contests will be judged online using www.betternewspapercontest.com, the contest site produced by SmallTownPapers.

A few categories in each contest will be shipped to judges via UPS.

Please register to judge at www.wnpa.com/better_newspa-

per_contest/ by April 16.

Editorial judging dates are May 10-28. This contest includes photography, special sections, community service, news-oriented Web-based categories.

Advertising judging dates are June 25 to July 19.

WNPA members who judge will receive a credit for 2010 contest fees, \$50 for providing one professional judge and \$75 for three or more judges from the same newspaper.

NVN takes on a lighter look in redesign

Facebook page post helps

Nisqually Valley News implemented a new design March 12, the second major redesign since Keven Graves joined the Yelm newspaper more than 10 years ago.

The new look, a noticeable shift from the bolder style Graves put into place when he arrived at the paper, is light and clean.

"The reader response has been overwhelmingly positive," Graves wrote in an e-mail, "and it's had the added bonus of firing up my staff and getting them excited about the paper all over again."

The new flag, designed by Julie Shipe of Autoformation in Yelm, resulted from a Facebook fan page conversation.

Graves posted a flag proposal on the newspaper's Facebook fan page, and within



minutes received constructive feedback including an offer from Shipe to develop an idea based on the feedback.

The artwork, drawn by hand, shows a salmon in red, lettering in medium blue and the mountain profile in a lighter, watery blue.

The red and blue colors are used for section heads and, selectively, in titles and rules throughout the paper.

Graves, who is not a fan of design by committee, noted the newspaper's overall redesign process was very fun and very fast.

JUDGE from page 1

argued the report discloses too much information on individual productivity and competence, not by name, but by position, making employees easily identifiable in a small community and small department.

"I don't know who they're talk about," Edwards countered, "and I've lived here 35 years."

Baker clarified that the International Code Council does

not oversee the division or have any power to discipline staff. The report is not a personnel evaluation, he asserted. "That simply isn't the case," he said.

Olympia attorney Greg Overstreet, representing the newspapers, argued the report did not focus on individuals, so it could not violate their privacy nor cause "irreparable harm" to their reputations.

"These are records about the performance of an entire agency," he said.

An AFSCME union news release stated members were disappointed in the judge's decision to release what they feel is an unfair and unbalanced report.

"The members believe they have implemented adopted Washington state law and

Grays Harbor County Code and regulation to the best of their abilities, the release stated, "and in a consistent fair and uniform manner without prejudice or malice, and in the best interests of all the citizens of Grays Harbor County."

Armstrong, representing himself at the hearing, argued any of the criticisms in the report echo what he has complained of in the past. He sought the records to bring those concerns to light.

"The public bought and paid for this (report)" he said. "The public demanded it."

Edwards said he had read the draft and final reports along with many supporting documents. He could not vouch for their absolute accuracy but felt the criticisms should be

debated in public.

"Disputed and unsubstantiated do not have the same meaning," he said. "I don't think that they're making it up."

Edwards said the report provides necessary context to the debate and any counter arguments, without revealing personnel information. He said some content may be embarrassing, but not enough to overturn the public's right to evaluate their public offices.

Armstrong, Baker and Overstreet praised the decision as a strong validation of the importance of public access to government records.

"This judge has a fantastic grasp of the Public Records Act," said Overstreet, who specializes in media and public records law statewide.

Editor's note: By doing a Google search of a phrase in the released report, Armstrong and The Vidette found a 2003 report on the development review process in Denver. The Grays Harbor county report shares substantial sections of text with the Denver report, causing county commissioners to question the validity of the study and invoices, totaling \$18,000. The Denver report was prepared by the American Institute of Architects' 10-member Citizens to Streamline our Permitting Process task force. AIA adopted it as a model for cities to use when examining building permitting processes.

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Back to the subject: iPad and beyond

After the hype comes the interesting part: What about papers?

By **BILL WILL**
WNPA general manager

After two months of iPad hype, we're back to our regularly scheduled program.

I made the decision to run Kevin Slimp's somewhat duplicative take on the iPad in this space last month, but wanted to have Kevin's perspective. He's a smart guy.

My ardor for the iPad has not cooled since launch day. Yes, I still think it's going to revolutionize publishing and point us toward the post-print world. As I write this, a few days before the first iPads get delivered to eager customers, analysts are continuing revising their estimates of first-year iPad sales (first up, then way up) and it looks like it will be tough to get your hands on one for a few months. As of March 29, Apple was saying that units pre-ordered after March 20 or so will not ship until late April.

In the next several weeks, it will also be interesting to see the pricing and structure of distribution deals being cut by Apple with newspaper and magazine publishers. One of the first big ones out of the gate was the announcement that Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., owner of *The Wall Street Journal*, intends to soak its well-heeled subscribers to the iTunes of \$17.99 per month for the courtesy of viewing the Journal via iPad. That's \$215 per year — \$75 more than an annual subscription to the print and online versions. You don't need an MBA to conclude that doesn't pencil out, Rupert. If this gouge-'em tactic is the business model publishers attempt to follow, the iPad will be the latest false savior of newspapers.

I'll have more on the iPad next month. And yes, I put my money where my mouth is. I shelled out \$499 plus tax on the first day Apple offered pre-orders for the base model: 16 GBs of storage, Wi-Fi only. I should have it my hands by the time you read this and I'll give you a full review in the May *TWN*.

Buying a new monitor? Do your homework first

One of the greatest trends in computing in the past couple of years has been the availability of inexpensive large-screen LCD monitors. Shop carefully and you can find 24-inch LCDs for well under \$200. And they're fine for most purposes. But not all.

You can easily buy on price alone if you're outfitting a standard reporter's work station. But you'll have to shop more carefully and be prepared to spend more if you're creating or upgrading the work station of your graphic artist or photo or video editor. Bargain-basement monitors aren't the best choice for these workers. Color fidelity is the reason why.

A few years ago, your back shop people were clinging stubbornly to their old-fashioned tube CRT monitors. They were concerned with substance over style. The then-new flat panels were cool, but they couldn't reproduce enough of the color gamut to ensure what was prepped on the screen translated to the right color in print (or on your Web site).

That concern still exists. The cheapest LCDs used what's known as TN (twisted nematic) technology. They're only able to produce 6 bits of color. While that's fine for most of us, designers and video or photo editors need to work in 24-bit color — aka true color — for maximum accuracy. The old tube display might have looked big and clunky, but the better ones could do true color and keep your designers happy.



Apple's iPad: Have you got yours yet? WNPA General Manager Bill Will plunked down his hard-earned cash for one, and will tell you about it — and what he thinks its impact on newspapers will be — next month.



Apple Computer



Hewlett Packard



Apple Computer

Displays on display: At top, Hewlett-Packard's 24-inch widescreen; below that, Apple's Cinema Display. Both use IPS technology.

But you can't buy CRTs any more, and if any are still lurking in your back shop, their tubes are so old their color fidelity is shot, anyway. You're going to have to step up the best currently available LCD technology, known as IPS (in plane switching).

They provide a viewing angle and color fidelity comparable to the old dinosaur tubes. But be prepared for some sticker shock: you'll pay a 200-300 percent price premium for an IPS display compared to a comparably sized TN

panel. But it's well worth it for production purposes.

Another reason for the high expense is that these displays are designed for the niche designer market. And you'll have to do some digging when you're comparing specs. If the specs say it can display 16.7 million colors, it is likely an IPS model. But, check. An even rarer technology, VA (vertical alignment) panels can also display 16.7 million colors. They're better than TN panels for backshop purposes, but they have some quirks that are best

avoided. Buy IPS and your designers and photo editors will be happy.

Most of Apple's pricey Cinema Displays use IPS technology, as do many larger Dell UltraSharp displays and some models from NEC and HP. Careful shoppers can get the 24-inch widescreen HP LP2475w for less than \$600.

Expect many reviews of the new Apple iPad to comment on the excellent detail and color of its 7-inch display. It's using IPS.

Happy 10th birthday, InDesign

Wow, how time flies. Can it really be 10 years since Adobe retired PageMaker and went head-to-head with Quark Xpress in the battle for dominance of desktop publishing?

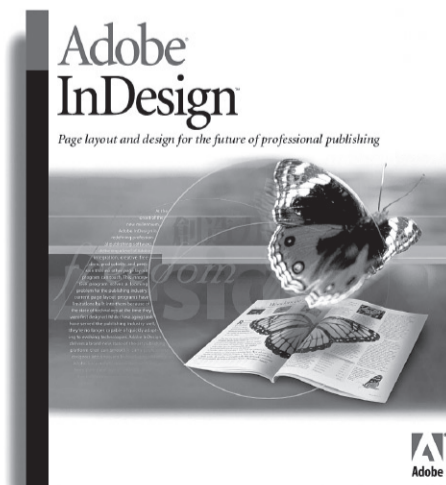
It can. And Adobe is celebrating the 10th anniversary of InDesign (and doing more than a little crowing about slaying the Xpress dragon) in a new publication: "Page by Page: Ten Years of Designing with Adobe InDesign."

A limited edition of the book will be available later this month. A free PDF version is linked below.

It even has a Washington connection: The cover art of the book features a snippet of the flag of Bremerton's own *Kitsap Sun*.

The book itself is a decent read. There's plenty of PR fluff, of course, but there are some fascinating insights into the history of PageMaker, InDesign and desktop publishing itself. Have a look:

<http://www.box.net/shared/5pb4rx67dh>



Adobe

Ah, nostalgia: A look at the first box of Quark XPress's fiercest challenger and Adobe PageMaker's supplanter — Adobe InDesign 1.0, which came out 10 years ago.

Student papers make the grade

Two elementaries revive after-school journalism projects

Student newspapers at two schools — written by elementary-school children — were covered by local newspapers last month.

The *Cougar Times*, a monthly at Central Elementary School in Sedro-Woolley, made the news in the *Concrete Herald* when it was saved by a resourceful principal.

The advisor was lost to a budget cut, and principal Kevin Loomis recruited a volunteer to help the school librarian, Gloria Rhoades, advise the newspaper.

The new advisor, Noel V. Bourasaw, is editor of skagitriverjournal.com, a Web site about Skagit area history.

The *Cougar Times* reporters are in grades 4, 5 and 6.

The *Cub Chronicle* merited a story in the March 4 *Sno-Valley Star* of Snoqualmie after the February issue launched the newspaper's third consecutive year.

Fifth graders at Cascade

View Elementary School in Snoqualmie produce the *Chronicle*.

To apply for the after-school newspaper club, students write a personal essay and an article.

Only about half the students are accepted, which advisors Seth Deniston and Kyame Lemming prefer so the group is small enough for them to teach effectively.

This fall advisors taught the five Ws and how, so students were thinking like writers when they started to report their first stories for the February issue.

The newspaper has a camera and notepads purchased with a \$500 grant received in 2007-8 from Snoqualmie Valley Schools Foundation.

Revolution Marketing prints the paper for free.

Company president Jim McCall, who has children at the school, is pleased to support an after-school activity that doesn't occur on a sports field.

"All of my kids play sports, but we rely too much on sports for keeping our kids busy and teaching them more about the world," McCall said.

■ The *Wenatchee World* has hired **Cal FitzSimmons**, editor of *The Daily News* in Longview, as managing editor. FitzSimmons grew up in Spokane and has spent his career working in the Pacific Northwest. Prior to joining TDN, he was managing editor for the *Missoulian* in Missoula, Mont., for four years, and Sunday editor for the *Tri-City Herald* for four years. While attending college at Eastern Washington University, where he graduated in journalism, he worked in the sports department for the *Spokesman-Review*. FitzSimmons and his wife, **Jill**, a freelance journalist, have three children, ages 12, 10 and 8. He succeeds **Gary Jasinek**, who was managing editor at *The World* for 13 years. Jasinek retired Dec. 31 last year. He left *The News Tribune* in Tacoma, where he had been as assistant metro editor, metro editor, columnist and assistant managing editor, to join *The World*. Previously, he had been an editor and publisher of newspapers in California, Iowa and New Mexico. He is enjoying retirement in Wenatchee with his wife, **Carole**.

■ **Jerry Robinson**, publisher of the *Highline Times/Des Moines News/SeaTac News*, was named Business Leader of the Year and honored at a dinner on March 5. Robinson publishes the *West Seattle Herald/White Center News, Ballard News Tribune* and *Federal Ways News*. net. He is a past president and honorary lifetime member of WNPAA.

■ **Wallie Funk** and his late wife, **Mary Ann Funk**, are among the 18 people to be inducted into the Skagit Valley College Hall of Fame at an April 7 dinner on the college's Mount Vernon campus. Funk is a past president and honorary lifetime member of WNPAA, and former co-publisher of the *Whidbey News-Times* in Oak Harbor, *Anacortes American*, and *South Whidbey Record* in Langley.

■ **Jeff Robinson**, managing editor of the *Daily Record* in Ellensburg, has accepted a position at the *Idaho Falls Post-Register*. He will be one of the three top news editors at the paper, the second largest in Idaho. Robinson's wife, **Michelle**, a *Daily Record* advertising sales representative, has accepted a position as retail advertising manager at the *Idaho State Journal* in Pocatello. The *Journal* and the *Record* are owned by Pioneer Newspapers, headquartered in Seattle. Last month Pioneer honored Robinson, **Ryan Johnston** and **Chelsea Krotzer** with Digi awards, which recognize efforts to advance a newspaper's online presence. They worked to expand the *Record's* Facebook audience. **Brian Myrick**,

who joined the *Record* staff in June 2009, was promoted to visuals editor. He oversees staff photography, online video and multimedia presentations. He also serves as a contracted freelance photographer for The Associated Press and runs his own photography business. **Nancy Barker** has been hired as a sales consultant/account development specialist in the *Record's* advertising department. She is responsible for launching a new, guaranteed results advertising program for businesses with targeted advertising campaigns. Barker has more than six years of experience in business development, public relations, marketing and outside sales. Most recently an event planning officer at Central Washington University, she is a former partner and owner of a local PR and marketing firm.

■ **Lance Henderson** is the new managing editor at the *Wenatchee Business Journal*. He succeeds **Nevonne McDaniels**, who held the position for the past nine years. In the March issue Henderson introduced himself and a redesigned front page, tweaks intended to accommodate more information on inside pages of the print edition, and heightened efforts to file more breaking news at www.wbjtoday.com.

■ **Dean Siemon** has joined the news staff at the *Shelton-Mason County Journal*. He graduated last May from Valparaiso University in Indiana, where he reported for the college newspaper. Siemon is balancing the stress of learning photography on the job with the enjoyment he gets from the convenience of Shelton's coffee stands. In the midwest, he a friend would drive an hour to hang out in a coffee place.

■ *The (Vancouver) Columbian's* business news editor **Julia Anderson** has left the newspaper after covering business there for more than 25 years. She was hired as the newspaper's only business reporter in 1983. In her retirement, she is blogging on women and financial planning at www.sixtyandsingle.com.

■ The *Grandview Herald* has hired **Tim Curtiss** to cover high school sports. He is a recent University of Idaho graduate and describes himself as a sports junkie. He played football for UI and baseball at Hanford High School.

■ **Derek Lactaen**, a 2007 graduate of Gig Harbor High School and a journalism student at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago, landed a gig as correspondent with *The News Tribune* in Tacoma after the Feb. 27 earthquake in Chile. Lactaen used *TNT's* news tips e-mail box to offer his services, and was

accepted. With direction from *TNT* reporter **Cole Cosgrove** and breaking news editor **Randy McCarthy**, Lactaen wrote two stories, one for the Feb. 28 paper and another for the March 2 issue. The March piece included Lactaen's photos and ran on the front page.

■ **Kevin Petermore** has been named circulation manager for the *Marysville Globe* and *Arlington Times*. He sees his responsibilities as a manager of 25 carriers as similar to what he did for 20 years in the U.S. Navy, coordinating large numbers of subordinates. His wife is a former carrier for the newspaper, and told him about the job. Native of Michigan, Petermore has lived in Washington for eight years.

■ **Valarie Richey** is the new office manager and graphic designer at the *Record Journal* in Ferndale. She and her husband have four children and a granddaughter, and are active in the horse industry in Everson. Their youngest daughter is a high school freshman. Richey returned to school a few years ago to get a degree in graphic design at Whatcom Community College. She grew up in Half Moon Bay, Calif., and moved to Bellingham 16 years ago.

■ At the *Daily World* in Aberdeen, **Mike Spezia** has been promoted to advertising and marketing director, responsible for the *World* and its affiliates, the *South Beach Bulletin* (Westport), *North Coast News* (Ocean Shores), *East County News* (Grays Harbor County), and www.dailyworld.com. Spezia has been circulation director since 2007.

Bill Bearden, former operations manager in circulation and a 25-year employee at the *World*, has been named circulation manager. Spezia succeeds **Bridget Pannell**. Pannell joined the newspaper in 2003, working as a sales rep and then classified manager before being named ad director in 2005. She is returning to the classified manager position.

■ **Christine Ina Casillas** has joined the staff of the *Port Townsend & Jefferson County Leader* as a copy editor. Previously she worked at *Sequim This Week*, a free weekly published by the Peninsula Daily News. Before moving to Washington, Casillas worked in Colorado as an editor, writer and copy editor for newspapers and Web sites in Leadville and Vail. She is a graduate of the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. Also new on the staff of the *Leader* is reporter **Steve Patch**. As a reporter at the *Shelton-Mason County Journal* for 33 years, he became known for feature stories. At the *Leader* he is writing features, but also covering the city and port of Port Townsend, marine trades and four Jefferson County school districts. Patch has family in the county. He is a Washington State University journalism graduate.

Chronicle gives Buzz chat site another try

First try in 2008 ended after site fell into 'meanness'

ON THE WEB

The Buzz:
www.LewisCountyBuzz.com

The *Chronicle* in Centralia has made a second run at The Buzz, an Internet forum chat site.

First launched in September 2007, The Buzz was taken offline less than a year later after it descended into "vapid, mean-spirited pettiness," according to Michael Wagar, *Chronicle* executive editor.

Though the site had been a link for forming friendships and proved itself as a highly useful communication tool during the December 2007

flood, the newspaper had a hands-off stance over postings and negativity soon outweighed those benefits.

The *Chronicle* pulled the plug on The Buzz in May 2008.

When the site went live March 1, it did so with a set of rules.

Before logging onto the site, each person who registers receives the rules by e-mail. And the newspaper reserves the right to lock out those postings are less than civil.

Site users have made thousands of posts since the relaunch, using the News & Events section for discussion of news posted at Chronline.com, the geographically based forums, and topical forums (Debate & Opinions, Video Games, Sports Bar, Movies & Music and others).

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