
Letter: New owners can mean changes ... and many improvements

August 10, 2019

Dear Editor: As a subscriber to both the Curry Coastal Pilot and The Del Norte Triplicate, I have watched recent issues with interest. Although readers were jolted by changes following the sudden ownership transition, I think the papers are improving with each edition over the past few weeks.

Several years ago, I wrote a history column for The Pilot, which required me to go through the archives. It was apparent to me that whenever there was an ownership change, in almost all cases there were big differences in the appearance of the newspaper and trouble with the equipment.

Eventually, the paper started looking better, as the new owners figured things out. I suspect the experience at The Triplicate was the same over the years.

A trend I noticed reading through old copies of The Pilot was that owners were typically tired and ready to turn the paper over to someone new. Operating a community newspaper is exhausting work. Fortunately, brave new owners appeared each time to take the helm.

Most recently, of course, family-owned Western Communications had to let go of our local papers due to a second bankruptcy. And, fortunately, brave new owners arrived to take on the important task.

Many communities have been left without newspapers, as print media have declined. I am grateful for the commitment Carol and Steve Hungerford made in taking on these struggling newspapers.

As with past transitions, I am sure they and their two staffs will work through the problems, and hope that the community will step up as well, with subscriptions, advertising and patience.