



## These Times

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I was told years ago that the internet would be the death of newspapers. People would read everything on the world wide web and there would be no need for a local newspaper.

Well, that hasn't happened, but government has been trying to cover their legal obligations by publishing notices on their websites and not supporting the local newspapers.

The LqP County Board, as you have read in the Sept. 26 issue of the Sentinel and Western Guard, our two county papers, approved a request by Highway Engineer Steve Kubista to not publish the transportation notices in the local papers, but put them on the county website instead. Apparently, local contractors don't do the projects that are bid and the website is used instead.

The biggest issue I see is that the two county papers support the communities. We attempt to buy locally as much as possible, we donate hundreds of dollars to the

school and community and we also give free press to the county and area communities. For years, the National Newspaper Association and Minnesota Newspaper Association has been fighting to keep governments from just publishing notices on their websites. It is more than advertising revenues, but it is keeping citizens informed. I remember being in a government meeting in Glencoe where the chair asked the media in attendance if an early morning meeting was okay. We told the chair that it is not the media you have to answer to, but the citizens who are voting. The government should not be printing notices to keep the media happy, but to keep the rest of the taxpaying public happy.

Not everyone will go to their computer to call up a website, but many will sit in their living room chair and read the local paper that comes to their mailbox.

