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Daily Transcript to close after 130 years

By [Jonathan Horn](#) | 11:34 a.m. July 22, 2015 | Updated, 4:44 p.m.



The San Diego Daily Transcript — [Jonathan Horn](#)

The San Diego Daily Transcript, once the business community’s go-to publication for industry news and listings, is going out of print after 130 years.

A statement posted to the business newspaper’s website by Publisher Robert Loomis on Wednesday said the Transcript is victim of a changing media landscape that makes operating in San Diego no longer possible.

While not many San Diegans may know of the publication, it is the city’s official newspaper of record. The paper is known for its straightforward business news, analytical graphs on the front page, and for its government contract ads. Those who wish to contract with various public agencies relied for years on the paper’s “bid board,” where they could try to get head starts on securing work for the government. The paper, like many others, struggled with a decline in newspaper ad revenue, as most information is now readily available online.

The newspaper, which employs about a dozen reporters and editors, will cease publication on Sept. 1, although its website will stay online for an undetermined period. The entire company will close on Sept. 21.

“While many cost savings measures have been initiated in the past, including the enthusiastic embrace of rapidly changing technology, producing the daily news, data and information for which the company is known requires a relatively large number of employees with related support systems,” Loomis said in a statement. “Increasing overhead, health care costs and the uncertain future of the news industry dictate that the company is no longer a viable business.”

The news company has an old-time feel, operating out of a converted hospital on Third Avenue, with a printing press on site.

In his statement, Loomis said he hopes the Transcripts’ efforts are preserved. He said he hopes a library or local university would maintain past Daily Transcript editions as a resource for San Diego’s researchers and business people.

While the publication will cease to exist, its influence will persist. The paper has helped launch the careers of a number of journalists who continue to cover government, politics and business in San Diego today.

Scott Lewis, editor in chief of Voice of San Diego, covered real-estate, water, and politics for the Transcript from 2003 to 2005, a tumultuous time at City Hall. Lewis said he learned about real estate leading up to the housing bubble, the politics of water when a regionwide deal was being formed, and covered local politics during an era of federal investigations.

“The Transcript kind of had a way of finding and giving young people a chance to start,” he said. “You could write with freedom if it was good stuff and so it allowed a lot of us to make a name even if we didn’t deserve it.”

Rachel Laing, a public affairs professional, said there was so much turnover in the newsroom that she went from a position as a copy editor to managing editor within a year of being hired at the paper in 1998.

“People who were able to actually get good stories would really shine, and they would get plush jobs and go away,” she said. “You got to know a lot of people who were incredibly talented, and meet them early in their careers.”

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Jonathan Horn

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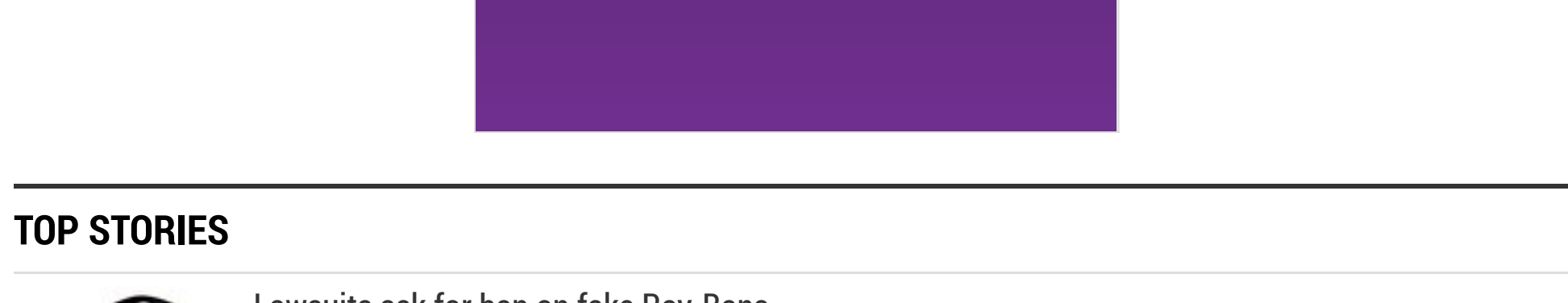
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