

Times to get new Managing Editor

Tundra Times editor and publisher Thomas Richards, Jr. announced today that he will step down as editor of Alaska's oldest statewide paper within thirty days, possibly as early as late June.

Responsibilities of editing the weekly newspaper, founded in 1962 by the late Howard Rock, will be transferred to a full-time managing editor, Richards said. Currently, Sue Gamache fills the position of managing editor on a part-time basis.

Selection of a managing editor will be announced in late June, he added. It is expected that the selection will be made from among current Tundra Times staff members. Gamache and Times Anchorage Bureau Chief Jeffrey R. Richardson were mentioned as leading candidates for the job by Richards.

Richards said that his decision to relinquish the editor's job was based on several reasons. Measures approved by the directors and shareholders of the company are expected to have developed a long-term solution to the chronic and historic financial problems of the Tundra Times by mid-July, he said.

Additionally, circulation at the weekly has more than doubled since last fall when Richards accepted the editorship and is expected to double again by mid-summer. Accompanying increased circulation has been a much-needed growth in advertising lineage, with new accounts developed at the rate of about six each week, he added.

"Accomplishment of these objectives of increased circulation, advertising and improved financial standing will permit me to devote time to special projects on an independent basis as well as generate revenue-producing projects for the publishing company," he said.

Richards concluded, "I expect approval of the change from our directors and also expect to continue responsibilities as publisher and president of the company on a part-time basis after July."