



**WEST GRANT HIGH SCHOOL** graduate Tim Jacobson signed copies of his novel "The Kurchatov Penetration" at a recent book signing event.

# West Grant grad publishes spy novel

**BY SHANNON MUMM**

Along-time writer and West Grant High School graduate had his first novel published earlier this year. Timothy Jacobson, son of Gloria Jacobson (Prairie du Chien), grew up in the woods of Grant County, living in the Bagley area near Wyalusing State Park.

After graduating from what is now River Ridge High School in 1985, Jacobson went on to attend Beloit College, where he chose to study government.

"I went on to Marquette Law School to pursue a law degree," Jacobson said. "It was during college that I started working on a non-fiction book."

Jacobson, who had always had an interest in writing, had a particular fascination with the Soviet Union.

"I loved spy movies growing up, and got really intrigued by what was going on with the Cold War," he said. "I began working on a novel about national security and the issues going on with Iran."

The novel, "The Kurchatov Penetration," was published in

late January.

Jacobson likes to think of it as a "book of international intrigue."

On Friday morning April 27, "The Kurchatov Penetration" was ranked on the Amazon best sellers list.

"I'm absolutely amazed to see my first novel reach the Amazon Best Sellers - Top 100 list for thrillers," Jacobson said. "While it's only competing in a category for Kindle books with a free promotion, the fact that there are millions of books out there and mine is on a top 100 list is remarkable."

"I'm making sales of the book in a number of countries around the world, including the United Kingdom, Germany and France."

Jacobson took time out of his schedule to present at Young Authors Day at River Ridge Schools late last month.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to return to my old school to promote reading and writing to the kids there," Jacobson said prior to the visit. "When I was a child, I didn't personally know any authors. Writing a novel can seem like an insurmountable task - something only 'other people' do. I want these kids to know and believe that it's possible for them to write a book, too. All of us are filled with stories."

Although a work of fiction, the issues highlighted in "The Kurchatov Penetration," such as Iran's nuclear ambitions and the reach of the Russian mafia are real and serious threats to national security and safety.

"I had to do a great deal of research on Russian organized crime and nuclear security issues," Jacobson said. "The book is closely based on real world events."

Jacobson said the main character of the book is a Wisconsinite who is the son of a UW-Madison professor.

"The main character is also a computer hacker, and he ends up developing a technology that falls into the hands of the Russian mafia. The concept is that people working in different parts of the world are all interconnected."

When Jacobson was working on the book in the early 2000s, he sent copies out to publishers and received good feedback.

"I came close, but there was no deal made," Jacobson said. "I decided to put it on the shelf for a few years before digging it back out and updating it."

When Visjonær Press picked up the book in January, Jacobson was beyond thrilled.

"It took a lot of time, but now that I know I can get one published, I feel a lot more inspired."

Jacobson is already 80 pages into a sequel for the book. He is also working on several other novels.

"For me, writing is a tremendous amount of fun," he said. "It gives me great joy to tell a story that people get enjoyment out of."

"The Kurchatov Penetration" can be purchased at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or at [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com).