



The People's Choice

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COUNTY COMMISSIONER
PENDER FIRST

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Time For Change

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EARLY VOTING FOR PRIMARY STARTS THURSDAY, APRIL 28TH.



SAMPLE BALLOT	FEDERAL OFFICES		NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 9 (You may vote for ONE)	
	US Senate (You may vote for ONE)		<input type="checkbox"/> Beth Freshwater Smith	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Marjorie K. Eastman		<input type="checkbox"/> Donna Stroud	
	<input type="checkbox"/> David Flaherty			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Benjamin E. Griffiths		NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 11 (You may vote for ONE)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Kenneth Harper, Jr.		<input type="checkbox"/> Michael J. Stading	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pat McCrory		<input type="checkbox"/> Charlton L. Allen	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Charles Kenneth Moss			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lichia Sibhatu		COUNTY OFFICES	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Debora Tshiovo		Board of Commissioners District 1 (You may vote for ONE)	
SAMPLE BALLOT	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Walker		<input type="checkbox"/> Joe Cina	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Jen Banwart		<input type="checkbox"/> Jimmy T. Tate	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Lee A. Brian			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Leonard L. Bryant		Board of Commissioners District 3 (You may vote for ONE)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ted Budd			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Drew Bulecza			
	US House of Representatives District 7 (You may vote for ONE)		<input type="checkbox"/> Jerry D. Groves	
	<input type="checkbox"/> David Rouzer		<input type="checkbox"/> George R. Brown	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Max Southworth-Beckwith		Clerk of Superior Court (You may vote for ONE)	
	STATE OFFICES		<input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth H. Craver	
SAMPLE BALLOT	NC Supreme Court Associate Justice - Seat 5 (You may vote for ONE)		<input type="checkbox"/> Jackie Newton	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Victoria E. Prince		Sheriff (You may vote for ONE)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> April C. Wood		<input type="checkbox"/> Alan W. Cutler	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Trey Allen		<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Korn	
	REPUBLICAN sample ballot for PENDER COUNTY		<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Sorg	
			End of Ballot	

FEDERAL OFFICES	
US Senate (You may vote for ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> James L. Carr, Jr.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Robert Colon	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alyssia Rose-Katherine Hammond	
<input type="checkbox"/> Constance (Lov) Johnson	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tobias LaGrone	
<input type="checkbox"/> B. K. Maginnis	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rett Newton	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marcus W. Williams	
<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Antoine	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheri Beasley	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chrelle Booker	
US House of Representatives District 7 (You may vote for ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Charles E. Evans	
<input type="checkbox"/> Charles Graham	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yushonda Midgette	
<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Miller	
DEMOCRATIC sample ballot for PENDER COUNTY	

DEMOCRATIC sample ballot for ONSLOW COUNTY	
US Senate (You may vote for ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> James L. Carr, Jr.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Robert Colon	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alyssia Rose-Katherine Hammond	
<input type="checkbox"/> Constance (Lov) Johnson	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tobias LaGrone	
<input type="checkbox"/> B. K. Maginnis	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rett Newton	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marcus W. Williams	
<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Antoine	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheri Beasley	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chrelle Booker	
US House of Representatives District 3 (You may vote for ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barbara D. Gaskins	
<input type="checkbox"/> Joe Swartz	
END OF BALLOT	

REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY FEDERAL OFFICES	
US Senate (You may vote for ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marjorie K. Eastman	
<input type="checkbox"/> David Flaherty	
<input type="checkbox"/> Benjamin E. Griffiths	
<input type="checkbox"/> Kenneth Harper, Jr.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pat McCrory	
<input type="checkbox"/> Charles Kenneth Moss	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lichia Sibhatu	
<input type="checkbox"/> Debora Tshiovo	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Walker	
<input type="checkbox"/> Jen Banwart	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Lee A. Brian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Leonard L. Bryant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ted Budd	
<input type="checkbox"/> Drew Bulecza	
US House of Representatives District 3 (You may vote for ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tony Cowden	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eric Earhart	
<input type="checkbox"/> Brian Michael Friend	
<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Murphy	
<input type="checkbox"/> George J. Papastrat	
STATE OFFICES	
NC Supreme Court Associate Justice - Seat 5 (You may vote for ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Victoria E. Prince	
<input type="checkbox"/> April C. Wood	
<input type="checkbox"/> Trey Allen	

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 9 (You may vote for ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Beth Freshwater Smith	
<input type="checkbox"/> Donna Stroud	
NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 11 (You may vote for ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Michael J. Stading	
<input type="checkbox"/> Charlton L. Allen	
DISTRICT OFFICES	
District Attorney District 5 (You may vote for ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Kiernan	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ernie Lee	
COUNTY OFFICES	
Board of Commissioners (You may vote for THREE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Caley	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Carpenter	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tim Foster	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Price	
<input type="checkbox"/> Will Argenbright	
<input type="checkbox"/> Royce Bennett	
Board of Education (You may vote for THREE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Elbert Garvey	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Lanier	
<input type="checkbox"/> Diane R. LeBlanc	
<input type="checkbox"/> Shawn Potvin	
<input type="checkbox"/> Louis Rogers	
<input type="checkbox"/> Angie Todd	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bradley Williams	
<input type="checkbox"/> Randall G. Butler	

Sheriff (You may vote for ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Jacob Donnerwirth	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Thomas	
<input type="checkbox"/> John Yopp	
<input type="checkbox"/> J. J. Zamora	
END OF BALLOT	
REPUBLICAN sample ballot for ONSLOW COUNTY	
	
GET OUT AND VOTE	
	



===== COMMISSIONER =====

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**TOPSAIL
TIMES
NEWSPAPER**



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When The Balance of Business and Residential Creates Conflict

By Dorothy Royal

With all the overwhelming growth taking place in the coastal Carolina communities, it is no surprise when a new business, or a new subdivision causes stress between neighbors. Most people understand when purchasing a home that they have time to evaluate the area, check on the neighbors and see what kind of businesses are in the area. This time period is called due diligence or discovery. The point is simple, check everything out first so no surprises later. The problem is that most people don't really do their homework.

On the flip side, a new business may come to town that a few neighbors don't want or like and due to zoning requirements, there may be no way to stop it.

If someone wants to build something in a location that it isn't properly zoned for, a presentation is made to the zoning board and if approved, sent before the town council for approval or denial. In most cases public comment is allowed and may be taken into consideration. But does that mean that there will be no issues down the road? Absolutely not.

Kay and her husband Michael have lived in a small home in Holly Ridge for 35 years, in fact her husband has lived there since 1960. His parents built the home in 1955. They love their yard and the beautiful trees. They enjoy their neighbors. Life was good. Then one day the earth began to shake, trees began to fall and heavy equipment arrived piece by piece for days. Oak trees, easily over one hundred years old, were sliced up and hauled away. Flowering trees and azalea bushes over six feet tall were dug up and disposed of. The natural noise barrier that all that vegetation provided from highway 17 was gone and quickly replaced with bright lights, mounds of

asphalt and gas pumps with all the bells and whistles. The property, a compilation of five parcels, had once been dotted with homes and small businesses, many dating back to before 1960. Progress, as some call it, was making its mark. With all the new construction came a new problem, water run-off. This is nothing new to our coastal areas but unfortunately the water run off system was designed to dump into a 60 plus year old dilapidated pipe that crossed the middle Kay and Michael's property, as well as two more neighbors. This has become a major issue as recent heavy rains saturated the yards. As the town had given the gas station the Certificate of Occupancy and there was an engineer who designed the system, there was little relief from the town. At last word an engineer for the gas station was going to pay another visit.

Who doesn't love fresh baked Cinnamon rolls? Fresh out of the oven with a line waiting at the door, Shari and her husband Sean greeted customers, offered free coffee and thanked everyone for their business. At least they did until recently. The couple built Surf City Farm a few years ago to provide fresh grown vegetables and to offer a wonderful space for gatherings. Recently the farm had obtained all the permits required to make baked goods and wonderful soups. This year they planned on adding ginger, horseradish root, Aji pepper and some new heirloom cucumbers and tomatoes to their crops.

On March 17th they made a public announcement that they were closing down due to complaints generated from traffic issues and a new neighbor's complaint that they had violated farm rules. The county (they are not located in Surf City limits) sent letters explaining that they had violated the "bona fide farm

status" provided to them by selling products provided off farm (other local farm produce). If they continued to operate they would incur a \$100 a day fine. Primarily open on weekends, the success of their farm and the baked goods generated more traffic than the residential neighborhood the traffic went through to get to the farm wanted to deal with. Most members of the residential community love the farm and don't want to see it go, but others, many who have never even been to the farm, find it a burden.

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Without the funds to fight the new restrictions, the family has discussed selling the property, a ten-acre tract that most likely will be purchased by a developer who will pack in as many homes as possible.

On a positive note.... Pender county commissioners discussed protecting the rights of existing gun manufacturers and gun shops in Pender County from being

impacted by all the explosive growth.

With neighborhoods replacing farmlands and wooded areas, the once vast spans of open area without neighbors are gone. The bottom line in this decision is to protect what has been there for those who may not check the area first before purchasing property or a home. Many manufacturers depend on outdoor private ranges to test fire weapons before they are ready for sale. This is a common practice across the world and ensures that the weapons are safe and function properly. Another service gun shops offer are classes in firearm safety and Conceal and Carry permits. Both types of classes require participants to fire their weapons.

The main issue regarding firearms is the noise created by the firing of a weapon.

For years a Bill known as the "Hearing

Protection Act" has been bouncing around political venues without becoming a common-sense law. The law would allow people to purchase and use noise reducing devices (suppressors and silencers) with a simple background check. Currently the process takes months and may cost thousands of dollars. The misconception about these devices was created in Hollywood with movies about hit men using them for nefarious reasons. The truth is no one like noise – period. If the person using the firearm for training, hunting and practice could create a lot less noise (most devices reduce the sound by 40-80%) then most neighbors would not complain or be bothered.

Knowledge is power, investigating the area and what it offers before purchasing is your responsibility and being a good neighbor is always important.

Remember it is free to start being kind. It can make everything better for everyone if given the chance.



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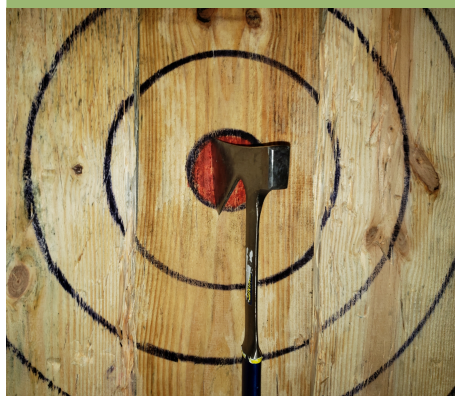


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Good Friends Are Hard To Find

By Becky Borneman

My best friend, Michelle, moved away from Surf City to the Raleigh area back in October. I have missed her dearly since. Girlfriends are something that every woman needs. There is nothing like them. When I moved here in 2008 I missed my family of course and I really missed my group of girlfriends. When I met Michelle we just clicked and it was an instant friendship.

Jeff and I have started running our food truck again for the season. We were thinking about hiring some people to help and I had a hard time writing the job description for the posting. Jeff reminded me of the "adventures" Michelle and I had on the truck when we worked together. I have to note that the only reason Jeff let me take the food

truck out without him was because Michelle would be with me and he knew she would be able to supervise. It got me thinking of one of the funniest things we've gotten ourselves into and I just had to share.

We had just finished up serving dinner from the truck at Leaf & Barrel. Michelle and I got the truck back to the restaurant and we did the dishes and restocked for the next day. We were closing up and she asked if I had the keys and if she should lock the truck. I said yes. She asked again if I had the keys. I said yes. Well...I didn't. I realized after she closed and locked the back door that the keys were inside the truck. All I could think of was it's 10pm, Jeff is home sleeping and how am I going to tell Jeff that he has to get a locksmith out here early tomorrow to unlock the food truck.

Good news was I hadn't locked the front part where we drive.

The picture below is a shell shocked Michelle after she got through that TINY window she is standing next to. Y'all...I'm going to have to measure that window and see how small it is. If I could have filmed this whole fiasco I guarantee it would've been a classic. Now I never would have agreed (forced) her to do this unless I knew the fire department could have been called and could have assisted in getting her out if she got stuck. I mean, what are friends for? I had her back just in case.

She started out head first. She stood on the passenger seat to try to get a good jump. I have to disclose that our passenger seat in the food truck is actually a lawn chair. But for DMV purposes, we will call it a passenger seat.

She got halfway in and started to panic. Back out she came. Tried it again and I thought we were going to be ok at this point because she was a good way through that window. I was hoisting her halfway on my shoulder, went to pick up her legs to shove her the rest of the way through and she got scared to go head first. I told her to tuck and roll and she responded with a hand gesture. So I grabbed the small step ladder so she could go in feet first. When she realized this would work and she actually was going thru that small window, claustrophobia set in. She literally started screaming so loud I thought the neighbors were going to call the cops. I was trying to be encouraging and kept yelling "scoot" and "rotate". She did a complete 180, starting face up when she climbed in and face down as she went through. She was so afraid of the ledge hitting her in the face she was yelling "MY TEETH!" I was at this time laughing so hard I couldn't catch my breath. But by God she made it! And the keys were in fact inside!

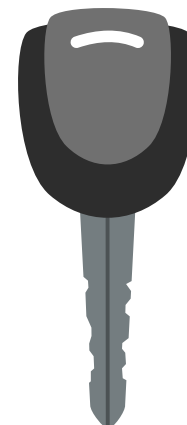
All this happened only to find out that Jeff did indeed have a set of backup keys. Whoops!

So we will use this platform to formally announce we are looking for help on the food truck. Qualifications are...well...teampayer? Thank you for saving the day Michelle!!



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Sea Turtle Hospital News



By Karen Sota

Spring is officially here, and it's something even sea turtles seem to recognize. In a few short weeks nesting season officially begins and there have already been sightings of loggerheads heading toward our coastal beaches. But along with all the "coming" we have a very important "going."

Canal, a juvenile green who has been with us for almost seven years is relocating a few hours away to his forever home. Canal has been such a fixture in our hospital that most of you probably thought he was going to live with us forever. But our mission is to give every turtle the best possible life after rehabilitation. If we can't send them back to Mother Ocean, we owe it to them to find an environment where they can live out the rest of their lives safely and well cared for. Finally – we've done it for Canal.

But first, a little background on Canal. He was originally admitted October 15, 2015 with a boat strike injury to the backend of his carapace. It's a fairly common injury with many admits and in most cases it's just time to heal and then back home. But every once in a while it results in a buoyancy problem where a turtle cannot dive and stay submerged, just popping back up to the surface, usually butt-up.

Although initially Canal seemed to be doing fine, over time we noticed that he was struggling to stay down and was devoting increased time paddling around the top of his tank. But there was also a long period where he spent extended periods scooting along the bottom of the therapy pool. Release was looking increasingly like an option. After extensive discussions with Dr. Harms, Jean and our hospital staff we decided that we should give Canal a chance to go home. On June 13, 2018 Canal was released from the beach in front of a large, cheering crowd.

On June 14th he re-stranded in Surf City, close to where he left us in what we hoped would be his second chance to put the "sea" back in sea turtle. It appears that he just didn't have the stamina to fight the waves and make it out to deeper water. Or maybe he just missed us. Thankfully, he was unharmed and although we were disappointed we welcomed him back. Recognizing that release was not in his future the search for a new home began. His photo and CV were sent to aquariums who had what we considered suitable accommodations for one of our favorite patients, but between hurricanes and Covid things just didn't work out. Until now.

In the very near future Canal will be relocating to SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord where they're putting the finishing touches on his very own room with a

5,000-gallon tank, including three windows for underwater viewing. If you're a "people turtle" like Canal, this is the perfect marriage between a great sea turtle life and the opportunity to bask in the admiration of the many, many fans he's collected over the years. Of course there are plans in the works to send Canal off in style – stay tuned for details.



Canal, a juvenile green

Even though we're still on alert for late-arriving cold stuns it won't be too much longer until those turtle mamas start heading toward shore. On Topsail our official start to nesting season is May 1st. If you spot anything unusual such as a stranding or nesting, please call our Director of Beach Operations, Terry Meyer at: 910-470-2880. If she is not available, you may call the hospital during operating hours: 910-329-0222. We will take the information and we will send a trained volunteer to meet you to assess the situation. The State of NC hotline for stranded, sick, and injured turtles is 252-241-7367. The state number picks up 24/7. Please note that all our work with sea turtles, at the hospital and on the beach, is authorized by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, ES Permit 22ST05.

Sea Turtle Hospital Expands Tour Options

During April our hospital is open to the public for tours three days a week: 11 AM – 1 PM on Fridays and Saturdays, and Noon – 2 PM on Sundays. Beginning in May we will also be open on Thursdays from 11 AM – 1 PM. Tickets must be purchased in advance through our website:

www.seaturtlehospital.org

Select the date, time and the number of guests in your party and purchase your tickets.

We limit the number of guests for each time to make the experience more enjoyable and to continue our commitment to keep you and our staff safe as we work our way through Covid. Please check the website for our current policy on masks which is based on transmission rates in our part of the state. And remember that you can come to the gift shop without going on the tour. Enter through the single door to the left of the main entrance.



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Mon. - Fri. 8am-5pm; Sat/Sun - 12pm-4pm**

The Herring's 60th Anniversary

By Carol Ann Ross

Special to the Topsail Times

We all know that Topsail opened up for development in 1949, and all kinds of people came in the next several years. Some stayed, some left. Making a living was difficult back then especially since the money making season only lasted about three months. It follows that some folks would not be too keen on that, but the ones who stayed, stayed for a reason. They certainly had to have a certain kind of character. They had to be hard working and want certain things from life that money does not buy, because nobody was getting rich quick back then. I like to think that many came to our island not just for the natural beauty, but because of the quality of life it offered. The Herring family was one of those families that came and stayed.

I remember the Herrings very well, since when I was but a wee thing, they used to babysit my siblings and I in their little home on the sound. I loved that little house with its knotty pine walls and the always smell-good kitchen. I loved Ruth and Ed Herring too-lots of sweet memories there. they used to call me putt-putt, for what reason, I have no idea. And they used to feed me lots of raw carrots. I loved carrots as a kid-still do.



(Top Left)
Herrings Bait
and Tackle in
the
early 60s



(Bottom Left)
Group readying
for a kayak tour
at Herrings



(Right)
Peggy Bailey

Photos provided
by Carol
Ann Ross

The Herrings came from Wallace; Mr. Herring, Ed, had come here to help with the clean up after Hurricane Hazel in 1954. In fact, the wood he gathered from the destroyed houses was used to make his own. It's still there, nestled by the wild grasses of the marsh.



Ed Herring at his work table

Ed helped build many of the houses on the beach back in the 50s and 60s, (Notice, if you will, that it is the older homes that fare better during our storms). Since Ed was an avid fisherman and knew just about everything there is to know about fishing rods and reels, he opened up his first business here on the island. It was called Herrings Bait and Tackle. That would have been 1962. It was a pink two-story building located right next to the swing bridge.

The tackle shop was downstairs and two apartments were upstairs.

Herrings carried everything the fisherman needed, all kinds of jigs and lures, live bait, buckets, tackle boxes, scaling knives-everything, including fishing poles and all kinds of reels. Ed was a master at repairing reels, that's pretty much a lost art since reels have become disposable, as of late. Most just throw it away and buy another. Tsk, tsk, Mr. Ed would have had the thing working like new. "Didn't catch anything today?" Ed might ask a customer. "Well, it's because you had your hook on backwards." Now that was Ed, offering a smile along with craftsmanship.

Ed mostly ran Herrings shop, but Ruth filled in for lunch and supper breaks. She also rented out the upstairs apartments. She was your typical good southern country woman who made a mean pot of collards and the best cornbread around. Her pecan and pumpkin pies were to die for.



Ruth and Ed Herring

In 1974, Ed and Ruth's daughter Peggy came to live with them along with her children Steve and Lisa. Having visited during summers before then, the kids already knew how to bag ice and catch sand fleas for bait and to fish. By then Herring's Bait and Tackle was at its present location, 701 N New River Dr. It was truly a family affair with everyone pitching in. Steve says of his grandparents that they were very loving, but expected him to be responsible. They taught him lots of things, says Steve, all about fishing and all about business. It shows in the fairness, the way they appreciate customers; their customer service.

The kids helped in their grandfather's store and after his passing in 1977, they helped their grandmother Ruth and mother Peggy run the establishment. Steve took over in the mid 90s.

Today Steve's wife Jessi is a part of the Herring's team. She's been there since 2004 and is the buyer and a big part of keeping the store operating.



Steve and Jessi

Yes, Herrings has been operating since 1962, and has grown quite a bit since the old days. Still they are outdoor oriented. Though they no longer sell a large variety of fishing equipment they do offer kayak and bicycle rentals along with Kayak tours. They also rent surfboards, boogie boards, skis, chairs, outdoor games like horseshoes and corn hole. Plus they carry a wide selection of outdoor clothing including North Face, Patagonia and Life is Good. They also carry footwear like Merrell, Brooks, Chaco, Keen and Olukai, just to name a few.

You can't say this about everyone or every business, but the Herring family truly is a nice family. They operate a family business with integrity. I know Mr. Ed would be very proud of the place, sixty years later, as it carries on a tradition of friendliness and honesty. Thank you Peggy, Steve, Jessi and Ed and Ruth for being part of the community and for adding so much to our lives.

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COFFEE WITH A CANDIDATE

By Dorothy Royal

As I sit across from Chris Thomas, candidate for **Onslow County Sheriff**, I immediately think of two things. Calm and collected. I sit listen-ing to a person who has dedicated his entire career to law enforcement, a little over 35 years to be exact. His career most likely started out when he joined the Army where he served for three years and completed one tour. He obtained his BLT (basic law enforcement training) at Coastal Carolina in Jacksonville and was hired at Pender County Sheriff's Department where he worked in a variety of positions starting at the jail and advancing to Deputy Chief. After 16 years at that department, Chief Deputy Thomas moved over to New Hanover County Sheriff's Department where he worked before moving to the SBI (state bureau of investigation). Once at the SBI he worked on the drug and criminal task force which resulted in over 1,000 convictions during his career. After advancing to Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Mr. Thomas supervised special agents in areas that

included Onslow, Duplin, Pender and New Hanover.

After a retirement that lasted less than three months, Chris Thomas returned to work with Jacksonville Police Department as a narcotics officer. Not long after, he was offered a job by newly elected Onslow Sheriff, Hans Miller and he took it. Sworn in the same day as the Sheriff, Chris Thomas was assigned to the Investigations Department that included crime scene and narcotics. His position is now Chief Deputy where he is responsible for more than 250 employees (which includes 150 deputy sheriffs, 100 detention officers and 20 citizen employees).

With years of knowledge of the inner workings of the sheriff's department, and a good working relationship with area local law enforcement, Chris Thomas has decided now is the right time to run for Sheriff.

In the years that he has worked with Sheriff Miller he has seen great progress in the Sheriff's department and wants to keep that going strong as well as enhancing a few more things.

The county, like most in the area, is experiencing a rapid rate of growth

which will spread any resources too thin if not careful. His goal is to continue to ensure the entire county can be properly cared for by maintaining partnerships with local law enforcement within the county. Currently Onslow County and the Jacksonville police are collaborating to use the same record management system so that information will be easier for everyone to obtain.

Recently the Onslow Sheriff's Department opened an annex in Sneads Ferry to assist residents on this side of the county. A person can meet with a deputy to file a report instead of having to drive to Jacksonville. The plan is to add services to that location to also assist other area officers, like North Topsail Beach, with alcohol testing equipment.

If elected, Chris Thomas plans to continue and increase successful programs such as Internet Crimes Against Children, the youth outreach pilot and the MAT program which addresses the drug problem from dealer to treatment. Making sure the schools have SRO officers who work well with the students is also important.



By Dorothy Royal

Will Argenbright, candidate for **Onslow County Commissioner**

I met Will Argenbright at the City Café in Holly Ridge where he is no stranger.

Mr. Argenbright, an active member of the Onslow County republican party sees issues in the county that he loves and wants to work to improve them.

"We have to stand for something or we will fall for anything," is a famous quote attributed to the political realm for over a century (some think Alexander Hamilton said something to that effect) but is just as important today as when it was first said. Will Argenbright believes this to be true and because of that is calling for more transparency in the world of County Commissioners.

In one of his addresses to the Onslow County Commissioners he expressed his concern over the Covid restrictions that were enforced in areas of the county (not by the Onslow Sheriff's department) that should never have happened. He expressed that the county seat should assist the municipalities when making decisions based on mandates that may not be actual law. During the Covid shut down period several area towns were left to fend for themselves when interpreting and enforcing. This should have been done as a County as a whole, not piece by piece. To think that such a thing could never happen again is not a safe approach. Everyone needs to learn from the mistakes made and work toward creating a better process.

The education system in Onslow is a major concern for Mr. Argenbright. With millions of dollars needed to repair existing school buildings in the county he wants to make sure funds will be available.

Remaining competitive in teacher pay, rewarding higher education and making sure enough teachers are employed for the rapid growth in the county is always going to be an issue.

The funding for the Sheriff's department is crucial also to ensure adequate coverage for the large county as well as the jail. Having a department that is underfunded and understaffed is not an option. He is also a firm believer in the second amendment and will work to support those rights.

During an interview on a local radio show, Mr. Argenbright brought up the large number of job vacancies in the county and how that will eventually affect everyone. If a system is designed to run with 40 people and only 22 are currently working, cuts will have to be made to avoid overwhelming the 22 people that are there. Unfortunately, this is not just an Onslow problem but country wide.

With the large population of the county, Mr. Argenbright is surprised that there is no large entertainment or sporting complex which would draw both residents and visitors and offer residents entertainment that they currently have to travel out of the county for.

Mr. Argenbright is a husband and father of three teens and pre-teens, has a home full of pets including dogs, cats, chickens and a bearded dragon.

He is an avid believer of transparency in government and believes that term limits create a healthier government. He would like to see a community outreach program where County Commissioners visit different areas in "town hall" style meetings where a different commissioner visits each time to listen and learn from the residents and business owners who can't always make it to the formal meetings.

You can learn more by visiting willargenbright.com or giving him a call at (910) 554-1056



WILL ARGENBRIGHT

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

COFFEE WITH A CANDIDATE

By Dorothy Royal

Jerry Groves is running for **Pender County Commissioner** against 16 year member, George Brown.

Mr. Groves is the youngest of 7 children who grew up living in a farm in Pender County. At the age of 12 he spent his summer driving a tractor for ten hours a day earning .50 cents an hour.

\$5 a day was a lot of money back then. At lunch time each day Mr. Floyd would bring him a pack of nabs and a drink. Times were simpler for sure. He clearly learned the value of a dollar at a very young age.

After high school he went into welding and eventually opened his own business. He learned how important it was to be debt free in business. After selling his

business he joined the Pender County Sheriff's department where he worked for 15 years before retiring in 2021.

Mr. Groves is concerned for the senior citizens in the county and wants to find a way for them to continue to afford to live in the county they love during the explosive growth that has taken place.

Currently living on his \$1800 a month he understands the pain of having to put aside over \$120 a month just for property taxes.

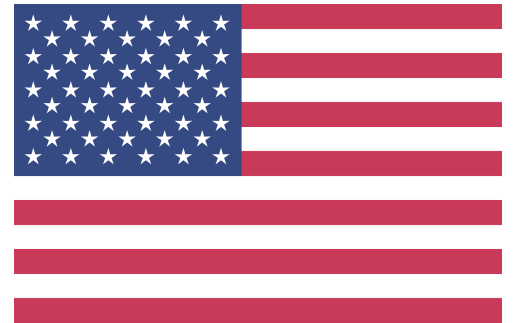
Mr. Groves believes that money is counted and earned in pennies and saved that way too. Out of control spending of tax dollars is not something he is a fan of. He also went into detail about how any surplus money left over at the end of the year needed to be saved, not spent in a hurry to avoid losing.

After speaking with hundreds of people all over

Pender County, Mr. Groves made the decision to run for Pender County Commissioner.

Mr. Groves is a strong supporter of making sure the school systems and law enforcement have the proper budget to keep up with the rapid growth. He is also a supporter of allowing people to get their water from private wells instead of being forced to tap on to a water service. Mr. Groves also believes the public meetings need to be held when working people can attend, not at 3pm in the afternoon.

A conservative with traditional, long-standing, time-tested views, Mr. Groves is a lifelong republican. Although a friend of George Brown, Mr. Groves sees the need for new people with new ideas and ways of looking at funding for current and future projects for the growth of Pender County.



Jerry Groves

For Pender Commissioner

- Conservative Values
- Working To Lower Taxes
- Prioritizes School Safety
- Help The Elderly
- Retired Small Business Owner
- Retired Deputy Sheriff
- Lifelong Pender County Resident
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MIKE SORG FOR PENDER COUNTY SHERIFF

I'm most importantly a father, husband, son, and coach. I have also been a law enforcement professional for 20 years whose career has prepared me to lead the Pender County Sheriff's Office. I have worked in a high-paced, high-liability, and high-expectation environment for a majority of my career.

My experience spans Vice/Narcotics Investigations, Violent Crime and Gang Investigations at both a local and Federal level. I have held the position of Captain where I had oversight of General Investigations, Internal Affairs, the evidence vault, Hiring and Recruiting, I was the In Service Training Coordinator, and am a Firearms, Physical Fitness, and Combatives Instructor for law enforcement.

I'm currently a Chief of Police where I'm fortunate enough to lead an outstanding group of men and women at a community oriented policing agency.

A majority of my career has relied upon and required networking and inter-agency cooperation on the local and federal level. Those relationships are built upon trust, personal connection, and require proactive requests for help.

I believe in Extreme Ownership in leadership and supervisory roles. Any good accolade that comes to my department is due to the hard work that my cops perform day in and day out. Any bad that comes is a failure on my part as the leader and mine alone.

I'm asking for your support and vote starting on April 28, and on election day on May 17th. Pender County Citizens deserve a professional, knowledgeable, efficient, and proactive agency guarding their communities. I'm running for **Sheriff of Pender County** to positively impact my community.

I look forward to the hard work and challenges that lie ahead.

Respectfully,
Mike Sorg



"As a law enforcement officer with 20 years of service, I firmly believe we are the guardians of our communities and must build trust and personal relationships with the residents and business owners we protect..."

Mike Sorg, Jr.

WWW.MIKESORGFORSHERIFF.COM



COFFEE WITH A CANDIDATE CONTINUED

By Dorothy Royal

At 43 years of age, Joe Cina is running to replace David Williams as Pender County's District One County Commissioner for the Hampstead and Topsail areas. As I meet with him at the Paradise Axe and Arcade where his 3 children ages 7, 9, 10 are busy playing, it is obvious that his children and their education is first and foremost on his mind.

Concerned with the lack of green space for outdoor sports and play, Mr. Cina is concerned that with the overwhelming surge of new families moving into Pender County it is more important than ever to secure those green spaces now before it is too late. Everyone in the county should have ample parks, walking trails, areas for fishing and access to the waterway.

Mr. Cina had a very rewarding career in law enforcement in North Carolina and spent over ten years as an instructor for Cape Fear Community College teaching multiple topics to hundreds of area law enforcement officers. Teaching "active shooter" and school resource officer training were only a few of the

topics Mr. Cina specialized in. Mr. Cina is well versed in the operations of the Sheriff department and achieved his Advanced Law Enforcement Certification during his career serving citizens in our region. Mr. Cina also achieved his NC Probation Officer Certification, NC Private Investigator Certification, and his Professional School Resource Officer Certification which requires over 400 hours in School Resource Officer Training. Mr. Cina worked directly with New Hanover County Schools as Supervisor and an instructor. His wife currently works as a Deputy Sheriff for the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office and has served in this capacity for approximately 15 years.

Protecting the rights of property owners, supporting local businesses and encouraging people to help one another during times of tragedy, such as after Hurricane Florence, are key elements of his campaign for County Commissioner.

After the Hurricane it was not uncommon to see Mr. Cina on the roofs of neighbors and friends putting up tarps and helping with clean up.

Mr. Cina is a major supporter of utilizing the Hampstead Annex location to improve services offered by the Sheriff's department. The location is already there, the space is already set up. It's time to make things easier for the residents of the Topsail/Hampstead area. He agrees that supporting the Sheriff's department to expand services such as filing reports and submitting permit applications to this area is crucial.

One of the reasons that Mr. Cina is running for office is to make sure that the county citizens have fair representation, and not just representation that cares about big money developers. All the recent growth has become a burden on so many of the county services, including the schools, that he feels more research needs to be done before stamping approval on every plan. Working with the school board to make sure they can accommodate large increases in students is something that absolutely needs to go into every approval.

"Currently, we as a community are failing our children's future. When we do build new schools, we build them too

small, which is evident at this moment in our community. We know for a fact that our community is going to continue to grow and continue to put a strain on our infrastructure. Water, sewer, open space, traffic, schools, medical services, and police services all feel the burden when growth happens too fast and can't keep up. Our county needs someone who is willing to step up and say "no" to rubber stamping developments until our infrastructure can handle the demands."

Primary election date is May 17, 2022 and he will be listed under County Offices on the Republican Ballot for District 1.

You can learn more at
www.cinaforpender.com
or email him at
cinaforpendercommissioner@gmail.com



Meeting Mike Sorg

By Dorothy Royal

I first met Mike Sorg while eating lunch with my husband at Southern Roots restaurant in Holly Ridge. A waitress came over and whispered, "Have you met the new Chief of Police?" I shook my head no. She then pointed to a man who was seated, eating alone, wearing casual attire.

My husband, overhearing her question looked over and said, "I remember watching him play baseball in high school. He was really good."

I sat in disbelief. Highschool was 30 years ago. Major events like birthdays and anniversaries are hard to remember but how well a man pitched a ball in high school was important? The male mind is a mystery.

My husband was right, Mike Sorg had been a very good baseball pitcher at New Hanover Highschool during 1992-1994 and had earned back to back state championships to prove it.

Choosing to following his father's footsteps in law enforcement, Mike Sorg has spent over twenty years working with local departments, task forces, and government agencies. He looks at law enforcement as his life long career and feels that he has 10 more years left of his 30 year career and he wants to spend

that time bringing Pender County Sheriff's Department up to the high demands of today.

As a resident of Pender County where he lives with his wife and children, he hears the complaints from residents in the western part of the county who feel ignored by the Sheriff's department, while other areas, many that have their own police departments, have several deputies visible where they may not be needed.

His goal is to restructure the existing system to make it highly functional without costing the tax payers more money. There are a lot of issues that need to be addressed, corrected and simplified. Will this be a large undertaking? Absolutely, but he is not afraid to take on the task.

At the G.O.P. forum in Hampstead on Tuesday night one of his opponents said that it was not realistic to do such an thing and that it couldn't be done. Mike Sorg stood and announced that thinking like that is the problem. Until people are willing to put in the work nothing will ever change. Mike Sorg is willing to put in the work.

For residents of Holly Ridge, Mike Sorg has made the police department more

financially viable and restructured the former system. New equipment is in place and designed to allow for growth.

Training is important and learning from each officer regarding what problems they experienced in the past and how to fix them was a major step. Nothing is easy when taking over for someone else and changing their style of leadership. That is part of the job. You cannot be everyone's friend but you can be a fair and reasonable leader, and that is very important to a successful position in law enforcement.



Adopt Simple Daily Solutions with The Marian Way

By Marian Taylor

The Marian Way is passionate about helping you establish daily solutions to keep you on track, feel accomplished, and bring order and joy to your everyday living. When you do smaller daily tasks through the week you will have more time and freedom on the weekend to do what you love.

5 Simple Evening Solutions that will set you up for a better tomorrow:

1. Clear your dumping ground. A dumping ground is any flat surface that is easily cluttered and piles up quickly. EX: kitchen counter, desk, dining table
2. Write tomorrow's To Do List to plan your day. Check your calendar so that appointments aren't missed.
3. Load and start the dishwasher.
4. Clean, disinfect and dry the kitchen sink. Waking up to a clean shiny sink will bring joy to your mornings.
5. Read. Whether it's the daily newspaper, daily devotions, or a book, reading feeds your mind.

4 Simple Morning Solutions to jump start your day:

1. Make the beds. A fresh made bed makes you feel great when you enter the bedroom.
2. Plan "What's for dinner". Check for ingredients, and take out frozen ingredients
3. Wipe down your bathroom
4. Empty dishwasher and reload.
5. Savor your morning time and really enjoy your cup of coffee or tea. Breathe in the aroma and take time to think about your day. Drink warm lemon water to hydrate you.

Keep It Simple... The Marian Way!

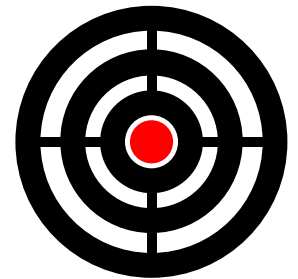


Marian Taylor, is the creator of The Marian Way. Her mission is to support people in living a simple, and beautiful lifestyle. As a professional downsizer and relocation specialist for 10+ years she knows firsthand as to what it takes to help people let go of their "excess", with her time-tested tools, tips, and solutions. Marian is also a good food ambassador and offers gluten free and clean mealtime solutions. Marian will be sharing Simple Solutions for Meals, Wellness, Home Décor and more -The Marian Way! To find out how The Marian Way can help you with your project, please email: Marian@TheMarianWay.com



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My Neighbor, The Fox

By Dotty Harding

Recently there was a post in Nextdoor, a community forum, written by Wendy Rhoades, which I found very informative, so I thought I would pass on the information.

We just temporarily moved to the neighborhood so we could be safe.

If you have suddenly seen a fox in the yard near your home, there is a good reason. It is the denning season between the end of March and early April, and a mother fox will give birth to 4 to 5 kits (a baby fox is called a kit). A coyote will often find a fox den, dig out the babies, and kill them. A mother fox knows this and will frequently choose a den site close to people, away from where coyotes generally go. A fox will often den under a porch, shed, garage, barn, or side of a hill, trying to keep her little family safe. Please offer them a short-term rental because this is not a permanent situation. If you are lucky enough to see a beautiful adult fox or witness the kits playing (at a distance), you will be glad you did! It is not uncommon for Red Foxes to change dens several times during the season, so you may not see them for long. Kits are slow to develop and will not leave the den until they are

about a month old. Foxes do not live in a den year-round, only when mothers have babies.

As the kits grow older, you will see less and less of them during the summer, and by September, everyone will have packed up and moved on. Please do not call a service to "relocate them", It usually will not end well. If you see a fox during the day, it does not mean she is rabid. A mother fox works tirelessly to feed her kits and will often be out forging omnivores during daylight, generally feeding on berries, grasses, and small rodents. They are solitary and prefer to be left alone. They do not want to hunt and eat your children, mate with your dog, or kill your cat. A fox wants a place to raise her family safely, so please allow her to do that.

My neighbor, the fox.

I could not believe my eyes when I took my small dogs out into their fenced yard one morning. I go with them to try and avoid confrontations with any animals that also call my yard their home.

Suddenly, I saw a small movement on the lot next to me and was surprised to see a beautiful medium-sized fox searching for food left behind by workers on a construction site next to my lot. I had my phone with me so that I could capture

these photos. I had never been that close to a fox in the early morning light and was amazed at how beautiful she was. The neighbors mentioned seeing her walking down the roadside as cars passed and told me they even saw the kits frolicking on the lawn next to my house.

I appreciate and try to be respectful of the surrounding land and the creatures living there and be informed and understand their purpose and how they contribute to our environment.

Why Are Foxes Important? As foxes move through their habitat, they disperse seeds of the fruits and vegetables they have eaten. This allows plants to spread out and survive. Plus they control small rodent populations, especially mice, rats & rabbits, and run a litter clean-up service in urban areas by eating discarded food. Want to learn more about foxes?

Read, Explore & Learn "Red Fox".
<https://weilerwoodsforwildlife.com/red-foxes/>

So what other animals use the earth's magnetic field to navigate: Think about any animal that flies or swims long distances. However, the fox is the only animal that uses magnetism to pinpoint food.

<https://weilerwoodsforwildlife.com/magnetic-field/>

Written by Matthew Scully in Dominion:

"So in every act of kindness, we hold in our own hands the mercy of our Maker, whose purposes are in life and not death, whose love does not stop at us but surrounds us, bestowing dignity and beauty and hope on every creature that lives and suffers and perishes.

Perhaps that is part of the animals' role among us, to awaken humility, to turn our minds back to the mystery of things, and open our hearts to that most impractical of hopes in which all creation speaks as one.

For them as for us, if there is any hope at all then it is the same hope, and the same love, and the same God who "shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Rev.21:4)



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Fitness Tips: Motivation after Menopause

By Dr. Amanda Knauff

*Physical Therapist/Owner of
Pender Pelvic Health and
Therapy Services*

Menopause affects each woman uniquely to impact her daily life. The body begins to use energy differently, fat cells change, and women may gain weight more easily. After this period ends, a woman enters postmenopause which can seem like your body continues to transform year after year. Women are more susceptible to heart disease, osteoporosis, and diabetes. Seems like the golden years right? Let this be motivation! All of those diseases are preventable through participation in regular exercise. Not only can exercise keep your weight in check, but it strengthens bones, lowers risk of depression, and has been shown to slow memory loss. Start with a form of aerobic exercise, such as brisk walking or biking.

If you're a beginner, start with 10 minutes per day and gradually increase the intensity and duration. Make sure you

are able to talk during your walk and not feel out of breath. You should aim for 2 hours and 30 minutes of moderate aerobic activity each week. Incorporating strength training by using weights (soup cans work!) or resistance bands and stretching to promote flexibility helps to keep muscles working with you, not against. Set realistic, achievable goals.

Teaming up with someone- such as a neighbor or partner- can help you stick to your plan.



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Simply Homemade Easter Recipes

Hot Cross Buns

- 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries
- 2 tablespoons grated lemon zest
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/3 cup melted butter
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup milk



Put warm water, butter, skim milk powder, 1/4 cup sugar, salt, egg, egg white, flour, and yeast in bread maker and start on dough program. When 5 minutes of kneading are left, add currants and cinnamon. Leave in machine till double. Punch down on floured surface, cover, and let rest 10 minutes. Shape into 12 balls and place in a greased 9 x 12 inch pan. Cover and let rise in a warm place till double, about 35-40 minutes. Mix egg yolk and 2 tablespoons water. Brush on balls. Bake at 375 degrees F (190 degrees C) for 20 minutes. Remove from pan immediately and cool on wire rack. To make crosses: mix together confectioners' sugar, vanilla, and milk. Place glaze in a piping bag or a sandwich bag with the corner snipped off; pipe a cross onto each roll.

Braided Easter Egg Bread

- 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour, divided
- 1 (.25 ounce) package active dry yeast
- 5 whole eggs, dyed if desired
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2/3 cup milk
- 2 eggs



In a large bowl, combine 1 cup flour, sugar, salt and yeast; stir well. Combine milk and butter in a small saucepan; heat until milk is warm and butter is softened but not melted. Gradually add the milk and butter to the flour mixture; stirring constantly. Add two eggs and 1/2 cup flour; beat well. Add the remaining flour, 1/2 cup at a time, stirring well after each addition. When the dough has pulled together, turn it out onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic, about 8 minutes. Lightly oil a large bowl, place the dough in the bowl and turn to coat with oil. Cover with a damp cloth and let rise in a warm place until doubled in volume, about 1 hour. Deflate the dough and turn it out onto a lightly floured surface. Divide the dough into two equal size rounds; cover and let rest for 10 minutes. Roll each round into a long roll about 36 inches long and 1 1/2 inches thick. Using the two long pieces of dough, form a loosely braided ring, leaving spaces for the five colored eggs. Seal the ends of the ring together and use your fingers to slide the eggs between the braids of dough. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Place loaf on a buttered baking sheet and cover loosely with a damp towel. Place loaf in a warm place and let rise until doubled in bulk, about 45 minutes. Brush risen loaf with melted butter. Bake in the preheated oven until golden brown, about 30 minutes.

Photos and recipes courtesy of AllRecipes.com

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ACROSS

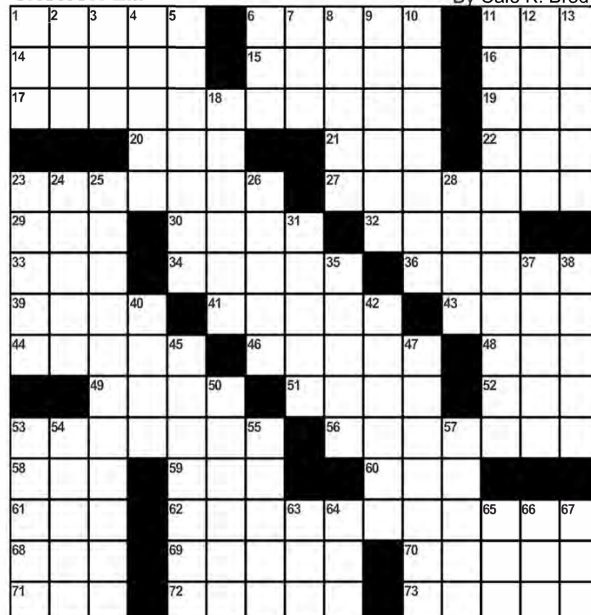
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) "The Count of ___ Cristo" | 43) Audio effect |
| 6) Waikiki welcome | 44) Allots (with "out") |
| 11) Boat in a harbor | 46) Bustles |
| 14) Be of use to | 48) Eye protection |
| 15) Stitched | 49) Online bookmarks, essentially |
| 16) Blvd. cousin | 51) Mexicali moolah |
| 17) Illegal boxing blow | 52) Ship's dir., perhaps |
| 19) Seed vessel (Var.) | 53) Leave |
| 20) In-flight info, for short | 56) Abraham or Homer, on TV |
| 21) One for the off-road | 58) ___ nouveau |
| 22) It's shady | 59) Org. for heavyweights |
| 23) Comic bit (Var.) | 60) All eternity, to a bard |
| 27) Act as | 61) "Polloi" preceder |
| 29) Half of a dance? | 62) Carroll poem |
| 30) Emulate a picador | 68) Rapid bustling movement |
| 32) Curb (with "in") | 69) Howling with laughter |
| 33) Burgle | 70) Indoor plant areas |
| 34) Becomes bushed | 71) Japanese currency unit |
| 36) Tangle | 72) Large wall painting |
| 39) "It's ___ to Tell a Lie" | 73) Adolescent |
| 41) Log home | |

DOWN

- 1) Vandalize
- 2) Egg cells
- 3) Apprehend
- 4) Lhasa's land
- 5) Snobby one
- 6) Fanged Nile menace
- 7) Romanian currency
- 8) Take the blame
- 9) Trojan War hero killed by Achilles
- 10) Sticks like glue
- 11) Tent sanctuaries
- 12) Throat dangler
- 13) Swarming with bacteria
- 18) Bait and switch, e.g.
- 23) "Beat it!"
- 24) Decided
- 25) Addiction
- 26) Fort Knox unit
- 28) Fork feature
- 31) Jazz genre
- 35) Agrees (with)
- 37) Second-largest land animal
- 38) Thick green cloth
- 40) Bookworm, in stereotypes
- 42) More intrusive
- 45) R&B ballad
- 47) By hook or by crook
- 50) Toyota rival
- 53) Laughter sounds
- 54) Waste away
- 55) Old drum played with a fife
- 57) Prefix with "type" or "plasm"
- 63) Meadow call
- 64) Schubert's "The ___-King"
- 65) Fine-wine-producing vineyard
- 66) Do-it-yourselfer's purchase
- 67) "Fargo" assent

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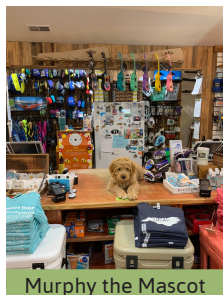


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Answer To Our Last Crossword Puzzle

FOR GOOD MEASURE

By Ossie Lindbrook

1	B	R	A	N	S		S	C	R	I	M		M	A	D			
14	U	N	I	A	T		A	R	E	N	A		I	T	O			
17	S	A	L	V	A	G	E	Y	A	R	D		S	R	I			
			20	A	T	E			21	R	O	E		22	S	I	N	
23	B	A	D	L	U	C	K		26		27	M	A	I	L	B	A	G
29	A	D	O			30	E	K	E	D		32	D	R	A	Y		
33	D	D	T			34	S	O	B	E	R		36	A	D	A	P	T
39	G	A	S	P		41	S	A	T	E	D		43	S	M	E	W	
44	E	X	P	O	S		46	B	E	N	E	S		48	I	R	E	
			49	E	O	N	S		51	R	E	N	T		52	L	I	E
53	M	A	R	R	I	E	D		56	W	I	R	I	E	S	T		
58	A	L	I			59	F	A	R			60	R	A	N			
61	N	O	N			62	F	L	E	E	T	O	F	F	O	O	T	
68	T	E	C			69	L	E	A	V	E		70	E	R	A	T	O
71	A	S	H			72	E	R	R	E	D		73	R	A	T	T	Y

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