

Turning a new page

July 3, 2019



Hello, Brookings and Crescent City! We're privileged to be the new owners of the Curry Coastal Pilot and the Del Norte Triplicate.

As a native Oregonian, I love this coast and its iconic smaller towns. We are excited at the opportunity to learn about and become part of the fabric the communities of Brookings and Crescent City. My husband, Steve, and I have been working toward this goal, purchase of these two promising community news outlets, for four months.

Steve created Country Media nearly 20 years ago because of his passion for community news and service. After half a century working at daily and weekly newspapers of all sizes, his zest for this business continues unabated.

My education and work experience had been centered in the arts and arts management. But early on I agreed to help Steve operate our newspaper company, and I've never regretted that decision.

Over the past two decades, we've built our business to include some 15 non-daily newspapers and associated websites, serving communities of various sizes in four states. So we have a strong background in finding a good fit between our publications and their communities.

For now, our prime focus with these two newspapers is to make them sustainable, to ensure that Brookings and Crescent City have long-term newspapers they can rely on for non-judgmental, accurate and unbiased news coverage.

We purchased The Triplicate and The Pilot out of bankruptcy. Over time, the two newspapers' available resources had become necessarily scarce. Expense cuts had to be made by their parent organization time and again. It got to the point where many wondered if the properties would be shuttered altogether.

For our part, we quickly found that buying a business out of bankruptcy can be an incredibly frustrating waiting game. Our offer had to be accepted by first one party or agency, then another. Weeks were spent waiting until the deal could be considered closed.

In fact, we didn't know until just last Thursday that our offer to buy The Triplicate and The Pilot had received final approval. Sunday night, we were here.

Meantime, a non-disclosure statement kept us from disclosing anything about the sale as it played out. We couldn't very well talk with others about what we would do as the new owners, since we didn't even know if we would be the new owners.

Going forward, we want to earn and maintain your trust. That happens only when we are consistently careful with the facts.

Country Media has spent the last 20 years sharing the stories of the communities we serve. We want your newspaper and its website to be a strong, consistent advocate for this community.

You can help us with that goal by letting us know when there is local news to be covered, stories to be shared, successes to be highlighted, problems to be addressed.