

More local news space

September 17, 2019



Our recently-hired reporters in Crescent City and Brookings are now hitting their stride, providing increasingly relevant coverage of the activities and residents in Country Media's two new communities. Your ongoing positive feedback underscores that.

Speaking of which, beginning with this issue we'll be slowly expanding the A Section of each newspaper to allow more space for local news. To accomplish that, we're sharply reducing the amount of "canned" syndicated features leaned on by the former owners of The Pilot and The Triplicate, using that space for more staff-written stories about people and events in Crescent City, Brookings and surrounding areas.

So you'll no longer be seeing generic filler such as advice columns, comics, word puzzles and the like. If we can't fit in everything, we opt to give priority to news of the local area. As a great fan of Sudoku, I admit I gave this a lot of thought, but I have several books of Sudoku puzzles and can go to internet sites to download puzzles or play online. So, there are alternative sources.

I believe our community newspapers' columns are better suited to carrying as much local news as possible. Why? Because local news is our stock in trade here in Brookings and Crescent City. You won't get that commitment to local coverage from anyone other than The Pilot and The Triplicate. You can get syndicated features from a variety of other suppliers.

Meantime, we're continuing our search for local fishing columnists. Our pressroom manager is a passionate fisherman and I asked him to write a column about his time on the water. Running our big presses is his day job ... but writing articles isn't something he was so sure about. I suggested he write as though he were drafting me a letter.

You'll see his brief anecdote in this issue of the paper. I hope you enjoy it. (That said, he elects to stick with running our presses as opposed to pursuing a literary career.)

There are so many types of fishing opportunities in our corner of the world, perhaps we will begin getting columns from a variety of people. I hope deep-sea fishermen and fly fisherman are represented!

As for our experiment with carrying reports on our websites of high school football games, many of you are pleased you can get the online recaps right after the final whistle. You're now able to get the game accounts even before the paper is delivered on Saturdays. We're working hard to create additional robust, digital platforms to complement our print products.