

Opinion

The fabric of Bertie County since 1832

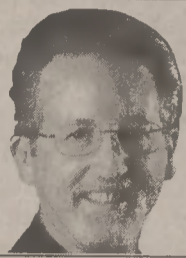
OUR WORLD

Big rite of passage...

Driving to Myrtle Beach was the big rite of passage when I was a teenager. For some, the lure was more youthful wanderlust than saltwater and sand.

One summer evening in a Johnson City pool hall, fellow Food City bagger Jeff Brown

"There were always desserts of homemade cakes and pies."



MARK RUTLEDGE

"What's in Myrtle Beach?" I asked, naively thinking there must be a plan of some sort.

"Who knows?" Jeff shrugged. "We'll find out when we get there!"

Fortunately, I'd made the trip a couple of times before, which was enough to know that driving from the mountains to the ocean just to turn around and drive back was a bad idea. We compromised and drove two hours to Gatlinburg, where we blew about 20 bucks between us and slept in a hotel parking lot.

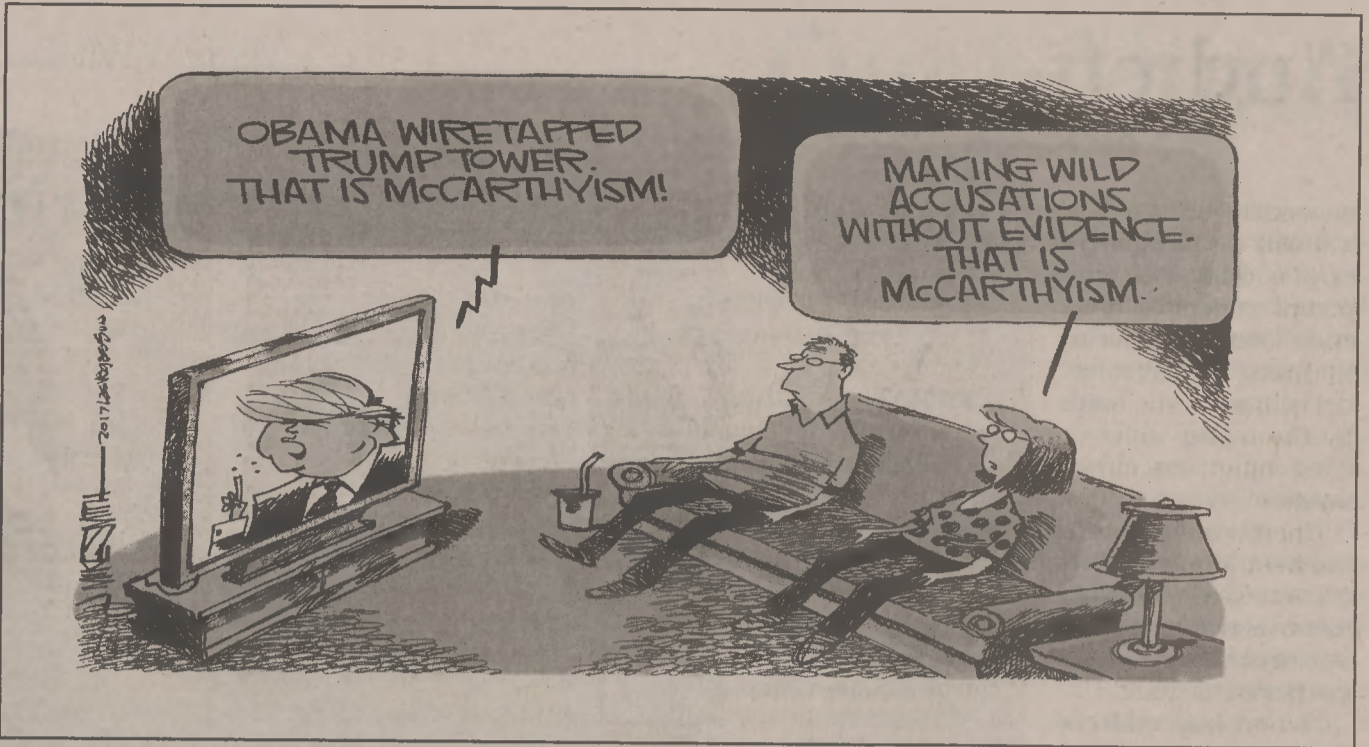
I've done some crazy things in my life, but that is one I've managed to avoid - until now. And I have "The Price Is Right" to thank for it.

The long-running game show is recording segments at Freedom Hall Civic Center in Johnson City later this month. Our oldest daughter loves the show and for Christmas received tickets to attend the local taping. We later learned the shows are happening during the week of spring break, when her high school softball team will be playing tournaments in Myrtle Beach.

Times have changed. Selling those tickets to have more money to spend during a week in Myrtle Beach with my friends and teammates would be a no-brainer for me. But my daughter had her heart set on being a "Price Is Right" audience member and her mother and I are pushovers.

She's going to miss the first couple of days at the beach. Her mom and I are each taking a day off from work to drive her down, turn around and drive right back. But there will be no stopping at Jimmy Carter Fireworks. Our van does not even have an ashtray.

Contact Mark Rutledge at mrutledge@reflector.com, or like him on Facebook at [Mark Rutledge Columns](https://www.facebook.com/MarkRutledgeColumns).



SMALL TOWN GIRL

My sweetest Shenondoah...

My husband Shenon, is a man of few words unless he knows you well. It is just his nature to be quiet when he is around a crowd or people he doesn't know.

This reticence results in a lot of times when Shenon is being misunderstood, so I want to take this time to introduce everyone to the man I know.

Shenon was born on Dec. 11, 1972, weighing one and one-half pounds. It is startling that immediately after his birth, he didn't leave Bertie County.

Most severely premature babies are typically sent to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), but Shenon stayed in Windsor until he was allowed to come home.

Shenon spent most of his childhood in the mountains of North Carolina near Asheville.

To this day, he still says Asheville is his home. He says he seems more at ease and fits in better there. This is apparent when we travel to Asheville because he always seems to wait until the last minute to leave.

Shenon is the older of four boys. Since he was about 16 years old, Shenon has been a father figure to his brothers.

Shenon helped them in times of need, he helped his younger

"I want to thank Shenon for being my rock through everything."

-LESLIE BEACHBOARD



two brothers through college, he has taught them good things and stood by each one as Best Man, when they got married.

I also joke with Shenon about "being a logger in dirty work boots," but he is a talented man and not just talented but also a teacher, who shares his talents.

I have learned to do many things that most who know me never thought would be possible.

Since our marriage, I have learned more about cars than I ever thought I could learn in a lifetime.

I have seen him pull an engine out of my car and replace it, and he has changed tires in the rain.

Shenon is also a gifted guitarist. This is one hobby all three of his brothers and his best friend, Dean share. Shenon may not have time to play as often as he used to, but when he picks up his guitar, it's as if he never stopped playing.

The one thing that amazes me

the most about him has been his dedication to our project, restoring the Freeman Mizelle House.

When we started this project a year ago, we could not see into the future and what would happen. When we began to reach the end of our timeline, he began to push himself harder to reach our goal.

Night after night, Shenon had worked on the house until 2 or 3 a.m., got two to three hours of sleep and got up for work at 5 a.m. to return home at 6:30 p.m.

From painting 30 feet in the air, rebuilding the front porch, or adding the extra details, he has done it all.

He has tirelessly worked on the house each day until he could not possibly go any more.

I want to thank Shenon for being my rock through everything and working so hard to achieve our dream.

Shenon may be quiet and a man of few words, but he is a man of many talents and a big heart.

Leslie Beachboard is a Staff Writer for the Bertie Ledger-Advance, who loves her husband, Shenon, and is ready for her house adventure to end. She can be reached via email at lbeachboard@ncweeklies.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We express love...

To the Editor:

The month of February is better known as "Love Month." We, the Ahsokie Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., express great love and admiration to the Roanoke Chowan Area citizens.

Our love is extended to you for your great support, participation and financial contributions extended to us.

You have generously given to the 38th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute that was held on his birthday.

Because of your generosity, we were able to continue our support to "The King Center" located in Atlanta, Ga. Also, your monetary gifts have allowed us to participate in many social action projects and activities.

Your financial support and donations assisted us in sponsoring "Operation Santa Claus," a project that gives us the opportunity to help needy families in the R-C area at Christmas.

We extend continued love and gratification to Just Save and Piggly Wiggly for generous donations.

Since February is the "Love Month," we, the Ahsokie Alumnae Chapter, send our love and gratitude to all of you

Camille H. Rascoe
Ahsokie Alumnae Chapter

AROUND HERE

Winter into spring...

Congratulations to all of the Bertie County high schools who enjoyed successful basketball seasons in 2016-17.

We had several teams perform well. Even the teams that didn't do as well as they had hoped still showed improvement, which gives them reason for optimism next year.

Though readers may not be able to tell it - judging by the recent weather - we are transitioning from winter sports to spring sports here.

The Bertie Ledger-Advance would like to publish as much local sports news as possible each week, but with only one full-time person (me), we need your help.

Here are some things you can do:

- Send team schedules and numerical rosters with first and last names as soon as possible, so it will be easier to identify photos taken at your events. This goes for high schools and middle schools.
- Update us with schedule changes as soon as you know. I go to several schools each week, and nothing is more frustrating than driving to a school and their teams are not playing due to a schedule change that we should have been made aware of.
- Send us your results on a consistent basis, not just when you win. It is a lot easier to follow how

"The goal is to have as many teams recognized as possible."

- JIM GREEN



your season is going.

• Sending results can be done in several ways: Email (jgreen@ncweeklies.com), by phone (252-794-3185 or 792-1181), or by fax (795-2835 or 792-1921).

• Many schools post results to their team's MaxPreps or Game Changer pages. These are excellent sites from which the newspaper can pull information, and the more you post, the more we have with which to make a story. It needs to be done consistently, meaning after every game.

• MaxPreps doesn't have an area to upload a narrative, meaning how runs were scored, so that needs to be sent via email. This adds more to the story.

• Game Changer is also great to use, and it has separate places for uploading the narrative and the scorebooks. Remember, the more you post, upload or send, the more we have to use. If you use Game Changer, please email me the login information so I can retrieve the results.

• Coaches are also encouraged

to send comments via email about their games to provide readers with more insight about what happened.

• For track results, post them to your NC Prep Track or NC Mile-split team pages as soon as you get them. We can then pull them from those sites.

We check these sites several times a week, and with many teams playing multiple times per week, it is best for coaches or scorekeepers to upload or send information after the game or the following day. That way, the newspaper - which only publishes once a week - can run as much information as possible.

• Keep in mind that the paper tries to rotate photo coverage to augment the information. Weather and scheduling can affect where we go each week, but will make every effort to publish as much sports news as possible in each edition.

The goal is to have as many teams recognized as possible, but we can't be everywhere.

Any concerns or questions should be directed to me at my email address.

Jim Green is Sports Editor for the Bertie Ledger-Advance. He can be reached at jgreen@ncweeklies.com.

Bertie Ledger-Advance

The fabric of Bertie County since 1832

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