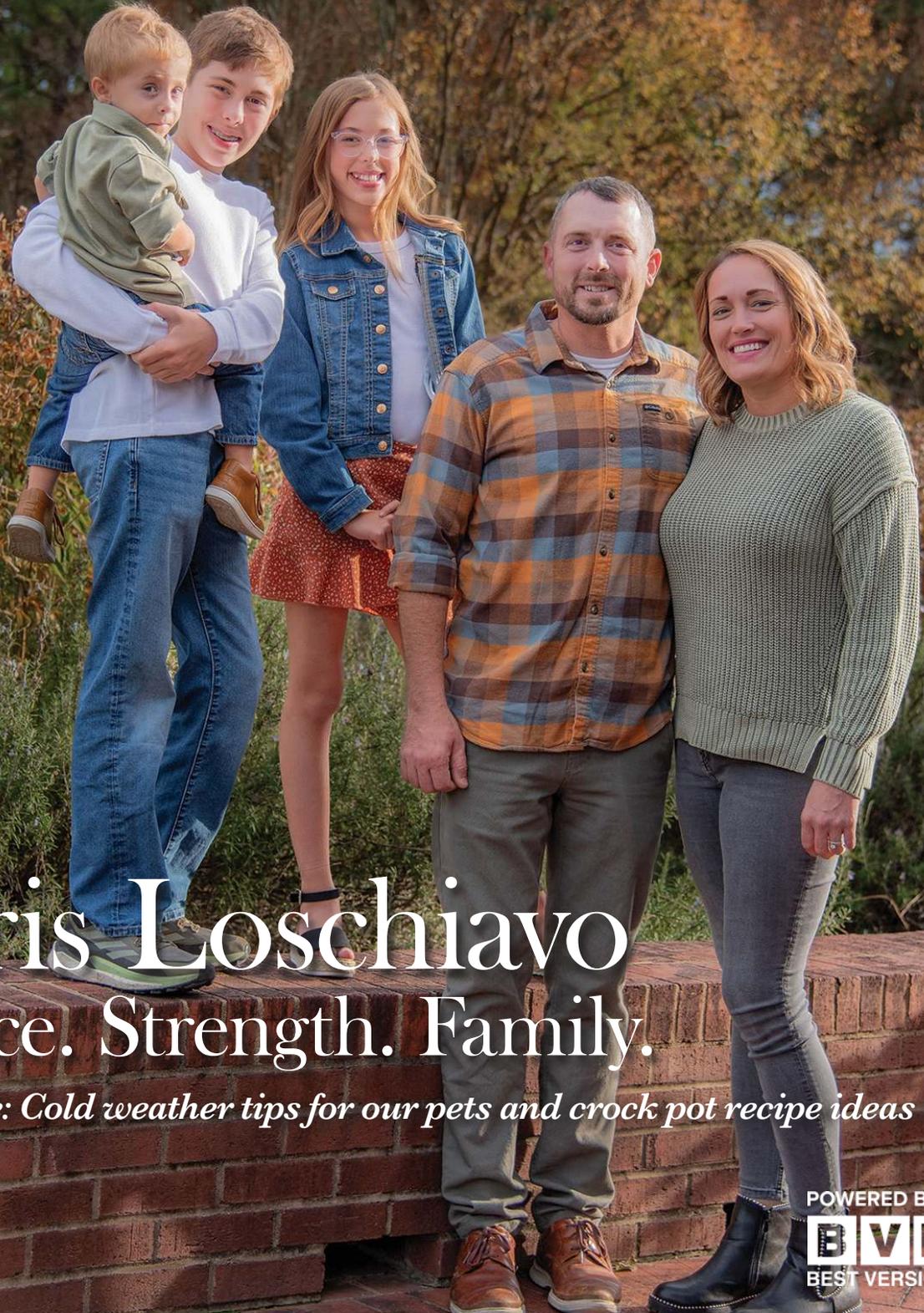


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JAN 2026



## Chris Loschiavo Service. Strength. Family.

*Also Inside: Cold weather tips for our pets and crock pot recipe ideas*

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KYRA RODRIGUEZ

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# PINEHURST NEIGHBORS

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September	25 October
October	26 November
November	25 December
December	26 January
January	26 February
February	23 March
March	26 April
April	25 May
May	26 June
June	25 July
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# Happy New Year, Pinehurst Neighbors!

As we step into 2026, I'm thrilled to continue sharing this magazine with the vibrant neighborhoods of CCNC, Forest Creek, #6, The Fairways of #7, #9 - The National, Doral Woods, Pinegrove Village and Woodlands. Each issue is crafted to spark conversation, highlight local happenings, and celebrate the people and businesses that make our community so special.

This month marks a fresh beginning, and with it comes new opportunities to connect. We'll introduce you to inspiring neighbors whose stories remind us of the strength and warmth found right here at home. You'll also discover local businesses that bring unique value to our area whether through exceptional service, creativity, or dedication to community.

I warmly invite you to take part in shaping Pinehurst Neighbors. Share your family milestones, upcoming events, favorite recipes, or even cute and funny snapshots of your pets. Your contributions bring life to these pages and ensure the magazine reflects the heart of our neighborhoods. Think of this as your publication, a place where your voice and experiences matter.

My commitment remains to deliver content that is relevant and uplifting—engaging stories that make you smile, information that keeps you informed, and features that help us all feel more connected. As we grow together in 2026, I welcome your ideas and feedback on what you'd love to see featured.

It's a privilege to publish Pinehurst Neighbors, and I hope this issue brings joy and inspiration to you and your family as we begin the year ahead.

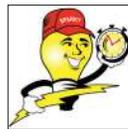
With gratitude,

*Chris Foster*

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Photo by Tess Gillespie

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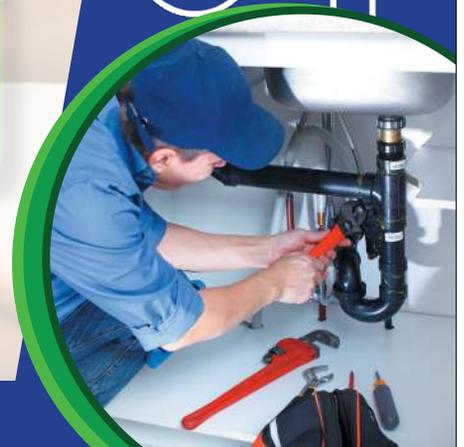
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# Hello 2026: Your Best Year Yet

BY JESSICA ANDREANO

As we welcome a brand-new year, many of us feel inspired to reflect, reset, and reimagine the goals that matter most. New Year's resolutions offer a chance to pause and look forward—to build healthier habits, deepen meaningful connections, and pursue the dreams we've placed on hold. Whether you're aiming for personal growth, professional milestones, or simply more moments of joy, the new year invites fresh possibilities and a renewed sense of purpose. Here's to creating intentions that motivate, empower, and bring out your very best in the year ahead.



*Stay away from the old and build the best new.*

- Brandon F.

*I vow to breathe more air.*

-Jerry H.

*My resolution is to not make any New Year's resolutions.*

-Leedell W.

*Every year, I make a list of 25 "ambitions" and if I hit at least 10 of them, I'm pretty satisfied.*

-Anya E.

*Open a sourdough front porch bakery!*

-Nicole L.

*be on time.. lol same one every year..*

-Christa G.

*Focus on self-care, develop friendships, enjoy time with my husband, and travel some."*

- Taylor R.

*Improve everything. Read more, work out more, learn as much as I can.*

-Annie J.

*To be more active.*

-Angela B.

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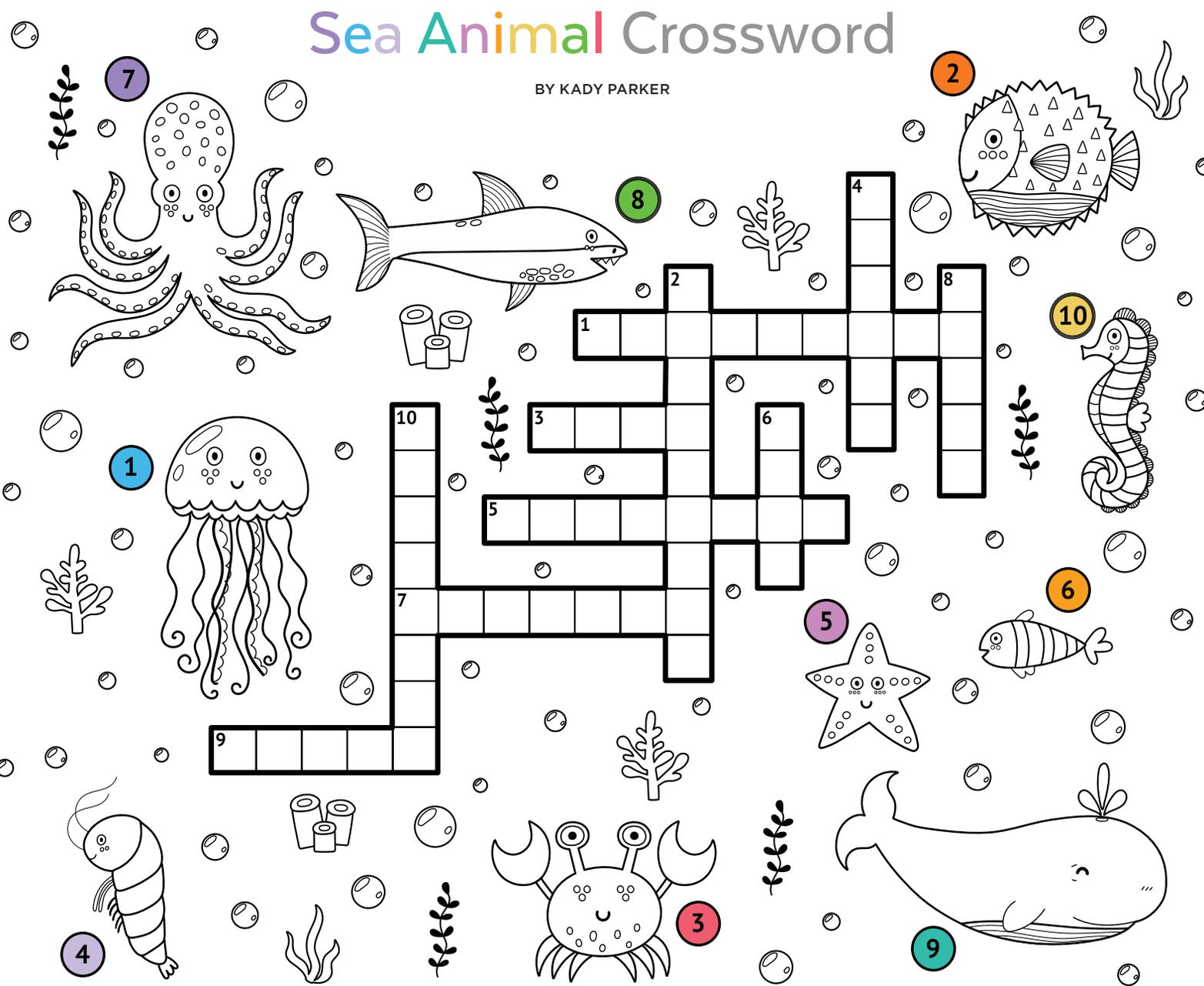
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# Sea Animal Crossword

BY KADY PARKER



1. Jellyfish | 2. Globefish | 3. Crab | 4. Shrimp | 5. Starfish | 6. Fish | 7. Octopus | 8. Shark | 9. Whale | 10. Seahorse

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# A Life of Service, Strength, and Family

BY JESSICA ANDREANO | PHOTOS BY KYRA RODRIGUEZ



## Early Life: A Childhood of Movement and Adaptability

For Chris Loschiavo, service has never been just a duty—it has been a calling that has shaped every chapter of his life. From his early days as a young cadet at Mississippi State University to his recent retirement after twenty years in the U.S. Army, Chris's journey has been one of dedication, resilience, and love for both family and country.

Chris's story begins with a childhood defined by movement. By the time he was nine, he had already lived in California, Memphis, multiple parts of Texas, and the Chicago area before his family eventually settled back in Memphis. That constant change taught him adaptability and openness—traits that would serve him well throughout his military career and life.

## A Warm Summer Hello That Changed Everything

In 2004, Chris's life took a fateful turn when he met his future wife, Natalie, during a summer ROTC training camp. At the time, Chris was attending Mississippi State University, and Natalie was a student at Washington State University. Their connection was immediate, rooted in shared values and a mutual understanding of leadership and service. That summer marked the beginning of a journey together that would span continents, deployments, and a growing family built on faith, love, and perseverance.

## A Distinguished Military Journey Built on Service and Camaraderie

After earning his undergraduate degree from Mississippi State University in 2005, Chris entered active duty in the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant—a decision that launched a career spanning the United States, Germany, South Korea, Belgium, and beyond. Originally commissioned as a logistics officer, he later transitioned to the Engineers following his first deployment to Afghanistan. Along the way, he earned a Master's Degree in Executive Leadership from Liberty University, further strengthening his commitment to leading with purpose and integrity. Over the next twenty years, Chris found profound meaning not just

in the missions he executed, but in the people he served alongside. "What I miss most about the Army," he often says, "is the camaraderie—the bond between some of the greatest people our country has to offer." That sense of unity carried him through deployments, relocations, and countless challenges, ultimately shaping the leader he became. Chris officially retired in July 2025 as a Lieutenant Colonel and Division Engineer for the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, closing a distinguished chapter of service. Though stepping away was bittersweet, he embraced retirement as a chance to continue serving others—this time through his passion for food and community with his mobile BBQ food truck, Blue Suede BBQ.

## Finding Home in the Sandhills

When Chris and Natalie decided to put down roots, they were drawn to the quiet beauty of The Meadows in the Sandhills on Highway 501 in Aberdeen, North Carolina. In late 2022, while Chris was still stationed in Belgium, they found their perfect home—10.5 acres surrounded by peaceful forest. For Chris, the property offered both tranquility and purpose. "Even though we're close enough to Camp Mackall to hear the training," he says, "it's still music to my ears as an 'old' retired guy."

## A Vibrant Family Life

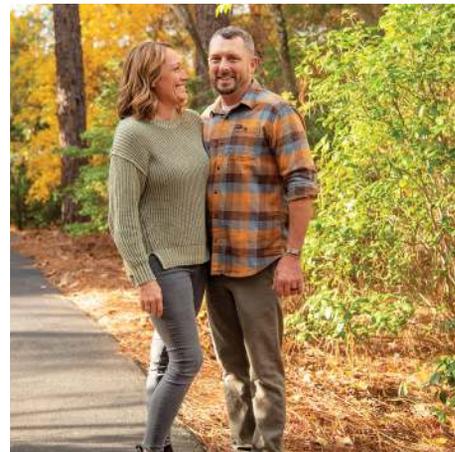
Their home is a lively place, filled with warmth and energy. Chris and Natalie have two children, Gehrig (13) and Giada (11), as well as a three-year-old foster son they are in the process of adopting. Both Gehrig and Giada are active in sports—Gehrig plays basketball, baseball, and soccer, while Giada runs cross-country and participates in gymnastics. Chris takes immense pride in supporting them, whether from the sidelines or as an encouraging mentor. "They've been active since they were little," he says. "Sports have taught them teamwork, confidence, and discipline—the same values I learned in the military."

The Loschiavo family also shares their home with August, a spirited dog who loves exploring their property. They still fondly remember their previous dog, Jill—a half pit bull, half chocolate lab mix—who passed away in 2023 after more than thirteen wonderful years as part of the family.

## A Family Shaped by Travel and Resilience

Family time is sacred for Chris. Whether traveling, attending local festivals, or simply gathering for dinner, the Loschiavos are always finding ways to stay connected. Travel, in particular, has played a major role in their lives.

During Chris's assignment as the U.S. Army exchange officer to the Belgian Army from 2021



to 2023, the family lived "on the economy" in a small French-speaking village in the Ardennes Forest. That experience brought both trials and unexpected blessings.

Shortly after settling in, the region was devastated by the worst flooding in over two centuries. The Loschiavos lost the entire first floor and garage of their home overnight, forcing them to move through five different hotels over six months while repairs were underway. Yet, amid hardship came an unforgettable twist of fate: a local hotel manager offered them temporary housing in a centuries-old castle that had been converted into an inn. When the hotel closed for the winter, the manager handed Chris the keys and told him to consider it home. "We were blessed beyond measure," Chris recalls. "It was surreal."



During that time, they formed close friendships with a Bulgarian family who worked as caretakers, as well as a kind local man named Daniel, who remains a dear friend. Though their stay in Belgium was filled with challenges, it became one of the most meaningful chapters of their lives—full of resilience, gratitude, and connection.

### Exploring the World and Honoring Heritage

After returning to the United States, the family continued their love of travel. They've made frequent trips to Orlando, attended the annual D-Day commemorations in Normandy, and explored Italy, where Chris visited the small mountain village in Calabria where his great-grandparents lived before immigrating to the U.S. in 1907. One of his family's future dreams is to renew their wedding vows in the same church where those ancestors were married—a symbolic return to their roots and heritage.

### A Continued Commitment to Service

Though retired from active duty, Chris's sense of service is as strong as ever. He volunteers extensively with organizations close to his heart, including the Live Like Lou Foundation, which supports families affected by ALS and funds critical research for a cure. Chris and his family regularly participate in service projects for ALS families, and he serves on the foundation's Development Committee.

He is also deeply involved with Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, where he has served as a small-group leader for leadership conferences, a scholarship judge, and a chapter advisory board member for both Mississippi State University and UNC. Most recently, he was selected to help test a new Alumni Ambassador

program, helping alumni reconnect with the Fraternity and the Foundation.

### Serving the Community at Home

Locally, Chris serves as president of the veteran nonprofit "Little Groups of Paratroopers", an organization that helps airborne soldiers maintain camaraderie and mutual support. He also gives back through Grace Church of Southern Pines, local school sports programs, and community events—often through his food truck, where good barbecue and good conversation go hand in hand.

### Turning Loss into Purpose

Following the loss of his father on Veterans Day 2020, Chris has made it his mission to transform that day into something meaningful and uplifting. Working with the team at Red's Corner in Southern Pines—where his food truck is a familiar fixture—he is helping organize an annual Veterans Day Food Festival & Market, a celebration of service, family, and community designed to honor veterans in a joyful way.

### A Life Driven by Heart

For Chris Loschiavo, life has been a series of moves, missions, and milestones—but through it all, one thing has remained constant: his unwavering commitment to serving others. Whether leading soldiers overseas, mentoring young leaders, supporting veterans, or cooking



for neighbors, Chris carries the same passion and purpose that guided him throughout his military career.

These days, the uniform may hang quietly in the closet, but the call to serve is still loud and clear. As Chris reflects on two decades in the Army and looks toward this new chapter, he does so with deep gratitude—for the people he's met, the places he's been, and the family that has stood beside him through every step. His mission hasn't ended; it's simply taken new form. Now, that same sense of purpose lives on in his devotion to family, his volunteer work, and his connection to the community he calls home. For Chris Loschiavo, service has never been defined by what he wears—it's a way of life that continues to guide everything he does.

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SCAN TO SEE REAL RESULTS



# Cold weather tips for our furry friends

BY JESSICA ANDREANO

## Bring Pets Inside

As temperatures drop, make sure your pets stay indoors—cold weather can cause animals to become disoriented, injured, or even freeze to death, and cars can quickly turn into refrigerators in winter. If outdoor shelter is the only option, ensure they have a dry, draft-free enclosure raised off the ground, with bedding like straw or cedar shavings and protection from the wind. Livestock and outdoor animals should also have access to shelter, unfrozen drinking water, and food that isn't blocked by snow or ice.

## Protect Their Paws

Salt and other chemicals used to melt snow, and ice can irritate a pet's paws. Wipe their paws with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates their mouth. The ASPCA adds that you can also use petroleum jelly or booties to protect sensitive paws. Use pet-friendly ice melt products.

## Antifreeze is a Deadly Poison

Wipe up spills and store antifreeze out of reach.

## Know Your Pet's Limits Outdoors

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) reports you should be aware of how your pet tolerates cold weather and adjust as needed. Consult your veterinarian if you need advice.

## Check Your Engine

A warm vehicle engine can be an appealing heat source for outdoor and feral cats, but it's deadly. Check underneath your car, bang on the hood, and honk the horn before starting the engine to make sure a cat hasn't taken refuge on or around your engine.

## Use Space Heaters with Caution

The heater can burn your pet or be knocked over, possibly starting a home fire.

## Watch for Hypothermia

If your pet is whining, shivering, acting weak, moving slowly, or trying to burrow for warmth, bring them inside immediately—these are signs of hypothermia. Frostbite is harder to spot and may not show fully for days. If you suspect either condition, contact your veterinarian right away.



## Be Prepared

Winter can bring blizzards and power outages. Prepare an emergency kit and include your pet in your plans. Have enough food, water and medicine (including any prescription medications as well as heartworm and flea/tick preventives) on hand to get through at least five days.

## Avoid Walking on Frozen Water

Stay away from frozen ponds, lakes and other water. You don't know if the ice will support your pet's weight and falling through the ice could be deadly.

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# Pinehurst Paws Ready for a Home

BY JESSICA ANDREANO



**Gary** is a 5 year old, 11.7 lb neutered mixed breed. He may only have one eye but that doesn't slow him down. He has lots of personality, is playful and well mannered!



**Josephine** is a 3-4 year-old spayed Hound. She is very sweet, quiet in her kennel, great with other dogs. and loves going on walks!



**Dexter** is a 10-week-old, 7.5 lb. mixed breed. He is adorable, playful and loves to snuggle!



**Lucky** is an 11-year-old neutered male who came to us when his owner had to go into the hospital. He is very sweet, loves to take naps and enjoys walks around the neighborhood!



Introducing **Milk shake (male)** and **Cupcake (female)** who will soon be available for adoption!



**Binky** is a 3-4 month-old, 14.8 lb. spayed mixed breed. She is very sweet, good with other dogs and is learning about walking on a leash! She is a great student!

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# JANUARY

## Good Times in the Pines

BY JESSICA ANDREANO

Want to stay in the know? The Sway is Moore County's go-to source for what's happening right now—local news, upcoming events, and the stories everyone in town is talking about. Founded and led by award-winning women in journalism, design, and marketing, The Sway delivers information with the energy of your favorite group chat—fun, smart, and always in the know. Subscribers stay connected to their community, discover new places and happenings, and even score chances to win free stuff.

**What:** The Small Town Social

**When:** Tuesday, January 13th

**Where:** The Wine Cellar. 241 NE Broad St., Southern Pines.

The Small Town Social® is a ladies-only community by Liz Fleming that connects women from all walks of life through free monthly socials, workshops + other fun-tivities for females so they can make lasting + fulfilling friendships. Free to attend but sign-up is required @ [www.thesmallsocial.com](http://www.thesmallsocial.com)

**What:** Yesterday and Today - The Interactive Beatles Experience

**When:** Friday, January 16th @ 7PM

**Where:** Bradshaw Performing Arts Center. 3395 Airport rd. Pinehurst.

Yesterday and Today puts the audience in charge – you choose the songs, share your memories, and the band brings them to life on stage. No wigs. No costumes. Just world-class musicianship and the Beatles' greatest hits woven into your personal stories.

**Tickets required and can be purchased at [ticketmesandhills.com](http://ticketmesandhills.com)**

**What:** 3 Days of Exploring Cold Wax and Oil Painting with Jodi Ohl

**When:** Saturday, January 17th - Monday January 19th @ 9AM-4PM

**Where:** ARTworks Vass. 129 Main St.

This is a three-day class (Saturday, Sunday, and Monday) where you will

- Work on Arches Oil Paper and wood panels (wood surfaces provided)
- Explore mark making, layering, concealing/revealing, and more
- Discuss composition, color mixing, and intuitive editing
- Create a series of small abstract pieces and work toward a final project abstract or a hybrid with realism—based on your personal aesthetic
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**Tickets required and can be purchased @ [artworksvass.com/store](http://artworksvass.com/store)**

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BVM

**What:** Blingo Bingo

**When:** Thursday, January 22nd

**Where:** The Fair Barn. 200 Beulah Hill Rd. S., Pinehurst.

Join us for a fun night of bling and bingo with prizes, desserts, drinks, and a photo booth—all benefiting the C.A.R.E. Group. Sponsorships available. Email [jackie@moorebuddiesmentoring.com](mailto:jackie@moorebuddiesmentoring.com).

Tickets required and can be purchased @ [www.zeffy.com](http://www.zeffy.com)

**What:** North Carolina Symphony - A Little Night Music

**When:** Thursday, January 29th @ 730PM

**Where:** Bradshaw Performing Arts Center. 3395 Airport Rd, Pinehurst.

Dvorák: Serenade for Strings Mozart: Eine Kleine Nachtmusik.

**Tickets required and can be purchased @ Ticketmaster**

**What:** Erikson Herz - BPAC Comedy Series

**When:** Friday, January 30th @ 7PM

**Where:** Bradshaw Performing Arts Center. 3395 Airport Rd, Pinehurst.

With residencies at the Wyndham, Westin, and Ritz Carlton, plus performances at Hard Rock Cayman, Erikson's illusions have wowed crowds across the globe.

This isn't just about tricks – it's about wonder, connection, and pure imagination. Get ready for an evening where the impossible becomes reality.

**Tickets required and can be purchased at [ticketmesandhills.com](http://ticketmesandhills.com)**

**What:** 5th Annual Moore County Education Expo

**When:** Saturday, January 31st @ 10AM-2PM

**Where:** Sandhills Community College. 415 Glenn Ct, Pinehurst.

Come to the Dempsey Student Center to have all your education questions answered in one place. Meet with reps from public and private schools, Christian schools, homeschool organizations, and a wide range of support agencies, businesses, and organizations.





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# Welcoming the New Year A Fresh Start for Mind, Home and Heart

BY JESSICA ANDREANO

As the calendar turns and a brand-new year begins, we're offered one of life's simplest but most powerful gifts: a fresh start. There's something inspiring about January—the sense of possibility, the promise of new habits, and the quiet excitement of a blank slate waiting to be filled. Whether you love setting resolutions, choose a single "word of the year," or simply enjoy the feeling of turning the page, the New Year gives each of us a chance to reset, refocus, and reconnect with what matters most.

For many, this season is about intention. Maybe it's carving out more time for family dinners, finally organizing that forgotten closet, or making space for a hobby that sparks joy. Others look inward, seeking mindfulness, better balance, or a renewed commitment to health. And of course, some of the most meaningful resolutions happen not in sweeping changes but in small, steady steps—simple routines that add up to a happier, calmer year.

The New Year also brings an opportunity to appreciate what we already have. After the rush of the holidays, January invites us to slow down, sip something warm, and enjoy the coziness of winter. It's a time to look around our homes and our communities with gratitude, to celebrate the accomplishments



of the past year, and to look forward with hope.

Whether you set big goals, tiny goals, or none at all, we hope this year brings you renewed energy, joyful moments, and the courage to chase what lights you up. Here's to fresh beginnings,

meaningful connections, and a bright, hopeful New Year ahead.

*Cheers to 2025!*

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# Winter Warm-Ups in the Crock-Pot

BY JESSICA ANDREANO

## Fiesta Chicken

### Ingredients:

- 3 chicken breasts
- 1 tbsp BBQ rub
- 1 can Rotel
- 1 cup mild Pace Picante salsa
- 4 oz Velveeta cheese
- 1 pack tortillas



### Directions:

**Make the Queso:** Combine Rotel and Velveeta in a bowl to create a simple queso.

**Assemble:** Add chicken breasts, BBQ rub, salsa, and queso to a gallon freezer bag. Seal and freeze.

**Cook:** Place contents in a crock-pot and cook on low for 8 hours.

**Serve:** Shred chicken and serve in warm tortillas.

—Rebecca H.

## Freezer Meal Tacos

### Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. cooked ground meat
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 (28 oz) can crushed tomatoes
- 3 tbsp BBQ rub
- Salt and pepper, to taste



### Directions:

**Assemble:** Add all ingredients to a gallon freezer bag. Seal and freeze.

**Cook:** Place contents in a crock-pot and cook on low for 8 hours.

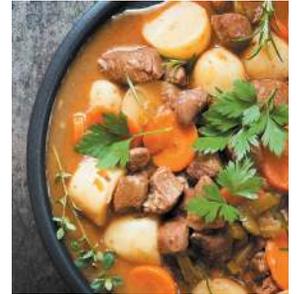
**Serve:** Spoon into crunchy or soft taco shells and add desired toppings.

—Rebecca H.

## Hearty Venison Stew

### Ingredients:

- 4 lbs. venison roast, cubed (about 1.5")
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Oil or butter (for browning)
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2-3 celery stalks, chopped
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 1-2 small bags baby red potatoes
- 1.5 tbsp minced garlic
- 1 large can stewed tomatoes
- Italian seasoning, to taste
- Additional favorite seasonings
- 1 box beef broth
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 small can tomato paste



### Directions:

**Brown Meat:** Season venison with salt and pepper. Brown in oil/butter without fully cooking. Remove and set aside.

**Cook Veggies:** Add onion, celery, carrots, and potatoes. Cook ~15 minutes.

**Add Garlic:** Stir in garlic and cook until fragrant (1-2 minutes).

**Add Tomatoes & Seasonings:** Stir in stewed tomatoes and seasonings.

**Add Broth & Meat:** Pour in broth and return venison to the pot.

**Simmer:** Add bay leaves, bring to a boil, then cover and simmer 1 hour.

**Thicken:** Stir in tomato paste and simmer 1 more hour.

**Serve:** Remove bay leaves and enjoy with cornbread.

—Ryan L.

## Italian Chicken (Crockpot)

### Ingredients:

- 4 chicken breasts
- 1 packet zesty Italian seasoning mix
- 8 oz cream cheese
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 12 oz rotini noodles



### Directions:

**Assemble:** Add chicken, Italian seasoning, cream cheese, and cream of chicken soup to a slow cooker.

**Cook:** Cook on low for 4 hours.

**Add Noodles:** Cook noodles separately near the end of cook time. Add to slow cooker and stir.

**Serve:** Serve warm.

—Courtney O.



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**Balsamic Honey Glazed Chicken****Ingredients:**

- 4 medium carrots, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 3 medium potatoes, cut into 6 pieces each
- 1 medium red onion, sliced into thin wedges
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 4 bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs
- 3 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 2 tbsp honey
- 3 fresh thyme sprigs (day of cooking)

**Directions:**

**Assemble:** Season carrots, potatoes, onion, and chicken with salt and pepper. Place in a gallon freezer bag. In a small bowl, whisk balsamic vinegar and honey. Pour over ingredients and freeze.

**Day Of Cooking:** Thaw. Place in slow cooker with thyme sprigs. Cook on high 3.5-4 hours.

**Finish:** Remove thyme. Transfer chicken and vegetables to a platter. Reduce cooking liquid in saucepan 10-13 minutes until thickened.

**Serve:** Drizzle sauce over chicken and vegetables.

—*Rebecca H.*

**Sausage Dip****Ingredients:**

- 1 lb. sausage
- 1 block cream cheese
- 1 can Rotel (do not drain)

**Directions:**

**Cook Sausage:** Brown sausage in a skillet; drain excess grease.

**Combine:** Add sausage, cream cheese, and Rotel to crock-pot.

**Cook:** Heat until cream cheese is melted and mixture is creamy.

**Serve:** Serve warm with tortilla chips.

—*Austyn K.*



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