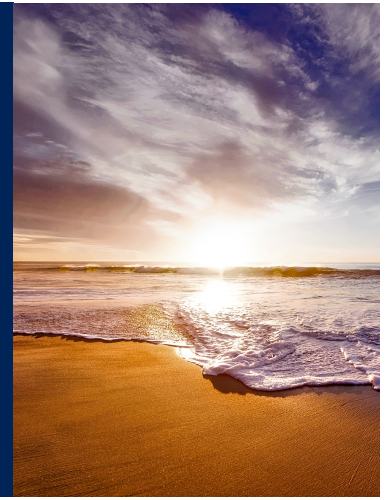




TOPSAIL TIMES

TOPSAIL ISLAND, HOLLY RIDGE, HAMPSTEAD AND SNEADS FERRY



● **22nd October, 2021**

● **American-Owned. Free Press.**

● **Volume I, Issue 1**

FREE!

Local Elections Ahead!



Town of Surf City Council

Teresa Batson Batts
Jeremy Shugarts

Town of Topsail Beach Commissioner

Morton Blanchard
Frank Braxton
Tim Zizack

Town of Holly Ridge Mayor

Jeff Wenzel
Walter T. Zabicki

Town of Holly Ridge Council

Carolyn Stanley
Thomas Hedrick
Gregory L. Hines

Town of North Topsail Beach Mayor

Joann McDermon

Town of North Topsail Beach Alderman

Bob Swantek
Susan Meyer
Connie Pletl
Mike Benson
Don Harte
Tom Leonard
Rick Grant

VOTING BEGINS
NOVEMBER 2nd 2021
6:30am - 7:30pm

Some of the interesting facts about Election Day in the 28445 zip code area

If you have the zip code of 28445 it does not mean you are registered to vote in Holly Ridge. The 28445 zip code covers parts of Sneads Ferry, Holly Ridge, Surf City and Topsail Beach. It covers 2 counties and several towns and post offices. To vote in Holly Ridge you must live within the 1.5 square mile city limit or in one of the few detached annexed properties. You can contact the town hall to find out if you are in the city limits. To vote in Surf City you must live within the city limits which can be both on the island and the mainland. Contact the town hall to confirm you live in the city limits. North Topsail Beach voters are only on the island. There are no mainland annexed properties. Sneads Ferry, Hampstead, and a large portion of the 28445 zip code are all county residents and do not vote in local elections for council or aldermen.

Local Holiday Festivities

Fall Fest

October 23rd, 2021 @ 3:30-6PM
Soundside Park
517 Roland Ave, Surf City, NC 28445

Trunk or Treat & Movie Night

October 29nd, 2021 @ 6PM
Providence Baptist Church
406 E Ocean Hwy, Holly Ridge, NC

Smoky Tony's Trunk-Or-Treat

October 30th, 2021 @ 4PM
Smoky Tony's BBQ
511 US-17 N, Holly Ridge, NC

Halloween Skate Jam w/ Live Music

October 30th, 2021 @ 4-10PM
155 Pansy Lane Hampstead, NC 28443

Family Fun Halloween Event

October 30th, 2021 @ 4-8PM
Hampstead Market
14679 NC Hwy 17 N Hampstead, NC

Surf City Halloween Trunk or Treat

October 31st, 2021 @ 5-7PM
Roland Avenue by Hardees in Surf City





910-803-2313

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Topsail Times

Print Dates 2021

Oct 22nd
Nov 5th
Nov 19th
Dec 3rd
Dec 17th

TOPSAIL TIMES NEWSPAPER



Publisher
Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC

Contributing Writers
Dorothy Royal
Carol Overstreet
Becky Borneman

Contributing Photographers
Raeford Brown
Carol Overstreet

Local Organization Shout-Out



Able Buddies NC provides the opportunity for intellectually disabled individuals to become interactive members of their community. We encourage self confidence, independence, and social acceptance, therefore giving purpose to those otherwise overlooked.

www.ablebuddiesnc.org

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2,000 - 5,000
copies printed each issue

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FLEET MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN



Diesel service technicians and mechanics inspect, repair, and overhaul buses, trucks, or any vehicle with a diesel engine. Employment of diesel service technicians and mechanics is projected to grow 3% from 2019 to 2029, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Job prospects should be best for those who have completed post-secondary training in diesel engine repair.

WHAT KIND OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE OUT THERE?

Trucking and Transportation, State and Local Governments-Diesel Automotive Repair & Maintenance, Mobile Diesel Mechanic, Railroad and Marine Diesel Technician, Power Gen Technician, Diesel Services Writer

Agricultural Mechanic, Fleet Maintenance Mechanic Diesel, Locomotive Mechanic, Farm Equipment Mechanic, and Heavy Equipment Maintenance Specialist

Mean Salary Estimate for North Carolina: \$23.32/hr \$48,500/yr

DIESEL ELECTRICAL WILL START SOON!

10/26 -12/21 120 Hours Total
10/26-11/4 will be TWTH
11/8-12/21 will be MTWTH
5:30-9:30 PM
Each class is \$190
Register Online. Seating is Limited.
For registration information, contact tparris@cfcc.edu or 910-362-7909



Fleet Maintenance Technician

Are you interested in a career in the diesel industry?

Burgaw Center

Tiny Library Saves The Day

Topsail Gun Gal
By Dorothy Royal

Special to the Topsail Times

When I was a child, which now feels like a century ago, parents didn't discuss politics in front of their children or with company and you learned about sex in a Sixth Grade assembly (one for boys, one for girls – yes, we just had two genders then). Boys had stashes of Playboy magazines and girls had gossip. It was the good old days and much less stressful.

Today parents are complaining about teachers who verbally insult students for supporting one candidate or another. Politics are talked about everywhere (which violates the unspoken rule about not talking about politics or religion with guests) and kids are asked questions about how they feel about homosexuality in school.

Sorry, but I think we, as a society, need a full on "reset" button. At no time do I want politics or sexual orientation questions becoming a daily part of a student's education. How about our students learn math skills and not common core which makes no sense at all and only puts us being other countries in learning. How about our students learn about science and how to use a microscope? Another cool world exists on that tiny glass plate. How about our

students learn world history, our country's history and local history? Isn't that what helped create the country we live in now?

How about we stop promoting feeling "ashamed or guilty" for events none of us were alive for? How about we work toward learning and not being programmed?

How about we require students who graduate to make simple change before they get their diploma? If you can't make change for a \$20 dollar bill and a purchase of \$11.84 you don't get to pass this round. Why? Because that is a part of everyday life, period.

Shop classes that teach auto mechanics and the trades (electrical, heat and air and plumbing) are essential. We don't need ten million people that are good at surfing the web if none of them can clear a clogged toilet.

We need to encourage kids to take summer jobs working with construction crews and landscapers. They need to learn a hands-on trade that gives them pride in their work. There is a good feeling about getting dirt on your hands and having someone pat you on the back and say, "good job" at the end of the day.

We have lost that – and the consequences are going to be dire as we are already learning.

You want to start living in a better

society? We need to stop getting all our information from social media. This past week a whistleblower with lots of documents to back her complaints, sat before congress and gave information about the workings of Facebook and how it controls what you see. Is anyone truly surprised by this? Of course not, but wasn't it odd that Facebook (as well as two other platforms they own) suddenly went off line for several hours? Coincidence? I think not.

We need to put down the tiny computers that control our day and pick up a good book!

On October 7th, the Jacksonville Board of Realtors donated a "Little Free Library" to the community of Holly Ridge. Placed right outside the community center (on Sound Road) residents can now stop by, grab a book and leave a book. What a fantastic idea and one that needs to spread far and wide.

Remember knowledge is power, simple is always better, and nothing beats a good book on a beautiful fall day.



Presents a Halloween Sale Worth Dying For



Super deals on shotguns and rifles! \$10 to \$50 off select inventory.

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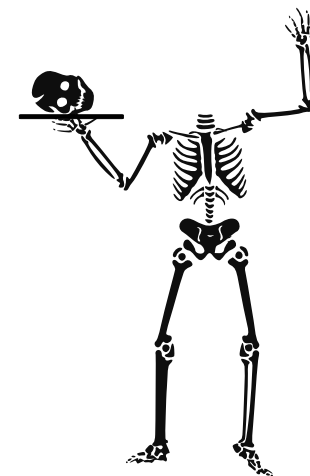
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OMG She Wore White After Labor Day!

By **Becky Borneman**
Special to the Topsail Times

Legend has it that The Rule of no white before Easter or after Labor Day began over 100 years ago by "snobby millionaires" and passed along for generations. The idea was that it distinguished those who could afford an end of summer vacation from the ones who couldn't. It was created to separate the "old money" from the "nouveau riche". Basically, showing off.

Growing up it was ingrained in me that wearing white was reserved for Easter thru Labor Day. No exceptions. It didn't matter that we sat thru church on Sundays (Labor Day through Easter Saturday) in tights and velvet dresses... in Florida.

Now for the record, my Mama is neither snobby nor a millionaire (unless there is a surprise once the will is read), but it was something her mama taught her, and my grandma's mama taught her and so on. All I remember is The Rule and that velvet is itchy in the heat.

There are plenty of fashionistas over the years that have bucked this fashion rule. Coco Chanel stuck it to the 19th century mean girls by making white a staple color for her attire year round. Jackie Kennedy was even photographed several times wearing white year round. And, who doesn't love Coco & Jackie?

Being that we are fortunate enough to live where we live, close to or at the beach, we are able to get away with things easier. For example, you probably wouldn't paint your house in an inland

suburb a hot pink, sunbeam yellow or periwinkle blue. But, those may be on your color wheel at the beach.. same with clothing.

So go ahead... grab your white pants, white dresses, white sweaters, white tanks, even your 80's white leather (extra points for fringe!!)... but show off!

Wear the white!



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Bridges to Cross and Their Tenders

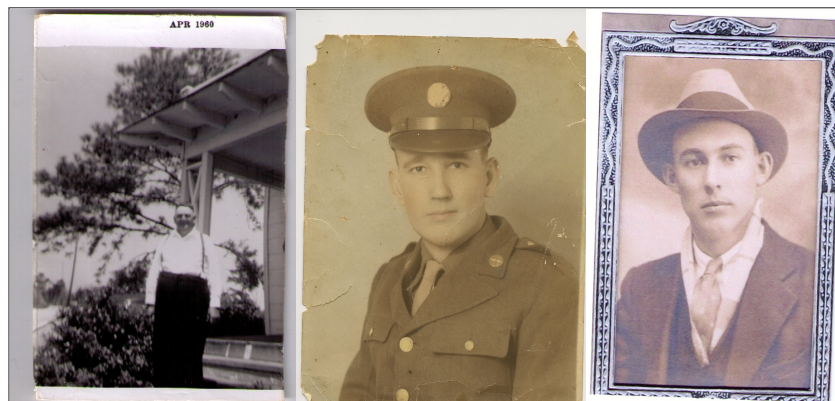
By Carol Overstreet
Special to the Topsail Times

The swing bridge has been gone nearly three years and I, for one, truly miss it. Coming across our little bridge was like taking a step from one kind of place into another—from a hurried and less concerned place to one much kinder and gentler. Alas, it is gone and so we make do with the present—can't live in the past now, can we?

If you do like taking a peak at the past, here's a little info about the early days of our swing bridge and the men who tended it. But first, let me tell you how the site for the bridge was chosen.

Around 1940, a few men from Camp Davis in Holly Ridge were sent out to find the best access to the banks (what our little splotch of land was often called) and as they rode their horses down the dusty dirt trail from Holly Ridge they came upon Earl Batts' farm. (Earl's farm would be at the intersection of Hwy. 50 and Hwy. 210.) Like most people in this area at the time, Mr. Batts was a farmer. The men on horseback asked Mr. Earl where the shortest distance from the mainland to the banks was and Mr. Earl suggested Sears Landing. After learning this, the Army went about building the first access to our island. It came in the way of a pontoon bridge and it was operated by James "Buddy" Batson, Walter Hall and Mr. Earl Batts.

Though the pontoon bridge did provide



The Bridge Tenders: Earl Batts, Buddy Batson, and Lacy Atkinson
Photos provided by Carol Overstreet

access to the banks, there were problems at times. Often it would be blown away to Goat Island, the little island just to the north of Sears Landing. The bridge would then have to be towed back into place until the next time a "good breeze" came along. Sometimes the motor would break down or the pulley system would snap, either way, traffic was stopped.



Then there was the muffler problem. High and low tides provided discrepancies in the distance between the bridge and the landing itself. If the distance was too high or too low, *Boom*, there went your muffler. Needless to say, the pontoon bridge was a crap shoot.

Finally in 1954 construction for a new bridge came underway. That bridge, our old swing bridge, was modern and new then and everyone was excited about safer access to the island. However, on October 15, 1954 Hurricane Hazel swept through our area and much of what had been accomplished in the way of building the bridge was destroyed. Needless to say, the swing bridge did not



become operational until a little over a year later in November of 1955. Batson

and Batts stayed on as bridge tenders adding Lacy "Woody" Atkinson. For several years they took turns operating the bridge, filling in for one another when need be. Family emergencies often meant working days without a break.

The swing bridge was constructed with a small operation building at the top center of the metal structure. Two control boxes flickered green and red as boats approached. A CB radio crackled with the voices of boat captains as they gave notice of when they would be near the bridge. Switches were flipped to open the bridge, and switches were flipped to close it. Sounds easy, but there was a finesse to opening and closing, since it had to be done just right and at the right time.

I remember, as a kid, climbing the metal stairs that led to the bridge house and asking Mr. Earl Batts if I could ride around as the bridge turned. He always let me. Man, what a big deal that was to a little kid. But things were different then, there weren't so many rules and regulations. But I digress, back to the bridge.

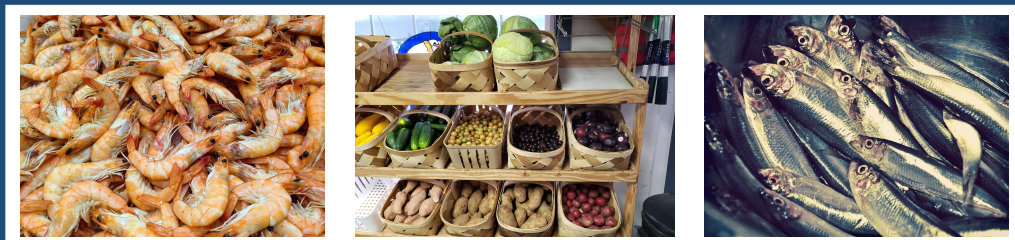
The bridge tenders did more than press buttons and watch for boats, they had tasks

OCTOBER 2021

Date	Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	
10/1	Fri	3:46 AM	L	9:35 AM	H	4:19 PM	L	10:47 PM
10/2	Sat	4:40 AM	L	10:33 AM	H	5:09 PM	L	11:30 PM
10/3	Sun	5:29 AM	L	11:26 AM	H	5:55 PM	-	-
10/4	Mon	6:09 AM	H	6:14 AM	L	12:16 PM	H	6:39 PM
10/5	Tue	12:48 AM	H	6:59 AM	L	1:05 PM	H	7:22 PM
10/6	Wed	1:27 AM	H	7:43 AM	L	1:54 PM	H	8:05 PM
10/7	Thu	2:07 AM	H	8:28 AM	L	2:43 PM	H	8:50 PM
10/8	Fri	2:49 AM	H	9:16 AM	L	3:34 PM	H	9:37 PM
10/9	Sat	3:34 AM	H	10:06 AM	L	4:28 PM	H	10:27 PM
10/10	Sun	4:22 AM	H	10:59 AM	L	5:26 PM	H	11:21 PM
10/11	Mon	5:15 AM	H	11:58 AM	L	6:29 PM	-	-
10/12	Tue	12:22 AM	L	6:16 AM	H	1:03 PM	L	7:38 PM
10/13	Wed	1:32 AM	L	7:25 AM	H	2:13 PM	L	8:48 PM
10/14	Thu	2:46 AM	L	8:39 AM	H	3:23 PM	L	9:53 PM
10/15	Fri	3:56 AM	L	9:52 AM	H	4:26 PM	L	10:50 PM
10/16	Sat	4:57 AM	L	10:56 AM	H	5:22 PM	L	11:38 PM
10/17	Sun	5:49 AM	L	11:52 AM	H	6:11 PM	-	-
10/18	Mon	12:21 AM	H	6:34 AM	L	12:41 PM	H	6:54 PM
10/19	Tue	12:58 AM	H	7:15 AM	L	1:25 PM	H	7:33 PM
10/20	Wed	1:33 AM	H	7:53 AM	L	2:07 PM	H	8:11 PM
10/21	Thu	2:06 AM	H	8:29 AM	L	2:46 PM	H	8:47 PM
10/22	Fri	2:38 AM	H	9:05 AM	L	3:25 PM	H	9:22 PM
10/23	Sat	3:10 AM	H	9:41 AM	L	4:05 PM	H	9:58 PM
10/24	Sun	3:44 AM	H	10:18 AM	L	4:46 PM	H	10:37 PM
10/25	Mon	4:21 AM	H	10:59 AM	L	5:31 PM	H	11:18 PM
10/26	Tue	5:01 AM	H	11:44 AM	L	6:21 PM	-	-
10/27	Wed	12:06 AM	L	5:49 AM	H	12:36 PM	L	7:16 PM
10/28	Thu	1:02 AM	L	6:46 AM	H	1:34 PM	L	8:14 PM
10/29	Fri	2:05 AM	L	7:51 AM	H	2:34 PM	L	9:09 PM
10/30	Sat	3:07 AM	L	8:58 AM	H	3:32 PM	L	9:57 PM
10/31	Sun	4:04 AM	L	10:01 AM	H	4:26 PM	L	10:42 PM

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like opening and closing the hand cranked gates in all kinds of weather (there were no electronic gates back then). They had to judge distances, boat sizes and their timing had to be spot on.

One of their least favorite jobs, I suppose, was that of greasing the gears beneath the bridge. It was dangerous jumping from one piling to another, especially when holding a bucket of grease and a brush while doing so. Surely this was not an easy task. These men had to be quick, dexterous, and patient. If you think about it, the people of Topsail Island trusted their lives and livelihoods to the bridge tenders.

I like to think that that old swing bridge was *them*, strong, dependable, but now kind of passe compared to present times.



The new bridge is beautiful, the view of the ocean it offers is

spectacular. But the ocean has always been spectacular all on its own. Still, being the new kid on the block, I guess to those who never visited Topsail during the swing bridge days, I guess it offers its own magic too.

(Many other tenders, men and women came after Batts, Batson and Atkinson. Thank you for your service)



By Dorothy Royal

Nothing brings more joy than to see the giant smile on the face of a child (or adult) when they experience the Lake Linda Christmas Lights for the first time. Of course most people, like myself, just can't get enough and venture back several times over the holidays, as we all should do.

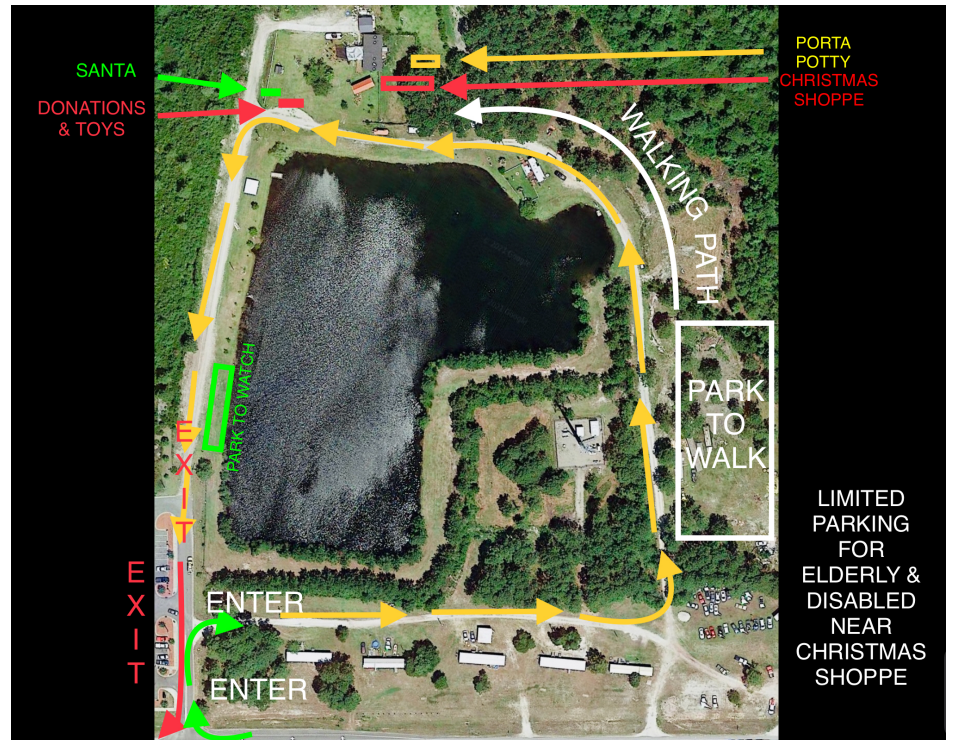
With a projected start date of Thanksgiving (November 25th) and continuing on until New Year's Day, the lights have become a beacon for those wanting to feel the joy of the holidays.

This year will be a little bit different. The drive, instead of starting at the awe inspiring lake view, will begin with a drive through the lush forest, filled with glowing gems of all shapes and sizes. As you continue your adventure, you will wind along the gravel trail, soon coming upon the magnificent lake along with her new gift shop. Parking will be available for those who want to take in more of the sights while grabbing a hot cocoa and scrumptious treats at the new candy shop.

Santa will visit as he is able, as we all know this is a very busy time of the year for that old man and he has lots to do before Christmas Eve. For those of you who have been naughty, there is still time to make the nice list, but you better hurry!

Fun Facts:

- In 2020, over 28,000 vehicles passed through the wonderful Lake Linda's CHRISTmas Lights
- Lake Linda's CHRISTmas Lights were featured on last year's ABC's "The Greatest Christmas Light Fight"
- Lake Linda's CHRISTmas Lights is now a 501c3 non-profit organization that needs your help
- This year Lake Linda's apparel will be available at the gift shop to help show your support



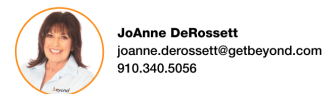
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The Reel Housewives of Topsail Island Celebrate Their 10 Year Anniversary

"The Reel Housewives of Topsail Island is a non-profit organization which uses the money raised from an island bicycle ride to help local breast cancer victims. The 26.2 mile bicycle ride takes place in April every year. The ride will start and finish at the Surf City Soundside Park (the event begins at 8:00AM). Registration events are held at various local venues leading up to the ride. Join us in making a difference!"

The Reel Housewives of Topsail Island has a Board of Directors that consist of seven women: Annette Erny, Debbie Pekofsky, Susan Billet, Renee Rhodes, Nealie Williams, Stacie Justice, and Desi McAllister.

For their 10th annual bike ride, The Reel Housewives celebrates with:

- 700 Registrants
- 400 Participants
- \$129,000 Raised

The Reel Housewives of Topsail Island has raised money for over 300 breast cancer survivors!

Interested in how YOU can help?

Donate!

Donations are accepted for silent and live auctions. These auctions take place the day of the ride.

Be a Sponsor!

Diamond Sponsor: \$1,000+ (includes registration for 10 riders, 10 t-shirts & lunches)

Platinum Sponsor: \$500 (includes registration for 5 riders, 5 t-shirts, 5 lunches)

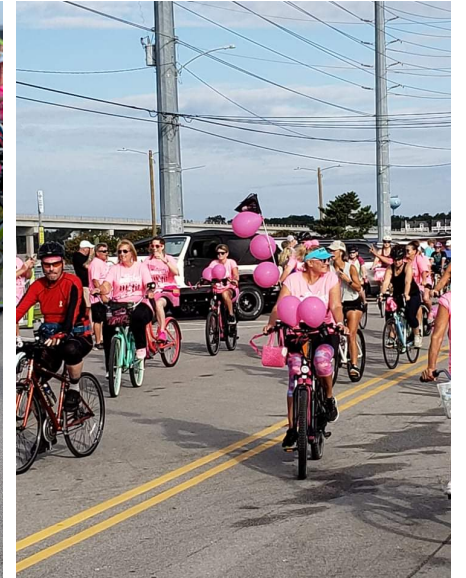
Gold Sponsor: \$300 (includes registration for 3 riders, 3 t-shirts, 3 lunches)

Silver Sponsor: \$100 (includes registration for 1 rider, 1 t-shirt, 1 lunch)

Volunteer!

If you are interested in lending a hand to our organization, you can get in touch with The Reel Housewives of Topsail Island by: Their website contact form, Facebook and/or Instagram ([ReelHousewivesOfTopsailIsland](https://www.facebook.com/ReelHousewivesOfTopsailIsland)), or by contacting Annette directly at 910-228-9960.

The Next Annual Bike Ride will take place on October 1st, 2022!



TALENT SEARCH



Calling all NC Youth, Ages 5 to 25, with Disabilities!

ECAC's Youth Advisory Team is seeking entries for the next issue of YEP - Young Exceptional Perspectives. YEP's NCGT column was created to put a spotlight on the many talents and abilities of NC Youth & Young Adults with Disabilities ages 5 to 25. The format of submissions can be a poem, artwork, blog, video, song, essay, article, presentation, an "About me" article, "Entrepreneur's Corner" feature, you name it.

ECAC's Youth Advisory Team will review the submissions and choose which ones to feature in our next newsletter.

Selected entries will receive a \$25 Visa gift card in the mail!



ANNUAL PUMPKIN CONTEST

Please take the time to go **VOTE** for Surf City Dental's pumpkin!

On Facebook @ White and Johnson Pediatric Dentistry

Voting starts October 13th and ends October 27th

Where In The World Is Raeford Brown?

Long-time local radio host, Raeford Brown, has been known in these parts for years. His very popular talk show, "Live and Local with Raeford Brown," was part of the daily routine of most commuter's for years. From 6am until 9am he talked with local business owners, politicians, doctors, teachers and even a few race car drivers. His showed was based around taking calls from everyone and anyone who had something to say. His co-hosts ranged from Newspaper man Elliot Potter, to the smart, sassy and always fashionable Deedee Daube and politically captivating, Joe McLaughlin.

But like everything else in our world, Covid took its toll on this popular show. The radio station was losing money as several businesses were kept closed by restrictions and with no end in sight, the executives made a tough call. End the show.

This of course was a slap in the face to all the dedicated listeners. Suddenly, and without explanation the show was gone, so where in the world did Raeford Brown go?

Enter Freedom Radio.

With some quick thinking and wheeling and dealing, Live and Local REAL TALK with Raeford Brown was on the air. At his side, Kelli Knapp, a frequent guest host was now geared up and ready to take on the world of talk radio.

The good news? He doesn't have to get up quite so early as this new show airs from 7am until 9am Monday through Friday.

Want to catch a show? The station is located at 97.1 FM or 1120 AM can be heard from the Topsail Area and north.

Want to watch the show? Facebook Live has made this possible.

Feel like talking? Give him a call at (910) 333-0139.



Maple Hill and Holly Ridge Drivers Pay Attention!

On Monday, October 11th, a bridge replacement will begin on Highway 50 over Sandy Run Swamp.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation says the bridge will be closed to traffic during the construction project which is forecast to run into the late spring.

Detours on Haws Run Road and Padgett Road will give keep traffic flowing on either side of NC-50.

For more information, got to:

www.drivenc.gov

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Halloween Trick or Treat Safety Tips!

PARENTS:

- Make sure that an adult or an older responsible youth will be supervising the outing for children under age 12.
- Check the sex offender registry at www.ncdoj.gov when planning your child's trick-or-treat route. You can view maps that pinpoint registered offenders' addresses in your neighborhood and sign up to get email alerts.
- Plan and discuss the route trick-or-treaters intend to follow. Know the names of older children's companions.
- Make sure older kids trick-or-treat in a group, not alone.
- Instruct your children to travel only in familiar areas and along an established route.
- Teach your children to stop only at houses or apartment buildings that are well-lit and never to enter a stranger's home.
- Establish a return time.
- Tell your youngsters not to eat any treats until they return home. Inspect all treats.
- Review all appropriate trick-or-treat safety precautions, including pedestrian/traffic safety rules.
- All children need to know their home telephone number and how to call 9-1-1 in case of emergency.
- Pin a slip of paper with the child's name, address, and telephone number inside a pocket in case the youngster gets separated from the group.

MOTORISTS:

- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars.
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.

Thank you to the Onslow County Sheriff's Department for these safety tips.
 For more information visit: www.onslowcountync.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=213

Remember while you're out and about to pick up all your feed needs for home pets and backyard farms at **Holly Mart Animal Feed** Then take yourself out for a treat at **New Attitude Salon & Spa** And don't forget to turn on your lights that **Lighthouse Electric** just installed in your dream home that **Kelly Pollard** just sold you!

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GUNS FOR WOMEN

Most women purchasing a gun are going to get advice from a man on the type of gun and caliber size they need.

Unfortunately most men suggest guns that are PERFECT FOR A MAN...BUT NOT FOR A WOMAN.

After learning to shoot and getting my purchase permit I headed out into the world of male dominated gun shops. After stopping at a few I found a man who took time to explain each gun to me and he finally convinced me that I needed to carry the gun that he actually owned. The problem was he was a 200 lb body builder and I was not (ha ha). Needless to say I purchased a .40 caliber semi-automatic and bought the ammo and headed to the range.

While all the other women in my group were loading their clips with ease, I was struggling to the point of my thumbs nearly bleeding. When I finally got the gun loaded and ready, I took my position and began to fire. BAM BAM BAM. The noise was tremendous, the recoil was more than I ever wanted and by the time I was done shooting everyone was staring at me. Though I still hit the target my shoulders were sore and my head hurt.

This was NOT the right gun for me.

Of course my husband did not see my problem. He was gracious enough to take the gun (which I now see is a conspiracy on the part of men) and I continued on my search for the right gun. Unlike most men I know, I was not raised shooting a gun.

I knew very little about them and found that in this case **knowledge and comfort** were the two most important things I needed to focus on.

Guns scare me and I needed a gun that I could feel safe around, know how to load and unload, and that I could ensure was safe around my children.

These were not things that anyone in a gun shop had ever asked me about and I knew that needed to change.

When a woman comes into my shop the questions I ask are....

1. **Do you have children in the house** (to me anyone under 18 is a child) SAFETY SAFETY SAFETY
2. **Is this your first gun?** I usually recommend a revolver for a first time gun owner - super easy to load, unload and clean.
3. **Do you plan on carrying this gun for personal security?** Makes a difference on size, weight and safety features
4. **Do you plan on taking this gun out for target practice?** (which I strongly recommend so that you become comfortable with the gun)
5. **Will anyone else be using this gun (at the range)?** most men don't like shooting pink guns

When a woman comes into my shop these are questions that THEY ask me about handguns....

1. **How do I open the gun to put in the bullets?** The revolver is the easiest of the handguns to load and unload. In the case of a semi-automatic pistol, some guns required you to load the clip and then ratchet the gun back to put one bullet in the chamber. Not all pistols require ratcheting. Make sure if you buy a semi-automatic pistol that you CLEARLY UNDERSTAND from the seller how to load the gun correctly. Guns should come with an instruction manual that should also have instructions. Do not be embarrassed to ask!!!! This is going to be your line of defense and you need to know how to use it.
2. **What if the bullet jams?** Revolvers do not jam. In the case of a semi-automatic pistol it is possible to have a bullet jam due to inferior ammunition; the gun needing to be cleaned or a weak or stiff clip spring. Jams do happen in semi-automatic pistols and you MUST know how to clear the jam safely. Ask your seller and read the instruction manual.
3. **How do I know the gun is loaded?** In the case of a revolver, you slide open the cylinder and can easily see if the gun is loaded. Some semi-automatic pistols have "load" indicators such as a colored dot. ALWAYS PRESUME THAT A GUN IS LOADED. When looking at a pistol always remove the clip and ratchet back the slide to view inside the gun to make sure it is empty. Do not look down the barrel or pull the trigger to check. All it takes is one bullet!
4. **My husband said that I need a .40 or .45 caliber gun because anything smaller won't stop someone.** More people are killed by a .22 cal. bullet than any other round. The purpose of a gun is to PREVENT harm, not to cause it. It is more important that you are able to load the gun and can control it. I recommend a .38 special or 9 mm for woman. If they want a larger caliber I always suggest that they shoot one first before making that their first gun. Some gun shops offer an indoor or outdoor range where you can rent a gun, which is an excellent way to try different types of handguns.
5. **My husband said I should have a gun with a laser...is that true?** Lasers are very popular and definitely make a gun "cool" looking but I always tell people to know how to aim their gun correctly first, and not to depend on the red dot. On a bright sunny day the dot may not be visible.
6. **How much should I spend on my first gun?** Depending on the brand and style of gun you choose, your gun could cost anywhere from \$250 and up. Most guns come with a basic warranty (if purchased new). We sell handguns that can cost up to \$1500 but we don't recommend anything like that for a first time buyer. We sell a nice selection of revolvers for \$300 and up. There is nothing wrong with a used gun for a first time owner as long as it has been inspected by an authorized gun dealer. Don't be afraid to ask friends and family for recommendations, it is an easy conversation starter!
7. **If I lock up the gun and need it in a hurry, what do I do?** Practice locking and unlocking your gun. Whether it is a cable lock through the gun itself or a trigger lock, make sure you know where the keys are and how it works. We do not recommend storing guns loaded. If you have a gun for personal protection leave a clip loaded but out of the gun (and out of the reach of children). My husband always teases me that if I ever needed my gun in a hurry I would be better off hitting the intruder with the gun box then trying to remove all the safety features. My response is that I have children in the house and that takes priority over everything else.
8. **How do I clean the gun? How often?** A clean gun is a gun that is going to serve you well. It takes very little time to clean a gun that has been fired and worth every minute. The instruction manual and/or gun dealer can show you how to properly clean and care for your gun. All inclusive kits are available for around \$15.00
9. **What difference does the barrel length make?** A great bit of difference. The longer the barrel the more accurate the gun. Most conceal and carry guns are short barreled and made for easy storage on your body. Some people have a gun for carrying and a gun for target shooting. There are quite a few guns designed to do both, just let your seller know what you want your gun for. We sell a short barreled .380 that is perfect for self protection but not a gun I would take to the range.
10. **How can I carry my gun?** Check with your local gun laws. Every state is different. In North Carolina, you need a Conceal & Carry permit to carry the gun on your body (out of plain sight). We sell several purses with holsters built right into them (since most women would be unable to find a gun in a hurry if they simply dropped their gun into their purse (ha ha). There are holsters designed for wearing on your hip, concealing inside your pants and ankle holsters. We sell a t-shirt where the holster is sewn onto the fabric and can be worn under another shirt (for both men and women). How you carry your gun is just as personal as what kind of gun you have.
11. **What is an ambidextrous clip release?** It is a button on semi-automatic pistols that allows the user to release the clip from either side of the gun (preferred by left handed shooters). Not all guns come with this feature.
12. **What if I already own a gun but I don't like it?** Depending on your local gun laws and local gun dealers you may be able to trade your gun in for one that is right for you. Always check around since the value of a gun varies GREATLY from one gun dealer to another. Our shop offers consignment (most shops do not). Be cautious of the neighbor that "will take it off your hands". That is usually a good indicator that the gun is worth more than they are offering. Don't be afraid to call around or look your gun up in the "Blue Book" for reasonable values. Be careful of using web sites to determine the value since in most cases the price listed is "asking price" and not what the gun sold for. Check your local laws before selling your gun to a private citizen.
13. **Someone gave me a gun. How do I register it?** Check your local laws since State Laws vary. North Carolina does not have a gun registration so therefore you are entitled to own the gun. If you are going to transport the gun across state lines CHECK WITH EACH STATE you will be traveling in first. If you have a Conceal & Carry permit for your state check and see what other states allow you to carry your gun in their states.
14. **Other than a gun, what do you recommend for personal protection?** With the introduction of tasers, people now (depending on your state's laws) have the ability to have a home protection device that can give them time to stop the intruder and get help. Tasers are usually designed to "shoot" a pronged device up to 15 feet - an electrical charge is applied and the person usually drops to the ground for 5 seconds - giving you the ability to defend yourself without direct contact. A background check is required when a taser is purchased to activate it. Most tasers cost over \$250.00 and re-fill cartridges can be \$30 or more.
15. **What do I need to buy a gun?** Check with local laws. In North Carolina a Purchase Permit or a Conceal & Carry Permit is required to purchase a handgun.
16. **Can I buy a gun from a dealer in another state?** Check with local laws. We can sell a gun to you and ship it to another state but it will be sent to a registered FFL Dealer (Federal Firearms Dealer). When you go to pick up the gun you must have whatever is required in your state (purchase permit, etc.). You will pay the purchasing gun dealer for the gun and shipping and the receiving gun dealer will charge a "Transfer Fee" which may be around \$25. All paperwork will be filled out by the receiving gun dealer. Bring your permit and identification (or whatever is required in your state). DO NOT buy a gun for someone else!
17. **What are the handgun purchase permit requirements?**

In Pender County an applicant MUST be a citizen, naturalized or resident alien, be 21 years of age or older, lived in Pender County 30 days or more, Provide NC Drivers License with correct address OR Military ID with proof of residency in Pender County. Questions? Call (910) 259-1212 or go to their website to fill out an application on line. \$5 fee per permit.

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7th Annual

NO SHAVE NOVEMBER
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The Surf City Police Department will be kicking off our 7th annual
No Shave November event.

All proceeds raised will be going toward our SHOP WITH A COP program.

Members of the community who wish to sponsor an officer, or simply donate to this cause, may do so by coming to the Police Department at 214 W. Florence Way, or by mailing a check to:

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