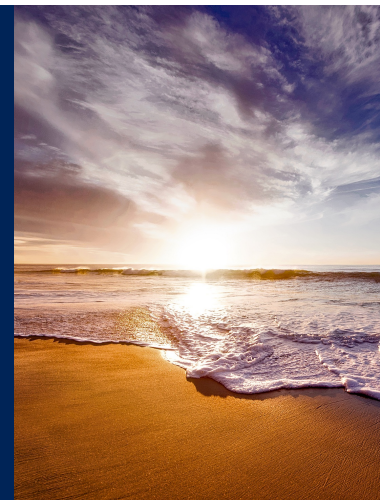




TOPSAIL TIMES

TOPSAIL ISLAND, HOLLY RIDGE, HAMPSTEAD AND SNEADS FERRY



● 20th May, 2022

● American-Owned. Free Press.

● Volume II, Issue 11

FREE!

Blizzard Apartments in Surf City Lost to Fire

Mordecai Blizzard and his wife, Daphna, came to Surf City and started Blizzard's Ocean Resort in 1951. The couple rented out rooms and apartments, which was something rather unique at the time. The business continued under Daphna's watchful eye until 1980, when she turned it over to her grandson, Dexter.

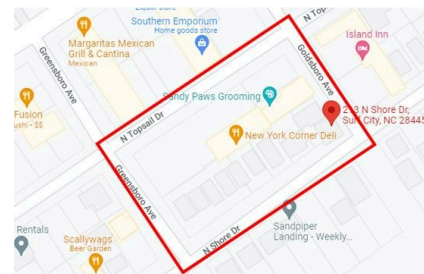
Mrs. Blizzard, then a widow, stayed on in Surf City where, at the age of 94, she was honored as the "oldest registered voter in Surf City." A hardworking woman, she continued to work and dance until she passed away at the age of 103. She attributed hard work and the fresh ocean air as to the reasons for her good health.

Over the years, the Blizzard property, located one block off the ocean and known to many locals for years as

"Blizzard Apartments" had fallen into disrepair. Recently, the property was sold to the owners of the Surf City Line Restaurant and Bar, who aspired to restore the old structure. The Surf City Line is currently located in the old Brass Pelican building.

During the early hours of Tuesday, May 10th, a fire call went out for a structure fire. The Blizzard apartments was engulfed in flames when emergency crews arrived within minutes of the call. The overwhelming heat could be felt in all directions, and with high winds, neighboring structures were at risk. The fast response of Surf City Fire Department (located just a few blocks away) with assistance from Pender and Onslow County Fire Departments helped to avoid a multi-building structure fire.

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation. It was reported that a day earlier a homeless person was removed from the property and charged with trespassing. There is no confirmation that the person had any involvement in the fire. There were no injuries reported.



Map credit to Town of Surf City



Photo credit to Vanessa Afshar Marijosius



Photo credit to Melissa Aguilar





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Topsail Gun Gal

By Dorothy Royal

Love has been known to make people do odd things, but for a woman to be days away from retirement and throw it all away to help a convicted murderer escape prison makes no sense to me. After spending a week on the run, Vicky White, 56, apparently took her own life when police located her vehicle. Casey White, no relation and several years younger, gave himself up to authorities without issue.

Until you have been bitten by a horse, you have no idea what immediate and excruciating pain it can cause. Greg Blasi, the head of the outriders at Churchill Downs was commissioned with gathering the reins for the Kentucky Derby winner, a \$30,000 colt named Rich Strike, allowing the jockey to deal with reporters. Apparently Rich Strike, the tall and powerful Chestnut had other plans. Baring his large teeth at both Mr. Blasi and his horse, Rich Strike made headlines as the bites seen around the world. Doing his best to maintain his composure, Mr. Blasi continued to battle the chestnut athlete with a ferocious bite. Most people would have hauled tail (no pun intended).

Every good gangster movie involves a crew that gets rid of the bodies, so why are people so surprised at the recent discoveries at Lake Mead? A barrel was discovered containing the remains of a man that authorities believe was murdered in the 1970's or 80s due to the shoes he was wearing. Shortly after that discovery, bones were found in a portion of same dried lakebed. Are more bodies going to be found? Chances are high. Located just 24 miles from Las Vegas,

Lake Mead may have been the perfect "drop off" spot for gangsters.

Seven western states are now in crisis mode for water and electricity. Known as the "mega draught" the water shortage affects millions of people in cities, on farms and on tribal lands. The power plant that runs off Glen Canyon Dam in Lake Powell is at risk of being shut down as the water levels plummet. Water rights are coming into play and unfortunately the lower income communities will be hit first.

Andy Warhol's silk screen image of Marilyn Monroe recently set a record as the most expensive art sold at auction by an American artist for \$195 million dollars. The great news is that the proceeds of the sale go to a foundation in Zurich which helps children with health care and education.

An antique dealer in Texas made quite the find under a table at a local Goodwill thrift store. Laura Young purchased a 2,000-year-old bust who some believe is of Roman general Drusus Germanicus, for only \$34.99. After cleaning it up, she brought it to Sotheby's auction house only to discover the piece had been stolen during World War II and could not legally be sold. Most likely looted by a soldier during the war and brought to the states, the sculpture will be returned home to Germany in 2023 for display. It is currently on display at the San Antonio Museum of Art in Texas.

Remember knowledge is power, thrift shops do hold treasures and remembering that a good horse can still bite is very important.

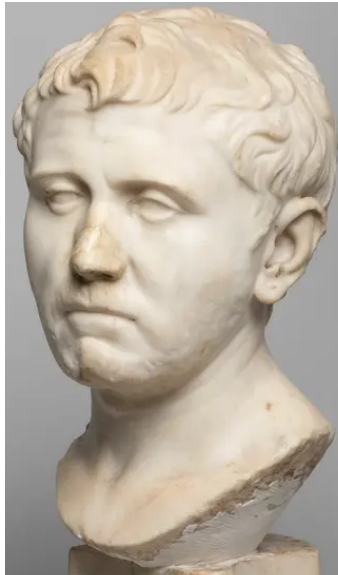


Photo credit to The Guardian/AP



Photo credit to Andy Warhol | masterworksfineart.com



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Fashion Statements: Take Time And Smell The Roses

By Becky Borneman

I am blessed to have head full of thick, thick hair. But along with that blessing comes the dreaded grey hair! At age 32 I was told that I am 75% grey. If that news didn't shove me right into 100% grey I don't know what did. So...I went from a brunette to a blond real fast. Blond just hides that grey just a hair longer!

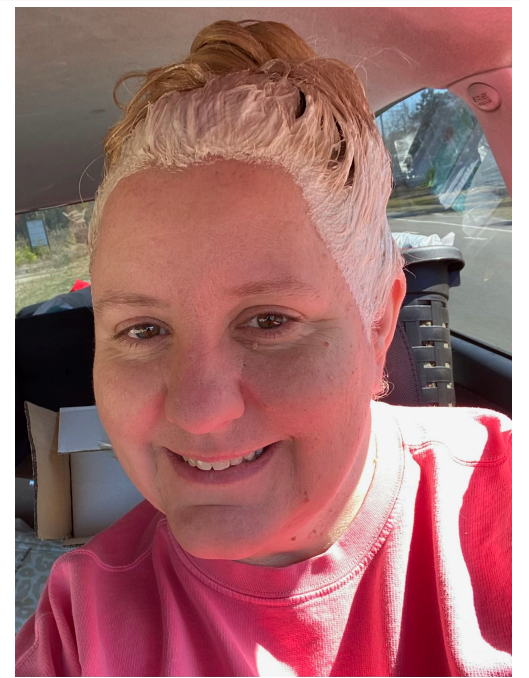
I covet my days off. With both stores, the restaurant and the food truck, something is bound to happen each day at one of these locations where we are needed. So days off in our world do not always go as planned. I have a crazy ritual that I do every 6-8 weeks when I see my hair stylist. When I do have a hair appointment for a coloring I usually go, she puts the color in my hair, then I drive myself the 10 miles back home with

color in my hair so I can get some things done while my hair color is settling in. That's right. I drive from Surf City to Hampstead, down 210 and 17 with color in my hair. I do say a quick prayer that I do not break down or get into an accident. I mean, that would look awkward and probably cause another wreck with the onlookers that would see this woman standing alongside of the road with white gelled hair on the scalp.

Last week I went to my hair stylist again and decided to stay for the full work up. I stayed the entire time for my hair to be colored, set, shampooed, cut and styled! It felt so nice not to rush home, worry about breaking down or wrecking, doing laundry or paperwork while my hair set. I just sat right there, read a book and enjoyed myself. I almost fell asleep when my hair was being

shampooed. That chair and nook for your neck in the sink was the perfect position to relax!

I am sharing this photo that I send to my mother every time I leave the hair place to drive home so that she can laugh at me. I hesitated to share with everyone else but hey, if you can't laugh at yourself, life isn't fun! So next time you are rushing through something that should be enjoyable and relaxing... remember to stop and enjoy it, to "stop and smell the roses" as they say. I sure hope to do that more often. But if I call you and ask you to come rescue me on the side of the road and bring 2 gallons of water with you to wash my hair out, please don't ask questions! Just come get me!



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Sea Turtle Hospital News



By Karen Sota

May on Topsail has always been a busy sea turtle month. Nesting season officially began on the first, so those turtle mamas are just offshore getting ready to deliver the first clutches of babies. But it's not just the mamas that enjoy our Carolina coast. Loggerheads, greens, Kemp's and leatherbacks of all sizes are fairly common to our waters and some of them just can't resist the lure of a free lunch at area fishing piers.

We've already admitted four turtles that took a chance on a tasty bite of squid and got more than they bargained for, and it's often the Kemp's who are notorious opportunists. Luckily, we're rather good at de-hooking turtles as long as they haven't swallowed the whole rig along with their lunch. In that case we transport them to our turtle vet, Dr. Harms up at CMAST for specialized care.

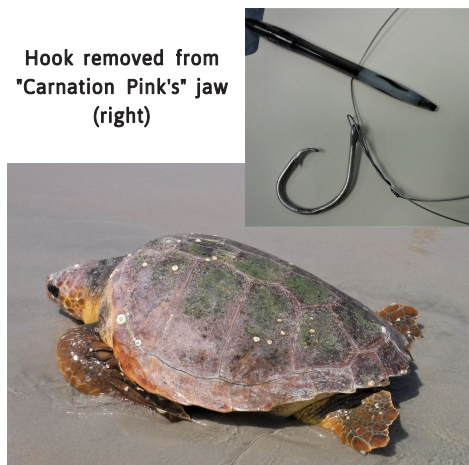
Finding a sea turtle at the end of your line when you're expecting a nice blue or mackerel can be alarming. But there are a few steps you can take to make sure that you and the turtle can get safely through the event, and our local piers are well trained in assisting you in the recovery. Sea turtles are wild animals and are very strong even out of the water so be mindful of their front flippers and jaws. Finding a sea turtle at the end of your line when you're expecting a nice blue or mackerel can be alarming. But

there are a few steps you can take to make sure that you and the turtle can get safely through the event, and our local piers are well trained in assisting you in the recovery. Sea turtles are wild animals and are very strong even out of the water so be mindful of their front flippers and jaws.

The best way to handle a hooked turtle is by reeling it in slowly, keeping its head above water, then using a large net to bring them up onto the pier or beach. Do not yank on the line and haul it through the air and onto the pier, all the while banging against the pilings and rails. This could turn a minor injury into a life-threatening one. Once you have the turtle out of the water and under control cut the line no shorter than a foot from the hook and secure it to the turtle (using tape if possible) to prevent the turtle from swallowing it. Notify the pier operator who will call us for retrieval and follow-up care at our hospital.

It's a good idea to let us check out any turtle no matter how minor the hooking might appear. Often turtles who hang around piers do so because they are debilitated in some way and it's an easy source for food. It may not be the first hook they have mistaken for food and only a radiograph will confirm that. In most cases hooked turtles are quickly released after a night or two at our bed and breakfast. On April 27th we admitted a ninety-eight-pound loggerhead that

had a large, stainless-steel hook embedded in her jaw. "Carnation Pink" quickly recovered and was released in Surf City a few days later to the delight of visitors who just happened to be around at the time.



Carnation Pink goes home (above)

Hook removed from "Carnation Pink's" jaw (right)

Sea Turtle Hospital Expands Tour Options

During May we will be open for tours on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11 AM – 1 PM. Tickets MUST be purchased in advance through our website: www.seaturtlehospital.org Select the date, time and the number of guests in your party and purchase your tickets. We limit the number of guests for each time to make the experience more enjoyable and to continue our commitment to keep you and our staff

Nesting season has officially arrived, and our Topsail Turtle Project volunteers are out on the beaches before sunrise looking for signs that mama has nested. We usually see our first confirmed nest around Mother's Day so keep your eyes peeled. If you spot anything unusual such as a stranding or nesting, please call our Director of Beach Operations, Terry Meyer at: 910-470-2880. If she is not available, you may call the hospital during operating hours: 910-329-0222. We will take the information and we will send a trained volunteer to meet you to assess the situation. The State of NC hotline for stranded, sick, and injured turtles is 252-241-7367. The state number picks up 24/7. Please note that all our work with sea turtles, at the hospital and on the beach, is authorized by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, ES Permit 22ST05.

safe as we work our way through Covid. At this point masks are not required. Sorry, but we are not able to accommodate walk-ups for tours once we sell out for the day. Please keep in mind that traffic can be especially heavy on the weekends so plan your arrival accordingly. If you are coming only to our gift shop (not for a tour) you can enter through the single door to the left of the main entrance.



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Bellydance for the Birds

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Sponsored by Just for Kicks Dance & Tumbling Studio of Hampstead

Sunday, July 17 from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. (Doors open at noon)

Ages 12 and older please – No dance experience necessary
Location: Just for Kicks 14880 US-17, Hampstead, NC 28443
\$40 per person
Advance registration required



To register, please send non-refundable donation of \$40 directly to Cape Fear Parrot Sanctuary at either:

- Venmo - @Ces-Erdman
- PayPal - cesnc1978@gmail.com

In the comment area, please state your full legal name, indicate that you are registering for the bellydance workshop, and provide a contact phone number. If registering for more than one person, please provide all names. Tax receipt will be provided at check in.

Find this event on Facebook for more information!

It's About Time

By Carol Ann Ross

Special to the Topsail Times

When I win the lottery I'm going to build a hospital. I need to give blood. Someday when I have enough money I'm going to give ten thousand dollars to charity. I'd really like to *(fill in the blank)* _____, but I just don't have time.

Wow! How many times have you heard these words, or words like them?

I know my daddy used to say, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. I know I'm guilty of traveling that road, but maybe the statement doesn't so much throw guilt, but instead point out that most of us have kind hearts, that we all would like to see the world a better place. We all want to do good, but there's always something--again, fill in the blank.

Aspirations to do something good, without notoriety or payment, to give from the heart, yes, it's nice to know that most people have them, so when I see someone who actually does try to make the world a better place, I have to applaud them. It makes me glad to be a human being and doubly proud if I know them.

Hey! I do know someone like that and her name is Kay Akins Burros. I've known Kay since I was a little girl, since the



Kay and her brother Ray (left)

Kay and her daughter Paris (right)



Photos provided by Carol Ann Ross

sixties when my parents ran the old Soda Shop in Holly Ridge. But we kind of lost touch over the years -the years when Kay was living her own life.

There wasn't a whole lot to do in the early days in Holly Ridge after Camp Davis shut down, but Kay was at the race strip that the Ottoway Family ran. She sat in the bleachers with her friends and cheered on her favorite driver. She waitressed at some of the restaurants on Topsail Island, went to Dixon School, went crabbing, fished and did all the other things that kids growing up in this area did and like many of them she also worked at the old bacon plant.

How many of you remember that

place? At one time it was nearly the only company around. We thought it was a big place, things are changing.

Kay is the daughter of a local woman, Sadie, who worked in the laundromat at Camp Davis during World War II. Her father was Bill Akins, a soldier at the camp. Now I know that had to be a fine love story since back then the population of Holly Ridge was in the very low digits, (way lower than now). To make that story short, Sadie and Bill settled down in the tiny town of Holly Ridge and pretty soon there were three more Akins, Bill Jr., the older brother, and the twins, Kay and Ray.

Like so many other young women in our area, and like her mother, Kay married a military man-a young Marine from Camp Lejeune, and moved away for a while. Like her mother, she had babies, two-Daniel and Paris. They're all grown up and now Kay has grand babies. So you see, Kay grew up just like everybody else around here. So what made her become such an altruistic person? It's just who she is, that's all I can say.

Maybe she was born that way, just a giving soul who gives of herself to help others. She finds causes, there's no doubt of that. Maybe that altruistic heart was cultivated when she worked 911 for Onslow County Sheriff's Department. She graduated from there to New Hanover 911 and finally to Civil Service at the Camp Lejeune Fire Department. She's seen and heard it all, been called every name in the book, helped deliver babies over the phone, and just about anything you can imagine a 911 operator might encounter.

"It was really bad during the time when the Twin Towers were hit," Kay says. She went on to explain about the fear some had about the safety of this area since Camp Lejeune is one of the nation's largest military installations.

Surely it was a job calming people of their fears.

There are a lot of horrifying things that happen in our world, Kay has been there, helping and even having to testify in court in some cases. Think of the things you read in the paper or see on the internet, these are things 911 operators have to deal with.

Through all her career Kay was there helping her community, organizing, working and helping in town activities. "My community is important to me," she says, "it's my roots. I have a service heart." That's how Kay feels about it all and somehow she found the time throughout the years to do what her heart says.

After twenty-one years and twenty-one days, Kay retired from her Civil Service job. But it seems that she's even busier now. She was on a committee that made Liberty Park happen. This is a project she is very proud of because it pays homage to the military. It was an expensive project, but she helped organize rummage sales, raffles, sold memorial bricks, sponsored a play and just about anything else to raise the money for the park. She was out there pouring concrete and laying sod with the rest, helping to get the park completed. This beautiful place of solace needs to be seen. It's located behind the Holly Ridge Community at 212 Dyson St.

The latest project Kay has been part of is Pack a Purse. She and three other ladies, Peggy Gentry, Anne Troutman and Judy Carter created this project to help women in need. The goal was to have around 60 purses donated, but the word got out and they ended up with over 600. Each purse was donated by a local and filled with things women need, things women don't often buy for themselves, especially in these hard times. Lotions, make-up, combs, hairbrushes, baby items, etc., you name it, if it could fit in a purse, someone put it in there.

Kay has done a lot for her community. Still, I have never heard her talk of her accomplishments. My daddy used to say, "if you have to toot your own horn, you're the only one doing it." Well, I've never heard any horn tooting from Kay. She just walks the walk. Kudos to you, Kay for all you've done.



Kay helping out at the park

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Catholic Bishop Comes to Bless Grounds After Local Church Community Raises 3.1 Million Dollars to Build New Church in Hampstead

Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama of the Diocese of Raleigh will be celebrating with parishioners from All Saints Catholic Church in Hampstead on May 5th at 2:15pm.

Hampstead, NC, May 2, 2022 - The blessing comes as All Saints Catholic Church announces that they have secured \$3.1 million dollars in gifts and pledges from their vibrant faith filled community which will be used to help fund their \$7.5 million expansion project. The parish plans to erect a 750 seat church and program support areas for the largely expanding faith community in Eastern Pender County. Bishop Zarama will perform a Blessing the Grounds ceremony on May 5th at 2:15pm, and then construction will begin in early 2023.

The facility expansion will allow the growing parish to accommodate the influx of new residents in the area. It will also enable All Saints Parish, which is a diverse community of families, young

adults and retirees, to focus on growing in their faith and putting their faith into action through vibrant youth and adult ministries that focus on loving and serving God and others.

Monsignor Joseph Ntuwa, pastor of All Saints, stated: "All Saints is excited to be building a place to love God, love others, and to make disciples; Also, it will continue to be a center where people can know, love and live their faith in service to God and our community."

Catholic presence and service to the Eastern Pender community began in 1953 when St. Mary Gate of Heaven, a tiny mission church, was established in Surf City. The Surf City location continues to serve as a summer ministry. However, in the 1990s, St. Jude the Apostle Parish was established on the current site at 18737 US Hwy 17 N, Hampstead, with a multipurpose worship space and a few offices. The name was later changed to All Saints. The original founders, some who will be honored guests at the Blessing of the Grounds, had a long-term

vision of building a permanent church building to serve a larger community. This phase of the development is a continuation of their original plan.

All Saints Catholic Church is a welcoming Catholic community called by God to live out the message of Christ in love and service to all people. Our parish mission is to live a life worthy of the calling we have received (Ephesians 4:1) as faithful stewards in our community.

To learn more about this historic project visit www.allsaintscnc.org/growth



Msgr. Joseph and Bishop Zamara



Blessing of the Grounds ceremony on 5/4/22

Interact Club Beach Clean Up, Dictionaries, And Freedom Fest Photos



CFCC Burgaw Center Director Receives Governor's Volunteer Service Award

Release: 4/28/22

Burgaw, NC — Cape Fear Community College is pleased to announce that its Burgaw Center Director, Tammie Parris, received the 2022 Governor's Volunteer Service Award for outstanding volunteer work in Pender County. This April, Parris was recognized as one of two outstanding volunteers by the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service.

The Governor's Volunteer Service Award, established in 1979, honors people who demonstrate concern and compassion for their neighbors by making a significant contribution to their community through volunteer service.

"Pender County is pleased to honor Tammie Parris for her selfless dedication to the Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce and Pender Education Partnership," said Tammy Proctor, Pender County tourism director and public information officer.

Parris volunteers in numerous organizations, including the Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce as chairperson of the board of directors. Parris also serves as president of the Pender Education Partnership, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit foundation, that awards scholarships and teacher mini-grants in Pender County Schools.

"We are so proud of Tammie and her consistent efforts to serve Pender County," said CFCC Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development John Downing. "She is dedicated to the betterment of her community and truly believes in the power of education."

To learn about the programs offered through CFCC's Economic & Workforce Development, visit cfcc.edu/ewd



MIG Welding starts in June... Only a few seats left.

Mean Salary Estimate for North Carolina:
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Registration fee: \$185
Register and pay online at cfcc-register.fundfive.com/course/section/3550

Book is needed.. For registration information, call Tammie Parris at 910-362-7909 or email tparris@cfcc.edu



Tammie Parris (left) is presented the Governor's Volunteer Service Award by Pender County Public Information Officer Tammy Proctor

And This is The Way it is

By Hermione McSchnizel

There's a lot of goofy things in the world going on today and I just thought I'd give my two cents on it. Don't mean to offend anyone, but, well, here it is.

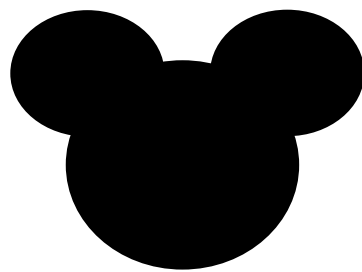
I was watching the news the other day and was flabbergasted when I saw the President of the United States stuttering and stumbling around with his words and basically seeming lost. It seemed he was wandering around somewhere between Bizarro World and Disney World and it got me thinking.

First of all, if that was my father acting so strange, I would get him some help. I wouldn't parade him around in front of the whole world to see. It is so obvious that he is not in great mental health, and he needs our sympathy.

But if the news media isn't going to help this poor man and his own political party is not going to help him either and at least recognize what is going on, well then, we may as well have Mickey Mouse as our president (especially if he is going to be doing Goofy things).

Hey look, Mickey Mouse has been around for a long time. Everybody loves Mickey Mouse (at least until the latest stupid stuff). The House of Mouse has

been excellent about spreading their message around the world and people willingly spend thousands of dollars to support this huge business. How many of you have been to Disney World and dropped a load of cash-it ain't cheap. So let's just call a spade a spade and quit pretending that everything is okay. Either help the man or buy him some ears.



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The Marian Way

By Marian Taylor

Whether you are in the workforce, an at home parent, or retired, most everyone can agree that the home they dream of should be a place to unwind, a place of calm and relaxation. If you want to change your lifestyle from chaos to calm then the best way is to remove the excess that is clogging your space, mind, and spirit. I believe that you cannot be an organized carefree person without first reducing the excess stuff and personal belongings that are clogging your space. The Marian Way is to only have in your immediate space what you use every day. For instance, if your kitchen gadget drawer is overflowing, ask yourself what gadgets you use daily. Chances are there are a lot of multiples or gadgets that you use at certain times of the year. If you are limited on space, do you really need a turkey baster in the drawer when you only use it in November and or December? A better location would be to store the baster either in your roaster pan or with the November or December holiday decorations. This will alleviate wasting valuable time digging through excess in your gadget drawer.

With that, here are 3 more solutions to help you reduce the excess in your home:

1. Remove and reduce 1/3 of your clothing. If your closets are full of clothes from another era, another size that you are hoping to get into, or from a life that you used to live then it's time to let them go. Not only will you free up valuable space but you will save time getting dressed. Clearing closet clutter will simplify your lifestyle immediately.

2. A place for everything and everything in its place. I'm sure you have heard this age old saying one or more times, but it is so true. I used to have an excess of cheaters (magnifying reading glasses) yet I could never find any. I designated a drawer where I would return the glasses when I was finished using them. I have now reduced that number to two. When everything has a home, you save time and money because you can easily locate items that you need rather than running to the store to purchase another.

3. Avoid reading ads and clipping coupons. When my children were young, every Sunday, they would help me scour the Sunday ads and coupon section. I would be making a list of all the new and improved items that I thought I had to have. When I stopped reading those ads and couponing, I stopped buying excess items that I didn't really need.



Marian Taylor, is the creator of The Marian Way. Her mission is to support people in living a simple, and beautiful lifestyle. As a professional downsizer and relocation specialist for 10+ years she knows firsthand as to what it takes to help people let go of their "excess", with her time-tested tools, tips, and solutions. Marian is also a good food ambassador and offers gluten free and clean mealtime solutions. Marian will be sharing Simple Solutions for Meals, Wellness, Home Décor and more -The Marian Way! To find out how The Marian Way can help you with your project, please email: Marian@TheMarianWay.com

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Hurricanes

By Dorothy Royal

For those of you who are new to the area, Hurricane Season runs from June 1st until November 30th. Peak season tends to be in late summer, early fall but never let your guard down. Preparing now for yourself, your family, your pets and your business will take a great deal of stress away later. Here are a few simple ideas to follow:

1. Plan on being without power for 3-7 days. During summer months this can be very uncomfortable so think about getting a generator, either a professionally installed built in or portable. Make sure you have plenty of gas cans filled with fresh gasoline. Never use a generator inside a home or garage! Make sure you have extension cords in good condition. Learn how to use your generator BEFORE a storm and know its limits.

2. Take videos (with your smartphone) of the interior and exterior of your home. Video or photograph your vehicles. Email yourself the video/photos and store it for emergencies. The more information you have the better when filing an insurance claim.

3. Think about what items need to be secured outdoors. Furniture, planters, signs or flags, grills and garbage cans can destroy your property or a neighbor's.

4. Batteries and flashlights. Get more than you think you'll need.

5. Check your insurance policies and make sure you have coverage.

6. Scan and email important documents like insurance papers, photo IDs, and important contact information to yourself.

7. Select a person to contact that is not in the storm's path who can keep everyone updated.

8. Expect the unexpected. Hurricane Florence was predicted as a Category 4 and quickly downgraded to a Category 1 but became a historical flood event.

9. Tornadoes are a big part of hurricanes. During Hurricane Fran in 1996 it was estimated that over 20 tornadoes affected the area.

10. If there is a mandatory evacuation and you decide to stay, remember to sign the "Next of Kin" contact form at the local police department. During extreme weather, emergency personnel will not be able to get to you. If you decide to stay, you may be on your own.

11. Hurricane parties are never a good idea. Mixing stress, exhaustion and alcohol is a recipe for disaster.

12. Make plans for your pets. Most shelters do not allow household pets and

you don't ever want to leave them in harm's way. Purchase a collapsible crate or get a carrier for smaller pets. Make sure your pets have collars with name tags with working phone numbers.

13. Large animals / farm animals. A barn can be the most dangerous place to trap animals. Large livestock like horses, cows, donkeys and goats are safer in a strong pen. Write your name and phone number on halters for easy retrieval. Take photos of all your pets.

14. Medications and specialty foods (for allergies). Make sure you have at least a week's worth of supplies. Get a really good first aid kit and make sure you have something for bug bites.

15. Fill your bathtub with water for emergency use.

16. Fill your clothes washer with ice and drinks. If not needed, the ice will simply melt and be drained out.

17. Avoid buying any dairy or items that need refrigeration or freezing. Buy canned goods with pop tops. Keep a box of ready to eat foods by the door or in the car in case you have to go in a hurry.

18. Make sure you have 4-7 days' worth of clean clothes per person including extra socks, underwear and towels. Wet wipes are a wonderful item to have.

19. Law enforcement and first responders will do their job if you let them. Pay attention and heed warnings. Find out how to contact local authorities for updates.

20. Meet your neighbors. Not everyone has family to help them at a time of crisis.

21. Have cash available. Without power or internet, credit cards won't work.

22. Theft is a major issue after a hurricane. If you evacuate, take your valuables. If leaving firearms or other valuables, lock them in a safe that is clearly marked with your name and phone number. Take a photo of all your firearms, including serial numbers!

23. Whether a tropical storm or hurricane, all storms can be dangerous! Never underestimate how quickly an emergency can happen.

24. If you own or operate a business, make sure you know the town's procedures after a storm to get you back to your business as quickly as possible to secure your goods.

25. Make sure you have a current PASS to get back on the island if you evacuate.

26. If you evacuate, learn alternative routes home. Some roads may be impassible.

27. Before and after a storm wildlife will act very differently. Snakes, rodents and insects will seek higher ground. Fire ants can form a ball and float if needed. Ouch!

28. Waterways may be filled with debris which can damage boats. Be cautious after a storm.

29. Wrap your exterior door knobs with plastic bags and rubber bands. Sand filled keyholes make it very hard to get indoors.

30. Don't be stupid. Most fatalities and injuries are caused after a storm when

people get out to explore before conditions are safe. Downed trees and power lines are common.



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Simply Homemade Recipes

Strawberry Pie



- 1 (9 inch) pie crust, baked
- 1 quart fresh strawberries
- 1 cup white sugar
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream

Arrange half of strawberries in baked pastry shell. Mash remaining berries and combine with sugar in a medium saucepan. Place saucepan over medium heat and bring to a boil, stirring frequently.

In a small bowl, whisk together cornstarch and water. Gradually stir cornstarch mixture into boiling strawberry mixture. Reduce heat and simmer mixture until thickened, about 10 minutes, stirring constantly. Pour mixture over berries in pastry shell.

Chill for several hours before serving. In a small bowl, whip cream until soft peaks form. Serve each slice of pie with a dollop of whipped cream.

Southern Smothered Pork Chops in Brown Gravy



- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 onion, thinly sliced and quartered
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 cups beef broth
- 1-1/2 cups sliced baby bella mushrooms, or more to taste
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- 4 center-cut pork chops
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, or to taste
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper, or to taste
- Cooking spray

Melt butter in a 3-quart saucepan over medium-low heat. Cook onion and garlic in the butter, stirring occasionally, until is browned, 7 to 10 minutes. Remove onion and garlic and set aside.

Stir flour slowly into butter. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until flour is deep brown, 7 to 10 minutes. Remove from heat. Gradually stir in broth. Add onion, garlic, mushrooms, and parsley. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Remove from heat.

Coat a large skillet with cooking spray and heat over medium-high heat. Season pork chops with salt and pepper and brown in the hot pan, 5 to 7 minutes per side. Add gravy mixture from the saucepan. Cover and cook over low heat until tender and no longer pink in the centers, 30 to 40 minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read 145 degrees F (63 degrees C).

Photos and recipes courtesy of AllRecipes.com

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