



# TOPSAIL TIMES

TOPSAIL ISLAND, HOLLY RIDGE, HAMPSTEAD AND SNEADS FERRY



17th June, 2022

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FREE!

## Will Paid Parking Harm Topsail Island's Family Appeal?

Elite is defined as a select group that is superior in terms of abilities or qualities.

One must almost be in this select group to visit the public beaches in our state. North Carolina, which on average brings in about \$1500 per person in property taxes, requires out of town residents to pay 20 to 25\$ for a day visit to public beaches. Residents receive two parking stickers that adhere to their vehicles.

The signs state PUBLIC ACCESS- Paid parking. Kind of an oxymoron in a way if you give it some thought.

I spoke with several people on the beach yesterday. At North Topsail Free Parking Access # 2 because I have a patriotic and financial issue with paying to park at the beach.

One gentleman I spoke with was here with his family renting a house. They arrived before checkout time and originally planned to spend time on the beach waiting to check-in. The parking fee kind of threw them so they went online and arranged a visit to Fort Fisher Aquarium instead. Yes, the cost of admission was more than the parking fee but to most the feeling of getting something for your money makes more sense.

A very nice lady who has not visited in several years was really surprised by the parking fees.

### "How is the money being used?"

The revenue will be committed to help fund the Beach Renourishment project of the Army Corp of Engineers.

Paid Parking brought in 1.3 million dollars last year according to the Budget Highlights for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022.

Port City Daily reported that Surf City netted about 400, 000 in the inaugural season of paid parking.

The cost of replenishment to the beaches far exceeds the amount that

paid parking will be able to fund at the current rate. The next steps will likely be to raise the amount to \$5 an hour in all spaces not just the ones most used or closest to the beach, then the daily times will likely be extended past 6 p.m. Yes, the time has already been extended to 6 p.m. Most people thought it was 5 p.m. Then I predict they will extend the season to include the winter months. Then of course property taxes will likely increase. Replenishment is a costly business and the estimates have already nearly doubled.

This has been the shift at other beaches like Wrightsville which charges 25\$ a day and that includes those with a handicap placard. They have extended the paid parking hours until 8 p.m. as well. Every year it becomes more expensive and restrictive.

Currently there is a \$25 dollar discount for seasonal passes available for Military, Senior Citizens and ETJ Residents at Surf City. I would advise you to check out the discount if you live in the surrounding area since I can't find which outlying areas are considered ETJ resident zones.

I hate to think of anyone who served in the military having to pay to enjoy the beaches they sacrificed to protect. Complaints about the system continue. North Topsail, Surf City and Topsail do not have a unified system despite the proximity of the areas. This seems to be one of the most prevalent complaints. Sometimes visitors don't know the difference.

Topsail still has free parking at Public Access points except at Serenity Point which is privately owned and leased to the town. It's understandable that they would require paid parking for this area since it is a privately owned property.

Onslow County Parks and Recreation offers free parking at three beach access points in North Topsail NO. 1, 2 and 4.

The access no. 2 has 100 parking spaces, a concession stand and bathrooms.

Also, North Topsail paid parking ends at 5 p.m.

Business owners in the area seem to be split on the issue of paid parking. Some say it has not affected the influx of visitors but with the high price of gas this summer as well as some businesses still recovering from the pandemic restrictions it may add to decreased revenue from tourism in the area.

My advice for those who are not as financially well off as others but would still like to visit the beach:

Get there early – super early and try to get a space at Onslow County accesses at North Topsail. You can use the \$25 to buy your kids an ice cream.

If you can't get there early and must pay for a space: Pack your lunch, your drinks and anything you may need. That way the \$25 fee will be your expense for the day trip. Sorry kids, no ice cream.

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# Topsail Times

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## Topsail Gun Gal: Bee-Fish Are Here To Stay

By Dorothy Royal

A young woman visiting the Topsail area planned her day and it included a visit to the dog park. By the end of the day, she was in the hospital being treated for a snake bite. The woman was given 20 doses of anti-venom but it could not stop the damage done and she passed away. The snake, possibly a rattler or a copperhead, was never found even though an extensive search was conducted. Snakes, like all creatures that live in the wild, are driven closer to people thanks to land clearing and housing projects. When their natural habitat is gone, the only option is to find a new place to live and hunt. Interaction with humans will most certainly be on the rise for years to come. Nature is beautiful and can also be dangerous.

In an attempt to save the Bees, a California court has now categorized the fuzzy flying machine as a fish. Why a fish you ask? Easy, there is no current category for insects in the California Endangered Species Act. What's the next best step? Make the insect a fish. Now the bumble bees can have protections like the fish they fly over. What categories are on the native species list? Bird, mammal, fish, amphibians, reptiles and plants. Someone forgot the bugs. Maybe the "bee-fish" will help change that.

Want to do your part in saving the new "Bee-fish"? How about participating next year in a national campaign known as "No mow May." During the month of May the majority of the pollen that flying insects and birds depend on is in full bloom, and in many cases, quickly mowed over by people who can't stand an untidy yard. Who doesn't love seeing

giant colorful natural blooms? Why have they become prey to people with weed spray, weed whackers, and high tech mowers? Save the flowers! Save the blooms! Save the bees and learn to keep a smaller "kept" mowed yard.

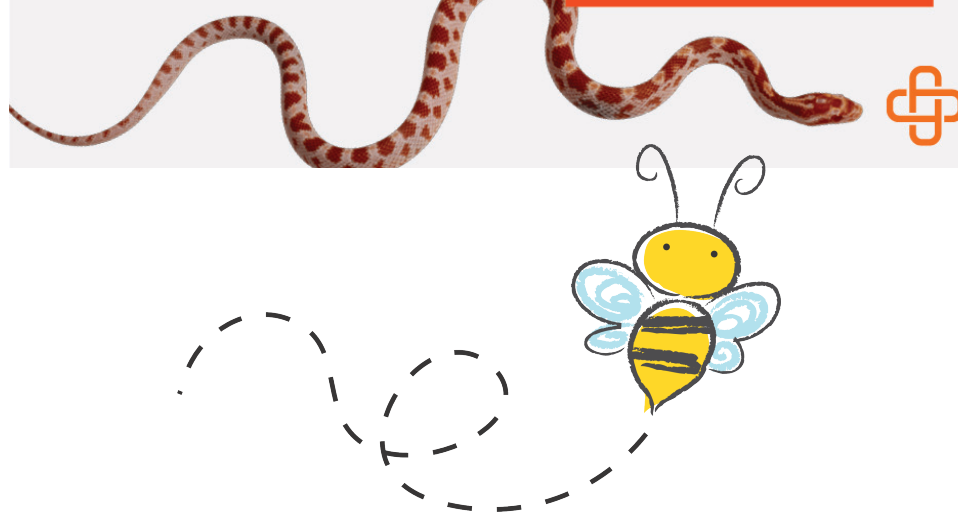
No one likes noise, whether it's traffic, gun fire or barking dogs, but sometimes people forget not to say what they are thinking. Speaking his thoughts out loud cost an Assistant District Attorney in Graham County, NC his job. Leo, a large Great Pyrenees dog, has been a nuisance to his neighbors with his very loud and deep bark. Leo is not the only barking dog in his neighborhood, but his 120 pound size resonates a louder bark than most. After receiving several violations, Leo's owner went to court where he was met by an assistant District Attorney who suggested that Leo's vocal cords be surgically removed and then all the violations would be dropped. This idea was not approved or condoned by the DA who promptly had the assistant DA removed from his position. Leo's owner is still not off the hook for the violations, but maybe the former assistant DA will think before he speaks.

Why do Americans love the movie Top Gun so much? One report made it simple and clear. Men are men and women are women. Women can be tough, strong and capable without losing their gender identity. Men can be tough, angry, confused and in the end, buddies. Simple relationships existed for all reasons and in the end, the good guys won. Why does society have to keep trying to screw up what works?

Remember knowledge is power, bumble bee fish are vital to the survival of humans and dogs have a voice too.

### SNAKE BITES: DO'S AND DONT'S

	Stay calm		Don't apply a tourniquet or a constriction band
	Call 911 immediately to be evaluated		Don't apply ice; it can cause local tissue damage
	Take off anything constricting the area, such as a ring or watch		Don't apply heat
	Position the affected area at or above heart level. If you are bitten on the hand, bring it to heart level, and if you're bitten on the leg or foot, elevate it if possible		Don't cut the affected area and attempt to suck the venom out
	Go to the emergency room - the sooner the better		Don't use a commercially available extraction device
			Don't use electrical therapy
			Don't apply any type of lotions or ointments



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## Someone Has To Win

**By Becky Borneman**

Jeff and I were able to golf recently. I was thrilled to have that window of opportunity that allowed us to do something fun. We got up that morning, lathered in sunscreen, went outside and exercised a few practice swings to loosen up before playing all 18 holes. We ain't as young as we used to be and a golf swing can really knock on your tail for a couple of days. We got in the car and proceeded to trash talk each other all the way to the golf course. We quickly pulled up the course...the Shipwreck Mini Golf in Surf City.

Now, Jeff and I are VERY competitive, especially with each other. We are the couple that probably shouldn't be put on the same team or game night. If we make a move to lose the game the other is

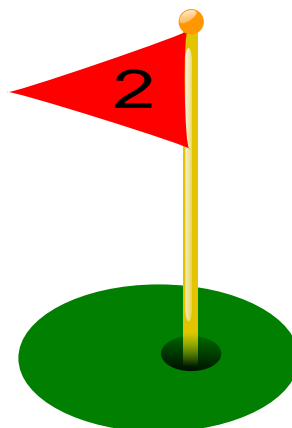
never as forgiving. I mean, we lost at couples Parcheesi one night and we spent the rest of the evening in our separate corners with our lawyers on the phone divvying assets. We are serious about winning.

We continued to give each other the stink eye while we paid for our round and selected our ball colors. Green for him, hot pink for me. The day was perfect, wind was just right. I picked up a piece of grass and tossed it in the air to see where it would fly. Not sure why, I've just seen professional golfers do this.

It started out not so good. First hole, I scored a 3 and Jeff had a hole in one. We volleyed the lead back and forth for the 18 holes. Midway through it was looking like it would be a tie. We cannot end up in a tie. Another round would have to be played. It came down to the last 2 holes

where Jeff's skill just faded away and I sailed into first place. It was a rough, high intensity game but a good one.

As we walked out I told Jeff I swear I thought I heard "We Are The Champions" being played for me. He told me I was crazy.



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# Sea Turtle Hospital News



By Karen Sota

The ladies are in the house – or actually on the beach. After a bit of a late start those turtle moms are finally here and our Topsail Turtle Project volunteers are out at dawn looking for signs of nests. As of this writing we have nineteen verified nests on the island.

Topsail is pretty much loggerhead territory, but the past few years have seen a green (possibly more than one) take a liking to our sand. Research has shown that our northern loggerheads do not reach maturity until about thirty-five years of age, so these ladies trudging through the sand are good-sized gals, many of them tipping the scales at around three-hundred pounds. They are not built for land travel, so you can imagine the effort involved in hauling yourself through the sand on flippers to find the perfect home for your babies. Believe it or not that's the easy part!

Once mom selects a spot, she digs out a nest about two-feet deep, using only her rear flippers. Then she deposits her clutch of eggs, which average about 100-120 a nest. After carefully filling and packing the nest with sand she uses her powerful flippers to fling sand all around the area to disguise her work. Then it's the long haul back to the sea where she spends a few weeks of R&R before her next trip ashore. It's normal for these gals to lay between one and five nests

over the course of the summer. Our volunteers verify, mark and record data on every nest. If the nest has been laid in a vulnerable location (below the high tide line or in a high traffic beach area) they carefully remove and relocate every egg to a safer area.

Since 2010 we have been participating in a research project at the University of Georgia that is tracking the nesting patterns of our northern loggerheads. One egg is harvested from each nest and the DNA and other data is recorded and analyzed. The results are quite interesting and show that sea turtles are indeed mysterious in their nesting habits. Some ladies nested several times in a small area of beach, while others were less discriminating and travelled up and down the eastern seaboard. These critters continue to surprise and amaze those of us who work with them. Although we have numerous eyes on the beach our visitors have always played a critical part in our work. Many times we have gotten calls in the night that "there's a turtle on the beach." There are some important things that you can do during nesting season to keep our ladies safe.

- Do not harass a nesting turtle in any way. Not only is it illegal but you could cause her so much stress that she abandons the process and loses her eggs. Stay back, do not crowd or chase her or take flash photography. Keep pets away.

- Keep beachfront lighting to a minimum. Turtles can become disoriented by bright lights and head off in the wrong direction. With the tremendous growth on the island, especially of massive rental properties, even "normal" indoor lighting at night is proving to be a huge distraction to the nesting moms. Every year there are increased instances where mamas (and hatchlings) have gone over the dunes and ended up in parking lots and on the highways.

- Do not leave heavy items (chairs, canopies, umbrellas) on the beach overnight. A turtle can become entangled in these.

- If you dig a hole do not walk away without replacing all the sand. It's dangerous not only to turtles but to humans who can stumble into it and break a bone (it's happened.)

Respect the nest and any instructions from our Topsail Turtle Project volunteers. They have all been trained in the proper procedures. We do encourage you to ask them any questions that you might have, however. If you spot a nesting mama, or anything unusual such as an injured or stranded turtle 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.

## Sea Turtle Hospital Expands Tour Options

Through June and July we will be open seven days a week: Mon – Fri, Noon-3; Saturday, 10-2 and Sunday Noon-2. Tickets MUST be purchased in advance through our website: [www.seaturtlehospital.org](http://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

safe as we continue to respond to any changes in 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 summer traffic can be very heavy, especially 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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Mom had to be reoriented toward the ocean after being distracted by lights from beach houses.



# Ray Swaney, Sneads Ferry Fisherman

By Carol Ann Ross

Special to the Topsail Times

The other day I heard someone (the person sitting behind me in a booth at Denny's) say that Sneads Ferry **used** to be a fishing town. Of course, the statement kind of flabbergasted me, since I have always thought of Sneads Ferry as a fishing town, didn't know it had stopped, and thought it still was. But then I looked out the window at the traffic and thought of my drive over here from Pender County and realized that the fellow making the statement was probably stating the truth. Buildings are going up everywhere and the roads are constantly filled with cars and trucks coming and going. The quiet little town of Sneads Ferry is changing. So much of what once was, just ain't anymore.

Still, just because something isn't anymore, doesn't mean it doesn't hold value. Just think of all the people the fishing and shrimping boats from Sneads Ferry have fed over the years. It's got to be up there in the billions. I say, thank God for fishermen, for the local fisherman and not the huge corporations that #%\*!, well, that's another story.

This little story is about Ray Swaney, par excellence fisherman, who has been plying his trade for decades.

Ray was born in 1939 and like most boys of the time he started fishing as soon as he could hold a fishing pole. He learned the trade early with nets and traps and by the time he was eight he



Ray and Linda Swaney



Ray Swaney

Photos provided by Carol Ann Ross

was catching flounder with his brother, Franklin, and selling them. By the time he was fourteen he, Lonnie Everett and Bobby Jarvis were running their own boat up New River in Onslow County and selling that catch to Lea Seafood in Hampstead.

Ray has seen Sneads Ferry grow from a tiny place, when it had no bridge access to Topsail Island, when everything from Four Corners to the ICW was marsh and woods, to present day-and we all know how that is. So he's seen a lot of growth, a lot of fish, and a lot of places. He wasn't just passing through those places either, he stayed awhile and earned a living for his family. I've always believed that traveling broadens one's spectrum-gives one an understanding of people, more than you might have ordinarily. Ray has always been pretty people savvy.

He and his wife Linda have been married 56 years and she's stuck right by him, supporting him in the trade he chose and loves. I asked him what he liked most about fishing, he answered, "it's real mind relaxing, it's God's natural creation. With other jobs you get somebody breathing down your neck." Truer words could not be said. It is a fact, when you work for somebody else, you have to do things their way, even if it means standing on your head and whistling Dixie. For sure, Ray has lived his life on his terms, or God's because, as Ray puts it, "it's God's natural creation."

A more knowledgeable man, when it comes to fishing, I've never met. He knows it all- do you remember that old Hank Snow song, I've Been Everywhere, well, that's Ray. He scalloped and fished off Long Island, New York, all the way down the Eastern Seaboard, down

to the Florida Keys, up to the Gulf of Mexico-Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and on over to Texas. He's shrimped, crabbed, lobstered, fished with nets and with traps and in all kinds of weather, all the while having to deal with varying circumstances.

When he was a young man, he served in the US Navy, serving aboard the USS Shenandoah. So, I guess you could say he knows his seas. *He's an everywhere man, of travel he's had his share, man. He's fished everywhere, man.*

Sneads Ferry is Ray's home but he did spend 12 years in Florida, moving his family there for that period of time and finally coming back home when the changing rules and regulations for fishing got to be too much. (These are some of the circumstances I mentioned)

Ray has owned several boats along the way, there's the 55 foot boat, the Four Kids, the 83 foot boat, the Roy Dudley, the Tracey Rae, the Linda Ann, the Two Brothers and several more. Yes, he even owned his own seafood company at one time, Ocean View Seafood. Paintings and photos of these vessels sprinkle the walls of his home, along with other nautical pictures and his most treasured love, his family.

The wonderful thing about Ray's occupation choice is that he's always had the support of his family. So you can see he's done it all and on the entity he loves best. "I wouldn't change my life for anything," Ray told me. I'm sure he wouldn't. It's been a good life.



The Amy Nichole (left)

Ray Swaney in 1970s (right)





# Insurance Increases Across The Board

We are all living in an incredibly challenging time right now. The cost of everything this year has increased. From the cost of a gallon of gas, groceries to building materials everything seems to be skyrocketing, leaving us all wondering what will increase next. Then you receive your homeowners insurance renewal in the mail and are shocked to see it has gone up as well. Why you ask, let me highlight some key areas surrounding this increase that we are all now seeing.

From 2018-2021, homeowners insurance rates stayed pretty level. In some cases, we did not see any increases during this period. I was actually quite surprised given the losses sustained in 2018 from the infamous Hurricane Florence.

However, 2022 came around and everything changed. One of the factors that caused the increase in rates was due to the cost of building materials and the supply change demand of those materials. This caused the reconstruction cost of a home to increase substantially, which resulted in higher coverage limits on insurance. This has become one of the

major talking points that all insurance agents need to have with insured's to make sure homes are insured correctly. This is so important and needs to be addressed prior to a loss. The very last thing you want to happen when you have a claim, is the adjuster to tell you that you are underinsured.

This year we have also seen major changes to the insurance companies appetites pertaining to properties, especially in coastal parts of North Carolina. A Lot of carriers have pulled out of NC, while others have increased wind and named storm deductibles from 1% to 2%, others as high as 5 % and limiting roof ages to 10 years or less. Let's also mention, there was an increase June 1, 2022, for homeowner's insurance rates. This has made for a particularly challenging year to say the least in the insurance industry.

Then the big question? What can I do to lower my cost?

Yearly reviews are so important, especially now that we are in hurricane season. I personally feel educating my insured is the first step. Each year, I set

renewal review appointments to update reconstruction values, review deductible options to help lower premiums and most importantly check for any gaps in coverage. This is also a time that I check to make sure special endorsements are on the policy such as food loss, water and back up or replacement cost on personal property. With being an independent agent, I can shop the insurance with other insurance carriers to ensure we have the best coverage and pricing for each renewal. These are the many things that your insurance agent can help you with to ensure the best rates and coverage! For myself, it is not about just writing you an insurance policy, but helping you make informed decisions to protect one of the most valuable assets you have, your home!

With Hurricane Season here, I urged you to reach out to your insurance agent to ensure your policy is in order and review for any gaps in coverage.

So with all of this in mind when you receive the next renewal and are shocked to find an increase, feel free to give me a call and I will be happy to

review your policies and shop your insurance!



**Tammy Lamberth**  
Agency Owner - Principal Agent  
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## NC Homeowners Territories

Territory	Counties/Cities Located in this Territory	Rate increase/decrease
110	Beach areas in Currituck, Dare and Hyde Counties	9.9%
120	Beach areas in Brunswick, Carteret, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender Counties	9.9%
130	Coastal areas in Currituck, Dare, Hyde and Pamlico Counties	9.9%
140	Eastern Coastal areas of Brunswick, Carteret, New Hanover, Onslow & Pender Counties	9.9%
	Eastern Coastal area zip codes: 28403, 28404, 28405, 28406, 28407, 28408, 28409, 28410, 28411, 28412, 28422, 28428, 28443, 28445, 28459, 28460, 28461, 28462, 28467, 28468, 28469, 28470, 28480, 28511, 28516, 28520, 28524, 28528, 28531, 28532, 28533, 28539, 28553, 28557, 28570, 28577, 28579, 28581, 28584, 28589	9.9%
150	Coastal areas in Beaufort, Camden, Chowan, Craven, Jones, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrell & Washington Counties	9.9%
160	Western Coastal areas of Brunswick, Carteret, New Hanover, Onslow & Pender Counties	9.9%
	Western Coastal area zip codes: 28401, 28402, 28420, 28421, 28425, 28429, 28435, 28436, 28447, 28448, 28451, 28452, 28454, 28456, 28457, 28466, 28478, 28479, 28518, 28521, 28540, 28541, 28542, 28543, 28544, 28545, 28546, 28547, 28555, 28574, 28582	9.9%
170	Gates and Hertford Counties	9.9%
180	Bertie, Greene, Martin, Pitt, and Wayne Counties	9.9%
190	Duplin and Lenoir Counties	5.9%
200	Columbus County	5.9%
210	Edgecombe and Wilson Counties	5.9%
220	Cumberland and Sampson Counties	9.9%

230	Bladen and Robeson Counties	5.9%
240	Franklin, Halifax, Johnston, Nash, and Northampton Counties	5.9%
250	Harnett, Hoke, and Scotland Counties	5.9%
260	Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren Counties	5.9%
270	Durham and Wake Counties	9.9%
280	Chatham and Orange Counties	9.9%
290	Lee and Moore Counties	5.9%
300	Anson, Montgomery, and Richmond Counties	5.9%
310	Cities of Greensboro and Winston-Salem	5.9%
310	Caswell County	5.9%
310	Alamance, Forsyth, and Guilford Counties	5.9%
310	Davie, Rockingham, Stokes, and Surry Counties	5.9%
320	Davidson and Randolph Counties	5.9%
320	Cabarrus and Rowan Counties	5.9%
330	Yadkin County	5.9%
340	City of Charlotte	9.9%
340	Mecklenburg and Union Counties	9.9%
340	Alexander, Iredell, Stanly, and Wilkes Counties	9.9%
350	Gaston County	5.9%
350	Cleveland, Lincoln, and Rutherford Counties	5.9%
360	Alleghany, Ashe, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Henderson, McDowell, Polk, Watauga, and Yancey Counties	5.9%
370	Avery and Mitchell Counties	5.9%
380	Haywood, Madison, Swain, and Transylvania Counties	5.9%
390	Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, and Macon Counties	5.9%



# Human Trafficking Is A Real Threat To Americans Everywhere

If you travel on any major roadway you will most likely come across a Human Trafficking billboard. Most people have no idea how extensive this horrible crime is and that it can affect anyone, at any time.

A father in Texas took his 15 year old daughter to a basketball game in Dallas. When the daughter failed to return from the bathroom, the father became alarmed. He contacted security and the police. The security company was able to find footage of his daughter leaving with an unknown adult male. The Dallas police, when contacted, considered the girl a runaway and told the man to report her missing to the police department in the town they lived in. Frustrated and terrified, he contacted the police department where he lived who told him there was nothing they could do since she went missing in Dallas. Without getting any help from the Dallas police, the man contacted a group called the Texas Counter-Trafficking Initiative. Using face recognition software, this group was able to identify the missing daughter on a prostitution site within 24 hours. She was located in Oklahoma

eleven days after being kidnapped. The Oklahoma City Police raided the motel, arresting eight people and rescuing the girl. The father and his family are grateful that his daughter is home but furious at the lack of assistance that led to the delay in finding her. The family has hired an attorney and is now going after those that failed. The list of failures begins with the Dallas Police Department for failing to take a report and never asking for a photo and includes the Extended Stay Motel that allowed a man using a fake ID to rent several rooms that had high traffic day and night.

Human trafficking exploits men, women and children. Skin color and religion don't seem to matter in regards to victims. The crimes committed include forced prostitution, forced labor and even marriage. The sale of organs of the victims is another sick twist. This form of modern slavery is growing faster and faster each day with the use of technology.

While the majority of victims are women and girls, men and boys make up about 30% of recognized victims.

Over 50% of the human trafficking in the United States involved children. Foster care children make up a large number of victims. California, Texas and Florida are the top three states with contacts made to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

Only a small percentage of victims are reported missing and ever found.

## How can you help?

1. Be alert. If everyone is always looking at their phones then no one is really paying attention.
2. Don't respond to ads on social media about jobs or housing that is just too good to be true. These are scams and can be dangerous.
3. Never respond to an ad for a job or housing alone if possible.
4. If you work at a hotel, bar or restaurant make note of customers and if something looks or feels wrong, don't ignore it. Take photos of people and vehicles if possible. Contact local law enforcement and share the information.
5. Make sure you have tracking devices on your electronics and those of your family members.
6. Don't ignore someone's warning

when a family member, friend or associate has concerns about someone. Intuition and following your gut instinct may save your life.

7. Record conversations if someone approaches you that makes you feel uncomfortable. Be on the phone on speaker with someone you can trust. This may be a deterrent.

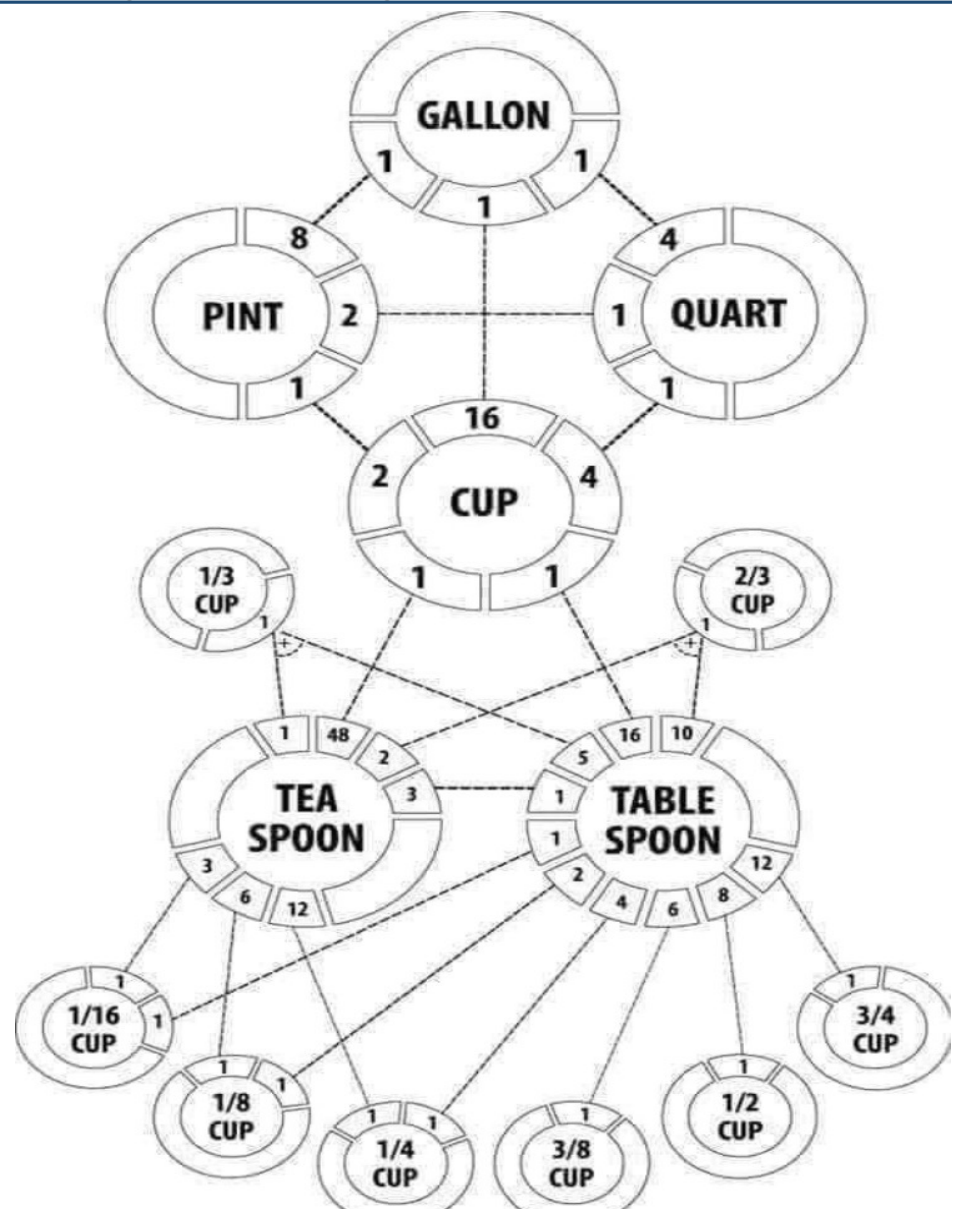
8. Take and share photos of people or vehicles you consider suspicious. Text them to someone.

9. Call the police if you witness anything that makes you feel uncomfortable. Warning signs include someone being afraid to speak, submissive or fearful and/or signs of physical abuse. Someone who lives with an employer, possibly in poor conditions with others, who only answers in scripted or rehearsed statements. Be aware of children or teens who suddenly appear and are overly eager to make friends, perhaps by enticing them with gifts or offers in an attempt to lure others away.

10. National Human Trafficking Hotline number: (888) 373-7888 is available 24 hours a day.



**Top: Crocodile / Middle: Caiman / Bottom: Alligator**





# The Marian Way

By Marian Taylor

"Summertime, and the living is easy," as the old jazz standard goes! It's the season when school's out and vacations are begging to begin. Whether you're out of school or just looking to enjoy your weekends out of work, here are my favorite activities to enjoy this **summer that are fun and relaxing**:

1. Visit local and county fairs, farmer's markets, flea markets or other outside events.
2. Take a free factory tour. Find out how the stuff you use is really made.
3. Plan an outdoor summer film festival with a flavored popcorn bar and make it an annual event.
4. Go to professional sporting events, parks, lakes, beaches, or water parks.
5. Enjoy a backyard cookout and barbecue with friends, neighbors, and family.
6. Go camping to a local campground or even in your own backyard.

Whatever activity you choose to do, be sure to hydrate. The Marian Way to stay hydrated is to infuse your water with a combination of fruits, herbs, and vegetables to give ordinary water new

life and incredible taste. A few of my favorite combinations to add to water are:

- One cup watermelon, one quarter cup of mint leaves and a quarter cucumber, sliced
- One cup Blueberry and lemon and lime slices.
- One cup Strawberry, one quarter cup basil, one quarter cucumber, sliced
- Or create your own favorite combinations

For all these recipes use a large jar or pitcher; Pack it with sliced veggies and or fruit; Add fresh herbs; Top the container with ice water and place in the fridge for at least 2 hours to blend flavors or overnight. The infused flavors are delicious and beautiful.



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](mailto:Marian@TheMarianWay.com)

## Ferry Tales Youth Theater

PRESENTS

# Seussical Jr.

June 11 & June 12  
June 17 & June 18

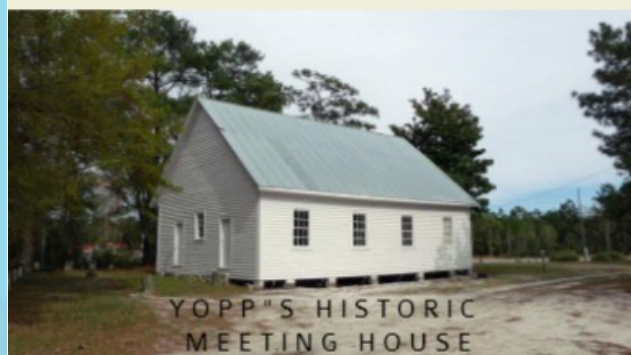
Sneads Ferry Community Center

GET YOUR TICKETS AT:



Book by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty Music by Stephen Flaherty Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens  
Conceived by Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Flaherty and Eric Idle  
Based on the Works of Dr. Seuss  
Seussical™ was originally produced on Broadway by SFX Theatrical Group, Barry & Fran Weissler and Universal Studios.  
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(212) 541-4684 mtishows.com

## Yopp Meeting House & Cemetery Restoration Project



### MEETING HOUSE

Yopps Meeting House, is a historic Primitive Baptist Church located In Sneads Ferry.. The current building was built around 1890, however there may have been a log building built as early as 1813. It is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places

### CEMETERY

The Cemetery on the grounds has graves dated pre-Civil and includes an African American portion as well as rare unmarked wooden markers.

## OUR MISSION

Over time the building and cemetery grounds have fallen victim to neglect and deterioration. With the help of many volunteers the beauty of the cemetery is beginning to come back. History matters and should be protected and taught. We strive to restore the church to it's original beauty as well as consistently maintain the cemetery grounds. Our vision is to use the building as a space to teach future generation and residents the rich culture and history of our community. To learn more about our project please follow us on Facebook at: Sneads Ferry Community Yopp Cemetery Restoration

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INSPIRE

PRESERVE

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VENMO



CONTACT: Heather Whitfield (562) 505-6786 or Terry Kramer (715) 808-4157



## Know NC Gun Laws and Rules

1. A person must be 18 years of age to purchase a long gun that includes rifles and shotguns. A photo ID and a background check is required by any NC gun shop before transferring this weapon to a buyer. If a person is 21 or older, and has a NC Conceal & Carry permit, then no additional background check is required.
2. A person must be 21 years of age or older to purchase a handgun. In order to purchase a handgun, the NC resident must have a photo ID and a NC Purchase Permit or NC Conceal Carry permit.
3. A person who holds a Conceal & Carry permit from another state may legally carry concealed in NC but cannot purchase and leave with the handgun in NC.
4. A person who is 18 through 20 years of age may obtain a purchase permit from their sheriff's office to purchase or receive a handgun from a private person such as a family member. These permits are not valid to purchase from a licensed FFL gun dealer.
5. A person on vacation may purchase a handgun and it will be shipped to a gun dealer in their state for pickup.
6. Any person may ship a firearm as long as a copy of their photo ID is included in the box and it MUST be received by an FFL. It is against the law in all states to ship firearms to a private person.
7. Both a NC purchase permit and conceal carry permit are good for 5 years. A conceal carry permit is renewed every 5 years for a fee. If the conceal carry has not expired, no additional classes are required.
8. A NC purchase permit can not exceed 5 dollars in cost and there is no limit to the number of permits a person can get.
9. Before travelling out of state with a firearm, make sure you know every state's laws that you will travel through. Call local gun shops in those states.
10. Firearms must be locked and out of reach of children and any one who is not allowed to access them.
11. 99% of all firearms are semi-automatic which means one pull of a trigger per bullet.
12. Full auto weapons require extensive paperwork, fees and background checks. Full auto weapons are very expensive.
13. It is legal to hunt in Pender County with a suppressed firearm.
14. A silencer or suppresser does not make the gun 100% quiet but does dampen the noise.
15. A person may not fire a firearm within city limits and should check with their local county for firearm regulations.

### Ten Rules of Safe Gun Handling

1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and away from people. Never point your gun at anything you don't intend to shoot.
2. Firearms should be unloaded when not in use. Always make sure the magazine is out of the gun and no live round is in the chamber.
3. Don't rely on your gun's "safety". Always treat a gun as if it could fire at anytime.
4. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it. A pile of dirt or clay will not let a bullet travel through. A wooden target will not stop a bullet.
5. Use correct ammunition. Avoid reloaded ammo unless you personally know where it came from and trust that person.
6. If your gun fails to fire when the trigger is pulled, handle with great care! Keep gun pointed at a safe direction and unload firearm.
7. Always wear eye and ear protection when shooting.
8. Be sure the barrel is clear of obstructions before shooting.
9. Clean your gun and inspect it regularly.
10. Learn all you can about the functions of your firearm and check for manufacturer recalls.



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A CRIME HAS BEEN  
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BE PREPARED AT ALL TIMES

One day you will wake  
 up and there won't be  
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 to do.

*Do them now.*

*Tomorrow is  
 never guaranteed*



Opossums eat ticks and  
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 scary but are the good  
 guys.

Never

*ask a person eating ice cream*

**straight from  
 the carton**

*how they are doing*





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**FRIDAYS - DINNER (5 PM)**

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# Simply Homemade Recipes

## Air Fryer Bacon-Wrapped Scallops with Sriracha Mayo



1/2 cup mayonnaise  
2 tablespoons Sriracha sauce  
1 pound bay scallops (about 36 small scallops)  
1 pinch coarse salt  
1 pinch freshly cracked black pepper  
12 slices bacon, cut into thirds  
1 serving olive oil cooking spray

Mix mayonnaise and Sriracha sauce together in a small bowl. Refrigerate Sriracha mayo until ready to serve. Preheat the air fryer to 390 degrees F (200 degrees C). Spread scallops out onto a plate or cutting board and blot dry with a paper towel. Season with salt and pepper. Wrap each scallop with 1/3 slice of bacon and secure with a toothpick. Spray the air fryer basket with cooking spray. Place bacon-wrapped scallops in the basket in a single layer; split into 2 batches if necessary. Cook in the air fryer for 7 minutes. Check for doneness; scallops should be opaque and bacon should be crispy. Cook 1 to 2 minutes longer, if necessary, checking every minute. Remove scallops carefully with tongs and place on a paper towel-lined plate to absorb excess oil from the bacon. Serve with Sriracha mayo.

## Oyakodon (Japanese Chicken and Egg Rice Bowl)



2 cups uncooked jasmine rice  
4 cups water  
4 skinless, boneless chicken thighs, cut into small pieces  
1 onion, cut in half and sliced  
2 cups dashi stock, made with dashi powder  
1/4 cup soy sauce  
3 tablespoons mirin (Japanese rice wine)  
3 tablespoons brown sugar  
4 eggs

Rinse the rice in 3 to 4 changes of water until the rinse water is almost clear, and drain off the rinse water. Bring the rice and 4 cups of water to a boil in a saucepan over high heat. Reduce heat to medium-low, cover, and simmer until the rice is tender and the liquid has been absorbed, 20 to 25 minutes. Place the chicken in a nonstick skillet with a lid, and cook and stir over medium heat until the chicken is no longer pink inside and beginning to brown, about 5 minutes. Stir in the onion, and cook and stir until the onion is soft, about 5 more minutes. Pour in the stock, and whisk in soy sauce, mirin, and brown sugar, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Bring the mixture to a boil, and let simmer until slightly reduced, about 10 minutes. Whisk the eggs in a bowl until well-beaten, and pour over the chicken and stock. Cover the skillet, reduce heat, and allow to steam for about 5 minutes, until the egg is cooked. Remove from heat. To serve, place 1 cup of cooked rice per bowl into 4 deep soup bowls, top each bowl with 1/4 of the chicken and egg mixture, and spoon about 1/2 cup of soup into each bowl.

Photos and recipes courtesy of AllRecipes.com

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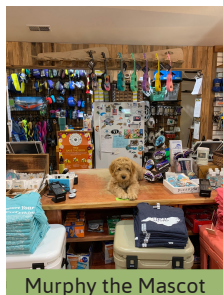
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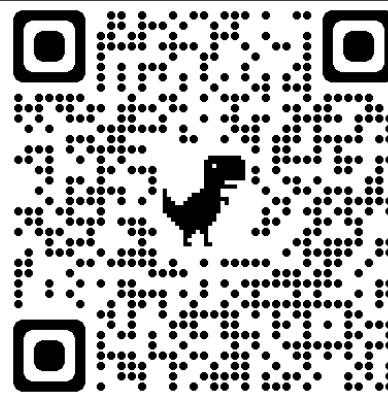
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