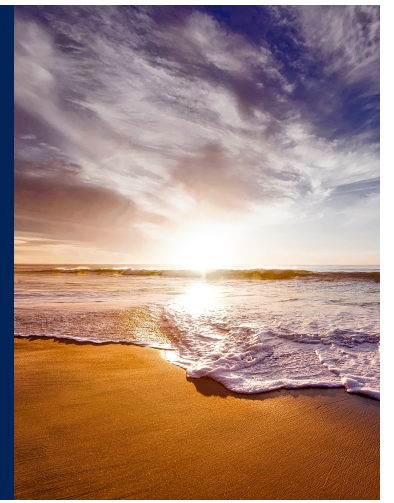




TOPSAIL TIMES

TOPSAIL ISLAND, HOLLY RIDGE, HAMPSTEAD AND SNEADS FERRY



● 9th September, 2022 ● American-Owned. Free Press. ● Volume II, Issue 19 **FREE!**

Armed Robbery And Murder Shocks Surf City

On Thursday, August 25th, Margaret Bracey went to work as usual. The store where she worked, Exotic Hemp, had just opened the Surf City location 9 months earlier. With shelves filled with bright colored bottles, bags and jars, the ultra-modern motif was a welcoming sight to curious newcomers and regulars alike. Situated between a popular ice cream spot and well-known craft beer establishment, Exotic Hemp employees and customers alike should have felt completely safe in this busy environment. Shortly after 6:30 pm, Margaret Bracey lost her life to a person, who for whatever reason, felt that her life meant less than what he needed to steal. There is no item or amount of money anywhere in this world that is worth more than a human life, but on that day, 22-year-old Charles Michael Haywood didn't care. Sources say that

Mr. Haywood's own mother was the reason he turned himself in the following morning to the Surf City Police. Her son had apparently been staying with her for the last few months after moving here from Holly Springs, North Carolina. His actions that day destroyed the family and loved ones of Margaret Bracey, as well as his own family.

Held without bond, it is possible that District Attorney Ben David will seek the death penalty in this horrific and senseless crime. Charles Michael Haywood brought a knife with him to the Exotic Hemp Company that day. A decision that will certainly alter the course of his own existence.

It is not known at this time why Mr. Haywood moved here from Holly Springs, even though that area had recently been in the news for the large number of opioid overdose deaths.

The Harnett County Sheriff stated that 21 deaths had been reported between January and June alone.

Mr. Haywood will go before a felony district court judge on September 14th in Pender County.

Has the Topsail area seen violent crime before? The answer is yes.

20 years ago, a young boy was brutally beaten to death by his dad while his mother was at work. The boy's little brother witnessed the murder. Many officers that handled the scene were traumatized.

In 2013 the area was shocked by the brutal death of two men who both died from stab wounds on the beach. Bekka Shellhammer, the wife of one of the men, was sentenced to 25 years in prison for her role.

On New Year's Day in 2018 a man shot and killed his 56-year-old mother and

her 71-year-old boyfriend. Apparently, he started out holding a gun to his own head when his mother stated that if he was going to kill himself, he may as well kill them both too. Unfortunately, he killed them but didn't take his own life.

Violent crime does not discriminate based on zip code or financial aspects of a community. It is everywhere and taking steps to minimize the likelihood of it may help in the long run.

On Monday, October 3rd, the Topsail Times Newspaper, Surf City Guns and Ammo and other local businesses are putting on a presentation for small business owners, "How to keep yourself, your employees and your customers safe". The event will be held at Smoky Tony's restaurant in Holly Ridge from 6-9pm. For reservations call (910) 803-2300. The cost is \$50 per person and will include dinner.



Margaret Nicole Bracey



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Print Dates 2022

Sept 23rd
Oct 7th
Oct 21st
Nov 4th
Nov 18th

Topsail Times

**TOPSAIL
TIMES
NEWSPAPER**



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Table of Contents

Topsail Gun Gal	3
Cooking 101	5
Sea Turtle Hospital News	6
The Blue Run: A Short Fishing Story (Pt 1)	7
Reel Housewives of Topsail Island	8
RHOTI	9
Surf City Beach Nourishment Project	10
The Marian Way OCPAW	11
NC Gun Laws And Rules	12
Recipes Puzzle	14

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www.TopsailTimes.net

Topsail Gun Gal

By Dorothy Royal

When purchasing canned whipped cream requires a person to be 21 years of age or older, it's time to reassess our society as a whole.

What happened to Yard Darts? What happened to letting kids play outdoors all day and get dirty and scraped up from climbing trees? Why are we so afraid to let kids get into fist fights at school? Why can't people be allowed to learn from experience?

What is the next step? Bubble wrapping everyone and limiting what they see and hear? Oh wait, I think that is already underway.

The time has come to say enough is enough. No person should need to ask for permission to buy a 32 ounce drink or to buy a can of whipped cream.

The United States of America was not founded on "asking permission" it was founded to protect its citizens from government overreach.

FREEDOM is our foundation, and "we the people" are allowing our freedoms to be stripped away at an alarming rate. Wake up people, we are one step away from controlled servitude.

Don't believe me? A new training video has come to light from the CISA (Cybersecurity and infrastructure Security Agency) which is a part of Homeland Security, that pushes the idea of family members turning in other family members who share incorrect (or not approved) information about Covid-19 on social media. Concerned yet? You should be.

Did you know that North Carolina is filled with odd seasons? First, we have

black fly season (spring) followed by mosquito season (that now lasts all year) followed by butterfly, dragonfly and giant spiders (garden/orb weaving/Argiope) and tiny baby lizards (anoles). Tiny ants, also known as piss ants or sugar ants, like to invade late summer and make you crazy. We are now also having a large flying spider season (late summer). Everyone's favorite year-round resident is the household Palmetto bug – yes it flies and no, they are not German cockroaches. Once you learn to name them and expect them, they really aren't so bad. Snakes, mice and rats like to wait until you least expect them to show off their beauty – keeps your heart pumping! Fire ants, which originated in South America, live in giant mounds in the middle of your yard (watch out they bite!) and soon enough the ultra-terrifying python invasion may be headed our way. That is a great big no!

Ruger has come out with a new rifle called the Ruger LC Carbine. This lightweight rifle will be chambered in 5.7 x 28 and will take the same magazines as the Ruger 57 pistol. The price will be around \$ 929.95.

Ready for hurricane season? You need to be. First, remember to take pictures of all your firearms and email them to yourself. Make sure if you evacuate that you take your firearms with you in a secured fashion. If you cannot find a place out of harm's way, that might be able to safely store them for you.

Remember knowledge is power, Freedom is not negotiable and no one wants Pythons in North Carolina!

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Cooking 101 - Don't Let Me Do It

By Becky Borneman

Anyone who knows me knows I have no idea what I'm doing in the kitchen. I mean, it's bad. Surprisingly I love watching cooking shows and reading food magazines. I love the idea of cooking, I just don't like the act.

When Jeff and I first got together he came to Florida to meet my parents. Jeff would later tell me that sometime during that trip my dad pulled him aside to reiterate my cooking abilities, or lack thereof. I believe the exact words of my father were "She cannot cook a lick". Rude? No. True? Yes.

Few months later we move in together and Jeff promises to do all the cooking. This went great for a while. Until one day I thought I would make him cookies from scratch. And it went beautifully, until it

was time to bake the cookies. Now, the instructions say to "Grease the bottom of the pan". So I greased...the bottom...of the pan. In my defense, no where on this recipe does it say to grease the INSIDE of the bottom of the pan. Needless to say that pan was ruined. The color went out of Jeff's face as I explained what happened.

Then a few years later I got my confidence up again. I decided one morning to make him pancakes. I mixed the batter and took out the cast iron skillet and thought this would be great. I sprayed on top of the skillet and made a perfect pancake. Then I thought...you know what would be sweet? I have these cookie cutters that I got over Valentine's Day (again, just for décor since I do not bake after that fiasco earlier referenced). I thought it would be fun to put those

metal cookie cutters on the skillet and make pancakes shaped like a heart. Let me tell you something...don't do that. Those metal cookie cutters bounced all over that hot skillet sparking the whole way. Needless to say we had McDonalds for breakfast.

That Christmas Jeff got me a Paula Deen's cookbook. I felt so happy he still had a little faith in me. Then I realized what kind of cookbook it was. It was the Paul Deen's Cookbook for Kids. And the very first rule in the book...Do Not Attempt To Cook Without Your Adult Helper At Home. And I have followed that rule. Our anniversary is coming up and I told Jeff I will cook dinner and I will use that cookbook. Get ready honey...macaroni and cheese and cut up hot dogs by candlelight.



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Al-Anon Meetings

Hampstead Meeting Spots:

TUESDAY 7:00 PM

Hampstead United Methodist Church
15395 US-17, Hampstead, NC, 28443

THURSDAY 7:00PM

at Barlow Vista and every second Thursday is a Newcomer meeting

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Sea Turtle Hospital News



By Karen Sota

We enjoy all aspects of our work at our hospital. We're intimately involved with every turtle that comes through our building, whether they're with us a few days or several years. But the best part of our work is the day we get to send them home. On an overcast, humid morning three of our fully rehabilitated patients got their second chance at a long and happy turtle life.

Kemp's "Turtledove" stranded in November of 2021 as one of the cold stuns that frequently get caught off-guard when the waters in New England take a dramatic dip in temperature. Turtledove arrived at our facility along with the other "Twelve Days of Christmas" (named for the second day in that Christmas classic) anemic and weighing barely two pounds. With her healthy appetite and TLC she bulked up to an amazing ten pounds by the time we paraded her in front of a cheering crowd of a thousand turtle fans who lined the beach. Once she was set down she literally put all four flippers in gear and with a little more speed might have managed to get airborne by the time she reached the surf. We have never seen a sea turtle move that fast on land.

Two juvenile loggerheads, both from local waters, were on deck waiting not so patiently for their trip down to the shore on our turtle taxi. "Pammie" was rescued

9/28 of last year in Swansboro, suffering from a boat strike. From the start it was obvious that she was a real people-turtle. You couldn't walk past her without her head popping up with a big smile on her face. We realized, of course, that she was just hoping that we had food, and with a weight gain of twenty-five pounds during her time with us it appears it was more than just hope. Pammie was carried into the surf where she rocketed away.

Finally it was "Sahara Desert's" turn. A relative short-timer she was picked up on Topsail by our staff on 6/20 after we received a call that she had ingested a fishhook. If a turtle is lunching on bait we've learned that it's a good idea to check by radiograph to make sure there are not multiple hooks that we don't know about. Sahara was transported to CMAST in Morehead City for evaluation where the veterinary team removed a hook from her esophagus. She returned to us, appetite intact and on the short-list for release. She was a beauty, and the crowd was very excited to get a few pics when we asked her to slowly walk the last few yards to the waves.

Back at the ranch we still have quite a few turtles who are waiting for Dr. Harms' next visit and those all-important release papers. That's coming up shortly when he arrives with his fourth-year students for an intensive two weeks in all things sea turtle. Mid October will be

your last chance to visit us before we close for crucial maintenance and re-configuration in our Sea Turtle Bay area. Check our website for more information.

The turtle mamas are off the clock at the end of August and now the focus is on those babies that have been incubating in the sand over the summer. We can't tell you where or when a nest will hatch. Honest. Those little critters come out when they're good and ready and we don't get advance notice. It's a matter of luck to be there for a boil. If you miss the hatch you might be able to catch a nest analysis which is done three days after the hatch. Volunteers excavate and analyze the contents which just might include a late rising hatchling or two that missed the alarm. If you spot a nesting mama, see hatchlings emerging or see 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.

Tours during September through mid-October will be Thursday – Saturday from 11 AM – 2 PM. After that we will close through November for facility maintenance. 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 safer as we still contend with Covid. Sorry, but we are not able to accommodate walk-ups for tours once we sell out for the day.

Please note that if our surrounding counties experience an increase in Covid cases we may require masks for everyone over the age of three, no exceptions. Check the website for current masking requirements when buying your tickets. Construction traffic on Charlie Medlin Dr. can sometimes result in delays in getting to our hospital so please plan accordingly. Our gift shop is open to the public during tour hours.



Sahara Desert being released



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Pammie on her turtle taxi



Turtledove meets her fans

Turtledove sprints to freedom

The Blue Run: A Fishing Story

By Carol Ann Ross

The First Installment of a Short Story

Ira Hopkin quit school when he was fourteen years old. But in 1940 that was not an uncommon practice for the youth of fishing and farming communities in the southeast coastal areas of North Carolina. Then, males that age knew most of what was needed to be proficient in their families' trades. In that day and time, boys in rural communities were self-disciplined, hard-working contributors to their families' well being, generally speaking.

This was doubly true for Ira. Nothing derogatory could be said about young Hopkin's work ethic, that's for sure. Of the seven Hopkin children, Ira, the middle child, was probably the most diligent at the tasks he was asked to perform by either of his parents.

Albeit, being the only boy among six girls, the mores of the day allowed him little in the way of competition.

Even before quitting school, Ira was up at dawn with his father to begin the chores. And then, after the school bus deposited him at the top of the long winding dirt path to his home, Ira scurried to either join his father in the fields or to be with him at the sound where the skiff and dory were moored and where Henry Hopkin often sat designing fishing nets and seines for himself and other local fishermen.

Already Ira had learned that craft from his father and even at his young years considered himself a master seine maker. Henry did not argue the fact. "The boy is a quick learner," the elder Hopkin often remarked.

After having learned to read, write and cipher, Ira had lost interest in school. The last couple of years he found it tedious and boring, though the teacher's monthly report indicated he was passing all subjects with flying colors.

Still, Ira carried a yearning to leave school. He would rather have been fishing in the ocean, flounder gigging in the sound or shrimping in sloughs. But he dare not mention this to his parents. He knew his good grades and the promise of a high school diploma was a source of pride to them. He'd watched his father nod his head as he perused the grade card from school.

The gleam in his mother's eye was undeniable too, as Mae stood alongside her husband reading the comments from the teacher. Everything was above average, everything indicated that Ira had the potential to be special.

Like so many, the Hopkins believed education was the only way to become successful and therefore, a better person. But Ira knew too that his father found joy spending the long days on the water with him.

It was different there—on the ocean where the sense of accomplishment was more powerful—much more powerful than the grade card from school.

There, on the water, the two shared a feeling of determination as they pulled on the net, or reeled in a big mackerel. They toiled together, sharing sweat and groans of exertion, then laughter when a task was completed.

It took both of them to do the tasks and once the fish were in the boat, there was the satisfaction of knowing there would be enough money to purchase things needed—even a few things wanted. But the greatest sense of fulfillment came from the fishing experience itself and being part of the ocean. It offered an acknowledgement of the presence of the surrounding power and was God-like. Nothing could compare.

Henry knew that saltwater ran in his son's veins, as it did his. The farming, working the land and growing food, was just a means to an end. He suspected his son felt that way too.

As always, Ira and his father made sure the farming chores were completed—that the corn, beans and squash were planted and harvested. Those were the foods that got them through the winter.

There was an unspoken bond between them, the men, using their brute strength, enduring the weather, nurturing their crops, sweating in the sun—while the women nurtured them and provided in their own ways for the family.

They were a family, each helping to make life as good as possible, each with their own foibles and personalities—different, but one.

However, things were changing in the Hopkin household. Subtly at first, Ira suspected that the girls really didn't notice, but his mother did. He saw it in her eyes, in her expressions.

Henry Hopkin just didn't seem to have the stamina he once did. He tired more easily and ate less. Ira had noticed the bagginess of his father's trousers and the diminishing strength in his arms.

Because of his father's declining health, by the spring of 1939 Ira was doing most of the planting. It had to be done, but then as soon as he could, he readied the dory for fishing. Fishing was the best, according to Ira. He and his father agreed on that. Even Mae commented on the light in her "boys" eyes when they readied for a fishing trip. "You always get your strength back when you know you're going fishing," she had commented on more than one occasion. And when spring rolled around, Mae watched them repair any faults with the boats and busy

themselves with mending any tears in the net.

With the spring came the running of the blue fish. They would be heading north from Florida, following pop-eye mullet and menhaden, as those smaller fish migrated north too.

Ira could not remember a time when he did not help his father with fishing in some way. The two went together, his father and the ocean. He could not imagine one without the other. Both represented a world different than the one in the house they lived in. Was it because there, on the ocean, it was a man's world? He wasn't sure. But Ira knew he loved being on the water—the world where he breathed a different air. Oh, his mother and the girls would help salt the fish and pack them in barrels to be sold to the markets. But they couldn't know or understand what it was like to be on the ocean.

His six sisters were like other young girls of their time, they did the cleaning and cooking, mending and tending. They stayed home or near it, and rarely ventured to the docks and were never on the water.

The two oldest had found beaux and married. Lilly now lived in Fayetteville with her husband Ralph, and Clara had gone to Richlands with her husband Harold.

Eighteen-year-old Olivia, teased often for being boyfriend-less, was valedictorian of her class at Topsail School in nearby Hampstead and had applied for scholarships to attend the college in Wilmington. After graduation she would be moving there to live with Aunt Inez.

Soon, Ira would be the oldest of the Hopkin children at home. The thought warmed him, as he'd never liked being teased and bossed about by the older girls who always referred to him as baby brother. Perhaps that was why he'd always chosen to do things outside, particularly in one of the boats—far away from the girl's chiding. There he could be alone, be his own man, his own person. There, his sisters held no knowledge or interest. Ira liked his older sisters. Yes, he even loved them, but for whatever reason, he knew he would not miss them terribly.

On the other hand, his younger sisters looked up to him, one or more was always asking for him to ride them on his shoulders or to push them in the tire swing in the yard.

Vera and Theda, were eleven and nine, respectively. They were starting to get a little big for him to carry around, but he did it nevertheless, just to hear them giggle and brag about their big strong brother.

Little Gale, only five, and light as a feather, was the apple of his eye. She was the shy one and rarely joined in the banter between him and the other sisters, rarely played with her doll and

seemed to prefer digging in the soft spongy marsh where the hermit crabs lived.

The hem of her dress was muddy so often that Mae Hopkin eventually let her wear only her underpants outside to play. Of course, she was teased by the other sisters and as a result, Gale kept her distance. Suspecting that some of that shyness was feigned due to fear of ridicule. Ira felt he shared a kindred spirit with the child.

Often when either was being teased by a sibling, the two would share a knowing look. It was like they shared a secret, an unspoken one—somewhat like the bond he had with his father.

On days when Ira and Henry took to the water, Gale was the only one who would follow them down to the dock and watch as they motored the dory around the stand of water oaks and out of sight.

Every once in a while, Henry Hopkin would gather his daughter to pull her into the skiff and take her for a ride. Ira usually steered while Gale sat on her father's lap. Above the roar of the outboard, Ira could hear very little that his father and sister said. But he did observe the tenderness of little Gale's hand reaching back to caress her father's face as he spoke softly into her ear.

If the ocean was too rough for fishing, Henry would take his daughter out to fish in the sound. But they did not venture out through the inlet with Gale though she begged and begged. Mae was adamant about not taking such a young girl into the ocean. And Henry abided by his wife's wishes.

Still, in the evenings when Henry and Ira returned from a long day of working on the water, Gale would be waiting, waving as the outboard sputtered and as the boat was guided to its mooring.

She was the only sister to watch as father and son unloaded crates of seafood. She watched as Ira stood before the dockside table cleaning the fish, deftly settling the long thin knife beneath the pectoral fin before slicing the head off, then piercing the flesh just before the pelvic fin and dragging the knife back to let the guts spill out. As he had learned from Henry, Ira described each organ and explained their use in the body of the fish before sweeping the innards away into the water.

"Is that right, Daddy?" Gale always turned to ask her father if Ira was correct in his descriptions. Henry would nod as he stood silently next to his son, allowing the relationship between the two siblings to grow.

Gale was mesmerized by it all. It was at her age that Ira had begun going out with his father to gather shellfish in the sound and troll for blues in the Atlantic. Realizing how young a five year old really was, Ira was astounded that his father had let him go out beyond the inlet.

REEL HOUSEWIVES

of Topsail Island

SAT, OCT 1, 2022



Surf City Soundside Park | Event begins at 8am

The Reel Housewives of Topsail Island's annual bike ride will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2022. It will start and finish at the Surf City Soundside Park. The event begins at 8:00AM... this will include opening ceremony and you can also register during this time if you have not already done so. The actual bike ride will begin at 9:00am. We will leave from the park and head North.



fight
CANCER

faith
HOPE
love FIGHT
Warrior



The Reel Housewives of Topsail Island has a Board of Directors that consist of seven women (as pictured above): Nealie Williams, Annette Erny, Susan Billet, Stacie Justice, Debbie Pekofsky, Desi McAlister and Renee Rhodes. These women graciously donate their time and knowledge to this cause. This event wouldn't be possible without the help of this community continuously giving and donating.

www.reelhousewivesoftopsailisland.com

2022 RHOTI EVENTS

Please join us at the following local events where you can register for the RHOTI Bike Ride while enjoying good company and some live music!

All registration events are held between 12:00-3:00pm.

*\$35 registration fee includes entry to the bike ride, our annual RHOTI t-shirt, and a sponsored lunch at the Surf City Line immediately following the ride.

*To be noted: eBikes can be used for the ride but should not be motorized until riders have reached N. New River Drive, allowing distancing between riders.

REGISTRATIONS

Saturday,
September 10, 2022

At

Shuckin' Shack

13460 NC50 #101

Surf City, NC28445

(910) 803-2037



Saturday,
September 17, 2022

At

The Trailer Bar

1701 North New River Drive

Surf City, NC28445

(910) 541-0777



The Celebration
(starts around 1:00pm)

At

Surf City Line

2112 North New River Drive

Surf City, NC28445

(910) 541-0777



Email us at 26rhoti@gmail.com

Surf City Line
Of Topsail Island

Surf City Moves Forward with Beach Nourishment Project

By Kyle Breuer

Surf City Press Release

Surf City, NC – The Town of Surf City proudly announces they can move forward with the next step in their long-awaited beach nourishment project. After reviewing the Validation Report that was submitted in March of this year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is moving to authorize a Surf City only project and will now be working on the General Re-evaluation Report (GRR) as their next step.

The General Re-Evaluation Report will allow the USACE to redefine the scope of the project and the economics for Surf City given that neighboring town, North Topsail Beach, chose not to participate. The goal is to have approval and subsequent authorization as soon as possible on the GRR. Additional next steps prior to initial construction will include the signing of a project partnership agreement between the town and USACE and easement acquisitions as required.

Town Council and staff are pleased with this great news and will continue

working closely with the USACE on the project timeline with an estimated 2024 completion.

“After a hard-fought battle, we are finally one step closer to seeing our project begin. It certainly pays to be patient and persistent on a project of this magnitude and I am thankful for Colonel Bennett, Bob Keistler, Kent Tranter, and their team who has worked hard along with us to see this project through to completion. Surf City wants to extend our gratitude to Senator Tillis, Senator Burr, and Congressman Rouzer for their persistence and support to bring this much-needed project to our shoreline. We are also thankful to North Topsail Beach for working along with us as they were seeking deauthorization which allows us to move forward. Since they declined the project, we can now move on with our part.” – Mayor Medlin

“We greatly appreciate not only their patience but most importantly, the outstanding partnership we have received from Surf City leadership” said, COL Benjamin Bennett, Commander of the Wilmington District at USACE.

“We are pleased that we have identified a clear path to move forward together on this project. Construction of this beach is one of our top priorities and we look forward to seeing it through to protect lives and property in the area from coastal storms.”

This federal project will significantly increase the amount of sand on Surf City beaches by constructing a new dune that is projected to be 25 foot (ft) wide at an elevation of 15 ft above NGVD 29 and a berm with a crown width of 50 ft and a top elevation of 7 ft above NGVD 29. For more information and to follow updates on this project please visit the Town’s website at [www.surfcitync.gov/2370/Beach Nourishment](http://www.surfcitync.gov/2370/Beach+Nourishment)



Map Number	Addresses
1	3018-2910
2	2907-2806
3	2804-2720
4	2718-2622
5	2620-2602
6	2516-2422
7	2420-2324
8	2326-2302
9	2216-2116
10	2114-2008
11	2006-1912
12	1908-1820
13	1816-1708
14	1716-1612
15	1610-1528
16	1526-1502
17	1420-1350
18	1348-1326
19	1324-1224
20	1222-1140
21	1138-1116
22	1114-1020
23	1018-916
24	914-810
25	808-702
26	614-512
27	510-406
28	404-214
29	212 S. Shore - 112 N. Shore
30	110-116
31	118-206
32	208-314
33	316-334
34	402-426
35	502-522
36	602-622
37	702-730 Sunrise Court
38	Hines MHP - 818 N. Topsail
39	820 N. Topsail - 918 N. New River
40	918 N. New River - 1008 N. Shore
41	1010 N. Shore - 1108 N. Shore
42	1110-1214
43	1216-1310

Oceanfront parcels that will be affected by the project. Map numbers correlate with the Aerial Plat Maps available on Surf City's website via the link provided in the article.

F.U.R.R

FELINE URGENT RESCUE AND REHAB

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Preppie

I was living under a prep school and was too scared to come out much. Finally, I was rescued by FURR and have been meowing with joy ever since. I am the sweetest little 9-month-old girl

with very unique soft fur. I am black with a silver undercoat! I love being with people and I never knew it could be so great to be loved, fed regularly and safe. You will fall in love with me at the first meeting. I'm fully vetted, spayed, microchipped and ready to go.



Max

I had been living outside in the woods near a Bojangles. Luckily, a good Samaritan saved me and got me to FURR. My name is Max and I'm an

adorable black girl who is just 6-months-old. I had a horribly injured tail that had to be amputated, but I'm doing great and look quite cute with my stub. I'm litter-trained, spayed, vaccinated and good with other cats. I hope you'll come visit me soon so we can start loving each other.



Jhett

I'm the cutest one in the family, but my siblings don't agree. Any way you look at it, all three of us kittens are adorable, striped Tabbies with lots of white. We are ready to go and have had all of our vet work done. We are healthy, happy, bouncy and fun! At least come play with us because we love visitors. We

live in south Burgaw with our foster mom. My sister and brother are named Brie and Ash. We were living in the woods at a fast food place until we were rescued by FURR and our foster mom!



Perch

I can't believe I'm still homeless! I am a Russian Blue mix with a white spot on my chest. Although I am a little shy with new folks, I warm up quickly to

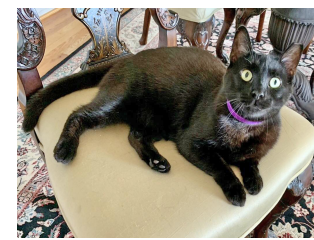
someone giving me love and attention. My fur is so soft and I hardly shed at all. I'd prefer a quiet household where I can curl up on the couch and watch TV. I am such a gentle and docile 9-month-old kitty. If you love the look and softness of a Russian Blue, please come visit me. I know you will want to take me home!



Jax

I am so lucky that a good Samaritan saved me with FURR's help. I was living outside in the woods at a Bojangles. I am Jax, a very sweet silver Tabby boy who is 6-months-old. I am already litter-trained, vaccinated, neutered and good with

other cats. I went through a lot on my own in the woods as a little kitten. Now, it's time for me to find my forever family. Come meet me and fall in love!



Carbon

I am literally a once-in-a-lifetime cat. I am 3-years young and my owners are leaving the country. They really loved me a lot, but they couldn't take me

with them so I had to come back to FURR. I am the most gentle, laid-back kitty ever! I would love a family to dote over me. My fur is silky smooth and soft and I love to be petted, rubbed and brushed! I will greet you at the door and I'm not timid at all. In fact, I love to talk and tell you all about my thoughts. I hope to be adopted really soon, so hurry up and come meet me!

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Terry Schultz, Founder & President



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"Falling" Back into A Routine ... The Marian Way

By Marian Taylor

I hear the morning chatter of kids and the familiar sounds of the school bus pulling away from the neighborhood. Whether you have kids in school, are in the workforce, volunteering or have scheduled activities, September is a time of change, and renewal. Adjusting to fall activities and new schedules can be hectic, and overwhelming. I don't know about you, but my mornings are the fastest part of my day. To bring less stress and calm to your day, I recommend preparing for tomorrow by doing a few simple tasks the night before. Not only will you be less stressed, but you will have time for the unexpected.

7 simple Evening Solutions to save you time and frustration in the morning:

- Create tomorrow's To Do List
- Pack lunch and water bottle
- Finish a load of laundry
- To save you valuable time in the morning, place everything that you need for the next day in a "Come and Go Bag" and place it by the door. (Available at TheMarianWay.com) Ex: grocery list, outgoing mail, store returns, reading glasses, sunglasses, planner, library books, car keys, change for the parking meter etc.
- Plan tomorrow's dinner. (Check recipe for ingredients and take out frozen to thaw)
- Load and start the dishwasher
- Get to bed on time

7 simple Morning Solutions to bring order and joy to your everyday living:

- Review today's To Do List and schedule
- Read devotions, set intentions, meditate
- Eat breakfast
- Empty the dishwasher and reload
- Start a load of laundry
- Make the beds
- Wipe toilets, and bathroom sinks



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 Decor and more -The Marian Way! To find out how The Marian Way can help you with your project, please email: Marian@TheMarianWay.com

OCPAW: Love a Red Bone Hound!

By Dotty Ann Harding

President and CEO of Onslow County Partners for Animal Welfare | www.oc-paw.com

This letter was written to me several years ago.

Love a Red Bone Hound!

A paw's soul does not always come into your life peacefully... they make you question your life... they change your reality on what is important at this point in your life... they can change your life in a second... and the purpose of your life.....

The "Girl" Story (Now called Lucy Girl)... Here we go again... got a request to rescue and foster a Redbone Hound... for three years, since she was three months old, she was penned outside in a 6x6 ft. cage area with a concrete /dirt floor and a too-small to fit in plastic dog house for her shelter when we arrived, I started to cry. James and I could not walk away... but immediately knew we had to get her out of her situation and to a vet... on our way to Dr. Martin ...I wanted to cry again, but I'm a grown-up woman dog rescuer and was trying my best to hold everything together. James, my husband, said she needed a new name besides "Girl," so I looked into her eyes and thought she was a beautiful red color under all that grime and smell....so she became "Lucy Girl" after Lucille Ball with all that beautiful red hair.

Lucy's story is sad but after the vet visit and going to Rebecca, our groomer, and coming to the "Cole Paws Freedom Farm," she is being transformed, and she is an extraordinary survivor. Lucy only weighed 32 lbs., normal wt. for her breed is 45-80 lbs., we will work with OCPAW

(All volunteer non-profit, Onslow County Partners for Animal Welfare, Inc), and Dr. Martin to get her on the road to recovery. The hardest part is she was alone for so long, so we have been extra loving and socializing and giving her healthy protein-rich food and meds to help her with the heartworms; she is one of the sweetest dogs I have ever encounteredDr. Martin, of Holly Ridge Veterinarian Hospital, said she had an awful rough life physically. But, I think of how lonely this spirited soul must have been day after day in her confinement... No soft bed, no toys, no warm lap, no loving hugs, no running on grass.....One day Lucy will be ready for her forever home....she will make a lovely, loving addition to the lucky family that adopts her.....wanted to share "Lucy Girl's" Story as she will be here on the farm waiting and we're reading up on the Red Bone Hound and now know how amazing she can be & we will give her a new life story.

One month has passed, and we have a new "Lucy"I have never known such a sweet and loving rescued soul, and I have known many. Lucy is healing, happy, and has such beautiful eyes that you can fall into, and she is learning something new each day. She can run fast now, fetch a ball, eat out of a bowl and enjoy the wide open space. She loves the young girls next door that come to visit her and is reaching deeper and deeper into our hearts about surviving a hard life and coming out the other side a true winner of her future. More is out there for her, like the loving family that will appreciate her journey. We are blessed that we could be a part of her healing and survival.

Most important is a loving, caring home prepared to cherish Lucy in their daily lives.

Now, after six months, the most wonderful and lucky family has adopted Lucy.....she built my spirit and heart in believing that no matter what the circumstances, there is hope for every dog to have the best family ever. - Jean Cole

Donna Plowmen and her family provided Lucy with the loving home she so desired that Jean Cole mentions. Donna has a heart of gold and the courage of a lion to provide the strength Lucy needed to help make her whole. In the end, it was Lucy who stayed by Donna's mother, Winnie, when illness came to her, and I believe showed Winnie the path to the Bridge we must all cross. And in those days, Lucy gave back the strength she was given from Donna to comfort her mother on her journey home.

If you would be interested in being a foster for an animal at the **Onslow County Animal Shelter**, the information to do so is located on their website. Help give an animal a second chance to find a loving home. <http://www.onslowcountync.gov/animal>

Similar stories about dogs like Lucy have continued to come our way I am writing about Lucy to give others something to think about, ponder, consider, or whatever terminology you want to hang your hat on. As some of us know, life changes can do so suddenly, catching us off guard and not prepared, even if we thought we had made plans

for uninvited events.

Our organization is an **Animal Welfare Liaison**. We assist you in finding a solution to the problem you are seeking a resolution for. Through the assistance of the **Dallas Fred Allen Endowment Fund**, we can help you with low-cost spay/neuter vouchers for your companion animal or feral cat colonies in Onslow County. Re-homing assistance is available not only on our FaceBook page but through Adopt A Pet, Pet Finder, and PawPrints Magazine.



Lucy

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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Italian Deli Pasta Salad



1 (16 ounce) package rotini or fusili pasta
2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
8 ounces provolone cheese, cubed

4 ounces Genoa salami, chopped
4 ounces sliced pepperoni, cut into bite-sized pieces
4 ounces hot capicola sausage, roughly chopped
1 medium red onion, minced
1 (8 ounce) can black olives, drained
1/2 cup giardiniera
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1 (16 ounce) bottle Italian salad dressing, or as needed

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil; cook rotini at a boil until tender yet firm to the bite, 8 to 10 minutes. Drain and rinse with cold water. Combine pasta, tomatoes, provolone cheese, salami, pepperoni, capicola, onion, olives, giardiniera, Parmesan cheese, and 1/2 of the Italian dressing in a large bowl. Stir to combine and refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Before serving, add some or all of the remaining dressing.

Chicken Breasts with Balsamic Vinegar and Garlic



4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts
salt and pepper to taste
3/4 pound fresh mushrooms, sliced
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons olive oil
6 cloves garlic
cup balsamic vinegar

3/4 cup chicken broth
1 bay leaf
1/4 teaspoon dried thyme
1 tablespoon butter

Season the chicken with salt and pepper. Rinse the mushrooms and pat dry. Season the flour with salt and pepper and dredge the chicken breasts in the flour mixture. Heat oil in a skillet over medium high heat and saute the chicken until it is nicely browned on one side (about 3 minutes). Add the garlic. Turn the chicken breasts and scatter the mushrooms over them. Continue frying, shaking the skillet and stirring the mushrooms. Cook for about 3 minutes, then add the vinegar, broth, bay leaf and thyme. Cover tightly and simmer over medium low heat for 10 minutes, turning occasionally. Transfer the chicken to a warm serving platter and cover with foil. Set aside. Continue simmering the sauce, uncovered, over medium high heat for about 7 minutes. Swirl in the butter or margarine and discard the bay leaf. Pour this mushroom sauce mixture over the chicken and serve.

Photos and recipes courtesy of AllRecipes.com

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I spent the first year of my life homeless and then I got pregnant. Thank goodness Feline Urgent Rescue and Rehab (FURR) saved me right before I had seven little kittens. Now, I'm finished with nursing and caring for everyone else but myself. I just love to relax, eat, and get lots of love and rubs from the FURR volunteers. Please give me a chance to join your quiet home. I'm quite beautiful and have a funny way of always sticking out my tongue. I prefer to be the only kitty so that I can have all your attention and love just for me. I think I deserve that after all I've been through. Don't you? I am fully vetted, I tested negative for FIV/FelV, I've been microchipped and spayed, and I'm approximately 3-years young.

If you would like more information, please call Feline Urgent Rescue and Rehab at 864-483-2444 or email adoptafurrcat@gmail.com. Terry is my foster mom and personal assistant and she'll be happy to help arrange a time for us to meet.

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