



TOPSAIL TIMES

TOPSAIL ISLAND, HOLLY RIDGE, HAMPSTEAD AND SNEADS FERRY



● 6th January, 2023

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FREE!

With 2023 Comes Change

On January 1st, 2023, 21 States and the District of Columbia (Washington D.C.) will have legalized medical and recreational marijuana. Maryland and Missouri will be the newest members to join the group. How strange that almost 50% of the States have made this legal and still it is illegal federally? Legalizing the use of psychedelic mushrooms for treatment has begun in both Oregon and Colorado. The mushrooms that naturally grow everywhere in the world (except for Antarctica) are now being researched to treat depression, even in cases where other medications have failed. Several other states are considering following suit.

With a shrinking workforce and many jobs being replaced by robots, some states have decided to increase the minimum wage. Montana will increase their rate to \$9.95 an hour, New York City and surrounding counties will go to \$15.00 an hour while the State of Washington will be the highest at \$15.74. Will this bring people back into the workforce? Probably not.

A McDonalds in Texas will be the first location to be mostly automated. No longer will a person hand you a bag full of food, instead a conveyor belt will deliver your order, hopefully with everything you ordered. McDonalds claims that people will still be working on site, but the design of this location is geared toward take out or order ahead. Critics of the location claim that McDonalds is trying to replace their human employees, but in all reality the lack of employees may be driving this modern design.

Laws are constantly changing, some for the better, some not, but some of the new laws are geared toward giving felons a second chance. In most cases a person with a felony cannot obtain employment, therefore limiting how they earn an income.

In Michigan a program is being rolled out that will allow up to 2 felony convictions to be removed from a person's record if they do not commit a crime in the ten years following the conviction.

In California the time limit is greatly reduced to 4 years.

There are exceptions to this new program. Crimes of the sexual nature and domestic violence will be exempted from the program.

The Federal 4473 form that all gun purchasers must fill out when buying a firearm from an FFL has some significant changes too. A person will now be required to state if they live within city limits. A person aged 18, 19 or 20 years old will now have a 10 day wait period before being able to leave with a long gun they want to purchase (rifle or shotgun). Want to build your own firearm? There is a new category for that too.

Governor Roy Cooper has requested a full report from Duke Energy regarding the rolling power outages during the big freeze in December that left 200,000 people without power or heat. Lives were lost and people were literally "left in the dark" without any forewarning. Maybe 2023 needs to be the year of solar panels and wind power for homes, at least as a backup plan.

Farmer's almanac is calling for a wet and wintery last 2 weeks of January for eastern North Carolina, but states that February should be "normal winter conditions". Oh goody.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dolphin Dip 2022



Shrimp Dip 2022



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Topsail Times

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Table of Contents

Topsail Gun Gal	3
Fashion Statements	5
Sea Turtle Hospital News	6
Local History	7
What To Expect In Holly Ridge In 2023	8
PEP Awards \$8,000 In Mini-Grants To Teachers	9
Teresa Batts, The Newly Appointed Surf City Mayor	10
What To Look For When Shopping For An Axe	11
Coastal Common Sense The Origins Of COVID-19	13
N.C. Pesticide Board Announces Recent Case Settlements	15
Guns For Women	16
Pender County Residents Urged To Conserve Water	17
Holiday Recipes Word Search	18



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Topsail Gun Gal

By Dorothy Royal

The IAAPA trade show in Orlando, Florida is a yearly event geared toward Amusement parks, water parks, bowling alleys and arcades. Professionals from around the world come to show off the latest and greatest in high technology. Robots were popular this year, both as life-sized costumes and as a food server for restaurants. Unlike R2D2 and C3PO, the robots of tomorrow are function

without the humor.

Virtual reality ruled the tech universe. Games that included a headset and motion seats were all the rage. Adults lined up by the dozens to get their turn at fighting dinosaurs, zombies and aliens. Flashy lights and lots of color was everywhere. The bigger the better when it came to sculptures. Nothing says, "This place is cool" like a life-sized dinosaur or giant bull.

Large, loud, colorful and action packed seemed to be the theme. If you could be transported to another galaxy (or under the Sea) then the manufacturers had done their job. A really popular game was a 2-person sponge bob ride where people sat on a boat that was shaped like a jet ski. One person had the experience of driving the boat (wearing VR head gear of course) while the person in the back fought off all the bad sea creatures.

The only problem is that all that super cool technology comes with a hefty price tag.

Single person player games started just under \$30,000 while 2 person games ran closer to \$60,000.00 and up. Need a roller coaster? There were designers there for those on hand. Want to open a giant water park? No problem there either. Just bring an unlimited budget and the skies the limit!



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We All Have A Weakness

By Becky Borneman

Well, we've had quite the cold weather lately. It was somewhat nice to have seasonal Christmas weather for Christmas. But I was happy when the temps started going back into at least the 50's. I will confess that when snow flurries were a possibility, I did get a little excited. There's just something about a snow-covered Christmas.

Now y'all North Carolinians may not be used to snow but y'all haven't seen how us Floridians handle it. To sum up...we don't! We panic and buy up all the milk and bread and create havoc in the grocery stores worse than y'all do.

When I was 11 years old we had a "dusting of snow" Christmas in Tallahassee. I'll never forget it. We had tickets to the Nutcracker ballet that

night and my dad drove my grandmother, my mama and myself to the auditorium on FSU campus and dropped us off at the door. We were wearing our Christmas best. I had on a red velvet dress with white tights and my Sam & Libby flats...with my fluorescent blue ski jacket over it. Very fashionable. You could see me from the space station. My parents bought us these God awful bright ski jackets so they could find us when we went tumbling down the mountain. But that's a story for another day. When we came out of the ballet, it was snowing. Now I'd been skiing and ice skating before but never been in a situation to see real snow actually falling. I loved it. But Tallahassee didn't. It took us an hour to get home. Ice all over the roads, people sliding into others and off roads.

See we don't have salt trucks down there. The only trucks we had down there for any type of emergency was when the state bird overpopulated and ate us up in the summer. The mosquito spraying truck was our equivalent to salt trucks.

The good news is the snow didn't even last on the ground but for maybe an hour or so. But it's one I'll never forget!

Hope y'all made great family memories with the ones you love this year over the holidays. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at Coral Cottage, Fancy Flamingo and Southern Roots Grille!



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Sea Turtle Hospital News



By Karen Sota

We haven't seen a lot of activity with local cold-stuns, but any critter that hasn't made tracks out of Dodge by now is living on the edge. The water and air temps have dropped way below sea turtle comfy. All it takes is a few consecutive days of exposure to cold air and water for these cold-blooded reptiles to get themselves in a heap of trouble.

Turtles still hanging around the inshore waters might be here for several reasons. The long, warm fall meant there was still plenty of good eating, and they were so engaged in lunch that they ignored the cues that the waters were cooling. Or this might be their first year in from their nursery grounds in the Sargasso Sea. There's something to be said for experience, even if you're a sea turtle. Sometimes they are already debilitated by another event and just don't have the strength to migrate. In any case cold-stunning is a life-threatening condition and the little guys are usually the first to suffer.

We admit frigid turtles in all sorts of body conditions. Most of them have been battered by the wind, surf and sand and have obvious damage, especially to their unprotected areas like flippers and eyes. They are so cold they cannot move, so they just lie where they strand, subject not only to the elements but also predators like gulls and canines. They often come with a heavy load of barnacles and algae, neither of which is a good look for a sea turtle.

Treatment begins with a slow warm-up in one of two rooms where we can regulate the temperature to prevent sending them into shock. This can take several days, during which time they are pretty much just hanging out defrosting and being treated with fluids and cautionary antibiotics. Once we feel they can tolerate at least some water we introduce food. Getting a cold-stun to begin eating again can be difficult. Our staff has no hesitation about literally crawling along the floor from tank to tank, dangling fish, shrimp and squid from feeders. Or sitting with a turtle for hours trying to convince it to at least try a bite.

Cold-stunning takes a toll on the inside too, damaging organs and bones. It's not unusual for a turtle that seems to be recovering quite nicely to suddenly start rasping with pneumonia or quit moving a flipper because of bone lesions. Some of our patients have spent years in rehab after developing complications, including recently released green "Belle."

Thankfully almost every cold-stun eventually goes home.

So, what do you do if you see a turtle that has washed up on the beach or in our marshy areas or is in the water floating motionlessly? First, don't assume it is dead. They literally can't move, maybe not even blink. Whether the turtle is big or small immediately call our Director of Beach Operations, Terry Meyer at: 910-470-2880. If she is not available, call the hospital during operating hours: 910-329-0222. If the turtle is below the high tide line and in danger of washing out, move it above the high tide line if you can do so safely. Ideally you should remain with the turtle until our trained volunteers arrive to retrieve it. If that is not possible, find a way to indicate the location of the turtle on the beach by drawing large arrows in the sand or placing beach debris nearby. The State of NC hotline for stranded, sick and injured turtles is 252-241-7367. The state number picks up 24/7.

Typical cold-stunned turtles with algae and barnacle loads. (pictured to the right and below)

All conservation work for endangered sea turtles at KBSTRRC and on Topsail Island is authorized by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, ES Permit 22ST05.

We are officially closed to the public for the year. Depending on our patient load we may be able to open for tours sporadically after the first of the year.

Check our website www.seaturtlehospital.org for any updates

Our gift shop is open year-round online so you can still find all kinds of cool turtle-themed merchandise, much of it exclusive to us. And if you're looking for something for those impossible-to-buy-for relatives and friends, consider adopting one of our patients.



A Fish Called Captain Randy

By Carol Ann Ross

A fish I've known him since diapers and I remember that the house where he and his sisters lived, was the only house in Surf City my momma would let me walk to alone. I remember jumping out of the bumblebee towers with him, going skating at the roller rink in Topsail Beach, going to vacation Bible school, and a bunch of other stuff that we kids did on the island back in the day.

Like other kids who grew up on Topsail, he worked at local businesses. Randy worked at Barnacle Bills and he bussed tables, waited tables, shucked oysters, worked in the tackle shop, and did anything else that was needed at the pier. He ain't never been no slouch.

Those were pristine times full of innocence and fun and believe me growing up on Topsail Island was the funnest and the best. It cultivated a desire for freedom and curiosity, both of which Randy Batts has plenty of. However, by the time that fore mentioned innocence was upon us, he had moved on to a different level, having survived the crappy cards life sometimes deals all of us, he came up with a fist full of strength of character, integrity, and self awareness.

Randy has always been an independent sort of guy though. Tough and determined, he's done most things on his own if he couldn't find a willing partner. And like a lot of us who grew up

oceanside, he loves that salty expanse, respects it and always has. By the time he was fifteen he was diving, spear fishing for his own fish rather than pay to walk out on the pier and stand with the rest waiting for a bite. The stories, oh the stories of his spear fishing escapades will make your hair stand on end or make you so envious that you just can't stand it.

I talked to him the other day, asked lots of questions about his experiences fishing. He was gracious and smiled as he spoke. "Well, there was this time," he started. Randy went on to explain to me about a time when he went out alone and saw a school of groupers. He shot them and put them on a stringer, then after that, he ran into a school of flounder. As he shot them, he piled them up on the spear shaft. "I had 22 flounder," he said as we talked.

Then there was the time he was on his boat, about seventeen miles out, and this huge whale shark came up. Now, the whale shark is the largest fish in the ocean. Well, it came up beside his boat out of nowhere and just looked at him. Randy says it must have been between fifty and sixty feet long. Wouldn't you give your left pinkie to have been there for that.

"Oh," Randy interrupted me as I wrote. "About all those fish I caught, there was a Sand-Tiger shark hovering around while I was spearing all the flounder and grouper. He was getting pretty aggressive, he wanted my fish, so I

pushed him off with my speargun, on his nose, then got back on my boat and headed in. I wanted to come back with some friends of mine since the fishing was so good, but the weather wouldn't cooperate, so we had to wait.

A couple days passed and me and my buddies motored out to where I'd been before. We spotted what looked to be a capsized boat not too far away, so we motored over there. It turned out to be the carcass of a whale. It was bloated, a great white was hanging around. That was enough to keep us from diving in to fish, so I stuck my knife in the whale, it stank from all the gasses being released but all the guts that spilled out kept that shark busy while we spearfished for grouper."

There are more stories. Lots of them. But I'd like to mention something that is just as important, maybe more so. Randy is involved in something called SPEAR-IT Veteran Spearfishing Project. It is a non-profit organization that allows veterans to experience spearfishing. The co-founder of SPEAR-IT is Osee Fagan, ret. USMC and he, Randy and a select few take the boat out often with veterans eager to learn how to spearfish. One shot, one kill. That's the goal.

I checked the project out on Facebook and learned a lot. The sharks are no joke, y'all. Neither are the groupers. Neither are the vets and all the good work going on here. Certified divers learn how to spearfish and have a blast doing it. The project is sponsored by local businesses

and has been in operation since May of 2022. Do yourself a favor and check this out.



Randy and friend after a day of spear fishing



Randy and members of Spear-It



Randy in 1967 at Barnacle Bills Fishing Pier

What To Expect In Holly Ridge In 2023

By Jeff Wenzel
Mayor of Holly Ridge, NC

The secret is out... the Topsail area is growing at a very fast pace. Landowners who have not been willing to sell their land in the past are now reacting to the market and selling. A misconception that I hear a lot is that Holly Ridge shouldn't allow "such and such" businesses to open. "We don't need another x," is a statement I hear a lot. The truth is, for the most part, the Town cannot dictate what type of businesses can be built and opened up in the Town as long as it fits within zoning guidelines. Simply put, if someone owns the land and thinks a particular business will do well, they are free to open up that business.

Through zoning, the town of Holly Ridge is dictating the road frontage properties being developed on Hwy 17 and Hwy 50 be commercial rather than residential. If developers have a large lot on one of the two highways and want to develop, they need to put commercial on the road and then any residential projects behind them. It is up to the developer to figure out what businesses to attract to their lot whether it be a restaurant, gas station, grocery store, shopping center, etc...

As the Town continues to grow, entrepreneurs will continue to identify needs within the community and open businesses to fill those needs.

- Here are some of the highlights of what you should see in 2023 in Holly Ridge:
- * Atlantic Seafood is moving its freezer and shipping & receiving from Hampstead to the Camp Davis Industrial Park. They will keep their existing retail location in Hampstead.
 - * Oceans RV Park will have its grand opening of the RV park in January. They have 224 spaces available for short-term RV's as well as tiny homes to rent. The amenities include pickleball, workout facility, in-ground pool, fire pit, and a dog park.
 - * A bathroom at Morris Landing down on the ICW.
 - * A bigger and better Liberty Festival which will once again take place on the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend.
 - * Holly Ridge Municipal Park improvements as we pursue and receive grants.
 - * More affordable housing is being built to support the ever-growing military community
 - * Camp Davis Industrial Park growth which will lead to more jobs.

Another thing I am excited about is how often I am approached by developers asking what type of recreation activities and facilities Holly Ridge needs. I anticipate more and more opportunities to play in Holly Ridge to add to our park, water access, and Paradieses Axe and Arcade.

- Now let's briefly talk about infrastructure...
- * **Roads:** The Town is in constant contact with NC DOT about the growing need for improvements on Hwy 17 and Hwy 50. They own and maintain the highways, but we are ensuring we are on their radar and not being forgotten. An audit is being done during Q1 of 2023 of all the roads the Town of Holly Ridge maintains to prioritize road repairs and resurfacing efforts.
 - * **Schools:** Coastal Elementary school is now open and serving our community. Just this year, the Onslow County Commissioners put aside 3% of their budget for building schools and I expect they will continue that in future budgets to try to meet the need for more schools across Onslow County.
 - * **Water and Sewer:** ONWASA is building a new 1.5 million gallons per day waste treatment facility in Holly Ridge. The project is currently in the design and permitting phase with an anticipated opening date of 2025. ONWASA is also looking into areas where more wells can be dug to ensure we have a reliable source of water as the population increases.

As the word spreads about the Topsail area more people will visit and some will decide this is where they want to move to. Holly Ridge is not the same town it was 10 years ago, and it will look different 10 years from now. The Town Council is having to solve problems today that it has never had to solve in the past.

If given the choice between trying to solve problems with empty and abandoned buildings OR figuring out how to grow responsibly, I'll choose growth problems every time.



Mayor Jeff Wenzel
Town of Holly Ridge, NC

Credit to Jeff Wenzel for aerial photos



Pender Education Partnership Awards \$8,000 In Mini-Grants To Teachers

Dec. 19th, 2022

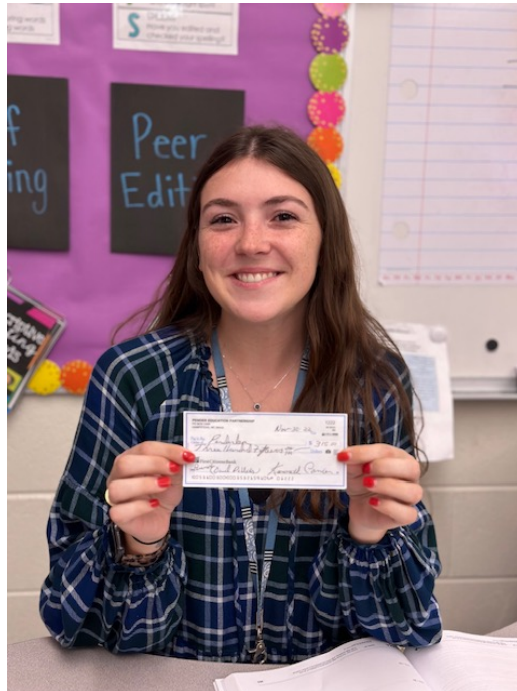
PENDER COUNTY – Pender Education Partnership, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit foundation, awarded 18 mini-grants to educators in Pender County Schools. “Pender Education Partnership is dedicated to supporting our educators through teacher mini-grants,” said Tammie Parris, PEP director of the board president. “We are pleased to contribute \$8,000 total to the district for this school year.”

Teacher mini-grants are awarded based on applications submitted to the PEP board. A selection committee reviews all applications.

“Mini-grants funds or partially funds enhanced programs that are not funded by the state,” explained Parris. “This year we approved a wide variety of mini-grants.”

Among a few of the mini-grants that will deliver additional educational opportunities to Pender County School students include the purchase of a ceramics kiln, a performance by the Tryon Fife and Drum Corp, STEM lab supplies, drones, Legos, books, a microscope, and science lab accessories. “This support is made possible through the donations of PEP partners,” said Parris.

“Anyone can become a PEP partner by donating \$5 to \$15,000. All monies raised go toward mini-grants and scholarships. All PEP foundation board members are volunteers.” For more information about Pender Education Partnership, visit the website at www.PenderEducationPartnership.org.



PEP Recipient

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Communications



Students Celebrating

When Is It Time To Turn In The Car Keys? On January 7, 2023

The Alzheimer's Association, AARP North Carolina and Elderhaus are teaming up to offer a free education program about safe driving for older adults and difficult conversation strategies, especially for those showing signs of dementia.

When and Where:

9:00 am

Saturday, January 7, 2023

Elderhaus, PACE

1408 N. College Rd, Wilmington

There will be snacks, resources and door prizes for attendees. To register, go to tinyurl.com/dementiadriving1723 or events.aarp.org/dementia12-03.



Based on feedback from the initial flyer, we want to clarify that this is an appropriate program for anyone who is concerned about a loved one's ability to drive safely, how to talk about it, what makes NC different from other states and more. Local volunteers and staff from all three organizations will lead the program.

When is it time to turn over the car keys?

An Education Program About Safe Driving and Difficult Conversations for Aging Adults



AARP
North Carolina

A PARTNERSHIP WITH:
ALZHEIMER'S
ASSOCIATION

Elderhaus

Saturday, January 7, 2023 | 9:00 AM
Elderhaus PACE
1380 N. College Rd., Wilmington

When someone is showing signs of dementia, it's time to talk. Learn to break the ice and tackle the difficult conversation about driving. Regardless of whether your loved one is facing dementia or not, this interactive presentation is for any aging adult or family member who has concerns about safe driving. Receive information specific to NC residents, understand what driving means to older adults and the emotions they may face when giving up driving and how to objectively observe their driving skills.

Resources, Snacks, Door Prizes. Register at
events.aarp.org/Dementia12-03 or 800.272.3900

Teresa Batts, The Newly Appointed Surf City Mayor

In a decision that seemed to catch some people off guard, Mayor Doug Medlin announced his resignation as Surf City mayor at the December 6th town meeting. Basing his decision on family and health concerns, Mayor Medlin turned over the reins to current Councilwoman, Teresa Batts.

As a lifelong resident of Surf City, Ms. Batts is no stranger to politics and hard work. Ms. Batts was first elected in 2017 to the Surf City Council after being appointed to the position when then Councilman Doug Medlin was appointed to fill the position of the mayor after the departure of Zander Guy.

You have been a member of the Surf City community all your life and very active politically. Now that you are mayor, what are some of your goals to achieve?

"My goals are to continue to promote progress with beach nourishment and to encourage infrastructure improvements throughout the town. I also support enhancements in Emergency management Communication and

would like to see implementation of proposed plans for multiuse paths throughout town."

In addition to being mayor, do you hold any positions with any other government organizations, like beach renourishment?

"I have been an Executive Member of the Cape Fear Council of Governments and a member of the Surf City Shoreline and Resiliency Committee. I have been a Board Member of the Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Committee and the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments."

As a realtor, you see things differently than most politicians. Are you concerned about the excessive growth of the Topsail Area?

"I am in full support of growth in our area. However, I will encourage the Town Planning Department, along with Town Council, to use discernment on how development takes place and to consider the long-term impacts."

Since paid parking has become a part of the Surf City beach environment, would you consider shortening the length of time that paid parking is enforced to encourage more people to visit the beach?

"While I understand the concerns regarding paid parking, I also have to consider the purpose and benefits. I will always work with the board towards solutions that we believe are best for the town."

When you were growing up, did you ever imagine that you would be mayor of Surf City or was this always a goal?

"Growing up in and around Surf City, I have watched the area grow and change. I have been a part of the community my entire life in different capacities. Being an involved citizen and doing my part has always been my goal. With the natural progression of my political career, becoming the mayor of the town I live and work in made perfect sense."

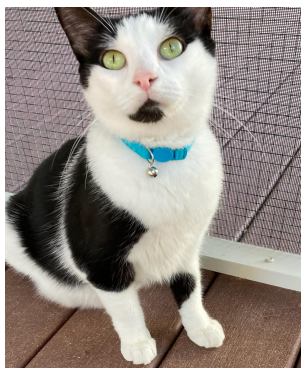
If you would like to learn more about Mayor Batts, you can email her at Teresabatts04@gmail.com or attend the next Surf City town meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. The meetings are held at the Surf City Municipal Complex, 214 W. Florence Way (beside Publix).



F.U.R.R

FELINE URGENT RESCUE AND REHAB

Adopt. Donate. Volunteer.



Percy

My markings are sooo pretty! My black & white patches, along with my big green eyes, make me quite a stunning boy! I am also a rescue from a fish place & boy am I glad to be safe now! I have gained weight & I love to play with feather toys!

I feel lucky to be with FURR, but I need my own home so FURR can save more homeless cats on their waiting list! Please come meet me & we can play! I'm only a little over a year old!



Battlet Kittens

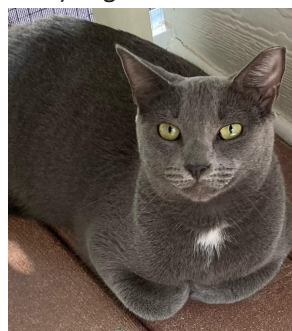
We were born at the rescue and can't wait for our new FAMILY! We are SUPER funny, playful, soft, loving and totally entertaining! We come with all of our vet work and would love to meet you! Our mama is a rescue that was saved by FURR and was about to POP with us babies! She is sweet & beautiful also and her name is "MAMA BATTLET"! You won't find kittens more adorable than us! Better hurry! One of us has already been adopted!!!



Shrimp

Aren't calico cats colorful! I think so because I am one! Look at my silky soft fur with multiple colors! I was a rescued kitty from Hampstead, along with a LOT of my brothers & sisters. We were born outside in a really tough situation and FURR saved us! I am a very quiet and small kitty.

I would LOVE for someone to pet and rub me all day! I love treats too (kitty cookies) and I will come running at the shake of that box! I am fully vetted and MORE than ready to go! Please come meet me soon!



Perch

I look just like a full blooded Russian Blue cat, but I assure you, I was another homeless rescued cat that FURR saved! If you like that SOFT blue/gray coat & my big white spot on my chest, then you'll like me! I am a very sweet

boy & get along great with all the other kitties! Stop by & feel my velour fur & get to know me! I'm only a little over a year old!



Roughy

I am a GORGEOUS long haired orange tabby boy & my fur is sooooo soft! FURR rescued me from a fish place & I was skin & bones. Now I am fat & happy but still a little shy....but all I need is a little reassurance and love, and I will be the "bestest" kitty ever!

I love all of my siblings if you want a couple of cats! Please give me a chance to show you what an amazing cat I can be! I'm only a little over a year old!



Tuna

My name is TUNA....and, yes, I LOVE tuna! I am a long haired tortie girl and quite an eye catcher! You don't see many cats with my beautiful markings and coloring, so I know I am special! I am a little shy until you start talking to me and then, if you rub my back right in front of my tail, you would be surprised how high I can lift by butt up in the air! That just means that I LOVE the attention and to keep on scratching me! I was rescued from a seafood production plant and I'm so glad FURR saw me out late one night playing under the street lights. I might have been hurt or KILLED if I had continued to live there! I've had it really hard, but now I'm on easy street just waiting for someone to sweep me off my feet! Could that be you??? I'm already spayed and fully vetted! Hurry please!

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What To Look For When Shopping For An Axe

An axe is a tool that many woodsmen simply won't leave behind. It has a thousand uses, and if you live in a temperate hardwood forest it's pretty much indispensable. With the importance of the axe, it's important that you are careful when you pick the axe you're taking with you on your woodland adventure.

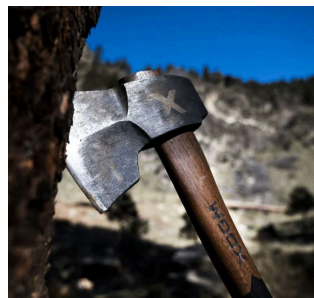
ANATOMY OF AN AXE



There are many parts of an axe from poll to palm swell and bit to butt. In the Picture how each part of an axe is called.

- **Blade:** The blade is the cutting edge of the ax, and is made of a strong and durable material such as steel, stainless steel, or carbon steel. The blade is attached to the handle of the axe.
- **Handle/Haft:** The haft is the handle of the axe, and is made of a material such as wood, plastic, or fiberglass. The handle should be comfortable to hold and grip, and may have features such as a non-slip surface or a wrist guard.
- **Head:** The head is the top part of the ax, which includes the blade and the haft. The head is typically made of a single piece of metal, with the blade and haft attached to it.
- **Poll:** The poll is the back of the head, opposite the blade. The poll is used for tasks such as driving nails or wedges, or for striking the blade with a mallet.
- **Eye:** The eye is the hole at the top of the haft, through which the blade is attached to the haft.
- **Bit:** The bit is the cutting edge of the blade. It is the part of the blade that comes into contact with the material being cut.
- **Bevel:** The bevel is the angled surface on the blade that forms the cutting edge. The bevel may be straight or curved, depending on the type of ax and the task it is used for.
- **Toe:** The toe is the point at the bottom of the blade, opposite the bit. The toe is used for tasks such as shaping wood or carving.

- **Heel:** The heel is the back of the blade, opposite the bit. The heel is used for tasks such as splitting wood or driving wedges.



Properly treated carbon steel is a good choice. Your axe's head should weigh around 3 pounds for a general use axe.

THE HEAD STEEL

Possibly the **most crucial thing** about the axe's head is what it's made from. The **steel** that forms the head will determine how sharp you can make it, how durable the edge will be, how often you need to sharpen it, and if the poll is useful. Some axes (usually the cheaper ones made in China) are made from a lower carbon alloy that is easy to sharpen but doesn't hold that edge well at all.

There are a few different types of steel that are commonly used in the production of axes, and the best one for you will depend on your specific needs and preferences. Here are a few of the most popular options:

- **Carbon steel:** Carbon steel is a common choice for axes because it is strong, durable, and easy to sharpen. It can hold a sharp edge for a long time, but it is also prone to rust if not properly cared for.
- **Stainless steel:** Stainless steel is a good choice for axes that will be used in wet or humid environments, as it is resistant to rust and corrosion. It is also relatively easy to sharpen, but it may not hold an edge as well as carbon steel.
- **High carbon steel:** High carbon steel is a more specialized type of steel that is known for its ability to hold a very sharp edge. It is more difficult to sharpen than other types of steel, but it is also less prone to chipping and breaking.

THE HEAD SHAPE

One of the first thing you need to think about when you pick your axe is its **head**. Axes come in single and double bit (the edge of the axe is called the bit) configurations. Both styles have their uses, but for purposes of this article we will assume that you've chosen a single bitted axe.

The next thing to consider is the **shape of the head**. Some axes have heads which are specialized to perform one task, like a broad axe (which is used to hew beams and planks) or a splitting maul (which is used to split firewood).

DIFFERENT TYPES OF AXE HEADS

There are several common shapes for axe heads:

- **Camping axe:** This is a small, lightweight axe with a short handle and a narrow, curved blade that is good for chopping small branches and kindling.
- **Splitting axe:** This is a heavy axe with a long handle and a wide, flat blade that is designed for splitting logs into smaller pieces. This is an axe with a long handle and a thin, sharp blade that is used for cutting down trees.
- **Double-bit axe:** This is a larger axe with two blades, one on either side of the handle. It is used for felling trees and can also be used for limbing and bucking logs.
- **Tomahawk:** This is a small, lightweight axe with a short handle and a narrow, pointed blade that is traditionally used by Native Americans for hunting and warfare. It is also popular for use in outdoor activities such as camping and bushcraft.
- **Bushcraft axe:** compact, sturdy multipurpose tool. Ideal to cover in a proper way a wide spectrum of bushcraft and survival tasks in the wood.
- **Throwing axe:** This is a small, lightweight axe with a balanced handle and a sharp blade that is designed for throwing at a target.

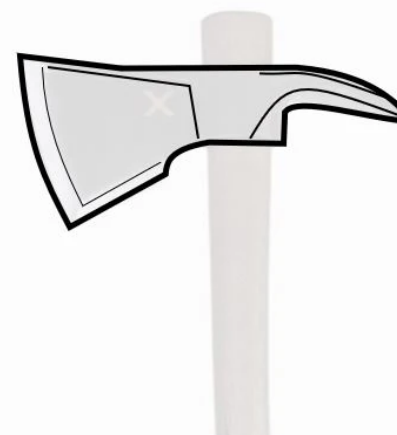
Camping Axe Head Shape



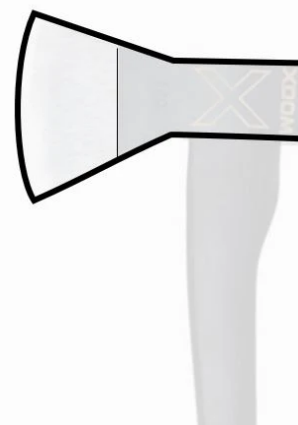
Splitting Axe Head Shape



Bushcraft Axe Head Shape



Throwing Axe Head Shape



For a general, all-purpose axe you should look for one with a slightly **curved bit**, which allows the force of the axe to be concentrated in a narrower area, resulting in a deeper bite into the wood.

The **edge should be a little thin**, but it should swell out as it transitions from the edge to the cheeks (the sides of the axe head between the edge and the handle), and then into the eye (the part the handle goes through).

On the side opposite the edge, your axe's head should have a **sturdy poll** (the flat spot) that you can use to pound stakes and other objects. Where the handle emerges from the underside of the head, there should be an undercut that will allow your hand to choke up on the axe head. This allows you to have **greater control** of the axe during fine carving and cutting tasks.



THE AXE HANDLE

The second thing to consider is the axe's handle. Axe handles come in many **different shapes and sizes**, usually dictated by the tool's intended use. They also come in several different materials. The material as I said, axe handles can be had in a lot of different materials. **Wood is the king**, but fiberglass, polymer, and steel can also be had. For a general use axe, I highly recommend that you choose a wood handle. I'll go over the "why" of it in another article, but for our purposes today, let's assume that you picked the **traditional wooden handle**.

Make sure you pick an axe handle whose grain is straight and runs parallel to the length of the handle. If it runs out the side of the handle this creates a weak spot where the handle will be prone to break.

When you look at the ends of the handle, make sure that its growth rings are narrow and close together. This makes for a denser, stronger handle. As far as the wood species goes, Hickory is best, but Ash will work, too.

For the type of axe we're discussing, a handle length of between 22 and 28 inches is ideal.

That's long enough to be capable of doing heavier work, yet light enough to allow you to maintain control of the axe and help minimize the risk that you'll hurt yourself with a wild swing.

Your handle should also be somewhat curved for improved control and ergonomics, and the end should have a "knob" that will help keep the axe from slipping away during your swing.



This article is written by Mike Kreitzer. Mike is Editor of MK Outdoor Journal on YouTube, a Voting Member of the Professional Outdoor Media Association and Media Member of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.
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OTHER KEY FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Balance: The ax should be balanced so that it is easy to handle and control. This can be achieved by adjusting the size and shape of the blade and handle.

Safety: The ax should be designed with safety in mind, with features such as a non-slip grip and a guard to protect the user's hands.

Durability: The ax should be designed to withstand the wear and tear of regular use, with features such as a hard-wearing blade and a sturdy handle

OUR AXES LINE

Now you are ready to decide on what kind of axe to get. To do that, you need to ask yourself some questions.

- What am I going to do with the axe?
- How much space do I have in my pack?
- What is my skill level?
- How much weight am I willing to carry?



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Coastal Common Sense

By Kim McGahey

New Year's resolutions are a time-honored American tradition that are often difficult to remember and impossible to fulfill. The lofty aspirations of December 31st usually fade quickly by January 31st and get packed away in the dresser drawer of forgotten New Year's optimism.

But this year, I have a New Year's resolution that will be easy to remember and important to fulfill. My resolution is to be pro-choice!

I choose to support We The People, not We The Government.

I choose free market enterprise which allows us to prosper.

I choose patriotism under the U.S. Constitution.

I choose a limited government that protects us, but does not control us.

I choose to have the government stay out of personal moral decisions.

I choose to help those less fortunate.

I choose faith in the God of our Founders.

I choose to promote an honest and objective media.

I choose equal treatment of all races, religions and incomes.

I choose Main Street instead of Wall Street.

I choose not to wear a mask or get vaccinated.

I choose to avoid government mandated experimental biological injections.

I choose to boycott companies that support woke social warrior agendas.

I choose to buy products from companies that agree with my philosophy.

I choose not to let the Cancel Culture intimidate me.

I choose to support pre-born life.

I choose to salute the American flag and stand and sing our national anthem.

I choose Wealth of Nations capitalism over Animal Farm socialism.

I choose 1st Amendment civil liberties over statist security.

I choose to ignore Saul Alinsky's Rules for Radicals.

I choose to hold the door for women who enter before me.

I choose not to have men use the ladies room.

I choose to be a well informed,

thinking American, not a CNN Don Lemming.

I choose not to shut up and get in line. Above all, I choose FREEDOM!

Being pro-choice as defined above has taken on a new meaning for me. It has allowed me to express my patriotism and my conservatism on a daily basis and gives me the continued opportunity to fight the tyranny of the progressive left that dominates our

every facet of my life. This New Year's resolution is a renewed commitment to American family values, hard work and personal responsibility.

If you believe in these pro-choice declarations, please join me in this crucial New Year's resolution. Your family, our community and the country will then have a Happy New Year!



Americans Deserve Transparency On The Origins Of COVID-19

December 18, 2022 ~ This past week, Republicans on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence released a report indicating COVID-19 may have been tied to China's bioweapons research program. (In my opinion, there is no question about it.) The report contains critical discrepancies from the Intelligence Community's 2021 report on the possible origins of COVID-19, which claimed they were "skeptical of allegations that SARS-CoV-2 was a biological weapon." The Select Committee's report is an unclassified summary of the broader classified version. Highlights of the unclassified summary include:

The investigation revealed serious shortcomings with both the classified and declassified versions of the Intelligence Community's (IC) Updated Assessment on COVID-19 Origins.

The IC withheld key information from the public in the declassified version of its Updated Assessment, information that

could have been shared without damaging national security. These omissions likely skewed the public's understanding of key issues.

The Committee believes the IC downplayed important information relating to the possible links between COVID-19 and China's bioweapons research based in part on input from outside experts.

Findings conclude that there are indications that SARS-CoV-2 may have been tied to China's biological weapons research program and spilled over to the human population during a lab-related incident at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

The Committee will seek to declassify the classified version of their report in the next Congress. In addition, the Committee plans to explore all means at its disposal to require the IC to fully cooperate and comply until their requests are met with adequate information.

In the 118th Congress, my fellow House Republican colleagues and I will demand answers on behalf of the American people as to why the Intelligence Community failed to share pertinent information with elected officials regarding the full truth behind the Chinese Communist Party's involvement with this pandemic that impacted millions of American families.

We are committed to holding China accountable for hiding the truth from the world to ensure our country is protected against these threats in the future.

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U.S. Congressman
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N.C. Pesticide Board Announces Recent Case Settlements

N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services



NEWS

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RALEIGH – The N.C. Pesticide Board recently approved the following settlement agreements for cases in Carteret, Davidson, Duplin, Guilford, Lenoir, Macon, Mecklenburg, Nash, Orange, Pender, Pitt, Rowan and Washington counties. Settlements are listed by county below:

(Carteret) Michael S. DeSantis, of DeSantis Landscaping in Newport, agreed to pay \$800 for applying pesticides commercially in Beaufort without having a licensed commercial pesticide applicator on staff.

(Davidson) Wesley Young Hopkins Jr., of Hopkins Hill Farm in New Hope, agreed to pay \$1,000 for applying a pesticide to a field in the Denton area without the proper license and the required additional training for paraquat application. The application resulted in drift to a residential swimming pool nearby, which violates the law stating pesticides should not be applied under such conditions that drift from pesticide(s) particles or vapors results in adverse effect.

(Guilford) Brett J. Clinch, the holder of a commercial pesticide applicator license for TruGreen in Greensboro, agreed to pay \$300 because an employee of the company applied a pesticide to an incorrect residential lawn in Greensboro.

(Guilford) Oscar W. Goods, a manager at PetSmart in Jamestown, agreed to pay \$800 for applying flea and tick treatments with an expired commercial pesticide applicator license. Goods had previously been warned with a Notice of Non-Compliance.

(Lenoir) Joey A. Murphrey of Eastern Exterior Landscaping in Snow Hill, agreed to pay \$900 for applying pesticides commercially in Kinston without having a licensed commercial pesticide applicator on staff. The company had previously been warned with a Notice of Non-Compliance.

(Macon) Thomas A. Sartain, a pilot and holder of an aerial pesticide applicator license for Industrial Helicopters in Lafayette, La., agreed to pay \$4,000 for violations related to aerial pesticide applications to a utility right of way in Macon County. Investigations found indications of improper pesticide application over water and pesticides coming in contact with non-target vegetation. The applications violated state law/regulations that prohibit operating in a faulty, careless or negligent manner and making a pesticide application in a manner inconsistent with its labeling, which stated the products used should not contact water or non-target vegetation.

(Mecklenburg) Christopher Lee Kikes, the manager of Fatboys produce in Charlotte, agreed to pay \$1,000 for applying a fire ant insecticide around produce, which is a manner of use inconsistent with the product's labeling.

(Mecklenburg) Khamla Vongvoraseng, of Veggie on the Run, agreed to pay \$1,000 for applying a fire ant insecticide around produce, which is a manner of use inconsistent with the product's labeling.

(Nash) Trevor Vandemark, the holder of a private pesticide applicator license for Vandemark Farms near Whitakers, agreed to pay \$800 for applying certain pesticides to his sod farm that were not labeled for use on turf or sod farms.

(Orange) William G. Moore, of NC Lawn Solutions in Hillsborough, agreed to pay \$1,200 for applying pesticides commercially in Hillsborough without a commercial pesticide applicator license.

(Rowan) Stanley T. Stikeleather, an employee of Nutrien Ag Solutions in Statesville, agreed to pay \$800 because drift from a pesticide application he made to a field near Salisbury resulted in adverse effect to orchard grass in a nearby pasture. Stikeleather was also found to have applied the paraquat herbicide without the required training.

(Pender) Allen L. Smith Jr., of Castle Bay Golf Course in Hampstead, agreed to pay \$800 for applying pesticides at the golf course during a time when his commercial pesticide applicator license had expired.

(Pitt) William E. Davis, of Alex PineStraw and Mulch in Greenville, agreed to pay \$800 because a crew he managed applied pesticides to landscaping and lawns in Winterville and Greenville without a commercial pesticide applicator license.

(Pitt) David Andrew Griffin, the holder of a pesticide dealer license for TriEst Ag Group in Greenville, agreed to pay \$2,100 for making a restricted use soil fumigant pesticide available to an applicator who didn't have the proper fumigant certification and for incomplete records related to that transaction.

(Duplin) In relation to the above Pitt County case involving David Griffin, Avery Lee Cottle, the holder of a private pesticide applicator license for Cottle Farms near Faison, agreed to pay \$1,800 for applying a fumigant pesticide without the required certification on his license.

(Washington) Jessie T. Spruill, a licensed private pesticide applicator in Plymouth, agreed to pay \$800 for improperly disposing of pesticides containers, specifically violating the state regulation that states "no person shall dispose of, discard or store pesticides or pesticide containers in such a manner as may cause injury to humans, vegetation, crops, livestock, wildlife or to pollute any water supply or waterway."

Pender County Solid Waste To Accept Christmas Trees

BURGAU – Pender County's convenience centers in Rocky Point and Hampstead will accept live expired Christmas trees beginning Jan. 2 through Jan. 16, 2023.

No ornaments or lights are permitted on the trees when dropping off at the Rocky Point Convenience Center, located at 16232 NC Hwy 210, or the Hampstead Convenience Center, located at 250 Transfer Station.

The Rocky Point Convenience Center is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, closed Sundays and Wednesdays.

The Hampstead Convenience Center is open Sundays, 1-7 p.m. and Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Town of Surf City Christmas Tree Collection

The Town will be picking up discarded live Christmas trees this year. All trees must be placed alongside the road by January 2nd as crews will begin picking them up on January 3rd. Please make sure to remove all decorations and lights.

Merry Christmas





GUNS FOR WOMEN



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

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

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

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

This was NOT the right gun for me.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1. **How do I open the gun to put in the bullets?** The revolver is the easiest of the handguns to load and unload. In the case of a semi-automatic pistol, some guns required you to load the clip and then ratchet the gun back to put one bullet in the chamber. Not all pistols require ratcheting. Make sure if you buy a semi-automatic pistol that you CLEARLY UNDERSTAND from the seller how to load the gun correctly. Guns should come with an instruction manual that should also have instructions. Do not be embarrassed to ask!!!! This is going to be your line of defense and you need to know how to use it.
- 2. **What if the bullet jams?** Revolvers do not jam. In the case of a semi-automatic pistol it is possible to have a bullet jam due to inferior ammunition; the gun needing to be cleaned or a weak or stiff clip spring. Jams do happen in semi-automatic pistols and you MUST know how to clear the jam safely. Ask your seller and read the instruction manual.
- 3. **How do I know the gun is loaded?** In the case of a revolver, you slide open the cylinder and can easily see if the gun is loaded. Some semi-automatic pistols have "load" indicators such as a colored dot. ALWAYS PRESUME THAT A GUN IS LOADED. When looking at a pistol always remove the clip and ratchet back the slide to view inside the gun to make sure it is empty. Do not look down the barrel or pull the trigger to check. All it takes is one bullet!
- 4. **My husband said that I need a .40 or .45 caliber gun because anything smaller won't stop someone.** More people are killed by a .22 cal. bullet then any other round. The purpose of a gun is to PREVENT harm, not to cause it. It is more important that you are able to load the gun and can control it. I recommend a .38 special or 9 mm for woman. If they want a larger caliber I always suggest that they shoot one first before making that their first gun. Some gun shops offer an indoor or outdoor range where you can rent a gun, which is an excellent way to try different types of handguns.
- 5. **My husband said I should have a gun with a laser...is that true?** Lasers are very popular and definitely make a gun "cool" looking but I always tell people to know how to aim their gun correctly first, and not to depend on the red dot. On a bright sunny day the dot may not be visible.
- 6. **How much should I spend on my first gun?** Depending on the brand and style of gun you choose, your gun could cost anywhere from \$250 and up. Most guns come with a basic warranty (if purchased new). We sell handguns that can cost up to \$1500 but we don't recommend anything like that for a first time buyer. We sell a nice selection of revolvers for \$300 and up. There is nothing wrong with a used gun for a first time owner as long as it has been inspected by an authorized gun dealer. Don't be afraid to ask friends and family for recommendations, it is an easy conversation starter!
- 7. **If I lock up the gun and need it in a hurry, what do I do?** Practice locking and unlocking your gun. Whether it is a cable lock through the gun itself or a trigger lock, make sure you know where the keys are and how it works. We do not recommend storing guns loaded. If you have a gun for personal protection leave a clip loaded but out of the gun (and out of the reach of children). My husband always teases me that if I ever needed my gun in a hurry I would be better off hitting the intruder with the gun box then trying to remove all the safety features. My response is that I have children in the house and that takes priority over everything else.
- 8. **How do I clean the gun? How often?** A clean gun is a gun that is going to serve you well. It takes very little time to clean a gun that has been fired and worth every minute. The instruction manual and/or gun dealer can show you how to properly clean and care for your gun. All inclusive kits are available for around \$15.00
- 9. **What difference does the barrel length make?** A great bit of difference. The longer the barrel the more accurate the gun. Most conceal and carry guns are short barreled and made for easy storage on your body. Some people have a gun for carrying and a gun for target shooting. There are quite a few guns designed to do both, just let your seller know what you want your gun for. We sell a short barreled .380 that is perfect for self protection but not a gun I would take to the range.
- 10. **How can I carry my gun?** *Check with your local gun laws. Every state is different.* In North Carolina, you need a Conceal & Carry permit to carry the gun on your body (out of plain sight). We sell several purses with holsters built right into them (since most women would be unable to find a gun in a hurry if they simply dropped their gun into their purse (ha ha). There are holsters designed for wearing on your hip, concealing inside your pants and ankle holsters. We sell a t-shirt where the holster is sewn onto the fabric and can be worn under another shirt (for both men and women). How you carry your gun is just as personal as what kind of gun you have.
- 11. **What is an ambidextrous clip release?** It is a button on semi-automatic pistols that allows the user to release the clip from either side of the gun (preferred by left handed shooters). Not all guns come with this feature.
- 12. **What if I already own a gun but I don't like it?** Depending on your local gun laws and local gun dealers you may be able to trade your gun in for one that is right for you. Always check around since the value of a gun varies GREATLY from one gun dealer to another. Our shop offers consignment (most shops do not). Be cautious of the neighbor that "will take it off your hands". That is usually a good indicator that the gun is worth more than they are offering. Don't be afraid to call around or look your gun up in the "Blue Book" for reasonable values. Be careful of using web sites to determine the value since in most cases the price listed is "asking price" and not what the gun sold for. Check your local laws before selling your gun to a private citizen.
- 13. **Someone gave me a gun. How do I register it?** Check your local laws since State Laws vary. North Carolina does not have a gun registration so therefore you are entitled to own the gun. If you are going to transport the gun across state lines CHECK WITH EACH STATE you will be traveling in first. If you have a Conceal & Carry permit for your state check and see what other states allow you to carry your gun in their states.
- 14. **Other than a gun, what do you recommend for personal protection?** With the introduction of tasers, people now (depending on your state's laws) have the ability to have a home protection device that can give them time to stop the intruder and get help. Tasers are usually designed to "shoot" a pronged device up to 15 feet - an electrical charge is applied and the person usually drops to the ground for 5 seconds - giving you the ability to defend yourself without direct contact. A background check is required when a taser is purchased to activate it. Most tasers cost over \$250.00 and re-fill cartridges can be \$30 or more.
- 15. **What do I need to buy a gun?** Check with local laws. In North Carolina a Purchase Permit or a Conceal & Carry Permit is required to purchase a handgun.
- 16. **Can I buy a gun from a dealer in another state?** Check with local laws. We can sell a gun to you and ship it to another state but it will be sent to a registered FFL Dealer (Federal Firearms Dealer). When you go to pick up the gun you must have whatever is required in your state (purchase permit, etc.). You will pay the purchasing gun dealer for the gun and shipping and the receiving gun dealer will charge a "Transfer Fee" which may be around \$25. All paperwork will be filled out by the receiving gun dealer. Bring your permit and identification (or whatever is required in your state). DO NOT buy a gun for someone else!
- 17. **What are the handgun purchase permit requirements?** In Pender County an applicant MUST be a citizen, naturalized or resident alien, be 21 years of age or older, lived in Pender County 30 days or more, Provide NC Drivers License with correct address OR Military ID with proof of residency in Pender County. Questions? Call (910) 259-1212 or go to their website to fill out an application on line. \$5 fee per permit.

Pender County Residents Urged To Conserve Water

BURGAU – According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Pender County is in its second year of winter drought conditions.

“This places Pender County and Southeastern North Carolina in a dangerous situation,” said Kenny Keel, Pender County Public Utilities Director. “Streamflow is reduced during drought conditions as we are experiencing for the second year in a row.”

Keel explained that lake, river, and reservoir levels decline.

“During a moderate drought, now is the time to begin voluntary water conservation,” said Keel.

According to NOAA, wildfire danger is higher than the seasonal normal during droughts.

“Pender County has experienced dangerous wildfires,” said Tommy Batson, Pender County Emergency Director.

Batson urges residents to monitor any outdoor burning because with the dryness of grass and leaves, fires can spread quickly.

“Suppressing a fire requires a huge amount of water and during a drought, we need to conserve our water,” said Batson.

“If everyone in Pender County practices simple conservation measures, it will help our county to meet our water needs in the future,” said Keel.

According to Ready.gov, here are some practical methods of water conservation during a drought:

- Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it. For example, use it to water your indoor plants or garden.
- Fix dripping faucets by replacing washers. One drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons of water a year.
- Check all plumbing for leaks and have any leaks repaired by a plumber.
- Retrofit all household faucets by installing aerators with flow restrictors.
- Install an instant hot water heater on your sink.
- Insulate your water pipes to reduce heat loss and prevent them from breaking.
- Install a water-softening system only when the minerals in the water would damage your pipes. Turn the softener off while on vacation.
- Choose appliances that are more energy and water efficient.

BATHROOM

- Consider purchasing a low-volume toilet that uses less than half the water of older models.
- Install a toilet displacement device to cut down on the amount of water needed to flush. Place a one-gallon plastic jug of water into the tank to displace toilet flow. Make sure it does not interfere with the operating parts.
- Replace your showerhead with an ultra-low-flow version.

KITCHEN

- Instead of using the garbage disposal, throw food in the garbage or start a compost pile to dispose it.



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Simply Homemade Recipes

Easy Cinnamon Rolls



1 (1 pound) loaf frozen bread dough, thawed
3 tablespoons butter, melted
¾ cup brown sugar
½ cup chopped walnuts
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon water, or as needed
⅓ cup heavy whipping cream
⅔ cup sifted confectioners' sugar

Lightly grease 2 round cake pans with butter. Roll bread dough out to an 6x18-inch rectangle. Brush with melted butter. Combine brown sugar, walnuts, and cinnamon in a small bowl; sprinkle over butter. Roll dough into a log, starting at the long edge. Moisten edge with water and seal. Cut log into 20 slices; arrange rolls, cut sides down, in prepared cake pans. Cover with a towel and let rise in a warm place until doubled in volume, about 90 minutes. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Pour heavy cream over dough. Bake in preheated oven until golden brown, about 25 minutes. Mix confectioners' sugar, milk, and vanilla extract in a small bowl; drizzle over warm cinnamon rolls to serve.

2 tablespoons milk
1 dash vanilla extract

Hamburger Steak with Onions and Gravy



1 pound ground beef
¼ cup bread crumbs
1 egg
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
½ teaspoon seasoned salt
½ teaspoon onion powder
½ teaspoon garlic powder

⅓ teaspoon ground black pepper
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 cup thinly sliced onion
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 cup beef broth
1 tablespoon cooking sherry
½ teaspoon seasoned salt

Mix ground beef, bread crumbs, egg, Worcestershire sauce, salt, onion powder, garlic powder, and pepper together in a large bowl until combined. Form into 8 balls and flatten into patties. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add patties and onion; fry until patties are nicely browned, about 4 minutes per side. Transfer beef patties to a plate, and keep warm. Sprinkle flour over onions and drippings in the skillet. Stir in flour with a fork, scraping bits of beef off of the bottom of the skillet as you stir. Gradually mix in beef broth and sherry. Season with seasoned salt. Simmer and stir over medium-low heat until gravy thickens, about 5 minutes. Reduce heat to low, return patties to the gravy, cover, and simmer until cooked through, about 15 minutes.

Photos and recipes courtesy of AllRecipes.com

Word Search

(Winter)

W	E	B	E	C	A	L	P	E	R	I	F	Y	L
L	E	L	N	M	R	W	I	W	O	S	D	O	T
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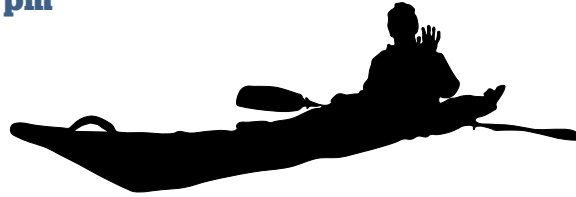
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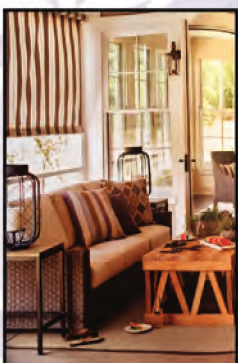


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