



TOPSAIL TIMES

TOPSAIL ISLAND, HOLLY RIDGE, HAMPSTEAD AND SNEADS FERRY



● **11th February, 2022** ● **American-Owned. Free Press.** ● **Volume II, Issue 4** **FREE!**

➡️❤️ **Love is in the Air** 🍷❤️

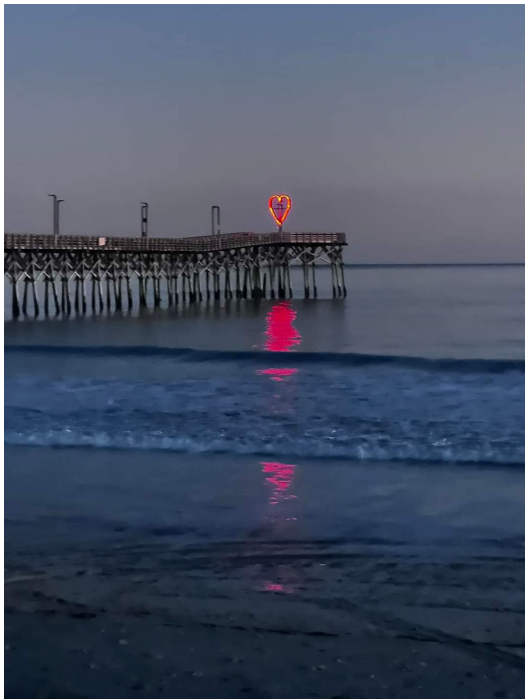


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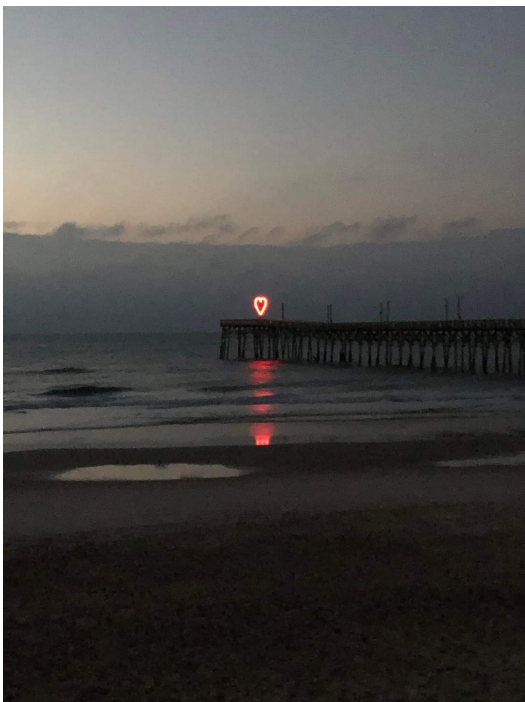
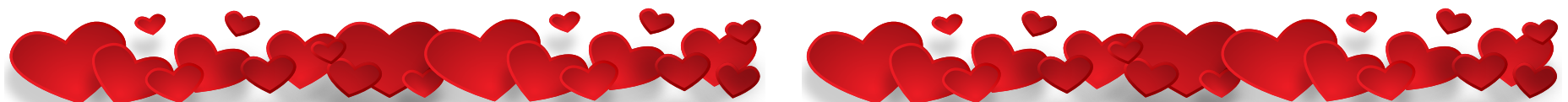


Photo Courtesy of George Howard

Fun Facts and Superstitions About Valentines Day

- Valentine's Day came to be by the ancient Roman gods, Venus and Cupid.
- Birds play a big role in the superstitions. If a woman sees a blue bird, she will marry a happy man while a woman who spots an owl will unfortunately become a spinster! If you see a gold finch in your garden, a millionaire will appear!
- Eating noodles is always fun but on Valentine's Day you must consume the whole strand without letting it break.
- On Valentine's Day, cut an apple in half. The number of seeds represents how many kids you will have.
- Approximately 170 million flower bouquets and plants will be sent on this day.
- 26 million heart shaped boxes of chocolate will change hands.
- Valentine's Day became a holiday in the 1300s.
- The first Valentines was sent in the 15th century.
- Mass produced Valentines did not happen until the 1840s.
- Valentine's Day was named after it's patron saint, Saint Valentine but historians are not sure which Saint Valentines it honors.
- Cupid's history goes back to 700 BC when he was known as the Greek god of love named Eros.
- The oldest recorded Valentine sent was a poem written by a Charles, the Duke of Orleans, to his second wife in 1415. He was imprisoned at the age of 21 after being captured at the Battle of Agincourt. Imprisoned for 20 years, he never saw his valentine's reaction to the poem.
- Esther Howland is known as the "Mother of the American Valentine" for creating the commercialized cards.
- The language of flowers can make a big difference when choosing what to send.
- Red roses say "I love you," pink says "Thank you," yellow says "We are friends and I care about you," yellow with red tips means "I'm falling for you," peach says "Let's make great memories," and white says "I am the one for you."
- Pets can get Valentines too. A new trend has started and has lead to millions of dollars of gifts that people are giving to their pets for Valetine's Day.
- Jewelry tops the list for most amount of money spent on a gift followed by dinners and flowers.
- Richard Cadbury was the first to create the heart shaped box of chocolates. Does the name sound familiar? It should! He was the son of John Cadbury, the founder of the famous chocolate company.
- 58 million pounds of chocolate are used to celebrate Valentine's Day.
- Candy hearts with writing on them got their start as a medical throat lozenges.
- Necco Sweethearts were a larger printed candy and shared such messages as, "Married in White, You Have Chosen Right!"
- Necco Sweetheart candies were unavailable in 2019. The company declared bankruptcy in 2018, forcing the closure of the original plant. The Sweetheart candies made a comeback in 2020, when Spangler Candy Company acquired the rights.
- If you see a squirrel on Valentine's Day, you will marry a cheapskate who will hoard all your money.
- There is an official alternative for singles on Valentine's Day. "International Quirkyalone Day" became globally celebrated in 2003. It is not an anti-Valentine's Day but rather a day to celebrate self love and platonic relationships.
- During the Victorian Era, "Vinegar Valentines" were sent to discourage certain suitors. These cards were also known as "penny dreadfuls," and were intended to comically insult and reject unwanted admirers.
- In contrast to "Vinegar Valentines," bay leaves were used to bring good luck. On the night of February 13th, rural English women would pin five bay leaves to their pillows--one in the center and four on the corners--in order to have sweet dreams about their future husbands.
- The tradition of sending flowers was started by King Charles II of Sweden after he returned to Europe from Persia in the early 1700s.
- Elementary schools tend to do fun Valentine exchanges with other students and teachers making this group the largest recipient of Valentines.
- And finally, Penicillin was introduced on Valentines Day in 1929 by a young bacteriologist, Sir Alexander Fleming, who also discovered the mold by-product by accident a few months prior.





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Staying Alive on Winter Waters

By Raeford Brown

We live, work and play in a coastal environment. For those of us who enjoy fishing, it's a year-round love of life.

Winter on the water, whether the creeks, the ICW, or the rivers presents an inherent danger.

Cold water.

When water temperatures drop into the upper 40's to low 50's, the danger can be deadly. Hopefully, you're fishing with a buddy. And, for goodness sakes, and for your loved ones, you're wearing a Coast Guard approved personal floatation device---a life jacket.

On small boats, with little freeboard (the area that is above the waterline), it's not uncommon for fishermen to lean over to either grab a prize catch, or reach out to maneuver the fish into a net. It only takes a slight movement of the boat to send the angler into the water.

In similar situations when the water temperature is in the upper 60's or higher, the plight is not as bad, as long as you are a good swimmer.

But, in cold water, wearing bulky clothing to stay warm, it can prove deadly. If you're wearing the proper PFD, one that will support your heavier-than-usual condition, you will stay afloat while

your fishing buddy maneuvers the boat to your position. Without the life jacket, cold water makes it difficult to swim or to keep your head above water.

Hypothermia can set in quickly, and panic results. The extra weight of the water-sogged clothing will drag you under. While it's not likely you'll die of hypothermia, the result can be drowning.

Stay safe to enjoy another day. The two keys are having the right PFD and a good fishing buddy with you.



Topsail Gun Gal: Duck Season? No, Monkey Season!

By Dorothy Royal

North Carolina offers a variety of dates and times for hunting seasons, but did you know that nowhere on that chart is there a season for Monkeys? And for good reason. Monkeys are not native to North Carolina, or Pennsylvania for that matter. Why is this a concern? Simple. On Saturday, January 22nd, a truck carrying a hundred monkeys to a laboratory was hit by a dump truck. The result of the accident left several monkeys loose. After an extensive search, all of them have been found.

The main concern? The knowledge shared with local media does not say if the monkeys were heading to a lab to be tested on, being transported (while infected) to a different lab, or being taken to a lab to be studied after infection. These are three very serious questions!

The State Troopers are pleading with people not to look for, capture or come in contact with the remaining monkey. Isn't that also a major red flag? Of course it is!

The Cynomolgus monkey, a common animal used for medical testing, has a life span of approximately 31 years and is small in size. The average cost of these monkeys is around \$10,000 each which means there were approximately \$1,000,000 in monkeys being transported by a guy with a pick-up truck. Think about that.

A woman who was a witness to the crash, is now being treated for a variety

of odd diseases and feeling the effects of some of them. Michele Fallon thought she saw a cat run across the road after the crash and immediately approached the cages, hoping to help. What she found inside one cage were two monkeys that were not so happy to see her. One monkey hissed violently. That is most likely when she was infected. At the scene of the accident she gave her information to the officers and soon received a letter from the CDD to be given to her personal doctor. Within 24 hours of witnessing the accident she began to show symptoms of pink eye and a cough. The first course of action was for her to be treated for rabies (even though no one confirmed the monkeys had rabies).

Is there any good news about this event? Yes, the airline, Kenya Airways, that flew those monkeys into JFK airport the day of the crash, has decided not to renew their contract with the breeding farm starting next month.

The terrifying information learned during all this? These transports, carrying infected monkeys, have been traveling our highways for years. Why would any government agency approve such transportation without the monkeys being in an enclosed and secured environment? A pick-up truck hauling cloth covered crates is not the best we can do, is it?



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Gun Gal's Top 10

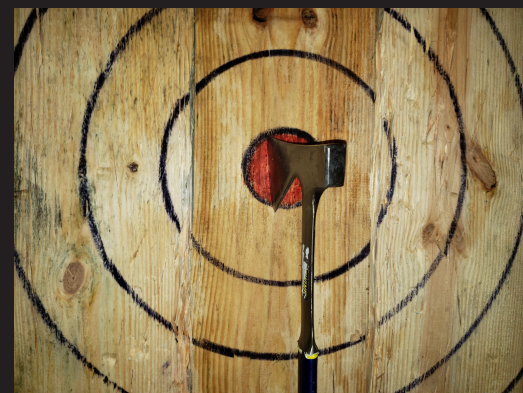
TEN SHARED BEHAVIORS BETWEEN HUMANS AND PRIMATES

1. Sign Language - The most famous example is Koko, who began learning at just a year old and can now communicate about a 1,000 different signs.
2. Shared Learned Behavior - The most famous example here is Imo, who in the 1950s, would take potatoes that she was being fed down to the sea to clean them. She later shared this with her troop.
3. Use of Tools - Capuchin monkeys have gained a lot of attention after being seen using rocks to dig holes and crack nuts.
4. Use of Currency - In Connecticut, seven monkeys were taught the basic concept of currency. They learned how to exchange tokens for food in just a few months.
5. Preparing Food - Kanzi, a 31 year old bonobo, can do a lot more than use tools to catch food: he can also cook it. His favorites are roasting marshmallows or making hamburgers in a frying pan.
6. Fishing - An orangutan in Borneo learned how to use spears to catch fish caught in the nets of the fishermen he was copying.
7. Computer Skills - The Orangutan Program uses iPads to help keep their apes "mentally enriched".
8. Head Gestures - Bonobos sometimes shake their heads at each other to illustrate disapproval.
9. Know How to Smile - Primates can smile in silence, laugh out loud, or burst out laughing.
10. War - Aside from humans, they are the only other species able to deliberately provoke war.



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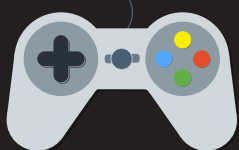
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Our Obsession With Joggers

By Becky Borneman

With assistance from Michelle Klein, who is a true fashionista!

Who here loves joggers? And by joggers, I mean the most comfortable pair of churched-up sweatpants we've ever put on ourselves. And listen, don't feel bad if you don't jog. Here's the thing... they're becoming the new yoga pant. And how many of us have worn yoga pants and don't "yoga"? According to Merriam-Webster the true definition of joggers is "loose pants made of a stretchy fabric and typically elasticated at the waist and ankles, worn especially for jogging." Well we are taking this term and running (see what I did there) with it but tweaking it a bit. I mean, I will wear joggers, but I am NOT a jogger.

In fact, if you see me jogging, you may want to swiftly put down what it is you're doing and jog along with me because trust me, something bad is coming. I'm not jogging for pleasure!

Now back in the olden days of the late 90's we were cinching their pants with rubber bands so we wouldn't step on our jeans, which was outclassed the next year by the rolled up leg look. Now we can get joggers that have the elastic at the bottom already, SCORE!

The joggers I see have been in almost every fabric. Cotton, Poly, Quilted, Satin. My favorite is probably the joggers that have the big huge bow at the waist as an adornment to the pant. Ruffled waistbands are also cute with the

joggers. One thing I can say is that the athleisure has kicked into hyperdrive and we are loving it!

Trends like these tend to come and go, but the joggers trend is one that I hope sticks around as long as the elastic in my yoga pants do. Be on the lookout for joggers to arrive at Coral Cottage and Fancy Flamingo this Spring!



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Sea Turtle Hospital News



By Karen Sota

Looks like January has finally decided to give us January weather and the cold-stunned turtles that come along with it. We continue to admit new patients and that means moving them through a series of hospital locations as they progress on their rehab journey. By the time a cold-stun reaches their "just waiting for a ride" tank in Sea Turtle Bay they've seen quite a bit of scenery.

Relocating turtles for the most part is easy when they're the smaller greens and Kemp's. You just pick them up and introduce them to their upgraded, larger accommodations. You don't just walk over and pick up a two-hundred-pound loggerhead. There's a process.

Recently admitted loggerhead "Sepia" needed a much larger tank and there just happened to be a vacant eight-foot one next to "Snooki." Our staff prepped Sepia with a nice soapy bath and barnacle removal along with her extensive meds which include a topical slather of honey for a still-healing boat impact wound. Then the transport team rolled over her ride; a hospital gurney that's, let's say "vintage." It truly looks like it was on the set of a 1960's TV medical show like Dr. Kildare or Ben Casey but it's perfect for the task.

Sepia seemed quite aware that something was about to happen and that she was playing a starring role as the group gathered at her tank to finalize their plan as to who was standing where, grabbing what and lifting when. With a compromised carapace from her injury it was imperative that she be handled in a very specific way to avoid further damage. With the plan in place Sepia was carefully muscled onto the gurney for her short ride down the hall.

Next step was to get her safely off the gurney and into her new tank, which has very high sides. And she didn't lose any weight on the trip. Sometimes the down is worse than the up because a turtle, by now, can be a bit agitated and anxious and those big flippers are menacing.

Luckily for the staff Sepia seemed pretty chill about the move and was cooperating beautifully. As her tank filled with water you could almost see a smile appear on her face. She had room to stretch out those big old flippers and just cruise around. Snooki, who doesn't miss a thing that happens in Sea Turtle Bay did her best to peek over her tank to meet her new neighbor. Maybe she'll have some advice for her once the humans leave for the day.

THE HOSPITAL IS NOW CLOSED FOR TOURS

We are closed for public tours until spring of 2022. Winter is a busy season for us – cold stun season. It's the time of year when our staff puts in the really long days, coming in and leaving in the dark. But our online gift shop and adoption center stays open 24/7 so you can order our exclusive hospital merchandise and adopt your favorite turtle(s) with a visit to our website: www.seaturtlehospital.org.

Your support through gift shop purchases and adoptions goes directly to the care of our patients. And thanks to all of our supporters for a spectacular 2021! And wait until you see what we have planned for our gift shop in 2022 – stay tuned.



Loggerhead Sepia moving in



COLD STUN SEASON IS OFFICIALLY HERE

Yes, officially, with the arrival of our seven new patients. Please be our extra eyes for spotting any turtle in distress.

The smaller ones are especially vulnerable as they have less fat to protect them and not a lot of experience with cold snaps. Don't assume a turtle is beyond help because it can't move. They are stunned and motionless.

If you spot anything unusual, 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 meet you to retrieve the turtle that will then be brought to us for follow-up.

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.



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FIXtures: Eva Justice

By Carol Ann Ross

Special to the Topsail Times

If you grew up on Topsail Island or came here often, (back in the day) you will recall things that were part of the landscape or simply part of the Topsail experience. Oh, people came and went, businesses came and went too, back then, lucky if they lasted a winter season. But then any place on the water appears to have a transient quality to it. Don't you think?

Still, if you were at the Island a lot, there were familiar places and people that you expected to see. Like the towers, the fishing piers, the swing bridge, the Texaco station at the stop light in the center of town and the shopping center, just to name a few.

For me Ms. Eva Williamson was one of those fixtures that I was accustomed to seeing. I always expected to see her when I went pier fishing. She would be there, somewhere, and I'd catch a glance of the crisp white waitress uniform she always wore. Her beautiful dark hair was always perfect. And pretty? Well, everyone knew that Ms. Eva was one of the most beautiful women in the area.

I remember Ms. Eva was always being busy, and she took her busy life seriously. As I recall. She ran a tight ship and expected things to be just so at the restaurants she managed.



Eva on a fishing boat

Photos provided by Carol Ann Ross

After all, she was in charge of the dining room at Barnacle Bills until she left in 1964 to manage the dining room at the Scotch Bonnet.

I remember both places, the sparkling linen tablecloths and silverware being always perfect. There was a certain ambiance in the dining room she managed, a little more upscale (for Topsail anyway) than the willy-nilly atmosphere of the other eating establishments of the time.

The dining rooms at either pier were places you went for a fancy night out. One didn't wear flip flops or shorts there, but one dressed up. Locals took their sweeties there to impress them, families dined a proper night out, and



Eva in her teens

high schoolers took their dates there for prom. Yep, it was up town TI. And Ms. Eva was part of it, offering her touch of down home class.

She was born in the backwoods of Holly Ridge in 1931, to a farming family. Originally her Uncle Oscar Edens named her Doodle, and she was called that until her parents came up with the name Eva Marie. It was a pretty name for a pretty girl. But it was a different world back then. Women stayed home and helped the men with farming or fishing, and raised kids. And Eva, coming from five generations of farming, was no exception, she helped with all the usual chores including working in tobacco.

If you talk with anyone who knows, they will tell you that working tobacco is back breaking, hard work.

Eva Marie grew up doing what most of the children of that time did when they weren't working, taking trips to the banks (Topsail Island) to seine fish and playing in the marsh and dunes. And like most young people in this area, she married early. By the time she was fifteen she was married; not long after that came her children, Steve and

David. (Both now close, protective and loving to their mother).

A young woman with her own mind, Eva decided early on that she wanted her own money to spend, so for a couple of years in the early 1960s she worked at the cafeteria at Topsail School. Then came the chance to work on the island, at Barnacle Bills. It may not seem like much to some people, but back then making your own choices was not commonplace for a woman. Eva found a way to make changes in her life, watching Topsail change and grow the whole time.

Eva has seen just about everything concerning Topsail. She's seen it when it was barren, she was here when the military came to town in 1940. In fact, she recalls highway 50 being built from Camp Davis in Holly Ridge to the little pontoon bridge at the island. She's seen so many transitions, so many changes including seeing the dunes being bulldozed for ocean front houses. No doubt, growth was on the way and she was part of it.

We often take for granted change and growth, but for someone who has seen it all, there's no room for taking things for granted. Good things are to be cherished. Ms. Eva has enriched the lives of people she knows with her knowledge, integrity and no bones attitude. Through all the years she still retains her courage, grace and beauty, she is genuinely one of a kind.

Thank you Ms. Eva.



Eva with her sons, Steve and David, in the 60s





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TASTE OF THE TIMES

Restaurant Guide

Rates coming out soon!

Welcome To Margarita's!

By Lise Gore

Surf City's newest restaurant is proving to be some exciting news. Margarita's is located at 204 F N New River Drive across from the ABC Store in an impressive space. With abundant seating, the restaurant is spacious, charming and offers a gracious full bar, three large TV screens and a wide variety of food and beverage options.



There are 11 different Margaritas listed on the menu, 32 options of tequila, 12 draft beer choices and a wide variety of traditional dishes. Plus some new

modern dishes including the restaurant's own Pina Loca, a half pineapple carved out and grilled with a cheesy fajita which is then stuffed inside the pineapple shell.



And for dessert there is a Cheesecake "Xango", a deep fried crispy cheesecake topped with drizzled caramel, whipped cream and a cherry.

If you want to experiment with flavors try the popular Margarita sampler which allows you four options to choose your favorite. There will likely be a Tuesday Margarita day in the future which beats a Taco Tuesday hands down.

They plan to offer several other specials and I think we can look forward to something interesting on Cinco de Mayo.

The lunch options are not only affordable but there is a variety that ensures lunch to be anything but boring.

There are Vegetarian dishes available to add to the diversity of the menu. They plan to offer daily food and drink specials.

A large party room with the capacity for 36 guests offers an option for gatherings, birthdays and events. The pleasing surroundings make for a delightful venue for any celebration.



Margarita Sampler

I spoke with the owner and co-owners of Margarita's, the charming Elizabeth "Liz" Chavez and the equally charming couple Joanna and Bernardo Garcia. They are enthusiastic about opening the new business. Currently, they have 3 different restaurants in North Carolina and 3 in Virginia. When asked what brought them to the Surf City location, Liz said they were inspired by the growing tourism and opportunities in the Surf City area. They are looking forward to the coming tourist season and estimate they will need



anywhere from 30 to 40 new employees to accommodate the season.

There was a soft opening on January 29, 2022 but they are planning a ribbon cutting Grand Opening with Surf City Chamber of Commerce very soon.

As for new adventures, this culinary one is highly recommended.



New Date

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Please consider donating it filled with female personal hygiene products for



adults and teens in need.



Most requested items are

*Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Deodorant,
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Wipes, Kotex, Tampons, Panty Liners,
Hand Sanitizer*

Drop Off Locations

- Swingbridge Nutrition at 103 Atkinson Point Road in Surf City
- Paradise Axe and Arcade at 127 Sound Road in Holly Ridge
- City Cafe on Hwy 17 in Holly Ridge.
- Salty Sistas at 2004 NC Hwy. 172 in Sneads Ferry.

*Share The Table is **NOT** a drop-off point.*

Purses and items will be picked up February 28th and brought to Share The Table for distribution.

Local Animal Hospital Expands to Second Location

By Dorothy Royal

Dr. Martin, who opened Holly Ridge Veterinary Hospital in 2015 has now added a second location for the convenience of his patients.

In November of 2021, Dr. Martin opened Pet Health of Hampstead at 14810 US Hwy 17 North.

The brand new building was designed and built with optimal pet care as the focus.



In addition to Dr. Martin, Dr. Farmer and Dr. Huxtable also see patients daily for dentistry, radiology, spay and neuter, vaccinations and preventive care and surgeries. In addition to dogs and cats other small mammals are also welcome.

The Hampstead location also offers the services of Dr. Stoll who is a traveling surgeon who specializes in orthopedic and soft tissue.

One of the more unique features of the new Hampstead location is the drive-up window which makes it super easy to pick up medications.

At his Holly Ridge location, Dr. Martin works alongside Dr. Larson, Dr. Maxwell and Dr. Zachary Kezios.

The Holly Ridge location offers ultrasound and laser therapy for dogs and cats.



Both locations are accepting new patients and are open Monday-Friday 8am until 6pm.

Dr. Martin and his staff work alongside OCPaw, Paws for Purpose, CAPS (Carolina Animal Protection Society) and Western Ferals. Rita Rendon and her rescue organization, Back to Nature/Second Chances, is an active member in the wildlife rescue community and can be seen working with Dr. Martin to ensure the best care for our native wildlife.



Dr. Dante Martin, DVM

Dr. Martin is a Graduate of the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine. He is originally from Chicago, IL before moving to Onslow County in 1995. He is married to Linda Martin and has three children, Harrison, Jacob and Marilyn. Dr. Martin served on the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board for 9 years and served as President for one term. Currently, he serves on the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association Executive Board. His hobby used to be fishing until he found out he could buy fish.



Dr. Martin's Cold Weather Recommendations for Pets

- Humidify home with a cool mist humidifier. The heat pump dries the air causing dry, itchy skin. Omega fatty acids help nourish the coat.

- Keep a long coat in the winter, do not shave your pet close to the skin. They have fur for a reason.

- If it's too cold for you then it's too cold for them. If you must take them for a walk, make sure they have a coat for short haired dogs. Keep their feet dry so bring a towel on the walk.

- Limit bathing in the winter to prevent dry skin but if you must, use an aloe oatmeal soap free shampoo.

- Lastly, a nice warm bed.



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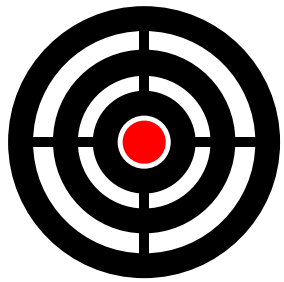


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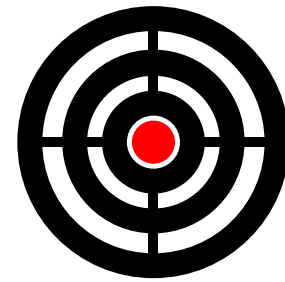
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Seal Visits North Topsail Beach

By Lise Gore

It's groundhog day but at North Topsail Beach no one is looking to see if the groundhog saw its shadow. Instead the question is "Did the seal on the beach see its shadow?"

According to Sean Simpson of the Seaview Pier, the seal was spotted February 1st around 1pm. North Topsail Police Officers Whanger and Morgan called Ann Pabst at UNCW Stranded Mammal Program. The program will now monitor the animal's progress.

Officers Whanger and Morgan did an excellent job of relaying the information to the Stranded Mammal Program with photos and using the information provided, helped the seal to go back to the sea and continue its journey to the next destination.

I spoke with Ann Pabst who confirmed that the seal was a mid sized harbor seal and this occurrence although somewhat rare, is normal. Harbor seals are actually regular visitors to the NC Coastal regions in the winter months.

The harbor seal or common seal is a protected marine mammal. Harbor seals can live 25 to 30 years but some of the dangers they face are entanglement, chemical contaminants, illegal feeding and harassment.

Harbor seals rest on rocks, reefs and beaches when they are not traveling or foraging at sea. They are often light tan, silver, gray or speckled. They can swim at birth and can remain submerged for over 20 minutes. They haul out of the water periodically to rest.

It is of special concern for humans and other animals, especially dogs, to give the animal a wide berth. If the seal is near the waterline it is important to stay away from its access to the waterline. They will go back into the water if they are threatened. They also will protect themselves. As a warning, they bite and can be aggressive if threatened.

So if you spot a stranded seal or any stranded marine animal please contact your local police department. The officers who helped the seal deserve a shout out for their timely and informed response. You can also inform the Stranded Marine Mammal Program at 910-515-7354.

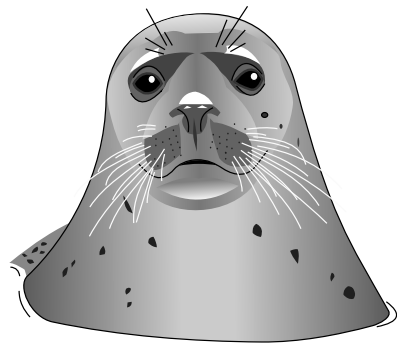


Photo Credit to Officer Whanger of the North Topsail Beach Police Department



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GUNS FOR WOMEN



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

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

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

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

This was NOT the right gun for me.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1. **How do I open the gun to put in the bullets?** The revolver is the easiest of the handguns to load and unload. In the case of a semi-automatic pistol, some guns required you to load the clip and then ratchet the gun back to put one bullet in the chamber. Not all pistols require ratcheting. Make sure if you buy a semi-automatic pistol that you CLEARLY UNDERSTAND from the seller how to load the gun correctly. Guns should come with an instruction manual that should also have instructions. Do not be embarrassed to ask!!!! This is going to be your line of defense and you need to know how to use it.
- 2. **What if the bullet jams?** Revolvers do not jam. In the case of a semi-automatic pistol it is possible to have a bullet jam due to inferior ammunition; the gun needing to be cleaned or a weak or stiff clip spring. Jams do happen in semi-automatic pistols and you MUST know how to clear the jam safely. Ask your seller and read the instruction manual.
- 3. **How do I know the gun is loaded?** In the case of a revolver, you slide open the cylinder and can easily see if the gun is loaded. Some semi-automatic pistols have "load" indicators such as a colored dot. ALWAYS PRESUME THAT A GUN IS LOADED. When looking at a pistol always remove the clip and ratchet back the slide to view inside the gun to make sure it is empty. Do not look down the barrel or pull the trigger to check. All it takes is one bullet!
- 4. **My husband said that I need a .40 or .45 caliber gun because anything smaller won't stop someone.** More people are killed by a .22 cal. bullet 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 active 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.

Simply Homemade Recipes



Salisbury Steak

1 (10.5 ounce) can condensed French onion soup
1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1/2 teaspoon mustard powder
1-1/2 pounds ground beef
1/2 cup dry bread crumbs
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup ketchup
1/4 cup water
1 egg



In a large bowl, mix together 1/3 cup condensed French onion soup with ground beef, bread crumbs, egg, salt and black pepper. Shape into 6 oval patties. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, brown both sides of patties. Pour off excess fat. In a small bowl, blend flour and remaining soup until smooth. Mix in ketchup, water, Worcestershire sauce and mustard powder. Pour over meat in skillet. Cover, and cook for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Coconut Milk Cake

1 cup unsweetened shredded coconut
1 (14 ounce) can coconut milk
2 tablespoons baking powder
2 cups white sugar
1 cup butter, softened
4 eggs, separated
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt



Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a 9x13-inch cake pan. Beat sugar, butter, and egg yolks together in a bowl using an electric mixer until smooth and creamy; add shredded coconut. Whisk flour, baking powder, and salt together in a bowl. Stir creamed butter mixture, alternating with coconut milk, into flour mixture until batter is just mixed. Beat egg whites in a glass or metal bowl until until soft peaks form. Lift your beater or whisk straight up: the egg whites will form soft mounds rather than a sharp peak. Fold egg whites into batter. Pour batter into the prepared cake pan. Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the center of the cake comes out clean, about 45 minutes.



Air-Fried Bang Bang Salmon

1 tbsp thinly sliced green onion, or to taste
3 tablespoons sweet chili sauce
1 tablespoon Sriracha sauce
4 (5 ounce) salmon fillets
1/3 cup mayonnaise
Cooking spray



Preheat an air fryer to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Prepare sauce by whisking mayonnaise, chili sauce, and Sriracha together in a small bowl until well blended. Spread 1 tablespoon sauce over the top of each salmon fillet. Reserve remaining sauce for serving. Lightly coat the air fryer basket with cooking spray. Place fillets in the air fryer basket with the sauce facing up. Air-fry until salmon flakes easily with a fork, about 10 minutes. To serve, drizzle salmon with extra sauce and sprinkle green onion over top.
This recipe will work with fresh, frozen, or thawed salmon.

Recipe and photos courtesy of AllRecipes.com

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Greetings Onslow County Citizens

We are pleased to announce that our Spring 2022 **Citizen's Law Enforcement Academy** will begin Tuesday March 8th, meeting every Tuesday night for 10 weeks from 6pm – 9pm, ending the evening of May 10, 2022.

The 30-hour program is designed to provide attendees with information about the people, assignments, equipment, policies, law, and overall operation of the Sheriff's Office.

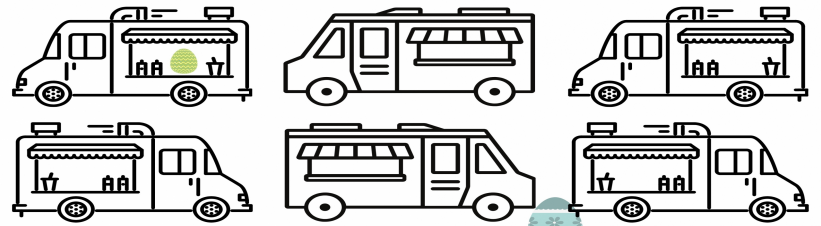
The goal is to ensure interested citizens possess a greater understanding of what is involved with policing in today's environment and we, in-turn, gain a better understanding of our community through positive contacts with the citizens.

All Onslow County Citizens 18 years of age and older are eligible to apply. A criminal background check covering the past 5 years is required and will be evaluated for acceptance into the Academy. **The Sheriff's Office will conduct the background check at no charge to the applicant.**

Citizens with a current NC Concealed Handgun Permit are waived from the background check, when applying for a seat in the academy.

Seats are limited to the first 20 eligible applicants.

Please contact Captain Bruce Dixon at bruce_dixon@onslowcountync.gov or 910-989-4007 to obtain an application and further instructions to complete the applicant process.



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