



TOPSAIL TIMES

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FREE!

Concerns Regarding the 2022 Onslow County Tax Re-evaluation Have Residents Upset

In February 2022, Onslow County mailed letters to property owners that most found shocking, to say the least. Property values in some areas skyrocketed. Certain areas in particular saw increases in the high double digits.

The Town of Holly Ridge, located on the southern edge of Onslow County, have residents with increases from 56% to 115%. The residents of the Summer House community are in the 115% increase area across the board.

The largest fear regarding these increases is that the tax rate will not be adjusted to keep the tax bills close to current. The county commissions are not the ones who determine the tax values but they will vote on the tax rate, which some commissioners have stated may in fact be reduced. Will that help a person whose property tax value has increased over 100%? Maybe not.

The property values in Onslow County are adjusted every four years.

Unfortunately for the property owners, the evaluations were made during a spike in the real estate market following the Covid crisis. People are leaving cities and seeking alternatives, and of course many are wanting to be closer to the ocean and more pleasant year round temperatures.

Shortages in construction materials and workers drove up the cost per square foot for new construction.

The problem with using the current sales prices for evaluations is they can fluctuate, and that has happened several times in the past. A property that may be valued in today's market as being an \$800,000 home due to the sale of a neighboring property may drop to \$450,000 if the real estate market crashes. For those people who don't think that can happen, please review the years 2007 and 2008. Property values plummeted.

Without learning from the past, people have taken advantage of the very low interest rates and in many cases may be

purchasing above their means. Should the rates increase drastically, the market may once again be full of homes for sale.

Unfortunately the next evaluation won't be for another four years, which means if the new values are locked in, the tax bills for the properties with the higher assessments will remain high.

To a person on a fixed income, impacted by the raised cost of goods and food, now the skyrocketing cost of fuel, may not be able to maintain a giant increase in taxes on their home.

Mary Jones purchased her home 7 months ago for less than \$200,000. In the letter she received, her new re-evaluation has her home at close to \$300,000. This makes her feel sick to her stomach. Living on one income she won't have the resources to pay hundreds of dollars more a year in taxes. Between insurance, taxes and fuel, she's ready to sell her new home and move back with her children. This was not the retirement she planned for.

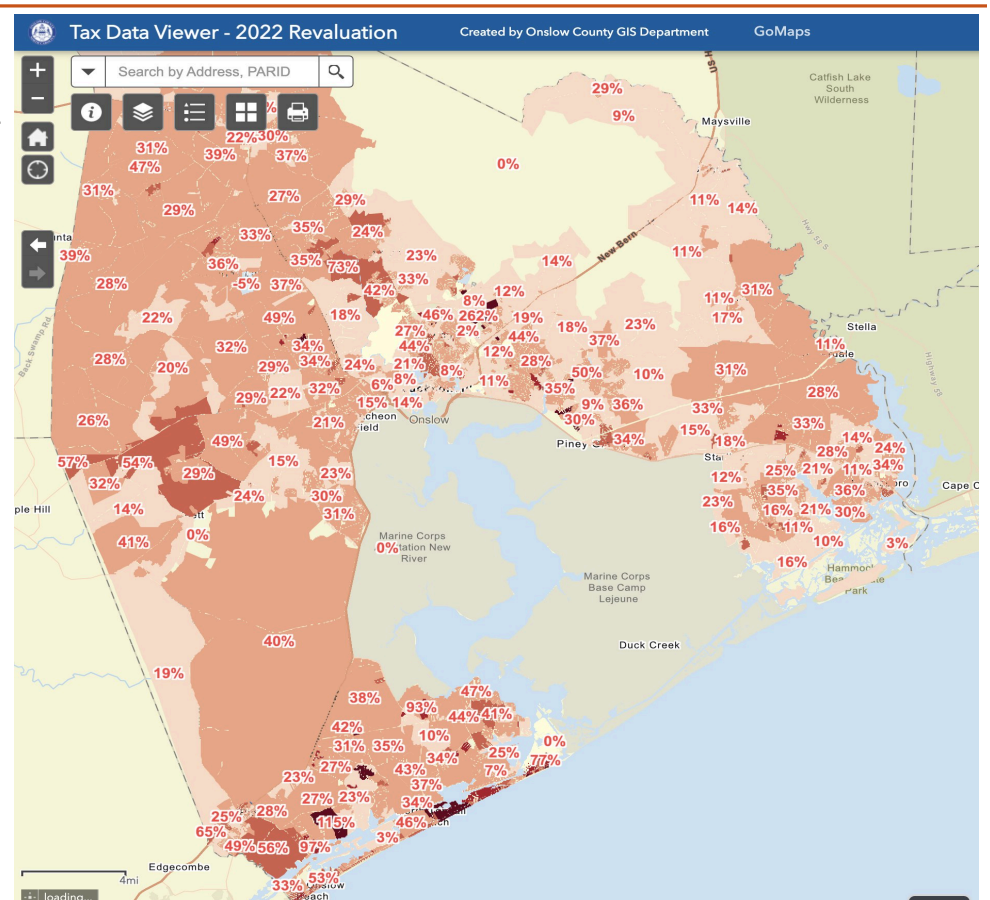
Onslow County claims that the purpose of the re-evaluation is to equalize property values and not to increase the tax revenue. Unfortunately the majority of the people affected don't believe that to be true. "Why increase my value because my neighbor sold their home?" Eric Williams asked.

What can you do if you don't agree with the new value?

Onslow County recommends you file an appeal and do the following:

1. Get an appraisal (this usually costs between \$300-\$500 dollars and may take several weeks)
2. Provide photos of the outside and inside (though I find this a great invasion of privacy) of your home.
3. Get comparative values with other homes in your area.

The Jacksonville Board of Realtors may be able to help those who wish to appeal their tax assessment.





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Topsail Times

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Topsail Gun Gal: Government Conspiracies and the Race of Technology

By Dorothy Royal

For anyone who watched this year's Super Bowl commercials, it is no surprise that the push for everyone to drive an electric car is in full swing. You don't have to do the math to be confused as to the sudden spike in fuel costs. If only a small percent of our gasoline comes from Russia, how are we at nearly \$5.00 a gallon in weeks? Never in history have we paid this much for gasoline in North Carolina. So why now?

Technology is advancing like a shooting star. Amazon, which acquired Whole Foods for 12 Billion dollars a few years ago has opened a grocery store in Washington that is designed to be fully electronic and does not require cashiers.

Unlike the self-check outs that local stores have incorporated, the Amazon grocery store only requires your palm print. As you enter the store you are asked to place both palms flat on a screen. Once recognized, all your purchases will be applied to your amazon account when you leave the store. Every single item, every piece of fruit, every bag of bread, and every pint of ice cream will have a sensor that will be detected upon leaving the store. The high stakes technology, known as "Just Walk Out" records every movement of the customer with hundreds of high resolution cameras. In a matter of hours the bill is sent to your Amazon account, receipt and all.

The problem most shoppers have? The odd feeling of shoplifting when they leave.

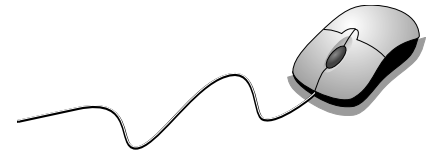
Last week, and about a decade behind schedule (my opinion of course), ground was broken formally by members of the NCDOT and Pender County elected officials. The bypass is officially underway. With over 40,000 cars and trucks driving on highway 17 a day (yes, that number is mind boggling), the new bypass will be constructed in not one, but two phases. Hopefully by 2030 we will have a fully functioning bypass if we aren't using hovercraft or flying cars by then (electric of course).

With the drastic rise of fuel prices it is only common sense to presume that fuel theft will be on the rise. Locking gas caps may no longer be the answer. Recently the Town of Surf City Police Department issued a warning about people who are actually drilling holes in the bottom of fuel tanks. Not only will the victim be at a loss for the fuel, but then left with a hefty bill in replacing the damaged tank.

How can you help to prevent this? If you have the ability, keep your vehicle in a locked garage. Have security cameras in your parking area for both your home and office. Keep in touch with your neighbors so that strangers can be identified quickly. If something feels wrong, it might be. Pay attention to those around you. If all else fails, plant poison ivy or long spiked cactus along your

driveway, at least that way the criminals may be easier to spot!

Remember knowledge is power, thieves are out there and technology may take more jobs than once imagined.



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ROADSIDE ROLLCALL



ATTN: SURF CITY NEIGHBORHOOD HOA'S

We'd like to introduce a new Community Police Program we're calling "Roadside Rollcall"

Our Police Department is always looking for more ways to improve the community and our relationships within the community. We would like to offer up a new program called Roadside Rollcall. Our officers will come to your neighborhood at a scheduled date and time to meet and greet your HOA members, neighborhood residents and kids! We want you to have the opportunity to speak and ask questions openly about any issues, traffic, and other community concerns that you have. Please contact MPO E. Fehling to find out more or schedule a Roadside Rollcall for your neighborhood: efehling@surfcitync.gov



Meet our Officers

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Welcome

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Concerns

Let's Work
Together to
Keep our
Neighborhoods
Safe!



SURF CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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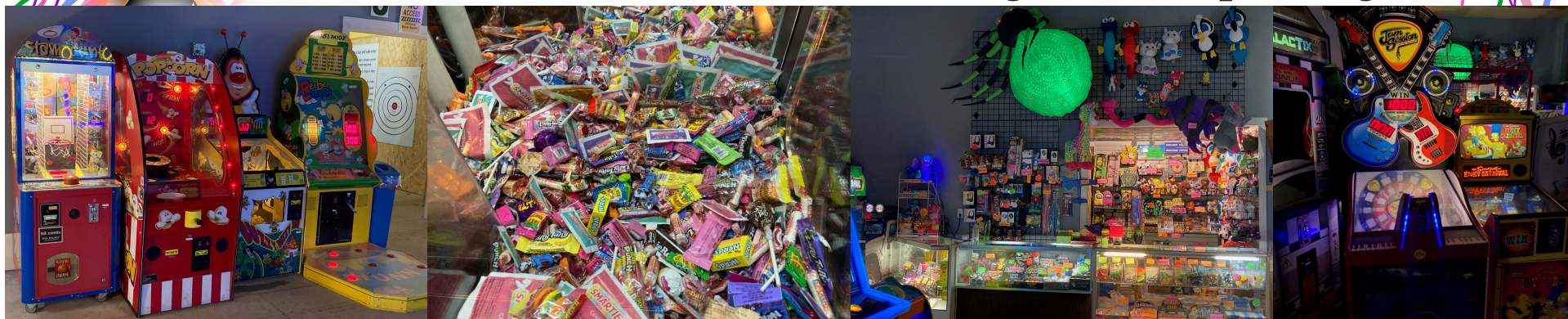


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Surf City's Out of the Darkness Campus Walk

Do you know about Awareness months? Considerably the most important months are March, May, and September, which advocate awareness for disabilities, mental health, and suicide prevention.

Did you know Surf City has a volunteer walk that advocates suicide prevention and awareness, and was recognized as the 5th largest campus walk in the country?

Want to know how you can help? Go to afsp.org/surfcity today and sign up to be a volunteer or donate to become a sponsor!

The Out of the Darkness Campus Walk is a journey of remembrance, hope, support, and a walk that unites a campus and community – a time to acknowledge the ways in which suicide and mental illness have affected our lives and our loved ones.

Event Details

Walk Date: 03/27/2022

Walk Location: Soundside Park, Surf City

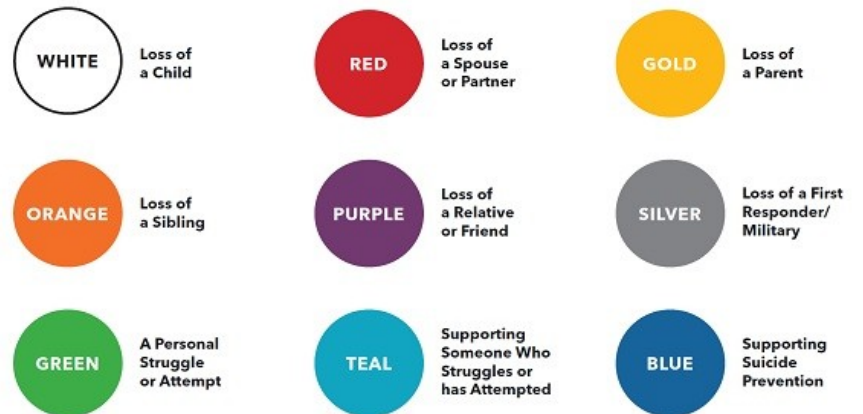
Opening Ceremony: 2:00 pm

We have provided flyers and information packets about the Out of the Darkness Walk on our website (big thanks to the lovely Mrs. Stephanie Jones!) for more information regarding the importance of the Walk, suicide prevention, North Carolina facts & figures, and how you can support the fight against suicide!

What's Your Color?

Losing someone to suicide or struggling with a mental illness can feel like no one understands what you are going through.

Each color shows our personal connection to the cause and helps us identify others who understand our experience.





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Sea Turtle Hospital News



By Karen Sota

In case you haven't already heard, we're open again for tours! Our first two weeks were a great start to the year with people wearing big grins, eager to see our patients, and to visit our renovated gift shop. We've never opened this early in the year before and weren't sure if anybody would come. Turns out we had nothing to worry about.

During March we are open on Fridays and Saturdays from 11 AM – 1 PM. We'll add another day beginning in April. You must purchase your tickets in advance through our website:

www.seaturtlehospital.org

Select the date, time and the number of guests in your party and purchase your tickets. We limit the number of guests for each time to make the experience more enjoyable and to continue our commitment to keep you and our staff safe as we work our way through Covid. All of our southeastern NC counties are not yet in the green for transmission and we are requiring masks for everyone except children under 5 years of age – no exceptions. And just a reminder that you can come to the gift shop without going on the tour. Enter through the single door to the left of the main entrance.

Last time I mentioned that two of our patients, greens Belle and Rosemary, had moved into a duplex tank and were

getting along "swimmingly" as neighbors. And that we also suspected that Belle's little turtle brain was cooking up some plan to supplement her daily ration of veggies. You have to understand that Belle is on the high end of the body condition scale where 1 is teensy and 5 is well, definitely not teensy. Dr. Harms has put her at a 4.5 out of the goodness of his heart. But in all honesty she's a big old 5. Apparently you can gain weight on veggies even without the blue cheese dressing.

We're not sure how she did it but she managed to grab Rosemary's veggie feeder and drag it under the divider so she could have it all for herself. But in her haste she forgot that she had left a flipper sticking out on Rosemary's side of the tank. Rosie took advantage of Belle's focus on the cucumbers and kept biting on that flipper in retaliation. You go, girl. Despite Belle's swindle, they remain friends and enjoy long swims together in the therapy pool – for now.



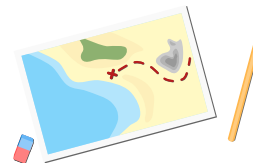
SEA TURTLE HOSPITAL IS OPEN FOR TOURS



Belle the Veggie Thief



Belle with her stolen goods



Seems Mother Nature is not totally done throwing in bouts of wintry weather just to keep us out of shorts and flip flops. One day it's 80 and two days later it's in the 40's. There are most likely still debilitated turtles out there that might be stranding in the next few weeks. Please continue to be on the lookout for any turtle in distress. Don't assume a turtle is beyond help because it can't move. They may be just stunned to the point of not being able to move, even unable to close their eyes.

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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John and Pearl Frazier

By Carol Ann Ross

Special to the Topsail Times

One of the first families to come to Surf City when development was just beginning, was the Frazier family. They arrived around 1951 and moved into one of the old World War II barracks left by the military, renovating it into motel apartments for visiting fishermen and military men who did not want to live on base at Camp Lejeune.

I remember that building well, since it was nearly as long as the old barracks I grew up in just about half a mile north of there. Miss Pearl always kept the outside neat and clean and I recall her always saying hello as I walked on my way to my daddy's Texaco station.

Her husband, John Frazier, worked as a much needed carpenter for the area and also at Camp Davis, tearing down old buildings and moving them to residences in Holly Ridge and Surf City. Pearl operated the motel, keeping the rooms clean and supplied with fresh linens.

John and Pearl kept busy in the 1950s by operating the Kooler, a small pink building that offered a laundromat and a soft serve ice-cream parlor. Inez Frye would take over operation of that later. Believe me, it was quite an accomplish-



Peggy Frazier



John Frazier and grandson, Kevin

Photos provided by Carol Ann Ross

ment to purchase a chocolate dipped ice-cream cone and not have it melt completely by the time you walked home.

In the early 1960s the Frazier's purchased the Sand Piper, another old World War II building located at the top of the dunes just opposite Pop's Pavilion. (Now the Welcome Center in Surf City. The Sand Piper is now Buddy's) Unlike Pop's, the Sandpiper sold real food, like hamburgers, hot dogs and french fries. There was a soda fountain there too. Kids were always running between the two places, Pop's and the Sand Piper, just having fun and being young.

Those were the good old days when soda pop was a dime and surf fishing was free. My, my haven't things changed.

The Frazier family was an integral part of the Surf City community, especially when John and Pearl's son and his family moved there in 1953. Pearl did lots of walking between her place and her son's and again, when I'd walk to my dad's station, I'd meet her. She'd ask me where I was going, and wink and smile. I liked Miss Pearl. She and her husband went to the same church I did, as did their son, John Berline and his wife, Peggy. He often played the piano during services, which was a treat since his day job at a Naval propeller plant in Maryland kept him away quite a bit. It was a long way to drive, but he made it home most weekends. His wife Peggy was something special, petite and quiet, Peggy was an intelligent woman who worked as a bookkeeper for many local businesses until she began working for Hertz in Wilmington in 1956. She had that sweet smile too, like Miss Pearl did-maybe it was catchy. And maybe this is only from a child's perspective, but the Frazier family always seemed so much like a unit, like they stuck together and I guess in today's lingo-had each others back. All I know, is that the Frazier family was always kind to me and that I never heard a bad word about them from my parents. Back then if my parents didn't have anything bad to say about you, well then, you must be good folks.

We can't go back in time, but it sure is sweet to remember when people looked you in the eye and smiled. When kind words were the best words and it was cool to be friendly.

Of course, Pearl and John and John Berline have been gone for a while, but just recently we lost another of the

Fraziers, Miss Peggy. She was in her 90s, still just as sharp as a tack. I got the chance to talk to her now and then. Her soft eyes looked at me with fondness and the light in them held a twinkle as she smiled. That's just as I remember, Miss Peggy was always a sweetie.

Peace be with you Peggy, thanks for wonderful memories.



John Berline, Constance and Robin



Pearl and grandson



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The Marian Way

By Marian Taylor

Welcome Spring!

Springtime is the season of rejuvenation and officially started on March 20th. The flowers begin to bloom, trees start to bud, and the warmer weather finally begins to pick back up. Spring is all about getting a fresh start. It's also the season that gives us energy to clear the winter dust and dirt and energy to declutter and spring clean.

While spring cleaning has the obvious benefits of an organized closet, a sparkling countertop, and more space, it has also been associated to decrease stress, increase creativity, and improve one's mood.



Ten easy steps to jumpstart your spring cleaning and home maintenance... The Marian Way!

- * Freshen warm weather clothing and store cold weather clothing, and winter shoes. Donate items that no longer fit.
- * Bring the sunshine into your home by cleaning windows and installing window screens that you stored during the winter.
- * Wash window treatments or replace as needed.
- * Inspect barbecue grill; fill propane tank, replace worn grill parts.
- * Service mower and lawn equipment (replace spark plugs, sharpen blades, change oil, and refuel)
- * Schedule annual air conditioner maintenance and replace filters
- * Uncover and clean outdoor furniture and yard decorations
- * Take a walk around your home's exterior for any winter storm damage, shrub, and tree damage. Schedule professional pruning and exterior home repairs.
- * Apply lawn fertilizer, weed prevention, and seed any bare spots
- * Enjoy spring with outdoor activities such as biking, walking, pickle ball etc. and add them to your daily routine.



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

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Paying at the Pump



By Lise Gore

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the United States is the largest producer of crude oil and the top consumer as well. In the global market the top 3 producers are the U.S., Saudi Arabia and Russia. This in part explains why our current trade sanctions against Russia have driven the price of crude oil to 109 dollars a barrel as of March 12, 2022 according to commodities control. But there are other factors that contribute to the skyrocketing price of crude oil and gas.

During the pandemic the demand for petroleum and petroleum products plummeted as countries issued lockdowns and travel restrictions. As demand dropped, OPEC requested that countries cut production. On March 5 and 6 of 2020, OPEC and Russia met in Vienna to discuss the production cuts since Russia had not adhered. The meeting did not have the expected outcome and other countries started production again.

Prices dropped in March and April 2020 due to the rising supply, diminishing storage space and decrease in demand. As economies recovered and reopened the demand for gasoline and petroleum products increased but oil production was not able to recover as quickly as countries reopened. When Russia invaded Ukraine, countries around the world issued sanctions in order to support Ukraine resulting in one of the top 3 oil producing countries to be taken out of the equation causing demand to rise quickly before supplies were able to recover.

The Keystone XL pipeline, owned by Canadian company TC Energy, shutdown had very little effect on the rising prices we have at this time since the existing Keystone Pipeline has plenty of capacity to transport the excess needed from Canada. There are currently 9,000 approved drilling permits that can also be utilized in the U.S.

Russia is depending on the elevated gas prices and need for petroleum

products to make world leaders withdraw their support from Ukraine. Since this is not likely to happen we will continue to pay for this at the pump until some sort of negotiations are in place.

Another alternative to the elevating gas prices may come from individual states. The EIA reports that gasoline is taxed at 18.3 cents per gallon on gasoline and 24.3 cents on diesel fuel. State taxes on average are 30.63 cents on gasoline and 32.39 cents on diesel. State taxes include excise tax, environmental tax, inspection fees and special tax. Currently California has the highest rate of tax on gasoline at 51.1 cents per gallon. The Midwest portion of the country seems to have the lowest rate of tax on gasoline but Alaska actually has the lowest tax at 14.98 cents per gallon. Missouri and Mississippi follow with taxes being 17.42 cents and 18.79 cents respectively. North Carolina taxes both diesel and gas at 36.1 cents per gallon.

Our federal gas tax has not increased since 1993 and is the lowest in the developed world. Currently many states are calling for a tax holiday to alleviate some of the burden of high gasoline prices. A tax cut at the state level would have considerably more impact. A concern of opponents is that this may

actually increase consumer consumption and backfire in the long run since the state of affairs in Russia is so uncertain. The higher prices especially on diesel will trickle down into all areas including inflating the cost of groceries and everyday household needs. Already crippled by the pandemic our transportation industries will have to increase the prices of freight to survive.

Such increases will without a doubt fall on consumers at some level. Summer travelers have also begun to cancel plans which will be another hit for an industry already affected by the pandemic.

As leaders in states like Michigan, Pennsylvania, Georgia and California call for relief from state gas taxes, the oil industry is struggling to meet demand by finding staffers and sourcing equipment.

On March 12, 2022 as I write this article, AAA reports the average gas price in the U.S. is \$4.33 per gallon. This is the highest in history topping a previous high of \$4.11 in July of 2008. Fuel savings app GasBuddy predicts the average price is likely to stay at \$4 until November. The release of America's Strategic Petroleum Reserve may help somewhat and GasBuddy's 2022 Fuel Outlook does predict a downward slope after Memorial Day. Let's hope they are right.

VENOMOUS SNAKES OF NORTH CAROLINA

» HOW TO TELL VENOMOUS FROM NONVENOMOUS SNAKES

Five of the state's venomous snakes are pit vipers, characterized by a heat-sensitive pit between the eye and nostril. The sixth, the Eastern coral snake, is a member of the family that contains some of the most dangerous snakes in the world, including cobras and adders.

HEAD SHAPE

Venomous snakes generally have a diamond- or triangle-shaped head. Snakes without venom generally have a smooth, round head that is shaped like their body; the smooth-headed Eastern coral snake is an exception.



EYES

Venomous snakes have elliptical or "cat-like" pupils; nonvenomous snakes have round eyes. The venomous coral snake, with its round eyes, is an exception.

FANGS

Venomous snakes have long fangs that can be permanently erect or folded at the roof of the mouth; nonvenomous snakes have small teeth instead of fangs.

» PREVENTING SNAKE BITES

- During summer, snakes are most active in early morning, late afternoon or at night.
- Watch where you step. Don't put your hands in holes or under objects.
- Get rid of places where snakes may seek shelter, such as under logs, boards, scrap sheet, metal or woodpiles. Store such materials off the ground.
- Wear sturdy shoes when outside.
- Use a flashlight when outside at night.
- Back away slowly if you encounter a snake. Don't try to pick it up or kill it. Some snakes are protected species, and a dead snake can still bite because of its bite reflex.

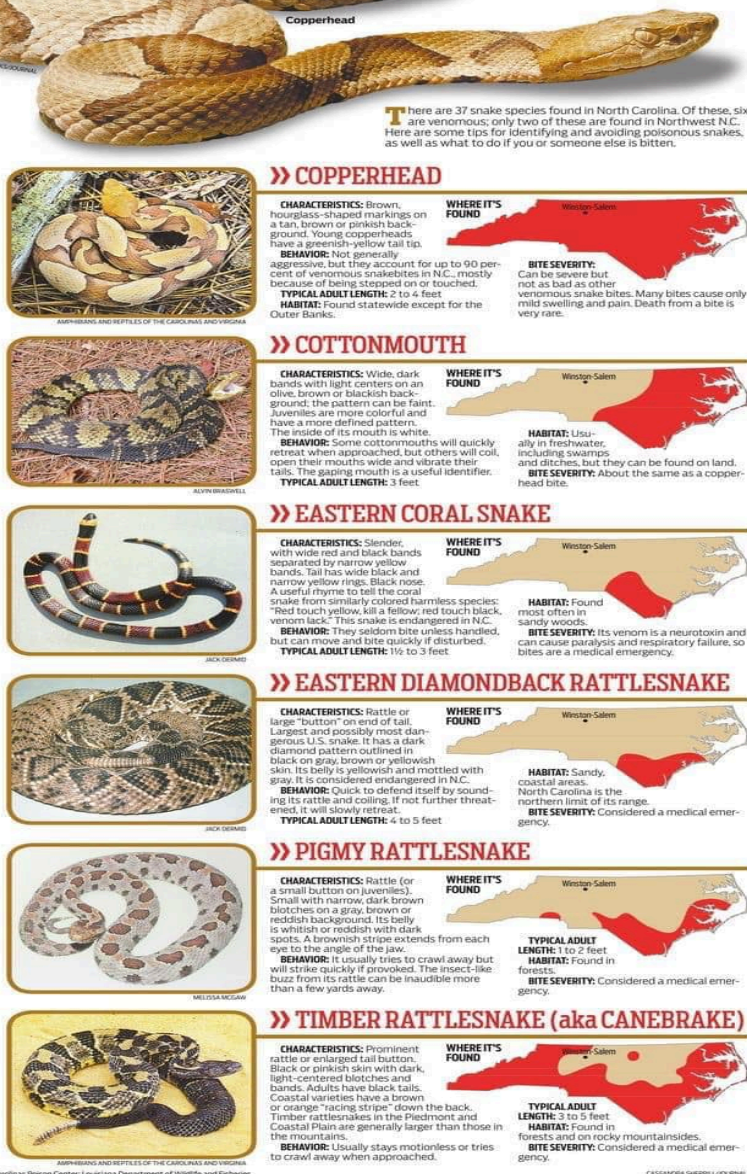
» IF BITTEN...

- DO**
- Stay calm and seek medical attention as soon as possible. Call ahead if possible so emergency personnel will be ready.
 - Wash the area with warm, soapy water.
 - Remove tight clothing or jewelry near the bite.
 - Raise the bitten area to heart level and keep it immobilized.
- DO NOT**
- Cut the bitten area to drain the venom or try to remove the venom by sucking it out.
 - Apply ice to the area.
 - Apply a tourniquet or tight bandage.
 - Give the victim alcohol or blood thinners such as aspirin.

» SYMPTOMS

- Pain • Swelling • Bruising • Nausea • Headache
- MORE SERIOUS SYMPTOMS**
- Weakness • Numbness • Increased heart rate • Trouble breathing • Confusion • Low blood pressure • Vomiting

Sources: N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences; Carolinas Poison Center; Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries



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Dixon High School Scholarships

TOPSAIL BEACH – Applications for three one-time \$3,000 scholarships offered by the Kiwanis Club of the Topsail Island Area are available online and at the counseling center of Dixon High School. Eligible applicants include: Seniors enrolled in Dixon High School, Home-schooled HS seniors whose assigned public HS would be Dixon High School and graduating seniors who are Key Club members.

“The Scholarship Committee of the Kiwanis Club of Topsail Island Area evaluates each scholarship entry using a ‘blind entry’ scoring rubric”, said Eva Krieger, Chairman of the Kiwanis Scholarship Committee. She added the Kiwanis Club of Topsail Island scholarships are awarded on several criteria, including a 3.0 grade point average or above, outstanding leadership and active participate in community service during their high school career. There is also an essay submission written by the scholarship candidate that will count more than 50% of the award scoring. Students who are planning to attend a four-year college, associate degrees or trade schools are encouraged to apply.

The winners, with their guardians/parents and school counselor, will be recognized during an evening reception.

The application deadline is April 8, 2022, at 3pm est. The scholarships will be awarded at an evening reception in May.

For more information about Kiwanis Club of Topsail Island Area visit online at <https://k11483.site.kiwanis.org/>.



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DEADLINE to submit applications is April 8, 2022 by 3pm est

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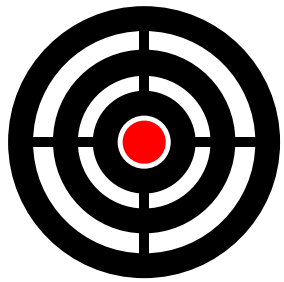


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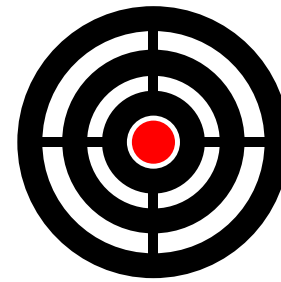
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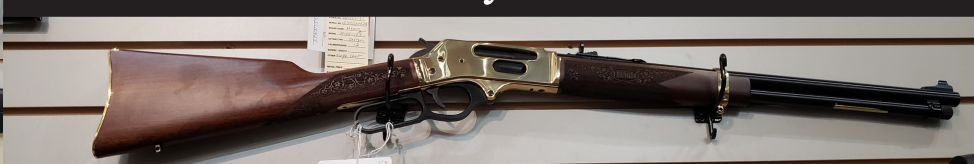
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Salty Shell Boutique

By Lise Gore

It takes a lot of patience and hard work before most dreams can become a reality. No one knows this better than Jenni Sholter.

Jenni is an artist from the Fayetteville Fort Bragg area whose family often vacationed on Topsail. She promised herself that she would some-day return to the area to live. She was able to make this dream come true and brought her artistic talent as well as the talents of her daughter Abby with her.

Inspired by beach glass, shells and ocean air she began the Salty Shell Boutique. Jenni and Abby make beach accessories and offer an assortment of necklaces, bracelets, chokers, and even have a plan to make some belly beads for the coming season. They also have some neat t-shirts with the Salty logo that Jenni designed herself.

You can find the Salty Shell Boutique on Facebook or Instagram. You can also check out their newest designs at the Yard Sale and Vendor Market on **Saturday, May 14**, at First United Methodist Church of Snead's Ferry.



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Mardi Gras Isn't Just Any Party.....

By Lise Gore

Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday can be traced back to medieval Europe and may have been called Boeuf Gras or Fatted Calf in those times. Mardi Gras is the day before Ash Wednesday which is the beginning of the Christian season of Lent. Lent is a period of fasting and repentance before Easter, practiced by many of the Christian faith. Mardi Gras is the day you have to get it all out of your system before the fast.

It comes as a surprise to most people to learn that the first Mardi Gras celebration in America was near Mobile, Alabama. There are some ongoing disagreements about this fact and it is certainly no secret that in present times New Orleans holds the Mardi Gras crown.

Pierre Le Moyne D'Iberville is credited with bringing the tradition to the Americas when he landed on the Gulf Coast on Fat Tuesday in 1699. He named the place Point du Mardi Gras and the celebration began.

Celebrations begin about two weeks before Ash Wednesday and culminate on Fat Tuesday, the last day to eat rich foods, drink and in general be merry.

The holiday is celebrated worldwide in places like Venice, France, Brazil and all along the Gulf Coast of the United States.

It is a school and business holiday along much of the Gulf Coast. Social clubs called Krewes work on elaborate floats all year. Krewes have been doing this since the late 1800's. A Krewe will often work on the float for an entire year before the parades begin. A Krewe will often times participate in other activities throughout the year as well. Many of the Krewes contribute to the community by providing social and charitable activities in the communities where the members live and work.

There are many traditions associated with the holiday, my personal favorite being King Cake, a heavenly concoction colored in the traditional Mardi Gras colors of purple, gold and green. The purple color represents justice, green means faith and the gold is for power. A plastic baby is hidden in the cake and if you get the baby in your piece of cake not only do you have good luck in the coming year you also get the distinction of purchasing next year's cake.

Beads are thrown from parades and despite their reputation in New Orleans, no nudity is required to get beads at a parade. The beads tradition is reputed to have begun in the 1800's when a man dressed as Santa Claus threw glass beads into the crowd. They were a hit and a tradition began. Many things are thrown from floats. This year some floats in Biloxi threw Ramen Noodles, Nerf

footballs, plastic toys and hula hoops. You never know what might come at you from a float.

And masks, the masks allow you to revel in mystique and anonymity. The mask allows for a sense of freedom- that way no one can actually prove how you earned all those beads. (wink,wink)



Simply Homemade Recipes

Banana Nut Bread

- 3/4 Cup Chopped Walnuts
- 2 Cups Self-Raising Flour
- 1 Tsp Baking Soda
- 3/4 Cup Margarine
- 1/2 Cup Buttermilk
- 1-1/2 Cups Sugar
- 3/4 Tsp Salt
- 4 Bananas
- 2 Eggs



Preheat oven to 325. Mash 4 bananas, mix margarine and sugar. Add eggs. Blend in self-raising flour, baking soda and salt. Fold in buttermilk then nuts. Pour into 2 greased and floured loaf pans. Bake at 325 for 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Photo courtesy of AllRecipes.com

Recipes courtesy of
Town of Holly Ridge
Liberty Fountain Cookbook
Volume II
(available for purchase at City Cafe!)

Shepherd's Pie

- 1-1/4 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese, divided
- 4 cups frozen mixed vegetables
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 3/4 cup light sour cream
- 3 cloves garlic, halved
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 3 tablespoons ketchup
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 3/4 cup beef broth
- 1 teaspoon salt



Place cubed potatoes and garlic in a large pot with enough water to cover. Bring to a boil over high heat; reduce heat to medium-low, cover, and simmer until tender, about 20 minutes. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Brown ground beef over medium heat in a skillet. Stir in flour, mixing with beef drippings. Add beef broth, ketchup and vegetables. Stir to combine. Cook for 5 minutes, until thick. Transfer beef mixture into an oven-proof casserole dish. Drain potatoes and smash them a little bit before adding 1/4 cup of grated cheese and sour cream. Mash together until smooth. Spoon potatoes onto the middle of the meat mixture. With a fork, spread potatoes from the center to the edges to form the top layer. Sprinkle with remaining 1/4 cup of grated cheese. Bake in the preheated oven for 20-25 minutes, or until cheese is melted and golden. Let cool 15 minutes before serving.

Recipe and photo courtesy of AllRecipes.com

Chicken Enchilada Quiche

- 1-1/2 Cups Cooked Chicken Cubed or Shredded
- 2 Cups Monterey Jack Cheese Shredded
- 1 (4.5oz) Can Chopped Green Chilies
- 1 Refrigerated Deep Dish Pie Crust
- 1 Cup Cheddar Cheese Shredded
- 1-1/2 Cups Tortilla Chips Broken
- 1/2 Tsp Salt & Pepper To Taste
- 1 Cup Thick n' Chunky Salsa
- 1 Cup Half & Half
- 4 Eggs



Preheat oven to 350. Place pie crust in deep dish pie pan. In medium bowl, beat eggs with whisk until blended. Beat in half & half. Stir in chicken, chips, cheeses, salsa, chilies, and salt. Pour into pie crust. Sprinkle pepper over top of pie filling. Bake at 350 for 55 to 65 minutes or until crust is light golden brown and knife inserted in center comes out clean. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Cut into wedges. Serve with sour cream and/or salsa.

Photo courtesy of
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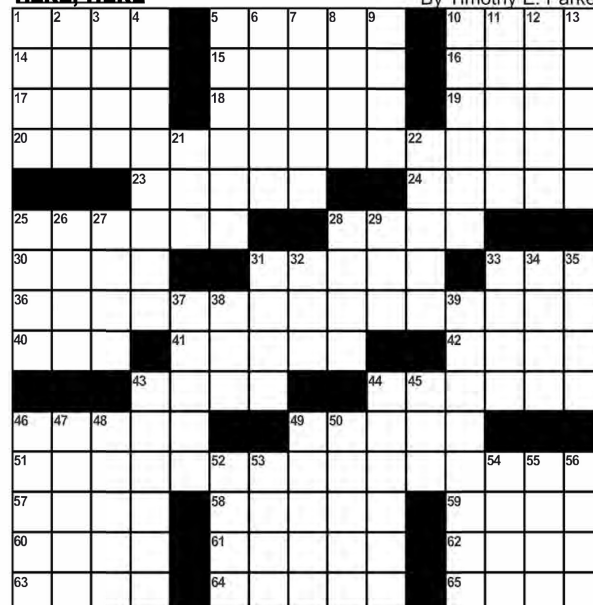
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ACROSS

- 1) Cannabis product
- 5) Type of beef
- 10) Golfer's rental
- 14) Assert confidently
- 15) Brown in a pan
- 16) Ubiquitous cosmetics ingredient
- 17) What souffles do
- 18) Kind of panel
- 19) Unexplainable picked-up feeling
- 20) Stress
- 23) Large-eyed lemur
- 24) Showing signs of wear and tear
- 25) Total
- 28) Cause for opening a window
- 30) What a good pilot knows how to do
- 31) Den drug of old
- 33) "7 Faces of Dr. ____"
- 36) Project for homebuilders
- 40) The avant-garde's Yoko
- 41) Judicial orders
- 42) ____ spumante
- 43) Bit of perspiration
- 44) Larry Bird was one
- 46) Salesperson's pitch
- 49) Harmful bacteria
- 51) Bad GPS revelation
- 57) Goddess symbolized by a cow
- 58) Extra
- 59) Delight or jubilation
- 60) Convene
- 61) Sailor buddy
- 62) Long fishes
- 63) Blows it
- 64) Pulled vehicles
- 65) Becomes compost

HERE, HERE

By Timothy E. Parker



DOWN

- 1) Instrument with 47 strings
- 2) Good's opposite
- 3) Large butte
- 4) Prevent from happening
- 5) Declare firmly
- 6) Watts of Hollywood
- 7) Takes huge drinks
- 8) Four Corners state
- 9) "Buona ____" (Italian "Good evening")
- 10) Fancy cracker topper
- 11) Choice invitees
- 12) Automaton
- 13) Itsy-bitsy
- 21) Long, long, long time
- 22) Pound the ground
- 25) "But wait, there's more"
- 26) Bounding site?
- 27) Not deceived by
- 28) Lubricates
- 29) Double header?
- 31) "Ars Amatoria" poet
- 32) Family member who may eat off the floor
- 33) "____ we forget"
- 34) Naysayer
- 35) Applying to ears
- 37) Took up residence
- 38) Historic time
- 39) Avoid work
- 43) Wild creatures
- 44) Some New York-style hotdogs
- 45) Big game
- 46) Gunk
- 47) Tough puzzle
- 48) Less cordial
- 49) Related maternally
- 50) Like many hams
- 52) Doctrines
- 53) Australian gemstone
- 54) Fake butter
- 55) Lash mark
- 56) Eliot of the Untouchables



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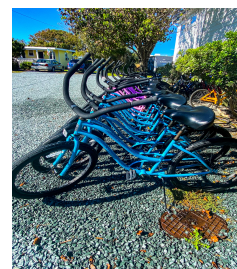
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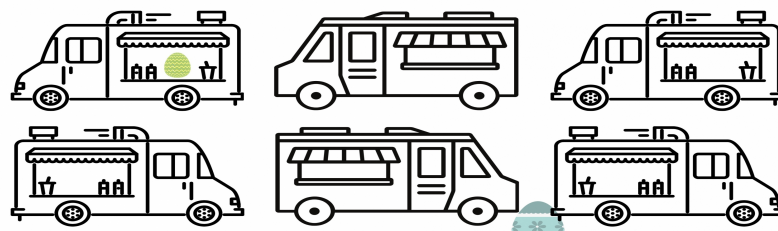
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Answer To Our Last Crossword Puzzle

SADDLE UP

By Timothy E. Parker

1	M	A	G	E		5	B	A	T	O	N		10	E	C	H	O		
14	O	P	A	L		15	A	G	O	R	A		16	G	O	O	F		
17	H	O	R	S	E	S	H	O	E	M	A	G	N	E	T				
20	A	L	G	E	R	I	A	N	S		21	T	A	G					
22	I	L	L		23	E	N	S		24	T	I	R	A	D	E			
27	R	O	E	S		28			29	T	A	L	U	S		32	I	R	E
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		38	H	O	R	S	E	A	N	D	B	U	G	G	Y				
41	H	E	R	I	T	A	G	E		42	O	E	R						
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66	P	E	O	N		67	O	X	E	Y	E		68	T	E	E	S		



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