



# TOPSAIL TIMES

TOPSAIL ISLAND, HOLLY RIDGE, HAMPSTEAD AND SNEADS FERRY



8th April, 2022

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Volume II, Issue 8

FREE!

## Local Sheriff's Races Are Heating Up

After November's election, Onslow County will have a new sheriff in town. After years of public service, Sheriff Hans Miller is retiring and turning over the highest elected position in the county to someone new in November 2022. Currently there are four republican candidates in the May 17th primary.

Chief Deputy Chris Thomas, a current member of the Onslow Sheriff's department, is running for the Office. Sheriff Miller has given Chief Deputy Thomas his full support and is confident that he will keep the department going in the right direction. With over 35 years of law enforcement experience, he goes into detail about his plans on his website at [christhomas4sheriff.com](http://christhomas4sheriff.com).

John Yopp, a 20 year law enforcement officer who has worked as a correction officer and patrol deputy in Onslow County now works as a Sergeant with North Topsail Beach Police Department. Mr. Yopp is a lifelong resident of Onslow County. [yoppforsheriff@gmail.com](mailto:yoppforsheriff@gmail.com)

Joseph Zamora, former highway patrolman in Jones and Lenoir County, former Army. [votejjzamora.com](http://votejjzamora.com)

Jacob Donnerwirth, former Marine, private security. [donnyforsheriff.com](http://donnyforsheriff.com)

The Pender County Sheriff's office has 3 candidates on the ballot for the republican primary. Current Sheriff Alan Cutler (seeking a second term), Mike Sorg (current Holly Ridge Police Chief since 2020) and Mike Korn (retired deputy from Guilford County). All 3 candidates exceed 20 years of law enforcement experience. There are currently no democratic or libertarian candidates that filed for the seat. Randy Burton is raising signatures to be on the November ballot under "unaffiliated" party.

[Alancutlerforsheriff.com](http://Alancutlerforsheriff.com) – current Sheriff

[Mikesorgforsheriff.com](http://Mikesorgforsheriff.com) – current Holly Ridge Police Chief, former Wrightsville Beach Police Captain, former FBI Criminal Task Force officer, former New Hanover County vice/narcotics sergeant, former ATF violent felon task force officer, former SWAT member New Hanover County, and presently a NCJA Law Enforcement Instructor.

[Mikekornforsheriff.com](http://Mikekornforsheriff.com) – retired Guilford deputy with city and county patrol, field and administrative duties. Conceal carry instructor.

Some of the issues facing the current Pender County Sheriff's department include a recent report that stated two deputies apprehended a couple involved in an altercation in Hampstead where the male was found to have drugs and a weapon on his person. The man was put into the dog crate of a K-9 vehicle while the officers waited for another patrol car to transport him to Burgaw. In the moments that followed, the man was able to escape the crate and to retrieve his drugs and firearm before fleeing. When the initial report came out, the wrong person was identified as the escapee. After correcting that error, it has been stated that the man is still at large but no identification has been given to the community. The two deputies have resigned, but not without claiming that they were only following orders.

Another issue facing the Pender County Sheriff's office is the delay in activating the Hampstead Annex location. With the majority of the population of Pender County on the eastern side, citizens should have the ability to go to the annex to file a report, sign paperwork, submit and pick up

pistol permits, and have a magistrate present (to avoid the lengthy drive for local law enforcement).



### Early voting for primary

starts Thursday, April 28th (17 day period) ends 3pm Saturday May 14th  
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# Topsail Times

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## TOPSAIL TIMES NEWSPAPER

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## Topsail Gun Gal: Marijuana by Mastercard

By Dorothy Royal

With the number of states legalizing marijuana, why hasn't the banking industry done more to take in all that cash? Millions of dollars are exchanged daily, in cash, across the country in the marijuana market and none of it can be deposited into banks. Why aren't the credit card companies pushing this through congress? Think of all the catchy phrases credit card companies are missing out on like, "Marijuana by Mastercard," Has a nice ring to it. The danger of this of course is robbery. Several legal shops on the west coast are being robbed, some resulting in death, over their stash of cash. California's response? Get an armed guard. Isn't that funny? One shop owner stated that he has to make between \$50,000 and \$200,000 a month in sales to break even and adding security would put another \$50,000 on top of that. Now I am no math genius but those numbers seem out of whack to me.

Sig Sauer has introduced a new version of the very popular Sig P365 to the market. Once only available in 9mm, the new version of the P365 now comes in .380. What is the difference you ask? Technically a .380 is considered a short 9mm bullet and therefore will have a little less kick while still doing the job. The only problem is that .380 ammo can be considerably more expensive than 9mm ammo. What version do they need to make next?

How about a nice .22lr Sig P365. Don't laugh, Ruger LCP which is famous for being a small pocket carry in .380 introduced a version in .22 and it is incredibly popular. Don't dismiss the power of a .22 long rifle. Ever watch those swamp guys hunting alligators? Guess what caliber they use.

Children committing violent crimes against other people, some resulting in death, is now a daily occurrence in national news. Why is this happening? Why are teens so filled with hate that killing another person isn't a problem? This should freak everyone out.

Nohema Graber, a 66 year old Spanish teacher in Iowa was brutally murdered by 2 male 16 year old students at the park where she loved to spend her afternoons. How were the boys caught? Social media. In fact one of them gave details about the plans leading up to the murder and details to the events that followed it. Both boys will be charged as adults and hopefully convicted with the key thrown away.

A 73 year old grandmother, loading things in her car during the day, fell victim to a violent crime of carjacking. Four teens shoved her from her vehicle, where she became tangled in her seatbelt and proceeded to drive off, dragging her. After several neighbors chased the car, the teen driver slowed enough to drop her but by then her arm had been severed. She died on scene. The ages of the car jackers? 17, 16, 15

and 15. The suspects were not apprehended until the parent of one of the 15 year old girls called to turn in their daughter. Shortly thereafter, the parent of the 17 year old boy did the same thing. The other 2 girls have also been arrested. They will all be charged with second degree murder. Their names haven't been released since they are considered minors. So many lives were destroyed.

18 year old Joshua White set his girlfriend on fire to "see what it would feel like", he told the officer that arrested him. While drinking with his girlfriend he splashed her with a liquid and lit it with his lighter. She suffered injuries to her face, neck and body and will certainly be scarred, physically and mentally.



What happened to care, compassion and concern for others? Are we raising a society of numb people who just don't care? Hopefully our judicial system will wake up and make the punishments fit the crime.

Remember knowledge is power, pay attention to your surroundings at all times and do what you can to avoid being a victim by taking a class with friends.



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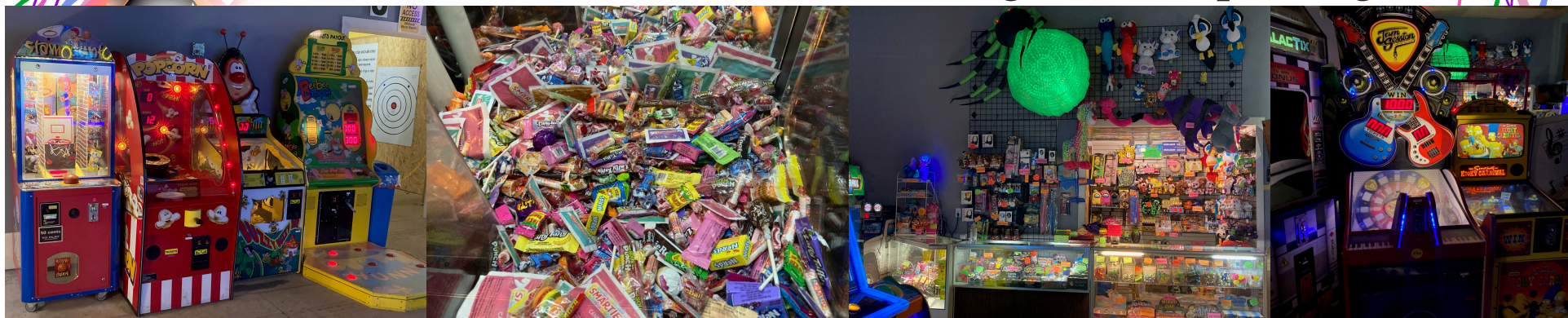


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## Surf City's Pet Supplies Plus

### By Dorothy Royal

A new community business is adding lots of benefits to pet owners in the Surf City Area. When Pet Supplies Plus opened last July in the old Family Dollar location in the Surf City Gateway Plaza, people were eager to get inside. With aisles filled with all types of dog and cat food products, treats and toys, along with live fish, reptiles and a few furry critters, Pet Supplies Plus was an instant hit.

There is a self-service 3 bay dog wash (for all size dogs) that even includes towels, that is located beside the pet groomer's station. Like a clean dog? They have price breaks available for multi wash!

Natural products including medications and treats are in ample supply. Is your dog afraid of thunder or fireworks?

Stop by and check out their assortment of products to help.

Aaron Smith, the owner and operator of this hometown pet store has plans in the future to expand to other areas like Jacksonville, New Bern and Morehead City but right now his focus is making this the best store for our community possible. "My goal is to be on a first name basis with many of our customers and to know what they need to keep their pets happy and healthy. That's what our goal is."

Looking to adopt a cat? In a partnership with Paws 4 Purpose, this shop has cats available for adoption on site. Most cats have a name card and brief description and are eager to be someone's lifelong pet.

Since the store has opened, over 50 cats have been placed in loving homes

and Aaron and his wonderful staff of trained professionals fondly remember them all. Currently Tiger and Penguin are in house and full of entertainment.

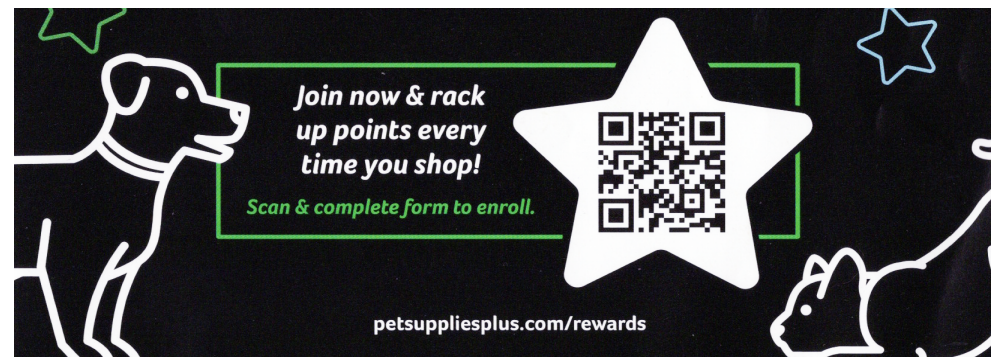
Pet Supplies Plus now offers a reward program for their customers. Based on a point system regarding purchases, the reward program offers discounts and money off products. Who doesn't love that?

**Already have a Pet Supplies Plus account?**  
It is easy to link the rewards program either through the website or app.

Pet Supply Plus is open 7 days a week.  
Monday through Saturday 9am until 9pm  
and Sunday 10-6.

### New to the area?

You can find this hometown pet shop at  
13500 NC-50 Suite 106 in Surf City.



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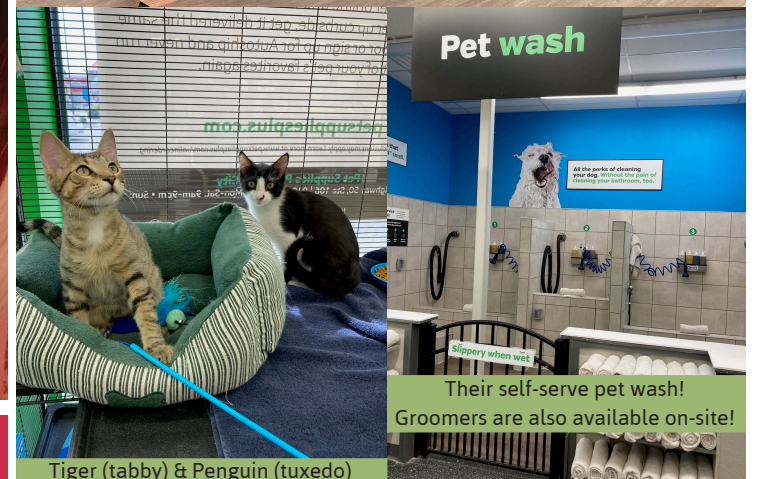
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# Sea Turtle Hospital News



By Karen Sota

Many of the cold-stunned patients we admitted over the winter are well on their way to getting their final release papers, along with a boat ride home. But we still have a few in our Sick Bay area that need some extra TLC. One of those is a little green named "Thistle."

Thistle stranded on Cape Lookout on January 18th with more problems than just being frosty. As a turtle starts to experience the effects of the cold their circulation decreases leaving them unable to move. Their flippers and head are especially vulnerable to all kinds of damage as they lie exposed and helpless. That includes predation.

Thistle was on the thin side, we've seen much worse, but we don't normally see a bite wound on a sea turtle that clearly came from a mammal. Based on the outline of the bite and some adjacent marks it appears that Thistle was almost a snack for a coyote. Her wound is on the underside of her right front flipper and is very deep, through muscle and down to the bone. The bite is serious, and her flipper is extremely fragile, but she somehow manages to use it quite well.

Thistle was immediately put on the standard protocol of fluids and antibiotics, along with topical wound treatment consisting of lots of flushing with saline and diluted betadine after

which she spends time resting comfortably on a fluffy towel while honey is applied to her wound and left to work its magic. Following a final flush, SSD is applied before she's returned to her tank.

After a few weeks with us it became apparent that the surrounding tissue was getting worse; the size of the wound was growing, possibly from bacteria foreign to a sea turtle. Fluids, antibiotics, and wound care has continued and now we're finally seeing signs of healing. We want the dead scar tissue to slough off by itself without disturbing the muscle healing beneath it. Thistle is kept in extremely clean water, switched between tanks multiple times during the day and handled very gently. And barring anything out of the ordinary it looks like this little lady has beaten a wily coyote and will be going back home with all of her flippers.

We've had a very busy few weeks since reopening for public tours. All time slots have been filled on Fridays and Saturdays but take heart. We're adding another day – Sunday - beginning in April. Tour hours will be 11 AM – 1 PM on Fridays and Saturdays, and Noon – 2 PM on Sundays. Tickets must be purchased in advance through our website: [www.seaturtlehospital.org](http://www.seaturtlehospital.org). Select the date, time and the number of guests in your party and purchase your tickets. We

limit the number of guests for each time to make the experience more enjoyable and to continue our commitment to keep you and our staff safe as we work our way through Covid, and we are still 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.



Thistle displaying her coyote wound

Even though we're still on alert for late-arriving cold stuns it won't be too much longer until those turtle mamas start heading toward shore. On Topsail our official start to nesting season is May 1st.

**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.

## Sea Turtle Hospital Expands Tour Options

Beginning in April we will be adding Sundays to our tour schedule.

Tours on Fridays and Saturdays are from 11 AM – 1 PM.

On Sundays tours are from Noon – 2 PM.

Tickets must be purchased in advance through our website [www.seaturtlehospital.org](http://www.seaturtlehospital.org).

Our renovated gift shop and adoption center will be open to everyone during tour hours and you will not have to take a tour to shop and adopt. Please be aware that to keep our staff and visitors safe during the continuation of Covid we require masks for everyone except children under the age of 5. Hope to see you soon.



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# THOMAS

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# Why Don't Oysters Donate to Charity?

**By Carol Ann Ross**

Special to the Topsail Times

(drum roll) Because they're shellfish.  
(ha ha).

Oysters, my favorite seafood, will, by the time you read this, be out of season. Their harvesting season runs from October through March and what a glorious season it is. Who hasn't enjoyed oyster dressing for Thanksgiving or oysters on the half shell, or fried, steamed or stewed oysters? All excellent ways to enjoy them, but the best way to enjoy oysters is the oyster roast.

Oyster roasts call for camaraderie, for a gathering of friends and/or family on chilly nights around a fire. Everybody is dressed warmly and there is plenty of talking, sometimes imbibing, though that is not a necessity, and lots of laughter. Hey! Just try eating oysters without making a mess. It just ain't gonna happen. I don't think I've ever been to an oyster roast where most of the folks there didn't have a smile on their face.

My friend, Steve Midgett from Sneads Ferry, a master oysterer and clammer, (those words may be incorrect but that's the way we say them around here) has been shell fishing his entire life-knows everything there is to know about it. Well, I was chatting with him the other



Photos provided by Carol Ann Ross

day and he was telling me about the time, back in the 1960s, when fishing and shellfishing were much different than they are now. Back then you didn't need a fishing license to cast a line from the shore or a license to clam. But then I have to remember that the state has to have a way to make money so they can continue to refurbish the sand that keeps getting blown away by storms and needs to be repeated every three years. Oops! I digress!

Anyway, there was a time back in the 60s when oysters were transplanted from White Oak River, up around Swansboro, to Fulchers Landing in Sneads Ferry.

The stock needed replenishing. He remembers watching the giant barge with the giant tongs pick up oysters and deposit them into the cool waters. Back then, Steve says, oysters went for \$1.50 a bushel. "There was no limit either on how many you could harvest. Today you might pay \$60 a bushel and the limit is 5 bushels."

Being the master oysterer he is, Steve described to me a day of harvesting. "First I make sure I have my license-put it in a plastic bag so it doesn't get wet. I put the tongs and the board in the boat along with a drag anchor.

"A board?" I asked.

"Yes," he answered.

"What for?"

"That's where you throw your oysters and do the nubbing."

"Nubbing?"

"That's where you break the oysters out of clusters."

I knew what a drag anchor was, so I didn't have to ask that. A drag anchor is one that does not have pointed ends, it won't stick in the sand. A drag anchor can be pulled along.

After my questions, Steve continued on, "I go real slow, pulling the drag anchor, and feel with an oar on both sides of the boat for rocks. Usually the water is 4 or 5 feet deep. Then I use the long tongs to lift the oysters out and put them on the board.

Oystering is a lot of hard work, one has to be precise and strong to work the tongs and the boat. My hat has always been off to people who make their living from the ocean. "Yet there is an easier way," said Steve. It was the way I knew about it, the way where you get out of the boat and search for them.

I guess that's somewhat like clamming. Clamming is less strenuous, and even a lot of fun. These little islands dotting the ICW are great places to

find clams. Just dig with your hands or feet into the soft sand. Before you know it you'll have a sack full of clams.

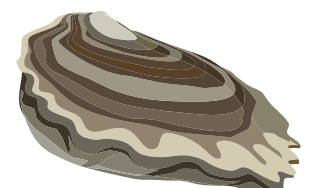
Remember though, that there is a limit to how many clams you can gather. Without a license you can get 100, with a license there is no limit. Be careful about those licenses, remember the state needs money to refurbish the sand on the islands where-if you visit, you have to pay for parking. (the circle of life?). Oh yes, and if you're smart, you'll need to wear a pair of water shoes. Rays are all through the shallow waters where you find clams, and getting stung by a ray would be a real bummer.



Steve clamming with his feet



Steve in the boat



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# The Marian Way

## By Marian Taylor

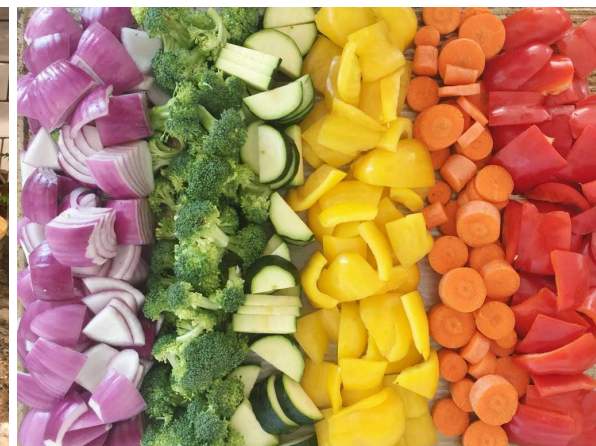
The Marian Way believes that you can save money, save time, and eat healthier with a few simple meal prep solutions. From my own experience I have found that fresh produce that is packaged either in plastic bags or plastic containers start to spoil within 2-3 days after purchasing. As soon as I arrive home from the grocery store, I remove all produce from plastic bags and plastic containers. I wash, dry, chop or slice the fresh vegetables. The chopped vegetables, salad greens, spinach, and unwashed fruit (wash before eating) is then stored in wide mouth glass mason jars with an airtight lid. I prefer a sustainable bamboo lid that is airtight and stylish and can be found on [TheMarianWay.com](http://TheMarianWay.com) website. The produce will last 2-3 times longer, even up to 10 days. The produce is fresh and chopping as you put the produce away will save you valuable time when you have a busy week. The produce stays fresh longer, maximizes refrigerator space, promotes a sustainable lifestyle, and looks beautiful in your refrigerator.

Hosting a Salad in a Jar Party is a fun way to spend time with friends and create healthy grab and go salads for the week. Have each invited guest bring the following: 5 Mason jars (Pint and a half size works best) with airtight lids, A large bowl of salad greens, Salad dressing to share, 2-3 chopped and prepared toppings to share (nuts, seeds, cooked chicken, rinsed canned beans, chopped bell peppers, sliced, and quartered cucumbers, olives, tomatoes, chopped onions, carrots, raisins, berries, cooked quinoa, etc. The list is endless.)

Arrange the toppings in an assembly line on the counter or kitchen table in order that they will go into the jar.

Order of Assembly:

- \* Salad dressing (2-3 Tbsp. of dressing to lightly cover the bottom of the jar)
- \* 1/2 cup protein (beans, cooked chicken, quinoa, cheese)
- \* 1/2 cup chopped veggies and fruit (peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, berries)
- \* 1/4 cup seeds or nuts
- \* 1-2 cups salad greens to tightly fill the jar. Top with an airtight lid.



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

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# How to Purchase Your Dream Home in Today's Real Estate Market

By Lynn Glasgow

You may be hearing lots of talk about the current real estate market – crazy bidding wars, low supply, high demand, and overall chaos. However, that isn't an entirely accurate picture. There are several factors that have contributed to our market. While we thought the COVID pandemic would halt moving, it did the opposite. Because people were spending more time at home, they decided they either had too much space or not enough, or maybe wanted a pool or larger lot. In addition, the Carolinas are seeing large herds of buyers from out of state who are escaping big, crowded cities. Lastly, the supply of homes is very limited in ratio to the demand. As a result, we are experiencing a seller's market.

However, don't let this discourage you. Even though there is more competition out there, it's still a great time to buy. Interest rates hit a historical low during the pandemic, but they won't stay low indefinitely.

Locking in a low interest rate is a huge asset. It will help you afford more houses than you would be able to in the future when rates rise. While you may have heard rumors of a "market crash", that is not likely. It would take a major event to rock the market and cause a major shift. If purchasing a home is on your list of goals, don't wait. Waiting may price you out of your desired location and affect affordability.

**Let's talk about how to compete and win in this market.**

1. Be Ready to Play: Have your finances in order, get pre-approved, and have your down payment and closing fees saved. Speaking to a lender is a great starting point.

2. Work with a real estate agent: The key to winning in today's market is having an experienced and creative agent who can think outside of the box and make your offer stand out.

3. Create a strong offer: We encourage buyers to lead with a strong initial offer. There are often multiple offers for the seller to review, so you want to let the

sellers know you are serious. There is a lot more to an offer than just price. Have your agent ask what terms the seller prefers. You would be shocked how many skip that step. Don't forget to think about closing date, closing costs, deposit, HOA fees, appraisal, and inspection terms. Being creative about these factors could give you the winning edge!

4. Don't be afraid of "sight unseen" offers: For a property that is in high demand, you may want to consider a sight unseen offer. You are writing an offer contingent on a clause that allows you to view the home in person and terminate if you decide not to proceed.

5. Choose a great lender: This step is crucial. Do your research, interview at least two lenders and choose the right fit for you. Pick a lender who communicates quickly and effectively and who can think outside of the box. This is a massive asset in the home buying process.

6. Don't delay: As previously discussed, waiting to buy could be detrimental to you. Interest rates and home prices are not currently forecasted to go down.

Waiting too long could mean pricing yourself out. Also, purchasing now can allow you to quickly build equity as home values continue to rise.

7. Stay determined: By staying determined, you could beat out the pool of discouraged buyers. While we hope that our buyers win the first home they offer on, it doesn't always work out like that. Prepare to make offers on a few different homes. In this market, you must stay persistent and focus on your end goal – being a homeowner!

Buying in this market is attainable. You just need some determination, flexibility, and a great team behind you! Set yourself up for success by being financially prepared and partnering with a great local agent and lender. If you are buying or selling a home in the Carolinas, we'd love to assist. Our team has over 60+ years of combined experience in real estate. We service both the NC Coastal region and Charlotte Metro.

Lynn Glasgow

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Latest Listing of 209 Messenger Ct, Jacksonville, NC



Ms. Lynn Glasgow of Carmen Miller Group eXp Realty

# My Friend, Jan, And Her SaraBell

By Dotty Harding

Many new friends come into my life by having some involvement with an animal, and one such story of friendship is about Jan.

She came from Virginia but was familiar with the area as she and her husband loved sailing, and she would reminisce about delightful memories she carried with her in her heart. Jan had experienced grief that one encounters, as she lost her parents, a son, and two husbands during her journey.

She purchased a small home in the community of Sneads Ferry and spent her time moving in, gardening, and welcoming all sorts of birds and butterflies. Then, one day she called and told me she wanted to adopt a small older dog for companionship to fill out her life. It wasn't long before I received an excited phone call from her telling me she would be receiving a visit from a young couple for a "meet & greet" with a, let's say, mature female Chihuahua with the name of Sara.

The couple loved little Sarah; however, thinking the best for her, they wanted to find her a new home as both worked long hours, and they realized it was taking a toll on the little dog.

It was love at first sight for Jan, and she would smile when talking about the suitcase that accompanied Sarah filled with so many dog outfits. So, Jan called her little dog SaraBell who became her constant companion and certainly did fill her life with happiness and contentment. Still, I never saw SaraBell in any of the outfits, and truthfully I did not think she missed them, just my opinion of course.

In a year or so, Jan was informed she needed major surgery. This required extensive planning on her part, which she did, and recovered. However, several months later, she was told she would finally be losing the battle she fought most courageously.

Life's journey sometimes takes us on a narrow road with some steep hills to climb, and it seems we can prepare ourselves for this journey through our faith, friends, and some planning. Jan's family and friends were able to support her through this challenging time by helping SaraBell, who Jan cared for and loved. Now SaraBell has a new home with Pam, the sister of Jackie James, owner of Coastal Carolina Real Estate, who was assisting Jan with selling her house. Pam, who welcomed SaraBell into her life, said, "I adopted her on her 7th birthday!

She is such a blessing, and I'm lucky to be a part of her life!!! I'm forever grateful for Ms. Jan and her trusting heart."

So a new journey began for this little dog with the James family of Surf City.

SaraBell is now acting as Pam's first-mate when they go out together to explore our surrounding waters. SaraBell's best friend is Jake the Lab, and she is often seen running down the dock into the water with the dog crew having the time of her life. She is living Jan's dream of a life filled with family, fun, love, and boating....all the things that were dear to her.

We talked many times about the joy she felt when sailing. So Jan, feel the sun on your face, the wind in your hair and the great smell of the sea carrying you to the forever place that our God has prepared for us. May love, joy, and happiness be with you again as God promised. Till then, my friend.....

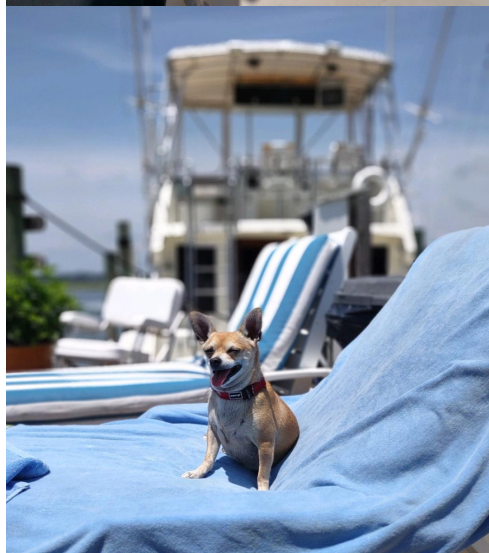
Talk to your family and friends about your plans and, if possible, some funding you could put aside to help with expenses in the future for the care of your cherished pets.

Written by Matthew Scully in Dominion:

"So in every act of kindness, we hold in our own hands the mercy of our Maker, whose purposes are in life and not death, whose love does not stop at us but surrounds us, bestowing dignity and beauty and hope on every creature that lives and suffers and perishes.

Perhaps that is part of the animals' role among us, to awaken humility, to turn our minds back to the mystery of things, and open our hearts to that most impractical of hopes in which all creation speaks as one.

For them as for us, if there is any hope at all then it is the same hope, and the same love, and the same God who "shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Rev.21:4)



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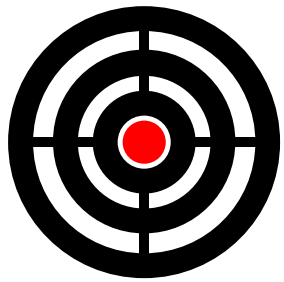


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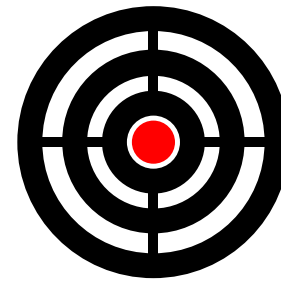
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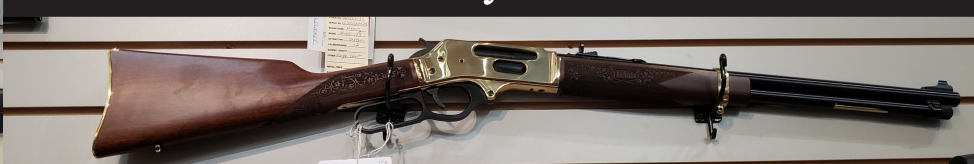
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# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Association of Zoos and Aquariums Award Federal Reimbursement Funds for Endangered Species Care During Pandemic

On April 4th 2022, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) announced distribution of the first wave of awards – a total of more than \$1.6 million – under the Endangered Species COVID-19 Relief program, funded by the American Rescue Plan.

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Congress recognized the dedication of zoos, aquariums, botanic gardens, and other facilities across the nation in helping save animals and plants from extinction by appropriating \$30 million to reimburse expenses related to the care of captive species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as well as rescued and confiscated wildlife that are at risk of extinction.

"The Service is pleased to work with longtime partner AZA to reimburse plant and animal care facilities in this first distribution of critical American Rescue Plan funding," said Service Director Martha Williams. "We are confident these funds will be used effectively to continue these institutions' high-quality efforts to protect the nation's imperiled species."

"As we reviewed the applications for this funding, it was clear that despite the pandemic, zoos, aquariums and other facilities continued to provide extraordinary care for federally protected species and a critically important service to the agencies dedicated to endangered species recovery. That is why we are so grateful to partner with the Service to direct this funding to provide some relief to facilities who need it," said Dan Ashe, president and CEO of AZA.

## The facilities receiving reimbursement funds include:

Alaska - Alaska Sea Life, \$188,229  
 Arizona - ACNC Phoenix Zoo, \$196,530  
 California - Aquarium of the Pacific, \$50,855; Birch Aquarium, \$110,190  
 Colorado - Butterfly Pavilion, \$1,738  
 Connecticut - Sea Research Foundation, Mystic Aquarium, \$44,642  
 Florida - The Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science, \$88,718  
 Georgia - Chehaw Park & Zoo, \$2,965; Georgia Aquarium, \$97,811  
 Kansas - Hutchinson Zoo \$18,811  
 Louisiana - Alexandria Zoological Park, \$42,316

Missouri - Friends of the Zoo Inc. of Kansas City, \$158,760  
 New York - New York Marine Rescue Center, \$68,506  
 North Carolina - Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue, \$100,703; North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island, \$123,672; North Carolina Aquarium Pine Knoll Shores, \$59,850  
 Ohio - Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, \$20,206; Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, \$142,296  
 Pennsylvania - National Aviary, \$87,141  
 Texas - Gladys Porter Zoo, \$12,605  
 Virginia - Mill Mountain Zoo, \$15,487

Funds released on April 4th will be directed toward reimbursing these 21 facilities for expenses such as:

- Food
- Veterinary care/medicine
- Direct animal/plant care staff time
- Life-support systems
- Transport for medical, reintroduction into the wild, and captive breeding purposes
- Real property debt and holding space improvements/modifications

- Utilities essential for the care of species (e.g., electricity/gas/ natural gas to power essential services).

Zoos, aquariums and other facilities work alongside the federal government to support recovery programs, rehabilitate injured animals, care for confiscated wildlife, and help save endangered species from extinction, including manatees, sea turtles, black-footed ferrets, California condors, Florida corals, Mexican wolves, red wolves, northern and southern sea otters, Eastern indigo snakes, the Wyoming toad and many others.

Additional information about the Endangered Species COVID-19 Relief program can be found on AZA's website at <http://www.aza.org/endangered-species-COVID-funding>.



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# Teeth Talk: Oral Cancer Awareness

By Becky Batts Moore, RDH

Wow, April is here...  
Spring is in the air!

The flowers are blooming, the wind is blowing and sunshine feels so good!!! As a dental professional and melanoma survivor I think of April and oral cancer awareness. So let's talk about the importance of regular oral cancer screenings.

As a dental hygienist, oral cancer screenings should be done at every hygiene appointment. You may not even be aware that your dental provider is checking your lips, cheeks, tongue, palate, neck and throat for any abnormal markings. It is a great opportunity to screen our patients, we are already right there!

I don't know about you, but my general practitioner doesn't check my mouth except to look at the back of my throat. There are many other places oral cancer can be hiding. It just seems fitting that your dental provider would screen this area that we know so well. So, who is screening you two times a year for oral cancer?

Let's get started with some facts. According to the National Institute of Dental Craniofacial Research oral cancers account for 53,000 cases per year in the United States. Men are two times most commonly affected and at

the age of 40 is when the risk elevates. Risk factors include tobacco use, alcohol use and infection from the human papilloma virus (HPV). It should be said that a combination of alcohol and tobacco does create a greater risk. Also, there is an increasing threat of HPV infection resulting in increased throat cancers. HPV is a sexually transmitted condition that can show up in the mouth as well. As anything, age is also a player in oral cancers and so is the ultraviolet rays in sunlight. As we all know a lifetime of sun exposure can increase risks of all cancers. Many of us cannot control our past sun exposure but can certainly be aware and prevent it. This is where regular screening for cancerous areas can be detected early.

Carcinomas are the most common type of oral cancer. They generally form around the head and neck region. This would include the lips, tongue, salivary glands, and the throat.

That is where your dental professional can help you. By allowing us to serve your dental needs (teeth and gums) we can also check your "soft" tissues for any areas of concern.

An oral cancer screening consists of looking and feeling with trained eyes and hands to detect any abnormalities. We are looking for red or white patches with special attention to location. The tongue, lips, palate and throat are the

most common areas of concern. In the event we detect a lesion we would allow any healing response of two weeks. If a suspicious area does not heal in a two week time frame we would either do an in office biopsy or refer to an Oral Surgeon or Ear, Nose, and Throat specialist. This would allow a diagnosis and treatment to be started.

In between your screenings there are some symptoms you should be aware of that may indicate the beginning of a cancer concern. These symptoms would include a white or red sore on the lips, tongue, throat or palate, a sore feeling or inability to swallow normally. The reason for concern may also be ill-fitting dentures caused by swelling of underlying tissues, numbness in the tongue and even ear pain. These of course are not necessarily oral cancer but after two weeks of not healing you should consult your dental provider or general practitioner.

As with any health condition, early detection is key. Some cancers spread quickly so being proactive is imperative.

In the event you should have to deal with an oral cancer, know there is effective treatment available.

An excision or removal of the lesion along with standard cancer therapy of radiation and chemotherapy could be options.

Be mindful that even if you have had a red or white spot around the head or

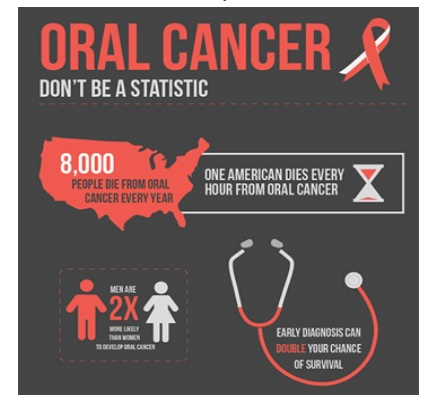
neck area for a long time, it is never too late to have it evaluated. Sometimes benign (non cancerous) can change to malignant (cancerous) conditions. I am an advocate for prevention and awareness. It only takes one to make a difference. This information may allow you to help a family member, friend, neighbor or even a stranger! Knowledge is power and education is essential.

Please wear sunscreen and lip balm with SPF to ensure adequate UV protection. It is very important and needs to be used even in the winter months. We are in the south and the UV exposure can be substantial over a period of years.

If you have any questions you can reach out to me by email at [beckymoorerdh@gmail.com](mailto:beckymoorerdh@gmail.com).

I have only diagnosed one malignant cancer in my career and thankfully he is a survivor because he acted fast!!

REMEMBER, it only takes one!



## Drumroll Please...



By Kay Burros

637 is the total of the purse roundup  
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Kay Burros and Peggy Gentry would like to recognize the four Collection Points of: Swingbridge Nutrition, Paradise Axe & Arcade in Holly Ridge, City Cafe in Holly Ridge, and Salty Sista's restaurant in Sneads Ferry.

Distribution Points: Share the Table in Surf City, Folkstone Baptist Church Food Bank, and Roots of Recovery in Hampstead. Dale Best, Pam Hall, Dorothy Royal, and Jennet Lopaz. We would be amiss if not to mention Judy Carter, Anne Troutman, Fred Gentry and Dawn Ellis. "Pack a Purse" has concluded its purse ministry mission with hopes of it becoming an annual event. We are passing the torch with hopes those with a service heart will step up. Peggy and I challenge the younger generations to become involved in community and leave a positive mark.



Simply Homemade Recipes

Irish Coffee

Strong Black Coffee  
Irish Whiskey  
Sugar To Taste  
Heavy Cream



Warm a steamed whiskey glass and pour in 1/3 of a glass of Irish whiskey. Add 1 to 2 teaspoons of sugar (more if prefer sweeter), then fill to about 1 inch of the rim with hot, strong black coffee. Stir to dissolve the sugar then top up with 1 tablespoon of heavy cream, pouring it gently into the glass down the back of the bowl of a teaspoon. Do not stir but drink the Irish coffee through the cream.

Photo courtesy of AllRecipes.com

Mozzarella Chicken & Linguine Casserole

1 to 2 Lbs Boneless Chicken Breasts  
4 oz Mozzarella Cheese Shredded  
3 Garlic Cloves Crushed  
Salt & Pepper to Taste  
16 oz Tomato Sauce  
2 Tbsp Sweet Basil  
1/4 Cup Hot Water  
1 Tbsp Olive Oil  
1 Lb Linguine



Preheat oven to 325. Brown garlic in hot oil. Cook chicken 3 minutes on each side in oil. Cook linguine. Wash and drain pasta. Mix tomato sauce, sweet basil and hot water in mixing bowl. Salt and pepper to taste. Add the following to casserole dish: 1/3 sauce mixture, drained linguine, 1/3 sauce mixture, chicken, remaining sauce mixture, and top with mozzarella cheese. Bake at 325 for 20 to 25 minutes.

Photo courtesy of BordBia.ie

Guacamole Dip

3 Green Onions Thinly Sliced  
Tobasco Sauce to Taste  
Salt & Pepper to Taste  
3 Tbsp Sour Cream  
1/2 Lemon Juiced  
2 Avocados Ripe  
1 Tomato Ripe



Scoop out avocado flesh into mixing bowl. Add lemon juice, tobasco and mash well. Mix in green onion and tomato. Season with salt and pepper. Transfer to dip dish.

Photo courtesy of SimplyRecipes.com

Recipes courtesy of  
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Liberty Fountain Cookbook  
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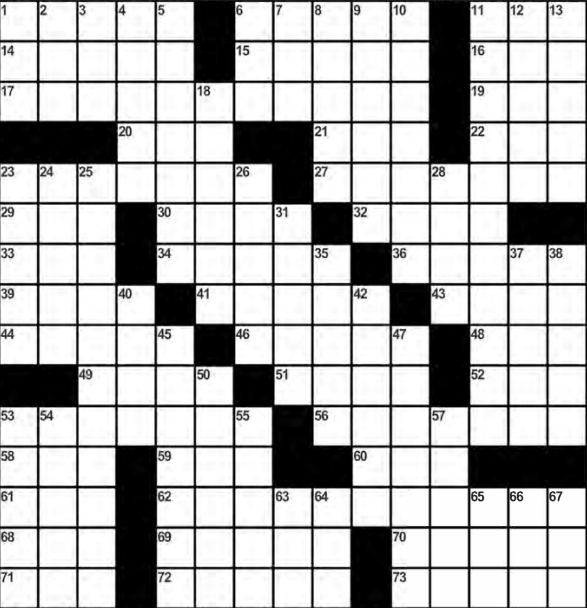
- 1) Some muffins
- 6) Curtain material
- 11) Like one hatter
- 14) Eastern Christian
- 15) Wizards play in one
- 16) Butler in "Auntie Mame"
- 17) It may be full of junk
- 19) \_\_\_ Lanka
- 20) Absorbed, as the cost
- 21) Fish eggs
- 22) Preacher's subject
- 23) Casino affliction
- 27) Postman's burden
- 29) Commotion
- 30) Barely made (with "out")
- 32) Low, sideless cart
- 33) Banned insecticide, briefly
- 34) Serious or solemn
- 36) Suit to the circumstances
- 39) Suddenly inhale
- 41) Full, at last
- 43) Diving bird
- 44) World's fairs
- 46) Louis-Dreyfus' "Seinfeld" role
- 48) Bad temper
- 49) Ages on end
- 51) Tenant's payment
- 52) Baldfaced bit
- 53) No longer single
- 56) Most sinewy and thin
- 58) "I am the greatest" claimant
- 59) Not at hand
- 60) Bled
- 61) "Smoking or \_\_\_?"
- 62) Likely to be first on a track
- 68) P.I.
- 69) "Get outta here!"
- 70) Calliope relative
- 71) Havana hanging
- 72) Made a slip
- 73) Moth-eaten

DOWN

- 1) Token transportation?
- 2) Geneticist's letters
- 3) Be ill
- 4) Kind of base or reserve
- 5) Rodin art
- 6) Oil can letters
- 7) Let it all out
- 8) Furnish guns again
- 9) An invasion or hostile attack
- 10) Fortified dessert wine
- 11) Fail to come close
- 12) Building courtyards
- 13) Cost of \_\_\_ business
- 18) Small tropical lizards
- 23) Every cop is behind one
- 24) Spiral-horned antelope
- 25) Printer stat
- 26) Skewered steak
- 28) Youngsters
- 31) Block or dissuade
- 35) Extend, as a library loan
- 37) Sprites' kin
- 38) Sound from the birdcage
- 40) Shoddy in quality
- 42) "Grudge Match" star
- 45) Cold sufferer's sound
- 47) Airborne machine-gunner
- 50) Pre-painting application
- 53) Skate's kin
- 54) Succulents that soothe
- 55) Gloomy, to a poet
- 57) Prefix with red or structure
- 63) Nervous time, maybe
- 64) Danson of TV
- 65) Type of meal?
- 66) Baseball's "The Little Giant," Mel
- 67) Play (with)

FOR GOOD MEASURE

By Ossie Lindbrook



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## Answer To Our Last Crossword Puzzle

**HERE, HERE** By Timothy E. Parker

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
H	E	M	P	A	N	G	U	S	C	A	R	T
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	V	E	R	S	A	U	T	E	A	L	O	E
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
R	I	S	E	S	O	L	A	R	V	I	B	E
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
P	L	A	C	E	E	M	P	H	A	S	I	S
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
L	O	R	I	S	T	A	T	T	Y			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35		
A	M	O	U	N	T	O	D	O	R			
30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
L	A	N	D	O	P	I	U	M	L	A	O	
36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
S	I	T	E	D	E	V	E	L	O	P	M	E
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
O	N	O	W	R	I	T	S	A	S	T	I	
43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
B	E	A	D	C	E	L	T	I				
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56		
S	P	I	E	L	E	C	O	L	I			
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
L	O	C	A	T	I	O	N	U	N	K	N	O
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69
I	S	I	S	S	P	A	R	E	G	L	E	E
60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
M	E	E	T	M	A	T	E	Y	E	E	L	S
63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75
E	R	R	S	S	L	E	D	S	R	O	T	S



**NC HOMEOWNERS ALLIANCE**

Earlier this year, many homeowners received new property valuations. Now, focus turns to local elected officials who must set the new property tax rate.

As part of the revaluation process, each local government is required to determine a "revenue-neutral" tax rate. It is then up to your local elected officials to determine where to ultimately set the tax rate.

Many local governments are in their budget process now.

But what does revenue-neutral even mean? [Check out the NC Homeowners Alliance website](http://www.nchomeownersalliance.org/) for a breakdown and example.

North Carolina Homeowners Alliance  
<http://www.nchomeownersalliance.org/>

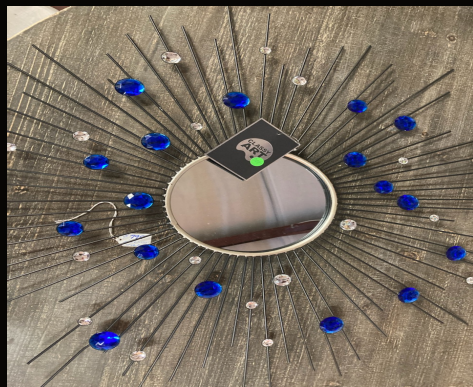
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