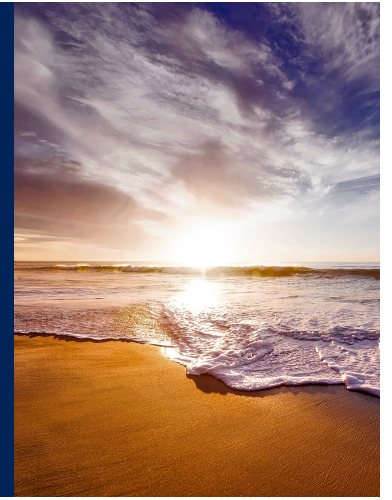




TOPSAIL TIMES

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● 10th February, 2023

● American-Owned. Free Press.

● Volume III, Issue 3

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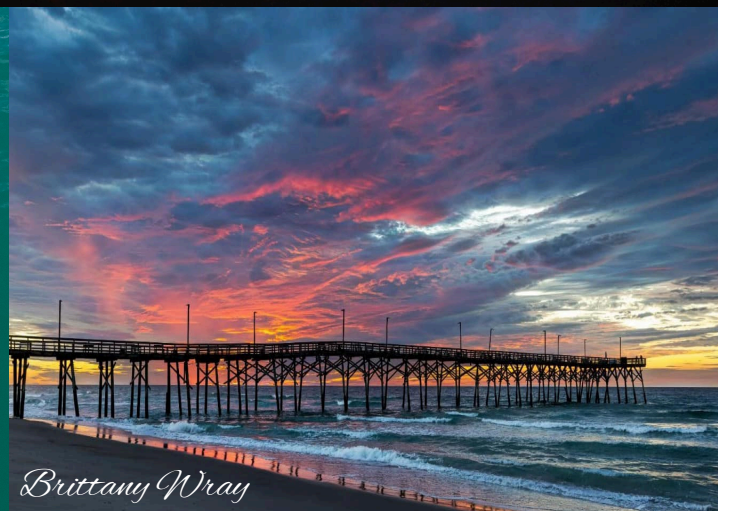
Eric Vithalani



Howard Peoples
PHOTOGRAPHY



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Brittany Wray



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Topsail Gun Gal

By Dorothy Royal

The American people depend of government agencies for guidance and assistance, when needed. But what happens when one of those agencies abuses it power? What happens when an agency makes thousands, if not millions of law-abiding citizens into overnight criminals, without the authority?

Florida Senator, Matt Gaetz, feels that the ATF has overstepped its boundaries and abused its powers one too many times. In January of this year, the Senator put forward "Abolish the ATF Act". Citing several abuse of power issues, including but not limited to the controversial "Bump-fire stock ban" that ATF created but never had the power or authority to put forward as a law. The "Bump-fire stock" ban put people out of business and caused law abiding citizens to become criminals by possessing something that ATF itself approved in the year's preceding the law.

ATF, just weeks after being reprimanded for their unenforceable "Law" is at it again, but this time with the accessory known as a "pistol brace". The device was created to allow people to better handle and control AR style pistols. Designed with handicapped sportsmen (and women) in mind, the device did nothing more than offer another form of safely controlling the

weapon it was attached to. At no time does the accessory make a firearm shoot faster, further or more rounds than it does without the accessory. So why try to ban it?

In North Carolina a Bill has been proposed (not the first time) to do away with the County Sheriff determining if someone is of good moral character to purchase a pistol. The law, which was created back in 1919, gave the Sheriff the ability to deny a person the right to purchase a firearm if they felt the applicant, "lacked good moral character." They also took into consideration conduct and criminal behavior within the previous five-year period of the application.

After Covid, several NC Sheriff departments supported removing the permit from the process as it took up too many resources, including deputies, to process all the applications. Neighboring states like Tennessee, Virginia and South Carolina do not require handgun purchase permits. In those states a buyer fills out the federal 4473 form and a background check is done at the time of purchase.

What would be eliminated for the North Carolina law abiding citizen who wanted to purchase a handgun if this law passed? No more application, payment and length of time it takes to receive the permit from the Sheriff's department in

the county they live in. The background check would be done in person by an FFL when making a purchase.

Facts about the above items:

Fact: If North Carolina did away with the purchase permit requirement a background check will still be done at time of purchase for a handgun or long gun unless the buyer has a current NC Conceal and Carry permit (which is also a background check).

Fact: There is no such thing as "internet sales" of firearms where firearms are legally shipped to a private home. Federal Law requires ALL firearms to be received by a Federally Licensed Firearm Dealer. The only exception to this law is when a repaired firearm is being returned from a manufacturer. Anyone can ship a firearm but it must be received by an FFL.

Fact: The age to purchase a pistol in North Carolina from a FFL is 21 years of age. The age to purchase a long gun (rifle or shotgun) from an FFL is 18 years of age.

Fact: A person can privately sell their firearm, but the burden falls on the seller to be able to prove the buyer was legally allowed to possess a firearm. That proof can be obtained through a permit, NC Conceal Carry or taking it to an FFL to have a background check done on the buyer.

Fact: A "gun show loop hole" does not exist in North Carolina. A person, not in the business of selling firearms, can sell a private firearm if they abide by the above rule. All FFLs selling firearms at gun shows must abide by all laws.

Fact: A pistol brace does not turn a handgun into a Class 3 SBR (short barreled rifle)

Fact: A pistol brace accessory does not have a serial number.

Fact: A bump fire stock accessory does not have a serial number.

Fact: Requiring a firearm to be registered due to an accessory attached will be almost impossible to enforce and difficult to oversee. Most accessories are designed to be removed or replaced.

Fact: An AR-15 pistol and an AR-15 rifle may shoot the same bullets, the same distance, the same speed and approximately the same accuracy. An AR-15 pistol currently requires a permit or CCW to purchase and the buyer must be 21 years of age or older.

Fact: A pistol brace or a bump fire stock not attached to a firearm is just a piece of plastic.

Remember that knowledge is power, knowing and understanding the truth makes a big difference when new laws are being created and keeping government agencies in check is very important for our safety and freedoms.

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Letter To The Editor

By Beth Butler

On January 17th, 2023 I went to my local commissioner's meeting with serious concerns about District 1 Jimmy Tate's residency. I became very concerned after reading a recent article in Star News November 2022 in reference to the old Hines Trailer Park that Mr. Tate had listed as his residence during the 2022 primary election. I learned the trailer park had been sold and developers were looking to redevelop. This sparked concerns about Mr. Tate's residency and where he was living, which many people had been questioning since early 2022. I continued to speak to residents and business owners that Mr. Tate used to frequent, and kept hearing the same concerns from citizens, "Where does Jimmy Tate live, because no one has seen or heard from him since the election and we don't have representation in our district". So when I went to the commissioners I asked that exact question I had heard over and over again from concerned citizens. I asked our board of commissioners for an investigation into Mr. Tate's residency for transparency for the public. I clearly stated I was a concerned citizen, I followed up these concerns in an email to our county attorney and county manager the next day.

Concerned citizens throughout the county started calling the county managers office demanding a physical address for Mr. Tate because he is the

only commissioner without one on record. The county managers office told residents Mr. Tate lives at 158 Candlestick Drive in Wallace, NC in Pender County; Residents grew highly concerned because this address IS NOT Pender County, in fact, it's Duplin County where he has a home in River Landing. We knew at this point, our county didn't know where Mr. Tate lived and didn't have answers. Duplin County GIS Addressing Technician with Duplin County Communications, then emailed the below GIS map of Mr. Tate's home. That evening Mr. Tate resigned citing racism and hate, which had absolutely nothing to do with concerns about his residence, I felt that was a way to deflect from the real issues and was absolutely false.

[HTTPS://WWW.WECT.COM/2023/01/26/PENDER-COUNTY-COMMISSIONER-RESIGNS-AMID-CLAIMS-HOMOPHOBIC-RACIST-ISSUES-BOARD/](https://www.wect.com/2023/01/26/pender-county-commissioner-resigns-amid-claims-homophobic-racist-issues-board/)

Over the past few years, I frequently ran in to Mr. Tate at events and fundraisers. In May of 2021, my husband and I attended a fundraiser to raise money for Mr. Tate's 501c3 Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership and Development honoring the late Judge John Carroll. I was upset to later hear the 501c3 was accused of engaging in deceptive or improper fundraising practices.

Citizens became even more concerned when they realized Mr. Tate's 501c3 was receiving funds from Pender County Juvenile and Crime Prevention Committee in excess of \$35,000 last year

and saw this as a conflict of interest for a sitting commissioner to receive funds for his private 501c3. Again these concerns were expressed to our local Board of Elections and the Pender County GOP. After multiple complaints and expressed concerns, former BOE chair S. Williams told residents all concerns about Mr. Tate had left their office and were supposed to be looked in to by our State Board of Elections, but residents never heard back from either source.

After the meeting I was ridiculed by a local paper as a "political activist", when I clearly stated, I WAS A CONCERNED CITIZEN speaking for many concerned citizens in our county. I was accused of being on a campaign of his opponent, I WAS NEVER ON ANY CAMPAIGN. I volunteered during the 2022 primary election educating voters on all candidates, especially state judges. Throughout the primary election, residents were concerned about Mr. Tate's residence, especially since he had resigned in 2015 from District 4 Commissioner because of the same questions about his residency.

Mr. Tate initially registered his campaign and voter registration with the county using a PO Box as his address. When concerned residents began calling the local Board of Elections, all of the sudden the 31 N Topsail Drive address appeared. In conversations with Mr. Tate throughout my time knowing him since 2020, he stated his home was in River Landing Duplin County had once been flooded by Florence in 2018, but

had since been renovated.

The Board of Elections also had his name spelled wrong, this would not allow his voter history to be viewed by residents. The BOE office said they accidentally misspelled his name. Residents also questioned his sudden change from voting Democrat to a sudden change to Republican the same day he registered his campaign. His voter history also showed years of voting in Duplin County, while also being on the Duplin County ABC board.

I also was concerned about the lawsuit from Coastal Pine Solar, LLC. Vs. Pender County.

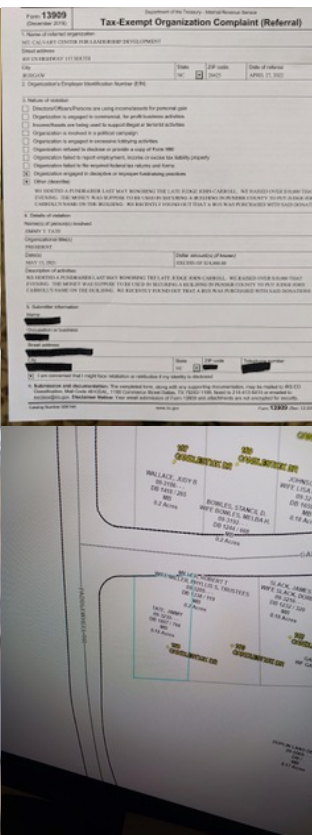
[HTTPS://WWW.WWAYTV3.COM/ONLY-ON-3-NEW-JOB-LEADS-TO-QUESTIONS-ABOUT-PENDER-COMMISSIONERS-RESIDENCY/](https://www.wwaytv3.com/only-on-3-new-job-leads-to-questions-about-pender-commissioners-residency/)

(in regards to the solar farm lawsuit pages below)

The outside, or ex parte communication refers to commissioner Jimmy Tate's comment at the end of the hearing that he had heard from "a lot" of farmers leading up to the hearing. The University of North Carolina School of Government has addressed this issue specifically with regard to awarding or denying special use permits.

It notes "some degree" of informality is permissible in quasi-judicial proceedings like public hearings, but ex parte communication that goes undisclosed can be evidence of bias or unfairness.

[HTTPS://PORTCITYDAILY.COM/LOCAL-NEWS/2022/12/08/SOLAR-FIRM-SUES-PENDER-COUNTY-OVER-DENIED-PERMIT/](https://portcitydaily.com/local-news/2022/12/08/solar-firm-sues-pender-county-over-denied-permit/)



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
PENDER COUNTY

COASTAL PINE SOLAR, LLC,
Petitioner/Plaintiff

v.
PENDER COUNTY,
Respondent/Defendant

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
22 CVS _____

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI AND COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

Petitioner Coastal Pine Solar, LLC ("Coastal Pine") appeals in the nature of certiorari pursuant to N.C. Gen Stat. § 160D-1402 to challenge the denial of a special use permit ("SUP") by Pender County ("County"), and joins a concurrent action for Declaratory Judgment pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. Chapter 1, Article 26, N.C. Gen Stat. § 160D-1401, and N.C. Gen. Stat. §1402(m) and shows the Court the following:

I. OVERVIEW

Coastal Pine applied for an SUP to construct an electric power generating facility (commonly known as a solar farm). It presented evidence to the County's board of commissioners in the form of voluminous written materials, expert reports, and the testimony of five expert witnesses that it met each of the County's eight standards. At the end of the evidentiary hearing, the board of commissioners (1) disregarded the experts' evidence; (2) based its findings solely on opinion testimony and "generalized fears" of lay witnesses and commissioners' personal opinions, and matters not related to the SUP standards; (3) misapplied an unambiguous provision in the County's zoning ordinance; and (4) admitted that one board member engaged in and based his decision on undisclosed and improper *ex parte* communications prior to the evidentiary hearing.

18.

Opponents presented no evidence responsive to SUP standards 4 through 8, and certainly no competent or material evidence that Coastal Pine failed to meet its burden on those standards.

19.

Board members were clear at the conclusion of the hearing that the board's attorney should "structure [the order] around standards one through three," and the board chose not to address the remaining standards in its Order.

IV. LEGAL ISSUES

Res Judicata

20.

The County has previously approved many solar farms, a fact disclosed in comments by board members. By law, the board of commissioners had to have made the same findings for the other solar facilities which were issued SUPs, including the findings that those solar farms met standards 1, 2, and 3.

Bias

21.

A board member stated after the close of the public hearing that, despite the rules on the conduct of quasi-judicial proceedings as explained by the board's legal counsel, he wanted everyone present to know that he "had heard from a lot of them (farmers) in the last couple of days myself ..." and those conversations had an impact on him. These improper *ex parte* conversations were not disclosed to the applicant prior to or during the public hearing and caused the board member to pre-form an opinion on the SUP application.

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Cash Is King

By Dorothy Royal

If cash is king, is the king dead? Let's hope not. In the business world, one expense that is taken directly from the bottom line, is credit card processing fees. With businesses now doing between 60-85% of their business in credit card sales this can add up and take away.

On an average month, small business owner Jamie Lewis pays out over \$1200 a month in credit card processing fees. In the beginning he never calculated that into his profit/loss as he considered it just a cost of doing business. Recently, after accounting for the increase in his wholesale supplies and his inability to increase customer cost due to big box competition, he realized those card charges were his profit.

It is common for a gas station to advertise a cash and credit price (sometimes differing by 5-15 cents a gallon) and the consumer is given a choice. The convenience of using plastic over cash has become the norm in the last decade. Credit card processing companies charge the seller a percentage (usually 2-3% plus a per transaction fee) which can really add up. To simplify things, gas stations decided the consumer could pay for the convenience, instead of the money coming from the bottom line.

A new program known as the "cash discount program" is now allowing for all businesses to offer the same option. The prices listed on most retail items are considered the cash price. If a consumer decides to pay by credit card there is a minimal amount added at check out.

This is common in retail, restaurants, services and bill paying venues.

Does this make the small business owner the bad guy? Absolutely not. For a small business owner to be able to offer competitive pricing against big box stores or online giants (like Amazon), passing along this small fee may be the difference between staying in business or not.

The government is offering rebates, but read the fine print and in some cases, expect a higher price tag from the manufacturer. The convenience of being able to walk into a store and walk out with a product may not exist in the "future world" of drone deliveries, so take advantage of option now, while you still can.



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Sea Turtle Hospital News



By Karen Sota

We often use the term “sweet” when we talk about our patients. Although some of them may have a bad day every once in a while, there are many times when our turtles are literally sweet.

We’re always searching for ways to improve our rehabilitation protocols, especially when it comes to wound care. Years ago we started using honey on wounds that were resistant to the normal topical creams and ointments. Although we were not sure it would actually help it did. In fact, it worked wonders. The turtles could get a little sticky but that’s a small price to pay for the rapid improvements we see.

So why honey? Maybe the story of recent admit “Pixie Dust” will answer that question. This little 3kg green stranded in the Cape Lookout area on December 21st and was admitted with a bunch of other cold-stuns from that area the next day. And if being almost frozen wasn’t bad enough she also had a large area of deep abrasions in the form of an arc on her plastron and other wounds typical of a shark bite. To add insult to injury literally, she had sand in her eyes and was toting around a heavy load of barnacles. She was pitiful, and after a slow thaw was placed in the very critical section of Sick Bay.

Her treatment protocol has been long and involved, initially including freshwater soaks to kill the barnacles. She’s been given fluids, vitamins and antibiotics along with betadine bandage soaks. Once stable enough we started honey treatments on that nasty shark bite. Obviously, you can’t just spread honey on a turtle and put it back in a tank of water. For Pixie it meant spending time on her back in a pillow of soft, fluffy towels. Honey was spread on her wounds, and she was off to dreamland (currently for ten minutes) while it worked its magic. With a bit of coaxing she finally started to eat, at which point we knew that the little girl had a future. If you want to see what honey can do for wound healing just look at the pictures of her on the day she came in and now.

So, what makes honey so great, other than its taste? It has three main properties: it’s antibacterial, anti-inflammatory and is an antioxidant. It is acidic with a pH of between 3.2-4.5 and when applied to wounds encourages the hemoglobin to release oxygen which is critical to wound healing. It’s a sugar and sugar draws out the water in damaged tissues, reducing swelling. It also draws the water out of any bacterial cells and that keeps them from multiplying.

And it’s completely safe for sea turtles.

Pixie Dust will be with us in Sick Bay for a while but is looking forward to the day she’ll move into roomier quarters in Sea Turtle Bay. No matter where she’s swimming she’ll always be spoiled by our staff. It’s a perfect name for a perfect example of the magic we do at our hospital.

We’re still admitting cold stuns like Pixie Dust. We really do rely on our locals and visitors to keep any eye out for victims of cold snaps. So, what do you do if you see a turtle that has washed up on the beach or in our marshy areas or is in the water floating motionlessly? First, don’t assume it is dead. They literally can’t move, maybe not even blink. Whether the turtle is big or small immediately call our Director of Beach Operations, Terry Meyer at: 910-470-2880. If she is not available, call the hospital during operating hours: 910-329-0222. If the turtle is below the high tide line and in danger of washing out, move it above the high tide line if you can do so safely. Ideally you should remain with the turtle until our trained volunteers arrive to retrieve it. If that is not possible, find a way to indicate the location of the turtle on the beach by drawing large arrows in the sand or placing beach debris nearby.

The State of NC hotline for stranded, sick and injured turtles is 252-241-7367. The state number picks up 24/7. All conservation work for endangered sea turtles at KBSTRRC and on Topsail Island is authorized by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, ES Permit 23ST05.

We are officially closed to the public but have tentative plans to re-open for limited days beginning in March. Check our website www.seaturtlehospital.org for any updates. Our gift shop is open year-round online so you can still find all kinds of cool turtle-themed merchandise, much of it exclusive to us. And if you’re looking for something for those impossible-to-buy-for relatives and friends, consider adopting one of our patients.



(left) “Pixie Dust” showing the magic of honey treatments after only a month.

(below) “Pixie Dust” with honey on her head and carapace.



My Collie Rescue, Maggie

By Jessica Blackburn

My husband and I took a road trip to Winston/Salem back in 2008. We had an opportunity to meet the owner of the Collie Rescue there. When we arrived, we could hear all the hellos from the excited fur babies inside. As we walked through the house and met all the precious babies, I came upon the kennel of a quiet, beautiful tricolor collie mix, my heart melted when I saw her looking up at me. It was love at first sight. My husband said she saw "SUCKER" on my forehead, maybe so but we brought her home and named her Maggie. She was around 2 years old and had come from a very abusive home. She did not like men but learned to put up with my husband.

I took Maggie everywhere with me, she loved car rides, walks on the beach and just sitting next to me at the office. After a few years of her going everywhere with me, I started noticing she was getting very protective of me, especially at the office and I could no longer let her come to work with me. It broke my heart to have to leave her at home. I just hated leaving her there by herself, so we went back to the Collie Rescue and got another Collie mix. He was a frisky black and white with a little tan mix on his face. We named him Shadow, it took awhile for Maggie to warm up to him, but she eventually stopped picking fights with him, probably because Shadow was pretty good at

sticking up for himself.

Maggie enjoyed catching frisbee's and tennis balls while Shadow chased after water from the sprinkler, (he was always easily amused).

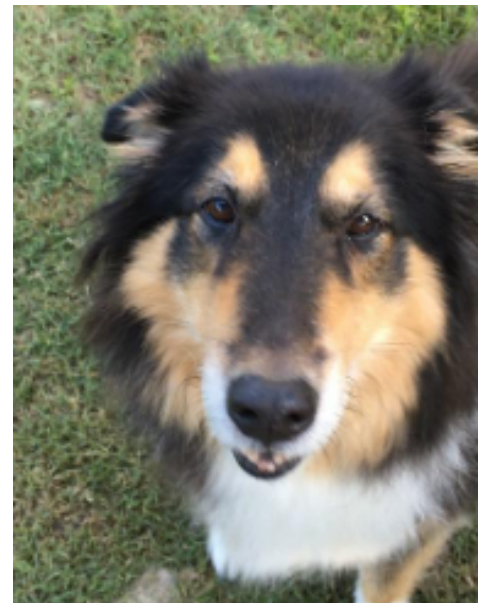
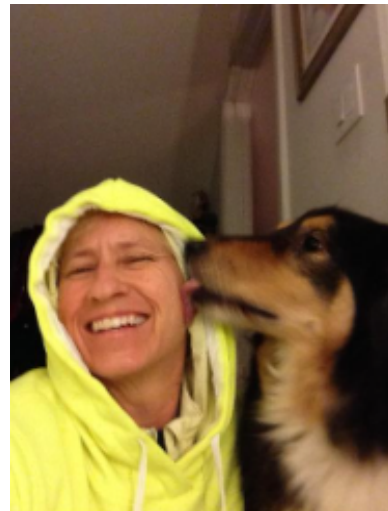
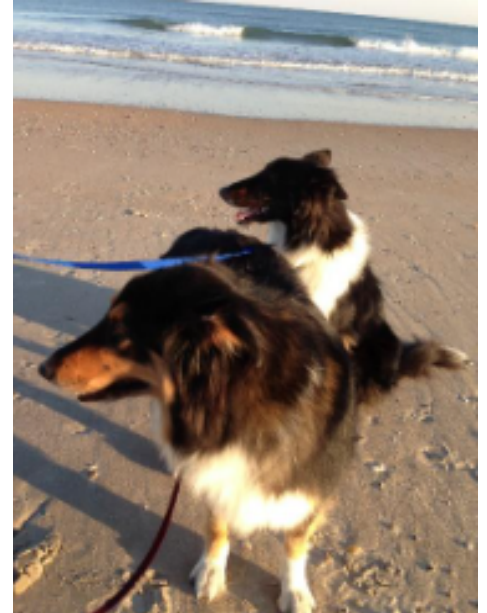
It was a few years back when I started noticing on our walks that Maggie was getting slower and slower, she eventually would stop and lay down to rest halfway through our walks. We took her to our vet, and she noticed the muscles in Maggie's back legs were getting thinner and thinner. Maggie had also lost her hearing; her eyes were cloudy. There were times we noticed that when she went outside, she would just stand there, almost like she didn't know why she was out there. My poor girl was going downhill fast.

I was at a complete loss. As far as we knew Maggie was around 16 years old. I felt I was being selfish making her live like this. She no longer could play outside like she used to, she could no longer handle car rides. She had lost all her bodily functions. I felt like she was just living to keep me happy, and that was not fair to her. I spoke with our vet and asked if we could have her come by after I had spent some more time with Maggie, and we agreed on January 4, 2023.

Well, that day came sooner than I expected. I took Maggie and Shadow on a short walk. My husband and I laid a sheet out for her to lay on, because she was tired after the walk. Shadow and I sat next to her.

I reflected on the memories of her enjoying the few snow days that we had and how she loved to run around in the snow and chase after the snowflakes. We rested and listened to the birds singing to her. It was a very peaceful time.

As I saw our vet pull up, my husband took Shadow into the house. It wasn't much longer, and our precious Maggie rested peacefully there in our front yard, a place she loved to run and play. Shadow misses Maggie, and so do I. Soon you will be seeing Shadow and I on the beach once again. It has been a long time since I have had Shadow on the beach. You may even see us walking over the Surf City bridge. We will be bringing Maggie in our hearts along with us. We hope to see you there, Shadow loves attention from people and their fur babies.



Library To Host Celebrated Local Historian Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr.

BURGAW - On Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023 at 6 p.m., Pender County Library will be hosting Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., Professor Emeritus in the Dept. of History at UNC Wilmington, at the Main Library in Burgaw.

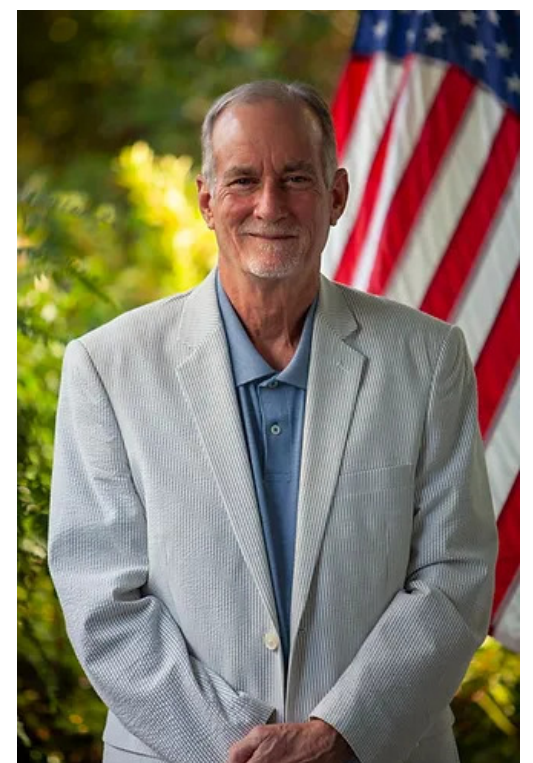
The 1776 Battle of Moores Creek Bridge, the first pitched engagement in North Carolina during the Revolutionary War, is a well-known event locally. What many are unaware of is that this was not the only significant event during the war in Pender County. Join us to hear the stories of two other significant Revolutionary War sites. Both feature prominent earthworks that have survived rampant regional growth and development for 243 years. Learn how and why they came to be built and what role they played in the last years of America's War for Independence.

Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. is a native Wilmingtonian with a lifelong interest in American Civil War, North Carolina, and Cape Fear history. He taught courses on the Civil War, Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear, and antebellum America at UNCW for over 20 years. His research focuses on coastal operations, defenses, and blockade running in southeastern North Carolina during the Civil War. He has published books and articles including "The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope," "Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear: An Illustrated History," and "Fort Fisher 1865: The Photographs of T.H. O'Sullivan."

In 2014, then-Governor Pat McCrory appointed Dr. Fonvielle to the North Carolina Historical Commission. Upon his retirement from UNC Wilmington in

2018, he was presented with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for distinguished service to the State of North Carolina, signed by Governor Roy Cooper. He is also a regular tour guide for Wilmington Water Tours, a featured guest on the "Cape Fear Unearthed" podcast, and a contributor of articles on Cape Fear history for Salt Magazine.

For more information, contact Shannon Kidney at 910-259-1245 or email us at: infodesk@pendercountync.gov.



Coastal Common Sense

By Kim McGahey

There are unlimited new technological advancements and digital applications that have transformed our culture from a handshake world to an electronic earthquake world. Many of these high tech advances have greatly improved our western lifestyle, conveniences and prosperity. But the fast pace of today's digital society might just leave us longing for a slower, quieter time when the electronic bombardment of the information age was not so pervasive and disconcerting.

There is almost nowhere in our daily lives where technology hasn't taken over even the most mundane functions; and it started with air conditioning in the 1920's. That simple invention made it possible for people to ignore the forces of nature, to become geographically mobile and to conquer the previous climatic restrictions that would dictate our nation's future and our daily lives.

Air conditioning allowed the South to experience spectacular economic expansion from agriculture into manufacturing, while giving the North

the industrial prowess required to overcome depressions and win world wars. People were no longer limited by the weather and became free to explore, expand and exchange new ideas, regions and lifestyles without considering how the weather would affect their decisions.

That freedom kept on coming as more new inventions took us from the horse and buggy age into the industrial age and now into the information space age. Think about what earth shattering changes a 95 year old man has seen in his lifetime. Born into a world of farms powered by animals, he'll die in a world with an all-powerful computer in his pocket and his grandchildren circling Mars.

A task as simple as a trip across North Carolina now takes only a day by car using SIRI guidance instead of Rand McNally paper roadmaps. The week long horse adventure of the not so distant past is untracked territory for any of today's travelers. All the modern conveniences are available along the limited access route, and nobody would even think of making the trip today aboard a four legged hay burner.

So many electronic conveniences are available to us now that we cannot possibly catalog them all; the cell phone being the most prolific. It has single-handedly given the modern world personal internet access to unlimited volumes of immediate information - and it has also stopped traffic at the neighborhood corner while a text message is read! Nobody goes anywhere without their cell phone and most would rather retain that fixation than talk to the people sitting with them at the dinner table.

The crush of electronics is upon us every second of every day. To escape that digital blanket is virtually impossible. Getting off the grid has no basis in reality. Slowing down to smell the roses is a quaint, but unrealistic notion in today's fast paced world. A hand shake with eye contact is a long forgotten sentiment from a bygone era.

Yet those of us living on Topsail Island have the peaceful outlet craved by the rest of the urban world to help escape the mental and psychological ravages of our digital dependence. We have the beach and the naturally slow-

paced rhythms of the waves lapping at our bare feet. Let us linger long and quiet by this natural wonder and allow the electronic excitement to fade from our cluttered souls. Make it a regular ritual to have the sand and the surf be our escape pod from our oh so busy world.



Chairmen Rouzer & Graves Introduce Legislation to Reverse Biden WOTUS Rule

WASHINGTON, DC - Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Chairman David Rouzer (R-NC) and Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO) led 152 Members of Congress today in introducing a joint resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) on the Biden Administration's flawed and burdensome "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule. This rule will lead to sweeping changes to the federal government's authority to regulate what is considered a navigable water, with enormous impacts on small businesses, manufacturers, farmers, home and infrastructure builders, local communities, water districts, and private property owners.

"The Biden Administration's WOTUS rule is both poor policy and badly timed," said Rouzer. "It will once again place overly burdensome regulations on farm families, small businesses, infrastructure projects, and entire communities - further harming our already struggling economy. Rushing to issue a new rule despite the Supreme Court's forthcoming

decision is not wise. It will only create additional confusion and uncertainty. This new EPA rule needs to be rescinded so that Americans across the country are protected from subjective regulatory overreach. Utilization of the Congressional Review Act is the best and most appropriate way for the House to make its collective voice heard and push back. I'm proud to lead my colleagues in Congress as we work to terminate onerous rules like this one."

"As American families and businesses continue suffering under the economic crises caused by the disastrous Biden policies of the last two years, this Administration has inexplicably decided to move the country back toward the costly and burdensome WOTUS regulations of the past," said Graves. "In an unnecessary drain on federal resources, the Administration clumsily put forward its rule before the Supreme Court has issued a ruling in the Sackett case, which will affect and alter what the Administration has put forward. Congress has the authority and responsibility to review onerous rules like this one handed down from the

Executive Branch, and I hope our colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join in this effort to preserve regulatory clarity and prevent overzealous, unnecessary, and broadly defined federal power."

The House Joint Resolution introduced today, if enacted, would terminate the Biden WOTUS rulemaking utilizing the CRA, which provides a mechanism for Congress to overturn certain final agency actions. An identical measure was also introduced in the Senate today by 49 Senators, led by Environment and Public Works Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV).

On January 18, 2023, the Environmental Protection Administration and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers published the Administration's long-expected WOTUS rule, which:

- Voids the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule, a rule that had provided much-needed clarity and certainty for the regulated community throughout the Nation;
- Reverts back to the Obama Administration's era of greater

uncertainty and expansive federal jurisdiction to regulate navigable waters under the Clean Water Act, including wetlands, ephemeral streams, and ditches;

- Moves the federal government towards a regulatory regime under which agency bureaucrats decide what is regulated, rather than working with those who will be affected, at a time when the Supreme Court has yet to issue an opinion on a pending WOTUS case (Sackett) that will directly impact the rule.



Community Updates

Beholding His Glory

Need to feel the presence of God? Want to grow in your understanding of God's word? Desire Godly fellowship? If so, we invite you to come and be a part of our Bible Study. We are a group of strong Believers who love God, His word, and His people. In February we will be having our Bible Study on the 21st at 7:00 pm at the Stahl's home, 232 Everett Drive in Chadwick Shore. It is always a powerful time of songs, prayer, teaching, and fellowship. In February we will have a guest speaker, Mrs. Bonnie Cooley from Goldsboro, NC, sharing with us.

You can check us out on our website at www.beholdinghisglory.com or listen to "Pebbles of Truth" every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 am on WJCV Radio, 1290 AM, 98.3 FM, or on your smart phone. Please come out expecting to hear from God. Point of contact is David Stahl at (910) 382-9287 or email at charliegolfone@outlook.com.



Would you like to share your church news or upcoming events? Email them to TopsailTimesNewspaper@gmail.com

2023 Alive After Five Concerts Announced In Hampstead

HAMPSTEAD – Today Pender County Parks and Recreation announced the 2023 Hampstead Alive After Five concert series lineup.

All concerts will begin at 6:30 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs to enjoy the entertainment. Various food trucks will be on site throughout the series. Alcohol and pets are prohibited.

"We are pleased to offer this concert series again in 2023," said Zachary White, Pender County Parks and Recreation supervisor. "Each year the concert series is well attended."

For more information, contact Pender County Parks and Recreation 910-259-1330.

The free Friday evening concerts will feature live music by:

- May 19, Carl Newton's Review
- June 9, Chocolate Chip and Company
- June 30, North Tower Band
- July 21, Heartstop

"The concerts will be held at Hampstead Kiwanis Park," White said.

Hampstead Kiwanis Park is located at, 586 Sloop Point Loop Rd, Hampstead, NC 28443.



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Loneliness Ain't No Joke

By **Arness M. Krause**

M.A., M.S.W., LCSWA

The Christmas decorations have been taken down, New Year's resolutions have been made, and now it is eerily silent. No parties with lots of food and drink, no dressing up in sequins and tooting our horns, now is the time for quiet and rest. But for many of us this quiet can also be uncomfortable as it may force us to reflect on our personal happiness, with many people finding that they are not nearly as happy as they'd like to be.

So, why are so many people unhappy? Well, there are of course a variety of reasons, the most common of which are uncertainty about the future, politics, and yes, loneliness. I am not a psychic, so I can't predict the future, nor am I a politician, so I cannot solve our political woes, but I am a therapist, so what I will focus on is the last reason, loneliness.

Loneliness is a social/communication disease, a large factor in adult unhappiness, and a major obstacle for many. According to the University of Chicago Medicine's website, one in three adults over 45 in America suffer from loneliness.

Using the same website definition for loneliness, "Loneliness is a state of mind characterized by a dissociation between what an individual wants or expects from a relationship and what that individual experiences in that relationship." In other words, our need for satisfying connections with others, professionally, in friendships, and/or romantic relationships are not being met, and for some this has been going on for a long time, leading to chronic loneliness.

Loneliness is no joke and has very real mental and physical health consequences. The Center of Disease Control reports,

- Poor social relationships (characterized by social isolation or loneliness) was associated with a 29% increased risk of heart disease and a 32% increased risk of stroke.

- Loneliness was associated with higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide.

- Loneliness among heart failure patients was associated with a nearly 4 times increased risk of death, 68% increased risk of hospitalization, and 57% increased risk of emergency department visits.

Yes, the holidays are over and it is quiet, but this is the perfect time to determine if loneliness is one reason (or the reason) for your unhappiness and plan to change that. No, there is no magic pill to resolve feeling lonely, but there are many actions you can take to reduce your feelings of loneliness and increase your levels of happiness. A few of these include taking up a new hobby, volunteering somewhere important to you, becoming a mentor or big brother/big sister, increasing your spiritual fellowship and reaching out to others with similar interests to you through websites like Meetup.

If you or someone you love are suffering from loneliness, don't ignore it, the consequences are too real. A therapist or life coach can help you gain the skills to make those meaningful social relationships that are so important, and, of course, contact your general physician.



Honoring Distinguished Alumni And Educators With A Wall of Fame

BURGAW – Pender Education Partnership (PEP), a non-profit foundation established to enhance educational opportunities and assist public school educators, is seeking nominations to the Pender County Schools' Wall of Fame. The Wall of Fame was established in 2022 to honor distinguished alumni and educators.

"Pender County Schools has been blessed with outstanding educators throughout the years. Our school system has produced many outstanding alumni who have gone on to careers which impacted our community, our state, and our nation," said Tammie Parris, PEP President. "We are happy to announce we are accepting nominations for the honored Class of 2023."

The Wall of Fame is displayed at the Pender County Schools Board of Education building. This is the second year that PEP is soliciting the community for nominations. A selection committee will review the nominations and present at least one alumni recommendation and one educator recommendation to PEP.

Honorees will be announced in March 2023 and honored at the June Pender County School's Board of Education meeting.

"Pender Education Partnership believes this is an opportunity to shine the spotlight on outstanding alumni and educators who have made an impact on public education," said Parris.

Organizations are welcomed to partnering with PEP on the Wall of Fame. Last year the Rotary Club of Coastal Pender, whose international motto is Service Above Self, was a co-sponsor of the Wall of Fame.

Nomination forms are available for download at www.pendereducationpartnership.org. Nomination forms can also be emailed. Contact tparris@cfcc.edu or tproctor@pendercountync.gov to request a nomination form. Nomination deadline is March 15.

Pender Education Partnership is a 501 (c) 3 foundation with a mission of providing educator mini-grants and senior scholarships.

For more information visit their webpage or Facebook page or contact a board member.



Judge Gary Trawick, Dr. Johnny Batts, US Ambassador Mattie Sharpless, and Mary Gore Jordan (below)



Not A Mail Order Bride

By Kris Harris

I'm sure couples that have fallen in love have a great story to tell how they met and fell in love. Well, ours is unique. We want to share our story - it's almost Valentine's day - why not? It all started with a letter.

It's 1986. I was living in Raleigh. While at work, a co-worker and I were discussing my love life, or lack thereof. She told me about a friend of her husband who was in the military stationed in Germany on his first overseas tour. He joined the Army in 1984. He was single and I was single. She asked me if she could send him my address. I said, "why not. I might get a pen pal out of it." Several weeks later, I received a letter from Germany; it was from that guy: Sam Harris.

I was so excited and surprised. I couldn't wait to read the letter. I stood out in the driveway and read it: *"Hi, I have never introduced myself in a letter, but here it goes."*

The very next day, I wrote Sam a letter back. *"I have never introduced myself in a letter either, but I will try."* I eagerly waited for the next letter to arrive. My heart would be pounding loudly with every letter I received. I couldn't wait to read what was next. As the weeks went by, the letters came more often and we became more and more interested in each other. We even sent each other pictures of ourselves. He asked me for my phone number at the end of one letter. I thought to myself, "this guy is not going to call all the way from Germany." But, I was wrong. He called at 6:00 am one morning. Now, I am not an early riser, but the phone

rang on a Tuesday morning and my mother answered the phone. She said, "Sam who?" I suddenly leapt out of bed and my feet never touched the floor as I ran down the hall to the living room. I couldn't believe I was actually talking to this guy. We talked for an hour. It cost him \$80 American dollars for that phone call. He had to pause from time to time to insert coins into the phone. This was 1986. There were no cell phones, only pay phones to make calls other than landline phones.

Fast forward to 1987. We continued to correspond and call one another. As the months went by, we fell in love. He even proposed to me in a letter. I said, "YES." He began to prepare to come to NC to visit family but also "stop by" to meet me. He earned 30 days leave to come to the United States. So, on August 17, 1987 - his birthday - he left Germany and flew into Raleigh/Durham Airport. I met him at the airport to pick him up. As I was nervously and anxiously waiting for him to come through those doors after getting off the plane, I found out he was purposely waiting to be the last person off the plane because I kept asking people that were coming through the waiting area if there was a guy in an Army uniform on the plane. Several people responded with, "Yes, he's purposely waiting to be the last one off the plane." Finally, he came through the doors and I couldn't stop smiling. I was so nervous and excited and happy at the same time. My heart was beating so fast, I felt like it was going to come out of my chest. We hugged for what seemed several minutes. We just couldn't let go. I think I even cried a little bit. Our emotions were on a high that day. I knew at that point, that was it, I am marrying this guy!!

So, he did officially propose to me. We were at my townhouse and he proposed on

the back deck, however; I feel the official proposal was when we were at Crabtree Valley Mall in Raleigh in my car in the parking lot when he pulled out a diamond ring. I was shocked because we had agreed not to get one since money was tight. We just discussed getting wedding bands. He wanted to get me a large diamond, but got a smaller one and he said, "This diamond may be small, but it screams, I love you."

Just days later we were planning for our big day. We got our wedding together in just one week. Yes, I said, just one week. Sam wore his dress green uniform. I wore my mother's wedding dress. My grandmother made my mother's wedding dress for her wedding so I wanted to make sure I wore her dress. We borrowed chairs, punch bowls, lace tablecloths and cake pans from the church I was attending at that time. The pastor that married us was my pastor from my childhood - Pastor Randy Cox. My sister, Kim, was my maid of honor and my brother, Jon, was the usher and the best man. The bouquet I had was the one I caught at my best friend's wedding the year before and I just added flowers to it to make it my own. All the music was pre-recorded on a cassette tape. Our wedding was outside at my parents house on a hot summer day - August 29, 1987.

We had our honeymoon in Virginia Beach, Virginia and Busch Gardens. One week after we returned, Sam left to go back to Germany. I had to wait a month to join him and we wrote each other letters during that time. I had the opportunity to have lived in Germany with him for the last 8 months of his tour. He then re-enlisted and we headed for Fort Rucker, Alabama in May 1988.

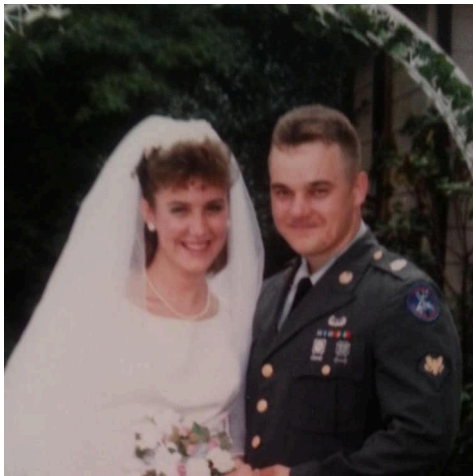
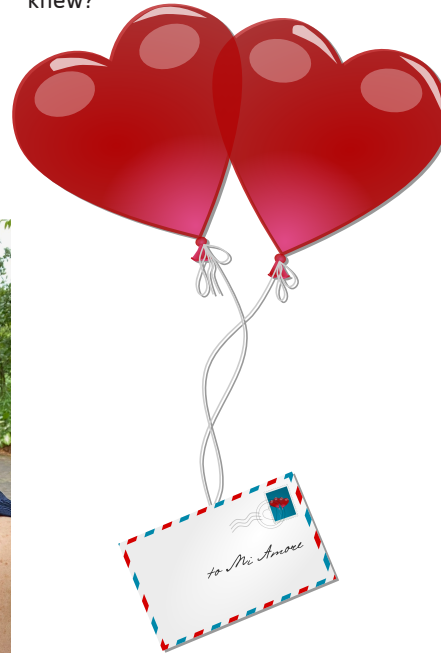


Our son, Samuel, was born, May 1989. We were stationed at Fort Rucker until 1990 when Sam's unit received orders to go to Saudi Arabia for the Desert Shield/Desert Storm campaign. We wrote letters during that time as well. He returned in April 1991 to Fort Rucker. We moved back to North Carolina. In 1992, Sam joined the Army National Guard. We lived in Knightdale, NC for 3 years before moving to Zebulon in 1994, the same year our daughter, Patti, was born. Sam served 18 and a half years full time in the National Guard before retiring in 2010.

In 2016, we moved to Holly Ridge when Sam accepted a job with the

NCDOT in Castle Hayne in 2015. I accepted a job as an administrative assistant at Topsail Sound RV Park in Holly Ridge. We lived at the park for 6 years. In 2018 we purchased a piece of property off of Hardison Road. Sam retired from the NCDOT in 2021 after seven years of employment. In April of 2022, we began building a house on our property. We moved into our new house on November 4.

We daily give God honor and praise for bringing us together the way He did and that He has blessed us with 35 years together and still going strong. Love stories develop in different ways, but our love story started with a letter - who knew?



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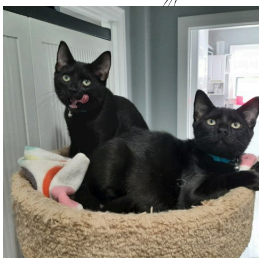
Lucy

I am "LUCY" and I am a tiny girl that is VERY sweeeet! I am a teensy shy, but I don't have a mean bone in my little body! I love other kitties and I love to be held & petted!

If you want a kind & docile little girl, please choose me!



Battlet Teens



We were born at the rescue and can't wait for our new FAMILY! We are SUPER funny, playful, soft, loving and totally entertaining! We come with all of our vet work and would love to meet you!

Our mama is a rescue that was saved by FURR and was about to POP with us babies! She is sweet & beautiful also and her name is "MAMA BATTLET"! You won't find kittens more adorable than us! Better hurry! One of us has already been adopted!!!



Shrimp

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

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

Perch



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

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

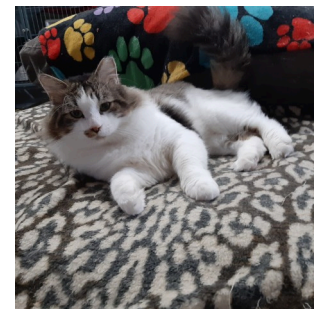


Roughy

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

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

Daddy Batts



My name is Daddy Batts and FURR rescued me after a coyote almost ate my front leg off! Thank goodness I was rescued & now I am as good as new! I am a Maine Coon mix and just as sweet as I am beautiful!!! Although I am still a little shy, everyone LOVES me at FURR! I'm now ready for my "furrever" home!

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Sneads Ferry Area Welcomes New Business

What does your business offer that is unique to the area? I am a professional organizer specializing in decluttering and organizing in peoples' homes and offices to help them be efficient and proud in their spaces. As an Army Brat having moved over 30 times myself, I am also an expert at unpacking and making your new house feel like home right away!

Is this a family business and if so, what other members of your family work with you? I work by myself 99% of the time because my clients are typically making difficult decluttering decisions that take too much time for more than one person to be onsite. On rare occasions my husband, Joel, acts as the company "muscle" to help me expedite time sensitive sessions, especially for moving related projects.

Does your business use products that are considered "green" or environmentally friendly? I encourage recycling and donating as much as possible during the decluttering and unpacking portions of my sessions. I also reuse my clients' existing organizing products rather than asking them to purchase additional storage solutions unless completely necessary.

Is this your only business? If not, would you like to share your other occupations? I left an exciting career in international corporate events during the pandemic to focus solely on this business and I couldn't be happier about it!

Is your business family friendly? Pet friendly? Yes! I encourage everyone in the household to be involved in the decluttering, organizing and maintaining phases of the projects if applicable. One of the best ways to get kids involved is to ask them to create labels for the newly organized shelves or bins they'll be using. Pets are always very curious about what's going on and I thoroughly enjoy when they check in on the progress!

Does your business offer discounts for military, teachers, realtors, senior citizens? I offer a 10% discount for military and first responders.

What form of payments do you take? Cash, check, credit, etc. and is there a cash discount? Cash (5% discount); check; credit card (3% fee)

Is your business open year round? Yes! Anytime is a great time to get organized. Spring inspires people to declutter and have fresh new spaces. Summers are often busy with move-in unpacking sessions.

Fall/winter are generally booked with decluttering sessions to make room for holiday guests and new gifts.

Are you looking for long term customers, short term customers or online customers? It is my goal to have short term customers only. If I'm helping declutter enough and organize effectively I shouldn't have to come back to help in the same space again. I've been highly successful in this aspect! However, I do love when I client reaches back out to help prepare for or unwind from a renovation or a move!

Do you offer home services, like catering, photography, weddings? My decluttering, organizing and unpacking services are all done in my clients' homes or offices.

What are the goals for your business? Do you want to expand? Build your own place? I have just expanded to this area from Upstate SC where I have been organizing full time since 2020. I look forward to helping many new

clients feel proud and efficient in their homes here!

Is your business mobile, like a dog wash, tanning or hair salon service? If so, what areas do you work in? I am located in Sneads Ferry, NC and service the coastal towns between Jacksonville, NC and Wilmington, NC.

Do you offer consultations or estimates? Is there a cost for them? I offer complimentary virtual consultations or 30-minute in-home consultations for a \$30 fee plus mileage.

What are your hours? My hands-on service hours are Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm. However, I can be reached Monday-Thursday 8am-8pm and Fridays 8am-5pm.

What is your location? I am located in Sneads Ferry, NC offer in-person professional organizing services at my clients' homes and offices in the coastal towns between Wilmington, NC and Jacksonville, NC.

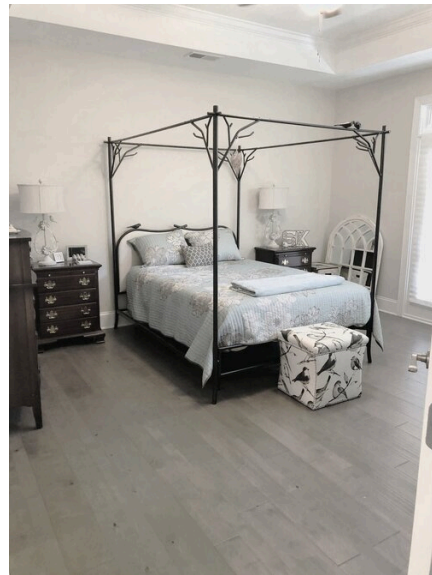
Before

DON'T CALL YOURSELF A HOARDER.



After

I'LL DO THE WORK TO CREATE ORDER.





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



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Library To Screen Local Documentary “Lessons From The Rosenwald Schools”

BURGAW- On Thursday, Feb. 16, Pender County Library will partner with Stack Stories LLC to host a screening of the documentary “Lessons from the Rosenwald Schools”. The screening will take place at the Main Library at 103 S. Cowan Street in Burgaw at 6 p.m. Community members of all ages are encouraged to view the film and meet the film’s co-directors Richard T. Newkirk, Ed.D. and Claudia Stack, M.Ed. “Lessons from the Rosenwald Schools” includes footage from hundreds of interviews with alumni and former teachers in which they speak of their experiences at historic African American schools. Dr. Newkirk, an educator and alumnus of these historic schools, and Ms. Stack, an educator and filmmaker who has been documenting African American education heritage since 2003, help viewers understand how these schools fostered a culture of excellence. The film reveals practices that were

common in Rosenwald schools and other historic African American schools, including many teaching strategies that are validated by current research, and recommends ways that we can move forward together.

Credits
Executive Producer: Stack Stories LLC
Co-directors: Richard T. Newkirk, Ed.D. & Claudia Stack, M.Ed.
Producer: Claudia Stack
Editor: Rich Gehron

For more information, contact Christine LaLonde (910-663-3775 | clalonde@pendercountync.gov).



Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University (FPU) comes to Wesleyan

February 23 to April 26, 7pm

The Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University (FPU) classes will run for 9 weeks. Classes will be held in Wesleyan Lee Hall and members of the United Methodist Men group will provide support.

Financial Peace University is a course that for over 25 years has taught millions of individuals and Families how to save for emergencies, pay off debt fast, spend wisely, invest for the future, build lasting wealth, and never have to worry about money again. This is not a class with complicated blah, blah but commonsense, biblical money principles that work every time.

The classes are open to individuals, but entire Families are encouraged to attend. We are encouraging all members of Wesleyan to consider attending and to reach out to your Family, neighbors, and friends to encourage them to attend these classes. Bring your teenagers or older children. Husbands and wives are encouraged to attend together if possible.

This is a life changing course. You can be debt free, live worry free and very positively change the course of your Family tree.

For more information google these videos or search for Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University info and reviews: https://youtu.be/ht_v-teyyQ8 <https://youtu.be/971pNMyG18I>

The cost of the 9-week class and one year access to the Ramsey FPU advice and on-line help tools is \$70 per family. Bring everyone in the Family for this one price. One hard bound text workbook is provided per Family and one-year access to all the FPU materials on-line is available to all in the Family. Classes are about 1.5 hours long and include a Ramsey instructional video, in-class workbook activities and discussions.

Please register with the Wesleyan church office at churchoffice@westleyanchapel.org

Contact Bill Pearson for more information or if you would like to help support the class. Bill.pearson@comarkinc.com, 1-224-659-0677 cell

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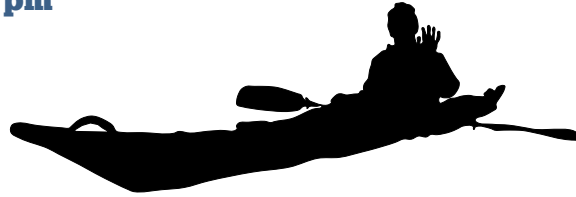
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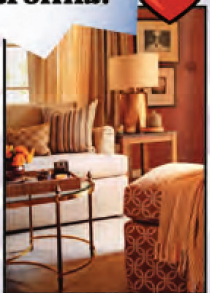
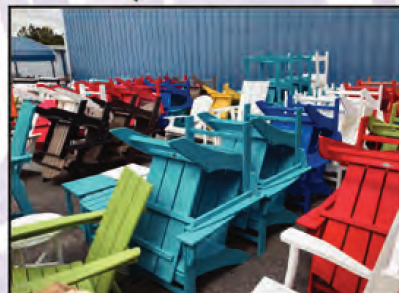
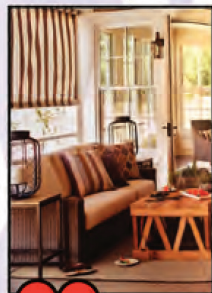


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