

TOPSAIL TIMES

TOPSAIL ISLAND, HOLLY RIDGE, HAMPSTEAD AND SNEADS FERRY



2nd June, 2023

American-Owned. Free Press.

Volume III, Issue 11

FREE!

No Mow Spring

Everyone has seen the ads for electric cars, solar panels and green buildings, but what small step can a person take today to really help the environment, and maybe even the planet?

No Mow May, which is now a national campaign started to bring a new light to the importance of protecting and preserving the insects and wildlife that help keep our planet healthy, is now being extended to "No mow spring". The movement is very simple. Do not mow your law or fields until after May. This process will allow the natural flowers and plants to thrive and give the pollinators (insects) the essential sustenance required to do their job. In addition to the life-giving plants, this process also drastically cuts down on the cost of mowing/maintenance and the pollution it brings with it.

In addition to not mowing, the movement is focusing on educating people about the toxic effects of chemical pesticides and artificial fertilizers that contaminate soil and precious water supplies.

Natural vegetation is being lost at an alarming rate with clear cutting of land for shopping centers, housing developments and roadways. The ability to regain some of the essential foods for the pollinators by not mowing is a small offering that may have wonderful consequences.

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For those who cannot avoid mowing, specialists suggest mowing "long" or at the highest blade height of the mower in

your common areas while leaving the borders.

Bee City USA, is an organization that works with states, municipalities and college campuses across the USA to help communities sustain and protect pollinators in their communities.

Wilmington, Cape Carteret, Southport, Whiteville and Tabor City are local members, as well as UNC Wilmington and ECU in Greenville.

Thanks to organizations like this, municipalities across the country are changing their zoning policies regarding mowed lawns to reflect the importance of letting nature take place.

How extensive is this new movement? In 2020, Minnesota allocated almost \$1,000,000 to help homeowners turn their lawns into bee friendly environments. The program encouraged people to reduce mowing, avoid toxic weed killers, and encouraged "wild" tall grass and flower landscapes.

Why is it important to help the pollinators now? Currently over 40% of all the world's pollinators are facing extinction. Over 25% of all bumble bee species in the United States may be lost.

Pollinators are responsible for the success and reproduction of over 80% of all flowers and 65% of all crops. Currently the pollinators are responsible for over 1/3 of the food consumed in the world.

Over 27 million acres of land in the United States alone is designated for household lawns.

How can you help?

- 1. Find out what plants and flowers are native to your area and if possible, incorporate them into your yard and gardens.
- 2. Limit your mowing and weed-eating practices to allow more natural growth.
- 3. Avoid toxic pesticides and fertilizers. There are natural and less harmful solutions available.
- 4. Avoid mowing your lawns low. A taller grass is more resistant to drought and disease.

- 5. Leave fallen leaves alone in the fall. These offer shelter and food for pollinators during the winter.
- 6. Learn about and utilize the natural power of plants. There are plants that can deter mosquitoes and spiders without harmful chemicals.
- 7. Plant a garden. Even a small one in a windowsill box is a good start.
- 8. Teach your children the value of planting flowers, shrubs and vegetables.
- 9. Trees, and the shade they provide, are a wonderful way to cut down on cooling expenses in the summer, while giving wildlife natural habitat.

10. Attend your local town meeting or city council and find out if your area is a member of the Bee City USA. If not, suggest they research the organization, which even provides a sample Resolution for them to become affiliated members. Most local municipalities can become members for \$100 a year and will be provided tons of free resources to better your local community.









Topsail Times

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TOPSAIL TIMES NEWSPAPER —— ••• ——

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Death Notice

Philip Shekey, 57, of Sneads Ferry, died May 20, 2023.

Coastal Cremation and Funeral Care of Jacksonville.

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2nd June, 2023 Volume III, Issue 11

The Sea Witch Lounge Grand Opening

Jenean LaCorte along with her husband, Mark, are embarking on a new adventure located at 13775 NC-50 Ste. 103, in Surf City just next door to O'Neil Family Chiropractic.

The Sea Witch Lounge experienced their grand opening on Thursday, May 25th from 3pm to 11pm.

Sports events, mixed beverages, seasonal drink specials will all be featured while Mocktails are currently in the works. T-Shirts are now available.

The beautiful artwork, along with the mermaid along their wall, was all done by the owner, Jenean.

The Sea Witch Lounge will not be serving food (but is working towards having food trucks available) nor is anyone under 21 years of age allowed. The goal of the Sea Witch is to have a "hometown feel" and to be an "adult safe space."

Be sure to stop by during one of their six days of opening;

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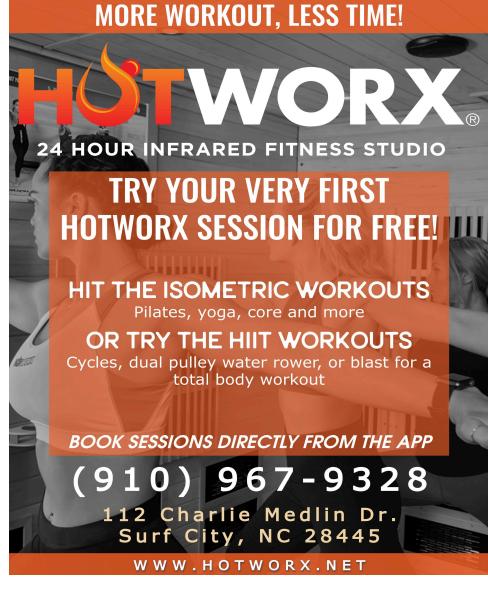














2nd June, 2023 Volume III, Issue 11

Topsail Gun Gal: Road Rage Incidents Are Rapidly On The Rise Locally, But Why?

By Dorothy Royal

Last Saturday, I witnessed a terrifying event of road rage. A man in a white pick up was driving past me when a man in a red smaller truck passed him in the oncoming lane, well exceeding the speed limit. After getting in front of the white truck, the driver of the red truck slammed his brakes so hard his truck ierked sideways and came to a stop. The white truck slammed on its brakes. There was smoke, most likely from the abrupt stop and it was hard to tell if both trucks had hit but the red truck soon sped off. The man in the white truck, visibly shaken, pulled over immediately and got out of his vehicle. A few minutes later the red truck sped by, not stopping even though the other driver was standing outside his truck. What could this person in the red truck's intentions have been? What if the white truck had not stopped fast enough and someone was killed? Why do driver's feel that using their vehicles as a weapon is ever right?

A woman in Hampstead posted about a similar event that involved her 16-year-old son. A man, apparently mistaken by the identity of the driver that had cut him off on the highway, stopped his vehicle and attempted to pull the 16-year-old from his vehicle in broad daylight. The young man has filed a police report and has photos of the man and his vehicle.

A person driving over the Surf City high rise bridge witnesses a man driving

a dark grey truck aggressively in the early evening. The driver was swerving toward oncoming vehicles, speeding and jerking his vehicle all over the road, then the driver turns around in the traffic circle and heads back over the bridge. By the time local law enforcement was contacted the vehicle was out of sight.

A woman driving from Wilmington toward Hampstead in stop and go traffic, was shocked when a motorcyclist drove alongside her vehicle, tapped on the window and tried pulling on her car door handle. When he moved on she witnessed him continuing this behavior, as well as weaving in and out of traffic. The witness called 911 and was transferred several times to different agencies but to no avail.

Why is everyone so angry? Too little sleep, poor quality food or too many vehicles on the road? Is it one thing or is it the perfect storm of people feeling disconnected and ignored? This dangerous trend affects all of us so be aware and be patient.

James City, North Carolina has a beautiful high-rise bridge that travels over the Neuse River. At the base of the bridge is a park where people kayak and fish. A few years ago several submerged coffins, visible in the shallow water just feet from the shore, were discovered by kayakers. A local historian believes they could be graves dating back to 1866 when the freed slave community, the Trent River Settlement, resided nearby.

The settlement suffered a great loss from smallpox that resulted in the death of over 200 people.

A cemetery was created next to the hospital that cared for the patients. The historian believes these coffins were part of that cemetery.

My question is this. How exactly did a giant concrete bridge get constructed within feet of these visible coffins without anyone noticing? Are there more coffins? Did the DOT know the graves were there? This is all a bit disturbing.

The main concern from the historian is what happens now? Who is going to protect this site and preserve its history?

Remember knowledge is power, under water graves are spooky and road range should never be tolerated.



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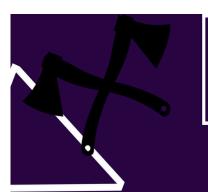
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Thank God He Loves Me

By Becky Borneman

Truth be told, I wonder a couple of times a week how often Jeff looks at me and thinks to himself, "She ain't right. She is crazy." This last week I think he may have made this statement to himself on several occasions.

He had a rough morning on Monday and I thought I would try to cheer him up. He went to get coffee from a local fast food drive thru and the sweet lady at the window asked if he was going to get his "senior coffee". Well he handled that better than I would've. But he enjoyed his \$0.63 coffee and will for the next 7 years before he is a true senior citizen, God willing. But I decided to fix him dinner in the crockpot that evening. I put all the ingredients in and even joked as I went out the door to work that "dinner was done" and was proud of myself for thinking ahead.

That is until he called me at noon and put me on FaceTime asked me if anything was wrong with this picture. I didn't see a thing wrong. Nope. Didn't notice at all that I never plugged in the crockpot.

The next day we went to the fish house to get some dinner for that evening and we were discussing new items on the menu at the restaurant. As we were at the fish house I noticed mussels. And that's when it dawned on me. We should serve mussels over pasta and call it Popeye Pasta, because it has "mussels"! I excitedly shared my idea with Jeff who got that blank stare that he gets and that's when I know he is thinking how crazy I am! He quickly shot it down.

Lastly we went looking at boats. He wants a Carolina Skiff and I want a pontoon boat. He asked why I wanted one so badly over a skiff.

I told him that I had an idea. His eyes rolled but he decided to entertain my idea. I went on to say that we could set up the pontoon and sell hot dogs and chips and drinks on the water during season. I even had a name picked out. At this point I could see him nervously laugh not knowing what he was about to hear, but asked what it was.

I Dream of Weenies! I turned back around to the boat to show him where we can put the equipment and was so excited to do this. That's when I realized he had turned around, walked out and was on his way to get a senior coffee shaking his head the whole time at me.







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Coastal Folks

By Carol Ann Ross

If you were born and raised on the Carolina coast, fished, swam and spent most of your life outdoors in the Carolina sun, then you understand how natives feel about the development and care of our most precious land. We get a little protective when you're talking about putting in this and changing that. We've seen natural ways turn to cement and houses obstructing views, it seems, overnight. Certainly Holly Ridge does not want to see over development occur.

I got a chance to talk with Nathan Rhue, Community Development Director of Holly Ridge, a few days ago and came away with a feeling that he has that understanding. An understanding that keeps the locals in the front, after all, he is a native North Carolinian, born and raised in Carteret County, who spent his youth working closely with his father. He learned a lot from him, working construction, clearing land and working yard maintenance. Nathan began at the bottom working his way up, first by having his own construction business. then in 2006 he worked for the town of Beaufort in public works. From '08 to '10 he worked as a building inspector. He's also worked for the city of Lenor for four years in code enforcement and was a member of the NC Association of Zoning Officials, Nathan is now on the board of directors for the NCAZ. In 2021 he was awarded Zoning Official of the year. So you see, Nathan Rhue has had a lot of experience. He is truly a by the book man, but as he says, "it's not my job to beat people over the head with ordinances."

Nathan says that he's willing to work with anyone to develop a strategy for what they want. He's willing to find a way to accommodate and work with them.

As for growth in Holly Ridge, Nathan takes pride in the new industrial park off of highway 17, how it is off the main road and says he wants the park to grow, he would like for the town to offer more for the community. "A walkable community with sidewalks, trails, and even concerts in the summer would be nice for our community." He mentioned other amenities like a grocery store and even a fast food restaurant that are family friendly. "This is our town and we want a say-so about what is going on in it." He adds, encouraging others to voice their concerns and needs. He adds that he would like to see a family oriented community where you can take care of needs like shopping and entertainment. His wife Jessica, shares in his desire for a family community, and works with the city of New Bern.

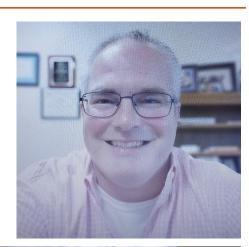
"The town has already made some changes in commercial development," says Rhue, "the town is growing with the influx of military families and retirees, so we are looking for commercial development that could invite different small businesses."

Nathan says when it comes to development one has to be proactive, to have a vision of what you want. Making Holly Ridge a family community seems to be an important part of that vision and that he understands that there has to be a strategy for development.



Pictured right: Nathan Thue

Pictured below:Thue with granddaughter







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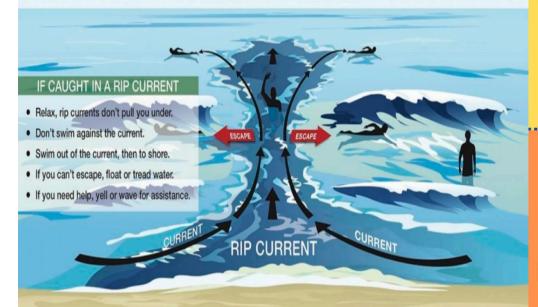
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HAS OFFICIALLY BEGUN May 1 - October 31



- WAYS YOU CAN HELP -

no flashlights keep ocean-facing windows covered knock over sandcastles & fill in holes leave only footprints



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Sea Turtle Hospital News



By Star Sota

May continues to be a busy month at our hospital with turtles being admitted with hooks, boat impact injuries and because they are just plain sick. That stuff isn't fun. But what is fun is getting our first verified loggerhead nest on North Topsail on May 12th. Our Topsail Turtle Project volunteers have been out since May 1st and will be pounding the early morning sand until the end of August. We never know from year to year what kind of nesting season we'll have but word is that those ladies are out there and will all be heading in with a singular purpose. We'll update you on our turtle moms as we move into the Summer.

And speaking of Summer: our eleven senior interns (out of one-hundred-sixtyfour applicants) are now on board and being trained in the finer points of turtle rehab by our year-round staff. It's quite a diverse group and you'll meet them during your tour. After a few weeks we'll hand them the reins and step into the background to monitor their progress. Joining them are twenty-eight junior interns who will be mentored by our seniors as they work in groups of four for

Most of you are aware that we've been in the turtle biz for quite some time. In fact, this is our 25th year, and beginning June 1st through August we will be showcasing our success with twenty-five special events and programs.

a two-week commitment. They like

little bit of a break.

conducting tours so come prepared with

know these kids and it gives us regulars a

your turtle questions. It's fun getting to

Public turtle releases, lectures, history, "retro adoptions," commemorative stickers and organized beach clean-ups are only a few items on the agenda. We'll share details in the coming weeks, but you'll definitely want to "save the date" of Sunday, July 16th for something really exciting.

Our tour schedule for June and July is seven days a week: Mon - Fri, 12-4; Saturday 11-3 and Sunday 11-2. . Tickets must be purchased in advance through our website www.seaturtlehospital.org. You can visit the gift shop during those hours without taking the tour.

NOTE: The town is working on Charlie Medlin Drive for the next few months and frankly, it's a mess. Please plan accordingly so you're on time for your tours. The road is subject to major flooding and may close.

In that case you must access our hospital by an alternate route through the back gate behind the Surf City Community Center. That gate will be open only if Charlie Medlin Dr. is closed

In addition to hooked and debilitated turtles, keep your eyes peeled for nesting mothers and turtle tracks. If you come across any sick, injured or nesting turtles 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. 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.

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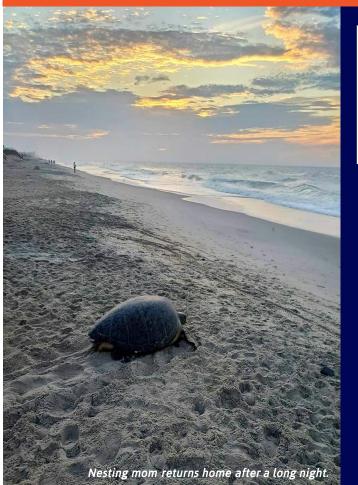
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Snakes!!! Yikes!!!

By DottyAnn Harding

President of OCPAW (Onslow County Partners for Animal Welfare)

Snakes are fascinating creatures that play an essential role in the environment. For example, they help control rodents, moles, grasshoppers, caterpillars, ticks, and other insects that can damage your home and yard. It's also an indicator of a healthy ecosystem to have a snake in your yard (or garden). However, some people may have fears or concerns about snakes, especially if they have pets that may encounter them.

Why such fear of snakes? I have never seen a snake chasing a person down the road, but I have seen dead snakes killed on that road by a motorized vehicle. Snakes usually remain out of sight, minding their own business unless disturbed, surprised, or threatened.

I remember the time I was walking in my side yard checking for snakes before allowing my dogs to venture out. In our yard, many Laurel-type trees with smallsized slender brown, oblong leaves always seemed to fall at will, regardless of the season. As I returned to retrieve my dogs, I walked within inches of a copperhead I had just passed without noticing, as the fallen leaves served well to camouflage the snake's presence. For the first time in my life, I got to experience my knees buckling, and I honestly thought I would not make it back into the house. I called out loudly for my husband because I could not believe what I had encountered, being out in the yard looking for snakes and did not see the copperhead. My husband Mark loved and respected all animals, including snakes and turtles, and he quickly came to assess the situation.. He looked out into the yard in the direction where the snake was lying, and he could not see that snake, which was perfectly camouflaged in nature. I repeated to him at least four times that the snake was ten feet away, and it wasn't until he was much closer that he saw him. The snake never moved, showing no signs of aggression throughout this ordeal, even when Mark took a large handled garden tool and gently put the snake over the fence outside the yard. I'm not recommending anyone do this, but to return to the safety of their home and let the snake slip away.

My daughter Jennifer was recently visiting and helping me with new plantings around the house when she was startled by a large garden-type snake. She felt a presence and then caught movement, which scared her, and I believe her scream startled the snake as he rapidly retreated under the fence into my neighbor's yard.

Several years had passed between those two abovementioned incidents and relocation to a different home, but the response felt by all who shared these encounters remained the same.

Dogs and cats are natural predators, so they encounter snakes due to curiosity and intrigue. Inquisitive dogs often get snake bites on the face or mouth trying to pick up or bite them, as well as cats attempting to hunt outdoors. In these scenarios, the pet often has more than one bite if not deterred immediately and can be more severe than accidental encounters.

I do the following to discourage snake encounters in my yard.

- I do not plant bushes I can't see under in areas where my dogs can occupy my yard.
- Do not use Salt Hay or Pine Needle Mulch in my garden beds.
- I do not plant tall ornamental grasses
- Use hose hangers, not curling the hose up in a large container.
- No stacking wood or twig piles to use to start firepits.
- Eliminating overturned plastic kiddie pools.
- When out hiking stay on the trail and keep your pup on a leash.
- Rattlesnakes are nocturnal, meaning daytime walks are best.

Dog Snakebite Symptoms

- Snakebite marks (often on the face, neck, or legs)
- Swelling and bruising around the bite
- Sudden weakness and collapse
- Newfound aggression from the dog due to discomfort from the bite
- Bleeding from the bite
- Shock
- Unsteadiness in the hind legs
- Bloody urine
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Excessive salivation or drooling from the mouth
- Dilated pupils

What To Do When Your Dog Has Been Bitten By A Snake

- Call your veterinarian to let them know what happened, and you are on vour way
- If possible, take a photo of the snake; do not try to capture or contain the snake
- Rinse the wound with water to minimize the effects of the venom.
- Keep the wound below the heart to discourage venom from spreading to other body parts.

If your dog has stopped breathing, apply CPR; if not, you can ask for guidance when on the phone with the vet.

Rattlesnakes and coral snakebites are the most life-threatening to your dog and require anti-venom administration. Copperhead bites are typically treated with a combination of antihistamines, antibiotics, and fluid therapy.

Local Common Snakes

There are 37 species of snakes in North Carolina, and seven are venomous. The venomous snakes belong to two families: Elapids and Vipers. The only elapid snake in NC is the eastern coral snake, which has red, vellow, and black bands and a black nose. The coral snake is rare and shy, and its bite is very dangerous but uncommon.

The other six venomous snakes are pit

The pit vipers in NC are

- Cottonmouth (water moccasin): A semi-aquatic snake that lives near swamps, creeks, rivers, ponds, and lakes.
- Copperhead: A terrestrial snake that inhabits wooded areas, rocky hillsides, fields, and farms. It has a copper-colored head and body with dark hourglass-shaped bands.
- Pygmy rattlesnake: A small snake that lives in pine flatwoods, sandhills, wetlands, and coastal islands. It has gray or tan coloration with dark blotches and

a rattle at the end of its tail.

- Timber rattlesnake: A large snake that inhabits mountain forests, hardwood bottoms, swamps, and canebrakes. It has yellow, brown, gray, or black coloration with dark chevron-shaped bands and a rattle at the end of its tail.
- Eastern diamondback rattlesnake: The largest venomous snake in North America that lives in coastal lowlands, pine flatwoods, sandhills, and barrier islands. It has brown or black coloration with diamond-shaped markings and a rattle at the end of its tail.

Some of the most common nonvenomous snakes in coastal NC are:

- Corn snake: A terrestrial snake that lives in fields, forest openings, and abandoned farms. It has orange or brown coloration with red or black blotches.
- Black rat snake: A terrestrial snake that lives in woodlands, fields, barns, and attics. It has black coloration with white or gray markings on its belly.
- Eastern garter snake: A terrestrial snake in meadows, marshes, and woodlands.

On our Community Nextdoor, there are many photo postings of snakes where folks ask what type of snake it is and the location. This is extremely helpful as very knowledgeable folks willing to help you regularly offer replies.

Stay safe out there!

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TOPSAIL TIMES

Coastal Common Sense

By Kim McGahey

2nd June, 2023

The whole purpose for the Founding Fathers writing the Declaration of Independence in 1776 was to escape dependency on the British crown that was being used to ruthlessly control the upstart American colony. A tyrannical despot on the throne was doing everything in his power to circumvent the British Parliament and suppress the self-evident freedom and liberties that were the cornerstone of the American independence.

We see the same tyranny today in the OBiden administration with Biden as the puppet president for the despotic Obama third term. They override the separation of powers, just like King James, by ruling through executive orders and not governing by legislative statute through the U.S. Congress. They then hope that two years later the Supreme Court will not terminate their executive overreach by declaring their orders unconstitutional.

This OBiden third term wants to have their central planning deep state bureaucracy control every facet of our lives. All of their executive orders generated through the alphabet soup of unelected federal agencies are intended to extend the reach of federal control as far into our daily lives as possible. We don't have British soldiers quartered in our homes, but we certainly have federal bureaucrats quartered there.

Look at how their regulations control our homes and lives with restrictions on gas stoves, dishwashers, air conditioners. light bulbs, shower heads, auto exhaust pipes, baby food, college tuition, airplane travel, mask mandates, residential lockdowns, essential business designations, fossil fuel use, border lawlessness, ESG retirement accounts, Social Security payments, parents at school board meetings, public education, our currency, voting rights, election integrity; and 87,000 new IRS agents hired to make sure we comply.

Every day there are new dictatorial decrees being handed down from the Left's EPA, FTC, FAA, FCC, DOJ, FBI, IRS, etc. and their Departments of Energy, Transportation, Education, Defense, Agriculture and Treasury intended to implement their progressive political agenda without having been ratified by duly elected representatives in the U.S. Congress. They make King James look like a cream puff.

This bureaucratic assault is extending the Left's war on the Rule of Law and is supported by a corrupt complicit liberal media that ignores the Durham Report and any other effort at transparency and accountability while serving as the propaganda ministry in the basement of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

The OBiden administration wants a perpetual one-party government to control our lives and make us dependent on their elite Kevnesian central planners.

They are what Thomas Jefferson and James Madison considered the gravest threats to our democracy. Not imaginary white supremists, but real active Marxists who need chaos and discontent to sew fear and loathing among we the people.

We must not let the Left prevail if we are to save America. We must vote out school board members who embrace the Equity agenda, District Attorneys that put dangerous criminals back on the street, state legislators who don't support voter integrity, and the tyrannical President who violates the U.S. Constitution with impunity.

We cannot live in fearful dependence on the government. We must live free and independent lives if America is to

Volume III, Issue 11





Onslow County Sheriff's Office

Junior Citizens' Law Enforcement Academy

Thursdays 6pm to 9pm June 15 to July 20, 2023 717 Court Street, Jacksonville Students, Age 14-17



The Onslow County Sheriff's Office will be hosting our 2nd Annual Junior Citizens' Academy for residents, ages 14 to 17. The academy will meet each Thursday from 6pm to 9pm beginning June 15, 2023 for a period of six weeks, graduating on July 20, 2023. Thursday training sessions will include:

- Jail Tour
- Drug Culture Awareness
- DWI and Drug Detection
- Drones in Law Enforcement
- Evidence Collection (Crime Scene Investigation)
- Canine Demonstration
- Fire-arms Simulator and Video Immersion Training
- When given a controlled scenario and role players, students will respond to a scene acting as the responding deputy sheriff and determine the nature of the call, the appropriate action needed to resolve the call and the proper procedures within the law.

Interested students must complete an application for enrollment and a handwritten essay with no less than 200 words describing their personal interest in law enforcement.

Contact Captain Bruce Dixon at 989-4007

Bruce Dixon@onslowcountync.gov for an application and enrollment



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Pender County Earns National Achievement Award For Beach Clean Project

BURGAW – Pender County and the program Beach Clean, have been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The award honors innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

"Beach Clean is a continuing project that is a collaboration with the Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Commission, Topsail Beach, Surf City, North Topsail Beach, and Onslow County Tourism," said Tammy Proctor, Pender County Tourism Director whose department nominated the Beach Clean project for this national honor. "The project is educational for our visitors and residents to keep our beaches, rivers, and waterways clean and

sustainable.

Each year NACo's Achievement
Awards are given in 18 categories that
reflect the vast, comprehensive services
that counties provide. The categories
include children and youth, criminal
justice and public safety, county
administration, information technology,
health, civic engagement, and more.
Launched in 1970, the program is
designed to recognize innovation in
county government. Each nominated
program is judged on its own merits and
not against other applications.

"The Achievement Awards demonstrate excellence in county government and the commitment to serve our residents every day," said NACo President Denise Winfrey. "This year's winners represent some of the most innovative and collaborative efforts we have seen in more than 50 years of presenting these awards."

"In the spring of 2022, Topsail Beach Mayor Steve Smith shared Beach Clean at a conference with a host of other coastal communities," said Proctor. "The response was overwhelming. I knew then we had a good program."

The Beach Clean program urges residents and visitors to "Leave No Trace." They are encouraged to use trash containers, don't bring glass to the beach, pick up after pets, fill in the holes

dug on the beach, and reduce the use of plastics. The program discourages the use of plastic bags on the beach or on waterways. It also discourages the release of balloons on the beach.

"Plastics floating in water look like food to our sea turtles and other animals," said Proctor. "Regardless if we are residents or visitors, we are all caretakers of our environment."

For more information about Beach Clean, visit https://tispc.org or www.visitpender.com







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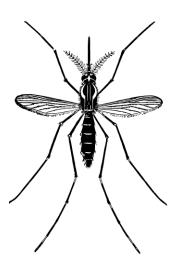
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Perch

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!



Shells

I am SHELLS! I'm pretty laid back for a young kitten & the volunteers LOVE to rub my soft fur! I am not only super soft, but I am such a unique color! Light gray tortie girls are few & far between, so come see me soon. I have a great demeanor and I get along great with other cats. I am just adorable!!!

CHECK OUR WEBSITE TO SEE CATS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION





Volume III, Issue 11

Pender County Library Adds A Seed Library At The Hampstead Branch

HAMPSTEAD - Pender County Library's Hampstead branch has launched a new seed library. The Topsail Township Friends of the Library received a \$1,000 grant from the Pender County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association (PCEMGVA) for the initial setup of the project. There is a variety of vegetables, herbs, and flower seeds available for Pender County Library patrons to "check out" for free. Patrons may select up to 5 seed packets to take home and plant. To "return" seeds to the library, the public is encouraged to harvest seeds from their crop and donate them back to the seed library.

The goal of the seed library is to promote community, improve local sustainable food sources, and enhance food security.

"A community becomes stronger when they have the knowledge and resources to feed themselves and beautify their home," stated Karen Burkett, manager of the Hampstead Branch. "We are thrilled to receive this grant and establish this new service."

A member from the PCEMGVA said that "planting seeds in a garden is a great family activity that gets the kids involved and outside. There is nothing like planting and tending a garden to 'sow seeds' of interest in gardening and watching it grow."

The seed library is housed in a repurposed card catalog cabinet. The labels for the seed library were handdrawn by Meg McGrew, owner of Elegant Envelopes in Wilmington, who donated her time and talent.

The seed library is open during regular library hours.

For more information or assistance, call Pender County Library's Hampstead branch at 910-270-4603 during regular business hours.



L to R: Teri Ross, Karen Burkett, Kellyn Dwyer-Croop, and Jessi Neal.

VFW Youth, Education And Safety Awards Program

VFW Post 9983, Holly Ridge, held its annual Youth. Education and Safety Awards Program at the Post Home 16 May 2023. Starting with the Youth awards, Brenna Wilson, a junior at Dixon High School was this year's Voice of Democracy winner. The patriotic audio essay competition allows students to write and record an essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme was WHY IS THE VETERAN IMPORTANT. First place national award winner receives \$30,000. Moving on to Middle School, Dixon Middle School student Benjamin Mills was this year's Patriot's Pen winner. This year's patriotic essay was titled MY PLEDGE TO OUR VETERAN. First place national award winning gets \$5,000. Moving on to Scouting, Noah Witkowski Troop 235, Hampsted, was this year's Scout of the Year.

This year's education awards went to three Dixon area teachers. Coastal Elementary School Physical Education and Health teacher Alec Aguiar was awarded Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Middle School honors we bestowed on Dixon Middle School Visual Art teacher, Amanda Gooler. High School Teacher of the Year was Science and

Biology teacher Heather Moore, Dixon High.

The Onslow County Sheriff's Office, sweeped the Public Servant Awards.
Deputy Brent Harrell was named Public Servant of the Year and IstSgt Marc Alwes was awarded Detention Officer of the Year.

If you are interested in applying for these awards in the future, go to vfw.org, click on Community then Youth and Education. Or you can contact your local VFW.







Coyotes

By North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

The coyote (*Canis latrans*) is named from the Aztec word, coyotl, which means "barking dog," and is a familiar figure in many Native American stories. The coyote is native only in North America and has the widest range of all wild canines in this country. It is one of the most adaptable mammal on this continent.

Coyotes in North Carolina resemble red wolves, but coyotes are smaller, have pointed and erect ears, and long slender snouts. Their long, bushy, black-tipped tail is usually carried pointing down.

Color is typically dark gray but can range from blonde, red, to black. Coyotes may be mistaken for dogs or red wolves, and the existence of hybrids, though uncommon, makes identification more confusing.

The coyote has five toes on its front feet (including the dew claw that does not appear in tracks) and four toes on its hind feet. Its feet are smaller and narrower than an average dog with the same body size.

Originally, coyotes inhabited the prairies and grasslands of the Great Plains. But as Europeans settled across North America, the subsequent landscape changes and elimination of wolves allowed coyotes to expand their range eastward. Despite extensive control attempts, coyotes have survived and expanded their range. When populations are reduced, the remaining coyotes respond by breeding at a younger age and producing larger litter sizes with high pup survivorship, making their populations resilient.

Coyotes survive anywhere with food sources. Their habitat can range from agricultural fields to forests, to suburban and urban environments. They are adaptable in behavior and diet. Coyotes are ecologically valuable in keeping prey species, such as rodents and groundhogs, in check.

Coyotes birth their young in dens. Although coyotes usually dig their own den, they sometimes modify another animal's den or a natural hole, such as under a rocky ledge, to suit their own needs.



Preventing Conflicts with Coyotes

- Secure garbage in containers with tight-fitting lids, and take them out in the morning of pick up, not the night before. Coyotes and other wildlife will scavenge trash.
- Don't feed or try to pet coyotes. Feeding a coyote rewards that animal for coming in close proximity to people. Once a coyote becomes habituated, it loses its natural wariness of people and may become bold and aggressive.
- Protect your pets by keeping them inside, leashed, or inside a fenced area.
- Install coyote-proof fencing around your home to protect unsupervised pets.

If you already have a problem with a coyote:

- Contact a Wildlife Damage Control Agent, a private individual who charges for his/her services. A list is available at ncwildlife.org under "Have a Wildlife Problem."
- Contact a licensed trapper during the regulated trapping season. See the list at nowildlife.org under "Have a Wildlife Problem."
- Coyotes can be hunted year-round using firearms and archery equipment. However, check to see if local ordinances restrict the discharge of firearms. A landowner can shoot a coyote in the act of causing damage.

For answers to questions and technical guidance or addressing coyote concerns on your property call 866-318-2401 or 919-707-4011.



- Feed pets indoors or remove food when your pet is finished eating outside. Coyotes and other wildlife are attracted to pet food left outdoors.
- Keep bird-feeder areas clean. Use bird feeders that keep seed off the ground. Coyotes are attracted to small animals congregating on the ground. If coyotes are frequently seen, remove all feeders.
- Close off crawl spaces under sheds and porches.
 Coyotes and other wildlife may use these spaces for resting and raising young.
- Cut back brushy edges in your yard, which provide cover for covotes.
- Don't be intimidated by a coyote. Maintain its wariness by throwing a small object, such as a tennis ball, at it, making a loud noise, or spraying it with a hose. Let it know it is unwelcome near your home.
- Clear fallen fruit from around fruit trees. Coyotes are omnivorous and regularly consume fruit as part of their diet.
- Educate your neighbors. Your efforts to prevent coyote conflicts will be less effective if some neighbors are still providing foods.
- Allow hunters or trappers access to your property, so the local coyote population can be managed.
 Coyotes avoid areas in which threats are perceived.





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- D. R. Royal

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2nd June, 2023 Volume III, Issue 11











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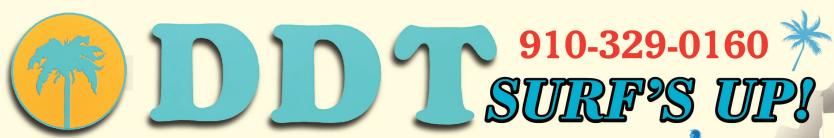


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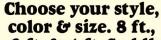
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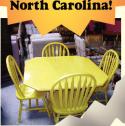




















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