



# TOPSAIL TIMES

TOPSAIL ISLAND, HOLLY RIDGE, HAMPSTEAD AND SNEADS FERRY

**DDT**  
Home of  
**AFFORDABLE**  
Indoor and Outdoor  
Furniture

**MUST STOP**

Check us out on  
the back cover!  
(910) 329-0160

● **16th June, 2023**

● **American-Owned. Free Press.**

● **Volume III, Issue 12**

**FREE!**

## Canada Is On Fire

Canada is on fire. Images representing numerous fires can be seen from the Pacific coast all the way to the Atlantic coast.

On Wednesday, June 7th, North Carolina was under a "poor air quality" warning regarding the smoke from some of the Canadian fires. Haze could be seen for miles, including on Topsail Island.

New York City had such poor air quality from the fires that it was regarded as the "worst air in the world".

Airlines grounded flights at major airports, including LaGuardia.

Public officials were asking people to stay home and stay indoors or to limit time spent outdoors.

Major league sporting events were canceled due to the air conditions.

Currently 18 states are affected by the smoke and haze, leading to poor air

quality warnings and an unusual reddish tint to the sky.

Montana, Texas, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Washington D.C., Virginia and now North Carolina are some of the states impacted. Over 90 million people are being affected by the excessive smoke.

The fires have spread over 9 million acres so far this year with over 420 active fires. To date more than half of those fires are out of control. This could be the most destructive year on record for fires.

In Canada over 20,000 residents are misplaced, either due to loss from the fires or mandatory evacuations.

What is causing the overwhelming number of fires?

Excessive drought, little if any snow fall and warmer temperatures have formed the perfect recipe for disaster. In May the temperatures were the highest on record in 80 years.

Think of Canada as being cold? In 2021 the town of Lytton, British Columbia broke the highest one-day Canadian temperature record at 121 degrees (F). The highest recorded temperature of Death Valley is 134 degrees (F). In 2021, Death Valley recorded the highest "low" temperature when it cooled down to 107 degrees (F).

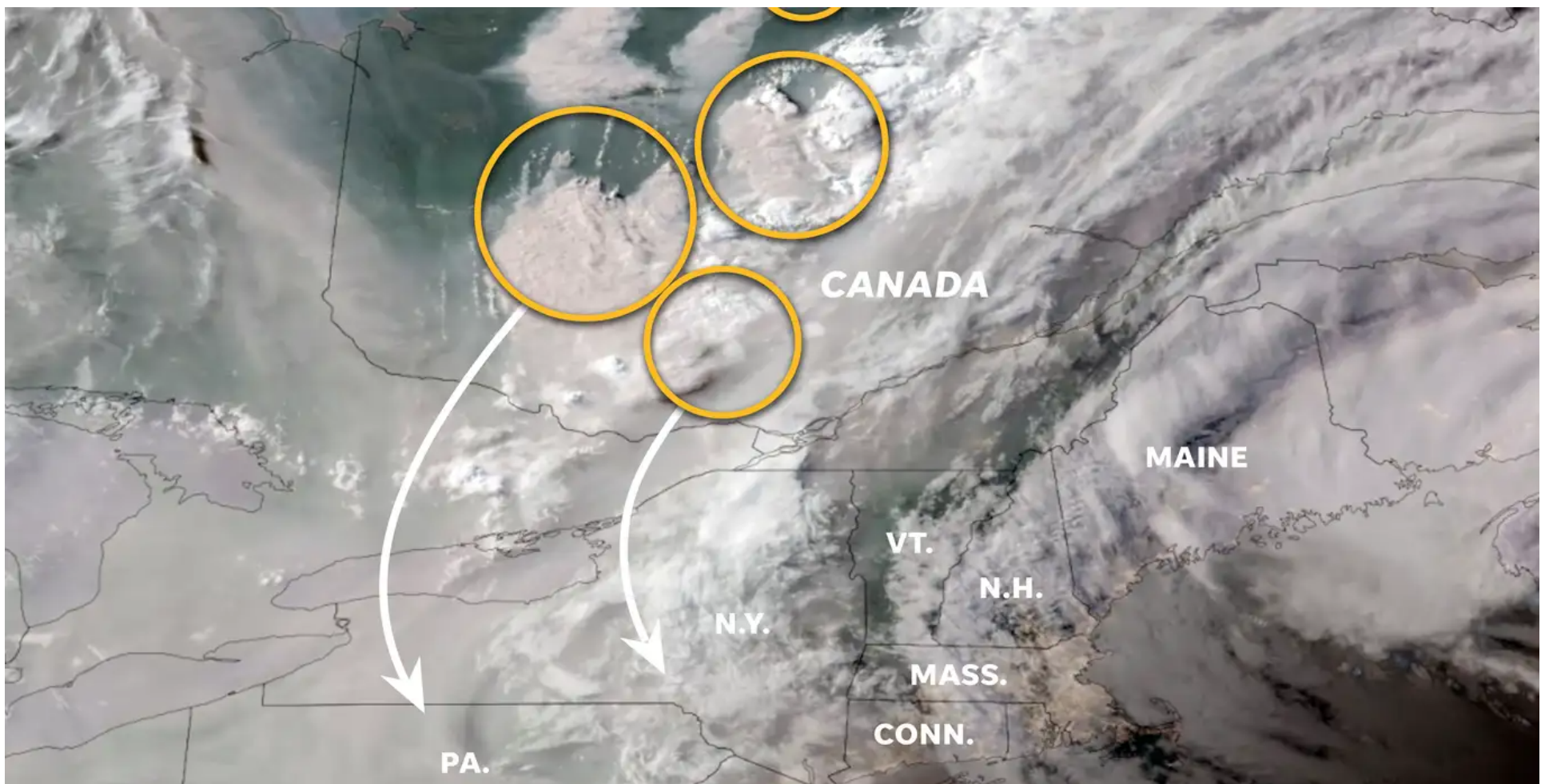
The fire season in Canada generally runs from May until October. The fire damage already done has residents and scientists concerned about the next five months ahead.

Satellite imagery shows areas of heavy smoke and wildfires burning in Quebec, Canada.  
*Illustration Janet Loehrke/USA Today/CIRA/NOAA Via AP (below)*

### YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR BB GUNS



**127 SOUND RD,  
HOLLY RIDGE, NC**







910-803-2313

Visit our Facebook  
page or send us  
an email!

# Topsail Times

**Print  
Dates  
2023**

June 30th  
August 4th  
August 18th

## TOPSAIL TIMES NEWSPAPER



### Publisher

Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC

### Contributing Writers

Dorothy Royal  
Becky Borneman  
Kim McGahey  
Star Sota  
Dotty Ann Harding  
Jennifer Baker  
National Oceanic And  
Atmospheric Administration

### Contributing Photographers

Dorothy Royal  
Becky Borneman  
Shawn Bonilla  
Dotty Ann Harding  
Star Sota  
National Oceanic And  
Atmospheric Administration

## Table of Contents

<b>Own Your Own Restaurant Competition</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Topsail Gun Gal: Things To Ponder</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Fashion Statements: Trapped In My Car</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Change The World Today By Being A Better You</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Sea Turtle Hospital News</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>A Story About A Dog Named Tank</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Pender County Bicycle And Pedestrian Plan</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Coastal Common Sense</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Catholic Bishop Comes To Break Ground</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>NOAA Predicts A Near-Normal Hurricane Season</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Word Search</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>PC Emergency Management</b>	<b>18</b>

## TOPSAIL TIMES NEWSPAPER



Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC is an American Owned, Free Press, that allows for opinions which may not represent the company or its assigns. Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC is not responsible for any promotions, offers or commitments, by advertisers or contributors. No portion of the print copy or electronic copy via website shall be reproduced without written permission by Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC. All material in this paper is the property of Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC. Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC shall not be held responsible for any errors or omissions or for any documents directly provided to Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC. Advertisements are accepted upon the representation that the advertiser have the right to publish the contents thereof. In consideration of such publication, the advertiser agree to indemnify and hold publisher harmless against any expense or loss by reason of any claims arising out of publication.

### Interested in Advertising?

Have a story idea?

Are you a writer or photographer?

Send us an email at  
topsailtimesnewspaper@gmail.com

## Where Can You Find Our Paper?

### Holly Ridge

VFW (on 17)  
Smoky Tonys  
Holly Ridge Vet  
Holly Ridge Town Hall  
Holly Ridge Police Dept  
City Cafe  
Southern Roots  
Paradise Axe & Arcade  
Post Office

### Hampstead

AC Tire  
Holly Ridge Tire & Auto  
Wholesale Tire  
Tractor Supply  
DDT  
Our Yard, Your Sale Resale  
Hampstead Library  
DMV  
Post Office

### Surf City

Jersey Mikes  
Coral Cottage  
Surf City BBQ  
Beach Furniture Outfitters  
Thomas Seafood  
Post Office  
JM's On The Water  
Herring's Outdoor Sports  
IGA & Ward Realty

### Topsail Beach

Godwin's Market  
Quarter Moon Bookstore

### Wilmington

Hughes Brothers Inc.

### Burgaw

O'Reilly's Auto Parts

### Sneads Ferry

Denny's

Check out our website for more locations!

www.TopsailTimes.net



# Own Your Own Restaurant Competition Announces Competition Updates And “Burgaw Now” Documentary

By Jessica Maurer

On Oct. 21, 2023 the final 24 Own Your Own (OYO) competitors will face off in Burgaw, NC. On the line is a restaurant space and a one million dollar budget to design and build the restaurant of their dreams.

“We’re excited to have selected a date for the 24 finalists to come to Burgaw and showcase their talent to the locals,” said OYO founder, Richard Johnson. “Each competitor will have a 10x10 tent and the equipment necessary to prepare and serve their signature dish to community members who will vote for their favorites.”

The OYO competition, launched this past January, has already attracted 500 applicants from 26 states. Applications are still being accepted until July 15th.

After careful review, 280 applicants moved on to the second round. Of those, 180 remain. Next up, the OYO team will continue to winnow down the list to the Judges Round, from which the final 24 will

be chosen and announced in August.

A panel of local award-winning judges will have a say in who advances in the competition. Judges include Christi Ferretti of Pine Valley Market, Dean Neff of Seabird, Keith Rhodes of Catch, and Myra McDuffie of Mema’s Chick’n n’ Ribs.

The OYO Town Square Cook Off Competition will coincide with the town’s inaugural Autumn Fest, which will feature a wide range of activities for all ages including music, art, vendors and food. The cookoff will take place along Courthouse Avenue, home of the new OYO restaurant space. Following the event, 12 finalists will be selected to compete in additional challenges to determine who will earn the keys to the next OYO restaurant. This will be Johnson’s third restaurant in Burgaw.

“A key element to our success is finding the right person who can succeed at running a restaurant and will also be supported by the town,” Johnson said. “The success of Fat Daddy’s and Burgaw Brewing made

me realize the model we have developed in Burgaw can be replicated in small towns across America.”

This time around the OYO team is taking the time to make a documentary of how they helped to revitalize a small town by creating a vibrant restaurant scene. Click here to see the OYO trailer for “Burgaw Now”

“We are so proud of the work we are doing and want to share our story,” Johnson said. “We also want to show how the OYO model can be

used to create sparks of opportunity in other towns and communities.”

In addition to running the competition and making the documentary, OYO is in talks to explore the idea of developing a television show based on the competition and its impact on Burgaw. If you have any questions related to the competition, the documentary, or a potential show idea, please feel free to contact us at [press@ownyourown.com](mailto:press@ownyourown.com).



**MORE WORKOUT, LESS TIME!**

# HOTWORX®

24 HOUR INFRARED FITNESS STUDIO

**TRY YOUR VERY FIRST  
HOTWORX SESSION FOR FREE!**

**HIT THE ISOMETRIC WORKOUTS**  
Pilates, yoga, core and more

**OR TRY THE HIIT WORKOUTS**  
Cycles, dual pulley water rower, or blast for a total body workout

**BOOK SESSIONS DIRECTLY FROM THE APP**

**(910) 967-9328**

**112 Charlie Medlin Dr.  
Surf City, NC 28445**

**WWW.HOTWORX.NET**



**Auto Repair Shop**  
**Classics to 4x4s**

**Hampstead, NC 910-803-2353**  
**[www.CoastalCarCareNC.com](http://www.CoastalCarCareNC.com)**



# Topsail Gun Gal: Things To Ponder

By Dorothy Royal

If NFL players were dying at the rate that racehorses are, there wouldn't be an agent on the planet that would let their player get on the field. Makes sense, right?

The extensive wildfires in Canada have taken away most gains made by people regarding air pollution. The orange haze, now seen across over a dozen states, has led to record air pollution readings in major cities. In May alone the Canadian fires put over 50 million tons of CO2 into the atmosphere.

I think it's time we ban Canada and their fires.

Sorry, but you got to go.

The name Dragon Fruit is deceiving. It does not come from a dragon and is very mild for a fruit. Maybe cactus balls would be a better name.

What if humans were a scientific experiment run by a planet of mosquitos?

Dear paper towel companies, no one believes 8 rolls equals 20 rolls. Stop this nonsense.

Best T-shirt: "Don't try to California my Tennessee"

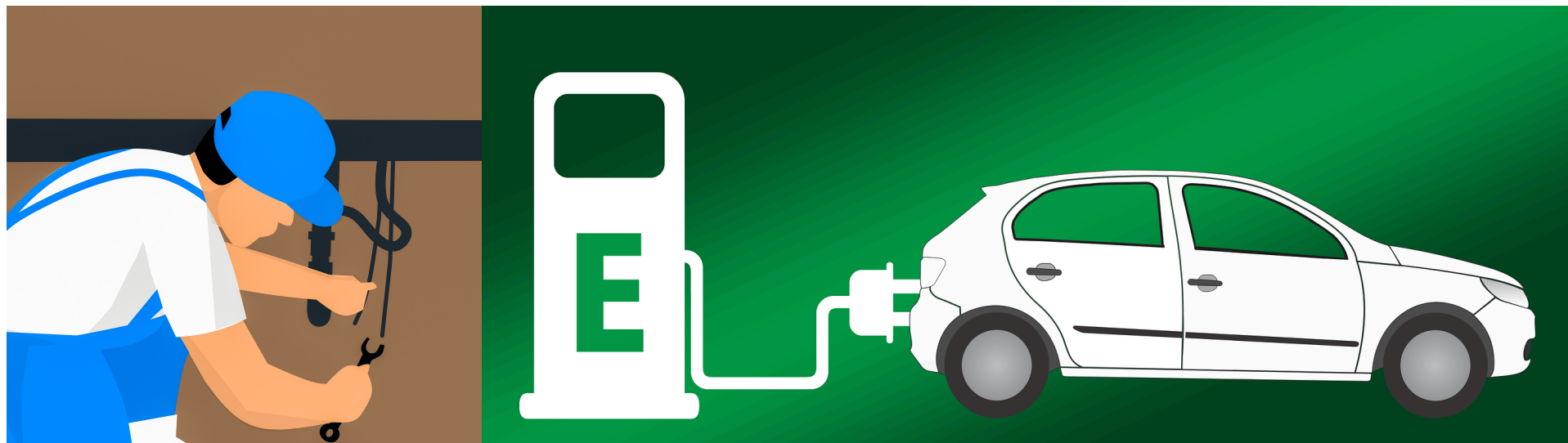
If an electric car runs out of juice on the road, does it require a gas-powered generator to get it charged?

If New York thinks it is only fair to wipe clean a criminal's record after three years does that mean they want them all to stay in NY? If not, I think they should.

If more high school kids don't decide to go into a trade like Heat and Air, Plumbing or Electrical it is projected there will only be 45% of the current work force (in those fields) in 15 years. Think your kid is too good for a trade? On average, within a few years they can earn \$50,000.00 a year without any student loans (that means no college debt to work off). The shortage is real and getting worse. An app can't

fix your leaky toilet and wire in your addition.

Remember knowledge is power, Canadian fires need to be banned and a good plumber might cost more than a surgeon if we don't do something now.



## Surf City Guns & Ammo

**Ammo In Stock**

**Ladies Department**

### **PURCHASE PERMITS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR HANDGUN PURCHASES**

Award winning local gun shop that specializes in firearms for self-defense, 3 gun competition, hunting and target shooting.

Smith & Wesson, Kel-Tec, Anderson, Mossberg, Sig Sauer, Walther, Kimber, Henry, Ruger, Taurus, Colt, Daniel Defense, Springfield, BUL & more!

**Open**

**Weds & Thurs 11am - 6pm**

**Fri & Sat 11am - 7pm**

**(910) 328-4499**

**SurfCityGuns.com**

**127 Sound Road, Holly Ridge, NC**



Topsail Area's Premier  
Family Entertainment

# PARADISE AXE and ARCADE

Call to RSVP  
your lanes or  
party today!

NOW  
SERVING  
FOOD

10 axe lanes • ABC Permit • Walk-ins welcome! • Axes ages 10 & up!  
Group discount available! • Games for all ages • Redemption games  
Great prizes! • Games starting at 25¢!

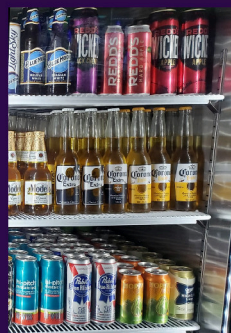
**BOOK YOUR PARTIES NOW**



*Birthdays*



*Graduation*



*Business*



*Family Gatherings*



127 Sound Road in  
Holly Ridge



**GREAT NEW PRIZES!**



**910.803.2300**

**New  
Hours**

Weds & Thurs 11am - 8pm  
Fri & Sat 11am - 10pm  
Sunday 12 - 5pm

**EXTENDED HOURS STARTING MAY 1ST**

AND BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR  
NEW LINE OF

**Stones and  
Driftwood**



**127 Sound Road in Holly Ridge**

[www.paradiseaxeandarcade.com](http://www.paradiseaxeandarcade.com)



# Fashion Statements: Trapped In My Car

By Becky Borneman

Sunday afternoon I was driving home from work and got a call from Jeff. He asked me to pick up some minute rice on the way home and he would cook dinner. He gave me a break from cooking that evening. I guess he was tired of cut up hot dogs and mac and cheese. But anyway, he wanted to cook.

Once I got home, I parked the car, grabbed the box of rice and opened the car door to get out. That's when I heard it. Rattle Rattle. Rattle Rattle. Oh my there is a snake under my car. Now I am terrified of snakes.

There isn't a good one in my opinion but I try to be understanding enough to realize that some good snakes keep the bad ones away.

I shut the car door quickly, scared to put my foot out to step on the ground. The snake has to be under my car for as close as the rattle sounded. I am sitting in the driver seat panicked. Not sure what to do, I grab my phone and call Jeff. He is inside the house and can come outside and maybe scare it away. He didn't answer.

So then I crank the car and back up about 6 feet.

I get the courage up to once again attempt to get out of the car. I grabbed the box of rice to make a run for it and I hear it again, plain as day. Rattle Rattle. Nope, shut the door again. Called Jeff...no answer...again.

I decided to make a run for it. I grab a hold tightly to that box of rice and start praying to let me out of this car alive. I open the car door...I hear nothing. Good sign. I lean over to get out and I hear it again. This time I bolted from the car and to the deck steps in about 2 seconds flat hearing the rattle the entire time.

I was thankful when my feet hit the brick steps.

I looked behind me and saw nothing. Into the house I go and as soon as I walked in I dropped my keys. So I bend down to pick them up and Rattle Rattle.

It was the box of rice! The rice moving around in the box every time I would lean over to get out of the car, or bend down to grab my keys.

Here comes Jeff out of the shower, which is why he wasn't answering the phone as I am melting down in my car. I looked at him and said, Boy do I have a story for you. I can't make this stuff up y'all!

## Coral Cottage boutiques



Fashion is  
*Everything*

ShopCoralCottage.com

(910) 650-2891

14061 NC Highway 50 E, Surf City, NC

Shh.... it's a secret

## Boho Boutique

Coming soon to  
127 Sound Road, Holly Ridge, NC





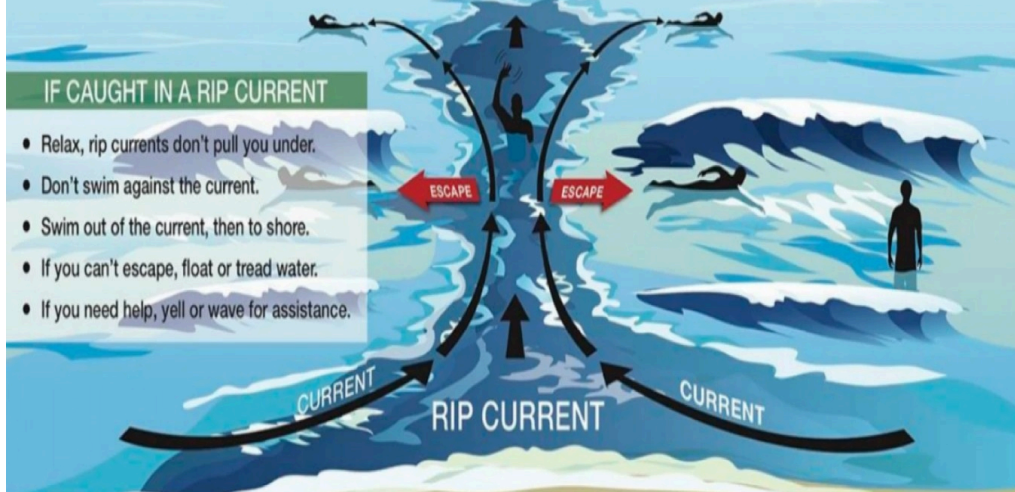
# BEACH SAFETY

## RIP CURRENTS

KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

### IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- Relax, rip currents don't pull you under.
- Don't swim against the current.
- Swim out of the current, then to shore.
- If you can't escape, float or tread water.
- If you need help, yell or wave for assistance.



Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore. They can sweep even the strongest swimmer away from shore. If at all possible, swim near a lifeguard.

## SWIM SAFE!

Follow the Surf City Fire Department Facebook page for daily rip current information! Check weather, never swim alone, and stay aware!



**CALL 9-1-1 ...**

**IDENTIFY your location!**

**LOOK AT ACCESS FLAGS AND MAKE SURE OF YOUR LOCATION: IT SHOULD READ "SURF CITY" AND THE ACCESS NUMBER.** This information will give rescue teams your exact location and ensure a quicker response.

**IF YOU ARE NOT AT A FLAGGED BEACH ACCESS:** please look at the house directly behind you or read the access number posted where you entered the beach!

**WE STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT YOU DO NOT ENTER THE WATER TO RESCUE ANYONE WITHOUT A PROPER**

## Sea Turtle Nesting Season

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

Beach Safety Sponsored by Ward Realty



**WARD REALTY**

Real Estate Sales & Vacation Rentals

**75 years Locally Owned & Operated**

Let us Help Book your Perfect  
Topsail Vacation Today



*Re-Ward Yourself*

Wardrealty.com

910-382-3221

202 S Topsail Rd

Surf City NC 28445



**WARD REALTY**  
*The Original Developers  
of Topsail Island*



# Change The World Today By Being A Better You

By Jennifer Baker LPC RPT ACS

I listened to Ed Mylett the other day; wow, he inspires me to be a better version of myself.

For some, he is not their cup of tea, but I invite you to look to the message of being kind and having purpose and vision in your life and disregard anything else that does not fit your mindset.

Listen to the full podcast here:  
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-ed-mylett-show/id1181233130i=1000563489650>

Here are some things I learned:

**Be the person who is the most loving and kind: Making others, even if that person is yourself, feel that they are valuable and worthwhile. Rewrite that negative self-talk. I make a flicking gesture to get rid of mine.**

**Make others feel like you see and hear them, that their feelings are important, and that you understand them by reflectively verbalizing them (or a version thereof) and then asking what you can do to support them.**

**Just keep going for one more day. I always remind myself to reset and start the day over when I get big feelings or triggers.**

**Moving my body helps me the most. I go for a walk, do some squats, or do yoga poses with some breathing.**

This last thought was my best takeaway, and it seems that it applies to everything from being sober, having faith, being kind and loving, staying at your job, working out, being a patient parent, being strong and loving towards yourself, limiting your social media, being a better person, believing things will get better, to making a different choice this time.

**Don't miss an opportunity to be kind and loving even if you have trouble with big emotions in a conversation that may be hard to hear.**

Realizing that someone else is acting a certain way so that you will feel what they feel when they are around you can be mind-boggling and difficult to manage. This interaction, which may be difficult for you to stay calm in, does not have to do with you; you can choose how you will respond. You can always choose to be loving and kind even if you feel like answering with anger or frustration.

**Be authentic in your response to others. Say, "Ouch, that really hurt." Then take some deep breaths to regulate your nervous system, then watch them get**

calmer and regulated too. I bet you didn't know how pivotal you are to repairing an attachment in a relationship when things sometimes go sideways.

**Dream during the day. If you can see it in your mind, you can do it. It is a muscle to practice and will wither if not used.**

**You can miss so much looking in the rearview mirror and judging yourself and others. Dream of the future and operate in the present.**

.....and, drum roll, please..

**When you allow yourself to feel loved and valuable, you are no longer limited by your previous beliefs about yourself. Your thoughts could go from "I am not good enough" to "I can show up and try my best." An emotional learning component in your brain changes the meaning of what is happening, and you get to rewrite your own story.**

Rewriting your self-talk and beliefs may help you take a risk and say 'thank you' instead of deflecting a compliment. Tell someone you love them, even if they are being or doing something you don't like. Be kind, say sorry, and tell them you see how hard they try.

*I wonder if, when we stand in judgment of others, we are distracting ourselves from looking too closely at*

*how we have contributed to the situation by:*

Allowing ourselves to be treated poorly and accepting it without a gentle verbalization that may result in a course correction in the relationship.

Not letting something go that needs to be let go.

Blaming others for our actions and feelings inside. That's our stuff, not theirs.

Ignoring our boundaries by participating in a conversation when we could have said we don't want to talk about it now.

Perpetually trying to solve problems for others instead of being their cheerleader to figure it out for themselves.

Making excuses for our own or other people's bad behavior. If people are clogging up your life with negativity, how can you make room for the positive?

Tying it all together, I am leaving you with some food for thought about how to change the world, starting with yourself first. If you practice coming from, speaking from, and holding yourself to being loving and kind towards everyone, even yourself, you may see something different happen around you.

## Handy Hilton



*H. Lyle Parker*  
**Interior and Exterior Painting**



**Pressure Washing**

**Home Repairs**

Remodeling and Additions

Small Plumbing and Electrical Work

**\* 30 Years Experience \* Free Estimates \***



**910-231-5032**

Walk-ins Welcome

**New Attitude Salon & Spa**

13601 Suite C Hwy 50

Next to Food Lion

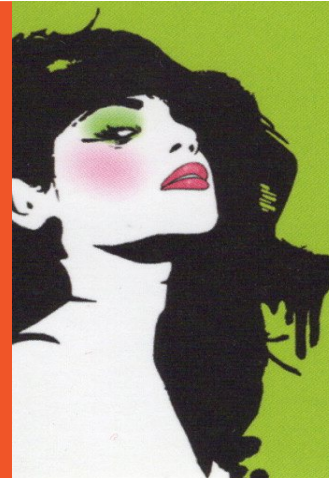
Surf City, NC 28445

910-329-1555

Owner: Barbie Hawkins

E-mail: [newattitudesands@gmail.com](mailto:newattitudesands@gmail.com)

[www.NewAttitudeSalonAndSpa.com](http://www.NewAttitudeSalonAndSpa.com)



**MEATLOAF  
 EVERY THURSDAY**

**FLOUNDER BASKET • OYSTER PLATTER  
 PORK CHOPS • HAMBURGER STEAK  
 CHICKEN SALAD • BBQ PORK  
 WESTERN BURGER • SHRIMP PO BOY  
 CAJUN CATFISH • BEEF TIPS**



**DAILY LUNCH  
 SPECIALS UNDER \$10**

**OPEN EVERYDAY EXCEPT TUESDAY  
 BREAKFAST ONLY SATURDAY (OPEN TIL NOON)  
 SUNDAY (OPEN TIL 1PM)**



**Beep Beep! (910) 803-0773  
 552 EAST OCEAN RD, NC-50, HOLLY RIDGE, NC**

**CALL OR TEXT TO BOOK OUR FOOD TRUCK!**

**(910) 599-6164**



**SOUTHERN ROOTS GRILLE  
 SOUTHERN ROOTS FOOD TRUCK**





# Sea Turtle Hospital News



By Star Sota

Sometimes you're at the right place at the right time, especially during nesting season here on Topsail. As luck would have it, after my twenty-three years with the hospital I'm fairly fluent in basic sea turtle and I got the interview of the year! I caught up with a mama loggerhead as she finished flinging the last few flippers of sand on her nest. Needing a few minutes to catch her breath before heading back to the ocean she agreed to be interviewed, under an assumed name.

**Karen Sota:** Madame X, I'm really happy that you're able to spend a few minutes with me. I know you're probably very tired.

**Madame X:** Just finding my way back here to my natal beach was exhausting, and it gets harder every time.

**KS:** Why?

**MX:** First of all, I have to dodge all the sharks and boats. So, I get here, and I'm just stunned-stunned! I'm thinking, "Have I gone way off course? What's with all the buildings, and what happened to all the wide, sandy beaches and great dunes?" I can understand why you humans want to live on the water, but how about sharing! And while I'm venting: why do you turn on spotlights at night? Wouldn't you rather look at the stars?

**KS:** Wow. You seem quite disturbed, and maybe a little sad. Between development, hurricanes, erosion and our cavalier attitude towards the environment, life gets harder by the minute for you sea turtles. But you still managed to lay quite an impressive nest there.

**MX:** I'm pretty proud of it. I counted 106 eggs. You know this my second crawl tonight? The first time I started to dig a nest, the dune collapsed on me. So I headed back to the water and swam a few hundred yards up the beach. I finally spotted the perfect place. Good sand, well above the high tide level.

But the trip was a nightmare.

**KS:** What happened?

**MX:** At 375 pounds, I'm what you might call a "healthy" girl. Dragging all that weight up the beach on flippers is tough work. Just look at how deep my tracks are. But that's not the worst thing. It's really dark tonight and I fell into a hole that somebody dug in the sand. What's the deal with that? Even I know that when I dig a hole I'm supposed to fill it back in so nobody falls and gets hurt. I'm really lucky that I was able to crawl out without the stress and exertion making me lose my eggs.

**KS:** I'm so sorry that happened to you. But you obviously didn't give up.

**MX:** I couldn't. There are so few of us mature, dating ladies left out there. You know very well the survival rate for hatchlings: about 1 in 10,000. When you're that "1" you have a lot of responsibility on your carapace. I had to find some nice strong guys, get all my eggs fertilized and get them tucked safely away in the sand, pronto. This is my third, and last, nest this year. I won't be back for another two to three years. So you see, if we ladies just give up, it's bye-bye Caretta caretta. By the way, one of your former patients, Honey, sends his regards. What a hunk!

**KS:** Yes, he was quite the man, despite the unfortunate name we gave him. Would you mind telling me your age?

**MX:** Not at all. I'm 39 and proud of it.

I've earned every scar on my scutes and every nip on my flippers in my constant fight to survive. See that beauty mark back there? Shark, August 2001- barely escaped that time.

I laid my first nest here about seven years ago, and I didn't have my mama holding my flipper telling me what to do. I had to figure it out all by myself.

**KS:** And once your babies hatch they'll have to do the same thing. They'll get no help from mom. How do you feel about that?

**MX:** I try not to think about the millions of perils they'll face. As far as never getting to know them, in a way I'm kind of glad. Even if there were a Hallmark store at sea, I certainly don't have the money I'd need to send them all birthday cards. Of course it would be nice to get a present (or two, or three, or 500) on Mother's Day.

**KS:** I can see you're getting a little dehydrated and probably want to get back home. Any final comments?

**MX:** Where do I start? First of all, thanks to all the Topsail Turtle Project volunteers who find and mark our nests, keep them safe and sit on the beach at night making sure our kids get to the surf. Thanks to everybody at the hospital. I meet so many turtles that got a second chance because you cared. And even though all our babies are precious, it's the old gals like me who are really valuable. I'm not bragging, but we're the survivors. As long as we can depend on you being there if we get sick or injured I still hold out some hope for our future.

**KS:** Thanks again Madame X.

**MX:** Bon voyage.

See you in a few years, hope!

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](http://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 tour. The road is subject to major flooding and may close during heavy rain. 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.



(left) Madame X resting



Madame X heads home



## Fresh Seafood & Local Produce

Local Pender County Honey | Bait and Fishing Supplies

Local Stump Sound Oysters By the Dozen or Hundred

# THOMAS TACKLE AND SEAFOOD

ON THE MAINLAND 1/4 MILE FROM SURF CITY BRIDGE

## 910-328-4361

8AM - 6PM | OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

14210 NC-50, Surf City, NC 28445

Scallops  
Shrimp  
Tuna  
Clams  
Flounder  
Crab Cakes  
Gator Tail  
Frog Legs  
Snow Crabs

Fresh  
Produce

Gullah  
Gourmet  
Products

Bayou  
Classic  
Products



# A Story About A Dog Named Tank

**By DottyAnn Harding**

President of OCPAW (Onslow County Partners for Animal Welfare)

So, in writing this article, I remembered what Memorial Day was like as a child and thought of ways I could help a military person and their companion animal in similar situations ongoing today. This service member planned to help the dog he loved if he could not return to him. If you are in a comparable situation, follow his lead because it will create a better outcome for all involved. The Onslow County Shelter's website has much information about the help available to you. Contacting the military and other local rescuers to gather information also helps in planning and/or volunteering as a foster. **But, most importantly....**

## REMEMBER.

Memorial Day remembrances are now behind us on the calendar, the get-togethers have long since passed, and the picnics and barbecues are now fondly remembered. But, sometimes, we forget why our country celebrates this Holiday. There seem to be fewer flags displayed, and the parades are much smaller or gone altogether.

This celebration is now quite different from the memories I had as a child, as I remember it well. I loved marching in parades, which I did many times as a baton twirler. Then, of course, I would have to explain baton twirling to many folks nowadays. It was exciting to march with the sounds of the pounding drums and horns of the band, that was, until the parade stopped those many times along the parade route to strike up a song, and the entertainment would begin. As those batons were tossed high up into the air, it was a cautionary tale to say; we were all praying for a great catch and not picking the batons from off the ground.

The sidewalks were crammed with excited bystanders cheering on the marchers, friends, and the many local organizations participating, including children riding their decorated bikes with red, white, and blue crepe paper.

Flags were everywhere, waving at the First Responders walking proudly in uniform or riding on the fire trucks. Veterans, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, the Mayor, and local officials all in the revered parade which everyone enjoyed but also solemnly remembering the sacrifice of many.

Finally, when the parade, which was as long as the entire main road running through the town, had ended. Everyone went home to food and friends, remembering again for another year.

Those memories were from many years ago, but now I would like to relay

this story that has helped me remember again, today and every day, the sacrifice of the men and women who proudly serve our country.



They told me the big black Lab's name was Reggie, as I looked at him lying in his pen. The shelter was clean, no-kill, and the people really friendly.

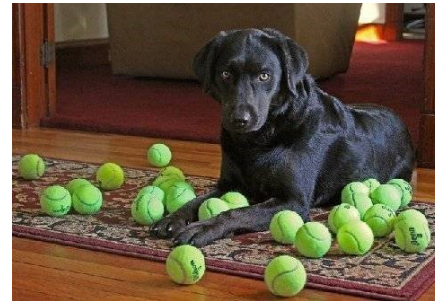
I had only been in the area for six months, but everywhere I went in the small college town, people were welcoming and open. Everyone waves when you pass them on the street, but something was still missing as I attempted to settle in to my new life here, and I thought a dog could not hurt. Give me someone to talk to. And I had just seen Reggie's advertisement on the local news.

The shelter said they had received numerous calls right after, but they said the people who had come down to see him just didn't look like "Lab people," whatever that meant. They must've thought I did. But at first, I thought the shelter had misjudged me in giving me Reggie and his things, which consisted of a dog pad, bag of toys almost all of which were brand new tennis balls, his dishes, and a sealed letter from his previous owner.

I had only been in the area for six months, but everywhere I went in the small college town, people were welcoming and open. Everyone waves when you pass them on the street, but something was still missing as I attempted to settle in to my new life here, and I thought a dog could not hurt. Give me someone to talk to. And I had just seen Reggie's advertisement on the local news.

The shelter said they had received numerous calls right after, but they said the people who had come down to see him just didn't look like "Lab people," whatever that meant. They must've thought I did.

But at first, I thought the shelter had misjudged me in giving me Reggie and his things, which consisted of a dog pad, bag of toys almost all of which were brand new tennis balls, his dishes, and a sealed letter from his previous owner.



See, Reggie and I didn't really hit it off when we got home. We struggled for two weeks (which is how long the shelter told me to give him to adjust to his new home). Maybe it was the fact that I was trying to adjust, too. Maybe we were too much alike.

I saw the sealed envelope. I had completely forgotten about that. "Okay, Reggie," I said out loud, "let's see if your previous owner has any advice."



## To Whomever Gets My Dog:

*Well, I can't say that I'm happy you're reading this, a letter I told the shelter could only be opened by Reggie's new owner. I'm not even happy writing it. He knew something was different.*

*So let me tell you about my Lab in the hopes that it will help you bond with him and he with you.*

*First, he loves tennis balls. The more the merrier. Sometimes I think he's part squirrel, the way he hoards them. He usually always has two in his mouth, and he tries to get a third in there. Hasn't done it yet. Doesn't matter where you throw them, he'll bound after them, so be careful. Don't do it by any roads.*

## Low Cost Spay/Neuter Vouchers

*Funded by NC Community Foundation Dallas Fred Allen Endowment Fund*

**Companion Animals \$39<sup>99</sup>**  
**Ferals \$15<sup>00</sup>**

**for Residents and Rescues  
within Onslow County**

**Applications Available  
Online!**

Website: [www.oc-paw.com](http://www.oc-paw.com)



**Call 910-745-7930 with any questions.**



Next, commands. Reggie knows the obvious ones — “sit,” “stay,” “come,” “heel.” He knows hand signals, too: He knows “ball” and “food” and “bone” and “treat” like nobody’s business. Feeding schedule: twice a day, regular store-bought stuff; the shelter has the brand. He’s up on his shots. Be forewarned: Reggie hates the vet. Good luck getting him in the car.

I don’t know how he knows when it’s time to go to the vet, but he knows. Finally, give him some time. It’s only been Reggie and me for his whole life. He’s gone everywhere with me, so please include him on your daily car rides if you can. He sits well in the backseat, and he doesn’t bark or complain. He just loves to be around people, and me most especially.

And that’s why I need to share one more bit of info with you... His name’s not Reggie. He’s a smart dog, he’ll get used to it and will respond to it, of that I have no doubt. But I just couldn’t bear to give them his real name.

But if someone is reading this ... well it means that his new owner should know his real name. His real name is “Tank.” Because, that is what I drive. I told the shelter that they couldn’t make “Reggie” available for adoption until they received word from my company

commander.

You see, my parents are gone, I have no siblings, no one I could’ve left Tank with ... and it was my only real request of the Army upon my deployment to Iraq, that they make one phone call to the shelter on the “event” ... to tell them that Tank could be put up for adoption. Luckily, my CO is a dog-guy, too, and he knew where my platoon was headed. He said he’d do it personally. And if you’re reading this, then he made good on his word. Tank has been my family for the last six years, almost as long as the Army has been my family. And now I hope and pray that you make him part of your family, too, and that he will adjust and come to love you the same way he loved me.

If I have to give up Tank to keep those terrible people from coming to the US I am glad to have done so. He is my example of service and of love. I hope I honored him by my service to my country and comrades. All right, that’s enough. I deploy this evening and have to drop this letter off at the shelter. Maybe I’ll peek in on him and see if he finally got that third tennis ball in his mouth. Good luck with Tank. Give him a good home, and give him an extra kiss goodnight – every night – from me.

Thank you, Paul Mallory



I folded the letter and slipped it back in the envelope. Sure, I had heard of Paul Mallory, everyone in town knew him, even new people like me. Local kid, killed in Iraq a few months ago and posthumously earning the Silver Star when he gave his life to save three buddies. Flags had been at half-mast all summer.

I leaned forward in my chair and rested my elbows on my knees, staring at the dog. “Hey, Tank,” I said quietly. The dog’s head whipped up, his ears cocked and his eyes bright.

“C’mere boy.”

He was instantly on his feet, his nails clicking on the hardwood floor. He sat in front of me, his head tilted, searching for the name he hadn’t heard in months.

“Tank,” I whispered. His tail swished.

I kept whispering his name, over and over, and each time, his ears lowered, his

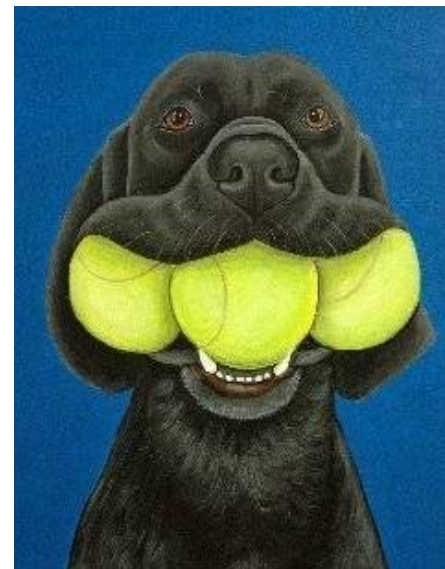
eyes softened, and his posture relaxed as a wave of contentment just seemed to flood him. I stroked his ears, rubbed his shoulders, buried my face into his scruff and hugged him.

“It’s me now, Tank, just you and me. Your old friend gave you to me.” Tank reached up and licked my cheek.

“So whatdaya say we play some ball?” His ears perked again.

“Yeah? Ball? You like that? Ball?”

Tank tore from my hands and disappeared into the next room. And when he came back, he had three tennis balls in his mouth.



## Pender County Bicycle And Pedestrian Plan - Draft Recommendations Available For Public Comment

Pender County, in collaboration with The Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO), is conducting a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for portions of Pender County that lie within the WMPO urban boundary.

This Plan’s goal is to identify existing challenges to bicycling and walking, propose a preferred bicycle and pedestrian network to strive for, and lay out the specific policy, program, and infrastructure recommendations.

Public and stakeholder engagement played a vital role throughout the study. The study team collected input from a Steering Committee and the public to draft recommendations that focus on providing safety, better access up and down US 17, and connections to schools, parks, shopping, and medical offices. The Plan also includes research on existing conditions, an assessment of the network, and provides near- and long-term recommendations.

### Provide Your Comments!

The draft recommendations are now available for review and open comment. The full report as well as additional information can be found on the Plan’s website at <https://www.wmpo.org/pender-county-bicycle-and-pedestrian-plan/>

Comments will be accepted until June 23 rd by email, phone, or mail. To provide your comments:

- Send an email to [Vanessa.Lacer@wilmingtonnc.gov](mailto:Vanessa.Lacer@wilmingtonnc.gov)
- Leave a voice message by calling (910) 341-3234
- Mail your comments to
  - o Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO)
  - o 305 Chestnut Street, 4th Floor
  - o Wilmington, NC 28401

### Public Engagement Opportunities

Community engagement is crucial for the success of this plan, and the study team encourages residents to spread the word and encourage their friends, family, and neighbors to participate. The Pender County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan relies on a collaborative approach to ensure that it truly reflects the needs and aspirations of the community.

Please check the study website or follow Pender County on Social Media for upcoming public engagement opportunities.

The study team will be hosting various pop-up events to share the draft recommendations and collect comments. Please check the study website for upcoming public engagement opportunities.

## Pender County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

### About This Study

Pender County has conducted a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to **identify existing challenges** to bicycling and walking, **propose a preferred bicycle and pedestrian network** to strive for, and **lay out the specific policy, program, and infrastructure recommendations** that Pender County and various stakeholders will use to attain the overall Bicycle and Pedestrian Network.

Learn more on the plan website:  
[www.wmpo.org/pender-county-bicycle-and-pedestrian-plan/](http://www.wmpo.org/pender-county-bicycle-and-pedestrian-plan/)



### Provide Your Comments!

The draft recommendations are now available for review and open comment. The full report as well as additional information can be found on the Plan’s website. Comments will be accepted until June 23rd by email, phone, or mail. To provide your comments:



Send an **email** to [Vanessa.Lacer@wilmingtonnc.gov](mailto:Vanessa.Lacer@wilmingtonnc.gov)



Leave a **voice message** by calling (910) 341-3234



**Mail** comments to  
Wilmington Urban Area MPO  
305 Chestnut Street, 4th Floor  
Wilmington, NC 28401





YOU'RE GOING TO  
**WANT IN**

ON THIS DOUBLE SIZED PUBLICATION  
TWICE THE READERS  
MORE COVERAGE THAN EVER!

**Coming out**

**JULY 1ST**

**PAPER WILL BE AVAILABLE TO READERS FOR  
THE WHOLE MONTH OF JULY**

**PAY FOR ONE AD  
GET THE BENEFIT OF TWO PUBLICATIONS**

**Deadline is Monday, June 19th at 5pm**

**Don't miss out on this awesome opportunity for  
residents and tourists to know about your business!**  
*Call or email today to take advantage of this one time offer!*

**(910) 803-2313**

**TOPSAILTIMESNEWSPAPER@GMAIL.COM**

*Ad design available*



# Coastal Common Sense

By Kim McGahey

There's an undeveloped parcel of land at the very southern tip of Topsail Island. We affectionately refer to it as the Hundred Acre Wood, but the surveyor tells us it's actually more like a 150 acres of undisturbed, pristine coastline dunes, and one wiley coyote, that has been used and admired for years by locals and visitors as the last of Pender County's, and maybe North Carolina's, natural sea coast habitat.

The Hundred Acre Wood is now slated for development which has all the locals and visitors up in arms and mounting a grassroots effort to halt any building on this last vestige of the pure Carolina coastline.

Protest yard signs claiming "Conserve The Point" along Anderson Blvd. and numerous citizen comments at Topsail Beach town council meetings call for no construction on the Hundred Acre Wood. A town hall meeting was held by the owners to inform and reassure the public and several hundred people showed up to voice their disapproval. It's a topic of concern at all local town planning meetings and all local happy hours. But the aversion to the current development plan on this private land is misplaced.

The protesters would have a stronger case if the Hundred Acre Wood was publicly owned. They could then petition the government to stop any development on the land. Even a motion for Imminent Domain could then be

more easily thwarted if the land were owned by an entity seeking development for the public good or the general welfare.

For example, public municipalities can develop land under the Imminent Domain law for purposes of creating parks, recreation sites, transportation access arteries, various infrastructure projects, wildlife refuges, etc.

The Town of Topsail Beach, Pender County or the State of North Carolina could "take" the land to build a bridge to Hampstead, a sewer plant for the town or a commercial pier - all of which would likely be allowed under that Imminent Domain law; however difficult those projects would be to accomplish.

As it stands now, the land is privately owned by individuals who desire, and have made formal application to the Town of Topsail Beach, to develop the parcel with 8 homes and docks into Topsail Sound. This low impact, minimal development is infinitely preferable to other high density, multi-family construction that an owner of the land could request. Eight homes is a lot less intrusive than 10 multi-story buildings with 150 condo units, for example.

Besides, anybody else wanting to control development there should have bought the land. These owners paid millions of dollars for the land and deserve to have their day in court.

Preventing the Town Council from approving a sewer treatment plant for the Town is a much better target for

local and second homeowner protesters wishing to curtail future high density development in Topsail Beach. Tall condo buildings like in Surf City and North Topsail Beach can only be built if a sewer treatment plant system is approved by our Town Council. No such high density, multi-family buildings can be built as long as we remain on septic systems. So let's protest the proposed sewer plant system and not the Hundred Acre Wood.

As confirmed by the Town of Topsail Beach planning and council officials, the development process for the Hundred Acre Wood will be arduous at best. There will be numerous planning and zoning approvals required at many

levels of government from the town, the county, the state and the federal. There will be wildlife habitat issues, environmental concerns, ocean objections, water and land access problems, infrastructure obstacles and many more hurdles that we don't yet know about.

So let the development process run its course, but do protest peacefully and patriotically loud and often to your Town Council and Planning Boards to make the planning and zoning process as difficult as possible within the law. Maybe then the land owners will give up and sell the Hundred Acre Wood back to Winnie the Pooh and friends.



## 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](mailto:Bruce.Dixon@onslowcountync.gov) for an application and enrollment



## Surf City's Premier Waterfront Dining

Located at 602-B Roland Avenue  
across from the Surf City Town Park

JM's On The Water offers an extensive menu that includes scrumptious seafood, steaks, sandwiches, salads, and an array of appetizers that can't be beat.



Open Weds - Sun 11-9pm

[www.topsailtimes.net](http://www.topsailtimes.net)

## Live and Local REAL TALK



Freedom 97.1

1120 AM

Raeford, Kelli and Lee  
WEEKDAYS 7-9 am



# Catholic Bishop Comes To Break Ground After Local Church Community Raises \$3.36 Million To Build New Church In Hampstead

Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama of the Diocese of Raleigh will be celebrating with parishioners from All Saints Catholic Church in Hampstead on June 30, 2023 at 1:00PM

Hampstead, NC, June 1, 2023 - The groundbreaking comes as All Saints Catholic Church announces that they have secured \$3.36 million dollars in gifts and pledges from their vibrant faith filled community which will be used to help fund their \$9.5 million expansion project. The parish plans to erect a 750-seat church and additional rooms for the largely expanding faith community in Eastern Pender County. Bishop Zarama will officiate at a Groundbreaking ceremony on June 30, 2023. Site clearing started in May 2023. Construction is expected to be completed by late 2024.

The facility expansion will allow the growing parish to accommodate the influx of new residents in the area. It will also enable All Saints Parish, which is a diverse community of families, young adults, and retirees, to focus on growing in their faith and putting their faith into action through vibrant youth and adult ministries and community outreach.

Monsignor Joseph Ntuwa, pastor of All Saints, stated: "All Saints is excited to be building a place to love God, love others, and to make disciples; Also, it will continue to be a center where people live their faith in service to God and our community."

Msgr. Joseph Ntuwa notes that the new church will have:

- pews with kneelers
- nearly double seating capacity

- reconciliation rooms
- larger sacristy
- adoration chapel
- administrative space for faith formation, discipleship programs, and community service.

Catholic presence and service to the Eastern Pender community began in 1953 when St. Mary Gate of Heaven was established in Surf City. However, in the 1990s in response to the growing faith community's needs, St. Jude the Apostle Parish was established on the current site at 18737 US Hwy 17 N, Hampstead, with a multipurpose worship space and a few offices. The name was later changed

to All Saints. The original founders, some who will be honored guests at the groundbreaking, had a long-term vision of building a permanent church building to serve a larger community. This phase of the development is a continuation of their original plan, and the Surf City campus continues to serve as a summer ministry.

All Saints Catholic Church is a welcoming Catholic community called by God to live out the message of Christ in love and service to all people.

To learn more about this historic project visit [www.allsaintsscnc.org/growth](http://www.allsaintsscnc.org/growth).



**SHAKE IT UP**  
**SWINGBRIDGE NUTRITION**  
 (910) 541-0375  
**Mon-Thurs 8am-4pm, Fri & Sat 8am-6pm**  
**Sunday 9am-4pm**  
 And while you're here, boost your luck with a:  
**RED HOT RICHES** **LUCKY SHAMROCK**  
 L U C K  
 L U C K  
 L U C K  
**103 Atkinson Point Road, Surf City, NC**

**BEST PRICES AROUND**

**Stump Sound Containers**

**CALL US TODAY! (910) 787-1246**  
[WWW.STUMPSOUNDCONTAINERS.COM](http://WWW.STUMPSOUNDCONTAINERS.COM)

**DAILY AND LONG TERM RENTALS**  
**ROLL OFF DUMPSTERS**  
**15, 20, 30 YD DUMPSTERS**  
**FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS**

**SERVING PENDER AND ONSLOW**  
 HAMPSTEAD  
 HOLLY RIDGE  
 TOPSAIL ISLAND  
 SNEADS FERRY  
 JACKSONVILLE



**OWN YOUR OWN**  
**OPEN HOUSE**

Come tour the OYO restaurant space during the 20th Annual North Carolina Blueberry Festival!

**NORTH CAROLINA BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL BURGAW, NC**  
 20th Anniversary

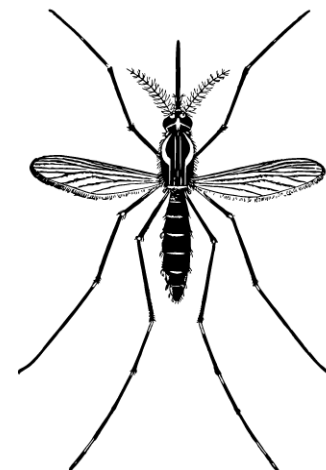
**Saturday, June 17th**  
 10:00am-4:00pm

**106 W Courthouse Ave, Burgaw, NC 28425**

**OWN YOUR OWN**

**(910) 787-1246**  
**STUMPSOUNDCONTAINERS@GMAIL.COM**





# 252-353-4760

**FIRE ANTS, MOSQUITOS, ROACHES, SILVERFISH, FLEAS, TICKS, MICE AND MORE!**



HOME ☒ NO BUGS!

LAWN ☒ NO FIREANTS!

YARD ☒ NO MOSQUITOS!

## OUR SERVICES:

INSIDE / OUTSIDE TREATMENTS  
YARD TREATMENT FOR MOSQUITOS  
YARD TREATMENT FOR FIRE ANTS  
FREE SERVICE CONSULTATIONS  
ONE-TIME, MONTHLY & QUARTERLY TREATMENT OPTIONS  
TERMITE CONTROL TREATMENTS  
MOISTURE CONTROL TREATMENTS



**FULLY LICENSED  
& GUARANTEED!**

Visit our website: [www.pestechofgreenville.com](http://www.pestechofgreenville.com)

Call our office today to  
schedule an appointment!!

## F.U.R.R

*FELINE URGENT RESCUE AND REHAB*

**Adopt. Donate. Volunteer.**



**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!!!



**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

[www.catfurr.org](http://www.catfurr.org)



# 864-483-2444



# NOAA Predicts A Near-Normal 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season

## By National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration

NOAA forecasters with the Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service, predict near-normal hurricane activity in the Atlantic this year. NOAA's outlook for the 2023 Atlantic hurricane season, which goes from June 1 to November 30, predicts a 40% chance of a near-normal season, a 30% chance of an above-normal season and a 30% chance of a below-normal season.

NOAA is forecasting a range of 12 to 17 total named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher). Of those, 5 to 9 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 1 to 4 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). NOAA has a 70% confidence in these ranges.

"Thanks to the Commerce Department and NOAA's critical investments this year in scientific and technological advancements in hurricane modeling, NOAA will be able to deliver even more accurate forecasts, helping ensure communities have the information they need to prepare for and respond to the destructive economic and ecological impacts of Atlantic hurricanes," said Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo.

The upcoming Atlantic hurricane season is expected to be less active than recent years, due to competing factors — some that suppress storm development and some that fuel it — driving this year's overall forecast for a

near-normal season.

After three hurricane seasons with La Nina present, NOAA scientists predict a high potential for El Nino to develop this summer, which can suppress Atlantic hurricane activity. El Nino's potential influence on storm development could be offset by favorable conditions local to the tropical Atlantic Basin. Those conditions include the potential for an above-normal west African monsoon, which produces African easterly waves and seeds some of the stronger and longer-lived Atlantic storms, and warmer-than-normal sea surface temperatures in the tropical Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea which creates more energy to fuel storm development. These factors are part of the longer term variability in Atlantic atmospheric and oceanic conditions that are conducive to hurricane development — known as the high-activity era for Atlantic hurricanes — which have been producing more active Atlantic hurricane seasons since 1995.

"With a changing climate, the data and expertise NOAA provides to emergency managers and partners to support decision-making before, during and after a hurricane has never been more crucial," said NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad, Ph.D. "To that end, this year we are operationalizing a new hurricane forecast model and extending the tropical cyclone outlook graphic from five to seven days, which will provide emergency managers and communities with more time to prepare

for storms."

This summer, NOAA will implement a series of upgrades and improvements. NOAA will expand the capacity of its operational supercomputing system by 20%. This increase in computing capability will enable NOAA to improve and run more complex forecast models, including significant model upgrades this hurricane season:

- In late June, the Hurricane Analysis and Forecast System (HAFS) will become operational. HAFS will run this season in tandem with the currently operational Hurricane Weather Research and Forecast Model System and Hurricanes in a Multi-scale Ocean-coupled Non-hydrostatic model, but eventually will become NOAA's primary hurricane model. Retrospective analysis of tropical storms and hurricanes from the 2020-2022 seasons show that this model has a 10-15% improvement in track forecasts over existing operational models. This new model was jointly created by NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory Hurricane Modeling and Prediction Program and NOAA's National Weather Service Environmental Modeling Center.

- The Probabilistic Storm Surge model upgrade on May 2, advances storm surge forecasting for the contiguous U.S. and new forecasts for surge, tide and waves for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Forecasters now have the ability to run the model for two storms simultaneously. This model provides forecasters with the likelihood, or probability, of various flooding

scenarios including a near worst-case scenario to help communities prepare for all potential outcomes.

Additional upgrades or new tools for hurricane analysis and forecasting include:

- The National Hurricane Center's Tropical Weather Outlook graphic, which shows tropical cyclone formation potential, has expanded the forecast range from five to seven days.

- Over the last 10 years, flooding from tropical storm rainfall was the single deadliest hazard. To give communities more time to prepare, the Weather Prediction Center is extending the Excessive Rainfall Outlook an additional two days, now providing forecasts up to five days in advance. The outlook shows general areas at risk for flash flooding due to excessive rainfall.

- The National Weather Service will unveil a new generation of forecast flood inundation mapping for portions of Texas and portions of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast in September 2023. These forecast maps will extend to the rest of the U.S. by 2026. Forecast flood inundation maps will show the extent of flooding at the street level.

NOAA will continue improving new and current observing systems critical in understanding and forecasting hurricanes. Two projects underway this season include:

- New small aircraft drone systems, the deployment of additional Saildrones and underwater gliders, and WindBorne global sounding balloons. These new technologies will advance our

## Lamberth Insurance Services

**Tammy Lamberth**

Agency Owner/Broker

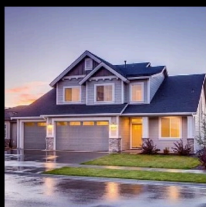
(910) 430-6003 Work | (910) 389-5428 Cell

*Providing coverage for*

**LIFE**



**HOME**



**AUTOMOBILE**



**BUSINESS**



RVs · Worker's Comp · Flood · Renters and more!

tammy@lamberthinsuranceservices.com

www.lamberthins.com



## Reviews

For your insurance needs



"In all my years of owning a home, business, and vehicles, I have never had an agent take such time and care to make sure all of my needs were met and that everything I treasure is protected. Tammy provides quarterly reviews and it is amazing how often things change that most people would just overlook."

— D. R. Royal



knowledge of hurricanes, fill critical data gaps and improve hurricane forecast accuracy.

- The modernization and upgrade of the Tropical Atmosphere Ocean buoy array. The upgrade will provide additional capabilities, updated instruments, more strategic placement of buoys and higher-frequency observations. Data from these buoys are used to forecast El Nino and La Nina,

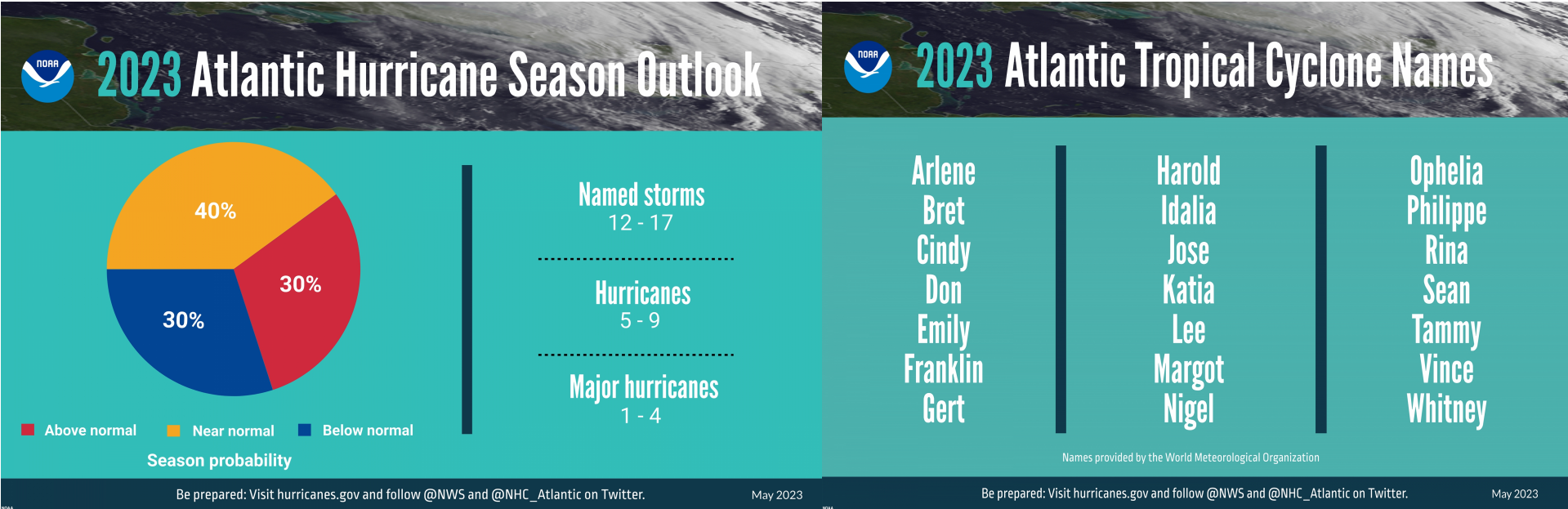
which can influence hurricane activity. “As we saw with Hurricane Ian, it only takes one hurricane to cause widespread devastation and upend lives. So regardless of the number of storms predicted this season, it is critical that everyone understand their risk and heed the warnings of state and local officials. Whether you live on the coast or further inland, hurricanes can cause serious impacts to everybody in their path,” said

A summary infographic showing hurricane season probability and numbers of named storms predicted from NOAA's 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook. (Image credit: NOAA)

FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell. “Visit ready.gov or listo.gov for readiness resources, and get real time emergency alerts by downloading the FEMA App. Actions taken today can save your life when disaster strikes. The time to prepare is now.”

NOAA's outlook is for overall seasonal activity and is not a landfall forecast. In addition to the Atlantic seasonal outlook,

A summary graphic showing an alphabetical list of the 2023 Atlantic tropical cyclone names as selected by the World Meteorological Organization. The official start of the Atlantic hurricane season is June 1 and runs through November 30. (Image credit: NOAA)



Mattresses • Accessories • Artwork • Flags • Sofas

Beach Furniture Outfitters, Inc.

One Stop Shopping

Serving Topsail Island for Over 25 Years!

Free Local Delivery & Setup



Furnishing Beach Homes is Our Specialty!

See Diana for any of your Real Estate Needs! Licensed Broker #265974

13997 NC Hwy. 50 | Surf City

910.803.0455

www.BeachFurnitureOutfittersInc.com

Lamps • Gifts • Outdoor Furniture • Puzzles

## Word Search *(Random Countries)*

U	N	K	E	G	C	H	I	N	A	A	I	C	S
N	U	K	R	A	I	N	E	I	H	L	K	O	A
I	U	A	I	N	A	Z	N	A	T	G	S	N	U
T	G	L	I	H	K	D	I	I	L	E	P	G	D
E	A	D	N	A	U	U	A	R	I	R	I	O	I
D	N	E	I	N	A	R	I	N	D	I	A	S	A
K	D	A	N	I	G	E	R	I	A	A	D	P	R
I	A	R	N	E	A	P	D	U	U	C	N	A	A
N	A	I	S	Y	A	L	A	M	N	N	A	I	B
G	S	N	A	R	I	G	Z	R	D	B	L	N	I
D	A	N	S	A	A	M	R	U	B	S	I	G	A
O	A	A	N	I	T	N	E	G	R	A	A	N	N
M	I	E	A	N	A	H	G	N	I	A	H	I	A
N	U	I	A	L	S	N	I	D	A	A	T	A	I

- China  
Congo  
Thailand  
Malaysia  
Burma
- Peru  
Canada  
Algeria  
Uganda  
Saudi Arabia
- Ukraine  
Iran  
Ghana  
Spain  
India
- United Kingdom  
Argentina  
Nigeria  
Tanzania



## Pender County Emergency Management Hires First Female Fire Marshal

PENDER COUNTY – Pender County Emergency Management Director Tommy Batson announced the hiring of Amy Burton as the new Pender County Fire Marshal. She is the first female to fill the role of a fire marshal in the county.

Burton served as the deputy fire marshal prior to her promotion, which was effective May 29. As fire marshal Burton oversees fire safety codes, new construction plan reviews, and fire investigations, and serves as a liaison between the county and the various fire departments within Pender County.

"Amy is a team player and an asset to the emergency management department as well as the county," said Batson.

Burton grew up in Kinston where her father pastored a church. Her family owns a farm in Jones County. She attended Chowan University as a music major in vocal performance. Her first experience in fire and public safety began as a member of the Wyse Fork Rescue Squad. She studied to become an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and took her first paying jobs in Wayne and Jones counties in the EMS units. Burton is also a paramedic.

"I loved the knowledge, just knowing what a person was experiencing and then how to respond," said Burton of her EMT training.

In 2015 she moved to Wilmington and was employed by the Leland Fire Department. She studied to become a firefighter and rose to the rank of EMS Battalion Chief – the first woman to hold that rank in Leland.

She later worked for New Hanover Medical Center and soon discovered she missed the feel of a small town.

In 2021 Burton was hired as the deputy fire marshal. She served under now-retired fire marshal Mark Haraway.

"I learned so much from Mark," said Burton. "He is a load of information and experience."

Burton said she loves the family and small-town feel of Pender County. She believes that as the county grows, so do the opportunities for growth for women who want to join the ranks of fire and EMS.

Burton said her hobbies include driving her Jeep, fishing, enjoying family, friends, and her dog, Mallie.



# PRIMA SPRAY TANNING

## ~ Tanning on the go! ~



# 910-297-0565



**Free Fly • Life is Good • Vineyard Vines • Fish Hippie • Olukai**



Alexis & Murphy

**Store Hours**  
**Open Everyday**  
**9am-6pm**

**From hats to shoes and everything in between,  
we've got you covered!**



Drew & Murphy

**Topsail Island's premiere outfitter for life's everyday adventures.**  
**Inspired by the sea, sand and salt air, we love our coastal lifestyle and living on island time!**

**#ShopLocal**

**Family Owned and Operated for over 60 years!**  
**701 N. New River Drive, Surf City, NC**  
**910-328-3291**

**Shop online at [www.herringsoutdoorsports.com](http://www.herringsoutdoorsports.com)**

**" the little store with MORE than you would ever expect... "**



Murphy the Mascot

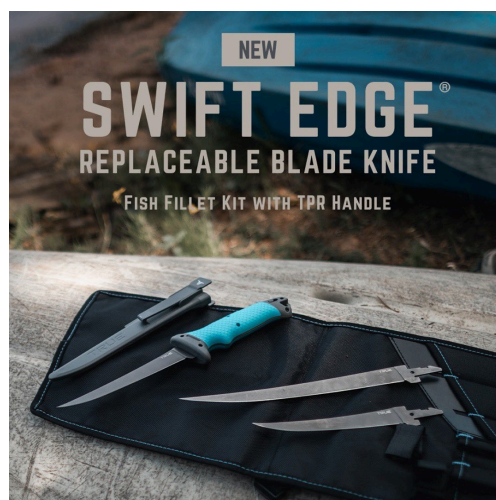


**Shibumi Shade • Xtratuf • Maui Jim • Patagonia • Pura Vida**



**NEW IN-STOCK**

**#Birkenstock #Sandals** ❤️



**NEW IN-STOCK**

**#SwiftEdge #FishFillet** ❤️



**NEW IN-STOCK**

**#Hibearco #Thermos** ❤️



**Check Out Our Inventory**

**ONLINE OR IN STORE**

**Today!**



**Birkenstock • Hey Dude • Costa Del Mar • Brooks**





# DDT

910-329-0160



## SURF'S UP!

**Pick out your summer surfboard set now!  
Plenty in stock great seating for around  
pools or small decks.**



**Choose your style,  
color & size. 8 ft.,  
6 ft. & 4 ft. Saddle seat bar stools with or without  
backs. Bottle opener included.**



**Surfboard Sets  
start at \$1299**

**HUGE**

**Pop-Ups Inside!**

**Open 7 Days a Week!**

**Located Behind DDT**

**7000 sq. ft. of consignments  
with over 50 venders!**

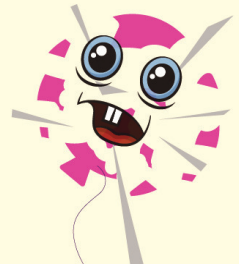
**252-315-2313**

**CAROLINA  
MARKETPLACE**

**Pop-ups Usually Only Last thru  
the Weekends but this is a  
Permentment Pop-up!**



**We Carry Sunroom  
Furniture!**



**Large  
Selection  
of Outdoor  
Furniture**



**LARGEST  
Collection of  
Coastal Furniture  
& Nautical Gifts &  
Accessories in  
North Carolina!**



**Like  
Us On**



**21740 Hwy.17 North, Hampstead, NC  
(South of Holly Ridge, North of Hampstead)**

