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● **American-Owned. Free Press.**

● **Volume III, Issue 14**

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Heatwave 2023

Phoenix Arizona has been suffering for over 30 days with 110-degree temperatures during the entire month of July and going on into August. On average the coolest part of the day has been a chilly 88 degrees at 6am. The peak temperature of 119 degrees was achieved on July 19th.

El Paso, Texas has had 44 days straight of 100 degrees or hotter.

Miami, Florida has had 46 days of 100 degrees or hotter.

Cities in Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas have all experienced 110-degree temperatures.

In July of this year, a town in Russia recorded 104-degree temperature while a town in China recorded 126 degrees.

The heat wave has impacted three continents and left fires raging in occupied areas around the world.

When many of the large cacti in Arizona began to faint or melt from the heat, scientists began to worry. A plant believed to be accustomed to high temperatures, the Saguaro Cacti are represented in pottery and artwork depicting life in the hot desert regions of the Southwest United States. When the rain they depended on failed to arrive and the heat reached record highs, the plants had no choice but to give in to the environmental stresses. The cacti are known to grow up to 40 feet in height and to live up to 175 years.

It is not just the land that takes a hit by such excessive heat. Water

temperatures off the Florida coast were detected at over 100 degrees five feet below the surface of the water. The natural corals that live in those waters prefer water temperatures at 89 degrees or below. Many of the native corals have begun a bleaching process, which can be fatal to coral if their environment doesn't become more favorable.

25% of the world's marine life depends on healthy coral reefs.

In North Carolina, 3 people died during the month of July from a Vibriosis infection. The infection was most likely from going into warm brackish or salt water with a cut that was unprotected (including tattoos, piercings and surgical cuts). This year alone there have been eight confirmed cases with three fatalities. The Vibrio bacteria is present in warmer waters and can also be found in shellfish. Under cooked or uncooked shellfish should be avoided.

How will this heat wave impact you directly?

1. Higher electric bills. Cooling your home or business may result in a much higher power bill. The first thing a power company will do is suggest that you have your Air Conditioner inspected to make sure it is working properly. A bad unit can run up hundreds of dollars in wasted electricity. Add fans for air movement and keep all window coverings closed. Limit cooking indoors.

2. Lack of rain and higher amounts of water usage may result in water

restrictions.

3. Food prices will increase as farmers are losing crops and livestock to heat and lack of rain.

4. Stay hydrated and always keep water with you, especially when exercising or traveling.

5. Lack of Shade. Unfortunately, with large amounts of development comes the clearing of large tracts of land. This has an immediate effect on buildings/structures that are left exposed and unable to get relief from shade. Add sunshades to outdoor areas where you, your pets and your plants reside. Put a windshield shade up when parking.

6. Gardens and lawns may require water. This should be done during the night and not during daylight hours.

7. Pets. Outdoor pets will not only require shade but also areas where they can get a breeze or have air movement. A container alone that offers shelter

may in fact work as a heat chamber. Add ice cubes to water and keep an eye on them for signs of heat exhaustion.

8. Poor outdoor air quality. Due to the fires continuing in

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Canada and the Southwest, it is possible that poor air quality may be an issue. Keep an eye on local reports before exercising or heading outdoors for an activity.

9. Hats, sun blocking clothing and skin protection are vital during excessive heat. Wear cotton.

10. Lawn and yard work may be deadly. Overdoing your outdoor chores without proper clothing or lots of cold drinks may be too much for your body. Pace yourself and take plenty of breaks. Do as much of the work in the first part of the day or early evening to avoid the hottest part of the day.

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Water Pressure Issues In Surf City

This July, the Town of Surf City was packed with visitors and tourists. The weather was hot and perfect for a day at the beach. Shops and restaurants were filled with families of all sizes. Rental homes and hotels were booked up and the traffic was heavy, but steady.

Though it was a perfect hot summer's day, many people were not aware of a record that was broken on July 5th. During the 24-hour period of July 5th, a staggering 1.563 million gallons of water were used from the Surf City system. In simple math that equals 65,000 gallons per hour.

The two primary high production wells (well #3 and well #5) are equipped to handle approximately 2400 gallons per minute (which at full capacity would generate over 100,000 gallons an hour).

So, what happened that caused area business owners and homeowners to reach out to social media about drastically lower water pressure?

The answer may be a combination of certain events.

First, the area was crowded with lots of people and demand was high.

Second, on the 4th of July, the Town of Surf City began to provide water to 1,100 homes at the north end of Surf City in Onslow County who are customers of ONWASA. Those customers, who mainly live on the canal streets, already receive sewer and trash service from Surf City.

Those 1,100 new customers used approximately 260,000 gallons of water.

Even though Surf City's water system is designed to produce 2.6 million gallons of water a day (if demand requires it) the

town is already working on getting a 3rd high production well online. Known as well #6, it's location will be across from the Surf City Food Lion and it will be the closest well to the Island.

Surf City also has three other wells known as well #1, #2, #4 that are functional reserves if needed.

As an emergency back up plan, Surf City's water system is connected to ONWASA, Pender County and Topsail Beach's water systems. This connection allows water to be bought or sold as needed to assist neighboring areas.

Last year the average high consumption rate during season was between 900,000 and 1.2 million gallons a day in the summer and approximately 500,000 gallons per day in off season. This year the average is considerably

higher for both on and off season.

The last record for a one-day high was in 2019 when the system used 1.4 million gallons of water.

The Town of Surf City currently provides water to 5,606 customers with 2,602 connections.

ONWASA (Onslow County) has 141,409 customers.

Pender County Utilities has 24,236 customers.

Cape Fear Public Utilities (Wilmington) has 153,202 customers.

The Town of Topsail Beach has 3,198 customers.

Interested in learning more about the Surf City water system? Please check out the Town of Surf City's website and go to Utilities.

Death Notices

For full obituaries, please visit www.coastalcremationsnc.com.

Notices provided by and family's served by: Coastal Cremation and Funeral Care of Jacksonville.

Richard Bowers, 67, of Jacksonville, died August 1, 2023.

William Attwill, 74, of Jacksonville, died July 16, 2023.

Marion Coltiz, 86, of Sneads Ferry, died August 7, 2023.

Alex Sharum Javam, 27, of Jacksonville, died July 25, 2023.

Douglas R. Hughes, 69, of Jacksonville, died July 13, 2023.

Kyle Potter, 38, of Hampstead, died July 15, 2023.

John Hyler, 86, of Swansboro, died August 8, 2023.

Sandra "Sandy" Monroe, 79, of Richlands, died July 26, 2023.

Joseph "Frank" Nickels Jr., 87, of Sneads Ferry, died July 10, 2023.

Elaine Toler Mount, 96, of Holly Ridge, died August 4, 2023.

Anthony E. Ceria, 66, of Sneads Ferry, passed away Sunday, July 23, 2023.

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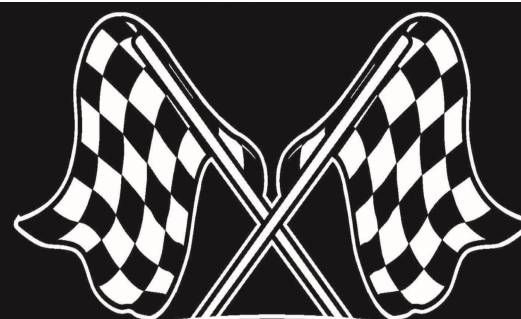
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Topsail Gun Gal August 2023

By Dorothy Royal

A judge in Connecticut wants the National Association of Gun Rights group, which is suing the State over the 2013 firearm ban, to prove that people have a real need for semi-automatic rifles. My advice? Show the judge footage from Ukraine when the citizens were forced to defend themselves. No other proof needed. These were citizens, not previously living in a war zone, just going about their lives and BAM – a threat appeared that has changed their entire world.

Think that can't happen in the United States? Ever seen the movie Red Dawn? If not, watch it sometime. (first one was better in my opinion).

Colorado has some new gun laws taking effect in August.

No longer can a person under the age of 21 purchase a firearm (unless they are in a state approved hunting group). There will now be a 3 day wait on purchases (there goes gun shows) and family members of victims can now sue firearm manufacturers.

If it is encouraged and legal to sue cellular phone manufacturers and providers for all the vehicle deaths

caused by texting and driving and "distracted driving" I don't see a problem. People should not be held accountable for their actions, right? An inanimate object forced them to do something terrible all by itself, right?

When did we allow such dumbing down of our society?

Election time is right around the corner again.

This year's local elections are front and center. The board of elections will tell you that municipal only elections tend to have about 12-18% of voters coming out. That is scary since in most cases, a local elected official has more to do with your daily life than any other official. Tax rates for your property, school funding, First Responders and Law Enforcement – these are just a few of the items that come down to local offices. These are three important categories.

How about you take a few minutes out of your day and read up on the candidates for your municipality. What do you know about the incumbents who are running again? If there are new candidates, look them up and find out what they can

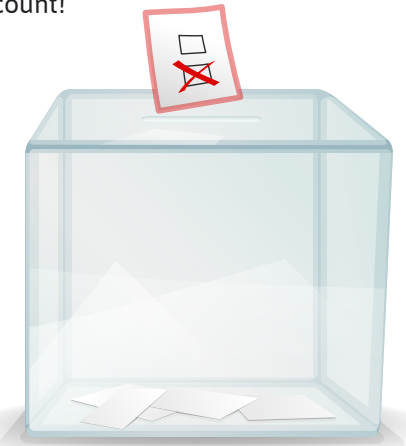
offer your community. Have you ever attended a local meeting? Maybe this is a great time to start! You can learn so much by even attending just one public meeting. Worried about getting to the meetings during work hours? Most meetings are available on the town's website to watch at your leisure.

Don't wait until election day to find out if you are registered to vote or where you vote. These are things you can find online at your County Board of Elections.

Did you know the largest turn out of any election in this area was the 2020 Presidential Election when 50% of registered voters turned out to

vote? Crazy, right?

Remember knowledge is power and don't just sit around and complain, use your vote and make it count!





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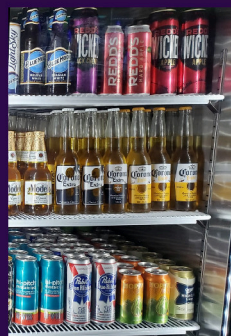
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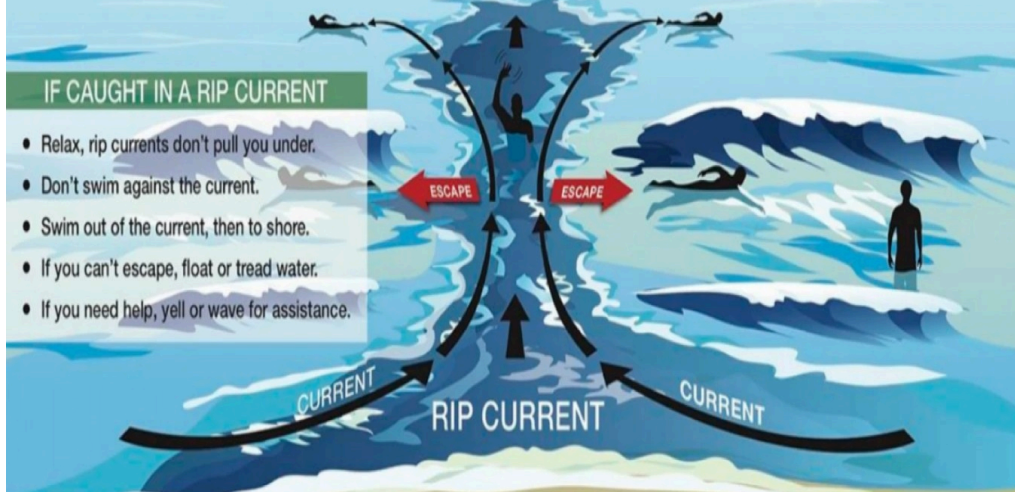
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- If you can't escape, float or tread water.
- If you need help, yell or wave for assistance.



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.

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



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Eastern Carolina Rail

Special to Topsail Times

On an ominous March 1, 1968, a sizeable crowd gathered to watch the last "Palmetto" pull out of Wilmington, North Carolina at 5:15 pm on its last Seaboard Coast Line run - headed to Rocky Mount and connecting to Raleigh. With this event, passenger trains from the former corporate home of the Atlantic Coast Line were now history. But today, change is in the air.

The return of passenger rail started with a whisper. A 2005 N.C. Department of Transportation study laid out the case for the return of passenger rail, with the biggest missing link (other than the missing tracks from Castle Hayne to Wallace) being the funding needed to restore the trains.

Future funding is no longer speculative fiction. President Joe Biden announced a possible infrastructure plan in 2021 that detailed numerous investments including \$80 billion designated specifically for rail. Passed into law by Congress, this funding is now being allocated – and North Carolina is seeking its share. The Rail Division of the NC Department of Transportation wants to increase passenger train service across the state, including restoration of Raleigh to Wilmington service, with up to three Amtrak trains per day. As currently envisioned, stops would take place at stations within all counties on the route, including Burgaw in Pender County.

Unfortunately, the line that ran from Wilmington to New Bern (through Hampstead and Holly Ridge) is not rescheduled for restoration since the right-of-way reverted to private owners after the track was pulled up and much of it ended up covered by Highway 17 widening in the 1990s.

One long term NC DOT proposal is for passenger train service to go from Goldsboro to Morehead City via New Bern. Train service would be restored to Goldsboro as part of the favored Wilmington to Raleigh route.

But the Wilmington to Raleigh restoration is not set in stone. A provisional federal grant of \$500,000 has yet to be approved and as the project moves forward, an 80 percent federal commitment will require a 20 percent match from state sources according to the DOT. The complete project is expected to cost more than \$100,000 million. The 2005 Survey is being updated. Tracks must be restored between Castle Hayne and Wallace, bridges and trestles replaced, tracks upgraded and agreements between CSX, Amtrak and other entities worked out.

To make this a reality over the next decade or sooner, support is needed – from county boards, municipalities, members of Congress and U.S. Senators, state legislators, and the public sector. Supporters hope funding does not go elsewhere. To that end, Eastern Carolina Rail, a new non-profit organization based in Wilmington, is spearheading the fight to return passenger rail to the coast, already making the merits of this project known and gaining support for it. Eastern Carolina Rail is headed up by Wilmington businessmen Gene Merritt and Steve Unger, former publisher of Topsail Voice. Merritt led the successful fight to complete I-40 from Benson to Wilmington and was the founder of DARE, an economic development engine in Wilmington.

Here is how the public can provide support for this project. First, individuals can sign the petition that is being made available at EasternCarolinaRail.com

and put their name on file with others supporting the return of passenger rail from Raleigh to Wilmington. Next – call, write or e-mail public office holders and request their support. Finally, contact the NC Rail Division of the DOT (919-707-4700) and let them know what you think. A series of presentations will be scheduled and publicized through the media including Topsail Times. For more information e-mail easterncarolinarail@gmail.com or call 910-632-0097.



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Sea Turtle Hospital News



By Star Sota

Turtle Moms and turtle babies share the beach.

Although our turtle mamas are still technically “on the clock” with the official nesting season continuing through August it’s their babies that are moving into the spotlight. With over a hundred nests on Topsail and the pitter patter of tiny flippers it’s time for a quick review of some of the FAQs for our island visitors.

When will a nest hatch? By far it’s the question we’re asked the most, and no matter how many times we get it our answer is still the same: we don’t know. We’re not being maliciously obtuse, it’s the truth. We don’t know when these turtle babies will be “born” any better than you know exactly the date and time of your granddaughter’s birth. They come out whenever they’re ready.

When will a nest hatch? By far it’s the question we’re asked the most, and no matter how many times we get it our answer is still the same: we don’t know. We’re not being maliciously obtuse, it’s the truth. We don’t know when these turtle babies will be “born” any better than you know exactly the date and time of your granddaughter’s birth. They come out whenever they’re ready.

How long do the eggs stay in the sand? The average incubation period is sixty days, but that’s only an average. Air and sand temperature can affect the actual incubation period with hotter sand sometimes speeding up the process. And we’ve had a darn hot summer, so some of our nests might go a bit earlier. As we move into the cooler fall temperatures (we hope they’re cooler, anyway) their time in the sand will probably be closer to the average.

Is there any way to guess when a nest is ready? Sort of. Obviously the first thing to look at is when the nest was laid and when those sixty days might be getting close. And this year we have a new tool, a hydrophone that we use to monitor the sounds happening down in the sand as the date gets closer. Once the hatchlings break out of their shell, using a special adaptation referred to as their “egg tooth” (technical name caruncle) they start jostling their neighbors out of their slumber. Pretty soon everybody is up and kicking. All of that activity underneath causes the sand on the surface to begin to sink.

If it looks like a nest may hatch what else can I look for? Turtle Project volunteers will create a ramp, a smoothed area with sand “guardrails” that will hopefully guide the little critters

safely in the direction of the surf. Hatchlings are so tiny that even a small footprint in the sand can trap them or delay their trip. And since they’ve been living in the dark for months any bright light can disorient them, sending them quickly off-course. They head toward the brightest object around which ideally is the moon and its reflection on the water and waves. A sure sign that a nest is close, at least according to our decades of experience, is the sight of our “nest sitters” huddled around a nest from dusk until the wee hours of the morning – hoping.

What happens during a hatch? It’s a group effort, a real family affair, at least for the turtles. They work together to battle through the broken shells and the constant flipper-in-the-face to make their way towards the surface. It’s dig and rest, dig and rest. As they near the top the group comes to a stop and waits just below the surface. Millions of years of existence as a species have told them that predatory attack is less likely at night, so they’re waiting for the sun to set and the sand temperature at the surface to cool down. At that point they emerge in mass in what we call a “boil.” If all goes well, they locate the horizon and make a mad dash for the surf.

Why are the Turtle Project volunteers there? From the 1970’s Karen Beasley and her mother, Jean, recognized the increasing stressors of coastal development and the natural affinity we all have for the sea and the impact on sea turtles. Our volunteers are there to minimize any adverse effects we humans may have on this critical step in the continuation of the species. These are federally protected and critically endangered animals, and when our “nest sitters” are on-the-job they are the final word on protocol. They are there for crowd control and for education and there are specific rules to follow if you are fortunate enough to see a nest hatch.

Sit quietly, away from the nest and ramp area. It may or may not boil, and if it does it may be hours before you see the first flipper. If you become impatient, please step away.

Do not use flash photography or use your phone as a “flashlight.” And do not bring flashlights to the nest. Ideally you should turn your phone off and pay attention to the miracle you’re about to see.

Keep children and yourself away from the nesting area. Do not wander near or in front of the ramp. Do not bring your pets with you.

Do not chase after or touch the hatchlings. Our volunteers are on-hand to

redirect any hatchlings who stray off course.

You may ask any questions of our volunteers but please do so respectfully. They operate under federal regulations and what they say goes. This is not a venue for a political or philosophical debate.

I missed the hatch – am I out of luck? Not necessarily. If you’re going to be around for a while you can come to the nest analysis which is done during daylight hours, three days after the hatch. Volunteers will carefully excavate the nest and document their findings. And the “findings” will often include a few late risers who didn’t hear the alarm go off. Data collected will include the total number of eggs (including unhatched,) the number of live hatches and any other things of note. If you missed the boil this is the next best thing and worth your time. Our volunteers are a bit more relaxed you can still ask them any questions you may have.

What do I do if I find a hatchling on the beach? Carefully pick it up and put it in a small container with some sand and a very small amount of water - barely cover the flippers. With this extreme heat it’s important that the little critter does not bake in the sun for hours. Then call our Director of Beach Operations, Terry Meyer at: 910-470-2880. Calls to her number after hours will automatically be forwarded to her. You may also call the hospital during operating hours: 910-329

-0222. We will take the information and one of our area coordinators will meet you to retrieve the hatchling and refer it to us for follow-up.

Anything else? Some obvious things: turn off any bright outdoor lights that would send hatchlings in the wrong direction; pick up all beach paraphernalia (chairs, toys, towels) and take it with you when you leave and fill in any holes you dig. Please do not call the hospital to ask about any specific nest – we don’t have any data in front of us and are unable to answer that question. Even with all the coverage by our Topsail Turtle Project volunteers it’s possible to miss nesting or hatching signs for a variety of reasons. That’s why we ask you to be our extra eyes and to report any turtle activity to our Director of Beach Operations, Terry Meyer at: 910-470-2880. And we continue to admit many turtles with various injuries or illnesses. Please be on the lookout for any turtle in distress, injured (or dead) and call Terry or our hospital for a quick response. The State of NC hotline for stranded, sick and injured turtles at: 252-241-7367. The state number picks up 24/7. Remember that interfering with or harassing federally protected sea turtles in any way makes you subject to steep fines and possible imprisonment. Our work with sea turtles, at the hospital and on the beach, is authorized by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, ES Permit 23ST05.

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The Dog Days Of Summer And Our Community Who Came Together

By DottyAnn Harding

President of OCPAW (Onslow County Partners for Animal Welfare)

Phoenix is Missing

The warm weather is a great time to enjoy with your family and canine companions with some planning and precaution. Enjoying the coolness of trees with a walk in the park or a trip to a lake or the ocean, but sometimes an unforeseen event can cause heartache.

We can all confess that at some point in our lives, we experienced overwhelming stress when one of our pets went missing. This is exactly what happened when Chelsey our neighbor took advantage of the cool breeze by the ocean with her beloved dog Phoenix.

The clouds were starting to roll in when suddenly a large clap of thunder frightened the dog, and she ran off, the leash dragging behind her still attached to her collar.

Her owner posted for help to find her, and many in the community responded with prayers, reposting on social media and visiting the area where she was last

seen. Searching on foot, in cars, kayaks, jet skis, boats, and drones.

The Eastwoods, who continued searching for her, spotted Phoenix and found her trapped in the marsh by her leash entangled in the brush. Two days and 23 hours later, she was reunited with her owner Chelsey. Overwhelmed with happiness and relief, she sent a heartwarming thank you to everyone in our community who helped and prayed for a safe return for Phoenix.

My own experience with Leash chasing Dog

Several years ago, I had my puppy out for a walk while visiting friends in the Cape May area in NJ. In that area, there are wide tracks of marshland along the coast with marinas, canals, bays, and condos, like the one where we were staying. I had Buddy, a Toy Manchester Terrier, on the other end of a retractable leash out for a walk.

I was not used to having my dogs on that type of leash when out and about, as it had a large plastic handle that you could only grasp with your fingers and

not secure with your entire hand, and it actually felt awkward. It also was designed with a stop-gap bead which did not allow the string part of the leash to retract within the handle completely, so it always had a length of three feet between the dog and the handle on the end. It was designed this way so if you suddenly let go, it would not come smacking down on the dog.

Well, somehow, the handle slipped out of my hands and slapped onto the pavement behind Buddy, who now thought the handle of the leash was chasing him. Yes, you guessed it! He took off, flying down the road, running as fast as he could so whatever he thought was chasing him did not catch him.

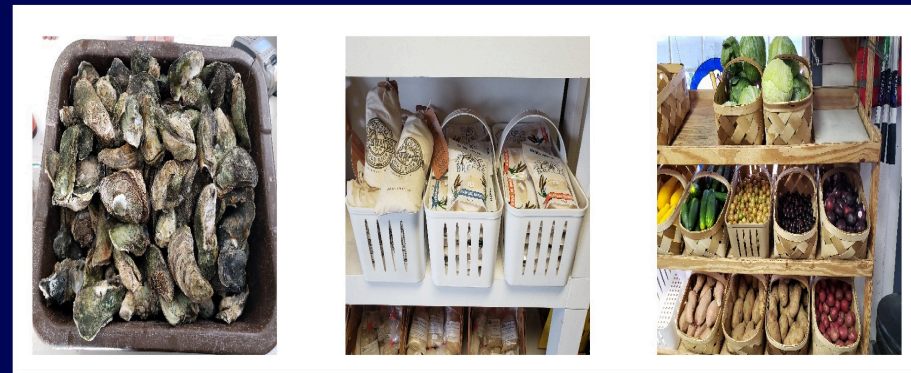
Yes, I made a complete spectacle of myself running down the road after him screaming, as he was only six pounds and certainly wasn't stopping on his own. Drivers in the cars could not see him. All they could see was a woman, apparently out of her mind running down the center of the road screaming BUDDY COME!!!

He finally stopped at the door of the condo where we had stayed as the road had ended there.

It was God's intervention that when I dropped the leash, he didn't start running in the opposite direction, and he could not detect the familiar scent from the walk we had just taken because he wasn't stopping on his own.

For me, this was just another learned Lesson of Life, as there have been many!

Thank you to EVERYONE FOR ALL YOUR HELP! I am in absolute shock she is safe!!!!!! Her leash was stuck in some of the marsh. We believe she was there this entire time!!!! I am SO THANKFUL FOR EVERYONE and all the prayers! 🙏🙏🙏🙏



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Hurricane Season

The Atlantic hurricane season runs June 1 through November 30, but most hurricanes strike the East and Gulf Coasts between mid-August and mid-October. Summer is the best time to prepare for whatever tropical weather may affect North Topsail Beach, and we urge residents to update their emergency plans, kits, and have their re-entry passes before storms strike.

Stay Informed

- Sign up for CodeRED to receive emergency alerts from North Topsail Beach and Onslow County. Visit our website for more information.
- Monitor the Town Facebook page (@NorthTopsailBeachGov) and website, local news and weather radio.

Emergency Kit

Prepare a well-stocked emergency kit with essential supplies that can last for at least 3-7 days. Your kit should include:

- Non-perishable food items (canned goods, energy bars, etc.)
- Drinking water (at least one gallon per person per day)
- Prescription medications and a first aid kit
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Battery-powered weather radio
- Personal hygiene items (toothpaste, soap, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, wet wipes, etc.)
- Cash in small denominations
- Important documents (IDs, insurance policies, medical records) in a waterproof container
- Pet supplies including food, water, leashes, bedding, muzzle, and vaccination records

For more information about Hurricane preparedness, please visit our website.

In case of Emergency, call 911 - Non-Emergency: 910-455-9119 - NTB Fire Department: 910-328-2200





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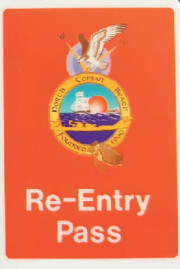


OWNER



Re-Entry Pass

OWNER



Re-Entry Pass

ORDINANCE UPDATE

GOLF CARTS

EFFECTIVE JULY 5, 2023, THE TOWN OF NORTH TOPSAIL BEACH REPEALED ITS LOCAL GOLF CART ORDINANCE AND LOCAL GOLF CART REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT IN FAVOR OF RELYING SOLELY ON NORTH CAROLINA STATE LAW AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.

Hurricane Re-Entry Pass

Passes issued in 2019 or prior are no longer valid. New passes have been issued in 2020 and are valid through 2023. Passes are issued on a 3-year cycle. Hanging passes (pictured on the left) are still VALID.

Who gets a pass?

Each property owner with proof of residency (current utility bill with NTB address/tax bill) receives TWO re-entry passes. Each long-term renter with proof of residency (current utility bill with NTB address), and current lease will receive TWO re-entry passes. Please place the pass on your dashboard at the bottom on the driver's side so they are visible to public safety personnel. Property Managers may obtain a pass by completing the Property Manager Re-entry pass application located on our website.

When can I get a pass?

The Town encourages everyone to get their passes as early as possible, preferably before hurricane season begins (June 1st). If the storm is on its way, it's too late to get a pass. The Town will not issue passes within 72 hours of predicted landfall. Passes are issued at Town Hall Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

How do eligible individuals get a pass?

The Re-Entry pass form can be located on our website and completed online. Alternatively, you can stop by Town Hall during normal business hours and fill out the form in-person.

Turtle Talks at North Topsail Beach Town Hall every Tuesday at 9am
Come learn about sea turtles, nesting, and conservation this summer!

Christmas Tree Lighting November 15, 2023 at 6:00pm at North Topsail Beach, Town Hall
Mark your Calendars now for the second annual North Topsail Beach Christmas Tree Lighting



Holly Ridge

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Coastal Common Sense

By Kim McGahey

The Department of Justice (DOJ) and its pitbulls in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are acting like the Orwellian military police protecting the Biden crime family. Not only have they authorized and blessed the unconstitutional take down of their main political opponent, but they have provided political cover for the family boss by enacting a two tier justice system that protects anybody named Biden. This third world banana republic crime syndicate protection racket has to stop!

This is not justice. This is hired guns asserting purely partisan political prosecutions against a prominent opponent and anyone else who objects to their political ideology, while protecting the existing power elite from potential impeachable crimes like international influence peddling, bribery, extortion and ultimately treason. If the DOJ does not like Trump, or parents in school board meetings, to succeed, then

they will send in their brownshirts to shut them down.

Meanwhile, the complicit liberal media acts as the propaganda wing of the Democrat National Committee (DNC) providing journalistic cover for the rampant corruption at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. There is no longer any factual reporting by the corporate media including such prominent outlets as the New York Times, Washington Post, CNN or MSNBC. The search for truth is a thing of the past.

"Journalists" today see their role as influencers of feelings, not reporters of facts. They aspire to participate in the wealth, status and power that they used to expose and condemn. Now, all they want is to be on the Washington, D.C. insider cocktail party A list. It's all political theatre masquerading as the fourth rung of our democracy; intended only to retain their power at the expense of we the people. James Madison would be ashamed.

The Republican U.S. House of Representatives has started long overdue investigations into the pervasive corruption in the Democrat Executive Branch. Yet at every opportunity to expose the truth, the Reps' efforts are thwarted by the Vito Corlione boys in the DOJ indicting, or otherwise harassing, Congress' star witnesses against Biden with legally flimsy indictments intended to intimidate those truth tellers and secure the silence of the patriotic whistleblowers.

It all seems so hopeless as long as the DOJ is controlled by obedient guards at the palace gate. But there is a way to end the politicization and weaponization of the federal law enforcement agencies.

These agencies are not authorized by the U.S. Constitution. Therefore, the solution is to have the U.S. Congress pass legislation removing the DOJ, FBI, and CIA from the Executive Branch and

relocate those rogue bureaucracies to the Legislative Branch where they will be overseen by a representative body. Once under the auspices and direction of the U.S. Congress, law enforcement would then be responsible to elected representatives of we the people and not beholden to any political dictator in the White House.

This could be readily accomplished without amending the Constitution simply by an act of Congress. Add Term Limits for Congress to the mix and we would regain James Madison's confidence and resolve most of our political controversies.



Coastal Common Sense II

By Kim McGahey

Topsail Island is one of the few remaining unspoiled beaches on the southeast coast. We have to work hard to keep it that way by making smart public policy choices that protect our special gift.

Some have suggested building a wall on the west bridge roundabout and only allowing passholders to cross onto the island. Residents would love this limitation, but business owners would certainly not be in favor of such a total public exclusion.

We used to have a drawbridge with alligators in the moat that kept everyone out, but civic leaders of the past found

that too restrictive. In retrospect, maybe we should have kept that pristine medieval fortress secure from the barbarian horde.

Now we face a different problem caused by the pandemic and discouraging current national economics. The evacuation of major metropolitan cities on the East and West coasts are sending millions of ex-urbanites to remote scenic locations, like Topsail, where they have learned to live and work remotely. These are the same people that ruined California and New York over the past 50 years with their progressive big government votes that sacrificed their peaceful lifestyle.

Like Benjamin Franklin said, if you are willing to trade security for liberty, you are sure to have neither. And now the barbarians are crossing the Rubicon, or in our case Topsail Sound, with their climate change, open borders and modern monetary policy in search of a nirvana that they think only the expert Davos elites can provide. Hold on to your surfboards because these intruders want to take your simple island life away.

That's why we need to protect our barrier island paradise with public policy decisions that prioritize low density residential and heavily restricted commercial development; and in all

cases resist the temptation to become a world class year round resort. We've seen that grandiose plan ruin the Outer Banks and the Colorado Rockies. Let's make sure it doesn't happen here on our tranquil little island.

We can only accomplish this at the ballot box. We must vote for town councils, county commissioners, school boards and state legislators that promise to abide by our low profile, small town priorities. We cannot allow big government developer types to dominate our politics and subsequently our lifestyle. We need elected officials that will keep it simple, keep it quiet and keep it a secret.



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The Story Of Blackbeard

(As told by A J Hewett, *Pirate Re-enactor*)

In 1680 a Man named Edward Thatch, (Teach), was born. Young Thatch's, (Teach), father was a privateer for the British.

One morning young Thatch's, (Teach), Mother got word that Edward Thatch's, (Teach's), Father was lost at sea. Thatch's Mother remarried a drunken sailor who began to beat young Thatch (Teach). As Thatch, (Teach), began to get older, he began to figure out a way to get even with his drunk stepfather. One day Edward Thatch, (Teach), had enough and used the very same stick that the drunken stepfather used to beat him and retaliated. Thatch was afraid to get caught and go to jail.

So, Edward Thatch, (Teach), joined a privateer ship in 1701- thru 1713 which was considered legal piracy under a letter of mark given by the Governor. At the end of 1713, the letter of mark was removed, and the privateers were left with no means to survive. They had a love for raiding ships and getting rich off the booty they plundered. So, Edward Thatch, (Teach), sailed to Nassau. Where he met Benjamin Hornigold in 1716. Captain Benjamin began teaching Thatch, (Teach), how to become captain placing him on a sloop. Where he sailed the sloop to about 1717. One early morning a French slave ship was sailing the waters and Thatch saw the ship and they began taking steps to capture this mighty ship, the La Concorde. Upon capture of this ship and freeing the slaves to join the crew or sail off on their own.

He re-names the ship the Queen Annes Revenge. Thatch, (Teach), now takes the name of Blackbeard, and took full advantage of its size and placed 40 cannons and 300 scallywags on the ship. He began to sail up and down the East Coast plundering ships. When he runs into Steve Bonnet, they combine forces. Blackbeard's crew began to show signs of illness so, he rounded up allies and his fleet blockaded Charleston South Carolina's port in demand for meds. Blackbeard sent a messenger if you send me meds, I will return your cabinet members to you. If not, I will kill them and keep all import and exports from coming in or out of your port. Upon hearing this request, the Governor sent a chest of meds to Blackbeard. Blackbeard released the captives and left the port. Blackbeard heard of a pardon and, went to Bath, NC, and built him a home and received a pardon from the Governor of Bath. But Blackbeard wasn't finished yet, and he kept pirating and the Governor of

Virginia Alexander Spotswood, sent Lieutenant Robert Maynard to end Blackbeard's life in Ocracoke North Carolina, where Blackbeard lost his life in November 22, 1718 around the age of 35-40. Many historians all have different outlooks on Blackbeard's story. Due to very few documents and diaries and living witnesses somethings said are true so may be fictional but after all we are pirates!

Blackbeard The Pirate

Traditional Pirate literature began with Alexander Exquemelin's 1679 classic, "Buccaneers of America." Then came Captain Charles Johnson's often more widely read, often-referenced two volumes, "A General History of the Robberies & murders of the Most Notorious Pyrates", and "The History of the Pyrates", published in 1724 and 1726 respectively. Since then, the popularity of the Pirate lore has never waned. By 1950, according to English author Patrick Pringle, hundreds of books had been written about Pirates, and most were based on Exquemelin's and Johnson's time-worn standards.

Also igniting a renewed interest in the Pirate Blackbeard, Florida-based treasure hunters, discovered in 1996 what is believed to be the submerged remains of his famous 40-gun flagship, "Queen Anne's Revenge". The Former French slave ship, grounded and wrecked on the outer bar of Beaufort Inlet, (formerly Old Topsail Inlet), in June 1718. Ironically, it was not the silver laden Spanish ship the salvors and their investors were looking for, but the discovery changed lives nonetheless. It tantalized history and Pirate fans both young and old, and put a fresh breeze in the sails of the becalmed careers of novelists and Pirate re-enactors. (When Blackbeard's crew first spied the ship off the Winward Islands in the fall of 1717, they looked upon her with lust & envy). Two-hundred eighty years later, people were seeing the ship with the same sense of desire—as it could be said that their ship has come in.

Like an enormous mosaic with tens of thousands of pieces, the recovery and conservation of artifacts from the wreck most experts believe IS the "Queen Anne's Revenge" has begun to tell a story of life on board a Pirate ship. Since 1996, according to the official state reports, over 2000 artifacts have been recovered and conserved and thousands more await removal from concretion and treatment in the laboratory. The artifacts reflect many aspects of early eighteenth-century maritime culture. If proven to be the "Queen Anne's

Revenge", the state of North Carolina could claim one of only a few 18th century Pirate wrecks in the world.

Life and Death

The 1710's had been called "The Golden Age of Piracy". Pirate ships roamed the Atlantic Ocean, preying upon busy commercial ports in the West Indies and along the Coast of North America. One of the most notorious of the Pirates, Edward Teach, better known as "Blackbeard", was a frequent visitor to North Carolina and it was here in November of 1718 he was captured and killed.

Edward Teach was born in Bristol England, a Town on the Avon River in Southwest England, which produced many Pirates. Teach served as a Privateer during Queen Anne's war, (1701-1714). Privateering was, in a sense, legalized piracy, the British Government authorized private ships to attack and capture enemy merchant vessels, with the proceeds divided between the Queen and the crew of the privateer. When the war ended, Teach, was forced with the prospect of losing his livelihood and the great potential for adventure and profit that it promised. Along with many others, in the same potion, he turned to piracy. Teach served for several years on a pirate ship under another captain, but in 1717, he stole a ship for himself and formed a crew of his own. Teach and his crew, aboard the "Queen Anne's Revenge", captured a number of valuable cargoes off the coasts of Virginia and the Carolinas'. In what would become one of his most famous acts, Teach sailed boldly into Charleston, South Carolina, captured several prominent citizens, and held them hostage until the city agreed to exchange them for costly medical supplies.

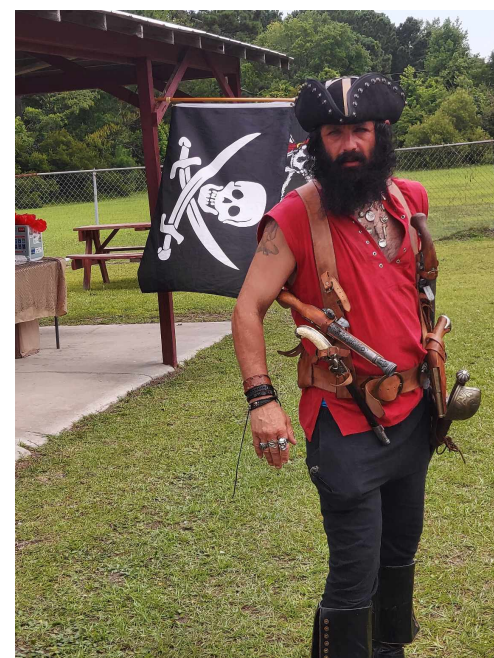
While he was terrorizing commercial ports along the coast of North America, Teach became known as "Blackbeard" and his reputation spread quickly and he was widely feared for his violence and cruelty and he cultivated a fierce appearance to intimidate his victims. This memorable description is from Caption

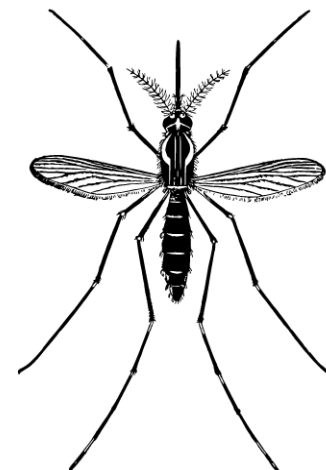
Charles Johnson's A General History of the Pyrates, published in London in 1726. His beard was black, which he suffered to grow to an extravagant length; as to breath it, it came up to his eyes. He was accustomed to twist it with ribbons in small tails, after the manner of Ramilies Wig's, (ramillie-wig), and turn them about his ears. In time of action, he wore a sling over his shoulders, with a three brace of pistols, hanging in holsters like

Bandaliers. He stuck lighted matches under his hat, which appeared on each side of his face, his eyes looking fierce and wild, made him altogether the figure of a fury from h-ll.

Between adventures at sea, Blackbeard often returned to North Carolina. The shallow waters and complicated inlets of the Outer Banks proved a popular hiding place for Pirates while they rested their crews and repaired their ships. Blackbeard favored Ocracoke Inlet and was rumored to have had a house in the Village in Ocracoke. There is an inlet there today still known as "Teach's Hole". North Carolina was also a popular refuge for pirates because of its Governor, Charles Eden, who was widely rumored to ignored the illegal activities of the pirates in exchange for a share of the "spoils". In the Summer of 1718, Blackbeard lived in the coastal town of Bath, North Carolina, where he was known to socialize with Governor Eden. The people of North Carolina, tired of seeing their ships attacked and goods stolen, and frustrated at their own government's failure to act, turned to the governor of Virginia for help.

Governor Alexander Spotswood of Virginia gathered a crew of British Naval officers, led by Lieutenant Robert Maynard, and sent them to Ocracoke, where Blackbeard was known to be hiding. In a fierce fight beginning at dawn on November 22, 1718, the British sailors attacked and defeated Blackbeard and his crew. After suffering at least 25 wounds, including 5 from gunshots, Blackbeard finally died. Lieutenant Maynard, needing proof of Blackbeard's death in order to claim the bounty offered by Governor Spotswood, beheaded the Pirate and hung his severed head from the front of the ship, (bow).





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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!!!

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More Of The Things We Do

By Carol Ann Ross

Researching the info for my last article was so uplifting, that I decided to seek out more good. Lord knows, we have enough negative stuff around to make you want to pull your hair out, or at least buy a one way ticket on a submersible. (sorry about that) Finding more good stuff, more good people who do good things was not hard. It seems the more I look for good, the more I find it. (I think there's a message in that statement). Anyway, so and so told me about this person and that person told me about another and before I knew it I found a bunch of people who do things for others, not just themselves. Yeah, it's easy to throw money at a problem (if you have it) but to actually donate your own time to help others is, in my opinion, a saintly thing. This week I'm highlighting people who help our military vets.

It seems these people are modest about their helping. Obviously they don't do it for the recognition- the reward is in the doing. Remember, these are just a few of those people. I know there are many more and I'm sure you, dear reader, know some too.

Last issue I mentioned Ecological Marine Aquarium in Surf City. I'm very impressed with this young couple who run the business and truly have the community's best interest at heart. They not only have touch tank experiences for kids of all ages, but they offer camps and classes for kids as well. Taylor Maready and his wife Amber offer military discounts in the off season and children

of the military are often afforded free classes at the camps. Please reach out to them at info@ecologicalmarineaquarium.com. Taylor and Amber stressed that it is important to teach children that they are important and can make a difference. "We teach kids to love the ocean, because if they love the ocean, they'll take care of it."

I think every fisherman, every person that grew up coming to the beach and those of us who live here have a great respect for that entity and would agree that we need to take care of the ocean; It is not a trash can, but is where so much life begins.

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association was founded in the early 2000s. They are in all 50 states; this chapter of the CVMA 15-4, helps in small ways by mowing lawns and putting in ramps, to huge ways by providing money for clothing, food, and services that would be costly. Just recently they donated \$2500 to Canines for Services. Yes, they are vets helping vets. And who knows better how to help a veteran than another veteran. Recently a local veteran and his family lost their home to fire. The CVMA helped them obtain furniture, find a new home and helped them move. Every year they do charity rides, proceeds going to a specific causes like St. Jude's or breast cancer. They help homeless vets by supplying clothing, food, dental exams and they reach out in other ways to help vets in need of assistance. Thank you to Sgt. at Arms Troy Johnson and Chapter Commander

Joshua "Juggernaut" Kelly for all the good works you and the others of CVMA do.

You know, these people don't hang signs outside their doors or take out ads to call attention to their good works, they do it quietly and without desire for attention. That's the way it's supposed to be. My daddy always said, 'if you have to toot your own horn, then you're the only one doing it.' The people in this article are compelled to give back to their community, and they do it because they care. Thank you to these people.

But I'm not finished yet, there is Bonnie Sload Tyrrell, a member of Wreaths Across American. This organization places wreaths on the grave sites of military in Wilmington National Cemetery. Every December she and her daughter, Christy, take part in distributing these wreaths. Bonnie and Christy also take part in Toys for Tots.

Another person, whom I have known for many years, Dorothy Royal, is most certainly one of the best supporters of our local vets. Through her businesses of Surf City Guns and Ammo and Paradise Axe and Arcade. She not only sponsors various programs and donates gift certificates for silent auctions to help the military, but she provides programs in gun sales for the military, law enforcement and first responders. Her knowledge and participation in veteran activities is huge. Please contact either of her businesses for more information about free axe throwing opportunities for vets, law enforcement, parents, grandparents, nurses and first

responders, in the months of July and August. 910-328-4499. In previous articles I have mentioned how Dorothy, her husband Ricky and their children provide much needed entertainment for the communities of Topsail and Holly Ridge. Paradise Axe and Archade provides family fun for everyone. Kudos to Dorothy and her family for all they do..

Then there is Randy Batts. Several months back I wrote an article about the work he does with the Veterans Spear Fishing Project. It's worth it to say it again, especially when someone is providing caring services. Randy, along with Trey Fagan take vets out on Randy's vessel SPEAR IT, and provide opportunities to vets and their families both under and on the water. You've heard of healing waters, well, here they are.

Thank you to these people for doing what you do, for not just talking about things, but doing something to help..

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- D. R. Royal

An Amazing Act Of Kindness

By Renee A. L. Richard

Earlier today, my husband and our two young children were involved in a car accident on College Road and Peachtree, right in front of the Waffle House. It was a very scary experience and quite traumatic for all of us, but our biggest concern was making sure our children were okay and out of the vehicle as fast as possible.

Upon impact, I scrambled out of the passenger side and was immediately greeted by the staff of the Waffle House. These lovely people were absolute angels on earth, springing into action with us, right away. One of them took my phone and called 911, while another took my daughter to safety, followed by my son. They made them waffles and gave them juice, comforted them, put a show on for them to distract and keep as “normal” as possible, helped keep everyone calm, all while maintaining complete

order to all customers in the restaurant. Words cannot express the gratitude I have for this staff and my love and appreciation will continue to be there for them. During one of the toughest days we’ve had, they were the light in the darkness. It makes me proud to live in our town. Please stop by and see them and support a wonderful crew. Queen * Elijah * Mae * Star * Jo (And I really hope I didn’t leave anyone out, but in case I did in the chaos of what happened, I apologize.)



Word Search *(Candy Bars)*

S	Y	A	W	Y	K	L	I	M	H	E	A	T	H
E	T	C	R	U	N	C	H	L	W	H	K	T	L
S	O	Y	S	Y	P	N	N	E	C	S	I	R	D
E	B	H	Y	O	A	R	M	E	R	B	T	U	S
E	L	U	M	J	Y	S	E	L	N	A	K	F	H
R	E	T	P	D	D	N	O	K	A	M	A	F	T
Y	R	S	H	N	A	I	O	C	T	U	T	L	U
N	O	D	O	O	Y	C	L	A	U	S	E	E	R
R	N	N	N	M	C	K	O	R	O	K	S	S	Y
R	E	U	Y	L	T	E	R	K	E	T	R	O	B
U	E	O	N	A	M	R	K	L	V	E	S	S	A
M	I	M	T	O	T	S	S	R	O	E	P	Y	B
S	E	L	T	T	I	K	S	U	D	R	E	O	D
E	G	O	O	D	B	A	R	J	S	S	B	T	T

- Musketeers
Truffles
Reeses
Milkyway
Skor
- Skittles
Almondjoy
Snickers
Heath
Toblerone
- Crunch
Payday
Krackle
Babyruth
Mounds
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Paddle 4 Troops
Event & Fundraiser

10k & 5k Competitive Race
3K Fun Race
Silent Auction
Live Auction
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Billy Yeager

SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2023

Sears Landing Grill and Boat Docks
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The Public Is Invited To Attend Our Second Annual Fall Festival At The Gardens Of Southeastern North Carolina On Saturday, October 14, 2023

The Gardens of Southeastern North Carolina is a non-profit company dedicated to improving lives, cultivating inspiration, offering a variety of experiences, creating jobs, and generating income for the community.

The Gardens of Southeastern North Carolina is thrilled to invite you to our much-anticipated second annual Fall Festival on October 14th, 2023! This exciting event promises a day filled with family-friendly activities, shopping, and ample opportunities to explore our beautiful gardens. The festivities will kick off at 10:00 a.m., and we are delighted to announce that admission is FREE to the public! Bring your friends and family for a day of unforgettable experiences.

There will be many things to enjoy at this year's Fall Festival! Hop aboard our covered wagon and embark on a delightful tour through our Woodlands or indulge in some retail therapy at The Garden Center at Johnson Nursery. Explore a vast array of mums, flowers, shrubs, trees, and more, all available for purchase. In addition, support locally-owned businesses featuring candle makers, home decor, wreaths, flower

arrangements, and other unique offerings. Take a leisurely walk through the picturesque grounds at The Gardens of Southeastern North Carolina and embark on a journey of discovery. Use our QR codes with your smartphone to learn more about the plants, flowers, trees, and shrubs in our landscape. This interactive experience will offer valuable insights into the diverse flora that graces our gardens.

When it's time to grab a bite and a drink, head over to the Event Tent where you can treat yourself to a refreshing cold beer, glass of wine, or soda and get your freshly made-to-order pizza from one of our brick-fired ovens. You can also shop a variety of food and drink vendors!

The Fall Festival is an event not to be missed, so mark your calendars for October 14th, 2023! Bring your friends and family, and let's make this a day to remember. For more information and updates about the Fall Festival, please visit www.FallFestNC.com.



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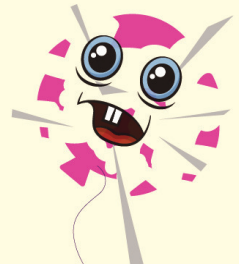
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