



TOPSAIL TIMES

TOPSAIL ISLAND, HOLLY RIDGE, HAMPSTEAD AND SNEADS FERRY



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FREE!

Spring Is Here And So Is Fire Season

This year spring is coming early. The ground hog was wrong. Reports from up and down the east coast have trees budding up to 32 days earlier than ever before. With an early spring comes the desire to get outdoors and clean up your yard. Even though that is perfectly normal, the risks of burning at this time of year can be dangerous if simple rules are not followed.

1. Contact your local fire department to make sure there is not a burning ban.
2. Check weather and drought conditions. Just because a little rain fell the day before does not mean a fire won't get out of control.
3. Make sure your fire is contained and water is on site and available.
4. Have a shovel and fire extinguisher.

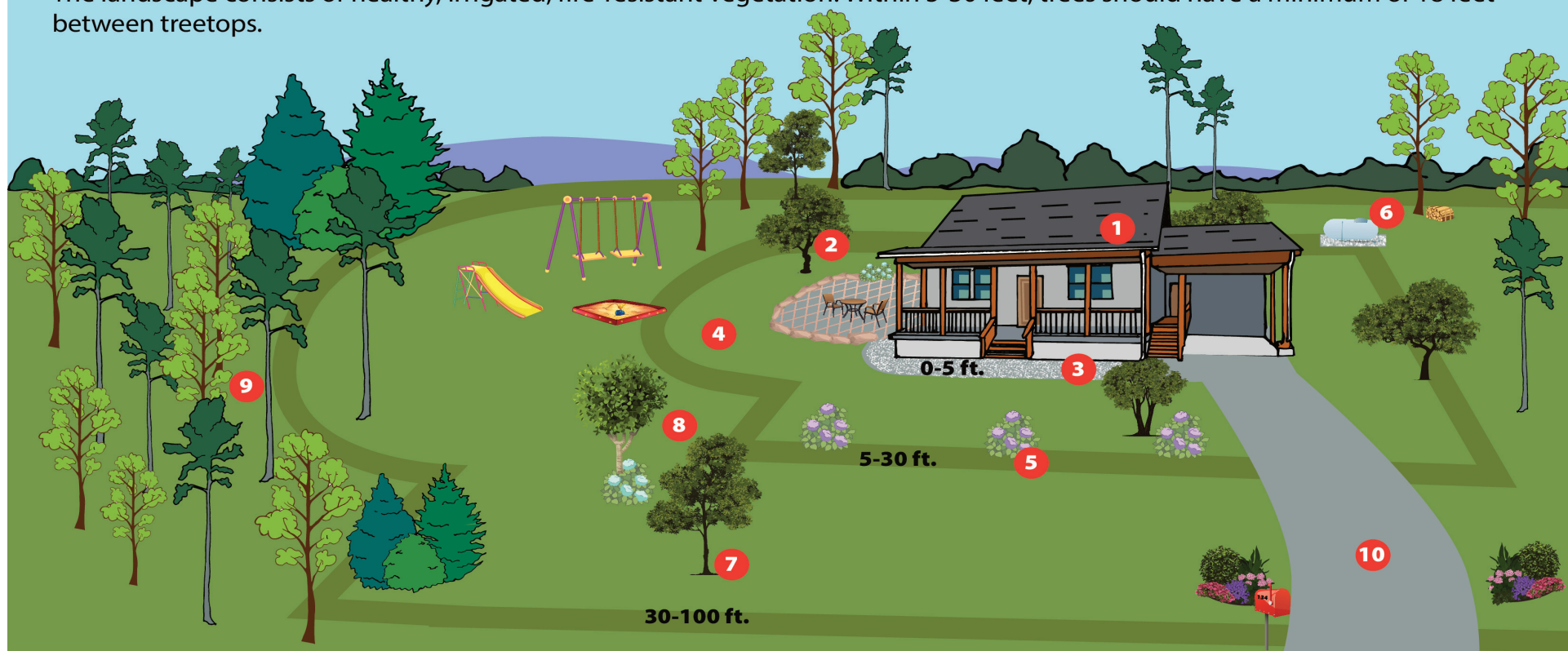
5. Never burn during windy conditions! Hot embers travel and fires can start quick.
6. Don't park vehicles or equipment on dry brittle grass.
7. Contact your local municipality or fire department to see if a burn permit is required.
8. Be courteous of your neighbors.

Billowing smoke can irritate eyes and lungs.

9. When you are done burning, douse your burned area/fire until the area feels cold. Remember smoldering embers can start back up if not properly extinguished.
10. Call 911 immediately if your fire gets out of control. Do not try to battle it alone.

A Fire-Resistant Home

A home's design, building materials and landscape (out to 100 feet) determine its vulnerability to airborne embers, surface fires and crown fires. A fire-resistant home has at least 30 feet of surrounding space that is clear of dead vegetation and flammable debris. It has at least 5 feet of noncombustible mulch material such as river rock or pea gravel. Trees and shrubs are maintained. The landscape consists of healthy, irrigated, fire-resistant vegetation. Within 5-30 feet, trees should have a minimum of 18 feet between treetops.



1. Clean debris from roof and gutters.
2. Trim overhanging branches away from the home and attachments (patios, outbuildings, etc.)
3. Use noncombustible mulch and succulents within 5 feet of structures.
4. Keep lawn mowed, watered, and at a height of 4 inches or less.

5. Landscape with fire-resistant plants and maintain their health.
6. Clear away all dead vegetation and flammable items within 30 feet of structures and propane tanks.
7. Prune branches of large trees to 6-10 feet above the ground.

8. Maintain adequate space between treetops (18 feet).
9. Reduce density of surrounding forest vegetation.
10. Create a firebreak with a driveway wide enough (12 feet) to accommodate emergency vehicles.



The N.C. Forest Service is a division of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Steve Troxler, Commissioner



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Topsail Times

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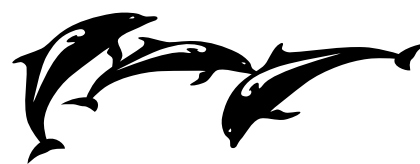
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Topsail Gun Gal

By Dorothy Royal

Humans are bad for the planet. In 5 years the great salt lake will be gone. Why? Human consumption. One of the very serious issues regarding the winds that will be blowing across the dried up lake is the amount of arsenic in the soil. Oh goody. Almost 3 million people will be inhaling it. What could go wrong?

Scientists are working on cloning the extinct Wooley Mammoth. Good idea? No. Could you imagine a herd of Wooley Mammoths walking around your neighborhood? It would be a nightmare for every HOA on the planet... on the other hand maybe that's not such a bad idea.

An investigation is underway after several pigeons were found dead or sick near a restaurant and Pier in Wrightsville Beach. A container of bird poison mixed with seeds was placed by a pest control company at the request of the business owner. A state investigation is underway since the poison Avitrol is toxic to animals and humans. Remember kids, don't eat the pigeons.

Did you know that in 2019 a 656-foot-long cargo ship tipped over off the coast of Georgia? The contents of the giant ship were 4,000 Hyundais and Kia vehicles on their way to Baltimore, Maryland.

Not to mention thousands of gallons of oil on board as well. Due to Covid restrictions and other delays, it took a year for salvagers to begin to slice the giant ship into 8 pieces. I'm sure that was good for the environment. The reason the ship tipped over? Human error. The ship was improperly loaded. After extensive research it was determined that if the crew had simply re-arranged the vehicles or added 1,500 gallons of water in the ship's ballast tanks the event could have been avoided. Plus, someone accidentally left a door open which sped up the process. Oops. 4 people were arrested in New Hanover County for possessing over 1,300 grams of Methamphetamines and almost 1,000 pills marked M30 that contained fentanyl. How does killing your buyers make sense?

Palestine Ohio area residents are complaining of trouble breathing, skin irritations and sick feeling stomachs even though local officials told them it was safe to return to their homes. I'm not sure I would trust those "officials". Other residents are reporting illnesses in their pets and outdoor animals. People in neighboring states are reporting ash falling on their vehicles. Even though the EPA finds spilled toxins in one of the areas rivers, it deems the water safe. Hmmm. Residents are told to deep clean their homes and to monitor and

report any medical issues. Some residents who have returned to their homes claimed to develop skin issues within minutes. Almost 4,000 dead fish of different species have been found. Train cars that derailed and did not explode were purposely lit on fire to prevent future explosions. Particles of the chemicals were found in the air. Almost 3 weeks from the date of the train derailment the State opens a health

clinic for residents with symptoms.

Former President Donald Trump visited the area a day before Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

President Biden has no plans to visit the site of the disaster or to visit members of the community.

Remember knowledge is power and people and their actions can clearly be toxic to our great big blue marble.

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Fashion Statements

By Becky Borneman

Well, I started a new fitness journey. HOTWORX opened up in Surf City in February. When I first heard about this I was amazed and intrigued. The fact that you can work out in a room with no more than 3 people and that the class was virtual was a huge seller for me. And it is a 15 minute workout or you can select a 35-40 minute workout as well. I've been doing the 15 minute workout. Now the catch is, you're working out in a sauna. So it is a high intensity interval training class in 125+ degrees.

Now before you say "No way, Jose" hear me out. We can do anything for 15 minutes... anything. At least that is what I had to tell myself. To be honest, I rationalized it like this. If I can get on the food truck for several hours in 100

degree heat in June, July and August with all fryers and flat top going making it about 110+ degrees, I can do this for 15 minutes.

I was so excited and nervous on my first day. My friend Erica braved the first class with me and has become a workout buddy. I had some new leggings to wear, and a comfy top and brand spanking new shoes to work out in. We walked in ready to go! We opted for the 15 minute Hot Blast class which is like an elliptical machine. It's a bike but your arms are moving the entire time to propel it. The class starts and I'm huffing and puffing quite soon after. By the time it's over, I am getting off the machine feeling like I did when I was at the fair and was getting off a ride. Jelly legs for sure! But, I did it! I survived. I lived. I nearly crawled out of the sauna, grabbed a wet wipe

and went back in to wipe down the equipment. I was pretty proud of myself at this point. My eyes got a little blurry with tears of pride for completing something like this. Either that or I was about to pass out. Regardless, it was a feeling of accomplishment.

I walked out of the gym on a high note. That's when I looked down and saw it. These brand new shoes I was so excited to put on, strutting myself through the gym like I knew what I was doing... I'd left the tags on. That'll knock you down a peg or two on the cool factor. Oh well... what's done is done. I'd Minnie Pearled my way through that workout and it was what it was. But... at least I showed up!



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Letter To The Editor

By Stephen Strnisha

I appreciate this opportunity to provide an alternative view from the one presented in the February 10th Topsail Times article "Chairman Rouzer & Graves introduce Legislation to Reverse Biden WOTUS Rule." As readers learned in that article WOTUS is an acronym for Waters of the United States which is a term that has been part of the law protecting our environment since the Clean Water Act (CWA) passed over 50 years ago. Since enactment of the CWA this important definition has evolved through regulation and Court ruling. It concerns which waters are subject to EPA jurisdiction under their authority to enforce the CWA.

In terms of larger bodies of water and the navigable rivers and streams that feed into them the EPA's jurisdiction is pretty clear and has never been in dispute. The issue gets trickier when we consider smaller streams and brooks and especially when considering the thousands of wetlands, which often

change over time. The key consideration in regulations put forward by the EPA since CWA's enactment and what has been the key point of contention in cases that have gone all the way to the Supreme Court is the issue of "nexus" between wetlands and those navigable waterways. We know in this part of North Carolina all too well that water travels and wetlands located upstream if not protected can have a dangerous effect on drinking water and the natural ecosystem of our entire region.

The most objective assessment of the new rules put forward by the Biden administration is that they attempt to strike a balance between rules put forward on this subject by the Obama administration and the Trump administration, both of which ultimately had provisions struck down by the Courts. The new rule is best summarized as follows by Carolyn Berndt, writing for the National League of Cities: "With this new rule, the regulations revert back to those in place "pre-2015" meaning those in place in 1986 with key changes to

align with the 2001 and 2006 U.S. Supreme Court rulings."

As a history reminder it is probably important to note that we were in the middle of the two-term Reagan administration in 1986. So, this new regulation can hardly be described as over-reaching.

The points made by the Resolution championed by Congressmen Rouzer and Graves suggest that the limits of Federal oversight under the new regulation are unbounded. Indeed, the opposite is the case, since the new regulation clearly spells out a number of exclusions from WOTUS, including normal agricultural activities such as plowing, seeding, building and maintaining dikes, irrigation ditches and farm stock ponds. The significance of the Biden rule is that it clearly moves away from the regulatory actions of the Trump administration which eliminated nearly 50% of wetlands from any Federal protection. In the case of the Cape Fear watershed alone, almost 530,000 acres of wetlands lost protection under the

Trump administration ruling until it was withdrawn under Court order. The Trump rule was way beyond anything put forward by prior administrations including the Republican administrations of Reagan, George H. and George W. Bush. (For the record, Congressman Rouzer did not object to the regulations proposed by the Trump administration.)

Unfortunately, the Congressional resolution sponsored by Congressmen Rouzer and Graves and supported by 152 other Republican members, is simply a partisan gesture with little chance of passing in the closely divided House of Representatives. More disappointing is that the Resolution adds little to a dialogue that should occur among all lawmakers as to how we best balance the rights of property owners with the larger community's right to clean water and the protection of the natural environment to which we have all been entrusted.

F.U.R.R

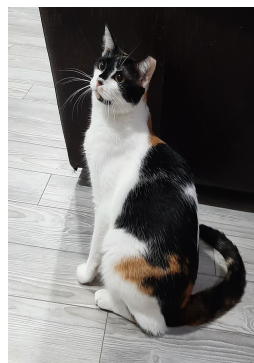
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Red Fish

I am "RED FISH"! You know what they say about red tabby boy cats...we are the very BEST & LOYAL kitties of all! The volunteers love me because I am so kind. I don't have a mean bone in my body & I love other cats. My shyness is getting better all the time, but if you pet me a lot & talk sweet to me, I will purrrrr up a storm! Please come & visit me soon! I've been waiting a while & I don't understand? I'm definitely worth a meet & greet!



Shrimp

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

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



Roughy

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

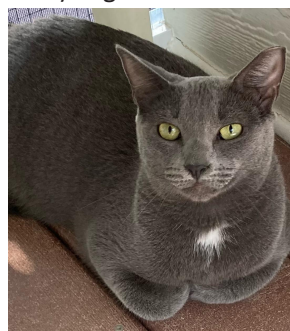
I love all of my siblings if you want a couple of cats! Please give me a chance to show you what an amazing cat I can be! I'm only a little over a year old!



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!!!

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Easter Family Funday



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Sea Turtle Hospital News



By Karen Sota

We're open for tours! After several months devoted to caring for cold-stuns plus the patients over-wintering with us we're happy to be able to welcome visitors again. During the month of March we'll be open on Fridays and Saturdays from 11 AM – 2 PM. You will still need to purchase tour tickets in advance through our website www.seaturtlehospital.org. You can visit the gift shop during those hours without taking the tour. We've spent the winter sourcing an incredible array of new items, along with the favorites in the latest colors. And of course, our adoption desk is always open when we are. With every March adoption you will receive a free copy of our inaugural hospital calendar featuring our very photogenic patients.

The really exciting news for our visitors is that Snooki is once again in the big house, Sea Turtle Bay. After several months vacationing in the therapy pool in Sick Bay while we completed our Turtle Bay renovations and her tank was out for restoration she's back. Since she's been with us her time has been spent toward the back of the big house where

enormous and beautiful she is. Snooki now has a position of honor right up front next to the railing.

Moving a turtle that weighs almost three-hundred fifty pounds was quite a process and took the entire team. Luckily, she likes and trusts "her people" and tried to cooperate as much as she could. She's not real keen on being restrained in any way but after circling round and round to check out her bright yellow "Snooki Sling" she finally relented and let us guide her into position. Once snugly wrapped it took a village to lift her out of the therapy pool and settle her onto our turtle taxi for a ride. This zaftig lady never moved an inch as she rolled down the hall and into position in front of her tank, where she was hoisted to the edge on a board and unwrapped. It didn't take her long to slip into her old home, enjoying the extra room and sparkling water. Just a word of warning to our visitors: Snooki likes to splash and fling water (lots of it!) with her ginormous flippers, usually to attract attention. Or maybe it's just her way of showing love. You decide.

Although the cold-stun season is coming to an end please continue to keep an eye out for possible victims.

If you see a turtle that has washed up on the beach or in our marshy areas or is in the water floating motionlessly don't assume it is dead. They literally can't move, maybe not even blink. Whether the turtle is big or small immediately call our Director of Beach Operations, Terry Meyer at: 910-470-2880. If she is not available, call the hospital during operating hours: 910-329-0222. If the turtle is below the high tide line and in danger of washing out, move it above the high tide line if you can do so safely. Ideally you should remain with the turtle until our trained volunteers arrive to retrieve it. If that is not possible, find a way to indicate the location of the turtle on the beach by drawing large arrows in the sand or placing beach debris nearby. The State of NC hotline for stranded, sick and injured turtles is 252-241-7367. The state number picks up 24/7. All conservation work for endangered sea turtles at KBSTRRC and on Topsail Island is authorized by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, ES Permit 23ST05.



Snooki wrapped and ready for transport



Snooki back home in Sea Turtle Bay

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Latest Update from Rep. Rouzer: Border Security & What's Changed

February 24, 2023 — Since Joe Biden took office, more than 4.5 million illegal immigrants have been apprehended at our Southern Border — and that is just what we know about. The Biden Administration’s open border policies have emboldened dangerous drug cartels, filled our communities with deadly drugs, and prevented those seeking to immigrate to the United States legally from doing so. All of this is putting countless migrants in dangerous and deadly situations. These victims include young children, who often face physical and sexual abuse by cartels and smugglers.

I have received countless phone calls, messages, and letters regarding illegal immigration and the disaster at our Southern Border, and I share your concerns. During the last two years of Democrat rule in Washington, we've watched the disaster at our border unfold with Democrats in Congress and the White House refusing to acknowledge the concerns of Americans all across the country. In fairness to my Democrat colleagues and President Biden, most of them — including Biden and VP Harris — campaigned on open borders. So what has occurred is no surprise.

In our system of government, the legislative branch legislates and appropriates — in other words, writes the law. The executive branch — starting with the White House — executes and enforces the law. Many constituents write and ask what a Republican majority in the House is going to do to shore up our border and reverse the Biden Administration policies?

House Republicans can bring more attention to the catastrophe at the border, which is why Speaker McCarthy and many other senior lawmakers are hosting border visits and Congressional roundtables as well as hearings at the border. We will also try to include provisions in the next Appropriations package to influence their policies at the border, but keep in mind the Senate is under Democrat control so our efforts will likely be watered down. We also have articles of impeachment pending against the Secretary of Homeland Security for his willful disregard of the immigration laws on the books.

In short, only the President and his administration can reverse their policies to comply with the law. There are some instances where the law can be tweaked for improvement, but for the most part the problem isn't the law.

The problem is lack of enforcement of the law. This is a great example of why Presidential elections matter. You're voting for much more than one person or a Presidential/VP ticket. In a Presidential election, you are also voting for the thousands of political appointees who are charged with carrying out the law.

History of Border Security and What Has Changed

In 1996, The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) provided for the expedited removal of non-U.S. citizens or nationals, creating a framework for processing — including screening to determine if immediate court action is necessary based on a “credible fear” merit test and detention, deciding if the migrant should be detained for court proceedings, moving unaccompanied minors to holding facilities for further processing, or removal.

How this law is implemented is generally left to the discretion of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), under the President.

As a result, DHS does not have to place undocumented migrants into expedited removal. Instead, DHS can choose to place undocumented migrants directly into immigration court proceedings. To do so, DHS typically releases the migrant from custody with a Notice to Appear (NTA) in court, referred to as “catch and release.” DHS has relied on this practice when the agency is unable to keep up with heavy flows of undocumented migration.

In addition to determining whether to detain an undocumented immigrant, DHS has significant discretion on operations at the agency, including where or if migrants are held during their proceedings. Current law instructs DHS to determine if the credible fear threshold is met. Traditionally, DHS has conducted the interviews at detention facilities, typically taking two to three weeks. Under the Trump Administration, DHS created programs to conduct proceedings in five-to-seven-days.

Bottom line, bad policies have created loopholes that are being taken advantage of within our immigration system. This has led to an influx of undocumented migrants at the Southern Border seeking these protections and overwhelming our immigration system.

The Trump Administration's Policies and What Biden Has Changed

While in office, President Trump kept his promise to build a wall between the United States and Mexico and worked to fully enforce our nation's immigration laws. With the support of myself and other Republicans in Congress, we made progress on:

• **Border Wall Construction: With Congressional funding, the Trump Administration constructed over 400 miles of border wall.**

◦ In 2017, President Trump issued Executive Order 13767, “Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements.”

◦ Congress then appropriated nearly \$4.5 billion for the border wall. The actual authority to build the wall was put in law years ago.

◦ President Trump’s Administration took steps in 2019 to secure additional funding through Proclamation 9844 “Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Southern Border of the United States,” including:

• transferring roughly \$601 million from the Treasury Forfeiture Fund to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP);

• using \$2.5 billion in Department of Defense funds transferred to the Department’s counter drug programs to construct border barriers; and

• reallocating up to \$3.6 billion from other military construction projects using authorities under the declaration of a national emergency.

On his first day in office, President Biden signed a proclamation terminating President Trump’s 2019 emergency declaration, arguing the construction of a border wall was “not a serious policy solution” and a misuse of U.S. taxpayer dollars. In his action, President Biden paused both the construction and funding of the border wall as well as the repurposing of contracts with private contractors.

• **Strengthening Asylum Eligibility: The Trump Administration narrowed asylum eligibility to include the Transit Rule — making aliens ineligible for asylum if they reached the southern border after traveling through a third country without seeking asylum there.**

◦ Only about 30% of asylum seekers who reached the U.S. met eligibility for asylum under this standard.

The Transit Rule is currently blocked by federal court order on the grounds that it likely violates the INA.

• **Remain in Mexico:** President Trump worked with the Mexican government to create the “Remain in Mexico” program. Under the program, instead of moving forward with expedited removal, when DHS issued a Notice to Appear in immigration court to some non-Mexican migrants, the “Remain in Mexico” policy required them to wait in Mexico, instead of releasing them into the United States.

The day after President Biden’s inauguration, DHS suspended new enrollments into the Remain in Mexico program. Now, migrants are not held in detention facilities in the United States, but they are allowed to travel to their destination and monitored through alternative technologies such as ankle bracelets.

• **Sanctuary Cities:** Trump signed an executive order to strip discretionary Federal grant funding from any city that refused to enforce federal immigration law, also known as “Sanctuary Cities.”

President Biden rescinded the Trump executive order.

• **Title 42:** In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in March 2020 the Trump Administration implemented a policy that mostly shut down asylum processing for undocumented migrants at the border, known as “Title 42.” This program allowed CBP to expel undocumented migrants to Mexico or their countries of origin to protect American citizens from the spread of the virus.

The Biden Administration worked to end Title 42, but was sued by a number of states and the Supreme Court ruled the policy had to remain in place until further notice by the Court. Most recently, the Supreme Court removed the case from its calendar and will likely dismiss the case — meaning the policy will be rescinded when the COVID Public Health Emergency ends on May 11.

• **Asylum Cooperative Agreements:** The INA authorizes DHS and the Department of Justice (DOJ) to render aliens ineligible for asylum by entering into safe third country agreements (STCAs) with countries that have “full and fair” asylum procedures. STCAs allow DHS to transfer asylum seekers to those countries rather than evaluating their claims in the United States. The Trump Administration created STCAs with Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador (“Asylum Cooperative Agreements”).

The Biden Administration has suspended these three STCAs.

Continued on next page

What's Next?

The American people know the chaos at our Southern Border is the direct result of Joe Biden's and Congressional Democrats open-border agenda. Being the majority party in power in the House provides useful tools like the ability to conduct oversight hearings and investigations and the appropriation of funding. However, our slim majority, combined with the divide in power between Congress and the White House, we will be limited in implementing broad, sweeping changes to our immigration system absent a turn-around in thought and policy by the White House and Congressional Democrats.

That said, we will be able to stop bad policies that require an act of Congress, and we will be able to improve some narrow provisions of law. Under the Constitution we have no authority to prosecute wrongdoing or enforce any federal law. Only the Executive branch has that authority.

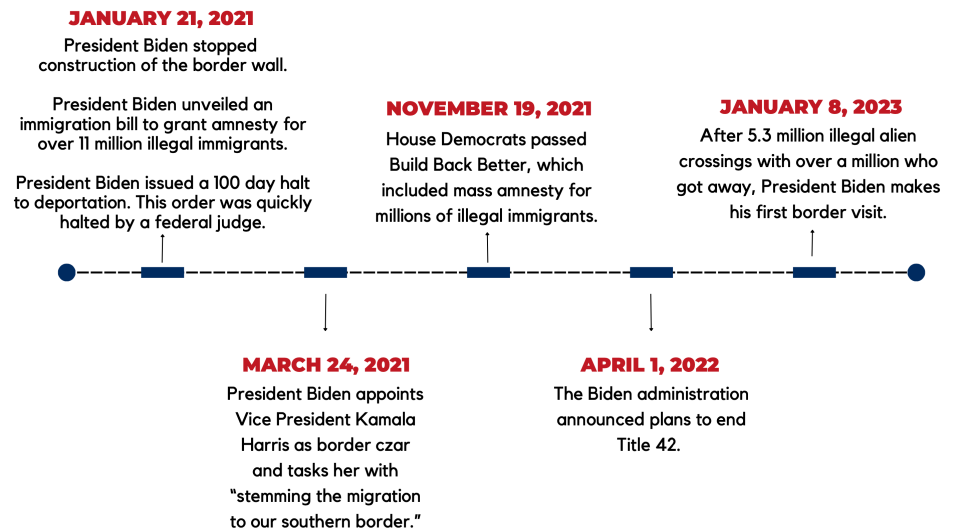
While major trajectory changes in law will have to wait for a Republican Senate and White House, here's where you can expect to see from House Republicans:

- We will work to appropriate funding for effective border enforcement strategies, infrastructure, and advanced technology to prevent illegal crossings

- We will work to pass legislation to end catch-and-release loopholes.
- We will advocate for requiring proof of legal status to get a job.
- We will be relentless in our pursuit to hold Biden Administration officials accountable, including Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas, for this ongoing humanitarian, national security, and public health crisis. Articles of impeachment of Mayorkas have already been introduced as a result of his continued abandonment of his duty to secure the border.

The American people deserve safety and security, and a Republican majority will advocate for common sense solutions while using all the tools available to help hold the Biden Administration accountable for their open border policies.

TIMELINE OF BIDEN'S BORDER CRISIS



U.S. Congressman

DAVID ROUZER

7th District of North Carolina

Ask Dr. Rosemarie

I want to adopt a kitten. What should I look for in a healthy kitten?

Kittens come to us through many sources. Some are abandoned in boxes on the hospital doorstep, some are surrendered by well meaning people who have found a mother cat, and others come through rescue organizations who cruise the animal control to rescue animals often scheduled for euthanasia.

Stray mother cats are often feral (meaning that they have never had human contact) and as such have no vaccine immunity. They can carry diseases such as viral respiratory (herpes and calici), feline leukemia and feline AIDS, and parasitic infections (internal parasites like nematode worms and protozoal coccidia, skin parasites like ringworm and scabies). Rabies is also a consideration with any feral cat.

Any surrendered kitten must be tested for these parasites and feline leukemia and AIDS.

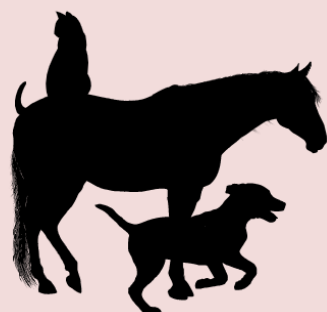
We recommend 2 weeks isolation to ensure that there is no infectious disease ready to break through. The kittens should be wormed, vaccinated and

tested for at least leukemia prior to adoption.

Often rescue and foster homes do not have isolation facilities and the kittens acquire respiratory infections that need therapy before and after adoption. If the kitten is deemed healthy by a veterinarian, please welcome it and give it a forever home.

Ask Dr. Rosemarie
Your Home Town Veterinarian

Ask about your family pets, farm friends, and a few exotics!



EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS FOR DR. ROSEMARIE TO
TOPSAILTIMESNEWSPAPER@GMAIL.COM WITH SUBJECT LINE:
ASK DR. ROSEMARIE !

NEW KITTEN Checklist



Purchase a Scratching Post



Find the Right Diet



Schedule First Exam



Microchip your Kitten



Purchase enrichment toys



Check Vaccinations



Are you ready? Call us today!

OCPAW: The Journey of Lucy Girl and Donna Plowman

By Dotty Harding

President & CEO

Onslow County Partners for Animal Welfare

Lucy was first noticed by Jean Cole, who went with her husband to an older man's farm who asked for help with his dog. Like so many others, life changes circumstances, however well intended, which can lead to situations that require our attention to ask for help. They called her Girl, and this is her story.



All I know is that now my name is Girl. I don't know of any other name because no one called for me to come to them or run and play. Not sure why I lived in seclusion for three years as I was a gift from a son to his father with a great promise of happy times hunting together.....but those times never came. Sadness and desperation settled deep into my bones as I sat in mud and dirt day after day. No toys, no bones to chew but worse of all was no one to be with. In those three years, I quickly outgrew my dog house, but somehow I managed to squeeze inside on those cold or rainy nights. I'm not sure why they tightly boarded up my kennel where I only had this small area to see out into the world, a world beyond my touch.

When Jean saw me, my owner asked if she knew where the pound was because that was where I was going. Jean asked if I could go with her to her home, which I did. You can see the picture of my old enclosure and me with Jean on my first ride to her house.



I didn't know how to run, as I was never given a chance. I wasn't sure what the grass was under my feet, so I just stood awhile, trying to figure everything out. OCPAW provided all the funds to get care by Dr. Martin at Holly Ridge Veterinary Clinic, and Jean provided all the love to bring out the sweet nature, loving Girl that I am. I blossomed under Jean & James loving care at their farm, as you can see in this photo that was posted out for my adoption. My name then evolved into Lucy Girl because of the redness of my coat which reminded Jean of Lucille Ball in the TV show I Love Lucy.



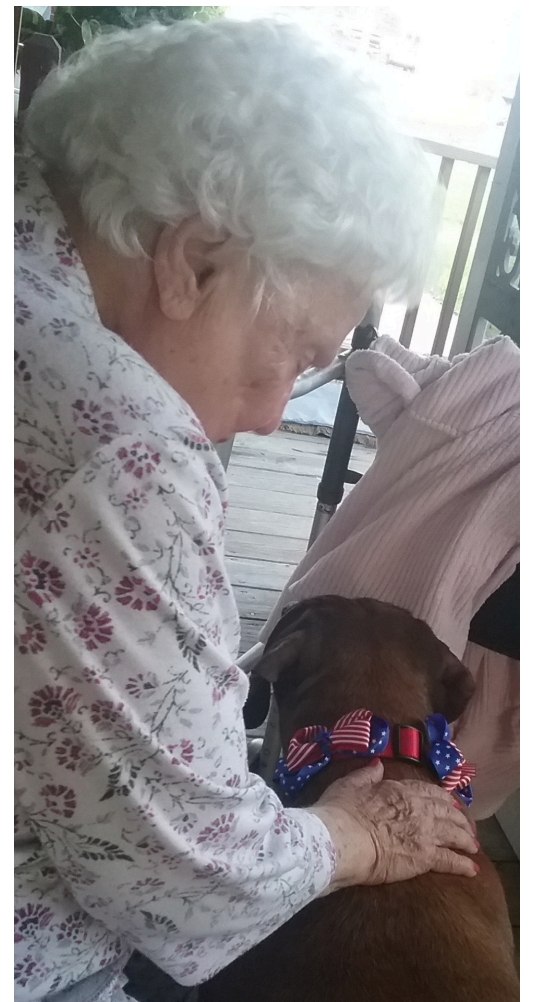
Donna Plowman knew that Lucy Girl belonged with her and reached out to Jean to adopt her when she saw her photo. Donna is a skilled, successful fundraiser who, for many years, organized the Cause for the Paws in Onslow County, engaging the help of our Biker Community to raise thousands of dollars to help animals in need and initiate OCPAW's PawsAbility program of low-cost spay/neuter vouchers.



As time passed, Donna's mother came to live with her and every day she shared with her beloved Redbone Coonhound, Lucy Girl. Together they watched God's magical creation as the warm breeze embraced them and the lapping of the water and call of the birds provided the song of life that most of us miss because of the busyness of our lives.

Celia "Winnie" Creekmore, passed into the arms of her loving Lord and Savior on Monday, October 12th, 2020. Her daughter, Donna Plowman, requested in lieu of flowers donations may be made to OCPAW to support efforts to assist companion animals in need, such as Lucy. Winnie and Lucy were constant companions who shared the love and devotion of the Plowman family and all the visitors that came to express their love on this journey we all take while visiting this earth. Godspeed Ms. Winnie....till then!

As we pass through this world, we all encounter difficulties along the way. Reaching out to others with kindness to share this life's journey helps us all.



Low Cost Spay/Neuter Vouchers

Funded by NC Community Foundation Dallas Fred Allen Endowment Fund

Companion Animals \$39⁹⁹
Ferals \$15⁰⁰
for Residents and Rescues
within Onslow County

Applications Available Online!

Website: www.oc-paw.com



Call 910-745-7930 with any questions.

Coastal Common Sense

By Kim McGahey

What would happen to our beloved Topsail Island if a major disaster struck, like a CAT-5 hurricane, and there was no response from the government? What if FEMA was AWOL? How would the people who were devastated by such a disaster recover personally, emotionally and financially without government attention, support and financial aid? This is the reality that East Palestine, OH residents are feeling right now.

On one hand they do not want to be completely dependent on an untrustworthy government, but on the other hand they cannot recover without that top down assistance. If those Ohio residents had confidence in the information and scientific analysis they are receiving from the EPA and Norfolk Southern Railroad, that would make them feel alot better about how their disaster could be resolved and how their lives would get back to normal.

But, unfortunately, the current administration is more concerned about political optics than helping people in trouble. Our hapless White House occupant focuses on political theatre and dances on his political puppet strings with no regard for the lives of we the people; so often negatively impacted

by his self-serving political policy decisions. It's a sad commentary on the heartless decisions continually handed down by this feckless White House.

They ignore personal hardships if it does not advance their political narrative. They neglect the poisoned residents in East Palestine because these hard working middle Americans don't reflect this administration's equity agenda.

If the train had derailed in South Chicago, the media coverage would have been pervasive. It would have been pegged as yet another example of white supremacy by uncaring, profit seeking capitalist corporations prioritizing dangerous chemical delivery over the safety of the communities through which those chemicals traveled. But because the train tracks blew up in Trump country, the catastrophe has been largely ignored by and even weaponized by this partisan administration and their complicit liberal media propagandists.

I personally know some of the good people from East Palestine, East Liverpool, Alliance and other similar small northeastern Ohio communities and they are mostly hard working patriotic Americans trying to keep the American dream alive in an economically depressed region often

referred to by the Left Coast as fly over country.

The socialist White House and liberal media give no credibility to these midwesterners because they live outside major metropolitan areas and raise their families inside traditional American values. They support the America First agenda which is reason enough to be ignored and ridiculed by this terminally biased administration. Eventually incompetent Cabinet members show up as if it's an audition for The Village People.

It's a pathetic spectacle to see exactly how unfeeling the ruling party is as they prioritize power over people.

Remember this heartless display next time Democrats say they are the party of the working man. Remind them of their game-losing fumble in East Palestine, OH.



Crabs, Fun For The Whole Family

By Carol Ann Ross

I like crabs. Don't you? Why, they're some of the tastiest shellfish to come out of the ocean. Don't you agree? Cute little bottom feeders, aren't they? And they love feasting on dead stuff too. So, they're not only tasty, they are practical. Thank you Mr. Crab for helping to clean up the ocean for us.

So where am I going with all this? I'm just trying to segue into a story about crabs and how they seem to get the stinky end of the stick when it comes to the adorableness of some sea creatures. For instance, go into any gift shop in the area and you'll find dolphin, starfish, shark, sand dollar plush toys everywhere. You'll find pictures, statuettes, beach towels with their likenesses for sale and cute little stories about them too. But the poor little crab gets barely any appreciation, and the crab is actually the best of all, he feeds us. I don't know anyone who eats dolphins, starfish, sharks and sand dollars. Well, some people eat sharks. Yuck!

Crabs just seem to get a bad rap.

Why? Well, there's the story about the time the kid's foot got pinched by a crab when he walked out into the surf. (That's happened to a lot of us) There's the other story about the crab that pinched off some kid's nose. (not too sure about that one) And there are quite a number of stories about other body parts that have been pinched. Crabs are not friendly or cuddly, I guess that is why, when it comes to plush toys, there are few to none.

Oh yes, I forgot about my crab story- the time I was going to get baptized at the north end of Topsail Island -there used to be a freshwater pond there were some of the local churches baptized members-no joke. Rumor was it was full of crabs. I was ten and terrified of being pinched by a crab, but was not. It all ended well.

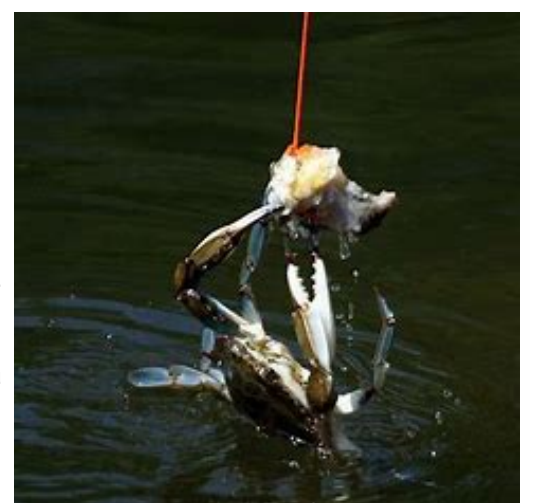
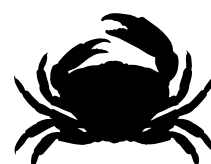
So crabs can be aggressive, but then we are venturing into their territory, and with nefarious intentions-FOOD.

In the dark ages, we used to catch crabs the fun way. No traps for us. We'd go to the bait and tackle shop, get a few fish heads, get a long line, a long handled net and a deep bucket.

we'd go out to the marsh or sound or any nearby briny body of water and tie one end of the line through the eyes or the gills of the fish head, throw it out a few feet into the water and wait. Sooner or later a blue crab would sidle its way to the fish head, remember they love dead stuff.

The trick to catching the crab is to slowly, very slowly, pull that fish head in. The crab will follow along if you don't make any quick moves. Then when you have the fish and crab close enough, you inch your way into the water, with net in hand, and eyes on the prize. Bring the net, swoosh, into the water, and nab the crab. Gotta be quick!

Who says there's nothing to do after you've spent the whole day on the beach getting sunburned? Crabbing is fun for the entire family and I for one, think it teaches patience. The reward for this is a yummy seafood dinner.



Community Updates

Coastal Carolina Rifle Club 2023

For the past 14 years, CCRC has hosted National Rifle Association and Civilian Marksmanship Program Highpower Rifle matches at Camp Lejeune's Stone Bay Rifle Range. CCRC was started by the late AC Webster, an accomplished Prone Long Range shooter and U.S. Palma Team member, in 2009, after the previous club that ran matches on Stone Bay dissolved in the early 2000's.

Typically, CCRC's rifle matches are 600 or 1000 yard prone. Once a year, an Across the Course (XTC) event is conducted, typically around the Eastern Marine Corps Marksmanship Competition (formerly the Marines Eastern Division Matches). This year's XTC match will be March 18-19. In addition to civilian adults and military service members, North Carolina's primary junior marksmanship organization brings 10-15 juniors to shoot the match. These are 13-20 year old teenagers and young adults as NRA and CMP rules allow competitors to fire as juniors until the end of the year they turn 20, provided they are not on an adult team or in the military.

The prone events can be broken down into two major portions: sling supported or F-class. Sling supported is exactly that, a competitor is holding the rifle utilizing a sling, glove, and (normally) a shooting jacket. Sights can be either telescopic or irons, depending upon the type of rifle used. A Palma rifle, for instance, must utilize iron sights while an Any/Any rifle or Match rifle may use irons or a scope. F-class rifles forgo slings and utilize bipods or rests. The competitor still lays on the ground behind the rifle, but does not have to utilize slings, gloves or shooting jackets. F-class is 100% telescopic sighted rifles.

The CCRC prone events typically are three 20 round matches on a Saturday and two or three 20 round matches, depending upon what yard lines are being fired that weekend. Also, the prone events may have either unlimited sighters per event prior to record shots, or two sighters prior to record shots.

The Across the Course event is two matches, one each day. Saturday being an 800 aggregate score with 80 rounds fired for record at each of four stages. Immediately prior to record firing, competitors may fire two sighting shots for a total of 88 rounds. Sunday is an Excellence In Competition (EIC) "Leg" match. A 500 aggregate score with 50 rounds for record and no sighters, ie: competitors need to be very confident of their zeros and ammo/rifle combination.

The stages of fire for the 800 aggregate/88 round match are: 1.) Slow fire, 200 yards, standing position, two sighters and twenty rounds for record, in twenty-two minutes. 2.) Rapid fire, 200 yards, Sitting or Kneeling position, ten rounds fired in a time limit of 60 seconds, after a two shot sighter period. The 10 rounds must come from either a magazine of two, followed by a magazine of eight, OR two magazines of five rounds each. The competitor MUST do a reload during the string. This is done twice for twenty rounds for record. 3.) Rapid fire, Prone position at 300 yards, ten rounds fired in a time limit of 70 seconds after a two shot sighter period. The magazine loadout is the same as the 200 yard sitting/keeling event. 4.) Slow fire, 600 yards, prone position, two sighters and twenty rounds for record in a time limit of twenty-two minutes.

The 500 aggregate/50 round Leg match is similar, except for the lack of sighters and the 200 standing, 200 rapid, and 300 rapid fire stages are only ten rounds vs. twenty. The 600 yard stage is still 20 rounds. Leg matches are important for competitors who are attempting to get points toward their US Distinguished Rifleman badge. To get points, competitors must be in the top 10 percent of the non-Distinguished competitors at that match. Military servicemembers can also get points at a Leg match, however each branch of service has their own rules as to type of points and how many leg matches the servicemember may compete in each year.

Now, all the prone events are electronic targets. Competitors should bring a tablet or phone with them. They will link to the targets and show real-time shot impacts without having a person pull and mark each shot in the pits. The XTC events will still have personnel in the pits doing manual scoring.

While open to the public, any non-DoD affiliated persons must apply for an event pass aboard Camp Lejeune.

More information about CCRC matches and Camp Lejeune Base Pass procedures can be found on the website www.coastalcarolinarifleclub.org, the Coastal Carolina Rifle Club Facebook page, or emailing acwebster@mindspring.com.

Pender County Library To Host Genealogist Tim Pinnick

BURGAW- On Thursday, March 16, at 6 p.m., Pender County Library will host noted genealogist and historian Tim Pinnick for a presentation entitled Exploring Your African American Cultural Heritage and Discovering Family Ties. During this hour-long presentation, Pinnick will provide instruction on research methods to further family tree research. The event will be hosted in person in the Michael Y. Taylor Meeting Room at the Main Library in Burgaw.

In addition to being a noted genealogist and historian, Pinnick is the author of the book "Finding and Using African American Newspapers" as well as more than half a dozen articles including "Using an Extended Research Project to Reconstruct a Community" which appeared in the Association for Professional Genealogists Quarterly, "Answers in African American Newspapers" written for Family Tree Magazine, and most recently "The Carnegie Medal" in NGS Magazine. In 2019, he became the coordinator and facilitator of a landmark workshop course entitled "Building an African American Research Toolbox" for the Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research (IGHR). He has presented papers at large history conferences including the Association for the Study

of African American Life and History conference in 2019, along with speaking at the Federation of Genealogical Society Conferences, Ohio Genealogical Society Annual Conferences, and much more. Most recently, Pinnick is known for working with the New Hanover County Remembrance Project to shed light on the stories of the victims of the 1898 Wilmington Coup in North Carolina and track down the living descendants.

This program is presented in partnership with the UNCW Office of the Arts and William Madison Randall Library as part of the NEA Big Read Cape Fear grant initiative. NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. The title for this year's NEA Big Read Cape Fear is "Homegoing" by Yaa Gyasi. Free copies of the book will be given away at the event on a first come, first served basis.



For more information or assistance, call Pender County Library at 910-259-1234 (Burgaw) or 910-270-4603 (Hampstead) during regular business hours.

Coastal Carolina Rifle Club 2023 Itinerary

March 18-19

800 aggregate XTC match Saturday, Excellence In Competition "Leg" match Sunday

March 25-26

3x1000 yard Saturday, 2x1000 yard Sunday

April 22-23

3x600 yard Saturday, 3x600 yard Sunday

May 13-14

3x1000 yard Saturday, 2x1000 yard Sunday

June 10-11

3x600 yard Saturday, 3x600 yard Sunday

September 9-10

3x600 yard Saturday, 3x600 yard Sunday

October 7-8

3x1000 yard Saturday, 2x1000 yard Sunday

November 11-12

3x600 yard Saturday, 2x600 yard + 600 yd two man team match Sunday

December 9-10

3x1000 Saturday, 2x1000 Sunday

Onslow Gators

By Raeford Brown



Growing up ‘round these parts, I heard stories that alligators were once a common site in the New River, especially in the backwaters along French’s Creek, Northeast Creek, and Southwest Creek. Inside an old country store where we stopped for a “Co-Cola” from time to time in Verona, those gators were bigger than huge... “14 to 20 footers, they were. The “family” of Browns from Onslow and New Hanover Counties were water people. Not by profession, save for a couple, but because of our recreational times.

I did have an uncle who was a professional boat captain, running charter boats out of Wrightsville Beach, moving on up to big yachts owned by millionaires up North, traveling from Yankee Land to Ft. Lauderdale every fall so the rich could fly down, fish for a week or two in the Bahamas, then return to their snow covered yards. And, in the late 1800’s, my great grandfather had a handwritten contract with the state of North Carolina to provide ferry service

from what is now Camp Lejeune across the New River to Sneads Ferry. Yep... there was, indeed, a real ferry at what we know as Sneads Ferry.

Another uncle and his business partner opened up what became and is still known as Old Ferry Marina. No campground at the time, just a marina with dock spaces.

We heard those stories about the big gators, and I remember, as a tike, seeing gator skulls in that little country store in Verona. BIG gators, they were, as the stories go.

Other than family trips to Florida where we stopped at stores that had ponds filled with alligators, and TV shows that featured men who wrestled (or was it “wrassled” gators, mixed in with the tabloid stories of alligators attacking people all over Florida, I had never seen one in the wild.

Over the last 15 years since I returned to Onslow Country, things have changed. I have seen a heap of alligators. At one time, they were protected. Well, during that time, the boy and girl gators got together and apparently produced a BUNCH of alligators.

They are everywhere. I, personally, have seen them in the SURF along southern North Carolina beaches. Lots of other people have seen them, too. I watched one swim through the gentle surf at Fort Fisher, down in New Hanover County, walk onto the beach, take a rest, then swim back into the ocean. And, I had witnesses. Wish I could find the pictures I took at the time.

The gators are being forced out of their habitats in the back swamps. They show up on golf courses, they come out of the New River to soak up some “rays”, taking a rest on docks in downtown Jacksonville. And, some of them get to be a “pretty good size” as I hear from locals.

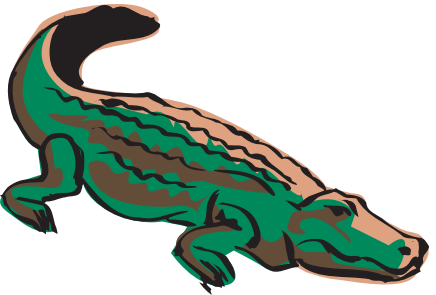
A few years back, a 12 footer grabbed a large dog being walked along Mill Creek in Northwoods.

The alligators are here. And, there’s nothing you can, or should, do to intervene. Though they’re no longer “protected” as they once were, it is still illegal to feed them, capture them, or kill them in Onslow County. Because of their sheer numbers, the state has allowed counties who have petitions from residents who would like to hunt

and kill a limited number of the gators to petition the state to open a limited hunting season. However, since that law was adopted, not one person has applied to the Board of Commissioners in Onslow requesting an open season.

I am not a fan of killing for the sake of killing. That includes alligators. If challenged or threatened, or a gator thinks my 8 pound dog looks delicious, I will not hesitate to protect us.

I do LOVE gator gumbo, have eaten a LOT of in when visiting Memphis, have not issue killing for food, but I am probably too old to even think of actually doing it. Too much work. Meanwhile, I will continue not feeding the reptiles, and I will continue taking their pictures.



Did you know?

Common Name

American alligators

Scientific Name

Alligator mississippiensis

Type

Reptiles

Diet

Carnivore

Group Name

Congregation

Average Life Span In The Wild

35 to 50 years

Size

10 to 15 feet

Weight

1,000 pounds



UPS To Create 98 Jobs With \$12 Million Investment At New Local Distribution Center In The Town Of Holly Ridge

Global integrated logistics solutions provider, UPS [NYSE: UPS], will create 98 new jobs in Onslow County, Governor Roy Cooper announced today. The company will invest more than \$12.3 million to locate a distribution facility in the southeast portion of the state in the Town of Holly Ridge.

"The decision by UPS to expand in eastern North Carolina is a tribute to our growth and our dedicated workforce which includes many veterans in this area," said Governor Cooper. "As the third-fastest growing state in the nation, global logistics leaders like UPS are eager to build in military communities like Holly Ridge that have the right people and the transportation infrastructure to reach their customers."

This is the largest economic development project for Onslow County in 40 years.

With more than a century of experience, UPS provides a broad range of integrated logistics solutions for customers in more than 220 countries and territories. The Atlanta-based company's global logistics services include transportation, distribution, forwarding, freight, brokerage and financing. UPS will build a distribution center in the Camp Davis Industrial Park

to support a higher volume of package deliveries throughout eastern North Carolina.

"UPS appreciates the State of North Carolina for their support of this development project," said Mark Smith, vice president of UPS North Carolina. "UPS manages our network with agility and a focus on service for our customers. The investment in Holly Ridge and surrounding communities allows us to meet current volume demands while positioning us for the future."

The positions include drivers, operations personnel, managers, and support staff. Although wages will vary depending on position, the overall expected average annual wage across all job types is \$67,657, which exceeds Onslow County's overall average annual wage of \$35,576. Positions for small package drivers feature annual wages up to \$95,000, and more than 60 of the new job opportunities will be for drivers.

"This announcement is an outstanding win for Onslow County and the state," said N.C. Commerce Secretary Machel Baker Sanders. "I'm confident that our extensive transportation network, East Coast location, and capable pipeline of talent will support UPS' growth strategy and lead to great success in this region."

A performance-based grant of \$250,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help with UPS's expansion to North Carolina. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance to local governments to help attract economic investment and create jobs. Companies receive no money upfront and must meet job creation and capital investment targets to qualify for payment. All One NC grants require matching participation from local governments and any award is contingent upon that condition being met.

"What a fantastic announcement for our community," said N.C. Senator Michael Lazzara. "We appreciate the diligent work of our local officials and economic development professionals that helped us prepare and solidify this win for Holly Ridge."

"We are excited to welcome UPS to Onslow County," said N.C. Representative Carson Smith. "The company could have expanded anywhere in the state, and they chose our community to create new jobs and investments that will make positive impacts on our economy."

In addition to the North Carolina Department of Commerce and

Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, other key partners in this project include the North Carolina General Assembly, North Carolina Community College System, GoldenLEAF Foundation, Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development, Duke Energy and the Town of Holly Ridge.



Pictured left to right:

Tim Foster, Chair, Onslow County Board of Commissioners

Jeff Wenzel, Mayor, Town of Holly Ridge

Jeff Wafford, Director of Public Affairs, UPS

Kenny Flowers, Assistant Secretary of Rural Economic Development, NC Department of Commerce

Heather Reynolds, Town Manager, Town of Holly Ridge

Mark Sutherland, Executive Director, Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development

(Photo Credits to North Carolina Department of Commerce)



Annual Pizza Buffet

Bake Sale & Raffles

Monday March 13, 2023

4pm-8pm

Cost = Your Donations



Elise Richardson is 8 years old and a second grader at Dixon Elementary School. She loves to play outside, dressing up, and playing hair & makeup. This past December 2022 she was diagnosed with Medulloblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer. She has received 6 weeks of in hospital radiation and just returned home. She has a couple weeks off to rest and spend time with her family before she begins 48 weeks of chemotherapy. Please join us at our annual Emily's Encourager's and Max's Pizza fundraiser as we raise money to help Elise and her family with this journey.

Follow Elise's journey on Facebook: **Elise's Fight**

THANK YOU to Max's Pizza Owners & Staff for donating all food, time & gratuities for this event in memory of Emily Hollis



Wednesday, March 15th – 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.
Hampstead United Methodist Church's Family Life Center

Come and see your old friends and maybe make a few new ones - there will be plenty of fun and games to share! Assemble your Bridge foursome or bring your favorite board game, Dominoes, Uno and Canasta decks, Mahjong set, or whatever else you like to play. **Tickets are \$60 for a table.** Please call Twila Jones at 910-270-9888 to get your tickets and reserve your space. Cost includes a Finger Foods Luncheon and plenty of fellowship!



HUMC is located at 15395 US Hwy 17 N, Hampstead, NC 28443
Check facebook.com/HampsteadUMC/ for updates and to keep in touch





GUNS FOR WOMEN



Most women purchasing a gun are going to get advice from a man on the type of gun and caliber size they need.

Unfortunately most men suggest guns that are PERFECT FOR A MAN...BUT NOT FOR A WOMAN.

After learning to shoot and getting my purchase permit I headed out into the world of male dominated gun shops. After stopping at a few I found a man who took time to explain each gun to me and he finally convinced me that I needed to carry the gun that he actually owned. The problem was he was a 200 lb body builder and I was not (ha ha). Needless to say I purchased a .40 caliber semi-automatic and bought the ammo and headed to the range.

While all the other women in my group were loading their clips with ease, I was struggling to the point of my thumbs nearly bleeding. When I finally got the gun loaded and ready, I took my position and began to fire. BAM BAM BAM. The noise was tremendous, the recoil was more than I ever wanted and by the time I was done shooting everyone was staring at me. Though I still hit the target my shoulders were sore and my head hurt.

This was NOT the right gun for me.

Of course my husband did not see my problem. He was gracious enough to take the gun (which I now see is a conspiracy on the part of men)

and I continued on my search for the right gun. Unlike most men I know, I was not raised shooting a gun.

I knew very little about them and found that in this case **knowledge and comfort** were the two most important things I needed to focus on.

Guns scare me and I needed a gun that I could feel safe around, know how to load and unload, and that I could ensure was safe around my children.

These were not things that anyone in a gun shop had ever asked me about and I knew that needed to change.

When a woman comes into my shop the questions I ask are....

- 1. **Do you have children in the house?** (to me anyone under 18 is a child) SAFETY SAFETY SAFETY
- 2. **Is this your first gun?** I usually recommend a revolver for a first time gun owner - super easy to load, unload and clean.
- 3. **Do you plan on carrying this gun for personal security?** Makes a difference on size, weight and safety features
- 4. **Do you plan on taking this gun out for target practice?** (which I strongly recommend so that you become comfortable with the gun)
- 5. **Will anyone else be using this gun (at the range)?** Most men don't like shooting pink guns

When a woman comes into my shop these are questions that THEY ask me about handguns....

- 1. **How do I open the gun to put in the bullets?** The revolver is the easiest of the handguns to load and unload. In the case of a semi-automatic pistol, some guns required you to load the clip and then ratchet the gun back to put one bullet in the chamber. Not all pistols require ratcheting. Make sure if you buy a semi-automatic pistol that you CLEARLY UNDERSTAND from the seller how to load the gun correctly. Guns should come with an instruction manual that should also have instructions. Do not be embarrassed to ask!!!! This is going to be your line of defense and you need to know how to use it.
- 2. **What if the bullet jams?** Revolvers do not jam. In the case of a semi-automatic pistol it is possible to have a bullet jam due to inferior ammunition; the gun needing to be cleaned or a weak or stiff clip spring. Jams do happen in semi-automatic pistols and you MUST know how to clear the jam safely. Ask your seller and read the instruction manual.
- 3. **How do I know the gun is loaded?** In the case of a revolver, you slide open the cylinder and can easily see if the gun is loaded. Some semi-automatic pistols have "load" indicators such as a colored dot. ALWAYS PRESUME THAT A GUN IS LOADED. When looking at a pistol always remove the clip and ratchet back the slide to view inside the gun to make sure it is empty. Do not look down the barrel or pull the trigger to check. All it takes is one bullet!
- 4. **My husband said that I need a .40 or .45 caliber gun because anything smaller won't stop someone.** More people are killed by a .22 cal. bullet then any other round. The purpose of a gun is to PREVENT harm, not to cause it. It is more important that you are able to load the gun and can control it. I recommend a .38 special or 9 mm for woman. If they want a larger caliber I always suggest that they shoot one first before making that their first gun. Some gun shops offer an indoor or outdoor range where you can rent a gun, which is an excellent way to try different types of handguns.
- 5. **My husband said I should have a gun with a laser...is that true?** Lasers are very popular and definitely make a gun "cool" looking but I always tell people to know how to aim their gun correctly first, and not to depend on the red dot. On a bright sunny day the dot may not be visible.
- 6. **How much should I spend on my first gun?** Depending on the brand and style of gun you choose, your gun could cost anywhere from \$250 and up. Most guns come with a basic warranty (if purchased new). We sell handguns that can cost up to \$1500 but we don't recommend anything like that for a first time buyer. We sell a nice selection of revolvers for \$300 and up. There is nothing wrong with a used gun for a first time owner as long as it has been inspected by an authorized gun dealer. Don't be afraid to ask friends and family for recommendations, it is an easy conversation starter!
- 7. **If I lock up the gun and need it in a hurry, what do I do?** Practice locking and unlocking your gun. Whether it is a cable lock through the gun itself or a trigger lock, make sure you know where the keys are and how it works. We do not recommend storing guns loaded. If you have a gun for personal protection leave a clip loaded but out of the gun (and out of the reach of children). My husband always teases me that if I ever needed my gun in a hurry I would be better off hitting the intruder with the gun box then trying to remove all the safety features. My response is that I have children in the house and that takes priority over everything else.
- 8. **How do I clean the gun? How often?** A clean gun is a gun that is going to serve you well. It takes very little time to clean a gun that has been fired and worth every minute. The instruction manual and/or gun dealer can show you how to properly clean and care for your gun. All inclusive kits are available for around \$15.00
- 9. **What difference does the barrel length make?** A great bit of difference. The longer the barrel the more accurate the gun. Most conceal and carry guns are short barreled and made for easy storage on your body. Some people have a gun for carrying and a gun for target shooting. There are quite a few guns designed to do both, just let your seller know what you want your gun for. We sell a short barreled .380 that is perfect for self protection but not a gun I would take to the range.
- 10. **How can I carry my gun?** *Check with your local gun laws. Every state is different.* In North Carolina, you need a Conceal & Carry permit to carry the gun on your body (out of plain sight). We sell several purses with holsters built right into them (since most women would be unable to find a gun in a hurry if they simply dropped their gun into their purse (ha ha). There are holsters designed for wearing on your hip, concealing inside your pants and ankle holsters. We sell a t-shirt where the holster is sewn onto the fabric and can be worn under another shirt (for both men and women). How you carry your gun is just as personal as what kind of gun you have.
- 11. **What is an ambidextrous clip release?** It is a button on semi-automatic pistols that allows the user to release the clip from either side of the gun (preferred by left handed shooters). Not all guns come with this feature.
- 12. **What if I already own a gun but I don't like it?** Depending on your local gun laws and local gun dealers you may be able to trade your gun in for one that is right for you. Always check around since the value of a gun varies GREATLY from one gun dealer to another. Our shop offers consignment (most shops do not). Be cautious of the neighbor that "will take it off your hands". That is usually a good indicator that the gun is worth more than they are offering. Don't be afraid to call around or look your gun up in the "Blue Book" for reasonable values. Be careful of using web sites to determine the value since in most cases the price listed is "asking price" and not what the gun sold for. Check your local laws before selling your gun to a private citizen.
- 13. **Someone gave me a gun. How do I register it?** Check your local laws since State Laws vary. North Carolina does not have a gun registration so therefore you are entitled to own the gun. If you are going to transport the gun across state lines CHECK WITH EACH STATE you will be traveling in first. If you have a Conceal & Carry permit for your state check and see what other states allow you to carry your gun in their states.
- 14. **Other than a gun, what do you recommend for personal protection?** With the introduction of tasers, people now (depending on your state's laws) have the ability to have a home protection device that can give them time to stop the intruder and get help. Tasers are usually designed to "shoot" a pronged device up to 15 feet - an electrical charge is applied and the person usually drops to the ground for 5 seconds - giving you the ability to defend yourself without direct contact. A background check is required when a taser is purchased to activate it. Most tasers cost over \$250.00 and re-fill cartridges can be \$30 or more.
- 15. **What do I need to buy a gun?** Check with local laws. In North Carolina a Purchase Permit or a Conceal & Carry Permit is required to purchase a handgun.
- 16. **Can I buy a gun from a dealer in another state?** Check with local laws. We can sell a gun to you and ship it to another state but it will be sent to a registered FFL Dealer (Federal Firearms Dealer). When you go to pick up the gun you must have whatever is required in your state (purchase permit, etc.). You will pay the purchasing gun dealer for the gun and shipping and the receiving gun dealer will charge a "Transfer Fee" which may be around \$25. All paperwork will be filled out by the receiving gun dealer. Bring your permit and identification (or whatever is required in your state). DO NOT buy a gun for someone else!
- 17. **What are the handgun purchase permit requirements?** In Pender County an applicant MUST be a citizen, naturalized or resident alien, be 21 years of age or older, lived in Pender County 30 days or more, Provide NC Drivers License with correct address OR Military ID with proof of residency in Pender County. Questions? Call (910) 259-1212 or go to their website to fill out an application on line. \$5 fee per permit.

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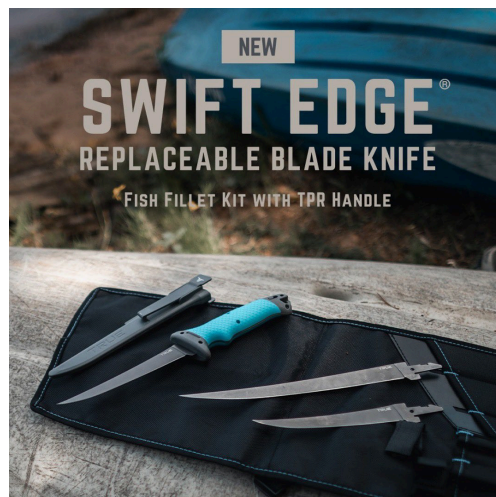


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