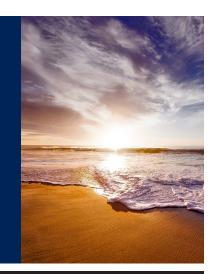


# TOPSAIL TIMES



TOPSAIL ISLAND, HOLLY RIDGE, HAMPSTEAD AND SNEADS FERRY

7th April, 2023

American-Owned. Free Press.

Volume III, Issue 7

FREE!

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT

AND THE ORIGINS OF

- Official holiday for Good Friday is observed in only 12 of the 50 states of United States.
- Easter can have 35 different dates, as it follows the Lunar cycle. It will take 5.7 million years for this date cycle to repeat itself.
- German settlers in the 1700s are believed to have introduced the customs of Easter decorations, with the Easter bunny giving gifts.
- Winter Haven in Florida holds the world record for hiding the maximum number of eggs in Easter celebrations, an astounding 5,000,000 eggs in 2007!
- The name "Easter" is derived from the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eastre, which symbolizes hare and egg.
- Easter always falls between March 22 and April 25.
- When it comes to eating chocolate bunnies, the ears are preferred to be eaten first by as many as 76% of people.
- The first Easter baskets were designed to give the appearance of a bird's nests.
- The custom of giving eggs at Easter time has been traced back from Egyptians, Gaul, Persians, Greeks and Romans, to whom the egg was a symbol of life.
- During the medieval times, a festival of egg throwing was held in church, during which the priest would throw a hard-boiled egg to one of the choirboys. It would then be tossed from one choirboy to the next and whoever held the egg when the clock struck 12 was the winner and retained the egg.
- Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. In the Julian Calendar, as in the Hindu calendar, the new year began with the spring equinox around April 1.
- People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes and were called "April fools." These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as "poisson d'avril" (April fish), said to symbolize a young, easily caught fish and a gullible person.
- Historians have also linked April Fools' Day to festivals such as Hilaria (Latin for joyful), which was celebrated in ancient Rome at the end of March by followers of the cult of Cybele. It involved people dressing up in disguises and mocking fellow citizens and even magistrates and was said to be inspired by the Egyptian legend of Isis, Osiris and Seth.

Credits to TheHolidaySpot.com for facts about Easter and History.com for information on April Fool's Day



# Topsail Times

# Print Dates 2023

April 21st May 5th May 19th June 9th June 23rd

# TOPSAIL TIMES NEWSPAPER —— •••

#### **Publisher**

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## **Letter To The Editor**

#### **By Matt Headley**

I moved down here in the fall of 2011. I've watched the population here double? triple? ... Yes, I'm part of the rest of the influx, but I argue with rural roots, and with some age... Yet at that time, people here were still recovering big time from the Great Recession after the crash of 2008. Things didn't START building again until probably the last half of 2012.

Someone posted on the nextdoor app saying he was a local moving out...
Granted... I'm staying... (stuck?) here with my career, but it's hard not to share the same sentiment... I'm NOT a cheerleader for the area anymore...

Since moving here, I have become single and living on my own. Despite having a decent paying job for this state, I can't afford a mortgage in this area. The price of double wide trailers in Hampstead alone have more than doubled in price. I recently saw a new double wide for sale for \$200,000! And it seems to be getting worse...

The island used to be a "fishing village". maybe a vacation real estate business, a dive grill where one could have an affordable bite to eat. Not any more. Now the cheapest meal is probably a burger or hot dog at the pier. Now it's boutiques and higher end shops.

Now it's vacationers on Topsail TLC reporting again and again that vacation rentals have gone up FAR above inflation. Home prices have probably more than doubled. I don't know if "gentrification" is what you call it, but how else do you describe an affordable place to live that is no longer affordable to most people.

I've personally known quite a few people that moved away. How about you? Have you yourself moved away or inland further?

The Topsail Magazine, which comes out quarterly, is no better. Latest issue is all about real estate. Forget about averages, here is the highest priced houses sold here, there, here, there. Oh, and here's an article about Surf City mayor Teresa Batts, who is a realtor. Who considers long time mayor Zander Guy a mentor, who was a realtor. It seemed everyone around me became a realtor around 2012 and it seemed like realtors multiplied like rabbits during that time. Capitalization? Part of the reason for this New Topsail Island? Cause/Effect? I don't know.

I don't blame people moving here pre-Covid. No matter where they were from, they were looking for a better life, same as I. I would probably caution them now at this point, however.

This area is far different than late 2011. And it's not just the growth itself in my argument, it's the growing lack of FINANCIAL diversity. In my life I've ALWAYS been the blue collar low to middle working class. I will always argue that most of them may struggle, but they may be more full of LIFE. And I'll leave it at that for interpretation and keep the pissing off at a minimum. Maybe this is partially to give the influx a broader picture of this area than Topsail Magazine. It's also not gonna get any cheaper. It's been reported that Pender County asked for another huge bond to build more schools soon which will raise taxes again.

I personally believe in capitalization without stomping on the poor, and would never say anything against working hard and earning a living, but the new influx seems to only be pushing the rest of us out. Look at everything that is being built now. It is all very expensive houses... or very expensive apartments. There won't be any single wide trailers being placed on anyone's \$100,000 1/27th of an acre property any longer.

Dare I say this area has become "yuppified"? I'm not sure at what point it is, but the longer I live here the more I believe it.



Historical photos are courtesy of the State Archives of North Carolina.



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## **Topsail Gun Gal**

#### **By Dorothy Royal**

So many tragedies could be avoided. In the news it does not take a lot of searching to find a heart-breaking story about a tragedy that could have been avoided. In Tennessee, 6 young girls, ages one to 18 years of age, were killed when the car they were in rolled during an accident. The two adults in the car survived. It is believed the six children were ejected from the vehicle, which may mean none were properly secured by car seats or seat belts. The result of this accident may have been different if the vehicle wasn't overloaded and the children were properly restrained.

A young New York teen without a driver's license took his cousin's rented car and took several of his young relatives on a joy ride. The young teen, just 16, crashed the vehicle, killing himself and four other members of his family, ranging in age from 17 to 8 years old. A nine-year-old boy survived. It was believed that the driver fell asleep or became distracted. Another driver witnessed the accident and was able to pull the 9-year-old out and to safety. It was reported that the driver's parents had forbidden him from driving on several occasions. The crash took place at 12:30 am.

A 28-year-old woman in Tennessee plotted to commit a horrific crime.

Armed with 2 handguns and a rifle, she entered an elementary school and took the lives of 3 adults and 3 children. She was killed on site by local law enforcement that were able to get to the school within 14 minutes of the 911 call. When questioned, her parents stated that she was being treated for an emotional disorder and that they were not aware of her purchasing weapons or having them in their home. On the morning of the event, her parents stopped her, questioning her about the contents of a bag she was carrying, but failed to pursue it beyond questions.

In Mexico, a group of men formed a protest in a detention center after being told they were going to be moved elsewhere and decided to light their mattresses on fire. When the smoke began to fill the center, the guards released the women and children but failed to open the doors to the area the men were in. By the time the fire was extinguished, 38 men were dead and 28 more injured.

All of the above horrific acts could have been avoided if just some simple steps were taken. How sad it is to live in a world where we know right from wrong but still tend to ignore it.

North Carolina Gun Laws UPDATE: On Wednesday, March 29th an Executive Order was issued to all North Carolina Sheriff Departments. "Do not issue any more pistol purchase permits. They are no longer required."

This was a long-fought battle between the Governor and the NC House and Senate, and not the first time the Governor has refused to sign such a bill into law, but this time was different. For the first time since 2018, the House and the Senate had the votes to overrule the Governor's Veto, and they did.

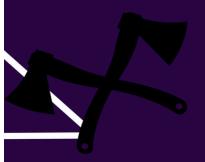
What does this mean for North Carolina residents? Effective immediately, if you are 21 years of age or older and are eligible to purchase a handgun, you can do so by going to your local gun shop without the hassle of applying for a permit. Up to date background checks will now be done on site at time of purchase.

No more paying \$5 per permit. No more driving to Burgaw (or your county's Sheriff Dept.) No more waiting for a few weeks to get your permits.

Remember knowledge is power, knowing right from wrong can make a difference, and laws should change as society changes.







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# The X-Ring

#### By Chris Blankenship

Stone Bay Rifle Range, Camp Lejeune NC. - Cold and rainy weather didn't deter a handful of determined marksmen from coming out to compete at Coastal Carolina Rifle Club's Across the Course match weekend on March

This match is fired from three different positions (standing, sitting, and prone), at three different yard lines (200, 300, and 600) with two different methods (slow fire and rapid-fire). Saturday was an 80 round/800 point match, Sunday being a CMP EIC match firing 50 rounds/500 points.

#### Saturday

About half the competitors at the match were teenagers and young adults with Junior Marksmanship Support Group (JMSG), one of two major NC organizations that support juniors (kids and young adults ages 12-20) in Highpower rifle competitions. While most came from the central part of the state, one 15-year-old is from the Holly Ridge area. Two of the juniors, a brother/sister combo, were new to the team. This was their first "full distance course," i.e., a true 600-vard range.

The adults were split between civilian and military personnel. Most everyone was firing what defines as a CMP/NRA Service Rifle: a military M16 or its civilian counterpart the AR-15, that is internally accurized, but must maintain the outward appearance of the stock service rifle. Iron sights or a 4.5 power optic are allowed on Service Rifle. One Match Rifle shooter showed up. Match Rifles can be much more free-form and either a bolt action or semi-auto.

When the weather wasn't deemed bad enough for a rain delay, shooters were squatted on their firing points into 4 relays. Once done, 3rd and 4th relay went to the pits to pull and mark targets, 1 and 2 got ready to shoot the Standing stage. The person must hold the rifle with no sling or artificial support.

Now, most folks know that cold and wet makes one "shivery." That's not great for fine motor skills, but the wind is much more of a monster. As the competitors took aim at their downrange targets, a north wind was pummeling them around. The 1st and 2nd relays made it through getting beat up in the cold wind, but the 3rd and 4th were to have some worse luck.

Relays 3 and 4 had a mix of experienced adults and military along with one of the new juniors. These relays began getting precipitation that ranged from mist to light rain in addition to gusting winds.

The aiming black of the 200-yard target is 13 inches. It consists of a 3-inch X-ring, a seven inch 10-ring, and the remainder is the 9-ring. A 20-shot stage has a possible 200 points. Most of the top shooters are looking to only drop one or two points. Some have "cleaned" the target with a full 200 points, but that's incredibly rare (national record for Standing is a 200-16x). Given the conditions Saturday, that wasn't going to happen, even for the best. The best at this match were only holding the black, with some shots into the white 8, 7, 6 or 5 rings. A few were buffeted around into visible misses (shots outside the 5 ring). The Standing stage was won by a U.S. Army soldier who shot a 182-2x. Meanwhile, the new juniors got a lesson in "if you can shoot in this, you can shoot in anything."

The 200-yard Sitting rapid-fire stages mostly went off without much of a hitch. Sitting, being a more stable position as well as sling supported, had the wind affect the movement of the rifles much less, but mentally, the cold and rain was still working them over. The competitors fired two 10 round strings, with each string having a 60 second time limit. This stage was won by one of the juniors, Colby Smith, dropping only two points for a 198 and getting 11 X's.

The 300-yard Prone rapid-fire stage, while fired from an even more stable, sling-supported position, causes the competitor to have to really watch the wind. Not only does one have to make a good wind call right at the start of the 70 second string, they have to be prepared to either hold over or dial the windage knobs while firing. A sudden change in the wind can move a group around if it's not noticed. One of the junior team coaches and a former junior herself, Savannah Andrews managed to make the right call and hang on through both strings to win the stage with a 199-2x.

The 600-yard Prone slow fire stage of 22 shots (2 sighters and 20 record shots) in 22 minutes is what many who first hear about Highpower believe to be the most difficult. That answer is: it depends. Today, the wind had calmed down significantly during the changes from the 300 to the 600-yard line. The "fishtail" from the generally north wind could still catch many unaware. Winds that were accounted for would suddenly stop or quickly turn and come from the other direction. Less skilled folks were dropping 15 to 20 points, the newbies much more so; however, a retired Marine, and one of two seniors in the match came off the line as stage winner having dropped only six points and

hitting the 6 inch, 600-yard X-ring six times for a 194-6x.

At the end of the day, junior Colby Smith bested his teammates and the adults for the match win. Junior coach Savannah Andrews came in just behind for second place, while U.S. Army SPC-4 Zachery Frazier came in third.

#### Sunday

The 50 round EIC match is the more important match of the weekend for those civilians and military service members chasing points for the Distinguished Badge. This leads to a much greater degree of "match nerves" for those in the running. It's also where "if it can go wrong, it will go wrong," and "it's not over until it's over" comes into play.

Starting out sunny and nicer than Saturday, the lack of rain was welcome by all. The wind was blowing again, but not as bad as the day prior. There were still lower than average standing scores for many competitors. An Army soldier took the standing by X-count with a 91-3x vs. Savannah's 91-2x. The 200yard sitting rapid-fire had only one "clean," a 100-2x by one of the Army soldiers. There were a number of high 90's scores, however. Junior Colby Smith, the previous day's match winner, crossfired onto another target, leaving a score of "0" for that shot.

The 300-yard line had a little bit of tricky winds, depending on which relay one found themselves on. One relay, though, had several shooters saving rounds ... much more than any other point over the whole two days of rapid-fire strings. These guys unfortunately got big 0's for each round they did not get downrange. On the other end of the performance spectrum, three competitors, Savannah and the two Army shooters had the same aggregate score of 287 after the 300yard line was done. Savannah was in the lead by X count having seven X's to their four and two, respectively. They were trailed closely by Colby who was only two points down behind them (if only he hadn't crossfired earlier).

At a leg match, later in the day is where the pressure starts to build up. Knowing that your competition is right there with you or so close that a small mistake can put them ahead. Some people thrive under pressure, some try to isolate themselves from the scoreboard so they don't get those thoughts in their head, some will constantly check and begin to crack. For these folks, their 600-yard performance would be the determining factor.

Sunday's 600-yard slow fire was worse wind-wise than Saturday. Where Saturday got better as the day progressed, Sunday saw the winds blowing and gusting harder. In the end Savannah came through on top at the 600-yard line, dropping only 12 points for a 188-4x. She would go on to be the EIC match winner, getting six points toward her U.S. Distinguished Rifleman's

While having an outstanding performance given the competition and conditions, Savannah still assisted the JMSG Head Coach, John Ayala with coaching and instructing new and veteran juniors through the weekend. Not a small task to have a good personal performance behind the rifle while also being focused on those around vou.



"Junior shooter Hunter Blankenship, 15, of Holly Ridge, NC, takes aim from the 600 yard line."



"Savannah Andrews, winner of the EIC Leg match at the 200-yard standing stage."

# " Planning For The Future "

Holly Ridge- The Greater Topsail Area Economic Planning Summit, held on March 15 in Holly Ridge, brought together a wide range of community leaders and residents to discuss key issues in the region's future

In this extremely fast-growing region of southeastern North Carolina, it's important to take time to think ahead and plan for the future. For that very reason, The Greater Topsail Area Chamber hosted the Greater Topsail Area Economic Planning Summit, aka Envision Penslow 2040, on March 15, giving public, private, nonprofit entities and residents a chance to envision the economic development of the region. The event was held at Onslow Bay Boatworks in the Camp Davis Industrial Park in Holly Ridge and primarily sponsored by Treasure Realty.

With the assistance of Greenfield, a regional economic consulting firm, and JOED, an area economic development entity, the community forum was organized as a regional approach to planned economic development.

Community leaders from Holly Ridge, Scotts Hill, Hampstead, Pender County, Jacksonville, Onslow County, Topsail

Beach, North Topsail Beach and Surf City along with the Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce came together to help organize Envision Penslow 2040, providing opportunities for networking and communication and coordination among public, private and nonprofit leaders from Pender, Onslow and New Hanover counties. In attendance were representatives from local, state and federal government, NCDOT leadership, utility planners, business owners, farmers and foresters, developers, educators, environmental conservation groups, nonprofits and more.

Leaders addressed growth and community issues that cross county, municipal and military boundaries. The Summit focused on five key issues:

- water resources
- business/industry development
- transportation mapping
- utilities expansion
- community planning.

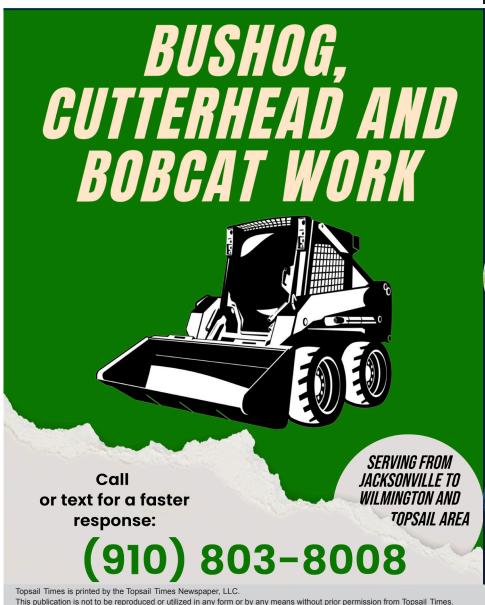
The event provided decision-support resources and consensus next steps to current regional leaders, which will enable them to address and harmonize critical land use and investment decisions; support cost effective and

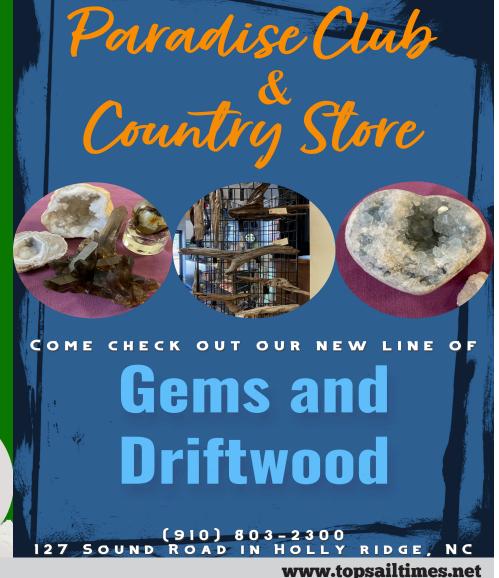
sustainable transportation, utilities and water infrastructure investments; protect and enhance the region's traditional agricultural and coastal resources, forestry, tourism and military-based economies; designate lands for green space; and proactively consider risks from disasters. The regional Topsail Chamber was tasked with forming a focus group to research and move forward the work identified at the summit.

Everyone in attendance was treated to a Southern Pig Pickin' lunch sponsored by ONWASA.









#### 7th April, 2023

# **OCPAW:** Food Aggression In Dogs

#### **By Dotty Harding**

President & CEO

Onslow County Partners for Animal Welfare

It's dinnertime at your home, and there are a lot of interactions and distractions going on simultaneously. Then suddenly, out of the corner of your eye, your child is by the dog and his food bowl and screaming. You bolt over to them and find the dog cowering on the floor and your child shaken and hysterically crying. What Just Happened!!! What happened was you were not paying attention! The situation could have had a terrible outcome, and with most incidents in life, it occurs in seconds and shakes you to the core. This article will get your attention and help vou manage interactions between your family and pets. There are many articles you can find online which have in-depth information to assist you further.

A natural, normal behavior in dogs is guarding their food, but this can produce an unsafe environment for other family members, including other dogs. Here are some ideas on how to manage this behavior. Some studies state that 20% of dogs have food aggression.

Food aggression is part of a more extensive behavior known as resource guarding of other valuable items, including toys, crates, and treats. In the wild, they die if canines do not protect valuable resources.

#### It's up to you to manage your pet's environment

- Feed your dog in a non-threatening low-traffic area.
- Show them when you approach, they get more food. So as you come toward them, from a distance, toss a small piece of chicken toward their area and gradually decrease the space. (See "The 'I Come in Peace' Resourse-Guarding Modification Protocol," Whole Dog Journal May 2020.)

#### What's The Cause

- It can be learned in puppyhood by training practices or in a litter with limited resources.
- Dogs can also develop food aggression later in life as well. They become more protective over their resources, most importantly, their food.
- While there can be several causes for food aggression in dogs, those that spend time in a shelter may be at higher risk of experiencing this resourceguarding tendency.

#### Dog-Dog Food Aggression Can Worsen Over Time

The best case scenario resolved without escalation is when another dog approaches a dog while eating; the dog eating will usually freeze or stare at the other dog to tell them to back off; this is my food!

If the approaching dog doesn't get the message of the guarder, an attack could occur, which could be violent. By failing to manage mealtimes, the misunderstandings will grow, and their relationship will be affected.

#### Management Tools

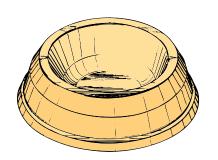
When feeding your dogs place the bowls at least 10 feet apart, and their owner should play the part of "food –police" during their mealtimes to prevent interaction. You could also consider feeding them in separate rooms to avoid any interactions.

#### What Not To Do

It's inappropriate to take a dog's food away without warning or put your hand in his bowl while he is eating to prove you are the boss or the "alpha". Be aware that these actions can exacerbate food aggression or create guarding behavior. Instead, exercise correct behaviors around mealtime, and your dog will be calm and comfortable with you and the presence of others.

Cats can also be aggressive. I have a friend with a cat who will lie in wait or sneak up behind you and inflict deep bleeding scratches. She even was attacked while she was asleep. Emerging Infections Diseases estimate that 12,000 outpatients are diagnosed with the catscratch disease in the United States each year, and about 500 inpatients are hospitalized for the disease.

You must control aggression in your dog when expressed in any form, as it could result in life-changing events. No one wants to deal with an aggressive dog, not boarding facilities, pet sitters, family, or friends, so you will have difficulty when you require assistance or companionship from them. The worse outcome would be a child that could be mauled who wandered too close to a dog who was eating their food, treat, or toy. This event would result in the euthanasia of the dog and years of physical and psychological trauma for the child.









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# **Coastal Common Sense**

#### By Kim McGahey

Why is there such a pronounced cultural divide in America? Why is the void between the Left and the Right so wide? What caused people to drift so far apart in what seems like such a short time? One word - God.

The Founding Fathers built one nation under God with all our rights and liberties derived from God and not from man. For 200 years the lamp that guided the prosperous expansion of our country was placed securely on that alter.

The Founders studied all past civilizations and determined that only a religious people with faith in the God of creation could withstand the enduring punishment of human nature with its inherent greed, selfishness and deceit. Allowed to run unchecked, these negative natural attributes have destroyed every civilization in human history; and they are currently working to undermine our great country.

If God was placed at the head of the ship of state by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, where has He gone since then? He has been systematically removed from our culture one small step at a time. First, it was the removal of the Ten Commandments from courthouses to be replaced by secular writings. Then the statues of Jesus were not permitted on public land being replaced by contemporary cultural heroes. Then the Pledge of Allegiance was not permitted in schools having been replaced by drag queen library hours.

Then the divine assault became more aggressive and the atheists in power clamped down on every reference to God in the public square. They justified the censorship citing Thomas Jefferson's doctrine of the Separation of Church and State; but Jefferson said no such thing. Rather, a U.S. Supreme Court decision in the 1940's made a vague reference

calling for a separation, and the rest is history.

The demand to remove God from any taxpayer funded entity became their clarion call and one courthouse, one school and one state at a time quietly without protest put God on the back burner leaving a God-sized hole in our culture.

Science tells us that anytime there is a hole, gravity will fill the vacuum. In this case, the God-sized hole has steadily been filled with many other less enduring beliefs like ego, power and man's sinful craving to control the world around him. All of which is embodied in what today's Marxists worship as The

This new religion places the state as the most high power. They see the state as the answer to all human problems and the unseen force that manages all earthly affairs. Obedience is mandatory in this expanding creed and any dissent is silenced. No longer are the Golden Rule and the Rule of Law guiding society, having been usurped by an entitlement mentality of take what you can get.

Once God is removed and the state reigns supreme, then it is left up to mere men to rule, and they never rule wisely. These elites think they are smarter than the rest of us and thereby have the right, in fact the moral duty, to exert their unearned power over us. With no higher authority to restrain them, they naturally digress into greed, deceit and selfishness.

This has been our moral decline for the past 100 years in America. We have created a generation that no longer sees God as the guarantor of our liberty. Instead, the halls of power in government, academia, K-12 education, entertainment, business and our homes have been taken over by godless people whose empty souls require constant chaos in order to control we the people. This is today's Left.

MARY KAY

They have no Judeo-Christian belief and thus no sense of absolute right and wrong by which to acknowledge or judge eternal truth. Their moral relativism permits each individual to have their own variable truth that can be changed to apply to any situation. Today's truth for you is relative to my truth for tomorrow. This leads to men controlling other men without firm rules in order to satisfy their incessant craving for power.

The Right, by contrast, has a biblical belief system that naturally places everything under God. We believe in God's control, in laissez-faire

government and don't tell me what to do or how to live. We believe in the Godgiven rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness - none of which can be commuted by mere men.

The gulf between those who believe in God and those who don't grows ever wider; and the only bridge is to bring God back into the seats of government and the seats at our kitchen tables. We must fight for this at the ballot box by electing representatives to all levels of government from school board to president who will put God back in His rightful place.



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# **Community Updates**

# **Pet Supplies And Tails**

#### By Brittany Ely-Smith

On March 18th, 2023, Pet Supplies Plus held their Scales and Tails reptile event. During this event they were supported by our local Ecological Marine Adventures (EMA) Touch Tank Aquarium and a local snake rescue. EMA brought a skink and a chameleon to show Pet Supplies Plus customers a little of what they do. John and his crew brought different types of snakes including, ball pythons, a corn snake, a rainbow boa,

and a red tail boa that customers could look at and touch.

Pet Supplies Plus had a table set up with giveaways, fun fact coloring sheets for kids, and a raffle. Some customers even brought their own reptiles to show off during the event and show support! Overall, the event turnout was great, and customers seemed to enjoy themselves. Pet Supplies Plus will continue to support local businesses and the community with all their pet needs.











# **FOR SALE**

Like New 34ft **2021 DELLA TERRA RV** \$28,000

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# The Spring Garden **Festival**

The Spring Garden Festival, sponsored by the Onslow County Extension Master Gardener Volunteers, will be held Saturday, April 15, from 8:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M., at the Multipurpose Complex, 4024 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville, NC, 28540. The event will be located next to the Onslow County Farmers' Market.

- A variety of locally grown vegetables, herbs, perennials, and landscape plants will be for sale.
- Information on gardening in Onslow County will be available.
- A Master Gardener will be present to answer gardening questions at the Ask a Master Gardener Booth
- Free activities for children will occur during the Festival.
- Rain barrels, made by the Onslow County Master Gardeners, will be for sale for \$70.00 per barrel.

- A raffle for beautiful garden-themed haskets will be held
- Garden accessories, built for the event, will be available for purchase.

Find more information about the Spring Garden Festival on Facebook @GardeninginOnslowCounty. If you have questions, please contact Emilee Morrison at emilee\_morrison@ncsu.edu or call 910-455-5873





Master Gardener | Onslow County

**Onslow County Master Gardener Volunteers Spring** Garden Festival

April 15, 2023

- Vegetables, herbs, and landscape plants for sale
- Information on gardening in **Onslow County**
- Ask a Master Gardener
- Activities for the children!

The event will be set up in front of the Onslow County Multipurpose Complex! 4024 Richlands Hwy Jacksonville NC 28540



Contact Emilee Morrison with questi Emilee\_morrison@ncsu.edu 910-455-5873

# Pirate Treasure Hunt Hike Coming To Soundside Park On April 29

SURF CITY- Pirates are returning to Topsail Island on April 29. As part of the Year of the Trail celebration, a band of pirates will lead the Pirate Treasure Hunt Hike in Soundside Park, 517 Roland Ave., Surf City.

"Pirate legend and lore is a part of Pender County's history," said Tammy Proctor, Pender County Tourism director. "It's only fitting that a troupe of pirates take us along a path of hidden treasure."

The Pirate Treasure Hunt Hike will meet at the picnic shelter at 11 a.m. The hike is less than 1-mile along the Soundside Park boardwalk. At noon, following the hike, families are invited to bring their lunches and dine with the pirates at the picnic shelter.

The event is free of charge. Pets are prohibited on hikes.

This swashbuckling adventure is made possible with the collaboration of our merry band of pirates, Surf City Parks and Recreation, and Pender County Tourism.

The Year of the Trail is a statewide celebration to introduce North Carolinians to state trails. Pender County and its partners are sponsoring one family-fun hike per month. The May hike will venture into Holly Shelter Game Land on May 16, 9:30 a.m.

For more information call 910-259-1278 or 910-789-2971.



APRIL 29
II A.M. - 12 P.M.
SOUNDSIDE PARK

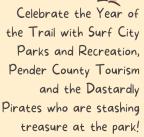
MATEYS! PACK YOUR OWN LUNCH AND HAVE LUNCH WITH THE PIRATES FROM NOON - I P.M.

FREE FUN FOR THE FAMILY!









Call 910-259-1278 or 910-789-2971





May 16, 9:30 a.m. Meet at the gate on US Hwy 17 in Hampstead

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#### 7th April, 2023

## **More Than A Gal**

#### **By Carol Ann Ross**

As you get older you start paying attention to the things that people actually do, not just what they say they will do. You pay attention to see if their knowledge is baloney or if it is founded on fact. And you listen to see If they'll say, "I don't know," or if they'll lead you down some road to make you believe they do. I think that's called peeing on your head and telling you it's raining.

But the Gun Gal is not one of them sort of people. Yes, that's right, I'm speaking of this paper's own Gun Gal, Dorothy Royal. You may not like everything she says, but she's a straight shooter and she speaks from an informed point of view and heart. Be prepared to know what you're talking about if you decide to cross opinions with Dorothy. She's all about what really is, not just what it might be.

The truth is, there is a big drug problem in our area. There have been many suicides in recent years. This is sad, and everyone can talk about how sad it is, but who is doing anything about it? Some towns are building more and more houses, building more grocery stores, more gift shops, more bars-all this while our roads stay the way they were 50 years ago.

And what about the kids, the young people. What are they supposed to do. especially at night when only the bars are open? Dare I say it, but Idle hands are the work of the devil. When young people don't have anything to do, they get in trouble. Well, I guess you can simply stick some kind of screen in front of their face and that might solve the problem. Yeah, right.

What do the local towns offer families? What are towns creating for families and their children? Unless you go to the beach, there is very little for them in our area (Holly Ridge, Topsail Island, Sneads Ferry).

My hat is off to Dorothy and her husband Ricky who own and operate Paradise Axe and Arcade.

It is one of the only places that caters to family fun. It seems that Holly Ridge, the once 'bump in the road' seems to be coming to the plate and doing something for the families of our area.

I asked Dorothy what prompted her to start Paradise Axe and Arcade. She told me how she and Ricky were talking about the drug problem, about how people never get out and play anymore, how they are always on some kind of device. "Well, when you walk into the Arcade, you have to put your phone down to participate...people stay there for hours, they're caught up in the fun, they interact with one another."

This alone is to be commended and one must respect Dorothy's decision to create something for the whole family. But Dorothy has done more, she took action when The Topsail Advertiser pulled up and left the area without a newspaper. Along with her daughter, she created The Topsail Times Newspaper. It fills a need and is an outlet that listens to everyone. She also supports local veterans, and hosts events for them. Dorothy is active in a community that is growing, supporting individuals interested in the town growing responsibly.

Though not born in North Carolina, Dorothy grew up visiting, as so many others have done. Her father was born in Wilmington and his extensive family still resides in the area today.

Dorothy was born in New York and

grew up next to a 5000 acre state park, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, which she considered her playground. Her father, Henderson Cole was a senior physicist with IBM, who traveled extensively around the world. Her parents met while he as a student at MIT in Boston. Her mother, who was from Maine, spoke French until she was a teenager, was also a

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art gallery in New York, which was her passion. After graduating from college with a degree in criminal justice and equine studies, Dorothy knew her future was not in the high stress life of New York and decided to make a move to Topsail

world traveler and worked for American

Express Travel. Her mother also ran an

Island. She was familiar with the area and felt at home. Many of you may have known her great uncle Harvey Jones. Some of you may remember him, he owned and operated the Dolphin Fishing Pier, back in the day and built the Topsail Greens golf course (that is now just houses). If you didn't know, he worked as an engineer and designed the Holly Ridge street layout for Camp Davis. Cole Street in Holly Ridge is named after his wife, Elsie Cole. Cole Street also happens to be one of the streets where Paradise Axe and Arcade is located.

When Dorothy moved to Topsail Island in 1991, she set up her first business, a print shop. A couple years later she met her husband Ricky, and together they started a land clearing company that evolved into a construction company. In 2009 she and Ricky opened Surf City Guns and Ammo. It's located at 127 Sound Road, right next to Paradise Axe and Arcade.

Kudos to Dorothy for being such an enterprising woman, for caring about her community and doing something

about it. Thank you Dorothy, for even though you do not hold an office, you have moved your community in a positive direction.



Dorothy with her brother and father in front of Dolphin Pier





# Pender County Area Volunteers Honored With The 2023 Governor's Volunteer Service Award

BURGAW – The North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service has presented the 2023 Governor's Volunteer Service Award to eight recipients from Pender County.

Award recipients are Scott Franko, Diane Mangus, Leo Urban, Jim and Kathy Sabella, Jeanette Jones, and Dixie Rinehart. In addition, Jaliese Blackburn is a recipient of an award recognizing her for her work as a paid Director of Volunteers.

"We are pleased to honor these volunteers," said Tammy Proctor, the Pender County Coordinator in the Governor's Volunteer Service Award program. "These volunteers have given hundreds of hours in Pender County for the betterment of the community."

Scott Franko, the current chairman of the board of directors for the Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce, was recognized for his many volunteer endeavors, including spearheading an economic development committee and being a Rotarian.

Diane Mangus, a volunteer with the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program of Pender (RSVP), was honored for her hours of service at the Topsail Senior Center as well as volunteers with the Hampstead Women's Club, an organization that is dedicated to giving back to the community.

Leo Urban, a volunteer with a myriad of organizations, is a Rotarian who organized a Santa Hayride, renovates homes for the Roots of Recovery, delivers food for Share the Table, and works with disaster recovery organizations.

Jim and Kathy Sabella were honored and recognized for their work together with RSVP Americorp. Kathy started a food pantry at St. Joseph's and All Saints Catholic Church. Together they work in the pantry for up to 10 hours per week, serving more than 20 families per week. Kathy has tutored in the RSVP reading buddy program.

**Jeanette Jones** was honored for her work today in preserving yesterday's history.

The past president of the Pender County Historical Society, Jeanette has been instrumental in gathering information and artifacts for Pender Historical Museum, as well as active in fundraising events, such as spearheading the Burgaw Homes Tour each December. She has been a volunteer with the Ghost Walk: Ghosts of Pender's Past since the event's inception.

Dixie Rhinehart has been a Meals on Wheels volunteer and serves on the "friends program" with Americorp/RSVP. Dixie serves various ministries in her church. She also delivers Ensure protein supplements to residents in Hampstead through the Topsail Senior Center.

Jaliese Blackburn was honored in the Paid Director category for her work in overseeing, encouraging, and organizing a multitude of volunteers for the NC Blueberry Festival. The festival is a huge undertaking that requires an army of volunteers and Jaliese was honored with the Governor's Volunteer Service Award for her outstanding work with volunteers.

April 16-22 is National Volunteer Recognition Week.

The Governor's Volunteer Service Award honors people who have shown concern and compassion for their neighbors by making a significant contribution to their community through volunteer service. The award was created in the Office of the Governor in





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#### **Red Fish**

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say about red tabby
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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!



#### **Battlet Teens**

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

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



#### Shrimp

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

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



#### **Perch**

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

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



#### Roughy

I am a GORGEOUS long haired orange tabby boy & my fur is soooo 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!



#### **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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7th April, 2023

#### **NC Pistol Purchase Permits**

## By Sheriff Alan Cutler, Pender County Sheriff's Office

March 29th, 2023

Effective immediately, pistol purchase permits will no longer be issued by any Sheriff in North Carolina. The Pender County Sheriff's Office has stopped processing pistol purchase permit applications including pending applications.

All state laws regarding the issuance of pistol purchase permits by Sheriffs in North Carolina were repealed on Wednesday morning following a vote by the General Assembly to override Governor Roy Cooper's veto of Senate Bill 41, Guarantee 2nd Amendment Freedom and Protections.

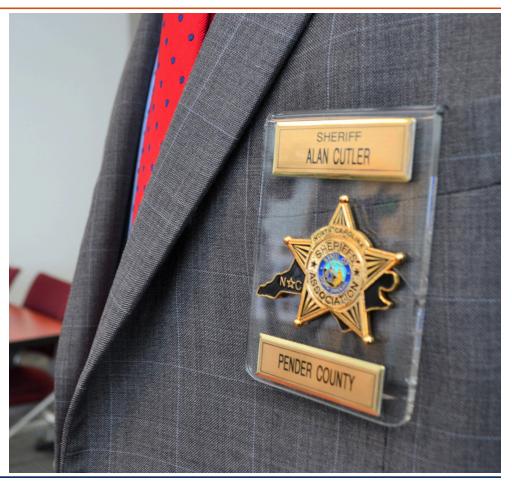
This means any person who wants to purchase or transfer a handgun in North Carolina no longer has to apply to the Sheriff for a pistol purchase permit. However, any person who wants to purchase a handgun through a firearms dealer will still undergo the background check required under current law and either be sold the handgun or denied

sale if the background check indicates the person is disqualified from possessing a firearm.

Criminal penalties still apply for anyone that knowingly transfers a handgun to a person who may not lawfully possess the firearm (such as a convicted felon). Therefore, it is important for citizens to remember that anyone wishing to obtain or transfer any firearm, including a handgun, must still comply with federal and State laws governing who may lawfully possess a firearm.

It is important to understand that North Carolina concealed handgun laws have NOT changed.

Any person residing in Pender County wishing to carry a concealed handgun in North Carolina must still apply for and be issued a concealed handgun permit by the Sheriff.



Volume III, Issu



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Apple
Peach
Raspberry
Imbe

Fig Orange Olive Lime Salmonberry

Dates Acai Yumberry



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
- 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 active 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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