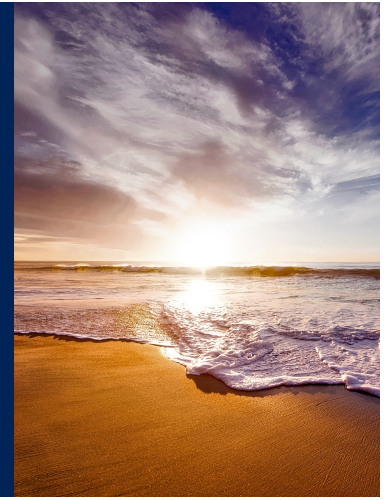




TOPSAIL TIMES

TOPSAIL ISLAND, HOLLY RIDGE, HAMPSTEAD AND SNEADS FERRY



● 21st April, 2023

● American-Owned. Free Press.

● Volume III, Issue 8

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What's In A Zip Code?

At the Holly Ridge Town meeting on Tuesday, April 11th, an item on the agenda was to discuss a proposal regarding the current zip code, 28445. The item to consider was for the Town of Holly Ridge to give Surf City and Topsail Beach the current zip code and to apply for their own. Members of the community came out to speak against the proposal and council members agreed. Holly Ridge would keep their own zip code but would support an effort for Surf City and Topsail Beach to get their own zip code, if able.

For those who have lived in the area or those who are new to it, the current 28445 zip code covers two Counties (Pender and Onslow) and includes 3 very different towns: Holly Ridge, Surf City and Topsail Beach.

Holly Ridge is a mainland community and does not share the oceanfront beauty (or risks) that both Surf City and Topsail Beach share. The zip code can be very confusing when someone is making plans to visit, when researching an area (like a franchise) or when delivering a package.

Residents and business owners of both Topsail Beach and Surf City have complained for years about having to share the zip code with Holly Ridge. During his time in office, Surf City Mayor

Zander Guy was able to have Surf City added to the 28445 zip code, which today is still hit or miss when entering the information.

Complications from sharing a zip code with different counties includes sales tax being wrongly applied to the wrong county. Currently Onslow County is 7% and Pender County is 6 ¾%. Anna White, a resident of Surf City stated that she has had conversations with some of the larger stores in town charging the wrong amount of sales tax. "Most of the time the employees apologize but they always look confused. If it goes on for years that is a lot of money being overcharged to Pender residents." With a drastic increase in online sales (especially during Covid), a concern has arisen due to which county online companies are paying sales tax to for the sales made.

The Holly Ridge Council members voted to support assisting neighboring Surf City and Topsail Beach in the attempt to get their own zip code, if possible. The process, Councilwoman Pam Hall announced, is not an easy one. Is this a new issue? No. Back in 2015 local residents and business owners in Surf City pushed to get their own zip code and were told that the application could only be submitted every ten years.

Both Surf City and Topsail Beach have their own brick and mortar post office buildings. They both provide mail service, mailboxes and shipping services. Home and business delivery is available in all three towns.

Until recently the postmaster of Topsail Beach would travel daily to Sneads Ferry to gather all the mail and packages for Holly Ridge, Surf City and Topsail Beach. At the end of the day she would collect the mail and packages from Topsail Beach, Surf City and Holly Ridge and bring them to Sneads Ferry.

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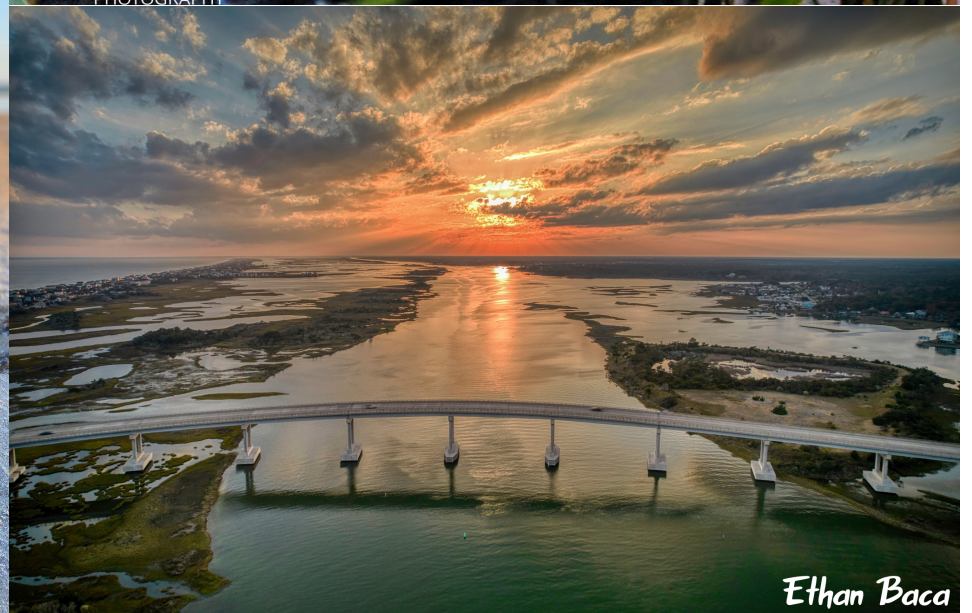


Shannon Skiff



William H. Sumner wreckage

Shannon Skiff



Ethan Baca



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Topsail Times

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Surf City BBQ

Rebecca Royal and her husband Guy run one of the most popular BBQ restaurants around.

Surf City BBQ has been a fixture in the Topsail area since May of 2013. Their first location was on the island next to Domino's Pizza. After outgrowing that location, they took over their current spot at 15300 Hwy 50 in Surf City, in the Surf City Gateway Plaza shopping center next to Sherwin William's Paint and Tommy J's Jewelry.

A family run business, Rebecca and her husband work alongside her son and sister, but consider their staff family too.

The restaurant, which is open year round, does close in the winter (Thanksgiving to mid-December) for a well-deserved break.

Their menu includes whole hog, eastern NC, vinegar based, cleaver chopped, barbeque prepared by Guy himself. Prime Rib, Chicken (fried, applewood smoked or smothered), pork ribs, Catfish, Flounder, Shrimp, Pork loin, Brunswick Stew, fresh sides and delicious deserts are available daily.

The business can accommodate large groups and offers catering for all your special events.

Closed on Sunday and Mondays, the restaurant opens at 11am Tuesday through Saturday and serves lunch and dinner.



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New North Carolina Gun Laws And Fun With The 4473 Federal Form

By Dorothy Royal

If you have been following the recent news in North Carolina, you are aware that you no longer need a purchase permit to buy a handgun. Background checks are now done on site at time of purchase. Existing paper permits are no longer valid and people who had permits pending at the local Sheriff's office will not be getting a refund (sorry). The North Carolina Conceal and Carry Permit is still valid and active and will allow a buyer to purchase handguns and long guns without an additional background check.

This news came on abruptly to both FFLs (Federally licensed firearm dealers) as well as consumers when the NC House and Senate voted to override the Governor's veto of the Bill which removed the requirement for a purchase permit.

Are you still required to be a North Carolina resident with a valid government issued photo ID and be 21 years of age or older?

The answer is YES. The only exception to the residency is for active military stationed in North Carolina.

A Federal Judge has ruled that the Department of Justice's claim of forbidding users of marijuana from owning firearms is Unconstitutional. Possession of marijuana is now a misdemeanor federally and, in many states, legal both for medical and recreation use. It will be interesting to see if they remove the question on the federal 4473 form to purchase a firearm that asks if the purchaser is an unlawful user of or addicted to marijuana. The form does state that "The use or possession of marijuana remains unlawful under Federal law regardless of whether it has been legalized or decriminalized for medical or recreational purposes in the state where you reside." How odd, don't you think?

The judge's ruling comes after a long list of challenges over the scrutiny of gun restrictions posed by the Department of Justice.

Recently it was determined that the ATF overstepped their authority by banning the "bump-fire" designed rifle stocks after approving them for years. The ATF does not make laws or rules. Not learning their lesson, the ATF has now banned pistol braces for AR style pistols. This controversy has led to a pile of lawsuits across the country.

Just for fun, on the latest version of form 4473 to purchase a firearm, a question must be answered by the purchaser. The question reads:

"Do you intend to purchase or acquire any firearm listed on this form and any continuation sheet(s) or ammunition, for sale or other disposition to any person described in questions 21(c-m), or to a person described in question 21 who does not fall within a nonimmigrant alien exception?"

I feel like I'm reading a Chinese menu that has been translated into stereo instructions and translated back again. The real interesting part is unlike all the other questions on the form,

this one does not have instructions. Hmmm. Maybe it is time that the entire system gets an overhaul.

On a different note, a 12-year-old girl and her 14-year-old friend decided to borrow her father's car and travel 600 miles to meet up with a person they met online.

The girls were both reported missing in Florida where their adventure originated. A multi-state task force located the girls 400 miles from home, both safe. Questions still need to be answered, including who they were meeting. My main question is this, did she follow all the rules and drive safely? If so, go ahead and give that kid her driver's license.

Remember knowledge is power, questioning things that are outdated or no longer relevant is important, and knowing that a 12-year-old drove 400 miles without incident is rather impressive.

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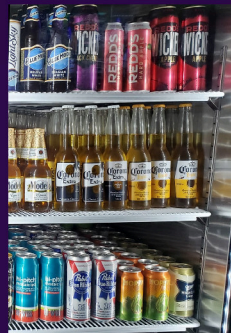
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Fashion Statements

By **Becky Borneman**

Mother's Day will be here soon. My puppy dogs, Bailey Bleu and Daisy Redryder always get me something for Mother's Day. I think Jeff helps them shop. But their gifts to me are much different from what I would give my mom for Mother's Day growing up. When I go home my mama and I usually stay up late talking and drinking wine. We cover it all family, childhood, work, etc. Many times we get to reminiscing about things. That's when we break out the photo albums or old report cards of mine, scrapbooks and

yearbooks too. For years she kept a "bracelet" I'd made her out of construction paper from probably first grade, until it finally disintegrated.

I am fortunate to celebrate my birthday with my mama, June 14th. And to this day, she calls me every birthday morning and throughout the day singing The Beatles song They Say It's Your Birthday. It is very annoying. But I know that one day I will miss those calls. Therefore, each year they are graciously tolerated. My Mama majored in English and she also loves history. She has been sure to instill the love of history in

me while also correcting my grammar over the years, a fun trait that I have inherited. Just ask my friends who love when I correct them!

My Mama also did so many fun things with me. She took us to the beach as often as possible during the summers, drove me all over Tallahassee so I could get a glimpse of New Kids On The Block when they came to town and were doing a sound check, broke me out of work one day to go down to the airport because she'd heard Jimmy Buffett was flying his plane into town and doing an impromptu concert at the

airplane hangar, always includes my friends in everything we do, hoots and hollers at midnight on the porch with me when college football goes our Seminoles way, made me B shaped pancakes for my birthdays and always let me know that I was loved!

Hope this is a fabulous Mother's Day this year Mama. Gone are the days of making you an ashtray like I did in kindergarten and you acting happy and honored to receive it even though you've never smoked a day in your life. I promise this year to step it up a bit from then! Love you Mama

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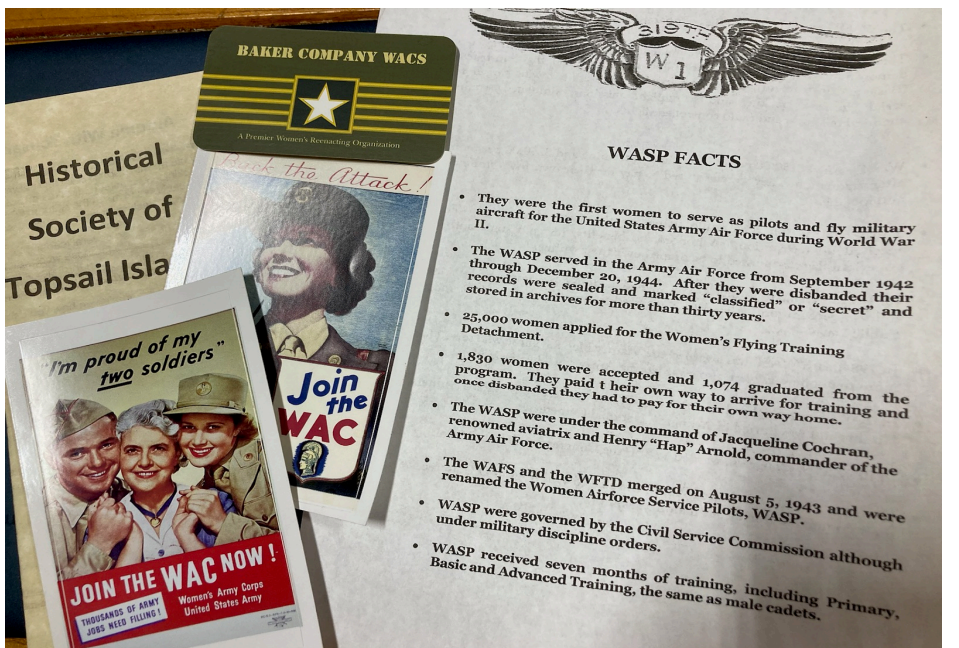
Camp Davis 82nd Anniversary Presentation



15 year old Jacob Bass displays gear and firearms



Stormy (rep for WAC)



True Facts About Pirates

By LuAnn Hooper

“The Golden Age of Pirates” was the period between 1650 and 1720, when these seafaring pirates saw the height of their fame.

Blackbeard, Edward Teach, was the most notorious and the most feared pirate. He was best known for his fierce image and his daring acts throughout the West Indies along the North American East Coast. His daring acts, which he committed both on land and sea, has been the inspiration for many depictions of pirates throughout history.

Unfortunately, he met his fate on November 21st, 1718, while engaging in a bloody fight with Lt. Robert Maynard on board Maynard’s Ship, The “Ranger” in Ocracoke Inlet.

Samuel Bellamy, the “Robin Hood of the Sea”, saw piracy as a way for the socially disadvantaged to empower and enrich themselves. While robbing the rich to free the underclass, there is no record of Bellamy or his crew killing or holding anyone captured while gathering booty to boost their own fortunes. Bellamy, also known as “Black Sam,” became the wealthiest pirate in history, accumulating wealth equivalent to \$120 million in today’s money! It’s believed that Black Sam Bellamy and his crew perished off the coast of Cape Cod when his final ship Whydah, shipwrecked.

Major Stede Bonnet, who was better known as the “Gentleman Pirate,” left his life of luxury and began his piratical career in 1717. He gave up his gentleman lifestyle, bought a sloop (The Revenge), hired a seventy-man crew, and set sail! He teamed up with Blackbeard for a brief time before his capture in 1718 in Charleston, SC. After his hanging, his body was buried in the marsh below the low water mark in Charleston.

There were also women pirates! America’s first female pirate was Rachel Wall. A young runaway that found her way to piracy in 1781. Rachel was accused of highway robbery and was hanged on The Boston Common on October 8, 1789. Several other women from around the world made their debut as women of the sea. France’s Jeanne de Clisson, England’s Mary Read, and Ireland’s Grace O’Malley, and Anne Bonny to name a few! However, the most powerful and feared female Pirate was Madame Ching Shih from China. She and her husband Zhengli had a fleet of more than three hundred Ships! She ended her career in 1810 when the Chinese Government promised amnesty if she gave up piracy. She died in 1844 at the age of sixty-nine.

Rankin, Hugh F. The Pirates of Colonial North Carolina. North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1960
Crawford, Amy. “The Gentleman Pirate.” Smithsonian Magazine. 2007 July 31. The Gentleman Pirate | History| Smithsonian Magazine

“Black Sam Bellamy, the Pirate Who Fought Smart, Harmed Few, Scored Big.” New England Historical Society. 2017 April 7. Black Sam Bellamy, The Pirate Who Fought Smart, Harmed Few, Scored Big - New England Historical Society
Eldridge, Alison. “Swashbuckling Sisters: 6 Lady Pirates”. Encyclopedia Britannica, 2 Sep. 2014,



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Be On The Lookout For Armadillos

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is asking the public to report any sightings of nine-banded armadillos to help Commission biologists determine their range expansion in the Tar Heel state.

If you observe an armadillo in the wild, please participate in the NC Armadillo project by uploading and sharing your photos or download the iNaturalist app, available for iPhone and Android.

Another option for reporting an observation is by emailing armadillo@ncwildlife.org and including:

- A photo of the armadillo (if available)
- When it was observed (date and time)
- The location where it was observed (GPS coordinates are best, but a detailed location description is acceptable)

Armadillos lack thick insulation and must dig for most foods. Freezing conditions can cause them to starve or freeze to death, so mild winter temperature conditions are ideal for them. Given that North Carolina is experiencing fewer long stretches of

below-freezing weather, armadillos are expanding northward.

“Whether armadillos continue spreading beyond their current range will be largely determined by climate,” according to Colleen Olfenbittel, the Commission’s black bear and furbearer biologist. “The number of counties with confirmed observations is 28, stretching from Cherokee to Dare counties. This makes it likely the armadillo is expanding its range naturally throughout North Carolina, rather than being helped by human intervention.”

Native to Central and South America, armadillos have gradually expanded their range into the southeastern United States. In 2007, the agency received the first confirmed sighting of a nine-banded armadillo in Macon County and in the last 16 years has received more than 898 reports in 70 counties.

Learn more by reading the Commission’s armadillo species profile, the 2022 armadillo observation report, and visiting the armadillo webpage.



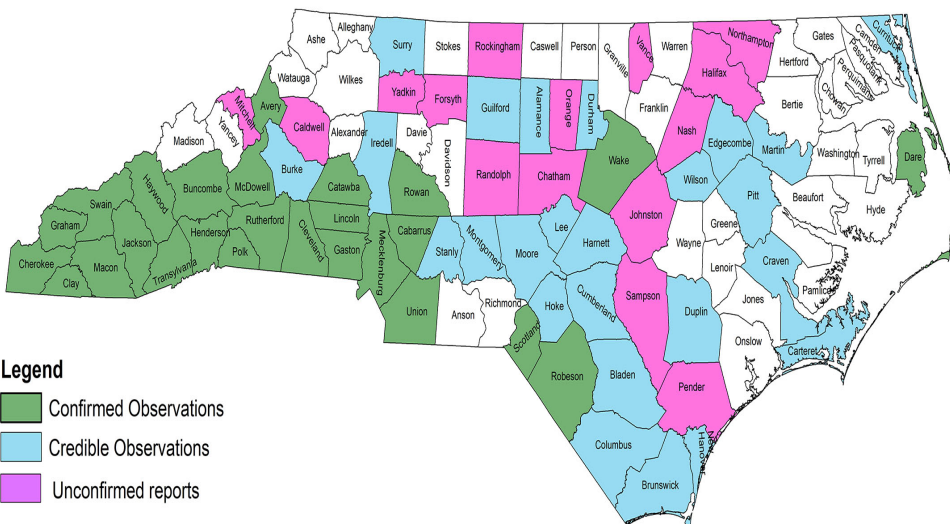
Photo by Jay Butfiloski (above) | Photo by Marcelo Morena (below)



Photos and article provided by North Carolina Wildlife Resources



North Carolina
Confirmed, Credible, and Unconfirmed Armadillo Observations
2007 through 2021



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Sea Turtle Hospital News

By Star Sota

One of the key components of our corporate mission is education. That's one of the reasons we open our hospital for tours as often as physically possible during the year. And that's why we set aside an Education Day for area schools and partner with various regional environmental programs (Sea Turtle Camp, Marine Quest) during the summer months. Over the years we have discovered that if you "start the learnin' early" it sticks. Many of our interns got the bug when they visited our hospital decades ago. We've watched many of these kids grow up; they regularly bring us money they have earned with some special project or have asked that their friends and relatives to support our turtles rather than buy them birthday gifts.

Our latest turtle hospital "volunteer"

In the gift shop we always spend time talking to families about their experience on the tour, and honestly the kids do about as much talking as the adults. They can go into great detail about how a turtle lays her eggs, or how bad plastic is. They always have a particular patient that they fall in love with and want to tell us about. And of course they want to take home a plush turtle, sea creature (sharks are big) or other turtle items to remember their visit. Often their arms are full, but they are quick to point out that not everything is for them. As they lay their treasures on the counter they designate who (brother, sister, best friend) gets what. It's really cute and gives us some hope for the future. Today's kids will ultimately be the ones who decide what kind of world we're going to be living in.

Over the years we have upgraded and expanded our gift shop to carry not only

the perennial favorites but new styles of clothing, hand-crafted throws, gift items by local artisans and books and puzzles. We always listen to our visitors and do our sourcing based on what they are telling us they like and what we're really excited to now carry one particular item that we've been asked for over and over – a doll. Our gal is decked out in her Topsail Turtle Project T-shirt with all the gear needed for a turtle rescue. She's standing by for the call, but in the meantime she'd love to just tag along with you on your next trip to the beach.

April tours are Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11 AM – 2 PM. However, we will not be open Easter weekend, or the following weekend when we have a previously scheduled private event. You will 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.

As the cold stun admits wind down the pier caught turtles are taking their place, and of course the first victims are Kemp's - arriving daily. Our local pier owners can advise you on the safe handling (for the turtle and yourself) of any critter accidentally snagged on your gear. They will call us for retrieval. If you come across any sick or injured turtle on the beach or in the water immediately call our Director of Beach Operations, Terry Meyer at: 910-470-2880. If she is not available, call the hospital during operating hours: 910-329-0222. The State of NC hotline for stranded, sick and injured turtles is 252-241-7367. The state number picks up 24/7. All conservation work for endangered sea turtles at KBSTRRC and on Topsail Island is authorized by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, ES Permit 23ST05.



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Coastal Common Sense

By Kim McGahey

Our liberal federal government in Washington, D.C. is a mess. Polls show approval for the current administration and the U.S. Congress are lower than the past 50 years. The average American has little confidence in and even less respect for our elected officials. Why this pervasive lack of enthusiasm for our representatives? The word is selfishness.

Selfishness on the part of politicians, not on the part of the voters. American citizens have every right to demand that their elected representatives work for them. The reps are supposed to serve the best interests of we the people. Yet that rarely seems to be the case.

More often than not, our elected politicians are making decisions and casting votes based on what's best for their desired selfish outcomes. And that usually means what's best for their re-election.

So many of our problems in government, and consequently in our culture, stem from a callous lack of accountability for our needs by our politicians. E.g. they claim to support a bill that helps domestic farmers be more productive, but then hidden deep in that bill are three other unrelated programs that fund climate change, no-work welfare expansion and increased open border services.

The publicized intent of the farm bill was the prize the politicians promote in front of TV cameras, but the undisclosed

underlying parts of the bill are what get them political contributions and broader voter appeal among their favored interest groups.

It's a shell game they constantly play in order to minimize our personal interest and maximize their political fortunes. And it results in know-nothings like Joe Biden being a U.S. Senator for 47 years while accomplishing little but being re-elected every six years for decades.

Likewise with most of his colleagues, despite their oath of office to serve their constituencies, whose only desire is to stay in office as long as their self-serving lies allow. If that means pulling the perennial wool over the voters' eyes, then so be it.

This electoral folly must end and the solution is, luckily, already in progress. The Founding Fathers in their infinite wisdom established the methodology required to amend the U.S. Constitution which has already been accomplished 27 times since 1779. In fact, there are two ways to make amendments to the Constitution. One is via a vote of Congress and the other is through a convention of state legislatures.

When seeking the solution for the aforementioned selfishness problem, we cannot realistically expect the members of Congress to pass an amendment authorizing Term Limits for the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Under no circumstances would they vote to restrict their own gravy train.

So, the solution of Term Limits for all members of Congress must be derived from the state legislatures as authorized in Article 5 of the U.S. Constitution which reads, "...on the application of the legislatures of 2/3 of the several states, Congress shall call a convention for proposing amendments..." and made part of the Constitution, "... when ratified by the legislatures of 3/4 of the several states...". 34 state legislatures must propose and 38 state legislatures must ratify a Term Limits Amendment. So far 19 state legislatures have approved this critical Convention of States amendment.

Article 5 of the Constitution empowers the states to hold a Convention of States (COS) to propose constitutional amendments to limit federal power, spending and regulations. Don't allow unelected bureaucrats and selfish politicians to strip we the people of our rightful decision-making authority.

Contact: info@COSAction.com or 540-441-7227 today to find out more about the proven process for Term Limits for Congress through the Convention of States.



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Community Updates

Pender County Library To Host Author Curtis Hardison With Special Guest Claudia Stack

BURGAW- Pender County Library will host Pender County author Curtis Hardison for two events discussing his new book, "Griot," about the history of the Edgecombe community in eastern Pender County. The events will be held at the Hampstead Branch Library on Thursday, May 4, at 6 p.m. and at the Main Library in Burgaw on Friday, May 5, at 5 p.m.

Hardison writes of his journey of four decades of research into his family tree going back to the early 1800s.

Emancipated from slavery after the Civil War, his ancestors worked to create the farming community that evolved into the thriving independent community of Edgecombe in eastern Pender County. The book also includes stories of notable members of the Edgecombe community, including Mattie Sharpless, who served as US Ambassador to the Central African Republic from 2001 through 2003.

In "Griot," Hardison also writes about two Rosenwald schools in Pender County that he attended: Sloop Point Elementary School, which was built using funds

raised by the Edgecombe community plus matching Rosenwald funds, and the Pender County Training School in Rocky Point.

Hardison will be joined at both library events by Claudia Stack, a local author and documentary filmmaker whose new children's book "School Belongs to Me" celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Canetuck Rosenwald School in Pender County.

For more information, contact Shannon Kidney (910-259-1234) or email us at: infodesk@pendercountync.gov.



Curtis Hardison (above)



Claudia Stack (right)

The Public Is Invited To Attend Our Grain To Oven Events At The Gardens Of Southeastern North Carolina In June 2023

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

Have you ever made pizza from scratch? At Grain to Oven, you will not only make a delicious pizza, but harvest your own grain, mill it into flour, and make your own dough! Together, we have big plans for farm to oven experiences in Summer 2023! Join us for a tasty, fun, and educational experience you'll never forget!

The Gardens of Southeastern North Carolina have planted over 3 acres of four different types of grain - wheat, barley, oats, and rye! During a Grain to Oven event, you will harvest, thresh, winnow and grind the grain into flour.

Finally, with your freshly made flour, you will make a delicious pizza using provided toppings in our brick-fired oven! We want you to experience the satisfaction of creating healthy, nutrient rich foods right from the field. This is a great event for the whole family! All food toppings will be provided, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase during the event. Grain to Oven is open to adults and children of all ages! Please note, part of the experience is venturing out into the grain fields; please dress accordingly.

The Gardens of Southeastern North Carolina has partnered with Brie the Plant Lady for this awesome cool season Grain Experience! Learn from industry expert and bestselling author and horticulturist Brie Arthur, who has garnered acclaim for her enthusiastic

presentations and practical, out of the box gardening advice. With two decades of experience as a professional horticulturist, propagator, and communicator, Brie shares her expertise with audiences around the country and is a correspondent on the Emmy award winning PBS Television show "Growing a Greener World". Follow Brie's gardening journey through her YouTube channel, Brie the Plant Lady.

Current dates for Grain to Oven events are as follows:

- Friday, June 16 from 4:00 to 7:30 pm with guest lecture from Brie Arthur
- Saturday, June 17 from 4:00 to 7:30 pm
- Sunday, June 18 from 4:00 to 7:30 pm
- Saturday, June 24 from 4:00 to 7:30 pm
- Sunday, June 25 from 4:00 to 7:30 pm with guest lecture from Brie Arthur

Learn where your food comes from and how it's made while creating a healthy, nutrient rich pizza that comes right from the field. And hey, you might find a new passion while you're at it! Get more information and tickets to Grain to Oven by visiting www.thegardensofseenc.com/grain-to-oven.



The North Carolina Blueberry Festival Turns 20 This June

Burgaw, NC – The North Carolina Blueberry Festival Association is happy to host its 20th annual NC Blueberry Festival this summer. The Festival will take place on and around Burgaw’s Historic Courthouse Square, located at 100 S Wright Street, on June 17 from 9 a.m.-10 p.m. with concerts, vendors, and other kick-off events beginning June 16 from 3-10 p.m.

The event is free to attend and features an array of attractions including over 100 artisan vendors, fresh, local blueberries for sale, children’s activities, beer and wine, delicious food, and live music from well-loved beach music bands like Band of Oz, The Embers, and more! The festival also offers opportunities to participate in a wide range of events from a recipe contest and BBQ cook-off to a 5K race and car and truck show.

New this year, the NC Blueberry Festival and Pender Arts Council will host an art exhibit before and during the festival commemorating local legend Ivey Hayes and other contributing artists.

The North Carolina Blueberry Festival is a heritage celebration that connects communities by honoring the historic, economic, and cultural significance of blueberries grown in the southeastern region of North Carolina. Proceeds from the festival are used to provide educational scholarships to students residing in the blueberry-producing counties of Bladen, Duplin, New Hanover, Pender, and Sampson. Further, proceeds are utilized to support academic and sports-related school programs, medical clinics in schools, and other local charitable efforts including Meals on Wheels.

The North Carolina Blueberry Festival Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. More than 100 volunteers work together to make the Festival possible. At the North Carolina Blueberry Festival, you’ll find something for the entire family. Visit www.ncblueberryfestival.com for more information.

Master Garden Annual Spring Plant Sale

The Pender County Extension Master Gardener SM Volunteer Association will hold the 2023 Spring Plant Sale at the Pender County Cooperative Extension Office on Friday April 21, from 11a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday April 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Sale location is the Pender County Cooperative Extension Office, 801 S. Walker Street, Burgaw, N.C., 28425.

Vegetable plants, herb plants, annual and perennial plants, native plants and Master Gardener home grown plants will be offered.

Master Gardeners will be on site to answer your gardening questions with research-based gardening information.

For more information contact Tiffanee Boone, Horticulture & Local Foods Agent, 910-259-1235, or Email: Tiffanee_Boone@ncsu.edu

Facebook: www.facebook.com/penderemg

Website: <https://pender.ces.ncsu.edu>



NC State University and N.C. A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity and prohibit discrimination and harassment regardless of age, color, disability, family and marital status, genetic information, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sexual identity (including pregnancy) and veteran status. NC State, N.C. A&T, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.

F.U.R.R FELINE URGENT RESCUE AND REHAB Adopt. Donate. Volunteer.



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!!!

CHECK OUR WEBSITE TO SEE CATS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

www.catfurr.org  



864-483-2444

Pender County Utilities Prepares For 2023 Water Shortage

BURGAW- Pender County Utilities issued a water shortage plan for Southeastern Pender County effective May 1. PCU customers located east of Interstate-40 in Rocky Point along and adjacent to NC 210 as well as all of Hampstead and Scotts Hill will be impacted.

"Pender County Utilities is taking a proactive stance to provide water to our growing county," said Kenny Keel, Pender County Utilities director. "Recent drought conditions, the lack of available materials, and water tower capacity make it necessary to issue some restraints in Southeastern Pender County."

Restraints include suspending installation and permitting all new irrigation services, due to material availability and water supply limitations. Temporary irrigation meters and service arrangements can be made with PCU for new sod needs on a limited basis.

PCU strongly encourages private wells or well systems for irrigation purposes rather than using PCU service. If irrigation water is sourced from PCU, the use of sod is strongly discouraged to reduce irrigation water demand.

PCU will enforce irrigation restrictions. Irrigation will only be allowed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and

Thursdays. Enforcement may include the revocation of irrigation meters until restrictions are lifted.

Lastly, PCU reminds all developers that new commercial or residential developments must be able to provide acceptable fire suppression systems, either from PCU or independent of the county water system to meet NC fire code and water extension requirements. Proposed developments require a third-party Professional Engineer certification verifying adequate water flow and pressure for fire conditions.

"As of March 30, Pender County is in Moderate Drought conditions," said Keel. "We may be forced to make further adjustments to these restrictions based on drought conditions."

"Our key concern is fire safety and providing clean, safe drinking water to PCU customers," Keel stated.

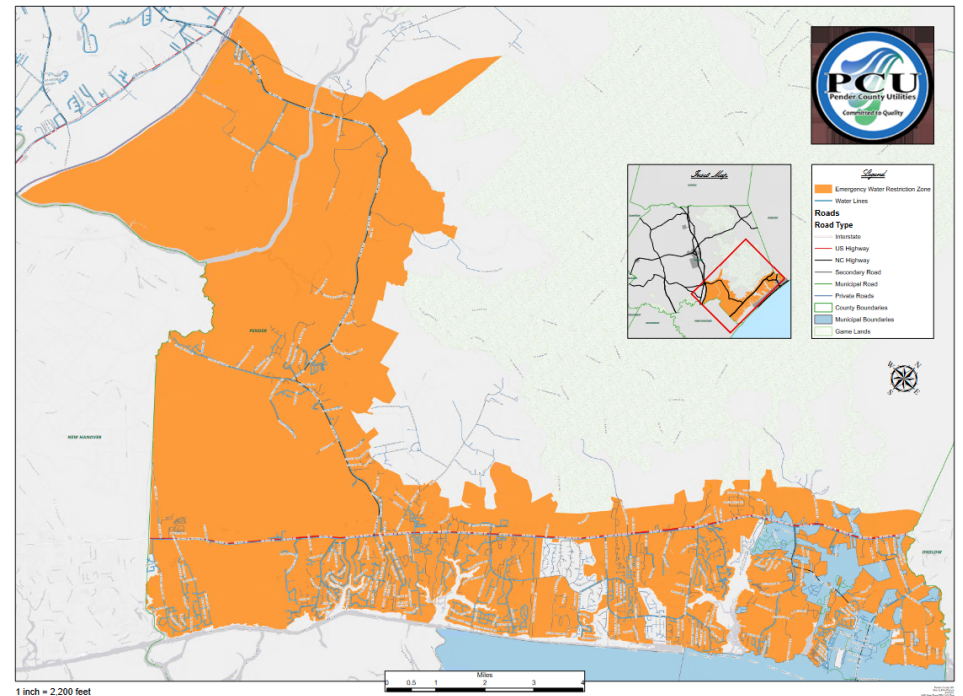
PCU is currently constructing three new water supply wells and a new 500,000-gallon elevated tank in Scotts Hill. This project will assist the county's water capacity until a reverse osmosis water plant is constructed in the impacted area. Completion of one well is expected to go online in December, with the additional two wells to go online in early 2024. The elevated water tank, which is under construction on US Hwy

17 in Scotts Hill, will not be completed until May 2024.

"Pender County Utilities has been impacted by tremendous growth, current supply chain supply issues, and inflation pressures," said Keel. "We need to take these measures seriously to ensure we have water available for fire suppression and general consumption."



PCU Restriction Zone



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All You Need

By Carol Ann Ross

A long time ago when dinosaurs roamed Topsail Island, there was a Texaco station right across from the IGA Shopping Center. Well, it wasn't called the IGA back then, but the station was there nonetheless. My daddy owned the Texaco and when I was a kid, I used to sit outside on the old Chrysler car seat propped up in front of the plate glass window and watch the cars as they came on to the island. They'd stop at the traffic light there, and would turn either left or right. Regardless of which way they turned, the occupants of those cars were there for a day at the beach.

Many of those vehicles made a stop at the Red and White Grocery Store and Shopping Center before driving to their prospective getaways. The Red and White, that's what the IGA was called back then, had the best butcher shop for miles around (still does). Ward Realty had a place in the shopping center too, along with the post office, a barber shop, a laundromat and an ABC store. Heck, once visitors came to the island, there was no need to go anywhere but the Shopping Center, it had everything you needed.

Sixty years later, it still does (a grocery store, gift and clothing store, coffee shop, hair salon and pizza parlor). And it's all within walking distance from the beach. I don't care what kind of bridge there is, nobody wants to go off the island once they get here.

Originally called The Superette, construction on the shopping center began in 1954. Al Ward, the first owner, continued the building even after the devastating damage from Hurricane Hazel that hit Topsail October 15th of that same year. In 1967 Archie Christopher bought the shopping center from Ward and built on the present grocery store, having previously been in what is now the gift shop.

I worked a summer for Mr. Christopher, back in the day, and found him to be one of the most congenial people I've ever met. In fact, I don't know anyone who found him unpleasant. I can picture him now, walking slowly around the store, a smile on his face as he welcomed people. I can also remember being a stupid teenager who used to price stamp canned food and mark Tampa Nugget boxes with an X, just for fun. Sorry Mr. Christopher.

After Mr. Christopher's death in 1985, D.C. Lanier bought the shopping center. However, in 1991 Don Christopher brought it back to the family. That's the year Jim Williams entered the picture. "I vacationed with my family here for years," Said Jim, who was a young grad school student at the time. "I was asked to come help out then, and I've been here ever since."

Williams would eventually marry Paige Christopher, who can often be found in the gift shop next door to the IGA. Their three sons have been a big part of the business as well, having all worked in the grocery store.

According to Williams, there have been some ups and downs over the years, the new Surf City bridge

offered visitors a challenge as they maneuvered their way to the store, and the opening of Food Lion hurt business for a while. But neither of these have had a lasting effect on the little hometown grocery or the businesses in the shopping center.

Like the family business it is, the IGA shopping center is sort of like the glue that helps hold the long time beach community together. It is a constant in our ever changing world. Locals and visitors who come year after year depend on it. The Williams family is due a big thank you for keeping our shopping center going and like I said, once you are on the island, you don't want to leave, the shopping center has everything you need.



Pictured to the left is IGA circa 1960s | Pictured to the right is Jim and Paige | Present day IGA (above)



9 Ways to Age Gracefully

By Diane Henderson

1. Remember that age is just a number. When I first started writing, I joined a writer's group and met a woman who was active in city politics, fun to be around, and writing her third book. I was shocked when I learned that she was in her early 80's. I asked her how she managed to be so active, productive, and enjoy life so much. Her response was, "Life is **not about your age, it is more about your attitude.** I can either sit around feeling sorry for myself that my husband died, and my children have grown and flown, or I can stay busy, productive, and enjoy what life I have left. I choose the latter."

2. Take care of your body. I have a long-time friend who has for 30 years tried to get me interested in exercising. She loves to exercise, it invigorates her. I think she lives to do it. For me exercise was and still is a drag. It does nothing for me except make me tired and grumpy. However, as we have aged, I can see how much more agile she is than me, how much more energy she has than me, how fewer aches and pains she has than me, and even how much sharper her brain is than mine. (She won't be reading this article. I won't admit to her that I am aware of the above. LOL). There are exercises that those of us of a certain age can do that are not strenuous and can still be beneficial. I have learned recently that any exercise you do for seven minutes daily is beneficial. **If you can only do 3 minutes, don't give up. Commit to working yourself up to 7.**

3. Keep your sense of humor! Laughter is good for your soul. Anything good for your soul is good for your body. Learn to laugh at yourself when you do something out of character, or even strange like forgetting to sign a check before mailing it off. Beating yourself up will not change the situation but will surely zap your energy and sense of self-worth. Take responsibility for what you have failed to do and make a joke out of it. Laughing at yourself is a lifesaver. Once you learn to laugh at yourself, you will find humor in many other situations. Laughing increases heart function, the sympathetic nervous system and lowers levels of the stress hormone cortisol. Try your best to turn your anger into humor. I promise that you will be glad that you did, and you will be healthier for it.

4. Surround yourself with young people. You have a lifetime of wisdom that young people can learn from, and they can energize and recharge you without either of you even realizing it. Be careful not to be judgmental of them. Be aware that the world in which they grew up is very different from the one in which you grew up. Learn to laugh with them and at them. There is much they can learn from us and believe it or not, there is much we can also learn from them.

5. It is important to allow yourself to grieve the things that you can no longer do and find new things that you can enjoy doing. If you are reading this, there are probably quite a few things that you can no longer do or enjoy

doing. Remember that you are never too old to learn something new, and I am sure there is a young person in your life that is willing to teach you. Sometimes we do have to go through the grief process, but please don't pitch your tent there. If you are grieving a counselor can be a big help and Medicare will most likely pay for it.

6. Laugh a lot, love a lot, and don't take life too seriously. It is what it is. All of your worry about how the world and the people in it have changed will not change the facts. It will only depress you. Laughing at yourself comes more easily to some than others. If this is difficult for you, please work on learning how to do it. You will soon see the benefits. One person laughed when she told me that she got on the floor to clean up some ice cream that she had spilled on the carpet and for the life of her she could not get up no matter how hard she tried. She said that she began cursing herself and then started to laugh at how funny she must look. It was only when she began laughing that she figured out that she could crawl to the couch and then pull herself up. Laughter at self never hurt anyone.

7. Accept that the world has changed and it ain't what it used to be. You can run or hide from the changes. You can also get stuck in grieving the changes, but you will only be hurting yourself. Work on accepting the changes with grace and remember that you don't have to participate in them. To fight them is futile. My mother-in-law used to say, "The world has passed me by."

Every year I get older, I have a greater understanding of what she meant. I now say to myself, "It is what it is", shake my head, and move on. I may not approve of the changes, but dwelling negatively on them only hurts me.

8. Be grateful that the Lord has granted you old age. If you are of a certain age, you have probably outlived many of your family and friends. It is important that while you grieve the losses, to also have thanks that you continue to have the privilege of living. Gratitude is always beneficial for your psychological well-being as well as your physical well-being. Focusing on gratefulness can help you prevent depression. You will also be more interesting and enjoyable to be around.

9. Never stop learning. Last but not least, never stop learning. Like I said earlier, there are many things we can learn from the younger generation, and most often they are happy to teach us. Your local library and Senior Center probably offer classes that might interest you. Community colleges have classes on various topics that you can attend in person. If you are not mobile, there are free online classes from various universities. YouTube and many computer bloggers also offer classes. Remember what my friend said in the first statement? Aging gracefully is about your attitude and learning new things about yourself, others, and the world in general which can help keep your attitude positive and your life more exciting.

History Of Onslow County Series Part 1

By Raeford Brown

History indicates that Sir Arthur Onslow never visited the colonies, never owned any property in Onslow County, and may well never have been apprised prior to his death, that our earliest settlers had named our county in his honor.

Nevertheless, in 1730 they chose to pay tribute to the distinguished English man.

Sir Arthur Onslow, the eldest son of Foot Onslow, and the great-grandson of Sir Richard Onslow, was born at Chelsea on October 1, 1691.

Of a distinguished English family, Sir Arthur was educated at Winchester and entered Windham College, Oxford, as a fellow

commoner on October 12, 1708, but took no degree. In 1713, he was called to the bar and in 1737 he was recorder of the borough of Guilford and high steward or administrator of Kingston-on-Thames. In 1728 he became one of the senior and governing members of the Inner Temple, or court.

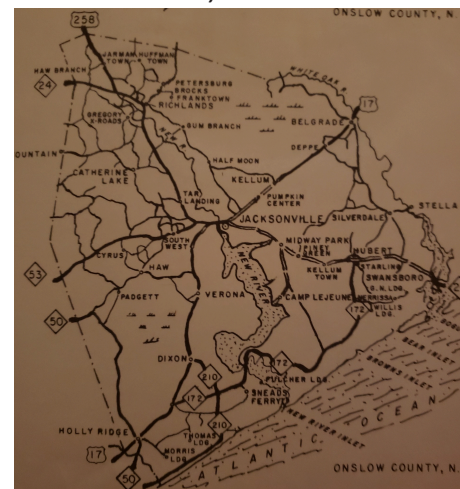
At the opening of a new parliament on January 23, 1728, Sir Arthur, then 35, was unanimously elected Speaker of the House of Commons, which he held for more than 33 years.

Sir Arthur's biographers have called him "a man of unblemished integrity and much ability."

Sir Arthur Onslow died on February 17, 1768 at the age of 76,

and was buried at Thames Dutton, Surry. His body was later moved to the burial place of the Onslow family at Merrow Church in Surrey.

The Heritage of Onslow County" as published by the Onslow County Historical Society, 1983.





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 than 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.

D Dawneva Evans
Holly Ridge, North Carolina



Our first herons have arrived on the pond!
They are building a nest and I am readying for my favorite time of year.

#HollyRidgeNC #TimeOfTheYear #Herons #April



K Kay Burros
Surf City, North Carolina



Atticus, my surfer grandson. A senior at Topsail High School, works at Herring's Outdoor Sports, and volunteers at a reptile rescue. He is still "The Lion's Roar" to me.

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G	I	R	H	E	M	A	O	W	H	A	L	E	C
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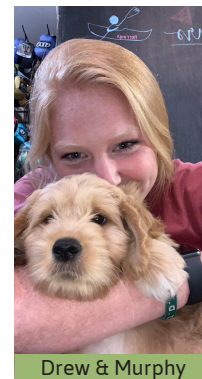
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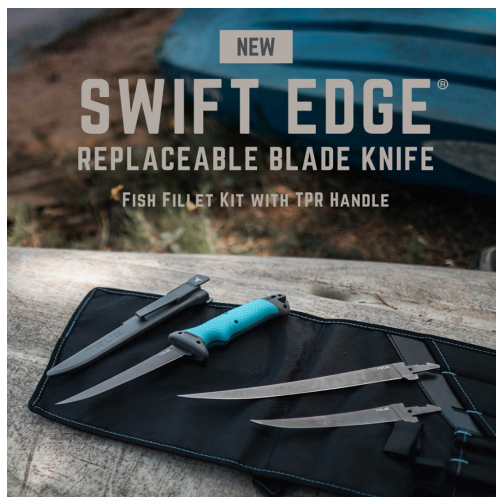


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