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Cowfin Bar & Grill

Herring's Outdoor Sports

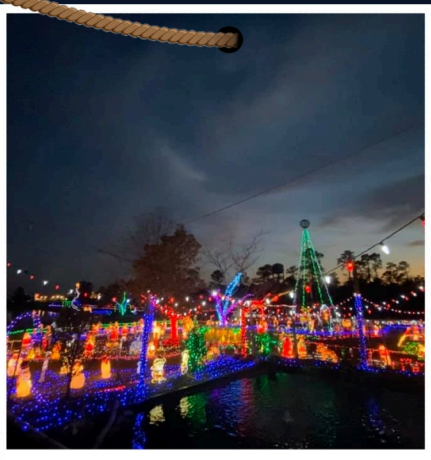
Coastal Blends

Coral Cottage Boutiques

Paradise Axe & Arcade

Belle's & Beau's Salon

Surf City Guns & Ammo


Lake Linda's Christmas Lights

Upcoming Events

Pig Drop ✻ Dolphin Dip ✻ Shrimp Dip

Lake Linda's Christmas Lights

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Topsail Gun Gal: Gifts and Guns

By Dorothy Royal

Nothing says Christmas like the 1983 holiday classic movie, "A Christmas Story" where the little boy's only wish is to get a Red Ryder BB Gun.

For those of you unfamiliar, the BB Gun was named for Red Ryder, who was a comic book cowboy hero and a crime fighter out west. His comic strip circulated from 1938 until 1964 in over 700 newspapers.

The BB Gun, manufactured by Daisy Outdoor Products, hit the market in 1940 and by 1949, one million BB guns were being sold a year.

Thanks to comic strips, movies and television, the love for lever action rifles was born.

Winchester made some of the most memorable, especially with the Model 94, which sold over a million units and was considered the first sporting rifle. Today several manufacturers have a line of well-made lever action rifles in all different calibers including Marlin, Rossi, Savage, Henry, and now G Force. Available calibers include 22lr, 22mag, .357, 44 mag, 45lc, 45-70, 30-30, 410 and more. With prices starting in the $300's and up, they certainly may make the perfect gift for that someone special.

When President Trump takes office, what new firearm regulation changes may be in the works for millions of American gun owners? There has been talk for years about the "Hearing Protection Act", which in simple terms would mean that suppressors (that reduce the noise of gun fire) would no longer require a Tax Stamp or an application process that may take 3-6 months. If the Hearing Protection Act is dusted off and brought back before the right departments, maybe someday people will be able to purchase the devices like any other accessory at your local gun shop. Did you know that in France, Italy, Poland and New Zealand no permits are required to purchase a suppressor? In Germany, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland and Denmark a simple permit is required, so basically if you get a permit to buy a gun you can get a suppressor.

If you are thinking about getting someone in your family a gift this year, but just not sure what to get, how about a gift certificate for a class in gun safety? Basic Firearm Safety or North Carolina Conceal & Carry Classes may be the perfect stocking stuffer.

Got any bananas and duct tape laying around? Sotheby's made international news recently for selling a piece of art by Maurizo Cattelan known as the "Comedian" for $6.24 million dollars. The funny part? It was nothing but a banana taped to the wall. The artist was trying to prove a point that there is no true way to value art, since every piece means something different to be beholder. The buyer who bid $6.24 million dollars for the art must live somewhere where bananas don't exist. The moon maybe? The banana was 160 centimeters from the floor, which for some reason must add to the bizarre value. My question is this: If this banana was first displayed in 2019 when it was valued at over One million dollars, is it the same banana? If not, does that make this a copy? Food for thought.

Knowledge is power, bananas are art and BB Guns are still a cool gift. Merry Christmas!

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Coastal Common Sense: Christmas Cookies

By Kim McGahey

Once upon a time in a tiny town down by the ocean, there lived a humble little girl. She wasn't rich and she wasn't famous, but she was very happy. She would work hard at her chores to help her family buy enough food to feed all the hungry mouths. And she played quietly on the sandy shores as the other people of the town were elbowing each other to get ahead.

It made her sad that the busy people of the town were so mean to each other. After all, she wanted them to enjoy the fresh ocean air, the salty waves and the grandness of what Mother Nature had given them all to live in.

The townspeople, in all their hurries, didn't notice the wonderful simple things that made her life so full of love. All they wanted was to make money and they never focused on the natural wonders around them.

One chilly winter day when all the town was preparing for Christmas, the little girl stopped to look at the colorful holiday lights and the pretty decorations; and the joy of Christmas filled her heart. It was such a beautiful season, she didn't understand why all the people weren't smiling and overflowing with the spirit of giving and sharing.

As she sat by the postmaster's door happily munching the Christmas cookies her mother had baked that morning, she could see the people shoving each other for a place in line to mail their Christmas packages. Even though Christmas was only a few days away, the people were yelling at the poor old bespectacled postmaster for being too slow.

The postmaster had such a small shop and the nasty people put off their mailing far too long. But they blamed him, cursing him and each other so much that it brought tears to the little girl's bright blue eyes.

One sorrowful tear rolled off her rosy cheeks and dropped onto her cookie, and suddenly a giant Christmas smile came across her angelic little face.

As she stood in line looking up at the cruel people with frowns on their twisted faces, she continued to light up a cheerful broad smile. But it was the only smile in the room. She beamed a joyous holiday glow as those around her grew meaner and uglier.

Slowly, the line of selfish mailers inched closer to the tired old postmaster. She was close enough now to see beads of sweat on his furrowed brow from all his honest hard work. He had a kind face, she could see, gently wrinkled from years of smiles and good thoughts. Yet the impatient people still cursed his speed. Poor old man, she thought. Such a decent fellow being treated so badly.

Finally, after being jostled for what seemed like forever, the tiny figure in torn clothes with a small box in her bundled hands made it to the edge of the postmaster's counter.

All the kindly old man could see when he looked down through his sweat-smeared glasses was the tattered hat atop sparkling blue eyes and a giant Christmas smile.

It warmed the aged clerk's heart to see this bright little holiday flower before him. Soon he forgot about the curses and the madness of the greedy crowd in his shop.

And then, just as the jeers were rising to a deafening crescendo of selfishness, two tiny hands rose slowly but with purpose from below the smiling face and tattered hat with a box that she placed in front of the kind old postmaster.

"Merry Christmas!", whispered the little girl. "These cookies are for you!"

And the old postman smiled back and had a very Merry Christmas!

Be kind to your family and friends. Pray for your enemies. We celebrate that Jesus was born to save our souls. Matthew 1:23.

Kim McGahey
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OCSO Advises Citizens to be Aware of Real Estate Scams Targeting Vacant Lots

By Onslow County Sheriff Dept

Due to receiving numerous reports over the last few months, the Onslow County Sheriff's Office is warning property owners about an increasingly popular real estate scam being seen across the United States.

THE SCAM

A suspect posing as the owner of a vacant lot seeks to sell the lot and subsequently contacts a local real estate broker either by email or phone (not in person), claiming to be the rightful owner.

The suspect submits various documents to the broker, which are intended to validate their identity as the owner of the parcel to be sold.

The broker, satisfied with the documentation and communication, lists the property as agreed, and the property eventually sells (in some cases). It's not until after the new deed is recorded at the Register of Deeds—with the new owner's name—that the actual owner discovers their property was sold fraudulently.

In many cases, the real owner will find out about the listing and stop it before the property goes under contract. However, the scammer may already have received due diligence money or, in some cases, even completed the sale. This can lead to injury to the real owner, buyer, brokers, and closing attorneys. In some cases, the owner will have to go to court to resolve the matter with the buyer.

The Sheriff's Office has investigated these incidents and determined there is an international component to these ongoing scams. These scams frequently end in frustration due to the suspect's anonymity and the obvious jurisdictional issues law enforcement must abide by.

The common element is that scammers usually target undeveloped land, vacant or abandoned properties, or properties in a trust where an owner has recently died.

AWARENESS

The Sheriff's Office has contacted the Jacksonville Board of Realtors and the Onslow County Register of Deeds to inform them of the scam.

Real estate brokers have been advised to verify the identity of lot owners desiring to sell their lot via live video communication (Zoom, FaceTime, etc.) and obtain a copy of their issued identification.

The Register of Deeds has a real-time property fraud protection site called Property Check. It allows property owners to sign up for alerts when a real estate document is recorded with their name.
https://deeds.onslowcountync.gov/External/Sentry/Home.aspx

To be clear, this is an after-the-fact protection that is not meant to prevent the scam from happening. While the alert system will inform if a real estate document has been recorded with your name, property owners are asked to stay vigilant and report any unusual or suspicious dealings to law enforcement.

For further media inquiries or questions, please contact Public Information Officer Trevor Dunnell at (910) 219-4936 ext. 4936, cell (910) 787-4216, or email trevor_dunnell@onslowcountync.gov.

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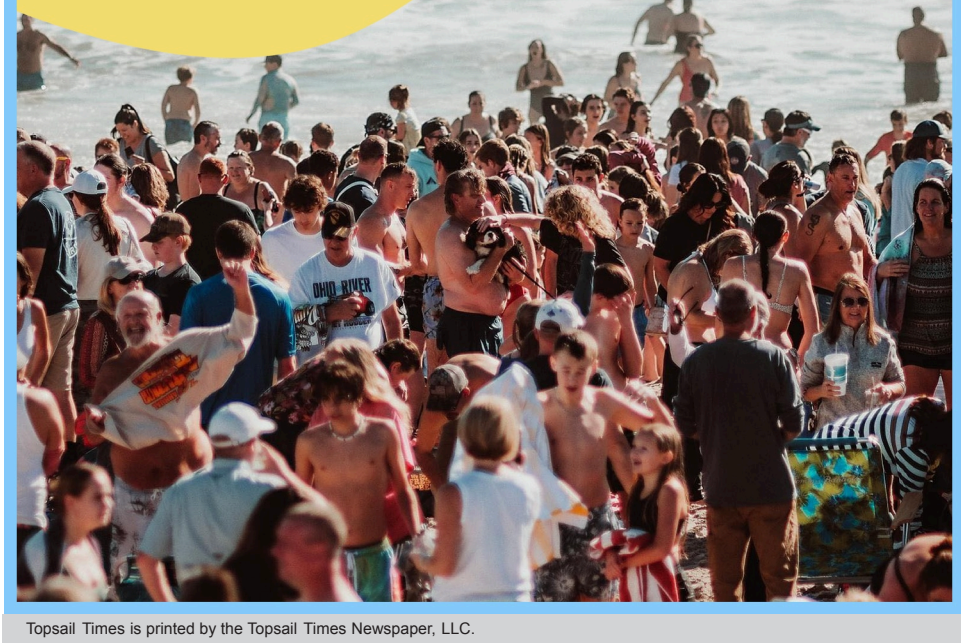

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Dear MariBella & The Pig Kickers

Dear MariBella and the Pig Kickers is a family bluegrass band that has recently entered the local music scene. The fun-loving band is made up of four siblings: Isabella, AnnMari, Pete, and Chris. They have been playing together on the front porch of their home in Scotts Hill for as long as they can remember, but recently they have expanded their audience to local festivals and music venues.

Dear MariBella and the Pigkickers is excited to partner with UNCW's newly formed Teal Music Productions to release their debut EP, *Magnolia*. Good writers write about what they know, so their debut album features the things they know and love— sun showers, flowers, pigs, and chocolate ice cream. Written sitting together on the front porch and polished around the kitchen table, these songs reflect family life mixed with a little rabble-rousing sibling fun. Nothing fancy, just simple stories and good times. Bluegrass Today calls the album "an impressive debut" and "Magnolia Tree, an imaginative song."

The band enjoys exploring their family ties to the Blue Ridge Mountains by presenting the fun-loving, upbeat harmonies and intricate classic sounds of North Carolina's traditional Bluegrass music. Of course, they also love sharing their Christian faith with some up-tempo gospel hymns. The band most recently enjoyed playing a sold out show at Wilmington's only listening room, Live at Ted's and looks forward to playing Poplar Grove's Merry & Bright throughout December. They are super excited to make their debut at Shaka Taco's Backyard Music this Saturday.

When they are not playing with their family band, you can find them joining in with the Port City Pipe & Drums, which is a traditional Scottish Bagpipe Band. The youngest sibling, Chris, is a bagpiper who has been learning under the watching eye of Pipe Major Andy Simpson since he was just 7 years old. Pete is a driving bluegrass force with his 3-finger style banjo playing. He spends lots of his free time slowing down YouTube videos of Earl Scruggs trying to figure out how he got that sound. AnnMari, who plays the guitar and leads most of the vocals, is a high school student who is dual enrolled in the music program at the Cape Fear Community College, downtown Wilmington, where she can be found exploring many genres of music on the guitar. Isabella, the oldest member and fiddle player, recently started at UNCW as an English major, minoring in music. Isabella firmly established the musical agenda of the family when she declared at the age of 7 that she wanted to learn to play the fiddle like Pa from "Little House on the Prairie."

All in all, Dear MariBella is excited to start sharing their love for music, God, family, and community with the public. If you would like to find out where the band is playing around town, visit their website www.dearmaribella.com. You can also follow them on their instagram page @dear.maribella, or on Facebook or check out their Youtube channel.

Feel free to contact them at dearmaribella@yahoo.com to book or get on their band email list.

Photo by Courtney Surigao

Pender County to Break Ground on New Health and Human Services Building

The Pender County Board of County Commissioners is excited to announce the groundbreaking ceremony for a new 75,000-square-foot Health and Human Services building. Scheduled for Monday, December 4, at 2 p.m., the event will take place at 298 Progress Drive in Burgaw. The public is invited to attend and celebrate this important milestone.

The new Health and Human Services building will serve as the future home for the Pender County Health Department and Social Services, marking a substantial investment in the community's health and well-being. Designed to meet the county's projected growth over the next two decades, the facility is set to enhance service delivery, broaden access to public health and social services, and provide a welcoming environment for both residents and staff.

"This project marks a major step in our commitment to the health, safety, and well-being of Pender County residents," said Carolyn Moser, Director of the Pender County Health Department. "The new building will allow us to continue providing essential services and adapt as community needs evolve."

The new structure will feature spacious visitation areas designed to better serve individuals and families who rely on Social Services. In addition, the facility's design will accommodate the anticipated increase in staffing and demand for services, ensuring that Pender County can respond to the growing needs of the community effectively and efficiently.

The new Health and Human Services building reflects Pender County's ongoing dedication to investing in the health and safety of its residents. By providing a modern, secure space for essential services, this facility demonstrates the county's commitment to enhancing the well-being of the community now and in the future.

CFCC Simulation and Game Development Program to Host Information Session

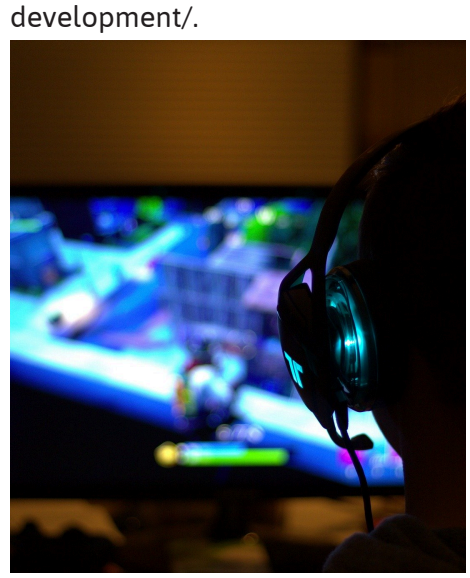
One of Cape Fear Community College's newest programs, Simulation and Game Development, is hosting an information session for prospective students on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. in the L Building, room 312 (corner of Red Cross and 2nd Street). Attendees will learn about the program's offerings, gain insights into what to expect as a student, and receive details about courses available for the Spring 2025 semester. The session will also feature an interactive opportunity to demo games created by the program's director, providing a firsthand look at the creative possibilities within the field.

A virtual option is also available and can be accessed through https://meet.google.com/xwn-mzkz-wnc.

This Simulation and Game Development program will prepare graduates for employment in the software sector as design directors, environmental artists, game design consultants, game designers, gamemasters, level designers, or world designers. The program includes a comprehensive curriculum that includes courses in:

- 3D Modeling
- Quality Assurance
- Software Engineering
- C++ Programming
- Graphic Design

Enrollment for the Simulation and Game Development program is now open. For more information, visit cfcc.edu/simulation-game-development/.



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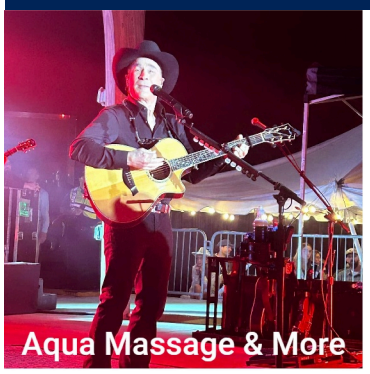

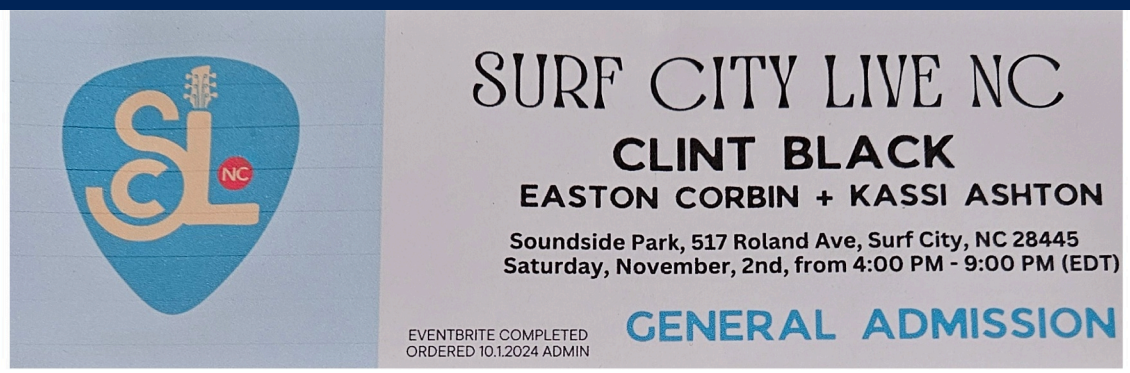

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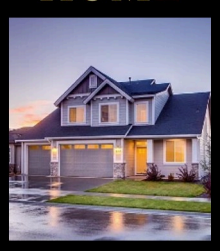

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- D. R. Royal

Domestic Violence Victims in Onslow County Have Access to Free Early Warning Electronic Monitoring Program

By Onslow County Sheriff Dept

As part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Onslow County Sheriff's Office is spotlighting its partnership with North Carolina's Domestic Violence Electronic Monitoring Program. The free program, which is run by the North Carolina Criminal Justice (CJIN) Information Network, provides oversight for defendants on pre-trial release for domestic violence abuse and assault cases and alerts for victims when their defendant is nearby.

"The electronic monitoring program is an invaluable resource for domestic violence victims in Onslow County. It allows us to closely monitor defendants on pre-trial release, providing an added layer of safety and peace of mind for victims as they work toward rebuilding their lives," said Sheriff Chris Thomas.

The CJIN Domestic Violence Program cases are monitored by a 24/7 call center staffed by highly-trained agents working around the clock to monitor defendants to ensure victim safety. All call center operators have a law enforcement or emergency communications background. This is needed because each case differs, and decisions must be made to protect the victim's safety and well-being while balancing the defendant's rights.

How it works

In participating counties, the defendant is assigned to the program as a condition of pre-trial release at the judge's discretion. However, victims can request the program through their attorney, Victim Advocacy Group, or the District Attorney.

Before the defendant is released from jail, the victim is notified and asked whether they want to participate in the program. The defendants who are awaiting trial for domestic violence cases, stalking cases, and sex crimes will be assigned an electronic ankle device by the judge. The victim can also opt to receive an electronic device that warns them when the defendant is within a specific proximity of them. This allows them to implement a safety plan if the offender is nearby.

The program uses "Exclusion Zones" to achieve primary victim safety.

An Exclusion Zone is placed around an area where the defendant must stay away, such as a residence, place of work, etc. The shape and size of the zone can be tailored to fit the specific needs of a given case. The victim can usually set three exclusion zones, though more are permitted in certain cases. Every case is unique and reviewed as such.

If the defendant breaches one of the fixed exclusion zones identified by the victim, the defendant's device sends an alert to the call center, which then reaches out to the defendant to alert them to leave the area immediately. If they fail to do so or the call center cannot contact the defendant, law enforcement is immediately notified.

In addition to the set exclusion zones, victims are given a Stalker Alert unit that can be easily carried in a bag or on their person and gives a multi-layered exclusion zone no matter where they go. It sends an alert to the victim's cell phone when they are in close proximity to the defendant.

The victim receives a text message on their cell phone when the defendant is within 3 miles, 2 miles, 1 mile, or 300 feet of the Stalker Alert device.

The Stalker Alert works similarly to a smoke detector, providing the victim with early warnings to make an informed decision about what to do when they receive the alert. All participating victims are encouraged to have a safety plan that they can utilize when notified that a defendant is nearby.

Stalker Alert Notifications are only received by the victim. The Call Center does not monitor them. If a victim feels they are in danger based on any Proximity Alerts (automated texts generated by the Stalker Alert), they must contact 911 themselves, as the Call Center is unaware of a defendant's proximity to a victim outside an established exclusion zone.

Operational and day-to-day management of the Domestic Violence Electronic Monitoring Program is provided by Monotec, a Wilmington-based company. It oversees enrollment and removal of defendants and victims in the program and manages and runs the day-to-day operations of the Call Center.

"Protecting and empowering domestic violence victims is important and serious work that requires strong partnerships among a variety of stakeholders," said Amy Michalik, Program Director Monotec. "We are pleased to partner with law enforcement and the judicial system inOnslow County as part of the Domestic Violence Electronic Monitoring Program because this is a proven life-saving tool that we want to get into the hands of as many victims throughout North Carolina as possible."

For questions about the program in Onslow County, call (910) 795-0224.
Onslow County Sheriff's Office Public Information: Trevor Dunnell – work: (910) 219-4936 ext. 4936. Cell: (910) 787-4216.

Ankle Bracelet

Stalker Alert

Exclusion Zone

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#GivingTuesday: Military Aid Societies Come Together to Raise Essential Funds for America's Military and their Families

The combined forces of Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS), Air Force Aid Society (AFAS), Army Emergency Relief (AER), and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) have announced their intent to come together on #GivingTuesday for the third consecutive year to raise crucial funds for military service members and their families.

This year's campaign theme, entitled #missionGIVE, will be conducted on social media with the goal of securing essential funds to provide service members and their families around the world with vital emergency relief, financial support and educational resources. Unfolding across social media platforms on #GivingTuesday, December 3, 2024, supporters are encouraged to visit missionGIVE.us, where they can allocate their contributions to one or more of the four military aid societies.

Lockheed Martin, a global defense technology company driving innovation and advancing scientific discovery, has extended a generous proposal to match every gift made during #missionGIVE on #GivingTuesday, up to a sum of $1 million. This substantial matching pledge guarantees that donations to these transformative military aid societies will yield double the impact for military members and their families.

"Our four military aid societies are uniting for #missionGIVE to deliver critical assistance to military members and their families who face the unique challenges of serving our nation. This teamwork ensures that, no matter the branch of service, every service member has access to the resources they need to remain mission-ready when life happens," said retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Ed Thomas, AFAS's CEO.

Each year, the four military aid societies representing the Army, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Navy and Marine Corps distribute millions of dollars to support military members, retirees and their families facing financial crisis or in need of disaster assistance. In some cases, they also provide grants and interest-free loans for educational needs and administer innovative programs designed to address the unique challenges military members face.

"In addition to life events, rising inflation, the threat of global conflict, frequent deployments, and, most recently, natural disasters, military life presents some unique challenges that many people are unaware of," said retired Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Robert R. Ruark, NMCRS President and CEO. "It is the generous and sustained support from the general public that allows us to mitigate many of these challenges and hardships."

"With #missionGIVE, we can all share in the need to support those who serve our country," said retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston, CEO of AER. "With this generous match from Lockheed Martin, everyone who accepts the mission to support our important work will have their contribution doubled."

Commencing in 2012 as a "Global Day of Giving," #GivingTuesday has galvanized countless individuals to rally behind their cherished causes. To donate to one, or more of the military aid societies, and have it doubled as a result of generous support from Lockheed Martin, visit missionGIVE.us.

"I have supreme confidence that new and existing supporters and advocates will once again come together on #GivingTuesday to make this annual fundraising event a triumphant success for those military service members who keep America safe for all of us," said retired U.S. Coast Guard Cmdr. Brooke A. Millard, CEO of CGMA.

About Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Air Force Aid Society, Army Emergency Relief and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance

The United States has four Congressionally sanctioned military aid societies charged with helping more than 2.5 million service members, their families and, retirees in financial need. Each organization is a 4-star Charity Navigator-rated nonprofit 501(c-3) that provides financial support to their service-specific clients through zero-interest loans, grants, disaster assistance, scholarships and a myriad of other needs-based programs and services. All programs and services are designed to support military members in need and help them build a solid foundation for a financial future. Please visit missionGIVE.us to donate to one or more of the military aid societies and learn more about the unique programs of each organization.

About Lockheed Martin

Lockheed Martin is a global defense technology company driving innovation and advancing scientific discovery. Our all-domain mission solutions and 21st Century Security ® vision accelerate the delivery of transformative technologies to ensure those we serve always stay ahead of ready. More information at LockheedMartin.com.

Midway Park Arrest

Timothy Earl Jones

David Carroll

At 10:53 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, deputies conducted a traffic stop near the corner of Piney Green Road and Rocky Run Road. During the stop, deputies discovered the passenger, Timothy Earl Scott, 43, was in possession of trafficking amounts of fentanyl.

In total, 8.1 grams of fentanyl was seized.

Scott, of 110 Lamotts Creek Road in Midway Park, was arrested and charged with

Trafficking Opium or Heroin (x3)
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
Manufacture of Schedule II Controlled Substance

Scott was placed under a $150,000 secured bond.

At 3:41 p.m. on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, a warrant was served for the driver, 71-year old David Carroll of Jacksonville. Carroll was arrested without incident and charged with:

Felony Trafficking Opium or Heroin (x3)
Felony Maintain Dwelling/Vehicle for Controlled Substance
Felony Manufacture Schedule II Controlled Substance
Felony Possession with Manufacture, Sell, Distribute Controlled Substance Schedule II
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Carroll was placed under a $85,000 secured bond and placed in the Onslow County Jail.

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ESTD 2020

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ALL ABC PERMITS

Scholarship Recipients " Transformed " During MCEC's Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program

By Karen Kirk

Eleven exceptional students from across the nation attended the Military Child Education Coalition® (MCEC®) Fall 2024 Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program (FHSLP) at the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point, October 20-25, 2024.

The Fall 2024 class of students represented six states:

- Amelia S., Grade 10, Fort Leavenworth High School, Leavenworth KS
- Andrew M., Grade 11, Burkburnett High School, Burkburnett, TX
- Eliana F., Grade 10, Stacey Jr./Sr. High School, San Antonio, TX
- Elizabeth A., Grade 11, Fort Campbell High School, Fort Campbell, KY
- Isabella S., Grade 11, Swansboro High School, Swansboro, NC
- Kallie B., Grade 10, Widefield High School, Colorado Springs, CO
- Lani K., Grade 11, Union Pines High School, Cameron, NC
- Madeline C., Grade 11, Pinecrest High School, Pinehurst, NC
- McKenzie B., Grade 11, Leavenworth High School, Leavenworth, KS
- Sergio R., Grade 11, Cole High School, San Antonio, TX
- Taylor H., Grade 11, Central High School, Phenix City, AL

The students experienced a warm welcome from cadets and professors at the academy. Throughout the week, they participated in team building exercises, met inspirational speakers, absorbed a wealth of knowledge, made life-long friendships, and even celebrated a birthday. The jam-packed schedule touched on effective communication, physical and mental health, goal setting, mentorship practices, character building, and the importance of reflection. Activities and lessons were provided by West Point personnel and cadets, the American Red Cross, and the Military Child Education Coalition.

"The things I've learned this week I will use for the rest of my life. We learned thinking strategies for better outcomes and the importance of resilience and gratitude. I'll use these skills in my relationships and other academic or athletic leadership opportunities."

- Amelia, Leavenworth, KS

The FHSLP, established by MCEC in 2006, enhances the leadership skills of individual students and strengthens their Student 2 Student® (S2S™) teams on campus. A unique experience for students to engage in leadership activities and lessons alongside cadets and other S2S leaders, the program empowers students to make a lasting impact on their local S2S programs.

In 2021, former Chief of Staff of the Army, General (Retired) Dennis Reimer established the Suzy Carlton Student Leadership and Civic Responsibility Award in conjunction with FHSLP. The award is named after Suzanne "Suzy" Carlton, a military-connected wife and mother who honorably and selflessly worked to support others as a Department of the Army Civilian and special assistant to two Army Chiefs of Staff – including GEN Reimer.

Heartily endorsed by Suzy's husband Charlie, Isabella from Swansboro High School was named this year's recipient of the award. Isabella, by all accounts a standout student leader, embodies the qualities highlighted in the award and underscores the importance of giving back.

"The S2S members were my first friends in high school, they made me feel welcome and knowledgeable about my new school and inspired me to become involved and try my best. I joined the club as soon as I could, I wanted to be the friendly face around school to help the younger students be confident in themselves and their high school career, as prior members made me, and I can confidently say that is the best choice I have made in high school," wrote Isabella on her application.

MCEC is thankful to our partners who help make this program possible. The Fall 2024 FHSLP was powered in part by Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) to honor and empower post-9/11 injured service members, veterans, and their families. Additional scholarship funding was provided by Veterans United Foundation, Alabama State Department of Education State Fund, and through the generosity of donors during our FHSLP fundraiser at the MCEC Global Training Summit this past July.

Frances Hesselbein, a trailblazer, author, editor, and gifted leader, had been an engaging participant in past years of the program. Though Frances passed away in December 2022, students can see her impact and influence throughout the training. Said Madeline of her experience:

"This week has taught me the importance of service, whether it's to my community, my school, or the military community that has raised me. The FHSLP has shown me the value that giving back to others holds. As Frances Hesselbein herself said, 'To serve is to live.' These words will resonate with me as I grow into a leader now through my role in S2S, and as I continue into adulthood."

The next FHSLP will be held in February of 2025 at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. Scholarship applications are being accepted through November 30, and information can be found on our website here:

https://militarychild.org/programs-and-initiatives/frances-hesselbein-student-leadership-program/

THE TRICKY CHICKEN
• CRAFTS AND CONSIGNMENT •

Thursday - Sunday
10-4

2024 NC Hwy 172
Sneads Ferry

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Pender County Mourns the Passing of Commissioner Wendy Fletcher-Hardee

By Brandi Cobb

It is with a heavy heart that Pender County announces the passing of Commissioner Wendy Fletcher-Hardee, a dedicated public servant, successful entrepreneur, and community advocate. Fletcher-Hardee, who served as County Commissioner from 2022 to 2024, left an indelible mark on the community through her leadership, business acumen, and dedication to public service.

A Topsail High School alumna, Fletcher-Hardee's impressive career exemplified the diverse paths that Pender County graduates can pursue. She went on to North Carolina State University and initially entered the healthcare field, working as a registered nurse. Her natural compassion and drive led her to serve as a caregiver for her grandmother during her battle with cancer, a role that deeply influenced her commitment to family and community.

Fletcher-Hardee transitioned from healthcare to the logistics industry, breaking barriers in a male-dominated field. She founded Atlantic Truck Brokers in 2004 and Atlantic Mulch and Stone in 2006, displaying a steadfast commitment to hard work and excellence. Fletcher-Hardee's remarkable achievements as the President and CEO of Atlantic Coast Trucking garnered state recognition, culminating in her induction into the North Carolina Women Business Owners Hall of Fame on May 4, 2021. She was also honored with the 2021 Minority Business Advocate of the Year Award, celebrating her impact on women's entrepreneurship in North Carolina.

Her commitment to service extended beyond business as she became actively involved with the NC Defense Business Association and supported other female entrepreneurs across the state. In recognition of her lifetime achievements, Fletcher-Hardee was inducted into the Topsail High School Wall of Fame this year, cementing her legacy as an inspiring Pender County alumna.

"As a Board, we are profoundly saddened by the loss of Commissioner Wendy Fletcher-Hardee," said Brad George, Chairman of the Pender County Board of Commissioners. "Wendy was a dedicated leader and trailblazer who brought compassion, innovation, and strength to every role she held. Her impact on Pender County and her passion for serving the community will continue to inspire us all."

As a public servant, Commissioner Fletcher-Hardee was known for her dedication to the residents of Pender County and her focus on building a brighter future for the community.

The Pender County Board of Commissioners extends its deepest sympathies to the family of Wendy Fletcher-Hardee, as well as her friends and colleagues. Her impact on the county will be remembered and cherished.

Why Realtors Ask Lots of Questions When Selling Vacant Land: Protecting Sellers, Buyers, and Preventing Fraud

By Christina Asbury, Realtor

Selling vacant land may seem like a simple process, but when it comes to real estate transactions involving undeveloped property, there's a lot more at stake — and a lot more questions to answer. Whether you're selling a piece of land you've owned for years or are ready to cash out on a property you no longer use, it's important to understand why Realtors ask so many questions. These measures are not only for your protection but also to ensure the sale is legitimate and free from fraud.

In recent years, cases of seller impersonation and land scams have increased, especially with vacant land that has been owned for a long period. These scams can be difficult to spot, so Realtors and attorneys must be extra diligent. Here's why you might be asked to provide more information and what you can do to protect yourself — and the buyer — from fraudulent activity.

Why So Many Questions?

If you've owned land for years, you're likely familiar with the ins and outs of the property, but scammers know this too. Fraudsters often target vacant land that has been owned for **at least 15 years**, because land loans typically have a 15-year term — meaning the property is often paid off and free of any deeds of trust or loans. This makes it much easier for a scammer to impersonate the rightful owner and try to sell the land quickly.

To protect everyone involved — sellers, buyers, and agents — Realtors will ask a lot of questions to verify ownership and ensure the sale is legitimate. This can include requesting a **Vacant Land Disclosure Form** for you to fill out. This form helps agents assess how much you know about the property and gives them additional information to help confirm your identity as the true owner.

Realtors may also request a **photo ID** to verify that the name on the ID matches the name on the deed to the land. In some cases, they might set up a **video call** or ask you to confirm your identity in other ways. If you live far away or cannot meet in person, these extra steps help establish that the sale is being conducted with the legitimate property owner.

What Sellers Should Know: Protect Yourself from Fraud

If you've owned land for a long time, it's crucial to be prepared for these additional verification measures. Here are a few tips to help ensure your sale goes smoothly and securely:

1. Expect to Be Asked for a Lot of Information

Realtors will ask you for documentation to confirm your ownership, such as a government-issued photo ID, a copy of the deed, tax records, and any other relevant documents like a title insurance policy or property survey. This is standard practice to protect against fraud.

2. Fill Out a Vacant Land Disclosure Form

This form helps Realtors understand how much you know about your property. Legitimate sellers should be familiar with the land they're selling, and the form can help demonstrate that you are the rightful owner. If you have difficulty answering basic questions about the land, it could raise red flags

3. Know Why Scammers Target Long-Owned Land

Fraudulent sellers often target land that has been owned for **15+ years**, because such properties typically don't have any outstanding loans or mortgages that need to be satisfied. Scammers aim to sell these properties quickly, often at discounted prices, and will pressure agents and buyers to move fast. Be aware that if you've owned land for a long time, you might be more vulnerable to scammers, who might use **fake IDs** to impersonate you.

4. Be Cautious with Quick, Cash-Only Offers

Scammers are often in a hurry to close the deal, and they may try to convince you to sell at a low price with a **cash-only** offer. These deals may seem enticing, but they can also be a red flag. Take your time and consult your Realtor to ensure the offer is legitimate.

The Bottom Line: Protect Yourself

If you're ready to sell your vacant land, be prepared to verify your identity and ownership through various means. Realtors are taking these steps not just for their own protection, but to ensure the transaction is legitimate and fraud-free. Scammers are targeting long-owned land, so it's important to be vigilant. Consider setting up a Google Alert with your property's address so that if it is listed for sale and makes its way online, you'll know before it's too late.

By providing the necessary documentation and being open to questions from your Realtor, you help protect both yourself and the buyer from potential fraud. A legitimate sale requires transparency, and the more prepared you are, the smoother the process will be. Work with an experienced Realtor who understands LAND to guide you through the steps and protect your interests. Not all Realtors are Created Equal.

SHOP LOCAL
This holiday season

Services
HotWorx
Lamberth Insurance
My Insurance Adjuster

Restaurants
Paradise Axe & Arcade
Southern Roots Grille
LowTide Steakhouse

Retail
Coral Cottage Boutiques
Surf City Guns & Ammo
Herring's Outdoor Sports
DDT Furniture
Thomas Tackle & Seafood
Beach Furniture Outfitters, Inc.

Topsail Island Association of Realtors Donates Over $8,000 to Greater Topsail Community Garden Raised Through 11th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

By Cathi Litcher

Empowering Local Initiatives: A Generous Donation to Boost Community Garden's Mission of Sustainability, Education, and Access to Fresh Produce

The Greater Topsail Community Garden has received a substantial boost in funding thanks to a remarkable donation from the Topsail Island Association of Realtors (TIAR). During the highly anticipated 11th Annual Charity Golf Tournament, held at the scenic North Shore Country Club, TIAR raised over $8,000 in support of the Greater Topsail

Community Garden's mission to provide accessible, sustainable, and locally grown produce to the community. This generous contribution will enable the garden to enhance its resources, expand its educational programs, and further enrich the lives of local community through community engagement, fresh healthy produce and sustainable practices.

Bringing Together Community and Purpose at the 11th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Hosted on October 24, 2024, the 11th Annual TIAR Charity Golf Tournament brought together community leaders, local business owners, and residents for a day filled with friendly competition, camaraderie, and purpose. The event not only highlighted the region's passion for golf but underscored a strong commitment to local causes that uplift and support the community's well-being. The funds raised at this year's tournament mark a record achievement, with over $8,000 contributed directly to the Greater Topsail Community Garden. This donation is expected to play a transformative role in supporting the garden's vision for a greener, more sustainable, and inclusive community. "Each year, the TIAR Charity Golf Tournament brings together members of our community who are dedicated to giving back.

Pictured to the left:

Sandi Monroe, President, Greater Topsail Community Garden and David Elam, TIAR Golf Tournament

This year's focus on supporting the Greater Topsail Community Garden reflects our shared commitment to sustainability, food security, and community well-being," said David Elam, TIAR Golf Tournament Committee Chair. "We're proud to support such a meaningful cause and grateful to all the sponsors, participants, and volunteers who made this donation possible."

Empowering the Greater Topsail Community Garden's Mission

The Greater Topsail Community Garden, located near Surf City, NC, has become a beloved space where people of all ages and backgrounds come together to cultivate, learn, and grow. By providing access to fresh produce and hands-on gardening education, the garden plays a pivotal role in promoting food security, environmental stewardship, and a sense of community pride. With the funds donated by TIAR, the garden will be able to:

- **Enhance Infrastructure and Resources**: New equipment, seeds, and materials can now be acquired, allowing for improved planting and harvesting processes and ensuring that the garden continues to thrive year-round.
- **Expand Educational Programs**: These programs include workshops, classes, and community events focused on gardening, sustainability, nutrition, and wellness. The funds will enable the garden to extend these offerings to even more residents, fostering a culture of learning and community involvement.
- **Increase Access to Fresh Produce**: By bolstering crop yields and supporting planting diversity, the garden will provide fresh fruits and vegetables to local families, contributing to greater food accessibility and health benefits for all.

"We're incredibly grateful to the Topsail Island Association of Realtors for their generous donation and their belief in the mission of the Greater Topsail Community Garden," said Cathi Litcher, Garden Community Liaison. "This support will enable us to broaden our impact, bringing more people into the garden, and providing hands-on experiences that benefits the entire community."

A Vision for Sustainable Community Growth and Education

The Greater Topsail Community Garden operates through a robust network of volunteers, educators, and community supporters, each of whom plays an integral role in maintaining the garden's beauty and productivity.

In addition to being a source of fresh produce, the garden is an invaluable educational resource, teaching residents of all ages the importance of sustainable practices, conservation, and healthy eating habits. With TIAR's donation, the garden can now take on even more ambitious projects, including:

- Outreach Programs: Bringing gardening workshops and educational events to local schools, community centers, and senior living facilities.
- Volunteer Initiatives: Expanding opportunities for residents to contribute their time and talents through "Adopt a Bed" and "Plant Parent" programs, fostering a deeper sense of connection with the community garden.

Supporting Community Well-Being Through Partnership and Collaboration

The partnership between TIAR and the Greater Topsail Community Garden exemplifies how local organizations can come together to support causes that benefit the entire community. By aligning their efforts and resources, these groups are helping create a healthier, more connected, and resilient Topsail community.

For more information on how you can support or get involved with the Greater Topsail Community Garden, please visit

https://kiwanisoftopsailisland.org/community-garden/

or attend upcoming harvests on Tuesdays from 8:30a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

About Topsail Island Association of Realtors

The Topsail Island Association of Realtors is a dedicated organization focused on advancing the real estate industry while making meaningful contributions to the local community. Through events, partnerships, and advocacy, TIAR supports initiatives that uplift the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors across the Topsail region. To learn more about TIAR's community efforts and the 11th Annual Charity Golf Tournament, please visit https://www.usamls.net/topsailisland/.

About Greater Topsail Community Garden

The Greater Topsail Community Garden is a community-driven initiative in Hampstead, NC, devoted to fostering sustainable food practices, environmental awareness, and community engagement. Through collaborative efforts and education, the garden provides fresh produce to local families and serves as a living classroom where residents can learn and practice eco friendly gardening methods. For more details on the Greater Topsail Community Garden's programs, volunteer opportunities, and upcoming events, please visit our website.

TIAR and Greater Topsail Community Garden Representatives

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Onslow County Door-to-Door Soliciting

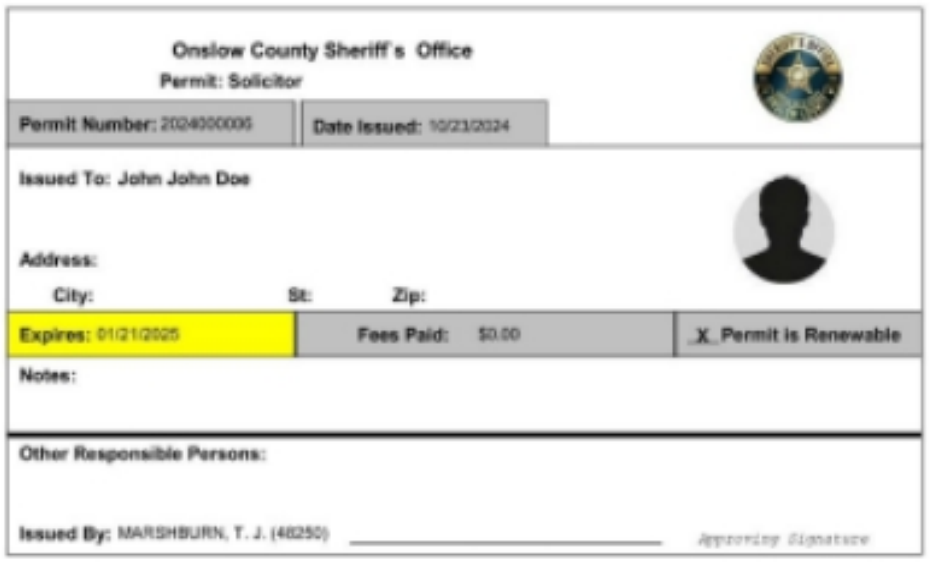
By Onslow County Sheriff Dept

As the holiday season picks up, Onslow County has typically seen an increase in door-to-door soliciting.

Onslow County Sheriff Chris Thomas would like to remind citizens that the county has a "soliciting" ordinance that prevents people from asking for money near businesses and on public streets and highways. It is unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to sell, offer for sale, or solicit, or go door-to-door within the county without having first secured a peddler/solicitor's permit from the county.

"We urge our community to stay vigilant when dealing with door-to-door salespersons," said Sheriff Chris Thomas. "Always ask for identification, never share personal information, and don't hesitate to contact local law enforcement if something feels off. Your safety is our top priority."

If someone comes to your door claiming to be a salesperson, always ask to see their county issued identification. Below is a sample of this ID. Possession of this ID means the Onslow County Sheriff's Office has vetted them.


Onslow County Sheriff's Office
Permit: Solicitor
Permit Number: 2024000006
Date Issued: 10/23/2024
Issued To: John John Doe
Address:
City: St: Zip:
Expires: 01/21/2025
Fees Paid: $0.00
X Permit is Renewable
Notes:
Other Responsible Persons:
Issued By: MARSHBURN, T. J. (46250)
Approving Signature

Applications for peddler permits must be submitted to the Onslow County Sheriff's Office, located at 717 Court Street in Jacksonville, on a form provided by the sheriff's office during regular business hours (Mon.- Fri. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

Once the permit is obtained, peddling, soliciting, and selling shall be permitted only between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. during Eastern Daylight Time and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. during Eastern Standard Time.

The peddler permit issued for that person shall be carried and always displayed while conducting such solicitations in such a manner as to be clearly visible to a reasonable person of adequate vision. The sheriff's office shall approve or deny an application and issue a permit as soon as possible. Issued permits are nontransferable.

For more information or questions, please contact the Onslow County Sheriff's Office at 910-455- 3113.

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PENDER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION,
IN COLLABORATION WITH
UNTITLED THEATRE PRODUCTIONS,
PROUDLY PRESENTS:

HOMETOWN HOLIDAY

2024 NEW SHOW SAME TOWN

WRITTEN BY STEVE CAMPBELL

THE HAMPSTEAD ANNEX
15060 US-17 HAMPSTEAD, NC 28443

DECEMBER 12TH 7:00PM
DECEMBER 13TH 7:00PM
DECEMBER 14TH 3:00PM
DECEMBER 14TH 7:00PM
DECEMBER 15TH 3:00PM

$15 PER TICKET

PENDER COUNTY Parks & Recreation

For more information visit
www.pendercountync.gov/576/Parks-Recreation
or call 910-259-1330

Untitled Theatre Productions

Children's CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday,
DECEMBER 22
2024
2:00 PM TO
4:00 PM

Games, gifts,
food & fun!

TOPSAIL ISLAND MOOSE
LODGE NO. 2061

TOPSAIL ISLAND MOOSE
LODGE NO. 2061
13175 NC 50
HAMPSTEAD, NC 28443

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National Award-Winning Ice Cream Store in Topsail Beach

The North American Ice Cream Association has announced the winners of its 2024 National Ice Cream Awards, and Scoops Microcreamery, a beloved local business, has achieved remarkable success. This recognition places Topsail Beach firmly on the map as a hub for exceptional frozen treats.

Each year, hundreds of ice cream professionals and aspiring dessert entrepreneurs from across the nation gather for the industry's largest event in the U.S., hosted this year at The Savannah Convention Center, Savannah GA, from November 12-15. A highlight of the event is the association's ice cream flavor and quality competitions, which draw entries from the finest ice cream makers nationwide.

In this year's competition, Scoops Microcreamery earned:

- **Red Ribbon for their Classic Organic Strawberry**

The rigorous sensory judging process was overseen by Dr. Sam Alcaine of Cornell University, a highly respected dairy scientist. Judging panels included seasoned ice cream business owners, making this recognition a true honor from peers within the industry.

A Celebration of Craftsmanship

Being recognized on a national stage is a testament to the hard work and creativity of Scoops Microcreamery's team. Their dedication to creating exceptional ice cream delights continues to inspire both the industry and their loyal customers.

About the North American Ice Cream Association

Founded in 1933, the North American Ice Cream Association supports retail ice cream and frozen dessert businesses with training, resources, and networking opportunities. The organization's annual convention is a marquee event for the industry, drawing attendees from the United States, Canada, and beyond. Member businesses employ thousands and serve millions of customers annually.

Andrea Agostinetti and Kayla Iwaskiw, the mother-daughter team owners at Scoops Microcreamery.

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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, Itook my position and began to fire. BAM BAM BAM. The noise was tremendous, the recoil was more than I ever wanted and by the time I was done shooting everyone was staring at me. Though I still hit the target my shoulders were sore and my head hurt.
This was NOT the right gun for me.
Of course my husband did not see my problem. He was gracious enough to take the gun (which I now see is a conspiracy on the part of men) and I continued on my search for the right gun. Unlike most men I know, I was not raised shooting a gun.
I knew very little about them and found that in this case knowledge and comfort were the two most important things I needed to focus on.
Guns scare me and I needed a gun that I could feel safe around, know how to load and unload, and that I could ensure was safe around my children.
These were not things that anyone in a gun shop had ever asked me about and I knew that needed to change.

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

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

Christmas Prime Rib

Ingredients

- 1 (6 pound) boneless prime rib roast
- 2 tablespoons prepared horseradish
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 2 teaspoons coarsely ground black pepper
- 2 teaspoons dried thyme
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 small unpeeled onion, quartered and separated
- 2 stalks celery, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 1 carrot, cut into 2-inch pieces

Steps

The day before serving, remove the roast from the package and dry thoroughly with paper towels. Set roast on a baking sheet, and place in refrigerator overnight. Remove from refrigerator 1 hour before cooking to allow meat to reach room temperature.

Au Jus Sauce:
2 teaspoons concentrated beef base (paste)
1 ½ cups water
1 teaspoon cornstarch
1 teaspoon water

Rub the roast all over with horseradish and Dijon mustard. Mix kosher salt, black pepper, thyme, and garlic powder together in small bowl; sprinkle over the roast. **Preheat** the oven to 450 degrees F (230 degrees C). Place celery, carrot, and onion into the bottom of a roasting pan; place the roast on top. **Roast** in the preheated oven for 30 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C), and roast until the meat is browned and an instant-read meat thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the roast reads 130 degrees F (54 degrees C) for medium-rare. **Remove from oven**, transfer roast to a platter, and cover with a tent of aluminum foil. Allow to rest for 30 minutes. The temperature of the meat will rise about 10 degrees during resting time. **To make au jus sauce:** Skim excess fat from pan drippings in the roasting pan. Place the pan over a burner set to medium heat; stir in beef base and 1 1/2 cups of water. Bring to a boil, scraping and dissolving any brown flavor bits from the bottom of the pan. **Strain out** and discard vegetables. Combine cornstarch and 1 teaspoon of water in a small bowl; whisk the mixture into sauce. **Allow sauce** to thicken slightly; pour into a gravy boat and serve with roast. **Serve and enjoy!**

Word Search: Christmas

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Prancer
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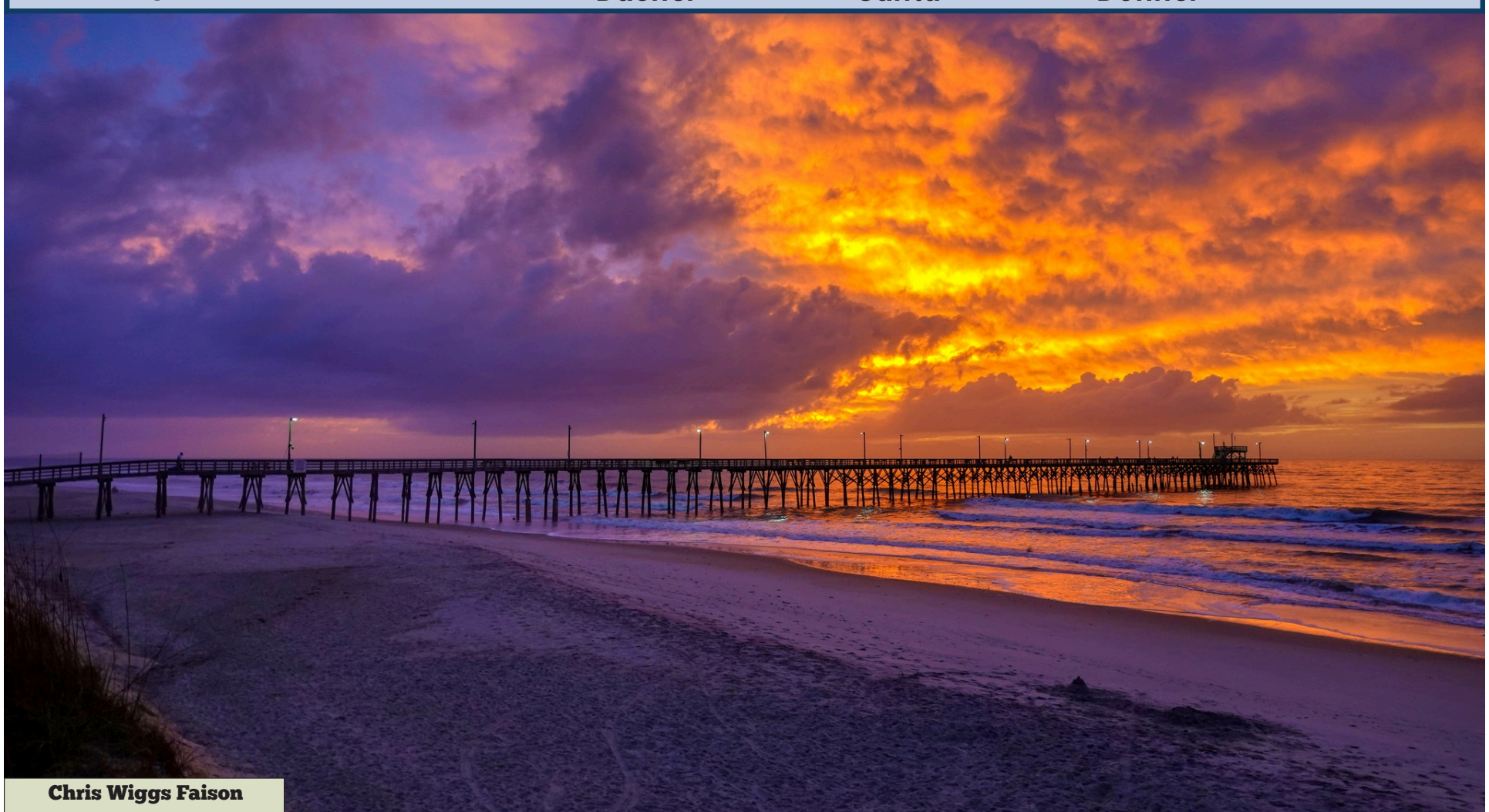

Chris Wiggs Faison

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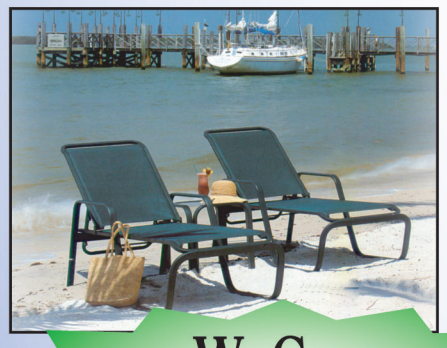

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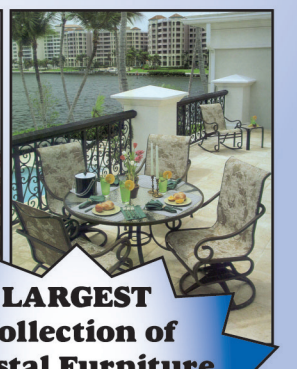

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