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Newly Elected Holly Ridge Councilman Resigns



On Tuesday, February 13th, during the regular Holly Ridge town meeting, Councilman Aaron Ritter announced that he will be resigning his position on the Town Council on February 29th. Councilman Ritter was newly elected to the Board after winning the 2nd highest vote count in November out of nine candidates. In a letter to the public, Councilman Ritter stated that he was offered a job in Germany and that the opportunity was too great to pass over.




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Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC

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For the year of 2024,
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ONE publication a month.

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Topsail Gun Gal

By Dorothy Royal

On March 12th, US District Judge Saylor will decide what to do about the \$10 Billion (with a B) lawsuit against firearm manufacturers in the USA brought on by Mexico. The lawsuit, filed in 2021, states that over 500,000 firearms were illegally brought into Mexico through the United States and therefore the big firearm manufacturers are responsible for supporting the Cartels and the violent crimes that accompany them. In most cases, the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) would be used to dismiss the lawsuit, but in this case, Mexico is claiming the gun manufacturers committed criminal acts. The firearm manufacturers include Glock, Beretta USA, Smith & Wesson, Colt, Sturm, Ruger & Co. and Barrett. You know what would help to reduce the illegal trade of firearms into Mexico? A secure border.

On a different note, the Mexican cartel is setting up shop on Indian Reservations across Montana. The State, known for its expansive open spaces, only has 20 DEA agents. Deaths by Fentanyl have sky rocked and now the Indian Reservations are in a State of Emergency.

You know what would help reduce the illegal cartel drug trade in Montana? A secure border.

Georgia Senate Bill 344 is proposing a tax-free holiday for firearms,

ammunition, and firearm accessories. The holiday would be five days in October and designed to promote hunting.

A gun shop and the former gun shop owner of Federal Way Discount Guns in Washington State has agreed to pay a \$3,000,000 (million) dollar fine for selling magazines that hold more than 10 rounds after the law was changed in 2022. Another shop was also fined but that amount was only \$15,000.00 for violating the law. The gun shop owner's defense was that local law enforcement told him the law was unconstitutional and therefore he didn't need to worry about it.

In 2020, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a ban on "large capacity" magazines was unconstitutional and violated a citizen's 2nd amendment. To date, 14 states still have restrictions and I bet you can guess which ones those are.

57% of Ohio voters decided to vote for marijuana legalization, but an Ohio representative is warning her colleagues that their movement to create restrictions was against the will of the people. "People have told us time and time again when Issue 2 was passed what they want. All we're doing right now is going against the people's will." A smart politician!

Gangs of young men from Venezuela are impacting the safety of tourists and residents in New York City. A 15-year-old male, who arrived a few months ago from

Venezuela, was arrested for shooting a woman in the leg in Times Square, surrounded by cameras.

Just when you think the world can't get any stranger, PETA (People for the ethical treatment of animals) may have gone a bit too far. With a world full of living animals that need help and protection, PETA has decided to take on the manufacturer of fake animals. Carousel animals, like horses, camels and elephants, suddenly need protection from abuse. The president of PETA wrote, "Animal-themed carousel sets reinforce the notion that these sentient beings are simply here for our entertainment, rather than individuals with the same capacity to experience fear, pain, joy and love as any of us."

Does this person not realize carousel animals were made exactly for our

entertainment? Do you know how many times I waited in line as a child to get the really cool horse? This was no little task by the way; a lot of people wanted the cool horses. I guess my concern is that the group has lost focus of the important work out there – protecting living animals, not statues.

What does PETA want to replace the statues of animals with? Cars, tractors, brooms, and rainbows. Yes, you read that right – brooms and rainbows. Tell me how that is not a direct attack on witches and leprechauns? How rude, not to mention that is not a group I would want to upset.

Remember knowledge is power, leprechauns live at the end of rainbows, and nothing good can come from a carousel of witches riding brooms.

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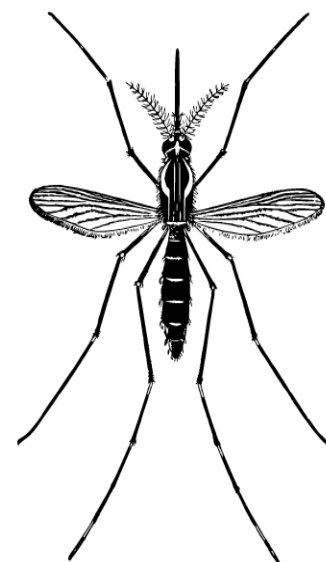
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Blue Marlin



I am a Russian Blue look a like with a white spot on my chest! My fur is that silky, shiney silvery blue/gray color. My eyes tell you how truly sweet I am! My favorite thing is being scratched behind my ears & on top of my back. Next to that, I'd say kitty treats are my next favorite thing! I was homeless until FURR saved me! My brother, Perch, was also saved & we look like twin Russian Blue kitties! We can't wait to see if Christmas will mean a new home for us! Our paws are crossed for our dream to come true!

Bubbles



My name is Bubbles and I'm a BEAUTIFUL little boy that FURR saved! My best traits are my silky smooth fur & my adorable personality! I have the sweetest little meow & I love to tell everybody what I'm thinking. You just won't find a calmer, more laid back kinda kitty than me! I totally vetted & ready to move on with my life. FURR has prepared me well. I also have 2 sisters: Beaches, who looks just like me and Mermaid who is a tortoise shell. We all three had a rough start in life. Are u the one to change all that for me? For us???

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There Are Many Types Of Dances To Explore

By LuAnn Hooper

Let's look at some of the more known types. Tap Dancing is a full-body workout! While the legs do the bulk of the workout, in many steps the arms are lifted above the shoulders, which strengthens and tones those muscles. This combination of arms and legs moving together elevates the heart rate, creating a good cardiovascular workout. An hour of tap dancing is thought to burn anywhere between 200 and 600 calories depending on your pace, the step sequence and the effort used in the hour of practice. Tap Dancing improves balance and Posture, a key factor in dancing is balance. It is imperative to have good balance as you move from one foot to another. Tap dancing also exercises the mind combining the rhythm and memorization of the steps, which keeps your mind focused, therefore improving your mental health, as well as adding grace as you move across the dance floor. Tap dancing boosts cardiovascular performance, tone leg muscles, reduces high blood pressure, and burn fat.

Looking at Benefits of Ballet Dancing, you needn't look beyond the physiques of professional ballet dancers to realize that this dance is a fantastic physical training, as it engages the entire body from head to toe, working different muscle groups. Ballet will help you get your posture on point as well to correct every day posture, and balance coordination with awareness leathing of the spine and squaring of the hips.

Let's look at the health benefits of jazz dance. This is a classification shared by a broad range of dance styles. Before the 1950's, a new genre of jazz dance/modern jazz dance emerged, with roots in Caribbean traditional dance.

Every individual style of jazz dance has roots traceable to one of these two distinct origins. Jazz was a big hit in the early 1950" and it is still a well-loved style of dance all over the world. Moves used in jazz dance include "jazz hands, kicks leaps, sideways shuffling, rolled shoulders, and turned knees". The first benefit of jazz dance is that it provides ab incredible cardo workout, the second, benefit is that it challenges your body physically. All of that cardio exercise is really going to push the limits of how much stamina you have and ultimately your ability to do longer and more intense sequences will improve. Third benefit of jazz dance is that it pushes the boundaries of muscle memory. Your brain will also have to really challenge itself to preform each minute movement the dancing requires for each sequence. This type of dance is a great way to relieve stress and focus and will release good endorphins.

Last for this article, but far from the least of the many types practiced and health beneficial forms of dancing, is Lyrical dance. This form of dance can help you learn better, improve your memory, decrease fatigue, and ease depression. Enthusiasts often describe lyrical dance as a combination of jazz and ballet, as dancers move fluidly and emotivity to a carefully selected piece of music.

Today, lyrical style dance is a well destabilized genre of modern or contemporary dance. The dancer is trying to convey their emotions a song stirs in them into movement. This

requires precise yet fluid move movements of the body, but the dancers' emotions should also clearly show in their facial expressions. (Lets get out there and Move to the Grove!!)

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| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
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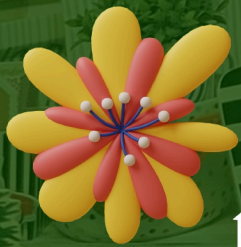
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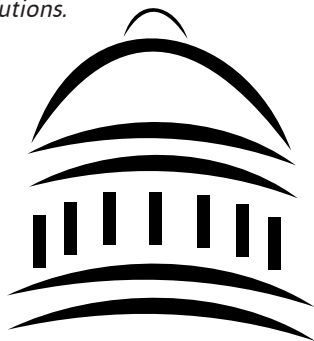
Principles of Good Governance Providing Essential Services To The Public

By Joshua Patti
Holly Ridge Town Council Member



Principles of Good Governance

In this op-ed series, we delve into the principles of good governance, drawing inspiration from a variety of real-world experiences to illuminate the key factors that contribute to effective and accountable governance. As Mayor Pro Tempore of Holly Ridge, I will be using my real experiences to write an honest op-ed series on good governance, where I'll share insights and lessons learned to contribute to the well-being and progress of Holly Ridge. Each piece explores different aspects of governance, emphasizing transparent communication, collaboration, and the responsible handling of confidential matters. The series aims to provide insights into the universal challenges and successes of governance, offering valuable lessons applicable to diverse contexts for the establishment of robust, responsive, and accountable public institutions.



In the pursuit of creating thriving and sustainable communities, governments play a crucial role in ensuring the provision of essential services that meet the needs of their citizens. Article three of our ongoing series on the Principles of Good Governance delves into the importance of responsible development and growth, paired with the delivery of essential services such as healthcare, access to food, and public safety.

1. Sensible Development and Growth

A hallmark of effective governance is the ability to balance development and growth with the preservation of community values and resources. Article three underscores the imperative for the council to engage in sensible and sustainable development practices. This involves careful urban planning, zoning regulations, and infrastructure investments that promote economic prosperity while safeguarding the environment and quality of life for residents.

Sensible development takes into account factors such as population growth projections, environmental impact assessments, and the preservation of green spaces. By prioritizing responsible development, the council ensures that communities retain their unique character and remain resilient in the face of future challenges.

It is important for Holly Ridge to guide development in conjunction with providing vital services. As council recently approved a 113 townhome development off of highway 17, the developer also reached an agreement

with Medac Urgent Care to provide medical services to the community. These simultaneous conversations need to happen to ensure residential development does not outpace providing the public with essential services.

2. Provision of Essential Services

At the heart of good governance lies the commitment to providing essential services that are vital for the well-being and prosperity of the population. Article three highlights the responsibility of the council to prioritize the delivery of critical services such as healthcare, education, access to nutritious food, and public safety.

Access to healthcare services, including hospitals, clinics, and emergency response systems, is essential for promoting public health and addressing medical emergencies. Similarly, ensuring the availability of grocery stores and farmers' markets helps combat food insecurity and promotes healthy eating habits among residents.

Moreover, a well-equipped and adequately staffed police and fire department is essential for maintaining public safety and responding to emergencies promptly. By investing in these essential services, the council demonstrates its commitment to the welfare and safety of the community.

There is no doubt the Town of Holly Ridge will be growing for years to come. It is important for the government to be proactive in seeking out essential services as the growth takes place. A reactive response will leave the

community lacking said essential services and ultimately result in a higher demand for key services.

3. Community Engagement and Collaboration

In striving to provide essential services, effective governance involves active engagement with community stakeholders and fostering collaboration with relevant agencies and organizations. Article three emphasizes the importance of soliciting input from residents, businesses, and advocacy groups to identify priorities and address emerging needs effectively.

Collaboration with healthcare providers, non-profit organizations, and private enterprises can enhance the delivery of essential services and maximize resources. By leveraging partnerships and community networks, the council can extend its reach and ensure that services are accessible to all residents, regardless of socio-economic status or geographic location.

In conclusion, Article three of the Principles of Good Governance underscores the critical role of providing essential services in fostering healthy, resilient, and inclusive communities. By embracing sensible development practices and prioritizing the delivery of vital services, the council lays the groundwork for sustainable growth and the well-being of its citizens. As we continue to explore further principles in this series, the overarching theme remains clear: effective governance is rooted in the commitment to serving the needs of the public.



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Fashion Statements: The Tracy Chapman Moment

By Becky Borneman

I think we've all seen it by now, the duet that was performed on the Grammy's with Luke Combs and Tracy Chapman singing Fast Car. When Fast Car became popular again last year by Luke Combs, I was surprised at how many people had never heard it before. I remember Fast Car coming out when I was in high school and I loved it.

But there was something that night about that whole performance. We were at dinner with friends and the restaurant had The Grammy's televised. I was glued to the screen from the moment the first chord sounded. When the camera panned to show it was actually Tracy Chapman on stage with Luke Combs, I was hooked. Now from what I understand Tracy hasn't played live for over 20 years. And when that audience

erupted in applause and cheers, she looked absolutely touched with the reception. Luke sang along with her and when he wasn't he was looking at Tracy in awe. When the song was over, Luke pointed at Tracy as if to give her all the respect and they received a standing ovation.

What got me the most, was the humble pride and surprise she seemed to have when she got that reception. To me, it was amazing to witness. It's like she realized right then and there what her music has meant to people.

It got me thinking. We all should feel that way in our lives. I read where Tracy said that she quit singing for a while because she is "perhaps not the ideal person" for the job, not having the personality to thrive under the spotlight. And I think we have all felt that way.

Doubted things we do, even the things we love to do. I think we all need a standing ovation at some point or another in our life. Whether it be for graduating college, getting a promotion or simply for making it through another day of life sometimes.

I challenge us all to create that moment for someone in our life, a Tracy Chapman moment. Give someone that feeling of purpose, re-assuring them of what they're doing and applauding them for the simple things.



Greater Topsail Area Chamber Of Commerce Partners With CFCC Small Business Center

By Tammy Proctor

If Disney Ran Your Business workshop offered March 12

The Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism office is partnering with the Small Business Center at Cape Fear Community College to present a series of workshops in 2024.

"The next workshop in our Lunch and Series with CFCC Small Business Center is 'If Disney Ran Your Business' with the Ex-Disney guy, John Formica," said Tammy Proctor, Executive Director of the Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism.

The March 12, 11:30 a.m. seminar is free to the community. Box lunches will be provided for the cost of \$10 for

chamber members or \$15 for non-members. All seminars will be hosted by the CFCC Alston W. Burke Center in Surf City, 621 NC Hwy 210.

The "If Disney Ran Your Business" seminar focuses on cultivating repeat customers, the lifeblood of a healthy business. This is a must for frontline employees. Learn from the authority of "America's Best Customer Service Experience Coach" as we explore incredible experiences and best practices.

Other seminars in the Lunch and Learn Series include:

- How to Find, Interview, and Hire Magical People, also taught by John Formica, who hired more than 75,000 employees at Disney World Resort, is

offered May 1.

- On July 9, learn to put together the pieces of the social media puzzle in the workshop How to Maximize social media for Your Business. This class will help you connect your business message if you struggle with social media strategies.

- Finally on Sept. 11, learn how to market your business online. Digital marketing is different from traditional offline marketing. This class instructs business owners how to integrate, how to improve their return on investment, and expand their reach.

To register for the workshops, go online to topsailchamber.org/events. To order lunch, email director@topsailchamber.org.

The Greater Topsail Area Chamber of

Commerce & Tourism is the official information resource for businesses, residents, and visitors. For more information contact the chamber at 910-329-4446.



2024 Vegetative Debris Pickup

January - March

| January | | | | | | | February | | | | | | | March | | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
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 Mainland - Week 3 - Orange

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www.SurfCityNC.gov/utilities

East Coast Volleyball Academy Teams Take Home Winnings

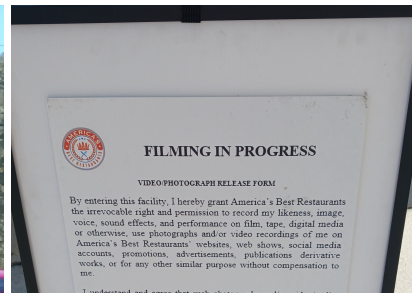
By Stephanie Jones

Volleyball has been steadily gaining popularity in the United States. East Coast Volleyball Academy in Wilmington, NC is able to provide players with the opportunity to join different travel teams. This past weekend, several of ECVA's 13u teams traveled to Fayetteville to play against other teams from across North Carolina. ECVA's 13u Blue team started out playing games at 9am. After starting out rough and taking several defeats, the team came back strong after their lunch break and managed to fight tooth and nail to get to the semifinals and eventually advance to the finals where they would end up playing another ECVA team. After 10 hours of playing volleyball, the 13u Blue team and White team both played their

hearts out in the final game, leaving it all on the court. Congratulations to the Blue team for taking home gold and the White team for taking home silver!



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March 9th

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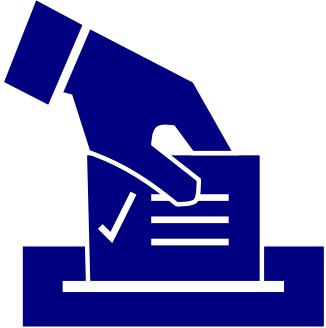
(910) 328-4499

127 Sound Road in Holly Ridge

Republican Party Candidates

| PARTISAN NOMINATIONS | NC Auditor (You may vote for ONE) | NC Treasurer (You may vote for ONE) |
|---|---|--|
| Presidential Preference (You may vote for ONE) | <input type="radio"/> Charles Dingee <input type="radio"/> Jim Kee <input type="radio"/> Anthony Wayne (Tony) Street <input type="radio"/> Jeff Tarte <input type="radio"/> Dave Boliek <input type="radio"/> Jack Clark | <input type="radio"/> A. J. Daoud <input type="radio"/> Rachel Johnson <input type="radio"/> Brad Briner NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 15 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Chris Freeman <input type="radio"/> Hunter Murphy |
| <input type="radio"/> Ron DeSantis <input type="radio"/> Nikki Haley <input type="radio"/> Asa Hutchinson <input type="radio"/> Vivek Ramaswamy <input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump <input type="radio"/> Ryan Binkley <input type="radio"/> Chris Christie <input type="radio"/> No Preference | NC Commissioner of Agriculture (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Colby (Bear) Hammonds <input type="radio"/> Steve Troxler NC Commissioner of Insurance (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Andrew Marcus <input type="radio"/> C. Robert Brawley <input type="radio"/> Mike Causey | <input type="radio"/> Max Southworth-Beckwith Pender County Board of Commissioners District 4 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Jacqueline (Jackie) Newton <input type="radio"/> Ken Smith <input type="radio"/> Fred McCoy <input type="radio"/> Brent Springer |
| NC Governor (You may vote for ONE) | <input type="radio"/> Dale R. Folwell <input type="radio"/> Bill Graham <input type="radio"/> Mark Robinson | Pender County Board of Commissioners District 5 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Mike Causey <input type="radio"/> Fred McCoy <input type="radio"/> Brent Springer |
| NC Lieutenant Governor (You may vote for ONE) | NC Commissioner of Labor (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Luke Farley <input type="radio"/> Jon Hardister <input type="radio"/> Chuck Stanley <input type="radio"/> Travis J. Wilson | <input type="radio"/> Brad George <input type="radio"/> Joe Cina |
| <input type="radio"/> Rivera Douthit <input type="radio"/> Jeffrey Elmore <input type="radio"/> Marlenis Hernandez Novoa <input type="radio"/> Allen Mashburn <input type="radio"/> Jim O'Neill <input type="radio"/> Sam Page <input type="radio"/> Ernest T. Reeves <input type="radio"/> Hal Weatherman <input type="radio"/> Seth Woodall <input type="radio"/> Deanna Ballard <input type="radio"/> Peter Boykin | NC Secretary of State (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Jesse Thomas <input type="radio"/> Christine E. Villaverde <input type="radio"/> Chad Brown | Pender County Board of Education District 5 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Tommy Reeves <input type="radio"/> Phil Cordeiro End of Ballot |
| | NC Superintendent of Public Instruction (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Michele Morrow <input type="radio"/> Catherine Truitt | |

Democratic Party Candidates

| PARTISAN NOMINATIONS | NC Treasurer (You may vote for ONE) |
|---|---|
| Presidential Preference (You may vote for ONE) | <input type="radio"/> Gabe Esparza <input type="radio"/> Wesley Harris |
| <input type="radio"/> Joseph R. Biden, Jr. <input type="radio"/> No Preference | NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 6 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Allison Riggs <input type="radio"/> Lora Christine Cubbage |
| NC Governor (You may vote for ONE) | End of Ballot |
| <input type="radio"/> Gary Foxx <input type="radio"/> Michael R. (Mike) Morgan <input type="radio"/> Josh Stein <input type="radio"/> Marcus W. Williams <input type="radio"/> Chrelle Booker |  |
| NC Lieutenant Governor (You may vote for ONE) | |
| <input type="radio"/> Rachel Hunt <input type="radio"/> Mark H. Robinson <input type="radio"/> Ben Clark |  |
| NC Attorney General (You may vote for ONE) | |
| <input type="radio"/> Satana Deberry <input type="radio"/> Tim Dunn <input type="radio"/> Jeff Jackson | |
| NC Commissioner of Insurance (You may vote for ONE) | |
| <input type="radio"/> Natasha Marcus <input type="radio"/> David Wheeler | |
| NC Superintendent of Public Instruction (You may vote for ONE) | |
| <input type="radio"/> C.R. Katie Eddings <input type="radio"/> Maurice (Mo) Green <input type="radio"/> Kenon Crumble | |

Libertarian Party Candidates

| PARTISAN NOMINATIONS | NC Governor (You may vote for ONE) |
|--|--|
| Presidential Preference (You may vote for ONE) | <input type="radio"/> Joshua Smith <input type="radio"/> Mike ter Maat |
| <input type="radio"/> David (TrimeTaveler) Dunlap <input type="radio"/> Jacob Hornberger <input type="radio"/> Beau Lindsey <input type="radio"/> Lars Mapstead <input type="radio"/> Chase Oliver <input type="radio"/> Michael Rectenwald | <input type="radio"/> Mike Ross <input type="radio"/> Shannon W. Bray End of Ballot |
| | <input type="radio"/> Toad Anderson <input type="radio"/> Charles Ballay <input type="radio"/> No Preference |

Pender County
March 5, 2024

Primary Election Early Voting Locations

- Shiloh Volunteer Fire Department
19170 US Hwy 421
Watha, NC 28478
- Pender County Annex Building
15060 US Hwy 17
Hampstead, NC 28443
- Pender County NC Coop Extension
Auditorium
(In Lieu of Office Site)
801 S. Walker Street Burgaw, NC 28425
- Surf City Community Center Gym
201 Community Center Drive
Surf City, NC 28445

| Day | Date | Open | Close |
|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|
| Thursday | 2/15/2024 | 8:00am | 7:30pm |
| Friday | 2/16/2024 | 8:00am | 7:30pm |
| Sunday | 2/18/2024 | 8:00am | 3:00pm |
| Monday | 2/19/2024 | 8:00am | 7:30pm |
| Tuesday | 2/20/2024 | 8:00am | 7:30pm |
| Wednesday | 2/21/2024 | 8:00am | 7:30pm |
| Thursday | 2/22/2024 | 8:00am | 7:30pm |
| Friday | 2/23/2024 | 8:00am | 7:30pm |
| Saturday | 2/24/2024 | 8:00am | 3:00pm |
| Monday | 2/26/2024 | 8:00am | 7:30pm |
| Tuesday | 2/27/2024 | 8:00am | 7:30pm |
| Wednesday | 2/28/2024 | 8:00am | 7:30pm |
| Thursday | 2/29/2024 | 8:00am | 7:30pm |
| Friday | 3/1/2024 | 8:00am | 7:30pm |
| Saturday | 3/2/2024 | 8:00am | 3:00pm |



Onslow Amateur Radio Club Conducted HAM Radio Field Day

By Michael Brenyo

Members of the Onslow Amateur Radio Club-OARC took part in the ARRL Winter Field Day on 27-28 January 2024 Sat./Sun. Beginning at 2 p.m. on Saturday, the HAMS ran continuously until 2 p.m. on Sunday making hundreds of contacts around the country and around the world.

During the event, FCC licensed OARC Ham Radio operators - most commonly known as 'Hams' and the general public (operating as station guests) communicated continuously over the airways for 24 hours making contacts in a variety of ways, including using radiotelephone, Morse Code, and a variety of digital communications.

Onslow Amateur Radio operators set up antennas and radio stations at the Sturgeon City Environmental Education Center in Jacksonville, NC., Using a large, portable, extendable 42-foot mast beam antenna and several other antennae types. Many of the operators are also members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Services- ARES working through the City of Jacksonville Emergency Operations Center.

Field Day is ham radio's open house. Every January & June more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation.

It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the U.S. and Canada.

Field Day is a picnic, a camp-out, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, fun. It is a time where many aspects of amateur radio come together to highlight the many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate amateur radio to the organizations that amateur radio might

serve in an emergency, as well as the general public.

The club uses these same skills when members help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fundraisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, pre-planned, non-emergency activities.

The American Radio Relay League has produced a video that provides more information; it can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio>. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio are invited to contact the OARC and learn more about this fascinating hobby. www.onslowarc.org Onslow_ARC@yahoo.com



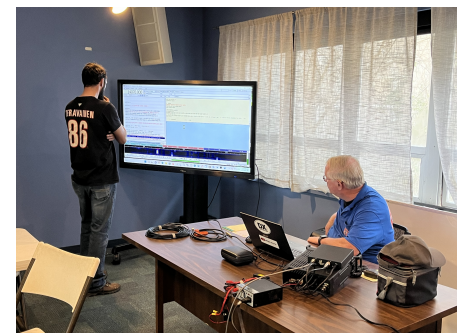
Kenwood TS-590S Transceiver with owner/operator KV7D



Tim Mahlow NC8TM, Chelsea Johnson- Guest Operator



Erecting Beam Antennae are: (Left to right) Adriano Marcuz KV7D, Bill VanPelt KN4LHH, Chris Harkness



Chris Harkness Event Coordinator-awaits Callsign; Dale Town N5VX Club President (left to right)

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- D. R. Royal

Why Bees Are Essential To People And Planet

Originally written by the UN Environment Programme (www.unep.org)

The greatest pollinators

Bees are part of the biodiversity on which we all depend for our survival. They provide high-quality food—honey, royal jelly and pollen—and other products such as beeswax, propolis and honey bee venom.

As the landmark 2019 report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) notes, “Sacred passages about bees in all the worlds’ major religions highlight their significance to human societies over millennia.”

Beekeeping also provides an important source of income for many rural livelihoods. According to IPBES, the western honey bee is the most widespread managed pollinator globally, and more than 80 million hives produce an estimated 1.6 million tonnes of honey annually.

And pollinators contribute directly to food security. According to bee experts at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, a third of the world’s food production depends on bees.

When animals and insects pick up the pollen of flowers and spread it, they allow plants, including many food crops, to reproduce. Birds, rodents, monkeys and even people pollinate, but the most common pollinators are insects, and among them, bees.

Bees at risk from pesticides, air pollution

But sadly, bees and other pollinators, such as butterflies, bats and hummingbirds, are increasingly under threat from human activities.

Bee populations have been declining globally over recent decades due to habitat loss, intensive farming practices, changes in weather patterns and the excessive use of agrochemicals such as pesticides. This in turn poses a threat to a variety of plants critical to human well-being and livelihoods.

Air pollution is also thought to be affecting bees. Preliminary research shows that air pollutants interact with scent molecules released by plants which bees need to locate food. The mixed signals interfere with the bees’ ability to forage efficiently, making them slower and less effective at pollination.

While the vast majority of pollinator species are wild, including more than 20,000 species of bees, the mass breeding and large-scale transport of pollinators can pose risks for the

transmission of pathogens and parasites. According to the IPBES report, better regulation of their trade can decrease the risk of unintended harm.

Taking urgent action

But there are positive signs.

In May 2018, the European Union upheld a partial ban on three insecticides known as neonicotinoids to mitigate the lethal threat they pose to bees and their trickle-down effect on pollination as a whole.

Representatives from 188 governments gathered in Montreal, December 2022, for the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) which resulted in the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

The GBF aims to address biodiversity loss, restore ecosystems and protect indigenous rights. The plan includes concrete measures to halt and reverse nature loss, including putting 30 per cent of the planet and 30 per cent of degraded ecosystems under protection by 2030.

“Increasing crop and regional farm diversity as well as targeted habitat conservation, management or restoration, is one way of combating climate change and promoting biodiversity,” says UN Environment Programme (UNEP) biodiversity specialist Marieta Sakalian. “Governments need to take the lead.”

It is precisely to encourage governments, organizations, civil society and concerned citizens to protect pollinators and their habitats that the UN has declared May 20, World Bee Day.

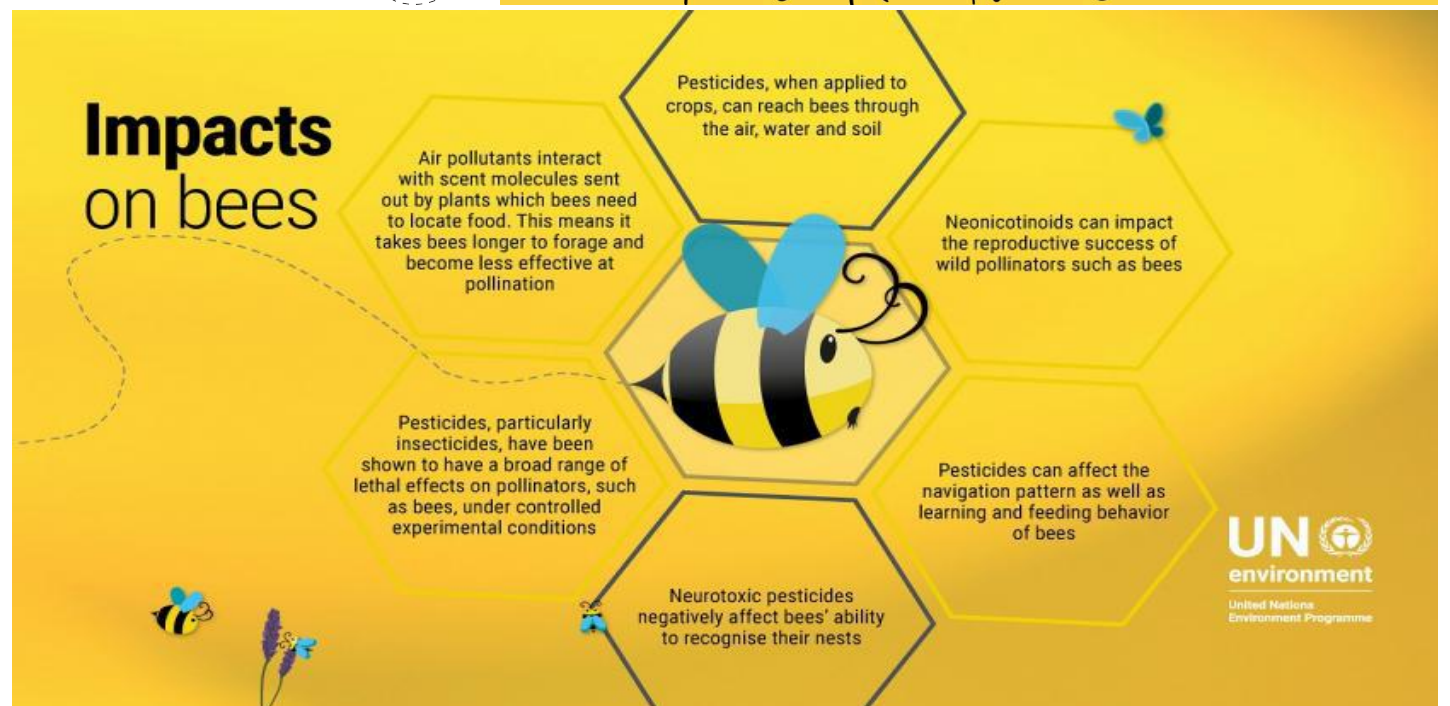
World Bee Day raises awareness of the essential role bees, and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy. The date coincides with the birthday of Anton Jansa, who in the 18th century pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in his native Slovenia and praised the bees for their ability to work so hard while needing so little attention.

This World Bee Day, join the conversation on #WorldBeeDay, and do your part to #Savethebees

Here are some actions you can take to help preserve bees and other pollinators:

- Plant nectar-bearing flowers such as marigolds or sunflowers for decorative purposes on balconies, terraces, and gardens

- Buy honey and other hive products from your nearest local beekeeper
- Raise awareness among children and adolescents on the importance of bees and express your support for beekeepers
- Set up a pollinator farm on your balcony, terrace, or garden
- Preserve old meadows, which feature a more diverse array of flowers, and sow nectar-bearing plants
- Cut grass on meadows only after the nectar-bearing plants have finished blooming
- Use pesticides that do not harm bees, and spray them in windless weather, either early in the morning or late at night, when bees withdraw from blossoms



Empowered People Keep Both Feet Planted Firmly On The Ground

By Diane Henderson

Several years ago, as I was returning home from a speaking engagement, I decided to stop in a town about two hours from home to stretch my legs. At that time the best place in the world for me to stretch my legs was Stein Mart Department store, so that is where I chose to stop. It was late on Sunday afternoon so there were few customers in the store. As I moseyed around, I noticed to my left a display of scarves, and one on the second row caught my eye. I thought it might match the colors of the pants that I was wearing. I stopped and lifted my knee to the scarf to see if I was right.

Before I go on, I want you to picture the scarf display. The scarves were hung on plastic rings and the rings were placed on metal arms that stuck out from the display. The metal arms were curled up at their ends so the plastic rings wouldn't fall off. I lifted my knee in the air, draped the scarf over it and found much to my sadness that the two would not go together. As I lowered my leg, my pant leg caught on one of the metal arms of the display. I lifted my knee to dislodge the pant leg but to no avail. I lifted it once again, but it was still caught and would not detach.

So, there I was, STUCK. I looked around and there was no one in sight to

help me. WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? WHERE IS HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT? DO I YELL OUT FOR HELP? ONLY I COULD MANAGE TO DO THIS!! I was thinking all of this while standing on one leg. I was 60 years old at the time and my balance was not what it used to be. Then I started beating myself up. WHY DID I STOP HERE ANYWAY? HOW CAN ANYONE BE SO DUMB? I SHOULD HAVE NEVER STOPPED GOING TO YOGA. WHY DIDN'T I PAY MORE ATTENTION? When I exhausted my arsenal of negative self-talk, I decided not to embarrass myself by yelling for help, but to simply bend over closer to the rack and pull my pants leg off the metal arm. As I bent over and grabbed the pant leg, I lost my balance and fell on my back in the middle of the store with my feet flying straight up in the air. I am sure that it was a sight to behold.

I was stunned for a minute. I could hear shoppers talking nearby, but still, no one came to my rescue. I pulled myself together, checked all of my bones, and slowly got up and quickly left the store. I was extremely lucky that my feet went up into the air because it dislodged the material from the metal arm of the display. If it had not, I would have pulled the entire rack of scarves on top of me. I was also lucky that I did not get hurt and that no one saw me. I did not have to go through the humiliation that comes with falling in public. I can now laugh at

myself over this, but not at the time.

I share this story because I know there are some of you out there who are precariously perched on one proverbial leg in some area of your life, and you feel stuck. I am sure that you have asked yourself the same questions that I asked, and I know you are most probably beating yourself up just like I did. You may be too embarrassed to ask for help or you do not know where to turn for help. I also know that unlike mine, your dilemma has probably been going on for quite some time. And finally, I know that if you do not fess up to someone and allow them to give you help and guidance, you too will lose your balance and fall. When you fall, you may get hurt. You may hurt others. You may suffer the humiliation of public embarrassment. Asking for help may be difficult, but hopefully, it will give you the strength and confidence to do whatever needs to be done appropriately.

Some areas that people find themselves perched precariously are:

- Ethical issues at work
- Overextended financially
- An eroding marriage
- Poor job performance
- Addictive behavior (alcohol, drugs, credit spending, sex, relationships)
- Parental Issues
- Having an affair
- Physical or emotionally abusive behavior

Inability to say "No" and overextending your time or emotional self

Health issues that you are ignoring
Weight issues that may be leading to health issues

Some questions to ask yourself that might be helpful:

How long have you known on some level that you are perched on the edge of a major problem or maybe smack in the middle of one?

To whom have you admitted the problem?

Who would be helpful if you admitted the problem?

What has kept you from taking action steps to solve the problem?

If you knew what steps to take to solve the problem, what steps would you take?

If you were not afraid of the consequences, what steps would you take to solve the problem?

What excuses are you making up and telling yourself about this problem?

What is the TRUTH about you and this problem?

What is keeping you from taking action on the problem today?

Diane Henderson, MSW Author of ALL GOD'S CHILDREN GOT ISSUES—A Woman's Guide To Turn Her Issues Into Assets. Available: Amazon, Surf City Coffee, A Taste of Sunrise Coffee, Surf City Barbeque

TOWN OF SURF CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT



RECRUITING

Ocean Rescue Swimmer



Requirements

- Must be at least 16 years old
- Must be able to pass performance test 500m ocean swim and physical agility test.
- Must be able to complete the Surf City Ocean Rescue Academy
- Valid NC Drivers License
- Ability to obtain CPR Certification
- EMT Certification (preferred)
- This position requires working during the week, weekends, holidays and evenings.

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HOLLY RIDGE


Upcoming Events

20 Feb **Indoor Adult Pickleball**
8am-10am | Community Center
Feb 20th - May 30th




A new session of adult pickleball is beginning. Only \$3 per drop in or \$30 per three-month session for Holly Ridge Residents and \$6 per drop in or \$60 for three-month session for non Holly Ridge residents.

09 Mar **Shred Event**
10am-12pm | Town Hall
FREE




Visit the Town Hall on Saturday, March 9th, from 10am to 12pm, and dispose of those old documents you've been meaning to get rid of. Let the professionals at Shred America handle the shredding for you.

23 Mar **Easter Egg Hunt**
10am | Municipal Park
FREE



Grab your baskets and get ready to hunt for eggs with the Easter bunny at our egg-citing annual Easter Egg Hunt! Join us at Holly Ridge Municipal Park, kicking off at 10 am sharp. Ages 0-12.



Questions? email Programs@hollyridgenc.org

Coastal Common Sense

By Kim McGahey

The Topsail Beach Town Commissioners think they have dodged a bullet with the withdrawal of the Olsen family development application for The Point parcel of land at the south end of Topsail Beach. However, on the contrary, they may very well have paved the way for a larger more offensive future development.

The Olsen application was an extremely low density request for a zoning change on this 150 acre private land at the very south end of Topsail Island. The applicant was asking for a permit to build a maximum of 8 single family houses on the parcel, over an extended time period. They had agreed to many zoning and environmental conditions, some unreasonable, made by the Town commissioners in order to procure the permit. But in the end, the demands of the Town became too arduous, time consuming and expensive for the applicant to comply with. Thus their recent withdrawal of their development application.

This 150 acre parcel of land is privately owned, but has been mistakenly seen as public land and used

freely by locals and visitors for decades creating the false impression that the land was open to the public. As the years of unhindered access to the land passed, people became accustomed to using the pristine parcel without interference and considered it their own.

And for good reason, as this parcel is one of the few remaining large tracts of undeveloped private land on the Carolina coast. The lightly vegetated dunes, home to coyotes and foxes, tower over miles of pristine coastline adjacent to the Topsail Sound Inlet. Waves break slowly along the deserted shore after being knocked down by several hundred yards of sand reefs approaching the dunes. And the sunsets to the West over the Inlet offer incomparable firey beauty every evening.

The wild Atlantic storms and currents through the years have relocated sand from the North end of Topsail Island and deposited that treasure along this sparse beach creating a coastline that continues to grow bigger every year. The parcel has expanded annually with just the wind and the tides as its master. No wonder fishermen and families have used this quiet slice of oceanfront heaven as their

own for decades.

No place on the North Carolina coast is any more beautiful.

The approval strategy by the Town was to make the application process difficult and restrictive in order to keep any building on the parcel as low key as possible; and then approve the permit so a low density known commodity would be developed on the site. But much to their surprise, the applicant threw in the towel under the Town's heavy planning and zoning burden. Something about all the well laid plans of mice and men comes to mind.


Now the Town Commissioners have a conundrum. Since they have laid out their numerous, some say unreasonable, conditions for development approval on the site, they have cleared the runway for a future development application from a big, professional development company with full-time legal counsel, in-house architectural engineers and environmental impact study (EIS) staff that will likely be asking for a much larger, higher density and more offensive

permit for the site.

This would be a future applicant that has the resources to outlast any conditions the Town might place in their way. The Commissioners may live to regret not approving the minimal impact permit for 8 houses and be forced to approve some monstrous future 80 house development that would ruin the natural setting of the site and preclude any future use and enjoyment by the public.


The Town still has a choice. They can wait for the big city blues to come calling with an unsightly high density project, or go back to the Olsens and make a deal for their low density family camp. The fate of this heavenly coastal parcel and the future of Topsail Beach rests with this timely decision.





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Pender County Events Receive Excellence Awards

BURGAW - Pender County events and festivals took home honors from the NC Association of Festivals and Events (NCAFE) Annual ShowFest in Charlotte. NCAFE recognizes outstanding events and festivals from across the state.

"We are thrilled to announce, that Ocean Fest and Burgaw's New Year's Eve Blueberry Drop are the 2024 NC Association of Festivals & Events Excellence Award Winners" said Stephanie Key, Tourism Assistant, who represented Pender County at ShowFest.

Ocean Fest was the recipient of Best Merchandise, Student Choice and Best T-Shirt. The New Year's Eve Blueberry Drop was awarded Best Poster.

"It means so much for Ocean Fest to be recognized by the North Carolina

Festivals & Events Association again this year," says Executive Director Mark Anders. "Our team of volunteers works so hard throughout the year to pull off this event each October so it's really gratifying for our team to win state-wide awards like these."

Pender County Tourism, The Town of Burgaw and Ocean Fest all members of the association, submitted entries into a variety of offered award-winning categories for each event. The awards program allows the association to honor and recognize festivals and events that took place during the 2023 calendar year.

"We are happy to see the New Year's Eve Blueberry Drop grow in popularity along with the notoriety across the state

received from this organization," stated Cody Suggs, Town of Burgaw Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Director. "The event is a collaborative partnership with Pender County Tourism, Pender County Parks & Recreation, and the North Carolina Blueberry Festival."

"All of our Events and Festivals are unique and make an economic impact upon our area," said Olivia Dawson, Pender County Tourism director. "We are proud that these popular events have received these recognitions."

The Annual Show Fest Event Innovators Conference is held in Charlotte, NC. The theme of this year's conference was Getting Revved Up for 2023. Conference attendees included festival & event planners and industry

professionals. For more information about NCAFE visit online at www.ncfestivals.com.



Meet The Baker At True Blue

Bill Gross is awake when most of us are fast asleep. He is the baker behind the delicious breads, rolls, and plated desserts served at Chef Bobby Zimmerman's growing True Blue brand which includes True Blue Butcher and Table, True Blue Butcher and Barrel, Beat Street, and Ellipsis.

"Bobby is passionate about food and committed to quality," said Bill. "I knew I could work for Bobby."

Bill has been baking for 23 years. He grew up in Queens, New York, where his mother cooked and baked.

"I grew up in the kitchen," he said. He attended the Culinary Institute of America (the CIA) in the Hudson River Valley, and he worked in well-known Manhattan restaurants including Le Cirque, Eleven Madison Park, Jean Georges, Cafe Gray, and Jacques Torres Chocolates in Brooklyn.

Four years before relocating to the Brunswick Forest Area, Bill, and his wife, Chelsea, owned and operated a 10,000 sq. ft. restaurant in Northern Virginia in the D.C. area.

Bill's family vacationed on Bald Head Island for many years with their daughter, Hannah.

"We liked hanging out here," Bill said. "Finally, we decided, we liked the area so much, that we sold our restaurant and moved here."

At True Blue Butcher and Baker, located at 13865 US Hwy 17 in Hampstead, south of the NC 210 intersection, Bill and his team bake all of the goodies served at the True Blue properties.

"On \$5 burger night, hundreds of freshly baked hamburger buns are delivered to our True Blue restaurants," said Bill. Throughout the week Bill and his team provide more than a thousand

hamburger buns from the Hampstead location.

The bakery offers a wide variety of breads including sourdough, focaccia, challah rolls, croissants, and more. The variety doesn't stop there. Sourdough and focaccia breads are baked in a variety of flavors such as cheddar and jalapeno, asiago and parmesan, artichoke, and hot honey.

The croissants are hand-rolled, flaky, and melt-in-your-mouth delicious. True Blue Butcher and Baker offers a scrumptious ham and cheese croissant.

A variety of desserts, pastries, and cookies are available from True Blue Butcher and Baker. Bill said all True Blue plated desserts are baked and prepared at the Hampstead location.

"We offer soups, sides, and of course many butcher cuts so our guests can bring the True Blue experience home with them," Bill said. "We also offer

starter sourdough."

Everything is homemade on the premises, from scratch.

"Customers can experience the same quality food here that they would enjoy at True Blue," Bill stated.

The bakery also offers quality cuts of meat, including filet mignon, New York Strip, rib eyes, as well as crab cakes. True Blue Butcher and Baker also take custom meat orders for guests.

True Blue Butcher and Baker opened in August 2022. It is an expansion of the True Blue brand that Bobby Zimmerman created. The name 'True Blue' pays homage to the butchers dating back to the 1600s when true butchers wore blue aprons.

Stop by True Blue Butcher and Baker on Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.

To place an order, call 910-319-0695.



Local Man Held On Over 10 Million Dollars In Secured Bonds

Kevin Orbie Jones was arrested on February 13th and charged with the following:

POSS W/ INTENT M/S/D METHAMPHETAMINE
POSSESS METHAMPHETAMINE; Bond of \$50000.00; Set By Judge;
CONVERSION BY BAILEE; Bond of \$1300000.00; Set By Magistrate;
OBTAIN PROPERTY BY FALSE PRETENSE; Bond of \$1100000.00; Set By

Magistrate;
HABITUAL FELON; Bond of \$1500000.00; Set By Magistrate;
LARCENY FELONY; Bond of \$1100000.00; Set By Magistrate;
OBTAIN PROPERTY BY FALSE PRETENSE; Bond of \$1200000.00; Set By Magistrate;
FAILURE TO APPEAR Bond of \$50000.00; Set By Judge;
HABITUAL FELON; Bond of \$1400000.00; Set By Magistrate;

HABITUAL FELON Bond of , \$1600000.00; Set By Magistrate;
POSSESS DRUG PARAPHERNALIA(NOT MARIJUANA); Bond - INCLUDED WITH OTHER BOND; Set By Judge;
POSS OF STOLEN GOODS; Set By Magistrate;
OBTAIN PROPERTY BY FALSE PRETENSE; Set By Magistrate;
POSSESS COCAINE
INTERFERE W/ELECTRONIC MONITORING DEVICE



John Rouse Release

On June 27, 2023, a report was filed with the Jacksonville Police Department in reference to a report that John Rouse had sexually abused a child. The case was forwarded to the Onslow County Sheriff's Office, as the incident reportedly occurred in the County.

Through further investigation, it was learned that John Rouse had been accused of sexually abusing a different child in 1996. Law Enforcement met with the Onslow County District Attorney's

Office and a warrant for Indecent Liberties with Child was issued for the recent case and the 1996 case.

On February 15, 2024, John Rouse, 68-years-old of Leslie Drive in Hubert, was located in Carteret County by the Carteret County Sheriff's Office and released to Onslow County authorities, where he was arrested and charged with (2) Counts Indecent Liberties with Child.

Rouse was given a \$40,000 secured bond.

His first appearance was set for February 16, 2024.

Assisting agencies were Florida Child Advocacy Center and the Carteret County Sheriff's Office.



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- 8 ounces fettuccine, uncooked
- 2 cups fresh broccoli florets
- ¼ cup Kraft Zesty Italian Dressing
- 1 pound boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 ⅔ cups milk
- 4 ounces Philadelphia Cream Cheese, cubed
- ¼ cup Kraft Grated Parmesan Cheese
- ½ teaspoon dried basil leaves

Step One

Cook pasta as directed on package, adding broccoli to the boiling water for the last 2 minutes of the pasta cooking time. Drain pasta mixture.

Step Two

Meanwhile, heat dressing in large nonstick skillet on medium-high heat. Add chicken and cook until no longer pink in the center, stirring occasionally, about 5 to 7 minutes.

Step Three

Stir in milk, cream cheese, Parmesan cheese, and basil. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Cook until sauce is well blended and heated through, about 1 to 2 minutes.

Step Four

Add chicken mixture to pasta mixture; mix lightly.

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|---------|
| Emerald | Patrick | Luck |
| Green | Tradition | Fairy |
| Shamrock | Parade | Legend |
| March | Rainbow | Saint |
| Ireland | Snakes | Celtic |
| Christianity | Pot of Gold | Holiday |

Legal Notices

Tari O’Dea, 74, of Jacksonville, passed away day, February 16, 2024.

Barry Anderson, 77, of Jacksonville, passed away day, February 18, 2024.

Donna Baxter, 67, of Hubert, passed away day, February 18, 2024.

Sebastian Whittaker, 41, of Jacksonville, passed away February 20, 2024.

For a full obituary, please visit www.coastalcremationsnc.com.
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