

Holly Ridge Officially Became The 201st Bee City In The USA

Holly Ridge will be having their 1st annual Bee Festival on Saturday, April 27th, 2024 as a street fair / farmer's market on Sound Road from 10am until 3pm. Venders will include food, arts & crafts, activities for kids, pirates and plants and flowers. Educational exhibits will teach all ages about the importance of bees and our environment. Local beekeepers will be available to show displays as well as share information about how to become a beekeeper. Seed packets will be handed out to encourage the growth of wildflowers (which are essential to a healthy bee population).

The Greater Topsail Garden will be on site to talk about their amazing new community garden and there will be a DJ to keep the music flowing.

How did Holly Ridge become a bee city? Last spring, the Times Newspaper did a front-page story about "No Mow May" which is a national movement to encourage people to allow native flowers and vegetation to grow, feeding the bees and pollinators, through the month of May. Holly Ridge Town Manager, Heather Reynolds, saw the importance of the movement and decided to put it before the town council. After a unanimous vote, the application was submitted, and the fee was donated by Busy Bee Committee Co-chair Tony Rydzynski. Several towns, cities and campuses throughout North Carolina have become members of the Bee City, USA and Bee Campus, USA organizations that work to help communities change regulations to allow natural, wild growth to keep the bees and pollinators (like butterflies) healthy and able to do their job. Being a member of Bee City USA also requires the member to promote growth of flowers and native plants, through the community, gardens and education.

Holly Ridge officially became the 201st Bee City USA in December of 2023. The Busy Bee Committee wanted a unique design for this year's T-shirt so students at Dixon Elementary school were given an opportunity to use their imagination. Student Kennedy Erickson won with the "Let it Bee" design. Make sure you pick up one of these collectible and fun shirts while visiting the festival. The festival will open at 10am and run through 3pm and will be located between Highway 17 and North Dyson Street on Sound Road.

Questions? Call the Holly Ridge Town Hall at (910) 329-7081 Monday – Friday.





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April 2024

Topsail Gun Gal

By Dorothy Royal

Welcome to "un" America – where laws and rules can be ignored. Donald Trump was told he had to come up with almost $\frac{1}{2}$ a billion dollars (yes, 500,000,000) for a bond before the State of NY will start seizing properties. Did he assassinate another world leader? No. Did he start a nuclear war unprovoked? No. Did he take a space shuttle on a joy ride? Again, no. So, what is with the outrageous, never heard of, bond amount? Apparently, all it takes is a District Attorney with so much hate that the justice system is her private weapon. Good news is the amount was lowered to \$175,000,000 (175 million) which he doesn't seem to have a problem with. Big money!

Illinois Judge Sharon Coleman has given the green light to "Illegal immigrants" people who are NOT American citizens and did not come to the United States legally, the right to own a firearm. Stating the second amendment, the judge felt that the 2nd Amendment applied to all residents, legal or not. Um.....I think not. Two judges before Judge Coleman denied illegal immigrants the right to own firearms. I guess our system is designed to keep trying until you get what you want. What this judge failed to do was to read the Federal 4473 Form that a person must fill out when purchasing a firearm. Form 4473 Question 21.l : are you an

alien illegally or unlawfully in the United States?

Prohibited persons: is an alien illegally in the United States or an alien admitted to the United States under a nonimmigrant visa.

Our rules and laws are already in place, we just need the judges to follow them. The skies are busy! In a short period of time, we will have a lunar eclipse (March 25th) and a solar eclipse (April 8th) that may include a visit from the "Devil Comet". Fun times ahead! People in Texas are being warned about power outages caused by the solar eclipse. In Texas, solar energy accounts for 6% of the energy grid, making a three hour "black-out" a cause for concern regarding capturing the sun's rays. Don't they have to deal with this on dark rainy days? Hopefully all will be well. Kel-tec has done it again. One of the most creative firearm manufacturers has added a "twist" to an old favorite. The sub-2000 rifle, known for its capability to fold over in half for storage (making it impossible to fire) but easy to carry for hiking, boating or travel, always had an issue if the user wanted a red dot or scope. That issue has been fixed by the next generation which offers a "twist" when folding the rifle, allowing the optics to stay in place.

The new generation of Sub 2000's still take Glock magazines, making it a wonderful companion to people who own Glock pistols in 9mm. The Glock magazine capacity options include 15, 17 and 30 rounds. Under \$500, this is one of my favorite rifles to shoot, with little recoil and a ton of practical uses. Loaded, the rifle weighs around 4 pounds. This rough and rugged rifle is perfect for the outdoors and easy to carry. Folded it fits right into a backpack. Remember knowledge is power, corruption is alive and well, and the skies are busy!



Kel-Tec Sub 2000

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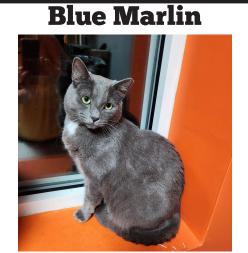
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Charlie



My name is Charlie, but I'm a tiny young lady! People tell me that I am so beautiful that I just can't be real...but I am! My long soft fur makes me look like a fuzzy stuffed animal. I had a very traumatized kitten hood & witnessed my brother getting eaten by a coyote. Thank goodness I made it out of there when FURR saved me. The ordeal has left me very scared, but I'm learning to trust the people who love me. I just want a calm, quiet home where I can be brushed, petted & held! Most of the time I just tuck my little head down by my chest. I do love treats & shaking that jar gets my attention every time! Would you like a little cuddle bug? Come meet me!



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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PAGE 6 April 2024

New Holly Ridge Councilperson Appointed To Fill Vacancy

When newly elected Holly Ridge councilman Aaron Ritter announced he was moving to Germany, the Town of Holly Ridge reached out to the community for applicants to fill his position. On Wednesday, March 27th the current members of the Holly Ridge Town Council selected Mr. Parnian from a group of applicants that included: Ken Bradshaw, Tony Rydzinski, Pete Parnian, Jeff Barton, Pam Hall, Tom Hendrick, Walter Zabicki.

The selection was made by ballot and the deciding vote was cast by Mayor Jeff

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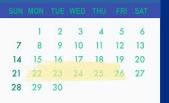
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Coastal Common Sense

By Kim McGahey

Please and thank you. Three small words that used to mean so much. In our self-absorbed, personal entitlement culture have we lost the importance of common courtesy, consideration and concern for other people? Have we forgotten how to put others before ourselves? Has the lack of civility in our world resulted in the disappearance of etiquette, politeness and good manners?

For the past 50 years our brains have been trained to focus solely on ourselves. So often from the incessant selfish messaging in advertising, entertainment and all kinds of subliminal commercial and governmental signals the goal has been to look out for number one. Grab for all the gusto you can. You can be anything you want to be by keeping your eyes on the prize. The acquisition of all the outward signs of affluence are more important than any toes you have to step on to obtain them. The me generation, women's lib and now the hysteric digression into all kinds of today's weird and perverted selfishness.

It's a downward progression to see who can come up with the most ridiculous notions of self-aggrandizing victimhood bad behavior. From running red lights to drag queen story hours in elementary school libraries we have lost our way knowing the difference between right and wrong. And now our government is condoning, even encouraging, the outright larceny in retail stores.

Grab and Go at Lowes' end caps has

taken on a new nefarious meaning as Soros-backed liberal progressive district attorneys have abandoned penalties for shoplifting, have released petty criminals back onto the streets to rob again and refused to prosecute law breakers for many basic crimes that unravel the rule of law that used to provide the bonds for a civil society. Rome was defeated from moral degradation within, not conquered from without.

Where will it all end? When will we respectively and collectively say enough is enough? We have been given the greatest, most benevolent country in human history with over 250 years of economic growth and prosperity based on the moral clarity of a God-fearing founding and a biblical basis for our daily living. We knew that our liberties and freedoms came from God and not from man; and that the great American experiment was based not on what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.

It's not too late to regain the moral high ground and resist, even eliminate, the selfish tendencies in our culture that increasingly pull us down to the lowest common denominator. We can start with prioritizing courteous behavior and being polite to one another. Teach this to our kids at the family dinner table and in their schools.

How we treat other people is a reflection of our own self image. It feels good to hold the door for a woman because it is a sign of respect for her. Chivalry is not dead, it's just got a flat tire. It feels right to say pardon me when you walk in front of somebody in the aisle at the grocery store. It makes you proud when your neighbor notices that your kids know the difference between good and bad behavior as they practice being polite and courteous to others. It makes you feel all warm and fuzzy when the national anthem brings a tear to your eye or when you acknowledge a military veteran wearing a Vietnam service ball cap.

We live in a messy world where good is declared bad and bad is called good, but it is not too late to commit random acts of kindness and retain a timehonored sense of right and wrong. Hold the door, salute the flag and say please and thank you as often as possible.



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www.beholdinghisglory.com and "Pebbles of Truth" every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 am on WJCV Radio for a deeper teaching from the Word of God. Please come expecting to hear from God and you will. Point of contact is David Stahl at (910) 382-9287 or email at charliegolfone@outlook.com."





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Fashion Statements: It's Happening... I'm Old

By Becky Borneman

I am officially old. And let me tell you why. I went home to visit family last week. It was a great visit. I got to spend quality time with my parents and brother and sister-in-law, my SIL mom Alma and my sweet nieces.

Well those sweet nieces are at the age of having opinions and speaking up which I am thrilled about. Or, I thought I was. That was until we went on a little trip to Walgreens to grab them some goodies for their lunch the next day. While in there, music is playing throughout the store. Lyrical, no words. I realized quickly that I knew the song they were playing. So I started singing. The girls looked at me in horror. They were playing Vanilla Ice, Ice Ice Baby. Now I didn't pick up on how mortified they were because I was so impressed with myself for actually remembering all the lyrics to a song that is 34 years old when most days I couldn't tell you what I had for dinner the night before. I'm telling you, I would've won a karaoke contest with the confidence I had in myself at that moment.

It took me back to being in stores shopping with my grandmothers. One of them loved Lawrence Welk. We were in a store once when the tune Champagne Time came on. She loved that song. And she couldn't carry a tune in a bucket. I remember wincing a little as she hummed off key. I believe that song has no words but I always know it when I hear it because of the champagne pop at the beginning. After she would sing one of his songs she would say "Wunnerful, Wunnerful". My other grandma loved Bing Crosby. We were in Publix, I was about 6 years old, and Accentuate The Positive came on over the speaker and

she started singing it. She too would sing off key, I was just too young to care. I would sing right along with her, accentuating the positive all over the store.

My nieces didn't take that route. They were definitely embarrassed. Not sure if it was my off key singing or the song that was on. But one thing they learned about their Aunt B last week. I will embarrass them and I can rap if need be. And they ought to count themselves lucky that I did not take a step further and moonwalk right out the front door of the store!





Is Your Trauma Making You Sick?

By Jennifer Baker

A lifetime's worth of experiences creates a deeply entrenched pathway of thoughts and behaviors.

Ever since you were a baby, your body has developed adaptive behaviors in response to your environment regarding determining what is deemed 'safe' or 'unsafe'.

This happens without your conscious control, and you may be unaware of what needs have not been met around attachment or safety, which can cause both mental and physical illnesses and maladaptive internal working models of the world.

This perception of being unsafe can, over time, create dis-ease in the body and affect your decisions. Significantly affecting 'approach and avoidance' strategies in your daily living.

While trauma is a psychological wound, it leaves deep imprints on the body that can contribute to physical illness and disease over time.

When discussing the bodily impacts of trauma, we often focus on the brain and nervous system. However, trauma can wreak havoc in the core of the body below the diaphragm as well.

This subdiaphragmatic region houses many vital organs profoundly shaped by traumatic stress.

The Gut Termed the "second brain," the gut contains the enteric nervous system with millions of neurotransmitter receptors. Trauma can disrupt the gut microbiome, contributing to issues like

- ~ Inflammatory bowel diseases
- ~ Irritable bowel syndrome
- ~ Food intolerances
- ~ Malabsorption of nutrients

The Reproductive System Trauma's effects on the hypothalamic-pituitaryadrenal axis impacts reproductive hormones. This can lead to:

- ~ Amenorrhea (lack of menstruation) ~ Fertility issues
- ~ Endometriosis
- ~ Low libido

The Musculoskeletal System Chronically tightened core muscles from "bracing" against threat can result in:

- ~ Chronic back/hip/pelvic pain
- ~ Pelvic floor dysfunction
- ~ Urinary/digestive issues
- ~ Structural imbalances

The Viscera Trauma unleashes inflammation that can impact organs like the liver, kidneys and spleen, leading to issues like:

- ~ Fatty liver disease
- ~ Kidney stones
- ~ Autoimmune flare-ups

The Nervous System Trauma triggers a freeze/fight/flight response where the body goes into a state of heightened arousal. The autonomic nervous system stays chronically dysregulated, with impacts like:

- ~ Racing heart
- ~ Tense muscles
- ~ Digestive issues

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~ Sleep disruption

The vagus nerve, the main nerve of the parasympathetic nervous system, becomes impaired. An understimulated vagus nerve handicaps our ability to selfsoothe and relax vital organs.

The Endocrine System Trauma leads to abnormal releases of stress hormones like cortisol and adrenaline. Over time, this wears down the body and depletes the immune system. Potential impacts include:

- ~ Inflammation
- ~ Autoimmune diseases
- ~ Reproductive/fertility issues
- ~ Weight gain or loss

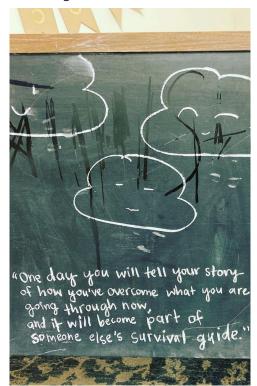
The Brain Areas like the amygdala remain overactivated, interpreting everything as threats. Conversely, other regions can become underactivated, including the:

- ~ Prefrontal cortex (decision making)
- ~ Hippocampus (memory processing)

~ Anterior cingulate cortex (emotion regulation)

Over time, trauma actually reshapes neural pathways and alters brain functioning and structure. If you were wondering why your 'brain' is thinking and doing something different than your behaviors or body? As we know, 'what fires together, wires together'!

A lifetime's worth of experiences creates a deeply entrenched pathway of thoughts and behaviors. With the body and mind working together, we can resolve trauma and restore balance. EMDR and Somatic Experiencing, combined with top-down Cognitive and Behavioral psychotherapeutic interventions, considered a 'whole-body approach' gives trauma survivors the best chance at restoring lasting physical and mental well-being.



Unexpected wisdom written in the waiting room.

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TOPSAIL TIMES

Volume IV, Issue 4

Spring Garden Festival 2024

By Michael Brenyo

The Spring Garden Festival, sponsored by the Extension Master GardenerSM Volunteer Association of Onslow County and the NC Cooperative Extension, will be held Saturday, April 27, from 8:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M., at 4024 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville, NC, 28540. The event will be located near the Discovery Garden area and the Onslow County Farmers Market

~ A variety of locally grown vegetables, herbs, perennials, and landscape plants will be for sale.

~ Lovely hanging baskets will be available for purchase.

~ Information on gardening in Onslow County will be available.

~ Free activities for children will be held in the Children's Garden.

~ Rain barrels, made by the Extension Master GardenerSM Volunteers, will be for sale.

~ The Plant Clinic will be open to the public and staffed to answer your gardening questions.

~ Visitors can enjoy walking through The Discovery Garden to see the Pollinator Garden, The Children's Garden, the Gazebo, and the Pond.

~ Visitors may also check out the Farmers Market.

If you have questions, please contact Emilee Morrison at

emilee_morrison@ncsu.edu or call 910-455-5873

GRAND

Master Gardener Annual Spring Plant Sale

The Pender County Extension Master Gardener SM Volunteers will hold the 2024 Spring Plant Sale at the Pender County Cooperative Extension Office on Friday April 12, from 11a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday April 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Sale location is the Pender County Cooperative Extension Office, 801 S. Walker Street, Burgaw, N.C., 28425.

Vegetable plants, herb plants, annual and perennial plants, native plants and Master Gardener home grown plants will be offered. Master Gardeners will be on site to answer your gardening questions with research-based gardening information.

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



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TOPSAIL TIMES

April 2024

Lewis Realty Assoc, Inc. Achieves **Accreditation As Topsail's First Accredited Vacation Rental Management Company**

In a landmark achievement for the vacation rental industry. Lewis Realty Associates, Inc. proudly announces its accreditation as the Topsail Island area's first Accredited Vacation Rental Management company. This prestigious accreditation, awarded by the national Vacation Rental Management Association (VRMA), solidifies Lewis Realty Associates. Inc.'s commitment to excellence in property management and customer service.

The VRMA's Accredited Professional Property Management Company Program, launched in January 2020, aims to recognize vacation rental management companies that meet stringent standards of professionalism and quality. By achieving this accreditation, Lewis Realty Associates, Inc. has demonstrated its dedication to upholding the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and service within the vacation rental industry.

"We are thrilled to be recognized as the Topsail Island area's first Accredited Vacation Rental Management company," says Chris Rackley, President of Lewis Realty Associates, Inc. "This accreditation is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team in delivering

exceptional experiences for both property owners and guests. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and service as we continue to serve the Topsail Island community."

Lewis Realty Associates, Inc. has long been known for its unparalleled expertise in vacation rental management, offering a wide range of services to property owners and guests alike. From property marketing and guest services to maintenance and financial management, the company prides itself on delivering personalized solutions tailored to the unique needs of each client.

As Topsail Island's first Accredited Vacation Rental Management company, Lewis Realty Associates, Inc. sets a new standard for excellence in the industry. With its commitment to professionalism. integrity, and customer satisfaction, the company continues to redefine the vacation rental experience for property owners and guests alike.

For more information about Lewis Realty Associates, Inc. and its range of vacation rental management services, please visit

www.vacationsontopsail.com.

Local Business Wins Top Award from Kinetico Incorporated

Advanced Water Systems, Inc. in Morehead City, NC received the Platinum Award from Kinetico Incorporated, a leading manufacturer of water treatment systems, for reaching an exceptional level of sales in (year) and placing as the number one authorized Kinetico Dealers in North America. The award is distributed annually as part of Kinetico's Spotlight Awards Program that honors Kinetico Dealers and salespeople for their outstanding sales performances. This year, the awards ceremony will take place at the Hyatt Zilara in Montego Bay, lamaica

Advanced Water Systems, Inc.is one of the more than 300 independent Kinetico dealerships in North America selling Kinetico non-electric water softeners, filters and drinking water systems. As a service to the community, Advanced Water Systems provides free water analyses to residents and businesses that request them. An analysis identifies some basic properties of a water sample and determines what, if any, treatment methods are necessary.

Consumers can also contact Advanced Water Systems with questions about water quality and the effects it has on water-using appliances, soap and detergent use, household energy

consumption, plumbing and fixtures, clothing, skin and hair, and foods and drinks. Learn more by contacting Advanced Water Systems of Onslow at 910-333-1532 or by visiting our showroom at 521 Yopp Road Suite 220 Jacksonville, NC 28540.

Kinetico products are widely renowned for their quality. They have earned high marks from a variety of leading consumer magazines and have been featured on numerous shows and publications. Kinetico water systems carry third-party certification and are the water systems of choice for many businesses and restaurant franchises.

Founded in 1970, Kinetico is a global manufacturer of water treatment systems for the residential, commercial and OEM markets. Recognized for their reliable, economical and sustainable approach to water treatment. Kinetico products are used and recommended by millions of people all over the world. In addition to their headquarters in Newbury, Ohio, U.S.A., Kinetico has offices and facilities in Suwanee. Georgia; Temecula, California; Canada; France; Denmark; Belgium; Spain; the United Kingdom; and China. Further information is available at www.kinetico.com



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Peviews



In all my years of owning a home, business, and vehicles, I have never had an agent take such time and care to make sure all of my needs were met and that everything I treasure is protected. Tammy provides quarterly reviews and it is amazing how often things change that most people would just overlook.

TOPSAIL TIMES

Volume IV, Issue 4

Botanical Sexism: Does It Impact Allergy Sufferers?

Originally written by the United Allergy Services (www.unitedallergyservices.com)

What is Botanical Sexism? Tom Ogren, horticulturist and allergy researcher, has done extensive research on ways to reduce pollen counts and pollen potency. His theory centers around the unbalanced planting of male vs female plants. This unbalance can impact pollen counts and the resulting escalation of pollen allergies. He wrote and published an article in Scientific American, coining "botanical sexism" to explain his theory. Ogren believes a better mix or "gender balance" of male and female trees, especially in urban settings, would lower pollen counts.

Ogren's article focuses on the foundation set in the 1949 USDA Yearbook of Agriculture which reads, "When used for street plantings, only male trees should be selected, to avoid the nuisance from the cottony seed." This idea comes from the fact that male trees produce pollen, and female trees receive that pollen and produce fruit and seeds. It was recommended to plant primarily or all male tress to avoid messy sidewalks and parks from the flowering female trees that would drop their seeds and fruits.

Tree System Selection Is botanical sexism a natural

selection? Trees have four primary

sexual systems: cosexual, monoecious, dioecious and polygamous. A tree that produces single flowers with combined fully functional male and female parts is called cosexual. Monoecious trees similarly have both male and female parts within the same tree, however they separate the male and female parts into different flowers or cones on the same tree. Dioecious trees separate male and female parts on completely different trees where one tree is strictly female and one strictly male. These trees were Ogren's primary focus. And for completeness we will define polygamous trees as the most complex and as cosexual, with male and female flowers on the same tree but also with separate male and female parts in different combinations on completely different trees.

Ogren's work focuses on dioecious males planted independently of dioecious females. This is often the case in urban areas due to the cleanliness

well. **Pollen Count Impact**

Botanical sexism referenced higher pollen counts due to failed tree "gender balance", and is further exacerbated by higher pollen potency. Studies have shown that air pollution (which tends to be higher in urban settings) attaches to pollen grains and causes the powderv substance to shatter into still tinier pieces. "When that happens the inside of the pollen grain is exposed and that's 10 times more allergenic than the outside," explained Ogren. This is again exacerbated by increasing CO2 levels which causes plants to bloom at a faster rate and at a higher content which means even higher pollen counts where predominantly male trees reside.

Purpose of Defining Botanical Sexism Prime allergy season is usually defined as mid-March to early June in most of the United States. Frequency of allergic rhinitis (AR) diagnosis increase greatly during this season. AR affects

more than 400 million people worldwide, and is expected to rise by another 100 million by 2025. Ogren collected extensive data, and by 2000 was able to develop a scale called OPALS (Ogren Plant Allergy Scale) that ranks more than 3,000 plants from 1 to 10 based on how allergenic they are. This was the first numerical ranking system in existence for plant allergies and is used to develop allergy rankings in large US cities.

Ogren's work is meant to encourage city planners, plant distributors, and homeowners to think carefully about their plant choices. He feels we all are all responsible for the rising numbers of allergy sufferers, and we, by making the correct plant choices, can at least reduce the amount of allergenic pollen in the air. Examples of plants that are allergyfriendly include pansies, impatiens and snapdragons.







GET YOUR BUZZ ON: THE FIRST-EVER BEE FESTIVAL IS HERE! MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND GET READY TO JOIN IN ON THE FUN. THIS EVENT IS THE PERFECT HIVE FOR BOTH YOUNG AND OLD, WITH ACTIVITIES, DELICIOUS FOOD, BUZZING VENDORS, AND HEAPS OF ENTERTAINMENT!



Worker Honey Bees have different jobs according to their age



1-2 days old: have the job to clean the cells, and they start with the one they were born in. They also keep the brood warm



3-5 days old: their job is to feed older larvae



6-11 days old: they have the responsibility to feed the youngest larvae



12-17 days old: they are producing wax, carrying food, building combs and have undertaker duties

18-21 days old: they are protecting the hive entrance and have guard duty

From 22 days to the end of their life (at around 40-45 days): they fly from the hive and collect pollen, nectar, water etc.













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NEEK 5: JULY 15 - 19 ROLLER CITY JUNGLE RAPIDS

> 6: JULY 22 - 26 ALTITUDE

Indoor Adult Pickleball 8am-10am | Community Center

Join us for indoor pickleball! 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.

Holly Ridge Bee Festival April 27th | 10am - 3pm Sound Road

Come see what all the buzz is about with Holly Ridge's Inaugural Bee Festival! With vendors, food trucks, and entertainment there is fun for the whole family!

Summer Camp June 17 - August 9th I 7:30 - 5:30 Holly Ridge Community Center

Offer your little adventurers a summer to remember at the thrilling Holly Ridge Summer Camp! Camp runs from June 17th to August 9th. Please pre-register online.

Questions? email Programs@hollyridgenc.org





PAGE 16 April 2024

Town Of Surf City Celebrates Its 75th Anniversary



The Public Is Invited To Attend The Carolina Strawberry Festival Garden Gala

On April 27th, 2024 Hosted by The Gardens of Southeastern North Carolina. The Gardens of Southeastern North

Carolina is thrilled to announce our collaboration with The Strawberry Festival for the first annual Garden Gala!

Get ready for THE coolest bash of the year! We're kicking off the Carolina Strawberry Festival on April 27th, 2024 from 1 PM - 6 PM with an epic party filled with live music, great food, and a variety of beverages! This highly anticipated event promises an evening of glamour, entertainment, and culinary delights, all set Koozies while supplies last amidst the enchanting backdrop of lush gardens.

The Garden Gala will feature an array of guests can immerse themselves in an exciting activities and experiences:

Strawberry Glam: Step onto the red carpet and strike a pose at our festive backdrop, capturing unforgettable moments surrounded by the vibrant spirit of the festival

Live Music By The Catalinas: Groove to the irresistible beats of live music performed by The Catalinas, renowned for their energetic performances and infectious rhythms.

Sip and Savor: Quench your thirst with a tantalizing selection of beverages from top drink vendors, offering a variety of refreshing options to complement the evening's festivities.

Feast Your Senses: Embark on a culinary journey with mouthwatering offerings from our stellar food vendors, featuring an assortment of delectable treats that will delight your taste buds and satisfy your cravings.

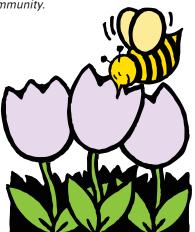
VIP Tent/Tickets: For just \$75 you'll score: Live beats from The Catalinas. Access to the exclusive VIP tent, 2 complimentary drinks, Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, Topsail Times is printed by the Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC. This publication is not to be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means without prior permission from Topsail Times.

Strawberry Festival T-Shirt, Strawberry Festival koozie, Calibrachoa Superbells® Strawberry Punch™ Plant from Proven Winners!

General Admission available as well: Snag your general admission ticket for just \$35, and dive into the party with: Live beats from The Catalinas, 1 complimentary drink, Strawberry Festival koozie, and 1 Calibrachoa Superbells® Strawberry Punch™ Plant from Proven Winners! Don't miss out - let's make it a gala to remember! *Tickets available for purchase at the door.

"We are thrilled to host The Carolina Strawberry Festival's Garden Gala, where evening of celebration and indulgence. VIP tickets limited, grab yours today!" For comprehensive details, dates, ticket reservations, and event information, please visit

www.CarolinaStrawberryGardenGala.com The Gardens of Southeastern North Carolina is a non-profit company dedicated to improving lives, cultivating inspiration, offering a variety of experiences, creating jobs, and generating income for the community.



Pesticide Collection Day

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Pender County Cooperative Extension are holding a Pesticide Collection Day for residents in Pender and surrounding counties. Collection will be day, April 25, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 801 S. Walker Street, Burgaw, North Carolina. The collection station will be in the driveway behind the Ag Building with the entrance to that driveway off Progress Drive. The local site manager will be Mr. Mark Seitz, County Extension Director, and Agriculture Agent for Pender County.

The goal of this program is to help homeowners and farmers remove unwanted and unused pesticides from their garages, storage sheds and barns. Over time, unused and improperly stored pesticides can cause significant structural and environmental damage, costing thousands of dollars to clean up.

This program helps homeowners alleviate that risk.

Nearly all pesticide products will be accepted. For liquid pesticide containers larger than 5 gal or for unlabeled pesticides, please contact the Cooperative Extension Office for information before bringing them to the collection event. No gas cylinders are accepted at the event; however, assistance information on how to dispose of these cylinders can be provided. Contact Mark Seitz at the Pender County Cooperative Extension Office for more information. Don't miss this opportunity in Pender County.



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Volume IV, Issue 4

Own Your Own Announces Two New Restaurants Coming to Burgaw

Own Your Own (OYO) regrets to announce that Karoline Schwartz, winner of the Own Your Own Restaurant Competition, will not be moving forward with the proposed restaurant at 106-108 W. Courthouse Avenue. Despite this setback, OYO is excited to embrace future opportunities for Burgaw by unveiling plans to open not one, but two new restaurants in the town. "We've encountered so many remarkable individuals on this journey, and our vision all along has been to elevate Burgaw's restaurant scene and establish it as a culinary destination," stated Johnson, the founder of OYO.

Vincent Mangual, a beloved figure in the town and runner-up in the competition, will spearhead one of the forthcoming projects. Located on W. Fremont Avenue in the historic Antiques on the Square building, Mangual's establishment will be a marketplace deli. Offering locally sourced ingredients, freshly baked bread, grab-and-go options, and an abundance of personality, Mangual's venture promises to add a unique flavor to Burgaw's culinary landscape. "You'll see influences from New York and a little bit of everything I've taken up along the way. Something for everyone!" Mangual and his family eagerly anticipate relocating

from Brooklyn, NY, and becoming a part of the Burgaw community. "My family and I felt the love from Burgaw during the competition and we're excited to get down there, become part of the community and serve you some great food."

Khristen Hunter at 106/108 West Courthouse Avenue

Meanwhile, Khristen Hunter, a standout finalist and the sole local chef among the top six contestants, is set to introduce a new dining experience to the town at the original 106/108 W. Courthouse Avenue location. "As a local, I am excited to be a part of this growing community and help us achieve making Burgaw a destination town together!" Hunter will launch a southern, farm-totable style restaurant showcasing her extensive industry expertise and unmatched front-of-house presence. "My goal is to give the locals a new gathering place to come and enjoy great company, serving fresh southern breakfast, lunch, and dinner," she says. With deep roots in the community and a passion for delivering exceptional dining experiences, Hunter is thrilled to bring her vision to life in Burgaw.

Own Your Own looks forward to these exciting developments and the positive impact they will have on Burgaw's vibrant dining scene.

Vincent Mangual at 102 West Fremont

Business Spotlight: Surfside Sportswear and Gifts

This month, as we Celebrate Business, we turn the spotlight on Surfside Sportswear and Gifts, a company that has provided clothing, swimwear, gifts, and home decor for 48 years.

"I never dreamed of having a business," said Elizabeth "Peggy" Fussell. The Fussells had a trailer on Topsail Island and were frequent visitors. In 1971, they moved to Topsail Island fulltime. In 1976, Forest and Peggy and their daughters Angie and Lori opened a business at 314 N. New River Dr.

Forest, an electrician, worked out of the New River Drive shop where he stored supplies.

Peggy wanted something for the ladies to do while the men were fishing on Topsail Island. She sold craft supplies, and the ladies would gather to create stained glass objects, macrame, cross stitch, candle wicking, and more. The crafting grew over five years.

"We moved Forest to the back of the shop," Peggy chuckled. "Eventually he moved his electrical supplies off the island."

Each year Peggy and Forest added items of interest to everyone who visited the shop. They sold gifts made of seashells, household gifts, and T-shirts.

Tourists and locals shopped Surfside Sportswear for glassware that could be monogrammed with initials or decals, a service Peggy provided on the premises.

"There were very few places here to shop at that time," Peggy recalled.

Surfside Sportswear and Gifts continued to expand. While attending the buyers' market in Charlotte, Peggy met the Jantzen swimwear sales representative. Peggy asked him if he would sell \$2,000 worth of swimwear to give her a chance. He didn't normally do business with a small business such as Surfside Sportswear and Gifts, but the

representative liked Peggy's honesty. Soon the store doubled in size and major swimwear brands, including Jantzen, and select clothing brands were offered by Surfside Sportswear and Gifts.

"Before we moved to Topsail Island, Mom worked for a textile company in Wallace in the personnel department," said Angie. "She learned about the quality of fabrics."

"My mother sewed our clothes," Peggy recalled. "My family were farmers, but Mom loved clothes and she made us the best children's clothing for school."

Around 2000, the Fussell Family added the back section to the store and added the second entrance from North Topsail Drive.

With her knowledge of fabrics, Peggy stocks Surfside Sportswear and Gifts with major brands that can't be found everywhere. The store, with two additions, stretching between two streets, offers clothing, swimwear, beach cover-ups, beach bags, shoes, purses, home décor, and a beautifully unique selection of jewelry.

"We always say, 'We dress you from head to toe, for on the beach or off to a wedding, and work in-between,'" said Lori.

The Fussell Family invested in the community in addition to growing a business.

"The Fishing Club started talking about a chamber of commerce," Peggy remembered. "The chamber started at my kitchen table."

The Fishing Club was sponsored by the fishing piers, real estate companies, and other local businesses on the island at that time. Each helped to establish a chamber of commerce in 1977.

As the secretary of the chamber of commerce, Peggy recalls promoting Topsail Island with a booth at the NC State Fair where various members of the chamber traveled each day of the fair to give away literature and seashells. The chamber was the first to advertise Topsail Island on a US Hwy 17 billboard.

Peggy and the Topsail Ladies Club hosted an annual fashion show. Because of Peggy's relationship with Jantzen, the company loaned the fashion show their wool, full body covering swimsuits from the 1920s through the 1950s. The newest lines of clothing sold by Surfside Sportswear were also featured on the runway at the local fashion show.

The Fussell Family volunteered their time to help the Surf City Volunteer Fire Department, Surf City Volunteer Rescue Squad, and other events to promote Topsail Island, the wonderful place they now call home.

While the Greater Topsail Area has witnessed change and growth, one thing remains the same. Surfside Sportswear and Gifts is still a locally owned, family business.

Forty-eight years later, they can be found at 314 N. New River Dr. in Surf City. You can find them online at SurfsideSportswearGifts.com. The telephone number is 910-328-4141.



www.topsailtimes.net

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Man Arrested For 3 Counts Of Attempted First Degree Murder And Arson

On Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at approximately 4:00 AM, Onslow County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a call for service at Chadwick Shores Drive in Sneads Ferry in reference to a fire and suspected arson. Once on scene, deputies learned three residents of the home were at a neighbor's house, having fled the burning residence. All three were transported to Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune, one of which was later airlifted to Chapel Hill Burn Center. All victims are expected to recover from their injuries.

The investigation revealed another resident, 62-year-old Duane Christopher Brower, was responsible for intentionally setting the fire. Brower left the residence prior to law enforcement arriving on the scene. A statewide broadcast was sent to all law enforcement agencies. Brower was later apprehended without incident by Holly Ridge Police Department during a traffic stop. Duane Christopher Brower was taken before a magistrate and charged with the following offenses:

(3) Counts Attempted First Degree Murder

First Degree Arson Felony Malicious use of Explosive/Incendiary

He is detained at Onslow County Detention Center under **No Bond**. Brower's first court appearance was scheduled for 3/13/2024.



TOPSAIL TIMES

Volume IV, Issue 4

Resident Of Hampstead Arrested For Seventeen Counts Of Second-Degree Sexual Exploitation Of Minors

Detectives with the Pender County Sheriff's Office arrested Robert Benjamin Wright, Sr, a 72-year-old resident of Hampstead, on March 6, 2024, for seventeen counts of felony Second-Degree Sexual Exploitation of Minors. Detectives with the sheriff's office Special Victims Unit began an investigation after a referral from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children was made to the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Wright was given a \$425,000.00 secured bond and his first appearance had been scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 9:00 am. This investigation continues and more charges are expected. Anyone with information regarding Wright and this investigation is asked to contact Detective-Sergeant Steve Clinard at 910-259-1437 or 910-259-1212







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