



# TOPSAIL TIMES



TOPSAIL ISLAND, HOLLY RIDGE, HAMPSTEAD AND SNEADS FERRY



**DDT**  
Home of  
**AFFORDABLE**  
Indoor and Outdoor  
Furniture




Check us out on  
the back cover!  
(910) 329-0160

● **May 2024** ● **American-Owned. Free Press.** ● **Volume IV, Issue 5** **FREE!**

## Earthquake, Sonic Boom and Geomagnetic Storms

On Monday, April 29th at 10:15 pm EST, the residents of Hampstead, Surf City and Holly Ridge felt the Earth shake. Reports started coming in within minutes of the event where people stated hearing a loud boom or odd vibration sound, followed by ground moving beneath their feet, homes being jolted as though they had been hit by a vehicle and insects suddenly getting very quiet and dogs acting strange. These statements were repeated on social media. Many people familiar with the military operations in the area thought it felt different. So, could it have been an earthquake? No official report has been released with the detection of ground movement by the US Geological

Society, but could a tremor still have happened? The answer is yes. Steve Pfaff, director of the National Weather Service in Wilmington, North Carolina provided us with a few options that may have caused the sensation of the ground shaking on Monday, April 29th.

In our phone interview, Mr. Pfaff stated that the first step after an event like this is to rule out causes. Was it a weather event? Based on his research, there were no weather events in the area that contributed to this. Could it have been a military operation off the coast? Possible, but in most cases the planes that would cause such a "jolt" would leave behind a cloud on radar caused by Chaff. What is a chaff cloud? It is best described as radar reflective materials,

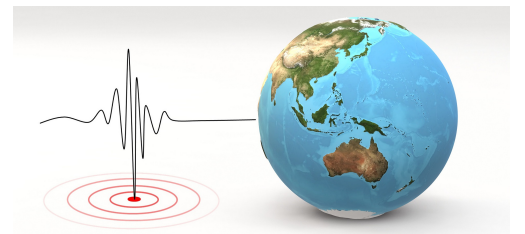
such as aluminum strips or glass fibers. No chaff cloud was detected. Could it have been a meteor entering our atmosphere? Possible but to date no substantiating reports have come in. Could it have been an underwater landslide? This is a possible event but would need to be supported by visual comparison of underwater area maps. Could it have been an underwater cave collapse? Again, this is a possibility but currently there is no supporting information.

Similar events have been reported in the area, mostly during the fall to spring seasons. October 2014, April 2016 and January 2020 were dates that Mr. Pfaff could recall.

Do major earthquakes happen in our area? Not too far south, Charleston,

South Carolina suffered from a major earthquake in 1886. A witness to that event stated that he heard a series of loud booms for over four hours before that catastrophic event.

In the last few weeks, New Jersey and New York City residents have experienced an earthquake that registered a 4.8 on the Richter scale and up to 60 aftershocks. Like the coastal area of North Carolina, these events are not considered typical by the residents.



### Severe to Extreme Geomagnetic Storming Possible



Updated  
2024-May-12  
0900 am EDT

WHAT: A G4+ Watch Remains in Effect Today



#### EVENT:

The ongoing geomagnetic storm will likely once again become more intense later today.

#### TIMING:

Several intense Coronal Mass Ejections are still anticipated to reach the Earth's outer atmosphere by later today.

#### EFFECTS:

The public should visit our webpage to keep properly informed. During periods of stronger geomagnetic storm conditions, the aurora will be more widespread and seen at lower latitudes.



National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

Safeguarding Society with Actionable Space Weather Information

Space Weather Prediction Center;  
Boulder, CO





910-803-2313

Visit our Facebook page or send us an email!

# Topsail Times

Print Dates 2024

May 31st  
July 5th  
August 2nd

Or send us a text

(910) 526-1060

GET IN TOUCH WITH US!

TopsailTimesNewspaper@gmail.com



www.TopsailTimes.net

TOPSAIL  
TIMES  
NEWSPAPER



**Publisher**

Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC

**Contributing Writers**

Dorothy Royal  
Becky Borneman  
Kim McGahey  
Joshua Patti  
Diane Henderso

**Contributing Photographers**

Becky Borneman  
Dorothy Royal  
Lula Johnson  
Niki Patti

## Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Topsail Gun Gal 2024   | 3  |
| Soundside Meadow Day School Delivers Enrichment for Preschoolers       | 6  |
| Hampstead Horsepower Cruisers Club                                     | 6  |
| Coastal Common Sense   | 8  |
| Newest Member of Holly Ridge Town Council                              | 9  |
| Principles of Good Governance: Engaging with the Community             | 9  |
| Letter To The Editor   | 10 |
| Empowered People Keep Both Feet Planted Firmly on the Ground           | 11 |
| Holly Ridge 1st Bee Festival April 27, 2024                            | 12 |
| Pender County Commissioner Wendy Fletcher-Hardee Announces Resignation | 13 |
| Celebrating Business: Pleasant Air                                     | 13 |
| Sheriff Department News  | 14 |



For the year of 2024,  
Topsail Times Newspaper will be printing  
ONE publication a month.

TOPSAIL  
TIMES  
NEWSPAPER



Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC is an American Owned, Free Press, that allows for opinions which may not represent the company or its assigns. Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC is not responsible for any promotions, offers or commitments, by advertisers or contributors. No portion of the print copy or electronic copy via website shall be reproduced without written permission by Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC. All material in this paper is the property of Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC. Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC shall not be held responsible for any errors or omissions or for any documents directly provided to Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC. Advertisements are accepted upon the representation that the advertiser have the right to publish the contents thereof. In consideration of such publication, the advertiser agree to indemnify and hold publisher harmless against any expense or loss by reason of any claims arising out of publication.

**Interested in Advertising?**

Have a story idea?  
Are you a writer or photographer?

Send us an email at  
topsailtimesnewspaper@gmail.com

### WHERE CAN YOU FIND OUR PAPER?

#### Hampstead

DDT  
Hampstead Library  
Post Office

#### Wilmington

Hughes Brothers Tire

#### Burgaw

Burgaw Brewery  
O'Reilly's Auto Parts

#### Holly Ridge

Smoky Tonys  
Holly Ridge Town Hall  
City Cafe  
Oceans RV Resort  
Southern Roots  
Holland's Shelter  
Paradise Axe & Arcade  
Post Office  
AC Tire

#### Surf City

Jersey Mikes  
Coral Cottage  
Surf City BBQ  
Beach Furniture Outfitters  
Thomas Seafood  
Post Office  
JM's On The Water  
Herring's Outdoor Sports  
IGA & Ward Realty

#### Topsail Beach

Godwin's Market  
Quarter Moon  
Sneads Ferry  
Denny's  
HWY 55  
Mason Dixon  
Rick's Restaurant  
Denoias Pizza

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE LOCATIONS: WWW.TOPSAILTIMES.NET

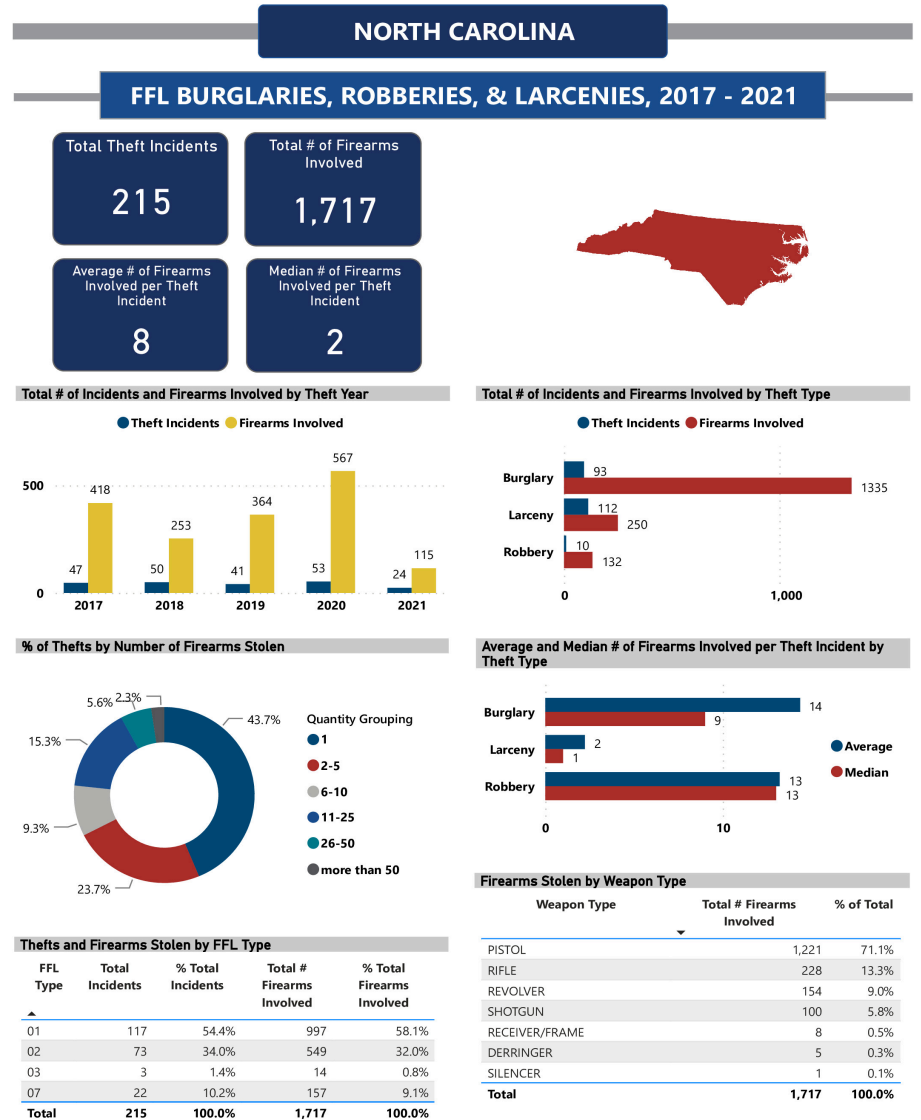
# Topsail Gun Gal: A Lost or Stolen Firearm

By Dorothy Royal

1. Once you have searched and assured yourself it is no longer in your possession, contact the local authorities and file a lost/missing firearm report. Give as much information as possible, model, make, serial number, and attachments (laser/flashlight, unique color). If you suspect someone has taken it, give that information as well.
2. After filing the report, contact the local pawn shops ( I recommend up to 50-60 miles from your home) immediately and provide them with the information and what law enforcement agency took your report.
3. Contact local gun shops. Firearms can be sold to or traded in at a gun shop. In either case, photo ID's are required (same with a pawn shop).
4. Visit local gun shows. If a firearm was stolen, in most cases the thief wants to get rid of it. Bring a flyer with the information. Be pro-active.
5. Stay in contact with your local law enforcement agency.
6. If you own firearms, take the time and photograph them, including serial number and the box (the end of most boxes provides make, model and serial number) and email the photos to yourself and store them. In the event of a lost or stolen firearm, you have the information available from any computer.

Also, this is a good time to inspect your firearms for rust or other issues.

7. Avoid bragging to people about how many firearms you have or showing photos on social media that include your gun safe. Thieves are everywhere.
8. If you keep a firearm in your glovebox (or safe in your vehicle) check on it periodically.
9. When having home renovations and repairs done, make sure your firearms are secured and out of reach. After hurricanes or storm damage repairs, we get a lot of calls about missing firearms.
10. Owning a firearm is a big responsibility. If you need a gun lock or gun safe, visit your local gun shop. If you are going out of town for an extended period of time, contact your local gun shop and see about dropping off your firearms for a maintenance cleaning/inspection and pick them up when you return. Let the shop know your plans. Remember knowledge is power and protecting your firearm from theft and keeping it out of the hands of someone who should not have access is your responsibility. Putting a firearm in a safe or locking it only takes a matter of seconds but may save a life and give you peace of mind.



## Surf City Guns & Ammo

PURCHASE PERMITS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR HANDGUN PURCHASES

Award winning local gun shop that specializes in firearms for self-defense, 3 gun competition, hunting, target shooting and ladies department.

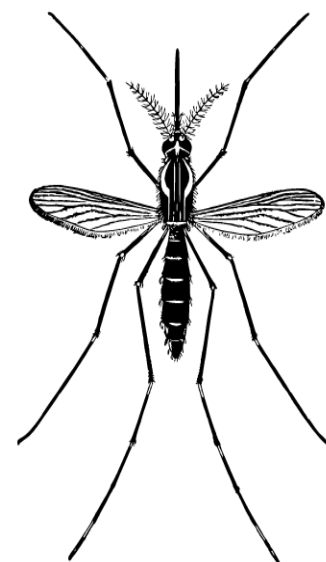
OPEN

Weds & Thurs 11am - 6pm  
Fri & Sat 11am - 7pm  
Sunday Noon - 5pm

(910) 328-4499      SURFCITYGUNS.COM

127 Sound Road, Holly Ridge, NC





252-353-4760

FIRE ANTS, MOSQUITOS, ROACHES, SILVERFISH, FLEAS, TICKS, MICE AND MORE!

 HOME  NO BUGS!  
 LAWN  NO FIREANTS!  
 YARD  NO MOSQUITOS!

**OUR SERVICES:**  
 INSIDE / OUTSIDE TREATMENTS  
 YARD TREATMENT FOR MOSQUITOS  
 YARD TREATMENT FOR FIRE ANTS  
 FREE SERVICE CONSULTATIONS  
 ONE-TIME, MONTHLY & QUARTERLY TREATMENT OPTIONS  
 TERMITE CONTROL TREATMENTS  
 MOISTURE CONTROL TREATMENTS

 **FULLY LICENSED & GUARANTEED!**  
 Visit our website: [www.pestechofgreenville.com](http://www.pestechofgreenville.com)  
 Call our office today to schedule an appointment!!

# F.U.R.R

FELINE URGENT RESCUE AND REHAB

**Adopt. Donate. Volunteer.**

### 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!

### 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???

CHECK OUR WEBSITE TO SEE CATS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

[www.catfurr.org](http://www.catfurr.org) 



864-483-2444



# Family Friendly Entertainment



## Paradise Axe AND ARCADE



**GAMES FOR ALL AGES**

**100 GAMES**

**FROM \$0.25 TO \$1.00 GAMES**

**NEW REDEMPTION PRIZES**

**WINGS, CHICKEN NUGGETS, PIZZA  
HOT DOGS, CORN DOGS, NACHOS  
PACKAGES FOR PARTIES AVAILABLE**



**AXE THROWING**

**AGES 10 & UP**

**GROUP DISCOUNTS**

**LESSON INCLUDED**

**WALK-INS WELCOME**

**OPEN WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY**

**(910) 803-2300**

**127 Sound Road in Holly Ridge**



# Soundside Meadow Day School Delivers Enrichment for Preschoolers

Renee Richard and Joanna Alexander are two best friends who share the same dream. While organizing play dates and thematic events and celebrations with their preschool-aged children, Joanna and Renee discussed the reality of opening their own preschool in their home community of Hampstead.

Renee, a certified teacher in early childhood, primary elementary, and special education since 2006, and Joanna, with a business degree and experience working in the non-profit/medical sector with the developmentally delayed decided that by combining forces, they could provide our area with a resource for the youngest members of our community.

July 2023 talks became October's reality, as they discovered a quaint location nestled within Hampstead Village. They named the day school Soundside Meadow Day School: a homage to their coastal upbringings and inland residences, combined with their vision of music and movement intertwined within a serene and peaceful, inviting environment.

"We had a soft opening in March," Renee said. "Thirteen children from ages 12 months to 5 years old enrolled in the beginning and immediately grew to 30 plus enrolled in the Fall 2024 session, with tens more on several waitlists.

Joanna said they anticipated growth but not at this dramatic rate, a pleasant surprise as they work fervently to hire qualified individuals to join their growing staff!

"What we pride ourselves on is a small, home-like setting in a private school environment," said Joanna.

"We are a very individualized, child-centered, traditional, yet, play-based preschool," said Renee. "We use a curriculum that is used by many early childhood centers in the nation and supplement with music, movement, and sensory play."

"We strive to know your child on an individualized basis. We will provide and give you support in all areas. Joanna proclaims.

"This is not a one-size-fits-all environment. We will meet the needs of your child in whatever way we can!" added Renee.

The women said the school offers both morning sessions and afternoon sessions. They also are providing an opportunity for summer preschool camp sessions in June, July, and August. Each week will have a different theme to explore, including Fun with Food, Down on the Farm, Stars and Strips, Olympics, and more)

"We love Hampstead and we love the sense of community we find here," said Renee. "It's important to us to share the sense of community here at our school."

Find Soundside Meadow Day School on social media for more information.

On May 16, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Soundside Meadow Day School will celebrate a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism. Tours of the school will be available.

# Hampstead Horsepower Cruisers Club Meets 3rd Saturday at Oval & Ale Parking Lot in Hampstead, 10am to 1pm



Kevin and Matt Mancini, and Jeff Bries, founders the Car show, and Cynthia Tart, with the Pender Sheriff's Charitable Foundation pictured to the left.



# Live and Local REAL TALK



## Freedom 97.1

## 1120 AM


## Raeford, Kelli and Lee

## WEEKDAYS 7-9 am

Walk-ins Welcome

### New Attitude Salon & Spa

13601 Suite C Hwy 50  
Next to Food Lion  
Surf City, NC 28445  
910-329-1555  
Owner: Barbie Hawkins  
E-mail: newattitudesands@gmail.com  
www.NewAttitudeSalonAndSpa.com




### Surf City's Premier Waterfront Dining

Located at 602-B Roland Avenue  
across from the Surf City Town Park

JM's On The Water offers an extensive menu that includes scrumptious seafood, steaks, sandwiches, salads, and an array of appetizers that can't be beat.

Open Weds - Sun 11-9pm





# Coral Cottage

boutiques

Fashion is  
*Everything*



ShopCoralCottage.com

(910) 650-2891

14061 NC Highway 50E, Surf City, NC



Mattresses • Accessories • Artwork • Flags • Sofas

## Beach Furniture Outfitters, Inc.

One Shopping

Serving Topsail Island for Over 25 Years!

Free Local Delivery & Setup



Furnishing Beach Homes is Our Specialty!

See Diana for any of your Real Estate Needs! Licensed Broker #265974

13997 NC Hwy. 50 | Surf City

910.803.0455

www.BeachFurnitureOutfittersInc.com

Lamps • Gifts • Outdoor Furniture • Puzzles



## Fresh Seafood & Local Produce

Local Pender County Honey | Bait and Fishing Supplies

Local Stump Sound Oysters By the Dozen or Hundred

# THOMAS TACKLE AND SEAFOOD

Scallops  
Shrimp  
Tuna  
Clams  
Flounder  
Crab Cakes  
Gator Tail  
Frog Legs  
Snow Crabs

Fresh  
Produce

Gullah  
Gourmet  
Products

Bayou  
Classic  
Products

ON THE MAINLAND 1/4 MILE FROM SURF CITY BRIDGE

910-328-4361

8AM - 6PM | OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

14210 NC-50, Surf City, NC 28445



# Coastal Common Sense

By Kim McGahey

Dragnet was a black and white TV show from the 60's that starred a detective character named Joe Friday and his famous dead pan tagline was, "Just the facts ma'am." Here are just a few facts from the OBiden regime that is running our government.

1. The Democrat one-way open border policy has allowed tens of millions of unvetted illegal immigrants to cross our southern border. With nobody checking credentials at the border, who knows what international malcontents have been streaming into Texas and Arizona and then distributed without our knowledge to all 50 states.

Allowing illegal migrants to get drivers licences and then register to vote is the precise objective of the OBiden border rush in order to get more votes. Biden cares nothing about we the people - he only cares about retaining political power and increasing his family's personal wealth.

2. Cities run by Democrats have become cesspools of homelessness with indigents defecating in the streets while criminals run wild facing no consequences for their law breaking. Soros funded Democrat prosecutors put these grab and go shoplifters and dangerous drug dealers back on the streets in a few days with no bail and no court cases.

Serial criminal offenders like George Floyd ravage urban communities with impunity killing their neighbors not fearing any law enforcement reprisal.

Law abiding citizens are afraid to leave their homes. Meanwhile, illegal migrants are given open ended social services and nice accommodations in the Roosevelt Hotel at taxpayer expense.

3. The Democrats want abortion on demand up until birth under the misnomer of reproductive health care rights. This used to be called murder. They seem to think that there is no value to a human life that God started at conception. They want to shut down groups like Preborn.com that show teenage mothers with unwanted pregnancies ultrasound images of the human life growing inside those mothers causing many to cancel their abortion plans. Tragically, abortion has become normalized by the Left as a simple, casual normal form of birth control.

4. The gender mutilation of children in schools by transweird activists without parental consent is the Left's latest voyage into degeneracy. They advocate drag queen story hours in elementary school libraries as the gateway drug to ruining adolescents' lives with the Satanic indoctrination of the transgender ideology.

Common sense tells us that a 12 year old kid needs biblical parental supervision to navigate the day to day obstacles of normal life - much less sexual confusion orchestrated by perverse adults. Legalized pedophilia is likely their next objective.

5. The corrupt Department of Justice under OBiden's direction is acting like a third world dictatorship trying to imprison their main political opponent

with bogus lawfare indictments in four different jurisdictions. None of the kangaroo court cases have legal merit, but that hasn't stopped the four Democrat District Attorneys from forging ahead in the court of public opinion.

6. The roster of weirdos and perverts manning the OBiden fort is a frightening list to behold. The Secretary of the Army just admitted not being truthful about the National Guard request from Trump prior to January 6. The Secretary of the Navy is a man dressed as a woman. The Secretary of Defense went AWOL without informing his boss.

The Attorney General controls the palace guard and all their sordid

encroachments into the private lives of American citizens. Soldiers on the front lines are embarrassed by their Commander in Chief who has become an international laughing stock bringing us to the brink of World War 3. And their complicit liberal media continues to provide propaganda cover for les incompetents.

Joe Friday had Joe Biden in mind when he cautioned against snake oil salesmen who look you in the eye, give you a big toothy chicklet grin and tell you anything you want to hear just to get your vote. Just the facts ma'am!



FRIDAY, MAY 24TH, 2024  
**MEMORIAL DAY**  
 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY  
 SOUNDSIDE PARK  
 517 ROLAND AVE. SURF CITY  
 9:00 AM  
 TOWN OF SURF CITY 1949



**SOUTHERN ROOTS**  
**GRILLE**  
**DAILY LUNCH**  
**SPECIALS UNDER \$10**

**MEATLOAF**  
**EVERY THURSDAY**



**FLOUNDER BASKET • OYSTER PLATTER**  
**PORK CHOPS • HAMBURGER STEAK**  
**CHICKEN SALAD • BBQ PORK**  
**WESTERN BURGER • SHRIMP PO BOY**  
**CAJUN CATFISH • BEEF TIPS**



**OPEN EVERYDAY EXCEPT TUESDAY**  
**BREAKFAST ONLY SATURDAY (OPEN TIL NOON)**  
**SUNDAY (OPEN TIL 1PM)**



**Beep Beep!** (910) 803-0773  
**552 EAST OCEAN RD, NC-50, HOLLY RIDGE, NC**

**CALL OR TEXT TO BOOK OUR FOOD TRUCK!**

**(910) 599-6164**

 **SOUTHERN ROOTS GRILLE**  
**SOUTHERN ROOTS FOOD TRUCK**



# Newest Member of Holly Ridge Town Council

Pete Parnian is the newest member of the Holly Ridge City Council. He and his wife Dorothy have lived in Holly Ridge since 2020. He has a graduate degree from the University of Michigan and many years of executive business experience. Pete loves community service and has participated in city recreational facilities management, church mission trips, Homeowners associations, and back-to-school support programs for many years.

Pete says he loves meeting new people and is looking forward to serving Holly Ridge citizens in his new capacity. He indicates that he is pro-growth, believes in financial prudence, and thinks strategic planning experience can add value to the council and city management. He says, "Clearly, we are a growing community, one of the fastest areas for commercial and residential growth in Eastern North Carolina. We need to plan to provide and improve

citizen services and facilities during the next few years". He said: "I am honored for the opportunity to work with a great and experienced Mayor, other council members, and the Town manager & staff." He wants to encourage more town citizens to attend the council meetings to get better awareness of ongoing activities. Pete could be reached at pparnian.hollyridge@gmail.com or 336-865-0884.



## Principles of Good Governance: Engaging with the Community

By Joshua Patti

In the realm of governance, fostering community engagement is paramount for the vitality and prosperity of any society. Effective governance not only entails efficient decision-making and administration but also involves actively involving citizens in the processes that affect their lives and getting citizens to engage in community events. The next article of this series focuses on the importance of community togetherness and engagement, fostering a more cohesive community that will improve the general well-being of the town.

One exemplary illustration of this synergy between governance and community engagement is the Holly Ridge Bee Festival that took place this past Saturday. This was a shining example of how local initiatives can unite residents and authorities for the betterment of the community with a positive spirit of togetherness.

Nestled in the heart of Holly Ridge on Sound Road, the town was buzzing with energy and community spirit. The Bee Festival stands out as a celebration of unity and local pride organized around a collective goal of environmental

initiatives. Organized by the established Bee Committee chaired by Dorothy Royal, Holly Ridge Town Staff and volunteers worked in collaboration with community stakeholders to bring the event to fruition. The festival transcends its role as a mere event and serves as a testament to the power of collective action and participatory governance.

The street fair, adorned with vibrant decorations and buzzing with activity, offered a plethora of attractions for residents of all ages. From artisanal honey to live music performances and interactive workshops on beekeeping, the festival captivated attendees with its diverse array of offerings. Festival goers enjoyed a plethora of food choices, activities for children, and much much more. Moreover, local businesses seized the opportunity to showcase their products and services, fostering economic growth and community cohesion in equal measure.

However, the true essence of the Bee Festival lies not merely in its entertainment value but in its ability to forge meaningful connections among residents and local authorities. Through open forums and interactive exhibits, citizens are encouraged to voice their

concerns, share their ideas, and actively participate in shaping the future of their town. This spirit of inclusivity and collaboration underscores the festival's role as a catalyst for positive change and sustainable development.

While the Holly Ridge Bee Festival serves as a shining example of effective community engagement, similar initiatives abound across the globe. From neighborhood clean-up campaigns and volunteer-led initiatives to participatory budgeting processes and town hall meetings, communities worldwide are embracing innovative approaches to governance that prioritize citizen involvement and empowerment. This is something the Town of Holly Ridge can promote, allowing the community to come together more often and with purpose.

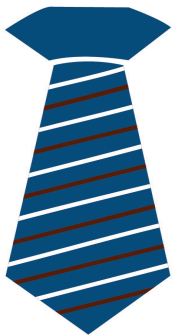
One notable example is the "Open Streets" movement, which originated in Bogotá, Colombia, and has since spread to cities worldwide. By temporarily closing streets to vehicular traffic and opening them to pedestrians and cyclists, Open Streets events reclaim public space for community use, promoting active lifestyles, social interaction, and environmental sustainability.

These initiatives not only foster a sense of belonging and civic pride but also encourage residents to reimagine their urban environments in ways that prioritize people over cars.

Furthermore, digital platforms and social media have emerged as powerful tools for facilitating community engagement and dialogue. Online forums, virtual town halls, and interactive mapping applications empower citizens to participate in governance processes from the comfort of their homes, transcending geographical barriers and amplifying diverse voices within the community.

In conclusion, the Holly Ridge Bee Festival serves as a shining example of how good governance and community engagement can intersect to create vibrant, resilient communities. By fostering inclusivity, collaboration, and civic pride, initiatives like the street fair empower residents to become active agents of change in their own neighborhoods. As we look to the future, let us embrace innovative approaches to governance that prioritize the voices and aspirations of all citizens, ensuring a brighter tomorrow for generations to come.

## Fun Facts: Father's Day – June 18



### History of Father's Day

The idea of Father's Day was conceived more than a century ago by Sonora Dodd of Spokane, Washington. Dodd wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart, a widowed Civil War veteran who was left to raise his six children on a farm. In 1966, then-President Lyndon Johnson issued a proclamation setting aside the third Sunday in June to honor fathers. Father's Day has been celebrated annually since 1972, when then-President Richard Nixon signed a law making it a permanent national holiday.

Why do golfers carry an extra pair of socks?  
In case they get a hole in one!



### Gift Ideas for Dad

- **20,000** - The number of sporting goods stores in 2021. These stores are good places to purchase traditional gifts for dad, such as fishing rods and golf clubs.
- **15,000** - The number of hardware stores in 2021, a place to buy hammers, wrenches, screwdrivers, and other items high on the list of Father's Day gifts. Additionally, there were **5,969** home centers across the country in 2021.
- **6,000** - The number of men's clothing stores in 2021, a good place to buy dad a tie or shirt.



### Services for Dad

- **115,000** - The number of landscaping services nationwide in 2021.
- **83,000** - The number of general automotive repair businesses nationwide in 2021.
- **7,000** - The number of barber shops nationwide in 2021.



### Fathers by the Numbers

**72 million\***  
The estimated number of fathers across the nation.

**29 million\***  
The number of fathers who were grandfathers.

**24 million**  
The number of fathers living in opposite-sex married-couple family groups with children younger than age 18 in 2022.

**2 million**  
The number of single fathers (without a spouse or partner present) in 2022, living with their children under age 18; 20 percent of these single parents were men.

**239,000**  
The estimated number of stay-at-home dads in 2022.

The share of men taking leave has increased over time.  
**65.9%** took leave (with first births from 2016-2020) while **14.0%** took leave (with first births in 1980 or earlier).

Note: All business data are national totals for businesses with paid employees. For more information on nonemployee businesses, visit <data.census.gov>. Sources: Data on this page come from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation; 2022 Current Population Survey (Stay-at-home Parents: Table SHP-1), Annual Social and Economic Supplement; and 2021 County Business Patterns.







# 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?

## Lamberth Insurance Services

Tammy Lamberth

Agency Owner/Broker

(910) 430-6003 Work | (910) 389-5428 Cell

Providing coverage for

LIFE

HOME

AUTOMOBILE

BUSINESS



RVs · Worker's Comp · Flood · Renters and more!

tammy@lamberthinsuranceservices.com

www.lamberthins.com



## Reviews

For your insurance needs



“ 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. ”

- D. R. Royal



# Holly Ridge 1st Bee Festival April 27, 2024



Winner of "Big Bee" Jenna Branham

### Community, what does it mean?

A community is not determined by elected officials. A community is not determined by a zip code. A community is not determined by taxes. A community is not determined by a location, so what makes a community?

Simple, a community is defined by its volunteers.

A volunteer is a person who donates their time, donates their knowledge, and donates their willingness to learn. A volunteer may be a child, parent or grandparent, a student, a full-time employee, or a retiree. A volunteer may be rich or poor, tall or short, young or old. There is no need to define a volunteer since anyone can be one, and the advantages of having a strong volunteer base are priceless. A volunteer can help plant and care for a garden, can teach people to read, to paint, to sing and to dance. A volunteer can help those in need, can offer a place to stay or help homeless pets in need. A volunteer can contribute endless hours to help make an event a success. A volunteer's value is unmeasurable in dollars. A volunteer should be appreciated and thanked. A volunteer donates and does not take.

Because of the importance of volunteers, it is with my utmost respect and gratitude that I would like to extend a great big thank you to Tiffany Johnson and her amazing family and to Ken Bradshaw for his unwavering love of his community for their help with the 1st Holly Ridge Bee Festival, held on Saturday, April 27th. Without the volunteers, which includes members of the Busy Bee Committee and their families, this festival would not have been such a success for our community.

Sincerely,  
Dorothy Royal | Busy Bee Committee Chairperson





# Pender County Commissioner Wendy Fletcher-Hardee Announces Resignation

Pender County, NC - Pender County Commissioner Wendy Fletcher-Hardee has tendered her resignation from the position of Pender County Board Commissioner effective Friday, May 17, 2024. In a heartfelt letter addressed to Chairman George, fellow commissioners, and the Republican Party, Commissioner Fletcher-Hardee cited her decision to prioritize her health and well-being.

Commissioner Fletcher-Hardee expressed gratitude for her time in office, stating, "It has been an honor and privilege to serve the residents of Pender County as a County Commissioner." She highlighted the collaborative efforts undertaken during her tenure,

acknowledging the dedication of colleagues and community members in addressing the county's challenges and improving its quality of life.

Acknowledging the support she received, Commissioner Fletcher-Hardee emphasized, "I am grateful for the support and guidance provided by my fellow commissioners, county staff, and community stakeholders throughout my time in the office." She affirmed her confidence in the continued success of the County Commissioner's Office under the leadership of her esteemed colleagues.

Furthermore, Commissioner Fletcher-Hardee expressed her appreciation to

the residents of Pender County, stating, "Serving the community has been a rewarding experience, and I am thankful for the opportunity to have made a positive impact on the lives of the members of our community."

"Commissioner Fletcher-Hardee's unwavering dedication and tireless advocacy for the betterment of Pender County and its residents have left an indelible mark on our community. Her leadership, compassion, and commitment have been exemplary. While saddened by her departure, we fully support her decision to prioritize her health. Pender County will forever be indebted to her leadership. We honor her

service and send wishes for strength and healing." – Pender County Board of County Commissioners Chairman Brad George.

Commissioner Fletcher-Hardee's resignation will be effective as of Friday, May 17, 2024. Her term was set to continue until 2026. The process to fill the vacant seat will be selected by the Pender County Republican Party and announced in due course, ensuring the continuity of effective governance and representation for the residents of Pender County.

# Celebrating Business: Pleasant Air, Taking Care of Neighbors in Coastal Carolina

Pleasant Air, located at 151 Sloop Point Loop Rd. in Hampstead, has served families for three generations. "My grandfather, Larry Crawford, established Pleasant Air in 1987," said David Crawford, the latest generation of Crawfords to lead the company. David's grandfather worked for York International Heating and Air® in Manhattan as a company representative. He retired from York International Heating and Air after 25 years. He moved to Florida, but Florida wasn't to his liking, so Larry and his wife took the scenic route from Florida northward on US Highway 17. They discovered one flashing traffic light in a burg called Hampstead.

"They found a home on Ravenswood in Olde Point, which was new at the time," David recalled. "They bought a spec house in Olde Point and our family would visit regularly."

Larry started doing consulting work and he found himself helping his neighbors with their heating and cooling questions. "At that time, there were no heating and cooling companies in the area," David said. "You called businesses either in Jacksonville or Wilmington."

Larry started Pleasant Air. Meanwhile, in upstate New York, Larry's son, Bryant requested a transfer to the Wilmington office from his heating and cooling company. Bryant moved the family to the area. In 1993, Bryant joined the Pleasant Air company on a full-time basis. "Over the years we've had a few partners in the business, but now we are strictly family-owned," said David.

In the early years of the business, Larry worked from his Olde Point home. In 1989 Larry purchased the building and property on Sloop Point Loop Road. That location has been home to the Pleasant Air family. They have built additions to the original building as the company has grown.

"We're here to help our neighbors with air and heating needs," said David. The company sells Trane systems as well as Mitsubishi ductless units. "A large volume of our work is maintenance contracts and service calls," said David. "Our number one service call pertains to drains backing up, due to our high humidity. Under a service contract, drain lines are included as routine maintenance."

Staying abreast of the latest industry trends is important to David. He said in January 2025 there will be refrigerant mandates by the government.

"It's proven technology but will increase costs," David said. Security is important to Pleasant Air too. David said they have staff who are long-term employees. The employees undergo full background checks and motor vehicle checks.

"We want our customers to feel comfortable when our company visits their home or office," said David. After more than 34 years of business, David said he and his father never forgot the lessons learned from Larry. "My grandfather was a good person," David said. "He believed in charging fair prices and he tried to make sure the customer was taken care of in a timely

manner. He believed in doing good work."

Bryant has retired from Pleasant Air. David is at the helm with his wife, Marisa, who is the office manager. David said he is blessed that his wife is a co-worker as well. The couple has four children and hopes one day they will learn the family business at Pleasant Air. Meanwhile, the Crawfords focus on serving the community. They believe in supporting community activities, such as donating to the schools, the Kiwanis Club's Halloween event, and law enforcement flag football, just to name a few. Last year they participated in a Christmas giveaway with a radio station in which they provided a system to a breast cancer patient.

"We've seen a lot of changes in Hampstead over the years," David said.

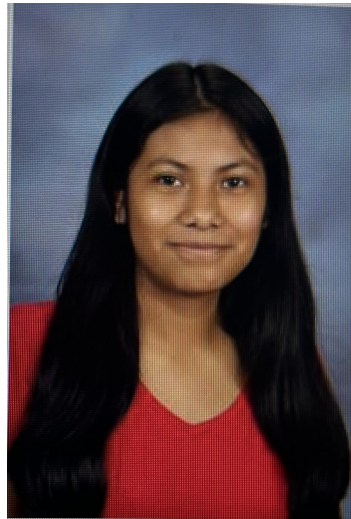
"But we continue to serve our neighbors' heating and air conditioning needs." To learn more about Pleasant Air, call 910-270-3934 or visit them online at [pleasantair.com](http://pleasantair.com) as well as Instagram and Facebook.





# Missing Runaway Juvenile

The Pender County Sheriff's Office is attempting to locate a missing runaway 14-year-old juvenile named Jennifer Chavez-Lopez. Jennifer was last seen on Thursday, April 18th 2024, after returning home from school and then leaving from home in an unknown direction. Jennifer is approximately 5'2" in height and weighs approximately 120 pounds. She has long black hair and brown eyes. Her last known clothing description is unknown. Anyone with any information regarding Jennifer's whereabouts is urged to contact Det. M. English with the Pender County Sheriff's Office, at 910-259-1212.



# Onslow County Sheriff's Office K9 Gus has Received Donation of Body Armor

Onslow County Sheriff's Office K9 Gus has received a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Gus's vest was sponsored by Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. and embroidered with the sentiment "In memory of K9 Hobbs, Des Moines, IA - EOW 12-12-23".

There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$985 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1800.00, weighs an average of 4-5 lb., and comes with a five-year warranty. For more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts donations at [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org), or you may mail your contribution to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is U.S. made, custom fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 5,514 vests to K9s in all 50 states at a value of \$6.9 million, made possible by both private and corporate donations.

The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old and actively employed and certified with law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate.



# Resident of Rocky Point Arrested for Statutory Rape of Child

On April 24, 2024, the Pender County Sheriff's arrested Antonio DeJesus Martinez Hernandez, a 30-year-old resident of Rocky Point for one count each of statutory rape and indecent liberties with a child from his illegal conduct with a minor after a brief investigation by the sheriff's office Special Victims Unit and the Support Division School Resource Officer Unit. The suspect has a scheduled first appearance on April 25, 2024, in Pender County District Court.

Anyone with information concerning this suspect and these allegations is asked to contact Detective-Sergeant Steve Clinard at 910-259-1437."



# City Cafe



Lunch Specials  
Southern Homestyle Cooking

Closed Sunday and Monday  
Open Tuesday through Saturday  
5:30am - 2:30pm

910-329-4321

204 US Highway 17 S, Holly Ridge, NC 28445

Serving the best breakfast and lunch around!

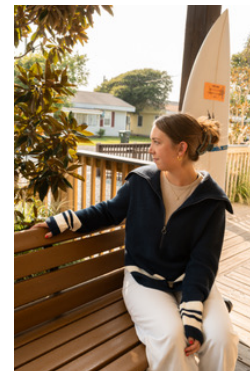


Free Fly • Life is Good • Vineyard Vines • Fish Hippie • Olukai • Costa Del Mar



**Store Hours**  
**Open Everyday**  
**9am-7pm**

**From hats to shoes and everything in between,  
we've got you covered!**



**Topsail Island's premiere outfitter for life's everyday adventures.**  
**Inspired by the sea, sand and salt air, we love our coastal lifestyle and living on island time!**

**#ShopLocal**

**Family Owned and Operated for 61 years!**  
**701 N. New River Drive, Surf City, NC**  
**910-328-3291**



**" the little store with MORE than you would ever expect... "**

**Shibumi Shade • Maui Jim • Patagonia • Pura Vida • Birkenstock • Hey Dude • Brooks**



**NEW IN-STOCK**

**#Birkenstock**

**#Sandals**



**Shop in store or online:**

**www.herringsoutdoorsports.com**

**MORE WORKOUT, LESS TIME!**

**HOTWORX**®

**24 HOUR INFRARED FITNESS STUDIO**

**TRY YOUR VERY FIRST  
HOTWORX SESSION FOR FREE!**

**HIT THE ISOMETRIC WORKOUTS**  
Pilates, yoga, core and more

**OR TRY THE HIT WORKOUTS**  
Cycles, dual pulley water rower, or blast for a total body workout

**BOOK SESSIONS DIRECTLY FROM THE APP**

**(910) 967-9328**

**112 Charlie Medlin Dr.  
Surf City, NC 28445**

**WWW.HOTWORX.NET**





# DDT

**SPECIAL PRICING ON IN STOCK OUTDOOR FURNITURE**

**CLOSE OUT SPECIAL ON SELECT WICKER SETS**

**FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!**

**Pick out your summer surfboard set now!**



**Choose your style, color & size. 4 ft. & 6 ft. in stock, (8 ft. special order). Saddle seat bar stools with or without backs. Bottle opener included.**



Surfboard Sets start at \$1299

**We Carry Sunroom Furniture!**



**LARGEST Collection of Coastal Furniture & Nautical Gifts & Accessories in North Carolina!**

At DDT we can furnish your coastal home from top to bottom!

**sunbrella®**  
PERFORMANCE FABRICS

New & Exciting Coastal Fabrics  
Beautiful • Durable  
Bleach Cleanable • UV Resistant  
Worry Free



**www.DDTOUTLET.com**

21740 Hwy.17 North, Hampstead, NC

(South of Holly Ridge, North of Hampstead)

910-329-0160

Like Us On

