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UPCOMING 4TH OF JULY EVENTS

JULY 3RD	Surf City Independence Day Celebration 6-9pm Surf City Town Park
JULY 4TH	Freedom Festival 3-9pm 1250 Onslow Pines Road, Jacksonville, NC Wilmington Fireworks - 9:05pm at historic downtown Riverfront 4th of July Festival - Southport's "oldest Independence day" celebration
JULY 4-6TH	Ocean City Jazz Festival, North Topsail Beach

HOLLY RIDGE CELEBRATIONS WILL BE HELD DURING LIBERTY FESTIVAL IN THE FALL

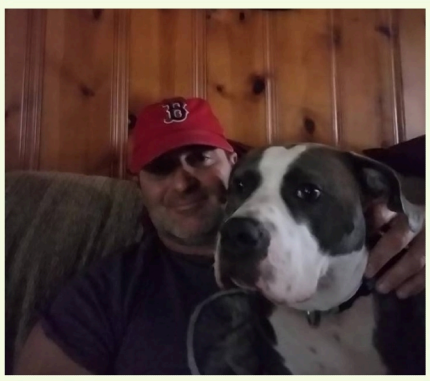
Holly Ridge Police Dept Wins Battle of the Badge

At the 2nd Battle of the Badge Axe throwing competition, held at Paradise Axe and Arcade in Holly Ridge, The Town of Holly Ridge Police prevailed as the winners beating the Town of Surf City Police Department, who were the defending champions. The event was held as a successful fundraiser for Able Buddies NC. Teams from Holly Ridge Fire and Rescue and Able Buddies also competed.

See photos on page 15!

REST IN PEACE

DOUGLAS RYAN THOMAS



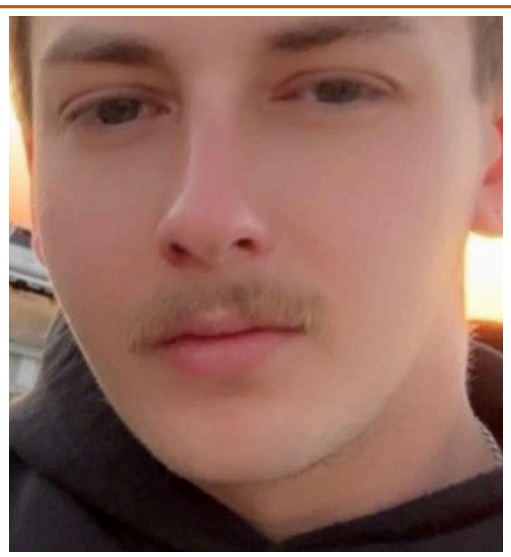




Holly Ridge Resident Killed in Motorcycle Accident

North Carolina Highway Patrol officer Ceballos-Teraoa, reported that at approximately 9:43pm on Wednesday, May 21st, Dominic Anthony Michael Sciarratta, 24, of Holly Ridge, North Carolina was killed when a vehicle driven by a 31-year-old woman turned in front of his motorcycle, causing a collision. Witnesses stated that the motorcycle was traveling on Hwy 50 from Holly Ridge toward Surf City at a high rate of speed and the Toyota Rav 4 was traveling toward Holly Ridge from Surf City when it turned in front of him. Mr. Sciarratta was pronounced dead at the scene and was the only person on the 2000 Harley Davidson motorcycle. The driver of the vehicle has been charged with Misdemeanor Death by Motor Vehicle.

Within a scope of three days, there were three vehicle accidents in the same stretch of Hwy 50 between Holly Ridge and Surf City. With all 3 accidents, speed was a factor.



Hurricane Preparedness:

"Hurricane Season has Arrived, being Prepared is Critical"

See more information on page 14

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Topsail Gun Gal

By Dorothy Royal

The Hearing Protection Act is common sense, and for some unknown reason in the past, politicians just can't seem to get it across the finish line. What is the Hearing Protection Act? Simple. It removes suppressors and silencers from the NFA (National Firearms Act) and makes them simply an accessory. Who likes loud noise? No one. The Hearing Protection Act would allow people who are target shooting or hunting to do so without so much noise. Doesn't that make it better for everyone? Yes, it does. The "One Big Beautiful Bill" has passed the House and is now on the way to the Senate for approval. If you care about your hearing, this is one Bill we all need to support.

No more pennies from Heaven? After 200 years in production, next year will be the last year the magical penny will be produced by the US Treasury. The claim is that the small copper colored coin is no longer cost effective and costs more than its face value to produce. Can that be true? What about "see a penny, save a penny?" See a nickel, save a nickel just doesn't have the same pleasant ring. Want my 2 cents? Of course not, because that phrase will lose its value too! I don't know about you but if they are going to get rid of the penny, they need to bring back the $2.00 bill. That one is my favorite.

A recent report from AT&T claimed that almost 1/3 of all people 30 years of age still have their parents paying their phone bill. Almost 20% of the consumers waited until they were 40 years of age or older to start paying their bills. Holy smokes, have we created a society with a HUGE lack of responsibility? I was working weekends before I was 16 to pay for things I wanted. I don't remember NOT having a job and paying bills. It's wonderful to have parents help – but folks, THIS is ridiculous.

The Town of Holly Ridge is currently the ONLY local town that does not have live streamed meetings (regular town meetings, zoning, etc.) In last year's budget they allocated $300,000.00 to be used for a new updated website (the current one is sadly lacking) and to be able to broadcast live and real-time meetings for everyone to watch. It has been over a year and still neither are done. Maybe it's time more taxpayers start asking, what is going on here?

How do I know people want more fun in their lives? Easy. The Savannah Bananas baseball team took to the road this year and on May 10th they played at the Tennessee Titans Nissan Stadium in Nashville to a sold-out crowd of 70,000 people! Not familiar with them?
Check them out online. People crave fun and laughter and this group has mastered that.

I would like to give a great big shout out to John Parker of Holly Ridge for bringing me a Matchbox of the "Big Banana Car", built by Steve Braithwaite, that came to visit our arcade in 2023. I have searched far and wide for this Matchbox (only 100 were made) and he found it! Thank you, John Parker!

Start your Weiners! On Friday, May 23rd the first ever Oscar Meyer Wienie 500 Race took place at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Six Oscar Mayer Wiener cars, each representing a part of the USA, competed for the grand prize of bragging rights. The drivers, known as Hotdoggers, competed using identical vehicles. Fun facts: the first car was designed in 1936 by the owner's nephew. The vehicles are 24 hot dogs tall, weigh the same as 140,500 hotdogs, 60 hot dogs long (27 feet), 18 hot dogs wide, and powered by 6-liter, 300 horsepower V8 motors. The winner? The Slaw dog, representing the Southeast where racing started, won by a nose.

Remember knowledge is power, people crave fun over stress, and no one likes loud noises, so support the Hearing Protection Act!



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Coastal Common Sense

By Kim McGahey

It's that time of year again. Springtime at the seacoast is the wonderful weather time that is the sweet, dry harbinger of humid days and harried crowds ahead. And the summer throng of beach goers this year is sure to be bigger than ever.

The springtime months of March, April and May are delightful at the beach with temperatures varying only slightly between day and night ranging from the 60's to the 70's. And that oppressive humid blanket is nowhere to be felt! The springtime attire is shorts every day with the occasional flannel shirt on the evening sunset stroll on the beach.

If it were that way year-round there'd be 10 million people living here. It's only the frigid 40-degree windswept dunes in January that keeps the population down to the hearty 1,000 ocean addicts that call this salt desert island their full-time home.

During the isolated winter months, we like our private beach. We like no lines at the Food Lion or at the bridge roundabout. We like a friendly wave at the local constables on their quiet hourly security tour of vacant beach houses. We like a table by the water with no screaming sunburned kids next to us at Sears Landing.

We don't like the island closed down on Mondays and Tuesdays and we don't like not being able to use the outdoor shower on those rare 30-degree days or not having a daily happy hour available. But that's a small price to pay for the serenity of salty seclusion.

So now we're close to the Memorial Day arrival of the Midwestern mass exodus with traffic jams at the bridge and sweat glands working overtime as we enter our newfound beach resort popularity. Yes, we have been discovered!

And with the price of gasoline lower than it's been in the past 4 years, expect a lot more vacationers to arrive by car escaping their hot summer doldrums in our refreshing ocean breezes. Families living East of the Mississippi River feel more confident in the economy of the newly elected administration and will be more eager to venture to our sunny coast for their time-honored one-week summer beach vacation. If only we could receive the benefit of their VISA cards without the passengers in their automobiles.

As the gnats and the humidity move back in, so too will the weekend warriors from Emerald City. The nearby regional major metropolitan areas will let loose their wintry pent-up demand for beach worship and make Highway 17 and I-40 bumper to bumper Friday and Sunday afternoons.

A quarter mile between beach blankets now will soon become 50 feet between noisy shibumis. Restaurants will go from walk-in now to hour long waiting lines. Local business owners will happily change operating hours from 3 days a week to 8 days a week as the gold rush lights up their cash registers. And all the empty beach houses will be filled with joyful smiles and the sounds of families and friends loudly partying at the shore.

It's a fantastic time of year that we're glad only lasts a few months. Then we get our private beach back, we marvel at our increased bank accounts and we plan the January trip to the Florida Keys. Some of us with a flip flop on one foot and a ski boot on the other seek refuge in the mountains from the insufferable summer humidity.

But the cycle of life at 10 feet above sea level is a wonderful adventure. We are fortunate to share our magical oceanfront with the rest of the work-a-day world who get a fleeting glimpse of the natural beach beauty that we cherish all year long.



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Pepper's Nursery: Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Stand Opens in Holly Ridge

Pepper's Nursery was established in 2020 by Bryan Ritter, a native of Holly Ridge, and his wife, Diana. The business originally began in 2019 when they decided to sell some extra garden starter plants they had. Many visitors commented on their fig tree orchard and expressed a desire to have fig trees of their own. They named the nursery after their family dog, and now, six years later, they have three greenhouses, two vegetable stands, three gardens, and hundreds of trees.

The nursery specializes in food trees, particularly fig trees, but they also propagate and grow citrus trees, including Meyer and Harvey lemons, as well as Key and Kaffir lime trees. Their stock plum tree is the American Red Plum, which thrives in the area and produces delicious, golf-ball-sized reddish-purple plum. Additionally, they offer avocado trees of various sizes. Since avocado and citrus trees cannot survive the zone 8b winter outdoors without special precautions, they make excellent container plants. Excitingly, they are testing Paw Paw and Chinquapin trees, both native to North Carolina, with hopes of offering them soon. They are also starting to cultivate persimmon, olive, and coffee trees to see how well they grow in the region.

In 2021, they opened a small roadside stand at their residence, providing the neighborhood with overflow produce from their garden. In 2024/25, they expanded their gardens and opened a second stand to offer homegrown, locally sourced fresh fruit and vegetables to a wider audience. In May 2025, they celebrated the grand opening of their new stand, located at 1132 E. Ocean Rd. Holly Ridge (Hwy 50). This stand offers a selection of fresh produce along with various trees and plants from the nursery.

Pepper's Nursery is listed in the NC Roadside Certified Farm Market registry and is a registered and licensed nursery in North Carolina. Over the past few years, they have represented Pepper's Nursery at several major fig conventions along the East Coast, including as far as Chattanooga, Tennessee, both as speakers and vendors. These conventions allow them to educate others and stay informed about new products and procedures. They also trade fig cuttings to enhance their collection of rare fig trees and help preserve endangered fig varieties.

As summer approaches, Pepper's Nursery will keep the produce stand stocked with your favorite garden selections and offer trees to brighten your life. Come check out their offerings and talk trees with them! They are open Thursday through Sunday from 10 AM to 6 PM.











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Answering the Call

By Richard DuFlocq

In this day when it feels like finding common ground on anything is a near impossibility, an insurmountable mountain to climb, if one looks close enough, with an eye out for searching opportunities to be part of something not associated with one's ideological or political allegiances, there in plain sight are the volunteer organizations. These groups' main purpose and objective is to serve the needs of others, and in some instances those of animals, and those needs are many, spanning a wide spectrum of circumstances that brought about the necessity of assistance.

The people who organize, maintain and tirelessly devote their time and energy to address these needs, are people who have the ability to clearly see and understand a need, and they couple that insight with problem solving skills in order to formulate a means to render the appropriate aid and assistance. The ranks of volunteer organizations are comprised of diverse groups of people that reflect the constituency of the communities where they live, and they share a common commitment to do what they can to provide comfort, healing, understanding and support to causes that are important to them. Volunteers do not expect praise or material rewards of any kind, but they are due our respect, recognition and gratitude.

So, are you part of a volunteer organization? Have you always wanted to get involved but weren't certain you had anything to contribute, that you needed to possess a specific skill set to be of value to a particular volunteer group? Well let's dispel that misconception here and now. With the myriad and variety of volunteer organizations within the Onslow County area, there are a multitude of opportunities by which to contribute. Are you interested in assisting those who are presently serving in the military or those veterans that are now disabled having served their country with honor and distinction? Do you want to help someone learn how to read or obtain a vocation skill? How about taking part in helping shape the lives of at-risk or parentless youth? If sports is your thing, help support Special Olympics athletes. Be a nature preservation advocate, or lend your efforts to stem family violence, child abuse and animal cruelty. Volunteer at a food bank or food pantry. Contact the Red Cross. Turkey Creek Fire & Rescue would welcome your application.

There are organizations that provide safe havens for dogs in risk of being euthanized or in need of foster homes, there are those that rescue horses, help returning injured or distressed sea turtles back to the sea or guard a sea turtle nest and witness the wonder of a turtle hatchling "boil". We are fortunate to be the home of the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center. You can provide company for the elderly and for those in hospice care. And the list of opportunities goes on and on. Locally, the Sneads Ferry Community Council (SFCC), the group that annually conducts the Sneads Ferry Shrimp Festival, is always in need of volunteers as they perform additional activities besides the shrimp festival, engage in charity related events, and take on the responsibilities associated with the upkeep and maintenance of the Sneads Ferry Community Center grounds and structures. Like myself prior to attending a SFCC festival planning meeting, festival attendees are probably not aware of the month's long effort involved in addressing every aspect of staging this annual communal event. Simply reading the Shrimp Festival Committee's "to do" list is exhausting. And not to be lost in what the SFCC does, don't forget that the community center can be rented out for any variety of activities.

Perhaps after reading this, you will consider answering the call and volunteering with an organization of your choice. I know that finding the time to volunteer is challenging given the demands associated with one's day to day family, work and other responsibilities.

Volunteer organizations are appreciative of any time that you can give them, because those minutes and hours taken collectively accumulate and bolster their efforts. And the satisfaction that one can derive from volunteering is immeasurable and long lasting.

Here is an online address that lists volunteer organizations near Sneads Ferry: www.volunteermatch.org. This list is in no way inclusive, but it gives you an insight of the extent of volunteer options in this area. Thank you for considering joining with others in selfless service to very worthwhile causes. And to all the current volunteers who are already devoting their time and energies in service to the spirit of volunteerism, let's extend to them our heartfelt gratitude, admiration and support.



Onslow County Sheriff's Office, Jacksonville Police Department, Team Up to Assemble Law Enforcement/First Responder Trauma Kits4Kids

First responders from the Jacksonville Police Department and Onslow County Sheriff's Office are joining forces to receive and assemble First Responder Kits4Kids – a compassion-driven national initiative created to comfort children facing traumatic emergency situations.

The event will take place on June 11, 10:00 am at Jacksonville Department of Public Safety, 200 Marine Blvd, Jacksonville, NC 28540. The First Responder Kits4Kids program was founded by James Fisher-Davis (a native of eastern NC) and Kevin Gatlin, two devoted fathers from Charlotte, NC, who recognized the need for a way to help first responders alleviate children's anxiety during tough times. Aware that first responders frequently encounter distressed children, Gatlin and Fisher-Davis developed these Kits4Kids to offer a straightforward yet impactful method for providing comfort and security during first responder service calls.

Each First Responder Kit4Kids contains carefully curated items to engage and comfort children during emergencies. The kit includes a Playtime Disposable Play Pad featuring 25 interactive activities, crayons, a Rubik's Cube for cognitive stimulation, a miniature emergency vehicle, Play-Doh, a puzzle game, noise-canceling earplugs, a colorful stress ball, hand wipes, and a handwritten note from first responders providing encouragement.

"As President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, I am proud to support the Kits 4 Kids initiative. These kits have the potential to lessen children's traumatic experiences during encounters with law enforcement, redirecting the focus of the moment toward a positive exchange. We at NOBLE are committed to working with organizations that better our communities, and we believe these kits will make a meaningful difference in the lives of the children we serve." - Rodney Bryant, NOBLE Past President

First Responder Kits4Kids has been featured on ABC, NBC, Spectrum, and CBS News. Trauma Kits4Kids is supported by the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police (NCACP) and also endorsed by the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), highlighting its nationwide impact and commitment to ensuring that first responders have access to these vital resources. To learn more, visit https://firstresponderkits4kids.org and follow First Responder Kits4Kids on Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

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June Is Men's Health Month–And It Starts with Your Smile

By Becky Moore, RDH

As a proud daddy's girl, a mother of sons, a wife of 32 years, and a passionate dental hygienist, I've always held the men in my life close to my heart. This June, during Men's Health Month, I want to highlight a part of the body that doesn't always get the attention it deserves—the mouth. It's not just about fresh breath or a clean smile—your mouth is the gateway to the body, and its health is deeply connected to your overall wellness.

The Overlooked Link: Oral Health and Whole-Body Health

Men are statistically more likely to avoid regular dental care and more likely to engage in habits that impact oral health, like smoking, snoring, and open-mouth breathing. These may seem minor or harmless, but they can lead to serious consequences. As a dental hygienist, I see firsthand how 90% of adults worldwide have some form of inflammation in the mouth, and conditions like gingivitis—a mild form of gum disease—are incredibly common and often overlooked. Left untreated, gingivitis can progress to tooth loss and contribute to systemic inflammation, increasing the risk of heart disease, stroke, and other chronic conditions.

One of the biggest culprits? Dry mouth conditions to include open-mouth breathing, often linked to snoring and sleep apnea, is more common in men. Breathing through the mouth, especially at night, dries out the oral tissues, reduces saliva fl ow, and creates the perfect environment for harmful bacteria to thrive. Smoking adds another layer of risk, exacerbating dry mouth and weakening the body's defenses.

Oral Cancer Risk: Men Are More Vulnerable

Men are also at higher risk for oral cancer. According to the National Institutes of Health, men are 2-3 times more likely to develop oral cancer than women. The risk increases with age, smoking, and alcohol use. Oral cancer can develop without symptoms in the early stages, which is why regular dental visits are so important. A simple oral cancer exam during your routine dental visit can help detect abnormalities early, improving the chances of successful treatment. Early detection is key, and it can make a life-saving difference.

Even if you have dentures or partials, annual dental visits are essential. It's important to have your mouth examined for signs of oral cancer, as it can occur in areas of the mouth that may be hidden by dentures or partials. Dentists can help monitor any changes in the tissues of the mouth, gums, and soft palate that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Support the Men You Love with These 3 Simple Oral Health Steps:

Switch to an Alcohol-Free Mouth Rinse or Use Coconut Oil

Ditch the alcohol-based rinses that dry out the mouth. Opt for an alcohol-free mouthwash or try coconut oil pulling—an age-old technique of swishing coconut oil to reduce bacteria, support gum health, and keep oral tissues moist.

Try Dry Brushing

Brushing without toothpaste—known as dry brushing—can more effectively remove plaque and target buildup along the gumline. Doing this before bed adds another layer of protection against bacteria and inflammation.

Be Aware of Open-Mouth Breathing

Snoring or mouth breathing at night might be signs of deeper issues. This habit can increase the risk of decay, gum disease, and fatigue. Talk to your dentist about signs of sleep-disordered breathing and ways to support nasal breathing instead.

What You Eat Matters Too

A nutrient-rich diet benefits both the mouth and the mind. Focus on foods high in antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids, and fiber, like leafy greens, berries, salmon, walnuts, and flaxseed, to support brain function and reduce inflammation. Avoiding added sugars also helps reduce harmful bacteria in the mouth, protecting against tooth decay and gum disease.

One Action: Make a Dental Appointment

If there's one takeaway this June, let it be this: schedule a dental check-up. Just like we maintain our cars and homes, our bodies—including our mouths—need regular upkeep. Even if you have no teeth, an annual visit is vital for evaluating partials, dentures, and receiving an oral cancer exam. Early detection and consistent care can prevent disease, improve quality of life, and promote longevity.

Worried About the Cost?

You're not alone—but resources are available. Pender County offers a full-service dental clinic that operates on a sliding fee scale, making care more accessible for individuals and families with limited income. Residents from neighboring counties are also welcome. To learn more or to schedule an appointment, call the Pender County Health Department.

Whole-body health starts in the mouth. Let's use this Men's Health Month to take better care of the men we love, starting with a simple step toward better oral health.

Let's celebrate and love on the men in our lives, we couldn't make it without them!!!



Three CFCC Students Awarded for Excellence in Academics and Leadership

Cape Fear Community College is proud to announce the recipients of three prestigious student awards presented for exceptional achievements in academics, leadership, and dedication to the community college mission.



Cynthia Vasquez Rodriguez – Dallas Herring Achievement Award Winner

Cynthia Vasquez Rodriguez, a student in CFCC's Architectural Technology program, has been selected as the college's recipient of the *Dallas Herring Achievement Award*. This award honors students who best embody the vision of Dr. Dallas Herring, widely regarded as the philosophical founder of the NCCCS. Dr. Herring's legacy, "taking people where they are and carrying them as far as they can go", is reflected in Cynthia's academic journey and commitment to her education. Cynthia is continuing to pursue her Associate in Science degree at CFCC.



Van Trong Ho – Governor Robert W. Scott Student Leadership Award Winner

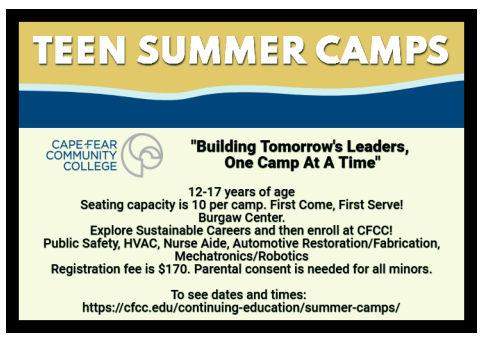
Van Trong Ho has been selected as CFCC's recipient of the *Governor Robert W. Scott Student Leadership Award*, which recognizes exemplary student leadership and service within the community college system. Named after former Governor and NCCCS President Robert W. Scott, the award honors students who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to leadership both inside and outside of the classroom. Van graduated from CFCC in May and has already been accepted to UNC Chapel Hill, Boston University, New York University, and has applications pending at Harvard and Yale.



Brandon J. Williams – Academic Excellence Award Winner

Brandon J. Williams, a student in the Associate in Engineering program, has been named CFCC's recipient of the *Academic Excellence Award*. This honor is awarded to students across the state who have set the highest academic goals and achieved excellence through hard work and perseverance. Brandon graduated from CFCC in May and plans to attend UNC Chapel Hill in the fall.

For more information about these awards and the North Carolina Community College System, visit www.nccommunitycolleges.edu.



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Untitled Theatre Productions Keeps Theatre Within Reach

Untitled Theatre Productions is thrilled to announce its first Cabaret and Silent Auction:
Saturday, June 21st at 6:00 pm
The Promenade at the Davis Community
980 Roundhouse Circle, Wilmington

This fundraiser is more than just an event — it's a vital opportunity to ensure that every young performer in Untitled Theatre Productions' shows can participate without financial barriers. With your support, Untitled Theatre Productions can uphold its commitment to inclusivity and opportunity, allowing passionate, talented youth to take the stage without the burden of participation fees. The Cabaret and Silent Auction also supports the hundreds of hours put in by a team of volunteers — from directors and stagehands to choreographers and tech crew — who are all dedicated to making each performance magical.

Ticket Information:

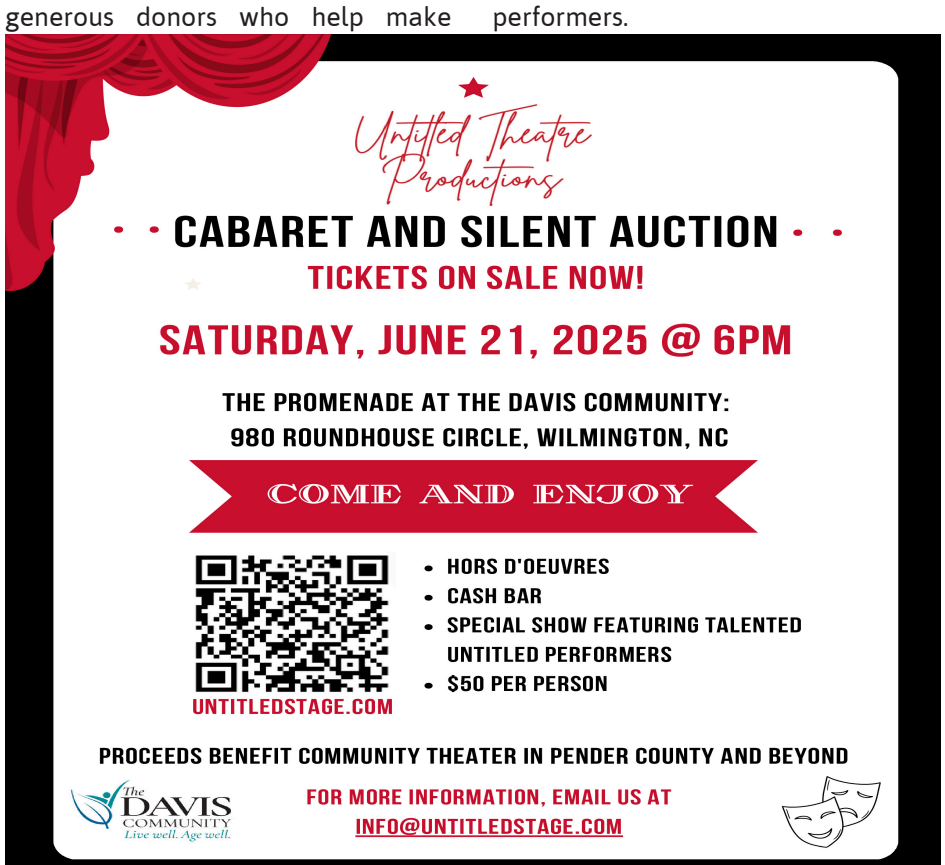
Tickets are available for purchase at www.untitledstage.com. Every ticket sold helps bring productions to life — and every dollar raised goes right back into the community.

About Untitled Theatre Productions

Founded in Fall 2023, Untitled Theatre Productions is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization rooted in the heart of Pender County. In less than a year, Untitled's stage has been home to five acclaimed youth productions, including Shrek Jr., The Music Man Jr., The Addams Family Jr., and two original holiday musicals. The organization's commitment to young performers has already drawn in nearly 4,000 audience members, showcasing just how hungry our community is for live, local theatre.

Untitled Theatre Productions believes in the transformative power of performance — how it builds confidence, fosters creativity, and forms lifelong friendships. But producing theater of this caliber comes with real costs: costumes, lighting, scripts, venue rentals, sets, music licensing, and more. Untitled Theatre Productions thrives thanks to the tireless efforts of volunteers and generous donors who help make every show possible.

Join us in celebrating the arts and supporting the next generation of performers.



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- D. R. Royal

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AD DESIGN AVAILABLE

Pender County Chambers of Commerce Create Leadership Pender

The program will educate classes about all facets of Pender County.

The Burgaw Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism agree that Pender County is a diverse and beautiful county to work, live, and play.

In August, the two chambers of commerce will launch Leadership Pender, a program designed to familiarize attendees with the county's educational system, history and culture, economic development, the non-profit sector, public safety, governments, healthcare, and workforce development.

"Chambers across North Carolina and the United States conduct leadership programs," said Michele Bennett, a board member with the Topsail Chamber. "We felt that now is the time to present Leadership Pender and to grow our understanding of one of the state's fastest-growing counties."

"We're pleased the Burgaw and Topsail chambers have collaborated to bring an informative eight-session leadership program to Pender County," said Ruth Glaser, a board member with the Burgaw Chamber. "Our community is growing, and this program will deliver an understanding of the county in which we live and/or work."

Applications for the Inaugural Class are available now, online from the chambers' websites.

Classmates will begin with an orientation and mixer in August. Each following month, the class will meet on the second Wednesday to explore facets of Pender County. In May 2026, the Inaugural Class will graduate in a ceremony with family, co-workers, and friends in attendance.

To cover expenses, tuition is $400 per person. Businesses are encouraged to sponsor employees. The deadline to apply is June 9.

"Pender County has unique history, rich natural resources, and a diverse range of industry and small businesses," added Glaser. "Leadership Pender will acquaint the class with all aspects of Pender County."

"Class size will be limited," said Bennett. "We encourage all to apply who will make the eight-month commitment."

For more information, call either chamber of commerce at 910-329-4446 or 910-259-9817.

Leadership PENDER





From Scotch Bonnet to Surf City: The Evolution of Topsail Island's Surf Scene

By George Howard

Long before Surf City Pier became the epicenter of surfing on Topsail Island, the go-to spots for wave seekers in the 60s through the 90s were further north. Back then, if you were a mainlander growing up in a place like Richlands, chances are your first taste of the ocean was at the iconic Scotch Bonnet Pier in North Topsail Beach. That's where I caught my very first wave—on an air mat—back in the 60s.

In those days, the surf scene revolved around Scotch Bonnet and Paradise Pier. These weren't just surf spots—they were full-blown hangouts. Scotch Bonnet had an arcade that buzzed with energy, packed with kids killing time between sessions, salty and sunburned from hours in the water. Paradise was another local favorite, until a fire—rumored to have started from a cigarette—reduced it to ashes. After that, many of the Paradise regulars migrated to Scotch Bonnet, keeping the surf culture alive and well in North Topsail.

Then came the summer of 1996. On July 12, Hurricane Bertha made landfall. While the damage wasn't catastrophic, it rattled Topsail Island and was just the beginning. Two months later, on September 5, Hurricane Fran tore through as a Category 3 monster, devastating the entire coastline. Scotch Bonnet, Barnacle Bills, Surf City Pier, and Jolly Roger all took major hits. Only Surf City Pier and Jolly Roger would eventually rebuild.

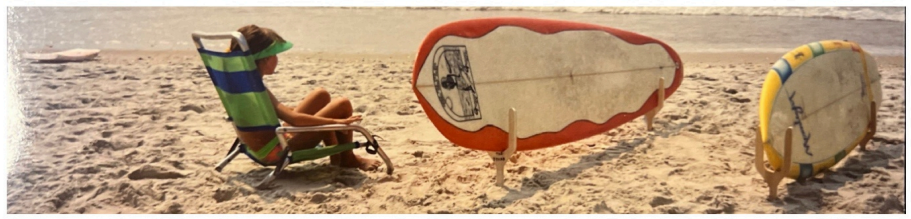
With the Scotch Bonnet lost and Paradise long gone, the island's surf scene found a new home. The consistent rebuild and resilience of Surf City Pier, along with its central location, gradually made it the heart of surfing on Topsail Island.

Today, Surf City Pier stands as the prime surf spot around—drawing locals and visitors alike with its reliable breaks, vibrant









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Hurricane Season has Arrived, being Prepared is Critical

By Brandi Cobb

With the start of Hurricane season, Pender County is here to promote hurricane preparedness for citizens in our County. To help spread the word and make citizens better prepared, we are committed to continuing to ensure all know their risk, get prepared and stay informed.

Over the years, we have witnessed the devastating impacts that hurricanes can cause. High winds, heavy rainfall, tornadoes, and floods can cause loss of life and damage to property. As we saw with the impacts of many hurricanes in Pender County, all hurricanes can cause significant damage, whether they are considered a major hurricane (Category 3 or higher) or not.

Always keep these important facts in mind while preparing:

Know Your Risk: To search for general information about risks in your area, visit https://gis.pendercountync.gov/maps/ and type in your address. Click on layers and select flood zones to see what flood zone you are in or nearby. You can also visit NOAA's historical hurricane track tool at https://coast.noaa.gov/hurricanes/ to check the severity and frequency of past hurricanes in your area.

Flood Alerts: To sign up for flood alerts that are tied to the nearest river gages, go to Pender County's website and click on "sign-up for Emergency Alerts" on the Home page or go to https://local.nixle.com/pender-county-nc and click the "Sign Up" button at the top of the page. You can also sign up for flood alerts on the Flood Inundation Mapping and Alert Network (FIMAN) page https://fiman.nc.gov/ or by clicking on the link on the Pender County Know Your Flood Hazard page https://pendercountync.gov/272/Know-Your-Flood-Hazard. Download the Pender EM app from the App store on your smart phone.

Get prepared: Act now to be prepared for hurricane season. Make sure you have family evacuation and communication plans, update your emergency supply kit and evaluate your flood insurance needs.

Survival Kit Supplies: Water, food (non-perishable), flashlight, battery power or hand-crank radio (Can purchase at red cross store online), extra batteries, deluxe family first aid kit, medications and medical items, multi-purpose tools, sanitation and personal hygiene items, copy of personal documents, cell phone with charger, family and emergency contact information, extra cash, emergency blanket, maps of the area and (IF NEEDED) baby supplies, games and activities for children, pet supplies, manual can-opener.

Flood Insurance: Did you know that homeowner's insurance does not cover damage from flooding? The good news is that the Pender County community is a member of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Flood insurance is available to homeowners, condo owners, apartment owners, renters, and business owners. Typically, there's a 30-day waiting period from date of purchase before your policy goes into effect. Areas in the floodplain are areas that are at high risk for flooding. In high-risk areas, there is at least a 1 in 4 chance of flooding during a 30-year mortgage.

"No matter the prediction numbers for the season, it only takes one to be a bad year" said Tommy Batson, Pender County Emergency Management Director.

For more information, watch our Pender County Emergency Management website or download our Pender EM app. If you have not signed up to receive local emergency alerts, register for free at
https://pendercountync.gov/162/Emergency-Management
or call 910-259-1210 for details.

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Meet Your Neighbors

By Dorothy Royal
Photos from John Parker

Years ago, I purchased an old 1926 Model T truck. The truck had come from an apple orchard in the mountains and had been sitting for decades, but I saw the beauty in it – and without hesitation, I knew the right person to bring it back to life and get it running again.

John Parker, a Holly Ridge resident for decades, is the local "go-to" for creative and amazing mechanical and welding. Born in New Jersey in the late 1950's and like many young men, he found himself stationed at Camp Lejeune in the 1970s. When he got out of the service he moved back up north, only to return a few years later to the area to help care for his sister who had fallen ill. When she passed away, he decided to give the Holly Ridge area a try. He soon made friends in the mechanical and welding world and started his long, trophy winning career of building some of the most unique motorcycles and automobiles around.

In the 1980s, John started J&W Motorworks on Highway 50 in Jimmy Asbury's old welding shop. To save money, he and his dog lived in his old blue truck. About a year later, he moved to 152 Bass Street where rented space from Albert Earl and then Percey Padgett (PH) before eventually buying the repair shop. Soon after, he bought the trailer next door, where he lives today.

Parker's Garage and later PMS (Parker Motor Sports) went on to build mud racing vehicles, custom cars and custom motorcycles. At one time he had eleven mud racing vehicles all representing Holly Ridge, NC when they raced. John has traveled the country with his custom builds and has accumulated over 100 trophies and awards for his hard work.

While looking through stacks of photos, it's easy to see that this man's creativity has no boundaries. Interested in meeting John? Check him out on Facebook! And yes, he got the old Model T running again!



The old blue truck.
Funny side note: John traded this truck to Caroline Stanley's son, Russel, for a bicycle, since he needed a truck for work.



John working on Earl Yopp's old fire truck



Famous purple big block 1969 VW Bug mud racer with 44" tires



Creative welding (corn holder)



Homemade custom build



Hawkshaw Costin and his custom-built mud truck "Scrap Iron"



John Parker



Custom built motorcycle "Francine" getting ready for Daytona Bike Competition



Just a few of the dozens of trophies and awards

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Community Updates



It's an honor to be named the 2025 Legislator of the Year by the N.C. Youth Outdoor Engagement Commission. I'm proud to support programs that connect our young people with North Carolina's natural beauty, teaching responsibility, leadership, and a love for the outdoors. Together, we're investing in the next generation of stewards of our state.

- Senator Michael Lazzara



Update

The training session was highly successful!

Holly Ridge Fire Dept

UPDATE ON PENDER CO. CLERK OF COURT

On May 16, 2025, the matter of *State v. Craver* was calendared in Pender County Superior Court. Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 15A-945, the defendant, Elizabeth Craver, waived formal arraignment in Superior Court and entered a plea of not guilty to the following charges:

24 CR 82-700: Three counts of Felony Obtaining Property by False Pretenses
24 CR 83-700: Willful Failure to Discharge Duties

The cases were scheduled for the week of December 15, 2025.







Gaston Fire & Rescue provided assistance for a tractor trailer driver who had a flat tire on I-95. While this may seem unique for a fire department response, the truck was hauling 130 pallets of bee hives equating to millions of honey bees. In order for the flat tire to be replaced, the bees had to be calmed down and that is where our part came in. We were tasked with calming the bees. You might ask, "how does a firefighter do that?" No, we did not use our charming abilities or sweet talk. Instead we used bursts of water in a fog pattern to help cool the hives, which in turn calmed the bees. No bystanders or firefighters were harmed during this incident and the honey bees were able to continue their journey to New York for the summer.

The Surf City Police Department proudly took part in the 2025 Special Olympics Torch Run, a meaningful event that unites law enforcement officers, their families, friends, and Special Olympic athletes in support of an inspiring cause. Representing the department were Lieutenant Cowie, Officer Clear, and Administrative Assistants Jill Burgess and Shayla Gemmill. Their participation highlights the department's ongoing commitment to community involvement and inclusion. This annual event serves as a reminder of the strength found in unity and the powerful impact of supporting athletes of all abilities.







Food Lion Feeds surprised local honoree Joseph Goodyear of Livingstone Tabernacle (Hampstead, NC) with their 'Lion Heart Volunteer' Feedys award which honors an individual who demonstrates outstanding skills in coordinating and motivating groups of donors and volunteers for hunger-relief projects for the benefit of Food Lion Feeds and its partnered food banks. Joseph and Livingstone Tabernacle have provided hunger relief since 1999 and in the past five years, they have distributed more than 1.5 million pounds of food. They deliver food, clothing, appliances, social services and even vehicles to families in need.



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When a Paper Becomes Propaganda - Part II

Opinion Piece By Phil Cordeiro

Pop quiz: What's worst among the following scenarios?

A. Your county commissioner accepts campaign contributions from developers and properly discloses those contributions to the public.

B. Your county commissioner accepts campaign contributions from developers, does not disclose those contributions as required by law, and also lies to you – telling you he doesn't take money from developers.

C. Your local newspaper writes a news story attacking the commissioner in answer A, while completely ignoring the commissioner's actions in answer B.

Well, this isn't a theoretical quiz. This is Pender County politics.

It was hard not to choke on my morning coffee when reading the Pender Post's May 22nd "news" story (I use the word "news" loosely) insinuating Commissioner Randy Burton is in the pockets of developers. Here was the Post's bombshell: Commissioner Randy Burton accepted donations from developers! Cue the ominous music.

In reality, Burton did exactly what every law-abiding public servant should: he disclosed every nickel and dime of his campaign contributions—on time and in full—just as North Carolina law requires. A politician following rules and telling the truth? Somebody call the ethics police!

Meanwhile, a glaring omission in that same breathless exposé: Commissioner Brad George's developer-funded campaign. Two of George's highest-dollar donors are developers, yet the Post didn't breathe a word about them. Curious, isn't it, how a "newspaper" (again, I use that term loosely) can completely ignore the scandals of its favored politicians.

Here's the kicker: George's disclosures were due February 27, 2024, but didn't materialize until October 29, 2024—eight months late, and conveniently after the primary. And, that belated filing only happened once the state board of elections forced the issue in response to a campaign finance complaint I filed. If transparency were a building, George's filing would be the kind that collapses under the weight of its own delays.

Even more eyebrow-raising is George's public insistence that he doesn't accept a penny from developers—a provable lie according to his own tardy filings. Blatantly lying to constituents? That's bold, even for a politician. But that's what you get with Brad George. FYI, George also voted as commissioner to award his wife's private employer over $20 million in taxpayer funds. What could possibly go wrong when personal and public interests mix? Fraud, waste, and abuse, anyone?

Contrast this with Burton's behavior: full disclosure, on schedule, and no under-the-table surprises. The story should have been about George playing fast and loose with campaign finance rules—yet the Post opted for a perfectly executed hit job instead.

At the end of the day, it takes money to run for office. This is an evil we must accept. But, voters deserve honesty. Would you rather have a candidate who openly discloses developer donations, or one who hides them until forced to confess—and then lies about it? I'll take Commissioner Burton's honesty and transparency every time.

Disclaimer: *Opinions and views shared in letters to the editor or commentaries made by contributing writers do not necessarily reflect the views and ideals of the Topsail Times Newspaper. While we support an individual's use of their First Amendment rights, we do reserve the right to decline to publish opinions or to publish opinion pieces with contrasting views and/or additional context. Please email us at topsailtimesnewspaper@gmail.com if you would like to share your own opinion piece or if you have any questions.*

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JULY 9 – TURTLE TIME
JULY 16 – NATURE'S COLORING BOOK

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Deputies Investigating Robbery at Hubert Convenience Store

By Onslow County Sheriff's Dept

Deputies with the Onslow County Sheriff's Office are investigating a robbery that took place at a Hubert convenience store early Wednesday morning.

Around 4:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 21, deputies responded to the Beast Mart Gas Station and Convenience Store, located at 566 Sand Ridge Road in Hubert, after receiving a 9-1-1 call of a robbery.

When deputies arrived, the convenience store clerk informed them that an unidentified man rushed into the store, jumped over the counter, and proceeded to take an unknown amount of cash.

Shortly after, the robber left on foot through the front of the store.

After canvassing the area and attempting to track the individual, deputies were unsuccessful in locating the suspect and have turned the case over to detectives.

Detectives are currently working through several leads to identify the suspect.

If you or someone you know has any information regarding the case, please contact Detective David Moore at 910-989-4040.

Crime Stoppers, in their commitment to public safety, offers a cash reward of up to $5,000 for information deemed valuable or assistance to law enforcement. Remember, your information can be shared anonymously via Text-A-Tip by typing TIP4CSJAX and your message to 274637 (CRIMES). Rest assured, callers to Crime Stoppers may remain anonymous and never have to identify themselves.

If you have additional questions, please contact Onslow County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer Trevor Dunnell at 910-787-4216 or trevor_dunnell@onslowcountync.gov.

Sheriff's Office Makes Arrest in Piney Green Peeping Tom Incident

In late April, the Onslow County Sheriff's Office received its first reports of a suspected Peeping Tom in the Piney Green area. After deputies investigated the claims, an arrest was made on Friday.

On May 16, 2025, deputies arrested Arkie Lee Winston, 36, of Jacksonville without incident. Winston is charged with misdemeanor secretly peeping into room occupied by female and was given a $1,000 secured bond. Winston is currently out on bond and awaiting his next court date.

The Sheriff's Office urges the community to report criminal or suspicious activity immediately to authorities by contacting the Onslow County Sheriff's Office at 910-455-3113, Onslow County Crime Stoppers at: 910-938-3273, or 9-1-1.

Body of Deceased Male Found Near Hammocks Beach State Park Identified

The body of a deceased male recovered from the water near Hammocks Beach State Park on Tuesday has been identified.

Joseph Michael Marshall Edwards, 34, of Jacksonville, was found deceased by North Carolina State Park Rangers around 12:48 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon. Rangers located Mr. Edwards in the water about 150 yards offshore near the state park's maintenance area.

State Park Rangers, along with Onslow County Sheriff's deputies, United States Coast Guard, and Swansboro Fire and Rescue responded immediately to the scene. Edwards' next of kin have been notified, and detectives with the Onslow County Sheriff's Office have taken the lead in the investigation.

The cause of death is still being determined. However, detectives believe no foul play is involved.

One Big Beautiful Bill Passes the House

By Kennedy Stowater

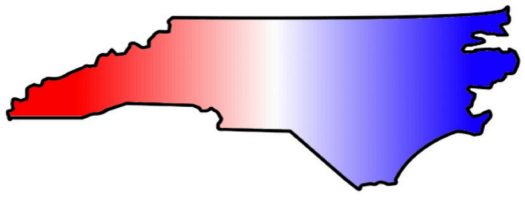
With support from Congressman David Rouzer, the U.S. House of Representatives passed One Big Beautiful Bill, furthering President Trump's America First Agenda.

"Thursday morning marked an exciting and historic victory for the American people with House passage of President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill. This monumental legislation is a win for hardworking families in North Carolina and across the nation. It's a testament to the unwavering commitment of House Republicans and President Trump to securing our borders, improving our economy, and ensuring American workers come first," said Congressman Rouzer. *"I'm proud to support this bill which will boost job creation, reduce burdensome regulations, and strengthen our national security."*

Highlights of the One Big Beautiful Bill

* Makes the Trump Tax Cuts permanent.
* The largest border security investment in history which will permanently secure our borders.
* Incentivizes Made-In-America: Rewards new factories built in the U.S.A., lowers tax rate for those producing in the U.S.A.
* Buy an American car and get a Made in America Auto Tax Break.
* No tax on tips, no tax on overtime.
* Slashes taxes on Social Security, offering historic tax relief to seniors.
* Delivers bigger paychecks.
* Unleashes American energy.
* Updates our air traffic control system to ensure Americans fly safely and efficiently.
* Funds the Golden Dome, invests in American shipbuilding, and modernizes our military.
* Protects Medicaid and SNAP for every eligible American by removing waste, fraud, and abuse within these programs.



Dorothy

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Businesses, Non-Profit, and Volunteer Honored at the Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Annual Awards Luncheon

The Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism is pleased to announce the six award honorees recognized at its Annual Awards Luncheon and Silent Auction on May 20.

The Annual Chamber Awards Luncheon celebrates excellence in six categories: *Volunteer of the Year, Non-Profit of the Year, Businessperson of the Year, Hospitality Business of the Year, Business of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement.*

This year's honorees are:

* **Businessperson of the Year:** Christa Schroeder, originator of Topsail Top Choice and owner of *Topsail Insider*.
* **Non-Profit of the Year:** Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern North Carolina.
* **Volunteer of the Year:** Evelyn Wheeler, Chamber Ambassador, facilitator of Coastal Masterminds, and owner of *Web Designs Your Way*.
* **Hospitality Business of the Year:** *Sundial Coffee and Tea*, owned by Bridget Leiviska.
* **Business of the Year:** *Topsail Island Trading Company* and *The Gift Basket*, owned by Claire and John Noto.
* **Lifetime Achievement Award:** David Ward and *Ward Realty*, a business that has served the Topsail area for over seven decades.

"The annual luncheon is a highlight of our year because we have the opportunity to honor outstanding members of the Chamber," said Tammy Proctor, Chamber Director.

The event was generously sponsored by the Historical Society of Topsail Island and Sanctum 1791.

For more information about the Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, please visit topsailchamber.org.



2025 Annual Award Winners:
Christa Schroeder (Topsail's Top Choice), David Ward (Ward Realty), Keith Williams and Ashlyn Delabio (Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern North Carolina), Bridget Leiviska and Julie Hillman (Sundial Coffee & Tea), Claire and John Noto (Topsail Island Trading Company and The Gift Basket), and Evelyn Wheeler (Web Designs Your Way)



Guns For Women

Most women purchasing a gun are going to get advice from a man on the type of gun and caliber size they need.
Unfortunately most men suggest guns that are PERFECT FOR A MAN...BUT NOT FOR A WOMAN.
After learning to shoot and getting my purchase permit I headed out into the world of male dominated gun shops. After stopping at a few I found a man who took time to explain each gun to me and he finally convinced me that I needed to carry the gun that he actually owned. The problem was he was a 200 lb body builder and I was not (ha ha). Needless to say I purchased a .40 caliber semi-automatic and bought the ammo and headed to the range.
While all the other women in my group were loading their clips with ease, I was struggling to the point of my thumbs nearly bleeding. When I finally got the gun loaded and ready, Itook my position and began to fire. BAM BAM BAM. The noise was tremendous, the recoil was more than I ever wanted and by the time I was done shooting everyone was staring at me. Though I still hit the target my shoulders were sore and my head hurt.
This was NOT the right gun for me.
Of course my husband did not see my problem. He was gracious enough to take the gun (which I now see is a conspiracy on the part of men) and I continued on my search for the right gun. Unlike most men I know, I was not raised shooting a gun.
I knew very little about them and found that in this case knowledge and comfort were the two most important things I needed to focus on.
Guns scare me and I needed a gun that I could feel safe around, know how to load and unload, and that I could ensure was safe around my children.
These were not things that anyone in a gun shop had ever asked me about and I knew that needed to change.

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

When a woman comes into my shop these are questions that THEY ask me about handguns....
1. How do I open the gun to put in the bullets? The revolver is the easiest of the handguns to load and unload. In the case of a semi-automatic pistol, some guns required you to load the clip and then ratchet the gun back to put one bullet in the chamber. Not all pistols require ratcheting. Make sure if you buy a semi-automatic pistol that you CLEARLY UNDERSTAND from the seller how to load the gun correctly. Guns should come with an instruction manual that should also have instructions. Do not be embarrassed to ask!!!! This is going to be your line of defense and you need to know how to use it.
2. What if the bullet jams? Revolvers do not jam. In the case of a semi-automatic pistol it is possible to have a bullet jam due to inferior ammunition; the gun needing to be cleaned or a weak or stiff clip spring. Jams do happen in semi-automatic pistols and you MUST know how to clear the jam safely. Ask your seller and read the instruction manual.
3. How do I know the gun is loaded? In the case of a revolver, you slide open the cylinder and can easily see if the gun is loaded. Some semi-automatic pistols have "load" indicators such as a colored dot. ALWAYS PRESUME THAT A GUN IS LOADED. When looking at a pistol always remove the clip and ratchet back the slide to view inside the gun to make sure it is empty. Do not look down the barrel or pull the trigger to check. All it takes is one bullet!
4. My husband said that I need a .40 or .45 caliber gun because anything smaller won't stop someone. More people are killed by a .22 cal. bullet then any other round. The purpose of a gun is to PREVENT harm, not to cause it. It is more important that you are able to load the gun and can control it. I recommend a .38 special or 9 mm for woman. If they want a larger caliber I always suggest that they shoot one first before making that their first gun. Some gun shops offer an indoor or outdoor range where you can rent a gun, which is an excellent way to try different types of handguns.
5. My husband said I should have a gun with a laser...is that true? Lasers are very popular and definitely make a gun "cool" looking but I always tell people to know how to aim their gun correctly first, and not to depend on the red dot. On a bright sunny day the dot may not be visible.
6. How much should I spend on my first gun? Depending on the brand and style of gun you choose, your gun could cost anywhere from $250 and up. Most guns come with a basic warranty (if purchased new). We sell handguns that can cost up to $1500 but we don't recommend anything like that for a first time buyer. We sell a nice selection of revolvers for $300 and up. There is nothing wrong with a used gun for a first time owner as long as it has been inspected by an authorized gun dealer. Don't be afraid to ask friends and family for recommendations, it is an easy conversation starter!
7. If I lock up the gun and need it in a hurry, what do I do? Practice locking and unlocking your gun. Whether it is a cable lock through the gun itself or a trigger lock, make sure you know where the keys are and how it works. We do not recommend storing guns loaded. If you have a gun for personal protection leave a clip loaded but out of the gun (and out of the reach of children). My husband always teases me that if I ever needed my gun in a hurry I would be better off hitting the intruder with the gun box then trying to remove all the safety features. My response is that I have children in the house and that takes priority over everything else.
8. How do I clean the gun? How often? A clean gun is a gun that is going to serve you well. It takes very little time to clean a gun that has been fired and worth every minute. The instruction manual and/or gun dealer can show you how to properly clean and care for your gun. All inclusive kits are available for around $15.00
9. What difference does the barrel length make? A great bit of difference. The longer the barrel the more accurate the gun. Most conceal and carry guns are short barreled and made for easy storage on your body. Some people have a gun for carrying and a gun for target shooting. There are quite a few guns designed to do both, just let your seller know what you want your gun for. We sell a short barreled .380 that is perfect for self protection but not a gun I would take to the range.
10. How can I carry my gun? Check with your local gun laws. Every state is different. In North Carolina, you need a Conceal & Carry permit to carry the gun on your body (out of plain sight). We sell several purses with holsters built right into them (since most women would be unable to find a gun in a hurry if they simply dropped their gun into their purse (ha ha). There are holsters designed for wearing on your hip, concealing inside your pants and ankle holsters. We sell a t-shirt where the holster is sewn onto the fabric and can be worn under another shirt (for both men and women). How you carry your gun is just as personal as what kind of gun you have.
11. What is an ambidextrous clip release? It is a button on semi-automatic pistols that allows the user to release the clip from either side of the gun (preferred by left handed shooters). Not all guns come with this feature.
12. What if I already own a gun but I don't like it? Depending on your local gun laws and local gun dealers you may be able to trade your gun in for one that is right for you. Always check around since the value of a gun varies GREATLY from one gun dealer to another. Our shop offers consignment (most shops do not). Be cautious of the neighbor that "will take it off your hands". That is usually a good indicator that the gun is worth more than they are offering. Don't be afraid to call around or look your gun up in the "Blue Book" for reasonable values. Be careful of using web sites to determine the value since in most cases the price listed is "asking price" and not what the gun sold for. Check your local laws before selling your gun to a private citizen.
13. Someone gave me a gun. How do I register it? Check your local laws since State Laws vary. North Carolina does not have a gun registration so therefore you are entitled to own the gun. If you are going to transport the gun across state lines CHECK WITH EACH STATE you will be traveling in first. If you have a Conceal & Carry permit for your state check and see what other states allow you to carry your gun in their states.
14. Other than a gun, what do you recommend for personal protection? With the introduction of tasers, people now (depending on your state's laws) have the ability to have a home protection device that can give them time to stop the intruder and get help. Tasers are usually designed to "shoot" a pronged device up to 15 feet - an electrical charge is applied and the person usually drops to the ground for 5 seconds - giving you the ability to defend yourself without direct contact. A background check is required when a taser is purchased to active it. Most tasers cost over $250.00 and re-fill cartridges can be $30 or more.
15. What do I need to buy a gun? Handguns and long guns can now be purchased in NC with a background check done on site for NC residents.

Raspberry Icebox Cake



Ingredients

- 24 graham crackers, crushed
- 1/3 cup butter, melted
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 (6 ounce) package raspberry flavored Jell-O® mix
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped
- 15 ounces frozen raspberries
- 1/3 cup milk
- 20 large marshmallows

Steps

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). **Mix** crushed graham crackers, melted butter, and brown sugar in a bowl until well combined. Set aside 1/4 cup graham mixture for topping; press the remainder into a 9x13-inch pan. **Bake** in the preheated oven for 10 minutes. Set aside to cool. **Dissolve** raspberry gelatin in boiling water. Add frozen raspberries, stirring until melted. Chill until partially set, then spread over graham crust. **Pour** milk into a microwave-safe bowl and heat in the microwave until warm. Stir in marshmallows until melted; allow to cool slightly. **Fold** whipped cream into marshmallow mixture, then spread on top of raspberry mixture. Sprinkle with reserved graham topping. Chill in the refrigerator for 3 to 4 hours before serving.

Word Search: Suits TV Show

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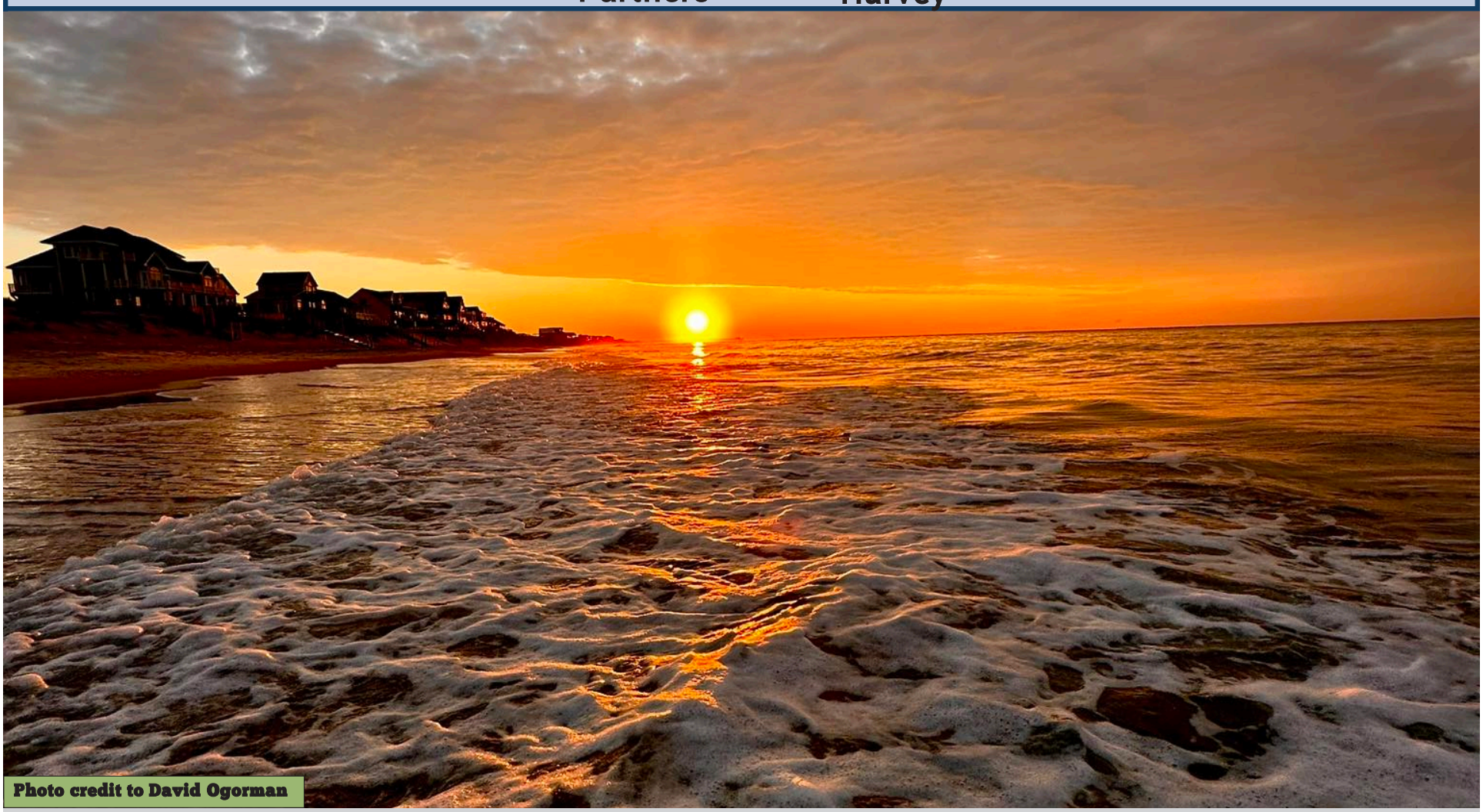

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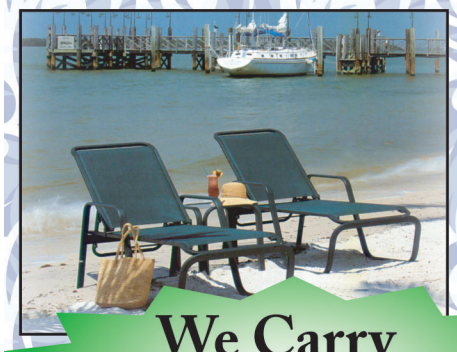



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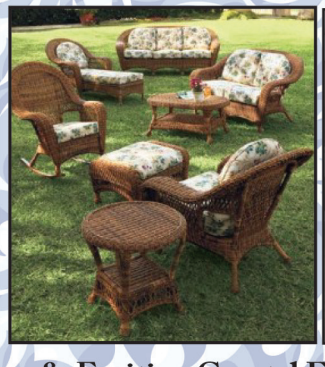





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