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● **September 2025** ● **American-Owned. Free Press.** ● **Volume V, Issue 9** **FREE!**

## ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

**Area residents speak out about the detrimental rapid growth in our communities**

**By Dorothy Royal**

Lindsay Logan Allen states it best in her opinion piece in *The News & Observer*:

*"We want transparent, ethical development, free of conflicts of interest. We want growth that is responsible and backed by proper environmental and safety planning, so the burden does not fall to taxpayers. We want to protect our already strained infrastructure from further collapse. We care about our first responders and our teachers. We need more grocery stores, medical facilities and schools."*

*"Citizens voices are excluded from decisions that will shape our town for decades. Elected and appointed officials align themselves with developers whose profits hinge on favorable approvals."*

*"Ethics and transparency are treated as optional, not foundational. Silence has become the default response to legitimate public concern."*

*"The danger is not only in developments approved without scrutiny. It is in what this behavior normalizes: the public engagement is unwelcome, that questioning is adversarial, and that loyalty to private interests outweighs service to the public."*

*"Accountability is not hostility. It is an act of love for the place you live, for the people who share it, and for the generations who will inherit it. What we tolerate today will shape our future tomorrow."*

Pender County residents presented a petition with over 1,100 signatures of Hampstead area residents requesting a moratorium on new residential construction at the August

Pender County meeting. Like many other communities the complaints are the same: Overwhelming traffic, poor infrastructure and a lack of school space for new students.

At the August 18th Brunswick County Board of Commissioners meeting, concerns about rapid development, local infrastructure, flooding issues and poor emergency planning were the focus of the community asking for a moratorium on residential construction. Concerns were raised about builders filling in wetlands and raising building heights. Residents are calling for improved infrastructure, hospitals, better roads, and schools, rather than more housing.

Holly Ridge community members attended the August 12th regular town meeting and spoke out with the same concerns. When an item on the agenda appeared a few days before the meeting calling for consideration of the voluntary satellite annexation of 1226.62 acres located outside the current city limits and outside the current ETJ (extra territorial jurisdiction) citizens had a lot of concerns and questions. The 4 parcels, currently owned by ONWASA

(Onslow County Water and Sewer Authority) span from Hwy 50 all the way into Pender County. The parcels are located behind the current industrial park. The only access point is through Hwy 50 in Onslow County, which is a 2-lane road. The application submitted by a party interested in purchasing the large tracts of land with plans of future development of possibly 2500 homes. One of the large tracts of land is currently in Pender County. To date, Holly Ridge has no properties in Pender County. Concerns that citizens brought up at the meeting included: no maps, plot plans, water run-off, wet land delineations, traffic studies or environmental impact studies have been provided regarding this property. Area schools are overburdened and without new schools, the addition of possibly thousands of new students would not be feasible. The question regarding where the students in the Pender County portion would go to school was also raised. A public "Town Hall Meeting" is scheduled for September 10th, the day after the next town meeting.

Current list of candidates that are running for local municipal elections:

Election Date Nov 4, 2025

**Holly Ridge Mayor**

Pirooz (Pete) Parnian – appointed  
Dorothy Royal

**Holly Ridge Council Member (4 year term) 2 seats available**

Gregory Hines (I)

Brandon Longo

Jeff Barton

Rena J. Bragg

Joseph Correia

**Holly Ridge Council Member (2 year term – unexpired) 1 seat available**

Pamela Hall – appointed

Richard Royal

**Town of North Topsail Beach Mayor**

Richard Grant

David Benson

**Town of North Topsail Beach Alderman  
3 seats available**

Curtis Anders

Larry Strother

Kip Malcolm

Tom Leonard (I)

Jeffrey Zehner

**Town of Surf City Council Member  
2 seats available**

Daniel Blevins

Hugh A. Cannady – appointed

Jillian Rodrigues de Miranda

Jeremy Shugarts (I)

Andreas (Andy) Pleil

**Town of Topsail Beach Mayor**

Frank Braxton - appointed

**Town of Topsail Beach Council Member  
3 seats available**

Nancy Kerr Thomason - appointed

John Best – appointed

Tim Zizack (I)

Alex Arab

**What is the difference between (I) incumbent and appointed?**

A person with an (I) after their name means they were elected to the position originally and are running for re-election

Appointed means the person was selected by the existing council/alderman members to fill a seat that was vacated (for various reasons). Appointed is not elected and a person who is appointed is technically not running for re-election.



FOR MAYOR

**DOROTHY ROYAL**

FOR TOWN COUNCIL


**BRANDON LONGO**

FOR TOWN COUNCIL

**RICHARD ROYAL**

*Paid for by Richard Royal for Holly Ridge Council*





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# BRANDON LONGO

VOTE



## For Holly Ridge Town Council

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# Topsail Gun Gal

**By Dorothy Royal**

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words may never hurt me" We all remember this from elementary school, but is it true? Of course not. Everyone that was ever teased or bullied as a kid remembers those times. Words are certainly hurtful, and with our world focused on social media, words can be produced by "anonymous" villains, who do nothing but stir hate and spread lies. Does the First Amendment protect lies? Do we, as a society, have the right to say "NO MORE" of the spreading of fake and harmful information? The most important thing we can do is to call out lies. To make people accountable for their words and actions. For some reason, this very natural process went away. We need to bring it back – and soon.

Hurricane Erin swung by just long enough to give the area surfers some "fun in the sun". It was amazing to sit on the beach and watch. How peaceful and beautiful. Another thing Erin was nice enough to do was to deposit some much-needed sand on Topsail. Don't get complacent and think this is a "norm" for Hurricanes, but as they go – this one was okay in my books.

Giant golden orb spider season is upon us. If you are not familiar with these amazing natural engineers, take a walk through a wooden area or down a tree lined street. You may just find some. Look up, they like to be high in the trees. I have watched these webs span 20 feet or more and hold up to excessive wind and rain. I have walked into one and had it hold together and bounce back after I ran screaming off in the opposite direction. I have also witnessed them build archways over where I walk. Smart little guys. I have noticed that they coat their webs in a golden powder, I am guessing that's why they are Golden Orbs.

Fall is right around the corner and with that comes cooler weather and motivation to enjoy the great outdoors. This is the perfect time of year to do a little target shooting or to get your gear out for hunting season. Whatever your fancy, always remember the rules. Never point a firearm at anything you don't intend to shoot and always consider a firearm to be loaded. If you are not sure what is behind your target – don't shoot. Noise bothers everybody so be courteous of those in your area. Make sure your firearms are clean and in good working order. If you are not sure how to do this, stop by a

local gun shop and ask. Most places offer classes and/or gun cleaning and function tests.

Shake, rattle and roll. If you have been paying attention to our southern neighbor, you will know that a small area of South Carolina has been plagued with small earthquakes recently. Located south of Greenville and west of Columbia, Coronaca, South Carolina has experienced a dozen small earthquakes.

Oh, Cracker Barrel.....how I will miss your "old barn" ways. I enjoyed dining in the fun and simple atmosphere, and sometimes terrifying – if you ever sat at the table with a farmer's scythe (or sickle) hanging above your head by that tiny wire. You are a classic. We see you when we travel, we feel like we are visiting that crazy aunt who collects too much when we open your doors, and we like the fact we could have breakfast any time of day. Who, in their right mind, thought to change all that? Shame on people wanting to ruin a good thing. As we all know, the mighty dollar plays a big role in how a business is judged, so maybe our "old barn" will return soon enough.

Remember knowledge is power, words can and do hurt, so be thoughtful, and don't worry about the integrity of the Golden Orb's web if

you walk into it – it will be just fine.



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# Coastal Common Sense

By Kim McGahey

The complicit liberal media, often referred to as the main stream media, is not only the most powerful cultural influencer, but it is the most destructive force in existence ruining our constitutional republic.

First, let's identify the players who comprise the main stream media. If you get your information from the New York Times, the Washington post, MSNBC, CNN or sometimes the Wall Street Journal and Fox News, you are probably receiving information that is at the very least slanted toward a left-leaning progressive agenda designed to advance the political narrative of the Trump-hating Democrat National Committee.

Remember, your brain is a finely tuned machine that processes garbage in and garbage out. So, you fill your head and heart with what you watch, what you read and what you listen to. If that garbage in is all liberal progressive moral relativism nonsense and feel-good entitlement agenda, then your brain will be indoctrinated to believe that all that hypocrisy is the truth.

Rather, if you fill your head with reason, logic and critical thinking you are more likely to discern real truth in the world around you and live your life according to that truth.

The liberal media platforms do not want us to believe in real biblical truth. That would negate their identity politics agenda and not allow them to practice mind control over us.

Examine any number of current events and cultural issues and you will see how these progressive media outlets ignore the truth and use their reporting to advance their left-leaning, Trump-hating political narrative.

The Biden weaponization of his Justice Department issue is a perfect example. Biden showed four years of complete disregard for the rule of law and used Attorney General Garland as his personal palace guard to eliminate his political opponents. The media stood quietly by.

The recent FBI John Bolten raid is a

clear instance of how Biden swept potential law breaking under the rug during his administration in order to protect himself and not make Trump look good. The media was complicit in this cover up by not doing the critical research required to discover the truth.

The gerrymander issue is another example of how the liberal progressive news reporters cover up the truth. Chicago, New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles and all the other cities and states run by Democrats have been creating favorable voting maps for decades in order to give Democrats representative advantages in their state legislatures and in the U. S. House of Representatives. And as long as it was Dems doing this electoral manipulation, the liberal blue media looked the other way.

But as soon as the Texas state legislature Republicans do the same gerrymander, all of a sudden the liberal media is all up in arms about how Trump is a dictator and a threat to democracy. (Footnote: anyone who uses the term "threat to democracy" is ignorant of the fact that we are a representative Constitutional Republic and not a majority rule democracy.) In reality, the U.S. Constitution gives state legislatures the right to pass voter integrity legislation to balance voter rolls.

But the progressive liberal media doesn't want the truth: they just want to hate Trump and defeat any law abiding initiatives his America First agenda proposes. The DOGE efficiency tests should have had 100% media support, but was instead viewed as Hitler reincarnate.

That's why when violent crime is skyrocketing in blue cities around the country, the media denies accurate defensible statistics and does not mention the race or sex of criminals and victims. 12% of the population is committing 98% of violent crimes in cities. We should have a fair minded media reporting these stats.

The names of district attorneys and rogue judges defending M-13 illegal immigrant criminals are protected by the complicit liberal media, who then turn around and

broadcast names, addresses and family members of ICE agents obeying the laws.

The open border the past four years allowed millions of illegal immigrants to pour over our southern border under the blind eye of the progressive reporters in an overt effort to protect and advocate the Left's political agenda. Now that Trump has secured that border, the media barely reports on the

disastrous criminal affects of that open border policy.

The complicit liberal media is pounding nails in their own coffin with every piece of lopsided, unfair reporting. They will be out of business in no time and the truth will then only be available through AI and the Bible.

Send in your own thoughts to  
topsailtimesnewspaper@gmail.com !

**Kim McGahey**

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# Alzheimer's Association Invites Onslow County Residents to Join 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's on Sept 27th

**By Kara Harrington,  
Alzheimer's Association - NC**

The Alzheimer's Association invites residents of Onslow County and nearby areas to join the fight to end Alzheimer's on Saturday, Sept. 27.

The Alzheimer's Association - Eastern North Carolina Chapter will be hosting Walk to End Alzheimer's - Jacksonville at Jacksonville Commons Recreation Complex located at 100 Recreation Lane. Check-in opens at 9 a.m.; Opening Ceremony at 10 a.m. with the Walk immediately following.

"This is a pivotal moment in the fight against Alzheimer's. There are now treatments that change the course of the disease," said Christine John-Fuller, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association - Eastern North Carolina Chapter. "We hope that everyone in our community can join us by starting a team to help the Alzheimer's Association raise awareness and funds for families facing the disease today, take more steps toward treatments and finally ending this disease."

On Walk day, participants honor those affected by Alzheimer's with the poignant Promise Garden ceremony — a mission-focused experience that signifies our solidarity in the fight against the disease. During this moving ceremony, walkers hold pinwheel

flowers of various colors representing their personal connection to the disease.

More than 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease — a leading cause of death in the United States. Additionally, nearly 12 million family members and friends provide care to people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. In North Carolina alone, there are more than 210,000 people living with the disease and 381,000 caregivers. Onslow County has an Alzheimer's prevalence rate of 11.3% in its age 65 and older population.

The Alzheimer's Association hosts 17 walks across North Carolina including: Alamance County, Asheville, Charlotte, Gaston / Cleveland / Lincoln Counties, Fayetteville, Guilford County, Henderson County, Iredell Co. & Lake Norman, Jacksonville, Moore County, Mount Airy, New Bern, Rowan-Cabarrus Counties, Triangle (Raleigh and Durham), Unifour, Wilmington and Winston-Salem.

Many local companies have joined in pledging their support and participation this year, including TransImpact. To register as a participant, team captain, or to learn about becoming a sponsor or volunteer of Walk to End Alzheimer's — Jacksonville, visit [act.alz.org/JacksonvilleNC](http://act.alz.org/JacksonvilleNC) or call 800-272-3900.

**Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®**

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Since 1989, the Alzheimer's Association® mobilized millions of Americans in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk®; now the Alzheimer's Association is continuing to lead the way with Walk to End Alzheimer's. Together, we can end Alzheimer's.

**Alzheimer's Association®**

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support and research. Its mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Visit [alz.org](http://alz.org).

**About the Alzheimer's Association - Eastern North Carolina Chapter:**

The Eastern North Carolina Chapter provides patient and family services, information and referral, education, and advocacy in 51 eastern North Carolina counties. It offers opportunities to get involved and to make a difference, in addition to a variety of services including: a 24/7 Helpline, support groups, educational programs and care consultations.

For more information about Alzheimer's disease, or the Alzheimer's Association - Eastern North Carolina Chapter, visit [alz.org/nc](http://alz.org/nc) or call 800-272-3900. For the latest news and updates, follow us on Facebook, X and Instagram.

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# Multiple Family Dogs Missing in Pender County Area - Community Desperate for Help

By Melissa Williams

In just the past weeks, multiple family dogs have gone missing in and around the Burgaw, NC area. These include (but are not limited to):

Koda – Reward: \$6,000

Dottie – Reward: \$5,000

Thor – Reward: \$500

Marlo – Reward: \$400

Duke, Lola, Bear, Yayo, Sissy, Willow, Fendi – and many others.

This is only a partial list. There are far more dogs unaccounted for than we can list here, with new reports surfacing every week. Families across our county are terrified, heartbroken, and desperate.

These are not just missing pets—they are loved family members. Children are crying themselves to sleep. Families are offering thousands of dollars in rewards just to bring them home. But our fear goes beyond

theft. With so many dogs vanishing, many of us are beginning to suspect a more sinister reality: organized thefts for resale, or worse, connections to illegal dog fighting operations.

We have contacted law enforcement, but we feel our concerns are not being heard. We are reaching out to you because we need awareness. We need our community to know what's happening. And we need help putting pressure on those in power to investigate before more dogs—and more families—suffer.

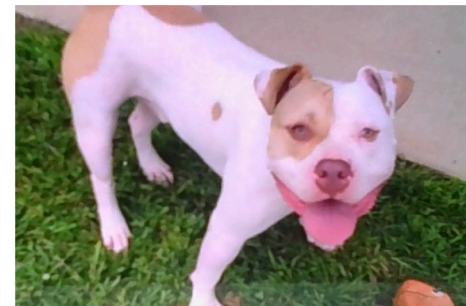
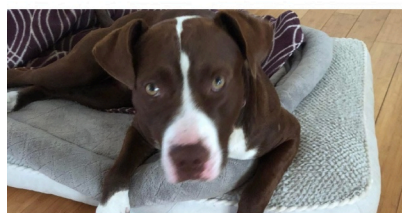
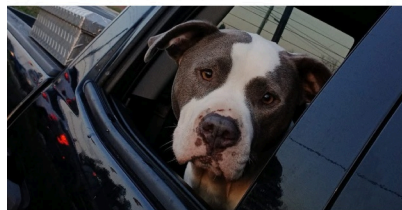
We are begging you to help us shine a light on this crisis:

\* Share the faces and names of these dogs

\* Raise the question: "Why are so many dogs vanishing from our area?"

\* Help us get answers and stop this from continuing.

If we cannot save our dogs, we hope at least to protect the dogs of the future. Please, give this issue the attention it urgently deserves.



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## FCC Small Business Center Ranked #1 in North Carolina for Third Consecutive Year

Cape Fear Community College proudly announces that its Small Business Center has been ranked #1 in North Carolina for overall performance for the third year in a row, according to the Small Business Center Performance Allocations. This ranking continues the SBC's tradition of excellence in supporting local entrepreneurs and small businesses, while driving economic growth in the Cape Fear region.

In fiscal year 2024-2025, the CFCC Small Business Center achieved outstanding results, including:

- 54 new business starts
- 185 jobs created
- 31 jobs supported
- 480 hours of one-on-one business counseling provided
- Facilitated 162 workshops with 3,682 attendees

"It's an honor to be recognized once again as the leading Small Business Center in North Carolina," said Jerry Coleman, CFCC Senior Director, Business & Industry Services. "We remain dedicated to providing small businesses and

entrepreneurs with the guidance, tools, and resources they need to succeed, ultimately strengthening our local economy and enhancing the quality of life in our community."

"Our Small Business Center works hard to support business owners and entrepreneurs in New Hanover and Pender County," said Jim Morton, CFCC President. "This achievement reflects their dedication and passion for supporting and counseling our small business community, fueling economic growth and opportunity in our area."

The CFCC Small Business Center offers many services to help small businesses start, grow, and thrive. These services include one-on-one business counseling, workshops and seminars, access to market research, and networking opportunities. The Center's efforts have led to the creation and retention of numerous jobs and the successful launch of many new businesses in the area.

To learn more about CFCC's Small Business Center, visit [cfcc.edu/small-business-center/](http://cfcc.edu/small-business-center/).

## Wilmington Junior Seahawks Receive \$10,000 Donation from Carolina Hurricanes Foundation to Support Youth Hockey

The Wilmington Junior Seahawks, a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to supporting youth travel hockey in Southeastern North Carolina, proudly announce a generous \$10,000 donation from the Carolina Hurricanes Foundation.

This impactful contribution will help the Junior Seahawks provide financial assistance to players and families, covering critical costs such as tournament entry fees, travel expenses, equipment and scholarship opportunities for athletes who need support to participate in the program.

"We are beyond grateful to the Carolina Hurricanes Foundation for their incredible generosity," said Michele Populus, Public Relations Committee Chair of the Wilmington Junior Seahawks. "This donation will help ensure that every child who dreams of playing competitive hockey has the opportunity, regardless of

financial circumstances."

The Carolina Hurricanes Foundation is committed to supporting youth programs that promote education, sportsmanship, and character development throughout North Carolina. Their continued partnership with local organizations like the Wilmington Junior Seahawks is a testament to their dedication to growing the fame of hockey making a lasting impact in the community.

For more information about the Wilmington Junior Seahawks, visit [www.juniorseahawks.org](http://www.juniorseahawks.org).



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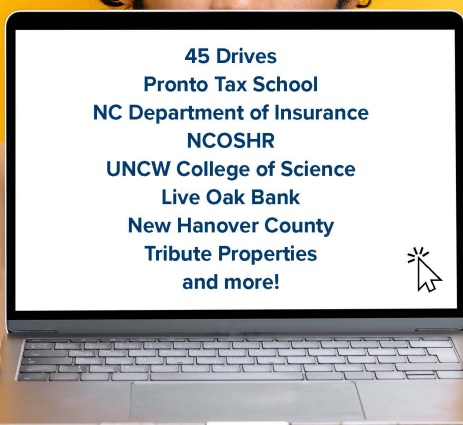
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## OCSO Updates 1991 Cold Case with New Facial Reconstruction Technology

**By Trevor Dunnell**  
**Onslow County Sheriff's Dept.**

With the advancement in technology surrounding facial reconstruction for law enforcement investigations, the Onslow County Sheriff's Office is updating a cold case from 1991.

On Monday, December 2, 1991, the skeletal remains of a female were found by hunters in the Bear Creek area near Stewart Point Road. Based on the clothing found, it is believed the female died sometime in late fall or early winter. Detectives received a

composite of what the female may have looked like, based on scientific reconstruction of the skull.

The information below is based on forensic evidence found at the scene and forensic reconstruction.

- **White Female**
- **20-30 years old**
- **5'1-5'2 estimated height with a slight build**

The female was wearing a heavy crew neck sweater, dark gray or brown in color, blue slacks with an elastic character underneath with either pantyhose or a leotard, white

slip-on shoes with small white bows. Several of the clothing items recovered showed they came from "Necessary Objects Limited" and "1045 Paris."

The investigation also showed the female had a fusion in her spine at the C2/3 region. Degenerative bone disease was found in her neck.

If you have any information that can help identify the female, please contact Captain David Evans at 910-989-401 or Crime Stoppers at 910-938-3273



## Mungo Homes Donates Abbey Nature Preserve to Pender County

**By Brandi Cobb**  
**Pender County Government**

Pender County has officially acquired the 62-acre Abbey Nature Preserve, along with a 7.59-acre parcel, both generously donated by Mungo Homes. Together, the 69.59 acres will expand public green space, support conservation, and enhance recreational opportunities in one of the county's fastest-growing areas.

The 7.59-acre parcel located at 90 Heart Pine Avenue in Wilmington will serve as the primary entrance to Abbey Nature Preserve and the site of

a future county park. Since 2022, Pender County has operated Abbey Nature Preserve as a public park through a lease agreement with Mungo Homes; and with the land now secured, long-term planning for development and stewardship can move forward.

"This is an exciting step forward for Pender County," said Randy Burton, chairman of the Pender County Board of Commissioners. "Mungo Homes has been generous in their contribution and engaged with our residents throughout the process. They have

shown respect for both the people and what Abbey Nature Preserve means to them. We honor the long history of this land and remain committed to ensuring it will be a place for families to enjoy for generations to come."

"Abbey Nature Preserve is a cherished place for many in our community," said Zachary White, Parks and Recreation director. "We're deeply thankful to have worked in collaboration with local residents, the NC Coastal Land Trust, and the developer to help ensure it remains

open and accessible to the public."

Planning and design for the future park and trailhead are underway. Pender County envisions a park that protects the natural beauty and ecological integrity of the area while offering amenities such as a trailhead, playground, picnic shelter, restrooms, and educational signage highlighting local plants and wildlife.

### About Mungo Homes

To learn more about Mungo Homes, visit: [www.mungo.com](http://www.mungo.com).

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- D. R. Royal



# Celebrating Community Power: Paws 4 Purpose Recognized by NAVC Gives

## By Paws 4 Purpose & North American Veterinary Community

The North American Veterinary Community (NAVC) named Paws 4 Purpose a 2025 NAVC Gives recipient, recognizing the organization for its innovation and dedication to animal welfare with a \$10,000 award.

Paws 4 Purpose, a North Carolina-based nonprofit organization, strives to improve the care and well-being of animals in the local community. The group provides support, resources, and education to shelters and pet owners in Onslow County. Last year, Paws 4 Purpose launched a program that set up microchip scanning stations across the county, making it easier for lost pets to be reunited with their owners. Having easy access to scan microchipped pets also keeps shelters from becoming overcrowded, which is where many lost pets end up.

"Sometimes, the simplest solution is the best one. Paws 4 Purpose proved that innovation does not need to be overcomplicated, tackling a widespread problem that will help save pets and inspire others to do the same," said NAVC CEO Gene O'Neill. "NAVC Gives is proud to recognize this group for their creativity and commitment to the safety of animals in their community."

To date, Paws 4 Purpose has installed 13 scanning stations in Onslow County, four in a neighboring county with 12 more planned in the near future in New Hanover, Craven, and Duplin Counties. The organization also has future plans to expand into Raleigh.

Demonstrating the power of the grassroots effort, a photo of the scanning station went viral on social media and generated over 100 requests for information from shelters across the country in just 24 hours. Even a year later, these requests continue to come in. By addressing a need in their local community, Paws 4 Purpose was able to relieve the stress of local clinics, successfully reuniting more lost pets with their owners while also inspiring other shelters to do the same.

"The inspiration for my scanning stations came from seeing lots of

loose pets in the area. Our goal was simple — to keep them out of the shelter system," said Susan Passey, Founder and Director of Paws 4 Purpose. "We want this to become a movement across the country, with the goal of encouraging people to microchip their pets. It's the best way to ensure they make it home if they're ever lost."

Paws 4 Purpose worked with shelters and non-profits across the country, reaching as far as Anchorage, Alaska. The organization plans to continue installing stations in their local community and launch new programs to assist the local shelter and protect animal welfare.

### About Paws 4 Purpose

Paws 4 Purpose is a nonprofit organization based in Onslow County, North Carolina created to help build a community where animals are treated with respect and kindness. Paws 4 Purpose supports local shelters and provides resources for extra care and medical needs by sponsoring heartworm treatments. They also provide additional support to the local community by offering spay/neuter assistance to prevent unwanted animals from entering the shelter system. In addition to these programs, Paws 4 Purpose educates the public and provide community outreach for animals in the community that have not entered the shelter but live difficult lives outdoors. Their mission is protecting animals through education, advocacy and services.

### About NAVC Gives

Created in 2023, NAVC Gives is a board-directed award program that has been initially funded by a \$1 million commitment from the NAVC. Through this program, the NAVC will recognize and support individuals, groups and organizations around the world that have made a significant difference in the lives of veterinary professionals and animals. Unlike most award programs that have a set timetable for accepting nominations, NAVC Gives will recognize accomplishments and notable achievements throughout the year

based on the merit and impact of the application. Multiple awards may be given out each year and applications may be submitted throughout the year. Since its first awards were made in January, the NAVC Gives has awarded \$55,000 through this program.

NAVC Gives builds upon the NAVC's long-standing commitment to philanthropic pursuits, which amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to members of the international veterinary community through scholarship programs such as the Dr. Earl H. Rippie Veterinary Nurse Leadership Scholarships, the Michael J. Day AFSCAN Scholarship, the Colin F. Burrows International Scholar Program, free education subscriptions and conference registration, and other charitable donations. Learn more about NAVC Gives and submit nominations at <https://navc.com/gives/>.

### About the NAVC

The North American Veterinary Community (NAVC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and advancing veterinary professionals worldwide. The world's leading provider of veterinary continuing education, the NAVC delivers essential training, tools and resources for veterinary professionals to stay abreast of advances in animal medicine and provide the best medical care for animals everywhere. Through its commitment to innovation and excellence, the NAVC has developed a diverse portfolio of products and services. The NAVC was founded in 1982 and is headquartered in Orlando, FL. Since 2017, the NAVC has been recognized annually as one of the Top Workplaces by the Orlando Sentinel. To learn more about the NAVC's products and brands, visit <https://navc.com/>.

ABOUT ME



## DOROTHY ROYAL

ISSUES

# VOTE

HOLLY RIDGE MAYOR

My husband and my amazing children were all born and raised in Holly Ridge. Chairperson and a founding member of the Holly Ridge Busy Bee committee that put on the 1st Holly Ridge Bee Festival. Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, NC General Contractor and hold a Federal Firearms License. I write a column for the local papers that has been in print for over a decade called "Topsail Gun Gal". I like to add a little humor to all my articles because I have found that people pay attention when you make them happy. I believe in trying to achieve a win-win in business and in everyday life. I run a family friendly business in Holly Ridge and am passionate about the History of Camp Davis which brought this town from 28 residents to 110,000 in the 1940's. I founded the 75th anniversary of Camp Davis festival that took place in April 2015 which brought 3,000 visitors to our town. I am available and enjoy speaking with members of the community and visitors alike. We need to work together to make things great for this wonderful little town.

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- ★ No tax increase
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- ★ Bring more community fun events
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CONTACT ME

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## 18 Establishments out of Compliance After Countywide Checks of Underage Vape Sales

**By Trevor Dunnell**  
**Onslow County Sheriff's Dept.**

During the last several months, the Onslow County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with Jacksonville-based Community Prevention Services, Inc., conducted a series of compliance checks aimed at preventing the illegal sale of vaping and tobacco products to minors.

Throughout June and July, "Operation Vape Zero" was conducted under a state and federal compliance grant called the Substance Use Prevention Treatment Recovery Services Grant, which works to combat youth access to nicotine and vaping products.

This program requires retailers to properly check identification before selling tobacco-related products, provide accountability, and offer retailers training resources when needed.

### *Results of Operation Vape Zero*

- 101 compliance checks were

conducted across Onslow County retail establishments.

- 82 establishments were found in compliance with North Carolina law.
- 18 establishments were found out of compliance, selling vaping/tobacco products to minors without verifying proper identification.

Out of the 18 establishments, the Sheriff's Office identified 17 clerks responsible for illegal sales and has issued criminal summonses and two juvenile petitions for violations.

### *Retail Establishments & Clerks Found in Violation*

- Joker Smoker Tobacco & Smoke – Jacksonville
- Reada Mini Mart – Midway Park
- EZ Pass Smoke Shop – Jacksonville
- 2 & 1 Vape and Cigar Shop – Jacksonville
- Richlands Tobacco & Vape Shop – Richlands
- Tobacco City & Gift – Jacksonville
- B's Tobacco Shop – Jacksonville
- Western Mart – Jacksonville

- Lucky 7's Smoke Shop – Jacksonville
- USA Vape & Tobacco Shop – Jacksonville
- 1 of 1 Smoke Shop – Jacksonville
- One Stop Shop – Jacksonville
- House of Smoke – Holly Ridge
- T's Food Mart – Holly Ridge
- C-Check Convenience Store – Sneads Ferry
- Whizz Mart – Hubert
- Hubert Tobacco & Vape – Hubert
- Tobacco City & Gift – Jacksonville

"We want to emphasize that we are not out to disrupt any business or tobacco retail sellers, as our goal is to reduce the accessibility of tobacco products to youth in our community. We are only asking that these businesses follow the law and make sure they see proper ID before selling tobacco and vape products," said Maegan Glynn, Grant Coordinator.

"Selling tobacco and vape products to anyone under 21 is against the law, and it's something we take seriously. These products can do real harm to our

young people, which is why it's so important for retailers to check IDs before making a sale. I'm glad to see that the majority are doing the right thing — only 18 clerks out of 101 retailers failed to check a buyer's age properly. I encourage everyone who sells these products to stay alert and keep helping us protect our youth," Sheriff Chris Thomas.



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## Letter to the Editor

The area including Topsail Beach, Sneads Ferry, Surf City is a wonderful place to vacation! I have visited many times.

Unfortunately, you have a privately owned business in Sneads Ferry that seems to be doing its best to insult and alienate visitors. That business is Topsail Shores Inn on hwy 210 in Sneads Ferry. I believe it is family owned and claims to offer Southern Hospitality to their guests.

Here is my account of the "hospitality" I experienced upon checking out on Labor Day Monday, September 1, 2025:

After staying for 1 night to attend a family member's birthday party, I was loading the car with my sister starting at 10:40am in anticipation of the 11:00am checkout time. My sister and I are both severely disabled. She uses a can to walk when she doesn't have her wheelchair and I use a mobility scooter. I was using my scooter to help me carry items to the car. There was no access to our room, so I had to scooter to the end of the building to use the ramp to get back on the sidewalk and to access my room. The manager was talking to guests next door who were also loading and checking out. As I am back at the car loading, he stood in front of my car and held up his phone. He mumbled something and I asked him to repeat. He said you have 1 minute to check out. I'm wondering how I can possibly make that happen, when his phone alarm went off and he said, "It's 11 o'clock, I'll have to

charge you for another night."

I was staring in disbelief. I told him I could not afford another night and I could give him the keys right then. It was 11:04am when we closed the door and attempted to give the keys to the office person (his wife, I believe). The manager stood outside and continued berating me that I should have better time management. I told him we were both disabled and asked why he had not offered to help us load the car. He said that he has an 80 year old woman who has had both knees replaced and had not missed a day of work in the past year.

He then said that she has a good work ethic. I told him that I did not have to tell him about my disability.

I was made to feel that I was being compared to her and that what I deal with everyday is inconsequential.

By 2:15pm, I had a charge of \$154.00 on my debit card. That is money I need for gas, groceries, and medicine! Such an abusive man!

I am sure that he does not reflect the way the other businesses in your area treat visitors! He does not deserve to be in business!

*Opinions and views shared in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views and ideals of the Topsail Times Newspaper. Please email us at topsailtimesnewspaper@gmail.com if you would like to share your own opinion piece or if you have any questions.*

## Woman Arrested After Starting House Fire in Onslow County

A Jacksonville woman has been arrested after allegedly setting a house on fire while another person was inside.

Around 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, deputies with the Onslow County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence at 2052 Countrywood Drive following a 911 call reporting a structure fire.

Deputies made contact with the homeowner, Deshuan Middleton, of Jacksonville, who reported he was asleep when the fire started and awoke to find the home ablaze. Middleton told deputies that he and his girlfriend, Arielle Payton, 25, of Jacksonville, were the only individuals with access to the residence and that both were inside before he fell asleep.

Payton was not on scene when deputies arrived, but was later located and arrested on unrelated outstanding warrants. Middleton sustained minor injuries as a result, and after further investigation, deputies established probable cause to charge Payton in connection with the fire.

Payton has been charged with:

- Felony Malicious Use of Explosive or Incendiary

- Misdemeanor Simple Assault (x2)
- 2nd Degree Trespassing

She was issued a \$43,750 secured bond and is currently being held in the Onslow County Detention Center. Her next court appearance is scheduled for September 3, 2025.

The investigation remains ongoing.



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# Food Lion Feeds Provides More than 28 Million Meals to Combat Child Hunger

By Alexandra Fusari,  
Food Lion Media Relations

With school out and many children facing food insecurity, Food Lion customers and participating vendors helped provide more than 28 million meals\* through the Summers Without Hunger initiative. Food Lion customers supported the annual campaign by purchasing specially designed reusable bags for \$2 between June 18 and July 15. Ten Food Lion suppliers generously matched the proceeds of all specially designed reusable bags purchased by customers: Campbell's, JM Smuckers, Frito-Lay, Utz, General Mills, Kellanova, Kraft Heinz, Unilever, Mondelez and PepsiCo, thus doubling the impact.

Food Lion Feeds, Food Lion's hunger-relief platform, coordinated the campaign with a goal to reduce food insecurity in the company's 10-state operating footprint. Since the campaign began in 2019, customers have helped provide more than 100 million meals\*. The Summers Without Hunger campaign

benefited the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation, which will fund grants for childhood hunger programs.

"We are incredibly grateful to our customers and participating vendors for standing with us in the movement to end hunger," said Kevin Durkee, Manager, Food Lion Feeds, Food Lion. "Together, we've made a meaningful difference for children facing hunger this summer, ensuring they receive vital nourishment. Their continued support is vital to our commitment to reducing hunger in the towns and cities we serve."

Since 2014, Food Lion Feeds has helped provide more than 1.5 billion meals\*\* to individuals and families. For more information on Food Lion Feeds' commitment to ending hunger, visit [foodlion.com/feeds](http://foodlion.com/feeds).

\*Investments are converted to a meal equivalent based on various meal equivalent formulas.

\*\*Food Lion Feeds helps address food insecurity by providing product, financial and equipment donations; disaster relief and recovery efforts; investing in capital

campaign support for feeding agencies; and volunteer hours by associates. These investments are converted to a meal equivalent based on various meal equivalent formulas.

## About Food Lion

Food Lion is an omnichannel grocery retailer committed to nourishing its neighbors. More than 82,000 associates across 1,100+ stores deliver an easy, fresh and affordable shopping experience throughout 10 Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic states. With a focus on hunger relief, Food Lion is a pioneer in food rescue. Since 2014, the company's hunger relief platform Food Lion Feeds has donated more than 1.5 billion meals to those who are food insecure. The retailer has committed to donate 3 billion meals by 2032. Founded and based in Salisbury, N.C., since 1957, Food Lion is a company of Ahold Delhaize USA, the U.S. division of Zaandam-based Ahold Delhaize. For more information, visit [foodlion.com](http://foodlion.com).

## About The Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation

The Food Lion Feeds Charitable

Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Food Lion, based in Salisbury, N.C. Established in 2001, the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation provides financial support for programs and organizations dedicated to eliminating hunger. The charitable foundation has provided nearly \$23 million in grant funding, helping to nourish communities with fresh food for backpack programs, Kids Café's and other hunger-relief programs as well as funding for long-term programs to help shorten the lines at food banks. The charitable foundation partners with Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger-relief agency, in addition to local food agencies serving the 10 Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic states in which Food Lion operates. For more information, visit [foodlion.com/pages/food-lion-feeds](http://foodlion.com/pages/food-lion-feeds).



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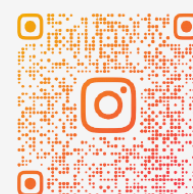
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## Jacksonville Board of Realtors® Joins Thousands-Strong Democracy Coalition to Register Voters in Holly Ridge, NC

On September 16, 2025, the Jacksonville Board of Realtors® (JBOR) will join a coalition of thousands of partners across the country to celebrate National Voter Registration Day with a coordinated effort to get every eligible American registered to vote ahead of the 2025 elections.

Every eligible citizen should have the option to exercise their right to be heard at the ballot box, and with more than 6 million registered voters added since 2012, National Voter Registration Day is the perfect time to get America #VoteReady. In a year with thousands of local and state elections shaping the future of communities, this civic holiday is a rallying point to ensure every voter is prepared.

The Jacksonville Board of Realtors® is proud to stand with thousands of national, state, and local organizations—and the volunteers who make this effort possible—to make sure every eligible American is registered before their next trip to the ballot box.

Spanish-speaking volunteers will be on site to assist community members throughout the event. JBOR is committed to making voter registration accessible to all eligible residents, including those more comfortable communicating in Spanish.

Habrán voluntarios que hablan español para ayudar a los miembros de la comunidad durante todo el evento. La Junta de Realtors® de Jacksonville está comprometida a hacer que el registro de votantes sea accesible para todos los residentes elegibles, incluyendo aquellos que se sientan más cómodos comunicándose en español.

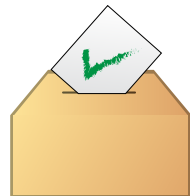
On September 16, JBOR will host an in-person voter registration event:

♦ **Holly Ridge Community Center**  
404 Sound Road, Holly Ridge, NC  
10:00 AM to 8:00 PM

For more information about National Voter Registration Day and to find events nationwide, visit [NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org](https://NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org).

### About the Jacksonville Board of Realtors®

The Jacksonville Board of Realtors® is a professional trade association serving Onslow County and surrounding areas. Our members advocate for property rights, support community engagement, and uphold the highest standards of professionalism in real estate.



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# Community Updates



## New NC Podcast Gives Foster Families the Mic

Children's Home Society of North Carolina launched a new podcast, In Real Life: Foster Care Unfiltered. Unlike anything you've heard before, this groundbreaking series spotlights foster families sharing their stories in their own words, offering an honest and unfiltered look at the realities of being a foster parent.

This innovative approach steps away from the tradition of polished sound bites and instead elevates the authentic voices of foster parents. These stories about building trust, navigating reunification, or creating family as a "foster granny" after widowhood are told by the people living it every day.

Produced by CHS and hosted by Shannon Enoch, Executive Director of Programs, Foster Care to Permanency, the podcast builds on the organization's innovative storytelling work as seen in the recently released Meredith & Sione web series which documented one family's journey through the foster care licensing process. New podcast episodes release every other Tuesday on Apple, Spotify, YouTube, and all major platforms. You can preview the podcast here: [chsnc.org/podcast](https://chsnc.org/podcast).

## CFCC Opens State-of-the-Art Dental Clinic

Cape Fear Community College is proud to announce the opening of a brand-new, state-of-the-art dental clinic in the Dan and Sheila Saklad Health and Human Services Center. This major expansion represents a significant leap forward for both CFCC's dental programs and the community members who rely on the college for affordable, high-quality dental care.

The move to the Saklad Center has allowed CFCC to significantly expand its capacity. The Dental Assisting program has grown from 18 to 30 students, and the Dental Hygiene program has increased from 12 to 20 students. The clinic has also grown from 12 to 30 patient operatories, allowing CFCC to serve twice as many community members with preventive and restorative care.

New advanced dental training simulation mannequins provide students with realistic, hands-on practice before treating patients, ensuring high-quality care and skill development.

"Our new dental clinic is more than just an educational facility; it's a community resource," said Jim Morton, CFCC President. "We're training the next generation of dental professionals while meeting a critical need for accessible dental services."

## CFCC Expands Barber School to Serve More Students and Community Members

Cape Fear Community College is excited to announce the expansion of the barber shop. This project doubles the program's student capacity and allows CFCC to serve more community members through affordable barbering services.

The expansion adds 1,100 square feet of instructional and service space and features 10 additional barber chairs. With this growth, CFCC's Barber School can now accommodate up to 22 students, from the previous capacity of 11. This significant increase will enable more aspiring barbers to receive hands-on training while providing the community with greater access to discounted haircuts and grooming services. This project was supported by a grant from The Endowment.

"This expansion is a win for our students, who gain valuable real-world experience, and for the public who will benefit from high-quality, affordable barbering services," said Jim Morton, CFCC President. "We're excited to see how this expansion will open doors for more students and further connect us with the community."

The CFCC Barber School offers comprehensive training in traditional and modern barbering techniques, preparing students for licensure and successful careers in the industry. In addition to classroom instruction, students gain real-world experience in a professional setting, serving clients in a welcoming, supervised environment.



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# The Commons at Brightmore of Wilmington Honors WWII Veterans on 80th Anniversary of the End of the War

By Wendy Foster

The Commons at Brightmore of Wilmington recently paid tribute to three of its cherished residents who served in World War II, marking the 80th anniversary of the war's end with a heartfelt ceremony of gratitude and remembrance.

Two of the veterans had attended an official anniversary commemoration hosted by the WWII Wilmington Home Front Heritage Coalition at the Hannah Block USO Center. Recognizing that one resident was unable to participate, the team at The Commons organized a special on-site event to ensure all three men were honored together, surrounded by friends, family, and fellow residents. The event was coordinated by Activities Director Tanya Langley.

Brightmore of Wilmington senior living community offers independent living that supports a vibrant lifestyle for active seniors. The Kempton and The Commons, both located on-site,

provide assisted living and memory care.

Lt. Col. Rick Paxton of the Civil Air Patrol, Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, attended the ceremony at The Commons to present a commendation to resident Tech Sergeant Theodore "Ted" Pyck, who had been unable to attend the earlier public event. Paxton, a frequent guest of the veterans at The Commons, has long been a supporter of honoring their service through meaningful programs and recognition.

Adding to the occasion, local author and historian Rona Simmons, and Luke Basso, who is currently leading a project to record and preserve veterans' stories, shared moving accounts of each man's service. Residents listened with admiration as the legacies of these extraordinary servicemen were retold:

Tech Sergeant Harold Elton Bly, U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force – Bly enlisted at just 16, claiming to be 17,

and served aboard the USS Haynsworth. After the war, he reenlisted in the Air Force, serving for an additional 11 years.

Lieutenant William Rippy, U.S. Navy – Accepted to Duke Medical School, Rippy's plans were altered when the Navy denied his release. He served while completing his medical training, practiced at Walter Reed Army Hospital, and helped establish a military examining station at Ft Bragg before his discharge in 1952.

Tech Sergeant Theodore Pyck, U.S. Army Air Corps – Pyck registered for the draft in 1942 before enlisting in the Army Air Corps. He supported base operations at airfields, handling personnel, supplies, transportation, and administration.

Today, these veterans are 98, 102, and 103 years old. According to Tanya, only about 0.5 percent of WWII veterans are still living. "Our goal is to honor our brave veterans every day and to thank them for their service,"

she said. "One of our veterans once shared that the official ceremonies are wonderful, but it's the small, unexpected thank-yous and conversations sparked by his veteran's hat that mean the most. That inspired us to create this program and ensure their stories continue to be heard."

The Commons at Brightmore is dedicated to honoring our veterans. We believe that by sharing and preserving their stories, we ensure they are remembered for generations to come.

The Commons at Brightmore hosts a major recognition program each Veterans Day, but this 80th anniversary event reflected the community's daily commitment to honor the men and women who have worn the uniform.



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# Guns For Women

Most women purchasing a gun are going to get advice from a man on the type of gun and caliber size they need.

Unfortunately most men suggest guns that are PERFECT FOR A MAN...BUT NOT FOR A WOMAN.

After learning to shoot and getting my purchase permit I headed out into the world of male dominated gun shops. After stopping at a few I found a man who took time to explain each gun to me and he finally convinced me that I needed to carry the gun that he actually owned. The problem was he was a 200 lb body builder and I was not (ha ha). Needless to say I purchased a .40 caliber semi-automatic and bought the ammo and headed to the range.

While all the other women in my group were loading their clips with ease, I was struggling to the point of my thumbs nearly bleeding. When I finally got the gun loaded and ready, I took 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.



Poem: Questions and Answers

QUESTIONS By Richard DuFlocq

So now, how do you move on from here?  
What was once a possibility that you could wager hope against  
became an eventuality that would pit your faith against the inevitable passage of time  
And then realty abruptly assaulted you  
and left you precious few moments to prepare the proper farewell

How does a parent deal with a loss of a child?  
How can you possibly explain to others having to deal with a situation  
that is so basically contrary to the ordered logic of life we expect?  
A natural rhythm of beginnings and endings we can accept  
Where the progeny are to be the ones to grieve and eulogize  
the passing of their ancestors, not precede them

How does a family recover when its fabric has been torn apart in such a fashion?  
How do those who are left behind muster the strength  
to close ranks in order to fill the void left by the one who has departed?  
How do you begin to attempt to free yourself of the pain and sorrow  
without feeling that you are in jeopardy of having to relinquish cherished memories  
in order to do so?

Will your faith survive when it appears that the hard questions you have asked  
and the entreaties you have made have elicited an indifferent response  
Or worse, have gone totally unanswered?  
Will you forgive yourself the guilt that may visit you in moments of spiritual weakness?

Will you be able to feel joy again?  
Will there come a time when the sound of a child’s laughter  
will buoy your heart and soul  
rather than fill you with melancholy and longing?

Will you be able to eventually let go?

ANSWERS

You need to find the strength to endure In the many resources, seen and unseen  
that surround you today and will be there for you in the tomorrows to come

You need to take freely and unconditionally of the love and support people will  
extend to you offered in the same unselfish vein

You need to let others share in your grief without feeling resentful that they are  
somehow intruding upon your private sorrow

You need to be willing to accept the fact that your emotions will not necessarily  
allow you to control their intensity or their manifestations

You need to allow yourself to be angry, to rage against the unfairness of it all  
without concerning yourself with the reactions of others to your outbursts

You need to let yourself cry, allowing the sorrow to pour out from within you  
be it in torrents or one tear at a time

You need to let yourself laugh and revel in the fond reminiscences of friends and  
family

without feeling that somehow you are not entitled to do so

You need to recommit yourself to your family, those immediate and those distant  
everyone being drawn closer by your shared loss

You need to reaffirm to yourself the value of your own life, and realize that there are  
contributions you are still capable of making to humanity

You need to become the archiver and caretaker of memories  
without becoming captive to them or finding yourself frozen in time

You need to be able to cast yourself back into the past  
without risking paralyzing your ability to move ahead into the future

You will need to be patient beyond what you think you are capable of  
if time does not diminish your sorrow at the pace you ask of it

You need to make his resolve, humor, determination and courage your own

You need at some time to say a final goodbye

You will know when it’s time to let go

Word Search:  
Autumn With Topsail

M	M	A	L	E	T	A	R	B	E	L	E	C	R
A	R	L	R	I	C	E	L	F	A	Y	T	R	U
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Music	October	Festival



Photo By Dorothy Royal



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