TOPSAIL TIMES

TOPSAIL ISLAND, HOLLY RIDGE, HAMPSTEAD AND SNEADS FERRY

January 2026 | American-Owned. Free Press. | Volume VI, Issue 1 | FREE!

2025 Topsail's TOP CHOICE FAVORITE 3RD PLACE WINNER

DDT
Home of
AFFORDABLE
Indoor and Outdoor
Furniture
Check us out
on the back cover!
910-329-0160



VOTE
RYAN COLLINS
FOR COMMISSIONER – DISTRICT 2

We Must Restore:
Leadership
Service
Community
Conservative Values

✓ Limited Government
✓ Free Speech and a Free Press
✓ Fiscal Responsibility
✓ Protecting Our Communities

GOP PRIMARY ELECTION: MARCH 3RD, 2026
EARLY VOTING: FEBRUARY 12-28, 2026

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT RYAN COLLINS

Pender County Museum in Burgaw

The Pender County Museum is housed in the first brick house ever built in Burgaw (circa 1917) known as the Burton-Noel. In 1979, the house was donated to the Pender County Historical Society in memory of Kate Buck Noel by her daughters.

The Historical Society restored the house and dedicated the new museum in 1982. Step inside and step back into the past among numerous displays of artifacts associated with the town's history, located at **200 W Bridgers Street, Burgaw, NC.**



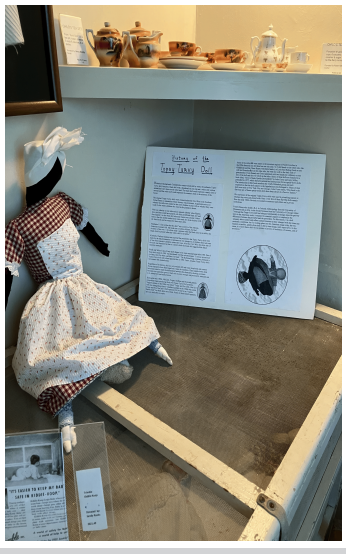














Topsail Times is printed by the Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC.
This publication is not to be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means without prior permission from Topsail Times.



Visit our Facebook page or send us an email!

Topsail Times

Next Deadline

Jan 23rd

Or send us a text
(910) 526-1060

GET IN TOUCH WITH US!
TopsailTimesNewspaper@gmail.com
www.TopsailTimes.net

TOPSAIL TIMES NEWSPAPER

Publisher
Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC

Contributors
Dorothy Royal
Kim McGahey
Kara Harrington
Caroline French
Joshua Patti
Joanna Cho
Chelsea Layton
Cat Dawson
Onslow County Sheriff's Dept.
Cape Fear Community College

Photographers
Wilton C Wescott

Table of Contents

Topsail Gun Gal 3
Coastal Common Sense 4
Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina Receives Full Federal Recognition 5
Alzheimer's Association Launches Brain Health Habit Builder to Empower Americans to Take Charge of Their Brain Health 6
Patty's Place Announces Grand Opening in Downtown Burgaw 7
CFCC to Host 12th Annual International Film Festival 8
Why I'm Running for the North Carolina State House 10
Jacksonville Mother Arrested Following Investigation into Child's Death 12
Deputies Arrest Suspects in Fatal Assault at Local Bar 12
Seeking Hope for a Rare Disease 13
Letter to the Editor 13
Loss of Local Legend 14
Topsail Christmas Flotilla Winners Announced 14
In Memory of Holly Ridge Native, John Helms 16
Crooked Parker Unveils Powerful New Alternative Rock Album 16
Dolphin Dip and Shrimp Dip Photos | Recipe | Word Search 17
Guns for Women 18

TOPSAIL TIMES NEWSPAPER

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

Interested in Advertising?

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

Send us an email at
topsailtimesnewspaper@gmail.com

WHERE CAN YOU FIND OUR PAPER?

Hampstead
DDT Furniture
Hampstead Library
Post Office

Holly Ridge
Post Office
Paradise Axe & Arcade
City Cafe
Southern Roots
Oceans RV Resort
Fishmongers

Surf City
Jersey Mikes
Dunkin Donuts
Surf City BBQ
Post Office
Coral Cottage
Thomas Seafood
Herring's Outdoor Sports
IGA & Ward Realty

Topsail Island
Larry's Deli-Que
Godwin's Market

Sneads Ferry
Rick's Restaurant
Denoia's Pizzeria

and more!

Topsail Gun Gal

By Dorothy Royal

I only have one question coming into this new year - who exactly thought a McDonald's McRib was really made of ribs? Is a lawsuit necessary to bring to light that we live in a society that enjoys foods made by machines and shaped in a pleasant way? Nonsense. Do better people.

Were you one of the hundreds of people that plunged into the Atlantic Ocean for the Dolphin Dip or the Shrimp Dip on New Year's Day? Bravo to you if you took the dip!

This year our area celebrated the New Year with fun and creative ways. In Mt. Olive, NC they have a "Pickle drop". How fun is that? In Burgaw they hold the traditional "Blueberry drop", Folly Beach, SC has the "flip flop drop" while Brevard, Florida has the "shark drop" and Washington, NC has the "crab drop". Wouldn't it be a great idea if Holly Ridge had a "holly ball drop" next year? We need to work on that.

"Show me the money" needs to be what every parent with a school aged child needs to be shouting at the Lottery Board. I think we were all duped into believing that the "Education Lottery" was going to be used to enhance our education system by paying for pre-school programs, helping in the construction of new schools and adding to teachers' pay. After an extensive audit, it has been discovered that ONLY 1% of the funds get assigned to anything "educational". How disturbing and sad is that? How about 25% of all funds are allocated directly to schools throughout the state? I think it would only be fair.

Politics, politics – it seems like as soon as one election ended another cycle began. The primary election for this March has started off with a heavy field of contenders. I am excited to see so many new names and faces and to see those that have tried in the past are back again! Let me tell you from first-hand experience – it takes a real heart and determination to run for office. One thing we ALL need to push for is term limits. No one benefits from someone holding an office for 25 years or more. Fresh eyes and ideas are a GOOD thing!

Now, back to the world of guns. For those of you who are military, law enforcement or first responders, Smith & Wesson has created the "American Guardians" program which provides up to $150 in rebates for qualifying firearm purchases. This program could not be easier. Purchase a S&W firearm and go to their website and fill in the rebate application. Smith & Wesson will send you a credit card in the mail. Easy. This program is good through April 10, 2026, so don't miss out!

If a handgun and an AR-9 pistol had a baby it would be the Turkish designed (but USA made) GForce Arms Jawbone. This firearm is designed to use the 33 round Glock 9mm magazines and cost less than $500.00

Another cool design by GForce is the magazine-fed 12 gauge shotgun series. With prices on some models starting below $300, these semi-automatic shotguns offer comfort and cool designs. Some models come in a bull pup design (shorter shotgun) which makes them easy to carry or store.

Remember knowledge is power – voting is a right – and the Holly Ball Drop is way overdue!



Happy New Years!







PAUSE TO PROTECT
Free Firearm Storage Program

SURF CITY GUNS AND AMMO



Order Online 24/7 at www.surfcityguns.com

Now partnered with Pause to Protect to provide on-premises gun storage

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

Purchase permits no longer required for hand gun purchases.

Weds - Sat | 11am to 8pm
Sunday | Noon to 5pm

(910) 328-4499

127 Sound Road,
Holly Ridge, NC
28445

Coastal Common Sense

By Kim McGahey

Our newly elected town councils have the rare opportunity to greatly improve the quality of life in Pender and Onslow Counties. But will they rise to the occasion?

As recently as three years ago, no new candidates showed up in local elections to challenge the rubber stamp incumbents or apply for vacant town committee seats. But with current local town councils acting like holier than thou dictators drastically raising taxes and passing countless new restrictions on our personal freedoms, taxpayers are showing their outrage by voting the rascals out.

The November election cycle demonstrated how a well informed, personally motivated electorate can identify key local issues and then target incumbents that violate the voters' common sense priorities. We saw that happen in all the local towns.

A tone deaf Surf City town council passed an outrageous 30% tax increase that left taxpayers dazed and confused about their representation. Voters responded by proactively campaigning against that arrogant rise in taxes and were successful in electing more conservative members who will hopefully bring more transparency and common sense to the tax and spend debate in their town.

Likewise, the Topsail Beach town council has three new commissioners who claim to be conservative and represent the people, but the jury is still out on their genuine commitment to conservative principles rather than historic back room get-along politics. Proactive voters in Topsail Beach have paid more attention the past two years in response to the previous board's reckless spending on superfluous government buildings, high tax rate recycling mandates and an overall lack of transparency.

The Holly Ridge town council has been corrupted by large political donations from real estate developers committed to widespread development, even on potential super fund cleanup sites. Disparaging grassroots candidates that spoke on behalf of the town's local taxpayers, the new administration owes its soul to the company store and will attempt to leave behind the small town, rural simplicity that has made Holly Ridge such a desirable place to live the past fifty years. These newly elected officials seem to covet corporate dollar signs, not affordable individual quality of life.

The Board of County Commissioners is a conservative group that, on the whole, has been vigilant about controlling growth and keeping taxes as low as possible; despite claims to the contrary by some local lefties. With the kind of rapid growth we're experiencing in Pender County, this is a daunting task that can never satisfy everyone. The challenges of utilities infrastructure, transportation issues, new schools and quality of life are being answered with the best conservative solutions of low taxes, reduced spending and public input.

It's a catch-22 for us locally as one of the fastest growing areas in the country. We want prosperity through growth, but we want growth to be controlled. We want our businesses to be profitable, but we don't want to lose the Main Street feel. We want wholesome American families to relocate here, but we don't want our kids shoehorned into overcrowded, impersonal schools. We want to trust the integrity of our local elected officials, but we don't have the time or the inclination to watch over their selfish tendencies. We want a bright future, but we don't want to lose the golden past.

We have what the rest of the world is searching for: natural beauty, a thriving economy and down to earth citizens. Let's not give away the farm to uncaring, unresponsive local town and county governments. Our power is in the ballot box. Be informed about local issues and vote in every election for candidates who have knowledge, integrity and service. We the people can prevail.

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

Kim McGahey
GHOST CRAB DOCKS
(970) 389-4400
kimmcgahey@gmail.com
ghostcrabdocks.com
KNOWLEDGE, INTEGRITY, SERVICE

Hard Working

Common Sense
David Fallin
Republican
for District 3 Commissioner
Vote NO to:
New Taxes
Traffic
Overdelopment
Property Taxes After Age 65
Storm Drainage
Big Government
Conservative Values
Small Business Owner
Pender County Resident for 30 Years
NCAA Basketball Referee for 28 years
High School Basketball Referee for 33 years
Paid for by Fallin for Commissioner

Topsail Times is printed by the Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC.
This publication is not to be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means without prior permission from Topsail Times.

Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina Receives Full Federal Recognition

On December 17th, the United States Senate passed Congressman Rouzer's (R-NC-07) legislation, H.R. 474, the *Lumbee Fairness Act.* This legislation grants full federal recognition to the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, marking a historic milestone in the Tribe's generations-long pursuit of recognition. The *Lumbee Fairness Act* was included in S.1071, the *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA), and now heads to the President's desk for signature.

"Today is truly a great and monumental day for the Lumbee Tribe — the effects of which will transcend generations for the Lumbee people and all of North Carolina," said Congressman Rouzer (R-NC-07), who offered the amendment to the NDAA recognizing the Lumbee with all the rights and benefits associated with it. **"Passage of the Lumbee Fairness Act affords the Lumbee People the full benefits and services long afforded to other federally recognized tribes. I am proud to have worked with my colleagues to make this a reality. This achievement would not have been possible without the steadfast leadership of Chairman John and the strong support of President Trump. The Lumbee voice has been heard, and their commitment and perseverance has brought us to this historic moment. I also want to commend and thank our current Senators Thom Tillis and Ted Budd as well as former Senators Elizabeth Dole and Richard Burr. Each has been a fierce advocate for the Lumbee people over many years. Without this historic commitment by all, today's victory would have never been achieved."**

"Today marks a historic victory for the Lumbee people," said Lumbee Tribal Chairman John Lowery. **"After generations of perseverance, our voices were finally heard. I am proud of the work that made this possible and am grateful to Congressman Rouzer for his leadership in securing federal recognition for Lumbee in this year's National Defense Authorization Act. Today, we rejoice for at long last, we have achieved our full federal recognition."**

With Senate passage, the Lumbee Tribe will become eligible for federal programs such as the Indian Health Service, further tribal housing assistance, and more robust education funding. Recognition also opens the and resources for southeastern North Carolina.

Background:

The Lumbee Tribe consists of nearly 60,000 members, making it the largest American-Indian tribe east of the Mississippi River and the ninth largest tribe in the nation. Members of the Lumbee Tribe reside primarily in Robeson, Hoke, Cumberland, and Scotland counties.

In 1885, the State of North Carolina formally recognized the Lumbee Tribe. In 1956, Congress recognized the Lumbee as an Indian Tribe when they enacted the Lumbee Act, but the bill unfairly denied the Lumbee any federal services and benefits associated with such recognition. Since then, the Lumbee have continued to fight for full and complete federal recognition.

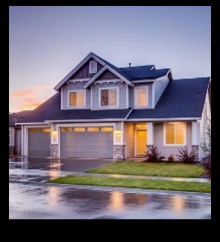
During the 118th Congress, Congressman David Rouzer (R-NC-07) introduced the *Lumbee Fairness Act*, with Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC) introducing the companion legislation in the Senate. Mr. Rouzer successfully secured a vote on the House Floor and passage of the bill on December 17, 2024. However, despite clearing the House, the Senate did not take it up for consideration.

President Trump has also spoken in support of giving the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina full federal recognition. On January 23, 2025, just days after he was sworn into office, he signed an Executive Order directing the Department of the Interior to develop a plan for granting the Lumbee Tribe full federal recognition.

On January 16, 2025, Congressman David Rouzer (R-NC-07) reintroduced H.R. 474, the *Lumbee Fairness Act.* The legislation, offered as an amendment by Congressman David Rouzer (R-NC-07) to the House passed NDAA, was later included in S.1071, the *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives on December 11, 2025. On December 17, 2025, the Senate passed the FY26 NDAA, sending the *Lumbee Fairness Act* to the President's desk to be signed into law.

U.S. Congressman DAVID ROUZER 7th District of North Carolina

Lamberth Insurance Services
Tammy Lamberth
Agency Owner/Broker
(910) 430-6003 Work | (910) 389-5428 Cell
Providing coverage for
LIFE HOME AUTOMOBILE BUSINESS




RVs · Worker's Comp · Flood · Renters and more!
LAMBERTH INSURANCE SERVICES
tammy@lamberthinsuranceservices.com
www.lamberthins.com

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

Alzheimer's Association Launches Brain Health Habit Builder to Empower Americans to Take Charge of Their Brain Health

By Kara Harrington
Senior Director

The Alzheimer's Association – Eastern North Carolina Chapter is encouraging all North Carolina residents to try its new Brain Health Habit Builder, a free web-based tool designed to empower individuals to assess their current habits and take proactive steps to improve their brain health.

The Brain Health Habit Builder offers a quick, engaging experience that takes about three to five minutes. It encourages users to reflect on their lifestyle habits and commit to small but meaningful changes. Users can download, print and share their plan and choose which habits to prioritize. The tool is optimized for both desktop and mobile use.

"Healthy habits can help you live better now and protect your memory and thinking as you age," said Christine John-Fuller, executive director, Alzheimer's Association – Eastern North Carolina Chapter. "This new tool makes it easy to check your habits and build a personalized plan to support lifelong brain health."

Upon completion, users receive a tailored action plan based on their responses, including research-backed guidance from the groundbreaking U.S. POINTER study, which found that lifestyle interventions targeting a combination of physical activity, improved diet, cognitive and social engagement, and health monitoring improved cognition in older adults at risk of cognitive decline.

Brain health includes how well individuals think, learn and remember. While brain health science is rapidly evolving, growing evidence shows that addressing certain risk factors and adopting healthy behaviors can reduce the risk of cognitive decline and possibly dementia.

The Alzheimer's Association is a recognized leader in brain health, translating cutting-edge research into programs and initiatives for the public. The Association's 10 Healthy Habits for Your Brain campaign offers easy-to-understand strategies for improving brain health. The Association also offers in-person and virtual education programs across North Carolina, including Healthy Living for the Brain and Body.

The Brain Health Habit Builder is the first in a new suite of resources from the Alzheimer's Association in light of the U.S. POINTER study results. Additional initiatives will include a virtual brain health training program for health care providers, a community recognition initiative to spotlight businesses championing brain health, and a brain health roundtable that will bring together leaders from health care, public health, community, and corporate sectors to accelerate collaboration and drive meaningful impact.

"The Alzheimer's Association is committed to ensuring individuals across North Carolina have the information they need to routinely and meaningfully take action to improve their brain health," John-Fuller said. "Making even small changes to improve brain health can make a big difference."

To begin building your plan for brain-healthy habits, visit alz.org/

To find an Alzheimer's Association education program near you, visit alz.org/

About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our 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. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia®. Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.

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/ or call 800-272-3900. For the latest news and updates, follow us on Facebook, X, and Instagram.

SHARK GAME NIGHT
A Fundraiser Benefiting Surf City Middle School



CASINO-STYLE GAMES • PRIZES • SILENT AUCTION
FOOD • DRINKS • DANCING • FUN NIGHT OUT
SAT., JAN. 24, 2026
6–9 PM
Topsail Island Moose Lodge 2061
Adults Only • Tickets: $60
Come enjoy a night of excitement while supporting the students of Surf City Middle!

FIRM FOUNDATION PLUMBING
FFP
Licensed and Insured
License # 37502
COMMERCIAL
RESIDENTIAL
SERVICE
Jackson Moore
Licensed Plumber
910-859-3014
firmfoundationplumbing@gmail.com

This publication is not to be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means without prior permission from Topsail Times.

"Patty's Place" Announces Grand Opening in Downtown Burgaw, North Carolina

Patty's Place held its grand opening on Monday, January 5, 2026, at **106 West Courthouse Street** in downtown Burgaw.

Owned and operated by Chef Khristen Hunter, Patty's Place is the fourth restaurant project from **Richard Johnson**, founder of **Burgaw Now** and the **Own Your Own** initiative. Chef Khristen was a finalist in the **Own Your Own Competition** held in Burgaw, NC, in 2023. At Patty's Place, she will be serving up stacked omelets with pancakes, along with a full menu of classic diner breakfasts.

After competing in the Own Your Own Nationwide Restaurant Competition in fall 2023, Khristen and Richard Johnson partnered to bring Patty's Place to life. The diner will be located in a **2,800-square-foot renovated building** in the heart of downtown Burgaw, blending modern dining amenities with its historic charm.

For Khristen, family is everything. She built Patty's Place with the hope that every guest who walks through the door feels the same warmth, care, and connection she experienced growing up. "Here at Patty's Place, you're not just a customer- you're family". Khristen's passion for cooking began in the kitchen alongside her mother, Patty, where she learned the cherished family recipes and discovered the joy of creating meals that bring people together.

Patty's Place will offer a wide range of **classic diner breakfasts**, including hearty omelets, fluffy pancakes, biscuits, breakfast platters, and homestyle sides. The restaurant provides ample seating for diners to enjoy a relaxed sit-down meal with family and friends, while grab-and-go options will also be available soon for those on the move.

Hours of Operation:

- Sunday: 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Monday: 6:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Wednesday – Saturday: 6:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Closed on Tuesday

For more information and updates, follow Patty's Place on Instagram: @pattys.place.burgaw

About Burgaw Now

Burgaw Now's mission is to support revitalization efforts in Burgaw, North Carolina by providing sparks of economic development and sharing the stories of the people and businesses that make Burgaw a great place to live and visit. We aim to honor the town's past while helping to build its future.

About Own Your Own

Founded in 2022, Own Your Own (OYO) comes as a culmination of Turtle Cove founder Richard Johnson's two greatest passions: helping entrepreneurs and giving back to the community. OYO is designed to give hopeful entrepreneurs the opportunity to connect with investors, open small businesses and help revitalize historic downtowns. Expanding upon the work of Burgaw Now, OYO launched a nationwide restaurant challenge at the end of 2022 with the prize being a million dollar budget to design and build a restaurant in Burgaw, NC.

Paradise Axe and Arcade introduces the 6th Annual ...

Valentine's Day

Axe Me Out
to Dinner

Dinner & Axe Throwing

Choice of 6pm, 7pm or 8pm seatings

Saturday, February 14th, 2026

(910) 803-2300
www.paradiseaxeandarcade.com

$75 Per Couple

Get Your Tickets Now

127 Sound Road, Holly Ridge, NC

CFCC to Host 12th Annual International Film

Cape Fear Community College is proud to announce the return of its 12th Annual International Film Festival, hosted by the Humanities and Education Department and held January 27 through February 5, 2026. All nine films will be screened in Union Station (502 N. Front Street) in room U-170. All screenings are free and open to the public. Tickets are not required. Each film will be presented in its original language with English subtitles.

This year's two-week festival features an exciting lineup of international films, including six French films, two Spanish films, and, new this year, an American Sign Language film.

Flow

Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 11:00 a.m.

Flow is a dialogue-free, visually stunning French-Belgian-Latvian animated film about a solitary black cat whose world floods, forcing it onto a drifting boat with diverse animals like a capybara, lemur, and dog, to survive an apocalyptic, post-human Earth, learning to overcome differences and build a community against a backdrop of environmental collapse and natural beauty, guided by instinct and trust.

Mission Kipi

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 11:00 a.m.

Mission Kipi (or *Misión Kipi*) is a Peruvian documentary about rural teacher Walter Velásquez during the COVID-19 pandemic, who builds a robot named Kipi from scrap to help his dispersed students in Colcabamba continue learning, essentially bringing the school to their homes through this unique technological assistant, highlighting education's adaptability and perseverance.

Dahomey

Thursday, January 29, 2026, 11:00 a.m.

Dahomey is a dramatized documentary by Mati Diop about the return of 26 royal artifacts, stolen by French colonial troops, from Paris museums back to the Republic of Benin, exploring themes of colonialism, cultural identity, ownership, and the complex politics artifacts themselves as they journey home, questioning how a nation rebuilds its history without these stolen pieces.

The Count of Monte Cristo

Thursday, January 29, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

The Count of Monte Cristo tells the epic story of Edmond Dantès, a young, honest sailor falsely accused of treason by jealous rivals, imprisoned for years, who escapes, finds immense treasure on the Isle of Monte Cristo, and returns as the wealthy, mysterious Count to exact elaborate revenge and find redemption, exploring themes of justice, betrayal, hope, and mercy.

The Umbrellas of Cherbourg

Friday, January 30, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

The Umbrellas of Cherbourg is a bittersweet French musical about young love (Geneviève & Guy) tragically separated by war (Algerian War), leading to different paths: Geneviève marries a wealthier man after becoming pregnant, while Guy returns from service to find his life changed, eventually marrying someone else, only for them to have a brief, poignant reunion years later as strangers. All dialogue, even casual chat, is sung, set to Michel Legrand's iconic score, creating a vibrant, melancholic tale of lost love, duty, and life's diverging realities.

Chicken for Linda

Monday, February 2, 2026, 11:00 a.m.

Chicken for Linda! is a French animated film about a single mother, Paulette, who unfairly punishes her daughter, Linda, and tries to make amends by promising to cook Linda's favorite meal: chicken with peppers, a dish her late father used to make. The simple request turns into a chaotic, slapstick adventure due to a general strike in Paris, closed grocery stores, and Paulette's own lack of cooking skills, forcing the mother-daughter duo and their neighbors into a frantic, often absurd quest for a live chicken, exploring themes of grief, family, and resilience.

7 Cajas

Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 12:30 p.m.

7 Cajas is a Paraguayan crime-fame and a camera phone; he takes a risky job delivering seven mysterious boxes for $100, but gets caught in a chaotic, life-or-death chase as others try to steal the boxes, unwittingly pulling him and his friend Liz into a dangerous criminal web they don't understand, filled with mistaken identities, suspense, dark humor, and surprising twists.

Being Michelle

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

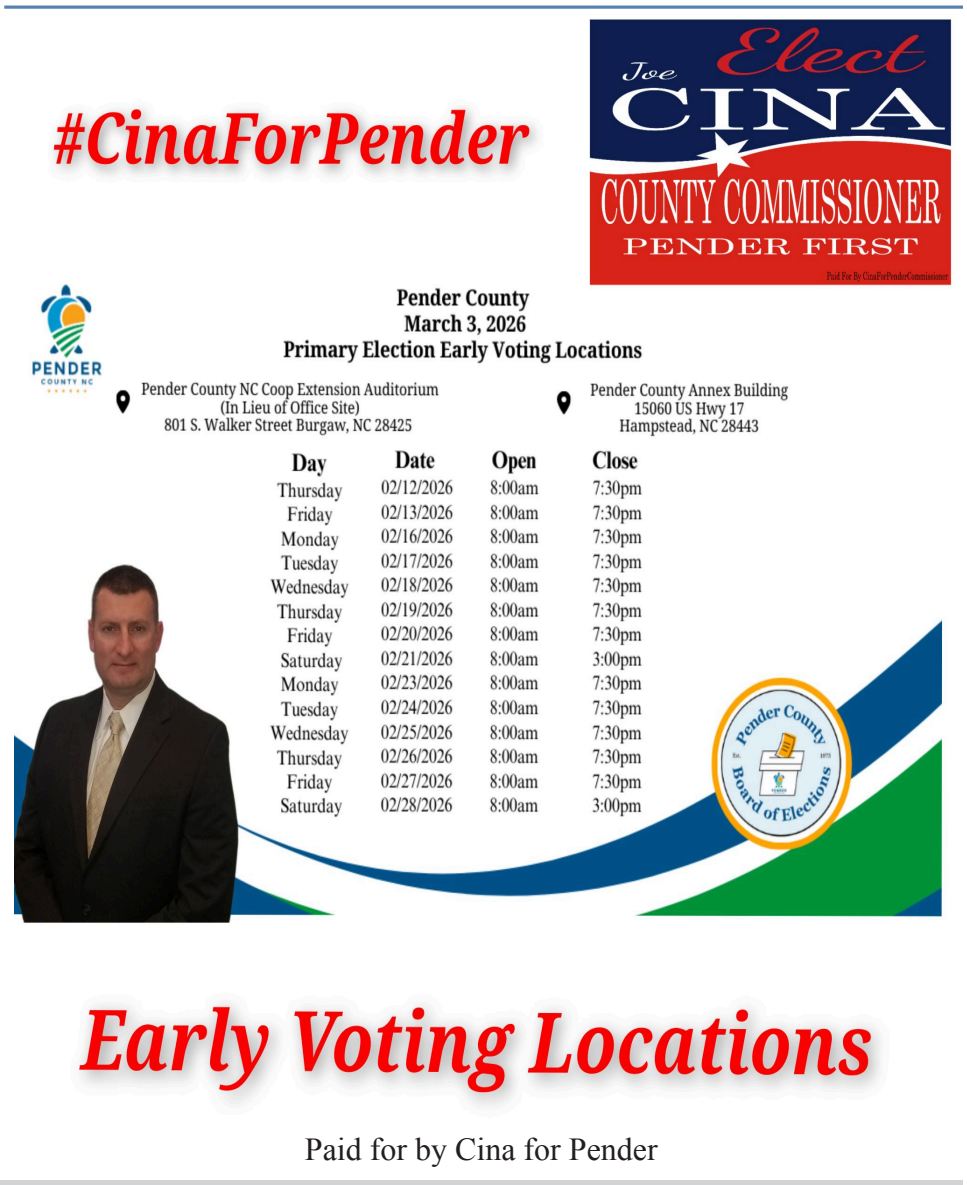
Being Michelle is an award-winning documentary about Michelle, a Deaf and Autistic woman who survived horrific abuse and wrongful incarceration in a system that failed to accommodate her disabilities, focusing on her journey of healing through art and the profound bond she forms with Kim Law, a blind life coach in prison, highlighting themes of resilience, communication, and finding hope amidst systemic failures.

The Taste of Things

Thursday, February 5, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

The Taste of Things is a French period chef, Dodin, and his cook and long-time partner, Eugénie, in 1889 France. Their twenty-year relationship is a culinary partnership built on their shared love for food, but Eugénie resists marrying Dodin. Faced with her refusal, Dodin decides to cook for her himself, leading to a story that explores the connection between love, desire, and the art of cooking.

CFCC is honored to be the only community college in the nation selected to receive funding from the Albertine Cinematheque Foundation. Albertine Cinémathèque is part of the French For All initiative by Villa Albertine – The French Institute for Culture and Education, and Albertine Foundation, and is made possible with the support from the Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Animée (CNC). Additional support from the CFCC Foundation helps make this annual cultural event possible. Over the past eleven years, the festival has shown 53 films to approximately 4,000 viewers.



This publication is not to be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means without prior permission from Topsail Times.

Tommy J Designer Jewelry

where imagination becomes reality

Fabrication



Customization



Recreation





Unique, Handmade Jewelry









910-803-2200

13500 NC Hwy. 50, Unit 109, Surf City, NC 28445

Why I'm Running for the North Carolina State House

By Joshua Patti
A Common Sense Approach

I didn't wake up one morning and decide to run for the North Carolina State House because it sounded like the next political step. I'm running because I care deeply about where we live, the direction we're headed, and the kind of future we're building for our kids and for the families who call Pender County and southern Onslow County home.

My wife and our children are at the center of that decision. Like so many families in District 16, we are raising our kids here because we believe in these communities. We want our children to grow up in safe neighborhoods, be confident in the choices made about school, and surrounded by people who look out for one another, with real opportunities close to home. When I think about the decisions being made in Raleigh, I don't think about politics. I think about the real impact those decisions have on people across our district, from young families to seniors and everyone in between.

Over the years as a local councilman and community advocate, I've spent a lot of time listening. I've talked with neighbors at community events, seniors worried about rising property taxes, small business owners trying to stay afloat, and first responders stretched thin as our area grows. What I hear again and again is frustration that common sense too often gets lost in the noise. People want leaders who show up, listen, and actually get things done.

One issue that comes up constantly is property taxes. Families and retirees across District 16 are feeling the squeeze as home values rise and tax bills climb right along with them. No one should be forced out of the home they worked their entire life to afford. Government should live within its means, and we should be looking for ways to provide relief, not adding to the burden.

Public safety is another area where I'll be a strong voice. We owe our law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders more than just thanks. We owe them the support they need to do their jobs safely and effectively. That includes competitive pay, reasonable workloads, and leaders who understand the risks they face every day.

Fiscal responsibility is at the heart of my campaign. I'm committed to responsible budgeting, careful stewardship of taxpayer dollars, and making sure every dollar spent delivers real value. That's the kind of approach I've taken as a councilman, and it's the kind of approach I'll bring to Raleigh.

Growth is another reality we're all living with. Growth can be a positive thing, but only if it's handled the right way. Too often, development moves forward while roads, schools, water systems, and emergency services lag behind. When that happens, taxpayers end up paying the price. I believe growth should be thoughtful and balanced, protecting our quality of life while planning responsibly for the future.

Education matters deeply to me, both as an educator and as a parent who understands that every child learns differently. I have worked directly with students and families, and that experience has shown me that there is no single approach that works for everyone. I believe in strong public schools, and I also believe families should have access to educational choices that best meet their children's needs. Supporting teachers, respecting parents, and focusing on real outcomes should not be controversial. Decisions made in Raleigh should strengthen public education while also supporting responsible school choice options, keeping students and families at the center of every policy decision.

I also believe strongly in our local businesses and our public safety professionals. Small businesses are the backbone of our communities, and they deserve a government that supports them instead of standing in their way. And as our population grows, we must make sure our firefighters, EMS, and law enforcement have the resources they need to keep our families safe.

Most of all, I believe representation means being present. I am not interested in being a name on a ballot who disappears after Election Day. I will be active in District 16, attending town meetings, community events, and working alongside local leaders and residents to solve problems. I believe in being accessible, accountable, and engaged. I will be your citizen legislator.

I am challenging the incumbent in the March 3rd Republican primary because I believe District 16 deserves leadership that is grounded, responsive, and focused on results. My approach is simple. Common sense leadership. Listen first. Show up. Do the work.

That's why I'm running for the North Carolina State House, and I would be honored to earn your support. If you would like to learn more about my campaign, share your concerns, or ask questions, I welcome the conversation. I can be reached directly, and I also invite you to follow along on Facebook to stay informed about upcoming events, community conversations, and where I'll be across District 16 in the weeks ahead.





Topsail Times is printed by the Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC.
This publication is not to be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means without prior permission from Topsail Times.

PARADISE Axe & Arcade

www.paradiseaxeandarcade.com

Open Wednesday through Sunday



CLASSIC GAMES

Video games for all ages! Pinball, Basketball, Skeeball, Driving Games, Air Hockey, Pool, Minions and more! Classics like Dig-Dug, Pac-Man, and Galaga!

LATE NIGHT KITCHEN



Wings, Nuggets, Pizza, Hot Dogs, Corn Dogs, and great Burgers too! Serving Hershey's ice cream. Food packages are available for parties of all sizes. Check us out on DoorDash and UberEats!



PRIZE REDEMPTION

From whoopie-cushions to high-end plush, our prizes are the best around! Great candy selection, too. Save up your tickets for some really special prizes.

AXE THROWING



A great way for the family to have fun and a good workout, too! Lessons are always included. Ages 10 & up. Perfect for large groups.

PARTY PACKAGES AVAILABLE

BUSINESS FUNCTIONS

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

HOLIDAY GATHERINGS

127 SOUND ROAD IN HOLLY RIDGE, NC

Fun for the whole family!



910-803-2300



Jacksonville Mother Arrested Following Investigation into Child's Death

The Onslow County Sheriff's Office has made an arrest following an extensive investigation into the death of a juvenile that occurred in December 2025.

Around 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2025, deputies responded to a 911 call about a missing child at 236 Old Timber Road in Jacksonville.

Shortly after deputies arrived, they found a 16-month-old boy unconscious and submerged in water inside a container on the front porch of the home.

Deputies and Emergency Medical Services personnel immediately initiated lifesaving measures. The juvenile was transported to Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune, where he was later pronounced deceased.

Following a thorough investigation, it was determined that negligence from the child's mother was a contributing factor in the juvenile's death.

As a result of the investigation, Elizabeth Marie Holderness, 30, of 236 Old Timber Road, Jacksonville, turned herself in to the Onslow County Sheriff's Office on January 5, 2026.

Holderness has been charged with:

- Felony Involuntary Manslaughter
- Felony Negligent Child Abuse – Serious Bodily Injury
- Six misdemeanor counts of Contributing to the Delinquency of a Juvenile



Deputies Arrest Suspects in Fatal Assault at Local Bar

At approximately 2:18 a.m. on December 22, 2025, deputies responded to a report of a person in distress outside Anytime Billiards, located at 1167 Old Maplehurst Road. When deputies arrived, they found 37-year-old **Dylan Reece Blare** unresponsive. Despite life-saving efforts by first responders, he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Deputies later identified 40-year-old **Chad Michael Titman** as a suspect. He was arrested and charged with an open count of murder and is being held without bond.

On December 23rd, deputies arrested three additional suspects:

Bobby William Kellum, 21, of 201 Dale Drive, of Jacksonville, is charged with assault, inflicting serious injury and received a $10,000 unsecured bond.

Kelvin Treymaine Anderson, 30, of 1506 Onslow Pines Road in Jacksonville, is charged with felony obstruction of justice, simple assault, and assault, inflicting serious injury and received no bond

Richard Mcarthur Radford III, 27, of 100 Briar Creek Park Lane in Jacksonville, is charged with simple assault and assault, inflicting serious injury and received a $20,000 unsecured bond.

Deputies have also identified a second victim connected to the incident. **Nicholas Arthur Feliciano**, 21, sustained non-life-threatening injuries, received treatment at Onslow Memorial Hospital, and released.

The investigation remains ongoing.







Top Left: Kellum
Top Right: Radford
Bottom Left: Anderson



Seeking Hope for a Rare Disease

By Chelsea Layton

When I heard of the untimely death of the young actress Isabelle Tate at age 23 due to complications from Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMT), my heart broke for her family. Though most people have never heard of CMT, I know this rare, degenerative neurological disorder all too well. I have CMT.

Growing up, I always knew I was different from my peers, although I tried my best to mask my disease. As I entered into adulthood and my symptoms progressed, I was no longer able to hide its effects. 13 surgeries, thousands of medical bills, a partial amputation of my foot, years of physical therapy, and my young adulthood taken away. And my future? Unpredictable.

Living with a rare disease means trying to find hope in the face of frustration and sometimes despair. That's why I am determined to raise the funds needed to fuel the search for a cure. So that no other families have to grieve the future they thought they would have. Or have to wonder as they joyfully welcome a new child or grandchild whether this disease will impact another generation.

CMT has over 140 genetic mutations, and not all are as severe or progress as rapidly as Tate's variant. But no forms have a cure yet. That makes it all the more nerve-wracking to not know when walking might turn into stumbling, breathing might become harder, or even schoolwork or a job could feel exhausting.

Country music star Alan Jackson's career was cut short when CMT attacked his balance and mobility. He recently announced he'll play one final concert this summer and donate a portion of ticket sales to the CMT Research Foundation (CMTRF) to fund the search for a cure.

I appreciate Jackson's generosity because CMT, like many other rare diseases, constantly struggles to get funding. Promising leads found in labs usually hit a dead end for lack of resources to carry new drugs through to clinical trials.

However, there is hope. In just eight years, CMTRF has funded 32 early-stage projects that so far have produced six potential therapy candidates. One of these could become the first-ever cure for CMT. And what scientists learn about how these therapies work just might unlock answers to treating other more common nervous system disorders, like Parkinson's and ALS.

I initially became involved with the CMT community when I was looking for answers to understand my own condition. Then, I started volunteering to help others understand theirs. Now, I give my time as the Community Engagement Manager at the CMT Research Foundation to help support and connect the 3 million people worldwide living with this disease that has no treatments. I am proud to serve my community.

CMT was first described by doctors in 1886. We now know so much more about the genetic mutations that give rise to its various forms. We also know so much more about gene therapy and how to get drugs directly into nerve cells.

A cure for CMT will come too late for Isabelle Tate, but with ongoing donations to CMTRF and investments by the biotech industry, I truly believe a cure for CMT is in sight.

About the Author:

Chelsea Layton has a background in Psychology and Child Development and has combined her skills and philanthropic passion to change the field of CMT. She enjoys hiking, days at the beach, skydiving, and enjoying all of life's moments, as she knows they could be limited any day.

Letter to the Editor

By Joanna Cho

I am writing to emphasize the value of sports and reading in our community. Both activities can greatly benefit children, teens, and even adults of our area. According to ISM Sports, "Sports encompass much more than mere recreational activities; they are an integral part of our lives, shaping individuals and communities. They provide a platform for individuals to showcase their skills, compete, and connect with others with similar interests. Moreover, sports contribute to developing essential qualities like discipline, perseverance, teamwork, and leadership." On a similar note, Mortimer Adler, an influential American philosopher, stated that "reading is a basic tool in the living of a good life."

With this in mind, picture two teens, each choosing to live their lives in a completely separate path. One teen plays soccer, regularly practicing and competing in weekly games. They run through the field, maneuvering the ball at their feet. Their faces are flushed from exertion and their bond with their team grows stronger by the day. The other teen goes through their daily routine of school, returning home to collapse on the couch and treat themselves with screens and snacks. They scroll mindlessly through their phones, comparing and judging friends. Which teen do you think lives a healthier life? Sports are far more than just running around and burning off calories. Actively being involved in sports strengthens cardiovascular muscles, bone density, and improves overall physical health. Mental health benefits include better sleep, better learning, increased endorphins, and sometimes enhanced self-confidence and worth.

As sports strengthens the body, reading strengthens the mind. Engaging with a good book can reduce stress levels, improve cognitive function, and increase knowledge and vocabulary. As American writer, director, and producer, Nora Ephron, humorously voiced, "Reading is escape, and the opposite of escape; it's a way to make contact with reality after a day of making things up." In addition to all these benefits, reading can be very enjoyable. Good fiction books transport readers to the setting in where the book takes place. The reader follows the characters through the story, facing conflicts and resolutions together. In thought-provoking nonfiction books, readers can be immersed in a new horizon of learning and education.

For these reasons, I would like to encourage our local area to put more value on athletics and literature. Whether it's signing up for a soccer season, spending more time at the local library, or simply setting aside a few moments to move and open a good book, we can all put a little more effort into building a healthier and more vibrant coastal community.

SHARON JORDAN
Insurance Advisor



sharonj@sizemoreinsurance.com
16406 US-17 | Ste 6,
Hampstead, NC 28443
Office: 910.444.0923 | Cell: 910.262.2029
sizemoreinsurance.com

This publication is not to be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means without prior permission from Topsail Times.

Loss of Local Legend



Jean F. Beasley
October 18, 1935 – December 2, 2025
Surf City, NC

Frances Jean Faulkner Beasley, known as Jean, beloved wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great grandmother, devoted teacher, administrator and conservationist passed away December 2, 2025 at the age of 90. Jean passed away peacefully in Franklin, TN where she had moved in August 2021 to be closer to her family.

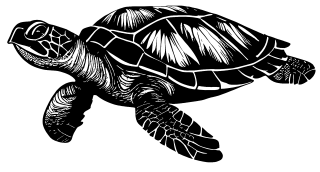
Jean leaves behind her two sons, Barney Beasley (Karen) of Franklin, TN and Kevin Beasley (Michelle) of Stallings, NC. She leaves her grandchildren: Beth Newman (Hansel) of Franklin, TN; Will Beasley (Mallory) of Dallas, TX; Becky Beasley of Stallings, NC and Sam Beasley of Durham, NC. Jean will be missed by great-grandchildren Reid and Audrey Newman of Franklin, TN. Jean is survived by her brother-in-law George Rose Watkins of Henderson, NC; nephew Chip Watkins (Gayle) of Henderson, NC; niece Leah Dodge (Michael Grey) of Richmond, VA; long time companion of her brother Judy Valentine of Dallas, TX; nephew Rick Corbitt IV of Georgetown, KY and cousin Carolyn Floyd of Wilmington, NC. The number of friends that Jean leaves is staggering and notably to be of vastly different ages and from worldwide places due to her devotion to sea turtle conservation and education efforts internationally.

Jean was preceded in death by her mother Beth Corbitt of Henderson, NC; husband of 52 years Fred Beasley; daughter Karen Beasley; brother Richard Corbitt of Dallas, TX; sister-in-law Chickie Watkins of Henderson, NC and her many dogs and cats that were lucky to have been loved by her. Jean was born in Henderson, NC on October 18, 1935. She graduated from Duke University in 1957 and remained an avid Duke fan all her life. She and Fred married in 1958 and their first home was in Surf City, NC when Fred was in the United States Marine Corps. Due to Fred's many employment transfers with the FBI, she learned to make every house a home as she raised her family. Jean and Fred purchased a summer beach house in Surf City, NC in 1972 marking the beginning of her love for sea turtles. She led an amazing life with varied occupations always centered around education. She hosted a children's television show on Cincinnati's PBS WCET, she received her Master's Degree in Education from University of Dayton (Ohio) and eventually became dean of students at a junior high and then a high school in Hamilton, OH.

Upon her retirement and the untimely death of her daughter, Karen, Jean's life took on a trajectory all its own. She immersed herself in learning all she could about sea turtles and their nesting, rehabilitation and conservation. She traveled extensively worldwide soaking up knowledge about sea turtles and returning to her little corner of North Carolina to put this knowledge to work. The founding of the Topsail Turtle Project, started by her daughter Karen, and then expanded by Jean to become the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center is legendary and the stuff of dreams. The number of awards and recognitions she received are too numerous to count but include: 2007 Animal Planet Hero of the Year; North Carolina Order of the Long Leaf Pine from Governor Roy Cooper; Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the Beyond Duke Award for Outstanding Service to Society. In regards to her many awards, Jean said "I didn't earn these awards by myself. I could never have done any of this without the volunteers. I appreciate the part everyone does to take care of the turtles. Your helping hands are greatly appreciated. All jobs are basic for the success of the organization." Just a quick Google search of her name will bring you up close and personal with the amazing woman that she was. All of us were blessed to know her and to love her.

The family would like to thank the staff at The Fountains in Franklin, TN for their amazing love and compassion during Jean's final four months as well as the staff of AccentCare Hospice. A special thanks to the current administration and all past and present volunteers of the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center and the Topsail Turtle Project. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, 302 Tortuga Lane, Surf City, NC 28445 or seaturtlehospital.org to be used for expansion of the facility with an education center. Jean will join her husband to be interred together in an artificial reef ball off the coast of North Carolina by Eternal Reefs (eternalreefs.com).

To the world she was a point of light for sea turtle conservation. To her family growing up she was Buttercup then Mom, Grandma, Grandmama and GiGi. As Jean would say "Just keep swimming."



Topsail Christmas Flotilla Winners Announced

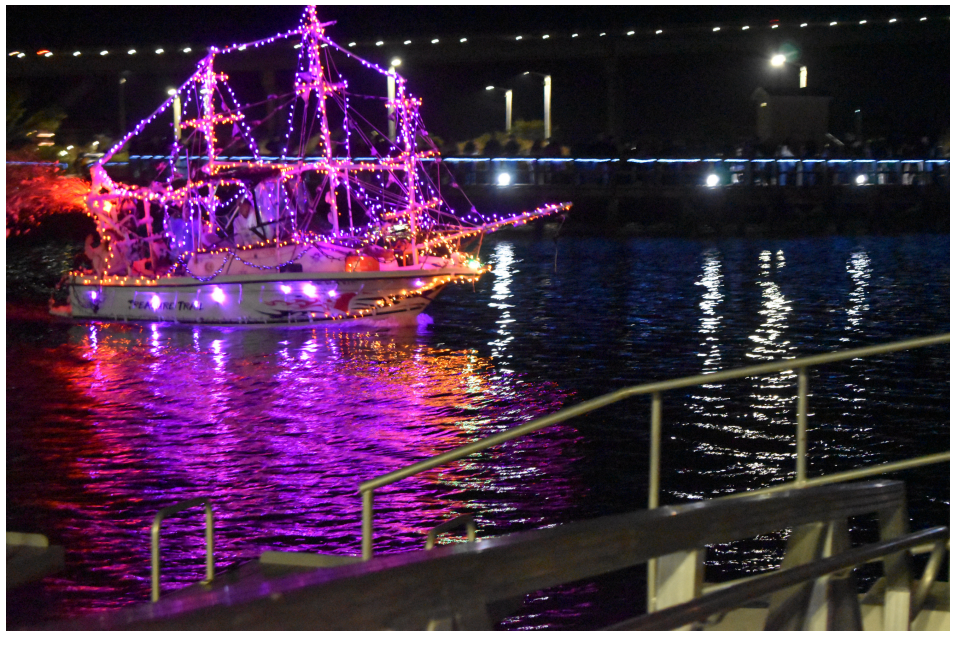
The Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism announced the winners of the 2025 Topsail Christmas Flotilla.

First place was awarded to Pink Pirate Ghostship, captained by Rick Brown. Second place went to Bob Aycock of Good to Go Charters for his entry, Reason for the Season. Third place was awarded to
Traci and Carl Huffman for their Grinch display.

Sponsored by Sea Tow of Wrightsville Beach and Web Designs Your Way, the Topsail Christmas Flotilla awarded $1,000 for first place, $300 for second place and $200 for third place.

"The Topsail Christmas Flotilla attracts many spectators along the Intracoastal Waterway," said Tammy Proctor, director of the Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism. "We look forward to growing this event each year, with the continued support from the business community and the public."

The Topsail Christmas Flotilla is hosted by the Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism. Historically it is scheduled for the second Saturday of December. For information contact the Chamber at 910-329-4446.



SCAN ME!

ESTD 2020

LOW TIDE

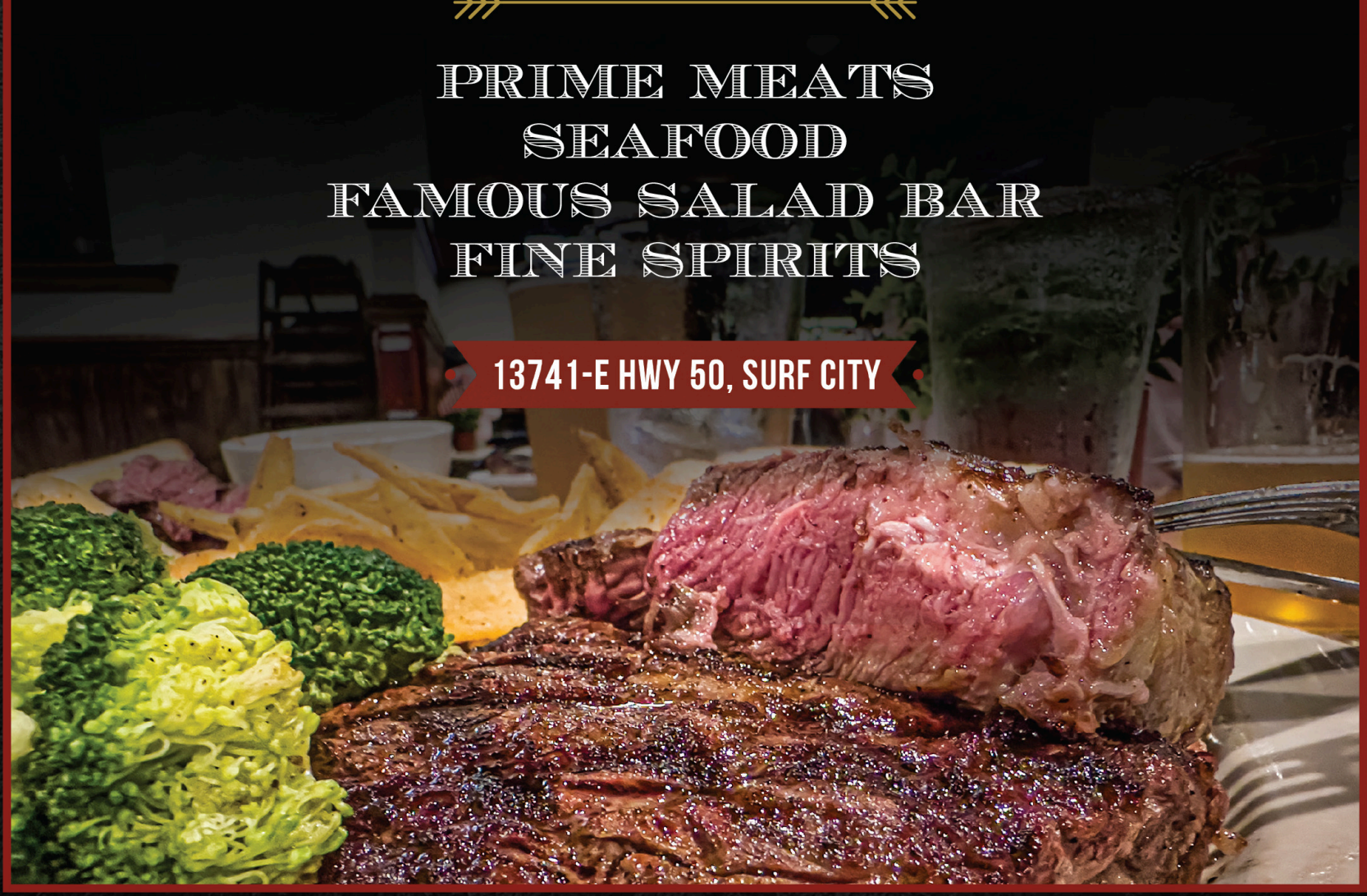
STEAKHOUSE & SANDBAR

PRIME MEATS AND SEAFOOD

2025 Topsail's TOP CHOICE FAVORITE 1ST PLACE WINNER

PRIME MEATS
SEAFOOD
FAMOUS SALAD BAR
FINE SPIRITS

13741-E HWY 50, SURF CITY



Low Tide Steakhouse and Sandbar is among the best of Surf City's Restaurants and the only Steak House! We have the finest meats and the only salad bar in the area. With our full service bar and amazing bourbon selection, you'll be sure to find something you'll love. Our fantastic caring staff will happily serve you in our upscale yet casual dining atmosphere.

Open 7 Days A Week
Brunch on Sat & Sun
See Website For Hours



910-803-0738
LOWTIDESTEAKHOUSE.COM
@LOWTIDESTEAKHOUSE
MOOOO@LOWTIDESTEAKHOUSE.COM

ALL ABC PERMITS

In Memory of Holly Ridge Native, John Helms

John E. Helms
August 28, 1944 - November 29, 2025

John Helms, of Holly Ridge, NC, died November 29, 2025, peacefully in his home surrounded by family.

John, affectionately known as Santa, was born in Monroe, NC, on August 28,1944. He was the son of the late Mary Doss.

Santa was a proud U.S. Marine, serving from 1962-1968. During bootcamp, Santa was selected to serve on President John F. Kennedy's protective detail at the White House. He also completed two tours of duty in Vietnam. Santa received an Honorable Discharge in 1968.

Once discharged, Santa continued to serve his community working for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. During his time with the program, Santa has collected thousands of toys and distributed them throughout the community for children. It was Santa's mission each year to ensure that kids in the community had something under the Christmas tree. For the past several years, John has been "Santa" to thousands of children in the Pender and Onslow County areas.

Santa is survived by his son, James "Shrek" Helms and wife Pam of Hampstead, granddaughter Shauna Haslem and husband Kalo of Wade NC, and two precious great-grandchildren, Emma and Trenton.







Crooked Parker Unveils Powerful New Alternative Rock Album, Neworld

By Cat Dawson

Hailing from Surf City, NC, Crooked Parker delivers a fresh surge of alternative rock infused with the emotional grit of Sheryl Crow, the raw honesty of Miley Cyrus, and the unapologetic edge of Alanis Morissette.

'Neworld.' her debut full-length album, is an eleven-track sonic journey built on high energy and emotional intensity. From driving guitar riffs to expressive, powerhouse vocals, the album carries momentum through every verse and chorus—blending power with vulnerability in a way that feels both immediate and immersive. The result is a record that surprises, unsettles, and ultimately enchants.

The album opens with the hard-hitting track, 'Tumbleweed,' pulling listeners in with urgency and confidence. As 'Neworld' unfolds, Crooked Parker fearlessly shifts gears—moving from atmospheric alternative rock into unexpected moments of dance, sensual jazz textures, and smooth progressive grooves—keeping listeners engaged and off-balance in the best way.

A standout track, Surf City, pays homage to Crooked Parker's adopted hometown. The song blends laid-back, feel-good vibes reminiscent of sun-warmed skin and ocean breezes, capturing the unmistakable sense of calm and belonging felt when crossing the Surf City bridge. It's a track steeped in the quiet zen of coming home.

Crooked Parker's creative process is intentionally three-fold: ideas are first captured organically on a phone, shaped into demos in GarageBand, and then elevated through AI-assisted production. This innovative approach refines the sound while preserving the authenticity, grit, and emotional honesty of the original recordings—perfectly aligning with her ethos of innovation without compromise.

Entirely original, 'Neworld' features lyrics and music written by Crooked Parker and positions her as one to watch as she continues to push creative boundaries.

Release Date: January 2, 2026

Available On: All major streaming platforms and at Bandcamp
Website: crookedparkermusic.com



ELECT
CAMILLE COSTIN HARRELL
Pender County Clerk of Court
Integrity You Can Trust. Compassion You Can Feel. Experience That Delivers.
Paid for by the Committee to Elect Camille Costin Harrell Clerk of Court



Classic Italian Pastina

1 (3 pound) whole chicken, neck and insides removed
10 cups cold water, or as needed
3 ribs celery, divided
2 medium white or yellow onions, peeled, divided
3 large carrots, peeled, divided
1 tablespoon kosher salt, plus more to taste, divided
2 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper, divided
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon reduced sodium chicken base (such as Better than Bouillon)
1 cup pastina or other tiny pasta, such as stars
1 tablespoon chopped parsley, or to taste (optional)
2 tablespoons freshly grated Parmesan cheese, or to taste (optional)

Place chicken in a large pot and pour water over to cover. Roughly chop 2 ribs of celery, 1-1/2 onions, and 2 carrots; add to pot with chicken. Season with 2 teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon pepper and bring pot to a boil over high heat. Reduce the heat to medium-low and allow the chicken to simmer 1 hour, covered. Remove chicken from the pot and allow to cool before removing and shredding the meat. Strain the stock and discard the solids. Reserve liquid and add water if necessary to measure 12 cups of liquid. Wipe pot clean. Finely chop remaining celery, onion and carrot. Place pot over medium-high heat and add oil. Add chopped vegetables, remaining salt, pepper and garlic and cook frequently until vegetables are tender and onion is translucent (the veggies should not be browned). Add reserved stock and chicken base and stir to combine. Bring mixture to a boil and reduce it to simmer. Allow soup to simmer 10 minutes. Increase heat to high and bring to a boil. Add pasta and cook, stirring occasionally 15 minutes or until pasta is tender. Reduce heat to low and add chicken and season if desired. Cook 5 additional minutes. Stir in chopped parsley and serve with grated Parmesan.

Word Search: American Revolution

C	T	E	R	E	V	E	R	L	U	A	P	N	E
B	H	M	O	N	T	E	S	Q	U	I	E	U	L
R	V	R	D	R	O	C	N	O	C	N	H	B	A
I	N	D	E	P	E	N	D	E	N	C	E	E	W
T	S	E	C	N	A	V	E	I	R	G	N	E	R
I	R	A	W	S	R	A	E	Y	N	E	V	E	S
S	L	L	L	I	H	R	E	K	N	U	B	R	Y
H	I	P	D	E	N	T	A	E	F	E	D	S	L
C	L	K	D	E	C	L	A	R	A	T	I	O	N
B	O	S	T	O	N	M	A	S	S	A	C	R	E
E	C	A	D	L	C	O	L	O	N	I	E	S	U
W	K	R	C	O	N	G	R	E	S	S	O	Q	E
U	E	H	C	N	E	R	F	T	I	R	E	E	C
D	E	E	T	S	U	R	R	E	N	D	E	R	D



Seven Years War
Boston Massacre
Surrender
Grievances
Colonies
Paul Revere
Bunker Hill
Declaration
French
Independence
Defeat
Concord
Montesquieu
Congress
British
Locke
Law

Dolphin Dip and Shrimp Dip Photos



Topsail Times is printed by the Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC.
This publication is not to be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means without prior permission from Topsail Times.

Guns for Women

By Dorothy Royal | Surf City Guns & Ammo, Holly Ridge, NC | surfcityguns.com

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 the 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 require 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 women. 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 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 activate 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?** Check with local laws. Handguns and long guns can now be purchased in NC with a background check done on site for NC residents.

Free Fly • Life is Good • Vineyard Vines • Fish Hippie • Olukai • Turtlebox



Herring's Outdoor Sports



Store Hours

Mon - Sat 9-7pm
Sunday 9-6pm

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

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



#ShopLocal



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

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

Shibumi Shade • Maui Jim • Patagonia • Pura Vida • Birkenstock • Katin • Brooks



Quality, Durability and Good Looks

Since 1954

#katinusa #seeyououtthere



Jewelry that gives back for a

cure!

#eringray #curecancer

Shop in-store or online at:

www.herringsoutdoorsports.com

Like Us On f





$1799

Shown in Aruba Blue & White

SurfAira Tables

Designed to enjoy dining outdoors with a unique touch. Comes in multiple sizes and heights.

Comes with 4 stools with backs.

Multiple color options available.

6' Table
70" L x 22" W x 30" H

Happy New Year 2026

Tete-A-Tete Sets



$1299 & up

Shown in Patriot Blue & White



$1099 & up

Shown in Aruba Blue & White

Brunch Tables

Durable and quality furniture with an added UV-protective agent to prevent fading colors.

Comes with 2 stools with backs.

Multiple color options available.

6' Table
72" L x 23" W x 40 "H



$699 & up

Shown in Weathered Wood & White

Adirondack Chairs

Featuring cup holders for ultimate convenience and are foldable for storage.

Multiple color options available.

38" H X 29" W X 33" D

2 for $300!



$159 & up

Shown in Aruba Blue

Introducing Hatteras Hammocks & Swing Collection







OVER 2000 PIECES OF POLY FURNITURE AVAILABLE.

21740 Hwy. 17 North.
Hampstead. NC

910-329-0160
www.DDTOutlet.com

DDT