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Snow's Cut

Monthly

September 2009



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A Port in Southport

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A Port in Southport?

The Southport International Terminal could be a huge economic boost for the area. Or it could be an environmental albatross. Either way, it's not just a Brunswick County issue.

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16 A Family Affair

The Bame Hotel was once a modern marvel of the hotel industry and a fixture in Carolina Beach. You want luxury? How about your very own sink in your room?



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We go to local meetings so you won't have to. See what you missed here.

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Cover photo: Bald Eagle
Captured by T. Travis Brown



29 Those live here?

There's more wilderness than town on this island. So what lives out in those woods anyway? Our resident wildlife expert tells us about his favorite local animals.

41 Bluegrass Journey

With the annual bluegrass festival coming to town, now is a good time to discover how this uniquely American sound got started. It all happened in western North Carolina.

Please address all correspondence to:
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Snow's Cut Monthly magazine takes pride in presenting informative and timely editorial content geared toward the interests and lifestyles of residents and visitors in the coastal communities of Southern New Hanover County.

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Coming Next Month....
Ghost Stories
The Highland Games Connection

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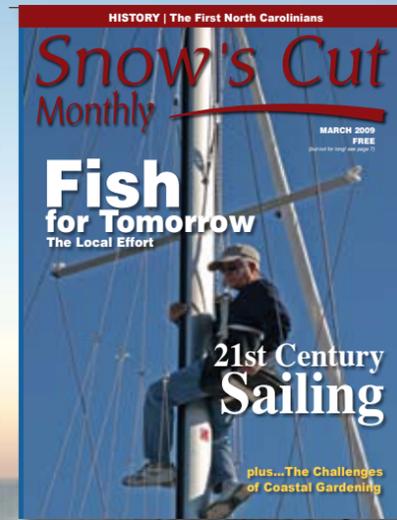
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Contributors



Ken Little
Contributing Journalist

Ken is a native of upstate New York who moved to the Wilmington area about six years ago after presenting the neighbors with his snow shovel. Ken is a freelance writer with nearly 30 years of experience in the newspaper business as an investigative and beat reporter. Currently a resident of Carolina Beach, Ken contributes regularly to local, regional and national publications and has won numerous writing awards. He is a walking and bicycling enthusiast, and enjoys learning more about the fascinating history of the area.



T. Travis Brown
Contributing Photo Journalist

Travis was raised on a farm in Illinois, and obtained his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Wildlife Biology from Murray State University in western Kentucky. After college he worked in several temporary wildlife research positions in Montana and Kentucky. He now works throughout the U.S. as a wildlife/wetland ecologist. He identifies wetland boundaries, restores degraded habitats, and conducts natural resource inventories for private companies, governmental agencies, and other clients. His favorite thing to do is play with his wife and 9 month old daughter, and in his spare time he enjoys writing, photography, and anything outdoors.



Elaine B. Henson
Contributing Historian

Elaine and her husband Skip are native Wilmingtonians and divide their time between out and their 1940s cottage at Carolina Beach. She is an avid postcard collector and has hundreds of vintage Wilmington, Wrightsville and Carolina Beach cards which led to her postcard history book Carolina Beach out last summer. You will also see some of this postcard lady's cards in the Carolina Beach Master Plan. When not adding to her collection, she serves as First VP of Cape Fear Garden Club and is a past Azalea Garden Tour chairman. She is also on the boards of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society and Federal Point Historical Preservation Society.



Jimmy Lippard
Photographer

Jimmy's accent immediately pinpoints him to being born and raised in the south. Originally from Charlotte, his family vacationed in Kure Beach for many years at their vacation home and the love of the area led to his family relocating to Kure Beach permanently in 2002. Jimmy is extremely proud of his two sons which he has raised by himself since becoming a widower in 2002. Jimmy owns and operates Pleasure Island Photography which specializes in beach portraits, weddings, and event photography. He takes great pride in being a member of, and the official event photographer for the Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce.



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Letters

Dear Readers,

Wilderness is all around us. That's one of the very cool things about leaving here at the beach. To our west is a strip of never before developed woods, Carolina Beach State Park and the Cape Fear River which is over a mile wide. To our south are the Fort Fisher Basin, Zeke's Island, the North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve and Bald Head Island. To the north is Masonboro Island and to the east there's nothing but thousands of miles of open seas.

All together these areas that box in our community, not counting the Atlantic Ocean, make up thousands of acres of undisturbed woodlands, maritime forest and salt marsh. Look on a map - it dwarfs the size of the local municipalities. So you have to know that we're surrounded by animals as well - and not just wimpy ones like squirrels and rabbits.

I have a habit of walking my dog late at night and we see lots of bigger animals walking the neighborhood. My dog Buck has been surprised by a nose to nose encounter with a family of possums, chased a fox (which leaped over an eight foot wide drainage ditch like it was a crack in the sidewalk) and tried to herd a family of deer a block away from my house.

There's something exciting about seeing large animals that I can't explain. I guess it just reminds you that you're not so far from nature when you see animals approaching your own size. Seriously, who do you know that slows down and says "ooh, ooh, ooh" when they drive past a rabbit? Yet every time I see a deer I get all excited.

At any given time there may be 800 lb sea turtles, one ton manatees, 15' alligators, 7' striped bass, birds, deer, snakes, dolphins, whales and God knows what else lurking in the ocean. We are not alone.

The most fascinating are the ones we never see. I'm certain that coyotes roam the islands - they are known to be in every county in the state. Bobcats probably visit once in a while, as do bears. A park ranger once told me that they will swim across the river looking for new territory, but they probably hang around for a little while and then swim back. There's just not enough to eat around here.

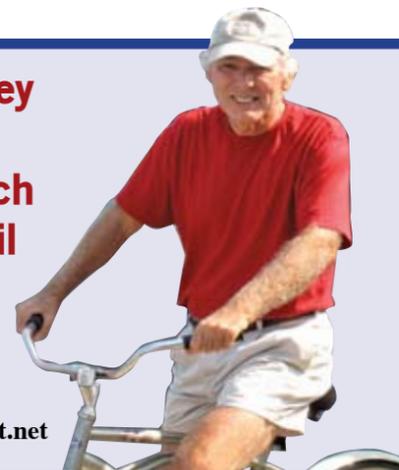
I'd love to see a family of river otters, but I may never be on a kayak early or late enough for that. A beaver once flapped his tail at me, so I'm afraid of those. Nutria are giant swamp rats - I'll be OK if I never see one of those. I once saw an eagle flying along the upper Cape Fear River with a fish in its talons - that was cool. Why am I going on about animals like this? Because this magazine has two stories that bring to mind our local wildlife. One is by our resident fauna expert Travis Brown, who tells us about his five favorite local animals, and sadly some that have gone extinct. (Page 32)

The other is by our political correspondent Ken Little, who tells us all about the proposed international port near Southport. There's a lot to learn so be prepared to think. (Page 16)

Happy reading,

Mike Hoffer

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for
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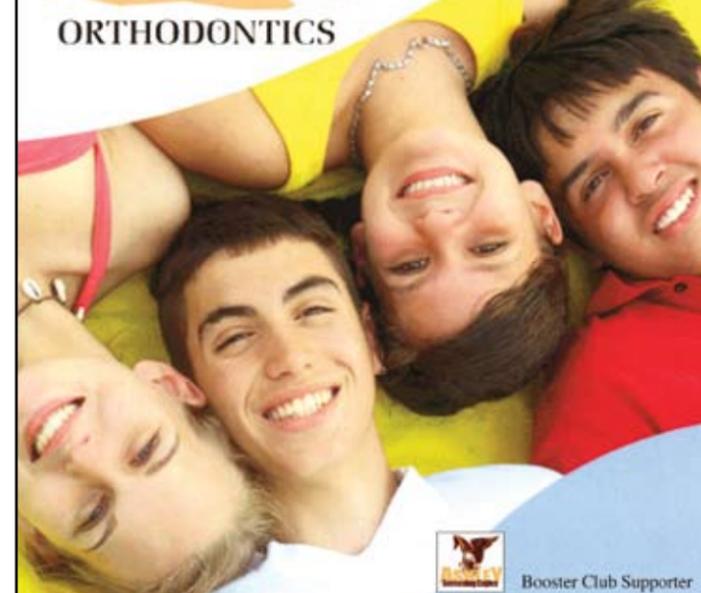
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in case you missed it....

Summaries from the past month's government meetings.



Carolina Beach Town Council – July 28 (Next meetings September 8 & 22)

PARK PLACE – The owners of the Park Place high rise project requested a one year extension for their Conditional Use Permit. The Town Council voted against it. The permit expired in June 2009.

Carolina Beach Town Council – August 11
(Next meetings September 8 & 22)

PREDATORY TOWING – There have been numerous complaints about tow truck companies being overzealous towing cars as a way to make more money. (It costs as much as \$150 to get your car back.) Town Council discussed ways that they can help alleviate this problem.

ISLAND KITE & SURF – With little discussion the Town Council approved Mike and Jennifer Malion's plans to expand their surf shop. They propose to turn it into three separate shops – a surf shop, skate shop and kite shop.

Kure Beach Town Council – July 21
(Next meeting September 15)

TENTS ON THE BEACH – The Town Council stiffened the ordinance regarding tents on the beach strand. Tent rental companies must have a privilege license and they are required to repair dunes if they erect a tent upon them.

STAY OFF THE DUNES – The fine for trespassing upon the dunes was raised from \$25 to \$100.



TREE CITY – The Town Council directed staff to explore becoming a "Tree City," a designation given by the National Arbor Day Foundation to tree friendly municipalities.

Kure Beach Town Council – August 18
(Next meeting September 15)

DISC GOLF – After receiving official approval from the US Army to build a disc golf course in the woods around Joe Eakes Park, the Town Council voted unanimously to approve funding and start the project right away.

UNIVERSAL SIGNAGE – Town Council scheduled a workshop for September 15 to create a consistent aesthetically pleasing format for town signage, particularly along the ocean front.

MARKETING PLAN – Town Council discussed ways to market the oceanfront park to potential corporate sponsors. The town recently received a check for \$500,000 from the Natural Heritage Trust Fund to purchase the land for the park.



New Hanover County Commissioners – August 17
(Next meetings September 7 & 21)

SALES TAX INCREASE – The County Commissioners voted to put a sales tax referendum on the ballot May 4, 2010. The .25% local sales tax increase would help offset budget difficulties.

helping hands

See what your local non-profits are up to.

.....**Reach the Beach 2010** is a biannual event where hundreds of people from all over the country come to the area and make free home repairs for needy residents. They stay at Ashley High School and all of the homes worked on are within 30 minutes of the school. Two years ago over 450 kids and adults made repairs on 136 homes. The impact on the community was valued at over \$900,000.

The Cape Fear Volunteer center helps to find local volunteers, contributors and recipients. If you know someone who could use repairs for their home, or if you'd like to help, call (910) 392-8180.

.....**The Salty Paws Festival** is a new event coming to Carolina Beach Lake on October 17. The festival will have music, food, pet contests, pet adoptions, pet adoptions, arts & crafts, raffles, prizes and a whole bunch of other stuff. Organizer Jeannie Mintz tells us that vendors have been very enthusiastic. Call her if you're interested. (910) 520-6810

The festival is hosted by Saving Animals During Disasters. They want to educate people about disaster pet plans and the care of needy animals.

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The 3rd Annual SCM Town Hall Forum

On October 8, *Snow's Cut Monthly* and 106.3 FM The Big Talker will present a town hall meeting that will be broadcast live.

From 6-9pm the candidates for Kure Beach Mayor and Town Council, along with the candidates for Carolina Beach Town Council will meet for a public Forum at Shanty's Beach and Blues Club in Carolina Beach. As always, we welcome questions from our readers and the audience. You can ask them yourself, or submit them to us anonymously. Curtis Wright, from the Morning Beat will be the host and *SCM's* Mike Hoffer will be the moderator. The schedule will proceed as follows:

- 5:00 – 6:00 Informal meet and greet
- 6:00 – 6:15 Introduction
- 6:15 – 6:50 Candidates for Kure Beach Town Council
- 7:00 – 7:45 Candidates for Kure Beach Mayor
- 7:50 – 8:45 Candidates for Carolina Beach Town Council



Kopi Kuits

Mike Kopitopolous has withdrawn from the race for Carolina Beach Town Council citing family obligations.

"I would like to thank everyone for the support and encouragement I received when announcing my candidacy for Town Council. Unfortunately at this time all of my attention and energy has to be devoted to my family. I want to wish all the candidates good luck and know all of them want only the best for Carolina Beach."



Brett Favre Signs With the Hated Vikings

Brett "Benedict Arnold" Favre has completed his back stabbing of the beloved Green Bay Packers drawing mixed reactions from Midwesterners who have relocated to Pleasure Island.

"This bites," said Janet Hoffer, a Milwaukee native who has rooted for the world's greatest sports franchise since she was in her mother's womb.

"This is awesome," said Mike Bartz, a misguided fair weather fan of the most unsuccessful football team in the history of the NFL.

Our team of researchers tried to determine why anyone would cheer for a bunch of pantywaists with purple (purple!) uniforms and lame little horns on their helmets, but it remains a mystery.

In adherence to *Snow's Cut Monthly's* strict policy of neutral reporting, we will not comment on the severe ass-whooping that the Vikings and Favre will inevitably receive when they play the Packers this fall.

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opinion

Brazier on "Stuff"

Government That's Working

OK. So the ABC store just moved into their new digs and I've already heard about three variations of "How can they spend all that money for a new liquor store when we need money for [insert government service here]?"

Now I won't deny that the new store seems bigger than necessary. I even heard one of the employees call it "overkill." But I'm coming to the New Hanover County ABC Board's defense on this one.

All I ever hear is how "government needs to be run more like a business!" Well here's a government entity that's actually doing that. They make money (after contributing to the local and state governments), save money, and reinvest it into their business. Now they're expanding one of their stores to meet future demand and offer greater variety for their customers – sounds to me like something a well run business would do.

As to the size, well, you can make the argument that they're planning for the future. Haven't you ever bought shoes for your kids that are just a little too big? It's called planning for growth.

As to the argument that we should buy pencils instead of expand the liquor store, remember that the ABC Board is independent of the County Commissioners. The ABC Board makes a specific, state-mandated contribution to the local government and what's left over is used as their operating capital. They are free to decide how to run their business as they see fit. The County Commissioners can't just demand extra money because they're having a tough budget year.

Last year the ABC Board added over \$3 million to the county budget. And that's not counting sales and excise taxes. That's a pretty good contribution – don't blame the ABC Board because the county budget is all screwed up.

So get a grip people – you can't complain that government isn't run well and then bash the one agency that is doing its job well.

To borrow a line from Celia Rivenbark; I'm Matt Brazier and I'm just sayin'...

Not Giving Up on the Pier Dream

The North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher wants to build a pier and they have stated that they want to do it in downtown Carolina Beach. All of the funding is currently on hold (we don't need to tell you why), but that doesn't mean that the planning has stopped.

The deal is that Carolina Beach will provide the land and the parking and the North Carolina Aquarium will build and operate the pier.

Recently the town submitted an application for a Water Access and Marine Industries (WAMI) grant for \$2 million, with a \$3 million match from the town, to help purchase land, and build the necessary parking. Of the \$5 million, \$4 million would be used for land acquisition and \$1 million would be used for developing the property.

They have their eyes on three potential spots – at the end of Cape Fear Blvd. (where the summer rides are), a part of the Arcadius property (directly north of the Cabana Del Mar) or the old Seawitch Restaurant and Motel property.

The WAMI grant comes from money that the state sets aside to purchase land and businesses in an effort to preserve traditional waterfront businesses and activities. This is only the second year of the program.



River Road Park Blossoms

River Road Park is enjoying some love and attention.

A new fishing pier is being built and a nice little boat ramp – for small crafts. Don't try to use it for your 40' fishing machine, but if you want to launch a kayak you're loving it. The parking, picnic structures and playground have all been improved as well.

Silvagni World Tour Off to a Great Start

Tony Silvagni is representing Kure Beach all over the surfing world, and so far he's doing a great job.

In August he went to Tahara Aichi, Japan on the World Longboard Tour and placed 17th in the men's professional division. He took first place in the noseriding competition (where the judges time how long you can stay on the nose of the board) and first in a team challenge.

He then went to Playa Hermosa, Costa Rica for the Billabong World Games. Team USA won the gold medal over 34 other countries and Tony took fourth place in the individual Longboard, winning a copper medal for Team USA.

Then it was off to the Guy Takayama Pro Noseriding and Longboard Contest in Oceanside, California where he took 2nd place in the professional longboard division and 2nd place in noseriding.

As of press time he was traveling to Queens Beach, Hawaii for the Rabbit Kekai Surf Contest followed by contests in Cocoa Beach, FL, Malibu CA and Bahia, Brazil. His biggest test will follow when he heads to Pasta Point, Maldives for the World Longboard Championships from October 24th – 31st.

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Champions of Conch Blowing

Did you know that the Cape Fear Sail & Power Squadron has a championship conch band? Did you know that there was such a thing as a conch band? They do. There is.

In the South Pacific conch shells were used as wind instruments by drilling a hole in the spire and blowing in it like a trumpet. It might have been used to announce the gathering of a clan or as part of a religious ceremony.

Each conch produces a single note and each conch has a different sound. You can bend that note by different lip pressure or drilling more holes in the shell and covering them with your fingers. Known as the musical instrument of mermaids, it has been used as a foghorn on small vessels, and many a bridge was opened by a conch before the use of radios.

The Power Squadron conch band calls themselves the Foghorns and they started in the early 1980's when some members retrieved their conch shell door stops and purchased more shells at the Ten Mile Shop on Carolina Beach Road. They still buy shells there. A pitch pipe and piano were used to identify the shell notes, and practice began.

In July the Foghorns won the group competition at the US Power Squadron Districts 5 and 27 Rendezvous in Cape Charles, Virginia. The audience was serenaded with "When the Saints Go Marching In" and "My Country Tis of Thee." Individual awards went to Ted Poucher (A Snow's Cut Monthly contributor by the way) for a continuous blow for 45 seconds (nice lungs Ted!) and Jerry Hall for most melodious song, Beethoven's "Ode to Joy."

Boating Safety is the Law



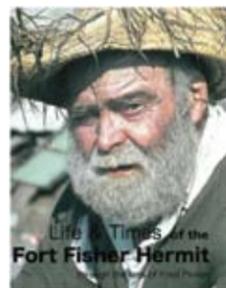
There's a new law in North Carolina. As of May 1, 2010 any person under the age of 26 must complete a boater safety education course prior to operating a boat in state waters. Only a few states have enacted mandatory

boating education laws, including our neighbor to the north, Virginia.

The NC law states, "No person shall operate a vessel with a motor of 10 horsepower or greater on the public waters of this state unless the operator has met the requirements for boating safety education."

What they're trying to say is that you'll have to take an approved boater safety course before you can operate a boat with a motor. There are two local organizations that offer approved public safe boating courses, administer exams, and issue certificates of completion. (I told you, this is serious.)

Call the Cape Fear Sail & Power Squadron at 681-1106 or the Coast Guard Auxiliary at 686-4479. Both groups have classes coming up soon.



The Life and Times of the Fort Fisher Hermit

Fred Pickler may have known the Fort Fisher Hermit better than anyone living today. He took hundreds of photos of the famous eccentric during the 60s and was a crime scene technician with the New Hanover County back in 1972 when the hermit was found dead in 1972.

37 years later, Mr. Pickler has published a book of his never before scene photos, the Life and Times of the Fort Fisher Hermit.

It's available at the Snow's Cut Book Shop and Island Bait & Tackle.

Tune in next month for excerpts.



Divine Wines is the "Best in Wilmington"

On July 19, *The Star-News* and *Wilmington Magazine* hosted the 2nd Annual Taste of Wilmington Food & Wine Festival. The area's best chef's, restaurants, wine purveyors and dessert makers faced off for bragging rights.

Our very own Divine Wines won two awards – 'Best White Wine Served' and 'Best Selection of Wines.' Congratulations are in order for owner Ernie Manzella.

You can try his wines for yourself every Friday from 4-7pm at one of his free wine tastings.

Sales Tax Rises 1%

By the time you read this, the North Carolina sales tax has risen by 1%. It is meant to be a temporary measure. The legislation calls for the additional sales tax to expire on July 1, 2011.

The total sales tax in New Hanover County is now 7.75%. 4.5% is a state tax and the remaining 2.25% is a New Hanover County tax.



The Animal Hospital is Open for Business

The Myrtle Grove Animal Hospital is now taking patients. The state of the art facility is located at 6005 Carolina Beach Road, road across the street from the Masonboro Landing Shopping Center.

Drs. Christian and Debbie Bolz have over 22 years of combined experience in all aspects of surgery, medicine and dentistry. Their goal is to offer exceptional service and a high-standard of care in a relaxed, warm environment. You can call ahead at 313-3326

Back On the Market



Expanded ABC Store Open for Business

One reader wondered if the New Hanover County ABC Board knew something we didn't. They were planning an expansion to the Carolina Beach ABC store long before the economy went into the crapper – and everyone knows that liquor sales stay strong during recessions.

That bit of conspiracy theory aside, you may want to check out the new store. It's twice as big as the old one and carries 520 new items.

Those with a keen eye may have noticed that Lake Park Landing, the shopping center across from Carolina Beach Town Hall, has been emptying out for the last couple of years. First the restaurant left, and then the salon, mortgage broker, pet groomer and finally Cobbs Corner all moved out. (Farewell Cobbs Corner, Ty Cobb closing his little bar is the end of an era.)

While all of those tenants moved out, no one moved in. In turns out that the owner, Myrtle Grove Properties, had bigger plans for the shopping center. They hoped to redevelop it along with the property they own next door. At one point it was under contract and everything. Rumors around town had it becoming a hotel, Whole Foods Express or condominiums.

Whatever the project was, it fell through and the spaces have been renovated and put back on the rental market. We're not looking, but maybe you are.

For the Tupperware Nearest You

Beth Connaughton, former owner of Hemingway's Books & Gifts in Carolina Beach, has recently become a Tupperware consultant for Wilmington and surrounding areas. "Tupperware is a great product that keeps your food fresher longer, thereby eliminating so much waste", she boasts of her new product line. She may be contacted at (910) 616-2054.

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By Elaine B. Henson

A Family Affair

Starting with a seasonal café and gas station, coupled with big dreams and hard work, J. R. Bame built a small empire making a year round living for himself and some of his eleven children.



This story is dedicated to the memory of Ruby Bame Knox who died on August 11, 2009 at the age of 96. Ruby was the last survivor of the eleven children born to J.R. and Mandy Bame and was interviewed for this story this past January. She made her home in Carolina Beach until the year 2000 when she moved to Salisbury to be near her daughter, Joyce.

The images for this story were provided by the author, Doris and Larry Bame and Joyce Knox McLaughlin.

JR Bame

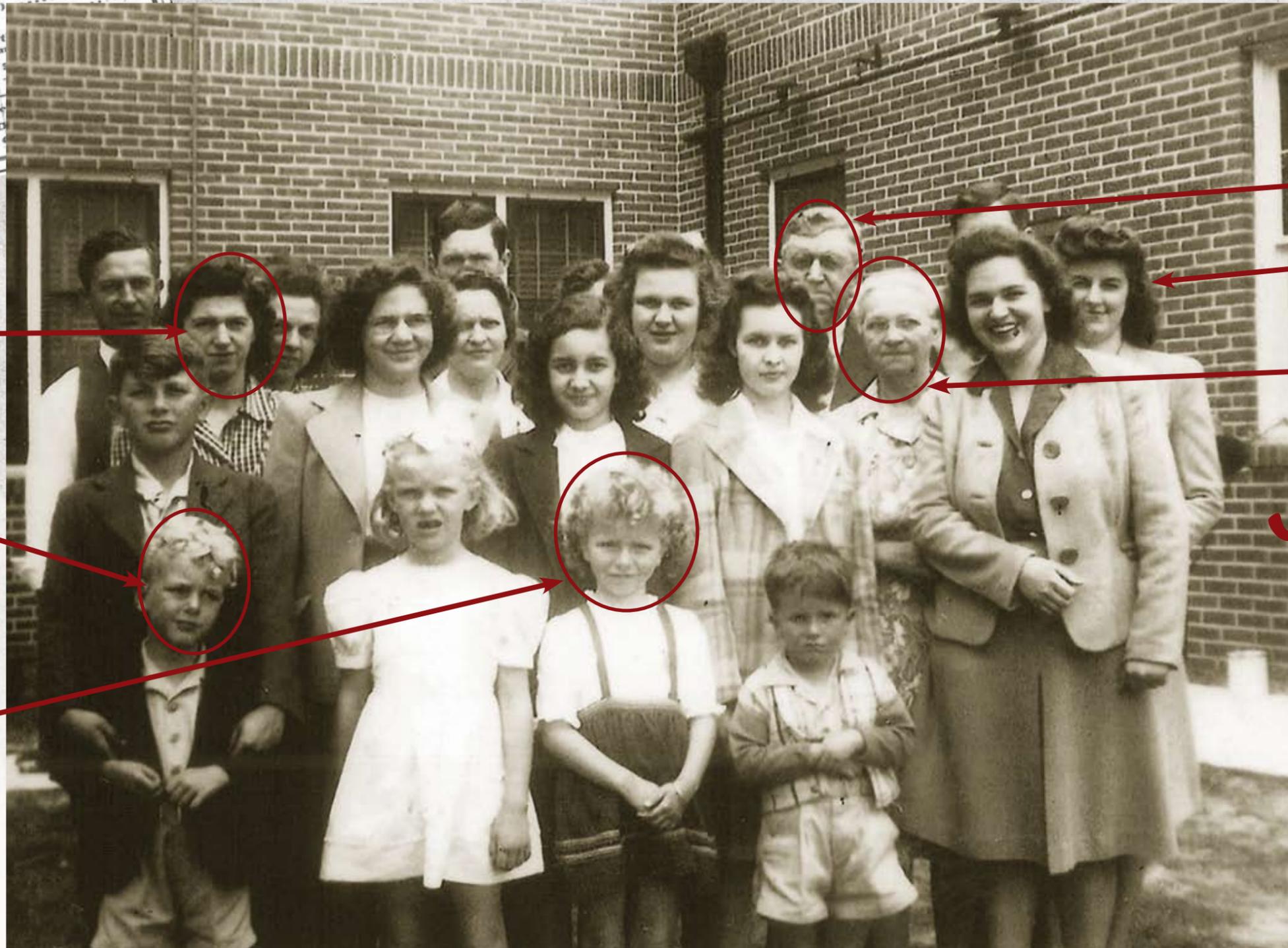
Rachel Bame

Mandy Bame

Ruby Bame Knox

Larry Bame

Joyce Knox McLaughlin



A

At the beginning of the 20th century James Rowan Bame and Amanda "Mandy" Ludwig Bame began their life together as a young married couple. They lived in Salisbury, North Carolina in Rowan County and later moved to a small nearby town called Barber. There, J. R. opened a general store by the railroad tracks. Some time later he built a cotton gin in Barber and another gin in Bear Poplar which was close by. A few years later he added a café to the general store.

J. R. and Mandy Bame had eleven children born from 1905 to 1929. Summers would find the young Bame family at Carolina Beach visiting Mandy's parents, J.O. and Laura Ludwig. The Ludwigs had moved to Carolina Beach after J. O. retired as a builder in Salisbury. They operated a rooming house on Cape Fear Boulevard just west of Lake Park Boulevard.

By the mid 20s J. R. Bame decided to open a café and gasoline station at the beach and stay all summer with his family. Improved roads and automobiles or "machines" had replaced the river steamer and train way of coming to the beach. In the season, there were hundreds of autos bringing thousands of beach goers to Carolina Beach and J. R. decided to capitalize on the growing beach community. An article in the Wilmington New Dispatch dated June 10, 1926 stated:

The dining room of J.R. Bame's located on Cape Fear Boulevard, Carolina Beach, known as "Bame's Café" was officially opened during the first of the week, owing to the incessant demands for some dining hall being operated early in the season. Mr. Bame had one of the best locations on the beach and in conjunction with his café operates a confectionery.

His dining room is spacious, neat and screened and conveniently

continued on next page



The first Bame Hotel opened in June of 1930 and was built by James Rowan Bame from Barber, North Carolina. It stood on the first block of Cape Fear Boulevard, had a white wooden exterior and had 33 rooms.



The 1935 remodeled and enlarged Hotel Bame is featured on this postcard. It had a brick exterior, 60 rooms, a dining room and a grill that faced the boardwalk. It was destroyed in the September 19, 1940 fire which also leveled two blocks of the boardwalk.

located near the dance casino. A complete line of soft drinks, candies, "pop-cycles" and other confectioneries were available.

The only gasoline filling station located on Carolina Beach is owned and operated by Mr. Bame, near the center of the resort.

[Note: the Dance Casino referred to in the article was another name for the Pavilion.]

Ruby Bame Knox, daughter of J. R. and Mandy, remembered the "pop-cycles" well; she

said they made by them by putting a scoop of ice cream on a stick and dipping it in chocolate. She also remembered heading to the beach when school was out each summer. Making the trip with such a large family was quite a fete. The youngest children and their parents piled into the large sedan with pull out seats. The older children came in pick up trucks which were loaded with luggage and supplies.

BAME'S HOTEL

In spite of the Great Depression and stock

market crash in 1929, J.R. Bame revealed plans to build a hotel at Carolina Beach in the spring of 1930. Bame's Hotel was beside his café in the first block of Cape Fear Boulevard and opened in June. It boasted 33 comfortable rooms with running water, tubs and showers. It was a three-story hotel with a white wooden exterior and was modern in every detail. (see photo on page 16) And with "Miss Mandy" supervising the cooking, the new dining room was overflowing with diners.

According to Ruby Bame Knox, who was a rising high school senior that first summer the hotel opened, most people stayed at least



above: This postcard shows the Hotel Bame rebuilt after the 1940 fire. It had 80 rooms, 65 with their own bath. This hotel and its predecessors were located on what is now the vacant lot between the Marriott and the Gazebo.

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A la Carte

FRUITS IN SEASON			
Orange Juice.....	.15 & .30	Sliced Bananas with Cream.....	.25
Grapefruit Juice.....	.10 & .20	Sliced Peaches with Cream.....	.15
Tomato Juice.....	.10 & .20	Berries with Cream.....	.25
Grapefruit, Half.....	.15	Cameloupe.....	
Breakfast Flgs.....	.20	Sliced Pineapple.....	.15
Apricots.....	.15	Stewed Prunes .10, with Cream.....	.20
CEREALS			
Oatmeal with Milk.....	.15	with Cream.....	.25
Any Cold Cereal with Milk in Bottle.....	.23	with Cream.....	.30
Any Cereal with Sliced Bananas Extra.....			.05
TOAST AND HOT CAKES			
Hot Cakes with Maple Syrup.....	.30	Wheat Cakes, Maple Syrup.....	.20
Hot Cakes with Bacon, Ham or Sausages.....			.50
Butter Toast or Dry Toast with Butter.....			.10
French Toast.....			.35
Milk Toast with Milk.....	.23	Cream Toast.....	.30
EGGS AND OMELETTES			
Two Eggs, Fried.....	.25	Country Ham and Eggs.....	.75
Two Eggs, Boiled.....	.25	Ham and Eggs.....	.50
Two Eggs, Poached.....	.30	Bacon and Eggs.....	.50
Two Eggs, Shirred.....	.25	Sausages and Eggs.....	.50
Three Eggs.....	.35	Brookfield Sausages and Eggs.....	.50
Plain Omelette, 3 Eggs.....	.35	Cheese Omelette.....	.50
Ham Omelette.....	.50	Fish Roe and Eggs.....	.50
Bacon Omelette.....	.50	Shad Roe and Eggs.....	.50
Jelly Omelette.....	.40	Spanish Omelette.....	.50
MEATS			
Country Ham, Broiled.....	.50	Fish in Season.....	.75
Country Sausages.....	.40	Sliced Bacon.....	.50
Smoked Ham Steak, Broiled.....	.50	Brookfield Sausages.....	.50
Creamed Chipped Beef on Toast.....		Pork Chops.....	

above: A menu from the dining room in 1941.

below: An inside glimpse of one of the 60 bedrooms of the remodeled 1935 Hotel Bame shows two large windows with the bed in between. One can just imagine the sounds of the rolling surf and cool breezes. Guests had a lavatory for convenience since the bathroom was down the hall.



a week or two. Ruby worked at the front desk and waited tables in the dining room. She also babysat for her older brothers and sister who had families of their own by now. She used to take her nieces and nephews under the pavilion (which was on pilings in the front) so they could be in the shade and play in the sand. Her older brother George Bame came every summer to help her parents run the hotel.

By the mid 30s J. R Bame had decided to remodel and enlarge the hotel. The end result was a bricked exterior with 60 rooms. There was a large paneled dining room in the hotel along with a grill that fronted on the boardwalk. The family stayed in rooms on the first floor during the summer but returned to Barber in the fall for the school year and the family businesses there. Eventually J. R. and Mandy moved permanently to Carolina Beach. Their first house was on Charlotte Street. For their 50th anniversary the Bames built a large comfortable brick house at 714 Cape Fear Boulevard. Later their son Ernest and his wife Rachel lived there too.

Hurricanes are not the only disasters in Carolina Beach history. A devastating boardwalk fire on the night of September 19, 1940 ranks near the top. The fire began in the pavilion on the boardwalk and swept two blocks south destroying every building in its path including the Bame Hotel. The sprinkler system installed by J. R. Bame was rendered useless when power was cut to the boardwalk area, so the hotel burned to the ground.

"Mr. Jim", as J. R. was often called, and the other business owners vowed to rebuild and be open in time for the summer season of 1941 and they did. The fact that they were able to rebuild two entire blocks from ashes in just a few months earned Carolina Beach the nickname "The South's Miracle Beach".

The new brick three story Bame Hotel boasted eighty rooms; sixty five of those rooms had their own bath. The hotel floors were tile on the first level and hardwood on the second and third floors. Red leather chairs graced the spacious lobby. The new Bame also had an elevator, a dining room and a grill that was open extra hours.

SECOND GENERATION BAMES

Some of the eleven Bame children were settling at the beach, raising families and beginning to make their mark. In 1942, Ruby, her husband Jim Knox moved to the beach year round. Ruby's brother Ernest, who was also called "Tite", had the Gulf service station across the street from the hotel. World War II took Ernest away to serve in the Army Air Force and in his absence Jim Knox managed the station. When the war ended, Jim and Ernest became partners and also opened at hardware and appliance store next to the Gulf Station. [Ernest's son, Phil Bame, continues

continued on next page

continued from previous page



This postcard shows the Hotel Bame, rebuilt in 1941, with the Bame Esso Service Station and Grocery next door. The station and grocery was run by J. C. "Mike" Bame. It started as just a station, later they added the grocery store and a second story with rooms to rent. Eventually another two story building was added to the back that housed apartments. This building still stands on Cape Fear Blvd. and was most recently used as the Sterling Craft Mall.

the business as Bame's Ace Hardware on Lake Park Boulevard] J. C. "Mike" Bame, another brother, ran the Esso (at other times Pure and Texaco) station and grocery store also on Cape Fear between the Bame Hotel and the Greystone Hotel. Juanita Bame Herring and her husband Alan ran the grill at the Fisherman's Steel Pier and later the restaurant at the Center Pier. Eldest brother, George, continued to come every summer to run the hotel. Ernest and Mike Bame both served as mayors of Carolina Beach in the 50s and 60s. Mike was also the fire chief, a volunteer position, and had a parking place reserved for the chief in front of his station and grocery store.

Mike's son, Larry Bame, helped out at the station and store growing up at the beach. He was a soda jerk at the hotel grill and later worked at the Fisherman's Steel Pier built by his father and grandfather and John Fergus in 1953. The pier was 1000 feet long and located just off the boardwalk south of the Bame Hotel. Larry also remembers a pool room and barber shop in the hotel.

Hurricane Hazel

Larry Bame will never forget the morning of October 15, 1954. He rose early and rode his bicycle over the Snow's Cut Bridge to go squirrel hunting. Soon after, high winds and rain sent him back over the steel swing bridge where he could see the ocean over the dunes... a sight

he had never seen before. Upon reaching the family home on Charlotte Avenue, his mother Alice sent him straight to the grocery store next to the hotel to help his father and grandfather get the merchandise off the floor since a hurricane was coming. Larry remembers seeing the ocean lapping over the steel pier when he arrived and the streets filled with water. They worked furiously to save as much as they could from the rising water which reached a height of almost two feet in the store. Larry, his father and grandfather were never able to go home until the hurricane was over. Across the street, Ernest Bame and Jim Knox weathered the storm in the Gulf station and appliance store. Ernest's wife, Rachel Bame, remembers seeing refrigerators and other appliances floating in the store the next day. The Bame's water damaged hotel and stores were still standing after Hazel, unlike most buildings all over the beach. But, the steel pier suffered badly and was shortened by 200 feet. Hurricane Hazel, the only category 4 hurricane to hit our area in all of the twentieth century, had come in on a lunar high tide leaving a swath of damage you had to see to believe.

After Hazel's repairs, a cable car ride was installed at the Fisherman's Steel Pier called the Skyliner. The Skyliner took riders high in the air over the pier and was a huge success for a few years. The pier was again the victim of hurricanes in the 70s and was finally torn down.

"Mr. Jim" and a partner also built the Center



The Fisherman's Steel Pier, built in 1953, was just off the boardwalk and south of the Bame Hotel. The pier enjoyed only one season before being severely damaged in Hurricane Hazel. It was rebuilt and later the popular Skyliner ride was added. The pier remained until more hurricane damage forced its demolition in the 1970s.

Pier in Wilmington Beach. The pier's restaurant was a popular place for lunch and dinner meetings for many civic organizations at the beach and was renowned for their seafood. [In 1996 Hurricanes Bertha and Fran destroyed most of Center Pier and what remains is now the popular Tiki Bar at the Ocean Grill].

J. R. Bame died in 1959. His son George continued to manage the hotel until his death in 1968. The family leased it for a couple of years after that and finally sold to investors from Myrtle Beach in the early 70s. They tore it down and built a water slide in its place. It marked the end of the Bame Hotel but the family continues to be a part of the Carolina Beach community into the 21st century.

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By Ken Little

MAKING Waves

A Port in Southport? It's Not Just a Brunswick County Issue



An aerial view of the Wilmington Port, which will remain open for business even if the new port is built.



P

Pete D'Onofrio was once the Port of Wilmington director of operations. He is passionate about the Cape Fear River and doesn't want to see the area's natural beauty altered. That's why he is squarely against the construction of a new mega-port container terminal in Southport, on the Brunswick County side of the river.

Those in favor of the N.C. International Terminal proposal cite the boost to the local economy and jobs it would provide. They also say the port can be built and operated in a way that is environmentally responsible.

D'Onofrio disagrees. He's a member of the opposition group NoPort Southport, and has taken a vocal stand early on.

"Having spent most of my business career working in very large container terminals, I can tell you that a project of this size will alter the character of the Cape Fear region forever, and not in a fashion most area residents will

appreciate," he says.

D'Onofrio is unique to the debate in that he lives in New Hanover County. His home is along River Road and he spends most of his free time enjoying the recreational opportunities that abound on Pleasure Island. He wants local residents to understand that this is not just a Brunswick County issue.

About the Port

The port, which would rise from 600 acres of undeveloped state-owned land about four miles from the mouth of the Cape Fear River, would include a dock 4,600 feet long that can accommodate four container ships at the same time.

The N.C. State Ports Authority (NCSPA) projects the port to create more than 450,000 jobs and bring billions in tax revenue to the state.

NCSPA officials say the facility would be

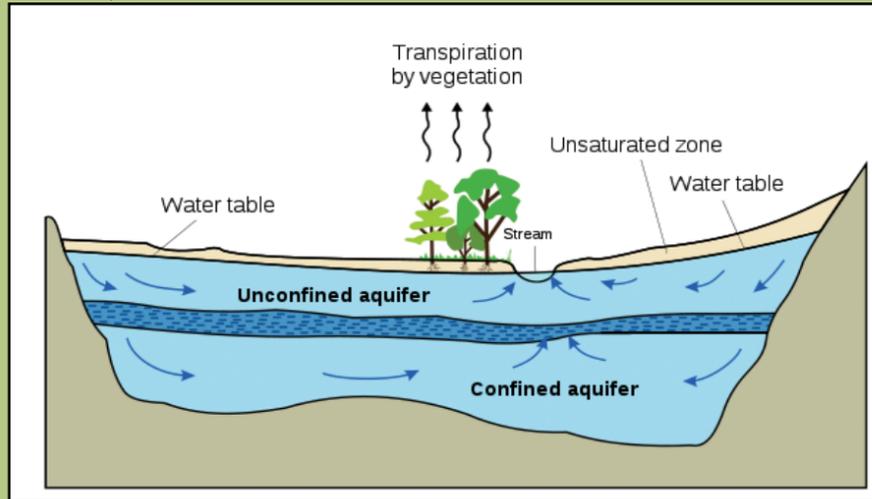
The doomsday scenario is that it could damage the environment, ruin the water supply, interrupt ferry service, take jobs away from Wilmington's port and divert money away from beach renourishment. On the flip side, it could take North Carolina into the global market.

built on one of the few locations along the East Coast suitable for development of a new deepwater terminal. They say its construction would create or support 477,000 new jobs across the state "and catapult North Carolina into the ranks of major U.S. ports."

The international port must undergo a rigorous regulatory process with state agencies, and officials say the earliest it would begin accepting ocean-going vessels is 2019. A sizeable investment of state and federal funds is required, and the state has to secure a private partner committed to helping pay for the construction of the port. The total price tag is estimated at \$2.3 billion, excluding expenses for dredging needed to accommodate big container ships. In addition, a road has to be built in Brunswick County to connect the port to interstate highways, as well as bridges over the railroad serving the terminal.

continued on next page

AQUIFERS



Just what exactly is an aquifer anyway? Even in the driest of places there is usually water underground, but don't be misled into imagining a giant lake that we're all floating on. The water is within a layer of gravel, sand or rock that is completely soaked.

Take a look at the image above – that's what it looks like around here. If you dig deep enough you'll hit water. This groundwater is an unconfined aquifer, so named because the water is free to spill into streams, rivers or lakes and because it is freely refilled by rainwater. It's usually referred to as the water table.

Below that there is a layer of impermeable material like clay or rock that keeps water from moving between the two aquifers. (The dark blue layer.) The lower aquifer is called a confined aquifer because water doesn't move as freely in or out of it. In the case of the Castle Hayne Aquifer most of the water enters at the western edge and slowly drifts eastward toward the sea.

The water in the lower aquifer is cleaner and that's where most local residents get their water. Our aquifer is mainly made up of water within a honeycomb of limestone. (Which incidentally is what the Titan plant wants to mine for, but that's a topic for another article.)

Often due to geological forces the water in an aquifer is under pressure. In a spot where there are cracks in the rocks it might be pushed to the surface – imagine squeezing your kid's juice box. This is a spring and it's how the Black River, Northeast Cape Fear River and White Lake are formed.

Barely on the local radar

Carolina Beach Mayor Joel Macon says that the port hasn't been discussed by members of the town council. "I don't have enough information on it or how far along it is to really form an opinion," Macon says.

Kure Beach Mayor Mac Montgomery says the Town Council has not taken a position on the issue, although he has discussed it with individual members. He recently attended a meeting in Raleigh of the N.C. Water Resources Congress, which is tasked with overseeing "wise development" of coastal water and land-related resources. The international port project was discussed at the meeting, and the mayor has formed some personal opinions.

One is transportation logistics, particularly in southern Brunswick County. "We connect with

the ferry and a lot of people are concerned about it," he says.

Montgomery awaits results of the study looking at how additional dredging will impact the Cape Fear River, along with other impact studies. "I have some very serious environmental concerns," he says.

There is also unease over the potential for tax dollars being shifted from beach nourishment, along with dredging and maintenance of the Intracoastal Waterway, both services vital to the well-being of Pleasure Island.

"There are a lot of concerns about diverting resources. It's becoming increasingly difficult each year (to fund beach renourishment)," Montgomery says.

But Montgomery says he will wait until more

Pete D'Onofrio



information about the international port is made public.

"It's difficult to take a stand as a town until we have some facts to go on," he says.

The environment

NoPort Southport members have sought assistance from local and state environmental groups, along with experts in the fields of wetlands, geology, hydrology, marine science and economics.

They worry about the port's effect on nearby barrier islands and marshes along the Cape Fear River that provide habitat for bird, animal and marine life, along with the ecology of the entire Lower Cape Fear River Region. About 400 acres of the site are designated as marshlands by Brunswick County assessor's office.

Environmental studies will take three to four years to complete and cost a lot of taxpayer dollars, says Rhodes Messick, a Southport resident and a member of the NoPort Southport steering committee. The research and permitting process will take up to five years, he adds.

"They have to jump through all of those hoops and they have done nothing in terms of the environmental impact situation," he says.

Additional factors must also be considered, D'Onofrio says.

"Large ships and large numbers of ships pollute the waters of the ports at which they call. There are accidental fuel oil leaks and accidental discharges of fouled ballast water. Large container ports require thousands of truck traffic moves and railcar moves that have caused tremendous air pollution problems in ports from Los Angeles to Charleston."

It's "laughable," the former port of Wilmington chief says, "to think the same thing wouldn't happen here."

The aquifer

A major concern for New Hanover County is the drinking water supply to the communities of Pleasure Island. While the city of Wilmington

continued on page 26

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Snow's Cut Media • Carolina Beach
Thalian Association • Wilmington
or at coastalbluegrassfestival.org



Cape Fear Title Agency, Inc.



The present channel is dredged to 42' deep to a distance of about 4 1/2 miles out to sea from the mouth of the Cape Fear River, where the natural depth is sufficient for vessels of 40-foot draft. To accommodate vessels of 50-foot draft, this channel must be dredged to 55 feet deep, 600 feet wide, and be extended 17 miles from shore, where the natural depth is 55 feet. The reason it has to be straightened out is because the new huge supertankers can't make the turn. One rarely discussed benefit is that the new channel would be routed away from Southport making the harbor area safer and more aesthetically pleasing for small crafts.



gets drinking water directly from the Cape Fear River, Carolina Beach, Kure Beach and most of the homes south of Monkey Junction draw their water from wells that tap into the Castle Hayne Aquifer. (See sidebar.)

He said the roof of the Castle Hayne Aquifer has already been penetrated by past dredging projects that took the river shipping channel down to 42 feet. The new port would require that the channel in the southern reaches of the river be dredged to a depth of 55 feet, with "catastrophic" results.

According to NoPort Southport the top of the aquifer is anywhere from 43' below sea level to 75' below sea level, depending on the location. (It's an inexact science.) A worst case scenario is that the dredging "would take a 600-foot wide strip, over a mile long, off the top of the aquifer," causing the water in the aquifer to mix with the water in the river and the ocean. According to them "the Atlantic Ocean would flow from kitchen faucets all over the Cape Fear Region."

"Our entire region is completely dependent on the aquifers for our fresh water, and the continued destruction of their containment units carries a very real risk of losing enormous quantities of fresh water to the river, or else

contaminating the aquifers themselves with salt water," D'Onofrio says.

Charlie Stehman is the Aquifer Protection Supervisor at the Wilmington office of the NC Division of Water Quality. He confirmed that saltwater intrusion of the aquifer is a potential problem when dredging the river. Years ago the shipping channel was deepened and the water quality in the Village of Bald Head was negatively impacted.

Simply put, if you dredge down to limestone, which makes up the Castle Hayne Aquifer, some amount of river and ocean water will mix with the aquifer water. Mr. Stehman did clarify that these problems are usually local, meaning that if the aquifer is penetrated near Southport it probably wouldn't affect water quality five miles up the river. (In Carolina Beach for instance.)

"An economic development engine" or not?

Just how much of an economic boost the port will bring depends on who you're talking to. For every point there's a counterpoint. NCSA CEO Thomas J. Eagar, in a speech last year to the Southport-Oak island Chamber of Commerce, called the international terminal and other NCSA facilities "an economic development

engine for the entire state."

Port officials project a doubling of international trade by 2020, with growth in the container shipping business moving ahead faster than that.

"Uncertain times should not deter economic development projects the likes of [the international terminal]. Now is the time to encourage smart development that will result in good-paying, stable jobs for our region and state," Eagar told the chamber.

The N.C. International Terminal allows the state to take advantage of "dramatic growth" in international shipping that will generate increased demand for east coast port capacity, state officials say.

D'Onofrio believes a new terminal is unwarranted when the nearby Port of Wilmington already has sufficient capacity to serve the area. In the past, he says, overly optimistic state port cargo projections "were used to justify hundreds of millions of dollars in dredging expenses that were spent mainly to accommodate a single foreign steamship line consortium."

"The same tactic was used to justify the procurement of four additional container cranes for Wilmington several years ago," which are now "terribly underutilized," D'Onofrio says.

If the port were to be built, D'Onofrio says it would take existing container business from Wilmington out of necessity, so for every new longshoreman or trucking job that was created in Southport; one would be lost in Wilmington.

Ports spokeswoman Karen Fox insists that the new port bring in new business, not just fight for the same ships.

"It will be a port that will have more capability than Wilmington. It will be able to handle larger ships," Fox says. "The international port will be built to handle containers and container business that Wilmington can not handle, and that's new business."

"We have this tremendous market to serve. The people who say there is not going to be enough business, maybe they're not looking at the whole picture and the global connection," Fox continues. "With this expansion, it will bring new jobs. The Ports Authority has always looked at the international terminal as an expansion of the Port of Wilmington."

While many of the functions at the international port terminal would be automated, Fox said a total of 6,000 new jobs will be created locally, including new businesses and services needed to keep the port running.

NoPort Southport relied on a member of its steering committee, Michael D. Rice, to assess studies of the economic impact the international terminal would generate. The studies were done for the NCSA by Martin Associates, a Pennsylvania-based consulting firm.

The economic benefits of constructing the port facility would be considerable during the building phase. The facility would encompass 600 acres and include a 4,600' dock. Also necessary is a four lane highway connecting the port to Interstate 95, railroad improvements and a massive amount of dredging. "We looked at the employment impact and that was quite substantial, but only during build out," UNCW economics professor William Hall, Jr. says. "Up to 20,000 construction jobs could be created."

Rice is an attorney specializing in business law who also has engineering expertise. He splits his time between homes in Southport and Connecticut, where his consulting firm, Risingwater Associates, is based.

Risingwater Associates concluded that the Martin Associates study overestimated revenues and business growth at the new facility, including a projection that the international port would be handling 3 million container movements per year by 2030.

The Risingwater assessment concludes that growth in container traffic for the market served by the Port of Wilmington "can comfortably be handled by the existing container terminal for the foreseeable future. Thus, the economic impacts, if any, of increased container traffic would be realized without incurring the financial and environmental cost of a new container terminal at Southport."

UNCW Cameron School of Business associate professor of management Curt Stiles agrees with NoPort Southport on this point.

"Those numbers (from Martin Associates) are wildly inflated. There's no way they can be as large as that (yet) those are the numbers that

have been used to justify a huge commitment on a huge investment," Stiles says. "I'm not saying anybody has done anything wrong. What I'm saying is that I wish the Port Authority would commission a much more thorough and complete economic analysis."

Brunswick County Economic Development Director Jim Bradshaw sees many benefits in the proposed port.

As an example he points to the recent negotiations for a tenant in a planned industrial park along U.S. 74/76, near the border of Brunswick and Columbus counties. "These facilities typically hire between 100 and 200 people and the pay is pretty good," Bradshaw says.

"Anytime you have a port facility, supplies will be constantly needed at the port, so there will be port-related businesses built in the Southport area and that will employ people as well," Bradshaw says. "That's an important part of it. You will have the businesses being generated with the port being there."

And so we wait

For Southport Mayor Sandra Spencer, who

grew up in Southport and whose father worked as a stevedore at Sunny Point, mixed feelings remain.

"When he was able to work out there he made good money and I can understand why some people would want those sorts of jobs available," she says. "But the whole thing hinges on a lot of money. Unless the Port Authority could find a worldwide partner with pockets full of money, that's not going to happen."

Like their counterparts across the river, Spencer and the Southport Board of Aldermen are taking a wait-and-see attitude while the facts are determined about the proposed international terminal.

"Every community has got to grow and there is good growth and there is bad growth and I'm not sure that is what we need," Spencer says. "There is not enough information out there right now for people to make a decision on it. But if it becomes a statewide issue it may be something we don't have a lot of control over." SCM

The channel would be dredged to 55' deep to accommodate huge new container ships like the Emma Maersk – the world's longest ship.



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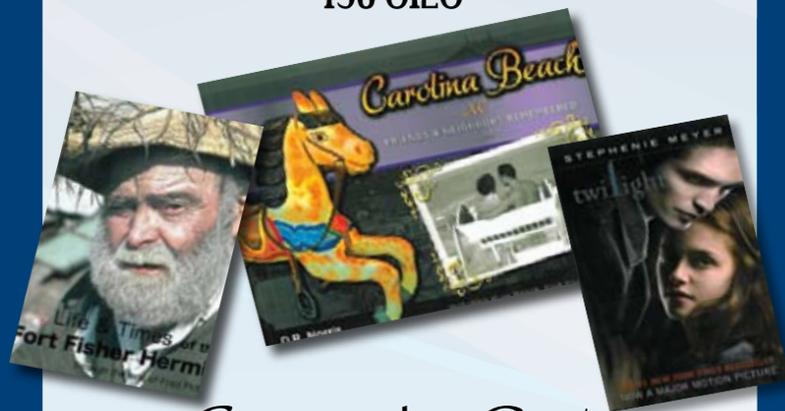
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Those LIVE Here?

River otter

continued on next page

Remember:

“If red touches yellow,
kill a fellow” but if “red
touches black, you’re
OK Jack.”



Scarlet kingsnake.



Photo by Jason Weller (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission).

Eastern coral snakes are pretty uncommon in our area which is at the northern end of their range. Notice that the red bands touch the yellow bands.

G

Growing up, I always pictured far away lands like the Rocky Mountains when I dreamed about seeing the “cool animals.” Whenever I thought of seeing wildcats and river otters, I pictured myself in a pristine wilderness paddling a canoe with Marty Stouffer (host of the TV nature show “Wild America”). Well, thanks to land conservation efforts, pesticide bans, and wildlife reintroductions, you can see some pretty cool animals (or at least signs of them) right here in Pleasure Island’s back yard.

The **BALD EAGLE** is one of our nation’s greatest wildlife success stories and they can be seen on the Cape Fear River. Like many other species, these national symbols owe part of their brush with extinction to habitat loss and hunting, but they were also poisoned by a seemingly harmless (at the time) insecticide called DDT. This chemical, although relatively benign in small amounts, is particularly good at “biomagnifying.” That means that when a bald eagle eats 200 fish that have each eaten 200 DDT-laced worms, the bald eagle has effectively eaten 40,000 DDT-laced worms! Of course these numbers are fictional, but the point is that the toxic affects of the chemical are magnified with each step up in the food chain. Biomagnified DDT caused egg shell thinning and other problems which almost lead to the demise of eagles, peregrine falcons, ospreys, and many other birds. Since the ban of DDT in our country (it is still being used elsewhere), bald eagles have actually increased in numbers to the point that they were taken off of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s list of Threatened and Endangered Species in 2006.

Another interesting member of our local fauna is the **CORAL SNAKE**. It’s not likely that you will ever see this one unless you are looking for them. These brightly colored snakes spend most of their life underground hunting for worms, insects, and other small animals that they can eat whole.

Unlike the majority of venomous snakes in the U.S., which are in the pitviper family (rattlesnakes, cottonmouths, and copperheads), coral snakes are members of the same family as cobras and mambas. This means that they have an extremely toxic

continued on next page



The bald eagle almost disappeared because of an insecticide called DDT.

Unlike most beach communities, there’s a lot of wilderness all around us and something lives in those woods. So we asked our resident expert Travis Brown, what are the coolest, most interesting animals that call our home their home. Here are his favorite five.

Bobcats roam huge areas and are found pretty close to Pleasure Island.

venom, but luckily for us, they are not very good at delivering it. Coral snakes have very small fangs and would have to chew on a finger or toe for a while to deliver their venom.

SCARLET KINGSNAKES and scarlet snakes are two red, black and yellow snakes that can also be found in our area, but they are completely harmless and their colors are in a different order. In case you flip over a piece of firewood to reveal a brightly colored snake, just remember "red touches yellow, kill a fellow" but if "red touches black, you're OK Jack."

Believe it or not, we actually have a big cat that is native to our area.

BOBCATS require large areas of relatively undeveloped space, so you're not likely to

Thanks to land conservation efforts, pesticide bans, and wildlife reintroductions, you can see some pretty cool animals (or at least signs of them) right here

see one in your back yard. Male bobcats have a home range that may span over 1,000 acres. They need very large blocks of forest, but to a certain extent, these felids will also use smaller forests joined together by travel corridors (such as stream-side strips of vegetation).

Bobcats are highly elusive and nocturnal. They feed on rats, rabbits, birds and various other small animals, but have been known to take game as large as deer. One of the only live bobcats that I have seen ran across four lanes of traffic to cross highway 17 north of Wilmington, but their partially buried scat (they are cats after all) and large, unclawed tracks can be found fairly often in coastal Carolina.

Whenever you're out looking for bald eagles you might want to pay attention to another water-loving fish eater. **RIVER OTTERS** are some of the most lively and playful members of the animal kingdom and the majority of people would be surprised to find out that otters live in their nearby rivers and creeks.

Your best chance of seeing an otter is probably from a canoe or kayak in the early morning or evening while paddling up one of the Cape Fear's tributaries (that goes



The Ones We've Lost

Believe it or not, the wildlife list in this area used to be even more spectacular than it is now. There were large carnivores, like black bears (which are still around, but most likely not on Pleasure Island), mountain lions (more appropriately called swamp lions in this part of the state!) and red wolves. A colorful parrot called the Carolina Parakeet lived here by the millions. Huge ivory-billed woodpeckers dominated the cypress and tupelo swamps, and there were flocks of passenger pigeons so large that they blackened out the sun. The large carnivores still survive in other parts of the country, but all three birds (and several other species) went the way of the Dodo. Luckily, the work of biologists, conservation advocates, and volunteers is helping to ensure that many other amazing and rare creatures remain here for future generations to enjoy. To learn more about some of the fascinating critters in our area or for more information on what you can do to help them, visit the Fort Fisher Aquarium and Carolina Beach State Park, or contribute to groups doing important habitat conservation work, such as The Nature Conservancy.



for mink, beaver, muskrats, nutria, and many other critters too). River otters were once heavily trapped, and their hides are some of the most densely-furred of all mammals. Thanks to trapping regulations and re-introduction projects these playful members of the weasel family are doing well. They are pretty skittish, so your best bet may be to search for their fish scale-filled scat or their tracks near steam bank mudslides that are often shared with beaver.

Speaking of mudslides, another huge local animal that uses them is the **AMERICAN ALLIGATOR**. Capable of reaching 18 feet in length (although 12 feet is more likely) an adult gator averages about 300 to 600 pounds.

Like sea turtles, the sex of alligator babies is determined by the temperature that an egg experiences while in the nest. Warmer temperatures yield more males and cooler temps give us females. Unlike sea turtles, the momma gator waits, guarding the nest, until she can help dig out her peeping babies.

The American alligator was listed as a federally endangered species in 1967, but the species recovered sufficiently to be delisted in 1987. However, alligators may not be out of the woods yet. Several recent studies have shown that estrogen and estrogen-like chemicals that we release into the environment from cosmetics, household cleaners, and birth control are feminizing bull gators and disrupting important endocrine processes. Many scientists see this as an important wake up call for humans, because if the water is doing that to gators, what is it doing to us?!

[SCM](#)

The American alligator, a symbol of strength and ferocity. Could it soon be a symbol of emasculation?



River otter caught on a motion-activated camera.

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El Jaye & Port City Allstars

Cape Fear Cuisine

A Guide to Dining on the Cape Fear Peninsula



From hot hogs and hamburgers to sea scallops and sirloin, the Cape Fear Peninsula offers many dining options sure to please your palate!

Symbols

\$	\$6 or less	OS	outdoor seating
\$\$	\$7-\$15	RS	accepts reservations
\$\$\$	\$15 or more	DEL	delivers
CC	accepts credit cards	B	breakfast
NS	non-smoking section	S	seafood

TABLE TALK...

.....The Surf House, a combination surf shop and café, is now open in Carolina Beach. They'll offer organic and fresh foods like Watermelon & Arugula Salad, Grapefruit Brulee, or a BLT with avocado spread. The Surf House is located where the Cove Surf Shop was.

PLEASURE ISLAND

A & G BBQ
800 S Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach,
458-8620

Beach Dogs
304 N Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach 458-4623

Big Daddy's
202 K Ave. Kure Beach 458-8622

THE BLACK•HORN BAR AND KITCHEN
Voted best wings and best sandwiches in the SCM Readers' Choice poll. Great for watching sports. Family friendly. Delicious food and snacks.
On the Boardwalk, 458-5255 NS, OS, CC, \$-\$

Bowman's Seafood Restaurant
911 N Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach, 458-6292

DECK HOUSE (AMERICAN & SEAFOOD)
Great bar, lots of specials, seafood, steaks and a cozy atmosphere. 205 Charlotte Avenue, Carolina Beach, 458-1026 CC, NS, \$\$-\$\$\$

The Dive
6 N Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach 458-8282

El Zarape
103 N Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach, 458-5226

Frank's Pizza
Boardwalk #8., Carolina Beach, 458-7010

Freddies Restaurant (Italian)
111 K. Ave., Kure Beach, 458-5979

The Fudgeboat
On the Boardwalk in Carolina Beach. 458-5823

Granny's Country Kitchen (Casual)
1310 S Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach, 458-0515,

Gulf Stream Restaurant
78 Myrtle Avenue, Carolina Beach, 458-8774

THE HARBOR MASTERS
An island institution is back in business and completely remodeled. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner with a fantastic view of the marina. 315 Canal Drive, Carolina Beach, 458-2800 CC, NS, OS, B, \$\$-\$\$\$

HAVANA'S
Fresh steaks and island seafood served in an elegant, yet casual atmosphere. Now serving Sunday Brunch.
1 N Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach 458-2822
\$\$-\$\$\$ CC, NS, OS, RS, S

Jack Mackerel's
113 K. Ave, Kure Beach, 458-7668
CC, NS, OS \$\$-\$\$\$ smoke-free

Kate's Pancake House
102 South Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach, 458-3663

Mama Mia's
6 S Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach 458-9228

Marriott Seaside Grille
100 Charlotte Ave, Carolina Beach, 458-2030

Michaelangelo's Pizza & Subs
9 S Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach, 458-4100

Michael's Restaurant & Catering
1206 N. Lake Park Blvd., Carolina Beach, 458-7761

North End Pier (Casual)
1810 Canal Drive, Carolina Beach, 458-0807

OCEAN GRILL AND TIKI BAR (AMERICAN & SEAFOOD)
Have great snacks or dine on the enclosed patio or upstairs for an awesome ocean view. Menu features seafood and traditional favorites, as well as healthier fare. 1211 S Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach, smoke-free 458-2000 CC, NS, OS, \$\$-\$\$\$

Old Pier House
101 K. Ave., Kure Beach

Olde Salty's
#3 Boardwalk, Carolina Beach, 458-8090

Pizza Hut
1018 N Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach, 458-4050

PORT CITY JAVA
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Carolina Beach 458-2008 CC, \$, B, OS, smoke-free

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Surf House Cafe
604 N Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach, 707-0422

Tangerine's Caribbean Grill
300 N. Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach, 707-0202

Top Wok Chinese
1401 N Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach, 458-5958

The Tree House Bistro 308 S. Lake Park Blvd.
458-6033

Tuscan Grill
720 N Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach, 458-4745

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continued on next page



SEPTEMBER MUSIC

Thu, Sep 3	Big Dog & Catfish Willie	6-9 pm
Fri, Sep 4	Root Soul Project	6-9 pm
Sat, Sep 5	Steve Martinez & The Give Thanks Band	6-9pm
Sun, Sep 6	Mason Smith Band	6-9 pm
Fri, Sept 11	Charlie & Rose Lucas	6-9 pm
Sat, Sept 12	TBA	6-9 pm
Sun, Sept 13	No Dollar Shoes	6-9 pm
Fri, Sept 18	Casserole Duo	6-9pm
Sat, Sep 19	Benji Hughes	6-9 pm
Sun, Sep 20	Johnsons Crossroad	6-9 pm
Fri, Sept 25	Zoody	6-9 pm
Sat, Sept 26	TBA	6-9 pm
Sun, Sept 27	TBA	6-9 pm

Starting Sept 8!

Sunday, Bloody Mary Sunday
 \$1.50 Miller Lite/ \$4 House Bloody Mary
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Blue Monday

\$2 Blue Moon Bottles • \$4 Coconut Kiss
 Fried Choice of One Seafood Entrée \$12.99

Thai Tuesday

\$2 Domestic \$3 Imports
 \$4 Well Drinks • \$5 Agent Orange
 Thai Night ~ \$12.99 Entrée Choices

Wino Wednesday

\$4 glass of wine ~ your choice
 \$2 Microbrew Bottles • \$5 Haitian Suckapunch
 Italian Night ~ \$12.99 Entrée Choices

Toes on the Nose Thursday

\$2 Imperial & Modelo Bottles / \$5 Top Shelf Ritas
 Tex Mex Night ~ \$12.99 Entrée Choices

Friday Nite Lites

\$2 Miller Lt, Bud Lt & Coors Lt • \$5 Peg Leg Punch
 \$16.99 Prime Rib Night

Sippin' Saturday

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continued from previous page

TABLE TALK...

... Havana's presents live Sundays. They start off with Sunday Brunch from 10-2 and serve Prime Rib starting at 5pm. The talented Mike Blair plays live on their deck from 5-9pm.

Antonio's Pizza & Pasta
 5120 S. College Rd. Monkey Junction, 792-0000

Boar's Breath Saloon
 6400 Carolina Beach Rd., Wilmington, 791-1010

Bon Apetit
 3704 Carolina Beach Rd., Wilmington, 796-0520

Buffalo Wild Wings
 5533 Carolina Beach Road, Monkey Junction, 392-7224

Cape Fear Seafood Company
 5226 S. College Rd. 799-7077

Cubbie's
 5621 Carolina Beach Road, Monkey Junction, 392-0668

Firehouse Subs
 5920 Carolina Beach Rd., Wilmington, 799-5525

French's Classic Burgers
 6142 Carolina Beach Road, 790-1007

Giorgio's
 5226 S. College Rd. Monkey Junction, 790-9954

Golden Corral
 5211 South College Road, Monkey Junction, 392-7777

J. Michael's Philly Deli
 609 Piner Rd., Wilmington, 332-5555

Michaelangelo's Pizza & Subs
 5511 Carolina Beach Rd. 392-5651

O'Charley's
 5104 S. College Rd., Wilmington, 791-6570

Peking Wok
 5511 Carolina Beach Rd. 452-2638

Pita Delight
 5920 Carolina Beach Rd., Wilmington, 799-6692

Priddyboy's Sandwich Grill
 5226 S. College Rd. Monkey Junction, 395-2815

Quizno's
 5120 S. College Rd. Monkey Junction, 790-9868

Ruby Tuesday
 5218 S. College Rd. Monkey Junction, 395-2396,

Rucker John's
 5564 Carolina Beach Rd., Wilmington, 452-1212

Sawmill Restaurant
 5611 Carolina Beach Rd., Wilmington 350-6909

Subway
 Monkey Junction, 791-6151

Toscana Italian Restaurant
 3715 Patriot Way Wilmington, 798-0675



Johnson's Crossroads at the Tiki.

SUNSET CRUISE

Evenings in September

Join Wrightsville Scenic Tours every night from 6:30pm - 8pm for a relaxing cruise around Harbor Island at Wrightsville Beach. Passengers are welcome to bring their own food and drinks. Learn about the culture and history of the area on this 1.5 hour narrated tour. \$25 per person. Call 200-4002.

COMEDY

Tuesday, September 1

Ovary Action

Enjoy a great night out and laugh with these funny and fabulous female comics for an all-girl comedy night! brought to you by Simple Minds Productions. 8pm. Admission \$5.00 at the door. Shanty's Beach & Blues Club 109 North Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach, 599-3366, www.myspace.com/ovaryactioncomics

FISH FRY

Friday, September 4

American Legion Fish Fry

Enjoy fried fish with coleslaw, potato salad, corn on the cob and hushpuppies. \$8 per person. Event held at American Legion Post 129, 1500 Bridge Barrier Rd, Carolina Beach. For more information call 458-4253.

MUSEUM

New Hanover County Residents' Day

Sunday, September 6

New Hanover County residents are admitted free to the Cape Fera Museum the first Sunday of every month. The Museum is open 9 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Saturday, and 1 to 5 pm Sunday. 814 Market St, Wilmington, 798-4370 www.capefearmuseum.com

MUSEUM

Learning Center: Ocean Adventures

Saturdays, September 5, 12, 19, 26

Explore ocean science. What is an aquanaut? Why is the estuary called the "ocean's nursery?" The Cape Fear Museum Learning Center is open Saturdays 10 am to 4 pm. Activities are free with Museum admission. Appropriate for children ages 5 to 12. Parental participation is required. 814 Market St, Wilmington, 798-4370 www.capefearmuseum.com

CYCLING EVENT

Friday, September 11

9-11 Hope Ride

Join Hope for the Warriors as they welcome wounded military service members who are cycling from Camp Lejeune to Oak Island. The cyclists will spend Thursday night at the Golden

Calendar 9.2009

These listings are provided as a service to our readers. There is no charge for inclusion and no connection to advertising. Please submit events to SCM by the 15th of the month prior to publication. email to: info@snowscutmonthly.com, or fax to 910-458-0490.

Sands Motel and there will be a send off ceremony at Carolina Beach Lake Friday morning at 8:45am. www.hopeforthewarriors.org

ART AND ANTIQUES

Saturday, September 12

8th Annual Art & Antique Walk

The Art & Antique Walk will showcase various paintings, photographs, jewelry, sculptures, and antiques from New Hanover, Pender, and Brunswick counties. The entire event will be held on Front Street and will be closed to vehicular traffic for the duration of the Walk. Downtown City parking decks will be free for the entire day. 10am. Call 251-0727 or email artandantiquewalk@hotmail.com for more information. www.dbawilmington.com.

VETERAN EVENT

Saturday, September 12

"Salute to World War II Veterans" Jamboree

Veterans and home front workers assemble and exhibit memorabilia, uniforms, photographs, and swap stories in open-house setting. Exceptionally popular in 2005 when nearly 1,000 visitors attended and more than 80 veterans participated, this potential "last hurrah" for regional veterans promises to be another success. Sponsored by the World War II Wilmington Home Front Heritage Coalition and the Community Arts Center. Free, donations accepted. Refreshments. 10am. Hannah Block Historic USO Building, 120 S. 2nd Street, Wilmington. Call 796-3292 or email JonesWD@aol.com for more information.

BABY EXPO

Saturday September 12

The 9th Cape Fear Maternity & Baby Expo

"Everything from Pregnancy to Preschool all under one roof!" Coastline Conference & Event Center, 501 Nutt Street, Downtown Wilmington, 9am to 4pm. \$5 Adult admission, Kids 12 and under free. For more information please call 617-8666 visit www.maternityandbabyexpo.com.

GARDENS

Friday, Sept 18 - Saturday, Sept 19

Secret Garden Tour in Wilmington

Unique and spectacular gardens will be open to the public. These hidden gardens complement beautifully restored homes exuding the charm of Old Wilmington. 10am - 4pm. Located in the historic district, all are within strolling distance of each other. Tickets are \$18. For information call 762-0492. www.latimerhouse.org.

DANCE

"The Circle" A Dance Experiment

Sunday, September 13 3-5pm

Sunday, Sept. 27 4-5:30pm

Come see the ALBAN ELVED DANCE CO. performance at the Cameron Art Museum at 3pm and join us for "the Circle" right after. Dancing is cathartic, freeing, relaxing, meditative. By moving the body we open our hearts, allowing our minds to flow freely, bringing us closer to our true inner self. Open to everyone, no dance experience is needed. Cameron Art Museum 3201 South 17th Street, Wilmington, 395-5999, \$5 at the door.

FISHING

Friday, Sept 18 - Saturday, Sept 19

Fisherman's Post NC Flatfish Championship

\$125 per boat before September 6; \$150 per boat after September 6. 3pm. Over \$14,000 in cash and prizes to be awarded (based on 100 entries) One Day of Fishing. No Checkouts & No Boundaries. Complimentary Captains' Party and Dinner. Call Max Gaspeny 452-6378. Joyner Marina Carolina Beach. flatfish@fishermanspost.com www.fishermanspost.com/tournaments/nc-flatfish

FESTIVAL

Saturday, Sept 19 - Sunday Sept 20

The Southern Coastal Bluegrass Festival

Presented by the Thalian Association Community Theatre. The weekend will be full of toe-tapping and six-string instruments. Great for families. Tickets can be purchased at the festival, the Community Arts Center, Snow's Cut Media and the PI Chamber of Commerce. Advance tix \$10 per day. 11-8 Sat, 11-7. Fort Fisher Military Recreation Area Kure Beach. Call 251-1788 for more info or visit www.coastalbluegrassfestival.org

FESTIVAL

Saturday, Sept 19

COM Festival: The Carolina Original

Music Festival

The musical lineup will be accompanied by the "Best Pizza Competition" which will kick off the first annual pizza competition for the Wilmington area. Held at Hugh McRae Park, gates open at 11am, Show is from 12-5pm, Tickets go on sale on 8/21, \$15, 21yrs and Older, Bands include: Daniel Parish, Brad Benson, Ten Toes Up, Jonas Sees Color, Adam Pitts, Silver Judas, Parmalee, Redwood. IBX promotions will be teaming up with a local charity to "ROCK THE CURE" during the event. The mission is to find a cure for cancer. For every ticket sold \$1 will be donated to the cause. 910-458-4297

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continued on next page

PEACE

Monday, September 21
Peace Day
 A celebration of International Day of Peace, sponsored by Grandmothers For Peace, will be held in Hugh MacRae Park (Shelter #4). 6:30 pm. Bring a chair or blanket and join us for an hour of peaceful readings and music. Please no protest signs or political agendas. Our hope is to inspire peace in our individual homes, our communities, and our world.

THEATER

Thursday, Sept 24 - Sunday, Sept 27
Phantom
 Presented by The Thalian Association. The Tony award-winning authors of *Nine* have transformed Leroux's haunting novel into a musical sensation that has enraptured audiences and critics the world over. Call 962-3500 or 800-732-3643 for tickets. UNCW Kenan Auditorium
 Wilmington, www.thalian.org

PADDLEBOARDING

Saturday, September 26
Southeast SUP Championship
 Standup paddleboard race. Sponsored by Coastal Urge. More information coming. Call 256-6468. www.coastalurge.com

GOLF

Saturday, Sept 26 - Sunday Sept 27
Men's City Amateur Golf Tournament
 The field will be limited to 156. The first 132 entrants will be in the field. Entry fee is \$75 and includes green fees, lunch, prizes/awards and tee gift. Call 791-0558 for more information. Wilmington Municipal Golf Course
 www.wilmingtonmuni.com

OCTOBERFEST

Saturday, Sept 26 - Sunday Sept 27
 Wilmington Oktoberfest, an 8-year-old traditional tent festival has found a new home on Pleasure Island overlooking the Cape Fear River. German food, The Harbour Towne Fest Band, and of course beer! 2-8 pm on Saturday and from 12-6 pm Sunday Proceeds will benefit the Children's Miracle Network, with Food Lion as the main sponsor. Questions about advanced tickets, booth space and sponsorship opportunities can be directed to Alan Patek at 458-7629

FESTIVAL

Saturday, Sept 26 - Sunday Sept 27
Cape Fear Italian Festival
 Among the tentative entertainment: A Dean Martin tribute singer appearing with the Wilmington Big Band, Leland's own "The Love Connection", Wandering Minstrels, our own very loosely structured and fun Italian Idol competition, plus Italian card games, bocce and other games. At the Cross Creek Commons Shopping Center, Leland www.ihscapefear.com

FISHING

Sunday September 27
Early Bird Fishing Special
 Bait & tackle will be furnished. Pack a lunch and beverages for the day. Departs at 3am and returns at 6pm. Fare is \$150. Reservations

recommended. Call 458-FISH (3474). Winner Boats, 100 Carl Winner Ave
 Carolina Beach, www.winnerboats.com

ONGOING EVENTS

WINE TASTING

Each Friday, enjoy complimentary wine tastings at Divine Wines from 4-7 pm. Call 791-1251

FRIDAY, SEPT 4

Sampling Value Wine From Around The World

FRIDAY, SEPT 11

Sampling Our New Wines From Italy

FRIDAY, SEPT 18

Sampling Value Wines From South America

FRIDAY, SEPT 25

Sampling Value Wines From The United States

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This exhibition features a collection of International Design Excellence Award (IDEA) winners. Call 395-5999 for more information. Cameron Art Museum
 www.cameronartmuseum.com

ART CLASSES

After School Garbage Art Guild for Kids!

September 22 - December 17

Classes will be held at Independent Art Company's Wabi Sabi Warehouse, 19 N 9th Street. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays (sign up for the same day each week) 3:45 - 5:00pm \$350 Tuition includes all art supplies and snacks. Class is limited to 5 students ages 8-13
 Contact: Dixon Stetler dixonstetler@gmail.com

FARMER'S MARKET

Saturdays April 11 - December 19

Riverfront Farmer's Market

The Riverfront Farmers' Market is a curbside market featuring local farmers, producers, artists and crafters. 8am-1pm. Call 520-6875 for more information. Water Street, Downtown Wilmington
 www.wilmingtonfarmers.com

KURE BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER

SQUARE DANCES: Every 4th Wednesday, \$5pp

7:30-9:30pm, Caller: Tom Wallace

LINE DANCING: Thursdays 10-11am, Sept thru

May Fee: \$1pp. No registration - Just show up

AEROBICS: Tuesdays 9-10am October thru

May, Fee: \$1.00 pp No registration necessary.

AIKIDO: Tues & Thurs., Children (ages 6-11):

6-7pm Adults: 7-9 pm \$25/month for all students:

call 910-343-3413, www.kurebeachaikido.com

To reach the Community Center, call 458-8944

118 North Third Street, Kure Beach.

VOLUNTEER

Change the world - Volunteer with Full Belly Project Every Saturday

Volunteers are given the unique opportunity to design simple solutions that will impact the lives of millions in developing countries. 1020 Chestnut St. Wilmington. Every Sat 9:30am-1pm (Unless otherwise posted) Contact Jeff Rose at jeff.rose@fullbellyproject.org.

COFFEE SOCIAL

Ladies' Morning Out Every Wednesday

Come to the Port City Java at the Pavilion Medical Center every Wednesday morning at 10am to make new friends. This casual group of ladies would call themselves a newcomers club, except for the fact that many natives stop in too. Enjoy a good cup of coffee and even better company.

NATURE

April 24 - September 25

Audubon NC Free Birding Tours

The tours, which run from 9am to 11am every Friday, are open to the public and feature a walk along the protected sanctuary that serves as habitat for beach-nesting birds. You do not need to register, just meet at the Mason Inlet information kiosk. Call 686-7527 or email awood@audubon.org for more information. North End of Wrightsville Beach, www.ncaudubon.org

LIVE MUSIC

Fridays through October 2

Jazz at Airlie Gardens Concert Series

Enjoy an eclectic mix of jazz every first Friday and Beach music every third Friday of the month from 6-8pm. Call 798-7700 for information. airlieinfo@nhcgov.com for more information. Airlie Gardens, 300 Airlie Road, Wilmington
 www.airliegardens.org

CLUBS

Cape Fear Camera Club

Third Wednesday of every month

Meets at 7:30pm at UNCW. Members from beginners to advanced photographers. See www.cpaefearcameraclub.org

History Center Meeting

Third Monday of Every Month

The Federal Point History Center monthly meeting is open to the general public. 1121-A N. Lake Park Blvd. behind the Carolina Beach Town Hall. Open Tuesday & Friday 10-4pm. For more information, or to become a member of the Federal Point History Center, call 458-0502.

Cape Fear Blues Jam

Every Tuesday at 8pm and first Saturday of each month at 9pm.

Where novice, accomplished, & professional musicians can share the stage equally. The Rusty Nail, 1310 S. 5th St., Wilmington, 251-1888
 www.capefearblues.org

The Wilmington Newcomers Club

Second Thursday of each month

Meet new friends at the Scottish Rite Hall, 1415 S. 17th St., Wilmington, NC. 90:30am For more info visit www.wilmingtonncnewcomers.com.



Ocean Grill & Tiki Bar

AUGUST MUSIC

Thu, Sep 3 Big Dog & Catfish Willie 6-9 pm
 Fri, Sep 4 Root Soul Project 6-9 pm
 Sat, Sep 5 Steve Martinez & The Give Thanks Band 6-9pm
 Sun, Sep 6 Mason Smith Band 6-9 pm
 Fri, Sep 11 Charlie & Rose Lucas 6-9 pm
 Sat, Sep 19 Johnsons Crossroad 6-9 pm

*note: Music lineup subject to change due to weather.

The Shuckin' Shack

Monday LIVE MUSIC \$2.75 imports
 50 cent "steamed" oysters
Tuesday 25% off wine
 25% off shrimp
Wednesday \$2 16 oz drafts
 35 cent clams
Thursday \$2 dom bottles
 \$12/lb crab legs
Friday rum specials
Saturday \$5.50 Jager bombs,
 oyster shooter specials
Sunday \$5 bloodys,
 \$10 domestic buckets

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4th Sea Cruz 8-12pm

5th Carolina Kids ReUnion 7-2am

Closed The First Week of SOS
 September 12-17. Reopen on the 18th.

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September Music

Tues, Sept. 1 "Ovary Action" 8pm
 A night of funny female comics!
 Fri, Sept 4 Sea Cruz 8-12pm
 Sat, Sept 5 Carolina Kids ReUnion 7-2am

Closed The First Week of SOS
 September 12-17. Reopen on the 18th

Shag & Line Dance Lessons:
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5:30 am	6:15 am	<p>photo ID may be required</p> <p>Fare: One Way</p> <p>Pedestrian \$1.00 Bicycle Rider \$2.00 Motorcycles \$3.00 Vehicle and/or combination less than 20' \$5.00 Vehicle and/or combination 20' up to 40' \$10.00 Vehicle and/or combination over 40' up to 65' \$15.00</p> <p>Notice: This is now the year round schedule for the Ferry.</p> <p>Crossing: 30 minutes</p>
7:00	7:45	
7:45	8:30	
8:30	9:15	
9:15	10:00	
10:45	11:30	
11:30	12:15 pm	
1:00	1:45	
1:45	2:30	
2:30	3:15	
3:15	4:00	
4:00	4:45	
4:45	5:30	
6:15	7:00	

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North Carolina Bluegrass

How it All Began

Bill Monroe, the Father of Bluegrass, in his later years.

continued on next page



© Jamie Hobbs



Because of their ability to provide much needed entertainment in rural communities, fiddlers were often held in higher esteem than doctors, lawyers or politicians.



dances that took place in backwoods communities. Because of their ability to provide much needed entertainment in rural communities, fiddlers were often held in higher esteem than doctors, lawyers or politicians. The dance tunes as played by Scots-Irish fiddlers certainly had a strong impact on the music of this area.

Not lagging far behind the fiddle in providing music for rural communities was the banjo. The origins of the banjo can be traced back nearly 4,500 years to ancient Egypt. From there it spread to the Middle East and to Africa. Slaves from West Africa eventually brought the instrument to the American south where it took hold and spread. It was in North Carolina where the banjo became a deeply-ingrained part of everyday life. Both blacks and whites frequently played the banjo along with the fiddle and later the guitar for rural dances and frolics.

In North Carolina, it seemed that practically everyone played string music. Thus it is not surprising that many bands consisted of brother duets. Local musicians like Wiley and Zeke Morris, Wade and J.E. Mainer, Jack and Curly Shelton, Homer and Walter Callahan and Bill

and Earl Bolick are but few of the best-known brother acts from western North Carolina. These men established a strong tradition of instrumental virtuosity mixed with closely blended harmony singing.

In the mid 1930s, two brothers from Kentucky came to North Carolina to actively participate in the vibrant musical scene here. Calling themselves The Monroe Brothers, Bill and Charlie Monroe maintained a hectic schedule of performing nearly every night in venues that ranged from the proverbial one-room school houses to county fairs.

They were so busy performing and burning up the rubber on their Hudson Terraplane to get to their show-dates that they dismissed the idea of recording records because they didn't have time for it. They didn't realize the impact that being on a major record label could have on their performing career. At last, RCA Victor's Eli Oberstein convinced them to record, which they did in a make-shift studio in 1936 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

In a crowded warehouse rented by RCA records, the Monroe Brothers waxed ten sides, which included "Long Journey Home." On these first recordings, they established the style that would mark their entire recorded

continued on next page



North Carolina has long been fertile ground for bluegrass music. In fact, no other region or state has contributed so much to its development.

For many people, the appeal of bluegrass music is that it is a relatively new form of music that sounds old. Most scholars agree that bluegrass first gained national attention when Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys appeared on the Grand Ole Opry in 1945. In addition to Bill Monroe himself, this legendary band consisted of Lester Flatt (guitar), Earl Scruggs (banjo), Chubby Wise (fiddle) and Cedric Rainwater (bass). The reason that bluegrass music sounds old is that it is a synthesis of many older styles of music.

The earliest settlers in western North Carolina were the Scots-Irish who arrived in the late 18th century. These early pioneers brought with them a wealth of both vocal and instrumental music traditions. Most of their ballads originated in the British Isles. They were carefully preserved by a culture that was bent on keeping in tact the cultural traditions of their ancestors.

They preserved these ancient ballads so well, in fact, that during the years 1916-1918 English folksong collector Cecil Sharp came to western North Carolina for the sole purpose of collecting English ballads in their purest form, because in England these ballads had long been forgotten.

Ballad singing in western North Carolina had a strong impact on what later became known as bluegrass music. The subject matter of most of the ballads was either murder or death. This lent a somber tone to the music. Today, this is referred to as Bluegrass music's "high lonesome sound."

The manner in which the old ballads were sung also affected the singing styles of later bluegrass singers. The women who sang the old Scots-Irish and English ballads normally sang with a tight voice that produced a high, shrill tone. Bill Monroe, who later became known as "The Father of Bluegrass Music," is a perfect example of someone who sang with the tight vocal style of his Scots-Irish ancestors. In his case, he was able to emulate the vocal styles of female ballad singers because he naturally had a high vocal range similar to many female singers.

While the women's musical role in early pioneer life in western North Carolina was in singing the old ballads and songs, the men favored playing instruments. In particular, the fiddle was among the few treasured possessions that Scots-Irish immigrants brought with them when they first came to America. Even more important than the instrument itself, these fiddlers brought a deep well of ancient melodies from Scotland and Ireland.

Fiddlers often provided the only music for the many all-night

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Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys

efforts on Victor's Blue Bird records: tight vocal harmonies often played at lightening speeds with spell-binding instrumental virtuosity.

The professional musical partnership of the Monroe Brothers was not to last. The brothers' notorious fiery tempers doomed them to go their separate ways in 1938. Both went on to form their own bands. Charlie moved to the Winston-Salem area and formed The Kentucky Partners. Bill Monroe first formed a band in Arkansas and then moved to Atlanta, Georgia. There he placed an ad in the local newspaper, looking for someone to sing old folk songs. Answering the ad was a young Cleo Davis, who played guitar and sang. Monroe hired Davis on the spot and spent several months teaching him his brother Charlie's guitar runs and vocal stylings. By the time Monroe had finished training Davis, their sound was practically identical to that of the Monroe Brothers.

After unsuccessfully auditioning at several radio stations, Bill Monroe and Cleo Davis landed a radio program on Asheville's WWNC radio. While Monroe and his wife lived out of a small travel

trailer, Davis stayed nearby at a boarding house. Not satisfied with their current sound, Monroe began searching for other musicians to give his band a fuller sound. He eventually hired Art Wooten from Piney Creek, North Carolina to play fiddle, Amos Garren to play bass and Tommy "Snowball" Millard to do black-faced comedy and play jug.

Monroe tirelessly rehearsed the band in a converted gas station until Monroe thought them ready. In 1939, with the departure of Millard, the band successfully auditioned for the Grand Ole Opry. The rest, as they say, is "history." Monroe's band was now known as "the Bluegrass Boys."

Members came and went, but the sound had evolved to become what we now call Bluegrass Music. [SCM](#)

Ready to see some bluegrass?

Saturday, Sept 19 - Sunday Sept 20
The Southern Coastal Bluegrass Festival
 Presented by the Thalian Association. A relaxing weekend full of toe-tapping and six-string instruments in the most beautiful setting on Pleasure Island. Great for families! Tickets can be purchased at the festival, the Community Arts Center in Wilmington, Snow's Cut Media and the PI Chamber of Commerce. Advance tix \$10 per day. 11-8 Sat, 11-7. Fort Fisher Military Recreation Area Kure Beach. (see ad on page 25)

Call 251-1788 for more info or visit www.coastalbluegrassfestival.org

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Friends.
Captured by Zach Arnold, 11 of Carolina Beach.

Have you taken a fun, interesting or beautiful photo of the area? Submit it to *Snow's Cut Monthly* for consideration in future issues. Email it to editor@snowscut.com.



Tide Table September 2009

September

Day	Tide/Time/Ht.	Tide/Time/Ht.	Tide/Time/Ht.	Tide/Time/Ht.	Moon rise	Moon set	Phase
Tue 01	L 12:16 AM 0.89 ft	H 06:10 AM 3.70 ft	L 11:59 AM 0.58 ft	H 06:39 PM 4.79 ft	6:00 PM	3:50 AM	
Wed 02	L 12:53 AM 0.73 ft	H 06:51 AM 3.95 ft	L 12:42 PM 0.46 ft	H 07:16 PM 4.87 ft	6:29 PM	4:47 AM	
Thu 03	L 01:26 AM 0.58 ft	H 07:29 AM 4.21 ft	L 01:22 PM 0.37 ft	H 07:50 PM 4.91 ft	6:57 PM	5:45 AM	
Fri 04	L 01:57 AM 0.45 ft	H 08:05 AM 4.45 ft	L 02:01 PM 0.31 ft	H 08:24 PM 4.88 ft	7:23 PM	6:42 AM	Full
Sat 05	L 02:28 AM 0.35 ft	H 08:41 AM 4.67 ft	L 02:40 PM 0.30 ft	H 08:57 PM 4.78 ft	7:49 PM	7:39 AM	
Sun 06	L 02:58 AM 0.30 ft	H 09:17 AM 4.85 ft	L 03:19 PM 0.34 ft	H 09:31 PM 4.63 ft	8:17 PM	8:38 AM	
Mon 07	L 03:29 AM 0.28 ft	H 09:54 AM 4.98 ft	L 04:00 PM 0.41 ft	H 10:07 PM 4.44 ft	8:47 PM	9:38 AM	
Tue 08	L 04:03 AM 0.29 ft	H 10:34 AM 5.08 ft	L 04:44 PM 0.53 ft	H 10:46 PM 4.22 ft	9:21 PM	10:41 AM	
Wed 09	L 04:41 AM 0.32 ft	H 11:18 AM 5.12 ft	L 05:33 PM 0.67 ft	H 11:30 PM 3.99 ft	10:02 PM	11:46 AM	
Thu 10	-----	L 05:24 AM 0.37 ft	H 12:09 PM 5.12 ft	L 06:29 PM 0.82 ft	10:49 PM	12:51 PM	
Fri 11	H 12:21 AM 3.79 ft	L 06:16 AM 0.42 ft	H 01:08 PM 5.11 ft	L 07:33 PM 0.92 ft	11:46 PM	1:56 PM	Last
Sat 12	H 01:21 AM 3.67 ft	L 07:17 AM 0.45 ft	H 02:14 PM 5.13 ft	L 08:43 PM 0.92 ft	-----	2:56 PM	
Sun 13	H 02:31 AM 3.68 ft	L 08:26 AM 0.42 ft	H 03:24 PM 5.22 ft	L 09:51 PM 0.79 ft	12:50 AM	3:50 PM	
Mon 14	H 03:44 AM 3.88 ft	L 09:39 AM 0.30 ft	H 04:31 PM 5.37 ft	L 10:53 PM 0.57 ft	2:00 AM	4:36 PM	
Tue 15	H 04:52 AM 4.24 ft	L 10:48 AM 0.11 ft	H 05:31 PM 5.52 ft	L 11:47 PM 0.30 ft	3:12 AM	5:17 PM	
Wed 16	H 05:52 AM 4.68 ft	L 11:52 AM -0.10 ft	H 06:26 PM 5.61 ft	-----	4:24 AM	5:52 PM	
Thu 17	L 12:35 AM 0.05 ft	H 06:47 AM 5.13 ft	L 12:50 PM -0.25 ft	H 07:16 PM 5.60 ft	5:35 AM	6:25 PM	
Fri 18	L 01:21 AM -0.14 ft	H 07:39 AM 5.51 ft	L 01:44 PM -0.31 ft	H 08:04 PM 5.48 ft	6:44 AM	6:57 PM	New
Sat 19	L 02:05 AM -0.23 ft	H 08:27 AM 5.76 ft	L 02:36 PM -0.26 ft	H 08:50 PM 5.25 ft	7:52 AM	7:28 PM	
Sun 20	L 02:47 AM -0.21 ft	H 09:15 AM 5.84 ft	L 03:26 PM -0.11 ft	H 09:36 PM 4.93 ft	8:58 AM	8:02 PM	
Mon 21	L 03:30 AM -0.08 ft	H 10:02 AM 5.77 ft	L 04:17 PM 0.14 ft	H 10:21 PM 4.57 ft	10:05 AM	8:38 PM	
Tue 22	L 04:12 AM 0.13 ft	H 10:49 AM 5.56 ft	L 05:08 PM 0.43 ft	H 11:07 PM 4.20 ft	11:09 AM	9:18 PM	
Wed 23	L 04:56 AM 0.40 ft	H 11:38 AM 5.27 ft	L 06:01 PM 0.74 ft	H 11:56 PM 3.86 ft	12:11 PM	10:03 PM	
Thu 24	-----	L 05:43 AM 0.67 ft	H 12:31 PM 4.96 ft	L 06:58 PM 1.02 ft	1:08 PM	10:53 PM	
Fri 25	H 12:50 AM 3.59 ft	L 06:36 AM 0.91 ft	H 01:30 PM 4.69 ft	L 08:01 PM 1.22 ft	2:00 PM	11:47 PM	
Sat 26	H 01:50 AM 3.43 ft	L 07:36 AM 1.08 ft	H 02:33 PM 4.51 ft	L 09:05 PM 1.30 ft	2:45 PM	-----	First
Sun 27	H 02:56 AM 3.42 ft	L 08:42 AM 1.14 ft	H 03:35 PM 4.45 ft	L 10:02 PM 1.27 ft	3:25 PM	12:43 AM	
Mon 28	H 03:58 AM 3.54 ft	L 09:46 AM 1.09 ft	H 04:31 PM 4.48 ft	L 10:50 PM 1.16 ft	3:59 PM	1:40 AM	
Tue 29	H 04:51 AM 3.77 ft	L 10:43 AM 0.97 ft	H 05:18 PM 4.56 ft	L 11:31 PM 1.00 ft	4:30 PM	2:38 AM	
Wed 30	H 05:37 AM 4.07 ft	L 11:32 AM 0.81 ft	H 06:00 PM 4.64 ft	-----	4:58 PM	3:35 AM	

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