Mardi Gras on Middle Lane FEB. 25
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Grab some beads, put on a mask or a festive costume and head to downtown Beaufort for a celebration.

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Monsters intrude on a culture clash in 'Great Wall', but only gains one and a half stars.

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Family
A first of its kind statewide eBook consortium specifically for children has launched in the Tar Heel State.

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Include the event time, date, location including address, admission price and contact information.


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Mardi Gras to come to Middle Lane

Grab some beads, put on a mask or a festive costume and head to downtown Beaufort for a celebration. The Downtown Beaufort Development Association, in conjunction with Middle Lane businesses, are gearing up for Mardi Gras on Middle Lane, which is from 2-6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25.

During this free street carnival, there will be New Orleans sounds and succulent Creole cuisine on Middle Lane in Beaufort.

New Orleans jazz by Blue Moon Jazz will welcome partygoers beginning at 2 p.m. on an outdoor stage, and at 3 p.m. a costumed krewe parade starts on Middle Lane. There will be a competition for prizes for various parade entries.

Then, be sure to witness the crowning of the Mardi Gras King and Queen.

There is something fun for all ages. Children can visit the face painting and mask making booths, while adults can challenge their companions to a round of boules or cornhole in the gaming area.

As the festivities continue, Out of Nowhere will be playing a signature blend of blues and dance music throughout the afternoon.

Festivalgoers can quench their thirst from all the dancing and gaming with a frosty New Orleans-inspired beverage like Bourbon Street Punch made by Cru Wine Bar.

Special Louisiana beers will be featured at Backstreet Pub and Aqua will be offering Hurricanes just for the occasion. Cajun cuisine will be offered up by Aqua, Beaufort Grocery Co., Clawson's 1905 Restaurant and Cru Wine Bar at their food booths up and down Middle Lane.

Attendees can purchase Mardi Gras standards like gumbo, smoked sausages, barbecue shrimp, po' boys, muffuletta, jambalaya and king cakes.

Backstreet Pub will also be hosting an Oyster Roast during the event. Festivalgoers can even top off the afternoon with beignets and cafe au lait at the Downtown Beaufort Development Association booth.

Costumes are strongly encouraged for all. For more information about this event, email lizkopf@gmail.com or call 252-728-7108.

Mardi Gras Facts

Mardi Gras is a Christian holiday that dates back thousands of years to pagan spring and fertility rights.

Though Carteret County celebrates with Gloucester Mardi Gras and Mardi Gras on Middle Lane in Beaufort, Brazil Venice and New Orleans are home to some of the holiday’s most famous public festivals, which draw thousands of tourists to each location every year.

According to www.history.com, when Christianity arrived in Rome, religious leaders wanted to incorporate popular local traditions of Mardi Gras into the new faith.

As a result, the Mardi Gras season became a prelude to Lent, which is the 40 days of penance between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

Along with Christianity, Mardi Gras spread from Rome to other parts of Europe, including France, Germany, Spain and England.

In the days leading up to Lent, people would binge on the meat, eggs, milk and cheese that remained in their homes before weeks of fasting and eating fish. In France, the day before Ash Wednesday would become known as Fat Tuesday.

As time moved on, Mardi Gras became a popular tradition in the United States.

Many historians believe that the first U.S. Mardi Gras celebration was held on March 3, 1699, when French explorers Iberville and Bienville landed in what is now Louisiana, just south of New Orleans.

In the decades that followed, New Orleans and other French settlements began celebrating the holiday with street parties, masked balls and fancy dinners.

In 1827, a group of students dressed in colorful costumes and danced through the streets in New Orleans, copying the events they observed while visiting Paris. Ten years later, the first recorded Mardi Gras parade was held in New Orleans, a tradition that still continues today.

In 1857, a secret society of New Orleans businessmen called the Mistick Krewe of Comus organized a torch-lit Mardi Gras procession with marching bands and rolling floats. Since then, costumed parades, or krewes, have been a fixture in Mardi Gras celebrations.

Other lasting traditions include throwing beads and other trinkets, wearing masks, decorating floats and eating King Cake, which is filled with cinnamon, pecans, sugar and sometimes a plastic baby.

Mardi Gras became a popular tradition in the United States.

“Tell the world what you have seen,” a character exclaims in “The Great Wall,” “and what is coming!”

The warning is about the mythical mass of marauding monsters that are sweeping down northern China but it could just as easily be for the kind of Hollywood-China collaboration that is “The Great Wall.”

The first English language feature shot entirely in China, it’s the biggest-budget attempt yet to straddle both sides of the Pacific, plucking a movie star (Matt Damon) from the West for a production in the East.

In a movie industry where the two biggest markets are North America and China, it’s Hollywood’s version of having your cake and eating it, too. But if “The Great Wall” is a forerunner to the cross-cultural blockbustering to come, we may have just as much reason to flee as those being hounded in the film by the Taotie.

Those are the four-legged, man-eating creatures of ancient Chinese folklore that are here attacking the Great Wall and the armies that defend it, as the Taotie are said to do every 60 years. They’re the Halley’s Comet of demons.

With acclaimed Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou directing and Damon starring, “The Great Wall” would seem to at least promise to be an intriguing artifact, a movie that would, even in failure, illustrate something interesting about the culture clash it’s predicated on.

But it turns out to be little more than a monster movie (and a poor one at that) that says more about corporate-driven global moviemaking than anything about either culture.

It, after all, originated as a thinly sketched conceit of Thomas Tull, the former chief executive of the now Chinese-owned Legendary Entertainment. Six writers are credited for the script and story, which centers on a medieval Irish mercenary, William Garin (Mr. Damon), who has come to the Gobi Desert in search of “black powder,” that is, early explosives.

Though many feared Mr. Damon’s character was another example of Hollywood’s fondness for “white saviors,” he is less a heroic protagonist than an audience stand-in for a lavish pageant celebrating Chinese values and valor.

Mr. Garin and his Spanish partner, Tovar (Pedro Pascal of “Game of Thrones”), are captured by a group of elite warriors dubbed the Nameless Order whose fortress lies along the Great Wall.

They are prisoners initially, but they prove their worth in battle during the first Taotie attack and are subsequently, and somewhat reluctantly, drafted into the epic fight.

The teaming army along the exaggerated, heightened wall is a vibrant swirl of color and choreography. Mr. Yimou has long known how to dazzle with movement and historical sweep, notably in films like “House of Flying Daggers” and “Hero.” He was also the director of the 2008 Beijing Olympics opening ceremony, so there’s a sense that his earlier, feistier art-house days (“To Live,” “Raise the Red Lantern”) have given way to a cozier relationship with the Chinese government — and that the films have suffered for it. The whiff of propaganda surrounding “The Great Wall” only adds to the trend.

Mr. Yimou’s images are almost entirely computer generated in “The Great Wall.” For all the attention to its China-set production, the film feels like it takes place nowhere but in a rather dim digital realm that often appears like a knockout of Peter Jackson’s Middle Earth, complete with orc-like beasts.

Few characters emerge out of the blur. General Shao (Zhang Hanyu) presides over the Nameless Order, but it’s Jian Tian’s Lin Mae who most resonates. She’s part of an acrobatic group of warriors who bungee jump off the wall to spear the Taotie. Mr. Garin watches her in awe, and quite rightly realizes he’s out of his depth.

But the film altogether isn’t well stitched together. Characters appear largely as cardboard cut-outs. The pacing is frantic. There’s surprisingly little sense to the entire ordeal as Lin Mae and Mr. Garin fight to stave off the monster hordes.

“The Great Wall,” in the end, bridges worlds only by that sad commonality we all share: the disappointment of a bloated, half-baked blockbuster.

“The Great Wall,” a Universal Pictures release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for “for sequences of fantasy action violence.” Running time: 104 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.
It’s true that classics never go out of style, but they can also evolve to keep current while still maintaining their original appeal.

For example, take the iconic tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwich duo. Today’s tomato soup might be seasoned with herbs and garlic, and the grilled cheese might swap goat cheese and mozzarella for the traditional American or cheddar. Meatloaf could be prepared with Sriracha replacing Worcestershire sauce or other seasonings.

Another updated idea is for stuffed peppers. It’s easy to give them a Tex-Mex spin simply by using a can of READ Southwestern Bean Salad as the base for the filling. The salad already has black and kidney beans, hominy and corn in it, as well as a slightly spicy dressing. Build on that flavorful combination by adding browned ground beef or turkey, cheese and tortilla chips. Poblano peppers could be substituted for bell peppers for an even more authentic south-of-the-border flair.

While this meal in a pepper bakes, make a salad of spinach or other greens topped with avocado slices and orange segments. Dinner is done and on the table in under an hour. For more easy, flavorful dinner ideas, visit READsalads.com.

**SOUTHWESTERN BEAN SALAD STUFFED PEPPERS**

- Prep time: 20 minutes
- Cook time: 25 minutes
- Servings: 6

1 can (15 ounces) READ Southwestern Bean Salad
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 small jalapeno pepper, minced (optional)
½ pound ground lean beef (90 percent lean)
½ cup chopped onion
3 large bell peppers, any color or combination
nonstick cooking spray
1 cup crushed tortilla chips, plus ¼ cup (optional), divided
1 cup shredded Mexican cheese blend, divided

Drain bean salad; discard liquid. With fork, mash half of beans until chunky. Combine with remaining beans. Stir in cumin and jalapeno, if desired; set aside.

In medium skillet over medium-high heat, cook ground beef and onion 8-10 minutes until ground beef is completely cooked, stirring frequently.

Cut bell peppers in half, lengthwise. Remove membranes and seeds. Line baking pan with aluminum foil. Spray with nonstick cooking spray (or brush lightly with vegetable oil).

Heat oven to 350 F.

Combine ground beef and onion mixture with bean mixture. Stir in 1 cup tortilla chips and ½ cup cheese. Divide evenly among peppers.

Arrange peppers cut-side up in prepared pan; peppers should fit snugly. Top with remaining crushed tortilla chips, if desired.

Bake, covered, 25 minutes, or until peppers are tender and filling is heated through. Sprinkle with remaining cheese and bake, uncovered, until cheese melts.

Variation: Ground chicken or turkey breast may be substituted for ground beef. Add 2 teaspoons vegetable oil to skillet and heat until hot before adding ground chicken or turkey and onion to skillet.
The Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center’s annual winter feast brings to the table generations of Down East culture, talent and cooking expertise with a menu that brings together the rich hunting and fishing traditions of Core Sound.

This year’s winter event, which is Friday, Feb. 24, will honor the founders of the Core Sound Decoy Carvers Guild and the men and women who laid the foundation for what is now the Core Sound Decoy Festival and the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center.

“The 25-year mark for the Core Sound Decoy Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center is more than a timeline of events, dollars and buildings, numbers of people and miles traveled,” said Karen Amspacher, executive director of the Core Sound Museum. “This anniversary is the recognition of a ‘revival’ of heritage, traditions and community that have resulted in the wonderful facility we have ‘at the end of the road’ on Harkers Island.”

With a menu of old time Down East cooking – stewed oysters, scallop fritters, stewed duck and rutabaga, seafood casserole, stewed beef with potatoes and carrots, collards, sweet potatoes, light rolls and fig cake – the table is set for an evening of Core Sound history lived and loved.

Core Sound’s waterfowl heritage is always the theme for this February event, and this year will keep that story alive with a focus on the Carvers Guild history and how that organization and the Core Sound Decoy Festival set the course for the past 25 years and the future.

According to the guild’s archives, the first meeting was held in August 1987. During the meeting, a group of carvers discussed the possibility of creating a decoy carvers’ guild on Harkers Island.

Wayne Davis was selected as president, David A. Lawrence as secretary and Gregory Lupton as treasurer.

“And from that first meeting that we had – it was really a beginning of everything else that’s happened – the guild, the festival, the museum, everything sprang out from that meeting,” Mr. Davis said.

Today, Core Sound decoy carving is at the forefront of Down East’s economy, mixing the old traditions with new collectors, carving competitions and events that provides a year-round cottage industry for the region.

The evening’s program will feature the last three members of the “Original Seven” founding board members of the Carvers Guild, Mr. Davis, Carl Huff and James Salter, with each of them sharing their memories of those first years when a decoy festival and museum on Harkers Island was just a dream.

During the Taste of Core Sound, eventgoers have an opportunity to catch a glimpse of the 25th anniversary exhibition “Core Sound: Building a Place for the People” will be discussed.

This exhibition documents 25 years of programs, events and community work that has created not just a facility on Harkers Island but also an institution that has carried Core Sound’s story across the state and beyond, including the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C.

“This exhibition is just a glimpse of all the people and places that have been part of this museum’s history, but it will capture the spirit of community that has guided all that we have accomplished and all that we envision for the future,” said Pam Morris, curator of the exhibition.

The exhibition is expected to be fully completed by Easter. The night will conclude with a silent auction of decoys from members of the Decoy Carvers Guild donated in honor of the anniversary that are signed, dated and branded as part of the celebration.

These will be true collectors’ items for those who recognize the talent and traditions Core Sound decoy carvings represent.

Those who have shared carvings for the auction are Corey Lawrence, Brother Gaskill, Ken Humphries, Monty Willis, Lionel Gilgo, Jerry Talton, Jack Gardner, Joe Burney, Robbie Roberson, John Hodge and Casey Arthur.

Sponsors for the event are Neuse Sport Shop, Trader Construction and Eastern Aviation Fuel.

Tickets for this event are available by calling 252-728-1500 or emailing museum@coresound.com. Tickets are $100 per couple for members or $125 per couple for non-members and that will include an annual membership.
Organist Dorothy Papadakos dresses in full “Phantom of the Opera” attire. St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church will host a pancake dinner and showing of “The Phantom of the Opera” starting at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28. During the showing, organist Ms. Papadakos will perform dressed in full phantom attire.

Ms. Papadakos came to international attention as the first woman cathedral organist of the world’s largest Gothic cathedral, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, N.Y., from 1990 to 2003. She is celebrated for her daring and imaginative organ improvisations, as well as her scores for music theatre, film, television and ballet.

Her musical "Bacchus" smashed box office records in its acclaimed Equity showcase in North Carolina and is in development for a future production.

Ms. Papadakos is a member of the seven-time Grammy Award-winning Paul Winter Consort celebrated for its environmental activism through music.

Ms. Papadakos will be available after the movie to autograph her new book, The Kingdom of Winter.

This book is geared toward children ages 11 and up and anyone who loves nature. The Kingdom of Winter is available in paperback and Kindle on Amazon at www.amazon.com/dp/0692830839.

Tickets for the dinner and show are $15 in advance and $20 at the door the night of the event.

The price includes the dinner and the film. Costumes or Mardi Gras masks are welcome.

Tickets are available at the church office Tuesday-Thursday; First Citizen’s Bank in Atlantic Beach; at coffee hour at the church from 11 a.m. to noon Sundays; and by calling Libba Shelton at 252-723-1898.

St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church is at 920 Salter Path Rd. in Salter Path.

For more information, visit www.stfrancisbythesea.org, email stfrancisbts@gmail.com or call 252-240-2388.

Emerald Isle Garden Club to host annual fundraiser

The card party proceeds will support community service, beautification projects

Emerald Isle Garden Club’s annual Card Party Fundraiser will be held from 1-4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation Center.

During the party, participants will enjoy card games, as well as other board and table games of their choice.

Proceeds help to support the club’s ongoing community service and beautification projects such as October’s breast cancer awareness “Paint It Pink” flower pot display at the Emerald Isle Welcome sign.

Tickets for the event are $15, which includes entry into the event, a chance at a door prize, light party fare, desserts and beverages.

In addition, tickets will also be sold at the event for a 50/25/25 raffle, as well as a baskets raffle with winners chosen during the afternoon event.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact garden club members Theresa Connelly-Kavanagh, 252-764-0420; Ann Crane, 252-764-2439; or Carol Wilkins 703-244-9271.

The 22nd annual Carolina Coastal Railroaders show is chugging its way to New Bern.

The show is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 4, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 5, at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, 203 South Front St.

This show will have something for train lovers of all ages. There will be many types of train layouts, as well as running trains, including Thomas the Train and Friends in HO and G scale.

There will be hourly door prizes, food concessions and vendors selling all kinds of model railroad equipment.

Carolina Coastal Railroaders was founded in 1992 when a group of men came together at the Country Kitchen Restaurant in New Bern to discuss the future of model railroading in New Bern.

The CCR has a HO Scale Modular Railroad that is taken to public displays such as the MumFest in New Bern, the annual train show and the Kinston Arts Festival.

One of the club’s modules won third place at the 2005 Regional NMRA Convention in Raleigh. The modules are financed and owned by the club.

The Carolina Coastal Railroaders is a nonprofit educational organization with membership open to anyone interested in model railroading.

For more information on the show, visit www.carolinacoastalrailroaders.org.
SUDOKU

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SUMMER SCIENCE SCHOOL REGISTRATION OPENS 9 a.m. Monday-Friday until Thursday, June 1, at the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort. Summer Science School investigates the coastal environment and North Carolina’s rich maritime history. The N.C. Maritime Museum offers students the opportunity to learn about the natural and maritime history of coastal North Carolina through creative, hands-on experiences. Courses are offered from June through July. Emphasis on small class size. Students travel with instructors by van or boat to field sites. Only registered children may attend classes. Lodging facility not available; parents or guardians provide transportation to and from class daily. For more information, call 252-728-7317.

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CRUCIAL COASTAL CHORAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP Applications for choral society’s annual scholarship of $500 can be picked up from any public high school counselor in charge of scholarships in Carteret or Onslow counties. The scholarship is for a graduating high school senior planning to major in music and has been accepted into a four-year college, university or community college. The deadline for the scholarship is Friday, Feb. 24. For more information, call Jerry Albright, Crystal Coast Choral Society Scholarship Chairman, at 252-354-1962 or email him at gsvma@juno.com.

BEHIND THE SCENES: SHARK SNACK 2:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays at the N.C. Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. Visit food preparation areas, animal holding areas and labs, and get an overall view of the Living Shipwreck and watch staff aquarists feed the sharks. This program is for ages 5 and up, and costs $20. For more information, call 252-504-2337.

ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

Event placement on a specific date is not guaranteed, as events run as space is available. Find the full calendar online at carolinacoastonline.com by hovering over TWM and choosing the “Calendar” option, or on a mobile device, choose “Calendar” from the drop-down menu.

Kids and Family

MAGENTA

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NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Morehead City

FLOYD’S 1921: 4EverAll 7-10 p.m. Friday, April 7; 7-10 p.m. Friday, May 5; 7-10 p.m. Friday, June 2; 7-10 p.m. Friday, July 7; 7-10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4; 7-10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 1; and 7-10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6.

SHUCKIN SHACK OYSTER BAR: Live music from 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays featuring local musicians each week.

Bogue

LOGAN’S AT CAROLINA GARDEN CENTER: Morris Willis 6:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 2.

Atlantic Beach

AMOS MOSQUITO’S: Karaoke 5-9 p.m. Thursdays.

Beaufort

CRU WINE BAR: Have Horns will Travel 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24; Dick Knight at CRU Mardi Gras 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25; Beaufort Blues Project 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25; and Megan Jean and the Klay Family Band 8 p.m. Saturday, March 11.

BACKSTREET PUB: The Gang of Thieves 6 p.m. Thursday, March 2.

RIBEYES: Morris Willis 6 p.m. Tuesdays.

ROYAL JAMES CAFÉ: Charles Dozier 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25; Yali 9 p.m. Saturday, March 4; and Stephen Hines 9 p.m. Saturday, March 11.

HARRIKAN’S BREW HAUS: Tastings 6-9 p.m. each Thursday; Music and $3 Drafts 7-10 p.m. Fridays, includes open microphone, live karaoke and duets or solo acts with $3 draft beer; Biergarten 7-10 p.m. Saturdays featuring live entertainment for visitors to enjoy while sipping beer. Drink specials are also available.

ICEHOUSE WATERFRONT RESTAURANT: 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 9 p.m. Saturdays.

Drive the Week

Cedar Point

9 p.m. Saturday, March 11.

Swansboro

Boro Café: Live music at 7 p.m. every Friday.

Local heritage

RODNEY SPEAKS 11:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 24, at the History Museum of Carteret County in Morehead City. Rodney Kemp will present Bill Hand, a New Bern actor, author and stage director. He performs a one-man show as Mark Twain, which includes excerpts from Mr. Twain’s autobiography, essays and short stories. A buffet lunch will be catered by Longhorn. Buffet lunch is $16 for nonmembers or $13 for Historical Society members. The program only is $8.50 for nonmembers and $5.50 for members.

MARDI GRAS ON MIDDLE LANE 2-6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, on Middle Lane in Beaufort. There will be costumes, music, food and beverages, as well as a parade, which begins at 3 p.m. There will be live music by Blue Moon Jazz and Out of Nowhere. For more information, call 252-728-7108.

FORT TOURS 11 a.m. Monday-Friday in February, at Fort Macon State Park. For more information, call 252-726-3775.

FIRST THURSDAYS 10:30-11:30 a.m. the first Thursday of each month at the Newport Historical Museum. Event will feature stories and oral history from Newport residents.

GENTLE DE-STRESS YOGA 5:15-6:15 p.m. Tuesday at Carteret Community College. This six-week series costs $40. This class safely improves range of motion and allows healing as it relieves stress and reduces pain. Also helps with depression and PTSD. No prior yoga needed. For more information, contact Jade Morton at 252-646-3923 or visit www.YogaWellnessNC.com.

GENTLE BACK HEALTH YOGA 12:10-1 p.m. Thursday at Carteret Community College. This six-week series costs $40. This class safely improves bone density, builds strength, reduces pain and allows healing. Class also helps with depression, griefing and PTSD. No prior yoga needed. For more information, call Jade Morton at 252-646-3923 or visit www.YogaWellnessNC.com.

MUSKET-FIRING DEMONSTRATION 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 1. Fort Macon State Park. Learn about a Civil War-era musket’s history, loading procedures and firing. Participants will meet in the fort. For more information, call 252-726-3775. This program repeats every Wednesday in March.

PARENTING THE SECOND TIME AROUND 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 2, at the Leon Mann Jr. Enrichment Center in Morehead City. Admission is $4. This six-week course is free, and free childcare will be available.

AMERICA’S BOATING COURSE 6-9 p.m. Friday, March 3, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 4, in classroom 105 in the CMAST Building, 303 College Circle, Morehead City. This course is offered by the United States Power Squadrons and is taught by the Fort Macon Sail and Power Squadron’s certified instructors. It provides students with basic boating knowledge. The cost is $60 for the first and third family member, $30 for the second and fourth family member and $50 for Power Squadron members. A $25 deposit per person is required to hold a space. Preregistration is required and can be completed at www.fmmps.org. For more information, contact Ken Link at 252-726-0630 or seaclef@coastalnet.com.

SILVER SNEAKER MSROM CLASS 11 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays in at Snap Fitness in Otway, and 11 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays in at Snap Fitness in Newport. The classes are free for gym members and $5 for drop ins or nonmembers. This class is for everyone, and participants do not have to have Silver Sneaker Insurance. For more information, call the Otway gym at 252-838-1196 or the Newport gym at 252-777-4349.

Dick Knight will perform at Cru Wine Bar at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25.
Carteret Community College has announced the first lecture and lunch series in collaboration with UNC-Chapel Hill Program in the Humanities.

The lecture will take place from 10:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, in Joslins Hall auditorium on the college’s campus.

The lecture topic will focus on United Kingdom: Then and Now. Featured speakers will be Marcus Bull, Andrew W. Mellon distinguished professor and early modern studies, and Holger Moroff, German culture and the arts.

Carteret Community College and help UNC realize its mission of serving the entire state of North Carolina by bringing some of the university’s finest faculty to Morehead City for this fantastic and timely event,” said Rachel Schaevitz, UNC’s postdoctoral fellow for the public humanities.

The speaker presentations will include the following topics and end with a panel discussion:
- Morning Session: England and Europe in the Age of Elizabeth I.
- Afternoon Session: The United Kingdom and the European Union in the Age of Populism.

Guests will have the option to purchase a ticket for the lecture only or lecture and lunch.

Lunch will include a four-course classical cuisine at the Carteret Community College Culinary café.

Tickets are $40 each to include lunch or $25 each for lecture only.

To purchase tickets, visit www.cccfoundation.org and click on the “Events” tab or call Jennifer Gould at 252-222-6056.

Carteret Community College Foundation is a nonprofit organization with the mission to seek and secure funding to support Carteret Community College.

Through continuous efforts, Carteret Community College Foundation supports student scholarships and provides funds for innovative faculty and staff projects, professional development and equipment and capital purchases.

NC launches new eBook sharing service specifically for children

A screenshot of the new service can be seen as nckids. overdrive.com, where children can access more than 3,700 eBooks, audiobooks, videos and ReadAlongs. (Contributed photo)

Ms. Copley, together with Ms. Sackett, worked with Rep. Pat McElraft to secure funding for this project.

In July of last year, the 2016 Appropriations Act was signed into law for fiscal year 2016-17 that included a funding provision for $200,000 for the State Library to work with NCPLDA to create a statewide consortium for all public library cardholders.

A first of its kind statewide eBook consortium specifically for children has launched in the Tar Heel State.

The N.C. Public Library Directors Association, together with OverDrive and North Carolina, has created a new digital resource sharing service for children in pre-K through fourth grade: NC Kids Digital Library.

More than 3,700 eBooks, audiobooks, videos and ReadAlongs are now available to younger readers via 85 regional, county and municipal libraries in North Carolina through OverDrive’s digital reading platform. These materials are instantly available for every child, at home and everywhere.

“Reading fiction increases empathy, improves social behavior and interactions, increases awareness of how others think and see the world, improves overall mental ability, and enhances the ability to handle complex situations,” said Jennifer Sackett, vice president of NCPLDA and Library Director of Lincoln County Library. “Having these resources available through the public libraries which are open year-round and hours schools aren’t open mean we’re available to assist students when schools are not open.’

The NC Kids Digital Library was launched in January. Here’s how it works:
- A collection of 3,029 eBooks, 689 audiobooks and 37 streaming videos on a custom website, https://nckids.overdrive.com/ or through the OverDrive app.
- 300 titles are available with simultaneous access, available anytime with no wait lists.
- All titles can be accessed via the app on all major computers and devices, including iOS, Android, Chromebook and Kindle.
- Easy, secure access. All that’s needed to get started is a library card.

OverDrive’s collection development team chooses the books for the children’s collection and are reviewed and approved by a committee appointed by the NCPLDA executive board. Many eBooks list the Advantage TSA Open Standard readability formula level and text difficulty to help parents find the right book for their child’s reading level.

“This content will align with summer reading camps across the state, as well as the state’s third grade reading initiative, and will provide a significant boost to the many library-school partnerships already in existence,” said Ruth Ann Copley, director of libraries at Davidson County Public Library System.

NC Kids Digital Library is sponsored by NCPLDA and the N.C. General Assembly with assistance from the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.
Volunteer tax return filing season begins

As of Feb. 1, the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program offers assistance in several different locations where volunteers are ready to help area taxpayers by preparing and electronically filing their federal and North Carolina income tax returns.

Several areas in the county will remain open until their last respective day prior to the tax return filing deadline of Tuesday, April 18.

Several of the program’s volunteers have been providing this free service for many years to both members and non-members of AARP and, as part of the IRS Tax Counseling for the Elderly program, these volunteers are required to complete an annual IRS certification test to become qualified to provide various levels of aid.

Moreover, although the program’s mission mandates special attention to those taxpayers age 60 and older, volunteers will help any taxpayer with low to moderate income who cannot afford the services of a professional tax consultant and who have tax situations that are within the scope of the program.

Carteret County AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program volunteer assistance is available at the following locations, days and times.

For more information on these locations, contact Traci Torrie at 910-326-6239.

• Leon Mann Jr. Enrichment Center, 3820 Galantis Dr., Morehead City: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday.
• Matthew 25 Program of St. James United Methodist Church, 1007 Orange St., Newport: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday.
• Western Carteret Public Library, 230 Taylor Notion Rd., Cape Carteret: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday and Wednesday.

Taxpayers are reminded to bring the following items to any location and are asked to expect to remain at the site to participate in a three-part process so that their individual tax situation can be discussed in order to ensure that a complete and accurate return is prepared.

• Picture ID for taxpayer and spouse, if applicable.
• Social Security card for all individuals on the return, including children where applicable.

Reservations available for day bus trips

Carteret Community College is organizing one-day bus trips to see two different Broadway Shows at the Durham Performing Arts Center, and reservations are now accepted.

The trips are set for Saturday, May 6, with “Mamma Mia,” and Sunday, June 11, with “The King and I.”

The registration fee for May’s trip is $175 and the trip in June costs $200.

Registration fees will include a matinee performance with orchestra seating, lunch at The Pit in Durham, transportation and snacks and beverages on the bus.

The bus will depart and return to the college’s campus in Morehead City.

“Mamma Mia” is the ultimate feel-good show that has audiences coming back again and again to relive the thrill. The musical combines ABBA’s greatest hits with a tale of love, laughter and friendship.

The show, “The King and I,” is Lincoln Center Theater’s critically acclaimed production of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “The King and I” directed by Tony Award winner Bartlett Sher. It won four 2015 Tony Awards including Best Revival of a Musical.

Virginia author to talk to organizations

Marietta McCarty, a prolific author, is a member of Carteret Writers to purchase a lunch nor be a member of Carteret Writers to attend her talk.

Later that same day, she will present at St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church in Salter Path.

A Lenten soup supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. followed by Ms. McCarty’s interactive presentation at 6:30 p.m. entitled, “The Arts of Clear Thinking and Rethinking.”

Then on Thursday, March 9, Ms. McCarty will speak at the Bogue Banks Public Library in Pine Knoll Shores.

The program entitled, “A Conversation about the Art of Conversation” will begin at 3 p.m. with informal conversation.

The formal talk begins at 3:30 p.m. with a reception following the talk.

All three events are free and open to the public.

Ms. McCarty, graduated from Hollins University and earned her master’s degree in philosophy from the University of Virginia.

She taught for 28 years at Piedmont Virginia Community College.

In 2014, Ms. McCarty was voted as its Newspaper by the organization Virginia Professional Communicators.

Ms. McCarty’s first book best-seller, Little Big Minds: Sharing Philosophy with Kids, was showcased in a 2007 interview with the author on the Diane Rehm Radio Show.

In another of Ms. McCarty’s books, the Nautilus Award-winning How Philosophy Can Save Your Life: 10 Ideas That Matter Most, she discusses the ideas of simplicity, communication, perspective, flexibility, empathy, individuality, belonging, serenity, possibility and joy.

The Philosopher’s Table: How to Start Your Philosophy Dinner Club — Monthly Conversation, Music, and Recipes offers an around the world tour, featuring various cultures as readers and their guests gather at the table accompanied by applicable food dishes, entertainment, thoughts from differing perspectives and lively conversation.

In early 2016, Ms. McCarty traveled to Cincinnati to be the keynote speaker for the Xavier University Counseling Department’s 40th annual Winter Conference.

In January, Ms. McCarty spoke to a Creative Writing class at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women in Fluvanna County, Va. In February she combined the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains with the sweetness of the grape, speaking at a wine-tasting at DuCard Vineyards in Etalan, Va.

Her books will be available for purchase at each of the events and Ms. McCarty will be available for book signing. For more information, visit her website at mariettamccarty.com.

Marc Black to perform at

Carteret Community College in Joslyn Hall
March 4, 2017

Join NY Blues Hall of Fame inductee, Marc Black, for a musical tour through popular songs of the 1950s and 1960s.

General Admission - $20
Doors open at 6:30pm; concert at 7pm
Buy tickets: www.cccfoundation.org/events or call (252) 222-6056

All proceeds support Carteret Community College students and programs.

You’ll sing along with wonderful songs as diverse as Itsy Bitsy, Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka-Dot Bikini and Blowin’ in the Wind, as well as tunes by artists ranging from Dean Martin to George Harrison. Marc will also be performing his own group’s top forty hit from 1957... ‘Happy’ by the ‘Blades of Grass’.
Art gallery goes mad; Entries now accepted

ABC to teach basic boating knowledge

The U.S. Power Squadrons will offer a class on basic boating education.

America’s Boating Course, taught by the Fort Macon Sail and Power Squadron’s certified instructors, is from 6-9 p.m. Friday, March 3, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 4, in classroom 105 in the CMAST building in Morehead City.

It provides students with basic boating knowledge to decide what type and size boat they need, what to do when meeting another boat in a crowded waterway and how to recognize and handle hazards.

Successful completion meets the boating education requirements for operator permits of licensure in North Carolina.

The cost is $60 for the first and third family member and $30 for the second and fourth family member. The cost for Power Squadron members is $30.

There is a $25 deposit per person required to hold a space for the class. The deposit can be made at fmsps.org with PayPal. Preregistration is required. Go to www.fmsps.org and select “Boater Education.” Click on the far right “Cost” column for the ABC course listing and follow the directions.

For more information and to reserve a space, contact Ken Link at 252-726-0630 or seaclef@coastalnet.com.

Historical society prepares for ABC sale

For the past 27 years, the New Bern Historical Society has held its Attic, Basement Closet indoor yard sale.

The ABC Sale is from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 4, at the Knights of Columbus Building, 1125 Pinetree Dr., New Bern. Admission is free.

Members of the historical society are deep in preparations and collecting, and that brings opportunities for home downsizing.

The historical society will continue to collect items up until the sale. Those interested in donating items can bring their collection to the New Bern Historical Society at 511 Broad St.

For those that plan on donating furniture or large items, call the office at 252-638-8558, and they will arrange a pick-up.

Any donations will support the ongoing efforts of the New Bern Historical Society, which includes maintenance and tours of New Bern Battlefield Park and the historic Attmore Oliver House.

The society is a nonprofit organization, so donations are tax deductible.

For more information, call 252-638-8558 or go www.NewBernHistorical.org or www.facebook.com/NewBernHistorical.

The Mad Hatter’s Tea Party is the theme for an upcoming show at Carolina Artist Gallery. Entries are now being accepted for the opening reception on Saturday, March 18. (Contributed art)

The show will present paintings in oils, acrylics, pastels, watercolor and mixed media, photography, jewelry, clay, fiber, glass and metals.

This year, the gallery observes its 20th anniversary of welcoming visitors from all over the country who find that stopping by is a must-do to see and support authentic, local art.

In addition to Carolina Artist Gallery, the nonprofit organization does community outreach to encourage the awareness of art in everyday life.

It operates a hands-on clay arts program for special needs adults and other classes at Mulberry Street Studio in Beaufort. Carolina Artist Gallery is at 800 Evans St., Morehead City.

For more information, call 252-726-7550, or visit www.carolinaartistgallery.com. The gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

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