



Sports – 1C



She migrated in the wrong direction – to Rhode Island Errant pelican catches a flight to rehab

By Lee Hinnant
Staff Writer

Volunteer pilots for a South Carolina-based animal rescue organization brought an injured pelican to Oak Island Saturday for treatment at Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter. It was the first rescue for the flyers and an unusual case even

Photo by Lee Hinnant
Mary Ellen Rogers of Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter receives the injured pelican from Brian Manke and Jennifer Riley.

for Sea Biscuit, which typically cares for dozens of sea birds every year.

A fisherman in Rhode Island found the pelican suffering from frostbite on January 7 and helped the bird get to the Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island, said Mary Ellen Rogers, director of Sea Biscuit. Pelicans sometimes linger in North Carolina during the winter, but most adults head south.

"She migrated, but she migrated in the wrong direction," Rogers said. About a year old, the bird was dubbed "Bert," but Sea Biscuit workers determined it is a female.

The Rhode Island facility isn't equipped to properly handle pelicans, so staff was keeping Bert in a shower stall and a tent. One volunteer flew Bert to Ocean City, Maryland. Brian Manke and Jennifer Riley, volunteers for Pilots N Paws, took the pelican from there to Oak Island's Cape Fear Regional Jetport.

Manke said the journey was delayed in part because of the partial shutdown of the federal government. Virginia wildlife officials wanted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to sign off on the transfer, but FWS officials couldn't be reached

See Pelican, page 3A

One-woman show



The Southport Community Building was filled Friday evening for Carolyn Evans' one-woman show portraying famous abolitionist and Underground Railroad conductor Harriet Tubman. The special presentation by Evans, described as a "spirited performing storyteller," was the beginning of the three-day Brunswick County Black History Symposium that also included lectures and an Old Time Gospel Fest. More photos can be found on page 5B.

Photos by Morgan Harper

Southport: Florence cost \$2M Storm slams city's budget

By Renee Spencer
Staff Writer

Hurricane Florence will cost the City of Southport about \$2 million.

Finance director Melanie Trexler updated the board on the finances during its recent retreat, held at Southport Fire Headquarters.

"So far this year, 58 percent of our year is behind us," Trexler said. "So, we should have 42 percent in our budgets."

But she noted that hurricane-related expenditures left the departmental budgets "way out of whack."

So far, the city has spent \$1.4 million on hurricane recovery.

"That doesn't include payroll," Trexler said. "I estimate payroll to be about \$200,000."

An additional \$250,000 will need to be spent on projects around the city. Trexler said that about \$1 million would come out of the city's general fund. Initially, she subtracted \$800,000 from the general fund balance.

"That was really not enough," Trexler said. She added that she expects the fund balance to drop below 10 percent once all the invoices have been paid.

She noted that the city did successfully submit \$360,000 to FEMA for reimbursement for debris clean-up.

"Fingers crossed that we'll get that quickly," she said. "But there are no promises, no guarantees — and FEMA is only going to do 75 percent."

City manager Bruce Oakley said they hope to be reimbursed for 75 percent of its hurricane-related expenditures, but that is optimistic.

Trexler said that as far as cash flow goes, the city is fine right now. While there is \$8 million in the bank, much of that is for the city's enterprise funds, which can only be spent on a specific purpose, such as water, sewer or electric services and infrastructure.

Trexler said the city's department heads had done well by putting off capital purchases that are not immediate needs.

"I don't think that they're doing without anything that they

See Southport, page 8A

Aldermen meet

Thursday, February 14, at 6 p.m. at Community Building. Agenda on page 8A.

They had met years before in an exercise class Organ donation creates unique bond

By Morgan Harper
Pilot Editor

For 12 years, Pat Mousley had kidney disease.

Her whole family has had it: her mother developed kidney disease when she was 92; next it was her older sister; then her younger sister; and then her brother. Pat thinks it's related to blood pressure.

She was handling it as best she could, but about five years ago her kidney function began to plummet and Pat got on the kidney transplant list at three different hospitals.

There were two major factors working against her: her age (68 at the time), and her blood type (type B).

Five or six people came forward to donate, but all were disqualified. Pat recalls one had a history of cancer, one a history of heart problems and one woman even had too many urinary tract infections.

"I was beginning to lose hope," she said.

It was the summer of 2017, and Pat had been on the transplant list for three years when she got a phone call that would change everything.

"Do you remember me from exercise class?" asked Donna McGranaghan on the other end of the line.

Pat said she did.

"Do you have type B blood?"

Pat said yes.

"So do I," Donna told her. "Do you want my kidney?"

Pat was beside herself.

"I was so worn out, I couldn't believe it," she said.

Pat knew she needed a transplant, but what she ended up with was a kidney — and a friend.

Donor discovered

In June 2017, Donna was getting a pedicure when she ran into her friend Judy from exercise class, who asked her if she remembered Pat. She did: they had met years

See Donor, page 11A



Donna McGranaghan, left, with her kidney recipient, Pat Mousley. The two turned a transplant into a friendship. Photo by Morgan Harper



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