

New Bern Receives Grant To Develop Flood Resiliency Plan

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · APR 1, 2019

The \$10,000 grant, from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will help New Bern protect historic areas of the city as well as reduce flooding vulnerability during severe weather events and help improve long-term recovery. Hurricane Florence caused \$100 million in damages to commercial and residential structures in city limits.

Nearly 600,000 Pounds Of Debris Removed From Coastal Waters

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · APR 2, 2019

The North Carolina Coastal Federation and partnering agencies wrapped up a two-year project which removed almost 600,000 pounds of debris from Carteret County waters. The debris from a decades-old mariculture operation was causing navigational hazards and littering coastal habitats.

ENC Health Currents: Building Psychological Resiliency

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · APR 3, 2019

Eastern North Carolina is still recovering more than six months after Hurricane Florence. Today, on ENC Health Currents, we explore psychological resiliency; are you born with it or is it something a person can develop and grow? The answer is maybe a little bit of both as exemplified through an eager young theatre group in Morehead City.

More Than 2,100 Homes Repaired Under STEP Program

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · APR 4, 2019

Over the past four months, contractors and volunteer groups made emergency repairs to homes damaged by Hurricane Florence so that residents living in hotels and travel trailers could move back home.

Enrollment Down At ENC Community Colleges Following Florence

By [VALERIE CROWDER](#) · APR 4, 2019

Thousands of community college students in Eastern North Carolina have missed classes, reduced their course loads or have stopped attending altogether since Hurricane Florence damaged homes, businesses and college campuses across the region more than six months ago.

Hope4NC Linking ENC Residents To Recovery Resources

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · APR 9, 2019

Crisis counselors with Hope For NC are helping residents connect with recovery resources by going door-to-door, attending community events and reaching out at churches, schools and local businesses.

Strawberry Season Underway In ENC

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · APR 10, 2019

2019 could be a banner year for strawberry farmers in Eastern North Carolina. Most farmers had to delay planting their strawberries because of Hurricane Florence. Then, a cold and wet first quarter of 2019 threatened crops.

City of Greenville victim of apparent ransomware attack

By [GEORGE OLSEN](#) · APR 10, 2019

Officials with the city of Greenville believe the city's computer network has been infected with a ransomware virus. A press release from the city says they have shut down the majority of their servers, but plan to bring them back online gradually to determine the impact of the virus so they can determine options to remedy the situation.

Final Hurricane Florence road closure re-opens

By [GEORGE OLSEN](#) · APR 16, 2019

The last of road closures attributed to Hurricane Florence last September has re-opened. Zion Church Road, a two-lane stretch east of Mount Olive, re-opened to traffic last week following inspection of a new bridge on the road and adjustments to a new guardrail.

Coastal Resources Commission Passes Resolution Opposing Offshore Drilling

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · APR 19, 2019

The North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission passed a resolution this week opposing offshore drilling and gas exploration off the North Carolina coast.

Craven County Reverses Decision on Curbside Recycling Service

By PRE NEWSROOM · APR 23, 2019

Craven County has reversed its earlier decision to end curbside recycling pick-up. In a press release dated April 26, the county commissioners announced the curbside recycling program would continue with modifications.

ENC Ranks High For Clean Air Quality

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · APR 24, 2019

North Carolina's air quality earned improved rankings in the 20th annual "[State of the Air](#)" report from the American Lung Association. The annual report tracks American's exposure to ozone and particle pollution, which can cause serious health effects including lung cancer, asthma attacks, cardiovascular damage, and premature death.

Several Recreation Areas In ENC Remain Closed Since Hurricane Florence

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · APR 25, 2019

Hurricane Florence caused an estimated \$18 million in damages to roads, recreation areas, and trails in the Croatan National Forest.

ENC Health Currents: Could Alzheimer's Be Diagnosed With An Eye Exam?

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · MAY 1, 2019

A quick eye exam may one day help doctors diagnose Alzheimer's disease before symptoms appear. A study by Duke Health, published March 11 in the [journal Ophthalmology Retina](#), found that a loss of blood vessels in the retina may be an early indicator of cognitive decline.

Washington County Hospital Reopens

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · MAY 1, 2019

Washington County Hospital has reopened after closing suddenly and filing for bankruptcy nearly two and a half months ago.

NC State Researchers Predict Normal Hurricane Season

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · MAY 3, 2019

North Carolina State University researchers are predicting a normal hurricane season this year, with 13 to 16 named storms in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea. Five to seven of those named storms are expected to become hurricanes, with the possibility of two to three storms becoming major hurricanes.

State tourism numbers post new records

By [GEORGE OLSEN](#) · MAY 9, 2019

Visitor spending in North Carolina set a new record last year. A press release from the Governor's Office reports record visitor spending during 2018 of \$25.3 billion. That's a 5.6 percent increase from 2017's total.

Gov. Cooper Announces Broadband Expansion In Tier 1 Counties

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · MAY 9, 2019

Nearly \$10 million will go to improving broadband access in 19 North Carolina counties, most of which are in the eastern region. The Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) program will provide a total of \$9,855,026 to internet service providers and electric membership cooperatives that compete to make internet service expansion more affordable in Tier 1 counties.

Work Available For People Who Lost Jobs, Business Due To Florence

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · MAY 13, 2019

The Kinston based nonprofit Greene Lamp was recently awarded a \$1.7 million grant to help people directly affected by Hurricane Florence find work in Eastern North Carolina.

Bogue Banks Dune Restoration Projects Nearing Completion

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · MAY 16, 2019

Beach nourishment at Indian Beach/Salter Path and at the east end of Emerald Isle wrapped up before the sea turtle nesting season began May 1st. Now, a local contractor is planting 300,000 native grass plants to help stabilize the sand.

FEMA urges public to look at flood insurance now

By [GEORGE OLSEN](#) · MAY 21, 2019

With hurricane season underway June 1, the Federal Emergency Management Agency says now is the time to purchase flood insurance.

Hurricane Florence Prompts Changes In Jones County Disaster Response

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · MAY 22, 2019

Hurricane Florence dumped about 20 inches of rain in Jones County, causing water levels in the Trent River to rise. Floodwaters devastated communities across the county, inundating more than 200 homes and dozens of businesses.

More Than 180 Acres Near Croatan National Forest Preserved

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · MAY 23, 2019

The Coastal Land Trust acquired 182 acres of natural area in Craven County to preserve habitat and wildlife.

Passenger-only ferry at NC Outer Banks sailing & taking reservations

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · MAY 23, 2019

The new passenger-only ferry between Ocracoke and Hatteras is now accepting reservations. The Ocracoke Express service began Monday and has accommodated 1021 passengers in its first three days of operation

State Officials Investigating Fish Kill In Lower Neuse River

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · MAY 24, 2019

Numerous dead or dying menhaden have been washing ashore with severe lesions near Havelock in the areas of Flanner's Beach and Carolina Pines. N.C. Division of Water Resources staff and other scientists are analyzing the menhaden to pinpoint the cause of the fish kill.

Onslow County seeking voluntary limits on water usage

By [GEORGE OLSEN](#) · MAY 29, 2019

The Onslow Water and Sewer Authority is asking customers to conserve water where possible as dry conditions and abnormal heat reduce water stores. A press release from the Authority says every month this year has seen well below normal rainfall.

Drought Advisory Issued For ENC Counties

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · JUN 3, 2019

Despite some showers and thunderstorms over the weekend, 10 counties in southeastern North Carolina counties are in moderate drought due to a lack of rain and hot temperatures. Thirty-one counties, mostly in the eastern part of the state, are abnormally dry.

ENC Health Currents: Is NC Prepared For Measles Outbreak?

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · JUN 5, 2019

The Centers for Disease Control reports 1,022 cases of measles in the U.S. this year, the greatest number of cases since the disease was declared eliminated in 2000. No cases of measles have been identified in North Carolina, but are we prepared for an outbreak?

Large Scale Military Exercise Set For Tuesday

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · JUN 10, 2019

The largest Marine Corps air assault exercise on the East Coast in over a decade takes place Tuesday in Carteret and Onslow Counties. Residents near Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field Bogue, and Marine Corps Outlying Landing Field Camp Davis should expect an increase in military presence during the training.

ECU responds to Vidant Medical Board controversy

By [GEORGE OLSEN](#) · JUN 10, 2019

ECU's interim chancellor has weighed in on a fight between the state and Vidant Health over appointments to Vidant's board.

Burn Ban Lifted For 18 ENC Counties

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · JUN 10, 2019

The burn ban for Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Craven, Dare, Duplin, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Pitt, Tyrrell and Washington counties has been lifted.

Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium to open Bald Eagle habitat

By [GEORGE OLSEN](#) · JUN 12, 2019

Delayed by Hurricane Florence, a habitat for a pair of flightless bald eagles opens next month at the North Carolina Aquarium at Pink Knoll Shores. The habitat was scheduled to open Memorial Day, but a delay in getting materials and labor in because of the hurricane slowed the process down.

Maysville Holds Meeting On PFAS In Well Water

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · JUN 12, 2019

The Town of Maysville held a special session Thursday to discuss the high levels of PFAS that were found in the town's well water and how they plan to address the problem. Recent test results showed PFAS and PFOA contamination above lifetime Health Advisory Levels established by the National Environmental Protection Agency.

Juvenile Crime numbers declining

By [GEORGE OLSEN](#) · JUN 12, 2019

A press release from the Governor's Office says the juvenile crime rate is at its lowest since the state started tracking juvenile crime.

State Objects to Proposal to Conduct Seismic Survey Off NC Coast

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · JUN 13, 2019

The North Carolina Division of Coastal Management has objected to a proposal to conduct a seismic survey off the North Carolina coast, saying it is inconsistent with state's coastal management policies.

Final Checks on the way to fishermen affected by Hurricane Florence

By [GEORGE OLSEN](#) · JUN 14, 2019

The final round of hurricane assistance checks for fishermen is on its way. A final group of 1176 checks totaling \$450,000 was mailed Thursday (June 13) to eligible commercial fishermen and shellfish harvesters adversely effected by Hurricane Florence.

Scientists predict fewer stresses on Neuse Ecosystem

By [GEORGE OLSEN](#) · JUN 19, 2019

Scientists are forecasting a lower probability of fish kills on the Neuse River this summer. A model produced by scientists at North Carolina State and UNC-Chapel Hill is predicting higher levels of dissolved oxygen this summer in the Neuse River Estuary.

More People, More Sharks Leads To More Bites

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · JUN 19, 2019

So far this season, three people have been bitten by sharks at North Carolina beaches. Some speculate the recent shark interactions may be caused by climate change or an overpopulation by sharks off our coast, but the explanation could be much simpler.

New Bern's Largest Park Breaks Ground

By [ALICE JARNAGIN](#) · JUN 20, 2019

New Bern officials broke ground Thursday on phase I of Martin Marietta Park, which will include restrooms, trails, boat launches (for non-motorized boats), observation platforms, picnic shelters, a fishing pier, and a playground.

Korean War Vet to lie in honor at State Capitol

By [GEORGE OLSEN](#) · JUN 20, 2019

A Korean War veteran will lie in honor at the State Capitol Friday, June 21 after the return of his remains last year. U-S Army Private First Class William "Hoover" Jones was a native of Red Oak in Nash County.

Good News, Bad News on Women's Health report

By [GEORGE OLSEN](#) · JUN 26, 2019

A press release from the Governor's Office said the report found decreases in mortality rates for heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and breast cancer since the last report in 2013. But the report also highlighted areas in need of improvement. North Carolina has the 9th highest rate of stroke mortality among women.

Recently identified Korean War casualty to be interred in New Bern

By [GEORGE OLSEN](#) · JUN 26, 2019

A veteran of the Korean War will be laid to rest in New Bern after his remains were identified last year. Army Corporal Stephen P. Nemecek of Cleveland, Ohio was killed in action during heavy fighting on November 2, 1950 near Unsan, North Korea

Superior Court panel approves Greenville red light cameras

By [GEORGE OLSEN](#) · JUN 26, 2019

A three-judge Superior Court panel has upheld Greenville's Red Light Safety Camera Program as constitutional. The program was approved by the General Assembly in 2016.

Local Mayors Voice Support For Atlantic Coast Pipeline

By [JARED BRUMBAUGH](#) · JUN 28, 2019

Mayors from six counties and towns along the proposed path of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline have endorsed the project, urging federal regulators to resume construction as soon as possible.