

WITN-TV

Greenville, New Bern, Washington

QUARTERLY LISTING OF COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

Jan 1, 2024 -March 31, 2024

Community Action/Social Concerns

“Greenville Unplugged’ gaming convention returns with more fun”

Jan 7, 2024 - WITN News at 6 - 2.5 minutes

Traders, gamers, and families came out to the Greenville Convention Center to play competitive games, trade, buy, and have a good time with food trucks and music. Unplugged Games, an online card trading business, was the host of the event. CEO and co-founder Dillion Rogers said he wanted to create a space for collectors, players, and vendors in person, something COVID-19 slowed down. The money raised went to the Children’s Miracle Network.

“Homeless shelters opening their doors to all amid cold winter weather”

Jan 17, 2024 - WITN News at 11 - 1 minute

As some very cold air is making its presence felt, some homeless shelters are opening their doors for everyone. Temperatures have been lower than usual all week, especially overnight into the early morning hours, which has led to a return of the white flag program at the Onslow County Community Outreach Emergency Shelter. Under the white flag program, any resident in need of a warm place to stay can check in between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

“Aces for Autism opens new facility with ribbon cutting today”

Jan 30, 2024 - WITN News at Sunrise - 30 seconds

The SECU Autism Clinic of Eastern North Carolina had their grand opening. The clinic is expected to serve 250 kids from across the area and house custom rooms designed for individuals with autism to learn and grow. It will also have therapy space along with learning labs.

“Foster families needed in Beaufort County”

Feb 29, 2024 - WITN News at 11 - 1.5 minutes

The Beaufort County Department of Social Services has 130 children in its custody but only 20 licensed foster families in the county. Beaufort County DSS tells us since the COVID pandemic started they have had fewer families that are fostering children. WITN gives information on what the requirements are if someone is interested in becoming a foster parent.

“The Crystal Coast Cancer Rehab hosts 4th Annual Cancer Survivor 5k Fun Run”

March 13, 2024 – ENC at Three – 4 minutes

Crystal Coast Cancer Rehab Center's mission is to improve the client's quality of life and to offset any symptoms or side effects they may be experiencing as a result of their diagnosis, treatment, and prior medical history. The Crystal Coast Cancer Rehab Center is hosting an event to spread the word about assisting cancer survivors in any stage of their diagnosis or recovery. The Crystal Coast Cancer Rehab 4th Annual Cancer Survivor 5k Fun Run & 1 mi walk will be on March 30, 2024, from 8:00 am to 10:00 am, at Beaufort Historic Site, 130 Turner Street Beaufort, NC 28516.

Crime & Public Safety

“POLICE: 14-year-old murder happened after social media dispute with another teen”

January 2, 2024 – Throughout all shows – 1.5 minutes

A 14-year-old boy was shot by another 14-year-old and succumbed to his injuries. After an investigation, police found that the murder happened after a dispute on social media. The suspect has been arrested.

“REPORT: Crime, expulsions up in NC schools in 2022-2023”

Jan 31, 2024 – WITN News at Noon – 1 minute

A report from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction shows a rise in crimes, violence and expulsions in schools but a decrease in dropouts. The 98-page report, focused on the 2022-2023 school year, says there were 64 expulsions in North Carolina schools, compared to 48 the prior year. That's a 33.3% increase.

“Suspect behind bars for attempted murder after ECU scientist shot in unprovoked attack near elementary school”

February 28, 2024 – Throughout all shows – 2 minutes

Greenville Police were looking for a subject who shot an ECU professor unprovoked. Once ECU police found the man riding his bike down 5th street, they asked the man to drop his weapon and the man began shooting. GPD returned fire. No one was injured and the suspect was taken into custody.

“Teen charged with murder of Jayden Harrison outside Greenville Planet Fitness”

March 8, 2024 – WITN News at 6 – 2 minutes

Greenville police say an 18-year-old has been arrested and charged with murder in the death of Jayden Harrison outside of Planet Fitness last year. Due to the fact he was a juvenile when the crimes occurred, police are unable to release his name at this time. They do say he is the same individual seen on surveillance cameras in the area of Planet Fitness the night of Harrison’s murder.

“Former head of Wayne County drug unit pleads guilty to drug & fraud charges”

March 27, 2024 – WITN News at 6 – 1 minute

The former head of a drug unit for Wayne County Sheriff’s Office has pleaded guilty to drug trafficking conspiracy, along with wire and mail fraud charges. Michael Cox pled guilty in Wilmington to conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute quantities of cocaine, methamphetamine, oxycodone, and marijuana. Cox also pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit procurement wire and mail fraud.

WITN provides a weekly platform for Craven, Pitt and Beaufort County Crime Stoppers. This platform highlights tips from county sheriff officials on how to keep our community safe. These air on various WITN News casts and on WITN.com

Education

“Middle school in Greenville implements new safety measures following death of student”

Jan 3, 2024 – WITN News at 6 – 2 minutes

After a student at C.M. Eppes was shot and killed over the weekend, the school has decided to put stricter safety measures in effect. According to Pitt County Schools' Public Information Officer Tom McClellan, new advanced weapon detectors were already in place there and at all middle schools, K-8 schools, and high school campuses, and will be utilized. Additionally, police chief Ted Saul said parents may see an increased presence of police as they drop their kids off at school this week.

"ECU chancellor addresses near-campus shooting that injured employee"

Feb 28, 2024 - Throughout all shows - 2 minutes

Chancellor Philip Rogers in an email to staff and students thanked the efforts of police for their quick response to the shooting on 5th Street. Rogers also expressed how grateful he was that the injured employee was receiving care at ECU Health Medical Center for non-life-threatening injuries. The chancellor then addressed campus safety for the university.

"ECU and Pitt Community College host partnered event aimed to provide students with knowledge about college"

Feb 29, 2024 - WITN News at 11 - 2.5 minutes

East Carolina University and Pitt Community College hosted an event to provide better knowledge about college Thursday night. Let's Connect Pitt County is a program where ECU and PCC partner to help provide Pitt County middle school, high school, and community college students with all the information needed to be successful in college. Students and faculty from both ECU and PCC were set up throughout the event as many explored everything that college has to offer.

"BCCC offers fire training program for high schoolers"

March 2, 2024 - WITN News at 6 - 1 minute

A partnership between Beaufort County Community College and the school system is igniting opportunities for high schoolers in Eastern Carolina. The program offers teens a direct pathway into the field of firefighting. Starting next school year, juniors and seniors at Washington High School and Northside High School can enroll in a free firefighter training program at Beaufort County Community College.

"Creekside Elementary students slime sheriff and others"

March 25, 2024 - WITN News at 6 - 1 minute

Schools throughout the county competed in a contest called DARE to Slime. Students at Creekside Elementary School raised just over \$3,300, landing them the top spot. Overall, \$11,172 was raised across the school system. The money goes to the DARE program which allows the Craven County Sheriff's Office to train more resource officers and deputies to be DARE officers, who, among other things, teach kids about why it's important to steer clear of drugs.

Environment & Weather

"Penguin Plunge held at Atlantic Beach to start the new year"

Jan 1, 2024 - WITN News at 6 - 1 minute

The town of Atlantic Beach held their 19th annual Polar Plunge, where people jump into the ocean during cold temperatures of the year. People made donations to the event and the money raised goes to help support the Carteret County Teacher Fellowship Program implemented by the Carteret County Public School Foundation.

"Thousands still without power, the latest outages here"

Jan 10, 2024 - WITN News at Sunrise - 2 minutes

Many Eastern Carolina residents woke up Wednesday morning without electricity after storms caused havoc. According to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, 10,606 power outages are being reported across the state as of 5:15 p.m.

"Firefighters in Morehead City and Craven County battle brush fires Thursday"

Feb 22, 2024 - WITN News at 6 - 45 seconds

Dry and breezy conditions make it a good day for fires to get out of control. Our Chief Met Zach Holder said "Things like throwing a cigarette out of a car window or trailer chains dragging on the road could easily spark a brush fire." Fire crews with Morehead City Fire-EMS were called to a brush fire at the Morehead City Country Club shortly after 1 p.m. It was controlled and no other threats were detected.

"ENC drought impacts farmers and sparks fires"

Feb 29, 2024 – WITN News at 6 – 2 minutes

Most of Eastern North Carolina is under abnormal to moderately dry conditions, according to the US Drought Monitor. These implications could spark more forest fires and strain crops. ENC has seen very little rainfall throughout the month of February, according to the WITN First Alert Weather Team which says expanded drought conditions cover most of the East. According to NC Forest Service Pitt County Ranger, Robin Weber, most fires in NC and Pitt County are caused by debris burning.

“Warm weather in ENC producing pollen and prompting seasonal allergy symptoms”

March 8, 2024 – WITN News at 6 – 2 minutes

Plants are budding much earlier than normal and people with seasonal allergies are feeling the effects. WITN Meteorologist Charlie Ironmonger explains why this is happening earlier than usual this year. “Trees can tell when we get above 55 degrees for air temperature and once that happens it triggers a counter and whenever they get to a certain number of degree days, depending on species of trees, it will then trigger pollen production.”

Health/Medical

ECU HEALTH: Healthy planning for new year fitness resolutions

January 3, 2024 – WITN News at Noon – 1 minute

Exercise physiologist at ECU Health Wellness Center sat down with Jacyn Abbott to discuss how to approach fitness goals and how to meet them. The beginning of the year is a great time to reset because naturally many people get a sense of a new beginning and want to make a change. The ECU Health Wellness Center is a 24-hour facility with personal trainers on staff, exercise classes, two pools: a lap pool and warm water pool for therapy, and a lifestyle medicine clinic.

“ECU Brody School of Medicine professor named emerging leader”

Jan 30, 2024 – WITN News at Noon – 1 minute

ECU Health says Yaolin Zhou, MD, associate professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University was named to the 2023 Becker's Hospital Review “Emerging Leaders: Provider Organization Leaders Under 40” list. The hospital says since her arrival in 2020, Dr. Zhou established an innovative molecular consultation service, focused primarily

on pre- and post-testing review, to ensure cancer patients get appropriate molecular tests and treatment.

“CarolinaEast Medical Center hosting fashion show tonight”

Feb 2, 2024 – WITN News at Noon – 30 seconds

CarolinaEast Medical Center is hosting “Surviving with Style.” The event is being held to celebrate cancer survivors and caregivers. This fashion show features special models - patients at various stages of cancer care and caregivers. The hospital says local professionals will be fitting and styling each model while also offering tips on caring for their skin and hair as it regrows after treatment. Officials say all clothes being worn have been donated by the Coastal Women’s Shelter Helping Hands Boutique and community members.

“CarolinaEast Medical Center among top hospital in the U.S. again”

March 7, 2024 – WITN News at Noon – 1 minute

According to *Newsweek* magazine’s annual “World’s Best Hospitals” rankings released February 28th, CarolinaEast Medical Center is ranked in the top 1.7% of U.S. hospitals for the sixth consecutive year. Officials say data sources used for the evaluation included hospital recommendations from medical experts, patient experience, patient-reported outcome measures, and hospital quality metrics.

“North Carolina flu deaths reach 292”

March 20, 2024 – ENC at Three – 30 seconds

The latest numbers released today from the Department of Health and Human Services put the death toll now at 292. That compares to 196 deaths during the previous flu season. Most of the deaths continue to be those 65 years old and over.

Local Economy/Jobs

“Greenville looks to increase sports tourism by potentially building brand new sports complex”

Jan 9, 2024 - WITN News at 11 - 1 minute

The city council has expressed interest in potentially adding a sports complex, with hopes of increasing tourism and recreational offerings. Victus Advisors presented the council with phase one of a sports complex feasibility study Monday. The study showed Greenville's strengths and opportunities that make the city intriguing, but there's concern about the lack of available facilities to increase sports tourism.

“\$2.2 million New Bern animal shelter opens”

Jan 27, 2024 - WITN News at 6 - 2 minutes

Saturday at 2 p.m. The new Colonial Capital Humane Society officially opened for the community to help find dogs and cats a forever home. The \$2.2 million state-of-the-art facility on 1860 Old Airport Road is a sight to see with a new surgical suite, memorial garden, meet-and-greet rooms for furry friends, and a cattery, a house made just for cats.

“ENC airport adds a new airline and gets two new flight destinations”

Feb 20, 2024 - WITN News at 5 - 1 minute

Breeze Airways is becoming a part of the Coastal Carolina regional airport. One-way flights for the airline will start as low as \$49. Passengers will be flying on Airbus A220 aircraft with 137 seats, with the first flight taking off May 24th. The new airline has been in the works for about a year. The Craven 100 alliance, Craven County, and a grant from the federal government all helped with the incentive package for Breeze Airways.

“Morehead City employees getting a pay raise”

March 14, 2024 - WITN News at 11 - 1 minute

Morehead City employees will receive a pay increase soon to align their salaries to a fair market value following a unanimous City Council vote this week. The vote follows a market study that looked at the pay plan structure and market analysis of 13 peer entities, both in local government and the private sector. The results showed that the majority of City employees are paid at a minimum of five percent below their market peers.

“Sheriff expects to have 12 deputy school resource officers hired for the 2024-2025 Beaufort County school year”

March 19, 2024 – WITN News at 11 – 2.5 minutes

The Beaufort County Board of Education and Sheriff Scott Hammonds continue to work closely in preparation for their long-awaited partnership renewal as the sheriff's office will once again serve as the primary resource officers for the school system. Hammonds has to have 12 deputy SROs hired for the start of the 2024-2025 school calendar year to present in a memorandum of understanding or MOU to the board at their April 1st meeting.

WITN partnered with East Carolina University and attended their Communications Job Fair on Wednesday February 21st, 2024. The event lasted from 2pm through 3:30pm. We have hired an employee who gave us their resume at the job fair.

