Military Appreciation decals mark Grand Strand businesses that offer military discounts

The Myrtle Beach Military Appreciation Days Committee and the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce have created static cling decals which businesses can post, letting customers know that they offer a discount for current and former military personnel. The idea for the decals grew out of a discussion last year about Military Appreciation Days.

The committee realized many Grand Strand businesses offer military discounts year-round. The Chamber suggested creating static cling decals which businesses could display in windows.

Dear Myrtle Beach City Council...

Have something to say to Myrtle Beach City Council? If so, they want to hear from you, our residents. Yes, the Myrtle Beach City Council welcomes your personal emails. In fact, the email address dearcitycouncil@cityofmyrtlebeach.com serves as a special link between the public and Council.

With this address, you can send your thoughts and ideas about Myrtle Beach directly to all seven Council members. Have an idea? Start your e-letter with “Dear City Council...” and send it to dearcitycouncil@cityofmyrtlebeach.com.

Sea turtle nesting begins May 1

Do not interfere with sea turtles! Each year, the Police Department receives reports of people shining flashlights on sea turtles trying to come ashore at night to nest in the sand. Other reports say people on the beach scared away nesting sea turtles. May 1 kicks off nesting season for sea turtles, which are protected by federal law.

See Turtle season, page 5...
F.G. Burroughs-S.B. Chapin Art Museum adds Pottery Studio

More than 50 people were on hand in March 2018 to celebrate the grand opening of the Lineta Pritchard Pottery Studio on the ground floor of the F.G. Burroughs-S.B. Chapin Art Museum, 3100 South Ocean Boulevard. The new studio was funded in part through a $110,000 grant from the Chapin Foundation.

Now that it’s open, pottery classes are offered for all ages. John Johnson is the resident potter. Museum staff member Ariel Fatuova is teaching classes, too. Pritchard is a longtime patron and member of the art museum’s board. For more information and classes offered, visit www.myrtlebeachartmuseum.org.

MBTV appears on channel 1303 for Spectrum customers

Spectrum (formerly Time Warner) is going all-digital. As part of the move, the city’s public information channel, MBTV, no longer appears on Channel 15. However, it now appears on Channel 1303, so the City Council meetings still will be broadcast on the Spectrum cable system.

Everyone who’s on Spectrum’s service will have a cable box, thanks to the digital conversion (the box is free for the first year if you don’t have one already).
Former Miss USA Deshauna Barber named Military Appreciation Days Parade Grand Marshal

Deshauna Barber, United States Army Reserve Captain and 2016 Miss USA, will serve as Grand Marshal of this year’s Military Appreciation Days Parade at The Market Common on Memorial Day weekend. The parade begins at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 26, and is a highlight of Myrtle Beach’s Military Appreciation events during May. The month-long celebration is a “thank you” to our dedicated service men and women, past and present – along with their families – for all that they do on our behalf.

As Grand Marshal, Deshauna Barber will lead the Military Appreciation Days parade along Farrow Parkway, then greet fans afterward at the Family Picnic at Valor Memorial Garden. Everyone’s invited to enjoy the festivities, which include military exhibits and live music. The picnic lunch, prepared by the Omar Chefs Shriners, is free for all attendees.

The Military Appreciation Committee is thrilled to have Barber as Grand Marshal for the 2018 celebration. “Committee members look for a celebrity with a military background, and Captain Deshauna Barber is a vibrant and charismatic choice,” said Mark Kruea, Myrtle Beach’s public information officer. “Not only does she currently serve as a logistics commander in the United States Army Reserve, Barber is the first active-duty member in the military to win the Miss USA title.”

As a member of the Army Reserve, Captain Deshauna Barber commands the 988th Quartermaster Detachment Company in Rockville, Maryland. She was commissioned as a Quartermaster Officer in 2011, and has been serving her country in the Army Reserve ever since. Using her educational background in technology, Captain Barber also has worked as an IT Analyst for the United States Government for more than five years, employed by such agencies as the US Department of Defense, the US Navy, the US Department of Transportation and the US Department of Commerce.

Barber, now 27, was born in Columbus, Georgia. As the daughter of an Army Master Sergeant who served in the United States Special Forces, Barber relocated numerous times during her childhood. She attended Virginia State University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. Barber continued her education at the University of Maryland University, earning a Master of Science degree in Computer Information Systems and Services.

In December 2015, Deshauna Barber won the Miss District of Columbia USA title. And, on June 5, 2016, in Las Vegas, Barber won the coveted Miss USA crown and sash. Barber is the first active member of the military to win the Miss USA crown. She went on to compete in the Miss Universe 2016 pageant in the Philippines, where she placed in the Top Nine.

Deshauna spent her year-long reign as Miss USA by devoting her energy to community service. She offered her voice to various charitable organizations, including the USO, Smile Train, Best Buddies, Operation Homefront and more. Her print, television and XM radio appearances include Good Morning America, The Steve Harvey Show, The Rachael Ray Show, Fox and Friends, The Chelsea Show, Good Morning Washington, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, The T.D. Jakes Show, The Nightly Show, The Daily Show, Live with Kelly, Lunch Break, Glamour Magazine, Diversity Magazine and The Source on Sirius XM.

Pictured is Miss USA 2016, Deshauna Barber.

Barber poses in uniform.

See Grand Marshal, page 7...
Dispose outdated meds at Police Department’s drop-off box

The Myrtle Beach Police Department has a prescription drug drop-off box to accept all of your unused, expired and unwanted pharmaceuticals. The box is an effort to get prescription drugs that are no longer needed or outdated out of homes and off the streets.

Please do not flush your drugs and medications! Instead, you can drop off old or unused prescriptions at the Ted C. Collins Law Enforcement Center, 1101 North Oak Street, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. The Police Department will safely dispose of the collected medications.

The 15th Circuit Solicitor’s Heroin Coalition and the City of Myrtle Beach provide resources to help combat the heroin problem in Horry County. If you or someone you know has an opioid, heroin or pain medication addiction, see www.horrycounty.org/Departments/Solicitor/HeroinCoalition.aspx.

SENIOR MOVIES

General Robert H. Reed Recreation Center, 800 Gabreski Lane... Enjoy a free movie for seniors every Friday at 3:00 p.m. Soft drinks and popcorn are available for $1 each.

Chapin Memorial Library, 400 14th Avenue North... Join the fun at 1:30 p.m. on Fridays at the library. Popcorn will be served, so bring a non-alcoholic beverage.

Myrtle Beach builds new sidewalks

Several neighborhoods in Myrtle Beach have received new sidewalks! Benton Concrete installed six-inch thick, picture-framed sidewalks along various streets throughout the city. Where possible, sidewalks avoid obstructions, such as trees, but trimming or removal of shrubs may be required on the right-of-way. The new sidewalks include ADA ramps where curb cuts exist.
Beach flag system in place

Myrtle Beach has a set of beach flags to let beachgoers know about water conditions. Pictured here is a sign showing the flag system. These flags will fly from lifeguard stands to alert of any potential dangers.

As indicated, a double red flag means the water is closed to the public; no swimming is allowed. A single red flag indicates hazardous conditions, such as strong waves or currents. Medium hazards are indicated by a yellow flag, while a green flag shows that conditions are generally good. A blue flag indicates dangerous marine life, such as a high number of jellyfish.

Pay attention to the beach flags and be safe! If you need more information about ocean water conditions, ask at the nearest lifeguard or stop one of the Beach Patrol officers.

Keep off the sand dunes!

If you’re headed to the beach, stay on the marked beach accesses and paths. Do not cut across the sand dunes, climb the dunes or allow children to play in the dunes. It is illegal to damage or disturb the sand dunes and the sea grass. Violations will result in a fine of up to $500 and/or 30 days in jail, upon conviction.

Following Hurricane Matthew, which heavily damaged the dunes, crews have reinstalled sand fencing at strategic locations to help trap windblown sand. You may notice that there are gaps in the fencing. These gaps are “turtle breaks,” to allow nesting loggerhead sea turtles to crawl ashore and lay their eggs.

Beachgoers should stay on the marked paths and not climb the dunes or walk through one of the “turtle breaks.” Turtle nesting season is May through October. Do not disturb or otherwise interfere with a nesting sea turtle. Federal fines of up to $15,000 can result.
Humane Society offers senior pets for adoption by senior residents

The Grand Strand Humane Society offers a senior-to-senior pet adoption program for senior citizens in the community.

Senior humans, age 60 and older, who adopt senior pets, age six and older, have adoption fees waived.

Want to help, but cannot adopt? GSHS welcomes volunteers, supplies and donations! Call the Grand Strand Humane Society at 843-918-4910 for more information.

Please lock car doors!

Here’s a friendly reminder from the Myrtle Beach Police Department not to leave valuables in plain sight inside your vehicle when parking. Lock your car, too, even in your own driveway!

Crime prevention means taking away the opportunity. As the sign says, lock your car and don’t leave valuables inside. This is true whether you’re parking at the beach or in your neighborhood.

Whispering Pines is Myrtle Beach’s hidden gem

Come out and enjoy nature with a round of golf at Myrtle Beach’s Whispering Pines Golf Course! It’s conveniently located at 900 Harrelson Boulevard, across from Myrtle Beach International Airport.

The course was once a part of the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base and is owned by the City of Myrtle Beach. Local residents can play for just $30, plus tax, which is a great deal on an outstanding course. For more information, call 843-918-2305. Or, visit the Whispering Pines Golf Course’s website at https://playwhisperingpinesgolf.com.

SEE SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING! If you spot suspicious activity or criminal behavior, call the Myrtle Beach Police Department at 843-918-1382. Reports can be made anonymously.

Want to participate in the city’s Neighborhood Watch program? Call Crime Prevention Officer Stephani James at 843-918-1806 or sjames@cityofmyrtlebeach.com for more information.
**Myrtle Beach celebrates Military Appreciation in May**

Myrtle Beach’s Military Appreciation Days is a month-long celebration of our military men and women, and the city celebrates with a jam-packed schedule of events. The celebration includes the Military Appreciation Days parade on Saturday, May 26, along Farrow Parkway at The Market Common.

Come meet US Army Reserve Captain and 2016 Miss USA Deshauna Barber and enjoy the Big Family Picnic, various exhibits and a live performance by the Andrew Thielen Big Band. For more details, see www.militaryappreciationdays.com.

**Inaugural Wings Over Myrtle Beach, Saturday and Sunday, April 28-29** – The event is hosted by the Myrtle Beach International Airport.

**Third Annual Horry County JROTC Drill Meet, 9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 5** – A competition among local high school JROTC drill teams, at the Pelicans’ stadium. Free.

**Military Family Members Event (Blue Star Mothers), 12:00 p.m., Saturday, May 5** – Event follows the JROTC Drill Meet in the Picnic Area at the Pelicans’ stadium. New and prospective military families are encouraged to attend to learn from current and former military members and their families. Free.

**Pelicans’ Military Appreciation game, 6:05 p.m., Saturday, May 12** – The game honors military veterans, at TicketReturn.com Field.

**Military Appreciation Parade, 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 26** – Parade takes place along Farrow Parkway, The Market Common and features Deshauna Barber as Grand Marshal. Free.

**Big Family Picnic, Deshauna Barber, Exhibits and more, 12:00 p.m., Saturday, 26** – The picnic event begins in Valor Memorial Garden and features exhibits, live music from the Andrew Thielen Big Band. The Omar Chef Shriners provide the picnic fare. Free.

**Veterans’ March, 9:00 a.m., Monday, May 28** – Veterans march side by side along Ocean Blvd., beginning at 16th Avenue North.

**Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony, 11:00 a.m., Monday, May 28** – Ceremony is sponsored by the City of Myrtle Beach’s Military Appreciation Committee and takes place at the Convention Center Plaza. Free and open to the public.

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**Grand Marshal continued from page 3**

In her personal time, Deshauna Barber is an advocate and public speaker. Her passion for our men and women in uniform motivates her to serve as an advocate on behalf of soldiers suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). A survivor of child sexual abuse and extreme bullying, she also serves as an advocate on behalf of youth and survivors, passing on a message of perseverance. Deshauna works to spread her encouragement and strength to others.

In addition to the big parade and picnic, other activities during Military Appreciation Days include the third annual Horry County Junior ROTC Drill Meet at the Myrtle Beach Pelicans’ Stadium and the traditional Memorial Day ceremony on the Myrtle Beach Convention Center Plaza. Many Myrtle Beach area attractions, accommodations and restaurants offer military and veteran discounts during the month of May and year-round.

Military Appreciation Days are sponsored by the City of Myrtle Beach, Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and PGBA, LLC.
Withers Swash Park extension complete

Construction is complete on the Withers Swash Park trail extension, which stretches from Third Avenue South to Broadway and Collins Streets. It connects with Horry County’s New Town Park and features a picnic shelter and wooden boardwalk.

Savannah's Playground wins Award

Savannah’s Playground at Grand Park in The Market Common has won another statewide award. This time, the South Carolina Municipal Association honored the playground with the Achievement Award for Public Service. The presentation of the competitive award will occur in July 2018 during the MASC’s annual meeting in Hilton Head.

The free, enabling playground was the brainchild of former Myrtle Beach Mayor John Rhodes. The $1.5 million project includes play structures and equipment that are all ADA compliant. Project funding was received from various sources, including $350,000 from the City of Myrtle Beach, $300,000 from the State of South Carolina, $300,000 from the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base Redevelopment Authority and $100,000 from Horry County.

The playground is fun for all ages!

CITY LAUNCHES REVAMPED WEBSITE

The new City of Myrtle Beach website is live! See www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com.

Want more information about city news and events delivered to your inbox?
To receive weekly Friday Fax emails, send an email request to info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com.