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EAGER TO GLOW AGAIN

Norfolk's Neon District was known as a haven for creativity. Can stakeholders relight that spark?

By Trevor Metcalfe
STAFF WRITER

On any given weekend night in the late 2010s, Norfolk's Neon District was the place to be. A confluence of artists, business owners, financial supporters and civic leaders came together to create a space for hanging out, creating art and producing live music.

"It was kind of legendary, dude," said Arthur "Brother" Rutter, a local personal injury lawyer and arts supporter who opened Work Release, an arts venue and exhibition space, in the early days of the Neon District. But the neighborhood today, especially around Granby Street, is a stark contrast to the early, vibrant years. A delayed streetscape project has torn up roads and removed on-street parking. Several longtime businesses have closed or

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Above: While construction continues in Norfolk's Neon District along Granby Street, shop and restaurant owners want the public to know they're open for business. **Left:** Several store fronts at Norfolk's Neon District along Granby Street remain shuttered. **STEPHEN M. KATZ/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT PHOTOS**

Hatteras Island's vows make nuptials a success

Nor'easter derails OBX wedding, but community shows up

By Nate Delesline III
STAFF WRITER

After a nor'easter derailed a couple's Outer Banks destination wedding plans, Hatteras Island residents and businesses stepped into action and produced an impromptu community-wide celebration. Hundreds witnessed the Sept. 26 nuptials of Jayden Sink and Kimberly Laprad, who were so moved by the outpouring of support that they turned around



Kimberly Laprad and Jayden Sink exchange vows during their wedding ceremony Sept. 26 in Frisco, N.C. **GWENYTH AIRHART/GWENYGRACE PHOTOGRAPHY** and started a fundraiser to help the community. The crowd that attended the Frisco wedding included a

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INSIDE



POWER COUPLE
Powerlifting pair overcome physical disabilities to thrive, inspire others. **Sunday Break**

JETLINER ATTACK
Ax-wielding FlyDubai co-pilot had been flagged over extremism concerns. **Nation & World, Page 6**

GENERATIONAL SHIFT
Heirs rejecting large volumes of physical possessions in favor of a few select meaningful items. **Work & Money**

Trump sees 'public relations' problem

Economy stronger than many realize, president claims

By Tony Romm
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — To President Donald Trump, the U.S. economy is as strong as ever. The only thing missing, he says, is "good public relations."

In the waning days of a high-stakes, hard-fought midterm election, Trump has redoubled his efforts to try to convince voters that the nation is better off than they realize. As Americans tough out another month of high prices



Trump

and slow job growth, the president has tried to make the case that the problem isn't actually the state of the economy — but, rather, the messaging around it. The president's frustration was on display this past week, as he returned to the campaign trail to stump for Republicans, with roughly one month until voters are set to decide whether to return the party to power. In a series of appearances

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