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Fort Fisher to Host Fall Festival with a Bang!

KURE BEACH — Ready for some fun this fall? Join us Saturday, October 22, as Fort Fisher State Historic Site hosts the Fort Fisher Fall Festival from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Highlighting this event will be scenic hayrides, children’s activities, guided tours, and multiple firings of the site’s “big gun,” the 32-pound rifled and banded cannon.

This free event will also mark the debut of a special new exhibit: the Freeman Medal of Honor and its associated artifacts. At 1:30 p.m. in the visitor’s center, Curator of History Ray Flowers will discuss the history of this fascinating exhibit, including the acquisition of these impressive Civil War artifacts and the brave soldier behind the medal.

Tours of the site will be offered at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 3:30 pm. Cannon firings are scheduled for 10 a.m., 12 noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. This schedule, along with other program components, is subject to change due to circumstances beyond the site’s control. Visitors, residents, and motorists are advised that noise from cannon firings is extremely loud. Visitors are warned to stay out of barricaded safety ranges for their own protection. No smoking is allowed in the firing areas. Visitors are cautioned to please turn down hearing aids, warn children, and control pets during all firings.

Fort Fisher, the largest earthen fortification in the Confederacy, once protected the port of Wilmington and the vital blockade running trade on the Cape Fear River. After two massive bombardments the fort fell to a Union infantry assault on January 15, 1865. With the capture of Fort Fisher, Wilmington’s port – “the Lifeline of the Confederacy” – was closed to foreign trade. All Fort Fisher programming is made possible by support from the Friends of Fort Fisher, a nonprofit group. Visit www.friendsoffortfisher.com for more information.

Fort Fisher State Historic Site is located at 1610 Fort Fisher Blvd S, Kure Beach, N.C. 28449. For more information on the site, call (910) 458-5538 or visit the web site www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/. Fort Fisher State Historic Site is part of the Division of State Historic Sites in the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, which annually serves more than 19 million people through its 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, the nation’s first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the N.C. Arts Council, and the State Archives.

The N.C. Department of Cultural Resources serves as a champion for North Carolina’s creative industry, which employs nearly 300,000 North Carolinians and contributes more than \$41 billion to the state’s economy. To learn more, visit www.ncculture.com.

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