

Gate City Goosebumps

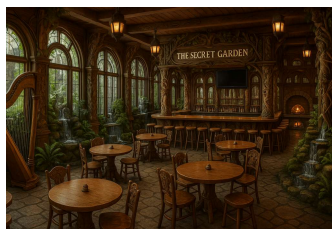
June 2025

“Beauty and the Beastly: Possum Man and the Siren of Greene Memorial”

GATE CITY, NC — Two Greene Memorial College students are recovering from a bizarre late-night encounter inside the Humanities Building that left one dazed, one limping, and both extremely confused. According to campus police, the two sophomores—whose names have been withheld—were lured into a third-floor lecture hall just after 10 PM by what they described as “a stunning blonde” who claimed to be “a transfer student needing help with her presentation.” “She was glowing,” said one of the students, still clearly under the effects of whatever happened. “Like...not metaphorically. She literally glowed. She asked me to help her set up the projector. Then...I don’t remember. Just eyes. Big possum eyes.” Security footage, though grainy, shows the woman leading both students into Room 302—followed moments later by a tall, hunched figure in denim jeans and what appears to be a long ratty tail trailing behind him. The footage abruptly cuts out seconds before impact. What happened next remains under investigation, but both students were found stumbling out of the lecture hall ten minutes later one clutching his...personal injuries, the other rambling about “marsupial ninjas” and “a siren with teeth made of light.” Campus nurse Danica Reeds treated the students and confirmed “localized bruising, likely caused by a small, dense object. Possibly paws.” Paranormal folklorist Dr. Eloise Harland believes the incident fits a disturbing pattern. “We’re likely dealing with a glamour-weaver, possibly a fae or other enchantress who uses seduction to disarm victims before her more violent partner strikes. This is classic ‘beauty-and-the-brute’ behavior. And in myth, it never ends well for the mortals.” Security has increased patrols around Greene Memorial’s older buildings, though administrators insist the incident was “likely an elaborate prank.” Meanwhile, students have started referring to Room 302 as “The Possum Den.” As for the suspects? The woman vanished without a trace. The Possum Man was last seen scuttling into a faculty lounge ceiling vent, hissing like a kettle and laughing in high-pitched gasps.

The Moon Over Main Street Isn’t Ours

GATE CITY, NC — Something strange is happening above Main Street—and it’s not just the discount psychic operating out of the old vape shop. Late Sunday night, several residents reported seeing *two moons* in the sky. The second was smaller, flickering faintly, and according to at least one amateur astronomer, “completely wrong.” “It looked like a copy of the moon drawn by someone who had never seen the moon,” said Marcus Ainsley, 42, a part-time skywatcher and full-time librarian. “It shimmered like heat on asphalt and then blinked out just before 3:33 a.m.” Security footage from the Shell station confirms an unidentifiable white glow hovering above Main Street for approximately 87 seconds. The footage ends abruptly with static—one of *nine* cameras in the area that cut out simultaneously. In an emergency town meeting, Mayor Holloway denied any connection between the false moon and last week’s “incident at the observatory,” which remains sealed by what appear to be vines made of silver thread. The Gate City Paranormal Society has issued a warning to avoid direct eye contact with the moon for the next three nights, “just in case it blinks first.”



Step into Magic at The Secret Garden!

Hidden deep in the heart of the city lies a whimsical escape from the mundane,

where the drinks sparkle and the vibes are pure enchantment. *The Secret Garden* is your ultimate fae-themed bar—where glittering cocktails, glowing gardens, and mystical music come together in a magical nightlife experience like no other.

Sip on our signature **Pixie Punch**, mingle under twinkling fairy lights, and let loose your wyld side. Whether you’re a forest nymph, a curious human, or just looking for a little magic in your night—*The Secret Garden* is your portal to fantasy and fun.

Wings optional. Wonder guaranteed.

Open nightly—follow the fairy lights!

(21+ only No outside food or drink, of ANY kind)

Babysitter Wanted — Must Have Salt Experience

Looking for overnight childcare in the Lantern Hill neighborhood. Twins, age 4, well-behaved except during “the thin hour” (1:03 a.m. – 1:13 a.m.). Must be proficient in basic salt lines and mirror cleansing. Familiarity with lullabies that end in minor keys preferred. Pay negotiable. Bring your own bell(336-555-5555).

Public Works Department Investigates Phantom Construction Sounds

Residents living near the abandoned textile mill on Vine Street have been complaining of midnight construction noises, including metallic clanking, drilling, and what some describe as “voices arguing in a language no one recognizes.” No official construction permits have been filed for the site, which has been shuttered since 1998. Investigators from Public Works arrived Monday morning to find no signs of entry, but several piles of fresh gravel and a set of blueprints stapled to a tree. The blueprints appear to be for a spiral-shaped structure labeled simply: *Ascension Platform - Phase III*. Dr. Alethea Monroe, urban archaeologist and occasional consultant to the Gate City Council, believes the structure might be a “spatial echo” — a theoretical build that occurs partially in another dimension. “We’re advising residents to avoid walking near the site between midnight and 4:00 a.m., especially if they hear hammering that doesn’t stop when they cover their ears.”

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HOLLOW MIRROR SALE ENDS IN SHRIEKING”

It was billed as a “once-in-a-lifetime haunted antique blowout,” and for three Gate City residents, that claim may have been literal. Last Saturday’s pop-up sale in the back lot of the **Brambleton Flea Market** drew dozens of curiosity-seekers, occult collectors, and bargain hunters hoping to score anything from cursed candlesticks to possessed porcelain. But amid the bins of dusty relics and cracked crucifixes, one item stood out: a tall, baroque mirror wrapped in chains and marked with a single hand-painted tag: **DO NOT FACE ALONE**. According to vendor Arlo Jebson (licensed dealer in “spirit-sensitive antiques”), the mirror had changed hands six times since it was recovered from a condemned estate in *New Bern*. “It eats reflections,” Arlo explained, tapping a chipped pipe against his knee. “Some folks say it shows your worst self. Others say it swaps you with the thing on the other side. Me? I just don’t look into it.” Witnesses report that three separate individuals approached the mirror throughout the morning sale. Each inspected it briefly—some even joked about the warning—but within moments of their reflections coming fully into view, a high-pitched ringing was heard, followed by a single, piercing shriek. The mirror clouded over, and the individuals vanished. “I saw one of them just... blink out,” said Sheila Torrance, a local school librarian who was browsing nearby. “She was there. Then her reflection *smiled* after she was gone. I threw my iced latte at it and left.” Brambleton staff evacuated the lot, and the mirror was quickly chained and tarped again. Police arrived but left within fifteen minutes, citing “no credible threat.” One officer, who declined to be named, was overheard muttering, “We don’t write tickets for hellglass.” As of this writing, the mirror is back on display, propped near the fence line behind Booth 42. It is priced at **\$13.13**, cash only. The tag has not changed. Brambleton management issued a short statement: “We urge patrons to treat all vintage items with respect. Especially the reflective ones.” If you must view the mirror, remember the warning. Bring a friend. Maybe two. And **do not face it alone**.

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WERECOYOTE OR WET DOG?

Several park goers at Hawthorne Trail claim to have spotted a large, humanoid figure loping through the woods on all fours, shedding fur as it ran. Animal Control denied involvement, though one ranger was seen burning something near the trailhead at dawn.

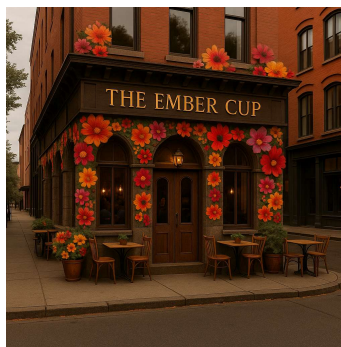
Local urban explorer “Scab” posted blurry photos online with the caption:

“It *howled* my name, bro. Not a name. MY name.”

The Goosebumps team advises avoiding the trail on full moon nights unless you’re looking to join the pack.

THE EMBER CUP BURNS A BIT TOO BRIGHT

A new drink on the menu at The Ember Cup is leaving customers *enlightened*.



The “Solar Bloom Espresso” allegedly lets you see a few seconds into the future—but only when you close your

eyes. One barista (who requested anonymity) claims a regular saw something they *shouldn’t* have, screamed, and sprinted into oncoming traffic.

When asked, Ember Cup staff smiled and handed us a coupon.

Proceed with caution. Or clairvoyance.

Strange Lights Over The Old Wachovia Building

Multiple witnesses reported “glowing figures” floating above the long-abandoned Wachovia building downtown late Monday night. Described as “will-o’-the-wisps in business suits,” the lights pulsed in a rhythmic pattern before vanishing as police arrived. Authorities claimed it was a drone display—but Gate City resident Delilah Prewitt, 92, insists otherwise: “That was the board. They’re still voting up there. Ain’t no death that stops bureaucracy.”

The building remains sealed.

For now. SINKHOLE REVEALS STAIRCASE TO NOWHERE

A sudden sinkhole behind the old Carroway Textile Mill has revealed a spiral stone staircase descending into the earth—only it doesn’t *end*. Public works crews say they’ve dropped lights, line, even a camera down the shaft. The cable ran out after 500 feet. No bottom. No echo. Local spelunker Jarvis “Grub” Coleman volunteered to descend Tuesday morning with full gear and a bodycam. He made it down thirty steps, paused, and radioed, “There’s something walking *up*.” Then silence. Crews pulled the rope up an hour later. Harness intact. No Grub. The hole is now covered with plywood and two orange cones. No warning signs. We advise taking the long way around.