



A big job

Photos contributed



Ethan Pannkuk, in yellow, digs in.



Ethan Pannkuk in the red tie with his fellow Boy Scouts



Terracing the back side of the fragile north wall

Fort Caswell Rifle Range preservation selected for Eagle Scout project

Ethan Pannkuk, an Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 210 in Carolina Beach, arrived at Caswell Beach on March 30 with his fellow Boy Scouts and friends at the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range.

The 100-year-old historical structure needed to have decades of tree roots and debris removed from the floor of the target pit. The structure also needed to have soil removed from the back side of the north passageway wall that was placing too much pressure on it, and possibly causing it to move.

Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range have been anticipating the project since Pannkuk presented his proposal and were grateful for the work that he and the Scouts provided. Pannkuk also purchased and prepared food for the workers both days.

Several interested Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range stopped by to observe, including Caswell Dunes HOA president Joyce Crabtree.

After two consecutive days of work, the floor and drainage ditch were clear from the tree roots in the pit, allowing water to drain properly from the inside. The soil from the back of the north wall was pulled away, releasing the wall from the imposed pressure.

Pannkuk participated in Cub Scouts at every rank and crossed over to Boy Scouts at 10. He is now 14 and in the eighth grade.

Anyone who wants to support historical preservation of the 100-year-old rifle range may send an email to fcaswellriflerange@gmail.com. To honor a Brunswick County World War I veteran, go to caswellriflerange.com.



Nearing the end.



A tight squeeze



Making progress.



The boys take a break.



Digging the tree roots.



Time for Ethan Pannkuk to cook dinner.