



The Grey Area™

Local and National Unusual News

Rocky Mount/Wilson/Zebulon NC Edition – 919.623.9392

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Produced by Above And Beyond Learning Corp.

Volume 1, Number 6
May 15, 2011

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Local News Briefs

Lions and Tigers and... Cougars?

Parents from Glen Alpine NC are keeping their children close as authorities search for a large animal roaming the area.

The animal is thought to be a type of cat, with bloodcurdling screams heard during nighttime. Reports in the local media differ on the type of cat it might be. While one authority believes it to be a bobcat, reports from the local police describe the animal as having a very long tail.



Part of the reason for the differing opinions may be the belief that large cats like cougars have been gone from North Carolina for decades.



However, these recent sightings could bring dispute to that claim. Police estimate the animal is at least 80 lbs with a long tail, based in part on their own sightings.

Both Illinois and Indiana have confirmed cougar sightings in the past few years despite their also being outside the expected cougar range.

While many parents would be happy to have their children see such an animal in a zoo or on safari, obviously it is unnerving to think of a powerful beast possibly roaming the forests and playgrounds freely.

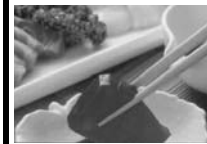


Whether oversized bobcat, incognito cougar, or roaming pet, it is likely that local parents—and pet owners—will not rest easy until the animal is identified or captured.



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The Good News...

Quick Action by Bus Driver Saves Students

A Battleboro NC school bus driver saved 39 elementary school children after the bus caught fire.

The fire happened Wednesday, May 11th while the bus was taking the children to school. After students alerted her to smoke rising from the bus, Penny Cooper pulled the bus over safely and evacuated everyone. She double-checked the bus, at her own risk, to ensure all the students were off.

The Bad News...

Air Quality Alerts for Smoke and Fire

The NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Air Quality, monitors air quality throughout the state. This week the monitors have shown elevated particle pollution due to smoke from the fire burning in the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge.

Code Red "unhealthy air quality" is predicted for part or all of these counties: southern Dare, Tyrrell, Martin, Washington, Beaufort, Craven, Green, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Pamlico and Pitt.

Code Orange "unhealthy for sensitive groups" is predicted for: Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Cumberland, Dare, Edgecombe, Franklin, Harnett, Hoke, Johnston, Lee, Martin, Nash, Onslow, Pender, Robeson, Sampson, Wake, and Wilson counties.

Intermittent Code Orange, lower level but hazardous conditions, are possible for: Rockingham, Asheboro, Greensboro and Durham.

According to the release at www.ncair.org, whether you have a sensitivity to pollution or not, exposure to high particle levels in the air can cause eye irritation, throat irritation, coughing, chest pain, and breathing problems.

As firefighters work to contain the blaze, air quality levels will improve. Updates are posted on daq.state.nc.us.

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Shades of Grey
What Do You Think?

Some situations are viewed in black and white; right and wrong. Yet, many people think situations also have a grey area where solutions are not so easily discerned.

Submitted for Your Consideration and Conversation

As you're driving home from the store, something on the side of the road catches your eye. There is little traffic, so you pull over to see what it is.

As you approach it, you see that it is a bank bag with no markings. You open it, and see that it contains money. Startled, you look around and see no one it might belong to, no one coming along the road either. You return to your car with the bag in hand.

You arrive home and take the bag in the house. You open it and pull out the bills. Counting out, it totals over \$900.

As you're returning the money to the bank bag, you hear the news on the radio in the other room and there is a story about a robbery of a store near where you found the bag. They say an undisclosed amount was stolen from the store, and the robbers are at large.

Now you know where the money is from, and to whom it belongs. But, times have been tight, gas is high, and your electric bill is past-due. You're in a tight spot economically, and could really use the money.

Do you take the bag and money to the police and report where you found it?

Or, do you think luck has come your way and use the money to pay some bills?

Or do you consider the store, its insurance, your needs, your guilt, and donate the money to a local church that can put it to good use helping others in need?

What is the right thing to do, what is the wrong thing, and does your decision fall in the grey area between them?



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Classifieds

Have a car for sale? Whether it's old or new, weathered or wicked, you can sell it here. Call 919.637.6973 to place your ad on several lines on this page. Reach thousands for little \$\$.

Couch cluttering up your living room? List it for sale here! Plenty of space to describe what you have, and tell people how to contact you. Advertise by calling 919.623.9392.

Free tomato plants while they last. Pickup in Zebulon, NC near the Pilot area. Various types of plants available. When they are gone, they are gone. Call Kay at 919.269.5414.

Gone With The Wind figurines and dolls for sale. Small collection, can buy all or one. Email info@thegardensedge.org and can email you photos of the music box, various dolls of Scarlet and Rhett, ceramic eggs, and tree ornaments.

TO PLACE ADS:
Contact The Grey Area via phone at 919.637.6973 or email sales@aboveandbeyondlearning.com.

Classified ads can be up to 5 lines of text for one low rate. The Grey Area comes out on the 1st and 15th of each month, and ads are due a week before the issues hits stores. Call to place your ad.



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Things to Do in NC When You're Bored

Wilson

Downtown Farmer's Market (May 18, 25 @ 8am-1pm)

207 W. Green Street (grass lot), Wilson NC.

From www.wilsonnc.org: "Featuring local, seasonally grown fresh produce, fresh baked goods, canned items, fresh cut flowers, homemade ice creams, crafts, etc., and activities for the kids!"

Downtown Alive—2011 (May 18 @ 6pm-8:30pm)

Featuring the band "Legends of Beach
210 South Tarboro Street, Wilson NC

Details in event calendar via www.wilsonnc.org

Wilson Tobs

(Home Opener May 31 @ 7:05)

Take the family out for a night at the ball game. Tobs Baseball games throughout the Summer.

Fleming Stadium, Wilson, NC

Visit www.wilsonsobs.com for details.

Shimmy for a Cause 2011

(June 25)

Curtain opens at 6pm. Proceeds go to breast cancer research and recovery.

Edna Boykin Cultural Center, Wilson NC

Contact ShimmyForACause@DanceStudioB.com

Zebulon

Carolina Mudcats

(Home Games May 20-29)

Baseball, hot dogs, soda, and sunshine can make for a great family outing. When you tire of listening to the games on udcatsradio.com, load up your crew and get them to the stadium for a real American night out. Fireworks during Friday games.

Five County Stadium, Zebulon, NC

Visit www.gomudcats.com for tickets and promotions.

"Philanthropy Friday" Book Drive

(May 20 @ 7:15pm)

The Carolina Mudcats are partnering with the Literacy Council of Wake County to gather book donations. Bring two new or gently-used books to the game with you and receive one free general admission ticket! Do some good and get into a baseball game at no charge.

Five County Stadium, Zebulon, NC

Call 919-269-2287 for more information.

Open Mic & The Sound of Waves

(May 21, 28 @ 6pm)

Eclectic Intellectual, 120 N. Arendell Ave, Zebulon, NC

Visit www.facebook.com/EIZebulon for more information.

Rocky Mount

Rocky Mount Downtown Live Concert

(May 19 @ 6pm)

Featuring "The Band Of Oz"

Imperial Centre for the Arts & Sciences,

270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount NC

Visit www.imperialcentre.org for complete 2011 concert schedule.

Fiesta Latina

(May 28 @ 1-6pm)

Featuring live music, dancing, and food

Courtyard at Imperial Centre, 270 Gay St., Rocky Mount NC

More details at www.imperialcentre.org.

Elsewhere

Got to be NC Festival 2011

(May 20-22)

From the www.ncagfest.com website: "Taste the best foods from the mountains to the coast at the North Carolina Food and Wine Expo. Sample the thousands of foods raised here in the state and buy some to take home. Wine, cheese, sauces, candies, nuts, meats, snacks and beverages will all be available for your sensory safari."

NC State Fairgrounds, 1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh NC

Website: www.ncagr.gov

10th Annual Greenville Choral Society

Black Tie Fundraising Gala

(May 21 @ 6-10PM)

Enjoy music, dinner and a silent auction. Music includes selections from the popular television program "Glee".

Hilton Greenville, 207 SW Greenville Blvd, Greenville NC

Contact 252-353-5495 for tickets.

Washington Summer Festival

(June 10-11)

The Washington, North Carolina Summer Festival offers entertainment, foods ranging from seafood to hamburgers to funnel cakes, and arts and crafts vendors. Amusement rides and live music round out the offerings.

Downtown waterfront historic district, Stewart Parkway, Washington NC

For more details, call 252-946-9168.

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The Grey Area™

The Backside



News From The Grey Area

Since March 1st when Issue 1 was introduced in Wilson and Zebulon, The Grey Area has been bringing you local news and events. Now we are expanding our coverage to Rocky Mount and surrounding areas.

We're also expanding our layout to bring you more extensive lists of events and more local news. Starting with this issue, you can see the larger format. We have added sections, expanded event listings, introduced classifieds, and made room for more fun features.

We'd love your feedback on the new format! You can reach us with comments and questions at sales@aboveandbeyondlearning.com.

Along with the larger page size come new ad sizes. If you'd like to advertise your business, post a job notice, announce an upcoming charity event, or sell goods and services, you now have more options. Sizes start at 3x2 business card size and go up to half-page displays. Classified notices are also available.

Little Bits

Word of the Issue

Trite

Definition: Lacking in freshness due to overuse or excessive repetition

Example: "Giving her flowers for her birthday is so trite."

Translation of the Issue

English — "Cat"

German — die Katze	Spanish — Gato
Italian — Gatto	Dutch — Kat
Polish — Kot	Korean — 고양이 (goyang-i)
Chinese — 貓 (mao)	Cherokee (Tsalagi) — ᎠᎹ ᎠᎵ (we-sa)

Translations for these and many languages may be found at babelfish.yahoo.com, www.wehali.com/tsalagi, translate.google.com, and other online and print resources.

Quote of the Issue

Oliver Herford

"Cat: a pygmy lion who loves mice, hates dogs, and patronizes human beings."

Chuckle of the Issue

A naval student was being questioned by an old sea captain.

"Son, what would you do if a sudden storm sprang up on starboard?"

"Throw out an anchor, sir."

"Well, what would you do if another storm sprang up aft?"

"Throw out another anchor, sir."

"And if another storm sprang up forward, what would you do then?"

"Throw out another anchor."

"Really?" said the Captain. "And just where are you getting all your anchors?"

"Sir, from the same place you're getting your storms."

Something to Clip for Your 'Fridge

Recent "errors" in singing of the National Anthem made the news. Here are the correct lyrics to the beginning of the song as often sung at events. The full lyrics are available at wikipedia.org.

The Star-Spangled Banner

O! say can you see by the dawn's early light,

What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,

Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,

O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?

And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,

Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;

O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?



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