

The Grey Area™

Local and National Unusual News

Rocky Mount/Wendell/Wilson/Zebulon NC Edition – 919.623.9392

Produced by Above And Beyond Learning Corp.

"I'M FREE—Take Me With You!"

Volume 1, Number 20
December 1, 2011

Rocky Mount City Manager Appoints New Police Chief

Rocky Mount City Manager Charles W. Penny announced the appointment of James C. Moore as Chief of Police for the City of Rocky Mount. Moore assumes his new role with the Rocky Mount Police Department on January 2nd.

"Following an extensive assessment, interview and selection process, Moore emerged as the ideal candidate for the next chief of the Rocky Mount Police Department," said Penny. "His impressive range of work experience coupled with his education, professional expertise, and community involvement make him uniquely qualified to lead the Rocky Mount Police Department."



Moore began his career in 1988 as a police officer with the Wilmington Police Department, where he rose through the ranks to his current position as Deputy Chief of Police, a post he has held for five years. As Deputy Chief, Moore leads three subordinate commanders and three police divisions in the Patrol Operations Bureau.

A native of the Wilmington area, Moore holds a bachelors degree in sociology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, where he also earned postgraduate certificates in project management and business administration. Moore is also an alumnus of the Municipal and County Administration Course and the Public Executive Leadership Academy, the FBI's National Academy in Quantico, VA, and the Administrative Officers Management Program at NCSU.

"I am pleased to accept this appointment as Police Chief for the City of Rocky Mount," said Chief Moore. "I look forward to working with the men and women of the Rocky Mount Police Department as we serve the Rocky Mount community."

The Good News... Holidays Bring Families Together

Many travelers are expected to head to homes throughout North Carolina for family gatherings and to catch up, share, shop, and give.

Whether celebrating Christmas December 25th, Hanukkah December 20 (sundown) through December 28, or Kwanzaa December 26 through January 1st, likely local tables will be covered with special meals, and the tables surrounded by family and friends.

While many tables are full, local soup kitchens and food pantries are busy collecting donations for the meals needed by local residents having a tough time. Donations of turkey, ham, canned goods, and more could make a difference for one family or hundreds of families in the Five County Area and beyond.

A Little Local History

Bennett Bunn Plantation

Driving down Route 97 outside Zebulon, a roadside sign announces the Bennett Bunn Plantation. The plantation's historic, Federal-architecture house was built by Bennett Bunn in 1833 on inherited family land, and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

The plantation consists of the historic home, barns, a log cabin, and many acres of farm land and forests.

Bennett Bunn was a well-known business man and farmer with properties in Franklin and Nash counties — including Zebulon and Rocky Mount areas.

The 178+ year old home and longterm family property was owned by generations of the Bunn family until 2000. The home and plantation are now a private property and residence, and can be viewed at their website, www.bennettbunn.com

The Bad News... Check Your Receipts

The NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Standards Division announced that stores throughout North Carolina were fined for price-scanning errors. Fines were levied on stores in Charlotte, Elkin, Garner, Micro, Raleigh, Salisbury, Selma, and Wilkesboro.

The NCDA&CS Standards Division conducts periodic, unannounced inspections of business price-scanner systems to check for accuracy between the prices advertised and the prices that ring up at the register. If a store has more than a 2 percent error rate on overcharges, inspectors discuss the findings with the store manager and conduct an intensive follow-up inspection at a later date. Undercharges are also reported, but do not count against a store.

"Consumers are watching their purchases closely and looking for sales in today's economy," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "By checking the accuracy of price-scanning systems in retail stores, we are helping to ensure that when shoppers get to the checkout counter, they get the advertised price. Consumers can contact our Standards Division at 919.733.3313 to register a complaint."

A list of stores fined may be viewed on the NCDA&CS website, www.ncagr.gov.

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Things to Do in NC When You're Bored

* Rocky Mount *

Rocky Mount Christmas Parade (December 4 @ 3pm)

The Parade includes marching bands, performance groups, floats, helium balloons & more. And of course, Santa Claus! The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve is collecting toys. Toys For Tots is this year's parade theme, and the parade committee encourages all participants to create their floats & activities around this theme. Bring a new unwrapped toy to the parade. Turn in the toy to the Marine Corps League, corner of Church & Nash Streets.
Parade through Downtown, Rocky Mount NC.
More details at www.rockymountnc.gov/parks/events.html.

Holiday Make & Take Night For Teens (December 8 @ 4:30pm)

Workshop geared toward teens 13-18 years old. Come share holiday cheer with other teens! Enjoy hot chocolate & cookies while making holiday gifts for friends & family. Wiley Meeting Room, Braswell Memorial Library
727 North Grace St, Rocky Mount NC
Call Leslie at 252.442.1951 x257 or visit the library website at www.braswell-library.org.

Pancake Breakfast (December 10 @ 7-10am)

Come and eat at this benefit for My Sister's House at Applebee's in Rocky Mount. Tickets are \$7, and can be purchased from the My Sister's House office. Tickets also sold at Sam's Club on Saturday, Dec. 3, 10am-4pm, or can be purchased at the door of the breakfast.
1120 North Wesleyan Boulevard, Rocky Mount

* Wendell *

Lighting of the Square (December 2 @ 5pm)

Please come out and enjoy the festivities. Entertainment begins at 5pm with Lighting of the Square. Santa & Mrs. Claus arrive at 6pm.
Parade through Downtown, Wendell NC

Wendell Baptist Church Live Nativity (December 17-18 @ 5-8:30pm)

Please join the Wendell Baptist Church for Live Nativity. One these nights the Christmas story is brought to life. Guests do more than just hear about the birth of Jesus, they see, touch, feel and smell what life was like during this miraculous time. The journey takes visitors through Bethlehem to meet the Innkeeper, townspeople, tax collectors, beggars, Roman soldiers, and visit shops in the market place. After leaving the market, guests continue on to encounters with shepherds and angels and the live nativity, including animals. The journey also leads to where guests can hear the rest of the story.
Wendell Baptist Church, 3651 Wendell Boulevard, Wendell

KAWANZAA Celebration (December 29 @ 6-9pm)

Day 4 - "Ujamaa" - Cooperative Economics. Come enjoy African dance, drumming, & more
The Kila Company, 28 Main Street, Wendell NC
For details, call 919.365.5003.

* Wilson *

Trees for Children Festival (December 2 @ 6:30-9:30pm)

Fundraiser includes hors d'oeuvres & a live silent auction. Tickets \$30 per person or \$50 per couple.
Wilson County Agricultural Center, Wilson NC
Contact Kimberly Little at 252.206.4235.

Festive Fridays (December 2 @ 6-8pm)

Horse carriage. Free. Downtown shops open late too. Imagination Station, 224 Nash Street East, Wilson NC
Visit www.imaginescience.org or call 252.291.5113 for more details.

Wilson Jaycees' Christmas Parade (December 3 @ 4pm)

The annual parade includes floats, dancing, and more!
Downtown, Wilson NC
More details, call Ginger Huff at 919.604.4555.

Story time with Santa (December 3 @ 9-11am)

Wilson County Partnership for Children hosts storytime with Santa & Mrs. Claus. Get a photo with Santa for \$5.
Wilson County Ag Center, 1806 S Goldsboro Street, Wilson
For info, contact Kimberly Little at 252.206.4235.

Safety & Crime Prevention Presentation (December 13 @ 6-7pm)

The Wilson Police Department is giving this presentation, open to all citizens. The presentation is in Spanish.
Del Mastro Auditorium, Wilson Comm. College, Wilson

* Zebulon *

Santa's Workshop (December 2 @ 4-9pm)

Drop children off for an afternoon with Santa & his helpers. A fun filled day of games, crafts, and holiday movies. Kids get the chance to tell Santa what they want for Christmas.
Zebulon Community Center, 401 S Arendell, Zebulon NC
Call 919.823.0432 for more details.

Zebulon Christmas Celebration (December 2 @ 7-9pm)

Christmas in downtown Zebulon sponsored by the Zebulon Beautification Committee. Santa arrives at 7pm. Come downtown to celebrate the spirit of Christmas including free gifts, 3 grand prizes, kids' photos with Santa, and caroling by local church groups.

Girl Scout "Celebrate with Santa" Shop (Dec 2 @ 7-9pm & Dec 3 @ 7am-2pm)

Come celebrate the holidays with Girl Scout Troop #3306 & Santa. Santa arrives December 2nd at 7pm to pose for photos with kids. The Brownie & Junior troop has a Ginger Bread House where children can shop, plus baked goods for sale, hot beverages, a stocking-stuffer corner, adult crafts, gift wrapping, & carolers. Proceeds go to the Troop.
209 N Arendell Avenue, Zebulon.

Christmas & Music at ei (December 2-4 @ 7-10pm)

Sax Duo and Scrabble Friday, 7-10pm, followed Saturday by ei's Tacky Christmas Sweater Party with live Christmas music by Dane Frazier, 7-10pm, and live acoustic holiday music by Doug Comstock Sunday, 12-4pm.
120 North Arendell Avenue, Zebulon NC
More info at 919.375.4486 or www.twitter.com/EIZebulon

Zebulon Christmas Parade (December 4 @ 2pm)

Annual Christmas Parade downtown with Santa Claus. Parade through Downtown, Zebulon NC
Contact the Zebulon Chamber for info at 919.269.6320.

Creative Writing Meet Up Group (December 8 @ 5-7pm)

First meeting of Eclectic Intellectual's Creative Writing Meet Up Group (poetry, prose, short story writers etc).
120 North Arendell Avenue, Zebulon NC

Family Movie Night (December 9 @ 7-9pm)

Zebulon Parks & Recreation Department free family movie night includes free popcorn! Enjoy "A Christmas Carol." Parent or guardian must be present for all children.
Zebulon Community Center, 401 S Arendell, Zebulon NC
Call 919.823.0432 for more details.

* Elsewhere *

4-H Holiday Extravaganza Shopping Spree (Dec 2 @ 10am-8pm & Dec 3 @ 9am-1pm)

Shop 26 vendors with unique items! Enjoy home-made soups, sandwiches, & home-made goodies prepared by 4-H'ers. Friday enjoy samples prepared by the NC Soybean Association & the NC Pork Association at Live Cooking Stage. Live Nativity & Caroling Friday night.
Room 102, Ag Center Drive, Nashville NC
Contact Sandy Hall at 252.459.9810.

Christmas Parade (December 3 @ 2pm)

Parade downtown. Also Tree Lighting night before at 6pm. Downtown, Knightdale NC
Contact Cheryl Faison at 919.217.2236 for more info.

Authentic Marketing/Branding Strategy (December 8 @ 6:45-9pm)

This free Small Business Seminar is for business owners who want to learn how to create an authentic brand that supports them in building a successful operation.
Wake Tech's NORTH Campus, 6600 Louisburg Rd, Raleigh

"Wassailing" Holiday Music (December 10 @ 10am-3pm)

The Tobacco Farm Life Museum presents their "Stepping into the Past" Saturday event series. This presentation includes demonstrations with your regular cost of admissions into the museum.
709 North Church Street, Hwy 301, Kenly NC
Info 919.284.3431 or www.tobaccofarmlifemuseum.org.

Black and White New Year's Eve Ball (December 31 @ 7pm-12:30am)

This fifth-annual Black & White Ball presents an evening of Big Band, Jazz, jump blues, R&B, funk, Latin, slow blues, Waltz, & requests! Swing Lesson at 7pm, with General Dancing 8:15pm to 12:30am. Free desserts, party noisemakers, & midnight toast. Cash bar, non-alcoholic selections, & smoke-free. No partner necessary. Attire comfortable but classy in Black & White. Portion of proceeds benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Advance tickets \$13/Carolina Dance Club members, \$15/general public. Tickets \$18 after Dec 16th & at the door.
Temple Beth Or Congregational Hall
5315 Creedmoor Rd, Raleigh
For tickets or details, contact Tina High at 919.494.2300 or go to www.musicanddance.com.

2011 Zebulon Christmas Parade

Sunday, December 4th

2:00 pm

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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. This is not just about the choices people make, but the thought process they go through to arrive at their decisions.

Submitted for Your Consideration and Conversation

You use social media sites to keep up with family and friends. Each evening, you check in to see what is going on with your cousins, aunts, friends, and others. You also share notes on your day and activities with your family.

One evening, you post a note about your fun day at the beach with your family. Several people respond, saying “how wonderful” and “what a great way to spend the day”. One friend, however, makes a negative remark about how “crummy” they think that is for a vacation, adding “why don’t you take your family someplace nice?”

You’re a little taken aback. You’ve known this woman, Sally, for awhile — she’s married to your husband’s closest pal and has been to your home for dinner a couple times a year since they were married.

Looking back through the site at her information, you see that she has recently lost her job. You also see that she has posted several other negative comments on your photos that you hadn’t seen before.

Speaking with your husband, he confirms he just heard about her getting fired from his pal. The two of you decide she might just be feeling negative, and you decide to remove her comments from your page and photos and say nothing to her.

A short while later, you post a photo of your family having a barbecue in the backyard. Within minutes, Sally has posted a very negative comment about your “lousy” grill, “ugly” clothes, and “fat people” food. You can feel yourself getting angry and you immediately delete her comment.

Do you think it likely you would immediately un-friend Sally? Would you stay quiet, say something to her, or have your husband talk with Sally’s husband?

Alternatively, what if Sally also began calling your home? If her negative “attack” spread beyond the internet and into phone calls would you be more likely to take more action? Would you think about contacting police? Is there some point when you or your spouse might suggest to Sally’s husband that he take her to a mental health professional?

Or, what if you found out that Sally was making similar bad comments on your teenager’s social media page? Does that push you further toward confronting Sally or calling police?

News From The Grey Area

This month, many local towns, cities, and counties are holding holiday events. Holiday shops, parades, and Christmas-oriented events abound!

Early December happenings are listed inside this issue. Between issues, keep up with *The Grey Area* news and event updates via www.AboveAndBeyondLearning.com and online social media.



The next issue will be distributed for December 15th and will include upcoming New Year’s Eve events.

The Grey Area has some exciting news to announce in the December 15th issue... Stay tuned for more information!



Things We Did in NC When We Were Bored

Thanksgiving Dinner From the Editor

This Thanksgiving, my family and I stayed close to our Franklin County home. We’re fortunate to have family in nearby counties. Usually Mom makes dinner for all our families, but this year my sister in Durham volunteered to cook. She was assisted by her son, who cooked the turkey, and she cooked side dishes, made salad, and several desserts.

That Thursday turned out to be a pretty day, like so many here in NC. We all sat down to dinner mid-afternoon and enjoyed the meal and the company. It was a lot more food than we normally have on our dinner table, and everyone ate until they were full — or beyond.

After dinner, the kids tossed around a football and took the pups for a walk. The adults hung around inside and chatted about the great meal and football.

It was great to have the time together as a family, at least the members who are here in NC. As we said our good-byes, my sister packed up little take-home boxes of turkey, stuffing, and potatoes, and divvied out leftover pies. We ended up with great memories of the day, and leftovers to nibble throughout the long weekend.

I and the rest of the staff at The Grey Area hope that you and your loved ones also enjoyed Thanksgiving weekend, had plenty to eat, and enjoyed time together!

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The Grey Area™



The Backside

Little Bits

Word of the Issue

Observance

Definition: A custom, ritual, or act performed for religious or ceremonial reasons.

Example: "The observance brought attention to domestic violence."

Translation of the Issue

English — "peace"

German — frieden

Swedish — fred

Hungarian — béke

Italian — pace (pah-chay)

Spanish — paz

Irish — síochána

Korean — 평화 (pyeonghwa)

Latin — pacem

Translations for these and many languages may be found in online (translate.google.com, babelfish.yahoo.com, etc.) and print resources.

Quote of the Issue

Fred Rogers ("Mister Rogers")

"I like to compare the holiday season with the way a child listens to a favorite story. The pleasure is in the familiar way the story begins, the anticipation of familiar turns it takes, the familiar moments of suspense, and the familiar climax and ending."

Chuckle of the Issue

One day, young Sarah was watching her mother make a beef roast. Her mother cut off the ends, wrapped it in string, seasoned it, and put it in the roasting pan.

Sarah asked, "Why do you cut off the ends of the roast?"

Mother thought for a bit, and then replied, "Well, that is how your Grandma always did it."

That night, Grandma came to dinner and Sarah and her mother asked why she cut the ends off of the roast before cooking it. After some thought, grandma replied that she cooked the meat the way her mother had always done it.

After dinner, they all went to visit Great-grandma. While they were there, Sarah asked her about cutting the ends off the beef roast.

Great-grandma looked at them, a bit surprised, and said, "So it would fit in the roasting pan, of course!"

Something to Clip for Your 'Fridge

This issue the clipping is a list of possible "Resolutions" for the upcoming new year. Time to start thinking about 2012! Our issues in early 2012 will cover setting resolutions and making personal changes in more detail.

Resolutions

Spend More Time with Loved Ones

Enjoy Life More/Plan Personal Time

Manage Money Better/Save More

Learn New Things/Go To School

Let Things Go More/De-Stress

Change Jobs/Second Career

Recycle More/Get Green

Do More for Community

Get Fit / Improve Diet

Quit a Bad Habit

Get Organized

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