

The Grey Area™

Local and National Unusual News

Nashville, Rocky Mount & Wilson NC Edition – 919.623.9392

Also check out our Edition for
Bunn, Knightdale, Wendell, & Zebulon NC

“I’M FREE—Take Me With You!”

Volume 2, Number 25B
December 15–31, 2012

Small Businesses Show They Have Big Hearts

There are some big hearted people in Eastern NC. A number of small business owners worked extra hard holding collections and events at their businesses, and encouraging other community members to donate food, toys, clothing and funds for those in need.

Bars, restaurants, and stores including Carolina Billiards, Dunkin’ Donuts Knightdale, Hubert Vester Honda, Utopia Cafe & Lounge, and Rocky Mount Harley Davidson took the time to help others. Their flyers for bike rides, toy drop-offs, benefits, and canned food collections may be seen all around the area.

Hundreds of families will have food for holiday meals, presents under their trees, and more joy in their hearts thanks to the time and effort these entrepreneurs put into their events and collections. They, and all the people who stopped by to contribute, should be joyful too. Together they made a difference for those in need.

Counting Many Lifetimes

So much seems to be going around about the end of the world, as predicted by the Mayans. Actually, according to the Mayan calendar, it is not an end coming but a new beginning.

A b’ak’tun is a “measurement” of time within the Mayan calendar system, one of several systems ancient civilizations devised. The Mayan b’ak’tun contains 144,000 days. The 13th b’ak’tun started in the year 1618, and ends December 20, 2012. So, December 21, 2012 marks the beginning of the 14th b’ak’tun. This Mayan change of calendar would, to their few descendants, be viewed as more of a “restart” and a new period of hope for the world.

Under the “standard” Gregorian calendar, the year runs 365 days from January 1st to December 31st, This is how time is marked by much of the world today. It sets a different standard for counting the days, months, and years. Plus, longer periods such as decades and centuries are counted to help track the passing of time.

With many of the “doomsday” predictions, some people are fearful and unsure what will happen. It is worth noting, at least to gain some peace of mind, that not only did the Mayan’s believe the date was a new beginning, but they and other ancients believed it was the ushering in of a long time of peace to come. Isn’t that a wonderful prediction?

As December 21st approaches, remember it is marking a period of time, just like the marking of a century or millennium. It’s just one b’ak’tun turning over and another count of 144,000 days beginning.

In the Gregorian calendar, New Year’s Eve serves as a time of celebration. People make resolutions and promise themselves and others changes for the coming year. While planning New Year’s resolutions, this

special turning of the Mayan b’ak’tun could just be an opportunity not seen since the 17th century: an opportunity for resolution-makers to consider changes not for the next 365 days, but for the next 144,000 days. What resolutions could be made for a lifetime, for the betterment of one’s children, grand-children, and hundred generations of descendants coming within the 14th b’ak’tun? It’s a rare opportunity to make seriously long-term resolutions and positive changes to one’s world with these future generations in mind.

Shades of Grey

*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 Discussion & Consideration

You’re in a big box store, in line with about a hundred dollars’ worth of gifts. The man in front of you checks out and packs his bags into his cart. You see him flash you a smile as the cashier begins scanning and bagging your purchases. Then, he leaves without saying a word.

When the total comes up, the cashier holds up a handful of twenty dollar bill, and tells you that the man in front gave her \$100 to pay for your gifts. You stand there in shock while she completes your purchase and hands you \$5 change.

Do you think you would feel uncomfortable or lucky? Would you “pass it on” and pay for part of the next person’s purchases? If so, would you pay the same amount the man paid for you, pay more, or pay less?

Finally, would you hand the \$5 change back to the cashier?

Carmike 10-Wilson Movie Preview of the Issue

By Kay Whatley, Editor

For this issue, we previewed *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, the first part of a three-part movie series based on the J.R.R. Tolkien children’s novel, *The Hobbit, or There and Back Again*.

This “Part 1” of the story begins as the book began, with Bilbo Baggins in the Shire — a village inhabited by the small Hobbits. Bilbo is visited by a group of dwarves including Thorin Oakenshield. He receives an invitation, of sorts, to join the dwarves on their quest. Bilbo is encouraged by a wizard (Gandalf The Grey) to accept the invitation. The beginning of their adventures is covered within this Part 1 movie.

It is worth noting that while the *Lord Of The Rings* trilogy has one movie for each of the three books, *The Hobbit* will have three movies to one book; and, a children’s book at that. Expect the action to be drawn out due to the number of film hours devoted to the small number of pages. This part 1 is almost 3 hours long. Before you go to see this movie, plan to stay a while and get those snacks ready.



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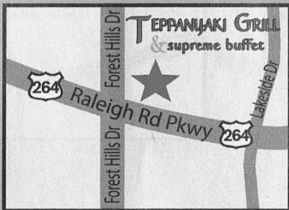
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Things To Do in NC When You're Bored

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**Kids' Christmas Celebration
(December 17 @ 11am-12pm)**
Join us for our Kids' Christmas celebration, with story time and refreshments.
Harold D. Cooley Library, 114 W Church St., Nashville
More online at www2.youseemore.com/cooleylibrary

* Rocky Mount *

**Winter Wonderland
(December 16 @ 1-5pm)**
The magic of the season comes together in a day full of singing, Santa & holiday activities. It even snows — inside! All ages. Free.
The Imperial Centre, 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount
Contact 252.972.1266.

**Pizza & Pages Teen Book Club
(December 20 @ 5:30-6:30pm)**
Come by the Wiley Conference Room for this teen event.
Braswell Memorial Library, 727 N. Grace St., Rocky Mount
Contact Leslie with questions at 252.442.1951 x.257.

**Live Music on Sunset
(December 20 & 27 @ 7pm)**
Live music many Thursdays & Saturdays. Dec 20th-Steven Stewart, & Dec 27th-Rob Alford
Westridge Grill, 3639 Sunset Avenue, Rocky Mount
Call 252.937.7299 for information.

**Christmas Bash
(December 22 @ 9pm)**
Come by for the *Christmas Bash* including live music with Monte Tippet. Westridge Grill, 3639 Sunset Avenue, Rocky Mount
Call 252.937.7299 for information.

* Wilson *

**By Choice and By Force: Journey Stories
(December 18-22 & 26-29 @ 9am-5pm)**
A local exhibit on display at the North Carolina Museum of the Coastal Plain. It follows the stories of four families: the Bass Family, the Freeman Family, the Motzno Family, & the Corino-Rivera Family.
Third Floor, 224 East Nash Street, Wilson

**Christmas in the South
(December 22 @ 8am)**
The Wilson Police Department is hosting annual Christmas in the South event.
American Legion, New Bern St., Wilson

**Bluegrass Music Open Jam
(December 21 @ 7pm)**
Live jam open to all each Friday night. Bring an instrument & join the fun. Be there at 7pm or join later. Or come listen, sip coffee & enjoy very local music!
Common Grounds, 20 Cheves Rd, Bunn

**Live Music in Spring Hope
(December 21 @ 7-10pm)**
Featuring Spook Joyner w/ Amanda on Vocals.
Showside Grill & Bakery, 102 N Pine Street, Spring Hope
More info at www.contagiousconfections.com.

**Christmas With A Chance in the Country
(December 22 @ 11am-4pm)**
Meet Zoey the Zebra, build your Charlie Brown Christmas Tree, ride a Clydesdale, eat a hot dog, create a craft, or see the Live Nativity at 1pm. Small fees for some activities. Nonprofit with proceeds going to farm education, etc.
16153 Red Bud Road, Castalia
Call for information on event or nonprofit: 252.883.6185.

**Stepping Into the Past Series
(December 22 & 29 @ 10am-3pm)**
Event/workshop with museum admission.
Dec 22nd “Hand Dipped Art” Candle Making
Dec 29th “Hammering Out the Past” Blacksmiths
Tobacco Farm Life Museum, 709 N Church St., Kenly
Info 919.284.3431 or www.tobaccofarmlifemuseum.org.

These “Things To Do in NC When You're Bored” listings are free, at publisher's discretion, and as space allows. Two lines of description may be included with an event. Priority is given to free public events. Sponsor names may not be included. Event organizers may purchase regular advertising spaces if they wish to provide more details for upcoming events. Call 919.623.9392 to add a free or low-fee event.



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Where Did This Santa Claus
Guy Come From, Anyway?

Living in America, it is likely that each year of your life you have heard tales of Santa Claus. Whether you believe in him or not, you’ve probably heard his name and seen his red-suited image.

The parts that make up the modern-day Santa have come from several figures over the years. The 4th Century Saint Nicholas’ gave Santa his gift-giving and generosity. England’s Father Christmas of the 1600s contributed some of Santa’s jolly image. The Dutch informal name for Saint Nicholas, Sinterklaas, gave us the Americanized name “Santa Claus” in the late 1700s.

In 1823, a poem added many of the attributes of Santa as he is known today. The words have been changed over the years, and it is now often called *The Night Before Christmas*. Do you recognize this poem and its vision of a jolly, giving Santa?

Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas

*'Twas the night before Christmas, when all thro' the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar plums danc'd in their heads,
And Mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap —
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below;
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny rein-deer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and call'd them by name:
"Now! Dasher, now! Dancer, now! Prancer and Vixen,
"On! Comet, on! Cupid, on! Dunder and Blixem,
"To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
"Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"
As dry leaves before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys — and St. Nicholas too:
And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound:
He was dress'd all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnish'd with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys was flung on his back,
And he look'd like a peddler just opening his pack:
His eyes — how they twinkled! His dimples: how merry,
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry;
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face, and a little round belly
That shook when he laugh'd, like a bowl full of jelly:
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laugh'd when I saw him in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And fill'd all the stockings; then turn'd with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprung to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew, like the down of a thistle:
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight —
Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night.*

And, from the staff of The Grey Area, we would like to wish our readers, happy holidays and to all a good night!

News from The Grey Area

Thank you, dear readers, for following The Grey Area newspaper, sending your comments, and letting advertisers know where you found them. Thank you to the 750+ locations that host the paper on their counters.

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The Backside



Little Bits

Word of the Issue
Enunciate
Definition: Pronounce words clearly.
Example: “Be sure to enunciate when you read your essay to the class.”

Translation of the Issue
English — “vacation” or “holiday”
German — ferien (*a school break*) or urlaub (*a work break*)
Spanish — de vacaciones
Dutch — feestdag, vakantiehuizen
Danish — ferie
Italian — vacanza
Latin — feriatum
Irish — saoire

Different parts of the word refer to time off as a holiday or vacation. There are also different words for “leave”. Adjustments for the plural of each word may be intricate. Translations for variations of these words, and in many more languages, may be found in online (translate.google.com, etc.) and print resources.

Quote of the Issue

“The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don’t do anything about it.”
--**Albert Einstein**

Chuckle of the Issue

Unexpected cold snaps had destroyed the buds on a man’s peach tree for two years in a row. This spring, he was ready. He replanted the sapling in a large box, mounted it on wheels, and put the tree in the garage whenever the temperature dropped.

One warm April day, the man was wheeling the tree out into the yard, and he stopped to give his dog a drink from the garden hose. A neighbor watched the scene with amusement. “Frank,” he finally commented, “you’re the only man I know who walks his tree and waters his dog!”

Cryptogram of the Issue

Replace the letters in this Cryptogram with other letters to deduce the quote within the puzzle. This month, the name of the person quoted is listed, instead of you needing to solve for the name too. Hint: P = A.

A _ _ _ _ _ A _ _ _ _ _ A _ _ _ _ _
P B P G R K N R Q P X H R D

_
J W G U W Q L Z H W D W H K N W B

_
J C R K Z M L H A X D W B G L H ,

_ _ _ _ _ , A _ _ _ _ _ A _ _ _ _ _ A _
V W G L H P H W J J P Q R W H P K

A _ _ _ _ A _ , A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
P H R G P K P H Z D C L

_
J W G G W H J W K Z .

-- _
W F Z L H H P Q C

Answer to the previous issue’s cryptogram:

Nearly all men can
stand adversity, but
if you want to test a
man’s character, give
him power.
-- Abraham Lincoln

Lisa Jo’s Doggie Town Holds Grand Opening

Lisa Jo’s pet grooming and boarding opened its doors a few months ago, and has held their Grand Opening recently in Wilson.



Photo: Kirsten Lucas, Lisa Jo Lucas, and pals

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