

# The Grey Area™

Local and National Unusual News  
Rocky Mount/Nashville NC Edition – 919.623.9392

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

## "I'M FREE—Take Me With You!"

Volume 2, Number 3  
February 1, 2012

### Why Should I Support Local?

By Chad Ray, Contributing Author (green builder, farmer, steward)

Notice I didn't say local food, local farmers, local restaurants, even local businesses. Oh excuse me; I guess I should introduce myself first. My name is Chad Ray (www.shieldsofgreen.com). I am local as local can be. I live in the Bunn, NC community and went to Bunn schools just like my parents, their parents, their parents, etc. I could keep going back even before civil war times. One of my best friends is the pastor today at the church where my great, great, great grandfather enlisted to join Robert E. Lee. But I digress off my topic for today, which is why you should support local.

I love this paper you are reading right now. You know why? Think about the place where you picked it up, whether it was the local café, barbershop, mechanic's garage, hardware store, or another of the many other small local places of business — they are placed for you to pick them up. These places have been the backbone to our small communities for generations. You probably supported one of those businesses when you took this paper. **Thank you** because if we don't support them they will all vanish. Some people will say, "So what if it's cheaper somewhere else, that's not my fault." That's true and I'm not saying spend *all* your money local, just a portion of it. If we all spent just 10-20% of our money at the places I'm talking about we could change not only our community but change the world.

**Buying local Fact:** When you buy local, your community's economy and general vitality benefit a great deal.

A recent study found that purchasing from locally owned stores created about 70% more local jobs, and 67% more overall local income, per dollar spent. With as little as 10% of purchases being made at local businesses, consumers would add new jobs and critical money would be reinvested in their local economy.

Another study found that for every \$100 spent at a national chain store in NC, \$13 stayed in the community. In contrast, \$100 spent at a locally owned, independent store put \$45 back into the local economy. That's more than three times the amount of money reinvested in our community's survival and long term success!

Another example is when you buy food directly from local farmers. Do you know what they do? They spend it. Where, you ask? They spend it at the tractor store, the local diner, the farm supply, the local garage, and many more places. Farmers probably better than any other business sector realize you can be the happiest, most fulfilled, and most successful by spending your money in the community where you live.

Spending money locally generates local taxes which pay for our police, fireman, teachers, and so many more important people. I know we face what seems to be insurmountable problems in today's world. We can do something about that just by supporting those who make the places we

all live special. If everyone did that, the ripple effects would explode to the state and national level. People say often, "Our country isn't as great as it once was." The USA would be on top of the world again in less than 6 months if we all spent money in the places we live, with the faces who live there with us. Think about that and then go do something about it. That's right you heard me: **Go change the world.**

### A Lifetime in Pictures

by Margaret Langley, Contributing Author

My husband and I were working in our Photography Studio recently, when the door swung open and an elderly gentleman, wearing a hat and walking with a cane, stepped inside. Smiling, he introduced himself to my husband who greeted him at the door. Little did we know that we were about to be blessed with an hour in the company of one of Wilson's finest photographers.

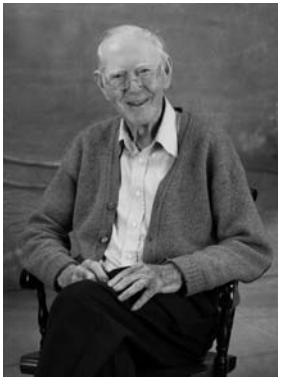
Guy Cox, he said, as he shook our hands and we offered him a chair to rest his feet. We had no idea at that point who he was or how far he had come to share some of himself with us. He reminded me of my father, and even though I didn't realize who he was, I immediately liked him and felt a kinship with him.

As he began to talk to us, he was saying, "I'm getting ready to do my last photo shoot, and then I will be out of business for good." It was sad to hear someone talk that way, but in reading about his glowing career — in the 1993 *Wilson Times* article which stated that Raines and Cox had shot 39,000 studio portraits at that time — it seems understandable that all good things must come to an end.

Mr. Cox genially regaled us with some of his history prior to coming back to Wilson and resuming life here. He was in the Navy from 1942 to 1945, where he was a Navy photographer. His photographs were made in order to provide important ground information needed by the Department of Defense back during WWII. He told us of how he literally sat in the rear seat of a dive bomber holding on to a Fairchild camera and snapping pictures as they made practice dives and flights over enemy territory. According to Wikipedia, the Fairchild camera was the official US camera for aerial mapping in that day and time. Another interesting fact is that most of the time, these cameras were bolted down to the plane in some manner or other. The fact that Mr. Cox was able to hold his camera in his hands and get the shots needed indicates how talented he was.

We enjoyed our time chatting with Mr. Cox immensely. My husband found a true friend in that they both like and have used the Koni Rapid Omega camera.

But the treat was not over yet! Mr. Cox allowed me to take a picture of him (at right), and I was very honored to be able to do so.



I gave Mr. Cox a ride to his studio, and he took me in for a tour. I am still in awe of all the hard work being a photographer used to take. I saw his equipment, tried and true, still standing and ready for that last shoot. I saw the hundreds of thousands of negatives that he had, dating back to 1947 when the studio first opened. I asked Mr. Cox, "What will happen to these now that you are closing for good?" With a wistful smile, he said, "Well, I can't take them with me." It cut me to the heart to look at all those years of hard work about to be sent to the trash dump.

He showed me the very first camera he ever bought. He got it from Sears and Roebuck, and he had paid for it in fifty cents a week increments until he had paid it off. It had been updated through the years, but for him, it had never been outdated.

As I got ready to go, he walked me down to the door of the studio and stood outside to watch me cross the street. "Look both ways," he called to me as I prepared to make my leave of this very special gentleman. He is a piece of the puzzle that makes up Wilson's richly diversified history, and with the final closing of the Raines and Cox Studio, a part that will never again be replaced. That era of photography has closed, and perhaps even sooner than we think, the digital age may give way to newer, more advanced methods of capturing the images of the people and things that we love.

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## Things to Do in NC When You're Bored

### \* Nashville \*

#### **Daddy Daughter Sweetheart Dance (February 4 @ 6-8:30pm, photos 5:30pm)**

Nash County Parks & Recreation invites you to this 5th annual dance. \$25/couple & \$5/each add'l child. Space is limited; no registrations at the door. Register by Jan 27. Nash County Ag Center, 1006 Eastern Avenue, Nashville. Contact 252.462.2628 to register and request up to 6 songs.

#### **Valentine's Dinner (February 14 @ 6pm, 8pm)**

Dinner & dessert for two in special Valentine's meal at Nashville Exchange Steakhouse & Cafe. Two seatings, choose 6pm or 8pm. Live music. Includes gift and flower. Choose from chicken, steak, or crab cakes. \$75/couple. 229 W. Washington St., Nashville. For info, call 252.459.6275.

#### **Nunsense - A Musical Comedy (February 17-18 & 24-25 @ 7:30pm-9:30pm)**

Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc; Book, Music, & Lyrics by Dan Goggin. \$12 Admission. Nash Arts Center, 100 East Washington Street, Nashville. For more info, call 252.459.4734.

### \* Rocky Mount \*

#### **"Feeding Hearts" Food Drive (February 1-10)**

The Pay It Forward Civitan Club is accepting non-perishable food items for to My Sister's House and United Community Ministries. Drop off your canned goods and boxed foods to help community members in need. 109 Hayfield Ct, Rocky Mount (Old Farm neighborhood). Contact Tabatha Griffin 252.813.9376 to arrange pick up.

#### **2nd Annual Super Bowl Party! (February 5 @ 4-10pm)**

Highly anticipated program offers a safe venue to experience a super bowl party! Open to all participants with special needs, as well as friends and family. Come enjoy great traditional football game snacks, fun, & games! RSVP by Feb. 1, \$4/person all ages. The Imperial Centre - Studio Theatre (Black Box) 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount, NC 27802. Contact Vashti Young at 252.972.1157.

#### **Senior Valentine Soup Luncheon (February 10 @ 11am-12pm)**

Enjoy a variety of delicious soups & fine dining along with special music. Prizes awarded to the oldest person & the couple married the longest. Both couples must be present to win. Fee \$6-7.50. For ages 55 and older. Register at Rocky Mount Senior Center by February 4th. Rocky Mount Senior Center, 427 S Church St, Rocky Mount. Contact Julie Smith at 252.972.1152.

#### **Coco Rouzier (February 10 @ 8pm)**

Upcoming performance in the Dunn Center Series. Also coming up, Stig Rossen on February 24th. Dunn Center For The Performing Arts 3400 North Wesleyan Blvd, Rocky Mount. Ticket information at [www.ncwc.edu/dunncenter](http://www.ncwc.edu/dunncenter).

#### **4th Annual Sweetheart 5k (February 11 @ 9am)**

The Sweetheart 5k & 1-Mile Family Fun Run is about promoting health and fitness in a family friendly atmosphere. Proceeds benefit the Rocky Mount Friends of Little League Baseball, Inc. The RMFLLB support the Rocky Mount Parks and Recreation Department Athletic Division Youth Sport programs by providing funding for athletic equipment, supplies, and facility improvements. 3769 Sunset Ave, Rocky Mount. Registration & info online at [www.sweethearttrace.com](http://www.sweethearttrace.com).

### \* Wendell \*

#### **First Friday Jazz (February 3 @ 7pm)**

The Positive Connection Band is playing. The Kila Company, 28 Main Street, Wendell. For details, call 919.365.5003.

#### **Brown Bag Lunch Ministry (February 4 & 11 @ 9am-10:30am)**

St. Eugene Catholic Church distributes brown bag lunches to those in need. Personal hygiene items for needy families. St. Eugene, 608 Lions Club Road, Wendell. More info at [www.steugeneparish.org](http://www.steugeneparish.org).

#### **Valentine Ball (February 10 @ 8-11pm)**

NC Revelers Orchestra Performing. Tickets \$25. Wendell Community Center, 601 W. Third Street, Wendell. Call 919.365.6318 for reservations.

### \* Wilson \*

#### **Alexander Frey in Concert (February 3 @ 7:30pm)**

World class, world renown artist/musician coming to Wilson! Out of Berlin, Germany, Frey has premiered works of Leonard Bernstein and Korngold among others. There is no charge for this concert of piano & organ works. First Christian Church of Wilson, 207 Tarboro N, Wilson. Info at 252.237.4125 and [www.fccwilson.org/musicseries](http://www.fccwilson.org/musicseries)

#### **ACT! for Youth "Footloose" (February 3-4 @ 7:30pm & February 5 @ 3pm)**

"Everybody Cut Footloose!" The Boykin Center will be rockin' to the beat of the Top 40 score when Rodgers & Hammerstein's Footloose "kicks off its Sunday shoes" on the stage! Tickets: \$12, \$8 students & seniors. Edna Boykin Cultural Center, 108 Nash Street NE, Wilson. Information online at [www.wilsonarts.com](http://www.wilsonarts.com).

#### **Love the Symphony (February 14 @ 6:30pm)**

A great way to spend Valentine's Day! Barton College/ Wilson Symphony Orchestra's Love the Symphony including a Wine Reception, Symphony Performance, and dinner. Reservations required. Gym, Barton College, Wilson. Contact 252.399.6309 or [lalamm@barton.edu](mailto:lalamm@barton.edu).

#### **Kitchen Science (Feb. 15 @ 1:30-5pm)**

Cook up fun concoctions and learn the process behind the creations at Imagination Station Science Museum. Wilson County Schools are getting out early so let ISSM help you out. Ages 6-12 years. Prior registration required. 224 E. Nash Street. Wilson. For info, 252.291.5113 or visit [www.imaginescience.org](http://www.imaginescience.org).

### \* Zebulon \*

#### **Brown Bag Lunch Ministry (February 4 & 11 @ 11:30am-12:30)**

Zebulon United Methodist Church distributes brown bag lunches to needy. Personal hygiene items too. Zebulon UMC, Gannon Ave & N. Church St., Zebulon. [www.zumchurch.org](http://www.zumchurch.org).

#### **Family Movie Night (February 10 @ 7-9pm)**

Zebulon Parks & Recreation Department holds its free family movie nights on the 2nd Friday of each month. Movie includes free popcorn! Parent or guardian must attend. Zebulon Community Center, 301 S Arendell Ave, Zebulon. Call 919.823.0432 to find out what is showing.

#### **Senior Sweetheart Dance (February 11th @ 7-10pm)**

Invite your sweetheart or come with a couple of friends and enjoy good music and dancing as we celebrate Valentine's Day at the Community Center. Bring your favorite snack or hors d'oeuvre to share! Register by February 3rd. \$3 per person or \$5 per couple. Zebulon Community Center, 301 S Arendell Ave, Zebulon. Call 919.823.0432 to register.

#### **Pancake Breakfast (February 11 @ 7-11am)**

Zebulon Lions Club is holding a pancake breakfast with proceeds to go to Zebulon Community Projects. Donations accepted at the door. 118 East Lee Street, Zebulon.

### \* Elsewhere \*

#### **"Stepping Into The Past" Saturdays (February 4, 11, 18 & 25 @ 10am-3pm)**

The Tobacco Farm Life Museum presents their "Stepping into the Past" Saturday event series. Demonstrations with your regular cost of admissions into the museum. Multiple events this month including: Feb. 4th *Food Processing*, Feb. 11th *Health and Beauty*, Feb. 18th *Flat Pickin' and Buck Dancing*, and Feb. 25th *Working the Land*. 709 North Church Street, Hwy 301, Kenly. Info 919.284.3431 or [www.tobaccofarmlifemuseum.org](http://www.tobaccofarmlifemuseum.org).

#### **Bark & Wine With Your Valentine 2012 (February 14 @ 6pm-9pm)**

Celebrate Valentine's Day with a wine tasting surrounded by lots of companions ready to love you. Fine wines & beers, tasty treats, & wet puppy kisses await at this 8th annual event. Sample 6-8 varieties of wine & beer served in a commemorative glass & light fare to complement the flavors for just \$30/person. SPCA Pet Adoption Center, 200 Petfinder Lane, Raleigh. Visit [www.spcawake.org](http://www.spcawake.org) for details and tickets.

#### **Networking In Knightdale (February 21 @ 11:30am-1pm)**

A chance to connect with other businesses in the area. Everyone is welcome. Eat, mingle, share a 30-second commercial, & get useful information and prizes. Free to members, \$10 nonmembers. Attendees pay for own meals. Applebee's, 6609 Knightdale Blvd, Knightdale.

### Events Repeating Every Week

#### **Knightdale**

Wednesday: Yoga, Knightdale Swim Club Clubhse.

#### **Nashville**

Monday: 10:30am Storytime, Cooley Library

#### **Rocky Mount**

Monday: Karaoke, Zaxby's of Rocky Mount  
Thursday: Live Music, Westridge Grill

#### **Wendell**

Tuesday: 6pm Zumba, Wendell Community Center

#### **Wilson**

Thursday: 4pm Movie, Reid Street Comm. Center

#### **Zebulon**

Sunday: Trivia Night, McLean's Ole Time Cafe  
Monday: 7:30pm Trivia Night, Pizza Villa  
Friday: Scrabble/Game Night, Eclectic Intellectual  
Saturday: Karaoke Night, McLean's Ole Time Cafe  
*Call 919.623.9392 to add your ongoing event.*

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# Valentine's Day

## Celebrating Love & Caring

by Kay Whatley, Editor

This day for expressing love is named after Saint Valentine. Dating back many centuries, Valentine's Day was removed from the General Roman Calendar of Saints in 1969 due to conflicting historical information about who Valentine was; however, February 14th continues on as a day for special attention to those you love.

From the childhood giving of Valentine's cards, Americans are brought up recognizing this day for its focus on love, care, and connection. Valentine's cards have been a staple of the holiday for a long time, as demonstrated by the early 1900s card depicted on the back-page of this newspaper. Who doesn't recall receiving Valentine's cards in elementary school, or carefully choosing a card for a best friend or sweetheart?

On this red-and-pink filled day, all levels of relationships are celebrated. Boys and girls, men and women, give cards and gifts to friends and family. Some television commercials even suggest extravagant gifts like luxury cars.

Couples celebrate by giving flowers and candy, sharing a romantic dinner, or exchanging cards. The day takes on great significance for those in love. Whether young love or young-at-heart, couples often make big plans for a special day to focus on, or renew, their love.

Valentine's Day goods fill store shelves almost as the New Year rings in, with choices of candies, home decor, plush animals, arts and crafts, limited-edition snacks, and heart jewelry.

Many in love head to the jewelry store. Jewelry stores offer a broad range of charms and adornments to fit the occasion. Depending on budget, hearts, red gemstones, and love-oriented shapes are available in all types of precious metals. Jewelry stores often run sales around Valentine's Day, knowing the number of buyers is high for that date.

Alternatively, search for the unique, or antique, at resale jewelry stores, antique shops, or pawn shops. Want something with history? Hoping to give something unique? Look where the one-of-a-kind items may have ended up. Some of these stores may even be able to offer quality goods at a low price.

Hundreds of millions of dollars are spent on sending flowers each Valentine's Day! Flower colors signify the love the giver feels for the receiver. Most commonly, red is for romantic love, yellow for friendship, and pink for gratitude. The number and type of flower also have meanings, so doing a little research can help you avoid embarrassment and send the right message.

Putting thought into a gift does not take long. Give from the heart when shopping for a friend, child, parent, or your true love. Thinking of something you know will be meaningful to them can help to make the chosen gift even more special.

Time together can be the best gift of all. Your favorite local eatery can make for a fine dinner to share. Planning something you both enjoy — movies, sports, walks — may add to the day, especially if you don't get a chance to do it too often!

So when Tuesday, February 14th arrives, let those you care about know that you are thinking of them. It can make a positive difference in their day, and make special memories.

## 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 & Conversation

You hold a super bowl viewing party for a group of friends and neighbors. February 5th at 5pm folks start arriving, some with snacks in hand. Patriots and Giants fans are there, along with avid fans for other teams that didn't make it to the super bowl.

You invited about 15 people. One of your friends invited his friend, Jack, who is a serious Patriots fan. Your young son is a big Giants fan. Throughout the first half of the game, Jack is talking "smack" with your son. At first, it is just normal football banter, but by halftime he is getting a bit nasty. The halftime show has barely started before he makes an inappropriate and angry remark, causing you concern.

Do you think as a parent you should intervene? Do you think you would ask Jack to leave? Or do you think you would stay silent? Do you think you'd be more likely to do something if your son was visibly shaken by Jack's anger?

## News From The Grey Area

This month's newspaper includes articles from several local contributors, a special on Valentine's Day, and events for that day and many others — including a few Super Bowl events. Next month, the good news, bad news, and history will return.

Between issues, keep up with *The Grey Area* news and local event updates via online social media and at [www.greyareanews.com](http://www.greyareanews.com).



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*The Grey Area™*

**The Backside**



**Little Bits**

**Word of the Issue**

**Love**

**Definition:** An intense feeling of deep affection.

**Example:** "He fell head over heels in love with her."

**Translation of the Issue**

**English — "love"**

German — liebe

Latin — amor

Irish — grá

Spanish — amor

Italian — amore

Dutch — liefde

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**

**Max Muller (1823-1900)**

"A flower cannot blossom without sunshine, and man cannot live without love."

**Chuckle of the Issue**

On Valentine's day, a couple drove down the road for miles, not saying a word. They had been talking earlier, and the discussion led to an argument. So now, they drove along in silence.

They drove past a large farm with several mules standing at the fence. As they passed, the husband asked sarcastically, "Relatives of yours?"

"Yep," his wife replied gruffly, "In-laws."

**Cryptogram of the Issue**

Replace the letters with other letters to deduce the quote within the puzzle.  
Hint: Y = E.

T Y R N P L Y Y H M W M S A Y L

T W J S X Y S N Y P R A Y J W S K

J C V Y N P C F U F R M Y M S A R N P

J S X Y S N Y L Y Y H M W P R A Y J

W S K D S K V B P Y

M B S C I K

Answer to the January 15th cryptogram (all Editions):

*In the end, we will  
remember not the  
words of our enemies,  
but the silence of  
our friends.*

-- Martin Luther King, Jr

**'Fridge Clipping of the Issue**

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**



He doesn't come to bite you,  
This little dog of mine,  
But simply to invite you  
To be

MY VALENTINE

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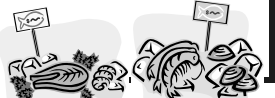


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