

The Grey Area™

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

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Bunn, Wendell, Wilson & Zebulon NC

“I’M FREE—Take Me With You!”

**Volume 2, Number 4
February 15, 2012**

Unsung Heroes Series

By Margaret Langley, Contributing Author

Lewis R. Neal

Lewis Neal has seen a lot of interesting things in his lifetime. He has recently been recognized for seeing someone trying to steal his neighbor’s car and alerting the authorities. They were able to recover the vehicle, for which his neighbor declared him a “Hero”. And while this type of everyday heroism is welcome in all walks of life, no one would ever know by looking at Lewis Neal just what his REAL act of heroism and humanitarianism is.

It all started back in 1963, when President John F. Kennedy was shot while in office. Lewis clipped articles about the President’s death and started making a scrapbook. He kept clipping articles from newspapers and saving them in boxes, separating black history and white history to make it easier for him to find a specific article when someone needed information about something or someone. By the time Lewis retired from Estes Motor Lines in 2004 with 36 years of trucking under his belt, he had accumulated boxes and boxes of newspaper and magazine clippings.



When I asked Lewis (pictured at left) what his motivation was to clip and save all of those articles, he said, “I wanted my children to know something about my family and the history of Wilson; and to let my children know what those people accomplished in their life. If they can do it, I can do it too.”

People who heard about what he was doing began donating things of historical value. Lewis originally stored all of his treasures in a small building, but soon decided his auto repairing days were over. He and his wife had their garage remodeled and turned it into — for lack of a better word —

a museum. There, Lewis has carefully labeled every item he has in his collection and hung it from the wall, sat it on a table, on the floor, on a shelf or hung it from the ceiling. Every inch of each wall is covered with memorabilia. The ceiling is covered with all manner of antique tools and other vintage artifacts. You name it, he has it! Old high school albums and magazines are among his collections. I can honestly say I was astonished.

Lewis Neal is excited about his work, and I couldn’t blame him in the least. With a ready smile, he points out item after item and explains its history to me. I could spend a week in there and probably still not see everything.

He loves sharing what is in his home-made garage/museum. He tells me that people call and want to come to see what he has in there. He welcomes anyone who would like to see his work, especially children. When a church group needed a place to meet, he suggested using his building, and the rest is history! Now, regular Neighborhood Watch, Community Meeting, and House of Ruth Meetings take place there.

Not only that, Lewis is still collecting newspaper clippings. He showed me boxes of clippings that he has yet to catalogue or place in a frame or an album. When I asked Lewis what he would love to see happen with his place, he said, “I would love to open up my own Museum, with regular hours so people can come and see my stuff.”

Trust me, Mr. Neal’s collection isn’t just “stuff”. It is years and years of hard work and time put in by Lewis Neal to leave behind an important collection of historical artifacts and information.

In addition to his own personal hobby, Mr. Neal also does other community activities. He volunteers over at the SPOT community center weekly. He works with children and helps out with the school buses. He attends church regularly and church activities. If he could, I am sure Lewis would be helping someone or clipping articles during his sleep.

As I said earlier in this story, walking amongst us are everyday people whom one would never guess to be a hero. They are the true unsung heroes of our day and time. In my opinion, Mr. Lewis Neal is one such local person.

Choosing Organic & Local Foods

By Chad Ray, Contributing Author

(green builder, farmer, steward of www.rayfamilyfarms.com)

Hello again, this is guest columnist Chad Ray — the green building farmer dude. Thank you again for supporting the local small business where you picked up this issue. Remember: try to put a local face with the money you spend!

We all get hung up on what up-front costs are for local organic products. We sometimes want the cheapest food out there, but we also want to live in a great place. We can’t have beautiful farms with men and women farmers making a living here in our communities if we don’t support them.

I hear people all the time talking about the cost of farmers’ organic meats or produce. Let’s look at tomatoes, for example. Some people fuss about a \$5 bag of tomatoes from a roadside stand or farmer’s market, but don’t bat a eye at spending \$2 for a soda at the Give-n-Go that has a full day’s worth of sugar it or \$5 on a burger meal. The true costs of food show up not only in our pocket books but our communities’ vitality, our waist line, and most importantly our childrens’ long term health.

Organic vegetables are more expensive at the grocery store or farmer’s market because the small local farmer’s costs are higher to produce tomatoes and other vegetables than the giant mega farms. Those local organic tomatoes may be better for us, better tasting, and just plain better looking.

I just believe our health, safety, and welfare are equally important, if not more important, than the price of the products. Many people think our Franklin County NC farm sells only to rich folks. I gladly say all of our customers pull up in mini-vans and sedans. In fact, we have several families that live off one income. *Do they purchase filets?* No they don’t, but \$5 worth of hamburger, sausage, or chicken stock is 6-8 meals for that family. A good choice, don’t you think?

Again, I’m not saying buy only local, organic food. I am saying the food choices we make affect way more than our pocket book. Please keep that in mind when you see those \$5 locally-grown tomatoes. Support your local farmer, and local restaurants that serve local food.

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Things to Do in NC
When You’re Bored

* Nashville *

2012 Read-In at Harold D. Cooley Library
(February 16 @ 6-7pm)

Come & read from a favorite book, story, poem, or anything written. Listen to the favorites of others. All ages. Bring your reading material with you; limit your reading time to under three minutes. Light refreshments after the program. Event held at Rocky Mount, Nashville, & Tarboro libraries. Harold D. Cooley Library, 114 W. Church Street, Nashville Contact Brenda Thibodeau at 252.442.1951 ext. 243 or visit www.braswell-library.org.

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.

Operation Medicine Drop
(February 23 @ 6PM)

The Nashville Police Department with Nashville Elementary School conduct Operation Medicine Drop. Safely dispose of unused or outdated medications. Nashville Elementary School, 209 E Virginia Ave, Nashville Call Community Services Officer Glover at 252.459.4545.

* Rocky Mount *

2012 Read-In at Braswell Memorial Library
(February 16 @ 6-7pm)

Come & read from a favorite book, story, poem, or anything written. Listen to the favorites of others. All ages. Bring your reading material with you; limit your reading time to under three minutes. Light refreshments after the program. Braswell Memorial Library, Warner Room, 727 North Grace Street, Rocky Mount Contact Brenda Thibodeau at 252.442.1951 ext. 243 or visit www.braswell-library.org.

Public Meeting for 5yr Consolidated Plan
(February 16 @ 7-10pm)

Open to College Students, Adults, and Seniors. The City of Rocky Mount & the Down East Home Consortium (DEHC) receive approximately \$1,500,000 each year from the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). In order to receive these federal funds, which support a wide range of the City’s & Consortium’s housing & community service programs, the Consortium & the City must prepare a Consolidated Plan & an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. In the George P. Dudley Council Chamber, Frederick E. Turnage Municipal Building - Third Floor 331 S. Franklin St., Rocky Mount Contact Lorie Fillyaw at 252.972.1178.

Alleluia Sunday Choral Evensong
(February 19 @ 5-6pm)

The St. James School Choir sings this candlelight evening service celebrating Alleluia Sunday in the English cathedral tradition. Event free & open to the public. Reception may follow. Childcare available. Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 231 N Church Street, Rocky Mount Call Lawrence Goering at 252.442.1134, x.224.

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Stig Rossen (February 24 @ 8pm)

Upcoming performance in the Dunn Center Series. Dunn Center For The Performing Arts 3400 North Wesleyan Blvd, Rocky Mount Ticket info at www.ncwc.edu/dunncenter.

2012 International Festival of Cultures
(February 25 @ 12-4pm)

A special event for all ages. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission invites all to celebrate the various cultures in our community. Admission is free. Brown Auditorium Business & Industry Center, Nash Comm. College, 522 N Old Carriage Rd, Rocky Mt Contact Archie Jones at 252.972.1180.

* Wendell *

Brown Bag Lunch Ministry
(February 18 & 25 @ 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.

Coffee and Conversation
(February 24 @ 6:30-9pm)

Poetry night featuring LaTonya Richardson, author of the book, *The Water God Used to Make Me Came From My Own Tears*. Also poetry from June of Blash Universe. The Kila Company, 28 Main Street, Wendell

First Friday Jazz
(March 2 @ 7pm)

Bruce Dellimore is performing. The Kila Company, 28 Main Street, Wendell For details, call 919.365.5003.

* Wilson *

Writer & Comedic Performer
Jane Borden Book Signing
(February 16 @ 5:30-7pm)

Friends of Hackney Library sponsors a book signing with author, editor, and comedic performer Jane Borden. Hackney Library, Barton College, Wilson For info, call Cynthia Collins at 252.399.6503.

A Grand Night for Singing
(February 23-25 @ 8pm & February 26 @ 3pm)

Featuring songs from hits like Carousel, Oklahoma!, The King and I, South Pacific, Cinderella and The Sound of music. Group rates available. Boykin Center, 108 Nash Street, Wilson Contact playhouseofwilson@gmail.com for more details.



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Events Repeating Every Week

Knightdale

Wednesday: Yoga, Knightdale Swim Club Clubhse.

Nashville

Monday: 10:30am Storytime, Cooley Library

Rocky Mount

Sunday: Fun Day, Children's Museum & Science Ctr
Monday: Karaoke, Zaxby's of Rocky Mount
Thursday: Live Music, Westridge Grill

Wendell

Tuesday: 6pm Zumba, Wendell Community Center
Friday: 10am Bingo, Eastern Wake Senior 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: Karaoke Night, McLean’s Ole Time Cafe
Call 919.623.9392 to add your ongoing event.

Pirates of the Coastal Sound
(March 2 @ 3-6pm)

Join this “Fabulous Friday” event to make a pirate ship to take home. Held in the NC Museum of the Coastal Plain. Third Floor, 224 E. Nash Street. Wilson

Roots & Shoots
(March 14 @ 1:30-5pm)

Welcome Spring by getting your hands dirty, thumbs green, and brushing off those winter cobwebs at Imagination Station Science Museum. Advance registration is required. 224 E. Nash Street. Wilson For info, 252.291.5113 or visit www.imaginescience.org.

Triangle East Home & Garden Show
(Mar 16 @ 10am-7pm & Mar 17 @ 9am-5pm)

Stop by Friday or Saturday & check out home and garden options from a variety of vendors. Includes guest speaker Chip Callaway, nationally-known Landscape Architect. Wilson Mall, 1501 Ward Boulevard, Wilson Contact Wilson Chamber Of Commerce at 252.237.0165.

* Zebulon *

Brown Bag Lunch Ministry
(February 18 & 25 @ 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.

Family Movie Night
(March 9 @ 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.

East Wake Spelling Bee
(March 15 @ 6pm)

Four-person teams compete in this moderated event. Spell a word & stay in the Bee. Ages 16 or older. Businesses, clubs, or schools may have teams. Trophies! Register. East Wake High School Gym, 5101 Rolesville Rd, Wendell For info and registration, call 919.269.6320.

* Elsewhere *

“Stepping Into The Past” Saturdays
(February 18 & 25 @ 10am-3pm)

The Tobacco Farm Life Museum presents this Saturday event series. Demonstrations with your regular cost of admissions into the museum. Multiple events this month including: 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.

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Tax Time Assistance

This year, the IRS is highlighting the Earned Income Tax Credit. The “EITC” is aimed at helping millions of Americans who earned \$49,078 or less. Here is a part of the information the IRS has released.

Those who earned \$49,078 or less from wages, self-employment, or farm income in 2011 could receive larger refunds if they qualify for the EITC. The EITC can mean up to \$464 for people without children, or up to a maximum credit of \$5,751 for those with three or more qualifying children.

The EITC is a refundable credit, unlike other deductions and credits. This means eligible people may receive a refund from the IRS even if they do not owe any tax.

People can see if they qualify by visiting IRS.gov and answering a few questions using the EITC Assistant.

News From The Grey Area

By Kay Whatley, Editor

This month’s newspaper includes some tax information from the IRS, an article on a unique local resident, background on locally grown food, and upcoming Eastern NC events.

The Grey Area newspaper is published by Above And Beyond Learning, and is focused on “Local and National Unusual News”. News is localized in two Editions, as we strive to make the paper relevant to readers in parts of our distribution area. One Edition is distributed to offices, shops, and stores in Rocky Mount and Nashville NC and includes extra events and news for that area. The second Edition goes into similar establishments in Bunn, Wendell, Wilson, and Zebulon with added details for those readers. As our readership has expanded, the newspaper has spread into more locations — now close to 600 shops take the paper and share it with their customers.

We have been asked a few times, why a UFO on the front? While our main focus is Eastern NC happenings, we include unusual news our readers might not find in local media. Whether you find these articles funny or interesting, they are just something beyond normal about which you can make your own judgements. If you’ve ever heard of Charles Fort,

who was a man from the early 20th century who researched strange happenings, then you’ll recognize some of our articles as “Fortean”. Since UFO sightings are often an item of disagreement or discussion, and they are reported throughout the US, we chose this image that would be recognizable — and eye catching — to readers across NC and across our nation.

For the next issue, we’re going to be adding a feature of “slang words”, as suggested by one of our loyal readers in Rocky Mount. We welcome your submissions of slang specifically used within the Carolinas.

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 decide to take your family out to see a PG-13 movie at your local theatre. You have your 11-year-old and teenager with you. After grabbing your popcorn and drinks, you settle in with your children just as the previews are beginning.

A few minutes later, you feel someone tapping on your shoulder, and turn to see a stranger — presumably another patron there to see the movie. This man tells you in no uncertain terms that your child is too young to see the movie. He also makes comments about your parenting abilities. Then he gives you a dirty look, walks away, and sits down in another part of the theatre.

Do you think that you would find it easy to ignore him and just enjoy the movie with your family? Having someone criticize you in this way, do you think you would take it personally? Or could you let it go, confident in your judgement and family choices? Do you feel this man’s behavior should be reported to the theatre manager?

Alternatively, what if your spouse was with you, became embarrassed, and wanted to leave? Do you think that would change your actions?

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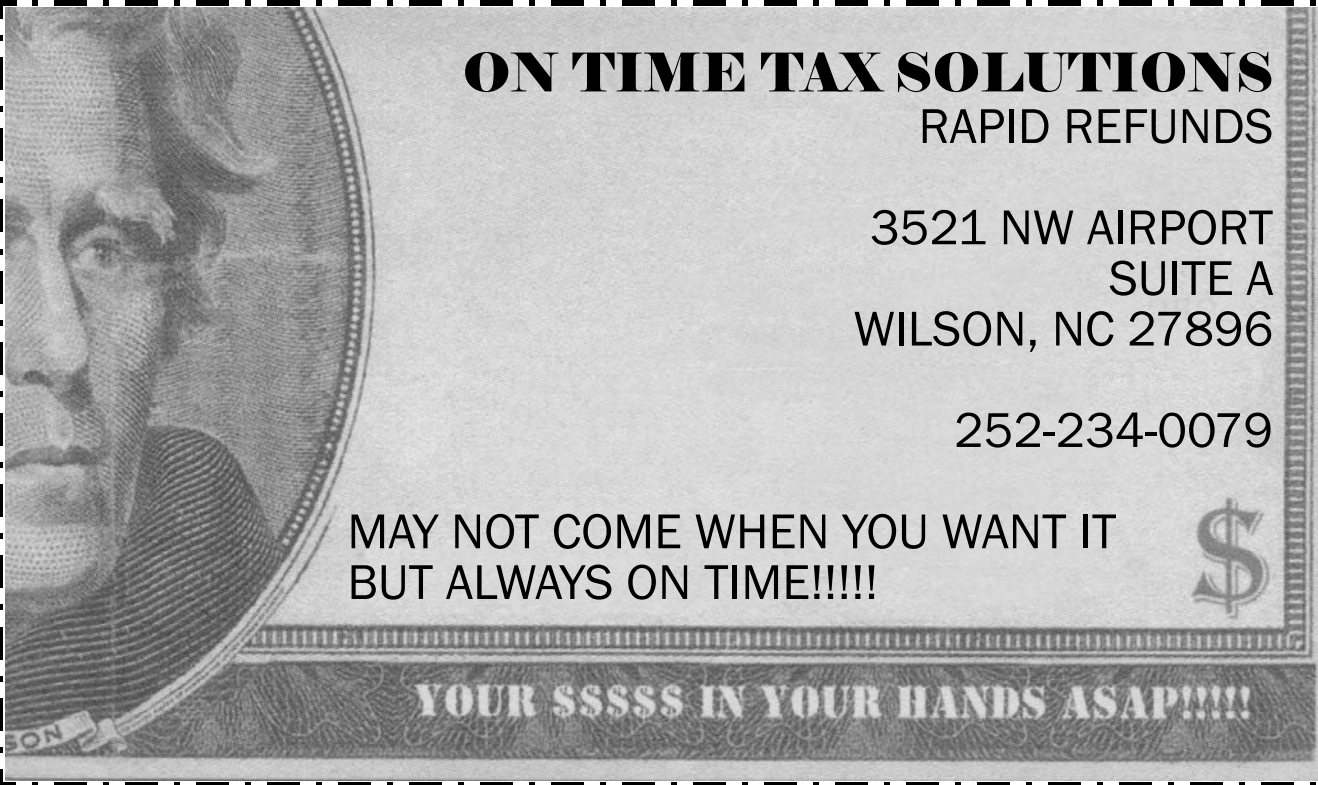
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The Grey Area™

The Backside



Little Bits

Word of the Issue

prognostication
Definition: The action of prophesying or foretelling future events; a prophecy.
Example: "More than a few figures throughout history have had a gift for prognostication."

Translation of the Issue

English — "milk"

German — milch	Spanish — leche
Latin — lacte	Italian — latte
Irish — bainne	Dutch — melk

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

Bill Cosby
"In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure."

Chuckle of the Issue

Jack, an occasional hunter, visits the local outfitters and asks, "Do you sell camouflage jackets?"

"Yes, we do," replies the salesman, "Unfortunately, we can't find them."

Cryptogram of the Issue

Replace the letters in this February 15th Cryptogram with other letters to deduce the quote within the puzzle. Hint: A = O.

U H R N B H R A Z A B N

W A N M ' Z A B N W A N K ' V O K


Z A B N X N Y H O K

-- D H O N Z K V I Y K R D A N H V B

Answer to the February 1st cryptogram (Both Editions):

*Being deeply loved
by someone gives you
strength, while loving
someone deeply gives
you courage.*
-- Lao Tzu

Zebulon Ribbon Cutting



Thursday, February 9th at Pierce's Corner Closet, overseen by the Mayor and Zebulon Chamber of Commerce.
Photo: Frank Whatley

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