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Local and National Unusual News

Bunn/Wendell/Wilson/Zebulon NC Edition – 919.623.9392

Also check out our Edition for
Rocky Mount & Nashville 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



Photo: Margaret Langley

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 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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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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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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