

The Grey Area™

Local and National Unusual News

Bunn, Knightdale, Wendell, & Zebulon NC Edition – 919.623.9392

Also check out our Edition for
Nashville, Rocky Mount & Wilson NC

“I’M FREE—Take Me With You!”

Volume 2, Number 14
July 1, 2012

NC’s Newest Solar Farm Is Commissioned

The sunshine that produces juicy muscadine grapes 11 miles southwest of Rocky Mount will now produce enough electricity to power nearly 200 homes and businesses in Nash County.

State and local officials, company representatives and neighbors from the Elm City area gathered on Thursday evening, June 21, to commission the 1.5-megawatt Sandy Cross Solar Farm on an 11-acre site at the Lewis family farm.

The Sandy Cross Solar Farm is the most recent project completed by O2 Energies Inc., a Charlotte-area solar-development firm that is building a reputation for marrying sustainable agriculture and sustainable energy production on farms in the southeastern United States. O2 Energies already owns and operates several solar farms across North Carolina and will start construction soon on a solar farm that also will create a new sheep farm in Franklin County.

The Sandy Cross Solar Farm, just across I-95 from Sandy Cross Vineyard, which grows organic muscadine grapes, will produce more than 2,150 megawatt-hours of affordable electricity per year. The electricity will be sold to Progress Energy for distribution to its customers in the area. O2 Energies is leasing the property from the Lewis family, whose farm was split by I-95’s construction.

“We hope this project sets a standard for the partnership between solar farms and family farms in the state,” said Joel Olsen, O2 Energies’ managing director.

Sustainable agriculture and sustainable energy production complement each other, Olsen pointed out. Solar farms have a low profile, they’re noiseless and they produce no pollution and consume no water. And it may surprise many people that solar arrays are even more efficient than plant life at converting solar energy. Plants such as grapes and soybean typically use only 3 to 6 percent of the sun’s light for photosynthesis. O2 Energies’ Sandy Cross Solar Farm uses 6,000 Renewable Energy Corporation Modules which are made with US produced silicon. (REC) Peak Energy modules convert roughly 15 percent of the sunshine to electricity.

Olsen noted that O2 Energies used North Carolina suppliers and local manpower for much of Sandy Cross Solar Farm’s development. Morrisville-based Southern Energy Management-PowerSecure engineered and constructed the solar farm. Daetwyler Clean Energy of Huntersville supplied the mounting and racking structure for the fixed-tilt solar array.

Among the approximately 80 workers who built the plant, half are from Nash County and most of the others are from neighboring counties. Olsen said that although this was the first time that many of them worked on a solar farm’s construction, he expects a good number will continue in the solar-power field by working on other O2 Energies projects.

Thursday’s commissioning event included representatives from the N.C. Department of Agriculture who brought along their “Got to be NC” giant shopping cart and touring RV. Also represented were officials of the N.C. Agricultural

Finance Authority that worked with Blue Harbor Bank to provide financing for the \$5-million project. In addition, there was a local sheep farmer showing off some of his animals that will maintain the solar farm’s grounds by eating grass and weeds.

The event ended with a wine and juice tasting provided by Old North State Winery of Mount Airy, which uses Sandy Cross Vineyards’ grapes in some of its products, while music with a “sun” theme played in the background.

“We are very proud of this project,” Olsen said, “and are fortunate to be working with so many committed project partners.”



Ground View of Sandy Cross Solar on a Bright Sunny Day.
Provided by O2 Energies.

The Good News... Local Expo Draws Steady Crowd

The afternoon of June 19th, Knightdale High School was the place to be! The Knightdale Business Expo drew business people, families, and local residents walked through gathering information on over 100 local shops and service businesses.

Walking into the school, the first vendor passed was Kioti, whose representatives brought with them a variety of equipment. Several, including the vehicle in the photo, were parked around the entrance. Inside, vendors talked with visitors about their products and services, and local organizations explained their offerings. Restaurants including Longhorn Steakhouse and Knightdale Seafood & Barbecue handed out samples of their foods. Kids and adults spun wheels to win prizes. Sample products were dropped into visitors’ bags along with bits of candy and logo-covered tidbits.

Organized by the Knightdale Chamber of Commerce, the event was much more than a place to pick up pens, food, toys, and literature. It was an event that brought together people of all ages from Knightdale, Wendell, and surrounding towns. If you missed this annual event, it may be worthwhile to watch for it next year and check out this busy town along Route 64.

Look Inside for Where and When Fireworks and Independence Day Celebrations!



The Bad News... Pertussis Cases on the Rise

With Pertussis cases on the rise in NC, the NC Dept. of Health & Human Services (DHHS) provides vaccines for children and adults. The state health director urges children and other vulnerable people to get vaccinated.

Recent outbreaks of pertussis (whooping cough) across the state have renewed calls from state health officials for North Carolinians to be immunized against this highly contagious but preventable respiratory disease. In response to the outbreak, the DHHS-administered Immunization Program has made Tdap vaccine, which protects against pertussis, available to anyone age 7 years and older, including adults, regardless of their insurance status.

Pertussis is spread from person to person usually by coughing or sneezing while in close contact with others.

DHHS is providing the Tdap vaccine to health care providers in the NCIP network, which includes all local health departments and many public and private health-care providers.

The DTaP vaccination series is recommended for children starting at 2 months of age, and continuing at 4 months, 6 months, 15-18 months and 4-6 years of age. A Tdap booster shot should be given to children by 11 years of age because immunity from the childhood vaccines wears off over time. Teens and adults who haven’t yet received a pertussis booster shot should also be vaccinated.

For more information, visit www.ncdhhs.gov.



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Things to Do in NC
When You’re Bored

These “things to do...” listings are free, at publisher’s discretion, and as space allows. Up to 2 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.

* Bunn *

Photography Club (July 8 @ 2-4pm)
Franklin County Arts Council photography club meeting. Common Grounds Coffee, 20 Cheves Road, Bunn
Contact donnacampbellsmith@gmail.com.

Four on the Rock (July 12 @ 7pm)
Come by for live Southern Gospel, food & java!
Common Grounds Coffee, 20 Cheves Road, Bunn

“Barn Raising” Blood Drive (July 14)
Have you considered donating blood? The Red Cross is accepting whole blood & double red cell donations. Ray Family Farms, 6913 Pearces Road, Louisburg
Sign up at www.redcrossblood.org/make-donation-sponsor & use sponsor code “RFF”.

Open Mic Night (July 15 @ 2-4pm)
Come get your five minutes of fame. Poetry, prose & music. Common Grounds Coffee, 20 Cheves Road, Bunn
Contact donnacampbellsmith@gmail.com.

7-Chamber Event & Ribbon Cutting (July 26 @ 5:30-8:30pm)
Open House with 7 Chambers of Commerce. Vendor booths, Norris Creek Ribbon Cutting, & corn hole match. Food, beer & soda. Live music by *Brickhouse*. Free event/parking. Norris Creek Amphitheatre, 751 Old Halifax Rd, Louisburg
For info visit www.norriscreek.com.

The Depths of Me (July 28 @ 8pm)
One Woman Show written & performed by Tai Miles. There will be poetry, live music, a few characters, & a few life lessons learned. Ages 13 & Up. \$5-\$7 tickets. Common Grounds Coffee, 20 Cheves Road, Bunn
More info at thedepthsofme.eventbrite.com.

* Knightdale/Raleigh *

Dancing in the Park (July 5, 12 & 19 @ 6-7pm)
DJ & instructor lead group dances designed for fun and exercise. Organized by Knightdale Parks & Recreation. Harper Park, 209 Main Street, Knightdale

Learn Something! Ask the Mechanic (July 11 @ 6:30-7:30pm)
Part of Adult Summer Reading Program. Learn how to prioritize car repairs. Auto shop owner Bobby Tyrolf answers maintenance questions & gives money-saving tips. East Regional Library, 946 Steeple Sq. Court, Knightdale
Call 919.217.5318 to RSVP.

Networking in Knightdale (July 17 @ 11:30am-1pm)
A chance to connect with Knightdale businesses. Anyone who wants to network is invited. Eat, mingle, share a 30-second commercial, & get useful information & prizes at the same time! \$10 non-members. Pay for own meal. Applebee’s, 6609 Knightdale Blvd., Knightdale
Contact jennifer.bryan@knightdalechamber.org.

PWNG - Professional Women's Networking Group (July 25 @ 11:45am-1pm)
Luncheon helps women brush up on their networking skills, exchange tips & ideas. Network & give a 30-second commercial! RSVP. \$10 members, \$20 non-members. Knightdale Chamber, 207 Main Street, Knightdale
Contact the Chamber at 919.266.4603 to register.

* Wendell *

Tuesday Morning Coffee Break at the Chamber (July 3 & 10 @ 8-9am)
Come meet other business owners in the Wendell Community and beyond. Connect, have coffee or tea, meet others, & network with local business owners!
Wendell Chamber, 115 N Pine Street, Wendell

Men Who Cook with Jazz (July 7 @ 3-8pm).

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Saturday, July 7th, 2012
3 pm — 8 pm
28 North Main Street, Wendell
(Cook-off on East Campen Street)

Enjoy shopping, Jazz music, & food!
(Bring your lawn chair!!!!)
Broadcasted live with “WSHA” Jazz Radio

To register, or for more information, call:
(252) 204-7487 or (919) 365-5003
or Wendell Chamber (919) 365-6318
Proceeds will benefit the “American Cancer Society”
& “Learning a Living Program” for People with Special Needs



Watermelon Day & Corn Roasting (July 7 @ 10am-1pm)
Free Watermelon & corn roasting all at the Wendell Farmers Market. Come down for local foods and fun!
Corner of W. Third & Cypress Streets, Wendell
For more info email josiahandbrandy@gmail.com.

Triangle Network Group (July 11 @ 8-9am)
Meet other local business people & share info. Wendell Chamber, 115 N Pine Street, Wendell

Artist's Reception (July 11 @ 7-9pm)
Local artist Martha Connolly with Mac Paintings, artwork displayed in the Wendell Chamber conference room. Come meet Martha Connolly, enjoy snacks & view her artwork. 115 N Pine Street, Wendell

How to Get More Sales with Your Website (July 12 @ 6-9pm)
Workshop taught by Greg Borchardt of Barking Bird Media. Designed to show you what business websites need to have to bring in more paying customers.
Wendell Chamber, 115 N Pine Street, Wendell

Family Concert Series (July 13 & 27 @ 6-8pm)
Evening of music under the stars. Bring a lawn chair. J Ashley Wall Town Square, Third & Cypress Sts., Wendell
Contact Wendell Chamber of Commerce at 919.365.6318.

2nd Saturday Karaoke (July 14)
Fun, food & local voices.
Pizza Villa, 409 W Gannon Avenue, Zebulon
Call 919.269.4777 for more details.

East Wake Sons of Confederate Veterans Program (July 17 @ 6:30-8:30pm)
Come for supper at 6:30 & program follows. All invited. July speaker Thomas Smith, NC Div Commander. Boulevard Pizza, 2925 Wendell Blvd., Wendell
For more information, call 919.365.5206.

Wendell Chamber Community Yard Sale (July 28 @ 7am-1pm)
Join the community for this downtown vendor event. Campen Street, Wendell

* Zebulon *

Carolina Mudcats Baseball (Home July 1-6, 16-22, 31)
Baseball, hot dogs, soda, sunshine, and fireworks (Fridays) can make for a great family outing. Five County Stadium, 1501 NC-39, Zebulon, NC
Visit www.gomudcats.com for tickets.

Family Storytime (July 2, 9 & 16 @ 6-6:30pm)
Children & their families are invited. Books, music, & more. Zebulon Community Library, 1000 Dogwood Drive
For information, call 919.404.3610.

Student Arts Festival (July 14 @ 12-9pm)
The Student Arts Council (SAC) of the FCAC is holding this 1st Annual Student Arts Festival. Live performances by local musicians, work sold by local artisans & more. Pilot Lions Park, 38 Pilot Bypass Rd. Zebulon
Email SAC Director Linda Wade at FCACSAC@gmail.com.

East Wake WIN (Women in Networking) Luncheon (July 18 @ 11:45AM-1PM)
Open to all professional women. Small fee. RSVP required. Eastern Regional Center, 1003 Dogwood Drive, Zebulon
Call 919.269.6320 or visit www.zebulonchamber.org.

Zebulon Community Watch (July 19 @ 7pm)
Join the group on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Eastern Regional Center, 1003 Dogwood Drive, Zebulon

Bike Night (July 26 @ 5pm)
Custom bikes on display, cornhole, & more. Ride on in! 418 W Gannon Avenue, Zebulon
Details at www.mcleanscave.com.

* Elsewhere *

Free Fishing Day (July 4 @ 12:01am - 11:59pm)
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission reminds the public that on this date everyone — residents and non-residents — may fish in all public waters, including coastal waters without purchasing a fishing license.
Contact 919.707.0187 or visit www.ncwildlife.org.

Stepping Into the Past Series (July 7 @ 10am-3pm)
Event with museum admission. Come by for the 4th of July Ice Cream Social on July 7th. 709 North Church Street, Hwy 301, Kenly
Info 919.284.3431 or www.tobaccofarmlifemuseum.org.

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Call your local ASG Representative: Neil Page

(252) 292-0810

www.asgsecurity.com

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Events Repeating Every Week

Sunday	1-5pm, Free Adm city residents, Children's Museum, Rocky Mt. 4pm, Higher Ground Fellowship, 20 Cheves Rd, Bunn
Monday	10:30am Storytime, Cooley Library, Nashville 3pm Stories & More, Bunn Branch Library, Bunn 7:30pm, Trivia Night, Pizza Villa, Zebulon
Tuesday	7-10am, Tarboro-Edgecombe Farmers Market, Tarboro 8-9am, Coffee Break in Wendell, Wendell Chamber Offices 6pm Zumba, Wendell Community Center, Wendell
Wednesday	8am-1pm, Historic Downtown Wilson Farmers Market, Wilson 8am-1pm, Rocky Mount Farmers Market, Rocky Mount 3-5:30pm, Produce & Play (farm market), Rocky Mount 7-9pm, Bike Night with DJ Erma, Carolina Billiards, Wilson
Thursday	4pm Movie, Reid Street Comm. Center, Wilson Live Music, Westridge Grill, Rocky Mount 5-8pm, Market in the Park, Harper Park, Knightdale
Friday	10am Bingo, Eastern Wake Senior Center, Wendell 9:30pm, Karaoke Night, McLean's Ole Time Cafe, Zebulon 7-10am, Tarboro-Edgecombe Farmers Market, Tarboro
Saturday	7:30am-12pm, Wilson Cty Foregrounds Farmers Market, Wilson 8-11am, Tarboro-Edgecombe Farmers Market, Tarboro 8am-12pm Yard Sale, Common Grounds Coffee, Bunn 8am-1pm, Rocky Mount Farmers Market, Rocky Mount 9am-1pm, Wendell Farmers Market, Wendell 9:30pm, Live Music, McLean's Ole Time Cafe, Zebulon
Call 919.623.9392 to add your ongoing event.	

To Advertise In Your Local Money Mailer Call 919-870-0388
350-01-147

Independence Day
Fireworks



Where to Go to Watch The Sparks Fly

**Carolina Mudcats Baseball & Fireworks
(Home Games July 3 & 4 @ 7:15pm)**

In celebration of Independence Day, there will be a dazzling fireworks display immediately following the games. Five County Stadium, 1501 NC-39, Zebulon, NC Visit www.gomudcats.com for tickets.

**41st Annual Independence Celebration
(July 3 @ 6-10pm; fireworks 9:15pm)**

The City of Rocky Mount celebrates Independence Day. The night features *The Voltage Brothers* band from 7:15-9:15pm, food, fireworks, & lots of community spirit. Rocky Mount Athletic Stadium, 600 Independence Dr., RMt More info at www.rockymountnc.gov/parks.

Fourth of July Parade (July 4 @ 3-5pm)

Dress in your patriotic best! Have the kids decorate their bikes, wagons & strollers. After parade, meet at the Town Square for hot dogs, watermelon & ice cold drinks. The Railroad Tracks on Main Street, Wendell More info www.wendellchamber.org.

Castalia July Fourth (July 4 @ 9am)

Celebrate & enjoy the Small Town Atmosphere! Car Show, Crafts & Food, Parade (2pm), Stage Show, & Fireworks (around 9pm). Castalia Town Park, Castalia

**Greenville's Fourth of July Celebration
(July 4 @ 3-9:15pm)**

Bring the family for an afternoon of fun events consisting of arts and crafts, music, food, games, vendors and an outstanding celebration of fireworks. 1st Street, Town Common, Greenville Contact 910.340.9771.

**Farmville's Fourth of July Celebration
(July 4 @ 6-9pm)**

Young and old will enjoy this great celebration with music, food, arts and crafts, rides, fireworks and more. 3672 N Main Street, Farmville Contact 252.753.4670.

**Wilson Tobs Baseball & Fireworks
(July 4 @ game 7:05pm)**

Tobs vs. Edenton followed by Fireworks. Fleming Stadium, 300 Stadium Street, Wilson For more info, visit www.wilsonslobs.com.

**Town of Atlantic Beach July 4 Celebration
(July 4)**

Independence day events & activities
Call 252-726-2121 or email tab@atlanticbeach-nc.com.

Cannon Firing

(July 4 @ 10:30, 11:30am, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30pm)

A cannon crew of volunteers in period attire explains the loading and firing. Fire it at the conclusion of the program. Fort Macon State Park, Atlantic Beach
Call the Fort for times and more information: 252-726-3775. Contact randy.newman@ncdenr.gov

**Town of Morehead City July 4th Celebration
(July 4 @ 7-11pm; fireworks 9pm)**

Live music & fireworks. Enjoy sounds of The Main Event Band. Celebrate by dancing to the music and viewing a spectacular fireworks display on the waterfront. Jaycee Park, Waterfront, Morehead City
For more information, call 252.726.5083.

Fireworks off Bogue Inlet Pier (July 4 @ 9pm)

The town of Emerald Isle presents July 4th. Parking available at Bogue Inlet Pier & along NC-58 & nearby streets. Fireworks visible from Bogue Sound & the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. Contact asanderson@emeraldisle-nc.org

**Beaufort 4th of July Parade
(July 4 @ 11am parade)**

The parade includes kids, pets, wagons, flags, & music. Free ice cream at the Carteret County Courthouse. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the courthouse lawn. Corner of Gordon and Front Streets, Beaufort Contact Martha Barnes at 252.728.3917 for info.

**Beaufort 4th of July Fireworks Extravaganza!
(July 4 @ 6pm; fireworks 9pm)**

The Beaufort Fireman's Association is selling hot dogs, drinks & other items on the grounds. Grounds on the east side of the Dry Stack building open at 6:00 pm with games. Boathouse/Dry Stack Bldg, 2400 Lennoxville Rd, Beaufort Contact info@frontstreetvillage.com or 252.838.1524.

**The 'Works! July 4th on Fayetteville Street
(July 4 @ 12-10pm; music 4pm; fireworks 9:30pm)**

Family attractions, beer & wine tasting tent, eating contests dunk tank, vendors, & more. Parking is \$5 on parking decks. Downtown Raleigh, especially Fayetteville Street, Raleigh Contact Taylor.Traversari@RaleighConvention.com.

Carmike 10-Wilson
Movie Review of the Issue

By Kay Whatley, Editor

The movie review this issue is *Prometheus*, a “prequel” to the *Alien* movies of the 1980s. Regardless of whether you’re a fan of the *Alien* movies, this sci-fi flick offers quite a bit of science, fiction, and action.



Prometheus runs a little over 2 hours. Its visual effects seemed top-notch, with actors seeming to be inside the space craft, walking through planet surfaces, and facing horrific creatures (and some gross ones!).

Rated R, parents may want to leave younger children — and gore-hating teens — home when watching this movie. There are some violent scenes, including characters being killed horribly and a bloody operation. Pick another film if you don’t like blood and gore!

Overall, the characters are interesting and include some mystery as to each person’s motives. And some of the displays of “alien science” are just plain beautiful to watch!

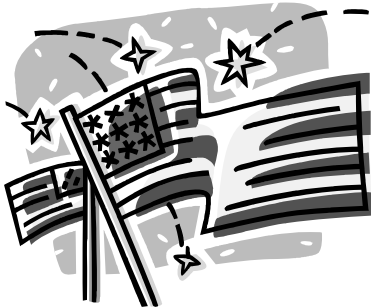
News from The Grey Area

This July 1st issue contains “Where to Go to Watch the Sparks Fly” — a special listing of fireworks and Fourth of July events — alongside many other July events.

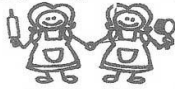
Future issues of *The Grey Area* include special features, tax day details, upcoming fairs & festivals, and back-to-school events. Contact us if you have information on upcoming events in the Five County Area or if you’d like to advertise your business alongside the news. Prior issues may be viewed online in the archive at www.greyareanews.com.



Before the next issue, visit our Facebook page (the code at left can help) to see more events and news. Share your own photos on our Facebook page too!



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Chuckle of the Issue
What did one flag say to the other flag? Nothing. It just waved!

Cryptogram of the Issue
Replace the letters in this Cryptogram with other letters to deduce the quote within the puzzle. Hint: X = I.

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ X _ _ _ _ _ _ X _ Q _ _ _ _ L _ D _ C _ _
 H V X R I N L X Q M O L D C N

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Answer to the previous issue’s cryptogram:

*If you shoot at mimes, should you use a silencer?
-- Steven Wright*

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