

The Grey Area™

Local and National Unusual News

Bunn/Wendell/Wilson/Zebulon NC Edition – 919.623.9392

Also check out our Edition for
Rocky Mount & Nashville NC

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**Volume 2, Number 5
March 1, 2012**

Solar Power Plants Coming to Eastern NC

By Kay Whatley, Editor

Solar energy offers communities a sustainable, renewable power source as well as work for local contractors. Solar farms designed to capture this energy are springing up across North Carolina. In 2011, two farms opened in Western NC. At least two more farms are in the works for Nash and Franklin Counties.

The Sandy Cross Solar Project is one such project, with a goal to build a 1.5-megawatt solar power plant across from Sandy Cross Vineyard in Elm City (between Rocky Mount and Wilson). The Sandy Cross Solar Project represents a \$5Million local investment, bringing together Sandy Cross Vineyards, O₂energies of Cornelius, the Nash County economic development, and the Rocky Mount Chamber Of Commerce. When completed, this Nash County solar farm will produce enough energy for over 200 average homes. Energy generated by the solar farm will be fed into Progress Energy’s electrical grid for use by local homes and businesses.

Sandy Cross Vineyard grows organic muscadine grapes. Their plan is for the solar farm to generate energy to offset power they use in growing grapes, and power used by their related Old North State Winery.



Source: O₂energies; Photo of installation in Newland

The developer and owner of the Sandy Cross Solar Project is O₂energies. Along with general contractor Southern Energy Management, the Nash County Gateway Partnership, and local chambers of commerce, O₂energies is working to maximize local workforce opportunities for subcontractors. In the Elm City area, there are plans for selected subcontractors to attend a training session at the local community college.

Says Joel Olsen, Managing Director. “We expect these projects to bring work opportunities for contractors and individuals in this area who may have never worked on a solar project before.”

O₂energies is also the developer and owner of Mayberry Solar Farm, a Mount Airy solar farm that began generating power October 2011, and Avery Solar, a plant constructed on Henderson Farms near Grandfather Mountain.

O₂energies’ sustainable energy projects continue moving beyond their Mount Airy, Newland, and Nash County efforts with a pending project in Franklin County. A recent public notice described a State Environmental Policy Act review of an application filed for a Certificate to construct a 4.4 megawatt Solar Photovoltaic Array in Franklin County. As of February 27th, *Progress Solar 1* in Bunn was pending, awaiting a final decision from the Zoning Board.

A Little Bit of History Cicero Culpepper Carriage Shop

It’s just after the turn of the century — the twentieth century, that is. The year is 1907 and a carriage shop has just opened at 222 Tarboro Street West in Wilson. Horses and mules draw wagons through the streets, hauling people and goods, and the shop and its blacksmith are a necessity. The Cicero Culpepper Carriage Shop served residents of Wilson and surrounding areas until 1925, when the mules, horses, and wagons were replaced by automobiles and trucks.

Looking at the well-preserved building today, it may be difficult to imagine the original wagon entrance. The surrounding tobacco warehouses, livery stables, and machine shops are gone, but the building still stands — including the second story added around 1913. A Wilson Historic Property marker adorns the building.

The building was used as a bicycle shop for a while, and then restored in the 21st century. Today it houses *Creations by Culbreth*, its doors opening for customers more than 100 years after its original doors opened for carriages and beasts.

Can You Hear the Crack of the Bat?

March brings warmer weather and the beginning of Spring. Birds are singing, people are working in their yards, and bats can be heard making contact with pitched baseballs in stadiums across North Carolina.

Spring training is under way. Just as the kids in the neighborhood are heading out to play ball, players are practicing too — back at the stadiums preparing for the new season.

Local baseball games are still weeks away, but teams are in full swing with Spring training and more. The Carolina Mudcats are holding National Anthem tryouts and a job fair during March. Job seekers and singers will be heading to the stadiums well in advance of the first game, offering their talents to local teams. More information on these events is on Page 2, inside this newspaper.

The Carolina Mudcats move from Double-A to High-A minor league baseball for the 2012 season. Their Home opener is April 6th (7:15pm) at Five County Stadium in Zebulon. The Mudcats play in the *Carolina League* this year, with many new short-distance games for fans who like to watch their Away games.

A little further down 264, head to Historic Fleming Stadium in Wilson to show your support for the Wilson Tobs. The first Tobs Home game is May 29th (7:05pm) against Petersburg. The Wilson Tobs are a wood-bat collegiate summer team, and they play in the *Coastal Plain League* where college players get to show off their skills.

Watch for some special games for both of these local teams in 2012. The Mudcats play an Exhibition Game against the Cleveland Indians the afternoon of April 3rd. This exhibition is at Five County Stadium. Then, the Tobs host the Coastal Plain League All-Star Game on July 22nd. The All-Star Game is being held at Fleming Stadium.

Although these special games are a month or more in the future, tickets will go on sale in advance and you can start planning to spend time with your family at these special ball games in addition to the regular season games!.

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Things to Do in NC
When You’re Bored

* Bunn *

Stories & More (March 5, 12, 19 & 26 @ 3pm)
Weekly storytime, generally for 3-5 year olds.
Bunn Branch Library, 610 Main Street, Bunn
Contact Christy at 919.496.2111 for more info.

4th Annual Farm Show (April 19-22)
Antique tractors, trucks, gas engines, heavy equipment, & other farm equipment. The Rocky Cross Band Saturday. Old Time Church service Sunday. Free kids’ activities.
Norris Creek Outdoor Entertainment Complex
751 Old Halifax Road, Louisburg
Details available from Bunn Town Hall at 919.496.2992.

* Rocky Mount *

Hairspray (Mar 2-3 & 9-10 @ 7:30pm, Mar 4 & 11 @ 2pm)
Musical shows that “You Can’t Stop the Beat!” Fee \$8-\$10.
The Theatre at the Maria V Howard Arts Center
The Imperial Centre, 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount
Details and tickets online at arts.imperialcentre.org.

Weigh-To-Go Diabetes Conference (March 7 @ 1-5pm)
Exhibits, screenings, special speaker, and information.
Held in Nash Community College’s Brown Auditorium.
522 N Old Carriage Road, Rocky Mount
For info, call Jerome Garner at 252.459.1547.

St. Patty's Day Party (March 17 @ 7pm)
Fun and music by Monkeyfoot Acoustic.
Westridge Grill, 3639 Sunset Avenue, Rocky Mount
For details, call 252.937.7299.

* Wendell *

First Friday Jazz (March 2 @ 7pm)
Bruce Dellimore is performing.
The Kila Company, 28 Main Street, Wendell
For details, call 919.365.5003.

Wendell Chamber Yard Sale (March 17)
Great time to clean out those offices/closets, excess inventory, and make a little money.
Downtown Wendell
Visit www.wendellchamber.com for more info.

* Wilson *

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

A Sunday Afternoon Tea of Note (March 4 @ 3:30pm)
A Sunday Afternoon Tea of Note, featuring Dr. Milen Parashkevov (guitar), Todd Wells (piano), & Dr. Gayla Turk (mezzo-soprano). Adults \$10 / Students \$5.
ProMusic Conservatory, 105 W Nash Street, Wilson

Understanding Food Nutrition Labels (March 12 @ 6-7:30pm)
Wilson County Diabetes Support Group is discussing food nutrition labels at their March meeting.
Wilson Medical Center, 1705 Tarboro Street SW, Wilson
Call Martha Gurley, RN, WMC at 252.399.8673.

Roots & Shoots (March 14 @ 1:30-5pm)
Get dirty hands, green thumbs, & brush off winter cobwebs. Advance registration is required.
Imagination Station Sci Museum, 224 E. Nash St., Wilson
For info, 252.291.5113 or visit www.imaginescience.org.

Triangle East Home & Garden Show (Mar 16 @ 10am-7pm & Mar 17 @ 9am-5pm)
Check out home & garden options from a variety of vendors. Includes guest speaker Chip Callaway, Landscape Architect.
Wilson Mall, 1501 Ward Boulevard, Wilson
Contact Wilson Chamber Of Commerce at 252.237.0165.

* Zebulon *

Mudcats 2012 Job Fair (March 3 @ 10am-2pm)
Many positions at Five County Stadium. Work during Carolina Mudcats’ 70 home games & several other events.
Cattails, Five County Stadium, 1501 NC-39, Zebulon
More details via www.carolinamudcats.com.

East Coast Rhythm & Blues (March 3 @ 9pm)
McLean’s Ole Time Cafe, 418 West Gannon Ave., Zebulon
Call for details: 919.269.0125.

Town Hall Presentation (March 5 @ 7-8pm)
Author of *Railroad Born, Citizen Bred: A Century of Life in Zebulon*, Dr. Jerry Cross, gives a 15-minute presentation on historical significance of downtown. Hear town history.
Council Chambers, 1003 N. Arendell Avenue, Zebulon
More details at www.townofzebulon.org.

Family Movie Night (March 9 @ 7-9pm)
Zebulon Parks & Recreation Department free family movie night, 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 @ 6-8pm)
Four-person teams compete in this moderated event. Spell a word & stay in the Bee. 16 or older. Businesses, clubs, or schools may register teams to represent them. Trophies!
East Wake High School Gym, 5101 Rolesville Rd, Wendell
For info and registration, call 919.269.6320.

Zebulon Community Watch (March 15 @ 7pm)
Join the group on the 3rd Thursday of every month.
Eastern Regional Center, 1003 Dogwood Drive, Zebulon

National Anthem Tryouts (March 17 @ 9am)
The Carolina Mudcats are holding their annual *National Anthem* tryouts! Lend your voice to this local baseball team.
Five County Stadium, 1501 NC-39, Zebulon
More details via www.carolinamudcats.com.

Herb Gardening Class (March 17 @ 9:30-11am)
Spend St. Patrick’s Day with green things! Free Hands In The Dirt gardening class by Grow And Share. Background on herbs plus cooking/brewing tips. Bring gloves. Play in the dirt. Plant herbs to take home. Ages 5 through adult.
70 Harrison Street, Zebulon
Contact info@growandshare.org or call 919.269.5414.

East Wake WIN Luncheon (March 21 @ 11:45am-1pm)
Monthly Women in Networking luncheon, designed to help local businesses connect & share information. Lunch fee \$10 members, \$15 non-members. RSVP & prepay required.
Eastern Regional Center, 1003 Dogwood Drive, Zebulon
For details or to register, call the Chamber at 919.269.6320.

Superhero Day (March 24 @ 10-11am)
Wear superhero suit & come to play games, make masks or run the Superhero Obstacle Course. Free event. Ages 3-9.
Zebulon Community Center, 301 S Arendell Ave, Zebulon

Pictures with the Easter Bunny (March 30 @ 4-6pm)
Free 4x6 photo; bring a canned food item to donate.
Zebulon Community Center, 301 S Arendell Ave, Zebulon

Easter Egg Hunt (March 31 @ 10am)
Annual egg hunt for ages 8 and under. Don’t be late & bring a basket. Easter Bunny to be there!
Zebulon Community Park, 401 S. Arendell Ave., Zebulon

* Elsewhere *

“Stepping Into The Past” Saturdays (March 3, 10 @ 10am-3pm)
The Tobacco Farm Life Museum presents this event series. Demonstrations with museum admission. Includes leather-working (March 3rd) & gardeners tips (March 10th).
709 North Church Street, Hwy 301, Kenly
Info 919.284.3431 or www.tobaccofarmlifemuseum.org.

Daylight Savings Time (March 11)
Don’t forget to set your clocks forward!

Franklin County Mission Fundraiser (March 15 @ 5pm - until closing)
Come join us at Rigsbee’s Restaurant for this fundraiser, where 10% of all food purchases go to Franklin County Mission (Homeless Shelter) of Louisburg.
Rigsbee’s Restaurant, 601 South Bickett Blvd., Louisburg

21st Annual Emerald Isle St. Patrick’s Festival (March 17 @ 9am-5pm)
Over 75 arts & crafts vendors, food, Oak Grove Stables petting zoo, rides, clowns, face painters, many family-oriented activities & beer garden. Admission & parking free.
Emerald Plantation Shopping Center
Visit www.emeraldisle-nc.org or call 252.354.6350.

Wearin’ O’ the Green Festival (March 17 @ 10am-9pm)
The Wearin' 'O the Green Festival is in Moore Square with food, beverages, entertainment, & fun! Raleigh St. Patrick's Day Parade begins at noon. All ages.
Details at www.raleighstpats.org.



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Events Repeating Every Week

Bunn
Monday: 3pm Stories & More, Bunn Branch Library

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.



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In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb

by Kay Whatley, Editor

I don't hear this saying about March — if it comes in like a lion it will go out like a lamb — used much in North Carolina. Here in NC we have beautiful weather frequently in February, and March is often mild from its very beginning. Not too many lion-like, biting cold winds like I remember from my northern childhood.

March 20th is the first day of Spring. By that point, cauliflower, greens, and root vegetables will have been in the ground for three weeks or longer. Farms are being worked, and gardeners in short sleeves will be watering outdoors with their children.

March may still be giving us some cold nights, but its days are likely to be in the 60s or better with warm sunshine on our backs while we work. I hope you get to enjoy lamb-mild weather in the coming weeks.

News From The Grey Area

This month's newspaper includes a plethora of Spring events. Whether interested in learning something new, showing off a talent, listening to music, or just hanging out with the family, one or more of the listed events might fit the bill! Some April events are included to give a preview of the many happenings after Spring has sprung.

This March 1st issue is special, as it marks the one year anniversary of *The Grey Area* newspaper. We distributed our first issue in Wilson and Zebulon on March 1st, 2011. Thank you to our advertisers, readers, and distribution locations — as well as our Wilson delivery person Luke — for helping this paper be the best local resource it can be.

The March 15th issue will look at farming and gardening in Eastern NC. To share your experience and photos, email kay@greyareanews.com before March 11th.

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

It's opening day at your local baseball stadium. You're out to cheer for your team and enjoy the day with a group of friends.

In the Third Inning, a "tipsy" man behind you spills a drink that splashes your feet a little. He apologizes over and over, and you decide to let it go. You and your group stay in your seats and continue enjoying the game.

Another few innings go by. The man behind you has several additional drinks and is more than a little inebriated. One of your team's players hits a grand slam and in his excitement the man jumps up and dumps an entire beer on one of your friends.

Do you think you would just get up and leave with your friends? If the one who is soaking wet with beer started an argument, do you think you should intercede or let them argue? At what point would you decide to involve someone from the ball field security? Do you feel you could all enjoy the game after this incident, or would it ruin your outing?

St. Patrick and His Day

If asked to name a well-known holiday in March, you might think of the first day of Spring. Take a drive around town, though, and you'll see restaurants and businesses adorned in green, shamrocks, and St. Patrick's Day specials!

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17th, and commemorates Saint Patrick, one of the patron saints of Ireland. A patron saint is a saint who is regarded as an advocate in heaven for a place or people. Patron saints are believed to be able to intercede on behalf of those they represent. Saints often become the patron saints of places where they were born or had been active in their lifetimes.

Patrick's life details have been lost to history, though what is known points to his being born in Roman Britain in the 300s, being kidnapped at the age of sixteen by Irish raiders, and taken captive to Ireland as a slave.

While in Ireland, Patrick dreamed that he was told by God to flee captivity and return to Britain. He did, and upon his return he joined the Church and studied to be a priest.

Around the year 432, Patrick said that he was called back to Ireland to minister to the Irish. Irish folklore tells that Patrick used the shamrock to explain the concept of the Trinity to the Irish people. Some legend also credits Saint Patrick with banishing snakes from the island.

After thirty years working in Ireland, it is estimated that Patrick died on March 17th in the year 461. The color green and shamrocks became associated with St. Patrick's Day, and have been since the 1600s when displaying shamrocks and wearing green clothing became the tradition.

St. Patrick's Day is believed to have first been celebrated in America in 1737. The first New York City Saint Patrick's Day parade occurred in 1766. Today, many US cities hold Saint Patrick's Day parades and stores hold sales to draw in customers. Will you wear green?

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The Backside



Little Bits

Word of the Issue

Portmanteau

Definition: A new word formed by joining two other words and combining both their meanings.

Example: “We ate *breakfast* so late it was almost time for *lunch*, so we just called it *brunch* and didn’t eat again until evening.”

Special Word Extra: mommuck

Definition: To mess up; to bother.

Translation of the Issue

English — “March” (month)

German — März

Latin — Martius

Irish — Márta

Spanish — Marzo

Italian — Marzo

Swahili — Machi

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

Casey Stengel

“There are three things you can do in a baseball game. You can win, or you can lose, or it can rain.”

Chuckle of the Issue

An eighty-year-old man was out fishing one day when he heard a voice. He looked, but no one was around.

After a few minutes, he heard something again, “Psst. Psst, hey you.”

The man looked around and saw a frog peeking up out of the water. The man said, “Are you talking to me?”

The frog responded, “Yeah, pick me up.”

So the man picked the frog up, and it tells him, “Now kiss me and I will turn into the most beautiful woman you have ever seen.”

The man proceeded to put the frog in his coat pocket.

Pretty soon the man hears the frogs muffled voice again. He reaches into his pocket and retrieves the frog.

“Hey, didn't you hear me?” said the frog. “I said kiss me and I will turn into the most beautiful woman you have ever seen!”

“No thanks,” said the man, “At my age I would rather have a talking frog.”

Cryptogram of the Issue

Replace the letters in this March 1st Cryptogram with other letters to deduce the quote within the puzzle.

Hint: M = E.

K Y Q L W E V H U Y M M N V
R W H N I M N X M L X J M U R M H
Y M M N Z W C U L H M
T L U R M I U M I M C V

Answer to the February 15th cryptogram (Both Editions):

*Be true to your
work, your word, and
your friend.*

-- Henry David Thoreau

Harris’ Classic Barber Shop Expands



Tuesday, February 14th at
Harris’ Classic Barber Shop,
overseen by the Zebulon
Chamber of Commerce.
Photo: Frank Whatley

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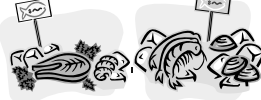
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