

The Grey Area™

Local and National Unusual News

Nashville, Rocky Mount & Wilson NC Edition – 919.623.9392

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

“I’M FREE—Take Me With You!”

**Volume 2, Number 19B
September 15–30, 2012**

NC Wineries Celebrate Wine Appreciation Month

*Release by Justin Furr, Wine Marketing Manager
NC Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services*

The sound of corks popping and glasses clinking can be heard across the state as local wineries and grape growers celebrate Wine Appreciation Month in September.

“North Carolina’s more than 400 commercial grape growers and more than 100 wineries represent an important part of our state’s diverse agribusinesses community,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “In fact, it’s estimated that the wine and grape industry generates more than \$1.28 billion and creates 7,600 jobs in the state.”

NC ranks 10th in the nation for wine and grape production. The state has a long history of wine production, and was the leading wine-producing state prior to Prohibition. NC also is home to the nation’s first cultivated wine grape, the scuppernon.

Gov. Bev Perdue recently proclaimed September as Wine Appreciation Month in recognition of the industry’s economic impact on the state.

Wineries, vineyards and grape growers across the state will host several special events in honor of Wine Appreciation Month, including the Taste Carolina Wine Festival in Colfax September 15th, and the NC Muscadine Harvest Festival in Kenansville September 29.

For more information about the wine and grape industry in the state, or to plan a trip to a local winery, go to www.ncwine.org.

Amateur Radio Assists During Emergencies

*Contributed by George Diering,
Wilson County Emergency Coordinator*

Wilson Amateur Radio Emergency Service, in partnership with the local 9-1-1 center and the Wilson County Emergency Management, is Demonstrating the use of Amateur Radio during emergencies, registering residents for the “Code Red” emergency alert system, and programming weather radios.

The demonstrations are coming up September 22nd during Lowe’s Safety Day, organized by Lowe’s on Forest Hills Drive in Wilson. This event begins at 9am and runs through 5pm. Many local emergency agencies and volunteer emergency agencies will be there to promote different aspects of safety. Local residents may trek through the main parking lot to speak with emergency responders including Health, Human Services, Sheriff, Fire, EMS, 9-1-1, and more. The Amateur Radio group demonstrations will go on throughout the day.

The group will also be available October 13 during the Black Creek Heritage Day Festival in Black Creek.

Amateur radio operators have proven themselves to be essential volunteer responders in bad weather and other natural emergencies. Hams can go on-the-air and stay on-the-air when ordinary public service communications fail. For many decades, ham radio often has been the only means of communicating from a stricken area to the outside world for hours and sometimes even days. Many of the hams have completed several FEMA courses dealing with emergency operations. There are about 100 hams in Wilson County and over 630,000 in the United States.

Amateur or “Ham” Radio has proven to be a reliable means of communications in emergencies when other systems fail. Ham radio goes back through the 1900s, with a long history of assisting operators in reaching across miles to spread news. The hams of Wilson County work with local emergency departments to carry

emergency message traffic across town, across the state, coast-to-coast or around the world.

For more information, visit www.ARES-WilsonNC.com

NC Growers Facing Labor Shortages

Contributed by Roy Roberson, Southeast Farm Press

Tobacco acreage is holding its own in NC, as are sweet potatoes and vegetable and fruit crops.

The labor needed to harvest these crops is not keeping pace and the problem is likely to get worse, unless changes are made in temporary worker program and politics.

Agriculture is the biggest cog in NC’s economic machine, doubling the dollar value of its two closest rivals: Military and tourism. To continue building on the \$74 billion industry, agriculture leaders contend a viable labor supply is a must.

Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler says the diversity in the state’s agricultural crops is a blessing, but can be a curse when adequate labor is not available to harvest crops. “No grower is going to plant a crop without some assurance that he or she will have labor to harvest it,” Troxler says.

Without question, the state’s nine percent unemployment rate should insure an adequate supply of labor, but it doesn’t. The problem is not endemic to NC, states across the Southeast face similar labor shortages.

Fortunately, NC did not pass the same ultra-restrictive labor laws that their neighbors to the south passed. Despite more liberal laws, the politics of labor are still restrictive, time consuming and expensive.

“North Carolina has a strong guest worker visa program, and its immigration laws are not as strict as some nearby states. The farm labor shortage is affecting each state differently, says Kristi Boswell, labor and immigration congressional relations director for the American Farm Bureau Federation in Washington.

Boswell has some ominous concern for growers in the Southeast, “If they don’t feel it (labor shortage) yet, the likelihood of them feeling it soon is probably high,” she says.

So far, NC’s farmers say they aren’t experiencing a significant shortage. But harvest season has yet to peak in the state, so it’s difficult to tell whether the state will experience a lack of labor, says Larry Wooten, president of the NC Farm Bureau.

NC relies on about 90,000 migrant farm workers, says Lee Wicker, deputy director of the NC Growers Association. Wicker, who farms tobacco in Lee County, estimates that about 60,000 of those workers are in the country illegally. Prior to hiring workers through the Federal H-2A program, the NC Growers Association must first advertise its farm jobs to Americans.

Last year the agency posted more than 7,500 jobs, yet only 350 Americans applied. Though virtually all the American applicants were accepted for jobs, virtually all of them quit before their contract expired.

Vick Family Farms in Wilson is a long-time user of H-2A labor. They farm tobacco and sweet potatoes, both of which are highly labor intensive. Though there are always concerns from one crew of workers to another, for the most part Lyn Vick says the H-2A program has worked on their farm.

The Vick family, including Dianne and Jerome Vick and son and daughter Lyn and Charlotte Vick, all work in the farming operation.

Each member of the Vick family speaks Spanish. Simply speaking the language has made working relationships much better and reduces communication problems that are often the source of many employer/H-2A laborer problems.

“My Spanish isn’t always perfect, but I can communicate well enough for workers to understand what I want them to do, and I can usually answer any questions they have in a way they can understand,” Lyn Vick says.

The H-2A program is expensive and the chance of being sued under the conditions of the work visas is high. Despite the cost and risks involved with using H-2A labor, for most growers in labor intensive crops, like sweet potatoes, vegetables and tobacco, it is a much lower risk than planting a crop without the certainty of having labor available to pick it.

The cost of the program to farmers extends far beyond the guaranteed work hours and pay at \$9.70 per hour that is required for H2-A laborers. The average cost of getting a farm worker to the farm is about \$1,000 per worker.

Host farmers must also provide housing, on-farm transportation, workers compensation insurance, and a number of other provisions called for in the H-2A visas.

“There’s one thing that’s more expensive than the H-2A program, and that’s having a beautiful crop ready to harvest and no one to pick it,” Wicker says.

In 2011, NC adopted a mandatory E-Verify system to be phased in by July 2013, requiring all business owners to confirm the legal status of their workers through the electronic program.

On Oct. 1, 2012, the law takes effect for employers that employ 500 or more employees. On Jan. 1, 2013, the law takes effect for employers that employ 100 or more employees. On July 1, 2013, the law takes effect for employers that employ 25 or more employees.

“The key to ensuring a legal and reliable agriculture labor supply nationwide is to enact policy that makes the H-2A program more user-friendly or to create additional facilitator organizations like the growers association,” says NC Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler.

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Things to Do in NC
When You’re Bored

* Nashville *

**A Christmas Carol Auditions
(September 18-20 @ 7-9pm)**
Audition for this classic play by Charles Dickens, to be presented during the holidays.
Nash Arts Center, 100 East Washington Street, Nashville
Call 252.459.4734 for details.

**“You Wouldn’t Expect” Play
(September 29 & October 5-6 @ 7pm)**
Performances of “You Wouldn’t Expect” by local play write Marilyn Anselmi. Play recounts experiences of four of the almost 8,000 victims of the NC Eugenics Program.
Nash Arts Center, 100 E. Washington Street, Nashville
For tickets, call 252.459.4734.

**“You Wouldn’t Expect” Special Performance & Discussion
(October 7 @ 2pm)**
This performance is followed by a panel discussion including a NC sterilization victim & state officials.
The Booker T Theatre, 170 East Thomas Street, Rocky Mount
For tickets, call 252.459.4734.

* Rocky Mount *

Chere the R.E.A. D. Dog (Sept 15 @ 11am)
Reading Education Assistance Dogs are part of a program of Intermountain Therapy Animals. For children at Braswell Memorial Library. One hour long.
YS Storytime Room, 727 North Grace St, Rocky Mount
Contact Linda Bunch at 252-442-1951, ext. 244

**Autumn Home & Garden Show
(September 15 @ 9am-4pm)**
Decorate a home or check out gifts for the holidays. Vendors, good food & music in the spirit of Autumn.
3735 & 3801 Dortches Boulevard, Rocky Mount
Contact Denise Barden at 252.443.2433

**Free Afternoon Small Business Seminars
(September 19 @ 1-4pm)**
The Nash Community College Small Business Center is offering free business seminars. “Time Management for Managers” is the topic September 19th.
Nash Comm College, 522 N Old Carriage Rd, Rocky Mount
To register or for more information, call 252.451.8233.

**Free Evening Small Business Seminars
(September 19, 20 & 27 @ 6-9pm)**
NCC Small Business Center is offering free evening seminars. “Best Business to Start Now” (Sept 19th), “Grant Writing” (Sept 20th), & “Improve Your Credit Score to 740+ Get Business/Personal Loan” (Sept 27th).
Nash Comm College, 522 N Old Carriage Rd, Rocky Mount
To register or for more information, call 252.451.8233.

**How to be a Real Success
(September 20 @ 6-7:30pm)**
Workshop in the Computer Lab for college students/adults. Braswell Memorial Library, 727 N Grace St., Rocky Mount
Contact Derrick Flood at 252.442.1951 x.239.

**DOWNTOWN LIVE! Summer Music Series
(September 20 @ 6-8:30pm)**
Free Outdoor Concert featuring *The Embers*. Some seating available. Lawn chairs or blankets are welcome. Food & beverage vendors on site. No coolers allowed. Rain or Shine!
Imperial Centre Lawn, 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount
Contact The Imperial Centre for the Arts & Sciences at 252.972.1266.

**Music on the Patio
(Sept 20 & 22 @ 7pm)**
Live music, food, & fun. *Kevin Shaw* (Sept 20th), & *Rob Alford* (Sept 22nd).
Westridge Grill, 3639 Sunset Avenue, Rocky Mount
Call 252.937.7299 for information.

**“Walking Across Egypt” Book Discussion”
(September 25 @ 6-7:30pm)**
Tar River Reads is a community-wide reading program for adults. Book discussions at Braswell Memorial Library.
727 N Grace Street, Rocky Mount
Contact Linda Bunch at 252.442.1951.

**Let's Talk About It
(September 27 @ 6-7:30pm)**
End of 5 part series of the NC Humanities' *Let's Talk About It* series at Braswell Memorial Library. For adults. *The Last Child & Burn Marks*.
Warner Room, 727 North Grace St, Rocky Mount
Contact Brenda Thibodeau at 252.442.1951.

**Twin County Business Networking Expo
(October 2 @ 11am-7pm)**
Free admission with Ticket or Valid Business Card. \$5 General Admission without.
Former Home Depot Building, Rocky Mount
More info online at www.rockymountchamber.org.

* Wilson *

**Live Music in Spring Hope
(September 15 @ 7-10pm)**
Live music featuring *Travis Moss* (Sept 15th).
Showside Grill & Bakery,
102 N Pine Street, Spring Hope
More info at www.contagiousconfections.com.

**International Food & Music Festival
(September 15 @ 11am-7pm)**
Annual free festival showcasing variety of foods & music. Organized by St. Eugene Catholic Church of Wendell
J. Ashley Wall Towne Square, Wendell
For info, call the church at 919.365.7114.

**Wilson Job Fair
(September 27 @ 10am-2pm)**
Come by to meet local employers & find out more about jobs available in the area. Free event.
Wilson Mall, 1501 Ward Blvd., Wilson

**Movie: “Raiders of The Lost Ark”
(September 28 @8:30pm)**
Free movie starts at sunset in Paul V. Berry Hickory Grove Park. Popcorn & drinks for sale, proceeds benefit Wilson Police Athletic League.
200 Kenan St., Wilson

**Pumpkin Festival Weekend Show
(October 5 @ 7pm-Midnight)**
Chandler Boling opening for Chet Nichols with Members of The Repeat Offenders.
Showside Grill & Bakery, 102 N.Pine Street, Spring Hope
More information at www.contagiousconfections.com.

**1st Fridays on the Lawn
(October 5 @ 6pm-9pm; lawn open 5pm)**
Come enjoy diversity through music. Live bands, children’s zone, vendor books, & more. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets & picnic basket; no pets.
Wilson Cty Library Lawn, 249 W Nash, Wilson

* Elsewhere *

**Stepping Into the Past Series
(September 22 @ 10am-3pm)**
Event/workshop with museum admission.
Topic Sept 22nd Tips from Expert Gardeners.
709 North Church Street, Hwy 301, Kenly
Info 919.284.3431 or www.tobaccofarmlifemuseum.org.

**NC Seafood Festival
(October 5-7)**
The Festival is a time of Celebration & Thanksgiving for our state’s greatest Natural Resource -- SEAFOOD. Fireworks, live music, cooking competitions, art & crafts, sporting events, boat show & outdoor expo, not to mention seafood prepared in every imaginable way! New this year the festival is fully open to the public on Friday at Noon.
Held in Morehead City
For more information, visit www.ncseafoodfestival.org.

**Family Concert Series
(September 28 @ 6pm)**
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.

**First Friday Jazz
(October 5 @ 6:30-10:30pm)**
End the week with an evening of jazz, networking, gourmet coffee, refreshments, door prizes, & fun. \$5 admission.
The Kila Company, 28 N Main Street, Wendell
For details, call 919.365.5003.

**Black Creek Heritage Day Festival
(October 13 @ 9am-4:30pm)**
Car & tractor show, vendors, food, children’s activities, raffles, live entertainment & much more. (Pre-festival Street Dance October 12th, 6:30-9pm.)
West Center Street, Black Creek NC
Contact Ellen E. Dawson-Chairperson at 252.243.3540.

**The Raleigh Classic
(November 30-December 1)**
Zebulon-based Auctions America is holding the next Raleigh Classic event. In Jim Graham & Exposition bldgs.
North Carolina State Fairgrounds, Raleigh
For more information, contact 919.269.5271.

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

Events Repeating Every Week

Sunday
1-5pm, City Residents Free, Children's Museum, Rocky Mt

Monday
10:30am Storytime, Cooley Library, Nashville

6:30pm, Zumba, Imperial Centre, Rocky Mount

7:30pm, Trivia Night, Pizza Villa, Zebulon

Tuesday
6-7pm, Step It Off, Washington Community Center, RMt

7-10am, Tarboro-Edgecombe Farmers Market, Tarboro

Wednesday
8am-1pm, Historic Downtown Farmers Market, Wilson

8am-1pm, Rocky Mount Farmers Market, Rocky Mount

3-5:30pm, Produce & Play (farm market), Rocky Mount

6:30pm, Zumba, Imperial Centre, Rocky Mount

7-9pm, Bike Night w/ DJ Erma, Carolina Billiards, Wilson

Thursday
4pm Movie, Reid Street Comm. Center, Wilson

Live Music, Westridge Grill, Rocky Mount

6-7pm, Step It Off, Washington Community Center, RMt

Friday
10am Bingo, Eastern Wake Senior Center, Wendell

7-10am, Tarboro-Edgecombe Farmers Market, Tarboro

Saturday
7:30am-12pm, Cty Fairgrounds Farmers Market, Wilson

8-11am, Tarboro-Edgecombe Farmers Market, Tarboro

8am-1pm, Farmers Market, Rocky Mount

9:30am, Zumba, Imperial Centre, Rocky Mount

Call 919.623.9392 to add a free or low-fee event.



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*For More Information or to Become a Vendor,
Contact Ellen E. Dawson - Chairperson
252-243-3540 • edawson59@centurylink.net*



Shades of Grey

*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 Discussion & Consideration

You're in a local fast food joint, in the drive-through line. Four or five cars are in line in front of you.

The drive-through attendant takes your order, and after she takes your order she accidentally leaves the microphone on.

You can hear her and other workers inside talking about the people in one of the cars head of you. The fast food workers are making fun of the customers, and using rude terms to describe the other customers' appearances. After several minutes, the microphone turns off.

Do you think that you would take the time to go inside and let the manager know about their behavior? Do you think it would help the situation to complain, or more likely the manager would not care?

What if you had heard the workers talking about putting things into the customers' food? Would you be more likely to complain? Do you think you would complain at the location, or contact a corporate office or health department?

Carmike 10-Wilson Movie Review of the Issue

By Kay Whatley, Editor

The movie review returns next issue with a new release we'll be telling you about. This issue, I wanted to tell you a little bit about our experiences going to the movies through the summer.

Our family has been going to movies in Wilson. We've taken in afternoon and evening shows. The theatre also had morning movies for younger children. We've gone to family movies, action movies, and movies made for grown-ups. It's been fun to do, and we've enjoyed the family time.

One of the nice things about the Carmike 10 where we've been going is the refills. Especially with four of us and one big bucket of popcorn, it has been a great benefit to refill the popcorn halfway through each film. There's just something about popcorn and movies!

In the next issue, we'll be returning to the theatre for a new release coming in late September. We hope you and yours are also able to take some time together to relax, enjoy a good flick, and snack together!

The Strange-ness

A bit of odd news from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A local ice cream shop has started a bank, of sorts, that provide ice cream interest without the usual banking fees.

Oh Yeah! Ice Cream And Coffee Shop is located in the Shadyside neighborhood of Pittsburgh. They serve food and drinks, now with a side of "interest" in the form of their own currency. Depositors are paid with special bucks of interest at a rate of 5.5% per month, and can spend the bucks in the shop.

This interesting idea has been working for more than a few customers, and under the name of Whalebone Intergalactic Cafe Bank have drawn the ire of bank regulators. Watching their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/theohyeah is one way to watch their progress related to possible banking regulations or legal restrictions on this new sort of neighborhood depository with cold, creamy interest.

Bunn Solar Farm Construction Progressing

Twenty-eight acres of Bunn are being covered by a solar array that will provide energy for close to 400 homes. Additionally, the Tax Base Increase for the town is projected at \$2.8 Million.

Work begin earlier this year with a plan to finish in about 9 months. Thus far, work has been created for 120 individuals, plus more than 30 temporary jobs.

An interesting part of this project is that a number of the construction crew had their first experience working on the recently opened Sandy Cross Solar Farm. Seventeen workers transferred and continued working on the Bunn Solar Farm. This provides a high level of training that may help these individuals complete solar certifications.

The Bunn array is the first system put together by O2 Energies with extra agricultural opportunities available on adjacent acreage. Additional work is planned with agricultural partner Chad Ray of Ray Family Farms.

Driving into Bunn along Route 39, the solar farm construction may be seen next to the correctional facility just outside of town. Enclosed in fencing for long-term security, the array can generate energy without pollution. Additionally, grass maintenance is being done using sheep from nearby Clover C farm on Cheves Road.



Source: Rachel McInturff, O₂ Energies

News from The Grey Area

This September 15th issue contains local news, upcoming events for families and businesses, and more.

The October 1st issue includes a special Fall farm and Halloween activities feature. Local attractions including schedules will be listed, helping our readers to plan where they would like to go to enjoy the outdoors — or to be frightened if they like.

October weather in NC often means comfortable temperatures indoors and out. The cool evenings may be a great time to walk through local farms, pick up some produce, and watch as the leaves begin to turn. Hopefully you'll find something of interest in the coming attractions.

The Grey Area is localized in each Edition of the newspaper. Edition A covers Bunn, Knightdale, Wendell & Zebulon. Edition B covers Nashville, Rocky Mount, & Wilson. If you'd like coverage in your area, or have an article idea, email kayw@greyareanews.com.

To advertise, call 919.637.6973. Issues of *The Grey Area* come out for the 1st and 15th of each month. Prior newspaper issues are online at www.greyareanews.com.

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The Grey Area™

The Backside



Little Bits

Word of the Issue

accentuate

Definition: To stress or emphasize something.

Example: “Long walks tend to accentuate the achy feeling of my legs.”

Translation of the Issue

English — “Good Morning”

German — Guten Morgen Spanish — Buenos Días

Italian — Buongiorno Dutch — Goedemorgen

Chinese — 早安 (Zǎo ān) Korean — 좋은 아침 (joh-eun achim)

Translations for these and many more languages may be found in online (translate.google.com, babelfish.yahoo.com, etc.) and print resources.

Quote of the Issue

Sancho Panza (in Don Quixote)

“Whether the pitcher hits the stone, or the stone hits the pitcher, it goes ill with the pitcher.”

Chuckle of the Issue

Joe came from a large family. He had five sisters and four brothers.

One day he was looking through the family photo album with his mother when he noticed, in page after page, that all the children were dressed in the same colors.

Joe asked his mother why they were all dressed alike.

She explained, “At first, when we had four children, I dressed you alike so we wouldn't lose any of you. Then, as the other five came along, I started dressing you alike so we wouldn't accidentally take one home that didn't belong to us.”

Cryptogram of the Issue

Replace the letters in this Cryptogram with other letters to deduce the quote within the puzzle. In addition to the normal hint, this issue also know that this is a nursery rhyme. Happy solving! Hint: X = I.

Y U I T E U G U W X V V W B W U Y F

D E Q H B S W B B L B D U H D E X V B

— — — — — — .

U H H J Q D

U J G B P B I T D E B I B V E U V

— — — — — — — — , — — — — — — —

Y U I T D B J V V E B W U Y F

— — — — — — — — — — — .

D U H H O I B V Q A Q

Answer to the previous issue’s cryptogram:


We ourselves feel that
what we are doing is
just a drop in the
ocean. But the ocean
would be less because
of that missing drop.
-- Mother Teresa

Shiny Enough to Stop Passersby

Linnie Hargrove stopped for lunch September 1st, not knowing what an attraction his 1976 Cadillac would become.

The car turned heads at the Langley's Town & Country Restaurant in Nashville. Folks coming in and out of the restaurant walked around it, checking out the clean, shiny vehicle.

Speaking with Mr. Hargrove, he said his father purchased the car for Linnie in 1976 for \$150. He’s been caring for the “Caddy” ever since.





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