

The Grey Area™

Local and National Unusual News

Rocky Mount, Nashville & Wilson NC Edition – 919.623.9392

Check out our Other Editions for
Eastern North Carolina

“I’M FREE—Take Me With You!”

**Volume 3, Number 2B
January 18–31, 2013**

Flu Outbreak Prompts Greater Safety Efforts

The flu. Influenza, unlike the common cold, can feel like it is attacking your whole body. With this year’s flu season getting an early start, reports of flu cases are high and people are asked to use extra precautions to protect themselves and others.

Most US states are experiencing flu outbreaks which exceed last year’s mild flu season. Flu cases were so numerous in Boston this month that a state of emergency was declared. At a Pennsylvania hospital, an extra outdoor area was erected for handling potentially contagious ER patients.

In this country, people don’t often wear masks when they are sick, nor stay home to rest and recuperate! With the severity of this flu season, either may be a good way to minimize spread of the virus. If you get the flu, wearing a mask out or staying home could minimize wear you spread the virus. If you can take time off when ill — without losing your job or dropping grades at school — keeping your flu “germs” at home can minimize your passing the virus to others and give you time to heal. Bed it, don’t spread it!

If you haven’t caught the flu, taking a few precautions may keep you from catching it. Stay away from others who are ill. Don’t touch items you know an ill person has been using. Washing your hands with soap and water can help you avoid picking up germs from public places. *No skipping the soap, kiddies!* Also, the less you touch your face with your hands during the day, the fewer germs you might place near your nose or mouth.

Flu season continues for awhile. Hopefully you will avoid catching the flu, or spreading it, and minimize the local impact.

Riding the Rails in NC

Like many families, ours has spread across the country. With my oldest daughter living all the way on the West Coast, visits are tough. Luckily, she recently made a trip to Boston, bringing her that much closer to our NC home. Time for a visit with her was limited. I needed to get to Boston, and I needed to get there fast!

Option 1: Driving would mean 11-12 hours in the car, a few hundred dollars for gas, and arriving tired from all the driving. Since my 12 year old was going to go along, that meant lots of stops for breaks along the way and likely a longer trip. Taking a bus seemed like it would be much the same, with added cost of tickets.

Option 2: Flying would be quick enough. Flights were running a few hundred dollars each. While the timing was right, flights were fairly expensive and we needed 2 tickets.

Option 3: Taking the train. I was new to the idea of taking a long train ride. With multiple stations in Eastern NC, the train was easily accessible and went where we needed it to go. It was about 4-5 hours longer than driving estimates at a total of about 17 hours with travel and stops. The train would be less work than driving. The train would have rest rooms, a snack car, room to stand and stretch or even walk a little, allowed 2 bags for each of us, and there was “WiFi”. The tickets would be a few hundred dollars, with the 12 year old’s ticket discounted to half price.

I decided to take the train to Boston January 11th and bought the tickets. What follows are a few points on the experiences of two first-time train travelers, based on our limited experience on the trains available from Rocky Mount & Wilson stations.

The day of departure, my husband took us to the Rocky Mount train station. When the train arrived, our boarding pass was scanned and we were directed where to sit. Our bags at our feet and legs stretched in ample room, off went our train. (Having flown frequently, I was glad there was no lengthy scanning, body searches, poking, radiation, or general negativity. We arrived. We were checked in. We sat down. The train rolled on.)

Our train car was comfortable, and gave us plenty of leg room. The “wifi” was in the front cars, so we went to the snack car to surf the web for awhile. Through the 700 hundred miles, we watched out the window, snacked, listened to music, and napped. When a group of people left, we spread across empty seats and slept. Changing trains in DC, the wifi was a bit slow we mostly slept.

Advantage to the train over driving the highways was that we could walk around and stretch our legs, even walk from car to car up the train and back,... while still moving and covering the miles. Another advantage was that we could both sleep, since I didn’t need to be watching the road as with driving.

A disadvantage was the limited travel times. Coming back at the end of the weekend, the train brought us home overnight on a school night, getting us home after most of the school day was done.

Seating was much more comfortable on the Palmetto route from NC. On the Northeast Regional train we boarded in DC to head north, the seats had less leg room.

Smokers jumped out at stops to smoke, as the trains were nonsmoking only. Before the train pulled out of the station, smokers would return to their seats. At some stops, the smokers were not allowed off the train to smoke, which caused them some discomfort.

Snacks offered in the snack cars included chips, microwaved sandwiches and pizza, and bottled drinks. There was a variety of snacks, though limited to easily prepared fare. Travelers can bring their own snacks, so we packed a few.

Trains stop at different stations depending on the route. The more a traveller knows about the stops in advance, the better a person can plan for things like grabbing souvenirs or a meal. From Wilson station going north, the train stops in Rocky Mount about 20 minutes later but is a brief stop. On the way to DC the train stopped at several NC and VA locations before rolling into Union Station. On the DC to Boston train, there was a long stop (40 minutes) in New York City’s Penn Station.

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA POLYGRAPH SERVICES

POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS • INTERVIEWING



MICHAEL E. LANE - EXAMINER

404 West Nash Street • Wilson, NC 27893
252-230-2334 • FAX 252-237-8277 • MLANE8@MYGLNC.COM
NC LICENSE # 367-P • VA LICENSE # 1601.000897

ETHICS • INTEGRITY • PROFESSIONALISM

* GUARANTEED FINANCING *

SUNSET AVENUE AUTO SALES

4098 Sunset Ave, Rocky Mount NC

252-937-2887

**A & A
FLEA
MARKET**

WE’VE GOT STUFF. ALL KINDS OF STUFF!
COLLECTIBLES, FURNITURE & MORE

FRI & SAT 9-4
E MAIN & RAILROAD STREETS
SHARPSBURG

20% OFF

WITH THIS COUPON

TEPPANYAKI GRILL & supreme buffet

**NOW
OPEN**

**NOW
OPEN**

*The Largest and Most Elegant Chinese,
Japanese & American Cuisine Restaurant*

**WE HAVE
LARGE
PARTY ROOM
AVAILABLE
FOR BIRTHDAY PARTIES,
OFFICE MEETINGS AND
WEDDINGS.**

GIFT CERTIFICATES
AVAILABLE!
**LARGE PARTIES PLEASE
CALL FOR RESERVATIONS**

LUNCH BUFFET

11AM - 3:30PM

Adult \$6⁷⁵
KIDS 3-6 y/o..... \$2⁷⁵
KIDS 7-10 y/o..... \$4⁷⁵
KIDS 2 & UNDER FREE

DINNER BUFFET

3:30PM - 9:30PM

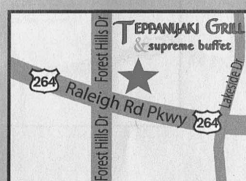
Adult \$8⁹⁵
KIDS 3-6 y/o..... \$3⁹⁵
KIDS 7-10 y/o..... \$5⁹⁵
SUNDAY ALL DAY DINNER!

CARRY OUT \$3⁹⁹/lb Without Seafood \$5⁹⁹/lb Hibachi/Seafood

**NOW
OPEN**

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Sun. - Thur. 11am - 10pm
Fri. & Sat. 11am - 10:30pm



**1700 RALEIGH ROAD
WILSON, NC 27896**
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL
**PH: 252-234-9000
FAX: 252-234-9002**



To Advertise In Your Local Money Mailer Call 919-870-0388
350-01-153

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

Wanting to improve your cooking skills in the new year, you sign up for a cooking class. It takes place after work, and the bonus is that you'll be able to prepare a meal you can take home for dinner.

During one of the classes, everyone prepares chicken and puts it on to cook. While is cooking the instructor walks everyone through preparing a healthy salad and dressing. It is made up of fruits and vegetables. The instructor shows the best way to cut each piece and begins mixing the ingredients together.

As you start preparing your salad based on her example, you notice that one of the other students is cutting salad fixings with a knife she also used for the raw meat. You can see bits of raw chicken on the handle and blade. Since eating raw meat has the potential to make a person ill, you mention to her that she is getting bits of meat in her salad. She doesn't seem to care and continues.

If the other student refuses to cook safely, do you think it would be her own fault if she became ill later from eating the salad? Do you think you would say anything to the instructor? What if you found out weeks later that this student was suing the cooking school because she became ill? Do you think you would get involved as a witness or just stay out of it?

News from The Grey Area

This January 18th issue includes our usual local news alongside strange information from across the US. This issue is the first to follow our new schedule of publishing every other Friday. Watch for new issues every two weeks to get more frequent unusual news and local information!

The Grey Area is currently published in two Editions. Edition A is distributed in Bunn, Knightdale, Wendell & Zebulon. Edition B is distributed in Nashville, Rocky Mount, & Wilson. News, events, and business advertisements are localized for each Edition's readership.

To advertise, call 919.623.9392. Issues of The Grey Area come out for the 1st and 15th of each month. Before the next issue, visit our Facebook page or Twitter feed to see more events and news. Prior newspaper issues may be read in our Archives online at www.greyareanews.com.

The Strange-ness

US Government Decides Not to Build Death Star

Did you know that any American can start a petition for change? On petitions.whitehouse.gov, you can sign or start petitions for the issues you'd like to see the government address. Any petition reaching 100,000 signatures or more within 30 days is reviewed by the Administration.

Recently, a group posted a petition that a Death Star (similar to that in the Star Wars films) be constructed. The Administration responded once the minimum 100,000 signature threshold was reached. The response, entitled *This Isn't the Petition Response You're Looking For*, a reference to a Star Wars quote, gives a detailed explanation of why the Death Star will not be built.

If this is the first you've heard of this online petition website, please do not get the wrong impression about the petitions. Although the petition mentioned was a request to build a Death Star, and there is a petition relating to sasquatch hunting, most of the petitions deal with real issues.

If you visit petitions.whitehouse.gov, you can review available petitions and "sign" the ones you believe are important — or even quirky — and check back from day to day to see how many other Americans have signed. Or, if you have an issue important to you that is not addressed by existing petitions, you can start one. You'll need to get 150 signatures before it may be found by the search tools. If the issue is big enough, likely you'll attract signatures.

Before you know it, your petitioning of the government for "a redress of grievances" as stated in the First Amendment of the US Constitution could lead to a response. Your voice may be heard, and one can hope that as the government learns what is important it will make changes in the directions the people desire.

DOLLAR COUNTRY

YOU HAVE TO SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT

groceries • sundries • bill pay • great prices

102 West Nashville Drive • Nashville, NC 27856
(252) 459-6794

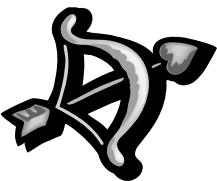
East River Road Auto Sales

Financing Available Buy Here, Pay Here

1945 Ferrells Bridge Road
Louisburg, NC 27549
(919) 496-4636



Valentine's Day
is coming soon!



Watch for events, Valentine
specials and more in
our February 1st issue!

**PAY NOTHING OUT
OF POCKET WITH A
REFUND
ANTICIPATION CHECK**



H&R BLOCK®
NEVER SETTLE FOR LESS™

All Wilson NC Locations ■ (252) 291-7507
Call for an Appointment ■

Refund Anticipation Check (RAC) is provided by H&R Block Bank, a Federal Savings Bank, member FDIC. Fees apply. You must meet legal requirements for opening a bank account. A RAC is a bank deposit, not a loan, and is limited to the size of your refund less applicable fees. You can electronically file your return and receive your refund without a RAC, a loan or extra fees. H&R Block Maine License Number: FRA2. Available at participating offices. OBTP# B13696 ©2012 HRB Tax Group, Inc.

Country Inns & Suites by Carlson

4910 Hayes Place
Wilson NC 27896



(252) 281-5501

www.countryinns.com/wilsonnc

William's
of Wilson
Fine Food & Spirits

*Great food
in a casual atmosphere*

*Come join us for
lunch and dinner*

*present this ad when ordering meal
& receive our complementary appetizer*

www.williamsofwilson.com
124 Barnes Street in downtown Wilson

Worrell's Seafood Fresh Fish Market Restaurant

Dine In - Fast Takeout
213 S Goldsboro Street
Wilson, North Carolina

**\$4.99 Lunch Special
Monday-Saturday
All Day, Every Day**

252-243-4400



Bel Air ARTISANS CENTER

115 S. CHURCH ST.

ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804
252-442-8115

Buy original creations by local artists and artisans
Paintings-Giclee Prints-Carved Ceramic Tile-Functional Ware-
Classes-Assemblages-Photography-Ceramics-Pottery-Jewelry
-Jewelry Boxes-Cards-Wood Turnings
-Leathercraft-And More Handmade Gifts
Rental Spaces Available

SAVE 10% OFF REPAIRS

Price Match Guarantee-We will match any competitor's price

CoolGeeks G

Computer Repair and Installation Services

- Pick-up and Delivery
- Next Day Service
- Flat Rate
- Free PC Checkup (with coupon)
- Virus & Spyware Removal

DOUGLAS BLOCK
209 N.E. Main Street
Rocky Mount, NC
252-212-1551
www.coolgeeksn.com



