

The Grey Area™

Local and National Unusual News

Rocky Mount, Nashville & Wilson NC Edition – 919.623.9392

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Eastern North Carolina

“I’M FREE—Take Me With You!”

**Volume 3, Number 3B
February 1–14, 2013**

Of Cabbages and Kale

Contributed by Connie Schultz, Extension Master Gardener/
Composter (Johnston County Extension Services)

“The time has come,” the Walrus said, “to speak of many things; of shoes and ships and sealing wax, of cabbages and kings....” (excerpt from *The Walrus and the Carpenter* by Lewis Carroll)

I don’t know about cabbages and kings but it’s definitely time to talk about planting cabbages and kale. With our mild eastern Carolina winters, we’re able to work the soil year round and the time from February to March is the time to plant vegetables that do their best in these cool temperatures. This niche in the year-long cycle of growth lets these plants get the jump on the warm weather veggies like tomatoes and peppers by getting up and growing before the trees leaf out or the other plants have sprouted so there’s less competition for light, water, and nutrients. Before the warm weather plants are ready to perform, these cool competitors have already performed and are ready to give way in the garden for the warm weather plants until cool fall weather returns.

While you may prefer to wait until the vegetable 6-packs are available at your local nursery or hardware store (which usually happens a little later in the season), this cool season is the perfect time to plant vegetables from seed. If you consider planting your garden from seed, don’t worry about if or when they will germinate, the seeds know when to come up because they rely on soil temperatures and day length to time their germination. These cool crops don’t do well during hot weather because they tend to bolt to seed or wilt easily or just not grow as well or produce a good crop. They are also less bothered by pests during the cooler seasons of the year.



Photo: red winter kale by Connie Schultz

The list of vegetables that do well in cool weather is long! It includes some favorites like: kale, chard, cabbage, and broccoli; leafy greens like kale, lettuce, and spinach; delicious peas, sugar snap peas and Chinese snow peas; and root crops like carrots, turnips, and beets. For a chart that shows varieties and planting times and other information, contact the local Ag Extension Services for your county.

New Fees Allowed on NC Credit Card Purchases

By Kay Whatley, Editor

As of the end of January, the rules are changed for credit card fees. Using a credit card might cost as much as 1-4% more. Using debit or cash instead of credit avoids these added costs.

Credit card transactions cost a store a fee, which the store pays as an “interchange” fee to their bank or card company. Because of a recent court settlement related to price-fixing by the credit card companies, stores are now allowed to add a fee at checkout — a “surcharge” — to cover their fee to the bank or card company.

NC is one of 40 states which allow this; it is illegal in the other ten states. National chains may be prohibited from adding fees to purchase if they have any locations in the ten states.

While some stores may choose to add a few dollars to your transaction at checkout, other stores are offering lower prices to cash or debit customers. When the retailer saves on bank and card fees, they are able to pass the savings on to customers.

According to Ed Mierzwinski of the US PIRG (Public Interest Research Group), “...consumers do need to know that merchants prefer cash, then debit. Their highest cost transaction is a credit card transaction because of the punishing swipe fees bank impose on them.”

For those who recall shopping in the 1970s — when credit card use boomed — some stores offered a credit card price and a lower cash price. Giving cash discounts has been legal for quite some time; however, during the 80s and 90s the banks applied pressure to stores that tried to provide cash prices that were lower than credit prices.

Mr. Mierzwinski also passed along this information: “The 2010 Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Act included

language lowering debit card swipe fees, and prohibiting unfair restrictions on discounting for cash purchases — or merchants telling consumers that they preferred cash or debit cards to credit cards. So, some gas stations, in particular, have been discounting for cash again, since 2010.”

Keep in mind that fees are now allowed for credit card “swipes”. Choosing to pay with cash or debit card may save unwanted checkout fees. Plus, using cash or debit may help you save as more small retailers offer lower cash prices.

Carolina Hurricanes & NHL Now Playing!

After a lockout that began in September, mid-January the NHL season resumed. The teams including the Hurricanes are just a few games into the finally-started season.

With five Home games in February, including a Home game at 7pm on Valentine’s Day, local Hurricanes fans have ample opportunity to see the team play despite the long lockout and shortened season.

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

It’s February already! You’re still paying off your credit card bill from the holidays. Now, Valentine’s is approaching fast and you know your soulmate is expecting *something*.

While you don’t need to go all crazy, you do need to come up with a gift that appropriately shows your deep love while not killing your bank account.

While shopping at the local strip mall, a person comes up to you and offers to sell you a really nice designer purse out of the back of their car. You’re pretty sure that the purse is either a knock-off or stolen. Do you think you would purchase it anyway? Would money being tight help you choose?

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Things to Do in NC
When You’re Bored

* Nashville *

Coffee with a Cop (February 4 @ 7:30am)
Stop by & see Chief Bashore and several other Nashville Officers. Come to the Nashville Diner, 309 Curtis Street, Nashville. More information, call 252.459.4545.

Storytime (Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25 @ 10:30am)
Kids Storytime each Monday. Come and enjoy a book or two with little ones. About half an hour long. At the Harold D. Cooley Library, 114 W Church Street, Nashville
Info: www2.youseemore.com/cooleylibrary

Valentine Social (February 14 @ 11am)
Social event for senior Valentines. Bring a favorite sweet treat to share. Free event held at the Nash County Senior Center, 103 N Alston Street, Nashville
Info, call Christy Southall at 252.459.1375.

Compassion Cafe (Monday-Friday @ 11am-1pm)
Volunteers at Nashville-area churches create teams who prepare a meal once a month to serve at the cafe. Corner of Church & Collins Streets, behind main Nashville UMC building. To become involved, contact Nashville UMC at 252.459.7178 or info@nashvilleumc.net.

* Rocky Mount *

Community Reception with the Artists (February 3, 2:00 - 4:00 pm)

Free & open to the public. Reception to celebrate the Opening of the new Spring exhibitions. Meet some of the exhibiting artists including Nash-Edgecombe High School artists. At the Maria V. Howard Arts Center, 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount
Info at www.imperialcentre.org/arts.

Live Music Thursdays on Sunset (February 7 @ 7pm)
Feb. 7th: Steven Stewart. Feb. 14th: Kevin Shaw. Feb. 21st: Travis Moss. Feb. 28th: Monte Tippet. At Westridge Grill, 3639 Sunset Avenue, Rocky Mount
Call 252.937.7299 for more information.

Bird House Rehab Workshop (February 9 @ 9am-12pm)
Bird lovers are encouraged to bring your old, rickety bird houses. Also bring door knobs, ornaments or doo-dads, someone might want to apply to a bird house. You are welcome to bring paint to share. Glue, nails, a hammer and advice will be provided. Volunteer carpenters will be on hand for wood repairs. Also, enjoy the complimentary doughnuts and coffee available! Free event.
1006 Peachtree Street, Rocky Mount

10 Week Weight Loss Program (February 12-April 16 @ 6:30-7:30pm)
Tuesday Nights. Free for any woman or man interested in losing weight the Healthy Way! Registration required. Braswell Memorial Library, 727 N Grace Street, Rocky Mount
Call Amber Perry at 252.459.1240.

Friday Night Dance Party (February 15 @ 7-10pm)
Join the Rocky Mount USA Dance chapter for an evening of dancing. \$3 fee at the door. At Maria V Howard Arts Center, 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount
For more info, call 252.972.1632.

“Pig Out on Reading” Farmer Minor & Daisy (February 26 @ 4:30pm)
Come by for this hour-long event. At Braswell Memorial Library, Warner Meeting Room, 727 North Grace St., Rocky Mount
Call Linda Bunch 252.442.1951 x.244.

The Healing Force (February 26 @ 6:30-7:30pm)
Their motto is “Serving the Community Through the Arts.” Come join in at Braswell Memorial Library & celebrate Black History Month! In the Warner Meeting Room, 727 North Grace St., Rocky Mount
Info, Linda Bunch at 252.442.1951, ext. 244.

* Wilson *

Origami-Teens (February 7 @ 3:30-5pm)
Stop by and join this teen-oriented event. Conference Room, Main Library, 249 West Nash Street, Wilson
Contact wilsoncountyp1@gmail.com

Wilson Reads- Allan Wolf, Author Visit (February 21 @ 7-8:30pm)
Join us as welcome Allan Wolf, author of Wilson Reads book “The Watch That Ends the Night.” This adult-oriented program is free & open to the public.
Contact wilsoncountyp1@gmail.com

* Elsewhere *

Live Music in Spring Hope (February 1, 8, 22 @ 7-10pm)
Feb. 1st: Willis Gupton. Feb. 8th: Tim Wall. Feb. 15th: Eyes of Emiline (Sacred Heart). Feb. 22nd: John & Mark Bunn. Showside Grill & Bakery, 102 N Pine Street, Spring Hope
Info at www.showsidegrill.com.

Stepping Into the Past Series (February 2, 9, 16 & 23 @ 10am-3pm)
Workshop with museum admission. Feb. 2nd: Homemade soaps & ointments. Feb. 9th: Scaling down, miniatures. Feb. 16th: Knife making demos. Feb. 23rd: Spinning, casting & knotting. At the Tobacco Farm Life Museum, 709 N Church Street, Kenly
See www.tobaccofarmlifemuseum.org.

2nd Cup Women Writers Group (February 6 & 20 @ 9:30am)
Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays. At Full Circle Coffee Shop, 120 E Main Street, Youngsville

Family Movie Night (February 8 @ 7pm)
The Zebulon Parks & Rec Dept. presents free movie & popcorn for all ages. A parent or guardian must be present for all children. Movie at the Zebulon Community Center, 301 S Arendell Avenue, Zebulon
Call 919.823.0432 for movie details.

Mardi Gras Street Festival (February 9 @ 11am-4pm)
Free family-friendly event designed to showcase the new & improved S White Street in historic downtown Wake Forest. Parade lineup begins at 12:30pm in Centennial Plaza, front of Town Hall, 301 S. Brooks Street, Wake Forest
Info at www.wakeforestnc.gov.

Night Writers (February 14 & 28 @ 7pm)
Meet 2nd & 4th Thursdays. At Full Circle Coffee Shop, 120 E Main Street, Youngsville

6th Annual Polar Plunge (February 23 @ 10am-1pm)
Jump or watch. No cost to watch; \$25 to take the plunge. Proceeds go to Special Olympics. Colonial Park on the Waterfront, Edenton
Contact Linda Hobbs at 252.482.4436.

Book ‘Em North Carolina Writers Conference/Book Fair (February 23 @ 9:30am-4pm)
Lumberton hosts this one-of-a-kind NC event. Seventy-five authors are scheduled to participate. Panel discussions, readings & activities for children all day. Authors on-hand all day selling & signing books. Portion of proceeds donated to the community for literacy campaigns. Free admission. Held at Robeson Community College, 5160 Fayetteville Rd, Lumberton
More information at www.bookemnc.org.

International Civil Rights Museum Trip (February 23 @ 9am-8pm)
Tarboro Parks & Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to this Greensboro NC Museum. Leaves M.A. Ray Center at 9am. Return around 8pm. Seniors/students \$6-\$8. Adults (18 & over) \$10. Meet at M.A. Ray Center, 1405 Martin Luther King, Tarboro
For more information, call 252.6414215.

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 to provide more details for upcoming events.

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Celebrate Love and Caring on Valentine's Day

by Kay Whatley, Editor

Valentine's Day has become a special day for expressing love. This day, named after Saint Valentine, dates back centuries! Each February 14th serves as a day for giving extra attention to those you love.

On this day of hearts and flowers, boys and girls, men and women, old and young, give cards and gifts to their beloved ones. Couples all over Eastern NC will be sharing romantic Valentine's dinner that Thursday evening, maybe even the weekend following.

For those giving flowers, don't forget that the color of the flower signifies the love between the giver and the receiver. Red is for romantic love. Yellow is for friendship. Pink is for gratitude. This and more came from the Victorian Era "language of flowers". During this age, meaning was attributed to the colors and types of flowers — including more than a dozen colors of roses. Different types of flower also convey positive or negative meanings. Doing a little research can avoid embarrassment and ensure sending the right message.

Valentine's Day goods cover store shelves, with choices of candies, plush animals, snacks, and heart jewelry. Local artisans and bakers show their talents with unique crafty gifts and tasty treats.

This Thursday, February 14th, hopefully you and the one you love may have a positive day, and make good memories.

Happy Valentine's Day!

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SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

LOVE

Photo by InBetween the Blinks Photography

The Strange-ness

Fish Kill Reported at Masonboro Island

Released by Michele Walker (michele.walker@ncdenr.gov)

State environmental officials reported on January 11th hundreds of thousands of dead Atlantic Menhaden fish at Masonboro Island in Wilmington.

The dead fish are along the Masonboro Island beaches and in the water, stretching over a one-mile area from the Mason Inlet jetty to Loosins Creek, officials with the NC Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources reported.

NC's Division of Coastal Management, which manages Masonboro Island through its Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve Program, was first notified of the fish kill by a member of the public. The NC Marine Patrol also responded to a report from the public.

The Atlantic Menhaden appear to have clustered by the thousands in a narrow area at Loosins Creek, causing dissolved oxygen levels in the water to plummet to nearly zero in less than one hour, killing the fish. This situation has been previously observed in winter months, and occurs when the menhaden begin to tighten their school, possibly due to the presence of predators.

Coastal Management maintains a System-wide Monitoring Program, or SWMP, monitoring station in the area where the fish kill occurred. The station continuously monitors the water for dissolved oxygen levels, temperature and pH levels, among other data. The monitoring station recorded a significant drop in dissolved oxygen levels in the early morning hours of January 8th. The Masonboro Island station is part of a national network of monitoring stations in coastal estuaries.

"This may be the first time we have had continuous monitoring of water quality in an area at the exact time of a fish kill," said Jim Gregson, Surface Water Protection supervisor for the state Division of Water Quality. "The data recorded by Coastal Management's monitoring station was a big help in determining the cause of this event."

Chemtrails

Contributed by Chris Chappell

By now everyone has seen crisscrossing streaks of white clouds trailing behind jet aircraft, stretching from horizon to horizon, eventually turning the sky into a murky haze. Our gut tells us these are not mere vapor trails from jet engines, but no one yet has probed the questions: who is doing this, and why?

Here is the story of a rapidly developing industry called Geo-engineering, driven by scientists, corporations, and governments intent on changing global climate, controlling the weather, and altering the chemical composition of soil and water — all supposedly for the betterment of mankind. Although officials insist that these programs are only in the discussion phase, evidence is abundant that they have been underway since about 1990 — and the effect has been devastating to crops, wildlife, and human health.

Chemtrails differ vastly from the usual plane contrails that evaporate rather quickly in the sky. Over the past decade, independent testing of Chemtrails around the country has shown a dangerous, extremely poisonous brew that includes: barium, nano aluminum-coated fiberglass [known as CHAFF], radioactive thorium, cadmium, chromium, nickel, desiccated blood, mold spores, yellow fungal mycotoxins, ethylene dibromide, and polymer fibers. Barium can be compared to the toxicity of arsenic and is known to adversely affect the heart. Aluminum has a history of damaging brain function. Independent researchers and labs continue to show off-the-scale levels of these poisons.

Chemtrails do not dissipate. Rather, planes (fitted with special nozzles) release aerosols "lines" in the sky that do not evaporate. At first, these lines are thin; but soon they expand and, in a short time, merge together. Our once-blue sky has vanished and has been replaced by a grayish-white toxic haze that shuts out and diminishes our usual sunshine.

I recommend watching these videos with expert commentary and research. The first is *What In The World Are They Spraying* the second is *Why In The World Are They Spraying*. Both can be found on youtube.com for free. So I hope you will watch and learn what you can.

The next time you are outside look up at the sky chances are you will see these little jets going back and forth, crisscrossing the sky. They sometimes fly next to each other, sometimes they look like they might collide.

Keep your eyes on the skies and your feet on the ground.

Ed. Note: The views and opinions expressed in this editorial or article are not necessarily those of the editors and do not necessarily reflect official policies or positions of The Grey Area newspaper. This information is merely submitted for your consideration. If interested in submitting an article or editorial, email kayw@greyareanews.com for review.



Little Bits

Chuckle of the Issue

A man was talking to the family doctor. He said, “Doc, I think my wife is going deaf.”

The doctor replied, “Well, we can do some testing. But here’s something you can try on her to test her hearing. Stand some distance away from her and ask her a question. If she doesn’t answer, move a little closer and ask again. Keep repeating until she answers. Then you’ll be able to tell just how hard of hearing she really is.”

The man goes home and decides to try this test. He walks in the kitchen door and asks, “Honey, what’s for dinner?”

No response. He he moves into the kitchen, closer to his wife. “Honey, what’s for dinner?”

Still no answer. He steps closer and asks again, repeating until he’s standing just behind her. He asks, “What’s for dinner, dear?”

She answers, “For the fifth time, we’re having chicken!”

Quote of the Issue

“Honest disagreement is often a good sign of progress.”

--Mahatma Gandhi

Cryptogram of the Issue

Replace the letters in this Cryptogram with other letters to deduce the quote within the puzzle. This month, the name of the person quoted is listed, instead of you needing to solve for the name too. Hint: K = L.

 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
K G Z W N G D J F W K U

 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
U S J F C T A O

 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
W Z W J N C Y S A B W K F W

 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
U T K K F S A C G K S A W

 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
N G D J W T K K N Y T Z W

 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
C G K G Z W N G D J F W K U

 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
C G B W C T A N C Y S A B

 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
O G A W S A C Y S F

 _ _ _ _ _ _
X G J K O

-- _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
K D I S K K W L T K K

Answer to the January 1st issue cryptogram:

My definition of
an intellectual
is someone who
can listen to the
William Tell
Overture without
thinking of the
Lone Ranger.
-- Billy Connolly

Word of the Issue

esteem

Definition: Think highly of someone.

Example: “They held him in esteem.”

Translation of the Issue

English —“heart”

German — herz	Irish — croí
Spanish — corazón	Italian — cuore
Dutch — hart	Latin — cor
Danish — hjerte	Korean — 심장 (simjang)

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

New Pizza Shop Opens on Main Street in Wendell NC

When Teddy’s Pizza closed its doors after many years on Main, Primo Pizza jumped in. After some remodeling, Primo Pizza opened its doors in mid-January.

Calzone and Pizza were served (and greatly enjoyed) during the ribbon cutting Thursday, January 24th, held by the Wendell Chamber of Commerce. Stop by Main Street in Wendell and check out Primo’s New York style pizza and other offerings.



Photo: Alberto Sanchez cuts the ribbon at Primo Pizza

News from The Grey Area

This February 1st issue has the list of events for families and business people, alongside some Valentine’s Day events and opportunities. Check out the businesses with Valentine’s specials at the top of Page 3.

The Grey Area is currently published in two local Editions. The newspaper is distributed in Bunn, Knightdale, Wendell, Zebulon, Nashville, Rocky Mount, and Wilson. News, events, and advertisements are localized for each Edition’s readers.

To advertise, call 919.623.9392. Issues of The Grey Area come out every other Friday. Before the next issue, visit our Facebook page or Twitter feed to see more events and news. Previous newspaper issues may be read in our Archives online at www.greyareanews.com.

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