

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 5B
March 1–14, 2013**

Yard Waste Collection Improves with New Vehicle

Contributed by Brian Bowman

Starting in March, a new yard waste collection truck will circle Knightdale. The truck includes a special claw system for picking up branches and bags of grass clippings.



Photo via Brian Bowman, Town of Knightdale

Half of the town will have its yard waste and grass clippings picked up on Monday, the other half of the town on Tuesday. This is designed for efficiency, recognizing that many residents pile up the waste during weekend yard work!

Until this time, an independent waste collection company had been picking up yard debris. Decals were sold, and residents had to purchase them. Now the collection process has been streamlined, and the work will be done by this special town-owned truck. Yard waste will be taken to the landfill.

There are some limitations residents need to know:

- All debris should be placed *behind* the curb
- Separate yard waste from trash
- Place grass clippings in clear bags as they will be sorted out.
- Branches should be six feet or shorter
- Branches must be no wider than six inches
- Stumps can be up to three feet wide

Very important that yard debris be separated from the regular trash, as yard waste does not go to the landfill. Town workers also strongly suggest that trash always be several feet away from utility poles or mailboxes. Any obstructions that slow down the crane’s work will slow down service for everyone.

Residents may use this service. Paid contractors hired locally must remove their own debris when they leave a location. Contractors are not allowed to leave yard waste at the curb.

This new collection truck and schedule should make yard waste cleanup easier for residents and keep yards looking neater. To find out more about this town service, visit the website: www.knightdalenc.gov.

The Good News/Bad News... Vultures Abound

An abundance of road kill, and warm weather, means an abundance of vultures hanging around this winter.

Turkey vultures (red headed) clean up road kill alongside the slightly more aggressive black vultures (black headed). Serving as scavengers and cleaning up carcasses serves humans well Their scavenging may minimize disease. It certainly removes a good number of animal carcasses that would otherwise be lying around.

Although the turkey vultures are scavengers more than killers, both turkey and black vultures may wreak havoc. Domestic animals scatter under the birds’ large shadows. Black vultures have been known to kill small livestock. Humans may get the

urge to swerve when the large-wingspan birds get a little too close to the road, and pilots face aircraft bird strike concerns.

With vultures’ good and bad traits, it is important to note that killing black vultures or turkey vultures is prohibited under the US Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. When in doubt, talk with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission regarding how to keep vultures from damaging your livestock or property.

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

One day on your way home from work, you stop at your favorite store. It is a shop where you often go for birthday gifts or small items for your family. You know the owners, and the folks at the front counter know you.

On this particular day, you make your purchase and notice that Tammy, who works behind the counter, has puffiness around her eyes. She’s been crying. You ask her what is wrong.

Tammy tells you that the store is going out of business. After being around for almost a decade, the owners cannot make ends meet and are shutting down. She and her fellow employees will be out of work at the end of the month.

After talking with her a bit, you leave the store with your purchase.

Do you think that you might try to help the owners by sending more business their way? Would you spread the word, in person and through social media, to send more shoppers there way? Or would you just move on to shopping elsewhere?

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Things to Do in NC
When You’re Bored

* Nashville *

3/01 Compassion Cafe
-3/31 (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. Contact Nashville UMC at 252.459.7178.

3/04 Children’s Storytime
3/11 (March 4, 11 & 18 @ 10:30am)
3/18 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
www2.youseemore.com/cooleylibrary

* Rocky Mount *

3/07 Live Music Thursdays on Sunset Ave (March 7 @ 7pm)
March 7th is *Dine Out for Schools*, with Chickweed. Westridge Grill, 3639 Sunset Avenue, Rocky Mount
Call 252.937.7299 for info.

3/08 Program: Reasons for the Seasons (March 8)
Interactive planetarium presentation explores the current evening sky, & includes hands-on demonstrations on the motions of the Earth/Moon system, the reason for seasons, & take-home star charts. Ages 7-12 (children must be accompanied by a paid adult).\$8/city residents, \$9/ non-residents). At Children’s Museum & Science Center’s *Cummins Planetarium*, 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount

3/13 Auditions for Play: Almost, Maine (March 13-14 @ 7pm)
3/14 Play by John Cariani. Audition for this sweet & beautiful play exploring love, loss and discovery in the lives of the quirky, inhabitants of the mythical town of Almost, Maine. The Theatre at the Imperial Centre, 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount
Contact David at 252.972.1156.

3/14 Small Business Center Free Seminar: Best Business To Start Now (March 14 @ 6-9pm)
No charge. Thinking of starting a business? Not sure what business you would like to start? This seminar provides a broad overview. Business & Industry Center, Room 1211, 522 N Old Carriage Road, Rocky Mount.

4/18 North Carolina Back to Work Job Fair (April 18 @ 9am-noon)
Public registration not necessary. Professional dress is required; no shorts, jeans, or caps. Held at the Nash Community College’s Business & Industry Center, 522 N Old Carriage Road, Rocky Mount

* Wilson *

3/22 ACT! for Youth presents Our Town by Thornton Wilder (March 22-23 @ 7:30pm & 3/24 March 24 @ 3pm)
To commemorate the 75th anniversary of this 1938 Pulitzer Prize winning drama, performances are being staged across the country including multiple performances in Wilson. \$8; \$6 for students & seniors. At Edna Boykin Cultural Center, 108 Nash St NE, Wilson
For Tickets, call The Arts Council of Wilson Box Office at 252.291.4329 or buy at the door.

* Elsewhere *

3/01 Live Music Fridays
3/08 (March 1, 8, & 15 @ 7pm)
3/15 Music throughout the month. Until 10pm. At Showside Grill & Bakery, 102 N Pine Street, Spring Hope
Band info: www.showsidegrill.com.

3/02 Dr. Seuss Birthday “green Egg” Celebration (March 2 @ 10am)
National Education Association’s Read Across America Day is March 2, also Dr. Seuss’s birthday. Farmer Mary is reading *Green Eggs And Ham* & letting children hold huge, green emu eggs. Reading at 10:30am. Bring chairs or blanket. \$10/person admission with farm tour, holding baby bunnies & more after reading. At Winterpast Farm, 12936 Ghoston Road, Wake Forest
RSVP: marymomfarmer@hotmail.com.

3/02 Karaoke
3/09 (March 2, 9 & 16 @ 7pm)
3/16 Join the fun Saturday for Karaoke with James & Samantha Bradley. Until 10pm at Showside Grill, 102 N Pine Street, Spring Hope
Info at www.showsidegrill.com.

3/05 Optimist Club Service Projects (March 5 @ 6:30pm)
Backpack Buddies project needs volunteers to help on this one-day project. At Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, 1001 Blair Drive, Raleigh
Contact Barbara Timmons at 919.426.5824.

3/08 Family Movie Night (March 8 @ 7pm)
The Zebulon Parks & Rec Dept. presents free movie & popcorn for all ages. Parent or guardian must be present. At Zebulon Community Center, 301 S Arendell Ave., Zebulon
Call 919.823.0432 for movie details. *And Movie on the Lawn April 12th!*

3/09 Dig In! Growing Fresh Local Food Workshop (March 9 @ 8:30am-1pm)
Dig In! features urban agriculture and community garden experts teaching workshops to educate anyone who wants to build a community or school garden. At Marbles Kids Museum, 201 E Hargett Street, Raleigh
Registration \$10/person online at www.advocatesforhealthinaction.org

3/11 Monday Night Date Night (March 11 @ 5-8pm)
Limited Menu with Desserts by Contagious Confections. Just Chill & start the week off relaxed. At Showside Grill & Bakery, 102 N Pine Street, Spring Hope
Please R.S.V.P. via 252.478.7989.

3/23 National Anthem Tryouts (March 23 @ 9am)
Sing for the Carolina Mudcats! National Anthem tryouts are coming soon. Watch for more information on the Mudcats website as the date approaches. At Five County Stadium, 1501 NC 231, Zebulon
Info: www.carolinamudcats.com.

3/29 Final Friday Forum (March 29 @ 11:30am-1:30pm)
Held by People Builders Inc., a non-profit hosting monthly events which help families in need by creating opportunities without obligation. Purpose is to provide valuable learning from savvy speakers. Mar. 29th: Leslie Flowers, *Paths of Change*. \$20/person. Crystal Palace, Capital Blvd., Raleigh
Details/registration at ow.ly/hCtSv

Other Dates of Note

3/10 Daylight Savings (March 10)
3/17 St. Patrick’s Day (March 17)
3/20 First Day of Spring (March 20)
3/26 Passover (March 26)
3/31 Easter Sunday (March 31)

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.

MS 1st Hair, Makeup & Fashion Underground Show

Saturday, April 20

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Goal Setting Workshop

March 14th from 6-8 pm

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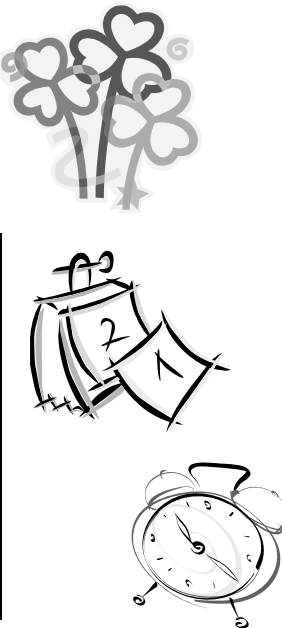
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A Little Bit of History

Getting Buildings Back to Business

It's recycling on a large scale: renovating last century's buildings and bringing life and light back to downtown areas. Decades ago, as the buildings decayed and businesses fled to flashy new strip malls closer to the big housing developments outside town. Now many cities are drawing people back to downtown to keep alive the culture of downtown living, working, and playing. A part of the culture is being saved alongside the buildings, with residents drawn to the new shops and new-old experience, and the buildings are stabilized and given fresh coats of paint.

Walk down Main Street in Rocky Mount and you'll see a mix of old and new. Recent renovations to sidewalks, parking, and streetlights bring more potential to downtown buildings. Many buildings have been renovated in the past few years, some with help from tax assistance and grant programs. Each renovation brings new business, and new living spaces, to Downtown Rocky Mount. Some buildings are renovated, full and flourishing. Other buildings are waiting for their potential to be unleashed.

224 SW Main Street Renovations

One building waiting to be reborn on Main Street is 224 SW Main Street. Actually three separate store fronts addressed as 218, 220, and 224, this building dates back to 1910. Owned by Peoples Bank And Trust Company in the 1960s, the years took their toll and major renovations helped roll back the years in 2008. When this building was first opened to businesses and residents, horses and buggies clip-clopped down the street. In fact, during recent renovations of the Streetscape, finds included horseshoes alongside the old cobblestones!



Photos via Ron Vetere of early 1900s Downtown



1970's

Over the years a number of businesses occupied the three storefronts. Roscoe Griffin's Shoe Store did business from 218 SW Main Street, Scottie Discount Center in 220 SW Main Street, and the Jewel Box in 224 SW Main Street. In recent years, M&T Pawn Shop occupied a part of the building. As buildings are updated, likely visitors can purchase new technology and local products where their grandparents purchased their shoes and sundries.

The renovation started a few years ago included removing of the M&T Pawn aluminum screen, removal of nonconforming signage, gutting of the three interiors, application of a new roof, and 13 new windows installed on the second floor. Because of the importance of renovating downtown according to historical guidelines — to preserve the experience of yesterday for visitors today — each update or change enhances the building's attributes while updating it to last far into the future. Their handsome pilaster (a kind of an "implied" column projecting from a building front) and the entablature treatment above can still be seen today, 103 years after construction. Currently ready to be outfit, this downtown building may be finished as three commercial storefronts on the first floor, and three residences on the second floor — with each space ranging from 1500 to 2300 square feet.

With the train station less than two blocks away, the growing downtown around it, Rocky Mount residents and visitors will see this building reborn in the coming years. New business will fill the storefronts. Residents will enjoy living near the conveniences of Main Street — with more shops coming all the time. With Amtrak so close, people can literally travel from near and far to work, live, or shop in this re-beautified building.

R&H Homework, LLC. is a small business run by local arts patrons Ron and Hilarie Vetere. They rolled up their sleeves and pitched in for Rocky Mount's downtown revitalization several years ago. In addition to making major renovations to 224 SW Main Street, R&H Homework used their renovation skills to bring the Bel-Air Artisan Center into being. They are refitting another downtown building to become a restaurant or coffee shop. Their hope is that the work begun at 224 SW Main Street can be continued by a new owner soon — ensuring more shops and traffic for Rocky Mount's main drag.

For those interested in playing a role in the life and livelihood of this downtown area, 224 SW Main Street and all of its potential are available for \$151,200. Contact Mark Have of Chatham Homes Realty at 919.610.2452. With some investment of money, time, and elbow grease, plus review of local Historic Preservation Guidelines, someone can make this set of storefronts a part of the new Rocky Mount. Builders, entrepreneurs, visionaries, adventurers, and do-it-yourselfers invited to apply — and help make a new history.

Recording Family Memories

When my Grandmother, Ruth, was in her 90s, we started recording her telling stories of her life. She had written some down during her life. We got her on tape talking about her early life. My aunt even took her to a "legacy" studio and made videos of "Grandma" Ruth's storytelling.

My Dad recently passed away at an unexpected 75 years old. We had not even begun to work on recording his stories. We hadn't asked him to tell us about parts of his life which he thought were good stories for passing on. He didn't talk too much about such things when we were children, at least not as I recall. Dad had been ill, and the last dozen visits he had been too weak to talk much. Things we might have asked him about, he didn't have the strength for the telling.

He was so much younger than his mother was when we worked to save her-story. We thought there was plenty of time with Dad for talking, asking, listening, recording, and writing things down.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that it is *never too early* to start. Even if you're "middle aged", it may be time to pass stories down for our children, to learn from our parents, and to ensure the family history is passed on. Whether you use video, audio, or paper, now is a good time.



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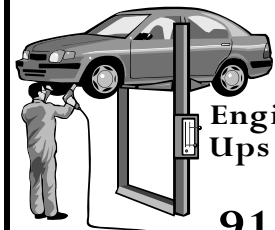


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The Grey Area™

The Backside



Little Bits

Chuckle of the Issue

The teen walked up to his father and asked, “Dad, can you write in the dark?”

Looking up from his newspaper, the Dad answered, “I think so, son. What is it you want me to write?”

The teen cleared his throat and said, “Your name on this report card.”

Word of the Issue

Germinate

Definition: Begin to grow and put out shoots.

Example: “The children were excited when the seeds planted in class began to germinate.”

Special Word Extra: Salad

Definition: Greens, such as collard greens.

Translation of the Issue

English — “rain”

Irish — báisteach Spanish — la lluvia

Latin — pluvia Italian — la pioggia

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

Quote of the Issue

“If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one.”

--Mother Teresa

Cryptogram of the Issue

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

Hint: S = I.

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
R Q K Q F R S R Q F R S H G Q L

— — — — — — — — — — — — — —
W R Q H G A B R S H G D Q L

— — — — — — —
R Q R R Q F N

Answer to the previous issue’s cryptogram:

*While you are
proclaiming peace
with your lips, be
careful to have
it even more fully
in your heart.*

-- Francis of Assisi

News from The Grey Area

This March 1st issue includes events for March alongside local and far-flung news. This issue marks the beginning of *The Grey Area* newspaper’s third year of publication. The first issue came out, in two cities, on March 1, 2011.




Over the past two years, this newspaper has grown from two pages to four, and its distribution gone from two cities to seven. We’ve heard from many readers over the years, and appreciate all feedback. We’re always happy to know what our readers like, and what they would enjoy reading more.

The businesses advertised in the newspaper have grown from a dozen to several hundred. As each of these businesses places their ad, we in turn spread the word about them through the paper and online. We’re glad for their support and faith, and in turn do our best to promote their work. It is a locally based partnership that we strive to make work for businesses, readers, shoppers, and newspaper growth. As the newspaper moves into new cities and towns, it is the local focus that may lead to economic growth where it counts.

To advertise, call 919.623.9392. Issues of *The Grey Area* come out every other Friday. Previous newspaper issues may be read in the online Archives at www.greyareanews.com. If interested in submitting an article or editorial, email us at kayw@greyareanews.com.

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greenhouse (volunteers needed)
- MARCH 9th: Booth at Dig In! Raleigh
- MARCH 23rd: Planting at Zebulon
greenhouse (volunteers needed again)
- APRIL 13th: Plant giveaways begin
throughout NC

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