Rocky Mount, Nashville & Wilson NC Edition - 919.623.9392

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"I'M FREE—Take Me With You!"

Volume 3, Number 6B March 15–28, 2013

Actors, Extras & Stand-ins: NC Film Industry Growth

Name a NC industry that has increased a specific employment number from around 700 to over 10,000 since 2010? If you ask someone from the NC Film Office, they will tell you it is the film industry.

Fueled by incentives — mostly rebates on money spent — the film industry in NC has grown so much that spending grew by hundreds of millions of dollars in just a few years, A part of this increase is due to legislative changes in 2010. Two bills in 2010 increased the rebates to film companies filming and employing in the state — something South Carolina is watching carefully and may do in the near future!

In 2010, direct spending from the industry was \$80 million. In 2011, it was a record-breaking year with \$245 million in direct spending — and creating of 27,190 jobs including highly technical and well-paid film technician jobs, acting jobs, and extras. Then, 2012 proved to be another successful year with direct spending of \$376 million. These figure are confirmed by the North Carolina Film Office, which tracks film activity, spending, incentives, labor, and statistics for NC.

According to Aaron Syrett, Director of the North Carolina Film Office, "We can attribute this growth to the North Carolina Film incentive. That being said, our incentive is only as good as our local infrastructure. For a production company to truly take advantage of our film credit they need to hire and purchase locally.

"North Carolina has the deepest infrastructure in the Southeast. From the late 1990s to the early 2000s, we did see our crew leave to take jobs in other states because they were highly sought after for their skills. At that time, North Carolina was not competing for these jobs. Since 2007, our crew who kept their residences in NC have come home and are now working continually in NC. Due to how busy we are, we are seeing that infrastructure starting to grow and keep up with the demand of the jobs that are being created. We are once again one of the top five filmmaking jurisdictions in the States."

Casting agents are a subset of the film industry that relies on local talent. Having local people available to cast into a scene as "extras" help keep production rolling. Many of these are using social media and other tools to reach out to prospects. Search online for casting calls or agents.

For more information on local film, visit www.ncfilm.com.

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The Tasty Annual Flavors of Carolina Event

Tuesday night, March 5th, Sherry Mercer stayed up half the night preparing meat and sauce. As a first timer, she was nervous about the upcoming "Flavors of Carolina" show. She and husband Steve were taking their Back 40 BBQ Sauce to this Raleigh show, an invitation-only event designed to connect food creators with buyers.

This annual event, is organized by the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) Their goal in organizing this event is to help connect buyers with local producers — increasing local sales and improving the economy.

Wednesday, March 6th dawned cold and windy — and stayed that way most of the



windy — and stayed Photo of Sherry & Steve Mercer

day. Inside the Hilton North Raleigh, the temperature was comfortable. Instrumental music filled the big room, while a wide range of tastes filled tables all around. In addition to the wide variety of foods prepared for all, many of the vendors provided samples of their offerings. One could taste elderberry juice at one table, pick up a cheese straw at the next, dip into unique sauces all around, and nibble on meats, vegetables, vegetarian "meat" and other treats.

Eastern North Carolina was well represented. Of course, Back 40 BBQ Sauce was there from Bunn. Vick Family Farms and Southern Spice represented Wilson. Lucama's own Scott Farms showed their wares. Nashville area had a big showing too, with Braswell Foods, Atlantic Natural Foods, Butterfields Candies, and Nash Produce all present.

Thanks to Myrtle Earley, marketing specialist, and her team from the NCDA&CS Marketing Division, *The Grey Area* staff visited with many of these local vendors. It was humbling to see how many local folks are putting themselves out there with their NC-made products! Hopefully many local residents will take the time to purchase these Eastern NC goods on their next trip to the store.

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Help Local Boys & Girls

The Zebulon Boys & Girls Club's Board of Directors hosts the 13th Annual Charity Golf Tournament on April 12th at the Zebulon Country Club.

Individuals will be placed on teams the day of the tournament. Available Tee Sponsorships provide an excellent local promotional opportunity for area businesses. Proceeds benefit the operational costs of the Zebulon Boys & Girls Club. For registration information, call Tom Schmidt at 919.880.0043 or Rob Landrum at 919.404.3851.

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

Your daughter comes home from high school one day, and tells you that one of her classmates is having a baby.

Questioning your daughter, you learn that the young lady is not in her group of friends, and is just a grade ahead of her. You take the time to talk with your daughter about the situation, and your concerns for her. She asks you questions, and when you are done you feel like your daughter has a good understanding of how to handle herself.

Do you think that you would be more worried about your daughter, or less worried? Do you think it would be helpful to ask the school to raise awareness? Or would you prefer to keep the school out of the issue?

The Strange-ness

Sinkholes

In a recent event in Florida, a sinkhole opened under a house and a man died. Other Florida sinkholes in the news may lead one to reconsider the "solid ground" beneath their feet.

Sinkholes can happen for various reasons. Excess rain, water movement, changes to the water table, or changes to landscape may contribute.

Depending on the underlying rock, makeup of the land, and how much water is moving, some areas may experience frequent sinkholes. Florida is now in its rainy season and seeing more holes opening in their landscape.

In North Carolina, sinkholes are not unheard of, but there seem to be far fewer problems than in rainy Florida.



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Things to Do in NC When You're Bored

* Nashville *

3/15 Compassion Cafe -3/31 (Monday-Friday @ 11am-1pm)

Meal served once a month at the cafe. Corner of Church & Collins Streets, behind main Nashville UMC building. Contact Nashville UMC at 252.459.7178.

3/18 Children's Storytime 3/25 (March 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 www2.youseemore.com/cooleylibrary

3/28 Rabies Clinic (March 28 @ 8am-4pm)

\$5/animal. Any animal needing a 3year rabies shot needs to bring proof on 1-year vaccination. At the Nash County Animal Shelter, 921 First Street Extension, Nashville

4/18 2013 Back to Work Job Fair (April 18 @9am-12pm)

Complimentary breakfast served for all participating business guests at 8:30am, if business registers before April 12th. In Brown Auditorium, Nash Community College, 522 N Old Carriage Road, Rocky Mount Register at www.nashcc.edu/jobfair & click "Job Fair Employer Registration". Registration free & includes table & chairs.

* Rocky Mount *

3/16 CFL Giveaway (March 16 @ 10am)

Rocky Mount Public Utilities partnering with Lowe's Home Improvement for this free compact fluorescent light bulb giveaway. Free to the general public. 2 CFLs per household. While supplies last. At Lowe's Home Impr., 700 N Wesleyan Blvd, Rocky Mount Contact Amy at 252.972.1269

3/19 Islamic Art: Mirror of the Invisible World (March 19 @ 6-8pm)

Documentary film. Introduction by Amy Brake, Head Librarian at Miller Motte College. Showing in the Warner Room, Braswell Memorial Library, 727 North Grace Street, Rocky Mount

Contact Jane at 252.442.1951, or visit www.braswell-library.org

3/20 How to Start a Home Based Business (March 20 @ 6-9pm)

No charge. Learn how to choose a business, plan start up, find permits, handle legal issues, create a business plan, market, & how to incorporate, if necessary. At the Business & Industry Center, Nash Community College, Room 1211, 522 N Old Carriage Road, Rocky Mount.

3/21 Live Music Thursdays 3/28 (March 21 & 28 @ 7pm)

Live music along Sunset Avenue. March 21st is Travis Moss, & March 28th is Kevin Shaw. Westridge Grill, 3639 Sunset Avenue, Rocky Mount Call 252.937.7299 for info.

3/23 Sunset Easter EGGstravaganza (March 23 @ 10am-2pm)

Come enjoy the rides at Sunset Park & stay for huge Easter Egg Hunt at 11:30am. To take part in the Hunt, please bring a basket! Easter Egg Hunt open to kids up to age 12. Free event for Rocky Mount community! All activities & Sunset Park rides free. Sunset Park, 1550 River Dr, Rocky Mt

3/23 Free Indoor Bluegrass Concert (March 23 @ 6-9pm)

Free concert features The Carolina Road Band. Bring your lawn chairs & enjoy free hotdogs with fixins & great music! At the Farmers Market, 1006 Peachtree Street, 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 Community College's Business & Industry Center, 522 N Old Carriage Road, Rocky Mount

* Wilson *

3/15 Triangle East Home & Garden Show -16 (March 15-16 @ 10am-6pm)

Join over 100 vendors at this annual Wilson Chamber show. At Wilson Recreation Center, 500 Sunset Road NW, Wilson

More info, call 252.237.0165.

3/20 Super Science Day: It's War (March 20 @ 1:30-5pm)

War has been declared! Strong enough to win? Build your very own trebuchet, ultimate artillery weapon. At Imagination Station Science Museum, 224 E Nash St., Wilson See www.imaginescience.org.

3/22 Our Town (March 22-23 @ 3/23 7:30pm & March 24 @ 3pm)

ACT! for Youth commemorates the 3/24 75th anniversary of this 1938 Pulitzer. \$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.

3/23 Rob Alford @ Quince's Bistro (March 23 @ 8:30-11:30pm)

Come in for some live music on Saturday night! At Quince A Southern Bistro, 2801-3D Ward Blvd., Wilson Online at www.quincenc.com.

3/28 Easter Egg Hunt, Social & Dinner (March 28 @ 1pm)

Social to celebrate Easter. Followed by an egg hunt, outdoors (weather permitting). Bring a basket for collecting eggs. There is also a dinner at 5pm featuring ham & all the fixings. At the Senior Center, 1808 South Goldsboro St., Wilson

3/30 International TableTop Game Day (March 30 @ 11am-4pm)

A celebration for all the fans of tabletop gaming. Spend time together & have fun. Game room full of new & familiar games to play. Free & open to the public.

The Hobby Shop, 2101 Tarboro St SW, Suite B7, Wilson NC

* Elsewhere *

3/21 Raleigh Spring Premier Benefit -23 (March 21-23)

Show features classes for American Saddlebred horses, Roadster horses & ponies, Hackney ponies, Southeast riders & a full Morgan Division. Plus a full division for beginning riders. Free spectator admission.

James B Hunt Horse Complex, 1025 Blue Ridge Rd, Raleigh

Info www.raleighspringpremier.com

3/23 Rabies Clinic (March 23 @ 10am-1pm)

Rabies shots are \$5 and microchips are \$10 (both are cash only). If you have been thinking about getting your pet microchipped, this is a great deal! Tell everyone you know who might be interested. While this is not an SPCA event, we work closely with Garner Animal Control and support their important work. At Lake Benson Park, 921 Buffaloe Road, Garner

3/39 34th Annual Easter Decoy & Art -30 Festival (March 29 12-6pm & March 30 9am-5pm)

Local & national carvers & artists of all kinds exhibit & sell. Awards given in various categories. Silent auction of "Pre-Loved Treasures". Chincoteague Combined School, 4586 Main St., Chincoteague Island VA www.chincoteaguedecoyshow.com

3/29 Battleship Easter Egg Hunt Carnival (Mar. 29 @10am-2pm)

Fun Spring event with games & egg hunts every 20 minutes. Petting zoo. Bring a camera for pictures with Buddy the Battleship Bunny. \$5/ person, 2 & under free. At Battleship NC, 1 Battleship Road, Wilmington Info at www.battleshipnc.com.

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.

GROW AND SHARE is Holding April Plant Giveaways across Eastern NC

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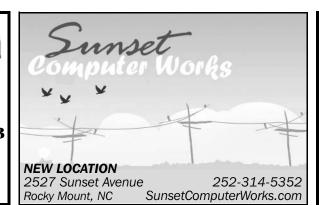
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Life & Art Found in New Wilson Home

Contributed by Yvonne Battle

"What is my purpose here in Wilson?" That is a question I asked myself often after living here more than six years. The answer was Art.

I was born and raised in Washington, DC. In 2004, I was asked by my son-in-law to visit his hometown of Wilson, NC. I had never heard of Wilson but decided to take the trip. I came and liked what I saw. Being raised in the city, I fell in love with the serenity and space.

When I returned to Washington, I told my fiancée about this beautiful city and asked him to return with me to see how he felt about it. Of course, he thought I was crazy but agreed to return with me. He fell in love with it also and we both went to Forbes Relator to purchase a house. Unfortunately, my fiancée passed away before we could go to settlement.

I had retired from my Federal Government job of 27 years working at the US Department of State and my part-time job of 20 years as a Security Officer with a private firm. Traumatized at the passing of my fiancée, burnt out from the two jobs, but very much needing a change, I continued with my plans to move to Wilson.

After relocating here, the first few years I was miserable and it was hard meeting people. I found few social gathering beyond going to church and going out to eat. I remember asking someone once where the subway was; speaking in terms of public transportation and they showed me to the Subway sandwich shop. My move to Wilson was an adjustment; finding the arts I loved in and around town took me some time.

My passion in DC was attending theaters, all kinds; the Kennedy Center, the Arena Stage, Blues Alley, Wolf Trap, Carter Baron, and dinner theaters. I also liked visiting the many museums. To feed this passion, I took art classes at the Wilson Community College under the direction of Martha Beland. Martha was very supportive and encouraging and taught me how to actually hold an artist's paintbrush. Then I ventured to Studio One and met this fabulous art instructor by the name of Dwight Mitchell. Dwight is the best. He has taught me confidence in my painting and how not to be afraid to push myself with the paintbrush.

The Arts Council of Wilson works to improve the quality of life for local residents. They oversee the Boykin Center, Theater of the American South, and local arts workshops and exhibits. Their staff and volunteers work together to provide cultural leadership and arts opportunities.

I met Andrea Horton-Morton when buying my art supplies. In a conversation with her, I mentioned that I liked the work The Arts Council was doing and was interested in offering my services to assist them in whatever manner I could. She made a phone call to Chandra Bowling and thus, here I am: a volunteer at The Arts Council of Wilson.

I have been able to continue my passion and have found my niche here in Wilson NC, through my volunteering at the Art Council. The Arts Council has enabled me to meet many people and to see Wilson in a different light. The talented local artist, actors, and actresses in the theaters have made me realize there is a great deal more to do here in Wilson beside church and eating. I really have enjoyed The Arts Council's Open Houses to the public and their many events.

Being involved in The Arts Council has opened great avenues for me. It has afforded me so many tremendous opportunities to network and be engaged in my passion for art. For example, January 3rd of this year I starred in the play. "Face It, Fix It &

Forget It" written and produced by Toshika Johnson Smith — who was a 2009 recipient of The Arts & Humanities Award presented by the Wilson Beta Beta Chapter, Omega Psi Phi. The play was performed at St. John's AMEZ Church. I have met so many beautiful and nice people at St. John's. They embraced me with open arms and made me feel so welcomed. While attending St. John's I met Bill Myers, who is the Music Director of the Church Band. I told Bill about my passion for playing the bongos and would like to sharpen my skills; Bill immediately introduced me to Elvis Townsend, the percussionist in the Church Band. Elvis took me under his wing, and now we are rehearsing one-on-one approximately twice a week. I am having a wonderful time! I have advanced to the point that I am thinking about forming my own drum circle in the near future.

I will perform in the musical, "Motown Revue: A Tribute to Black Music Month" during the Summer. This musical is also written and produced by Toshika Johnson Smith. Toshika has also asked me to assist her in coordinating, and to assist her in direct marketing and publicity. The musical will be performed at the Boykin Center, June 14-15, 2013 at 7pm.

As you can see, my life here in Wilson has truly changed. I am pursuing my passion in art and truly enjoying Wilson. I have found love again and an awesome church. Now I understand that you have to work at your passion to appreciate where you are.

Painting and volunteering have brought me peace within myself and have given me the creativity I didn't know I had.

Art has truly been the answer.

A Little Bit of History

Historic Downtown Possibilities

Last issue talked about recycling Rocky Mount's downtown buildings for new business and living. This issue showcases a historic property waiting for an owner's TLC in Goldsboro.

As part of a downtown renovation, Goldsboro's downtown historic gas station has potential to become another type of business. The Historic "Amoco Station" used to be an American Oil Co. gas station, and is described as having a decorative tin ceiling. The address is 103 W Chestnut Street, Goldsboro NC.

This commercial property is close to Goldsboro's newly restored Paramount Theatre and planned recreation center. It's 1400 square foot building is surrounded by a large parking lot. With a sale price of \$50,000 and the possibility of historic preservation tax credits, with a little funding an enterprising entrepreneur could renovate into a new type of business in short order.



Photo by Downtown Goldsboro Development Corporation

Each renovation brings new business, and new living spaces, to the state's Main Streets. Some buildings are already renovated, full and flourishing. Other buildings like this Goldsboro gas station are waiting for their potential to be unleashed.



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www.countryinns.com/wilsonnc

KCAG Family Fun Day at "King's Dominion" May 18, 2013

Leaving Styles Masters, 224 Goldsboro Street SW, Wilson, NC at 7am Sharp. Returning to Wilson 8pm.

1st Deposit due by March 25 – \$40 per person. Final payment is April 25. Kids under 2 FREE.

\$80 includes Transportation to & from, Admission in the Park, & Bus Drivers Tip.

Please contact Dee or Gil 252-543-9663

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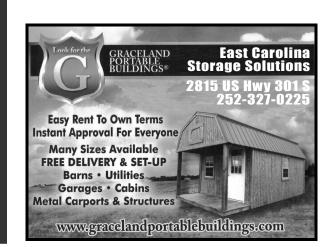
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The Backside

Little Bits

Chuckle of the Issue

The new golfer muffed his tee shot into the woods, then hit the ball into a few trees, then proceeded to hit across the fairway into the woods on the other side.

Finally, after banging away several more times, he proceeded to hit the ball into a sand trap.

All the while, he'd noticed that the club professional had been watching him.

"What club should I use now?" the new golfer asked the pro.

"I don't know," the pro replied. "What game are you playing?"

Word of the Issue

magnanimous

Definition: Very generous or forgiving; especially toward a rival or someone with less standing.

Example: "She was too magnanimous to resent all the mean things he had said."

Translation of the Issue

English — "Excuse me" (sorry, pardon me)

Irish — gabh mo leithscéal Latin — excusatum me

Spanish — perdóneme Italian — mi scusi

German — entschuldigen sie

Tagalog — Ipagpaumanhin ninyo ako!

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

"The doctor of the future will give no medicine, but will interest her or his patients in the care of the human frame, in a proper diet, and in the cause and prevention of disease."

-- Thomas Alva Edison





Cryptogram of the Issue

Replace the letters in this Cryptogram with other letters to deduce the quote within the puzzle. Hint: F = A.

X A V M S F G Q F W G C MT C IAYCPZQG URVMPQXCRM -- B F P G A V V F R M F R F

> Answer to the previous issue's cryptogram: Peter Piper Picked A Peck Of Pickled Peppers.

News from *The Grey Area*

This March 15th issue shows that Spring and summer are coming soon, with more family events and outdoor opportunities. To advertise, call 919.637.6973.

Why is this newspaper called, The Grey Area? The name, The Grey Area, comes from the "Shades Of Grey" section of the newspaper. This special section poses a complex situation, and encourages readers to talk with those around them about the logical, moral, ethical, and other aspects of the issue--seeking the grey area between the black and white sides of the issue.



Kid'z Corner Art Gallery

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Carmike 10-Wilson Movie Review of the Issue

By Kay Whatley, Editor

For this issue, we reviewed Identity Thief, starring Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy. A child star, later on Arrested Development, Bateman has made over a dozen movies since 2008. McCarthy was part of the main cast on the TV series Gilmore Girls, later starring as Molly on



Mike & Molly, and making a splash in the 2001 film Bridesmaids.

Bateman plans main character Sandy Patterson in *Identity* Thief. In the midst of many reference to his first name as a female name, he finds that his identity has been stolen, and by a woman. McCarthy has been running wild on his credit, spending freely and causing him major problems right up through ruining his recently-acquired dream job.

Seeming to have no legal way to stop her and clear his name, "Sandy" takes off with what little he has to find the thief. The movie trailer gives a good idea of the humor through the film, and includes some of the funnier stuff. There is physical comedy, and a little physical violence. Language is pretty unfriendly to children. There are some sexual scenes, so keep that in mind before packing up the kiddies.

Overall, it was funny enough that we liked it. It may make a good "date night" movie for the laughs and good outcome.

Recent Ribbon Cuttings

The Ribbon Cutting at Teppanyaki Grill and Supreme Buffet was held on Tuesday, February 26th, and overseen by the Wilson Chamber of Commerce.



Photo by Michole Brown, Marketing and Projects Manager

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