

The Grey Area™

Local and National Unusual News

Rocky Mount, Nashville, Tarboro & Wilson NC Edition – 919.623.9392

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Eastern North Carolina

“I’M FREE—Take Me With You!”

Volume 3, Number 15B
July 5–18, 2013

NC State Parks Free Mobile App Upgraded For 2013

Press Release by Charlie Peek, charlie.peek@ncdenr.gov

With summer visitation in full swing, the NC Division of Parks and Recreation and ParksbyNature Network LLC have announced significant improvements to the free mobile app designed for NC’s state parks and state recreation areas.

NC’s Pocket Ranger mobile app, released in 2011, was the first full-featured application of its type in the nation and a prototype for the one now favored by most state parks systems. The app offers all information from the state parks system website as well as campground maps, event schedules and GPS-based park maps that can be downloaded and carried into the field. An “alert” feature provides emergency notices, and visitor groups can share locations through the app while exploring state parks.

Newly introduced features include: GeoChallenges (allowing visitors to earn points and prizes by exploring natural sites listed), GPS map viewing in portrait and landscape, accuracy and distance indicators, and more.

“The state parks system has accepted the challenge of using technology wherever possible to enhance the visitor experience, and the free mobile app is one of the most popular results of that effort,” said Lewis Ledford, State Parks Director. “And, since the nonprofit Friends of State Parks shares in advertising proceeds from the app, the state parks community and our education efforts benefit.”

The free Pocket Ranger mobile app can be downloaded at www.pocketranger.com.

Our Zebulon Boys and Girls’ Garden Club

Contributed by the Garden Club Kids

No need to water the gardens at the Zebulon Boys & Girls Club. On June 27th, the garden club met and 17 members participated. What we do in the garden club is plant vegetables and pick them when they are ready. We gather them in buckets, wash them and some members even get to try them. Some of the vegetables we grow are carrots, corn, tomatoes, and small peppers. We also learn about soil and how much to water our plants. All this extra rain is too much water and some of our plants are not growing well. We could use a little more sun and a lot less rain!

The garden club meets every other Thursday. Sometimes we weed and Ms. Kay always teaches us something new. The Garden Club is a program designed to inspire kids to love gardening and to give them the skills to someday have gardens of their own. Grow And Share has been with us for a year now. We really appreciate them coming to help us with our program.

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 click a video link which an online friend posted. All the link said was “Fun at School”.

You’re watching the video and you recognize several young kids in it. They go to the same school as your family. In fact, a couple of the kids in the video have been to your home.

The “Fun at School” turns out to be a child pouring something into a teacher’s drink while the teacher is out of the room.

Do you think you would contact the school or the teacher? How about the children you know? Do you think it would be best to contact the parents? If the video did not show what happened to the teacher, do you think it would be prudent to contact the police?

Would it make a difference if you knew the teacher, or had heard that he or she had recently been ill?

Motor Fuels Tax Rate Increase Starts in July

Press Release by Public Affairs Office, NC Dept of Revenue

The NC motor fuels tax for gasoline, diesel, and alternative fuels increased from 37.5¢ per gallon to 37.6¢ per gallon for the period from July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, announced Secretary of Revenue Lyons Gray.

The tax rate is computed using a flat rate of 17.5¢ per gallon and a variable wholesale component. The variable wholesale component is either 3.5¢ or 7% of the average wholesale price of motor fuel during the preceding six-month base period, whichever is greater. The average wholesale price is a weighted average of the wholesale prices of gasoline and No. 2 diesel fuel. The average price for the last base period was \$2.8743 per gallon.

The new rate should be used beginning with gasoline, diesel, and alternative fuels reports for July 2013 that are to be filed with the Department of Revenue in August 2013. The state motor fuels tax is included in the retail price paid by consumers at the pump.

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Things to Do in NC
When You’re Bored

* Nashville *

7/08 **Kids’ Storytime**
7/15 (July 8, 15 & 22 @ 10:30am)
7/22 Join each Monday for 30-minute story time. For ages 2-5. Give children a good start at being readers. At Cooley Library, 114 W Church St., Nashville

* Rocky Mount *

7/05 **Lawn Chair Theatre**
7/19 (July 5 & 19 @ 7pm, film dusk)
The Lorax (July 5th). *Wreck-It Ralph* (July 19th). Free family movie every other Friday night. Kids free activities before movie. Concessions. Bring blanket or lawn chair. At Imperial Centre for the Arts & Sciences, 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount

7/11 **Summer Music Series**
(July 11 @ 6-8:30pm)
Downtown Live’s free concert with *The Tams* June 27th. Doors open 5pm. No coolers. Bring blanket or lawn chair. *Jim Quick & Coastline* July 11th. On the lawn at Imperial Centre, 270 Gay St, Rocky Mount

7/11 **Downtown Live! featuring**
7/25 (July 11 & 25 @ 6-8:30pm)
Free concert series on the lawn. Try out dance skills or relax. Bring your lawn chair or blanket. Concessions, no coolers. *Jim Quick & Coastline* (July 11th) & *North Tower* (July 25th) At Imperial Centre, 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount
Contact 252.972.1266.

7/13 **USA Dance (July 13)**
The Rocky Mount Chapter of this national organization promotes ballroom dancing in the community & educates the public regarding physical, mental & social benefits. All ages. Price \$5 to \$8. At Arts Education Building, Imperial Centre, 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mt
Call Jennifer Rankin 252.972.1632.

7/16 **OIC Free Mobile Health Screenings (July 16)**
Third Tuesday each month free senior health & wellness screenings in the OIC Mobile Unit. At Rocky Mount Senior Center, 427 S. Church Street, Rocky Mount
Call Jessica Levy at 252.972.1152.

7/16 **Cardiopulmonary Connection Lunch & Learn (July 16)**
Free new educational series for seniors. Must register ahead of time for a free healthy lunch! At Rocky Mount Senior Center, 427 S. Church Street, Rocky Mount.
Call Jessica Levy252.972.1152.

7/31 **Auditions for Picasso at the Lapin Agile (July 31)**
Auditions ages 13 & up. Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso walk into a bar. What follows next is a comic exploration of talent, brains, invention, & 20th Century. Written by comedian & actor Steve Martin, this play is whimsical, off beat, and very funny. At Theatre at the Maria V. Howard Arts Center, 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount
Contact 252.972.1266.

* Wilson *

6/27 **Dig Out From Clutter (June 27 @ 7-9pm)**
By professional organizer Kay Williams. Learn how-to of putting clutter of everyday life in order. *Use Jackson Street entrance.* In Assembly Rm, Wilson Cty Public Library, 249 Nash Street NE, Wilson

7/05 **Wilson Tob’s Baseball (July 5)**
Come for the ball game, enjoy fun time with family & friends! Low ticket fees. At Fleming Stadium, 300 Stadium Street SW, Wilson
Online at www.wilsontobs.com.

7/05 **First Friday on the Lawn (July 5 @ 6-9pm)**
At Wilson County Public Library Lawn, 249 W Nash, Wilson

7/10 **Downtown Alive -- Legendary JC’s (July 10 @ 5:30-8:30pm)**
Bring blankets or lawn chairs. Food & drink available. No pets. *The Embers* (July 24th). At grassy lot, 210 South Tarboro Street, Wilson.

7/10 **Downtown Alive! (July 10 @ 5:30pm)**
Free summer concerts return to Wilson. Spend the evening listening to live music & relaxing with the family. At Grassy lot, 210 S Tarboro Street, Wilson

7/11 **Fifty Weeks of Green and Wildly Affordable Organic (July 11 @ 6:30-9pm)**
Author Linda Watson discusses her books. *Use Jackson Street entrance.* In Assembly Rm, Wilson Cty Public Library, 249 Nash St. NE, Wilson

7/13 **YA: Sidewalk Chalk Contest (July 13 @ 10am-1pm)**
Teen event. At Wilson County Public Library, 249 W Nash, Wilson
Email wilsoncountyp1@gmail.com.

7/15 **Cooking With Herbs (July 15 @ 5-6pm)**
At Wilson Ag. Center, 1806 Goldsboro St SW, Wilson

* Tarboro *

7/08 **Junior Sheriff’s Academy (July -19 8-19 @ 8am-4-pm Mon-Fri)**
Youth between 13-18. Learn about law enforcement. Ride along with a deputy. \$30 registration fee. By Edgecombe County Sheriff’s Office.
Call for info 252.641.7915.

7/09 **Story Time (July 9 @ 10:30am)**
Burrowers story time with Ms. Carol. At Edgecombe County Memorial Library, 909 Main Street, Tarboro

7/18 **NC Fossils Program (July 18)**
Carol Banks presents a special program on fossils found on the grounds of the historic Blount Bridgers House. At Blount Bridgers House, 130 Bridgers Street, Tarboro
Call for info 252.823.4159.

* Elsewhere *

7/13 **Men Cooking with Jazz Cook-off (July 13 @ 1-9pm)**
Free entry. Bring lawn chairs. Features cooking contest, vendors, jazz & blues bands, face painting & Sybil the clown (4-6p). Benefits High Hopes Foundation. At Spring Forest Road Park, 4203 Spring Forest Road, Raleigh
For info, call 919.757.3527.

7/13 **West Edgecombe Mini Pullers 8/03 (July 13 & August 3 @ 6pm)**
Come out for the lawn mower pulls, organized by West Edgecombe Farm Heritage Museum & West Edgecombe Ruritan Club. concession stand serving hot dogs, burgers, fries, nachos & soft drinks. Proceeds go to community work. Gates open at 3pm.
12180 NC-43 North, Rocky Mount
www.westedgecombeminipullers.com

Miscellaneous Notices

Animal Spay/Neuter Program

The Town of Tarboro is offering assistance for the spaying/neutering of dogs and cats for the purpose of reducing pet population. Contact the Public Works Department at 506 Dowd Street, Tarboro. This program is for low-income residents of Tarboro.

Call for Special Donations

The Back 2 School Summit brings awareness to education and provides school supplies to Wilson County kids. August 17th they will give away supplies and they need donations of supplies or funds. A donation of \$5 provides supplies to one Wilson County Child. For information, www.back2schoolsummit.org, or email back2schoolsummit@gmail.com.

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The above “Things To Do...” listings are free, at publisher’s discretion, and as space allows. Up to 5 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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Grateful To Live In America

Essay submitted by Nnanna Okafor, 14,
son of Felix and Ravita Okafor
(Subtitles are excerpts from the song “America”)

“My Country ‘Tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Liberty”
I am blessed to have been born in America. I did not choose America as my place of birth, but living here in this country has afforded me many civil liberties. Opportunities such as free education aren’t available in all countries. The United States’ government considers its citizens in the decisions that are made, unlike many other countries. Voting and impeaching of elected, political, and government officials help us to keep laws fair. These liberties, in my opinion, literally make us all a part of America.

“Of Thee I Sing, Land Where My Fathers Died”
Even though my ancestors were brought here under subhuman circumstances, I am proud to continue building on the legal, educational, and social rights they secured. As a citizen, I accept my responsibility to assist the country in its progression. With all the rights, privileges, and opportunities supported by the Constitution, we are well-equipped to identify and meet the needs of all of our citizens. One of the main problems hindering people from achieving their goals is the economy’s current state and high unemployment rates. My goal is to study to become a surgeon and to use my wealth to assist the sick and otherwise disadvantaged members of our society.

“Land of the Noble Free”
America grants many freedoms to its citizens. Through the First Amendment, we have guaranteed rights regarding freedom of speech, the press, assembly, religion, and petition. We are fortunate to have established laws that protect us from imprisonment or death if we speak out against any practice or person of power. Unfortunately, some countries maintain laws that discriminate against groups of people. I have read about this problem affecting foreign countries and even in American history. These stories grieve my heart and strengthen my determination to make this country a better

place. Thankfully, in America, we have the right to pursue legal action if our rights are violated.

The inalienable rights granted to citizens of the United States allow members of the society to pursue their dreams and enrich to the greatness of this country. We have laws that protect an individual’s pursuit of happiness. The United States’ government is a democracy, and I am proud to pledge my allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

My Country, ‘Tis of Thee

Essay submitted by Kathy Cockrell, Knightdale

What do these words mean to me? Penned nearly 200 years ago by the Rev. Samuel Francis Smith, why do the lyrics still stir the hearts of patriotic Americans throughout the land, especially at our beloved Independence Day celebrations?

For me the answer is in the second line of the song, “sweet land of liberty”. “Liberty” means that I am free to chase my dreams wherever they may lead me. I am free to define “success” as I see it - family, career, sports, hobbies - and no monarch or despot may define it for me or erect hurdles to my success.

Considering the revolution launched by Thomas Jefferson's beautifully-composed Declaration of Independence, I ponder the motivations of the colonists. Our ancestors risked the infamy of death by hanging as the penalty for treason against the Crown, and then fought a bloody seven-year war to make the Declaration more than scroll and ink. General Washington's bedraggled army taking on the well-trained ranks of the 18th century's dominant empire was truly a David-and-Goliath match-up. A Patriot victory was far from assured but the rebels fought on. As I marvel at their defiance of the odds, I recall Patrick Henry's passionate cry “I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!” ...and I understand.

Over the course of the ensuing two centuries, our nation of liberty thrived and expanded. After another long and painful war, we fulfilled our destiny to make this a “sweet land of liberty” for those of every race. Slavery will remain an ugly stain on our treasured history, as is the case with far too many civilizations. It was - and is - completely irreconcilable with our cherished freedoms.

Time and again, this land of liberty gave the world brilliant thinkers who would change history. George Washington Carver transformed agriculture in the South. Alexander Graham Bell's telephone launched a communications revolution which continues today. Thomas Alva Edison's light bulb banished the darkness. Henry Ford ushered in the era of mass production. More recently, the ideas of people like Steve Jobs and Bill Gates changed how we work, store and manipulate data, communicate with each other, and even how we spend our leisure time.

Is it coincidence that these revolutionary minds grew up in the land of the free and the home of the brave? I truly believe that it is not; coincidences are few in this world. A mind shackled by the fear of a Siberian gulag, a Chinese tank, or an unbending Sharia code does not thrive. This is why countless immigrants have struggled to reach our shores; they yearn to define their own success and to one day be able to stand beside us and proudly sing “My Country, 'Tis of Thee!”

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The Grey Area™

The Backside



Little Bits

Chuckle of the Issue

A man and a woman were riding in a stagecoach. Suddenly, a teenager riding a horse pulled up to the left side of the stagecoach, and a riderless horse pulled up to the right.

The teen leaned down, pulled open the door, and jumped off his horse into the stagecoach. Then he opened the other door and jumped out onto the other horse.

The surprised woman asked the man, “What was all that about?”

He replied, “Nothing. he’s just going through a stage.”

Quote of the Issue

Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture

“One out of every 12 jobs in the economy is connected in some way, shape or form to what happens on the farm.

Word of the Issue

esoteric

Definition: Exhibiting knowledge that is specialized or restricted to a small group.

Example:“She focused on an esoteric type of work.

Translation of the Issue

English — help or help me)

German — helfe

Italian — aiuto

Spanish — ayúdame

Latin — adiuva

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

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Cryptogram of the Issue

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

Hint: X = O.

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X A V G X D S G T E X G U S B
I X T A X B G X V B S T Q T
E S Z V B S T Q
W D A S Z F D

Answer to the previous issue’s cryptogram:

Our most basic
common link is that
we all inhabit this
planet. We all
breathe the same
air. We all cherish
our children's
future. And we are
all mortal.
-- John F. Kennedy

Animal friends are waiting to be adopted at a shelter near you!
Do you have space in your home and heart?

News from The Grey Area

Hopefully you and yours have had an enjoyable Independence Day and are looking forward to many more summer days. The weather seems cooler than usual, perhaps providing the opportunity for more time outdoors.

This issue includes some things to do, including offerings from communities and organizations. Kids camps abound, providing families with many options during the day. Of course, a variety of establishments offer evening live music and other activities for adults. Please note that these are not listed in the free events this month, as there are many summer activities being offered that don’t require a purchase to attend.

The next issue comes out for July 19th. If you have an event, story or community happening you’d like us to cover, please call 919.623.9392 or email kayw@greyareanews.com.

To advertise, call 919.637.6973. Issues of *The Grey Area* come out every other Friday. Advertisers may place their ad in one Edition or both, covering eight cities.

Storms & Preparedness

While the list below is not exhaustive, it includes helpful items to keep in the house at all times.

Water (bottled for drinking)

Canned Food (a variety of vegetables, fruits, meats, etc.)

Pet Food (if you have pets)

First Aid Kit (pain relievers, bandages, antiseptic, etc.)

Prescription Drugs (at least a week’s worth)

Handy Repair Tools (knife, duct tape, etc.)

Flashlights & Radio

Extra Batteries

Hygiene Products (soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc.)

Clean Clothing (plus coats, rain wear, or blankets)

Cooler (fill with ice before storm or event)

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