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Local and National Unusual News

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Volume 3, Number 26A
December 6–19, 2013

Photography Contests Seeking Local Entrants

Franklin County Area Photo Contest

A photo contest will be accepting submissions through January 17, 2014. There are no fees to participate. For details, contact Ruby Savage at 919.495.2221.

Following the judging, selected photos will be displayed at the Common Grounds Coffee (and Fun) House in Bunn.

Arbor Day Photo Contest for Students

Release by NC Forest Service

The NC Forest Service’s Urban and Community Forestry Program is accepting entries for its 2014 Arbor Day Photo Contest through February 28, 2013. The contest is open to NC students in fifth through twelfth grades, including public, private and home schools. The theme is *Young and Old*.

“The theme reflects not just the beauty of NC’s trees and forests, but also the values and benefits that many generations have enjoyed,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler.

The competition will be divided into fifth through eighth grades and ninth through 12th grades. A panel of judges will select a winner from each division and one grand prize winner. Honorable mentions may also be awarded. Winners of each division will receive \$50 and a tree to plant on their school grounds. The grand prize winner will receive \$150, a tree to plant at school and a framed reproduction of the winning photo.

To enter, participants should download and complete an entry form, and include a caption and photographer’s statement. One photo per photographer may be entered. Entry forms and a list of submission requirements can be found under the *Urban and Community Forestry* link on the NC Forest Service website: ncforestservice.gov along with more details.

Winners will be selected and notified by March 14th. Prizes will be awarded at the NC Arbor Day celebration on March 22, 2013 in Raleigh.

For more information, contact Rall at 919.857.4849 or jennifer.rall@ncagr.gov.

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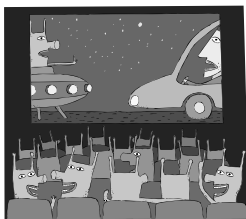
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Carmike 10-Wilson Movie Review of the Issue

By Kay Whatley, Editor

This issue’s movie review is *Last Vegas*. It follows four lifelong friends on an adventure to Las Vegas for a wedding. Now in their sixties, the film sometimes flashing back to their teen years to show their close friendship.



The four friends are played by big-name actors. Michael Douglas plays *Billy*, who is to be the groom in the upcoming wedding, to a woman half his age. Robert De Niro plays *Paddy*, who married his child-hood sweet-heart and has recently been widowed. His teen wife-to-be *Sophie* is also shown in flashbacks as a fifth in the group of friends. Morgan Freeman plays *Archie*, a senior fighting his family for some control of his own life. The fourth of the friends, *Sam*, is played by Kevin Kline.

Another well known actor, Mary Steenburgen, plays “Diana”, a sassy Las Vegas performer who spends time with the four men, standing in for Sophie as the fifth in the group of seniors.

A simple way to describe this movie would be to compare it to other recent movies like *The Hangover*. The group descends on Las Vegas to show the groom-to-be a last, fun time. They go looking for excitement and women. What follows are hundreds of “senior” jokes, jibes about the “child bride” of 30, and a little bit of excitement. Unlike the group in *The Hangover*, the *Last Vegas* friends focus on each other and renewing their relationships.

I won’t ruin the ending. I will say that it is a sweet movie about aging and the ties that bind. For younger children, parents will find that there is little in terms of nudity or profanity; however, adultery figures heavily into one character’s journey and there is quite a bit of innuendo. One fairly positive scene involves a bikini contest, in which all the women are judged beautiful regardless of age or size. I took along my teen daughter and her friend, and they both enjoyed the movie with its senior citizens cast.

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Fruitcake: Traditional and Tasty Target of Ridicule

Does your Christmas gathering include fruitcake on the table? This concoction is made of nuts, dried fruit, candied fruit, and just enough cake to hold it all together. Whether spiced or spiked with liquor, a fruitcake is a decadent, sweet treat with a long shelf life.

Long after the Christmas cookies are gone, holiday leftovers eaten, and the pies spoiled, a fruitcake can stay fresh and ready to eat. Bake a few around the holidays, and the family can nibble at them throughout the year — longer if preserved with spirits or powdered sugar. This longevity may be one of the reasons that the fruitcake has been popular since long before the use of refrigeration and preservatives.

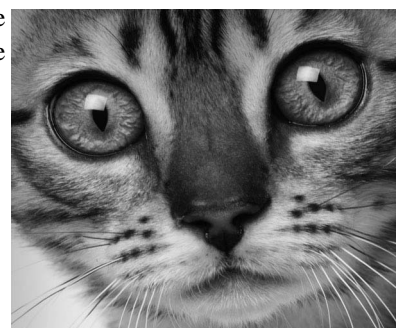
Often maligned, fruitcake provides a sweet snack that can be nibbled over time and enjoyed in small doses. It may also serve as a good source of protein and energy, depending on the nut ingredients and level of sweetness.

In America, different areas of the country had their own regional recipes, with local fruits and nuts. Beginning in the early 1900s, mail order fruitcakes became popular. Recipes became more standardized as they were manufactured and shipped. Factory-produced versions used a more uniform set of ingredients.

Fortunately, here in North Carolina there are bakers who still create fruitcakes more like the homemade cakes of yore. These include Southern Supreme, which touts their use of “a Scott Family traditional recipe” for their fruitcakes, ship fruitcake from their Bear Creek NC location; and Mum’s Fruitcakes, which is a little further north in Reidsville NC and hand makes the cakes on-site. To add locally made fruitcakes to the holiday table — without actually baking them — these NC-based fruitcake bakers may be reached by phone:

Mum’s Fruitcakes: 336.616.1646 (Alison)
Southern Supreme: 336.581.3141

The next time a fruitcake shows up, give it a chance! Taste it new and, if disliked then taste it again in a few weeks. If it still doesn’t taste good, save it longer or pass it on to someone with a taste for this unique traditional treat.



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Things to Do in NC
When You're Bored

* Bunn *

- 12/10 Game Night**
12/17 (Dec 10 & 17 @ 6-9pm)
Tuesdays. Bring a game, play one of the house games, or join in with a group & play one of their games. At Common Grounds Coffee (and fun) House, 20 Cheves Road, Bunn For info call 919.340.4477.
- 12/12 Bunn Soup Kitchen**
12/19 (Dec 12 & 19 @ 11:30am)
Free meals served to those in need. Collaboration of local nonprofits using donations & volunteers. In the Broad Building, Bunn Elementary School Road, Bunn
- 12/14 Holiday Craft Fair**
(Dec 14 @ 9am-3pm)
Stop by before or after the Bunn Parade & check out the many gift ideas from local crafters & vendors. At Common Grounds Coffee, 20 Cheves Road, Bunn. Contact 919.340.4477.
- 12/14 Bunn Christmas Parade**
(Dec 14 @ 10am)
Following the parade, lighting of the Christmas Tree at Bunn Town Hall/Police Department. Plus a chance to talk with Santa! Along Main Street, Bunn. Call Linda at 919.496.4831.

* Knightdale *

- 12/06 Katandi Classes**
(Dec 6 @ 6:30-8pm)
Get Fit for the Holidays! Katandi West African Rhythmic Movement focuses on connecting with the rhythms of African drums while learning fundamental & traditional movements. Adult \$5, kids 15 & under \$3 (free with adult). At the Knightdale Rec Center, 102 Lawson Ridge Road, Knightdale.

- 12/06 First Friday Jazz**
(Dec 6 @ 6:30-9pm)
Regular Jazz music event each month. At Knightdale Clubhouse, 202 Milburnie Road, Knightdale Call 919.757.3527.
- 12/06 Christmas Tree Lighting**
(Dec 6 @ 6pm)
Enjoy Santa's Workshop, letters to Santa, Visit Mrs. Claus & Santa's Head Elf, Entertainment, & More! At Caboose, First Ave, Knightdale.
- 12/07 Knightdale Christmas Parade**
(Dec 7 @ 2pm)
Local businesses, organizations & groups take to the streets for a fantastic parade. Begins at Knightdale Elementary School & travels up First Ave, Knightdale. Call Megan at 919.217.2236.
- 12/07 Wake Tech Job Assistance**
12/14 (Dec 7 & 14 @ 11am-2pm)
Free. Stop by to search jobs & get help with searching. At East Regional Library, 946 Steeple Square Court, Knightdale
- 12/10 Cookies With Santa**
(Dec 10 @5:30-8:30pm)
All ages. Holiday crafts & visit with Santa. Bring camera for this great photo opportunity. At East Regional Library, 946 Steeple Sq, Knightdale Call 919.217.5300.

* Wendell *

- 12/06 Wendell Wonderland**
-12/31 (Nov 19 - Dec 31)
Santa, shopping, Lake Myra Christmas lights, candy store, & more. Opens at 6pm. Open until 10pm Sun.-Thurs; Open until 11pm Fri.-Sat., Downtown, with light show at 210 E Fourth St., Wendell

- 12/07 Pictures with Santa**
(Dec 7 @ 12-4pm)
Get pictures with Santa! \$10 donation benefits Pirates of the Cure-ibbean Relay for Life Team. Hot coca, cookies & other goodies. Door prizes. At Klip-Chicks Salon, 3541 Wendell Blvd, Wendell
- 12/10 Wendell Baptist Church Handbell Choir**
(Dec 10 @7-8pm)
Join us as the Wendell Baptist Church Handbell Choir play memorable holiday melodies. At Wendell Community Library, 207 S Hollybrook Road, Wendell Call 919.365.2600.

* Zebulon *

- 12/07 Brown Bag Lunch Ministry**
12/14 (Dec 7, 14 & 21 @ 11:30am)
12/21
Free to-go lunches for those in need. At Fellowship Hall, Zebulon United Methodist Church, 121 W Gannon Ave, Zebulon Info at www.zumchurch.org.
- 12/13 See Spot Read**
(Dec 13 @ 4:30-5:30pm)
Beginning readers. Practice skills with certified therapy dogs of See Spot Read. Kindergarten & up. At Zebulon Community Library, 1000 Dogwood Drive, Zebulon Call 919.404.3610.

* Elsewhere *

- 12/07 Celebrate Colonial Christmas**
(Dec 7 @ 10am-5pm)
Drawings, refreshments, colonial craftsmen & vendors, period costumes, sidewalk sale, & farmers market. "Chance" the Clydesdale. Mule & wagon rides! Holiday Homes Tour \$15-20. In Downtown Enfield Contact at 252.445.2234.
- 12/07 The Bailey Christmas Parade**
(Dec 7 @ 2pm)
Bailey Fire & Rescue Dept selling raffle tickets for chance to win up to \$10,000. See a firefighter to purchase. Ladies Auxiliary selling hot dogs (11am-1pm). Cake auction following parade. In downtown Bailey.
- 12/07 Stepping Into The Past**
12/14 (Dec 7 & 14 @ 10am-3pm)
Activities incl. with admission to the Museum. Dec 7th Tis' the Season (vendors) & Dec 14th Wassailing. At Tobacco Farm Life Museum, 709 N Church St, Kenly www.tobaccofarmlifemuseum.org

- 12/08 Historic Harmony Hall Christmas Open House**
(Dec 8 @ 2-4pm)
Start the Holiday Season in the 1772 home on King Street, in period decorations for the Season. Raffles, Moravian Cookie sales & Harmony Hall Bake Sale! Tour Historic Harmony Hall. At Harmony Hall, 109 East King St, Kinston. Contact Judy at 252.522.0421.
- 12/08 Rolesville Chamber Christmas Parade**
(Dec 8 @ 2-3pm)
Come by to watch the parade! Stay after to see Santa at the Chamber Office (3-5:30pm). 200 East Young Street, Rolesville
- 12/13 Jingle in the Park**
(Dec 13, 14, 20 & 21 @ 4-8pm)
12/20 Lights, Polar Express, s'mores, music & Santa Claus. In Herman Park, Goldsboro
12/21 Contact goldsborott@gmail.com.
- 12/14 Kinston Christmas Parade**
(Dec 14 @ 10am-11:30am)
Christmas Parade fun for all ages. At N Queen Street, Kinston Call 252.522.4676, or visit www.downtownkinston.com.
- 12/14 Christmas -N- Middlesex**
(Dec 14 @ 2pm)
Annual event a great time for all ages! Fire Department hot dog social (11am-4pm). Local church groups & individuals singing (1pm). Vendors. Free giveaways from area businesses. At Volunteer Fire Dept, 12535 W Hanes Avenue, Middlesex. Info, call Cindy at 919.675.9688
- 12/16 Christmas Program**
(Dec 16 @ 10am-12pm)
Come for the holiday fun. At the Mount Pleasant Community Center, Inc., 7637 Harris Road, Bailey.
- 12/17 Free Holiday Trolley Rides**
(Dec 17 @ 6-8pm)
Enjoy a FREE holiday tour of Downtown Goldsboro on a horse-drawn trolley! In Downtown Goldsboro Contact goldsboronc@gmail.com.

These "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 space to provide more details for events.



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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 find a new job and begin work Thursday afternoon alongside several new co-workers. The work isn’t difficult, but customers flow and the hours are busy.

It takes several days of working together to get to know your new co-workers and boss. You get along all right and after a week or so are joking around and working as a team. Your new boss seems like a decent man. He pays a decent wage and treats you all well.

After shift one evening, you’re heading out the back door to go home. Several of you are joking around as you turn to leave. Suddenly, one of them reaches out and gropes you. Shocked, you turn and see they are laughing. Despite your discomfort, they act as if it was all in fun.

You respond that it was not funny, and leave. Your boss calls you the next day. He tells you that he heard the incident, reviewed the security tapes, and fired the person who grabbed you. He offers you a day off, but encourages you to come in as normal if you like.

Arriving that evening, the other co-workers don’t say a word about it. In fact, they don’t speak to you at all. Do you think that you would continue at the job and hope that over time they would get over it? Would you feel responsibility for the firing, or feel that it was the Boss’ decision alone? How do you think you would feel about the other co-workers if you worked with them moving forward?

Christmas Lights Displays

Looking for a Christmas lights display this evening? Take your friends, family, and yourself out to see some of these beautiful — and sometimes musical — displays.

Lake Myra Christmas Lights: 204 East 4th Street, Wendell NC

Meadow Lights: 4546 Godwin Lake Road, Benson NC

Lights on the Neuse: Boyette Family Farms, 1620 Loop Road, Clayton NC

Do you know of a local display you feel is worth the drive? Send details and a description of the display to kayw@greyareanews.com before December 15th. A list of known and recommended holiday light displays and other December attractions will be online at www.greyareanews.com.

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Zebulon NC Christmas Parade Kicks Off the Holidays


The Zebulon Christmas Parade seemed to go on for miles. Vehicles, red-and-green clad participants, animals, and equipment walked together from Mack Todd Road and J&M Chevrolet, down Gannon Avenue, and up Arendell Avenue. What those watching from the side of the road might not know is how much work goes on behind-the-scenes for the people who make up the parade.


Following one of the participants -- Kindred Spirits Farm of Zebulon -- showed a part of the parade preparations. Weeks before the parade date of December 1, 2013, Kindred Spirits began rounding up helpers and equipment. They needed to find people to ride on the float. Float design and materials purchases had to happen. Signs were ordered and choices made for how to best represent the holiday season and the farm itself.

A week before the parade date, float riders needed to be confirmed. Equipment had to be readied -- in this case a tractor and a trailer. Since horses would be walking with the float, handlers prepared for the event. A schedule was created letting everyone know when to come and decorate, arrive at the parade “rally” point, and return to the farm for de-decoration and snacks.

The day of the parade, the float riders and horse handlers dressed in layers and gathered together at Kindred Spirits Farm. Bright and shiny bobbles were secured to the trailer/float. A Christmas tree was decorated. Fishing line, duct tape, ribbon, garland, and zip ties flew from hand to hand. Signs were secured, the tractor loaded, and off went the group to the rally point.

Several hours after they began, they were in line -- number 67 -- waiting for their turn to walk down Gannon Avenue.






Zebulon Christmas Parade December 1, 2013
Sponsored by the Zebulon Chamber of Commerce

Left: Kindred Spirits Farm parade float at the farm before the event. Kim Haselhuhn oversees the decorating.

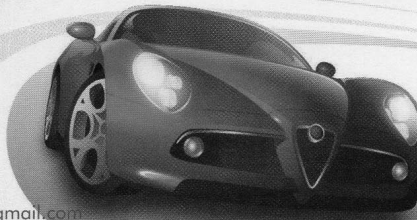
Right Top: Outside Italia Express, a vendor and her helper provide refreshments to the large crowd waiting to watch the parade.

Right Bottom: A candy-apple-red vintage vehicle drives in the parade.



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Little Bits

Chuckle of the Issue

One of the younger boys, was asked to say grace at the Christmas dinner. The family bowed their heads in expectation.

He began his prayer, thanking God for his mommy, daddy, brothers, sister, grandma, aunts, uncles and cousins. Then he began to thank God for the food.

He gave thanks for the turkey, the stuffing, the mashed potatoes, the gravy, and even the cranberry sauce. Then he paused, and everyone waited. And waited.

After a long silence, the young boy looked up at his mother and asked, “If I thank God for the green beans, won’t he know that I’m lying?”

Word of the Issue

Giving: Contributing to a charity; presenting a gift
Example: She is a very giving and unselfish person.



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Quote of the Issue

Carlos Santana

“The most valuable possession you can own is an open heart. The most powerful weapon you can be is an instrument of peace.”

Cryptogram of the Issue

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

Hint: W= E.

R W U Q K Y Q U L Q B

O C N P K U L I W U Z W B

T N P K W W V Z T U R C D W

V W H T N O T J W D L B

L Q B H Z C R P B W N

-- K C U U C N I M Q R R

Answer to the previous issue’s cryptogram:



*It isn’t enough
to talk about
peace. One must
believe in it. And
it isn’t enough to
believe in it. One
must work at it.
-- Eleanor Roosevelt*

A Little Bit of History

Claude Mayo, Jr. Administration Building

Since its January 2008 dedication, many have driven by the Claude Mayo, Jr. Administration Building at 120 West Washington Street in Nashville NC. Some may not know just the man for whom the building was named.

Mr. J. Claude Mayo, Jr. is a gentleman who made numerous contributions to Nash County over the course of his lifetime. He also was a member, and later chairman, of the Nash County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Mayo is also credited for his work on the budget for the Administration Building’s construction.

Mr. Mayo had served as a board member for Nash Health Care. At Nash Health Care, the surgery pavilion is also named after J. Claude Mayo, Jr.

Mr. Mayo attended Rocky Mount schools, later graduating from Duke University. Born in 1927, Mr. Mayo passed away in 2010 at the age of 82.

New Regional Coordinator for the Red Hat Society

The new region 4 and 5 coordinator for the Red Hat Society is Lynnette Pearce from the Wendell Chapter “Belles of the Ball”.

Lynnette started the chapter, and the “Vivacious Wenches of the Carolinas” group, geared toward locals who like to dress in pirate-wench costumes, meeting twice each year. On Facebook she opened the Red Hat Book Club which now has 226 members!

Lynnette will be visiting the counties within Red Hat Society Regions 4 and 5, including Wake, Vance, Granville Warren, Franklin, Johnson, Halifax, Nash, Wilson, Edgecombe, North Hampton, Hertford, Bertie, Martin and Pitt. Any Red Hat Society Ladies who wish to help these regions grow, please call Lynnette at 919.264.5999.

The Red Hat Society is a nonprofit organization that teaches women to embrace life with zest and Vigor in all stages of life!

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The Strange-ness

*He’s making a list And checking it twice;
Gonna find out Who’s naughty and nice Santa Claus is coming to town*
From “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town”, written 1934 by John Frederick Coots and Haven Gillespie
That song usually brings to mind images of children behaving, or not, and then receiving gifts, or coal, from Santa Claus. In some European countries, Santa Claus — under the name Saint Nicholas — provides gifts to the good children; while his companion, Krampus, warns or punishes misbehaving children or even carries them away!
On December 5 — the eve of Saint Nicholas Day — while Saint Nicholas is filling boots with gifts and goodies, Krampus is frightening boys and girls who have been less-than-good. Drawings of Krampus dating back hundreds of years depict this companion of Saint Nicholas with cloven hooves, horns, a hairy body, and long tongue. Some countries show this devil-like Krampus carrying chains or “switches” to swat naughty children.
Some communities of Germanic origin brought the Krampus traditions with them to the United States, and he is included in holiday celebrations.
Like Santa Claus, Krampus has other names, including the switch-carrying, more man-like Belsnickel in the Pennsylvania Dutch community.



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