

The Grey Area™

Local and National Unusual News

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Volume 4, Number 2B
Jan 17–30, 2014

Bad News... Franklin County Courthouse Renovations Costly

Franklin County officials are working to repair Louisburg’s courthouse. The repairs needed including a new heating-and-air conditioning system. Costs are expected to be significant, not including proposed lighting updates and a plan for eradicating suspected-mold in the basement — an issue felt to be such a strong safety issue that it led to destruction of historical records.

At the December 2, 2014 Commissioner’s Meeting, the County Commissioners were presented with an estimate for roof repairs, ceiling/wall repairs, installation of an HVAC system, and security equipment. Repairs are estimated to cost over \$900,000, with the project reportedly going out for bids in early 2014.

The detailed estimate by Architect Surapon Sujavanich is available as part of the December 2, 2013 Commissioner’s Meeting Minutes. The estimate shows additional costs related to courthouse security, X-ray/scanner, and fire alarm updates.

No mention is made of mold clean-up in the estimate. Reference is made to a letter from the NC Administrative Office of the Court recommending “minor interior work”.

When the Commissioners meet again February 3, 2014, the architect is expected to have drawings to show. The project will be put out for bids. Depending on bids received, the list of repairs may be revised.

Several mentions of environmental contamination in the courthouse basement appear in the Commissioner’s meetings’ Minutes during 2013; however, no itemized costs are available showing costs or estimates for mold testing, a mold remediation plan, basement records removal, or incineration-related costs. It is not clear if mold testing was done by the county, or if the documents were destroyed without confirming the presence of mold.

Since mold affects indoor air quality, any positive tests for mold might include air-quality testing in addition to surface testing. If left unchecked, mold in offices may open the door to legal issues. There are no set state guidelines for mold levels; however with environmental safety being of great concern relating to the basement records, likely the concerned county officials would want to take further action to limit mold exposure for courthouse workers and visitors.

To learn more about the courthouse repair plan, attend the Board of Commissioner’s Meeting on February 3rd. Meetings are held at the Franklin County Administration Building, 113 Market Street, Louisburg. Meetings begin at 7pm.

For potential bidders, visit www.franklincountync.us and click “Doing Business with the County” for more information.

Reclaimed Wood a Hot Item for Home Improvements

That little old structure on your property is a piece of history and important to you. Some outdoor structures may have reached the point where repairs will be too costly or are unwanted. At that point, the pieces of the building may have a resale value; which has to be weighed against how you value the building itself.

Reclaimed wood is wood retrieved from existing structures and re-used in other buildings, or as “accents” to existing homes. Sometimes the wood is used as it is; other times the wood is milled. Old wood flooring has become so popular that some reclaimed wood can demand high-dollar prices.

Reclaiming wood from old buildings can also provide a home owner or home builder with lumber made from trees that were widely available “back in the day” but are harder to come by today. These include the Longleaf Heart Pine and American Chestnut.



One quality of lumber made from trees a long time ago, is that the trees had grown naturally. They grew slowly, so were very dense.

Scotland Neck Heart Pine Inc. of Scotland Neck NC reclaims old barn beams, longleaf pine planks, and saw-marked timbers to produce flooring and other household accents. Trees are certainly saved by using these long-ago building components to build “new.”

Hobbitat, based in Maryland, builds small-scale homes with an emphasis on reclaiming wood and other local materials — including re-using doors and windows. While their primary focus is on building compact dwellings, they use materials from existing buildings taken apart.

Businesses such as the Reuse Warehouse of Durham NC have made reclaimed wood an important part of their business. While part of their mission is to reduce materials going into landfills, their focus is on salvaging wood from NC barns and other old structures for use in building and remodeling homes. In a paragraph from their website, they sum up the positives of using reclaimed wood in home projects:

“The decision to purchase reclaimed lumber is an easy one, reducing the amount of new materials in your home (decreasing your carbon footprint), cost effective, and incorporates the past into newly designed spaces, surely a win-win for exteriors, interiors and the environment.”

For more information, visit these local links:

The Reuse Warehouse – www.thereusewarehouse.com
Scotland Neck Heart Pine Inc. – www.snheartpine.com
Hobbitat – hobbitatspaces.com

Local Business Spotlight

Wilson e-Liquid Manufacturer Growing

In April 2013, Chris Terdik and fiancé Shelia Williams discussed a concept Shelia had come up with for a new business. By September, Qvape Juice, LLC was up, running, and manufacturing product.

As a chemist, Shelia knew what was needed to get the business off the ground. Shelia, Chris, and Doug Snyder’s business centers around the manufacture of e-liquids for electronic cigarettes. Their product is “Made in the USA” with one exception the nicotine is currently imported from a FDA registered and inspected facility in India. There are plans to partner with US facilities as soon as they begin to extract nicotine. The product is manufactured under cGMP’s (compliant Good Manufacturing Practices) similar to the pharmaceutical industry.



Chris, Shelia, & Doug of Qvape Juice

Qvape’s headquarters is at 4901-D Caswell Place in Wilson. In their fourth month of business, Qvape employs 20 people. They have also secured an exclusive manufacturing deal with a national e-liquid brand. For more information on the company or the founders of Qvape, call 252.206.1316.

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Things to Do in NC
When You’re Bored

* Elsewhere *

01/18 **Live Music Spring Hope**
01/25 **(Saturdays @ 7:30pm)**
02/01 Live music each weekend with a variety of local musicians & bands. Jan 25 @ 8pm. At Showside Grill & Bakery, N Pine Street, Spring Hope

01/19 **Stepping Into The Past**
01/26 **(Saturdays @ 10am-3pm)**
Activities incl. with museum admission. January 19th is butter making demonstrations. January 26th is hog killing demonstration (8-11am). At Tobacco Farm Life Museum, 709 N Church St., Kenly. www.tobaccofarmlifemuseum.org.

01/21 **5 County Beekeepers Assoc Meeting (Jan 21 @ 7PM)**
Topic this month is “12 Months of beekeeping” presented by Tim Huffman. At Bennett Bunn Plantation, 1915 Old Bunn Road, Zebulon More info at www.5cbsa.org.

01/24 **Mega-Yard Sale (Jan 24-25 @ -01/25 8am-4pm; no early birds)**
Movin’ On Movers is holding a yard sale to benefit the SPCA of Wake County! Cash and credit only. At Movin’ On Movers, 2425 Reliance Ave, Apex. Email info@spcawake.org for details.

01/31 **Praxis Film Festival (Jan 31 @ -02/01 1-8pm & Feb 1 @ 10am)**
Support student filmmakers & professional independent filmmakers. Tickets \$10/day or \$15/weekend. Jan 31st at Paramount Theatre, S Center Street, Goldsboro. Feb 1st at Wayne Community College, Moffatt Auditorium, 3000 Wayne Memorial Dr., Goldsboro. Contact goldsborott@gmail.com.

03/08 **Fifth Annual Dig In! (March 8)**
Advocates for Health in Action annual gardening, agriculture, and community event. Held at Marbles Kids Museum, Raleigh. More at www.advocatesforhealthinaction.org

* Nashville *

01/27 **Kids Story Time (Jan 27 @ 10:30-11am)**
Bring the kids for a free story from a collection of wonderful books. At Nashville Harold Cooley Library, 114 W Church St, Nashville

01/30 **Free Tax Preparation (Thurs & Fridays @ 9am-5pm)**
01/31 From January 30 until 11 April, on each Thursday & Friday. Trained personnel on-site at the library to prepare taxes for free. Service provided by the Federal government & offered through the library. First come, first served. At Nashville Cooley Library, 114 W Church Street, Nashville

02/01 **7th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance (Feb 1 @ 6-8:30pm)**
Men, “cut a rug” with your daughters! Fee \$25 per couple, \$5 extra per daughter. Register by Jan 24th. Space limited. At Nash County Ag. Center, 1006 Eastern Ave, Nashville. Register online nc-nashcounty.civicplus.com/index.aspx.

* Rocky Mount *

01/20 **Unity Breakfast (January 20 @ 7am; program 8am)**
Keynote Speaker Dr. Julianne Malveaux, Economist, Author, Educator and Founder of Last Word Productions. Breakfast. At Dunn Center for the Performing Arts, NC Wesleyan College, 3400 N Wesleyan Blvd, Rocky Mount.

02/14 **American Red Cross Blood Drive (Feb 14 @ 10:30am-3pm)**
Walk-Ins are Welcome to come to the library to donate during this blood drive. For college students & adults. In Warner Meeting Room, Braswell Memorial Library, 727 N Grace Street, Rocky Mount. Visit www.braswell-library.org.

* Tarboro *

01/21 **Exercise for Arthritis**
01/23 **(Tuesdays & Thursdays)**
01/28 The class will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the E.L. Roberson Center. The class will be led by an Arthritis instructor. Cost is \$2 per class. Come workout “Arthur” to keep him from showing up.

01/21 **Children’s Story Time**
01/28 **(Jan 21 & 28 @ 10:30am)**
Tuesday storytimes include music, games, & crafts. At Edgecombe County Memorial Library, 909 Main St., Tarboro. See www.edgecombelibrary.org.

01/30 **How to Start a Small Business (Jan 30 @ 6 pm)**
Free informative & enlightening seminar. At Edgecombe Comm. College Small Business Center, Fleming Bldg, Room 173, 2009 W Wilson Street, Tarboro

02/01 **Take Your Child to the Library Day (Feb 1)**
Come enjoy crafts, stories, snacks, games and prizes. Edgecombe County Memorial Library, 909 Main Street, Tarboro. More information 252.823.1141.

02/03 **Valentines Day Social (Feb 3 @ 6:30-7:30pm)**
Have fun & meet new people. Held at Woodmen of the World Chapter Building, 1903 Anaconda Road, Tarboro. Contact Becky Buck at 252.413.8280.

* Wilson *

01/22 **Anime Club (2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ 3:30-5:30pm)**
2nd & 4th Wednesdays. At Wilson County Public Library Main Branch, 249 Nash Street W, Wilson. Call 252.237.5355.

01/22 **Early Literacy Programs**
01/23 **(Wednesdays & Thursdays @ 01/29 9:30am & 10am)**
01/30 Lap Sit (Ages 0-2) at 9:30am. Preschool Story Time (Ages 3-5) at 10am. At Wilson County Public Library, 249 Nash Street W Wilson. Call 252.237.5355.

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.


Get on the Bus

Would you like to venture out for a day or even a weekend of fun? The Town of Knightdale arranges motor club trips. Contact Michelle Wester at 919.217.2232.

Register by mail or stop by Knightdale Town Hall, 950 Steeple Square Court, Knightdale.

Next trip is to Nashville and Memphis, May 4-8, 2014. Trip includes 5 Days/4 Nights, two wonderful dinners, evening at the Grand Ole Opry–Nashville TN, and Elvis Presley’s Graceland Platinum Tour. Try your luck at Harrah’s Cherokee too!

Total for the trip is \$559/person, double occupancy. A \$200 deposit can be paid upon registration.



Valentine’s Day
is just around
the corner!

Sadness, Depressions and Sorrows

Contributed by Nicholas Pediaditakis, MD, DLFAPA

My friends and patients often ask me: What is sadness? What is grief? What are the major depressions and how many kinds are there?

Well this time, let’s first consider the sadness and grief we all feel from time-to-time. For all of us, this visit of sadness from time-to-time in our lives is the price we have to pay for being humans — social creatures as we are. Higher animals too, such as mammals, do feel sadness as well. I often witness my own cows in my herd “welling” — an unearthly sound much different to their familiar “moo moo” — as they become agitated while I am busy removing a dead one, which has been for years their friend, for burial on my farm.

Here is why we are prone to the visitation of sadness: humans and social animals have feelings, sentiments. We use these to perceive ourselves with respect to the world and where we stand with ourselves. We also use sentiments to send back-and-forth messages about our intentions to others, such as loved ones. They too do the same. This way we form mutual bonds and give-and-take, with friends, loved ones, mates, children, or our mentors or teachers.

We even invest with feelings in projects, jobs, dreams for the future, professions — besides people — important to us. In fact, feelings along with thoughts are the very meaning of us been human.


Unfortunately, there is a downside to that. We now become vulnerable to sudden loss. People we love die, leave, lose jobs, and their health; or we lose our own health. We often, as we count the passing of our days, feel a whiff of sadness. Furthermore, sometimes we even create sorrows of own making — out of the blue! We humans do have a tendency to create troubles of our own making, as if “the natural allotment falling from heaven is not enough!” We often do goofy things, and as a result we lose jobs, loved ones, friendships, or reputations.

Sudden losses create sadness. We feel disoriented in our grief. We become preoccupied thinking constantly about what we have just lost. We dwell over and over, day in and day out, about the lost loved one, a friend, or a co-worker, who we had invested with our love. We now become distracted, have difficulties to sleep, lose our appetite and interests. We withdraw from other people. We lose our sexual drive. We have no energy. We also feel worthless and sometimes guilty. This state can last for days, months, or, for some of us, even years; especially if we have experienced losses in the early years of life.

This kind of grief rarely needs medications or professional counseling. Instead — again, social beings as we are — we need time to mourn, and we need solace. We need a trusted friend, minister, or respected teacher listening to our recounting of the loss with empathy and respect. As she/he provides succor, the sad person feels much needed solace that heals the wound of the loss. In addition, those of faith may find solace to pray or contemplate alone. And, after we recover — as we usually do — we perhaps are better humans as we feel a little mellower, gentler, and more compassionate.

In addition, there exist other kinds of depressions. They are the serious incapacitating kinds, whose origin and causes are not the result of losses just mentioned, but instead are the result of a malfunction in a part of our brain which is assigned to regulate and keep in balance our sentiments. This part of the brain from time-to-time fails to function properly. These conditions which are grouped under the names as Major depressions, Bipolar disorders, Manic Depressive, and some so-called organic depressions will be the subject of our next write-up.

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A Little Bit of History

Hazel Armstrong Valentine

Eastern NC’s Twin County Museum and Hall of Fame ensures that residents who have made a difference are noticed and remembered. Part of the history they keep is on educators who helped to make the area what it is today. One such educator is Hazel Armstrong Valentine. Mrs. Valentine did much more than teach; she helped set in motion the present arts resources in Nashville NC.

Mrs. Valentine was born in 1895 and died in 1997. She lived in several counties, but left a big mark on Nashville. Mrs. Valentine worked as a teacher, a parole officer, and a Nashville postmaster!

Through her volunteer work is credited with starting the Coastal Plain Craft Show and Nash Arts Center. According to the Hall of Fame, she Mrs. Valentine “almost single-handedly saved the old Nashville Baptist Church” from destruction. That Nashville Baptist Church building is now the Nash Arts Center (nasharts.org).

Hazel Armstrong Valentine was inducted into Hall of Fame 2007. In 2012, her son, Itimous “Tim” Valentine, Jr., was inducted into the Hall of Fame or his work in local and national government. Surely, she would be proud!

To learn more about Mrs. Valentine and other local heroes, visit twincountyhalloffame.com.

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 go to your local tax preparation office to get your federal and state tax returns done. People are coming and going as you wait for your turn with the preparer.

As you wait, you hear a couple in a nearby booth having their taxes done. The preparer asks how many dependants they have. The wife says that they have eight dependants. The preparer keeps questioning them, and from hearing their discussion and answers to other questions, you become fairly confident that they are fudging the numbers on their tax returns.

Do you think that you would mind your own business, or bring it to the attention of the office’s manager? Do you think that it would make a difference to you if you knew them, or they were strangers?

Local Business News

Amy’s Cellular Moves to Larger Space

Amy’s Cellular has moved... a few doors down. Amy’s now occupies a larger space in the plaza at North Smithfield Road, Knightdale. In addition to the bigger Amy’s Cellular, two new shops recently opened in the same plaza: Vapors and Infinite Wellness.

Vapors Opens Second NC Location

Vapors of Fayetteville has opened a second Vapors location in the plaza along N Smithfield Road at Knightdale Boulevard. This new shop opened in January, and provides electronic cigarettes and supplies. They also distribute the Puffs brand products, which includes e-liquids packaged by Qvape Juice, LLC of Wilson NC.

Both locations are run by Andy Nasipak, assisted by daughter Jennifer (shown in photo).



New Therapy Office in Knightdale

Infinite Wellness, with Dr. Glen Peterson DC, LAC, opened a few weeks ago. They offer chiropractic, acupuncture, massage, and other therapies. More about this office is online at www.infin8wellness.com.

New Location for Farley’s

Wendell has business changes too. Farley’s Tax & Accounting Services has moved into the old Wendell Printing building, which is now theirs. The office moved over the holidays and open for business at this new location, ready to help you with your personal or commercial needs.

Bunn High School Jeans Collection

Ruby Savage is a school resource officer at Bunn High School. She is working with a group of kids called SAVE. This group works to bring awareness to school violence, drugs, and bullying. They are holding a “jeans drive” to help the homeless. DoSomething.org along with Aeropostale is giving away a \$10,000 grant to the school that collects the most jeans. The students also get a party and free Aeropostale t-shirts. Help the SAVE students by dropping off your unwanted jeans at the school For more information, contact Ruby at 919.497.7347.

Disc Golf

Zebulon has had avid disc golf participation at Zebulon Community Park Disc Golf Course for many years. Tournaments have been a regular part of disc golf culture in our area. It is time for the group to get up and running again with monthly doubles at Zebulon Community Park. Triangle Chain Posse (TCP) is a group of disc golfers. TCP is managing Zubz (Zebulon Doubles) for the 2014 season. Zubz is a monthly doubles event on the third Sunday of each month (January through November) at Zebulon Community Park DGC, 401 S Arendell Ave, Zebulon. Registration is 9am to 9:45am. Round starts at 10am. Entry-fee is \$8 (includes ace pool). Registration is at the new hole 1 (first parking lot on your right after entering the park). Questions, email tcpdiscgolf@gmail.com or visit www.trianglechainposse.com/zubz.

Wilson Business Closing

On December 31, 2013 the Chat ‘n Chew officially closed for business and is now for sale or lease. The address is 130 Goldsboro Street SW, Wilson. If you or someone you know is interested in owning your own business, with serious inquires please contact Hugo Alston at 919.672.3315.

Grill Opening in Nashville

The new Church St. Grill is holding their ribbon cutting Jan. 28th at 10:30am. Stop by 121 W. Church Street, Nashville. Please come and join the Nashville Chamber of Commerce in welcoming this new restaurant.

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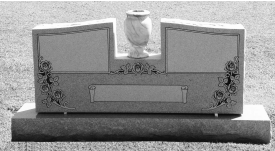


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Little Bits

Chuckle of the Issue

A married couple went fishing on their vacation. Afterwards the wife’s mother asked her how it went.

“Oh, it was terrible,” she said. “Everything went wrong, we overslept, and then we got a flat tire. But, the worst part was that I caught more fish than he did!”

Cryptogram of the Issue

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

Hint: V= A.

C R S K V Y H C R S T A V C .

Q K V Y H Z C A V C V O

N R T X K H T Q W K X A V C ,

X K H G R T T H G X A V C ,

V B I X K H R B F C A V C ,

Q X I R H O B R X H P Q O X .

--

N T Q H I T Q G K B Q H X M O G K H

Answer to the previous issue’s cryptogram:

*Do not go where the
path may lead, go
instead where there
is no path and
leave a trail.*

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Cryptogram Note:

For a second hint, email trivia@greyareanews.com or visit the website: www.greyareanews.com.

Word of the Issue

prerogative : An exclusive privilege, or a right, held by an individual or a group.

Example: “As the organizer, it was his prerogative to give away tickets to the show.”

Quote of the Issue

George Crabbe (English Poet, b. 1754 – d.1832)

With eye upraised his master’s looks to scan, The joy, the solace, and the aid of man; The rich man’s guardian, and the poor man’s friend, The only creature faithful to the end.

Good News... More Gardens

Local non-profit Grow and Share wants to see more backyard gardens across Eastern NC. To help residents get growing, they’ll provide the plants at no charge.

Grow And Share builds gardens, teaches people how to garden, and grows plants specifically to give away. Supplies are donated, volunteers help in the greenhouse, and people pick up the plants and promise they will use them to grow more food than they need and share their harvests.

Volunteers are the backbone of the organization. It takes hundreds of hours of labor to move soil, prepare trays, plant seeds, transplant seedlings, and hold events to give away the garden seedlings.

As their busiest time of year approaches, Grow And Share is asking for volunteers to come and help plant. Volunteers are needed every Saturday from February 22 through March 22nd. Hours are 10am to noon, allowing folks to come and help, yet still have most of their Saturday remaining!

This 501(c)(3) nonprofit is also asking, as you do your yard work, instead of throwing away used trays and pots, donate

them. Grow And Share plants close to 20,000 seedlings a year using donated supplies. Your old pile of pots in the garage could provide them with the means to plant for several gardens. Consider dropping off your unwanted gardening supplies at their Zebulon “Tucker” greenhouse -- named for Zebulon’s generous Tucker family who provided the greenhouse.

Many hands make light work of the thousands of seeds which need to be embedded in soil. Contact Grow And Share at volunteer@growandshare.org if you will come and help, and bring friends and family to make these two-hour work sessions meet their goals more quickly.

Grow And Share grows “edibles” — plants that produce food — from donated seed. These include many varieties of peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, okra, and squash. Many of the plants grown are from heirloom seed, though some hybrids are grown. Genetically-modified seed is not accepted in donation nor used in planting.

Most volunteer jobs do not require experience nor heavy lifting. Trays and pots are filled with soil, seeds planted, craft sticks marked with plant type, and trays watered. Experienced gardeners show proper planting steps, and share stories, tips, and ideas.

Beyond the good feeling volunteers get for helping, there is a bonus: volunteers who come and help grow for others can plant 1 tray for their own gardens for every 8 trays they plant for giveaways. This is Grow And Share’s “thank you” to volunteers. Variety of garden seeds are made available.

Visit the nonprofit online at www.growandshare.org, or email volunteer@growandshare.org to volunteer.



Membership Drive — Call for Details

For over 23 years, Willow Springs Country Club has been family owned and operated.

We invite you to come and experience the beauty and charm of Willow Springs Country Club. Aligned with award winning hardwoods, our 18-hole course is also accompanied by bermuda grass greens and over 6600 yards of plush fairways. Enjoy a variety of amenities including a Proshop, snack bar, ballroom and dining room, ladies’ and men’s locker rooms, driving range, outdoor patios, practice putting, chipping areas and swimming pool.

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The Strange-ness

Former Defense Minister of Canada Speaks on Aliens

RT.com, The Russia Today news website, recently posted a transcript of an interview with Paul Hellyer. the Honourable Paul Hellyer was Minister of National Defence–Canada from 1963 through most of 1967. In the RT.com transcript, Mr. Hellyer is said to have responded to a question about extraterrestrial contact with humans:

“They were told what people there think and that we’re really wrecking our planet and in fact that something dreadful is going to happen to it if we don’t smarten up and change our ways. We spend too much time fighting each other, we spend too much money on military expenditures, and not enough on feeding the poor and looking after the homeless and the sick, and that we are polluting our waters and our air and that we’re playing around with these exotic weapons, thermonuclear weapons and atomic weapons, which have such devastating effects both on Earth and other areas of Cosmos. They don’t like that and that’s the reason they would like to work with us, to teach us better ways, but only, I think, with our consent.”

Mr. Hellyer has repeatedly proclaimed that “we are not alone.” In several interviews, he has stated that aliens, including “Short Greys”, “Nordic Blondes” and other extraterrestrial species live among humans.



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