

The Grey Area

Eastern NC Edition – 919.637.6973

Distributed in Edgecombe, Franklin, Johnston,
Nash, Wake, Wilson & beyond

Local and National Unusual News

Online: www.greyareanews.com

Free Zebulon Thanksgiving Dinner

Contributed by Cindy Privette w/ photo

You're Invited! Thanksgiving is a time for friends and family to gather together and share a meal in the spirit of gratitude for all of our blessings.

With that in mind, Zebulon United Methodist Church, located at 121 W Gannon Avenue in Zebulon, is extending a very special invitation to all of our friends and neighbors to join us in celebration of all God has done for us.

We will be serving a free traditional Thanksgiving meal on Thanksgiving Day, November, 26 beginning at 11am. We will serve until all of the food is gone.



Portion of the Food Pantry at
Zebulon United Methodist Church

Call to A.R.M.S. Military Thanksgiving

By The Bridge Church of NC

The Bridge is giving thanks for our military families by hosting a free Thanksgiving dinner on November 26, 2015, 12-4pm.

Nothing says Thanksgiving like turkey with all the trimmings, home baked desserts (including pumpkin pie!), crafts for kids, and football on the big screen!

There will be lots of food and people to share this special day with you. We look forward to seeing you there and are so thankful for all of **you**, our military members and families, who serve.

Let's celebrate Thanksgiving together!

The dinner is held at the The Bridge Church Princeton, 188 Whitley Church Road, in Princeton.

More details and registration (by Nov 22) online at www.bridgechurch.cc.

Community Soup Kitchen of Goldsboro

Contributed by Doricia Benton-Director

Since day one, all have been welcome at Community Soup Kitchen of Goldsboro. They offering meals Monday-Saturday, 11am-12pm. They are open on holidays, unless a holiday falls on Sunday.

The kitchen served 44,682 last year and are estimating around 47,000 in 2015. The kitchen is celebrating its 35th Anniversary on December 15, 2015!

Food donations are used for daily operations to serve hot nutritious meals.

At times, there is need that goes beyond the lunch hour due to so many families insecure with food. So the kitchen will sometimes fix a box of goods for those families, individuals, and senior citizens who are in need.

Community Soup Kitchen is located at 112 W Oak Street, in Goldsboro.

For those interested in donating, or how to volunteer, call 919.731.3939 or email doriciab@yahoo.com. Note that this holiday season the volunteer spots are booked; but, in the future volunteers may call at least 6 months in advance.

Thanksgiving Day Dinner in Wilson

Kairos Church Ministries is holding Thanksgiving dinner for the community. To join the feast on November 26, 2015, go to Kairos Church Ministries, 1003 Lodge Street S, in Wilson, from 11am-12pm.

Contact Sis. Lorraine Davis or a member of KCM at 252.291.8838 for more information, or visit www.kairospkok.org/thanksgiving-day-community-dinner/.

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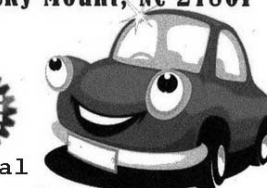
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Things to Do in NC When You're Bored

11/21 Food Bank Distribution (November 21 @ 8am)

Held early in November, before Thanksgiving. Kairos Church Ministries, 1003 Lodge St S, Wilson.

11/21 Nash County Alzheimer's Walk (Nov 21)

Support Alzheimer's NC for the 2015 Walk. Walk is free, & the public is welcome. Call Ashley Winstead at 252.459.1365. At Sunset Park, Rocky Mount.

11/21 Sharpsburg's First Annual Holiday Parade (Nov 21 @ 11am)

Come out to enjoy the Town's first annual Holiday Parade. In downtown Sharpsburg.

11/22 Community Appreciation Day (Nov 22 @ 12:30pm)

Raffles & food. At All About Flowers Inc., 1716 W Howard Ave, Tarboro.

11/25 Lake Myra Christmas -12/31 Lights (Nov 25-Dec 31)

The Most Exciting & Spectacular Light Show in NC. Sun-Thu 6-10pm; Fri-Sat 6-11pm. In downtown Wendell.

11/27 Indoor Black Friday Yard Sale (Nov 27 @ 8am-3pm)

Healthy Enrichment Lifestyle Program, LLC. (H.E.L.P) 2nd annual event. Call 919.592.2669 for details or vendor space. At Wendell Women's Club, 10 Cypress Street, Wendell.

12/01 Time Management Workshop (Dec 1 @ 5:30-7:30pm)

Small Business series wraps up with Mark Frohman, Rocky Mount Chapter SCORE Counselor, presenting this workshop. Free and open to all. In the computer lab at Braswell Memorial Library, 727 N. Grace St., Rocky Mount.

12/01 Lighting of the Luminaries (Dec 1 @ 6pm)

Barton College invites the surrounding community to join them while they light 2,500 luminaries across the main campus and light the Christmas tree. Following the lighting, the Barton College Choir will perform Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols at Howard Chapel. On the Barton College Campus, Wilson.

12/03 Brainstormer Trivia

12/10 (Dec 3 & 10 @ 7:30-10pm)

Weekly on Thursdays. Not too hard, not too easy — just right! Team registration begins at 7:30pm; game kicks off at 8pm. Ad hoc teams are often formed to compete against local powerhouses. At the Underground Pub, 101 E Church Street, Tarboro.

12/04 Free Pictures With Santa (Dec 4 @ 5:30-7:30pm)

Santa is taking a break from toy making to visit with the children of Zebulon. Come get a free photo with Santa from at the Zebulon Town Municipal Complex, 1003 N Arendell Ave, Zebulon.

12/04 First Friday Coffee (Dec 4 @ 7:30-8:30am)

Monthly on the first Friday. Chat with fellow business leaders & town officials. Email nashvillencchamber@gmail.com. At Nashville Exchange, West Washington Street, Nashville.

12/05 Historic Downtown Wilson Christmas Parade (December 5 @ 11am)

Come join the Wilson community as they come together for this annual tradition. The route will begin near Barton College and continue down Nash Street to Douglas. This year's parade will welcome everyone to The North Pole and will feature a float judging contest and performances by selected parade entries. The parade is a "rain or shine" event. In Historic Downtown Wilson.

12/05 Goldsboro Christmas Parade (Dec 5 @ 4pm)

Holiday parade! Info, laral@waynecountychamber.com or 919.734.2241. Starts & ends at Spruce & Center Streets, Goldsboro.

12/05 Nashville's Christmas Celebration & Bicycle Parade (Dec 5 @ 4pm)

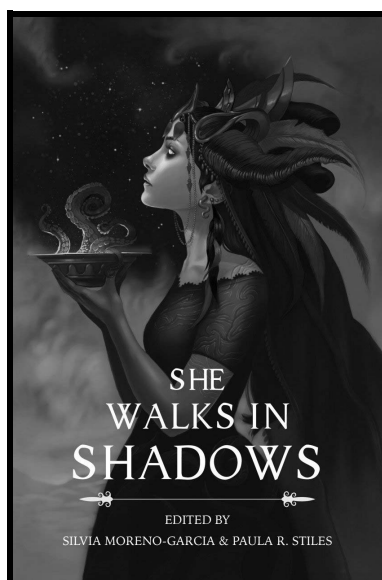
Children decorate bicycles, wagons and other unmotorized items to march in their very own parade. After a tree lighting ceremony, Santa arrives! Prizes are awarded to the most creative costumes/decorations. For more info, call 252.459.4050 or visit www.nashvillencchamber.org. Kids march from the Nash County Courthouse to Nashville's Christmas tree, Nashville.

12/05 Princeville Christmas Parade (Dec 5 @ 2pm)

The parade begins at the corner of Mullins Street & South Main Street, & travels along Main Street to Mutual Blvd., ending at Heritage Park, Princeville.

12/05 Colonial Christmas Crafts -06 Fair (Dec 5 @ 9am-4pm & Dec 6 @ 1-4pm)

The Downtown Enfield Restoration & Preservation Association (DERP) fifth annual crafts fair — featuring the work of local artists, artisans, chefs, beekeepers, candle makers, & soap makers. At the Enfield Performing Arts Center, 137 SE Railroad Street, Enfield.



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and More Things to Do in NC When You're Bored

12/06 Zebulon Christmas

Parade (Dec 6 @ 2-3pm)

The annual Zebulon Christmas Parade is organized by the Zebulon Chamber of Commerce. Attendance is free. Come & watch local businesses, performing groups, & more at this annual holiday parade! The route begins at Zebulon Community Park & ends at J & M Chevrolet. In downtown Zebulon.

12/06 60th annual Rocky Mount Christmas Parade (December 6 @ 3pm)

Come out for the 60th annual Rocky Mount Christmas Parade, featuring Santa, bands, clowns, floats and more. Also, please bring a toy for Toys for Tots. Downtown Rocky Mount.

12/06 Franklin County Christmas Parade (Dec 6 @ 3-4:30pm)

The Franklin County Christmas Parade is sponsored by the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. See www.franklin-chamber.org or contact bfuller@franklin-chamber.org. On Main Street, Louisburg.

12/07 Senior Christmas Gala (December 7 @ 11:00am)

A buffet lunch celebration for local seniors to kick start the holiday season. Event includes a guest speaker and other holiday entertainment. You must be 55 and older. Your family and guests are also invited. The cost is just \$22 per person. For more information, call 252.972.1564. Gateway Convention Centre Rocky Mount, 101 Gateway Blvd, Rocky Mount.

12/11 Free Family Movie Night (Dec 11 @ 7pm)

Zebulon Parks & Recreation Dept presents free movie & popcorn for all ages. Parent/guardian must be present. At Zebulon Community Center, 301 S Arendell Ave, Zebulon.

12/11 Senior Breakfast (Dec 11 @ 9:30-11:00am)

Deck The Halls! Celebrate the holidays with a musical performance by our local youth on Friday, December 11. Let us serve you breakfast and enjoy the sounds of the season. Sign up at the Community Center by Dec 7. \$3/person. At the Community Center, Zebulon.

12/11 Pecan Day (Dec 11 @ 11am-1pm)

Enjoy free samples of NC pecans & a pecan dessert by the State Farmers Market Restaurant. Pecans for sale in the Farmers Building, & recipes will be available to take home & try. At the State Farmers Market, 1201 Agriculture St, Raleigh.

12/12 Bunn Christmas Parade (Dec 12 @ 10am)

Parade time! To participate, call Linda at 919.496.4831. On Main Street, Bunn.

12/12 Supper With Santa (Dec 12 @ 4-5:30pm)

Play games, hear "The Night Before Christmas" read by Santa himself, & get a picture. Register by Dec 3. \$15/person. At Recreation Park Center, 500 Sunset Road NW, Wilson.

12/13 Tarboro Christmas Parade (Dec 13 @ 2-4pm)

Everyone loves a parade, & the Tarboro-Edgecombe Chamber of Commerce puts on a fantastic one. Beginning in the beautifully decorated downtown, the parade slowly rolls up Main Street as kids & adults line the sidewalks to wave at floats & Santa. On Main Street, Tarboro.

12/13 Winter Wonderland (Dec 13 @ 1-5pm)

A day of winter time activities for the whole family! Music, children's activities, ice skating, carriage rides, & the big man himself—it all adds up to a great event to celebrate the best of winter! Enjoy the snow in the lobby every hour! Free; but some activities have a nominal fee. At The Imperial Centre, Rocky Mount.

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*Created and founded by Frank S. Whatley, Jr.
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The "Things To Do in NC When You're Bored" listings are free, at publisher's discretion, and as space allows. Up to five 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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Snack Bag Ministry Active in Rocky Mount

The Snack Bag Ministry offers nourishment to the needy in our community. This ministry plays a vital role in the survival of some of our community's most vulnerable people.

The snack bags are distributed from the church on weekdays. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and distribute the snack bags. To volunteer or for more information, call 252.442.1134 or visit the church website: www.goodshepherdmt.org.

Bags may be picked up Monday-Friday, 11:15-11:45am, in the Parish Hall Lobby of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 231 N Church Street, Rocky Mount.

Daily Meals at Wilson Soup Kitchen

Via st-timothys-wilson.dionc.org

Community Soup Kitchen Of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Wilson provides a hot meal, around midday, to anyone who is hungry.

Meals are served each week, Monday through Friday, 10:30-11:30am, except on major holidays.

Each weekday's menu consists of a cup of homemade vegetable soup, peanut butter or meat sandwich, tea or cocoa, and a dessert.

Donations are always appreciated, including: cans of mixed vegetables, carrots, peas, potatoes, grape jelly, loaf bread, tea or cocoa mix, and snacks. Monetary donations are very much welcome to help defray other costs (i.e. utilities, appliances & maintenance, paper products, etc.).

The Soup Kitchen is located at 204-B N Goldsboro Street, Wilson — in the St. Timothy's Episcopal Church rear parking lot.

Volunteers arrive one hour before serving and clean-up afterward.

If you have questions, or wish to donate or volunteer, call 252.291.8220.

Senior Center Thanksgiving Feast

Bring a Thanksgiving dish and join friends for fun, fellowship, and food at the Rocky Mount Senior Center. The feast is free to local senior citizens, age 55 and up.

Please contact us at 252.972.1152 for registration information. This social event is November 24, 2015, from 11am to 1pm,

The feast will be held in the Multipurpose Room, Rocky Mount Senior Center, 427 S Church Street Rocky Mount.

Third Annual "Feed Our Community" in Kinston

On November 21, 2015, at 2pm, Sister's United — Ms. Hattie King and Ms. Victor Fields — will be sponsoring a free Thanksgiving dinner for the community.

This is a complete dinner and everything is free — eat at the location or take food with you. The location is 1005 Tower Hill Road, in Kinston.

For information, contact Ms. Victor Fields at flobmouth@yahoo.com or 252.361.5770, or Ms. Hattie King at hattieking@hotmail.com or 252.528.0874.

Community Kitchen & Pantry Serves Rocky Mount

The Community Kitchen and Pantry, in Rocky Mount, provided nearly 34,000 meals and 500 food baskets to over 300 families in 2013-2014, in addition to serving as a storage and distribution point for bulk quantities of food shared with other community agencies.

They also offer a Community Shelter adjoining the kitchen and pantry, and distribute clothing.

To reach the Community Shelter & Kitchen regarding donations, or clothing or food needs, call 252.977.9768. They are located at 341 McDonald Street, in Rocky Mount.

Wendell Second Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon

Contributed by Brenda Hinton

Healthy Enrichment Lifestyle Program, LLC. (H.E.L.P) is holding its annual Thanksgiving Luncheon on Thanksgiving Day.

Anyone may come to the lunch for free, starting at 1pm on November 26, 2015.

Donations and volunteers are needed to ensure there will be enough to serve all who come.

Food will be served at the Wendell Women's Club, 10 Cypress Street, in Wendell.

Contact Brenda Hinton at Brendahintonjones@yahoo.com, or call 919.592.2669.

Church Helping Red Oak Area Families

The Red Oak Baptist Church's Outreach Team is sponsoring a *Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway* for families in need.

Each meal will consist of turkey, cranberry sauce, green beans, corn pudding, dressing, sweet potatoes, and rolls. The church's goal is to provide for 50 families.

Here is how you can help them reach this goal:

1. Submit names of families who can benefit.
2. Volunteer to help prepare and cook on Friday night and Saturday morning. This is a great way for us to enjoy time together as we serve God and others.
3. Make a dessert. Preferably pies. Make ahead and bring on Friday night to the FLC.

For more information contact Doug or Sue Ella Johnson at 252.813.6168 or 252.567.5413.

Christmas in the Town of Spring Hope

Contributed by Jan Mills

The Town of Spring Hope is gearing up for the second annual Old Fashioned Christmas in Spring Hope. This event is organized by the Spring Hope Area Chamber of Commerce with the support of churches in the community.

Come spend some time on Main Street in Spring Hope on December 11, 2015, 5:30-8pm.

This event features horse drawn cart rides through town, local choirs, lighting of the town Christmas tree, reading of the *Birth of Christ*, and a visit from ol' St. Nick himself.

There will also be a Children's Scavenger Hunt, Christmas face painting, Christmas music, food, Christmas lights, Christmas dancers, and much more!

All the day's events are free to the public. Vendors will offer food, Christmas decor, and more.

Holiday Happenings in Zebulon 2015

A weekend of Holiday fun is planned for Zebulon! Come by December 4-6, 2015, for a variety of holiday offerings, including a special vendors-only event.

December 4: Vendors may enjoy the Vendor Mixer, 5:30-7pm.

December 5 (10am-2pm) & **December 6** (11am-4:30pm): Pop-up Holiday Vendor Market is open to the Public for holiday shopping. The Vendor Market will include pictures with Santa and entertainment too!

December 6 (2pm): Christmas Parade

December 6 (5pm): Tree Lighting

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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 about the choices people make, and the thought process they go through to arrive at decisions.

Consider: Submitted for Discussion

You're awakened one evening by yelling outside. It is two people screaming at each other. Do you think that you would call the police if it was a man and woman fighting, or if it was two men or two women? If you thought that you knew them, would you be less likely to dial 9-1-1? Would you be worried about possible gunfire?

Children & Family Holiday Toys Needed

Wake County Human Services at the Eastern Regional Center in Zebulon is holding the Children/Family Holiday Event. We are in desperate need for toys for any age and we know this is early notice, but we want to prepare and meet the need in our community.

We provide a chance for our clients to meet with Santa and obtain a gift every year and with your help we do an awesome job! This is the only opportunity many of these families have to receive a gift for their children.

All donations can be dropped off at the Eastern Regional Center in Zebulon, 1002 Dogwood Drive, from Monday-Friday, between 9am-5pm.

Contact Evangela Turnage (919.404.3915) or Sonya Peterkin (919.404.3916) to coordinate donated items for pickup.

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Mobile Deer Cooler Available for Free Rental

Released by Jodie B. Owen,
NCwildlife.org

Want to help feed the hungry? The NC Wildlife Resources Commission, along with the NC Wildlife Federation, is offering hunters free use of a mobile cooler to collect and transport deer safely to participating USDA-certified processors for donation to the **NC Hunters for the Hungry** Program.

Qualifying conservation and charitable organizations and organized hunt clubs can reserve the deer cooler on a first-come, first-serve basis Monday through Thursday each week until January 1, 2016, by submitting an online application, available on the Commission's website at www.ncwildlife.org/hunting.

The cooler, which is stored at the Commission's Williamston Depot in Martin County, measures 6 feet by 12 feet and is attached to a 7-by-16-foot trailer that can transport the cooler to

and from hunting events and approved NC Hunters for the Hungry processors. The cooler is powered by a 6,800-watt generator and can hold up to 20 deer in cold storage.

"The NC Wildlife Resources Commission is proud to partner with the NC Wildlife Federation and the NC Hunters for the Hungry Program to utilize hunter-harvested deer to provide meat to those who are in need," said Tommy Hughes, the coastal area eco-region supervisor for the Commission. "In addition to providing valuable meat, hunters are also helping manage our state's deer herd."

The Federation acquired the cooler in 2013 using funds from the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission and other participating organizations. It recently transferred it to the Commission for management.

The NC Hunters for the Hungry Program is a non-profit organization

that works with state agencies and other conservation organizations like the NC Wildlife Federation to provide legally harvested venison to food relief organizations.

See www.nchuntersforthehungry.org for more information on the NC Hunters for the Hungry Program.

For more information about the deer cooler and to make a reservation, visit the Commission's website, www.ncwildlife.org/hunting.



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Views expressed by contributors are their own & do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Grey Area* news and its staff.



The Wilson Chamber of Commerce
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Invite you to attend the

Farm City Week Breakfast

Tuesday, November 24th
7:30 a.m.

Wilson County Agricultural Center



Dr. Alan Ayers

Director of Stakeholder Relations/Stewardship
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Breakfast will include foods that
were produced or processed in
Wilson County and North Carolina.



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RSVP to Connie Bailey at 237-0111 by Tuesday, November 17th.



The Teenagers in Your House, Their Electronic Devices and Social Media

Contributed by

Nicholas Pediaditakis, MD, DLFAPA

Every parent knows very well the mixed blessing of teenager children in the house. Adolescence is a funny age; like the transforming stages from pupa to chrysalis before becoming butterflies.

It reminds me of a fragment of a poem; “pupa half delivered, chrysalis half realized.” Teenagers too, are no longer children, and yet not quite adults. They are turmoiled, intense, often confused and more often unpredictable. Their main concern — aside from the rapid transformation of their bodies — is their social identity; as opposed to concerns about sexuality as many people wrongly assume. Such concerns are kept aside by the strong uneasiness about it. They are really mostly caring about social give-and-take.

Teens are constantly busy for input, social ranking, and acceptance while learning patterns for social interactions

Dr. Nicholas' Corner

and skills — social creatures as we are. That is where the electronic devices come into play. Their smart phones, and their incessant chatting through texting with their funny abbreviations and short cuts!

These devices are not just helping tools; but, they soon become an integral part of their identity and an extension of their body. Pavlovian-like reactions — akin to Pavlov's famous dogs with their salivations associated with the signal of the bell connected to the smell and taste of food. Teenagers too, grab their smart device as soon as the device buzzes, or there is discord with their parents, or they feel anxious, lonely, or develop social doubts. They then grab the device, and text rapidly in a mysterious written language they themselves have invented, the content often devoid of meaning but just a soothing chatter.

Parents frequently ask me if texting or the use of a smart phone is helpful or beneficial. As they soon learn, prohibiting use is a powerful leverage for punishment. My response to parents' inquiries is that smart phones are very helpful in the development of social skills and identity.

The process takes place over the waves rather than the young adolescent roaming the streets, wasting time traveling long distances or hanging out for hours with their friends to fulfill the

need of social identity, certainty and learn social skills that are part of growing up. There is the added advantage that even shy teenagers who felt isolated or cut-off before can now fulfill friendship and camaraderie as the used medium protects from anxiety.

As a concerned parent, you need to know all that. Be really, we should be thankful for the devices and the social media as they facilitate the fulfilling of needs of teenage years harmlessly.

Copyright © 2015 by Nicholas Pediaditakis, MD

NC DHHS to Accept Applications for Low Income Energy Assistance Program

Released by NC DHHS

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is accepting applications for the state's Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) beginning December 1, 2015.

Households eligible to apply for LIEAP must contain a person aged 60 or above, or at least one disabled person receiving disability benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability or Veterans benefits, through the Division of Aging and Adult Services.

LIEAP is a federally-funded program that provides a one-time payment directly to the utility company to help eligible households pay their heating bills during the cold-weather months. Last year, the program provided approximately \$40 million to help more than 141,000 households pay their heating bills from December 2014 through March 2015.

For more information, contact your local county Department of Social Services. A list of these offices and contact information is available at www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/dss/local-county-social-services-offices.

Zebulon Food Pantry Gives, and Needs

Contributed by Cindy Privette

Families from Zebulon and Wendell may receive nonperishable food items from the Zebulon United Methodist Church's food pantry, based on the number of members in the family. No proof of financial need is required, just a valid ID or other proof of residency.

Donations are always needed, and the food pantry shopping list includes the following: cereal, Hamburger/Tuna Helper, grits, hamburger (1 lb), tuna, oatmeal, dried beans (1 lb), rice (1 lb), peanut butter, soup, jelly, saltine crackers, Ramen noodles, macaroni & cheese, baby food, spaghetti noodles, spaghetti sauce, chips, and snacks.

The Food Pantry is in the Zebulon United Methodist Church Mission House, located at 114 W Sycamore Street, and is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-10:30am.

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Conservation Groups Take US Fish & Wildlife Service to Court for Failures to Protect the World's Only Wild Red Wolves

*Released by Kathleen Sullivan,
selcnc.org & Amey Owen,
awionline.org*

Conservation groups filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for its failure to protect the world's only wild population of red wolves and illegal actions including authorizing the killing of a breeding female red wolf in a population of only 50-75 red wolves in the wild. The conservation groups involved in the litigation are the Red Wolf Coalition, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) represented by the Southern Environmental Law Center.

"Today we've gone to court to protect the world's only wild population of red wolves that are now in critical condition with only about 50 to 75 red wolves remaining in the wild," said Sierra Weaver, senior attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center who represents the conservation groups in today's court filing. "The wild survival of America's rarest wolf depends on whether the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acts responsibly and fulfills its legal duty."

According to the service's own estimates, the world's only wild population of red wolves has declined by as much as half of what it was only a year ago when an estimated 100 red wolves lived within the five county red wolf recovery area in North Carolina.

"The red wolf is in grave danger of extinction, and if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service doesn't step up and significantly modify its management approach for red wolves, we may never see this species in the wild again," said Jason Rylander, senior attorney for Defenders of Wildlife. "This species can't afford to wait another minute. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service needs to take serious action and work with state and local governments to ensure the red wolf doesn't slip away."

Following the USFWS announcement in June 2015 that it had authorized the killing of a breeding female and suspended red wolf reintroductions into the wild, the complaint filed details the agency's failure to investigate the recent decline of the wild wolves' population, its actions and management that harm the survival of red wolves, and its failure to investigate how best to recover wild red wolves as required by law. Since

2007, the Service has not conducted the five-year status review required by the Endangered Species Act to inform recovery and management efforts.

"The red wolf was the top predator of the Southeast before human persecution and habitat destruction nearly wiped it out forever," said Red Wolf Coalition executive director Kim Wheeler. "Any critically endangered animal that has been a keystone species in an ecosystem for thousands of years, and that is part of our recorded past, deserves every effort required to protect and restore it. We owe that to the red wolf – and to ourselves."

When the USFWS illegally authorized the killing of a critically endangered female red wolf within the Red Wolf Recovery Area in eastern North Carolina, tracking data showed the collared female red wolf was exhibiting denning behavior. The loss of any breeding adult red wolf is a significant setback to recovery of this critically endangered species.

"Through its active pursuit of activities that threaten the recovery of red wolves and clear neglect of those that remain, the Service is evidently trying to drive the Red Wolf Recovery program into the ground, despite wide public support," said Tara Zuardo, wildlife attorney at AWI. "There are ample opportunities to work with local landowners, scientists, and the public in funding and supporting red wolf recovery in the wolves' already-established home of North Carolina."

North Carolina is home to the only wild population of red wolves in the world. Red wolves bred in captivity were reintroduced on a North Carolina peninsula within their native range in the late 1980's after red wolves were declared extinct in the wild. Once common throughout the Southeast, intensive predator control programs and loss of habitat decimated wild red wolf populations.

Churches Combine Forces in Brown Bag Ministry

Contributed by Cindy Privette

Brown Bag Ministry is a recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization that serves the homeless and hungry in the Triangle area of North Carolina. Brown Bag Ministry prepares and distributes over 2,700 brown bag lunches to the homeless and those in need every Saturday.

Volunteers include individuals, families and groups. They gather at five sites each Saturday morning to prepare lunches that are distributed throughout Durham and Wake counties.

Every Saturday morning, St. Eugene Catholic Church in Wendell packs 1,000 bag lunches. Volunteers gather at 9am every Saturday to prepare and pack bags, then leave around 11am to distribute them.

Of the bags packed, almost 400 bag lunches are taken to Zebulon United Methodist Church. Almost 300 of these are given away — to anyone who stops in at the ZUMC Mission House, located at 114 W Sycamore Street between 10:30am and 12:30pm.

Another 120 are picked up from ZUMC by a volunteer who takes them out to community members who are unable to come in for food — and some of them are taken to the Zebulon Boys and Girls Club.

For those interested in donating, the following items are needed on a weekly basis for brown bag lunches: bread, lunch meat (turkey, ham or bologna), sliced cheese, cheese and crackers (individual packages), granola bars, piece of fruit, bananas, bottled water, and homemade cookies/brownies.

Donations may be dropped off at St. Eugene Catholic Church, 608 Lions Club Road, in Wendell. Call 919.365.7114 for schedule details.



Captive red wolf puppy. Photo Source: Ryan Nordsven/USFWS



Little Bits

Cryptogram of the Issue

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

Hint: L = U.

A S H U L K U I C
J A T V O U N V C B A I F
Y B G I F V A C A S H U L
Y G I C Y B G I F V A C
Y B G I F V H U L P
G C C A C L K V
-- N G H G G I F V J U L

Answer to the previous issue's cryptogram:

*Love yourself first and everything else falls into line. You
really have to love yourself to get anything done in this
world. --Lucille Ball*

Cryptogram Note:

The second hint for this puzzle is I = N.

Word of the Issue

“festooned”

Definition: Decorated.

Example: “The main street was festooned with holiday banners and mistletoe.”

Quote of the Issue

Maya Angelou

“The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned.”

Chuckle of the Issue

Two Christians have lived well and healthy lives. Then, in an unexpected accident, they die together and go to heaven.

As they are walking along, marvelling at the paradise around them, one turns to the other and says “Wow. I never imagined heaven was going to be as amazingly good as this! It is beyond my dreams!”

“Yeah”, says the other. “And just think, if we hadn’t eaten all that oat bran we could have come here ten years sooner.”

Search and Circle of the Issue

M P L X M F F Z G O A I H O C
V X H S Y A Q N P Y U T U T J
G M J H M R I L E N J A N D I
V L B I X S R T L Y P A G O Y
Y J L X S W T E U R K Z R O A
O Y Q E E O U P B R R L Y F Z
U X R W K B V F E N K H I S G
A D P O T A T O E S A E S M N
B M T E P M J C W F V R Y Z I
G N I V I G S K N A H T C P F
W P S N A E B R F S I T T F F
T H Y E H G L U Q G R R I C U
N K S N C P S B Z N J J R X T
C O A E R A H O C G H U Y D S
Q Z V J O P E E S T I H G Y P

BEANS	CRANBERRY
DRESSING	FAMILY
FOOD	HUNGRY
MILK	PIE
POTATOES	STUFFING
THANKSGIVING	TURKEY

The Strange-ness

Researchers Sequence Genomes of Parasite That Is Actually a ‘Micro Jellyfish’
Released by Brendan M. Lynch, KU News Service

It’s a shocking discovery that may redefine how scientists interpret what it means to be an animal. This week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers at the University of Kansas will reveal how a jellyfish — those commonplace sea pests with stinging tentacles — have evolved over time into “really weird” microscopic organisms, made of only a few cells, that live inside other animals.

Genome sequencing confirms that myxozoans, a diverse group of microscopic parasites that infect invertebrate and vertebrate hosts, are actually “highly reduced” cnidarians — the phylum that includes jellyfish, corals and sea anemones.

“This is a remarkable case of extreme degeneration of an animal body plan,” said Pauly Cartwright, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at KU and principal investigator on the research project. “First, we confirmed they’re cnidarians. Now we need to investigate how they got to be that way.”

Not only has the parasitic micro jellyfish evolved a stripped-down body plan of just a few cells, but via data generated at the KU Medical Center’s Genome Sequencing Facility researchers also found the myxozoan genome was drastically simplified.

“These were 20 to 40 times smaller than average jellyfish genomes,” Cartwright said. “It’s one of the smallest animal genomes ever reported. It only has about 20 million base pairs, whereas the average Cnidarian has over 300 million. These are tiny little genomes by comparison.”

Despite its radical phasedown of the modern jellyfish’s body structure and genome over millions of years, Myxozoa has retained the essential characteristic of the jellyfish — its stinger, or “nematocyst” — along with the genes needed to make it.

While the dramatic changeover from macroscopic marine animal to microscopic parasite seems utterly unique, Cartwright thinks it might reveal a strategy in nature that could be more widespread than previously known. “If it can happen once in evolution, it certainly can happen again,” she said.



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