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# When Big Box Fails Us Be Grateful... We Still Have A Few Independents Here.

A special thanks to Waxhaw NAPA, Southern Collision  
and my personal favorite... ACE Hardware!

by John Tiley

With my son recently having returned from Afghanistan and currently home for far too short of a leave, one of the major items on the "to do list" has been to get the title of his truck put into his name, get inspections and insurance and all the rest of that stuff so he can take it out west with him where he will be stationed for the foreseeable future. A young man has to have wheels!! Now all of this sounds easy enough but as they say, if it can go wrong, it will. Well this time it was the "third "stop Light" that decided to malfunction... meaning the truck wouldn't pass the inspection.

And the BIG Corporate Chain Stores come up way short for a solution!

After Spin and his New Guy suspiciously told me the truck failed... the look on their face told me this wasn't going to be an easy fix (ahh Richard, I do miss you... at least you might have warned me what I was getting into).

Next stop... the ZONE! And on arrival I felt like I had indeed entered "the Zone". I figured I would get over charged for some exotic light bulb and be on my way... but that is not how things went down. Sorry Sir, I have no listing for that part??? Excuse me, but come on, its just a light bulb? By now I can tell the guy I'm talking to isn't a "Car Guy" at all.... probably a good manager but not wise in the ways of automobiles. In fact I'm sure he is great at managing a computer controlled inventory, based on corporate input and does have some real life experience... but not much and not the kind you need when confronted with what was rapidly turning into a real pain in the ^\$(\*& car repair. So, a half an hour later I am standing in the parking lot, no closer to a solution and armed with no more information than when I came in.

It was then that I did what I should have done to begin with... headed over to NAPA... for those of you who don't know, NAPA (like ACE Hardware) is a franchised business run by local ownership and both the having been locally owned and operated for many many years, (in fact in both cases the "kids" are now fully grown and working in the stores full time)

The short story: Fifteen minutes later I was out the door with a potential fix in mind. I had found that in Fords infinite wisdom, they put a very fancy and VERY EXPENSIVE light in that space above the rear window. REALLY EXPENSIVE as in to the tune of over \$700.00. Yes I said SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS for a factory replacement. At the urging of Frank & Del over at NAPA I had taken the Explorer over to Southern Collision, another local company and Danny, the shop manager took great care of me and my son. In short order he had the door frame apart and we were able to determine what we could do and within the next hour a new after market light had been installed, wired and buttoned up. By the skin of our teeth, my son and I managed to get through the title/plate aspect with no more that a min or two to spare.

The Parable here is that we have some very valuable resources here in Waxhaw and it is up to us to support these people. People and their companies that possess the know how and are willing to help us resolve our problems. They were here long before the Big Box Companies came. Yes you probably will pay a little more for their stuff but there is no way to put a value on the service you know you'll get and expect when you go in their stores. Besides I would hazard a guess they sell a whole lot more "made in the USA" stuff than a company like Lowe's that is China wall to wall. The bottom line is that if we don't support and make sure these people thrive, well they eventually will close shop and the next time you have a real problem you will have to go to the dealership and spend that \$700 plus labor to fix a simple light. In my case, there are three auto parts stores in Waxhaw. One had the know how and the fix I needed. And in this case, even though they might have been more expensive in what they wanted to sell me, I still saved over \$600 in the process!

## Short Takes

According to the Broom Street Blues the intersection at 16 & 75 is finally finished and "smooth as can be". Unfortunately as of last weekend New Town was still blocked off with no info as to when that east west artery might re-open. A new bar & Grill, The Stuffed Olive opens August 8th. Crime is way up in Waxhaw and speaking of crime, I noticed that now that BP has the runaway well capped, the price of gas is going up everywhere! Funny how that works. The Town is planning a BBQ Competition for September, keep an eye out for that, Mm mm-Mm!

...and from Hunter:

### Events and Drinks

The town of Waxhaw will now be allowing beer and wine at approved events on public property. The town commissioners took a vote, and made this decision at the last meeting on the 27th. Needless to say, there were some people there that weren't too happy about this. One spoke out to ask how this would improve the town, and could it potentially ruin some of the more family oriented events. Though none of the commissioners wanted to cause this to happen, it was stated in the ordinance that any event must be presented to the board for approval of beer and wine.

**From the Editor, an observation:** Over the past year, alcohol consumption has risen dramatically... it has been well documented whenever the Nation comes under economic distress no matter how broke people are, they find money for bad habits (or is that just escapism)? Well, true to those national statistics, the use of alcohol has once again gone "through the roof". Tells us something about the sad state of affairs in the country.

Different  
read?  
Try this...

BROOME  
STREET BLUES  
A WAXHAW BLOG



*Is there anything more American than a '57 Chevy?*

## Rumors?

As of the first of the month (last Sunday), state troopers are writing tickets for going 5 over? They're trying to raise \$9.5 million in a month. Don't know the validity of it but I did get pulled for going five over last Saturday. Be careful...

## Regional Library

Be on the lookout for a new library in Waxhaw! Jan Ringling is working with the regional government on plans to build a new regional library close to downtown Waxhaw on Hwy 16 near Alma Village. She says there are 700 houses within one half mile of the site, 1000 within one mile, and 15,000 cars a day. That's a lot of people. She has created a petition with over 170 signatures and counting for the library. But remember, though this will be near Waxhaw, it will not be a town library. This decision is by the county and the library will be built by the combined forces of the county and Jan Ringling.

## Short Takes

### Events and Pets

On the same note, animals will no longer be allowed at events on public property without approval from the events coordinator. There have been a couple of incidents at recent events where owners were not able to control their pets. Mainly, this was at the fireworks show the town had on July 4th. Commissioner Diller was voting against, stating that he was a pet lover and would not want families to miss a chance to spend time with their favorite friend. Unfortunately though, the cause was too late.

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# The Waxhaw Gazette

Serving the people of Waxhaw, North Carolina

111th Edition

Published Bi-Monthly, Every First & Third Friday

August 6th, 2010

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New art for your review... Enjoy!

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## Bored? Adopt-A-Spot!

by Hunter Croswell

Well I have recently learned about a new idea created by the Waxhaw Beautification Committee that couldn't possibly be better for you and I! It's called Adopt-A-Spot. You see, Waxhaw has this whole list of little spots around town that need a little TLC, but they don't always have the time to care for it all.

That's where you and I come in. Any person, group, family, or business can Adopt-A-Spot. You can either choose from their list or propose your own. You'll have to design, prepare, plant, mulch, and weed the spot of course... but that's all part of the fun! The Beautification Committee will have your back on this one. They'll have suggestions and tips, and even information on sustainable gardening and better ways to plant that you may not have known... I think I might even get some tips for my own garden...

But here's why you should do it. First of all, they'll be giving you a sign letting everyone know that it was you who did all the hard work. Plus, they'll be reimbursing you for up to \$100 in materials! If your business Adopts-A-Spot and you design well, you could get yourself some free advertisement for a fun weekend project! But you know why you should really do it? Because, you get the chance to help your town be an even better and prettier town. And get reimbursed for it. That's a sweet deal! I'm thinking about it myself. Please give it a thought, and give it a try, so that Waxhaw can get more than second glance.

I was informed of this idea by a loyal reader. If you've got any ideas or know of anything special and good for the town going on, shoot me an email at [hunter@thewaxhawgazette.com](mailto:hunter@thewaxhawgazette.com). Keep Caring Waxhaw!

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## What a Way to Help!

by Hunter Croswell

A couple of weeks ago my mom sent me an e-mail telling me about something great going on around her town. She wanted to tell me because she thought it was a great idea; I want to tell you because it IS a great idea.

In Denton, Texas, a woman by the name of Audrey Pruitt accidentally left her purse on the back of her car at the gas pump, and forgetting it, drove off and let it fall. When she got to the stoplight though, a homeless man came up and tapped on her window, handed her the purse, and gave her nothing but a smile. He hadn't touched a thing, including her money. This changed her perception completely and she decided that she had to do something.

She and her son Eli brainstormed until they came up with a grand idea. And something so simple too... Go to the dollar store and buy toothbrushes, toothpaste, clean socks, granola bars, and water, and but them into plastic bags. She called it Project Possible. She then gave each homeless person she found a bag so that maybe it would help them out, even if only a little. It wouldn't solve there problems, but it would sure brighten their day, and maybe change their perception of those around them like they had changed hers.

It doesn't take much to help out those around you. I hope this can brighten and inspire your day as much as it did mine.



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For those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health

*It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting nutritional studies.*

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

~Your kids are becoming you...and you don't like them  
..but your grandchildren are perfect!

~Going out is good.  
Coming home is better!

~Remember when your mother said "Wear clean underwear in case you GET in an accident"?  
Now you bring clean underwear in case you HAVE an accident!

## And now, Our Weekly Dose of Humor directly from the Internet.....

*bits and pieces that your Editor will not testify to for correctness, accuracy nor even believability but they are certainly humorous, So Enjoy!*

# The Gotcha Files

These pictures were all taken at "just the right moment..."

*Click on the picture to advance the slide show.*



## Observations on Growing Older!

### Two Texas Highway Patrol Officers were conducting speeding enforcement on Hwy 77, just south of Kingsville , Tx.

One of the officers was using a hand held radar device to check speeding vehicles approaching the town of Kingsville . The officers were suddenly surprised when the radar gun began reading 300 miles per hour and climbing.

The officer attempted to reset the radar gun, but it would not reset and then it suddenly turned off.

Just then a deafening roar over the Mesquite treetops on Hwy 77 revealed that the radar had in fact locked on to a USMC F/A-18 Hornet which was engaged in a low flying exercise near this, it's Naval Air home base location in Kingsville Tx.

Back at the Texas Highway Patrol Headquarters in Corpus Christi the Patrol Captain fired off a complaint to the US Naval Base Commander in Kingsville for shutting down his equipment.

The reply came back in true USMC style:

"Thank you for your letter....

You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Hornet had detected the presence of, and subsequently locked on to, your hostile radar equipment and automatically sent a jamming signal back to it, which is why it shut down.

Furthermore, an Air-to-Ground missile aboard the fully armed aircraft had also automatically locked on to your equipment's location.

Fortunately, the Marine Pilot flying the Hornet recognized the situation for what it was, quickly responded to the missile system alert status and was able to

3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

4. The Italians drink a lot of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans..

5. The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

#### CONCLUSION:

Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.



~When people say you look "Great"... they add "for your age!"

~When you needed the discount you paid full price. Now you get discounts on everything ... movies, hotels, flights, but you're too tired to use them.

~You forget names ... but it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!!!

~The 5 pounds you wanted to lose is now 15 and you have a better chance of losing your keys than the 15 pounds.

~You realize you're never going to be really good at anything .... especially golf.

~Your spouse is counting on you to remember things you don't remember.

~The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore..

~Your spouse sleeps better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than he does in bed. It's called his "pre-sleep".

~You used to say, "I hope my kids GET married ... Now, "I hope they STAY married!"

~You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch..

~When GOOGLE, ipod, email, modem ... were unheard of, and a mouse was something that made you climb on a table.

~You used to use more 4 letter words ... "what?"..."when?" ???

~Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.

~You read 100 pages into a book before you realize you've already read it.

~Notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless"?!!!

~What used to be freckles are now liver spots.

~Everybody whispers.

~You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet .... 2 of which you will never wear.

override the automated defence system before the missile was launched to destroy the hostile radar position on the side of Hwy 77 So. of Kingsville ...

The pilot suggests you cover your mouths when cussing at them, since the video systems on these jets are very high tech.

Sergeant Johnson, the officer holding the radar gun, should get his dentist to check his left rear molar. It appears the filling is loose.. Also, the snap is broken on his holster.'

Semper Fi

---

~ ~ ~But old is good in some things:  
old songs, old movies  
and best of all OLD FRIENDS!!

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