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Welcome to this weeks edition of The Waxhaw Gazette! If you own a business and have any news worthy happenings planned or know of someone new coming in, send me a press release and I will be happy to include it. Contact me directly with comments or suggestions at: jtiley@thewaxhawgazette.com

Atlantis:

Preparing for Friday's spacewalk, slated to begin at 8:35 a.m. Mission Specialists Rex Walheim and Stanley Love will spend tonight in the station's Quest airlock. This "camp out" is to purge the nitrogen from their bodies before they exit the station.

On this third and final STS-122 excursion, Walheim and Love will install two payloads on Columbus' exterior: SOLAR, an observatory to monitor the sun; and the European Technology Exposure Facility that will carry nine experiments requiring exposure to the space environment. For updated info go to:

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/main/index.html

Served... By the Drink?

Recently I had a comment about this subject (*see opinions*), then Indian Trail got into the news with a confrontation about it and now I see that Waxhaw has once again gotten into the fray. Perhaps it is because I grew up in a different



part of the country, but I just don't understand the liquor laws here. In fact I miss the way things were done back in Ohio. Now I'm sure I'll get a bit of flack on that but, things were a lot more logical there! How is it OK to go to a restaurant and be able to buy all of the wine you can drink (*in fact they generally promote buying it by the bottle!*) but not beer or liquor? ...or at least beer? Especially in a town where you can buy those drinks any time you want at the grocery or ABC store, day or night?

Could it be because of religious beliefs? Mmmm, I find it hard to believe any religion would say it's OK to drink anywhere but at a commercial establishment, which is essentially what we're saying. Is it preferable for

(*continued*)

people to go to a friend's home, get good and tanked up, then get in their cars and go out for dinner or a show?

That is what I see happening here.

At least in a restaurant or bar, the server is tasked with watching to make sure the patron doesn't drink too much, and if they do, supervise a taxi or other means of getting them home, or call the police if they become too belligerent. Also the bar is most likely the end of the entertainment run for the evening keeping drunk drivers if not completely off the road, minimizing how much they are? I wish there was a way to prevent drunk driving. And no, we already know that prohibition doesn't work either!

I have heard the arguments about the kind of business a bar might attract, but again, that argument loses steam when you consider that it is up to the town to regulate what business gets a license ...and what business loses that license if they don't keep their act clean. That makes it far easier to control a business that sells liquor than any other type of business.

In my humble opinion, the wine only thing, well its just plain silly. All that is happening is people are incised at the silliness of that. If you are going to sell whisky, wine and beer at the local ABC store, and let a select few establishments sell alcoholic beverages, then you shouldn't be restrictive to the type of beverage they sell! Control who and where and when by virtue of the licensing and enforcement of that licensing and you will control the effects

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How Goes The Gazette?

This being the 12th Issue publishing today, The Waxhaw Gazette has now been in business for one full quarter. How time flies! A lot has certainly happened during these weeks. I have met an unbelievable number of people, resolved untold numbers of issues that have arose and now can say we are truly experiencing the growth and respect of our readers that I had hoped for. And the numbers bear it out. Our readership has grown geometrically. And I have to thank all of you for your support and willingness to pass along the knowledge of our existence to your friends and neighbors.

The current census has the population of Waxhaw at approximately 7000 people. Knowing that maybe only 80% of those people have internet service, our target audience is a total of 5600 people. The original e-mail list I started out with was at just under 100 people. Based on the number of "hits" on the publication so far this month, we are well on our way of reaching 10,000 hits by the end of the February, which means 2500 repeat hits each week. Of course there are a lot more people in the surrounding areas still to be accounted for, but the reach that we are achieving is a great success! One that I have to attribute to the people of Waxhaw who are instrumental in making the Gazette a success!

An unexpected bit of information that has shown up in the site stats are the foreign visitors who have been here. Not large in numbers but surprising in the reach the site is achieving, people as far away as Canada, Germany and even Hong Kong have visited the site! (*Foreign visits show up in a different reporting location in the data reports I receive from the hosting company.*)

The Numbers Tell the Tale!

Totals for the past three months as reported in hits:

December, 2007: 2,961
January, 2008: 6,639
February 15th, 2008 as of 8 A.M. today: 6,967

And the Valentine Video I e-mailed out 2 days ago: 2,368 hits alone as of 8 am today!

Talk about a happy Valentines' Day

John Tiley, Editor, The Waxhaw Gazette

In local happenings:

I understand that on Tuesday we had yet another bomb scare at Parkwood High School. That is two in two weeks! I am of the understanding that this is yet another hoax perpetrated by an unhappy student who more than likley didn't study for a test scheduled for that day? Anybody from Parkwood care to comment?

***Let's "Keep Waxhaw Alive" folks
by supporting our local merchants!***



I encourage all of you to pass our link along to your Waxhaw friends and relatives so they too can enjoy our paper. Remember we will be publishing every Friday with updates as they come out. I continue the process of building out our e-mail list which I will use to send out as an announcement at time of publishing so if your not already on our list and wish to become a subscriber, please drop me a line with your request.

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on the community but in a fair and far more responsible, mature manor.

Back in Ohio, almost every neighborhood had a local bar. Usually a small place out of the way but everybody knew it was there. After diner most nights quite a few of the residents would stop in for a beer or glass of wine and to meet and mingle with friends and neighbors. It was loosely

built on the English Pub type of atmosphere that promoted camaraderie and a neighborhood integrity. If you wanted to talk to "Charley" about the new building going up on the corner of Main, well if he wasn't there now, he probably would be by later tonight or tomorrow at the latest. If somebody did have a few too many, one of us would make sure they got home Ok. We all kind of looked out for each other. Perhaps if we had more neighborhood bars here, today, we would have better neighborhoods too?

Stories in the works:

In upcoming issues you can look forward to the continuation of many of the story lines I have started here. They will include continued reporting on the development along Route 16 and other areas in the immediate region. An increasing presence in the Town Hall matters to bring you more information on issues as diverse as zoning for the incoming development to covering our Police and Fire Departments to stories such as Liquor by the Drink. Currently I am working on a feature story detailing the power infrastructure and the impact meeting our growing needs will have on finances and our landscape aesthetics.

Let's "Keep Waxhaw Alive" folks by supporting our local merchants!

And of course, whenever I hear of breaking news I will follow up on that too, so please continue to let me know when you see or hear about something you think we should be reporting on.



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From the Mayors' Desk:

Dear Friends,

I will be at Cafe Fino (downtown Waxhaw, next to Rippingtons) Friday afternoon, 4-6, and at Crossroads Coffee House on Saturday morning, 8-10, if you would like to stop by and look over the agenda packet.

Also, anyone interested in serving on the steering committee for our Comprehensive Plan, please contact myself or Town Hall (704-843-2195) right away as the Board may well appoint members to that committee at Tuesday's meeting.

Best,
 Daune Gardner
 Mayor of Waxhaw
 PO Box 6
 Waxhaw, NC 28173
 704-843-2195
 mayor@waxhaw.com
 Website: www.waxhaw.com

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Video Links

There has been much said about the differences between men and women but few have been able to say it this well

A Tale of Two Brains!

*Click Here.
(turn up your volume.)*

.....and in keeping with the topic:

"Never Argue With A Woman"

One morning, the husband returns the boat to their lakeside cottage after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap. Although not familiar with the lake, the wife decides to take the boat out.

She motors out a short distance, anchors, puts her feet up, and begins to read her book.

The peace and solitude are magnificent. Along comes a Fish and Game Warden in his boat. He pulls up alongside the woman and says, "Good morning, Ma'am. What are you doing?"

"Reading a book," she replies, (thinking, "Isn't that obvious?").

"You're in a Restricted Fishing Area," he informs her.

"I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fishing. I'm reading."

"Yes, but I see you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up."

"If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault," says the woman.

"But I haven't even touched you," says the Game Warden.

"That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment."

"Have a nice day ma'am," and he left.

MORAL: Never argue with a woman who reads. It's likely she can also think

Dogs vs Cats

Excerpts from a Dog's Daily Diary:

- 8:00 am - Dog food! My favorite thing!
- 9:30 am - A car ride! My favorite thing!
- 9:40 am - A walk in the park! My favorite thing!
- 10:30 am - Got rubbed and petted! My favorite thing!
- 12:00 pm - Lunch! My favorite thing!
- 1:00 pm - Played in the yard! My favorite thing!
- 3:00 pm - Wagged my tail! My favorite thing!
- 5:00 pm - Milk bones! My favorite thing!
- 7:00 pm - Got to play ball! My favorite thing!
- 8:00 pm - Wow! Watched TV with the people! My favorite thing!
- 11:00 pm - Sleeping on the bed! My favorite thing!
- 11:15 pm - What a great day!

Excerpts from a Cat's Daily Diary:

Day 683 of my captivity:
My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat while the other inmates and I are fed hash or some sort of dry nuggets. Although I make my contempt for the rations perfectly clear, I nevertheless must eat something in order to keep up my strength.

The only thing that keeps me going is my dream of escape. In an attempt to disgust them, I once again vomit on the floor.

Today I decapitated a mouse and dropped its headless body at their feet. I had hoped this would strike fear into their hearts, since it clearly demonstrates what I am capable of. However, they merely made condescending comments about what a "good little hunter" I am. The audacity!

Today I was almost successful in an attempt to assassinate one of my tormentors by weaving around his feet as he was walking. I must try this again tomorrow - but at the top of the stairs.

I am convinced that the other prisoners here are flunkies and snitches. The dog receives special privileges. He is regularly released from his captivity - and seems to be more than willing to return. He is obviously retarded!

I feel the bird is an informant. I observe him communicating with the guards regularly, and I am certain that he reports my every move. My captors have arranged protective custody for him in an elevated cell, so he is safe ... for now.

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Welcome to Waxhaw's Very Own Advice Column. "Ask Amber"

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Dear Amber,

I recently moved into a great home in a rural area and I just love the peace and quiet. However, I have noticed that my mail carrier does not take the time to properly close my mailbox when she delivers the mail. This leaves my mail gapping open and my mail accessible to anyone who passes by. I lived in a large city before and this was never happened since leaving a mailbox open was almost an invitation to steal mail. If the mailbox was in bad shape, i.e. couldn't hold the mail, the mail carrier could refuse to deliver the mail until it was corrected. I left a note for my mail carrier recently asking her to please be sure to close the mailbox, but everyday I come home to find the door open. The mailbox is new and closes without a problem after I get my mail. What can I do? I don't want to file a complaint about this mail carrier and have her get mad at me but I want to make sure my mail is safe.

Desiring Closure

Dear Desiring,

Welcome to the rural life! I doubt that your mail carrier is intentionally leaving your mailbox open - she is probably working hard trying to get all the mail delivered before the end of the day. I suggest that you speak with her directly. Since you work maybe approach her of a Saturday. Explain that you are from the city where mail theft is a concern and you are worried about the safety of your mail. In the meantime make sure that the mailbox is in good condition and that the door can close completely from inside a vehicle. Sometimes you need to try to work things from different perspectives.

Amber

Send your relationship questions to: ambermaxwell@thewaxhawgazette.com

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