

The Waxhaw Gazette

Serving the people of Waxhaw, North Carolina

Sixtieth ~ Ninth Edition

Published, On-Line, Every Week on Friday

March 20th, 2009

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Spring Arrives at Long Last!

by John Tiley



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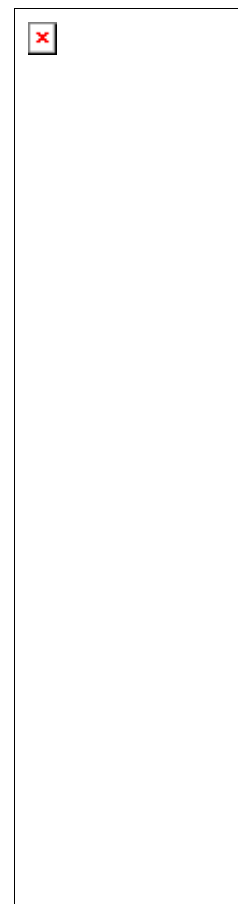


Signs of Spring



The Waxhaw Farmers Market will open for the 2009 season on April 4th.

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It has been a long cold Winter indeed. And not just in the weather sense. For months and months, all I have had to report on seems to be bad news, mostly about the economy of course. Business has been bad, more and more we hear about the bankers and Wall Street types getting busted for their greedy profit taking (congratulations to Congress for taking the hard stand on those bonuses by the way!). And to make matters worse, my yard is once again over run with weeds! I wonder if my lawn mower will start or if I'll have to spend a day or two coaxing it back into life? Either way I look forward to the smell of freshly cut grass and a cold beer at the end of the days yard work.

That would be tomorrow if the rain stays away.

I must admit that as I walk around the neighborhood, it is pleasurable to see all of the trees budding back into life. It is times like this that the simpler things seem truly most important. Life returns anew regardless of what came upon us through the winter. As the days grow longer and people are out and about in the evenings no matter what the days bring, life goes on. Even today's kids will always elect to play outside when the weather is this nice, especially after the long cold winter we all have endured cooped up inside. So take the time, get out in the yard or at least take a walk around the neighborhood and renew your spirits in the warm glow of nature. That is something that can't be stolen from us by anybody, all you have to do is get out and enjoy it!

~ ~ ~ ~

Marking transition from winter into summer, the "definition of spring"

According to the astronomical definition, spring begins on the Vernal Equinox (usually March 20 in the Northern Hemisphere, and September 22 in the Southern Hemisphere), and lasts until the summer solstice (usually June 21 in the Northern Hemisphere and December 21 in the Southern Hemisphere). According to this definition, therefore, the day called Midsummer's Day in some traditions is the first day of Summer. Meteorologists generally define the beginning of spring as March 21 in the Northern Hemisphere and September 21 in the Southern Hemisphere. According to the Celtic tradition, which is based solely on daylight and the strength of the noon sun, spring begins in early February (near Imbolc or Candlemas) and continues until early May. Unlike the other three seasons, people in relatively cool climates are likely to use the astronomical definition for the beginning of spring in popular jargon but retain the meteorological definition for the other three seasonal turning points.

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



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ICE agents raid homes in Waxhaw.

March 18, 2009 04:22 PM
Waxhaw ICE raid
Agents raid homes in Union County

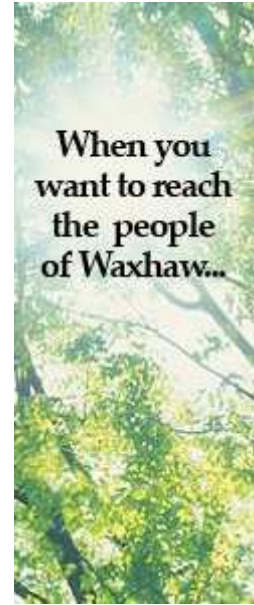
UNION COUNTY, NC - Immigration and customs agents raided two homes in Union County Wednesday morning.

Agents came out of the houses with boxes of computer hardware. Sources at the scene report the items confiscated are counterfeit.

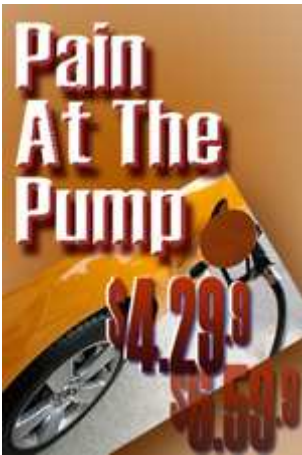
Neighbors said they would see UPS and FEDEX trucks come to the homes 3 to 4 times a day.

A spokesperson for ICE said the raid was part of an ongoing investigation but they would not comment further.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), an agency of the Department of Homeland Security, protects national security and upholds public safety by targeting criminal networks and terrorist organizations that seek to exploit vulnerabilities in our immigration system, in our financial networks, along our border, at federal facilities and elsewhere in order to do harm to the United States. The end result is a safer, more secure America.



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Prices for gas in the Waxhaw area... Where are they headed this week?

	3/20/08	3/20/09
Texaco:	\$3.19.9	\$1.89.9
Pure:	\$3.24.9	\$1.89.9
Little General:	\$3.24.9	\$1.89.9
Shell:	\$3.24.9	\$1.89.9
Wax. In n Out:	\$3.26.9	\$1.89.9
Mineral Springs:		
M. S. Grocery	\$3.20.9	\$1.89.9
Texaco:	\$3.21.9	\$1.89.9
BP on New Town	\$3.21.9	\$1.89.9

Editors Note: Usually I personally check the prices posted for the above companies. However, occasionally when time is short I call the stations on the phone to check for current prices. If no pricing is offered the above reflects the last visually confirmed pricing.

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Waxhaw's Events Calendar

On Monday, May 11, 2009 Union County Habitat will be hosting its 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament at the beautiful Rolling Hills Country Club in Monroe. All proceeds from the golf tournament will be used to build Habitat homes for families in our local community. Lunch and dinner will be served, along with a live auction and awards banquet immediately following. Please contact Julie Perkins, Development Director at 704-296-9414 or jperkins@unionhabitat.org for participant, sponsorship and additional opportunities.

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**2009
Waxhaw
Spring Fest**
*2 day family
craft & fun
festival*

The exhibitor ([click here](#)) and concessionaire ([click here](#)) applications for Spring Fest 2009 are now available on-line.

NEW: If your organization is a non-profit, you have an opportunity this year to waive your exhibitor and/or concession fee. You can do this by providing two adult volunteers to assist the event staff during Spring Fest. Interested? Contact Cathy Murphy at 704-843-2195 ext 26.

NEW: Non-profits, would you like to help raise funds for your organization at Spring Fest? Why not sponsor an activity in the Children's area. Once your organization has covered the rental fee-the balance can go back to your group.

Interested? Call Cathy at the number above or e-mail her at: events@waxhaw.com

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In Your Opinion

Do you have something to say, we want to hear it.....

The Union County Saddle Club...

is a non-profit organization run solely by volunteers. In order to offer our monthly Open Horse Shows with low class fees, we ask for volunteers to fill different positions necessary to run the show.

As we have done in the past, we will continue to offer reduced show fees to volunteers who work at the shows. This year, with the new class sheet, we are splitting the positions into two shifts to run concurrently with the different divisions.

We still have several classes open for sponsorship. We are excited to announce that in addition to having your information posted on our website, class and banner sponsors will be able to supply brochures, business cards, and flyers to be displayed in our new "Sponsors Information Rack" inside the clubhouse. This display rack will be prominently placed in the clubhouse to maximize your exposure to our exhibitors and other members. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please check our website for the appropriate forms or contact Dan Kaplan (contact information listed above) for further information.

Lastly, we have also purchased and will be installing a "Community Board" where members can place flyers on items for sale, services available, etc. This board will be clearly labeled and we would greatly appreciate your cooperation in limiting the placement of any ads to this board only. Our resident 4-H group will be responsible for cleaning and maintaining the clubhouse during the show season, and your cooperation will make their jobs easier!

As we get closer to the first show, we will be sending out new entry procedures to the grounds and other rules that everyone needs to be aware of prior to arriving at the show grounds – please be on the lookout for this email, and feel free to contact any member of the Saddle Club if you have further questions!

Miranda Kaplan

Reporter - Union County Saddle Club

www.unioncountysaddleclub.net

Contact either Dan Kaplan, President (dan@surfacespecialists.com or 704-309-0943) or Liz Patten, Show Committee Chairperson(eapatten@herffjones.com)

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to find out
everything
that's going on...

The Waxhaw Gazette welcomes your letters. and opinions wether we agree or not. Please include your name, address and a point of contact where we can reach you. We only alter your letters for grammatical and spelling issues and will, as long as they are written in good taste and are relevant, publish all letters sent.

Thank You,
The Management

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**"Always do right -
This will gratify
some people and
astonish the rest."
--Mark Twain**

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!

Mass Migration of Stingrays in Gulf of Mexico



CONTROL PANEL

Looking like giant leaves floating in the sea; thousands of Golden Rays are seen here gathering off the coast of Mexico. The spectacular scene was captured as the magnificent creatures made one of their biannual mass migrations to more agreeable waters.??

Gliding silently beneath the waves, they turned vast areas of blue water to gold off the northern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula. Sandra Critelli, an amateur photographer, stumbled across the phenomenon while looking for whale sharks.

"It was an unreal image, very difficult to describe. The surface of the water was covered by warm and different shades of gold and looked like a bed of autumn leaves gently moved by the wind. It's hard to say exactly how many there were, but in the range of a few thousand" She said; "We were surrounded by them without seeing the edge of the school and we could see many under the water surface too. I feel very fortunate I was there in the right place at the right time to experience nature at its best"

Measuring up to 7ft (2.1 meters) from wing-tip to wing-tip, Golden rays are also more prosaically known as cow nose rays. They have long, pointed pectoral fins that separate into two lobes in front of their high-domed heads and give them a cow-like appearance. Despite having poisonous stingers, they are known to be shy and non-threatening when in large schools. The population in the Gulf of Mexico migrates in schools of as many as 10,000, clockwise from western Florida to the Yucatan.

A social worker

from a big City in Massachusetts recently transferred to the Mountains of North Carolina and Georgia and was on the first tour of her new territory when she came upon the tiniest cabin she had ever seen in her life. Intrigued, she went up and knocked on the door. 'Anybody home?' she asked. 'Yep,' came a kid's voice through the door. 'Is your father there?' asked the social worker. 'Pa? Nope, he left afore Ma came in,' said the kid. 'Well, is your mother there?' persisted the social worker. 'Ma? Nope, she left just afore I got here,' said the kid. 'But,' protested the social worker, 'are you never together as a family?' 'Sure, but not here,' said the kid through the door, 'this is our outhouse!'

Government workers, they walk among us!

The Welfare Check

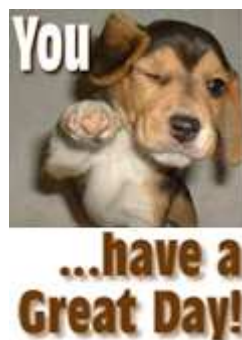
A guy walked into the local welfare office to pick up his check. He marched straight up to the counter and said, 'Hi. You know, I just HATE drawing welfare. I'd really rather have a job.'

The social worker behind the counter said, 'Your timing is excellent. We just got a job opening from a very wealthy old man who wants a chauffeur and bodyguard for his beautiful daughter. You'll have to drive around in his Mercedes, and he'll supply all of your clothes. Because of the long hours, meals will be provided. You'll be expected to escort the daughter on her overseas holiday trips and you will have to satisfy her sexual urges. You'll be provided a two-bedroom apartment above the garage. The salary is \$200,000 a year.'

The guy, wide-eyed, said, 'You're B.S'in me!'

The social worker said, 'Yeah, well . . . you started it.'

Dear Employees,



Due to the current financial situation caused by the slowdown in the economy, Management has decided to implement a scheme to put workers of 40 years of age and above on early retirement. This scheme will be known as RAPE (Retire Aged People Early).

Persons selected to be RAPED can apply to management to be considered for the SHAFT scheme (Special Help After Forced Termination).

Persons who have been RAPED and SHAFTEED will be reviewed under the SCREW program (Scheme Covering Retired-Early Workers).

A person may be RAPED once, SHAFTEED twice and SCREWED as many times as Management deems appropriate. Persons who have been RAPED could get AIDS (Additional Income for Dependents & Spouse) or HERPES (Half Earnings for Retired Personnel Early Severance).

Obviously persons who have AIDS or HERPES will not be SHAFTEED or SCREWED any further by Management.

Persons who are not RAPED and are staying on will receive as much SHIT (Special High Intensity Training) as possible.

Management has always prided itself on the amount of SHIT it gives employees. Should you feel that you do not receive enough SHIT, please bring this to the attention of your Supervisor, who has been trained to give you all the SHIT you can handle.

Sincerely,

Management

P.S. Due to recent budget cuts and the rising cost of electricity, gas and oil, as well as current market conditions, the Light at the End of the Tunnel has been turned off.

STATE FARM
INSURANCE

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e-mail: gary.l.cooper.icg9@statefarm.com

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