

The Waxhaw Gazette

A CSgN Publication serving the people of Waxhaw, North Carolina

Forty~Second Edition

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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

Gas Stations already gouging over \$4 a gallon!

Blaming it on Ike, gas stations are running the prices up like crazy and others are already out of Regular. People are making a run on the gas stations with extra cans galore, hoping to get a little more before things get really nuts. That is if they can get any nuttier?

September Eleventh

A Day Never To Be Forgotten!

by John Tiley

How very appropriate that I am writing this on September 11th, 2008 ...our generations "Day of Infamy". It is hard to believe that seven years have passed since we were attacked. A moment few of us will ever forget and all of us will remember where we were when we heard the news. I was taking my son, who was in middle school at the time, to the school when it came over the radio. Once we arrived at the school we both went in and I went to the office where, along with staff, we listened with disbelief at what was going on. Later in the day I recall not being able to believe what I was seeing on television as the buildings burned and eventually collapsed. All the time knowing that there were people trapped in those buildings?



I think of all of the things that have transpired in the ensuing years and how it has affected our lives, from airport security to two wars fought at the cost of many lives on both sides with little to call closure from it all. Not to mention what it has done to the economy and the National Debt.

As we stand at the beginning of a new Presidency I wonder what we will be thinking seven years from now... Will we be out of Iraq or even the Mid East? Will we have ever managed to catch those responsible for the 9/11 acts of terrorism? Bin Laden and his whole crew, or will they still be "at large"?

Most importantly I hope that all Americans will still remember, with sadness in their hearts, the blatant acts of cowardly barbarism committed on our soil, on our citizens... because if we forget, then we are doomed to repeat the past yet again.

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One Soldiers Tale of 9/11

by John Tiley

hn Tiley

This is a story of one mans experience, a young man who avoided the siren song of the recruiters while in school and graduated to follow up on the American Dream of securing a good job and learning the ways of the world. For over two years before 9/11 happened anyway, when his sense of patriotism and love of country let him to enlist in the Army with full intentions of doing all he could to help hunt down the cowardly bastards that attacked us our in our homeland! Sam is one of us, a local kid that grew up here and is your typical Union County High School Graduate.



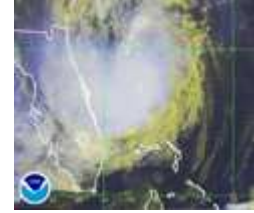
At the Recruiters:

that, with accrual of earned points, lead to

he was told that he would learn the intricacies of the Army's "structure" as he went. And learn he did. First of all, sign up bonuses are only a small part of getting you into the service. Once in, to get ahead, a point system exists

News Around Town:

Hanna & Ike missed us! How about the next one?



...are you prepared?

See the Red Cross Preparedness Article

~ ~ ~ ~

Better fill your tanks, Ike threatens Texas oil companies and they already have plans to raise the price!

From the Mayor:
Take a stroll down "Memory Lane"

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Sam headed to his local recruiters office and went through what all perspective recruits go through; the testing, the “physical” and of course the sell job. He was told what they thought he would be good career path would be based on test results and that he could chose from them what he thought would be a good path for him. However when he thought to ask for more in depth information on these careers (something living in the real world for a while had taught him),

advancement and with that pay and of course a better job. Also, and more importantly, that certain career paths yield far more points than, say, an infantry man. Also if the Army promises to teach you a particular trade, communications or whatever, oh they will teach you.... but that doesn't mean that's what you get to do “for a living”. They keep their promise, but when all is said and done, you end up getting sent where they want you anyway.

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Another Loss To The Spiraling Economy



I live in a typical middle class neighborhood with kids on bicycles and motor scooters zooming up and down the street. We have a pretty diverse group of people living here, but, unfortunately, are losing one family in particular. Across the street is a thirty something couple who has a son and daughter and are living in a well kept bungalow with plenty of trees and roses that line the walkways. They are Hispanic and are here legally. The father Dave is a swarthy character, lean and mustachioed who could have, in another time and place, easily have been a Lieutenant in Santa Anna's Army. He has been running his own house painting business for years and has consistently kept two or three helpers on the payroll with his business centering on new construction and with his contacts established with other Hispanics as well as local developers.

I Well schooled in English, his children were born here and he and his family have, for the most part, prospered here in Union County, at least until recently. Business has gotten slow to the point of being non-existent. His helpers are gone and the future has grown dark for Dave and his family. In his determination to provide for his family he has managed to secure new employment, just not here. Not even in the United States. They have sold their house and are moving next week to Canada. Evidently it is easier to emigrate there where there is plenty of work for those who are willing, on a farm for him. All of us who have gotten to know them will miss them but know they are only doing what they must under the circumstances.

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One Soldiers Tale of 9/11

In the Service:

Sam has spent just about all of his time in Iraq and has seen the underbelly of Army life. Although he has never said he was treated with less than the respect he deserves the fact even that he was never given a better understanding of his full options, and could have easily taken a far better path "if only he had known better", I detected no real malice. After all the Army really hasn't changed much in all of the years it has been in existence, and SNAFU is a term that will always apply in one form or another. There are however, some very disturbing aspects he passed on that we all should have concerns over.

***The "Extended Tour"....** Typically a tour of duty has always been a one year commitment, usually with a second tour somewhere non-combatative for the typical three year recruit, at least that was the way of it the Vietnam "era"! Tours in Iraq are now averaging just short of two years for most troops with re-training and R&R back in the States before being re-deployed back to Iraq or now, perhaps Afghanistan again.

***The "Hold-Over"...** This applies to not allowing personnel to leave the service when they are supposed to. A four year commitment easily goes six or seven years now with no agreed time line in sight. They just keep you until they are done with you, or you are no longer of any use to them.

There is a Toll Being Paid:

Because the Army is not able to recruit adequate numbers to maintain a realistic time lines for individuals, this is taking a tremendous toll on the people who are in the service, the ones we are depending on to fight these wars. The mental stress and anguish that living in a war zone takes is extreme. Sam told me that clearly close to forty percent of the troops are suffering, many with problems at home. The divorce and separation rate is running at easily one third of the troops stationed overseas. Few if any want to become "Career Soldiers" anymore thus experience and leadership is weak at best. Nearly all of the NCOs are first timers with little or no management experience and they, like the troops, are leaving the service at the very first possible opportunity. The more they are "held over" the less they want to be there resulting in pretty sloppy management and virtually no real leadership at the company level.

Should you get wounded or injured, well if you're not easily "repaired" so you can be put back into service, we've already heard too much about how the troops that come home in need of help from the VA only get pushed aside and given sub standard help when they can get it.

What About the Iraqi's?

We have heard much about how things are going better and we will be able to "pull out soon". So I asked Sam about the state of affairs with the Iraqi people. Are we winning the "Hearts &

We give them food and money, subsidize jobs for them in re-construction, the police and army and they, knowing this is really just a hand out, have learned to readily accept them and are, for now at least, quite happy to be on the dole. They know when we leave and our money dries up things will go back to the way they were before we came there. Oh Saddam is gone, but somebody like him will emerge and things will end up being pretty much the same." They know that the Aristocracy will end up in power and that there will never be a way to change a barren wind swept desert into a lush green paradise that offers a decent way of life for all. Oil rules and Aristocrats will always be in charge leaving the bulk of the population poor and forgotten, trying to scratch out a living from the desert as they have for generations uncounted.

Sam, who is currently home on leave, is now coming up on seven years and counting. He has it through the grapevine that a new deployment is in the works but nobody is sure where to this time. Probably not Iraq as that is a pretty common destination and they would most likely know about it. Perhaps Afghanistan... or maybe Georgia or even Korea? Nobody knows for sure.

When I asked Sam if he would do it again if he could he answered without missing a beat saying "...absolutely, but, only as a contractor, not in the Army!" I asked him how, with one of the re-construction companies? And he said "...there is any number of ways to do it. That the Government, not being able to fully staff with recruits and the National Guard, had taken to hiring people to come over and do various jobs. In fact a guy he has gotten to know is the cashier at the PX. And he is making over \$60,000 per yr., tax free, plus room, board and transportation all provided. For a cashier! If you are a trucker or somebody with a trade or craft they need you can easily make upwards of \$100,000 although over that magic \$100,000 number they will tax you some."

That pretty much tells his tale, a Patriots tale, at least until he comes back with an epilogue. Seven years from now I wonder where Sam and the rest of our people will be? Hopefully out of the Iraq and perhaps if they are lucky, even the service.

In the meantime, I wonder if they need any Contract Editors over there.

~ ~ ~

Editors Note: *You will notice that there is no mention of actual combat in this article. Sam, like most veterans I know seldom, if ever, talk about the reality of war but, if you look, you can always see it in their eyes. All information in this story is factual and is as told to me by "Sam" however I have changed his name and been a bit vague about a few other things to hopefully*

When you want to reach the people of Waxhaw...

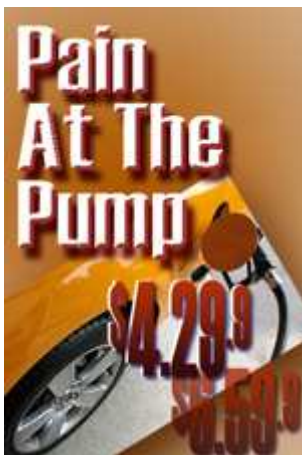

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Minds” or are we beating the bag guys into submission.... he smiled and said, “...well neither really. For the most part the Iraqis have learned how to play the “American” game.

distance him from any possible retribution from his superiors should they happen to read this column.



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One More Loss To The Spiraling Economy!



Area prices for gas in the Waxhaw area have been holding pretty steady even dipping lately. However it already has been publicised that prices are going to go through the roof again! This time because of Ike, even though it hasn't made landfall yet???

	3/20/08	9/12/08
Texaco:	\$3.19.9	\$3.63.9
Pure:	\$3.24.9	\$3.65.9
Little General:	\$3.24.9	\$3.65.9
Shell:	\$3.24.9	\$3.65.9
Wax. In n Out:	\$3.26.9	\$3.65.9
Mineral Springs:		
M. S. Grocery	\$3.20.9	\$3.65.9
Texaco:	\$3.21.9	\$3.65.9
BP on New Town	\$3.21.9	\$3.65.9

This all brings up questions as to how we Americans are treating some of the people who have come here as immigrants looking for a better life yet are being run off because of the real and imagined impact illegal aliens have on our society; Hispanics in particular. Certainly Illegal Aliens are a problem of course, but here I raise a question. Recently the Government has cracked down on the poultry business and successfully sent the illegals ' running. And now we have prisoners from the penitentiaries butchering the chickens and turkeys we are buying in the store because nobody else will work in those conditions or for that low of pay? How do you feel about prisoners cutting up your chicken? Just what kind of diseases are they bringing into the butcher house? And where did the people that had those jobs go to? Did they go back to Mexico or are they somewhere else in the States trying to find work?

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

I realize that illegal aliens are a major problem, but perhaps a little more thought is needed before we act to drive all of them out. Do we really want to chase them all away? Both the good and the bad, the legal and illegal?

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

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Waxhaw's Events Calander

Dear Friends,

Come out on Saturday for a stroll down "Memory Lane" with Commissioner Joyce Blythe and long-time Waxhaw resident Melvin Faris. A walking tour of historic downtown Waxhaw will start at 10:00 am at the Waxhaw United Methodist Church. The buildings are well worth seeing but the stories are the real attraction and these two have some of the most fun and outrageous stories that you would ever want to hear. And, to think, it all happened right here in Waxhaw...

Call Joyce at 704-843-2246 for more details.

Daune Gardner

Mayor of Waxhaw

PO Box 6

Waxhaw, NC 28173

704-843-2195 (Town Hall)

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And now, 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!

Sorry.

I can't respond to any emails today.

Something has crashed on my computer, and the mouse is missing. . .



These fit so well they should be in a dictionary.

- ADULT:**
A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.
 - BEAUTY PARLOR:**
A place where women curl up and dye.
 - CANNIBAL:**
Someone who is fed up with people.
 - CHICKENS:**
The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.
 - COMMITTEE:**
A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.
 - DUST:**
Mud with the juice squeezed out.
 - EGOTIST:**
Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.
 - HANDKERCHIEF:**
Cold Storage.
 - INFLATION:**
Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.
 - MOSQUITO:**
An insect that makes you like flies better.
 - RAISIN:**
Grape with a sunburn.
 - SECRET:**
Something you tell to one person at a time.
 - SKELETON:**
A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.
 - TOOTHACHE:**
The pain that drives you to extraction.
 - TOMORROW:**
One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.
 - YAWN:**
An honest opinion openly expressed.
- and MY Personal Favorite!!*
- WRINKLES:**
Something other people have, similar to my character lines

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