



FRIDAY
0% Chance of Precip
63/36 °F



SATURDAY
20% Chance of Precip
63/45 °F



SUNDAY
30% Chance of Precip
56/31 °F

C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



The unmistakable bark of loblolly pine (right) contrasts with the rough grey bark of the elm on the left.

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Winter tree watch

I hope some of you joined in on the Eno River Association New Year's Day Hike. That annual tradition began more than 40 years ago.

More recently, 20 years ago, the Blue Hill Reservation, a state park in Milton, Mass., initiated First Day hikes for the American State Parks system. This year for the first time, state parks in all 50 states sponsored First Day hikes. We can be proud that 27 of North Carolina's state parks joined the Eno River Association in conducting a New Year's Day hike.

Now don't stop with that "first hike." Resolve to take a walk at least once a week. If you need encouragement, make note that the Eno River Association has scheduled Sunday walks (enoriver.org) from now through spring.

I think the winter season is the best time to be outside, when the bareness and sparseness of nature reveals the essence and beauty of it all. There's so much to see and absorb in the winter landscape that it can be overwhelming. I enjoy focusing on the trees. Think of it as a winter tree watch.

Walk some distance into the forest and pause. Look all around; unless you're in a stand of evergreen pines, you may feel a slight panic, lost in a wilderness of grey monotony. Close your eyes and slowly open them to take a closer look all around.

Trees reveal all kinds of interesting traits when they are leafless. For this particular walk, just focus on bark, the protective skin of the trees. Some, like the pines, are easy to detect; we'll take time to distinguish between

SEE **FLORA** PAGE 8

Human Rights Center finds home

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

Things are looking up for the Chapel Hill and Carrboro Human Rights Center.

Following a decision last month by the Abbey Court Condominiums homeowners' association to force the HRC to leave the complex, the non-profit center has likely found a new home – one that the HRC plans to use

to offer expanded services, including a long-awaited day-laborer center.

Judith Blau, director of the HRC, said the center is under contract to purchase a house at 107 Barnes St., with closing expected very soon.

"It's a perfect location for us," she said, noting the house's proximity to the center's previous location, as well as to Carolina Apartments, where a number of Latino and Karen families live.

"Before, [Carolina Apartments residents] would have to go under a fence."

The center has been located in two Abbey Court apartments since 2009. Though the complex is zoned residential, the center received a home occupation permit from the town because someone lives in one of the two apartments. However, Abbey Court

SEE **HRC** PAGE 7

EMS workgroup seeks members

BY ROSE LAUDICINA
Staff Writer

Two seats are open on the Orange County Emergency Services Workgroup, and the county is looking to residents to fill them.

The workgroup was formed to allow major stakeholders such as fire and police chiefs to have input on what improvements and changes are made to the county's emergency services.

At its last meeting, on Dec. 13, the Orange County Board of Commissioners voted to add four seats to the workgroup, which had originally been proposed to consist of eight members.

Two of the seats added were immediately filled by Commissioner Earl McKee and county medical director Jane Brice. The additional vacant seats are to be filled by Orange County residents.

Residents selected will serve alongside two appointees from the fire chief's association, a municipal fire chief, an appointee from the South Orange Rescue Squad, two municipal police chiefs and the emergency services director.

"Everyone that is [presently] a part of the workgroup is involved in some type of emergency management services ... and general public safety in some capacity," Michael Talbert, assistant county manager, said. "The citizens can take an objective look at the issues and say, 'Hmmm, does this make sense or not?'"

While some commissioners were initially hesitant to allow residents to serve on the workgroup because of the potentially technical nature of discussions, McKee argued that their input as beneficiaries of the services was important.

"The citizens appointed will bring the perspective of a possible user standpoint as well as a taxpayer's standpoint," he said.

Commissioners also expressed interest in having the two resident representatives be from different parts of the county, perhaps one from a municipality and one from the rural areas. However, since the commissioners did not vote on this criterion, it's not clear if this will be a determining factor when selecting residents.

The workgroup will be looking into ways to improve emergency services in the county, including fixing the Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders system (VIPER), which has multiple dead spots throughout the county that can cause safety issues for firefighters and police responding to emergency calls.

Interested residents must submit an application to the county by Jan. 13. The application deadline was initially set for Jan. 4, but because of the holidays and a lack of applicants, the county decided to extend it.

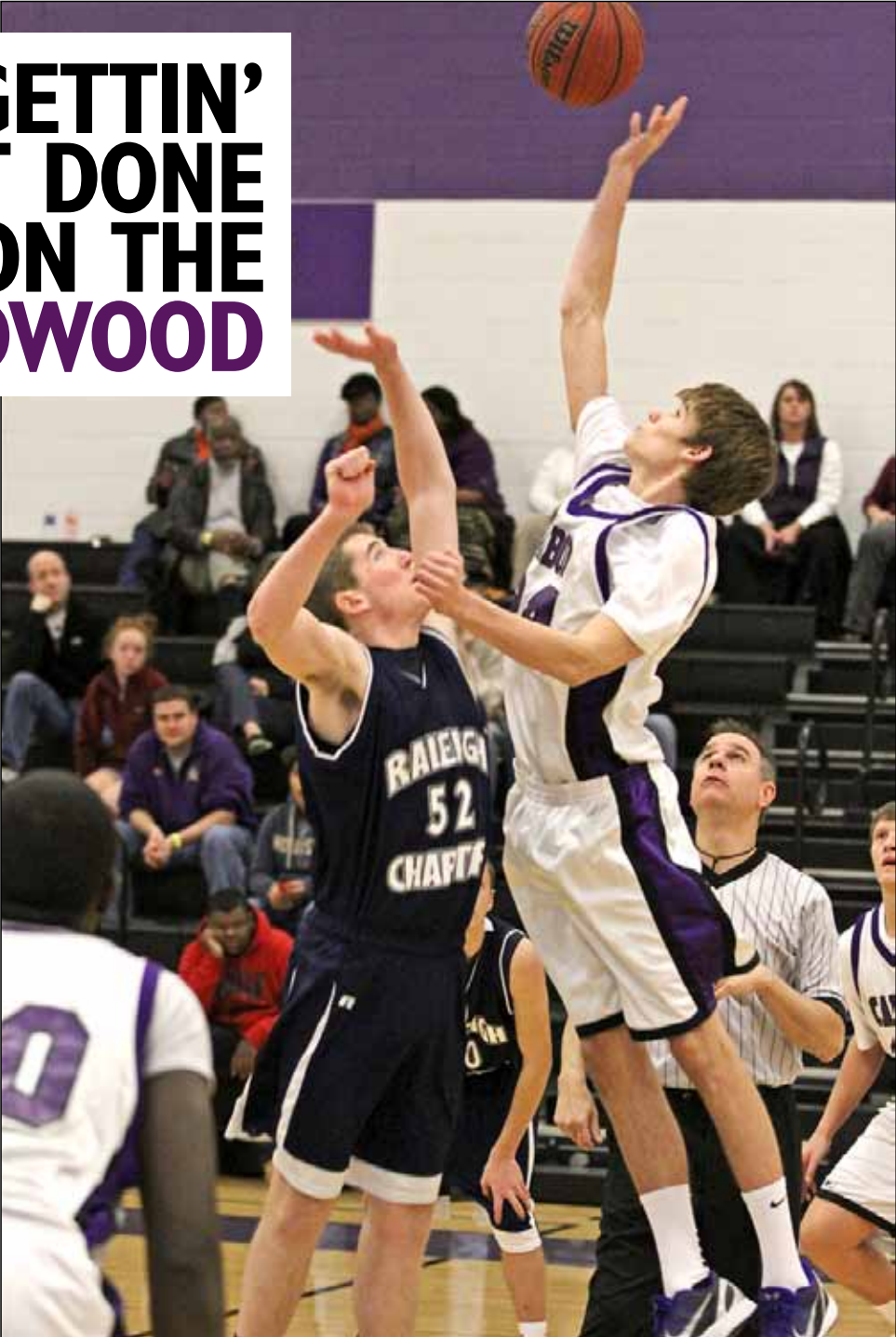
The two residents selected will be appointed at the commissioners' Jan.

SEE **EMS** PAGE 7

GETTIN' IT DONE ON THE HARDWOOD

Carrboro High School's Keenan Van Name controls the tip-off in a game against Raleigh Charter High School in which the Jaguars dominated on both offense and defense. The Jaguars continue to demonstrate that they're a force to be reckoned with in Carolina 12 Conference basketball. See page 2 for more on Tuesday night's game.

PHOTO BY TED SPAULDING



Pets to take home at a bargain price

BY ROSE LAUDICINA
Staff Writer

Everybody likes a good deal, especially in this economy – and while most holiday sales are over, the Orange County Animal Shelter's still has a couple of days left.

Although most shoppers wouldn't think to look to the animal shelter for a discount, during the Home for the Holidays event animal lovers in search of a new four-legged best friend can adopt cats and dogs for about half the usual cost.

The normal adoption fee for cats is \$95, while for dogs it's \$115. During Home for the Holidays, cats can be taken home for \$50 and dogs for \$60.

"The fee discount is great," animal

shelter manager Jess Allison said.

"It costs a lot to process each animal, so this is certainly a deal," she added, explaining that when any animal comes through their doors they pay to spay or neuter it, deworm it and check it for any health concerns or diseases, treating any found.

The shelter has been hosting the holiday event since 2005, striving to get word out about the large number of pets at the shelter that would like to get the gift of a family for the holidays. But this is the first year it's been able to offer discounts. With a recent decision by the Orange County Board of Commissioners, the shelter is now allowed to offer fee reductions on certain animals during special events and occasions throughout the year.

Allison said that while the phrasing of the promotion says "select" animals, the majority of animals at the shelter are available for a reduced price. The only animals not included are young kittens and puppies, as they are typically easy to find homes for.

"It's mostly adult dogs and cats," Allison said. "We wait till they've been here for a week or two" before adding them to the adoption list.

Since the program started on Dec. 1, the shelter has seen 112 total adoptions for the month of December. Allison said she believes the reduced fees have led to an increase in adoptions.

"It is a deal for folks, and they get excited about it, and we do too," she said.

SEE **HOLIDAY PETS** PAGE 7

Chapel of the Cross maps major renovation

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Town Council could make a decision on a major expansion for The Chapel of the Cross on Monday, possibly opening the door for one of the largest renovations in the church's more than 160-year history.

As planned, the expansion would add 29,500 square feet, doubling the space available for community outreach, education and fellowship. In addition, the project would include a 33 percent increase in the Episcopal Campus Ministry space and a new terrace and entrance facing the arboretum on the UNC campus.

The property's main church building and chapel – which was built in

SEE **CHAPEL** PAGE 7



A rendering of the project

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE CHAPEL OF THE CROSS

INSIDE

Deer feeding reactions

See page 3

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MUSIC CALENDAR



UNDERWATER RAVE FEATURING DJ ROB BANK\$ Friday January 6 Cats Cradle

THURSDAY JAN 5
The Cave: LATE: J Kutchma and the 5th's
General Store Cafe: Jazzbeau. 7pm
Linda's Bar and Grill: Robert Griffin. 8:30pm
FRIDAY JAN 6
Cats Cradle: The Underwater Rave, featuring DJ Rob Bank\$

The Cave: EARLY: Seth Coluzzi LATE: Appalccia, 2013 Wolves, Paint Fumes
General Store Cafe: Jay Brown. Mayor Randy Voller's Jam. 8pm
Local 506: Magnolia Collective, Birds and Arrows, Tripp, Big Fat Gap, Mary Johnson Rockers and the Spark. 9pm. \$8
Southern Rail: Alex Bowers and Friends. 7:30pm

SATURDAY JAN 7
ArtsCenter: South W'ing Band. 8:30pm
Cats Cradle: ECHHS Battle of the Bands. 7:30pm. \$5
The Cave: EARLY: Bad Dog Blues Band. \$5 LATE: Stella Lively
General Store Cafe: The String Peddlers. 7:30pm
Southern Rail: Windy City Slim

and the Sunny Land Rhythm Kings. 6pm

SUNDAY JAN 8
The Cave: EARLY: Alex Bowers
TUESDAY JAN 10
Southern Rail: Honeychile. 10pm

WEDNESDAY JAN 11
The Cave: LATE: Blackwood and Wormy's Open Jam for the Peeps
Memorial Hall: Brooklyn Rider and The Knights. 7:30pm
Southern Rail: Bibis Ellison and the Good Doc

THURSDAY JAN 12
Cats Cradle: The Menzingers. 8pm. \$8/10
The Cave: LATE: Megan and Jean and the KFB. \$5
Century Center: Bradshaw Quartet. 12pm Free
Linda's Bar and Grill: Robert Griffin. 8:30pm
Local 506: Menzingers, Almost People. 8pm. \$8/10
Southern Rail: Brad Maiani Trio, Sinful Savage Tigers

FRIDAY JAN 13
Cats Cradle: Abbey Road LIVE! 9pm. \$12/15
The Cave: LATE: The Usuals
General Store Cafe: The Free States. 7:30pm
Local 506: Some Army, Fan Mo-dine, Prypyat. 9:30pm. \$8
Southern Rail: Alex Bowers and Friends

SAT JAN 14
Cats Cradle: Abbey Road LIVE 1pm. \$10/7. Mipso Trio, Overmountain Men, Jim Avett. 8:30pm. \$8/10
The Cave: LATE: Climb Jacobs Ladder
General Store Cafe: Tommy Edwards and Friends, The Red Threads. 7:30pm
Local 506: Red Collar, Spiderbags, Rat Jackson. 9:30pm. \$8
Nightlight: Crowmeat Bob and TJ Maiani, Thollem McDonas. 9:30pm. \$5
Open Eye: Laura Thurston. 8pm

SPOTLIGHT: ELVISFEST



"The band was jumpin' and the joint began to swing," sang Elvis Presley in his 1957 hit "Jailhouse Rock." Those lyrics will certainly ring true for the 14th annual Elvisfest, where the 20 scheduled bands are sure to make the crowded joint swing.
Held every year around Presley's birthday (Jan. 8, 1935), Elvisfest allows Presley revelers to remember The King's musical legacy. This year's festivities are no exception, as the bands on schedule – with musical styles ranging from rockabilly to rock and roll – will perform Presley hits, along with some of their own songs, from 7 p.m. to midnight each night.
Elvisfest will be held at the University Inn at 1301 North Fordham Blvd. Tickets are \$12, with a portion of the proceeds going to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. This two-night show is a 21-and-up affair. For a complete schedule of performances, visit elvisfest.loserville.net/sched.php

JAGS ROLL

Carrboro High School's Peter Rathmell takes it to the hoop against Raleigh Charter High. The Jaguars had an easy time of it in Tuesday night's 78-26 victory. Carrboro came out in a stifling full-court press in dominating its Carolina 12 Conference opponent. PHOTO BY TED SPAULDING



MOVIE LISTINGS

We suggest you call for exact show times. All listings start Friday.

CAROLINA THEATRE OF DURHAM
309 W. Morgan St., 560-3030
The Descendants; The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo; Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy

CHELSEA THEATER
Timberlyne, 1129 Weaver Dairy Road, 968-3005
My Week with Marilyn; The Descendants; Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy

THE LUMINA
Southern Village, 932-9000
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-wrecked; Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol; Sherlock Homes: A Game of Shadows; The Adventures of Tintin; The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

REGAL TIMBERLYNE 6
120 Banks Drive, 933-8600
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-wrecked; Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol; The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo; Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows; War Horse; We Bought a Zoo

THE VARSITY
123 E. Franklin St., 967-8665
Moneyball; The Ides of March; Tower Heist

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TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY
Nightly 7:10 & 9:30
Sat & Sun Mats 1:30 & 4:15

THE DESCENDANTS
Nightly 7:20 & 9:35
Sat & Sun Mats 1:15 & 3:45

carolinatheatre.org

CAT'S CRADLE

FR 1/6 UNDERWATER RAVE
**(\$5/\$7/\$8 AND \$15 VIP)

SA 1/7 ECHHS BATTLE OF THE BANDS**(\$5)

FR 1/13 ABBEY ROAD LIVE!**(\$12/\$15)
W/STRINGS AND HORN SECTION!

SA 1/14 ALL AGES MATINEE WITH ABBEY ROAD LIVE!**(\$10 ADULTS/\$7 KIDS)

SA 1/14 MIPSO TRIO / OVERMOUNTAIN MEN / JIM AVETT**(\$8/\$10)

WE 1/18 HIGH SCHOOL BATTLE OF THE BANDS**(\$5)

SU 1/22 ANTHONY GREEN W/THE DEAR HUNTER**(\$15)

TU 1/24 WHERE'S THE BAND TOUR: FEATURING ACE ENDERS (THE EARLY NOVEMBER), ANTHONY RANERI (BAYSIDE), CHRIS CONLEY (SAVES THE DAY), EVAN WEISS (INTO IT, OVER IT.), MATT PRYOR (THE GET UP KIDS)**(\$14/\$16)

TH 1/26 DONNA THE BUFFALO W/WOODY PINES**(\$17/\$20)

FR 1/27 OLD 97S W/THOSE DARLINS**(\$18/\$20)

SA 1/28 ACOUSTIC SYNDICATE W/TOWN MOUNTAIN**(\$12/\$14)

TU 1/31 KATHLEEN EDWARDS**(\$20/\$23)
W/HANNAH GEORGAS

WE 2/1 TYCHO W/BEACON**(\$12/\$15)

FR 2/3 WHO'S BAD? MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE**(\$15)

SA 2/4 THEOPHILUS LONDON**(\$12/\$15)

TH 2/9 MARC BROUSSARD "LA ROUTE AU MARDI GRAS"**(\$15/\$17)

SA 2/11 FOUNTAINS OF WAYNE W/THE STARS EXPLODE**(\$20/\$23)

SU 2/12 SHARON VAN ETTEN W/SHEARWATER**(\$13/\$15)

TH 2/16 EMILIE AUTUMN**(\$15/\$17)

SA 2/18 DELTA RAE**(\$10/\$12)

TU 2/21 BLIND PILOT**(\$15/\$17)

TH 2/23 COREY SMITH**(\$15/\$20)

FR 2/24 SAUL WILLIAMS**(\$15/\$17)

TH 3/1 HEARTLESS BASTARDS**(\$14/\$16)

SA 3/3 FUN.**(\$17/\$19)

SU 3/4 CULTS**(\$15/\$17)

TU 3/6**(\$20/\$23) BOYCE AVENUE W/SECONDHAND SERENADE

WE 3/15 GOMEZ W/HEY ROSETTA!**(\$20/\$23)

FR 3/17 BOWERBIRDS**(\$12/\$14)

ER 3/21 NEON INDIAN W/PURITY RING**(\$12/\$14)

FR 3/23 YOUTH LAGOON**(\$13/\$15)

SU 4/1 THE NAKED AND FAMOUS W/VACATIONER**(\$15)

WE 4/4 OF MONTREAL W/LONEY DEAR AND KISHI BASHI**(\$17)

WE 4/11 AND TH 4/12 TWO SHOWS! THE MAGNETIC FIELDS**(\$25/\$28)

FR 5/25 YANN TIERSEN**(\$18/\$20)

ALSO PRESENTING

LOCAL 506 (CHAPEL HILL)

TH 1 MENZINGERS W/ALMOST PEOPLE

FR 2/24 OTHER LIVES

SA 3/3 CRAIG FINN W/MARCELLUS HALL

MEMORIAL HALL (UNC-CH)

MO 1/30 JEFF MANGUM

SOLD OUT

W/ANDREW SCOTT & LAURA

HAW RIVER BALLROOM (SAXAPAWHAW)

SA 2/4 MOUNTAIN GOATS W/NURSES

THE CAVE (CHAPEL HILL)

SU 2/5 RICKOLUS

THE CLAYTON CENTER (CLAYTON)

SA 2/11 TODD SNIDER W/ROSIE GOLAN

NIGHTLIGHT (CHAPEL HILL)

TU 2/28 ZEE AVI

LINCOLN THEATRE (RALEIGH)

WE 2/15 THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS W/ JONATHAN COULTON

FR 3/9 THE WAR ON DRUGS AND WHITE RABBITS

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Briefs



Occupy Chapel Hill/Carrboro will begin a transition with a celebration on Jan. 10. PHOTO BY DUNCAN HOGE

Occupy Chapel Hill/Carrboro

Occupy Chapel Hill/Carrboro will be transitioning to a new phase of its occupation and would like everyone to come out and help celebrate the “potential of the 99 percent movement.” The transition starts on Jan. 10 with the Occupy camp at Peace and Justice Plaza in Chapel Hill taking down their tents at 3 p.m. and cleaning up the plaza. A press conference will follow at 4:30 p.m., when occupiers will present their plans for the future of the Occupy movement, including plans for teach-ins, roving encampments and the establishment of a central indoor space. A General Assembly will be held at 6 p.m., and a dance party, also at the plaza, starting at 8 p.m., will cap off the afternoon’s events.

No love for Carrboro

The Town of Carrboro was notified this week by the BBC that Carrboro was not selected as the location for the filming of the *Lovetown, USA* documentary series. In a phone conference with Annette Stone, the town’s economic and community development director, BBC producers said that Carrboro was a “wonderfully unique community and that there was not a single thing the Town could have done differently to be selected.” The show will air on the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN). The town was first notified that it was being considered as a location for the show on Nov. 4. It was then announced in December that Carrboro was one of two finalists. The producers have not officially said the name of the other town under consideration.

Chapel Hill 2020

Current and prospective participants of Chapel Hill 2020 are invited to attend the Innovate 2020 Unconference on Jan. 21. Attendees will have a chance to discuss and brainstorm new ideas for the Chapel Hill 2020 plan while attending various sessions throughout the day. Chapel Hill 2020 is a communitywide effort to create a new comprehensive plan for the future of Chapel Hill. The Unconference will take place in Hamilton Hall on UNC’s campus at 9:30 a.m. and is free to attend. To learn more, visit innovate2020.pbworks.com/w/page/48204616/FrontPage, or to sign up, visit facebook.com/events/344594695557580

Christmas tree mulching

If you have a Christmas tree or wreath to dispose of in Chapel Hill, place it outside on your regular yard-waste collection day and town crews will remove it for mulching. Make sure all decoration, tinsel and wire is removed from trees and wreaths before placing them at the curb. For more information, call the public works department at 969-5100.

2012 tax listing forms

The Chatham County Tax Office has mailed out the 2012 property tax listing notices to all county residents. Any property owners in Chatham County who have not received their listing forms by Friday, Jan. 6 should call the tax office immediately at 542-8250. Taxpayers are encouraged to pay special attention to where to return the forms and to the option to receive the forms and other tax bills electronically. The listing period is from Jan. 3 to Jan. 31; listings received after Jan. 31 will be subject to a late listing penalty equal to 10 percent of taxes owed. Businesses can request listing extensions by visiting www.chathamnc.org/Business-Listing

Buses to the Dean Dome

The Tar Heel Express shuttle will provide service this Saturday for the UNC men’s basketball game against Boston College at 2:30 p.m. at the Dean Smith Center. Shuttle service will begin at 1:00 p.m. from the Friday Center, Southern Village and Jones Ferry park-and-ride lots. Buses will not operate from the University Mall park-and-ride lot for this game. Tickets are \$3 for one-way and \$5 roundtrip. A shuttle will also run from the Carolina Coffee Shop and will cost \$2 one-way or \$4 roundtrip. The shuttles will run every 10 to 15 minutes prior to the start of the game and will operate for 45 minutes following the game. The Tar Heel Express will drop off and pick up in front of the Dean Smith Center on Bowles Drive.

Branch Street closure

Branch Street is closed near its intersection with Airport Drive until Jan. 14 for construction of an electrical duct bank for UNC. A signed detour route is provided for motorists. Airport Drive will be open.

Mixed reactions to deer feeding ban

BY LANEY TIPTON
Courtesy of the Carrboro Commons

It’s been two months since the Carrboro Board of Aldermen voted to pass an ordinance prohibiting residents from feeding deer, and some residents are questioning whether it will yield the results the town hoped for. The feeding ban was put in place because of the danger to public safety the growing deer population posed, as well as the damage deer were causing to local landscaping and gardens. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission estimates that there are 30 to 44 deer per square mile in Orange County. But some residents, like Scott Parrott, don’t think the deer population causes a threat to the town. “I consider deer one of the perks of living in Carrboro,” Parrott wrote in an email. “Some of my most pleasant memories of living in Carrboro are coming across deer while walking in the morning or while being out for a jog around dusk.” Parrott said he was not aware of the ban – another cause for concern for residents doubting the ban’s effectiveness. “The town could probably do more to publicize the ban,” Parrott wrote in his email. “Especially since it carries a \$25 fine.” Ben Vollmer, a resident of North Greensboro Street, said he supports the ban because of the dangers deer overpopulation

“Some of my most pleasant memories of living in Carrboro are coming across deer while walking in the morning or while being out for a jog around dusk.”
— Scott Parrott

can present. “Deer already manage to get into gardens and encroach on people’s property as it is,” Vollmer said. “We should not be encouraging them to venture out of the woods and into neighborhoods where they are much more likely to cause accidents.” Not everyone in the community has embraced the deer-feeding ban. Daniel Blackwell, who lives off the N.C. 54 bypass, said he does not support it. “I know many people who thoroughly enjoy deer and nature-watching, so if they choose to feed deer on their own property, I don’t see where any form of government has the right to tell them they cannot feed the wildlife in their property,” Blackwell said. “What’s next? You can’t feed the birds in your backyard?” At the same meeting where the ban was passed, the board decided to postpone a decision about an urban archery policy they’ve also been considering, which would allow bow hunters to hunt deer within the town limits.


Avid deer hunter and Carrboro resident Greg Barnes said he would support this policy, but he’s unsure whether it would be successful. “I believe simply making it legal to hunt within town limits won’t do much,” Barnes said. “They need to make land more accessible to hunters if they want any meaningful population reduction.” Barnes says he’s worried because of the damage deer overpopulation can cause. “Besides the obvious threat of property damage, deer overpopulation can lead to the spread of disease,” he said. “The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has warned hunters to keep an eye out because there are increased incidents this year.”

Laney Tipton is a UNC student writing for the Carrboro Commons, a bi-weekly online lab newspaper for Jock Lauterer’s Community Journalism class at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Weaver Street work nearly complete


CARRBORO – Construction on West Weaver Street is in its final stage as the yearlong project to replace the street’s collapsing roadbed and the 80-year-old water main beneath it progresses. The project moved into Phase 5 in early December, and is currently closed at the west end of the street. While the construction time depends on weather and other factors, it is estimated to take two to three weeks to complete. Contractors will continue to replace the pavement near the intersection of Elm Street, causing the intersection to be closed, with access from Poplar Avenue or Shelton Street. Work on the east block was completed in July, at which point the contractor began work on the second phase of the project in the west block. Work is progressing from east to west, toward Carrboro Town Hall. The water main was already replaced in the west block, while work was completed in the east block. Pedestrian access remains open along the block, though pedestrians may be directed to one side of the street or the other depending on the proximity of construction activities. The contractor will typically work during daylight hours, Monday-Friday, though weekend work may occur depending on progress and scheduling.

— Staff Reports



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Weaver Street Businesses are OPEN!
during the street reconstruction project

Start your new year off with a visit to the local businesses on Weaver Street!

- N.C. Crafts Gallery owner Sara Gress



Easy access | Free parking on site or nearby
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The Town of Carrboro invites you to

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@CarrboroCitizen

Community Briefs

Old Christmas

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church will host an evening of readings, poetry and carols with Lee Smith and the St. Matthew's Women's Singing Circle tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Smith is the author of 11 acclaimed novels. She will read her account of Old Christmas from her novel *Fair and Tender Ladies*. These readings will be paired with carols sung by the women's singing circle.

Tickets are \$10 and can be bought through the St. Matthew's parish office or Purple Crown Bookstore. The program will be followed by a reception.

Winter tree hike

Grand Trees of Chatham will host a winter tree hike this Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. in the White Pines Natural Area in Chatham County.

Hikers will learn to identify trees by their leaf scars, buds, bark, shape and other characteristics. Hikers should dress warmly and be prepared to

walk 1.5 miles.

The White Pines Natural Area is managed by the Triangle Land Conservancy and is located where the Rocky and Haw rivers converge.

Registrants are advised to sign up as soon as possible. Once a registrant has been confirmed by email they will receive directions to the starting location. Email grandtreesofchatham@gmail.com to sign up.

Educational lecture luncheon

The 21st annual educational lecture luncheon of the Central Carolina Black Nurses Council Inc. was held on Dec. 3 at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill, featuring Ernest Grant as keynote speaker.

Grant is the nursing education clinician and director of outreach and prevention for the N.C. Jaycee Burn Center.

Betty Borden and Jocelyn Gladney-Allsbrook received distinguished chapter service awards at the luncheon. Both members were recognized for their extraordinary service to the chapter.



Coker Arboretum

ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK

Community Calendar

THURSDAY JAN 5

Readings and Carols — Readings by Lee Smith are coupled with carols sung by The St. Matthew's Women's Singing Circle. St Matthew's Episcopal Church, Hillsborough, 7:30pm \$10 stmatthewshillsborough.com

Auditions — For OdysseyStage Theatre's reading of Michael Halperin's *Desert Stories*. Seymour Center, 1pm odysseystage.org

Choir Auditions — N.C. Boys Choir will hold auditions through January for boys in grades 3-5. ncboyschoir.org

Art Exhibit — Photographic art by John Horwitz will be on display at The Focal Point Gallery, 1215 East Franklin St, through February 5

Audubon Meeting — Heather Starcke will speak on "The Butterflies of Costa Rica." N.C. Botanical Garden, 7pm Free

SATURDAY JAN 7

Steamwatch — John Kent will lead the New Hope Creek Steamwatch, which monitors pollutants and micro-organisms in the creek. jnkent25@gmail.com

SUNDAY JAN 8

Storytelling — Melissa Delbridge, Suzi Whaples, and Elouise Shoettler to perform at Storytelling for Grown-Ups. General Store Cafe, Pittsboro 7-9pm \$5

Art Exhibit — Opening reception for Leah Sobsey's "Cyanotypes," pre-

sented by The Preservation Society of Chapel Hill. The exhibit continues through Jan. 29. Horace Williams House, 2-4pm Free

Poetry and Song — With Brenda Linton and Sharon Blessum. "The Joyful Jewel," 3-4pm Free 883-2775

Eagle Count — Quarterly counting of bald eagle at Jordan Lake. 7:30-9am Contact Martha at mgirrolami@mac.com

MONDAY JAN 9

Jan-Ru Wan — To give a lecture entitled "The Journey of Re-materialization." The lecture begins the creation of a public work of art produced by seniors aged 55+ using repurposed clothes and other everyday objects. The lecture will be repeated Jan 11 at 7pm. Seymour Center, 10-11:00am Free

TUESDAY JAN 10

Beekeeping — First of a 10-week intensive class in beekeeping. Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Hillsborough, 7pm \$50/individual; \$75/couple Preregistration: theocba.org

Healing Foods Workshop — Led by Dr. Jeremy Broadhead, to discuss detoxification. 1717 Legion Rd, Ste 201, 6pm Free RSVP 914-7050

WEDNESDAY JAN 11

No Child — Written and performed by Nilaja Sun, opens at the Kenan Theatre and continues through Jan. 15. playmakersrep.org

THURSDAY JAN 12

Lunchbox Series — Presents the Bradshaw Quartet. Century Center, 12pm Free

FRIDAY JAN 13

James Braly — Presents his one-man show, *Life in a Marital Institution*. The ArtsCenter, 8pm artscenterlive.org

SATURDAY JAN 14

The Lorax — Performed by the Studio A Dancers, the presentation is adapted from the story by Dr. Seuss. East Chapel Hill High Auditorium, 2 and 6pm \$8 studioadancearts.com

Computer Class — Computer Basics. Carrboro Cybrary, 10am Free Registration required 918-7387

FAN Workshop — To help parents understand the difference between typical adolescent behavior and behavior that might indicate a need for treatment services, facilitated by Dr. Karen Graham. Orange United Methodist Church, 9-11am Free 942-8083

ONGOING

Cancer Support — Support groups at Cornucopia Cancer Support Center for cancer patients and their families. Cancersupport4u.org 401-9333

Cancer Support — Support groups and wellness programs sponsored by N.C. Cancer Hospital. undineberger.org/patient/support/supportgroup.asp

HOUSE Calls

Practicing family physicians from the UNC Department of Family Medicine have teamed up with *The Carrboro Citizen* to bring you a weekly feature responding to your questions about health and medicine. Send your questions or comments to yourhealth@unc.edu



This week we respond to questions about heart attacks from sex and snakebites.

Dear HOUSE Calls, I read that there is an increased risk of heart attack with sex. People have sex more often when they are in a new relationship, so does this lead to an increased risk of heart attack?

This is a really interesting question, and thanks for raising the issue of sexual health. This is really important, and sometimes difficult to bring up. We read the report from the *Journal of the American Medical Association* too. Any increase in physical activity from what you are used to (jogging, gardening, sex, etc.) can increase the risk of heart attack. If you think of sex as exercise, the first few times you have sex after a period of abstinence may present an increased risk of heart attack. But as you "get back into shape," your risk declines to average. Also remember that while the risk is real, it is small. According to this study, 10,000 people would have to have sex

weekly for one year for one or two additional cases of sudden cardiac death. Also, there are a variety of things you can do to reduce your risk, such as quitting smoking; making sure your cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure are under control; and taking aspirin. Talk to your doctor about ways to reduce your risk of heart disease. Addressing sexual health is so important to your overall health; we hope you'll consider talking about this with your doctor. One problem we have is effectively addressing sexual health in patients after a heart attack. Failure to talk about this can lead to fear and depression.

Dear HOUSE Calls, I do a lot of gardening and I hate wearing long, heavy jeans and boots, but I'm worried about snakes in the garden. What happens if I get bitten by a small snake? Do I need to kill the snake, or just be concerned with getting to the hospital?

First of all, wear the boots and pants. Snakes are important for

our ecosystem and our gardens. Venomous snakes are rare in the Piedmont. Snakes are much more afraid of us than we are of them, so if you notice a snake, calmly step away. If you get bit, try to stay away from the snake and don't try to catch it, because it's likely to bite you again. Maybe snap a picture with your cell phone or have somebody else try to do so. But most importantly, get away. Make whatever observations you can about the snake's pattern and head shape. Do not elevate the effected limb. Do not try to cut on the puncture sites and/or suck out the venom. Do not apply a tourniquet. Do get to the emergency room. In most cases, driving or being driven is fine. We hope you succeed at avoiding the snakes.

HOUSE Calls is a weekly column by Dr. Adam Goldstein, Dr. Cristy Page and Dr. Adam Zolotor on behalf of Your Health and the UNC Department of Family Medicine.

SUPER CROSSWORD PUNBLICATIONS

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. Across clues include: 1 Move like a mouse, 5 Neighbor of Java, 9 Medicine, 12 Corrupt, 15 Early computer, 17 TV's, 19 Campbell of UB40, 20 Poorly, 21 Restaurant critic's zine, 23 Librarian's journal, 25 Explosive initials, 26 Column, 27 Max, 29 Sydow, 30 Solidify, 31 Weber's, 32 Prepared to drive, 33 Let up, 36 Arthur or Pons, 38 carrier, 42 Snapshot, 43 Lama, 45 Strained, 46 DEA officer, 48 Browning's bedtime, 49 Gardener's monthly. Down clues include: 3 Broadway, 4 Hymns of praise, 5 Viper, 6 Milne, 7 Digression, 8 Gouda, 9 Like Simon, 10 Groovy, 11 Pugilistic, 12 Stephen King book, 13 Mufny, 14 Produce a parka, 15 fide, 16 Byzantine art form, 17 Pants parts, 18 Ram's ma'am, 19 Directional suffix, 20 Sock style, 21 Feign, 22 Tree surgeon's periodical, 23 Middling mark, 24 Whippet's wag, 25 Enormous, 26 Terpsichore's sister, 27 104 Down, e.g., 28 Broadway, 29 Kennel feature, 30 Kitten gear, 31 Petite pie, 32 Sprite, 33 Buttermilk Sky, 34 (46 song), 35 Classify, 36 Maestro de Waart, 37 "Electric", 38 (83 hit), 39 To and, 40 Sailor's reading, 41 Depression era, 42 Icelandic epic, 43 Capek play, 44 Bring to light, 45 Goatish gambol, 46 Sock style, 47 Have unpaid bills, 48 "Hiver" opposite, 49 "to Order" (87 film), 50 Presidential monogram, 51 Sanctify, 52 Tombstone lawman, 53 Shake-spearean heavy, 54 Wholesome biker's publication, 55 Carpentry or printing, 56 Mousieur Le Pew, 57 Patriot Samuel, 58 "Evita" character, 59 Park, CO, 60 Uninteresting, 61 Subdue, 62 Simba, 63 Pavarotti's love, 64 Bit of parsley, 65 Northwestern st., 66 Mouth piece, 67 Anger or envy, 68 Composer, 69 Albeniz, 70 Slender trace, 71 Be a wise guy, 72 French impressionist, 73 Forward, 74 Rover's review, 75 Presidential monogram, 76 Sanctify, 77 Tombstone lawman, 78 Shake-spearean heavy, 79 Require, 80 Ashen.

CitizenCryptoquote By Martin Brody. Ingredient Problem? Puzzle grid with clues. Across clues include: 1 Move like a mouse, 5 Neighbor of Java, 9 Medicine, 12 Corrupt, 15 Early computer, 17 TV's, 19 Campbell of UB40, 20 Poorly, 21 Restaurant critic's zine, 23 Librarian's journal, 25 Explosive initials, 26 Column, 27 Max, 29 Sydow, 30 Solidify, 31 Weber's, 32 Prepared to drive, 33 Let up, 36 Arthur or Pons, 38 carrier, 42 Snapshot, 43 Lama, 45 Strained, 46 DEA officer, 48 Browning's bedtime, 49 Gardener's monthly. Down clues include: 3 Broadway, 4 Hymns of praise, 5 Viper, 6 Milne, 7 Digression, 8 Gouda, 9 Like Simon, 10 Groovy, 11 Pugilistic, 12 Stephen King book, 13 Mufny, 14 Produce a parka, 15 fide, 16 Byzantine art form, 17 Pants parts, 18 Ram's ma'am, 19 Directional suffix, 20 Sock style, 21 Feign, 22 Tree surgeon's periodical, 23 Middling mark, 24 Whippet's wag, 25 Enormous, 26 Terpsichore's sister, 27 104 Down, e.g., 28 Broadway, 29 Kennel feature, 30 Kitten gear, 31 Petite pie, 32 Sprite, 33 Buttermilk Sky, 34 (46 song), 35 Classify, 36 Maestro de Waart, 37 "Electric", 38 (83 hit), 39 To and, 40 Sailor's reading, 41 Depression era, 42 Icelandic epic, 43 Capek play, 44 Bring to light, 45 Goatish gambol, 46 Sock style, 47 Have unpaid bills, 48 "Hiver" opposite, 49 "to Order" (87 film), 50 Presidential monogram, 51 Sanctify, 52 Tombstone lawman, 53 Shake-spearean heavy, 54 Wholesome biker's publication, 55 Carpentry or printing, 56 Mousieur Le Pew, 57 Patriot Samuel, 58 "Evita" character, 59 Park, CO, 60 Uninteresting, 61 Subdue, 62 Simba, 63 Pavarotti's love, 64 Bit of parsley, 65 Northwestern st., 66 Mouth piece, 67 Anger or envy, 68 Composer, 69 Albeniz, 70 Slender trace, 71 Be a wise guy, 72 French impressionist, 73 Forward, 74 Rover's review, 75 Presidential monogram, 76 Sanctify, 77 Tombstone lawman, 78 Shake-spearean heavy, 79 Require, 80 Ashen.

Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Sudoku grid with clues. Across clues include: 1 Move like a mouse, 5 Neighbor of Java, 9 Medicine, 12 Corrupt, 15 Early computer, 17 TV's, 19 Campbell of UB40, 20 Poorly, 21 Restaurant critic's zine, 23 Librarian's journal, 25 Explosive initials, 26 Column, 27 Max, 29 Sydow, 30 Solidify, 31 Weber's, 32 Prepared to drive, 33 Let up, 36 Arthur or Pons, 38 carrier, 42 Snapshot, 43 Lama, 45 Strained, 46 DEA officer, 48 Browning's bedtime, 49 Gardener's monthly. Down clues include: 3 Broadway, 4 Hymns of praise, 5 Viper, 6 Milne, 7 Digression, 8 Gouda, 9 Like Simon, 10 Groovy, 11 Pugilistic, 12 Stephen King book, 13 Mufny, 14 Produce a parka, 15 fide, 16 Byzantine art form, 17 Pants parts, 18 Ram's ma'am, 19 Directional suffix, 20 Sock style, 21 Feign, 22 Tree surgeon's periodical, 23 Middling mark, 24 Whippet's wag, 25 Enormous, 26 Terpsichore's sister, 27 104 Down, e.g., 28 Broadway, 29 Kennel feature, 30 Kitten gear, 31 Petite pie, 32 Sprite, 33 Buttermilk Sky, 34 (46 song), 35 Classify, 36 Maestro de Waart, 37 "Electric", 38 (83 hit), 39 To and, 40 Sailor's reading, 41 Depression era, 42 Icelandic epic, 43 Capek play, 44 Bring to light, 45 Goatish gambol, 46 Sock style, 47 Have unpaid bills, 48 "Hiver" opposite, 49 "to Order" (87 film), 50 Presidential monogram, 51 Sanctify, 52 Tombstone lawman, 53 Shake-spearean heavy, 54 Wholesome biker's publication, 55 Carpentry or printing, 56 Mousieur Le Pew, 57 Patriot Samuel, 58 "Evita" character, 59 Park, CO, 60 Uninteresting, 61 Subdue, 62 Simba, 63 Pavarotti's love, 64 Bit of parsley, 65 Northwestern st., 66 Mouth piece, 67 Anger or envy, 68 Composer, 69 Albeniz, 70 Slender trace, 71 Be a wise guy, 72 French impressionist, 73 Forward, 74 Rover's review, 75 Presidential monogram, 76 Sanctify, 77 Tombstone lawman, 78 Shake-spearean heavy, 79 Require, 80 Ashen.

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Rice, Phelps, Reese return with own team

BY EDDY LANDRETH

Carolina's 102-65 victory against Monmouth on Sunday felt more like a family reunion than just another holiday blow-out. All five of the Tar Heels' NCAA championship teams had representatives in the house.

The coaches on the bench for Monmouth represented two Final Fours and a national title. King Rice is the head coach for the Hawks, his first college head-coaching job. He spent the last few years as an assistant at Vanderbilt.

Rice's assistants, Derrick Phelps and Brian Reese, played with Rice at the 1991 Final Four when they were freshmen, but they were part of the starting lineup at the 1993 Final Four, in which Carolina defeated coach Roy Williams and his Kansas Jayhawks in the semifinals. UNC went on to beat Michigan and the Fab Five in the title game for the national championship.

Rice showed he had a far greater understanding of Carolina history than just the years he spent there and what has happened since.

He had 5-foot-8 Jesse Steele jump center at the opening tap against Carolina's John Henson, who has a reach of 7-4. That was a nod to the 1957 team, when UNC coach Frank McGuire had 5-foot-10 Tommy Kearns jump ball against 7-1 Wilt Chamberlain of Kansas.

"I asked the guys in the locker room, and they said no," Rice said. "Then when we went out there and I saw Lennie Rosenbluth, I said 'We're doing it.' It just didn't work the way it worked in '57."

Rosenbluth was the leading scorer and the star of the 1957 Carolina team that went 32-0 and won the school's and the ACC's first NCAA title.

That's where the similarities ended, however. Carolina's athletes were far superior to what Rice has at the moment.

Henson continued to play the best all-around basketball of his career. He ran the court, blocked shots and sank the baseline jumper that has become such a weapon for him. Henson led the Tar Heels with 21 points on 9-of-12 shooting. He also had eight rebounds and three blocks.

"That is amazing," Rice said of Henson's jump shot. "John Henson just keeps getting better. But every time I see him – it's only once or twice a year – he always comes over and says hello.

He always has a big smile. He makes you feel special, and he's the main dude. He's the star.

"He's improved dramatically on the floor. He makes jumpers now. His free throw has smoothed out. It doesn't look crazy anymore. He is one of the best shot-blockers ever. I know [Sam Perkins] blocked a whole bunch, and we had guys here who blocked them. But this kid is amazing at it. I'm happy he is a Carolina guy."

Rice said it was a totally different experience returning as an opponent. But the crowd treated him as one of the Carolina family, which, of course, he is.

"The ovation at the beginning was unbelievable," Rice said. "I didn't expect that. It was very nice of the fans. I'm a true Carolina guy. What better feeling could you get when the fans give you a standing ovation?"

Now UNC will move into the next phase of the season, when Boston College visits the Smith Center on Saturday at 2:30 p.m. for the first conference game.

"It's been a long stretch here of these nonconference games," Williams said. "Now we're getting ready to start our conference regular season, and our play is going to have to go up a level."



Joe Gaiteri and Carrboro Chess Club founder Jason Casden ponder their next moves at Jesse's Coffee & Bar. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CARRBORO CHESS CLUB

Chessmen in our midst

BY SARAH SPAGNOLA

Courtesy of the Carrboro Commons

There's a cartoon stereotype about chess players – bespectacled, sweater-vested, hopelessly nerdy.

Joe Gaiteri and Ben Busch, with their relaxed demeanors and casual clothing, shatter all stereotypes the moment you meet them. Both are members of the Carrboro Chess Club, a small but thriving group dedicated to playing and talking about the game.

The club, founded about two years ago by Jason Casden of Carrboro, meets every Saturday at 3 p.m. at Jesse's Coffee & Bar. This particular Saturday, the club members present for the day's games sat at a table in the middle of the coffee shop. The blinds were drawn somewhat to protect patrons' eyes from the harsh rays of the afternoon sun, and despite the catchy '70s pop-rock choruses being played over the speakers, it was quiet enough to hear yourself think.

And make no mistake: Chess is a thinking person's game. Gaiteri, 27, stared at the board intently, the silence sometimes stretching into minutes as he considered his next move against Busch before moving his game pieces across the board with astonishing quickness. Busch responded in kind, taking a few minutes to cook up a strategy before making his move. Eventually, Busch resigned from the

game, then went over his moves with Gaiteri to see where he could have done better.

"One of the things that happens a lot is that the game is decided by the person who makes the second-to-last big mistake," Gaiteri said.

To hear club members tell it, friendly instruction and advice among players is fairly common in the world of chess. Member Bill Hargrove noted that chess players have a rating system based on points.

"There is a difference in class every 200 points, with the stronger player expected to win 70 percent of the time," Hargrove said.

At a difference of 400 points, Hargrove said the game ceases to become competition and becomes instruction.

"There is a severe analytic quality about this game, which is to say that it makes self-delusion difficult," he said. "Any chess player knows how strong he is just as well as he knows how to spell his own name."

Despite the passion its players clearly have for the game, chess seems to remain something of a niche hobby in North Carolina, and Hargrove said that it used to be that most prominent players in the United States didn't develop outside of the New York City area. Gaiteri said that there are only a couple of chess "masters" in the entire state.

Hargrove noted that "really strong masters" of the game usually play professionally and don't

have enough people to play outside of major population centers.

Busch offered his own theory: "I think the only reason is the weather."

A native of Akron, Ohio, Busch said he thought that the weather in North Carolina was nice enough that people would rather go outside than sit inside and play chess.

Gaiteri cited the rise of online chess as a reason for the comparative lack of chess clubs in North Carolina.

"I mean, it's nice because you can find people to play whenever you want," he said, but he noted that it was not the same social experience as going to a chess club meeting.

On the other hand, plenty of younger people seem to be taking up the game. For example, Gaiteri noted that Durham Academy has a big club for kids and hosts a tournament every month.

"There are a huge number of children learning to play chess," Hargrove said.

Find out more about the Carrboro Chess Club at meetup.com/carrborochessclub

Sarah Spagnola is a UNC student writing for the Carrboro Commons, a bi-weekly online lab newspaper for Jock Lauterer's Community Journalism class at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

School Briefs

B-ball milestone

Chapel Hill High senior point guard Denzel Ingram scored the 1,000th of his high school career during last week's game against Clayton High in the Holiday Invitational Basketball Tournament. The Tigers are currently undefeated and ranked third in the state in the AAA division.

Volunteer recognized

Mary Andrews of Estes Hills Elementary was recognized by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce for her work with the READ2ME Tailgate Stories program that brings summer reading activities to underserved neighborhoods in our community. She received the Jim Gibson Volunteer of the Year Award at the chamber's annual "Salute to Community Heroes."

Rashkis in the limelight

Rashkis Elementary was featured on NBC 17's morning broadcast as Tuesday's "Cool School" of the day. The story highlighted the school's initiative to implement Lego Serious Play in various subjects. Visit tinyurl.com/76qspsx to see the segment.

East junior attends anti-smoking meeting

East Chapel Hill High junior Ariel Smith recently attended a day-long Tobacco Prevention and Control Action Planning Meeting sponsored by the Orange County Health Department and the National Association of County and City Health Officials. The purpose of the meeting was to look at current county tobacco policies, identify areas of improvement and form recommendations for policy changes. Smith is a member of Tobacco. Reality. Unfiltered. (TRU).

School Lunch Menus

FRIDAY 1/6

Elementary: Chicken Nuggets, Ham & Cheese Wrap, Garden Salad, Oven Fries, Seasoned Green Beans, Pineapple Cup, Fruit Cocktail

Middle and High School: Roast Turkey w/Gravy, Wheat Roll, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Apple Crumble

MONDAY 1/9

Elementary: Roasted Chicken w/ Brown Rice, Turkey Corn Dog, Fruit & Cheese Plate w/Yogurt, Baked Sweet Potato, Spinach Salad, Baked Apple Slices, Banana

Middle and High School: Toasted Cheese Sandwich, Black Bean Chili, Cinnamon Baked Apples

TUESDAY 1/10

Elementary: Macaroni & Cheese, Sloppy Joe on Bun; Turkey Chef Salad, Seasoned Broccoli, Seasoned Cabbage, Blueberry-Peach Crumble, Fruited Jell-o

Middle and High School: Chicken & Cheese Quesadilla, Spanish Rice, Glazed Carrots

WEDNESDAY 1/11

Elementary: BBQ Chicken w/ Wheat Roll, Toasted Cheese Sandwich, Taco Chef Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Seasoned Turnip Greens, Orange Smiles, Baked Apple Slices

Middle and High School: – BBQ Chicken, Wheat Roll, Baked Beans, Baked Potato

THURSDAY 1/12

Elementary: Chicken Teriyaki Rice Bowl, Fish Sticks w/Tartar Sauce,

Garden Salad, Cole Slaw, Pineapple Cup, Applesauce, Oriental Vegetable Blend

Middle and High School: Thai Peanut Chicken Noodles, Peach Crumble, Locally Grown Steamed Cabbage

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C2 is the preferred light rail alignment

JOHN WILSON

Durham and Orange county citizens and elected officials have until Jan. 11 to express local preferences regarding future light rail transit (LRT) routes linking Durham and Chapel Hill. This right should be taken seriously, as some proposed alignments could have dire environmental consequences if built.

Of concern to a growing number of area citizens and the N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is the fact that two possible LRT alignments would cross long sections of state-designated Significant Natural Heritage Areas (SNHAs). Designated by DENR's N.C. Natural Heritage Program, SNHAs are critically important for conservation of the state's biodiversity because they contain rare natural communities, rare species and/or special animal habitats.

The "C1" alignment from UNC's Friday Center in Chapel Hill to southwest Durham would cut a 50-foot-wide corridor through almost three-quarters of a mile of mature forest and wetlands in the Little Creek Bottomlands and Slopes SNHA, which includes federal land managed as wildlife habitat and state game lands. According to the Natural Heritage Program, this area "contains one of the last remnants in the state of the large bottomland forests that once dominated the Triassic Basins and still supports a high diversity of the wildlife typical of this region." An alternative, "C2," would minimize environmental impact by following existing roads (N.C. 54 and George King Road) outside the SNHA.

A recent letter from DENR conservation office director Linda Pearsall stated, "We are particularly concerned about Alternative C1, since it crosses the SNHA along a currently undisturbed alignment and is therefore likely to have a more significant impact on wildlife than C2, which lies within the already disturbed transportation corridor along NC 54." Craig Shoe of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which stewards the Little Creek federal wildlife lands, raised similar concerns about the "adverse impacts to government property" of alignment C1. Shoe described the integral connection between these wetlands and Jordan Lake, the congressionally authorized purposes of which are "flood control, water supply, water quality, recreation, and fish and wildlife conservation."

Area citizens and local officials have made their environmental priorities clear in recent years. The comprehensive plans of Durham City and County, Orange County and Chapel Hill each contain specific language emphasizing protection of critical natural areas. Carrboro, Hillsborough and Chatham County also have high environmental standards. Local governments have made commendable zoning decisions and substantial financial investments to protect SNHAs.

There are also compelling, non-environmental reasons why the C2 alignment is preferable to C1. Triangle Transit's analysis estimates the cost of C2 will be at least \$30 million less than C1, and predicts higher ridership for C2 than C1. C2 has 200 dedicated parking spaces for its proposed Woodmont station on N.C. 54, while C1 has none for its Meadowmont Lane station. Finally, C1 would close most feeder streets into busy Meadowmont Village every five minutes, raising significant traffic and safety concerns.

UNC, UNC Healthcare, the Chapel Hill Planning Department and the Meadowmont Community Association all favor C2.

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization will likely select a "Locally Preferred Alternative" in February. Please let these decision-makers know that C2 is the clear local preference.

Send your comments as soon as possible to comments@dchcmpo.org, with copies to your municipal- and county-elected officials.

John Wilson is a member of the Friends of the Little Creek Bottomlands and Slopes SNHA.

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Let's do right by those who paid the price

Somewhere in the middle of all that holiday frenzy, amid the travel and visits and meals and games, a war ended.

Last month, the last combat unit drove out of Iraq into Kuwait, leaving behind a sovereign nation with an uncertain future.

For the one million Americans who served in Iraq there is no doubt a range of emotions about the cause and result of the war and the long-term consequences for comrades and civilians alike. The wounded, the wounded families and those bearing the responsibility of rebuilding their country and their lives deserve much from us. Most of all, they deserve not to be forgotten.

When that last convoy rolled out of Iraq, it was barely a blip on the evening news in a nation that long ago compartmentalized the war, its warriors and the country we invaded. Embroiled in sectarian conflict testing its ability to maintain a government, Iraq is a far more complicated and unpredictable place today than when the troops rolled in. Now, no longer a war zone, Iraq is just another country in the Middle East being covered by the diminishing foreign desks of what passes for our national press, and news from there will fight for ink and electrons with the celebrities and primaries and all the other fluff that makes it through the filter of the Great Oz.

Except it's not just another country. It's a place where because of acts done in our name hundreds of thousands of people died, including nearly 4,500 of our sons and daughters lost in service to this country. When you hear someone speak of their sacrifice, try to remember who sacrificed them, because, friend, it was me and you.

We may never know how many civilians were killed or died from deprivations caused by the war. No matter what the final tally, we bear the weight of those losses too. After the shooting stops, there is no such thing as collateral damage. It's all just damage.

I was not in favor of the war, but thought it was inevitable and that it would be horrible and take a long time to end, and I'm sorry to be right. Like a lot of people, I wanted to believe that there was something that caused the conflict other

than the heat of the times being used to settle a score and test out a kind of geopolitical chaos theory. I wanted to believe there were weapons of mass destruction or a secret nuclear program or some hidden reason.

As it became increasingly clear that it was a war of choice, a sobering distinction no matter what your politics, it was hard to tell what to believe. The fallout has spread far and wide. There is not just a deeper, wider mistrust in government, but a paralyzing cynicism. For those of us in the journalism business, the days leading up to the war are dark indeed. Any analysis of media in this era must start with the simple truth that the press failed the country in the run-up to the war.

Throughout the conflict there were strong voices here and elsewhere calling for an end to it, and for the most part the opposition to the war showed that it had learned its own important lesson from Vietnam and did not dishonor those fighting in a war they despised. "Bring 'Em Home" was a universal message. Remember that; we have another one yet to wind up.

North Carolina has a special bond with its military families and we seem to be in a little closer contact with the effects of fighting than some places. As this war dragged on for much longer than most people expected, the consequences became more a part of everyday life. Standing in line at RDU you notice yet another otherwise healthy young man with a missing limb. Driving to the coast you pass another billboard from a clinic specializing in post-traumatic stress syndrome.

The war took nearly a decade, healing will take a lifetime, and some will never be made whole again, nor speak nor walk nor see their children smile.

I don't know how history will ultimately judge this war, but I hope we can learn from it and do right by the people sent in harm's way all these years.

My prayer is that those who have sacrificed, those facing a difficult future, and their families, truly find some peace at the end of this. And that the rest of us never forget them.



Chartering a dangerous path

CHRIS FITZSIMON

These are the days when pundits make their lists of the stories they expect to make headlines this year in North Carolina. Most are understandably talking about the 2012 election, the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, the ongoing battle between the General Assembly and Gov. Beverly Perdue and, of course, the economy.

But if you are looking for the sleeper issue of 2012, it might be charter schools.

The Republican General Assembly last session lifted the state cap on the number of charter schools that had been set for years at 100.

That prompted the state Board of Education to institute a fast-track approval process for schools that can be ready to open next fall. Twenty-seven schools applied and 11 were selected by the new N.C. Charter School Advisory Commission to come back later this month for a second look.

Many more schools are expected to begin the longer application process with hopes of opening in the 2013-14 school year. But the story hardly ends there.

One of the schools that made the cut proposes to turn over day-to-day operations to a for-profit management company in Michigan that, disturbingly, already runs a few charter schools in the state. For-profit education with your money is here and seems to be expanding.

Former legislator Jeff Barnhart is one of the lobbyists for K-12 Inc., a national for-profit company with a questionable record that operates virtual charter schools. Barnhart is from Cabarrus County and has already approached his local school board about partnering with the company.

K-12 Inc. came under fire in a recent *New York Times* article citing a state audit in Colorado that revealed that taxpayers paid \$800,000 to the company for students that were never enrolled in the virtual school or were not residents of Colorado.

For-profit education with your money that doesn't even pay to educate North Carolina students may be on the way too.

Then there is the new advisory commission that includes members who have direct financial interest in companies that manage or provide services to charter schools. Charters are not only a different way to set up public edu-

cation, they can be a cash cow to private corporations.

And don't look to the law to prevent any problems. It does not require charters to follow any purchasing regulations or bidding processes, even though the charters are spending public money.

You would think legislators would have thought of that before opening the floodgates to virtual charters and for-profit companies running schools. But not this General Assembly.

One sure sign that a lot of money is at stake is the recent split in the charter advocacy world. Former Sen. Eddie Goodall recently left the N.C. Alliance for Public Charter Schools with plans to form the N.C. Public Charter Schools Association.

There are other questions about the forthcoming charter explosion beyond the shifting of millions in public money to private interests, most importantly who is going to be keeping tabs on all the new schools.

Besides the conflicted new advisory commission, there's only a three-person office in the Department of Public Instruction. That's not enough to keep up with the charters currently operating, much less the flurry of new ones that will be coming online.

Then there are questions about the nonprofit boards that run charters and who they are accountable to.

An investigation last year by Sarah Ovaska with N.C. Policy Watch found that the family foundation of an Oregon business executive and education-privatization advocate is a significant donor to a charter school in Rutherford County. Two members of the foundation sit on the school's board and fly in from Oregon for the meetings to decide how to spend our money.

None of this means that there aren't charter schools in North Carolina providing a good education and steering clear of any ethical or questionable practices. There are plenty.

But there are clearly problems too, and it's hard not to think they will only get worse in 2012 with the cap lifted, applications flooding in and lobbyists for corporate education interests circling the General Assembly and local school boards looking for a way to turn a vital public investment into their private gain.

Chris Fitzsimon is executive director of N.C. Policy Watch.

LETTERS

Pet training

Each year, the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, the largest professional association for dog trainers in the world, proclaims January National Train Your Dog Month. This campaign's goal is to promote the importance of training and socialization to all dog owners.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, between six and eight million dogs and cats are turned in to animal shelters each year, and about four million are euthanized for lack of good homes. Studies by the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy have found that most dogs (and cats) are turned in to shelters for common behavior and training issues that could easily be solved with the assistance of a professional. In fact, research has found that training and socializing dogs when they're young can reduce or even eliminate behavior problems in the future.

Since January is the time for New Year's resolutions, it is the perfect time for the dog owners of the Triangle, and those who may be considering getting a dog, to learn about the importance of training for their pet. The APDT website (apdt.com/petowners) has a wealth of helpful information for pet owners. APDT's other sites (trainyourdogmonth.com and mydoghasclass.com) have additional tips and resources for dog owners. Free webinars and social media chats will occur during the month of January as well (a full listing can be found at trainyour-dogmonth.com).

APDT and its more than 6,000 member trainers are dedicated to helping keep dogs in homes, showing dog owners how to fully enjoy and have fun with their dogs and experience the joys of having a well-trained dog.

JENN MERRITT
Efland

A dream

On the winds of hope, I heard a dream. It is a dream of a place where everyone shall be treated with respect. It is a dream of a people who treat each other with consideration. It is a dream of a place where all people are known to have been created equal. For decades, I have dreamed of finding this place. All across this country I have traveled, to find this dreamt-of place. All of those whom I have met have I asked about the way to this place. A few of them have heard of this dream, but most just looked at me as if I were crazy. How could I even imagine that such a place could exist? After all, it is just a dream.

Still, I seek this place, as if it could offer our salvation. I dream that it is a place where the hungry are fed, whatever their color may be. I dream that it is a place where the homeless are sheltered, however much money they may have. I dream that it is a place where the sick are healed, not just endlessly treated for continued profit. I dream that there we may work together, rather than against each other. I am dismissed as a dreamer, yet I cling to the dream that I heard. What do you dream of? Do you share your dream, even with those who would attack you for it?

If I ever find this dreamt-of place, I promise to share the dreamy secret with all who will accept it. After a lifetime of chasing the dream, perhaps I have been looking in all of the wrong places. Maybe this dreamed-of place isn't out there. Just possibly, this amazing place is within us all. I can only hope, because if the dream is that close, then we are all almost there, already. Just close your eyes, and dream. Do you hear?

CHARLES LITTLE
Chapel Hill

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be no more than 425 words in length and must be accompanied by the author's name, address and contact information. One letter per author per month. Lengthy letters written in longhand will mysteriously become lost. Emailed letters are preferred. That said, send your letters to:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
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Bark of a young black cherry

Bark of a young sycamore

PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE

FLORA
FROM PAGE 1

our three locally common pines in a couple of weeks. For now, concentrate on variations of bark on the other trees. Is the bark smooth, and if so, is it colored or rippled like a muscular arm? If the bark is rough, you have a whole world to explore. Is the bark peeling away from the tree in distinctive patterns? Is the bark deeply grooved (furrowed), and are those grooves vertical, sometimes making diamond shapes, or crisscrossed with horizontal cuts making square or angular patterns?

Don't be concerned with names of all these different trees. It's As if you're at a holiday gathering of mostly new people. There are way too many new names to remember: Just enjoy meeting new personalities. If you are inclined, begin keeping a nature journal of sketches of bark patterns, or begin a digital photo collection. Either or both can come in handy later. If you sketch, I promise you'll never forget what you're seeing. And now, as you continue your walk, notice how some trees may disappear or appear around you as you change your position from

low ground to high ground, from sunny south slopes to darker north slopes. You're observing that some trees can be mighty particular about the ground upon which they stand. Well now, that's enough for today's walk. Enjoy the new nameless friends you've just made, and with whom you'll be getting better acquainted on subsequent walks. Email Ken Moore at flora@carrborocitizen.com. Find previous Ken Moore Citizen columns at [The Annotated Flora](http://TheAnnotatedFlora.com) (carrborocitizen.com/flora).



Polar Plunge, Lake Lure

Of all the crazy ways to celebrate the New Year, throwing yourself into icy waters strikes me as one of the most bizarre. Up near our mountain cabin at Lake Lure in Western North Carolina, they have this tradition on New Year's Day called the Polar Plunge, which annually attracts a motley crew of zanies who dress for the event, including folks in polar bear caps – and this year's highlight, a self-proclaimed "Poor White Trash Elvis" in a red bikini, here slapping a high five with his buddy, "Dirty Dorothy." Ever the intrepid photo-reporter, the 1k Word guy was there to record this defining moment in the history of our civilization. Happy New Year, y'all.



"Poor White Trash Elvis" and "Dirty Dorothy"

WATER WATCH OUR RESERVOIRS ARE 70.60% FULL

PRECIP THIS MONTH: .01" PAST 12 MONTHS: 39.78"
CUSTOMER DEMAND TUES: 6.205 million gallons / Monthly avg: 5.91 million gallons
ESTIMATED SUPPLY: 426 days worth



A THOUSAND WORDS
BY JOCK LAUTERER

Do you have an important old photo that you value? Email your photo to jock@email.unc.edu and include the story behind the picture. Because every picture tells a story. And its worth? A thousand words.

Stay tuned.
carrborocitizen.com



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PAY THE DAY

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL

2012 is your year.

It's the year you take charge. It's the year you live the life you've been wanting to live. It's your year and the Y can help get you there. From fitness classes to swim lessons, treadmills to personal training, we've got what you're looking for. With a mission centered on balance, we encourage good health and foster connections through sports, fitness and fun. Join in January and the day you join is your joining fee! So join January 2nd and pay only \$2 as a joining fee! That's a savings of up to \$98 for a family!

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



CHECK US OUT!
YMCA GUEST PASS

Show this pass for one week of access to the Chapel Hill - Carrboro Y during the month of January 2012. Enjoy nearly 50 fitness classes a week, a full fitness center, heated lap pool and more. This pass is good for up to an entire family.

This pass is good for one week of access to the Y and its facilities during January 2012. Passholders are subject to all Y policies and rules. Good at the Chapel Hill branch only. Pass has no cash value and cannot be used for program discounts.



Discover more online at
www.CHCYMCA.org