



FRIDAY Partly Cloudy 61/38
SATURDAY 60% Chance of Rain 49/32
SUNDAY Partly Cloudy 52/29

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



Synchronized skaters Page 5



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

The bud of the umbrella magnolia looks like a spear.

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

There's still time for winter botany

tagged along with a friend last weekend in his search to re-discover a favorite very early spring wildflower. Along the way, he came to an abrupt halt, admiring a single long, smooth bud, appearing like a spear tip. He immediately recognized it as the deciduous umbrella magnolia, Magnolia tripetala.

So, in spite of early signs of spring, we still have several weeks to practice winter botany.

I have a favorite memory of a summer botanical survey in the early 1970s. I was assisted by a young couple who had taken a basic plant identification class. I noticed the young woman was carefully pulling all the leaves from a twig in her hand. Her response to my obvious inquiry was: "I have to get rid of all these confusing leaves because I learned to identify plants in the winter."

And so it is that plants can often be easily identified in the winter.

Striking contrasts of bark and shapes of trees are obvious identifying features. Less often appreciated are the buds.

SEE FLORA PAGE 10

Board calls for public comment on anti-lingering ordinance

BY SUSAN DICKSON Staff Writer

CARRBORO — Following passionate pleas from several residents, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen voted on Tuesday to schedule a public hearing regarding the anti-lingering ordinance for the intersection of Davie and Jones Ferry roads.

The board approved an anti-lingering ordinance for the intersection in November 2007 after residents of the surrounding neighborhood complained of public consumption, public urination and garbage in the areas around the intersection.

"It doesn't encroach on civil liberties - it's a preemptive strike on civil liberties." — STEPHEN DEAR

Day laborers, many of them Latino, often gather at the intersection in hopes that contractors will come by and offer them work. The ordinance prohibits waiting at the intersection from 11 a.m. until 5 a.m. Carrboro Police Chief Carolyn

Hutchison said police had not arrested anyone for disobeying the ordinance since it was put into place and recommended that the board keep the ordinance on the books.

"It seems that people who previously lingered respect this law and comply with this law," Hutchison said. "Police officers find themselves in fewer adversarial situations."

However, residents have said people continue to gather at the intersection and cause problems. Others argue that the ordinance infringes on civil liberties.

Emily Scarborough, a resident

of Davie Road, said she had seen people urinate in her yard and also has had to clean up human feces from the yard.

"We just want our property to be protected. We want to feel safe," she said. "I find it really reprehensible that we have to deal with this."

Board member Randee Haven-O'Donnell said she has driven by the intersection several times recently and seen people loitering in the area in the late afternoon.

SEE ORDINANCE PAGE 3



PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW

Brian T. Rice, a barista at Caffe Driade, measures out organic India Elkhill Estate coffee beans. Though Starbucks recently attributed declines in revenue customers' changing buying patterns. But local coffee purveyors disagree, saying sales of joe and whole beans are steady. See Land & Table on page 9.

Ellis resignation concerns community

BY SUSAN DICKSON Staff Writer



The recent resignation of Chapel Hill High School Principal Jackie Ellis has sparked concern and speculation among some community members that the demands of the job prevent the school from maintaining a single principal for more than a couple of years.

Ellis announced her resignation in late January, and will continue as principal until March 20, after which she will serve as assistant superintendent

for human resources in Durham Public Schools. She has served as principal since 2007, and said that while she will miss Chapel Hill High, the job prevented her from spending time with her family.

"It's probably one of the most difficult decisions, and yet at the same time one of the easiest decisions ... of course because it's going to be much better for my family," Ellis said. "I get my life back, and my family gets me back."

SEE ELLIS PAGE 8

Harrington navigates recession, sees mortgage lending increase

BY MARGOT C. LESTER Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — With banks still sputtering after last year's huge federal bail-out - including three bank failures already this year - it would be easy to think that all financial institutions are on the ropes. But one local lender is beating the odds with high reserves and a new branch on the way. To get the scoop, The Citizen spoke with Larry Loeser, president and CEO of Chapel Hill-based Harrington Bank, recently named 2008 Large Business of the Year by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce.

Q: You're on the record as saying the bank is healthy and lending. How are you able to do that when so many others are being more guarded?

A: Part of it is we're in a great community. Chapel Hill-Carrboro is unique. I don't expect we'll have any problems here because it's such an economically strong and pretty diverse, economically speaking, community. The university and hospital provide strong anchors for employees and the school system is a major contributor to the economic strength of the community. We will have problems - there's no way we can be immune in an historic recession, but we won't see them as much.

Q: You've mentioned expanding into Cary. Is that still happening and if so, when?

A: Yes; at Hwy. 55 at High House Rd. But it's gone slower than we would have liked because of zoning approvals. But we're working with a developer partner who's going as fast as they can. We could probably get that branch

open early in 2010. That timing is fine with us since we opened two last year. We're using the extra time to stabilize those new branches at MLK Boulevard in Chapel Hill, and in north Raleigh in Falls River Towne Center, north of 540.

Q: Has your mortgage business slowed with the economy?

A: No. In our mortgage activity, we've seen a huge uptick because of declining rates. We're busier than we've ever been, with 30-year mortgages under 5 percent.

Q: How many foreclosures did the bank have in 2007 and 2008?

A: We're in the secondary market and never participated in subprime mortgages of any sort. Our mortgages are to good, solid borrowers. Foreclosures have not been an issue and won't be for us.

Q: What's your loan-loss reserve?

A: All banks have a loan-loss reserve. We started from scratch and are fairly new, so we reserve very heavily since we don't have any loss experience to base on. We're conservative. Our loss reserve by industry standards is extremely high - 1.65 percent of total loans. Any losses we have, we're well reserved for. Historically, we have very few losses.

Q: Last month, BB&T announced decreased profits attributed to defaults by homebuilders and developers. How is Harrington faring?

A: We do lend to homebuilders and have some who are "on the ropes" because home sales have been slow for a good year and a half. Builders' basic business model is to build and

SEE HARRINGTON PAGE 5

INSIDE

Business section page 5

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Citizen wins six NC press awards

The Carrboro Citizen won six awards including two first-place awards in the 2008 North Carolina Press Association's News, Editorial and Photojournalism contest.

The awards are to be presented tonight at the press association banquet in Cary.

Contributing editor Taylor Sisk won first place for "A few moments with Beulah," which profiled longtime Carrboro resident Beulah Hackney. Sisk also won first place in the News Enterprise reporting category for a series on environmental justice issues that focused on the Rogers Road neighborhood. He won second place in News Enterprise Reporting for the Breakdown series, which examined the local effects of the state's mental health care crisis.

In photojournalism, Isaac Sandlin won second place in the General News Photography category for his photograph of the candle-light vigil on campus following the death of Eve Carson.

Citizen editor Kirk Ross received a third-place award for the paper's editorial page and shared a third-place award for General Excellence in Newspaper Web Sites with Michelle Langston, Lucy Butcher and Jack Carley.

Citizen publisher Robert Dickson said he was pleased to see the paper recognized for its journalism.

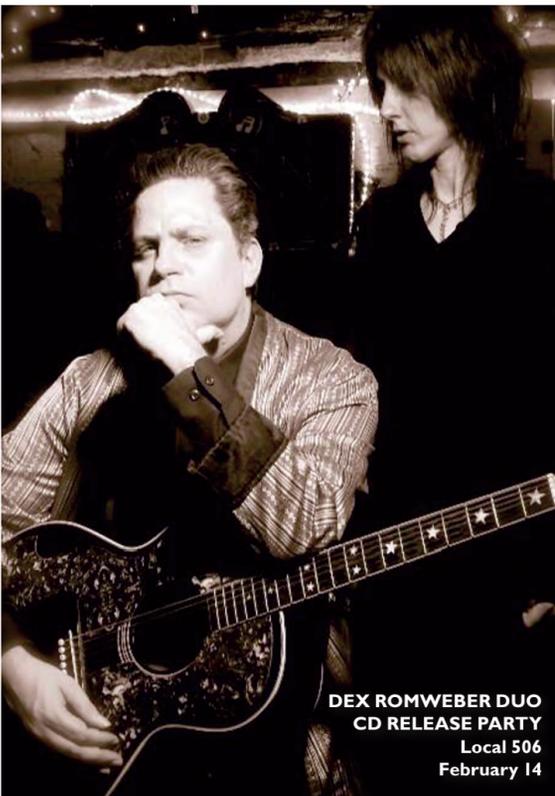
"Our staff has worked hard to bring high-quality journalism to our community. It's great to see them rewarded for their efforts," he said.

Founded in 2007 and accepted into the press association a year later, this is the first year the newspaper was eligible to enter the contest.

— Staff Reports



MUSIC CALENDAR



DEX ROMWEBER DUO
CD RELEASE PARTY
Local 506
February 14

THURSDAY FEB 12

The Arts Center: J.D. Souther. 8:30pm

The Cave: EARLY: Greg Koons. LATE: Do It To Julia, Nomad Kings
General Store Cafe: Ron Baxter. 7-9pm

Nightlight: Big-ard. 10pm

Reservoir: Gunslinger, Jenny Wood, Goodbye Titan

FRIDAY FEB 13

Blue Bayou: Swamp Doctors. 9:30pm

Cat's Cradle: Carbon Leaf, Tripp. 9pm, \$14/16

The Cave: LATE: Nu Skinz

General Store Cafe: Mike Slaton and The Wheels. 8:30-11pm

Local 506: Great 8 Showcase: Hammer No More The Fingers, Double Negative, Violet Vector and The Lovely Lovelies, Lonnie Walker. 9:30pm, \$6

Nightlight: Spaghetti Western, Greasy Joan, VeeLee. 10pm

Open Eye Cafe: Julia Rose. 8pm

SATURDAY FEB 14

Blue Bayou: Tinsley Ellis. 9:30pm

Cat's Cradle: Walk on Thin Air CD Release Party, The Old Ceremony, Roman Candle. 9:30pm, \$10

The Cave: With Tim Stambaugh. A Valentines Love Fest featuring a dozen happily married couples who met at the Cave. LATE: Firehouse Rhythm Kings

General Store Cafe: Victor Murilli. 6-8pm. Dave Youngman Band. 8-11pm

Harry's Market: Chambergrass. 2-4pm

Local 506: Dexter Romweber Duo CD Release Show, Killer Filler, Michael Rank and Marc E. Smith. 10pm, \$5/7

Nightlight: Valentines Dance Party with WXYC DJ's. \$5



UNC Memorial Hall: Hilary Hahn. 8pm

Open Eye Cafe: Greg Koons. 8pm

Reservoir: Sick and the Dead DVD release party. 8pm

SUNDAY FEB 15

Cat's Cradle: Gorilla Music Battle of the Bands: The Winfield, Lion at Lunchtime, The Best of Times, Matt and Danny, Dreamkiller, Thought-speak, John Saylor and the Afterbucket Orchestra, Kevin Wing, The Orange Sole Exclusive, Schizophrenia, Half Dead, Tavara

MONDAY FEB 16

The Cave: Seth Glier

Reservoir: Pink Flag, Let Me Crazy

TUESDAY FEB 17

Blue Bayou: Blues Jam. 8pm

The Cave: LATE: Rooster for the Masses, Zelazowa. \$5

Nightlight: Pontiak, Tooth. \$5

WEDNESDAY FEB 18

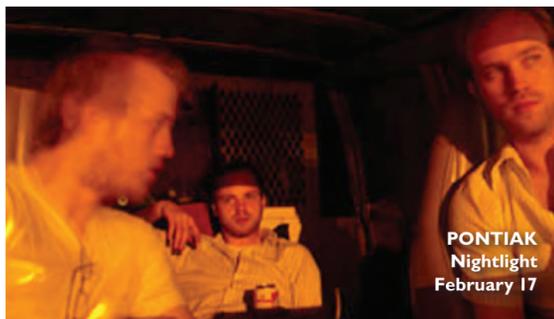
The Cave: LATE: The Reverend Dead Eye. \$5

General Store Cafe: Gretchen Witt. 7-9pm

Nightlight: Teh Vodak, Rip It Ups, Can Kickers. 9:30pm

THURSDAY FEB 19

The Cave: EARLY: Aaron Berg. LATE: David Spencer Band



PONTIAK
Nightlight
February 17

General Store Cafe: Tony Gailani Band. 7-9pm

Local 506: Two Planes, The White Cascade, Goodbye Titan. 9pm, \$6

Nightlight: 919 Noise Showcase. 10pm, \$5

Reservoir: Rockin' Ammonia Karoke

FRIDAY FEB 20

Blue Bayou: Spoonful of Soul. 9:30pm

Cat's Cradle: Fujiya and Miyagi, Project Jenny Project. Jan. 9pm, \$12/14

The Cave: EARLY: Sea Cow. LATE: Shakermaker, Tin Star, Batata Doce

General Store Cafe: Tad Dreis. 8:30-11pm

Local 506: Boxbomb CD Release Show, House of Fools, Lake Inferior. 9:30pm. Free

Meymandi Concert Hall: Pointer Sisters. 8pm

SATURDAY FEB 21

Cat's Cradle: MC Chris. 11pm, \$12/14

The Cave: LATE: Aminor, Vinyl Strangers

General Store Cafe: LeRoy Savage. 8:30-11pm

Local 506: Joe Romeo and The Orange County Volunteers CD Release Show. 10pm. Free

Meymandi Concert Hall: Pointer Sisters. 8pm

Nightlight: Soundpainting Orchestra, The Circuitry Dance Patrol, Projexorcism. 10pm

Open Eye Cafe: Robert Funk. 8pm

SPOTLIGHT



ART WEEKEND AHEAD

Drawings and sculptures inspired by nature at the N.C. Botanical Garden, the strange reality of 12 Grain Studios Matt Duquette at Wootini and a wonderland of fauna at The ArtsCenter are among the show openings and gallery receptions this weekend. Following is a list of some of the events:

- A reception for the artists for the show "Nature, Near and Far," an exhibit of plant and animal portraits by Georgia Minnich and Dot Wilbur-Brooks, will be held at the Totten Center at the Botanical Garden on Sunday from 4 to 5 p.m.
- Nested is hosting a reception for a show by Carolyn Butler featuring selections from a drawing series created in response to the gentrification of College Hill in Providence, R.I.
- Bicameral Mind and Subscape Annex will provide the background sounds at the opening at Wootini of Duquette's "Transitions" collection on Friday at 7 p.m.
- The ArtsCenter will have the doors open during the 2nd Friday Artwalk, with etchings by Mary Mendell in the East End Gallery and acrylic paintings from Shannon Bueker's "Wonder o' Wonders" in the Center Gallery.

Listings for more galleries are available at the 2nd Friday Artwalk website and through individual gallery websites. A collection of those sites is available at carrborocitizen.com/mill/art-venues/



FR 2/27 RAILROAD EARTH



FR 2/13 CARBON LEAF
W/TRIPP**(\$14/\$16)

SA 2/14 CD RELEASE PARTY(\$10)**
THE OLD CEREMONY
W/SPECIAL GUEST
ROMAN CANDLE

SU 2/15 GORILLA BAND SHOWCASE

FR 2/20 FUJIYA & MIYAGA
W/PROJECT JENNY,
PROJECT JAN**(\$12/\$14)

SA 2/21 D S I COMEDY FESTIVAL:
DEATH BY ROO ROO,
BEATBOX, MC CHRIS
(COMEDY AND CONCERT SETS)

SU 2/22 DAVE BARNES
W/DREW HOLCOLMB**(\$14)

WE 2/25 AND YOU WILL
KNOW US BY THE
TRAIL OF DEAD
W/FUNERAL PARTY, RED COLLAR
& MIDNIGHT MASSES**(\$12/\$15)

TH 2/26 PICO VS.
ISLAND TREES
W/SLOW RUNNER, MAX INDIAN**

FR 2/27 RAILROAD EARTH**
W/OLD SCHOOL FREIGHT TRAIN

SU 3/1 BEN KWELLER
W/WATSON TWINS**(\$16/\$18)

MO 3/2 TAPES 'N TAPES
W/WILD LIGHT**(\$10/\$12)

WE 3/4 PRESENTED BY MYSPEACE MUSIC
BLACK LIPS
W/GENTLEMAN JESSE,
THE MOANERS**(\$10/\$12)

TH 3/5 THE MUSIC TAPES
W/NANA GRIZOL
AND SUPERCLUSTER**(\$10)

FR 3/6 NEIL DIAMOND
ALL-STARS W/THE DAVE
SPENCER BAND(\$10)**
SA 3/7 ANATHALLO
W/FILTHY BIRD**(\$10)

TH 3/12 VETIVER(\$12/\$14)**
W/SIAN ALICE GROUP, MEGAFAUN

FR 3/13 JUNIOR BROWN**
SA 3/14 WOODS SCHOOL BENEFIT
W/ELI "PAPERBOY" REED,
GREAT BIG GONE, LYNN
BLAKEY & ECKI HEINS**

TH 3/19 AC NEWMAN
W/THE BROKEN WEST**(\$12/\$14)

FR 3/20(\$15)**
GENE WEEN BAND

SA 3/21 THE TING TINGS(\$15)**
TU 3/24 CUT COPY**(\$16/\$18)
W/MATT & KIM, DJ KNIGHTLIFE

WE 3/25 GLASVEGA HAS BEEN CANCELLED

SA 3/27 YO MAMA'S BIG FAT
BOOTY BAND
W/THE MANTRAS**(\$10/\$12)

TU 3/31 THE PRESETS
W/THE GOLDEN FILTER**(\$15/\$17)

WE 4/1(\$12/\$14)**
LANGHORNE SLIM

TH 4/2(\$14/\$16) ON SALE 2/13**
MATT WERTZ

SA 4/4 ROCCO DELUCA
AND THE BURDEN
W/HONEYHONEY**(\$12/\$15)

TU 4/7 BRIAN JONESTOWN
MASSACRE(\$15)**

WE 4/8 ROBYN
HITCHCOCK
& THE VENUS 3(\$15/\$17)**

MO 4/13 OF MONTREAL(\$18)**

TU 4/14 STEREO TOTAL,
LESLIE & THE LYS(\$12/\$15)**

TU 4/28 THE KILLS W/THE
HORRORS & MAGIC WANDS**

FR 5/1 REVEREND HORTON HEAT

WE 5/6(\$13/\$15) THE GASLIGHT**
ANTHEM, PELA AND
GOOD OLD WAR



SA 4/4
ROCCO DELUCA
AND THE BURDEN



TU 3/31
THE PRESETS



SA 2/14 THE OLD CEREMONY
CD RELEASE PARTY
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
ROMAN CANDLE



TU 3/31
TAPES AND TAPES



SA 2/21
MC CHRIS



WE 3/11
KATHLEEN EDWARDS
THE ARTSCENTER (CARRBORO)



TH 6/4
MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM (RALEIGH)
ON SALE SAT 2/14

ALSO PRESENTING

- LOCAL 506 (CHAPEL HILL)**
FR 2/27 HARVEY MILK
W/BLACK SKIES, PONTIAK
- SA 2/28 TIM BARRY (AVAIL)
/ AUSTIN LUCAS / JOSH SMALL
W/SMOKE OR FIRE (ACOUSTIC)
- SU 3/1 THRIVING IVORY
W/COMPANY OF THIEVES
- TU 3/10 LYDIA
W/BLACK GOLD, ALL GET OUT
- FR 3/13 THE AIRBORNE TOXIC
EVENT W/ALBERTA CROSS AND
HENRY CLAY PEOPLE
- MO 4/13 APPELSEED CAST

LINCOLN THEATRE (RALEIGH)
WE 2/18 **SON VOLT**
W/ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART
FR 4/3 **NORTH MISSISSIPPI**
ALLSTARS
W/HILL COUNTRY REVUE
ON SALE SAT FEB 14
TH 5/28 **THE NATIONAL**
ON SALE FRI FEB 13
VIA ETIX.COM

THE ARTSCENTER (CAR)
SU 3/8 AND MO 3/9 TWO SHOWS!
RICHARD THOMPSON
WE 3/11 **KATHLEEN EDWARDS**
W/CLARE BURSON

CAROLINA THEATRE (OUR)
SA 2/28 **JOAN BAEZ**
TIX VIA THEATRE BOX OFFICE
OR CAROLINATHEATRE.ORG

DISCO RODEO (RAL)
WE 3/11
MODEST MOUSE
PLUS SPECIAL GUEST **MIMICKING BIRDS**
TIX VIA ETIX.COM, CAT'S CRADLE,
SCHOOLKIDS, CD ALLEY

MEYMANDI CONCERT HALL (RAL)
TU 4/7 **NEKO CASE**
W/CROOKED FINGERS
TIX VIA TICKETMASTER
OR PROGRESSENERGYCENTER.COM

FLETCHER OPERA THEATRE (RALEIGH)
FR 5/1 **TIFT MERRITT**
TIX VIA TICKETMASTER

MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM (RALEIGH)
TH 6/4
THE DECEMBERISTS
ON SALE SAT FEB 14
TIX VIA TICKETMASTER, VENUE BOX OFFICE
OR PROGRESSENERGYCENTER.COM

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News Briefs

Carrboro wants feedback

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen and the town manager are requesting feedback from town residents regarding Carrboro community needs to be included in the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

A public hearing will be held Feb. 24. The town manager plans to submit a recommended budget on May 5. A public hearing on the recommended budget will be held May 26.

Residents are invited to email suggestions to the town clerk at swilliamson@townofcarrboro.org, fax comments to 918-4456 or mail them to 301 W. Main St., Carrboro, N.C., 27510.

Budget materials are online at townofcarrboro.org/ms/budget.htm

Carolina North meetings scheduled

As *The Citizen* went to press Wednesday night, university and town officials were scheduled to go over a draft development plan for the Carolina North.

According to an updated timeline, a development plan that includes up to 3 million square feet of building space could be ready to be submitted to the town in early March.

Negotiators are working on mitigation measures, storm-water utility plans and transportation planning in this latest phase of the work.

The next public information meeting on Carolina North is scheduled for Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. at Chapel Hill Town Hall.

Chatham CIP hearing scheduled

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on a proposed update on the county's five-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) on Monday at 6 p.m. in the Superior Courtroom in Pittsboro. The plan include the schedule and financing for large purchases of buildings, land, facilities and equipment. To view the plan go to chathamnc.org/Index.aspx?page=1086

County appointments

The Orange County Board of Commissioners recently made several appointments to boards and commissions. Appointments include;

- Advisory Board on Aging – Haryo Marsosudiro and Heather Altman;
- Affordable Housing Advisory Board – Nannie Richmond;
- Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau – Jim Parker;
- Commission for the Environment – Lucy Adams, Loren Hintz, Michelle Drostin, Chris Adam, Renee Price, Gary Saunders and Dawn Santoianini;
- Historic Preservation Commission – Robin Moran;
- Human Services Advisory Commission – Ronnie Torain, Christi Hurt and Nancy Park;
- Planning Board – Judith Wegner and Mark Marcoplos; and
- Human Relations Commission – Rita Anita Linger and Barbara Prear.

Meeting times change

Meetings of the Orange County Board of Commissioners will begin at 7 p.m. starting in March, unless otherwise noted.

Meetings previously began at 7:30 p.m. The change is temporary, for the 2009 calendar year.

During construction and facility improvements, meetings normally held in Hillsborough at the F. Gordon Battle Courtroom will be held at the new Central Orange Senior Center on Meadowlands Drive, next to the SportsPlex.

The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners is a work session scheduled for Thursday (today) at the Southern Human Services Center. Items on the agenda include an update on the current fiscal year, next year's budget and a review of the federal economic stimulus plan.



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CLASSIFIED & REAL ESTATE

carrborocitizen.com/classifieds 919-942-2100, 8:30-3 M-F
Classifieds deadline is midnight Tuesday.

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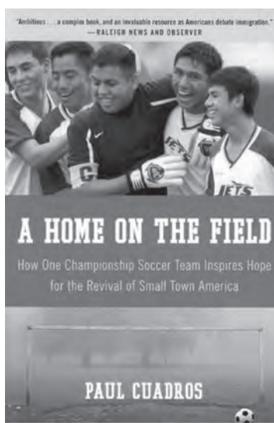
ONLINE carrborocitizen.com/main Updated every Thursday.

Professor's book about Siler City soccer team chosen for UNC summer reading program

BY JASMINA NOGO
Staff Writer

"I was surprised and shocked when I received the phone call," said Paul Cuadros, an assistant professor at the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication, about learning that his book, *A Home on the Field*, was chosen as the summer reading for the incoming class of 2013. Cuadros is the first UNC faculty member whose book has been selected for the program.

As part of its Summer Reading Program, UNC asks all incoming students to read a book during the summer and participate in small group discussions once they arrive in Chapel Hill. The program serves as an academic icebreaker that's intended to stimulate critical thinking outside of the



classroom environment.

A Home on the Field explores the class and ethnic conflict that immigrants face in America through the story of a Latino high school soccer team in Siler City. With Cuadros as their coach, the men's soccer

I hope the book will help students become more aware of what life is like for immigrants living in the U.S.

team at Jordan-Matthews High School climbed to a state championship despite significant social and immigration obstacles.

"I hope the book will help students become more aware of what life is like for immigrants living in the U.S.," Cuadros said.

"He raises tough questions about what services and opportunities the state of North Car-

olina should make available to these immigrants," said John McGowan, chairman of the book-selection committee.

A committee of nine students, faculty and staff began meeting last fall to select this year's book for the program. The committee chose *A Home on the Field* from among 239 recommendations.

"It's a great honor to be selected. It's also a great honor for the journalism school," Cuadros said. He added that the selection of his book is a testament to the school.

Cuadros is an award-winning investigative reporter who specializes in issues of race and poverty. He has been part of the UNC faculty since 2007.

He says he is currently working on another book about immigrants.

N.C. Comedy Arts Festival to fill town with laughs

BY SARAH SHAH

Courtesy of the Carrboro Commons

If the roaring applause Friday night at DSI Comedy Theater's filled-to-capacity Mister Diplomat show is any indication, the upcoming North Carolina Comedy Arts Festival promises to be a huge success.

From Feb. 12 to 21, nationally renowned comedians such as *Saturday Night Live* writer Bryan Tucker will be among hundreds that descend upon Carrboro for the ninth annual festival.

Formerly known as The Dirty South Improv Festival, this year the festival will be one week longer and, for the first time, will host stand-up comics.

"The country's best comedy will be here in Carrboro," said Zach Ward, the festival's producer and DSI owner. "Only 30 percent of groups that submit to come are accepted."

The festival's lineup includes more than 200 comedy, improv and stand-up acts over a two-week period.

Katherine Ciccarelli, a UNC student, said she plans to attend a number of shows during the festival.

"I went last year and had a blast," she said. "It's just this huge laughfest. I can't wait to go again."

Performers range from the Beatbox, a group of rap and improv artists from Chicago, to UNC's student comedy group, the Chapel Hill Players, known as CHiPs. Ward said he views the festival not only as a launching pad for the acts coming into town but for local performers as well.

"It's important to local comedy because it showcases what is possible to a local audience," he said.

Ward said that local groups may see something other performers try, and might be encouraged to try a new concept.



John Loftin, 2008's NC Funniest Comic, performs at 9pm on Thursday

The festival, which will showcase at DSI Comedy Theater, Cat's Cradle, The ArtsCenter, ArtsCenter West End Theater and the UNC campus, is modeled after the HBO-sponsored U.S. Comedy Festival held in Aspen.

Ward said that Carrboro is a small town, where you wouldn't expect to find a comedy festival. He said that's exactly why the shows are so successful.

"It's a highly concentrated event in an unexpected place," Ward said. "So professionals used to small theaters in big cities come, and they're

greeted with an audience of 400 at Hamilton Hall. They think it's awesome."

A festival press release said Carrboro's population increased by 4 percent and businesses earned an extra \$150,000 in spillover spending from the festival last year. Ward said these numbers, and the impact on downtown Carrboro, surprised him the most.

But he said the size and accessibility of Carrboro were likely factors.

"In Carrboro, it's easy for people to walk and go eat dinner, go to the show and then go to a bar," Ward said.

Pointing to the recession, Ward said that comedy has the benefit of making someone think critically without spiraling downward into a depression.

"Laughing is smiling out loud," he said. "If you can't laugh on a regular basis, there's no purpose."

He said watching a comedy act is like watching a person walk the high wire, and constantly wondering if that person will mess up.

"But the fact that people even attempt to walk the high wire makes the event worth going to," he said.

Tickets for the festival range from \$7 to \$20 and can be purchased at the door or in advance at the festival's website. Purchasing early is highly recommended, as more than half the shows sold out last year.

Ward said there is a reason people attend the festival.

"Can you guarantee every movie you see will be good?" he said. "I can guarantee that the success rate of the festival will be higher than Southpoint Cinemas."

Sarah Shah 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.

ORDINANCE

FROM PAGE 1

But Hutchison said the ordinance only applies to the public property near the intersection and that people gather on the private property around the nearby convenience store.

Stephen Dear argued that the board should find a way to improve the situation without imposing an anti-lingering ordinance.

"I don't recognize the Carrboro that I so admire in this ordinance," he said. "It doesn't encroach on civil

liberties – it's a preemptive strike on civil liberties."

"It has nothing to do with the very basic rights of American citizens," he added.

Dear questioned whether concern would be so high if the men were white rather than Latino and encouraged the board to hear more public comment on the ordinance before voting to keep it in place.

"We should be ashamed of this ordinance," he said. "This is not what we're about, and we all know this."

The board will hold a public hearing on the anti-lingering ordinance on March 24.

Carrboro Century Center
Swing Dance!
Saturday February 14
8:00 - 11:00
Introductory Lesson
7:30-8:00
TriangleSwingDance.org
NEXT CCC SWING DANCE IS MARCH 14

Read us online:
carrborocitizen.com/main

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Cut to Order Pork Chops CENTER CUT \$2.99/lb	Cackalacky Sauce \$3.99/bottle	NY Strip Black Angus \$6.99/lb
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Community Briefs

Bike donations for homeless

Ten bicycles, helmets, locks and bike lights were donated to the Inter-Faith Council men's homeless shelter in downtown Chapel Hill on Friday, Feb. 6 as the result of a community-wide effort to provide safe and reliable transportation for homeless men living at the shelter. The Employment Initiatives Work Group, a committee of the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness, initiated the effort. The ReCYCLery donated 10 bikes and Performance Bicycle donated all of the biking accessories and two bicycle racks.



Frederickson reading

Leading psychological scholar, UNC Kenan Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Carrboro resident Barbara Frederickson will read from her new book, *Positivity*, on Feb. 19 at the Bull's Head Bookshop at UNC Student Stores.

The book explores how positive thinking can change your life through a three-to-one ratio of positive emotions to negative ones.

Frederickson will also sign copies of her book and answer questions.

Film screening

Chatham Arts' 100 Mile Film Series presents *Brushes with Life* by local filmmaker Philip Brubaker will be shown at the Fearington Barn on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. The film series features documentaries and independent films involving producers, directors, subjects and locations within 100 miles of Pittsboro in an effort to recognize local artists. *Brushes with Life* features eight artists with illness transcending stigma and demanding recognition in a world that often rejects them. General admission is \$5, \$3 for students. For more information, contact ChathamArts at 542-0394 or visit the website at chathamarts.org

Pauli Murray awards ceremony

The Orange County Human Relations Commission and the Office of Human Rights and Relations will host the 2008 Pauli Murray Human Relations Awards on Feb. 22 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Little Theater at New Hope Elementary School on New Hope Church Road.

The Pauli Murray Award is presented annually by the Orange County Human Relations Commission to an Orange County youth, adult and business that have served the community with distinction in the pursuit of equality, justice and human rights for all citizens.

The event will feature musical entertainment, a step performance by the Omicron Iota Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the winners of the 2008 Human Rights Student Essay Contest and recognition of the recipients of the 2008 Paul Murray Human Relations Award.

For more information, contact the Office of Human Rights and Relations at 960-3875.

Rep. Price talks about the economy

Congressman David Price will hold a Town Hall to discuss economic challenges, transportation, the environment, education, health care and international affairs. The event will be from 7-8:30p.m. on Feb. 19 at the Southern Human Services Center at 2501 Homestead Road. Chapel Hill Residents needing special accommodations should call 859-5999 to make arrangements.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY FEB 12

Darwin Day — Celebrate the 200th birthday of both Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin, NC Botanical Garden. Activities include a tour of the grounds and trails. 12:30pm, free, 962-0522, ncbg.unc.edu

FRIDAY, FEB 13

Computer Class — A free Email III class. Basic computer skills required. 8:30-9:30am, Chapel Hill Public Library. 968-2780

Gallery Tour — "John Keats" with Dr. Libby Chenault of the Rare Book Collection, celebrating the Library's six-millionth book. (The talk will be repeated March 13, 3:30-4:30pm.) 3:30-4:30pm, Wilson Library, free, 962-1143 or rbcref@email.unc.edu

Pottery Demonstration — North Carolina Potter of 32 years, Sylvia Coppola, will demonstrate handbuilding, 6-9pm and wheel throwing from 10am-1pm. Turning Point Gallery, University Mall

Art after Dark — Enjoy a cash bar, live music and "At the Heart of Progress," a gallery talk by Curator of Collections Timothy Riggs. Music at 5pm, gallery talk at 6:45pm, S. Columbia and Franklin streets. 966-5736

Pool Opening — The Homestead Aquatic Center will be dedicated and formally opened to the community with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, dedication plaque and a grand cake. 11am-noon

Meet the Author Tea — Meet Louise Hawes, author of *Black Pearls: A Faerie Strand*. Refreshments at 3:30pm, program from 4-5pm, Chapel Hill Public Library. 968-2780

SATURDAY, FEB 14

Computer class — Carrboro Branch Library is offering a class on Microsoft Word. 9-10am, 969-3006

Pottery Demonstration — Sylvia Coppola will demonstrate wheel throwing from 10am-1pm. Turning Point Gallery

Swing Dancing — Triangle Swing Dance presents Bill Newton's Big Blues Quartet. Century Center, 8-11:00pm, \$7 to \$11, no partner needed, lesson at 7:30pm, TriangleSwingDance.org

Vision Program — Learn about technologies available to people with low vision. 4-6pm, Chapel Hill Public Library, 968-2780

Family Concert — Songs about important African-Americans, diversity, reading and books. 11-11:45am, Chapel Hill Public Library, 968-2778

SUNDAY, FEB 15

Jung Society Salon — The C.G.

Jung Society of the Triangle will host a free salon, "Mother, Daughter, Holy Soul: A Feminine Trinity for our Times." 2-4pm, Chapel Hill Public Library



MONDAY, FEB 16

Computer Class — A free class in Social Networking I. Basic computer skills required. 8:30-9:30am, Chapel Hill Public Library. 968-2780

TUESDAY, FEB 17

Library Tour — UNC's Wilson Library will open the normally off-limits stacks of archives for public tours. Reception 5pm, tours 5:45pm, fourth floor of Wilson Library. 962-4207, www.lib.unc.edu/spotlight/2009/archives.html

WEDNESDAY, FEB 18

Computer Class — A free class in Social Networking II. Basic computer skills required. 8:30-9:30am, Chapel Hill Public Library. 968-2780

THURSDAY, FEB 19

Book Signing — Barbara Frederickson will read, sign copies and answer questions from her new book *Positivity*. 3:30pm, Bull's Head Bookshop at UNC Student Stores

Reentry Partners Potluck — Potluck and presentation by TROSA to provide transition and re-entry services information for ex-offenders. 11am-1pm, St. Matthew's fellowship hall, Hillsborough. 644-1009

DNA Talk — Dr. Cynthia Powell, chief of the UNC Division of Genetics and Metabolism, will speak about DNA testing. 2:30pm, Robert and Pearl Seymour Center. Free, 968-2070

Author Event — The Hillsborough Literary Association will host a reading by Hillsborough author Frances Mayes. 7:30pm, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 210 St. Mary's Road, Hillsborough, \$12. 732-7451, director@burwellschool.org

FRIDAY, FEB 20

Book Sale — The Friends of the Chapel Hill Public Library will host a book sale to benefit the library Feb. 20-22 at the Chapel Hill Public

Library. 4-7pm Friday (Friends of the Library only, you may join at the door), 9am-4pm Saturday and 1-3pm Sunday. 968-2780

Contra Dance — The Carolina Song & Dance Association presents a contra dance with live music by the Carolina Caterwaulers. Newcomers workshop at 7:30pm, dancing at 8pm, Carrboro Century Center. \$8 donation requested. 967-9948, www.ccsda-dance.org

Computer Class — A free class in Social Networking III. Basic computer skills required. 8:30-9:30am, Chapel Hill Public Library. 968-2780

SATURDAY, FEB 21

Mental Health Program — The 31st annual Legislative Breakfast for Mental Health. 8:30-11am, The Friday Center. Free, donations appreciated. 933-8941, namiodistserv@gmail.com

Computer Class — A free class in Introduction to Microsoft Excel. Class size limited to four. 9-10am, Carrboro Branch Library at McDougale School. 969-3006 or www.lib.unc.edu/cws to register

History Day — Revolutionary War Living History Day will feature marching drills, musket-firing demonstrations, open-flame cooking and guided tours of Hillsborough's colonial and Revolutionary War sites. 10am-4pm, Alexander Dickson House, 150 E. King St., Hillsborough. 732-7741, www.historichillsborough.org

Art Show — The Seventh Annual Fearington Folk Art Show to benefit Chatham Outreach Alliance. Feb. 21-22, 10am-5pm, the Barn at Fearington Village, \$5. 542-2121

Ongoing

Advent Lutheran — 10:25am worship service

Buddhist Teachings and Meditation — Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm. The Kosala Mahayana Buddhist center teaches traditional Kadampa Buddhist practice. 711 W. Rosemary St. 619-5736, meditationinchapelhill.org

Cancer Support — Weekly support free of charge for cancer patients and family at Cornucopia House. cornucopiahouse.org

The Compassionate Friends

— Third Mondays, 7-8:30pm. Self-help support after the death of a child. Free and open to all adults grieving the loss of a child or sibling. Evergreen United Methodist Church. 967-3221, chapelhillctf.org

DivorceCare — Mondays, 7pm. A support group for those separated or divorced. Orange United Methodist Church, 942-2825, connect2orange.org

Kids

Toddler Time — Thursdays, 4pm, Carrboro Branch Library. 969-3006

Preschool Story Time — Saturdays, 10:30am. Carrboro Branch Library. 969-3006

Story Time — Thursdays, 10:30am. Market Street Books, 510 Market Street, Southern Village. All ages welcomed. 933-5111

Express Yourself! — Saturdays, 10:45-11:15am, 11:30am-noon. Art program for ages 3-8 & their caregivers. Kidzu Children's Museum, 105 E. Franklin St. \$2, 933-1455, kidzuchildrensmuseum.org

Volunteers

RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program — Seeks volunteers at least 55 years of age and over who would like assistance in finding an opportunity that matches their interests. RSVP places volunteers with more than 100 nonprofit agencies in Orange County. 968-2056, co.orange.nc.us/aging/RSVPindex.asp

Meals on Wheels — Seeks volunteers to deliver meals and/or bake simple desserts for recipients in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro area. 942-2948 harwellja@bellsouth.net

Hospice — Training for those interested in being UNC Hospice volunteers, Fridays from Feb. 13-Mar. 20, 9am-12pm. UNC Health Care/Hospice Office, 1101 Weaver Dairy Road, Chapel Hill. To register, contact Mary Honeycutt, 542-5545 or mhoneycutt@unch.unc.edu

Black History Month

Community Book Forum — UNC English Professor William Andrews will lead a discussion of *The North Carolina Roots of African American Literature*. 6:30pm, Carrboro Cybrary. 918-7387



SUPER CROSSWORD STRIKE ONE!

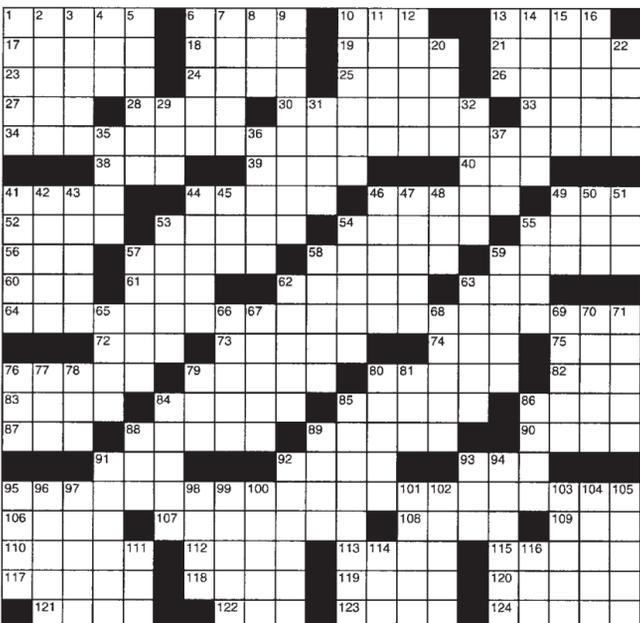
ACROSS

1 Resembling
6 Lowdown lit
10 Small shot
13 Ellipse
17 Prompts
18 Sheet of stamps
19 — League
21 Send
23 Suenos —
24 Computer image
25 Non-stereo
26 Praise for Pavarotti
27 "Norma" — (79 film)
28 Bruins' sch.
30 "Ada" author
33 List entry
34 Start of a remark by Will Rogers
38 Author LeShan
39 About
40 Very cold
41 Mets' milieu
44 Artist Neiman
46 Steakhouse order
49 Kasbah cap
52 Printed matter
53 Hook on a hawk
54 Wall Street spillover
55 Poi base
56 Code letters
57 Prominent

DOWN

1 Peck part
2 A Heap of

89 Black piano key
90 Spirit
91 — Lanka
92 Mutt of mystery
93 — -relief
95 End of remark
106 Corner a cat
107 Indy 500 figure
108 Actress Freeman
109 Fury's food
110 Destined to diet
112 Logical letters
113 Ultimate whale
115 Former African nation
117 Actress Marsa
118 Garr of "Mr. Mom"
119 Theater section
120 New York city
121 Salamander
122 57 Across, e.g.
123 Look like a leech
124 Com. treaty



CitizenCryptoquote By Martin Brody

For example, YAPHCYAPLM is WORDSWORTH. One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the two O's, Y for the two W's, etc.. Apostrophes, punctuation, the length and formation of the words are all hints.

"Everlasting Beauty"

W T D B V B D B H W T Z B Z
Z X F O U T J W T D B W X V B Z Z .
X U Z O G W T H B Z U Z P K T V
X U Z T L A B Y U . T V B
I G H D B W Z U O G U G
J H X B V R Y G V B D B H Z B B I
W B Z Z U O G V L B G P U X J P W .
- I G H N L G M B H B R R N
Find the answer in the puzzle answer section.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

3	1			5	4				
		2		1					
	9		8						1
	2		1				3		
5				3					6
		6			7	9	4		
	7		2		4	6			
		9	3					8	
6				5					9

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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PETS OF THE WEEK

PAWS4EVER

— Nippa is a very affectionate cat who doesn't mind being picked up or held. She loves toys, butt scratches, chin scratches, you name it! Nippa tolerates dogs big and small, as well as other cats. She enjoys having the most comfortable spot in the house to lie and will kindly persist upon her favorite spot even if you move her from it. She has always been a petite cat who only eats what she needs, and it may have come from being a wonderful mother to at least five beautiful kittens long ago. Nippa had a rough adolescence and was found starving, injured and nursing in the rain on the 4th of July. However, she holds no grudges and has taken to indoor life like a pro. She may go outside once in awhile, but she prefers being inside with her family. She has the most beautiful green eyes and her spirit and personality are just as beautiful as her kitty good looks. Come see her at Paws4Ever, 6311 Nicks Road, Mebane, or call 304-2300. You can also go online at paws4ever.org



ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES — Meet Martin!

If you are looking for a guy who will make you laugh this Valentine's Day, look no further! Martin is a 5-month-old grey tabby kitten who has a big personality and promises to put a big smile on your face!! He loves toys and will twirl and dance around his cage chasing a ball with great determination. When he finally catches it, he just sends it off for another round of fun! This guy sure knows how to entertain himself! But don't worry - he loves people too and will gladly share his love and his toys with you!!! Visit Orange County's Animal Shelter, 1081 MLK Jr. Blvd, Chapel Hill or call 967-7383. You can also see him online at www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp.



Biz Briefs

Chatham County development briefing

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro and Chatham Chambers of Commerce, Greater Chapel Hill Association of Realtors and Home Builders Association of Durham, Orange and Chatham counties will host their third annual briefing on March 10 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Governors Club. Register at www.carolinachamber.org/members/register.html

Getting Ready for Capital

The Center for Sustainable Enterprise at UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School, Hutchison Law Group and SJF Advisory Services present *Getting Ready for Capital* on Feb. 19 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the school's McColl Building on the UNC campus. The multi-panel program will help entrepreneurs understand what types of investments are available, what investors are looking for and how to attract investors. The program is free for Business Accelerator for Sustainable Entrepreneurship members, \$55 for non-members. To register, contact Jessica Thomas at 962-4259 or jessica_thomas@unc.edu

Hillsborough Chamber meeting

The Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce's next monthly lunch will be on Feb. 18. Lucinda Munger, new director of the Orange County Public Library, will discuss plans for the library's new facility and how the business community can benefit from the library's services. The cost is \$10 per person. Call or email 732-8156 or info@hillsboroughchamber.com for details.

Carrboro walking map available

The first Carrboro walking map and a related website, walkcarrboro.com, were introduced last week by the Carrboro Merchants Association. The association, a group of 22 downtown businesses, plans to use the map and the website to help spread the word about Carrboro as a tourist destination. The colorful map was hand drawn by Carrboro artist Richard Cloudt. The free map is available at any of the 22 participating merchants listed on www.walkcarrboro.com

Help for minority business owners

SCORE, Counselors to America's Small Business, has created new online resources for minority entrepreneurs at www.score.org/minority.html. Featured content includes research and data about African-American, Hispanic, Asian and Native American businesses. It also features a resource list of more than 30 organizations, groups and websites that offer news, information and advice; information on competitions for minority entrepreneurs. SCORE provides Spanish-language materials at www.score.org/hispanic.html and www.score.org/guides.html. In-person assistance is available at the local SCORE office, housed in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce at 104 S. Estes Drive. For information, call 968-6894 or visit www.scorechapelhill.org

Cuba as a cautionary tale

At this week's "Cuba in the Obama Era" talk at CHICLE, hosted by Carrboro resident Dan Whittle, UNC Professor Lou Pérez Jr. noted that if we're wondering what our future could look like, we should look at the island nation 90 miles from our shore. "Cuba is the first nation to experience the post-petroleum economy," he said. It all started in 1989. "The Soviet block collapsed and Cuba's principal trade partner disappeared," explained Pérez, the J. Carlyle Sitterson Professor of history and director of the Institute for the Study of the Americas at UNC. "That resulted in the loss of trade, commerce, transportation – it all came to a screeching halt." One of the biggest impacts was the loss of petroleum and petroleum-based products, formerly available (and deeply discounted) by the Soviets. Thus, Cuba became a post-petroleum society. And, Pérez said, a case-study. A petroleum-dependent U.S. could learn a few things from its neighbor to the south. "We can see how a society responds to the virtual disappearance of petroleum," he said. Transportation was the most obvious change under the new world order. "Getting to work becomes a monumental task when you previously relied on automobiles, which virtually disappeared, or public transportation that now have no fuel," Pérez recalled. "Havana began to look like Amsterdam, with bicycles, but it wasn't a culture made for bicycling and there were problems. There was also a lot of hitchhiking, and people with state-owned vehicles were obliged to give rides." Agriculture also changed significantly. "Urban agriculture sprung up, oxen plows replaced tractors and organic farming replaced fertilizer and pesticides," he said. "People in the city had small gardens and began to keep chickens." To some extent, the country's ability to deal with the loss of petroleum was related to the rationing citizens had lived with for years. The new situation wasn't that much different. But, Pérez said, there also was a spirit to survive, to cooperate and collaborate, "in part generated by the state, but mostly by the people". "The operative words during the 1990s were *resolver*, 'to resolve,' and *inventar*, 'to invent,'" he explained. "The people had to resolve their issues and invent new ways of getting things done."

HARRINGTON FROM PAGE 1

sell in a short time. They're not capitalized to hold onto homes for a year or more. We are financing new home construction – that even surprised me a little bit. There are homes selling out there. The press doesn't pick that up because it's hard to find. There's a small number of builders who were working on selling down inventory last year and are now down to a point where they can have product out of the ground to meet lower demand for the spring selling season.

Q: What percentage of assets are construction loans?

A: It's about 10 to 20 percent.

Q: What kind of businesses are seeking loans and are they getting them?

A: Loan demand is down because of the uncertain nature of the economy. We're still having new loan requests and making loans, but requests are not at the rate they were last year before the fourth quarter. It seems to be about the same mix of businesses. We're doing a restaurant loan, a commercial building – so it's not completely the end of the world. It may seem like it's close to it. But if you have faith in the free-market economy, you know things will come back around.



PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW

Larry Loeser, president and CEO of Harrington Bank

Q: There are several initiatives in the community for buying local. As CEO of a local bank, what's your definition of local?

A: For us, we focus mainly on Chapel Hill-Carrboro when we say local. I have a sticker on the side of my office that says "Buy Local." We're on that train – from the owner on down

through the board of directors and employees. We can do that better than large competitors can. We would extend into Durham and Chatham counties and parts of Wake County, but we're primarily here. We were founded here and our primary shareholder lives in Chapel Hill. It makes the economy stronger and builds

Harrington Bank: By the Numbers

Current deposit value: \$210 million
 Total loan value: \$270 million
 Percent of assets in construction loans: 10 to 20 percent
 Loan-loss reserve: 1.65 percent of total loans
 Total Assets: \$322 million



Small businesses seek recession solutions

The Town of Carrboro recently surveyed business owners about the impact of the recession on their enterprises. Sixty-eight surveys were sent out and 19 people responded (18 surveys bounced back). That's a 38 percent response rate.

Most of the survey's respondents were small businesses with fewer than 10 employees. Only six companies had more than 10.

Seventy-five percent of the respondents said the recession had reduced their sales volumes. Sixty-seven percent said the financial uncertainty made it impossible for them to plan for expansion or future expenses. The survey also asked business owners what the town, and the business community at large, could do to improve the situation. Respondents suggested:

- Providing short-term operating loans from the revolving loan fund
- Overturning restrictive signage rules
- Discontinuing the privilege license
- Increasing various marketing activities, including advertising and coordination with festivals
- Encouraging residents to buy local
- Working more closely with the Visitor's Center
- Advocating that the Chamber of Commerce provide discounted healthcare to members
- Attracting green industry and greening existing businesses

Is your enterprise being affected by the recession? Do you have some ideas on how the town and business community can improve the business climate? Send your ideas to Margot C. Lester at margot@carrborocitizen.com

Economy delays construction on 300 East Main project

BY ELISABETH ARRIERO

Courtesy of the Carrboro Commons

After years of waiting for the Carrboro Board of Aldermen to finally approve their project, developers of the 300 East Main complex recently ran into another speed bump: the economy.

Laura Van Sant of Main Street Properties, the company developing the five-building complex, said the 300 East Main development will not likely break ground until the second half of the year.

"With the economy as it is, we're postponing things a few months to allow the economy to loosen up a bit," she said.

The development, which will feature five five-story buildings, including a hotel and a parking deck, was originally slated to take five to seven years to complete, with construction occurring in phases.

Construction for the first building, the hotel, was scheduled to begin in early 2009 and end in 2010.

But the economic climate has meant that it's hard for potential businesses to get loans, Van Sant said.

She said that most tenants are now in the pre-lease stage.

"They won't actually sign any leases until we have a better idea of the schedule of when it's going to come out of the ground," she said.

Van Sant said she was not discouraged by the delay in construction because there are still a lot of other decisions about the development that Main Street Properties has to make.

"Even though we got approval from the board of aldermen, we still need to get staff-level approval on various items; for instance, where storm water will go," she said.

The company is looking at the differ-

ent options for building materials, Van Sant said, adding that the decrease in the price of steel might affect how the company budgets its money.

Main Street Properties was scheduled to meet with the Appearance Commission this month to discuss its design for the parking garage, which deviates from the town's building guidelines.

Alderman Jacquie Gist, a member of the commission, said the issue being brought before them is rather minor and shouldn't require much debate.

"They want fewer windows than is required by the design guidelines," she said. "The design guidelines weren't thinking of parking garages when they were made, but any deviation from them has to go through the Appearance Commission anyway."

Van Sant said that despite the recent setbacks for construction plans and the amount of items that still need to be approved by the town, the partners at Main Street Properties remain excited about the development.

"We're eager to go and start building," she said. "Hopefully, people will start seeing construction equipment around there soon."

Van Sant estimated the total cost of the project would be \$60 million.

Editor's note: *Another high-profile Carrboro project, Roberson Square, also was sidelined by the poor economy late last year. The site, at South Greensboro and Roberson streets, is now for sale by the developer.*

Elisabeth Arriero 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.

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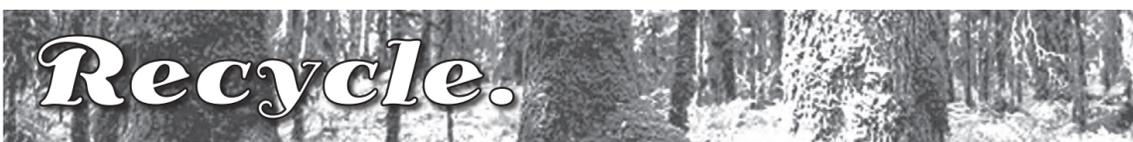


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Why are there so few male mentors?

GRAIG MEYER



Across the Triangle, there are dozens of mentoring programs trying to support young men by providing them with male role models. We know firsthand what newspaper headlines tell us: Too many boys in our society are failing school and falling between the cracks.

Like most mentoring programs, the program that I run has one challenge that surpasses all others: Recruiting enough male mentors.

Twice a year, our program trains a group of new mentors and brings in new students. Last fall, we faced a crisis. With only one week to go before our training for mentors was to begin, no men had stepped forward to volunteer.

That's right. No men had volunteered to become mentors. Zip. Zero. zilch.

Recently, a social worker from one of our local elementary schools told me that she asked teachers at her school to recommend students for our program. They recommended two girls ... and eight boys. That's no surprise. There are probably about four times as many boys who need mentors as girls. Unfortunately, our female mentors outnumber their male counterparts 2:1.

Why don't men volunteer? (Are you reading this, men?) They consistently tell me four things:

- 1) I'm too busy.
- 2) I'm not patient enough.
- 3) I wouldn't be good at it.
- 4) I'm not sure it really works.

Guys, I'm calling you out. Those are excuses that are leaving our young men behind. First of all, it does work. We have a 100 percent high school graduation rate for our male students and 100 percent of them have also gone on to some type of post-secondary education.

You *would* be good at mentoring. You *are* patient enough. There is no movie-influenced Supermentor role that you need to fulfill. You just need to be yourself. There are boys in our community who need you.

Making the time is something you can choose to do. And I promise you that you will be rewarded.

Mentoring is not always easy, but our mentors consistently say that once they begin mentoring it's other stuff that they have to make time for — mentor time is something they look forward to.

So, what can you do?

Men: Step up to the plate. Mentoring programs need to hear from you. Most programs ask for you to give just a couple of hours per week. You can include your protégé in things you're already doing, like going to a basketball game, fishing, fixing your car or cooking dinner.

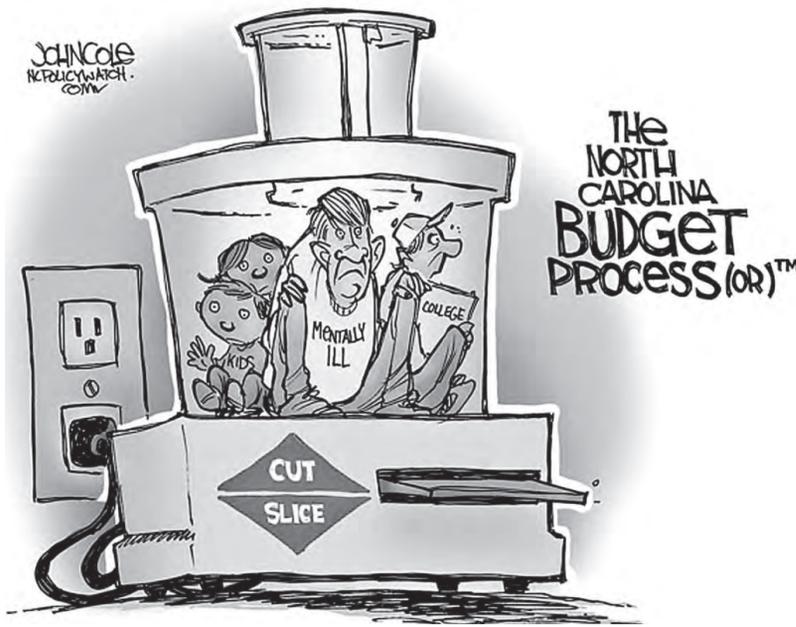
Women: Reach out to the men in your lives. The best way to recruit a mentor is to tell him, "You'd really make a great mentor." Give them some information on a mentoring program in your area. Or even better, call the program and give them a few names of your male friends. We'll call them on your recommendation. (P.S. We need female mentors still, too, so you can volunteer as well if you'd like!)

Couples: Sometimes it's easier for a married couple to mentor together. If a husband and wife volunteer together, we can match you with a male mentee. You can split the mentoring responsibilities between you. It's a great activity to do together.

So what happened with our volunteer recruitment last fall? We put on a last-minute male mentor recruitment push. We had five men sign up, so we brought five new boys into our program.

There are mentoring programs throughout the Triangle that need your support. It takes men stepping up to the plate to make sure that our programs don't struggle with this issue and that our society doesn't fail our young men.

Graig Meyer is the coordinator of the Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate Program for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.



Finding common ground on birth control

PAIGE JOHNSON

It was a snow day like no other. With schools and businesses closed, a record number of North Carolinians tuned in to watch the 44th president sworn into office. For many viewers, the day ushered in a belief that we can finally move beyond the entrenched differences that divide us.

Two days after the inauguration was the 36th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the United States. Few issues will test the power of President Obama's ability to bridge divides quite like abortion.

In fact, few issues test the resolve of all Americans to move beyond rhetoric to meaningful solutions the way this one does. Three decades after Roe v. Wade, Americans still remain divided. It makes little sense to continue beating the same drum.

People want solutions, not more of the same vitriol. In a time of economic uncertainty, when so many neighbors, friends and communities are struggling to make ends meet, our focus should be on remedies and, to the extent possible, on the areas in which we agree.

Birth control seems a common-sense place to begin. According to the Guttmacher Institute, a non-partisan reproductive health care think tank, 99 percent of women at some point in their life rely on birth control to prevent unintended pregnancies.

Birth control allows women and families to decide when they are ready for a child, which better prepares them to care for that child,

Sixty percent of women who have abortions are mothers already.

emotionally and financially. When women have greater access to birth control, fewer unintended pregnancies occur. This means fewer abortions occur. We can reduce the number of abortions by increasing access to birth control without stigmatizing or punishing a woman who decides that terminating a pregnancy is the right decision.

In North Carolina, 21 percent of women in their childbearing years are without health coverage of any sort. This means they must pay out of pocket for doctor visits or rely on publicly funded contraceptive services. An additional 11 percent of women in childbearing years rely on Medicaid for family planning services. Without taking teenagers into account, roughly a third of women in the state rely on or need some form of publicly funded birth control.

North Carolina has a remarkable history as the first state in the nation to provide voluntary, publicly funded family planning services. On average, every dollar invested in family planning services provides a state with more than four dollars in savings from public assistance. This makes birth control a common-sense solution as well as a cost-sav-

ings measure for our state.

We can do more to help women plan and space their pregnancies for healthier birth outcomes. And we can do more for women who want to parent but face financial challenges.

There is no experience more life altering than having a child. Sixty percent of women who have abortions are mothers already. The majority cite a need to care for others as the number one reason why they have an abortion. They understand the love a child promises as well as the responsibilities and obligations of caring for a child.

If we really want to help people care for their children, we should provide more support to parents. Take child care for example. It is not feasible for most families to live on one income, especially in today's economic climate. The average price of child care for an infant in North Carolina costs more per year than it does to pay tuition and fees at our state universities. No wonder there are some 30,000-plus families on the waiting list for child care assistance.

There are endless ways in which we can help provide greater access to health care, including birth control, responsible sex education and greater support for families struggling to care for their children. With all that we can and should do to make the world a better, healthier place, it seems like such a waste of time to cling to the entrenched differences that divide us.

Paige Johnson is the director of public affairs at Planned Parenthood of Central North Carolina.

EDUCATION MATTERS

With literacy and justice for all

BY STEVE PEHA
Staff Writer

Recently, I visited a number of schools: high schools, middle schools and elementary schools; public, private and religious schools. Each acknowledged the same problem with literacy: Too many kids were so far behind in reading that they couldn't function in their classes. But when I made suggestions about how to improve things, and modeled these suggestions in teachers' classrooms, I got distinctly negative reactions to new ideas.

The concept that set teachers off the most was the notion of teaching kids how to choose books they liked and could read. That way, instead of most kids struggling to read texts way above their heads (novels chosen by the teacher or selections from a publisher's anthology or test-prep packet), each student could read a book that was just right. This would make reading more meaningful for kids and allow teachers to teach important skills through brief one-on-one conferences in a context where kids could immediately apply them. It would also improve student motivation and help them feel more successful.

True enough, it's hard to teach better. But isn't it worth it, especially when it comes to literacy? Why are we so resistant? Why do we seem so unmoved by the connection between failure in literacy and failure in school? Why don't we acknowledge the connection between high school dropouts and low levels of literacy? Why, in something as

important as reading, do we justify using approaches (like whole-class novels and anthology selections) that we know don't work for the kids we're trying to teach?

When we teach reading, we hold kids' lives in our hands. And every time we hit them with texts they can't read (and tell them their grades depend on their understanding), we chip away at those lives until reading becomes odious and punitive. The consequences for kids who fall behind in elementary school can be devastating. By the time they reach middle school, their reading includes larger volumes of social studies, science and math texts written at grade levels for which they are not prepared. And their secondary teachers, almost never trained in reading, can't help them.

It's time our nation began to feel an urgency around reading that compelled us to do the right things: Teach kids how to choose their own "just right" texts; teach reading skills and monitor kids' progress in the context of authentic individual reading; create successful interventions and intervene early at all levels, K-12; make sure all certified teachers have a meaningful and practical background in reading instruction; put the needs of students above those of covering curriculum or preparing for tests.

When it comes to ed reform these days, we all seem to be nurturing dreams of kids becoming college graduates and going on to be the scientists and mathematicians who create our future. But here in the present, we're kidding ourselves if we

think we can get away with anything less than 100 percent literacy. Of course, it's our least advantaged children who are hurt the most by the old let's-all-read-the-same-novel-or-selection-from-the-literature-book approach. And yet this approach persists in the majority of our classrooms.

Now, you may be thinking, "I was taught the old-fashioned way and it worked for me." Or, "My children read just fine and they're taught that way." But that's not the point. A significant percentage of kids learn to read outside of school and others can learn just about anything on their own no matter how poorly they're taught. But what about the 10 to 20 million kids in our country that our testing data tells us don't read as well as they should and who aren't getting better as they get further along in school?

It makes sense to tackle this problem at the beginning. Most schools have an informal goal that all kids will be fluent readers by third grade. But what happens if some kids don't make it? Send them to fourth grade and hope. And then on to fifth and middle and high school thereafter, all the while postponing our obligation.

Reading delayed is reading denied. Kids who don't learn to read well in elementary school rarely, if ever, catch up. And just about everyone who's ever worked in a school, or been a parent of a struggling reader, knows this. If education is truly the new civil right, it's time we got serious about creating a nation with literacy and justice for all.

More than a budget driver

CHRIS FITZSIMON

Tuesday's budget and tax briefing for state lawmakers was billed as a look at the "major drivers" in the growth of the state budget, with most of the time spent on trends in education and Medicaid. Lawmakers will hear more detailed reports on both issues in the coming days, but Tuesday's Medicaid overview and the questions and comments it prompted are reminders of how many legislators view the program — as a burden from which we need relief, a major drain on the state budget.

Medicaid costs have grown an average of 9.3 percent a year in the last nine years and the program now covers 18 percent of the people in North Carolina. The budget passed last session included \$2.9 billion for Medicaid, the single biggest state expense in health and human services.

Evan Rodewald of the Legislature's Fiscal Research Division said three factors contribute to Medicaid's growth: inflationary increases, new technologies and higher enrollment, though the costs of Medicaid generally grow less than the costs of health care in the private sector. The questions from lawmakers were not about technology or the escalating costs of medication. Instead they wanted to know if the state's eligibility standards were in line with other states and how generous were the services that Medicaid offers.

That's a version of a talking point from the market fundamentalist crowd — that North Carolina's Medicaid program includes too many services not mandated by the federal government. Raleigh's leading right-wing think tank has called many times for North Carolina to drop all optional services, which include ambulance service, orthotics and medication.

One version of budget cuts this year included ending podiatry coverage, even though some seniors with diabetes are at risk of losing their feet and never walking again.

Medicaid isn't just a budget driver, it's a life saver.

Just over 1.6 million people in North Carolina qualified for Medicaid in 2007 based on income and health status. The majority of recipients are very poor children or seniors or people with disabilities. Two-thirds of people covered by Medicaid are female and the majority of them are white.

Many uninsured adults do not qualify for Medicaid regardless of income. It is a program targeted to specific groups of people. It is also a success story, providing a health care safety net for the most vulnerable people in the state with far lower administrative costs than private insurance.

Many lawmakers and think tanks proposing cuts in Medicaid don't want to talk specifics, because the details make their suggestions absurd. Sixty-four percent of Medicaid spending goes to help seniors and people with disabilities. Another 14 percent covers poor kids. Then there are pregnant women and AFDC recipients under 21.

People advocating significant reductions in Medicaid should be forced to explain which group they want to deny services to or who shouldn't have access to an ambulance when they have a heart attack or an artificial limb when they lose an arm or leg.

Rodewald told lawmakers Tuesday that Medicaid costs usually increase during economic downturns. More people are eligible after losing jobs and the health care that comes with it. That makes talk of Medicaid cuts this session even more irrational.

The stimulus package that finally emerges from Congress is all but certain to provide more Medicaid funding for North Carolina. That will help. So would a different view of Medicaid.

It is a public program that works and helps thousands of people every day. That's something to be proud of, not something to complain about. And it's also something to protect, especially this year.

Chris Fitzsimon is the director of NC Policy Watch.

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CITIZEN

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COUNCIL
FROM PAGE 1

A regional system is necessary, he said, because relying on highways is an end game.

"I-40 cannot continue to be our major transportation artery. It's getting clogged and it is ultimately going to fail."

Fourth District Congressman David Price said Wednesday that Foy was on the right track.

"As Mayor Foy said, robust state and local funding is an essential piece of the puzzle in bringing transit to the Triangle and attracting federal support," Price said. "I'm continuing to work on another important piece - the overly restrictive Federal Transit Admin-

istration funding parameters that favor inner cities and are excluding worthy projects in the Triangle."

Also in his address, the mayor noted several new programs started in the past year, including collaboration with the university in managing Halloween and the relocation of the homeless shelter.

Looking ahead, he said there is concern about how the budget crisis at the state level will affect the town. In the past months, the town has moved to cut budgets and accumulate reserves in anticipation of flagging revenues and potential cuts in state assistance.

"We know from history that we will be affected," he said. Library services and transit and roadway maintenance funding are among the areas that could see cuts.

OBITUARIES



Ruth Alfva Richard

Ruth Alfva Richard of Carrboro, N.C., died at UNC Hospitals on Feb. 2, 2009, with her two daughters by her side. "Richie" was born in Newport, R.I. to Oscar and Alberta Peterson Eklund, natives of Sweden. After her father's death, Richie grew up in Miami, Fla., adopted by her mother's second husband, Blaine Richard. Richie belonged to the volleyball, baseball, and basketball teams, and gymnastics and tennis clubs, enthusiasms she enjoyed in old age as a spectator. She graduated from Miami High School in 1929, and in 1933 received her R.N. degree from Long Island College Hospital School of Nursing in Brooklyn N.Y. An avid horse-woman, she hoped to join the Frontier Nursing Service but was too young. She undertook postgraduate training in psychiatric nursing at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C., and worked in hospitals in New York. She enjoyed the more challenging types of nursing, and joined American Airlines as a nurse/flight attendant.

Her first marriage to the late Joseph McCarthy left her a young widow. During the war years, she married a Marine aviator, Harry W. Taylor of Columbia, S.C., and they had two daughters. As a military wife, Richie pursued her love of the outdoors and creativity in voluntary activities such as the Girl Scouts. Divorced in the 1950s, she returned to her nursing career in Long Island and New Jersey. Retiring from nursing in the 1970s, she moved to Carrboro and embarked on a second career selling antiques at the Raleigh Fairgrounds.

As a new Tar Heel, she became an avid Carolina fan, especially of the women's basketball team. Fiercely independent, generous of heart and imbued with strength, she was a

free spirit who touched many lives. She cared for her last companion, Jack Kearins, until his dying day. She lived to see the birth of three grandchildren and two great-granddaughters. After a major stroke in 2004, she was determined to proceed with rehabilitation, and continued to enjoy life.

Richie is survived by her loving family: daughters Sherry T. Jones and her husband, Rodney, and Patricia T. Thompson and her husband, Charles; granddaughters Gudrun E. Thompson and her husband, Jeff Sumpter (all of Chapel Hill); Katherine T. Jones of Charlotte; grandson Fletcher Thompson and his wife, Gretchen of Boston MA; great granddaughters Julia E. Sumpter and Azalea L. Thompson, and former husband Col. Harry W. Taylor USMC (RET) of Sun City Center, Fla., who joins the family in mourning her.

In her last days, she received superb, caring treatment from the physicians and staff of UNC Hospitals. The family also thanks the staffs of Brookshire Nursing Center in Hillsborough and Stratford House in Carrboro. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Friends of the Health Sciences Library, UNC-Chapel Hill 27599-7585 or the UNC Educational Foundation, designated for the Women's Basketball Endowment, PO Box 2446, Chapel Hill, NC 27515. Arrangements are by Cremation Society of the Carolinas. A celebration of Richie's life will be held Sunday, March 1 at 2 p.m. at the home of Sherry and Rodney Jones.

Dr. John Brister Turner

Dr. John Brister Turner, 86, Dean Emeritus of the School of Social Work at UNC-Chapel Hill, died Friday, Jan. 30, 2009, at the Dubose Health Center on the campus of the Cedars Retirement Community after a long illness.

Dr. Turner was born on Feb. 28, 1922 in Fort Valley, Ga., to Virginia Brown Turner, an English and art teacher and to Brister William Turner, a professor of English.

He graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta in 1946 with a B.A. degree in math on his way to a career in engineering. During World War II, Dr. Turner served as a Tuskegee Airman, serving in the 477th Bombardment Group. After WW II, he continued his education, receiving a masters degree in 1948 in social administration and a doctorate in social work in 1959, both from the School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, later becoming its dean (1968-1973).

In 1974, he received a Kenan Professor-



ship at the UNC School of Social Work, becoming dean of the school (1982-1992). Over the course of his long career, Dr. Turner also served as a visiting professor at Atlanta University and the University of Georgia in Athens, Ga. He has served as a visiting faculty member and consultant at many other institutions in the United States and abroad.

In 1965, he received a Fulbright Scholarship to Egypt and served the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare as director of the Egyptian Social Welfare Manpower Training Project in Cairo, Egypt (1979-1981), and also as visiting professor and consultant at the University of Minya in Minya, Egypt. Among many organizational duties, Dr. Turner was president of the National Conference on Social Welfare (1977-1979) and chair of the nominating committee of the National Association of Deans and Directors of the Schools of Social Work.

Among his many contributions to the School of Social Work, Dr. Turner realized the great need for the school to have its own building, which culminated in the 1995 dedication of the Tate-Turner Kuralt Building on the UNC campus. He shares this accomplishment with Jack Tate and Charles Kuralt.

Dr. Turner is survived by his wife, Marian Wilson Turner; daughter, Marian Turner Hopkins; son, Charles Brister Turner; grandson, Ian Turner Hopkins; sister, Virginia Turner Dowell; son-in law, Jonathan J. Hopkins; and many cousins, grand-nephews and -nieces, and great-grand-nephews and -nieces.

Council sticks to library plan

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — The Chapel Hill Town Council voted 8-1 to reject a proposal to consider a branch library downtown or in other locations in lieu of adding to the current building.

Following discussions at a business meeting Monday night at Town Hall, the measure only drew support from council member Matt Czajkowski, who said it could bolster efforts downtown.

Jim Ward, the council liaison to the library's board of trustees, advised his fellow council members to remain committed to the expansion plan. On a per capita basis, the library is the state's busiest.

The effort to review alternatives followed a decision earlier this year to put off financing for a \$16 million expansion because of uncertainty in the bond markets. The move saved the town about \$300,000 in debt service for the current year and a projected \$1 million next year, according to Town Manager Roger Stancil, who suggested two weeks ago that the decision to delay financing would allow the council to review its decision to expand as opposed to adding branches.

In other action Monday night, the council:

- Recessed a public hearing on the proposed Ayden Court development near N.C. 54 and the Dowing Creek Parkway to look at zoning options and study the impact of the development on the nearby Upper Little Creek Waterfowl Impoundment Area.

- Reviewed the progress on a number of traffic-calming and pedestrian safety measures planned by the university around key intersections in and around campus.

The projects, already approved by the town, are located at Columbia Street, South Road and McCauley Street; South Road and Country Club Road; Cameron Avenue and Raleigh Street; Country Club Road, Battle Lane and Boundary Street; Country Club Road, Gimghoul Road and Paul Green Theater Drive; Manning Drive and Skipper Bowles Drive; South Columbia Street between Manning Drive and Fordham Boulevard; Manning Drive and Old Mason Farm Road; Mason Farm Road and East Drive; Mason Farm Road and West Drive; along Ridge Road; and Manning Drive and Ridge Road.

The agenda, audio and video of the council meeting is available on the town's website at chapel-hill.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3

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—Travel & Leisure

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For more information visit www.communitydinner.org

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TUESDAY — Three Cheese Baked Rotini w/Garlic Bread; Chicken Fajitas w/Salsa & Sour Cream; Fun on the Run; Vegetable Rice; Steamed Broccoli; Chilled Peaches

WEDNESDAY — Chicken Patty Sandwich; Baked Potato w/Meat, Cheese & Wheat Roll; Traditional Mixed Vegetables; Pineapple Tidbits; Chocolate Pudding

THURSDAY — Oven Baked BBQ Chicken w/Wheat Roll; Grilled Cheese Sandwich; Fun on the Run; Baked Beans; Collard Greens; Fresh Grapes

MIDDLE + HIGH

FRIDAY — Pork Rib-B-Q on a Bun; Macaroni & Cheese w/Wheat Roll; Traditional Mixed Vegetables; Chilled Pineapple; Fresh Banana

MONDAY — Beef & Cheese Nachos w/Salsa; Chicken Nuggets w/BBQ Sauce & Wheat Roll; Baja Black Beans; Chilled Apricots; Fresh Orange

TUESDAY — Pork BBQ on a Roll; Chicken Tetrizzini; Cole-slaw; Green Beans; Chilled Peas

WEDNESDAY — Meatball Sub; Sweet & Sour Chicken; Brown Rice Pilaf; Asian Mixed Vegetables; Fruited Gelatin

THURSDAY — Fried Chicken w/Wheat Roll; Mozzarella Cheese Sticks w/Marinara Dipping Sauce; Carrot & Celery Sticks; Broccoli w/Cheese Sauce; Fresh Banana

ELLIS

FROM PAGE 1

“There are some things that almost make the high school principalship humanly impossible.”

Chapel Hill High has had six principals over the last 10 years, including two interim principals. Ellis replaced Karla Eanes, who served for just a year and a half. Mary Ann Hardebeck served as principal for six years, the longest-serving principal since 1999.

“Speaking in general terms, I believe that high school principalships are very challenging jobs and turnover in those positions is not unusual,” Superintendent Neil Pedersen said, adding that the job

often demands 16-hour days.

Dave Thaden, principal at East Chapel Hill High School, has been there since 1996, when the school opened.

Regarding Thaden's tenure as principal, Pedersen said: “Frankly, I don't know how that's possible.”

Mark Morton, a parent of a Chapel Hill High freshman and also a graduate of the school and a former teacher there, said he suspected that the high expectations of parents and community members take a toll on Chapel Hill High principals.

Morton added: “My experience with teaching high school kids is that, contrary to conventional wisdom about their independence, they need quite

a bit of structure. A consistent principal presence can add to the structure and normalcy of high school. Someone like R.D. Smith comes to mind from his time at CHHS, not as principal, but as vice principal. He was there for some time, and he was a steady presence. Kids need that. The community needs that.”

Jim Williams, parent co-chair of the Chapel Hill High School Improvement Team, said the Chapel Hill High community will miss Ellis.

“From my point of view, it is very unfortunate for CHHS that Jackie is leaving,” he said. “She has had a terrific impact on the school, and the long hours she has put in are really bearing fruit now. However, there is a lot of

unfinished business at CHHS, so we wish she would stay longer.”

Ellis said despite the demands of the job, she has enjoyed her work at Chapel Hill High.

“This has been an incredible principalship for me.... [T]his is an outstanding staff, a staff that has embraced me, a staff that has been more than supportive and a staff that, together, we've been able to make significant changes, great strides to moving our school forward to one that is student centered yet still academically challenging,” she said.

District officials plan to appoint an interim principal to finish the school year and serve until a replacement is found to begin the 2009-10 school year.

School Briefs

Dropout rate increases

The dropout rate in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools slightly increased in 2007-08, but the district maintained the lowest dropout rate in the state, according to a report released last week by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Fifty-seven students dropped out of Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools, or 1.53 percent, in 2007-08. In 2006-07, 41 students dropped out, or 1.12 percent, a decrease from previous years. The 2007-08 rate is similar to that of 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Among the 57 students who dropped out, 11 were from Carrboro High School, 14 from East Chapel Hill High School, 31 from Chapel Hill High School and one was from an unspecified middle school. Students cited attendance problems and the desire to attend community college as reasons for dropping out.

Woods-Weeks named N.C. Assistant Principal of the Year

East Chapel Hill High School assistant principal Gloria Woods-Weeks has been named the North Carolina Assistant Principal of the Year by the North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals Association.

Woods-Weeks is eligible for consideration for the 2009 National Association of Secondary

School Principals/Virco National Assistant Principal of the Year.

The national winner will be chosen at NASSP's convention on Feb. 28 in San Diego.

SEPTA meeting

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Special Education Parent-Teacher Association will hold a meeting on Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the lower-level conference room of the Chapel Hill Public Library.

Participants will view the program *How Difficult Can It Be?*, which explores the frustration, anxiety and tension faced by children with learning difficulties and disabilities. A discussion will follow the film.

The meeting is free and open to all with an interest in learning-disability and special-needs issues. For more information, visit septa-chcnc.org or email info@septa-chcnc.org

Roots musicians to play Woods Charter benefit

Three popular roots-music groups will perform a benefit concert for the Woods Charter School Foundation at Cats Cradle on March 14 at 8 p.m.

Eli “Paperboy” Reed and Great Big Gone will be joined by Lynn Blakely and Eeki Heins for the performance.

The Woods Charter School in Northern Chatham County is a kindergarten-through-12th grade public school founded by parents.

Proceeds from the concert will fund new playground equipment. Tickets are \$10 and are available at www.catscradle.com

CHHS presents The House of Blue Leaves

Chapel Hill High School Drama will present the comedy *The House of Blue Leaves* in the Hanes Theater at Chapel Hill High, Feb. 19-21 at 7:30 p.m. each night.

The play stars award-winning actor Zach Meicher-Buzzi as a washed-up piano player desperate for stardom, even at the cost of committing his wife to a mental institution.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and can be reserved by calling 969-2461.

CHS meeting

The second annual Carrboro High School Town Hall Meeting will be held on Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Hargraves Center on North Roberson Street.

For the event, Principal Kelly Batten will answer questions on a variety of topics regarding Carrboro High.

The interactive session is hosted by the Carrboro High PTSA.

CHS student letter honored

Carrboro High School student Cynthia Enriquez was one of 10 high school students whose letters to President Barack

Obama were selected for publication in the ePals' Presidential Minute contest.

Her letter is featured on the ePals' website, www.epals.com, and was included on a DVD shared with the Obama transition team and shown at the Huffington Post Inaugural Ball.



Carolina Ice Syncho's intermediate team, a synchronized ice skating team, has qualified to compete at the 2009 U.S. Synchronized Skating National Championships in Portland, Maine. Team members attend several area schools, including Carrboro High School, Chapel Hill High School, Smith Middle School, Cedar Ridge High School, Durham Academy, Ravenscroft School, Fuquay-Varina High School, Western Alamance High School and Walter Williams High School. First row, from left: Paula McKinley (coach), Amanda McClure, Hanna Hoke, Nicole Cates, Mariah Benfield, Ashleigh Faucette, Samuela Fernandes, Jamye Gaster (coach). Top row, from left: Haleigh Faucette, Hadley Reid, Brittany Clark, Ariane Cook, Chrissy Barr, Renee Kramer, Sally Warren. The team is seeking donations to fund its trip to Portland for the competition. To donate, contact Karen McClure at Karen.McClure@duke.edu or 667-2574.



NOTICE OF A COMBINED PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS TO SR 1919 (SMITH LEVEL ROAD) FROM SOUTH OF ROCK HAVEN ROAD TO BRIDGE NO. 88 OVER MORGAN CREEK IN CARRBORO

TIP Project No. U-2803

Orange County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold a Pre-Hearing Open House and Combined Public Hearing on March 9, 2009 at Carrboro Elementary School, located at 400 Shelton Street, Carrboro, 27510.

NCDOT representatives will be available at a pre-hearing open house in the auditorium lobby between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to answer questions and receive comments relative to the location and design of the proposed project. Interested citizens may attend at any time during the above mentioned hours. Handouts and comment sheets will be distributed. The formal public hearing will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The hearing will be open to those present for statements, questions and comments. The presentation and comments will be recorded and a written transcript will be prepared.

NCDOT proposes transportation improvements to SR 1919 (Smith Level Road) which include: widening Smith Level Road to three lanes (between Rock Haven Road and Culbreth Road), transition between three to four lanes (between Culbreth Road and BPW Club Road), and widen to a four-lane, median divided roadway between BPW Club Road and Morgan Creek. A roundabout intersection is proposed at the intersection of Smith Level Road and Rock Haven Road. Sidewalks and bicycle accommodations are proposed throughout the project.

A map displaying the location and design of the project and a copy of the environmental document – State Environmental Assessment / Finding of No Significant Impact - are available for public review at the Town of Carrboro, 301 W. Main Street, Carrboro, 27510. The map is also available online at: www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/highway/roadway/hearingmaps_by_county.

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Ed Lewis, Human Environment Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, by phone (919) 431-6585, by fax (919) 431-2001 or by email at elewis@ncdot.gov.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in this hearing. Anyone requiring special services should contact Mr. Lewis as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.



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IN SEASON



ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK

Changing times for coffee achievers

BY MARGOT C. LESTER
Staff Writer

At the end of last month, global coffee conglomerate Starbucks announced it was cutting 6,700 employees, closing stores and slowing expansion plans in the wake of big declines in revenue. One factor cited in the announcement was customers' changing buying patterns.

During its first round of closings in July, Starbucks shuttered the store at 141 Chatham Downs in north Chatham County. Right now, there's no indication any other local stores are on the chopping block.

It seems fair enough that people who had been spending \$5 or more on a fancy cup of joe (half-caf, skinny, soy latte or whatever) might decide they could do without the extra foam in order to save a few precious pennies. But what about local coffee drinkers of a

more independent ilk? Are they cutting back?

"Spending trends do vary," admits Scott Conary, owner of the Open Eye, Caffè Triade and Carrboro Coffee Company. "People say, 'I'll cut that out,' but it doesn't last. Our customers realize coffee's an affordable luxury. What we do see that's a positive overall is people being more careful to spend money on good coffee and in the day-to-day making of it," he says.

So instead of shelling out \$3.50 for a latte, customers may be opting for a \$1.25 espresso. Conary says sales of whole beans are up slightly, too, indicating that more people may be pulling a jolt of joe at home more often than they used to.

What does Conary make of Starbucks' announcement?

"It's sort of hand waving and hoping to get a market response," he says. "They're paying attention to Wall Street, so the things they



PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW

Chapel Hill resident Michele Natale enjoys a double latte at her favorite coffee shop, Caffè Triade, located off East Franklin Street.

aren't the real issues. For instance, what their CEO is willing to give up in salary isn't enough money to make a difference to their company. But as we've seen recently, Wall Street works on whim and ideas, not reality."

Conary thinks the bigger problem facing Starbucks is that the company did what it set out to do, get more people drinking more fancy coffee.

"The introduction to coffee is probably what Starbucks does best," Conary says. "Now people are moving on. There's been a shift in how people view coffee and what it can and should be."

That's good news for shops

like Conary's that focus on educating coffee consumers on quality, sourcing sustainably produced beans from fairly compensated growers and providing more than just a good cup of java. People are connecting with the coffee in a more personal way, prompting many to eschew cookie-cutter corporate outlets serving frilly joe. That's probably causing Starbucks to have a little bit of an identity crisis.

"Who're they going to be now?," Conary asks. "They're cutting out decaf after 12 p.m. and introducing oatmeal. They're trying a little bit of everything at this point."

FARMERS' MARKET



What's at Market?

Check out what's at the Year-Round Farmers' Market:

Lettuce, tomatoes, pac choy, flour, onions, garlic, arugula, beets, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, fresh herbs, kale, leeks, mustard greens, salad greens, spinach, sweet potatoes, turnips, turnip greens, winter squashes, pecans, NEW chicken-sausage, maple sausage, smoked ham, smoked ham hocks, liverwurst, lamb, bacon, chicken, eggs, cow's milk cheeses, breads, doughnuts, tortes, pies, cakes, jams, and relishes.

Recipe of the Week

Tuscan Kale with Raisins and Pine Nuts - serves 8
Recipe Provided by Sheri Castle

3 bunches (about 2 1/2 pounds) Tuscan kale (a.k.a. Cavolo Nero, Lacinato, or Dinosaur kale)
3 tablespoons olive oil
2 small yellow onions, peeled and minced
1/4 cup red wine vinegar
4 tablespoons raisins, plumped in hot water and drained
4 tablespoons pignoli (pine nuts), toasted
Salt and pepper

1. Remove and discard the stems and center ribs from the kale and shred leaves. Working in batches, blanch the kale in a large pot of boiling salted water for 2 minutes per batch. Transfer the blanched kale with tongs to a colander and drain well, pressing out as much water as possible.
2. Warm the olive oil in a large, heavy skillet over medium-high heat.
3. Add the onions and cook, stirring often, until tender, about 8 minutes.
4. Add the kale, vinegar, raisins and pine nuts and warm through.
5. Season with salt and pepper.
6. Serve warm or at room temperature.

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HELP WANTED

INSTRUCTORS NEEDED Carrboro Recreation is looking for an experienced baseball instructor to work with 4-6 year olds and parents one day a week on Saturdays from 9-10am April 18-May 16. Pay is \$450. Call 918-7376 for info.

CAMP INSTRUCTORS NEEDED Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department is seeking experienced sport instructors to work the following half day camps. Pay is \$420 (head instructor) and \$360 (assistant instructor). All camps run from 8am-11am.
Field Hockey, July 13-17 (Asst)
Field Hockey, June 29-July 3 (Asst)
Taste of Sports, July 27-31 (Head & Asst)
Ultimate Frisbee, June 22-26 (Head & Asst)
Volleyball, July 20-24 (Head & Asst)
For more info call 918-7376.

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CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER:

Love never loses sight of loneliness. Its halo rests upon its object. One marvels that a friend can ever seem less than beautiful. - Mary Baker Eddy

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

1. The east coast of Italy borders on what body of water?
2. When Germany was divided, what was the capital of West Germany?
3. In what country is the city Casablanca located?
4. What mountain range runs between France and Spain?
5. What is the capital of Turkey?
6. What country is plagued by ethnic conflict between the majority Sinhalese and the minority Tamils?
7. In what African country is the city Timbuktu located?
8. The Galapagos Islands belong to what county?
9. What three countries are known as the Baltic states?
10. What is the name of the body of water between Alaska and Siberia?
11. What is the capital of Scotland?
12. In what Canadian province is Edmonton located?
13. The Golan Heights lie on the border between Israel and what other country?

CLASSIFIED TRIVIA

1. Adriatic Sea; 2. Bonn; 3. Morocco; 4. Pnyx; 5. Ankara; 6. Sri Lanka; 7. Mali; 8. Ecuador; 9. Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia; 10. Bering Strait/Sea; 11. Edinburgh; 12. Alberta; 13. Syria



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

Buds (clockwise from upper left) of tulip poplar, American beech, red maple and pawpaw

FLORA FROM PAGE 1

Another distinctive bud we noticed on last weekend's excursion was the smooth, duck bill-like bud of a magnolia relative, the handsome tulip poplar, *Liriodendron tulipifera*. You can begin looking high up in the trees for beautiful green and yellow tulip-shaped flowers in mid-April.

Beech trees, *Fagus grandifolia*, easily known by their smooth trunks and for holding onto their copper-brown leaves, have a long narrow copper-colored

spear-point bud at the ends of horizontal branches. Keep an eye on those buds and observe how the old leaves are pushed off overnight on or just before April 1. That time clock is predictable.

Red maples, *Acer rubrum*, are easily recognized by those deeply red-colored twigs sporting red buds at the tips and oppositely arranged along the sides. The closely related southern sugar maple, *Acer barbatum*, is similar, except it is brown rather than red.

If you're really lucky, you may discover a grove of pawpaws, *Asimina*

triloba. Pawpaw buds are distinguished by the exposed young leaf protected with dark, velvet-like hairs. Further down, there may be a similarly textured fat, round flower bud. Definitely go back during late March and early April to see those pawpaw flowers.

Obviously, there are many more buds out there, each beautiful and interesting in distinctive ways. On your next woods walk, take time to "take a closer look" at the buds. And take that walk soon, because before long we won't be able to see the forest for the leaves.



Mrs. Roxie, Oxford, 1960s

When I asked my photo students to bring to class a single meaningful family snapshot, Kafi Robinson, a senior journalism major from Oxford, turned in this piece of unintentional documentary photography. Her great grandmother, Roxie Johnson, watches over four little white girls at the kitchen table. Here is Kafi's narrative: "She worked as a maid for this rich white family a few blocks from her

house. Rain, sleet or snow, every day at the same time she walked to their house to cook, clean and take care of their kids. She was like their mother in many ways. It got to the point where the kids wouldn't eat their real parents' [cooking] — they would wait until 'Mrs. Roxie' came. This family NEVER gave her a ride to or from their house. She loved those children as if they were her own... [T]he children in this photo are innocent, not realizing how much racial tension there was in that small town."



A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER

Do you have an important old photo that you value? Send your 300 dpi scan to jock@email.unc.edu and include the story behind the picture. Because every picture tells a story. And its worth? A thousand words.

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