

A carefully managed prescribed burn at Mason Farm Biological Reserve will usher in the resurrection of our Piedmont savanna vegetation. PHOTO BY JOHNNY RANDALL

Aydan Court still draws concerns

BY KIRK ROSS
 Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — The last time developer Carol Ann Zinn's Aydan Court project was reviewed in a public hearing, she and then-Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy engaged in a heated colloquy after the mayor and council appeared ready to reject a rezoning request for the project.

Zinn castigated the council and said she had been misled by them during a preliminary review of the project. Foy, in an uncharacteristic display of anger, strongly disagreed.

On Monday night at Town Hall, a different mayor and council opened a public hearing on the latest iteration of the project, which is located on 5.8 acres off N.C. 54, across from the Downing Creek Parkway.

The new plan calls for 90 condominiums in three three-story buildings and 146 parking spaces.

Zinn and engineer Bruce Ballentine sought to assure the council that the new plan took into account longstanding worries about the development's proximity to nearby Jordan Lake gamelands and the Upper Little Creek waterfowl impound-

ment, which is adjacent to the site.

Ballentine said it was a challenge to take into account concerns raised by the council in the previous plan but still make it economically viable. He stressed that although the project is far denser than the current zoning on the site allows, the design affords greater protections from stormwater runoff and other impacts than if the project were to be a cluster of about 15 large homes, as the zoning now allows.

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 5

Board takes first look at budget

BY SUSAN DICKSON
 Staff Writer

The Orange County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday took its first look at the 2011-12 county budget, which staff said could avoid major cuts and a tax increase — but only if changes at the state level do not take county revenues or pass expenses to the county.

"Based on everything we know right now, we're not projecting a need for any layoffs right now, any major cuts in departmental spending," county finance director Clarence Grier told the board.

However, he added, "We don't know what the state may do." The \$176.9 million proposed budget represents a \$1.6 million increase over the 2010-11 fiscal year budget and includes no growth in operating budgets.

County Manager Frank Clifton said the county needed to be prepared for changes at the state level that would pass expenses from the state to the county or take away revenue, given the state's anticipated budget gap, which officials have estimated at \$2.3 billion.

He also warned that there are likely to be substantial changes to state government programs that the county participates in, like the Clean Water and Tobacco trust funds.

"You have to keep in mind ... that come the end of the day, [a tax increase] may be your only option to deal with some of the impacts," Clifton told the board. "There are ways to further reduce that, but it involves doing away with programs, not just reducing the programs."

Commissioner Steve Yuhasz said he would like to avoid a property-tax increase, even if the county lost revenues through state changes.

Commissioner Earl McKee agreed.

"I'm afraid that we may have to take a stand and possibly set expectations that there will not be a property-tax increase," McKee said.

Commissioner Barry Jacobs said he too would like to avoid a tax increase, but that he wasn't willing to make extremely drastic cuts to avoid one.

"There is a certain point beyond which we cease to be Orange County and we become something less, and I don't think that that's where we want to go," Jacobs said.

The commissioners will review the budget in coming months, with approval slated for June 21.

The board also reviewed the requested 2011-16 Capital Investment Plan, which includes proposed county and school capital projects.

SEE ALDERMEN PAGE 5

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

The once and future Piedmont savanna

The 40-plus walkers accompanying me "in the footsteps of John Terres" around Mason Farm on Sunday saw something there that John never saw. Some of the fields and forests had been recently scarred by fire. I've invited my good friend Johnny Randall, assistant director for Natural Areas and Conservation Programs at the N.C. Botanical Garden, to tell the story in this week's Flora:

"Like the mythological phoenix, many of our natural communities are periodically reborn through fire. If you perchance saw a plume of smoke rising from Mason Farm Biological Reserve last week, you witnessed evidence of an event that will usher in the resurrection of our Piedmont savanna vegetation. From the newly scorched landscape will emerge sun-loving grasses and wildflowers that create the habitat preferred by ground-nesting birds, turkeys and many other critters.

"You'll recognize the names of these fire-responsive plants: blazing star (*Liatis*), wild blue indigo (*Baptisia*), sunflowers (*Helianthus*) and coneflowers (*Echinacea*). Native grasses such as Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium*) and big bluestem (*Andropogon*) also comprise this savanna matrix. Mown roadsides and other rights-of-way clearances have provided a refugium for these plants, while the former Piedmont vegetation succumbed to the shade of dense forests.

SEE FLORA PAGE 10

A whole new Whirl



Artist and inventor Josh Lev watches as visitors enjoy his latest innovation, 'new Whirl,' at an exhibit in Carrboro on Sunday. PHOTO BY WILL BRYANT

BY WILL BRYANT
 Staff Writer

Artists have always aimed to expand people's creative horizons and challenge a culture's standards and perspectives.

Local artists Josh Lev and Leo Gaev have done just that and more with their latest piece of interactive art, titled "new Whirl." At the piece's official display at Leo Gaev Metalworks in Carrboro on Sunday, the two showed how they've

put a spin on art, flipping it completely upside down.

Literally. Standing more than 12 feet tall and weighing nearly 500 pounds, new Whirl is the Earth's first spinning camera obscura.

"It's an observatory to everyday life," Lev said. "It modifies the world just enough to get your attention and it allows you to see the world in a new way."

Constructed by Gaev, new Whirl looks and feels like a space-

ship but actually features an ancient technology under a new-age disguise. Built with an aluminum frame and a stainless-steel exterior, Gaev said new Whirl was a one-of-a-kind project.

"We basically had to figure out how to make it," said Gaev, who has been working in the Carrboro-Chapel Hill area for nearly four years. "There were no plans. We had to problem-solve every step of the way."

SEE WHIRLD PAGE 10

ArtsCenter loses executive director

BY SUSAN DICKSON
 Staff Writer

The ArtsCenter Board of Directors announced last week that board members had voted to restructure the center's leadership, eliminating both the executive director and Youth Performing Arts Conservatory director positions.

Board Chair Karen Regan said board members and staff would fill the gaps left by the empty positions. According to an ArtsCenter press re-

lease, the adjustments are a reaction to "shifts in funding that affect [The ArtsCenter's] current budget."

Ed Camp, who was hired as executive director in August 2009, will remain as director through Friday, after which a volunteer interim executive director will be named, Regan said. Prior to coming to The ArtsCenter, Camp served as general manager of University Mall.

Lawruh Lindsey, the director of YPAC, submitted her resignation in December and her last day

will be Monday. Regan said they don't plan to fill her position as the board looks at the leadership structure of The ArtsCenter and YPAC.

According to Regan, The ArtsCenter has struggled financially with the economic downturn, experiencing a loss of more than \$100,000 annually over the last few years.

SEE ARTSCENTER PAGE 5

Everybody's kid

RECENTLY ...
 BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

After attending a panel discussion on teens and substance abuse hosted by the United Church of Chapel Hill in January, discussions with those who know the teen scene led me to six weeks of collecting data and stories.

My overwhelming finding is that teens appear to be no more out of control than they've ever been, but they may be in more danger because of the state of our society.

The panel, which included professionals who work with teens (among them, a drug treatment court manager, an assistant district attorney, a counselor who treats teens with addictions and law-enforcement officers), spoke of the substances teens are using, the higher likelihood of addiction the younger they start and the availability of substances.

According to 2010 statistics from the police departments of Chapel Hill and Carrboro, those aged 16 to 18 were arrested 170 times in Chapel Hill and 69 times in Carrboro (for a wide range of charges). However, there were reports of children — from infants to 18 year olds — being victims of crimes 284 times in Chapel Hill and 103 times in Carrboro.

But Jim Huegerich, crisis human services manager for the Chapel Hill Police Department for the past 37 years, said the statistics are skewed because "teens don't report. It's masked as acted-out behavior." If they did report, we'd see a lot more reports of bullying, much of it generated on the Internet. "A fair amount of people are using social sites to bully," Huegerich said.

Besides not reporting victimization, not all teens using substances get caught.

SEE RECENTLY PAGE 7



A panel discussing teen substance abuse at a meeting in January included some of the teens of the Youth Community Project and their adult guides, from left to right, Rachel Valentine, Victoria Law, Michael Irwin, Jessica Batson, Sam Getka and Gabby Abrams. In conjunction with an adult board, the Teen Support Coalition, the teens are working toward creating a teen-run nonprofit coffeehouse/cultural center in Carrboro or Chapel Hill.

PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

INSIDE

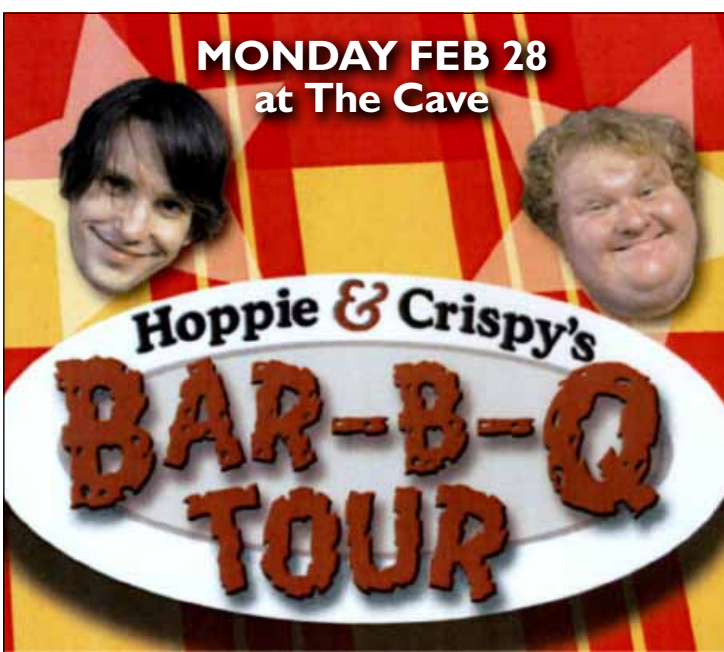
Heels' weapon

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MUSIC CALENDAR



THURSDAY FEB 24
Cats Cradle: The Pietasters, Archbishops of Blount Street, Petrojvic Blasting Company. 8:30pm. \$12/14
The Cave: LATE: Mecanikill, Headstone Hollow, Industrial Grade Acid. \$5
Century Center: Craicdown. 12pm. Free
City Tap: Sarah Shook and The Devil. 8pm
Local 506: The Diamond Rings, PS I Love You. 9pm. \$8
The Station at Southern Rail: Justin Johnson. 11pm

FRIDAY FEB 25
Cats Cradle: Los Amigos Invisibles, Rubblebucket. 8pm. \$15/17
The Cave: EARLY: Rocket Biscuit LATE: Battlestar Canada, The Bastages, Joy In Red
City Tap: Andy Coats. 8pm
General Store Cafe: Diali Keba Cissokho. 8:30pm
Jessee's Coffee and Bar: Something Candid, Anna Rose Beck. 8pm
Johnny's: Dirt Cheap: Soul/Funk-A-Thon Fundraiser for WCOM. 7pm
Local 506: Jonathan Richman. 9pm. \$13/15
Open Eye Cafe: Wasabi, Tears. 8pm

Reveoir: Colossus, Freedom Hawk, Ruscha
The Station at Southern Rail: Alex Bowers Trio. 6pm
SATURDAY FEB 26
Bean and Barrel: Funktion. 8pm. Free
Cats Cradle: If Not For You: Tribute to George Harrison's "All Things Must Pass." 9pm. \$10/12
City Tap: See No Weevil. 8pm
General Store Cafe: Skatepark Fundraiser with Caltrop, Chred Crust, Spider Bags, Gasoline Stove. 8pm
Jessee's Coffee and Bar: Ivan and Alyosha. 8pm
Local 506: Dexter Romwebber and The New Romans, Fantastico, Blood Red River
Memorial Hall: Yasmin Levy. 8pm
Open Eye Cafe: Erin Brown. 8pm
The Station at Southern Rail: Doug Largent Trio. 7pm

SUNDAY FEB 27
Cats Cradle: Get Up Kids, miniature Tigers, Brian Bonz. 7:30pm. \$18/22
The Cave: LATE: The Serious Old Time Country Band

MONDAY FEB 28
The Cave: Hoppie & Crispy's BBQ Tour. 5pm EARLY: Phatlynx
Memorial Hall: Nicola Benedetti, Pei-Yao. 7:30pm

TUESDAY MAR 1
Jack Sprat: Chris Reynolds. 7pm
Local 506: David Dondero, Franz nicolay. 9:30pm. \$8/10
WEDNESDAY MAR 2
Nightlight: The Protomen. 9:30pm
THURSDAY MAR 3
City Tap: Jo Gore and The Alternative. 8pm
General Store Cafe: Jazzbeau. 7pm
Local 506: The Numbers, Brett Harris, The Stars Explode. 9pm. \$5
Memorial Hall: Leon Fleisher. 7:30pm
The Station at Southern Rail: Dave Spencer Band. 10pm

FRIDAY MAR 4
Cats Cradle: Superchunk, Veelee. 9pm. \$14
City Tap: Danny Gotham. 8pm
Community Church: Alasdair Fraser, Natalie Haas. 8pm. \$20/25
General Store Cafe: Miss Shevaughn, Yuma Wray. 8pm
Jessee's Coffee and Bar: Boom Chick, Ill Family. 8pm
Katy's (Hillsborough): Funktion, Archbishops of Blount Street. 9pm.
Local 506: The Parlotones. 8pm. \$10
Nightlight: The Forms, The Lisps, Towers, Felix Obelix. 9:30pm
Reveoir: Bitter Resolve
The Station at Southern Rail: Alex Bowers Trio. 6pm

SATURDAY MAR 5
Cats Cradle: Greg Brown, Bo Ramsey. 8pm. \$28/30
The Cave: EARLY: Bad Dog Blues Band. \$5 LATE: Kenny Roby, Jerry Leger
City Tap: Daniel Sean. 8pm
General Store Cafe: Spirit Family Reunion. 8pm
Jessee's Coffee and Bar: Mark Willims, Justin Johnson. 8pm
Local 506: L in Japanese Dance Party. 9pm. \$8
Nightlight: The Binary marketing Show, birds and Arrows, nick Coward and The last Battle, Animal Alphabet. 9:30pm. \$6
Open Eye Cafe: Miss Shevaughn and Yuma Ray. 8pm

SPOTLIGHT: If Not For You



More than 40 Triangle musicians will commemorate the 40th anniversary of George Harrison's *All Things Must Pass* with a performance of the album in its entirety at 9 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 26 at Cat's Cradle.

All proceeds from the concert will benefit the Caring Community Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides financial support to cancer patients in need. Harrison died of cancer in 2001.

Performers include members of Arrogance, the dbs, Eric Choir, Jeff Hart and the Ruins, The Hercules Europe Brass, John Howie Jr. and the Rosewood Bluff, P. Hux, The Sno-Cones and more.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 the day of the show. Doors open at 8 p.m. For more information, visit ifnotforyou.org

MOVIES

We suggest you call for exact show times

CAROLINA THEATRE OF DURHAM
 309 W. Morgan St., 560-3030
 The Fly, Friday only, 7 p.m.; Bug, Friday only, 9:30 p.m.; Blue Valentine, nightly at 7 & 9:20 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 & 4:20 p.m.; Barney's Version, Saturday-Thursday at 9:10 p.m.; 2011 Animated Oscar Shorts, Saturday-Thursday at 7:15 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:20 & 4:20 p.m.

CHELSEA THEATER
 Timberlyne, 1129 Weaver Dairy Road, 968-3005
 Barney's Version; Biutiful; The King's Speech

THE LUMINA
 Southern Village, 932-9000
 Hall Pass; I Am Number Four; Just Go with It; The King's Speech; Unknown

REGAL TIMBERLYNE 6
 120 Banks Drive, 933-8600
 Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son; I Am Number Four; Gnomeo & Juliet; Justin Bieber: Never Say Never; Unknown; Hall Pass

THE VARSITY
 123 E. Franklin St., 967-8865
 Tron: Legacy; Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part I

SPOTLIGHT: Albert Rodriguez Marti

Valencian guitarist Albert Rodriguez Marti will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 27 at the Carrboro Century Center.



The performance will mark the American debut of Marti, who was recently selected as one of four finalists for the Andrés Segovia International Guitar Competition in Linares, Jaen, Spain. The program will vaguely trace the development of the instrument and discipline from the Baroque Period through the 20th century, leading with a performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's Suite for Lute BWV 997 in A minor.

Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12, and \$8 for students and veterans, and are available at the door or in advance at brownpapertickets.com/event/145157

CAT'S CRADLE

<p>SA 3/5 GREG BROWN</p> <p>TH 2/24**(\$12/\$14) THE PIETASTERS W/ARCHBISHOPS OF BLOUNT STREET, PETROJVIC BLASTING COMPANY AND BRIAN HILL (OF REGATTA 69)</p> <p>FR 2/25**(\$15/\$17) LOS AMIGOS INVISIBLES W/RUBBLEBUCKET</p> <p>SA 2/26 "IF NOT FOR YOU" A 40TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE TO GEORGE HARRISON'S ALL THINGS MUST PASS**(\$10/\$12)</p> <p>SU 2/27**(\$18/\$22) THE GET UP KIDS W/MINIATURE TIGERS AND BRIAN BONZ</p> <p>FR 3/4 SUPERCHUNK W/VEELE**(\$14)</p> <p>SA 3/5 GREG BROWN W/BO RAMSEY**(\$28/\$30)</p> <p>SU 3/6 YELAWOLF W/CYHI DA PRYNCE AND KING MEZ**(\$13/\$15)</p> <p>FR 3/11 JOHN MARK McMILLAN**(\$10)</p> <p>SA 3/12 ROCKY VOTOLATO/ MATT POND**(\$10/\$12)</p> <p>TU 3/15 KATHERINE WHALEN AND HER FASCINATORS W/FUSE BAND, MIXERD GREENZ AND MR. COFFEE AND THE CREAMERS, COLE PARK **7:30 PM SHOW</p> <p>FR 3/18 CARBON LEAF W/KENNEBEC**(\$15/\$17)</p> <p>SA 3/19 HOLY GHOST TENT REVIVAL W/BIG PICTURE AND HOUSE OF FOOLS**(\$8/\$10)</p> <p>FR 3/25 ABBEY ROAD LIVE! PRESENTS "SGT. PEPPER'S MYSTERY TOUR" BEATLES TRIBUTE WITH LIVE HORNS AND STRINGS ORCHESTRATION**(\$15)</p> <p>SA 3/25 RAUL MALO**(\$22/\$25)</p>	<p>FR 2/25 LOS AMIGOS INVISIBLES</p> <p>SU 2/27 THE GET UP KIDS</p> <p>TU 4/26 YELLE</p> <p>MO 5/2 PINBACK **(\$14/\$16)</p> <p>TU 5/3**(\$15/\$17) BROOKE FRASER ON SALE 3/2</p> <p>SA 5/7 THE TWILIGHT SINGERS**(\$15/\$18)</p> <p>SA 6/4**(\$15) PAUL THORN</p> <p>SU 6/12 JOE PURDY **(\$15/\$17) SEATED SHOW</p> <p>Presenting LOCAL 506 (CHAPEL HILL) FR 2/25 JONATHAN RICHMAN FR 3/4 PARLOTONES W/FRACTAL FARM MO 3/7 TENNIS W/LA SERA AND HOLIDAY SHORES FR 3/18 THE MR FUNNY PANTS TOUR WITH MICHAEL SHOWALTER FR 3/25 TIM BARRY W/JENNY OWEN YOUNGS TU 4/5 CIVIL TWILIGHT W/ATOMIC TOM AND MOTHER/FATHER SA 4/9 THE CHAPIN SISTERS</p> <p>KINGS (RALEIGH) WE 3/9 ASTRONAUTALIS W/SIMS AND MR. INVISIBLE TU 3/29 THE DAMNWELLS W/HARPER BLYNN AND HOWARD JENNINGS</p> <p>THE ARTSCENTER (CARRBORO) TH 3/17 TODD SNIDER, THE STORYTELLER FR 4/22 KINA GRANNIS W/IMAGINARY FRIEND TU 5/17 CRASH TEST DUMMIES</p> <p>LINCOLN THEATRE (RALEIGH) SA 3/26 SHARON JONES & THE DAP-KINGS</p> <p>DISCO RODEO (RALEIGH) WE 5/4 INTERPOL W/SCHOOL OF SEVEN BELLS</p>
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Briefs

UDO hearing continued

The public hearing on the Unified Development Ordinance has been continued until Monday to allow for additional public comments. The hearing begins at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the Department of Social Services, Hillsborough Commons, 113 Mayo St. in Hillsborough.

For questions or additional information, contact the Orange County Planning and Inspections Department at 245-2575. Additional information is available on the department's website at www.co.orange.nc.us/planning

Town accepts bid on Weaver Street

The Town of Carrboro sent out notices to business owners that work is scheduled to begin March 7 on extensive repairs to the Weaver Street roadbed.

The town awarded the bid to Hannah Utilities of Durham, who beat out five other companies with an offer of \$1,005,700 for the work, which is expected to take about one year to complete.

Prior to the start of construction, the town will set up message boards and flashers cautioning motorists to seek alternative routes. Plans call for the work to be done in phases starting at the lowest point on street, which is near the intersection of Weaver and Main streets near Carr Mill Mall's main parking lot.

More information is available on the town's website at townofcarrboro.org/WS

OWASA changes disinfection

OWASA customers may notice a chlorine taste and odor in their water this March and early April. The change comes in light of the agency's annual change in its disinfection process.

OWASA crews will be releasing water from local fire hydrants in March in order to flush the water mains clean, and encourage customers who notice discoloration or air bubbles in their water to run cold water through their faucet for five minutes to clear up the water.

For more information, contact Rachel Monschien at rmonschien@owasa.org

Affordable-housing discussion

The Town of Chapel Hill planning staff will begin a series of public-input meetings in March on affordable housing in Chapel Hill.

The council has set a 2011 goal to develop a strategy to gain a better understanding of the affordable-housing system in Chapel Hill by gaining citizen input and that of economy-housing experts.

For more information or to be placed on the mailing list of the input meetings, please contact Rae Buckley at rbuckley@townof-chapelhill.org

Energy efficiency fair

The towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro will host an Energy Efficiency Education Fair on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Carrboro Century Center. The fair, which is open to all local residents and businesses, will feature experts on a variety of issues relating to energy efficiency.

For more information, contact Nora Barger at nbarger@cleanenergysol.com

Council to discuss food trucks

The Chapel Hill Town Council will hold a public forum on the issue of food trucks in Chapel Hill on Monday at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

After receiving a citizen's petition to consider permitting and regulating food trucks in the area, the council invites the community's input to determine whether or not food trucks should be allowed to operate on private property in town and under what restrictions.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, send your ideas and comments to Kendal Brown, Town of Chapel Hill planner, at kbrown@townofchapelhill.org



Board approves new options for 300 East Main

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

CARRBORO — At its meeting Tuesday night at Town Hall, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen cleared the way for additions to the former VisArt Video space at 300 East Main St., opening the door for a possible expansion and move of Cat's Cradle along with other changes at the property.

The board approved a change to the center's existing conditional-use permit to allow owners Main Street Partners to expand the front of the current Cradle and the former VisArt space out to the edge of the existing canopy and construct additional space at the back of the property. VisArt closed its doors last month.

Laura Van Sant of Main Street Partners said the expansion and move is one of several options under consideration as owners prepare for a much larger expansion on the site.

"With VisArt empty, it gave us some options," she said. "Right now, there are no firm plans for the Cradle move or anything happening at the building."

Although the VisArt space is slightly smaller than the existing Cradle, the expansion approved Tuesday night would raise the floor space from 6,400 square feet to 8,800 square feet. In approving the plan, the town waived town parking rules that would have required five more spaces at the site.

Van Sant said Main Street Partners went ahead with the

request so that it could move quickly once any decision is made.

"We wanted to make sure we had all the boxes checked," Van Sant said. "But even for this space, nothing is finalized."

She said there is also hope that the major development planned at the site could start moving forward soon. The proposal, including a hotel and parking deck located on the easternmost portion of the site, have been stalled since credit markets tightened following the town's approval of the development in 2008.

"There seems to be a thaw in credit," Van Sant said, adding that Main Street Partners could have an announcement about the project coming within the next month.

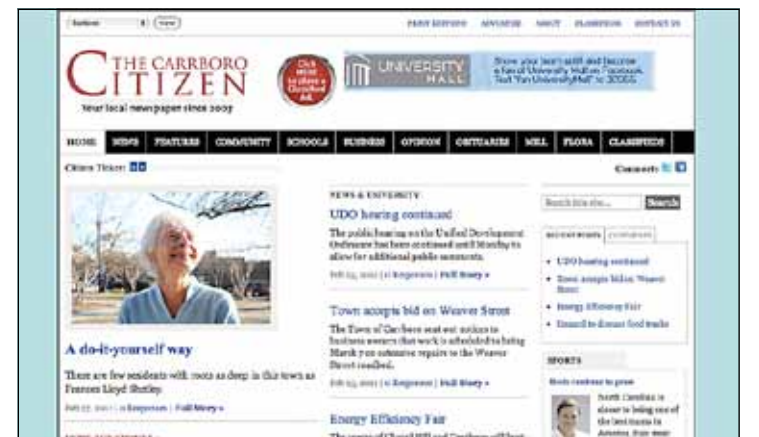
Citizen wins press awards

The Carrboro Citizen has won another set of awards from the North Carolina Press Association for its website, writing and editorials.

At a ceremony last week during the press association's Winter Institute, Citizen publisher Robert Dickson accepted four awards on behalf of the newspaper.

For the second year in a row, The Citizen's website, carrborocitizen.com, was named best in the state for newspapers with a circulation of 3,500 to 10,000. The site was redesigned last year by Michelle Langston, who worked with Citizen staffers Kirk Ross, Mike Li and intern Lucy Butcher to develop a new template for small newspapers using the WordPress open-source platform as part of her graduate work at UNC's School of Information and Library Science.

In writing awards, managing editor Taylor Sisk won second place in feature writing for a



remembrance of civil rights attorney and UNC law professor Dan Pollitt, titled "A lifetime of civility."

Sisk, Ross and Citizen art director Liz Holm won second place for the design and content of the newspaper's editorial page.

Ross won third place for editorial writing based on entries about the need to protect vulnerable citizens from the impact of budget cuts and the challenges facing the graduat-

ing class of 2010 and an editorial in opposition to siting a waste transfer station on Millhouse Road.

"I'm so pleased that our staff has been recognized for the excellent in-depth journalism we provide for our community, for the really outstanding work that's been done on our website and for our design in general — both in print and online," Dickson said. "All of these folks are richly deserving of these awards." — Staff Reports



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New roots

Mindy Douglas Adams, pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church, at the church's groundbreaking last Saturday. The church, which in 2005 branched from University Presbyterian of Chapel Hill and the Salem Presbytery, seeks new roots in the building that will be erected on this lovely spot near the water tower north of the Briar Chapel development in northern Chatham County. More than 100 members of the church and community attended the event.

PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ



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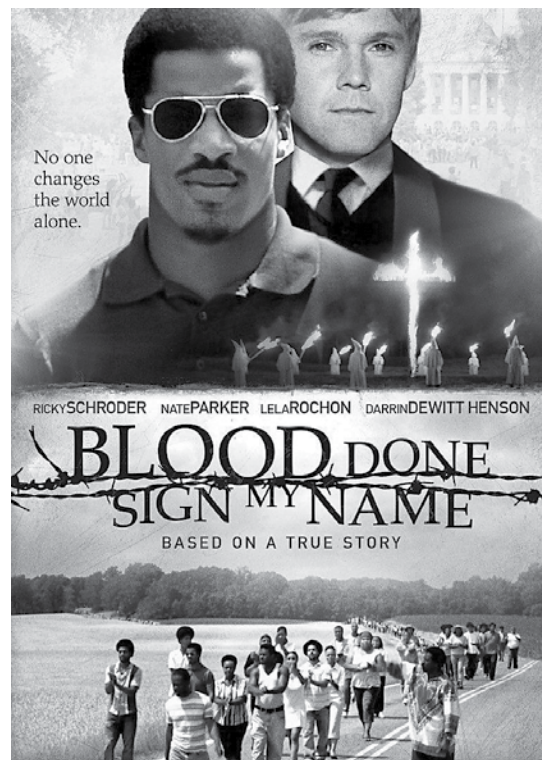
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Bavarian Chocolate, 1-lb	\$7.89 ea
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Decaf Colombia, 1-lb	\$6.79 ea
Old North State Coffee Sampler	40% off
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La Residence Blend, 1-lb	\$6.49 ea
Stainless Steel Thermos	1/2 price
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Mighty Leaf Teas	30% off
Smokey Mountain Blend, 1-lb	\$5.89 ea
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All Fine Teas	20% off
Southern Pecan Blend, 1-lb	\$6.50 ea
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A Southern Season Blend, 1-lb	\$6.99 ea
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French Vanilla Cream, 1-lb	\$5.49 ea
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Briefs



Film forum on race opens

ChathamArts' Sustainable Cinema series will sponsor "Race in NC: Justice and Reconciliation Film Forum" this weekend, addressing black history, identity, culture and social justice and racial reconciliation.

The two-day forum includes showings at Jordan-Matthews High School in Siler City on Saturday and the Fearington Village Barn on Sunday along with educational outreach, filmmaker talks and panel discussions.

Films include *Greensboro: Closer to the Truth*, *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*, *An Unlikely Friendship*, *Blood Done Sign My Name* and *Moving Midway*.

Information and times are at chathamarts.org/sustainablecinema

Friends of the Downtown

Roger Waldon, former Chapel Hill planning director, will be the guest speaker at this month's meeting of Chapel Hill's Friends of the Downtown, today (Thursday) at 10 a.m.

Waldon is now with Clarion Associates, a land-use and real estate consulting firm, and will share ideas and examples from other communities at the meeting. Guests will then vote on whether those ideas are worth considering for Chapel Hill.

The meeting is in Top of the Hill's Great Room. Before the meeting, there will be a networking opportunity, as well as free coffee, starting at 9:30.

New Latino youth coordinator

The Hispanic Liaison of Chatham County has hired Silvio Balcazar to be its new youth program coordinator.

Balcazar is a native Peruvian and holds a law degree from Peru's Catholic University. He got his master's degree in cooperation and development, with a concentration in immigration studies, from Valencia University in Spain. Most of his career has focused on human rights and social-justice work.

Balcazar can be contacted by phone at 742-1448 or by email at silvio@evhnc.org

Vote for Chapel Hill

On Feb. 15, Chapel Hill was designated a Distinctive Destination by the National Trust for Historic Preservation along with 11 other towns or cities nationwide.

Between now and March 15, each city is competing for the title of Fan Favorite. The town wants to recruit local residents, business owners, students and alumni to vote daily and encourage their friends and families to do the same.

Cast your vote at preservationnation.org/ddd

Bike friendly Chapel Hill

The League of American Bicyclists has designated Chapel Hill a bronze-level "Bicycle Friendly Community," and the town will celebrate on Friday from 4 to 7:30 p.m. at University Mall on the stage in front of Dillard's.

The event will feature goldsprints, which allow riders on stationary bicycles to compete in a timed race, Bike Open Mike and the unveiling of Chapel Hill's new Bicycle Friendly signs.

For more information, visit gochapelhill.org

Homeownership fairs

Chatham Habitat for Humanity will host two fairs for families and individuals who want to own their own homes but aren't sure they can afford it.

The first is March 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. at First Missionary Baptist Church, 914 Martin Luther King Blvd. in Siler City. The second is March 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Community House, 71 Anthony St. in Pittsboro.

The events are free and open to the public. Habitat officials will talk about their program, how to qualify for a home and what the process is like. Families who have become homeowners through Chatham Habitat also will be on hand to share their experiences. There will be an opportunity to fill out an application.

For information about the fairs, contact Amanda Sale at 542-0794, ext. 220 or amandasale@chathamhabitat.org. To learn more about Chatham Habitat, visit chathamhabitat.org

World Day of Prayer

There will be a service at First Baptist Church on March 4 at 10:30 a.m. in observance of World Day of Prayer 2011.

The service will deal with hunger and needy families worldwide. Its theme is "How Many Loaves Have You?" The service is sponsored by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Church Women United and presented by Women of Carrboro United Methodist Church.

For more information, call Dolores Clark at 929-1550.



HOUSE Calls

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



This week we respond to questions about ringing in the ears and a swollen toe.

Dear HOUSE Calls, I'm 40 and really healthy, but recently started having recurrent ringing in my ears. When it starts, I feel disoriented and sometimes break into a sweat and feel like I might throw up. It usually just lasts for a few minutes and then I feel completely fine. What do you think is wrong?

We call this tinnitus (ringing or buzzing in the ears), and with dizziness, it may be vertigo — usually, the sensation that a room is spinning. This may be a problem called benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. This problem can be a real nuisance, but is not usually serious. We think it is caused by loose debris or stones in the inner-ear balance mechanism or inflammation of the balance mechanism. With the predominance of ringing as a

symptom, the problem may be Meniere's disease. This is often associated with hearing loss and can be treated with medicines and some other therapies. There are several other things that could cause it, so it is worth a visit to your family doctor, who will likely ask a lot of questions and examine you to make sure there could be nothing more serious going on. We hope you can get some relief from the symptoms.

Dear HOUSE Calls, I am 63 and am having a problem with my big toe. It has been slightly swollen for a few weeks and occasionally gets bigger and painful. I don't remember injuring it. When I asked my doctor about it, she asked me about my alcohol consumption and mentioned the possibility of gout. What do you think is causing this?

Gout often occurs in the big toe, and certainly can be caused or exacerbated by

drinking alcohol. Gout of the big toe is so special that it has its own name: podagra. So that is a good possibility. Pain and swelling with acute gout is usually severe. Maybe you injured your toe and didn't realize it at the time. If there is a broken bone or torn ligament, it could take awhile for the swelling and pain to go away. We would recommend that you keep working with your doctor. Often, blood tests and X-rays will help with diagnosis. The best way to diagnose gout is by getting fluid from the joint involved. We then examine the fluid under the microscope for crystals. Unfortunately, this can be hard to do with the big toe. Good luck, and we hope this gets better quickly.

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

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1 Like the Kaliahari
5 Jungle birds
11 Mythical monster
14 FN's specialty
17 Actress Rowlands
18 Lawrence's locale
19 Chanteuse Edith
21 Queens stadium
22 Grace Kelly's final film
24 Money drawer
25 Semester
26 Fred's sister
27 Ultimate Capri, for one
29 Cabell or Slaughter
30 Native Peruvian
33 Blood component
36 Off course
38 Jean Harlow's final film
42 Tabula —
43 Button part
44 Assist
45 Director Craven
46 Chiasm
48 TV's "Boy — World"
51 Rubbish
54 Less

DOWN

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63 School grp.
64 Yearbook
66 When Strasbourg sizzles
67 Nags subtly
70 Actor Tognazzi
72 Redolence
73 Adams or McClurg
74 Vocalized
75 Vivien Leigh's final film
78 Mild oath
79 Press
80 Amos or Spelling
81 Nourished
82 Actor McGavin
84 12 doz.
85 Texas city
87 Mack or Knight
89 Wahine's neckwear
90 Sneeze and Sneeze
91 "o'clock scholar"
92 Soccer shot
95 With 116 Down, "Touched by an Angel" star
99 Singer Helen

101 Israeli diplomat
103 Mink's coat
105 Waterston or Wanamaker
106 Let out the lava
109 Eye part
111 Peter Lorre's final film
114 Ambush man
115 Cpl. Walter O'Reilly
117 Director Nicolas Jacob
118 Ballyhoo
119 "Green —" ('90 film)
121 Swell place?
123 Wise guys
127 Piccadilly figure
128 Eager
129 John Wayne's final film
132 Navel store?
133 Verne Neiman captain
134 Spring holiday
135 Loathe
136 Paw part
137 Fall behind
138 Answer for an admiral
139 From the top
140 Nutritional abbr.

21 "Tristram Shandy" author
23 Dispatched
31 Bull's beloved
32 '58 Pulitzer winner
34 Fury
35 Seize
37 Subdues Simba
38 HS exam
39 Word on a pump
40 Nutritional abbr.

41 PQQ, politely
47 Tolkien character
49 Renaissance painter
50 Velocity
52 Play ground?
53 Spell
55 "— Cupid" ('58 hit)
56 Othello's ensign
58 "— you so!"
59 — fin
62 Rice's vampire
65 Like a cobra
67 Dreiser's "Sister —"
68 Henry Ford's final film
69 Musical
71 Wrong
73 Mysterious
74 It makes candy dandy
76 Worth or Pappas
77 Greek cheese
83 Chianti color
85 Store
86 "Pal Joey" author
88 Detroit
93 Geraint's lady
94 German valley

96 D-Day craft
97 — Cruces, NM
98 Goller Alcott
100 Least humid
102 '58 Everly Brothers hit
104 Antique auto
107 Pie nut
108 Do Europe
110 Strut
112 Cuban currency
113 Erle's colleague
114 Neighbor of Jordan
116 See 95
118 Employees
120 "Green Mansions" girl
122 Actress Nielsen
124 — Carlo Menotti
125 Punta del —
126 Prepare prunes
129 Darjeeling export
130 "Yo!"
131 Metallurgist's concern

CitizenCryptoquote By Martin Brody

For example, YAPHCVAPLM 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.

"Being British"

S P P H M M S N R C T H Q
N Q V E S W K V I D . K N ' W H
C D J S U H E N Q V E S W K V I D .
K N ' W O N M D M N W N M O N R .
S Q Z H U C , S C L H W Q ' C
I Q C E H Z C N M L N L N M N
P H M M S N R , C K H C S
H U C I H E E D F Q N L K N
L H Q C N R C T V T T I C L S C K
P N . - F S C K T E E N M G H U K
Find the answer in the puzzle answer section.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Calendar

THURSDAY FEB 24
Godspell — Presented by United Church of Chapel Hill. 7 pm Free, with donations requested to support the American Sign Language Interpreting Service 605-3418

The Big Tent Cabaret Road Show — Presented by the Paperhand Puppet Intervention. TheArtsCenter; Runs through March 6 artscenterlive.org

OC Democratic Women — Meeting and commemoration of Black History Month. OWASA, 7pm

Movie Showing — *The Take*, a documentary depicting the struggle against globalization in Latin America through the occupation of bankrupt businesses. Internationalist Books, 7pm

Daniel Johnston — To discuss his pottery making and inspirations. Ackland Art Museum, 6pm Free and open to the public

FRIDAY FEB 25
Meals on Wheels Fundraiser — With a silent auction and music featuring Big John Shearer and Blues Side Up Band. Community Church on Purefoy Rd, 7:30pm \$10 942-2948

WCOM Fundraiser — "Dirt Cheap: Soul/Funk-A-Thon" fundraiser dance-party. Johnny's, 7-11pm

Book Sale — Chapel Hill Public Library. Continues through Feb 27 968-2780

Boys Choir Auditions — For boys in grades 3-6 for the spring semester. Church of the Good Shepherd, Durham 5-7pm ncboyschoir.org 489-0291

SATURDAY FEB 26
Marathon Jam for Fisher House Charity — Annual jam to raise money for room and board for families of soldiers recovering in VA hospitals. American Legion Post 6, 1pm-1am marathonjam.com

Back to Borneo — A one-man show by Paul "Sparky" Johnson. The ArtsCenter, 8pm \$10 artscenterlive.org

Bicycle Friendly Award — The League of American Bicyclists presents its Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community Award to Carrboro.

Looking Glass Cafe, 9am bikecarrboro.com

Seed Swap — And Seed Saving Skillshare. Carrboro Town Commons pavillion, 9:30am-noon carrborogreenspace.org

Energy Fair — Carrboro and Chapel Hill host an Energy Efficiency Education Fair. Carrboro Century Center, 9am-4pm Free townofcarrboro.org

Talk at Chicle — Ted Mow to speak about migration and community ties between Guanajuato, Mexico and Chapel Hill, North Carolina: results from a cross-border survey of social networks. Chicle Language Institute, 5pm Free chicle.com

Bread and Puppet Theatre — Presents *The Decapitalization Circus*. The ArtsCenter, 7pm artscenterlive.org

Bald Eagle Watch — Jordan Lake Observation Platform, Martha's Chapel Rd., 9-10am Registration: 542-6495, ext. 8044

Gardening Workshop — The first in a series for home gardening: "Organic Rose Gardening." N.C. Botanical Garden, 1:30pm 962-0522

Guitar Concert — Valencian classical guitar concert by Albert Rodriguez Marti. Dress attire recommended. Carrboro Century Center, 7:30pm \$8/students and veterans, \$12/adults brownpapertickets.com/event/145157

Open House — For Piedmont KTC Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Center at their new location. IFC Building, Suite 2L, 1-2pm 968-9426

Film Forum — ChathamArts and the NC Humanities Council present "The Chatham Film Forum on Racial Justice and Reconciliation." Fearington Barn, chathamarts.org

MONDAY FEB 28
"Time Out" — With guest Karen DeSombre discussing Alzheimer's research. WCOM, 103.5FM 5pm

Board Games Night — Internationalist Books, 7pm Free internationalistbooks.org

Food Truck Forum — Chapel Hill Town Council holds a public forum

on the issue of food trucks in Chapel Hill. Council Chamber of Town Hall, 7pm

TUESDAY MARCH 1
Movie Nite — Showing *Winter's Bone*, with Jennifer Lawrence, John Hawkes and Garret Dillahunt. Chapel Hill Public Library, 6:30pm Free

Wednesday March 2
Books Sandwiched In — Discussing *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*, by Jung Chang. Chapel Hill Public Library, 11:30pm friendschpl.org

FRIDAY MARCH 4
Church Concerts Series — Presents Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas. The Community Church, 8pm \$20/25 communitychurchconcerts.org

Drum Jam — With Music Explorium, presented by Carrboro Recreation. Bring your own drum if you can. Carrboro Century Center, 7:30pm \$3 918-7364

SATURDAY MARCH 5
Sacrificial Poets — A performance poetry team from the Chapel Hill-Durham area. The ArtsCenter, 7pm \$5 artscenterlive.org

Ongoing Cancer Support — Support groups at Cornucopia House for cancer patients and their families. cornucopiahouse.org

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

Compassionate Friends — Free self-help support for all adults grieving the loss of a child or sibling. Evergreen United Methodist Church, third Mondays 7-8:30pm 967-3221 chapelhillcf.org

Tax Assistance — Free for clients of any age whose household income is low to moderate. All VITA services are available at no charge including electronic filing of your tax return (e-file) El Centro Hispano, Carrboro Plaza Shopping and Seymour Center orangecountync.gov



ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK

COUNCIL FROM PAGE 1

Although the plan is new, objections raised during the hearing were familiar, part of that driven by a recent review of the property that puts most of it within a state natural heritage area because it is part of the area's dwindling reserves of bottomland habitat.

Del Snow called the idea "misguided" and said the new design should not change the fact that the town's natural areas need to be preserved.

"Mitigation of damage should not be considered protection," she told the council.

Julie McClintock and Madeline Jefferson of Neighbors for Responsible Growth said the plan, which would require a change in zoning by the council, contemplates far more density than anticipated for the area throughout several long-range planning efforts. The site's R-1 zoning, McClintock said, "is not a holding zone" and she asked that the council not change the zone nor grant a requested exception to the town's steep-slope rules.

"An exemption should be for exceptional circumstances," she said, "not for 90 condos on natural heritage land."

Council member Ed Harrison said he was concerned that the project would add density along the N.C. 54 corridor but was too far away from a transit stop to be able to take advantage of commuter buses.

Zinn's proposal also included a request to swap some or all of the project's affordable-housing component for a payment in lieu.

Both Robert Dowling, executive director of Orange Community Housing, and Habitat for Humanity director Susan Levy urged the council to consider their organizations' growing needs for maintenance funds as well as indications that state and federal housing money is likely to drop significantly this year.

Council member Matt Czajkowski agreed with an assessment by Dowling that the affordable condominium units that have come on line in the past few years are not as favored by families. He said the agencies need the funds more than more condos.

The council recessed the hearing until March 28.

In other action Monday night, the council reviewed a proposal driven by the town's economic-development office that would allow 11 major commercial centers around town to increase the size of their signs as well as the information they contain.

Current rules limit the size of the signs to an overall area of 15 square feet and a height of 8 feet and limit information on

the signs to 10 items (words, graphics and symbols) and the number of anchor tenants that can be listed to three.

The new proposal would remove the limits on information that can be displayed and increase the overall area to 216 feet, with the display area ranging from 50 square feet for centers on 35 mph roads and 72 square feet for centers on 45 mph roads. The height of the signs would also be raised to 10-12 feet depending on the speed limit of the adjacent street.

The proposal, which was drafted partly in response to a request from University Mall owner Madison Marquette as part of its upfit of the mall, took some council members aback.

Council member Sally Greene said the jump seemed extreme, noting that the 216-foot maximum was larger than Durham's.

Chapel Hill Economic Development director Dwight Bassett said the sign change is needed because the current rules are far too inadequate.

"What you see with most shopping centers is signage that doesn't identify the tenants," he said.

The 11 commercial centers that would be allowed to take advantage of the proposed change include Chapel Hill North, East 54, Eastgate, Mark Properties on Elliot Road, Glenwood Square, Meadowmont, Rams Plaza, Southern Village, Timberlyne, University Mall and Village Plaza (Whole Foods).

Send your Community Calendar submissions to calendar@carrborocitizen.com

ARTSCENTER FROM PAGE 1

In addition, The ArtsCenter closed out a three-month fundraising campaign last summer with \$160,000, less than half of its \$350,000 goal. The drive was intended to raise funds for a long list of needs, including a new sound system for the theater, repairs to the building's sprinkler system and a new dance floor in the center's dance studio. About 80 percent of The ArtsCenter's \$1.6 million budget is funded through program and class fees; the remaining 20 percent comes from grants, local governments and donations.

Had the campaign met its goal, Regan said, "we might be considering different things."

The interim director will serve as a figurehead while the board develops a plan to parcel out the responsibilities of the executive director and YPAC director, according to Regan.

"Certain board members are taking over certain areas," she said. "For each kind of key issue area, we'll work to identify a staff member or a board member."

"The big decisions will always come through the executive committee," she added.

With the elimination of the two positions, the board will look at the overall structure of ArtsCenter leadership to determine if changes need to be made on a more permanent basis.

"That's one of the things that we really are trying to figure out over the next couple of months ... if the structure that The ArtsCenter's had over the past couple of decades is the best one or if there's a better model," she said.

In the meantime, ArtsCenter programs — including YPAC — are still going strong, Regan added.

"We're still a strong organization with a good future ahead of us," she said. "The board and staff are ready for looking at things with fresh eyes."

ALDERMEN FROM PAGE 1

McKee questioned the inclusion of the county's proposed purchase of a \$610,000, 2.69-acre parcel next to Carrboro Elementary School for use as a library site, since the county is unlikely to have the funds to build a library for several years.

"If you haven't been to Carrboro lately, there's not a lot of places to build a library at a cost that anybody could afford," Clifton said. "We thought if we acquired the land, established it as a site, that a future library might be built."

The purchase is contingent on zoning approval by the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, which plans to hold a public hearing on the matter on March 22.

In other action, board members said they would like to revisit the quarter-cent sales-tax option, which was narrowly de-

feated by ballot referendum in November. Previous estimates projected that the tax could generate \$2.3 million annually.

Most of the commissioners said they would like to put it on the 2011 ballot. McKee said that while he supports the tax, he would not support putting it on the ballot in 2011 because it would be the only item on the ballot in areas of the county outside of the municipalities, and turnout would likely be low in those areas.

Other commissioners said they wanted to get it on the ballot sooner because the legislature could take away the option.

In its 2007 budget, the legislature gave counties the option of a quarter-cent sales-tax increase or a 0.4 percent land-transfer tax to help compensate for money taken away from counties when the responsibility for paying for Medicaid was turned over to the state.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Caution on housing

We ask our leaders to be forward looking about things, to take the next generation or two or seven into account when making decisions. But we also ask them to respond during times of crisis, and want to make sure that our society's institutions don't crumble and those in need are tended to.

That's a tough balance to find during times like these when the economy is showing signs of life but is still dragged down by high unemployment, continuing foreclosures and tight credit.

For the past few years, local governments have been relatively frugal, putting off projects, deferring purchases and holding down personnel costs. In the year ahead, it will be tempting to be a little less frugal and move ahead with plans on pause.

But signs out of our national and state capitols are pointing to the need for caution. With leaders unwilling to tackle meaningful reform in either the tax code or entitlement programs, the discretionary budget at the state and federal level is being whacked at with a fervor unseen in recent times. And while this nibbling around the edges of our budget problems won't change the long-term fiscal trajectory by much, it will have great impact at street level.

Among the early targets is federal and state support for local housing programs. These funds have been an important part of our housing strategy. They underpin attempts to keep a diverse housing base in a market that easily skews the other way. Affordability is not just some pie-in-the-sky goal, it is public policy that has seen concrete results. The partnership between local governments, the Community Home Trust and Habitat for Humanity has put hundred of homes in the hands of people for whom ownership was just out of reach. Most importantly, it has allowed people who work here to live here.

Now, with a hefty amount of affordable housing on the books, both organizations are faced with the difficult task of maintaining their investments so as to guarantee that they remain not just affordable, but attractive places to live.

The convergence of the looming loss of HOME and block grant money and the steadily increasing maintenance costs they face is why the leadership of the housing organizations appealed to the Chapel Hill Town Council Monday night to opt for a payment in lieu from the developers of the Aydan Court condominium project rather than add a dozen or so condos to their stock of housing.

Aside from the issue of whether condos have appeal to the families that are the main targets of the affordability program, the need for the funds is fairly clear-cut.

Given the environmental challenges on the site, Aydan Court still has a ways to go to win council approval. But the issue of whether to gather housing funds through payment in lieu or insist on affordable units onsite will continue to pop up as developments work their way through the boards of Carrboro and Chapel Hill.

Naturally, the towns should carefully weigh their options in every case. Given the times and the uncertainty over federal and state support, protecting the stock of housing we have could outweigh the need to increase it.

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Published Thursdays by Carrboro Citizen, LLC.



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A North Carolina you might not recognize

CHRIS FITZSIMON

Here's a simple way to determine which side of this year's budget debate you are on.

Do you believe the state should help a low-income single mother who loses a leg in an accident receive an artificial limb so she can walk again and take care of her children, or should we deny her that help to save money in the state budget?

The folks at the John Locke Foundation want to turn away the single mother and everyone else on Medicaid who needs a prosthetic or orthotic device to save \$2.8 million out of a \$21 billion budget.

Prosthetics are considered an optional service under Medicaid, but a survey in 2008 found that every state in the country except Mississippi provides them. The budget released this week by the Locke Foundation would add North Carolina to that list of one.

The Locke budget doesn't stop there in Medicaid. It would eliminate dental services and vision care too, even transplants. If you are poor and can't see or can't eat or your kidney fails, you are on your own.

The folks at the Locke Foundation ironically call their spending proposal "Protecting Families and Businesses: A Plan for Fiscal Balance and Economic Growth" and boast that it would cut taxes in North Carolina.

It would definitely cut taxes – by denying direct services to thousands of families, not protecting them.

The far-right spending plan isn't radically different from the ones the Locke Foundation has proposed in recent years that were largely ignored in the General Assembly. But the General Assembly itself is radically different this session, with new Republican majorities that have close ties to the Locke Foundation and other organizations funded largely by conservative businessman Art Pope, who also bankrolled much of the effort to get Republicans elected.

That means the Locke budget is likely to be considered far more seriously by the House and Senate budget writers this year, many of whom not only pledged not to raise taxes to address the budget shortfall but also promised to cut them.

And if lower taxes are all you care about, the Locke

Foundation budget can get you there. It would also change North Carolina into a state you may not recognize, with its recommendations to abolish Smart Start, which helps hundreds of thousands of children show up at school ready to learn, and to zero out funding for nationally recognized affordable-housing programs and efforts to help families facing foreclosure stay in their homes.

Thousands of teacher assistants would be fired because the Locke Foundation "experts" claim that having another adult in a crowded first-grade classroom helping children learn to read isn't worth the investment.

There's plenty more in the Locke slash-and-burn plan, much higher tuition for students at universities and community colleges and less funding to pay faculty to teach them. There are cuts to children's health care, lifesaving HIV/AIDS drugs, even cuts to the program that helps rape victims.

There's another way to balance the budget, of course, a much different way. It was outlined in front of the legislative building Tuesday by leaders of Together NC, a coalition of more than 120 nonprofit groups and service organizations.

The Together NC plan calls for a balance of budget cuts and new revenue to avoid the draconian cuts in the Locke Foundation proposal and renews the group's plea for tax reform to overhaul the state's outdated and inadequate revenue system.

The Locke Foundation routinely dismisses Together NC and its advocates for children, seniors and people with disabilities as all part of Raleigh's "spending lobby" that lawmakers should ignore.

But that single mother who needs an artificial leg is not part of any lobby; she's just one of hundreds of thousands of people the rigid Locke ideology would leave behind, all in the blind pursuit of tax cuts and shrinking the government they loathe.

Let's hope the new legislative leaders come to their senses soon and rethink their allegiance to that callous and dangerous prescription for North Carolina.

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

LETTERS

Build a Block

The Carolina Library Community is raising \$35,000 and 2,000 hours of labor to help build a Habitat for Humanity house this school year. This is part of the UNC Build a Block project. The project is a student-led initiative to build 10 Habitat for Humanity houses for university and UNC Hospital employee families during the 2010-11 school year.

When Habitat for Humanity of Orange County collected applications for their new housing site, 85 percent of the applicants turned out to be UNC employees. The people qualifying for Habitat housing have jobs but still cannot afford adequate housing. They put in sweat equity to help build their houses, in addition to working their normal jobs, and then they repay these mortgages.

I am personally volunteering to help the Library Community build a house because these applicants are my coworkers, neighbors and friends. I see their hard work every day on campus, I see their positive impact in the community and I want to see them in a house.

Ask anybody and they will tell you this is a really hard time to be fundraising. People are losing their jobs on and off campus, many people were already unemployed before and we are staring at massive budget cuts later this year. I don't know what's going to happen, but I know what's happening now and what we can do to help.

Our next fundraiser will be a bingo night tonight (Thursday) from 6 to 9 p.m. in Century Hall at the Carrboro Century Center. All ages are welcome. Bingo cards will cost \$1 and we will be selling drinks for \$1 and snacks for \$0.50.

Come have some fun, win prizes from local businesses and please help us build this house.

LIZ GARNER

Member, Library Build a Block Task Force
UNC

Bicycle Friendly City

This fall, Carrboro received the League of American Bicyclists' Silver Level Bicycle Friendly City award. We were the only town in North Carolina and one of only two in the southeast to receive the silver award. On Saturday, Bill Naspar, the director of the League's Bicycle Friendly America program, will be on hand to present Carrboro with this award. The presentation will be at 9:00 a.m. at the Looking Glass Café. Bill will also be on hand afterward to discuss ways to im-

prove cycling in the community. I encourage everyone who bikes or who supports bicycling to come and join the celebration. Let's enjoy the silver we have achieved and start thinking about how to get to gold!

HEIDI PERRY

Carrboro Transportation Advisory Board

Tablecloths and smiles

Every Tuesday evening, smiles appear on the faces of patients and their live-in caregivers on the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit of N.C. Cancer Hospital, the clinical home of UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center.

What delights everyone is the anticipated arrival of the "Dinners on Tuesday" meal donated by our area's finest restaurants.

Community volunteers and hospital staff come together to make these nights special.

Tablecloths, flowers and homemade desserts grace the lobby area of the 4th floor suite, so that caregivers are provided a relaxing atmosphere and can chat with the families and friends of other patients.

Our restaurants deliver meals two weeks in a row to the hospital. We applaud them for their generous and delicious donations. The positive response by everyone involved has been overwhelming; owners, managers, their staff and delivery services.

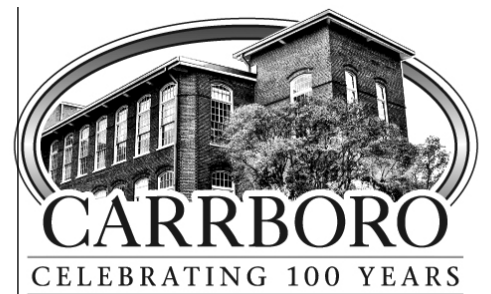
The program wishes to thank Acme Restaurant, Carrboro; Daniel's, Apex; Honeybaked Ham, Durham; Maggiano's, Durham; PF Chang's, Durham; Piola, Chapel Hill; Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Durham; Shula's 347 Grill, Chapel Hill; Spice Street, Chapel Hill; and Top of the Hill, Chapel Hill.

It's wonderful to have such committed businesses in our community to support not only this program, but all programs for patients and families undergoing treatment at UNC.

LINDA KARP
Volunteer Coordinator
N.C. Cancer Hospital
BMT Buddy Program

LORETTA MUSS
Coordinator
N.C. Cancer Hospital
Patient and Family Advisory Board

DIANNE G. SHAW
Deputy Director of Communications
UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center



1911 | 2011

Come one! Come all!

Consider this your official invite. Perhaps you've heard that the town of Carrboro is turning 100 next week. You may also know that the big celebration is set for Carrboro Day, which falls on May 1 – an extra-special event this year with more bands and fun and all things Carrboro.

But the town isn't letting its birthday pass unnoticed. It's on the flag after all. There'll be plenty to notice, in fact, especially if you can make it down to the Carrboro Century Center around 7:30 p.m. on March 3.

That's when the annual recognition dinner for all of the volunteers who serve on the town's boards and commissions wraps up and the doors open to the public for an evening celebrating the town's new status as a centenarian.

Carrboro Centennial Celebration!

March 3, 2011

7:30pm

Carrboro Century Center

As one member of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen noted the other night, apologies in advance if you're planning on heading to bed before 8 p.m., because the evening begins with the ringing of the Century Center's bell 100 times.

Following the bell's tones are remarks from our mayor and board of aldermen and Rep. David Price.

The Carrboro High School History Club also will be on hand to present some of their extensive research into the town that waited 96 years to have a high school with its name on it.

Poetry will also be in the mix, with former board of aldermen member and town Poet Laureate Jay Bryan leading a set of readings.

He'll be followed by presentations and singing by a collection of school children from the town's elementary and middle schools.

(We also have it on good information that there'll be a few surprises during the evening. Our inside source described the fun and, well, you'll just have to be there.)

The evening ends with enough cupcakes to feed a small town – or at least everyone who shows up – and a few heartfelt and no doubt resounding choruses of "Happy Birthday."

The event is enough to get anyone in a festive mood and kicks off a season of celebration for the town.

We have a lot to celebrate and a lot to remember. We didn't make it to 100 without a lot of people stepping up to make this a better place. A whole lot of those folks won't be with us Thursday night, but they haven't been forgotten as we enjoy their legacy – a little mill town anyone would be happy to call home.

So come by and join the celebration of Carrboro and all the people who have made it what it is today.

LETTERS POLICY

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

Letters to the editor
Box 248 Carrboro,
North Carolina 27510

EMAIL:
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FAX: 919-942-2195

School Briefs

Black History Knowledge Bowl

The third annual Black History Knowledge Bowl will be held in Carrboro Elementary School's auditorium on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Graduate Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is sponsoring the competition, which will host teams from McDougle, Phillips, Smith and Culbreth middle schools.

All student participants are members of AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), an elective class offered at Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools middle schools.

Pre-K/Head Start seeks families

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Pre-K/Head Start Program is recruiting new families for the 2011-12 school year.

The program focuses on preparing children for kindergarten by providing high-quality early-childhood education and comprehensive services to families of 3- and 4-year-olds. The program is free for income-eligible families and has tuition slots available as well.

Eligible children should live in the CHCCS district and be 3 or 4 years old by Aug. 31.

Applications are available at the program's main office, located across from University Mall at 891 Willow Drive. For more information, call 918-2153 or visit www2.chccs.k12.nc.us/education/components/docmgr/default.php?sectiondetailid=38110&

Presidential Scholars candidates

Six Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools students have been selected as candidates for the Presidential Scholars Program.

About 3,000 students from across the nation were selected from a pool of more than 3.2 million high school seniors. Candidates are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities.

The CHCCS candidates are Susan Cavender, East Chapel Hill High School; Emilie Chen, ECHHS; Young-Eun Hyun, ECHHS; Abigail Lin, ECHHS; Mohisin Rasheed, ECHHS; and Louis Vaught, Carrboro High School.

The U.S. Department of Education will announce in May one male and one female winner from each state.

Ephesus breakfast served in classrooms

Chartwells, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools' food service vendor, began serving breakfast in classrooms at Ephesus Elementary School on Feb. 15 as part of a pilot program.

The program at Ephesus Elementary changes the routine of serving breakfast in the cafeterias of all CHCCS schools by bringing the food to the classrooms. The usual cafeteria options for paying for meals still apply.

The program is based on research that shows eating breakfast can improve student health, achievement and attendance.

CTE profiling students

In celebration of National Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, the East Chapel Hill High School CTE department is profiling the talents and experiences of students enrolled in the program.

Bill Collette is one of the students being profiled. Collette is a video producer who created a video about ECHHS football. He has received a full Air Force ROTC scholarship to attend UNC.

To view Collette's football video, visit youtube.com/watch?v=7sJkFsQayB4&feature=player_embedded#at=14

Students' writing successful

Three fifth-grade students at Ephesus Elementary School took their persuasive writing assignment a step further by sending their essay to Stephanie Willis, the district's health coordinator.

Becca Beechold, Naomi Nelson and Amy Westerhoff, whose essay focused on the need for more recess equipment, received \$100 from Willis to purchase the necessary equipment. The students gathered feedback from their classmates and worked within their allocated budget to meet the needs of the entire grade level.

Tar Heels utilize versatility as a weapon

BY EDDY LANDRETH
Staff Writer

One has only to look at Carolina's two games against Boston College this season to witness UNC's valuable versatility.

On Feb. 1, the Tar Heels streaked past the Eagles on their home court, 106-74.

The Tar Heels ran with the skill and abandon shown by the best of Roy Williams' teams at Kansas or UNC.

When BC came to Chapel Hill for the return match on Feb. 19, Eagles coach Steve Donahue had clearly decided he was not going to watch the same jet stream blow his team off the court again. So when Boston College took a shot, frequently no one wearing a BC jersey went to the boards to fight for the rebound.

Instead the Eagles hustled to get back on defense and did their best to force UNC into a half-court game. Donahue got the

tempo he wanted, but not the result.

Carolina's size and improvement on defense made the difference.

"We're blessed to have a defense like we have," said sophomore big man John Henson, who is one of the cornerstones of that defense. "We have so many games we have pulled out with our defense."

The Eagles acknowledged Carolina's inside superiority by avoiding virtually any attempt to go in the lane. Half of Boston College's 14 field goals were three-point shots.

"You throw [Harrison] Barnes in there at the three and I don't think there is anybody that big in college basketball," Donahue said. "I don't know if there is anybody in college basketball that can score over them."

Heading into Wednesday's



game at N.C. State, only Duke had scored successfully over the top of UNC in its last nine games. And the Blue Devils did that with jump shots and free throws, not close-range shots.

The last couple of seasons have shown there's more than one way to win in college basketball. UNC demolished everything in its path in winning the 2009 national championship. No team could stop the Tar Heels from scoring.

A year ago, Duke and Butler made it to the final game on the strength of low-scoring defensive games, and the Blue Devils' defense proved one stop better than Butler.

The intriguing aspect of this Carolina team is that it can do both. If the players could find a way to finish more consis-

tently on their close-range shots, the Tar Heels might even win with greater ease. At least now, though, they know that if they have to do it with defense, they can.

Rebounding goes along with good defense because defensive possessions do not end until one team gets the rebound or the other team scores. Carolina out-rebounded Boston College 44-30. UNC would almost surely have done so even if the Eagles had not run back so quickly.

"It was very difficult," BC's Reggie Jackson said. "I wasn't disappointed in our guys' effort. We were trying to box out. The refs let it be a physical game, which we love. But they out-rebounded us 44-30. That is basically what got them the win."

Rebounding, and a defensive effort that led to the Eagles shooting 26.9 percent from the field. It was a tale of two games, and both were the best of times for Carolina.

RECENTLY FROM PAGE 1

Our police departments have done a good job cleaning up the areas once known for street buys, but teens now buy legal drugs — synthetic substances that produce whatever kind of high or mellow they seek.

"Kids are learning how to use different things that aren't as easily detected," said Robin Clark of the Community Services Division of the Chapel Hill Police Department. "We're seeing kids trying to stay on the legal end of things, smoking synthetic stuff ... using prescription drugs," usually taken from a parent's medicine cabinet.

Legal, by no means, equates to safe. When I spoke to her recently, Clark told of a 20-year-old who had the previous weekend smoked something she thought was called "G.I. Joe," basically bath salts. "He may never come out of the coma," she said. According to those who got him to the ER, he only inhaled a couple of puffs.

K-2 and Spice, two popular synthetic forms of marijuana, produce a more intense high, but with high anxiety, a harsh crash and unknown long-term effects.

However, the number one drug of choice hasn't changed through generations: alcohol.

"Most drink at home when their parents are away — or at

home," said Jesse Dingle, the principal at Chapel Hill High School, of teens who use alcohol.

Because it's legal for anyone 21 and over, teens feel it must not be that bad for them, but the American Medical Association says that teen brains are still developing and "alcohol can seriously damage long- and short-term growth processes." The part of the brain that allows risk-taking develops before the part that warns of the dangers.

Even some parents aren't getting the picture.

What struck me the most was the fact that parents were asking the panel of professionals what to say to their own peers, other adults, about allowing teenage drinking in their homes," said Jenny Schultz, who organized and led the panel discussion. "The social pressures facing parents today are equally as intense and debilitating as what teens are dealing with. Parents can no longer take for granted the 'village' mantra. It takes a village, but the village may or may not be trusted."

Teens were represented at the discussion by several members of the Youth Community Project (YCP), a 12-member board of teens working with two adults in conjunction with an adult board called the Teen Support Coalition, endeavoring to start a nonprofit teen-run cafe/cultural center.

"Most kids doing drugs are

bored," said YCP member Gabby Abrams. "There's a lack of entertainment."

"Having fun without having to sneak around is a lot more fun," said Sam Getka, also a member of YCP.

"We're looking for a space that's open but with so much going on that teens can explore and grow; where they can be safe and forward-moving," said Rachel Valentine, who, along with Michael Irwin, an English teacher at Chapel Hill High, works with the teens.

The pressures put on teens was a recurring theme throughout the panel discussion — besides academic, sports performance and parental pressures, they experience the fall-out of whatever the adults in their homes are feeling.

Steve Farmer, dean of admissions at UNC, spoke softly and wisely when he said, "Some parents make college an idol." He echoed what others had said about how parents sometimes refuse to see that getting help for their teens needs to outweigh their desire for their child to graduate from college four years after earning a high school degree.

Carrboro police Chief Carolyn Hutchinson has two teens of her own, whom she keeps informed. "I ask them, 'What's the first thing that goes when you're drunk?' They know the answer — judgment."

She told me of a recent incident when a high school varsity athlete, the daughter of affluent parents, a teenager with opportunities and advantages, was found unconscious outside The ArtsCenter. She was taken by ambulance to the emergency room with the "water" bottle she had filled with vodka, probably before leaving home.

"This stuff happens all the time," Hutchinson said. "It's everybody's kid."

Huegerich insists that we not give up on the village ideal. "It takes resilience and adult role models outside the family," he said. "That's what keeps some kids from going down for the third time."

Learn more at these local websites: chccoalition.org and teensupportcoalition.org

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CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER: Being British

It's not a British English idiom. He's very reserved in his manner. - J.K. Rowling

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Chapel Hill High School's Katie Leonard (seen here at the conference championships) defended her 1-meter diving state title at the N.C. High School Athletic Association's 3-A competition, held weekend before last at Pullen Park Pool in Raleigh. CHHS's swimming and diving teams both finished third in the state in 3-A competition.

PHOTO BY TED SPAULDING



Last Saturday, the Blazers of the Carrboro Recreation & Parks Department Mite League completed an undefeated, 11-0, season to take home the championship trophy. Pictured are, top row, left to right, assistant coach Hank Jones, Christopher Callanan, Drew Greene, Max Conolly, Harry Jones, Tommy Buonfiglio, head coach Scott Greene and assistant coach Mark Tachman; and, bottom row, left to right, Natnael Romaine, Tucker Wright, Max Ring, Tyler Tachman and Michael Lane.

PHOTO JOE BUONFIGLIO



The Special Olympics of Orange County skiing and snowboarding team competed in the Southeast Winter Games Feb. 6-8 in Blowing Rock and Boone, with several team members taking home gold, silver and bronze medals. From left: Giuseppe Polcaro, Kerry Hagner, Wilson Finks, Gillian Fink, Brandon Barbaro and coach Joseph Polcaro. Not pictured: Taylor Campbell, coach Karen Hagner

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSEPH POLCARO

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OPEN HOUSE FOR BUDDHIST CENTER Piedmont Karma Thegsum Choling is having an open house and 30th anniversary celebration! Sunday, 2/27/11, 1:00-3:00pm, 110 W. Main St., Suite 2L, Carrboro, 968-9426. Come learn about meditation, classes, and tour our shrine room. Introduction to Tibetan Buddhist Meditation classes, Wednesdays in March at 7:30pm. 968-9426

NOTICES

MAYAN DANCE PERFORMANCE

and fundraising banquet benefiting Guatemalan students. 6:30pm, February 25, St. Thomas More Catholic Church. Tickets \$20. RSVP: 919-968-9052. www.gssg-usa.org.

FARM/GARDEN

GREEN JAPANESE MAPLES

Green Japanese Maples on sale for \$13 and up at Club Nova's Thrift Shop, behind Wendy's. 100% of proceeds go to support the psychosocial rehabilitation program that serves over 100 persons in Orange County. Please come visit our thrift shop at 103-D West Main Street. Phone: 967-6985

FREE

FREE MEDITATION CLASSES

Learn techniques for relaxing the body and reducing stress, calming the mind, opening the spiritual heart and establishing your practice. Saturdays 10-11am February 19 & 26 and March 5 & 12. 104B Pleasant Drive, Carrboro. Call to reserve your place (space is limited). 967-9633 967-9633

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FARMERS' MARKET

WINTER MARKET HOURS
Saturdays 9am-Noon

What's at Market?

New Item this Week: ANEMONES, greenhouse strawberries, tulips, greenhouse sungold tomatoes, spring onions, golden turnips, arugula, parsley, radishes, chard, paperwhites, carrots, beet greens, savoy cabbage, herbs, kale mix, broccoli rabe, cauliflower, broccoli, beets, swiss chard, kale, spinach, acorn squash, cheese squash, bok choy, hot and sweet peppers, potatoes, beans, onions, garlic, sweet potatoes, potted herbs, eggs, sun-dried tomatoes, cornmeal, lettuce, arugula, wheat flour, salad mixes (spicy and non), fresh herbs, pecans, goat, beef, pork, lamb, chicken, buffalo, and various specialty meats like liverwurst, bologna, hotdogs, etc, cow's and goat's milk cheeses, breads, doughnuts, tortes, pies, cakes, jams, relishes, local wine, and more...

Recipe of the Week

Braised Baby Bok Choy with Celery and Ginger

Recipe Provided by Kelly Clark, Market Staff and Volunteer

Ingredients

- 8 clusters baby bok choy,* thoroughly washed and leaving the cluster intact**
- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 1 1/2 Tablespoon fresh ginger, peeled and shaved with a vegetable peeler
- 1/2 cup celery, very thinly sliced on the diagonal
- 1/2 cup onion,* thinly sliced
- 2 cups vegetable stock
- 1 Tablespoon soy sauce

Procedure

In a pan large enough to hold the bok choy in one layer, heat the olive oil over medium. Add the celery and onion and cook for several minutes. Add the ginger and cook until the ginger becomes fragrant. Add the vegetable stock, bring to a boil, then simmer for 5 minutes. Add the baby bok choy clusters in a single layer. Simmer over medium-low heat for 5 minutes, and then turn the clusters over. Simmer for another 5 minutes, and then turn again. Simmer for another 5 minutes, turn and sprinkle soy sauce over the bok choy. Serve hot.

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Mason Farm forests and fields burned two weeks ago are already turning green with vigorous spring growth.

PHOTO BY JOHNNY RANDALL

FLORA
FROM PAGE 1

"Fire suppression, from early colonists to present day, represents one of the most pervasive threats to biodiversity conservation nationwide. Times are changing; the week of Feb. 7 was declared N.C. Prescribed Fire Awareness Week by Gov. Beverly Perdue!

"European explorers and American botanists of the 18th century described the Carolina Piedmont as having vast savannas, prairies and plains of 'many spacious tracts of meadowland ... burdened with grass six feet high ... with buffaloes ranging in droves feeding upon the open savannas morning and night.'

"Like the Native Americans before us, we at the N.C. Botanical Garden have taken up the torch. John Lawson, in his 1709 book, *A New Voyage to Carolina*, reports: 'In February and March the inhabitants have a custom of burning the woods ... an annual custom of the Indians in their huntings, of setting the woods on fire many miles in extent.' Fires used by indigenous peoples rejuvenated hunting grounds, facilitated travel, and for at least 1,500 years, opened areas to sunlight for agriculture. I also believe that Native Americans knew, as we have learned, that regularly burned meadows and woodlands contain many fewer ticks!

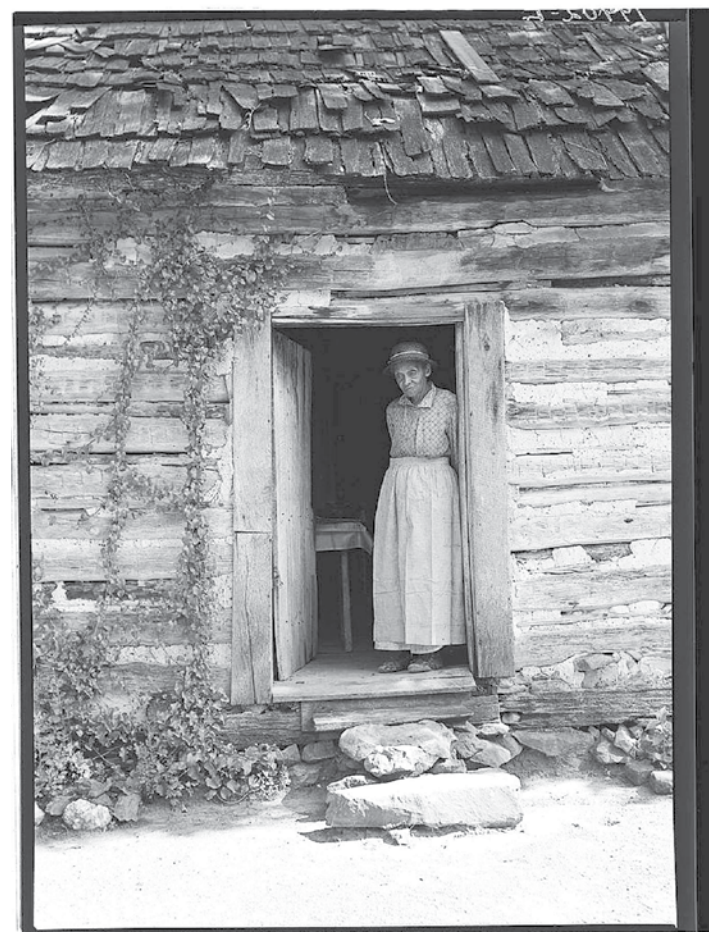
"We also use prescribed fire to reduce wildfire hazards from lightning strikes or arson. In order to execute prescribed fire safely, the Botanical Garden has a N.C. Division of Forest Resources certified in-house burning crew and follows a very strict 'prescription' based on weather conditions and other parameters. Our closest neighbors in the Kings Mill/Morgan Creek neighborhood have been accustomed to the smell of smoke from the 30 years of annual burns in our sandhills and coastal plain habitat gardens next to the Totten Center.

"Visit Mason Farm frequently this spring to observe and celebrate with us the Phoenix-like savanna rebirth at Mason Farm and *take a closer look* at the sequence of vegetation and floral display that begins emerging almost immediately."

Many thanks to Johnny Randall for contributing this week's Flora story and thanks to his dedicated garden colleagues and volunteers who help manage Mason Farm so wisely!

Email Ken Moore at flora@carborocitizen.com.

"B or me, documentary photography is less a matter of subject and more a matter of *approach*," wrote Dorothea Lange. "The important thing is not what's photographed, but *how*." The famous *LIFE* magazine photographer, whose iconic "Migrant Mother" is burned on the inner-eye of our national consciousness, is less well-known for her work right here in central North Carolina. To right that wrong, photo-historian Steve Rankin has compiled an impressive website devoted to Lange's work in Orange, Chatham, Wake, Person and Granville counties, June 30-July 9, 1939. One of my favorite photographs is, I believe, a reflection of Lange's gentle



Atwater Farm, July 1, 1939

"don't-stomp-on-the-daisies" approach to her subjects. I can't help but feel that Caroline Atwater, standing in her kitchen doorway, shared a connection with the photographer. The Atwater home and farm, Rankin notes, was located six-tenths of a mile east of old Blackwood Station on Mt. Sinai Road in Orange County. (Ironically, Blackwood Station, just north of Chapel Hill off N.C. 86, is well known to older local Boy Scouts as a favorite camping ground back in the '50s and '60s.) To explore the painstaking work of Steve Rankin, go to tinyurl.com/DortheaLange2

WATER WATCH OUR RESERVOIRS ARE 69.80% FULL

PRECIP THIS MONTH: 1.66" PAST 12 MONTHS: 34.88"

CUSTOMER DEMAND MON: 6.239 million gallons / Monthly avg: 6.87 million gallons

ESTIMATED SUPPLY: 363 days worth

A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER



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

WHIRL

FROM PAGE 1

Discovered around 400 B.C., the camera obscura technology is photography's distant relative and found use by ancient Greek and Chinese cultures and later by Renaissance painters.

New Whirl consists of a dark room that's entered by a shiny copper hatch. Set in the hatch is a lens that allows light from the outside to pass through and strike the interior wall. The result is that the outside image is reproduced inside the room, upside-down and flipped, but with color and perspective intact.

New Whirl also has a steering wheel inside, which allows users to turn themselves 360 degrees inside the machine.

"It's almost like magic," Lev said. "You get a panoramic movie wrapped all around you."

Lev said his purpose for the piece was to challenge people's sensory perception.

"It's kind of cool that light coming through this little hole can make such clear images," said Sara Nelson after taking a spin at new Whirl's exhibition. "It's something that I think is accessible to a lot of people and it's something that can be interpreted in a lot of different ways."

This isn't the first time one of Lev's pieces of art has been on display in the Carrboro area. Some might remember his original camera obscura that stood at 400 W. Main St. in Carrboro, directly across from the fire station. The piece, which served as Lev's senior thesis for Amherst College in Massachusetts, was a Carrboro landmark that stood for nearly 15 years.

"A lot of people knew me from that piece," Lev said. "Mayor Nelson asked at the time if it was an outhouse," he said with a smile.

Lev says he would love to find a home for new Whirl somewhere in Carrboro, but says he would prefer that it find its way into a museum, where it could continue to inspire people.

"One of the purposes of art, the one that I am most interested in, is to get people to see the world differently," Lev said. "And if people see the world differently, then they will act differently too."

Lev hopes that if people notice how beautiful the world is through his lens, maybe the world could become a more beautiful place.

"That's something art can do," he said.

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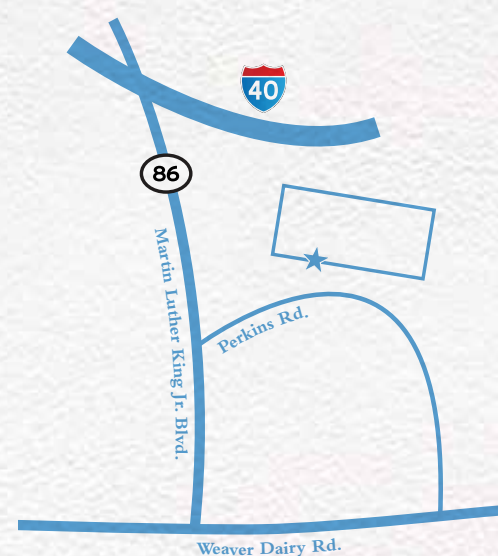
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