

PHOTO BY BETSY GREEN MOYER Clusters of tiny, lemon-yellow flowers adorn sassafras before leaf emergence.

FLORA By Ken Moore

In between redbud and dogwood there is sassafras

As the pink-colored redbuds are now giving way to the pure-white dogwoods, your eye may catch some yellow tints produced by another native tree that flowers before the emergence of its leaves.

Sassafras, Sassafras albidum, common throughout eastern North America, has a really special plant heritage. As Paul Green describes in Paul Green's Plant Book, "It was especially fancied in late Elizabethan England because of Sir Walter Raleigh's colonists on Roanoke Island sending back sassafras bark and roots to be used medicinally."

Failing to discover gold along the Virginia and Carolina coasts, the early settlers, following in the footsteps of earlier Spanish explorers further south, shipped tons of sassafras back to England, where sassafras tea houses became fashionable.

Green also described how citizens of the Cape Fear River Valley used the tea as a healthy spring tonic, prescribed by doctors in the old days for thinning the blood.

Sassafras has an almost sacred heritage among the eastern Native American cultures. Descriptions of uses are countless. Particularly engaging are recent accounts by descendants of the North Carolina Lumbees. Commonly repeated was the recollection "that Sassafras was the most often used herb in their households as they were growing up." This comes from Herbal Remedies of the Lumbee Indians, by Arvis Locklear Boughman and Loretta O. Oxendine, and is one of my favorite references for North Carolina plant and cultural heritage.

SEE FLORA PAGE 12

Democrats discuss transfer tax referendum

by Rich Fowler Staff Writer

Pros and cons of a proposed 0.4 percent land transfer tax got an airing last week at a forum sponsored by seven Orange County Democratic Party precincts.

The forum, held Thursday at the Homestead Community Center, featured Sen. Ellie Kinnaird and County Commissioner Mike Nelson in support of the transfer tax, and Mark Zimmerman, vice president of the Chapel Hill Board of Realtors and a spokesperson for Citizens for a Better Orange County, a group aligned against the tax.

Orange County commissioners opted to add the tax to the May 6 ballot as a potential revenue source to replace sales taxes the county will lose as part of a deal struck by legislators and county governments in last year's state budget.

Nelson said he supports the tax, but knows it's a hard sell. "It's even more difficult when you're talking



about a transfer tax in a recession, a large element of which is a crisis in the housing market," he said.

But Nelson said the county needs the money to handle its continued growth. Between now and 2012, the county plans to build a \$31-million elementary school and a \$55-million middle school to keep up with growth in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro system. It is also considering issuing up to \$154 million in bonds to cover future capital needs.

SEE TAX PAGE 7

TAX SUPPORTERS MEET

With one group already formed and actively campaigning against the proposed transfer tax, a new group in support of the bonds was scheduled to hold an organizational meeting Wednesday evening.

Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton is one of the organizers of the group, tentatively called Citizens for Schools and Parks.

Once formed, the organization must register with the county Board of Elections to actively campaign for the passage of the referendum.

Citizens for a Better Orange County, which is trying to defeat the tax proposal, filed papers with the county February 22 and has already sent out a mailing to Orange County voters.

State election rules require that the county engage only in voter education about the referendum and prevent the county government from directly advocating for its passage.

CARRBORO STORIES

A Few Moments with Beulah

by Taylor Sisk Staff Writer

Beulah Hobby eloped.

You see, she'd been busy all summer and hadn't yet told her mother about that boy, Bryant Hackney. She'd forever kept busy; so busy, in fact, through high school - what with being captain of the basketball team and all - that she'd had no time to take notice of the boy himself till that May - May of '35.

"I didn't date him till we finished high school in May," Beulah Hackney recalls today, sitting in the living room of her Oak Street home, three days shy of her 90th birthday.

She grew up on Andrews Store Road, seven or eight miles south of town; he grew up outside of Pittsboro.

"We graduated in the same class. But I never dated him or had anything to do with him until right after we graduated. Oh, I knew him. But I was doing other things, I had no time for him."

We're looking at a photo of the Class of '35. She's middle left; almost smiling; cherubic.

"Do I look the same?" she asks, and she does.

He's seated front, arms crossed; certain of his future - but little did he know.

"My friend invited me to go to White Lake with her, and he was in the group that went.

"So that's the first time I'd ever dated him. But after I dated



him - that was it. We started dating in May and got married in September. We ran away and got married."

To Halifax, Virginia, and back. Back to the homes of their respective parents, who were as yet unaware of the courtship that had blossomed that summer.

At the end of the summer, Bryant Hackney went off to Louisburg College on a baseball scholarship.

"He was a baseball pitcher," Ms. Hackney says. But not for long. "He stayed one week, and he came home, and he didn't tell me why he came home.

"But my son asked him one day, years later. David was real curious and wanted to know why he didn't stay and finish school. And he told him, 'Well, there was a little blonde that lived up in Chatham County ...'

"He couldn't stay away." And they married.

She laughs now good, at that memory, back on that ride from Halifax.

They kept the marriage secret for a time; returned home like nothing had happened.

"When you're that young, I don't know why."

SEE BEULAH PAGE 5

Downtown zoning proving trickier

Request for Center Street property leads to quest for broader changes

by Kirk Ross Staff Writer

On paper, a request to alter the zoning on a 65-by-135-foot lot downtown is termed a minor modification. But after a lengthy discussion Tuesday night at Town Hall of the implications, it was determined it could have a major impact since the property in question on Center Street straddles an almost invisible line between commercial and residential.

Center Street is apply named. At one end is the Fitch Lumber yard and warehouse. Across the "T" intersection with Weaver Street at the other end is the still fire-scarred F & F Automotive building. In between are a couple of commercial properties and a row of a half-dozen or so small mill houses.

On Tuesday, at the conclusion of the second session of a public hearing on a request to allow expanded commercial use at 102 Center St., the board of aldermen delayed a decision and asked town planners to come up with a special zoning district for the property.

The original request by Jane Hamborsky and her co-owners of the property would have rezoned the property under the town's B-2 Fringe Commercial classification.

But several board members said they were concerned that a future owner of the parcel might want to open up a restaurant, nightclub or any of the other uses permitted under B-2 that would be in conflict with the residences across the street.

Residents of Center Street and nearby Oak Avenue have expressed concern to the board that a change to B-2 on Center Street would open up more of the area to commercial use.

Jeff Herrick, who has lived nearby since 2000, said he wants to remain in the area and make improvements to his home, but has some trepidation about the long-term effects of the rezoning. He suggested the town revisit the B-2 zone, which has not been reviewed in 22 years.

SEE ZONING PAGE 3

St. Paul AME planning major project — and a move

by Susan Dickson Staff Writer

The Rogers Road neighborhood could see major changes over the next several years, with the possible addition of a church, affordable housing, recreation areas and an elementary school.

St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church has purchased more than 20 acres of land on the corner of Rogers and Purefoy roads and is planning to build not only new worship facilities but housing, athletic facilities and a wellness center.

In addition, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools officials are considering building the district's 11th elementary school on part of the Green Tract, a 169-acre parcel of land in the Rogers Road neighborhood near the Orange County Landfill. The Green Tract is jointly owned by Orange County, Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

According to Rose Bynum, chair of the St. Paul AME capital fund committee, the church doesn't have enough space at its location on the corner of Merritt Mill Road and Main Street, where it has been for 144 years.

"We needed more space for the congregational growth," Bynum said. "We also have a vision plan of extended ministry - not just coming to church on Sunday."

Bynum said the church's plans include facilities for spiritual health, education and physical health. The new campus would be built in four phases over a five-year period. Ideally, the church would break ground at the new campus in 2009, she added.

The new campus's facilities - recreational facilities for youth and seniors, affordable housing and athletic fields - would be available to the community, not just the church and its members.

Bynum said the church has about 200 members and has grown steadily over the past several years, intensifying the need for more space.

"It was a very difficult decision for the congregation to ever look beyond that corner," Bynum said. "There's a lot of history at that site."

Bynum said the church has raised 25 to 30 percent of the \$3 million to \$4 million needed for the plan's first phase, which includes the sanctuary, church of-

fices, fellowship hall and daycare facilities. She hopes the church will collect the remaining funds needed through a pledge campaign, church-sponsored activities and fundraisers, community outreach and grant programs.

The Rogers Road Small Area Plan Task Force voted to support the church's plan at the group's March 13 meeting, and the church submitted its plan to the Town of Chapel Hill last week.

Rev. Robert Campbell, a longtime resident of the Rogers Road neighborhood and a member of the task force, said he supported the St. Paul AME plan, adding that he thought the campus would enhance the neighborhood.

In addition, Campbell said he thought the church facilities would help bring youth and senior citizens together.

"I've noticed that there is a separation between young folks and elderly folks," he said. "Young folks need somebody with wisdom to direct them.... I think [the church facilities] will generate that."

SEE ST. PAUL PAGE 3



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MUSIC CALENDAR

THURSDAY MARCH 27

Blue Horn Lounge: John Craigie 10pm

Cat's Cradle: Badfish, Scotty Don't, High And Mighties. 8pm. \$18

The Cave: EARLY: Shame Train LATE: Atlantic Crossing, \$5

General Store Café: Jazz with Bo Lankenau 8pm

Local 506: The Moaners, Bellafew, Bibis Ellison. 9pm

Nightlight: Remora, M Coast, Dip-lomat, Keith John Adams. 9:30pm. \$6

Reservoir: Thunderlip, Young Liv-ers, Worn In Red

FRIDAY MARCH 28

The ArtsCenter: Battlefield Band. 8:30pm. \$21

Blue Horn Lounge: Joshua Long Band 10pm

Cat's Cradle: WXYC 80's Dance

The Cave: EARLY: Comedy hosted by Johnny Cook \$5. LATE:

The T.U.R.D.S. w/Eric Sommer

General Store Café: Nikki Meets the Hibachi 8:30pm

Local 506: Delta Spirit, Port O'Brien, Soft Company. 10pm. \$8

Nightlight: 5 Year Anniversary party Caltrop, Tiger Bear Wolf, Secret Boyfriend, DJ Family Vacation. 9:30pm

SATURDAY MARCH 29

The ArtsCenter: Transcending Borders presents Sabado Sonidero. 8:30pm. \$28

Blue Horn Lounge: Rootsie 10pm

Cat's Cradle: THE 15 FAMILIES BENEFIT: Dirty5Thirty, Blount Harvey, O Period, Big Fat Electric (the boys from Big Fat Gap), spinning by L In Japanese and Live Art by muralist Tarish Pipkins. 8pm. Donations welcome.

The Cave: EARLY: Pagan Hellcats LATE: Sleepsound w/ Stella by Starlight

General Store Café: See No Weevil 8:30pm

Hell: Matt Pryor and Bibis Ellison

Local 506: Violet Vector & the Lovely Lovelies (CD Release Party), Un Deux Trois, The Curtains of Night. 9:30pm. Free

Nightlight: Aleuchatistas, Le Weekend, High Rollers, Super Bowl Sunday. 9pm. \$6

SUNDAY MARCH 30

The ArtsCenter: Orquestra GarDel, Tangos ParaRecordar, Durham Academy's In the Pocket Latin Jazz Ensemble, Rey Norteño. 5:30pm. Free

Local 506: Free For All with T. Rox, Marko & the Rockers. 9:30pm. Free

MONDAY MARCH 31

Blue Horn Lounge: Open Mic with Jason Adamo 9pm

Cat's Cradle: Mike Doughy's Band, The Panderers. 9pm. \$15



Rey Norteño perform at The ArtsCenter for the finale of the Transcending Borders festival. Music and dance!

Local 506: Guitar Hero Night, 9:30pm

TUESDAY APRIL 1

Blue Horn Lounge: Samo & Susie Hicks Habitat for Humanity benefit. 9pm

Cat's Cradle: Caribou, F--- But-tions. 9:30pm

The Cave: LATE: Songwriters Open-Mic with John Saylor

Local 506: The Hanks, White Heat, Something Borrowed. 9pm. \$8

Nightlight: Chow Nasty, Aunt Dracula, Lonnie Walker. 9:30pm. \$5

WEDNESDAY APRIL 2

Blue Horn Lounge: Joseph Wells 10pm

Cat's Cradle: Say Anything, Manchester Orchestra, Biffy Clyro, Weatherbox. 7pm. \$18

The Cave: EARLY: Spoken-Mic with Ben & Marty

Hell: Hazerai, Antarctic, Our Name Is Legion. 9pm

Local 506: Handsome Furs, Vio-lens. 9pm. \$10

Nightlight: Finn Riggins, I Was Totally Destroying It, The Pneurotics. 9:30pm

THURSDAY APRIL 3

Blue Horn Lounge: Mark Wells & Jil Christensen 10pm

The Cave: EARLY: Brandon Herndon & John Pardue's Songwriters spotlight LATE: Rocket Biscuit with FM Beanston \$5

General Store Café: Jazz 8:30pm

Local 506: The Dirtbombs, Kelley Stoltz, Dirty Little Heaters. 9pm. \$10

Nightlight: Hard Luck Stories, Anton Sword, Burned Out Stars. 9:30pm

FRIDAY APRIL 4

Blue Horn Lounge: David Spencer Band 10pm

Cat's Cradle: Gary Louris (From The Jayhawks), Vetiver. 7pm. \$20

The Cave: EARLY: Chuck Champion & The Big Tippers LATE: The New Romans

General Store Café: Solazo!

Local 506: Howlin Rain, Nightstick, Stratocruiser. 10pm. \$8

SATURDAY APRIL 5

Blue Horn Lounge: Pagan Hell-cats 10pm

Cat's Cradle: "GOODBYE, SCHOOLKIDS RECORDS" The Heist And The Accomplice, Hammer No More The Fingers, Ben Davis & The Jets, Schooner, Michael Rank / Mark E. Smith, Sames, North Elementary, Wil Donegan & The Apologies, Concert benefits Orange County Elementary Music Program

The Cave: Blotter Benefit: Bud-dhacat, Tim Stambaugh & Crew

General Store Café: Brenda Linton & Friends

Local 506: Pico Vs. Island Trees, Modern Skirts, Honored Guests. 9:30pm. \$10

Nightlight: FrequeNC Records Night with DJ Stinkworxx, Data Hata, DJS Mothers Brothers. 10pm

Send your calendar events to calendar@carrborocitizen.com

SPOTLIGHT: 15 FAMILIES BENEFIT



15 FAMILIES BENEFIT

Performing are: Dirty5Thirty, Blount Harvey, O Period, Big Fat Electric (the boys from Big Fat Gap), with spinning by L In Japanese and live art by muralist Tarish Pipkins. All proceeds will benefit 15 displaced families from the November Ashbrook Apartment fire in Carrboro.

CAT'S CRADLE

WE 3/26 THE CLUB IS OPEN: (FREE LOCAL SERIES) COLLOSSUS, BLACK SKIES, TOOTH FREE SHOW

TH 3/27 BADFISH: A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME W/SCOTTY DON'T AND HIGH AND MIGHTIES**(\$15/\$18)

FR 3/28 WXYC 80S DANCE **(\$5 UNC STUDENTS / \$8 G.P.)

SA 3/29 15 FAMILIES BENEFIT: DIRTY5THIRTY, BLOUNT HARVEY, O PERIOD, BIG FAT ELECTRIC, L IN JAPANESE AND MURALIST TARISH PIPKINS

MO 3/31(\$15) MIKE DOUGHTY'S BAND** W/PANDERERS

TU 4/1 CARIBOU W/FUCK BUTTONS**(\$10/\$12)

WE 4/2(\$16/\$18) SAY ANYTHING** W/MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA, BIFFY CLYRO, WEATHERBOX

TH 4/3 L IN JAPANESE DANCE PARTY**(\$15)

FR 4/4 GARY LOURIS (FROM THE JAYHAWKS) W/VETIVER**(\$16/\$18)

SA 4/5 SO LONG, SCHOOLKIDS RECORDS SHOW: SCHOONER, NORTH ELEMENTARY, SAMES, WIL DONEGAN, MICHAEL RANK / MARK E. SMITH, BEN DAVIS + MORE....

SU 4/6 SUNDAY SHOWCASE

TU 4/8(\$10/\$12) BASSNECTAR** W/DJ ELIOT LIPP

FR 5/2 PRESSURE BOYS REUNION SHOW!*

SU 5/4 MAN MAN W/YEASAYER**

TU 5/6 BRITISH SEA POWER/ROSEBUDS**

WE 5/7 EASY STAR ALL-STARS(\$14/\$16)**

TH 5/8 BULL CITY BOOKING PRESENTS: THE CASUALTIES, KRUM BURNS, ANTAGONIZERS, NO REVOLUTION(\$12/\$15)**

FR 5/9 THE OLD CEREMONY(\$10)**

SA 5/10 POLVO SOLD OUT

TU 5/13 AND WE 5/14 DRIVE BY TRUCKERS W/DEXATEENS**(\$20/\$22)

TU 5/20 THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA(\$17/\$20)**

MO 5/26 CLINIC(\$13/\$15)**

WE 4/9(\$13/\$15) WEAKERTHANS** W/AAA BONDY

TH 4/10 BETWEEN THE BURIED AND ME** W/LYE BY MISTAKE + MORE

FR 4/11 SIGNAL FEST: DJ BABU, J-ROCC & DJ RHETTMATIC (BEAT JUNKIES)**

SA 4/12 SIGNAL FEST: LE CASTLE VANIA, VILLANS(\$15)**

SU 4/13 CEILING TILE BENEFIT BIG SKINNY, EMERALD CITY + MORE [AFTERNOON SHOW]

MO 4/14(\$15) RECKLESS KELLY** W/MICKEY AND THE MOTORCARS

TU 4/15(\$14) DAVE BARNES** W/ANDY DAVIS

WE 4/16 SUSAN TEDESCHI W/LEE BOYS**(\$20/\$22)

TH 4/17 WILL HOGE W/LESLIE**

FR 4/18 SPRING REGGAE FEST: DUB ADDIS + MORE....

SA 4/19 WOMEN BENEFIT STRANGER SPIRITS, WATER CALLERS, HARMUTE, PRAYERS AND TEARS OF ARTHUR DIGBY SELLERS, SWEATER WEATHER + MORE

SU 4/20 EISLEY W/THE MYRIAD, VEDERA, AND THE ENVY CORPS**(\$12/\$14)

WE 4/23 ANTI-FLAG** W/STREET DOGS, BRIGGS + MORE

FR 4/25 CD RELEASE PARTY BOMBADIL W/NATHAN OLIVER, LOVE LANGUAGE

SA 4/26 WHO'S BAD?! (MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE)

SU 4/27 DESTROYER W/ANDRE ETHIER, WORK CLOTHES**(\$12)

MO 4/28 MEAT BEAT MANIFESTO(\$15/\$18)**

WE 4/30 JOSH RITTER W/INGRID MICHAELSON**(\$15/\$17)

ALSO PRESENTING

LOCAL 506 (CHAPEL HILL): WE 4/2 HANDSOME FURS W/VIOLENS

CAROLINA THEATRE (DUR): SU 4/13-\$21/\$24** SPOON W/WALKMEN

THE ARTSCENTER (CARRBORO): SA 4/12 - (\$12/\$15) JASON COLLETT W/PADDY CASEY SU 4/20 - (\$20) SHAWN MULLINS WE 4/23 - (\$25) NICK LOWE W/RON SEXSMITH WE 4/30 - (\$12/\$14) AMERICAN MUSIC CLUB W/LOST IN THE TREES

MEMORIAL HALL (UNC-CH): TU 4/15 **SOLD OUT** IRON AND WINE

LINCOLN THEATRE (RALEIGH): TH 4/24-\$18/\$20** SON VOLT W/BOBBY BARE JR MEYMANDI (RAI FISH) TH 5/15 **SOLD OUT** THE SWELL SEASON

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News Briefs

Bike plan

The Town of Carrboro will hold a public meeting to collect input on a comprehensive bicycle plan that will guide future bicycle improvements in Carrboro from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on April 10.

The meeting will be held in the Carrboro Elementary School cafeteria, at 400 Shelton St. The town asks that community members stop by any time during the meeting to learn about the project, talk to town staff and project consultants and provide input.

For more information, visit www.greenways.com/pages/CarrboroBicycle.html

Transfer station meetings

Olver, Inc., on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, will hold two transfer station siting public-information sessions over the next two weeks.

Olver is the consulting firm hired by the county to establish criteria, conduct the search and advise the commissioners on the selection of a site.

The first session will be held April 3, from 7 to 10 p.m. in the F. Gordon Battle Courtroom on East Margaret Lane in Hillsborough, and the second will be held April 10, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Southern Human Services Center on Homestead Road in Chapel Hill.

The sessions will feature a presentation describing the function and operation of a solid-waste transfer station, as well as the transfer station siting process, focusing on the purpose and use of technical and community-specific criteria and weighing factors in the evaluation and final selection of a recommended site.

Olver will also receive public input regarding the site selection process. For more information, visit www.olver.com/orangecounty/

Cancer screening

Free screenings for head and neck cancer will be offered in the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic at UNC Hospitals from 1 to 4 p.m., Wednesday, April 23 as part of Oral, Head & Neck Cancer Awareness Week, which is sponsored by the Yul Brynner Head and Neck Cancer Foundation. The screenings are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. No appointments are required.

For more information, contact Laura Lyndon Miller at 966-9717 or LLyndon@unch.unc.edu

Woman and child conference

The UNC Horizons program will present its fifth annual conference from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 17 at the William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education in Chapel Hill. The conference is titled, "Breaking the Bonds of Addiction and Trauma: Implications and Treatment for Women and Their Children." The conference is designed to help service providers empower clients to overcome the impact of addiction and trauma.

A registration fee of \$65 includes continental breakfast, lunch and morning and afternoon refreshments. There is a \$5 discount per person for groups of three or more from the same agency that register and pay together. Continuing education credits are available for those who attend.

For information, call 966-9803 or visit <http://www.med.unc.edu/obgyn/horizons> and click on "Upcoming Events."

County commissioner forum

The Orange County Democratic Women will sponsor a County Commissioners' Forum at the Chapel Hill Museum, at 523 East Franklin St. on Thursday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m. Orange County Commissioner Alice Gordon will explain the role and responsibility of the county commissioner and the voting changes made in electing each one. After she speaks, candidates will speak individually about their goals and entertain questions from those attending. The public is welcome to attend. Contact Betsy Russell at 644-0869 with any questions.

Ellie Fest 2008

"Ellie Fest 2008" is a celebration of state Sen. Eleanor Kinnaird's contributions to the state of North Carolina and a rally for her re-election campaign. It will be held on Sunday, April 6 from 2 to 5 pm at the Carrboro Town Commons. Music will be provided by Tim Stambaugh, Jimmy Magoo and Saludos Compay. Paperhand Puppet Intervention will entertain and state Sen. Janet Cowell will be the featured speaker. Refreshments will be provided by Open Eye Café.



UNC students protest the Iraq War on March 20. This month marks the five-year anniversary of the war and subsequent occupation of Iraq.

ST. PAUL FROM PAGE 1

A school on the Green Tract?

Also at the task force's March 13 meeting, school board members presented the plan to possibly build an elementary school on the Green Tract. According to district projections, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools will need a new elementary school to open in the fall of 2010. The district's 10th elementary school, Morris Grove Elementary, is scheduled to open on the corner of Eubanks and Dromoland roads this fall.

Lisa Stuckey, vice chair of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education, said the district's long-range facilities planning task force is considering several sites for the 11th elementary school, and has not yet made a formal recommendation to the school board. She added that while the district needs a new elementary school to open in the fall of 2010, that may not happen.

"It would be quite a challenge to open it then," she said. "We're just running out of time."

Alderman Joal Hall Broun, a member of the task force, said

she would like to see an elementary school in the Rogers Road neighborhood.

"I think schools in residential neighborhoods stabilize the neighborhoods, socially, economically, culturally," Broun said. "In the southern part of Orange County, there are no longer any schools in predominantly black neighborhoods."

Broun added that the Green Tract land is already owned by the cities and county.

"Why should we have a school board, which is another county portion of government, go out to the private sector and spend money ... when we should be able to work out some sort of agreement," she said.

Campbell also said he would support the district building an elementary school on the Green Tract.

"[The school] will help bring infrastructure to an area that needs it," Campbell said. "If you look around Chapel Hill, there really isn't a school that is in a neighborhood that is predominantly black.... If you bring a school into the neighborhood, you bring the possibility of security, law enforcement, fire [protection]."

OBITUARY

Betty June Hayes

Betty June Hayes, former Orange County Register of Deeds, passed early Wednesday morning at the Duke In-Patient Care Facility hospice in Hillsborough.

She was born in Wink, TX, May 27, 1929, to Hardee Boyett and Annie Robbie Plott Boyett. Betty June came to Hillsborough with her mother when Mrs. Boyett returned to help her aged father, Thomas J. Plott. Mrs. Plott Boyett later divorced Mr. Boyett and subsequently married Paul Hayes of Hillsborough.

Betty June graduated from Hillsborough High School. During her senior year, she began working in the Orange County Register of Deeds Office. In 1954, she ran for the Office of Register and was elected. She served in that office until December of 1998.

During her tenure as Register of Deeds, she was very active in professional associations at both State and National levels. She was recognized and awarded by the North Carolina Registers of Deeds Associations for designing and initiating the state-wide Certification Program for Registers of Deeds, Assistants and Deputies. She served in North Carolina Register of Deeds Association and concurrently in the National Association of County Recorders and Clerks on various committees, many of these as Chairman.

Long active in Orange County historical, state professional and political activities, she was National

Committee Woman for the State of North Carolina for the Young Democrats 1957 to 1959; honored as Tar Heel of the Week by the Raleigh News and Observer in 1970; and Orange County Democrat of the Year in 1982. In 1996, she received the Mary Claire Engstrom Distinguished Service Award for her work in preserving local historical records.

She was an active member of the First Baptist Church in Hillsborough. She participated strongly in youth programs and various church committees. In later years she maintained her participation as an active choir member.

She was also part of a group who advocated the establishment of a hospice in the Hillsborough area.

She is survived by her cousin, Nancy Tempesta of Hillsborough; and her nephews, Sid Emmons of Benton, Ariz., Michael Burchas of Downers Grove, Ill., and Allen Bruchas of Wichita, Kan.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Robbie Hayes; her brother, Bill Emmons; her sister-in-law, Lynelle Emmons of Benton, Ariz.; and her sister Doris Bruchas of Downers Grove, Ill.

A memorial service for Betty June Hayes will be held Saturday, March 22 at the First Baptist Church of Hillsborough.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the First Baptist Church of Hillsborough or the Duke Hospice in Hillsborough.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.walkersfuneralservice.com.

Arrangements are with Walker's Funeral Home of Hillsborough.

ZONING FROM PAGE 1

Board member Jacquie Gist said she too was worried about commercial uses creeping into residential neighborhoods. She said she liked an option looked at by the Planning Board to create a conditional zone for the property that would limit its uses.

Alderman Dan Coleman said he too was concerned about the long-term effects of the change. "I do think that B-2 does create the kind of slippery slope that Jacquie is talking about."

Hamborsky acknowledged that the property has commercial potential and noted again Tuesday night that several years ago the CVS chain had been interested in the area. She said she wants the commercial designation so that she has more flexibility for the property, part of which houses the Curl Up and Dye hair salon.

Board members said they would like to see the commercial uses be compatible with a residential area.

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Community Calendar

Special Events

UNC Friends of the Library Book Sale — Thu, Mar 27, 5-8pm: Friends of the Library preview; Fri, Mar 28, 9am-8pm: Public sale; Sat, Mar 29, 9am to noon: \$3 per bag. American Legion Building, 1714 Legion Rd, Chapel Hill. Benefit the University Library Endowment. 962-4207 or www.lib.unc.edu/spotlight/2008/BookSale.html for more info.

Fishy Fourth Friday — March 28, downtown Pittsboro. Art, food and a free movie. Local shops and galleries stay open late. Starts at 6 pm with this month's movie "Psycho" starting at dusk, in the Capital Bank Parking lot. Sponsored by The Pittsboro Merchants Association. 260-9725 or pittsboroshops.com for info. Outside events subject to the weather.

Sixth Annual Carrboro CD and Record Show — Sunday, April 6, noon-6pm, Carrboro Century Center (2nd floor). 40 tables of new & used CDs, vinyl records and memorabilia. Free.

Bingo Night — Hosted by Team Eurosport, a relay for life team. April 11th at the Big Barn Convention Center; Hillsborough. Doors open at 6:00 pm; Games start at 6:30. 20 games. Cost for all games is \$20. Food and drink available. All proceeds to the American Cancer Society. Contact 640-6123 or 640-6220 for details.

Outdoor activities

Niche Gardens guided garden walks — Saturdays through June, 10am. Discussions on spring planting, garden maintenance, design & gardening for wildlife with bird and butterfly gardens. Special emphasis on drought-tolerant plants. Free, rain or shine. Niche Gardens, 1111 Dawson Rd, Chapel Hill. 967-0078 or www.nichegardens.com for info.

Guided Tours — of the N.C. Botanical Garden's Plant Collections, every Saturday at 10 am. Led by trained volunteer tour guides and Botanical Garden curators. Meet your tour guide in front of the Totten Center. Free.

Kids

Kids Concert — Free performance by kids' band Baron Von Rumblebuss. 4:30 p.m. at Chatham Marketplace. Special kid-friendly items will be offered on the Co-op's hot bar. Opening performance by the Children's Community Chorus, led by Mr. Jimmie Magoo.

Toddler Time — At the Carrboro Branch Library. Every Thursday at 4pm. For more info, call 969-3006. Preschool Story Time — At the Carrboro Branch Library. Every Saturday at 10:30am. On April 3, Ms. Libby will share silly stories. All preschoolers are invited to this free program. 969-3006.

ComedySportz 4 Kidz — Games & improv for the 12 & under crowd. Saturdays, 5pm. \$10, students \$8, kids under 5 \$5. DSI Comedy Theater, Carr Mill Mall, 338-8150 www.dsicomedy-theater.com

Express Yourself! — Art program for ages 3-8 & their caregivers. Weekly art projects for children & adults to explore their own creative paths; registration requested. Saturdays, 10:45-11:15 & 11:30am-noon. \$2. Kidzu Children's Museum, 105 E Franklin St, Chapel Hill. 933-1455, www.kidzuchildrensmuseum.org

NC Botanical Garden — Nature Tales: Storytime in the Garden, Thursdays, beginning, April 3, 10 11 a.m. Children 3 to 5 years old are invited to attend a storytime in the garden, followed by a short activity. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Free.

Volunteers

RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program — seeks volunteers to match other volunteers with opportunities for public service. 968-2056.

Meals on Wheels — seeks volunteers to deliver meals and/or bake simple desserts for recipients in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro area. For more info, call 942-2948.

English as a Second Language Conversation Club — seeks volunteers to talk with groups of international students Fridays from 11:30am-1:30pm. University Methodist Church on Franklin Street. Call 967-1448 or email harwellja@bellsouth.net.

Health & Wellness

Living with Advanced/Metastatic Cancer — A bi-weekly support group. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month, 3:30-5pm. Drop-in, no charge. Comucopia House Cancer Support Center, 111 Cloister Ct, Ste 220, Chapel Hill. 401-9333, www.comucopiahouse.org.

The Compassionate Friends: Self-help support after the death of a child — Free and open to all adults grieving the loss of a child or sibling. Third Mondays, 7-8:30pm. Evergreen United Methodist Church, 11098 Highway 15-501. Call Julie Coleman at 967-3221 or visit www.chapelhillcfc.org

Museums

Planetarium & Digital Theater Shows — Science LIVE Demos. Ongoing. Morehead Planetarium, 250 E Franklin St, Chapel Hill. Info hotline 549-6863, office 962-1236, tickets 843-7997. Thu-Sat 10am-5pm, 6:30-9:15pm. Tickets \$5.25; \$4.25 seniors, students & children. For info visit morehead-planetarium.org.

Dance

Contra Dance — presented by The Carolina Song & Dance Association with a live caller and music by the Fabulous Shamrocks. Friday, Mar 21, 7:30pm workshop, 8pm dance. Century Center. \$8 donation requested. 967-9948 or www.csdance.org for info.

Havana Nights — Cuban Salsa. 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 10pm. Mansion 462, 462 W Franklin St, 967-7913, www.mansion462.net.

Salsa/Mambo — 3rd Saturdays, lesson 8pm, dance 8:30-11pm. \$7, 358-4201, salsa_4u2@yahoo.com. Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 4702 Garrett Rd, Durham.

Ballroom — 4th & 5th Thursdays, 7-9:30pm, \$2. 933-8982. Seymour Senior Center, 2551 Homestead Rd, Chapel Hill, 968-2070.

Carrboro DanceJam — Freestyle dance to an eclectic mix of music. Every first Friday beginning Apr 4. Balanced Movement Studio, 304 W Weaver St, upstairs. Smoke & alcohol free. Call 968-8776 for more info.

Lectures, Discussions & Open Mics

"Notes on the History of Fiction" — Lecture by author E.L. Doctorow. Thursday, March 27, 6:30 p.m. Hanes Art Center. Franklin. Free.

Sonja Haynes Stone Memorial Lecture — by Julianne Malveaux, 15th president of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro. Tuesday, April 8, 7pm. Reception follows.

Civil War Symposium — in honor of Alan Stephenson, Saturday, March 29, 111 Carroll Hall UNC. Free. All-day public symposium on the Civil War, with topics ranging from the British view of Robert E. Lee to recent Hollywood renditions to secession and the slaves' revenge.

"A War of Disabilities" — Author Ronald Glasser, doctor and authority on warfare injuries, speaks on health care for veterans, healing for both physical and mental trauma from the Iraq War. 7pm, March 30, Church of Reconciliation, 110 North Elliott Rd, Chapel Hill

Open Mic — For poetry, music & short fiction. Tuesdays at 7pm, Market Street Books & Maps, 610 Market St, Southern Village. 933-5111, www.marketstreet-books.com

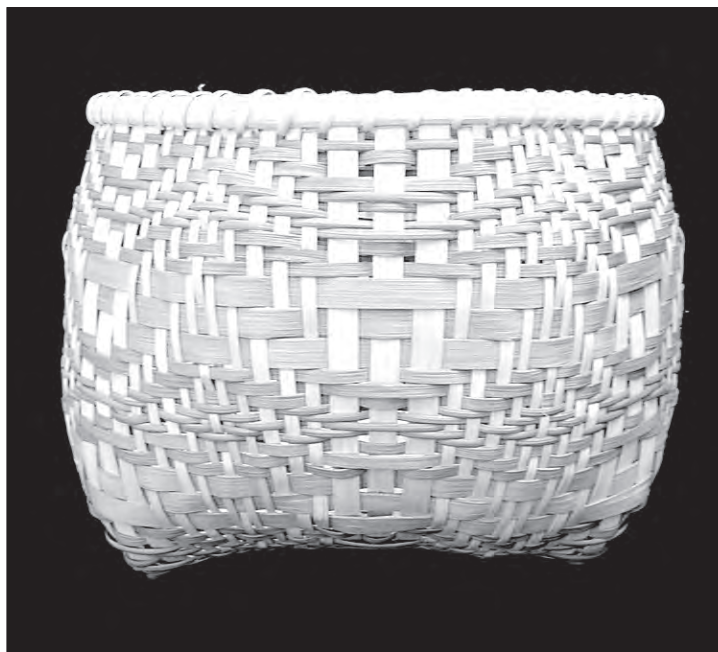
Films

Chicle — showing *The Borders Trilogy* (US 2002, English and Spanish with English subtitles) and *Letters from the Other Side* (US 2006, English and Spanish with English subtitles), cosponsored by Student Action for Farmworkers. Sunday, March 30, 5pm, 101 E Weaver St. Suite G-1, 3rd floor 933-0398, chi-cle.com

Other

VITA — a free tax assistance program for low-to-middle-income clients runs through Apr. For info and enrollment requirements, co.orange.nc.us/aging/VITA.asp.

ARTS CALENDAR



Handwoven baskets by Peg Rees will be at the NC Crafts Gallery in April.

Carrboro

El Sur Comes South — Pedro Lash with Los Artistas & local sonideros; Center Gallery. **Kardelen (Snow Drop)** — Works by Pelin Yazar Canez, Orhan Alpaslan, Asuman Dogan, Atanur Dogan and Nihal Kececi to celebrate International Women's Month. The ArtsCenter. Main St. 929-2787, artscenterlive.org

Mixed media by Chief — a tribute to the artist's new daughter. Showing through March. The Beehive Salon. 102 E Weaver St. 932-4483, thebeehive-salon.com

Collaborative works by Tori Ralston and Community Independent School students — Showing through Apr 1. Century Center. 100 N Greensboro St. 918-7385, townofcarrboro.com/rp/cc.htm

Bolin Creek and Woodlands: Natural Treasures — photography by Dave Otto. Showing through March. Carrboro Town Hall. townofcarrboro.com

Partners in Art — oil paintings and drawings by Fleet Woodley, and photography, mixed media and haiku by Sherry Woodley. Showing through March. Fleet Feet Gallery. 406 E Main. 942-3102

Primary Colors — watercolor and acrylic paintings by Chapel Hill artist Miriam Sagasti. Also, **The Annual Wood Show** — including turned bowls and vessels. Showing through Mar 31. NC Crafts Gallery. 212 W Main St. 942-4048, nccraftsgallery.com

Sight Unseen — photography by local, legally blind photographer Tim O'Brien. Paintings by Darius Quarles in the side room. Open Eye Café. 101 S Greensboro St. 968-9410, openeyecafe.com

Controlled Chaos — contemporary acrylics by Catharine Carter. Showing through Mar 31. Panzanella. Carr Mill Mall, E Weaver St and N Greensboro St. 929-6626, panzanella.com

Images from Chatham County — photography by Dwain Ritchie. Through the first week of April. Weaver Street Realty. 116 E. Main 929-5658, weaverstreet-realty.com

Chapel Hill

Picturing the World: Carolina's Celebrated Photojournalists — Showing through Apr 6. Perspectives on Public Justice. Showing through May 4. Ackland Art Museum. S Columbia St and Franklin St 966-5736, ackland.org

Mixed media by Newton Diniz — Showing through Mar. Caffé Driade. 1215-A E Franklin St. 942-2333, caffedriade.com

Flora, Friend and Foe — watercolors of wildlife by Dale Morgan, and paintings of botanical subjects by Claire Miller. Showing through Apr 29. Totten Center, N.C. Botanical Garden, 962-0522 or visit ncbg.unc.edu for more info.

Form in Translation: The Art of Judith Ernst — Showing through May 30. FedEx Global Education Center. Pittsboro St. 962-2435, international.unc.edu/GEC.html

Paper Trail: The Poster Art of Casey Burns and Ron Liberti — Wilson Library. lib.unc.edu/spotlight/2008/posters.html

Marking Transcendence — collage landscapes, calligraphic pieces in Hebrew and English, and abstract and representational pieces by Galia Goodman. Through Apr 29. Community Church, 106 Purefoy Rd. 942-2050.

Thirteen Horses: The Journey — a collection of pieces by Nancy Jacobsohn. Turning Point Gallery, University Mall. S Estes Drive. 967-0402, harmonyfineart.com

Southern Village

Oil paintings by Cat Moleski. Through April. Bagwell, Holt, Smith, Tillman & Jones, PA. Market St. 932-2225, bhspa.com

Hillsborough

Black & White — work by the Gallery's member artists. Opening reception March 28 from 6-9 p.m. Through April 19. Hillsborough Gallery of Arts. 121 N Churton, 732-5001, hillsboroughgallery.com

Pittsboro

Annual Pottery Invitational — works by Mark Hewitt, Ruth Morgans, Siglinda Scarpa, Doug Dotson, Janet Resnick and others. Through March 31. ChathamArts. 115 Hillsboro. 542-4144 chathamarts.org

Seed Bead Therapy — eclectic, wild, intricate jewelry of Jody Jameson. Through March 31. Eight other local artists are also represented. The Joyful Jewel, 45 West St. Thursday 2-6pm, Friday, Saturday 10-6, 1st Sundays 12-4pm. 545-6836.

New works by David Sovero — Through Mar 31. Fusions Art and Fine Craft Gallery. 53 Hillsboro St. 260-9725.

Arts Related

4th Friday Studio Stroll March 28th — Six of downtown Pittsboro's artists will be opening their doors from 6-8 pm. Look for the beautiful mermaid in front of participating studios. This month's demonstrations will be at Annie B and The Black and White Guy (6:15-6:45) and The Joyful Jewel (jewelry from Precious Metal Clay 7:15-7:45). pittsboroshops.com.

The Orange County Arts Commission (OCAC) announces a May 26, 2008 **deadline for receipt of arts grant applications** from both nonprofit organizations and individuals for the spring cycle. The Commission will hold a free grant-writing workshop for potential applicants 7-8:30 pm on Thursday, April 10 downstairs at the Chapel Hill Public Library (100 Library Drive). To register, or for info visit artsorange.org or 245-2335.

Public Art 360: A Symposium from Seven Perspectives — a national convention to address the functional and aesthetic interaction among public art, profession design disciplines, private development and government. Fri & Sat, Apr 11-12. \$70 registration fee. Visit www.publicartcollaborative.org

Do you have anything for one of our calendars?

Send your submissions to calendar@carrborocitizen.com

SPOTLIGHT

AMADEUS

PlayMakers Repertory will perform their new play, *Amadeus*, from April 2-20. The play tells the story of composer Antonio Salieri, his jealous rivalry with the genius Mozart and the struggle with faith it brings. *Amadeus* won the Tony Award for Best Play and has been performed on Broadway over 1000 times.

For information about PlayMakers and to purchase tickets, call 962-PLAY or visit playmakersrep.org.

PETS OF THE WEEK

APS OF ORANGE COUNTY

— **My name is Penny**, and I am a pretty chocolate/charcoal 5-year-old girl. At first I am shy and unsure, but a few major back scratches and I'm yours for the taking! I used to be a mommy but now I'm all spayed and good to go, except for one teensy thing ... I've got an icky case of heartworms. But the APS will treat that too and after I'm all cured I'll be allowed to run zoomies, like I love to when I get excited and happy. Despite my silly side though, I am actually pretty quiet and cuddly most of the time. I'm the best of everything really. I get along great with all dogs, and don't seem to have any barrier/leash aggression issues which makes me a rarity around here. I could probably live with a bossier housemate, because I'm just a big sweet baby. I'm not too interested in cats, and to be honest they make me a little nervous — their paws look kinda sharp, ya know? I would be a great addition to any multi-pet household, or would be perfectly fine being your only spoiled four-legged. Come see me at Animal Protection Society of Orange County, 6311 Nicks Road, Mebane, or call 304-2300. You can also go online at www.animalprotectionsociety.org



ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES — **Meet Katie!** This sweet girl is around 8 years old and is used to the finer things in life. She is looking for nothing more than someone to love on. In fact, she wants to love on you nonstop! She's awfully cute about it though, so it never gets old! Don't miss out on this darling girl. Stop by Orange County's Animal Shelter, 1081 MLK Jr Blvd, Chapel Hill, or call 967-7383. You can also see her online at www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp

BEULAH
FROM PAGE 1

Whatever the notion

Beulah Hackney lives in the moment. She's a morning person. Her day begins with "whatever I take a notion to do."

"I do a lot of crafts. That's one thing I enjoy doing; and that's one thing that keeps me busy."

"But I don't plan days unless I have a doctor's appointment or hair appointment, or if I do something for one of the children. But just kind of do what I feel like doing."

"I like to read; I read right much. The newspaper, for one thing; to find out what's going on. And I read a few books and articles in magazines."

"Magazines. And then if my daughter needs me to do something for her, or some of the children need me to do something, I'll be glad to do that. I used to babysit a lot, but of course I don't care much about doing that anymore," she laughs, and adds, "I've been there and done that."

If she's needed in a pinch, though, with the greats, or the great-greats, "I'll be glad to. But that's just not my thing anymore."

"There aren't enough hours in the day for Mom," says her daughter Jean Ward. Jean lives just behind her on Cheek St.; their backyards abut. "She's 90, and she's still maintaining her home, lives alone, gets in her car and goes where she wants."

"I just don't like to depend on other people to do everything for me," Ms. Hackney says, "and I hope to be like that as long as I live."

"She's involved in a crafts group," says her daughter, "a lady's group that meets once a month, with a different project each month."

She makes jewelry, paints, and has weaved countless baskets. She used to make wedding cakes — and "was quite talented at that," says her daughter. Tendonitis brought an end to it. But not to much else.

It's the wood-carving notion that's most likely to strike these days. "I started carving before my husband died, so that's been 17 years. I don't sell them. I just do them for myself or leave them for my family."

She began with Santas, and still does some of those today. A beatific Moses, a beautiful seal; birds; flowers; more. Precision work. A spoon and a small dog are currently in production on her worktable in the den, which captures the afternoon light.

The afternoon, though, is nap-time. But only to recharge.

"Mom's quite a good card player," Jean Ward says. She's learning bridge and plays Rook and Spread. Board games too: Rummy Cube, Tripoly. "She's really sharp with these things; she's the winner most of the time."

"She's also hooked on sudoku. She's exhausted about every book of those."

And then there's warm-water exercise at Meadowmont. Ms. Hackney's in pretty good health.

Making a home

"There was not too much they could do or say about it," Beulah Hackney says, about her family's view of her eloping. "Of course, you know, they didn't like it. Because my mother wanted me to go to nursing school. But, course, she couldn't send me because she didn't have the money."

Bryant Hackney stuck though; was deemed a fine choice: "My mother thought a lot of him, always."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BEULAH HACKNEY

Top left: Class of '35, Beulah Hobby middle row, fourth from left; Bryant Hackney bottom row, third from right. Right: As team captain at Pittsboro High School, Beulah holds the ball. Bottom left: Several of Beulah's carvings.

"But, anyway, we had a good life. And had five children, and kept him busy working and kept me busy working too."

The Hackneys moved to Carrboro in 1941.

"My husband went into the flooring business. He had worked in Durham for a couple of years for the Dixon Floor Finishing company and Mr. Dixon talked him into coming into business in Chapel Hill, because at that time people were putting hardwood floors in their homes."

Mr. Hackney became active in local politics, in the Democratic Party. He was elected to the Carrboro Board of Aldermen in 1964 and served as mayor in '67 and '68.

Their first home was at the corner of Weaver and Center streets, and they moved several times before settling in the house on Oak

Street, which Mr. Hackney built mostly himself.

Jean Ward remembers buying a cookie for a penny at Hardee's Grocery, where Cliff's Market is today.

"It was a very small town," Ms. Hackney recalls, "and you knew everybody that lived in the town, just about. We really enjoyed living here. Of course, we joined the Carrboro Methodist Church."

Her husband died in January 1990. "He worked in the floor-sanding business until his health got real bad. He had a heart attack, and he couldn't lift the heavy machines. And so he started working with the court system."

"He retired from that job in November, the last part of November, and he died January the 20th. So we didn't get to do any of the things that he planned to

do after he retired. I've lived here alone ever since."

She's seen the town change quite a bit, and considers it in sum a mixed blessing. She expects to see quite a bit more.

"Well, if our water holds out, I guess it'll keep growing," she says. "As long as they have any space."

"It seems that a lot of people that are coming here enjoy this small town ... and I try and go along with the changing and be satisfied with it. But you still think about the small town, and how you knew most of the people."

Steppin out

On a recent night, Ms. Hackney went downtown with her daughter.

"I could not believe all the people downtown.... I was amazed. I could not believe all those people."

"And no place to park."

Back when the post office was in the triangle where Weaver Street splits from Main — where the Spotted Dog is today — and the Baptists, of course, still had a church downtown, Carrboro "was dead at night," says Beulah Hackney, "everything was closed up. What there *was* was closed."

But that was then — and it ain't so bad now. The Century Center is "a nice place now to have a party" — it hosted her 90th, and quite a crowd came. And on a slow day there, she can sometimes scare up a game of dominoes.

But sometimes, says her daughter Jean, she prefers being with younger folks, away from the potential for talk of aches and pains and adjustments in medication.

"She enjoys continuing the learning process," Jean says. There just aren't enough hours in the day.

Want not for books, whatever your desire

RECENTLY . . .

By Valarie Schwartz

Ours is a book-crazy community. Why not? It's the stock-in-trade for many who live here — scholars, professors, writers — creating a booming business for used-book sellers and local libraries as people move, downsize or otherwise clear out their old books.

Bibliophiles mark their calendars for the months when the public libraries hold their quarterly sales. But the Wilson Library sale, which happens every other year, gets a little less attention.

This year, the new venue of the sale promises to bring more support. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, March 28, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, at the American Legion Building Post 6 on Legion Road. Friends of this UNC Library (of which anyone may become a member at the door for \$25) get the opportunity to shop today [Thursday] from 5 to 8 p.m. Parking at the sale will be ample, free and nearby, unlike on campus.

Last week, half a dozen members of the University Woman's Club and one husband of a member were at the task they spend many Tuesday mornings at — sorting through the many boxes of books that are donated at Wilson Library.

"A lot of alumni and professors naturally gravitate to giving to Carolina," said Mary Morrow, who has been helping conduct sales for 18 to 20 years.

Though the books are sold for a fraction of their original cost, the dollars add up and have provided about \$150,000 to the library endowment over the decades.

"The interesting thing is the many categories," said Eleanor Morris, as she pointed out history, religion, hobbies, humor, chess,

gardening — to name a few. There are gorgeous coffee table art books, and many sets of books, including ones in foreign languages.

Phil Rees, a former art librarian, gets called upon to inspect the books before the sale to catch any that need to be specially priced, like signed or special-edition books.

Collectors and sellers tend to hit the sales first, buying at a greatly reduced rate before putting the purchases on their own shelves to admire or sell. On Saturday, which is bag day (\$3 for however much fits into a bag), all manner of people help to clear the shelves.

Prices vary, getting cheaper as the selection narrows.

"The man who empties the shelves fills a shipping container and sends them to India to be bound by hand," Morrow explained. "We got to see one of the hand-bound books." She said that they are used in model homes and movie and TV sets, among other places.

The work for a sale begins in November in the bowels of Wilson Library, meeting every other Tuesday until February, when it becomes a weekly practice of unpacking boxes, sorting into categories, repacking boxes and stacking them out of the way. Over 500 boxes of books are ready to sell.

"The reason it takes us nine months to get ready for a sale is we stop and talk about them," Morris said of the books that provide interest for any curious mind.

Although most of the volunteers who help are members of the University Woman's Club, there is no rule about who can be a part of this action.

"We accept anybody who wants to help," Morrow said.

Contact Valarie Schwartz at 923-3746 or valariekays@mac.com.



PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

Members of the University Woman's Club, Linda Folda, Ann Hillenbrand, Betsy Bryan, Welshie Potts and to the left/rear in white, Eleanor Morris, prepare for a book sale that starts today.

CITIZENS NEEDED TO SERVE ON CARRBORO LOCAL LIVING ECONOMY TASK FORCE

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen is seeking Carrboro citizens and Carrboro business owners interested in serving on a Local Living Economy Task Force. This task force will investigate and evaluate strategies by which the Town can help foster the development of a sustainable, locally-owned and run economy. This task force will meet once a month for 18 months. Interested persons should contact the Town Clerk's Office at 918-7309 or at: swilliamson@townofcarrboro.org for application forms. Application deadline: May 2, 2008.

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.

"GARDENING"

HUSPLH SPUA GRHJL SPL YIFYX
 GPNGEFLLB, KLNAD U YUVX,
 GUHLZHLL DUHBLALH, N JNQTYX
 YLS SPNJ LUHYX-JTHNAD UAARUY
 HIQT UHIRAB IA SPL XUHB UAB
 SPHIRDP DUHBLA KLB. - ELA
 QIIHL (ZYIHU GIYRQANJS)
 This week's answer appears on page 10.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

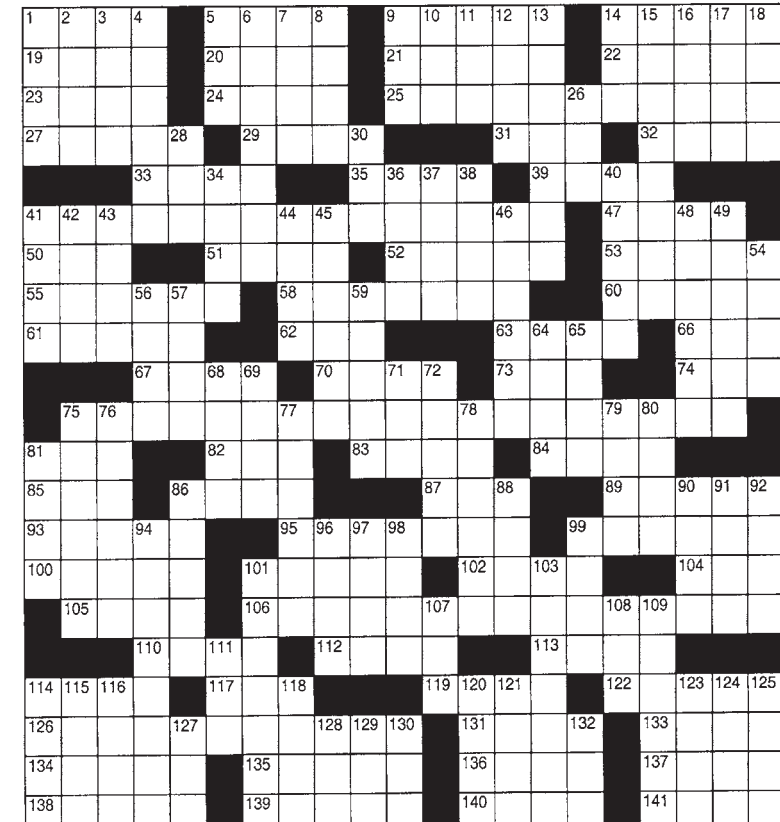
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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SUPER CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Stromboli spew
- 5 "Waterloo" rockers
- 9 Envelopes
- 14 Gaithers
- 19 Mideastern muck-a-muck
- 20 Spooky Stoker
- 21 Disprove
- 22 Let
- 23 General Bradley
- 24 Rustic tower
- 25 Start of a remark by 126 Across
- 27 Athenian sage
- 29 Indian sectarian
- 31 Airport abbr.
- 32 Good-sized
- 33 Author Jessamyn
- 35 With 81 Down, '44 chemistry
- 39 Nobelist Hatch's home
- 41 Part 2 of remark
- 47 TV's "The Love —"
- 50 Santa —
- 51 "Oh, woe!"
- 52 TV exec Arledge
- 53 Cliffed
- 55 Like a dachshund
- 58 Cozy cloth
- 60 Marten
- 61 — bear
- 62 Asian holiday
- 63 Skilled
- 66 Scottsboro's st.
- 67 Rubberneck
- 70 Morlocks' prey
- 71 Fend du —
- 73 Mexican
- 74 Point
- 75 Part 3 of remark
- 81 Crone
- 82 R-V hookup
- 83 Head for 'the clouds
- 84 Actress Mrs.
- 85 Khan opener?
- 86 ER
- 87 Minify a mid, maybe?
- 89 Top-drawer
- 93 Feeling
- 95 Like a gymnast
- 99 5 Across's home
- 100 Michael of "Dynasty"
- 101 Schall or Shriver
- 102 European capital
- 104 Foster's — "Dog Tray"
- 105 Half-baked?
- 106 End of remark
- 110 McGregor of "Train-spotting"
- 112 Creme —
- 113 Bathday cake?
- 114 — League
- 117 Fond du —
- 119 Metric measure
- 122 Pulsate
- 126 Speaker of remark
- 131 Writer
- 132 Rendell
- 133 Autumn implement
- 134 Boredom
- 135 Draw forth
- 136 Exercise name
- 137 Brute
- 138 Prepares cherries
- 139 Hazardous gas
- 140 — tetra
- 141 Tide type
- DOWN**
- 1 Composer Janacek
- 2 Bullets, briefly
- 3 Lab vessel
- 4 Cupid's missiles
- 5 Pecs' partners
- 6 "The — Stomp" ('61 hit)
- 7 Part of Indonesia
- 8 Out of control
- 9 Twisted
- 10 Rock's — Speed-wagon
- 11 — Dhabi
- 12 Purple hue
- 13 Lawyer's concern
- 14 Bando of baseball
- 15 Excess
- 16 Jai —
- 17 Haynes or Rungren
- 18 Fluctuate
- 26 "Unforgivable"
- 27 Bridges film name
- 38 Hauboy
- 40 Liplash?
- 41 Door hardware
- 42 In the know
- 43 Julia of "Havana"
- 44 Fleet
- 45 In the arms of Morpheus
- 46 Loosen the ropes
- 48 Conductor Claudio
- 49 Fat stuff
- 54 Shipshape
- 56 Unfashionable eyewear?
- 57 Wild child
- 59 Reference volume
- 64 Soft cheese
- 65 Arrive at Kennedy
- 68 "Yo!" at the library
- 69 James
- 71 Lennon's
- 72 "My Own Private —" ('91 film)
- 75 Endangered
- 76 Kampala's name
- 77 Sheriff's quarry
- 78 Altershook
- 79 Had no doubts
- 80 Patriot
- 80 Nathan
- 81 See
- 83 Across for taming?
- 88 Kid's creation?
- 90 Matinee —
- 91 Reveal
- 92 They may be split
- 94 It's all in your head
- 96 Angered
- 97 Location
- 98 Comic Mort
- 99 Melicore
- 101 Superintendent
- 103 Basutoland, filler
- 107 Accom, eventually
- 108 Welcome item?
- 109 "Silkwood" screenwriter
- 111 Flagon
- 114 Very long time
- 115 Flat rate
- 116 Excellent lady
- 118 Musical finale
- 120 Where to speak Farsi
- 121 Last name in publishing
- 122 Frenzy
- 124 Creole
- 125 Veggie sound
- 127 "Platoon" extras
- 128 "Father Knows Best" kid
- 129 Author Umberto
- 130 Actor
- 131 Carrou
- 132 Lady lobster



The ArtsCenter
Always Inspiring

- Fri. March 28 8:30 p.m.**
Battlefield Band
 Inspired by their rich heritage of Celtic music, this band has led a great revival in Scottish music!
 \$21, \$19 ArtsCenter Members
- Sat. March 29 9 p.m.**
UNC's Festival on the Hill - Transcending Borders presents Sabado Sonidero
 Free!
- Sun. March 30 5:30 p.m.**
Música Latina in Carolina featuring Rey Norteño
 The finale of UNC's Festival on the Hill!
 Free!
- April 1 - 25 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**
Community Photography Contest
 Accepting entries at The ArtsCenter's Box Office until April 25th.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

FREE TIBET

I have not heard back from my congressman, who I wrote to several days ago concerning the violence visited upon protesters in Lhasa and other places in Tibet.

I do not expect much help to come from the United States government in this area. Officialdom abandoned Tibet long ago in pursuit of the markets and manufacturing of China.

Now, with the Olympics putting a spotlight on the country, there are clear and unsettling reminders of what we got from that bargain and what has happened and what is happening in Tibet.

I've got a little different perspective on the place and its people, having grown up in a small college town in the Midwest where a considerable number of refugees, including the Dalai Lama's own kin, started settling in the late 1950s.

Over the years, I heard stories firsthand of the aftermath of China's takeover, of considerable hardship, oppression, starvation and determination. And then there was the final solution — the relocation of millions of ethnic Chinese to the annexed region. Writing about that in the New York Times in 1991, A.M. Rosenthal called the effort "a criminal, genocidal attempt to erase Tibet's reality." Tibetans became a minority in their own country. The rule imposed on them was harsh, intolerant and often bizarre. Under rules passed just last year, Tibet's living buddhas are not permitted to reincarnate without first obtaining permission from the government.

Now, the twisted story line from the government-controlled China media is that the Dalai Lama is fomenting rebellion in Tibet to hold the Olympics hostage. If they haven't been leveled already, charges of terrorism aren't far away.

And while the little we've heard leaking out of Lhasa is horrendous, there is little doubt that what is taking place in prisons mirrors the brutalities of the past. And with the spotlight suddenly on the worst of China's rule, the outrage in the official rhetoric is license to pour it on.

At one time, North Carolina was a bastion of bipartisan support for the people of Tibet. For some, the fight was one against communism; for others, it was over the oppression of religion. But for everyone who has stood on the side of the Tibetan people, the prime motivation is a profound sense that a unique and rich culture and a philosophy that espouses compassion and a desire for a peaceful planet is steadily being erased from the face of the Earth.

Later in the column mentioned above, Rosenthal offered this comparison between the justifications given for the first Gulf War, then in progress, and the silence over the cause of Tibet.

He said: "Tibet asks no soldiers from the United States, no Patriots, just attention, and plain words to its oppressors that genocide is as ugly in the mountains as in the desert."

CORRECTION

A story last week on the Board of Aldermen meeting should have noted that planning board members serve three-year terms and that the term for a seat vacated when Lydia Lavelle was elected to the Board of Aldermen expires in January 2009.

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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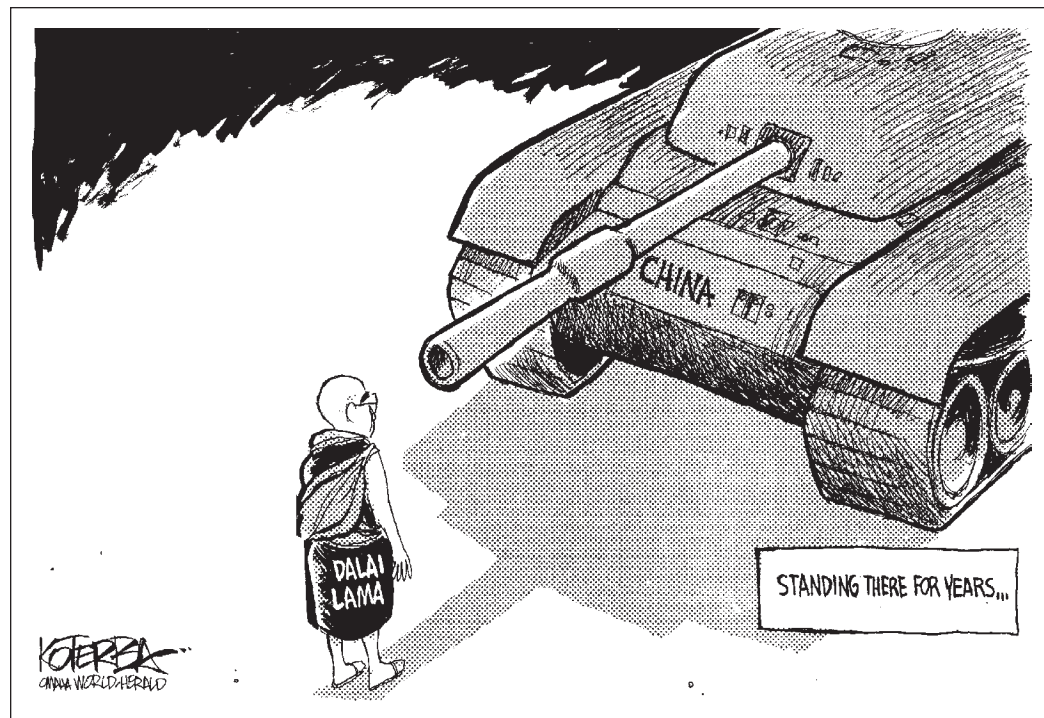
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LETTERS POLICY

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. Typed letters are preferred and email even more so. That said, send your letters to:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
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BUCKHORN VILLAGE:
Diving for dollars?

JAMES CARNAHAN

Last chance for citizens to speak to the Orange County Commissioners about Buckhorn Village is Tuesday, April 1 (no fooling). The project seems to have a lot of momentum, but is its approval in our best interests? The potential revenues are being touted as clean & easy dollars, but I think nothing could be further from the truth. Even if the development were to have a significant residential component, it is fundamentally highway-oriented and import-dependent. Why on earth — why, for Earth's sake, would we want more of that? Why on earth would we want another Southpoint?

Orange County has had an extraordinary, admirable and effective history of environmental activism. Courageous citizen leadership has prevented, to a great extent, the kind of car-friendly, pedestrian-hostile, farmland-wasting, air and water quality-trashing development that continues to swamp and disfigure neighboring counties. Today, without a doubt, the most serious environmental challenge we face is how to reduce our carbon emissions and keep the planet habitable for most species, humanity included. The county's preliminary carbon emissions inventory shows transportation contributing 49 percent of our CO₂ emissions. If we are not willing to demand that a 1.4-million-square-foot retail "village" mitigate the enormous transportation emissions it will bring, then we might as well abandon the whole lot of our environmental regulations. Even if the buildings meet the highest standard of energy efficiency, Buckhorn's net emissions will still be negative because of the location. (See "Driving to Green Buildings: the Transportation Energy Intensity of Buildings" in the September 2007 issue of *Environmental Building News*.)

Interstate-oriented development is a fat chunk of the high-carb diet that now threatens life as we know it on the planet. Buckhorn is nowhere near the population center of the county. For me, it will still be easier to get to Southpoint (if that's the kind of shopping I want), and at least I have the option to get there by bus. Buckhorn's plans include bus

pullouts, but who will provide, and at what cost, and when, the statewide transit system needed to get people to Buckhorn without their cars?

Fifteen hundred jobs sound good — but in this kind of retail center, they are mostly very low-wage jobs. Even if we had a need for such in the county, and I think that is arguable, we know for sure that those folks will not be able to afford to live here if they don't already. Is the developer going to build 1,500 affordable units onsite to house them? Will the county implement zoning to support high-density residences on contiguous properties? If not, then add employees' vehicle emissions to those of Buckhorn's shoppers.

"What's needed in the conversation about Buckhorn is skepticism, not boosterism."

Whether they come by car or bus, Orange County residents alone can't possibly provide the consumer base to support a project of this size. The development is offered primarily as a mechanism to harvest interstate traveler dollars using a chain-store retail model. Most of the proceeds will be exported to out-of-county and out-of-state investors. We didn't like it when New Hope Commons and Southpoint were built at our borders, sapping the vitality of our downtowns. How will Buckhorn be so different that it will not cause further depletion? Will our municipal leadership weigh in on what appears to be another threat to downtown renaissance efforts in Carrboro, Chapel Hill and Hillsborough?

What's needed in the conversation about Buckhorn is skepticism, not boosterism. A county commissioner who ran on an environmentalist platform said it looks "clean, properly located"

ENDORSEMENT LETTER POLICY

The Carrboro Citizen will make every attempt to run any and all endorsement letters for the May 6 primary and election.

To that end, we ask that letter writers be concise and to the point. A maximum of 300 words is suggested. Please sign your name and where you live and provide our editors with contact information.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Box 248
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(Chapel Hill Herald, 1/13/08). The president of a local chamber of commerce that has been touting its commitment to "sustainability" characterized Buckhorn as "extraordinary" (*NeO*, 1/12/08).

I strongly disagree with calling Buckhorn "clean" in the sense that there would be no smoke-stack emissions or undesirable effluents. High-volume chain retail centers are "smokestack-by-proxy" developments. Buckhorn will likely offer mostly products made overseas in factories powered by burning coal and subject to marginal, if any, effluent and emissions controls. Will county staff provide us an estimate, based on the Southpoint model, of what percentages of goods to be sold at Buckhorn will come from which countries, and data about how each supplier country generates power, about their environmental regulations and how much they pay their workers and protect their health? Without such information, how can we know we are not "exporting" much of what is truly "dirty" about this economic and land-use model?

How can one call "sustainable" an economy so intensely dependent on imports, cheap oil, underpaid labor and environmental neglect? Residents of Orange County have expressed growing interest in having a "local living economy." Witness our support for expanded local agriculture. Many would like our local economy to encompass a wider spectrum of exportable technology, goods and services. We'd like to strengthen local entrepreneurship and make greater use of residents' abilities to transform what is mostly close at hand into the things we need to survive and enjoy a fruitful quality of life. Part of the Buckhorn conversation should include an update from county staff about this quest and an analysis of how Buckhorn might play a positive role in the effort. The developers say they'd like to include local businesses, but how could we ensure that?

Is Buckhorn really a path toward sustainability, or more of the "business as usual" that appears to be an increasing threat to our health, safety and welfare? The commissioners are still taking witten comments and meet again on the plan Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., in Hillsborough.

The politics of tuition

CHRIS FITZSIMON

Tuition at University of North Carolina campuses is the subject of the latest skirmish between Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue and state Treasurer Richard Moore in their battle for the Democratic nomination for governor.

A Moore television ad accuses Perdue of "leading the charge" for tuition increases in her position as chair of the Senate budget committee in the mid-1990s and cites Perdue's comment that one proposed increase was just "beer and party money." Perdue responded with an ad of her own that says Moore voted for tuition increases too when he was a member of the House.

The back and forth is another reminder of a campaign that remains frustrating for Democratic voters trying to decide who ought to lead North Carolina for the next four years. But from a state policy perspective, the exchange is good news.

It reinforces the view that tuition at public universities should remain low, or free "as practicable," as the state constitution puts it.

But almost every member of the General Assembly has voted at some point to raise tuition at UNC campuses, despite promises from most legislators to right tuition increases.

UNC President Erskine Bowles was praised a couple of years ago for his plan to limit tuition hikes to 6.5 percent a year for four years, though that means an increase of 26 percent in a student's undergraduate career is possible. It is hard to imagine that's what the authors of the state constitution had in mind.

Perdue touts her "College Promise" program that expands tuition assistance for students in low-income families, the latest well-meaning attempt to reconcile rapidly rising tuition with the constitutional mandate.

Perdue's plan and the highly successful Carolina Covenant at UNC-CH exist to make sure cost doesn't keep qualified North Carolina students from attending college — a noble goal.

"It reinforces the view that tuition at public universities should remain low, or free 'as practicable,' as the state constitution puts it."

But the plans don't address the philosophical basis for keeping tuition low, the state's commitment to providing a low-cost college education to every student in North Carolina, not just ones from poor families.

That drives the market fundamentalists crazy. They like to point out that many students at UNC-CH and N.C. State are from families with incomes well above the state average, and that the taxpayers are "subsidizing" their education.

One right-wing think tank has proposed a 40 percent increase in tuition to reduce the "higher education subsidy," and that phrase continues to seep into the state policy debate, distorting the role of public universities and advancing the philosophy that user fees should pay for the few government services that remain in the market fundamentalists' perfect world.

But there is no state subsidy of higher education. The UNC system is a public institution, owned and operated by the state for the benefit of the people of North Carolina, and ideally every student ought to be treated the same when they enroll, not divided into students who must rely on piecing together work schedules and student-aid packages to stay in school and those who don't.

Wealthy families are not supposed to pay higher tuition at public universities, they are supposed to pay more in state taxes that support them. The user-fee model the right wingers promote assumes that the only person who benefits from a public institution, including UNC, is the person using the services the institution provides.

That ignores the immense impact that the UNC system has on the quality of life in the state, not to mention the role it plays in economic development and research. A small percentage of the state's population actually makes it to the Museum of History every year. The logic of the right's tuition argument would mean that museum visitors should have to pay for the museum's operation through ticket prices, which would mean admission would cost hundreds of dollars.

There is a state higher-education subsidy on the books, but it is not the tuition at UNC campuses. It is the roughly \$86 million the state gives private colleges and universities to help pay for the tuition of North Carolina students who attend them. Almost half of the money is not based on need, just allocated to the private institutions, like Duke, Campbell and Davidson, while the state is increasing tuition at UNC campuses.

UNC is always described as a bargain in national publications because of its relatively low tuition in comparison to other top-flight public university systems. That is something to be proud of, not a justification for increasing the cost of attending college.

Moore and Perdue are not likely to stop attacking each other about tuition (or anything else) any time soon. But at least both are saying raising tuition is a bad idea. Now if they will pledge to defend the importance of well-subsided public institutions in our state, we'd really be getting somewhere.

TAX FROM PAGE 1

Zimmerman criticized the proposed tax as another kind of sales tax. "It's a flat tax. It doesn't differentiate between lower income and higher income," he said.

Zimmerman expressed concerns that some home sellers are already bringing checks to closings to cover losses. "They have to bring money to closing in order to sell their house. And guess what? They're going to have to bring more money because of this tax," he said.

Zimmerman said the county wouldn't see as many taxable transfers as, for example, Wake County. He said that in Orange County, there are about 1,800 transfers for 120,000 people.

Kinnaird recalled that the tax was a source of great debate in the general assembly. She said that county officials consistently expressed their need for more money.

Kinnaird also said that the land transfer tax is a better option for lower-income people. Those people, she said, "should not be priced out of our county because of high property taxes."

Nelson said the issue speaks to the Democratic Party's values. He said that when he was given the choice of a sales tax or a land transfer tax, he decided to go with the more progressive option.

"A core reason I'm a Democrat is because I believe in progressive, fair taxation, and there's no doubt that the sales tax is a regressive tax," he said.

Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton spoke during the question-and-answer session. He also favors the land transfer tax. He thinks the county needs to keep property taxes down to help low-income property owners.

"Those who are out there flipping real estate, who are promoting Chapel Hill schools to sell their real estate, who are developing in our community — let's tax those people," he said.

Zimmerman supports a 0.25 percent increase in the county sales tax, because visitors to Orange County would contribute to the tax.

"The amount of money that any one individual would pay in that sales tax is negligible." He said that if approximately 96,000 people in the county paid the new sales tax, and only one-fourth of the 1.58 million visitors to the county last year also paid it, it would average out to \$5 per person per year.

He said that given the current state of the real estate market, the sales tax would be a much more stable source. "Unfortunately, for my business, we're down about 22 percent more in our sales," he said. "We have all these growing costs, and we've chosen a tax mechanism that's declining."

County Commissioner Moses Carey does not favor adding another sales tax. He said that Orange County's sales tax revenues are going down because other counties are taking business away from the county.

"We've got those engines like Southpoint on our borders, sucking the money out," Carey said, "and people who live in Orange County are making a beeline over there to spend their money."

"When I say to people, 'Spend locally,' they say, 'Well, we can't find it here.'"

Nelson and Kinnaird said they realize it will be difficult to convince voters of the merits of the transfer tax, given its organized opposition. Land transfer taxes have already been defeated in 16 counties.

"I think the problem was that people didn't understand what the transfer tax did," Kinnaird said. She said that a \$100,000 ad campaign by realtors calling for voters to "Defeat the Home Tax" was misleading.

"What a ridiculous thing. You already pay a property tax. If that isn't a home tax, what is a home tax? This was, I felt, a very biased and very inflammatory ad campaign," she said.

Nelson agreed: "We're facing a very, very, very well-financed, ruthless opposition."

Six counties have had 1 percent land transfer taxes since the 1980s.

"In those counties, the sky hasn't fallen, they've increased their school spending tremendously," Nelson said. "Before they adopted the transfer tax, they were in the bottom third in North Carolina in terms of per person spending on school capital needs."

Kinnaird said that in the counties that have already had the tax for a while, it hasn't stopped growth, the schools are benefiting and property taxes remain stable.

But Zimmerman said the reason people are against the tax is because they're the ones paying it.

"The people that are going to be hurt by this are not the realtors. We don't pay this tax. The people who are going to be hurt by this are the people who go to closing and have to pay this fee," he said.

Orange County's own opinion poll shows that 53 percent of those surveyed would either vote no or are leaning no, while only 33 percent would probably vote yes or are leaning yes. The county is contemplating spending up to \$100,000 on a countywide information campaign about the tax.

Nelson said he was not sure what would happen if the tax loses at the polls.

"The commissioners haven't talked about what we would do next. Whether we put this back on the ballot again in November, or put the sales tax, or nothing, or both — we haven't talked about it," he said.

"A core reason I'm a Democrat is because I believe in progressive, fair taxation, and there's no doubt that the sales tax is a regressive tax"

—County Commissioner Mike Nelson

TRANSFER TAX Q&A

Why is this option before the voters?

In 2007, the state Legislature passed a law to overhaul the way Medicaid is paid. Before, counties were responsible for paying part of Medicaid expenses. Under the new law, the state takes on the county's share of Medicaid, and in exchange counties have to reduce their sales taxes from 2.5 percent to 2 percent in 2010.

The new law gives counties an option to recover lost tax revenue. They can either raise sales taxes another 0.25 percent or put in a tax on land transfers of 0.1 percent to 0.4 percent. Counties cannot pass either of these new taxes without voters' approval. A special referendum has to be held and approved by the majority of voters in the county. If the referendum loses, the county cannot collect the tax.

How would the tax be applied?

"The tax would apply to any transfer of interest in real estate located within the county," Prof. Kara Milonzi of the UNC School of Government said. The tax does not apply to gains or losses from the sale of property; it only applies to the value of the property at the time of the transfer.

What have other counties done?

Sixteen counties have proposed land transfer taxes since 2007, and not one has passed. Six counties have offered voters a chance to institute either a land transfer tax or a sales tax. In all six, voters rejected both taxes. Only two counties have passed the new 0.25 percent sales tax. Four counties, including Orange County, are putting the land transfer tax on the May 6 ballot.

Who pays the tax?

The seller is responsible for paying the tax. Land transfer documents can't be filed with the county register of deeds without paying the tax first. The amount of the tax is based on the market value of the property, not on the property tax value.

Are there any exceptions to the tax?

Land transferred by gift or inheritance is not taxed. But land donated to charity could be taxed if the donor can claim an income tax deduction. Nonprofits are not exempt from paying the tax.

How can the money be spent?

The money can be spent however the county chooses. The Orange County board of commissioners recently passed a resolution dedicating any money raised from the tax to go to schools and parks.

Milonzi said that if the makeup of the board of county commissioners changed significantly, then a new board could theoretically change how the money is spent. "A board of county commissioners cannot bind future boards," she said.

Don't some counties already have transfer taxes?

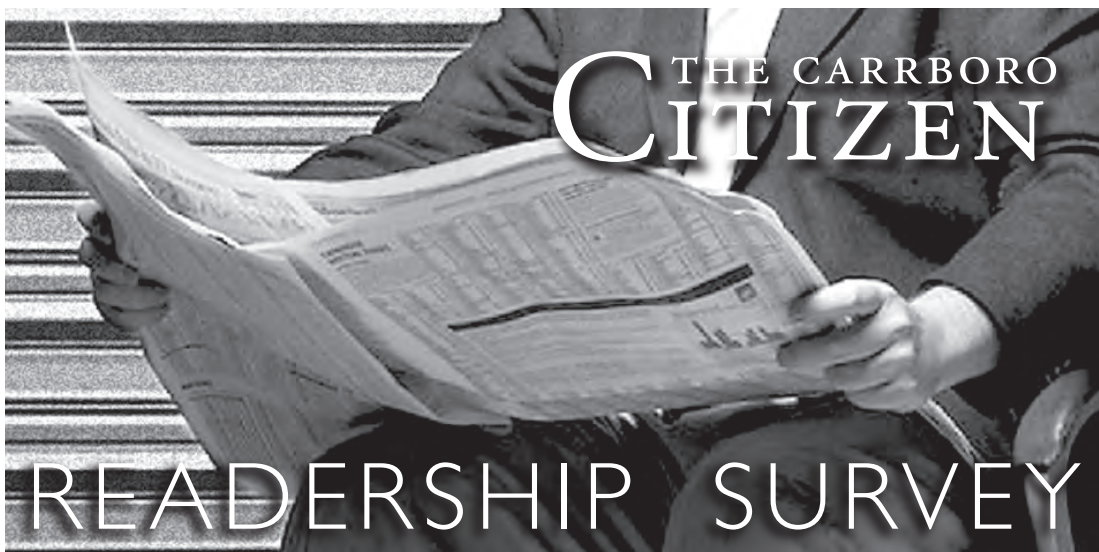
Dare and Currituck counties have had 1 percent transfer taxes since 1985. Chowan and Camden counties got approval for their taxes in 1986. In 1989, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties added the tax after voter approval. Washington County also got permission for a tax in 1989, but voters rejected the plan twice.

How much money would the county see?

According to a 2007 report by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, Orange County would receive an estimated \$4.1 million in tax revenues from a land transfer tax, as opposed to \$3 million from a sales tax increase. The county estimates the amount that could be collected in 2008 is closer to \$3.5 million. As a comparison, in 2007 Orange County collected \$111.4 million in property taxes and \$22.2 million in sales taxes.

Counties have to continue to pay cities their share of the current 2.5 percent sales tax, even though counties will only collect 2 percent by 2010. "So the counties are kind of taking a double-whammy on the sales tax," Milonzi said. "They're losing 50 cents on their own, and they're losing an additional amount to hold the cities harmless."

— RICH FOWLER



READERSHIP SURVEY

Part A: Issues and ideas

NC issues that are important to me are:

National/International issues that are important to me are:

The town of Carrboro needs:

I want to learn more about the _____ of this area.

I'd like to see a story in the paper about . . .

My favorite place to visit in this area is:

My favorite annual event is:

3. What publications do you read?

The Carrboro Citizen Chapel Hill News

Independent Weekly Herald-Sun

News & Observer News of Orange

Southern Neighbor

Chapel Hill Magazine

Community Sports News

4. Where do you get your local news?

WRAL Herald-Sun

News & Observer Chapel Hill News

WTVD WCHL

The Carrboro Citizen

Other (please specify) _____

5. How important is it to you to have a source of local news?

Very important

Somewhat important

Not Very important

Not at all

1. What features do you tend to read?

2. What items in the paper are important to you?

3. What type of news coverage would you like to see more of?

4. What types of features would you like to see us add?

Part B: Reading the Paper

1. How often do you pick up a copy of The Carrboro Citizen:

Every week Almost every week

3 x a month 2 x a month

1 x a month Less than 1 x a month

2. How much of The Citizen do you read?

All Most

Bits & pieces One or two items

5. What is your favorite item or feature of The Carrboro Citizen?

6. What is your least favorite item or feature?

7. Do you visit our website?

8. Items I always read:

Letters to the Editor School Page

Music Calendar Obituaries

Art Calendar Weather

News Stories Book Reviews

Recently/Valarie Schwartz

Water Watch (lake levels chart)

Chris Fitzsimon's Opinion Pieces

Land & Table Classifieds

Phil Blank's Drawings

Lunch Menu The Mill

Community Calendar Sports

Flora/Ken Moore Community Pages

Editorial Feature Stories

Other (please specify) _____

5. Type of housing:

House Trailer Home

Apartment Condo or Town Home

Other (please specify) _____

6. Student?

High School Middle School

Elementary Undergrad

Grad Community College

Professional School

7. Children? 1 2

3 4 5 or More

8. How long have you lived in this area?

1 year or less 1 to 3 years

3 to 5 years 5 to 7 years

7 to 10 years 10 to 15 years

15 to 25 years 25 years or more

Native

9. How would you describe yourself?

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1. I live in . . .

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Neighborhood (please specify) _____

2. Usually, I pick up my copy of The Citizen at . . .

3. How many people are in your household?

1 2 3

4 5 6

7 or more

4. Housing: Rent Own

Other (please specify) _____

Lunch Menus

MAR. 31 - APR. 3

Every meal is served with a choice of milk. Breakfast is served daily.

ELEMENTARY

Monday — Chicken Nuggets w/BBQ Sauce & Wheat Roll; Beef Taco w/ Salsa; Sweet Yellow Corn; Applesauce

Tuesday — Vegetarian Lasagna w/Garlic Bread; Hot Dog on a Bun; Fun On The Run; Mixed Vegetables; Chilled Pears

Wednesday — Cheese Pizza; Pepperoni Pizza; Pork Rib-B-Q on a Bun; Broccoli Cuts; Chilled Apricots

Thursday — Oven Baked Chicken w/Wheat Roll; Grilled Cheese Sandwich; Fun On The Run; Green Beans; Fresh Banana

MIDDLE & HIGH

Monday — Macaroni & Cheese w/ Wheat Roll; Steak & Cheese Sandwich; Green Beans; Applesauce

Tuesday — Fishwich; Beef Taco w/Salsa; Sweet Yellow Corn; Chilled Fruit Cocktail

Wednesday — Chicken Nuggets w/BBQ Sauce and Wheat Roll; Hot Dog on a Bun; Broccoli Cuts; Chilled Pears

Thursday — Beef Chili w/ Saltines; Pork Rib-B-Q on a Bun; Mixed Vegetables; Fresh Apple

Greenhouse renovation benefits elementary students

by Morgan Siem
Carrboro Commons Writer

Visitors to Frank Porter Graham Elementary School might notice a change of scenery at the "Home of the Lions." Along the sidewalk of painted lion paws is the greenhouse, which until last week was in obvious disrepair. Now it is ready to welcome classes of young scientists after being renovated on Saturday.

"It looks beautiful," science teacher Livy Ludington said Monday. "It was so nice to come in to school today and see it like that."

The renovation project began after Ludington asked her classroom aide, Randall Berg, if he might be able to do some minor repairs to the greenhouse, which has a base of 12 square feet and a height of 8 feet.

"He ended up exceeding all expectations," she said. "He really took it on and found friends to help."

Berg, a 20-year-old from Miami, is studying history and the "Curriculum in Peace, War, and Defense" at UNC while preparing for medical school. He volunteers on Tuesdays with Ludington's science classes.

"I think it's great for the kids to have the experience growing things," Berg said, "because it was one of my favorite things when I was in elementary school. I liked watching things grow and continue on. Some students will even get the chance to eat what they've grown."



STAFF PHOTO BY MORGAN SIEM

Luke Martin, 20, and Danny Randolph, 21, use rakes and shovels to move gravel on the floor of the greenhouse so they can place down plastic sheeting to prevent weeds from growing.

BACK IN ACTION

Ludington said that the timing of the renovation was good because third-grade classes will soon plant seedlings of cool-weather crops such as lettuce, spinach and broccoli.

"The students will finally understand why it is called a greenhouse," Ludington said. "It's much more meaningful when it's actually green inside."

The science classes did not use the greenhouse last fall "because after seven or eight years, the plastic had just deteriorated," Ludington said.

"The new plastic sheeting that we used to cover the greenhouse is thicker than the first kind that was used," Berg said. "It will last longer, be warmer inside and trap the moisture better."

Ludington said that Berg has been an important asset to the class, not only for the help he's done with the greenhouse, but also for the contributions he makes in class every Tuesday.

"The kids love him," Ludington said. "We tell them he's a Tar Heel, and they're such basketball fanatics. They also just love having a young person around."

Berg makes the experiments more relevant for the kids by explaining to them how their experiments relate to what he's learning in college, Ludington said.

To complete the renovation project on Saturday, three of Berg's friends from UNC joined him: his roommate Munashe Magarira, a sophomore from Phoenix majoring in political science and English; Luke Martin, a senior from Austin majoring in economics; and Danny Randolph, a junior from Raleigh majoring in the classics.

Magarira, 18, said that he enjoyed the work.

"It's really cool that Randall went out and did that," Magarira said. "The teacher just kind of told him that there was a need, and he just went out and did it. For him, it was just a matter of giving back, getting people together and having a lot of fun."

Magarira said it gave him a sense of accomplishment at the end of the day because the results were so visible.

"Instead of just sleeping in and not getting anything done on a Saturday, we did something productive," he said.

While renovating the greenhouse, Randall Berg and his friends stripped off the old plastic sheeting and removed the old staples and reinforcements. After picking weeds from the gravel floor, they moved the gravel to put down plastic sheeting to prevent the weeds from growing back. Finally, they put new plastic sheeting on the walls and roof and replaced the shelves.

"Now these kids can really go out and get their hands in the soil and grow plants, instead of just reading about it in a book," Ludington said. "The whole idea of the science program here is to be hands-on and inquiry-driven. With Randall here, we have more adults, and we can really make that happen."

Morgan Siem is a UNC-CH student writing for the Carrboro Commons, the bi-weekly online lab newspaper for Carrboro produced by Jock Lauterer's Community Journalism class.

This newspaper is printed with soy ink on 35% recycled content paper.



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School Briefs

Latin workshop

Smith Middle School Latin teacher Great Moseley has been selected to attend the Classical Summer School program at the

American Academy in Rome and Cumae, June 16 through August 9.

The first part of the workshop will take place in Rome, while the "Vergilian Society" portion will be held in Cumae. As a participant, Moseley will study historical and archaeological sites

throughout Italy and acquire resources for her classroom.

Book victors

Battle of the Books teams representing the four middle schools in our district faced off on March 7 to determine the dis-

trict champion for 2007-2008.

First place went to Phillips Middle, who will now represent CHCCS at the Piedmont Regional Battle of the Books at Randolph Community College in Asheboro on April 18. Team members include: Apoorva Iyengar, Kelly Jiang, Sidney Karesh, Anne Kelley, Austin Kelly, Sandhya Mahadevan, Emma McNairy, Maria Adriana Rojas, Lenny Rosen, Lars (Lara) Sahoo, William Snoeyink, Cissy Yu and additional team members Colleen Cui, Anne George, Elianna Goldstein, Charles Higgins, Kate Holcomb, Vincent Lai, Deborah Lawrence, Austin Liu, Ben Marks, Kayla Miron, Sidney Shank, Lauren Swers, Maya Weinberg and Zhongshan Zhu.

Second place went to McDougle Middle. Team members include: Hannah Blackburn, Karen Cheney, Anya Josephs, Abel Koshy, Grayson Rieth,

Evan Rose, Caleb Taylor, Jenny Vaughn and Annie Wilcosky.

Culbreth Middle won third place. Team members include: Bill Bourret, Melania Dyck, Jasmine Farmer, Yeji Jung, Caterina Kiepinski, Floria Le, Shiyi Li, Miriam McDonough, Nancy Merritt, Auliya Shenk, Bailey Spears, Julia Suman, Sara Terrell, Yixuan Wen, Tasha Wilhemsens and Brystal Williams.

Fourth place went to Smith Middle. Team members include: Natasha Anbalagan, Karron Armstrong, Sam Freedberg, Alex (Evan) Grosskurth, Samantha Johnson, Galen Kirkpatrick, Alisha Lee, Matthieu Sieredzki, Caleb Stern, Jacob Stern, Jyoshitha Tella, Catherine Whang, Julian Wilson and Anna Zhang.

Something we should know about?
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• Chapel Hill Town Hall - North Columbia Street
• Chapel Hill Public Library - Library Drive
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Only in Raleigh ...

by Frank Heath
Sports Columnist

It seems likely that only on this past Sunday, at NC State's home arena, the RBC Center, could one have witnessed such a scene. There, in plain view, a sea of light blue-clad fans screamed their heads off for a team from North Carolina clad in State red uniforms, as that team came back from 17 points down to upset a highly ranked opponent, the Georgetown Hoyas — those very same Hoyas who happened to have bounced UNC from the post-season twice in the past six seasons.

Other than 1,500 or so Georgetown fans who had scored tickets, every soul in the Wolfpack's lair seemed to get caught up in Davidson Wildcat hysteria. (Well, there was that one sad-looking guy in the Duke shirt who wandered the aisles and really didn't look consolable.)

Davidson's All-America guard, Stephen Curry — who I'm guessing had some sort of feelings about UNC basketball growing up in Charlotte — could have cut the irony with a knife as he dropped in free-throw after free-throw down the stretch, to the thunderous cheers of 15,000 Tar Heel faithful, to finish off the fading Hoyas.

Curry's dazzling second-half display of moves, shots and panache that seemed to channel the legendary Pistol Pete Maravich may have left many Heels fans in attendance wondering "what if." But Davidson's come-from-behind win against the towering Hoyas provided such compelling drama that even the most single-minded Tar Heel fans in the crowd found themselves going with the flow. It didn't hurt that the Wildcats' band kept cranking out "Sweet Caroline."

And the really good news was that this turned out to be just the start of Sunday's fun. Because once the supposed headline matchup between UNC and Arkansas began and Carolina grabbed a quick 9-0 lead, Heels fans were able to relax and allow the good vibes of a Round-of-32 blowout to wash over them like the warm salt-water waves of an August Hatteras afternoon. Even the two State fans sitting to my left — who had arrived dressed in red just in case Arkansas made a game of it — began waving the white flag midway through the first half and eventually admitted that Carolina was playing well.

Maybe the stars aligned, or perhaps all of the Tar Heels' hard work was really paying off, because Carolina played the type of splendid hoops against the Hogs Sunday that in general only finds its form on a coach's imaginary chalkboard.

But the stats to back up that reality jumped off the sheet — five players in double figures, with Deon Thompson and Alex

of every practice and every game — and, it might be noted, said in reference to a player on a team that leads the nation in rebounding by a sizable margin.

Carolina fans prefer nothing better than to be able to spend this time — the four or five days between the second and third rounds of the NCAA Tournament — skipping through crosswalks, hoping and dreaming about what could come to be over the next two weekends. And this is one of the lucky Marches when that happens.

It must be noted, however, that regardless of how good the Tar Heels looked in their first two NCAA games, a lot still remains to fall into place if they hope to attain stated goals.

Many great teams have stumbled in these rounds, and even in North Carolina's best basketball seasons — the championship years of 1957, '82, '93 and 2005 — there have been tense moments in the regional semifinals and finals when Tar Heel fans gnawed their fingernails and doubted whether the Heels would play another day.

Coach Roy reminded everybody listening Sunday following the rout of the Hogs that it's gotta be one game at a time, or you won't play another.

"I don't get real caught up on how we play today and how that is going to relate to how we're going to play next weekend," Williams said in Raleigh. "You've got to play on game day. We've got to put this one behind us and feel good about it and enjoy it, but we've got to get ready for next week."

"Next weekend in Charlotte, they're not going to give us points because we played so well."

In college basketball, these are words to live by — and, hopefully, to survive and advance by.

Carolina scored over 100 points in each of its two games this past weekend. The Tar Heels' next opponent, Washington State, limited its two foes over the weekend to fewer than 50 points each.

So it is doubtful that the Heels will break any scoring records this Thursday night.

But this UNC team is an experienced group that has grown very good at identifying a challenge, breaking it down and studying it, and coming up with a workable solution that ultimately helps them overcome the problem and brings a win. There have been 34 of them, exactly, so far. And the Tar Heels really want more.

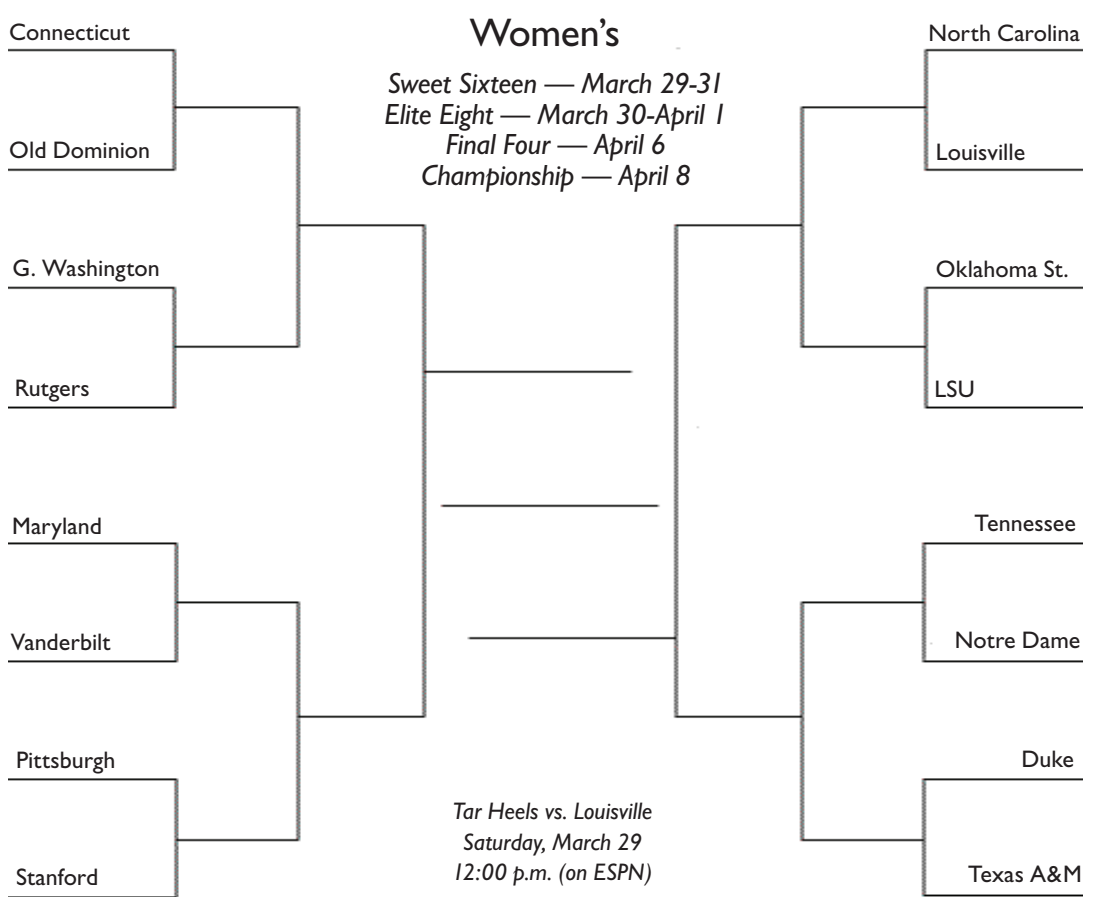
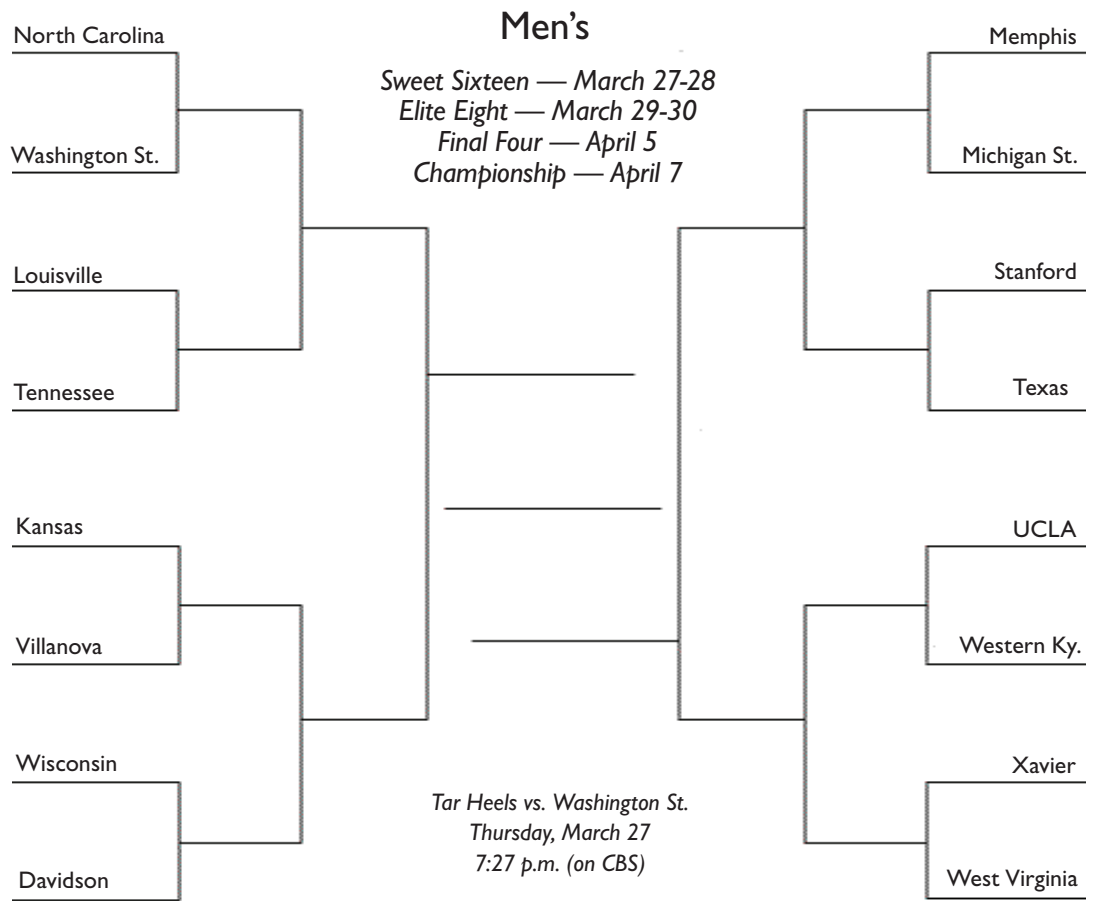
"We've got to put this one behind us and feel good about it and enjoy it, but we've got to get ready for next week."

— Coach Roy Williams

Stephenson scoring a combined 26 points on perfect 13-13 shooting; Ty Lawson and Quentin Thomas teaming for 11 assists, 25 points and no turnovers (following up on 10 assists and no turnovers on Friday night); team shooting of 67.7 percent from the floor, including 50 percent from three-point range; 28 assists on 44 field goals against just seven turnovers; and a defensive effort that shut down the Razorbacks' hot scorer Sonny Weems and limited the Hogs to 35.7 percent in the first half.

Then there was the true proof positive — Carolina's lead, which steadily grew from nine points early, to 20 to 27 points in the first half, and eventually topped out at 36 near the end of the game. This all coming against an opponent that had promised to provide some resistance inside, and a school that has over the years has been a bit of a thorn in Carolina's side (see: Seattle, 1995; Dallas, 1990; Pine Bluff, 1984).

By game's end, almost the only thing Coach Roy Williams could find to question with his team's performance was that Thompson got only one rebound. This coming from a coach who demands 100 percent effort every minute



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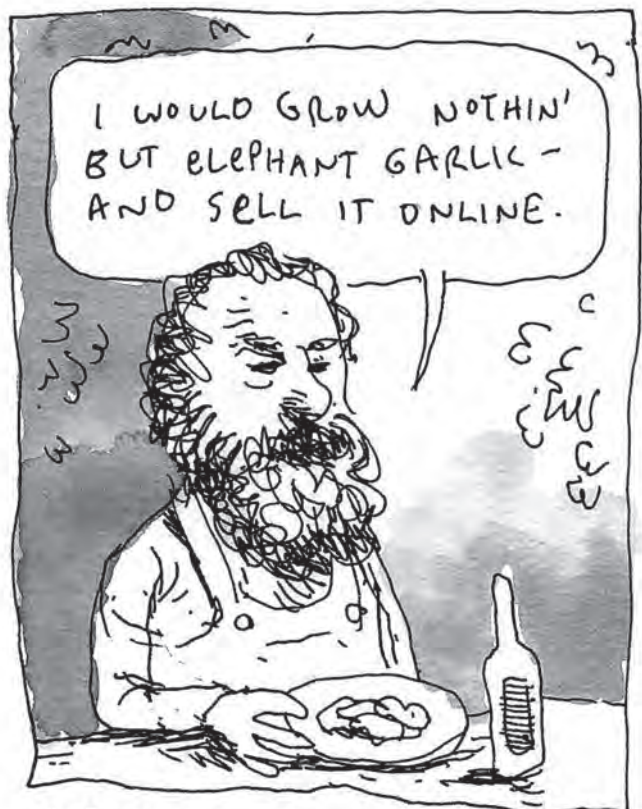


ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK

Local coffee shop has eyes everywhere

by Katie Spencer
Carrboro Commons Writer

In the green mountains of Honduras, Chapel Hill resident Hunter Barbee found the familiar logo of his favorite coffee shop. And it wasn't Starbucks. It was Carrboro's own Open Eye Cafe.

Barbee, 22, was touring a coffee farm in the small highland village of Copan with a group that spent the week building houses with Habitat for Humanity.

"I just walked in, and the first thing I saw was an Open Eye sticker on the office window," Barbee said. "I did a double-take."

Excited, Barbee had trouble communicating the coincidence to manager Guillermo Calderon.

"I'm sure he actually understood what I was saying, but I just explained myself over and over," he said.

Luckily, Barbee didn't need words. He bears the Open Eye logo on his person: a small tattoo on his wrist that gets him a free cup of joe in exchange for a letter advertising. The image broke the language barrier.

"I ran around showing the tattoo on my arm and pointing to the picture," he said.

Calderon, 35, has known Open Eye co-owner Scott Conary since August, when Conary traveled to Honduras to share his knowledge of quality coffee roasting.

"It surprised him to find an espresso machine in the middle of coffee farmland," Calderon said in an email.

At home in Carrboro, Conary is involved in as much of the process as possible, from roasting at Carrboro Coffee Co., which he co-owns, to retail at Open Eye and Caffe Driade. But the climate required for growing coffee limits his participation: You can't grow coffee in Carrboro. This fact connects Conary to places like Copan.

"I go to countries and try to build relationships with farmers and get direct trade," Copan said.

"Coffee is cool.
It takes you around."

—SCOTT CONARY

Making coffee is an intricate process of planting; waiting; picking; processing; roasting; cupping, or tasting; and, finally, selling.

"Literally hundreds of hands are touching that coffee before it gets to the customer," Conary said.

The importance of each step creates interdependency between Conary and growers like Calderon. A slipup anywhere along the line could ruin three to five years of work, he said.

"It's called 'seed to cup,'" Conary said. "We're honoring the chain."

Conary's interest in coffee links him to places across the world. It has taken him all over Central and South America. Last year he went to Tokyo to judge the World Barista Championship. This year he will go to Copenhagen, Denmark.

"Coffee is cool. It takes you around," he said.

The main focus of Conary's trip to Honduras was to share expertise in quality roasting. Historically, Honduran coffee growers sell what they can and roast what is left, which is usually of poor quality, Conary said.

"The goal was to equate quality with the work and the price," he said. He said he hopes to encourage a taste for good java in a country covered in coffee plants.

Calderon's farm, Finca Santa Isabel, is in the mountains of western Honduras.

"It was beautiful, as is much of Honduras," Barbee said.

Calderon oversees the operations of the whole farm, from coffee to poultry to honey, with a focus on environmentally sound practices.



PHOTO COURTESY SCOTT CONARY
Scott Conary and Guillermo Calderon talk coffee at Finca Santa Rosa in Copan, Honduras.

"The farm is a beautiful example of what you can do with ecotourism," Conary said.

Calderon said that growing and processing coffee covers a wide range of disciplines, from agriculture to chemistry to art. "Our clients' job is to have a passion," he said. "[Conary] is a person who has a passion for the art of coffee."

Although Conary was at Finca Santa Isabel for only a couple of days, he and Calderon connected.

"We got along famously. I consider him a good friend," Conary said.

Barbee said Calderon was excited about Barbee's connection to Carrboro.

"I think he expected me to know Scott personally," Barbee said.

Katie Spencer is a UNC-CH student writing for the Carrboro Commons, the bi-weekly online lab newspaper for Carrboro produced by Jock Lauterer's Community Journalism class.

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April 19th: Carrboro Farmers' Market Annual Kid's Seedling Event!!

On Saturday, April 19, beginning at 8:30 AM, the Carrboro Farmers' Market will give away Cherry and Sungold tomato seedlings to kids. The Market will supply growing instructions and the Orange County Master Gardeners will be there as well to offer planting advice. About 10 weeks later, the Market asks the kids to come back with a clipping from their seedlings. The fruit is then displayed state fair-style for all to see and admire.

For all you tomato lovers, they've arrived! We now have greenhouse tomatoes at the Market every week!!



L&T Briefs

HAW WORKSHOP

The Haw River Watch will host a Macro-Micro Workshop on Saturday, March 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bynum Beach. Volunteers will teach attendees about collecting and inspecting water samples for microscopic creatures (with an interlude for lunch) to test water quality. RSVP and learn more from Cynthia Crossen at 967-2500 or riverwatch@hawriver.org

AGRICULTURE TALK

The 3CUPS coffee shop will host a forum on Wednesday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss gaps in local agriculture infrastructure. Leading the discussion are Tim Philpott, founder

of Maverick Farms, and Jennifer Curtis of NC Choices, which promotes sustainable local farming. The discussion will focus on continuing to expand local agriculture. The event is free.

SPLENDID TABLE

Cookbook author and radio personality Lynne Rossetto Kasper will visit the Fearington Farmers Market on Thursday, April 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. to read from her book *The Splendid Table's How To Eat Supper*.

The event is free and open to the public and sponsored by McIntyre's Fine Books. More information at www.fearington.com

MARKET TIMES

At the Carrboro Farmers' Market, springtime hours are in effect — 7 a.m. to noon. The return of the Carrboro Wednesday

Market is just around the corner: Mark your calendar for April 9.

The Hillsborough Farmers' Market is now open Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to noon at 128 N. Churton Street and Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m. at East Margaret Lane behind the Sheriff's office.

On Tuesday, April 1, at 4 p.m., the Fearington Farmers' Market will reopen for its 13th season, offering locally fresh items every Tuesday up to Thanksgiving.

GARDEN TOUR

The Chapel Hill Garden Club will hold its Spring Garden Tour Saturday, April 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, April 13, from noon to 4 p.m. The tour is self-guided and includes 10 private gardens. Refreshments, exhibits, a raffle, live music, demonstrations and plant sales will be held at the

Botanical Garden. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 day of. Children's tickets are \$5, day of only. For information and tickets, contact the Botanical Garden at 962-0522 or visit www.chapel-hillgardentour.net

GREEN WORKSHOP

Central Carolina Community College will host the workshop Green and Passive Solar Case Study and Design Lab at the Pittsboro Campus.

It includes an exercise to determine optimal lot siting for green building and an exercise to design or modify a home plan to optimize renewable energy and more. The workshop is from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on April 5. To register, call 542-6495 ext. 223, or register onsite at 8:30 a.m. at the Multipurpose Room in Building 2. The class is \$90.

Cliff's Meat Market

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

CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER:
Ratner then cure the lowly chickweed, being a fast-career gardener. I simply let it grow in the (John Colman)

MARK TRAIL

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THEY ARE EATEN IN SOME PARTS OF THE WORLD, BUT CARE AND KNOW-HOW ARE NEEDED IN PREPARING THE FISH SINCE A POISON IN ITS LIVER AND SKIN CAN BE DANGEROUS

WHEN NO ENEMIES ARE NEAR TO THREATEN IT, THE PORCUPINE FISH HOLDS ITS SPINES AGAINST ITS BODY...

IT SWALLOWS AIR OR WATER UNTIL IT IS SEVERAL TIMES ITS NORMAL SIZE, AND AS IT ENLARGES, THE LONG, SHARP SPINES STRAIGHTEN OUT

NO ENEMY IS LIKELY TO MAKE A MEAL OF THIS ANIMATED PINCUSHION, BUT IT IS BELIEVED THAT IF A SHARK DOES MAKE THE MISTAKE OF SWALLOWING A PORCUPINE FISH...

BUT WHEN A PREDATOR APPROACHES, THE LITTLE FISH TRIES TO LOOK INTIMIDATING BY SWELLING UP

A STRONG, FIBROUS SECRETION PROTECTS IT FROM THE DIGESTIVE JUICES OF THE SHARK, AND THE PORCUPINE FISH CAN CHEW ITS WAY OUT OF THE SHARK'S STOMACH

JACK ELROD

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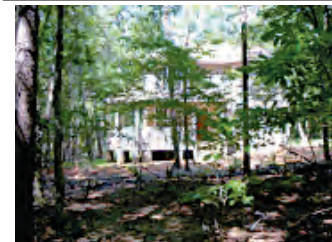
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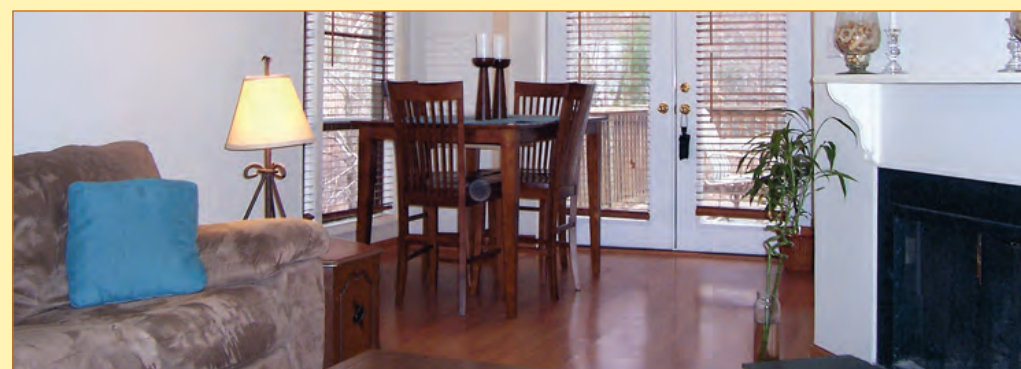
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PHOTO BY BETSY GREEN MOYER

Three types of leaves characterise the sassafras tree

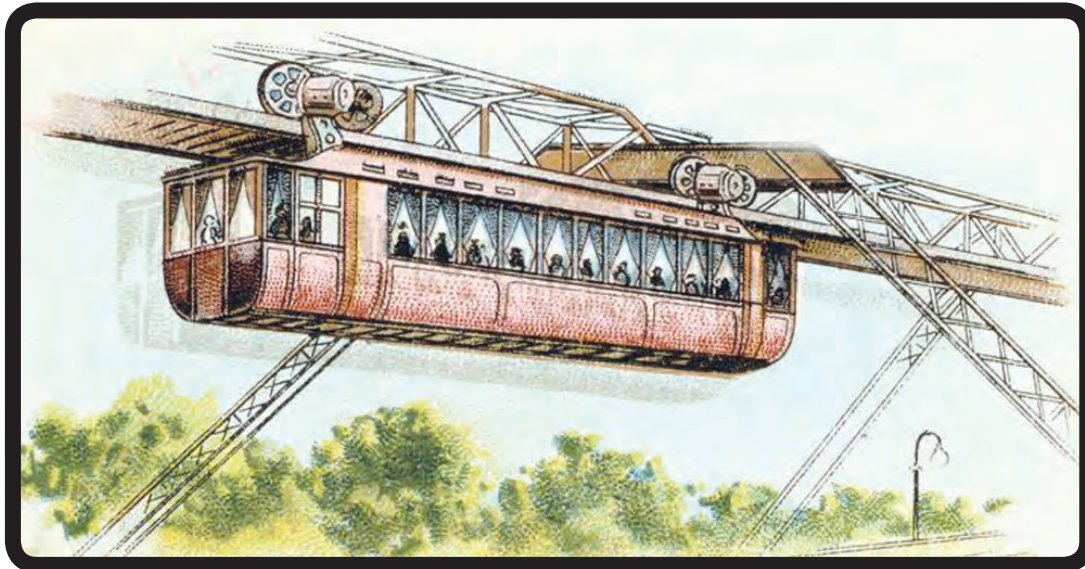
FLORA FROM PAGE 1

Before the FDA banned its use in 1960, root bark provided the flavoring for root beer. Not banned, however, is the traditional use of powdered, dried leaves for the distinctive Creole gumbo file.

The Lumbees were one of many tribes that considered it taboo to burn the wood of sassafras, so special was that tree. And I recall a description that it was most important to use a sassafras stick for the stirring in soap making. While I enjoy sassafras tea now and then,

my real celebration of sassafras is that it is such an exceptionally beautiful tree. It is usually missed in the deep forest, where specimens here and there reach high into the canopy. I notice it most often along our rural roadsides. They are easily spotted at this time of year, when the bare branches are tipped with clusters of tiny lemon-yellow flowers, and in the fall, when the leaves make a brilliant orange-red display. In the winter season, you can identify sassafras by its characteristically horizontal-spreading branches with the swollen round-budged tips turned upward,

like fingers stretching upward from an open palm. Occasionally, sassafras may be spotted along the edges of our urban streets. I was thrilled to discover one last week that I have been passing for years without seeing! It is on the south side of Homestead Road, just a couple of hundred feet east of the Sewell School Road intersection. Look for the utility pole and the speed-limit sign. I heap praise on the utility workers who maintain that roadside for allowing that sassafras to remain. Perhaps there are a few local folks who also consider sassafras special.



RENDERING COURTESY OF KIDDEN ASSOCIATES

Downtown gondola plan advances

Skyway to new cineplex/parking deck would be sustainable, prevent leakage and make for happy days, developer says

After clearing a major stumbling block in negotiations over a proposed new commercial complex at the Tri'em site, the developer says he'll move forward with a "Skyway to Downtown," as promised as part of the proposal.

Architect Hugh Kidken, representing Malarkey Development, will present a preliminary plan to the Board of Aldermen at the board's Tuesday, April 1st meeting. The plan includes a five-screen multiplex theater, four-story parking deck, day spa, 42,000 square feet of office space and a little shop that sells tiny homemade soaps.

Ferrying shoppers, parkers and cinema-goers to and from downtown would be an awesome

aerial tramway that would roughly follow the route of the bike path up the hill, according to the developers.

Kidken said the breakthrough came when town officials recognized the awesomeness of the project and initiated changes to downtown greenspace rules.

"As a result, we're no longer required to have flower planters on every gondola cabin," Kidken.

The developer did agree to stipulations settled on during the board's last review of the project. Those require the gondolas to be painted in "tasteful, earthy tones" and to be officially certified as "whisper quiet."

THE MILL



CELL PHONE SNAPS

Wendy Richesin-Dodd of Carrboro sent us this shot and a few other photos of multiple Xs in the sky. She shot the photos last month near Carrboro Plaza. Send your Cell Phone photos to editor@carrborocitizen.com

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WATER WATCH * WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26



LAKE LEVELS

UNIVERSITY LAKE: 0' 2.5" below full
 CANE CREEK RESERVOIR: 11' 1" below full

PRECIPITATION THIS MONTH

JONES FERRY WATER TREATMENT PLANT: 4.62"
 CANE CREEK RESERVOIR: 4.11"

CUSTOMER WATER DEMAND

Past 7 days (average): 5.988 million gallons
 Past 30 days (average): 6.415 million gallons

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[tip]: Shorten your showers! Even a one or two minute reduction can save hundreds of gallons in just a month.

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