



FRIDAY
40% Chance of Rain
72/47
SATURDAY
Clear
72/43
SUNDAY
Partly Cloudy
67/43

THE CARRBORO
CITIZEN



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

Flowers of heartleaf wild ginger are usually hidden beneath leaf litter on the forest floor.

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Wild Gingers

Two weeks ago, Dave Otto shared photos of wild gingers in full flower along Bolin Creek. The wild ginger flowers, generally hidden beneath the leaf litter, had been exposed by recent rains.

The leather-textured flowers are long lasting; you can still see them. If you practice that "take a closer look" walking strategy, you will most likely find two species of wild ginger on the forest floor.

In fact, if you take yourself outdoors this next week, you will catch the fullest peak of early-spring flowering we've had in years! This abnormal spring, the earliest flowering species are lingering in an unusual overlap with later-flowering species.

For example, in a normal spring, if there is such a thing, peak flowering of redbud is followed by peak flowering of sassafras and, finally, flowering dogwood, which "normally" peaks on April 10 every year. This weekend, you will see all three at peak. Dogwood is peaking closer to April 5.

Yesterday, I saw lingering flowers of typical early bloomers like hepaticas, trout lilies, penrynwots and, most surprising of all, trailing arbutus, Epigaea repens. I don't recall observing trailing arbutus in flower as late as April 1. So don't delay that walk in the woods if you want to catch this wildflower spectacle.

Now, back to wild gingers. The first to begin flowering is heartleaf, Hexastylis minor, easily spotted as a single leaf or a clump of leathery, white-mottled, evergreen, heart-shaped leaves. To view the flowers, you have to practice "belly botany" and carefully tease away the leaf litter at the base of the leaf petiole(s). Each widely open, heavily textured flower is a beautiful, white-mottled burgundy color. Please replace the leaf litter over the flower(s) as you found them.

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Carolina North briefing raises concerns

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — Local officials are taking stock of a new study that shows a net fiscal gain for Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Orange County from the Carolina North project.

During a briefing on a fiscal impact report on the project by university consultants Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, several representatives of Chapel Hill and Carrboro questioned some of the report's conclusions.

The report shows that the direct impacts of the project will produce net deficits to the town of Chapel Hill of between \$780,000 and \$792,000 annually and of roughly \$50,000 annually for Carrboro. Orange County fares better accord-

ing to the study, with additional revenue from both county and school district taxes adding between \$921,000 and \$1.1 million.

The analysis shows the towns and the county eventually seeing positive results once indirect impacts such as increases to the employment base and sales taxes are figured in.

Carrboro Board of Aldermen member Jacquie Gist said she was concerned to hear the sentiment that the residential development that would result from the project would boost revenues.

"There's no way that residential developments pay for themselves," she said. "If that was true, we'd be mailing out tax refunds instead of sending out tax bills."

Gist was also among those questioning the projected increase in the number of students to attend local schools.

TischlerBise, the university's consultants, estimated that 417 proposed multi-family-housing units would result in 29 new students.

"That, intuitively, doesn't feel right," she said.

In a question-and-answer session with reporters prior to the Tuesday briefing for local officials, Jack Evans, executive director of the project, and TischlerBise representatives said those numbers are in agreement with standards adopted by the county and its school systems.

In 2007, TischlerBise worked with Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools to update generation rates in preparation for proposals to raise the county's impact fees. Under the new generation tables, the rate for multi-family housing — the type proposed for Carolina North — was broken out and is far lower than other types of housing. Single-family detached homes generate .6 students per household and single-family attached homes generate .35 students while multi-family housing generates .07 per student according to the school system's table. The district's average student-generation rate for all types of housing is .332.

SEE REPORT PAGE 7



PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

Greg Kopsch, Carolina North forest manager (left), led a group hosted by Friends of Bolin Creek on an educational tour on March 21.

A new way of doing things

RECENTLY . . .

By Valarie Schwartz

Progress doesn't always feel so good. A few Saturdays ago, as Greg Kopsch, the forest manager of Carolina North, led a group hosted by Friends of Bolin Creek on a tour, it became apparent that progress means adapting to new ways of doing things, which requires about as many arms twisted as there are trails in the 750-acre woodlands.

From the Seawell Elementary School parking lot, we walked a short distance to Seawell School Road Entrance #3, where Kopsch introduced us to the kiosk that was erected there 18 months ago (made mostly from dead trees harvested from the property) and the notices inside. In order to keep signage down in the trail areas, the intent of the kiosks is to provide information to visitors — hopefully, before they enter — so that the least possible impact will be made upon the land.

That particular day, one of the most important signs was: "Please Avoid Wet Trails." The forest managers inherited a "natural" area that has endured decades of casual human use that, along with the wiles of nature, has created troublesome erosion, exacerbated by frequent users every time there are significant rains.

"We can't close the trails," Kopsch said. But they would really appreciate people avoiding the muddy areas "until we have time to work on the problem trails to make them more sustainable."

Gravel has been placed heavily in some spots. "We're not out here to pave these roads, but we're out here to keep them usable, passable," Kopsch said as we walked along the Duke Power easement used for years by some Chapel Hill High School students (and those of Seawell Elementary and Smith Middle School, constructed subsequently).

The entire easement area, which has steep inclines, was seeded with rye grass to help control soil erosion, followed by a mixture of native wildflower seeds in 40 different varieties made in Pittsboro, hand-strewn along the road edges. When the flowers bloom, areas will be augmented with more of the specific seeds doing well there.

A lot of work goes on down in the former Horace Williams Tract (now Carolina North), including bridges being placed across the creek. Kopsch showed the group of over a dozen where a bridge will be constructed over a portion of the creek near the easement — not where people have been crossing (and eroding the creek bank), but where a new gravel pathway can be seen across the creek. A process that will provide the lowest possible impact is still being explored while moving through the permit process. On the second day of spring, the closest Kopsch would come to saying when it would be completed was, "Boy, I hope so," when someone suggested before the first day of summer.

SEE RECENTLY PAGE 7

School funding questioned

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

Incorrect information included in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools budget documents falsely indicated a wide discrepancy between proposed funding for Carrboro High School and the district's other two high schools, school officials said Monday.

Parents had expressed concern about the apparent disparity, drawing attention to the matter, and school officials then corrected the misinformation and informed parents of the error.

According to school officials, proposed funding for Carrboro High is \$6,939 per student, compared with \$7,937 for Chapel Hill High and \$7,197 for East Chapel Hill High. The incorrect information showed funding for Carrboro High at \$5,211 per student, compared with \$7,977 for Chapel Hill High and \$7,417 for East Chapel Hill High.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education is set to approve its recommended operating budget request to the county, including the funding for high schools, at a meeting tonight (Thursday).

According to Superintendent Neil Pedersen, the remaining disparity between the high schools' funding levels is due to staff salaries and benefits.

"We think that's attributable ... to more veteran staff being at Chapel Hill and, to some extent, East," he said.

Pedersen said Carrboro High has a somewhat younger staff than the other two high schools, adding, "I don't think that speaks to the quality of the staff."

Despite the correction to the funding data, some Carrboro High parents say the inequity remains.

SEE SCHOOLS PAGE 5

The 'ifs' and 'thens' of the cruelest month

MEN'S FINAL FOUR SCHEDULE

UConn vs. Michigan State 6:07 p.m.

UNC vs. Villanova 8:47 p.m.

Final Four Viewing at the Smith Center: 5 p.m. Entrance A opens for UNC students, faculty and staff (with valid UNC One Card).

5:30 p.m. Entrance A opens for general public.

Concessions and Final Four merchandise will be on sale. Both semifinal games will be shown.

FRANK HEATH

"Another March. More madness. Another game North Carolina expects to win." — Steve Kelley, Seattle Times

"Not to be overshadowed, however, Carolina uncorked a dominant performance of its own, showing a clear postseason focus and a comfort level that seems hard to disrupt." — Dan Wiederer, Fayetteville Observer

"I love teeing it up, but it would bother me like crazy if someone else was out there recruiting and I wasn't. It would bother me a great deal if somebody was watching tape and I wasn't." — Roy Williams, on what got him into the Basketball Hall of Fame

"That's what it's going to take to get us through next weekend. We've got to be the best defensive team out there. They're going to

hand that trophy to the best defensive team. There's no question about that, and there's no question we have a chance to be that team." — UNC senior Marcus Ginyard, the injured small forward who has practiced with the Blue Team to help the Tar Heels prepare for the Final Four.

"The toe may be getting worse. The Tar Heels are getting better." — John Branch, New York Times

The North Carolina basketball team has played very well this postseason, a fact that should not come as a surprise given the 2009 Tar Heels' blend of experience, talent, depth and leadership.

But April can be the cruelest month for a college basketball team, as many Tar Heels squads before this one have learned. Most recently, of course, UNC lost last year against Kansas in an NCAA semifinal game that, had it been played 99 times again, could not

have come and gone as poorly as it did that once.

Before Kansas, it was Florida in 2000, Utah in 1998, Arizona in '97, Arkansas in '95. And Kansas again in 1991. All were season-finishing, NCAA semifinal losses that many a Carolina fan has lost sleep over; all were outcomes that arrived as somewhat of an unpleasant surprise, accompanied by the solemn wish for a do-over. Which, of course, is the one thing you cannot ever have.

It's not always easy being a fan of college basketball at the highest level, where one, and only one, goal is truly important. Your team can play four great games in the tournament — if you're lucky enough to get there — then if in the fifth game you're only pretty good, well, that may be enough to spoil the entire batch. Who remembers Memphis, LSU or Pitt this week?

SEE BASKETBALL PAGE 7

FARMERS' MARKET

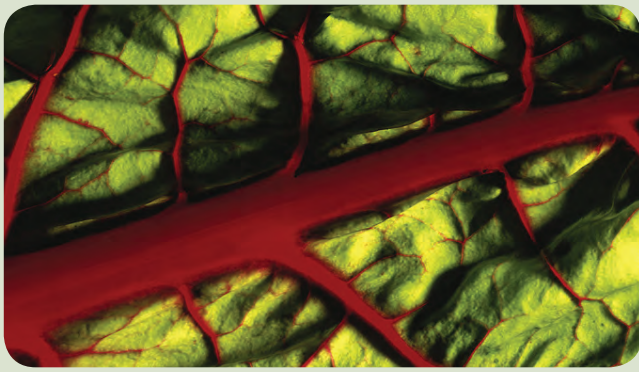
SATURDAY MARKET: 7 a.m. - Noon

What's at Market?

Check out what's at the Year-Round Farmers' Market:
Greenhouse tomatoes, tulips, daffodils, irises, lettuce, hydroponic basil, chard, spring onions, pac choy, flour, onions, garlic, arugula, beets, broccoli, watercrest, cabbage, radishes, winter squashes, collards, fresh herbs, kale, leeks, mustard greens, salad greens, spinach, sweet potatoes, turnips, turnip greens, winter squashes, pecans, herb and vegetable starters, new chicken-sausage, maple sausage, smoked ham, smoked ham hocks, liverwurst, lamb, bacon, chicken, eggs, cow's milk cheeses, breads, doughnuts, tortes, pies, cakes, jams, and relishes!

APRIL 8th: Wednesday Market OPENS

Featured Author: Tim Stark!
Kick off spring at the opening day of the Wednesday Farmers' Market, April 8th from 3:30pm-6:30 pm. Special guest and expert gardener Tim Stark will share his renowned book *Heirloom: Notes from an Accidental Tomato Farmer* as well as planting advice for home gardeners. To help get your hands dirty and your gardens growing, free vegetable seedlings will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Join us at the Market for a great start to a great season!



Recipes of the week WARM THAI GREENS SALAD

from Dorette Snover of C'est Si Bon

Ingredients:
2 cup coarsely chopped Swiss chard leaves,* washed well
2 cups coarsely shredded spinach leaves,* washed well
1 cup shredded carrot*
1/2 cup thinly sliced red onion*
1/4 cup chopped, roasted, and skinned peanuts
2 tablespoons each fresh chopped basil, mint and cilantro*
Green or red leaf lettuce leaves for garnish*

Dressing:
1/2 cup Thai or Vietnamese fish sauce (nuoc mam)
2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
2 tablespoons rice vinegar
1/2 teaspoon (or to taste) garlic chili paste, available in Oriental section
1-2 minced garlic cloves*
2 teaspoons sugar

Procedure:
Combine ingredients for dressing, set aside.
Steam the Swiss chard leaves over boiling water until crisp-tender, about 2-3 minutes. Transfer to a serving bowl, toss with spinach, onion and carrots while still warm. Toss with the dressing, fresh herbs and peanuts. Serves 6

Community Calendar

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Music Lecture— World-renowned composer Stefan Litwin will examine music that took its cues from the Industrial Revolution for the final installment in the Ackland Art Museum's ongoing series Perspectives on Progress. 7pm, Ackland Art Museum, UNC campus. \$5, free for Ackland members

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Film Screening— The documentary film *As We Forgive* will be shown. 7pm, Extraordinary Ventures conference space, 200 S. Elliot Rd. Free

Civil Rights Conference— The Southern Oral History Program at UNC presents the conference, "The Long Civil Rights Movement: Histories, Politics, Memories. April 3-4, UNC campus. lcrn.unc.edu/index.php/conference/program

Container Gardening Workshop— Local expert Karen Nash of Dickinson Garden Center will demonstrate how to layer plants in a container for effect. 10am-noon, Seymour Center, 2551 Homestead Road. Free, bring a plant to be used in the demonstration. 968-2070

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

Record Sale— Thousands of country, bluegrass, blues and rock recordings will be sold to benefit the UNC Library's Southern Folklife Collection. 9:30am-noon, Pleasants Family Assembly Room, Wilson Library, UNC campus. Free and open to the public. 962-1345, smweiss@email.unc.edu, lib.unc.edu/spotlight/2009/record_sale.html

Food Drive— The Orange County Campaign for Change will host a Yes We Cans food drive to benefit the Interfaith Council for Social Services Food Bank and TABLE's Backpack Buddies Program. TWIG, Whole Foods shopping center on the corner of East Franklin Street and Elliot Road. www.tablenc.org, www.ifcweb.org

Comic Book Signing— Adam Meuse will sign copies of *Sad Animals*. 2-4pm, Chapel Hill Comics, 316 W. Franklin St.

Chatham Habitat— Chatham Habitat for Humanity will hold a volunteer information and training session. 10am-2pm, 71 Anthony St., Pittsboro. RSVP to 542-0794, ext. 719, annaschmalz@chathamhabitat.org

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Pittsboro's First Sunday— A leisurely wander through the unique shops and galleries of Historic Pittsboro. Noon-4pm, downtown. 960-5892, pittsboro-shops.com

Ethical Culture Society— Hugh Taft-Morales will speak on "Appreciating Inherent Worth: From Momentary Sparks to the Fire of Commitment" at the N.C. Ethical Culture Society. 1:30pm, 200 S. Elliott Road

CD and Record Show— Forty tables of new and used CDs, vinyl records and music memorabilia. Noon-6pm, Carrboro Century Center. 260-0661, musicalroots.net

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

African Diaspora— Brown University professor Anthony Bogues will discuss "Reconceptualization of the African Diaspora: The End of Exodus? New Flows and Motions." 7pm, Sonja Haynes Stones Center for Black Culture and History, UNC campus. 962-9001, unc.edu/depts/stonecenter

Mineral Club— Jim Baugh will discuss his recent rock-hounding trip in Oregon at the monthly meeting of the Central N.C. Mineral Club. 7pm, Seymour Center 2551 Homestead Road. 929-5673, 942-9003

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

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

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

Computer Class— Chapel Hill SeniorNet is offering a class in Spreadsheet Fundamentals. 9-11am Tuesdays and Thursdays until March 19, Seymour Senior Center. 968-2070 to register

Garden Tour— Free tour of the N.C. Botanical Garden's display gardens. Saturdays, 10am, in front of the Totten Center at the garden. 962-0522, ncbg.unc.edu

Computer Class— What Should I Read Next?: Resources for Book Lovers on the Web, Com-

puter Basics, Web Basics, Intro to Email, Learning 2.0: Blogs, Photosharing and more. Wednesdays through April 22, 7pm, Carrboro Cybrary, 100 N. Greensboro St. Registration required. 918-7387, www.co.orange.nc.us/library/cybrary

Garden Walk— Niche Gardens hosts guided garden walks with discussions on spring planting, garden maintenance, design and gardening for wildlife. Saturdays, 10am, 1111 Dawson Road, Chapel Hill. Free. 967-0078, www.nichegardens.com

Book Group— A new monthly book discussion group for adults. Third Mondays, 7pm, Chapel Hill Public Library Conference Room

Cancer Survivors Workshop— The UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center offers, "Cancer Transitions: Moving Beyond Treatment," to help cancer survivors bridge the gap between cancer treatment and life following cancer. Tuesdays through May 5, 4-6:30pm, 1700 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Job Search Workshop— Job search strategies for professionals. Tuesdays and Thursdays through April 30, 1-4pm, Orange County Skills Development/Job Skills Center, 503 W. Franklin St. 969-3032

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

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

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

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

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

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



Do you have anything for one of our calendars?
Send your submissions to calendar@carrborocitizen.com

wine sale & show!

wine sale: April 3 - April 22

The sale will feature a selection of favorite and fine wines from around the world at **discounts up to 44% off regular price!**
10% regular case discount applies on top of sale price!
This is a "no risk" wine sale - you can taste all these wines

at the **Wine Shows:**
Saturday, April 4, 1 - 5 pm in Hillsborough
and **Saturday, April 11, 1 - 5 pm** at Southern Village
and **Saturday, April 18, 1 - 5 pm** on the lawn in Carrboro

Weaver Street Market: Carrboro 7:30 am - 9 pm M-F
8 am - 9 pm Sat/Sun 929-0010
Weaver Street Market: Southern Village 7 am - 9 pm Daily 929-2009
Weaver Street Market: Hillsborough 7 am - 9 pm Daily 245-5050

wine show:
Saturday, April 4 1 - 5 pm HILLSBOROUGH
or
Saturday, April 11 1 - 5 pm SOUTHERN VILLAGE
or
Saturday, April 18 1 - 5 pm CARRBORO

tickets \$5 . . . proceeds benefit WSM Cooperative Community Fund.
taste . . . choose from 38 wines!
enjoy . . . music, hors d'oeuvres, and your favorite wines at great values!

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7 am - 9 pm

HILLSBOROUGH:
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Open 7 Days:
7 am - 9 pm

Hey!

Where's the Cradle ad?
For this week's ad, look on the back page of MILL, our monthly arts and entertainment publication. Next week you can find it back here on page 2.

Read us online:
carrborocitizen.com/main

News Briefs

Land swap nixed

Orange County has dropped plans for a possible land swap with OWASA to build a solid-waste transfer station in Bingham Township.

The county had narrowed the search for a transfer station site to two sites on N.C. 54 West near Orange Grove Road — a 43-acre parcel owned by OWASA and a privately owned 147-acre parcel. The county is under a tight timeline to build a waste transfer station, as the Orange County Landfill is expected to reach capacity in spring 2011.

However, the OWASA board has said it would not sell the property, and in a recent letter to county officials indicated that the utility would not consider a land swap after county officials posed the question.

New county attorney appointed

The Orange County Board of Commissioners named John L. Roberts as the new attorney for Orange County.

Roberts comes to Orange County from Stanly County east of Charlotte, where he served as county attorney. Prior to his work there, Roberts served as managing partner of Ferrell & Atwater, a law firm in Raleigh. He has a bachelor's degree in law studies from Davenport College and a juris doctorate from N.C. Central University. He also holds a master's degree in public administration from N.C. State University and completed a certificate program in municipal and county administration from the School of Government at UNC.

Roberts will begin work as county attorney on April 23. He replaces Geof Gledhill who served as primary legal counsel to Orange County for more than 30 years.

School board meeting

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education meets tonight (Thursday) at 7 at the Chapel Hill Town Hall on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

The top item on the agenda is the approval of the school board's operating budget request for 2009-10. Other items on the agenda include:

- discussion of potential budget reductions;
- the Child Nutrition Program review; and
- a revised schedule for school board meetings.

For the complete agenda, visit chccs.k12.nc.us

Drinking water changes

On April 1, OWASA resumed the use of chloramines for disinfection of drinking water instead of chlorine, which was used during the month of March. Customers noticed a taste and odor in the water because of the chlorine, which may still be noticeable in the first two weeks of April.

The purpose of the state-required March chlorine disinfection was to help ensure the high quality of the community's public water mains. For more information, contact Sandra Bradshaw at 537-4206 or sbradshaw@owasa.org or Ken Loflin at 537-4232 or kloflin@owasa.org

Mayor floats modest proposal

Readers of OrangePolitics.org were treated to an April Fool's prank courtesy of Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton.

"I have been thinking more and more lately about how inappropriate the name 'Carrboro' is for a town that is so focused on alternatives to the single occupant motor vehicle," Chilton wrote on the popular blog. "I mean, I realize the town is named after Julian Shakespeare Carr, rather than the ubiquitous vehicle of the 20th century, but still . . . having our town's name begin with that object that we are working so hard against just makes no sense to me. . . . So if I may, I would like to offer up a proposed new name for our town — one which will more properly reflect our town's environmental ethic: Bikeboro. We would have to get the legislature to pass a bill amending our town charter, but I think they might go along. What do you guys think?"

Rogers Road Task Force releases report

BY TAYLOR SISK
Staff Writer

The Rogers Road Small Area Plan Task Force released its final report at last Thursday night's Assembly of Governments meeting, laying out a timeline for providing water and sewage that Rev. Robert Campbell, co-chair of the Rogers-Eubanks Coalition to End Environmental Racism, says he is "well pleased with." Now comes the business of finding grant money to get the work done.

Prior to discussion of the report by the Assembly of Governments, comprised of the Orange County Board of Commissioners and the town boards of the county's municipalities, Rev. Campbell submitted a petition and proposed resolution calling for OWASA

water and sewer connections to all residences in the Rogers-Eubanks community presently without functioning connections.

A timeline included in the final report indicates that a work group comprised of members of each governing board will be established in April.

"We can't hold ourselves to be the liberal bastion of North Carolina if we don't do what we say we're going to do."

"This addresses what we laid out in our petition," Campbell said earlier this week. He added, though, that he wants to see at least two members of the Rogers-Eubanks community also named to the work group.

Among the final report's recommendations are that the towns and the county should collaborate

to identify and secure funds to be used to finance the entire cost of OWASA water and sewer connections to homes in the Rogers-Eubanks community "as part of the compensation for the 37 years of hosting the Orange County Landfill and other solid waste facilities." A list of potential funding sources

was attached; these include the USDA Rural Development, the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center and the N.C. Division of Water Quality.

Other recommendations in the report include bus service to the community; improved transportation access for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians; a road to connect the neighborhood with Weaver Dairy Road; and more recreational facilities. It also states that the Town of Chapel Hill should "take the lead in initiating intergovernmental land

use discussions . . . by articulating a new vision for growth in the area."

"I think it's a very good plan," said Carrboro Alderman Joal Hall Broun, who served on the task force. "I'm hopeful the three jurisdictions in southern Orange County will move forward with water and sewage for that area." The question, she said is "how much staff time will be devoted to finding funds in a very challenging [economic] environment."

"We've been working on this forever, it seems," said Carrboro Alderman Jacquie Gist. "I just hope the [work group] can actually do something this time," acknowledging that, "The will is there."

"I'll be very dissatisfied if we don't work hard toward what we say we're going to work toward," Broun added. "We can't hold ourselves to be the liberal bastion of North Carolina if we don't do what we say we're going to do."

Former local now citizen of 'The World'

BY MARGOT C. LESTER
Staff Writer

Longtime locals are hearing a familiar voice on WUNC-FM these days. "The World," a joint venture between the BBC and Public Radio International, now airs at 3 p.m. weekdays on 91.5 and features former Carrboro resident Marco Werman. *The Citizen* caught up with Werman via email while he was on assignment in Bogotá, Colombia.



Q. Why should listeners tune in to "The World"?

A. Because every ice cream shop needs many flavors, and despite recent shifts in the way America is perceived in the world, this country definitely still needs to be better aware of "out there." We get to decide what is the most important news story of the day from anywhere in the world. We try hard to offer news that no one else is going to have, but when you hear it, you'll wonder why other outlets didn't have it.

Q. How'd you get started in radio?

A. I was mad about photography and wanted to be W. Eugene Smith or Burk Uzzle. I took tons of photos in the Peace Corps in Togo, West Africa. I loved it there, stayed on to

freelance, writing for the AP in Burkina Faso. But to pay my bills, I was ready to file for anyone who was interested in a dateline from Ouagadougou. The BBC World Service had a regional service for Africa, and I started to file. I had grown up without TV, so spent a lot of my time listening to radio and spoken-word records. I managed to teach myself how to produce sound-rich radio features. A year after I started with the BBC, I won a Sony radio prize for a documentary I produced on child labor in gold mines in Burkina Faso.

Q. What interview had you the most excited/star-struck? Why?

A. [Musician] Ali Farka Toure in his village in Mali. [President] Evo Morales at the Bolivian mission to the UN, when he asked his aide to find us some coca leaf to chew. The aide demurred.

Q. What did you want to be when you were growing up in Carrboro?

A. I think at first a fireman. But I was one of those weirdo kids who knew at a young age pretty much what I wanted to do with my life. Journalist always struck me as the neat intersection of writer and investigator-of-many-things, and having the freedom because you are a "journalist" to call anyone up or knock on any door, and ask whatever you want of the person, as long as you are ready to face certain disappointing responses, ranging from a slammed door or a simple "no comment." But when you strike gold, it's great.

I won second place when I was 13 in the N.C. Young Filmmaker's competition sponsored by WUNC-TV. Somewhere in their archive should be my version of "Tora Tora Tora," revisited by me a la *Rushmore* in my bathtub and in the creek behind our house up near Airport Road. I really can't believe that

it won anything. But it decided for me what professional direction I was going to take.

Q. What would it surprise people to know about you?

A. I may be the only person on the planet who can say this, or has the nerve to say this: Though I went to Duke, I support both UNC and Duke hoops. Hey, I grew up in Chapel Hill. That Carolina blue gets under your skin, stays there, and no amount of indoctrination can change that. When I was a kid, Bob McAdoo gave me his autograph on Franklin Street. You can't shake that.

Q. What else do you want our readers to know about you?

A. I think N.C. barbecue is a high art. I'm a little obsessive when it comes to food, and I feel guilty sometimes that I am, since there are so many people who don't have even bad food to eat. But ultimately, I don't want to relax my standards, because of the value I place on what I eat. I do think it's important to the planet that you don't over-dress a salad, and that chicken doesn't have to taste like Kleenex. I would explain that deeper, but then I'd be obsessing.

'Drive Carrboro' group gets rolling

Tired of poking through neighborhoods and creeping over speed tables in your SUV?

If a new Carrboro association has any say about it, you may soon be pressing just a bit harder on the old accelerator.

The Carrboro Automotive Service Association (CASA) announced Wednesday (April 1) its new initiative aimed at promoting increased automobile use in Carrboro. They're calling the promotion "Drive Carrboro."

CASA spokesperson Shirley

U. Guest explains the promotion, saying "In these tough economic conditions, getting folks quickly and easily from their homes to shops becomes very important. While we think walking and biking are good for you, they just don't do as much to stimulate the local economy as the good old auto."

Guest added, "We're going to propose that the town raise speed limits in residential areas and eliminate most speed tables. These things just don't work anyway."

When asked about the increased pollution likely to be caused by more automobile use, Guest said, "CASA feels strongly that there's already so much hot air in Carrboro that no one's going to notice a little more."

Other advocacy items looming large in CASA's windshield are the elimination of crosswalks and the four-laning of Greensboro Street/Hillsborough Road.

"All we have to do is eliminate the bike lanes, and widening those streets becomes very feasible," Guest said. "Then we could

raise the speed limit to 45 or 50 and we'd really be rolling."

Guest points skeptics to Cary as a town that really honors the automobile and its important place in our economy.

"The faster Mom can get the kids to soccer practice, the more time she's got to spend shopping," Guest said. "Cary," she added, "gets it."

So you might want to take an extra look before you step off that curb. CASA's coming.

— STAFF REPORTS

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The Carrboro Citizen is free to pick up at our many locations throughout Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Pittsboro and Hillsborough. Subscriptions are also available via first class mail and are \$78 per year. Send a check to The Citizen, Post Office Box 248, Carrboro, N.C. 27510. Visa/Mastercard are also accepted. Please contact Anne Billings at 919-942-2100 for credit card orders.

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Questions? Contact Orange County Solid Waste Management
968-2788 or email recycling@co.orange.nc.us

Briefs

'Democracy Now!'s Goodman to visit

Amy Goodman, host of the radio and TV show "Democracy Now!," will be coming to the Triangle on Wednesday as part of the show's 13th anniversary tour. A catered reception will be held at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at the Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4907 Garrett Road in Durham. Goodman will then speak at 7 in the church sanctuary.

Goodman will be talking about her new book, *Standing Up to the Madness: Ordinary Heroes in Extraordinary Times* — co-written with her brother, investigative journalist David Goodman — an examination of the power of grassroots America.

This event is sponsored by local independent media organizations WCOM 103.5, WNCU 90.7, The Peoples Channel (cable channel 8) and Balance & Accuracy in Journalism.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$30 at the door. More information is available at the respective sponsors' websites or by calling 619-6546 or 444-1532.

UNC Relay for Life

UNC's annual Relay for Life will be held Friday at the Fetzer Field and Belk Track on the UNC campus. The event provides an opportunity for everyone involved to raise funds and awareness to support the American Cancer Society's life-saving mission. For more information, visit uncrelay.org

CHHS spring musical tickets on sale

Tickets for the performances of *Urinetown*, a production of the Chapel Hill High School, have gone on sale this week. The musical will be put on in late April. *Urinetown* has been entered in the North Carolina Theater Capital Awards, the high school equivalent of the Tony Awards, and is the first production in the district to be entered in this prestigious contest. Look for more information about the times and dates of the production later in April.

WSJ's Murray to give newspaper talk

The *Wall Street Journal's* Alan Murray will give a public lecture on "The Future of Newspapers: Some Light at the End of a Very Long Tunnel," today (Thursday) at 5:30 p.m. in the Carroll Hall auditorium on the UNC campus.

Murray was Washington bureau chief for *The Journal* for a decade, during which time the bureau won three Pulitzer Prizes. He earned his bachelor's degree at UNC.

OBITUARIES

Helen Luetta Siems Slingerland

Helen L. Slingerland, 80, entered into Glory of her Lord on March, 2009. She died from complications following surgery after gallantly fighting and surviving cancer for ten years. She was born March 20, 1929 in Roselle, IL to Henry Siems and Emma Lichthardt Siems. She is predeceased by her loving husband, Walter R. Slingerland, Jr.

She is survived by her daughters, Mary Helen Owens of Mebane and Lisa Slingerland Wallis of Shanghai, China; sons-in-law, Robert E. Owens and Mark S. Wallis; grandchildren, Sarah K. Owens, Mark S. Wallis II and Andrew W. Wallis.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 4, 2009 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Worship Center, 227 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, 27514. Rev. David Hood will officiate. Interment will be in Schaumburg, IL at St. Peter Lutheran Church cemetery.

Helen and Walter lived in Schaumburg, IL until retiring to Ft. Myers Beach and Naples, FL. They relocated to The Cedars of Chapel Hill in 2004.

The family expresses deepest gratitude and appreciation to the Duke University Hospital doctors, nurses and staff for their compassionate and diligent care.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Arrangements by Walkers Funeral Home, (919) 942-3861.

Nancy Mae Walker Pruden

Nancy Mae Walker Pruden, 87, of Burlington, Chapel Hill, Edenton and Nags Head passed away on March 28, 2009 in Hillsborough, NC.

There will be a celebration of her life at Crooks Corner in Chapel Hill on April 4, 2009 at 11 a.m. and a memorial service on April 18, 2009 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Edenton, NC. Services will be handled by Walker's Funeral Home in Chapel Hill, NC.

Mrs. Pruden was born on November 4, 1921 and raised in Burlington, NC, the daughter of Dr. Walter E. and Carrie Mae Walker.

She was devoted to her family and friends and liked nothing better than to gather with her husband, Jack McMullan Pruden, her children and friends on the back porch of the Pruden cottage at Nags Head. Mrs. Pruden was known for her beautiful singing voice and was often accompanied on the piano by her husband. She is remembered for her sense of humor and her love of a good story.

Mrs. Pruden is survived by three children, J.C. Bagwell, III of Tallahassee, FL, McMullan (Mack) Pruden, Jr. of Chapel Hill and Walker Pruden of Waves, NC; and three grandchildren, Sophie Rose Pruden, Jack Pruden and Sam Pruden. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack, and her daughter, Nancy Pruden, of Chapel Hill.

Richard M. MacLeod

Richard Morrison MacLeod, 74, passed away March 18, 2009 after a long-term illness. He was born in Springfield, Mass. November 25, 1934 to Roderick and Gertrude MacLeod. At the tender age of 17 year old,

Richard entered into the United States Air Force and spent the next 22 years serving his country. He was very proud of his military service and retired in 1973. During his service years he spent much time overseas, twice in Europe, and during the Vietnam War, he spent two tours in Thailand in a supporting role of the war. After retirement from the Air Force, he and his family moved to Broward County, Fla. and spent the next 36 years there before moving to North Carolina. He worked as a social worker for Broward County for 25 years and retired in 1999. While working as a social worker, he started a very successful mobile unit. He helped many county residents and found many friends during this service. Being retired was not in his plans, so he worked part time for the County Homeless Program for the following six years. Then he decided he wanted to "play more," so he and his wife of 50 years spent these last years traveling and cruising the oceans.

He leaves his wife of 50 years, Janice MacLeod, of Pittsboro, NC; and a sister, Margaret (Ernest) Smith of Holden, MA. He also leaves two daughters, Lisa (Mark) Gough, of Pittsboro NC; and Cheryl (Matthew) Stanislawski of Boynton Beach, FL; and a son, Richard (Holly) MacLeod of Durham NC. He also leaves six grandchildren, Kelly (Michael) Boyd, Nicholas Stanislawski, Melissa Stanislawski, Jahn Billaber, Charli and Nina MacLeod. His children and grandchildren were the most important gifts he gave to this world.

A memorial service will be held to celebrate his life at Walker's Funeral Home on Friday, March 27, 2009. In lieu of flowers, please feel free to give to American Lung Association, or any other charity of your choice.

Association, or any other charity of your choice.

Thomas F. Gilchrist

Thomas F. Gilchrist died Sunday, March 22, 2009 at the University of North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill, NC after a brief struggle with thyroid cancer. He was 72.

Born June 23, 1936 in Macomb, IL, and raised in Shreveport, LA, he graduated from Mercersburg Academy and from Northwestern University with a B.A. in English. He received his M.D. from Tulane University and completed both his internship and pathology residency at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. He later completed a forensic pathology residency at the Dallas County Institute of Forensic Sciences. From 1967 to 1970 he served in the United States Army at the 406th Med Lab at Camp Zama, Japan, attaining the rank of Major.

A resident of Chapel Hill since 2003, Dr. Gilchrist was retired from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Farmington, CT, where he served for 13 years as Associate Medical Examiner. During his career he also practiced in New Orleans, Dallas and Montgomery, AL.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Gale K. Gilchrist. Also surviving are his son Robert of Shreveport, LA, and wife Leslye and their two sons, Jackson and Aidan; his son Reid of Los Angeles; and his daughter Tracy Link of Carrboro, NC, and husband Mac and their two daughters Mallory and Kathryn.

A memorial service was held on March 26 at the Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill.

Memorial gifts may be made to "The Light on the Hill Campaign," The Chapel of the Cross, 304 East Franklin St., Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

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1 Gung-ho	55 Road curve	108 Pavlova	city	Flowers	male
5 Petite	56 "Ticket —"	109 — May	7 Runway	puppet	90 Dandy
9 pooch	57 (65 hit)	110 Oliver	figure	44 A hole near	92 Yearn
8 Curly coif	58 Gadget	111 Nonclerical	8 Wardrobe	the sole	93 Cavalry
12 Easter	61 It may be	112 Spitz sound	9 Pread	46 Author	characteristic
essential	62 square	113 Hamilton bill	10 "Puttin' on	48 Sheehy	95 Murphy
18 Actress	64 Elsie's	114 Besides	the —"	49 Great bird?	role
Merrill	66 Platinum or	115 Pluck	(29 song)	50 Cotton —	97 Society
19 Crooner	potassium	116 Aware of	11 Nursery	49 Computer	acronym
Perry	67 Picnic area	120 Pirate's	12 Nursery	51 — Kippur	99 Essential
20 Harness	68 Connection	121 Quaff	item	52 Ring	103 Solemn
part	72 Celebrity	122 Canine fairy	13 Edgar —	59 Cornfield	statement
21 Liama kin	73 Act human	129 Captivated	Poe	59 Cornfield	104 Envious
22 Faction	74 Canine	131 Christiania,	14 Shows	cry	105 Citrus fruit
23 Pin part	75 Canine	today	15 Cabbage	60 Correct a	106 Once in a
24 Swimmer	football	132 List ender	cousin	text	blue moon
Biondi	79 TV's "You	133 Set of	16 Author	62 Pat on the	109 Horrified
25 Alpine	event	135 Thread	17 Flat hat	buns?"	113 Baby
event	"Your	136 Fuel choice	19 Imp's	63 Colosseum	basenji
26 Canine	Life"	80 Trusting	opposite	completer	116 Drive off
movie?"	82 Break	sort	27 Chianti	65 Took the	118 Draconian
30 Augsburg	83 Trencher-	83 Trencher-	color	plunge	119 Furry
article	man	man	28 — out	68 Adams or	fisherman
31 Jai —	85 Certain	138 "La Douce"	(help)	McClurg	121 Rap or rock
32 Sup in style	prisoner	139 Blab	29 Superstar	70 "Vissi d—"	122 Tare's
33 Tiffany	87 Recode	140 Alan of	33 Buck's	relative	123 Supreme
treasure	88 Medieval	"Laugh-In"	34 Earth"	aria)	leader?
36 Failure	89 Pro-gun	grp	34 Actress	71 Around the	124 Jacob's twin
38 Roth —	91 Polish a	142 Astrology	Sommer	corner	125 Czech river
40 An Everly	brother	term	35 Canine	73 Intertwine	126 Tra —
brother	manuscript	94 Batman's	TV	74 Inveighed	(against)
41 Identical	94 Batman's	butler	76 Personify	77 Defy a	127 Spiritual
45 Colleague	of Yves and	Christian	TV	77 Defy a	guide
of Yves and	Christian	96 Brit. lexicon	personality?	dictator	128 Jazzman
47 Canine	98 NASA	98 Brit. lexicon	37 — Peres,	Zoot	129 CT hours
comic	99 affirmative	2 Survey	MO	78 Hwy	130 Long or
strip?"	100 Brad for	3 Foot part	39 Justice	81 — -de-	Peoples
52 Kyser or	one	4 Saw	Fortas	lance	134 Eavesdrop
Starr	101 Co. Kingpin	socially	40 Toy fate	84 Sicilian	electronically
53 Gumbo	102 Canine	5 Meter	42 Canine	smoker	
veggie	aircraft?"	reader?"	singer?"	86 Agt.	

CitizenCryptoquote By Martin Brody

For example, YAPHYAPLM 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.

"Is Meaning Necessary?"

J P P F , Y E P Y B Q G X B S

G P J Q X L Y P F S N P A B Q P R

C M Z M F J Q J O E M A . Y E Q T

A Y P B Y Q S O R P T M F Z M Y ,

P F S M Y Z X Y B Q P R C M Z .

S X F ' Y H F X N N E T -

Y E Q R T B M G A E P S F X

J Q P F M F Z .

- Q R U M A O B Q A R Q T

Find the answer in the puzzle answer section.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★ ★

★ Moderate ★ ★ Challenging
★ ★ ★ HOO BOY!

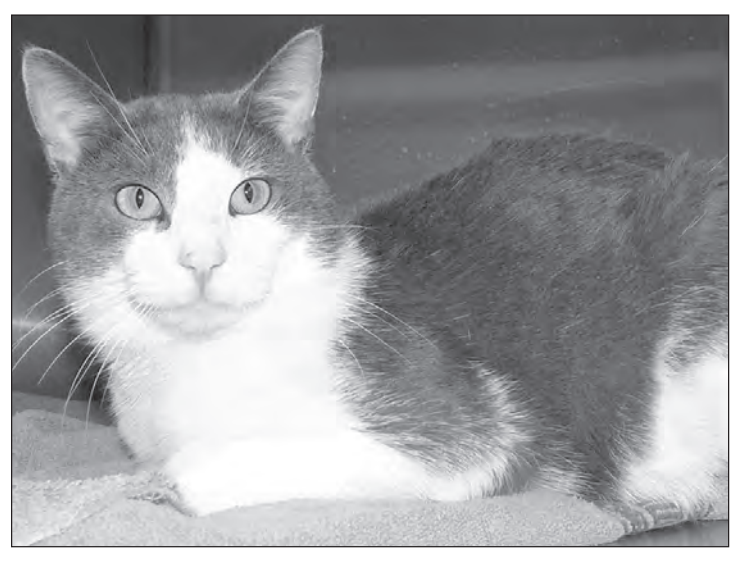
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PETS OF THE WEEK

PAWS4EVER — My name is Lea!



I'm a GSD mis sable and black female, and in case you haven't noticed, I am a happy, happy dog! As soon as you meet me, you will find that my smile is contagious! This girl has a great big personality that is reflected in everything she does, beginning with her charming prance. Lea loves to play ball, or with other dogs, or with you! Everyone is her friend. Lea is a beautiful gal inside and out. Come see her at Paws4Ever, 6311 Nicks Road, Mebane, or call 304-2300. You can also go online at paws4ever.org



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SCHOOLS
FROM PAGE 1

"Smaller schools, by nature, require more faculty, and therefore funding, per student to be able to offer a similar breadth of courses to students," parent Susana Dancy said. "Yet, the school district uses the same formula for allocating teaching positions as it does for the larger schools. As a result, the course offerings are thin, the teachers stretched, and the learning is therefore compromised."

Dancy also pointed out that the teachers at Carrboro High are less experienced than those at the other two high schools.

"While I do not have complaints about our teachers, I think it is unfortunate that we are asking our least experienced teachers to teach more courses to a student

body with a larger at-risk population," she said.

About 24 percent of Carrboro High students receive free or reduced-cost lunches, compared with 18 percent of students at Chapel Hill and 13 percent at East Chapel Hill. In addition, 12 percent of Carrboro High students are ESL students, compared with 6 percent at Chapel Hill and 8 percent at East.

Board members will review the budget tonight and prepare for more than \$3 million in potential cuts to state and local funding by identifying possible reductions, which could include personnel cuts, a decrease in local salary supplements, furloughs for staff and more.

For more information, including budget documents, visit chccs.k12.nc.us

School Briefs

Phillips symphonic band earns honors

The Phillips Middle School Symphonic Band earned superior ratings at the North Carolina Central District Band Festival on March 19 at Graham High School.

The band performed "Courage March" by Harold Bennett, "Moscow 1941" by Brian Balmages and "Silverbrook" by Michael Sweeney.

The 48-member ensemble is directed by Jane Cutchin.

CHHS junior earns Spanish award

Chapel Hill High School junior Eliza Longnecker won the 2009 Junior Travel Award for her achievement on the National Spanish Exam.

Longnecker placed first in North Carolina on last year's Level IV exam. The award, valued at more than \$3,000, is given each year to eight students from across the country. Longnecker and the other winners will travel to Peru in July.

Phillips Mathcounts team places at state contest

The Phillips Middle School Mathcounts team finished fourth in the state at the State Mathcounts Competition at the North Carolina School of Science and Math in Durham.

Team members include Yu Wang, Alex Kelly, Koya Osada and Maggie Xing.

In addition, Wang finished fourth in the state in the individual competition and qualified to represent North Carolina at the national competition in Florida in May.

Seawell students win Scrabble tournament

Seawell Elementary School fifth-grade students Jeffrey He and Edward Zhuang won the North Carolina School Scrabble Tournament on Feb. 28.

Smith Middle School seventh-graders Josh Hennen and Christopher Change earned second place, while Seawell fifth-graders Amalan Iyengar and Liam Hopfensberger came in third.

He and Zhuang will travel to Rhode Island in April to represent North Carolina in the National School Scrabble Championship.

Governor's School students

Twenty-nine students from Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE KNOTT

Fourth graders at Frank Porter Graham Elementary recently presented their second annual Arts in Action Performance. This year's show was entitled "Viva Mexico: Exploring the Zocalo" and featured guest performances by Principal Shelia Burnette, Assistant Principal Cindy Daniels and the fourth-grade teachers.

were selected for the 2009 Governor's School of North Carolina.

Selected Carrboro High School students and their subjects are: Meredith Q. Allen, Spanish; Emily K. Johnston, Choral Music; Laura M. Pinto-Coelho, Spanish; Melanie F. Rio, Drama; Dafne G. Sanchez Aguirre, Art; and Louis O. Vaught, Choral Music.

Selected Chapel Hill High School students and their subjects are: Arjun Ajmani, Social Science; Alexander L. Boyd, Instrumental Music; Kaela R. Cogswell, Dance; Emily C. Goldman, Choral Music; Morgan H. Grobin, Choral Music; Anran Li, Instrumental Music; Jenny Lu, Instrumental Music; Elizabeth P. Simpson, Choral Music; and Caroline S. Williams, Social Science.

Selected East Chapel Hill High School students and their subjects are: Aman S. Bali, French; Joanna W. Barnett, Drama; Emilie I. Chen, Instrumental Music; Kelton V. Hollister, Choral Music; Mary M. Hu, Instrumental Music; Young-Eun Hyun, Instrumental Music; David J. Lee, Mathematics; Abigail Lin, Instrumental Music; Emer N. O'Reilly, Instrumental Music; Xuzhe Shen, Mathematics; David W. Smith, Choral Music; Kening Wang, Natural Science; Nicholas C. White, Choral Music; and Kou Xu, Natural Science.

The Governor's School is a statewide summer residential program for academically or intellectually gifted high school students. Students will attend sessions at Salem College or Meredith College from June 14 to July 25.

National Merit finalists

Thirty Chapel Hill-Carrboro students were selected as 2009 National Merit Scholarship Finalists and two students were selected as National Achievement Finalists.

Carrboro High School National Merit Finalists include Erin Harrington, Schyuler Klystra and Julianne Ragland. Carrboro High student Colby Isabel was selected as a National Achievement Finalist.

Chapel Hill High School National Merit Finalists are Sarah Anderson, Mary Ann Anstine, Julie Crimmins, Robert Gollmar, Mariana Hernandez, Andrew Hertzberg, Erin Humphries, Sara Outing, Ranjit Poonnen, Ellen Porter, Maria Van Aalst and Megan Westman.

East Chapel Hill High School National Merit Finalists are Alexandru Bacanu, Tyler Bench, Isabel Blue, Jennifer Huang, Bernard Jiang, Wujun Ke, Arthur Kim, Rebecca Lange, Rachel Liao, Charmaine Mutucamarana, Preetha Nandi, Thomas Price, Millie Rosen, Carter Ruff

and Alan Toda-Ambaras. Monica Lallinger was selected as a National Achievement Finalist.

High school students qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the PSAT/NMSQT, a test taken by more than a million students each year. About 15,000 students are selected as National Merit Finalists. The National Achievement Scholarship Program serves as a competition for black high school students. Of 150,000 students enrolled in the program, about 1,300 are selected as finalists.

Culbreth students raise \$1,000 for international charity

Culbreth Middle School students recently raised \$1,000 for the International Justice Mission through a coin drive, "Loose Change to Loosen Chains."

The International Justice Mission fights childhood slavery in third-world countries. The student chapter of the organization conducted the coin drive.

Students presented a check to the organization during a special ceremony last week.

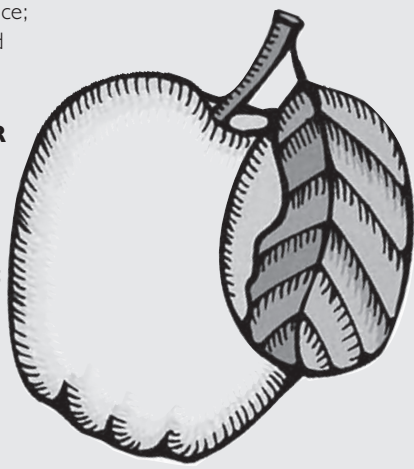
Chapel Hill - Carrboro School Lunch Menus
APRIL 3-9

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MONDAY-THURSDAY SCHOOL CLOSED FOR SPRING BREAK!

MIDDLE + HIGH FRIDAY — Manager's Choice; Steamed Vegetables; Canned Fruit; Fresh Fruit Variety

MONDAY-THURSDAY SCHOOL CLOSED FOR SPRING BREAK!



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... Biz Blog ... Hanking for a local angle on breaking business news? *The Citizen* has started the Orange County Housing & Economy blog (carrborocitizen.com/housing) to sate your jones. In addition to late-breaking news, the blog also features personnel and business announcements. Got something you'd like us to post? For consideration send it to:

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LETTERS

Let's set the record straight

The Orange County Board of Commissioners seeks to avoid a tax increase in 2009 and is committed to spending cuts and a revenue neutral tax rate (no increase in income to the county).

We accept the county attorney's opinion that rescinding the 2009 revaluation is not legal at this date, and believe that such an adjustment would not solve our collective and individual financial difficulties.

The other night the commissioners directed the county manager to produce a budget for fiscal year 2009-10 that reflects a rate of spending no higher than supported by a revenue neutral tax rate. Assumed is a spending level reduced by a minimum of \$8.7 million from 2008-09, about five percent.

The manager also was asked to provide recommendations for additional, significant, targeted cuts below that rate of spending. Those reductions, to be considered later this spring, could allow property taxes to be set below the revenue neutral rate. Further cuts will be balanced against our historic commitment to public safety, education, environmental protection, and support for those least able to help themselves.

The commissioners agreed to apply the same cap on increases for all taxing districts, including the district tax for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and fire department tax rates, subject to consultation with each affected entity.

The commissioners pledged to dedicate 48.1 percent of Orange County's spending to our public schools, a previously agreed-upon target that maintains a longstanding tradition of superior support for education.

We also directed staff to send letters that offer assistance in reviewing and reducing appraised values to the approximately 10 percent of Orange County property owners who saw the largest valuation increases, 40 percent or more. (The average increase was 24 percent.) County staff will assist with appeals through June 2009. The back page of the letter will provide eligibility information for seniors and the handicapped seeking homestead exemptions and circuit breaker assistance under state law.

The Orange County commissioners understand and share concerns raised by taxation, government spending, and shrinking services in these difficult economic times. We remain committed to responding to, and balancing, the needs of all the residents of Orange County.

—VALERIE FOUSHEE, ALICE GORDON, PAM HEMMINGER, BARRY JACOBS, MIKE NELSON, BERNADETTE PELISSIER, STEVE YUHASZ

Article lacking

I found the article about the Chapel Hill Town Council's Aydan Court decision of March 23 inadequate in its coverage of the actual facts of the meeting, beginning with the headline, "Tempers fly."

One could say that the only temper displayed that evening was that of developer Carol Ann Zinn, who despite Mayor Foy's disclosure the previous week that he was inclined to turn down the proposed RSSC zoning that needed to be instated for the Aydan Court project to be built, directed her indignation toward the council.

The mayor and councilman Czajkowski responded firmly, but calmly, defending the decision. There could be no discussion of Aydan Court without the passage of the proposed zoning, as Czajkowski pointed out — without the zoning, no project of such density could be discussed for the proposed site.

The real danger here is that such a zoning might then serve as a future precedent. Not only is it inappropriate for such a project to be built on an ecologically sensitive site, given the density of a number of projects currently underway on the Highway 54 corridor, it seems particularly unnecessary at this point in time.

I, for one, am proud of the Town Council for taking a strong, independent stand in this instance. Indeed, I hope the message that reverberates throughout the community is that the Town Council has begun a new era of shaping a thoughtful debate about the future growth of Chapel Hill.

MICHELE NATALE
Chapel Hill

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CITIZEN

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It may be cruel but it ain't unusual

STEVE PEHA

"Academic genocide." That's how Judge Howard Manning characterized the performance of the Halifax County school district last month. Harsh language to say the least, and I'm sure the judge didn't toss it around lightly. But as strong as this turn of phrase may be, the situation it describes is all too common in our country: entire school districts, many in rural areas, with abysmal academic performances.

Currently there are over 3,500 schools in the U.S. that have failed to meet the No Child Left Behind's (NCLB) Annual Yearly Progress requirement for seven years in a row. If you add to that the even larger numbers of schools who've failed just six or five or four years in a row, you can imagine possibly tens of thousands of situations where the term "academic genocide" might apply.

The real tragedy here is not the number of schools doing so poorly but how easy it might be to help them. I say "might" because helping schools like these requires those who work in them to trade in their traditional notions of teaching and learning for contemporary practices that are foreign to them.

The good news, if there is any, is that virtually all troubled schools have the same problem: poor literacy instruction.

Literacy is the foundation of school success. But kids in troubled schools

rarely start out with a strong foundation. The culprit here, in many cases, is publisher-supplied programmed instruction. Rather than using the latest information about how to teach reading and writing effectively, teachers blindly follow a textbook-based program, and even sometimes lesson-by-lesson scripts.

This kind of traditional teaching has two main drawbacks: teachers pay more attention to their programs than they do to their pupils, and everyone ends up having to do the same thing, the same way, at the

Virtually everything at school depends on a student's ability to read and write. And literacy is even more crucial as kids hit middle and high school. At many troubled schools, more than half of the entering high schoolers are already more than two years below grade level. How can they tackle the demands of social studies, science and math if they can't read the content?

In my career as an education consultant, I'll bet I've visited more than 100 schools where literacy instruction is so poor, and

This is where we get to the heart of education reform. The practices we need to implement are well known and well documented. But the majority of teachers in our country don't want to use them. And the majority of principals don't want to require them. On a certain level, this is understandable. Change is hard. And dramatic change is even harder. But when we as a nation bought into standards and testing and NCLB, we bought into the idea of dramatic change. Given the way our laws work, it was inevitable that many schools would be unsuccessful.

For schools that reach the lower rungs of NCLB, an uncertain fate awaits. Technically, these schools can be turned over to the state and reorganized. But in these reorganizations, one set of ineffective practices is often replaced with another. Results may improve slightly in the short run but they don't make the grade in the long run.

The part we're missing in all of this is that changing the way a school works means changing the way teachers teach. This is especially true with literacy. Without a sound approach to literacy, students have no more chance of success in a reorganized school than they had before.

Steve Peha is president of Teaching That Makes Sense, Inc., a K-12 education consultancy based in Carrboro.

"The practices we need to implement are well known and well documented. But the majority of teachers in our country don't want to use them."

same time, on the same day. Differentiation, which research tells us is key to success, is almost impossible, and therefore rarely attempted.

Another problem with publisher-supplied curricula is that writing gets short shrift. Writing is essential to a child's language development and must be given just as much time as reading. But many teachers don't like to teach writing because they aren't good writers themselves, and they have never learned to teach writing well because they've always relied on publisher-supplied resources that push writing to the side. That's if they attempt to tackle it all.

resulting student literacy rates are so low, that a term like "academic genocide" might be applicable. What has always fascinated me about these schools is that everyone in them is aware of the problem; that's usually why they hire me. But when I provide training, materials and classroom demonstrations in more effective contemporary practices, teachers and administrators act surprised. Does my practice differ from theirs? Yes, it does; often dramatically. Is there work involved in learning a new way of teaching? Yes, there is; often a lot.

Real reform of the state health plan

ADAM SEARING AND ADAM LINKER

Legislation to reform the State Health Plan that would shift more costs onto struggling state workers is currently rushing through the General Assembly. This would amount to a salary cut in a time of economic crisis. Legislators must carefully consider proposed changes to the State Health Plan before further burdening thousands of families across the state.

If maximum co-insurance is increased to \$2,750, for example, the maximum cost for families with dependent coverage is three times that amount. Therefore, a state employee faces the very real threat of \$8,250 per year in out-of-pocket expenses in the event of a serious illness. That is a distressing prospect.

Legislators must ensure that any reforms to the State Health Plan do not make coverage any more unaffordable and result in more North Carolinians losing health insurance. We should certainly not imitate the broken private insurance industry by charging young workers less and older workers more, as suggested last week by State Health Plan executive director Jack Walker. This sort of proposal will only exacerbate the problems facing the State Health Plan. Sharply higher deductibles and coinsurance now under consideration may also force unhealthy people off of the State Health Plan, and many of these state employees would be unable to obtain coverage in the private market. And making dependent coverage more expensive will chase off more of the healthy children who keep the State Health Plan viable.

Several lawmakers have proposed charging a premium to state employees to make dependent coverage less expensive. But a small premium for

state workers would not make coverage through the State Health Plan cheaper than an individual policy through Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina. And charging a premium to state workers would open the door for large premium increases in the future as lawmakers try to balance the state's books. This is not a solution.

Any workable reform must start with nonprofit Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina. The group is being paid over \$100 million in administrative fees. Legislators must negotiate with the insurance company that administers the State Health Plan to get increased savings and not, as was done last year, simply renegotiate to pay Blue

Additionally, State Health Plan officials want to push wellness initiatives that will actually cost the state more money without any guarantee of long-term savings. The proposal to shift state employees and their dependents into a bottom-tier health plan if they are caught smoking by random tests is invasive and will likely result in some families losing insurance coverage altogether.

Also, according to documents provided to legislators: "Aon Consulting, consulting actuary for the Plan, estimates the smoking cessation program will save approximately \$3.4 million in claims cost for the FY 2010-11. However, the administrative costs to

The General Assembly should concentrate on the short-term cash problems at the State Health Plan instead of policing the private behavior of state employees.

Legislation to reform the State Health Plan is currently speeding through the General Assembly without proper consideration. But lawmakers have bailed out the State Health Plan many times before and simply putting more money into the plan and shifting more costs to state workers did not make the plan financially sound. This time around, legislators need to think creatively about longer-term solutions.

First, lawmakers should focus on solving the short-term cash shortage at the State Health Plan and work with Blue Cross to get additional savings. Legislators should then create a Blue Ribbon Commission of health-policy experts to study the long-term viability of the State Health Plan.

That will allow all interested parties, including health and finance experts, to examine potential options and understand how other states operate. The commission could quickly begin operations before the end of the current legislative session and have a report ready for legislators well before next year. This is far preferable to pushing ill-considered reforms crafted by a small group of people.

If lawmakers follow these recommendations, we can solve the short-term cash crisis and put the State Health Plan on firm financial footing for the long-term without hurting state workers.

Adam Searing and Adam Linker are policy analysts with the N.C. Justice Center's Health Access Coalition.

"Any workable reform must start with nonprofit Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina. The group is being paid over \$100 million in administrative fees."

Cross even more money under existing contracts. Also, legislators should call on Blue Cross to help cover the State Health Plan's cash shortage. The insurance company was given a no-bid contract at attractive rates to administer the State Health Plan. Blue Cross should now use some of its \$1.3 billion in reserves to help the state. Blue Cross makes enough money from the state to quickly replenish its reserves.

Legislators should also commission an independent audit of the State Health Plan to identify potential overpayments. Finally, if Blue Cross will not work with the state to close current funding gaps, then State Health Plan officials should immediately rebid the contract to see if another company can provide the same services as Blue Cross at a better rate.

begin implementation are estimated by Aon to offset any first year savings...Hartman and Associates, consulting actuary for the General Assembly's Fiscal Research Division, does not project any financial impact to the Plan from the proposed smoking cessation program."

While the threat of heavy financial penalties or the loss of health insurance would persuade some state workers to stop smoking, the potential downside and the tenuous savings projections make the costs of implementing this program too great. Instead of invading the privacy of state workers with random nicotine tests, legislators should create positive incentives for employees to stop smoking and step up efforts at smoking-cessation programs.

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REPORT FROM PAGE 1

Chapel Hill Town Council member Sally Greene said she doesn't dispute the results of the study, but has questions about how best to proceed.

"The study itself is solid," she said. "We've got to do some real work about how to use it, because a lot is at stake here."

Greene said that in the Wednesday morning session between the town council and TischlerBise representatives, the role of Chapel Hill Police was discussed. Given the close proximity of Carolina North to the main police station and the fact that the development will include commercial and residential buildings, it may not make sense for the development to rely on the campus police department. Greene said that is an example of how a policy decision could affect the cost to the town.

Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton said that the study is only as good as the data and that there were many things left out that would be difficult to measure, such as the impact of lower air quality and greater traffic congestion.

Chilton said Carrboro will try to stay engaged in the discussion on the project and would like to see university officials give a courtesy presentation to the board of aldermen

once the Carolina North plan is submitted to the Town of Chapel Hill. He said the phasing of the plan is important to how it will impact the area.

"Clearly, UNC is going to build Carolina North," he said. "I'm interested in what order the components come together."

He said he wants to know when bike and pedestrian connections along with additional transit and more park-and-ride facilities west of Carrboro would be provided.

A recording of the briefing and the TischlerBise report is available on the university's Carolina North website at <http://research.unc.edu/cn/specifcics.php>.

RECENTLY FROM PAGE 1

Since that Saturday, a new sign announcing a new policy has been placed in the Carolina North kiosks. "Pets MUST be leashed. It's the law!" signs will now have back-up starting April 1. UNC police will begin addressing the issue of dogs off leash. Anyone with an unleashed dog who has a leash with them will be directed to leash the dog for the rest of their visit. Anyone without a leash will be told that they are expected to have their dog leashed during their next visit. If someone leashes their dog in the presence of forest management staff or UNC police and then removes the leash,

the action will be considered "non-compliance and contempt." Continued action in this vein will lead to a trespass order, and belligerence can lead to an escort off the property in addition to the trespass warning or order.

Then there's the "pet waste station," where little plastic bags for collections and a closed can, for deposits thereof, can be found. No wilderness remains in Chapel Hill or Carrboro, folks; therefore, we must change our ways.

Loose dogs sometimes chase people or the already-encroached upon deer or nose up to a rabies-infected animal (dead or alive). Additionally, letting a dog do what a bear (if any were left around here) would do in the woods is not

the same: What dogs leave behind contains a high degree of *E. coli* cells (because of the high-protein food we give them), which, that close to a creek running through town and eventually into drinking water sources, could potentially create serious health problems.

The university has taken the path of greatest persistence, but one that will ultimately benefit us all. If you use the trails at Carolina North, check out the website (fac.unc.edu/Campus/CarolinaNorth/CarolinaNorth-News) before heading out and try to help them keep human use and nature in fair balance. No matter how hard it is to comply.

BASKETBALL FROM PAGE 1

For these lucky Tar Heels — still in the game with the final weekend at hand — the quotes, the scribes, the indicators, even tea leaves and "the toe" all seem to motion vaguely toward a possible storybook scenario in '09.

It would be an ending in which Tyler, Danny, Bobby, Ty, Wayne, Deon & co. rise above the frustrations of the past two seasons' final-game

crash-and-burns. In this ending, the adversity of injuries to Lawson, Hansbrough, Marcus Ginyard and Tyler Zeller, and the pressure of trying to succeed while living under a magnifying glass in their final, best chance at perfection — all these things would burn away.

If the matchups are favorable and if the defensive rotations hold, and the foul trouble remains at bay; if the screens and the cuts are well-timed on offense; if the box-outs are solid and the rebounds aren't all funny bounces; and if the

Tar Heels make the easy plays and take the easy shots — and if the ones that roll around on the rim do fall for UNC. If the Tar Heels' patience and hustle and focus, and the poise to make intelligent decisions under pressure remain; and if the other team of five isn't just flat-out better or more inspired during a particular hour of a particular day that just happens to arrive this coming Saturday or Monday.

If. Then. Might be time to hide the light blue house paint.

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7	3	9	6	4	2	8	5	1

CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER:
I'm a real big Don't know why the lyrics had no meaning. - Elvis Presley

FLORA

FROM PAGE 1

The other ginger you will likely encounter is *Hexastylis arifolia*, identified by a larger leaf shaped more like an arrowhead than a heart. The leaves are not as dramatically white mottled as heartleaf. This ginger is commonly called little brown jugs, because the greenish-brown flowers, open slightly at the top, resemble narrow little urns. Another common name, little pigs, refers to the little pig ear-like unfolding of leaf buds next to the flowers. This ginger begins flowering several weeks after heartleaf. It's beginning now, so you will see them both.

Another evergreen heartleaf you may encounter locally is *Hexastylis virginica*, which has a similar leaf but a smaller, less widely open flower than *H. minor*. Common in the mountains and occasionally seen locally is the deciduous wild ginger, *Asarum canadensis*, which is now breaking dormancy and grows as a spreading groundcover, in contrast to the single clumps of the evergreen species. There are nice displays of evergreen and deciduous gingers at the Botanical Garden. If



PHOTO BY BETSY GREEN MOYER

Flowers huddle close to the ground beneath the arrow-head shaped leaves of 'little brown jugs' wild ginger.

you want to grow them, Niche Gardens and the Botanical Garden have plants. Native Americans made widespread medicinal use of leaves and roots of the wild gingers. Pioneers used the plant as a ginger flavor substitute.

When you go out to discover gingers in the next few days, those

of you who have been keeping watch will notice that just about all of the beech leaves have dropped.

Wildflower walk: Dave Otto is leading a Friends of Bolin Creek spring wildflower walk on Saturday, April 11, leaving from Wilson Park at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome.



PHOTO BY BETSY GREEN MOYER

Shiny, unfolding new leaves flanking the flower of 'little brown jugs' resemble little pigs' ears.



Racin' Days

As every biker and runner knows, we live in a place of hills. Town names like Chapel Hill and Hillsborough reflect the ups and downs of our topography. For we townies, our hills were playgrounds with distinct personalities and names: Main roads like Stroud Hill (East Franklin St.), Windy Hill (Hillsborough Street) and Firehouse Hill (old Airport Road) were either too steep or busy to actually play in. But most neighborhoods had more secluded hilly streets that served as a public commons, places to play ball, ride bikes and test our homemade jalopies made

out of little more than packing crates, rope, lawnmower wheels and adrenalin. When a lone vehicle approached, the designated watch-out kid would holler, "CARCOMINI!" We Pritchard Avenue kids had an especially grand daredevil hill. Our stomach-churning drop, "The Big Hill," careened south down North Columbia Street from Noble Street to "the Big Woods," now the location of Town Hall. It's a wonder that any of our gang survived to adulthood. Though I photographed this rode-hard-and-put-up-wet racer in Western North Carolina, it reminds me of my racin' days.



A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER

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



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

This rather strange caterpillar appeared overnight in downtown Carrboro at the corner of Carr and Greensboro streets. It's the handiwork of landscape architect Dave Swanson, who got up early on April 1st to give the town a visual treat. No foolin', Dave.

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