

FRIDAY
Clear
70/43

SATURDAY
Clear
76/50

SUNDAY
20% Chance of Rain
74/52

C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



Culbreth Orchestra

See page 8



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

Male flowers of sweet gum standing proudly above the round cluster of female flowers hanging below.

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Lofty, maligned sweet gum

Sitting on the modest deck of Johnny's on West Main Street, a short way from downtown Carrboro, one has an engaging view of a stately in-town sweet gum tree, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, in full flower. I have a hunch that you've not given much time to considering sweet gum flowers. Well, we can't have all those generally despised sweet gum balls without first having the flowers.

I don't recall when I first became aware of flowers on this tree; but now that I am, I look forward to them every spring.

Though it sports some of the most magnificent fall color of any native tree, the sweet gum is most often maligned as a "trash tree" because it is so common and it has all those messy spiked balls that litter the ground beneath. I rather like those spiky dried balls. While still hanging in the trees during the fall and winter, those dried gum balls hold seed that provide a favorite food for chickadees. Some years, I cut a big branch of sweet gum balls for indoor holiday decoration.

I remember a description in the esteemed garden publication of the English Royal Horticultural Society some years ago praising sweet gum balls as a suitable garden mulch. The English prize our native sweet gum as a single specimen tree with beautiful "autumn tints."

Go outside and find a sweet gum that is standing on the edge of a forest or out in an open landscape and take a "closer look." The healthy mature ones at this time of year are decorated with what appear to be miniature candelabras, one at each leafy branch tip.

SEE FLORA PAGE 10

INSIDE

Opinion: Chatham needs to pass liquor referendum
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East principal Dave Thaden announces retirement

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — After three decades as an educator in Chapel Hill, much of that as the first and only principal at East Chapel Hill High, Dave Thaden announced this week that he's stepping down.

Thaden cited his 30-year mark and a need to focus on his health as the reasons for this decision.

He attributed both his longevity as an educator and his success as a principal to a love for his students and sincere interest in seeing them learn and develop as people.

"It's what gets me out of bed in the morning," he said. He called being a high school principal engaging and demanding, but at times downright silly.

School board chair Lisa Stuckey, whose three children attended East, said the district is sorry to see him go.

"We certainly wish him well," she said. "He is a great person and we appreciate his service to the school community."

Superintendent Neil Pedersen said Thaden has had a long and illustrious career with the district.

"East Chapel Hill High School's success is a testament to Mr. Thaden's leadership," Pedersen said in a state-

ment released Wednesday afternoon. "I believe that the high school principalship is the most challenging position in the district, and Mr. Thaden has performed admirably in this capacity for thirteen years. I think that his decision to retire at this time after 30 years of service to the district is the right decision, so he can attend to his personal needs. He deserves a respite and then I'm sure that he will pop up in another capacity to serve educators locally or across the state."

SEE THADEN PAGE 8



Dave Thaden



Farm Tour

PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW

Muffin Brosig, left, and Allison Nichols of Maple View Farm, which recently opened an education center, visit with Maple, a Jersey cow at the farm. Adorable farm animals will be one of the highlights of the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association's annual Piedmont Farm Tour, being held April 25 and 26 and featuring more than 40 farms in Orange, Chatham, Durham and Alamance counties. For information on the tour and where to find tour maps, see page 5.

Erasing lines, breaking down barriers

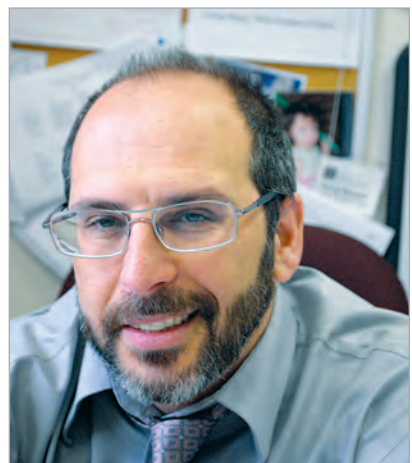
BY TAYLOR SISK
Staff Writer

Once city lines are drawn, they become fences, says Mark Dorosin of the UNC Center for Civil Rights, fences that isolate communities and deny their residents basic amenities. Dorosin and the center aim to help communities break down those fences.

The UNC Center for Civil Rights was founded in 2002 by pioneering civil rights attorney Julius Chambers and Jack Boger, current dean of the UNC Law School, with which the center is affiliated. The center, now located in Carrboro at Carr Mill Mall, provides advocacy, litigation and research in defense of civil rights and social justice. Chambers and deputy director Charles Daye provide tactical and strategic leadership; Dorosin is a senior attorney.

"By being affiliated with the university," Dorosin says, "the mission was always to help train the next generation of civil rights lawyers to go out and do this work after they left law school."

Dorosin came to the center last April via a circuitous route. He arrived in the South from Long Island in 1983 to attend Duke, where he gathered both an



Mark Dorosin, a senior attorney for the UNC Center for Civil Rights.
PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW

undergraduate degree in political science and a taste for progressive politics (divestment from South Africa was the rallying issue on campus at that time).

"I grew up in a fairly homogeneous community, socio-economically," Dorosin says. "At Duke, I was exposed to a much different range of folks and became acutely aware of the impact of class and what I felt was the ability and responsibility to make some direct and meaningful social impact with my life."

He'd always intended to be a lawyer, but decided that to go straight from undergrad to law school would be a sell out. And though he wanted to teach, he felt that "if you were going to teach, you should be a master of your subject." So he earned a master's in history at UNC-Greensboro, writing his thesis on COINTELPRO, the FBI's counterintelligence program, and the New Left, then taught high school history in Asheboro.

Though the work with students was rewarding, Dorosin was disillusioned with the "shocking" bureaucracy, and left teaching after a year to manage a video store in Greensboro.

Then came law school. He subsequently became, in order, a partner in a civil rights law firm (McSurely, Dorosin & Osment, in Chapel Hill), bar owner/manager (Hell, also in Chapel Hill), Carrboro alderman, interim director of the UNC's Community Development Law Clinic, loan servicing officer at the non-profit Self-Help in Durham and supervising attorney at the Duke Law School Community Enterprise Clinic.

SEE DOROSIN PAGE 7

Getting lost in the shuffle

RECENTLY...
BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

This story needs to be heard — really — I wish you could hear this story. As I climbed the steep steps to the second floor of the Ballet School of Chapel Hill, I could hear it — the sounds of the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble (NCYTE) calling me into the studio. The percussive sound of metal tapping on a wooden floor rates up there with rain on a tin roof in my book.

The 33 young people of NCYTE (they pronounce it "insight") auditioned to become part of the troupe, and their dedication and ability determines when and if they get to tour when their agent books them gigs like the one coming up in Chicago this summer, or the one in California (Ojai and Torrance) next winter, or the one they took two years ago to China. Since it began in 1983, NCYTE has been all over, including Germany, Mexico, Russia and many points in between.

In a rehearsal several weeks before the coming spring show, which this year is called "Good Vibrations," the mirror that spans one wall of the studio had been covered with sheeting to help them get used to performing without seeing themselves. As I sat watching, listening and photographing them, it became clear that though Gene Medler serves as their director, the young people were in charge.

"They're empowered," Medler said. "I only step in if I feel like we're jeopardizing the quality of the show."

Medler was 28 before he began to tap, and once he did, he made a career of it. He came from Asheville to Chapel Hill for college in 1967, intent upon a career in physical education. He was in graduate school and doing a little freelance acting when he was asked to be in a video that showed a man learning how to tap dance. Five lessons later, the video was a wrap and he was hooked.



PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

Making their own music after a lead-in by Horice Silver, Emily Wesolowski, Jessica Goss, playing the gonza, Alex Vigotov, pounding the sordo, and Walker McClear, playing the gogo, watch Elizabeth Burke dancing her part of "Song For My Father."

"My dad tap danced a little bit. He was an athlete and he'd do a little clog behind the lawn mower or a jig in front of the refrigerator," Medler

said. "I always thought it was kind of quirky but cool at the same time."

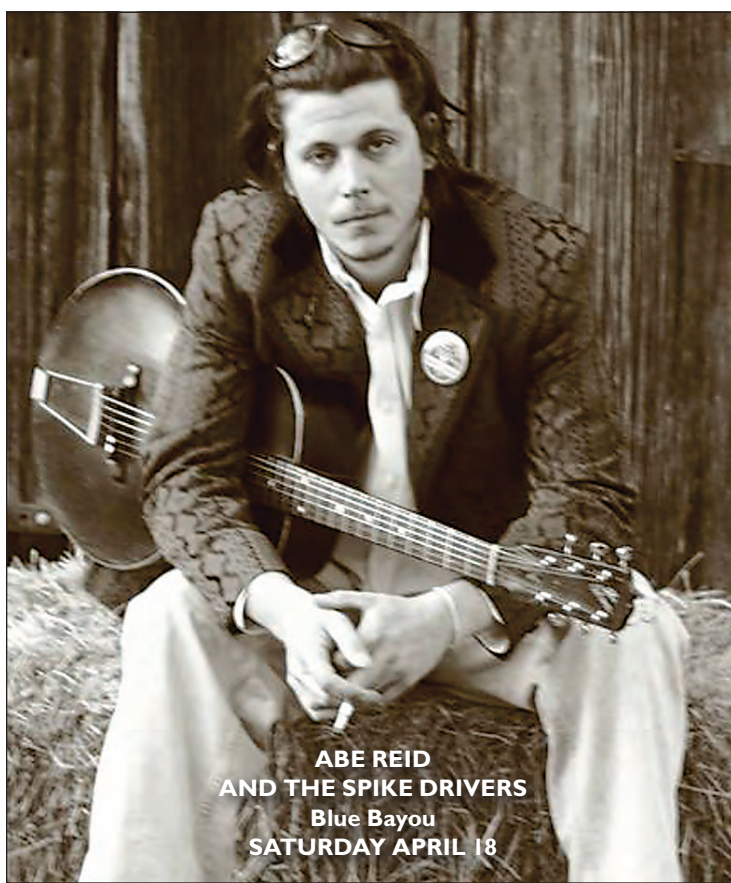
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MUSIC CALENDAR



BOOM SNAKE
The Cave
MONDAY APRIL 20

THURSDAY APR 16
Blue Bayou: Dmitri Resnik. 9pm. Free
Cat's Cradle: Wale, Kookey High. 9:30pm. \$10/13
The Cave: EARLY: Bengt Walker. LATE: Brass Bed, Instant Jones
General Store Cafe: Tony Gailani Band. 7-9pm
Local 506: Natalie Portman's Shaved Head, A Rooster For The Masses. 9:30pm. \$8/10
Q Shack: Leroy Savage
Reservoir: IRATA, Count Von Count, Battle Rockets
The Station: Skinny Bag of Suga
FRIDAY APR 17
Blue Bayou: Smokin' Joe Kubek and Bnois King. 9:30pm. \$18/20, \$22/20
Cat's Cradle: The Foreign Exchange, YahZarah, Darien Brockington, Zo! The ELs, Carlitta Durand. 10pm. \$18/20
The Cave: EARLY: Valorie Millers, Rebeca Pronsky. LATE: Blag'ard
Franklin Hotel: Swing 'N' Jazz with Chris Reynolds and Berkeley Grimbald. 8-11pm
General Store Cafe: Martha Bassett. 8:30-11pm
Local 506: Sci-Fi, The Mahah. 9:30pm. \$8
Nightlight: Drop in Silence, DataHata, Subscape Annex, Alex Kotch, DJ Yugen, Ted Johnson, Joe Hendrix. 9:30pm



ABE REID AND THE SPIKE DRIVERS
Blue Bayou
SATURDAY APRIL 18

Open Eye Cafe: Caroline Robinson and Alex Walters. 8pm
SATURDAY APR 18
Blue Bayou: Abe Reid and The Spike Drivers. 9:30pm. \$6/8
Cat's Cradle: Kid Koala, Daz-I-Kue. 10pm. \$10/12
The Cave: EARLY: Bo Lankenau, Jo Gore Band. LATE: Straight 8's, Resist Not.
General Store Cafe: Rootzie. 8:30-11pm
Local 506: TeeBEE, Focus, Shade. 9:30pm. \$12/15
Nightlight: Olivia Block, Jessica Ryan, Thomas Philips and Craig Hilton, Bicameral Mind, Andrew Weathers and Andrew Marino, Boyzone.
Open Eye Cafe: Sturges and McGeehan. 8pm
The Station: The Shamrockers
SUNDAY APR 19
Fletcher Opera Theater: Triangle Wind Ensemble
Koka Booth Amphitheatre: Rock 4 Pets. 12-5pm. Free
Nightlight: Foundry Field Recordings, Polite Sleeper, The Soul Band. 9:30pm. \$6

The Station: Bluegrass Jam with Keep Off the Grass
MONDAY APR 20
The Cave: Boom Snake
Local 506: Southeast Engine, The Desmonds. 9:30pm. \$8.
TUESDAY APR 21
Cat's Cradle: Raul Malo, Dave Wilson. 8pm. \$25/28
The Cave: EARLY: Jimmy Brown
Local 506: Acid Mothers Temple, Sonic Suicide Squad. 10pm. \$10/12
Nightlight: Butterflies, Tiger Saw. 9:30pm. \$5
WEDNESDAY APR 22
Cat's Cradle: World/Inferno Friendship Society featuring Brian V of The Dresden Dolls, Stuck Lucky. 9:30pm. \$10/12
The Cave: EARLY: Saint Solitude, The White Cascade. \$3 LATE: Embarrassing Fruits, Polynya, Veelee. \$5
Reservoir: Gentleman Auction House, Vibrant Green, I was Totally Destroying It, Ben Flanagan
Time Warner Music Pavilion: Dave Matthews Band. 7pm

THURSDAY APR 23
Blue Bayou: Jaafar. 9pm. Free
Cat's Cradle: Manchester Orchestra, Fun, Audrye Sessions, Winston Audio. 8pm. \$10/12
The Cave: EARLY: Patrick Phelan. LATE: Hey Penny, Billy Sugarfix
General Store Cafe: Marie Vanderbeck. 7-9pm
Local 506: North Elementary 7" Release Show, Wembley, Pistolero, The Popular Kids Comedy. 9pm. \$5
Meymandi Concert Hall: Choral Concert
Q Shack: The Vintage Blue Band
The Station: Big Fat Gap Band
Time Warner Music Pavilion: Jimmy Buffett. 8pm



YahZarah
Cat's Cradle
FRIDAY APRIL 17

FRIDAY APR 24
Blue Bayou: The Nighthawks. 9:30pm
Cat's Cradle: Mogwai, The Twilight Sad. 9:15pm. \$18
The Cave: EARLY: Wooden Tootie. LATE: Wild Wild Geese, Goodnight Loving

SPOTLIGHT



The Spring Shakori Hills Grassroots Festival of Music and Dance kicks off with an opening ceremony today (Thursday) at 2 p.m. and runs through Sunday.

The event features acts such as Holy Ghost Tent Revival, Big Fat Gap, Steep Canyon Rangers and Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys. Acts such as the Paper Hand Puppet Intervention and the Cane Creek Cloggers are also scheduled to perform. The action starts at 10:30 a.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday and ends around 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday and 9 p.m. Sunday. Festival passes are \$85 (kids under 12, free) and vehicle camping passes are \$50. Single-day tickets are \$11-18 and are available at the ticket booth only. For more information, visit shakorihills.org

General Store Cafe: Great Big Gone. 8:30-11pm
Local 506: Starfucker, Guidance Counselor. 9pm \$8
Open Eye Cafe: Lastwatch, Oscar Begat. 8pm
RBC Center: Yanni Voices. 8pm
SATURDAY APR 25
Blue Bayou: Rootzie, Wells Family Band. 9:30pm. \$6/8
Bryan Farms (Garner): Triangle Beach Music Festival with Band of Oz, Jim Quick and Coastline, General Norman Johnson and The Chairmen of the Board, Craig Wol-lard Band, Spare Change.
Cat's Cradle: Dillon Fence, Jason Ross and Thomas Juliano, Katharine Whalen, John Strohm. 9pm. \$15/18
The Cave: Killer Filler, The Noseriders, The Surge!, Atmoic Mosquitos. 8pm
General Store Cafe: The Doc Branch Band. 8:30-11pm
Local 506: Auxiliary House, Miidtown Dickens, Filthybird, Bull City. 9pm. \$8
Nightlight: Monsonia, Jews and Catholics, Death Came Down the Mountain. 10pm
Reservoir: Goodbye, Titan, The Last Track, Bicycle Day
Stewart Theatre: Habib Koite. 8pm

CAT'S CRADLE

- TH 4/16 **WALE** W/KOOLEY HIGH**(\$10/\$13)
- FR 4/17 SIGNAL 2009 **THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE** W/PHONTE+NICOLAY, YAHZARAH, DARIEN BROCKINGTON**(\$18/\$20)
- SA 4/18 SIGNAL 2009 **KID KOALA** W/DAZ-I-KUE**(\$10/\$12)
- TU 4/21 **RAUL MALO OF THE MAVERICKS** W/DAVE WILSON FROM CHATHAM COUNTY LINE**(\$25/\$28)
- WE 4/22 **WORLD INFERNO/FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY** W/STUCK LUCKY**
- TH 4/23 **MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA** W/FUN, AUDRYE SESSIONS**
- FR 4/24 **MOGWAI** W/THE TWILIGHT SAD**(\$18)
- SA 4/25 MAMMOTH RECORDS 21ST BIRTHDAY **DILLON FENCE, JASON ROSS + THOMAS JULIANO** (SEVEN MARY THREE), KATHARINE WHELAN+MORE**(\$15/\$18)
- SU 4/26 **GORILLA MUSIC SHOWCASE**
- MO 4/27 **DINOSAUR JR.** W/MIKE WATT & THE MISSINGMEN **(\$24/\$26) TICKET INCLUDES 7" SINGLE
- TU 4/28 **THE KILLS** W/THE HORRORS & MAGIC WANDS**(\$15)
- WE 4/29 **ALESANA** W/DROP DEAD GORGEOUS, FEAR BEFORE, I SET MY FRIENDS ON FIRE**(\$13/\$15)
- FR 5/1 **REVEREND HORTON HEAT** W/JIMMY & THE TEASERS**(\$10)
- SA 5/2 **CURSIVE AND MAN MAN** W/ANDREW WRIGHT**(\$16)
- SU 5/3 **JUNIOR BOYS** W/MAX TUNDRA**(\$12)
- TU 5/5 **BIG BUSINESS** W/TWEAK BIRD**(\$10/\$12)
- WE 5/6 **THE GASLIGHT ANTHEM, PELA AND OLD WAR****(\$13/\$15)
- TH 5/7**(\$17/\$20) **THE PRESIDENTS OF THE USA** W/DUSTY RHODES
- FR 5/8 **LEZ ZEPPELIN****(\$15)
- SA 5/9 CD RELEASE PARTY ENTER THE FAN POSTER CONTEST! PASTE MAGAZINE AND WOXY PRESENT **ROMAN CANDLE** W/THE DEEP VIBRATION AND KEEGAN DEWITT**(\$8/\$10)
- WE 5/13**(\$20) **MASTODON** W/KYLESA AND INTRONAUT
- FR 5/15 **MC CHRIS** W/WHOLE WHEAT BREAD, I AM THE DREAM**(\$12/\$14)
- SA 5/16 **TODD SNIDER****(\$15)
- TU 5/19 **BEN SOLLEE** W/ANNI ROSSI**(\$12/\$14)
- WE 5/20 **CLUTCH****(\$25) W/WIND'S BAND AND MAYLENE...
- TH 5/21 **JENNY OWEN YOUNGS** W/JUKEBOX THE GHOST**(\$25)
- FR 5/22 **L IN JAPANESE DANCE PARTY****

MO 5/11 **GHOST** LOCAL 506

TU 4/21 **RAUL MALO OF THE MAVERICKS**

SA 5/23 **THE OLD CEREMONY****(\$10)

FR 5/29 **ISIS** W/PELICAN, TOMBS**(\$15/\$18)

ON SALE FRIDAY 4/17!!
SU 5/31 **DAVID COOK** W/RYAN STAR**(\$18/\$20)

TH 6/4 **BK3** W/THE BREW**(\$18/\$21)

SA 6/6 **TAB BENOIT**** PRESENTED BY BLUE BAYOU

SU 6/7**(\$14/\$16) **EASY STAR ALL-STARS** WORLD TOUR 2009 W/GUEST TRUMYSTIC

TU 6/9 **TOTAL REQUEST LIVE!***(\$20/\$23) (JOHN DOE, BILLY ZOOM, EXENE CERVENKA, DJ BONEBRAKE)

WE 6/10 **PAUL THORN****(\$15)

TH 6/11 **GRIZZLY BEAR** W/HERE WE GO MAGIC**(\$14)

FR 6/12 **JENNY LEWIS** W/DEER TICK**(\$18)

SU 6/14 **MEAT PUPPETS** W/RETRIBUTION GOSPEL CHOIR**(\$14/\$16)

TU 6/16 **PEACHES** W/DRUMS OF DEATH**(\$18/\$20)

SA 6/20 **CAMERA OBSCURA****(\$15)

SA 6/27 **HOLSAPPLE & STAMEY** CD RELEASE PARTY**

FR 7/18 **GIRLS ROCK SHOWCASE****

WE 7/22 + TH 7/23 + FR 7/24 + SA 7/25 @ CAT'S CRADLE AND SU 7/26 @ MEMORIAL HALL

XX MERGE**

SU 6/14 **HOT TUNA ELECTRIC** W/OLD SCHOOL FREIGHT TRAIN **(\$25/\$28)
ON SALE FRI 4/17

SA 5/16 **TODD SNIDER**

TU 6/9

TH 4/23 **MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA**

MO 4/27 **DINOSAUR JR.**

FR 5/1 **REVEREND HORTON HEAT**

TH 6/11 **GRIZZLY BEAR**

WE 4/29 **ALESANA**

TH 6/4 **THE DECEMBERISTS** MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM RALEIGH

ALSO PRESENTING!

LOCAL 506 (CHAPEL HILL)
SA 5/2 **KEVIN DEVINE** W/MINIATURE TIGERS, BRIAN BONZ
TU 5/5 **MAC LETHAL**
MO 5/11 **GHOST (FROM JAPAN)** W/MAGIK MARKERS

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

THE ARTSCENTER (CAR)
FR 5/1 **SOUTH MEMPHIS STRING BAND** FEATURING ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART, JIMBO MATHUS AND LUTHER KICKINSON
FR 5/15 **BRANDI CARLILE****\$25 W/NOISES 10

LEIGH FARM PARK (DUR)
SA 5/2 **FESTIVAL FOR WILDLIFE** CYRIL LANCE BAND, JOHN HOWIE JR AND THE ROSEWOOD BLUFF, KICKIN GRASS, MEL MELTON & THE WICKED MOJOS, OLD 86
11 AM - 6PM
919-831-6060

LINCOLN THEATRE (RALEIGH)
TH 5/28 **THE NATIONAL** W/COLIN STETSON

MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM (RALEIGH)
TH 6/4 **THE DECEMBERISTS** W/BLIND PILOT
TIX VIA TICKETMASTER, VENUE BOX OFFICE OR PROGRESSENERGYCENTER.COM

News Briefs

Police seek rape suspect

Carrboro Police are looking for a suspect in connection with a rape that occurred in the Prince Street area last week. According to Capt. J.G. Booker, an 18-year-old woman reported that she was raped by two men just before midnight on April 9. She told police she knew the men only as "J" and "O," and knew them through other acquaintances. Police identified "J" as James Lorenzo Little, 20, of 305 Barclay Road, Chapel Hill, and charged him with second-degree rape. He is being held in Orange County Jail under \$130,000 bond. The other suspect, "O," is described as a black male in his early 20s, about 6 feet tall, with braided hair with blue beads at the ends. Police encourage anyone with information about the suspect to contact the Carrboro Police Department at 918-7411.

County to sell four buildings

The Orange County Board of Commissioners voted last week to sell four county surplus properties. The properties are the Clerk of Court Annex, 112 N. Churton St., Hillsborough; the Graham Building, 118 N. Churton St., Hillsborough; the Homestead Community Center, Homestead Road, Chapel Hill; and the old ABC store, N.C. 49, Cedar Grove. The board will seek appraisals for three of the four properties before selling them, which is part of the divestiture procedure the county uses to sell property. The estimated combined tax value of the Clerk of Court Annex, the Graham Building and the Homestead Community Center is about \$850,000. An estimated value of the old ABC store was not available.

Cistern stolen from community garden

A new cistern was stolen from the Growing Healthy Kids Community Garden on James Street last week. The cistern, which cost about \$1,000, is a 2,600-gallon tank that would have been used to collect and store water for the garden. A new cistern will have to be purchased for the garden. The garden is used by churches and families with young children as part of the Healthy Kids Campaign, an initiative by the Orange County Partnership for Young Children to take on childhood obesity.

Teens damage speed bump

Two teenagers were arrested over the weekend for damaging a speed bump at East Chapel Hill High School. According to Chapel Hill Police reports, Karsten William Bench, 18, and William Mundy Laundon, 17, were spotted using a sledge hammer to damage the speed bump. Bench was cited and released on Saturday; Laundon was cited and released Sunday. They are expected to appear in court June 1.

Rabid raccoon found in Orange County

A raccoon found in Orange County tested positive for rabies last week at the State Laboratory of Public Health. The raccoon was submitted after residents in the vicinity of N.C. 86 and Phelps Road saw their three dogs chase the raccoon up a tree in their yard, then surround the raccoon after it fell from the tree. Two of the dogs were not vaccinated against rabies and the third dog was currently vaccinated but did not receive a rabies booster within 72 hours of exposure to the raccoon, which is required under North Carolina law. Animals exposed to rabies that have not been vaccinated or do not receive rabies boosters within 72 hours must either be destroyed or quarantined for six months. So far this year, Orange County Animal Services has received four positive rabies tests. If any possible exposure to a bat, raccoon or fox is suspected, call Animal Control at 245-2075 or call 911.

Carrboro mural to be repainted

BY KELLY ESPOSITO
Courtesy of the Carrboro Commons

A large blank canvas in downtown Carrboro is about to get a makeover, again.

Local artist Emily Weinstein said the outside wall of Jade Palace Chinese & Seafood Restaurant, located at 103 E. Main St., will soon feature a new mural.

"We are going to get started as soon as the paint comes in and everything gets organized," Weinstein said.

She is in the last stages of designing the mural, which will feature elements of the Chinese zodiac. She has ordered special paint that resists the wear and tear that sometimes plagues outdoor murals.

The actual painting process will be coordinated by Weinstein. She plans to enlist the help of local children through Volunteers for Youth, an organization that finds volunteers and mentors for children in Orange County.

"We're going to set up a spring or summer program with the kids," Weinstein said.

History of the mural

The Jade Palace wall used to be home to a mural that was painted in late 2002. It was the brainchild of Kimberli Martin, who owned the Zodi Gallery that was then located next to the restaurant. Local businesses and residents were able to purchase squares of the quilt-like design and participate in the painting process, said Jackie Helvey, owner of UniqueOrn Enterprises.

Weinstein oversaw the project, which featured the theme "What does community mean to me?" The money earned from the project was donated to Club Nova, a nonprofit organization in Carrboro that helps adults with mental illnesses, Helvey said.

"It took months to finish this thing; it was not a one-weekend project," she said. "It was a long and tedious process, but the end

result was just beautiful."

However, Helvey said the painters of the mural faced problems from the beginning. The mural was in violation of a town ordinance that prohibits putting business names on the side of a building if the businesses aren't actually housed there.

"We were breaking the law, and we didn't know it," Helvey said.

She said a solution was reached when the Carrboro Arts Committee, the Town of Carrboro's arts advisory board, contacted Patrick Herron, Carrboro's poet laureate at the time. The committee commissioned Herron to write a 32-word poem that would be painted over the 32 logos that were in violation of the town ordinance.

Each offending logo was covered, and one word from the poem and a number were painted in each square. The numbers corresponded to the sequence of the 32 words that, when put in order, revealed the poem.

Helvey said it was nearly impossible to read the poem, but she thought the puzzle format was a creative way to avoid having to completely cover up the mural.

"It ended up being really cool because it was a poem," Helvey said. "It was just a great idea and a great solution."

A mysterious paint job

After it was altered in late 2003, the Jade Palace mural remained a downtown Carrboro staple until May 2007, when it was mysteriously painted over.

Helvey said what happened remains uncertain, but within about an hour the entire mural was covered with a coat of light mint-green paint.

According to witnesses, former Carrboro resident Larry Hayes apparently hired men from the homeless shelter to paint the wall. Hayes had his own mural issues in downtown Carrboro, when a mural on a building he owned was found in



PHOTO BY KELLY ESPOSITO

Local artist Emily Weinstein is designing and coordinating the painting of a new mural on the outdoor wall of Jade Palace at 103 E. Main St. in downtown Carrboro, enlisting the help of local children. This mural in her driveway was painted by kids in her neighborhood, located off Ephesus Church Road in Chapel Hill. The original community mural on the outside wall of Jade Palace was painted in 2001 but was mysteriously painted over in 2007. The new mural will feature elements of the Chinese zodiac.

violation of the same ordinance as the original Jade Palace mural. Hayes, who was threatened with legal action by the town, eventually covered it up, and sometime thereafter moved to California.

Police have said they want to question Hayes about the incident, believing he may have returned and hired the men to paint over the mural.

"He must have been out there in California stewing," said Helvey. "Literally hours and weeks of work in that one hour was completely obliterated."

Continuing controversy

Although Helvey and Weinstein say they are enthusiastic about the new mural, not everyone who participated in the creation of the original artwork shares their sentiments.

Herron wrote the poem "I Am Not A Wall" that was used to alter the mural so that it would comply with town rules.

Herron said the puzzle format was not his idea and that he did not know his work would be used in that form until he actually saw it on the mural. He said

the piece was "impossible to read," but he didn't complain.

However, Herron's primary concern now is about the repainting of the mural. He feels that the poem, which was site-specific and dedicated to former Carrboro Mayor Mike Nelson, is being treated as "disposable" by not being included in the new design.

"No one has talked about the fact that the poem was destroyed too," Herron said. "Nobody seems concerned about returning it to its rightful place."

Despite the mural's history of controversy and mystery, its story will continue during the spring with Weinstein leading the effort once again.

"I'm just thrilled that Emily has taken this on," said Helvey. "She did such a great job the first time around. She's a fantastic artist, and I have confidence that anything she creates will be fabulous."

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

Greenbridge, activists look beyond ugly incident

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — As Chapel Hill Police continue to investigate a hoax email and pointedly worded fliers circulated this week, officials with the Greenbridge project say that, moving forward, they want to see more positive dialogue.

Likewise, members of UNC-NOW, a partnership of community and campus groups that says the project is emblematic of the gentrification of the historically black Northside neighborhood.

Frank Phoenix, a partner with Greenbridge Developments LLC, said he continues to suspect that the UNC group was behind the fliers and email — which said,

among other things, that the project's developers were ceasing sales — but has not heard anything conclusive from the police. Wording in the email and fliers is very similar, he said, to language used by members of UNC-NOW, including an open letter from the group's steering committee sent last week to the Chapel Hill Town Council and Greenbridge Developments.

In it, the group demands that Greenbridge stop using a promotional video featuring prominent members of the Northside community, offer job training and employment for Northside community residents and join with the town to revisit the idea of a payment-in-lieu for afford-

able housing rather than affordable housing into the development. The letter asks the town to spearhead an effort to provide property-tax relief in low-wealth neighborhoods and impose a development moratorium on projects in or near the Northside, Pine Knolls, Rogers-Eubanks and Ridgefield neighborhoods.

Haley Koch, a student organizer with UNC-NOW, said Tuesday that the group was not responsible for the phony email and flier and had no information on who did.

"It's obviously not a tactic or a strategy we would use," Koch said. She said she hopes the incident could lead to a more positive dialogue between the Northside

community, activists and Greenbridge. "We hope we can collectively seize the moment and do something positive about it."

Phoenix said he too would like to see some more positive engagement come from the incident, although he said past attempts have him wary of it.

He stressed that the representatives of the project have been in long-running discussions with its neighbors.

"We have always been in dialogue with the neighbors and will continue to be," he said. Northside itself, he said, is not monolithic. UNC-NOW, he added, represents "a faction of Northside, but certainly not all of Northside."

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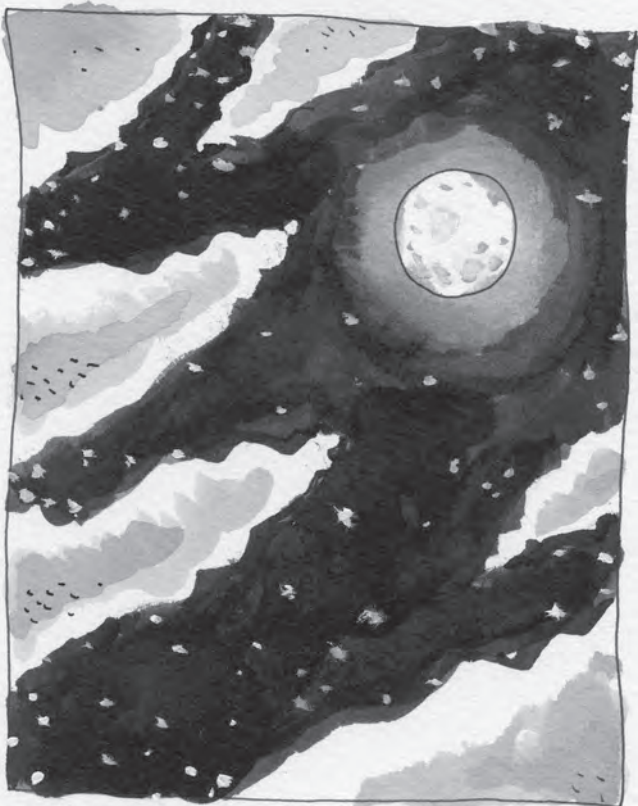


ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK

Land & Table Briefs

Farm tour

The Carolina Farm Stewardship Association will host its annual Piedmont Farm Tour on April 25 and 26.

The event features more than 40 farms in Orange, Chatham, Durham and Alamance Counties, including eight new farms this year, and is the largest sustainable farm tour in the country.

Buttons for the tour are \$25. For a map of the tour, visit carolinafarmstewards.org or pick one up at Weaver Street Market.

Earth Action Day set for Saturday

The Town of Chapel Hill will present the 2009 Earth Action Day Celebration from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday on the grounds of UNC's Morehead Planetarium and Science Center on Franklin Street.

The event will feature an Earth Day Ballet by the Studio A Dancers, musical performances by Equinox and the Kickin' Grass Band and exhibits by more than 60 or-



PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW
Pogo was named because he wasn't born with legs, but with springs," says Muffin Brosig of the 6-week old Nigerian dwarf goat she is holding. The goat, which resides at Maple View Farm on Dairy Land Road, is one of the many farm animals one might see on the Piedmont Farm Tour.

FARMERS' MARKET

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Thurs at Southern Village starts May 7 @ 3:30-6:30pm

What's at Market?

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

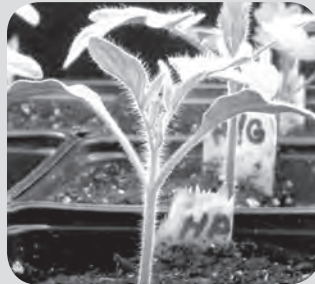
Tulips, daffodils, irises, lettuce, hydroponic basil, chard, spring onions, pac choy, flour, onions, garlic, arugula, beets, broccoli, watercrest, cabbage, carrots, winter squashes, cauliflower, collards, fresh herbs, kale, leeks, mustard greens, salad greens, spinach, sweet potatoes, turnips, turnip 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 25: Fourth Annual Kid's Seedling Event!!

On Saturday, April 25, 2009 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.

The Market's vendors donate the seedlings for this event. This event is done the same weekend as the Carolina Farm Stewardship Piedmont Farm Tour with the goal of showing kids where their food comes from.

Last year, the Market was able to give away upwards of 400 seedlings to kids! **We hope to have another great year this year!**



ganizations showcasing sustainable initiatives. In addition, the North Carolina Botanical Gardens will host tours of the Coker Arboretum and the UNC Institute for the Environment will host a feature film, *The Last Time We Were Green*, at 7 p.m. in the planetarium's theater. Healthy food will also be available at the event.

Shuttles directly to and from the event will be available on weekend bus routes and public parking onsite will be limited. For more information on bus routes or Earth Action Day, visit townofchapelhill.org/earthday

Haw River Festival

The 20th annual Haw River

Festival will be held May 9 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the old Bynum Bridge between Chapel Hill and Pittsboro.

The festival will feature live music, kid's activities, a silent auction of artist Clyde Jones' critters and paintings, a native plant sale and more.

For more information, visit hawriver.org or call 542-5790.

Earth and Sky

The Celebration of Earth and Sky will be held Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Carrboro Century Center.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Chapel Hill High School earth and environmental science teacher Ron Greenburg at rgreenburg@chccs.k12.nc.us or 929-2106, ext. 1119.

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| North Carolina Hoop Cheese | \$6.99 | \$3.99 lb |
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MARK TRAIL
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THEY SURVIVE THE JAWS OF THEIR OCEAN ENEMIES BY BEING ABLE TO ROCKET INTO THE AIR, MANY YARDS ABOVE THE WAVES
INDIVIDUAL SPECIES ARE FOUND IN CERTAIN AREAS AND ARE A BIG SOURCE OF INCOME FOR SOME FISHERMEN
FRIED SQUID IS AN ESPECIALLY POPULAR DISH, OFTEN KNOWN BY THE NAME CALAMARI

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CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER:
Awards for best actor for his portrayals of gay politician Harvey Milk
Thank you, you committed, homo-loving sons of guns. - Sean Penn, accepting his

FOR THE RECORD

Public financing of local elections a logical step

The anti-democracy reform crowd is at it again — spreading misinformation about campaign finance reform. Their current target is House Bill 120, a fairly innocuous proposal in the state Legislature to provide municipalities the legal authority to experiment with public financing of local elections. It's something the town of Chapel Hill will be doing this fall.

HB 120 imposes no mandate for cities and requires no money from the state. It's just "enabling" legislation that merely grants cities and towns permission to voluntarily try out public financing.

But the anti-reform naysayers have ratcheted up their doom-and-gloom rhetoric. Whether it's in op-eds, emails or the outside propagandists they bring to the Legislature, their simplistic message is the same: Public financing is another threat to free markets, lower taxes and limited government.

Never mind that our state's judicial public-financing program, arguably the envy of the nation, produces less-costly and more-positive campaigns, election after election. And never mind the success of last year's pilot public-financing program for state auditor, insurance commissioner and state superintendent. Four of six candidates, Republicans and Democrats, participated, and campaign costs were held in check. Even more importantly, the dominance of wealthy special-interest money in these races was all but eliminated.

The anti-reform naysayers' latest salvo is to declare public financing unconstitutional — their convenient misinterpretation of a recent U.S. Supreme Court case. Never mind that the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has already upheld North Carolina's judicial public-financing program and that the U.S. Supreme Court refused to even hear the case on appeal.

In all their bluster, the anti-reform crowd seeks to protect our broken campaign-finance system. The ever-increasing costs of campaigns funded by wealthy special interests who seek to game the system with big-money donations is A-OK with them.

They voice no concerns nor offer any solutions on how to reduce the ever-rising costs of campaigns, eliminate the ever-growing influence of special interests or address the ever-decreasing willingness of candidates to run for office.

It's a sad fact in North Carolina that the cost of running for mayor and city council is becoming prohibitively high in many of our medium and major cities. In recent years, Wilmington, Asheville, Cary, Raleigh and Charlotte have all had their share of six-figure campaigns for local offices.

Since 2001, Raleigh has seen at least three mayoral candidates spend more than a half-million dollars on their respective campaigns.

And driving the train for these higher-costing races are the homebuilding real estate interests — the top source of big money for local elections. Developers have lots of business before local councils, so they are inclined to provide lots of money to local campaigns.

Despite the dire warnings of the anti-reform crowd, there is a growing support for allowing locals to experiment with public financing. HB 120 is co-sponsored by 31 representatives and has been endorsed by a dozen N.C. mayors.

HB 120 does not force public financing on any municipality. The legislation simply provides the authority for each city and town to decide its own destiny on election reform.

And just as was the case in Chapel Hill, there will be plenty of opportunity for local public input before any decision is made. Also, any local public financing program must meet the approval of the state board of elections. And all programs will be administered by the state board as well.

HB 120 has recently won approval in two state House committees. It may soon reach the House floor. This will be a vote for local decision-making on an issue that impacts the health of local elections — something locals should decide, not the Raleigh-based anti-democracy reformers or the big-money special-interest developers.

— BY BOB PHILLIPS

Bob Phillips is the executive director of Common Cause North Carolina.

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Something strange is happening in Chatham: Everyone's uniting to eat, drink and raise revenue

JEFFREY STARKWEATHER AND RANDY VOLLER

Something strange is happening in politically polarized Chatham County. All ideological persuasions are uniting behind the same financially potent but missing brew — cocktails with meals. But without the usual conflict, will voters show up for the May 5th countywide mixed-beverage referendum?

Chatham was recently cited as the most politically active county in North Carolina. Some have said it is also one of the state's most political contentious, battling over immigration, sprawl, district voting and land-transfer referendums. We have a strong alliance of progressive, sustainable community advocates that defeated an outside real estate sprawl lobby. Opposition has come from arch-conservative property-rights and anti-tax groups. Natives and newcomers inevitably misunderstand each other.

When a former county commissioner announced at a public hearing that holding a mixed-beverage referendum would be "extremely divisive," we braced for another battle. But a funny thing happened on the way to the referendum debate forums. We could not find opponents willing to debate us publicly.

In fact, residents of every previous conflicting persuasion have united to support the referendum. Nearly 150 business and civic leaders have signed up as members of our pro-sustainable economic-development referendum committee, Positive Revenue Options (PRO). They include two county commissioners, the mayor and the majority of the Pittsboro town board, two school board members, six members of the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation and the president of our community college.

Community leaders are not signing on because they want booze with their grass-fed beef. Chatham is bleeding badly — from lost manufacturing jobs. Sixty-four cents of every retail dollar spent by Chatham residents is spent outside the county. Chatham cannot sustain its economic health when 60 percent of workers commute to jobs outside the county.

Before county leaders united behind the booze ballot they came together behind a sustainable business plan. That plan is based on the concept of "place-based" economics — preserving and enhancing our rural, small-town character and bountiful natural resources to grow and attract green and creative growth companies. We need to expand our innovative alternative energy, sustainable agriculture and green building clusters, which are supported by our nationally recognized community college programs. We must promote our thriving local arts community, Main Streets and rural crossroad centers. Finally, we have to develop biking and hiking trails, protect our environment and entice quality overnight accommodations to take advantage of our eco-, agriculture- and arts- tourism potential.

This strategic economic-development plan has been enthusiastically endorsed by our county commissioners, school board and our towns. They are working together with the business community to implement it. The first recommended implementation action was placing this mixed-beverage referendum on the ballot.

Leadership in the county is united behind the referendum because it is the ultimate win-win issue. Its passage will bring sales-tax revenues to local governments without raising property taxes. The City of Sanford, with less than half the population of Chatham, makes about \$400,000 more

than Chatham in annual ABC profits from its mixed-beverage sales. Its passage will enhance our quality of place and promote tourism by increasing quality restaurant choices. More eateries in our lively Main Streets and new commercial centers will attract quality retail choices, hotels and additional sales tax revenues to support schools, outdoor amenities and culture needed to entice innovative growth companies and high-paying jobs.

Admittedly, there are some who oppose it on false fears. Some say DWIs will increase. *Au contraire*. We already have off- and on-premises beer and wine sales, ABC liquor stores and private mixed-beverage clubs everywhere. Every county surrounding Chatham allows mixed-beverage restaurants. Residents will no longer have to drive outside the county for a drink with their meal and risk driving home under the influence. Others worry about dangerous honky-tonks. Facts belie that fear. There are extremely strict license and safety requirements, including that 30 percent of restaurant revenues must come from food sales. Chatham residents can veto licenses that are "detrimental" to the community. Finally, those who fear ugly franchises must recall that controlling the quality of our community can only be protected by electing smart-growth local officials.

Now that we've convinced you, don't forget to vote May 5th at your normal polling place; or vote early, starting Thursday at the Board of Elections' office in Pittsboro (8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays). To learn more, see chathamvote4mixedbeverages.org.

Jeffrey Starkweather is PRO campaign advisor, Chatham County Economic Development Corporation Board, and Randy Voller is mayor of Pittsboro and PRO chair.

We must get past 'urgency denial' on climate change

JIM WARREN

Chances are, you're concerned about climate change. Unfortunately, it's probably much worse than you realize. Severe climate changes are occurring at an accelerating rate. Our planet is in crisis, according to the world's top scientists, and corrective measures that are proven and economically beneficial need to be implemented now. In North Carolina, that means ramping up energy efficiency via NC SAVES ENERGY and stopping construction of Duke Energy's Cliffside coal-fired power plant. Statewide coalitions are working diligently on both fronts and need your help.

The news media has belatedly conveyed that climate change is a serious problem, but now "urgency denial" is setting in, largely due to a lack of coverage of several studies supporting the argument by NASA expert James Hansen that "we are running out of time" for making corrections.

The information deficit is fueling a dangerous misperception — promoted by CEOs such as Duke Energy's Jim Rogers — that we have decades to slow global warming and that fictional "clean coal" and corporate-friendly "cap-and-trade" schemes can help.

If successful, such delaying tactics will virtually ensure that we cross tipping points that Hansen says "will cause rapid changes out of humanity's control" and lead to "a different planet." At current pollution levels, that point of no return could come within six years, says the United Nations' climate panel. If we cross that threshold, the choice between solar, coal, wind or nuclear power will barely matter.

Even some environmental groups still describe climate change as "in the future." While record-breaking weather extremes and results such as wildfires are increas-

ingly prominent in the national news, the link to climate change is rarely mentioned. Recent developments under-reported by the U.S. media include:

1) Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are already 10 percent higher than "safe" levels, according to Hansen's NASA team.

2) European researchers report that millions of tons of methane are bubbling into the atmosphere as the Arctic floor has begun to thaw, supporting concerns by the University of Pennsylvania's Richard Alley that climatic turbulence can come "in big jumps rather than gradually."

3) Just a few years ago, scientists warned that summer Arctic sea ice could be gone by 2100; now they fear it could disappear by 2012.

4) British researchers estimate that sea level could rise nearly five feet this century, based on new understanding about polar ice sheets.

5) Global weather disasters have quadrupled since 1987. A federal study reports that human-induced climate change is making downpours more intense, that heat waves will likely become more frequent and that wildfires in the American West are "strongly associated" with global warming.

R.K. Pachauri, head of the U.N. climate panel, concludes: "The cities, power plants and factories we build in the next seven years will shape our climate in mid-century. We have to act now ... to change the way we use energy ... and thereby avert nothing less than an existential threat to civilization."

According to NASA's Hansen, the top U.S. climate expert, the best thing North Carolina can do is stop construction of Duke Energy's Cliffside plant, near Charlotte. That's the firm intention of a statewide grassroots effort that already blocked one

Cliffside unit. Legal challenges continue and civil disobedience will commence on April 20th (see stopcliffside.org), as called for by Hansen and Al Gore. Nationally, scores of new coal plants have been defeated.

We've soundly proven the \$2.4-billion Cliffside plant isn't needed, most recently with a study by Duke University economics professor emeritus John Blackburn. He demonstrates that very modest increases in energy efficiency and renewables (for example, neighboring states are now developing off-shore wind power) would not only prevent the need for Cliffside and risky nuclear plants, they would allow early retirement of many existing coal plants in the Carolinas (www.ncwarn.org). Sadly, the N.C. Utilities Commission hasn't yet connected the dots.

Concurrently, we must ramp up proven energy efficiency measures — the quickest way to reduce greenhouse gases. The statewide NC SAVES ENERGY campaign now has over 30 consumer, faith, social justice, senior citizen and environmental nonprofits working together to promote N.C. House Bill 1050. This legislation will lower energy bills, eliminate the need for \$40 billion in new power plants, create thousands of green jobs and reduce pollution — without impacting the strained state budget. (ncsavesenergy.org)

The power companies would rather risk your money on giant, lucrative new power plants, so legislators need to hear from you. The public interest groups need your direct help too.

Changing course on climate and energy is doable — but it will take a new level of civic engagement.

Jim Warren is executive director of NC WARN: Waste Awareness & Reduction Network, a nonprofit based in Durham.

LETTERS

Walk Carrboro

You reported on 4/9 that, "The Local Living Economy Task Force hopes to launch educational campaigns," which will help tell Carrboro citizens what's available to them right here in town. As president of the 4-month-old Carrboro Merchants Association and the founder, along with my wife Helen, of the Walk Carrboro map, website and advertising campaign, I welcome all the help and support the town and its task force want to provide.

I started the Walk Carrboro campaign because we have a collection of terrific nationally and internationally respected treasures here in town. One of them joked recently that he is internationally respected and locally ignored. But that's no one's fault but our own. We need to let folks know ... we've got world-class coffee, chocolate, comedy, and photography. We have remarkable wine and beer shops tended by folks who actually have tasted everything they sell. We have world-class pottery, a center for North Carolina Crafts, a shop dedicated entirely to beads and beading and a vintage clothing shop that's frequented by Los Angeles celebrities and vintage clothing junkies from Brooklyn. We also serve everything from comfort food to fine dining.

What's truly amazing is that all of the aforementioned shops and restaurants are within walking distance of one another, right here in Carrboro. Anyone interested can learn more about Carrboro today. Just ask for a free walking map the next time you're in one of your favorite Carrboro institutions, such as Weaver Street Market or The Open Eye Café, or log onto carrboro.com. There you can read the mayor's new blog, download a map or check out a calendar of local events.

Whatever the Local Living Economy Task Force decides to do to support our town will certainly be welcome. In the meantime, I invite everyone to Walk Carrboro.

JESSE KALISHER
Founder, Walk Carrboro

Council made the right call

Bravo to the town council and good riddance to proponents of development and destruction. These developers are all about making money at the expense of nature. Environmental concerns and "growth we can believe in" are secondary. This decision is a victory for Chapel Hill and a rude awakening for developers who think they can always get what they want.

What once was a patchwork of nests are now generically engineered townhomes, built faster than the squirrels and birds take to build their homes. Trees, which inhale greenhouse gases and exhale oxygen into the atmosphere, are being destroyed. They're now protruding stumps, ruined by developers gloating over their latest rape of the desecrated landscape.

Along Farrington Rd, amid a few remaining homes and a farm, another area is being leveled, as one development continues into another. Every home looks the same and every strip mall includes the same monopolistic businesses. Farrington Road was once one of many shortcuts to work. There are no more shortcuts anywhere. Every alternative route is a bottleneck of cars.

Recently, I was out running along Route 54, past the entrance to the classy Oakwood Drive. The sky was clear and sunny, but all of a sudden these monstrosities cast a giant shadow, making the area cold and dark. What a sight for sore eyes, as I thought how out of place they looked with respect to the historic area of Glenn Lennox and the beauty of the Oaks.

This isn't progress; this is madness, and it's growth we can't believe in, contrary to what the self-absorbed entrepreneurs of irresponsible growth tell you.

RENE' DE LA VARRE
Chapel Hill

DOROSIN
FROM PAGE 1

Throughout, Dorosin never lost his dedication to the pursuit of civil rights and social justice. In the UNC Center for Civil Rights, he came upon an opportunity to do work that offered both the immediacy of working with clients and the potential for having a broader impact.

'Conscious' exclusion

The center has two primary areas of focus.

The first is education, addressing "the lingering effects of school segregation and combating what we have seen as the re-segregation of public schools," Dorosin explains on a recent weekday afternoon, seated behind the desk of his appropriately cluttered Carrboro office.

The second area is community development, Dorosin's purview.

"As cities have grown and expanded," he says, "they've made conscious decisions on where they want to go to annex property, and in many cases those decisions have, I would say, deliberately excluded low-wealth and minority communities."

He cites work done at the non-profit Cedar Grove Institute for Sustainable Communities in Mebane: "They've done some really great maps about this phenomenon, where they've mapped municipal boundaries, where water and sewer lines are, and then how the racial demographics match up."

What they show," says Dorosin, are examples from around the state where cities have extended water and sewer lines around minority communities to annex wealthier, white communities."

What then happens, he says, is that these lower-income communities remain underdeveloped.

"These lines become fences, and these communities become invisible."

Dorosin says that often these communities are immediately adjacent to city boundaries: "It's not a joke that it's the wrong side of the tracks. The railroad track is the line."

Such is the case with Midway, an historically African-American community on the outskirts of Aberdeen in Moore County. But through grassroots organizing, and with the center's assistance, the Midway community worked with the town of Aberdeen to gain a federal grant to install water and sewer lines.

Many excluded communities are within a municipality's extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). This gives city governments some land-use and zoning control over them, but residents can't vote in municipal elections.

"There was a legislative study commission on ETJs in the '50s," says Dorosin, "and it seems clear ... that what was envisioned was that one reason to justify giving cities

control beyond their boundaries was that these areas would eventually become part of the cities."

But: "What happens, in fact, is that they have this control and they don't have any intent to annex them," leaving them in a "sort of netherworld."

"So not only do you not have positive development in these communities, they're also ripe for the siting of negative-impact development, like a landfill. And then you have your Rogers Road situation."

Dorosin refers to the Rogers-Eubanks community, and its demand for public services after more than 35 years of living alongside the Orange County Landfill, as "a textbook example" of exclusion.

"It's really the same pattern," he says. "It's a low-wealth community that's between these two municipalities that no one really wants to take responsibility for - and then it's exacerbated by the fact that [the landfill] was placed in the middle of the community."

Dorosin has held preliminary discussions with Rogers-Eubanks community residents about what assistance the center might provide.

The issues the community faces, he says, "are not situations that sprang up overnight."

And, says Dorosin, while the consequences of institutionalized discrimination are often just as severe as they ever were, that discrimination is less overt. So claims of discrimination are more easily dismissed out of hand.

"You can't draw a line at yesterday and say, 'Well, from here everything looks fine. We're not going to do anything based on race anymore.'"

The center's work, he says, is focused on raising public awareness of the "continuing disparate effects" of "ongoing institutionalized discrimination" and in developing remedies for that discrimination.

Attempted remedies that don't take discrimination and its effects into account, he says, will ultimately fail to create a more equitable society.

No formula

Dorosin says that the center never goes into a community saying, "This is what you should do; we know what's best."

Though patterns emerge, and lessons can be learned from them, "Each community is different; each community's needs are different."

"I think the most important thing is that there is some organic community momentum and desire to work together to make some kind of change."

The center has recently worked with three Moore County communities - Midway, Jackson Hamlet and Waynor Road - and in all three cases, community-born organizations have convinced the local governments to seek grants for requested services.

"I think that all of those community organizations have done an

outstanding job of really educating the local governments in understanding the nature of this issue and its effect on these people who are their neighbors."

The communities are now seeking annexation. There are two ways for that to happen: voluntarily and involuntarily.

Under voluntary annexation, property owners initiate the process. A significant hurdle, though, is that 100 percent of property owners must agree to it - which can be particularly difficult in communities where property sometimes passes down without a will, often to multiple heirs, who might not even be known.

Several bills recently have been introduced in the state Legislature. One proposal is to lower the 100 percent requirement for communities that fall below a certain economic benchmark.

There are a couple of potential formulas, but the general idea is that if, say, a majority of the community is below 200 percent of the federal poverty line, the signature requirement is lowered to 75 percent.

That's a good change, says Dorosin, but it doesn't go far enough.

He points out that another problem with voluntary annexation is that after annexation it's within the city's discretion of whether, and when, to provide services. A service-provision requirement is needed, he says.

"There's no incentive for a community to voluntarily annex if what they want is access to water, sewer and other services, and a voluntary annexation doesn't guarantee that you get any of those."

When Dorosin spoke before the Legislature, he suggested that for distressed communities a change to the involuntary annexation requirements mandating specified levels of existing development prior to annexation would be appropriate.

He's also concerned that there are communities that are completely encircled by incorporated municipalities, islands, where, as is the case in Midway, "Garbage trucks drive right down the road. They don't pick up anybody's garbage, but they drive right through the community to get from one side of the town to the other."

He's recommended a provision to require annexation, regardless of density, of those islands.

Breaking down fences and erasing lines is the center for Civil Rights' mandate. Such work fuels the faith that Dorosin has nurtured since his first days in the South: a belief that "dedicated individuals and organizations committed to the struggle for a more equitable society," can realize true change.

"I'm always amazed and really encouraged, and have great faith, whenever I go to a meeting in a community and a bunch of folks come out on a weekend or a weeknight to get together and say, 'We're not being treated fairly and we want to make some change.'"



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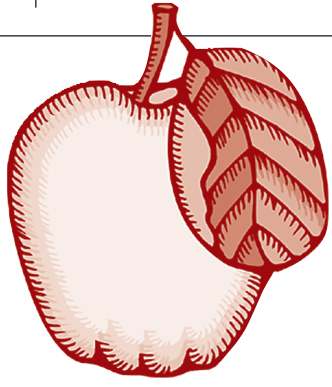


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School Briefs

Orchestras earn superior ratings

The Chapel Hill High School Orchestra and the Culbreth Middle School Orchestra both earned superior ratings at the 2009 North Carolina Orchestra Performance Assessment at Methodist University in Fayetteville on March 31.

The orchestras were judged based on rhythm, intonation, tone quality, musicianship, dynamics, technique, balance, interpretation and stage presence.

More than 65 schools participated in the assessment.

Urinetown at CHHS

Chapel Hill High School will present the award-winning satirical comedy musical *Urinetown* in the Hanes Theatre at Chapel Hill High, April 23-25 at 7:30 each night.

The production is the first in the district to be entered in the North Carolina Theater Capital Awards, the high school equivalent of the Tony Awards.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. Call the Hanes Theatre Box Office for reservations at 969-2461.

Hall of Fame Dinner

The Chapel Hill High School-Lincoln High School Hall of Fame Dinner will be held April 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel Hill High cafeteria.

This year's inductees are Woody Burns, 1982, wrestling; Donald Clark, 1962, football; Edric Cotton, 1970, football; Danny Dunaway, 1988, football; Anne Frautschi, 1977, tennis; Ron Hodgkin, 1988, football; and Joe Hubbard, 1999, lacrosse.

The Hall of Fame was started in 2002, and since then 41 athletes, seven coaches and four teams have been inducted. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from Ronnie Hayes, athletic director at Chapel Hill High.

College sports seminar

The East Chapel Hill High School Athletic Booster Club will present "So You Want to Play a Sport in College," a seminar for high school students who are considering playing a sport in college and their parents, on May 4 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the East Chapel Hill High School Media Center.

The seminar will cover the college athletic experience and recruiting and presenters - includ-



PHOTO COURTESY OF BARBARA SMITH

The Culbreth Middle School Orchestra earned a superior rating at the 2009 North Carolina Orchestra Performance Assessment. Students pictured include: Jonathan Dolan, Katie Edmiston, Delanie Postma, Natasha Lopez, Daniel Stratton, Andrew Liu, Linh Nguyen, Sharon Dominguez, Catherine Foy, Evan Corinthian, Ethan Foy, Bodi Gyongyosi, Yesica Sierra, Resham Jayaram, Loreanne Oh, Geordan Rose, Richard Cato, Young Jin Pyo, Idan Falek, Daynesha Reid, Randy Dominguez, Eva Church, Ramiro Bueso, Alyshia Smith, Alej Mojica, Andre DeOliveira, Seo Hee Park, Claire Hanlon, William McEntee and Sam Strosnider.

ing a parent, student athlete, coach and administrator - will answer questions from the audience.

Evita at Cedar Ridge

The Cedar Ridge High School Cultural Arts Department will present the musical *Evita* in the Cedar Ridge auditorium, April 30 to May 2 at 7 each night.

The musical recounts the story of Eva Peron, who rocketed to world fame in 1946 as the ambitious wife of Argentina's president Juan Peron.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children and seniors.

Tiger Open

The Chapel Hill High School Tiger Open will be held May 9 at the Challenge Golf Club in Graham.

Registration will begin at 11 a.m., with a four-man shotgun start at 1:30 p.m.

For more information or to be a sponsor, contact Patrick Marlatt at wvufotball95@gmail.com or 357-0236.

Technology honors

Forty middle and high school students represented Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools at the 30th Annual North Carolina Technology Students of America (NCTSA) State Conference.

More than 700 students from across the state took part in the event.

Winners from Chapel Hill High School were: John Cook, third place, dragster design; Chris Chiesa and Galen Burns-Fulkerson, second place, engineering design; Arjun Ajmani and Aidan Burns-Fulkerson, second place, remote control power

boat; Aidan Burns-Fulkerson and Sally Rothwell, first place, construction systems; Aidan Burns-Fulkerson and Sally Rothwell, first place, film technology; and Aidan Burns-Fulkerson, Sally Rothwell, Anna Geer, Galen Burns-Fulkerson and Chris Chiesa, first place, on-demand video. Ajmani was elected the 2009-10 NCTSA state president.

Winners from Carrboro High were: Darien Lombardi, third place, extemporaneous presentation; Natalie Carpenter, third place, imaging technology; Darien Lombardi, third place, music production; Andriy Rusin, second place, extemporaneous presentation; and Christian Persico and Natalie Carpenter, first place, debating technology.

Winners from Smith Middle School were: Luke Shaw and William Collins, third place, problem solving; and Luke Shaw and William Collins, second place, electronic game design.

Winners from McDougale Middle School were: Leah Westendorf, third place, communication challenge; Nate Powers and Giovanni Silva, third place, structural challenge; Nikita Ermoshkine and Thomas Nguyen, second place, remote control marine design challenge; Leah Westendorf, Bryanna Chazotte, Dunni Alabi, Caleb Roenigk, Thomas Nguyen and Nikita Ermoshkine, second place, chapter team; Maddie MacMillan, first place, career challenge; Caleb Roenigk, Thomas Nguyen and Nikita Ermoshkine, first place, system control; and Dunni Alabi, Joel Anil, Adam Carpenter, Bryanna Chazotte, David Eron, Marie Fisher, Nikita Ermosh-

kine, Rosie Kerwin, Abel Koshy, Maddie MacMillan, Thomas Nguyen, Nate Powers, Caleb Roenigk, Giovanni Silva and Leah Westendorf, first place, construction challenge. McDougale's chapter was named the second-place middle school chapter of the year. In addition, McDougale instructor Redmond Grigg received the International Technology Educator's Association's Program of Excellence Award.

High honors for Phillips

The Phillips Middle School Seventh and Eighth Grade Orchestra earned superior ratings at the Eastern Regional Orchestra Festival on April 2.

The orchestra received straight superior ratings from the three judges. In addition, students received a superior rating on sight rating.

Phillips math teams compete at regional contest

Phillips Middle School's Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II teams competed in the Regional State Mathematics Contest on March 31 at Wake Technical Community College.

Phillips' Algebra I team finished in 10th place. Team members are Martin Cho, Richard Fu, George Hito, Alan Liu and Fengyang Zhao. In individual competition, Alan Liu finished in 15th place and George Hito placed 29th.

The Geometry Team finished in 6th place. Team members are Nathan Cho, Audrey Copeland, Peter Rathmell, Allen Zhou and Zhongshan Zu. In individual competition, Audrey Copeland placed

THADEN FROM PAGE 1

Thaden, a native of East Lansing, Mich., started his career as an English teacher at Phillips Middle School in 1979. He worked in the district office and served in administrative roles, including four years as an assistant principal at Chapel Hill High. He moved to East Chapel Hill High in 1995 to prepare it for its 1996 opening.

Even as an administrator, Thaden continued to teach English. Four years ago, when East grew to 1,400 students, he finally had to stop.

He has declined to talk specifics about his health issues.

"I'm working with some good folks and they're pleased that things appear to be moving in the right direction," he said.

He also expects that after some downtime he'll find a new role in the community. He said working with Habitat for Humanity last summer was particularly rewarding and he's interested in the Interfaith Council's work as well.

"I know I'll do something to give back to my community," he said.

Thaden also hinted he may get back into teaching at some point and cited his success in hiring former McDougale Middle School principal Charley Stewart after his retirement.

"We'll see what happens," he said. "I'm not closing any doors. I can't imagine I'm just going to stay at home and paint."

20th, Allen Zhou placed 21st and Nathan Cho placed 29th.

The Algebra II team finished in fourth place. Team members are Bernie Almadoss, Stephen Hahn, Anne Kelley, Vishwas Rao, Maggie Xing and Austin Liu. In individual competition, Maggie Xing placed 10th, Austin Liu placed 19th and Stephen Hahn and Anne Kelley tied for 22nd.

The competition includes a comprehensive test of skills beyond Algebra II. Alex Kelly and Yu Wang participated on this team, with Wang placing 11th in individual competition.

Maggie Xing and Yu Wang qualified to go to the state finals.

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Foreclosure doesn't have to be inevitable

BY MARGOT C. LESTER
Staff Writer

As local unemployment ticks up (6.5 percent in Orange County and 8.5 percent in Chatham), home values remain low and stock portfolios hemorrhage, local foreclosures continue. According to Foreclosure.com, 34 Orange County homes are currently in foreclosure; in Chatham County, the number is 22.

But homeowners facing financial difficulties shouldn't assume foreclosure is a foregone conclusion. By working directly with their lenders, many owners can find ways of staying in their homes.

"The Mortgage Banker's Association recently reported that half the people who lose

homes through foreclosure have never spoken to their lender," laments Phil Greer, senior vice president of loan administration for the State Employees Credit Union (SECU). "They open the letters and throw them away. They assume, I guess, there's nothing they can do."

The fact is, mortgage lenders want to work with homeowners to keep them in their homes. After all, with housing values low and properties staying on the market longer, banks don't want to assume mortgages unless it's absolutely necessary.

"Every lender has the desire to work with the borrower to keep the borrower in the home and structured or positioned to be able to make mortgage payments," Greer says.

Homeowners experiencing any major changes in their abilities to make payments, or who see their bank balance sinking to untenable levels, should make an appointment with their mortgage holder.

Many lenders have a range of services and programs available to distressed homeowners. Staff counselors work with loan recipients to determine the duration and severity of the problem and show them how to stay in their homes by developing a plan of resolution.

"With a community bank like us, we have more flexibility," says Larry Loeser, president and CEO of Chapel Hill's Harrington Bank. "Larger lenders have policy manuals, but even they'll have more options if you call them early."

Homeowners who wait until they are behind aren't totally out of luck, but their situations are far more urgent. At that point, they're on the bank's radar as delinquent, and other credit reporting organizations will also begin taking note, possibly damaging their credit rating.

"We let you know right away when you go past due, and ask you why, and how we can help you," Loeser explains. "We try to get them caught up before 15 days, because at 15 days you get a ding on your credit rating." Harrington has never foreclosed on a home.

SECU recently began a program requiring branch staff to have face-to-face meetings with every member who is 30 days or more delinquent. As a result, SECU only had

six homes in foreclosure last year, five in Orange County and one in Chatham.

One of the options available is extending payments.

"This enables loan recipients to skip a certain number of payments assuming that by catching them up they'll have the ability to make payments going forward," Greer says. "If you've got a \$1,000 per month mortgage payment, it's hard to pay \$3,000 to cure three months of delinquency. But if we make the delinquency go away, they can handle it."

Lenders may also be amenable to partial payments if the homeowner's financial difficulties will last only for a short time. Rate modifications also are possible. With this option, the mortgage-holder

may adjust the rate down to the current rate. This lowers the payment and may provide the homeowner a better opportunity to handle monthly payments.

But none of this is possible if homeowners are loathe to work with lenders.

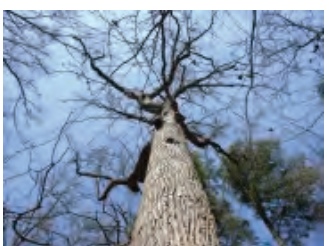
Says Greer: "If you don't sit down with your lender and fully investigate what's causing the problem and what resolutions are potentially available, the lender is limited in what they can do short of foreclosure."

For more information on federal efforts to reduce foreclosures, visit MakingHomeAffordable.gov. For a list of approved foreclosure avoidance counselors, visit hud.gov/offices/bsgslf/bcc/fcl

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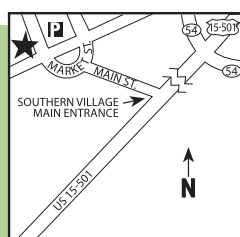
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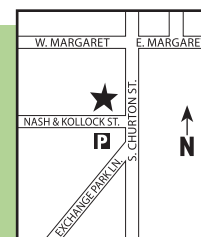
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FROM PAGE 1

Those vertical clusters of reddish-green balls are the male flowers that will soon be bearing pollen for those singular little greenish balls hanging down beneath the young leaves at the branch tips. That little hanging ball is the female flower of many pistils awaiting airborne pollen to fall down upon them from all those proud guys sporting pollen above. If you can find one low enough, take a really good look, or use binoculars to bring them into closer view. You may be impressed. The flowers don't have colorful petals, but they are beautiful in their own way.

Like so many of our native trees, the sweet gum is associated with a wealth of folk medicines and lore. Gum bark teas were used for numerous complaints and the sweet rosin (sweet gum) exuding from the cut bark and crushed leaves were applied to open wounds. The dried gum was used for gum disease or, as described in *Paul Green's Plant Book*: "We children used to chop gashes in these trees and then later get the exuded gum and use it for chewing gum."

My favorite description is



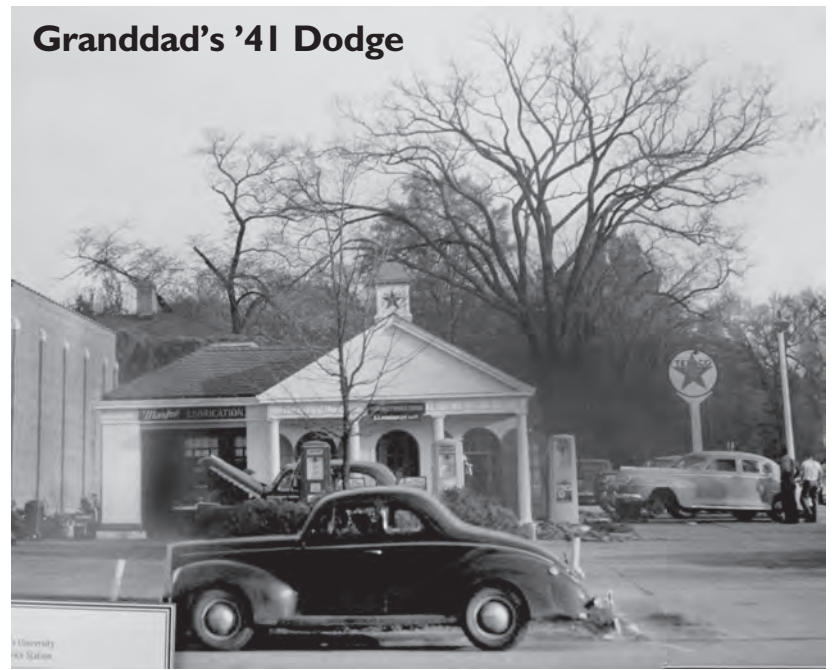
PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

Last year's sweet gum balls still hanging while this year's leaves and male and female flowers emerge above.

from Dr. Jim Duke's *North-eastern Indian Medicinal Plants*: "Water or brandy-soaked twigs are chewed to clean the teeth in some areas of Appalachia." Now that sounds a lot more fun than using conventional dental

floss! Give the sweet gum a closer look. For sheer beauty and architectural interest, I remain firm in holding the common sweet gum among my very favorite native trees.

Granddad's '41 Dodge



As cars go, my grandfather Charlie Rush's 1941 Dodge wasn't much to look at; just a dingy black two-door coupe with a running board. In 1950, Granddad sold it for the princely sum of one dollar to my mom, who once actually let me jump on the running board as she was driving slowly down Pritchard Avenue. That's the kind of mother Myra Lauterer was. And when the Heels won the national championship in '57, Mom and I cruised Franklin Street to see the single big bonfire set by ecstatic fans in front of the post office. In this photo made by Bayard Wootten in the mid-'40s, Granddad's car (or one very similar to it) sits in front of what I knew as George Barclay's Texaco Station, now Top of the Hill, where this photo used to be displayed. It is now a part of the must-see Chapel Hill Franklin Street cityscape at the Chapel Hill Museum on East Franklin Street.



A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER

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RECENTLY

FROM PAGE 1

In the beginning, he thought tapping would be nothing more than a hobby, but he was a natural and continued it. "Nobody discouraged me. Even my dad said 'go for it.'"

He coached both men's and women's fencing at UNC for a long time, "but the dance bug bit me." He's made a career of both dancing and teaching — his nine tap classes per week at Elon are packed — and has helped many into successful dancing careers, among them Michelle Dorrance, now on tour with "Stomp!," and Derrick Grant, the director and choreographer of "Imagine Tap!" Both will make guest appearances in the "Good Vibrations" shows.

The young people of the corps come from all over the Triangle, but many are from Chapel Hill, like Elizabeth Burke, 16, who attends Chapel Hill High School and has been dancing since age 6. Her face and body had already said it before, without hesitation, she stated, "Oh, I definitely plan to pursue this as a career."

Medlin later confirmed that she certainly has the potential and, with the right breaks, could make it.

Another impressive dancer was Alex Vigotov, who during rehearsal for the first number they ran commented a couple of

times that it didn't sound right. She *heard* when someone misstepped.

"She's proactive and assertive," Medlin said. She's also determined. Alex didn't make it into NCYTE until her third audition before a panel of judges.

"She was too young the first time; the second time, she was borderline and didn't get in; the third time, she got in, and she has good talent and a strong work ethic. She works harder than anyone else," and has become a voice of leadership.

There are 11 boys in the troupe — more than in years past. Hayden Fitzgerald, a senior at Cedar Ridge High School, has been tapping for 10 years.

"It's one of my favorite things," he said. He's a song-and-dance man, with chorus and theater as other pastimes. "I've done a lot of fencing with Gene. He's pushed me along." Which is why Medlin's there. The kids run the show — they *are* pros, after all — but he's their support. "He's guiding it along," Hayden said.

The shows are at 7 p.m. April 25 and 2 p.m. April 26 at the Carolina Theater in Durham. Tickets are \$15 or \$10 for seniors and students. See: ncyte.org/ or call 560-3030.

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

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