#### This Weekend THE CARRBORO **FRIDAY** Rain 61/52 SATURDAY ITIZE Mostly Cloudy 77/65 **SUNDAY** Clear 88/65

carrborocitizen.com

APRIL 21, 2011 LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED VOLUME V NO. VI



Famed botanical illustrator Redoute's rendering of Magnolia macrophylla

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

## ORA BY KEN MOORE

## In the footsteps of André Michaux

nder the auspices of the French government, botanist André Michaux explored the former English colonies from 1785 to 1796. His principal mission was to find new tree species to reforest the French countryside, which had been depleted for shipbuilding during wars with Great Britain.

His tireless travels, with numerous excursions across North Carolina, including the environs of Hillsborough, provided a wealth of new plants for both the French and British gardening world. One of the standouts of the new American plants is bigleaf magnolia, Magnolia macrophylla, which was introduced to France in 1800 and flowered in Empress Josephine's garden outside Paris as early as 1811. I'm happily obsessed with this tree – and though I've featured it in past Floras, I'm describing it again because on April 30 you'll have opportunity to see it in the wild, in the very vicinity, near Gastonia, where Michaux saw and studied it and introduced it to his son, François André. Famed botanical illustrator Pierre-Joseph Redouté's image of this magnolia, pictured above, graces multiple editions of François André Michaux's North American Sylva, based on his father's earlier Flora Boreali-Americana, field notes and his own additional observations from two American visits between 1801 and 1808.

## **Connecticut** superintendent named district's next leader

#### **BY SUSAN DICKSON** Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL – The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education announced last week that Dr. Thomas Forcella, superintendent of Guilford, Conn., Public Schools, will serve as the next superintendent of the school district.

Forcella has served as superintendent in Guilford since 2005 and previously served as superintendent of schools in Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

He began his career in public schools as a special-education teacher and later served as a high school principal. Forcella holds a bachelor's degree in physical education, a master's degree in special education and a doctorate in educational management from the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut.

"Under his leadership, student test scores have increased despite reductions in district resources," board Chair Jamezetta Bedford said. According to a CHCCS press release, the



Guilford school district outperforms other districts of similar socioeconomic status in statewide testing. The district includes seven schools serving a student population of 3,900.

Forcella said that he believes a posi-

tive culture that places an emphasis on all students learning is critical in a school system.

"Obviously, the current economic crisis does not offer much to assist districts," he said. "The children who enter our school buildings keep us positive and provide the motivation for us to press on even in the worst times.

"None of us should ever be satisfied with the status quo. In public education, you are either moving forward or you're moving backward."

At a meeting at Smith Middle School, the board voted unanimously to name Forcella as the district's next superintendent and offered remarks welcoming him to Chapel Hill-Carrboro.

"One thing that's clear is that achieving our high expectations for all students will require you recognize and draw upon all the resources our district has to offer," board member Greg McElveen said, adding that Forcella has demonstrated he can do that.

SEE SUP'T PAGE 8

## County allocates tax funds

The return

of H. Barnes

See page 9

FREE

**BY SUSAN DICKSON** Staff Writer

The Orange County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously on Tuesday to dedicate any funds raised from a quarter-cent sales-tax referendum to schools and economic development.

Earlier this month, the board voted to put the referendum on the November ballot, and on Tuesday board members voted to allocate 50 percent of potential funds to economic development and 50 percent to education.

If approved, the tax would cost residents an additional 25 cents on a \$100 purchase, though it wouldn't apply to groceries and medicine. County staff has estimated that the tax would raise \$2.5 million annually.

Economic-development projects that could be funded by the tax include the expansion of the county's Small Business Loan Program, innovation centers for new businesses, agricultural economic development and businessdevelopment grants.

Board members have said they would like to see funding go toward economic-development initiatives in order to improve the county's salestax base. Currently, over 75 percent of county revenue comes from property taxes.

Education proceeds from the tax would be split equitably between the county's two school systems, with facilities improvements of older schools and the acquisition of technology as priorities for funding. County and school leaders will meet next week to discuss specific projects that could be funded.

Commissioner Barry Jacobs said he would prefer that the economic-development and schools funding not be limited to the proposed projects.

"That way, you leave the door open for the schools systems if they want to change that, support it, tweak it," he said. Orange County voters narrowly rejected a proposed quarter-cent sales tax on the November 2010 ballot, with 51.24 percent, or 21,180 votes, against the sales tax, and 48.76 percent, or 20,755 votes, in favor. Prior to last year's referendum, the board had voted to dedicate 42.5 percent of potential proceeds to economic development, 42.5 percent to schools and 15 percent to be split between emergency services and libraries. In its 2008 budget, the legislature gave counties the option of a quartercent sales-tax increase or a 0.4 percent land-transfer tax to help compensate for money taken away from counties when the responsibility for paying for Medicaid was turned over to the state. Orange County voters overwhelmingly rejected a transfer-tax referendum in May 2008. The commissioners also discussed a possible half-cent tax referendum and \$10 vehicle tax that would fund regional and local transportation planning initiatives, including light rail and increased bus services. Officials are working with Durham and Wake county leaders to develop a transit plan that would be funded by the half-cent tax if officials put it on the November ballot and voters approve it. Officials in all three counties will have to make a decision on the possible tax by June. In other action, the commissioners voted to designate the Murphey School as an Orange County Local Historic Landmark. The Murphey School has a rich history, opening in 1923, with the auditorium added in 1936 as one of Franklin Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration projects. It closed its doors in 1959 when students transferred to schools in Hillsborough. The building was subsequently leased to a church, purchased by a family and even used as a nightclub before sitting empty for many years. Jay Miller and his wife, Ebeth Scott-Sinclair, opened the Shared Visions Retreat Center at the school last year after spending more than two years renovating the historic building. The center, located off Old N.C. 10 in eastern Orange County, provides space and services to local nonprofits and hosts programs and activities.

## **Celebrating community** at Abbey Court

**BY WILL BRYANT** Staff Writer

In the early-afternoon hours of Sunday, April 17, a fight broke out at Abbey Court Condominiums. There were no cries of anger, nor were there any punches thrown. The fight took place with smiling faces, soaked clothes and water guns amid the rhythmic sounds of salsa music echoing off the buildings of a changing community.

Abbey Court Condominiums was celebrating Thingyan, the Burmese New Year Water Festival, and more than 100 people came out to take part

in a massive water fight.



Children of Abbey Court Apartments express their artistic creativity during the Water Festival on Sunday. The festival, which celebrates the Burmese

SEE FLORA PAGE 12

#### INSIDE

#### Town manager to retire See page 3

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WaterWatch

The festival, hosted by the Human Rights Center of Chapel Hill and balloons, art, music and good food. Carrboro, was held to honor to the growing number of Burmese residents living in the area.

'The idea is to acknowledge all these people's culture, especially here in Abbey Court," said Rafael Gallegos, the associate director of Human Rights Center. Gallegos said that as many as 25 Burmese families are living in Abbey Court and that the festival was held to

New Year, brought the community together through a combination of water

#### PHOTO BY WILL BRYANT

help the Burmese feel welcome, as well as bring the community together.

"Here, there are no games for kids and there are no areas for kids to play in," Gallegos said. "So if you want to develop a sense of community, you have to do something like this.'

The afternoon was filled with the screams of happy children soaking one another with water guns and water balloons and the smell of tamales being served to all in attendance. Horseback rides in the Abbey Court quad were offered for the kids.

SEE ABBEY COURT PAGE 7

## Parking deck, hotel closer to reality BY KIRK ROSS deck on the eastern section of the begin on the project this sum

#### Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — Representatives of Main Street Partners told the Carrboro Board of Aldermen that they're inching closer to a summer start for the major redevelopment of 300 East Main Street.

At a meeting Tuesday night at Town Hall, the board reviewed the final elevation plans for a parking property. Last month, the town agreed to a formula for leasing up to 250 spaces in the six-level deck – a deal deemed essential to a financing agreement for the Hampton Inn hotel that is proposed for the site.

Laura Van Sant of Main Street Partners said the hotel has made "significant strides" in obtaining financing – and although it's not 100 percent certain, work is scheduled to

begin on the project this summer.

Architect Jim Spencer said the new deck is likely to be built very quickly since it will be assembled from precast sections. Precasting uses less concrete than making the material on site, Spencer said, and flourishes can be added more easily to the design.

SEE ALDERMEN PAGE 9

## Chapel Hill town manager asks for review of town services

#### **BY KIRK ROSS** Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — Another year of cost cutting has Chapel Hill Town Manager Roger Stancil convinced that the town needs to restructure the way it builds its budget, including undertaking a thorough review of priorities when it comes to town services. In an interview Tuesday, Stancil said that after two years of belt tight-

ening Chapel Hill needs to take a hard look both at what services it wants to provide and possible alternative revenue sources.

He said he'd like to see the town conduct a review of what it does over the next year and reset service levels to reflect the budget realities.

"We need to have some way to prioritize them," Stancil said.

The town also needs to consider revenue sources that have been rejected in the past, he said, such as advertising on Chapel Hill Transit buses, payas-you-throw for garbage collection and sponsorships for town events.

As for this year's budget, the council will hear a full update of the fiscal outlook next week. In a brief review earlier this month, Stancil said the town is faced with a substantial shortfall. Although expenditures have been kept \$2.2 million below last year's projections, another \$1.5 million will need to be trimmed.

He told the council that unless a project is important for public safety or has already begun, it will be put on hold.

In an outline presented at the meeting, Stancil indicated that to prevent a tax increase and layoffs the town would need to dip into its fund balance to plug an almost \$5 million gap.

Saving an additional \$1.5 million between now and June 30 and delaying capital projects would free up some of the money going toward the debt-management fund and reduce the amount of savings the town would

have to tap.

The state's Local Government Commission requires towns to maintain fund balances equal to at least 7 percent of their budgets. The council's fund balance goal for many years has been 12 percent. Using the town's fund balance to fill the entire gap would bring the level to 9.5 percent.

Stancil said that the town can't continue to rely on use of the fund balance and cost cutting to fill budget holes, particularly since the town's past saving efforts have made finding places to cut more difficult.

"The best way for us to create savings is to not fill a position," he said. "But at this point, there's not a lot of turnover."

He told the council at the budget briefing to get ready to lay the groundwork for a shift in the years ahead.

"The strategies we had worked," he said, "but it is not sustainable longterm."

## **MUSIC CALENDAR**

#### **THURSDAY APRIL 21**

Cat's Cradle: Big K.R.I.T and Freddie Gibbs, Smoke DZA, Big Remo. 9:30pm. \$13/15

The Cave: LATE: Foscoe City Tap: Chris Filan. 7pm

General Store Cafe: Tony Galiani. 7pm

Jessee's Coffee and Bar: Swang Brothers, Tod Eric Verts. 8pm. Free

Local 506: Grails, James Blackshaw. 9:30pm. \$10/12

Memorial Hall: Branford Marsalis with the North Carolina lazz Repertory Orchestra. 7:30pm

Nightlight: Pink Flag, Let Me Crazy, 9:30pm

**The Station at Southern** Rail: Aminal, 10pm

#### **FRIDAY APRIL 22**

ArtsCenter: Kina Grannis with Imaginary Friend. 8:30pm

The Cave: EARLY: Nikki Meets the Hibachi, Matthew Brookshire. \$5 LATE: Last Years Men, Spider Bags

**City Tap:** Brenda Linton, Greg Hawks and Bluemont Road, Chris Chappell

General Store Cafe: Applesauce, 8pm

Jessee's Coffee and Bar: Devon Elizabeth, Animal Alphabet. 8pm, Free

Local 506: | Was Totally Destroying It, Antibubbles, Prisms. 9:30pm. \$4/7



Nightlight: Senryu, Wesley Wolfe

Open Eye: Dogwood Deddy.

#### **SATURDAY APRIL 23**

ArtsCenter: Too Much Fun Anniversary Concert. 8:30pm

Cat's Cradle: Yacht, Jeffrey Jerusalem, Robes. 9pm. \$12/15

The Cave: LATE: Rootsie, Henbrain

City Tap: See No Weevil, Shawn Deena

General Store Cafe: Mathew Brookshire, Nikki Meets the Hibachi. 8pm

Jessee's Coffee and Bar: Jeff Hart, Red Mojo. 8pm. Free

Local 506: Embarrassing Fruits, The Big Picture, Towers. 9:30pm. Free

#### **Open Eye:** Gray Byrd. 8pm The Station at Southern **Rail:** Doug Largent Trio. 6pmMusic

Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 &

4:25 p.m.; Of Gods and Men, nightly at

7:10 & 9:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday

matinees 2:10 & 4:30 p.m.; Le Quattro

Volte, Saturday-Tuesday and Thursday

at 7:20 & 9:15 p.m., Saturday and Sun-

day matinees at 2:20 & 4:15 p.m.

**CHELSEA THEATER** 

Road, 968-3005

Timberlyne, 1129 Weaver Dairy

Jane Eyre; Win Win; The Conspirator

#### **MOVIES** We suggest you call for exact show times



Nightly at 7:10 & 9:30pm Sat & Sun Matinees at 2:10 & 4:30pm

LE QUATTRO VOLTE (DVD projection) Sat-Tue & Thu at 7:20 and 9:15pm Sat & Sun Matinees at 2:20 & 4:15pm 309 WEST MORGAN ST. DOWNTOWN DURHAM CAROLINATHEATRE.ORG ~ 919.560.3030

#### **CAROLINA OF DURHAM** 309 W. Morgan St., 560-3030 The Changeling, Friday only, 7 p.m.; Hop; Hanna; Rio; Scream 4; Water for Elephants Pet Sematary, Friday only, 9:30 p.m.; Jane Eyre, nightly at 7 & 9:25 p.m.,

#### **REGAL TIMBERLYNE 6**

120 Banks Drive, 933-8600 Call for show times. The Varsity 123 E. Franklin St., 967-8865 Black Swan; Just Go With It; Gnomeo & Juliet; The Manchurian Candidate

#### **THURSDAY APRIL 28**

Cat's Cradle: Man Man, Grandchildren, 9pm, \$14 The Cave: LATE: Dexter

Romweber City Tap: Chatham County Slim

and Papa Mike. 9pm

General Store Cafe: Dean Tuck, Bob Siegel. 7pm

Jessee's Coffee and Bar: Mark Cool with Art Champagne, Guilty Pleasures. 7pm

The Resevoir: . Blag'ard, Glen Iris, Ape! 10pm, \$4

The Station at Southern Rail: Stephanie Nilles. 10pm

#### **FRIDAY APRIL 29**

Cat's Cradle: Peter, Bjorn and John, Bachelorette. 8:45pm. \$15/18

The Cave: Jack Maverick and His Wild Rebels, The Mystery Men, The Krektones, Aqualads, 9th Wave, The

Space Rangers, The Straight 8's City Tap: Dave Fox and Mike Bolejack, George Worthmore, Marc Brown

General Store Cafe: Eversole and The Flame, 8pm

Jessee's Coffee and Bar: Bloodroot Barters, Humble Tripe. 8pm. Free

Local 506: The Submarines, Pepper Rabbbit. 9:30pm. \$10/12

Nightlight: Tomahawks, Embarrassing Fruits, Reds and Blues, Ben Davis. 9:30pm

#### Open Eye: Bicycle Ukulele. 8pm

**SATURDAY APRIL 30** Cat's Cradle: Young Dro, Killer Mike, Pac Div, Dee-1. 9:30pm. \$14/16

The Cave: The Surge, Bu Hao

Ting, Noseriders, Atomic Mosquitos, Coffin Daggers, Daidaiju, Phatlynx City Tap: George Worthmore,

Sarah Shook and The Devil

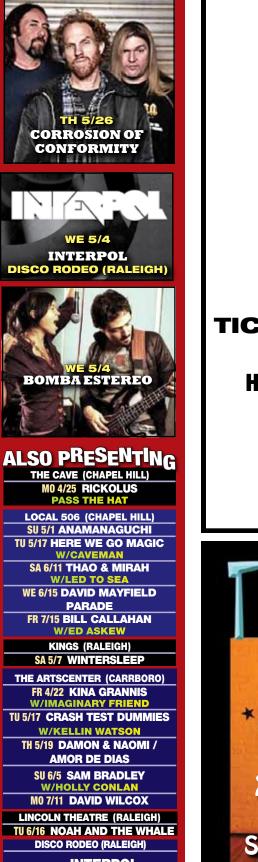
General Store Cafe: Tommy Edwards and Friends. 8pm

Jessee's Coffee and Bar: Doug Largent Trio. 8pm. Free

Katy's Music Bar: The Bloodroots Barter, Puritan Rodeo. 9pm **Local 506:** Holly Golightly and The

Broke Offs. 9:30pm. \$10 Nightlight: Veelee, Thank

You, US Christimas, Conspciuous Convulsion



#### **SPOTLIGHT:** Kina Grannis



#### Kina Grannis with Imaginary Friend

Twenty-five-year-old singer-songwriter Kina Grannis brings her sweetly melancholic sound to The ArtsCenter this Friday (April 22) on the heals of the release of her new record, Stairwells. Grannis was the winner of the Doritos Crash the Super Bowl contest, earning her a recording contract with Interscope Records and airtime for her music video during Super Bowl XLII commercial breaks. Grannis was also recently named XM radio's singer-songwriter of the year.

The show starts at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$13 in advance and \$15 the day of the show.

# THE INDEPENDENT'S



DD

**THE LUMINA** Southern Village, 932-9000

**MONDAY APRIL 25** 

Tremors, 9:30pm, \$8

Buttons. 10pm, \$4

9:30pm, \$8/10

27

Cat's Cradle: Devin the Dude,

CunninLynguists, Homeboy Sand-

man, Coughee Brothaz. 9pm. \$14/16

Local 506: The Dirt Daubers, The

The Resevoir: . Ghost Box Or-

chestra, Adam Thorn and The Top

**TUESDAY APRIL 26** 

Cat's Cradle: YELLE, French

Local 506: Captured by Robts.

WEDNESDAY APRIL

Cat's Cradle: Eisley, The Narra-

tive, Christie Dupree. 8pm. \$12/15

The Cave: EARLY: Brian McGee

Johnny Staxx and the Durty Boyz

Nightlight: Supreme Fiction

Local 506: Parts and Labor, Secu-

LATE: The Bloodroots Barter,

lar Joy. 9:30pm. \$8/10

Horn Rebellion. 9pm. \$18/20





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WE 5/4 INTERPOL W/SCHOOL OF SEVEN E FLIS

RALEIGH AMPHITHEATRE

SA 6/11 THE DECEMBERISTS W/BEST COAST TIX VIA ICKETMASTER CO-PRESENTED WITH LIVE NATION

CUNNINLYNGUISTS

LOST IN THE TREES

-

WE 6/8 THE JET LIFE TOUR CURREN\$Y W/TRADEMARK, YOUNG RODDY FIEN AND CORNER BOY P\*\*(\$16/\$18) TH 6/9\*\*(\$15) SONDRE LERCHE

SU 6/12 JOE PURDY W/THE MILK CARTON KIDS \*\*(\$15/\$17) SEATED SHOW

TU 6/14\*\*(\$15) JONNY (NORMAN BLAKE FROM TEENAGE FANCLUB AND EUROS CHILDS OF GORKY'S ZYGOTIC MYNCI) W/APEX MANO

TH 6/16\*\*(\$17/\$20) DAVE ALVIN AND THE GUILTY ONES AND LOS STRAITJACKETS

SA 6/18 FREE SHOW SPLILT 7: RELEASE PARTY! JENNYANYKIND / THE MOANERS W/SP FR 6/24 BEN SOLLEE W/THOUSANDS\*\*(\$15/\$17)

SA 6/25 BURN CENTER BENEFIT SOUTHWING, **REBECCA & THE HI TONES** AND WILLIE PAINTER BAND

TU 6/28 MUSIC FROM THE FILM WINTER'S BONE MARIDETH SISCO, DENNIS CRIDER, BO BROWN, VAN COLBERT, TEDI MAY AND LINDA STOFFEL\*\*(\$15/\$18)

SA 7/9\*\*(\$25/\$30) AN EVENING WITH THE PSYCHEDLIC FURS MO 7/25 EELS\*\*(\$18/\$21) FR 8/11 ARCHERS SOLD OF LOAF OUT



TH 5/12 THURSDAY W/PYGMY LUSH AND I WAS TOTALLY DESTROYING IT\*\*(\$15) FR 5/13\*\*(\$12) LOST IN THE TREES W/THE TODDLERS SA 5/14 WOODS CHARTER SCHOOL BENEFIT W/TRES CHICAS, GREAT BIG GONE AND LYNN BLAKEY & ECKI HEINS\*\*(\$10/\$12) TU 5/17 **JUNIP (ELIAS** ARAYA, JOSE GONZALEZ TOBIAS WINTERKORN) W/THE ACRYLICS\*\*(\$15) WE 5/18 DAWES\*\*(\$10/\$12) W/LUEGO AND WYLIE HUNTER & THE CAZADO FR 5/20 MAC MILLE R\*\*(\$15) W/RAPSODY SA 5/21 THE OLD CEREMONY\*\*(\$10/\$12) W/DEXTER ROMWEBER AND THE NEW ROMANS ENTER OUR POSTER **CONTEST FOR TOC!** TH 5/26 CORROSION OF CONFORMITY AND SCREAM\*\*(\$16/\$18) WE 6/1\*\*(\$16/\$18) OKKERVIL RIVER W/TITUS ANDRONIC AND FUTURE ISLANDS TH 6/2 MATT AND KIM W/THE HOOD INTERNET\*\*(\$25) FR 6/3 NASHVILLE PUSSY W/KOFFIN KATS\*\*(\$15/\$18) SA 6/4 PAUL THORN\*\*(\$15) W/DARK WATER RISING

**UH HUH HER** 

-

TH 4/21 BIG KRIT and FREDDIE GIBBS W/SMOKE DZA. BIG REMO\*\*(\$13/\$15) SA 4/23 YACHT W/JEFFREY JERUSALEM AND ROBES\*\*(\$12/\$15) MO 4/25 DEVIN THE DUDE AND CUNNINLYNGUISTS W/HOMEBOY SANDMAN AND COUGHEE BROTHAZ\*\*(\$14/\$16)

TU 4/26 YELLE W/FRENCH HORN REBELLION \*\*(\$18/\$20) WE 4/27 EISLEY\*\*(\$12/\$15) W/THE NARRATIVE AND CHRISTIE DUPREE

TH 4/28 MAN MAN\*\*(\$14) W/GRANDCHILDREN FR 4/29 PETER, BJORN & JOHN\*\*(\$15/\$18) W/BACHELORETTE

SA 4/30\*\*(\$14/\$16)

GRIND AND HUSTLE TOUR YOUNG DRO, KILLER MIKE, PAC DIV, DEE 1 MO 5/2 PINBACK

W/JUDGEMENT DAY\*\*(\$14/\$16)

TU 5/3\*\*(\$15/\$17) BROOKE FRASER **W/CARY BROTHERS** 

WE 5/4\*\*(\$15) **BOMBA ESTEREO** SA 5/7 THE TWILIGHT

SINGERS W/MARGO & THE NUCLEAR SO

& SO'S\*\*(\$15/\$18)

TU 5/10\*\*(\$13/\$15) UH HUH HER

W/DIAMONDS UNDER FIRE

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## **Briefs**

#### Holiday schedule

Most municipal offices in Carrboro and Chapel Hill will be closed on Friday for Good Friday.

There will be no curbside trash pickup on Friday for Chapel Hill residences; however, there will be pickup for commercial businesses. There will be no curbside trash pickup in Carrboro. Residences regularly scheduled for Friday pickup in Carrboro will have their garbage collected today (Thursday).

There will be no schedule change in curbside recycling collection.

The Orange County Landfill and Solid Waste Convenience Centers will remain open on Friday. Chapel Hill Transit will operate on a Saturday schedule and resume regular service on April 25.

#### **Police promotions**

Chapel Hill Police Capt. Leo Vereen was promoted to assistant chief of the Chapel Hill Police Department last week, one of many promotions given in the department in order to enhance community-policing efforts.

Lt. Chuck Quinlan was promoted to captain, Sgt. Jason McIntyre was promoted to lieutenant and Investigator Celisa Lehew was promoted to sergeant.

"These promotions will help us to continue our focus on community-oriented policing," Chief Chris Blue said. "Our department's emerging leaders are committed to improving our connections with residents."

#### **Carrboro** seeks input

The Town of Carrboro will hold back-to-back sessions in Town Hall on the transportation priorities of Carrboro today (Thursday) from 5 to 8 p.m.

From 5 to 7 p.m., Chapel Hill Transit will take comments on how to improve its fixed-route bus system, and from 7 to 8 p.m. the North Carolina Department of Transportation will seek input on how to improve its transportation services in the area over the next decade. The NCDOT requires communities to develop a local priority list for all transportation projects. This includes highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects.

If you have a question or comment on transportation priorities but are not able to attend the meeting, contact Jeff Brubaker, Carrboro Transportation Planner, at 918-7329.

#### THE CARRBORO ITIZEN

#### HOW TO REACH US The Carrboro Citizen 942-2100 P.O. Box 248 942-2195 (FAX)

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You're Invited to a Special Arts Event at the

## Town manager to retire

Steve Stewart announced on ment since 1974 and has served Wednesday that he plans to retire in late summer or early fall of this year.

Stewart, a native of Burlington, has served as town manager since September 2003. He ciation to the mayor and board

Carrboro Town Manager has worked in local govern- of aldermen, town employees as a local-government manager for more than 34 years in communities in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

Stewart expressed his appre-

and the community for the opportunity to serve the town. He expects to remain a Carrboro resident and looks forward to pursuing other interests following his retirement. – Staff Reports



## **Carrboro's big dig continues**

#### **BY KIRK ROSS**

Staff Writer

CARRBORO — The clanking of large shovels and the rumble of road rollers are still shaking up Weaver Street as work moves ahead on the extensive rebuilding of the roadbed.

Business owners say the noise, dust and detours have been a bother and have definitely had an impact on business.

"April is typically our busy month, and we're slower than we like - slower than we expected," said DeeDee Lavinder, owner of The Red Hen. The shop, which typically displays an assortment of wares in its front yard and porch, has curtailed that practice a bit due to the dust from the sewer line-replacement project in the western block of the street. But Lavinder shrugged it off, noting that it was pollen season anyway.

Dianne Koistinen, owner of The Beehive, said running a business on the eastern block of Weaver Street, where the major road work is going on, has been a challenge. Walk-in traffic is down and the view is often less than desirable.

"They cut our phones lines twice now," she said.

The vibrations from the rollers have been intense at times, Koistinen said, but the picture window she had shored up before the project started has held.

"It's been a constant source of excitement," she said of the project.

George Seiz, director of Carrboro Public Works, said business owners haven't been shy about letting him and his staff know what's not going right with the project.

That feedback usually comes with an understanding that this is a major rebuilding project.

"Generally, people are being good sports about it," he said.

Seiz said the timetable for the project is still on track despite heavy rains that required filling back in some of the work temporarily to protect the subgrade of the road. There have also

been spots that have required extra removal and replacement of material. Seiz said he still projects meeting the six-to-10 week window for completion of the east block, which will ease the minds of business owners, as

well as the traffic snarls. "I'm encouraged by the progress," he said. "Certainly, getting that first block done will be a good thing for all."

PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

But Seiz is cautious about the work ahead, even though the subgrade problems have not been extensive.

"There's still plenty of road left to go," he said.

If you have questions about the road work or want to check the schedules and read the latest update, visit the town's Weaver Street page at townofcarrboro. org/WS

## **DENR** to hold public meeting on contaminant

**BY TAYLOR SISK** Staff Writer

CARRBORO – The state Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will hold a public meeting on April 28 at 7 p.m. in the Carrboro Town Hall boardroom. The meeting's purpose is to provide information on the results of air sampling taken on three residences and two businesses in the immediate vicinity of a now-defunct dry-cleaning business that is believed to have

DENR's investigation began after the discovery of traces of perchloroethylene, or PERC, in the vicinity. PERC is a colorless, nonflammable liquid commonly used in the dry-cleaning industry.

The chemical is easily vaporized and can then migrate into buildings. One home on nearby Elm Street was found to have unacceptable vapor levels of the substance, and DENR officials said the department was taking steps to counteract any health risks that might result from those levels

to the former dry-cleaning location. At the time the business was in operation, such chemicals were commonly disposed of with little or no knowledge of the health risks they posed.

DENR's Division of Waste Dry-Cleaning Management's Solvent Cleanup Act program (DSCA), the lead agency in the investigation and cleanup of the site, will conduct the public meeting.

DENR officials say that the elevated levels of PERC found at the Flm Street residence war-

DSCA will install a vapormitigation system at the Elm Street home. An opening will be drilled through a concrete floor and a fan with a blower will vent the air through a pipe installed in the roof. Indoor air testing is planned in

an adjacent vacant house. Officials said last week that they also would be collecting underground soil gas and groundwater data at six non-residential properties in the immediate vicinity. The department has been conducting statewide testing for PERC and similar contaminants. The investigation at 408 W. Weaver St. began in December 2009, when the property owner voluntarily entered the DSCA program. Work began in February 2010 and an initial report was completed in October.

ONSTRU

Body Therapy Institute in Chatham County

# Body, Earth & Imagination



## Art Show and Sale by Carey Elizabeth Smith

Featuring original artwork and installations with mixed media, poetry, archetypal themes, and found objects from nature

#### April 30 and May 1 at South Wind Farm

Saturday, 11:00am-5:00pm Sunday, 1:00–5:00pm | FREE

ALSO: Interactive Art-Making • Nature Walks • Live Music • Q&A on the creative process with Carey and her teacher Sue Anderson

South Wind Farm is the beautiful 150-acre campus of the Body Therapy Institute, located just 25 minutes southwest of Carrboro

300 Southwind Road, Siler City NC 27344 For more info, call 888-500-4500 (toll-free) Driving directions: <www.massage.net>

This show is offered for the sake of healing in the world through creative action

dumped, in the early 1970s, a potential cancer-causing chemical.

The business, MEM One-Hour Martinizing, operated at 408 W. Weaver St., near the intersection of Main and Weaver streets, where Summerwinds Pools & Spas is now located.

Please have your bins out by 7:00am!

YOUR RACE

DOES NOT

1-800-669-9777

According to DENR, no dangerous levels were found at the other residences and the businesses where air samples were taken.

DENR discovered evidence of PERC at the CITGO station at the corner of Main and Weaver streets in 2009 and traced it back ranted a second round of testing in the vicinity, which has now been completed. DENR reports that the homes and businesses showed either no contaminants or had "concentrations considered well within acceptable levels for human health."



# Community

#### THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

## **Briefs**

#### Earth Day celebration

Families and staff of the Children's Learning Center in Hillsborough will celebrate Earth Day today (Thursday) with a picnic and garden planting at the center's new natural playground, located at 500 N. Nash St.

Planting will start at 4 p.m. and the picnic will start at 5. Playground donors and local and state officials, including Hillsborough Mayor Tom Stevens, will be on hand for a meet-and-greet starting at 4:45.

For more information, contact Judy O'Connell at 644-6590 ext. 4850 or Libbie Hough at 967-8070 or libbiehough@cmatters.org

#### Low-cost rabies vaccinations

Orange County's Animal Services Department will hold a \$10 rabies vaccination clinic today (Thursday) from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Public Market House in Hillsborough.

The vaccination will be good for one year and the fee must be paid in cash. Dogs must be on leashes and cats must be in individual carriers. The Public Market House is located at 144 E. Margaret Lane.

#### Healthy Kids Day rescheduled

Due to severe weather, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA has rescheduled its annual Healthy Kids Day for April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will get kids moving, with a live DJ, games, raffles, inflatable games and a bounce house, and information will be provided on keeping kids healthy and active.

For more information, contact Carrie Gorn at (215) 483-5482 or cgornpr@comcast.net

#### **Photography competition**

The Orange County Historic Preservation Commission has partnered with the Historical Foundation of Hillsborough and Orange County for their fifth annual photography competition. This year's theme is "historical architectural details."

Junior (youth) and amateur photographers at 967-0314. are invited to submit up to two entries in film or

digital format. Entry forms are available at several locations, including local libraries. Entries will be accepted through April 30. Winners will be announced on May 27 and will receive cash prizes. For more information, contact Darcie Martin

at 732-2201 or Tina Moon at 245-2517, or visit orangenchistory.org

#### Carrboro native wins undergrad award

Kelsey Carley Salvesen, a Carrboro native and UNC student, was presented the Jacques Hardré Undergraduate Award for Excellence in French at a university awards ceremony last week.

The award is presented to an undergraduate student whose work in French language and literature has been judged most outstanding by a faculty committee.

Salvesen is the daughter of David Salvesen and Kathleen Carley of Carrboro.

#### Community Photography Contest

The ArtsCenter is accepting entries for its 18th annual Community Photography Contest through April 30. Winners will be announced and prizes will be awarded on May 13. Two photos may be submitted for each \$20 adult entry fee or \$10 youth fee (ages 14 and under).

For more information, contact Phaedra Kelly at 929-2787 ext. 207 or artschool@artscenterlive. org. For a copy of contest rules or an entry form, visit artscenterlive.org

#### Handmade pottery sale

A group of local potters will hold a handmade pottery sale at the Clay Centre (402 Lloyd St. in Carrboro) on April 30 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The group is coming together to raise money for the N.C. Children's Hospital.

For more information, contact the Clay Centre 967-0314.

### HOUSE Calls

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

#### Dear HOUSE Calls,

I am 75 years old and recently started having a tremor in my hand when I start to pick up my fork. It is getting pretty problematic. A friend suggested it was Parkinson's disease. Should I see a neurologist?

It is scary to get a tremor. The symptom can be disabling and makes us worry about other serious diseases, like Parkinson's. In your case, this may not be Parkinson's. The most common cause of this type of tremor is a benign essential tremor, which is often genetic. It is usually an intention tremor, which means when you reach for something, the tremor comes. A Parkinson's tremor starts when the hands are at rest and gets better when you use your hands. In addition, there are certain psychiatric medications that can cause tremors. We think you should see your family physician and let him or her learn more about your tremor, examine you and review your medicines and family history. Intention tremors sometimes respond to exercise, avoiding triggers and, in severe

cases, medicines known as beta blockers. The great news about benign essential tremor is that it is not associated with movement problems and dementia like Parkinson's.

Dear HOUSE Calls, My daughter is 13 and overweight. Diabetes and high blood pressure run in our family. I pay attention to my daughter's diet, but she is getting heavier. At her last physical, her doctor was worried about her blood pressure. This really worries me. What should I do?

It's really great that you took your child to her doctor and that you are paying attention to this wakeup call. Hopefully these changes can benefit your whole family, because this is usually a family problem. There are some genetic elements with weight problems, but many lifestyle choices are 'inherited' or learned. It sounds like you are working on her diet, which is important. Some questions to ask yourself include: Does your family spend a lot of time in front of the TV? Does your

family value athletics, hiking, swimming? How much do you eat out? Do you go to fast-food restaurants? Portion size? Dessert? We would want to work with the whole family, look at daily and weekly schedules, family meals, shopping lists, school meals, snacks, soft drinks and dining out. We would also want to get the family more involved in physical activity if that is lacking (you should have a goal of one hour of moderate-intensity activity daily.) Also we often work with nutritionists. Sometimes psychologists and exercise specialists can be helpful, especially if there is a program in your community where these professionals work together. The fact is that weight loss requires a reduction in intake. She will have to eat less to control her weight. Good luck. This is so hard and so important ..

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

## carrborocitizen.com/classifieds



## A closely knit group

#### **BY ALLISON RUSSELL** Staff Writer

Beware the "Sweater Curse." According to the group of women who attend the Carrboro-based knitting group Stitch 'n Bitch, it happens when someone knits an article of clothing for a significant other and gets dumped shortly after.

"It's a financial and emotional investment [to knit something for someone]," said group member Laurel Burk. "It has a domestic connotation."

"Making things for other people







#### Graham Carroll Roehrig arrives in Carrboro

Maggie Dickson and Eric Roehrig of Carrboro are very pleased to announce the birth of their son, Graham Carroll Roehrig, on Friday, April 15, 2011.

The equally pleased grandparents are Eileen and Frank Roehrig of Southport, N.C., and Vicky and Robert Dickson of Carrboro.

Look for Graham being strolled down a sidewalk near you soon.

is really special," said Lesley Starke as she smoothed her hand over the child's sweater she was knitting. "It's a meditation on that person."

"You just shouldn't knit something for your boyfriend until you have a commitment from him," added Jessica Thornton with a knowing smile.

The Sweater Curse, along with the "Second Sock Syndrome" – what happens when a knitter finishes the first sock but lacks the motivation to finish the pair – are topics of spirited discussion at a Stitch 'n Bitch meeting on a Thursday night at Open Eye Café.

Rose Hoban founded the group in January 2007 after she moved to Chapel Hill from Washington.

"I was just sitting around and moping after a breakup, and I thought the group would be a good way to meet people," said Hoban, who created a Meetup.com group to spread the word to other interested "stitchers."

Members of Stitch n' Bitch show their socks, scarves, blankets, cardigans, slippers, sweaters and shawls at April Meeting #1 at Open Eye Cafe. The members from left-right are: Laurel Burk, Jessica Thornton, Andrea Turini, Kristin Deinert, Tracey Fine, Rose Hoban, Vanessa Hays and Lesley Starke.

PHOTO BY ALLISON RUSSELL

Hoban said she named the group "Stitch 'n Bitch" because it's l a commonly used phrase among i knitters and sewers.

"My mom called it 'stitch 'n bitch' when she and her friends would get together to do needlepoint back in the '70s," she said.

The women of the group range in knitting skills from novice to expert, which makes the group a place to learn as well as to teach.

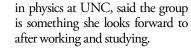
"One of the reasons I like this group so much is because there are people here that I can ask for help," said Burk, who is working on her first pair of Argyle socks and waiting to see if the Second Sock Syndrome will set in. Starke, who creates her own knitting patterns, is currently working on five projects.

"I never have fewer than two going on at once," she said. "I start to feel antsy, so I'll just break out all my [knitting pattern] books and get the creativity flowing."

The project she has been working on for more than two years is a scarf that uses Chaos Theory as a code to determine the color pattern.

"It's kind of like reading DNA," Starke said, glancing up from the knitting in her lap. "The code determines the color [of the yarn I use for each stitch]. It's like reading binary code. It's kind of insane."

Burk, who is a graduate student



"I do this to stay sane," she said. The women talk about anything and everything as they knit, sipping wine and counting stitches.

"If your mother is proper, this probably isn't the best place for her, because we get a little riled up," said Hoban, who says she has brought her mother to a Stitch 'n Bitch meeting.

Vanessa Hays, a graduate student in UNC's School of Information and Library Science, said she enjoys "yarn bombing" on campus and throughout Carrboro.

"It's like a street art kind of thing," Hays said. "It's when you knit something as a cover for something outside, like making a cozy for a tank."

"It's simply brilliant!" Hoban added from across the circle.

Hays says she has yarn bombed Weaver Street Market and UNC's campus. She made a blue-andbrown tube around a tree in front of Weaver Street as well as a scarf tied around the neck of one of the statues behind Manning Hall.

"I like to do it at night so people will wake up the next day and see something new," Hays said. "My goal is to do one every day."

As a result of the close-knit nature of the group, Hoban says people have come and gone in the past.

"Everybody has been really great, but the group is self-selecting. It's not for some folks," Hoban said.

"I don't try to enforce any ethos here," she added. "It's just come, knit and hang out."

Allison Russell writes for the Carrboro Commons, a bi-weekly online lab newspaper for Jock Lauterer's Community Journalism class at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and is also an intern with The Carrboro Citizen.

**ast week!** sale ends Tuesday, April 26 **over 30 wines up to 41% off!** 

**\$17.99** regularly \$30.99

7th Annual Spring Wine sale

Plus, enjoy a 5% discount on 6 or more bottles, and a 10% discount on 12 or more bottles!

# fantastic deals: 3 new additions!





o Verde 2009 26%



Terra d'Oro Old Vine Zinfandel Deaver Vineyard 2007

Domaine Paire Bourgogne Rouge 2007\$12.99regularly \$18.99

Les Halos de Jupiter Côtes-du-Rhône Rouge 2009 \$13.99 regularly \$18.99

Open 7 days3 locations:CarrboroSouthern VillageHillsboroughweaverstreetmarket.coopfacebook.com/weaverstreetbeerfacebook.com/weaverstreettwitter.com/weaverstreet

# Community

## Calendar

**THURSDAY APRIL 21 D. G. Martin** — To speak on "Thirteen is My Lucky Number: Upcoming Interviews with Fascinating People." Seymour Center, 2:30pm Free

Autism Awareness Lecture - Presented by The OPC Area Program, will feature a lecture by Jim Bodfish. Extraordinary Ventures, 200 S. Elliott Road, 1-3pm Free 913-4055

Sacrificial Poets — Grand Slam Finals. The ArtsCenter, 7pm artscenterlive.org

Fair Trade Event — Sample cardamom brownies and locally roasted coffee, with part of the proceeds to fund the Fair Trade Town Initiative. Vimala's Curryblossom Cafe, 5-9pm humanrightscities.org

Dulcimer Players — The Carolina Mountain Dulcimer Players will meet at Carol Woods Retirement Community. 7pm 929-5359

Film Screening — What A Way To Go: Life At The End Of Empire. Internationalist Books, 7pm

#### **FRIDAY APRIL 22** Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche

— To speak on "What is Wisdom in Tibetan Buddhism?" Unity Center of Peace, 7:30pm Suggested donation

\$10 Registration required piedmontktc.org

Scrapel Hill Exhibit — Opening Reception for the 3rd Annual Scrapel Hill Exhibit and Competition. University Mall, 6-8pm

#### **SATURDAY APRIL 23**

Easter Egg Hunt — Sponsored by The Preservation Society of Chapel Hill, for children 8 and under. On the lawn of Horace Williams House, 10am chapelhillpreservation.com

Earth Day Celebration — Demonstrations, kids' activities and live music. Chapel Hill Farmers' Market at University Mall, 8am-noon

#### **MONDAY APRIL 25** Time Out — With guest Ray LaFrenaye discussing the new UNC Hospital in Hillsborough. WCOM-FM

103.5, 5pm

Chapel Hill Bird Club - Meeting, with Dr. Rob Bierregaard speaking on "Barred Owls in Rural and Suburban Habitats." Binkley Baptist Church, 7:30pm 562-1670

#### **THURSDAY APRIL 28**

CHHS Production — Performance of The Drowsy Chaperone, a celebration of jazz-age musicals. Continues through April 30. Hanes Theatre, 7:30pm \$5 students/\$10 adults tinyurl.com/drowsytix

OC Democratic Women — To meet with guests Gwen Wilkins, Sarah Anderson and Linda Chewning. OWASA Building, 7pm 593-1904

Talk on Palestine — Mary Hulett and Gayle Ruedi present reflections, Palestine: A Human Rights Perspective, on their recent study tour with the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions-UK. Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist, 6:30pm 881-2205

#### **SATURDAY APRIL 30** Transactors Improv — Creates

"Fiasco," which focuses on a fictional theater company as it rehearses and stages a play based on a historical fiasco. The ArtsCenter, 8pm artscenterlive.org

Global Issues Symposium — Designed to help NC residents respond to global issues. Unity Center of Peace, 8800 Seawell School Road, I0am-3:30pm \$20 office@ unitychapelhill.org

Healthy Kids Day — At the Chapel Hill/Carrboro YMCA, 10am-2pm chcymca.org



#### ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK

#### Sheri Castle — To be at the Carrboro Farmers' Market, 8:30am Funkilicious — '70s, '80s Disco,

Funk Dress Theme Party/fundraiser to benefit Breast Cancer Awareness. HIV/Aids Awareness and Prevention, Burkina Faso School of Girls Scholarship fund and both Chapel Hill and Carrboro community centers. The Station, 8pm

#### Ongoing Cancer Support — Support

groups at Cornucopia House for cancer patients and their families. cornucopiahouse.org

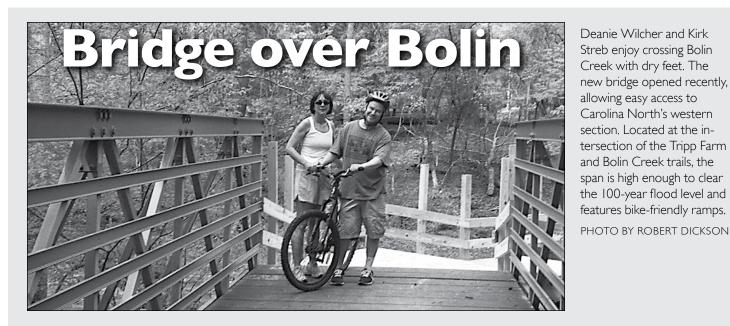
**Cancer Support** — Support groups and wellness programs sponsored by N.C. Cancer Hospital. unclineberger.org/patient/support/ supportgroup.asp

#### Tax Assistance — Free for

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

Send your Community Calendar submissions to calendar@carrborocitizen.com

**OBITUARY** 





#### **Baldwin Custom Cabinetry** and Home Improvement

Cabinet re-facing & Carpentry Hardwood flooring Door & window installation

25% off all wo

Screened decks & porches Room additions/Painting & sheetrock

336-512-5612 Electrical, plumbing & roofing

336-266-4228 Josh Baldwin

**Dale Baldwin** 

20 20

#### **Robert Thornlow** Creek with dry feet. The Robert Timothy Thornlow, new bridge opened recently,

49, of Durham N.C., formerly of Alexandria, Va., passed away peacefully in the arms of his loving wife on March 30, 2011.

Robert was born in August 1961 in Greensboro, N.C., to Barbara (Ward) and Robert G. Thornlow. Born into a Marine Corps family, Robert grew up in Camp Lejeune and Jacksonville, N.C. Rob graduated from North Carolina State University in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering and entered the U.S. Navy. He received his Master of Science degree in electrical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1990. While stationed in Monterey, Calif., he met his future wife, who was serving as an Army nurse at Fort Ord, Calif. Robert and Deirdre (Kling) were married in April 1991. Robert spent his naval career as a surface warfare and engineering duty officer in San Diego, Long Beach Calif., London

#### and Washington, D.C., before retiring as a commander in 2005. He continued working in the defense industry following retirement.

An avid runner, Rob also enjoyed hiking, golfing, traveling and spending time with family and friends. All will miss his infectious smile, sense of humor and love of life. Robert is survived by his wife; his parents; stepfather, Rick Davis of Madison, N.C.; stepmother, Priscilla Thornlow of Jacksonville, N.C.; one brother, Todd; four sisters, Jackie Best (Danny), Terri Lien (Jim), Robin Hoots (Jerry) and Gina Dixon; and several cherished nieces and nephews.

Donations can be made in Rob's memory to the CURED Duke Prostate Cancer Fund (CURED-DPC) or Duke Home Care and Hospice online at gifts.duke.edu/daa or to Alumni & Development Records, Duke University, Box 90581, Durham, NC 27708-0581.

#### SUPER CROSSWORD SOUNDS TOUGH

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## Weekly SUDOKU

#### by Linda Thistle

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#### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: \*\*

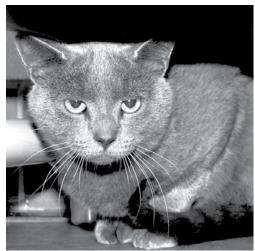
★ Moderate ★★ Challenging  $\star \star \star$  HOO BOY! © 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

#### PET OF THE WEEK

#### **ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES** —**Orion** is a

special boy who is looking for a special home. He was originally thought to be feral and while not quite feral, he is definitely fearful of most things. There is no such thing as a good picture of Orion because he is terrified of the camera, the flash and even the invasive photographer! Underneath

the fear though is a gorgeous and gentle boy who does have the desire and ability to trust. Visit him today at Orange County's Animal Services Center, 1601 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill or call 942-PETS. You can also see him and other adoptable animals online at www.co.orange. nc.us/animalservices/ adoption.asp





#### The ArtsCenter

For more information or to order tickets call 929-2787 x201 or go to artscenterlive.org ArtSchool registration now open!

#### CONCERTS:

KINA GRANNIS WITH IMAGINARY FRIEND • FRI 4/22 TOO MUCH FUN • SAT 4/23 CRASH TEST DUMMIES • TUE 5/17 SAM BRADLEY with HOLLY CONLAN • SUN 6/5 J.D. SOUTHER with JILL ANDREWS • SUN 6/12 DAVID WILCOX • MON 7/11

#### **COMMUNITY EVENTS:**

UNCOMMON GARDEN TOUR • SAT 4/30 THE ARTSCENTER STREET FAIR @ CARRBORO TOWN COMMONS • SUN 5/1

#### **ARTSCENTER STAGE:**

SACRIFICIAL POETS: GRAND SLAM FINALS • THU 4/21 TRANSACTORS IMPROV: FIASCO • SAT 4/30 THE MONTI SEASON FINALE • SAT 5/7

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#### FROM THE EDITOR

#### The earnest season

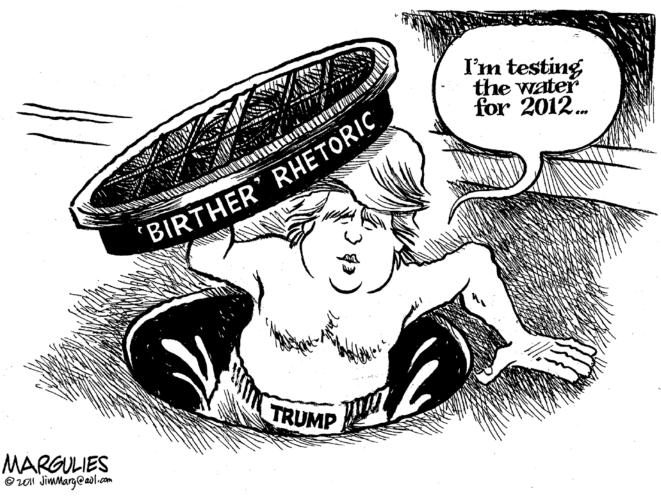
There are many discernible periods in the cycle of our local governments. Soon it'll be budget season - when things go into overdrive, culminating in a rapid-fire series of decisions.

Just prior to that season, the elected leaders of this university community are privy to numerous reports compiled by earnest, forthright young people as part of their education.

This end-of-semester flurry of analysis, recommendations and even proposed new ordinances is usually delivered to our local boards by a team of students. Their work ranges from exemplary and useful to overly abstract and not so useful. Almost always, the projects are aimed at making a point, and for that they should be received in the spirit in which they're given. It might be tempting to get cynical when the kids get preachy, but the gist of what they're saying is often spot-on and the issues highlighted are frequently indeed areas of concern requiring focus.

This year, as in several years past, students again brought up the pressing need for the community living near the Orange County landfill to be relieved of its longtime burden and made whole again. Students made their case with a study showing 47 illegal dumpsites in the Rogers and Eubanks roads neighborhood as well as numerous citations of duplicitous behavior on the part of a succession of local governments toward the community that hosts its landfill. This part of our local history has been, for decades, the awful example of not walking the walk.

In the wake of this new report – and all the reports preceding it and all the task forces and study committees past and present it's a little stunning to see that the county is thinking of extending its stay in the neighborhood a little longer. The argument in favor is, naturally, that it is the easiest and least-costly thing to do.



## **Caveat emptor! Buyer beware!**

#### EANNE BROWN

My mother-in-law was a real estate agent in California. So when it came time for my husband and me to buy a home, she reminded us of one of her Golden Rules of Real Estate: "Caveat Emptor" - "Let the buyer beware."

From that rule came our list of important considerations for house buying. We avoid busy streets and ensure that neighboring lots are zoned for residential use. We research school assignments carefully and my husband drives his route to work at busy times.

Within seven months of moving to Chapel Hill, we were informed that our children would be redistricted from one school to another. During our nine years in a suburb of Boston, the schools had only one minor redistricting, so we hadn't understood the real estate agent's strong emphasis on the importance of walk zones. Lesson learned.

Even more surprising to us, however, was a carpool conversation last spring in which one of the children lamented the proposed Obey Creek project that would place an eight-story hotel in his backyard. His parents had evaluated their home purchase carefully. They were reassured that the property was zoned for low-density housing and protected as part of the Jordan Lake Watershed Area.

Imagine their surprise when they discovered that a developer was proposing that this property be rezoned to allow the densest Chapel Hill development yet. And surprise turned to dismay as the Chapel Hill Town Council allowed concept-plan negotiations to begin at 1,200 condos, a University Mall-sized shopping center and an eight-story hotel. What happened to beginning with the zoning regulations and Small Area Plan? Under those guidelines, the yardstick for evaluating this project would have been 120 homes and environmental protections.

Both properties are located at an entrance to Chapel Hill. Proposals for smaller developments on both sites have been denied by the town council in the past few years. In both cases, the reasons for denial included the inconsistency with the zoning and the environmental impact.

Both properties are gateway properties to Chapel Hill. The property buyers knew full well that these properties were zoned for low-density housing.

Both proposed projects include condominiums, despite the glut of condominiums already on the market and those already approved but not yet built.

During the Nov. 8, 2010 town council meeting, the council agreed that "the days of ad-hoc decisions" are over. Since then, initial committees have begun forming to begin the Comprehensive Planning process . Aside from allowing discussion on issues of zoning, land use and density, this process affords us an opportunity to address two other issues and thereby strengthen the Comprehensive Plan, helping future councils guide growth and protecting the interests of homeowners and landowners.

First, as council member Ed Harrison pointed out on April 9, "There are no requirements in a Comprehensive Plan. It needs more specific policies" so that the same document can't be interpreted in a variety of ways.

Second, a stronger set of guidelines and procedures should be developed for the Concept Plan process to prevent the all-toofamiliar scenario in which the council finds itself backed into a corner by a developer who has met the council's checklist but whose project is clearly at odds with the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and the wishes of area neighbors. For instance, in the case of large developments, the process should include a walkthrough of the property and surrounding neighborhood. Doing a walkthrough before giving feedback to developers would allow

## **Extortion** politics

#### **ROBERT REICH**

As the government approaches its borrowing limit of \$14.3 trillion, Republicans are seeking political advantage over what conditions should be attached to raising that limit.

This is a scandal - or should be. Raising the debt limit shouldn't be subject to party politics. Economic extortion should be out of bounds. It's bad enough that government shutdowns have become an accepted part of political negotiation. But failure to increase the amount the treasury can borrow would have far graver results.

Not only would the government be unable to issue Social Security or Medicare checks but the United States couldn't pay interest on its current debt. We'd go into default. The full faith and credit of the United States would be in jeopardy. Treasury bonds would go into free fall. Interest rates would skyrocket. We, and most of the rest of the world, would fall into financial chaos.

The recovery is still fragile. All this would force us and most of the rest of the world into a deeper recession or worse.

No one in their right mind would threaten this. Yet it's talked about as if it's just another aspect of Washington politics - a threat that might be carried out in early July when the treasury runs out of ways to keep paying our debts.

In fact, it's a giant game of highway chicken - and if one driver doesn't yield, the crash will be catastrophic. Games of chicken are won by drivers able to convince their opponents they won't swerve. That gives a strategic advantage to Republicans backed by the Tea Party, who are so convinced government is evil they've signaled they'd be willing to risk it.

It's as easy as directing the landfill staff to squeeze even more years out of the property. More years would equal more tipping fees.

That may sound fine to, say, anyone just starting to pay attention to the situation, but the reality is that more years of the landfill mean more years of failure on the part of local governments to live up to their word and their creed. It's not just about the landfill; it's about paying that debt that has built up the one that is conveniently forgotten when something is easier or less costly.

It means more years of illegal dumping, more years of buzzards and stench and trucks rolling through constantly. It means more years of contaminated wells and lack of services and more years before that park promised three decades ago is even considered.

Most importantly, it means more years of environmental racism visited on a neighborhood in a place that professes to be a champion of justice.

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MEMBER, NC PRESS ASSOCIATION

During my five years in Chapel Hill, I've noticed a trend toward consideration and approval of projects that require rezoning and Special Use Permits. An example that is currently before the town council is the Aydan Court project, which is scheduled for a vote on April 25.

Although the projects differ in scope, there are many similarities between Obey Creek and Aydan Court:

The properties are environmentally sensitive areas that have been given special designation by the town.

Both properties were set aside as buffers to higher-density development

#### LETTERS

#### **Community Dinner**

Thanks to everyone who played a part in making the 14th annual Community Dinner a resounding success. Close to 500 people gathered to eat food prepared by Mama Dip's Kitchen, The Carolina Inn, Margaret's Cantina and Bandido's Mexican Café. Many local restaurants, together with many businesses and organizations, provided supplementary entrees and desserts. We would particularly like to thank Mama Dip's Kitchen for cooking the lion's share of 14 community dinners. All who attended enjoyed a poem by Carrboro's poet laureate, Jay Bryan, and entertainment by the Cathedral of Hope Community Male Choir, KidZNotes, the Jigsaw 44 choir from Gravelly Hill Middle School in Efland and Grupo Capoeira Brasil North Carolina. Sound was by Erich Lieth, and Ron Stutts of WCHL1360 and Marlyn Valeiko from Orange County's Department of Housing, Human Rights and Community Development were the emcees.

This year's event was an overwhelming success, in part because of the efforts of so many people who have worked on dinners for the past 13 years. The event is designed to bring people together who might not ordinarily cross paths, and this year's dinner shows that the event continues to be an important part of the community's annual calendar. This year's dinner reflected even more concerted efforts to include locally sourced foods on the menu and to be a zero-waste event (95 percent composted or recycled).

Without your help and donations, we would not have been able to offer such an exceptional dinner for so modest a ticket price. By keeping the event truly affordable (and by underwriting an unprecedented number of tickets), we were able to host citizens from every income level and every

ethnic, special needs and age group. In this way, the dinner enhances the spirit of diversity in the community. To those of you who attended this year's event, we are sure no explanation is needed regarding the benefit of such happenings as the Community Dinner. Our shared understanding and pride in community is, as we know, even stronger as a result of this year's event, and we look forward to seeing you daily in the community and at the dinner next year.

> NERYS LEVY Chapel Hill

#### Sensible solutions

I don't live in Carrboro, but I accept that Carrboro needs an easily accessible library. As an Orange County homeowner and taxpayer, I am concerned about the wisdom of buying an expensive piece of property and building a probable multimillion-dollar structure. A thriftier approach seems appropriate now. When times are good again and the schools have all been repaired, then is the time to build a nice, big new library. I propose that a library be opened in the building vacated by CVS when (and if?) they build their new store. If more space is needed, a sunroom-style reading room could be added in the space between Elmo's and the CVS building. The spot is centrally located and convenient. Parking is already available. No need to build another large asphalt parking lot, which is just another slap to the environment. This would also avoid putting residents and pedestrians through the noise and disruption of new construction.

It is time we all stopped borrowing money to live like we are the richest people in the world. County government included. Let's look for sensible, cost-effective solutions for our needs.

> GRETA LEE Hillsborough

the council to guide development in a more meaningful way and lead to suggestions that meet everyone's needs.

Please encourage the town council to refrain from approving Aydan Court, Charterwood or other high-impact, ad-hoc zoning requests until the Comprehensive Planning process has been completed. The developers are being included as a focus group in the process, which will allow us to work together to create a common vision for Chapel Hill. You can send your e-mail to mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org

Jeanne Brown is a Chapel Hill resident.

#### **Don't destroy early** education

The other week, I received a phone call from a citizen who asked when more child-care subsidy slots would be available. I subsequently learned that there are approximately 500 individuals on the waiting list. She works and has difficulty affording child care. I had no encouragement I could give her. Is this the situation that we wish more citizens to face? Smart Start is facing debilitating cuts in administrative costs, but also in subsidies. Several hundred additional families may lose their child-care assistance, pre-school funding and/or quality enhancement, jeopardizing their ability to work. Pending legislation would eliminate Family Support and Early Intervention and Health Programs.

Do we really want to eliminate these programs for high-risk families with young children? Programs such as these support positive child development and parenting, which can prevent costly services, such as special education, in the future. More at Four, which targets at-risk children, is another program slated for budget cuts. Yet research has repeatedly shown that More at Four children have improved third-grade reading and math scores.

I hope that all citizens tell their representatives that they will not tolerate destroying years of early-childhood progress that has given thousands of children an opportunity to succeed. Please contact Bill Faison, Joe Hackney, Verla Insko and Eleanor Kinnaird.

BERNADETTE PELISSIER Orange County Commissioner, Orange County Partnership for Young Children

But this shouldn't be a matter of political strategy. Disagreement about the nation's budget should be worked out through the constitutional process of majority votes in Congress, followed by the president's signature or veto and Congress's right to override the veto.

No group of legislators is entitled to threaten to crash the United States economy if its demands aren't met.

The biggest surprise is the silence of American business and Wall Street. They have as much, if not more, to lose as anyone if this game ends in tragedy. Yet the GOP which big business and Wall Street fund - insists on playing it.

Why isn't the Business Roundtable decrying the use of this tactic? Where are the leaders of Wall Street? Where are the corporate statesmen? They should insist this game of chicken be called off or they'll stop the funding.

Maybe they think the crash won't happen, that Obama and the Dems will cave in to Paul Ryan and the Republicans before that.

If so, they're wrong. The Republicans' demands are so far beyond the pale - turning Medicare into vouchers that funnel money to private insurance companies, turning Medicaid and food stamps into block grants that would deliver less to the poor, giving a giant tax windfall to the very rich - they cannot be met without causing the Democratic base (and most independents) to revolt.

Yesterday, Standard & Poor's (hardly a beacon of reliability after the Crash of 2008, to be sure) downgraded America's credit outlook. Expect more downgrades if the game of chicken continues.

## **Public workers** are easy prey

#### MICHELLE LAWS

It is clear from Wisconsin to Ohio to North Carolina and places in between – public-sector and low-wage workers have become targeted prey for a sociopolitical system that thrives off of predatory labor policies and in the Clinton administration, practices that exploit the labor of public and low-wage workers. For example: policies that deny workers the right to collectively bargain or management practices that make it all too convenient to label and fire workers who protest unjust or unsafe working conditions as "difficult and unruly, insubordinate" or "confrontational," or exhibiting "detrimental personal conduct." These were the major claims that were put forth by the Town of Chapel Hill in its case against the two sanitation workers whom they fired - Clyde Clark and Kerry Bigelow. Bigelow and Clark became scapegoats for a myriad of problems plaguing the Public Works department in Chapel Hill, problems that started at the top with poorly trained, inept and unqualified managers who demonstrate mastery in shifting the blame and passing the buck, yet show rudimentary skills in effective employee management.

Assassinating the character of public workers who protest or rating workers' job performance as "unsatisfactory" or "poor" are methods used by managers and employers to devalue, discredit and undermine the rights of workers while also garnering public support and sympathy. After all, who wants a sanitation worker with a bad attitude on their route? Or who wants to supervise a worker who is disgruntled because his constant pleas to management to implement safety standards and measures on his route have repeatedly fallen on deaf ears? I mean, who do these workers think they are Post, 9/2010), made the following complaining about bad working observation: "More than other

conditions – they should be glad they have a job, right? WRONG!

The mechanisms used to politically disarm and shut down workers are manifold and in full play by the far right and their anti-union allies. Robert Reich, former secretary of labor was spot-on when he wrote in a recent column: "It's far more convenient to go after people who are doing the public's work - sanitation workers, police officers, fire fighters, teachers, social workers, federal employees - to call them 'faceless bureaucrats' and portray them as hooligans who are making off with your money and crippling federal and state budgets."

The "frontal assault" on America's public-sector and lowwage workers is happening at a time when the income gap between the top earners and the middle and bottom is spiraling out of control. According to 2009 census data, the income gap between the richest and poorest Americans has grown to its largest margin ever in American history (read Tim Noah's "The Great Divergence," Slate, 9/14/10). The top-earning 20 percent of Americans - those making more than \$100,000 each year - received 49.4 percent of all income generated in the U.S., compared to the 3.4 percent earned by the bottom 20 percent - persons whose earnings are below the poverty threshold (which was \$21,834 for a family of four in 2008 and \$21,756 in 2009). The middle-income earners (\$50,000) saw their wages declining on a fast track to the bottom in 2008.

According to Noah, the richest 1 percent account for 24 percent of the nation's income. University of Wisconsin-Madison professor Timothy Smeeding, in an article by Hope Yen (Huffington countries, we have a very unequal income distribution where compensation goes to the top in a winner-takes-all economy."

While unimaginable and often undeserved wealth (wealth gained by birth right and very little individual labor) is converging at the top, poverty in America is deepening and at its highest level since the 1960s when President Lyndon Johnson launched a war on poverty. The poverty rate climbed from 39.8 million people in 2008 to 43.6 million in 2009, and, unfortunately, race does matter. Poverty rose among all race and ethnic groups, but was particularly higher for blacks (25.8 percent) and Hispanics (25.3) than whites (9.4) in 2009. And because poor children are often connected to poor families, the child poverty rate rose from 19 percent in 2008 to 20.7 percent in 2009.

Equally troubling is America's current employment crisis, which is occurring during one of the worst economic recessions in American history. The average unemployment rate in the U.S. in December 2010 was 9.6. For African-American males, it was 18.4 at the end of 2010, and for African-American women it was 13.8, compared to 9.4 for white males and 7.7 for white females, and 12.7 for Hispanic males and 12.3 for Hispanic females.

The problem with wealth, income and even employment status is that often they are intricately interconnected to social capital and political power. Few public workers are well connected to the power establishment or have connections with the right social networks to be able to stop tyrannical elected officials (e.g., Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker) or employers from enacting policies that work against the best interests of workers and neutralize workers' rights. Without the right social capital friends in powerful positions and the "right places" - middle- and



Abbey Court's water festival was a great big splash

#### **ABBEY COURT** FROM PAGE I

Off to the side of the splashing children, a few local artists brought another dynamic to the celebration that allowed residents to take a piece of the festival home with them.

Eleanor Blake, Lincoln Hancock and Neill Prewitt operated a fantasy photo booth for the Abbey Court residents, allowing them to have their pictures taken with a variety of digital backgrounds that included dazzling fireworks, an ancient pagoda and colorful hearts.

low-wage workers going up against government and capitalists is like David going up against Goliath. The proverbial stones in workers' slingshots are (1) their critical mass and strength in numbers that far outweigh their opponents, and (2) a voting populace that has not become apathetic or hoodwinked by a carefully constructed and often politically motivated narrative e.g., the tale of two rebel sanitation workers who were supposedly out of control and terrorizing women in one of the more affluent areas a place that exists only in their imaginations, far away from the dull buildings of Abbey Court. "We're starting to explore dreams and ideas of people," she said. "But mainly we wanted to take pictures this time and have

Blake said the photo booth

gave residents the opportunity

to have their pictures taken in

something immediately to give to the people." Blake is a member of the team of artists that was selected by the Town of Chapel Hill Public Arts Office and the Public Arts Commission to work on the Into the

Streets: Community Arts En-

gagement Project. The commis-

of town, or labor unions that are

sucking the state's budget dry (as

argued by Gov. Walker), or piti-

ful cries from undeserving beggars

who simply want a handout (as

I am encouraged by the mo-

bilization that is happening on

the ground by, and in support

of, workers. I believe that while

money and political power may trump a lot of things, they can

never overtake the power of the

people, united, mobilized and

committed to justice. Just take a

others have suggested).

sion's goal is to allow artists to expose residents of Chapel Hill and Carrboro to the positive experiences going on in the Abbey Court community.

PHOTO BY WILL BRYANT

The project will culminate in an art exhibition at 523 E. Franklin St. that is scheduled to run June 10 to July 31.

"The idea, eventually, is that the larger community can learn about people who live here," said Blake, "so that [the community] can learn about who they really are."

And as residents of Abbey Court left the water festival with photos in hand, they were able to get a clearer picture of their community as well.

look through America's history it has ALWAYS been a movement of, by and for the people that has kept "big money" and scoundrel politicians from running amuck and swindling the public's trust.

Michelle Laws is the District 8 director of the N.C. State Conference of Branches of the NAACP, president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP and an adjunct professor of sociology at N.C. Central University.



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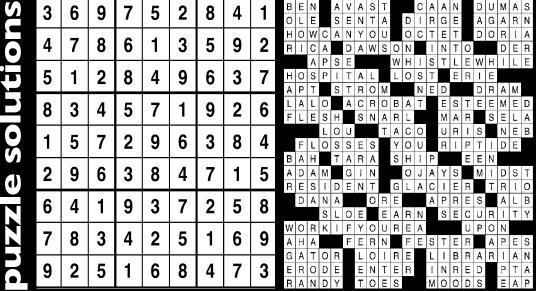
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#### **CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER: Price of Celebrity**

The damn show destroyed my family. - Billy Ray Cyrus, muscian and actor, referring to the popular kids' television series "Hannah Montana", which catapulted daughter Miley Cyrus to stardom.

- 'You can't live here because you have too many kids.'
- "We don't allow families with children to live on the second floor."
- "I don't want those changes like a ramp or grab bar here."
- "You will have to pay more because you have children."
- "Professional people only. No kids."
- "You have to speak English to live here."
- "You will make the neighbors uncomfortable."
- "You have to be married to live together."
- "It will be an extra \$50 a month per kid."
- "Christians only."
- "People who live here can't wear those veils (hijab)."

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Project Graduation will be held

Saturday, June 11, from 11 p .m.

to 4 a.m. at the Student Union

drug-free celebration is free for

all graduating seniors in Chapel

Hill-Carrboro City Schools, and

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on the UNC campus.

needs donations.

volunteer.htm

The all-night, alcohol- and

Schools

## **School Briefs**

## Ryan named principal

Dr. Darlene Ryan has been named principal of Glenwood Elementary School. Ryan's appointment was approved by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education last week.

Ryan has served as the school's interim principal since November 2010. She was previously Glenwood Elementary's assistant principal.

#### Pedersen gala

More than 200 guests were at the Carolina Club on Saturday night to celebrate the retirement of Superintendent Neil Pedersen and raise funds for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation and the Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate program.

The evening's program included a reprise of the back-to-school montage video and remarks from Public School Foundation President Suki Newton and BRMA coordinator Graig Meyer.

Special tributes were offered by Rashkis Elementary School Principal Deshera Mack; county commissioner and former school board member Valerie Foushee; Pedersen's son, Kyle; and Pedersen's BRMA mentee, Kevin Cruz.

To view images from the event, visit flickr.com/photos/30590879@N02/ sets/72157626400284623/

#### Math contest

Middle and high school students from across the district participated in this year's American Mathematics Competition.

Participating students from McDougle Middle School were Erik Jens, distinguished honor roll, and Dalton Xue, distinguished honor roll.

Phillips Middle School participating students were: Alex Chang, distinguished honor roll, qualified for AIME; Yize Dong, distinguished honor roll, qualified for AIME; Vinay Kshirsagar, distinguished honor roll; Arnav Subramanya, distinguished honor roll; and Chase Yuan, distinguished honor roll.



Participating students from Smith Middle School were: Stephen Foskey, distinguished honor roll; Daniel Lee, distinguished honor roll; Veronica Kim, distinguished honor roll, qualified for AIME; Sarah Wu, distinguished honor roll, qualified for AIME; and Jennifer Zou, distinguished honor roll.

Chapel Hill High School participating students were: Hastings Greer, distinguished honor roll, qualified for AIME; Jonathan Siekierski, distinguished honor roll, qualified for AIME;

Katherine Stafford, distinguished honor roll; Elysia Su, distinguished honor roll; Gray Symon, distinguished honor roll, qualified for AIME; Carl Yin, distinguished honor roll, qualified for AIME; and Vincent Zhu, distinguished honor roll.

Participating students from East Chapel Hill High School were: Tom Chang, distinguished honor roll, qualified for AIME; Sheila Deng, distinguished honor roll, qualified for AIME; Alex Kelly, distinguished honor roll, qualified for AIME; Daniel Kong, distinguished honor roll, qualified for AIME; Nina Pande, distinguished honor roll, qualified for AIME; Margaret Tian, distinguished honor roll, qualified for AIME; and Yu Wang, distinguished honor roll, qualified for AIME.

#### **Ephesus service project**

Students from Ephesus Elementary will gather with local volunteers to take part in a community-service project to benefit their school at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

The collaboration is the fulfillment of their promise to SKJAJA to "pay it forward" in exchange for an opportunity to attend camp this summer. The students' workday will include cleaning and organizing the atrium area and hanging bulletin boards, signs and artwork around the campus. The SKJAJA Fund helps provide underprivileged children in Carrboro and Chapel Hill the opportunity to participate in social and educational enrichment activities.

Volunteers are still needed for Saturday's workday. Community members may contact Charlotte White at char@skjajafund.org to get involved.



#### **SPOTLIGHT: PROJECT GRADUATION 2011**



The student co-chairs for Project Graduation look at T-shirt design entries for the 2011 celebration. From left: Molly Scanga, Carrboro High; Laura Gilland, East Chapel Hill High; and Meghan Cabell, Chapel Hill High.

Cheese Quesadilla w/Salsa, Homemade Veg-

Chili, Cornbread, Baked Potato, Local Turnip

Pasta Bar – WW Rotini & Spaghetti, Marinara

etable Soup, Seasoned Pinto Beanss

#### SUP'T FROM PAGE I

\_\_\_\_\_

"I was impressed with Dr. Forcella from the moment I read his application," board member Jean Hamilton said. "Dr. Forcella is a great listener, and that's something you'll really need working with this group." Forcella pledged to work to

Friday 4/22

Monday 4/25

Tuesday 4/26

Greens

#### move the district forward. "It is important that there ex-

ist a sense of ownership of the educational program from all of these groups, and I will do whatever it takes to facilitate this occurring," he said.

Forcella will officially take on the superintendent role on July 1. He was selected from a pool of 27 applicants, of which 10 were interviewed in March. The

board launched the search for a new superintendent in October e following Superintendent Neil f Pedersen's July announcement that he would retire at the end of the 2010-11 school year.

The search process was uncharted territory for school board members, as Pedersen has served as superintendent since 1992 and is the longest-serving superintendent in district history..

#### Roasted Chicken, Roasted Italian Vegetables, Herbed Broccoli & Cauliflower

Wednesday 4/27

Sweet & Sour Chicken, Oriental Brown Rice, Seasoned Peas, Apricot Crumble, Fortune Cookie

#### Thursday 4/28

Meatloaf, Wheat Roll, Mixed Vegetables, Blueberry-Peach Crumble



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## COMING APRIL 28TH... CARREBORO CENTENNIAL 1911-2011 Commemorative Magazine

The Carrboro Citizen will commemorate the Town's 100th anniversary with a 48-page "keepsake" section featuring articles by our staff writers and contributors, photographs from past and present, a timeline of Carrboro's history, facts & info, and remarks from local movers and shakers.

> LOOK FOR THE CARRBORO CENTENNIAL MAGAZINE INSIDE YOUR APRIL 28TH CITIZEN!

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FORUM

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## Thursday, April 28 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

#### Schedule of Panel Discussions

8:00 am	Town And Gown: Building Partnerships
9:00 am	Franklin And Main: Many Visions, One Reality
10:00 am	Living And Working: The Road To Prosperity
11:00 am	Building (And Waiting): Cutting Through The Red Tape
12:00 pm	Teaching And Learning: Doing More With Less
1:00 pm	Local Media Ecosystems: Objectivity, Bias, Access
2:00 pm	A Lot On Our Palette: Keeping The Arts Alive In Hard Times
3:00 pm	Community Pride: Under A Carolina Blue Sky
4:00 pm	Downtown's Future: Old Traditions, New Looks
5:00 pm	The Art Of Collaboration: Bringing Our Communities Together

*Visit 1360wchl.com for complete details and panelists.* 





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## **Barnes' decision promises** unstoppable Tar Heels

#### **BY EDDY LANDRETH** Staff Writer

Harrison Barnes cemented his status as one of the most popular Carolina basketball players ever on Monday with him, and I look forthe announcement that he plans to return for his sophomore season.

"Opportunities, both beneficial and life-changing, can seem to make the next phase of my journey an easy decision," Barnes said. "But I am a student-athlete at the University of North Carolina. I'm here to experience college life, grow as a person, receive a quality education and be part of the greatest basketball family in college sports."

UNC fans have long been conditioned for their stars to leave early for the NBA when assured of being high draft picks. Dean Smith created this tradition, and Roy Williams has maintained it.

One can be sure Williams insisted Barnes and his family consider all the implications before arriving at this decision.

From the time Williams signed Barnes, however, he told us this young man from Iowa was different. He said Barnes came from a unique family, and on Monday we learned just how unique.

"I am, of course, excited to have Harrison back on our team next year," Williams said. "It has been a

to choose, but I believe he is coming back to school because he enjoys college basketball, he enjoys the University of North Carolina and he enjoys his teammates.

"If he had decided to leave for the NBA, that would have been OK too, because he will always be a Tar Heel. But it will certainly be a lot of fun to coach him again."

Only those who hate Carolina will be disappointed with this decision. This is good for college basketball and it will be just plain fun. The pace at which Barnes progressed this past season makes the promise of watching him grow and mature on the court next season especially exciting.

If Barnes is blessed with good health, there is every reason to believe he will have an excellent chance to hang No. 40 along the front row of the honored jerseys next to No. 50, Tyler Hansbrough's retired number.



son and Tyler Zeller joining Barnes in the starting lineup, Carolina should have the biggest, most gifted team in the nation.

Williams is also adding a shooter in P.J. Hairston and a powerful presence in James McAdoo. The 6-foot-8-inch McAdoo will replace Justin Knox, who deserves the thanks of UNC fans for spending his final year of college ball at Carolina after graduating from Alabama early.

McAdoo appears to be one of the two best prospects in the country after his recent performances in the McDonald's All-American game and the Jordan Brand Classic. He took home co-MVP awards from both games and displayed his athleticism and premium skills in each contest.

If the Tar Heels don't lead the nation in scoring next season, they won't trail the leader by much. With point guard Kendall "Butter" Marshall spreading the ball to the many scorers running

the court with him, Carolina is going to be a difficult team to defend.

The high-wire act of Carolina blue jerseys flying through the air, dunking the ball and racing the length of the court is going to be as hard to defend as it will be amazing to watch.

Then, just to make life even more miserable for the competition, this could be the best defensive team Williams has had at Carolina.

By returning, Barnes, Henson and Zeller will have an outstanding opportunity to hang another national championship banner in the Smith Center.

Zeller could leave with two national championship rings, as he was a freshman on the 2009 team. Barnes has an opportunity to carve a spot as one of the finest players ever in a program filled with great past performers.

"As a team, we're preparing for a special season," Barnes said. "My off-season plans are to diligently work on honing my basketball skills in all areas with one team goal in mind – to bring the 2012 national championship home to UNC.'

Barnes could then triumphantly become the No. 1 or 2 pick in the 2012 NBA draft – a proper exit for someone who has established himself as a genuinely unique individual.

## **Carrboro High** Soccer



Carrboro High School's Andie Aldana maneuvers around a Raleigh Charter defender. The Carrboro High School women's soccer team defeated Raleigh Charter last week, 2-0, and Northwood High School, I-0, on Monday. The Jaguars take on East Chapel Hill High School today at 5 p.m. at East.

PHOTO BY TED SPAULDING



Samantha Burch prepares to kick the ball past Raleigh Charter defenders. PHOTO BY TED SPAULDING

#### **ALDERMEN** FROM PAGE I

The parking deck and hotel, along with additional site work on the eastern part of the property, make up the first phase of the massive project. Additional phases will include a fivestory retail and office space near the train tracks and redevelopment of the building that now houses Cat's

## WEIGHT-LOSS SURGERY ISN'T JUST ABOUT THE POUNDS YOU LOSE,

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true pleasure to coach ward to coaching him again next season. He had a difficult decision to make. He really had no wrong decision

Cradle and Amante Gourmet Pizza.

In other action Tuesday night, the board reviewed an analysis of the town's greenhouse gas use that was prepared by students from UNC's Institute for the Environment.

Board members praised the extensive 66-page report, which detailed the town's production of greenhouse gasses and offered recommendations for reductions.

Board member Sammy Slade encouraged the town to move ahead with some of the ideas in the report.

"We certainly don't have time to just be measuring," he said.

Mayor Mark Chilton said the report contains a lot of bad news about the effects of climate change. He said suggestions such as changing out streetlights in order to use LEDs and considering pay-as-you-throw garbage collection were helpful, but the biggest impact would be from the way the town's growth is shaped.

"The single biggest thing [the board] can do is to change our land-use patterns," he said.

The board also reviewed a report on the Schools Adequate Public Facility Ordinance that included projections for school construction.

Among the report's findings is that high school expansion - including increasing capacity at Carrboro High School from 800 to 1,200 students - is not likely to be needed through 2019.

Also on Tuesday night, the board approved May as Bike Month and the week of May 16-20 as Bike to Work Week.

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## Northside community lives mostly in memories

#### **BY MEGAN GASSAWAY**

Courtesy of the Carrboro Commons

Keith Edwards used to live in a community called Northside, but now that community exists mostly in a box of old pictures and in paintings that hang on her kitchen walls.

Edwards points to an old photograph of five black children on bicycles. "These kids here - feeling free and knowing that they will have a place to stay, to live," she says. "The neighborhood was good to them. But for their children and their grandchildren, it won't be here."

The geographic area of the Northside neighborhood still stands, defined by the Northside Neighborhood Conservation District as stretching from Tanyard Branch Trail to the north to West Rosemary Street to the south and from North Columbia Street to the east to the Carrboro city limit to the west.

Edwards' home on McDade Street stands in the middle of this outlined section of Chapel Hill, but it is far from the community she knew as a child.

While Northside is considered a historically black neighborhood, the number of black families living there has been decreasing dramatically over the past 40 years, with a more pronounced decrease in the past 10 years, says Hudson Vaughan, associate director of the Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History, a public history center located in Northside.

Several factors are contributing to the changing dynamic in the area's historically black neighborhoods like Northside, including rising property taxes, Vaughan says. But property taxes are the result of a different problem, Edwards says. Seeing an opportunity to profit from the lack of housing for UNC students, investors and realtors buy property from black families, tear down the homes and build new houses for students, thereby increasing the land value.

"Particularly in Northside, it is more profitable to convert it from black families to multi-occupancy housing," says Richard Ellington, a Carrboro native and co-author of Carrboro: Images of America.

"Who are you going to



Keith Edwards holds a photograph taken in 1969 of five children riding bicycles outside a house on McDade Street. "These kids here – feeling free and knowing that they will have a place to stay, to live," Edwards says. "The neighborhood was good to them - but for their children and their grandchildren, it won't be here." PHOTO BY MEGAN GASSAWAY

struggled economically. But in terms of actual community feel, this one is unique in how strong it was," Vaughan says.

Edwards knows this to be true because she was a part of that community.

When Edwards' family moved to McDade Street in 1960, the 10-year-old Edwards saw positive interaction between blacks and whites in her community. While the harmony found in Chapel Hill was "surprising and almost shocking," she was not immune to the painful racial strife that characterized the civil rights era.

She says the one thing that kept blacks going, especially in the '40s, '50s and '60s - during lynchings and the civil rights struggles - was that "you could always count on your community."

For blacks during this time, the main focus of life was survival - survive at any cost, Edwards says. "I also discovered the main reason for their survival was the black community. ... You had to have a safe haven, and this community was a safe haven."

Edwards learned this lesson when she first went to an integrated school as a seventh-grader at Chapel Hill Junior High. "My first day, I was spit on, kicked on and called 'nigger' all day long,' Edwards says. But as she walked down Church Street, with the homes of whites lining the left side of the road and the homes of blacks on the right, something changed. "The closer I got to Mc-"It was a community that Dade Street – that's when all that



The Northside Conservation District defines the Northside neighborhood as stretching from Tanyard Branch Trail to the north to West Rosemary Street to the south and from North Columbia Street to the east to the Carrboro city limit to the west. Map courtesy of the Town of Chapel Hill

tension, that stress, started slipping away."

That was what kept the community going, she says. All the

that key is gone," says Edwards, her voice strong but sad.

"I can't call this a community. A community is a group of people who come together, share problems, do things for the good of those who live in the community," Edwards says. "The vibrant, self-contained community, it has become student housing. You can't have a community with student housing."

Still, Edwards will continue to live in Northside for as long as possible.

"As long as I can pay taxes and keep insurance, I'll stay here," Edwards defiantly says, for the thought of having to sell her house is a serious one. "We realize you're not just selling a home, you're selling roots. ... "Each time a house is sold, it's like a slow death. Slowly, surely the Northside community is dying."

The empty front porches that line the neighborhood are a testament to this.

"Everybody would sit on porches, watch the kids play, holler back to one another," Edwards says. "You felt safe. You didn't fear anything happening. No matter what street you were on, you felt safe," because on each street there were front porches filled with familiar faces.

Instead of sitting on front porches, students in the neighborhood sit on rooftops, something residents of old Northside never would have done, Edwards says.

"We never would have sat on the roof because we would have been afraid to damage the roof because we would have to pay to fix it," Edwards says. For Northsiders of the past, a roof kept the rain out and the only people who went on the roof were the fathers and sons who had to repair leaks.

But the Northside that Edwards loved lives on in her memory, and in her kitchen. She points to a painting hanging on her kitchen wall. "This is the black community," Edwards says.

She pulls out a box of old photos. "These pictures and all they represent happy memories." She held up an old black-andwhite photograph of a tall black man. "Look at him," says Edwards, tapping the photo. "He's not smiling for the camera. He's

blame?" he asks. "The real estate agents or the students?"

The influx of students and the rising land values have stripped the neighborhood of the sense of community that once characterized it, local advocates say.

Explaining the mentality of blacks who lived in the neighborhood, Edwards says, "When they left one part of society and came home, they shut the door to the neighborhood and locked it. Whatever they endured, it was locked out."

pain, the submission they faced at work during the day, "it was not allowed to come in," Edwards says. "You see, that was the key to survival."

Within this community, Edwards fondly remembers trickor-treating, carrying big brown

university officials to discuss the changes occurring in Northside. "An all-student community is not wanted - by anyone," he says.

paper bags filled to the brim with

candy and even notebook paper

and pencils. There were base-

ball games with rocks for bases,

sticks for bats and old baby doll

heads as balls, and Sears cata-

logues that transformed to wish

books, where Edwards and her

friends would pick out clothing

and furniture they knew they

At night, families slept with their windows open. "You didn't have to lock the door," Edwards

remembers. "Everyone looked out

for each other. ... If you needed

'course you can't do that now,"

dents moved into Northside,

longtime residents like Edwards

have been stripped of this com-

grow but doesn't provide suf-

ficient beds or dorms, and those

students have to find a place to

live," says Robert Dowling, ex-

ecutive director of Community

Home Trust, a nonprofit that

provides affordable housing and

works for inclusionary housing

in Orange County. "Northside is

close – it's walkable. It's valuable."

Vaughan recently met with

"The university continues to

"There was so much trust -

As the area evolved and stu-

something, you would ask."

could never afford.

she adds.

fort zone, they say.

"Once the key to this community was taken away and it was given out to a part of society that has given you pain for so long ...

smiling 'cause he's happy."

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



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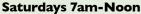
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## **FARMERS' MARKET**

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#### What's at Market? New Item this Week: Cilantro, frisee,

arugula, asparagus, green garlic, green onions, leeks, miniromaine, baby red bibb, whole head lettuce, beets, radishes, turnips, spinach, beet greens, ranunculus, anemones, greenhouse strawberries, greenhouse sungold tomatoes (limited), greenhouse tomatoes, veggie and herb starter plants, golden turnips, parsley, chard, carrots, herbs, kale mix, broccoli rabe, beets, bok choy, sweet potatoes, eggs, sun-dried tomatoes, homemade raviolis with local fillings, fettuccine, tomato basil sauce, cornmeal, wheat flour, pecans, beef, pork, lamb, chicken, buffalo, and various specialty meats like liverwurst, bologna, hotdogs, etc., cow's and goat's milk cheeses, breads, doughnuts, tortes, pies, cakes, jams, relishes, local wine and more...

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#### NOTICES

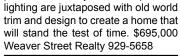
PUBLIC NOTICE The Division of Waste Management's Dry-Cleaning Solvent Cleanup Act program, or DSCA, will conduct an informational meeting on Thursday, April 28 at 7 p.m. in the Carrboro Town Hall Board Room to discuss indoor air sampling results from three residences and two businesses in the immediate vicinity of a former dry-cleaning site at 408 W. Weaver St. in Carrboro. The site was occupied by MEM One-Hour Martinizing in the early 1970s. The former dry cleaner used perchloroethylene (PCE), a common drycleaning solvent that is a chlorinated organic compound and considered a potential carcinogen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Division of Waste Management is the lead agency for the site, and the DSCA program has evaluated the indoor air quality in surrounding homes and businesses. A first round of indoor air sampling indicated elevated PCE concentration levels at one residence on Elm Street and warranted a second round of testing at two additional residences, a restaurant and a pool supply company located at the former dry-cleaning site. Those two residences and businesses showed either no contaminants or had PCE concentrations considered well within acceptable levels for human health.

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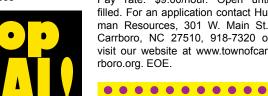


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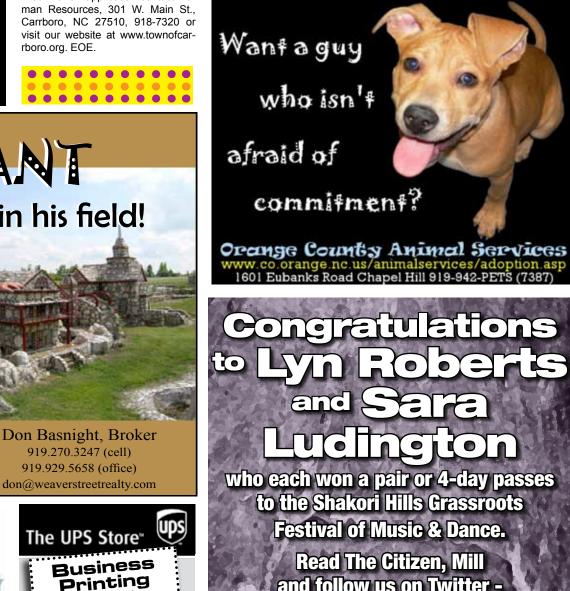
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Redlair owner Sabine Rankin admires a bigleaf magnolia.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CATAWBA LANDS CONSERVANCY

#### FLORA FROM PAGE I

Retired Charlotte librarian Charlie Williams is more obsessed with bigleaf and Michaux than I am. I have heard that Charlie has visited every known wild location of bigleaf in North Carolina and nearby states where it occurs.

After several years of scholarly studies of Michaux's journals and herbarium specimens, Charlie unraveled the puzzle of where Michaux discovered populations of bigleaf in North Carolina. Michaux also found it in Tennessee, where he collected the specimen that accompanied his official naming and description of *Magnolia macrophylla*. Though bigleaf had been described several years earlier by famed American pioneer Bartram in Alabama, where it still occurs, Bartram called it something else and never officially described it as a new species. Michaux is unquestionably the father of bigleaf magnolia. Charlie's research is published in *Castanea, Journal of the Southerm Appalachian Botanical Society,* Vol. 64, No. 1, March 1999.

botanist/explorer William

Fortunately, though bigleaf is rare, it is easily propagated by nurserymen and is available to the gardening public. More importantly, a number of the natural populations are protected, though not readily accessible to the public.

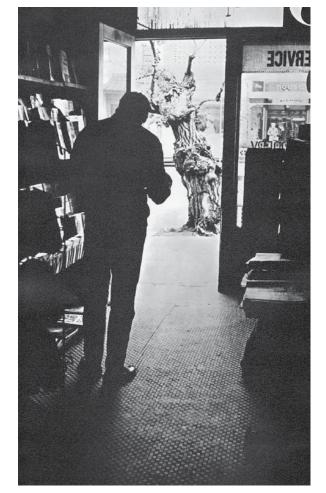
Now here's your opportunity to see it in one of the original natural settings: Redlair NatureFest, Saturday, April 30, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (catawbalands.org/naturefest2011). It'll be a great family outing just a couple of hours away.

Sabine and Haywood Rankin have made a conservation easement of their 730acre Redlair farm and natural area to the Catawba Lands Conservancy. NatureFest is an annual event open to the public to explore the treasures of the land as well as to enjoy a day of kids activities, music and local artisans, from beekeepers to blacksmiths. You may choose among numerous themed walks, including one with botanical historian Charlie Williams, who will certainly describe André Michaux's discovery of "the tree."

There's so much more to know about bigleaf! Attend NatureFest to learn firsthand, and have fun doing it!

Email Ken Moore at flora@carrborocitizen.com.

s I look back on the Franklin Street of my boyhood and recall the shops on the 100 block, I see faces - faces of longtime personalities who anchored those businesses: Papa D. of Danziger's Old World Gift Shop, Vic Huggins of Huggins' Hardware, Thell of Thell's Bakery, E. Carrington Smith of the Carolina Theatre, Wally Kuralt of the Intimate Bookstore, Bob Varley of Varley's Men's Shop, Milton of Milton's Clothing Cupboard, the Harrisons of Foister's Camera Store and Harry Macklin of Harry's ... to name just a few. So last week when I read about the passing of 90-year-old James "Jimmy" Mousmoules, the long-time owner of Jeff's Campus Confectionary, I was reminded of that iconic spot beside the Varsity Theatre. Mousmoules, long before the age of the 24/7 news and sports cycle, posted the latest college sports scores on a chalkboard outside Jeff's. And does anybody else



Jeff's Campus Confectionary, 1966

remember that marvelously gnarled Volga poplar tree outside the front door? Finally, in the interest of full disclosure, the covers of the adult magazines that lined the news racks caused a certain young newsboy to blush with guilty pleasure.



#### A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER

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