



FRIDAY
30% Chance of T-Storms
86/65
SATURDAY
40% Chance of T-Storms
88/61
SUNDAY
Partly cloudy
76/52

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

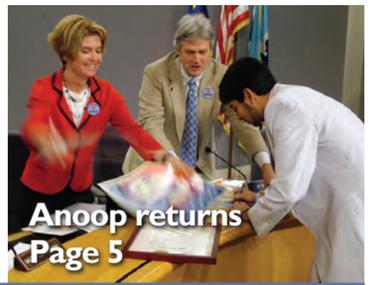


PHOTO BY DEBBIE ROOS

Honey bee on common wild blackberry.

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Blackberry winter flower competition

For years, I was aware of the common wild blackberry, Rubus argutus, around the Fourth of July, when, along roadsides and fencerows, they were pickin'-ripe for cobblers and ice cream toppings. Now I look forward to blackberries earlier, when they begin flowering during the cool temperatures of early May, the season that old timers call "blackberry winter."

On a walk around the Botanical Garden's Mason Farm Biological Reserve, I was enjoying the edges of flowering blackberries, when I came upon one edge where a mound of the invasive exotic multiflora rose, Rosa multiflora, was vigorously competing for space with the blackberry. Not only was space an issue between these two competing plants, but the presence/absence of pollinators was dramatic. There in the warm late-morning sun, all the honey bees and other pollinators were covering the flowers of the exotic rose. No pollinators were visiting flowers of the adjacent blackberry.

Now, I'm not an expert on honey bees or pollination ecology, but if this spreading and high-climbing rose is out-competing our delicious wild blackberries in attracting pollinators, we have a serious problem.

Before I proceed with my usual tirade against invasive exotics, let me acknowledge that a friend of mine frequently criticizes me for being negative every time I mention an exotic plant. In defense, I have no objections to the numerous exotic garden plants that do not freely jump the garden fence to out-compete native plants in the wild. I do recommend vigorous battle against recognized destructive exotics like the privets, eleagnus, oriental wisterias, Japanese honeysuckle and kudzu, as well as the multiflora rose.

SEE FLORA PAGE 10

INSIDE

Culbreth and McDougle middle school honor rolls page 8

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Chapel Hill budget proposal offers cautious look ahead

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — No furloughs and no layoffs are in the works for next year, but Chapel Hill employees can expect to see no pay increases either, under a new \$49,759,000 budget proposed by Town Manager Roger Stancil.

The Chapel Hill Town Council got its first look at the budget, which spends about 0.3 percent more than last year, at a briefing Wednesday night.

The budget includes an adjustment to the town's property tax rate based on the recent countywide property revaluation, from 59.1 cents per \$100 valuation to 49.7 cents. Stancil said the fig-

ure is "property tax revenue neutral" in that the town will be taking in the same amount in property taxes this year as last. The number reflects a conservative growth rate of 1.8 percent, a 24 percent average increase in property values and a 10 percent drop in the value of vehicles and personal property. The adjustment means most homeowners will likely see a rise in their taxes to make up for the drop in revenue from vehicle and personal-property taxes.

Town budget director Ken Penoyer said vehicle tax revenues are dropping because people hold off buying new vehicles during downturns in the economy.

The town is also expecting a signifi-

cant drop of almost \$1 million in sales tax revenues, also driven by the recession.

To make up for the sales tax revenue drop, an increase of 17 percent in the town's employee health care plan and \$400,000 in required funding for the town's health care plan for retirees, Stancil proposes to use \$2 million of the roughly \$2.4 million in savings the town built up thanks to a program to cut 5 percent of the current-year budget that began last year. That effort helped put the town on a better footing for this year, Stancil said.

"We saw in October and November that something was happening and did things a little earlier than other places," he said. "If we'd have kept

buzzing along at the same level, we'd have been in bad shape."

Other major items in the budget include:

- delay in issuing new debt, primarily for the proposed library expansion;
• altering the way the town pays workers' compensation;
• improving the town's in-house health and safety programs; and
• changing the retirement health care benefit to a defined contribution plan.

In addition, Stancil said the town will continue the savings program begun last year, including holding vacant positions open and reduce training, supplies and equipment costs.

Grads to walk Sunday

CHAPEL HILL — The 2008-2009 academic year officially comes to a close this weekend as thousands of students and family members gather for Carolina graduation ceremonies and festivities.

Commencement is at 9:30 a.m. Sunday at Kenan Stadium, and this year the ceremony will be streamed live on the university's website.

The commencement address will be by Bishop Desmond Tutu, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and a leader in the South African anti-apartheid campaign. Tutu will receive an honorary doctor of divinity degree.

He is joined in receiving honors by author Lee Smith, writer and philanthropist Eli N. Evans, Native-American advocate Helen M. Scheirbeck, former Glaxo CEO and university trustee Charles A. Sanders and textile executive and former university trustee William J. Armfield IV.

Tutu will be joined in speaking before the class of 2009 by Chancellor Holden Thorp, who will address the graduates for the first time as chancellor.



PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW

Juan Arango, an international studies major, tries on his cap and gown at the Student Stores on the UNC campus Monday, in preparation for UNC's graduation ceremonies Sunday.

At 9 p.m. on Friday, the General Alumni Association will hold a fireworks celebration at Boshamer Stadium. The event is open to the public and will include performances by the Clef Hangers and the chancellor.

The Ph.D. Hooding Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Smith Center.

Information about the streaming

video, department ceremonies, parking and travel and other events may be found on the university's website at unc.edu/commencement/MayCommencement2009.htm

In the event of inclement weather, commencement will move to the Smith Center, where tickets will be required. Tickets will be available for download at the commencement website until 5 p.m. Friday.

Debt concerns could delay, alter projects

BY KIRK ROSS AND SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writers

Shifting budget numbers at the state and local level could result in a delay in construction of a new elementary school in the Northside neighborhood.

After the latest round of financing, Orange County is close to its self-imposed debt ceiling that keeps debt service at or below 15 percent of the annual budget. County officials have said that might lead to a delay in financing for the new school, which is expected to cost roughly \$34 million.

The state budget also plays into the debt-service discussion because

a key proposal to save money this year by increasing class sizes would change the capacity numbers used to determine when a new school would be needed.

According to Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education Chair Lisa Stuckey, the district's current projections indicate that elementary school capacity will be exceeded in 2010. District officials had planned to open Chapel Hill-Carrboro's 11th elementary school in the fall of 2011.

However, the Legislature is considering changing the funding the state provides for teachers to increase class sizes from 18 to 24 students in kindergarten through third grade, 22 to 29 in grades four

through nine and 26 to 32 in 10th through 12th grade.

The change in class size would increase school capacity, which would alter the projections for when district elementary schools would be considered high enough over capacity to require a new school.

Stuckey said it's unclear when district officials will know whether plans for the elementary school will ultimately be delayed.

County Commissioner Mike Nelson said that while he's concerned about the delay of the school, "The reality is what it is and we have to deal with it."

SEE BUDGET PAGE 7

Carrboro greenways planning takes shape

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

Transportation around Carrboro could become a little more environmentally friendly within the next few years as greenways along Morgan and Bolin creeks begin to take shape.

Construction of greenways along both creeks could begin as early as by the end of this year, town transportation planner Adena Messinger told the Carrboro Board of Aldermen on Tuesday.

Funds for the planning and construction of the Bolin Creek and Morgan Creek greenways were included in a sidewalk bond referendum approved by Carrboro voters in 2003 and the board of aldermen established the Greenways Commission in 2007 to guide the planning of the greenways. The project is estimated to cost about \$1.7 million for planning and construction, with about 80 percent covered by federal funding.

SEE GREENWAY PAGE 3



PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW

Randy Dodd, environmental planner for Carrboro, and Adena Messinger, transportation planner for Carrboro, stand on a section of planned greenway near Carrboro Public Works, along Morgan Creek. The section of proposed greenway would connect with a section of Chapel Hill greenway that is also in the planning stages. Dodd and Messinger said the plans for this section as well as plans for another section along Bolin Creek should be finished by the end of this year.

Chatham liquor law approved

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

PITTSBORO — Chatham County voters overwhelmingly approved a referendum that would allow mixed-drink sales in the county, a move that supporters say will boost the local economy.

Unofficial results show that 5,073, or 65 percent, of those who went to the polls voted "yes," while 2,710, or 35 percent, voted "no."

A little less than 19 percent of the county's registered voters turned out for the special election.

Jeffrey Starkweather, who along with Pittsboro Mayor Randy Voller helped lead the effort to pass the referendum, said he was delighted by the results.

"I think it means people really want to move Chatham forward in terms of economic development," Starkweather said.

The outcome of the referendum, he said, is the likelihood that Pittsboro will be able to attract more restaurants, which in turn will lead to more retail coming to the area as well.

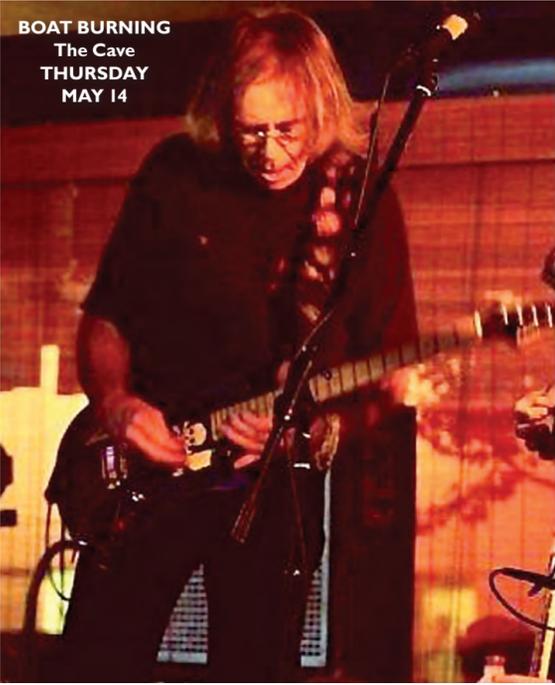
Steve Cote, co-owner and general manager at City Tap, said it's likely City Tap will soon apply for a mixed-drink permit. He credits Voller for firing up those interested in seeing the referendum pass.

"The mayor did a fantastic job," Cote said. "He went above and beyond."

Cote said that since he moved to Pittsboro in 1994, it always struck him as unfair that places like the Siler City County Club and the Governors Club could serve mixed drinks but others could not.

SEE CHATHAM PAGE 3

# MUSIC CALENDAR



**BOAT BURNING**  
The Cave  
THURSDAY  
MAY 14

**THURSDAY MAY 7**  
**Blue Bayou:** John Saylor. 9pm  
**Cat's Cradle:** The Presidents of The USA. Has been canceled  
**The Cave:** EARLY: Brandon Herndon and John Pardue's Songslingers Showcase. LATE: Teru'ah  
**General Store Cafe:** Bernie Petteway. 7-9pm  
**Local 506:** Aminor, Schooner, Lake Inferio. 9:30pm, \$5  
**Nightlight:** Clang Quartet, Chaos Character, James Amoeba. 10pm, \$5

**FRIDAY MAY 8**  
**The ArtsCenter:** Christine Lavin  
**Blue Bayou:** Gina Sicilia. 9:30pm  
**Cat's Cradle:** Led Zeppelin, Stratocruiser. 9pm, \$15  
**The Cave:** EARLY: Nikki Meets the Hibachi, Matthew Brookshire. \$5. LATE: Mary Johnson Rockers, Down River  
**City Tap:** EARLY: The Cadillacs. LATE: Regina Hexaphone  
**Franklin Hotel:** Chris Reynolds and Berkeley Grimbald at Roberts. 8-11pm  
**General Store Cafe:** Crooked Smile String Quartet. 8:30-11pm

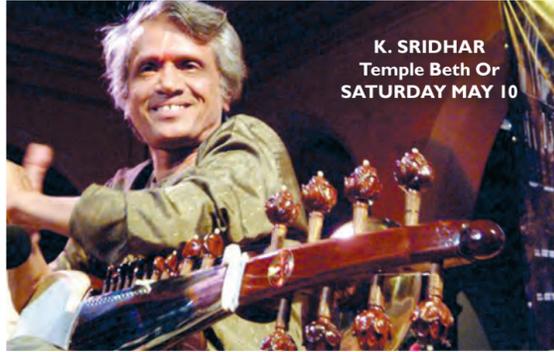


**JAY MANLY**  
Harry's Market  
FRIDAY MAY 9

**Harry's Market:** Jay Manly Hindustani electric guitar. 7-9pm  
**Local 506:** Bowerbirds, La Strada, Wes Phillips. 9pm, \$8/10  
**Nightlight:** Great Nostalgic, Veelee, Great White Jenkins, Hands and Knees. 9:30pm  
**Open Eye Cafe:** Johnathan Senna. 8pm



**BUTTERFLIES**  
Nightlight  
SATURDAY MAY 10



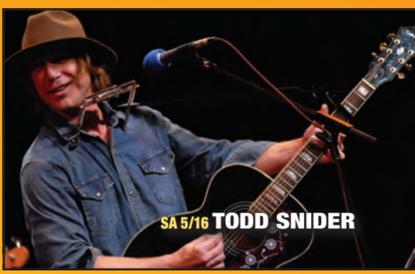
**K. SRIDHAR**  
Temple Beth Or  
SATURDAY MAY 10

**SATURDAY MAY 9**  
**The ArtsCenter:** AC Bushnell and the Happy Joy Band  
**Blue Bayou:** Armand & Bluesology, Will McFarlane. 9:30pm, \$8/10  
**Cat's Cradle:** Roman Candle, The Deep Vibration, Keegan Dewitt. 9pm, \$8/10  
**The Cave:** LATE: Lafcadio, Whiskey Smugglers  
**City Tap:** Acoustic Garage  
**General Store Cafe:** Nikki Meets The Hibachi, Matthew Brookshire. 8:30-11pm  
**Local 506:** Red Collar, The Lights, Fluorescent, Death To The Details. 10pm, \$7  
**Milltown:** The Black Swamp Bootleggers. 12-3pm  
**Nightlight:** Waumiss, Inspector 22, Dead Stars. 10pm, \$5  
**Open Eye Cafe:** Vinegar Creek Constituency. 8pm  
**Temple Beth Or:** K. Sridhar. 8pm, \$18  
**SUNDAY MAY 10**  
**The ArtsCenter:** Paul Rishell and Annie Raines

**Local 506:** Ghost, Magik Markers. 9pm, \$10  
**Nightlight:** Battle Rockets, Skeleton Breath. 10pm, \$5  
**TUESDAY MAY 12**  
**The Cave:** LATE: Mumu Tutu  
**Local 506:** Pretty and Nice, Jews and Catholics. 9:30pm, \$8  
**Nightlight:** 919 Noise Showcase Guitar Night. 9pm, \$5  
**Open Eye Cafe:** Mary Scholz. 8pm  
**WEDNESDAY MAY 13**  
**Cat's Cradle:** Mastodon, Kylesa, Intronaut. 7:30pm, Sold out  
**The Cave:** Studio Gangster  
**Local 506:** Lions At Lunchtime, Resist Not, River City Ransom. 9pm, Free  
**Nightlight:** EAR PWR, Alexis Gideon, Shelley Short. 10pm, \$5  
**THURSDAY MAY 14**  
**The ArtsCenter:** The Wood Brothers  
**Blue Bayou:** Orange County Cadillacs. 9:30pm, Free  
**The Cave:** EARLY: The Vinegar Creek Constituency. LATE: Boat Burning  
**General Store Cafe:** Blue Concept. 7-9pm  
**Lincoln Theater:** Josh Kelley. 8:30pm  
**Local 506:** The Thermals, Shaky Hands, Point Juncture, WA. 9pm, \$10/12  
**Milltown:** Matthew Barber. 8pm  
**FRIDAY MAY 15**  
**The ArtsCenter:** Brandi Carlile with The Noises 10

**Blue Bayou:** Andy Coats Trio. 9:30pm  
**Cat's Cradle:** MC Chris, Whole Wheat Bread. 9pm, \$12/14  
**The Cave:** EARLY: See No Weevil. LATE: Doctor Oakroot  
**City Tap:** EARLY: The Cadillacs. LATE: Regina Hexaphone  
**Franklin Hotel:** Chris Reynolds and Berkeley Grimbald at Roberts. 8-11pm  
**General Store Cafe:** Wells Family Band. 8:30-11pm  
**Harry's Market:** Milagro Saints. 7-9pm  
**Local 506:** Horse Feathers, Joe Pug. 9:30pm, \$8/10  
**Nightlight:** Holidays for Quince Records  
**SATURDAY MAY 16**  
**Blue Bayou:** Good Rockin' Sam. 9:30pm, \$8/10  
**Cat's Cradle:** Todd Snider, Elizabeth Cook. 8:45pm, \$15  
**The Cave:** EARLY: Blue Diablo. LATE: Tripp, Transmission Fields, The Tomahawks  
**City Tap:** Windy City Slim w/Ken Yow  
**General Store Cafe:** Gillen and Turk. 8:30-11pm  
**Local 506:** Here Are The Young Men, Mr. Suit, DJ Canon. 10pm, Free  
**Milltown:** The Black Swamp Bootleggers. 12-3pm  
**Nightlight:** Holidays for Quince Records  
**Time Warner Cable Music Pavilion:** George Strait. 8pm

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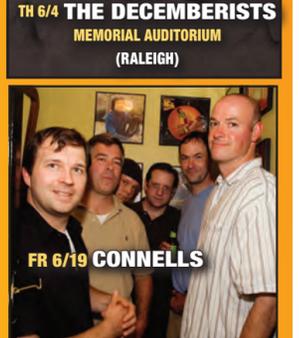


TH 5/7 THE PRESIDENTS OF THE USA HAS BEEN CANCELLED  
FR 5/8 LEZ ZEPPELIN ALL-FEMALE TRIBUTE TO LED ZEPPELIN W/STRATOCRUISER\*\*(\$15)  
SA 5/9 CD RELEASE PARTY PASTE MAGAZINE AND WOXY PRESENT ROMAN CANDLE W/THE DEEP VIBRATION AND KEEGAN DEWITT\*\*(\$8/\$10)  
WE 5/13 MASTODON W/KYLESA AT SOLD OUT  
FR 5/15 MC CHRIS\*\*(\$12/\$14) W/WHOLE WHEAT BREAD  
SA 5/16 TODD SNIDER W/ELIZABETH COOK\*\*(\$15)  
TU 5/19 BEN SOLLEE W/ANNI ROSSI\*\*(\$12/\$14)  
WE 5/20 CLUTCH\*\*(\$25) W/WINO'S BAND AND MAYLENE AND THE SONS OF DISASTER  
TH 5/21 JUKEBOX THE GHOST / JENNY OWEN YOUNGS W/WINTER SOUNDS\*\*(\$25)  
FR 5/22 DANCE PARTY !! L IN JAPANESE (NO ALCOHOL SERVED)  
SA 5/23 THE OLD CEREMONY W/THE LOVE LANGUAGE\*\*(\$10)  
MO 5/25 FLICKER LOCAL SHORT FILMS  
FR 5/29 ISIS W/PELICAN AND TOMBS\*\*(\$15/\$18)  
SA 5/30\*\*(\$15/\$18) JOSH RITTER

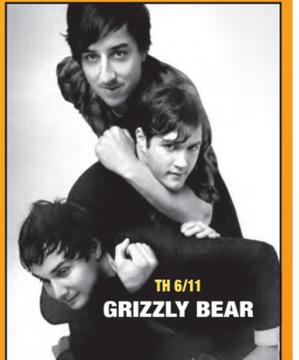
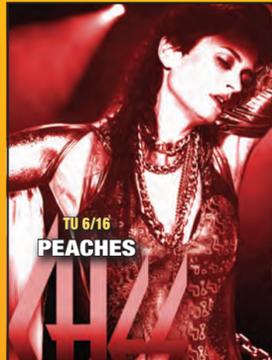


SU 5/31 DAVID COOK W/RYAN STAR\*\*  
TH 6/4 BK3 (BILL KREUTZMANN, JAMES "HUTCH" HUTCHINSON AND SCOTT MURAWSKI)\*\*(\$18/\$21)  
FR 6/5\*\*(\$17/\$20) ENGLISH BEAT  
SA 6/6 TAB BENOIT\*\* W/MEL MELTON & THE WICKED MOJOS PRESENTED BY BLUE BAYOU CLUB  
SU 6/7 LONELY HEARTS WORLD TOUR EASY STAR ALL-STARS W/GUEST TRUMYSTIC\*\*(\$14/\$16)  
TU 6/9 TOTAL REQUEST LIVE!\*\*(\$20/\$23) (JOHN DOE, BILLY ZOOM, EXENE CERVENKA, DJ BONEBRAKE)  
WE 6/10 PAUL THORN\*\*(\$15)  
TH 6/11 GRIZZLY BEAR W/HERE WE GO MAGIC\*\*(\$14)  
FR 6/12 JENNY LEWIS W/DEER TICK\*\*(\$18)  
SU 6/14 MEAT PUPPETS W/RETRIBUTION GOSPEL CHOIR\*\*(\$14/\$16)

MO 6/15 PORTUGAL, THE MAN\*\*(\$5)  
TU 6/16 PEACHES W/DRUMS OF DEATH\*\*(\$18/20)  
FR 6/19 CONNELLS W/MAYFLIES USA\*\*(\$15)  
SA 6/20 CAMERA OBSCURA\*\*(\$15)  
SA 6/27 ALBUM RELEASE PARTY HOLSAPPLE & STAMEY  
FR 7/3 THE ORB\*\*  
FR 7/10 BOMBADIL CD RELEASE PARTY\*\*(\$9/\$12)  
SA 7/18 GIRLS ROCK SHOWCASE\*\*  
WE 7/22 + TH 7/23 FR 7/24 + SA 7/25 @ CAT'S CRADLE AND SU 7/26 @ MEMORIAL HALL XX MERGE  
\*\*INDIVIDUAL SHOW TICKETS ON SALE 5/13  
WE 8/12 AKRON/FAMILY\*\*(\$10/\$12)  
TU 9/1 HOT TUNA ELECTRIC\*\*(\$25/\$28) W/OLD SCHOOL FREIGHT TRAIN



**ALSO PRESENTING!**  
LOCAL 506 (CHAPEL HILL)  
MO 5/11 GHOST (FROM JAPAN) W/MAGIK MARKERS  
MO 7/13 HANDSOME FURS  
THE ARTSCENTER (CAR)  
FR 5/15 BRANDI CARLILE SOLD OUT  
LINCOLN THEATRE (RALEIGH)  
TH 5/28 THE NATIONAL W/C SOLD OUT  
MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM (RALEIGH)  
TH 6/4 THE DECEMBERISTS W/BLIND PILOT  
TIX VIA TICKETMASTER, VENUE BOX OFFICE OR PROGRESSENERGYCENTER.COM  
NIGHTLIGHT (CHAPEL HILL)  
MO 6/15 ZEE AVI



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## News Briefs

### Students file complaint against campus police

A UNC student group has filed a formal complaint with the UNC Department of Public Safety. The group, the UNC Protesters Defense Committee, claims DPS "has failed to serve and protect the university community" and has "created a chilling effect that suppresses student activism and free expression on campus" by "attacking, intimidating and arresting protesters," a press release from the group states. The group filed the complaint at a re-accreditation public hearing regarding DPS on Monday. According to the press release, the group alleges DPS "initiated violence against a peaceful, nonviolent demonstration" during the April 14 protest against anti-immigration speaker Tom Tancredo. The group also alleges officers acted improperly toward protesters at the April 22 talk of anti-immigration speaker Virgil Goode.

### Fertilizer workshop

Staff from the Orange County office of the Cooperative Extension Service will lead a workshop on fertilizer application on May 13 at 7 p.m. at Carrboro Town Hall. Staff will focus on residential and commercial landscapes, including lawn and turf, landscaped areas and pasture. The town is considering an amendment that would require residents applying fertilizer to properties larger than two acres to either have either a certified party apply it or to create a nutrient management plan based on published guidance. For more information on the amendment, visit [townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/2009/02\\_17\\_2009\\_E5A.pdf](http://townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/2009/02_17_2009_E5A.pdf)

### Mock crash today

The Carrboro Fire-Rescue Department will conduct a mock car crash at Carrboro High School today (Thursday). The crash will provide students with a real-life experience of a car crash resulting from drinking and driving. Several crash victims will be transported to the hospital, while others will be taken to the morgue. In addition, one student will be placed under arrest for driving while intoxicated.

## Aldermen approve Home Program funding

BY SUSAN DICKSON  
Staff Writer

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen voted unanimously on Tuesday to approve plans for the town's Home Program funds. Home Program funds are allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, with 25 percent matched by Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Hillsborough and Orange County. The program was established to provide funding for various types of housing programs that target low-income families. As proposed by the Home Program Review Committee, the funds — which are projected to total about \$860,000 — will go to the InterFaith Council for Social Services, Habitat for Humanity's Phoenix Place, Orange

Person Chatham Mental Health Association, Chrysalis, Orange Community Housing and Land Trust, Housing for New Hope and Orange County Housing and Community Development. In other town business, the board:

- approved proposed financing arrangements for the construction and development of the fire substation on Homestead Road;
- proclaimed May as Bike to Work Month in Carrboro;
- reappointed Albert Vickers as one of the town's representatives to the Orange County Solid Waste Advisory Board; and
- appointed Mayor Mark Chilton as the board's interim representative on the Chatham/Orange Joint Planning Task Force.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES  
Orange County Animal Services vaccinated 174 animals at a low-cost rabies vaccination clinic on April 29 at the Government Services Center in Hillsborough. Animal Services offers the clinics, where pet owners can have their animals vaccinated for \$5, periodically throughout the year.

### CHATHAM FROM PAGE 1

The result of the referendum makes the playing field a little fairer, he said. "This opens up all these possibilities for Pittsboro." Starkweather said one downside of the election results was that they show that the county is still deeply divided between east and west. Voters in the eastern part of the county voted heavily in favor of allowing mixed drinks, while most of the opposition — fueled mainly by rural churches and Siler City radio station WNCA — was centered in western Chatham. The referendum was voted down in Siler City two to one, Starkweather said.

**THE CARRBORO CITIZEN**  
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ONLINE [carrborocitizen.com/main](http://carrborocitizen.com/main) Updated every Thursday.

### GREENWAY FROM PAGE 1

Now that many of the sidewalks included in the referendum have been completed, planning for the greenways is fully underway. The Morgan Creek greenway would stretch from Frank Porter Graham Elementary School on Smith Level Road to University Lake, while the Bolin Creek greenway would run from Homestead Road to Estes Drive, including a segment along Jones Creek.

Both greenways are intended to connect with planned Chapel Hill greenways. Recalling his experiences playing in the woods as a child, Greenways Commission Chair George Daniel said, "Nowadays, that's much less available to children." He said that the greenways would also provide safe transit between neighborhoods and downtown and encourage residents to leave their cars at home.

"There are a lot of people who would go down to Carrboro via bicycle if there was a safe way to do so," he said. Daniel said that once plans are finalized, town staff will need to continue obtaining rights-of-way for certain segments of the greenways. "We've been fortunate in Carrboro that there's been a lot of land set aside," he said, adding that several developments have already included land for the greenways. Greenways are different from other trails in that they're paved in order to provide access to bicyclists and those with disabilities. According to Daniel, the com-

mission envisions a 10-foot-wide path with two-foot buffers on either side for walkers or joggers who prefer an unpaved surface. Paving the surfaces will actually help prevent erosion near the creeks, he said. "Bolin Creek has been seriously impaired because of erosion and topsoil rushing into that water," Daniel said. "If you have a paved surface like a concrete surface, then you don't get that erosion from the foot traffic or the bicycle traffic." Consultants selected by the commission will help determine exact plans for the greenways, including materials used and the size of the paths, as well the alignment of the greenways. According to Messinger, town staff and consultants are preparing several alignment alternatives for the greenways and the

town will hold two workshops in May and June to gather input on the options. A workshop on May 20 will focus on plans for the Bolin Creek greenway, including the segment along Jones Creek. The workshop will be held at the Homestead Community Center at 600 Homestead Road from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The town will then hold a workshop on June 15 to gather input for plans for the Morgan Creek greenway. It will be held at Frank Porter Graham Elementary School at 101 Smith Level Road from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Town staff, consultants and members of the commission will be available to discuss the projects at both workshops. For more information, visit [townofcarrboro.org/AdvBoards/Greenways/ResourceInfo.htm](http://townofcarrboro.org/AdvBoards/Greenways/ResourceInfo.htm)

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## Community Briefs



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

The Carrboro Civic Club held their Senior Luncheon Saturday, hosting about 35 longtime residents for food and conversation.

### Bike-on-bus demo

Chapel Hill Transit will demonstrate the bike-on-bus feature available on all system buses on May 14 from noon to 2 p.m. in celebration of bike-to-work week.

Staff from The Clean Machine and Cycle 9 will conduct free bike inspections and show commuter bicycles. Refreshments will be available.

In addition, the Town of Carrboro is collecting information about commuter options and behavior in Carrboro through an online survey. Information gathered will be used to develop a Transportation Demand Management Program for Carrboro. Links to the survey will be available in the online version of *The Citizen* at [carrborocitizen.com/main](http://carrborocitizen.com/main)

### Chatham Habitat to offer homes

Chatham Habitat for Humanity, in partnership with homebuilder Van Groce of Custom Contracting Corporation, is offering home ownership opportunities in the Chatham Oak subdivision for nurses, teachers, municipal employees and other middle-income workers.

All homes in the neighborhood are priced below \$165,000, with monthly payments of less than \$1,000. While Chatham Habitat for Humanity typically serves homebuyers earning \$17,000 to \$35,000 a year, Chatham Oak homes will be available to a wider segment of the workforce, including families of four earning up to \$48,000 a year.

For more information, contact Amy Powell at 542-0794 x 216 or [amypowell@chathamhabitat.org](mailto:amypowell@chathamhabitat.org)

### Elections chair earns certification

Billie Cox, chair of the Orange County Board of Elections, has earned the title of Certified Elections Official by the State Board of Elections Certification Board.

Cox was appointed to the board in 2003 and has been chair since 2007. She served as chair of the Orange County Democratic Party from 1989 to 1993 and chair of the Fourth District Democratic Party from 1993 to 1997.

Cox is the first Orange County Board of Elections member to earn the distinction of Certified Elections Official, which is given to those who complete comprehensive coursework and pass a final examination.

### Planetarium to offer \$1 tickets

Morehead Planetarium at UNC will offer \$1 admission to any regularly scheduled planetarium show at Morehead from 6:30 p.m. Friday until 3 p.m. on Sunday.

The discounted rate honors the 60th anniversary of the planetarium on Sunday. Weekend shows include "Carolina Skies," "Destination: Space," "Extinction," "Solar System Adventure" and more.

Seating is limited to 240 per show and may not be reserved in advance. For more information or a list of show times, visit [moreheadplanetarium.org](http://moreheadplanetarium.org)

## Community Calendar

### THURSDAY, MAY 7

**Job Search Workshop**— Increase your employment options with tips and strategies for finding jobs online. 6-7pm, Chapel Hill Public Library. Free. 968-2780

**Middle East Talk**— French journalist, Iraq hostage and author Christian Chesnot will discuss "Stakes and Players in the New Middle East." 5:30pm, Fedex Global Education center, UNC campus. Free and open to the public

### SATURDAY, MAY 9

**Unions Discussion**— "Corporate Rule, Bailouts and Greed: Why We Need Unions," will feature the story of members of the Woodworkers Local Lodge W369 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. 3:30-5:30pm, Chapel Hill Public Library. 370-4114, [trianglewilp.org](http://trianglewilp.org)

**Haw River Festival**— The 20th Annual festival will feature live music, a silent auction of Clyde Jones' critters and paintings, food, nature walks, river monitoring and kids activities. 1-6pm, old Bynum Bridge. \$5, \$3 kids under 14, free for volunteers. 542-5790, [hawriver.org](http://hawriver.org)

**Mother's Day Hike**— Enjoy the mountain flora growing side by side with plants from the coastal plain. 9am-noon, near Hillsborough. \$10, \$5 N.C. Botanical Garden members. Call 962-0522 to register, [ncbg.unc.edu](http://ncbg.unc.edu)

**Lavender Clinic**— Annie Greer Baggett of Sunshine Lavender Farm will teach a lavender planting clinic. 8am-noon, Hillsborough Farmers' Market, Home Depot parking lot at Hampton Pointe, Hillsborough. [hillsboroughfarmersmarket.org](http://hillsboroughfarmersmarket.org)

### TUESDAY, MAY 12

**Resume Workshop**— Free resume review and help. 2-3pm, Chapel Hill Public Library. 968-2780 to schedule an appointment

**The Sting**— The 1973 film with Paul Newman and Robert Redford will be shown. 1pm, Seymour Center, 2551 Homestead Road. Free admission and popcorn, donations appreciated

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

**Sustainability Discussion**— Join the Orange/Chatham Sierra Club for a discussion with John Richardson, sustainability officer for the Town of Chapel Hill. 7-9pm, Binkley Baptist Church, 1712 Willow Drive. [northcarolina.sierraclub.org/ocg/](http://northcarolina.sierraclub.org/ocg/)

**Resume Workshop**— Free resume review and help. 6:30-8pm, Chapel Hill Public Library. 968-2780 to schedule an appointment

### THURSDAY, MAY 14

**Resume Workshop**— Free resume review and help. 2-4pm, Chapel Hill Public Library. 968-2780 to schedule an appointment

### FRIDAY, MAY 15

**Artists' Salon**— Piedmont Laureate Jaki Shelton Green will serve as moderator for the Piedmont Poets' Roundtable, the May Orange County Arts Commission Artists' Salon. 6:30-9pm, ArtsCenter West End Theatre. RSVP to 245-2335, [arts@co.orange.nc.us](mailto:arts@co.orange.nc.us)

**Gallery Talk**— Libby Chenault, rare book collection librarian, will give a gallery talk featuring the exhibition "Joycean Generosity, Joycean Books." 3:30-4:30pm, Wilson Library, Melba Remig Saltarelli Exhibit Room, UNC campus. 962-1143, [lib.unc.edu/spotlight/2009/joyce\\_gallery\\_talks.html](http://lib.unc.edu/spotlight/2009/joyce_gallery_talks.html)

**Meet the Author Tea**— The Friends of the Chapel Hill Public Library will host Dawn Shamp, author of *On Account of Conspicuous Women*. 3:30pm refreshments, 4-5pm program, Chapel Hill Public Library. 968-2780

### SATURDAY, MAY 16

**Mosaic Workshop**— Participants will create their own fun and eco-friendly hanging ornament using recycled materials. 11am-1pm, Carrboro Branch Library. Free. Register 969-3006, [co.orange.nc.us/library](http://co.orange.nc.us/library)

**Flower Framing Workshop**— Chapel Hill Garden Club member Jenny Bryant will demonstrate how to create your own frames and flowers masterpiece. 11am, Yesterday and Today Frame Shop, Boone Square, Hillsborough. Free. 732-7741, [historichillsborough.org](http://historichillsborough.org)

**Learning Disability Workshop**— The Family Advocacy Network will sponsor a free seminar for parents of children who struggle academically or are diagnosed with learning disabilities. 10am-noon, Orange United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 1220 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Preregister by May 13 to 942-8083 or [julie@mhaorange.org](mailto:julie@mhaorange.org)

**Puppet Show**— The Emerson Waldorf School will present the last performance of its Spring Puppet Show Series with "Queen Bee: One

Bee and Three Surprises." 10am, 6211 New Jericho Road. Free, donations accepted. 967-1858, [emerson-waldorf.org](http://emerson-waldorf.org)



### Ongoing

**Cancer Support**— Support groups for cancer patients and their families. [cornucopiahouse.org](http://cornucopiahouse.org)

**The Compassionate Friends**— Free self-help support for all adults grieving the loss of a child or sibling. Third Mondays, 7-8:30pm, Evergreen United Methodist Church. 967-3221, [chapelhilltcf.org](http://chapelhilltcf.org)

**DivorceCare**— Support group for those separated or divorced. Mondays, 7pm, Orange United Methodist Church. 942-2825, [connect2orange.org](http://connect2orange.org)

**Garden Tour**— Free tour of the N.C. Botanical Garden's display gardens. Saturdays, 10am, in front of the Totten Center at the garden. 962-0522, [ncbg.unc.edu](http://ncbg.unc.edu)

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

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

**Job Search Meeting**— A networking and support group for job hunters. Wednesdays, 9:30-11am, Binkley Baptist Church, 1712 Willow Drive. 942-4964

**Computer Class**— Chapel Hill Senior Net will offer a class in Computer Fundamentals. Mondays and Wednesdays through May 13, 9-11am, Seymour Center, 2551 Homestead Road. 968-2070

**Open-Mike Poetry**— Tuesdays, 7-9pm, Looking Glass Cafe & Boutique, 601 W. Main St. 636-5809

### Kids

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

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

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

**Garden Story Time**— Children ages 3 to 5 and their caregivers are invited to come read theme-based nature tales and participate in activities in the garden. Thursdays through Aug. 27, 10-11am, North Carolina Botanical Garden. \$5 per family. Preregister 962-0522, [ncbg.unc.edu](http://ncbg.unc.edu)

### Volunteers

**RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program**— Seeks volunteers at least 55 years of age and over who would like assistance in finding an opportunity that matches their interests. 968-2056, [co.orange.nc.us/aging/RVSPindex.asp](http://co.orange.nc.us/aging/RVSPindex.asp)

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

**Orange County Literacy Council**— Seeks volunteers to help with adult literacy, basic math and English-language tutoring, creative writing workshops at local homeless shelters and family literacy workshops. New tutor training workshops every month. Skills Development Center, 503 W. Franklin St. 933-2151

Do you have anything for one of our calendars? Send your submissions to [calendar@carrborocitizen.com](mailto:calendar@carrborocitizen.com)

### DANCE

**Ballroom**— All ages, couples and singles are welcome. May 28, 7-9pm. Seymour Center, 2551 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill. \$2, 933-8982

**Ballroom Dance**— Triangle Stardusters present a ballroom dance with recorded music. Second Saturdays, 8-11pm, Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 4702 Garrett Road,

Durham. \$7 StarDusters members and students, \$12 others. 942-7232

**Carrboro DanceJam**— Improv/free-style dance. First Fridays, 8-10:30pm, Balanced Movement Studio, 304 W. Weaver St., upstairs. \$5-10. 698-8776

**Contra Dance**— Carolina Song and Dance presents a community contra dance with live music by Pan Riggs, Bobb Head and Buz Lloyd.

May 15, 8pm (7:30pm lesson), Carrboro Century Center. \$8 donation, 967-9948, [csda-dance.org](http://csda-dance.org)

**Contra Dance**— Triangle Country Dancers present a dance with live music by Fiddlewitch. May 8, 9-11pm (7:30pm lesson), Century Center; \$7 members, \$9 others, [TCDancers.org](http://TCDancers.org)

**Square Dance**— NC Squares old time square dance with live music

by fiddler Keith Buckner and the Nutbush Ramblers. May 9, Pleasant Green Community Center. \$8, \$6 students. [ncsquares.com](http://ncsquares.com)

**Carrboro ZoneDance**— Free-style dance, transcendence meditation, high energy music. Third Fridays, 8-9:30pm, Balanced Movement Studio, 304 W. Weaver St. \$5-10. 698-8776

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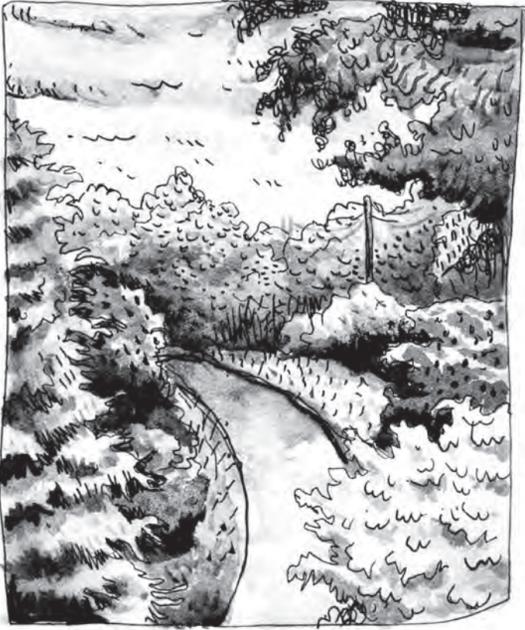
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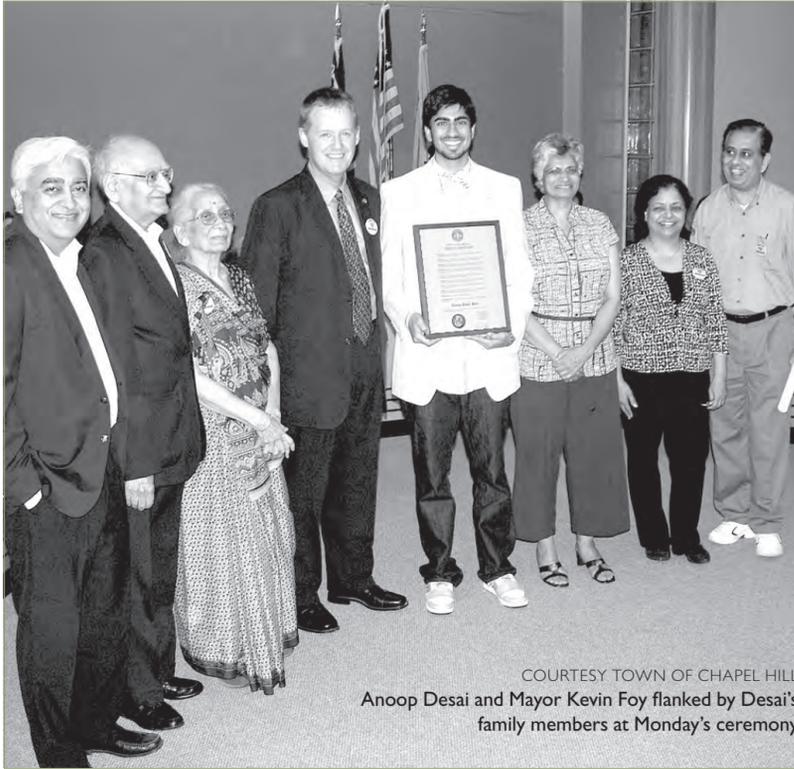
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COURTESY TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL  
Anoop Desai and Mayor Kevin Foy flanked by Desai's family members at Monday's ceremony

Anoop Day in Chapel Hill

Mayor Kevin Foy and the Chapel Hill Town Council declared May 4th Anoop Day in Chapel Hill and presented a key to the town and a proclamation to Anoop Desai, a Chapel Hill native and "American Idol" finalist.

Desai attended the council meeting Monday night accompanied by his parents, family members and a packed house of adoring fans.

Desai, who attended East Chapel Hill High School and UNC, was recently voted off "Idol," but not before charming enough fans to make it through several rounds.

A former member of the university's capella group the Clef Hangers, Desai — now sporting a beard — has said he'd like to pursue a singing career.

His hometown remains charmed, as evidenced by Monday's ceremony and an enthusiastic and well-attended welcome back event last Sunday at The Franklin Hotel.

FARMERS' MARKET

Sat: 7am-Noon • Wed: Now open 3:30-6:30pm  
Thurs at Southern Village starts May 7 @ 3:30-6:30pm

What's at Market?

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

STRAWBERRIES, asparagus, greenhouse tomatoes, tulips, daffodils, irises, lettuce, hydroponic basil, chard, spring onions, pac choy, flour, onions, garlic, arugula, beets, broccoli, watercress, cabbage, radishes, collards, fresh herbs, kale, leeks, mustard greens, salad greens, spinach, sweet potatoes, turnips, turnip greens, winter squashes, pecans, herb and vegetable starters, NEW chicken-sausage, maple sausage, smoked ham, smoked ham hocks, liverwurst, lamb, bacon, chicken, eggs, cow's milk cheeses, breads, doughnuts, tortes, pies, cakes, jams, and relishes

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Tuesday, May 12  
6:00 am - 9:00 am

WCHL Morning News will be broadcasting live from Cruizers Exxon in Glen Lennox Shopping Center

Stop by and get a **FREE CUP OF CRUIZERS' COFFEE** and **\$1.00** will be donated to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation!

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DON'T HIKE ALONE, MAKE A LOT OF NOISE, AND DON'T RUN.  
LION ATTACKS ARE EXTREMELY RARE... BE MORE CAUTIOUS WHEN CAMPING OR HIKING IN AREAS THAT YOU KNOW COUGARS INHABIT...  
MAKE YOURSELF LOOK AS BIG AS POSSIBLE... IF YOU HAVE A YOUNGSTER WITH YOU, PUT HIM ON YOUR SHOULDERS—THE SIZE MAY FRIGHTEN THE CAT AWAY.

WE CAN'T ELIMINATE THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE A THREAT TO HUMANS... THEY ARE VITAL TO OUR ECOSYSTEM, AND THEIR DISAPPEARANCE WOULD PROBABLY HARM IT MORE.

puzzle solutions

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CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER:  
The first female president of Ireland, who instead of rocking the cradle, rocked the women of Ireland, was elected by the women of Ireland.

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## FOR THE RECORD

## Not in this house

In Carrboro, we try to play fair with our house rules. We have this silly notion that housing opportunities should be available to everyone. Not so in the big House, where our local bill could not make it intact out of the Local Government II Committee.

Our town charter addresses housing discrimination, offering protection to persons based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin. Our board of aldermen wanted to update the charter to also extend protection to persons based on familial status, handicap, sexual orientation, gender identification and gender expression. Since familial status and handicap are now covered under the Fair Housing Act, this was an effort to update this provision so that it was consistent with federal law, as well as to extend this protection to others.

On four occasions, the BOA unanimously supported this bill; not one citizen wrote or spoke against this effort. Ellie Kinnaird and Verla Insko introduced the bill in their respective chambers. The first House committee to address the bill, the one mentioned above, includes Rep. Paul Stam, the House minority leader, as a vice-chair.

I attended this first committee meeting and heard Rep. Insko make an eloquent, well-reasoned argument in favor of the bill. I pointed out that 20 states, Washington, DC and over 150 municipalities have passed such laws.

Rep. Stam then started remarking about his perception of sexual orientation and gender identity. He asked how one would know if the definition that "these people" have of sexual orientation includes bestiality, and asked what you call a man who has sex with underage boys. He did not understand how a person could not know if they were a man or a woman. Again, Rep. Insko gave thoughtful and sensitive answers to his comments, noting that although this bill would apply only in Carrboro, every community has gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents, and these are our family members, co-workers and friends. Mayor Mark Chilton was also present at the second meeting to address committee concerns and stated that Carrboro simply wanted to afford equal protection to everyone. Other committee members offered comments and asked questions about the bill. Rep. Stam warned the other members that this was not just a local bill, but that every person who has rental property in Carrboro would be affected by this. Representatives from advocacy groups spoke for and against the legislation.

When all was said and done, only one member of the committee (Rep. Marvin Lucas) supported the bill with the inclusion of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. The other 15 members of the committee did not. I can only surmise that this issue was too controversial for them to support.

Although I was discouraged, Rep. Insko and Mayor Chilton, who have been involved with GLBT issues in Orange County longer than I have, commented that just the fact that this topic was being discussed in a House committee meeting was progress. In the broader context, as I write, the School Violence Prevention Act (which would cover sexual orientation as well as gender identity and expression) is progressing through both the House and the Senate; this bill is another way of educating legislators about other issues that GLBT persons face.

And so, although this committee sees nothing wrong with denying housing and mortgage opportunities to people solely on the basis of who they are, or who they love, or how they express themselves, I know that I speak for many others when I say that we want to play fair in Carrboro. Someday we will be permitted to do so.

*Lydia Lavelle is a member of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen.*

## CORRECTION

We missed a couple of truly lovely Carrboro spots for dining al fresco in our survey in MILL of fine outdoor dining locations.

How we could have forgotten the wonderful atmosphere of the courtyard at Carrburritos (carrburritos.com) and the patio at Elmo's (elmosdiner.com) is beyond us.

We regret the error and look forward to a meal or two at both in the not-too-distant future.

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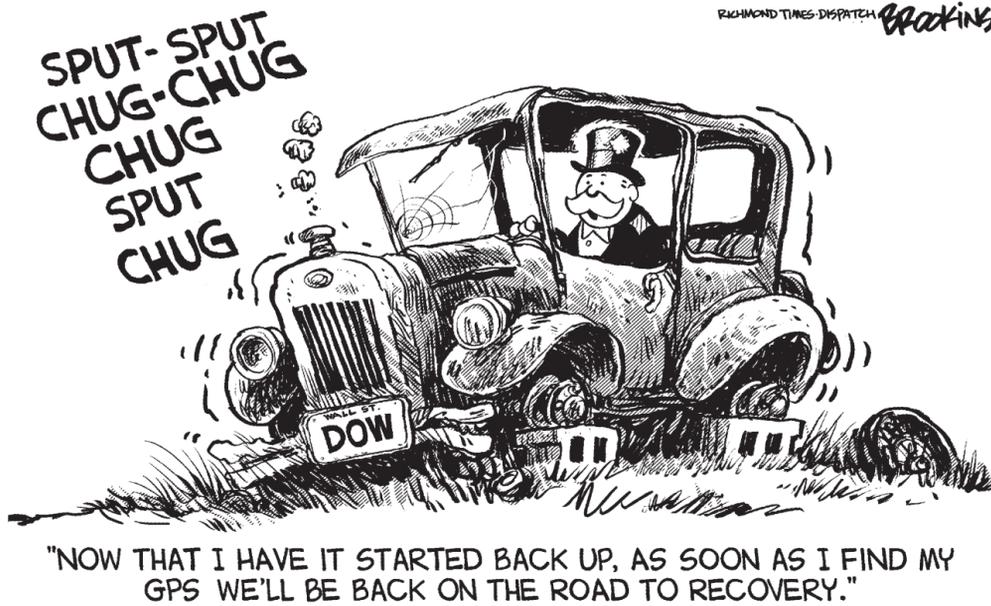
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## From gap to chasm

STEVE PEHA

I've lived in Carrboro for six years now and each year there's been discussion of the achievement gap issue in our local schools. But this year, the gap has reached an unprecedented and, frankly, shocking level.

Currently, we have almost a 60-point difference in the achievement levels of white and black students. This is a larger gap than any I have ever seen in 15 years of working with school districts around the country. Worse than that, however, is the trend. While white students are holding steady at scores of between 90 and 95, black students are on a precipitous downward slide. And while it's unlikely that either black or Hispanic student groups will ever hit rock bottom, a graph of test data from the April 23rd edition of *The Daily Tar Heel* makes it appear that these groups are possibly headed for zero over the next few years in this grade 3-8 reading and math testing.

In my opinion, we no longer have an achievement gap in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, we have an achievement chasm. This means that business as usual can no longer be tolerated. Specific efforts to improve the performance of black and Hispanic students must be put into place immediately. At the same time, the high performance of other students, of which we should be exceedingly proud, should not be compromised in any way.

So how do we pull off this educational sleight of hand? Surprisingly, it may not be that hard, as long as we start in the right place.

Literacy is the foundation of school success. And early literacy is the foundation of that foundation. By focusing our efforts on closing the gap in reading and writing at grades K-3, we can give low-performing kids a fair shot at being successful while at the same

time supporting high-achieving kids. To accomplish this, there are significant changes we need to make in our classrooms. In particular, our teaching must become more efficient, more differentiated and more authentic.

Kids don't enter school at the same level; gaps exist from the first day of kindergarten. In general, kids who come from less advantaged families, and those who don't speak English very well, may be anywhere from six months to two years behind. This is time that must be made up in short order. For example, if it takes us six to eight months for kindergartners to learn their letters and sounds, and

*Closing the achievement chasm won't be easy, especially when it has reached 50-60 points, as it has this year in our district.*

to write their first sentences, we need to switch to methods that can accomplish this in six to eight weeks. Moving faster, with better strategies, and with more intensity toward key developmental goals, is absolutely essential.

To make sure that all kids, regardless of ability, receive a high-quality education that meets their needs, we need to do a better job of differentiating instruction. This usually comes down to two things: more and better individual conferencing so teachers can increase their one-on-one time with students, and improved classroom management to facilitate this. The more differentiated we can be, the better we can do at meeting the needs of individual students, regardless of differences in ability.

Finally, we need to make sure the reading and writing tasks we ask children to engage in are practical, useful, appropriate and meaningful. In other words, we must strive to make literacy

instruction more authentic. It's all well and good to engage kids in elaborate art projects around the books they read, but it doesn't do a lot to improve their reading abilities. And while acrostic poems are cute, they don't help kids improve the grammar and sentence structure of their writing. The same might be said of worksheets, workbooks and test-prep activities. Higher volumes of authentic reading and writing are vital for low-performing students and, best of all, they're good for high-performing kids too.

Closing the literacy gap by the end of third grade is essential for several reasons. First of all, the human brain is more receptive to language learning between the ages of 5 and 8 than it is thereafter. Second, at fourth grade and above teachers tend to have less literacy training than their K-3 peers. Finally, as kids head toward and into middle school the curriculum changes dramatically. At sixth grade, kids lose half their reading and writing time while the volume and difficulty of content-area work they are expected to do increases dramatically. In short, by sixth grade there's little time to learn to read and write anymore. (We may need to change this too, but that's another battle for another day.) Language Arts becomes more about literature and less about reading and writing, and a huge load of hard work descends from the social studies, math and science departments.

Closing the achievement chasm won't be easy, especially when it has reached 50-60 points, as it has this year in our district. But addressing it is imperative, as we now risk the creation of a permanent educational underclass. A few more years of scores like these and no one will be questioning them. We will have reached a stage of educational determinism where the color of a student's skin or the size of a family's bank account accounts for the level of achievement kids attain.

## Reasons not to resume executions

CHRIS FITZSIMON

The ruling by the North Carolina Supreme Court Friday that the state medical board can't discipline doctors who play a role in executions has reignited the debate about capital punishment and is prompting calls from death penalty supporters for executions to resume at Central Prison.

Executions have been on hold for more than two years while the courts considered the medical board's position that a doctor who monitors an inmate's vital signs during the execution is violating medical ethics and can be disciplined.

The courts are also considering a challenge of a decision by the Council of State that approved the lethal injection protocol used to put inmates to death. That case is now before Superior Court Judge Donald Stephens.

The legal issues are complicated enough, though it baffles the mind how doctors who are sworn to do no harm can participate in any way in killing a person. But even when the courts have decided what the medical board can or can't do and whether or not the Council of State acted improperly, the fundamental problems with the capital punishment system will remain in North Carolina.

Nine people have been wrongly convicted of first-degree murder in the state in recent years, and those are just the ones we know about. They were sentenced to death or life in prison for crimes they didn't commit because eyewitness testimony was wrong, prosecutors withheld im-

portant evidence or jailhouse snitches lied to save their own skin.

The news of wrongful convictions in North Carolina and across the nation has shaken the public's confidence in the criminal justice system. An inmate in Illinois was freed last week after serving 16 years behind bars for a murder he didn't commit, a sentence he received when he was 13 years old.

Less than a year ago, two men on death row in North Carolina were released after spending a combined 29 years awaiting their execution for murders they had no role in. No one can

*The legal issues are complicated enough, though it baffles the mind how doctors who are sworn to do no harm can participate in any way in killing a person.*

dispute that the criminal system makes mistakes and there's no way to correct them after an execution.

Last week unfortunately also raised questions about the credibility of the people in charge of prisons and executions in the state. Thanks to dogged reporting by the *NC O's* Michael Biesecker, we learned the story of Timothy Helms, a mentally ill inmate in Alexander Correctional Institution who is now paralyzed after injuries that appear to be the result of a severe beating.

Before he slipped into a coma from bleeding in the brain, Helms said he was assaulted by guards for setting a fire in his cell. Corrections Secretary Alvin Keller said Friday that video

from security cameras shows that he was not beaten and Keller attributes his fractured skull to a fall.

But Biesecker reports that Helms' skull was fractured in the front and back and that security camera video shows that guards took Helms into a cell where the camera couldn't see them and stayed 22 minutes. Doctors said Helms' injuries appear to have been caused by a billy club.

Keller says the video shows that guards didn't beat Helms. Common sense says something else and the episode hardly inspires confidence in the people who run the system that determines who dies in the execution chamber.

Mistakes and trust aren't the only problems with the way capital punishment is administered. A 2003 UNC study found that the odds of receiving a death sentence increase by almost three and half times if the murder victim is white.

Many of the 163 inmates currently on death row received poor representation at their trials. Most of them were sentenced before changes were made in the way lawyers are appointed in capital cases.

One report about Friday's Supreme Court decision described it as removing a roadblock to resuming executions. Maybe; but there are huge barriers remaining, like race, trust and lack of confidence in a system plagued by mistakes.

Let's don't crank up the machinery of death again just yet.

*Chris Fitzsimon is executive director of NC Policy Watch.*

## Missing Mother's Day

S.A.M. BROOKS

Like most women, I have an abundance of Mother's Day memories. The clay pots I shaped and colored, necklaces made of paper-mâché, paste and various organic items that could be found around an upper New York State schoolyard. Yearly, one of these priceless gifts would find itself at the breakfast table the second Sunday in May, where when it was presented to my mother she would appropriately *ooh* and *aah*, maybe even suggesting I had a future in the art world. As an only child, I did not have the nasty task of having to compete with, or have my treasure compared with, those of less talented siblings.

The first Mother's Day I thought I deserved to be recognized went right over my then-husband's head. Somehow he had failed to notice that I was stretched to my limit, having been babysitting for eight months. It was May in South Carolina; I was hot; my ankles were swollen and the responsible party should have given me a Mother's Day card!

Graciously, as my children grew older, gifts came rolling in. But my favorite remembrance was breakfast in bed served by my 6-year-old son, Michael, who as an adult did distinguish himself in the kitchen. But that morning, the menu included eggs scrambled in vinegar.

Over the past several years, a family tradition of sorts has evolved. We attend church together that Sunday in May. A bit of guilt may be involved (I'm not proud), but all of the in-town family dutifully shows up. How bad can it be? All the moms get to wear a flower, everyone says nice things about us and because it is UU there is food involved. Plus there are no Final Four games scheduled.

But I have missed this family tradition the last three years as I have been serving with the Peace Corps in the Philippines. My commitment ends in August and along with many of my 57 batch mates, I will be heading home. Most of the 20-somethings are scoping out new jobs or graduate schools, but I want to snuggle on the couch with Tate and Henry, stroll down Franklin Street and wiggle my toes in the grass at Weaver Street Market. I want to come home. I want a hot shower.

Five years ago, I cleaned out the last of my mother's stuff, which had taken up residence in my garage. There it had collected dust, the cardboard boxes deteriorating, since Mom, at the age of 82, had moved for the last time, joining her grandson who was scattered around the Memorial Rock of the Community Church of Chapel Hill UU.

Most of the boxes were filled with medical/insurance notices/receipts. I could chart the progression from cane to walker to walker with wheels to wheelchair. There were nail files, recipe boxes, bridge score cards, address books and a small frame holding a second-grade photo of me. It had been decorated with macaroni, and a few, their color faded, still stuck to the cardboard.

*S.A.M. Brooks is a longtime Chapel Hill resident who has been serving as a Peace Corps volunteer since 2007.*

## LETTERS POLICY

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

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**MARKETING & DESIGN DIRECTOR** The ArtsCenter is seeking a full-time Marketing and Design Director to oversee all marketing efforts for concerts, theater, gallery, art classes, and children's programs. Responsibilities include communication with local media sources, event planning, sponsor cultivation, and coordination of all ArtsCenter marketing efforts including press releases, advertising, presentations, website maintenance, and archiving. This position is also responsible for designing all marketing publications including playbills, programs, children's brochures, advertisements, and fliers and for continuing to develop The ArtsCenter's visual identity within the broader community. The ideal candidate will be an effective communicator, meticulous editor, and fantastic designer with a passion for the arts and community. Bachelor's degrees in journalism, marketing, graphic design or business are preferred with 3 - 5 years experience in both marketing and design. Must be proficient in Adobe Creative Suite and Microsoft Office with some familiarity with html. Experience working in an arts organization is preferred. For more information, visit [www.artscencenterlive.org](http://www.artscencenterlive.org). Deadline for submissions is May 18. Please include a cover letter, resume and three samples of your design work. Send applications to Lauren Sacks, Associate Executive Director, 300-G East Main Street, Carrboro, NC 27510 or email to [marketing@artscencenterlive.org](mailto:marketing@artscencenterlive.org).

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## School Briefs

### Teachers of the Year

Schools in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools district have selected their 2009-10 Teachers of the Year.

Elementary school Teachers of the Year are: Myriam Casimir, Carrboro Elementary; Gretchen Capps, Ephesus Elementary; Gina Pace, Estes Hills Elementary; Leigh Ann Cardman, Frank Porter Graham Elementary; LaWanda Rainey-Hall, Glenwood Elementary; Janet Davis-Castra, McDougle Elementary; Karen Reid, Morris Grove Elementary; Michelle Wood, Rashkis Elementary; Tricia Billy, Scroggs Elementary; and Kathy MacKinnon, Seawell Elementary.

Middle school Teachers of the Year are: Robert Bales, Culbreth Middle; Redmond Grigg, McDougle Middle; Jonathan Beyle, Phillips Middle; and Jonté Hill, Smith Middle.

High school Teachers of the Year are: Kathryn Eriksen, Carrboro High; Albert Wartski, Chapel Hill High; and Kimberly Manning, East Chapel Hill High.

The selected teachers will be honored at the district's annual recognition reception on May 29, when the district Teacher of the Year will be announced.

### School board meeting

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

- a recommendation to delay dual-language implementation at McDougle Elementary School;

- action steps in preparation of the 2009-10 school year;
- position exchange requests for 2009-10; and
- allotment conversion for Elementary Creative Movement. For the complete agenda, visit [chccs.k12.nc.us](http://chccs.k12.nc.us)

### Business conference

Smith Middle School students recently competed in the 55th annual North Carolina Future Business Leaders of America Leadership Conference.

Robert Byerly won second place in business math for students in middle grades and was a top 10 finisher in financial mathematics. Ranjitha Ananthan finished in the top 10 for middle grades public speaking. In addition, Sonia Baylon-Castillejos served as voting delegate.

### Skills USA contest

East Chapel Hill High School students recently competed at the NC Skills USA Competition in Greensboro.

Connie Wang won first place in Related Technical Math, while the team of Karen He and Mary Hu won first place in Web Design. In addition, the team of Chia-Hsuan Wu and Sayoko Sueyoshi placed fifth in Web Design.

### McDougle Middle band earns honors

The McDougle Middle School Concert Band earned a superior rating at the North Carolina Concert Band Festival on March 19 in Graham.

The band also earned high marks for their sight-reading ability.

## Sports Inductees



The 2009 inductees to the Chapel Hill High School and Lincoln High School Hall of Fame gathered Saturday at Chapel Hill High for a meal and a hearty round of applause.

### From left, the inductees are:

- **WOODY BURNS** (1982) — Burns was named All-Conference in wrestling his junior and senior years and had a 17-0 record in his last season.
- **RON HODGIN** (1988) — Hodgin played baseball and football and was All-Conference in both sports.
- **DANNY DUNAWAY** (1988) — Dunaway played football and was All-Conference, All-Area and All-State his senior year.
- **ANN FRAUTISCHI** (1977) — Frautischi played tennis and basketball and was runner-up in the state individual championship two years in a

row as well as first-team All-Conference her senior year.

- **EDRIC COTTON** (1970) — Cotton played football and basketball and was on the swimming and diving teams. He was voted one of the top 500 basketball players in America and was named by the student body twice as Most Valuable in football and basketball.
- **JOE HUBBARD** (1999) — Hubbard played lacrosse and basketball and led the Tigers to the state championship in lacrosse in 1997. He earned first-team All-Conference, All-State and All-American honors.
- **DONALD CLARK** (1965) — Clark lettered in football, basketball and baseball. He was All-Conference in football for three years and was All-Conference in baseball his sophomore year.

## SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS MAY 8 - 14

### ELEMENTARY

- FRIDAY** — Cheese Pizza; Pepparoni Pizza; Turkey & Cheese Wrap; Garden Salad; Traditional Mixed Vegetables; Pineapple Tidbits
- MONDAY** — Beef & Cheese Nachos w/Salsa; Chicken Nuggets w/BBQ Sauce & Wheat Roll; Baja Black Beans; Corn on the Cobb; Chilled Apricots
- TUESDAY** — Pork BBQ on a Bun; Macaroni & Cheese w/Wheat Roll; "Fun on the Run"; Coleslaw; Green Beans; Chilled Peas
- WEDNESDAY** — Cheese Pizza; Pepperoni Pizza; Hot Dog w/Chili;

- Garden Peas; Fruited Gelatin; Fresh Banana
- THURSDAY** — Ham & Cheese Sub; Mozzarella Cheese Sticks w/ Marinara Dipping Sauce; "Fun on the Run"; Lettuce & Tomato Salad; Carrot & Celery Sticks; Broccoli w/Cheese Sauce; Fresh Orange Wedges

- Tomato; Chicken Caesar Salad; Seasoned Potato Wedges; Peas & Carrots; Chilled Peaches
- TUESDAY** — Beef Lasagna w/Garlic Bread; Chicken Tacos w/ Salsa, Cheese, Lettuce & Tomato; Seasoned Pinto Beans; Corn on the Cobb; Sliced Strawberries
- WEDNESDAY** — Italian Chicken Sandwich; Beef & Macaroni w/Wheat Roll; Green Beans; Steamed Carrots; Chilled Fruit Cocktail
- THURSDAY** — Herb Baked Chicken w/Wheat Roll; Cheese Quesadilla w/Salsa; Mashed Potatoes; Turnip Greens; Mandarin Oranges

### MIDDLE & HIGH

- FRIDAY** — Spaghetti & Meat Sauce w/Garlic Bread; Hot Dog w/Chili; Coleslaw; California Mixed Vegetables; Cherry Cobbler
- MONDAY** — Double Cheeseburger w/Lettuce &

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PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

Flowers of multiflora rose at top compete for pollinators with blackberry flowers, below.

## FLORA

FROM PAGE 1

The foreigners growing so happily here, without their homeland diseases and predators to keep them in check, each year cause millions of dollars of damage to natural areas and horticultural crops.

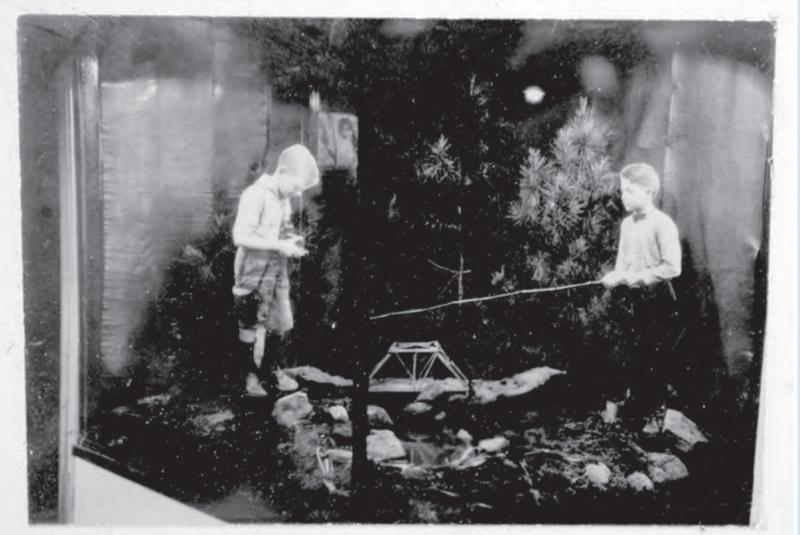
If the multiflora rose receives preferred pollination over the blackberry, the greater production of rose hips, spread far and wide by birds and other animals, will result in less area available for colonization by blackberries and other native species. Numerous native butterfly species and other wildlife

are critically dependent on specific native plants; much of the plant-specific native fauna is not adapted to utilize the invading exotic flora.

Along our roadsides and forest edges, blackberries and multiflora roses are making quite a show now. From a distance, the plants are similar. Both are thorny and form impenetrable thickets. But only the rose can climb high in trees and scramble over shrubs and small trees, giving it a physical advantage. The flowers are similar, but a closer look will reveal the rose flowers are smaller and in

tighter, roundish conical clusters with yellow stamens. In contrast, flowers of blackberries are larger, in looser horizontal clusters, and the stamens are not yellow. Sadly, it may be that, offered a choice, the pollinators prefer the rose.

If you are cultivating blackberries, you certainly don't want the multiflora rose near by. Without blackberries, you still don't want this climbing rose nearby. Please do the right thing and take advantage of this cool blackberry winter and cut and grub out all the multiflora rose within your domain.



## Foister's Camera Store, 1920s

What with all the talk about enlivening the Franklin Street cityscape, Chapel Hill could take some guidance from its own past. Back in the day, storefronts in the 100 block of Franklin were robust showplaces of not only the store contents but also the personalities within. Foister's Camera Store's long-time owners Bill and Dot Harrison loaned me this remarkable example of pre-visualization and creativity from the '20s. On the back of the black-and-white image, this is the penciled notation:

"ER Graham taking picture of FY Patton. This was taken at Morgan Creek. Then Mr. Foister enlarged each to almost full size — placed it in the window of his store. (First building west of Methodist Church) and had a moving stream of water in the display window with a bobbing cork at end of fishing line. About 1920 or '22."



## A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER

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



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**SPOTLIGHT: 2nd FRIDAY ARTWALK**

Wacky poster design, an intimate look at Carrboro culture and art created of recycled materials are among the attractions at the next 2ndFriday Artwalk throughout Carrboro and Chapel Hill this Friday evening, May 8th, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Witness the opening of Carrboro Art Stomp, starting at 7 p.m. at both Wootini (in Carr Mill Mall) and The Merch (101 Lloyd St.) Art Stomp features the work of Danny Miller (who's currently creating designs for Quentin Tarantino's upcoming film *Inglorious Bastards*), Merch co-owner Patrick Cudahy, The Station owner Mike Benson, Ron Liberti, Kevin Herdsmen, Aaron Tingey and Dave Gradeon. An after party will be held at The Station.

Jesse Kalisher Gallery (209 E. Main St.) will be showing Kallisher's all-Carrboro exhibit, images from the past year of "the intriguing and remarkably diverse culture that surrounds him."

And at University Mall, the Scrapel Hill Art public-arts project will present works by local artists designed to help educate and promote the value of recycling.

2nd Friday, a once-a-month event, also features live music and other art-related entertainment at select venues. Admission is free.

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