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JULY 30, 2009 ♦ LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED ♦ VOLUME III NO. XX

FREE



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE Rare Gray's lily on Roan Mountain's open grassy balds.

leave of the wealth of

Bill Strom resigns from town council Speculation about Strom's plans too late for his seat to be included meeting, scheduled for Sept. 14, Foy

BY KIRK ROSS

Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — Bill Strom, who has served on the Chapel Hill Town Council since 1999, announced Wednesday afternoon that he is resigning "to pursue other personal and professional opportunities outside the community.'

In a statement emailed to The Citizen, Strom said his resignation is effective Aug. 1. He thanked his colleagues and the community.

"Serving as a council member in Chapel Hill has been a great honor, and I am deeply thankful for my fellow citizens' trust and confidence in electing me three times," the statement said.

Greenwood Road earlier this year and heated up when he did not enter the Chapel Hill mayor's race after Mayor Kevin Foy said he would not seek another term. Strom was widely viewed as having a strong interest in the office.

He served as one of the town's chief negotiators with the university on expansion plans for the main campus and Carolina North and was a member of the Triangle Transit Authority's board of trustees. He recently was named by Leadership Triangle as the winner of the Goodmon Award for regional leadership by an elected official.

Strom's announcement comes

began after he sold his home on in this year's municipal races. The filing period for those races, which this year include mayor and four council seats, ended on July 17. According to Chapel Hill Town Attorney Ralph Karpinos, had Strom stepped down within three days of the end of the filing period his seat would have been included on the ballot and the town council would have been charged with filling his seat until the election.

With the announcement falling after the end of the filing period, Karpinos said the council will follow the procedures it used recently after the death of council member Bill Thorpe.

Karpinos said at the next council

will officially announce the vacancy. The council will then set a time period of not less than seven and not more than 30 days for applications for the seat. Council members will then review the applications and officially place names in nomination. After the nominations, the council must wait at least one week before making its decision. The new council member will serve out Strom's term, which ends in December

The Citizen has published both Strom's resignation announcement and Karpinos' memo to the mayor and council on the procedures for filing the vacancy on our website at carrborocitizen.com/main

ORA BY KEN MOORE A story of Gray's lily and mountain balds nce in a while, I take

local natural areas to see North Carolina treasures farther afield. One of my favorite places is the string of Roan Mountain grassy balds striding the border of North Carolina and Tennessee, where there is a very special wildflower. Every time I see Gray's lily, Lilium grayii, I am thankful for the Southern Appalachian Highland Conservancy's (SAHC) efforts to preserve this and other highland areas of North Carolina. Since 1974, this group has protected more than 38,000 acres of significant natural areas in the highlands.

I first saw Gray's lily on a botany field trip back in the 1960s. It was rare back then and it is rarer now. Its worldwide distribution is centered in a few mountain counties in the corner of Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia.

The best viewing opportunities are on the balds of Roan Mountain. If you have never visited the Roan, you have missed an opportunity to fall in love with a mountain.

Most folks really do fall in love with it. That certainly is the feeling of the 42 people who participated in this year's SAHC 15th Grassy Ridge Mow-Off, a thoughtfully planned effort to preserve the balds and rare plants like Gray's lily. You see, that lily and other rarities are being displaced by the encroaching growth of blackberries, alders and that muchadmired purple rhododendron, Rhododendron catawbiense.

Formerly, the balds of Roan were more extensive. In recent years, as the Roan highlands have moved from private ownership to conservation lands, grazing farm-animal activity has been eliminated. As a result, the once-extensive open balds began shrinking.

SEE **FLORA** PAGE 6

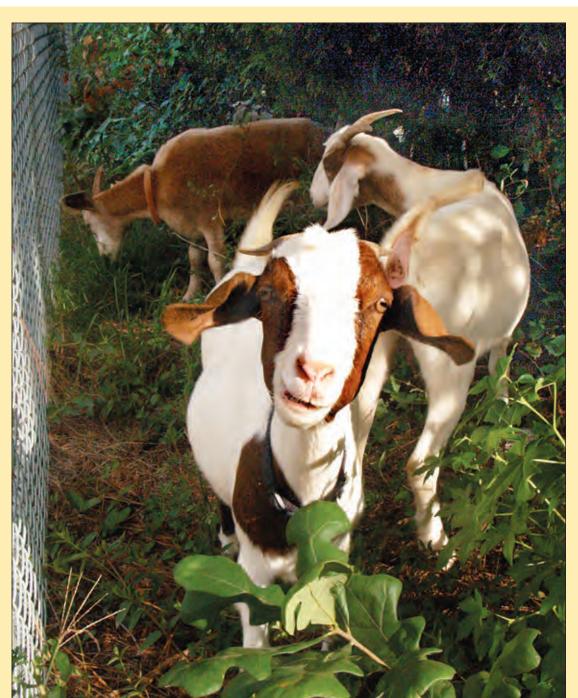
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Picnic in the park

BY BETH MECHUM

Staff Writer

The Goat Patrol doesn't need a lunch break. Its entire day is a lunch break.

And the business works out such that it benefits all interested parties.

The dog park at Hank Anderson Community Park now has a lot less poison ivy and the goats are to be thanked for that. A baaaahhhh is what you'll get in response the same sound heard around the park last Tuesday and Wednesday, as Goat Patrol human coordinator Alix Bowman watched her goats clear the land without the use of any pesticides or noisy machinery.

Bowman said the goats have the same hours as most landscapers and are even more efficient in getting to the hard-toreach places.

"The goats are often less expensive and get into a lot of stuff other workers wouldn't want to touch," she said.

What's poisonous to humans can be dessert to goats. But they don't eat just anything. Bowman comes out to survey the land to make sure what needs to be cleared is something the goats will want to nibble on.

SEE GOAT PATROL PAGE 5



PHOTOS BY KIRK ROSS Town of Carrboro Streets Supervisor David Poythress and Goat Patrol's Alix Bowman survey the work of the herd on Wednesday morning.

Gaining perspective on a life in athletics

BY BETH MECHUM

Staff Writer

Charlie Adams has the beach on his mind. He's picturing toes in the sand, fun in the sun, a dive into a seafood basket.

But before any of that can transpire, he knows he has a job to finish. Adams has been director of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) since 1984 and on staff since 1967. He'll retire in

a Few Moments

With Charlie Adams

February after an illustrious career that includes an induction into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame.

Adams knows he'd like to relax after he retires, and perhaps reflect on the great career he's had to further gain perspective when he's no longer the man in charge.

Which is ironic, considering it's the process of gaining perspective that has kept him so busy for all these years.

"I think our job at the high school level is to make sure we keep things

in the proper perspective," Adams said. "We have to work doubly hard to make these youngsters know that playing is really short time, but your academics, your education are a lifetime, and you need to learn to be good sports, you need to learn to be good citizens."

There have been times when his patience has been pushed to the brink. It's Adams who parents call if they think their kid isn't getting enough playing time or enough ink in the lo-

cal newspaper. "Parents

this day and time are much more aggressive, much more litigation

oriented," Adams says, adding, with a good-natured laugh, that parents very often conclude their conversations with, "Well, you'll hear from our attorney,' and we say, 'Fine.'"

It's also Adams who has to tell a team they've been declared ineligible. He remembers one instance when the team was actually loading onto the bus, heading to a game, when he had to break the bad news.

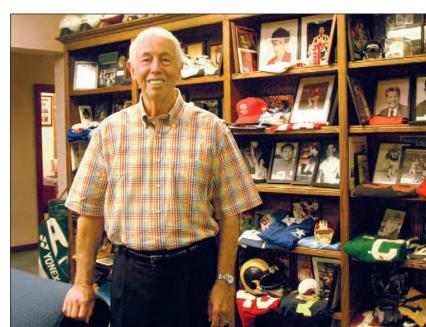


PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

Charlie Adams stands in front of years of memorabilia from N.C. high school athletes.

"I think there is a mentality right now that is 'win at all costs' in many places, and I think there's a disregard for rules," says Adams. "It's our job to make the rules, interpret the rules and enforce the rules."

But he recalls these experiences with no bitterness in his voice. It's all been part of his job – a job, he says, that offers more good experiences than bad.

SEE **ADAMS** PAGE 5

Community

Community Briefs

Sports try-outs at CHS

Carrboro High School fall try-outs are quickly approaching. To try out, athletes must be enrolled in Carrboro High School, have a current physical exam and consent form on file in the athletic office and complete an emergency medical card.

The dates are: football, Aug. 1, 8 a.m.; cross-country, Aug. 3, 7 a.m.; women's golf, Aug. 3, 4 p.m.; men's soccer, Aug. 3-5, 8-10 a.m. and 6-8 p.m.; volleyball, Aug. 3-4, 9-11 a.m. and 7-9 p.m.; field hockey, Aug.5-7, 6-8 p.m.; and women's tennis, Aug. 5-7, 10-11 am. For the most up-to-date information, contact April Ross at 918-2200, ext. 25023 or visit carrborocitizen.com/sports

Hillsborough seeks volunteers

To prepare for the Nash Street sidewalk project, the Town of Hillsborough is generating a list of volunteers available to help local property owners remove items like small brick or stone driveway pillars, flowers or other landscaping from rights-of-way.

This may be a good volunteer project for a scout troop, church, organization or business.

Work will take place in the fall, and volunteer registration is through Aug. 14. Those with experience in masonry or landscaping are encouraged to volunteer. To sign up, contact Public Works Supervisor Ken Hines at 732-1270 Ext. 78 or ken.hines@hillsboroughnc.org

Chatham invites input

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners invites residents interested in providing input on a draft joint land-use plan with the Town of Cary to attend a community meeting on Monday, Aug. 10 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the multipurpose room at North Chatham Elementary School. For more information, call 542-8258.



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Community Calendar

THURSDAY, JULY 30 Social Networking Workshop

The Chapel Hill Public Library will offer a free workshop on social networking. 8:30 to 9:30am. 968-2780 for more information.

SUNDAY, AUG. I Pittsboro's First Sunday

- Monthly open house for shops and galleries in downtown Pittsboro. Music by Joe Woodson. For infomation visit pittsboroshops.com or call 960-5892. 12-4pm

Economic Justice Discussion

- Community Church of Chapel Hill will host part four of their ongoing Economic Justice in Hard Times series: Open discussion, an opportunity to discuss ways to promote economic justice, locally and/or globally. 8:30-10:00 a.m. at Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist, 106 Purefoy Road. Light breakfast served. Info: Ruth Gibson 259-2894,

WEDNESDAY AUG. 5

Square Dance — Carrboro's Summerdipity series presents the Square Heels Dance Club participatory dance and performance at the Carrboro Century Center. 7:30pm, \$3. Call 918-7364 for more

THURSDAY, AUG. 5 Literary Open Mic Night

— McIntyre's at Fearrington Village presents a Literary Open Mic Night. Poetry, short stories, chapter from a novel, all are welcome. Call 542-3030 for details or to sign up. 7-9pm

Ongoing

Cancer Support — Support groups for cancer patients and their

self-help support for all adults

Cancer Support Center A Place of Caring and Sharing

grieving the loss of a child or sibling.

Third Mondays, 7-8:30pm, Ever-

green United Methodist Church.

967-3221, chapelhilltcf.org **DivorceCare** — Support group for those separated or divorced. Mondays, 7pm, Orange United Methodist Church. 942-2825, con-

nect2orange.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

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

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 and their caregivers. Saturdays, 10:45-11:15am, 11:30am-noon, Kidzu Children's Museum, 105 E. Franklin St. \$2. 933-1455, kidzuchildrensmuseum.org

Garden Story Time — Children ages 3-5 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, N.C. Botanical Garden. \$5 per family. Preregister 962-0522, ncbg.unc.edu

Volunteers **RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program**

- Seeks volunteers at least 55 years of age and older who would like assistance in finding an opportunity that matches their interests. 968-2056, co.orange.nc.us/aging/ RSVPindex.asp

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

Orange County Literacy

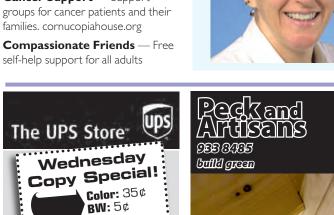
— Seeks volunteers to help with adult literacy, basic math and English language tutoring, creative writing workshops at local homeless shelters and family literacy workshops. New tutor training workshops every month. Skills Development Center, 503 W. Franklin St. 933-2151

Send your submissions to calendar@carrborocitizen.com

HEALTH CARE FORUM



Carol Shores, a physician at UNC and Wake hospitals, is an active supporter of health care reform and will be at the United Church of Chapel Hill Aug. 9 at 10 a.m. to help explain the different options being discussed at the national and state levels. For more information, call 942-3450.



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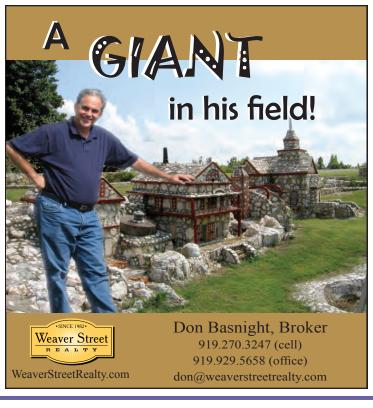
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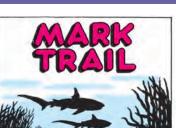
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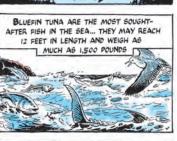


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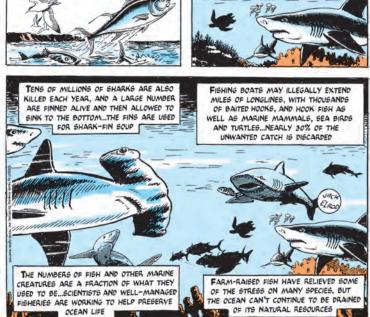
Saturday, August 8, 8 p.m. tickets \$23, \$21 members

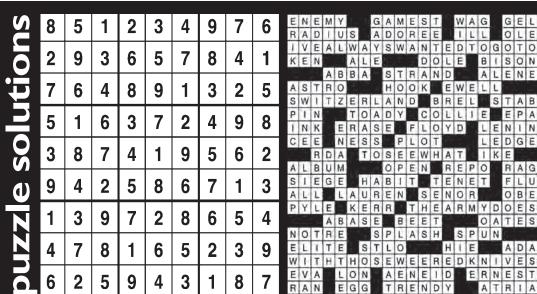
For more information or to order tickets call 929. 2787 x. 201 or go to www.artscenterlive.org.











CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER:

When I come back ... at the Smith Center, I'll always look up there and remember this team and what we were able to accomplish. —Tyler Hansbrough

News Briefs

Warrant for arrest

The Chapel Hill Police have obtained warrants for Jaheem Lashard Watson. Watson is wanted for one count of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, inflicting serious injury; one count of discharging a firearm into an occupied dwelling; and one count of going armed to the terror of the public. Investigators are still seeking information regarding the 2006 or '07 silver Ford Focus involved in this incident on Bright Sun Place.

If you have information regarding the whereabouts of Watson or the above vehicle, please call either the Chapel Hill Police Department at 968-2760 or Crime Stoppers at 942-7515.

National Night Out

On Tuesday Aug. 4th, neighborhoods throughout Chapel Hill are being invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the 26th Annual National Night Out (NNO) crime and drug prevention event. NNO will involve over 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world.

From 7 to 10 p.m., those participating are asked to turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. Many neighborhoods will be hosting such events as parades, flashlight walks, youth activities and anti-crime rallies. For more info, contact Officer Robin Clark at 969-2068.

Mental health program receives accreditation

The OPC Area Program recently announced that it has been accredited as a "Services Management Network" by the Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), an international, not-for-profit organization that accredits human services providers. CARF sent a review team to Carrboro service provider El Futuro (which was cited by CARF for "effectively [addressing] the needs of the Latino community") and other providers on June 11 and 12 to examine documents and interview staff, board members, consumers and providers.

OPC is the local government agency responsible for oversight and management of publicly funded mental health, developmental disability and substance abuse services in Orange, Person and Chatham counties. In a followup letter, CARF wrote that OPC's "services, personnel, and documentation indicate a pattern of excellence."

For more information about the accreditation or OPC's services, call OPC at 913-4120.

THE CARRBORO

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Construction starts on town's second fire station

BY KIRK ROSS

Staff Writer

Crews will begin survey work this week at the Homestead Road site for the town's new fire station in preparation for the start of construction.

Carrboro Fire-Rescue Department Chief Travis Crabtree said the first order of business will be to define areas for treeprotection fencing. Protecting some of the larger trees on the site — including a 200-year-old holly tree near Homestead Road

— was one of the key topics of interest as the town was crafting a plan for building the station.

Crabtree said the fencing and other measures to protect the trees have to be in place before grading and construction can start.

"Everything is being built on that idea," he said. "We're going to protect [the holly tree] to the best of all our abilities."

Crabtree said he was excited to see the project get started. The town has been building up its firefighter staff, with nine of the 12 firefighters who will staff the new station around the clock already hired and being trained. Construction should take about 300 days from the official start date of July 20 to complete, Crabtree said.

Having a new station and a new home for Engine 932, which the town purchased in 2006, will ease crowding at the town's Main Street station.

The new station, which will be built by Central Builders of Mebane, will mainly provide fireprotection services for northern Carrboro, including Lake Hogan Farms, Wexford, Claremont, Winmore and Rogers Road.

The station will also include work space for the Carrboro Police Department and Orange County Emergency Medical Services and a small community meeting room that can seat about 15 people, Crabtree said.

The first major town project since 1981, the station includes a number of green features, such as a gray-water retention and filtering system, high-efficiency lighting, extensive use of daylight and waterless urinals.

ADAMS

FROM PAGE I

A long career

Adams recalls he wasn't always as easy-going as he appears today, but the job changed him. He says he's a big-picture guy

He played basket-ball and football in Cary, garnering top honors and impressive records in each, before going to UNC on a basketball scholarship and later transferring to ECU in search of more playing time.

Being a former athlete helps Adams relate to the problems of high school athletes today. He understands

so you have to constantly work on sportsmanship."

Stresses the importance of sportsmanship has been a primary component of his job, and one of the things he's proudest of is the NCHSAA's successes in helping student-athletes grow on and off the field.

since he first started in a two-

of fame would be lucky to have. But he doesn't play golf anymore; he said his shoulders are shot from years of it, plus snow skiing, tennis and more.

His friends say his shoulders are like that because of all the shots he took on the Cary High School basketball court. Adams

but quite a few went in.

basis is what he'll miss most about his job.

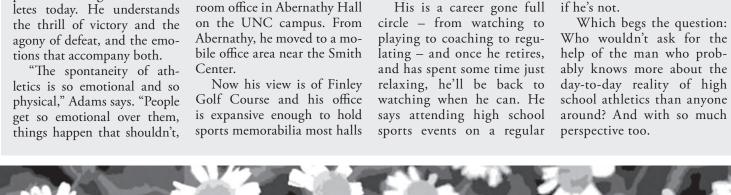
"I'll miss the shear happiness of seeing a girl hit a home run in softball or a guy break the record in the 100 or the last-second shot that wins a basketball game."

Lucky for him, no one is likely to deny Charlie Adams a seat at a high school game. After all, he might well have played a major role in getting that seat there in the first place.

> Adams has no idea who his successor will be, and is having no part in the search process. He says he'll

Adams has come a long way concedes he took a fair number, be there to mentor that person if asked, but understands if he's not.

Which begs the question: Who wouldn't ask for the day-to-day reality of high school athletics than anyone around? And with so much perspective too.



"The spontaneity of athletics is so emotional

and so physical, people get so emotional over them,

things happen that shouldn't, so you have

to constantly work on sportsmanship."









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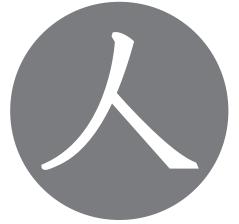
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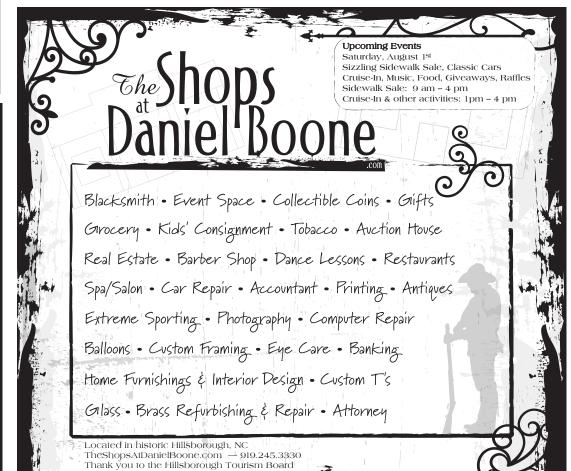
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FOR THE RECORD

Over the top

We were a little dismayed at a recent *Herald-Sun* op-ed penned by Orange County Economic Development director Bradley Broadwell about Hillsborough's exploration of a commercial building moratorium.

In a departure from the usual decorum of county officials regarding municipal matters, Broadwell scolded the town for even considering the idea. We'll give him a pass over the headline for the column

— "Town considers economic suicide" — since that's more often than not the editor's doing, but Broadwell was pretty over the top elsewhere.

To his credit, he did not call the town's leaders bumpkins, but he all but called them ignorant of the consequences of "stopping" commercial development.

It should be noted that while the town is considering an 18-month moratorium, imposing one of that length might be difficult, given federal court rulings and state law that make a moratorium over a year difficult to defend.

Hillsborough has been on the grow for some time, and after trying to digest the latest round of it the town is rightly taking a look at how to better craft its rules and guidance. While doing so, enacting a moratorium is not an atypical move for a town to make. Carrboro and Chapel Hill both recently went through the same process to help shape growth in their northern reaches.

But according to Broadwell, this is going to bring the economic-development world crashing down and lead to "tragic" consequences.

In the past, taking a town to task in a newspaper column has not been a common method for county officials to use in debating public policy. We're not sure whether the moratorium in question is the right move, but experience says the consequences of a justified pause of a year is far from "tragic" and has yielded better results, better plans and certainly more clarity for developers in planning projects.

The consequences of a condemnation of the leaders of a local municipality by a county official, however, are probably not all that positive.

ENDORSEMENT LETTERS

The Carrboro Citizen welcomes letters of endorsement for candidates in the 2009 municipal and school board elections.

We ask that you keep letters in support of individual candidates to 325 words and multiple candidates to 375 words.

As with our general letters policy all letters must be accompanied by the author's name, address and contact information. We will publish one letter per author per month. Typed letters are preferred and email even more so. Lengthy letters written in longhand will become mysteriously lost.

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A nation still at risk

STEVE PEHA

It seems like ed reform has been going on forever. But it's only been 26 years. In 1983, the landmark report "A Nation at Risk" was published, detailing many things its authors thought were terribly wrong with American schools. What interests me about the 26th anniversary of this report is that, as of this year, two full generations of K-12 students have made their ways through the system. And I have a feeling if the same report were written again, its title would be "A Nation Still at Risk."

What have we come up with in the last 26 years to help our kids be more successful in school? It's a short list: testing, standards, vouchers, charters and merit pay. That's it. We look more closely now at attendance and high school graduation rates, but this isn't reform, it's just bookkeeping.

If it feels like we're not getting very far, it's because we aren't. Let's take a look at why.

First up: testing. Testing has given us a lot of data, but much of it hasn't been very useful because virtually every state has done one or more things to distort the numbers in their favor. Mostly this has meant making tests easier or using fancy statistical workarounds like "confidence intervals" and "minimum subgroup sizes" to make their scores look better than they really are. In return for this faux accountability, a pervasive teach-to-test culture has infiltrated our classrooms.

Second: standards. In theory, curriculum standards ought to make teaching easier, better and more consistent. And this consistency, in particular, should lead to dramatically increased learning for kids. But this hasn't hap-

pened, and it's hard to know why. Are the standards bad in some way? Most research suggests they are too broad and too numerous. On the other hand, why hasn't increased curricular consistency helped our kids very much? I suspect it's because there's a practical side to the standards issue that no one likes to talk about. If every kid gets taught the same standard every day, what are the low kids, who don't quite understand, getting out of it? And, for that matter, what are the high kids, who know the information already, getting out of it? Standards have hurt differentiation, which is the ability of teachers to give individual students work that is most appropriate for their ability level.

Third: voucher programs. These have been particularly popular with parents. But the programs have been so small, they can't possibly have had an effect on education, even in the districts where they've been tried. Could we make voucher programs larger? Not likely. Too many people would argue, quite rightly, that too much public tax money was going to too many private schools. And we don't have nearly enough private school capacity to take all the kids whose families would want to send them.

Fourth: charter schools. Of all reforms, this seemed like the most promising to me. But the data has not been good. Most studies suggest that most charter schools are no better than their public school counterparts. Why is this? I suspect the people who have started charter schools have simply discovered that it's darned difficult to run a successful school. The only universally acclaimed charter success is the KIPP program, but their 10-hour school day, Saturday sessions and extended school year haven't been replicated anywhere

else. If charter schools worked the way they were supposed to, KIPP's success would be our nation's success. Charter schools were supposed to accomplish two goals: Provide competition to local schools and create models of new schools that could be replicated. No matter what you think about charters, you can't argue that either of these goals has been fulfilled.

And finally: merit pay. Some people think you can get teachers to work harder or attract better teachers if you figure out some kind of performance-based pay model. Again, the data here is not great. What we know about merit-pay programs is that the annual incentives have to be large (about 15 to 20 percent of salary), the system for distributing bonuses has to be seen as fair to all and the program has to continue for a long time (five years or more). And even then, the gains in student performance have not been earth shattering.

Two things we haven't looked at are innovative models of instruction and better training for teachers. It seems we've done everything but look at how teachers teach. As baby boomers ease out of the workforce, we're going to be bringing in an unprecedented number of new teachers. There's no better time than the present to see that those teachers are well trained in innovative and effective practices. If we continue to ignore this opportunity, and stick with the reforms we're using now, we have no one to blame but ourselves when another two generations of kids march through schools with similar achievement levels - and we're still a nation at risk.

Steve Peha is founder and president of Carrboro-based Teaching That Makes Sense Inc.

End Executive Branch Revolving Door

Ethics reform: North Carolina isn't there yet

JANE PINSKY

About the only good thing to come out of the scandals surrounding former North Carolina House Speaker Jim Black was the passage of major lobbying and ethics reforms. But it took Black's disgraceful fall to move legislation that had been languishing in the General Assembly for many years.

Now, two recent, ethics-related news items demand our attention and remind us of the unfinished work in this area:

#1 - Former Gov. Easley apparently thinks he has done nothing wrong when he took cars for his family's private use from a private car dealer and free plane trips that

went unreported from wealthy supporters, and then appointed those supporters to state boards and commissions.

#2 - Former First Lady Mary Easley allegedly has no problem with getting a highly paid job at N.C. State because of her husband's influence and then using political IOUs to raise money for the program there.

Both of these incidents highlight the need for additional reforms, especially in the executive branch of government.

As the leaders of the General Assembly ponder and debate how to resolve the current budget crisis, they would also do well to restore public confidence in state government. They could start by tightening up state laws to assure that rich political contributors don't (a) get to treat the governor to complimentary private airplane flights and (b) get special favors or appointments to powerful boards and commissions.

Fortunately, there is a package of four bills awaiting action in the General Assembly that would address these and other ethical issues while also providing the citizens of North Carolina with much of the transparency they deserve with respect to their state government. Here are some brief summaries:

Disclosure by Appointees to Boards and Commissions (House Bill 944)

– This bill would require anyone appointed to the 14 most influential

Mary Easley allegedly has no problem with getting a highly

paid job at N.C. State because of her husband's influence and

then using political IOUs to raise money for the program there.

boards and commissions to report all

political contributions they have made

totaling \$1,000 (as well as contribu-

tions from others that have resulted

from the appointee's fundraising)

within five days of the appointment to

the board or commission. This legis-

lation will shed light on the political

connections of those people being ap-

pointed to key public bodies. In short,

we will know if an elected official is

measure, which is also known as the

"No Governor Blagojevich bill," would

prevent state contractors from influenc-

ing the elected officials who award con-

tracts by making financial contributions

to their campaigns. It will help guaran-

tee that the interests of the people of

North Carolina take first priority.

"Pay to Play" (House Bill 961) - This

repaying a political favor.

(House Bill 1136) – This proposal would prevent key state employees from jumping from state employment to private employment without a six-month "cooling off" period. Unfortunately, North Carolina has had a long history of state employees (many of whom receive taxpayer subsidized training and/or award contracts or regulate industries) going to work for the industry they used to regulate or the

company to which they awarded contracts

 sometimes weeks or days after leaving state employment.

Local Government Codes of Ethics (House Bill 1452)

– This bill requires local and county governments (including

school boards and sanitary districts) to create their own codes of ethics and to assure that every official receives training on it. This is a step that's long overdue.

The central problem that always confronts us when it comes to ethics reform is not a lack of knowledge about how to address the problem, it is the issue of political will. For better or worse, it is the presence of scandal that usually provides the spur to get new laws adopted. Let's hope that this is once again the case in 2009 and that the recent controversies surrounding Mike and Mary Easley provide the impetus for us to take one more step toward making government open and available to the people of North Carolina.

Jane Pinsky is the director of the N.C. Coalition for Lobbying and Government Reform.

Unhealthy hyperbole

CHRIS FITZSIMON

In case you had any doubt that North Carolina will play a key role in the fate of national health care reform, President Obama's scheduled appearance at Broughton High School in Raleigh this week ought to convince you.

Still more evidence comes from the breathless hyperbole about health care lately from North Carolina politicians and the absurd claims of the think tanks and advocacy groups on the right.

Charlotte Mayor Pat Mc-Crory has emerged as a leading spokesperson for the anti-reform right in the state. The mayor-turned-anti-health-care-reform-crusader was the featured speaker recently at a rally against Obama's health care plan held by Americans for Prosperity, these days more accurately called "Americans for Prosperity of Insurance Companies and the Pharmaceutical Industry."

The most-often quoted sound bite from McCrory's remarks was his question, "Have you ever gone to a DMV office lately," the newest twist on misleading people into thinking the proposed public option means a government takeover of health care.

Putting aside that most people with Medicare, a government health care program, are happy with it, wonder how McCrory would compare the DMV with a private insurance company whose objective is to make a profit? It's in the company's best interest to deny care to people with a chronic illness or other pre-existing condition

You may have to wait awhile at the DMV, but you will get your driver's license eventually, even if you have had a speeding ticket or two.

McCrory's too-clever rhetoric was topped by Dallas Woodhouse, the head of the state chapter of Americans for Prosperity, who proclaimed that "politicians want to control who lives and dies." Woodhouse moved the debate from misleading to offensive, questioning not only the reform proposal but the motivation of the people behind it.

Having a public option for people to choose doesn't mean politicians will be in charge of anything. Woodhouse apparently would rather have an insurance company whose first allegiance is to profit making decisions about what drug or procedure to cover.

But McCrory's rhetoric and Woodhouse's fear mongering are what the opponents of meaningful health care reform have been reduced to, and not just in North Carolina. In Washington, it's worse, where the goals of many anti-reformers are not just to oppose Obama's plan but to do nothing.

GOP Sen. James Inofe said recently that it will be a huge victory if his party can block health care reform, while Sen. Jim DeMint said if Republicans could defeat reform it would be Obama's Waterloo. The latest edition of *The New Yorker* quotes conservative pundit William Kristol telling Republicans their strategy on health care reform should be to "go for the kill."

Not much in there about what to do about the 46 million Americans who have no health insurance, 1.5 million of them in North Carolina. The point now is politics, and there don't appear to be any limits to the lengths the anti-reform advocates will go.

Too many people don't have health insurance and too many people who do still can't afford their medical bills. People are suffering because our system is broken. Obama and congressional leaders have proposals to fix it. This week, try to ignore the hyperbolic rhetoric and listen to the president that the majority of North Carolina voters sent to the White House to address the nation's problems.

People voted for change, after all, not Waterloo or going for the kill or to keep a health care system that doesn't work.

Chris Fitzsimon is executive director of N.C. Policy Watch.

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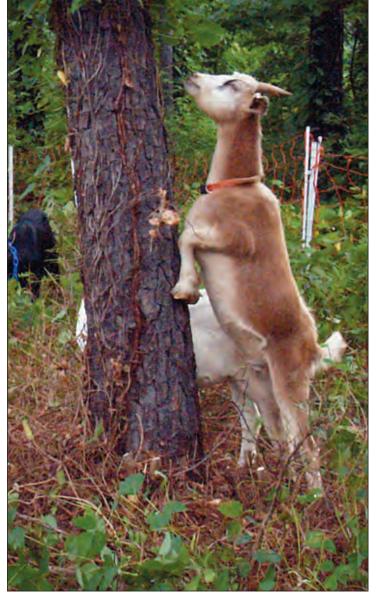
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GOAT PATROL

FROM PAGE I

"It's great for the goats, because they should have a variety of plants to eat," Bowman said, "and so in doing this, they're exposed to a lot of different types of vegetation and they enjoy it."

The goats come in and do the clearing away; it's then up to the city to maintain it.

"They're not landscapers; they're not going to neatly trim your hedges into animal shapes," Bowman said.

On Wednesday morning, David Poythress, street superintendent with the town's public works department, was at Anderson Park taking a few snapshots of the results and mingling with the patrol as they worked back through to clean

the goats gobbled up the last bits of a large patch of poison ivy — even rearing up on hind legs to reach higher up the tree trunks - Poythress said he was impressed.

If you want to get an idea of the difference," he said, "check out the area farther down where they haven't been yet." A few moments later, the pa-

trol was herded into the as-yetuntouched area. Though thick with vegetation, the degree of munching that ensued indicated that was about to change.

Bowman noted that she didn't come up with the Goat Patrol concept: she heard about it while living on the West Coast.

"I thought goats would really fit well in this area, with everything from the vegetation to the climate to the social atmosphere in the Triangle," she said. "And up an area cleared Tuesday. As it's been very warmly received."

SUPER CROSSWORD BERN-ING DESIRE

ACROSS 1 Foe 6 Most adventur-ous 12 Samoyed's smile? 15 Solidify 18 Half the diameter 20 Actress 22 Castilian cry 23 Start of a remark by Billy Connolly 27 He's a doll 28 Maugham's "Cakes and 29 Ration, with "out" 30 Shaggy ruminant 31 Eban of 33 Maroon 36 Coeur d'-37 The Jetsons' dog 40 Boxing blow

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- politely 75 Mrs. Munster 80 Dramatist Edward 81 Risk an org. 121 Bankbook 83 Tints

Citizen **Cryptoquote** By Martin Brody For example, YAPHCYAPLM is WORDSWORTH. One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the two O's, Y for the two W's, etc.. Apostrophes,

punctuation, the length and formation of the words are all hints. "Good Memories"

CGKQ F TDPK NVTJ ... VX XGK WPFXG TKQXKU, F'HH VHCVAW HDDJ IM XGKUK VQB UKPKPNKU XGFW XKVP VQB CGVX CK CKUK VNHK XD VTTDPMHFWG. - XAHKU

GVQWNUDIEG Find the answer in the puzzle answer section.

Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging * * * HOO BOY!

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PETS OF THE WEEK

PAWS4EVER Meet Tonto! This handsome little

terrier is so super

sweet! He is tan and 2-3 yrs old and great with dogs & respectful of cats - a true Southern gentleman! He walks nicely on a leash, is housebroken, is playful and affectionate. Tonto is one special little guy! Please come by the shelter and take a look, at Paws4Ever, 6311 Nicks Road, Mebane, or call 304-2300. You can also go online at paws4ever.org



ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES —Introducing Turner! He's a sweet, 5-month-old pit bull mix who has a personality

that can melt your heart! He's a goofy boy with so much love that you can watch him dance around with joy when you visit his room! He wants so much to say hello, but only if it's what you want, so he will wiggle and wait for you to invite him, like a true Southern gentleman! This boy is one sweet puppy and is sure to be an amazing dog when he grows up! Visit him today at Orange County's Animal Services Center, 1601 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill or call 942-PETS (7387). You can also see him online at co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp





Members of Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy working at 6,000-foot elevation to protect the Roan Mountain grassy balds from encroachment of woody vegetation.

РНОТО ВҮ KEN MOORE

FLORA

FROM PAGE I

The origin of high-elevation mountaintop balds continues to be debated among regional ecologists; the one point of agreement is that, left undisturbed, the balds of North Carolina will perish. A diversity of management techniques including tractor mowing, grazing by cattle and goats and labor-intensive hand pruning are being evaluated.

For years, I have wanted to participate in one of the SAHC bald-clearing projects. I was happy to be a part of this year's effort, where, with brush cutters and pruning loppers, we

humans – in the old pioneer barnraising, working-together spirit cut and grubbed blackberry brambles, alder thickets and even those revered purple rhododendron to recover acres of formerly open grassy bald. Supervised by SAHC, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, we were simu-

Along the Appalachian Trail route to Grassy Ridge, we observed a fenced grazing area supervised by a goat herder keeping watch over 40 Angora goats. Some Carrboro resi-

lating the work of mountaintop

herbivores of past times.

dents may want to "Adopt a Goat" to help with the Roan Goat Grazing Project supported by Friends of Roan Mountain (friendsofroanmtn.org).

I am so in love with the Roan and its Gray's lilies that I can't give enough thanks for the stewardship efforts of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Becoming a member of SAHC, (appalachian.org) provides numerous opportunities during the year for walks and hikes over other SAHC western Carolina highland natural areas, as well as other Roan "mow-offs" scheduled this summer and fall. Go visit the Roan, and you'll fall in love too!



hen we moved back to Chapel Hill in 2001, I was delighted to hear from two retired university librarians, Sam and Nancy Boone. The contact came in the form of a batch of 4x5-inch photographic negatives from 1951, along with a note from Sam, the longtime staff photographer for the Wilson Library, where my granddad, Charles Rush, was head librarian from 1941-55. In the note, Sam doubted I could do much with those old oversized negatives — not knowing that I have a darkroom that is state-of-the-art 1975. I made the prints, which led to a series of meetings at Sam and Nancy's charming home at 57 Oakwood Drive, just beyond Glen Lennox. It didn't take long for Sam to realize that I coveted his old 1947 Crown Graphic, which he not only bequeathed to me but also taught me how to use. What a learning curve! The hefty two-fisted 4x5 Graphic is about as far as you can get technically from the almost idiot-proof digital cameras of today. I had much to learn about the discipline of the single shot. But I lost Sam before the lessons were complete, when he died in May 2008 at the age of 89. Nancy followed in January 2009. I always felt I never got to properly thank them for their generosity and hospitality, so I honor them here now, as I do every time I pick up Sam's wonderful old camera. Maybe next week, we'll look at one of the photographs made from Sam's 58-year-old negatives.



A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER

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







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