

This Weekend

FRIDAY 40% Chance of Rain 94/70
SATURDAY 30% Chance of Rain 90/70
SUNDAY Partly Cloudy 90/70

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



Raleigh Rally

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carrborocitizen.com

AUGUST 5, 2010 ♦ LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED ♦ VOLUME IV NO. XXI

FREE



Spiraling disc flowers characterize the center of giant sunflowers.

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Sunflowers all about

I've enjoyed a couple dozen varieties of giant sunflowers, Helianthus annuus, scattered about my fenced-in veggie garden for the past month.

The designs of those hundreds of little tubular disc flowers spiraling around from the center of each giant flower head are unbelievable.

I'm proud of my collection of sunflowers, but none of mine are as in-your-face dramatic at those standing sentinel above the veggie and herb beds at Johnny's on West Main Street.

Those sunflowers seem to talk to admirers, particularly the children, who peer up at them, and the speechless wonder on the faces of smaller children held up by parents is a joy to observe.

The giant sunflower is one of the very few worldwide commercial crops that originated on our American soil.

SEE FLORA PAGE 8

Big dig on Weaver Street

BY KIRK ROSS Staff Writer

CARRBORO — Get ready for one of the biggest things to happen downtown since the Baptists moved.

Unlike the transformation of Carrboro Baptist Church to the Century Center, though, most of this project will be unseen.

A round of meetings and information sessions are planned for this month to help merchants and residents better understand the timing and impact of an extensive rebuilding of Weaver Street.

Beneath its well-traveled surface, Weaver Street, one of the town's oldest thoroughfares, is crumbling.

Also planned beneath the grade is extensive rebuilding of the road base. Above ground, the road will be resurfaced, access for those with disabilities on the sidewalks improved and bike lanes widened in the stretch west of Greensboro Street.

SEE WEAVER ST PAGE 3

Deal clears way for UNC hospital in Hillsborough

BY KIRK ROSS Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — Plans for a major new UNC medical center across from the Durham Tech campus in Hillsborough are moving forward now that an agreement has been reached between UNC and Alamance Regional Medical Center.

Alamance Regional officials had appealed the approval of UNC's application for a Certificate of Need from the state, which put a halt to planning and development for the 83-acre site in the Waterstone development near the intersection of Old N.C. 86 and I-40.

Gary Park, president of UNC Hospitals, said last week that the ap-

peal had been dropped.

UNC plans to build a new medical campus on the site, including a hospital with a Level II emergency department, 68 licensed beds, 15 observation beds and six operating rooms.

UNC announced in early 2009 that it had shifted its expansion plans to the Hillsborough site because of the costs and complications of adding a large number of beds to its Manning Drive facilities.



Cooler weather brought a lot more folks outside last week, including Carrboro musician Danny Mason, who held forth during a visit downtown. PHOTO BY ALEX MANESS

County seeks input on sales tax uses

The Orange County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Aug. 17 on potential uses for funds from a proposed one-quarter cent sales tax increase.

The board voted unanimously in June to put the sales-tax option on the November ballot but delayed a decision on how the money would be allocated in order to give the public a chance to weigh in.

Orange County voters overwhelmingly rejected a transfer-tax referendum in May 2008.

If voters approve the sales-tax increase, the Orange County sales-tax rate, applicable to all goods and services except food and medicine, will increase from 7.75 to 8 percent.

County officials are eager to explore new revenue sources for Orange County,

as property tax makes up more than 75 percent of the county's total revenue. Board members have mentioned economic development, schools, debt service and libraries as possible priorities for funding with the sales-tax revenue increase.

The public hearing will be held during the board's regularly scheduled meeting on Aug. 17 at 7 p.m. at the county Department of Social Services office at 113 Mayo St. in Hillsborough. —Staff Reports

Residents, police seek Abbey Court changes

BY SUSAN DICKSON Staff Writer

CARRBORO — The largely immigrant resident population at Abbey Court Apartments has certainly faced its share of obstacles over the years, from conflicts with management over parking issues and towed cars to disagreements regarding a nearby day-laborer station where workers, many from the complex's immigrant community, wait to be picked up for construction jobs.

music and public intoxication to breaking and entering and assault.

"It gets the most attention of any piece of property in town," Carrboro Police Capt. J.G. Booker said.

"You're just seeing drinking and hooting and hollering and

"There's a lot of difference in enforcing rules and enforcing the law," he said. "You can come to us until the cows come home and say things are out of whack, but unless we've got a violation of the law ... we're not going to step off sides on that. We're going to follow the law. We're not going to violate somebody's rights."

To complicate matters, there

Carrboro police officers to enforce the complex's rules.

"It looks like it's starting to take some effect," Booker said, adding that the complex had previously employed Carrboro police officers in a similar effort.

In addition, the department's community services division is planning to locate a satellite police office on Abbey Court property and is working with the Human Rights Center at the complex to launch a number of different programs to get the community involved.

Roy Tripp, community services officer with the Carrboro Police, said he hopes to get the plans worked out for the satellite office by the end of the month.

SEE ABBEY COURT PAGE 3

"We're hoping to work in conjunction with all the groups that are there and make it a better place for everyone."

things like that." Abbey Court residents have complained to police, but many of the complaints have to do with broken rules, not law breaking, Booker said, and because the complex is private property, there is little the police can do unless people are breaking the law.

are about 40 different property owners of the units at Abbey Court, Booker said.

"Where there's that many, it's hard to gain control," he said. "I'm sure it's frustrating if you live out there."

For the past month, Abbey Court management has employed off-duty

INSIDE

Library plans move forward

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MUSIC CALENDAR

THURSDAY AUG 5

Blue Bayou: The String Machine. 9pm. Free
The Cave: LATE: Sanford Wilkes
City Tap: Chris Titchner. 7pm
General Store Cafe: Bernie Petteway. 7pm
Local 506: Wylie Hunter and The Cazadores, Luego, Lizzy Ross Band. 9pm. \$5/8
Open Eye Cafe: Freedy Johnston. 8pm \$12
Weaver Street Market: The Swang Brothers. 6pm

FRIDAY AUG 6

Blue Bayou: Lee Gildersleeve's Bad Dog Blues Band. 9:30pm. \$6/8
Caffe Driade: Birds and Arrows. 8pm
The Cave: LATE: Phatlynx, Eszett, Blood Red River
City Tap: Not Dead Yet, 5pm. The Swang Brothers. 7pm
General Store Cafe: Tad Dreis. 8pm
Jessee's Coffee and Bar: Mixed Greenz. 8pm
Local 506: Dark Water Rising. 10pm. \$7
Nightlight: Dirty Little Heaters, Jews and Catholics, Love Craft. 10pm \$5
Open Eye Cafe: Jason Masi. 8pm

SATURDAY AUG 7

The ArtsCenter: Peter Case. 8:30pm
Blue Bayou: She Bop. 9:30pm. \$8/10
Caffe Driade: Daniel Sean. 8pm
Cat's Cradle: Here We Go Magic, Beach Fossils, Light Pines. 9:30pm. \$10
The Cave: EARLY: Mary and the Strays
City Tap: John Howie, Jr. and the Sweethearts. 8pm

General Store Cafe: Bluematics. 8pm
Jessee's Coffee and Bar: Black-Swamp Bootleggers. 8pm
Nightlight: Take 1 At Bedtime. 9pm. \$5

SUNDAY AUG 8

Local 506: Hadwynn, The Long Drive, Friends and Patrons. 9pm. \$5
Milltown: Tim Stambaugh and Friends. 7:30pm
Southern Village: Tad Dreis. 7pm
Weaver Street Market: Ecos Duo. 11am

MONDAY AUG 9

Cat's Cradle: CYNIC, Intronaut, Dysrhythmia. 7:30pm. \$13/15
Local 506: Crystal Bright and The Silver Hands. 9:30pm
Nightlight: Blagard, Poison Arrows. 9:30pm

TUESDAY AUG 10

Acme Food and Beverage: Michael Holland
Local 506: Screaming Crayons, Gabriel Reynolds. 8:30pm
Nightlight: Savage Knights, Vampire Squid, Phantascist, Prehistoric Horse. 9:30pm

WEDNESDAY AUG 11

Cat's Cradle: Dax Riggs. 9:15pm. \$12
The Cave: Hurricane Fighter Plane, The Carson McCullers, The Royal Tin-foil, Reid Johnson. 8pm. \$7
General Store Cafe: Anthony John Clarke. 7pm
Local 506: Pseudo Blue and the Majestics. 9:30pm
Nightlight: Spemcount, leeches of Lore, Bitter Resolve. 9:30pm

THURSDAY AUG 12

Blue Bayou: Under The Sun. 9pm. Free



L IN JAPANESE DANCE PARTY Local 506 Saturday, August 7

Cat's Cradle: Brave Combo, Killer Filler. 8:30pm. \$12/15
City Tap: Jack Maverick and His Wild Rebels. 7pm
East 54: The Moaners. 5:40pm
General Store Cafe: Bourbon Street Jazz. 7pm
Local 506: The Hell NO, Sujiyama Roll, Barron. 10pm. \$5
Nightlight: Noveller, Horseback, UnFact.

MOVIES We suggest you call for exact show times

Shows open on Friday, August 6.
CAROLINA THEATRE OF DURHAM
309 W Morgan St., 560-3030
Retrofantasma Film Series — Them, Friday only at 7 p.m., and The Giant Gila Monster, Friday only at 9:30 p.m.; The Kids Are All Right, nightly at 7:15 & 9:20 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:15 & 4:20 p.m.; Winter's Bone, Saturday-Wednesday only at 7:20 & 9:15 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:20 & 4:15 p.m.; The Girl Who Played with Fire, nightly at 7 & 9:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 & 4:30 p.m.

SPOTLIGHT: Paperhand Puppet



It may not be the kind of show they imagined when Forest Theatre was built in 1916, but for the past decade Paperhand Puppet Intervention's annual run in the stony outdoor haven has become a local favorite for a classic midsummer's outing. This year's show is *Islands Unknown: To See & Imagine the Hidden Parts of the World*, a pageant-play about an odyssey across ever-rising seas of information that threaten a mysterious library. In it, a wandering young girl stumbles inside the whispering walls of a library where the lines between the fantastical and the real begin to blur.

As always, the story is told via fantastical giant puppets, oversized masks, colorful costumes, stilts and shadow puppets and set to original music and atmospherics by the Paperhand Band. Shows are every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from Aug. 6 through Sept. 5 — with an additional show on Labor Day, Sept. 6 — at the Forest Theatre on the UNC campus. Two additional shows will be performed at the N.C. Museum of Art in Raleigh. Performances at the museum will be Sept. 10 and Sept. 11. All shows begin at 7 p.m. with a different pre-show each night at 6:20 p.m. Bring a picnic and something soft to sit on. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for kids 4-14, with kids 3 and under free. Admission for shows at the Museum of Art is \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for kids 3-12, with kids 2 and under free.

CAT'S CRADLE

TH 8/5
FREEDY JOHNSTON
OPEN EYE CAFE

SA 8/7
HERE WE GO MAGIC

SU 9/18
JP, CHRISSIE & THE FAIRGROUND BOYS

SA 10/16
DUCK DOWN 15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY TOUR: PHAROAE MONCH, BOOT CAMP CLIK
FEATURING BUCKSHOT, SEAN PRICE & SMIF N WESSUN, KIDS IN THE HALL, SKYZOO AND DJ EVIL DEE**(\$20/\$23)
TU 10/19
CIRCA SURVIVE
**(\$16.50/\$18) ON SALE 8/6

SA 8/7 HERE WE GO MAGIC W/BEACH FOSSILS AND THE LIGHT PINES**(\$10)
MO 8/9 CYNIC**(\$13/\$15) W/INTRONAUT AND DYSRHYTHMIA
WE 8/11 DAX RIGGS**(\$12)
TH 8/12 BRAVE COMBO W/KILLER FILLER**(\$12/\$15)
FR 8/13 MISSION OF BURMA W/SHALINI**(\$16/\$18)
SU 8/15 MEMORYHOUSE W/TWIN SISTER**(\$10)
WE 8/18 CHIDDY BANG W/XV AND K.O. KID**(\$12/\$15)
TH 8/19 LOU BARLOW & THE MISSING MEN W/WYE OAK**(\$12)
TU 8/24 THE ENGLISH BEAT / BAD MANNERS / CHRIS MURRAY**(\$18/\$20)
SA 8/21 SUMMER REGGAE JAM DUB ADDIS / JAMROCK**(\$6/\$8)
WE 8/25 TARRUS RILEY HAS CANCELLED
FR 8/27 PAUL THORN**(\$15) FR 9/3 AUTOLUX W/GOLD PANDA**(\$10/\$12)
WE 9/8**(\$18/\$21) CHARLATANS UK W/SHERLOCKS DAUGHTER
TH 9/9**(\$25/\$28) CORINNE BAILEY RAE
WE 9/10**(\$10) MATT HIRES
SA 9/11 WHO'S BAD? (MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE)**(\$15)
TH 9/16 SHOOTER JENNINGS & HIROPHANT**(\$15/\$18)
FR 9/17 THE OLD CEREMONY NY RECORD RELEASE SHOW W/LIFTED PRAISE GOSPEL SINGERS**(\$10/\$12)
SA 9/18 BILLY BRAGG W/DARREN HANLON**(\$25)

SU 9/19 JP, CHRISSIE & THE FAIRGROUND BOYS FEATURING CHRISSIE HYNDE AND JP JONES**(\$24) ON SALE 8/6
MO 9/20**(\$18/\$20) COCOROSIE
WE 9/22 SIGNAL 2010 PAC DIV, KOOLEY HIGH, ACTUAL PROOF, KING MEZ**(\$14/\$16)
TH 9/23 JENNY & JOHNNY**(\$16)
SA 9/25 SIGNAL 2010 LE CASTLE VANIA, TITTSWORTH, NICK CATCH-DUBS**(\$14/\$16)
SU 9/26 CARRBORO MUSIC FESTIVAL
MO 9/27 DAVID BAZAN W/MYNABIRDS**(\$12/\$14)
TU 9/28 PHANTOGRAM W/JOSIAH WOLF**(\$10/\$12)
WE 9/29**(\$12/\$14) ELECTRIC SIX W/CONSTELLATIONS
TH 9/30**(\$10/\$12) DEAD CONFEDERATE
FR 10/1 STARS**(\$18/\$20)
SA 10/2**(\$16/\$18) ROGUE WAVE AND MIDLAKE
SU 10/3 MAE**(\$13/\$15)
MO 10/4 BLITZEN TRAPPER **(\$12/\$14) ON SALE 8/6
TH 10/7 MENOMENA W/SUCKERS**(\$12/\$15)
SU 10/10**(\$20/\$23) BUILT TO SPILL W/REVOLT REVOLT
MO 10/11 THE VASELINES
TU 10/12**(\$15/\$18) STEPHEN KELLOGG AND THE SIXERS W/SMALL PONDS AND ROY JAY
TH 10/14 PERPETUAL GROOVE**(\$15/\$18)
FR 10/15 SARA BAREILLES W/GREG LASWELL **(\$20/\$25) ON SALE 8/6

SU 10/20**(\$16/\$20)
MATT & KIM

SOLD OUT
FR 10/22
GUIDED BY VOICES
W/SWEET APPLE

SA 10/23
RAILROAD EARTH**(\$20/\$23)

TH 10/28**(\$16/\$18)
ME FIRST AND THE GIMME GIMMES
W/TEENAGE BOTTLEROCKET, COBRA SKULLS

SA 10/30
BLONDE REDHEAD**(\$20)

TH 11/4
RA RA RIOT**(\$15/\$17)

TH 11/11
MATT COSTA**

SA 11/13
BADFISH—A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME**(\$18/\$20)

MO 11/22
JUNIP**(\$15)

ALSO PRESENTING
LOCAL 506 (CHAPEL HILL)
TH 8/19
MINIATURE TIGERS, AMINAL, JORDAN & THE SPHINX
WE 9/8
COLOUR REVOLT
W/TURBO FRUITS
TU 9/14
THOSE DARLINS
W/STRANGE BOYS AND GENTLEMAN JESSE
NIGHTLIGHT (CH)
TH 9/16
SEA WOLF
W/SERA CAHOONE AND PATRICK PARK

OPEN EYE CAFE (CARRBORO)
TH 8/5
FREEDY JOHNSTON
W/GREG HUMPHREYS

FLETCHER OPERA HOUSE (PROG ENERGY CENTER, RAL)
FR 8/20
CHATHAM COUNTY LINE
W/JILL ANDREWS
VIA TICKETMASTER

THE ARTSCENTER (CARRBORO)
FR 9/3
SHANNON WHITWORTH
TH 9/30
DAVID WILCOX
TH 11/18
AZURE RAY

MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM (PROG ENERGY CENTER, RALEIGH)
MO 10/4
THE NATIONAL
W/OWEN PALLETT
VIA TICKETMASTER

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Briefs

UNC scales back Bingham plans

University officials announced last week that they would scale back a large expansion planned for the school's Bingham Facility in western Orange County. Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Bob Lowman, who has led the project, sent a memo this week saying Bill Roper, dean of the medical school, has informed the National Institutes of Health that the university would relinquish a \$14.5 million stimulus act grant to build two new buildings at the facility. Lowman cited rising infrastructure costs as a major factor in the decision. "This is a major change of course for us, and it will take some time to determine our future plans for the Bingham Facility. Until those plans are complete, the University will continue to maintain and operate the Bingham Facility at its present size," he said in the memo.

Laura Streitfeld of Preserve Rural Orange, a group that raised concerns about the facility's environmental record, said scaling down the project makes sense given the energy and water needs and the amount of wastewater expanded facilities would have produced.

Drive-by shooting on Jones Ferry Road

The Carrboro Police Department seeks information regarding a drive-by shooting that occurred near Jones Ferry and Davie roads around 2 a.m. on Friday.

According to police, three people were walking along Jones Ferry Road when a vehicle drove up and someone discharged a firearm from the vehicle, described as a dark-colored, four-door sedan with tinted windows. One person was hit by a bullet and suffered non-life threatening injuries and was later treated and released from UNC Hospitals.

Police are asking that anyone with information regarding the incident contact Inv. Sgt. A. Westbrook at 918-7417 or Chapel Hill-Carrboro Crimestoppers at 942-7515.

University Square meeting

Representatives of Cousins Properties, the company working with the UNC Foundation to redevelop University Square, will be in town on Aug. 18 to discuss plans for the site. The meeting runs from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Suite 133-G (next door to Ken's Quickie Mart) in University Square.

Matyac named extension director

Carl Matyac, who has worked as an N.C. Cooperative Extension agent in Durham, Orange and Wake counties over a 21-year career, has been named Orange County cooperative extension director.

Matyac succeeds Dr. Fletcher Barber Jr., who retired in late 2009 after more than 30 years of service.

After working in Durham and Wake counties, Matyac moved to the cooperative extension in Orange County, where he has been responsible for horticulture programs, including the development of 12 community gardens. He also serves as director of the farm enterprise training and incubator program at the W.C. Breeze Family Farm Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Hurdle Mills. The program teaches people with non-farm backgrounds how to farm.

Library funding negotiations move forward

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — As the staff at the Chapel Hill Public Library start making plans to set up a workable temporary location at University Mall, town and county officials have drafted a framework for coming to a long-term agreement over funding and service sharing.

The framework, circulated to council members last Friday, names a series of topics for discussions by the Chapel Hill Town Council and the Orange County Board of Commissioners. The two boards have disagreed over the level of county funding for the Chapel Hill Public Library. During last year's budget discussions, council

members, eyeing the cost of the \$16.3 million expansion of the library and resulting increases in operating expenses, called for the county to increase its support.

Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt said Wednesday that in addition to providing a starting point for the negotiations, the document lays out the priorities of both parties.

"Now we know what's important to them and they know what's important to us," Kleinschmidt said.

The framework calls for a two-year agreement that would start on Jan. 1. It would increase funding beyond the current \$250,000 the county annually contributes to the town by \$75,000 each year. Use of the money would be restricted to collection development

and materials acquisition.

The framework also outlines ways the county and town libraries could work more closely together, including a county-run courier service for sharing materials, joint issuance of library cards and better information exchanges between the library boards.

After the release of the framework, council member Laurin Easthom, who had sharply criticized the county during this year's budget conversations, said she would insist on a better financial deal.

"I am not in support of any negotiation framework or negotiation that does not involve fiscal equity for the operational costs, which is what I thought that we were attempting to do with the county based on the

discussion this past spring," she wrote in an email to her colleagues.

Kleinschmidt said he expects the council to take up discussions early in the fall. He said he is hopeful the council can reach agreement with the county before the end of the calendar year. One factor driving the timeline, he said, was that the composition of the county commission will change at the end of the year. Commissioner Mike Nelson, one of the chief proponents of a new deal with the town, opted to not seek re-election and current board chair Valerie Foushee, one of the county's lead negotiators, may rotate out of the leadership.

Kleinschmidt said their long-term history with the issue will be valuable in striking a deal.

ABBEY COURT FROM PAGE 1

"We're hoping to work in conjunction with all the groups that are there ... and make it a better place for everyone," he said. With the office located at the complex, Tripp said officers will be able to maintain a steadier relationship with members of the community and get a better sense of what is going on there.

"Ninety-five percent of the people that are there are good folks. They deserve a better quality of life than what they're getting," Tripp said.

Judith Blau, director of the Human Rights Center, which is located at Abbey Court, said that despite the complaints the situation at the apartment complex is in fact improving.

The center runs a number of programs at the complex, including English as a second lan-

guage classes, computer classes and after-school programs. Programs are tailored to the diverse population of Abbey Court residents, which includes many Latinos and Burmese refugees.

"Everything is getting better and better in spite of the terrible economy," Blau said. She attributed the incidents to the poor economy and lack of day labor as well as to outside residents coming through the complex.

Through the center's efforts, Blau said she hopes to bring the communities together and make people feel included, and thus improve the overall situation.

"The drinking continues; the social networks are getting better." And, she said, while the economy's not getting better, "You can't tell at all from the little kids who come [to the after-school program] Monday through Thursday. They're so happy and so responsive."

WEAVER STREET FROM PAGE 1

The town's share of the cost is \$1.8 million and will be paid for out of its capital-reserves fund.

This week, representatives from the Carrboro's Public Works Department start making the rounds to talk with Carrboro businesses about how the project's various phases will affect access to storefronts and offices.

Ted Barker, who is helping coordinate the discussions, said the project is scheduled to begin in December. Work on the water and sewer systems will start at the lowest point of the project near Carr Mill and

work toward the Town Hall end of the street.

That work, he said, would not necessarily require closing off the street entirely. Most of the closings, Barker said, are likely to happen in the second phase of the project, when work on the road itself and resurfacing will require closing. The town has designed the project in sections to reduce access problems during the closings.

The information meetings will be held in Century Hall at the Century Center on Aug. 23 from 3 to 4:40 p.m. and Aug. 25 from 7:45 to 9:15 p.m.

For information about the project, contact the public works department at 918-7425 or pworks@carrboro.org

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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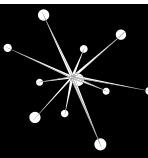
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Presents: **Carolina Casbah!** • SAT 8/21
Beausoleil with Michael Doucet • FRI 8/27
Shannon Whitworth • FRI 9/3
Shelby Lynne • WED 9/15
- Lise Uyanik & the Mobile City Band with Stella** • SAT 9/18
Cris Williamson & Friends • SAT 9/25
David Wilcox • THURS 9/30

5:40 Concert Series at East 54
Free outdoor shows at East 54, Chapel Hill. Music starts at 5:40 pm.
The Moaners • THU 8/12
Mary Johnson Rockers • THU 8/26
Jocelyn Arem • THU 9/9

UPCOMING THEATRE:
Talking Things Over with Chekhov.
Free Association Theatre Ensemble. 8/26-28

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THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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FROM THE EDITOR

In case you're wondering, state employment security records say 38 people lost their jobs when Ham's Restaurant closed abruptly in June. The impact on the lives of these workers and others who have lost their jobs in this recession is not fleshed out in the latest reports on unemployment.

In the latest monthly report, Orange County saw a half percent jump in unemployment in June, rising from 6 percent to 6.5 percent. For the freshly unemployed, there is little comfort in knowing that we remain one of the counties with the lowest rates of unemployment in the state. Statewide, we jumped one-tenth of a percent to 10.1 percent.

Anyone looking for work in this climate knows finding any job is tough and finding one in a field you're interested in or located nearby is even tougher.

So it's infuriating on so many levels to hear the bash-the-unemployed rhetoric pouring out of the recent congressional debate over benefit extensions and jobs programs. The idea that there is a vast couch-potato conspiracy is totally divorced from reality. Perhaps some among that 10.1 percent here in the Old North State are satisfied being on the dole, but most would be happy to have their jobs back.

Then there is the equally phony outrage that consumers are not spending enough to gin up the economy. We learned in the droughts over the past decade that once people change habits and showerheads, they don't suddenly become water wasters when it starts raining again.

So if you're waiting on the great American consumer to come through, think again. Wages are stagnant, spending reflects that and, wisely, more and more people are coming to understand that the equity in their home is not a piggy bank.

In a recent *New York Times* op-ed, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner applauded the new frugality. But his essay on the so-called recovery offered little else to anyone outside of the boardrooms.

Yes, balance sheets and profits are up and it's wonderful, we suppose, that very large investment banks are doing so well that they're repaying their bailout faster than thought. But foreclosures and bankruptcies are also on the rise. And just how should the unemployed, underemployed and newly destitute decode the secretary's history lesson about how recoveries take time?

As many have pointed out, massive unemployment is growing acceptable among the people calling the shots. Whether the result of being cowed by critics or not, the administration and Congress' timidity in pursuing any new efforts to put people back to work prior to the fall election sends the message that 10 percent unemployment is somehow all right for now. It seems that rather than putting their energies into solutions, policymakers, pundits and politicians of all stripes are trying to convince themselves that widespread, chronic joblessness is part of some new reality.

They pursue that thinking at their own peril and, unfortunately, ours.

CLARIFICATION

Artist Ron Liberti reminded us that while he produced the silkscreen designs on a bench that was featured as part of the Painted Chair and More Auction held last Saturday, the finely handcrafted piece of furniture shown in last week's *Citizen* was the work of Barton Moyer.

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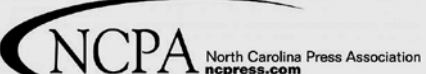
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Waking to a diverse environment

HENRY GARGAN

It was the evening of July 19, and the young people who would be participating in the next day's rally in support of the Wake County schools' diversity policy had gathered in Pullen Baptist Church to review march procedures and learn some of the chants and songs to be sung.

"Be loud," said Mary Williams, an activist and gospel singer who would have no trouble taking her own advice. "You're going to be right up at the front tomorrow."

Tuesday arrived, in typical July North Carolina fashion, as a furnace, although due to the late arrival of the stage, the band sweat even more than most. Our equipment lay on the curb as more than 1,000 marchers rounded the corner onto Fayetteville Street and approached the stage, whose roof was still being constructed. We must have set up in under a minute.

But then we began to play, the dials on our amps turned to 11. People sang, we smiled, and signs waved. Things went smoothly. We exited the stage and stood to the side among the leaders of the movement. We listened as Tim Tyson discussed race's place in history (an arbitrary construct) and Rev. William Barber posited the motives of the Wake County school board (money).

Let me provide some context. I started a soul band with a few of my friends sometime around last spring break. We gigged around for a while at church events, poetry slams and youth meetings. Our guitarist's father is Tim Tyson — historian, author, civil rights activist and a veritable connoisseur of soul music. He's the one who came up with the band's name, Reverend B. and the WannaBs, and the reason we ended up playing Curtis Mayfield's "People Get Ready" to a mass of protesters at the foot of the state capitol on July 20.

This wasn't the first time we'd affiliated ourselves with the NAACP. Rev. Barber had been kind enough to allow us to play for a couple of his Raleigh rallies in the months prior, the transcendent nature of which made us eager to help out again. For a high school band, the rally was about as real as it gets. Lots of kids play music, and some even play good music, but only a tiny minority get to play music at an event such as this.

These experiences with the NAACP, poetry slams and youth events made the Wake County schools' debate relevant to me. Though I was taken aback by my own unfamiliarity with a truly diverse environment,

I quickly learned to appreciate that diversity, and began to see it as critical to students everywhere. What do we offer children by homogenizing their learning environments to the point that they will be as clueless as I was when I stepped through the doors of Martin Street Baptist Church to play at my first civil rights rally?

One of the signs I remember from the rally read: "Diversity has made me one heck of a jazz musician." As a member of one of my school's jazz combos, I laughed in a familiar way, although as I later realized, my familiarity extended only as far as the words "jazz musician." As long as I can remember, both of my school's jazz combos have consisted, ironically, almost entirely of white males, making the jazz program the least diverse musical ensemble in the school.

I made it out of this scholastic environment thanks to soul music. I now believe that we cannot afford to have another generation grow up separated by their elders, to have the races of another generation on such unfamiliar terms that they know nothing but resentment for each other. Board of Education member John Tedesco and his supporters seek to protect the interests of the successful at the expense of the education of thousands of poor and minority students. The school board has said that it will create neighborhood schools without creating concentrations of the impoverished, but no concrete strategy has been offered. Both sides of the debate back their arguments with statistics, but Rev. Barber said it well on the night before the rally: "To say that people being together," he said, "to say that that is bad for education is simply ridiculous."

Diversity efforts should supersede efforts to create "successful" schools as determined by standardized testing. Schools with higher test scores do not necessarily do the best job of preparing their students to deal with people unlike themselves, as a quick demographic analysis of the Chapel Hill school system will reveal. Is busing ideal? No, it is not. But it is a necessary policy to destroy the cycle of animosity and create a world where student assignment is not necessary, where black and white families are equally likely to be either rich or poor, where a "neighborhood school" is both diverse and convenient and where children can grow up knowing about a variety of cultures.

Henry Gargan is a rising senior at East Chapel Hill High School and an intern at The Citizen.



PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW

N.C.'s shameful treatment of the innocent

STEPHEN DEAR

The state of North Carolina condemned seven men to die who were later exonerated and has denied them any compensation. We owe them.

Glen Chapman, Alan Gell, Jonathon Hoffman, Levon Jones, Samuel Poole, Alfred Rivera and Christopher Spicer spent nearly five decades on North Carolina's death row and in our prisons for murders and other crimes they did not commit. They were condemned to die in your name and mine.

Most of these cases involve serious and unlawful breaches of the trust and duties bestowed on court officers and law-enforcement personnel. These exonerated were condemned after police or prosecutors unlawfully withheld, lost or destroyed evidence or made deals with or paid jailhouse snitches. It appears that even though five of the seven exonerees are black and blacks compose 22 percent of the state's population, most of the juries of the exonerees' "peers" were all white or nearly all white. Some of the cases involved reversible errors by judges or ineffective assistance by defense counsel.

The innocent are often exonerated in spite of the system, not because of it. Alan Gell is alive today in part because he had the good fortune that the *Raleigh News & Observer* decided to investigate his case, apparently suspicious of his claims of innocence. Instead, the paper's investigation showed Gell could not have committed the murder in his case. Even so, ostensibly trying to save political face, N.C. Attorney General Roy Cooper refused to drop the charges and retried the case, spending tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars, only to have a jury quickly find Gell not guilty.

After nearly everything was taken from these men, they were released with only the clothes on their backs. No transition. No help. No apology. No money.

Nothing. People guilty of serious violent crimes get more help when they are released.

How can we allow this to happen?

Sure, innocent people are charged, tried and acquitted often, and the state is under no obligation to pay them. But these men were condemned to be poisoned to death in the dark of night in Central Prison in Raleigh after wasting away for years on death row. A disturbing number of their cases involve malice or negligence on the part of authorities, none of whom has ever faced criminal charges themselves.

State prosecutors and investigators in Gell's case withheld mounds of evidence that he could not have committed the crime. Gell sued the state in civil court and won a settlement of \$3.9 million.

The thing about our death penalty system is that some of those who get entrapped in it are not Boy Scouts. Some, like Gell, had criminal records. A few exonerees have ended up back in prison, when it is arguable that if they had not been left penniless they would not have turned to crime or drugs or alcohol to deal with their suffering — suffering which we imposed on them. Presumed innocent until proven guilty is the hallmark of America's justice system, and it also applies to exonerees, even those guilty of other crimes.

Spend time with some of these men, as I have, and you know their lives have been shattered. There's the psychological and physical damage left by years of isolation in a cage in a maximum-security prison. There is the post-traumatic stress disorder, the fear of ordinary things, the nightmares. There are the fractured relationships with family and friends. There is starting from scratch in an unfamiliar world without any money. There is the stigma of having been convicted of murder and having been on death row. Try explaining that away in a job interview. These men need re-entry funds, affordable housing, job training and health, educational and legal services.

The state of North Carolina allows for \$50,000 in compensation to the wrongfully convicted per year of incarceration, limited to \$750,000. That's not enough. Still, no one exonerated from North Carolina's death row has received any of that money. It's not because they are undeserving. It's because they are relatively powerless and vulnerable against the system that tried to kill them in the first place.

North Carolinians need to own up to our system's misdeeds and mistakes. We have a moral obligation to these men we condemned. We need a stronger legal obligation. We need revisions to our compensation statutes and programs to make them navigable and to make it possible for death row exonerees to rebuild their lives. Too expensive? Then let's repeal the death penalty. We can't have it both ways.

The death penalty already costs North Carolina taxpayers millions more every year than life without parole. Compensating the wrongfully convicted should be considered another cost of the dirty business that is North Carolina's death penalty industry.

Stephen Dear is executive director of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty in Carrboro.



Multiple flower heads characterize the many species of wild sunflowers along roadsides.

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA

FROM PAGE 1

It quickly made its way over to Europe and beyond. It was easily cultivated almost everywhere, even in faraway Russia, where in the mid-1800s its nutritional and economic importance was greatly improved. It's fun to reflect that those beautiful Van Gogh sunflowers originated in southwestern North America.

Over at Johnny's, though, I was more excited to find an impressive specimen of one of our commonest native perennial sunflowers. There are more than two dozen species of wild sunflowers in North Carolina. Most species of *Helianthus* are perennial and none of them are as large as the giant flowered annual. They are, however, quite beautiful and easily cultivated.

That impressive multi-stemmed specimen at Johnny's seems to be *Helianthus resinosus*, formerly classified as *H. tomentosus*. While

leigh Farmers' Market. You're got to see it to believe it. Wish I had it in my garden. I suspect, like the giant annual *helianthus*, it has undergone a bit of hybridization. A similar-looking *helianthus* is Jerusalem artichoke, *H. tuberosus*, frequently cultivated in gardens for its tasty tubers.

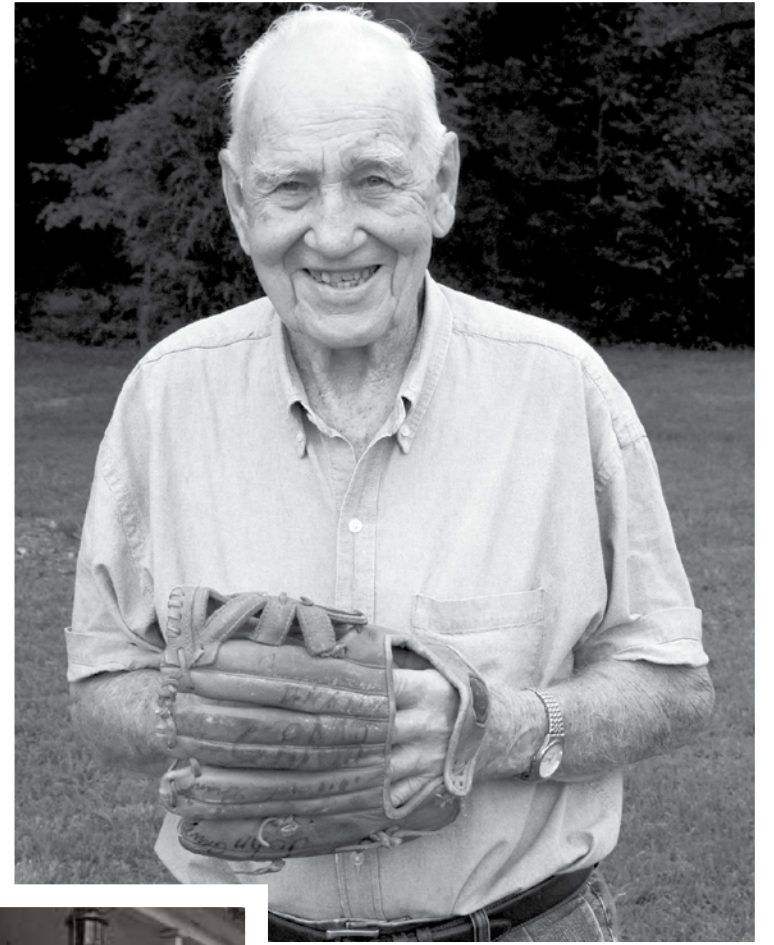
Keep a watchful eye on roadsides during the remainder of the summer. You'll spot several species of the wild sunflowers standing tall with lots of bright-yellow composite flowers. As those seed heads ripen, you'll also spot goldfinches flitting about.

Email Ken Moore at flora@carrborocitizen.com.



Young Carrboro resident Avery Spade studies the giant sunflowers at Johnny's.

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE



Cedar Grove 1939 Revisited, 2010



"You're standing right about where she was when she took the picture," Bo Wells, 88, of Cedar Grove told me as he thumped his fist into the baseball glove. "She" was FSA photographer Dorothea Lange, and the iconic photograph (accompanying) was made 71 years ago on a hot July 4 in 1939. David "Bo" Wells went off to WWII, serving as a radio operator on cargo planes flying from the Azores to Calcutta. He came home to Cedar Grove (nine miles northwest of Hillsborough) and married his sweetheart, Miriam Pope; they had three children and Bo farmed tobacco until his retirement. Thanks to Lewis Cauble and Steve Rankin for putting me in touch with the former ballplayer. I wanted to pose him in exactly the same spot as the original Lange photograph. He led me to what he remembers as "Anderson's Filling Station," now a grassy roadside plot off N.C. 86. The ball field was just beyond the store, a pasture now. "I hit many a home run out there," Bo smiled at the thought. Click.

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.

WATER WATCH

Source: owasa.org Tuesday August 3

UNIVERSITY LAKE:
1' 5" inches below full
CANE CREEK: 2' 8.5" below full

CUSTOMER DEMAND
Past 7 days (average): 8.229 million gallons
Past 30 days (average): 9.111 million gallons

PRECIP THIS MONTH
JONES FERRY: 0.28"
CANE CREEK: 0.51"

ESTIMATED SUPPLY:
337 days worth (about 11 months), based on average demand in the last 30 days, and assuming no further rainfall.



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