

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

Halberd-leaved swamp mallow remains fully open for one day

FLORA By Ken Moore

A one-day flower with a two-day appeal

Locally we frequently spot the common white-flowered, swamp mallow, *Hibiscus moscheutos*, growing in wet depressions and along the edges of Jordan Lake. Fortunately, they have numerous buds, for each flower remains open for only one day. However, in my opinion there's a finer wild hibiscus out there, but you'll have to go further afield to find it. This one sports a rose-pink flower with a two-day appeal.

I first saw it decades ago on the bank of the Neuse River at the Kinston bridge. DOT improvements have eliminated that population, but not before I had collected seed. Like the common swamp mallow, this rose-colored hibiscus, *Hibiscus militaris*, a halberd-leaved swamp mallow, is worthy of cultivation. I now have several plants on the edge of my little backyard wetland. Though naturally occurring in wet areas, wild hibiscus species are easily cultivated in the garden if a little water is added during droughts.

Realizing how descriptive plant names can be, I'm a bit amused with the species designation, *militaris*, which means "like a soldier." This particular swamp mallow does stand rather stiffly erect, like a soldier at attention. Perhaps more obviously descriptive is the common name, halberd-leaved, which refers to the medieval axe-like weapon, which one's imagination may relate to the narrow triangular leaf with distinct lateral lobes at the base. Once you see that characteristic leaf, you most likely will remember it.

You rarely see the halberd-leaved swamp mallow in the wild and very few gardeners cultivate

SEE FLORA PAGE 10

Board approves The Butler, moves on to 300 East Main

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

After approving a residential complex that would be its next-door neighbor, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen opened a public hearing Tuesday night at Town Hall on 300 East Main, one of the largest redevelopment projects in Carrboro history.

The 507,500-square-foot project is on 5.24 acres extending from the intersection of Main Street and Boyd Street near Nice Price Books to the present municipal parking lot on the corner of Main and Roberson streets. It includes a 150-room Hilton Garden Inn hotel, a five-story parking deck, a central pedestrian plaza, three large commercial buildings and extensive changes for Cat's Cradle and The ArtsCenter.

At the hearing, several community members asked the board to take a hard look at the project.

Gary Wallach told the board flat out that he believed the project was architecturally unimaginative.

"It doesn't look like Carrboro to me," he said. "We can do better."

Other residents sparred over parking.

Patrick McDonough said he was concerned that there would be too much parking and too much traffic associated with the project. The town, he said, should run shuttles from the Jones Ferry park & ride lot for Cat's Cradle and ArtsCenter shows and encourage people not to take their cars into town. He called for the board to significantly cut the amount of parking for the project.

Peter Lee, chair of the town's economic-sustain-

ability committee, said he's all for encouraging people to use shuttles and alternative means, but said the parking deck would be a considerable asset for downtown. He suggested the town might want to even consider someday adding a sixth story to the project's parking deck.

Ricardo Palao, who lives on Boyd Street next to the site, said he would like to see a more detailed traffic plan, especially around the proposed Boyd Street exit from the parking deck. Palao suggested left-hand turn lanes be constructed to avoid traffic tie-ups.

Board of aldermen members agreed to extend the hearing until Sept. 16. Several asked for more information on how the project would be phased.

SEE BOARD PAGE 6

Back to school: the first day

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

Despite a couple of traffic jams and a few desks that were a little too small, the first day of school for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools was a smooth start to the school year.

"It was a quiet opening of school, which is a good thing," said Todd LoFrese, assistant superintendent for support services for the district. "It's good to see the kids with smiles on their faces arriving to school."

District officials had projected district enrollment at 11,703, and by last Friday 11,672 students had enrolled, according to Stephanie Knott, assistant superintendent for community relations.

"We expect, obviously, to meet or exceed [predictions]," Knott said.

Knott said registration will continue this week.

SEE FIRST DAY PAGE 5



PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW

Third graders in Stephanie Wittman's class at Morris Grove Elementary School work with the SMART Board and do other activities in math on Monday, the first day for Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools.

BREAKDOWN: A SERIES ON MENTAL HEALTH IN NORTH CAROLINA

Lost in a lost system: a new report confirms fears

BY TAYLOR SISK
Staff Writer

Valerie Kramer calls Carrboro her "fairy-tale town." She and her son, Jeff, moved here when Jeff was entering the second grade and left, in 1997, when he was 14. Kramer was ending a bad relationship, was diagnosed with clinical depression and decided she and her son needed a new start in a new environment. She and Jeff moved to Asheville.

While in high school there, Jeff fell in with the Rainbow Family, to whom Kramer attributes his introduction to drugs. Jeff was busted for distribution of marijuana and was facing both felony and misdemeanor charges.

Around this same time, Jeff had begun to often act strangely.

Nothing he said made sense, Kramer says. "He said God sent him to this Earth to grow marijuana for sick people, and that was his mission." Jeff's defense attorney advised her to pay a

forensic psychologist to have Jeff evaluated. He was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia and deemed incompetent to stand trial. He was 19.

"I didn't know what schizophrenia was," Kramer says. "But at 17 and 18, he really did things that I knew were

"I didn't know what schizophrenia was, but at 17 and 18, he really did things that I knew were not normal for him. And everyone said, 'Well, he's just a teenager ...' But I always knew. I mean, I had nightmares about it. I knew something was wrong."

not normal for him. And everyone said, 'Well, he's just a teenager ...' But I always knew. I mean, I had nightmares about it. I knew something was wrong."

It must be drug-induced, Kramer believed. "I said, 'When he gets off the drugs, he'll be fine, right?'" She was assured by the doctors otherwise.

So she packed up all of her and her son's belongings and moved back to the Triangle.

"I thought, 'We'll go back to Chapel Hill where, in general, there are more people with a higher education.'

"I asked around — everyone I knew — and they said that as far as state hospitals go, John Umstead is the best because you'll have the brightest people

"Compromised Controls and Pace of Change Hampered Implementation of Enhanced Mental Health Services." The report is largely focused on the now well-documented excesses in the provisioning of community support services and chronicles the general mismanagement, overspending and lack of oversight in our mental health system since the passing of reform legislation in 2001, which called for privatizing services.

Community support services include, for example, assistance with grocery shopping or homework or chaperoning to movies or ballgames. The *News & Observer* reported that between March 2006 and January 2008, the cost of these services rose to nearly \$1.4 billion, or 90 percent of all spending for community-based mental health care services. The cost of community support services was then nearly 20 times the state's original estimate.

SEE HEALTH PAGE 6

Hearken the words of the fishmonger

RECENTLY ...

By Valarie Schwartz

Guilt drove me to write this story.

A few weekends ago, after shopping at the Farmers' Market, I succumbed to the lure of fresh fish from the boys selling by the Short Stop on Main Street. The fish was fine, but what stuck in my craw was the fact that I'd taken away business from our own local fishery — Tom Robinson's Seafood on Roberson Street.

So I paid Tom a visit and learned (again) that he's the kind of businessman who cares about the town that supplies him with customers. He grows persimmon trees on a farm in Chatham County, but he pays attention to local politics in Carrboro and isn't happy about the vertical expansion that seems inevitable.

Robinson can often be blunt. "They're trying to turn Carrboro into the hell hole they moved here from," he said.

He sees the evening and weekend traffic as it backs up and almost gridlocks downtown. It happens on school mornings as well — and that's before increasing the population to fill four five-story

dwellings likely to soon be approved for development.

"We need a new transportation paradigm," Robinson said. "How are we going to stop driving?"

The wistful expression often found on his rugged face returns as he begins to talk about the loss of our train system, among many other topics upon which he is well versed.

Robinson was born in Wilmington, where he lived through many a hurricane — "my first memory is of Hurricane Hazel" — until earning more than enough money for his undergraduate education by cutting grass. He came to Chapel Hill like his grandfather (who graduated in 1917 and became a principal in schools along coastal North Carolina), and in 1975 received a bachelor's of science degree with honors.

But jobs were scarce. As the war in Vietnam finally concluded, the United States began easing out of its deepest recession since World War II.

"It was very similar to now, with a petroleum-based depression," Robinson said. So he went to Norway.

"I went to the University of Oslo and and

SEE RECENTLY PAGE 8

INSIDE

Tropical Storm Fay floods streets

See page 3

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PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

cut

Community Calendar

Special Events

Aging in Stride 5K Run/Walk

— Sept. 6, 10am. UNC Bell Tower. Benefits the Frail Elderly Fund which buys services or supplies for frail seniors who have exhausted all other resources. Come out to walk, run or volunteer. Pre-registration (til Aug. 27) Ages 55 and Under: \$17 Ages 55+: \$7 Late Registration: \$22 all ages Participants will receive a t-shirt and a chance to win prizes. kimharr@email.unc.edu or http://studentorgs.unc.edu/senate/ for an entry form.

Asthma Walk — Sept. 27, 10am, registration 8am. NCSU Centennial Campus. 832-8326, www.asthmawalk.org

Artist Grants — Durham Arts Council is distributing applications for 2008-09 Emerging Artists Grants. The deadline for applications is Sept. 15. www.durhamarts.org

Benefit Concert — for Don Chandler, recently diagnosed with Leukemia. Performing: Jewelsong, Joe Woodson, Stillhouse Bottom Band & friends. Sept. 13, 7pm. Church of Reconciliation, Chapel Hill. \$15

Benefit Golf Tournament

— Sept. 27, 2pm, Preserve at Jordan Lake. Benefits children with disabilities. 966-8494, www.thehonours.org/2008%20Tournament.html

Cedar Grove Bluegrass Festival

— free festival on Sept. 27. Musical performances and refreshments. Northern Human Services Center (located on Highway 86 North) in Cedar Grove, from noon to 6pm. Gates will open at 10am. Rain or shine, bring your chairs and blankets. 245-2660. http://www.co.orange.nc.us/RecParks/music_festivals.asp

Emergency Preparedness Fair

— 10am-4pm Sept. 25, lobby of NC Children's Hospital. Information for coping with disasters.

Hi Mom! Film Festival

— a diverse mix of styles and genres by inspired filmmakers from around the world. Each film in this year's lineup asserts its own brand of cine-skill that will inspire, provoke, inform, amuse and other terms you learned in psych class.

himomfilmfest.org Sept. 5-6

Jazz Brunch — Sundays from 11am-1pm on the Weaver Street Lawn. Breakfast for purchase, music for free.

Jordan Lake Arts & Music Festival

— Oct. 4-5. Local music and arts festival in Apex. Gates at 9am, music at 10am. www.jordanlakeartsandmusic.org

Toys for Tots

— The UPS Store at Carrboro Plaza announces the Toys for Tots Literacy Program. Dollars donated will put books into the hands of local children. Visit 8-6:30pm weekdays, 10am-5pm Saturdays. www.toysfortotsliteracy.org

Volunteer Information Session

— Sept. 10, 10-11:30am at the Seymour Center, 2551 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools offer information about volunteering to help students.

Urban Farm Tour

— Sat. Sept. 13. www.carrborogreenspace.org

Faith

Advent Lutheran — summer Sunday worship 10am. Fall schedule begins Sept. 7: 9am classes for all ages, 10:30am worship service. 230 Erwin Rd., Chapel Hill. 968-7680. adventlutheranch.org

The Advocate

— Sept. 5, Oct. 3: Taize services (chant, prayer, silence). Wednesdays, 10am, playtime, bible study for kids. Noon: Eucharist. Sundays: Eucharist at Chapel Hill Kehillah, 5pm. www.ouradvocate.org

Outdoor activities

Guided Tours — of the N.C. Botanical Garden's Plant Collections, every Saturday at 10am. Free.

Kids

Toddler Time — at the Carrboro Branch Library. Every Thursday at 4pm. 969-3006

Preschool Story Time

— at the Carrboro Branch Library. Saturdays at 10:30am.

Express Yourself!

— art program for ages 3-8 & their caregivers. Saturdays, 10:45-11:15am, 11:30am-noon. \$2 Kidzu Children's Museum 105 E Franklin St 933-1455

kidzuchildrensmuseum.org

Volunteers

Project Homeless Connect

— 10am to 5pm, Sept. 25, Hargraves Community Center. Volunteers needed for many services. See www.co.orange.nc.us/housing/Componentsofthepartnershiptoendhomelessness.asp or contact mcosta@hiddenvoices.org or 923-2559.

RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program

— seeks volunteers to match other volunteers with opportunities for public service. 968-2056

Meals on Wheels

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

English as a Second Language Conversation Club

— seeks volunteers to talk with groups of international students Fridays from noon-2pm. University Methodist Church on Franklin St. 967-1448, harwellja@bellsouth.net

Health & Wellness

Cancer support

— weekly support free of charge for cancer patients and family. cornucopiahouse.org

The Compassionate Friends: Self-help support after the death of a child

— free and open to all adults grieving the loss of a child or sibling. Third Mondays, 7-8:30pm. Evergreen United Methodist Church. 967-3221. chapelhilltcf.org

Lectures, Discussions & Open Mics

Open Mic

— poetry, music & short fiction. Tuesdays, 7pm, Market Street Books & Maps, Southern Village. 933-5111, marketstreetbooks.com

"Humanism and Ethics"

— Informal information session of the North Carolina Society for Ethical Culture. Chapel Hill Public Library, 7-9pm, Sept. 9.

Literary

CHPL Closing

— Chapel Hill Public Library will be closed Aug. 28-29. The library will be open from 9am to noon Aug. 28, and closed for the remainder of the day, and will be closed all day Aug. 29. The library will reopen at 9am Saturday, Aug. 30. No books are due during this time. 968-2777.

Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights

— Sept. 22, 7pm. by Kenji Yoshino, Discussion with a panel of local experts. Carrboro Century Center, 100 N. Greensboro St., 918-7387, cybrary@co.orange.nc.us, www.co.orange.nc.us/library/cybrary

Everything is Illuminated

— Contemporary Fiction Book Club meets to discuss the Jonathan Safran Foer novel. Aug. 28, 7pm. Carrboro Cybrary. 918-7387. cybrary@co.orange.nc.us

Dance

Havana Nights

— Cuban Salsa. 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 10pm. Mansion 462, 462 W Franklin St, 967-7913, www.mansion462.net

Salsa/Mambo

— 3rd Saturdays, lesson 8pm, dance 8:30-11pm. \$7, 358-4201, salsa_4u2@yahoo.com. Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 4702 Garrett Rd, Durham.

Ballroom

— 4th & 5th Thursdays, 7-9:30pm, \$2. 933-8982. Seymour Senior Center, 2551 Homestead Rd, Chapel Hill, 968-2070

Carrboro DanceJam

— free-style dance to an eclectic mix of music. First Fridays. Balanced Movement Studio. 304 W Weaver St, upstairs. 968-8776

Triangle Youth Ballet

— Nutcracker auditions, ages 8-16. 1-4:30pm, \$10 fee. TYB and Friends Concert 8pm, Chapel Hill High. Tickets \$8-15. 932-2676. www.triangleyouthballet.org

Contra

— Sept. 12. 7:30-11pm. Laura Light and George Paul perform. Carrboro Century Center. \$7-9. Sept. 13; 7:30-11. Skylark performs. NCSU Student Ballroom. \$5-9. TCDancers.org

Contra

— Sept. 19 7:30pm. Carrboro Century. 967-9948. www.csa-dance.org. \$8

Film

Grassroots Stages

— the fifth film in the "100-Mile Film Series: Sustainable Cinema." Sept. 16th at 7:30 p.m. at the General Store and Café in Pittsboro. The film captures the music and people behind the Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival in Trumansburg, NY. Suggested donation is \$5. Info: molly.matlock@chathamarts.org

CONGRATULATIONS!



Roush weds Norwood

Amy Weaver Norwood and Donald Irwin Roush were united in marriage August 23 at 6 p.m. at University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill. The Reverend Dr. Anna Pinckney-Straight officiated at the double ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Michael and Gail Norwood of Chapel Hill. She is a graduate of Chapel Hill High School, UNC-Wilmington and UNC-Chapel Hill. She is a newborn critical care nurse at the NC Children's Hospital.

The groom is the son of Donald and Marilyn Roush of Chapel Hill. He is a graduate of University of California-Riverside and is employed as a home inspector with Accurate Home Inspections.

The bride was given in marriage by her father.

Matron of Honor was sister of the bride, Mary Evelyn Norwood Starnes, of Marietta Georgia. Bridesmaids were Laura Sweeney Ferrara of Baltimore, MD; Emilie Gantt of San Francisco, CA; Meleah Mauldin of Blowing Rock, NC; and Katie Young of Durham, NC.

Best Man was Eric DePriest of Pacifica, CA. Groomsmen were Marc Cameron of Marina Del Ray, CA; Dan Robba of Paso Robles, CA; Andy Starnes of Marietta GA; and Rob Woo of San Jose, CA.

The Flower Girl was three-year-old Ella Kathryn Starnes, the bride's niece, of Marietta GA.

Scripture readers at the ceremony were Diane Roush and Katherine Roush, sisters of the groom.

Music was provided by Thomas Brown on the organ.

The Rehearsal Dinner was hosted by the parents of the groom at the Carolina Club in Chapel Hill. The Wedding Reception was hosted by the parents of the bride in the Old Well Room of the Carolina Inn.

Following a honeymoon to St. Lucia, the couple will make their home in Raleigh, NC.

Do you have anything for one of our calendars? Send your submissions to calendar@carrborocitizen.com

SUPER CROSSWORD FINISH LINE

ACROSS	1 Thieves	5 Dress down	10 Accomplished	13 English explorer	18 French spa	20 Home on high	21 A mean Amin	22 "Pygmalion" role	23 Start of a remark by Gene Perret	26 On the up and up	27 Director Sergio	28 Grazing ground	29 Overact	31 Have a mortgage	32 Become engaged?	34 EMT's skill	36 "La Boheme" girl	39 Depravity	42 Heavy metal instrument?	45 Mellow	47 Rajasthani rhythm	48 Coach	49 Kayak commander	50 Part 2 of remark	54 Verbal explosion	56 Pittsburgh player	58 Skirt feature	60 Tangle	61 "May I interrupt?"	62 Vision	65 Cookbook phrase	66 Impressive lobby	68 Catches cod	71 Runner Sebastian	72 Karras or Haley	73 Part 3 of remark	77 Suggestive	80 — Na Na	81 Beloved	82 Type of aircraft	85 Maestro de Waart	86 Fusillade	88 Kharthoum's river	90 Hopeless case	92 Jeeves or Passepartout	94 Focused	97 Watchful city?	98 Part 4 of remark	101 Perfect remark	103 One of the Marches	104 Anesthetize	105 Fitting	106 Manuscript enc.	107 Goofy Gomer	108 Field event	111 — the fields we go . . .	113 Ballet movement	115 Overwhelm	116 Recruit personnel	118 Good times	121 Sari site	124 Rent	127 End of remark	131 Party present	132 Myriads of moons	133 "Midnight at the" (74 hit)	134 — "Gay"	135 Fight site	136 Room for relaxing	137 Marine leader?	138 Hardware item	DOWN	1 Sports official	2 Face shape	3 Ill temper	4 She knew how to get a head	5 Droop	6 Do overhead plastering	7 Sarah — Jewett	8 Pale purple	9 — "volente"	10 "Carpe —"	11 Turn of phrase	12 Bother	13 "Fantasia" frame	14 Fish-and-chips accompaniment	15 Chauvinist	16 Conductor	17 Yarn	19 Muse count	24 Snuggle up	25 "The Aeneid" author	30 Jacob's twin	33 Tint	35 — "Rider" (85 film)	37 Neighbor of Libya	38 Kite part	39 Places to dye	40 One of "The Three Sisters"	89 Helen of Troy's mom	91 Wrath	93 Cubist	94 Be there	96 Gets by with "out"	97 Ancient tongue	99 Little devils	100 Bordered on	102 Kroskif's letters	107 Know-it-all	108 Vow	109 Throw forcefully	110 Resort lake	112 Bucolic	114 Memo start	115 — Romeo	117 Actress Sherilyn	119 "Yo!" at the library	120 Move a bit	122 "Blame — the Bossa Nova" (63 hit)	123 Bill of Rights grp.	125 Every guy is one	126 Cy Young stat	128 Debtor's letters	129 Govt. agency	130 Beaver or beret
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CitizenCryptoquote 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.

"Tending The Lawn"

H MU TAKXX ZX WIH, ZW EKFH,
 KGJKRX TAUUWUA IW HMU IHMUA
 XZNU IE HMU EUWFU. EUWFUX
 MKPU WIHMZWT HI NI JZHM ZH.
 H MU TAKXX ZX TAUUWUXH JMUAU
 ZH ZX JKHUAUN. JMUW FAIXXZWT
 IPUA EUWFUX, FKAAR JKHUA
 JZHM RID KWN HUWN HMU TAKXX
 JMUAUPUA RID BKR OU.
 - A IOUAH EDGTMDB
 Find the answer in the puzzle answer section.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	6		7		5				
5			1						2
	1	3			2		9		
		4		9			6	7	
	7		2					5	
1					3	8			
		8		5					4
	9		6		4	3			
7			3						8

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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Carrboro FARMERS' MARKET

locally grown nationally known

WEDNESDAY MARKET: 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.
 SATURDAY MARKET: 7 a.m. - Noon

What's at Market?

Check out what's at the Year-Round Farmers' Market . . . BLUEBERRIES, tomatoes, corn, cantaloupe, watermelons, peaches, blackberries, zucchini, yellow squash, peppers, cucumbers, basil, onions, garlic, pole beans, beets, potatoes, chard, vegetable and flower starters, sunflowers, lizianthus, snap dragons, sunflowers, zinnias, lilies, campanula, and many more flowers, baked goods (including vegan and gluten free options), breads, jams, wines, grass fed beef, pastured pork, pastured chicken, grass fed lamb, buffalo, sausage, chorizo, ground bison, raw milk cheeses, smoked cheeses, goat cheese, jams, jellies, pottery, hats, rugs, and more!

Recipe of the week

LIGHT SUMMER PIZZA

Recipe Provided by: Market Customer, Sacha Knowles
 I tried this one at home with an easy white flour tortilla crust. You could of course make your own dough, but the tortilla works great. I get the great big tortillas. Have fun with the toppings. I've used cooked corn, fried okra, fried eggplant, peppers, and other toppings when I want to make bigger pizzas. This is a simple and light summer version. Enjoy!

- INGREDIENTS:**
- 1 large head of Garlic (minced)
 - 2 large onions or 4 small onions (chopped)
 - 1 Tablespoon of honey
 - 6-7 tomatoes (Chopped) *I used a collection of heirloom tomatoes because I had them, but paste tomatoes work great
 - 4 cups of grated mozzarella cheese
 - Olive oil
 - Small bag of fresh basil (chopped or whole)
 - 3 large flour tortillas (the bags usually contain 12 tortillas)
 - Salt and pepper to taste

Over medium heat, sauté the garlic and onions in olive oil and be careful not to burn them. Add about a tablespoon of honey and cook until onions are clear. Add the tomatoes and reduce the heat to a simmer for about an hour. Salt and pepper to taste.
 Coat both sides of the tortillas in fine olive oil. Broil each side in the oven until the tortilla is lightly toasted (about a minute or less on each side). The tortilla will balloon out and rise. Take out of the oven and pop the air bubbles to regain a flat surface. Spoon the sauce overtop the tortillas and cover with cheese. Stick back in the oven on broil just long enough to melt the cheese. Top with fresh whole or chopped basil. Take out of the oven and drizzle the surface of the pizza with a little olive oil and salt. Serve hot.
 * Ingredients Available at Market

News Briefs

CHPD takes award

The Chapel Hill Police Department recently received a national award from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for efforts toward preventing underage drinking.

The Coalition for Alcohol and Drug Free Teenagers of Chapel Hill and Carrboro nominated the Chapel Hill Police Department for 2008 Law Enforcement Partner of the Year, which is presented for reductions in teen drinking and binge drinking, identified through surveys of youth.

The award was presented at the 10th annual National Leadership Conference in Nashville on Saturday.

Sprinkler stops fire

A sprinkler head extinguished a bedroom fire in Carolina Springs Apartments on Hwy. 54 last week, prior to the arrival of Carrboro Fire-Rescue.

Fire personnel were called to the scene for a structure fire in a second-floor apartment, where a mattress had burned. The apartment's sprinkler system had completely extinguished the fire and the unit was filled with heavy smoke when firefighters arrived.

Carolina Springs, an independent-living facility, is home to nearly 150 elderly residents. All of the occupants were safely evacuated. Damage is estimated at \$45,000.

Green gauntlet thrown down

On Tuesday, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen accepted the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) Green Challenge.

The NCLM issued a three-level challenge to municipalities to pursue sustainability initiatives. By accepting the challenge, the aldermen agreed to choose practical actions that can save energy, money and natural resources.

Cities and towns participating in the challenge will receive recognition for completing one or more levels of the challenge and special recognition will be given for exceptional accomplishments.

Vandalism in Arcadia

Carrboro police responded to 10 complaints regarding vandalism and theft in the Arcadia neighborhood on Saturday.

According to police reports, police first responded to a call regarding vandalism to the Arcadia common house at 134 Circadian Way. Inside the house, which was left open Friday night, it appeared as if someone discharged the contents of a fire extinguisher throughout the upper and lower levels, reports said. In addition, fecal matter was left on a table in a room in the upper level of the house.

Several cars belonging to residents of the Arcadia neighborhood were broken into and vandalized between late Friday night and early Saturday morning. According to Capt. J.G. Booker, items were stolen from several of the cars, but police found most of the stolen items nearby.

Booker said kids could have been involved in the crimes, but that police had no suspects.

"Often times, these [leads] are very, very difficult to develop," he said.

Booker said he would encourage everyone to make sure their belongings are secure overnight.

Local cat missing for a year turns up outside of Chicago

BY TED GREGORY
Chicago Tribune reporter

[Editor's note: This story is reprinted with the kind permission of The Chicago Tribune, where it ran on Aug. 21.]

Sukie the cat has returned to her home in North Carolina, which isn't all that extraordinary, considering she's an indoor-outdoor cat. Except for this: She disappeared in August 2007 and was found a couple of weeks ago 622 miles from home, brushing against the legs of cat lover Tricia Roman in Brookfield.

The mystery of how Sukie ended up in Brookfield remains. Only she and the person who provided her transportation know for sure. One can't talk. The other can't be found.

The best guess is that Sukie, a black-and-white feline of about 8 pounds and far too friendly a disposition, was scooped up and spirited away last August while meandering around the neighborhood in Carrboro.

The next reported Sukie sighting was Aug. 5 by Roman as she stood in front of her house, scanning for damage from storms a night earlier.

"I look to my right, and there is this little cat sitting on my next-door neighbor's steps," Roman said. "I gave it a little whistle and she came to me."

Sukie, in fine health, flopped on her side and sprawled at Roman's feet. She ate the food Roman put out for her. Then Roman had to leave for her job as a legal assistant in Lisle.

After returning home from work that evening, Roman stepped into her backyard, and

there was Sukie, hanging out in the neighbor's backyard. Roman whistled and chatted at Sukie, who loped around the front of the house and met Roman again in her backyard.

This time, Sukie hopped into Roman's lap while she read a book, Roman recalled. That was a key indicator that this cat was something more charismatic than the alley variety. About a half-hour later, Sukie took off. But she continued showing up around Roman's house for the next few days, which prompted Roman to ask a local veterinarian to check Sukie for an identification microchip embedded under her skin.

The vet agreed and Roman caught Sukie, which was about as easy as whistling. At the vet's office, a surprised Roman found that Sukie was a long way from home — 622 miles straight overland, 840 miles by roads. At the time, Aug. 8, the oldest of the Roman family's three cats, 14-year-old Petey, was gravely ill.

Sukie's microchip provided contact information for her owners, Jennifer McMillan, her husband, Les Frye, and their sons, Ben and Aaron. Roman phoned them, then e-mailed Sukie's photo to the family, who determined it was their long-lost feline friend.

"I was like, 'Oh my god, how in the world did she get to Chicago?'" Frye recalled. "I just couldn't believe we made the connection."

After consulting about the best way to take Sukie home, both families agreed that Ben, 20, would take a flight Aug. 13 to O'Hare International Airport.



PHOTO BY MARY LIDE PARKER
Aaron and Jenny McMillan enjoy a long overdue snuggle, finally reunited with Sukie the cat.

Roman, her husband, Jim, and son Sam met him there. Tricia shuttled Sukie into Ben's carrier, and they boarded a return flight.

"It just felt like everyone was home," Jennifer McMillan said Tuesday. "Like our family was complete. I swear she purred for 24 hours."

Last August, when Sukie failed to come home for a couple of days, McMillan and her family scoured the neighborhood. A local lumberyard employee told them that Sukie had approached a woman in a green Toyota who lifted the cat into the car and disappeared.

Although their hope had waned, the family held on to Sukie's toys, food and other belongings. Their African Grey parrot kept squawking Sukie's name. When Roman contacted them, the family didn't hesitate to spend the \$400 airfare for their cat's return.

"There aren't that many times

in life when you have a regret and you can do something about it," McMillan said. "I spent a year missing that cat. Four hundred dollars is nothing."

[McMillan has since told *The Citizen* that she meant the amount, though costly, was worth it.]

The episode has inspired Roman, who said she would like to start a non-profit organization to help lost pets find their way home.

It also was therapeutic. Petey died a day after Roman took in the stray cat. The loss would have been much more painful had it not been for Sukie, Roman said.

"She was my angel," Roman said. "She was helping me get through losing my Petey. By focusing on getting her back together with her family, it kept my mind off my own loss."

Reprinted with permission of The Chicago Tribune.

Tropical Storm Fay drenches town, causes flooding

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

Heavy rain and thunderstorms on the fringes of Tropical Storm Fay soaked Carrboro and Chapel Hill early Wednesday, flooding several roadways and forcing detours.

More than two inches of rain fell between 8 and 9 a.m. Wednesday, according to readings taken by the National Weather Service at Horace Williams Airport.

On South Columbia Street near UNC's Fraternity Court, the edges of the street were flooded so badly that pedestrians were forced to walk through water above their knees. One woman lost a flip flop in the water, and chased it as it floated away.

At the bottom of South Greensboro Street near Hwy. 54, water ran across the street from the Triem Building to the highway entrance. However, as soon

as the rain eased later Wednesday morning the high water began to recede.

"At the tail end of the rain, the phone calls started coming in," said George Seiz, director of Carrboro Public Works. Seiz said that at about 9 a.m. Wednesday Public Works staff began responding to various calls regarding high water in different areas of the town.

Richard Terrell, operations manager for Chapel Hill Public Works, said there were several streets in Chapel Hill that had to be closed because of high water. The rain forced the closure of South

Estes Drive for several hours. However, most streets were reopened within a short period of time.

"In some cases, by the time our crews had actually gotten there, the problems had resolved themselves," Terrell said.

He added that the high water is often caused by water backing up at drainage basins on the side of roads, which catch debris and become partially blocked.

According to the National Weather Service, tornadoes were spotted in several areas around North Carolina, including Chatham County, and the storms could continue through Thursday.

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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Noticias en breve

Fiesta de la familia

Fiesta anual de El Centro Latino. Mucha diversión para todos: comidas, bailes, actividades, información. El domingo, el 31 de agosto, 11am-6pm. Town Commons, Carrboro. 932-4652

¡Estresada?

Talleres de relajamiento gratuitas para mujeres. En las oficinas de El Futuro en Carrboro. Cuidado de niños. Los miércoles, 6-7.30pm. Para más información, llame

al Amy Marietta 338-1939 x514

Festival del cine

Puede ver una colección de películas cortas en el festival Hi Mom!. El viernes, el 5 de septiembre, 8pm, Parquero de Rosemary Street (por el correo/la corte), \$5. El sábado, el 6 de septiembre, 6pm, ArtsCenter. Otras películas no aptas para niños: el viernes, el 5 de septiembre, 11pm, Artscenter. Tarjeta de pase \$10. himomfilmfest@gmail.com

Comentarios, sugerencias y preguntas al betsy@carrborocitizen.com

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

More up, less out

The way planning and zoning law works in North Carolina, there's not a lot that can be done to stop or even slow growth.

As much as people — even nice, friendly, neighborly people — want to shut the gate, we can't.

This state is an inflow state and although there's a lot of grousing about the headaches caused by all these folks moving here, our leaders would sooner have an inflow problem than the opposite.

It's always been a little amusing to note that while there's a baseline shut-the-gate mentality, its most ardent adherents are usually those with the shortest tenure in town. Those who have been around the longest seem to understand a little better that the myth of "The Village" was shattered quite a while ago.

I used to live in a little house along the side of Hwy. 15-501 — a place that is now gone and has been replaced by a large retirement home. Chicken trucks and school buses used to dictate the pace of traffic along the highway and the drive from southern Chapel Hill was pretty much a bucolic one — save the stretch at Cole Park — from the bottom of the hill at Morgan Creek to the mill marking the outskirts of Pittsboro.

That is no longer the case. The road now is a four-lane, its swath cut broad, and all along it are various housing developments and shopping centers.

I try to keep this in mind when studying the development going on in downtown Carrboro. Without remembering that the plan is to develop, or, more accurately, re-develop the inner core of our downtowns rather than sprawl our way into a Wake County-like crazy quilt of cul-de-sacs and strip malls, the scale of what's about to happen downtown seems outlandish.

The summer's spike in gas prices and the steady flow of bad news regarding global warming are reminders that a commuter-based economy reliant on the unlimited burning of fossil fuels isn't such a great idea in the long run.

How to undo things, though, has been a cipher.

For several years, there was a fight over how tall to go and what kind of downtown we wanted. In the end, those who pushed for five stories won out over those looking for a more modest rise in density and edifices.

The plan that was crafted was a signal to developers that there was new territory in this high-growth area in the airspace above downtown. Now the marketplace has spoken and the panoply of proposed projects is indeed a stunning array. Between The Butler (just approved Tuesday night), 300 East Main, The Alberta and Roberson Square there is close to a million new square feet of structure including several hundred housing units already approved or on the verge of approval.

Those who lost the fight against five stories say the fight now is to make sure that in choosing this path we don't lose the unique character of the town. It's a fight we all have an interest in winning.

This is going to be a very different looking town in 10 years. The trick will be making sure it still feels like we're living in Carrboro.

Good luck, Lucy

This is Lucy Butcher week at *The Carrboro Citizen*. We usually dedicate a day to each intern as they move on, but Lucy is extra special to us. A year and a half ago, after graduating from Chapel Hill High, she started working with us, doing a host of various jobs. Her web skills stood out, and every Thursday with great precision and good humor she's been the person who makes sure what's in the paper is also on our website. She's also been a solid advisor and colleague in helping us craft our web presence.

Lucy's gone off to college now, all the way across the continent. Her presence will be greatly missed, but not forgotten. Each time you search for an old story or take a look at the slideshows of our photos and front pages you're accessing the library that Lucy built.

Given that, a week in her honor seems hardly enough.

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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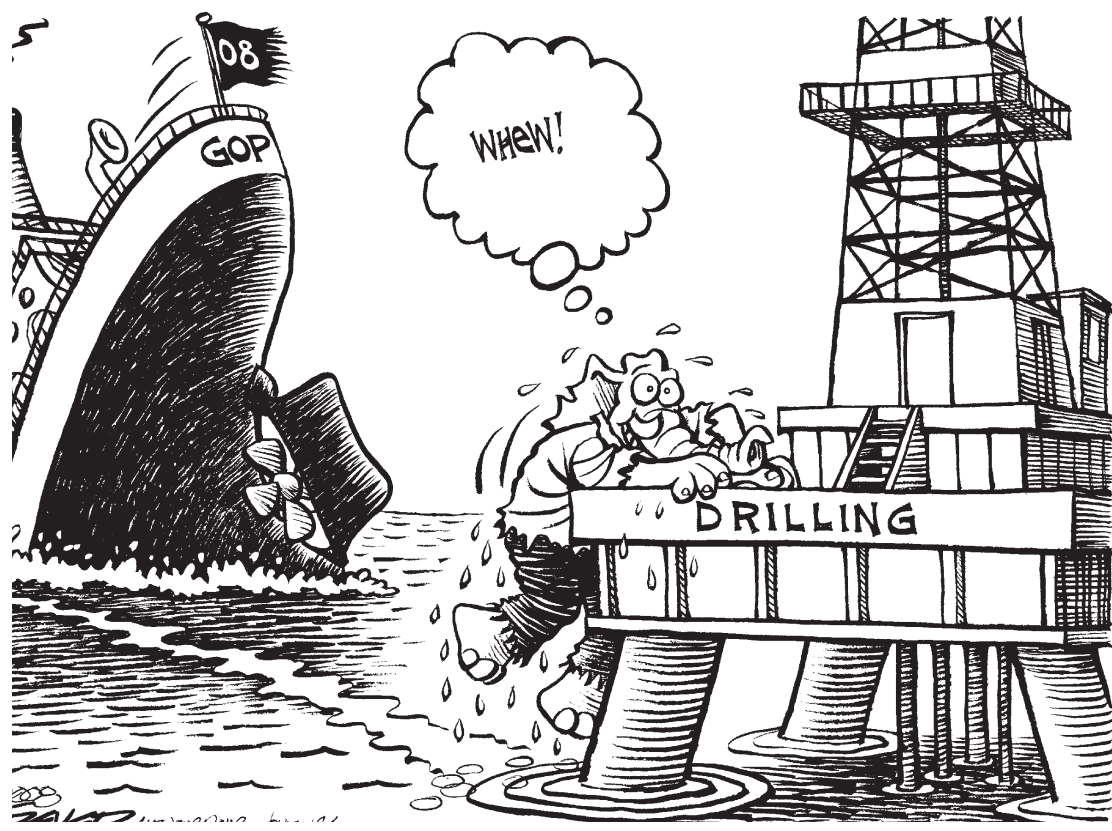
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Drilling down on offshore drilling

GRADY MCCALLIE

If polls are to be believed, a segment of the public has recently swung from opposing offshore oil drilling to seeing it as a plausible response to America's energy problems. One possible answer, of course, is that these particular polls aren't to be believed. For example, one survey asked, "Are you worried about gas prices?" (most answer "yes," of course) then, "Should we drill to lower gas prices?" — rather than, "Should we drill even though it almost certainly won't lower gas prices?" which, though factual, would probably have yielded a very different response.

Let's assume, though, that the poll numbers aren't merely a result of how the question is asked. Let's say that many Americans, faced with high gas prices, are in fact more inclined to support more offshore drilling. If you're not cynical about public competence — if you think people usually have good reasons for what we believe, even when we're wrong — this is a puzzle, because increasing offshore drilling isn't a rational response to our energy issues.

Our energy problems can be defined in a number of ways: high gas prices, excessive dependence on foreign oil, the danger that limited energy supplies could constrain our economy, the threat our reliance on fossil fuels poses to the global environment. Offshore oil drilling doesn't help with any of these. The Energy Information Administration has stated clearly that no oil from expanded offshore drilling would flow in the next 10 years, and even at peak production, sometime after 2030, it would not have a meaningful impact on supply or prices. The amount of gas available offshore would not free us from dependence on overseas fuel. Whether the gas we burn comes from our own continental shelf or from somewhere else around the world, it will be equally destructive of the global climate. Based on the facts alone, offshore drilling isn't a solution

to any of our energy problems.

Yet, offshore drilling makes enough intuitive sense to outweigh the facts, at least for parts of the public.

In a world where we are bombarded with too much information to process piece by piece, most of us rely on tropes — familiar patterns or images — to decide what we think and to sift the crucial details from the mundane. If you listen to the politicians and pundits who support drilling, they are invoking the same tropes: act now, think later.

Consider a pop-culture example. In late July, John McCain ran a campaign ad that compared Barack Obama to Britney Spears and Paris Hilton. In response, Hilton released a tongue-in-cheek ad of her own in which she presented herself as a candidate and thanked McCain for his endorsement. To show her policy chops, Hilton offered this faux energy policy: "Let's drill now, to tide us over for a couple decades until our investments in renewable energy start to pay off."

What's important here is not whether Hilton believes this, but that it's plausible enough to carry the punch line: This celebrity is more in touch with real issues than the candidates. Except that it shouldn't seem plausible, since, based on the facts, tiding us over is exactly what drilling can't do. If drilling isn't about the facts, what's it about?

In a world where we are bombarded with too much information to process piece by piece, most of us rely on tropes — familiar patterns or images — to decide what we think and to sift the crucial details from the mundane. If you listen to the politicians and pundits who support drilling, they are invoking the same tropes: act now, think later. We've been talking too long; it's time to act. The oil is just sitting there, deep underground, going to waste; if it's there, we ought to use it.

In our busy society, these messages work on a couple of levels. First, they provide a simple, digestible answer: drill now. Never mind that it's not a defensible answer to any of our actual questions. On a second level, the messages reinforce the answer by suggesting that you shouldn't stop to ponder it — you too should act now, decide to support drilling, and move on.

Is there an alternative? Well, yes. On the policy level, the key to protecting ourselves from high gas prices, from dependence on foreign oil, even from climate change, is clear: We need greater efficiency and alternatives to gas. That's not a single, simple solution; it's a whole complex knot of ideas — better cars, better transit, better land-use planning — any one of which offers a greater return for our economy than expanded offshore drilling.

The personal level is harder. It's been said that wisdom is recognizing the significant in the factual, but knowing that doesn't make it easier to manage the sheer quantity of facts that flood our lives. One approach for a conscientious citizen: When it comes to public policy, ignore the tropes. Take one issue at a time and study it, setting others aside without shame until there's time to think about them in turn. It's not perfect, but with energy policy it leads to a clear conclusion: Drilling is not the answer.

Grady McCallie is the policy director for the N.C. Conservation Network.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Kidzu belongs in Carrboro

Contrast Halloween on Franklin Street and Halloween in downtown Carrboro. On Franklin Street, cars are cleared from the street to make room for a 20,000-plus bacchanalia of drinking with adults in costumes like Two Men Walking a Breast. In downtown Carrboro, on the Town Commons next to the Town Hall, community volunteers organize a yearly Halloween Carnival of games and activities for children. Families walk from nearby neighborhoods and apartment complexes. A few nights earlier, Weaver Street Market hosts a Halloween Celebration with music, a costume contest, a storyteller and a puppet parade.

Now explain to me why the *Herald-Sun* editors (in an Aug. 8 editorial) are so sure the Kidzu Children's Museum belongs on Franklin Street. No doubt, it serves Chapel Hill and Franklin Street to have a great place like

Kidzu bringing folks downtown. But how does it serve Kidzu? What support is there for Kidzu on Franklin Street? Are there parks nearby? Are there family-focused activities regularly hosted by the town and local businesses?

In a downtown Carrboro location, Kidzu could partner with Carrboro Recreation & Parks (centrally located downtown), with The ArtsCenter (centrally located downtown), with DSI Comedy Theater (centrally located downtown) and with Weaver Street Market (centrally located downtown), and hosting family-friendly events every week all spring and summer.

There is an elementary school centrally located in Carrboro, one of the most economically and ethnically diverse in our school district and the new location of a preschool program. Local school children could walk on field trips to Kidzu or attend after-school activities.

Weekends on Franklin Street

are often dominated by sporting events that bring thousands and thousands of people into town and cause major traffic and parking problems all through the center of town and the by-pass. Locals avoid that area like the plague on those weekends and sneak around the back ways when moving from west to east or east to west. How does it serve working parents to force them to battle those crowds to visit Kidzu on the days they don't work?

The Kidzu Children's Museum is a wonderful place that would do well anywhere, but it would thrive in Carrboro and could offer so much more to both communities — Chapel Hill and Carrboro — without the burden of the collegiate claim on Franklin Street. The *Herald-Sun* was way off base in its editorial. Kidzu should be focused on the best location to serve families: downtown Carrboro.

MARIA ROWAN

New report about the mental health morass

CHRIS FITZSIMON

A highly anticipated report about the state's mental health system by a new division of the General Assembly staff released last Wednesday morning paints a disturbing picture of a system plagued for the last two years by lack of oversight, poor planning and disorganized data that makes monitoring difficult.

The report includes a response by Health and Human Services Secretary Dempsey Benton, who agrees the department needs to improve its reporting to lawmakers and the public, but disagrees with a recommendation to reorganize the way the department evaluates its performance.

Benton believes that is the job of the executive branch and bristles at the suggestion that department officials report the qualifications of individual staff members to state lawmakers, a position that's hard to argue.

The Program Evaluation Division of the General Assembly released the report at a meeting of the committee that oversees it. The report puts recent troubles in the mental health system in the context of the 2001 reforms that were supposed to solve problems, not ignore them or create new ones.

The report documents the crisis in the mental health system before 2001, including the fact that one mental hospital was in danger of losing federal funding. Two weeks ago, federal officials threatened to cut off funding for Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro after an investigation found disturbing problems. The more things are supposed to change, the more they stay diametrically the same.

A News & Observer story last week included the details of the death of one patient who was left unattended in a chair for 22 hours without food, while staff members played cards and danced.

The report from the Program Evaluation Division was originally scheduled for release in May but was delayed until after the General Assembly adjourned.

Much of the 19-page report is critical of internal policies and procedures in Health and Human Services surrounding the abuse and overbilling of community support services that an N & O series projected added up to \$400 million, a figure that is always part of the discussion of mental health reform, though the actual dollar figure may have been much smaller, according to Benton.

The report isn't likely to create screaming headlines, but it is another confirmation that the system that is supposed to care of people with mental illness, a development disability or a substance-abuse problem is still sputtering.

Data released a few months ago showing that 1,200 people from mental hospitals ended up in homeless shelters in 2007 proved that people are still tumbling through the state safety net. So did the latest death of a patient at Cherry Hospital after what appears to be shocking neglect.

The legislative report is filled with details about complicated accountability systems in Health and Human Services that fell apart or were never adequate in the first place. Many of the problems were related to the privatization of services, though the report is silent about the wisdom of that idea, as is virtually every discussion of mental health reform.

The report is also likely to re-ignite animosity between the Department of Health and Human Services and legislative leaders about roles and oversight and funding. Those are important questions that policymakers must resolve, and quickly.

People with mental illness or disability and their family members don't care much about state-provider endorsements or how many local management entities there are. They just want people to stop dying in hospitals or ending up in homeless shelters.

The report lists the goals of the 2001 efforts for the consumers, providers and the state. One consumer goal was to improve access to the system for patients so there was "no wrong door." Seven years later, there are still plenty of them.

Chris Fitzsimon is director of NC Policy Watch.

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. Send your letters to:

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Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Lunch Menus

September 2 — 5

ELEMENTARY

Tuesday — Cheese Ravioli w/ Garlic Bread; Chicken Taco w/ Salsa, Cheese, Lettuce & Tomato; Seasoned Pinto beans; Mexicali Corn; Fresh Orange Wedges
Wednesday — Chicken Patty Sandwich; Beef & Macaroni w/ Wheat Roll; Seasoned Green Beans; Steamed Carrots; Chilled Fruit Cocktail
Thursday — Herb baked chicken w/ Wheat Roll; Ham & Cheese Melt on Whole Wheat; Mashed Potatoes; Turnip Greens; Mandarin Oranges
Friday — Cheese Pizza; Pepperoni Pizza; Turkey & Cheese Wrap; Garden Salad w/ Dressing; Traditional Mixed Vegetables; Pineapple Tidbits

MIDDLE & HIGH

Tuesday — Pork Egg Rolls; Mozzarella Cheese Sticks w/ Marinara Dipping Sauce; Brown Rice Pilaf; Asian Mixed Vegetables; Chilled Apricots
Wednesday — Steak & Cheese Hoagie; Chicken Salad w/ Wheat Crackers; Lettuce & Tomato Salad; Carrot & Celery Sticks; Steamed Broccoli; Fresh Banana
Thursday — Ham & Cheese Sub; Turkey, Dressing & Gravy w/ Wheat Roll; Lettuce & Tomato Salad; Sweet Potatoes & Apples; Seasoned Lima Beans; Chilled Pears
Friday — Whole Grain Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce & Garlic Bread; Hot Dog w/ Chili; Coleslaw; California Mixed Vegetables; Banana Pudding



Students in Stephanie Wittman's third-grade class enjoy their first day of school at Morris Grove Elementary School.

FIRST DAY

FROM PAGE 1

"Families sometimes just get here late or are just moving to the community," she said.

With the first day of school, the district opened two new facilities on Monday.

Morris Grove Elementary School, the district's 10th elementary school, opened its doors this week.

School staff worked tirelessly last week to get the school set up, as deliveries of furniture and supplies arrived every day. Everything was pretty much ready to go on Monday, except for the tables for the fourth- and fifth-

grade students.

Over the weekend, tables were delivered, but the legs were a little too short — the manufacturer had delivered all primary grade-sized tables.

"They may have been a little uncomfortable for the students in grades four and five," Knott said. "Taller legs are on the way."

In addition, the new school had a few traffic problems.

"We had a few hiccups in terms of traffic congestion around Morris Grove," Knott said. "There's just generally more car traffic on the first day than any other day."

However, LoFrese said school staff and Carrboro police were on hand to help with traffic

around the school, and by Tuesday traffic problems were mostly resolved.

"Things went very, very well [Tuesday] morning," he said.

The district also moved Phoenix Academy, the district's alternative high school, into its new facility for the 2008-09 school year. The school was previously housed in mobile units next to the district's administrative offices at the Lincoln Center, but has now been moved into a building on the campus that used to house a pottery shop.

"A lot of work in a short amount of time came together," LoFrese said.

District SAT scores fall

SAT scores for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools students decreased four points this year to an average of 1,753, but remained the highest in the state.

Math scores decreased eight points to 596, while reading and writing increased two points each to 583 and 574, respectively. More than 93 percent of district students took the test, compared with 63 percent statewide.

At Chapel Hill High School, writing scores increased eight points to 576 and reading increased two points to 578, while math decreased two points to 600.

At East Chapel Hill High School, writing scores decreased four points to 572, reading increased two points to 590 and math scores decreased 11 points to 594.

Statewide, students averaged 511 in math, compared with 515

nationwide. North Carolina students averaged 496 in reading, while students nationwide averaged 502.

Average scores nationwide have dropped or remained static for the past three years, according to the state Department of Public Instruction. State average scores increased two points in math and one point in reading and remained unchanged in writing.

The SAT is one of the college admissions tests required by many colleges and universities. The ACT is also widely accepted.

ACT results for Chapel Hill-Carrboro students exceeded the state and national averages. District students scored an average composite score of 25.4, compared with 21.3 in North Carolina and 21.1 nationwide.

—Staff reports

School Briefs

Carrboro High tailgate

Carrboro High School will hold a football tailgate party on Sept. 13 at 6 p.m.

The Carrboro High Parent-Teacher-Student-Association will serve Jim's Famous Barbecue in the grassy area between the school and the football field for \$7 a plate. The football team will be introduced, and the band and cheerleaders will perform.

Participants should bring a chair for the tailgate and the game.

College fair

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and Orange County Schools will hold their annual college fair on Sept. 23 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Dean Smith Center on the UNC campus.

A number of college representatives will be available to answer questions about their schools. The event is targeted toward juniors and seniors, but all are welcome.

Sports Briefs

Golf scores

The high school women's golf Carolina Central Conference results are in. The first match was held at Chapel Ridge Golf Course in Pittsboro on Aug. 26. The tournament was hosted by Carrboro High.

- Team Results:
 1. CHHS 134
 2. S. Lee 136
 3. Northwood 139
 4. East CH 151
 5. Walter Williams 158
 6. Carrboro HS 173
 Individuals Results:
 1. Michelle Ahn CHHS 35
 2. Emily Brooks NHS 39
 3. Karli Heimbecker SL 39
 4. Alex Varner WW 40
 5. Mackie Kennihan ECH 40

The next conference match will be at Alamance Country Club on Sept. 9 hosted by Burlington's Walter Williams High School.

CHHS Field Hockey

Chapel Hill High School beat Asheville High School Saturday with a 4-3 victory.

The decisive goal was in penalty strokes scored by junior Alexis Hebert of Chapel Hill. Faith Westdorp successfully defended the goal in all but one of Asheville's attempts. Jessica Barfield also scored in strokes for the Tigers.

The Tigers and Cougars were tied 2-2 and remained scoreless through 2 sudden-death overtime periods. Hebert and Barbara Parks scored goals in regulation play.

Last fall, Chapel Hill High beat Asheville for the state championship title.

For the second year, the Tigers are coached by Diego Caballero.

Softball scores

The Carrboro Recreation & Parks 2008 Fall Co-Recreational Softball League standings are, as of August 21, as follows.

1. Ghost Riders 8-0
2. Cliff's Meat Market/ T-Roy's Towing 7-1
3. Cozart-Seagroves 6-2
4. 300 E. Main St. 5-3
5. Bread & Butter 5-3
6. Pink Floyd 4-4
7. Armadillo Grill 2-6

8. Fearington 2-6
 9. Toof Haus 1-7
 10. Sluggers of Catan 0-8
- The results of the Aug. 21 games are: Cliff's Meat Market/T-Roy's Towing def. Armadillo Grill 16-7; Ghost Riders def. Sluggers of Catan 33-1; Cozart Seagroves def. Toof Haus 16-0; 300 E. Main St. def. Bread & Butter 15-8; Pink Floyd def. Fearington 10-5.

CHS football trunk sale

The Carrboro High School football team will hold a trunk sale and silent auction extravaganza on Sept. 27 from 7 a.m. to noon in the school parking lot to raise money for the team.

Participants can rent a space to sell their stuff for \$15 or two spaces for \$25. The team will offer free advertising and help in setting up at the event. The team will also accept donations of items to sell and will pick up donated items.

The event will also feature concessions, music, games and a raffle.

For more information or to reserve a space, contact Amy Pinney at pinneytuna@aol.

New CHS soccer coach finds early success

by Timothy Billings
 Staff Writer

The beginning of the 2008-09 Carrboro High School men's soccer season couldn't have started off any better for first-year coach James Mundia, as his Jaguars won their home opener over Chatham Central High School by a score of 16-0, then prevailed in their first conference game, a 3-2 victory over Graham High.

The team dominated the field against Chatham Central on Wednesday, but Mundia wants to emphasize that the result of their first match would not lead

to impractical prognoses.

"The coaching staff doesn't want to have unrealistic expectations," Mundia said. "I mean, our first goal was to just win our home opener. Beyond that, we want to become top three in the conference and make the state championship tournament."

Mundia, a native of Kenya, is familiar with the Research Triangle area. He attended William G. Enloe High School in Raleigh and recently graduated from UNC with a degree in exercise and sports medicine. His prior coaching experience includes coaching the Emerson

Waldorf Middle School girl's basketball team and serving as a soccer instructor at the Dream Sports Center in Apex.

Led against Chatham Central by the senior leadership of co-captains Robert Kenny and Will Powell, each tallying four goals, the Jaguars displayed the attitude that Mundia has instilled in the team.

"The team shows up every day ready to compete and ready to win," said Mundia. "They are adjusting to the new fast-tempo system rapidly. They are extremely talented players."

We love our community and we want to work with you in providing local coverage! We can't be everywhere at once, so if you have school or sports events you want to see in the paper, fire off an email to editor@carrborocitizen.com. Send pictures too!

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HEALTH
FROM PAGE 1

State officials now acknowledge that too much money has been wasted in the provisioning of community support services and — granting that these services are vital for many who are poised to reintegrate back into their communities — that too much money is being allocated to them at the expense of services that are more time- and cost-intensive to provide — local in-patient care, for example, or everyday counseling.

The legislative report cites delays in securing federal approval of new services, which led to a delay in the implementation of oversight procedures, which in turn led to some new providers taking advantage of the system by “delivering an unchecked amount of services”; a failure to establish a baseline “against which to measure system performance and assess utilization and expenditures”; and reports to decision-makers that included “excessively dense data that are neither synthesized nor interpreted.”

In sum, the report is about mismanagement and abuses in the overhaul of our state’s pre-existing mental health care system — an initiative that most everyone now acknowledges is in serious need of some overhauling of its own.

What the report is not about is how mental health care reform is failing people — most particularly, those people most critically in need.

What remains unaddressed is whether the system we’ve put in place is structured to provide these more intensive services.

More to the point: Is it possible to provide comprehensive, effective mental health care services and make money at it?

Dr. Nicholas Stratas doesn’t think so. Stratas, a psychiatrist now in private practice in Raleigh, is one of the architects of a mental health care system in North Carolina that was, many years ago, considered a model of success. He served through the 1960s as deputy commissioner of what was then the state Department of Mental Health, which eventually was moved into the Department of Health and Human Services.

“How can you make money without cutting services?” Stratas asks. “I think it’s possible to make money at this, but it’s going to be at the cost of cherry-picking services” — providing only those services that are most cost effective — “and you’re going to have to provide truncated services. And you lose the integration of a unified system.”

A unified system, Stratas says, is essential to providing continuity of care, and continuity of care is “absolutely critical.”

“But now,” says Stratas, “we’ve got this person doing this piece and this person doing this other.”

Under the previous state-run system, community mental health clinics provided a broad suite of services under one roof.

Dr. Thomas Smith, an Asheville-based psychiatrist, is another longtime mental health care advocate who’s been vocal in his opposition to reform measures. He underscores the critical nature of those comprehensive, under-one-roof services.

People with mental illness, he says, often face prohibitive transportation issues — no driver’s license, no car, little money for a taxi and, in rural areas, few if any public-transportation options.

“So to have everything in a central location within a community mental health clinic,” Smith says, “that was great. And to let that be destroyed was absolutely atrocious.”

“Now there are private providers out there scattered here from hither to yon, all over the place; and it’s hard for these folks to get to them.”

Of cherry-picking services, Smith says: “Nobody wants to treat the difficult-to-manage folks,” those with whom it’s necessary to build a relationship over time,” those who are most in need.

Things changed

Jeff Kramer occupies a quiet space outside Weaver Street Market as a Friday afternoon gathers energy. He’s undisturbed; focused, in his manner. He’s a handsome young man; steady for the moment and sturdy. He’s on an out-patient commitment order, required to report once a month to Orange County’s community resource court. The court is a cooperative effort of the Orange County judicial and mental health systems that strives to

leased him after several days. The last time he was in there — it was January of this year — he stayed only several days, was very sick, very delusional, paranoid, and this woman — another patient — “kept kissing him.”

“They would say, ‘We can’t help him because he’s noncompliant. He doesn’t want to take his medicine.’ At the same time, that’s a classic symptom of paranoid schizophrenia. They also say he has zero insight — another classic symptom — and so they send him home.”

“The first time at Umstead,” Kramer says, “it was before all of these laws changed, and it was a good time. That was 2003. They kept him for, like, six weeks. They gave him the best treatment. I mean they really seemed to care.”

When Jeff was given his outpatient treatment plan, Kramer says, “they took so much time with me and Jeff” — doctors, social workers, a team of clinicians that he was to work with on the outside all participated.

“We all sat down and we covered this outpatient treatment plan in depth and my son actually followed it. It’s the only time in the five years that he has done that.”

Eventually, though, Jeff stumbled. “And then they changed everything,” Kramer says, “and they started keeping him two days, three days, a week if you’re lucky.” Most recently, he stayed two weeks.

A pill, a platitude, a pat on the back

The liaison community mental health clinics used to have with hospitals was an important element in continuity of care, helping ease the transition back into the community. Once out,

an ongoing relationship with a trusted professional is the next critical step.

“It takes time to build those things,” says Thomas Smith. “But they just threw that all to the four winds. Now it’s just a piecemeal thing.”

Smith refers to “P-P-P” clinics: “You come in and you get a pill, a platitude and a pat on the back.”

He hastens to add that there are certainly still good providers out there — but believes most are just in it for the money. And the continuity of service, that comprehensive suite of services delivered by a team, as a team, is what appears to be lost.

In order to be effective, says Nicholas Strata, that team should include a representative from a state institution, another from a local in-patient program, another from an out-patient program; a team to provide whatever the patient needs.

“The survivor in me, my inner peace,” says Jeff Kramer, “will find a way to survive and figure out some kind of method of dealing with reality.”

His mother isn’t nearly so sure.

This story is the first in a series about mental health care in North Carolina. The names of mental health care recipients and their family members have been changed.

“He always blames himself for the way he feels and thinks he can eventually work it out.”

help people who have mental health issues by linking sentences for selected offenses with services and support. After another brush with the law, and yet another brief stay in Umstead, Jeff is once again tasked to regain his footing.

Jeff has been refusing to take his medication. He’s taken it intermittently in the past, and his mother sees clear improvement in his ability to function when he does. He says now, though, that he’s through with it.

“They want to see me on medicine that is not doing anything but damage to my brain,” Jeff says. “When you put chemicals in the brain, they don’t do anything but harm. Antipsychotics will make someone sick.”

“He says he doesn’t have schizophrenia,” Valerie Kramer says. “He says it’s too bad that they convinced me of that. He says he thinks that it’s something that he did when he was younger, when he took the wrong path in life; maybe the drugs he did. He always blames himself for the way he feels and thinks he can eventually work it out. He told me the other day that he’d rather die than take the medication.”

Kramer has been frustrated by the care her son has received at UNC Hospitals: “They’ve turned him down; they’ve re-

Carolina ranked 5th best public university for 8th consecutive year

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ranks fifth among the nation’s best public universities for the eighth consecutive year, according to *U.S. News & World Report* magazine.

“Carolina is consistently recognized among the five best public universities in America,” said Chancellor Holden Thorp. “We find value in assessing the various measures that determine such rankings. In the case of *U.S. News*, we are most interested in results from areas including faculty resources and student success. Our focus is on retaining and attracting excellent faculty, who are the key to recruiting the very best students from North Carolina and beyond to Chapel Hill.”

The new rankings appear in the 2009 edition of the magazine’s “America’s Best Colleges” guidebook and were posted at www.usnews.com last Friday. The Sept. 1 edition of the magazine and the guide-

book hit newsstands this next week.

Among public universities, Berkeley was first, followed by Virginia (second) UCLA (third), Michigan (fourth) and UNC (fifth). Overall, Carolina ranked 30th among public and private national universities. In that list, other top publics ranked between 21st (Berkeley) and 26th (Michigan). UNC tied with Tufts University at 28th last year. The same 25 privates and five publics have appeared in the magazine’s top 30 spots for the last five years.

The rankings, which are dominated by private universities, are based on a formula factoring in responses to opinion surveys about academic quality from peer campus presidents, provosts or admissions officials. Objective data covers areas such as student graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

—UNC NEWS SERVICES

BOARD

FROM PAGE 1

Joal Hall Broun said she wanted to know more about how the phasing would affect the current tenants.

The project’s developer, Main Street Properties of Chapel Hill LLC, has developed a phasing plan designed to keep as many of the existing tenants operating while their new spaces are built, according to Laura Van Sant, the main spokesperson for the project.

Jacquie Gist said she wanted to see some thought put into the part of the hotel that would front Main Street. The plan right now, she said, has what looks like a “huge blank wall.”

The Butler

Prior to the opening of the public hearing on 300 East Main, the board provided some last-minute tweaks to The Butler, a two-building five-story condominium complex sandwiched between The ArtsCenter and the Libba Cotton bike path.

Construction on The Butler

— so named because it will be located on the property formerly known as Butler’s Garage — will begin after the developer has excavated and removed any contaminated soil on the site under a brownfields agreement with state environmental regulators.

Once built, The Butler will include 57 condominiums, 22,170 square feet of office space and a two-story parking deck. The development originally included nine affordable housing units, but under a deal worked out with the Orange Community Housing and Land Trust, the town and developer Downtown Urban Ventures, the building will include five units of affordable housing and the town would accept a payment in lieu for the other four units instead. The payment would be roughly \$100,000 per unit.

In other action, the board delayed a scheduled public hearing on proposed impervious surface requirements for day-care centers. The decision delayed until next month a review of changes that would allow for construction of a day-care center at the Winmore development.

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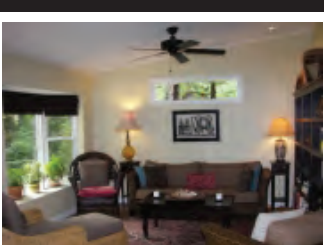
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TRIVIA FROM HELL



BY MARK DOROSIN

THIS WEEK'S CATEGORY:

19th-century Literature

- Who wrote *The Count of Monte Cristo*?
- What is the surname of the family in *Little Women*?
- What novel features the character Phileas Fogg?
- What 19th-century novel featured competing tribes called the Eloi and the Morlocks?
- Who wrote *Bartelby the Scrivener*?
- What is the basic premise of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*?
- Who created Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde?
- What is Madame Bovary's first name?
- In *Remembrance of Things Past*, what triggers Proust's (as the narrator) memory to recount the tale?
- What classic novel is subtitled "Prometheus Unbound"?
- How does the protagonist of *Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* avoid being burned at the stake at the beginning of the novel?

Carrboro resident Mark Dorosin is the quizmaster each Wednesday at Trivia Night at The Station.

TRIVIA ANSWERS: 1. Alexandre Dumas; 2. March; 3. *Around the World in 80 Days*; 4. *Time Machine*; 5. Melville; 6. The portrait ages and shows the debauched soul of the man; 7. R.L. Stevenson; 8. Emma; 9. A madeline (cookie); 10. *Frankenstein*; 11. Remembering a total eclipse, he claims he will block out the sun

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TO FEED ITS ANT WARRIORS, THE BULL-HORN HAS SUGAR-PRODUCING NECTAR GLANDS AND PROTEIN-RICH GROWTHS ON THE TIPS OF ITS LEAFLETS

THESE TWO UNRELATED LIFE FORMS, THE ANTS AND THE TREES, ARE SO DEPENDENT ON EACH OTHER THAT NEITHER ONE APPARENTLY SURVIVES FOR LONG WITHOUT THE OTHER

ANTHS, LIKE MANY OF THE OTHER INHABITANTS OF THE TROPICAL FOREST, HAVE ADAPTED TO LIFE IN THE TREETOPS

THE LARGE PAIRED HORNS OF THE BULL-HORN ACACIA ARE HOLLOWED OUT BY ANTS FOR LIVING QUARTERS

JACK ZLROD



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

The closed flower of halberd-leaved swamp mallow is colorful on the second day. Note the halberd-shaped leaf characteristic of this species.

FLORA FROM PAGE 1

it. So when I saw hundreds of plants this past week down east growing along the edge of the Black River, it was as exciting as seeing the 2000-year-old cypress trees. The natural distribution of this hibiscus seems to be along a narrow corridor of swamps and rivers just inland of where salt-water tidal action bears influence. My limited observations have always found them standing "soldier tall" along river edges in one to two feet of water. One explanation for the

visible scarcity of these plants may be that seeds can only germinate on exposed riverbank soil during periods of very low water. That means those seeds have to be quick to germinate and seedlings must mature before the return to normal water levels.

For me, the most appealing characteristic is the plant's habit of hanging onto each spent flower for a second day. The pendulous deep-pink tubular flower of the second day seems completely unrelated to the wide-open pinwheel flower of the first day. The cylindrical twisting of the day-old flower is

most likely the plant's strategy for insuring self pollination if the preferred insect cross pollination of the open flower does not occur on the previous day. Better to have self pollination rather than no pollination at all. Some plants are like that. There is much to contemplate when looking at a flower.

If you travel east during the upcoming Labor Day weekend, keep your eyes alert when driving over rivers and seek out walking trails through swamps and along coastal rivers for a chance spotting of these tall, pink-flowered mallows.

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learned Norwegian. It's a great place to go to school — there's no tuition."

Returning home to Wilmington, he found work building super-tankers, audited classes at UNC-Wilmington and saved his money. After building a refrigerator truck (which he still has), he hit the road, selling fish fresh from the Carolina waters. Each time he'd find himself selling fish in Chapel Hill, he realized that it was where he sold the most. In 1977, he bought Perseverance Produce, a store started by four students on Rosemary at Church behind Colonel Chutneys (now Pantana Bob's). He made fish the main draw while working half-way through a master's degree in environmental science before giving up everything but the fish. He was in that location for five years before moving into the concrete block building across the street from where the Farmers' Market was then held, where he continues to sell fish three days a week.

When I confessed to Robinson about the fish I'd bought "off the road," he informed me that they

might not have accurate scales and that besides not being regulated like he is (by the FDA, the NC Department of Agriculture, the NC Division of Marine Fisheries and the Office of Shellfish Sanitation) they also do not pay taxes of any kind.

Nor could they have the kind of loyal customers who visit Robinson every week.

Charlie Wiss has been buying fish there since moving to Carrboro in 1993. "I came in by myself but now I'm married and have kids," Wiss said.

"I've seen people's kids go away to college who were babies when their parents started coming," said Robinson, 57.

Alex Anderson moved here from Scotland via Jamaica with a 20-year stop in Florida. He said, "I've been coming here quite a few years." He finds Robinson engaging. "I usually do the listening. I don't even look at fish anywhere else," Anderson said.

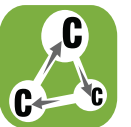
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WATER WATCH * WEDNESDAY, JULY 30



LAKE LEVELS

UNIVERSITY LAKE: 2' 7.75" below full
CANE CREEK RESERVOIR: 4' 7.5" below full

PRECIPITATION THIS MONTH

JONES FERRY WATER TREATMENT PLANT: 7.32"
CANE CREEK RESERVOIR: 3.73"

CUSTOMER WATER DEMAND

Past 7 days (average): 8.158 million gallons
Past 30 days (average): 8.519 million gallons

ESTIMATED WATER SUPPLY REMAINING:

322 days worth (about 10 months), based on average demand in the last 30 days, and assuming no further rainfall.

[tip]:

Install an instant water heater on your kitchen sink so you don't have to let the water run while it heats up. This will also reduce heating costs for your household.

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7	4	5	3	2	1	9	8	6

CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER:
The grass is not, in fact, always greener on the other side of the fence. Fences have nothing to do with it. The grass is greener where it is watered. When crossing over fences, carry water with you and tend the grass wherever you may be. — Robert Fulghum