### This Weekend



# THE CARRBORO JITIZEN



carrborocitizen.com

NOVEMBER 13, 2008 ◆ LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED ◆ VOLUME II NO. XXXV

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE The purplish flowers of the leafless, parasitic beech-drops can be found now in the forests beneath beech trees.

BY KEN MOORE

### A walk in the rain

ave Otto, organizer of the monthly Friends of Bolin Creek walks, and I had considered rescheduling due to predicted rain. Impulsively, I suggested we proceed as planned and enjoy exploring nature in nature's conditions.

Some hardy individuals showed up at Wilson Park appropriately attired and we charged off to the Adams Tract trailhead kiosk where we borrowed one of the laminated trail map/tree description guides, a nice amenity provided for trail walkers.

Once in the woods our pace frequently slowed to a standstill as various ones paused to take "closer looks" or pose some kind of "I wonder" idea.

Noticeable as we walked up through the mixed forest of pines hardwoods was an extensive shrub cover of invasive exotic Chinese privet, Ligustrum sinense, and two species of Russian olive, Eleagnus umbellata and evergreen E. pungens, threaded together at ground level with Japanese honeysuckle, Lonicera sempervirens, and high above with the tree strangling Chinese wisteria, Wisteria sinensis. We all expressed willingness to help out whenever an organized workday is scheduled to remove these undesirable exotics.

Sadly missing from our group on this wet day were young people. We see so much more when led by their eager minds and alert eyes. So we challenged ourselves to see with the eyes of children

SEE FLORA PAGE 12

Mel Rashkis remembered

pages 3, 7

**PROMO** 

**INDEX** 

## Merritt looks forward to the task ahead

**BY KIRK ROSS** 

Staff Writer

James Merritt received the unanimous endorsement of the Chapel Hill Town Council Monday night to serve the remainder of the term of the late Bill Thorpe.

The 8-0 vote came after the council considered Merritt and five other applicants in their search for a replacement for Thorpe, whose term would have ended next November.

Merritt is a Chapel Hill native and though he lived in Hampton, Va. from 1971 until he moved back home in 2004, his roots here run deep.

"That's my mother and that's my grandfather," he said, pointing to a black-and-white photo on the wall of the entryway of his mother, Effie's, home on McDade Street.

At the time the photo was taken, Clarence Irving Nunn farmed a large plot of land he owned on Millhouse Road. Chapel Hill's Town Operation Center is now where the family home once stood.

Many of his relatives were part of the tightknit community north of town in the Rogers Road and Eubanks Road area. Merritt has fond memories of his grandfather's place, but growing up he was a townie; and though he now lives on Crest Drive, he can often be found in his old McDade Street stomping grounds. A 1961 graduate of Lincoln High, the 64-yearold Merritt remembers when Church Street was the only paved road in the area.

SEE **MERRITT** PAGE 7



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

James Merritt in front of his mother's home on McDade Street. His boyhood home stood on the same lot.



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

Samantha Terrell, aka "Butter Bean," pops a wheelie as she pilots her pink tractor at the Garden Mower Pull at the White Cross Community Center Saturday. The benefit pull, sponsored by Orange County Pullers, raised more than \$3,600 for the Wiseman family of Hillsborough. More details and results can be found at orangecountypullers.net

### BREAKDOWN: A SERIES ON MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN NC

### Difficult decisions in a void

**BY TAYLOR SISK** 

Staff Writer

This story is the fifth in a series about mental health care in North Carolina. To read the previous stories in the series, go to www. carrborocitizen.com The decision to institutionalize or

forcibly medicate a loved one suffering from mental illness is clearly very difficult. Balancing the desire to protect that person from harm against the wish to respect his or her free will is a delicate, imprecise calculation, particularly when the loved one is an adult. Opting for involuntary commitment or forced medication requires faith that sustained, comprehensive care will be available.

But families in North Carolina are losing faith. Because beds and services for long-term care are all but nonexistent, those most critically in need are increasingly becoming the most neglected.

"The hospitals are too busy," says Carol VanderZwaag, a psychiatrist at XDS Inc., a nonprofit mental health drugs he was taking for his disorder. care provider in Chapel Hill. "The stays have gotten ridiculously short, and the rehabilitation beds - which are the longer-term beds - are essentially shut down right now."

Area mental health care providers say that getting a patient in for more than a week stay is all but impossible - even in situations when such patients may pose a threat to others or to themselves.

Anita and Larry Shirley of Carrboro know this all too well. Their struggle to come to grips with how much pressure they could exert on a family member to continue seeking treatment was a struggle made immeasurably worse by North Carolina's post-reform mental health care system.

David Shirley was diagnosed with bipolar disorder in 1996, at age 11. Over the course of the next few years, "he muddled through," says his mother, Anita. But in 2002, his school work began to deteriorate and he seemed to be suffering more frequently from depression and from the side effects of the

In 2003, David began having rages in which he would throw things and break windows and get into altercations with his younger brother, Chris.

David asked to be admitted to an institution. What ensued over the next couple of years was what his father, Larry, calls "this in-and-out thing" - in and out of state institutions, a couple of private hospitals and a wilderness program.

"Basically, the care that he got [at the state institutions] was just to stabilize," Larry Shirley says. "As long as he stopped being violent, then it was just trying to get him out as quickly as possible."

At one institution, Shirley says, the chief psychiatrist actually laughed in his face when he asked if his son was going to receive therapy.

"He said, 'Therapy? Therapy? Are you kidding me? This is not about therapy. This is just about getting to a point where we can get him out of here and hopefully he won't kill himself or anyone else."

SEE **DECISIONS** PAGE 7

### **Sidewalks** could be delayed

**BY SUSAN DICKSON** 

Staff Writer

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen on Tuesday approved the town's 2009-10 Capital Improvement Plan, but left open the possibility of delaying some sidewalk projects because of the uncertain economic climate.

Several board members said they were hesitant to move forward with non-essential projects during difficult economic times and would like to work with staff to determine which projects are essential and which aren't. The \$33.3 million CIP includes greenways, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, the Northern Area Fire Substation, park maintenance and repair, the Public Works facility, sidewalks, street resurfacing, town parking lots, Weaver Street reconstruction, information technology improvements and equipment/vehicle lease-purchase.

Costs of the recommended CIP projects are equivalent to about 20 cents on the town tax rate, or about 29 percent of the current tax rate.

Board member Jackie Gist said she would like to find a way to link revenues from planned developments to non-essential projects in the town's CIP so that the projects wouldn't be developed until the town began receiving revenue from the planned developments.

"Years ago, we decided that in order to pay for some of the things that the town wanted ... we would increase the density downtown in order to increase our non-residential tax base so that we could have the services that some citizens were asking for," Gist said.

Board member Dan Coleman said he would like to explore the possibility of delaying sidewalk projects planned for 2009-10.

Sidewalk projects account for about \$5 million of the 2009-10 CIP.

A 2003 bond referendum authorized the town to spend up to \$4.6 million on sidewalks and greenway trails. Phase one included 20 projects throughout Carrboro and the town has completed 2.82 miles of the 5.74 miles of proposed sidewalk projects.

Construction has begun on sidewalks along James Street and remaining sidewalk projects include Shelton, Bim, Ashe, Estes, Elm, Pine and Davie.

SEE **SIDEWALKS** PAGE 9

## A house to write at home about

### **RECENTLY...**

By Valarie Schwartz

It's sometimes hard to tell when a novelist is working. Except for the novel she wrote in the mid-1960s, Joyce Allen didn't have much time for fiction writing while raising six children and during a career managing the student program in the department of epidemiology at UNC from 1974 to '95.

Her second novel was published this year, but it came from the germ of an idea that had hatched while her family lived in a house on Chestnut Ridge Road not far from where Cane Creek Reservoir is now, in a house she and her husband built in 1974.

Hannah's House (Wolf's Pond Press, 2008) grew from a discovery she made at that home site, where nearby many years prior someone else had built a house and made a life.

"I was fascinated by the remains of the old cabin," Allen said. "I found the filled-in well. It was a log house with three tiers of logs; a small house. I couldn't find out anything about the people."



### MUSIC CALENDAR

#### **THURSDAY NOV 13**

Blue Bayou: Lucy Sumner & Her New Band. 9pm

Cat's Cradle: Badfish, Scotty Don't, Simplified. 8:30pm, \$15-18

The Cave: EARLY: Last Watch. LATE: Spider Bags, Rongo Rongo,

Local 506: Brightblack Morning Light, Zomes. 9:30pm, \$8-10

**Reservoir:** The Moaners, The Trampskirts. 10pm

#### **FRIDAY NOV 14**

!00 Yorktown

The ArtsCenter: ELM Collective and Charanga Carolina. 8:30pm, \$12-15

Blue Bayou Club: Peter Tork & The Blue Suede Shoes. 9:30pm

Cat's Cradle: Toadies, People in Planes, Boxbomb. 7pm, \$13-15

The Cave: EARLY: Potato Gun. LATE: Dynamite Brothers, Razpa

City Tap: Blue Diablo. 8pm Local 506: The Huguenots, The

Sammies, Magic Babies. 10pm Nightlight: Nourish International presents Global Music Jam hosted

**Reservoir:** Wootini after party with Colossus. 10pm

by WXYC DJ's. 9pm

#### **SATURDAY NOV 15**

**Blue Bayou:** Da' Muthas. 9:30pm Cat's Cradle: Bill Evans Soulgrass with Sam Bush, No Strings Attached. 7pm, \$18-22

The Cave: EARLY: Hwyl. LATE: Rooster For The Masses, Rat Jackson, Arizona

City Tap: Killer Filler. 8pm

Local 506: Future Islands, Ear Pwr, Lonnie Walker. 10pm, \$5

Nightlight: Darsombra, Pacific Before Tiger, Ala Muerta. 10pm

#### **SUNDAY NOV 16**

Cat's Cradle: Black Sheep, Nice & Smooth, Orgone. 9:30pm, Free **Global Education Center:** Amjad Sabri. 6pm

### **MONDAY NOV 17**

Cat's Cradle: Every Time I Die, The Bronx, Stick to Your Guns, My Hero Is Me, The Hottness. 7pm, \$15

The Cave: Shesha, Mietek Glinkowski Trio

Local 506: Chuck Hughes' Hillbilly Hellcats, The Tremors. 9:30pm, \$10

### **TUESDAY NOV 18**

Blue Bayou: Open Blues Jam with Butch Haas. 8pm

Cat's Cradle: Electric Six, Local H 8:45pm, \$12-15

Local 506: Silver Apples, Grails 9:30pm, \$10

General Store Café: Laine and Avis duo, Rusty McIntosh, Max and Ann Drake & Friends. 6pm

Nightlight: Lake Inferior, The Nothing Noise, When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth, 9:30pm



### **WEDNESDAY NOV 19**

Cat's Cradle: Amy Ray, Jennifer O'Connor. 9pm, \$15

Local 506: Hoots & Hellmouth, Aminal Music. 9:15pm, \$8

Nightlight: Alcazar Hotel, Jokes-JokesJokes, Vodak. 9:30pm

### **THURSDAY NOV 20**

The ArtsCenter: Chris Hillman & Herb Pedersen, Shannon Whitworth. 8pm, \$22-25

**Blue Bayou:** 8 Eyes. 8:30pm Cat's Cradle: Jedi Mind Tricks, Outerspace, Reef the Lost Cause. 9:30pm, \$16-18

The Cave: The Cave: EARLY: Brett Rosenberg & Holden Richards LATE: Luego, Tripp

Local 506: Centro-matic, One Baptist General, South San Gabriel.

9pm, \$8 Nightlight: Escapement, Club of

### Rome, The Puttys. 9:30pm **FRIDAY NOV 21**

The Whiskey Smugglers

Blue Bayou Club: Edsel 500.

Cat's Cradle: Perpetual Grove.

10pm, \$15-20 The Cave: EARLY: Comedy with Johnny Cook LATE: SaintSolitude,

City Tap: Blue Diablo. 8pm

Local 506: Stella By Starlight, Mike Posner & The Brain Trust, Juan Huevos. 10pm, \$6

Nightlight: CLARQ n CARO-LINE, Shallow be thy Name, Impossible Hair, Tender Fruit. 9:30pm

### **SATURDAY NOV 22**

Blue Bayou: Adrian Duke. 9:30pm

Cat's Cradle: Mates of State, Brother Reade. 9pm, \$12-14

The Cave: EARLY: Brian McGee LATE: Awesome, Lud record release show

Local 506: Neil Halstead, Ryan Gustafson. 9pm, \$10-12

**Nightlight:** The Vinyl Records Show. 10pm

**Reservoir:** Caltrop, Night of the Wold, Curtains of Night

### **SUNDAY NOV 23**

The ArtsCenter: Michael Gulezian, Shannon McArthur (Benefit for Ovarian Cancer National Alliance). \$5pm, \$18

Cat's Cradle: Method Man & Redman, Termanology. 9:30pm, \$30 Local 506: Sugar in the Dirt, Br'er,

The End of the World. 9pm, Free



### SPOTLIGHT



### **ARTWALK**

The weather forecast for Friday calls for a warm, overcast evening — perfect for a tour of local galleries and displays set up for the 2nd Friday Artwalk. Shows, openings and celebration include mixed media paintings by Maggie Grace at Fleet Feet Studios; drawings and painting by Mayanna Williams and woodfired ceramics by Susan Wells at the N.C. Crafts Gallery, a tattoo art show at Wootini (appropriately titled "This Won't Hurt a Bit") and paintings by Jennifer Padilla at Panzanella.

In addition, there's an Orange County Artists' Guild - Studio Tour Show at The ArtsCenter with the East End Gallery featuring Magnetic Faces: paintings, drawings, prints by Louise Zjawin Francke; a ceramics show and sale in The ArtsCenter's Pottery Studio, (6-9 p.m.) and an open jazz jam in the West End Theater, starting at 8 p.m.

And if you haven't been by yet, you may want to take the opportunity to check out 1958, an exhibit that focuses on the tumultuous changes in the art world and beyond in that year.

You can check out the exhibit online at ackland.org

Pictured Above: Kenneth Noland's "That" from the Ackland's 1958 Exhibit

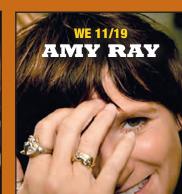
Kenneth Noland, American, born 1924: /That/, 1958-59; oil on canvas, 83 x 83 inches. Collection of David Mirvish, Toronto. Art @ Kenneth Noland/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY





LOCAL H







TH 11/13 BADFISH W/SCOTTY DON'T, SIMPLIFIED AND **SKYWIRE**\*\*(\$16/\$18) FR 11/14 TOADIES\*\*(\$13/\$15) W/PEOPLE IN PLANES, BOXBOMB SA 11/15 BILL EVANS' SOULGRASS FEAT. SAM BUSH\*\*(\$18/\$22) W/NO STRINGS ATTACHED

PRESENTED BY LINCOLN THEATRE SU 11/16 SCION PRESENTS BLACK SHEEP W/NICE & SMOOTH PERFORMING LIVE WITH ORGONE, DJ SET BY J. PERIOD (TRUELEMENTS RADIO) FREE SHOW: RSVP @ SCION.COM/LIVEMETRO M0 11/17 EVERY TIME I DIE W/THE BRONX, STICK TO YOUR GUNS, MY HERO IS ME, THE HOTNESS

18 ELECTRIC SIX/ LOCAL H\*\*(\$12/\$15) WE 11/19 AMY RAY W/JENNIFER O'CONNOR\*\*(\$15)

JEDI MIND TRICKS

FR 11/21\*\*(\$15/\$20)
PERPETUAL
GROOVE

MATES OF STATE SU 11/23 METHOD MAN & REDMAN W/TERMANOLOGY\*\*(\$30)

AUGUSTANA W/THE WAR\*\*(\$15)

WE 11/26 PRE TURKEY DAY
JAM: JON SHAIN, MARK
SIMONSEN, DJANGO
HASKINS, GREG
HUMPHREYS (SONGWRITER
SET); PIEDMONT SHEIKS;
YOUNG NEIL AND THE
DAMAGE DONE FR 11/28 MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA

**KEVIN DEVINE, ALL GET OUT\*\*(\$10/\$12)** A 11/29 THE BACKBEAT & HEGE V\*\*

8U 11/30 FASTBALL\*\*(\$12/\$15) DOG ANNIVERSARY\*\*(\$//\$10) VELVET, ROXCETERA, SNMNMNM, JEGHETTO HIGH & MIGHTIES

WE 12/3 JAY CLIFFORD\*\*(\$10/\$13) R 12/5 STEEP CANYON
RANGERS\*\*(\$10)
W/SHANNON WHITWORTH SA 12/6 YO MAMA'S BIG FAT BOOTY BAND\*\*(\$10)

TU 12/9 OHGR\*\*(\$17/\$20) FR 12/12 TAB BENOIT\*\*(\$18/\$20)

PRESENTED BY THE BLUE BAYOU CLUB SA 12/13 SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS\*\*(\$12/\$14)

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THE BUTCHERS
AND VERMILLION LIES THE ARTSCENTER (CAR) TH 11/20 🧲 W/SHANNON WHITWORTH WE 12/3

LOCAL 506 (CH)

IOOTS AND HELI W/AMINAL MUSIC

W/RYAN GUSTAFSON (OF BOXBOMB)

TU 12/2 HAYES CARL W/JOHN EVANS BAND

SA 12/6 RADAR BRO

W/ELF POWER

LINCOLN THEATRE (RAL)

PALMER OF DRESDEN DOLLS

SA 11/22 N

WE 1/21/09

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### **News Briefs**

### **Transfer station meeting**

The Orange County Board of Commissioners will hold a public comment meeting on siting a solid-waste transfer station on Monday at 7 p.m. at the McDougle Middle School cafetorium.

The board hopes to familiarize citizens with the three candidate sites under consideration for the transfer station. accept public comment on these sites and address other concerns. The board is developing a solid-waste transfer station because the county landfill is projected to reach capacity in

The three candidate sites designated by the board for public comment are located north of Hwy. 54 at Morrow Mill Road, west of Orange Grove Road and east of Stanford Road. For more information regarding these sites and the site-selection process, visit www.olver.com/orangecounty McDougle is located a 900 Old Fayetteville Road.

### Dog tethering ordinance to pass

The Orange County Board of Commissioners is set to approve an ordinance restricting dog tethering in Orange County on Tuesday, following a 4-1 vote on the issue last week.

State law requires a second reading on ordinances that are not unanimously approved.

If approved, the ordinance would restrict tethering to no more than three hours within a 24-hour period, specify types of collars and equipment permissible for tethering and require minimum kennel sizes. Certain organized and lawful animal functions and circumstances would be exempt.

Commissioner Valerie Foushee voted against the ordinance, saying she believed the three-hour limit was too short.

### Police seek Jack Sprat break-in info

The Chapel Hill Police Department seeks information regarding a Friday break-in at Jack Sprat on Franklin Street.

The back door of the business was pried open between the hours of 11 p.m. and 8 a.m and cash was taken from a secure location inside.

If anyone has information concerning this break-in, please call either the Chapel Hill Police Department at 968-2760 or Crime Stoppers at 942-7515. Calls to Crime Stoppers are confidential and anonymous and the caller may be eligible for a cash reward up to \$2,000 for information that leads to arrest.

### WERA celebrates EJ award

The West End Revitalization Association has been awarded a National Environmental Justice Achievement Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a grant from the National Institute of Environment Health Sciences. The awards will be acknowledged at WERA's 14th Annual Fundraising Awards Dinner on Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. at the Cutting Board Restaurant, 2699 Ramada Road, Burlington. Tickets are \$20 per person and tax-deductible donations will help cover the cost of senior citizens and youth. For information, call Natasha Bumpass at 321-1296 or email natasha-wera@earthlink.net

# Veterans Day



Cold temperatures Tuesday morning did not deter a crowd from attending the Veterans Day services at the new memorial between Phillips Hall and Memorial Hall on campus. The event was moved outside after a fire at Gerard Hall over the weekend caused more than \$50,000 damage to the building. Campus police say they believe that the fire was intentionally set.

### Mel Rashkis remembered for his service

**BY KIRK ROSS** 

Staff Writer

A few years back, some students from Rashkis Elementary School compiled the oral histories of some of this community's leading lights. One of those recordings became a little more precious last weekend. Mel Rashkis died Saturday at UNC Hospitals. He was 90.

Years from now when people wonder about the couple for whom Rashkis Elementary is named, when they're curious about the origin of Zora Rashkis' doll collection on display at the school, there will be Mel's recording to guide them.

At his funeral service on Monday at the Judea Reform Cemetery on Jones Ferry Road, more than 100 people turned out to honor Rashkis' life, work and dedication to his community, including Congressman David Price, former educator Lillian Lee and Rashkis Elementary Principal Deshera Mack.

"It's difficult, if not impossible, to talk about Mel without talking about Zora," said Kim Hoke, executive director of the Public School Foundation. The two were a powerful force in the community—he an enterprising real estate entrepreneur and she an English teacher with a passion for education.

Hoke said there was so much energy and commitment in the two, it was hard to believe they were at an age when so many people start to take it easy. Among their many accomplishments together was the endowment of a teaching grant with

the foundation for middle school with felt special and carried a language arts. And after the school shootings in Columbine, Colorado, Mel Rashkis stepped up to forge the Community Alliance for Student Success — an effort to better connect families and schools.

"He was deeply disturbed by Columbine and wanted to find ways to prevent that happening here," said Hoke.

It's just one example of Mel Rashkis' energy and drive.

Writer Valarie Schwartz, who interviewed the couple many times and often lunched with them, said Mel Rashkis was driven by a genuine interest in understanding the lives of others.

"He just really deeply cared about people. He reached out to people in all walks of life," she said. "Everyone he crossed paths new smile after he passed by."

The Rashkis' Coker Hills home was an open, welcoming place almost from the time they first arrived in the community.

The school that bears the family name was a special place of pride as well.

"Mel would take everybody to the school," Schwartz said. After the couple moved to The Cedars, there were new folks to get to know. "Mel treated everyone equally — he knew the housekeepers at The Cedars by name and treated them with the same regard as the retirees, some of whom had known fabulous careers. He had to know every server by name and was interested in what they did when they weren't working and the aspirations they held."

### **HOW TO REACH US**

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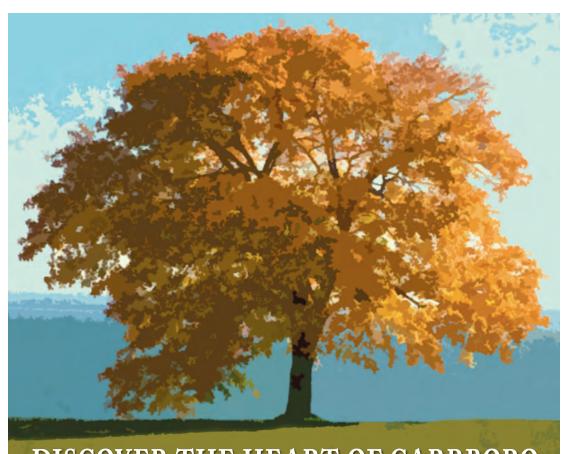
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# Community

### **Community Briefs**

### Seymour arts and crafts

The Seymour Center for Seniors Arts and Crafts Committee will host a holiday arts and crafts fair on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3p.m. Forty-five vendors will display handcrafted items for sale, including jewelry, pottery, woodwork, quilts, wreaths, floral arrangements, ornaments and artwork.

The Seymour Center is located at 2551 Homestead Road in Chapel Hill. For more information, call 968-2070.

### **Carson 5k for education**

The inaugural Eve Carson Memorial 5K for Education will be held Saturday at 10 a.m.

Pi Beta Phi sorority and Phi Delta Theta fraternity organized the race in order to raise funds for Eve's scholarship foundation, the Clyde Erwin Elementary School in Onslow County and First Book, a nonprofit that gives books to preschool children from low-income families.

Registration will begin on Polk Place on the UNC campus at 8 a.m. Children's activities will be available. Kids under 7 run free and dogs on leashes are welcome to run.

Registration is \$20 on the day of the race or \$18 online before the race. For more information, to register or to donate, visit education for eve. com

### **Butter sculpture demonstration**

UNC will host a demonstration of the ancient Tibetan Buddhist art form of butter sculptures on Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at the FedEx Global Education Center.

A traditional ceremony presenting the finished sculptures will be held at 1:45 p.m.

The demonstration will be hosted in conjunction with International Education Week at UNC with support from the Himalayan Society.

### **Fix-A-Home project**

The Greater Chapel Hill Association of Realtors will host the Second Annual Fix-A-Home Project on Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 2105 Neville Road in Chapel Hill.

Through Fix-A-Home, Realtors and volunteer workers help those who are physically or financially unable to make needed repairs to their homes or properties.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Christine Khoury at 225-1393.

### Pilobolus dance performs

More than 1,200 area children will see the internationally renowned dance troupe Pilobolus on Nov. 21 at Memorial Hall on the UNC campus.

The show is the third Carolina Performing Arts Student Matinee. More than 20 Triangle schools are bringing students

The dance troupe will perform three different pieces for the matinee: "Walklyndon," "Pseudopodia" and "Lanterna Magica," the company's newest piece. Pilobolus has been praised for its educational initiative, The Pilobolus Institute, which hosts adult workshops, summer camps for kids, community workshops, inschool and after-school programming and full-scale residencies.

Pilobolus also will perform to a sold-out audience at 8 p.m. that evening as part of Carolina Performing Arts' 2008-09 Dance Series.

### A Panoramic Portrait of America

McIntyre's Fine Books will present a screening of the short film State by State: A Panoramic Portrait of America on Nov. 20 from 7 to 8 p.m.

The 38-minute film features interviews and original writing on all 50 states by 50 novelists, journalists and essayists, including Daphne Beal, Alison Bechdel, Will Blythe, Charles Bock, Anthony Bourdain, Susan Choi, Joshua Ferris, Dagoberto Gilb, Myla Goldberg, Paul Greenberg, John Hodgman, and more.

The event is free and open to the public. McIntyre's Fine Books is located in Fearrington Village on Hwy. 15-501 south of Chapel Hill. For more information, call 542-3030, email books@fearrington.com or visit www.fearrington.com

### **Redefining Journalism**

McIntyre's Fine Books at Fearrington Village and the Media Law Resource Center will present a discussion entitled "Online News-Redefining Journalism?" at 11 a.m., Nov. 22 at McIntyre's.

The discussion will feature two experts on media and law: local attorney Mark Prak and WRAL TV and online sports managing editor Dane Huffman. The presentation will address the media's use of the Internet, news organizations' interaction with their audience online, the use of content submitted by readers and viewers, blogs kept by media staff or others and more.

The event is free and open to the public. McIntyre's Fine Books is located in Fearrington Village on Hwy. 15-501 south of Chapel Hill. For more information, call 542-3030, email books@fearrington.com or visit www.fearrington.com

### **Community Calendar**

#### Special Events Latin American Film Festival

- Nov. 2 to 21, at different locations in the Triangle and elsewhere. latinfilmfestivalnc.com

Seventh Annual Carrboro CD and Record Show - Nov.16, noon-6pm. 40 tables of new and used CDs, records and music memorabilia. Carrboro Century Center. 260-0661. Free

Lung Cancer Awareness Symposium - Nov. 17, 4pm. Lineberger Cancer Center hosts panel discussion in lung cancer. Pre-registration required. 843-0937, www. unclineberger.org/events/lca

Moms Networking — Nov. 17, 6:30-8:30pm. Workshop on developing an effective business plan. Presented by Carl Baumann and Hugh Morrison of SCORE. Chapel Hill Public Library downstairs meeting room. RSVP and info at denise@momsnetworking.org, www.momsnetworking.org

### **Durham-Orange Quilter's Guild** — Nov. 17, 7:30pm.

Hillsborough textile artist Hollis Chatelain will lecture on West African Textiles. Grace Church, 200 Sage Rd., Chapel Hill. 544-3285, www.durhamorangequilters.com

Davie Poplar DAR — Nov 19, 9:30am. Members will discuss genealogical topics of interest at the Horace Williams House. 932-9688

### Little Prince Sneak Peek

— Nov. 19, noon. Bring a lunch and meet the director and have a behind-the-scenes look at Playmakers Repertory company presentation of the Little Prince. Paul Green Theater, UNC Campus. 962-7529

Back County Crimes — Nov. 20-22, 8pm. Every small town has its secrets and the local doctor knows most of them. A community drama production nightly at Chatham Mills, 489 Hillsboro St. in Pittsboro. Tickets \$8 available at Chatham Marketplace and at the door. Not recommended for children under 13. Dress warmly.

**Bird Club** — Nov. 24, 7:30pm. "Birding Alaska's Remote Corners" speakers Lena Gallitano and Norm Budnitz. Refreshments at 7:15. Binkley Baptist Church, Chapel Hill.

### **Vegetarian Society**

Thanksgiving — Nov. 27, 12-5pm. Triangle Vegetarian Society holds Thanksgiving dinner at Café Parizäde. All food vegan. Reservation and information www.trianglevegsociety org/thanksgiving08/

Holiday Faire — Dec. 6, 10am-4pm. Fun, games, and gifts. Emerson Waldorf School, 6211 New Jericho Road, Chapel Hill. 967-1858, www. emersonwaldorf.org

#### St. Matthew's Festival of the Society Tree — Dec. 6, 10am-5pm; Dec. 7 I-5pm. Handmade items for sale, carols and more. Proceeds benefit charity. www. stmatthewshillsborough.org

### Sunday Afternoons at the **Seymour Center** — Dec. 7, 3pm. Carol Woods Jazz Combo presents Dixieland tunes with guest

Foster Owen on banjo. Seymour Center, Chapel Hill.

### Holiday 5k and Family Fun

Run — Dec. 14, 2pm, registration at noon. Proceeds benefit community charity. T-shirts for 400 racers, face painting, refreshments and arts and crafts. Registration and information www.sv5k.com

### Nightlight Arts & Crafts Fair

— Dec. 21, 2-6pm. All artists invited to sell works. Submissions of description, website links and photos due Dec. 7. nightlightinfo@ gmail.com, www.nightlightclub.com

Pittsboro First Sundays — 12-4pm. Food, arts and crafts and music on Hillsboro Street. 260-9725, pittsboroshops.com

### **Dance**

Contra — Nov. 14, 7:30-11pm. Triangle Country Dancers present Contranella, Tom Calwell, Myra Hirschberg. Lesson at 7:30. Carrboro Century Center. \$7-9. www.tcdancers.org

**Contra** — Nov. 15, 7:30-IIpm. Triangle Country Dancers present David DiGiuseppe, Pete Campbell, Joy Greenwolfe. Talley Student Center, NCSU campus. Lesson at 7:30. \$5-9. www.tcdancers.org

Contra — Dec. 19, 7:30pm. Music by the Donnybrook Lads. Carrboro Century Center. 967-9948. www.csda-dance.org \$8

The Chocolate Factory — Jan. 17, 2 and 6pm. Studio A Dancers present an adaptation of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. East Chapel Hill High Auditorium. \$5, tickets available www.dancecentre. net/blog

**Ballroom** — Fourth and fifth Thursdays, 7-9:30pm. Seymour Senior Center, 2551 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill. 968-2070. \$2

Carrboro DanceJam — First Fridays. Free-style dance. Balanced Movement Studio, 304 W. Weaver St. upstairs. 968-8776

Havana Nights — First and third Thursdays, 10pm. Cuban Salsa. Mansion 462, 462 W. Franklin St. 967-7913, www.mansion462.net

Salsa/Mambo — Third Saturdays, lesson 8pm, dance 8:30-11pm. Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 4702 Garrett Road, Durham. salsa\_4u2@ yahoo.com, 358-4201, \$7

#### Triangle Stardusters Ballroom Dance — Second Saturdays, 8-IIpm. Fred Astaire Dance Studio. 24702 Garrett Road, Durham. \$7 members, \$12 guests. Couples and singles welcome. 942-7232

### Faith

Advent Lutheran — 9am Bible study classes for all ages, 10:30am worship service. Advent Holiday Boutique, Nov. 8, 9am-Ipm. 230 Erwin Road. 968-7680. adventlutheranch.org

Comentarios y preguntas al betsy@carrborocitizen.com

### **Buddhist Teachings and Meditation** — Wednesdays,

7-8:30pm. With ordained monk and resident teacher Gen Kelsang Tilopa. The Kosala Mahayana Buddhist center teaches traditional Kadampa Buddhist practice. 711 W. Rosemary St. 619-5736, www. meditationinchapelhill.org

Discovering Buddhism: How to Meditate — Mondays, 7pm. Kadampa Center for the Practice of Tibetan Buddhism, 5412 Etta Burke Ct., Raleigh. www.kadampa-center.org

### **Meditation Practices of** Tibetan Buddhism: Shinay, **Tonglen and Deity Practice**

- Wednesdays, 7:30-9pm. Through November. 968-9426, www. piedmonktc.org

### Film

Trouble In The Water — Nov. 19, 7pm. A young African-American man deals with racial alienation from within his own community. Filmmakers Roger Edwards, Jr. and Jim McQuaid will be on hand for a Q&A session after the screening. Internationalist Books & Community Center. 405 W. Franklin Street, Chapel Hill. 919-942-1740. www. troubleinthewater.com

Postville: When Cultures Col**lide** — Nov. 23, 5-6:30pm. A look at what happens when 300 Hasidic Jews and 400 Mexican immigrants move into a pig-farming town of 1500. How immigration affects small-town America. Film and discussion. CHICLE, 101 E. Weaver St. Suite G-I. Third floor. 933-0398, www.chi-cle.com

Community Cinema — Second Thursdays at 7pm. Films documenting social issues. Monthly screenings of Independent Lens episodes at Open Eye Cafe, followed by panel

### **Health & Wellness**

Cancer support — Weekly support free of charge for cancer patients and family. www. cornucopiahouse.org

The Compassionate Friends: Self-help support after the death of a child — Third Mondays, 7-8:30pm. Free and open to all adults grieving the loss of a child or sibling. Evergreen United Methodist Church. 967-3221, chapelhilltcf.org

**WomanHeart** — Fourth Thursdays, 12:30-2pm. The national coalition for Women with Heart Disease Support Group is free and open to any woman with any form of heart disease, 403 W. Weaver St WH-ChapelHill@womenheart.org

### Kids

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

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

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

### **Lectures & Discussions** The Empress, The Story-

teller, and the Mughai Rococo — Nov. 14, 4pm. Prof. Michael Yonan speaks about the "millions room" at Schonbrunn Palace, a room decorated with Persian miniatures set into a rococo decorative ensemble and its sponsor Empress Maria Theresa (1717-1780), the Habsburg dynasty's first sovereign female ruler. Hanes Art Center, room 121

### I Called 911! Now What?

- Nov. 16, 2pm. Coordinator of Durham EMS M. Kevin Wilson speaks. Judea Reform Congregation, 1933 W. Cornwallis Rd, Durham. 542-6199.

**Zaven Paré** — Nov. 18, 5:30pm. New media artist Zaven Paré lectures and presents works in the Hanes Art Center Room 121. Paré works in many mediums including electronic puppetry, video projections and robotic art.

### Literary

Keats and his circle reading Shakespeare — Nov. 20, 5:45pm. Dedication of John Keats' *Poems* as the six-millionth book in UNC Library. Presentation and lecture. Wilson Library, UNC Campus.

Travels with Herodotus — Nov. 20. 7pm. Carrboreaders Non-Fiction Book Club meets to discuss the book by Ryszard Kapuscinski. 918-7387, www.co.orange. nc.us/library/cybrary

**Twilight** — Dec. 11, 7pm. The Movie/Book Club discusses the film and the Stephanie Meyer novel. Carrboro Cybrary. 918-7387, www. co.orange.nc.us/library/cybrary

### **Political**

Election Analysis — Nov. 20, 7:30-9pm. Orange County Democratic Party and Democratic Women sponsor 2008 election analysis event. Speakers Hodding Carter III, Rob Christensen and Ferrell Guillory. Carrboro Century Center, 100 N. Greensboro. 929-0547

### Volunteers **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.

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 Street. 967-1448, harwellja@bellsouth.net

### Noticias en breve

### Temporada de gripe

El departamento de salud del condado gratis a los niños en la escuela. Hoy es el último día de la clínica en el departamento de salud en Hillsborough. Con cita. 245-2400

### Películas latinoamericanas

El 22do festival de películas de América Orange da inmunizaciones contra la gripe Latina empezó el 2 de noviembre y culmina el 21 del mes. Hay muchas películas en pantalla en diferentes sitios del Triángulo. Gratuita. La próxima película en Chapel Hill es Entre los muertos el 21 de Noviembre a las

7p.m. en el FedEx Global Education Center en UNC. Para otros horarios y más información, llame al 681-3883

### Tarde de damas

Prueba diferentes productos gratis: café, vino, té, comida y masajes. Descuentos solamente para mujeres. Música. El jueves (hoy), el 13 de noviembre, 6 a 9p.m.En el centro de Hillsborough.



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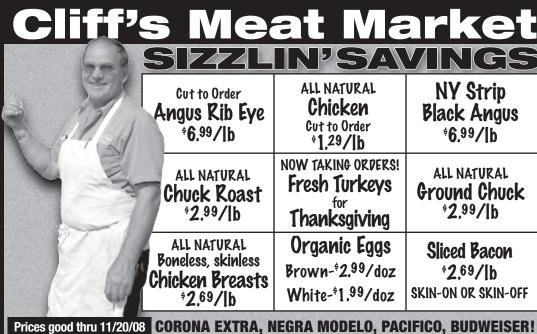
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# Huge increase in hotel rooms on the horizon

BY RICH FOWLER

Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — The Chapel Hill-Carrboro area could add as many as 520 hotel rooms to its current 1,052-room inventory in the next few years. Projects have already been approved at 300 East Main in Carrboro and at East 54 in Chapel Hill to add 290 rooms, while projects in various planning stages at Southern Village, Chapel Hill 40 and the Carolina Inn could add another 230 more.

The proposed projects at Southern Village and Chapel Hill 40 will come up before the Chapel Hill Town Council at their meeting on Monday.

Laurie Paolicelli, executive director of the Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau, who keeps a close eye on industry trends, said it will be interesting to see how the area will deal with the expansion in rooms.

"It's going to be a lot of hotels in a short time," she said, "and it's something we have to stand back and say as a community, not just as a tourism industry, 'Can we support this?"

Paolicelli said there has already been a spurt of hotel

five years and that it has just finished adjusting to that growth.

"If we're looking at a hotel explosion here of 1,000 rooms to 1,500 rooms, the question is, can we rely on the university exclusively to fill these rooms? And if not, where do we look for new markets? And I think that's one thing that we as

tourism people here who read the stats every day and look at who's staying and who's not, fret about," she said.

She said that some hotels will suffer at first as newer ones open. "Somebody always takes it on the chin... and then they get more competitive."

Nationwide, recent economic woes have hit the hotel industry hard. Soaring gas prices cut lot of summer vacations short and as the general economy nosedived in September things didn't get much better for the industry.

But in spite of the bad national news, local occupancy rates from January through August were up 0.4 percent, while over the same period national rates were down 2.5 percent and state rates were down 4.5 per-

"Orange County has always been somewhat protected from devastating economic loss, and that's because it's an intimate university-related higher demographic that comes here," Paolicelli said.

Manish Atma is the principal of Atma Hotel Group, which operates eight hotels in North Carolina, including the Hampton Inn in Chapel Hill on Fordham Boulevard and two more hotels at the intersection of NC 54 and I-40. He isn't worried about the fluctuations in the local occupancy rate.

"You've got such a broad segment of branded hotels, that [the data] takes all of that and gives you an average," he said. "You might have a couple of hotels that are really doing badly, but the average comes out decent, so it's locationdriven."

Atma remains optimistic. "Due to cutbacks, we are down; but fundamentally the market is still doing well. The state, I feel, is doing well."

Paolicelli is a strong advocate for the tourism industry in Orange County and wants to see it develop further. She said that visitors spend \$137 million each year here and local tourism employs around 1,800 people.

She's optimistic that in the end the surge in guest rooms will work itself out if hotels fogrowth in the area in the last cus on bringing in new sources

> "First you have a dip, and then things start leveling out.... But the most important thing we have to be careful of is the cannibalistic effect."

LAURIE PAOLICELLI Executive director of the Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau

> of visitors and not on attacking each others' customer bases.

> "First you have a dip, and then things start leveling out.... But the most important thing we have to be careful of is the cannibalistic effect."

### Aloft at East 54

Representatives of Starwood Hotels, the company that owns ing great things for Carrboro the Sheraton and W chains, say the company plans to develop one of its high-end and modern Aloft hotels at East 54 on the corner of South Hamilton and Raleigh roads. Aloft Chapel Hill will be owned by Inland American Real Estate Trust Inc. and operated by Barclay Hospi-

tality Services. The Aloft brand is touted as "hip, contemporary environment.'

Barclay spokesperson Craig Lambert said he thinks the style will be a good match for Chapel Hill: "The Aloft brand's fresh perspective is changing the industry as we know it, and we are happy to be able to provide guests and locals of Chapel Hill with the latest alternative in travel."

The company plans to start construction in early 2009 and open in the winter of 2010. The hotel will have 140 rooms, a bar, 600 square feet of meeting space, an outdoor area and a swimming pool.

### 300 East Main

Atma Hotel Group will be building a 150-room hotel as part of the 300 East Main development, with rooms priced in the \$125 to \$150 per night range. It will have 2,500 square feet of conference facilities, which will be able to handle about 200 people. The hotel will have a limited-service restaurant if it becomes a Hilton Garden Inn; but if it becomes a Hampton Inn and Suites, it

Though the brand hasn't been decided, the hotel criticism from some neighbors and town officials who questioned whether it is a good fit for Carrboro's eastern gateway.

Atma said the brand of the hotel will not have a major impact on its look.

'It will be a beautiful hotel," he said. "It will be a hotel that the people of Carr-

boro and also Orange County will be proud of. Even if [it's] a Hampton Inn and Suites, the look of the building is not going to change. The only thing that is going to change is the interior of the building — how it's laid out."

Paolicelli is optimistic about the new hotel. "I only see it doand Chapel Hill," she said.

"The impact it's going to have on Carrboro's local businesses is going to be incredible," Atma said. "Because, you have to understand, everyone who's staying in this hotel has to go somewhere to eat, and they're going to eat in Carrboro."





The Franklin, a hotel on West Franklin Street in Chapel Hill, has an atrium on the third floor.

He said that construction on the hotel should start sometime in either the second or third quarter of 2009 and should finish by the end of 2010.

### **Southern Village**

D.R. Bryan and John Fugo want to build either an 80- to 100-room hotel or condominiums in the parking lot in front of Weaver Street Market in Southern Village. The hotel would be 86,000 square feet, with three stories of rooms and two levels of parking. The plan has met with opposition from residents of Southern Village

Rosemary Waldorf, project manager for Bryan Properties, said that when she learned from the Visitor's Bureau that the average visitor to Chapel Hill spends \$286 per day, she was

convinced that a hotel would help Southern Village.

"You take that and multiply that [by] the number of rooms and 65 percent occupancy ... I was persuaded," Waldorf said. "I think that a hotel [in Southern Village] really would help the businesses here. I think the challenge is figuring out how to get through the construction period."

Eric Tannery, director of new development for Summit Hospitality Group in Raleigh, said his company is interested in operating a hotel on the site. He said the thinking now is that it would probably be a Hyatt Place hotel.

Tannery said that the hotel would be a select-service hotel that would offer continental breakfast and have some meeting space. He said that if he had to give a rough estimate of the nightly rate, he would put it around \$140 to \$150, although rates can change with the economy.

Summit operates 14 hotels in North Carolina, including the Residence Inn by Marriott on Erwin Road in Chapel

If the project is approved, Waldorf estimated that construction could start sometime around late 2010 and would take about a year.

### Chapel Hill 40

In 2007, the town's Northern Area Task Force Report called for more mixed-use property, specifically mentioning the need for a hotel in that part of Chapel Hill. John Coley and Bryan, who now own the old VilCom Campus and have renamed it Chapel Hill 40, are interested in the possibility of putting in a hotel there in the future, which would require a change to the zoning ordinance. Their request got a favorable response from the Community Design Commission in June.

Waldorf said that interstate traffic and Carolina North would bring people to a hotel at Chapel Hill 40 as well.

"All bets are off, I think, on when anything new is going to happen in our world today. But assuming that there is some kind of economic recovery, I think a lot of people concur that that use in that location makes a lot of sense," Waldorf said.

She said that while it was too early to say with any certainty what sort of hotel would be there, Bryan Properties' early research suggests that they probably need around 100 rooms for the project to be economically feasible.

Waldorf said they were interested in a certain level of quality.

"Aside from saying it won't be a Days Inn, I don't want to name any brands, because it would be premature," she said.

### Carolina Inn

Plans for the Carolina Inn to expand are still on the table but won't be going ahead for the next 18 months to two years, according to Mark Nelson, the hotel's director of sales and marketing. For some time, the notel has been planning on renovating Whitehead dormitory and converting it into approximately 30 more guest rooms, but current economic conditions are preventing it from moving forward.

### HOTEL PROJECTS IN SOUTHERN ORANGE

### 300 East Main

Type: Hilton Garden or Hampton Inn Rooms: 150 Status: Approved by town Est. Completion: late 2010

### 54 East

Type: Aloft Rooms: 140 Status: Approved Est. Completion: Winter, 2010

CARRBORO FAMILY VISION

### **Southern Village**

Type: Hyatt Place or other select service Rooms: 80-100 Status: Under review Est. Completion: late 2011

### Chapel Hill 40

Type: Unknown Rooms: 100 plus Status: Under review Est. Completion: Unknown

### Carolina Inn expansion

Rooms: 30 Status: In planning Est. Completion: Unknown



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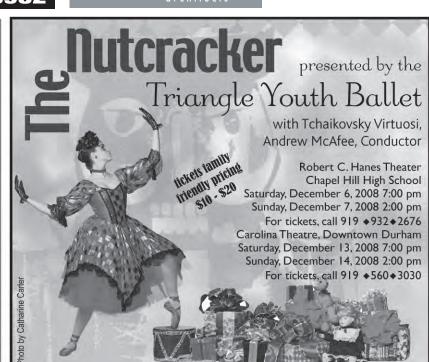
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### FOR THE RECORD

### Rough road ahead

Listen. This is going to be tough on some people - this thing we're going to call a recession. There's a little too much talk of how we can and have weathered one or two before and how the economic buoyancy of the community is going to keep us all afloat. Yes, perhaps the university is going to continue to grow - and, as a result, the community will prosper - but at street level this recession is going to hurt, and we need to deal with that.

It doesn't take a rocket surgeon to figure out that in times like these contributions to nonprofits decline while the demand for their services jumps. This is paradoxically the worst year to ask people to give more, yet we're at a time when the need for extra assistance in providing food, paying utility bills and – to borrow a phrase – providing for the general welfare is likely to be as great as it's been in a generation.

We're entering another holiday season – a time traditionally filled with themes of abundance and feasting and extensive, if not outright extravagant, purchasing. It is also a time when the differences between the haves and the have-nots are

This year, more than most in our past, is a time to set aside some of that abundance in support of those less fortunate. Really. You won't miss it.

There are so many ways to help – from donating to the food pantries and utility-assistance funds to dedicating donations to arts and school organizations for scholarships for young students who otherwise could not afford a class or a camp.

We are blessed with a strong, organized nonprofit sector in this community - one that will feel the pinch if donations dry up just at a time when they're needed the most.

There is a tendency to be frugal during downturns and times of economic uncertainty, and wisely so. But do so with a purpose - that you might be able to extend that helping hand to a person or family on the brink. Poverty, hunger and want tear at the fabric of society. We hope and pray for better days ahead. Until then, our generosity and kindness are the needle and thread.

### The right choice

There are two schools of thought on how to go about choosing a successor on a governing board for someone who has died in office - you can look for the "best fit" for the rest of the group or you can look for someone who would best carry on in the spirit of the departed. When it comes to elected bodies, it is always tempting to go with the former but far more important to be mindful of the latter.

The Chapel Hill Town Council was faced with that decision this month in finding someone to fill out the term of the late Bill Thorpe. On Monday, they voted unanimously to name Jim Merritt to the seat. The move brought some grousing – most of it delivered with a request for no attribution – that race was the deciding factor. Merritt, like Thorpe, is black. We'd like to point out that he is also an individual. In this case, he's an individual who brings a background and perspective that used to be com mon on the board but is now increasingly unique.

Each council member is in some way elected by a coalition – a mix of geographic and political constituencies that find the candidate appealing for one reason or another. Thorpe had his own mix of constituencies, and a review of his election results shows strong support for him in the downtown, traditionally African-American communities he championed in his years in office.

Merritt full well knows that as a councilperson he serves all the people of Chapel Hill. He also is much more attuned to the dynamics and needs of a critically important part of the town. His experiences, shaped by a lifetime of ties to the community, bring a first-hand knowledge to the council. As a native with deep roots in town that stretch back into its murky, antebellum past, he also gives voice to those who remember much more clearly how and why we got to where we are today.

Service on the council is a big commitment for anyone and we applaud those who placed their name in consideration for their willingness to contribute time and talents.

Merritt volunteered knowing that not only would he have big shoes to fill but also that his candidacy would be greeted by some with skepticism if not outright cynicism. He did the right thing and so did the council.



### **EDITORIAL**

Robert Dickson, Publisher Kirk Ross, Editor Susan Dickson, Staff Writer Taylor Sisk, Contributing Editor Liz Holm, Art Director Jack Carley, Assistant Editor Rich Fowler, Contributing Writer Editorial Interns: Betsy McClelland, Mary Lide Parker, Catherine Rierson

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### Happy and sad

### **BY LYDIA LAVELLE**

Election day 2008 was an historic day for all Americans. Last week, a Washington Post cartoon by Tom Toles depicted Barak Obama standing in front of a gigantic White House, his luggage strap over his shoulder. The top caption read, "We hold these truths to be self-evident – that all men are created equal," and at the bottom were the words, "Ratified November 4, 2008." What a powerful cartoon!

Unfortunately, for a number of Americans, all men (and women) are still not created equal. While one discriminatory barrier was being knocked over last week, others were being built.

On Election Day, voters in California passed Proposition 8, titled "Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry," by a 52.5 percent to 47.5 percent margin, despite the fact that in May the California Supreme Court ruled that limiting marriage to a union between a man and a woman was unconstitutional. Attorney Evon Wolfson, an opponent of Prop 8, summed up the central issue: "There is something wrong with putting the rights of a minority up to a majority vote." Quite a paradox in this historic year.

Voters in Florida and Arkansas passed similar measures last week against same-sex marriage (joining more than 40 states with such bans, including North Carolina), but the significance of what happened in California cannot be overstated. While equal marriage rights still exist in Massachusetts and Connecticut, losing the California battle is discouraging because California has long been the vanguard. It is indicative of the "two steps forward, one step back" progress of this movement. Every step of the way, lesbians and gays are reminded that our rights are not yet self-evident as we continue to fight for anti-bullying protection, the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" or, in the absence of marriage, to gain domestic partnership rights.

Another setback last week was that voters in Arkansas passed a ban on unmarried adoption – in essence, a vote to bar gay men and lesbians from adopting children. Florida is the only state with a harsher measure; theirs Aldermen.

strictly prohibits adoption by gays and lesbians. It should be self-evident that it is wrong to legislate that gays and lesbians cannot be good parents.

Even in liberal Carrboro, where I write these words and acknowledge publicly that I have a female partner and family, equal rights issues get minimized. I recently argued (congenially) with Mayor Mark Chilton about his support for gubernatorial candidate Pat McCrory, pointing out McCrory's abysmal record pertaining to gays and lesbians, but to no avail. While I understood much of Mark's reasoning, it was disappointing. If our fair-minded, LGBT-supportive mayor misses the importance and urgency of these issues, how long will it be before the need for equal rights for this minority group

Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese consoled the LBGT population last week with these words: "Everything we've learned points to one simple fact: people who know us are more likely to support our equality. In recent years, I've been delivering this positive message: 'Tell your story. Share who you are ... as our families become more familiar, support for us increases.' And so, I too am encouraging all gay and lesbian persons to heed these words, in

And now more than ever, we need our straight allies to

I am encouraged by what I have read, heard and seen from President-elect Obama with regard to LGBT rights. We have the chance to make great strides on these issues in the next four years. But it will require all of us to pay attention, be aware and advocate for the rights of another minority. The

Lydia Lavelle is the dean of student affairs at N.C.Central University School of Law and serves on the Carrboro Board of

becomes self-evident to the majority?

whatever way their life circumstances allow.

help in our fight for equal rights. Ours will be a long, hard journey. Please join us. Sign up for emails from Equality NC (equalitync.org), keep abreast of current issues and lend your vocal and financial support to this effort.

need is self-evident.

### **EDUCATION MATTERS**

### Eight great education ideas for the Obama administration

### **BY MARGOT** CARMICHAEL LESTER **AND STEVE PEHA**

During the final presidential debate, we waited eagerly for the candidates' responses to Bob Schieffer's question about education. We weren't impressed with what we heard. Vague chatter about vouchers and turning retired military personnel into teachers didn't thrill us.

Maybe that's because we work in schools all the time and know how hard it is to create real change and that there are deeper problems facing our pubic-education system. Here then, are eight ideas for the Obama administration that will stop paying lip service to education reform and start making real changes that benefit our teachers, administrators and kids.

1. Create and fund the \$100,000 teacher. In his book, The \$100,000 Teacher: A Solution to America's Declining Public School System, Brian Crosby makes the case for highly paid teachers and how they could be compensated out of existing public school funding.

2. Make higher education more affordable to qualified students. According to the College Board, average tuition and fees at fouryear public institutions increased 51 percent over the last five years. The College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2008, which increased the federal Pell Grant program and textbook pricing reform, among other things, is a start. But continued federal leadership in this area is needed.

3. Create a national policy enabling high school graduates who are undocumented immigrants to receive in-state tuition at public

universities receiving federal funding. The National Immigration Law Center estimates that 65,000 undocumented students who came to the United States before age 15 and have lived in the United States at least five years graduate from high school annually. The kids are here to stay, and it's in our best interest to offer affordable higher education to those who want to pursue it.

4. Adopt the Teach For America model as a domestic Peace Corps for education. Teach for America places about 3,700 new teachers a year in low-income communities across the country, but that's not nearly enough to address the national teacher shortage. We suggest adopting the TFA model and creating a national teacher corps – a domestic Peace Corps for education. This would create a short-term infusion of new teachers with good training and support to work in the districts with the highest need. It also would bring non-traditional educators into the system.

5. Reform No Child Left Behond (NCLB) to fund best-practice training in literacy and classroom management. Currently, money schools receive through the Federal Title programs (via NCLB) isn't always used to train teachers in effective methods. By requiring that a portion of these funds be spent in literacy and classroom management (two of the highest impact areas) struggling schools would likely make more progress than they are now.

6. Reform NCLB to fund best-practice training for administrators. Currently, administrators receive almost no training. Yet they are the leaders of their schools. Targeting a small portion of federal funding to be spent on high-quality instructional and operational training for principals and assistant principals would make many schools more successful.

7. Conduct a national literacy training program for all public-school teachers at all grades based on best-practice methods. Test scores increasingly show that American students are losing ground - particularly in the fundamental areas of reading, writing and thinking. This means that literacy is no longer just for elementary school. Yet most schools of education don't teach basic literacy methods to candidates planning to teach middle or high school. To meet the needs of students who are lagging behind, and those who are new to English, we need a national best-practice literacy training program to provide teachers with the skills they need to improve student achievement.

8. Make the NAEP the single official student assessment for all states. Right now, our testing system is in chaos because states differ widely on the definition of grade-level performance. The NAEP test, which is taken now by small numbers of students in all 50 states, has been recognized as the most consistently reliable measure of student achievement.

Provided that NCLB is fully funded in its 2009 re-authorization, it's possible that each of these reforms could be implemented, at least at a pilot level, with minimal impact on the federal education budget. Reforms like these are not only doable, they get to the heart of what is wrong with our education system rather than merely tinkering at the margins, as most current proposals have.

### **Invest to** solve budget shortfall

### BY CHRIS FITZSIMON

There is nothing positive about the budget shortfall in North Carolina that legislative economists say could reach \$1.6 billion next year, maybe \$2.6 billion when you add in the problems with the State Health Plan and a small cost-ofliving increase for state employees and teachers.

But maybe the budget crisis will finally force state lawmakers to take seriously pleas to invest in programs that save money and are sound public policies that turn lives around. Nowhere is that more possible than in the criminal justice world.

North Carolina currently has 40,208 people locked up in the state prison system, many of them nonviolent offenders convicted of drug offenses. It costs taxpayers just under \$27,000 a year to keep an inmate behind bars, where they are unable to pay restitution to victims, take care of their families or work and pay taxes.

The state has several programs that divert nonviolent offenders from prison into treatment and rehabilitation programs and most of them are woefully underfunded. Some lawmakers fear being branded as soft on crime if they vote not to lock everybody up. They enthusiastically support building new prisons, even when the state budget is tight.

Others readily admit the programs save money and lives, but other funding needs always seem to come first. The Rutherford Daily Courier and the Jacksonville Daily News recently ran stories about two of the programs that work. Let's hope lawmakers were paying attention.

The Daily Courier reported on the first anniversary of the Rutherford County Drug Court that sends drug offenders to intensive treatment instead of prison and costs just a fraction of the bill for keeping someone behind bars. And the program works.

The drug court has administered 1,486 drug tests to offenders in its first year; 1,420 were clean (97 percent). The offenders have strict reporting requirements in addition to drug tests and also must complete work for a GED if they don't have a high school diploma. Then they must look for work.

Offenders who can't meet the expectations go to prison, but the majority of drug-court participants don't end up behind bars; most turn their lives around. The law-enforcement community recognizes the effectiveness of the program too and supports increasing its funding.

Only 21 counties in the state have a drug court. All 100 counties have people with drug problems in their courtrooms and in their jails.

The conservative Jacksonville Daily News recently featured another program to keep people out of prison: Day Reporting, an intensive probation system that costs the state \$5,000 a year and allows offenders to keep their jobs if they follow the program's strict reporting rules.

Day Reporting also provides access to GED classes and substance-abuse services. Roughly half of the people in Day Reporting stay out of trouble and stay out of prison, giving them a second chance and leaving a prison cell vacant for a violent offender who is dangerous to the public.

The Drug Court and Day Reporting are just two of the alternatives to incarceration that need to be expanded. Maybe the state budget crisis will help.

No one can dispute that the programs will save money immediately, as much as \$20,000 for every person diverted from prison. No can dispute that the programs save lives either, by keeping families together and giving people with an addiction another chance.

Lawmakers will face tough choices next year as they struggle to fill a \$2 billion hole and balance the budget. Expanding investments in prison alternatives seems like an obvious place to start.

Chris Fitzsimon is the director of NC Policy Watch.

### **MERRITT**

FROM PAGE

He remembers when Lindsay Street and then McDade Street were paved and how many of the other kids in town would come to his neighborhood to skate on the paved streets.

And a lot of people knew Jimmy Merritt and his brother Clarence because they were the youngsters on McDade who had a pony named Bill. Every year, during the holiday parade, the then-future councilman would hitch up Bill, a beautiful pinto, to a little buggy and ride in the parade. In fact, one of Merritt's early experiences with the growth of Chapel Hill was when he had to move Bill out to the farm on Millhouse Road.

"We would bring him into town on the weekends," Merritt said.

Merritt eventually joined the Army and served in Viet Nam from 1967 to 1969. He was wounded and received the Purple Heart. After the military, Merritt attended Hampton University where he earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's in guidance and counseling. He served as a school administrator and guidance counselor in Virginia schools until his retirement and move back to Chapel Hill.

While Merritt was living out of town, he stayed in touch with his fiends and schoolmates through the Orange County Training School/ Lincoln High Alumni Association. Now an officer in the organization, he's been busy with the group's efforts to commemorate the school and, this year, with their efforts to distribute food for the holidays. His fellow alumni, he said, have been helping keep him informed about issues as he plans for his work on the council.

Merritt said his love for the town he grew up in ultimately led to his decision to apply for the council.

"It was pretty much because I'm concerned about the direction in which this town is going," he said. "I love this town. I plan to be here. It's one of the reasons I came back."

When he retuned to town, he was amazed at how much the town had grown. Looking ahead to his work with the council, he acknowledges that the growth of the university will be a key focus.

"I know it is the desire of the

university to expand — and I think that is a good thing. And I feel the town needs to have a good relationship with the university. It is the largest employer in Chapel Hill. But I think as citizens of Chapel Hill, we should have a say in how much they expand so as not to spoil the character and culture of Chapel Hill."

Merritt said the library expansion is another area of concern. The need is there, he said, but the economic downturn and its consequences will have to be taken into consideration.

"I'm ready," he said. "I've dealt with a lot of challenges."

As for the future, particularly the decision he'll face next year of whether to seek a full term on the council, Merritt said that he is "leaning toward it."

The goal he's set for himself and some of the things he'd like to accomplish are long term and likely to take much longer than the remainder of Thorpe's term would afford.

This week, he plans on continuing discussions he's started with other members of the council as well as meeting and issue briefing with Town Manager Roger Stancil.



"He felt bad, it

was like, 'You guys

shouldn't spend

this money. I'm

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### **DECISIONS**

FROM PAGE I

David had a few brushes with the law. One high-speed joy ride, with the police in pursuit, ended when David returned home, sat down and waited to be arrested. He had violent altercations with his mother. His parents involuntarily committed him several times, though his hospital stays generally lasted just a few days at most.

David very much wanted to go to college. When he was accepted at Warren Wilson near Asheville, though, he lasted only a couple of months. He was smoking marijuana and, his parents believe, doing other drugs as well.

One day he was found in his dorm room with the word "Help" carved into his forearm. His mother picked him up and David flew into a rage on the drive home, resulting in a call to the police and a trip to UNC Hospitals.

"I think that he was just really upset that it was all crumbling before his eyes," his mother says. "Because he really wanted [to be in college], but he just couldn't control himself."

David was now 19 and, says his mother, to meet him

at that time, "Your impression would have been of a young man, kind of sad, a little depressed, not a lot of self-confidence. But you could talk to him. There would be no reason you would think this kid ... has a problem."

But there was a very serious problem; and nothing was working.

"Outpatient treatment wasn't working," Larry Shirley says. "Visiting the psychiatrist for 15 minutes or 30 minutes of medicine management wasn't working. He was a danger to himself and a danger to others, but nobody would take him. There was nothing. A complete void."

No one offered any guidance, or a way out. "Basically, nobody had a plan for what hap-

pens after you stabilize him," says Anita Shirley. What are we going to do with him? They kept on wanting to discharge him. But discharge him to what? What is he going to be doing?"

The Shirleys were advised by mental health professionals that they couldn't keep rescuing David; they should let him "deal with it."

His father says: "He was giving signals that 'I'm in trouble. I need help.' But at that point we were out of options. We didn't know

### The turning point

The point at which society says we've crossed the line and violated a person's free will in the interest of protecting them is, says Clay Whitehead, a Chapel Hill-based psychiatrist "a moving target." Societal norms change.

But certain stipulations should always be prerequisite.

If a person is to be forcibly medicated, will an inpatient bed and comprehensive care be provided to see through the effects of that drug and to plot the next stage of treatment?

And if medication isn't the preferable option, what is, and who's going to provide it?

If we can't answer these questions, says Clay Whitehead, "we're all complicit." In not demanding that these options be made available, regardless of the cost, he says, "We're just not doing a very good job as citizens." The Consequences can be tragic.

In late 2005, after attempting suicide by taking a month's medication and walking off into the woods alongside the Warren Wilson College campus, David was transferred to Broughton Hospital in Morganton. There, his diagnosis was changed from bipolar to borderline personality disorder; and he was told that he no longer needed to be on medication, that it wouldn't help him.

There's no question that David's condition was complex, says his father, "that it wasn't a pure diagnosis in any one area. There's no question that it was a really difficult case in that regard.

"But to make that kind of statement to him was just devastating in terms of getting any future treatment for him.

David was an adult, so the law allowed him to

make his own decisions. Having been shuttled in and out of too many facilities on too many occasions, he'd utterly lost faith in the public mental health care system. And he felt that private care was a waste of his parents' money.
"He felt bad," his mother

says. "It was like, 'You guys shouldn't spend this money. I'm not going to get better. It's just wasting money."

David again took an overdose of his medication. He tried school again, at Western Carolina, but was kicked out

for being drunk and disorderly in his dorm. One night in February 2006, he went on a

drinking binge. His mother says that he was extremely sad, that he had been jilted by a girl, "and it was just one of those horrible, horrible, horrible nights that you can have when you want to be with a girl and she's with another guy, and it just sucks."

After being up all that night, he went the next morning to see his closest friend from high school, a student at UNC who lived in Craige dormitory.

His friend wasn't home. David walked across the street to Morrison dorm, which was then closed for renovations. He climbed over the barriers and up the building to the top, the 10th floor. He called his brother and told him that this wasn't about him, that it was just something he had to do. Then he jumped.

David somehow survived the fall and was conscious when he was found by construction workers. He was still conscious when he arrived at the hospital, but was then sedated due to his massive injuries. He died a week later, on March 1.

"What we had wished for," says Anita Shirley, "was that there was a place where we could have taken him where he could have been safe, away from drugs, away from alcohol, a safe environment, for like a month or two, so that they could establish the right medication for him. But that place didn't exist."

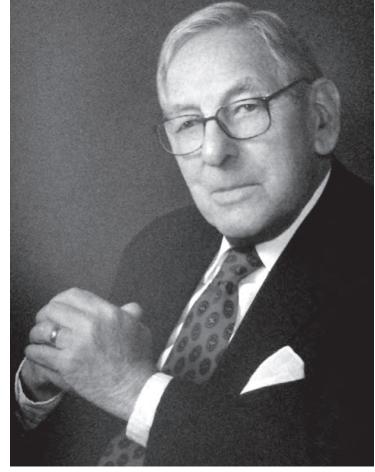
Worse still is the fact that David's parents believe the longest, and nearly the last, inpatient treatment he did receive was disastrous.

"Somehow I wish I could have intervened to keep him from going to Broughton Hospital," his father now says. "That was such a negative thing overall and such a turning point.

"To have gotten him anywhere else at that point – whether it would have saved his life, I don't know. But it would have given him a better chance." Having been told there that he no longer required medication, "he was much more resistant to care, treatment and hope.

"I think it took away his hope."

Next in the series: Finding solutions



### **OBITUARY**

### **Mel Rashkis**

Former Chapel Hill business leader and realtor Melvin "Mel" F. Rashkis, died Saturday, at the age of 90, at UNC Hospitals. He passed away after suffering from a bout of recent illnesses.

Mel, who was born in Brooklyn, NY, lived as a youth in Canada and moved to Cleveland, where he met Zora, then moved to Chapel Hill in the early 1960s. For many years, his firm, Mel Rashkis and Associates, was the largest real estate firm in Chapel Hill. Among his business and civic leadership roles, he served as the president of the Board of Realtors and president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce.

He and his wife, Zora, now retired from her role as a legendary middle school teacher, achieved such prominence for their support of the public schools that the elementary school in Meadowmont is named the Mel and Zora Rashkis Elementary School.

many years as the volunteer the Rashkis family.

Chairman of the Board of the Village Companies Community Foundation, a community oriented foundation that dispensed hundreds of grants, generally small, to a wide variety of local causes.

He is survived by his wife, Zora Rose Rashkis of Chapel Hill; his daughter and son-inlaw, Jill and Alan Goldman of Raleigh; his son, Peter Rashkis of Chapel Hill; grandchildren, Brian Goldman, Betsy Goldman, Melissa Rouse, Guinevere Coronado and Ren Rashkis and great grandchildren, Jared Goldman, Ben Goldman, Jane Rouse and Austin Rouse.

Graveside funeral services were held on Monday in the Judea Reform Cemetery, Jones Ferry Road, Chapel Hill. Officiating was be Rabbi John Friedman.

Instead of flowers, donations may be made to the Mel & Zora Elementary School, 601 Meadowmont Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27516 or Judea Reform Congregation, 1933 W. Cornwallis Rd., Durham, NC 27705.

Howerton & Bryan Funeral Mel Rashkis served for Home in Durham is assisting

### School board to review candidates

Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education.

Applicants are Mary Anne Gucciardi, Kyle Kaplan, Gregory McElveen, Deborah Musson, Érin Sullivan, Gary Wallach and Theresa Watson. Wallach sought election to the board in 2007 but was defeated.

Seven candidates have ap- The board will hold a special plied for a seat on the Chapel meeting tonight (Thursday) to interview the candidates and will select a new member at their meeting on Nov. 20, to be sworn in on Dec. 4.

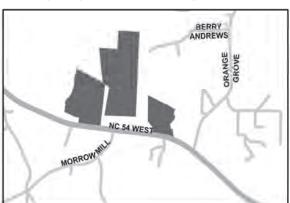
> The new candidate will fill the seat of Pam Hemminger who resigned in order to serve on the Orange County Board of Commissioners.



PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING ORANGE COUNTY WASTE TRANSFER STATION Monday, November 17, 2008 7:00 pm **McDougle Middle School Cafetorium** 

The three candidate sites designated by the Board of Orange County Commissioners for public comment are located on NC Highway 54 west of Orange Grove Road.

900 Old Fayetteville Rd in Carrboro



The public meeting will be hosted by the Board of Orange County Commissioners in order to:

- Familiarize residents with these three sites,
- Accept public comment on the sites.
- Address other concerns related to the County's proposed waste transfer station.

For more information contact Orange County Solid Waste 919-968-2788 or visit www.olver.com/orangecounty





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Chapel Hill-Carrboro School **Lunch Menus** 

### NOV 14 - 20

### **Elementary**

Friday — Cheese and fruit cocktail, cheese pizza, pepperoni pizza, sloppy joe on a bun, garden salad, green beans, chilled applesauce

Monday — Chicken nuggets with BBQ sauce, beef tacos with salsa, cheese, lettuce and tomato, spanish rice, sweet yellow corn, apple halves

Tuesday — Pork egg rolls, chicken and noodles with wheat roll, "Fun on the Run," brown rice pilaf, Asian mixed vegetables, chilled apricots

### Wednesday —

Cheese pizza, pepperoni pizza, chicken salad with lettuce, tomato and crackers, celery and carrot sticks, steamed broccoli, fresh banana Thursday — Roast turkey with cornbread, dressing and gravy, mashed potatoes, sweet

### Middle & High

on the Run"

potato casserole, green

beans, apple crisp, "Fun

**Friday** — Spaghetti and meat sauce with garlic bread, turkey corn dog, California mixed vegetables, sweet yellow corn, vanilla pudding

**Monday** — Double cheeseburger on a bun, fishwich, lettuce and tomato salad, tater tots, peas and carrots,

applesauce Tuesday — Three cheese baked rotini with garlic bread, chicken fajitas with salsa and sour cream, vegetable rice, steamed broccoli, chilled

### peaches Wednesday

— Chicken patty sandwich, baked potato with meat and cheese and wheat roll, traditional mixed vegetables, chilled pineapple tidbits, chocolate pudding Thursday — Roast turkey, dressing and gravy, mashed potatoes, sweet potato

casserole, green beans,

apple crisp

## Woods Charter School offers private school feel

BY MARY LIDE PARKER

Staff Writer

For a private school setting with a public school price tag, North Carolina parents and students in grades K-12 can look to the Woods Charter School, now located in a brand-new facility in Chapel Hill.

"The charter school is a way to give students a private school experience at no cost," said Principal Harrell Rentz.

Charter schools are subject to the same fundamental regulations as public schools but are allowed to differentiate curriculum in some ways - they can be more thematic or specific if so desired.

They are also typically much smaller. WCS is a one-building facility with 485 students and 65 faculty and staff.

WCS used to be located in the Cole Park Plaza shopping center on 15-501. The new building is located two miles down the road off of Andrews Store Road.

"We went from a funky, barely adequate facility to an incredible facility," said Rentz. "Everyone is really thrilled with it."

Some perks of the new building and facilities include a full kitchen, science labs, a library, computer labs, a large gym and a "great room," which is used for lunch every day as well as school dances and performances. WCS also owns the 18 acres of land that



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

The new Woods Charter School building opened in August.

surround the building.

WCS draws students from nine surrounding counties, the majority of whom are from Chatham. The school receives an allotment of educational funds from the state and the students' home counties.

We have kids coming from Siler City and the other side of Durham," Rentz said. "We pull from a large geographical area."

Rentz, who has experience

in public, private and charter schools, said charter schools came about to give parents more control over their child's schooling.

"I think the largest advantage for parents is they're closer to the decision making and the way the school operates," Rentz said. "For the parents, it's about having more direct involvement in the way the school works."

Every WCS parent is required to volunteer in some way, which can include organizing fundraisers, contributing to the parent-coordinated lunch program or helping out with school-wide projects.

WCS puts academics first. The "core knowledge" program is used for grades K-8. The high school offers 12 AP classes. The entire school's curricula is based on a classical liberal arts context.

With such a large emphasis on academics, WCS offers only a select

number of sports teams including a basketball team, coed soccer and a cheer leading squad. They hope to add cross country, tennis and baseball in the coming years.

"Sometimes the students are disappointed they can't walk outside and go to the Dollar Store," said Rentz, referring to the old location of the school. "Now they have 18 acres of wilderness around them and so many new opportunities to grow."

### **School Briefs**

### **Laramie Project**

East Chapel Hill High School's theater department will present The Laramie Project tonight (Thursday), Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the East Chapel Hill High Mainstage Auditorium.

The play chronicles the reaction of the Laramie, Wyo. community to the beating and murder of gay university student Matthew Shepard in 1988. Beunder the age of 13 will be admitted to the show.

Tickets are \$5 for general admission. To reserve a ticket, call 969-2787 or email eastreservation@gmail.com. A panel discussion will follow the Friday

### **CHHS** Orchestra

The Chapel Hill High School Orchestra will hold a tea/raffle basket fundraiser on Dec. 7 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Extraordinary Ventures on South Elliott Road.

The event will feature music, refreshments and raffle basket prizes. Raffle tickets are \$2 each, available from any Chapel Hill High Orchestra member. cause of mature content, no one Prizes include UNC basketball tickets, local restaurant gift certificates, a three-day cruise and more.

> Tickets for the event are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. For more information or to buy tickets, contact Beth Teague at bethteague@earthlink.net

### **Art winners**

A group of Chapel Hill High School students finished third in the North Carolina State Fair's Art Competition. The students are Grace Joyal,

Sofie Kennedy, Allison Press, Alex Smith and Violette Zhu. Their teacher is Hollie Novak. The Chapel Hill-Carrboro

City Schools Pre-K/Headstart Program has vacancies for \$900 per month. The program serves 3- and 4-

year-old children. Children must have turned 3 by Aug. 31. Care is offered weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For an application, visit www. chccs.k12.nc.us and follow the departments link to the Pre-K/

Headstart page or visit the Pre-K/Headstart office at 891 Willow Drive, Suite 2 in Chapel Hill.

For more information, call 918-2153.

### Pink Thunderbird

The Chapel Hill High School Drama Department will present 1959 Pink Thunderbird tonight (Thursday), Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Hanes Theatre at Chapel Hill High.

The dark comedy is about a Vietnam veteran and the struggles he and his wife face after he returns home from war. The play is rated R for mature content and strong language, and children under 17 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. For reservations, call 969-2461.

### **Substance free**

The Coalition for Alcohol and Drug Free Teenagers of Chapel Hill and Carrboro will hold a fall lunch meeting on Nov. 20 at noon at Squid's Restaurant on the Hwy. 15-501 Bypass in Chapel Hill.

Participants will discuss coalition initiatives, concerns, celebrations and needs.

A complimentary lunch will be provided. RSVP by Nov. 15 to Dale Pratt-Wilson, director of the coalition, at daleprattwilson@nc.rr.com.

## Schools fail reading standards

Four Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools failed to meet adequate yearly progress (AYP) standards in reading this year.

Frank Porter Graham Elementary School, McDougle Elementary School, McDougle Middle School and East Chapel Hill High School did not meet AYP, but will not face No Child Left Behind sanctions because they met AYP last year.

Across the district and the state, reading scores fell, with 78.5 percent of CHCCS students proficient in reading, compared with 93.4 of elementary school students and 94.2 percent of middle school students last year.

District officials attribute the drop to the administration of new reading tests for students in grades three through eight, as well as higher standards

for attaining proficiency on the tests. Last year, the state schools' range on reading tests was 83 to 92 percent, compared with 52 to 61 percent this year.

According to a district press release, the CHCCS drop is approximately half of the statewide decline.

Last year, CHCCS had four Schools of Excellence, with 90 percent or more students at or above grade level; 10 Schools of Distinction, with 80 percent or more students at or above grade level; and one School of Progress, with 70 percent or more students at or above grade level. This year, the district, which has an additional school to report with the opening of Carrboro High School, has no Schools of Excellence, 12 Schools of Distinction and four Schools of Progress.

— Staff reports

### CHHS Class of '78 **30 Year Reunion!** November 21-22

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Friday: 6 pm Until Time Out (at the Holiday Inn, Chapel Hill) **Saturday:** 3 – 6pm (Kid Friendly)

Rigmor House, Chapel Hill Children \$10 Adults \$35 Snacks and drinks provided

6 - 10pm (Adults Only) Dinner, beer and wine provided

Send payment to: CHHS '78 Reunion P.O. Box 1685 Mebane, NC 27302

Questions: Donnie Farrow 919.260.0689

Address: Phone Number: Number of Adults attending: Number of Children attending:

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO CITY SCHOOLS

Congratulations to the the Culbreth Middle School Cougars, who went 8-0 for a perfect season and the top spot of the OPAC conference. John Miller is the head coach.

### **Sports Briefs**

### **PREPS**

### **Carrboro**

Lost 60-21 to Northern Guilford Friday to end the season. They finish 0-6 in conference, 1-10 overall.

### **Chapel Hill**

Defeated Jordan High 48-20 Friday. They play in the first round of the NCHSAA football tournament Friday at home at 7:30 p.m. Their season record is 6-1 in conference, 8-3 overall.

### **East Chapel Hill**

The Wildcats lost to Northern Durham Friday, 34-19. They finish 0-7 in conference, 0-11 overall.

### UNC

### **Schedule trouble**

On Saturday, UNC Basketball and Football will play at the same time for the first time in twenty years. Scheduling conflicts involving the renovation of Carmichael Auditorium and TV coverage of the football game forced the situation. ACC partners will cover the football game at 3:30 p.m. while Fox runs the basketball game at Penn at 4 p.m.

For the diehard fans (aren't we all?) radio broadcasts of one game will be available at the other. Fans in the Smith Center can dial headsets to WCHL 1360 AM to hear Woody's broadcast of the football game, while fans in College Park at Maryland can tune to 92.7 FM to hear the basketball play-by-play and commentary.

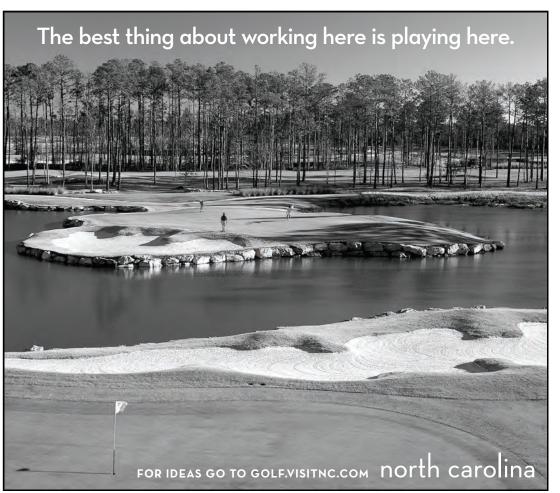
A basketball broadcast will be free online at tarheelblue.com and will also be replayed on WCHL on 8 p.m.

### Museum

The Carolina Basketball Museum is now open. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free. The museum is located on Skipper Bowles Drive next to the Smith Center. The museum will also be open at special times in the coming Saturdays, from 12 to 3 p.m. this Saturday before the basketball opener against Penn and from 8 to 11 a.m. on Nov. 22 before the N.C. State football game. Parking is \$8 on gamedays in the Manning lot.

The museum houses photos, videos and statistics, along with tributes to coaches and various relics of Carolina basketball history.

## CHES! BOOSTERS! Email: ${f editor}$ ${f @carrborocitizen.com}$



### RECENTLY FROM PAGE I

But that didn't stop her imagination from creating a possible life for the people there, and with research she developed Hannah, the daughter of a practitioner of native medicine, who learns her mother's practices and carries them forward there until the house burns down. Allen juxtaposes Hannah's story, told in 1892 through her journal, with that of Iris, a modern-day woman who moves into a house in a new development following a divorce and discovers the burned remains of an old house. As she adjusts to her new life, she learns bits and pieces about the "witchghost" that, according to lore, still inhabits the home site. Allen weaves the women's stories together one chapter at a time back and forth — pulling the reader into each intriguing life with rich details, like this description of a former Confederate soldier who comes to the home of Hannah and her mother asking if he might rest there for a while:

"He had taken off his hat

when he reached them, and now held it in his hands. His face was narrow above the beard, and his eyes were light, set deep under brows that shadowed them. He was as clean as a man may be who has traveled a long way on foot, but the skin was dark around his eyes. His hair was silky and hung to his shoulders, and like his beard, was the goldbrown of ripe hay."

But what happened during the years between first and second novel?

"I went to short things," Allen said last week as we sipped tea in her Carrboro living room. Stranger in Our Darkness had been well received; in fact, "several nice things almost happened." She saw it almost be selected as a Readers Digest condensed book until the editor-in-chief declined, saying it was too depressing. Redbook almost serialized it, but didn't for the same reason.

"It sank without a ripple, but it got nice reviews," Allen remembered.

With few snatches of time for writing, she wrote short stories and creative nonfiction, some of which was published in journals. In the early 1990s, when a friend

who taught creative writing at The ArtsCenter could no longer teach, she asked Allen to take over the class. Based on her previous publications, the ArtsCenter also extended the request, where she continues teaching Writers at Work, an eight-week workshop. Similarly, she took the Novel in Progress course through Duke Continuing Education, and when Georgann Eubanks left she asked Allen if she'd be interested in teaching it, which she did for 11 years.

"It was pretty popular, with wonderful, advanced writers," Allen said.

Now, in her 70s, Allen's working on a young adult fantasy, the first in a trilogy. She has shared it with her grandchildren (she has eight) of the target age, "who loved it and offered good comments. One of my granddaughters contributed middle school slang," Allen said.

Hear Allen discuss and read from Hannah's House at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 21 at the Meet the Author Tea at the Chapel Hill Public Library.

Contact Valarie Schwartz at 923-3746 or valariekays@mac.com

### **SIDEWALKS**

FROM PAGE I

Coleman said that while he would like to see the sidewalks completed in order to increase the town's walkability, the projects weren't essential and could be delayed.

"The neighborhoods have gone without sidewalks from when they were built until now," he said.

Gist agreed.

"We don't know what's going to happen, and I do know that we have residents that are feeling the strain." Therefore, she said, she favors doing anything the board can to lessen the tax burden and not create a new one, "while at the same time being able to maintain what we have.

"I would much rather delay some sidewalks than to have necessary positions go unfilled or not be able to meet the needs of our employees."

Mayor Mark Chilton said he felt uncomfortable delaying some sidewalk projects.

"I'm open to this discussion, but I will say that I really view the proposed Estes Drive Extension sidewalk ... as a very pressing need," he said. "I'm really reluctant to let go of moving forward with that project."

Town Manager Steve Stewart said the board would need to decide shortly after the beginning of 2009 if they wanted to delay sidewalk projects, because the planning process for some of those projects is already underway. He added that it could be beneficial to complete plans for some of the projects before delaying construction because of increasing costs.

### **Weaver Street** improvements

The approved 2009-10 CIP includes more than \$1.5 million to reconstruct Weaver Street, which is necessary because of the poor condition of the existing subgrade and base of the road.

The project includes the removal and reconstruction of the existing road, removal and replacement of curb and gutter, the installation of additional storm inlets and piping to improve storm drainage in the West Main Street to North Greensboro Street block and the replacement of an existing 12-inch water main in both blocks.

Also; the travel lanes would be narrowed in order to allow for

The project has been delayed for several years, with the problems first identified in 1997, and according to town officials can't be delayed much longer because of the increasing costs of temporary repairs.

In other town business, the board set a public hearing for Nov. 25 for a proposed 39-unit subdivision at 8400 and 8420 Reynard



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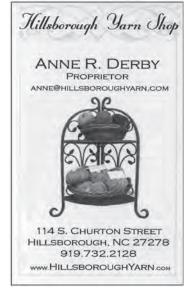
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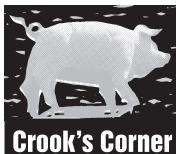


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### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008

**IN SEASON** 

KENTUCKY LIMBERTWIG

NICKAJACK

ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK

# Land & Table

### **BY SUSAN DICKSON**

Staff Writer

CARRBORO — As the air turns colder and the days get shorter, local farmers' markets are switching gears for the winter months, focusing on fall and winter produce, crafts and meats.

The Carrboro Farmers' Market is entering its second year as a year-round market and, according to Sarah Blacklin, director of the market, is well prepared for the winter season this year.

"People are excited and are working on having really full winter gardens," she said.

Carrboro Farmers' Market shoppers can expect to find a wide variety of greens, such as arugula, kale and collards, as well as root vegetables.

Blacklin said warmer days could bring mushrooms to the market too.

'We're actually at that transitional point where if we get a little bit warmer, that heat and moisture will be great for fungus



Erin Meehan of Turtle Run Farms points out that while she's busy working, her sister is relaxing in back of the truck with a chocolate bar.

and shiitakes," she said.

Markets prepare for colder months

At the South Estes Farmers' Market, which was started earlier this year by the Farmers of Orange, vendors are offering root vegetables, greens "of all sorts," eggs, meat and more, according to Jeffry Goodrum, president of the Farmers of Orange.

In addition to regular fall produce, local farmers are focusing on holiday favorites.

"A lot of our farmers are growing specifically for the Thanksgiving market and for the holidays coming up," Blacklin said, adding that vendors will offer holiday items such as maple sausage, smoked ham, ham hocks, celery and more.

Both the Carrboro Farmers' Market and the South Estes Farmers' Market will hold Thanksgiving markets this year, with the Carrboro market on Tuesday, Nov. 25 from 3 to 6 p.m. and the South Estes market the same day, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The Carrboro Farmers' Market will also host a special market on Dec. 6 that will focus on craft vendors.

'We try to do that so people can look before the holidays," Blacklin said.

Starting with the Thanksgiving market, the South Estes Farmers' Market will move indoors, from the parking lot of the University Mall to the mall's main corridor indoors, where it will remain through March.

Though the indoor market will be slightly smaller, Goodrum said he still expects about 16 to 20 vendors in December and a few less January through March.

CENTURY FARM ORCHARD

SATURDAY MARKET: 8 a.m. - Noon

### What's at Market?

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

Apples, peppers, pumpkins, arugula, salad mix, pac choy, beans, flour, shiitake mushrooms, cilantro, radishes, turnips, collards, onions, garlic, winter squash, potatoes, sweet potatoes, eggplant, vegetable and flower starters, sunflowers, sunflowers, marigolds, wild 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

Potage of sweet potato, lentils, and sage Recipe Provided by: Dorette Snover, chef and owner of C'est Si **Bon Cooking School** 

**Ingredients** 

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- I 2/3 cups coarsely chopped onion I large clove garlic, coarsely chopped
- 6 slices prosciutto
- 2 fresh sage leaves, chopped I cup red lentils
- 6 cups no-salt-added chicken stock 1/8 teaspoon hot pepper flakes, optional
- 4 cups cooked sweet potatoes
- 2 cups heavy cream salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

### **Procedure**

Heat oil in a heavy soup pot large enough to hold all the ingredients. Sauté onion until it begins to brown (about 10 minutes). Add garlic and sauté, stirring, for 30 seconds. add prosciutto. Crisp and remove. When cool, chop and set aside for garnish.

Add sage, lentils, stock and bring to a boil. Add hot pepper flakes, sweet potatoes, and heavy cream. Reduce heat and simmer for about 30 minutes until lentils are soft. Garnish with chopped prosciutto



Whilst sitting around the newspaper office on a sleepy Friday afternoon, this reporter and contributing editor Taylor Sisk were suddenly and without warning descended upon by mimes.

Not sure if we would survive, we quickly handed out the cameras to document what was to come.

Though fearsome, we quickly learned the pair - dressed in brightly colored overalls and performing acts of juggling and the balancing a long stem rose at nosepoint - were there to announce the opening of 3Cups' new digs down on Elliott Road.

We are happy to report that both Citizen employees emerged unscarred and are looking forward to the 'Cups' schedule of events. In November, that includes a discussion on making great burgundy and tasting with winemaker Philippe Colin; a visit by Phoebe Lawless of Scratch Baking, who will lead a talk on wine and pie; and a meet-andgreet with chutneyist April Mc-Gregor, aka Farmer's Daughter. 3cups.net for details.

### Grape Hull among the greats

of April McGregor, the oddly but aptly titled Garden & Gun Magazine ("The Soul of the New South") proclaimed her Muscadine Meringue Tartlette among

the 100 foods in the South one simply must sample. McGregor's was the only dish in the Triangle singled out in the article. The two next closest to us were buttermilk biscuits at the Biscuitville in Greensboro and the pork chop sandwich at Snappy Lunch in Mt. Airy. The story is on the web now at gardenandgun.com

### Bowl of boil

Word is you might want to get there early for the Frogmore Stew Jack Whitebread is cooking up at Johnny's on Thursday starting at 4 p.m. The stew, said to have been originally concocted in the Frogmore community on St. Helena's island, is a seasonal, low-country boil made with potatoes, shrimp, corn on the cob and sausage. Having sampled this particular version before, The Eater recommends this dish highly. Note: Does not include actual frogs.



3Cups got several people's attention last Friday after unleashing a small army of brightly festooned mimes — OK there were only two of them - to let folks know they were open.

### More election results

The Neals have added a new menu item in celebration of the recent presidential election. The Obama dog is basically a Chi-

THE HOMESCAPE ADVAN

cago-style dog (they take them seriously dere in d'Region) with a little Hawaii thrown into the mix. Yes, that means pineapple; minced Dole, perhaps.

sfrey@homescapenc.com



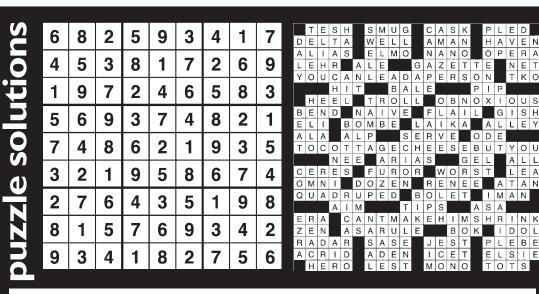
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**CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER:** 

It's been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this day, in this election, at this defining moment, change has come to America. - Barack H. Obama









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"It Has Arrived!"

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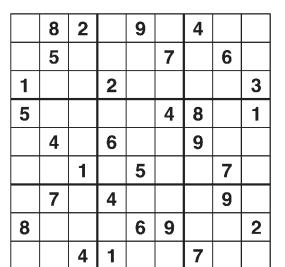
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VNJ WZTY KZ NTYMRWN.

PNMNWU V. ZPNTN Find the answer in the puzzle answer section.

## Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle



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

### **DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging \* \* \* HOO BOY!

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### PETS OF THE WEEK

### **APS OF ORANGE COUNTY**

Hey, I'm Onyx! The first thing you will notice about me is that I just want to cuddle. The second thing you will notice is that when I play with toys, my whole personality comes to life. But I am a good girl who gives up toys quickly and easily. I also love riding in the car, and I get along with other dogs, although I can get a little vocal about it! I have a sweet little deer hop that I use to bounce from place to place. I



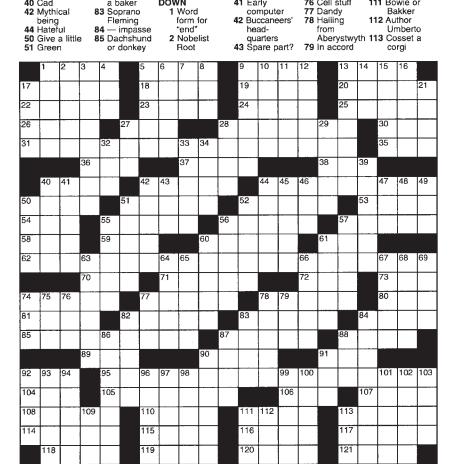
am short in stature and although I am a physically fit girl, I do great on my leash and don't pull too hard. You will enjoy your walks with me as they will be full of happiness and joy! Come see me at Pets4Ever, 6311 Nicks Road, Mebane, or call 304-2300. You can also go online at www. animalprotectionsociety.org

ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES — Meet Shadow!—

This handsome Australian Shepherd/ Border Collie mix is around 5 years old and looking for a new

home this holiday season. Shadow is intelligent and eager to please, and would do well in a home where he can be part of the entire family! He's put on a bit of weight at the shelter, so he'd also be a great workout buddy! Stop by Orange County's Animal Shelter, 1081 MLK Jr. Blvd, Chapel Hill or call 919-967-7383. You can also see him online at www.co.orange.nc.us/ animalservices/adoption.asp





# Almanac

### **FLORA**

FROM PAGE I

Our eyes were sharpened by someone pointing to clusters of pale brownish-yellow and purplish pencil-thin stems, six to 12 inches tall, rising from the leaf litter beneath some of the beech trees. Beech-drops, Epifagus virginiana, are blooming now. The barely open purplish flowers at the top are sterile, but the closed (cleistogamous) flowers lower down are fertile and will produce seed. This little leafless plant is parasitic on the roots of beech trees and it doesn't seem to harm the giant trees above. Some of the beech drops were far away from the beech trunks, emphasizing to us how far reaching are the surface roots of trees.

Though stopping frequently to admire the fall colors and big trees, our attention kept returning to the forest floor. The mossy patches were interrupted with evergreen leaves and lush green rosettes scattered about as if carefully planted in miniature gardens. A special



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

A single red partridge berry hangs over a moss covered rocky ledge above Bolin Creek.

discovery was a mossy ledge covered with the trailing evergreen partridge berry, Mitchella repens, with a single brilliant-red berry still hanging on. We thought back to the spring when the beginning of that little berry was the base of two small, fused-atthe-base, white trum-

pet-shaped flowers. The rainy morning passed quickly and we thanked one another for showing up to share the woods ramble. Person-

ally, I'm looking forward to the winter months. The forest is very special then; without all those leaves, one can really see and study the forest landscape.

Note: In some future Flora columns. I will announce occasional woods walks. You will be welcome to join me; and if you don't have a kid of your own to bring along, borrow one from a friend. We'll discover a lot more with the young ones leading us.



Roland, Helen and Bill Giduz, 1954

'm taking the liberty of proclaiming Roland Giduz as "Mr. Chapel Hill." And crown him King of Carrboro too, because from 1954-59 he helped start and then edited our town's first newspaper. Though it was named the Chapel Hill News Leader, Giduz' paper was housed where Sid's Surplus is now.

"I was just a kid, and I thought I was so dang smart," the 83-year-old Roland says ruefully. "We were very cocky — and all we had was a hatful of nickels!"

In this self-timer image from 1954, Roland jumps in the frame to join wife Helen and son Bill. He shot it with a 4x5 Speed Graphic and printed it on an Omega D-2 enlarger, purchased from Foister's Camera store for \$400. That's important because in 1966 Roland sold me that same old enlarger for the eye-popping sum of \$125. From Wooten-Moulton's studios upstairs over

the Carolina Coffee Shop, I lugged it home over my shoulder. Forty-two years later, Roland's enlarger is still a classic — like its former owner, who describes himself these days as "kinda creaky," and dismisses his career as "a notorious hometown ne'er do well."

That we should all be so blessed. All hail, King Roland!



## 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.

## **Carrboro Creative Coworking Opening Party November 21, 2008** 7pm 205 Lloyd Street Suite 101 carrborocoworking.com C

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Please join us for an Open House at Carolina Friends School

For families with students ages 3 to 5

Chapel Hill Early School Open House Sunday, November 23 2:00 - 4:00 pm 531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill

For families with students ages 3 to 18

Main Campus Open House Sunday, December 7 2:00 - 4:00 pm 4809 Friends School Road, Durham

Meet teachers, visit classes, learn about curriculum, and explore our 121-acre campus, located between Chapel Hill, Durham, and Hillsborough.

To learn more, call Admissions at 919.383.6602 ext 221. Or visit www.cfsnc.org

Carolina Friends School





# THE PRE-HOLIDAY EVENT THAT GIVES TO OTHERS IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 • 10 A.M. TO 7 P.m.

University Mall invites you to give to local non-profits as you experience the pre-holiday shopping event of the season.

Give to local charities by purchasing a ticket to the event. Your \$5 ticket not only benefits the local charity from whom you purchase the ticket, but also entitles you to special offers in mall stores, a chance to win great door prizes and much more!

It's all about prizes, all about special offers and all about fun!

Call or visit Customer Service Center near Roses for a list of participating non-profits, and look for even more details at www.universitymallnc.com.

Tickets are available the day of the sale.



### UNIVERSITY MALL

Shop Monday – Saturday: 10 am – 9 pm | Sunday 1 – 6pm 201 SOUTH ESTES DRIVE | CHAPEL HILL | 919.967.6934 WWW.UNIVERSITYMALLNC.COM





Look for this symbol while you shop. It shows you are shopping a Chapel Hill Original!