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### FREE



# School board appoints McElveen

### **BY SUSAN DICKSON** Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education voted unanimously last week to appoint Gregory McElveen as the newest member of the board.

The board selected McElveen from a pool of seven applicants to fill the seat left by Pam Hemminger, who submitted her resignation in order to serve on the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

McElveen, 52, has lived in Chapel Hill for 14 years and works in corporate market research at IBM. He has six children, two that attend East Chapel Hill High School and four that have

graduated from Chapel Hill- responsive and inviting climate for Carrboro City Schools.

He has been involved with local education for a number of years, through his work as chair of the Minority Student Achievement and Support Committee at Chapel Hill High School and on the district's Strategic Plan.

"I really do think that K-12 education is really important and vital to the success of our community," McElveen said. "I'm really interested and committed to the success of our youth."

McElveen said he looks forward to working toward implementing the board's articulated priorities, including closing the achievement gap; maintaining excellence for all students; and ensuring a safe, students, teachers and parents.

He hopes to help the board refine policies to increase its effectiveness.

"The biggest challenge is going to be meeting all of the wants and needs of our district and the requests of our students and parents within this difficult financial environment," he said. "We don't want to let anything

slip. "We certainly don't want to begin pitting various members of the community against each other."

McElveen's term will expire next fall, when three seats on the board will become available. He will be sworn in Dec. 4.



PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW New school board member Gregory McElveen.

### PHOTO BY KEN MOORE Evelyn Sims holding a native oregano for her garden.



Why we garden

hen asked, "Why do you garden?' Evelyn McNeill Sims was at first a bit startled as she

leaned back in her seat, and after a few moments of thoughtful silence responded, "Well, that's just what you do! I can't imagine not doing it!"

That sentiment was expressed last spring, a few days before I presented the Botanical Garden's 9th Annual Evelyn McNeill Sims Native Plant Lecture, an annual celebration of wildflowers endowed by Evelyn's daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Ed



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

Recently arrived Burmese refugees were among new students to the school system treated to their first Thanksgiving meal at a dinner hosted by Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools' Newcomer Center. The dinner, held at UNC's Center for Education Excellence, featured turkey, baked yams and all the trimmings. The Newcomer Center was established to help English language learners who are new to the country.

### **Chapel Hill looks** at budget cuts

**BY KIRK ROSS** Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Town Council received a report from Town Manager Roger Stancil outlining how he plans to achieve \$2,482,000 in budget cuts for the remainder of this fiscal year.

The plan, reviewed at the council's meeting Monday night at Town Hall, includes \$1.8 million in reductions achieved mainly by not filling vacancies and freezing new positions. Stancil said the goal was to cut as much as possible without compromising services to residents. He acknowledged that some departments would be understaffed, but did not think it would cause severe delays.

"It should not be something people notice too significantly in the short term," Stancil said.

The \$1.8 million allocated by department would be held in reserve and require the town manager's approval to be spent. Stancil said he could reach the rest of the

Preston, in 1990, on the occasion of Evelyn's 90th birthday.

The topic for this year's special gathering was "Why We Garden, A Conversation," based on Jim Nollman's book Why We Garden.

Timid at first to participate in a public conversation, folks at the gathering slowly warmed up to sharing their "Why We Garden" feelings. They described gardening for the beauty of flowers, fragrance of herbs, shade of trees, health of exercise, tastes of fresh fruit and vegetables on the table and attracting wildlife. Then they began sharing deeper feelings of gardening "to forget everything, to concentrate on nature, for sanity and peace, for bliss, for recovery from sorrow, to temper anger and to touch life and death in nature." Wow, that was some mighty honest sharing about gardening.

Now returning to Nollman's book, I find myself frequently rereading it, particularly the first chapter describing a "onetree garden." His description of selecting the perfect spot for a single tree in one's garden explores the real meaning of gardening.

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# Housing starts not exactly starting

### **BY MARGOT CARMICHAEL LESTER** Staff Writer

It's all doom, gloom and pestilence if the latest housing data from the National Association of Homebuilders is to be believed.

Overall housing starts for October declined 4.5 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 791,000 units - and 38 percent less than October 2007's 1,182,000 units. That's the slowest pace on record since the U.S. government began tracking housing data in 1959.

The picture was no better in our

47

34

148

SOURCE: National Association of Homebuilders

2007-2008

2006-2007

2005-2006

neck of the woods, according to figures from the Home Builders Association of Durham, Orange & Chatham counties.

"Through the end of October 2008, single-family detached housing starts are down 39 percent compared to the 12 months ending [in] 2007," says Nick Tennyson, the association's executive vice president.

"We finally got to the point where the issues that had been affecting the rest of the country began affecting us," he says. As a result of the mortgage and foreclosure crises, "builders that would have five or 10 spec houses under way went to zero." But, he says,

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things may be looking up. "I just heard last week from a builder who sold five houses, so the market still has activity," he notes. "I think we've gotten to the bottom."

That's why Tennyson is bullish on the area housing market.

"People should avoid buying into the "there's no money" mentality," he says. "There are a whole lot of people who want to help you figure out how to make a purchase, from builders to mortgage lenders to real estate agents. Especially if you're looking to buy in Orange County, it seems to me that now is the time.'

Chatham Co.

279

486

524

goal of a 5 percent reduction by delaying \$400,000 in post-retirement benefits and saving \$300,000 in debt service by delaying bonds on the proposed library expansion. The manager said given the uncertain financial situation, it is likely that waiting a year on the financing will be necessary anyway.

Mayor Kevin Foy asked Stancil how further reductions would affect services.

Stancil said that cuts beyond the \$2.5 million would likely require town service reductions or cuts. He warned that too great a reduction in town spending could contribute to the economic slowdown. "We have a responsibility to spend in this community," he said. Reducing that too much will contribute to the problem. "That has a spinoff effect in the community."

In other action, the council approved a new downtown parking plan to accommodate

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 6

# A special kind of house warming on Neville Road

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345

483

Orange Co.

Siler City

22

38

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### **RECENTLY** .... By Valarie Schwartz

"Don't my house look NICE?" Louise Hackney asked as she stepped outside her back door into the new garden of the Neville Road cottage where she has lived some 40-plus years, on Orange County property inherited from her father.

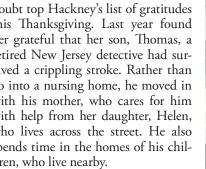
She looked at the azalea and gardenia bushes (one under every window) that will bloom come spring, the camellia already in bloom and the pansies dancing happily in the bonechilling wind.

Hackney, 86, could feel no cold as she again surveyed the changes that had taken place in one week through the efforts of the 70-member "Fix a Home" team from the Chapel Hill Board of Realtors. Each year, through referrals from the Department of Social Services, a homeowner facing insurmountable needs becomes the target of the team's goodwill and muscle power.

The exterior makeover will no doubt top Hackney's list of gratitudes this Thanksgiving. Last year found her grateful that her son, Thomas, a retired New Jersey detective had survived a crippling stroke. Rather than go into a nursing home, he moved in with his mother, who cares for him with help from her daughter, Helen, who lives across the street. He also spends time in the homes of his children, who live nearby.

kin people," Hackney said. "I'd been wondering how I was going to get this side fixed," she said, referring to the backside of the house that had been repaired years ago with inferior materials. "The whole thing was rotting down."

the back of the house was demolished down to the studs and totally replaced. The week's work included a power washing, then scraping away peeling paint from the entire home and painting on fresh coats; replacing



"All around here is nothing but

No evidence of rot remains, as



PHOTO COURTESY OF BILL WHITMORE

The Fix-A-Home Crew and Louise Hackney (center, in the chair).

gutters; landscaping the entire foundation with heavily mulched plants; and situating new rocking chairs and planters on the front porch.

"Lord have mercy, honey child, the Lord is good! I'm doin' something right," Hackney exclaimed.

On the other side of the endeavor, Christine Khoury, chair of the Fix a Home committee looked and

SEE **RECENTLY** PAGE 6

# **Community Calendar**

### **Special Events**

Photo Night — Nov. 25, 7:30-9pm. Steve Jessmore of the *Sun News* in Myrtle Beach talks about photography and shares his work. Carroll Hall Room 33, UNC Campus.

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/

**Community Day: Art In Action** — Nov 28, 10am-4pm. Ackland hosts a day-long event for families with storytelling, dance, crafts for kids and more. 966-5736, www.ackland.org

Carriage Rides in Historic Pittsboro — Nov. 29, 1-4pm. Carriage rides through downtown, starting in the Capital Bank Parking Lot. Free. 260-9725, pittsboroshop. com

Natural Ornaments — Dec. I, 2-4pm. A holiday get-together to make natural ornaments. Natural materials provided; participants can also bring their own native plant materials. Free; call to pre-register. NC Botanical Garden Totten Center. 962-0522, www.ncbg.unc.edu

**"100 for under \$100"** — Dec. I-3I. ChathamArts Gallery exhibits new artists in a special Christmas show. 115 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro. 542-4144

How the Grinch Stole Christmas — Dec. 3, 4pm. Readings in both English and Latin. Cookies, cider and hot chocolate provided. Show up early to get a seat. 962-5060.

**Cybrary Benefit** — Dec. 4, 5-9pm. Ten Thousand Villages will donate 10 percent of the night's proceeds to the Carrboro Cybrary. Eastgate Shopping Center. 929-8022

12th Annual William Lanier Hunt Campus Walk — Dec. 6, 2-4pm. Ken Moore will lead a winter walking tour of the UNC campus, highlighting the collection of broadleaf evergreens and recalling the stories of plants and people told by horticulturalist William Hunt. \$8/\$5(members & students) 962-0522, www.ncbg.unc.edu

### Christmas Tree Benefit —

Dec.. 6. NC-grown Christmas trees and wreaths sold, proceeds benefit a Chatham County College Fund for Chatham students. Preorder trees at bynumfrontporch.googlepages.com

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 1-5pm. Handmade items for sale, carols and more. Proceeds benefit charity. www. stmatthewshillsborough.org

**Benefit Tea and Raffle** — Dec. 7, 3-5pm. For the Chapel Hill High School orchestra. Tickets \$8, \$5 students. Raffle tickets \$2. 200 S. Elliott Rd, Chapel Hill. www. chhsorchestra2008.wordpress.com

**Corks for Kids NC** — Dec. 7, 6:30pm. Champagne dinner at Acme Food & Beverage. \$75/person, tax and gratuity. Group seating 4-8 people. Reservations 968-1884, corksforkidsnc.com

### 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

### Film

Gatewood: Facing the White Canvas — 7pm, Dec. 9. Documentaries about artists Maud Gatewood and Mary Paulsen. The General Store Café. Dinner available. \$3-5. www.chathamarts.org

Millworker — Nov. 25, 7pm. Documentary about the making of a stage play that was based on oral history interviews. Also showing is a short documentary about the Chatham Railroad. Adults \$5, students \$3. Buffet \$10 General Store Café, 39 West St., Pittsboro.

### Health & Wellness

**Support group** — The Orange County Rape Crisis Center will offer a support group to survivors of childhood sexual abuse in January. Contact groups@ocrcc.org or call 968-4647 ext. 3002.

### Lectures & Discussions Artists' Salon — Nov. 21,

6:30-9pm. "Art in Second Life" featuring speakers Janet Kagan and Larry Taylor. West End Theatre at The ArtsCenter. Presented by the Orange County Arts Center. RSVP

### 245-2335, arts@co.orange.nc.us

Working in the Congo for Doctors without Borders — Dec. 7, 5pm. Anna Freeman discusses her experiences in Rutshuru. This is a repeat of a presentation for those who missed it. 101 E. Weaver St, Suite G-!, 3rd floor. www.chi-cle.com

### Literary

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

### Dance

**Contra** — Dec. 12,7:30-11pm. Triangle Country Dancers present the Morrison Brothers with caller Adina Gordon. Carrboro Century Center. \$7-9, www.tcdancers.org

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

**Contra** — Dec. 26, 7:30-11pm. Triangle Country Dancers present Bob Head, Mara Shea and others with caller David McMullen. \$7-9. www.tcdancers.org

**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

### Health & Wellness

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

# Shop Local Buy Local, Correction of the control of













# **News Briefs**

### **Kinnaird and Pollitt to marry**

Ellie Kinnaird, the seven-term District 23 state senator and a Carrboro resident, and Daniel Pollitt, Kenan professor of law emeritus at the UNC School of Law and lifelong civil rights and civil liberties advocate, have announced their engagement to be married.

Kinnaird said that while no date or specific plans for the ceremony have been set, it's going to be a "low-key" affair.

Asked by *The Citizen* for comment on her betrothed, the bride-to-be enthused, "He's a treasure."

### **Aldermen to meet**

*The Citizen* published a day early this week. As the newspaper went to press, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen were meeting in Town Hall.

Items on the agenda included a public hearing on a conditional-use permit request for the Colleton Crossing Architecturally Integrated Subdivision and a public hearing on amending the town's land-use ordinance relating to water-quality buffers.

*The Citizen* will post results of the meeting on our website at carrborocitizen.com/main

### Whooping cough cases reported

Public health officials are on alert after five cases of whooping cough were reported at Estes Hills Elementary School.

Parents have received notification letters encouraging them to monitor their children for symptoms of whooping cough and to report illness to their medical providers. Individuals in close contact with the children with confirmed cases of whooping cough have been told to see their doctors for preventative antibiotics.

The school nurse is monitoring students and communicating findings with the Orange County Health Department. The staff at Estes Hills is working closely with the department to keep parents informed of all recommendations and investigation updates.

Whooping cough, or pertussis, is an acute bacterial infection of the respiratory tract that is transmitted through close contact with an infected person's respiratory droplets. Initial symptoms are cold-like but progress to a cough that lasts at least two weeks. The cough is often characterized as paroxysmal, with rapid multiple coughs, followed by a loud "whooping" sound at the end of the coughs and sometimes vomiting. Infants may have apneic episodes, in which they can't breathe. Symptoms usually begin seven to 10 days after exposure but can take up to 21 days to appear.

Older children and adults tend to experience milder illness with whooping cough but it can result in hospitalization for infants and the elderly.

Most people have been immunized against whooping cough. A booster dose of the whooping-cough vaccine used for adolescents and adults is required for students when they enter sixth grade. But the vaccine is not 100 percent effective in preventing whooping cough, and immunity decreases over time.

# Hard times hitting IFC at the holidays

### BY BRITTANY JACKSON

Courtesy of The Carrboro Commons

With the economic downturn forcing people out of jobs and straining their financial resources, the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service in Carrboro is feeling the pressure of helping more families in need this holiday season.

The Holiday Meals program at IFC, which has been in existence for about seven years, provides households with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals each year, supported by donations from the public.

Partly because of the economic downturn this year, however, the organization made changes to the program. A limit of 350 households were allowed to sign up to receive meals, and a significant change this year is that each of those households must also be an IFC client.

"We want to support the people that have needed our services at other times during this last year," said Kristin Lavergne, IFC community services director.

"If someone has had to come for foodpantry assistance, then we know that there's a need there."

The IFC allowed households to sign up for both Thanksgiving and Christmas meals through the first week of November using the membership-card system launched in January 2007. With this system, members can receive groceries once a month.

Lavergne said the IFC food pantry has seen a higher demand in the community for this monthly service. From July through October 2007, the IFC gave away 3,383 bags of groceries; since July of this year, the number has increased to more than 4,000. Though the need has risen, IFC has had to turn people away because donations are down.

Last year, IFC asked for donations of \$20 to supply holiday meals. This year, with a \$25 donation the IFC was able to purchase one Thanksgiving meal consisting of a turkey, yams, green beans, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, bread rolls and a pie.

"What we provide is definitely not extravagance, but it's something basic and it's something that can at least help people have a gathering and invite family," Lavergne said. "I think there's a portion of the folks that come that probably wouldn't have Thanksgiving at all if we weren't able to provide it for them."



PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW

Suzy Firestone, Hispanic services coordinator for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Inter-Faith Council through Americorps, fills grocery bags for a family of three at the Inter-Faith Council food pantry at the IFC headquarters on West Main Street in Carrboro.

Beyond the need for monetary donations from the public, the IFC also needs volunteers each year to help organize and bag the food orders from Food Lion. Members of University United Methodist Church of Chapel Hill, who helped with Christmas last year, will do the same this year.

"Just being there, the reception you get from the clients and the people who get the bags of food is really neat," said Paul Schwenke, who attends University Methodist and is also on the IFC board of directors. "They're all so appreciative of what we're doing."

Volunteers from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, both located in Chapel Hill, are helping distribute food at the IFC food pantry in Carrboro this Thanksgiving. It's the first time volunteering with the program for both groups.

"I thought it was a good opportunity to get more hands-on experience with IFC," said Marilyn Alexander, director of outreach ministries at Holy Trinity. "We're striving to make it a more family-oriented experience, so some people are bringing their children to see how it actually works." Lavergne, Alexander and Schwenke all said that they believe providing a Thanksgiving meal means more than the food itself, and more than just any other meal.

"Food is a basic need, but there is also a lot of emotion tied to food," Lavergne said.

"For families that struggle most of the time, it's hard enough not to have food or not know where your next dinner is coming from.

"But when Thanksgiving comes, it sort of accentuates the fact that you don't have [food] or can't provide for your family. Having a way to share this meal, even if it's not as lavish or extensive as you'd like, the fact that you have something is helpful."

Lavergne said that as of Nov. 17, just a week before volunteers began handing out meals, only about half of the needed donations had come in. To help families have a Thanksgiving meal this year, visit www. ifcweb.org/holidaymeals.html to donate your \$25.

Brittany Jackson is a UNC student writing for The Carrboro Commons, a bi-weekly online lab newspaper for Jock Lauterer's Community Journalism class at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.



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# FOR THE RECORD

### A year of difficult changes

From just a couple months out, you can see that 2009 is going to be a year of changes. Not all of them are going to be pleasant.

We are starting to see the impact of recessionary times and the financial meltdown hit closer to home. A lot of decisions are being made these days with the state of one's retirement plan in mind. University trustees heard a report last week that they were no different. The school's \$2.5 billion endowment has dropped by \$300 million or 13 percent. Tuition will go up this year.

The larger picture in state finances is equally bleak. Revenues are down more than \$300 million over what was projected and are not expected to pick up soon. Speculation of the budget gap ranges from \$2-3 billion. Sales taxes are likely to come in low this year as well. The state's situation has a trickle-down effect.

This week, the Chapel Hill Town Council got a look at what a five percent reduction would do. Carrboro, Hillsborough and county governments will be faced with the same. School projects in Orange and Chatham counties have been delayed or approved but unfunded.

The situation presents an enormous challenge at all levels of local government. Each department must be creative and frugal.

Drafting a budget is a painstaking and sometimes painfully slow process. Each year, we're certain, the process evolves with a great deal of attentiveness on the part of town officers and elected officials. The year ahead calls for an especially high level of engagement, first to do what can be done to maintain services and proceed with critical projects, and second to explain carefully the options available and encourage a public dialog.

The budget axe is going to fall — not a single jurisdiction in this newspaper's readership will be spared a share of the pain.

Plans shaping up on the statewide level are worrisome, with some calling for cuts to Medicaid along with steep cuts to other services being contemplated.

Upon her election earlier this month, state Sen. Ellie Kinnaird told us that she expects to spend the better part of the rest of her legislative career defending programs aimed at the most vulnerable in our society from getting cut too deeply.

There still seems to be almost no stomach in Raleigh for any revenue increases, be they tax hikes or closing major loopholes. The oft-stated cause of this timidity is fear that voting for a tax hike might open one up to negative advertising. Judging from the ads in the last election, no politician is going to be spared the charge no matter what they do.

Cutbacks at the state level make what happens at the town halls and county courthouses in Pittsboro, Hillsborough, Chapel Hill and Carrboro even more critical. Very shortly, we'll get to the phase in the budget cycle when nonprofit and social service agencies present their annual requests for funding from local governments.

The temptation will be to be frugal and possibly look for savings there as well. Many of those agencies, however, are on the front lines of the aforementioned economic meltdown. They are the ones most directly meeting the needs of individuals and families who are struggling. With charitable giving down, many of these organizations are also struggling. As we begin the conversation about where to cut and what to bolster, what we want and what we need from government, let us first and foremost remember the lifelines. There are many things that can wait another year. Our neighbors in need are not among them.





# Heady days for newspapers

### **ROBERT DICKSON**

The days following Barack Obama's momentous election were exciting ones for our state's newspapers. Newsstand sales were brisk and several of our large corporate dailies found themselves having to print more copies to fill the demand for commemorative issues.

While the Internet has an immediacy that a newspaper can't match, I doubt many of us captured screen shots of our favorite news site to save for posterity. The medium that was so vital to Obama's big day isn't, ironically, the one that we'll use to remember it by. No, it's those dusty, yellowing old newspapers that will be pulled out in the decades to come when we want to prove to our grandchildren that, yes, we were there.

It's also interesting, and sort of sad, that one of our local newspapers decided to ignore the election completely. Their front page on Wednesday, Nov. 5 had not a word on this great event about which so many in this community cared so deeply. This was a deadline issue, I'd guess, but still a curious choice.

Other community newspapers in North Carolina did a much better job of reflecting the huge interest in this election. The North Carolina Press Association has compiled a gallery of post-election front pages. These can be seen on the web at www.ncpress.com/electionpages/index.html.

I'm particularly proud of the front page of *The News-Journal* in Raeford. My sister, Anne, and I are third-generation family owners of this newspaper, now in its 104th year, but it's my good friend Ken MacDonald who's in charge, and who creates the front page.

The headline in Wednesday's edition stretched all the



sat below. I don't remember any signs dictating this behavior, but it's what we did.

And the local newspaper, run by my father, identified people in news stories by their race: white, black or Indian.

Raeford and Hoke County, along with the rest of this country, have changed a great deal since those days. African-Americans now serve as police chief of Raeford and sheriff of Hoke County and hold a majority on the county commission. Increasingly, votes are cast not on the basis of skin color but on the qualifications of the candidate. Community newspapers have played a vital role in this change.

Unfortunately for us newspaper junkies, the large

# Mental health: half is not enough

### **BY CHRIS FITZSIMON**

Television news cameras came early to Thursday's meeting of the Mental Health Oversight Committee, a fairly rare occurrence but understandable the day after state officials announced that three staff members of Cherry Hospital had been fired in connection with the death of a patient in April.

Video from a hospital security camera showing staff members playing cards while the patient sat slumped in a chair in the corner was released Tuesday, prompting widespread outrage and renewed attention to the disturbing conditions at the state mental hospitals.

The cameras were there to hear state officials talk about the incident and Dr. James Osberg obliged, telling lawmakers that the state was working to fix the problems in Cherry and other hospitals. Rep. Verla Insko replied that there has been a "culture of disregard for patients" for years.

Reports of neglect and mistreatment of patients have dominated most of the headlines lately about the state's troubled mental health system and should continue to draw media attention until state officials can guarantee the public that the hospitals are safe, adequately staffed and providing appropriate care for patients.

The report on the hospitals was scheduled for noon, but Osberg didn't speak until midafternoon, frustrating the news crews by bumping up against their deadlines. What the committee discussed before the update on hospitals provides a revealing picture of the status of the mental health efforts that began in 2001.

The reforms were based on the idea that most people with mental illness or a developmental disability should be treated in their local communities instead of state institutions. The plan called for fewer admissions to state hospitals, which would save money that would help pay for local services.

Before 2001, the services were provided by government, including area mental health centers and the state. The reform set up a new creature, Local Management Entities (LMEs), and the decision was made that the LMEs would not provide services, but would instead contract with private forprofit companies and nonprofits that would actually work with patients. That privatization should have set off alarm bells, but they never rang.

Lawmakers also neglected to adequately fund community services, and money set aside in a trust fund was used by Gov. Mike Easley to balance the budget. The money was never fully replaced.

Hospital admissions never declined and

### CORRECTION

### **Crossword clues**

Last week's crossword puzzle omitted five clues, no doubt frustrating many readers. The clues are as follows.

ACROSS 51 Swell place? 96 Attract the IRS? DOWN 3 Neighbor of Cal. 40 Certain Inscription 83 Potok's "My Name Is Asher —" The newspaper regrets the error.



### **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

Margot Carmichael Lester, Contributing Writer

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### **OPERATIONS**

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way across the page and declared, "Praise Jesus, I can finally die now." This was heard above the din at a local community center as the West Coast polls closed and Obama's victory was assured.

You'd have had to grow up in Raeford in the '50s and '60s, as Ken and I did, to truly understand what this headline means to that community.

I can still show you a pair of bathrooms in an old unused warehouse with "White" and "Colored" stenciled on the doors. When I was a child, black people sat upstairs in the balcony of the theater while whites corporate newspapers that now predominantly serve our area seem to be giving up on the idea of a printed newspaper, expecting that we'll all just happily crank up our computers and read their stuff on the web.

Maybe they're right, but I'm betting that a Ken Mac-Donald or a Kirk Ross, with their local knowledge and daily involvement in our communities, will continue to make our newspapers relevant, exciting and just plain fun to read.

*Robert Dickson is the publisher of* The Carrboro Citizen.

across the state.

chaos ensued, leaving thousands of people without services while government officials blamed each other for the problems or misleadingly claimed they opposed the reform when it was enacted.

On Thursday, lawmakers heard that the LMEs are making progress overseeing community services after an infusion of funding from the General Assembly for emergency care and mobile crisis centers.

That prompted a couple of committee members to wonder if the system was returning to the structure in place before 2001 when the state built local centers that provided services. Sen. Martin Nesbitt agreed the reforms were poorly handled in 2001 and that the old system was dismantled before a new one was put in place, but said LMEs are on the right track.

That claim was partially based on a spread sheet provided by the Department of Health and Human Services that showed how each of the 25 LMEs was doing on a series of critical measures, like services to people in need, timely follow-up after inpatient care and the effective use of state mental hospitals.

The spreadsheet did show that some of the LMEs have met the goals set by the department in each area. The goals themselves are worth noting. One was that the LMEs should see at least 28 percent of patients released from a hospital in their area within a week of the patient's discharge.

Most LMEs are seeing more than 28 percent; some are seeing close to half the patients within seven days. But shouldn't we expect more, seven years after a complete overhaul of the mental health system? The first few days out of a hospital are crucial to a patient's adjustment, and yet more than half of the patients are on their own.

Forty percent of adults in the state with mental illness who need services are receiving them and that is slightly above the department's goal.

LMEs are improving, and lawmakers heard about several promising pilot programs that might help. But the state's own data shows that thousands of people are not receiving the services they need and ought to receive.

It is tempting for policymakers to frame this as a question of perception, the glass half empty or half full. But that doesn't work when it comes to people's lives. Half is not enough.

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

# **Suspension policies fuel high dropout rates**

### **ROCHELLE WILLIAMS**

North Carolina's education officials say they will raise high school graduation rates by supporting proven methods for promoting achievement, things like increasing access to pre-kindergarten programs and bringing new, qualified teachers to poor and rural schools. They spend less time talking

about how they will re-engage and nurture the millions of young people who are already failing, the ones whose personal and emotional problems have exacerbated academic ones.

The problem is that at least some officials are unsympathetic toward students who they view as troublemakers so they willfully ignore the direct link between North Carolina's dropout rate and statewide suspension numbers that are rising.

During the 2006-07 school year, one out of 10 students, or 308,010 of them, received an out-of-school short-term suspension, up 2.1 percent from the previous school year. Long-term suspensions, those that last for 11 days or more, increased 2.7 percent, to 4,682.

Unfortunately, the number of alternative learning programs that serve suspended students is not rising at the same clip, because too many local school districts do not believe they have a responsibility to educate rule-breakers while they are punishing them. State law encourages schools to provide continued education for suspended students but stops short of mandating it.

State legislation requires that, unless granted a waiver by the State Board of Education, every district must have an alternative program or have an agreement with another school district to refer suspended, expelled and at-risk students to its program. Still, in most school districts alternative programs are small initiatives that do not serve all grade levels. Many are filled to capacity or have selective admission policies.

So every year, thousands of suspended and expelled students are left to their own devices where they become more at-risk of academic failure and more likely to engage in high-risk or delinquent behaviors.

Recently, at a meeting of the Joint Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation, a representative from the state Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention spoke about that department's efforts to highlight the disproportionate number of longand short-term suspensions awarded to minority students. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is doing important intervention work with students and school districts in an effort to reduce the number of suspensions across the state. But it will take many years for those increased efforts to stem

the growing tide of suspensions

and education officials who say

they are committed to lowering

dropout rates and boosting reten-

tion must stop allowing school

districts to withhold education as

a form of punishment. Until the

Legislature requires every school

district to meet the educational

In the meantime, legislators

# LETTERS POLICY

and Law Project of the N.C. Justice

Center

Letters should be no more than 425 words in length and must be accompanied by the author's name, address and contact information. Send your letters to:

Letters to the editor Box 248 Carrboro, North Carolina 27510

**EMAIL:** editor@ carrborocitizen.com

**FAX:** 919-942-2195



# **Culbreth and McDougle Middle Schools first-quarter honor rolls**

### Culbreth 6th Grade — A

Carolanne Anderson, Kenza Araba, Maysa Araba, Joo Young Bae , Henry Beachum, Maeve Bell, Katherine Benavides, Madison Bennett, Aidan Blake, Benjamin Bourret, Madeline Brobst, Mayah Burgess, Hannah Camp, Richard Cato, Sarah Cline, Ethan Cole, Amelia, Covington, Marissa Creatore, Benjamin Darrow, lack Devonport, Chathan Driehuvs, Tamia Eatmon, Daniel Evers, Kali Faatz, Darius Glover, Trygve Godtliebsen, Katherine Hand, Claire Hanlon, Christopher Hemmer, Colin Henning, Katherine Heuser, Eleanor, Holroyd, Roy Huang, Joseph Jewett, Kevin Joyce, Isabel Kessler, Jun Soo Kim, Anna Knotek, Elizabeth Kupec, Justin Laatz, Noah, Lambert, Monica Lang, Teresa McKeeman, Elspeth McWilliam-Grench, Logan Melville, Harris Middlesworth, Benjamin Millar, Alejandro, Mojica, Karla Montelongo, Helen Morken, Colin Mraz, Lyn Nelson, Linh Nguyen, Yuming Niou, Stephen Nuttall, Chloe Ouellet-Pizer, Songhee Park, Elena Peterman, Hanna Peterman, Anthony Peterson, Grace Reagan, Jamie Rehlaender, Marcus Rovner, Jacob Schanfarber, Robert Seligson, Hans Singh, Isabel Sistachs, Anna Smith, Kelsey Smith, Krystal Smith, Lily Smith, Molly Smith, Zoe Smith, Susannah Stewart, Kara Stonecypher, Daniel Stratton, Evan, Sullivan, Taliana Tudryn, Jamil Walker, Daniel Wallace, Andrew, Walton, Matthew White, Claire Wilson, Sophia Winkler, Morgan, Wolfe, Kristin Wyatt, Arthur Yeames III, Jisoo Yu. Tarek Zikry

### Culbreth 6th Grade — AB

Samuel Abernathy, Byeonguk Ahn, Grace Atkins, William Bekolo, Samuel Blobe, Leah Block, Imogene Brannum, Ethan Carey, James, Carpenter, Nijah Cassidy, Han-Bynn Cho, Benjamin Christians, Anna Coleman, Khalil Collins, Aminata Conteh, Sydney Cooper, Lauren Copeland, Alexandra Copenhaver, Callum Cordell, Keegan, Cordell, Samuel Cox, Raymond Damron, Emma Daum, Haley Davis, John Davis, Thomas Devetski, Joshua DuBois, Katlyn Edwards, Idan Falek, Kinsey Fisher, Sophia Fisher, Samantha Flaugher, Ethan Foy, Anthony Fraden, William Fritsch, Pearson Gallagher, Janell Gibbs, Emma Giusto, Stuart Griffin,, Boldizsar Gyongyosi, Catherine Haley, Ty'onna Hartsfield, Garrett Hattman, Taylor Headen, Emily Henley, Aaron Hill, Franklin Hirsch, Andrew Hodson, Michele Houston, John Hudson, Neal James, Reshma Jayaram, Aidan Jensen, Molly Jordan, Benjamin Kemper, Min Young Ko, JeeWon Lee, Jiwon Lee,

Kyoung Joon Lee, Timothy Leow, Nina Levin, Vincent Li, Andrew, Liu, Thomas Lloyd, Angelina Lu, Charles Lynn, Chagal Marciano, Maya Marin, Morgane Marshall, Michael McManus, Ruth Metz, Aleksander Mieczkowski, Cristopher Mitchell, Santul Nerkar, Elizabeth Nuttall, James Olshan, Carlos Orellana, Seo Hee Park, Landon Perentis, Zachary Pritchard, Matthew Pruitt, Nathaniel, Putsis, Davenisha Reid, Peter Rhodes, Quinn Rhodes, Katherine, Richardson, Lucia Romano, Joshua Rubenstein, Ivan Ruiz, Anna, Ruzicka, Morgan Ryan, Thomas Scott, Henry Selkirk, Maya, Sokoletsky, Kathryn Spang, Liqian Tang, Abel Torija Romero, Raina Turner, Olivia Turschak, Maxwell Wallach, Hsar Wei, Hayden Whayne, Dennison Whittaker, Amy Williams, De'Ayria, Woodward,

### Culbreth 7th Grade — A

Catherine Jane Bentulan, Pranshu Bhardwaj, Grant Braam, Victoria Brancazio, Oscar Brennwald, Alice Brower, Eva Church, Jason Cox, Varun Dalmia, Emma DeMagistris, Chloe Deshusses, Lauren Douglass, Katherine Dunleavy, Emily Enyedi, Rachel Falek, Rachel Frye, Michaela Gleason, Lauren Gustainis, Gabrielle Hafez, Emi Harada, Carl Hintz, Zachery Hong, Caroline, Houser, Emma Houser, Helen Hubacher, Maura Jones, Christopher, Joseph, ames Jushchuk, Alexandra Kelly, Rebecca Macklin, Kirstin Macleod, Ana Melone, Briana Merrigan, Anna Merritt, John Nanney, Alec Nelson, Vendela Norman, Kirsten Nyman, Loreanne Oh, Katherine Orton, Benjamin Padden, Melissa Poole, Camila Portocarrero Morales, Nathaniel Pritchard, Ramkumar Rao, Haley Riggs, Elizabeth Riitters, Aron Rimanyi, Maria, Romero-Moreno, Matthew Ruston, Marie Samek, Mary Scanga, Theodore Seagroves IV, Madeline Smith, Max Smith, Francesca, Strongoli, Mya Thin, Olivia Trogdon, Nyo Nyo Tway, Melissa, Uehling, Amelia Verkerk, Calvin Wagner, Oliver Wang, Katerina, Wilhelm, Kaitlyn Wilson, Kendall Wood,

### Culbreth 7th Grade — AB

Matthew Aklilu, Caitlyn Alberry, Alican Arcasoy, Ling Áwi, Stephanie Bailey, Noah Balamucki, Jeffrey Balog, Michael Balog, Bryanna Baumann, Jesse Blackwood, Olivia Blanco, Abigail Brown, Asia Burnette, Murat Calikoglu, Demarkes Campbell, George, Carpenter, Reyna Cervantes, Michelle Chang, Thomas Clark, Andrew Cook, Eleanor Costley, Kaelen Cox, Michael Crespo, Margaret Daum, Riley Dellea, William

Dozier, Paden Earnhardt, Dylan Farrow, Hattie Ferguson, Madison Fishler, Christian Fowler, Brian Frantz, Jonathan Gaspar, Robert Gerber, Yasmina Gilmanova, Mackinzie Hayes, Samuel Hedges, Jay Irwin, Cole Jenson, Emery, Jenson, Marlin Johnson, Seohyun Kim, Christine Kolk, Emily Kupec, Margaret Larson, Pil-Ho Lee, Sydney Levine, Matthew Linford, Sabrina Longley, Natasha Lopez, Thurgood Lynn, Elayna Madden, Aidan Marshall, Savanna McCall, Emily McDaniels, Hannah Midyette, Peter Norwood, Conor O'Kane, Cara Paolicelli, Darrell Parker Ir, Delanie Postma, Makenzie Postma, Keith Ramer, Kenneth Reeb III, Elizabeth Rogers, Johanna Salazar, Ruben Salcedo, James Scott, Shelbi Sessoms, Ben Sistachs, Jurate Sorensen, Clara Superfine, Tristan Tamers, Brian Tanner, Cooper Tinsley, Allison Valdez, Cole Vandermast, Maria Velez, William Verkerk, Tanner Watson, Adelaide Weiden, Tia Withers, Elena Zumstein,

### Culbreth 8th Grade — A

Alexander Baker, Daniel Blake, Griffin Blanford, Adrian Bowers, Michael Cato Jr, Holly Dew, Jonathan Dolan, Lillian Downing, Catherine Edmiston, Gustav Godtliebsen, Catherine Hemmer, Max, Hudnell, Yeji Jung, Pegah Khosravi-Kamrani, Sung-Hoon Kim, Matthew Kinert, Laura Ladomerszky, Chi Le, Dong Yeop Lee, Seungcheol Lee, Ching-Hsuan Lin, Julia Marks, Katherine Marshall, Colleen McCarthy, William McEntee, Claire Miller, Grace Morken, Samuel Norman, Daniel Nuttall, Nalini Peres-Da-Silva, Claire, Peterman, Alexa Phillips, Atticus Reynolds, Noam Shemer, Ariel, Smith, Samuel Strosnider, Victor Sullivan, Lily Tidwell, Julia, Travers, Kholiswa Tsotetsi, Kiera Turner, Emily Turschak, Sydney Walker, Raymond Zhang,

### Culbreth 8th Grade — AB

Ei Aung, Khin Aye, Jake Barnes, Allison Bennett, Katherine, Broadwell, Rachel Burch, Steven Burger, Alexander Callaham, Sergei Čallaham, Carolee Clark, Adrian Cole, Celene Collazo, Dominic Collichio, Caroline Colman, Matthew Creatore, Eve, Devonport, Michaela Dodd, Camilla Dohlman, Brenna Doyle, Shayna, Dubois, Melaina Dyck, Harper Ellison, Sahar Elloumi, Taylor, Engbrocks, Leehee Falek, Eliza Faur, Ryan Fitzgerald, Sarah, Flowers, Catherine Foy, Steele Goldman, Jessica Graham, Donya, Grissett, Ladajah Henley, Emily Hirasawa, Justice Holloway, Gay, Htoo, Bajha Huggins, Eric Hughes, Miriam Hughes, Arianna Jacobs, Sara Joyce, Hser Ku, Asia

Lacy, Nile Latowsky, Hyeon Gyu Lee, Kristen Lee, Hannah Lewis-Marlow, Samuel Long, Joseph Lytle, Haley Malek, Matthew Magsoud, Katherine Minogue, Eva Minor, Taylor Norris, Mikela Nylander-French, Cory Oskardmay, Baso Gay, Paw, Eh Paw, William Phipps, Heather Porter, Ashley Prinzhorn, Elise Ranosa, Roey Ringel, Kimberly Rubish, Havley Samuels, John Schneid, Katherine Schneid, Marc Schwartz, Molly Sharp, Sarah Sloan, Sharon Sparling, Thomas Stanley, Nicholas Strobin, John Taylor, Urangarav Tsogt-Erdene, Valeriya Tsygankova, Aliyah Turrentine, Aidan Understein, Rachel VanArnold, Rachel, Vann, Thomas Voelkel, Aliyah Walker, Lay Lai Wei, Gregory, Williams, Emilia Wills, Soma Yamamoto, Victor Zhang,

### McDougle 6th Grade — A

John Abb, Morgan Alderman, Emily Aleman, Amelia Allore, David, Archer, Shelby Bailey, Melissa Bard, David Batson III, Allison, Benedict, Chiara Caignon-Lewis, Adam Catrambone, Bryanna, Chazotte, Shera Chellani, Kevin Chen, Sarah Clabo, David Clark, Kyle Cocowitch, Anne Conolly, Rajeshree Das, Matthew Dayton, Charlotte Deming, Olivia Donahue, Christopher Dresher, Allison, Eble, Daniel Ferreira, Sarah Frank, Carolyn Frederick, Skylar, Frisch, Angela Gasdaska, Helen Gaynes, Matthew Gilleskie, Andrew Gillespie, Carson Grill, Riley Gualtieri-Reed, William, Hamilton, Zachary Heafner, Clare Heine, Augusta Hollers, Ariel, Kantor, Samuel Kennedy, Thomas Kennedy, Lia King, Alexander, Komada, Timothy Li, Jade Macdonald, Avery Marsh, Eliot Martin, Walter McFall V, Kailey McLaughlin, Nicholas Meegan, Brandon, Miles, Suzannah Mozier, Julia Nesbitt, Griffin O'Connor, Taylor, Pearman, William Ragland, Evan Scope-Crafts, Samuel Šisk, Mia, Spencer, Wendi Su, Rhys Thomas, Skye Tracey, Jesse Tysinger, Davis Wall, Nicholas Weinberg, Brandon Wendel, Benjamin West, Katherine Westover, Evan Whisnant, Aja White, Landis Wipper

### McDougle 6th Grade — AB

Jordan Alexander, Tristan Allan, Gabriela Angeles-Paredes, Dominique Auble, Ian Bell, Sarah Bellavia, William Biggers III, John Blue, Jonathan Brooks, Nicholas Brower, Adam Carpenter, Courtney Cash, Alexis Christie, Priscilla Ćotton, Parker, Croswell, Michael Dep, Nora Dicker, Sofia Doerfer, Lucia, Drinkwalter, Kelli Farrington, Raziyah Farrington, Daniel, Fernandez, Katherine Fisher, Jessica Foley, Hannah Frediani, Josue Gamez, Brittney Gardinier, Branson Goins,

Jacob Guskiewicz, Julia Haines, Malaika Handa, Grant Hastings, Carolyn Hess, Emily Himmelberg, Troy Jackson, Erik Jens, Sophia Kahn, Emily, Kaplan, Rosemary Kerwin, Anna Knapp, Noah Layden, Carson List, Madeline Macmillan, Daniel Margolis, Alexandra McDonald, Megan, McGibbon, Andrew Miller, Samuel Morris, Robert Morton, Catherine Nansalo, Ashlynne Nelson, Molly Nicholson, Robin, O'Luanaigh, Matthew Ortez, Quinn Osment, Alice Paradis, Jerry, Pcolar, Carly Pittman, Huibo Qi, Molly Reed, Ashton Rigsbee, Drew Roeber, Derritt Sharp, Sarah Shelton, Amber Stokes, Jean, Stouffer, Zhihong Sun, Keith Swartz, Kristin Thompson, Emmett, Thorpe, Nathan Visco, Gena Weinberg, Jeremy Werden, Kefu Zhu, Emilio Zuniga

### McDougle 7th Grade — A

Alexander Adams, Emma Anderson, Cameron Baker, Anna Baynes, Casey Briggs, Brett Buchman, Megan Dell, Nikita Ermoshkine, Eliza Filene, Riley Foster, Camille Gossett, Christopher Greaney, Benjamin Griffin, Nathaniel Hebert, Rebecca Heine, Ionah Horwitz, Kimon Iliadis, Kaitlin Jones, Aaron Josephs, Rachana Joshi, Tyler Keith-Pedersen, Abel Koshy, Larry Lapushin, Rachel Lennon, Kathleen Mattox, Shannon Mumper, Carly Narotsky, Brandon, Nickerson, Christopher O'Connor, Grace Porter, Ashley Powell, Austin Rainey, Frances Reuland, Allison Rives, Catherine Romaine, Evan Rose, Andrew Scott, Laura Sullivan, Haruka Suzuki, Madeline Taylor, Ian Templeton, Rachel van Aalst, Camden VanOrd, Ray Vazquez, Diana Vincent, Vanessa Wignall, Katherine Williford

### McDougle 7th Grade — AB

Kathryn Alexander, Mackenzie Anderson, Nathan Andress, Joel Anil, Tyler Badgett, Melanie Bannout, Nigel Barnes, Emma Beck, Miriam, Beltran-Reyes, Dorothy Blyth, Spencer Brown, Anna Cable, Yessenia Campos-Franco, Jason Cohn, Matthew Cotton, Torri Derby, Grant DeSelm, Justin Doble, Grace Easler, Robert Andrew Emslie, Chelsea English, Jenna English, David Eron, Leila Fallahi, George Faur, Tyelisha Fearrington, Paul Flournoy, Caitlin Gordon, Daniel Govert, Kelsey Griffith, Anders Haaland, Kendall Harkey, Nina Hendrickson, Luke Hickey, David Hicks, Christopher, Hilburn-Trenkle, Aaron Hiller, Ayano Kakoki, Alexandra Kimball, John Kleissler, Mara Klem-O'Connor, Naa-Lamiley Kwakye, Maxwell, LeMoine, Cesar Martinez Vargas, Brooks McConnell, Madeline, McNeal, Madeline Mesaros, Heidi Mickunas,

Paul Miller, Jacob, Moffatt, Ainyi Mon, Lee Mook, Austin Morel, Doreen-Edith Nalyazi, Shea Neville, Alexander Obringer, Nadia Ortiz-Perez, Nell Ovitt, Samuel Parker, Jose Ricardo Patino, Aracely Perez, Madeleine, Popkin, Nathaniel Powers, Natalie Ragazzo, Susana Russell, Colin Schenk, Laurel Shea, Giovani Silva, Tana Smith, Kevin Sosa, Joshua Taekman, Samuel Teague, Jillian Thompson, Anna Tomkins, Ésmeralda Velazquez, Jacob Warshauer, Chandler Weedon, Ezra, Weiss, Whitney Williams, James Willingham

### McDougle 8th Grade — A

Hannah Blackburn, Brynn Cameron, Laurence Cecil, Stacey Cutrell, Harrison Esterley, Morgan Fontaine, Ariel Gunn, Jack Gurley, Andrew HoTong, Eric Jiang, Michelle Jin, Yeon Soo Jin, Caroline, Mann, Grace McLaughlin, Casey Molina, Thomas Nguyen, Kelsey, O'Regan, Elliot Orenstein, Kathryn Peneyra, Christopher Reeder, Juliana Ritter, Walden Saldana-Montavon, Chiara Salemi, Lyndsey, Shafiei, Robin Tanz, Geoffrey Thomason, Adrian Thornburg, Zachary Visco, Anne Wilcosky

### McDougle 8th Grade — AB

Dunmi Alabi, Anna Allen, Ana Araysa Rivera, Haley Attix, Meredith Bailey, Christopher Barth, Riley Billman, Lisabeth, Birkemo, Daniel Boddy, Sarah Brooks, Jillian Brownell, Drake, Buehler, Edward Burgard, Ashley Burnette, Grant Cabell, Kathleen Cannon, Joanna Carter, Leila Doerfer, Timothy Duffy, Ashley Dwyer, Elizabeth Fox, Joseph Frederick, Alison Frimmel, Sarah Gagne, Curtis Gurley, Jack Haskins, Luke Haus, Ryan, Hegedus, Stephen Himmelberg Jr, James Hogan, Walter Holt III, Cerys Humphreys, Lily Joyal, Chloe Ladd, Katja Lake, George, Lantay, Linnea Lieth, Antonio Martinez-Gonzalez, Maria Miggs, Laura Musalem, Sean Neagle, Holly Neville, Claire Nielsen, Alyssa Oppewal, Eric Plevy, Stewart Powell, Ryan Rainey, Caleb, Roenigk, Sydney Sanders, Sarah Sharpe, Colton Shoup, Alexandra, Slydel, Brian Smith, Nicholas Stefanadis, Valerie Stocking, Taylor Stone, Kevin Su, Kayla Thompson, Shekente Torain, John, Ussery Intintolo, Grace VanFleet, Tristin VanOrd, Jennifer, Vaughn, Zachary Walton, Matthew Wayne, Leah Westendorf, Leah, Whetten-Goldstein, Leah Whitney, Emily Williams, Theodore Wilson, Juliana Wulforst

### cole slaw; baked sweet potato; chilled pears

Wednesday — Cheese pizza, pepperoni pizza; hot dog on a bun; garden peas; fruited gelatin;

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# **Lunch Menus** DEC I - 4



# CHS cultural arts wing awaits funding

### **BY SUSAN DICKSON** Staff Writer

Carrboro High School could have a cultural arts wing as soon as 2010-11, two years sooner than previously anticipated, but the project remains unfunded.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education voted unanimously on Thursday to approve the district's 2009-19 Capital Investment Plan, which outlines projects like new elementary schools, additions to schools and facility upgrades. Included in the plans is the \$8.8 million Carrboro High arts wing project, with an auditorium, five classrooms and a black box theater. Unfunded new school and facilities projects in the plan total about \$143 million.

The arts wing project was previously slated for completion in 2012-13, but board members moved up the timeline after Carrboro High students and parents argued that the school needed a cultural arts wing not only to accommodate and serve students but also to be equal to its peer high schools. Both East Chapel Hill High and Chapel Hill High have auditoriums and arts facilities. However, both schools were

were added later as funding became available.

"It's not unprecedented in our district that we have had to pen a high school without all of the facilities," Superintendent Neil Pedersen said.

Carrboro High School was initially designed with an arts wing, but the design was modified.

When we designed the school, we certainly designed it with a cultural arts wing," Pedersen said. "I hope no one thinks that we designed a school without an auditorium and a cultural arts wing."

Pedersen explained that right before Carrboro High was built, construction costs escalated rapidly, which left administrators without funds for the project.

Susana Dancy, a parent of two Carrboro High students, asked the board to consider prioritizing the CHS arts wing over the district's 11th elementary school, which is scheduled to open in May 2008. The board approved funding for the elementary school in May.

"An arts wing is just as necessary as a library for a high school," Dancy said. "It is no more appropriate to teach orchestra without

built without auditoriums, which a music room or drama without a stage than it is to teach P.E. without a gym."

Several Carrboro High students told board members how they have had to rehearse plays in the hallway because of the lack of rehearsal space and how it was difficult to get excited about a play without their own stage on which to perform.

Board members discussed limiting the arts wing project to an auditorium and three classrooms. The black box theater and the other two classrooms, which were not included in the original arts wing plans, would cost about \$2 million of the \$8.8 million project.

Board member Lisa Stuckey said she would not support building more arts classrooms at Carrboro than at East Chapel Hill, because Carrboro was designed to have a smaller capacity than East Chapel Hill.

"We don't have any money right now," Stuckey said.

The board also voted to draft a letter to the Orange County Board of Commissioners regarding the need for funding for the arts wing. The board presented the CIP to the commissioners earlier last week.

# **OBITUARY**

### **Robert Harris Bateman**

Mr. Robert Harris Bateman, age 75, passed peacefully on Wednesday, November 12, surrounded by his devoted family.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Joyce O'Mary Bateman; his son, Mark Bateman; his daughter, Kimberly Bateman Rorrer and husband, Earl; and his daughter, Lori Bateman Brown and husband, David. He is also survived by his three grandchildren, all of which he adored deeply, Kimber Lee Ann Rorrer, Dalton Harris Brown and Colby Keith Brown. Besides the immediate family Bob is survived by his sister, Patricia Williams of Liberty and her husband, Jason, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Mary Bateman; four brothers: William, Richard, Clarence and Leander and one sister, Elizabeth Bateman Wrenn.

Bob was born in Hillsborough on September 21, 1933. He graduated from Hillsboro High School and King's Business College. He served in the United States Air Force for four years. Bob retired from IBM in 1996 after 30 years of service. Bob was not only dedicated to his family but to his Hillsborough Community. He spent countless hours coaching, not only his son Mark, but numerous other young atheletes. Bob also invested 21 years of his life enhancing the education of all children by serving as a member

and chairperson on the Orange County School Board. He continued to serve his community by being an achieving member and past president of the Hillsborough Exchange Club where he enjoyed working the fish fry, state fair and other fund raising events. When Bob was not serving his community, he enjoyed spending time playing golf with friends, fishing in Myrtle Beach and being a dedicated Tar Heel fan. Above all these was Bob's life long devotion to his faith. He was a member of the West Hillsborough Pentecostal Holiness Church where he served as Sunday School Superintendent, Choir Director, Sunday school teacher, and deacon.

A memorial service was held Nov. 15 at Abundant Life Church in Hillsborough.

A N D A

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHATHAM HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The Cervantes limenez family will receive the keys to their new home from Chatham Habitat for Humanity on Dec. 6. The family lives in an overcrowded home with no heating, air conditioning or effective ventilation, and they look forward to moving into their new home, where it will be easier for Leslie, 2, who is blind, to move around. With the recent completion of two homes, Chatham Habitat has built 85 homes.

### RECENTLY FROM PAGE I

sounded like someone grateful for the opportunity to expend a lot of energy for such a positive and welcome outcome.

"She's such a sweet lady," Khoury said, with her arm around Hackney. "From the time we walked in, you could just feel the love that she had for her home and for helping her family." Helping another family is how Hackney spent a 40-year career, helping raise the four children of a Chapel Hill physician.

Khoury acknowledged the leaders of her team - Bill Whitmore, Carla Lunsford, Pat Neagle, Tom Mabrey and Sue Millager — who helped make it all possible through fundraisers, administration and elbow grease.

She also thanks two repeat vendors from last year who helped, Wayne Herndon, who offered his crew to repair the

back wall, and attorney Tom Holt, who provided breakfast and lunch for the workers. Also, Duron Paints provided substantial discounts on paint and supplies, Fitch Lumber donated materials, Greg Kelly power washed the house, designer Laura Koshel picked out the colors and rocking chairs and Rubin's Bobcat Services and Mulch prepared the flowerbeds.

Khoury quoted JFK with a twist.

"Ask not what your community can do for you but what you can do for your community. Imagine that many people going out and donating their time and energy," she said. "It was well worth it. Mrs. Hackney's home is going to be a lot warmer."

And so will a bunch of hearts.

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

### **BUDGET**

### FROM PAGE I

construction of the 140 West development, which is to be built on the town's Parking Lot 5 at Church and Rosemary Streets. The council approved \$83,400 to implement a replacement parking program that includes up to 73 spaces in the West End on property owned by Joe Rid-dle and P.H. Craig. The plan also calls for improving Parking Lot 4 next to the Inter-Faith Council shelter to add 18 spaces and up to 15 on-street spaces along West Franklin Street in the vicinity of the new project.

Construction at 140 West could start as early as spring 2009.

The council also agreed to continue the public hearing on the UNC Innovation Center on Jan. 26.

The next council meeting is Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.



# **CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER:**

Until lions have their historians, tales of the hunt shall always glorify the hunters. - African Proverb



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HILLTOP RETREAT Original Dwell Home on 9ac adjoining Jordan Lake land. 70+ windows bring the beauty of nature indoors. High-end details. Classic modern design \$545,000 Weav-



PRICED REDUCED on this cute Carrboro townhouse tucked away in an established neighborhood. Large LR w/FP and private deck. Eat-in kitchen w/newer appliances. Near busline and walking distance to downtown. \$174,000 Weaver Street Realty 929-5658



YEAR END SAVINGS! Save \$15,000 - \$30,000. Rose Walk: New Custom Townhomes by local builder, Homescape Building Company. Choose from 3 floorplans. \$280s to \$350s. 2-3 bedrooms. 2.5 - 3.5 baths. Garages. 1.5 mile to Downtown Carrboro. Chapel Hill/ Carrboro Schools. Walk to UNC Park and Ride and University Lake. Gold Winner - 2008 Parade of Homes! YSU Neighborhood Marketing. 919-928-9006.

### LAND FOR SALE



90 ACRE MAGICAL FARM with pastures, woodlands, pond, orchard, organic gardens, livestock barn, pole shed, workshop & a tidy solar cottage w/a studio apt. \$665,000 Weaver Street Realty 929-5658



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### OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE/SALE



OFFICE CONDO FOR SALE/LEASE in downtown Carrboro. Great investment. Plenty of parking. Elevator. Perfect for small business. 651 useable square feet. Separate HVAC, ready to move into. \$155,000 for sale or \$1150/ month. Contact Terra Nova @ 919.929.2005. www.605WestMain.com.

### AUTOS FOR SALE



IS YOUR OLD CAR NOT RUNNING like it used to? Sell it to a new owner who'll have it purring like a kitten in no time with a Carrboro Citizen classified ad! Just go to carrborocitizen. com, type in your text, upload a photo and pay our low rate with a credit card, all in a few short minutes of your time.

### YARD SALES



YOUR YARD SALE WON'T BE A GAME of chance if you advertise it with a Carrboro Citizen classified ad! Put your message in front of over 10,000 readers every Thursday just in time for the weekend. It's quick, affordable and easy! Go to carrborocitizen.com and click on "classifieds." 942-2100

# PLEASE

### **HELP WANTED**

Web Intern Needed The Carrboro Citizen is looking for someone to assist us in creating multimedia projects, web design and blogging. Experience with HTML, CSS and Word Press preferred. Send email to editor@carrborocitizen.com.

### SERVICES

TOO BUSY TO DECO-RATE for the holidays? Call

Helping Hands and we will put up holiday decorations for you - both inside AND outside. 919-357-7713



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**PROFESSIONAL IN-**HOME TUTORING

Plus Plus Tutoring is offering professional in-home tutoring in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area. Visit http:// www.plusplustutoring.com or call (240) 418-6750



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er Street Realty 929-5658





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Citizen**Cryptoquote** By Martin Brody

Find the answer in the puzzle answer section.

# Weekly **SUDOKU**

### by Linda Thistle

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging  $\star \star \star$  HOO BOY!

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# PETS OF THE WEEK

**APS OF ORANGE COUNTY** — Hey, I'm Derby! I'm a 9-monthold male lab mix, and I was found as a stray by a nice gentleman who took me to the local shelter in hopes of finding my original owners. After that did not pan out, Derby was transferred out to our adoption center. Since being here, Derby has become a social, playful sort who loves humans and dogs alike. He loves hanging out with his doggie friends in the play yard and is ready to come home! 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 Teagan! This gorgeous lab mix puppy is around 3 months old and the last of her litter to go! She's a little shy at first, but curious about the world and sure to open up when she feels safe and secure with a family all her own! Don't miss out on this cutie! Stop by Orange County's Animal Shelter, 1081 MLK Jr. Blvd, Chapel Hill or call 919-967-7383. You can also see her online at www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp





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# Almanac

### THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

### **FLORA** FROM PAGE I

You may easily relate to walking around with a plant in hand considering where it feels just right to plant it. Nollman, in trying to site his little redwood tree, rescued from a neglected corner of his local nursery, thought back to what was growing on the site hundreds of years ago. In reflecting on what primitive humans may have dwelt there, he moved forward in imagining the same site when that little tree would be a giant, shading his great, great grandchildren.

For Nollman, "A garden is the place millions of people go to touch the earth, to smell the flowers, to use some of that fabled human brain power in the cause of participating with natural processes in the place they call home.... Gardening encourages a hands-on complicity with local nature.... It reflects an ecological longing by people everywhere to recognize themselves as an integral component of the ecosystem they happen to inhabit."

Evelyn Sims vividly



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE Young Carrboro gardener Flora Arnsberger studying a bit of soil from beneath a big tree.

remembers her hands in the soil as a child growing up on the family homeplace. She still has her hands in the soil, planting and tending roses, herbs and wildflowers in her garden just outside her sunny door at Carol Woods.

Much of my own gardening time is occupied by walks in the woods and cruising the yard for what nature has planted. Frequently, I kneel down to touch the soil and examine the leaf litter, much as Evelyn caringly tends the soil around her plants. We are both, without really knowing

it, reaching far back in the evolution of human experience to a time when we shared a cooperative intimacy with the earth we call home.

At this time of thanksgiving, whether we garden on a window ledge or in the ground itself, let's take time out to reflect on the deeper meanings of Evelyn Sims' "Gardening is just what you do!" During this really busy period, take a child with you outside into garden or woods and remember to kneel down, feel the soil and give thanks for the earth we call home.



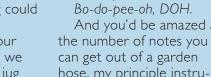
# Bebo's Bunkum Jug Jumpers, 1967

Forge,

George:

"Jug band music got a hold of my soul ..." go the lyrics to a '60s tune — and for the motley crew who made up Bebo's Bunkum Jug Jumpers, nothing could be truer.

During 1966-67, our senior year at UNC, we were all eat up with jug band music, meeting for rehearsals up in Bebo's cramped dorm room in Old West, learning the tunes from scratchy 78s from the '20s.



can get out of a garden hose, my principle instrument after the jug. Other folks in the band were, left to right, Polk Rutherford on mandolin, Jack "Stretch" Herrick (yes, of the Red Clay Ramblers

Washington at Valley

Bo-do-pee-oh,

Freezin' cold but up spoke

fame) on tub bass, Zol on the dishpan and Bebo on banjo. We were all the rage of the coffee house scene, and I recall clearly playing at one frat party And you'd be amazed at where my garden hose became a drinking tool, as it were. Ah, youth.

On his ukulele, daily, he would strum: rutta-tum-tum

Dancin' and prancin'; then he'd holler:

Red hot MAMA!



# 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.

Нарру Thanksgiving to all of you from all of us



After 25 years in downtown Carrboro, we're strong as ever. We have our clients to thank for that



# UNIVERSITY MALL **INVITES YOU TO** DISCOVER HOLIDAY SHOPPING THAT IS MORE CIVILIZED.

Here are a few ways you can make your season o much brighter with a visit to University Mall



Offer valid in our Chapel Hill store only, Nov. 28-30 2008, while supplies last. Not available by phone or online. Cannot be combined with other promotional offers. Not valid on previous purchases. Excludes alcohol, small electrics, gift cards, and sale items.

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### GRANDPARENTS DAYS WITH SANTA.

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Stop by Customer Service and pick up a green favorite University Mall retailers and enter for your chance to win \$5,000. While supplies last.

### SANTA IS HERE!

Now through Dec. 24. Mon. – Fri., 3-7 p.m. photos available. For each photo taken with Santa, University Mall will donate \$1 to the UNC Children's Hospital. (Special thanks to our friends at WCHL.)

### FESTIVAL OF TREES Benefiting Arc of Orange

County. Dec. 5-7. Across from Chick-fil-A. Come visit "the most wonderful place of the Christmas Tree Forest. Bid on your favorite trees or take home one of our great wreaths. (Special thanks to our friends at WCHL.)

### GREEK NIGHT WITH SANTA.

Wed., Dec. 3. 7-9 p.m. \$500 prize to the photos per capita.

PAWS WITH CLAUS. Pet Day with Santa! Sun., Dec. 14. Bring your properly restrained pets for your photo opportunity.

