

carrborocitizen.com

DECEMBER 1, 2011 LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED VOLUME V NO. XXXVIII

FREE



Large chestnut oak acorns are essential for wildlife and a nice snack for some humans. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE



Occoneechee, our biggest little mountain

Among several little mountains scattered about the county, the tallest, at 867 feet, occupies Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area near Hillsborough.

For folks out for a vigorous walk, there are several miles of up-and-down terrain to satisfy the most active. For those who enjoy poking along to see what one can see, several hours can pass by quickly.

It's the most biologically diverse natural area in our region with several rare plant and animal species identified by the N.C. Natural Heritage Program. From the high dry (xeric) Chestnut Oak Forest to the Piedmont Bottomland Forest, there are at least seven distinct plant communities, including extensive mountain laurel thickets so evident in the winter, and a lush fern glade evident spring through fall. Whenever one explores the mountain, there are multiple discoveries to be made along the way. During the warm months, butterfly enthusiasts will be eager to spot brown elfin butterflies that feed on huckleberries and lowbush blueberries, as well as the sleepy duskywings that feed on leaves of the chestnut oak. Both of these little brown butterfly species are unusual for this area. You can count on the mountain laurel being in flower every Mother's Day weekend. My favorite time of year on the mountain is winter because it's fully visible. Rock boulders scattered atop the summit and ridges invite exploration. Resting

Johnny's to reopen soon; neighbors concerned

BY SUSAN DICKSON *Staff Writer*

Nearly six months after Johnny's closed, one of the property owners and two partners are hoping to reopen it, but neighbors are concerned about what form the local store and gathering place might take.

Johnny's closed on June 23 after owners Brian Plaster and Jan Halle parted ways. Plaster said at the time that he closed the business because he ran into issues with noise and parking as Johnny's became a popular gathering spot, but Halle said she hoped to reopen it without Plaster.

She has since partnered with locals Erica Eisdorfer and Kevin Morgan, and the three hope to reopen Johnny's by Christmas, Eisdorfer said. In a conversation earlier this fall, Halle said she hoped to be able to continue to sell beer and wine for on-site consumption, but that town staff had told her she would need to seek a rezoning in order to do so.

Tonight (Thursday), Halle, Eisdorfer and Morgan will go before Carrboro's advisory boards for a preliminary

SEE **JOHNNY'S** PAGE 5



Pablo Valencia (left) and Drew Pilant (on drums), the Pablo and Drew Latin Duo, perform for crowds at a fundraiser at Johnny's earlier this year. PHOTO BY TOD ANDREWS



Awakening to what life's about

BY TAYLOR SISK Staff Writer

This is the first in a three-part series on the onset of psychosis in young adults, its treatment and UNC's Outreach and Support Intervention Services program.

"My heart and brain are in concert," David Binanay says. But there was a time, not so long ago, when Binanay felt as if cleaved to his core. Such is the nature of his illness.

The road on which Binanay, 28, has traveled has been switchbacks and straight ahead, then around again and on. It started out rough: a congenitally troubled heart. He endured four open-heart surgeries, the first while in preschool, before graduating from Cardinal Gibbons High School in Raleigh in 2001.

But that was just a thing, the heart trouble, something he was born to live with.

"I never was afraid," Binanay says. "My mission was to survive."

He survived and thrived – became class president, school president, top of his class, a talented violinist. He attended Villanova University, where he made dean's list and was elected vice president of his fraternity while earning a degree in the humanities.

His senior thesis was titled "I found a continual aesthetic

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David Binanay is a client of the UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health's Outreach and Support Intervention Services program. PHOTO BY ALICIA STEMPER

experience through music, and through music I've discovered the meaning of life, which is to love."

Binanay returned to the Triangle in 2006, joined a band and took a job at Chapel Hill Violins.

But then it all went haywire, and in a great big hurry. In writing his thesis, he'd studied a number of philosophers, and remembers an analogy equating life with being at sea, amid a fog, "and there are two ways you can take it," he says. "You can be really scared, or you can hear the soundtrack playing, and be, like, this is an amazing

SEE OASIS PAGE 7

IFC, TABLE split from PORCH

BY ROSE LAUDICINA *Staff Writer*

In order to make people aware of their ongoing need for donations, the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service (IFC) and TABLE have decided to disassociate themselves from local nonprofit PORCH (People Offering Relief for Chapel Hill and Carrboro Homes), no longer accepting its donations.

Citing a change to PORCH's original mission statement and fear of what they perceive as mounting confusion from the public about the level of donations IFC and TABLE require, the two nonprofits decided in early November to remove themselves from the list of groups that

PORCH serves. "We need people to know that TA-BLE is a separate organization with a separate mission," said Joy MacVane, executive director of TABLE.

"We are very glad to have received food from PORCH, but for our organization and programs to stay sustainable it is essential that we receive direct support from the public," she added.

IFC Executive Director Chris Moran said that he too didn't want supporters

SEE **PORCH** PAGE 5

Hearing set on phoning-while-driving ban

BY SUSAN DICKSON

Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL – A ban on cell phone use while driving is still a possibility in Chapel Hill.

The Chapel Hill Town Council voted 6-2 on Monday to set a public hearing on a draft ordinance for such a regulation. Council members Laurin Easthom and Gene Pease voted against the measure, citing concerns regarding enforceability and preemption. Council member Matt Czajkowski was not present at the meeting.

Town Attorney Ralph Karpinos

presented a draft of a possible ordinance, which would prohibit the use of cell phones or any additional technology, like cameras or music players, while operating a car. The ordinance proposes a \$25 fine for violation.

The ordinance would not apply to drivers using a phone to communicate with emergency officials in an emergency situation or to drivers communicating with their parents, children, legal guardians or spouses.

In addition, a driver could not be cited for violating the ordinance unless an officer had cause to stop the driver for a violation of another law. For example, a driver could not be stopped simply for using a cell phone while driving, but a driver who ran a stop sign while using a cell phone could be cited for both the traffic violation and using a phone while driving.

Karpinos said he included the exceptions in the proposed ordinance because he felt that would give it a better chance of being upheld if challenged. At issue is whether the ordinance could be preempted by state law, Karpinos said, adding that he felt he could make a reasonable argument against preemption.

SEE **CELL PHONE BAN** PAGE 8

Lovette goes to trial in Carson murder case

BY ROSE LAUDICINA *Staff Writer*

Proceedings began Monday at the Orange County Courthouse in Hillsborough in the State of North Carolina v. Laurence Alvin Lovette Jr., who is accused of murdering UNC Student Body President Eve Carson on March 5, 2008.

Lovette is also charged with felony larceny, armed robbery and first-degree kidnapping. However, because Lovette has pled not guilty to all four charges brought against him, Judge Allen Baddour made sure to remind the first pool of jurors to be interviewed that he is presumed to be innocent on all charges.

"Just because he has been charged with a crime does not mean he is guilty," Baddour told the potential jurors. Karen Bethea-Shields, one of Lovette's attorneys, also stressed that her client was

innocent until proven guilty, and said that what was truly on trial was the evidence presented by the state. Bethea-Shields and fellow defense attorney Kevin

Bradley said they Laurence Lovette wanted to make certain that the second murder Lovette has been charged with, in Durham, is not a factor in this trial.

Abhijit Mahato, a Duke University graduate student, was found with a fatal

gunshot wound to the head a two months before Carson was killed. Lovette wasn't charged with the murder of Mahato until after being arrested in the Carson case.

On Monday, defense attorneys told Baddour they believe some of the witnesses Orange County District Attorney Jim Woodall may intend to use in the case will give testimony including information regarding the Mahato case.

While Woodall doesn't deny that five of his potential witnesses will give testimony related to the Mahato case, he argued that their testimony would help show similarities between the two murder cases, such as the nature of the crime and the motive.

SEE LOVETTE PAGE 5



Community



SKETCHING SILENCE

HOUSE Calls

Practicing family physicians from the UNC Department of Family Medicine have teamed up with The Carrboro Citizen to bring you a weekly feature responding to your questions about health and medicine. Send your questions or comments to yourhealth@unc.edu

This week we respond to questions about toe injuries and flu shots.

Dear HOUSE Calls, Last week I smashed my big toe. I don't think I broke it, but it looks like there is blood trapped under the nail. Will this resolve on its own?

Ouch! The fancy name for this problem is a sub-ungual hematoma. If the hematoma is big and painful, we can relieve it by piercing the nail with a cautery instrument or a hot needle. If it does not hurt much, you can just let it run its course. It may take a month or more to resolve, and you may lose the nail, but it is not dangerous. Of course, we can't comment on the injury to the toe. Most toe fractures heal without incident, but sometimes big toe fractures need more care, so see your doctor if there is any doubt.

had chest and sinus congestion for a week. Do you think I got a bad shot?

That is a really common question about flu shots. First of all, the flu shot only protects us from influenza. Though what you have might be the flu, it is more likely a garden-variety viral infection (like an adenovirus or rhinovirus). That does not mean it's not miserable, just that it's not the flu. Flu is typically characterized by fever, dry cough and muscle aches. Flu is more likely to result in complications like pneumonia or even death than these other viral infections. That is really the main reason we encourage flu shots. Second, you should know that not all flu shots cover or match with all strains of the flu. Infection experts study trends in circulating flu strains and make predictions six to 12 months before flu season as to what are likely to be the most common circulating

season. These experts are right most of the time, but not always, and there are always less-common circulating strains. Lastly, not all people will develop a robust immune The immune response tends to be better if you have received the vaccine in the past. So the short answer to your question is no, we doubt you probably don't have the flu. Good for you for getting your flu shot and protecting you from the flu.

HOUSE Calls is a weekly column by Dr. Adam Goldstein, Dr. Cristy Page and Dr. Adam Zolotor on behalf of Your Health and the UNC Department of Family Medicine.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY DEC I Friends of Downtown — Dale

and John Shelton Reed, authors of Holy Smoke: The Big Book of North Carolina BBQ, to speak at the monthly meeting. The Franklin Hotel, 9:30am Free

Ask the Organizer — Lori Bruhns will lead an open forum on preparing, planning, and learning to manage time more effectively. OC Main Library, Hillsborough 6-7pm Free 245-2536

Audubon Meeting — With speakers David and Judy Smith, discussing their trip to Northern India. N.C. Botanical Garden, 7pm Free

"Carolina Collects" — Sheldon Peck to discuss the "Art and Science of Hunting the Old Masters'' and how it relates to building an art collection. Ackland Art Museum, 6pm Free

FRIDAY DEC 2

Holiday Tea — For ages 50 and up. Seasonal music and light hors d'oeuvres. Carrboro Town Hall Parking Lot, 2pm Free 918-7364

Film Showing — Budrus, the story of a village's struggle to prevent the Israeli military from routing Israel's 25-foot-high "separation barrier" through the village. Unity Center of Peace, 8800 Seawell School Road, 7pm Free theadvocatechurch.org

Dr Steven Auerbach — A pediatrician who helped organize the activist group "Healthcare for the 99%." will talk about how extreme economic and social inequalities. Peace and Justice Plaza, 179 Franklin St., 5pm Free

SATURDAY DEC 3

FeST — The Festival of the Society Tree offers crafts and food in a fundraiser for Orange County outreach programs. Continues through Dec. 4. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Hillsborough, stmatthewshillsborough.org

Christmas Event — Breakfast and photo with Santa, best-dressed elf contest and cookie decorating. Legacy Academy, 515 Winmore Ave., 8:30-11am Free

Holiday Dance — For ages 15 and older. Carrboro Century Center, 7:30-9pm \$3

Crafts Fair — Winterwoods Arts and Crafts Fair with a portion of the proceeds supporting the Woods Art Department. Woods Charter School, 10am-4pm 260-0661

Cake Walk — First Annual Cake-Walk benefitting TABLE, a Carrborobased hunger relief organization. The Carolina Inn, Ipm

Holiday Parade — Hillsborough Holiday Parade, Churton Street, 10am hillsboroughchamber.com

Steamwatch — John Kent to lead the New Hope Creek Steamwatch monitoring. jnkent25@gmail.com

AAUW Meeting — Professor Xi Chen speaking on "Social media and Political Activism in the 21st Century: China and Elsewhere." Assembly Room at Carol Woods, 10am

Open House — The Carolina Inn presents its interpretation of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Noon-4pm Free

SUNDAY DEC 4

Christmas Choir — Multiple choirs will perform Christmas Music. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 7pm Free

Posada celebration — CHICLE will host a Mexican posada celebration with the telling of the Posada tradition, the teaching and singing of the posada song, refreshments and the breaking of the traditional piñata. Chicle Language Institute, 4pm Free 933-0398

Patrick Conway — Professor of Economics at UNC, to discuss "Poverty in North Carolina: Changing Faces, Swelling Ranks." Extraordinary Ventures, 200 S. Elliot Road, 1:30pm ncethicalsociety.org

MONDAY DEC 5

Time Out — With host Bill Hendrickson and guest David Ross, discussing a recent mission trip to Haiti. WCOM 103.5fm, 5pm

Send your Community Calendar submissions to calendar@carrborocitizen.com

TUESDAY DEC 6

Mineral Club — Central N.C. Mineral Club to have a rock show and sale. Seymour Center, 6-8:30pm Free 929-5673

Philip Kan Goanda — To speak about his new play, I Dream of Chang and Eng. Wilson Special Collections Library, 5:30pm Free 548-1203

WEDNESDAY DEC 7

OC RSVP +55 — Seeking volunteers for the VITA free income tax assistance program. Seymour Center, 10am 968-2056

Trans Group — Bi-monthly meeting. Internationalist Books, 8pm internationalistbooks.org

THURSDAY DEC 8

Film Showing — American Meat, a documentary that chronicles America's grassroots revolution in sustainable meat production. Haw River Ballroom, Saxapahaw, 7:30pm \$10 hawriverballroom.com

Winter Stories — 19th Annual Winter Stores Program for all ages, with this year's theme, "A Gathering of Stars." Wilson Special Collections Library, 5:30 Free 548-1203

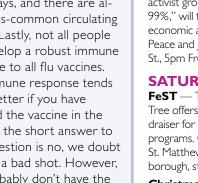
Circle Acres Forum — A discussion of land space for earth-skill education. Internationalist Books, 6:30pm

FRIDAY DEC 9

Tree Lighting — Carrboro Elementary Schools Musicians to provide holiday music at The Annual Holiday Tree Lighting. Carrboro Town Hall, 6pm

SATURDAY DEC 10

Holiday Parade — Chapel Hill/ Carrboro holiday parade. 10am-noon chapelhilljaycees.org/Parade2011



CAROLINA DOWNTOWN THEATRE DURHAM **FILM SCHEDULE DEC 2-8** RETROFANTASMA CLASSICS Fri Dec 2 only! CAPE FEAR and THE LIST OF ADRIAN MESSENGER Starting at 7:00 THE SKIN I LIVE IN Nightly 7:00 & 9:20 Sat/Sun Mats 2:10 & 4:30

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MOVIE LISTINGS

Dear HOUSE Calls, I had a flu

shot last month and now I've

We suggest you call for exact show times. All listings start Friday.

CAROLINA THEATRE OF DURHAM

309 W. Morgan St., 560-3030

Cape Fear (Friday only); The List of Adrian Messenger (Friday only); The Skin I Live In; Martha Marcy May Marlene; The Way

CHELSEA THEATER

Timberlyne, 1129 Weaver Dairy Road, 968-3005

Into The Abyss; Like Crazy; Margin Call; The Skin I Live In

THE LUMINA

Southern Village, 932-9000 Arthur Christmas; Happy Feet

Two; Puss In Boots; The Muppets; The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part I

REGAL TIMBERLYNE 6 120 Banks Drive, 933-8600

Arthur Christmas 3D; Happy Feet Two 3D; Immortals 3D; Puss in Boots 3D; The Muppets; The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part I; Tower Heist

THE VARSITY 123 E. Franklin St., 967-8665

Dolphin Tale; Contagion; The Help; It's a Wonderful Life

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Briefs



Suspect arrested for indecent exposure

The Carrboro Police Department have arrested and charged Charles Alexander Galloway with six counts of felony indecent exposure to a victim less than 16 years old.

Galloway, from Chapel Hill, was arrested on Nov. 23 after two teenage girls filed a report with the police on Nov. 3 that a man

Charles Galloway had exposed himself multiple times to them while they waited for the school bus. One of the victims gave police the suspect's license plate number, which is what led police to Galloway.

He was released after posting a \$3,500 bond.

Shooting/break-in in Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill Police are looking for three suspects in connection with a break-in and shooting that happened on Tuesday.

Officers responded to a call around 6 p.m. about a shooting and break-in at 104 Jackie Robinson St. and upon arriving at the scene found the victim in his home with a single gunshot wound to his leg. The victim said he came home and found three men inside his apartment. The suspects fled the scene and fired one shot in the direction of the victim, which struck him in the leg. He was taken to UNC Hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries.

The three suspects have been identified as tall, black males wearing dark clothing. One suspect has been described as having dreadlocks and was wearing a burgundy coat.

Anyone with information should call the Chapel Hill Police Department at 968-2760 or Crime Stoppers at 942-7515.

Safe Ride ceases during UNC break

Chapel Hill Transit will end its Safe Ride service on Saturday in conjunction with UNC's winter break schedule. Safe Ride will resume operation on Thursday, Jan. 12.

For more information, email chtransit@townofchapelhill.org or call 969-4900 and press 1.

Chatham delays revaluation

On Nov. 21 the Chatham County Board of Commissioners decided to delay a property revaluation from 2013 until 2015.

This delay will prevent a major tax-rate increase that will affect all property owners in Chatham County. Although revaluation has been delayed, property owners may still file an appeal of their tax valuation with the Chatham County Tax Office; however, in accordance with state law, documentation provided with an appeal must be dated before Jan. 1, 2009.

Orange County Funding Orientation

Orange County will host an orientation session today (Thursday) for executive directors of outside agencies or nonprofits that wish to submit applications for county funding.

Every year, the county accepts applications from outside agencies that need funds to deliver vital community services that help county residents.

The orientation session will include an overview of the 2012-13 application process and budget cycle and will be held at the Carrboro Century Center starting at 3:30 p.m.

Applications for funding and instructions can be found at www.co.orange.nc.us/hsa and are due no later than Jan. 30.

For more information, contact Assistant County Manager Gwen Harvey at 245-2307.

CH postpones food truck vote

BY SUSAN DICKSON Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL – Citing concerns about enforcement and funding, the Chapel Hill Town Council on Monday again postponed a decision on a proposed food truck ordinance that would allow the trucks within town limits.

Last month, the council opened a public hearing on the proposed regulations, which the council directed staff to develop in May. The discussion stems from a petition last year by Lex Alexander, owner of 3Cups café on Elliott Road, that the town change regulations to allow food trucks.

Town planner Kendal Brown told council members that allowing food trucks would not guarantee a tax-revenue stream and that staff have not yet determined the costs of enforcing regulations, though the town could recoup a modest amount of funding from permitting fees.

Under the regulations, mobile food vendors would be required to pay sales tax on sales made in Orange County, though staff have said that could be difficult to enforce, given the transient nature of the trucks.

"Food trucks are not an 8-to-5, Monday-through-Friday operation," Town Manager Roger Stancil said. "If we are going to enforce anything that you adopt, then we need to have 24-hour coverage seven days a week."

That enforcement, Stancil added, would need to be funded by the town's already stretched budget.

Council members asked staff to look into raising the suggested fees for mobile food vendors, which as proposed total \$118.

Council members said they felt that food trucks could add to the vibrancy of downtown.

"We have some amazing restaurants on Franklin Street, but we don't have duck fat-fried potatoes on Franklin Street," council member Donna Bell said. "I think that there are spaces for us to have new food experiences."

Bell added that food trucks could help fill in the spaces unoccupied by businesses to encourage pedestrians to explore farther along downtown streets.

Jody Argote, owner of Parlez-Vous Crepe, encouraged the council to allow mobile food vendors in Chapel Hill.

"I faithfully pay my annual sales tax, as do all of the other food truck vendors that I know," she said, adding that because her business is unique, she draws in customers from other areas, who might then spend money with other businesses in Chapel Hill.

Katrina Ryan, owner of Sugarland Bakery on Franklin Street, said she felt that food trucks wouldn't add anything valuable to the already rich local-food scene.

"There are no local jobs created, there isn't any financial ben-

efit to the town, so I don't see any upside," she said.

The draft ordinance proposes allowing food trucks on private, commercially zoned lots, subject to approval by the property owner. Food trucks would have to be at least 100 feet from the customer entrance of a restaurant during its hours of operation and could not provide seating.

In the downtown area, trucks would only be allowed to operate in lots with at least five parking spaces and an existing business in a permanent building, while the business is closed. One truck would be allowed per 1,500 square feet of parking lot.

Outside the downtown area, trucks could operate while the existing business is open and trucks would be limited to one vendor per acre or per 30 parking spaces.

The council will revisit the ordinance at a public hearing on Jan. 23.

BOA approves E. Main sewer

CARRBORO – At its Nov. 22 meeting, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen unanimously agreed to pursue the construction of a public sewer line on East Main Street.

The town has sent a letter to the Orange County Board of Commissioners seeking assistance with funding for the new line, which is estimated to cost \$250,000.

On Aug. 26, a private sewer line began to discharge sewage in a parking lot behind businesses on the 100 block of East Main Street. A temporary fix was made to the line, and owners of property on the south side of the block of Main Street from Armadillo Grill to Friendly Barber have been working to fix the problem, but without a long-term solution the issue could force the closure of the

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restaurants and bar on the block. Because the line in question is a private line, OWASA policies state that the utility is not responsible for maintaining it, leaving prop-

erty owners responsible for the fix. The board has already approved the use of \$60,000 from the town's revolving loan fund to repair the line, but property owners ran into issues with the repair, which would require crossing over the property of Jean Ward, who owns the building that houses Friendly Barber and the Orange County Social Club. Town staff have not been successful in negotiating an easement over the propertv.

- Staff Reports

Carrboro apologizes to Yates detainees

CARRBORO – The Carrboro Board of Aldermen last week voted to issue apologies to the reporters and bystanders who were detained in the Nov. 13 police raid on occupiers of the Yates Motor Co building.

Concerns have been raised about the police's response to the occupation, which began the night of Nov. 12, led, reportedly, by attendees of the Carrboro Anarchist Bookfair, and resulting in a dramatic encounter with police the next afternoon, with seven ar-

Residents have questioned the police's failure to attempt to communicate with those inside the building prior to the raid, in which police brandished longrange rifles and detained those on the sidewalk outside the entrance

of the building - including two journalists - before rushing inside.

In accordance with Carrboro's mutual aid agreement with Chapel Hill, Carrboro police assisted Chapel Hill police in the operation. The board voted unanimously to apologize to the detained reporters, and voted 4-3 to apologize to detained uninvolved persons outside the building. Board members Joal Hall Broun, Jacquie Gist and Lydia Lavelle voted against issuing the second apology, saying they preferred to wait until more information became available.

The Chapel Hill Town Council last week voted against a petition by member Laurin Easthom to issue an apology to the reporters, later voting to refer the measure to staff for consideration. - Staff Reports



THE CARRBORO F

HOW TO REACH US The Carrboro Citizen 942-2100 P.O. Box 248 942-2195 (FAX) 309 Weaver St., Suite 300 Carrboro, NC 27510

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THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

Community Briefs

Cornucopia receives donations

Genentech, PPD and The Doing Good in the Neighborhood Community Care Fund made contributions to help Cornucopia Cancer Support Center provide its non-clinical cancer support services to anyone affected by cancer.

The Doing Good in the Neighborhood Community Care Fund donated \$3,000 to support Cornucopia's compassionate touch program services to assist individuals coping with cancertreatment side effects.

Genentech contributed \$2,500 for the production and distribution of Cornucopia's quarterly newsletter, and PPD contributed \$1,000 to support Cornucopia's vast array of services.

Cornucopia has led the Triangle in non-clinical cancer care for more than 15 years.

Elf Fair at The ArtsCenter

The ArtCenter will host the fifth annual Elf Fair, an imaginative holiday arts and crafts festival, on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The halls of The ArtsCenter will be a marketplace for shoppers to buy locally made products such as jewelry, pottery, candles, clothing, accessories and other unique items.

The ArtsCenter will open its bar to serve seasonal drinks, and food trucks will be parked outside. In addition, Santa Claus will make a guest appearance to take requests from children throughout the event.

Holiday block party today

The Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau and neighbors Guardian ad Litem, Terra Dotta and the Skills Development Link Center will host a holiday block party today (Thursday) from 3 to 6 p.m.

The public is invited to attend the block party at business locations in the Bentley Building, 501 W. Franklin St., and Skills Development, 503 W. Franklin St., to speak with leaders in technology, court services, social services and visitor services.

Music and a sampling of local food, desserts and beverages will be provided.

Parking is available at the corner of West Franklin and Roberson streets.

For more information, call the Visitors Bureau at 968-2060 or email info@visitchapelhill.org

Community leaders deliver produce to needy families

Leadership Chapel Hill-Carrboro is hosting a raffle through Dec. 7 to raise money for People

Offering Relief for Chapel Hill and Carrboro Homes (PORCH), a local hunger-relief organization.

Proceeds from the raffle will help deliver produce to local needy families.

Raffle tickets are \$10 each or three for \$25 and can be purchased online at porchnc.org/donate. For more information about the raffle, including the full list of prizes, visit the website.

For more information about Leadership Chapel Hill-Carrboro, contact Meg Branson at 357-9977 or mbranson@carolinachamber.org

Orange County seeks toy donations

The Orange County Department of Social Services is seeking organizations to collect toys, donate money or volunteer at this year's annual Toy Chest event, which will run from Dec. 17-20 at the Orange County Department of Social Services Center in Hillsborough.

The event, which is coordinated in partnership with the Marine Corps Reserves' Toys for Tots program and local community donors, gives county parents an opportunity to choose Christmas gifts for their children. Last year, it collected more than 6,700 toys for almost 3,200 children. This year, given the current economic climate, the department anticipates an even greater need.

Monetary donations using credit or debit cards can be made on the Toys for Tots website, hillsborough-nc.toysfortots.org, and individuals who want to drop off a gift can find Toys for Tots box locations on the site as well. You can also submit a check or cash donation to the DSS Center, P.O. Box 8181, Hillsborough, NC 27378. For more information or to volunteer, please call Rebekah Clairmont or Sharron Hinton at 245-2800.

Toys for library fines

Orange County Public Libraries will have a Food and Toys for Fines drive through Dec. 16. Donated toys will be given to Toys for Tots and food donations will be given to Orange County Congregations in Mission.

The libraries are asking community members to donate new, unopened toys or non-perishable food items in exchange for a break on overdue fees. They will accept one can or box of non-perishable food in exchange for \$1 in fines, or an unopened toy in exchange for all overdue fees.

For more information, contact Theresa Quiner, Orange County Public Library, at 245-2527.

'Geothermal' finish for Tar Heels

BY EDDY LANDRETH Staff Writer

North Carolina finished off its second consecutive season of unholy stress in style with a 37-21 victory over Duke at Kenan Stadium in the regular-season finale for both teams.

Freshman runner Giovani "Gio" Bernard burned the Blue Devils for 165 yards and a touchdown

The victory assures the Tar Heels of their fourth straight winning season, and they now have a chance to win an eighth



Eddy Landreth these players and their coaching staff have weathered the loss of eligibility from eventual first- and secondround NFL draft picks because of NCAA violations. The program has been hammered by an NCAA investigation and a string

of internal and external allegations, some true and some false. They even lost their head coach just one week before the start of training camp. The journey might have crippled a lesser group, and when one stands back and looks at the team's body of work, it's difficult not to admire what these players have accom-

plished. "These kids are tough, mentally and physically," interim coach Everett Withers said after probably his final game as head coach at Kenan Stadium. "They mean an awful lot to me. They are resilient. They work their butt off every day. They try to do everything we ask them to do.

"They didn't bat an eye [when coach Butch Davis was fired]," Withers said. "They came to work. I didn't know how they would react initially. When we started camp it was, 'OK, here we go.'

"Once we got about three or four days into it, it was like, 'OK, they're going to respond.' As coaches," Withers continued, "we had to respond because they did. I'm as proud of this football team as any I've ever been on."

The players awarded Withers with the game ball to honor his stepping in to be the head coach under trying circumstances.

The Tar Heels had their tough moments, but overall they refused to let the adversity tear them apart.

"This team and last year's team, there is a great family bond," Bernard said.

Bernard has been impressive all season, never more so than in this game.

"[Bernard is a shifty runner]," Duke coach David Cutcliffe said. "And one of the things with Carolina's big offensive line, if we leave a gap uncontested, it's very difficult for a safety to get in there quick enough to stop a youngster like him. And when they get moving down on people, it minimizes your backer's ability to get to a gap; it minimizes your safety's ability to field.

"I thought they got more movement than most people have against us."

Bernard gained 1,222 rushing yards in 12 regular-season games. His production on Saturday gave him seven 100-yard rushing games this season, breaking the freshman record of six held by Amos Lawrence.

He missed last season with a knee injury.

"Even when I was not on the field last year, I felt that family bond," Bernard said. "That is one of the reasons I came to this school, that family tie. We've done a great job of finishing strong, even through the hard games and the hard losses." The success on the ground helped quarterback Bryn Renner and wide receiver Dwight Jones enjoy one of their finest days together, too.

Renner completed 21 of 34 passes for 274 yards, three touchdowns and one interception. Jones, a senior, caught 10 passes for 101 yards and three touchdowns to finish his career at Kenan Stadium.

"Dwight, for maybe the last month of so, you could see he cherished every day that he has been out there on the field, whether it's been the practice field or game field," Withers said. "Every day he has come to work, it has been, 'I know I want to make sure I give everything because this game isn't promised to you.'

"You could tell that in his eyes," Withers said. "Dwight has become the guy in that locker room. He doesn't say a whole lot, but when Dwight talks, there are a lot of people in that locker room who listen."

The coaching staff moved defensive end Quinton Coples back to defensive tackle, the spot he played last season, and he led a Carolina defense that held Duke to 46 yards rushing.

"We don't have an answer for Coples, obviously," Cutcliffe said. "We saw that."

Coples finished tied for second on the team with six tackles, while leading in sacks with two and posting three total tackles for losses. He also forced a fumble and recovered one.

"It was my last game at Kenan Stadium," Coples said. "I'm a senior, and it's a rivalry, so it's more personal. I think I was more into it mentally."

There was also the matter of finishing with a winning record instead of breaking even.

"It's huge," Withers said. "All we want is the opportunity to win eight. When we stepped into this week, we said, 'Let's win seven,' first things first.

"Now let's see if we get to a bowl and win eight."



Edward Jones

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CitizenCryptoquote By Martin Brody For example, YAPHCYAPLM is WORDSWORTH. One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the two 0's, Y for the two W's, etc.. Apostrophes, punctuation, the length and formation of the words are all hints.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle 2 4 7 6 2 9 1 1 5 6 3 8 6 3 7 2 1 8 6 4 7 4 9 7 5 1 8 9 8 3

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: **★**

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
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DARRELL SCOTT • SAT MAR 31 TANNAHILL WEAVERS (AT CASBAH IN DURHAM) • FRI APR 27 TEADA WITH SEAMUS BEGLEY • THU MAY 10

ARTSCENTER STAGE:

TRANSACTORS IMPROV "HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA" • SAT DEC 3 AMAHL & THE NIGHT VISITORS • DEC 9-11 AND 16-18

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LOVETTE FROM PAGE I

The defense attorneys also questioned the credibility of some of those witnesses.

"One of the witnesses swore in front of the federal grand jury something that is totally different than what is given in this sealed admission," Bethea-Shields said. "You have hearsay upon hearsay."

Additionally, Lovette's attorneys said that, given that there may be similarities between the two cases, in hearing information about the Durham case, jurors could get confused.

"We are talking about trying two cases," Bethea-Shields told the judge. "That is what the court is going to do by letting these ... statements come in, and it will be totally confusing to the jury. At some point, they are going to ask, What are we trying?"

Baddour ruled that those witnesses would be allowed to testify and give information regarding the Mahato case, but that the defense would be allowed to argue against the evidence they present and claim it to be inadmissible.

Jury selection

In his introduction to potential jury members on Tuesday, Baddour said he anticipates the trial

lasting three weeks.

However, if the pace at which individual jurors were interviewed during the first day of jury selection is maintained, that process alone could take nearly that long. It took almost the entire morning session to question one juror, who, after extensive questioning by Woodall, was determined to be unfit to serve and was dismissed.

Questioning of a second juror began before the court went into recess for lunch, and by the end of the day, only four of the more than 40 potential jurors had been questioned.

Jurors were asked a wide variety of questions, including what TV

ter states. The letter also cites the

town's negligence in signing off on

the ABC license that did not con-

ed our rights to be protected and

served by its public officials and

urge current parties to act in ac-

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sibilities by directing the owners

to seek a different property if they

wish to continue in a business

that involves the consumption of

alcohol on its premises," the letter

sometimes brought 50 to 60 cars

parked along Westview Drive.

Saldana said Johnny's patrons

We feel the town has neglect-

form to the zoning.

shows they liked to watch and how closely they had followed media coverage of the murder.

Jurors were also read the entire eight-page list of potential prosecution witnesses to determine if they knew any of them and were asked if they had ever formed an opinion regarding the guilt of the witnesses.

"Do you feel like even though you may have formed some opinions in the past, could you be fair and impartial to this defendant in this case?" Woodall asked a potential juror.

Áll potential jury members will be questioned and selected individually so that any potential bias held by one person will not affect others.

and wine. Crowds grew, and parking and noise became a problem, Saldana continued.

Eisdorfer said she and her partners hope to offer more grocery items when Johnny's reopens, like local produce, meats and cheeses, as well as beer and wine.

"We don't feel like the place can survive without on-site consumption of alcohol," she said. "It's a delicate balance."

Eisdorfer said they've gotten a lot of support from members of the community who would like to see Johnny's reopened.

"For us, it's a labor of love," she added. "What we want to do is what the community wants, and it's hard to know who wants what more."

JOHNNY'S FROM PAGE I

review of their application, which has not yet been officially submitted to the town.

According to town planning director Trish McGuire, the property is actually zoned residential, but Johnny's had been permitted to continuing operating there. The Johnny's that occupied the space for many years – a bait and tackle shop – was at one time in line with the zoning for the property, but the zoning changed to residential a number of years ago.

Because the business predated the zoning change, it was allowed to continue operating with previously approved uses - which don't include on-site alcohol consumption - under provisions of the zoning ordinance. However, the ABC license that Plaster received in order to serve beer and wine on site was not reviewed by the town's zoning staff before it was approved, McGuire said.

"It was an inadvertent approval of on-site sales," she said.

According to McGuire, the town had received multiple comments from concerned residents regarding Johnny's. Last week, Tina Saldana, a resident of Westview Drive, which runs alongside Johnny's, presented a letter from 75 residents to the Carrboro Board of Aldermen opposing onsite alcohol sales at the store, citing public-safety concerns.

"The large crowds that came to the location to consume alcohol were a serious public safety hazard in an area of town that was not designed for such a site," the let-

> relief organization that specializes in fighting childhood hunger," she said.

Romaine said PORCH has decided to have a "cooling-off period" of about two months before trying to again talk with the IFC and TABLE, and in the meantime to continue to serve the community.

"This whole food fight among PORCH and IFC and TABLE is taking our eye off the prize," she said. "My hope is that after two months, we will be able to come together and work collaboratively to address local hunger."

School Briefs

2012-13 calendar approved

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education approved a school calendar for 2012-13 at a meeting last week. The calendar is different from those of years past because of legislation passed by the N.C. General Assembly. Five teacher workdays were eliminated. The board also voted to pursue any waiver of this legislation that may be made available. CHCCS will keep families and staff members informed if any changes are made to the calendar. Visit tinyurl.com/771purb to see the calendar.

East Chapel Hill trash audit

East Chapel Hill High School hosted the third and final trash audit being conducted by Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools to find recycling opportunities in cafeterias. The audit was more complicated than previous audits conducted on elementary and middle schools, and teachers, students and parents volunteered to man recycling stations.

District students named to honors chorus

Five Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools students were named to the 2011 N.C. Honors Chorus. More than 1,000 students auditioned in Winston-Salem last month for 175 spots in the chorus.

Students selected from Chapel Hill High are: Chloe Lucente, junior soprano; Elizabeth Waller, sophomore alto; and Maria Yao, junior alto. Students selected from East Chapel Hill High are: Sarah Jones, junior soprano I; and Ray Caraher, junior tenor II.

East students named to honors orchestra

Five East Chapel Hill High students were named to the 2011 N.C. Honors Orchestra. The students auditioned last month in Winston-Salem.

Students selected are: Luke Sears, second bassoon; Forrest Li, principal viola; Stevie Yan, third chair second violin; Ethan Chu, principal chair, second violin; and Eric Chiou, second chair viola.

Young authors at FPG

Students at Frank Porter Graham Elementary School recently entered the 2011-12 Young Authors' Project, "The Treasures of North Carolina," presented by the North Carolina Reading Association. Winners move on to the district competition and then to the state competition in Raleigh next March.

Second-graders representing FPG are: Noam Saad, Sophia Kschwendt and Martin Dokholyan. Fourth-graders representing FPG are: Ashley Hong, Angel Koshy and Jasmine Godfrey.

District Annual Report released

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools released its 2010-11 annual report last week, with a theme of "Thinking Forward." The report contains the usual data related to enrollment, demographics and testing from the past year. It also includes features on staff awards, the district's priorities, budget information, partnerships and volunteers, and a new pictorial review section. Visit tinyurl.com/7nx4kyp to see the report.



PORCH FROM PAGE I

to think that PORCH was taking care of all of the IFC's food donations, adding that he felt that PORCH was changing its mission without consulting the IFC.

"More than 3,500 households are benefiting from the food pantry," Moran said. "We are not saying we don't need food, we are simply saying that PORCH is moving in a different direction."

PORCH co-founder Susan Romaine said that since the entirely volunteer-run nonprofit's founding in May 2010, it has been delivering food to the IFC and TABLE, and that it wasn't until very recently that the two groups started voicing their concerns to PORCH.

"On Nov. 8, we received an

email from IFC expressing concerns with how food collections were allocated," Romaine said. "We thought that after the concerns were expressed, all of this would be worked out through an

However, according to Romaine, after the first round of discussions, PORCH abruptly learned that the boards of both groups had met and decided to terminate their collaboration with the organization.

between the three groups seems to be centered on the Food for Families program recently created by PORCH to provide direct service to families with children that have limited access to the local pantries.

independent third party."

The main source of controversy

"According to PORCH in an October email, they collected 1,112 grocery bags," Moran said.

"Seven hundred and four were

given to Food for Families," he added, saying that as more donations were going to PORCH's own direct-service program, worries grew about the amount it would be giving to local pantries.

Through Food for Families, PORCH volunteers deliver bags of food directly to hungry families, which are identified through social workers at local schools. Romaine said that in order to avoid duplication of services, the program targets children who aren't already receiving weekend back-

packs from TABLE. But MacVane said the formation of the program left TABLE's board unsure of what the future held for the organization's association with PORCH.

"To maintain the level of support we need from the general public, we need to protect our identity as the only local hunger-

She added that she and her family were supportive of the store initially, buying small grocery items and Christmas trees there, but that over time the store carried fewer grocery items and more beer

continues.



Orange County Human Relations Commission What we do . . .

The Orange County Human Relations Commission (HRC) provides assistance to people who file a complaint when they think or feel that their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, veteran status, age, or disability (or their association with members of any of these groups) caused them to receive differential treatment in their search for housing. The HRC also provides assistance with public accommodations issues.

Call 919 245-2487 with questions or to file a complaint.



ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION Post Office Box 8181 300 West Tryon Street Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278

919 245-2487

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Town of Carrboro TREE LIGHTING 6:00 PM on the lawn of Town Hall.

2ND FRIDAY ART WALK Many local galleries and businesses participating. See 2ndfridayartwalk.com for map and info.

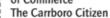
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Chamber of Commerce



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It doesn't matter to the GOP that race matters

CHRIS FITZSIMON

The most remarkable thing in the Senate debate and vote to repeal the Racial Justice Act (RJA) Monday was that no one seriously responded to the studies cited by RJA supporters that prove race plays a role in who is sentenced to death in North Carolina.

The only conclusion you can draw from that is the one that Sen. Martin Nesbitt drew, that Republican lawmakers know that racial bias infects our capital punishment system and they don't want to do anything about it.

Maybe it's the fear of being branded as soft on crime in the next election. Maybe it is the fear of the political power of their local district attorneys or of alienating their right-wing political base. Maybe it is the unwillingness to face the truth.

Whatever it is, every Republican in the Senate voted to ignore the evidence that race matters in the dolling out of the death penalty.

They tried hard to change the subject, professing their support for the families of murder victims, many of whom came to the Legislative Building to tell their heart-wrenching stories about losing their loved ones to senseless violence.

The Republicans didn't get around to mentioning that the budget they passed in June cuts funding in the court system for services for victims of crime.

Several murder victims' family members told a Senate committee they opposed the repeal of the Racial Justice Act. Many others expressed support for repealing it before the committee and at a press conference earlier in the day organized by the N.C Conference of District Attorneys.

The district attorneys testified for the repeal too, claiming the statistical evidence of racial bias allowed to be presented under the RJA would vacate many death sentences. They wouldn't say why, but it's pretty obvious.

They know the evidence would prove race is a factor in who is sentenced to death in North Carolina. And they don't want to talk about it, much less admit it.

Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger said on the Senate floor that the Republicans were only reforming the RJA, not repealing it, a disingenuous claim contradicted by the legislature's own staff, who said the bill would take the law back to exactly where it was before the RJA passed in 2009. That is the definition of repeal. The Republicans also predictably used fear to avoid talking about the truth, repeatedly claiming that the RJA would result in convicted murderers being released from prison. It's simply not true. The law says the remedy for death row inmates who prove race played a role in their case is a sentence of life in prison without parole.

nion



Escape from the frenzy for a moment

The year 2011 is over. You know that don't you? If you have anything planned beyond swimming with the tide, fugedaboutit.

By the time you catch up with everything you needed to do before Thanksgiving, the kids will be climbing the walls, the gift list looming and the never-ending courtesies of social life gobbling up the minutes.

Meanwhile the Heels have scheduled approximately two-and-a-half dozen basketball games between now and the end of the year.

The compression of time at the end of the year, like a spinning quarter rattling ever more rapidly as it winds down, just seems to

be getting worse. Eons ago, I recall we had longer years, but we wonder, or just the g-forces? with the last six weeks of the year now reserved exclusively for the holidays' year-end shuffle, a 10-month, two-week calendar is the new norm.

For those of us who travel, the almost full month between when we get back home from Thanksgiving and head out again for Christmas flies by. For those of us hosting the return of migratory relatives, there seems hardly time to miss 'em.

The various end of the year festivities - feasting, yuletide and so on - make sense when you consider that this used to be downtime for the Northern Hemisphere. When they're overlaid on all the modern end-of-the-year to-dos, it's a recipe for mass anxiety.

Most of us no longer work in places governed by the changing of the seasons, nor do we have the luxury of extended time away. We're more likely to have to work ahead in order to get time off. And then there's the folks in retail, for whom this is harvest season and no time to play.

the new year, but it means that all during winter break lurks list says.

the dread of mid-terms. Studies are important, of course, but can't our children have a few glorious weeks of squabbling with siblings and proclaiming their eternal boredom uninterrupted by worries about their class rankings and grade point averages?

This is not to say that the six-week period in which we hurtle headlong into the next year is without its joys. Many of us have adapted to the schedule-juggling and socializing and can actually enjoy this stretch of time. Some people even seem proficient in it, kicking into a gear unused the rest of the year. They cruise through the season in holiday overdrive while the rest of us marvel as they blow past us. Is that really a smile,

It's worth it, of course, even for those of us who are not deft at handling the pace. Like a mess of cascading quarks in a particle collider, we're bound to make contacts we didn't anticipate and end up in orbits unexpected.

And there are those quiet moments, lulls in the din, when reconnecting with friends and family eclipses the glitz and glitter and we find that thing so easily lost sight of - the companionship of the tribe, old and new, and the precious warmth and light it offers here in winter's deep. This is when we miss the people we miss most of all and try our damnedest to remind those we hold dear just how glad we are that they're still around. We hold each other a little closer here in the darkest days of the year, even if at times it's just to escape for a moment from the season's frenzy. The convivial rituals of the end of the year all make sense in that context. Journeys back home, an audience with a boisterous uncle, a secret shared with a sibling, the consumption of foods outside our comfort zone - these Even the kids are caught up in this trend. I'm sure the are old things. Very old. Older than an animated Santa riding school system didn't intend to ratchet up the anxiety of its pu- an electric shaver. They're what we are really rushing around pils when a few years back it extended the second quarter into trying to elbow out more time for, no matter what the to-do

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

Time to take direct action

TIM TOBEN

Derrick Jensen, author of Deep Green Resistance, asks two questions: What do we want more of in our lives, and how do we get there? We're numb to it, but I'll say it anyway: Our culture is destroying our planet. We watch and participate in the slow poisoning of our children, fed a diet of processed food, processed news and processed education. Few children experience the natural world with the kind of intimacy that we and our parents did.

Richard Louv has dubbed the effects of that schism as "nature deficit disorder." Like Jensen, I want each year to bring more migrating songbirds and fewer incidents of dioxin in mothers' breast milk. So how do we get there? Here also, I agree with Jensen that all options must be on the table. The mainstream environmental movement has failed to slow the industrial juggernaut that puts our planet and the children of all species in peril.

As GDP grows, ecosystem health declines. Because most of us are just trying to pay our bills and support our families, we rarely stop to examine the systemic flaws that govern our actions. The Occupy movement has shined a light on those systemic failures, and I strongly support it.

Until last year, I operated within that system. Mine was one of five local families who came together to create a model green building in Chapel Hill. We met with community organizers, ministers and neighbors, all of whom endorsed the project. We received unanimous approval by the Chapel Hill Town Council and were encouraged to proceed. We hired arguably the leading green architect in the world to design it. It would be a prototype that consumed half the energy of conventional buildings, but like every prototype, it would cost a whole lot more than the second, 50th or 500th one built. Some would not be able to afford to live there.

To finance the project, we signed a deal (aka a "construction loan") with the devil (Bank of America) on July 17, 2008. Three months later, the banks, gambling our mortgages in the great Wall Street casino, tanked the U.S. economy. The federal government intervened with TARP (the Troubled Asset Relief Program), but instead of paying forward that largess, the banks tightened credit policy and crushed commercial projects like ours and foreclosed on families across America.



Sen. Josh Stein suggested the law could be strengthened even more to reassure Republicans that no one would be eligible for parole, but his proposal was ignored.

This debate was never about the facts, the undeniable evidence that people are more likely to get the death penalty if the victim of their crime is white and that blacks are more likely to be struck form jury pools than their white counterparts.

This debate and this repeal of the Racial Justice Act was to pander to a political base and to prevent the criminal justice system from coming to terms with its racially biased procedure for determining who lives and who dies.

Sadly, race does matter in our capital punishment system. Sadder still is that Republican legislative leaders don't seem too concerned about it.

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

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LETTERS

SW library shouldn't be downtown

The latest library being cussed and discussed in Orange County is the proposed "Carrboro" library – which is not only an error in name but an apparent misunderstanding of its use and location.

First off, it's the "Southwest Orange Library" - planned to serve residents from Cane Creek and Mebane Oaks Road we (with many, many college students) offer many programs

to the Chatham County line, Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and farther north for those who find the Hillsborough library inconvenient.

Much of the area west of Fayetteville Road and Old N.C. 86 lies in University Lake watershed and is restricted to wells and septic systems with no public water and sewer lines allowed in an effort to limit development and protect drinking water.

So acceptable locations for the new

building are pretty much limited to those with established wathe town will be a long distance from rural residents.

Building sites have been discussed by the county commissioners and the Carrboro aldermen, and the public will have a chance to speak at the commissioners' meeting at the Sportsplex in Hillsborough on Monday at 7 p.m.

The aldermen appear to favor a downtown location - why? Parking and congestion are already a major problem, downtown land is much more expensive and children and families don't live there.

It's interesting to note that the Chapel Hill library, the most popular public library in the state, is built off the road in a residential neighborhood nowhere near downtown, and doesn't have an easy biking, walking or bus route to get there. It does have ample parking and a drop-off box for cars.

Many of us who live in Carrboro feel an almost ideal location for the Southwest Orange Library is the land adjoining Carrboro's Martin Luther King Jr. Park property on Hillsborough Road. It's affordable at \$150,000; parking and development expenses could be shared with the town, reducing costs for both; and it's in a residential area and close to McDougle School with access by sidewalks, bike lanes and buses that run from other sections of town and parts of the rural areas. It would be even more accessible if new rural bus routes were scheduled to come there or to transfer to buses that do.

Finally, after the site is selected, a board of a wide variety of residents should be appointed to work with government in planning and running the building. It's a great opportunity for an energy-efficient, solar-powered design to make this a truly unique, cooperative and educational undertaking. Who characterized their approach to a difficult situation. knows, it could help restore faith in government!

> MARTY MANDELL Carrboro

Shame on you!

The Human Rights Center (HRC) has been in Abbey Court since 2009. We played a role in the recent town decision to rescind the anti-loitering ordinance (by talking with the workers and successfully convincing them to come up with their Code of Good Conduct). More comprehensively,

> and services: an after-school program (with Scroggs teachers), free Wi-Fi and text messaging, ESL classes, soccer, computer classes, cooking and yoga classes, health resources, underwriting the costs of festivals, and Burmese and Karen programs. We work collaboratively with TABLE, El Centro Hispano and the Carrboro Farmers' Market. With wage theft at a historic high, we work with workers and the Department of Labor.

But now the HRC is under siege. In spite of the fact that ter and sewer lines in Carrboro, even though any location in we have a town permit and a 501(c)(3) certification, the management of Abbey Court is slapping us with a fine of \$200 per day for operating a commercial establishment. This is nonsense. We have no choice but to leave Abbey Court and abandon the people we have grown to love and who dignity we have unquestionably enhanced.

> JUDITH BLAU Director, Human Rights Center

Police handled Yates situation well

I would like to commend the Chapel Hill Police Department for the professionalism with which it handled the eviction of trespassers from the Yates Motor Company Building on Nov. 13. In handling the eviction, the goal of the department and the town was to remove the trespassers without serious injury to any persons. This goal was successfully achieved. Those persons who protest the department's action, saying the police should have done something other than what they did, cannot explain how a different approach would have resulted in less injury since no injury occurred, nor can they demonstrate that some other approach would not have resulted in injury.

I would also like to commend the town for the support it has given to the police department in this matter and for its consistent support of the right of free speech. The Occupy movement is a reaction to serious political and economic problems, but the events at the Yates Building are a distraction from serious discussion of those issues. The leaders of our town deserve appreciation for the calm deliberation that has

> LAURENCE KIRSCH Chapel Hill

The partners of Greenbridge lost everything we invested. Last fiscal quarter, Bank of America reported a \$6 billion profit - \$2 billion a month.

And while the corporations usurp the wealth of communities, even the "green" movement has been co-opted by industry. The omnipresent green labels on everything from light bulbs to lawnmowers suggest that we are doing a lot to change direction, but the opposite is true. We are an industrial growth economy, driving straight toward the ecological cliff. We've even accelerated, over the past 10 years, from 60 to 65 mph. We have to stop buying stuff. It's going to take a few brave souls standing in the middle of the road risking their lives to slow us down.

Two months ago, I went to Washington, D.C., and participated in the 350.org protest of the Keystone XL Pipeline outside the White House. Like others who think that pumping dirty tar sands oil over aquifers and farmland is nuts, I was arrested and taken to the Anacostia jail. It was a small act of civil disobedience, but a long way from my service on President Obama's National Finance Committee in 2008.

It is time for direct action of every type, and it's encouraging to see more and creative uses of civil disobedience. We are in financial, social and ecological crisis, and I'm grateful to all who are willing to take risks of every sort to fundamentally alter America's direction.

Tim Toben is one of the developers of the Greenbridge project and a former member of the N.C. Energy Council.

Letters should be no more than 425 words in length and emailed letters are preferred. Letters to the editor Box 248 Carrboro, NC 27510

susan@carrborocitizen.com

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for fifteen years.

Don Basnight's sweet dog, Carmel, came to

OASIS FROM PAGE I

adventure, and I'm surrounded by the fog."

"That's how it had been for me," he says, "an amazing adventure. I would face death and not be scared. There was a fog around me, but I was living the adventure, and loving every second."

Now though, something had happened, and he saw his hands – these hands that so skillfully traversed the violin – for the first time.

"I'd trained myself to be removed, like I was truly adopting nonattachment. Then when I had my schizophrenia, I awoke to my hands."

"I awoke to being, to selfawareness," he now recalls. "I was like, wow, I'm a human being."

Binanay now wonders if the effects of schizophrenia were visited upon him, or perhaps worsened, by "all that pain that was built up from my surgeries. It's just an idea."

Therapists, he says, have told him it's plausible.

'The beginning of wisdom'

Schizophrenia translates, roughly, as a "splitting of the mind." It's most commonly first diagnosed in older adolescence and early adulthood. There is no cure, but it's treatable, especially if confronted early.

Binanay had known success his entire life. He'd performed with the Raleigh Boychoir in Carnegie Hall and at the White House, done well in school and been popular.

Now his life was unraveling, and it was terrifying, and exhilarating. It was spiritual. He'd grown up a practicing Catholic. But this was a "heightened spirituality; it was like everything was spiritual, and it was running through all things."

"I didn't know what was happening to me," he says of the first days and weeks of his psychosis. "I was being re-created. ... I went from where I wasn't sensing anything to 100 percent sensory overload. It was like ... it was intense."

He wanted it to stop, and he didn't.

He was institutionalized for the first time. Medication became a part of his life – a source of dispute with his parents – on and off the meds. They dulled his senses, for better and for worse, to his mind.

"Everything that I was seeing and everything that I was hearing was confirming this spiritual experience," he recalls.

But, "I was scared. It was like a baby cries. You don't know why a baby cries, but sometimes you can see a baby's scared because it doesn't know yet. And I didn't know; I didn't know what was going on yet."

Binanay pauses in conversation, and listens. A train whistle's blowing, and it triggers a memory.

"I'd be at a barbershop, and we'd hear a train, and they'd be, like, 'That's an old one.' Like, it's an old spirit.

"In our book, we relate what we know and hear and see – in our book of life. Everything we see, everything we hear, everything we touch, everything we feel – that's my book of life.

"And a sound has the power to evoke."

He'd begun to listen, was hearing things. Not auditory hallucinations; just things being uttered, perhaps in a whisper. He couldn't make out what, specifically, was being said, but, he now says, "there's still some kind of understanding."

The world out there

When David Binanay first came to the *Outreach and Support Intervention Services (OASIS)* program, administered by UNC's *Center* for *Excellence* in Community Mental Health, in Carrboro's Carr Mill Mall, he had, he says, the stare – "the psychosis stare."

"I don't know if you've seen many patients, but they have that stare," he says. "I had the stare. When I talked to someone, I could see everything; I could see right through them. My eyes would not turn away, and I could see their shoulders, the weight they were carrying. I could see their eyes. I could see their faces, their auras. It was like a holy moment, completely."

He had awoken, he says, "to the magnificence, to the exuberance that my paper was about" – his college thesis – "and the fog was lifted."

He had awoken to schizophrenia, and had seen his hands for the first time. He was listening, feeling, for the first time.

"I was, like, *whoa*, there's actually a lot out there in the world, and I was scared."

So too were his parents, who stood by him throughout. Compliance with his meds came in fits and starts, and eventually took hold.

"I had fear for the first time in my life," he says, "but they say fear is the beginning of wisdom."

His mind was split open, and he was coming from a place in the heart. His work with OASIS had begun.

Next week: Understanding, observing and treating schizophrenia

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What's at Market

MEAT: pheasant, prosciutto, stewing hens, pork shanks, pork ribs, bratwurst, beef **VEGGIES:** tomatoes, peppers, radishes, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, turnips, beets, cabbage, ginger, fennel, potatoes, lettuces, kale, bok choy, beets, spinach, frisee, fresh herbs, scallions, arugula and mixed greens, white and purple sweet potatoes, green beans, pumpkins/gourds, shelled peas, butter beans, shiitakes and more **CHEESES**: an assortment of goat and cow cheeses. **SPECIALTY ITEMS:** wine, breads including bread crumbs for the holidays, pies, cakes, tortes, jams, pickles, local hotdogs, fermented foods, vegan and gluten-free options and more

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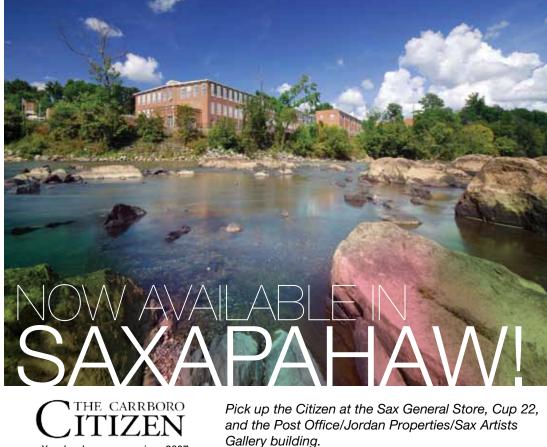
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CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER: Who Am I to Argue?

The degree of one's emotion varies inversely with one's knowledge of the facts ... the less you know, the hotter you get. - Bertrand Russell

FLORA

FROM PAGE

on any of those boulders, one will likely marvel at the massive rock chestnut oaks, Quercus prinus, that dominate the forest.

Some of those trees must be up to 200 years old. You'll likely be curious about the contorted appearance of some that have three, four and even five massive trunks radiating from the base. This oak is noted for sprouting vigorously from the ground if injured by fire or harvested for its timber.

The forest floor this time of year is a lovely thick carpet of mostly chestnut oak leaves. Beneath the leaves in some spots you'll find large, 1-to-2-inch-long acorns beginning to sprout a little tap root. Like the white oaks, these acorns are edible and worth the effort to roast a few for winter snacks.

Occoneechee is steeped in history, beginning with the Native Americans who named it. There's an aban-



An impressive multi-trunk chestnut oak "sprout" resulting from a fire long ago PHOTO BY KEN MOORE little mountain.

> doned quarry dating back to the 1880s on one side of the mountain and a present-day active pyrophyllite mine on another side. Curiously associated with the mountain's erosion-resistant quartz rock is the soft phyrophyllite being quarried for the manufacturing of products ranging from soft, fine talcum powder to heat-resistant electrical insulators.

The more than 630-million-year-old geological story of the Occoneechee area is beautifully described and illustrated in the N.C. Geological Survey's nformation Circular 35, A Geologic Adventure Along the Eno River, by geologist Philip J. Bradley. It's a very readable resource. (geology. enr.state.nc.us). In addition to descriptions of rock types and geologic history, the publication contains guides to the geology of four popular trails along the Eno River. I recommend at east monthly explo-

rations of Occoneechee, our highest

Please note: Guided walks scheduled this month include a geology hike on Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. and a Christmas sunset hike on Dec. 22 at 5 p.m. Call 383-1686 to register.

Email Ken Moore at flora@ carrborocitizen.com. Find previous Ken Moore Citizen columns at The Annotated Flora (carrborocitizen.com/flora).





The Singing Freshman, 1961

arrboro-born and -bred Richard Ellington is a Renaissance man. After a distinguished career as an IT guru at UNC, he retired and went right to work co-authoring the wonderful new visual history of Carrboro. But what may be less known is his history as a thespian. Ellington, my classmate at Chapel Hill High School, starred in our junior class play, The Singing Freshman, exactly 50 years ago this week. In this snapshot, college students at ''Yaleanova''

(left to right) George Thompson, Ann Cleaveland and Carol Ann Chambers sing good morning to Ellington, as the "Dean." Richard and I both remember that many of the guys in the cast had a crush on the show's director, music and drama teacher Beverly Culbreath. And for you photo-weenies out there, I shot this with a Kodak Brownie Flashmite using 620 black-and-white film, and had prints made at Foister's Camera Store (the present-day location of Jack Sprat beside Sutton's on Franklin Street). Wasn't it cool the way they used to stamp the date on the border of those old snaps?



A THOUSAND WORDS BY JOCK LAUTERER

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CELL PHONE BAN FROM PAGE I

Several council members questioned the inclusion of exceptions for drivers to use phones to speak with family members.

"I don't know that I want to make that an exception for someone to be on the phone ... if that conversation is going to impact their safety in driving," council member Donna Bell said.

"If we take the teeth out of it, I'm not really interested in doing it," she added. "We have people who put other people's lives in danger by distracted driving." Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt said he would like for the exceptions in the ordinance to use more inclusive language, "since I might not have a spouse, but I might have an equivalent that I might want to talk to one day." Pease said he felt that while it was important to educate the public on the dangers of cell phone use while driving, regulating it is a state issue, and that such an ordinance would be virtually unenforceable.



"If this is about education, I'm not convinced this is the right forum to do it," he said.

Easthom agreed.

"I don't want to be first in the state on something that the assistant attorney general has said ... is preempted by state law and therefore unenforceable," she said. Earlier this fall, Karpinos requested an opinion from the state attorney general's office, and an assistant attorney general reported back that he felt such an ordinance would be preempted by state law.

Other council members said they felt it was important to continue the conversation and the education of the public.

"This may be an opportunity for this to happen again where Chapel Hill pulls the state along in some things," Mayor Pro Tem Jim Ward said.

In June, Krista Slough, a UNC student who was seriously injured in a car accident last year, and Joe Capowski, a resident who witnessed the accident, petitioned the council to consider the ban. Capowski alleged that the driver of the car that hit the victim was talking on her cell phone at the time of the accident.

Texting while driving and the use of cell phones by drivers under 18 are both already illegal in North Carolina.

A public hearing on the proposed ordinance will be held Feb. 20.

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