




This Weekend



FRIDAY
10% Chance of Precip
54/34 °F



SATURDAY
10% Chance of Precip
49/25 °F



SUNDAY
0% Chance of Precip
47/25 °F

C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

As
Harrison
Barnes
goes...



See page 9



The Town of Carrboro has possibly the largest wreath in the state.
PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Carrboro’s giant holiday wreath

Carrboro Town Hall’s giant holiday wreath is possibly the largest one hanging in the state. I bet you can’t buy one anywhere. Ever wonder about its source?

Well, for more than 20 years the holiday greenery that has adorned the massive entrance of Carrboro Town Hall has been a gift of time and creativity by members of the Carrboro Community Garden Club.

In the early years, the group created holly and pine swags with red bows for the town hall entrance. Fifteen years ago a giant plywood cutout circle, rescued from the landfill, became a frame for a giant wreath to hang over the entrance. Now the hanging of this giant wreath – sometimes accompanied by smaller wreaths or large swags on the columns – has become an annual tradition.

Over the years, the group has committed itself to utilizing only native materials, and the results are not your ordinary holiday wreath. The group generally relies on local cedar, pine and magnolia for the base, but you can count on some infrequently used materials, like sumac cones, broom sedge and cattails for accents.

Each year, staff of the Carrboro Public Works Landscape and Grounds Division meet with members of the garden group to hang the giant wreath a day or two before the annual holiday parade. It’s not an easy task to hoist up and secure that wreath, but the challenge is enthusiastically undertaken by all present.

Though the big wreath can be easily viewed by passersby on the street, to appreciate the

SEE **FLORA** PAGE 9

INSIDE

Carrboro still in the running for Lovetown

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Human Rights Center must find new home

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

Following a decision last week by the Abbey Court Condominiums homeowners’ association to force the Chapel Hill and Carrboro Human Rights Center (HRC) to leave the complex, the HRC is searching for a new home.

Bart White, an attorney for Ken Lucas, owner of the majority of the property, said the association voted to give the HRC 90 days to leave Abbey Court because its presence as a com-

mercial establishment in the residential complex was a violation of HOA covenants. Lucas also serves as president and CEO of the Tar Heel Companies, which manages the complex.

“There seems to have been a belief that this was some kind of quick decision blindsiding the Human Rights Center,” White said. “The homeowners’ association has been trying to get the owner’s attention for over a year that this was a violation of the covenants.”

The nonprofit center has been located in two Abbey Court apartments

since 2009. Though the complex is zoned residential, the center received a zoning variance from the town because someone lives in one of the two apartments.

White said the complex is intended to be residential, and commercial properties aren’t permitted under HOA covenants because of associated noise and traffic.

The removal of the center from Abbey Court is the latest in a string of controversy at the complex, which in recent years has been riddled with conflict ranging from numerous calls

to police regarding disturbances at the apartments to parking issues and towed cars.

Last month, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen voted to rescind its controversial anti-lingering ordinance for the corner of Jones Ferry and Davie roads, adjacent to Abbey Court, where day laborers – many of whom are residents of the complex – wait to be picked up for construction work.

Judith Blau, director of the HRC, said she believes that the decision

SEE **ABBEY COURT** PAGE 10

MICHELLE JOHNSON TAKES HER SEAT



The Carrboro Board of Aldermen welcomed its newest member, Michelle Johnson, on Tuesday. Johnson and reelected board members Lydia Lavelle and Dan Coleman were sworn in as the board bid farewell to longtime member Joal Hall Broun. Broun decided not to seek reelection to the board after serving for 12 years.
PHOTO BY ALICIA STEMPER

Testimony begins in murder trial

BY ROSE LAUDICINA
Staff Writer

After a full week of jury selection, the trial began for the State of North Carolina v. Laurence Alvin Lovette on Wednesday with opening statements followed by graphic testimony from witnesses.

Opening statements from District Attorney Jim Woodall outlined what the jurors were to expect from the trial, detailing who would be testifying, what they likely would be saying and what types of evidence would be introduced.

“You are going to hear a lot about how accomplished Eve Carson was, and that in so many ways she was a typical college student,” Woodall said to the jury, comprised of 11 whites and one black.

He also gave a very detailed timeline of the events of the case, including when money was withdrawn

SEE **LOVETTE** PAGE 3

County considers sales tax for sewer

BY ROSE LAUDICINA
Staff Writer

On Monday, the Orange County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution officially implementing the voter-approved quarter-cent sales tax in 2012.

Commissioners discussed what would be considered appropriate uses for the revenues from the tax, specifically regarding the portion to be used for economic development.

While new businesses and grants for infrastructure related to new business are included in the approved uses for economic-development funding, Commissioner Barry Jacobs noticed that what seemed to be missing was a category for existing businesses.

“Were a municipality to approach

SEE **SEWER** PAGE 10

Charting a path to recovery

BY TAYLOR SISK
Staff Writer

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

When David Binanay was diagnosed with schizophrenia in 2006, a year out of college, he was very fortunate in a couple of fundamental ways.

First, he had the support of his family.

“My family went through psychosis as much as I did, particularly my mom and dad,” Binanay says.

Obviously, the experience is a traumatic one, your loved one present, but from afar.

“Imagine your son coming from here,” Binanay says, his hand reaching for the ceiling. “And now where did he go?”

“My family went through a lot,” and stood by him each step of the way.

Binanay was also lucky to be diagnosed soon after the onset of his illness, and to be referred 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.

Binanay needed direction; he needed acknowledgement of his perception that what was going on was as much in his heart as his head. It was a profound spiritual experience.

The staff at OASIS was willing to accept that. The importance of mapping an exit strategy of the client’s own design is a cornerstone of the OASIS philosophy. The conviction that there’s hope is another.

Diana Perkins, OASIS’ medical director, describes a recent meeting she had with the parents of an 18-year-old boy in rural North Carolina who had been diagnosed with schizophrenia. They had taken him to a local hospital, and were told by a psychiatrist that their son would never recover – no hope; get used to it.

“And it was just devastating,” Perkins says. “Here they had this 18-year-old boy, off in college, and now they’re being given this message. This was a psychiatric hospital; this was a trained psychiatrist.”

The problem, Perkins says, is that psychiatrists often don’t see schizophrenia patients until their illness is advanced.

“Clinicians have this bias,” Perkins

says, “and they really need to understand that this is not inevitably a chronic, disabling illness, that people can learn to manage it.

“They need to understand that there’s tremendous hope.”

Effective treatment

UNC’s OASIS program was launched in September 2005. Its objectives are to engage young people in treatment of the onset of psychosis and assist them in regaining social and occupational functioning, toward, ultimately, preventing disability from a psychotic disorder.

From experience, Perkins and her colleagues have come to see that the needs of this young population are very different from those with chronic psychosis. They’ve realized that early intervention can prevent the illness from becoming chronic.

“There is symptom recovery and functional recovery,” OASIS program director Sylvia Saade explains.

The strategy is to control symptoms with low doses of antipsychotic medication and then focus on functional

SEE **OASIS** PAGE 7

Three decades of enriching a community

RECENTLY ...
BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

Our community includes all kinds of people. Some among our population came here for the services provided by our highly celebrated school system. For people with developmental disabilities (DD), the educational advantages provided by the schools coupled with the programs at The Arc of Orange County have provided an enriched life.

“The Arc really got me going towards independence,” said Ellen Perry of Carrboro.

Perry was born with cerebral palsy in the late 1950s, a time when all such children were labeled mentally retarded and their parents were encouraged to institutionalize them.

Perry’s parents raised her with their

other three children in Raleigh, but when she was 22 and a sister was in school at UNC, she moved to Carrboro. For 33 years, The Arc has provided programs that help parents as they raise their children with DD, as well as adults like Perry.

The Arc offers cooking classes, a basketball clinic, spin class, a running club – the programs and workshops are as varied as the people who provide and participate in them.

“If someone in the community wants to create an activity, we promote that,” said Robin Baker, executive director of The Arc of Orange.

He can roll off a list of ways people have contributed, like the community garden, where participants grow the food that they later learn how to cook, or the Petals with a Purpose program on Tuesdays, when Whole Foods donates

a passel of flowers, which participants arrange into cans or bottles they’ve decorated to be provided for Wheels on Meals deliveries.

“Everybody feels better when they do something that helps someone else,” Baker said.

The Arc presently serves about 400 families.

“We have a good mix of all ages; however, in the last couple of years, the majority of new referrals have been children with autism,” Baker said.

As with every other nonprofit agency, decreased state and federal funding has created a squeeze. The Arc’s major fundraiser is the Festival of Trees, on display at University Mall. At center court, visitors will find a stunning collection of Christmas trees decorated in

SEE **RECENTLY** PAGE 3



The Festival of Trees at University Mall heralds the Festival Gala that benefits The Arc of Orange County, being held Saturday at the mall.
PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

Chorus becomes ‘Voices’



Voices' 25-member ensemble, Cantari

PHOTO BY JOHN PAUL MIDDLESWORTH

BY CAROLINE CORRIGAN
Staff Writer

Over the past three decades, the Chapel Hill Community Chorus has grown exponentially in both size and quality, comprising a 130-member chorus, as well as a 25-member ensemble that was added five years ago.

But many members felt the chorus' name did not accurately reflect its evolution over the years, resulting in the decision to change the chorus' name to "Voices" this past fall.

"We felt that the name itself did not reflect the quality of the group," said Sue Klausmeyer, conductor of the chorus since 2000. "People hear 'community chorus' and think amateurs."

The chorus is far from a group of amateurs, however.

Victor Recondo, a distinguished pianist and educator who taught choral music at Graham and Phillips Junior High, started the chorus in 1980 when he invited faculty members to join with students and parents in a Christmas concert. The group gradually evolved into the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Community Chorus – later renamed the Chapel Hill Community Chorus – under the leadership of Betsy Underwood, who served as president of the fledgling nonprofit organization.

After becoming a part of the Community Schools Program, the chorus evolved into

an adult, non-auditioned ensemble, performing challenging classical pieces twice a year at various locations in Chapel Hill.

Today the chorus has developed strong ties with UNC and local public schools, businesses, churches and philanthropic sources, like Strowd Roses Foundation and the Orange County Arts Council. Each year, the group performs two major concerts per season in December and May, as well as a "lighter" performance during its annual July concert.

The chorus' 25-member ensemble, Cantari, became a part of the chorus in 2006. Because of its growth, chorus members are now required to audition for a spot.

"Auditions have become very important," said Voices president Bill Kodros. "But if they've done some chorus singing or singing in general, then they normally get in if there are enough slots open."

Kodros added that the Voices Summer Chorus, a six-week program, is a great opportunity for community members interested in getting involved with the group.

"The summer chorus is much more relaxed and the music is a little simpler," he said. "It also gives Dr. Klausmeyer an opportunity to get to know these people and what they can do, and most will be taken into the main chorus in the fall."

Though the change to the

chorus' name was made official just recently, Kodros said the decision has been an ongoing discussion for the past three years.

"Even though our quality had improved, we still noticed a bunch of concerts that weren't well-attended," he said. "We began checking with people who follow the music scene closely, and we realized that many of them had never even heard of us at all."

Board members recognized that the group's publicity problems were a result of ineffective marketing, but they were unsure of how to resolve this issue.

The solution revealed itself about a year ago when Jonathan Prinz, the next-door neighbor of one of the chorus members, agreed to help the group free of charge.

Prinz, an expert on branding, spent the next year guiding the chorus through a marketing process. Chorus members were surveyed about how they felt toward the former name, how they felt about being in the chorus and if they felt that the name represented them well. Audience members, donors and members of the music department were interviewed as well. Voices was finally suggested as the group's new name and was favored by an overwhelming majority of members.

"A one-word name is very easy to use in a logo, and it quickly communicates what we are," said Klausmeyer.

Though the name change has only been in place for a couple of months, Klausmeyer said that, thus far, it seems to be effective.

"It is concise, well designed and it works out well in publicity," she said. "We think it's a good one for us."

Kodros added that the new name's success will become more apparent after the chorus completes its December concert series.

"It's too early to tell now, but a lot of the advertising and marketing we are going to do will be concentrated on our first concerts in December," he said. "We'll know more after this concert year."

Despite the multitude of changes the chorus has undergone, it has remained an organization known for its camaraderie and local connection, and is still governed, operated and financially supported by local chorus members.

"I love working with choral music and I love the Chapel Hill area," said Klausmeyer. "The chorus has something for everyone to enjoy."

The chorus' ensemble, Cantari, will be performing "From Heaven on High" on Saturday at Chapel of the Cross of Chapel Hill at 7:30 p.m. Voices will be performing "A New World Christmas" on Dec. 16 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 17 at 3 p.m.

Community Briefs

Holiday tree lighting

The Town of Carrboro will host the annual holiday tree lighting ceremony on Friday at 6 p.m. in front of Carrboro Town Hall.

Jacque Gist, member of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, will give opening remarks, and musical coordinator Carol Cantrell will give introductions.

Plenty of seating will be available. Elementary school musicians from McDougle Elementary, Carrboro Elementary and Frank Porter Graham Elementary schools will perform holiday selections.

Deaf game night

The Corporate and Continuing Education Division at Durham Technical Community College will sponsor Deaf Game Night today (Thursday) from 6-8 p.m. at the Orange County Skills Development Center.

The event, hosted by Raven Sheridan and students in American Sign Language Intermediate Group, will give deaf community members an opportunity to engage with students in a variety of games and activities while communicating in ASL. The event is aimed at helping to bridge the gap for students between classroom instruction and actual interaction with the deaf community.

For more information, contact Carver Weaver at 536-7246, ext. 5205, or weaverc@durhamtech.edu.

Ancient forests exhibit opens at garden

The N.C. Botanical Garden's new exhibit, Southern Appalachian Celebration, will remain on display through January 2012.

The exhibit is intended to inspire appreciation for old-growth forests of the Southern Appalachians. It features the photography of James Valentine, who has created portraits of giant trees and landscapes of the Southern Appalachians.

Visitors will be led through the exhibit by a guide who will provide descriptions of the sites where the big trees were photographed, as well as a cross-section of a large oak tree that offers a tactile experience for reading the age of the tree.

Admission to the garden is free, and it is open every day of the week aside from some closings over the winter holidays. Visit ncbg.unc.edu for details.

Children's Christmas pageant

The University United Methodist Church will present a special telling of the Christmas story on Sunday at 6:30 p.m. in the church's sanctuary, at 150 E. Franklin St. in Chapel Hill.

More than 100 fourth- and fifth-grade children will perform the story, playing the roles of Mary, Joseph, the innkeeper, the three wise persons, angels, stars, villagers, shepherds and narrators. They will lead the congregation in the singing of Christmas carols throughout the pageant.

For more information visit chapelhilluumc.org.

Reindeer run

The Active Chatham Reindeer Run 5K will be held Saturday starting at 8 a.m. from Central Carolina Community College and continuing through historic Pittsboro. The event is sponsored by Active Chatham and the Chatham County Public Health Department.

Sheriff Richard Webster will start the race and Santa will hand out awards to participants. The race also includes a 1-mile Rudolf's Fun Race for kids.

Proceeds from the race will be used to enhance facilities for physical activity in Chatham County. Proceeds from the 2010 race and this year's race will help fund the construction of the Roberson Creek Greenway Project.

Registration fees are \$25. No registration is required for the Rudolf Fun Race. Registration information is available at sportsoften.com.

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Canned PET Food Drive!

Donate for those in need this Holiday Season!

Bring cans to the Animal Services Center, 1601 Eubanks Rd, Chapel Hill, December 1-17

Bring 4 or more cans and receive a free Picture with Santa on December 17 from 12:30 - 4:30 pm.

All donations delivered by Orange Congregations in Mission (OCIM). More info at www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices.

Stay tuned.

carrborocitizen.com

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—*Travel & Leisure*

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ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK

Community Calendar

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 Stories Program 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
Improv — The Coconauts Improv Comedy & Talent Showdown. General Store Cafe, 10pm

Acrobatic Show — Liang Acrobatic & Comedy Show. The ArtsCenter, For children pre-kindergardent-third grade, 9:30am; grades four-seven, 11:30am artscenterlive.org

Amahl and the Night Visitors — Long Leaf Opera presents the holiday musical by Gian Carlos Menotti. The ArtsCenter, 7pm artscenterlive.org

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

Holiday Shoppe — Features 60

artisans from across North Carolina. Proceeds benefit St. Thomas More School. Friends and Family Hall, St. Thomas More School, 9am-4pm

Holiday Market — Locally produced and handcrafted items available. Haw River Ballroom, Saxapahaw. Contributions accepted for a community food drive. 9am-9pm Continues Dec. 11 hawriverballroom.com

SUNDAY DEC 11
Comedy/Magic Show — For all ages with Mr. Blankenship. Carrboro Century Center 2:30-3:30pm \$3

CH Philharmonia — Presents Matthew McClure as alto saxophone soloist. Hill Hall Auditorium, 7:30pm Free

Worldwide Candle Lighting — The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor and remember children who have died at any age from any cause. Doris Duke Center, Durham, 7pm 595-1010

MONDAY DEC 12
Time Out — With host Bill Hennickson and guest Hadara Stok, founder of Rawclates. WCOM 103.5FM, 5pm

TUESDAY DEC 13
Drug War Discussion — N.C.

Harm Reduction Coalition to present/discuss the drug war. Internationalist Books, 7pm Free

WEDNESDAY DEC 14
Bingo — For ages 50 and up. Carrboro Century Center, 2pm Free 918-7364

Kids, Cookies and Candy Canes — Crafts, face painting, balloon sculpting, cookie decorating, lead up to an interactive children's stage show. Carrboro Century Center, 9:30-11:30am Free

THURSDAY DEC 15
Movie Showing — Family movie night at Orange County Main Library in Hillsborough. 6pm Free Call 245-2536 for movie title

FRIDAY DEC 16
Contra Dance — Music by The Donnybrook Lads and caller Linda Cooper. Carrboro Century Center, 7:30pm workshop/8pm dance \$8 csda-dance.org

Tap Ensemble — Footnotes Tapping Ensemble presents Nine Ladies Tapping and a Guy, as part of the Twelve Days of Christmas celebration. Carolina Inn, 7pm Free

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BOOK CLUB NIGHT Mon Jan 23rd 6-8pm
Come hear about great reads for book clubs, take home goodies and get ready for two great Random House author events:

1/25: Gabrielle Hamilton reads from her memoir *Blood, Bones and Butter: The Inadvertent Education of a Reluctant Chef*

2/24: Lisa See, author of *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* reads from her new paperback *Dreams of Joy*

752 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (Historic Airport Road)
Chapel Hill | 919-942-7373 | flyleafbooks.com

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 posture and ovarian cancer testing.

Dear HOUSE Calls, My son walks and sits with his shoulders bent forward. Are there any health consequences with his back later in life from slouching?

We all just sat up a little – you sound like our mothers. But seriously, that is a great question. A slouch in the shoulder tends to add tension to the neck and can be related to neck pain or tension headaches. Poor posture in the lower back can be related to pain in the lower back. Really the issue is minimizing tension and strengthening more neutral-posture muscles, like those in the abdomen. Does this cause serious harm in the back like arthritis or bone loss? Probably not. However, improved posture and core strength is an important part of back rehabilitation to remove some muscular stress. All in all, most people have poor posture and most

people do not have serious back problems. We would recommend not worrying too much about it.

Dear HOUSE Calls, My doctor told me there was no test for ovarian cancer. Is this true?

We have screening tests for many kinds of cancer (colon, breast, cervical, prostate, etc.). However, we don't really do any population screening for ovarian cancer, and it is a very serious, if not common, form of cancer. About 21,000 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year in the U.S., and 15,000 die from it. There are some tests for ovarian cancer, but the tests have limitations and they don't make sense for everybody. Ovarian cancer tests include blood marker tests (CA 125), genetic testing and ultrasounds and other imaging studies. Assuming we are talking about average-risk women, the genetic test (BRCA) rarely would be positive and would only demonstrate a genetic risk

of ovarian cancer, not the disease. The other tests, both the CA 125 and ultrasound, fail to diagnose many cancers and have too many false positive tests, resulting in more tests or surgery. This is complicated and based on the fact that ovarian cancer is unusual and difficult to diagnose in the early stage, and the tests themselves are just not very good. The U.S. Preventative Services Task Force and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecology recommend against routine screening for ovarian cancer for average-risk women. However, if you have symptoms such as early fullness, unexplained weight loss or abdominal bloating, pressure or pain, get to the doctor promptly for an exam.

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.

Stay tuned.
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PET OF THE WEEK
ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES —

Meet **Sally**! This gorgeous girl is around a year-and-a-half old and looking for a new place to call home this holiday season. Sally is one of the awesome pets who has been chosen to represent our Home for the Holidays event, meaning her adoption fee has been reduced to \$60! That's half the regular fee! Sally is a modest, but confident girl. She plays nicely with others, aims to please and walks well on a leash. She enjoys company, but isn't invasive, preferring a more easygoing energy to that of chaos. She is the type of lady you can take just about anywhere and know she will make you proud. Visit her today at Orange County Animal Services, 1601 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill. You can also see Sally and other adoptable animals online at www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices



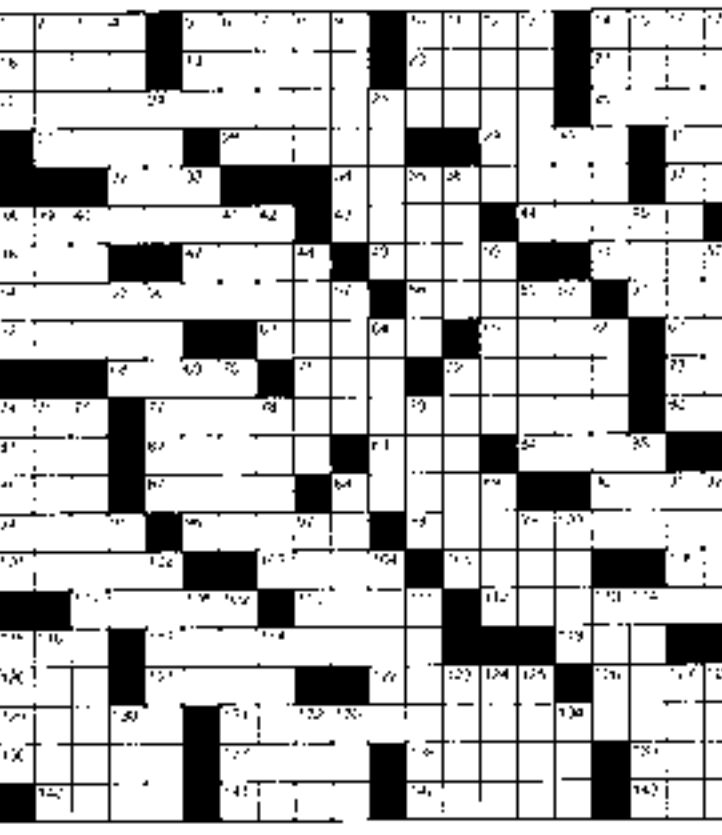
SUPER CROSSWORD ROSE GARDEN

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CitizenCryptoquote By Martin Brody

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

Scary

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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 contain all of the numbers from one to nine

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: *

* Moderate ** Challenging
*** HOO BOY!

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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More disgraceful doubletalk on Medicaid

CHRIS FITZSIMON

Republican legislative leaders seem more determined than ever to force state officials to cut health care services to the most vulnerable people in the state. And they would rather you not know about it, and certainly not blame them for it.

That's the only conclusion that can be drawn from the latest developments about how to handle the \$139 million shortfall in the state Medicaid program.

WRAL-TV reported Monday that legislative leaders have told Health and Human Services Secretary Lanier Cansler that they are unwilling to shift any state funds to address the shortfall and that he needs to make the cuts necessary to fill it.

That means either slashing vital services to seniors and people with disabilities or significantly cutting reimbursement rates to doctors, hospitals and other health care providers.

Lawmakers know those are Cansler's only options because he told them so at a legislative oversight meeting last month when he asked for guidance.

It is probably just a coincidence that they seem far more interested in protecting health care services at a public meeting than they do when they are crafting a budget provision in private

Rep. Nelson Dollar, the Republican lead human services budget writer in the House, told Cansler then that he should "absolutely not" make either cut and said that the Republican leadership would work with HHS officials to "find the money" to make up the difference.

House Speaker Thom Tillis also brushed aside the possibility of cutting services at the time and said that lawmakers would find the money from the state's savings account or unspent funds to avoid the cuts.

Now apparently Dollar and Tills are no longer willing to work with Cansler to find the money and would rather see people lose vital health care services.

The Republicans' reversal is maddening, but it is not their first about-face on Medicaid cuts.

The budget the Republicans approved in June explicitly directed Cansler to cut services and reduce provider rates if projected Medicaid savings didn't materialize.

Republicans knew then the savings were unrealistic. Gov. Beverly Perdue sent letters to legislative leaders in late May and early June detailing her concerns about the unrealistic savings.

The budget writers ignored the warnings and ordered Cansler to make the cuts anyway. They changed their tune last month when Cansler made clear what the cuts would mean: real hardship for real people.

That's when Dollar and Tillis made their pledges to work with Cansler to avoid slashing services – at an open legislative committee meeting with television-news cameras rolling. Now behind the scenes they are insisting on the very cuts they were so concerned about just a few weeks ago.

It is probably just a coincidence that they seem far more interested in protecting health care services at a public meeting than they do when they are crafting a budget provision in private or writing a letter to state officials.

Most troubling of all about the Republicans' duplicity is that this is not just an inside-the-beltline political story about a feud between two branches of government. It affects thousands of people who may no longer have access to prosthetics, vision and hearing care, private-duty nurses and a host of other vital services if Cansler is forced to make the cuts by the Republicans' refusal to come up with the funding to prevent them.

That would be disgraceful, which is also an apt description of how Republican leaders have behaved in this whole episode.

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



LETTERS

Officer went above and beyond

Officer J. Walker of the Carrboro Police Department went way above and beyond the call of duty today and deserves public recognition.

I felt like a fool for dialing 911, but I was desperate: My cat had bolted 20 feet up a tree in my yard and was stuck. It sounds comical, but it was serious – she was on a leash, and I watched in horror as she wound herself around and around branches very high up, with the leash tangling in the branches. I had the horrible feeling she would eventually try to jump down, only for the leash to hang her.

I was distraught and Officer Walker kept me calm, helped me problem-solve, thought of numbers to call and even tried to get another officer to bring a ladder. Eventually, he just took control of the situation and climbed the tree himself. He undid the leash, grabbed her and got her down to safety. I couldn't believe it!

Please join me in commending him for going far beyond what is expected of a police officer. Thank you also to the 911 responder (I believe his name was Tom) who took this emergency seriously. I know there are many things both parties could have been doing on a Sunday afternoon, but I am so grateful to have had this help. I literally could not think of another thing I could have done – tree services aren't open on Sundays and I couldn't get a hold of anyone who had a ladder.

In an era when police officers are getting a bad rap, it is comforting to know the Carrboro Police Department are folks to be trusted and depended on, and who are willing to go so far to help their fellow citizens (and their animal friends).

Thank you again for making me believe in the spirit of Carrboro's goodness. Thank you Officer Walker!

WENDY SPITZER
Carrboro

Greensboro/Weaver corner needs cleanup

I love Carrboro. I love living here, playing here and boasting about what a great town it is. But I hate the way our downtown looks. The property at the intersection of Greensboro and Weaver streets (the proposed CVS site) is a disgrace. It is the primary intersection of our town, where thousands of people pass by every day, and it looks like hell – and has for some time, with weeds everywhere, empty, rusted sign frames, some kind of nasty drain-protecting boom material right on the corner, etc.

I understand it is not town owned, but I believe it is the town's responsibility to make sure it is cleaned up. Where's the pride? We're out chasing Oprah to film in this town, and this kind of "scenery" is at the heart of our town square? It's bad enough that we've lived with many months of street construction along Weaver. This is a small lot, cleaning it up and keeping it clean does not take that much money or effort.

Come on all you newly (re)elected town officials, let's make this happen.

BETHANEY DALE
Carrboro

State should educate on gun law changes

I cried while I watched Rep. Gabrielle Gifford's interview with Diane Sawyer. It was touching to see the way that she lovingly looked at her husband and the way that he protectively finished her sentences. I empathized with the ways that their lives have been changed by senseless gun violence.

In January 2012, the nation will mark the first anniversary of the horrifying acts of gun violence in Tucson, Ariz. I will also mark the fifth anniversary of my father's death. He was a victim of gun violence as he attempted to diffuse a family argument. My uncle claimed that he fired his gun in the name of self-defense. My father was unarmed.

On Dec. 1, 2011, HB650 will go into effect and amend the current gun laws in North Carolina. Of specific interest to me are the changes that will be applied

to the Castle Doctrine. Generally, the Castle Doctrine stipulates that a person has the legal right to use deadly force to protect their "castle," which under new legislation includes one's home, vehicle or personal space – say at a mall or in an alleyway. According to the upcoming changes, a person no longer has to retreat if they feel they are in danger before using deadly force. Additionally, the burden of proof now falls on the state prosecutor to determine if in fact deadly force was unnecessary.

The upcoming changes to the Castle Doctrine in North Carolina have raised some concerns about how gun laws will now be interpreted by those less familiar with the law. I agree with a person's right to protect themselves and their families from danger. Yet, as a student of public health and a citizen who has been deeply affected by gun violence, I think that it is important to couple the changes in the law with an awareness campaign that reminds people that the changes to the Castle Doctrine do not encourage or permit a "make my day" free-for-all mentality that gives people the right to take another person's life. Educating communities about gun safety remains an important collaborative task for individual gun owners, community advocates and state legislators.

I urge community members and lawmakers to mark Dec. 1 not only as a triumph for pro-gun advocates, but to also use it as a teachable moment for the state to be reminded of the importance of gun safety. I hope that no other little girl will have to spend Christmas without her Dad because of senseless and avoidable gun violence.

CHAUNETTA JONES
Master's candidate,
UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

Faison's attacks on Perdue self-serving

By attacking North Carolina's first woman governor, Beverly Perdue, Bill Faison over-reached himself. His insinuation that the governor, a fellow Democrat, should step aside so that he can run for her office is beneath contempt and self-serving in the extreme. Gov. Perdue did nothing improper. The governor cooperated fully with the investigation. District Attorney Colon Willoughby attested to the fact that the evidence proved that the governor was "never" – repeat "never" – implicated in any wrongdoing, when he stated explicitly, "The conduct of the governor is not and never has been at issue, nor the conduct of any other elected official." And furthermore, the indictments on their face preclude involvement by the governor, stating that these monies were spent outside of the campaign and outside the knowledge of the governor. Rep. Faison, as an attorney, should be able to read the plain language of the indictment.

I have supported Gov. Perdue in the past, and will continue to support her in her bid for reelection to the office of governor. Gov. Perdue has stood strong on women's rights and civil rights, and I applaud her. The time for the people of North Carolina – particularly women – to rally behind Gov. Bev Perdue is now.

RENEE PRICE
President, Orange County Democratic Women

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be no more than 425 words in length and must be accompanied by the author's name, address and contact information. We will publish one letter per author per month. Lengthy letters written in longhand will mysteriously become lost. Emailed letters are preferred. That said, send your letters to:

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An open letter from Disability Rights NC to Gov. Perdue

Dear Gov. Perdue:

North Carolina is at a difficult and potentially expensive crossroads in delivering services to people with disabilities. As governor, you must choose which road to take. You can provide courageous leadership and negotiate a settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice, leading North Carolina in a bold new direction that complies with federal law. An agreement will make the promise of Olmstead a reality in our state – the opportunity for people with mental health and other disabilities to live and participate in our communities with adequate and appropriate supports. The alternative, allowing the U.S. Department of Justice to sue our state in order to enforce federal law, will divert precious resources from service provision to protracted litigation and effectively relinquish control to a special master.

The odds are not in the state's favor on this issue. Recognizing the U.S. Supreme Court's mandate set forth in Olmstead, a decade and more of reports commissioned by the North Carolina General Assembly have highlighted North Carolina's failure to provide our citizens with mental health disabilities a real chance for recovery with dignity. Some of these reports provided recommendations on how North Carolina can achieve the requirements of Olmstead. We know what to do, yet fail to do it.

What people with mental health disabilities want and need – and what the law requires – are options enabling recovery for meaningful futures. This benefits not only the individuals with mental health disabilities but helps to ensure that every North Carolina citizen will be enriched with healthy, productive neighbors.

To quote South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley in her response to a 2011 NAMI report, "We've got to start dealing with the problem. ... We have to prioritize it because what's happening now is these victims of mental illness are ending up in jail or in the hospital, and what they really need is treatment. These are people who can function on a day-to-day basis if they just get the services they need ... and by not giving them the treatment they need, it's only costing taxpayers more money later."

On behalf of the board of directors, staff and clients of the State's Protection and Advocacy system, I urge you to continue negotiating with the U.S. Department of Justice. Reach a just resolution regarding the options and choices available to North Carolinians living with severe and persistent mental illness and spare the state's resources from drawn-out litigation that will surely result in an order directing North Carolina to do what we can achieve right now through settlement negotiations. Our communities are strengthened by inclusion of people with disabilities, especially the people who are finally provided with the opportunity and support to lead meaningful and participatory lives in North Carolina. We hope North Carolina embraces the challenge. With your leadership the future can be bright.

Disability Rights North Carolina is an independent, private not-for-profit organization focused on ensuring the rights of all state citizens with disabilities through individual advocacy and system change.

CORRECTION

An article in last week's Citizen incorrectly stated PORCH's allocation of food. In 2011 to date, PORCH has distributed 1,971 bags of food to the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service, 2,218 to TABLE, 2,726 to other food pantries and 1,704 to its Food for Families program.

Human Rights Center helps address challenges

Not long ago, I got to witness something you don't see a lot of – a combined Water Festival and fiesta at Abbey Court. The Water Festival, known as Thingyan, is the New Year celebration in Myanmar (formerly Burma). Fiesta you probably already have a grasp of.

It's become a remarkable annual event – a convergence of cultures with a traditional dance by girls in elaborate costumes, a mariachi band, free tamales and a water balloon free-for-all. It was also a testament to the work by UNC's Human Rights Center, whose volunteers have focused a tremendous amount of energy on community-building at Abbey Court, especially in improving the lives of the children there.

I suppose at some point we'll hear the real reason why the complex's major owner wants the center out. Right now, considering the good work the center's doing and

the long, difficult history of the place, the reasons ring hollow.

Ten years ago, I wandered through what was then called Old Well Apartments with a notebook trying to get a better understanding of the lives of people caught between two poles of American thought – the one that says we're a beacon of liberty and the other that says get out.

By then, the complex had evolved from mainly cheap student housing to the home of the largest concentration of immigrants in our area. My guide and interpreter was a school employee working on her own time. She'd done a lot of visits there, and knew the place well. The school system had been working to get Latino parents more involved and more comfortable going to the schools and interacting with teachers.

A couple of years earlier, I'd covered the elementary redistricting



caused by the opening of Scroggs Elementary School. Elementary redistricting is the biggie because for most kids it sets up the geographical associations a child will carry through middle and high schools. The schools here have a policy that tries to balance the student population. During redistricting, that meant moving a sizable population

of Latino students from Carrboro Elementary to Scroggs. To ease the transition, the schools had put in a lot of work building bridges into the rapidly growing community of immigrants.

Visiting the Old Well families in their homes and hearing firsthand their circumstances and aspirations revealed a complicated world, one where children, parents, aunts and uncles held differing degrees of legal status and integration into the outside world. Some were city people, some were country. Most sent money back home and missed their friends and families terribly.

Everyone there seemed on their way to somewhere else. Some places were homey and comfortable, but even those felt temporary. Old Well was where you landed and got your bearings.

The economy was fairly good then and there was money to be

made. The university was on a building binge and would be for some time.

Now, 10 years later, times are far different. The economy, especially for anyone in construction and the associated trades, is in an extended slump. The university isn't building much and may not for a while.

The post 9/11 immigration crackdown changed the economics and the demographics of Abbey Court as well. Bigger companies and institutions now check the accuracy of Social Security numbers prior to hiring. If you're undocumented, you are likely further underground than you were 10 years ago.

A community of Karen refugees fleeing conflicts near the border of Thailand and Myanmar has moved in. Their legal status, similar to that of those who immigrated here from El Salvador and

Nicaragua in the 1980s, allows them to land jobs at the hospital and university housekeeping that were once held by Latino workers. You can imagine the tension that might cause.

Given the history of Abbey Court and the current complicated flux of the place, I can't imagine why anyone would want to kick out an organization that has made the place more livable and continues to build those important bridges into the immigrant communities that live here.

Let's hope that the management reconsiders and that the towns and the university continue to support the work of the center, which has a role to play in addressing a wide range of challenges. From tutoring students and providing afterschool programs to finding a solution to the day-laborer issues, we need the energy, understanding and insights the center has to offer.

OASIS

FROM PAGE 1

recovery, which means the return to school or work, to lives in progress. Some patients, but not all, must adjust their expectations.

Though there's no cure for schizophrenia, Perkins says, "We have treatments that can effectively control symptoms and prevent disability in most patients."

While it's known that the frontal cortical and temporal lobe regions of the brain are affected by schizophrenia, the disease's causes are unknown. There are many theories about causation. One theory relates to mitochondrial function, the energy producers in our cells. There's also evidence that the way the brain responds to stress may contribute to schizophrenia risk.

"At different levels, we have lots of different theories that are driving our understanding of what might be contributing to risk," Perkins says. "But it's probably not the same thing for every person."

Schizophrenia is diagnosed on the basis of psychosis. One of the senses will start making mistakes. For example, you may start having hallucinations.

Or you may have delusions, believing that people are talking about or laughing at you. You may think people on TV are making special reference to you. You observe connections between things that most people don't see, or you may think, "That person just said exactly what I was thinking."

"When your brain's not working right," Perkins says, "all these things you depend on your brain to do – to interpret visual stimuli, what you see and what you hear to make sense of the world – start to break down."

It's not necessarily the first sign, but it's the defining sign of the illness.

"The whole point is that there is a disorder in perception and interpretation. Those are the main things our cortex does; it perceives and interprets the world, and that breaks down."

It's a bit like what happens in

dreams, Perkins says. "You know how while you're dreaming, it all kinds of makes sense to you? And then you wake up and try to tell someone your dream, and you realize you can't tell it."

A 'severe course'

David Binanay believed he had a special purpose. He had known great success in his life: singing with the Raleigh Boychoir in Carnegie Hall, school president, top of his class, a talented violinist.

He'd also survived four open-heart surgeries. "My mission was to survive," he says.

As schizophrenia set in, Binanay began to perceive synchronicities and coincidences: "I would walk outside expecting to see my mom, and my mom would drive up," he says. "That's really cool, when that gets firing on all cylinders."

"For me, it was like purpose. I've always been about purpose."

He can still feel the passion that imbued him, the passion to figure out what it was all about.

"I started reading a lot of religious texts, the Bible. I would

drive, searching for places just to hear the word, to hear people speak. I would meet interesting people. I was living the dream."

He talked with his priest, but it was at the height of his psychosis, and, "It didn't go well. It did not go well."

OASIS was his refuge: "They knew everything I was going through."

But a commitment to the meds was part of the plan, and that involved a tradeoff – the euphoria for a shot at stability – he wasn't quite ready to make.

"His illness took a severe course," Saade says of Binanay's struggle with recovery.

"I think David had a hard time coming to terms with the role that medication would play in his life," Perkins says, "what he needed to do to maintain a sustained recovery, how he was going to manage."

It's a two-way commitment.

"Every person who comes in is unique, and we have to work with them to find the strategies that work best for them," Perkins says.

"People have to figure out how

to believe that they're effective in the world, that they're a good person, that they can contribute, that they're valuable," and, yes, that they're living with schizophrenia.

Inevitable?

Some three in four people with schizophrenia will have ongoing disability with relapses. OASIS is aiming to reduce that number.

When a person experiences his or her first psychotic episode, often it's gone within a few weeks, and the person is back to normal.

"It feels to the patient, and sometimes to the physician treating them, that the patient is cured," Perkins says, "or that it could be just a one-off thing that happened."

Unfortunately, that's not usually the case.

Seventy to 80 percent of those who recover from a first episode of psychosis will experience a relapse within a year, Perkins says, and virtually all will relapse within three years.

With each relapse, it generally takes longer to respond to medication and the response is less com-

plete. There is often a loss of cortical gray and cortical white matter. The brain, with each recurrent episode, shrinks.

But is it inevitable that people with schizophrenia will experience that downward spiral? Is it inevitable that at least three in four will live with chronic illness and disability?

"The answer is no," Perkins says, "it's not inevitable" – and that's the premise upon which OASIS is founded.

OASIS strives to maintain long-term recovery through low-dose antipsychotic medication and psychotherapeutic intervention, with the help, if possible, of a client's family. The most crucial element is the client's own commitment to recovery.

And: "It's critical that it's caught early," Perkins emphasizes. "The earlier it's caught, the greater the likelihood of a good outcome, the greater the response to medication, the greater likelihood of functional recovery, the greater resilience against relapse if it occurs."

Next week: The road to recovery



Ali Cat

Anna's Tailoring

Artizan Gifts

The Bead Store

Carolina Core

Carrboro Yoga Co.

CHICLE

Creativity Matters

CVS

DSI Comedy Theater

Elmo's Diner

Fedora Boutique

Harris Teeter

Head Over Heels Haircutters

Miel Bon Bons

Mulberry Silks & Fine Fabrics

The Painted Bird

Panzanella

Rita's Italian Ices

Sofia's

Townsend Bertram & Co.

Weaver St. Market & Cafe

CarrMillMall.com

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School Briefs

Rashkis gets LEGO grant

The Rashkis Elementary Second Grade Team was awarded a Strowd Roses Grant from the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation to implement LEGO Serious Play in all second-grade classrooms. Students will use Reflection Kits filled with a variety of LEGO bricks to “build statements” designed to prompt them to think in creative and innovative ways. The team will begin implementing the new program in January.

X theTXT

Chapel Hill High School students took part in the X the TXT campaign during lunch last Tuesday and Wednesday. Students added their thumbprints to a banner as a symbol of their promise not to text while driving. The school’s Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) chapter held the event.

Dual-language conference

The 10th annual La Cosecha Dual Language Conference took place last month in Albuquerque. Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools had three educators attend the conference: Gradesa Lockhart, McDougle Middle School assistant principal; Crystal Epps, Frank Porter Graham Elementary School assistant principal; and Kendra Fisher, Carrboro Elementary School AYP specialist. La Cosecha brings together educators, parents, researchers and community members who support dual-language enrichment education. The theme of this year’s conference was “strengthening bridges between our languages and cultures.”

Parent University

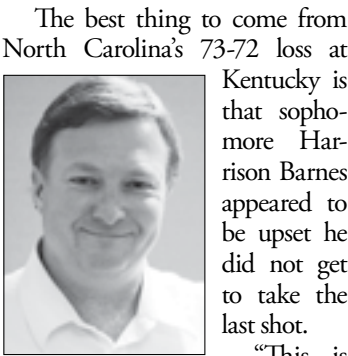
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools will launch its first Parent University program in January. The program provides parents with tools to help children succeed in school and build positive relationships with the school system. There will be orientations for parents on Jan. 6 and 9. For a list of course offerings and descriptions or to register, visit parentu.chccs.k12.nc.us. For more information about Parent University, email Karen Burns at knburns6@gmail.com or Kyle Stout at sivan.stout@gmail.com

McDougle to compete in mock trial

The second Justice Iredell Middle School Mock Trial Tournament will take place tomorrow at five locations across the state. Fourteen teams from 11 schools will be competing, and their scores will be tabulated from all five sites to determine the state champion. McDougle Middle School, representing the Central Region, will compete at the Randolph County Courthouse in Asheboro.

As Barnes goes, so goes Carolina

BY EDDY LANDRETH
Staff Writer



The best thing to come from North Carolina’s 73-72 loss at Kentucky is that sophomore Harrison Barnes appeared to be upset he did not get to take the last shot. “This is a very good team, and this would have been a very big road win for us,” Barnes said. “The fact that we couldn’t execute down the stretch is kind of alarming.” It’s possible I’m reading too much into what Barnes said, but looking at his face as he said it gave much greater meaning than the words themselves. He wanted the ball. I’m convinced of that.

If that is the case, coach Roy Williams, his staff, the rest of the team and all the fans who were cursing and stomping as UNC failed to seize the moment should be ecstatic. This team needs someone to take those kinds of shots. Championship teams have a player who is fearless. He may not make the shot all the time, but he is ready, willing and never afraid to take it. Barnes has been that kind of player for the Tar Heels during his brief career at UNC. Here is the thing about great players: They do not just want the ball in crucial moments; they demand it. Early in my sports-writing career, I covered Duke’s back-to-back national championships in 1991 and ’92. Christian Laettner sank big shot after big shot for those teams. He became furious if anyone else dared take the shot instead of him. The result was consecutive na-

tional championships and a moment in the East Regional final in Philadelphia against Kentucky that is burned into the minds of even college basketball fans too young to have seen it live. The greatest at performing those last-second heroics, of course, was UNC’s Michael Jordan. Although James Worthy was the dominant force on the court that night, Jordan hit the winning jump shot to give coach Dean Smith his first national title in 1982. Jordan went on to own the NBA with his fierce competitive spirit and the talents he developed through countless hours of hard work. A collegiate coach from another school once told me Jordan was the most fundamentally sound player in the NBA. Barnes resembles Los Angeles Laker Kobe Bryant more than he does Jordan, but that’s OK because Bryant is the successor to Jordan with his guts and ability to take and make game-winners.

If the loss at Kentucky encourages Barnes to go to point guard Kendall Marshall and demand the ball in future situations, the ‘Tar Heels’ odds of winning the national championship this season will grow immensely. There are plenty of minutes for Zeller, John Henson, P.J. Hairston, Reggie Bullock and all the other Tar Heels to get their points. But if you can recall Barnes’ game-winning shots against Miami and Florida State a year ago, then you have to realize he must be the one who gets the ball with the clock winding down and Carolina in need of a go-ahead bucket. “We weren’t getting the shots we wanted,” Barnes said. “We’ve got to work on getting better shots.” That should begin by getting Barnes the ball, if at all possible, with the game on the line. No one else wearing a Carolina uniform today is better equipped to get the job done.

School board welcomes James Barrett

BY ROSE LAUDICINA
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL – The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education had a fresh face joining them at their Dec. 1 meeting, as the board prepares to make some important upcoming decisions regarding the education of the district’s children. That fresh face belonged to newly elected board member James Barrett, who was sworn into office at the beginning of the

meeting, along with Mia Burroughs, Jamezetta Bedford and Mike Kelley, who were all reelected. Annetta Streater was also reelected, but was unable to attend the meeting and will take the oath of office at a later date. Not long after being sworn in, Burroughs was chosen unanimously to replace Bedford as chair of the board, after serving this year as vice chair. Michelle Brownstein was chosen unanimously to serve as the board’s vice chair for 2012.

Once the pomp and circumstance was completed, it was back to business as usual for the board, as they turned their energies to the evening’s agenda. Barrett seemed at ease, jumping right in with comments and asking questions on the first item of the night regarding recommendations for approval of new and revised courses for the 2012-13 school year. “I met you during the superintendent search and you seemed like a really nice guy,” Barrett said

to Rodney Trice, director of the instructional services division, who was presenting the recommendations. “And then you throw this at me for my first board meeting, and now I’m not so sure,” Barrett joked. The board of education also discussed delaying the expansion of the elementary school dual-language program. The board agreed with the recommendations.

School Lunch Menus

FRIDAY 12/9

Elementary: Chicken Nuggets, Cheese Quesadilla w/Salsa, Beefaroni, Tater Tots, Green Beans, Blueberry-Peach Crumble, Fresh Apple
Middle and High School: Fish Sticks w/Wheat Roll & Tater Sauce w/ Ranch Potato Wedges, Penne Pasta w/Italian Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Locally Grown Steamed Broccoli

MONDAY 12/12

Elementary: Cheese Sticks w/ Sauce, Meatball Sub, Chicken Fajita Salad, Steamed Broccoli, Baked Sweet Potato, Rosy Applesauce, Orange Smiles

Middle and High School: Buffalo Chicken Sandwich w/Oven Fries, Chicken Tenders, Wheat Roll, Glazed Carrots, Oven Fries

TUESDAY 12/13

Elementary: Vegetable Lasagna w/ Garlic Bread, BBQ Chicken Sandwich, Spinach Salad, Black Beans, Carrot & Broccoli Cup, Pineapple Cup, Raisins
Middle and High School: BBQ Pork Riblet Sandwich w/Tater Tots, Beef & Cheese or Bean & Cheese Burrito, Spanish Rice, Seasoned Black-eyed Peas

WEDNESDAY 12/14

Elementary: Chicken Pot Pie,

Cheese Pizza, Bagel w/Yogurt & Peanut Butter, Seasoned Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Banana, Fruited Jell-o
Middle and High School: Meatball Sub w/Mashed Potatoes, Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Wheat Roll, Seasoned Collard Greens

THURSDAY 12/15

Elementary: Pollo Guisado con Arroz, Hamburger, Fruit & Cheese Plate w/Yogurt, Baked Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Blueberry-Peach Crumble, Fruit Cocktail
Middle and High School: Patty Melt w/Oven Fries, Sesame Chicken, Brown Rice, Peach Crumble, Baked Sweet Potato

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BUSINESS NOMINATIONS SOLICITED FOR THE 2011 PAULI MURRAY HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD The Orange County Human Relations Commission has extended the submission deadline date for nominations of businesses for the 2011 Pauli Murray Human Relations Award. The Pauli Murray Award is presented annually by the Human Relations Commission to an Orange County business that has served the community with distinction in the pursuit of equality, justice, and human rights for all residents. Deadline for submitting BUSINESS nominations is Thursday, December 22, 2011. For applications or more information please visit the website at: http://www.co.orange.nc.us/housing/pmurray.asp or contact the Human Relations Commission at 919 245-2489. Nomination information is also available at Orange County public libraries; and the Town Halls of Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and Hillsborough.

Please join family and friends of ANN THIBAUT to celebrate Ann's gallery THE ARTS A final sale of works from her personal collection will be presented. Prints by LARS BO, AVATI, J.J.J. RIGAL and others, plus ceramic works of TOM SUOMALAINEN. Sunday, December 11, 2011 from 1-5 p.m. at the new location of The Framers Corner: 210 West Main St, Carrboro, NC 27510 | 919.929.3166 | theframerscorner.com | Hours: 10-6 m-f, 10-2 sat, and by appointment the FRAMERS CORNER inc. DISTINCTIVE PICTURE FRAME DESIGN • SINCE 1981



Town staff hoist the giant wreath into place. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA
FROM PAGE 1

subtle beauties included, one needs to walk up to take a closer look.

You'll enjoy identifying some of the accent materials, like cattails. Every year the group comes up with something new.

Of the traditional red berries, my favorite is the deciduous holly, *Ilex deciduas*, which is common along roadsides and in local forests. Most folks don't realize it's a holly because it lacks the prickly evergreen leaves of our traditional American holly, *Ilex opaca*. Heavily berried specimens of female trees are simply spectacular in the winter landscape. Sophisticated gardeners are growing deciduous hollies

and you can frequently find them in local nurseries.

The Carrboro Community Garden Club is not your typical organization. In place of dues, a hat is infrequently passed around if the group needs a few dollars. There are no official elected officers, though several individuals perform essential functions to keep the group loosely organized. Monthly gatherings at members' homes provide opportunities to learn by sharing the discoveries of new plants and gardening practices.

In addition to creating the giant wreath for the town, this group hosts the Plant Distribution and Gardening Advice tables at the annual Carrboro Day celebration on first the Sunday in May.

After this Saturday's



Town staff and members of Carrboro Community Garden Club get the giant holiday wreath ready for hanging. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

parade and during the next couple of weeks, take a brief timeout to enjoy a close inspection of the Carrboro wreath and appreciate the individuals who bring it to us.

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

Email Ken Moore at flora@carrborocitizen.com

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VOLUNTEERS

WEB VOLUNTEER FOR THE CITIZEN The Carrboro Citizen needs someone to help us with posting to our website. Experience with web pages is helpful, but good computer aptitude is necessary. This volunteer position will require working in our office several hours per week. Reliability and punctuality are essential. Email your qualifications to Susan Dickson at susan@carrborocitizen.com.

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FARMERS' MARKET

FALL / WINTER MARKET HOURS

Saturdays 9am-Noon

What's at Market

MEAT: prosciutto, stewing hens, pork shanks, pork ribs, bratwurst, beef

VEGGIES: cauliflower, peppers, radishes, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, turnips, beets, cabbage, ginger, fennel, potatoes, lettuces, kale, bok choy, beets, swiss chard, rapini, mustard greens, spinach, frisee, fresh herbs, scallions, arugula, 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

Recipe of the Week

Local Smoked Pepper Soup

Recipe provided by Adam Cobb, Glasshalfull

Ingredients

4 pounds mixed peppers (sweet, mild and hot)

1 yellow onion, sliced

3 shallots, sliced

1 head of garlic, bulbs removed

2 stalks of celery, sliced

1/2 cup blanched and slivered almonds

4 ounces butter

1 bay leaf

1 sprig fresh thyme

1/2 cup heavy cream

1/4 cup white wine

agave nectar or honey, to taste

fresh squeezed lime juice, to taste

salt and white pepper, to taste

vegetable stock, as needed

Procedure

Smoke peppers for five to 10 minutes with apple wood, then seed and slice. In a large pot, melt the butter over medium heat and add onion, shallot, celery and garlic. Season with salt and white pepper and allow to sweat for 10 minutes or until tender and aromatic. Add the smoked peppers and cook for 10 minutes, stirring often. Deglaze with white wine and reduce for two minutes or until wine is almost entirely evaporated. Add thyme, bay leaf and enough vegetable stock just to cover the peppers. Bring to a boil and then reduce heat to a simmer until all vegetables are completely tender, 30 minutes to one hour. Blend in batches on high speed in a blender, adding almonds and cream to each batch. Press through a fine strainer or food mill and cool, then season to taste with salt, white pepper and lime juice. Finally, add a small amount of agave or honey for sweetness as necessary.

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Don Basnight's sweet dog, Carmel, came to Weaver Street Realty practically every day for fifteen years.

The only time she wasn't in the office was when she was camping or on the boat with Don, relaxing at home with Ginger, or with Pinky the groomer for the day.

Gretchen Matheson Photography

We'll miss Carmel's gentle spirit and furballs.

Carmel, Sweet Office Dog

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CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER: Scary

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shouldn't have gone - Brian Kruenger who has two assault convictions and had his right

kind of spooky isn't it? We could have given him a job at the Carrboro Zoo. He would have been a

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Paul Green, 1963

This weekend's Chapel Hill Holiday House Tour of the historic Greenwood neighborhood reminds me of the kindness and generosity of its founder, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author and playwright Paul Green. The creator of many outdoor dramas (symphonic dramas), including *The Lost Colony*, was kind enough to host our senior English class in his living room at his 610 Greenwood Road home one evening in 1963, when he talked informally about his life's work. The Chapel Hill High schoolers in this photo (made with a 1957 twin-lens reflex Rolleicord for the school paper, the *Proconian*) include, left to right, Dan Tracy, Johnny Alcott, Becky Tatum, Myrt Trageser, Dale Sloan and Sandra Bell. Looking back, I realize we Chapel Hill kids took these rich cultural encounters a little too much for granted.



A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER

Do you have an important old photo that you value? Email your photo to jock@email.unc.edu and include the story behind the picture. Because every picture tells a story. And its worth? A thousand words.

ABBHEY COURT

FROM PAGE 1

stemmed from the HRC's recent plans to buy a larger unit at Abbey Court to create a day-laborer center. The HRC already provides a number of services, including an afterschool program in partnership with Scroggs Elementary School, computer classes and a youth soccer program.

The apartment complex has a diverse population, with large numbers of Latino and Karen residents, many of whom are served by programs offered by the HRC. Some have argued that the decision by the homeowners' association was rooted in racism, and on Saturday, Occupy Chapel Hill led a peaceful march of more than 100 people to the complex in protest of the association's decision.

"It's an immense pleasure ... that the town is supporting Abbey Court residents," Blau said. "I think the residents are

surprised and totally delighted about that.”

The HRC has until March 1 to vacate Abbey Court and find another home, and Blau said she's working to find a new location in the same area as Abbey Court.

"There may be a very good outcome if I can find a house in Carrboro near Abbey Court, a larger place where we could serve more, provide more programs, and day laborers could come in the mornings," she said, adding that the HRC needs to find a home quickly.

"If we don't, we would have to bridge our programs doing somersaults," she said.

Mayor Mark Chilton said he was disappointed by the decision of the Abbey Court HOA and that he's been helping Blau and others at the HRC find a new location for the center. He attended the HOA board meeting last week, and said members cited in their decision liability issues surrounding the center.

Chilton said he told board members that the children who visit the HRC for services are also tenants of Abbey Court.

"They're going to be at Abbey Court whether you have an HRC or not, and with the HRC they're getting a good level of adult supervision, and we don't know what level of adult supervision they're getting when the HRC isn't there," adding that many Abbey Court parents work long hours at multiple jobs.

"That argument fell on deaf ears, frankly," Chilton said.

Once the center moves, those residents who use the services it provides won't have the same kind of access, he said. "Clearly, the Human Rights Center has been a very positive influence on the neighborhood."

SEWER

FROM PAGE 1

us to help fund a private sewer line for businesses, where would this fall?" Jacobs asked.

The municipality Jacobs referred to is the town of Carrboro. Last month, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen wrote to commissioners requesting their help in funding a new sewer line for businesses on the 100 block of East Main Street.

On Aug. 26, a private sewer line began to discharge sewage in a parking lot behind these businesses, and while a temporary fix was put in place, a permanent fix is necessary to keep the businesses, especially the two restaurants and bar on the block, in operation.

Commissioner Alice Gordon said that she read the list of approved activities for the funds as examples rather than as a strict list.

"We certainly made it clear we would coordinate with towns in the sales tax, but we didn't make it clear how we would collaborate," newly reappointed board Chair

Bernadette Pelissier said, adding that the board wrote something to that effect in response to Carboro officials.

Since the tax is not set to go into effect until April, Commissioner Valerie Foushee said she felt the time frame they had would allow for needed conversations with municipalities about the uses of the tax revenue.

Also discussed at the Monday night meeting were book-drop options for the Orange County Public Library in Hillsborough.

Residents expressed their discontent with the three options proposed to commissioners at their work session on Oct. 25.

The options presented were to either provide a drive-by book drop or a walk-up book drop at the handicapped ramp on the side of the building or to designate a book drop-only parking space.

Commissioners decided at the work session that the third of those options was the best and most cost-effective, with estimated costs of \$150 to \$200.

However, some residents who came out to speak were skeptical of the practicality of this option,

saying it would be nearly impossible to enforce without increasing the workload of staff.

"I'm a book lover," Peggy Murray told the commissioners Monday night. "But the situation with the parking and book drop-off has made me so angry that I rarely go."

Murray and other residents told the commissioners that at present there is a designated five minute-only parking space in front of the library, but that it is generally occupied for upwards of 15 minutes.

Jacobs said that he would still like to pursue the option, considering it the most cost-effective and convenient, but with the condition that the commissioners revisit the issue at a later date to gather more public input.

"It may not be the most satisfactory solution," Jacobs said, "but we tried to think of everything and couldn't. A better solution is possible, and hopefully we will find it."

The motion to approve the parking option with an additional review was passed unanimously.

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