



C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

Witch hazel flowers best in full sun.

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Witch hazel's right on schedule

It's always a surprise to come upon the yellow flowering witch hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*, in the winter woods. How can a small native tree have flowers in the cold of early December? Well, that's just one of nature's mysterious ways, and as Dave Cook describes in *The Piedmont Almanac*, "Witch hazel is the proverbial 'late bloomer' of the Piedmont." As in early Decembers past, the common wild witch hazel is right on schedule, holding fast to its thin four-petaled flowers even in our recent bitter cold temperatures. If you take a closer look, you may be rewarded with a whiff of the softly fragrant flowers when they are warmed by the sun streaming through the recently opened canopy.

A misidentification by early English settlers and a down-through-the-ages misspelling accounts for the common name, witch hazel. Those pioneers called this little native tree a hazel because it looked like the hazel trees of their homeland. They learned that the Native Americans used the pliable branches to locate underground water sources in the same way the English used their native wych elm, "wych" being the old English word for "pliable branches." Though not at all related to the American hazelnuts, *Corylus* species, and having nothing to do with witches, the common name has been handed down through the ages to us as witch hazel. Some folks still trust witch hazel branches as divining rods.

The pioneers also learned the importance of the witch hazel for its many medicinal uses, one of which was a decoction or infusion of the bark to soothe skin wounds and irritations. The presence of witch hazel extracts on our local pharmacy shelves today indicates that we haven't completely rejected our herbal medicinal heritage.

SEE FLORA PAGE 10

County looks to White Cross for waste transfer station

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

WHITE CROSS — With varying degrees of reluctance among them, Orange County commissioners are prepared to make a decision tonight (Thursday) on where to put a waste transfer station.

The decision comes more than a year after the board of commissioners opted not to follow through on a prior decision to build the station at the Eubanks Road landfill. After reopening the search and hiring a consultant, the search last month narrowed down to three sites in southwestern Orange County clustered around Orange Grove Road.

Board members toured the area Friday and Monday and walked a parcel owned by the Orange Water and Sewer Authority that was one of the three sites on the short list. Also on Monday, county manager Laura Blackmon and the county solid waste department staff issued recommendations that commissioners choose 147-acre parcel located 0.7 miles west of Orange Grove Road. The site is located next to Piedmont Feed and Seed across from the intersection with N.C. 54 and Morrow Mill Road.

Commissioners interviewed Wednesday said that while they were not completely comfortable with the options, the time has come to make a decision.

All three new commissioners who took the oath of office earlier this month said they had looked at the area and although not ideal, the site could accommodate the transfer station.

"I do think it's time to make a decision," Commissioner Steve Yuhasz said, adding that he had studied a number of alternatives presented to him by opponents of the N.C. 54 sites.

Those sites, while closer to Interstates 40 and 85, have their own problems, he said, especially given that Hillsborough officials are on record as saying they would annex any site chosen near town.

"I was at that town commissioner meeting when they made that pledge," Yuhasz said.

Commissioner Pam Hemminger said she does have an issue with the site being on a two-lane road and would have preferred a site near the interstates. But during briefings with county officials on the landfill, she said it was clear that time is short.

"I have huge concerns, but I'm feeling pressure to make a decision," Hemminger said.

New at-large Commissioner Bernadette Pelissier said she too feels the need to move ahead with the decision, but hopes at some point the county will take a good look at how it ended up in this situation.

SEE WASTE PAGE 7

Toyland at PTA

Donald Cooper, a parent volunteer from Culbreth Middle School, sorts through donated toys at the PTA Thrift Shop Monday. The toys are being prepared for a toy sale at the thrift store on Thursday.

PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW



Carey retires after 24 years on board

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

ORANGE COUNTY — After 24 years on the Orange County Board of County Commissioners, Moses Carey attended his last official board meeting last week.

Retiring after six terms on the board, Carey is proud of the work he's done with the commissioners. He admits there are things that he might have done differently, but believes the board has dealt with challenges appropriately.

"I feel good about the contributions I've made making this place the best place to live," he said.

Carey, who lost in the Democratic senatorial primary to incumbent Ellie Kinnaird in the spring, said he looks forward to spending time with his family, while remaining involved in the community.

"I'm just going to take a little while to enjoy my grandchildren and continue to do volunteer work in the community," he said. "For right now, that's enough."

"My wife and I will have to get used to me being home at night," he



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

One of the more fun parts of the job — Moses Carey (center) shares a laugh with Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy during last year's groundbreaking and dedication of Southern Community Park.

added, laughing.

Looking back on his time on the board, Carey says the county's rapid growth has been the greatest challenge the board faced.

"For some reason, [people] are surprised that the county is growing. I'm not, because we work hard to make it the best place to live," he said. "The greatest challenge is dealing with that encroachment out into the rural areas."

"It's a real opportunity to try to channel that growth into areas where it can be accommodated. I'm actually proud of the way that we've managed

that growth."

Still, looking back there are things he might have changed, Carey said.

"There are a number of things I probably wish I'd done differently. I think the one that most people identify me with was that attempt to merge the schools."

Carey's support for a merger of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro and Orange County school systems in 2003 drew strong opposition throughout the community.

SEE CAREY PAGE 7

Feeling emPOWERed to give

RECENTLY . . .

By Valarie Schwartz

Dour as the times may be, the unflappable Delores Bailey continues to find ways to turn some of the least fortunate in our community into feeling very fortunate. As executive director of EmPOWERment Inc., Bailey works front and center insuring that affordable housing isn't just a cruel joke in Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

Last week, Iris Chicas Chavarria and her family joined in the reverie at the Carolina Inn as EmPOWERment celebrated 12 years of "Putting the Pieces of Community Together" and providing people the wherewithal to be homeowners. Through EmPOWERment and Bailey's efforts, the Chavarria family was one of three families who bought a home in 2008.

"Houses here are very expensive," said the El Salvador transplant. "But we got a lot

of help and are very happy to be here." The Carrboro home she has owned since August, which she shares with her son, Josue, and her parents, Maria and Ricardo, is within walking distance of town and Carrboro Elementary School, where Josue attends kindergarten.

The fundraising auction and party provided a steady stream of people eager to pay tribute to Bailey for her leadership, including the president of the EmPOWERment board, Jacqueline Overton, and host Lillian Lee.

"I think with the economy being what it is and the dream of people to own their own home, it's important that we support organizations like EmPOWERment," Lee said. "Delores works so hard and if there's any way she can get help for people in a position to own a home, she'll make it happen."

SEE RECENTLY PAGE 3



PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

Nathaniel Dickerson played Santa to his niece, Delores Bailey, at the EmPOWERment fundraiser.

INSIDE

Furniture Follies to close page 3

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MUSIC CALENDAR



CALICO HAUNTS
The Cave
December 12

THURSDAY DEC 11
Blue Bayou: John Saylor: 8:30pm
The Cave: EARLY: Wax Museum Pandemonium with The Accordion Death Squad. LATE: Inspector 22 with Impossible Arms
Local 506: Battle of the Colleges. TBA
Nightlight: Orphan, Whatever Brains, Invisible Hand. 9:30pm

Heaters with The Loners
Local 506: Max Indian, The Old Ceremony, The Love Language. 10pm, \$8
Nightlight: Cantwell Gomez and Jordan/The Curtains of Night/Saint Peter Pcket Veto/Space Mammai. 10pm
Open Eye Cafe: The Dreamscapes Project. 8pm

Captain John's Dockside: Chris Reynolds Swing 'N' Jazz Trio featuring Tony Greco. 6-8:30pm
The Cave: EARLY: Last Watch. LATE: Cool Ethan with The Sibling Project, Hey Euphony
Local 506: O'Brother: TBA, Free
Nightlight: Jack Rose/Horseback. 9:30pm, \$7
Reveoir: IRATA/Battle Rockets/Goodbye, Titan. 10pm

FRIDAY DEC 12
Blue Bayou: Willie Painter Band. 10pm
Cat's Cradle: Tab Benoit, Mel melton and The Wicked Mojoes. 9pm, \$18 Advance, \$20 Day of Show
The Cave: EARLY: New River Rock Skippers. LATE: Holiday Honky Tonk with Calico Haunts, Gambling the Muse, John Howie Jr and The Rosewood Bluff.
Local 506: Cy Tunes Launch Party with Rockin' Ammonia Karaoke. Flute Flies, Magic Babies, DJ: Viva. 9pm
Nightlight: Evening of experimental and dance music 711-style

SUNDAY DEC 14
Cat's Cradle: Gorilla Music Battle of the Bands Finals. 5:30pm, \$10
Harry's Market: Pickin on the porch. Chambergrass. 2-4pm
MONDAY DEC 15
Cat's Cradle: Trecky Records presents: Christmas at the Cradle 2008. 7:30pm, \$8 Advance, \$10 Day of show
TUESDAY DEC 16
Blue Bayou: Open Blues Jam with Butch Haas. 8pm
Local 506: Dub Trio, American Bang. 9:30pm, \$8
Nightlight: Fever and the Fallin'/Alex Culbreth/Ann Humphreys. 9:30pm, \$5

FRIDAY DEC 19
Blue Bayou: Cyril Lance & Outskirts of Infinity. 9:30pm
The Cave: EARLY: Comedy Night with Johnny Cook. LATE: Straight 8's with The Bo Stevens
Local 506: Indie Rock Karaoke. 9:30pm, Free
Nightlight: Blag'ard/Tin Star/Grey Young. 10pm
Open Eye Cafe: Saludos Company. 8pm

SATURDAY DEC 13
Blue Bayou: Too Much Fun. 9:30pm
Cat's Cradle: Southern Culture on the Skids, The Hall Monitors. 9pm, \$12 Advance, \$14 Day of Show
The Cave: EARLY: \$5 Nikki Meets the Hibachi. LATE: Dirty Little

WEDNESDAY DEC 17
Nightlight: Workday/School Night/Summer Camp Cassanova/Casual Curious. 9:30pm, \$5
THURSDAY DEC 18
Blue Bayou: Fever & the Falling Rain. 8:30pm

SATURDAY DEC 20
Blue Bayou: Matt Hill & the Buzzkills. 9:30pm
Cat's Cradle: Christmas Gathering/Free Show. 7:30pm
The Cave: EARLY: Tony Low. LATE: Evil Wiener X-Mas Show
Local 506: Pinche Gringo, Chrome-Plate Apostles. TBA
Nightlight: Aquila/Count Von Count/ Ape!/Virgo. 9-10pm
Open Eye Cafe: Eric Scholz. 8pm

SPOTLIGHT



SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS DECEMBER 13



TRECKY YULETIDE ORCHESTRA DECEMBER 15

HOLIDAY ROCK

With the holidays rapidly approaching, **CAT'S CRADLE** is hosting two shows this week that will give back to the community.

On Saturday, Southern Culture on the Skids and The Hall Monitors will play a benefit for the North Carolina Food Bank. Tickets are \$12 in advance, and \$14 the day of the show. Donate a canned food item and get \$1 off your ticket. Doors open at 9 p.m. for the 10 p.m. show.

Then on Monday, Trecky Records presents Christmas at the Cradle 2008, hosted by Billy Sugarfix. The show benefits the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and features the tunes of the Trecky Yuletide Orchestra, Megafaun, Sorry About Dresden, the Future Kings of Nowhere, the Scene of the Crime Rovers, North Elementary, Rock & Roll Elf (Clarque Blomquist of the Kingsbury Manx) and the International Grapevine. Doors open at 7 p.m. for the 7:30 p.m. show. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 day of the show.



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| JEWELWORKS | STEPHEN WHITE GALLERY |
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SA 12/20
DEX AND THE NEW ROMANS

FR 12/12**(\$18/\$20) BLUE BAYOU PRESENTS
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SA 12/13
NC FOOD BANK BENEFIT
SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS**(\$12/\$14)
W/THE HALL MONITORS
*BRING A CAN OF FOOD: \$1 OFF COVER CHARGE!

SU 12/14 GORILLA SHOWCASE
BATTLE OF THE BANDS FINAL!

MO 12/15
TRECKY RECORDS PRESENTS:
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HOSTED BY BILLY SUGARFIX!

FR 12/19
ECHHS BATTLE OF THE BANDS
SA 12/20 HOLIDAY GATHERING:
DEXTER AND THE NEW ROMANS, BIG FAT GAP, THE RAFTERS FREE SHOW!
SU 12/27 WINTER REGGAE JAM
DUB ADDIS W/ CRUCIAL FIYAH, JUNIOR P, CAYENNE THE LION KING**(\$8/\$10)

SU 12/28 BENEFIT CONCERT
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WE 12/31 HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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TH 1/15/09**(\$10/\$12)
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R 1/16/09 LOS CAMPESINOS
W/TITUS ANDRONICUS**(\$12/\$14)
SA 1/17/09**(\$10/\$12)
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FR 1/23/09**(\$10/\$12)
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W/RAMSAY MILWOOD

- SA 1/24/09 THE ROSEBUDS
W/MEGAFUN & THE LOVE LANGUAGE**(\$10)
- WE 1/28/09**(\$22/\$25)
DAR WILLIAMS
W/JOSHUA RADIN
FR 1/30/09**(\$10/\$12)
THE LAST WALTZ ENSEMBLE
- SA 1/31/09 ANNUALS
W/JESSICA LEA MAYFIELD & WHAT LAURA SAYS**(\$10/\$12)
- TH 2/5/09**(\$15)
BRETT DENNEN
W/ANGEL TAYLOR
FR 2/6/09**(\$12/\$14)
TOUBAB KREWE
- SA 2/7/09 BOB MARLEY'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!
- SU 2/8/09**(\$10/\$12) ON SALE 12/12
MONTE MONTGOMERY
- SA 2/14/09 THE OLD CEREMONY**
- SU 3/1/09**(\$16/\$18) ON SALE 12/12
TAPES N TAPES
W/WATSON TWINS
- MO 3/2/09 TAPES N TAPES
W/WILD LIGHT**(\$10/\$12)
- WE 3/4/09**(\$10/\$12)
BLACK LIPS
- TH 3/19/09**(\$12/\$14) ON SALE 12/12
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TH 1/15/09 GOD'S POTTERY
WE 1/21/09 VIC CHESNUT W/ELF POWER
FR 3/13/09 ON SALE 12/12
THE AIRBORNE TOXIC EVENT



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News Briefs

Library bonds on hold

The Chapel Hill Town Council Monday night agreed to finish planning for the Chapel Hill Public Library expansion project, but put construction on hold. The council heard a report recommending they wait to sell bonds for the project until financial markets improve.

Town Manger Roger Stancil said finishing the design and permitting process will not cost any additional money, since the bonds to fund those phases have already been sold. It will also allow the town to move ahead with construction as quickly as possible when market conditions improve.

OWASA road closures

OWASA began water main work on Tuesday that will affect traffic on part of North Columbia Street, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and North Street for two to three weeks.

Crews will work from 9 a.m. till about 4 p.m. on weekdays. During those work hours, OWASA will close some travel lanes on North Columbia Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Part of North Street will be closed during the latter part of the project.

School board elects chair

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education elected board member Lisa Stuckey as board chair for 2009.

Stuckey replaces Pam Hemminger, who resigned from the board after she was elected to the Orange County Board of Commissioners. Mike Kelley was elected vice chair of the board.

Mason Farm to be closed

Mason Farm Road will be closed to traffic from Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. through Dec. 21.

UNC plans to install an electric duct bank on Mason Farm Road near the intersection with South Columbia Street. While the road is closed, normal access to the Ambulatory Care Center will be blocked. Traffic from South Columbia and Pittsboro streets will be detoured down Manning and West drives.

Vehicles leaving the clinic will turn right onto Mason Farm Road and then turn left on East and Manning drives to return to South Columbia Street. Part of the sidewalk along the east side of South Columbia Street and the south side of Mason Farm Road near the construction site will be closed and alternative paths for access to the Ambulatory Care Center will be marked. The installation crossing Mason Farm Road is the first phase of a project alongside South Columbia Street to widen that street from Manning Drive to Purefoy Road.

Furniture Follies to close this month

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — Despite a change to the town fire code, Furniture Follies will not be able to open its doors at its new location on N.C. 54 and will leave the location in January.

Owner Ridge Cook appealed to the Carrboro Board of Aldermen in October to change the sprinkler requirements so that the store could open in the old Cleora Sterling building, two miles west of Carrboro Plaza.

About a year ago, Furniture Follies moved from its previous location west of Carrboro to the Cleora Sterling building. But in order to comply with town fire code, the building needed a sprinkler system, which are required in non-residential businesses larger than 6,000 square feet.

Cook and his landlord, former Chapel Hill Town Council member Cam Hill, looked into installing a sprinkler system but discovered the building lacked the water pressure to support one, increasing installation costs from about \$100,000 to more than \$250,000.

building would be considered a separate building if spaces are completely separated by a four-hour firewall. The new requirements are consistent with the state fire code.

However, for Cook, the costs of building the fire wall and installing separate electric,

Cook said that because his business is low-volume retail, it wouldn't be cost-effective to invest that much money into the building.

"If you're going to put that much money into something, you need to be able to get it back," he said. "We do OK, but we're not getting rich."

Cook said he plans to sell as much inventory as he can through parking-lot sales Monday through Saturday until Dec. 31. He plans to take his time to find the right location for his business, since he needs a building with at least 5,000 square feet, a loading dock and a roll-up door.

"We're waiting for the right situation," Cook said, adding that the building needs to be reasonably priced so that he can keep furniture prices low.

He hopes to stay in the Carrboro area, where Furniture Follies has been for the past 10 years.

"If you're going to put that much money into something, you need to be able to get it back. We do OK, but we're not getting rich."

In order to stay in business, Cook began holding yard sales outside the building every Saturday, weather permitting.

In November, the board voted to amend the town fire code, modifying sprinkler requirements such that each space within a non-residential

plumbing and heating and air systems for each side of the building would amount to just as much as a sprinkler system.

"The cost was still prohibitively expensive," he said. "We're so thankful to the board of aldermen for trying... It was something beyond their control."



Organizing meeting

A development moratorium for the Glen Lennox area, convening a summit on affordable housing, better health care access for Latino families and a push for a living wage were among the items under discussion Sunday at a delegates assembly for the newly formed Orange County Organizing Committee.

More than 250 individuals representing local churches and religious groups, nonprofits and social service agencies attended the assembly at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Rosemary Street in Chapel Hill.

Representatives of the committee quizzed local officials on their commitment to affordable housing, immigrant rights and other issues.

The committee's case for action on several issues is on page 6 of The Citizen.

Pictured at left: Representatives from religious groups and nonprofits line up to be counted at the opening of the delegates assembly of the Orange County Organizing Committee.

PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS



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ONLINE

carrborocitizen.com/main Stories are online every Thursday.

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—Travel & Leisure

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Community Briefs

Magic show

The Town of Carrboro presents Magician Gary Blankenship on Dec. 14 at the Carrboro Branch Library at McDougale Middle School at 900 Old Fayetteville Road. Blankenship's magic show appeals to all who have the heart and humor of a kid. The show is at 3 p.m. and admission is free.

The Gingerbread Boy

The Town of Carrboro presents *The Gingerbread Boy* on Dec. 17 at 10:30 a.m. at the Carrboro Century Center. Admission to the hour-long show is \$3.

Rags to Riches Theatre performs the story of Gerry, who ventures from home to prove he's the best at everything but finds out he has a lot to learn.

Pro Bono Law

UNC School of Law students have been recognized as the Pro Bono Law School of the Year for providing free legal assistance to New Orleans residents.

UNC law students have spent spring and winter breaks working in the New Orleans area since Hurricane Katrina devastated the city in 2005. The students were recognized by the Pro Bono Project, a New Orleans-based nonprofit.

Strowd Roses grants

The Strowd Roses Foundation awarded a total of \$68,500 in its final round of grants for 2008. Recipients included The ArtsCenter, Chapel-Hill Carrboro Meals-on-Wheels, Chapel Hill-Carrboro Cooperative Preschool, Communities In Schools of Orange County, Extraordinary Ventures, Habitat for Humanity of Orange County and more. These grants bring to over \$2.8 million the total distributed by Strowd Roses to local non-profits since the foundation was organized in 2001.

Those wishing to apply for grants in the first quarter of 2009 are invited to visit www.strowdroses.org. The next application deadline is January 31.

CHHS holiday concerts

Chapel Hill High School students will perform a number of holiday concerts in December including a ninth-grade concert band, symphonic band and percussion ensemble, tonight (Thursday) at 7:30 p.m.; an orchestra concert on Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m.; and a chorus concert on Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. All of the concerts will be held in the Hanes Theater at Chapel Hill High. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$3 for students.

Noticias en breve

Yoga

Clase de yoga gratuita, dado en español. Alivia el estrés de la temporada. Para todos niveles. El domingo, el 21 de diciembre, 4:30-5:30p.m. Y después el tercer domingo del mes. CYCO, 200 N. Greensboro St, Carr Mill Mall, Suite D-1, Carrboro. 933-2921.

Desfile

Desfile de Chapel Hill-Carrboro: El domingo, el 13 de

diciembre, a las 10a.m.

Empieza en el Planetario Morehead y pasa por la calle Franklin hasta la ciudad de Carrboro.

Celebración

Especialmente para niños preescolares, con sus familias.

Actividades, decorando galletas y más. Carrboro Century Center, 100 N. Greensboro St, Carrboro. 918-7367.

Community Calendar

Special Events

Holiday Band Concert — Thursday, Dec 11, 7:30pm. Hanes Theatre. Concert features the CHHS 9th grade concert band, the symphonic band, and percussion ensemble. www.hanestheatre.org

Winter Choral Concert — Dec 12, 7:30pm. East Chapel Hill High School. Multiple choirs and ensembles featured. Tickets \$5

Annual Holiday Pajama Party — Dec 12, 6-8pm. Ackland Art Museum will feature readings from classic stories. Children are encouraged to wear pajamas. Free.

Youth Concert — Dec. 13, 5pm. Piedmont Youth Orchestra presents string ensemble concert at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 300 Rosemary St. in Chapel Hill. Free. 942-5010

Holiday 5k and Family Fun Run — Dec. 14, 2pm, registration at noon. Proceeds benefit the Chapel Hill Service League. T-shirts for 400 racers, face painting, refreshments and arts and crafts. Registration and information www.sv5k.com

NC Boys Choir — Dec. 15, 7:30pm. Annual Christmas Concert. Duke University Chapel. \$12/adults, \$8 children under 12

Nightlight Arts & Crafts Fair — Dec. 21, 2-6pm All artists invited to sell works. nightlightinfo@gmail.com, www.nightlightclub.com

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

Holiday Shopping in Hillsborough — Holiday shopping and events. www.holidaysinhillsborough.com

Dance

NC Squares — Dec. 13, 8-11pm. Lesson at 7:30pm. Pleasant Green Community Center, Durham. \$7/\$5 students. www.ncsquares.com

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

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

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

The Chocolate Factory — Jan. 17, 2 and 6pm. Studio A Dancers

present an adaptation of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. East Chapel Hill High Auditorium. \$5, tickets available www.dancecentre.net/blog

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

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

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

Salsa/Mambo — Third Saturdays, lesson 8pm, dance 8:30-11pm. Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 4702 Garrett Road, Durham. \$7, salsa_4u2@yahoo.com, 358-4201

Triangle Stardusters Ballroom Dance — Second Saturdays, 8-11pm. Fred Astaire Dance Studio. 24702 Garrett Road, Durham. Couples and singles welcome. \$7 members, \$12 guests, 942-7232

Faith

Advent Lutheran — 9am Bible study classes for all ages, 10:30am worship service. Dec 14, 5pm. Christmas Pageant. Dec 17, 5:45-6:45pm, Advent Service. Christmas Eve Worship, Dec 24, 7pm.

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

How to Meditate — Saturday, 10am-noon. Kadampa Center for the Practice of Tibetan Buddhism, 5412 Etta Burke Ct., Raleigh. www.kadampa-center.org

Tibetan Buddhist Altars, Prayers and Practices — Monday, 7pm. Kadampa Center for the Practice of Tibetan Buddhism, 5412 Etta Burke Ct., Raleigh. www.kadampa-center.org

Film

Community Cinema — Dec 11, 7pm. Free This month celebrates the font "Helvetica." Open Eye Cafe.

Chatham Arts Sustainable Cinema — Fourth Tuesday at 7pm at The General Store Cafe, 39 West Street, Pittsboro. 542-0394, www.chathamarts.org



Health & Wellness

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

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

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

Orange County Rape Crisis Support Group — A support group for survivors of childhood sexual abuse will begin in Jan. 2009. Group limited to eight participants. Screenings will take place through mid-December. 968-4647, groups@ocrc.org

Kids

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

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

Express Yourself! — Saturdays, 10:45-11:15am, 11:30am-noon. Art program for ages 3-8 & their care-

givers. Kidzu Children's Museum, 105 E. Franklin St. \$2, 933-1455, kidzuchildrensmuseum.org

Literary

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

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao — Dec. 18, 7pm. The Contemporary Fiction Book Club meets to discuss the 2008 Pulitzer Prize Winner by Junot Diaz. Carrboro Cybrary. 918-7387, www.co.orange.nc.us/library/cybrary

Meet the Author Tea — Dec. 19, 3:30pm. Presenting Louise Hawes, author of *Black Pearls: A Faerie Strand*. A haunted re-imagining of classic fairy tales. Chapel Hill Public Library. 968-2780

Books Sandwiched — Meets first Wednesday of most months at 11am. Conference room of the Chapel Hill Public Library. 968-2780

Political

Annual Reading of The Bill of Rights — Dec 15, noon. Peace and Justice Plaza, East Franklin and Henderson Streets. Remarks by Ellie Kinnaird in memory of Joe Herzenberg.

Volunteers

RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program — Seeks volunteers to match other volunteers with opportunities for public service. 968-2056

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

English as a Second Language Conversation Club — Seeks volunteers to talk with groups of international students Fridays from noon-2pm. University Methodist Church on Franklin St. 967-1448, harwellja@bellsouth.net

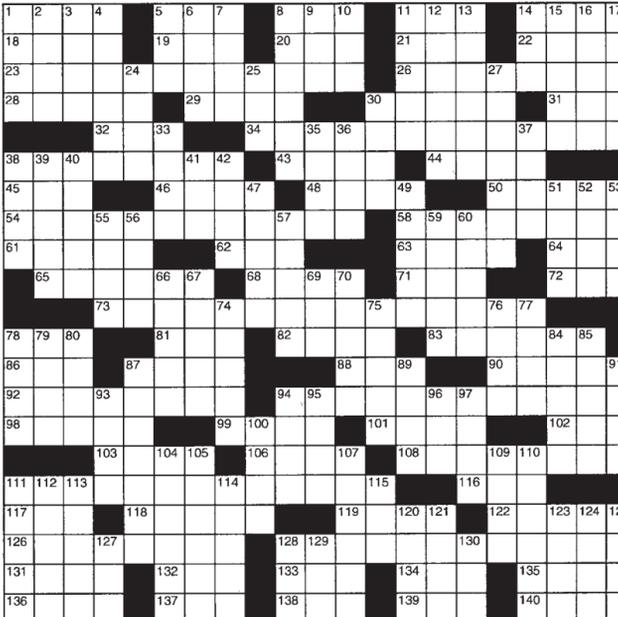


Comentarios y preguntas al betsy@carrborocitizen.com

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

SUPER CROSSWORD SOMETHINGS FISHY

- ACROSS 1 Strike-breaker 5 Suffix with spat 8 Salon supply 11 Research site 14 Blind as — 18 — Romeo 19 Word with pack or rug 20 Generation 21 Air-quality org. 22 Pedestal part 23 Fishy actress? 26 Dignified 28 — "Gay" 29 Jannings or Gilels 30 — "Man" (78 song) 31 — kwon do 32 Quiche 34 Fishy 38 Bucolic 43 James of "Brian's Song" 44 Jacob's twin 45 A mean Amin 46 "Nabucco" number 48 Neighbor of Niger 50 Alcoholic 54 Fishy film? 58 Future 61 Submarine finder 62 — Tse-lung 63 Lurid Lugosi 64 Chest protector 65 Funt apparatus 68 Supreme leader? 71 Parka part 72 Southern pasta constellation 73 Fishy physician? 78 Use a phaser 81 Letter from Athens? 82 "Mein—" ("Cabaret" tune) 83 C&W's Tubb 86 Seville shout 87 Whirl 88 Actor Tognazzi 90 Cairo creed 92 Collegiate sport 94 Fishy TV show? 98 Crooked 99 French couturier 101 Dashboard feature 102 Cpl.'s superior 103 Border on 106 Bucket 108 Photo fishy writer? 116 Squirrel's snack 117 Author LeShan 118 Bell town 119 Pinza or Challapin 122 School tool 126 Chunky 128 Fishy novel? 131 Nixon or Johnson 132 "Foucault's Pendulum" author 133 Chicken — king 134 Cow's comment 135 Unusual 136 Common Market 137 DC figure 138 Palindromic diarist 139 Woolly one 140 Part of Micronesia DOWN 1 Close as can be 2 Family 3 "The Mod Squad" 4 "Petrouchka," for one 5 Decorative vase 6 Like some excuses 7 Mighty mite 8 Seasonal plant 9 Self-esteem 10 Singer Dickey 11 Paul of "American Graffiti" 12 Cochine or Geronimo 13 Washes 14 Fuss and feathers 15 Swahili, e.g. 16 Dwight's around in circles? 17 Fiddled (with) 24 Desdemona's enemy 25 Loon lips 27 '82 Toto hit 30 Sociable starling 33 Alum 35 Shoestring 36 Bolger/ "Haley" author 37 Throw in the towel 38 Prepares cherries 39 — committee 40 Tuscan town 41 Pound sound 42 Neeson or O'Flaherty 47 Video game company 49 Exclude 51 Arnaz's country 52 It grows on you 53 Napoleonic site 55 Sleep in the woods 56 Hurler Hershiser 57 Booze 59 Brink 60 Blue guy 66 Runs around in circles? 67 Grate stuff 69 Vane dir. 70 Emulate Roy Clark 74 "Nana" author 79 "Oh, woe!" 80 Act like a chicken 84 Winter mess 85 Ballroom dance 87 Lake sight 89 Birdsong of basketball 91 Lauer or LeBlanc 93 Paper quantity 94 Actor Beery 95 Like a desert 96 Solo of "Star Wars" 97 King of comedy 100 — facto 104 Opens 105 Daze 107 Tripoli native 109 Knitting stitch 110 Little mouse? 111 Sock a shuttlecock 112 "Farewell!" 113 Light beer 114 Alliance 115 Put away a pickle 120 Any 121 Chilly powder? 123 Inventive sort? 124 Neutral tone 125 Stink 127 Mil. address 128 Critic's god? 129 President Bush was one 130 "The Gold Bug" author



CitizenCryptoquote By Martin Brody

For example, YAPHCYPLM 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.

"Careful What You Wish For"
U D E E D N S M E N S T G N X
D U U N X P J E D P L C B N Y N S N P
V S N C C B J P P N Y N C D P B
P B W U M W E O W M N S J X J D S L
M Q S Y J L J G P W X S N N S .
- M Q M J S W X P K , C X D P W X
Find the answer in the puzzle answer section.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

8	5		2		4				
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1				5					7
			2		8		6		

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★ ★

★ Moderate ★ ★ Challenging
★ ★ ★ HO BOY!

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PETS OF THE WEEK

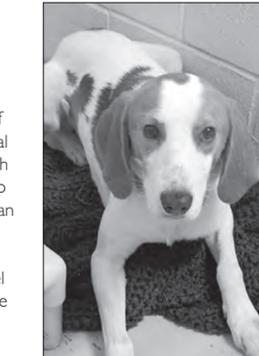
PAWS4EVER

Nino! He's a 6-year-old Red Muted Brindle & White American Pit Bull Terrier. A Paws4Ever alum from 3 years ago, we were all disappointed when Nino's family just didn't work out. Nino has been through a lot in his 6 years and has not been able to find a family that will be devoted to him. But no matter; Nino is still full of playful energy and has managed to keep his basic manners in tip-top shape. He knows 'sit', 'down', 'shake', and walks nicely on his leash. Nino is picky about his dog friends but the ones he loves are quite obvious! His best friend at Paws4Ever is Pasha, so we're thinking he would do well with other females with a submissive play-style. Our favorite thing about Nino is that despite his serious expression, he is actually quite the silly guy and will prance and bound when he is ready to play, causing an entire room to light up in smiles. Nino is very smart and focused and probably would excel in a Canine Good Citizen Class, and go on to earn the title! Nino deserves a home that will appreciate his overflowing array of good qualities; give him stability and possibly continued training; and understand his fears of being abandoned. He would prefer a family that is not gone too often, and that will spoil him with goodies (such as a Kong filled with peanut butter) when they're away. He would love daily walks or jogs. Nino just wants what every dog does: a forever home full of unconditional love.



ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

Meet Marley! If you are looking for a gentle and easygoing boy to join your family this holiday season, you will find him here! Marley is a sweet hound mix who is all of the above and so much more! He's social and loving, eager to please, and great with other dogs! He's a bit sensitive at first, so he'd do best in a calm home where he can gain confidence and be truly appreciated and adored. Stop by Orange County's Animal Shelter, 1081 MLK Jr. Blvd, Chapel Hill or call 919-967-7383. You can also see him online at www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp



IN SEASON



SINGING IN HARMONY Dec. 7
ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK

Land & Table Briefs

PLANT program

The People Learning Agriculture Now for Tomorrow (PLANT) program, a farm enterprise incubator, is accepting applications for its second season, which begins in January.

The eight-week training program will be held Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. in January and February at the Cooperative Extension Food Lab in Hillsborough. The series will introduce apprentice farmers to the basic how-to's of small-scale vegetable and fruit production.

After the training, entrants can submit a business plan and farm enterprise plan to be evaluated by the program staff. If approved, the farmers will be able to lease land in acre increments at the WC Breeze Family Farm Agricultural Extension and Research Center in Northern Orange County.

Registration is \$100 for the full series. Individual sessions are \$15 and registration is required. For more information, visit www.orangeountyfarms.org or call the Orange County Cooperative Extension Service at 245-2050 or Orange County Agricultural Economic Development Coordinator at 245-2330. Applications are due December 20.

Green biz grant

The North Carolina Board of Science & Technology will conduct an NC Green Business Fund grant workshop at Central Carolina Community College's Chatham County Campus on Dec. 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room, building 2, at the campus, 764 West St., Pittsboro.

The workshop will feature presentations by the Small Business Center and Small Business Technology Development Center. It will provide information on the NC Green Business Fund, how to apply for a Fund award, and information on writing a Fund proposal.



PHOTO BY JO SHETLEY LUCAS
Members of Carrboro Community Garden Club with one of five giant wreaths made for Town of Carrboro's Town Hall

For workshop information call 542-6495, ext. 202. For information on the NC Green Business Fund, call 716-0110.

Easy recycling

Beginning the week of Dec. 8, all cans, bottles, jugs and jars recycled at Orange County's 10 drop off sites can be recycled together. Recyclers will no longer have to separate each color of glass bottle, metal cans and plastic bottles, jugs and jars. Instead they can all be dumped together into the large blue recycling containers. This change, known as "commingling" will also apply to 150 bars, restaurants and other businesses that are now part of the county's commercial recycling program. Commingling is thought to

be more efficient and cost-effective given advances in recycling, as well as more likely to encourage recycling.

Holiday parade

The Chapel Hill Jaycees present this year's Chapel Hill-Carrboro Holiday Parade Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. The parade begins near Morehead Planetarium and will make its way down to the Carrboro Town Hall.

As a celebration of community spirit awards will be given for: Best of Parade, Most Original, Best Holiday Theme, Most Creative and Best Scout Troop. Come out and see the parade and show your community and holiday spirit!

FARMERS' MARKET

What's at Market?

SATURDAY MARKET: 8 a.m. - Noon

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

Pumpkins, pac choy, flour, onions, garlic, arugula, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celeriac, celery, collards, fresh herbs, kales, leeks, shitake mushrooms (weather dependant), mustard greens, salad greens, spinach, sweet potatoes, turnips, turnip greens, winter squashes, pecans, maple sausage, smoked ham, smoked ham hocks, liverwurst, bacon, chicken, eggs, cow's milk cheeses, breads, bread crumbs, pies, cakes, jams, and relishes.

Recipe of the Week

Baked Turnip Casserole
Recipe Provided by Market Shopper Ben Horner

INGREDIENTS:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Put a pot of water on to boil.
- Salt the water once it is brought to a gentle boil. You don't need to be precise, but add enough salt so that you can taste it in the water.
- Add the turnips and boil until tender.
- Drain the turnips and return them to the pot. You want to make sure they are drained completely so that you don't have any standing water. Once they are drained, begin to mash them.
- Add the butter, milk, and salt. I adjust salt and milk to desired texture and taste.
- Once mashed, pour into a casserole dish and top with bread crumbs and chopped pecans. *If desired, you can add cheddar cheese to the top or substitute it for the pecans.
- Cover with tin foil and place in the oven for about 20 minutes.
- Remove tin foil after about 20 minutes to brown the top.
- Remove from the oven and serve.



The Eater

Pizza head

With the combination sports/winter-hibernation/don't-feel-like-cooking season upon us, it seems like a good time to talk pizza.

The Eater will not attempt to offer any strong preferences because there is such a variety out there and because a pizza parlor's location is often a key aspect of its appeal.

Those in Carrboro might be partial to the large single-slice variety and cheese generosity at Anna Maria's and the whole-wheat crust and somewhat more exotic toppings at Amante's. Chapel Hillians have always had a fondness for Sal's — now at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Homestead Road — as well as an ongoing addiction to the New York stylings at the action-packed Italian Pizzeria III on West Franklin. Those on the Chatham side of life have Ciao Bella. If you're in-

terested in the wood-fired oven variety, you would do well to visit 411 West (Franklin) as well as Brixx over in Meadowmont, where the menu listing for their Rustica reads like a laundry list of things The Eater adores — prosciutto, mushrooms, artichoke hearts, kalamata olives and roasted garlic.

If you've got a favorite you'd like to share, write The Eater at eats@carrborocitizen.com

Boxtropolis

While pizza is one of the most convenient foods, there is the problem of what to do with the box. They seem an awfully bulky item to toss, and in certain dorm rooms and apartments appear to mysteriously multiply.

There's good news on that front, thanks to the folks at Orange Recycling. A recent chat with a friend at OR reminds us that you can recycle your pizza boxes. It used to not be the



case, but the cardboard market is up and as long as they aren't globbed with cheese (a few sauce stains are OK) the boxes can be put in the cardboard bins. Please note that most spots in Orange County now have curbside cardboard recycling.

Three legs good

Can't let pizza, cheese and

recycling of boxes be mentioned without a shout-out to the Royal Paper Company of Coatesville, Penn. If they hadn't come up with the little tripod that keeps the box lid from making contact with the gooey cheese side of the pizza, many a box would be unrecyclable. (Hat tip to Henry Petroski for the 411 on the Royal Pizza Saver.)

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MARK TRAIL

PLANTS, INCLUDING TREES, ARE KEY TO LIFE ON EARTH...WITHOUT THEM MANY OTHER LIVING ORGANISMS WOULD SOON DISAPPEAR

SPRUCE TREES ARE AMONG THE LARGEST IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE, AND THEIR TOWERING TRUNKS MAY BE CLEAR OF LIMBS FOR THE FIRST 80 FEET

THE ANCIENT SPRUCE TREES OF THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST ARE COLUMNS THAT SUPPORT A FOREST CATHEDRAL...

SITKA SPRUCE, ALSO KNOWN AS TIELAND SPRUCE OR YELLOW SPRUCE, IS THE LARGEST OF THE WORLD'S SPRUCES...THESE FAST-GROWING GIANTS MAY REACH HEIGHTS OF OVER 200 FEET

WITHOUT THESE 500-YEAR-OLD GIANTS, MUCH OF LIFE BELOW THEM WOULD COLLAPSE. FOR THEY HELP PROTECT THE CEDAR AND HEMLOCK TREES SLOWLY MATURING IN THEIR SHADOW

THE COOL, HUMID COASTAL BELT FROM NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TO ALASKA IS THE HOME OF THESE BIG TREES

IN THE WINTER, THEIR CANOPY ACTS LIKE A WARM COAT FOR THE WILDLIFE ON THE FOREST FLOOR, BLOCKING THICK SNOWS AND PRESERVING BUSHES THAT SUSTAIN WILDLIFE THROUGH THE COLDEST MONTHS

JACK FLAOD

puzzle solutions

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

CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER:

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FOR THE RECORD

Balancing our books

We knew at some point some elected official would rise to make the case for a library for downtown Carrboro. We just didn't know that person would be a member of the Chapel Hill Town Council.

That probably wasn't council member Matt Czajkowski's intention when he chimed in Monday night during discussions about the expansion of the Chapel Hill Public Library. With a budget crunch and the credit crisis making it an iffy year to issue new bonds, the council decided to put off financing expansion at the Estes Drive location.

Noting the options, which include a proposal to start charging non-Chapel Hill residents between \$60 and \$100 annually to use the library, Czajkowski said it was high time to consider whether Chapel Hill should drop its long-standing policy of treating those from Carrboro and elsewhere the same as town residents.

Why, he asked, should Chapel Hillians subsidize people from Carrboro?

As several teachers have pointed out, one case against the fee is that it would be disruptive because the school system, which makes use of the place, has students from both towns.

Another reason, brought up quickly and succinctly by Chapel Hill Town Manager Roger Stancil, is that Orange County's \$250,000 in annual support is predicated on that open-door policy and would likely end if the fee is introduced. In the long run, the fee might make sense, Stancil said, but in the short term it would cost the town a quarter mil in annual support.

Czajkowski's suggestion that the council consider the fee did not gain traction, but it did draw interest and one day could become part of the long-term solution for Chapel Hill's library funding woes.

With that possibility on the horizon, it is even more important for the plans to move forward for a new downtown library in Carrboro.

Chapel Hill has a wonderful facility, but the need for a new library to build on the efforts at McDougle is overdue. We know from experience that a larger, more centrally located space would be welcomed. Because of the limited space at McDougle, 30,000 books are waiting in storage to be read.

The big appeal of a downtown library in Carrboro would be greater accessibility, particularly by foot and bicycle, and the opportunity to integrate a key public space with a thriving downtown. Likewise, there are partnerships waiting with The ArtsCenter, the schools and the university.

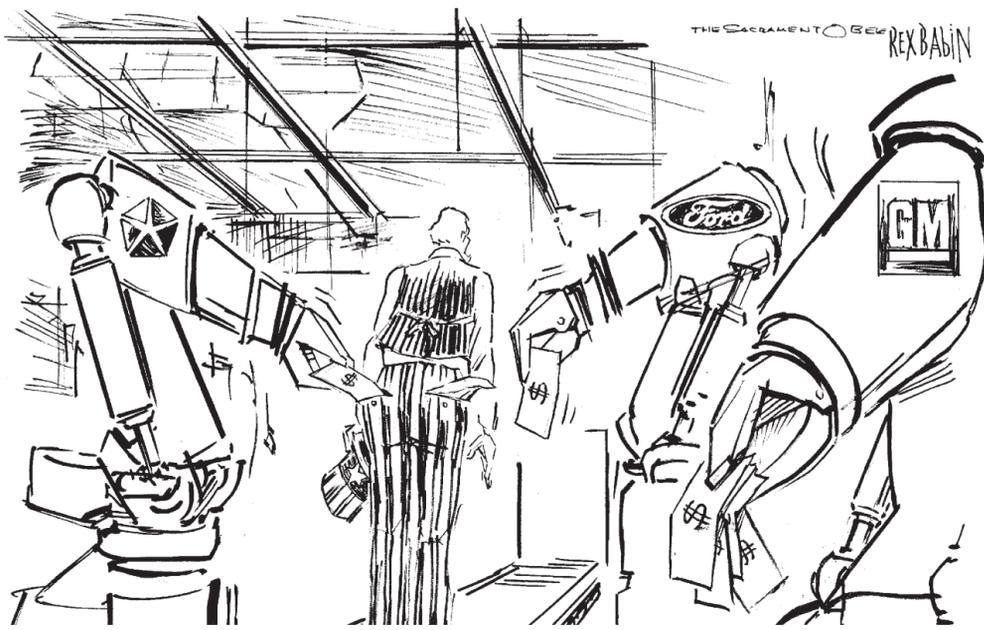
Most importantly, as Chapel Hill's experience has shown, there is a huge demand throughout southwestern Orange County for library services. It is time to rise to that challenge.

Kudos

Moses Carey stepped down from his 24-year service on the Orange County Board of Commissioners last month — a lengthy career during which this county has almost doubled in population. His accomplishments on the board are many, and because of his work in health care he brought an important perspective to the board's decision-making in how best to serve its citizens.

In addition to his hard work, Carey's humor and good nature made the often tedious and, at times, exasperating tasks of crafting budgets and setting policy a bit more bearable for his colleagues and those with business before the board.

At a time when courtesy and politics seem an impossible mix, he proved it could be done and done well.



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.

Letters to the editor

Box 248
Carrboro, North Carolina 27510

EMAIL: editor@carrborocitizen.com

FAX: 919-942-2195

Action Agenda for the Common Good

Editor's note: The following document was presented at the delegates' assembly for the newly formed Orange County Organizing Committee. The assembly, held last Sunday at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, brought together dozens of churches and other religious organizations along with elected officials and local social and housing service agencies to study a series of proposed strategies and actions aimed at improving the social and economic well being of Orange County residents.

Over the past year, the Orange County Organizing Committee has engaged hundreds of people in conversations about the most pressing issues impacting their families and the dreams they have for themselves and their communities. The problems that were felt most passionately and surfaced most consistently revolved around: health care, education, living wages, immigrant families, affordable housing and the environment. Research Action Teams comprised of leaders from a diverse mix of faith, education and other non-profit institutions developed the following proposals after hundreds of hours of discernment and research in each area. The Vision Statements and Action Proposals that follow were adopted by the O.C.O.C. Steering Committee and will guide the organization's action agenda in the coming months.

Affordable housing

There is a severe affordable housing crisis in Orange County. Many renters cannot afford Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment. The crisis is particularly acute for renters in the Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Buying an affordable home is even more difficult. A large percentage of area families cannot afford a modestly priced house — one priced below 75 percent of the houses in the surrounding area. The otherwise considered "affordable stock" is rapidly eroded by attractive development plans that target families with high earnings. That is the case of the Glen Lennox proposed development plans.

Critical to tackling this growing problem is the development of a clear understanding of the local market in terms of affordable rentals and affordable housing. Grassroots citizens must be part of the conversation with Developers and the Town Government about the way the town should and will look like. Solutions must be comprehensive and require the sustained collaboration among Orange County, Hillsborough, Carrboro and Chapel Hill and the University of North Carolina. Non-profit, for-profit and faith-based communities should be at the table of conversations.

Actions: (1) Town of Chapel Hill should work closely with Glen Lennox residents to ensure the

Neighborhood Conversation District designation process is completed, "affordability" is preserved and gentrification is avoided.

(2) The Town of Chapel Hill should sponsor a comprehensive study of the affordable rental and homeownership market opportunities and threats in Chapel Hill in the next 10 years.

Living wage

The shift in recent decades of North Carolina's economy from a manufacturing economy to a more service-oriented one has eliminated many good jobs available to modestly educated people. This vacuum has left two types of jobs: high-paying jobs that require substantial education and low-paying jobs that require little education. As a result, there are increasing earning gaps in Orange County. In addition, due to the high cost of living in Orange County, many people are unable to find a full-time job that pays enough to allow them to afford a modest rental unit or home within the community.

In Orange County, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is \$796. A unit is considered affordable if it costs no more than 30% of the renter's income (US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development). To afford this level of rent, without paying more than 30 percent of income on housing, an Orange County household must earn \$2,553.33 monthly or \$31,840 annually. Assuming full-time work, this level of income translates into a Housing Wage of \$15.31 (National Low Income Housing Coalition). A Housing Wage is defined as the minimum hourly wage that will allow a worker to afford the FMR in their community while paying less than 30% of their income for housing (National Low Income Housing Coalition).

In Orange County, a minimum wage worker earns an hourly wage of \$6.15. In order to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment, a minimum wage earner must work 100 hours per week, year-round or a household must include 2.5 minimum wage earners working full-time. In Orange County, the estimated average wage for a renter is \$10.21 per hour (National Low Income Housing Coalition). To afford the FRM for a two-bedroom apartment at this wage, a renter must work 60 years per week year-round or, working 40 hours per week year-round, a household must include 1.5 worker(s) earning this wage.

Actions: (1) The Town of Chapel Hill should consider adopting a Housing Wage policy covering all full time employees and contracted workers.

(2) The Town of Carrboro and the Orange County Board of Commissioners should consider reviewing their current wage policies for full time employees to ensure compliance with the proposed

Orange County Housing Wage rate.

Immigrant families and health care

Several occupants of area apartments (majority immigrants) have reported living in substandard housing conditions and in some cases the landlords have taken advantage of them. Apartments are often found in violation of the minimum housing code. The cost of repairs is sometimes passed onto already economically challenged tenants.

Actions: The Orange County Organizing Committee calls the Mayor of Carrboro to work with O.C.O.C. to create a Task Force that will deal with these issues in a comprehensive and systematic manner.

Environmental justice

We believe that no community should bear the disproportionate risk and impact of environmental policies in Orange County. O.C.O.C. has joined forces with the Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association (RENA/Coalition to End Environmental Racism (CEER) to reverse the decision of the Orange County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to place a regional solid waste transfer station (SWTS) in the Rogers-Eubanks community.

Action: The Orange County Organizing Committee calls for the placement of the solid waste transfer station outside the Rogers-Eubanks community.

Education

The Achievement Gap for children in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro schools has been discussed by many of the families connected with our organization. Achievement disparities among students are better tackled when School Districts work closely with diverse, organized parents and students. There is a rich history of community involvement in education in this area. However, a vehicle is not in place that unites parents of different languages and ethnicities to work for a better education. The coming together of diverse sectors of the community is a critical first step in the work of creating a common agenda that supports public education, while developing accountability between schools and the community.

Action: The Orange County Organizing Committee will work towards bringing all interested constituencies together. All groups will develop a joint sense of their common interest and history and will work to develop a joint set of priorities and strategies that will later be tested in public conversation with the local School Boards.

Not so affordable college

CHRIS FITZSIMON

For the past eight years, *Kiplinger Personal Finance* magazine has named UNC the best value in public higher education in its annual rankings of universities, based on a combination of quality and affordability.

That might lead you to believe that North Carolina is among the nation's leaders in making higher education affordable. After all, the state constitution says that a higher education shall be provided to all its citizens as "free as practicable."

A national report released this week by The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education has a different take on access to higher education in the state. The group gives North Carolina an "F" for affordability, one of six categories in its 2008 State Report Card on Higher Education.

The study says that the share of family income needed to pay for higher education has risen significantly, even after taking financial-aid programs into account. That can't make the group's board chair very happy, considering it is former North Carolina Gov. Jim Hunt. Hunt says that higher education is becoming a "roadblock, not a gateway" for poor and middle-class students.

The state fared better in other categories, like the percentage of college students that graduate in six years and getting students ready to attend a university or community college. The study points out that only 16 percent of African-Americans in North Carolina who are 25 and older have a bachelor's degree, while 30 percent of their white counterparts do.

And North Carolina is not alone. Every state except California flunked the affordability test, and the report's conclusion is that, overall, states are making little progress in making it possible for families to send their children to college and helping them stay enrolled and graduate once they get there.

These troubling findings come as states face massive budget problems. North Carolina's budget shortfall next year could reach \$3 billion. Governor-elect Beverly Perdue promised during the campaign to make community college free for qualifying students, though she has said that the program will be delayed because of the state budget crisis.

The proposed responses to the budget shortfall won't make it any easier for families. The Board of Trustees of UNC recently voted to raise tuition 6.5 percent and fees another 4.4 per-

cent. Other campuses are expected to follow suit, charging families more at exactly the time when they are less able to pay it.

Most of the coverage of the national report didn't talk much about one fundamental problem implicit in the findings, that family incomes have not kept pace with inflation or tuition increases. And more families have fallen into poverty after layoffs or struggles with major health costs.

More people are poor or teetering on the edge of poverty, meaning that college expenses are a much larger share of income for thousands of families, in many cases a share they cannot pay.

The report is another message that lawmakers should not make deep cuts to human services to balance next year's budget. That would make poverty worse and put higher education even further out of reach for many families.

Perdue ought to speak out against tuition increases too. Money for increased enrollments at UNC campuses and community colleges must be found elsewhere — from new revenue sources and redirecting other funding.

Almost \$100 million of taxpayer money goes to private colleges ev-

ery year through two programs, the State Contractual Scholarship Funds, which is need-based, and the North Carolina Legislative Tuition Grant, which is not.

The state gives \$1,950 every year to a private college or university for every North Carolina student who attends, whether they need help with tuition or not. That part of the private-college subsidy cost \$55 million in 2008 and went to small, modest schools and wealthy schools alike.

Duke received \$1.7 million of state taxpayer money in the last fiscal year, Campbell just over \$5 million. Gardner-Webb received \$3 million from state coffers, Mount Olive College almost \$3.5 million.

Giving \$100 million of public money to private colleges doesn't make much sense when UNC is raising tuition and fees for in-state students and public higher education is already unaffordable for many families.

Virtually every state politician has pledged to make more college more accessible for North Carolina students. That ought to happen next year, budget crisis or not.

Chris Fitzsimon is the director of NC Policy Watch.

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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RECENTLY
FROM PAGE 1

State Sen. Ellie Kinnaird said, "This is one organization that works on every level for families. Their folks aren't in trouble with their loans — they were well educated on the economics of buying a home" through homebuyers' education classes offered at EmPOWERment. "North Carolina is way ahead of other states because of our work on predatory lending and other pitfalls for those easily led into a shady deal," and because of caring people like Bailey and her staff, which includes Deanna Carson, director of community programs; Timberly Cheek, property manager; Jacqueline Mayo, financial manager; and Tom Ganter, construction manager.

"Everybody cares about EmPOWERment, including the man in charge of \$2 billion a year while leading the university," said Aaron Nelson, the master of ceremonies, as he introduced UNC Chancellor Holden Thorp. "He's sitting in the corner playing the piano, showing how much he cares."

Indeed, since guests first started trickling in, Thorp had flawlessly tickled the ivories in accompaniment of singer Terri Houston, never hitting a wrong note even when guests ambled over to speak to him.

Thorp was happy to chime in with kudos for Bailey. "Like everybody else here, I'm a member of the Delores Bailey fan club," he began. "A primary objective of the university is to make Chapel Hill-Carrboro the best place for students, staff and faculty to live and work and we can't do that unless organizations like EmPOWERment are successful."

Besides helping people get into homes, EmPOWERment helps them get started in business through its business incubator, where jeweler Karl Linger, now a member of the EmPOWERment board of directors, got his start after moving to Chapel Hill. He shared his story, concluding with, "It was a wonderful experience in the business center. Whatever you do in this room, whatever you give, that woman and her staff will make sure it goes to the right place."

Chapel Hill Police Chief Brian Curran spoke of the collaboration with Bailey through the Good Neighbor Initiative. "She has worked with us as partners to make the neighborhood a better place to be. EmPOWERment has been very positive for Chapel Hill."

The live auction brought more than kudos for Bailey. She led the way in bidding for the last item, a computer system. She pushed the bids past its value in a heated attempt to make it hers, until she was finally outbid, but — surprise, surprise — her last competitor was Nathaniel Dickerson, an uncle, who bid on it to give to her.

A few days later, Bailey's gratitude extended beyond her uncle to all who donated — be it money, time or auction items.

"We raised about \$21,000 total," she said, noting that it was below the goal. "We're appreciative of all that was given, but the doors are still open until Dec. 31. We're hopeful of making it to our goal of \$25,000. The giving can continue!"

Make donations at empowerment-inc.org or by calling 967-8779. Contact Valarie Schwartz at 923-3746 or valariekays@mac.com.

COUNCIL
FROM PAGE 1

As part of a traffic signal upgrade project, Neppali said his department plans to install bicycle activation loops at 42 intersections starting in the summer of 2009, but a source for funding hasn't been found yet. The project will also convert all pedestrian crossing signals to countdown timers, like the ones used in downtown Chapel Hill, starting in April.

Future projects, he said, include sidewalks and bicycle lanes on both sides of Weaver Dairy Road, with construction starting in January 2010, and sidewalks and bicycle lanes on both sides of South Columbia Street from Manning Drive to Purefoy Road, including a center turn lane, with construction starting next fall.

In addition to these town projects, the university plans major bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements to the intersection of Fordham Boulevard and Manning Drive in the next two months, including a crosswalk and a pedestrian crossing signal

with a countdown timer on Fordham Boulevard, a "Stop Ahead When Flashing" beacon on Fordham Boulevard at Manning Drive and bicycle-activated traffic-signal loops on Manning Drive.

The university also plans to add crosswalks and countdown pedestrian signals at the intersection of Fordham Boulevard and Old Mason Farm Road.

In other action, the council passed a resolution in support of civil marriage for the gay community, similar to the one adopted last week by the Town of Carrboro. The resolution was brought before the council by local teacher Tom Greene.

"As a gay man from Western North Carolina, my partner Adam and I specifically chose the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area to settle down and put down our roots, because we knew in this town we would at least be treated as human beings, deserving rights and responsibilities in the community," Greene said.

Council Member Mark Kleinschmidt thanked Greene for bringing the matter to the council. He said similar resolu-

tions are being considered across the country.

"Many of my friends who are openly gay and in public office in California of course are very disappointed," Kleinschmidt said. "And I shared with them this weekend how I wept, as they did, when Prop. 8 passed. But there is a silver lining that has been discovered in this aftermath, and that is this new energy."

Also at the meeting, Brookline, Mass.-based artist, urban planner and landscape designer Mikyoung Kim presented the final design for public art at 140 West Franklin St.

The inspiration of the piece, called "Exhale," comes from the shape and form of fog. Fog and blue LED light will emanate from a series of perforated, folded, stainless-steel screens that will form the shape of a low fog cloud. Kim said the piece will only release fog when there's rainwater to convert to fog.

"It's actually a piece that exudes fog when there is water and then creates a reminiscence of fog when there is not," Kim said.

WASTE
FROM PAGE 1

"I don't think it's an ideal site, but it could accommodate the transfer station," she said of the manager's recommended site.

Pelissier said the discussions about the county's solid waste issues shouldn't stop once a site for the station is chosen.

"We have to deal with what we have on the table," she said, "but this should not be the end point."

Commissioner Barry Jacobs agreed. The county, he said, needs to develop a "financial master plan" as well as a strategy for handling waste. With recycling markets collapsing due to the economic slowdown, new state rules and funding needed for the transfer station the county will face growing expenses to handle solid waste, he said.

Jacobs said he sees both sides of the argument on the N.C. 54 site. With Hillsborough pre-

pared to block sites near town, it is not likely that any of the smaller sites near the interstate are possible.

"On the flip side, [the N.C. 54 site] is pretty far from where the waste is being generated," he said.

The board is scheduled to take up the waste transfer site mid-way through its meeting at the Southern Human Services Center. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

CAREY
FROM PAGE 1

"I learned a lot in that process. I'm not saying I wouldn't have done it had I known the outcome was going to be the same. I just couldn't convince the people in this community that having two school systems in this small of a community with such a funding difference was a social-justice issue," he said, adding that he might have approached it from a different angle if he'd known he would have met such opposition.

Despite all the controversy, Carey notes that the county's social-justice goal, as well as its Department of Human Rights and Relations, came out of the defeated proposal.

"Good things do come out of failed packages," he said.

While he won't miss the night meetings that come with the job, Carey will miss his involvement with the people of county government.

"I've learned so much from the input that we get from the public and the opportunity to work with talented people...

You meet a lot of great people over the years. That's one of the things I'll miss."

But, he reiterated, he will stay involved in the community.

"Retiring around here doesn't mean that you go home and sit on the porch."

A new board

Carey's retirement marks the end of one chapter of county government and the opening of another as three new members join the board, expanding the commission from five to seven members.

With Carey's retirement and the expansion, the board is in a period of adjustment and transition, Commissioner Barry Jacobs said.

"Moses is a good-spirited, good-humored, people-oriented person with a lot of common sense and a willingness to try and work through problems to solutions," Jacobs said. "Government doesn't always come up with solutions that satisfy everybody, and Moses understands that."

Jacobs and Commissioner Alice Gordon are the only board members who have served more than one term on the board.

"I think we're going to have to make more of an effort to put things in historical perspective," Jacobs said. "The new members are intelligent and well-informed and seem to be geared to do the work, but it's different than having somebody sitting there who's seen the same problem two or three times."

"That will be an adjustment we all have to make. The danger is that we see the present in a vacuum."

As for the challenges the new board faces, Carey believes financing will be the most difficult.

"The board has more demand for resources than the resources are available," he said. The public's desire for services isn't consistent with its willingness to be taxed, Carey added, noting the defeat of the land transfer tax on the ballot in May.

"Had that passed, the board would've been in a much better position to finance some of the things that are going to be needed," he said.

While he's seen a range of economic climates over the course of his tenure on the board, Carey said, "I don't think any has been this serious."

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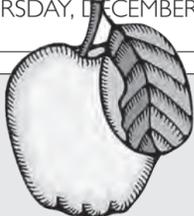
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Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Lunch Menus

Dec 12 — 18

Elementary

Friday — Cheese pizza; Pepperoni pizza; Sloppy joe on a bun; Garden salad; Green beans; Chilled applesauce
Monday — Chicken nuggets with wheat roll; Beef taco with salsa; Spanish rice; Sweet yellow corn; Fresh apple halves
Tuesday — Pork egg roll; Mozzarella cheese sticks with marinara dipping sauce; "Fun on the Run"; Brown rice pilaf; Asian mixed vegetables; Chilled apricots
Wednesday — Cheese pizza; Pepperoni pizza; Chicken salad with crackers, lettuce and tomato; Carrot and celery sticks; Steamed broccoli; Fresh banana
Thursday — Turkey, dressing and gravy; "Fun on the Run"; Mashed potatoes; Sweet potato casserole; Seasoned green beans; Cherry cobbler

Middle & High

Friday — Spaghetti and meat sauce with garlic bread; Corn dog; California mixed vegetables; Corn on the cob; Banana pudding
Monday — Double cheeseburger with lettuce and tomato; Fish sticks with wheat roll; Tater tots; Peas and carrots; Fresh apple
Tuesday — Three-cheese rotini with garlic bread; Chicken fajitas with salsa and sour cream; Vegetable rice; Steamed broccoli; Chilled peaches
Wednesday — Chicken patty sandwich with cheese; Baked potato with meat and cheese and wheat roll; Traditional mixed vegetables; Chilled pineapple tidbits; Chocolate pudding
Thursday — Roast turkey with dressing and gravy; Sweet potato casserole; Mashed potatoes; Seasoned green beans; Cherry cobbler

School Briefs

Honors chorus

McDougle Middle School student Fiona Cunningham and Phillips Middle School student Troy Mitchell participated in this year's State Honors Chorus. The students were selected from more than 1,200 singers statewide. The Honors Chorus was held Nov. 8 and 9 in Winston-Salem. The group performed a concert in conjunction with the North Carolina Music Educators Association Conference.

Excellent teacher

McDougle Middle School teacher Janet Ploghoft was named a 2008 Teacher of Excellence by the Exceptional Children Division of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. She was recognized last month at an awards ceremony at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

Read In Day

McDougle Elementary School will host an African-American Read In Day on Jan. 16. The event, sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English, focuses on literacy and black literary culture. A number of school administrators and other community members are expected to read to students from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Honor students

Several UNC students from Chapel Hill and Carrboro were recently inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and best-known academic honor society. The society is open to students who have completed 75 hours of course work and have a grade point average of 3.85 or better on a 4-point scale, and those who have completed 105 hours of course work and have a grade point average of 3.75. Less than 1 percent of all college students are eligible. Local inductees include:

- Megan Kathleen Bookhout, daughter of David and Lynne Bookhout of Chapel Hill;
- Vivek Ram Chilukuri, son of Mohan and Vani Chilukuri of Chapel Hill;
- Matthew Joseph Garza of Chapel Hill;
- Margaret Katherine Hayslip, daughter of Warren and Margaret Hayslip of Carrboro;
- Jacob Aaron Mader, son of John and Anne Mader of Chapel Hill;
- Kelly Marie Shackelford, daughter of Doug and

CHCCS Celebrates 100 years



PHOTO COURTESY CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO CITY SCHOOLS
 The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools marks its 100-year anniversary on May 4, 2009 and will feature commemorative events throughout the school year. Pictured above is a photo taken at the 1959 Chapel Hill High New Year's Dance.

Ann Shackelford of Chapel Hill; and
 • Amy Christine Stelling, daughter of William and Judith Stelling of Chapel Hill.

Winter concert

The East Chapel Hill High School Choral Department will present its annual Winter Concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday at East Chapel Hill High. The concert will feature the East Ensemble, Treble Ensemble, East Men, Concert Choir, Alley Cats, Chiefs of Staff and Show Choir. Several guest instrumentalists will perform, including Anita Burroughs-Price, principal harpist with the North Carolina Symphony. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door.

Special needs talk

Susan Paul from the ARC of Orange County will speak about the many programs available for special-needs children and their families on Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Carolina Center for Educational

Excellence on the Smith Middle School campus. The event is sponsored by the Special Education PTA and is free and open to those who have an interest in learning more about special-needs issues. For more information, email info@septa-chcnc.org

Learning Europe

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools has been awarded a grant from the European Union (EU) for 2009. The award, about \$86,000, will fund "Getting to Know Europe" activities, such as Smith Middle School's Belgian exchange program, Chapel Hill High School's exchange program to Normandy, district middle school geography courses for Europe Day in May and professional development for EU learning. The district hopes the grant will help faculty, students and community members gain a greater understanding of the EU and the connections between North Carolina and the EU.

SPORTS: UNC NOTES

FRANK HEATH

This year's title all the more impressive

This weekend in Cary, the UNC women's soccer team won the NCAA national championship, beating Notre Dame 2-1 in a Top 5 battle. For me, few things in sports hold quite the same reassurance that the universe may still be in alignment as this news. UNC soccer is sometimes called a dynasty, but in truth it's been years since Carolina could routinely breeze through the season, or even through a week, unchallenged. This fall, it had been the Irish who held down the national top spot from the gate, and who looked like the odds-on favorites to steamroll through the tournament. The fact that the field for women's soccer has been more or less level for a decade now, makes it all the more impressive that the Tar Heels have maintained the consistent fight that allows them to remain stubbornly among the national Top 5 and reach the late rounds of the tournament each year. Sunday marked UNC's fourth championship since 2000 — even a billion-dollar enterprise like Carolina basketball has trouble doing that. Making this year's title even more impressive is that the Heels had to play from behind in the final, after Notre Dame scored "the fastest goal in school history," 16 seconds into the match. That's gotta put a crimp in your style; but Carolina showed its mental toughness and will to win by then shutting down the country's top-ranked, undefeated team for the next 89-plus minutes. Junior Casey Nogueira's two second-half goals — her 24th and 25th of the season — provided the extra punch that delivered Carolina from "just another" second-place finish. It was Carolina's 19th NCAA championship in 27 years. In Friday's semis, senior Yael Averbuch, Carolina's All-Ameri-



PHOTO COURTESY UNC ATHLETICS
 Junior Casey Nogueira buried two goals in the second half to send Notre Dame home and deliver UNC's 19th NCAA championship in 27 years.

can at midfielder, had lifted Carolina to a 1-0 win over UCLA, scoring the game's only goal on a penalty kick. Under coach Anson Dorrance, UNC is now 648-32- since 1979, with 20 national titles in 28 years. With Nogueira and a host of other talented juniors, sophs and freshmen returning next season, it shouldn't surprise anyone if Carolina ends up back in the same place, playing for the national title, a year from now. But as this team is fully aware,

it will be hard work and dedication, not inevitability, that will bring them there.

Bowling

Moving to football, Carolina's spot in the coveted Meineke Car Care Bowl, formerly the Continental Tire Bowl, leaves some UNC fans tepid, as before late-season losses against old-school conference foes Maryland and N.C. State some Tar Heel faithful were reportedly hoarding oranges. Is it just me, or does the wholesale shift to bowls named for corporate sponsors drain all the mystique away from the process of getting into and playing a bowl? At one time, a bowl game was something you could taste, smell, feel or fear (Sugar, Orange, Rose, Liberty, Gator), with the general rule being that the better it smelled or tasted, the better a bowl it was; and the bowls took place in locations that fans could recognize as a happy destination. This certainly did not include Charlotte, N.C. — especially not back then. Now, well, anyway, can anyone even remember what the Papajohns.com Bowl was called last year? Put it this way, there's something ironic to me in the fact that Carolina, after Butch Davis' second season, is playing a bowl game against a Big East opponent in Charlotte — the same thing that happened after John Bunting's fourth season! The Tar Heels did a great job for most of this season, there's no doubt, taking out several legit programs including Notre Dame — a thing I thought I'd never see. But based on the Heels' lackluster 41-10 humbling at the hands of State, all has not been figured out yet. The mid-season loss to injury of Carolina's incomparable wide receiver/returner Brandon Tate eventually became a crippler.

Basketball in balance

The UNC men's basketball team, on the other hand, has restored a balance that felt off kilter the

afternoon that Carolina played Maryland in football and Penn in basketball. Heels fans were not quite sure which sport was the more important to focus on, and the end result for most was a less-than-satisfying flipping back and forth. After eight games, this basketball team looks as complete and naturally balanced as any in recent memory. I like the way Bobby Frasor looks when he plays defense; the way Wayne Ellington appears comfortable and not impatient out there, even though there has been less emphasis on his offense so far; and the way the freshman Ed Davis provides new tenacity and athleticism underneath as a rebounder and on defense. Drew "II" shows some defensive presence out front and a smooth confidence with the ball. And of course one can't find enough superlatives for the extraordinary play of Lawson and of Tyler, who should at least have a street or something named for him here. Assuming there are no more major injuries, the only question that is perhaps worth asking is whether Carolina will have what it takes to rise to "that" moment and finally lay to rest the demons from their collapses during two straight NCAA tournaments. The pressure of the moment in NCAA play — which resulted in stretches where the Heels lost their heads and, subsequently, the most important games of their careers (twice) — isn't practice-able. Carolina may lose a game or two this season, but the biggest, most legit concern for this team is going to be how they will react and perform under that ultimate pressure. That make-or-break moment will come for these Heels, and the challenge of the rest of the year will be doing everything they can to prepare their confidence and mind-set for that moment. This will be a memorable season, providing fans with the privilege of watching a college team extremely advanced in its understanding of a basketball system, and with a lot of weapons. It already is.

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FLORA

FROM PAGE 1

I recall a mountain wildflower excursion several years ago into a forest frequented by a local herb gatherer. Many of the trunks of the witch hazels had been stripped bare of the bark for sale to the drug industry. Such girdling of the trunks was not good for the trees, but fortunately the species does have the characteristic of responding with stump sprouts that in time can become vigorous plants.

I most frequently encounter wild witch hazels growing on tree-shaded creek bluffs, where they flower only sparingly. However, I remember years ago seeing a witch hazel on a mountain valley creek bank in full sun that was a spectacular blaze of yellow flowers!

Witch hazels make fine garden plants. Most gardeners prefer the gaudier-flowered cultivars of *Hamamelis x intermedia*, a hybrid between Chinese



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

Flowers of witch hazel can be difficult to see in the winter woods.

witch hazel, *H. mollis*, and Japanese witch hazel, *H. japonica*, which are appealing February and March flowering shrubs.

My personal favorite for the garden is our common small-tree witch hazel, which grows well in shade or full sun; but remember,

the more sun, the more flowers, and this beauty rewards you with flowers in November and December.

For a welcome break from holiday preparation stress, take a walking break in search of the witch hazel along some local creek bank.



NOTE: I will be taking a winter walk on the Adams Tract on Saturday, Dec. 20 at 2 p.m. You are welcome to join me and bring some kids along to help us "take a closer look." We'll begin at the trailhead kiosk below the playground at Wilson Park on Williams Street in Carrboro. See you there.



HARD TIMES, HOT CHOCOLATE, 1982

Looking at kid pictures of my grown-up children fills an old dad with a myriad of conflicting emotions: love, guilt, joy, remorse, redemption.... Here sits 6-year-old "Little Jon" by the kitchen woodstove in the drafty old house in Marion, N.C., cradling hot chocolate in his hands —hands that would someday direct a high school band and then take him drumming in Nashville, where he is today, waiting to be discovered, along with the rest.

In this frozen moment from 1982 we are deep in Reaganomics. My first marriage and second newspaper are tanking simultaneously. But we all hunkered down, reinvented ourselves and somehow survived those dark days.

And at his holiday season, I look forward to sitting with not-so-little Jon (a strapping 6'5" 32-year-old) once again by another wood stove, hot chocolate in our hands.



A THOUSAND WORDS BY JOCK LAUTERER

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SANTA IS HERE! Now through December 24. Monday – Friday, 3-7 p.m. Saturday, 11-7 p.m. Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Instant color photos available. Special group rates for schools.

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PAWS WITH CLAUS. Pet Day with Santa! Sunday, December 14. 1-5 p.m. Bring your properly restrained pets for your photo opportunity.

SANTA AND RAMSES. December 15. 3-7 p.m. Of course, Santa is a Tar Heel! Come have your pictures taken with Santa and Ramses, the official UNC mascot. Santa will be donning his Carolina Blue suit just for this special photo opportunity!

"AN EVENING WITH" Music and Cultural Arts Series. Ends December 20. 5-7 p.m.

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON. Hear local musical groups of all types perform your holiday favorites at the stage near A Southern Season. See Customer Service for details.

GIFT WRAP BY HADASSAH. Now through December 24. Visit our friends from Hadassah at their gift wrap location near Chick-fil-A.

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