

C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

Red-berried American holly is a time-honored sacred tree.

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Bringing holly indoors for more than beauty

When I was a youngster, bringing holly branches indoors for its seasonal beauty just seemed like the thing to do.

Now, because of protective land owners and deer hunters, it is difficult, if not downright dangerous, to attempt, like in the old days, to collect a few holly branches from the local woods. Heavily red-berried branches of American holly, *Ilex opaca*, bring premium prices at local markets. Some folks are fortunate to have specimens of this common forest tree growing on their property, in which case the season is just right for a little judicious pruning to share with friends and neighbors for indoor decoration.

How well I remember one special Christmas when my Dad and I cut a little holly tree from my aunt's farm, thinking it would be a nice change from the traditional red cedar tree. We felt so proud in decorating that little tree that sparkled through the holidays, and I still feel sad remembering my Mom, from the holly-barren Midwest, lamenting that, "It just didn't seem like Christmas, because we didn't have a 'real' tree."

Way back then, I had no notion about how special holly is; I didn't know that throughout the world evergreen species of holly are revered as sacred trees. Holly legends are legend themselves. Christian symbolism includes references to the spiny-leaved holly branches being the "crown of thorns" of Christ, whose blood colored the berries red. One story describes a little shepherd boy feeling sad that he had only a holly branch to offer the Christ child. When the baby Jesus touched that holly branch, the berries turned a beautiful red. The strong holly-tree wood is credited with being used for the cross of Christ, which adds more complexity to the Christian religious heritage.

SEE FLORA PAGE 10

INSIDE

Another pedestrian is killed in Chapel Hill page 3

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Underwear uncovered in Carrboro

BY MARGOT C. LESTER
Staff Writer

CARRBORO — You read it on message boards or overhear it being discussed at Weaver Street or the Open Eye. It's a virulent meme that spread faster than the Andromeda Strain. In fact, Carrboro Board of Aldermen candidate Katrina Ryan mentioned it in this very paper: "The same residents in Carrboro that need affordable housing need affordable socks and underwear." (Nov. 1, 2007).

Variations on that theme have been repeated since then, including at a recent chamber of commerce economic briefing, where Orange County Planning director Craig Benedict expanded the territory a bit. Benedict said the new retail center proposed at Buckhorn Road should alleviate concerns some people have that there is nowhere to buy underwear in Orange County.

Wondering if it were indeed true that there's no place to buy "foundation garments," as my dear, depart-

ed mother would say, this reporter scoured the town for evidence of intimate apparel. The result? Don't get your briefs in a bunch, because, to our relief, there's plenty of underwear in Carrboro, y'all. You can consider this myth busted.

Technical underwear

Downtown is home to two purveyors of high-end skivvies: Fleet Feet and Townsend Bertram & Company at Carr Mill (200 N. Greensboro St.). (Yes, Performance Bicycle sells the stuff too; but since they're decamping to Eastgate later this winter, we didn't include them in the survey.) But don't go in asking for underpants. What these stores sell goes by the fancy term "base layers."

When my spouse asked if they sold underwear at Fleet Feet, Santa's little helper responded: "We don't really sell underwear, we sell 'run'derwear. But I bet we could order it for you from somewhere." They did have a nice Champion sports bra in stock for \$15 though.



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

Photographic proof you can find underwear in Carrboro: Adam Van Slyke and Nancy Armstrong restock the briefs and boxers rack at Townsend Bertram at Carr Mill Mall.

Townsend Bertram has the most robust selection for men and women, ranging from \$15 (Patagonia ladies' bikini) through \$25 (ExOfficio boxer briefs) to \$40 (Icebreaker Body Fit men's briefs).

"We used to stock a Patagonia thong, but it didn't sell well,"

says Audrey Townsend, the store's owner. "But it's available by special order." The store also sells silk long Johns and sports bras. "So, yeah, we have a lot of underwear — that's the long and the short of it."

SEE UNDERS PAGE 8

Holiday Hoedown!



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

The Square Heels Square Dance Club held an induction ceremony for graduates of its square dancing classes at its annual holiday dance last Friday night at Binkley Baptist Church. The holiday dance, which gives club members a chance to really show off their finery, was one of dozens of holiday celebrations throughout the community. Included in the many celebrations, of course, was the annual Chapel Hill-Carrboro Christmas Parade. You can see photos from the parade along with a list of upcoming events from the rest of the season on page 9.

Group to challenge decision on transfer station sites

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

ORANGE COUNTY — Following a decision by the Orange County Board of Commissioners to narrow the search for a solid-waste transfer station site to two sites on N.C. 54 West near Orange Grove Road, a group of businesses and residents of the Bingham Township has started raising money for a legal fund to challenge the county on the proposal.

The board voted 5-1 last week to narrow the search for a transfer station to two adjacent sites: a 147-acre parcel located 0.7 miles west of Or-

ange Grove Road and a 43-acre parcel located 0.3 miles west of Orange Grove Road. Commissioner Pam Hemminger cast the dissenting vote and chair Valerie Foushee was not present at the meeting.

The board is under a tight timeline to site the transfer station, as the Orange County Landfill is expected to reach capacity in spring 2011. The decision to narrow the search 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 was narrowed down

last month to three sites in southwestern Orange County clustered around Orange Grove Road.

County Manager Laura Blackmon and the county solid-waste department staff have recommended that commissioners choose the 147-acre site. The site is located next to Piedmont Feed and Seed across from the intersection of N.C. 54 and Morrow Mill Road.

Dennis Howell, owner of the 147-acre site, has said he would sell the site to the county for \$3 million and would require a number of conditions, including buffers, road-access specifications and more. Commissioner Barry Jacobs said that in keeping both Howell's site

and the adjacent site on the table, the county hopes to maintain the ability to negotiate with the owners of both properties. The second property is owned by OWASA.

However, a group of Bingham Township residents and businesses have retained an attorney to help them oppose the siting of the transfer station at either of the two proposed sites.

"We're going to fight it, because it's unnecessary at this point," said Teresa Smith, owner of Harry's Market at White Cross. "They're not looking at all the facts."

SEE TRANSFER PAGE 7

Carrboro High School coming into its own

BY MARY LIDE PARKER
Staff Writer

CARRBORO — Only a year and a half after opening its doors, Carrboro High School is well on its way to forming its own identity.

In conversation, teachers at Carrboro High often reference the "growing pains" associated with a new school. Alphonso Donaldson, co-chair of the English department, said that while there have been those pains, the faculty as a whole is starting to feel more confident.

Donaldson, who taught at East Chapel Hill High for six years before coming to Carrboro High, says he enjoys teaching there because of the smaller size.

"Because there are so many fewer students here, you get an opportunity to interact with more of them."

Steven Champion, the Carrboro police officer stationed at Carrboro High, said he has worked to build a positive relationship with the students over the past year and a half.

Because of the relatively small size of Carrboro High — the school has about 800 students while Chapel Hill High and East Chapel Hill High have around 1,700 each — Champion said students have felt more closely watched. The school also has more cameras than the other two high schools — 67 altogether.



PHOTO BY MARY LIDE PARKER

Principal Kelly Batten says there is a lot of respect among the CHS student body.

SEE CHS PAGE 7



MUSIC CALENDAR

CHROME PLATED APOSTLES
Local 506
December 20

THURSDAY DEC 18

Blue Bayou: Fever and the Falling Rain. 9pm

The Cave: EARLY: Last Watch. LATE: Cool Ethan with The Sibling Project, Hey Euphony

General Store Cafe: Tony Galiani Band. 7pm

Local 506: O'Brother, Sleep Control. 9:30pm, Free

Nightlight: Jack Rose/Horseback. 9:30pm, \$7

Open Eye Cafe: Rising Appalachia, Leah and Chloe Smith. 8pm

Reservoir: IRATA, Battle Rockets, Goodbye Titan. 10pm, Free

The Station: The Sundowners

FRIDAY DEC 19

Blue Bayou: Cyril Lance & the Outskirts of Infinity with guest Adrian Duke. 9:30pm

Cat's Cradle: ECHHS Battle of the Bands Finals. 6:45pm

The Cave: EARLY: Comedy Night with Johnny Cook. LATE: Straight 8's with The Bo Stevens

General Store Cafe: After Thought Acoustic Trio. 8:30pm

Local 506: Indie Rock Karaoke. 9:30pm, Free

Nightlight: Blag'ard/Tin Star/Grey Young. 10pm

SATURDAY DEC 20

Blue Bayou: Matt Hill & the Buzz-Kills. 9:30pm

Cat's Cradle: Holiday Gathering: 7:30pm The Rafters, 8:30pm Big Fat Gap, 9:30pm Dex and the New Romans, 10:45pm Big Fat Gap (second



CYRIL LANCE
Blue Bayou
December 19

set). Free

The Cave: EARLY: Tony Low. LATE: Evil Wiener X-Mas Show

General Store Cafe: Kelley & the Cowboys. 8:30pm

Local 506: Chrome-Plate Apostles, Pinche Gringo. 10pm, \$6.

Nightlight: Aquila/Count Von Count/APEI/Virgo. 9-10pm

Open Eye Cafe: Sawyer-Goldberg Jazz Ensemble. 8pm

Reservoir: Syd's Xmas Rockin Amonia Karaoke party. 8pm, Free

MONDAY DEC 22

The Cave: Jim Watson's 23rd X-mas Show

TUESDAY DEC 23

Seasons' Greetings

WEDNESDAY DEC 24

Happy Holidays

THURSDAY DEC 25

Merry Christmas

FRIDAY DEC 26

General Store Cafe: The Family Eversole. 8:30pm

Local 506: EARLY: Benji Hughes, Charles Latham. 9:30pm, \$8. LATE: Kid Kameleon, One Duran. 11:30pm, \$5

SATURDAY DEC 27

Cat's Cradle: 2nd Annual Winter Ragga Jam. 9:30pm, \$8/\$10

The Cave: EARLY: Pegan Hellcats. LATE: A Tribute to Hoppie featuring Dexter Romweber, Stu Cole, Taz Halloween and a cast of all-stars

EVIL WIENER X-MAS SHOW

The Cave
December 20



DEXTER ROMWEBER AND THE NEW ROMANS
Cat's Cradle
December 20



IRATA
Reservoir
December 18

General Store Cafe: Rootzie. 8:30pm

Local 506: The Merch Holiday Party. 10pm, Free

Nightlight: Grapejuice Scott and Dutchmaster/MC Homeless and Liz Abey/The Ex-Monkeys/ Gut Lightening. 10pm, \$6

SUNDAY DEC 28

Cat's Cradle: L in Japanese Dance Party XII, Benefit for the families of Rodney and Atlas. No alcohol served. 9pm, \$8/\$10

Local 506: Ryan Gustafson, Jessica Lea Mayfield. Free



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

NEW YEARS EVE

CAT'S CRADLE



Abbey Road Live with the Magictones, 8:30pm, \$17.50/\$20

THE CAVE

Twilighter and special guests

LOCAL 506

Kerbloki, Red Collar and Hammer No More The Fingers, 10:30pm, \$5

BLUE BAYOU



Will McFarlane Band and special guest, \$18/\$20



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| JEWELWORKS | STEPHEN WHITE GALLERY |
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CAT'S CRADLE

FR 12/19 ECHHS BATTLE OF THE BANDS (NO ALCOHOL SERVED)
SA 12/20 HOLIDAY GATHERING: DEXTER AND THE NEW ROMANS, BIG FAT GAP, THE RAFTERS FREE SHOW!
SA 12/27 WINTER REGGAE JAM DUB ADDIS, CRUCIAL FIYAH, JUNIOR P, CAYENNE THE LION KING**(\$8/\$10)
SU 12/28 BENEFIT CONCERT L IN JAPANESE DANCE PARTY (NO ALCOHOL SERVED)
WE 12/31 HAPPY NEW YEAR! ABBEY ROAD LIVE RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH JOHN PAUL GEORGE AND RINGO **(\$17.50/\$20)
FR 1/9/09 FREE SHOW! CD RELEASE NORTH ELEMENTARY W/KINGSBURY MANX, ERIE CHOIR, POPULAR KIDS
SA 1/10/09 COSMIC CHARLIE** 2 SETS OF GRATEFUL DEAD!
SU 1/11/09 FLICKER LOCAL SHORT FILMS
TH 1/15/09**(\$10/\$12) VIRGINIA COALITION

REGGAE JAM

SAT 12/27/08

R 1/16/09 LOS CAMPESINOS W/TITUS ANDRONICUS**(\$12/\$14)
SA 1/17/09**(\$10/\$12) WHO'S BAD? (MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE)
FR 1/23/09 THE GOURDS W/RAMSAY MILWOOD**(\$10/\$12)
SA 1/24/09 THE ROSEBUDS W/MEGAFAN & THE LOVE LANGUAGE**(\$10/\$12)
WE 1/28/09**(\$22/\$25) DAR WILLIAMS W/JOSHUA RADIN
TH 1/29/09 COREY SMITH W/RAYEN BELCHERE**
FR 1/30/09** \$10/\$12 THE LAST WALTZ ENSEMBLE
SA 1/31/09 ANNUALS W/JESSICA LEE MAYFIELD & WHAT LAURA SAYS**(\$10/\$12)
TH 2/5/09 BRETT DENNEN W/ANGEL TAYLOR**(\$15)
FR 2/6/09**(\$12/\$14) TOUBAB KREWE
SA 2/7/09 BOB MARLEY'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION! W/MICKEY MILLS AND STEEL + MORE
SU 2/8/09**(\$10/\$12) MONTE MONTGOMERY

SA 2/14/09 THE OLD CEREMONY**
FR 2/20/09 FUJIYA & MIYAGI**
SU 3/1/09**(\$16/\$18) BEN KWELLER W/WATSON TWINS
MO 3/2/09 TAPES N TAPES W/WILD LIGHT**(\$10/\$12)
WE 3/4/09 BLACK LIPS**(\$10/\$12)
TH 3/19/09**(\$12/\$14) AC NEWMAN FEATURING CARL NEWMAN FROM THE NEW PORNOGRAPHERS W/THE BROKEN WEST
TU 3/24/09 CUT COPY W/MATT & KIM**(\$16/\$18)
TU 3/31/09**(\$15/\$17) THE PRESETS

ALSO PRESENTING

LOCAL 506 (CH)
TH 1/15/09 GOD'S POTTERY
WE 1/21/09 VIC CHESNUT W/ELF POWER
FR 2/28/09 TIM BARRY/AUSTIN LUCAS/JOSH SMALL
FR 3/13/09 THE AIRBORNE TOXIC EVENT
CAROLINA THEATRE (DUR)
SA 2/28/09 JOAN BAEZ
TIX VIA THEATRE BOX OFFICE OR CAROLINATHEATRE.ORG

THE ARTSCENTER (CAR)
WE 2/11/09 EARLY SHOW 7:30PM! FROM THE JAYHAWKS
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WE 3/11/09 KATHLEEN EDWARDS

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News Briefs

Death penalty hearing moved

A death penalty hearing scheduled for this week in the Joshua Bailey murder has been postponed until February.

Six defendants are charged with the first-degree kidnapping and murder of Bailey. His body was discovered in early September off Big Woods Road in Chatham County. Autopsy results showed that he had been shot. Investigators have said Bailey was killed in a wooded area off Twisted Oak Drive in Orange County and his body later moved.

In an interview last week, Jim Woodall, district attorney for Orange and Chatham counties, said the Rule 24 hearing, which is required if the death penalty will be considered in a case, would be delayed until February because the case is still in the discovery stage.

Woodall said he has not made a decision on whether to seek the death penalty and is waiting for the discovery phase to further progress.

Information sought in Torain case

UNC Crime Stoppers is seeking information relating to the identity of persons involved in a hit-and-run motor vehicle accident that occurred on Old Greensboro Highway near Neville Road in Orange County during the early hours of Nov. 16, resulting in the death of 17-year-old Chapel Hill High School student and football player Rodney Torain.

According to law-enforcement officials, the suspects' vehicle was described as a small gold or silver four-door vehicle, possibly occupied by several Hispanic individuals. The vehicle is believed to have followed the car in which Torain was a passenger for several miles before making contact with it, and should have damage to the passenger side.

A minimum reward of \$300 is being offered for information leading to arrest in this case. Anonymous calls can be made to Crime Stoppers at 942-7515. Information can also be submitted online at www.crimestoppers-chcunc.org

Two charged in Yarmolenko case

Two men have been charged in the murder of UNC-Chapel Hill student and Chapel Hill High graduate Irina Yarmolenko. Her body was found last May near the Catawba River.

Mount Holly police charged two cousins, Mark Bradley Carver and Neal Leon Cassada Jr., with first-degree murder. The two appeared in court for the first time Monday. A judge ordered a competency test for Carver, who said in court that he suffered from schizophrenia.

School board meets tonight

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education meets tonight (Thursday) at 7:00 at the Chapel Hill Town Hall on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Items on the agenda include:

- new and revised courses for 2009-10;
- reading and science 2007-08 test results; and
- strategic plan outcome goals.

For the complete agenda, visit www.chccs.k12.nc.us

Rally for Moncure workers

A rally to support the striking Moncure Plywood workers will be held on Saturday at noon at the Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro.

Moncure Plywood International Association of Machinists Local 369 have been on strike since July 2008, charging that their employer has refused to bargain in good faith and demanded a 60-hour mandatory work week, a prohibitive 300 to 400 percent increase in health-insurance premiums and a cut in pension benefits, seniority and other rights the union has negotiated.

Supporters are urged to bring holiday food, financial contributions and toys. For more information, call Lori Hoyt at 968-1888 or Miriam Thompson at 370-4114.

The Red Hen helps TABLE feed hungry children

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

While most children are able to get a healthy meal five days a week at school, some of those children are left without healthy food over the weekend.

TABLE Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to feeding local hungry children, seeks to remedy that problem through its Weekend Backpack Program. Each Friday, the program gives participating children a loaner backpack full of healthy food.

The nonprofit relies on donations and the work of college students and community volunteers to fill backpacks for children at risk for hunger, and increase community awareness about childhood hunger.

A couple of doors down from TABLE's office, The Red Hen, a resale and gift boutique for moms and children, is collecting food and raising funds throughout December for the Weekend Backpack Program.

DeeDee Lavinder, owner of The Red Hen, said she decided to help TABLE after looking into its programs while searching for a holiday fundraiser for her store.

"TABLE is right down the street from us, so I was curious about what they were doing," she said.

Lavinder said she was "really moved" by what she found out



PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW

Mandy Fisher, left, and Heather Smith, employees of The Red Hen consignment store on Weaver Street in Carrboro, show the collection of food that customers have donated for the Weekend Backpack Program at TABLE. Food for the program is sent home with low-income children on weekends to ensure they will eat well while at home. Red Hen customers who donate food receive discounts on items they buy at the store, while those who make a cash donation get a voucher of equal value that can be used at The Red Hen in 2009.

about TABLE and its programs, and decided to help raise money and collect food for the nonprofit.

"It was a perfect match for The Red Hen," she said. "Being a resale shop for kids, it felt like a great fit."

Donations made to TABLE at The Red Hen during the month of December will be rewarded with a store voucher of equal value.

"As a business, I just wanted to find a way to also be part of the giving," Lavinder said. Her goal was to raise \$500 for the charity; the store has already collected more than \$475.

In addition, shoppers who bring food donations to the store will receive 5 percent off their purchases. The food will be used to fill the backpacks, and the policy will remain in effect after

the holidays.

"I'm hoping to motivate people to give," Lavinder said.

A list of needed items can be found online at www.tablenc.org/Donate.cfm

To donate to TABLE, bring food or monetary donations to The Red Hen or to TABLE's office, both located on Weaver Street. For more information, visit www.tablenc.org

Carrboro woman killed crossing N.C. 54

BY RICH FOWLER
Staff Writer

A Carrboro woman was hit and killed while trying to cross N.C. 54 just west of the South Columbia Street bridge. Gloria Espinosa Calderas, 43, was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident. Two other people were also hit and had to be taken to UNC Hospitals for treatment of injuries that weren't life threatening.

Police say the accident happened at around 10:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11, when seven people tried to cross the highway. Four people had made it to the median when the other three were hit by a 2000 Mitsubishi driven by Micah James Millis, 17, of Durham. Police are still investigating the accident.

With this accident, the number of pedestrians killed by vehicles in Chapel Hill in 2008 has risen to five.

In April, Clifton Walker was hit and killed by a Chapel Hill Transit van near the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Hillsborough Street.

Two people were killed in May. Lisa Moran was killed by a Chapel Hill Transit bus while jogging along Manning Drive near South Columbia Street and Barbara Sims was killed when she was hit by a pickup truck while trying to cross Weaver Dairy Road at Perkins Drive.

Valerie Hughes was killed in October when she was hit by a Chapel Hill Transit bus near the intersection of South Columbia Street and Mason Farm Road.

Libby Thomas, research associate at the UNC Center for Highway Safety Research, said researchers won't know for several years if the recent series of accidents is the result of changing traffic and behavior patterns. She said that both drivers and pedestrians need to be more careful.

"We need to develop a culture where people realize that the vehicle is a lethal weapon," Thomas said.

"As a pedestrian, even if you know you have the right of way, don't assume that the other person is going to do the right thing," she said. "Don't assume they can see you, especially at night."

Wearing light-colored clothing at night isn't always enough. Thomas said research shows that light-colored clothing isn't visible at the distances required to stop at higher speeds. She said that bicyclists and pedestrians who travel along busier roads should wear retro-reflective materials and that bicyclists should wear lights.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 4,654 pedestrians were killed in the U.S. in 2007. In North Carolina, 171 were killed.

In addition to wearing retro-reflective clothing, NHTSA recommends that pedestrians:

- be particularly careful of turning traffic at intersections;
- carry flashlights on dark or poorly lit roads;
- always look left, right and then left again before crossing the street;
- cross at a designated crosswalk when possible; and
- walk facing traffic if walking in the street or along the side of the road.

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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Learn more at our free information session from 6 to 7:30 pm on Thursday, January 8. Call 800-845-8640 or e-mail ceinfo@unc.edu. Visit fridaycenter.unc.edu/paralegal for more information or to reserve your space online.

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Community Briefs

County toy chest needs donations

The Orange County Department of Social Services is in serious need of donations for the Orange County Toy Chest. More than 200 people gathered two hours before the toy chest was scheduled to open on the first day of service and demand is expected to be high throughout the eight-day run.

Pauli Murray awards

The Orange County Human Relations Commission seeks nominations for the 2008 Pauli Murray Human Relations Awards. The Pauli Murray Award is presented annually by the Orange County Human Relations Commission to an Orange County youth, adult or business that has served the community with distinction in the pursuit of equality, justice and human rights for all citizens.

A Chocolate Affaire

Shelton Earp, director of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Kim Lyerly, director of the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center, will serve as honorary co-chairs of the Cornucopia House Cancer Support Center's 10th A Chocolate Affaire fundraiser on Feb. 8. Cornucopia House has worked closely with the two cancer centers throughout its 12-year history.

Noticias en breve

PARA LAS FIESTAS

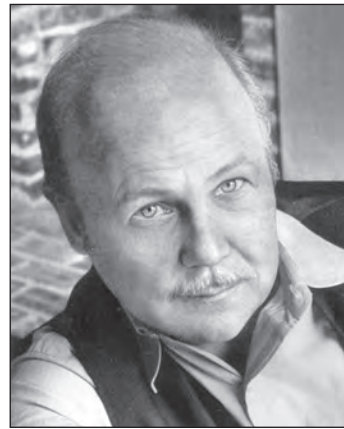
Ya mismo es Navidad, Hanukkah y Año Nuevo. Para las personas con niños chicos hay muchas oportunidades para visitar con Santa. Por ejemplo, hay una hora de cuentos con Santa en el Siena Hotel, 3-4p.m., el viernes, el 19 de diciembre en 1505 E. Franklin St.

decorar galletas y hacer otras actividades. 9.30-11.30a.m. El viernes, el 19 de diciembre. En el Carrboro Century Center, 100 N. Greensboro St., Carrboro. 918-7367. Y para los padres quienes quieren aliviar el estrés de la temporada, hay una clase de yoga gratuita, en español. El domingo, el 21 de diciembre, 4.30-5.30p.m. CYCO, 200 N. Greensboro St., Carr Mill Mall, Suite D-1, Carrboro. 933-2921.

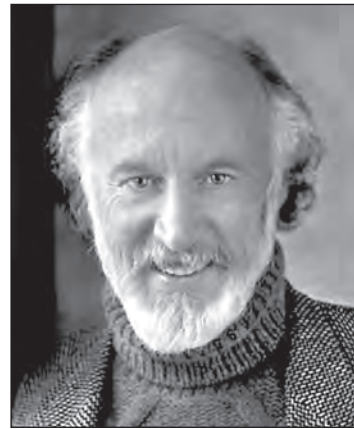
Community Calendar

Special Events

- Phil Blank Exhibit — Dec. 12-Jan. 6 at 7pm at Wootini
CH High School Holiday Chorus Concert — Dec. 18, 7:30pm. \$6/adults, \$3/students under 18. www.hanestheatre.org
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, pittsboro-shops.com



Michael Malone



Alan Gurganus

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 January 2009. Group limited to eight participants. Screenings will take place through mid-December: 968-4647, groups@ocrcc.org

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

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

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

Literary 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

Polivol 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

Holidays in Hillsborough

- A Christmas Carol — Dec. 18, 6:30pm and 8:30pm. Michael Malone and Alan Gurganus will perform a special reading of Charles Dickens' classic tale at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. The performance benefits the Burwell School Historic Site. Call 732-7451 for more information and reservations. www.holidaysinhillsborough.com
Contra — Dec. 19, 7:30pm. Music by the Donnybrook Lads. Carrboro Century Center. \$8, 967-9948, www.cstda-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

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. 4702 Garrett Road, Durham. Couples and singles welcome. \$7 members, \$12 guests, 942-7232

Faith

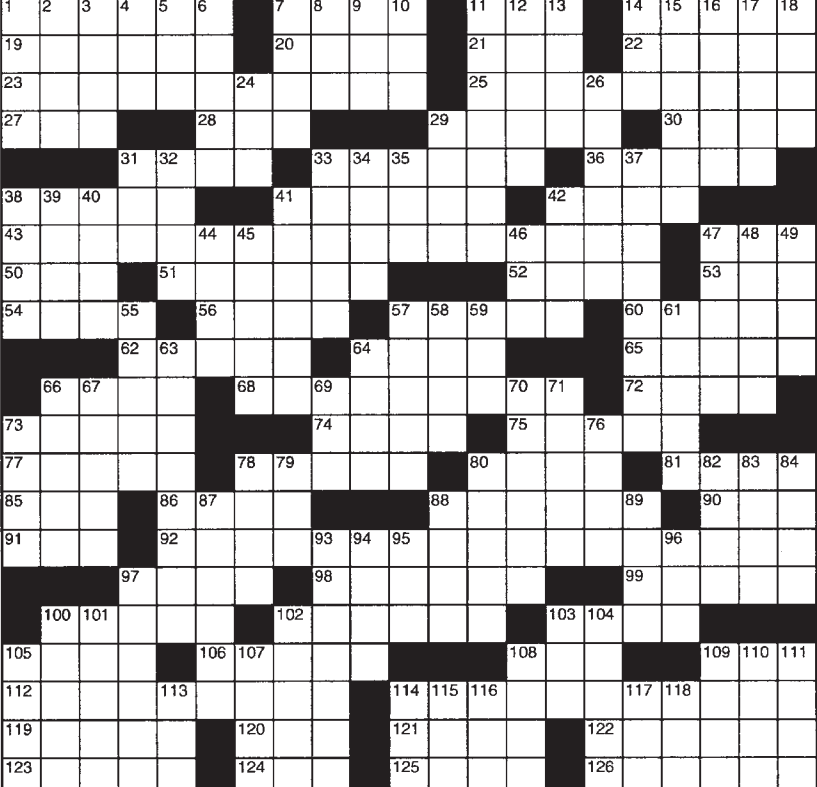
- Aldersgate United Methodist — Dec. 21 at 5pm. Christmas Moravian Love Feast, Christmas music and readings, authentic Moravian bread and handmade beeswax candles.
Advent Lutheran — 9am Bible study classes for all ages, 10:30am worship service. Christmas Eve Worship, Dec. 24, 7pm. Christmas Day services 10:30am.
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 Court, Raleigh. www.kadampa-center.org



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

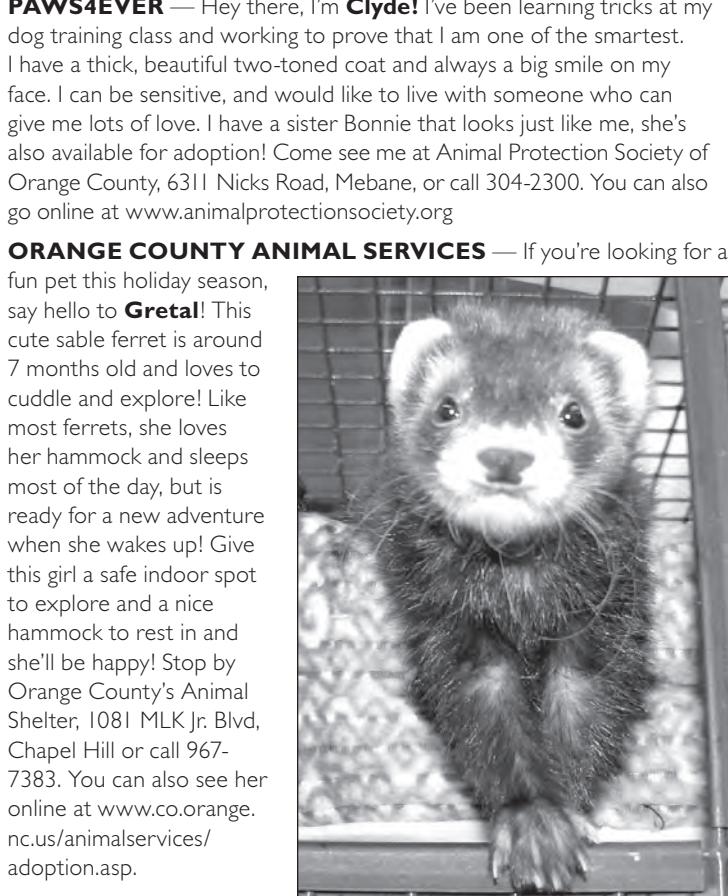
SUPER CROSSWORD TIMBER LINE

- ACROSS: 1 '84 Daryl Hannah film, 7 Belfry sound, 11 Poetic monogram, 14 Little rascal, 19 Bunch of ballplayers, 20 Fairy-tale fiend, 21 Spring mo., 22 Forbidden, 23 Start of a remark by, 24 Across, 25 Teddy-bear president, 27 Tut's relative, 28 Ganesh or Hanuman, 29 That's the spirit, 30 Building wings, 31 Level, 33 Access, 36 With 51 across, 'Wuthering Heights' author, 38 Face lift?, 41 Anchored, 42 Hot spot?, 43 Part 2 of remark, 47 Aries animal, 50 Important numero, 51 See 36 across, 52 "— look at mel", 53 Distinctive period, 54 Irving character, 56 Hotels, 57 Prepare the Parmesan, 60 Toil, 62 Dwelling, 64 Trim a photo, 65 Rotund, 66 Vittle, 68 He's got plans for you, 72 Skilled, 73 Pick-me-up, 74 Sheet of stamps, 75 Big name in kids' music, 77 TV's "Starky and —", 78 Get on, 80 Doug, 81 Viscount's superior, 85 Put into service, 86 Partially open, 88 "Summer —" (72 hit), 90 Mauna —, 91 Augsburg article, 92 End of remark, 97 Wise guy?, 98 Bother, 99 Like Hawaiian shirts, 100 Wails, 102 Vicar's assistant, 103 Bend, 105 Saucy, 106 It gets squirreled away, 108 Beastly place?, 109 Jacket info, 112 Gardener's friend, 114 Speaker of remark, 119 "— Gay", 120 Khan opener?, 121 Kind of roast, 122 He's left holding the bag, 123 Enticed, 124 Pewter case, 125 Cunning, 126 Layers, DOWN: 1 Blind part, 2 Body-builder's pride, 3 Need, 4 Give it — (try), 5 Big —, CA risk, 6 Reduce a risk, 7 Little lake, 8 "The — and I" (47 film), 9 Word with folk or fine, 10 Tenor, 11 Durham denizen, 12 Bobbin, 13 Cupid, in Corinth, 14 Sault — Marie, MI, 15 Collapse, 16 Ring — (saem familiar), 17 Aquarium fish, 18 Saucopans, 24 Charged atom, 26 Willy Wright, 29 Spiritual guide, 31 Lily of pharmaceuticals, 32 Do or die?, 33 Takes a break, 34 Exercise aftermath, 35 Status —, 37 Diner fare, 38 Self-important language?, 39 Blabby bird, 40 Borodin's family name, 41 Sermon subject, 42 Woodwind instrument, 44 The Furies, 45 Toyota competitor, 46 Banned pesticide, 47 Dely a dictator, 48 Faced the day, 49 Stallion's sweetheart, 55 Lose control, 57 Pulverize, 58 Learning method, 59 Mimic, 61 Activist, Hoffman actor, 63 15th president, 64 Burn a bit, 66 Animal that roared?, 67 Log, 69 Pocket protector?, 70 Altar, 71 He keeps lions in line, 73 Heavy blow, 76 Disconcert, 78 Bele noire, 79 Nev. neighbor, 80 Novel creature, 82 Baseball family name, 83 Crucifix, 84 Tramp's tootsie, 87 Pieciful pursuit?, 88 Gravy vessel, 89 Fish the lawn, 93 "The Avengers" actress, 94 Knitter's need, 95 Monk's title, 96 Wicked stuff?, 97 Pay up, 100 Reeves of "The Matrix", 101 Mistake, 102 It's walked at Windsor, 103 Watch pocket units, 104 Crochet units, 105 Rind, 107 Winter wear, 108 Off-the-wall, 109 — carotene, 110 "Players" actor, 111 Gumbo veggie, 113 Possessed, 114 North Pole worker, 115 Milne creature, 116 Cowboy Tom, 117 Bon — (wilticism), 118 "I'm freezing!"



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.
"Expectations"
O W T O M P G U C P Z O F S V A H
P S P V O D P K S E Y D G V A K
X O M D E L O K S E D V O
D C S S H T O V L S U G L
A G N O O W T O M P G U C D
X E A A U S P P S D P P D M N
K S E X O M D E L O K S E
D V O D R O C O P D V G D U.
- H O U G L F Z S A O K
Find the answer in the puzzle answer section.

PETS OF THE WEEK
PAWS4EVER — Hey there, I'm Clyde! I've been learning tricks at my dog training class and working to prove that I am one of the smartest. I have a thick, beautiful two-toned coat and always a big smile on my face. I can be sensitive, and would like to live with someone who can give me lots of love. I have a sister Bonnie that looks just like me, she's also available for adoption! Come see me at Animal Protection Society of Orange County, 6311 Nicks Road, Mebane, or call 304-2300. You can also go online at www.animalprotectionsociety.org
ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES — If you're looking for a fun pet this holiday season, say hello to Gretal! This cute sable ferret is around 7 months old and loves to cuddle and explore! Like most ferrets, she loves her hammock and sleeps most of the day, but is ready for a new adventure when she wakes up! Give this girl a safe indoor spot to explore and a nice hammock to rest in and she'll be happy! Stop by Orange County's Animal Shelter, 1081 MLK Jr. Blvd, Chapel Hill or call 967-7383. You can also see her online at www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp



Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle
2 6 9 1
4 5 2
7 6 8
3 7 6
9 3 2 1
8 1 4 9
4 7 8
3 1 5
8 3 5 7
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★
★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!
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Comentarios y preguntas al betsy@carrborocitizen.com

IN SEASON



WATCHING THE PARADE

ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK

Land & Table Briefs

Garden classes

The Complete Gardener Series, a series of gardening classes for both novice and advanced gardeners, will be offered Jan. 21 through May 6.

Sessions will be held on the second Wednesday of each month from 2:30 to 5 p.m. and from 6 to 8:30 p.m. N.C. Cooperative Extension Agent Al Cooke will lead the classes, which will be held in the auditorium of the Agriculture Building on South Street in Pittsboro.

Registration is \$20 for individuals or \$30 for couples sharing one set of printed materials. Participants must pre-register for the series by Dec. 31. To request a registration form, stop

by 45 South St. in Pittsboro or call the extension office at 542-8202. Registration is also available online at ceres.cals.ncsu.edu/surveybuilder/Form.cfm?testID=6427

Electric car film

The Carrboro Greenspace will present the movie *Who Killed the Electric Car?* on Sunday at 7 p.m. at The Station.

The movie examines such questions as, "If the auto industry had chosen the electric car over sport utility vehicles, would we be bailing them out?" and, "Will our government force the auto industry to re-tool to make electric cars and/or mass transit?"

The movie is free and open to the public.

The Eater

Wheaties

The Pittsboro-based Carolina Farm Stewardship is working with a group of North Carolina growers, including a few in the Piedmont, to spur organic hard-wheat farming. The association received a \$139,000 grant to run a pilot program that will work with 20 farms and 20 bakeries to create a market to support a local mill.

The North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission and Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company awarded CFSA grant funds to work with tobacco (and other) growers to rotate organic tobacco crops with never-before-grown hard wheat here in North Carolina.

Party flavors

If you haven't made reservations for New Year's Eve dinner, you better jump on it. Tables are filling up. In case you want to make an evening and a morning of it, Fearrington, The Sienna and The Franklin are all offering food, festivities and overnight packages.

Biscuits downtown

Neal's announced they're now open for breakfast with biscuits and fixings, toast and baked eggs. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Hours changes

Please note that Crook's is going to be closed from Monday, Dec. 15 to 25. The restaurant reopens Dec. 26 at 5:30 p.m. Jade Palace is closed for lunch Dec. 24 to 26.



All Weaver Street Market locations will close at 6 pm on Christmas Eve and be closed all day Christmas Day. They reopen with regular business hours on Dec. 26.

Parade route

The annual holiday parade is turning out to be a snackfest at certain stops along the route. In the Carrboro stretch, we noted a lovely table with cookies and coffee in front of Weaver Street Realty. And The Eater can report that those were indeed square doughnuts at the OCSC, shipped in especially for the occasion by Square Doughnuts Inc. in Terre Haute, Ind. They went down much like the round ones — quickly.

FARMERS' MARKET

SATURDAY MARKET: 8 a.m. - Noon

Recipe of the Week

Sweet Potato-Sausage Au Gratin
Recipe Provided by Ben Horner

Ingredients

- *4 large sweet potatoes
- *1 lb. of sausage
- 6 small apples or 4 large apples
- 3 cups of milk
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- Pinch of nutmeg
- 1/2 cup of shredded sharp cheese



Procedure

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Peel and slice sweet potatoes into thin slices. Core and slice all the apples into thin slices. Rub a baking dish with raw garlic and let it dry. Once dry, grease the baking dish with butter. Place the potatoes and apples in a large stock pot with milk or cream. Add salt, pepper, and nutmeg. Simmer over medium heat for about 15 minutes or until potatoes and apples begin to soften and milk thickens. Brown sausage in a skillet. Combine drained sausage with potatoes, apples, and milk and pour into baking dish. Top with sharp shredded cheese. Bake for about 45 minutes.

What's at Market?

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

Lettuce, pac choy, flour, onions, garlic, arugula, beets, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, collards, fresh herbs, kales, leeks, tomatoes, 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.

MILL

NEXT ISSUE:
DEC. 31

Advertising
Deadline:
DEC. 23

CONTACT:
Marty Cassady
942.2100

marty@carborocitizen.com

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PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO MEN...
MARK TRAIL
CHRISTMAS IS A TIME OF THOUGHTFULNESS AND GENEROSITY... LET US REMEMBER AT THIS TIME OUR FELLOW BEINGS OF FUR AND FEATHER!
TO HELP MAKE LIFE MORE PLEASANT FOR OUR WILD CREATURES, PERHAPS WE CAN CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO THEIR WELL-BEING!
ARE YOU ABOUT READY TO LEAVE, OLD FRIEND?...WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO TONIGHT!
YOU'VE HAD A LONG NIGHT, HONEY!
YES, AND IT WAS ENJOYABLE...I HOPE I'VE MADE A LOT OF CHILDREN HAPPY, AND I ALSO HOPE THAT AS THEY GROW UP THEY WILL LEARN THAT CHRISTMAS IS NOT ABOUT FANCY GIFTS, BUT ABOUT THE LOVE WE HAVE FOR EACH OTHER AND FOR ALL HUMANITY...
IF WE CAN DO THAT, THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS WILL BE FOREVER!
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE!

puzzle solutions

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

CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER:
Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are a good person is like expecting a bull not to attack you because you are a vegetarian. — Dennis Whaley

FOR THE RECORD

Get in the spirit

We get a lot of press releases with lots of holiday season tips and events to consider this time of year. The relentlessness of all the things to do and keep up with wears on us as well.

Occasionally, something crosses the desk that just flat out floors you. This week it was one sentence that stood out in a county-issued press release on the lack of toys for the Orange County Toy Chest. It read: "While parents of older kids may be able to explain that layoffs or high costs will make the holiday season leaner this year, parents of young children have more difficulty explaining why Santa Claus was stingy or forgot a child altogether."

A crowd of 200 people waited in line for hours the first day the toy chest opened. Now, with heavy demand — an estimated 3,000 children — the worry is that many will be left out.

The toy chest, sponsored by the Orange County Department of Social Services in partnership with Toys for Tots and Balloons and Tunes, provides a few new toys and clothing for low-income, at-risk Orange County children during the holidays.

Nancy Coston, the county's director of social services, said there are people visiting the chest this year who would have never considered it in the past. Last year the program gave away toys and clothing to 1,800 families during its traditional eight-day run. This year toys and clothing for 1,200 children were distributed on the first day.

So consider this an appeal to everyone who wants to find at least one way to connect with the holiday spirit, in this case by saving Christmas for a few thousand children.

Checks or toys can be dropped off at either the Southern Human Services on Homestead Road or in Hillsborough at the Whitted Human Services at 300 West Tryon St. in Hillsborough. Checks can also be mailed to the Orange County Department of Social Services at 300 West Tryon Street, P.O. Box 8181, Hillsborough, NC 27278.

We'd also like to suggest that you and your child work together to pick out and deliver your contribution to the effort and share the experience of the gift of giving.

There are plenty of families who will remember Christmas 2008 with a photo of a child visiting Santa. Consider adding another photo to your scrapbook — one of your child *being* Santa.

Grinch me not

Pardon us for not delving into the controversy on campus over the Christmas decorations. We have it on good authority that the university leadership and the library administration do not hate Christmas and are not a part of the grand conspiracy against it.

Early paper next two weeks

With the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays falling on Thursdays this year, *The Citizen* will be published a day early the last two weeks of 2008 — on Wednesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 31. The January issue of MILL will also come out on Dec. 31.

All calendar submissions should be in the Friday before publication.

The advertising deadline for the Dec. 24 *Citizen* will be Thursday, Dec. 18; the deadline for the Dec. 31 *Citizen* and the January MILL will be Tuesday, Dec. 23. Please contact Marty Cassidy at 942-2100 or marty@carrborocitizen.com to place your ads.



Letter from the chancellor on the airport authority

Dear Chair Foushee:

Congratulations on your election as chair of the Orange County Board of Commissioners. We look forward to working with you in your new role.

I am writing to respond to former Chairman Jacobs' letter dated November 19, 2008, and to the questions it presented. But first, let me acknowledge that there are many opinions on the issue of the airport authority and the prospect of building a new airport in Orange County. I want to be sure that the commissioners and the citizens of Orange County know that no site has been identified. Before that can happen, the airport authority will have to commission new site studies.

In answer to your questions:

1. Scope of work: The airport authority's scope of work will be determined by its members after they are selected and have taken their oaths of office. The authority should support the missions of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of North Carolina Health Care System and serve the needs of Orange County. The promise of Carolina North dictates that we must close Horace Williams Airport. In the interim, we will move our MedAir operations to RDU as soon as we are able to begin construction of the Law School. If and when a new airport is available, we will relocate MedAir.

A proximate airport will make North Carolina more accessible to our faculty. The AHEC program is an extremely important asset to the university, the Health Care System and to North Carolinians. Our doctors, nurses and other health care professionals provide health and education and care across the state. A short-term move to RDU is workable for AHEC and MedAir. But for the long term, there may be a better alternative closer to home, and that's what the airport authority is about.

Federal funds will be needed to finance the airport. Those funds come with many restrictions. One is that no airport be sited within a 30-minute average drive of another airport receiving federal funds unless otherwise approved. In our situation, those airports are RDU, Burlington Alamance County Airport, Person County Executive Airport, Sanford Lee County Airport and Siler City Municipal Airport. Thus certain areas of Orange County will likely be precluded from consideration because they are less than a 30-minute drive from these existing airports. The new studies that the authority would commission also would need to take into account more current traffic and roadway data, along with any other location criteria identified by the authority.



We both supported the language in the legislation that gives Orange County that zoning authority. That's the way it should be — in the hands of an elected public body.

2. Membership qualifications: I anticipate a substantial commitment of time will be required during the initial formation phase of the authority. After that phase is complete, a commitment of three to four hours per month may be required.

3. Fiscal issues: The authority initially will be funded by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of North Carolina Health Care System. I anticipate that the authority will seek federal and state funding for the many phases of airport development. The "payment in lieu of taxes" matter that the county commissioners raised will need to be researched by the authority after its formation.

4. Public concerns: All of the proceedings of the authority will be subject to the state's open meetings laws. The authority will develop procedures that will result in a fair and transparent process. Any decision about where the authority will be located or "housed" will be undertaken by the authority.

5. Concurrent authority: The enabling statute is clear that any zoning and/or land use plans for any potential airport are subordinate to Orange County's zoning laws. The university and Health Care System cannot unilaterally force the development of a new airport. We both supported the language in the legislation that gives Orange County that zoning authority. That's the way it should be — in the hands of an elected public body. If the Board of Commissioners passes the appropriate ordinances, it will have the power to determine whether an airport can be sited through zoning and the issuance of special use permits. The authority should work closely with the Orange County staff and the Board of Commissioners so that consensus is reached before any siting decision is made. I believe that the use of eminent domain should always be a last resort.

Our plan is to ask the UNC Board of Governors to create the airport authority and its February meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me or Kevin FitzGerald.

Sincerely,

HOLDEN THORP

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Civics 101

I commend Commissioner Pam Hemminger for clearly speaking the truth at the Orange County Board of Commissioners meeting on Dec. 11. She said that if you read all the information objectively, a decision to place a waste transfer station (WTS) in Bingham Township is categorically wrong.

Unfortunately, unfounded fear prevailed, with the rest of the board that was present. So Orange County will soon haul all of the trash generated by the cities as far away as possible on two-lane rural roads into southwest Orange, only to haul it off to distant landfills in Eastern North Carolina or Virginia.

The resulting civics lesson on county government from the event:

Regardless of how faulty your premise, criteria, process or conclusion, stick with it so you can say you stuck with it.

If a community doesn't have a mayor or town council, they lose.

The board is powerless in the face of municipalities.

Even if the public hands you workable, progressive solutions, don't investigate them. It might make you and your paid consultants look foolish.

It doesn't matter how large a carbon footprint you make as long as it lands squarely on the least powerful group of people.

Praise the great public input you receive while summarily dismissing it.

It's better to waste \$10 million on a mistake than to admit you made one.

Even if the last community group gets less than a month to be heard, if you have been at the process a year, say that's enough.

Better to spend the next few months negotiating with an unreasonable landowner and fighting legal action than open the process to find better sites.

You can decry the injustice of "urban imperialism," but that doesn't mean you can't do it yourself.

You can change the process as many times as you want when it suits you, but not when it doesn't.

I witnessed that night the worst of government -- that soulless way of following rules even when they lack all sensibility and reason. Decisions made out of fear and desperation are never good ones.

Yes, this was a difficult situation. But with every crisis comes an opportunity to move in a new direction. The board

failed to capitalize on the moment. As a result, an entire community will suffer. And the county is further away from its self-image of being "progressive."

Today I loaded up my own trash and recycling and drove to the solid-waste station seven miles away. That's what we do here in the county.

VIRGINIA LESLIE
Within a mile of the future WTS in SW Orange

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

Two nagging questions

CHRIS FITZSIMON

Is there a business veto over key appointments?

The Raleigh rumor mill is working overtime on who Governor-elect Beverly Perdue will appoint to her cabinet and other key posts in her administration. Perdue has named her chief of staff and legislative team but not much else, prompting some anxiety in the political and advocacy worlds, particularly around appointments to agencies that have been plagued by scandal — Health and Human Services, Correction and Transportation.

Even things that seem to be decided may not be. Perdue announced two weeks ago that current Health and Human Services Secretary Dempsey Benton would not be staying on the job, but now there are reports that she is rethinking that decision and considering asking Benton to stay. The sticking point may be Benton's willingness to commit to serving in the job for the length of Perdue's first term.

The discussion in the mainstream media and on political blogs about who will run the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has included a long list of names, from current Secretary Bill Ross to former Secretary Bill Holman to Robeson County businesswoman Freda Porter-Locklear.

It has also been a reminder of the power dynamics in Raleigh. Reportedly, one reason so many names have been mentioned for secretary of DENR is that the business community has reservations about most of the candidates suggested by the environmental community to head the state's environmental agency.

If that is true, it raises an important question. Why does the business community have so much say about who will enforce the state's laws to protect the environment? There haven't been many reports that environmentalists have much say about who will run the Departments of Commerce or Revenue.

When will state leaders publicly face the budget reality?

The bad state budget news continues. The latest report from the economists at the General Assembly released Tuesday finds that state revenues through the end of October were \$320 million below projections. That's up from \$230 million through September, as reported in the last revenue analysis.

The latest report doesn't provide much hope for things to get better anytime soon, forecasting falling employment through 2009, tight credit and loss of wealth from the housing crisis. The analysis doesn't provide many specifics about the projections for the 2009-2010 budget that lawmakers will have to put together this session, but the outlook is gloomy, with lower-than-expected revenues, higher demand for Medicaid and other human services and more people enrolling in community colleges and universities.

The report doesn't put a number on the shortfall for next year, but legislative leaders are now saying privately that it could be \$3.3 billion. That raises a question that very few people are asking.

When will Perdue and other state officials stop pretending they can balance the budget by slashing programs without devastating vital state institutions?

The chief economist at Standard & Poor's said at the recent winter meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures that it will take a combination of budget cuts and tax increases for most states to balance their budgets next year.

And most states don't have a woefully underfunded and understaffed probation system and a mental health system still suffering from a lack of commitment of resources to hospitals and community services.

Time to start talking honestly and unapologetically about the "T" word (taxes) in Raleigh.

Chris Fitzsimon is director of NC PolicyWatch.

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CHS
FROM PAGE 1

"Students felt like they were constantly under surveillance," Champion said. "But I think they realized the cameras are only there if something bad happens and we have to investigate. Kids finally realized that I'm not 'Big Brother' standing over, watching them all day long."

"I try to cut up with kids and let them know I'm human. From what I'm told, I've earned the respect of the students."

Last year a student used racial slurs to upset others and provoke fights. Champion said this year has been pretty quiet.

"We're a very diverse school. Our school does not seem to have the fights that the other schools do, and that could be because of our size," he said.

'Really strict'

Mariel Steen attended Carrboro High last year and transferred back to Chapel Hill High for her senior year.

"It was really strict," she said of Carrboro High. "I was unhappy because I love Chapel Hill High - I think it's a really great school and one of the things I ended up missing about it was its character."

Aside from missing Chapel Hill High, Steen said she disliked the bleak setting of Carrboro High - walking through barren hallways and eating lunch outside on a slab of cement clashed with her idea of what high school should look and feel like. Despite having her best friend at Carrboro High, Steen said she never made a good group of friends there.

"My main problem was the people - it was really cliquey," Steen said.

To transfer back, Steen had to fill out a transfer request. She listed her reason for transferring as class selection.

"Chapel Hill offered a lot of AP classes that Carrboro didn't," she said.

This year, Carrboro High offers 15 of the possible 35 AP classes.

The other two high schools in the district average between 18 and 20 AP classes.

But given that Carrboro High is approximately half the size of the other two schools, said Principal Kelly Batten, 15 classes is a substantial number.

"We're offering almost as much as schools that are twice our size," Batten said.

Students who want to take an AP course not taught at Carrboro High this year have the option of cross-enrolling at one of the other high schools.

Growing fast

Carrboro High's size will increase significantly in the next two years. While the senior class consists of 140 students and the junior class 125, the sophomore and freshman classes both have between 250 and 275 students.

Batten said the school is prepared to expand - it's simply a matter of time and bureaucracy.

"It was smart construction, because there is a footprint for expansion even though that's something that would be years down the road," Batten said.

This year, Carrboro High will graduate its first class of seniors. School counselors are divided between classes. Last year, Mary Gratch was the counselor for all the juniors, and as the counselor for seniors this year she knows the students well.

"It's kind of exciting," she said. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime [experience] to have this small group of kids that I know really well."

Gratch said there have been issues in the college application process. Because Carrboro High is so new, it's not yet on the college radar. One university called Gratch to ask if the school was accredited. Gratch said students and parents worry that colleges know about the good reputations of Chapel Hill High and East Chapel Hill High but don't know anything about Carrboro High.

"We want our kids to have the benefit of colleges being impressed with Carrboro High," Gratch said.

With every senior's college application, a school profile of Carrboro High is enclosed. The profile details that Carrboro High School is the newest addition to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School district.

It reads: "Known for its academic rigor, diversity, 21st-Century equipped classrooms and unique architectural style, Carrboro High is a welcome continuation to the long and respected history of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School district."

Mackenzie Price, a senior and the student body president of Carrboro High, said the college application process has been easy for him; he just sent off his early application to the University of Richmond. He said he didn't have any problems with getting his grades transferred over from Chapel Hill High.

"It was easy to get all the transcript information and get everything sent off," he said.

Building tradition

Something that hasn't been as easy is establishing traditions at the new school. Gratch was a part of the design team that did planning for Carrboro High 10 months before it opened.

"I think we misunderstood how hard it is to establish traditions and how incredibly important that is," she said.

Gratch said the seniors were looking forward to events being planned for graduation and believe that traditions are slowly starting to form. In late September, a school-wide pep rally was held, during which all the students sat by grade level. The seniors were the last to enter the gym and everyone stood and cheered when they did.

"There's a lot of respect among the student body," Batten said. "The seniors were very unified at that moment and I think that really energized them for the excitement we have had this year."

Price agreed that it's hard to create traditions, but not impossible.

"There's a general excitement and almost every senior is into it," he said. "We've been able to forge traditions and shape what Carrboro High School is."

OBITUARIES

Susan Lutz Allred

Susan Lutz Allred, 70, of Chapel Hill, N.C., passed away in the presence of family at Crossdaile Retirement Village, Durham, NC, on Dec. 10, 2008. Susan was born in Shelby, N.C., on June 14, 1938, to the late John Franklin and the late Nancy Coble Lutz.

Susan's life was committed to the Christian community. From her youth she was deeply involved in the church. Her love of God, Church, and ministry shaped her life's path. She attended Greensboro College, majoring in Religion and Philosophy. After college she worked in many different positions always connected to the church. In 1964, she married Herb Allred of Mt. Airy, N.C., a school teacher, whom she met in Winston-Salem, NC. They settled in Chapel Hill and together they raised two sons. She formally returned to her religious calling in 1980 when she enrolled in the Masters of Divinity program at Duke Divinity School. She was ordained a minister in 1983. She was a chaplain at the Department of Pastoral Care at UNC Hospitals. She also led the congregations of Saxapahaw United Methodist Church (Saxapahaw, N.C.) and Aldersgate United Methodist Church (Chapel Hill, N.C.). Her greatest joys and legacy were in building the Christian community at those churches and in all the friendships that grew from that work. As one of her parishioners put it best, "She treats us all as if we're better than we are, and so we've become better than we would have been."

Susan was preceded in death by her husband, Hiram Herbert "Herb" Allred, Jr. She is survived by her two son's families, Benjamin Hartley, Jennifer Laughrun (spouse), Hartley Lucille, and Callie Leigh Allred, of Chapel Hill, N.C., and Jason Anthony Allred, Christine Holmberg (spouse), Caroline Jaye, and Adrienne Emily Allred of California, Md. She is also survived by her two sisters, Ann Lutz Harry of Shelby, N.C.; Gennie Lutz Carpenter and her spouse, David Carpenter, of Boiling Springs, N.C.; and her brother, John Lutz Jr. and his spouse, Kathy Lutz, of North Charleston, S.C.; her sister-in-law, Doris Allred and her partner Katie Winship of Belfast, Maine.

A Memorial Service will be held on Jan. 3, 2009, at 11 a.m. at the Duke Chapel in Durham, N.C. Following the service, her ashes will be interred in the Memorial Garden at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Susan was a leader in encouraging and mentoring women into ministry. In lieu of flowers, gifts will be accepted to support this passion, Women in Ministry and Women in Missionary Work. Donations

can be made to: Duke Divinity School, Box 90966, Durham, N.C., 27708-0966 or via credit card at 919-660-3456. Please indicate donation in her honor by writing "Note: Rev. Susan Allred" in the memo.

Arrangements by the Cremation Society of the Carolinas. Online condolences @ www.cremnc.com.

Walter R. Benson

Walter R. Benson, Professor Emeritus of Pathology at the UNC School of Medicine, died on Dec. 10, 2008 at Brithaven Nursing Home after an extended illness.

Dr. Benson was a native of Tamaqua, Penn., son of the late John and Mary Bengston. He received his undergraduate degree from Duke University in 1941 and his medical degree from Duke in 1944. From 1945 to 1947, he served as assistant regimental surgeon for the 350th Infantry Regiment in northern Italy. In 1948, during his residency at the VA Hospital in Ft. Howard, Md., he developed advanced pulmonary tuberculosis and spent a year at the Trudeau Sanatorium facility in Saranac Lake, N.Y. It was there that he met his first wife, the late Ruth Cogan Benson.

Dr. Benson served as a resident and Associate in Pathology at Duke University from 1951-1955 and was an Assistant Professor of Pathology at the University of Louisville and Chief of Laboratory at the VA hospital in Louisville, Ky. from 1955 to 1956. In 1956, he accepted a position at the UNC Medical School where he served as a faculty member in the Pathology Department until his retirement in 1984.

Dr. Benson was a member of numerous medical societies and associations, including the International Academy of Pathology, the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists, and the American Society for Experimental Pathology. He was a member of the North Carolina Medical Society and served as president of the North Carolina Society of Pathologists. Dr. Benson authored and contributed to numerous professional journals but his real love was in teaching and training surgical pathology residents. In 2002 he was honored by his former residents with the establishment of the annual Walter R. Benson Lecture by the UNC Department of Pathology.

Dr. Benson was preceded in death by his youngest son, Carl Benson, his stepson, Fred Caldwell, his brother, Dr. Charles Benson of Cherokee, Okla. and his sister, Mrs. Hazel Jenkins of Allentown, Penn. He is survived by his loving wife, Virginia Burrier Benson; and by his children and stepchildren and their families: John and JoNell Benson of Cary, N.C.; Eric Benson of Dallas, Texas;

Christina Benson of Alexandria Va.; Derek and Susan Caldwell of Raleigh, N.C.; Kate Heffner of Portland Ore.; EJ and Anne Caldwell Koenecki of Gurnee, Ill.; and grandson and granddaughter, James and Julia Benson of Cary N.C..

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to a favorite charity or to the Walter R. Benson Lecture, c/o the Medical Foundation, 880 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Chapel Hill, N.C., 27514

Funeral arrangements are private. The family thanks the Brithaven staff for their loving care and support.

Louisa Douglass

Louisa Douglass, age 88, of Carol Woods Retirement Community in Chapel Hill, died Dec. 13. Daughter of the late Rev. John Marshall & Ruth Forbes Millard, she was raised in the Old Alamance Presbyterian Church community outside of Greensboro, N.C. Louisa attended Greensboro College, earned her B.A. from Women's College, and her M.A. Ed. from at the University of North Carolina. She taught in the public school system in Pleasant Garden, Laurinburg, and Durham for 31 years. In Durham, she was chosen to teach in an experimental open classroom for the Ford Foundation.

Louisa served as a docent in the Ackland Art Museum in Chapel Hill and as a volunteer at the Botanical Garden. She will be remembered as open-minded, generous and caring, and for the beautiful gardens surrounding her residences.

A University Presbyterian Church member since 1950, Louisa also attended New Hope Presbyterian Church. Her first husband, Fred MacIsaac, died in 1951. In 1959, Louisa married Elisha P. Douglass (1915-2001), former history professor at UNC.

She is survived by her loving family: son Marshall MacIsaac of Buckingham, Va.; son Earl Douglass and his wife Debra of Wilmington, N.C.; daughter-in-law Jnanam MacIsaac of Charlottesville, Va.; sister-in-law Dorothy Allen of Southern Pines, N.C.; stepdaughter Adair Douglass; granddaughter Vani Li MacIsaac; grandsons Jonathan & Christopher Douglass; godson James Griffin, his mother & father, Ann & Patrick Griffin, and his sister Catherine; and nephews and nieces.

A memorial service in celebration of her life will be held Dec. 19, 2 p.m. at Carol Woods Assembly Hall. Memorial contributions may be made to University Presbyterian Church, 209 E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514 or to Carol Woods Facilities Enhancement Fund, 750 Weaver Dairy Road, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

TRANSFER
FROM PAGE 1

Jim Conner, the attorney hired to represent the group, addressed the commissioners at the meeting last week, and in a letter to the county cited problems with the recommended site.

"There are any number of specific problems with this site," the letter states. "It locates an activity that is quintessentially industrial in nature far from the nearest industrial zoning or other industrial activities. It locates the solid waste processing center for the county far from the population of the county. It promises negative environmental impacts to a site that is currently relatively pristine."

In the letter, Conner asks for a "dialogue" with the commis-

sioners, but states that "if the county is unwilling to have a meaningful dialogue with us prior to the board's decision on siting this facility, I have been authorized to file suit seeking first a restraining order and injunction to keep this facility from going forward at this site and, second, an eventual judgment invalidating the selection of this site."

In addition, Smith questioned why the county would consider purchasing the 147-acre property for the transfer station when the county has stated that the minimum size for a transfer station site is only 25 acres.

"Why are we buying so much land for this, unless there are other purposes for it that we're not being told?" Smith asked.

Blackmon's recommendation states that staff believes

that the entire 147-acre property "should be acquired so that future boards may have waste management options other than Eubanks Road."

Blackmon said the site would not be used for a landfill. The board would have to overturn a decision by the commissioners in the '90s in order to site a landfill anywhere in the county.

"It's really more strategic planning," she said, adding that the land could provide options to future boards as new technologies become available.

The Bingham Township group is holding a fundraiser for the legal challenge to the site on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Harry's Market on N.C. 54 West. Several businesses have donated to the fundraiser, including Fiesta Grill, Piedmont Feed and Seed and Blessed Earth.

Christmas Holiday Schedule
Orange County Solid Waste Management

Curbside Recycling
There will be **NO SERVICE** on Thursday, December 25
The **MAKE-UP** recycling day will be Saturday, December 27
Please have your bins out by 7:00 am

Orange County Landfill
and all associated programs such as the Hazardous Waste Collection, electronics recycling and mulch sales
will close early
2:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 24
Closed Thursday, December 25
Regular hours resume Friday, December 26
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Solid Waste Convenience Centers
will be closed as usual
Wednesday, December 24
Closed Thursday, December 25
Regular hours resume Friday, December 26
7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Orange County Solid Waste Management
968-2788
recycling@co.orange.nc.us
www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling/

Business Briefs

Preliminary property re-evaluations released

If you own property in Orange County, you may want to avoid the sticker shock and check out a preview of its new tax value at www.co.orange.nc.us/assessor/reval08.asp. The new amounts are part of the first revaluation in four years and reflect increasing property values. Don't like what you see? Official valuations will be mailed in January, and owners will have until March 31, 2009, to challenge the amount. For more information, contact the tax assessor's office at 245-2100.

Local prof receives international honor

An international award has been named for Jan-Benedict Steenkamp, Knox Massey Distinguished Professor of Marketing and chair of the marketing area at the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School. The Jan-Benedict E.M. Steenkamp



Award for Long Term Impact was created by the International Journal of Research in Marketing and the European Marketing Academy and will be awarded for the first time in May 2009. The IJRM is the only leading marketing journal not based in the U.S.

Nominate socially just businesses

The Orange County Human Relations Commission seeks nominations for the 2008 Pauli Murray Human Relations Awards. The award is bestowed annually to a business that has served the community with distinction in the pursuit of equality, justice and human rights. For applications or more information, visit www.co.orange.nc.us/hrr/pmurray.asp or contact the Orange County Office of Human Rights & Relations at 960-3875.

Coworking hosts Wii party

You work hard all week. Isn't it time you played hard, too? Head over to Carrboro Coworking (205 Lloyd St., Suite 101) at 7 p.m. on Friday to make music, drive go-karts and play table tennis. Attendees are invited to bring their favorite games to expand the available options. For more information, call 442-5300.

Biz Blog

Hankering for a local angle on breaking business news? *The Citizen* has started the Orange County Housing & Economy blog (www.carrborocitizen.com/housing) to sate your jones. In addition to late-breaking news, the blog also features personnel and business announcements. Got something you'd like us to post? Send it to Margot Lester at margot@carrborocitizen.com for consideration.

Green jobs may be one answer to rebuilding the economy

BY MARGOT C. LESTER
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: This story is the third in a series about jobs and the local economy. If the recession has affected you or your business, or you're a business considering layoffs, please drop a line to margot@carrborocitizen.com. We might tell your story in an upcoming installment.

While it may seem like all the news about employment is bad – and a lot of it is – there's one sector that's poised for growth: green-collar jobs.

From global behemoths like Wal-Mart to small enterprises like Pittsboro's Piedmont Biofuels, businesses are going green and they need employees at all levels and positions to help them do it. Then there's the massive plan to create or save 2.5 million jobs in green businesses announced by President-elect Barack Obama late last month.

That's good news for the Triangle, which is fertile ground for green-collar job growth thanks to the area's strong entrepreneurial environment, easy access to the latest technology and research, and massive amounts of hog waste (more on that last bit in a minute). A report from the Center for American Progress (CAP), a Washington D.C. think tank and advocacy group, estimates that the state could net 62,015 jobs by nurturing green-collar businesses and projects.

Defining 'green-collar'

What exactly is a green-collar job? "In a narrower sense, it's a position that directly relates to sustainability or the environment, like environmental engineering, alternative energy management, environmentally-sensitive design, etc," says John Challenger, CEO of Chicago-based global outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc. "In its broadest sense, it's any position working on a project with a green mission. So if you're an accountant working on a construction project that's using sustainable building practices, you're in a green-collar job."

The Employment Security Commission of North Carolina has a similarly loose definition: "We define these jobs as positions like those found in bio-tech and even in some agriculture-related fields, like Christmas tree farming -- good for the economy, good for the environment and a product needed year-in and year-out," explains Andrew James, the ESC's director of public information.

Identifying opportunities

Companies in the green business, like Pied-

mont Biofuels or Durham's Cree (which makes microchips for LED lights), are likely to see the most job growth. Cary software giant SAS will be increasing green hires now that it's got a five-acre solar farm at its headquarters.

And about that hog waste. A recent Duke University study shows North Carolina's much-maligned pork industry could have a green lining. Our plethora of hog farms makes us a hotbed for research and development on super-soil waste-treatment technology. The developing technology eliminates discharge of animal waste to surface or ground water and reduces significantly the air and water contamination.

Still, positions at strictly green companies won't be enough to overcome the current job loss.

"However, the focus on green across industries will create jobs for people with all skills, and that's where real growth comes from," Challenger says.

Another source of growth: infrastructure programs. According to the CAP, North Carolina's share of the proposed national green economic-recovery program would be \$2.9 billion. That kind of funding would not only produce safer and greener bridges and roads and public buildings, it would create lots of jobs.

Making it happen

"The new president-elect and Congress have to deal with the energy situation, and there are already proposals on Capitol Hill to infuse capital into the marketplace on alternative energies, so that'll be the trend for the next four years," predicts Bradly Broadwell, director of the Orange County Economic Development Commission. "We have to see how our local assets jibe with federal spending trends, which will turn into state trends. That means taking advantage of the assets we already have in hand."

Among those assets are a highly educated and progressive workforce and local research universities.

"The Triangle has plenty of people with imagination, and it has a tendency to transform its landscape," says Lyle Estill, founder and CEO of Piedmont Biofuels.

It wasn't that long ago, remember, that we were a mainly agricultural region that just happened to be home to some great universities. When they tore down that still to build then-Burroughs Wellcome out in RTP, it signaled more than a symbolic shift in the local economy.

How much the green-collar revolution will impact our local economy remains to be seen. But one thing's for sure, it will.



Preparing Tomorrow's Green-Collar Workers:

As part of Orange County's quest to grow and nurture its local economy, area economic-development officials are investigating ways to create green-collar jobs and the talent to fill them.

"There is a conversation going on right now with the two school systems about how to prepare students for this type of work," explains James Harris, Carrboro's economic-development director and chairman of Orange County Communities in Schools. The programs would especially target students who don't plan to attend college. "It's our hope that the students will be able to work as apprentices and end up with a certificate upon completing the training."

Last summer, Communities in Schools and Duke University developed a summer camp for rising ninth graders that introduced them to green jobs and solar-energy production. And now Durham Tech is considering a solar energy production equipment installation and maintenance program at its Orange County campus. Harris also hopes to offer Central Carolina Community College's program in biofuels production and engine design in Orange County.

These programs should help Orange County provide a skilled workforce to attract green-collar employers.

"Workforce development and education have to go the same way," says Bradly Broadwell, director of the Orange County Economic Development Commission. Educating today's kids for tomorrow's jobs is a smart strategy. "If you're dynamic enough, your economy is going to be relatively stable." — Margot C. Lester

Green sector salaries by job title

JOB TITLE	ENTRY SALARY	MEDIAN SALARY
Environmental engineers	\$50,702	\$71,800
Environmental scientists	\$34,000	\$55,000
Urban/regional planners	\$36,000	\$57,560
Conservation scientists	\$33,000	\$56,515
Foresters	\$32,000	\$51,938
Environmental lawyers	\$40,000-\$71,000	\$103,130

SOURCE: Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc. with data provided by Monster.com and Payscale.com

LEADING RESOURCES FOR GREEN JOB LEADS

- www.ecoemploy.com
- www.ecojobs.com
- www.environmentalcareer.com
- www.greenbiz.com
- www.greenjobs.com
- www.monster.com
- www.sustainablebusiness.com

SOURCE: Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc.



UNDERWEAR

FROM PAGE 1

Affordable underthings

But the good news for Ms. Ryan and others concerned with affordability is that there are a lot of reasonably priced bloomers here in the Seatttle of the South. Over at the Rite-Aid in Willow Creek Shopping Center (602 Jones Ferry Road), gals can pick up a three-pack of Hanes or Leggs brand panties or a single "shaper" for \$5.99. A sports bra will set you back a cool \$7.99. Gents are out of luck here though. No shorts whatsoever, but we did find a tie for \$5.99 and belts at two for \$10. And unless the kiddies need UnderJams™, they'll get no actual undies here either.

The mother lode

The juggernaut of undergarments is, hands down, the Dollar General at

Carrboro Plaza (104 N.C. 54). On this particular Monday, Dixie Belle brand briefs (made just up the road in Gibsonville) were available in many sizes at two for \$6. Kids' no-name underpants were priced at three for \$4.50. Bras were slightly more expensive, but still under \$10. And, because 'tis the season, there was even a nice selection of thermal undergarments on sale for \$5 and up.

But the real bonanza was in the men's department, where Fruit of the Loom, Hanes and other brand briefs, boxers and those hybrid boxer/briefs line the shelves at prices ranging from two for \$6 to five for \$5. Clerks on duty declined to comment on the selection or the myth.

The bare facts

So why do so many people have their panties in a wad over the availability of intimate apparel in our fair city?

"It's not really about underwear," posits James Harris, the town's economic development director. "It started as a way of talking about the ability to get the things basic to life. People want to be able to buy a washer-dryer in Carrboro. Or a car. They want a big store that will bring us higher tax revenues. But those are big-ticket items, so they focus on something everyone can relate to – like underwear."

In the end, it seems all that's missing from Carrboro's underwear inventory is a sexy lingerie shop.

"There really is underwear available in Carrboro," Harris says, "as long as you're not looking for anything exotic."

Ms. Ryan was not available for comment.

The bottom line:

Who says you can't buy underwear in Orange County? From low-end brands

to designer fashions, these retailers have got your back(side):

- Chapel Hill Sportswear (E. Franklin St.) — Name brands for UNC fans of all ages;
- Dillard's (University Mall) — Name brands for ladies, men & kids;
- Dollar General (Carrboro Plaza) — Dixie Belle, Fruit of the Loom;
- Fleet Feet (Carr Mill Mall) — Fitness under-layers by Champion;
- Johnny T-shirt (E. Franklin St.) — Name brands for UNC fans of all ages;
- Metropolis (University Mall) — Novelty boxers;
- Night Gallery (University Mall) — Designer lingerie;
- Plus Size Plum (Hillsborough) — Designer lingerie;
- Rite-Aid (Timberlyne, Eastgate, Willow Creek) — Leggs and Hanes for women only;

- Rose's (University Mall) — Name brands for ladies, men, kids & UNC fans of all ages;
- The Shrunken Head (E. Franklin St.) — Name brands for UNC fans of all ages
- Townsend Bertram & Co. (Carr Mill Mall) — Fitness under-layers by Patagonia, Icebreakers, Exofficio;
- UNC Student Stores (campus) — Name brands for UNC fans of all ages
- WalMart (Hillsborough) — Name brands for ladies, men & kids

Editor's Note: Did we miss a local purveyor of intimate apparel? If so, drop a line with the name, address and inventory to Margot Lester at margot@carrborocitizen.com. We're keeping a list on the Orange County Housing and Economy blog (www.carrborocitizen.com/housing).

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Orange County Solid Waste Management
(919) 968-2788
recycling@co.orange.nc.us

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HOLIDAY PARADE

Legislators from the N.C. House and Senate were divided on Saturday after a coal shipment rolling through Carrboro on its way to the UNC Co-Gen plant interrupted the annual holiday parade as it made its way down Main Street. Signals began to clang and the crossing arms came down just after Rep. Bill Faison's ride inched over the tracks, leaving Sen. Ellie Kinnaird and the rest of the parade on the other side.



Members of the Scene and Heard theater group were among those participating in the annual Chapel Hill-Carrboro Holiday Parade.

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

LUMINARIES AT FEARRINGTON

Fearrington Village

Watch them light the lights at Fearrington while enjoying holiday refreshments. Proceeds and donations benefit the Ronald McDonald House in Chapel Hill. Friday, from 6 to 8 p.m.

HOLIDAY STORYTELLING WITH DONALD DAVIS

The Fearrington Barn

Davis has been visiting Fearrington to spin his tales for over 17 years and is one of the foremost storytellers in the country. Bring canned food to donate. Saturday at 11 a.m.

JIM WATSON'S 23RD CHRISTMAS SHOW

The Cave

Jim Watson of Red Clay Ramblers fame comes to The Cave Saturday. Audience participation expected and lyric sheets will be provided. Show at 8, only \$5.

HOLIDAY GATHERING AND FREE SHOW

Cat's Cradle

Share the Christmas spirit with free tunes. The Rafter's, Big Fat Gap and Dexter Romweber and the New Romans. Show at 7:30, Saturday.

PHOTOS WITH SANTA AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS

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Happy Holidays!

ok, so they're not always happy, especially when Aunt Flo overstays her welcome...



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FLORA

FROM PAGE 1

Alternatively, the Romans used gifts of holly as good-luck charms during Saturnalia festivities and, during that time, Christians were forbidden to decorate with holly.

The ancient Druids and other early Europeans considered the holly very sacred and brought branches indoors as protection against witches and evil spirits. Friendly forest elves and fairies were believed to inhabit the evergreen limbs of holly and were thus provided warmth and

comfort inside dwellings during the cold winter solstice period.

There are countless holly legends. Whichever ones may speak to your personal feelings, take pause during this season when you bring that holly indoors and consider it special, a symbol of warmth, protection and a connection with the natural world.

We are fortunate to have so many hollies in our natural and planted landscapes. One sentinel-like specimen is that 200-plus-year-old male holly standing tall in the remnant forest grove of the UNC campus,

between Franklin Street and South Building. That holly provides the pollen for the berry-producing younger female hollies scattered nearby. There is another 200-plus-year-old sentinel male holly that the Town of Carrboro hopes to preserve at the Homestead Road entrance to the future fire station.

Carve out a little time during your busy schedules to take a "closer look" at holly and reflect on its rich heritage. And on your walks about, keep a keen eye out for some other old hollies standing quietly in our midst.



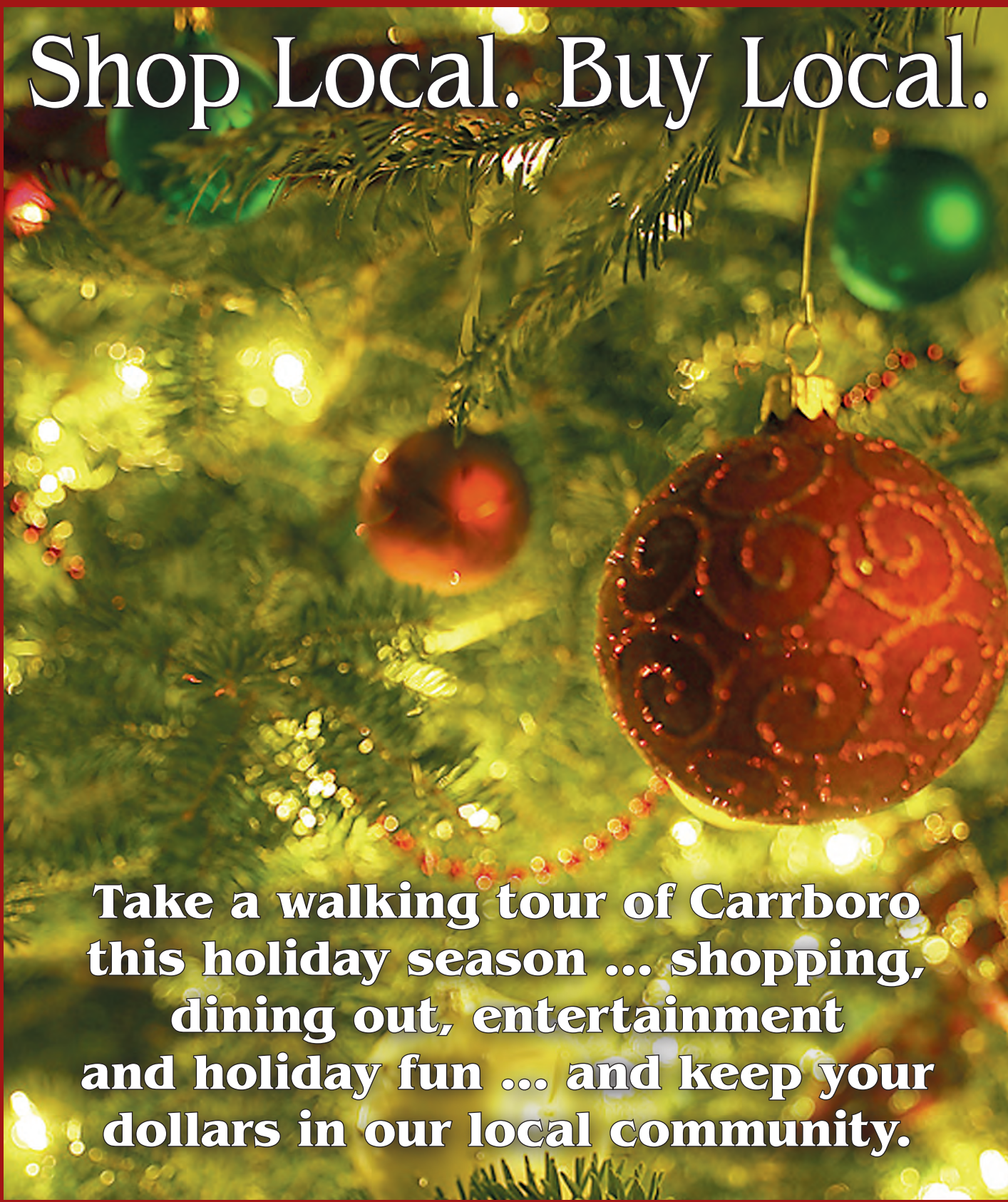
The 200-year-old male holly on the UNC campus provides pollen for all the nearby smaller female hollies.

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE



SPECIAL NOTE: Remember the winter woods walk planned for 2 p.m. this Saturday, Dec. 20, beginning at the trail head to Carrboro's Adams Tract, located below the kid's playground at Wilson Park on Williams Street. Bring some kids along to help us take that "closer look" at the natural world.

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