

FRIDAY
30% Chance of Precip
61/45 °F

SATURDAY
20% Chance of Precip
50/43 °F

SUNDAY
70% Chance of Precip
47/34 °F

C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



Happy Holidays!



Tony Blanford (left) and Brian Stokes dared to follow Ken Moore into the enchanted holly forest. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Enchanted holly forest

For years I have made pilgrimages to my secret forest of American holly, *Ilex opaca*, on the edge of Jordan Lake. This year I shared that special woodland with nature-exploring buddies Brian Stokes and Tony Blanford.

We try to explore different nearby areas weekly and sometimes we steal deep into the woods, trying to get lost. Warning: Don't try this alone and be advised to protect yourself with brightly colored hats and orange or yellow safety vests during the winter hunting season.

By now Brian and Tony have become accustomed to some of my quirkier notions, and I appreciated their patience when I carried through with my threat to have them photographed in the holly wearing reindeer antlers. Surprisingly, Tony outdid me when he pulled out his son Campian's rather substantial moose headgear.

So here above you see the three of us paying tribute to my "secret" forest, which I now call the "enchanted" holly forest.

All the more reason never to venture into a forest alone; you never know what you may encounter.

The evergreen holly has for centuries been a traditional plant to bring indoors for the winter season (see Flora, 12/9/10). In Archibald Henderson's *The Campus of the First State University*, 1949, Dr. W.C. Coker, founder of The Coker Arboretum, described this holly in the short section, "A Naturalistic Garden." "Often planted in Chapel Hill lawns but now quite rare in the woods because of its abuse for

SEE FLORA PAGE 10

Lovette found guilty in Carson case

BY ROSE LAUDICINA
Staff Writer

Although Laurence Alvin Lovette Jr. maintains his innocence in the murder of UNC student body president Eve Carson on March 5, 2008, it only took 12 jury members less than three hours to find him guilty.

After spending nearly a week and a half listening to the state present evidence and the defense attempt to devalue testimony from witnesses, the seven men and five women of the jury returned the verdict Tuesday morning that they were convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that Lovette was guilty.

"I knew we had strong evidence," District Attorney Jim Woodall said about the outcome of the case. "I never pretend to know what a jury will pick. But because the jury came back fairly quickly, I was pretty confident that they found him guilty on all charges."

SEE LOVETTE PAGE 4

Charter school draws concern

BY ROSE LAUDICINA
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education is concerned that a charter school proposed for the district could reduce diversity in schools, and they're not the only ones worried.

Robert Campbell, president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP and chair of the Rogers-Eubanks Coalition, is also concerned about the impact of the charter school, and has said the NAACP does not support it as proposed.

"We believe at this time that a charter school is not the answer for our educational gap," he said. "Let us try to come together to do the right thing for our schools."

An application for the Howard and Lillian Lee Scholars Charter School cites the district's still-prevalent achievement gap and massive school overcrowding as reasons why the school is needed. Angela Lee, daughter of former Chapel Hill Mayor Howard Lee, is named as the applicant.

At the school board meeting last week, board members and Superintendent Tom Forcella expressed concern over the amount of money the school could take from the district and that it targets recruiting minority students, which could potentially reduce diversity in schools.

"Our minority numbers are not huge, and if this comes to fruition it could significantly decrease our numbers as far as minority students," Forcella said.

"I know that this district and community values diversity," he added.

In a letter Forcella sent to the N.C. Department of Public Instruction Office of Charter Schools on Dec. 7, he defended the district's efforts to close the achievement gap and alleviate overcrowding.

Data cited in the application regarding the achievement gap reference only the 2009-10 school year report card, while Forcella included three years of data in his letter, outlining improvements in closing the gap.

However, the board acknowledged there is still work to do.

"Obviously there is some level of demand for this school because we have not made as much progress as we would like to," board member James Barrett said.

Campbell said he believes that the Rogers-Eubanks Coalition's afterschool tutoring program and summer enrichment camp, which work with the district schools, are helping to address the needs of children and improve the minority achievement gap, noting marked improvements in participating students' grades.

He added that initiatives that work

SEE NEW SCHOOL PAGE 8

Broun steps down, plans to remain outspoken



Joal Hall Broun hugs her daughter, Rachel, at her final meeting as a member of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen. Broun spent 12 years on the board. PHOTO BY ALICIA STEMPEL

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

Stepping down from her post on the Carrboro Board of Aldermen – after 12 years on the job – "feels good"; actually, it "feels great" to Joal Hall Broun.

When Broun – never one to hold back her true sentiments – sought a seat on the board in 1999, she did so with purpose, something she's carried throughout her tenure on the board, which came to a close earlier this month.

"I felt like I could make a contribution," she said. Prior to her campaign for alderman, Broun, who had moved to Carrboro from Salisbury in 1992 for a job as a public defender, had spent six years on the OWASA board, from which she gained experience dealing with a large budget. Her education in the law and experience in the community rounded out that knowl-

edge; plus, she likes to participate in the development of policy.

So she threw her hat in the ring for appointment to a seat on the board, where she'd spend more than a decade, winning reelection three times, working to determine "how to leave the town in a better position" than when she started.

And with that, she's succeeded.

"Joal is all about the process and is thoroughly committed to the process being fair and equitable for all citizens," board member Rande Haven-O'Donnell said. "She is dedicated to that principle and consistent to that principle and without bias."

"I think that that's really important," Haven-O'Donnell added. "She always keeps an eye on the bigger picture as it relates to inclusiveness and that unspoken perspective, and I have always admired her forthrightness."

Mayor Mark Chilton notes in particular Broun's work related to the

Carrboro Branch Library.

"We're going to miss her leadership on the board on those sorts of issues," he said.

"She certainly always has been a consistent voice for making sure that minority populations of our community are not left out of the discussion," Chilton added.

Broun has been vocal throughout the community's discussion of a free-standing Carrboro branch library. She's worked with the Friends of the Carrboro Branch Library for years, and plans to continue to serve on the group's board of directors.

"There's no reason there shouldn't be a library branch in Carrboro. There should've been one 10 years ago," she said. "Libraries are a place where you can learn a new skill, you can improve your academic success, you can have a community meeting."

SEE BROUN PAGE 7

Balloons and Tunes helps bring holiday joy to local youth

BY ZACH HAMILTON
Courtesy of the Carrboro Commons

The holiday season is filled with traditions. Decorating the Christmas tree, kissing under the mistletoe and lighting the candles of the menorah are all timeless customs that evoke the excitement and wonder of the holiday season.

Balloons and Tunes has its own holiday tradition: helping provide toys and holiday gifts to Orange County children and teenagers in need through the Share Your Holiday Program.

"Honestly, I can't even think what Christmas would be without this program," said Pat Garavaglia, co-owner of Balloons and Tunes. "It fills my mind for weeks. It fills my heart for weeks."

The Share Your Holiday Program is co-sponsored by Balloons and Tunes and the Orange County Department of Social Services. Through the program, willing members of the community sponsor children and teenag-

ers for the holidays.

Once someone decides to sponsor a child, he or she receives the child's name, sizes and holiday wish list. The Orange County Department of Social Service recommends that a sponsor spend \$150 to \$200 per child.

"You're Santa Claus. You get to pick [what you buy the children!]" Garavaglia said.

Specifically, Balloons and Tunes, also co-owned by Sharon Collins, assists the Orange County Department of Social Services in making sure every Orange County child in foster care or protective custody is completely sponsored.

"Generally there are between 150 and 200 kids that are completely sponsored by this program," Garavaglia said.

Balloons and Tunes has been assisting DSS with this program for more than 20 years, and Garavaglia said the outpouring of love and support from the community makes Balloons and

SEE BALLOONS PAGE 4



Pat Garavaglia, co-owner of Balloons and Tunes, poses in front of a variety of toys and balloons on the store shelves. The local business has assisted the Orange County Department of Social Services with the Share Your Holiday Program for more than 20 years.

PHOTO BY ZACH HAMILTON

INSIDE

School board mulls overcrowding

See page 3

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MUSIC CALENDAR



L IN JAPANESE
Monday December 26
Cat's Cradle

THURSDAY DEC 22
The Cave: Jim Watson's Annual X-Mas Show. 8pm. \$5
City Tap: Tracy Wiebeck. 8:30pm
General Store Cafe: Justin Johnson. 7pm
Linda's Bar and Grill: Robert Griffin. 8:30pm
Nightlight: Magnolia Collective, Prypyat. 9pm. Free
The Station at Southern Rail: Pussy Mountain. 10pm

FRIDAY DEC 23
The Cave: LATE: Old 86
City Tap: The Debonzo Brothers. 9pm
General Store Cafe: James Olin Oden, 7:30pm; Black Bird Blues Jam, 10pm
Nightlight: Ghost to Falco, Mor-

gan's End. 9:30pm. \$5
Studio 91: Holiday Jazz. 8pm
The Station at Southern Rail: Alex Bowers and Friends. 7:30pm

MONDAY DEC 26
Cat's Cradle: L in Japanese Dance Party. 8pm.

TUESDAY DEC 27
Flying Burrito: Tim Stambaugh and Friends. 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY DEC 28
The Station at Southern Rail: Bibis Ellison and the Good Doc

THURSDAY DEC 29
City Tap: Jo Gore and The Alternative. 8:30pm
General Store Cafe: India Cain, Keith Allen. 7pm
Linda's Bar and Grill: Robert

Griffin. 8:30pm
Nightlight: The Fooligans, Neur, Captive, Doombunny. 9:30pm. \$5
The Station at Southern Rail: Brad Maiani Trio, 7pm; STAG. 10pm

FRIDAY DEC 30
The Cave: LATE: Killer Filler, The Monterreys
City Tap: Thunder and Spice. 9pm
General Store Cafe: Mark Holland. 7:30pm
Nightlight: Easy Company, Nice To Meet You James, You Will Be Ascending. 9:30pm. \$5

The Station at Southern Rail: Alex Bowers and Friends. 7:30pm

SATURDAY DEC 31
Cat's Cradle: The Wusses, The Texas Peters. 9pm. \$15
The Cave: EARLY: The Late Comers LATE: Blood Red River, The Malamondos
City Tap: Swang Brothers. 9pm
General Store Cafe: Justin Johnson, The Grand Ole Uproar. 8pm. \$25/30
Local 506: Hammer No More The Fingers, Boykiller, Organos. 9:30pm. \$7
The Station at Southern Rail: Honeychile, Fantastico. 10pm
United Church of Chapel Hill: Road Home Band, 7pm

SPOTLIGHT: JIM WATSON'S 26TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW



PHOTO BY STAN LEWIS

Renowned old-time musician and original Red Clay Ramblers member Jim Watson will perform his annual Christmas Sing at The Cave tonight (Thursday).

For 26 years, Watson has performed his Christmas show to a packed house eager to participate in what has become a local tradition. Audience participation is encouraged; Watson leads the crowd in a set of caroling during an evening that promises a full dose of holiday cheer.

Watson just recently returned home for this show, having been on the road with his mandolin, touring with Robin and Linda Williams.

Gather up your friends and family, muster all the holiday cheer you can and join in the fun. The show starts at 8 p.m., and tickets are \$7.

MOVIE LISTINGS

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

CAROLINA THEATRE OF DURHAM
309 W. Morgan St., 560-3030
The Descendants; The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo; My Week with Marilyn

CHELSEA THEATER
Timberlyne, 1129 Weaver Dairy Road, 968-3005
The Descendants; Young Adult; My Week with Marilyn

THE LUMINA
Southern Village, 932-9000
Alvin and the Chipmunks; Chipwrecked; Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol; Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows; The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo; We Bought a Zoo

THE VARSITY
123 E. Franklin St., 967-8665
The Ides of March; Moneyball

Stay tuned.

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Sat/Sun Mats 12:45, 3:00 & 5:10

MY WEEK WITH MARILYN
Nightly 7:30 & 9:30
Sat/Sun Mats 1:15, 3:15 & 5:15

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MO 12/26** 8PM - MIDNIGHT
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SA 12/31**(\$15)
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY WITH
THE WUSSES AND THE TEXAS PETERS

FR 1/6/12 **UNDERWATER RAVE**
**(\$5/\$7/\$8 AND \$15 VIP)

FR 1/13/12**(\$12/\$15)
ABBEY ROAD LIVE!
W/STRINGS AND HORN SECTION!

SA 1/14/12 **ALL AGES MATINEE WITH ABBEY ROAD LIVE!****(\$10 ADULTS/\$7 KIDS)

SA 1/14/12 **MIPSO TRIO / OVERMOUNTAIN MEN JIM AVETT****(\$8/\$10)

SU 1/22/12 **ANTHONY GREEN W/THE DEAR HUNTER****(\$15)

TU 1/24/12 **WHERE'S THE BAND TOUR: FEATURING ACE ENDERS (THE EARLY NOVEMBER), ANTHONY RANERI (BAYSIDE), CHRIS CONLEY (SAVES THE DAY), EVAN WEISS (INTO IT. OVER IT.), MATT PRYOR (THE GET UP KIDS)**(\$14/\$16)**

TH 1/26/12 **DONNA THE BUFFALO****(\$17/\$20)
W/WOODY PINES

FR 1/27/12 **OLD 97S W/THOSE DARLINS****(\$18/\$20)

SA 1/28/12 **ACOUSTIC SYNDICATE W/TOWN MOUNTAIN****(\$12/\$14)

TU 1/31/12 **KATHLEEN EDWARDS****(\$20/\$23)
W/HANNAH GEORGAS

WE 2/1/12 **TYCHO W/BEACON****(\$12/\$15)

FR 2/3/12 **WHO'S BAD? MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE****(\$15)

SA 2/4/12 **THEOPHILUS LONDON****(\$12/\$15)

TH 2/9/12 **MARC BROUSSARD "LA ROUTE AU MARDI GRAS"****(\$15/\$17)

SA 2/11/12 **FOUNTAINS OF WAYNE W/THE STARS EXPLODE****(\$20/\$23)

SU 2/12/12 **SHARON VAN ETTEN W/SHEARWATER****(\$13/\$15)

TH 2/16/12 **EMILIE AUTUMN****(\$15/\$17)

TU 2/21/12 **BLIND PILOT****(\$15/\$17)

TH 2/23/12 **COREY SMITH****(\$15/\$20)

FR 2/24/12 **SAUL WILLIAMS****(\$15/\$17)

TH 3/1/12 **HEARTLESS BASTARDS****(\$14/\$16)

SA 3/3/12 **FUN.****(\$17/\$19)

SU 3/4/12 **CULTS****(\$15/\$17)

TU 3/6/12**(\$20/\$23) **BOYCE AVENUE W/SECONDHAND SERENADE**

WE 3/15/12 **GOMEZ W/HEY ROSETTA****(\$20/\$23)

FR 3/17/12 **BOWERBIRDS****(\$12/\$14)

TU 3/21/12 **NEON INDIAN W/PURITY RING****(\$12/\$14)

FR 3/23/12 **YOUTH LAGOON****(\$13/\$15)

SU 4/1/12 **THE NAKED AND FAMOUS W/VACATIONER****(\$15)

WE 4/4/12 **OF MONTREAL W/LONEY DEAR AND KISHI BASHI****(\$17)

WE 4/11/12 AND TH 4/12/12
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SA 3/3/12 **CRAIG FINN W/MARCELLUS HALL**

MEMORIAL HALL (UNC-CH)
MO 1/30/12 **JEFF MANGUM**
W/ANDREW SCOTT & LAURA

SOLD OUT
HAW RIVER BALLROOM (SAXAPAWHAW)
SA 2/4/12 **MOUNTAIN GOATS W/NURSES**

THE CAVE (CHAPEL HILL)
SU 2/5/12 **RICKOLUS**

THE CLAYTON CENTER (CLAYTON)
SA 2/11/12 **TODD SNIDER W/ROSIE GOLAN**

NIGHTLIGHT (CHAPEL HILL)
TU 2/28/12 **ZEE AVI**

LINCOLN THEATRE (RALEIGH)
WE 2/15/12 **THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS** W/JONATHAN COULTON
FR 3/9/12

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SPOTLIGHT: STAG

The STAG acoustic duo will perform Thursday, Dec. 29 at the Station.

Comprised of Michael Rank and Marc E. Smith, STAG was born out of its parent band, Snatches of Pink. With acoustic guitars, upright bass, lap steel and dual drummers, STAG creates a sound influenced by '70s Stones, Outlaw Country and Royal Trux.

STAG's debut album features members of Snatches of Pink, Two Dollar Pistols, Dex Romwber Duo, Trailer Bride, Patty Hurst Shifter, Chatham County Line, Calico Haunts and John Howie Jr. and the Rosewood Bluff.

For those who can't make the STAG show, be sure to check out the full band, Snatches of Pink, at the Station on Jan. 19.

The free show starts at 10 p.m.



PHOTO BY RAYMOND GOODMAN

CarrMillMall.com

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Briefs

Police arrest homicide suspect

The Chapel Hill Police have arrested Mario Dante Ramsey, 26, of 711 N. Duke St., Apt. 10, in Durham for one count of first-degree murder in the Dec. 11 shooting death of Drew Christopher Frasure. Ramsey was taken into custody at his residence in Durham without incident. He was taken before the Orange County magistrate and was not given a bond.

County OKs library funding plan

The Orange County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement last week to increase the county's funding of the Chapel Hill Public Library. The county will increase its funding for the library from \$250,000 to about \$343,000 for the next fiscal year and will continue to increase funding for the library by 3 percent each year until the amount reaches 30 percent of the total library operations budget. Commissioners hope that this agreement will increase interoperability between the two systems. The Chapel Hill Town Council will vote on the agreement on Jan. 9.

Holiday closings

Most municipal offices will operate on holiday schedules in observance of the Christmas holiday. Schedule changes include:

- The Town of Carrboro offices will be closed today (Thursday) through Monday.
- Carrboro garbage scheduled for collection on Monday will be collected on Tuesday.
- Chapel Hill Transit will operate on a Saturday schedule Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, with EZ Rider service ending at 7 p.m. and no U or NU routes running. There will be no transit service on Sunday.
- Orange County Solid Waste Convenience Centers will close at noon on Saturday and will be closed all day Sunday.
- OWASA's offices will be closed today through Monday.
- Chapel Hill residential garbage scheduled for collection on Monday will be collected on Wednesday. No yard waste will be collected today or Friday.
- The Chapel Hill Public Library will be closed Saturday through Monday.
- Chatham County Public Libraries will close at 5 p.m. on Friday and will be closed Saturday through Tuesday.
- Chatham County offices will be closed Monday and Tuesday.
- Chatham County Waste Collection & Recycling Centers will close at 2 p.m. on Saturday and will remain closed through Monday.
- The Town of Hillsborough offices will be closed today through Monday.
- Hillsborough garbage collection scheduled for Friday will be collected today and collection scheduled for Monday will be collected Tuesday.

Library groundbreaking celebration

The Town of Chapel Hill celebrated the Chapel Hill Public Library Expansion Project at a groundbreaking ceremony last Saturday. Chapel Hill residents approved a \$16.23 million bond in November 2003 to pay for an expansion of the library. The current 27,000-square-foot library was built in 1994. The construction project is expected to be completed in January 2013 and will more than double the library's size to 62,500 square feet. It will provide 5,200 square feet of public meeting space, including two large meeting rooms, two large conference rooms, a quiet room and several study rooms. The Chapel Hill Public Library is operating in a temporary location next to Cameron's in University Mall.

CELEBRATING THE BILL OF RIGHTS



Orange County Board of Commissioners Chair Bernadette Pelissier addresses the crowd at the annual reading of the Bill of Rights at Peace and Justice Plaza last Thursday. Community members, elected officials and other leaders gathered at the plaza, the site of the Occupy Chapel Hill camp, to read the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution and hear comments by various speakers, including N.C. Rep. Verla Insko and Occupy Chapel Hill member Steve Peterson.

PHOTO BY AMANDA LATTANZIO

Schools consider solutions to crowding

BY ROSE LAUDICINA
Staff Writer

While the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education is looking forward to elementary school 11 helping to alleviate overcrowding in schools, it won't open until fall 2013, and board members are hearing that something has to be done now.

Kevin Fuerst, coordinator of student enrollment for the district, presented to the school board at their Dec. 15 meeting, outlining which schools are seeing severe overcrowding and what options are available.

Fuerst said projections show that next year there will be seven elementary schools over their Schools Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (SAPFO) capacity and just three that will be under — Frank Porter Graham, McDougle and Rashkis elementary schools.

SAPFO requires that in order for new residential developments to be approved, adequate school space must be available.

Of those seven schools over capacity, three — Carrboro, Glenwood and Seawell elementary schools — will be hit the hardest, Fuerst said.

Because they are experienc-

ing the most overcrowding and a shortage of classrooms for instruction, Fuerst presented options for addressing the situation at those three schools only, warning that none of the options is perfect.

"These are not good options for any of these schools," he said. "We are really scraping the bottom of the barrel here."

Carrboro Elementary has a SAPFO capacity of 533 students, but is projected to see enrollment grow to 608 in 2012-13.

One option presented is to do spot redistricting for the next school year, while the second is to not redistrict until elementary 11 opens.

While the second option leaves students and teachers in a crowded situation, Carrboro Principal Emily Bivins has said they could make it work for another year.

"I support the recommendation if the principal thinks they could hold on," board member Jamezetta Bedford said.

The projected enrollment for next year at Glenwood Elementary is 522, while its SAPFO capacity is 423 students.

The two options presented for Glenwood were likewise spot redistricting or waiting for elementary 11 to open.

"The way it is operating right now is not sustainable, and the school should not be operating at that capacity," Todd LoFrese, assistant superintendent for support services, told the board.

Discussion from the board centered on redistricting kids from Glenwood to Rashkis Elementary, but concerns were raised about which kids to redistrict.

While options for Seawell also included waiting for elementary 11, there were two additional options for board members to consider: relocating the school's LEAP program or moving a pre-K classroom to another location. Seawell's SAPFO capacity is 466 students, but they're estimated to have 655 next year.

The board directed staff to come back with plans to move possibly a fifth-grade classroom from Seawell to Smith Middle School, look into which classrooms they could put dividers into and come up with a budget for creating a pre-K mobile classroom.

Because this item was on the work session agenda, no direct action was taken and staff will come back to the board with additional suggestions.

Mental health center receives grant

The UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health has received an \$850,000, three-year grant from The Duke Endowment to create a health home, integrating primary care into its mental health care programs for people in Orange, Person and Chatham counties.

The center is part of the department of psychiatry within the UNC School of Medicine and offers a continuum of care for people with severe and persistent mental illness.

Its programs include Outreach and Support Intervention Services (OASIS); the Schizophrenia Treatment and Evaluation Program (STEP); and its recently merged partner, XDS Inc.

"Many [people with severe mental illnesses] don't have access to primary health care to identify and treat their physical diseases," said John Gilmore, the center's director, "and mental illness can diminish a person's capacity to seek and manage their medical care."

"The newer medications used for serious mental illness sometimes exacerbate the problem by causing obesity and diabetes."

Individuals with schizophrenia and other severe mental illnesses have a high rate of chronic medical diseases and die 25 years sooner than the average person. More than 60 percent of the excess deaths are due to chronic medical conditions such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and infections.

The integration of primary and psychiatric care has been recognized as a way to provide better quality of life for persons with severe mental illness and lower the cost of their overall health care.

Researchers will look for improvement in areas such as diabetes, weight management and improvement in cardiovascular disease indicators.

— Staff Reports

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

HOW TO REACH US The Carrboro Citizen 942-2100
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309 Weaver St., Suite 300 Carrboro, NC 27510

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Capel returns successfully, despite loss

BY EDDY LANDRETH
Staff Writer



Eddy Landreth

The upperclassmen players in 1957 and 2005 are probably the only Carolina basketball players, other than those who played from 1998-2002, who can full understand the extreme swings actually possible for UNC basketball.

Jason Capel is one of those. He played on a Final Four team in 2000 and a team ranked No. 1 in the country for a decent run in 2001.

Then the bottom fell out as it never has at UNC. Second-year coach Matt Doherty and the Tar Heels melted into an 8-20 morass. The team underwent a near-revolt after the season, and the seniors left and have rarely returned.

Capel made it back last Saturday and brought along his Appalachian State team. Following in the footsteps of his father and brother, Capel has become a collegiate head coach.

"I haven't been back here a lot," Capel said. "I came in '05. ... I came for the 100-year deal; I came to my wife's graduation. It was good to come back. It was good to see a lot of faces I know, familiar faces, people who meant a lot to me. It was good to be home."

The crowd showed its approval and gave him a nice ovation.

The Tar Heels won 97-82, as expected, but Capel's Mountaineers handled themselves well. Carolina would race to a big lead, only to have ASU fight back — all night. The Mountaineers actually outscored the Tar Heels in the second half, 50-49.

"You have to congratulate Jason and his club for continuing to play and doing a nice job defensively and making some shots," UNC coach Roy Williams said. "At times I thought we did a nice job defensively, but then in that stretch in the second half ... we

had our biggest lead at 29, all of a sudden it was 15 or something like that."

Capel has had to rebuild this team from last season. He has six new players, and Appalachian State has gotten off to a rough start at 4-6.

But if the team responds to Capel and the challenge as it did on Saturday, the Mountaineers should be able to compete in the Southern Conference.

The Tar Heels provided the best collection of talent ASU will see this season, so the Mountaineers should now know they can compete if they listen to their coach and play hard for 40 minutes, just as they did against UNC.

"Nothing can prepare you for what you're going to see out there, but we tried to simulate as much as possible," Capel said. "We're proud that we competed. We didn't just play hard. We competed. We didn't take a step back when they punched us in the mouth."

"We kept coming forward. We got down 29 and we stayed together. That is part of the process [of building]. We fought them tooth and nail and gave it our best shot. It's something we can build upon and carry over to our next game."

"Everything they ran, I knew it was coming," Capel said. "We tried to simulate all week how fast the break was going to be, Tyler Zeller. But nothing can prepare you for a 7-footer running that fast. It's just impossible to do."

Just as Saturday should have prepared his team, Capel said his career at UNC readied him for what life eventually throws at all of us.

"It prepared me for everything, not just in my profession but life," Capel said. "You work hard in life because you want to achieve great things. At the same time, things can go south on you."

"What are you going to do? How are you going to respond? It was a dream of mine to come here. Some great people recruited me here. People treated me pretty well. Those are people I will love forever."

BALLOONS

FROM PAGE 1

Tunes' participation in the Share Your Holiday Program worthwhile.

"I run into so many wonderful people that sponsor kids, that give money," Garavaglia said. "People help in all kinds of ways. There's some people that don't have enough money to help buy things, so they'll shop for us. We have people that just do deliveries for us. We have people that just assemble bicycles for us."

Because the children are in protective custody and foster care, the sponsors do not actually deliver the gifts in person. The toys and gifts are deposited at designated toy drop sites, and

then social workers deliver the gifts to the children.

But Garavaglia said she does not think this is necessarily a bad thing.

"The whole thing just gets to play out in your own head," Garavaglia said. "It's about the magic and the mystery of the season and caring for someone that you'll never meet [which] is a very swell thing."

Once Balloons and Tunes has helped set up sponsors for every Orange County child in foster care and protective custody, it then turns its attention to assisting the Toy Chest, another holiday program sponsored by DSS.

According to an Orange County Department of Social Services press release, there are 7,000 Orange County children

LOVETTE

FROM PAGE 1

Lovette was found guilty of first-degree murder, which has an automatic sentence of life in prison without parole.

He was also found guilty of kidnapping and robbery, which will carry additional sentences.

"This case is such a tragedy," Assistant District Attorney James Rainsford said to the jury in his closing argument. "What the defendant did was greedy, miserable, cruel and useless, and that is what murder is."

With the trial at an end and media coverage surrounding the event winding down, Woodall said he hopes the Chapel Hill and UNC community can start to gain closure from the tragic death of Carson.

While reminders of Carson remain scattered across the community — a memorial garden dedicated to her on UNC's campus and both an annual 5K memorial run and scholarship in her name — the sadness that emanated from the murder can begin to dissipate as the focus shifts to a celebration of her life.

"There is always a place to remember Eve Carson and remember what she meant to the university and the community," Woodall said.

The trial

In closing arguments, the state went back through key evidence presented during the trial, including the ATM photo that prosecutors said shows Lovette driving Carson's car, video footage taken the night of the murder from outside a sorority house that they maintain depicts Lovette and



Laurence Lovette

Demario Atwater and testimony from important witnesses, such as Shanita Love and Jayson McNeil.

"The evidence that has been presented in this case allows us to literally look back in time to March 5, 2008, and see these events unfold," Rainsford said.

This look back into what happened in the early morning hours of March 5 rendered pictures so vivid that on multiple occasions jurors were left in tears.

Witness accounts told of Carson's final moments before she was shot four times with a handgun and once in the head with a sawed-off shotgun.

In showing the ATM photo during closing arguments, Rainsford argued that Carson could be seen raising her hands in prayer, corroborating McNeil's testimony that Lovette said she asked him and Atwater to pray with her.

The defense tried to invalidate the statements of the state's witnesses, saying they had ulterior motives and showed bias in their

testimony. While the prosecutors admitted that some of their witnesses were not the most upstanding citizens, they argued that their testimony was nonetheless important and trustworthy.

"The State of North Carolina didn't choose those witnesses; the defendant chose those witnesses," Woodall said, indicating Lovette's mistake in telling his friends details regarding the murder and his involvement.

In their closing arguments, the defense claimed that the story told of what happened was incomplete, and that there were major witnesses missing in the case, namely Atwater.

Defense attorney Karen Bethea-Shields told jurors that Atwater "knows the secrets of what happened," and implied that the state had declined to call Atwater as a witness because his story would conflict with the state's evidence against Lovette.

sponsoring 10 to 15 children, and friends and community members wanted to help, so Balloons and Tunes would help them find children to sponsor as well.

"And it's just grown in that way," Garavaglia said. "Hardly anybody that does it doesn't do it the next year because it's really fun for them."

"It makes me very happy. I can't imagine Christmas without it."

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

"The state's burden was to give you everything you needed," Bethea-Shield told the jury. She maintained the prosecution had been unable to do so, giving the jury more than reasonable doubt.

But in the end, the jury had no lingering questions, and the state's case was sufficient for jury members to return a guilty verdict.

Both Lovette's mother and Carson's parents were present during the trial and were in the courtroom when the verdict was read.

The Carsons have elected to not make a statement about the case and asked Woodall to tell the court, the jury and the police involved in the case that they were thankful for all the work they had done.

"I hope it gives some degree of closure, but I don't think there will ever be complete closure," Woodall said of the verdict. "I think it will be part of our collective history as a community."

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ACROSS

1 Forum
5 Wolf gang?
9 Drive the getaway car
13 Positive thinker
18 Lipinski leap
19 Deejay Freed
20 Interoffice communique
21 Hickman or Strawberry
22 Canadian coin
23 Ordinary
24 "Trinity" author
25 Kind of paint
26 Start of a remark by Don Marquis
30 Narcs' org.
31 "Agnus —"
32 Cinema sled
36 Lineman's tool
40 Saville shout
42 Renown
45 Debut recording
46 Atmospheric
47 Discontinue
49 Sharpens a skill

DOWN

1 Bala bite
2 The yoke's on them
3 Passed-on item
4 Choir member
5 Whales

51 Choose, with "of"
52 Part 2 of remark
57 Cartoon
58 Part 3 of remark
59 Delany and Wynter
60 Time of your life
63 Head line?
65 Susann or Shake-
69 Entreaty
70 Mrs. Eddie Cantor
73 Prom date
76 Gulliver's first name
78 Portly things done by Friday
79 Wattle's partner
81 Speculation
83 Conductor
84 Gold brick?
86 Pageant prop
89 Part 4 of remark
90 Sixth sense
93 Part 5 of remark
99 Mellow
101 Studio sign
102 "— Breath You Take" ('83 smash)
103 Computer image

104 Man the bar
106 Belarusian city
108 Cote cutie canine
109 Bantered
111 November 11th honoree
113 Stirrup site
115 Create a chemise
116 End of remark
125 Monastery bigwigs
128 Tivoli's Villa d'—
129 Neighbor of Can.
130 Concept
131 He had things done on Friday
132 — breve
133 Unusual
134 It's nothing
135 Off the plate
136 Basketball's Willis
137 Black
138 Seth's son

6 Maui greeting
7 Poi's concern
8 Handle
9 Tickle
10 Wodehouse's Wooster
11 Send out
12 Peter of reggae
13 Diele's discomf
14 Cleared the slate
15 Cardigan part
16 Pipe cleaner?
17 Building wing
21 Signifies
27 Poi's predecessor
28 Crusader kingdom
29 Persian, presently
33 Early epic
34 Ref
35 Speck
36 Talk-show pioneer
37 Mechanic's offering
38 Pressing need
39 — de Cologne
40 Above, to Arnold
41 Installed tile

43 Unsullied
44 — Gatos, CA
47 Basilia
48 Italian rumber
50 Diffident
53 Kind
54 Use a toboggan
55 Handle harshly
56 "Alley —"
61 Indian export
62 Toque or topee
64 Piggy
66 Medical grp.
67 Uproar
68 Price twice
70 Infamous
71 Singer
72 Enhance
74 Generator parts
75 Stumble
77 Isolated
80 Tropical snake
82 Connecticut campus
85 Spinks stat
87 Go back
88 "— Good Men" ('92 film)
90 Decorate glass
91 Oxford, e.g.

92 Await judgment
94 As a group
95 Canvas cover?
96 Nuremberg numeral
97 Cincinnati, for instance
98 "— the season ..."
99 Wilderness trans.
100 "Holy smokes!"
105 Unseated
107 Pot
109 Dairy cow
110 Be obligated
112 Boca —, FL
114 Win a group
115 Burning bit
117 Have on
118 Presque —, ME
119 Mata —
120 Dash
121 — up (evaluate)
122 Actress Barbara Wolfe
124 New Mexico resort
125 Parker of football
126 It may be padded

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.

Spoiled?

Y N K W U Q F I E V F I U
X V T Q S Q Q F R C I I G Q I
G C F H Q F C O H X S N
V S U G G U C F V U W Q
K W U Q F I G N R C F H W Q E E .
- M V W W Q F S O K K Q J J ,
U F T Q E J C W V F I J X Q
M C W G I ' E J X U W I
W U R X Q E J A Q W E C F ,
A W C A C E U F H V X U H X Q W
J V L W V J Q K C W J X Q
E O A Q W W U R X .

Find the answer in the puzzle answer section.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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EDDIE BRILL (COMEDY PERFORMANCE) • SAT FEB 4
JOHN MCCUTCHEON • FRI FEB 24
THE BOXCARS • FRI MAR 16
MOUNTAIN HEART • SAT MAR 17
LUNASA • FRI MAR 23
LEO KOTTKE • TUE MAR 27
DARRELL SCOTT • SAT MAR 31

ARTSCENTER STAGE:

LIFE IN A MARITAL INSTITUTION • FRI JAN 13
TRANSACTORS IMPROV: THE LOVE SHOW • SAT FEB 11

SUPERFUN FAMILY SHOW:

GUSTAFER YELLOWGOLD'S SHOW • SAT JAN 21 AT 11AM
PUSS IN BOOTS • SAT FEB 25 AT 11AM

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HOUSE Calls

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



This week we respond to questions about losing a few pounds and hearing aids with pacemakers.

Dear HOUSE Calls, I am a 60-year-old woman in good health; I eat well, exercise regularly and drink in moderation. How can I lose the five to 10 pounds I have picked up over the last few years? It is really frustrating.

You are already doing many good things for your health. As you age, your metabolism declines, so if you have the same diet and exercise habits now as you did 20 years ago, you will likely gain a little weight. You have two choices — eat less or move more. Portion control is key for eating less and is the great lesson of diet programs like Weight Watchers. You can also try writing down what you eat to see what you can learn from it and where you can cut calories. Also think about your glycemic load. Foods high in simple carbohydrates (processed

flour, sugar, potatoes) will tend to make you hungrier than foods higher in protein, fat and fiber. Consider cutting beverages with calories (fruit juices, sweet tea, soda and alcohol). The other part of this equation is exercise. Can you add a workout or two each week or increase the duration of your workout? We encourage at least 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise six times per week. Now if you are pressed for time, intensity is the other important part of this equation. Are you getting your heart rate up to 70-80 percent of your age-predicted maximum (112-128 beats per minute)? Can you add higher-intensity intervals to get as much as you can out of your workout? Consider a visit or two with a nutritionist and a personal trainer to tailor your diet and exercise program.

Dear HOUSE Calls, I have a hearing aid and was told that I have it too close to a pacemaker and it might be

dangerous. Is this really a problem?

Hearing aids often have a warning that you are not supposed to use them with a pacemaker. This is probably pretty safe. Some studies show that with a remote-style pacemaker, if the transmitter is within 1 inch of the pacemaker, it may interfere with the hearing aid but not the pacemaker. Many manufacturers recommend that you keep the transmitter 4 or more inches from a pacemaker to avoid a theoretical risk of interfering with the pacemaker. Similarly, iPhones should be 6 inches from a pacemaker. Even though this is probably quite safe, it seems like a small inconvenience to keep the transmitter out of your shirt pocket.

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



ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK

Community Briefs

OC scouts earn silver

Katherine Rose Hand of Chapel Hill, Alyanna Ridimann of Pittsboro and Anna Smith of Carrboro have been awarded the Girl Scout Silver Award by Girl Scouts-N.C. Coastal Pines, the second highest achievement in Girl Scouting. The award helps girls build skills, explore careers, gain leadership skills and make a commitment to self-improvement.

The three girls organized a Fourth of July Fun Run in Heritage Hills. Participants learned about animal safety and care and were encouraged to bring items to donate to the Paws4Ever animal shelter in Mebane.

Hand is a freshman at Carrboro High School, Ridimann at Northwood High and Smith at Carrboro High. They're members of Girl Scout Troop 1280.

Coaches needed

The Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department is accepting volunteer coach's applications for the 2012 Youth Baseball Program (aged 6-14) and Youth Girls Volleyball Program (aged 10-13). Coaches must exhibit the ability to organize practices and communicate effectively with players, parents and department staff. They must also exhibit the ability to teach proper playing skills and fundamentals and sportsmanship, and provide an enjoyable atmosphere at practices and games. To receive an application or additional information, contact the Recreation & Parks Department at 918-7364.

Board members needed

The Orange County Board of Commissioners is recruiting two volunteers for the Orange County Emergency Services Work Group. The group will address issues related to improving public safety for Orange County residents, including a review of the VIPER system, discussion with the board of commissioners regarding EMS delivery-system im-

provements and a review of fire department issues relating to fire protection, fire insurance and fire-tax districts.

If interested, apply online at www.co.orange.nc.us/boards/apply.asp. For additional information, select "Orange County Emergency Services Work Group" under "Boards and Commissions Listing" or call Donna Baker at 245-2130 or Jeanette Jones at 245-2125. Deadline for applications is Jan. 4.

Aveda donates to TLC

The Aveda Institute Chapel Hill recently donated \$20,474.02 to Triangle Land Conservancy, supporting the nonprofit land trust's clean water initiatives in the Triangle.

The donation is an annual effort to increase awareness about local clean water issues. The partnership between the Aveda Institute Chapel Hill and Triangle Land Conservancy (TLC) has raised more than \$129,104 over the past five years.

TLC has been working to protect important open space through voluntary land conservation. Locally, TLC has worked with Aveda stores to increase exposure of clean water issues facing the Triangle.

Blood Drive at OWASA

The American Red Cross will sponsor a blood drive at OWASA on Dec. 29 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Donors must be at least 17 years old (or 16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good general health and have photo identification. Donors will have the chance to win a pair of domestic Delta Airlines tickets.

The drive will be held in the Community Room on the lower floor of the OWASA Administration Building on Jones Ferry Road. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit redcross-blood.org or call Wilma Palmer at 493-3551.

Community Calendar

SATURDAY DEC 24

5K Run/Walk — 7th annual CHHS XC Alumni 5K Run/Walk, with proceeds benefiting Chapel Hill Cross Country Team. CHHS, 11am \$10 adults/\$5 Child villmain@ncr.com

SATURDAY DEC 31

IFC Benefit — The Road Home Band performs in a benefit for the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service. United Church of Chapel Hill, 1321 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., 7pm 942-3540

MONDAY JAN 2

Open House — Tours and open enrollment begin for the Fall of 2012 and for Summer Camp 2012 at Legacy Academy, 515 E. Winmore Ave., 7am-6pm Monday-Friday [Free legacyacademy.com](http://legacyacademy.com)

THURSDAY JAN 5

Readings and Carols — Readings by Lee Smith are coupled with carols sung by The St. Matthew's Women's Singing Circle. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Hillsborough, 7:30pm \$10 stmatthewshillsborough.com

WEDNESDAY JAN 11

No Child — *No Child*, written and performed by Nilaja Sun, opens at the Kenan Theatre, and continues through Jan. 15. playmakersrep.org

FRIDAY JAN 13

James Braly — Presents his one-man show, *Life in a Marital Institution*. The ArtsCenter, 8pm artscenterlive.org

SATURDAY JAN 14

The Lorax — Performed by the Studio A Dancers, the presentation is adapted from the story by Dr. Seuss. East Chapel Hill High Auditorium, 2pm and 6pm \$8 studioadancearts.com

FRIDAY JAN 20

Contra Dance — Sponsored by The Carolina Song and Dance Association with music by Ken Kolodner and Company. Carrboro Century Center, Workshop at 7:30pm; dancing at 8pm \$8 csda-dance.org

SATURDAY JAN 21

Swing Dance — Sponsored by Triangle Swing Dance with local band Countdown Quartet. Carrboro Century Center, lesson/7pm; dance/8-11pm \$12 triangleswingdance.org

Gustafer Yellowgold — A family show featuring Gustafer, a small, yellow, cone-headed fellow who came to Earth from the Sun, and his friends. The ArtsCenter, 11am artscenterlive.org

SUNDAY JAN 22

Women's Voices Chorus — To present "America the Beautiful Mosaic," United Methodist Church, 150 E. Franklin St., 3pm \$15 adults, \$5 students womensvoiceschorus.org

MONDAY JAN 23

Parent Minutes — Legacy Academy offers a presentation on Potty Training. 515 E. Winmore Ave., 11:30am-1pm legacyacademy.com

SATURDAY JAN 28

The Making of a King — *The Making of a King: Henry IV and Henry V*, by William Shakespeare, opens Jan. 18 and continues through March 4. Paul Green Theatre, 6:30pm playmakersrep.org

ONGOING

Cancer Support — Support groups at Cornucopia Cancer Support Center for cancer patients and their families. Cancersupport4u.org 401-9333

Cancer Support — Support groups and wellness programs sponsored by N.C. Cancer Hospital. unclineberger.org/patient/support/supportgroup.asp

Send your Community Calendar submissions to calendar@carrborocitizen.com




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Orange County Solid Waste and Recycling Christmas and New Year's Schedule

There will be NO CHANGE in Curbside Recycling or the Orange County Landfill operating schedule for the Christmas or New Year's Holidays. Please have your bins to the curb by **7 a.m.** on your normal recycling day!

Solid Waste Convenience Centers will CLOSE EARLY at 12 noon on Saturday December 24 and will be CLOSED Sunday December 25 and Sunday January 1.

TRIM HOLIDAY WASTE! RECYCLE at Drop-off Sites and at the Curb!

- **Corrugated cardboard:** three layered cardboard with a wavy inner layer. Empty boxes and flatten. 3'x3' and 10 piece limit at the curb. No limit at drop-off sites! Bring peanuts and air pillows to packaging stores for reuse.
- **Mixed paper:** All clean dry paper can be recycled at the curb, multi-family and drop-off sites including non-metallic wrapping paper, gift boxes, greeting cards (or reuse them!), junk mail, catalogs. Visit freemymailbox.com to cancel unwanted mailings.
- **Aluminum foil and foil pie tins:** accepted with aluminum cans and steel food cans at the curb and drop-offs. Rinse off food first.
- **Batteries and unwanted electronics:** recycle at Orange County Solid Waste Convenience Centers. Rechargeable batteries save money and reduce waste.
- **Compost food waste:** Compost bins are available for sale at the Solid Waste Administrative Office, 1207 Eubanks Rd. \$50 cash or check. Give unserved food to the Inter-faith Council 919-929-6380
- **Recycle curbside and at drop-off sites:** glass bottles & jars, plastic bottles & jugs (neck smaller than base), metal cans, mixed paper, newspaper, phonebooks, cardboard, catalogs & magazines.
- **#2, #4, #5 Non-Bottle Plastics:** recycle yogurt tubs, buckets, cups, plant pots, broken toys and other non-bottle plastics #2 #4 #5 at Solid Waste Convenience Centers only. Please sort carefully!

24-hour Recycling Sites Solid Waste Convenience Centers

• Carrboro Plaza, Carrboro	• Bradshaw Quarry Rd.
• Cedar Falls Park, Chapel Hill	• Eubanks Rd.*
• Hampton Pointe, Hillsborough	• Ferguson Rd.
• Meadowmont, Chapel Hill	• High Rock Rd.
• University Mall, Chapel Hill	• Walnut Grove Church Rd.*

*Open Mondays

Please sort recyclables carefully! Do not leave items on the ground!
Happy holidays and thanks for recycling!

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

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The war is over, again

ROBERT DICKSON

It was nine degrees on the Saab's thermometer as we drove north on I-95 in the black predawn of Jan. 18, 2003. I had on every bit of warm clothing that this Southern boy owned.

Vicky, Anne, Patrick and I were on our way to Washington, D.C., to urge our president not to invade Iraq – just us and a couple of hundred thousand others with similar feelings.

The run up to this moment had, of course, begun in earnest on Sept. 11, 2001, when our country was attacked by a group comprised largely of Saudis.

We nearly froze that day out there on the Mall, but were warmed by our conviction that this war was wrong and had to be stopped.

As winter turned to spring, we continued to express, to no avail, our opposition to the Iraq War. Wednesday afternoons from 5 to 6 you'd find us on Market Square in Fayetteville.

Fayetteville was a tough place to be anti-war. While our protests were intended to prevent the unnecessary loss of military lives, we still received much derision from passing motorists; we were sworn at and saluted with middle fingers.

My sister, Anne, a member of the Fayetteville City Council at that time, probably took more abuse than the rest of us. I heard her sworn at and called a traitor. It was hard to take, but we stood there each week because of our conviction that this war was wrong.

Our convictions were right.

After more than 100,000 dead Iraqis and 4,802 coalition deaths, and many thousands more maimed, the last U.S. troops slipped out of Iraq under the cover of darkness on Sunday.

No "shock and awe," no grand pronouncements of "mission accomplished." No, we just left a place we should never have been.

The Associated Press quoted a departing soldier, Warrant Officer John Jewell, who said, "My heart goes out to the Iraqis. The innocent always pay the bill."

So now we leave Iraq to its own devices, and even now the country is slipping into chaos, paying the bill for the mess we made.

This feels a whole lot like the end of the Vietnam War when we ignominiously departed Saigon. Only then there was a strong central government, the North Vietnamese, ready to restore order to the chaos we left.

So with all the rhetoric about honoring our returning veterans, both alive and dead, when are we going to really show our military the respect they deserve and only send them into harm's way when it's really necessary?

I keep thinking of the line from an old Allman Brothers song that says, "And all the war freaks die off, leavin' us alone."

I'm sorry to say the "war freaks" will never leave us in peace, and future generations will feel the pain of saying the war is over, again. And again. ...

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.

One letter per author per month. Lengthy letters written in longhand will mysteriously become lost. Emailed letters are preferred. That said, send your letters to:

Letters to the editor
Box 248 Carrboro, NC 27510
susan@carrborocitizen.com
FAX: 919-942-2195

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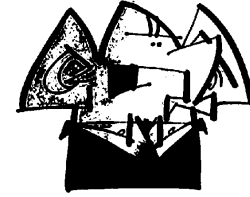
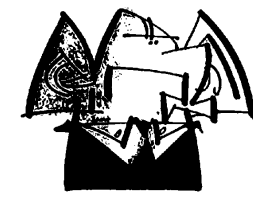
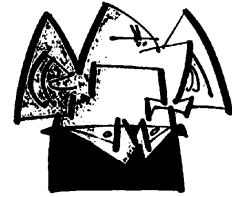
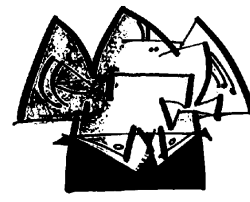
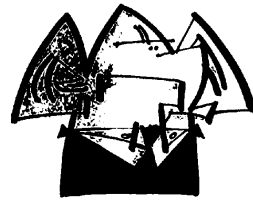
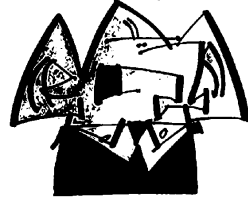
Marty Cassidy, *Ad Director*
marty@carrborocitizen.com

OPERATIONS

Anne Billings, *Office Coordinator*
anne@carrborocitizen.com

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'Twas the week before Christmas

CHRIS FITZSIMON

'Twas the week before Christmas and all through the night, folks sought steady ground amid the state's lurch to the right.

It began down on Jones Street on a cold winter day. Tillis took the oath and promptly named his gavel Ray.

The Senate chose Phil after years of Basnight's reign. Like Tillis, Berger's first take seemed balanced and sane.

But soon after, "fair and balanced" did disappear. Here came the extremists the campaign made us fear.

Their first move was symbolic; it made no real sense. Opting out of reform on just a right-wing pretense.

From there it got worse: The budget debate began. To cut and slash and burn was the leadership's plan.

They cut teachers and TAs, though they deny it.

"Do more with much less," never works when you try it.

They cut More at Four, slashed Smart Start without blinking, Victims' services too, on Donner, on Blitzen.

They made UNC lay off profs; class after class fell, Soon all that'll be standing is a lonely Old Well.

It was all a tired pledge to the right they had stated, Cut taxes no matter the damage created.

Here's a few cents a day extra for each one of us, Less care for the disabled, seniors under the bus.

No concern for clean air or our land is their way, When only the frackers and polluters have a say.

To those who protect our water they could hardly be meaner, Witness the all-out assault they waged against DENR.

Now Medicaid's short and services on the line, Dollar once seemed to care, now the cuts seem just fine.

Hop, Skip and a jump to Paul Stam's House we go. Women's rights revoked by the misnamed "right to know."

Vouchers and charters and tax credits oh my, Public schools no more seems to be Stam's battle cry.

There's House member and pocket-liner old Stephen LaRoque,

A deserving federal program he turned into a joke.

His wife on the board and his business buddies too, A loan to himself and a big salary paid by you.

While Tillis and Berger traded political lobs, Continental Tire headed south with our jobs.

Unemployed workers held hostage, their pain all too real, Lawmakers more interested in a political deal.

Race matters in the courts the studies have revealed, Yet these leaders want the Racial Justice Act repealed.

One thing's clear from the Voter ID laws they wrote: Their biggest fear next year is that all people will vote.

Drug test all state workers, Tillis said this fall. Let's start with his staff and the lawmakers all.

Here's to a year that's less

extreme and more fair,

Less rhetoric and more progress,

we can get there.

All that's bad enough, but these guys found delight In their amendment that would take away a basic human right.

Bev Perdue used the veto as her last resort.

The more decisive she became, the greater her support.

Reichard and his buddies did some creative account-

ing, Next thing you know Faison's campaign was a-mounting.

Perdue's the underdog, that's the prevailing story, Though it's wise to remember she'll face Pat McCrory.

His recorded voice-overs may be the Tea Party's delight,

But will the public support his screeching to the right?

Obama in the state, many more trips he will make, That must keep more than one Republican awake.

Good news in October, less Wake school board shame, When voters cut short Ron Margiotta's reign.

There's hope for the future, with so many still willing To fight this ideology that this year's been so chilling.

Martin Nesbitt's mountain twang calls out in the dark, against the fear-mongers. The difference is stark.

There's Glazier and Stein, Martin, Weiss and Ross, And steady Hackney, Harrison and Hall, all fighting this new boss.

There's many more in the battle against building new fences, Maybe even old Richard Stevens will return to his senses.

Tillis on YouTube summed up things for his side. Set disabled against poor, he said. Conquer and divide.

That's not our way and Tillis knows it, not in our state, It's a place of compassion, not division and hate.

Here's to a year that's less extreme and more fair, Less rhetoric and more progress, we can get there.

Put aside all the pledges and allegiances to Pope, And recapture that sense of purpose and hope.

Here's to jobs and good schools and a hand for those in need, More open minds and open hearts, less strife and less greed.

Here's to our best, a goal always to keep in sight, Here's to a better 2012 and to all a good night.

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

Support community radio

JACKIE HELVEY

I have a natural inclination toward nosiness, which is basically why I started carrboro.com back in 1997. The world needed to know about Carrboro! I've always wanted to know what's going on around town and made it my business to find out, especially about arts-related stuff. So when the wonderful Audrey Layden approached me in 2007 with the idea of doing a radio show on the arts at WCOM, Carrboro's all-volunteer radio station, it seemed perfect.

Before WCOM began broadcasting in 2004, I was involved with fundraising efforts to get the station off the ground. I also redesigned and maintained the WCOM website for several years, taking over from original designer Chris Frank, one of the founders of WCOM. Even so, I had never been a show host or been on the radio as anything other than an occasional interviewee.

Gratefully, my terrible stage fright didn't get to me here. Behind the microphone I had no fear. I walked through the radio station door a week after the show was proposed and broadcast my show for the first time. It was at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 2, 2007, from beautiful downtown Carrboro, at the radio station's original location on the corner of West Weaver & North Greensboro streets. My first guest was Billy Sugarfix. I had found my thing.

The *Wacqueline Stern Show* is now on TV on The Peoples Channel, highlighting local talent throughout the Carrboro/

Chapel Hill/Durham area – all from my radio show, originally called the *West End Report on the Arts*.

WCOM is Carrboro's crown jewel, allowing anyone with an idea for a show and the dedication to show up once a week and do it the opportunity to do just that! Imagine it! What's your passion? Showtunes? Hard rock? Rap? Classical? Got an idea for a talk show? Propose it. You too can have your own show.

Not only that, you or your business can underwrite a show for a mere \$10 a month, getting a shout-out during each show for your sponsorship. Check out WCOM at wcomfm.org for an amazing schedule of over 70 locally produced shows, something for everyone.

If you haven't discovered Carrboro's all-volunteer radio station, WCOM, at 103.5 FM, check it out. We have live streaming and many shows are available as podcasts. In January, *Citizen* columnist Valarie Schwartz became my new co-host. She runs the board for me and contributes with insightful comments and questions. Together we have a blast as we interview guests, have them perform or whatever else we decide we want to do!

This is our fundraising time at WCOM 103.5 FM. The radio station has expenses (such as rent, utilities, etc.) year-round, and during the holidays we encourage you to give yourself the gift of TRUE public radio. WCOM is your true voice in the community. Support it now at wcomfm.org.

WCOM is Carrboro's crown jewel, allowing anyone with an idea for a show and the dedication to show up the opportunity to do just that!

LETTERS

Fracking too dangerous for N.C.

In Arthur Miller's *An Enemy of the People*, the doctor is the only person interested in the truth, just like most North Carolinians when it comes to fracking, a definite enemy of the people. Fifty-three percent aren't paying attention to the debate over fracking, but they should.

Fracking – a way to harvest natural gas – may soon be coming to central North Carolina. But we can find safer ways to get alternative energy.

Fracking creates pollution, releasing chemicals that can destroy an ecosystem, not to mention the thousands of truck trips required that create air and noise pollution.

Does it boost the economy? The jobs created don't last long. Meanwhile, the company makes most of the profit. There are stories of people making millions from fracking. But most make little from the wells they allow on their property. And if you live one lot away from a well, you get all the pollution and none of the profit.

Meanwhile, the profit for local businesses may decline due to truck traffic. Some say that businesses make much more money, but to me it seems like the trucks would discourage customers from going to nearby businesses.

Given this, we need laws prohibiting fracking until it is cleaner and safer. I do not see how this can be done in North Carolina given the current dangers. We do not want our ecosystems ruined like some in Pennsylvania have been – unless we really want tap water so polluted we can light it on fire.

BAXTER BARRETT
Chapel Hill

Support children by providing snacks

"I'm hungry!"

That's probably one of the first things your child says after he or she comes home from school. And, given the length of the average child's school day, her body needs a healthy, mid-afternoon, nutritional boost to focus on homework and participate in other after-school activities.

According to the National School Lunch Program, "After-school snacks help ensure that children receive the nutrition they need to learn, play and grow."

More than 160 children rely upon the Orange County Family Resource Centers (Dobbins Hills, South Estes and Trinity Court/Pritchard Park) for their after-school snacks. However, due to recent budget cuts, funding to underwrite this basic nutritional need has been eliminated.

You can help the centers continue to provide healthy snacks for these children throughout the year by donating food or money to purchase fresh or canned (low-sugar) fruits, fresh vegetables, low-fat milk, fruit juice (100 percent), granola bars, cereal and other after-school favorites. Contributions are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.

For further information, visit cftp.org/Programs/FRC.html#What.

ALESIA SANYIKA
FRC program manager

Dangers of fracking unknown

"The majority is never right until it does right." Arthur Miller's prescient words, from his play *An Enemy of the People*, couldn't be truer than in the issue of fracking. These words are spoken by a doctor who discovers his town's "healing" springs are contaminated with harmful bacteria that could sicken many people. The town rejects his attempts to publicize the issue because of the effects on the town economy.

North Carolina lawmakers are hurrying to legalize fracking. The majority is not doing the right thing in this case, like in Miller's play. Although the economic benefits of fracking are attractive, the long-term effects on the environment and our health are not known. The EPA recently released a report on how fracking can lead to contaminated groundwater – who knows what else it might affect? Lawmakers should slow down the bill until we know more about the effects of fracking.

Things do not become ethical or right just because the majority is in favor of it. We need to look into the effects of fracking before moving the fracking laws any further. The short-term economic benefits do not outweigh the long-term damage.

MARICHI GUPTA
Chapel Hill

Check it out — a story with a (somewhat) happy ending

Really nice to see the town officially breaking ground on the Chapel Hill Public Library expansion. To tell you the truth, going into this year I wouldn't have given such a thing great odds. It seemed like 2011 was almost destined to be the year of the library flub, at least in southern Orange County where both towns went through their own tussle with the county over funding. Both the town council and board of aldermen had to suss out a way forward for library services amid an ever-tightening budget and a seriously strapped and at times recalcitrant

board of commissioners. Yet here we are at the end of the year with something resembling peace in the valley between the governing bodies, expansion underway in Chapel Hill and at least some working ideas for a way forward in Carrboro. Let's take a look at how we got from A to B. For Chapel Hill, the fight with the county has been going on for several years now, with the county maintaining a static level of monetary support while costs for operating the ever-busier Chapel Hill Public Library have gone up. Attempts to work out a deal have not gone smoothly. When an issue that matters to a large swath of people lingers unresolved through several election cycles, a bitter history can build

up. Undoing that knot can prove to be the toughest challenge. Going into the year, things had gotten so bad that Chapel Hill was on the verge of starting to charge non-residents for library usage, a move that didn't make sense given geography, tradition, municipal borders and the makeup of the school system. It wasn't even a lateral move; funding would have surely dropped. But in the heat of the fight with the county it seemed to some members of the council that it was the only move available. Thankfully, the fee schedule wasn't adopted, and after a long, hard slog, the talks recently bore fruit. Early next year, the council will vote on a plan adopted by the county to gradually increase

library funding by 3 percent until it reaches levels that make more sense, given the CHPL's contribution to library services in the county. Chapel Hill also threw itself a curveball early in the year when it took a serious look at relocating to the mall in the space now occupied by a Dillard's store in full holiday shopping frenzy. You could argue that it was a positive exercise in outside-the-box thinking, but it added a lot of anxiety to the already-nervous regular users of the Pritchard Park location as well as the cadre of library supporters who fought for passage of the 2003 bond referendum to pay for the expansion and then watched the project lose momentum and experience delays. No group was more relieved

when the gold shovels hit the ground last weekend. To the west, the big library flub of 2011 started with the surprise choice by the county last year of a site near Carrboro Elementary School for its southwest library branch. That laid the groundwork this year for an uncomfortable and divisive tussle in which longtime advocates for a freestanding Carrboro library saw the site as a must while its neighbors saw it as disastrous. It took the site's closest neighbors, Cray and Kathy Gunn, who run the kind of small business we love to cheer on around here, pouring their savings into a successful legal challenge that helped expose the problems with the site. They shouldn't have had to do that.

Now we're back to square one, but at least tempers have cooled a bit, and hopefully a more open and deliberate site search can move forward. The county's recent retooling of the site criteria for a southwestern branch was a good first step. These are tough fiscal times, and with the towns filling in they are also difficult times to find the right location and design for a major public facility that will be in use for several decades or more. As people in Chapel Hill found out, even having a solid majority of voters on record in support is no guarantee that something will happen. You can stamp these decisions by our elected leaders overdue, but at least they finally got around to turning them in.

BROUN FROM PAGE 1

But, she added, "Libraries on the whole are underfunded in Orange County." **A word (OK, a few) on development** When Broun was first seated on the board of aldermen, "We had a bad [Capital Investment Plan]," she said. "I thought we had to be more specific about what capital projects we were going to work on." So she focused on the CIP, and along with other board members got the town going on projects like the Homestead Road fire station. Broun is also proud of her work with the board on securing the town's purchases for open space, like the Adams Tract and the Martin Luther King Jr. property, as well as the joint efforts of the town and school system on the Smith Middle School fields, where her son now practices soccer. But as Carrboro moves forward, Broun said, it's important that the board consider what types of development it envisions

for Carrboro. "If you don't want a Shelton Station and you don't want a CVS, what do you want?" she said. "It's easy to say what you don't want." Economic development, she said, should be the subject of ongoing discussions, involving the county and all of its towns. In the '80s and '90s, Broun said, town leaders did a great job of drawing in the right kind of businesses to complement one another and support what was already there in Carrboro's downtown. "People like Ellie Kinnaird and Mayor [Mike] Nelson had kind of a vision to make it happen," she said. "These kinds of ideas we need to continue to see," Broun added. She'd also like to see more affordable housing in Carrboro. "I think there are going to be more pressures on reasonably priced housing," Broun said, adding, "I think that Carrboro should work hard so that we don't price ourselves out of diversity." The challenges for the board going forward will be to determine where to put that economic development and affordable



On behalf of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, Randee Haven-O'Donnell presents retiring board member Joal Hall Broun with gifts of appreciation for her many years of service to Carrboro.

PHOTO BY ALICIA STEMPER

housing, as well as "paying for town government without raising my taxes," she said, laughing. "I'm not sure how we can avoid [a tax increase]," she said, noting the increased costs in gas

and employee health insurance. Picking the next town manager — finding "the right person for Carrboro" — will be key to tackling those challenges, Broun said.

Moving forward As Broun moves on, it's obvious that her voice will continue to be heard — though from the other side of the podium. In addition to serving on the

board of the Friends of the Carrboro Branch Library, she plans to serve on the PTA Thrift Shop board. She also hopes to get more involved in her church, St. Paul AME. "It was a good time in my life to step down," she said, noting that she's only got five more years before her son leaves for college. She plans to use the time she's freed up to focus on her two children, Harrison, 13, and Rachel, 10, and her husband, Jonathan Broun. "It's good to be able to spend time with them," she said, adding that she'll now be spending her Tuesday nights cheering on her kids in their athletic endeavors. But board members can be confident that Broun will continue to share her opinions on issues facing Carrboro — and continue to encourage them to make their opinions known too. Serving on the board is "just like student council"; board members have to make decisions and stick with them, she said. After all, "Not making a decision is a decision in itself."

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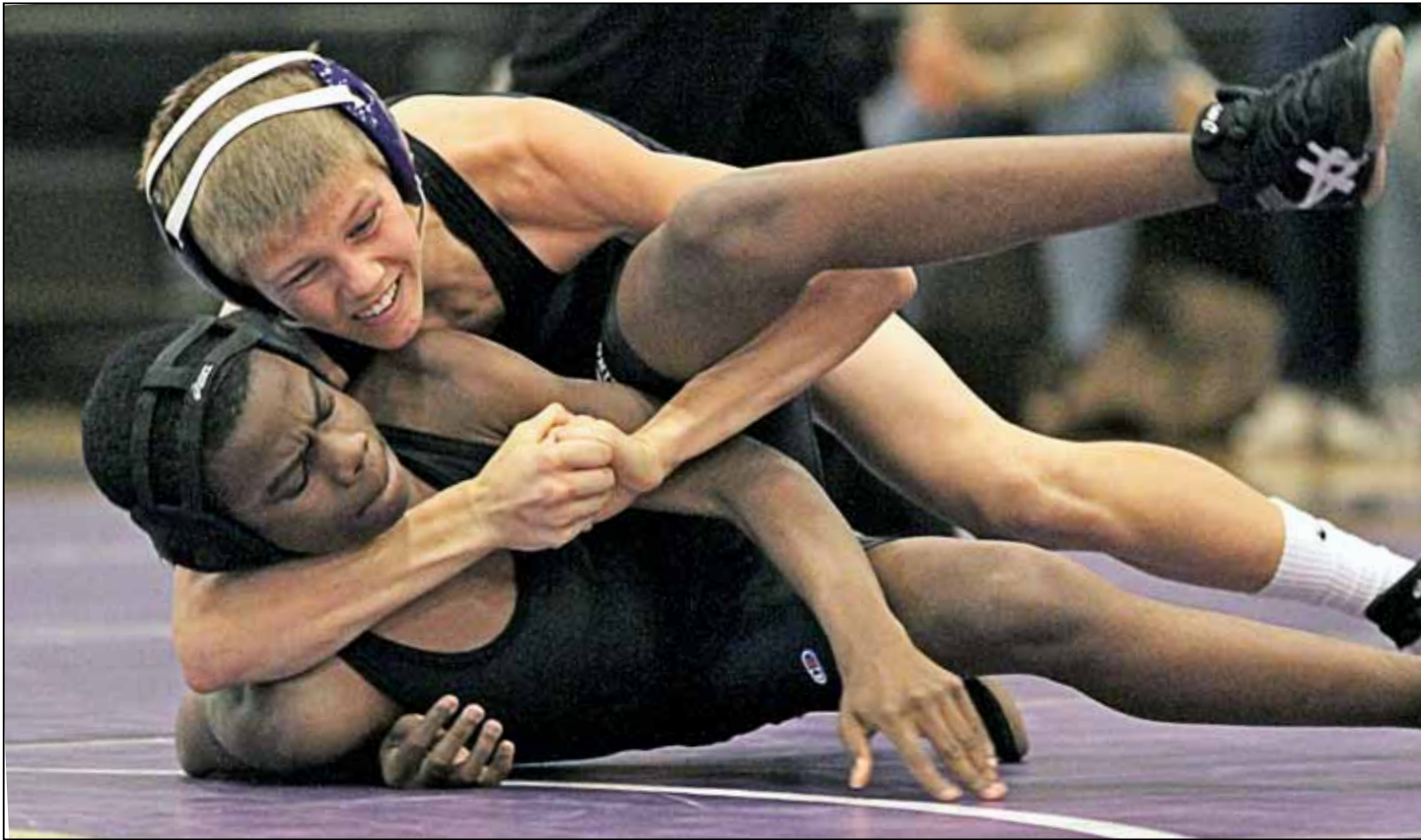
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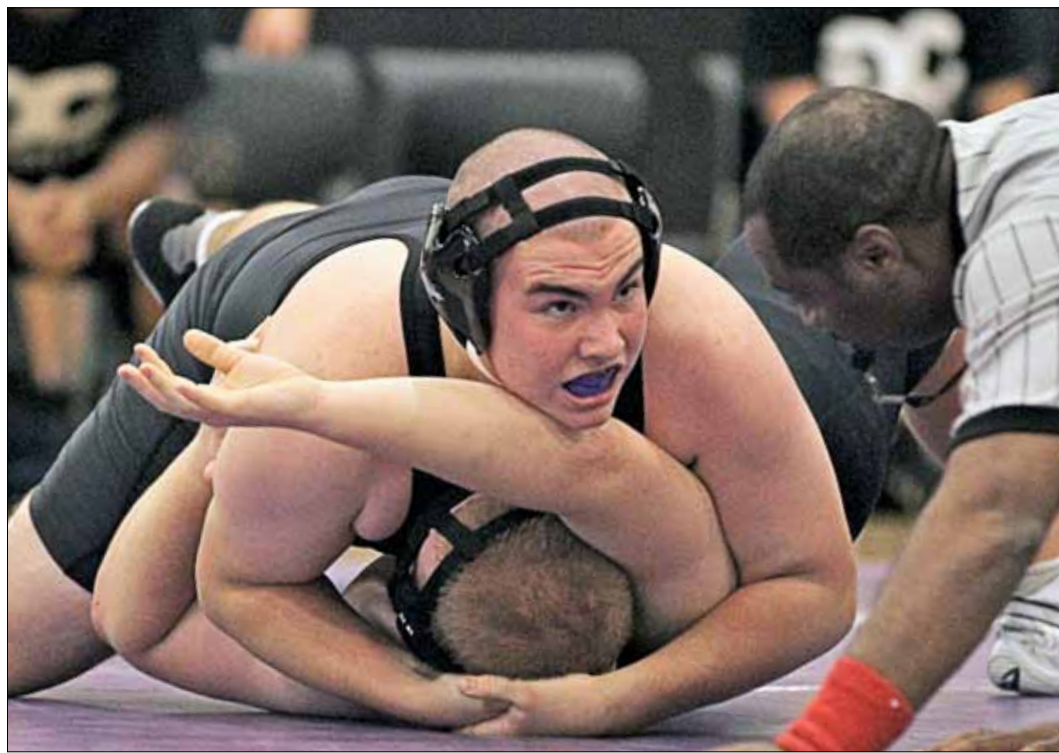
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JAGUARS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE



George Carpenter prepares to pin his opponent in the 106-pound weight class.



Carrboro's Michael McManus exerts his control in the heavyweight class.

The Carrboro High School wrestling team exhibited its continued improvement in a dual meet last week against Granville Central. Though the team lost 36-32, five Jaguars pinned their opponents.

PHOTOS BY TED SPAULDING

School Briefs

New assistant superintendent

Dr. Magda Parvey has been named assistant superintendent for instructional services for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools. Parvey currently works as an assistant superintendent in West Islip, N.Y. She will begin work on Jan. 23.

Information session at East

The East Chapel Hill High School counseling department will hold an information session and tour for eighth-graders who currently attend a private school (and their parents) on Monday, Jan. 9, at 10 a.m. in the auditorium. Students will receive an overview of the curriculum and registration process and a tour with current students. Register to attend by Jan. 5 at 969-2482, ext. 27181.

Distinguished math students

Ten Chapel Hill-Carrboro middle school students earned a level of distinguished honor on the American Math Competition exam, meaning they scored in the top 1 percent of those taking the exam.

The students who earned the honor from Phillips Middle School are Jason Fan, Eric Lee, Katherine Li and Joshua Zhou. Smith Middle School students who earned the honor are Matthew Dai, Vijay Dey, Sarah Wu, Kelly Zhang, Kendra Zhong and Jennifer Zou.

From students to soldiers

Some students at Frank Porter Graham and Morris Grove elementary schools recently had the opportunity to reach out to service members who are overseas during the holidays with more than 300 handmade cards and messages. Students reflected on service members' roles and their inability to be with their friends and families at this time of year, and expressed their gratitude.

Student artist on prestigious list

Joseph Bounds, who graduated from East Chapel Hill High School this summer, has been short-listed in the Saatchi Gallery/Sunday Telegraph Art Prize for Schools. His work can be seen at tinyurl.com/75gdrh. Bounds, his art teacher and his parents have been invited to the opening exhibition of short-listed works at the Saatchi Gallery in London on Jan. 17.

Soccer teams excel in school

Both the East Chapel Hill High School women's soccer team and the Carrboro High School men's soccer team have earned the 2011 National Soccer Coaches Association of America's Academic Award. Only 215 women's teams and 135 men's teams from across the nation earned the award in 2011. To qualify, teams must have a minimum GPA of 3.25 for the entire academic year.

NEW SCHOOL FROM PAGE 1

with the district schools are what are needed to improve the achievement gap, not charter schools.

Also included in Forcella's letter were the district's plans to open elementary school 11 in August 2013, which will help reduce school overcrowding.

Forcella explained that the intent in sharing this information was not to degrade the charter school but to help the office make a more informed decision when considering allowing the school to be built.

"The board's intent is not to refute the pedagogy, organizational scheme or vision of the proposed charter school, but rather the purpose of this correspondence is to provide accurate and at times more detailed information," Forcella said in the letter.

Administrators of the Howard and Lillian Lee Scholars Charter School plan to partner with the National Heritage Academies, a for-profit charter school management group that has schools in 71 locations in nine states, including North Carolina.

If approved, the charter school would open in August 2012 for 480 students in grades K-5 and would eventually expand to grades K-8, serving more than 700 students.

In addition to eventually removing 700 students from the district, according to Todd Lo-Frese, assistant superintendent for support services, the school could take up to \$7 million away from the district.

"To take money out of the school system to accommodate a for-profit school, this is not the right time," Campbell said.

This summer the state lifted the cap, previously set at 100, on the number of charter schools that can operate in North Carolina.

The Howard and Lillian Lee Scholars Charter School, which is named for the first black mayor of Chapel Hill and his wife, who was an educator, has advanced to the next stage in the state application process, and applicants will have an interview with the Office of Charter Schools in January.

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BOND CAPITAL PROJECTS MANAGER Town of Carrboro; FT/Temp (approx. 18 mo. assignment.) Performs difficult technical work managing the communication and progress of capital projects. Coordinates, reviews, and administers project documents with Town staff and project stakeholders; tracks and manages project scheduling; coordinates and participates in design review and final plan review. Associate or Technical degree in construction, civil engineering, or related field required with extensive experience in municipal planning, engineering, or project management. Excellent benefits provided for duration of assignment. Salary range: \$37,996 - \$58,894 DOQ and internal equity. Application deadline: January 18th. For an application visit the Town website at www.townofcarrboro.org. EOE

LANDSCAPING

LANDSCAPING Trees topped & cut, shrubs pruned, mulching w/ oak or pine mulch, pine straw etc. Lawn cleanup, leaves, gutters etc. Gravel driveways, road grading & repair. 30 years experience. Call 942-0390.

SERVICES

DIVINEROSE FACIALS Cori Roth - Wholistic Dr. Hauschka Esthetician and Retailer. Licensed/ Certified. HOLIDAY SPECIAL: Dr. Hauschka 1 hr. facial...10% off. Gift Certificates for any treatment 20% off through Jan. 1, 2012. Visit Divineroose.com or phone 919-933-4748.

EXPERIENCED HOUSE PAINTER Insured, bonded, excellent references. Please call 919-923-7538.

FEATURED PROPERTY



In Town 4 br/3.5ba w/cottage

321 Wesley Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
\$425,000

Large 4BR/3.5BA family home with detached cottage/studio. Luxurious master suite with his and hers everything, jet tub, double head shower and gas log fire place located on private lot only 1.5 miles from the heart of campus. Walk to parks, Bolin Creek Trail or downtown. Not a cookie cutter home - lots of personality and storage. Loads of natural light with south-facing living room, floor-to-ceiling windows and private view. Go to www.logancarter.com to see more pictures!

Logan A. Carter, Broker/Realtor
Fonville Morisey Realty
919-418-4694
www.logancarter.com



To feature your listed property in this space, call Marty Cassady at 919-942-2100 ext. 2 or email marty@carrborocitizen.com.

FARMERS' MARKET

FALL/WINTER MARKET HOURS
Saturdays 9am-Noon

What's at Market

MEAT: pasture-raised chicken, pork sausage, brats, various cuts of pork, lamb, various cuts of beef, and more **VEGGIES:** Brussels sprouts, arugula, cilantro, parsley, sun-golds, cauliflower, peppers, radishes, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, turnips, beets, cabbage, ginger, fennel, potatoes, lettuce, kale, bok choy, beets, Swiss chard, rapini, mustard greens, spinach, frisee, fresh herbs, scallions, white and purple sweet potatoes, green beans, pumpkins/gourds, shelled peas, butter beans, shiitakes, and more **CHEESES:** an assortment of goat and cow cheeses **SPECIALTY ITEMS:** mistletoe for the holidays, other holiday gifts and specialty items, wine, breads including bread crumbs for the holidays, pies, cakes, tortes, jams, jellies, pickles, local hotdogs, fermented foods, vegan and gluten free options and others.

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PET OF THE WEEK

ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES — Rockingham Roxy has come a long way in her short life. She was one of the five cats Orange County received from the Rockingham County hoarding case, and is the last of them left. That's because Roxy was among the shyest when she first arrived at the shelter, straight from her Rockingham past. But since that time, she has continued to grow and evolve, and is now among our most social and cuddly cats! She is a lucky girl and will make a wonderful companion for a lucky family. She's also one of our Home for the Holidays pets, meaning that her adoption fee is temporarily reduced to only \$50! Don't miss out on this wonderful survivor. Bring her home for the holidays. Visit her today at Orange County Animal Services, 1601 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill. You can also see Roxy and other adoptable animals online at www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices



Working in a community with many creative, hard-working and big-dreaming people, Bill believes that his primary role as Broker is to help people live the lives they want to lead. Especially hula-hoopers.



Bill Mullen, Broker
bill@weaverstreetrealty.com • 919.270.3240

How much would you give for more time with your pet?



Spayed and Neutered Animals Live an Average of 2-3 Years Longer.

The \$20 FIX

Spay or Neuter Your Pet for \$20

Orange County Animal Services in partnership with AnimalKind
www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices www.animalkind.org

The UPS Store



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Up to 10 lbs. \$1.50/lb
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PLACE YOUR AD
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Panzanella is part of Weaver Street Market Cooperative



DINNER



LUNCH



BRUNCH

Holiday Party Deal! Save 10% on your holiday parties of 10 or more guests now through Sunday, January 1st.

Call or email to reserve your table:
919.929.6626
panzanella@weaverstreetmarket.coop



panzanella
Historic Carr Mill 200 N Greensboro Street, Carrboro, NC

FLORA
FROM PAGE 1

Christmas decorations for over a hundred years, we would like to mention the Christmas holly (*Ilex opaca*).

There are so many fine cultivars of American holly in nurseries that we should all plant one or more in our gardens for year-round beauty as well as to have one's own personal source of holly to bring indoors.

American "Christmas" holly is scattered about in the understory of local forests, but only now and then do we stumble upon an entire forest of this beautiful evergreen. Specimens such as the 200-year-old male hollies on the UNC campus and in front of Carrboro's new fire station are seldom found in the wild these days.

When I do find myself in a far-as-the-eye-can-see holly forest, I have a sense that I've entered some enchanted place. That's why I refer to this particular holly forest as an "enchanted" holly forest.

This one is easy to locate. Traveling west on U.S. 64, look for the gated abandoned road on the right just past the Parkers Creek arm of the lake. Park along the edge and follow the old roadbed a few hundred yards and you'll spot an old logging road on the left. Walk there and soon you are engulfed in the "enchanted" holly forest.

This year there are only a few red berries on female trees. The birds have already feasted or it's just a poor fruiting year at this spot.

Take time out of this Christmas week to discover and explore the "enchanted" forest with family and friends.



Dwarfed by Christmas holly, Tony Blanford (left) and Brian Stokes are wise to wear safety vests during hunting season. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE



Red berries are produced only on female holly trees. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

Email Ken Moore at flora@carrborocitizen.com. Find previous Ken Moore Citizen columns at [The Annotated Flora \(carrborocitizen.com/flora\)](http://TheAnnotatedFlora.carrborocitizen.com/flora).



The ultimate Tar Heel Christmas tree-topper

In the interest of full disclosure, this ultimate Tar Heel basketball Christmas tree-topper is the creation of the 1k Words guy's "bonus daughter," Laura Gould of Falls Church, Va. That being said, when I spotted this homemade masterpiece, I knew Tar Heel nation would love to see it. Laura built it out of a night-light, a mini-hoops set and a whole lot of imagination. Merry Christmas and Go Heels!

WATER WATCH OUR RESERVOIRS ARE 66.90% FULL

PRECIP THIS MONTH: 1.32" **PAST 12 MONTHS:** 42.31"
CUSTOMER DEMAND TUES: 6.115 million gallons / Monthly avg: 6.35 million gallons
ESTIMATED SUPPLY: 376 days worth



A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER

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

Season's Greetings
from our family to yours

