

Willow Hill preschoolers celebrate their Fraser fir creation. PHOTO BY DIANA STEELE

Changing strategies, leadership presents challenges

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

This is the third in a series on new economic development in Orange County. You can read the rest of the stories at carrborocitizen.com/main/ecdev

Timing is everything. And with a transition in personnel, continued slow growth and the need to regroup after the sales-tax loss at the polls, proponents and skeptics of a new look at

economic development say this time something is likely to happen.

Orange County Manager Frank Clifton said his staff has been working with researchers at the UNC School of Government to get an idea of options ahead of a report in mid-February. Carrboro and Chapel Hill elected officials will hold discussions about economic development soon as well. Meanwhile, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce is

planning a meeting with elected officials and business leaders about a new structure.

Clifton said the Orange County Board of Commissioners will take up the new ideas at their retreat Feb. 11-12. With the recent resignation of Brad Broadwell, the county's economic-development director, Clifton said the time is right to look at the structure, the direction of the county and how to work better with other local

governments.

"We're in the very early stages of looking at that," he said. Whatever comes out of it, Clifton said, it has to be different.

"You can't just wave a new banner and say 'we're open for business,'" he said. "You have to have something behind the banner."

SEE DEVELOPMENT PAGE 3



Genaro de la Torre Rodriguez, shows off a Christmas tree for sale at Johnny's of Carrboro.

Residents tell CVS 'not here'

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

CARRBORO — About two dozen residents showed up for a meeting last week at Carrboro Town Hall with representatives of a group that wants to develop property owned by drug store chain CVS Caremark, and expressed their displeasure with the plan.

Chris Bostic, an engineer with Kimley-Horn and Associates, and Leigh Polzella, a representative of Hart-Redd, a Tennessee-based real estate company that builds stores for CVS, showed neighbors of the property similar designs to ones presented to the board of aldermen in November.

The site plan calls for the demolition of two houses on the east side of Center Street, the old bank building on the corner of Greensboro and Weaver streets and the offices of dentist Debra Seaton. The company would then construct a two-story 23,000-square-foot building with a drug store on the ground floor and store storage and additional commercial space above it.

The new building would replace the existing CVS at Carr Mill Mall, which has the highest volume of any store in the chain in North Carolina. Bostic and Polzella said keeping that store's replacement close is a key part of the development.

Residents near the proposed site said that while they understood the company's interest, the plan was not right for downtown.

"A lot of people got up and said 'we don't want you to do that here,'" said Richard Jaimeyfield, who is part of a partnership that owns a house at 102 Center St. "We're not anti-CVS, we're just against it right there in downtown."

Several residents said their main worry is that since traffic at the intersection of Greensboro and Weaver streets is already bad, the new development could lead to a nightmare. Concerns also were raised about parking spillover to Carr Mill Mall.

"This is not the right spot for the highest volume CVS in the state," Center Street resident Jeff Herrick said. "The intersection is not right for this type of development."

SEE CVS PAGE 4

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Don't orphan that special tree

As we approach all the celebration and joys of Dec. 25, take a time out to reflect on the specialness of that tree you brought indoors to accompany your family traditions.

For some, the specialness of that tree began with selecting and cutting it from a local cut-your-own-tree farm. That takes old-timers back to the days of walking local fields and woods in search of the perfect tree.

For most, that tradition has been replaced by going to an in-town tree lot, where picking the perfect tree is still a special family ritual. Just about everyone will select a North Carolina Fraser fir, *Abies fraseri*, for that perfect tree.

The once-magnificent North Carolina high-altitude evergreen Fraser fir forests, described as "Christmas Tree Land" by B.W. Wells in *The Natural Gardens of North Carolina*, are much diminished now by the exotic balsam woolly adelgid insect pest.

Today, Fraser firs are more commonly seen on our mountain-county hillside Christmas tree farms. Though helping the economy of the region, much of the Christmas tree production depends upon heavy pesticide and herbicide use with resulting toxic runoff. A bright side is that some farms are now moving toward pollution-free organic operations. Your tree most likely "grew up" on one of those tree farms.

SEE FLORA PAGE 8

DREAM supporters stung by Hagan's vote

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

Supporters of a measure they say could clear a path to citizenship for 51,000 young people in North Carolina expressed outrage this weekend over Sen. Kay Hagan's vote against the DREAM Act.

"She was the 41st vote, the deciding vote," said Domenic Powell, a member of the NC DREAM Team, a statewide student group lobbying in support of the bill. "Our senator killed the DREAM Act."

The bill would have allowed people who came to the U.S. as children an opportunity to become citizens if they went to college or chose to serve in the mili-

tary. DREAM Act supporters say 65,000 undocumented students graduate from U.S. high schools each year.

In a statement after Saturday's vote, Hagan said, "I believe the DREAM Act should be considered in the context of comprehensive immigration reform, not as a stand-alone bill. Republicans and Democrats need to work together to achieve practical, bipartisan immigration reform that will address the problem of illegal immigration at its core."

Powell said many of the students and others he's talked to throughout the state consider the vote a personal attack on the immigrant community in North Carolina.

"She does not have my vote

anymore," said Ilana Dubester, who has worked with several local and state Latino advocacy organizations. It's a sentiment, she said, shared by many in the community.

Dubester praised the young people — "the dreamers" — for their ability to get the bill through the House this year after an eight-year battle. She said Hagan's refusal to even meet with them was particularly infuriating.

"It's unconscionable to me that she really wouldn't give them the time of day," she said.

Powell said going forward there will be a continued focus on assuring access to the state's community colleges as well as watching what comes out of the new GOP-dominated General Assembly.

Group protests closing of Carrboro dental clinic

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

An anonymous group of residents calling themselves the Carrboro Clinic Advocates has formed in opposition to the Orange County Board of Commissioners' recent decision to close the county's dental clinic in Carrboro.

According to an email from the Carrboro Clinic Advocates, the group has filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice and N.C. Attorney General Roy Cooper requesting that the government halt the closing of the Carrboro dental clinic until the clinic can be investigated for possible violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. According to the complaint,

the county "is attempting to consolidate the Carrboro clinic to a location several cities away, making it virtually impossible for many disabled to access any services."

The county operates a dental clinic at Carr Mill Mall two days a week and one at the Whitted Human Services Center on West Tryon Street in Hillsborough three days a week. Under the approved plan, the Hillsborough dental clinic will serve patients five days a week when the Carrboro clinic closes.

County Manager Frank Clifton said he had not heard directly from the group yet, but that he believed the county was in compliance with regulations.

"The building down in Carrboro we don't own, so if there's any ADA infractions, that falls upon the owner of the building," he said. "Secondly, there's no regulation that requires the county to provide dental services to begin with."

"It's an alternative service that the county provides because they think it's worthwhile," he added.

Last week, the board voted to approve plans for a \$1.47-million renovation of the county's health and dental clinics in Hillsborough. The commissioners voted in September to close the county dental clinic at Carr Mill Mall and consolidate dental services at the Hillsborough clinic, which county officials said would yield \$113,000 in

annual savings and provide increased access to care through extended operating hours. The renovation of the health and dental clinics will be funded with Medicaid Maximization and Dental Equipment capital project funds, which can only be used for programs that earned the funds by providing care to Medicaid patients.

Commissioners have stressed that they would like to develop a long-term plan for dental services that would include a clinic in the southern part of the county. Some have expressed concern that transportation to the clinic will prove difficult for residents from southern Orange County.

SEE CLINIC PAGE 4

INSIDE

JimFest Benefit Concert

See page 2

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New preschool breaks ground in Winmore

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

CARRBORO — Construction on a new preschool and day-care facility, Legacy Academy, got officially underway Monday with a ground-breaking near Homestead Road.

The academy, which owners say is intended to serve about 160 children, will provide day care, pre-

school and after-school programs for children from 6 weeks to 5 years old. Wendy Mattucci, who owns the school with her husband, Chris, said they hope to open the facility in June.

"I think there's a need," she said, citing a study by the Carrboro Childcare Committee that found that in 2004-05, only 273 licensed seats in preschool care were available

in Carrboro to the 570 families who needed such care. Legacy Academy will be located in the Winmore development off Homestead Road.

The Mattuccis' initial plan was to operate a Goddard School childcare franchise, but they decided to switch to Legacy Academy because of its national reputation and teaching philosophies. They also wanted to provide hot food at the school, which

wouldn't be possible with Goddard.

"We just wanted to be able to provide the absolute best," Wendy Mattucci said.

Legacy Academy franchises about a dozen facilities nationwide and uses a curriculum that is based on brain research and the idea that everyone learns in a different way.

SEE PRESCHOOL PAGE 3

MUSIC CALENDAR



WYATT EASTERLING
Cat's Cradle
Thursday Dec. 23
and Monday, Dec. 27

THURSDAY DEC 23
BaDa Wings: Tim Stambaugh.
9pm

Cat's Cradle: Wyatt Easterling,
Richard McDevitt, John Santa. 8pm.
\$15

Nightlight: Viswas Chitnis, David
van Dokkum, DJ Luxe Posh, Owen
Fitzgerald, DJ Stanley Richards

SUNDAY DEC 26
Cat's Cradle: Uniontown. 9pm.

MONDAY DEC 27

Cat's Cradle: Benefit for Jim
Mansfield with Cortete, Wyatt East-
erling, Uniontown, Frank's Garage.
7pm. Donations encouraged

Cave: LATE: Joe Fletcher and the
Wrong Reasons

WEDNESDAY DEC 29

Cave: LATE: Mesa Nada

Local 506: Doom bunny, The Hurt,
Latecomers. Free

Nightlight: Ghost to Falco, Kolyma

THURSDAY DEC 30

Cave: LATE: Deep Chatham

General Store Cafe: 15-501. 7pm

Nightlight: Easy Company, Abe
Leonard and Friends

FRIDAY DEC 31

Breadmens: Nomads Band.
9pm-1am

Cat's Cradle: Arrogance, No
Eyes, Dogbreath. 8:30pm. \$20

Cave: LATE: Salt to Bitters, Twi-
ghter, Robobilly

Nightlight: The Moaners, Veelee,
Los Naturales. 10pm

The Station at Southern Rail:
The Brand New Life. 10pm

SATURDAY JAN 1

Cave: LATE: The T.U.R.D.S

Local 506: L in Japanese Dance
Party. 9pm. \$8

Nightlight: The Magnolia Collec-
tive. 9pm. \$5

MUSIC SPOTLIGHT: JIMFEST



Marc George, Fred Royal and
Frank Heath,
organizers of JimFest

JimFest

JimFest, a benefit for Jim Mansfield, will be held Monday, Dec. 27 at 7 p.m. at Cat's Cradle. Mansfield, a self-employed father of two and loving husband, has stage 4 colon cancer.

Cortete, Wyatt Easterling, Uniontown and Frank's Garage will perform. In addition, the event will include magic by Matt Wright, a silent auction and a raffle with prizes from local businesses.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but donations, which will go directly to the Mansfield family, are strongly encouraged. To make a donation online, visit catscradle.com, where tickets are available for \$10. The full amount of any ticket purchase will also go to the Mansfields, as Etix has waived its usual service fees. Ticket-holders will automatically be entered into the prize raffle.

Donations can also be sent to Amity United Methodist Church, 825 N. Estes Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Checks should include a memo specifying the "Jim Mansfield Assistance Fund."

New Year's Eve Happenings

CAT'S CRADLE

New Year's Eve Party! 8:30pm doors 9:30
show \$20

ARROGANCE No Eyes opens, with a special ap-
pearance by Dog Breath

THE CAVE

TINY CANVAS RECORDS New Year's Eve
Party with Salt to Bitters, Twilighter, Robobilly. 10pm

OCSC

DANCE PARTY! DJ Steph Russ with amazing
music, dancing and friends! 9pm
Balloons, countdown and bubbly at midnight

NIGHTLIGHT

New Year's Eve Bash with **THE MOANERS,**
VEELE and Los Naturales, plus DJ Craig Powell all
night! Doors at 9pm, music at 10

BOWBARR

BACK TO THE FUTURE II ELECTRIC
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MOVIES

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2 & 4:10 p.m.; True Grit, nightly
at 7:15 & 9:30 p.m., Saturday and
Sunday matinees at 2:15 & 4:30 p.m.;
127 Hours, Friday only at 7:25 &
9:15 p.m., I Love You Phillip Morris,
Saturday-Thursday at 7:25 & 9:20
p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees
at 2:25 & 4:20 p.m.

CHELSEA THEATER

Timberlyne, 1129 Weaver Dairy
Road, 968-3005

Black Swan; The King's Speech
(starts Saturday); I Love You Phillip
Morris (starts Saturday)

THE LUMINA

Southern Village, 932-9000

Little Fockers; True Grit; The
Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage
of the Dawn Treader; Tron: Legacy;
Yogi Bear

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TH 12/23 WYATT EASTERLING

WE 1/12 THE WALKMEN

WE 12/22 GREAT DOG ALMIGHTY**(\$5) W/BABY COPPERHEAD AND LIMBS (REID JOHNSON & MARIA ALBANI PERFORMING SCHOONER AND ORGANOS SONGS) TH 12/23 WYATT EASTERLING**(\$15) W/RICHARD MCDEVITT AND JOHN SANTA	SA 1/18 ACOUSTIC SYNDICATE W/ACOUSTIC MANNER**(\$12/\$14) WE 1/12 THE WALKMEN W/LOWER DENS**(\$15/\$17) FR 1/14 ABBEY ROAD LIVE (BEATLES TRIBUTE)**(\$10/\$12) SA 1/15 THE LOVE LANGUAGE**(\$10/\$12) TU 1/18 AGAINST ME! W/CHEAP GIRLS AND FENCES**(\$12/\$14) FR 1/21 1999: A TRIBUTE TO THE ARTIST (PRINCE TRIBUTE)**(\$10/\$12) SA 1/22 AND SU 1/23 YO LA TENGO W/WILLIAM TYLER**(\$20) EACH NIGHT FR 1/28 COSMIC CHARLIE (GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE)**(\$10/\$12)	SA 1/29 BEST COAST/WAVVES W/NO JOY**(\$16) TU 2/1 LISSIE**(\$12/\$15) FR 2/4 WHO'S BAD?* MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE TH 2/10 TAPES N TAPES**(\$14/\$16) W/OBERHOFER MO 2/14 YANN TIERSSEN W/SHANNON WRIGHT**(\$18/\$20) TH 2/17 PLAIN WHITE TS W/PARACHUTE AND MIGGS**(\$18/\$20) SA 2/19 ROONEY W/EISLEY**(\$15/\$17) SU 2/20 THE BUDOS BAND**(\$12/\$15) TH 2/24 **(\$15/\$14) PIETASTERS FR 2/25**(\$15/\$17) LOS AMIGOS INVISIBLES	SA 2/26 IF NOT FOR YOU**(\$10/\$12) A 40TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE TO GEORGE HARRISON'S ALL THINGS MUST PASS SU 2/27 THE GET UP KIDS**(\$18/\$22) W/MINIATURE TIGERS AND BRIAN BONZ SA 3/5 GREG BROWN**(\$28/\$30) SA 3/12 ROCKY VOTALOTO/ MATT POND PA**(\$10/\$12)
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TH 1/27 THE MOONDOGGIES
SA 1/29 FRONTIER RUCKUS
FR 2/25 JOHNATHAN RICHMAN
FR 3/4 PARLOTONES
FR 3/18 MICHAEL SHOWALTER

NIGHTLIGHT (CHAPEL HILL)
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Briefs

Hackney elected minority leader

Rep. Joe Hackney, whose district includes constituents in Orange and Chatham counties, was unanimously elected minority leader for the upcoming session of the N.C. House of Representatives.

Hackney, who has served as speaker since 2007, said the Democratic party caucus would focus on quality education, job creation and a fair redistricting process.

"We know what kind of North Carolina the people of this state have come to expect," Hackney said. "They want us to protect education at all levels. They want us to protect investment in job creation programs and they want a chance to fairly elect the people who represent them. We will join with Republicans when they are on the right path, but we will vigorously oppose any efforts to undermine progress in these areas."

Republicans control both chambers of the General Assembly for the first time since 1898.

Work to close Manning Dr.

Manning Drive between South Columbia Street and West Drive will be closed Dec. 27-31 for the installation of framework for a new pedestrian bridge.

Traffic will be detoured to Mason Farm Road south of the parking decks. Pedestrians will be rerouted south of the Mary Ellen Jones Building. The Chapel Hill Transit and Triangle Transit bus stop in front of the Dogwood Parking Deck will be temporarily closed. Riders may access eastbound transit service via the bus stop on East Drive adjacent to the Jackson Parking Deck.

Holiday Closings

CHAPEL HILL

Town offices will be closed today (Thursday), Friday and Monday. Residential garbage collection scheduled for Monday will be collected on Wednesday. Yard waste collection scheduled for today or Friday will be collected Dec. 30.

There will be no change in schedule for commercial refuse collection. The library will be closed Friday-Monday. On-street parking meters and parking lots 3 and 5 will be free today through Monday.

CARRBORO

Town offices will be closed through Friday and will reopen on Monday. Residential garbage collection routes scheduled for today and Friday will be collected Wednesday. Routes that would normally be collected on Monday will be collected on Tuesday. Loose-leaf collection will be suspended through Friday, but will resume on Monday.

HILLSBOROUGH

Offices will be closed Friday and Monday. Residential garbage normally scheduled for collection on Friday will be collected today. Monday routes will be collected Tuesday.

LANDFILL

Orange County solid waste convenience centers and the landfill will close at 2 p.m. on Friday and remain closed through Saturday.

TRANSIT

On Friday and Monday, Chapel Hill Transit will operate on a Saturday schedule (no U or NU service). There will be no service Saturday and Sunday.

DEVELOPMENT FROM PAGE 1

Commissioner Barry Jacobs said anything the county does has to represent a real change, "not just a fad."

Jacobs said the new collaboration would be based on commonly held principles. He's boiled them down into the acronym SAGE, for *sound* economic principles like fair wage and work environment, *assertive* marketing, *green* and locally grown and *engagement* of the business community as well as the public sector.

Carrboro entrepreneur Brian Russell said he sees a lot of overlap in the areas various officials are discussing.

"I feel positive about the next five to 10 years," he said. There seems to be an effort building aimed at green and socially responsible businesses. "I think we're well poised to take advantage of that."

Russell, who serves on the Orange County Economic Development Commission, said he's not convinced an all-out merger of all economic-development activities is necessary or even possible, but that a change in strategy and in leadership will be important.

He said he would especially

like to see the county be more supportive of smaller businesses and a wider variety of enterprises.

"The fact is that there are 100 technology workers in downtown Carrboro right now," he said.

Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton said he anticipates a challenge in making sure local and smaller businesses don't just get lip service.

He cites Figure 8 films, which produces shows for the Discovery Channel, and technology firms like the Newfangled Web Factory as small companies that are relocating because of the quality of life downtown.

"They're bringing in top-notch talent to work for them, and part of their pitch is 'you get to work in downtown Carrboro,'" Chilton

said. "That's an asset [for economic development]. Let's use it."

Chilton said his worry is that when all is said and done, economic development will still mean recruiting large out-of-state companies and that those pushing the local economy and boosting small businesses will take a backseat.

"To me, it's very frustrating, since that sort of thing ought to be the primary focus," he said.

Like the county, Carrboro's leaders are going into the new year contemplating a change in economic-development efforts, with the retirement on Feb. 1 of the town's economic- and community-development director James Harris.

Chilton said discussions at the board's upcoming retreat at the end

of January, as well as a hard look at the recommendations of the town's recent Local Living Economy Task Force, will play a role in shaping Carrboro's interactions with any new economic-development entity.

Clifton said he thinks efforts to help local businesses expand and retain employees will be a part of the county's thrust. He said it's important to recognize that while there's a general consensus things have to change, there's not likely to be a unanimous approach to how to move forward on economic development.

"There may still end up being individual efforts," Clifton said. But the goal, he said, has to be to find a way to better work together. "That's the important thing."

Broadwell resigns

Orange County Manager Frank Clifton said there will be no rush to replace the county's economic-development director following the resignation last week of Brad Broadwell, who has held the post since 2008.

"Yes, we're going to fill the position," Clifton said Tuesday. "But before we start the process

of advertising, we want to get an idea of what kind of skill set and person we want."

Broadwell, who has experience in international recruiting, has been promoting the county as a place for solar- and alternative-energy businesses.

His tenure has not been without controversy. He's had differences with the county's economic-development commission over the county's strat-

egy, openly sparred with Town of Hillsborough officials over rules on commercial development and was criticized for backing a new UNC airport before the board of county commissioners had taken a position on it.

Broadwell, who has served in the U.S. Department of Commerce and as an advisor to U.S. AID, has not commented on his future moves.



Winmore developer Eric Chupp, Mayor Mark Chilton and Legacy Academy owner Chris Mattucci participate in the groundbreaking of Legacy Academy, a preschool and day-care facility, on Monday.

PRESCHOOL FROM PAGE 1

"That was very important - to be able to provide that individualized learning," Mattucci said. "We want them to have the best opportunity to learn how they best learn."

Mayor Mark Chilton said he looked forward to the opening of the school, noting the shortage of day-care and preschool options in Carrboro.

"I think all of us in Carrboro town government are very excited

about this project," he said. "One of the reasons that I ran for mayor was the lack of preschool and day-care space in our community."

"I think that we're going to be really proud of the facility that you're working on," he added.

Several Winmore residents have expressed concern about the facility, citing in particular the morning and afternoon traffic it will bring. Chilton said the town is developing a more comprehensive plan for Homestead Road, in order to make it more pedestrian-friendly.

Bill of Rights Day



About 20 people gathered at Peace and Justice Plaza in downtown Chapel Hill Dec. 15 to recognize civil and human rights granted all persons by the first 10 amendments of the U.S. Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Conferring before speaking are (left to right): El Centro Hispano board member Ethan Beattie, state Sen. Ellie Kinnaird and Orange County Board of Commissioners Chair Bernadette Pellissier.

PHOTO BY MARTY MANDELL

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

HOW TO REACH US

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Carrboro, NC 27510

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INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLERS



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Algonquin Book Club Night

with special guest Heidi Durrow, author of The Girl Who Fell From the Sky. Come hear from the staff of Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill about their favorite book club picks! Purchase any Algonquin book and receive a free advance copy of an upcoming Algonquin title. Wine, snacks & prizes. Free!

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carrborocitizen.com/classifieds

Christmas and New Year's Holiday Schedule

Orange County Solid Waste Management

No Change in Curbside Recycling Service!
Please have your bins out by 7:00 am on your regularly scheduled recycling day to ensure service.



Solid Waste Convenience Centers
and the Orange County Landfill
including associated services such as the hazardous waste collection and mulch sales

will CLOSE EARLY 2:00 pm on
Friday December 24 and Friday December 31.
They will be CLOSED
Saturday December 25 and Saturday January 1.



Orange County Solid Waste Administrative Office
will be CLOSED December 24, 27, 28, and 31.
We will be open from 8am-5pm on December 29 and 30.
Normal hours of operation resume Monday, January 3.



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



Briefs

Tarwheels announce donation

The Carolina Tarwheels Bicycle Club recently donated \$23,000 to seven local projects aimed at providing improved bicycling opportunities for residents in the Triangle area.

The projects were funded by the proceeds from Tarwheels' Bikefest events in 2009 and 2010. Bikefest has taken place in Hillsborough for the last 16 years and brings in nearly 800 riders every August.

The club plans to invest the money into providing bicycles and helmets for disadvantaged children at New Hope Elementary School, Durham County Social Services and Lewis Days of Durham. The money will also help fund mountain bike trips for Trips for Kids Triangle, new signs for Chapel Hill Greenways and paving between the American Tobacco Trail Connector project and Herndon Park.

In addition, a record 78 bicycles will be donated to children in need this year, far more than the previous Tarwheels record of 15.

New farmer workshop series

N.C. Cooperative Extension's Orange County Center and the Orange County Economic Development Commission have announced that the fourth annual PLANT (People Learning Agriculture Now for Tomorrow) Farm Incubator Workshop Series will begin Jan. 5.

The workshop series trains beginning farmers to serve the developing market for local-food production in the Triangle. The three-hour workshops are held eight consecutive weeks in January and February.

The workshops cover a broad range of topics of importance to beginning farmers. Classes are taught by experienced market farmers, university professors, extension agents and others involved in the local-food system.

For more information, call 245-2063. The program application is available online at orangecountyfarms.org/PLANTatBreeze.asp

U Mall celebrates Elvis' birthday

In honor of Elvis Presley's birthday, University Mall will host Elvis tribute artist Keith Henderson for a free performance of "Illusions of The King" on Jan. 8 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the inside stage located near Dillard's.

Henderson, who makes his home in Chapel Hill, is an internationally renowned Elvis illusionist.

Children's book drive

Orange County seeks book donations for its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Children's Book Drive. Children's books can be donated Monday through Friday, Jan. 3-14 at the Seymour Center on Homestead Road.

The donated books will be distributed to child-care centers, schoolchildren, local shelters and the UNC Children's Hospital.

Volunteers are also needed Jan. 3-21 to establish distribution sites and to accept and distribute books. On Jan. 25, a "Reflections by Candlelight Reception" will be held for book drive volunteers and partners to share stories.

To volunteer, contact the OC RSVP Volunteer Program by calling 968-2056.

CHS arts wing near completion

The Carrboro High School arts wing is near completion and expected to be ready for occupancy in January.

Last week, members of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education, district administrators and Carrboro High staff toured the building, which includes an auditorium, a dance classroom, a band room and a chorus room.

The school plans to hold a gala in celebration of the arts wing completion in March.

Smith students ace contest

Smith Middle School students received high marks last month in the AMC8, a national math contest.

Smith students earned very high scores, placing it as one of the top math schools in the state. Top-scoring students are: Jennifer Sou (24 out of 25), Daniel Lee (23), Sarah Wu (23), Stephen Foskey (22), Andy Huang (21), Roy Huang (20), Veronica Kim (20), Katherine Wang (20) and Finn Weber (20). Thirty other Smith students earned "Honor Roll" recognition for scores of 17 or higher and 19 sixth-graders earned "Merit Roll" recognition for scores of 15 or higher.

The AMC8 is the largest and one of the most prestigious math contests for middle school students in the country.

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 implantable defibrillators and heel pain.

Dear HOUSE Calls, My father is 62 and has had high blood pressure. He takes a daily aspirin and exercises regularly. His father died from a heart attack at 63, and my father thinks he could have one too. A friend suggested that he talk with our family physician about getting an implantable defibrillator because it could save his life if he has a heart attack.

If your father is taking a daily aspirin, exercising regularly and controlling his blood pressure, he is already doing the things that he should be doing to prevent what happened to his father. We should briefly explain an implantable defibrillator. It is a device that sits in the chest under the skin with wires to the heart. The wires detect abnormal and usually fatal rhythms, then deliver a shock to get the heart into a normal rhythm. These devices can be life saving. However, we only understand the

benefits of these devices in people with pretty severe heart disease. So to answer your question, though this device could be life saving, there are also risks of implanting such a device. We suspect that the risk in doing so, though small, outweighs the potential benefit in somebody without known heart disease. Not knowing the details of your father's heart health, this may be worth further discussion, but mostly we think it is great that your dad is doing all he is to prevent a heart attack.

Dear HOUSE Calls, I have had a sore heel for a few months. It hurts after walking all day and gets better at night. I have orthotics for flat feet. What do you think is the cause?

That's a good question. We always start with the shoes and work our way up. So if you visit your family physician for this problem, and we hope that you will, bring the shoes that make this problem the worst. We would want to see how you walk in and

out of shoes, learn more about the symptoms (for example, how does it feel in the morning?) and the exact location. It also would be helpful to know what kind of stress you put on your feet and the condition and type of shoes you wear. Heel pain can be from plantar fasciitis (inflammation of the broad tendon on the bottom of the foot), a thinning fat pad in your heel or even a stress fracture. We can sort most of this out with a visit, sometimes with an X-ray. If your shoes are old or have poor support, we would want to correct that first. Over-the-counter arch supports and/or heel cups can be very helpful, as can custom orthotics. We hope this helps, but you will probably need to see your family doctor.

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.

CLINIC

FROM PAGE 1

"We have to integrate the Chapel Hill transit with Orange County transit, not just for the dental clinic, but for a lot of other reasons," board Chair Bernadette Pelissier said. "I think that the issue is a much larger one than just the switching of all the dental patients to the Hillsborough office for the time being."

County officials have said they plan to cover the \$4 cost of a roundtrip on the 420 bus from Chapel Hill to Hillsborough for dental patients. The bus runs from UNC Hospitals to downtown Hillsborough, but its closest stop to the Whitted Building is about a half a mile away. However, Orange County transit officials plan to launch a new bus route in Hillsborough in February and are considering a Whitted Building stop.

According to county health director Rosemary Summers, Medicaid patients can arrange for transportation to and from dental and medical appointments through the Department of Social Services.

The clinic redesign, intended to meet county health and dental clinic needs for the next seven to 10 years, includes structural improvements to the building. If commissioners open bidding and award a bid in January, the project is estimated to be completed in June or July.

CVS

FROM PAGE 1

Charlie Hileman, who chairs the town's Transportation Board, said he attended the meeting and sees a real challenge in how traffic would flow along Greensboro Street. "It's a very difficult intersection," he said.

Hileman said the project would dramatically change the area.

"The town has to look at it and say 'what do we want out of the area?'" he said, adding that the town has spent years putting tough standards on businesses in

its historic areas. A 24-hour drug store, he said, would vary considerably from that.

"Now we have to decide if we want to extend that kind of business into the mill-house area," Hileman said.

Company representatives said they welcome feedback on the plan and will hold another discussion in January.



SUPER CROSSWORD CELEBRITY SHOPPING

1 Stevenson scoundrel	61 Like opposites	camp activity	cry	"Christ Stopped at	Everett
5 Eggs of "The Program"	62 —relief	102 — de	6 "La Boheme" role	96 Variety show	94 British gun
9 One of "The Three Sisters"	63 English poet	103 Novelist	7 Maintain	97 Holy day	95 Downspouts
13 Monstrous dances?	64 James Herriot, for one	107 Beloved	8 Change the decor	100 Mrs. Eddie Cantor	99 Party hearty
17 Deserve a check	65 Abbreviated address	109 Dangers	9 Vintage	104 Caustic stuff	106 "McTeague"
18 Possess	66 Plopped down	112 Mr. Griffith's gift?	10 Actor	105 In search of	108 Rug type
19 Obscure	67 Through the wilderness	116 Director	11 Lead	106 "McTeague"	110 "The Gong Show" panelist
21 Flu symptom	68 Directionless	117 "Tobacco Road" character	12 Directionless	108 Rug type	111 Negative terminals
22 Mr. Asner's gift?	69 "Tobacco Road" character	118 To be, in canton	13 Singer	110 "The Gong Show" panelist	112 "The Plague" novelist
24 Esteem	70 Spartacus, e.g.	119 Toulouse	14 Blessed sound?	113 Decorate	114 Gymnast Comaneci
25 Fal	71 Swiss canton	120 Muria mister	15 Coach Don	114 Gymnast Comaneci	115 Do a double take, perhaps
26 Smooth transition	72 David's instrument	23 Dread	16 Bruisers	115 Do a double take, perhaps	120 James Herriot, for one
27 River reptiles	73 Mr. Myers' gift?	28 NCO	17 Quick change artist?	121 — May Oliver	123 Actor O'Shea
29 Sup in style	74 Sharp	29 Poetic	20 Murcia mister	122 TV's "— 12"	124 Workday start
31 Olsen of vaudeville	75 Palindromic dictator	30 Kitchen implements	23 Dread	125 Workday start	127 Kreskin's letters
32 Fury	76 Palindromic dictator	33 Fisherman's need	28 NCO	127 Kreskin's letters	129 Cousteau's milieu
34 Ms. Rivers' gift?	77 Sharp	34 Patou or Piaget	30 Poetic	129 Cousteau's milieu	130 Unit of work
38 Lee and Bradley	78 Sharp	35 Fasten firmly	31 Kitchen implements	130 Unit of work	132 Sugary suffix
42 Wheels of fortune?	79 Palindromic dictator	36 Postman's Creed word	32 Fisherman's need	132 Sugary suffix	
43 Yule purchase	80 Largest antelope	37 Patou or Piaget	35 Fasten firmly		
44 Frehley of Kiss	81 Court	38 Sound of shock	36 Postman's Creed word		
45 — market	82 In addition	39 Return address?	37 Patou or Piaget		
47 Green land	83 Gun the engine	40 CPR	38 Sound of shock		
49 "Nabucco" number	84 Note	41 Astronaut	39 Return address?		
53 Mr. Reynolds' gift?	85 Note	42 Astronaut	40 CPR		
57 Noblewoman	86 Letters of desperation?	43 Belgrade denizen	41 Astronaut		
	87 Reunion attendee	44 Took down a peg	42 Astronaut		
	88 Word with eel or eye	45 Tolerate	43 Belgrade denizen		
	89 Mr. Von Sydow's gift?	46 Triumph	44 Took down a peg		
	90 Dickens' Pecksniff		45 Tolerate		
	91 High-flying toy		46 Triumph		
	92 Word with eel or eye				
	93 Mr. Von Sydow's gift?				
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	120 Word with eel or eye				
	121 Mr. Von Sydow's gift?				
	122 Dickens' Pecksniff				
	123 High-flying toy				
	124 Word with eel or eye				
	125 Mr. Von Sydow's gift?				

CitizenCryptoquote By Martin Brody

For example, YAPHYAPL 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.

"You're Kidding, Right?"

S V X F K F Z V B P J G W V F J
 F X . S V , F T O G S , Y U V
 Y V B P J ? - R O Z L O X G L E V K
 R X G X O U F P P G L E L V J U G T
 Z P F S X V S , G R M O J V S
 X U O S C Z S O Y R A L V I L G T ,
 " T O O X X U O A L O R R " , F K
 R U O Y V B P J I V X U L V B I U
 G S G F L A V L X R O Z B L F X E
 A G X - J V Y S .
 Find the answer in the puzzle answer section.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

THURSDAY DEC. 23/ FRIDAY DEC. 24
Holiday Music — University Mall, universitymallinc.com

SUNDAY DEC 26
Family Art — Interactive gallery tours designed for 5-12 year olds and their families. Ackland Art Museum, 2-3pm Free

MONDAY DEC 27
Time Out — Guest, Prof. James Coley, WCOM-FM/103.5 5pm

Clay Exhibition — "Tradition in Clay: Two Centuries of Classic North Carolina Pots" opens at the Ackland Art Museum, 843-3675

Ongoing Cancer Support — Support groups at Cornucopia House, Chapel Hill for cancer patients and their families. cornucopia-house.org

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

Compassionate Friends — Free self-help support for all adults grieving the loss of a child or sibling. Evergreen United Methodist Church, third Mondays 7-8:30pm 967-3221 chapelhilltcf.org

Food Drive — Farmer Foodshare and the IFC join to provide fresh food for local families. Contributions may be made at the South Estes Farmers' Market, Carrboro Farmers' Market or theabundancefoundation.org/farmerfoodshare

Paintbrush Forest — Thirty area artists collaborate to explore the relationship between people and trees, and proceeds from the book's sale and original artwork benefit Haw River Assembly. paintbrushforest.com

Send your Community Calendar submissions to calendar@carrborocitizen.com

Holiday Church Services

Carrboro United Methodist Church
 200 Hillsborough Road, Carrboro
 Dec 24, 5pm - Christmas Eve Communion

Chapel of the Cross
 304 E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill
 Dec 24, 11pm - Midnight Mass
 Dec 25, 10am - Holy Eucharist

Christ United Methodist Church
 800 Market St., Chapel Hill
 Dec 24, 5pm - Family Candlelight Service with Communion; 7pm - Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion; 9pm - Bluegrass Carols and Verses with Communion

Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist
 106 Purefoy Road, Chapel Hill
 Dec 24, 5pm - Family Christmas Eve Service; 10pm - Christmas Eve Meditation Service

Episcopal Church of the Advocate
 403 W. Weaver St., Carrboro

Dec 24, 4pm at Unity Center of Peace, 8800 Seawell School Road - Christmas Eve Service
 Dec 25, 5pm at 403 W. Weaver St. - Christmas Day Service

Grace Church
 200 Sage Road, Chapel Hill
 Dec 24, 5pm - Candlelight Service; 10pm - Candlelight Service

HillSong Church
 201 Culbreth Road, Chapel Hill
 Dec 24, 5pm - Christmas Eve Service

St. Thomas More Church
 940 Carmichael St., Chapel Hill
 Dec 24, 2pm - Children's Mass; 5pm - Mass; 7pm - Spanish Mass
 Dec 25, 9:15am - Mass; 11:15am - Mass; 1:30pm - Spanish Mass

United Church of Chapel Hill
 1321 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Chapel Hill
 Dec 24, 4 pm - Family Service; 7 pm - Candlelight Service; 11pm - Candlelight Communion

University Baptist Church
 100 S. Columbia St., Chapel Hill
 Dec 24, 6pm - Communion Service

University Presbyterian Church
 209 E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill
 Dec 24, 4pm - Children's Service; 7pm - Candlelight Service; 11pm - Candlelight Service with Communion

University United Methodist Church
 150 E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill
 Dec 24, 8pm - Candlelight Service; 10pm - Candlelight Service

Heels aim to take advantage of final opportunity

BY EDDY LANDRETH
 Staff Writer

Carolina came within two incomplete passes in the end zone of defeating LSU to start this season, despite missing 13 players who were suspended.

Many of those players eventually returned, while several other key performers either have lost their eligibility permanently or been suspended for the season.

Now the Tar Heels will get another chance to defeat a Southeastern Conference team. UNC (7-4) will play Tennessee (6-6) at 6:30 p.m. (EST) on Dec. 30 in Nashville in the Music City Bowl, what will effectively be a home game for the Volunteers.

"Tennessee is a hot football team," UNC coach Butch Davis said. "They've won their last four football games. They always have great athletes."

UNC understands the home-

field advantage is not necessarily a determining factor. Carolina played West Virginia and Pittsburgh the last two years in a bowl game at the pro stadium in Charlotte, and lost both games. Senior running back Anthony Elzy said that he thinks this team will have a better mindset than it did in those games.

"We were satisfied to get to a bowl because we hadn't been there in so long," Elzy said. "This year I think is different."

UNC could get running back Johnny White back for this one. He broke his collarbone in a thrilling victory against Florida State.

Elzy replaced White and surprised many people by producing similar numbers and giving the same energy-filled effort that White had provided.

"Between Johnny White and



Anthony Elzy, those have been two of the most passionate performances by guys that I have been around," Davis said.

For all the players on this team, this bowl game is particularly special because of the adversity the team faced. Young players who never expected to contribute played. Veterans such as quarterback T.J. Yates and Quinton Coples had to take the level of their performances to new highs for the team to win seven games.

"I'm just happy with the fact that we're going to [a bowl game], because all odds were against us at the beginning of the season," said senior cornerback Kendric Burney, who missed part of the year after being suspended. "For this team to step up and do things that nobody thought we would ever do is remarkable."

Senior safety Deunta Williams also missed some time, but jumped headfirst into the fray when he returned, providing leadership and some big hits. He said he will always remember this team for its resilience.

"It feels great [to get another game]," Williams said. "We're just blessed with everything that we went through, personally and as a team. It's a great opportunity for us to go out there and play again."

"I've loved everything about this team. So I think that's the big thing that I'm going to remember about everything."

Now the Tar Heels just have to take advantage of this final opportunity.

"We are grateful for all our accomplishments this year," Elzy said. "I think [a lot] of other teams would have crumbled under what we have gone through. It's been amazing to see how guys have stuck together and fought back throughout this time."

OBITUARIES

Samuel Wilson

Samuel H. Wilson III, born March 30, 1960 in Waxahachie, Texas, passed away after a brief illness in Chapel Hill, N.C., on December 13, 2010.

Moving to Bethesda, Md., in 1970, Mr. Wilson graduated from Walt Whitman High School and then continued his education at Milford Academy, Texas Christian University and the University of Maryland in College Park, where he majored in history. He loved history and was a natural teacher. At the time of his death, he was pursuing a teacher certification at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Mr. Wilson is survived by four beloved sons, Samuel, John Paul, George and Benjamin, of Bethesda, Md.; his parents, Samuel and Dorothea Wilson of Chapel Hill; his sister, Katherine Kohler, and her husband, Jeffrey, niece, Alexandra, and nephews, Brendan and James, of Centennial, Colo. His uncle

and aunt Joe and Susan Wilson of W. Hartford, Conn., and cousins Steve and Jeffrey Wilson, and his wife, Kristen, and his uncle O.M. Cowart and cousin Stefanie of Waco, Texas, also survive him.

A memorial service will be held on Monday, December 27, 2010 at 2 p.m. at the University Presbyterian Church, 209 E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill, N.C. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Friday Center for Continuing Education, University of North Carolina, 100 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27599.

Nancy Stegman

Nancy Linda Weiss Stegman, 69, of Chapel Hill, N.C., passed away on December 19, 2010 at peace and surrounded by her loving family and friends. She was born June 6, 1941 in Brooklyn, New York, the daughter of Edward Leo Weiss and Ruth Satler Weiss. Nancy attended Midwood High School in

Brooklyn, where she met her future husband, Michael Allen Stegman. She attended Cornell University, majoring in English and earning a Bachelor of Science in human ecology in 1962. After a long-distance courtship between Cornell University and Brooklyn College, she and Michael embarked on a marriage of 48 years.

Nancy began her career as an English teacher at Darby Township Junior High while helping to pay for Michael's graduate study at nearby University of Pennsylvania. Nancy and Michael moved to Chapel Hill in 1965 after Michael accepted a position on the faculty of the University of North Carolina. Shortly after arriving in Chapel Hill with a newborn daughter, Nancy enrolled as a part-time student in the graduate program in computer science at UNC, from which she earned a Master of Science in computer science in 1976. She was among the first women to hold such a degree at that time. She

then began a more than two-decade career in computer technology as a contractor to and career employee of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park, N.C., where, at her retirement in 2008, she held the position of chief information officer and chief of the computer technology branch.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Michael Stegman, of Chapel Hill; her two daughters, Laurie Stegman of Washington, D.C., and Karen Stegman of Chapel Hill, and Karen's partner, Alyson Grine, of Chapel Hill; her grandchildren, Hazel Stegman Grine and Wyatt Stegman Grine of Chapel Hill; and her younger brother, Steven Weiss, of Stamford, Conn.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Nancy's memory may be made to The Nancy W. Stegman Fund for New Ideas in Cancer Research, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, Campus Box 7295, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7295.

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FROM THE EDITOR

DREAM deferred

It was not a proud moment last Saturday when a Democratic senator from North Carolina cast the 41st vote against the DREAM Act, a common-sense piece of legislation that addresses a troubling consequence of our broken immigration system.

The act allows a path to citizenship, through college or military service, for the tens of thousands of young people brought here as small children. Nationwide, an estimated 65,000 undocumented young people graduate each year from high school in this country. Many of them know no other country, yet through no fault of their own can't become a part of the one in which they were raised.

There is no doubt that as a state senator who was often the education budget's point person, now-U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan is aware of the inherent unfairness of the current, failed system. She's got to know about the positive economic impact, as well as the dramatic difference in the lives of these young people and their potential to contribute, that would have resulted from the act's passage.

In communities like ours, in which there is a large immigrant population, the reality of this policy is evident. There are students in our schools today who will graduate with honors and yet not be able to fully test just how far they can go nor enjoy the rights and opportunities afforded their classmates.

Unfortunately, on Saturday Hagan joined with Republicans and a handful of other Democrats in refusing to allow the act to come to a vote. As one proponent of the act said, the defeat "crushed the dreams" of those young people to earn their citizenship.

Hagan said she voted against the act because it should be part of comprehensive immigration reform. Someday, perhaps, we'll see such a thing. It is, after all, one of the truly bipartisan issues out there. Someday. But not soon. That would require a complete turnaround in the politics of immigration reform, an issue that has become more and more divisive out of political expediency.

We trust that since our senator has taken such a tough stand, that winning comprehensive immigration reform will be a fight she'll pursue with vigor.

Until then, there will be that nagging sense that with an eye on a 2014 re-election race on her hands, she is anticipating a more conservative electorate and positioning herself accordingly.

Until then, there will be many, many children, including some right here in the heart of this community, who will wait, dreams on hold.

LETTERS

Christmas dinner

Christmas day, 1998, my wife, Elaine, and I found ourselves not having planned dinner and realized we were caught without anything to prepare a meal. Out of desperation, we proceeded to call restaurants within walking distance. Our already low expectations were confirmed with each phone call, and no one answered. Imagine my surprise when I called Trilussa La Trattoria and the owner answered and I could hear people in the background.

"Are you open today?" I asked. "Not really," he said, "I was here cleaning and some friends came by so I cooked for them. Do you live nearby?" "We could walk there in five minutes," I replied. Then, in an effort to improve our chances, I noticed his name in the Yellow Page ad I was looking at. "Giovanni, my wife and I feel you have one of the best restaurants in downtown Chapel Hill," I enthusiastically stated. "Please, come right over and I will feed you," he said. I hung up the phone and told Elaine, "Giovanni says he will feed us."

After a quick shower, we arrived at the restaurant 20 minutes later and felt awkward because his true friends were leaving. Giovanni set a table for us at the front window, lit a candle, recommended two glasses of red wine and told us to relax and enjoy. When some passersby saw us in the window and tried to come, in he politely told them he was closed and locked the door. As if on cue, minutes after we ordered, it started snowing, which only intensified the already surreal feeling that we were characters in a romantic Christmas movie. After a great dinner, the short walk and a movie at the Varsity topped off this already perfect Christmas day.

A long-overdue thank you to Giovanni is in order for providing a memory to last a lifetime.

CHAS GAERTNER

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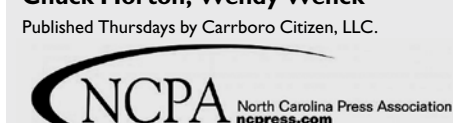
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No limits on democracy

CHRIS FITZSIMON

Republican legislative leaders didn't seem to know what to make of the proposals Wednesday by Gov. Beverly Perdue, who appeared at a budget briefing to call for three nonbudget changes at the General Assembly: an independent redistricting commission, greater transparency in the legislative process and limits on the length of legislative sessions.

It's not clear why Perdue agreed to come to an informal gathering of lawmakers in the first place when her budget director was also scheduled to appear and with her formal State of the State address just a couple of months away.

She apparently wanted to make a few headlines, add to the list of her government-reform proposals and briefly change the discussion at the Legislative Building. She did all three, though most of the coverage of her proposals was that she made them, not a discussion of their merits.

Her call for an independent redistricting commission makes sense, though, as many pundits are now pointing out, it's an idea she didn't show much enthusiasm for when she was a powerful member of the state Senate.

Republican leaders continue to claim that there's not enough time to set up the commission to draw the districts next year, which is absurd and seems like a convenient way to avoid giving up the political power to draw legislative and congressional lines that they have long criticized the Democrats for using.

The proposal to make the legislative process more transparent is also a good one and it is also something Democrats and Perdue could have done.

It's Perdue's proposal for limits on legislative sessions that is the most troubling. It's certainly the one that makes the least sense. Session limits are not a new idea. Lawmakers in both parties have proposed them and the Senate has passed them a couple of times.

Perdue wants to limit long sessions to 90 days and short sessions to 60 days. It would save a little money, but the damage to the legislative process would far outweigh the savings.

The proposal is based on the notion that limiting the time lawmakers are in Raleigh would maintain our citizen legislature in which average citizens can serve. But we clearly don't have a citizen legislature

now, as a glance at the cars underneath the legislative building would tell you.

For the most part, state lawmakers are relatively wealthy, retired or run a business or law firm that they can leave for months at a time. Middle-class workers are not well represented on the floors of the House and Senate. And Perdue's proposed session limits won't change that.

Not many people can take three months off one year and two months off the next and commute to Raleigh often during the rest of the year for study commissions and other meetings.

A few years ago, the National Conference of State Legislatures estimated that serving in N.C. General Assembly is roughly 80 percent of a full-time job. That's not just time in session. It includes interim studies, constituent service and campaigning for election. The pay for that almost full-time job is \$13,900 a year. Lawmakers also get travel and expense money; some is taxed, some isn't, but no one serves in the General Assembly for the wages.

Limiting sessions would simply turn over more control of the legislative process to wealthy interests who can hire a battalion of lobbyists to influence lawmakers and legislative staff members.

State lawmakers write a \$20-billion budget and consider thousands of bills, making decisions that affect the lives of everyone in the state. We need more public hearings on the budget and other important issues every year, not less.

The way to open up the General Assembly to allow more people to participate isn't limiting sessions; it is creating a full-time legislature with reasonable pay so average North Carolinians could afford to serve.

That seems unlikely in this era of anti-government sentiment, but maybe that's the point. People don't understand their government if it is hard for them to participate in it.

Let's set up the redistricting commission to take some of politics out of the process. And by all means, let's make the work of the General Assembly more transparent. But let's not set artificial limits on how long the people who represent us can work in Raleigh. The last thing we need is to put limits on democracy.

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

Voters need to see through the special-interest fog

DAMON CIRCOSTA

When Santa Claus makes his list of who has been naughty and who has been nice, he has some help.

Santa has at his disposal a cadre of elves, nine flying reindeer, a host of magical powers and reports from parents the world over. When he tallies up who has been good for goodness sake and who deserves coal in their stocking, he isn't flying blind.

As we watched the campaign season unfold last month, we could have used some help from old St. Nick.

In the wake of a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision, big unions and powerful corporations were allowed to spend freely to affect the outcome of this year's elections. Under the guise of innocuous-sounding names like "Americans for America," all sorts of special interests flooded the airwaves. Using television attack ads and hit mail pieces, these shadowy groups spent millions telling us who to vote for or against.

Armed with loads of money – presumably from donors who want special favors from the candidates they support – these groups could outspend what the candidates themselves were raising, yet be accountable to no one.

The worst part is that as voters, we have no idea who was paying for all of this spending. No disclosure of where this money comes from is required. As such, these special-interest groups could throw stones behind a shroud of anonymity.

It doesn't have to be this way. Just as Santa has Rudolph to guide him through the fog, we could enact regulations that shine some light on where this money is coming from. Call it the "Red-Nosed Reindeer Act of 2011."

The same U.S. Supreme Court that said such spending was permissible also said that disclosure of where that money comes from is appropriate. Is it too much to ask that if someone plans on bringing lots of cash to the election party, they don't make it a masquerade ball?

Early next year, our newly elected officials will take their seats in Raleigh and Washington, D.C. Aside from having to contend with the many pressing issues of the day, they will most certainly be meeting those same people who spent big bucks so freely last election. You and I might not get to know who these people are, but you can rest assured they will make themselves known to our elected representatives.

With a wink and a nod, they will talk about the money they spent in the last campaign cycle and their plans to spend even more the next go-round. They won't demand favorable legislation in exchange for electoral cash – that would be illegal. Instead, they will make coy references to how much money they have earmarked for election season.

In other words, these moneyed interests will be making their own list of who has been naughty and who has been nice.

As citizens, we might not have a ton of cash to spend on elections or lobbyists to spread that cash throughout the capital. We don't have Santa's magical powers to keep constant tabs on our elected officials or a sleigh of reindeer to zip us to the halls of government to keep an eye on things.

All we have is our vote. If the folks we elected don't want to make the campaign-finance system transparent, maybe our vote is a gift we won't be giving them next time.

Damon Circosta is executive director of the N.C. Center for Voter Education.

Cuts alone won't fix our budget crisis

EDWIN MCLENAGHAN

North Carolina has a revenue problem. Falling revenues created by an outdated tax system and the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression have created a much-publicized budget shortfall – and some shortsighted parties want to try to cut our way out of the problem.

Most people know that cutting vital public investments will cause great pain throughout North Carolina's communities and imperil our economic future. But what many don't know is that even the most drastic cuts-only approaches being explored by Gov. Beverly Perdue will not close the state's budget gap.

There is just one possible conclusion: Raising revenue is the only way to preserve critical investments in North Carolina's future.

The numbers are clear. The most recent estimates by the General Assembly's Fiscal Research Division show that anticipated revenues will fall \$3.7 billion short of what is necessary to maintain this year's already-inadequate level of investments in public structures in next year's budget.

To assess potential solutions, Perdue asked state agencies to examine what budget cuts would look like. Even the worst-case budget-cut scenarios of 10 percent for public schools, community colleges and universities and 15 percent for all other state agencies will come up \$1.1 billion short of closing the state's \$3.7 billion estimated revenue shortfall next year.

That's right: In order to "fix" the budget problem, we'd have to slash the crucial investments that create prosperity in North Carolina to a worse-than-worst-case level.

What if we went that extra step and tried to close the budget gap with a cuts-only approach? Closing the shortfall with additional cuts to noneducation agencies would force across-the-board cuts of 27 percent compared to this year and more than one-third compared to pre-recession levels.

If those sound like just numbers, think of those numbers as thousands of fired teachers, mental health workers and gutted public-safety infrastructure. Think of people with special needs who will be separated from their families, seniors and people with disabilities who can't get health care and children with swollen class sizes and shrinking learning opportunities.

Cuts of this magnitude would jeopardize long-term investments in North Carolina's public structures and would compromise public safety, environmental protection and the health of communities across the state.

This would not only be cruel, it would be counterproductive to the state's long-term health – fiscal and otherwise. Creating thousands of unemployed schoolteachers and public-safety workers is a precisely backwards way to fix our state's revenue problem, now or in the long term.

Fortunately, there is another way. We need to take a balanced approach that recognizes the need to reform our outdated revenue system.

Comprehensive revenue reform could raise even more revenue and preserve many of the public investments in initiatives like Smart Start, More At Four, smaller class sizes and community-based care that North Carolinians overwhelmingly support and that save the state money in the long run.

It would also make future budget crises easier to manage, because reform could modernize a system that hasn't been updated since the 1930s. What better time to make these long-overdue reforms than a time when they could help our state the most?

A cuts-only budget approach isn't just harmful to North Carolina's people in the short term, it also undermines North Carolina's fragile economic recovery in the long run. If we want a prosperous North Carolina, we have to start by acknowledging this simple reality.

Edwin McLenaghan is a policy analyst at the N.C. Budget & Tax Center.

FLORA
FROM PAGE 1

When the holidays are past, those trees are usually discarded along curbsides to be collected by public works crews. *Don't let this happen in your neighborhood!* That tree represents so many memories and traditions for your family that it should be unthinkable to orphan it so callously on the street curb for offsite disposal. Your tree is deserving of more reverent appreciation by extending its usefulness outdoors on your home turf, which offers countless honorable ways for that special tree to slowly return to nourish the earth.

Staked upright near bird feeders, your tree provides multiple perches and excellent shelter. If not desired for a short-term evergreen effect in your winter garden, the branches can be cut and applied as mulch around trees and shrubs. Residents of the Ma-



Don't let this happen in your neighborhood!
PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

son Farm Road neighborhood join together each year's end to continue the life of their special trees on the woodland grounds of Diana Steele's Willow Hill Preschool. Eventually, those trees make a journey down to become a forest-edge perimeter berm, defining the outer limits of the kids' discovery/play grounds. In addition, the tree-brush berm provides perches and shelter for birds and other wildlife and helpfully captures far-flung balls.

However, before those trees make it to the des-

tinued perimeter, the kids move them around and, like budding architects, make tree fortresses, tree castles and even giant bird nests, all reflective of their young creative energies.

Hopefully, you will honor your tree this year by keeping it on your home turf, or at least on a neighborhood site where the kids may enjoy it on its way to a natural return to the soil..

Email Ken Moore at flora@carrborocitizen.com.



Snow Day 1963

It's not that we didn't love school – but what better surprise for a kid than to wake up to an impromptu vacation? Or better yet, to see the white stuff start pouring out of the sky during a school day, forcing school officials to send us home? On such a snow day back in March 1962, I stationed myself outside old Chapel Hill High School's front door (today, about the location of Time Out in University Square) to snap two CHHSers (that's Rodney Burns of Carrboro on the right) leaping for freedom.



A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER

Do you have an important old photo that you value? Send your 300 dpi scan to jock@email.unc.edu and include the story behind the picture. Because every picture tells a story. And its worth? A thousand words.

WATER WATCH

WATER SUPPLY: OUR RESERVOIRS ARE 67% FULL

PRECIPITATION IN CARRBORO:
THIS MONTH: 1.78" PAST 12 MONTHS: 38.01"

CUSTOMER WATER DEMAND

Monday: 6.691 million gallons Past 30 days (average): 6.81 million gallons

ESTIMATED SUPPLY REMAINING:

351 days worth, based on average demand in the last 30 days, and assuming no further rainfall.

SOURCE: OWASA.ORG TUE DEC 21

Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

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PETS OF THE WEEK



ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

— If a new pal is on your Christmas list this year, be sure to ask Santa about little **Annie!** This adorable hound mix is more than just a cute face; she's the sweetest little 6-month-old pup around, and one whose charm is sure to stick around long after the holiday season. Annie is gentle and polite, listens well and wants

more than anything to make you happy. This calm girl almost seems too well behaved to be so young. Visit her today at Orange County Animal Services, 1601 Eubanks Road in Chapel Hill. You can also see her and other adoptable animals online at co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp

PAWS4EVER — Vincent

Price is a 7-month-old domestic shorthair mix. He's lean, got looks to kill, a big lovin' heart, playful nature, personality that you can't resist, and is just an all-round wonderful little guy. He's been here for some time now, patiently waiting to be scooped up and loved forever. He can snuggle up, if that's what you want, or have crazy kitten fun time too. Contact Paws4Ever, 6311 Nicks Road, Mebane or call 304-2300. You can also go online at paws4ever.org



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