

carrborocitizen.com

DECEMBER 24, 2009 ♦ LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED ♦ VOLUME III NO. XLI

FREE



PHOTO BY BYRD GREEN CORNWELL The fragrant flower of southern magnolia defines summer in the South.



A Southern tree for all seasons

beautiful and popular shade tree throughout the [Cape Fear] Valley and the south. It has become a sort of cognomen for the culture, the beauty and the old-timeyness of the region."

This observation from Paul Green's *Plant Book* makes me reflect on Christmastime visits to my aunt's farm near Norlina in Warren County.

The seasonal visit included cutting the traditional red cedar tree to take back home. The cedar smelled great, but was prickly to decorate. One vivid memory of those visits is my aunt's Christmas tree. It was a 6-to-8-foot tall loblolly pine with lights and decorations. Way back then, I thought that was a weird tree for the holidays. But, hey, my aunt had lots of them on the farm, and they were definitely not prickly like the cedars. Another vivid memory is tailing my long-striding aunt down to the mailbox, where there was a huge evergreen magnolia with limbs reaching down to the ground all around. I helped her carry magnolia branches back to the house, where she would lay them about, mixed with pine boughs. Now that was appealing to me, and still is now. Magnolia branches provide a special warm feeling for me during the holiday season and I always especially remember my aunt.

f you haven't checked your list at least twice by now, you may want to get cracking.

We all have little rituals for the season, many of them involve electricity. For the past dozen or so years, Mitch Virchick has been stringing lights on his 1965 Ford pickup, which is parked on Maple Avenue in the heart of Carrboro.

At right is the Ford through the years, starting clockwise from the top with this year, followed by 2003, 2006 and 2008.

This is the last year for the old beast, Mitch says, and he's penned a rather lengthy truckfor-sale ad as one way of letting go. We've published his essay online at our MILL blog at carrborocitizen.com/mill

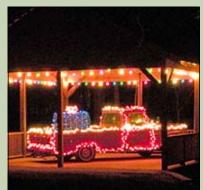
If you have similar holiday or end-of-the-year missives and/or photos you'd like us to consider for publication, please send them on to editor@carrborocitizen.com and over the next several days we'll try to toss them online like digital yule logs.

In the meantime, have a happy and safe holiday – virtual and otherwise.









## **Advanced 'first-graders'**



### Local retailers offer mixed report

**BY BETH MECHUM** Staff Writer

Local merchants worry about how lingering concerns over the economy, including continued high unemployment, will play out in this holiday shopping season.

After a down year last year, the mer-

SEE FLORA PAGE 8

### INSIDE

## The editor and publisher offer a few holiday thoughts

### See page 6

### INDEX

Music	2
News	3
Community	4
Obits	5
Opinion	6
Classifieds	7
Almanac	8

PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

The First-Graders have kept in touch since starting at Chapel Hill Elementary School in 1929, graduating in 1940. From left to right, (seated) Edith Crockford Welch, Johnsie Bason Wilkins, Frances Bason Boyd, Jewell Hogan Altemueller and Margaret Pickard Sirvis.

### **RECENTLY ...** BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

Last week brought a visit with five women who have spent long lives knowing each other. Their relationship started in 1929 as they entered first grade at Chapel Hill Elementary School (where University Square is today), where they continued their schooling until graduation in 1940 (there were only 11 grades at that time), as part of the last class to graduate from the school before it burned to the ground. "It was a very small place," said Edith Crockford Welch, who grew up on Park Place. "[The school] was divided by the kids who lived in Chapel Hill, in Carrboro and in the county."

It wasn't that any group itself themselves superior; but as is always the case, students congregated based on experience – and at that age, the experience that mostly separated them was lunch.

With no cafeteria in the school, the county and Carrboro kids, who rode buses, brought their lunches. The Chapel Hill kids walked home for lunch, where most mothers could be found with meals waiting. Some, like Jewell Hogan Altemueller, had to walk really fast to make it home and back in time.

Altemueller grew up in a house that no longer exists at 124 N. Columbia, approximately across the street from today's police station on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, requiring her to walk up and down the big hill twice a day. She has heard all her life about how fast she walks.

SEE **RECENTLY** PAGE 4

chants were upbeat about a rebound. So far, a surge of shoppers hasn't materialized and results are likely to be mixed. Still, many shopkeepers are encouraged by an apparent uptick in interest and energy even if that hasn't translated into sales.

At Nested, a home-and-gift gallery located in downtown Carrboro, Owner Jenny McMillan, who helped lead the charge for the town's recent Buy Local week, said she didn't see a dramatic increase in sales from the effort, but adds that a big jump wasn't the point.

"In my store, all week long, I featured different vendors that I buy from in the area, so people knew which products I had that were locally made," she said. "I hope that is something we do every year, and that we get all stores onboard, and that it becomes a real celebration in the future."

As for the season in general, Mc-Millan said she was pleased.

"It's always going to be busy in December, and this year is no different."

Kara LeFleur, a manager at Roulette, said she's noticed a little drop-off in shopping this year compared to years past, but she attributes some of it to how late Thanksgiving and Black Friday were.

SEE **RETAIL** PAGE 2

### Shelter's future in limbo

### **BY CHARLIE TYSON** Staff Writer

For many, the approach of winter holidays invokes images of warm fireplaces, brightly colored wrapping paper and steaming mugs of hot cocoa savored with friends and family.

The hundreds of homeless in Chapel Hill face a completely different holiday season. For Chapel Hill's homeless population, mid-December brings cold, wet streets and harsh weather.

This December, the town's homeless and their advocates are battling more than just climate as the relocation of the men's shelter for the homeless from Rosemary Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard hangs in doubt.

The Inter-Faith Council (IFC),



a local service organization started in 1963, runs the only homeless shelter in Orange County: one for men, another for women and children.

The men's shelter is next to the IFC's community kitchen at the corner of Rosemary and Columbia streets in a building the Town of Chapel Hill offered as a temporary site in 1985. While the shelter has started to outgrow the venue, the town, also short on space, wants the building back.

Chapel Hill Town Council mem-

ber Ed Harrison noted additional motivations for the shelter's move.

"Downtown business operators and property owners (seldom the same people) have been asking the IFC to move both these uses out of downtown for some 15 years," Harrison said in an email. "The IFC itself has said for years that the OMB (Old Municipal Building) is a poor location for the functions they wanted to be carrying out in a homeless shelter, especially rehabilitation."

#### Addressing concerns

The proposed spot for a new men's shelter is a 1.6-acre site on the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Homestead Road owned by the university. UNC has offered to lease the land for the shelter for 99 years at \$1 per year.

The proposal has been looked at favorably by town officials but has drawn fire from nearby neighbors. Preliminary hearings on the proposal have seen dozens of people from the neighborhoods expressing concern about crime and loitering, especially concerning Homestead Park, which is near the proposed site.

### SEE **SHELTER** PAGE 3

### MUSIC CALENDAR



### **SATURDAY DEC 26**

**Cats Cradle:** Dub Addis, Crucial Fiya, Arif. 9:30pm. \$8/10

**The Cave:** EARLY: Jodie Manross. \$5 LATE: Regina Hexaphone, Diane Kletter and Friends

General Store Cafe: Marie Vanderbeck Quartet. 8-10pm

Open Eye Cafe: Shacktown. 8pm SUNDAY DEC 27

**Local 506:** Whiskey Kills The Butterflies. 9:30pm. Free

MONDAY DEC 28 Local 506: West Trinity. 9:30pm. Free

TUESDAY DEC 29

**Nightlight:** Franz Fjodor, Wouter Jaspers, Jubel Jenkins. 9:30pm

#### WEDNESDAY DEC 30 Local 506: Mecanikill, Headstone

Hollow. 9pm. Free **Nightlight:** Chuck Johnson, Ner-

vous Creep, Soup
THURSDAY DEC 31

Blue Bayou: Michael Burks. 9:30pm Cats Cradle: The Billy Price Band.

9:30pm. \$20/25

**The Cave:** The Brand New Life. \$5

Local 506: The Love Language, Violet Vector and The Lovely Lovelies, Dirty Little Heaters. 9:30pm. \$8

### **SATURDAY JAN 2**

The Cave: EARLY: Bad Dog Blues Band. \$5 LATE: The T.U.R.D.S., Lud General Store Cafe: The New Band. 8-10:30. \$5





Not every show begins with the performer handing out lyric sheets so the audience can sing along. Then again, Jim Watson's annual Christmas show is no ordinary musical event. Watson, who has been bringing people together for an old-fashioned holiday singalong for decades, was at it again Tuesday night at The Cave. There, Watson and a packed house of enthusiastic co-carolers — including his nephew and three nieces, pictured above — once again ushered in the home stretch of the holiday season in grand style.

ALL PHOTOS BY STAN LEWIS





Most municipal offices will be closed Friday, Jan. I.

There will be no residential service or yard waste collection.

Orange Regional Landfill will close at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, and will be closed Friday, Jan. I.

There will be no curbside recycling. Friday routes will be collected Saturday, Jan. 2.

Orange County Solid Waste Convenience Centers will be closed Dec. 30- Jan. I.

There will be no Chapel Hill Transit service Jan. I.

The Office and Maintenance Division will

### **RETAIL** FROM PAGE I

"Christmas kind of snuck up on people this year, and I think people are a lot more careful with their money," she said.

LeFleur said she saw a lot of browsers, many of whom didn't turn into buyers. Roulette had increased hours and was open more days than usual to facilitate as much holiday shopping time as possible.

At Kitchenworks in University Mall, manager Martha Jenkins said she's been pleased with the season, especially given the times.

"We're rocking and rolling," she said. "This year people have been really good. They are not holding back like you would think in the recession. I think people feel better about spending money." "People are just happy with us this year, and we're happy with them," she said. "We just want people to know how much a difference it makes to shop local."

One shop benefitting from the recent burst of winter weather is the Great Outdoor Provision Company at Eastgate, where warm socks and gloves have seen rising demand. "It's going great here, considering hard economic times, as we keep hearing," store manager Ann Stuntz said. This year's hot selling item, she said, is Vibram FiveFingers, a shoe that fits like a glove.

Stuntz said it's probably been the second-best year in terms of holiday sales in the five years the store has been open, though you couldn't tell it from foot traffic alone.

Imagination and experience combined for your benefit!

Experienced, easy-going freelance designer of logos, ads, brochures, flyers, newsletters, and publications.

> Cyndi Harris, Designer laceyspringsdesigns@me.com

be closed. For emergency maintenance services, call 968-2855.

The Chapel Hill Public Library will be closed.

In downtown Chapel Hill, on-street parking meters, town parking lots and the Wallace deck will be free on New Year's Day.

Jenkins also expressed the importance of buying local.

"The amount of traffic has been reduced ... so it hasn't felt quite as harried. But people are spending money."



### CATSCRADLE.COM \* 919.967.9053 \* 300 E. MAIN STREET

\*\*ASTERISKS DENOTE ADVANCE TICKETS @ SCHOOLKIDS RECORDS IN RALEIGH, CD ALLEY IN CHAPEL HILL ORDER TIX ONLINE AT ETIX.COM \* WE SERVE CAROLINA BREWERY BEER ON TAP!\* WE ARE A NON-SMOKING CLUB A Southern Season. after christmas sale

# irresistible deals on seasonal & holiday items

Sale Starts Saturday, December 26 201 South Estes Drive · Chapel Hill · 919.929.7133 Hours: Mon-Thurs 10-7 · Fri 10-9 · Sat 10-7 · Sun 11-6 Closed Christmas Day & New Year's Day

Available in our Chapel Hill Store only. Not available by phone or online. Not valid on previous purchases. Cannot be combined with other promotional offers. While supplies las





### **News Briefs**

#### Two die in train collision

An Amtrak train heading from Charlotte to New York collided with a car Tuesday morning at a railroad crossing in Efland, killing two people.

Erin Brett Lindsay-Calkins was driving the car, and she and her 5-year-old son, Nicholas Lindsay, who was thrown from the back seat, were killed.

Four-month-old Avan Brooke Lindsay, found in the back seat of the car by an Efland resident who heard the crash, was taken to UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill. She was treated for a contusion on her forehead and on Wednesday was listed in fair condition.

None of the 215 passengers on the train were hurt.

### **Blood drive record**

UNC faculty, staff, retirees, students and local residents set a new record for the winter edition of the Carolina Blood Drive on Tuesday, Dec. 15, with 405 productive units of blood collected.

UNC sponsored the drive in Fetzer Gym with the American Red Cross, with a goal of 400 units. The next large Carolina Blood Drive will be on June 8 in the Dean E. Smith Center.

### **UNC** faculty named fellows

Three UNC faculty members have been named fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The association elects fellows to recognize their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. The three new fellows are pharmacologist Klaus Hahn and biologists Joseph Kieber and Mark A. Peifer.

Ĥahn, the Ronald Thurman Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology in the School of Medicine, a professor of medicinal chemistry and natural products in the Eshelman School of Pharmacy and a member of the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, was recognized for his contributions in cell biology.

Kieber, a professor of biology in the College of Arts and Sciences, was recognized for his contributions to plant hormone biology.

Peifer, the Hooker Distinguished Professor of Biology in the College of Arts and Sciences and a member of the Lineberger Center, was recognized for his contributions to the understanding of interactions between cells and of cell signaling.

The three are among 531 scientists who received the honor this year. New fellows will be honored in February at the association's 2010 annual meeting in San Diego.

#### Cornucopia House names board

The Cornucopia House Cancer Support Center board of directors elected new officers for 2010. John Grubenhoff was elected chair; Moyer Smith as vice chair; Charlotte Leidy, board secretary; and Pegi Brady, treasurer.

Cornucopia House provides nonclinical cancer support services at no charge to anyone affected by any type of cancer, including patients, survivors, their families, friends and caregivers. For information about group and peer support, services and expert resources,

call 401-9333 or visit cornucopiahouse.org.

#### Strowd Roses Foundation awards grants

The Strowd Roses Foundation is now accepting applications for grants to be distributed in the first quarter of 2010. The deadline for submitting requests is Jan. 31. Guidelines and application

### SHELTER

FROM PAGE I

IFC associate director John Dorward said the location was excellent, noting the proximity of bus lines and the Southern Human Services Center nearby.

"It isn't very close to neighborhoods, as far as Chapel Hill is concerned," he said in response to claims that the shelter was too close to residential areas. "There are a lot of the perceptions that the men are dangerous and going to bring crime and drugs into the neighborhood. We think that this is not true. Our program has existed for quite a while, and we believe that we can do this safely in the new site."

Dorward noted that the current downtown location was actually closer to residential areas than the proposed site.

'We seem to get along fairly well with most of our neighbors," he said of residents living near the downtown shelter.

Dorward emphasized that the IFC was working to address the concerns of those living near the Homestead Road location.

Dorward said that it would be 18 to 24 months before the town council would make a final decision about relocating the shelter.

### **10** for **10** TEN LOCAL CHALLENGES FOR 2010

The town has yet to indicate a position on the issue. According to Harrison, a timetable for moving seems unrealistic due to current objections.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce vice president Adam Klein said the move could

"A lot of people are about two paychecks away from being homeless. If you've got a couple of paychecks that don't come in, suddenly things start to snowball."

have a positive effect on the downtown's economic climate.

"I think it would be a positive impact on downtown and, equally important, a positive for the homeless members of our community," he said.

Reports of homelessness adversely affecting downtown business have dogged the Rosemary Street shelter.

Klein emphasized that negative economic consequences stemmed more from panhandling than from homelessness, and that

often not the case. Our downtown business members and their customers are most affected by aggressive panhandlers who are insistent in asking for money and sometimes even harass people."

there was no direct correlation

those who panhandle are not al-

ways the same people," he said. "I

think there is a default assump-

tion that if you're panhandling,

then you're homeless; but that's

Those who are homeless and

between the two.

#### 'A crucial difference'

In uncertain economic times, Dorward said, homelessness can be more imminent than many realize.

"A lot of people are about two paychecks away from being homeless," he said. "If you've got a couple of paychecks that don't come in, suddenly things start to snowball. You can't make the mortgage, you can't make the car payments, you lose the car, and then suddenly you can't go to work anymore."

Dorward distinguished between two kinds of homelessness: chronic homelessness and temporary homelessness. Chronically homeless people find themselves without a home on and off throughout their lives, while temporarily homeless people are typically people who are facing difficult circumstances.

Dorward said that, especially for the latter type of homeless, organizations such as IFC make a crucial difference.

"Things happen to folks from time to time, and they find themselves suddenly on

a path where they're homeless," he said. "They get themselves together with the help of a place like an IFC, and then they go right back into society."

Dorward hopes for a new men's shelter and a relocated community kitchen within five years. However, he acknowledges that homelessness is an issue that will not be solved anytime soon.

"It would be great if we worked ourselves out of a job, but I don't see that necessarily happening," he said.

### Police to receive mental health training

Crisis intervention team training will be offered in January to 27 local law-enforcement officers. The purpose of the training is to better prepare officers for encounters with people with mental illness and to increase the chances that those with serious mental illness will receive treatment rather than incarceration.

The Mental Health Association in Orange County contracted with Durham Technical Community College to provide the 40-hour course.

"We're pleased to have the opportunity to learn more about helping people with special needs and de-escalating people in crisis," said Carrboro Police Chief Carolyn Hutchison.

Five Carrboro officers will take the course, which will be held at Durham Tech's Hillsborough campus.

Officer Charlie Pardo of the Chapel Hill department will serve as the primary trainer; Jody Flick of the UNC School of Social Work will teach a class on suicide prevention; and Peter Smith, a

Chapel Hill psychologist, will conduct another on trauma. Other areas covered include legal issues and mental health law; special concerns with geriatrics, children, and adolescents; community resources; cultural competency; and substance abuse and co-occurring disorders.

-Staff Reports

## Fire marshall reminds you to be careful

**BY CHARLIE TYSON** Staff Writer

While the film Home Alone has cemented the idea of Christmas crime into popular culture, Carrboro's holiday season offers less break-ins and slightly less slapstick, with the town's fire-

"Anytime we're talking about Christmas season and Christmas trees, people need to be particularly careful," Maddry said. "Make sure to buy a fresh tree to begin with, and cut off a couple inches from the bottom and soak it in water. Keep it watered until it's out of the house."

have proven to be a big potential hazard around the holidays.

"This time of year, it seems like a lot of people are frying turkeys. Those turkey fryers need to be used outside only," he said.

As for fireworks, a popular New Year's Eve tradition, Maddry warned that unapproved devices could bring explosive consequences for the unsuspecting consumer. "North Carolina has fairly strict consumer firework regulations," he said. As a result of these laws, fireworks purchased from outof-state venues should be examined to ensure they don't violate North Carolina statutes. Illegal fireworks can be confiscated or result in a fine or citation.

To avoid these issues, Maddry recommended buying fireworks in state.

"Firework providers in state are inspected, and those products are safe," he said.

To protect homes from breakins over the holidays, residents should take a number of precau-



forms are available at strowdroses.org.

The foundation awarded grants to 14 local organizations for the last quarter of 2009, bringing more than \$470,000 the total distributed for the year. Recipients of the latest grants were the choral group Cantari, Carolina Campus Community Garden, Chapel Hill Garden Club, Child Care Service Association, Christmas House, Franklin Street Arts Collective, Hill Center, Orange County Department of Human Rights & Relations (for its community dinner), Orange County Cooperative Extension, Saludamos, Schoolhouse of Wonder, UNC Department of Psychiatry, Voices Together and Volunteers for Youth.

rescue department reporting a quiet season so far.

However, along with colorfully wrapped gifts and time spent catching up with friends and family, the holidays also bring unique safety concerns in the form of Christmas trees, holiday lights and kitchen appliances.

Carrboro Fire Marshal Rob Maddry recommended that residents take precautions to address these holiday-specific issues.

Holiday lights present a different set of obstacles. Maddry emphasized the importance of using products that comply with safety standards set by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and similar product-safety certification organizations.

To avoid problems with heaters and kitchen appliances, Maddry urged residents to follow manufacturer's instructions "to the letter." Turkey fryers, he said, tions, especially if they are traveling. Residents who are leaving their homes over the holidays should ask a trusted neighbor to look in on their houses and bring in any packages or mail. In addition, residents should put their lights on a timer so it appears someone is home.

For more information or holiday fire-safety tips, visit the Carrboro Fire-Rescue Department website, carrborofire.org



**HOW TO REACH US** The Carrboro Citizen 942-2100 P.O. Box 248 942-2195 (FAX) 309 Weaver St., Suite 300 Carrboro, NC 27510

EDITORIAL editor@carrborocitizen.com

ADVERTISING marty@carrborocitizen.com 942-2100 ext. 2

#### **CLASSIFIED & REAL ESTATE**

919-942-2100, 8:30-3 M-F carrborocitizen.com/classifieds Classifieds deadline is midnight Tuesday.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Carrboro Citizen is free to pick up at our many locations throughout Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Pittsboro and Hillsborough. Subscriptions are also available via first class mail and are \$78 per year. Send a check to The Citizen, Post Office Box 248, Carrboro, N.C. 27510. Visa/Mastercard are also accepted. Please contact Anne Billings at 919-942-2100 for credit card orders.

ONLINE carrborocitizen.com/main Updated every Thursday.



Signs-Banners-Graphic Design www.archergraphics.net . 929-7522





**Dan Ryon** Financial Advisor 205 West Main Street, Suite 101 Carrboro, NC 27510 Bus. 919-933-3191

### Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

- Investments
- Retirement Planning Services
- Education Savings Financial Assessments
- Free Portfolio Reviews

Member SIPC

### The ArtsCenter

For more information or to order tickets call 929-2787 x201 or go to artscenterlive.org ArtSchool registration now open!

### **Upcoming Concerts:**

**7th Annual American Roots Series** tickets now on sale. Featuring:

Big Mama E & The Cool and Will McFarlane Band featuring Armand Lenchek • SAT 1/9 Robin & Linda Williams • SUN 1/10 Catie Curtis with Lindsay Mac • SAT 1/16 Lucy Kaplansky • FRI 1/22 Justin Townes Earle & Dawn Landes • SAT 1/30 Cedric Burnside & Lightnin' Malcolm • FRI 2/5

Karla Bonoff • SAT 2/13

John Mayall • WED 2/17

ArtsSchool Winter/Spring Catalogue now available! After School Arts Immersion. Spaces still available. Give an ArtsCenter Gift Certificate. Good for any program in any amount.

Look for us on Facebook.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

### **Community Briefs**

### Community heroes recognized

Twelve community members were recognized Friday at the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce's Salute to Community Heroes and Year-End Awards Gala.

James F. Ellis is the UNC Public Safety officer of the year; Greg Sherman is the Town of Carrboro firefighter of the year; Patrick Spencer is the Town of Chapel Hill firefighter of the year; E. Paul Reinas is the Carrboro police officer of the year; Jean-Luc S.C. Kirk is the Chapel Hill police officer of the year; M.A. LaLumiere is the Orange County deputy sheriff of the year; Rodney Michael Cates is the Orange County EMS employee of the year; Barbara Jessie-Black, executive director of the PTA Thrift Shop, received the Jim Gibson Volunteer of the Year Award; Laurie Paolicelli, executive director of the Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau, and Rick Steinbacher, associate athletic director for UNC-Chapel Hill, received the Town and Gown Award; Jonathan Howes, special assistant to the chancellor and adjunct professor of city and regional planning at UNC, received the Irene Briggaman Lifetime Achievement Award; and former Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy received the Citizen of the Year Award.

### Volunteer baseball coaches sought

The Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department is currently accepting volunteer coaches' applications for the 2009 Youth Baseball Program. Coaches must exhibit the ability to organize practices and communicate effectively with players (ages 6-14 years old), parents and recreation 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 a volunteer coaches' application or additional information, contact the recreation department at 918-7364.

### **Triangle Transit holiday hours**

Triangle Transit bus, shuttle and express routes will not operate on Dec. 24 and 25.

Service will resume on Saturday, Dec. 26.

Triangle Transit also will not operate on Jan. 1. Service will resume on Jan. 2.

Riders with questions can contact the GoTriangle Regional Transit Information Center at 485-7433 or visit the website at triangletransit.org and click on "Rider Alerts" on the homepage.

### Chapel Hill High at the top of the Wachovia Cup standings

The Wachovia Cup award, sponsored by Wachovia and the N.C High School Athletic Association, recognizes the high schools that achieve the best overall interscholastic athletic performance within each of the state's four competitive classifications.

Chapel Hill's sweep of the 3-A cross country crowns and second-place finish in men's soccer were the top performances for Tiger teams, which tallied playoff points in five sports for a 247.5 total to finish in first place, just five points ahead of Raleigh Cardinal Gibbons. Gibbons won the 3-A volleyball state title and was second to Chapel Hill in both men's and women's cross country.

### ArtsCenter sampler event

The ArtsCenter will hold its Sample Event on Sunday, Jan. 3, from 1 to 4 p.m. at University Mall. The event is intended to help people find art classes they'll enjoy by meeting the instructors and participating in a few mini classes. The event is free and open to the public, and those who sign up for classes at the sample event you can receive 10 percent off total class

# Community

### **Community Calendar**

MONDAY, DEC 28

**Chatham County Christmas** Tree Disposal — Chatham County residents can dispose of non-artificial Christmas trees at the Waste Management Office west of Pittsboro from 7am-3:30pm on Dec. 28-31, Jan. 4-8, and Jan. 11-15. The trees are not accepted at the collection centers, only at the main waste management facility located at 720 County Landfill Road (six miles west of Pittsboro off US 64). Please remove all decorations, pots, etc. before disposal.

### WEDNESDAY, DEC 30

**Computer Class** — Starting Dec. 31, the Carrboro Cybrary will offer free computer classes every Wednesday at 7pm, 100 N. Greensboro St. Registration is required, more information at 918-7387.

### **THURSDAY, DEC 31**

Kelsey's New Year's Bash - New Year's Eve Bash with jazz band Equinox at Kelsey's @ Occoneechee Steakhouse, 9pm-2am. 378 S. Churton St., Hillsborough. \$25 admission. Free hors d'oeuvres, party favors, and midnight champagne toast. Full menu until 10pm. For more information 732-6939.

### SUNDAY, JAN 3

ArtsCenter Sampler — Meet instructors from various arts - from painting and drawing to dancing and sewing - at the Carrboro ArtsCenter University Mall satellite space across from Deep Dish Theater. Participate in mini-classes and see what The ArtsCenter has to offer. Sign up for classes at the sampler event and receive 10 percent off your total class registration. This offer is good only on the day of the event and only at the

University Mall location. The event is free and open to the public.

### Ongoing

Cancer Support — Support groups for cancer patients and their families. cornucopiahouse.org

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

### Introduction to Buddhism -

Classes offered Wednesday nights, 7:30-9pm in November at Piedmont KTC Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Center at 109 Jones Creek Place, Carrboro. All are welcome. The class is informal and designed for discussion. A brief sitting meditation will be included. Suggested donation for each class: \$5. 968-9426, piedmontktc.org.

Yoga for Everyone — UNC Comprehensive Cancer Support Program presents Yoga for Everyone. Each class will include a full yoga practice as well as exploration of physical movement, meditation, breathing techniques, and relaxation. All levels are welcome. Classes will be held on Mondays from I Iam-12:30pm. Carolina Pointe II, 6013 Farrington Road, Suite 101 in Chapel Hill. 966-3494

 $\mathbf{DivorceCare} - \mathsf{Support} \ \mathsf{group}$ for those separated or divorced. Mondays, 7pm, Orange United Methodist Church. 942-2825, connect2orange.org

Meditative Yoga — UNC Comprehensive Cancer Support Program presents Meditative Yoga: A calming, stress-relieving yoga class to stretch and strengthen the body gradually. Classes will be held on Fridays from 10am-11:30am. Carolina Pointe II, 6013 Farrington Road, Suite 101 in Chapel Hill. For more information, 966-3494.

Family to Family — A series of 12 weekly classes structured to help family members understand and support a family member suffering with mental illness. The class is free and sponsored by NAMIOrange. Contact Gove Elder at 967-5403 or gbelder@ bellsouth.net.

Garden Tour — Free tour of the N.C. Botanical Garden display gardens. Saturdays, 10am, in front of the Totten Center at the Garden. 962-0522, ncbg.unc.edu

Jazz at the Mall — University Mall presents free jazz concerts every Sunday, 2-4pm

Job Search Meeting — A networking and support group for job hunters. Wednesdays, 9:30-11am, Binkley Baptist Church, 1712 Willow Drive. 942-4964

**Open-Mic Poetry** — Tuesdays except first Tuesday, 7-9pm, Looking Glass Cafe & Boutique, 601 W. Main St. 636-5809

Walking Tour — The Preservation Society of Chapel Hill offers "Walk This Way,'' walking tours of Franklin Street every Sunday at 2 pm. \$5.942-7818 or chpreservation@mindspring. com for more information. Reservations recommended for groups of five or more people.

Breastfeeding Café — An informal drop-in gathering of breastfeeding moms will be held every Monday from 1-2pm at the Red Hen. A La

Leche repersenative will be there to provide information and answer questions, 201 Weaver St.

Tutoring — Hillsborough Police Department and UNC Habitat for Humanifty offer tutoring sessions for students in Orange County School's K-5 classes at the Community Policing Station, 501 Rainey Ave. Tutors are students from UNC. Call 732-2441, ext. 26 to register.

### Kids

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

#### **Preschool Story Time** -

Saturdays, 10:30am, Carrboro Branch Library. 969-3006

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

### Volunteers

**RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program** - Seeks volunteers at least 55 years of age and older who would like assistance in finding an opportunity that matches their interests. 968-2056, co.orange.nc.us/aging/RSVPindex.asp

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

#### **Orange County Literacy**-

Seeks volunteers to help with adult literacy, basic math and English language tutoring, creative writing workshops at local homeless shelters and family literacy workshops. New tutor training workshops every month. Carr Mill Mall, second floor, 636-4457

### RECENTLY FROM PAGE I

"People tell me, 'You walk so fast,' and I say, 'I didn't have a school cafeteria," Altemueller said, laughing. She now lives at The Cedars, where she enjoys a fine dining room.

Though they grew up in a village, one of them would later perform on Broadway and all of them grew up knowing classmate Anne Carmichael Jeffreys, who arrived in town at an early age with her mother – who raised her alone to become a famous actress (with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame) - and Nancy Smith, daughter of author Betty Smith.

"We would go to Nancy's

she read from was A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, which would be the first of several bestsellers Smith would pen in Chapel Hill.

Lunch continues to keep the First-Graders close, as they share that meal regularly at Breadmen's. But we met at the Carol Woods apartment of Margaret Pickard Sirvis, who moved back to Chapel Hill in 2006. Like most of her classmates, she married and left town, soon after graduating from UNC in 1944, ahead of the population explosion brought by the end of the war, when veterans arrived for their free education. Sirvis grew up at 211 Vance St. She's the granddaughter of George Pickard, who ran the liverv stable and later became head groundskeeper at the university, a job his only son (with seven sis-

up in the house their mother researched and named the Widow Puckett House at 501 E. Franklin St.

"When we moved to Chapel Hill [in 1927], the house was a piece of property belonging to the university, used for faculty members," said Wilkins, whose father was recruited from Cornell when she was six. "I can remember Mother walking into the house while we sat in the car. Mother came out with tears just streaming down her face. She and Daddy had just gotten through doing a complete makeover of a lovely Victorian house in Ithaca. She said everything was falling apart, it needed a complete restoration."

Not only did she restore the house, built in the 1810s, but, because so many visitors were inter-

later moved down the hill, where both Boyd and Wilkins later worked. Wilkins is also the one who performed on Broadway. She was named after her aunt, Johnsie Burnham, who was one of the first female violinists with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in New York City. Burnham moved to Chapel Hill in 1930 after her young husband died, where she took her talented namesake under her wing, helping launch Wilkins into a singing career. The women grew up here, some graduated from UNC and, except for Altemueller, left here. But they have returned to their roots. The village has grown into a town they wish was small again. But for them, the memories and good living continue in their hometown.

### THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

registration.

house and Betty would read us chapters from her book as she wrote it," Welch said. The book and Johnsie Bason Wilkins grew

ters), George Jr., inherited.

ested in the antiques with which she decorated it, she started Sisters Frances Bason Boyd Whitehall Antiques there, which 3746 or valariekays@mac.com

Contact Valarie Schwartz at 923-

### SUPER CROSSWORD BIG CHEESES

ACROSS	61	Gossamer	105	Missi	ssippi	4	Blackbo	bard		"Pshaw!"	9	<b>3</b> 3 (	Geom	etry
1 Scrabble	62	They just		senat	or		support	t i	45	The —			calcul	ation
piece		want to	107	Helie	nic	5	—4 (То	yota		Piper	9	95 .	Joust	
5 Colt color		have fun		letter	s		model)			Beer barrel	5	<b>97</b>	Encou	inter
9 Chore	63	Close as	110	Red o	ap		38 Dow	'n		Uplift	9		Lando	
13 Marine		can be	112	Actres			city		50	Jamaican			Kjellin	
leader?	65	"		Zado			Islamic			cultist			Johan	nes-
17 "Tosca"		Believer"	113	Chee			– Dam			— ballerina			burg	
tune		('66 hit)		baske		-	Kind of			Macho type			reside	
18 Woody's	66	TV's "My		playe			cross			Long for			Stand	
boy	~~	<u>⊤</u> wo —"		Mass			"— Day			Olive —	н		Restri	
19 Synagogue	69	Toyshop	121	Temp			Now" ('	62		Lug			Rover	
singer		initials	400	teapo			hit) Manduu	.tala	58	With detachmen			Furniti wood	Jre
21 Columbo or	70	Stocking	122	Miner			Word w		50	Campbell c				ad
Tamblyn	-74	stuffer? Deface	100	suffix			bath or shovel		29	Judd			deps.	au
22 Cheesy			123	Throw			snover Agile O	100	64	Knight's	11		64 Mi	shaol
football	12	Old Testa- ment book		down			Pound s		04	quaff			Caine	
player?	76	Cheesy	105	Sopra			Peace's		67		44		Brandi	
25 Decree	10	clarinetist?	125	Tetra			partner	-		Stallion			Where	
26 Incorporate,	00	Sheridan o	120		2200		Custom		00	sound			eat bi	
as territory 27 Madame	00			Chee	e) (		Mary of		72	Maestro	11		Light b	
Tussaud	01	Sothern	131	aviate			Maltese		12	Levine			Cold-v	
28 English		Copy Singer Tex	135	Is ine			Falcon"		73	Wagner	•••		assn.	·u,
trio?		Tallahasse					- de		10	work	11			1 deck
29 Self-esteem		sch.	5 100	dog	"'y		menthe		74	Biblical			Sam c	
30 Scientific		Baal or	137		topper		Just ou			repetition		-	"Juras	· .
site		Elvis		" C			Final	•	76	Katmandu's	5		Park"	
32 Cheesy TV	86	Actress		Runn			Encircle	Э		country			Pop	
character?		Tilly		('58 f			Comice		77	Lofty			Hook's	s right
37de-sac	87	Find fault	139		nissile	33	Maintai	ns		initials?			hand?	
40 Throng		George		Direc			Comic		78	Sahara	12	26 (	Oistra	kh or
42 Robotic		Hamilton's		Nicol			Crosby		-	sights			Stravi	nsky
rock group		ex	141	Requ			- shar		79	- Scotia	12		Word	
43 Bit of hard-	90	Chula		Base		36	Defeat	by a	85	Relish			for "so	ome-
ware		CA		Spea	ker		knocko	uť	87	French			whať"	
44 Perched on	94	A Muse		•		37				painter	12		Pugna	
46 Beppu brew	96	Cheesy tel-	DO	WN			gentlen	nen	88	Cremona			Olymp	
49 Miscalculate		evangelist?	' 1	Reid	of	38	Ā Four			craftsman	13			rstone
51 Award	100	Swift stuff		"Just			Corners	s		From — Z			abbr.	
55 Cheesy	102	Where		Visiti			state			Omit				ffering
late-night		flocks frolic	2	2 Nutri	tional		A many		92	Hatcher of	13		Poultr	,
host?		Go it alone	_	need			splendo	ored		"Lois &			servin	g
60 Binge	104	Green land	3	I Pride	papa		thing			Clark"	13	54	Stole	
1 2 3 4		5 6	7	8		9	10	11	12		13	14	15	16

60 E	Binge 104 Green land			3 Pride papa					thing				Clark			134 Stole				
	2	3	4		5	6	7	8			9	10	11	12			13	14	15	16
7					18	-		$\vdash$		19					20		21			
22				23					24								25			
26			1			27							28					29		
	1		30		31		32				33	34				35	36			
37	38	39		40		41			42					43						
44		t	45		46		47	48			49		50		51			52	53	54
55				56					57	58				59		60				
61							62						63		64			65		
	1		66		67	68		69		1			70					71		
72	73	74		75			76				77	78				79		80		
81					82					83				84			85			
86				87					88				89			90		91	92	93
94	Γ		95			96		97						98	99					
100	1				101		102					103					104			
			105			106		107		108	109			110		111		112		
113	114	115		1			116					117	118		119		120			
121	1				122	1				123				124		125		126	127	128
129		1	130		131	1		132	133						134					
135	1	1			136							137					138			
139		1				140						141			I		142			

Citizen <b>Cryptoquote</b> By Martin Brody For example, YAPHCYAPLM is WORDSWORTH. One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the two 0's, Y for the two W's, etc Apostrophes, punctuation, the length and formation of the words are all hints. "Slip of the Tongue?"
RO BOOE PZ IOWFVCO PSWP SO
VM WB OBOTG ZY SKTWBVPG.
- XZA IOA. PIOBP YIWBJM,
ZB PSO AIOMVEOBP, WP
W "PWJO LWQJ WTOIVQW"
QZBYOIOBQO. SO FWPOI
MWVE SO TOWBP PZ QWFF
ZLWTW WB OBOTG ZY
"KBLZIB SKTWBVPG". Find the answer in the puzzle answer section.

### Weekly SUDOKU

### by Linda Thistle

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

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  $\star \star \star$  HOO BOY! © 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

### PETS OF THE WEEK

PAWS4EVER - Meet Skittles ! She is a

beautiful 13-month-old Border Collie mix. Skittles took no time to get right into the routine here. She quickly made numerous friends, boys and girls, and loves running, dancing and scooting around with them in the play yards. She has slowly been putting on some weight, as she was thin when she first arrived. She has stunning blue eyes and very pretty markings. She's got the looks, the moves and the personality all wrapped up. She loves being with her people friends as much as her doggie friends — we just



can't run as fast. She loves riding in the car and prefers to be shotgun if it is allowed. She loves to watch all the going-ons in the world and to stick her nose out the window and smell all there is to smell. She always seems to have a smile on her face and a twinkle in her amazing blue eyes. Come on in and meet this lady and take her for a stroll. You never know, she just may be your new best friend. Please come by the shelter and take a look, at Paws4Ever, 6311 Nicks Road, Mebane, or call 304-2300. You can also go online at paws4ever.org

**ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES — Meet Lilly,** Trudy, Sierra and Jasper! These adorable tabby and calitabby littermates are around 2 months old and ready to find new places to call home this holiday season! These babies are a bit shy at first, but warm up quickly to a gentle touch. They may do best in pairs or in homes with another kitty to show them the ropes and help them settle in. Come visits these cuties today at Orange County's Animal Services Center, 1601 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill or call 942-PETS (7387). You can



### **OBITUARIES**

### **Elizabeth Mauer** Dodson

Elizabeth Mauer Dodson, 79, of Hillsborough, N.C. died at home on Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009.

Elizabeth was born Nov. 24, 1930 in Durham, N.C. to Ernest and Rosa Mauer. She grew up on a dairy farm in the Orange Grove community of Orange County and lived most of her life nearby. She married Glenn Dodson in 1948, and they both worked for many years at Erwin Mills. Later she was employed by the UNC School of Dentistry, where she worked until retirement. She was a member of Union Grove United Methodist Church.

Elizabeth loved her family, friends and neighbors. Her home was the center for gatherings and many good times. She was an avid birdwatcher, and her bluebird houses always had the most baby birds in the neighborhood. She crocheted many warm afghans and made sock monkeys for all the kids.

She was a strong and loving person and touched many lives with her experience, knowledge and common sense. She was a wonderful caregiver and gave of herself generously, and was thankful for all the caregivers she had, both family and professional. She was especially fond of her hospice "family" at the

Meadowlands in Hillsborough. Elizabeth is survived by her sister, Carolyn Southerland (Harold) of Chapel Hill; her brothers Kenneth Mauer (Joyce) of West Jefferson, N.C. and Billy Mauer (Linda) of Mebane, N.C.; her daughters, Pamela Dodson Andrews and Phyllis Dodson (Marty Cassady), and her son, Ernie Dodson (Gwen), all of Hillsborough; three grandsons, Chris Andrews (April) of Durham, N.C. and Zach and Isaac Dodson of Hillsborough; two great-granddaughters, Mollie and Grace Andrews; and three step-greatgrandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Glenn, and her brothers Herman and Eugene Mauer.

### **Rudolph Arthur** Stock

Rudolph Arthur Stock, 87, died Sunday, Dec. 20, 2009 after a period of declining health. He was born in Davenport, Iowa to William and Augusta Stock. He is survived by his wife, Norma Stock; his daughter, Cynthia Waszak Geary, and son-in-law, Ronald Geary, and her children, Emily Waszak and Maxwell Waszak; and his son, Gregory Stock, and daughterin-law, Jennifer Stock. Rudy was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, William Stock, Henry Stock and Paul Stock; and his sisters, Delores

Brown and Millie Finch. Rudy served in the Merchant Marine from 1943 through 1950, traveling throughout the world, and then worked for 37 years for the Automatic Electric Company as a telephone equipment installer. Rudy and his family lived in Durham for 21 years, Waynesville for 17 years and then for the last five years in Chapel Hill.

### James Wallace King, Mr. James Wallace King,

72, died Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009 at UNC Hospitals.

Mr. King was born in Chatham County, N.C. and attended Orange County Schools. He worked at Cone Mills and White's Furniture Company. His interests included baseball, fishing and spending time with his family.

Surviving are his wife, Laurel M. King; one daughter, Annette K. Riley, and her husband, Marvin, of Hillsborough, N.C.; one son, James Wallace King Jr., of Minn.; one sister, Mary Ann Simpson, and her husband, Carl, of Graham; one brother, Clyde T. King, and his wife, Lidia, of Hillsborough; two granddaughters, Brandy R. Underwood, and her husband, J.C., of Mebane, N.C., and Taylor King of Minn.; and one great-granddaughter, Riley Underwood, of Mebane.



### Sally Anne (Henry) Heiney

Sally Ånne (Henry) Heiney passed away peacefully November 18, 2009 at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis while surrounded by family.

Sally was born to Ralph F. and Florence Helen (Peek) Henry on June 23, 1934 in Greenwood, Ind. She graduated from Greenwood High School and attended Franklin College, where she was a member of Pi Beta Phi. She worked at Eli Lilly Co. and then with the G.D. Searle pharmaceutical company while residing in Evanston, Ill. for five years. Throughout her life, Sally was passionate about her politics and social

conditions. The women's rights and civil rights movements inspired her to volunteer at The Fletcher Place United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, where she was later employed. Following that, for several years, she was a social services worker at the Southeast Multi-Service Center in Indianapolis.

Sally was a former member of Greenwood Tri Kappa sorority and Johnson County Democratic Women's Club. She looked forward to a 55th wedding anniversary on March 11, 2010. She enjoyed cooking, flower arranging, watching birds and her squirrels, and doting on a long line of cat and dog pets.

She was often recognized in local stores as the whistler, and was loved by those who knew her for her wit and humor. She will be greatly missed by the many people whose lives she has touched.

Sally is survived by her husband, Richard E. Heiney, and her daughters, Sally Ann Heiney (Kirk Ross) of Chapel Hill, N.C. and Emily J. Young (Bradley) of Indianapolis; her sister Linda Boeldt (Michael); her sister-in-law, Charlene Heiney; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister Susan Kirkman.

The family wishes to thank friends and neighbors for their prayers and much-appreciated support during this time and to express our undying gratitude for the thoughtful and gentle care she received from the staff at Methodist Hospital.

Memorial contributions are suggested for the Humane Society of Johnson County, 3827 North Graham Road, Franklin, Ind. 46131.

### James McCoy Smith

Mr. James "Randall" Mc-Coy Smith Sr., 69, of Hillsborough, N.C. died Saturday, Dec. 19, 2009 at Duke Medical Center.

Mr. Smith was a native of Tennessee and was the son of the late Jess Walker Smith and Sally Kirkpatrick Smith. Randall attended school in Mebane, N.C. and was of the Baptist faith. He was also a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He worked for Western Electric and was retired from the Duke Surplus Store.

Surviving are his wife, Marie Whitaker Smith, of Hillsborough; a son, Jamie Smith Jr., of Hillsborough; two sisters, Marjorie S. Horner of Tennessee and Jean S. Perry of Virginia; a granddaughter, Briana Smith, of Hillsborough; and several nieces and nephews.



MAKE-UP recycling day is Saturday, December 26!

Please have your bins out by 7:00 am

398 BR BR BR

Orange County Landfill and all associated programs such as the Hazardous Waste Collection and mulch sales will close early 2:00 p.m. Thursday, December 24 **Closed Friday, December 25** Regular hours resume Saturday, December 26



Solid Waste Convenience Centers will be closed as usual Thursday, December 24 **Closed Friday, December 25 Regular hours resume Saturday, December 26** 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



FERNS HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR MILLIONS OF

YEARS ... MOST GROW IN TROPICAL REGIONS,

BUT SOME RANGE NORTHWARD INTO THE

TUNDRA, AND SOME TYPES EVEN GROW IN

DEAD! THE

THE WATER!

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

THE FERN FAMILY

IS ONE OF THE

TO COLONIZE THE

LAND ... THERE ARE

ABOUT 12,000

SPECIES IN THE WORLD, AND THEY

COME IN MANY

DIFFERENT SIZES

AND SHAPES

There will be NO SERVICE on Friday, January 1 Makeup recycling day is Saturday, January 2! Please have your bins out by 7:00 am

### Orange County Landfill

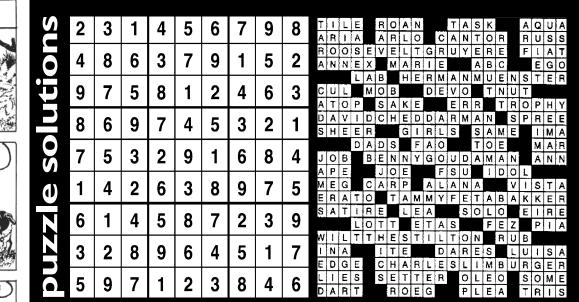
and all associated programs such as the Hazardous Waste Collection, electronics recycling and mulch sales Closed Friday, January 1 Regular hours resume Saturday, January 2 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

### Solid Waste Convenience Centers

Closed (as usual) Thursday, December 31 Closed Friday, January 1 Regular hours resume Saturday, January 2 7:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.

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





### **CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER:** Slip of the Tongue?

We need to realize that he is an enemy of humanity. - GOP Rep. Trent Franks, on the president, at a "Take Back America" conference. He later said he meant to call Obama an enemy of "unborn humanity".



LIVELY GREEN!

THE COAL THAT IS MINED TODAY WAS

FORMED FROM THESE PLANTS OVER 63

MILLION YEARS AGO





(ANN)



### FOR THE RECORD

### Letter from the editor

Two thousand ten, thankfully, is just on the horizon. It's a year that for me will mark a quarter-century since I traveled east across the mountains with nary a nickel to my name (it was \$137 as I recall) to make a new life in this place I now with great fondness call home.

If you are new here and staying through the holidays, one piece of advice I can offer is to get out and about. Wander the downtowns, stroll through campus, the museums and galleries. Then grab a seat and take in the pub life.

It's in the lulls, particularly around the holidays, that the little towns of this corner of the Piedmont reveal their hearts and souls and hidden histories.

This is when some of those bright young minds we've set loose upon the world find their way back home, and all over the place little reunions dot the sidewalks and nightlife with the kind of sparks that happen between people after long separations of time and space. Listen in to those homecomings as the locals share their memories and catch up and you'll learn more about this place than all the guides you'll ever buy.

> "It's in the lulls, particularly around the holidays, that the little towns of this corner of the Piedmont reveal their hearts and souls and hidden histories."

As for the Mrs. and me, for the first time in quite awhile we are heading west across the mountains in late December and back to the other place we call home. Normally, right about now, we are on the coast, a ritual we have relished and one blessed and coveted by our landlocked Midwestern relatives. We prefer our holidays calm and vacations near motionless, and there is something about the beach in winter, as the year comes to an end, that is soothing.

This year, though, we've had a loss – her mom – and we need to be there. I know many others are missing someone right about now, too.

When you lose someone who led a big



### Local light ROBERT DICKSON

I'm not sure when I became addicted to light. Maybe it was during the three years in the '60s I spent imprisoned in an all-boys school in Massachusetts. Or maybe it was that year in the '70s that Vicky and I spent in Chicago. The temperature on the sign near the Sweetheart Cup plant where I masqueraded as engineer read 12 below more than once that winter.

My favorite bumper sticker back then was the one that declared "The University of Chicago: proof that Hell DOES freeze over."

I'm pondering all this on the Winter Solstice, and I've just watched the countdown to 12:47 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, or 17:47 Greenwich Mean Time, if you prefer. That's the time locally that the sun reached the Tropic of Capricorn.

Some folks (well, actually a lot) get all jacked up about the countdown to the new year. That's a laugher to me. Heck, I can't even stay awake for that non-event. The passing of the solstice? That's in a class by itself. The days are now getting longer, feeding my craving. It's the light, man.

Speaking of light, our neighbors Ginger and Giles loaded up the Honda, strapped the kayaks on top and headed for the panhandle of Florida last Friday. You may remember last Friday as the day that we had that delightful weather, with the perfect troika of snow, ice and rain. What a nice day to escape south, even if they were heading into the teeth of the front. Warmth lay ahead. They're off for a couple of weeks of camping and kayaking, and that green glow coming off me isn't Christmas lights. Of course, last time they headed down that way their kayak was stolen off a beach while they were camped near Cedar Key. Probably some redneck named Bubba in his pickup truck...

I hope everyone was paying attention to what Margot Lester had to say about shopping local in last week's Citizen. Margot not only cranks out our monthly ode to commercialism, she's also an observer extraordinaire. This Shop Local thing is for real, folks, and it's all about the quality of life we treasure.

I cringe a bit when I hear about companies and individuals foregoing holiday parties in order to save money. Someone's not going to get paid when that happens, and then someone else isn't either. The effect just continues to spread.

While lots of us don't have as much to spend as we did a few years ago, I suspect there are plenty in our government-insulated community who have nearly as much. If we've got money to spend, I'd say now's the time. Many small businesses are teetering on the edge, trying to hold on until things get better. They need our help. Just try to imagine life without your favorite shop or restaurant. Shop local, indeed; but do it soon.

The in-laws from Maine are in tran-

one shower, but in this case it's ohso-worth-it. Uncle Mark doesn't smell THAT bad...

This season can be stressful for sure; but if you can keep your wits about you, the traditional gatherings of family and friends put that stress in perspective. And one tradition that really lowers my stress is the Hug.

As a kid, the thought of a big ol' bear hug from a highly perfumed relative was just about at the bottom of my list. Yuck.

I still don't much care for the smelly part, but hugs have become way more than tolerable. Greeting that too-longabsent relative or friend with a good hug just seems, well, good – and over the holidays they're in plentiful supply. So why not hug that sister or brother you still resent for some ridiculous reason? Aw, go on. You can do it...

On the back page of this newspaper you'll find our holiday greeting to you, our readers.

Please take a moment to look at the cast of characters who come together every week to bring you this labor of love, aka *The Carrboro Citizen*. As is the case at many community newspapers, these folks are underpaid and overworked, but do their jobs with a smile and with fire in their bellies.

If you get a chance, please tell them

### LETTERS

### Thanks for local coverage

Thank you for your coverage of the local economy efforts under way in Carrboro ("Making Local Work for You," 12/17/09). Margot Lester's vision of "concentric circles emanating from the Paris of the Piedmont" brought to mind author Michael Shuman's "purchasing ladder." (Shuman has served as an economic development consultant to the town and his book, Small Mart Revolution, was used to kick-off discussions on the town's Local Living Economy Taskforce.) For Shuman, the first op-

For Snuman, the first option is to buy less, "a self-reliant community ultimately must be grounded in more self-reliant individuals, families, and institutions." When you shop, he advises, try to buy local, seeking the best combination of "a locally owned store, selling locally made goods, and using locally found inputs." During our recent Buy Carrboro Week, locally owned Nested had a week-long promotion of locally made products.

As Lester points out, there's a whole lot you won't find in that category of strictly local. Shuman next recommends buying regional. Like local, the regional is "a vague term. It usually refers to an area defined more by ecology, geography, and culture than by legal and jurisdictional boundaries. The [economic] multiplier from buying regionally will be lower than if you had bought locally, but it will not be irrelevant." The N.C. Crafts Gallery combines local ownership with regional/state products, carrying the work of more than 500 North Carolinians.

When buying from outside the region, Shuman advocates buying Fair Trade. The Fair Trade movement prioritizes environmental and social standards while helping workers and smallscale producers move toward self-sufficiency. Many Fair Trade products are available at Weaver Street Market including an extensive selection from Equal Exchange, the oldest and largest Fair Trade company in the country. Scott Conary of Open Eye Cafe is very active in supporting Fair Trade coffee growers in Central America. And that leaves everything else. But before you rush off to Durham for cheap goods, refer back to Margot Lester's article "Underwear Uncovered in Carrboro" (Citizen, 12/19/2008). There's more available in Carrboro than you might suspect. And, the big box chains might not be such a bargain after all. As well as Shuman's book, check out Stacy Mitchell's *Big Box Swindle* and Greg Spotts' Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price (or Robert Greenwald's film version).

life, someone with strong beliefs and convictions, the void is pronounced and profound. Big Sal was such a person. She would tell you what she thought. She didn't spend her life on the sidelines either. When you're close to someone like that, you forget how extraordinary that is.

Her independence was legendary. I witnessed some of it in the way that, despite excruciating arthritis, she refused to give up trying to walk and stand and get around on her own.

And yet, though possessed of such a strong will, she made her way through this world with a gentleness few can match. Everyone she encountered, especially the people working in the restaurants and stores she frequented, was important. At the funeral home in the little town where she lived pretty much her whole life, her visitation was populated not just by the many family and close friends she had but by waitresses and shop clerks who saw her obituary in the paper and needed to come by to say so long to the lady they'd talked to all these years. Some didn't even know her last name. They just knew she cared.

Most people have friends, a family member or two or at least some old dog that will miss 'em a bunch. It takes a special person to make complete strangers feel that way.



EDITORIAL

Robert Dickson, Publisher Kirk Ross, Editor

Taylor Sisk, Contributing Editor

Liz Holm, Art Director

**Beth Mechum, Staff Writer** 

Margot Lester, Lucy Butcher, Rich Fowler, Mike Li, Contributors

Charlie Tyson, Intern

Ava Barlow, Photographer

#### ADVERTISING

Marty Cassady, Ad Director marty@carrborocitizen.com

#### **OPERATIONS**

Anne Billings, Office Coordinator anne@carrborocitizen.com

#### DISTRIBUTION

**Chuck Morton, Julian Davis** 

Published Thursdays by Carrboro Citizen, LLC.

sit to Carrboro even as I write this. Looks like they'll spend an extra day in Philadelphia due to the big snow they just had up that way. That City of Brotherly Love stuff is real, I hope, for their sakes.

Vicky doesn't often get to spend a holiday with her family, so I'm very pleased for her that they're coming down. It's not easy having several others in our not giant house with only that you appreciate their efforts and their enthusiasm in bringing quality journalism to our community, 'cause it's pretty obvious that you do.

And I'll just say thank you to all of you, for your readership and support. Have a great holiday and don't forget to hug someone.

*Robert Dickson is the publisher of* The Carrboro Citizen.

## Varsity proves films better on big screen

### **BETH MECHUM**

A couple of months after walking down Franklin Street and noticing activity in the abandoned Varsity Theatre, I finally got a taste of the new Varsity, catching movies on two consecutive Mondays.

Many people waxed poetic about the demise of the old theater, complaining about the loss of an icon. Though I felt similarly, my first thought was, "If this place was in fact so iconic, perhaps people should have done

### And the only way to do that was to buy

to do that was to buy tickets. A combined 10

people were at the two showings I saw, both around 7 p.m., not very encouraging – but all in attendance seemed to be enjoying themselves. After one show, as I was

leaving the theater, I overheard folks saying they'd be back, and how it was nice to have the Varsity again.

My movie going-partners had similar thoughts. One appreciated the old school movie on a new school screen, and the other loving the central location.

Does this mean these people won't fall into the same habits of talking and not doing? Only time will tell. But I think new owners Paul and Susan Shareshian are going about things the right way.

Buying the ticket was about the same as before when I used to go as an undergrad. I still felt a little sorry for that person who seems trapped in the plastic booth, and I still appreciated the simplicity of the transaction compared to high school students emboldened with power – apparently, due to their headsets – at the major movie chains.

Of course, the primary change in the ticketing process is the \$3 fee for a recently released movie or a classic released decades ago. This brings two benefits.

I saw *The Invention of Lying* my first trip to the new Varsity. This was a movie I thought looked good when I caught a preview, but maybe not \$10 good. Drop \$7 from the average price of big-name

"T'm glad that massive Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind movie poster of the old Varsity is gone. Jim Carrey that huge always gave me the hebejebes."

> movie theaters, and I'll watch the ramblings of Ricky Gervais with a smile on my face.

As for classic movies, I've never before had a chance to see them in theaters. Now I can pay about the same as I would to rent a classic movie and see it on the big screen.

I think I can safely say that general consensus is that movies are better on the big screen. But not worrying about parking sure is nice too. The pros and cons are neck and neck, until you factor an overwhelming pro in the Varsity's favor: that buttery, just-enough-salt popcorn. No popped bag comes close. Watching *A Miracle on 34th Street* while munching

on those kernels sure beats a night in.

When I first walked into the new Varsity, the first thing I said was, "Wow, this looks like an old-time theater." OK; so I'm 22 and have never been to an old-time theater. So let me just say that it's what I think an old-time theater should look like. It's homey, and the simple maroon-and-yellow color scheme is a heck of an improvement over that headache-inducing confetti floor at Southpoint.

Poinsettias lined the concession counter making, the lobby even more red-

tinted, and movie posters lined the wall. I'm glad that massive *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* movie poster of the old Varsity is gone. Jim Carrey that huge always gave me the hebejebes.

I do miss the comfy plush couch upstairs that I always felt lucky to grab if I arrived early to a movie. For now, it's just empty

space, and I assume it's where private parties will take place.

Snack prices are more than reasonable. But some simple amenities like napkin holders are missing.

Watching the movie itself was pleasant enough, and there really is something cool about watching a black-and-white film knowing that years ago these were the big stars of the day.

I've already proven to be a repeat customer, and I can only hope that the same people who bemoaned the loss of the old Varsity will do the same.

Beth Mechum is a movie fan and a reporter for The Carrboro Citizen DAN COLEMAN *Carrboro* 

### LETTERS POLICY

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

Letters to the editor Box 248 Carrboro, North Carolina 27510

#### EMAIL:

editor@carrborocitizen. com

**FAX:** 919-942-2195

## **REAL ESTATE & CLASSIFIEDS**

CLASSIFIED RATES \$5.00/issue for up to 15 words. Words over 15: \$0.35/word/issue. Place your classified ad online until MIDNIGHT Tuesday before publication!

### **MOBILE HOME** FOR RENT

WHY PAY MORE? Quiet park, 2BR/2BA. Minutes from town/campus. Call 929-2864.

### **APARTMENTS** FOR RENT

TWO STORY TOWNHOUSE 209 Cedarwood Lane, Carrboro. 2BR/1BA. \$850 - Available January, fully furnished or vacant. Wood burning fireplace, private deck, washer & dryer. 919.699.1167.





ARCADIA CO-HOUSING CUSTOM HOME For Sale by original owner. 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, 1804 sf, \$399K. See www.arcadiacohousing.org for photos and details. (919) 932-5910



CARR STREET Q-T Move in ready 50's bungalow complete with well water for gardening. Within 2 blocks of town center, walk everywhere, grow your own, enjoy a small footprint with a full basement for bikes, kavaks, or scooters. Live simply, simply move in. 929-5658



CARRBORO FARMHOUSE MA-JOR, environmentally conscious renovation makes this 1922 farmhouse like none other. Enclosed porch. 5 acre lot in Morgan Glen neighborhood. Carrboro Elem district. Fascinating history. \$537,777. Weaver Street Realty 929-5658



COBBLESTONE TRADITIONAL home with 4 bedrooms eat-in kitchen, formal & casual spaces. Wood floors, bay window in family room. Fenced yard, mature landscaping. Steps to Bolin Creek trailhead. \$313,500 Weaver Street Realty 929-5658



FEARRINGTON HOME Natural yard, sunny garden spaces, workshop in the garage and birds off the deck and sunroom. Light wood floors, newly painted interior, skylights and vaulted ceilings make the home feel larger than its square footage. Grand light. 929-5658

upport

advertisers!

### TRUCKS AND VANS



TRUCK FOR SALE 1995 Ford Ranger, 4 cylinder, 5 speed, \$1000. Call 919-636-2705.

### **HELP WANTED**

ELVES NEEDED for last-minute holiday work. Temporary, seasonal. Apply in person at North Pole - ask for "the big guy." We are an equal opportunity employer (except for 4' height limit.)

### SERVICES

Wholistic facials Cori Roth, Licensed Esthetician(#E3914) & Certified Dr. Hauschka Esthetician. Offering facials featuring lymph stimulation. aromatherapeutic compresses, decollete massage and treatments designed for specific skin conditions. Holiday Special: 20% off on Gift Certificates. Contact: 919-933-4748 or www. divinerose.com

REINDEER TEAM FOR HIRE Towing, plowing, shipping/ transportation needs. Available Dec 26. Would prefer not to work in wooded areas during deer season. If you need us, place carrots on roof and we'll find you.





in our printed version.

# FARMERS' MARKET

Sat: 7am-Noon • Wed: 3:30-6:30pm Thurs/So. Village: 3:30-6:30pm

### What's at Market?

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

**RUTABAGA!** . . . creasy greens, totsoi, dill, cilantro, turnips, beets, beet greens, carrots, cauliflower, celery, sweet potatoes, broccoli, lettuce, chard, radishes, mustard greens, turnip greens, shiitake mushrooms, green tomatoes, sorrel, acorn squash, muscadine grapes, butternut squash, greenhouse tomatoes, beans, bell peppers, new potatoes, arugula, onions, wheat flour, garlic, salad mixes (spicy and non), collards, fresh herbs, kale, pecans, dried flowers, meats like goat, beef, pork, lamb, chicken, buffalo, and various specialty meats like liverwurst, bologna, hotdogs, etc, cow's and goat's milk cheeses, eggs, breads, doughnuts, tortes, pies, cakes, jams, and relishes.

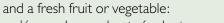
### Whole Wheat Banana Bread with Variations from Kelly Clark, Market Volunteer

With the holidays here, your kitchen in full swing and the refrigerator overflowing - I bet you might have some bananas on your counter that you just ... didn't ... get ... to.

Excellent! You have the makings of a great banana bread, made more so by the fact that you can get 100% whole wheat flour at the Carrboro Farmers' Market. This bread is good when you add 2 or 3 extra ingredients to the batter. Luckily, some of these variations have come to you as gifts this holiday season, nuts ... dried fruit ... others may be hiding in your crisper drawer.

### Ingredients:

3 ripe bananas, well mashed 2 eggs\*, well beaten 2 cups 100% whole wheat flour\*  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup natural cane sugar I teaspoon salt I teaspoon baking soda one to three of these variations: nuts OR nuts & a dried fruit OR nuts & a dried fruit



 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped nuts (walnuts, pecans\*, almonds – so what if their salted!)  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup dried fruit (cranberries, raisins, apples, prunes, apricots, dates - chop the larger

fruit into small pieces)  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup grated carrot\* or apple

### **Procedure:**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a loaf pan. Mix the bananas and eggs together in a large bowl. Stir in the flour, sugar, salt and baking soda. Add your choice of variations and blend. Pour the batter into the greased pan and bake for I hour. Remove the bread from the pan and cool on a rack.

Try a piece warm out of the oven. Toast a piece the next morning. Eat a chunk with your afternoon tea. \*Available at Market









## KONINIAN

## Happy Holidays!

ok, so they're not always happy, especially when Dad shows up with his new wife, Misti (that's Misty with an "i" giggle)

> WeaverStreetRealty.com 929.5658 in downtown Carrboro for 27 years



# Almanac

#### THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



Scarlet-seeded magnolia cones adorn southern magnolia in the fall.

FLORA FROM PAGE I

This irresistibly fragrant, white-flowered tree of the South, sometimes called Bull Bay, Magnolia grandifolia, is common in the maritime and low-country forests all the way around the coastal Southeastern United States. It has been planted and cherished in gardens and landscapes for so long that you sometimes see seedlings here and there, where birds and perhaps squirrels and other critters have dropped those bright red-covered seeds. The dried cone-like fruit are often added to wreaths for holiday decorations.

You can't think Christmas in Colonial Williamsburg without all those doors adorned with magnolia-leaf arrangements. Like my aunt, those old colonials used what they had growing aplenty all about them!

Unlike so much of the other traditional evergreen foliage we bring indoors to cheer us up and protect us from evil spirits and provide shelter for good elves, magnolia remains attractive even in its drying condition.

Native Americans of the coastal regions combined bark of magnolia, dogwood and poplar for a tea to treat malaria, sinus infections and stomachaches. And sometimes, magnolia branches were substituted for red bay branches for stirring flavor into lard.

Paul Green shared a story about a magnolia leaf. As related to him by Galley Farrington, there was a "knockout of a woman'' traveling through the region "to bring joy to mankind." Her trick, which the men were embarrassed to describe, was to take a dollar bill from each, fold it in a large magnolia leaf for them to keep in a pocket, for at least an hour, to bring them good luck. Their luck was not so good when that woman was long gone and they each discovered that nary a one of those folded leaves still held a dollar bill.

Southern magnolia brings up all kinds of memories, the best of which is bringing some indoors for this special season.



### Bah! Humbug! 1984

efore the Grinch, there was Scrooge. And if ever a man could play Charles Dickens' Christmas curmudgeon to the hilt, it was the late great Earl Wynn, a distinguished professor of radio, television and motion pictures at UNC. A holiday tradition for decades, Wynn's dramatic reading of the Christmas-time classic delighted local audiences with an animated performance. In this 1984 photograph, Wynn as Scrooge lambastes his good nephew Fred with the classic lines: "If I could work my will, every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips should be boiled in his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart.... Bah! Humbug!"



### 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.



# from all of us at The Carrboro Citizen!

Bubba, Vicky, Kirk, Taylor, Liz, Anne, Beth, Marty, Michelle, Ken, Phil, Steve, Frank, Val, Margot, Lucy, Rich, Mike, Charlie, Ava, Chuck, Julian, Cyndi and Ouija. Hautoli Lanui! Felices Fiestas! Trevlig Helg! Boas Festas! Mutlu Bayramlar! Sarbatori Fericite! Jie Ri Yu Kuai Bones Festes! Tanoshii kurisumasu wo! Buone Feste! Iiholide eximnandi! Forhe Feiertage! Prettige feestdagen! Joyeuses Fêtes! Beannachtaí na Féile! Vesele Praznike! Selamat Hari Raya! Sretni praznici!