

THE YEAR IN REVIEW:

Budget cuts take toll on child-care services

BY SUSAN DICKSON Staff Writer

This story is the fourth in a series about the real and potential effects to Orange County residents of state budget cuts. This week, we look at childcare and early childhood education.

As director of the Orange County Department of Social Services, Nancy Coston has a lot of experience working within her means, bringing muchneeded services to local families. In the present economic climate, every dollar counts, especially in the realm of social services. But in considering the impacts of widespread budget cuts, child care is the first thing Coston mentions.

"For the last two years, we've received a significant decrease in the child-care subsidy fund," which provides funds for child care for families who couldn't otherwise afford it, she said. This year, Orange County received \$4.1 million for child-care subsidies, down from a recent high of \$4.9 million, meaning that there are nearly 650 children in Orange County who qualify for the child-care subsidy who can't get it.

So what do families do?

The Citizen takes a look back at the stories of the past 12 months in our community.

"Some are hanging on with family members and so forth," Coston said. "Some are paying what they can. Some are losing their jobs."

But without the money, Coston's hands are tied.

"When we knew the cuts were coming, we stopped taking people into the program," she said. But, "Orange DSS did not stop serving anyone who was already getting child care."

So families are placed on a waiting list, with certain groups - like children in protective services or those with adolescent parents - given prior-

"It became increasingly difficult for us even to serve our priority groups when the money started drying up," Coston said. Luckily, the county provided some funding in its 2011-12 budget to help DSS serve those groups.

SEE PAGES 4 & 5

We're trying to piece together what we can for our priority groups, but the picture is quite bleak for working families," Coston said, citing some families who have been waiting for child care for 18 months or longer.

SEE BUDGET CUTS PAGE 3

Please don't let this happen in your neighborhood. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Don't discard that special tree

As we reflect on the joys of the season, take time out to ponder the specialness of that tree you brought indoors to accompany your family traditions.

Most likely that special tree is a North Carolina Fraser fir, Abies fraseri, purchased from a temporary tree lot.

The former 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 now much diminished by an exotic insect pest, the balsam wooly adelgid. I remember being awed back in 1967 by the blue-green Fraser fir forests along the Blue Ridge Parkway's highest elevations. Those ridge-tops today are graveyards of dead stems of the formerly magnificent firs. Today we see Fraser firs mostly as crops on Christmas tree farms in our mountain counties. Though helping the economy of the region, those farms don't replace the biodiversity of the former Fraser fir forests. Unfortunately, much of the Christmas tree production depends upon heavy pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer applications with resulting toxic runoff. A bright side is that some farms are now moving toward non-toxic organic operations With the holidays past, those trees are sadly discarded along curbsides. Please don't let this happen in your neighborhood. Though we are fortunate to have curbside pickup for landfill composting, our special tree deserves better treatment. Honor that tree by continuing its usefulness on your home turf.

New Hillsborough brewery garners support



Football team needs fresh start

BY EDDY LANDRETH Staff Writer

Two years of controversy and chaos in the Carolina football program ended in a train wreck at the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La., on Monday.

Missouri's offense moved at will, as UNC's collection of future NFL players on defense made a joke of



that distinction. The defense did not read plays or tackle well. On offense, Dwight Jones acted as if someone had chopped off his hands.

Time and Eddy Landreth again he turned his head to run before he had secured the ball.

SEE **FLORA** PAGE 8

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An offer to the president

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Chris Shields, assistant brewmaster, and Erik Lars Myers, founder and brewmaster of Mystery Brewing Company, in the new Hillsborough brewery PHOTO BY ROSE LAUDICINA

BY ROSE LAUDICINA Staff Writer

It takes a village to raise a child. Or in Erik Lars Myers' case, it takes a community to raise a brewery.

Myers is the founder of Mystery Brewing Company in Hillsborough, and earlier this month he became the recipient of a loan from the Orange County Small Business Loan Program.

The program is a county-funded revolving loan fund created to support development of small businesses with gross revenues of less than \$3 million. A volunteer board of directors comprised of local business owners, bankers and county staff reviewed Myers' application and chose him as the fifth loan recipient in program history.

This isn't the first time Mystery Brewing Company has been on the receiving end of massive community support. Start-up capital for the brewery was received from donations via the website Kickstarter.

Kickstarter is a micro-financing website where fund-seekers post ideas and set a deadline to raise money needed to complete their vision. If the money requested isn't raised by the deadline, the money returns to donors.

Myers' idea was to start an artisan craft brewery that, rather than having a flagship brew, rotates beer options seasonally.

"If I look at my personal drinking preferences, I definitely don't drink the same beer all the time, so it seems stupid for me to make the same beer all the time," Myers said.

"The beer market is such right now that people are not brand drinkers, they're portfolio drinkers and want to try something new, and I'm happy to give them something new."

Myers said that when most people hear his brewery is based on seasonal beers available for a three-to-fourmonth period, they think it's either brilliant or insane.

Luckily for Myers, those who found his idea on Kickstarter thought it was brilliant, and he soon reached his goal of raising \$40,000.

"It was a really good way to get people invested in the brewery," he said. Those people hold a real strong place in my heart."

To give back to those who gave to him, all Kickstarter donors will be honored in the Mystery Brewing Company taproom with their names on a permanent plaque.

SEE MYSTERY BEER PAGE 3

Perhaps it is fitting the game went this way. The Tar Heels held it together admirably for the better part of two years, far longer than many of us thought possible.

But with a new head coach hired, current assistants looking for jobs and too many players thinking ahead to the NFL draft, this bowl game became the perfect storm of all that can go wrong.

Ugly. There is no other way to describe the ending to a season in which the kids and fired coach Butch Davis' former staff did a superb job of holding it together when the team and program could have unraveled from the beginning.

There is no way most Carolina fans are not going to be happy to see offensive coordinator John Shoop leave.

A prime example of why Shoop drives Tar Heel fans nuts could be seen when quarterback Bryn Renner hit Dwight Jones for a first down at the 2-yard line with around 70 seconds left in the first half against Missouri.

SEE **HEELS** PAGE 8

Court rules Fraleys can sue EMT

BY SUSAN DICKSON

Staff Writer

A three-judge N.C. Court of Appeals panel last week upheld an Orange County judge's decision to allow the parents of former Chapel Hill High School football player Atlas Fraley to sue paramedic James Griffin on claims of negligence regarding their son's

Reports show Griffin violated a number of Orange County Emergency Services policies that might have prevented the 17-year-old's death.

The Fraleys had previously voluntarily dismissed their claims against Orange County and the Orange County Emergency Services Department after the county and EMS claimed governmental immunity. Superior Court Judge Carl Fox ruled in November 2010 that Griffin was a public employee and not a public official, and under such classification Griffin is susceptible to claims of negligence.

On Aug. 12, 2009, Fraley made a 911 call from his home at 1:45 p.m. after a football scrimmage at Middle Creek High School, complaining of severe body pains.

Griffin was dispatched to the home, and upon arrival he advised Fraley to hydrate and watched him do so, gave him instructions to contact his parents and call 911 if his symptoms worsened and left him at home.

According to a county report, Griffin failed to take Fraley's vital signs while he was both sitting and standing, take his temperature, transport him for treatment of hyperthermia, contact his parents or seek a doctor's opinion on the issue.

Fraley's parents found him dead in their home at 6:30 that night.

An autopsy report suggested Fraley's dehydration and cramping may have led to a fatal heart attack, though the autopsy could provide no definitive explanation for his death.

Griffin had his paramedic privileges revoked by the county and later resigned from his job.

Unless Griffin makes an additional appeal that is accepted by the state Supreme Court, the decision, made by Chief Judge John Martin and Court of Appeals Judges Wanda Bryant and Ann Calabria, will allow David and Malinda Fraley to sue Griffin for negligence.



Atlas Fraley

PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA HAZEN

Community

Community Briefs

New dental program for kids

Piedmont Health Services has begun a new program that aims to get more children in central North Carolina to visit the dentist.



The program involves training Piedmont's dental staff on care of young children and intervention with parents. It also involves setting up an internal referral system so that children receiving medical care are also referred for dental care. Annetta Streater, Pied-

Annetta Streater mont's child dental home coordinator, will oversee the program. Streater is also a member of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education.

If you are interested in having your child seen in the dental department of the Carrboro community health center, call 933-9087.

Storytelling for Grown Ups

Storytelling for Grown Ups will take place Jan. 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the General Store Café in Pittsboro.

The night will feature a variety of storytelling styles and fine storytellers for \$5, with a buffet dinner available for an additional \$10. For more information, contact Amy Barefoot at 451-3515 or amy@barefootpublic.com.

Wellness expo

An alternative-medicine health fair is scheduled for Jan. 24, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Carrboro Century Center. Professionals will talk about alternative methods of healing, disease prevention and healthy lifestyles, and will answer questions. The event is free and open to the public.

If you own a business and would like to participate, contact Julie Collins at 918-7392.

Community Calendar

SATURDAY DEC 31

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

MONDAY JAN 2

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

THURSDAY JAN 5

Readings and Carols — Readings by Lee Smith are coupled with carols

sung by The St. Matthew's Women's Singing Circle. St Matthew's Episcopal Church, Hillsborough, 7:30pm \$10 stmatthewshillsborough.com

Auditions — For OdysseyStage Theatre's reading of Michael Halperin's Desert Stories. The Seymour Center, Ipm odysseystage.org

SUNDAY JAN 8

Storytelling — Melissa Delbridge, Suzi Whaples, and Ellouise Shoettler to perform at Storytelling for Grown-Ups. General Store Cafe, Pittsboro 7-9pm \$5

Art Exhibit — The Preservation Society of Chapel Hill presents "Cyanotypes," by Leah Sobsey. The exhibit continues through Jan. 29.

Horace Williams House, 2-4pm Free

WEDNESDAY JAN II

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

ONGOING

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

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

Send your Community Calendar submissions to calendar@carrborocitizen.com



DOWNTOWN DURHAM FILM SCHEDULE DEC 23 - JAN 5

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO Nightly 7:00 & 9:50 Sat/Sun Mats 1:00 & 4:00

THE DESCENDANTS Nightly 7:15 & 9:35 Sat/Sun Mats 12:45, 3:00 & 5:10

MY WEEK WITH MABILYN Nightly 7:30 & 9:30

sible – Ghost Protocol; Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows; The Adventures of Tintin; The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

REGAL TIMBERLYNE 6 120 Banks Drive, 933-8600

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked; Mission: Impossible -Ghost Protocol; Sherlock Holmes: the Dragon Tattoo; We Bought a Zoo; War Horse

THE VARSITY

123 E. Franklin St., 967-8665



WALK IN The WOODS CONVERSATION LEZD TO CARRBOREON REOCTIONS TO THE EXISTENTIOL FACT THAT LIFE IS ESSENTIBLLY KILL OF BE KILLED.

ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK

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 finding medical information on the web and nail shellac.

Dear HOUSE Calls, When I have a question about my health, I often type it into Google but so many results pop up. How do I know which ones to trust?

The first thing you should ask is, "Who is providing this information, and why?" There are many parties with commercial interest in health care. That does not mean information put on the web by a party with commercial interest is bad, but simply that you should understand that interest. Unfortunately, the absence of commercial interest does not mean the information is unbiased or high quality. One approach we like is to find long-standing patient-run chat rooms on major Internet search engines and observe, ask questions and find out where other patients have found reliable information.

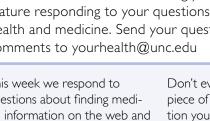
Don't ever jump on the first piece of advice or information you get, but observe the dialogue for a bit. Another approach is to ask your doctor about recommended websites particular to the condition you are facing. Some doctors have regular websites they trust and send patients to, like their specialty's organization website. The downside here is that because the information is high quality and reviewed, there may be less of it and it may not be updated often enough. The last advice we have on this is that if it seems too good to be true, it probably is. We live in a time of unprecedented information access, and we all must learn to be good consumers of information.

Dear HOUSE Calls, I'm wondering about this new shellac that is used in nail salons. Is there any health downside?

Shellac is a new type of manicure that lasts longer

and requires lots of steps. It requires you to put your hands under UV light multiple times. Because this is new, we don't know what the long-term health effects may be. We are cautious about this because of the repeated exposure to UV light. We know that increasing UV radiation increases a person's risk of skin cancer. This stuff is very hard to remove (which is part of the allure), but that means that as your nails start to grow out or if you want to change color, you need to have your nails soaked in 99 percent acetone and wrapped. This process may be damaging to nails and nail beds. So, the jury is still out.

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.



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

CAROLINA THEATRE OF DURHAM

309 W. Morgan St., 560-3030 The Descendants; The Girl With

the Dragon Tattoo; My Week with Marilyn

CHELSEA THEATER

Timberlyne, 1129 Weaver Dairy Road, 968-3005

Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey; The Descendants; Young Adult; My Week with Marilyn

THE LUMINA

Southern Village, 932-9000 Alvin and the Chipmunks:

A Game of Shadows; The Girl with

The Ides of March; Moneyball

Chipwrecked; Mission: Impos-



PET OF THE WEEK



ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES — Say hello to Little Bear! This lab mix is around 3 years old and has a few more days to represent our annual Home for the Holidays event! Until Jan. 6, Little Bear's adoption fee will be reduced to only \$60! This sweet boy is a staff and volunteer favorite. He is a gentle, sweet boy who enjoys company and is eager to please. He likes other dogs and should be a quick learner who is highly trainable and ready to show off any new tricks you take the time to teach him! Visit him today at Orange County Animal Services, 1601 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill. You can also see Little Bear and other adoptable animals online at www. co.orange.nc.us/animalservices

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by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: * * *

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News

Briefs

Police seek info in Franklin St. assault

The Chapel Hill Police Department is looking for anyone with information concerning an assault that took place in the 1500 block of East Franklin Street on Tuesday morning.

The victim reported that a male wearing a black hoodie and black sweatpants grabbed her from behind and assaulted her. The suspect was described by a witness as a 21- to 25-year-old black male, 5-feet-8-inches to 5-feet-10-inches tall and of medium build. The witness reported that the suspect fled the scene when the victim yelled for help. It is believed that the suspect fled the scene in a dark blue Ford Explorer.

Anyone with information about this incident should contact the Chapel Hill Police Department at 968-2760 or Crime Stoppers at 942-7515

New Year's closings

Most municipal offices will be closed on Monday in observance of New Year's Day. Schedule changes include:

• The Town of Carrboro offices will be closed on Monday.

• Carrboro garbage scheduled for collection on Monday will be collected on Tuesday.

• Chapel Hill Transit will operate on Saturday routes on Friday and Saturday, with EZ Rider service ending at 7 p.m. and no U or NU routes running. There will be no transit service on Sunday or Monday.

• Orange County Solid Waste Convenience Centers will be

BUDGET CUTS

FROM PAGE I

"Child care is very expensive," she added.

The cuts have also impacted child-care providers, since Coston can't guarantee them a set number of children anymore.

Major cuts

DSS works with organizations like the Orange County Partnership for Young Children to provide services to residents who need them. The partnership

MYSTERY BEER

FROM PAGE I

While Kickstarter contribu-

Twelve years ago, his mother

tors will have their plaque, Myers

should consider erecting another

gave him a small gift that snow-

balled into the big idea of starting

his own craft brewery: a home-

beer," Myers said of his first brew-

ing attempts. "It was awful, and

I really like beer, so it was disap-

"I made some really terrible

Thanks, Mom

one thanking his mom.

brewing kit.

providers and pre-kindergarten placements, administering the county's Smart Start allocation and a portion of its pre-kindergarten dollars. Smart Start is an initiative started by Gov. Jim Hunt that provides comprehensive early-childhood programs in health and education.

matches children with child-care

"Over the past three years, basically since the recession started, Smart Start has received a budget cut," said Margaret Samuels, executive director of the partnership. "It's been really awful in the past few years watching the budclosed on Sunday.

• The Town of Chapel Hill offices will be closed on Monday.

• Chapel Hill residential refuse collection will not collect yard waste on Monday and will instead pick up yard waste on Wednesday.

• The Chapel Hill Public Library will be closed Sunday.

· Chatham County Public Libraries will be closed Saturday-Monday.

• Chatham County offices will be closed on Monday.

 Chatham County Waste Collection & Recycling Centers will be closed on Sunday.

• The Town of Hillsborough offices will be closed on Monday. • Hillsborough garbage collection scheduled for Monday will be collected on Tuesday.

Two rabies cases in Orange County

Two animals tested positive for rabies in Orange County last week, bringing the total number of positive rabies test to 11 in Orange County for 2011.

A deceased skunk and raccoon were both submitted to the State Laboratory of Public Health after they came into contact with dogs and their owners in Orange County.

The skunk was discovered dead in a dog's pen at a residence on N.C. 57 just north of Hillsborough. The owner then came into contact with the dog after finding the skunk. Because the dog had not been vaccinated for rabies, it had to be surrendered for euthanasia. The raccoon was discovered in the mouths of two dogs in the

get shrink and shrink, because it does have an impact."

In this year's state budget, cuts to Smart Start and the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten program - formerly known as More at Four - totaled 20 percent, Samuels said. Different school districts across the state treat pre-k in different ways; in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, some pre-k students are served within the public schools while other slots are available in private schools.

"That has affected our community significantly," Samuels

"I tell restaurants to feel free to

said. "It means less money for child-care payments, subsidy payments."

"It also means we got reduced slots for the N.C. Pre-K," she added.

The partnership also administers a number of programs associated with Smart Start, like a special services coordination program in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools that helps identify children with special needs, but that program was cut this year because of budget reductions.

The county has helped out with some programs though,

Continued support

The brewery's opening date has tentatively been set for Feb. 29. For those who can't wait until 2012 to check it out, Mystery Brewing Company, located off Dimmocks Mill Road, is hosting a New Year's Eve party, allowing the curious and beer-centric to ring in the new year with all the necessities of any great New Year's

area of Hawkins Road and N.C. 86. The owner contained the two dogs, which were current on their rabies vaccinations and received a booster shot after exposure.

In accordance with state law, unvaccinated animals that come into contact with rabies must either be quarantined for six months or destroyed. By contrast, animals currently vaccinated must receive a booster shot within five days.

Buses to the Dean Dome

The Tar Heel Express shuttle will provide service today (Thursday) for the UNC men's basketball game against Elon at 7 p.m. at the Dean Smith Center.

Shuttle service will begin at 5:30 p.m. from the Friday Center, Southern Village, University Mall and Jones Ferry park-and-ride lots. Tickets are \$3 for one-way and \$5 round-trip.

A shuttle will also run from the Carolina Coffee Shop, and will cost \$2 one-way or \$4 round-trip.

The shuttles will run every 10 to 15 minutes prior to the start of the game and will operate for 45 minutes following the game.

The Tar Heel Express will drop off and pick up in front of the Dean Smith Center on Bowles Drive.

Branch Street closed

Branch Street is closed near its intersection with Airport Drive until Jan. 10 for construction of an electrical duct bank for UNC.

A detour route has been posted for motorists and is indicated by signs along the road. Airport Drive is open.

families."

like an early-childhood dental project that the county health department started funding when the partnership was no longer able to do so.

We worked really hard to work with the county this year because we were really worried about some of these programs," Samuels said, adding that both the Orange County Board of Commissioners and county staff have been very supportive.

"Counties have limited funds as well. The mess is kind of all over," she said. "It's really difficult because so many of our

While Myers is thankful for the monetary support his venture has received, he's also thankful for the generous helping of good faith from the community.

Although he initially chose Hillsborough for its proximity to multiple major highways, which allows for easy distribu-

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tion, the exuberance displayed by townspeople for his little brewery proved he chose the right location.

programs ... were showing real

outcomes for children and their

has cut its budget pretty much to

the basics at this point, and that

ing the outlook very closely," she

said. "Our eternal hope is that everyone recognizes the benefit

of early-childhood [programs]

and that the more funds we put

in early childhood, the less issues

we have down the road."

she worries about future cuts.

Samuels said the partnership

'We are going to be watch-

"It is absolutely unbelievable how many people I have met in this town that are excited to have a brewery in town," Myers said.

"They've done a lot to help us get off the ground," he added. "They've been a very supportive and very warm community."



pointing."

years of brewing before he made anything decent. While those first attempts may

not have been the best - and some of his recent trials, such as a garlicflavored beer, might also be considered less than terrific - Myers insists that he knows what flavors work and wouldn't make anything he wouldn't want to drink.

For example, the brewery's Langhorne rye wit, named after Mark Twain, is made from rye, hibiscus, rose hips and blood orange peel.

He said it took him five or six

ers only. order a mystery tap at all times," Myers said. "The beer might change but the quality won't."

 \square

"I make what I like," he said.

In addition to not having a flagship beer, Mystery Brewing Company won't have six packs; it will sell its beer in kegs and growl-

Eve celebration: food, music and beer.



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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**

will be CLOSED Sunday January 1.

Orange County Solid Waste Administrative Office

will be CLOSED January 2.

Normal hours of operation resume Tuesday, January 3.

recycling@co.orange.nc.us

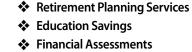
www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling

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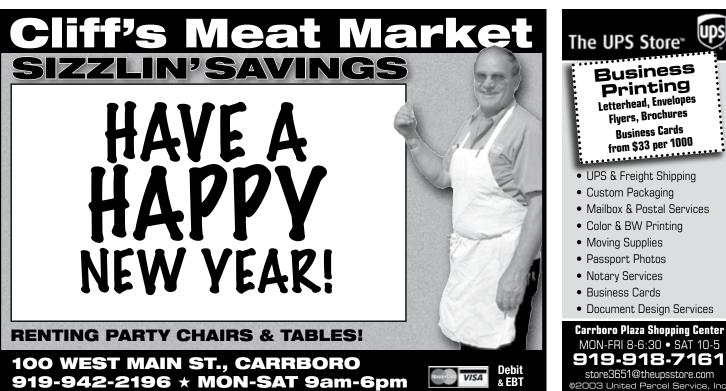
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ARTSCENTER STAGE:

LIFE IN A MARITAL INSTITUTION • FRI JAN 13 MARK TWAIN NOW • SAT JAN 28 TRANSACTORS IMPROV: THE LOVE SHOW • SAT FEB 11

SUPERFUN FAMILY SHOWS:

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

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JANUARY

Douglass Hunt dies on New Year's Day at 86. After a long legal career and a stint as assistant to the secretary of the treasury in the Johnson administration, Hunt served as special assistant to a succession of UNC chancellors.

The Chapel Hill Planning a request by the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service for a special-use permit for Community House, a two-story, 16,250-square-foot transitional shelter for homeless men on a university-owned parcel near the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Homestead Road.

Among the items featured at the Carrboro Farmers' Market are mache, carrots, beet greens, savoy cabbage, mint, thyme, Brussels sprouts, carrots and broccoli rabe.

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners votes upon party lines to eliminate four staff positions, with the newly elected Republican majority voting in favor of the cuts. The eliminated positions include the directors of the Office of Human Relations and the Department of Sustainable Communities.

150th anniversary of the Civil War.

According to a report presented to the Orange County

nology over the past two years.

rie Clark, a Car-

rboro native and

Improvements include the development

The annual Martin Luther King Jr.

Community Service Award goes to Lo-

of the new county GIS website

Court reopens, after a fire, at a new location, 158 West St. in Pittsboro.

FEBRUARY

The Orange County Board of Commissioners votes to approve the county's legislative package for the 2011 N.C. General Assembly Session, re-Board unanimously approves questing approval of bills that would prohibit deer hunting with dogs in the county and establish 91 percent of the disputed Orange County/Alamance County line.

UNC juniors Mark Clarke and Zach De La Rosa are selected as the 2011 recipients of the Eve Carson Scholarship.

The Special Olympics of Orange nel Appeals Committee recommends County skiing and snowboarding team competes in the Southeast Winter with several team members bringing home gold, silver and bronze medals.

UNC system students and immigrants-rights activists march down South Road in protest of proposed tuition hikes and layoffs in the UNC school system.

Carrboro considers a plan to slim down West Main Street along the road's four-lane stretch near Town Hall, adding bike lanes and dropping the number of travel lanes for cars from four to two, plus a turning lane.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City A website chronicling ev- Schools Board of Education votes 4-3 eryday life in the South 150 to approve a plan that reassigns 33 stuyears ago is launched by the dents and several new developments University Library at UNC. from Morris Grove Elementary School The site commemorates the to other district elementary schools, but would keep students from the neighborhood north of Weaver Dairy Road at Morris Grove.

With a new system for provisioning the town's 100th birthday. In true Car-Board of Commissioners, the mental health care services now in effect rboro fashion, the ringing of the bell is department presents Bye Bye Birdie as county has made major im- - one in which most services that will be barely audible over the celebratory noise the first performance in the new CHS provements in its use of tech- reimbursed by federal funds will be de-

against rehiring Kerry Bigelow and Games in Blowing Rock and Boone, the town's Public Works Department for alleged insubordination and intimidating behavior toward supervisors and residents. The men had appealed their town residents.

> Schools Board of Education narrows its search for a new superintendent, select- April 19. ing 10 candidates for interviews.

The Carrboro High School JV men's 14-0 in conference play.

A delegation of three state representatives and two senators warns the Chapel Elementary School to Estes Hills El-Hill Town Council that what lies ahead for them in the coming session will be, in Rep. Joe Hackney's words, "Worse than [a] challenge."

Town staff, former board members, elected officials and residents young and Center bell 100 times to commemorate ange County Landfill. of the townspeople auditorium.

inside. "Nobody can make noise THE YEAR board of aldermen ballot. member Jacquie

> On Carrboro's 100th anniverdermen Lydia Lavelle and defunct dry-cleaning her partner, Alicia

domestic partners with "a statement of again from advocates gratitude to Carrboro" and "a statement for and opponents of of outrage to our legislators" for the pro- the county's chosen

dors at a gathering of food trucks at Al's

agrees to lease a large number of park- Education votes to ing spaces at a new parking deck in the approve their budget 300 East Main Street project. The agree- request, with a warnconstruction of the deck and a Hamp- get is unlikely to mirton Inn on the eastern portion of the ror the financial situ-

Representatives of Hart-Redd, a company that wants to build a ing on the northwest corner of Greensboro and Weaver streets, shows updated plans for the project at a community along with upstairs storage and office sive water fight.

Annette Stone is appointed as eco- energy-efficient homes. nomic and community development direplaces James Harris, who retired from

With strong objections from neighbors and a wide array of questions from firings to the committee composed of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen on the table, the continuation of a public hear-The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City ing on rezoning the county's chosen site not include a tax increase for the third for a library is tentatively scheduled for

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education votes 6-2 basketball team goes 19-1 overall and to approve a plan that would move students from the neighborhood north of Weaver Dairy Road from Morris Grove

APRIL

Members of the Orange County Board of Commissioners postpone a old line up to ring the Carrboro Century decision on extending the life of the Or-

The Carrboro High School theater

The Orange County Board of Commissioners votes to put a quarter-cent House Men's Shelter at 1315 Martin Lulike Carrboro," says sales-tax referendum on the November

The state Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) investigates effects on homes and businesses near the intersection of Main and member dumped by a now-

hearing

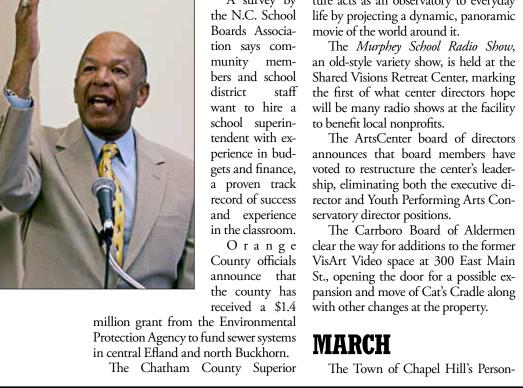
The Chapel

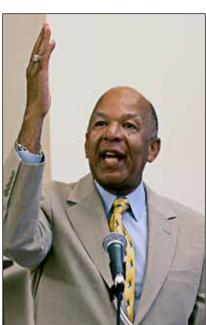
ation the schools will actually face in the special fund to help pay for community ments in the Northside and Pine Knolls

Stewart announces that he plans to retire in late summer or early fall.

meeting at Carrboro Town Hall. The ebrates Thingyan, the Burmese New the Chapel Hill Town Council requests nearby waterfowl impoundment, the design calls for a two-story building that Year Water Festival, and more than 100 will house a CVS pharmacy downstairs people come out to take part in a mas-

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City





ongtime school social worker. A survey by



Clyde Clark, who were dismissed from rector for the Town of Carrboro. Stone the position at the end of January.

ementary School.

business. After site for a new library School, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen

request for the prop-Hill-Carrboro City

coming year, bracing for cuts that state projects in the Rogers Road area, near neighborhoods, the Chapel Hill Town legislators have indicated are likely. Carrboro Town Manager Steve

Abbey Court Condominiums cel-



the county-maintained landfill some Council votes unanimously to approve residents say has been the cause of nox- a measure that will impose a six-month ious fumes, illegal offsite dumping and other community woes. Opening the debate on food trucks,

that staff develop draft regulations that Chapel Hill Town Council votes 5-4 would allow, within parameters, mobile food units in town. More than 800 children cross the

The Tar Heels beat Duke to finish in a residential neighfirst in the final ACC regular-season borhood near Car-Local artist J. Lev unveils the new standings. The victory vaults Carolina rboro Elementary Parlez Vous Crepe, Will and Pop's, approves a rezoning Only Burger, Blue Sky Dining and Captain Ponchos Tacos are the featured ven- erty. The Carrboro Board of Aldermen Schools Board of

property

A Helping Hand visits Charles posed "Defense of Marriage" bill. House Eldercare Center for a volunteer serenade and Valentine delivery. Whirld, an interactive sculpture, at Leo to sixth in the Associated Press poll and Gaev Metalworks. The interactive sculp- seventh in the coaches' poll. ture acts as an observatory to everyday life by projecting a dynamic, panoramic

The Murphey School Radio Show, an old-style variety show, is held at the Garage.

Shared Visions Retreat Center, marking the first of what center directors hope will be many radio shows at the facility

The ArtsCenter board of directors ment with Main Street Partners helps ing that the picture announces that board members have with financing and clearing the way for painted by the bud-

voted to restructure the center's leadership, eliminating both the executive di-The Carrboro Board of Aldermen O r a n g e clear the way for additions to the former 24,000-square-foot commercial build-VisArt Video space at 300 East Main St., opening the door for a possible expansion and move of Cat's Cradle along with other changes at the property.

MARCH

The Town of Chapel Hill's Person-

livered by large, state-accredited provid-

ers – the question remains of what will happen to smaller providers.

Stemper, register as

superintendent of the school Hospital.

district.

June 27.

MAY

year running.

dation.

ther King Jr. Blvd.

After months of specula-

over design, pricing and what Aldermen approves a rezoning to allow the Pine Grove Mobile Home Park on Old

Fayetteville Road to be redeveloped as a cluster of 39

For his last budget presentation in his 30-plus year career in local government, Carrboro Town Manager Steve Stewart presents the Carrboro Board of Alder-

men with a spending plan that would The flagship store for Carrboro-based Fleet Feet Sports announces that it will

move out of Carr Mill Mall and across the street to the former VisArt Video baroness Jackie Helvey receives a sculpture by Mike Roig along with the rare

honor of having a week named for her at a Carrboro Board of Aldermen meeting. Andrea Reusing of Lantern is named Best Chef of the Southeast and Crook's Corner is presented with an America's Classic Award by the James Beard Foun-

After months of presentations, hearings and deliberations, the Chapel Hill Town Council votes 6-2 to approve plans for the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service's proposed Community described as a riot.

Chapel Hill Town Manager Roger council recommending no tax increase and no layoffs for town employees.

The Orange County Board of Com-

to reject a rezoning request for Aydan Court, a proposed 90-unit residential

moratorium on residential development in the neighborhoods. Citing concerns about impacts on a

the

DAY

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project on 5.8 acres on the north side of

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for. With a mission centered on balance, we encourage

treadmills to personal training, we've got what you're looking

Schools Board of Education finish line to receive medals and prizes in announces that Dr. Thomas the Swim for Smiles Foundation's triath-Forcella, superintendent of lon – the largest youth triathlon in the Guilford, Conn., Public country – at Chapel Hill Country Club, Schools, will serve as the next raising money for the N.C. Children's

Taking steps toward a development moratorium for the Northside and Pine tion, Bank of America says Knolls neighborhoods, the Chapel Hill that it will foreclose on the Town Council votes unanimously to Greenbridge development on schedule a public hearing regarding the moratorium, setting the wheels in mo-After a long negotiation tion for a possible decision.

A small black bear causes a stir as he would happen to current resi- ambles through parts of southeast Chadents, the Carrboro Board of pel Hill, including UNC's Finley Golf Course and the N.C. Botanical Garden.

JUNE

The Carrboro High School women's soccer team loses a hard-fought match against Cuthbertson High School in the state 2A women's soccer championship game on penalty kicks after a 1-1 tie at the end of regulation and two overtimes The South Orange Rescue Squad

celebrates its 40th anniversary with an open house at the station on Roberson Street The PTA Thrift Shop announces

plans for a major redevelopment with a green, pedestrian-friendly plaza surrounded by office and retail space. The Orange County Board of Com-

missioners unanimously rejects a halfcent sales tax referendum to pay for with Relentless volunteer and local media regional transit improvements, despite of candidates offering support for the idea of a com- throwing their prehensive regional transportation sys- hats in the ring

At the request of a woman who was seriously injured in a car accident last September, the Chapel Hill Town Council agrees to consider a petition that would ban the use of cell phones er and owner while driving a car in town.

The first class to finish four years at Carrboro High School graduates. About 35 to 40 people assemble at Greenbridge in a protest that has been

UNC and its football program receive word from the NCAA alleging that the sanctioning body found nine Stancil presents a budget to the town violations of the group's rules during an inquiry into alleged improprieties in the program.

Responding to increasing concerns sary, board of al- Weaver streets of a chemical apparently missioners votes unanimously to create a regarding student-housing develop-

N.C. 54.

The Chapel Hill Town Council reviews a concept plan for The EDGE a proposed 79-acre development at the intersection of I-40, Eubanks Road and Martin Luther King Boulevard that could bring hotels, large-scale retail stores and residential development.

In a double shot of adrenaline for The ArtsCenter, Jay Miller is named interim director, and Miller announces that the center has received verbal confirmation of a \$100,000 grant from the Nicholson Foundation. Accepting a last-minute funding

increase offer from Orange County of ficials, the Chapel Hill Town Council votes 7-2 not to charge non-Chapel Hill residents of Orange County to use the Chapel Hill Public Library.

The Carrboro Farmers' Market adds an ATM located inside the information booth for market shoppers' convenience.

JULY

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Superintendent Neil Pedersen retires after 19 years at the helm of the school district

After nearly four months of closure for construction work, the east block of Weaver Street reopens to vehicle traffic, and the work moves to the west block.

Filing season gets underway, a flood for the fall's municipal elections.

Carrboro Creative Coworking found-Brian Russell announces that the shared workspace will close its doors at the end of Septem-

> ber. Carrboro fixture Robert Harman, 73, dies at UNC Hospitals from injuries sustained in a bike accident, and hundreds of community members gather to share memories.

> The Town of Hillsborough and the Hillsborough Police Department recognize 6-year-old Zion Paschall as a Community Hero for helping his grand-

mother during a medical emergency. Johnny's owners are in dispute about whether the business will reopen.

The Preservation Society of Chapel Hill enters into the next stage of its efforts to restore the historic Strayhorn House, located at 109 Jones Ferry Road, launching an effort to raise an additional \$10,000 for further restorations.

AUGUST

After eight years as Carrboro Town Manager and 37 years in local government, Steve Stewart retires from his post on Aug. 1.

A Southern Season announces that return to teaching tra-TC Capital Fund, headed by Chapel Hill entrepreneur Clay Hamner, has bought the company

Dr. Thomas Forcella starts his first partment holds its anschool year as the new superintendent of nual Dog Swim at the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

nounces that football coach Butch Davis has been fired. A small plane is stolen from Horace

Williams Airport in Chapel Hill some- of Aldermen votes time after 9 p.m. and then crashes about unanimously to adopt 20 miles away in a wooded area near an ordinance that pro-N.C. 87 in Alamance County south of hibits the tethering of Graham. When the plane is discovered dogs and sets a miniaround noon, no one is onboard.

Kerry Bigelow, one of two fired Town of Chapel Hill Public Works employees known as the "Sanitation Two," files a Carrboro Music Fes-

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suit against the town asking for recovery of back pay and reinstatement to his former job.

An earthquake that registers 5.9 on the Richter scale at its epicenter in Mineral, Va., some 40 miles east of Charlottesville, is felt here, but no damage is reported

Citing concerns with cost, outstanding title issues and a less-than-inclusive search process, the Orange County Board of Commissioners votes unanimously to reject a lot adjacent to Carrboro Elementary School as the site of a future southwest Orange County li-

Across Carrboro and Chapel Hill,



backpacks and kiss summer goodbye, heading back for the start of the 2011-12 school year.

SEPTEMBER

Local social justice activists Yonni Chapman, Rebecca Clark, Rev. Charles M. Jones and Dan Pollitt are honored for their revolutionary work in fighting inequality at the Peace and Justice Ceremony. Their names are added to the

marker in Peace and Justice Plaza. Cat's Cradle reopens with a free concert by The Old Ceremony after renovations are completed that include adding sprinklers, increasing the height to the stage and changing the entrance to the nusic club.

High Carrboro School continues to offer hybrid classes against school board wishes and is told to disband the classes and ditional-style courses.

The Orange County Animal Services De-A.D. Clark Pool at the The UNC Board of Trustees an- Hargraves Community Center, but because of rain the turnout is low. The Carrboro Board

mum outdoor enclosure size for dogs.

The 14th annual

tival hosts more than 180 acts and although rain threatens, nice weather prevails and draws in thousands of attendees.

The Carrboro Farmers' Market is listed among the top markets in the coun-

try in Martha Stewart's Everyday Food. Carolina football debuts with interim head coach Everett Withers at the helm in Kenan Stadium with a win over James Madison University amidst NCAA investigations.

OCTOBER

UNC students who worked to bring an end to the Speaker Ban Law in 1966 are honored at University Day with the dedication of a granite marker along the stone wall between McCorkle Place and Franklin Street.

Orange County Social Club celebrates its 10-year anniversary with a full week of festivities including a two-night rock show at the Cat's Cradle.

Kerry Bigelow and Clyde Clark, known as the "Sanitation Two," file a civil summons against the Town of Chapel Hill and Town Manager Roger Stancil asking that their jobs be reinstated with additional compensation.

Chapel Hill mayoral candidate Kevin Wolff is listed as the distributor nearly 12,000 students strap on their of a flyer claiming that a men's shelter near Homestead Park

> would endanger children.

The Piedmont Food and Agricultural Center Processing opens for business in Hillsborough.

The Chapel Hill High Marching Tiger Band wins multiple awards in its final band competition, the Brick Capital Classic, including first place 3A drum majors, percussion and

Despite calls for a repeal of Carrboro's anti-lingering ordinance, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen votes against a motion to rescind the ordinance, 4-3.

Pearl Francis Seymour, for whom the Robert and Pearl Seymour Center is named, passes away on Oct. 28 at the age of 84.

Greenbridge Condominiums, which has been tied up in foreclosure with Bank of America, is sold to a group of investors, avoiding foreclosure.

NOVEMBER

Incumbents Donna Bell, Jim Ward and Matt Czajkowski are reelected to the Chapel Hill Town Council along under new coach Urban Meyer as the with newcomer 22-year-old Lee Storrow co-defensive coordinator and assistant and Mayor Mark Klienschimdt.



Michelle Johnson, Lydia Lavelle and Dan Coleman are elected to serve on the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, along with Mayor Mark Chilton.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2011 5

Four incumbents, Jamezetta Bedford, Mike Kelley, Annetta Streater and Mia Burroughs, are reelected to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education alongside newcomer James Barrett.

The Carrboro High School women's cross country team wins the 2A State Championship.

Carrboro finds out it is in the running to be the setting for a reality TV show called Lovetown, USA, to air on the Oprah Winfrey Network. Auditions are held across town for single residents who are looking for love.

Seven are arrested when attendees of the Carrboro Anarchist Book Fair align themselves with the Occupy movement and occupy the vacant Yates Motor Co building, resulting in a dramatic encounter with police.

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen votes unanimously to repeal the town's controversial anti-lingering ordinance, one month after voting to uphold the

The Red Hen relocates from West Weaver Street to University Mall. Owner DeeDee Lavinder says the construction project on Weaver Street caused her business to struggle.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners approves funding for elementary school 11 in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools district. The school is scheduled to open in August 2013 in the Northside neighborhood and will help alleviate overcrowding.

DECEMBER

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen issues an apology to the reporters and bystanders who were detained in the police raid on occupiers of the Yates Motor Co. building.

The Inter-Faith Council for Social Service and TABLE decide to disassociate themselves from local nonprofit PORCH, citing public confusion and a mission change by PORCH.

Carrboro is announced as one of two finalists in the running to play host to reality dating show Lovetown, USA, but producers say they need Carrboro to ind more male applicants.

The Chapel Hill and Carrboro Human Rights Center is forced to leave its location in the Abbey Court Condominiums following a decision by the complex's homeowners association.

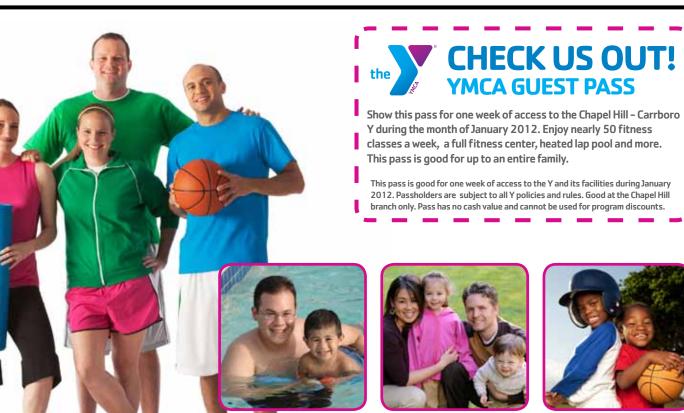
UNC hires Larry Fedora as the new coach of the football team for the 2012 season. UNC's interim head coach Everett Withers gets a job at Ohio State

> The wreath hangng outside the Carrboro Fown Hall is possibly the largest hanging wreath in the state.

> The Chapel Hill Police Department arrest Mario Dante Ramsey of Durham, on one count of first-degree murder in the Dec. 11 shooting death of Drew Christopher Frasure. Frasure, 41, was found dead of a gunshot wound in his home on Ashley Forest Drive.

After more than a week and a half of witness testimony, Laurence Alvin Lovette Jr. is found guilty of murdering Eve Carson, UNC student body president, on March 5, 2008.

Ken Moore enters the enchanted holly forest.





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LETTERS

Charter school has conservative roots

Readers may be interested in the following information about the National Heritage Academy for-profit charter school, which I garnered from several websites. Is this really a viable option for a school in our community?

The Academy, in addition to teaching traditional subjects, seeks also to provide moral instruction as stated in this excerpt from the website of the National Heritage Academy (nhaschools. com/About-Us/Pages/Frequently-Asked-Questions.aspx):

What about your moral focus curriculum?

"We believe great schools develop both a student's heart and mind. Our moral focus curriculum is designed to support our parents' efforts to teach character at home by reinforcing and modeling universal human virtues, such as compassion, respect and integrity. A different virtue is featured each month of the school year and is supported by curriculum in the classroom. Additionally, teachers model behavior that exemplifies the virtue, recognizing and praising students when they do the same. The moral focus curriculum is integrated throughout the school and creates an environment that is not just physically safe, but also emotionally safe. Students are taught to respect their classmates, to make smart decisions and to resolve disputes in a manner that displays strong character."

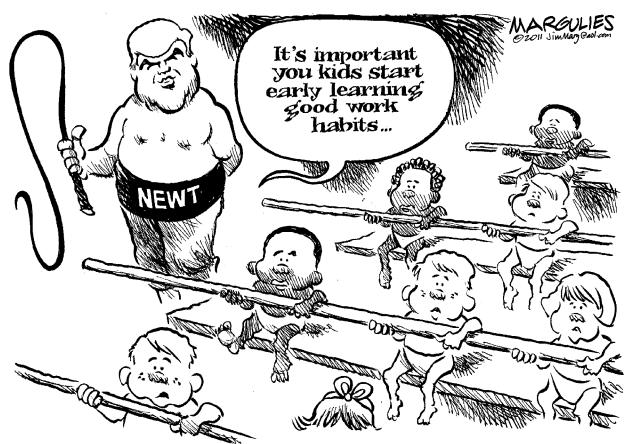
They also regularly have a "moral focus as-(nhaschools.com/Our-Commitment/ sembly." Moral-Focus/Pages/MoralFocus.aspx)

As for the qualifications of the Academy leadership, if you look at their website and click on the leadership heading you will find that the majority of those involved in the educational aspects of the Academy received their college education in conservative Christian institutions, e.g., George Fox University, Hope College and Cornerstone University.

> ELLIOTT MILLS Chapel Hill

Fracking too risky

As a concerned citizen of Chapel Hill, I am completely against fracking. The practice of hydraulic fracturing is incredibly dangerous. Even fracking in rural areas is dangerous.



The biggest story of the year

Looking back at the end of the year is a natural thing to a governing body may be the culmination of something, but do. The downtime between semesters after the feasts and holidays always seems about right for reflection. The green leaves of summer are scarred and toasted and raked into piles. You can see the contours of the land much better, and in the quiet of the long nights, if you put your mind to it, a perspective usual dominant personalities and influencers, the smaller

on the year now fading also starts to reveal itself.

There's nothing like a local newspaper to help you along in that process of reflection. When we first started publishing The Citizen in the spring of 2007, we hadn't really conceived of exactly what to do at year's end, but we knew it would be an important part of our mission. We wanted to make something you could put in the cedar chest as a clue for future generations of just what happened around here.

Too often, end-of-the-year issues come off as slapped-together space fillers. In an industry where the printed product is growing smaller and the online product more

full of baubles than substance, putting the year in perspective has come down to cavalcades of photos and a top 10 biggest stories list. That first year, when we started planning our inaugural year-in-review issue, we thought maybe you - our readers - deserved a little more than that.

What we came up with isn't exactly the definitive history of our community, but it's not 365 days boiled down to 10 paragraphs.

By taking you through things month by month you can see how the year flowed, how the conflicts and controversies started, evolved and resolved over the course of the year. Big events happen of course, but the stories that really shape a community and influence the direction of it rarely are comorised of a single moment. An election or a decision taken by

they are rarely standalone events. Protests like the ones we've seen in recent months might seem just to burst into view, but they're the result of pressure building over time.

And if you're concentrating on just the big things and the

moments of the year get lost. It may seem silly or at least unserious to add into a review the growing of a giant vegetable, the installation of a strange sculpture or the birth of twin oxen, but that's part of what makes this place what it is and shouldn't be left out. Things don't have to be newsy to be news. Folks just keeping on in the face of adversity, especially in times like these, is an important story as well. And the victories and accolades that might seem small to some are giant in the lives of those people classified as "ordinary people."

There are no ordinary people. Some make more headlines and get more ink

than others, but that doesn't make them more important than anyone else or their dreams and hopes and fears any more real.

Everyone has a story to tell - the story of how they got here, how they came to be the person they are and where they want to go in life.

In a culture that is obsessed with celebrities and wealth and power, you can lose track of that. You can forget that all over this place there are people performing simple heroic acts every day without fanfare.

When you reflect on the year past, remember those people too, because as much or more than any well-known figure, their acts of compassion, kindness and service keep this community running and are steadily shaping it's future. That's the biggest story of the year, any ve

An offer to the president

ROBERT REICH

Mr. President, we heard what you said earlier this month in Kansas about the dangers to our economy and democracy of the increasing concentration of income and wealth at the top.

We agree. And many of us are prepared to work our hearts out to get you reelected - as long as you commit to doing what needs to be done in your second term:

• Raise the tax rate on the rich to what it was before 1981. The top 1 percent has an almost unprecedented share of the nation's wealth and income yet the lowest tax rate in 30 years. Meanwhile, America faces colossal budget deficits that have already meant devastating cuts in education, infrastructure and the safety nets we depend on. Income in excess of \$1 million should be taxed at 70 percent - the same rate as before 1981.

• Raise capital gains taxes to the same level. It's absurd that the 400 richest Americans - whose wealth exceeds the wealth of the bottom 150 million Americans put together should pay an average of 17 percent tax on their incomes, the rate day laborers and child-care workers pay. That's because so much of the income of the super-rich is considered capital gains, now taxed at only 15 percent. Close this loophole.

• Tax financial transactions. A tiny tax on every financial deal would yield billions of dollars. It would also slow speculators and reduce the wild gyrations of financial markets.

• Use the bulk of this money to create good schools, give our kids access to a college education and build a world-class infrastructure.

• Resurrect the Glass-Steagall Act, which used to separate commercial from investment banking. It was put in place after the Great Crash of 1929 to prevent financiers from gambling with people's bank deposits. But it was repealed in 1999 - and its repeal contributed to the crash of 2008. Wall Street lobbyists have made sure the new Dodd-Frank law has enough loopholes to allow financiers to continue to gamble with other people's money. The only way to stop this is to bring Glass-Steagall back.

• Cap the size of Wall Street's banks and break up the biggest. They

were too big to fail before the bailout.

They're even bigger now. And be-

cause of their huge size they get preferential treatment from the Fed, giv-

ing them an even greater competitive

advantage over smaller banks. Cap

their size and break them up before

bailed out to modify the mortgages

of millions of Americans now un-

der water who owe more than their

homes are worth. It's not their fault

the banks created a housing bubble

that burst, causing home values to

good happens in Washington unless

good people outside Washington are

organized and mobilized to make it

you. We'll stand behind you. We'll

give you a mandate to do all this -

As long as you stand behind us.

and more – in your second term.

So here's the deal: We'll reelect

Mr. President, we know nothing

• Require the big banks that got

we have to bail them out again.



When fracking is done, harmful methane gas is released and can ruin the local water supply. This affects not only the people who live nearby but the animals, too.

Water with methane gas is hazardous to drink. Methane-infested water can ignite, meaning that if someone left a lit cigarette or candle near a glass of water, it could all catch fire. Who would want to take these risks?

If a large number of animals drank this toxic water, they would most likely die. If a lot of animals died, it could very likely damage that particular ecosystem. And if one small ecosystem was ruined, it could dramatically change the whole area.

In the play An Enemy of the People, by Henrik Ibsen (adapted and translated by Arthur Miller), the topic of fracking is discussed.

An Enemy of the People is about a doctor who tests the town's water supply and finds it is poisonous. The doctor then tells the citizens of the town and they don't believe him. He is then thought of as an enemy of the people (hence the title).

It is very likely that the water supply was poisoned by fracking. Many of the townspeople and people who visited the town got sick, but no one knew why. This is legitimate evidence that they could have been poisoned by methane-infested water, the result of hydraulic fracturing.

The importance of this play is the realization that this could happen to us. If we decide to frack here, in North Carolina, our water supply might become poisoned.

Is that what we want? To drink poisoned water? To make ourselves sick? To have that risk of being hurt?

Why be haunted by that risk when we, as the people of this community, can decide against it? Fracking is our decision; why choose to frack when the cons heavily outweigh the pros?

I, as a member of our community, am against fracking. Why take the risks when not much good can come of it?

Would *you* want to take the risks?

ALEXANDRA GLASSER Chapel Hill

LETTERS POLICY

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Box 248 Carrboro, NC 27510

susan@carrborocitizen.com **FAX:** 919-942-2195

Why NC should keep the Racial Justice Act

North Carolina has released nearly a

dozen men from prison with life or death

sentences for crimes they did not commit.

RICK GLAZIER

The North Carolina Racial Justice Act (RJA) is all about the relationship between our present and our history. The early history of our state was marred by the adoption of slavery with a clear institutionalized message that race made a difference and a legal system formalizing the disparate treatment of African Americans and whites through the "Black Codes."

Those laws provided different punishments for crimes based on the race of the defendant and the victim. Other laws, intensely hostile to African Americans, remained on the books until well into the last century and their cultural counterparts have never fully been eradicated.

It is in this context RJA was enacted in 2009.

The criminal justice system operates with law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges and juries exercising discretion over a host

of decisions made during the course of a case. Because of this broad discretion, significant opportunities exist for an individual's prej-

udice, informed by his cultural lens, conscious or unconscious, to affect the ultimate outcome of a case. At every stage of the process African American suspects have too often been treated differently. This should come as no surprise – it simply reflects the com-

plex social mechanisms of class and race particularly prevalent in North Carolina through much of the last century. So how does the RJA apply? The law addresses the ques-

tion of how discrimination is proved. There are generally two ways: first, with direct evidence that, in its words, establishes the decision-maker was prejudiced. In North Carolina cases, words by a juror suggesting "blacks value life less than whites" powerfully suggest racial animus substantially affected those decisions.

But, today discrimination is often not that overt. It is more subtle, yet we cannot deny its existence. So, a second route of establishing discrimination is through the use of statistical evidence to prove or disprove racial animus drove a decision.

Why statistical evidence? Because each statistic represents a human decision. These are objective facts quantifying very subjective human behavior. The RJA recognizes this and allows courts to look at those facts.

Where there is a true disparate impact suggesting race played a substantial factor in the decision to seek the death penalty, select a jury, or impose the death sentence, RJA demands a legitimate non-discriminatory explanation exist for what occurred.

A defendant bears a heavy burden to prove discrimination, but in the rare case that burden is met, a life sentence without parole will be imposed in lieu of a death sentence.

Defendants may file frivolous cases - and they should be quickly dismissed for what they are - but the fact many cases may be meritless hardly justifies refusing to consider those that are not. We are better than that as a civilized people.

Statistical evidence is used in this manner, on a daily basis in courts throughout this country, to determine civil law issues of discrimination. If it is acceptable to do so in those settings, it is impossible to see how the same evidence is invalid in a criminal case where a life is at stake.

Years ago, I represented a client in a civil rights case who was falsely convicted of a rape he did not commit. He was black; his accuser white. His jury was all white with black prospective jurors struck from the jury pool as was - too often - customary practice in the early 1980s in parts of this state. His defense was supported by four alibi witnesses - including a base chaplain), but not believed. He proclaimed his innocence loudly, but nobody listened. Strong exculpatory evi-

lina has released nearly a dozen men from prison with life or

tice reforms, like the Actual Innocence Commission, is part

of a modern and accountable criminal justice system de-

crimination have been achieved, but as the late Supreme

Court Justice Brennan wrote years ago in the case of Mc-

Clesky v. Kemp, "We remain imprisoned by the past as long

The RJA will, once and for all, if allowed to complete its

mission, determine whether race played a substantial role

in the outcome of any case where a defendant sits on death

row and will, as important, deter such from ever happening

again. The time delay for these executions until that decision

is made and the cost of doing so dim in comparison to the

moral, spiritual and human cost of not doing so. We can go

a long way toward restoring full confidence in our criminal

justice system for us all if we simply allow the law to complete

its task. Nothing in life is settled until settled right. Let's keep

Rick Glazier is a lawyer, law professor and state representative

this important law.

from Cumberland County.

as we continue to deny its influence on the present."

The RJA, in combination with many other criminal jus-

Many honorable steps to eradicate the influence of dis-

death sentences for crimes they did not commit.

signed not to perpetuate error, but correct it.

dence was hidden by white police from prosecutors. He stayed in prison for eight years for a crime DNA evidence later proved he did not commit.

Robert Reich is Chancellor's Professor This case was a of Public Policy at the University of classic example of errors permeating cross-racial eyewitness California at Berkeley. identification. And my client was hardly alone. North Caro-

Deal?

plummet.

happen.

STAFF & CONTRIBUTORS

EDITORIAL

Robert Dickson, Publisher Susan Dickson, Editor

Kirk Ross, Taylor Sisk Contributing Editor

Duncan Hoge, Art Director

Rose Laudicina, Staff Writer

Eddy Landreth, Margot Lester, Phil Blank, Jock Lauterer, Ken Moore, Vicky Dickson, Valarie Schwartz Contributors

Brooke Parker, Kevin Collins, Caroline Corrigan Intern

Alicia Stemper, Ava Barlow, **Alex Maness** *Photographers*

ADVERTISING

Marty Cassady, Ad Director marty@carrborocitizen.com

OPERATIONS

Anne Billings, Office Coordinator anne@carrborocitizen.com

DISTRIBUTION

Chuck Morton, Wendy Wenck Published Thursdays by Carrboro Citizen, LLC.

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FARMERS' MARKET

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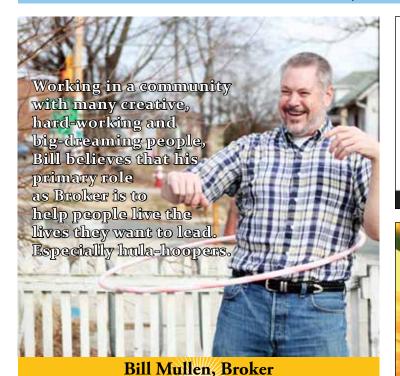
What's at Market

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

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CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER: What A City

In yet another effort to clean up New York City, the mayor urged the City Council to pass legislation that would require alternate side of the street urination. - Dennis Miller



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FLORA FROM PAGE

Sited upright near bird feeders, it becomes excellent shelter and perches for birds. It also provides an additional evergreen element in your landscape for several more months. When it finally turns brown, cut it into pieces for your compost bin or apply cut branches as mulch at the base of trees and shrubs. There is no sense discarding them curbside, making more work for public works crews.

Until some other creative homeowner is nominated, Chapel Hill resident Diana Steele once again receives the annual "Citizen Award for Creative Orphaned Christmas Tree Recycling.'

For years, Diana has inspired curbside rescuing of discarded trees to be dropped along the driveway of her Willow Hill Preschool at 1207 Mason Farm Road. Propped up along the edges of her parking spots, these trees provide instant dramatic her magical gardens and prelandscape effect. For weeks the kids in her preschool drag them around, and with creative energies, like budding side, I rescue it. A few go to architects, make tree fortresses, tree castles and even giant bird nests to explore for weeks on end.

Under Diana's supervision, at drop-off time.



Preschoolers enjoy creative play with "rescued" holiday trees. PHOTO BY DIANA STEELE

the trees eventually settle into natural recycling as meandering brush-pile wildlife habitats along the woodland edges of schoolers' discovery ground.

Every time I spot one of the orphaned trees at curbmy yard, but most will find a happy home at Willow Hill Preschool. It's a great celebration when the kids are there

I hope you 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. Find previous Ken Moore Citizen columns at The Annotated Flora (carrborocitizen.com/flora).



UNC Cheerleaders, 1973

ne good photograph leads to another. After publishing the Bluebook cover picture of three players from the 1975-76 UNC men's basketball team, we received this photo and email from Linda Long: "Your recent 1975 photo of UNC basketball players reminded me of this one....We cheered for the guys." Linda identifies the UNC Varsity Cheerleaders from 1973 as: (front) Janet Killian; (second row, left to right) Mary Rudd and Linda Waters Long; and (back row) Becky Branch Swift, Becky Fuller Campbell and Kathy Samuelson. In a nice twist of fate, two of these cheerleaders turned out to be local teachers: Linda Long teaches at Githens Middle School in Durham while Becky Campbell, the former swim coach at East Chapel Hill High School, now teaches at Phillips Middle School. This photo was taken in Woollen Gym, most likely by longtime Durham Herald-Sun photographer Charles Cooper, who also took the cover shot from the 1975 Bluebook. And you can't help but notice in this photo that four of the six cheerleaders are blonde. When I mentioned that to Linda, she laughed and recalled a basketball camp from the mid-'70s when "a little girl raised her hand and asked, 'Do you have to be blonde to be a Carolina cheerleader?'''

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A THOUSAND WORDS BY JOCK LAUTERER

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

HEELS FROM PAGE I

Anyone who has ever watched a football game knows the only sensible play from there is to put in senior running back Ryan Houston and let him carry the ball four times if necessary. It probably would only have taken one or two tries from the 6-foot-2-inch, 240-pound Houston to score a touchdown.

Instead, Shoop had to show veryone how brilliant he is, and



UNC misfired on three straight pass attempts and settled for a field goal trailing 31-7. So the Tar Heels went to the locker room down 31-10 when it should have been 31-14.

This bowl game proved the perfect example of why the program needed an overhaul in leadership. The coaching staff did not prepare this team to play its final game of the season.

Given the overall situation, it's possible few could have done a better job. There is no way we will ever know.

I just know this: The majority of players on this team have gone through far more misery than they deserved. A few players betrayed their teammates, as did an egomaniacal assistant coach in John Blake.

But a new regime is on its way. Larry Fedora is now the coach, and he has already assembled most of his staff.

That group will hit the road as soon as the recruiting dead period ends. Fedora has the kind of engaging personality that makes him a born recruiter. He is oozing with confidence, and he is coming off a 12-win season in which his Southern Mississippi team defeated previously unbeaten Houston in the Conference USA championship game. Southern Miss then won its bowl game.

The team needs him; the program needs him; the school needs him.

There is enough talent for Fedora to make an immediate winning impact, too. He is inheriting more talent than any new coach at UNC since Dick Crum succeeded Bill Dooley.

His first big recruiting job will be to convince Kevin Reddick and other players with eligibility remaining to stay another year. Then his biggest job will be to win this team's minds and hearts as much as possible before spring practice and beyond.

Then and only then can the Tar Heels avoid a repeat of the horrible excuse of a performance they gave in Shreveport, La., on Monday.

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