



FRIDAY Partly Cloudy 43/20
SATURDAY Partly Cloudy 34/18
SUNDAY Partly Cloudy 34/18

C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

Alligator hide-like bark distinguishes old persimmon trees.

A year of big changes, fading hopes

BY KIRK ROSS Staff Writer

Early on in January 2009, many in these towns were still focused on the changing of the guard in Washington, D.C.

With close to 72 percent of Orange County voters pulling the lever for Barack Obama, the election of the first black president was still the big buzz, and a major — by Carolina standards — snowstorm contributed to collecting around TV sets and radios on Inauguration Day.

Prior to taking office, the president lost one ardent supporter, though, as Rebecca Clark a towering figure in the black community and the chief marshal of its political clout, passed away on the first Saturday in January.

She was followed in death a month later by another official town treasure and one of her early political rivals — newspaperman and former Chapel Hill alderman Roland Giduz.

In early 2009, the effect of another changing of the guard was being felt in town and especially on campus as new UNC Chancellor Holden Thorp pulled the plug on a search for a new airport site in Orange County.

A few months later, the Chapel Hill Town Council finally opened official hearings on the first phase of Carolina North. Approval of the university's plan and the town's new zoning rules for the 975-acre Horace Williams tract quickly followed.

While politics were a pre-occupation early on, it was clear by the end of January, when a variety of economic reports and budget projec-

tions were released, that the market woes and housing downturn that had started in the previous fall were going to have a profound impact on the year ahead.

State and local governments, already implementing hiring freezes and squeezing their budgets, cut further, and reports from social service agencies and local food pantries showed a quick climb in the need for the basics. The unemployment rate in the state would rise from 5 percent in April, 2008 to 11.2 in June of 2009. It fell a bit in the latest round of numbers but is not expected to its 2008 levels until well into 2011.

In Orange County, which has traditionally posted one of the lowest rates in the state, unemployment climbed from 3.2 percent to 7 percent over the same period.

Economic anxiety and a highly unpopular property revaluation helped fuel outrage and tax protests that turned out hundreds to rallies organized by the local chapter of FreedomWorks, a group led by former U.S. House majority leader Dick Armey.

That put the focus on Orange County commissioners, who were faced with not just a tax rebellion, but a rapidly expanding deficit and a fight over proposals for a solid waste transfer station.

While all this was happening, Roy Williams and the UNC men's basketball team brought home another national title. On his way to that triumph, starting forward Tyler Hansbrough became the leading scorer in Atlantic Coast Conference history.

SEE YEAR PAGE 3

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Begin 2010 enjoying winter's beauty

How well I remember one winter walk, stopped in mid-stride by the sounds of snow falling through the bare forest canopy. That sound of snow touching the earth remains audible in my recollections.

Driving back from Raleigh on I-40 recently, my companion remarked on the beauty of the winter landscape, particularly noting the magical effect of shining copper-colored leaves on trees in the forest racing by us.

In spite of the cold, I cherish the winter fields for their remarkable colors: browns, burgundy and contrasting off-whites, and the mixture of textures of fluffy seed heads and starkly bare branches.

The forest, shorn of its green leafy canopy, is filled with low-angled light inviting the woods walker to proceed from room to room, taking in particular furnishings most often hidden by lush summer foliage.

The lay of the land is easily visible across the open forest floor, dramatic ups and downs with old erosion gullies crisscrossing everywhere. Here and there the path sometimes intersects animal trails. I can never resist taking off on one of these little trails in the hope that I'll discover the critter at the end, but each time the animal seems to have disappeared with nary a trace. However, off the beaten path, I always find some botanical or other natural feature of interest.

In the winter, the true architectural characteristics of trees are revealed, with the dramatic skyward stretching of massive limbs. In addition, the amazing diversity of bark surfaces becomes apparent.

One of my favorite trees is the persimmon. They may be detected scattered in open fields and throughout forests by dramatic horizontal angled limbs. The bark is dark and deeply fissured into chunks that make me imagine alligator hide.

SEE FLORA PAGE 8

The Year in Pictures

Clockwise from top left: UNC basketball players Mike Copeland and Danny Green enjoy a little dance at the homecoming celebration when the newly crowned national champions returned to the Smith Center. (Photo courtesy of UNC Sports Information)

Protesters rally at Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina headquarters in Chapel Hill. (Photo by Taylor Sisk)

A summertime flu scare saw hand sanitizers popping up all over town. (Photo by Ava Barlow)

Charles Brown, who filed a complaint after being stopped by Chapel Hill police in a case of mistaken identity, talks with customer John Berry at Brown's barbershop on Rosemary Street. (Photo by Ava Barlow)

See pages 4 & 5 for The Citizen's annual timeline for 2009.



Board of governors to review tuition proposal, new rules for codes of conduct

The UNC Board of Governors will take up a proposal next week to ask the legislature to approve an alternative to a tuition plan adopted as part of the state's 2010-11 budget. The General Assembly capped tuition increases at the lesser of \$200 or 8 percent for each campus.

The board meets next Thursday and Friday at the Spangler Center in Chapel Hill.

UNC system President Erskine Bowles plans to ask legislators to consider an alternative to that plan when lawmakers return to Raleigh in May.

UNC officials will outline their thinking on tuition and fee increases at a policy workshop next Thursday, where board of governors members are also scheduled to hear a briefing on the state economy and the impact of the governor's 5 percent "hold-back" in funding announced shortly

after the budget was passed.

Also due for review by the board are new guidelines for student conduct codes. The new rules are the result of work by a task force set up by Bowles that looked into conduct codes and hate crimes in the wake of racist graffiti at N.C. State.

The proposal acknowledges the need to balance free expression and First Amendment rights with the responsibility of students to respect the "rights, dignity, worth and freedom of each member of the academic community."

The language in the proposal makes it a violation of the student code of conduct to harass and intimidate individuals based on their race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, disability or veteran status. — Staff Reports

Defense in Carson case asks for tipster info

Defense lawyers for the two men charged in the 2008 killing of UNC Student Body President Eve Carson are asking for more information on who tipped off investigators.

In a discovery hearing in Hillsborough before Superior Court Judge Allen Baddour, lawyers for Demario James Atwater and Laurence Alvin Lovette Jr. asked for information from Crimestoppers about the case. The two men were charged with first-degree murder in the killing of Carson, who was found dead on Hillcrest Circle in the early morning hours of March 5, 2008. She had been shot several times.

At Wednesday morning's discovery hearing, Orange County District Attorney Jim Woodall argued against turning over the tipster information.

According to search warrants, an anonymous caller told investigators to contact a man who later became a confidential informant in the case.

According to search warrants, an anonymous caller told investigators to contact a man who later became a confidential informant in the case.

Baddour said he expects to issue a ruling next week.

Atwater also faces a May trial in federal court as well as state charges. His attorneys filed a motion Dec. 11 requesting a change of venue. The motion argues that Atwater, who is facing a possible death penalty if convicted, could not get a fair trial in North Carolina.

Along with hundreds of newspaper clippings, they introduced the results of a June poll saying 80 percent of the potential jury pool had heard of the case and 52 percent believe Atwater to be guilty. — Staff Reports

INSIDE

In memoriam 2009

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Community Briefs

Sanofi-aventis donates \$2 million to N.C. Cancer Hospital

In a Dec. 21 ceremony at the N.C. Cancer Hospital, pharmaceutical company sanofi-aventis Chief Executive Officer Chris Viehbacher announced the company's \$2 million commitment to the N.C. Cancer Hospital Endowment.

In recognition of the donation, the hospital named the facility's advanced telecommunications conference center "The sanofi-aventis Conference Center."

N.C. Cancer Hospital, home of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, is N.C.'s only public cancer hospital. The \$180 million facility opened in August.

CHCCS teachers achieve national board certification

As part of National Board Certification Day, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools announced that 24 teachers from 13 district schools achieved National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification during the 2008-09 certification cycle.

The recipients are: Patrice Cook, Phillips MS; Courtney Cox, Smith MS; Shauna Ferguson, McDougale MS; Karen Galassi-Ferrer, East Chapel Hill HS; Natalie Gaston, McDougale Elem.; Rebecca George, Rashkis Elem.; Molly Grayson-McDonald, FPG Elem.; Rebecca Hite, Carrboro HS; Arica James, Rashkis Elem.; Margaret Johnson, Rashkis Elem.; Meghan Leonard, McDougale Elem.; Alisa McAlister, McDougale MS; Elise McLean, Carrboro Elem.; Cristin Najera, Rashkis Elem.; Dennis Norris, Chapel Hill HS; Colleen Rohner, Carrboro Elem.; Susanne Rusan, FPG Elem.; Michael Sasser, Chapel Hill HS; Tamra Schuch, Scroggs Elem.; Courtney Sears, FPG Elem.; Amy Untch, Seawell Elem.; Gisele Washington, East Chapel Hill HS; Jodi Wise, FPG Elem.; and Betty Wooten, Carrboro HS.

Upcoming athletic registration opportunities

The Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department will be sponsoring a spring baseball program for ages 6-12, a middle school baseball league for ages 13-14 and a girls' volleyball program for ages 10-13.

Registration for these programs will begin Jan. 5 for Carrboro residents and Jan. 6 for non-Carrboro residents at the Carrboro Century Center. The fee is \$55 for Orange County residents and \$92 for non-residents. Registration forms are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and must be signed by a parent or guardian. For more information, call 918-7364.

Athletic camps at Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department

The Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department is sponsoring the following athletic camps for the summer: basketball camp, June 28-July 2 for ages 9-11; basketball camp, July 12-16 for ages 6-8; field hockey camp, June 28-July 2 and July 12-16 for ages 10-13; Taste of Sports camp, July 19-23 for ages 6-9; Ultimate Frisbee camp, July 26-30 for ages 10-15; and volleyball camp, July 26-30 for ages 10-13.

Registration for these programs begins Jan. 5 for Carrboro residents and Jan. 6 for non-Carrboro residents at the Carrboro Century Center. The fee is \$85 per camp. For more information, call 918-7364.

In conjunction with the Triangle Futbol Club, the department is also sponsoring half-day soccer camps on June 14-17 and July 19-22, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. for ages 6-14. Mini-kicker soccer camps will be held on the same dates, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., for ages 4-5. Visit trianglefc.org to register.

Community Calendar

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.

MONDAY, JAN 4

Chatham County Christmas Tree Disposal — Chatham County residents can dispose of non-artificial Christmas trees at the Waste Management Office west of Pittsboro from 7 am to 3:30 pm on Jan. 4-8 and Jan. 11-15.

SATURDAY, JAN 9

Parental Educational Clinic — In this free workshop designed for parents and caregivers of special needs children, participants will explore conflict resolution and communication skills. 10am - 12pm at Orange United Methodist Church, 1220 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Chapel Hill. The registration deadline is Jan. 7. To register: julie@mhaorangecc.org, 942-8083 ext. 2.

Ongoing Cancer Support — Support groups for cancer patients and their families. comucopiahouse.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, chapelhillcf.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, piedmontkctc.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 11am - 12:30pm. Carolina Pointe II, 6013 Farrington Road, Suite 101 in Chapel Hill. 966-3494.

DivorceCare — Support 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 representative will be there to provide information and answer questions, 201 Weaver St.

Tutoring — Hillsborough Police Department and UNC Habitat for Humanity 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, 11:30am-noon, Kidzu Children's Museum, 105 E. Franklin St. \$2. 933-1455, kidzuchildrens-museum.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

OBITUARIES

William Everett Billingsley

William Everett Billingsley, a Chapel Hill resident since 1967, was originally from Hamlet, N.C. (Richmond County). Everett passed away on Monday, December 21, 2009 after a long battle with congestive heart failure.

Born on July 9, 1930, he was 79 years old, and the son of the late James Marcus and Lula Gibson Billingsley. He graduated with honors from North Carolina State University in mechanical engineering in 1957 and earned a master's degree in commerce from the University of Richmond in 1966. He also pursued doctoral studies in business at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

After graduating from North Carolina State Univer-

sity, he began work with the Seaboard Airline Railroad in Norfolk and Richmond.

In 1967, he returned to North Carolina and worked with the Physical Plant Division at UNC Chapel Hill and later with the electric section of the Utilities Division. At that time, both the town and the university were served by this body. When the state legislature required the university to dispense with this private telephone, electric, water and sewer utilities, the Chapel Hill Town Council appointed Everett as executive director of the water and sewer system. Officially, this became the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA). He served OWASA for 21 years, which included the severe water shortage of the 1970s; out of this, he led the drive for the property purchase and building of the Cane Creek Reservoir, which

now serves as the primary water source for Chapel Hill and Carrboro. He retired from OWASA in 1996. He was a member of the Sertoma Club of the Triangle, Cape Fear River Assembly, American Waterworks Association, University United Methodist Church, and he served as president of the Chapel Hill/Carrboro Chamber of Commerce.

Everett was a natural leader from a young age, becoming a successful debater and president of his Hamlet High School Senior class. He led many projects and programs during his undergraduate years at NC State and was a student instructor during his senior year. He also was a member of the Theta Tau Honors fraternity.

Everett was drafted into the Army in 1950 during the Korean Conflict and served as a medic in a MASH opera-

tion on the frontlines.

Everett was very interested in family genealogy for both his mother and father, and traced the Billingsley history back to the early 1600s in England.

He is preceded in death by a son and daughter, William Lawrence Billingsley and Melinda Billingsley Cashwell; his parents; his brother Marcus Billingsley Jr.; and two sisters, Carol Griffin and Lois Raines. He is survived by his son, Andrew Everett Billingsley Sr.; his daughter-in-law, Claire Sturkie Billingsley; his grandsons, Andrew Everett Billingsley Jr., Alexander Stewart Daly and Stephen Cashwell; and his sister and brother Page and Roy Billingsley.

A funeral service was held December 30 at University United Methodist Church.

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CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER: Please Be Anonymous

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News Briefs

UNC, CIGNA cut deal

The UNC Health Care System and CIGNA HealthCare of North Carolina announced Monday that they've reached agreement on a new contract ending an impasse that threatened to deny CIGNA customers access to UNC and Rex Healthcare services.

The new two-year contract takes effect Jan. 1. "We are pleased that CIGNA and UNC/Rex will be continuing their long-standing relationship and that our customers will continue to have access to these quality hospitals and physicians at a reasonable cost," said Charles Pitts, president of CIGNA HealthCare of North Carolina. "We are particularly pleased that part of the contract resolution includes the identification of areas to work together to improve service to the community."

Pitts said that UNC/Rex and CIGNA will work together to improve care, information exchanges and operational efficiency.

"It was very important for UNC Health Care and CIGNA to work together to ensure continued coverage for the thousands of patients who choose us for their care," said Dr. William L. Roper, dean of UNC's School of Medicine and chief executive officer of UNC Health Care.

Christmas tree collections

The Town of Carrboro will be collecting Christmas Trees as part of its yard-waste collection schedule. The tree should be placed along the curbside and all ornaments and stands should be removed from the trees.

Curbside collection of yard waste is provided about twice per month. A schedule of the collection is available at the town's website at townofcarrboro.org/PW/PDFs/Temp/ChristmasTreeCollection.pdf

In Chapel Hill, crews will pick up Christmas trees and wreaths for mulching on the regular yard-waste collection schedule. Yard waste is picked up on Thursdays from single-family residences on a Monday trash collection schedule and on Fridays for those with Tuesday trash collection.

Residents are asked to remove all decorations, tinsel and wire before leaving trees and wreaths at the curbside along with other yard waste. Residents of apartment complexes should place trees in designated areas as directed by property managers.

Chatham County residents can dispose of non-artificial Christmas trees at the Waste Management Office from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 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 U.S. 64).



Chapel Hill Town Manager Roger Stancil and a somewhat-exhausted Mayor-elect Mark Kleinschmidt share a laugh at Town Hall on the morning after Election Day.

PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

YEAR FROM PAGE 1

As various budget-cutting and waste transfer station scenarios were trotted out, commission meetings became the scene of rotating mass turnouts as groups such as those pushing for a halt to the transfer station, parents and students asking the county to move ahead on the Carrboro High arts wing and library supporters reeling over the proposed closure of the Carrboro Branch at McDougle schools lined up to plead their cases.

By the time it was all over, the wing was approved, the con-

struction of the Northside Elementary School was postponed, money was found to keep the libraries open and, after being rebuffed over a plan to reorganize the county, Orange County manager Laura Blackmon resigned.

In Chapel Hill and Carrboro, the heat and light generated over the budgets had barely faded when the filing season for municipal elections generated intense interest and what turned out to be a marathon campaign. In Chapel Hill, the announcement by Mayor Kevin Foy that he would not seek re-election led to a four-way race for mayor that included two sitting council

members. Mark Kleinschmidt and Matt Czajkowski went toe-to-toe for several long months of forums, debates and neighborhood gatherings. Kleinschmidt prevailed, but just barely.

A school board race, also on the ballot, promised change when two of the three incumbents whose terms were expiring opted not to run.

In Carrboro, a three-way race for mayor proved lackluster, but a robust six way race for three seats on the board of aldermen provided at least a modicum of suspense.

The council race in Chapel Hill featured an equally crowded field and was complicated by the

abrupt resignation and departure of long-time council member Bill Strom, who announced he was leaving after the filing period closed. The timing irritated an already prickly electorate and embroiled the council in a debate over when and how to name his replacement.

Over the objection of Foy, who wanted the sitting council to name Strom's replacement, the decision was put off until after the election and the new council was seated.

Before heading off on winter break, the new council did so, naming Northside resident Donna Bell to serve the remaining two years of Strom's term.

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Holiday Closings ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

Most municipal offices will be closed Friday, Jan. 1.

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. 1.

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. 1.

There will be no Chapel Hill Transit service Jan. 1.

The Office and Maintenance Division will 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.

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

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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photographer/writer

New Year's Day Schedule
Orange County Solid Waste Management

Curbside Recycling
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/

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN 2009: The



◆ In January

Governor-elect Beverly Perdue appoints former Orange County Commissioner Moses Carey as chairman of the state's Employment Security Commission.

Rebecca Clark, champion for justice, community leader and political organizer, dies at 93.

Chapel Hill's Homestead Aquatic Center opens.

Saying he's concerned about the amount of mistrust surrounding the university's intentions to build a new airport, Chancellor Holden Thorp cancels plans to ask the UNC Board of Governors to approve an airport authority.

The Carrboro Citizen announces a 20 percent increase in its circulation and the expansion of news coverage of Chapel Hill.

Two inches of snow blanket Carrboro and Chapel Hill, closing schools and businesses.

Barack Obama takes the oath of office of President of United States before a crowd on the National Mall estimated at more than two million and with many thousands here in the community watching on TVs and computers.

Roland Giduz, editor, columnist and former Chapel Hill alderman, dies.

Chapel Hill High principal Jacqueline Boyd Ellis announces her resignation.

Rep. Joe Hackney wins a second term as speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives.

Chapel Hill approves a special-use permit for the Innovations Center, the university's first project at Carolina North.

◆ In February

The Town of Carrboro has a notification glitch for the annual board of aldermen retreat. No press attend. The town later apologizes and releases notes of the meeting.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners approves an agreement with UNC for a gas-recovery project at the Orange County Landfill.

Legislators gather in Raleigh for a gloomy set of economic briefings. University employees continue to worry about possible furloughs and job cuts.

A Home on the Field, a book by UNC's Paul Cuadros on a Siler City soccer team, is chosen as the summer reading selection for the incoming class of 2013.

Chatham residents gather at a county meeting to speak out against the county getting involved in immigration enforcement.

Anoop Desai, a graduate student at UNC and graduate of East Chapel Hill High School, makes it to the top 36 of the "American Idol" competition.

Cliff Collins, owner of Cliff's Meat Market, receives the 2009 Pauli Murray Award in the business category. Collins was nominated for reaching out to the Spanish-speaking community.

County health officials order 220 students at Carrboro Elementary School to take a course of antibiotics to protect themselves from whooping cough after students at the school are diagnosed with the disease.

Several residents speak out at a public hearing against a proposed Carrboro town charter amendment that would prohibit deed restrictions or covenants that limit the use of green or sustainability features on residential properties.

Local governments rush to apply for stimulus funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Chapel Hill dedicates a downtown historic marker for the 1947 Journey of Reconciliation, which fought Jim Crow travel laws and was a precursor to the Freedom Rides.

Carrboro police investigate late-night beak-ins at Carr Mill Mall.

An overflow house at Hillsborough's Red Barn marks the initial Orange County Tax Revolt meeting. The focus is the county's upcoming revaluation.

After decades of back and forth with the university and the state Department of Transportation, Chapel Hill gives final approval to a \$4.4 million project for South Columbia Street from Fordham Boulevard to Manning Drive.

Elinor Benami, an environmental activist, is named UNC's first Eve Carson Scholar, named for the slain student body president.

◆ In March

In an early indication of difficult fiscal times, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools administration outlines budget cuts totaling \$875,000.

Camellia Lee, a senior at East Chapel Hill High School, receives the 2008 Pauli Murray Human Relations Youth Award.

Two grassroots organizations — Preserve Rural Orange and Orange County Voice — organize against a waste transfer station in White Cross.

The Chapel Hill Town Council approves new rules allowing residents to keep up to 10 chickens — hens, but not roosters — in all residential zoning districts.

Orange County Manager Laura Blackmon announces she will resign on June 30.

Town and school officials debate the merits of a roundabout on Smith Level Road near Carrboro High School as part of the road's widening project.

Investigators from the Orange County Sheriff's Department make arrests in separate murders in southwest Orange County that happened a day apart.

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen approves the proposed Claremont Phase IV and V development on Homestead Road.

Orange County announces a plan to clean up groundwater contamination found near the intersection of Millhouse and Eubanks roads.

Carrboro-based design and printing company The Merch announces it has received the necessary licenses and agreements to manufacture wrestling masks bearing the UNC and other ACC school logos.

Rogers and Eubanks roads residents petition the Assembly of Governments to provide water and sewer connections to all residents in their community.

Noted historian John Hope Franklin, 94, dies.

About 900 Orange County residents attend a meeting of the Orange County Tax Revolt at Orange High School, waving banners and chanting in hopes of convincing county commissioners to repeal the 2009 property-tax revaluation.

A tense colloquy between developer Carol Ann Zinn and Mayor Kevin Foy follows the council's rejection of Zinn's proposed Ayden Court condominium project off N.C. 54 near the Upper Little Creek Waterfowl Impoundment.

◆ In April

In an April Fools' prank on OrangePolitics.org, Mayor Mark Chilton proposes changing Carrboro's name to Bikeboro to better reflect the town's green leanings.

In response to tax protests, the Orange County Board of Commissioners pens an open letter defending the decision to go forward with its revaluation.

The county drops plans for a land swap with OWASA for a waste transfer station site after the utility announces it isn't willing to sell or swap its land.

The University of North Carolina Men's Basketball Team wins the NCAA Division I title game in Detroit. The players return home to a triumphant welcome.

UNC Health Care announces plans to build a new hospital in Hillsborough on 85 acres near the Durham Tech campus.

Bryan Properties says it will not pursue plans for a hotel in the Southern Village Center.

Resident Marianne Prince petitions the Carrboro Board of Aldermen to modify the town's ordinance to allow residents to keep such animals as goats or pot-bellied pigs on smaller lots.

The Orange County Rescue Squad files suit against Orange County over a stand-down order.

Howard Fuller, a key organizer for the Congress on Racial Equity's civil rights efforts in Chapel Hill, returns to talk at UNC Poverty Awareness Week.

Anonymous fliers and a hoax email lead to an escalation of the conflict between the Greenbridge development and those critical of it.

Protesters disrupt speeches on immigration at UNC by Tom Tancredo and Virgil Goode.

A new 2,600-gallon cistern is stolen from the Growing Healthy Kids Community Garden on James Street. It is later recovered.

Citing a need to focus on his health, Dave Thaden, principal of East Chapel Hill High since its inception, announces he will retire.

Market Street Books at Arts & Letters Community Center in Southern Village closes.

Carrboro proclaims April 27, 2009 as "Shirley E. Marshall Day" in honor of the longtime community leader and former alderman.

Carrboro's board decries plans by the county to close the Carrboro Branch Library.

Orange County commissioners end their pursuit of alternatives to a waste transfer station, including the possibility of a temporary facility at the Eubanks Road landfill, opting to focus on a site off N.C. 54 near Orange Grove Road.

Saying it's still too wide, Carrboro rejects the state's latest plan for widening and sidewalks on Smith Level Road.

State workers protest new pay cuts and furloughs.

◆ In May

Chatham County approves a new liquor-by-the-drink law by an overwhelming margin.

May 4th is declared Anoop Day in Chapel Hill in honor of UNC student and East Chapel Hill High grad Anoop Desai's success through several rounds of "American Idol."

◆ In June

The new Orange County animal services building on Eubanks Road opens.

Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy proposes a town-owned property on Millhouse Road as a possible waste transfer site.

After years of preparation, hearings open on Carolina North.

Phillips Middle School seventh-grader Kathy Dai wins the national Listen to a Life essay contest for her essay about 72-year-old neighbor Helen Simms.

Patients at a UNC pediatrics clinic are notified and some are given anti-viral medication after a clinic worker is diagnosed with H1N1.

The Orange County Partnership for Young Children opens its James Street community garden.

Charlie Adams, the executive director of the NC High school Athletic Association announces his retirement.

Retired Chapel Hill Police Chief Gregg Jarvis becomes interim police chief of the Spring Lake Police Department to help restore the department's credibility following criminal charges against two of its officers.

Citing a sluggish economy, Weaver Street Market announces cost-cutting changes in its discount plans for members.

Eileen Tully, principal of Phillips Middle School, is named principal of East Chapel Hill High School and Jesse Dingle is named principal of Chapel Hill High School.

Carrboro High School students, staff and parents show up in force at county budget hearings to push for the school's arts wing to be built.

Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy says he will not seek re-election after four terms.

◆ In July

While walking home to Carrboro from his shop in Chapel Hill, local barber Charles Brown is stopped and handcuffed by Chapel Hill Police in a case of mistaken identity. He later files a complaint.

Kathryn Eriksen, a social studies and AVID teacher at Carrboro High School, has been named 2009-10 Teacher of the Year by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

Jim Norton is named new executive director of the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership.

Marny Ruben is named the new principal of Seawell Elementary after Susan Pegg retires.

John Wilner announces he will retire as executive director of The ArtsCenter after six years on the job.

New state funding cuts start to take their toll at local mental health organizations.

At a budget workshop, Orange County commissioners agree not to close the Carrboro Branch and Cedar Grove libraries.

Frank W. Clifton Jr. is named interim county manager.

Alderman John Herrera announces his resignation and a move to Holly Springs.

A divided board of county commissioners votes 4-3 to consider a site on Millhouse Road owned by Chapel Hill for a waste transfer station.

Word gets around that Roy Williams is writing a book.

Year in Review



A plan and a new zone for Carolina North are approved by Chapel Hill.

Filing season opens for municipal and school board races. East Chapel Hill High School cheerleaders win a national contest sponsored by Black Entertainment Television (BET).

Carrboro poet Celisa Steele is honored by the North Carolina Poetry Society.

The Town of Chapel Hill launches a new website.

Franklin Street's Varsity Theater closes.

Carrboro's board of aldermen sends a letter to Sen. Kay Hagan in support of comprehensive health care reform.

Cicily McCrimmon is named the new principal of Phillips Middle School and LaVerne Mattocks is named principal of Phoenix Academy replacing founding principal Burmadeane George, who retires.

Carrboro-based Piedmont Health Services receives \$1,531,035 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Antonio Marimpietri — Ironwoods' Papa Tony — dies.

A thief smashes into the Weaver Dairy Road Food Lion and makes off with a trashcan full of tobacco products.

Filing season ends with an unprecedented four-way race for Chapel Hill mayor, including sitting council members Mark Kleinschmidt and Matt Czajkowski.

Protesters show up at Chapel Hill-based Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, slamming the company's opposition to health care reform legislation.

PlayMakers Repertory Company wins a national arts grant to help with its massive production of *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*.

After weeks of speculation, Bill Strom announces his resignation from the Chapel Hill Town Council and a move out of town.

Crews begin work on the Homestead Road site of Carrboro's second fire station.

◆ In August

Chapel Hill Transit begins bus service to Rogers Road and Morris Grove Elementary School.

UNC Kenan Professor Emeritus and longtime civil-liberties and civil-rights advocate Dan Pollitt is awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, one of the state's highest honors.

Gov. Beverley Perdue appoints Tim Toben chairman of the state's Energy Policy Council.

Federal regulators tighten supervision of Harrington Bank after securities losses reduce its capital.

WCOM volunteers and the school board discuss the station's possible move to Carrboro High.

Chapel Hill Transit's bus service to Pittsboro starts. A monthly pass costs \$65.

State budget reductions have local school administrators scrambling to find millions more in cuts.

Twin Jersey bull calves — Breis and Fryer — are born at Chapel Hill Creamery.

With schools starting, health officials push for H1N1 precautions.

Army Pfc. Morris Walker, 23, a 2008 UNC graduate and well-known member of the campus community dies in Afghanistan. Walker — "Mo" to all who knew and loved him — died of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.

Courtland Smith, a UNC student and president of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, is shot to death by police after a confrontation on I-85 near Greensboro. Smith, 21, had called 911 saying he needed help because he was suicidal.

An Orange County jury finds Alvaro Castillo guilty of murder. He is sentenced to life without parole. Castillo, who had a history of mental illness and was obsessed with the Columbine shootings, killed his father in 2006 and later wounded two students at Orange High School.

◆ In September

The Town of Hillsborough is awarded a \$392,000 grant for another phase of its Riverwalk.

The town of Carrboro and horse trainer Marilyn Kille reach agreement after a two-year legal battle over an apartment on her property.

Chapel Hill reviews a plan to purchase a portion of Dawson Hall, a near-vacant office building near Timberlyne Road, for a new police headquarters and other town offices. The plan is later rejected.

UNC releases its first Climate Action Plan, which sketches a road-map to climate neutrality by mid-century.

Route changes affect 10,000 of the 18,000 homes on the county's recycling routes.

After saying it would be closed due to budget cuts, Orange County says it will keep the Bradshaw Quarry Solid Waste Convenience Center open.

The Chapel Hill Town Council debates the timing of the selection to fill a vacancy left when Bill Strom resigns.

About 12,000 people attend the North Carolina Literary Festival.

Orange County releases its first comprehensive State of the Environment Report since 2004.

◆ In October

Chatham Habitat celebrates its 20th year with a month-long series of events.

Following an internal investigation, Chapel Hill Police clear officers of wrongdoing in the Charles Brown case.

Chapel Hill council members press for more details on a proposed pipeline from the county landfill to a new UNC generating facility to be built on the corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard and Homestead Road.

Barry Leffler, then general manager of NBC-17, purchases a minority-ownership share in WCHL and announces plans to purchase complete ownership. He becomes the station's CEO.

Chapel Hill Town Council votes 5-2 to take its Millhouse Road property off the table for a waste transfer station.

Frank Clifton is appointed Orange County manager.

State NAACP President Rev. William J. Barber Jr. holds a press conference calling on the town to allow Charles Brown to present his side of the story.

County Commissioner and former Carrboro Mayor Mike Nelson announces he'll not seek re-election.

The Orange County Health Department holds its first H1N1 vaccination clinic.

A Hill Hall concert is held to honor retiring voice professor Stafford Wing's 40 years of service to UNC.

Charles Brown and supporters present his version of events in an emotional meeting with the Chapel Hill Town Council. Mayor Kevin Foy apologizes to Brown.

Margaret Pollard, a former Chatham County commissioner and the first black woman to chair the board, dies.

Chapel Hill mayoral candidate Kevin Wolff announces at a forum that he will end his campaign. He later asks for the votes of those wishing to protest the status quo.

Marilyn Kille, convicted of altering town documents the month before, says she'll appeal her conviction and has new evidence she intends to use to continue her fight with the Town of Carrboro.

Chapel Hill Town Council begins its official review of a plan by the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service to move its men's homeless shelter to a site near the intersection of Homestead Road and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Early voting in municipal and school board races starts slowly.

Carolina Brewery signs a distribution deal with Harris Inc.

Ryan Frias, a student from Union County who was injured in a car accident, becomes the first graduate of the UNC Hospital School.

The Varsity Theatre will reopen, Chapel Hill residents Paul and Susan Shreshian, the theater's new owners, announce.

◆ In November

Mark Kleinschmidt wins the four-way race for mayor of Chapel Hill, beating fellow council member Matt Czajkowski by a scant 106 votes. Augustus Cho and Kevin Wolff finish third and fourth.

With 72 percent of the vote, Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton handily wins re-election over challengers Brian Voyce and Amanda Ashley.

Incumbents Jacquie Gist and Randee Haven-O'Donnell are returned to the board of aldermen. They are joined by Sammy Slade, who is immediately sworn in to fill the seat vacated by John Herrera.

Penny Rich and Gene Pease win seats on the Chapel Hill Town Council and incumbents Laurin Easthom and Ed Harrison are re-elected.

Greg McElveen, Joe Green and Michelle Brownstein are elected to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school board.

OWASA apologizes for a billing error that overcharged 500 customers.

Stephanie Minter, family specialist at Culbreth Middle School, is named North Carolina's School Social Worker of the Year by the state's school social worker association.

Emily Bivins of Carrboro Elementary is named the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools' Principal of the Year.

Soccer legend and UNC alum Mia Hamm is awarded the Heisman Humanitarian Award.

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen approve a plan to lease the site of the former Andrews-Riggsbee hardware store for a town-maintained parking lot.

Residents raise concerns about plans to pave the Bolin Creek trail.

Rev. Robert Campbell travels to a forum at the White House to tell the story of his Rogers-Eubanks community to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

Twenty-one state legislators call for the state to look into Blue Cross Blue Shield mailings and robo-calls regarding the health care reform bill.

A new tethering law, which restricts the tethering of dogs to a maximum of three hours within a 24-hour period, takes effect in Orange County.

Franklin Street's Varsity Theatre reopens. Its new owners screen *The Wizard of Oz* on opening weekend.

Carrboro LocalMotive, a new organization promoting the local economy launches a Carrboro Buy Local Week.

Chapel Hill officials criticize new facilities fees imposed by the school system.

Roy Williams signs a lot of copies of his newly-released book.

◆ In December

Winners of the November election are sworn in.

El Centro, a Carrboro-based nonprofit that provides services to the local immigrant population, closes.

A texting-while-driving ban takes effect.

The newly seated Chapel Hill Town Council takes up nominations to fill the council's vacancy. In all, 12 sign up; two later drop out.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners votes to truck county trash to Durham's transfer station for three to five years while the towns and county ponder their next move. Commissioners agree to take the area near the present landfill out of consideration.

Donna Bell, a resident of Northside and a member of the Chapel Hill Planning Board, is chosen to fill the town council vacancy.

A new gallery and arts cooperative named Frank opens on East Franklin Street in the former Rite Aid drugstore space.

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen express concern about how budget cuts will affect Club Nova.

Orange County residents help the IFC reach its goal of collecting 300 blankets for the needy.

Local retailers report a modest increase in sales over last year.

An Efland woman and her 5-year-old son are killed when their car is hit by an Amtrak train.

State and federal courts hear motions from attorneys defending the men accused in the March, 2008 murder of Eve Carson.

Bars and eating establishments prepare for the state's new smoking ban to take effect.

FOR THE RECORD

The political year ahead

It may seem like a very short breather, and it is. Relish the next week or so. Because despite the fact that we are at the end of what shaped up to be a pretty intense year of local politics, another year, likely to be even more intense, is fixing to dawn.

The filing period for county commissioner and state and federal legislative races opens Feb. 8. If past is prologue, then prepare to hear pre-announcements by candidates any minute now.

We already know that there will be a scramble of candidates lining up to fill the seat being vacated by state Sen. Ellie Kinnaird. Kinnaird, as you recall, decided not to retire and re-upped for another term in the last cycle. That's not likely to happen twice.

Her opponent in the race, longtime Orange County Commissioner Moses Carey, who now heads up the state Employment Security Commission, closed his campaign committee in October.

So far, there are no announced candidates in the Senate race. Look for that to change very quickly, as fundraising in the increasingly expensive legislative races will be a pressing priority.

In the county commissioners' race, we already know that Mike Nelson is not going to seek re-election. You may recall that Nelson announced a run for the Senate seat and then withdrew when Kinnaird said she'd run again.

In a county that is dominated by Democratic Party voters and independents that lean that way, the hot commissioner contests are in the May primary. With an expanded commission, a new election district and an energized GOP, some of that heat is likely to be transferred to November. (For the same reason, in the fairly stable state House districts, we may actually see Reps. Joe Hackney and Verla Insko afforded the opportunity of competition.)

The terms of long-serving commissioners Alice Gordon and Barry Jacobs also are up in 2010. Should the pair decide to run again, they, along with any others who step up, will have to figure out whether to run in one of the two districts or as an at-large candidate. Jacobs lives in District 2 and Gordon in District 1. There was quite a bit of behind-the-scenes discussion among the candidates last time around over this issue.

Another twist: In the primary, only residents of a district may vote for a commissioner candidate of their political party running in that district. In the general election, all voters have a choice of candidates in both districts and at-large. Got that?

In federal elections, the top of the ticket is dominated by a highly contested and soon-to-be-nationalized U.S. Senate race. Several polls and pollsters put Sen. Richard Burr on the endangered incumbents list. Prior to the main bout, expect a bruising Democratic primary between Secretary of State Elaine Marshall (whose campaign is being advised by Carrboro's Thomas Mills), Durham Attorney Ken Lewis and former state Sen. Cal Cunningham.

House races are perhaps a little safer for incumbent Democrats David Price (NC-4) and Bob Etheridge (NC-2). But that doesn't mean those races will be dull. Price has said he will never forget the lesson he learned in 1994, when he lost his seat by about 1,000 votes.

The GOP recently announced it would seek a return of its revolution of 1994 by running a national campaign to take back Congress and overturn the health care reform legislation that's on the verge of passing.

Meanwhile, the Dems are planning to run on, you guessed it, stopping the GOP from taking over Congress and repealing health care reform.

If you need any more indication of where this is going, just check out the website of George Hutchins, who is seeking the nomination in an already-crowded GOP primary for the chance to unseat Price. Hutchins' site features extensive use of all caps and exclamation points and posters from the movie *The Alamo*, an attack on the "social engineering" brought on by the Civil Rights Act and a call to "start the legal war against Obama Nation."

No, friends, this won't be a dull year at all.



In Memoriam



Rebecca Clark, champion for justice, community leader and political organizer, died in January at 93. As Howard Lee, who Clark helped elect as the first black mayor of a major Southern town, said, "In many ways, you could say she wrote the book on grassroots politics."

Jeanne Peck, founding chair of the Komen N.C. Triangle Race for the Cure, died at the age of 52. Under Peck's leadership, the race has grown since 1997 from 2,600 to 24,000 participants and money raised increased from \$100,000 to \$2 million.

Author, newspaper editor and self-proclaimed "notorious hometown ne'er do well" **Roland Giduz** died at 83 after a long illness. Giduz served on the Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen and lost the mayor's race to Lee by some 400 votes. He was a beloved and colorful figure in the community.

John Brister Turner, Dean Emeritus of the School of Social Work at UNC, died at 86 after a long illness. Turner pushed for the School of Social Work to have its own building, and in 1995 the Tate-Turner Kurlalt Building was dedicated.

William F. Little was a member of the UNC faculty for more than 40 years, a former vice president of the UNC system and a visionary leader who helped guide the development of Research Triangle Park. He died in February at the age of 79.

Noted historian **John Hope Franklin** died in March at 94. Franklin was the author of the influential book *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans* and was one of a team of scholars that worked with Thurgood Marshall on the Brown v. Board of Education decision, which outlawed separate-but-equal public schools. Franklin received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Ristin Cooks died in May at 41. A fixture at the Carrboro Farmers' Market, Cooks was a farmer, writer, carpenter and dear friend and inspiration to many.

Peter W. Heiman, a familiar face at Weaver Street Market, died, at 79, in July. Heiman retired to Carrboro more than 25 years ago and devoted much of his time to his hobbies of cooking, gardening and teaching Latin dance at local community centers.

Karen Shelton, a painter and the force behind the creation of Carrboro's 2ndFriday Artwalk, was the owner of Sizl Gallery, where the works of local artists were displayed. She died in September.

Gary Lee Shaffer, a UNC professor of social work, died in September at 64. Shaffer specialized in social work practice in the schools, social work education and international social work. He supervised more than 300 students placed in North Carolina public schools.



Margaret Pollard was the first black woman to serve as chair of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners and a champion for the voiceless. She died in September at 77.

Margie Ellison, another longtime Chatham County community organizer, also died in September.

Chapel Hill social activist and historian **Yonni Chapman** died in October at 62, having had leukemia for nearly 30 years. Chapman was a longtime defender of civil rights in the community.

Everette Billingsly, a former UNC water-system director who became the first head of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority, died in December at 79.

LETTERS

Celebrate the New Year smoke-free

Orange County's TRU (Tobacco. Reality. Unfiltered.) students welcome the new state smoke-free law, which goes into effect at midnight on Jan. 2. Every year, secondhand smoke causes 35,000 deaths in America. The U.S. Surgeon General has stated that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Many restaurant owners in Orange County have long realized the benefits of offering smoke-free dining to their customers. Now millions of workers and customers will be

"Every year, secondhand smoke causes 35,000 deaths in America."

protected from short-term exposure to secondhand smoke while enjoying time in restaurants and bars. As a part of the effort to educate customers about the new smoke-free law, the Orange County Health Department is sending coasters to interested restaurants and bars that previously allowed smoking in their establishments.

We would also like to encourage everyone to celebrate this historic occasion by supporting the local restaurants and bars in Orange County on Jan. 2 and throughout the month.

PAM DIGGS
Youth Tobacco-Use
Prevention program
coordinator
Orange County Health
Department

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:

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Durham must stop poisoning Jordan Lake

JULIAN SERENO

Something is rotten in Durham, and much of the rot seems to be ending up in Jordan Lake. It's time to put a stop to it.

It began way back in the early '90s when Walmart wanted to build a store near the intersection of I-40

and U.S. 15-501, a few miles from Chapel Hill and smack-dab next to New Hope Creek. The Durham City Council had consistently protected the watershed and thwarted Walmart.

But when it came to a vote in 1992, Virginia Engelhard, a Durham City Council member and avowed environmentalist, mistakenly voted for it rather than against it. She claimed she was tired and just pushed the wrong button. It sounded fishy to me at the time, but the powers-that-were in the Herald-Sun newsroom, where I was employed, took her at her word.

New Hope Commons was built as a result of that vote. It features not only a Walmart but a Best Buy, Old Navy, Office Max and more. And it paved the way for another mall on the other side of Mount Moriah Church Road and a goliath mall across U.S. 15-501 featuring scores of big-box stores.

All this commercial development led to a vigorous revenue stream pouring into Durham's tax coffers. I remember the business editor in the mid-'90s chortling about the many Volvos he saw parked at New Hope Commons, which he surmised belonged to wealthy Chapel Hill residents leaving their sales-tax dollars in Durham.

All this commercial development's hundreds of acres of parking lots have also led to a toxic stream pouring into New Hope Creek and on into Jordan Lake. When the state legislature enacted rules to protect Jordan Lake last year, the tab for Durham to curb its pollution was way higher than anywhere else — \$570 million. Durham

was granted compliance waivers because of the staggering expense. But Durham allowed that pavement to be laid, profited mightily, and now needs to pony up to keep its poisonous run off out of New Hope Creek and Jordan Lake.

The rotten business continues. In October, the Durham Board of County Commissioners voted 3-2 to

allow construction of a large subdivision, 751 South, inside the Jordan Lake watershed, after being threatened with a massive lawsuit by the developers. But a petition representing 24 nearby landowners opposing the development was ruled valid. If that ruling stands, the development would be stopped. The vote to allow it would

need a supermajority, or a 4-1 vote in favor, which it won't get.

The petition will have its day in court — probably many of them. Durham taxpayers ultimately might be the big losers, which is too bad.

But Durham has to stop pouring filth into our drinking water, and it needs to stop now.

Julian Sereno is editor and publisher of Chatham County Line, chathamcountyline.org, a community newspaper. He was neighborhood editor for the Durham Sun and then the Herald-Sun from 1985 to 1997.

"Durham has to stop pouring filth into our drinking water, and it needs to stop now."

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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UNC NOTES FRANK HEATH

Football ...

Early during the Meineke Bowl matchup between North Carolina and Pittsburgh, fans watching the game were treated to two spectacles in succession – both courtesy of UNC wide receiver running back Greg Little. On the field, Little made perhaps Carolina's most sensational offensive play of the season, out leaping a couple of Pitt defenders to snare a lob pass from quarterback T.J. Yates along the right sideline of the end zone, then somehow landing a foot inbounds to score Carolina's first TD of the big game. Then (for a moment I thought I was dreaming, but this actually happened) Little trotted to the back of the end zone and *punted* the ball into the stands, incurring a 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalty. I have watched a good bit of football, but I've never seen a college player punt the football in celebration of a touchdown – and likely never will again.

This was the initial sign that the Tar Heels might have trouble winning the game. Because, although the touchdown put UNC up

7-3, Little's subsequent antics gave an indication that the Tar Heels might not have been as fully focused on winning a football game as they could have been.

The next ominous sign, for me, came when Pittsburgh drove the ball into UNC territory on its first three possessions, but only came away from those drives with three points; yet Carolina failed to capitalize and went into halftime trailing 13-10. Other indicators that this was not necessarily going to be the Tar Heels' day were the several lack-of-focus penalties the Heels incurred throughout the game and a botched kickoff near the end of the first half that set up an easy Pitt field goal.

In such a close game, little things do matter, and Carolina lost that battle, while the one big thing – Pitt running back Dion Lewis' 159-yard night – favored the Panthers, enabling their 19-17 win. If Carolina wants to win close bowl games, or ball games, in 2010, it will need to put an end to the type of foolish mistakes it made in the Meineke Bowl.

Ahh, basketball ...

You might think that with fewer moving parts than the football team, the UNC basketball team's issues would be simpler to diagnose and, hopefully, correct.

Such does not seem to be the case thus far in the season. The Tar Heels are ranked No. 9 in the country – not a bad poll position for a "rebuilding" season. But listen to coach Roy Williams and one gets the impression that darker days may be near if his team does not begin to pay a lot more attention to details entering conference play.

Williams' comment after Monday's win over Rutgers ("I am so ticked off, it's unbelievable") indicated severe frustration with the Tar Heels' level of concentration and ability to keep in mind what the coaching staff has them work on in practices. So while watching this team develop may be "fun" for us fans, who can enjoy a change of pace after last season's pressure cooker, these Tar Heels so far appear to be something of a pain in the neck for their hall of fame coach. The things his players are doing poorly, Williams indicates, are so numerous that he almost doesn't know where to start.

After Carolina's recent game against Texas, in which Longhorns big man Dexter Pittman and swing forward Damion James out-muscled and out-hustled the Heels for seemingly every important rebound, James had this to say: "All week, everyone's telling us how North Carolina has the best front line in the country, how they like to run, how they do this and do that. Well, we just beat them at their own game."

Contrary to what James has been told, this UNC basketball team does not have the best front line in the country. That was last year's team. And although this team does endeavor to push the pace, it does not run anywhere nearly as effectively as last year's team was able to run with Ty Lawson at the point and Wayne Ellington and Danny Green filling lanes.

This year's team may get to the point where it is very good at running a fast-break pace, and it may get to the point where its front line consistently plays up there among the best. Right now, it is feeling its way, which is not good enough for its coach. But that's OK, and it's his job to push them.

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7 Lady of the house
12 Pacific archipelago
16 Fit
19 Not as affluent
20 Let up
21 "East of Eden" character
22 Negligent
23 Start of a quip by Ogden Nash
25 Massachussetts
27 "Kind Drag" (67 hit)
28 Little fox
29 Does some cobbling
31 Jannings or Gillee
32 "Pequod" captain
34 Whippet or wolf
37 Raptor feature
39 Dugong, for one
42 Salon offering
43 Faint
44 Fashionable
45 Part 2 of quip

DOWN
1 Lhasa
2 Magic-show sound
3 Linda, CA
4 Zinc or copper
5 Plan into
6 NBC newsmen

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104 105 106 107 108 109 110
111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118
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123 124 125 126

CitizenCryptoquote By Martin Brody

For example, YAPHCYAPLM is WORDSWORTH. One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the two O's, Y for the two W's, etc.. Apostrophes, punctuation, the length and formation of the words are all hints.

"Please Be Anonymous"

E S R A S V S Z S V B O G
H S J X C B R A C .
T R O W F K E . N E C . -
V O A C J Y S S Z G , O Q
D X C G G D A C D G F O Q A
D K K C A C Z X O G V J C G G
I D O X C C A J R N N G V S
V D F C B C J Q D X C S H H
B C J P S O W C X D O K .

Find the answer in the puzzle answer section.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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PETS OF THE WEEK



PAWS4EVER — Meet Lilly, Trudy, Sierra and Jasper! These adorable tabby and calitabby littermates are around 2 months old and ARE 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 visit these cuties today at Orange County's Animal Services Center, 1601 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill or call 942-PETS (7387). You can also see her online at co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption. 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 Buster! Buster is a 5-month-old hound mix who is super cute and ready to find a new place to call home! He's a playful boy who loves attention and would be a great addition to a family who has time to include him in activities or perhaps another dog for him to play with during the day. He loves toys and listens well for such a young fellow. He is eager to please and should be quite trainable and adaptable! Come visit him today at Orange County's Animal Services Center, 1601 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill or call 942-PETS (7387). You can also see him online at co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp.





Chapel High High School Soccer Champs, 1972

Tim Peck of Peck and Artisans has this iconic photograph hanging in his Carrboro office that caught my attention: the state championship CHHS boys' soccer team from 1972. Tim, front row, fifth from right, remembers the November day they beat East Mecklenburg on a muddy field at Duke. The team, including three sets of brothers and many seniors, was CHHS's inaugural soccer team, making the state championship all the more satisfying. And what's more, even after 37 years, Tim remembers the names of all his teammates: (bottom row, left to right) Robbie Taylor, Sean Gallagher, Greg Samsa, Bobby Propster, Rod Wortham, David Sanford, Bruce Ayers, Michael Brown (the town muralist), Bill Bakewell, Tim Peck, Fred Curtis, David Scott, Jon Godwin and Mike Bawden; (top

row, left to right) Coach Joe Hodgson, David Pence, Sid Sockwell, David Collier, Anthony Endozien, Steve Peck, Joseph Endozien, Paul Brown, Tom Schwab, Ian McMillian, Doug Ironsides, Mit Corothers, Tom Poe, Stuart Krall and Don Lupton. (Taken by an unknown photographer; the picture is courtesy of Tom Poe.)



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.



Copper-colored leaves and needle-like buds characterize American beech.

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA FROM PAGE 1

Some folks discover that trees are easier to identify when they are in the bare winter condition. For those interested in winter identification, it's easy to begin with the pocket-sized Winter Tree Finder by May Watts. This guide focuses your eyes and attention on details that are quite obvious once you take the time for a closer look.

In addition to bark color and texture, look for alter-

nate and opposite arrangements of twigs, and notice the shapes of the buds. A smooth light-colored bark is possibly an American beech. If you see alternately arranged copper-colored leaves still hanging on and really slender, sharp pointed buds at the branch tips, you know for certain you have an American beech tree.

If you find a light-colored, smooth-textured bark and the trunk has vertical muscle-like ridges, and you are down along a creek edge, you have an ironwood tree; it's called

blue beech in the northern states. It will not have copper-colored leaves present.

But you don't have to identify a tree to enjoy it. Just being aware of so many different kinds of trees is worthwhile. And once in awhile, you may want to hug a special tree, and thank it for making possible our life here.

Go take a walk and meet a tree on New Year's Day. Then make a wish that you'll do it once a week the rest of the year. Then make that wish come true!

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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
Dave Alvin & Two Guilty Women featuring Cindy Cashdollar • SUN 2/21
Dervish • THU 3/4

UPCOMING THEATRE:
North Carolina Comedy Arts Festival • THU 1/7 through 2/14
9th Annual 10 By 10 Call for Submissions • WED 1/18-20
SuperFun Show: Gustafer Yellowgold • SAT 1/23
One Song Productions: The February 48 • SUN 2/7
Transactors Improv: The LOVE Show • FRI 2/12
SuperFun Show: Stone Soup • FRI 2/20

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