INSIDE:
SCENES FROM THE MUSIC FESTIVAL
PUMPKIN BEER
RED AT PLAYMAKERS
THE DISMEMBERMENT PLAN
WARBLERS
Sundays at Six Music Series
6pm every Sunday  NO COVER CHARGE!

**OCTOBER 5**
Music Before the Movie (NOTE Special day & time: Friday at 6:30 pm)  Matrix Band

**OCTOBER 7**
The Pratie Heads  Traditional British Isles Music

**OCTOBER 14**
Grand Finale in 2 Acts: Jazz Beau and The Loose Screws

**BENEFIT EVENTS**
Paws4Ever 7th Annual Dog Walk for Animal Protection
Free family fun on the Green | $30 for walkers
www.paws4ever.org
Saturday, Oct 6  10am – 2pm

Safe Passage 5k with music, bounce house, kids’ activities, fun for the whole family
$30 for 5k participants
www.safepassage.org
Saturday, Oct 13  8am registration, 9am race begins

2012 4th annual CASTLE Fun & Fundraiser  Featuring the legendary Nomads Band playing Beach, Soul, R&B, Blues, Dance & Party Music, plus kids’ activities, corn hole tournament with cash prizes, & silent auction
Saturday, Oct 13  3 – 6:30pm
FREE ADMISSION, Donations accepted

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**Lunch**

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**Dinner**

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**Brunch**

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Panzanella is part of Weaver Street Market Cooperative
Historic Carr Mill  200 N Greensboro Street, Carrboro, NC
919.929.6626  panzanella.coop
ENERGY

Each year as the mercury begins to drop, there’s an excitement in the air around here about the season to come, as the community prepares to welcome fall.

For me, the season – while offering some relief from triple-digit temperatures simply provides a preview of its colder, meaner sister season to come. Though we’ve been largely spared from any long stretches of winter in recent years, there’s nothing that zaps my energy like cold, dark mornings and a pitch-black sky on my walk home from work.

But I’m learning that this season, while certainly still far from summer and spring in the rankings in my mind, does have something to offer, and that’s the energy it appears to bring to our community, if only in the form of the multitude of activities going on in the area. Just this weekend, you can choose from the Shakori Hills Grassroots Festival of Music and Dance, the World Beer Festival in Durham and Festifall in downtown Chapel Hill, on top of a number of rock concerts, theatrical performances, comedy shows and so on. There’s a lot going on; yes, more than usual. Get out there and enjoy it before winter puts a damper on all our fun.

–Susan Dickson

ROSS’S ALMANAC

Rolling through the great Midwest recently, it wasn’t difficult to see the effects of an intense, extended drought and realize that while we had a dry spell earlier this year, we’ve been spared from the withering just west of the mountains. There was damaged corn in the fields unharvested and waiting for the spring plows, and the tips of far too many trees were already browned and ready for fall.

We may have escaped some of the severe effects, but not all. The forest floor around here already is scattered with the early adopters of autumn foliage. The trees here took a beating in the warm weather season. Many had just leafed out when late June’s wave of 100-degree days washed over us for a week or two. They may be in a hurry to take their rest. So if you see some fall color, stop and take it in. Dormancy is right around the corner.

Oct. 1 – Sunrise: 7:12 a.m.; Sunset: 6:59 p.m.
Oct. 31 – Sunrise: 7:38 a.m.; Sunset: 6:21 p.m.

Last Quarter – Oct. 8 □ New Moon – Oct. 15
First Quarter – Oct. 21 □ Full Moon – Oct. 29

The full moon in October is the Harvest Moon, Blood Moon and Travel Moon.

Planets & Stars

At nightfall, Mars lies low in the southwest. On Oct. 20, Mars appears near the star Antares, which is reddish like Mars and whose name means “not Mars.” Jupiter is in the constellation Taurus the Bull, east of an orange-ish star, Aldebaran, which marks the eye of the bull. Venus dominates the eastern pre-dawn sky, and on the morning of Oct. 3 appears very, very close to the bright star Regulus in Leo the Lion. Mercury and Saturn spend the month buried in twilight glow. —Amy Sayle, Morehead Planetarium and Science Center

Significant Dates

October is Adopt a Shelter Dog Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Seafood Month, National Pizza Month and Cookie Month.

• Oct. 4 is National Golf Day
• Do Something Nice Day is Oct. 5
• University Day is Oct. 12
• International Skeptics Day is Oct. 13, if you can believe it
• Oct. 17 is Wear Something Gaudy Day
• National Nut Day is Oct. 21
• Punk for a Day is Oct. 25
• National Candy Corn Day is Oct. 30
• Halloween is, well, you know

rosalmanac.com/journal

ART NOTES

Claudia Schmitz-Esser’s inked yarn woodcut series 4, on display at Eno Gallery this month

In the galleries

At The ArtsCenter this month, “Exploring 15 Years of Yep Roc” celebrates the Chapel Hill-based indie record label’s diversity and love of independent music and the community. On exhibit is a collection of odds and ends from the Yep Roc vaults curated from a stockpile of photographs, artwork, posters, memorabilia, video clips and slide shows. Curated by Yep Rock creative director Michael Triplett, the show runs through Oct. 31, and a reception will be held Oct. 12 from 6 to 9 p.m.

At Hillsborough’s Eno Gallery, Claudia Schmitz-Esser’s inked yarn woodcut prints are on display through Nov. 25. The pieces represent the first prints of a very limited edition of nine prints, all oil-based ink on acid-free paper.

The third annual studio tour of the Alamance Artisans Guild, an affiliate of the Alamance Art Council, will be held in various locations throughout Alamance County Oct. 13-14. Studios of 44 guild members from Orange, Chatham and Alamance counties will be open to the public. For more information, visit alamcneartisans.com.

“Changing Focus: The Image in Flux,” an exhibit featuring the work of 11 diverse fine-art photographers, continues at FRANK Gallery through Nov. 4. Included in the exhibit is a series of photos by Bill McAllister of gay and lesbian couples, celebrating the couples and their relationships while addressing homophobia. In addition, “FRANK: In Focus,” a town-wide two-month photography festival continues through Nov. 1 with a series of panel discussions, lectures and more. For more information, visit frankinfocus.tumblr.com.

Photographer Duncan Hoge’s “American Landscapes” is on display at Jesse’s Coffee and Bar this month.

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LITERARY

Carrboro Branch Library

**Story Time** — Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, 10:30am
Chapel Hill Public Library — University Mall
**Ongoing Events** — Story Time, Time for Toddlers, Family Story Time, Computer Classes, Teen Book Club, Baby Time, Knitting for Charity (919) 968-2780

**Books Sandwiched In** — To discuss Every Day by the Sun: A Memoir of the Faulkners of Mississippi by Dean Faulkner Wells. Oct. 3, 11:30am

**Monday Night Book Group** — To discuss Years of Discord: American Politics and Society, 1961-1974 by John Morton Blum. Oct. 15, 7pm

**Homeschool Book Club** — A new club for homeschoolers aged 7-11. Read a book of your choice on a monthly theme and chat about it with other kids. Oct. 24, 1:30pm

**Pajama Story Time** — Oct. 24, 7pm

**Teen Halloween Party** — Oct. 30, 7pm

Chatham County Community Library

**Library Closed Oct. 10**

**Ongoing Events** — A Dam Good Yarn, CHAKA After School Programs, Story Times

**Book Sale** — For members only on Oct. 5, 4-6pm, open to the public Oct. 6, 10am-5pm, Oct. 7, 1-4pm

**Evening Book Club** — To discuss The Garden of Beasts by Eric Larson. Oct. 9, 6:30pm

**Billy Stevens** — To present Sincere Forms of Flatulence: Blacks, Whites, and American Popular Music. Oct. 13, 4pm

**Jill McCorkle** — Meet the author. Oct. 20, 11am-noon

**Benjamin Filene** — To present photographs and talk about his search, “Where Is Tobe?” Unfolding Stories of Childhood, Race, and Rural Life.” Oct. 28, 3-4:30pm

**Bright Star Theatre** — Presents The Legend of Sleepy Hollow for children in grades 2-6. Oct. 30, 3:30pm

**Bull’s Head Bookshop**

**David Menconi** — To discuss Ryan Adams: Losing My Mind, Losing My Way. Oct. 7, 7:30pm

**Pam Durham** — To discuss The Tree of Forgiveness. Oct. 9, 3:30pm

**Norris Johnson** — To discuss Tenryu-ji: Life and Spirit of a Kyoto Garden. Oct. 11, 3:30pm

**Margaret Brunson** — To discuss New Growth: How My Hair Saved My Life. Oct. 23, 3:30pm

**Tim Crothers** — To discuss The Queen of Katwe: A Story of Life, Chess, and One Extraordinary Girl’s Dream of Becoming a Grandmaster. Oct. 24, 3:30pm

**Jeffery Beam** — To discuss The Broken Flower and The Beautiful Tendons. Oct. 25, 3:30pm

**Terry Roberts** — To discuss A Short Time To Stay Here. Oct. 30, 3:30pm

**Flyleaf Books**

**Imaginary Invalid** — Comedic tale of a rich hypochondriac who surrounds himself with a host of quacks eager to take his money by promising cures to an array of suspect illness. Oct. 24-Nov. 11

**The ArtsCenter**

**Legend of Hester** — Presented by Deep Dish Theater. Oct. 6, 7:30pm Free

**44 Plays for 44 Presidents** — A chronological, biographical survey of the lives and presidencies of each of the 44 men who have held the office so far, told in 2-minute plays. Oct. 4-7

**Rumpus in Rome** — Presented by Jabberbox Puppet Theater, showcasing original comic plays for adults. Oct. 5-6, 8pm

**Transactors Improv** — Presents Transactors for Families: Halloweeneen Eve. Oct. 12, 7pm

**Second Sunday Film** — Locally made films with question-and-answers periods with the filmmakers. Oct. 14, 4pm

**Chuckle and Chortle** — Comedy show with host Gretchen McNeely and comics Matt See, Eric Megert, Jon Su, Adam Cohen and Michelle Macray. Oct. 20, 8:30pm $5

**You Wouldn’t Expect** — A fictional play by local playwright Marilynn Baner Anselmi based on the North Carolina Eugenics Program. Oct. 21, 3pm

**Sacrificial Poets** — Poetry Slam. Oct. 27, 7pm $10, $5 students

**No Shame Theatre** — Performance venue for original works of theatre. Oct. 27, 10pm $2

**DSI Comedy**

**DEEPDISHTHEATER.COM**

**Comedy Lottery** — Oct. 4, 7:30pm $5

**Humor Games** — Oct. 5, 9pm $12

**Mister Diplomat** — Fridays, 10:30pm Free

**Fright Night** — Saturdays, 9pm $12

**X Games** — Saturdays, 10:30pm $12

**Student Showcase** — Oct. 11, 7:30pm $5

**Harold Night** — Oct. 12, 19, 26, 9pm $12

**The Most Races Show on Earth** — Oct. 18, 7:30pm $10

**Deep Dish Theater**

**PLAYMAKERSREP.ORG**

**Deep Dish Theater**

**DEEPDISHTHEATER.ORG**

**Shoos to Conquer** — Oliver Goldsmith's comic tale of mistaken identities, social sabotage and happy endings. Oct. 26-Nov. 17

**PlayMakers Repertory**

**Playmakersrep.org** (919) 962-7529

**Red** — The tale of artist Mark Rothko as he struggles between art and commerce. Through Oct. 7

**Imaginary Invalid** — Comedic tale of a rich hypochondriac who surrounds himself with a host of quacks eager to take his money by promising cures to an array of suspect illness. Oct. 24-Nov. 11

DANCE

**Ballroom Dance** — Haw River Ballroom, Oct. 12-14 8pm $10/12

**Community Dance/Potluck** — Binkley Baptist Church, 5:30-9pm $5 person/$12 family

**Contra Dance** — Sponsored by FootLoose/Contraz. Carrboro Century Center, Oct. 6, lesson 7:30pm/dance 8pm $9

**Contra Dance** — With caller Adina Gordon and music by Steamshovel. Carrboro Century Center, Oct. 6, 13, 7:30pm $9 tdancers.org

**Contra Dance** — Third Friday dance sponsored by Carolina Song and Dance Association. Carrboro Century Center, Oct. 19, lesson 7:30pm/dance 8pm csda-dance.org

**Triangle StarDusters Ballroom** — Couples and singles are welcome. Fred Astaire Dance Studio, second Saturdays 8-11pm $7/StarDusters members and students, $12/others (919) 942-7232

**Square Dancing** — With music by The Carolina Cutups and caller Todd Woener. Carrboro Century Center, Oct. 5 lesson 7:30pm/dance 8pm
CHASING FALL WARBLERS

Fall has arrived, and it is time for migrating warblers to make their way south for the winter. Birders are everywhere, searching the canopy for the multitudes of tiny songbirds that are making their journeys to wintering grounds in Mexico and South America. Saturday before last was a perfect birding day – the air was cool, the sun was shining, and at 8 a.m. Mason Farm Biological Reserve was already full of avid birders, binoculars expertly cradled in chest holsters that resemble tiny baby carriers.

Birders are a friendly lot. They like to share their knowledge and special finds. I met a group of four women who happily told me of a spot where they had seen a group of black-and-white warblers. Off I went to the special tree, but the warblers had vacated, and the only sound came from one of the more public cardinals that regularly fill the trees.

I then ran into a man and his young son, who had already photographed a Swainson’s thrush, a scarlet tanager and a yellow-billed cuckoo. They had accomplished all this in the reserve parking lot, so back to the parking lot I went. I looked around and saw nothing. I used my telephoto lens to search the very same trees where they had made these excellent sightings, but I came up empty-handed.

Finally, a large group of smiling birders came trundling into the parking lot and enthusiastically asked me if I had seen the large group of blue grosbeaks that were oc-

close they told me.

I wasn’t after blue grosbeak that day, but the birds were all eluding me, so I figured that this was a sure bet and off I went to the first field. I saw a single mockingbird, but the grosbeaks were nowhere to be seen. What was I doing? I was dutifully following the instructions of some fine birders and chasing all over the place for discoveries that were not mine. I decided to follow my own course.

The day before, I heard the calls and caught a glimpse of a warbler in a thicket by the creek. This was a muddy spot that caught more shade than morning light, but it was an appealing spot to me. It was now 10 a.m., and the birders were leaving for the day. The reserve was emptying out, and I now wandered by myself, hoping to find a few of the warblers I heard lightly calling in the trees.

I walked to that muddy curve on the trail and stood waiting. A minute passed, and then a common yellowthroat popped out of the brush and perched a mere 15 feet before me. This is a skulking warbler of the low thickets and marsh. He is a stunning little beauty with a brilliant yellow throat and a bandit’s mask of black across his eyes. He lingered, and I had ample time for photos. The day was looking up. The birds were easier to find once I gave up chasing another person’s discovery.

The next find was located on the main trail. The beautiful black-and-whites warblers were working a tree near the entrance to the reserve. These warblers are known for their very un-warbler like appearance and foraging techniques. Most warblers have combinations of black, yellow, gray and olive tones, but the black-and-white is a two-toned striped bird that is unmistakable.

Most warblers flutter in the leaves searching out insects, but the black-and-white runs up and down the limbs and trunks of trees much like a nuthatch. This particular warbler has a very long hind toe and nail that enables it to race headlong down trees with a sure grip. The grip is so secure that this fellow doesn’t even brace his tail against the tree as he forages in the bark for wood-boring beetles, bark beetles, leafhoppers and caterpillars.

To the benefit of the forest, the black-and-whites take out many of the pests that destroy hardwood trees. They tend to migrate earlier in the spring season and later in the fall season, as they are not dependent on green foliage to find food. The voice is a high squeak “wee see wee see wee see,” like the squeak of a kid’s wagon in need of oil.

The rest of the morning was filled with all sorts of birds hunting the trees for insects to fuel their long journey south of the border. For an amateur birder like myself, the lesson of the day was to run your own race. The trails are full of avid bird watchers who may recognize 30 different species in a single outing, but the pleasure of the day is in finding your own discoveries along the way.
A DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE BULL CITY

“DURHAM! WHY IN THE WORLD would you want to move to Durham?” a snobby Chapel Hillian once asked Celia Cleveland, one of the contributors to the just-released 27 Views of Durham.

I’m embarrassed to admit that’s an attitude I once shared. Though I was born in Durham, in a now-defunct hospital where the N.C. School of Math and Science now stands, it’s a city I never paid much attention to throughout childhood and early adulthood, other than to hate Duke, of course.

And though I’ve lately come to appreciate the wealth of culinary, musical and artistic creativity to be found in Durham these days, there’s still much about the city and its history that I’m ignorant about. So the fourth book in Eno Publishers’ 27 Views series has been a real education for me, as well as a real pleasure to read.

As Independent Weekly founder and Durham City Council member Steve Schewel points out in his introduction, the writers of 27 Views of Durham don’t shy away from describing the city’s issues of poverty, discrimination and crime. “The City,” by George Yamazawa Jr., is a powerfully rendered poetic call for an end to gang violence in Durham. And Carl W. Kenney II’s story, “Home is a Cup of Coffee,” poignantly evokes the heartrending results of that violence.

But 27 Views of Durham makes it clear that those who have used the city’s problems as an excuse to stay away have seriously deprived themselves. It makes clear that eating at one of the city’s impressive restaurants or attending a world-class performance at Duke or DPAC only scratches the surface of the fun and enlightenment to be had in Durham.

There’s the ballpark, for instance. Adam Sobsey tells, in “Home Again,” how he “crookedly” grew up at the Durham Athletic Park. And another Durham native, Clyde Edgerton, brings to life the 110-year history of the parks the Durham Bulls have called home in his story, “Last days, Old Ballpark.”

There’s ‘Kersten Mullen’s “Watching Pictures in the Dark,” an account of biracial audience participation at Lakewood Shopping Center’s much-missed Center Theatre that will make you think twice about shushing chattering moviegoers.

And there’s Cliff Bellamy’s “My Park, Everybody’s Park,” about Durham Central Park. His description of the parades, “splash mobs” and film screenings that make the park a vibrant contributor to Durham city life will inspire readers to plan a trip to the vicinity just to check it out.

History buffs will enjoy “The Snowy Hills,” a memoir excerpt about black schooling in Durham by Walter Matthew Brown. They’ll also appreciate Jean Bradley Anderson’s “Remembering a Town Father,” which focuses on Durham’s early days.

For music enthusiasts, there’s “Wonderland,” excerpted from Lewis Shiner’s Black and White, which paints such an enticing picture of Hayti’s music scene in the early ’60s that you’ll wish you could time-travel there.

“Shirley’s Garden: An Oral History,” by David Cecelski, describes a Durham garden created for people suffering from HIV/AIDS. Barry Yeoman’s “The Morning After Amendment One” celebrates the community’s reaction to last May’s passage of the anti-gay marriage amendment. Both make the point that Durham’s greatest assets are the people who’ve chosen to live in the town that Katy Munger writes about in “Best of Towns, Worst of Towns – My Town,” who’ve chosen Durham perhaps because they see it as Munger does: “the town that is what it is, with few pretensions; the town that manages to find room for everyone, without making anyone feel out of place; the town that, like all good relationships, lets you be yourself.”

The rollicking launch of 27 Views of Durham at Motorco Sept. 27 proved how much that city’s denizens love where they live. Schewel delighted the crowd with, “Chapel Hill – it really is a great place to live … 10 miles away from.” (Hmm, maybe I can still hate Duke.) But if you missed that party, you have another opportunity to hear about the book and meet some of the authors. Just come to the Carolina Theatre in Durham on Oct. 21 at 2 p.m. for an event co-sponsored by the theatre and the Durham Library Foundation. Your view of Durham will never be the same.

27 Views of Durham is the latest in Eno Publishers’ 27 Views series. IMAGE COURTESY OF ENO PUBLISHERS

Mon 10/15 3pm
at CH Public Library in U Mall
CHRISTOPHER TEUTON: Cherokee Stories of the Turtle Island Liars Club

Fri 10/19 & Sat 10/20
WEST END POETRY FEST
FEAT ALAN SHAPIRO, DORIANNE LAUX & MANY MORE FINE POETS!

Fri 10/26 7pm-8pm
TIM CROTHERS - THE QUEEN OF KA TWE: A Story of Life, Chess, and One Extraordinary Girl’s Dream of Becoming a Grandmaster
By Margot C. Lester

Checking in with CFF Alums

Easily the scariest film at last year’s Carrboro Film Festival was Michael Sharpe’s \textit{DEVILING} (bit.ly/DEVILING), which earned the event’s Best Actor (Robert Haulbrook as Ronald) and Best Narrative Fiction awards. It seems fitting to get an update on this horror short as we creep toward All Hallows’ Eve.

\textit{DEVILING} has cast a spell on juries at festivals around the country, including the upcoming Freakshow Horror Film Festival (Orlando), Drunken Zombie Film Festival (Illinois) and the New Jersey and New York horror film festivals.

“When I make a film, I want to share the story with people,” says Los Angeles-based Sharpe. “Film festivals are a great avenue to do that.” It also has other benefits. “Getting accepted into festivals gives me a feeling of accomplishment [and] makes me want to make bigger and better films. It’s important to hear new ideas or opinions of what people thought of the film.”

Sharpe was influenced by scary movies that “give you less imagery and force your imagination to take over, and that have atmosphere,” he explains. Which is why he recommends the following films, along with \textit{DEVILING}, for maximum Halloween viewing impact:

- \textit{Halloween} (John Carpenter’s original)
- \textit{Frankenstein} (1931 version)
- \textit{The Exorcist}
- \textit{The Shining}

In other CFF alumni news, audience favorite \textit{Wiggle Room} will finish up the 2012 film-festival circuit at the 23rd Annual New Orleans Film Festival. Filmmaker Joe Schenkenberg will be on the animation panel with William Joyce, director of the Oscar-winning animated short \textit{The Flying Books of Mr. Morris}. And Schenkenberg’s follow-up project, Sci-Fly, was picked up by PBS as a web series (bit.ly/JoeyShanksSFX).

“It’s another step in the right direction as a filmmaker,” Schenkenberg says.

The Southern Documentary Fund

The Durham-based Southern Documentary Fund (SDF) marks its 10th year cultivating documentary projects made in or made about the American South. Founded by documentarians Cynthia Hill and Steven Channing, SDF provides support, education, exhibition/distribution, advocacy, sponsorship/partnership and community to artists and non-fiction filmmakers.

“In an increasingly noisy and corporatized media landscape, independent media is more important than ever,” says executive director Rachel Raney.

To that end, SDF has sponsored more than 100 projects, including 40 current endeavors covering everything from social justice and the environment to history and the arts.

“Regional voices are so important to understanding what’s happening around the country, and it’s rare to see Southern stories and voices featured in the national media,” Raney says. “We also know that a vibrant arts scene and a large ‘creative class’ are big boosts to cities. Media makers are a big part of that, but need support organizations to nurture their work and help create community. We want our artists to stay in the South and thrive, not feel like they have to move to the West Coast or New York to ‘make it.’”

SDF itself is getting a boost from Catchafire, an organization that links professionals with nonprofits to extend capacity.

“We have worked with them to identify their project-based needs, helped get these projects ready to be taken on by a Catchafire pro-bono professional and connected them to other social-good organizations locally and nationally,” explains Adrienne Schmoeker, Catchafire’s business development manager.

Other local organizations working with the company include The Arc of Orange County, The Scrap Exchange and Sacrificial Poets. Interested professionals and nonprofits can learn more at catchafire.org.

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\textbf{THE SOUTHERN DOCUMENTARY FUND}

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\textbf{THE SOUTHERN DOCUMENTARY FUND}
Despite grim forecasts, Sunday’s weather was pretty near perfect for the 15th annual Carrboro Music Festival. The event drew thousands of residents and visitors downtown for more than 180 performances at 25 venues.

PHOTOS BY ALICIA STEMPER

Members of Rough Cut entertain at the Fifth Season/Glasshalfull stage.

Crowd favorite Durham Ukulele Orchestra performs at the Looking Glass Cafe stage during the Carrboro Music Festival.

Summerglen members Christina Thompson and Andrew Munger play for the crowds at 2nd Wind.
FESTIVAL

Justin Johnson plays the Cuban cigar box with band Tubbly Ridge in front of one of the iconic trees on the lawn at Weaver Street Market. Justin later entertained as a soloist at Jessee's.

Brazilian martial arts/dance group ASCAB Capoeira NC gets moving for the crowd in the parking lot of Balanced Movement.
THE POLITICS OF PUMPKIN BEER

In my day job as a beer peddler, I’m frequently asked one question in particular this time of year: What’s your favorite pumpkin beer? Knowing that this can be a potentially polarizing topic, I have my diplomatic responses at the ready. I also know that, like many things in life, beer preferences – especially pumpkin beer preferences – are a matter of subjective taste. I proceed with caution.

“How do you like your pumpkin beer? Spicy? Sweet? Pumpkin-y? Not-so-pumpkin-y?” There are no right or wrong answers to be gleaned from this line of questioning, just information. A common reply: “I’m not sure – just as long as it tastes like fall.” I think to myself, “Well, that leaves it pretty wide open,” but offer an honest injection of personal opinion. “I tend to like the less-sweet-and-spicy renditions – ones that have a solid malt backbone and taste slightly more like beer than pumpkin pie.”

I find that this gives a point from which to triangulate, often resulting in the customer grabbing the stylistic opposite of the personal preference I described. “I think I’ll take the sweeter one, but thanks for your help.”

It’s not to be taken personally – the customer leaving with a product he or she will enjoy outweighs all other considerations by a long shot – but the situation does illustrate one of the endearing quirks of a quintessentially American beer style: pumpkin ale.

Pumpkin ale is a beer style firmly rooted in early-American history. At the same time the Founding Fathers were penning documents that would shape the country for centuries to come, they maintained pumpkin patches on their family farms. George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson were all believed to have made pumpkin beers from their crop. A gourd from the Cucurbitaceae family, which includes squash and zucchini, the pumpkin was a New World staple that grew especially well in New England. Malted barley was hard to come by in the colonies; thus the starches and sugars in pumpkins made them valuable ingredients for brewing. One of the first American colonial folk songs from the mid-17th century praised the pumpkin’s utility: Instead of pottage and puddings and custards and pies, Our pumpkins and parsnips are common supplies;

We have pumpkin at morning and pumpkin at noon;
If it was not for pumpkins we should be undone
… Hey down, down, hey down derry down …
If barley be wanting to make into malt
We must be contented and think it no fault
For we can make liquor, to sweeten our lips,
Of pumpkins and parsnips and walnut-tree chips.

While modern-day interpretations of pumpkin beers may lack the parsnips and walnut-tree chips of yore, they have certainly established themselves as one of the most sought-after and beloved seasonal beer styles. From humble beginnings as a potable invention of necessity, pumpkin beer as a style has flourished into a cornucopia of different iterations from myriad breweries across the country.

If you’re inclined to try one this fall, below are a few exceptional examples to keep an eye out for. But remember: Much like politics, there are as many opinions on pumpkin beers as there are pumpkin beers themselves. Only your taste buds can navigate you faithfully through the tug-of-war of pumpkin-beer preferences. The best way to find out where you stand is to start trying as many “pumpkins” as you can!

BUFFALO BILL’S PUMPKIN ALE
BUFFALO BILL’S BREWERY
HAYWARD, CALIF., 5.2 PERCENT ABV

This is the pumpkin beer that started it all. In the mid-1980s, Buffalo Bill’s Brewery revived the pumpkin ale and served as a harbinger of the craft-beer movement toward making the style a fall standard. This one set the template for pumpkin-to-spice ratio: It’s medium to low on both.

NEW HOLLAND Ichabod ALE
NEW HOLLAND BREWING COMPANY
HOLLAND, MICH., 5.3 PERCENT ABV

Ichabod is a pumpkin beer with a great caramel malt backbone. It has the base of a sturdy amber ale with pumpkin and spice flavors on the periphery.

THIRSTY DOG SPICED PUMPKIN ALE
THIRSTY DOG BREWING COMPANY
AKRON, OHIO, 5 PERCENT ABV

A personal favorite, this one strikes a perfect balance between beer flavor and pumpkin and spice flavor. Out late in the season (after pumpkins are actually harvested), it always tastes super fresh. It evokes the image of brewers scooping copious amounts of pulp from newly opened gourds into steaming brew kettles.

COTTONWOOD PUMPKIN SPICED ALE
FOOTHILLS BREWING COMPANY
IWINSTON-SALEM, N.C., 5.3 PERCENT ABV

A perennial local favorite, this pumpkin ale is light on body and above average on spice. Formerly brewed out of Boone, Foothills has taken up the brewing of this brand and it’s much improved.

PUNKIN ALE
DOGFOSS HEAD CRAFT BREWERY
MILTON, DEL., 7 PERCENT ABV

More of a pumpkin brown ale, the Dogfish Head interpretation has a nice brown-sugar undertone and a little extra kick at 7 percent. It’s versatile and complex enough to serve as an aperitif, with the main course or with dessert.

IMPERIAL PUMPKIN ALE
WEYERBACHER BREWING COMPANY
EASTON, PA., 8 PERCENT ABV

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The king stays the king. Perhaps the most popular pumpkin beer around, this one oozes pumpkin-pie flavor. Tasting this might totally change your view of pumpkin beers. Pumking is best served with dessert in mind. If you’re feeling adventurous, try blending it black-and-tan style with an imperial stout for a truly unique experience.

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In search of cheesesteak

If you’re serving a dipping sauce on the side, well, you’re doing it wrong. As frustrated as Diogenes would be in D.C., The Eater has wandered the streets here of late in search of an actual cheesesteak.

It’s one of the simplest, purest sandwiches on the planet, a variation of the meat-bread-cheese medley perfected in Philadelphia – a working-class sandwich that’s a meal crammed onto a bun. A cheesesteak is not health food, but the cut of meat used, often rib eye or top round, is a heck of a lot healthier than a hamburger.

In this column’s ongoing search for a decent $10 lunch downtown, cheesesteaks were often among the menu items that came in under the mark. The only question was whether these sandwiches were really cheesesteaks or not. Unfortunately for all youse, it was mostly not.

The two most important ingredients for any cheesesteak are the right bread and a grill. The roll has got to be able to hold together without being a chore to chew. The grill is important because making a good cheesesteak is all about the process.

The meat goes on with a light oil at medium heat and gets slammed and chopped a bit with the edge of the spatula. If after you order a cheesesteak you hear a clanging sound out of the kitchen, that’s a good sign. At some point provolone or another mild white cheese goes into the clump of beef and gets mixed in while more clanging ensues.

The wet, savory mix of cheese and meat topped with grilled onions or green peppers has been at the heart of any good cheesesteak since its origin in the Italian Market in Philly in the 1930s. After the introduction by Kraft Foods of Cheese Whiz in 1953, a cheesesteak with Whiz has become the preferred variation in its native habitat. There have been reported cases of occasional attempts at this around the Triangle, but overall we seem to have dodged that bright-orange bullet. Most of what’s offered uses provolone, but, unfortunately, few places really get that the meat and cheese has to be melded, and what was offered up as a cheesesteak was actually a steak sandwich with melted cheese on top. A couple of places also served au jus, which seemed just plain nuts until the dryness of the bun and what was inside it became evident.

In the end, the best place for a cheesesteak was also the least expensive, a testament to the working-class origins of the meal.

In downtown Carrboro/Chapel Hill, the gold standard has long been Italian Pizzeria III on West Franklin, where you can hear the aforementioned clanging and obtain a perfectly serviceable cheesesteak for $5.95. And if you head down the hill on Franklin Street, you can also get a nicely loaded-up, real-deal cheesesteak at Tedesco’s for about a nickel more.

OFFICIAL START OF OYSTER SEASON

Most proclamations by government officials are pro forma moments in honor of some worthy person or cause. But down on the coast, when Louis Daniel, North Carolina’s director of the Division of Marine Fisheries, issues a proclamation, people pay a little more attention.

Last week, Daniel proclaimed that at sunrise on Monday, Oct. 15, the oyster beds of the state of North Carolina will open. That proclamation, which was followed by a list describing in detail the dozens of oystering areas up and down the coast, means the state has deemed the waters safe and the oysters in the areas of proper size and health. It’s an interesting and kind of wonky insight into what it takes to manage the seafood harvest, spelling out the rules, sizes and the bed boundaries by GPS coordinates.

If you want to learn a little more about oyster culture and enjoy a freshly steamed bucket of the local harvest, you’re always welcome at the state’s annual Oyster Festival at Ocean Isle Beach. This year the festival, which is located next to the Museum of Coastal Carolina, runs Oct. 20-21.

Also, next month is The Eater’s annual oystering column. If you’ve got any interesting recipes or techniques send them on to this newspaper.
**SPOTLIGHT**

*Red*

Written through the unique perspective of a young assistant working with an artist struggling with the notion of creating art for commerce, John Logan’s Tony Award-winning play *Red* kicks off PlayMakers 2012-13 season. The two-man show is set in the studio of Mark Rothko, an influential artist of abstract expressionism, in 1958, when Rothko was offered a job designing a series of murals for a new restaurant in New York, The Four Seasons. The play is a series of conversations, and arguments, between Rothko, played by Stephen Caffrey, and his young assistant, Ken, played by Matt Garner, that explore the relationship between artist and assistant as well as life, art, and color.

Directed by Vivienne Benesch of the Chautauqua Theater Company and Conservatory, the show runs through Oct. 7. Show times are at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sundays. On Oct. 6 and 7 there will be a free post-show “Mindplay,” with discussions sponsored by the North Carolina Psychoanalytic Society.

Tickets are $15 to $50. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (919) 962-7529 or visit playmakersrep.org.

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**PHOTO BY JON GARDINER**
**SPOTLIGHT**

**Nouvelle Vague**
Transcendent French cover band Nouvelle Vague will sway elegance in Carrboro on Tuesday, Oct. 30.

Musicians Marc Collin and Olivier Libaux have led Nouvelle Vague since 2004, guided by their passion for rediscovering obscure songs. Their sound covers punk rock, post-punk and new wave in a bossa nova-style arrangement. By stripping songs with acoustic arrangements and lilting shaker rhythms, Nouvelle Vague resurrects them with a whole new vision.

Though the cover art is tricky, it hasn’t stopped the group from creating more than five successful albums. Over the years, new singers from diverse backgrounds have joined the group to uphold its versatile style. Through this reinvention, Nouvelle Vague has created its own genre of cinematic pop.

Come out for a new spin. Yasmine Hamdan will open the show. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8. Tickets are $18 in advance and $20 day of the show.

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**The Dismemberment Plan**

The fathers of early indie-rock, the Dismemberment Plan, will bring their high-energy affairs to the Cradle on Sunday, Oct. 7.

Engaging and intelligent, the foursome emerged from Washington, D.C., in the ’90s, playing an infectious brand of pop-savvy post-punk tunes. While straying into the genres of dub, reggae and hip-hop, The Dismemberment Plan seamlessly marries insightful yet spastic lyrics with tight, complex rhythm tracks.

Their most beloved album, *Emergency & I*, exploded in the music world in 1999, paving the way for their great success. They draw heavily from art-punk acts such as Fugazi and Jawbox, fostering their unique melodic pairing.

Come out early and celebrate with yet another heated performance by these music gurus. The doors open at 8 p.m. and the show starts at 8:45. Tickets are $22 in advance and $24 day of the show.
MUSIC CALENDAR OCTOBER

ACKLAND ART MUSEUM
Triangle Taiko (10/21)

THE ARTSCENTER

CAFÉ DRAIDE
Prayprat (10/5) Ian McFeron (10/13) Magnolia Klemmer Band (10/20) Deep Diving Quartet (10/26)

CAROLINA INN
Mel Melton and The Wicked Mojo (10/5) Big Fat Gap (10/12)

CAT'S CRADLE

THE DEPOT

THE CAVES

FOREST THEATRE
Kids Rock! Benefit Concert (10/14)

CHAPEL HILL UNDERGROUND
Wesley Wolfe, Transportation, Ye Old Shoppe (10/4) Wilder Male, Coastal Vision (10/9) The Purchase, Lazy Janes, Boykiller, Lam Lam (10/12)

THE KRAKEN

HAW RIVER BALLROOM

OPEN EYE CAFE
Junko Fujiiyama (10/5) Debbie Liske (10/12) Jesse Beaman (10/20)

ST MATTHEW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Will McFarlane (10/11)

SHAKORI HILLS
GrassRoots Festival (10/4–10/7)

THE STATION AT SOUTHERN RAIL
Doug Langert Trio, JPHONO1, Stag, Salt to Bitters (10/4) Alex Bowers and Friends (10/5) See No Weevil (10/6) John Craigie, Legh Jones (10/7) Perhaps, Kangaroo (10/8) Tom Maxwell (10/11) Randy Whitt (10/18) Salt to Bitters (10/25) END OF SEASON

LOCAL 506

MEMORIAL HALL
May Beiser (10/11) Punch Brothers (10/16) Studio for New Music Ensemble (10/25) Marin County Orchestra of St. Petersburg (10/29, 10/30)

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TOON
TC: If your music were a television show, which would it be? Toon: It’d have to be the Ellen DeGeneres show. Seriously. They have so much in common: Her show involves lots of dance and movement, there are a few serious moments sprinkled here and there, she is usually giving something away for free or to a charity, she has lots of cool guest appearances and no matter how long her show is on the air, it remains relevant.

CHRISTOPHER BELL
The Citizen: Describe the pressures/pleasures of playing in a one-man band. Bell: The great things about being the only one in the band are: 1. No one tries to steal my girlfriend. 2. No complaints about where we sleep. 3. My choice in audiobooks is never subject to criticism.

RON LIBERTI
OF PIPE
TC: What’s the strangest show/venue you’ve ever played? Liberti: Probably a laundromat in Cincinnati. The biggest drag was that I luged a big bag of dirty clothes all the way there and they wouldn’t let us do any loads! They had to cover the machines with plastic or some bullshit. Thanks Sudsy’s … NOT! We also played a laundromat in Carrboro with the Archers and Psycho Acoustic Research and Development. Hmm, maybe it wasn’t that strange after all.

GIMME 5
Ashley Melzer writes the Gimme Five column for The Carrboro Citizen’s MILL blog (carrborocitizen.com/mill/tag/gimme-five), in which she asks local bands five probing questions. Below is a selection of favorites from the column to date.

TH 11/1 ELECTRIC SIX
TH 11/14 SOLD OUT!
GODSPEED YOU! BLACK EMPEROR
W/AIRSTRIPE
FR 10/7 THE WHIGS
W/PONDEROSA**($12)
SA 10/6 EASY STAR ALL-STARS
W/DJ RAS J AND AGRGROLITES**($10/$17)
SU 10/7*($22/$24)
WE 10/8 DISMEMBERMENT PLAN
W/Ben Davis & The Jettss
TU 10/9 TENNIS
W/Wild Belle**($12/$14)
WE 10/9**($18/$20)
SU 10/10 MELVINS LITE
W/TWEAK BIRD
TH 10/11* ($15) - A 9/13 YEE! 15 YEAR CELEBRATION FOR UP NOSE RECORDS
W/NICK LOVE, ROBYN HITCHCOCK, FOUNTAINS OF WAYNE, ELENI MANDEL, JOHN DOE, THE SADIES & MORE*
SU 10/11 THE HOLD STEADY
W/NATURAL CHILD**($16)
MO 10/12 JENS LEKMAN
W/Taken By Trees**($18/$20)
WE 10/13 THE TEMPER TRAP
W/The Neighbourhood
FR 10/14 FATHER JOHN MISTY
W/LA SERA AND JEFFERTITI’S NILLE**($12/$14)
SA 10/15-16 SLIM & THE LAW
W/The Last Bison and Kylie Hunter
& The Casadores**($13/$15)
SU 10/16 AFGHAN WHIGS
W/WUSYAN**($16)
W/STATE RADIO**($16)
W/ZAP & THE NATURALS
W/DEVA AKIKI AND DARREN TRAVIS
LAGWAGON**($18/$20)
W/DEAD TO ME, FLATLINERS, USELESS ID
TH 10/17**($15) THE SEA AND CAKE
W/MATTHEW FRIEDERGER (Of The Fever Dreamers)
FR 10/18**($13/$17)
SHNy VAN EYSEN
W/DamiEN Jurado
SA 10/19 OLD 97S *FOO FIGHTERS TOUR W/SALIM NOUHALLAM AND SHYTT MILLER ACOUSTIC
SO 10/20 HUMMER TOUR W/SALIM NOUHALLAM
FU 10/21 KID REUS
W/DON SULLIVAN
SA 10/22 0D9S Sold Out!
SU 10/23**($12/$14)
STEPHEN KELLOGG & THE SIXERS
ON SALE Fri 10/19!
SU 10/23 AEPSON ROCK
W/ROB SONIC AND DJ BIG WIZ
W/DARK TIME SUNSHINE**($20)
TU 10/23 NOUVELLE VAGUE
W/YASMINE RAMDAN
TH 10/23 ELECTRIC SIX
W/LITTLE HURRICANE**($12/$14)
SA 10/24 MOPED
W/PLUME GIANT AND DAVID CHILDERS AND THE OVERMOUNTAIN MEN**($10)
TU 10/25 THE PATROL
BLACKOUT TOUR**($20/$23)
WE 10/27**($12/$15)
JUDE MCPHERSON
W/SEAN ROWE
FR 10/28 “THE HEIST” WORLD TOUR MACKLEMORE & RYAN LEWIS
W/ATL THREE
SU 10/29 AEPSON ROCK
W/ROB SONIC AND DJ BIG WIZ
W/DARK TIME SUNSHINE**($20)
SU 10/29 STEPHEN KELLOGG
W/ELI TAYLOR
TH 10/30 NOUVELLE VAGUE
W/YASMINE RAMDAN
EF 10/30 ELECTRIC SIX
W/LITTLE HURRICANE**($12/$14)
WE 10/30 MOPED
W/PLUME GIANT AND DAVID CHILDERS AND THE OVERMOUNTAIN MEN**($10)
FU 10/31 THE PATROL
BLACKOUT TOUR**($20/$23)
TH 11/1**($12/$14)
DIRTY GUYS/NAHS
W/DARK WATER RISING
SU 11/1/15
WE 11/1/15 WE DON’T EVEN LIVE HERE Y’OUR P.O.S.
W/SPECIAL GUEST BAD RABBITS**($12/$15)
WE 11/4 ALL TIME LOW
W/DEE-1 SOLD OUT!
SU 11/7/15**($20)
JUSTIN TOWNSES
EAGLE
TH 11/0/15**($20)
TIFT MERRITT
FR 11/10/15” HANDLE WITH CARE”
SU 10/25**($12/$14)
STEPHAN QUINTON & THE SUMMER MILL
W/SUMMER MILL
FR 11/17 DR. DOOM’S MYSTERY RANCH
W/HARMONICA BILLY & THE RUSSELLS
TH 11/24 POST TURKEY DAY
JAM WITH JAMIE & FRIENDS**($10)
SU 10/25 OM
W/DANIEL HIGGS**($12/$14)
FR 11/30/15**($15)
STEES CANYON RANGERS
W/JOHN HOWIE JR. & THE ROSEWOOD BLUFF
SA 11/1 PENTATONIX
W/ALEXANDER CARDINALE**($20)
SA 11/2 BOWERBIRDS
W/VERY SPECIAL GUESTS MOUNT MORIAH**($12/$14)
W/MIGOS
SA 12/5 OF MONTEAL
W/FOXGYEN**($17)
TH 11/24/13 MARGARET CHO “MOTHER”**($39)
ALSO PRESENTING
TH 10/14 FEED THE WALL W/NOCKID B.A.
TH 10/14 ADVANCE BASE AFTER PARTY
SU 10/15 BROTHER JOHN HARMON
WE 10/16 JESICA LEA MAYFIELD & DAVID MAYFIELD THE IRISH RIVALRY TOUR
LOCARDO (CHAPASVILLE)
FR 10/18 MILO GREENE
W/JASON JORDAN
SA 10/19 GENERATIONALS
W/BO BROS AND BRETT HARRIS
WE 10/20 W.A.R.
W/PANG ISLAND
MH 10/21 RACHAEL YAMAGATA
W/MOTIVATION OUTFITTERS
SU 10/22 MIMI & THE MANGLES
SA 10/23 OPENING NIGHT (LOGAN)
W/THE MYNABIRDS
SA 11/06 FRIENDS
W/ADVANCE BASE
SOLD OUT
SUNDAY FUNDAY**($15)
WE 11/06 ROAN GUINDESEN
W/DANIEL HIGGS
WE 11/11 TRIXIE WHITLEY
W/DEE-1 & THE BLEEKER
LINDSIE MAYFIELD (RAL)
SU 11/07 DIVINE FITS
W/COLD CAGE
TH 11/07 BONNARD/GOOGS YOUR FRIENDS
W/WHITE DENIM
W/SHIPS & ATLASES
FU 11/07 FUTURE ISLANDS
W/TALK NORMAL
TH 11/08 THE VELVET UNDERGROUND
W/THE RESTLESS ONE
SA 11/09 PERFUME GENIUS
W/BRET HART
DISCO ROCKS (RALEIGH)
W/LOUVIN BROTHERS
TH 11/09 PASSIO PIT
W/YOUNG HAWKE, WILD BELLE
TH 11/09 FUNK** ($29/$31)
WE 11/09 LIGHTHOUSE (CHAPASVILLE)
MH 11/12 YOUNG PRISMS
SOLD OUT
FR 11/13 DELTA RAE
W/SIMON & SIVAN
SU 11/13 SEAN ROWE
W/LOCAL 506 (CHAPEL HILL)
FR 11/13 FREDERICK GALL
W/CLAYTON MCDONALD
SU 11/13 TESS FARELL
W/NOMADIC
TH 11/13 LOW VOLUME
W/MICHAEL WOODS & THE HUMANS
FR 11/13 PUNCH HARMONIES
W/THE MIDAS TOUCH
TH 11/13 MEDANDOUR
W/LOCAL 506 (CHAPEL HILL)
FR 11/13 BOWIE’S MINNESOTA
W/SHAWN DUNN
TH 11/14 BRUCE COCKBURN
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