



C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

Tar Heel Temps Closing See Page 3



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

Wayne Poole displays some of his collection of broomstraw brooms.

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

A clean sweep for the new year

Local storyteller Wayne Poole is passionate about brooms. I mean, he is really into showing and talking about old-timey brooms. I can listen for hours to the stories Wayne spins about wild nature and our local culture. A couple of weeks ago, I joined him on a local jaunt to find some materials to make brooms.

Now, Wayne is as opposite in disposition to me as one could imagine. I am fast-paced, easily distracted and boisterous, bordering on the obnoxious. Wayne is quietly centered, easy-going and deliberate in his movements. We have worked very successfully together at Schoolhouse of Wonder, so I know that opposites can move to a single drummer from time to time.

So I had already determined that I was going to experience broom-making at Wayne's speed. It was a truly memorable experience of slowing down to "smell the roses," except the fragrances in this case were the subtle aromas of tawny-colored broomstraw.

Wayne began my introduction to sedge brooms by bringing out his collection of various-sized brooms, some a decade or two old. He explained that over the years of gathering broomstraw, or sedge, as some folks prefer, he noticed that "there's more than one kind of broom out in those fields." I acknowledged that, yes indeed, there are several different species, and he had a keen eye to detect their differences.

SEE FLORA PAGE 8

Keep your pipes working in the cold

BY BETH MECHUM Staff Writer

As the Carrboro-Chapel Hill area buckles in for one of the coldest stretches in recent memory, homeowners and renters have worries beyond their own frozen extremities. Frozen pipes would sure make those necessary hot showers harder to take and those mugs of hot chocolate harder to make.

Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) offers suggestions on how to make winter water issues easier to handle.

The first objective is to keep pipes from freezing in the first place.

Keeping water moving through cold-water faucets by letting them drip slowly could keep the pipes from bursting. Insulating pipes in unheated areas, such as in an attic or crawl space, also is prudent. Another way to keep those pipes in unheated areas safe is by wrapping them in electrical heating tape.

Terry Sparrow of Sparrow & Sons Plumbing in Carrboro said he's had a flood of calls due to the cold weather. He estimated most problems occur during a long, severe cold event of below 25 degrees for at least four hours.

SEE PIPES PAGE 5



Smoking ban clears the air at some establishments while hurting others

BY BETH MECHUM Staff Writer

The North Carolina smoking ban, which outlaws lighting up in most bars and restaurants, went into effect Jan. 2.

Given North Carolina's ties to tobacco, passage of the law took many by surprise, and could have a significant impact on many businesses. But in Carrboro and surrounding towns, it wasn't a huge step.

Even before the law went into effect, you were more likely to find an establishment in Carrboro that didn't allow smoking than one that did. And some places, like the Orange County Social Club and the Reservoir, chose to prepare their customers early.

Reservoir went smoke-free in November. "We figured we've got to do it in January anyway, might as well do a pre-emptive strike and get everybody prepared," Lyle Collins, a bartender at Reservoir, said.

Collins said he hadn't heard many complaints from patrons, and after the first couple of days



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

Garrett Lagan readies another turn at a backgammon game at Hookah Bliss.

with no ash trays and a multitude of "no smoking" signs, people got used to the routine of heading outside to light up.

Keith Allen of Allen & Son Bar-B-Q said his restaurant has been non-smoking for years, though he doesn't necessarily agree with what he considers interference with the rights of smokers.

"[I]f you don't smoke, you don't want someone sitting beside you that does smoke," he said. "But you have a right to leave just like you have a right to smoke. What you have to have is mutual consideration from both sides."

SEE SMOKE PAGE 7

Kinnaird to seek another term

BY KIRK ROSS Staff Writer



Saying she wants to see through some of the efforts she began at the start of the last session, state Sen. Ellie Kinnaird announced Wednesday that she will run again for re-election.

"This last term has been a challenge for the state budget, just like it has for families throughout the state, but I have been able to provide the leadership to write and guide legislation benefiting every person in the district and in the state," Kinnaird said in an announcement emailed on Wednesday morning.

Kinnaird, who is serving her seventh term in the Senate, saw her seniority rise over the past couple of months.

Sen. Tony Rand, the powerful majority leader who with Senate President Pro Tem Mark Basnight has led the body for more than two decades, announced last fall he would step down.

Also leaving the Senate are David Hoyle, a conservative Democrat from Gaston County, and R.C. Soles from Columbus County, who faces a criminal investigation.

Hoyle, who has held onto an increasingly Republican district, often sparred with Kinnaird over economic issues. Although the legislature has no formal rules on seniority, during last year's session Kinnaird ranked 11th in overall seniority and eighth among her fellow Democrats. The departures of Hoyle, Rand and Soles moves her three notches up the list.

SEE KINNAIRD PAGE 7

Pride, no prejudice, Orange County-style

RECENTLY... BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

Pauli Murray didn't spend much time in Orange County. She visited the plantation house on Smith Level Road named after her kin who had been among the largest land- and slave owners in the county; and I expect she visited the family home in Hillsborough, the site of the rapes of her great-grandmother, a slave bought for the Smith daughter.

Murray recounts the story in her third book, *Proud Shoes: The Story of an American Family*, published in 1956.

Mary Ruffin Smith was the eldest of three children. When she turned 18, her father, Dr. James S. Smith, bought her a slave, beautiful 15-year-old Harriet. When Mary's brothers, Francis (a doctor) and Sidney (a lawyer), returned home to Hillsborough after studying in Chapel Hill, they became obsessed with Harriet, even though by then she had married and given birth to a son. Dogging her every move, the brothers snarled at each other and together beat and ran off her husband.

SEE RECENTLY PAGE 5



Pauli Murray

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION

Local, national chambers of commerce square off

BY KIRK ROSS Staff Writer

Anyone can start a chamber of commerce. And as Aaron Nelson, president and CEO of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, points out, many people have — there are about 30 of them in the Triangle alone.

But it's not a local group that concerns Nelson and others; it's the Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the biggest chamber of them all and a lobbying behemoth that has gone toe-to-toe with the Obama administration over climate change, health care reform and other issues.

"Lately, [the U.S. chamber] has more often frustrated than pleased us,"

Nelson said in a recent interview.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro chamber is a dues-paying member of the U.S. chamber, a long-running relationship that Nelson says allows access to the national chamber's professional development programs. He emphasized that those dues do not go to support the lobbying and policy programs of the national group.

Tita Freeman, the U.S. chamber's vice president of communication, said she couldn't confirm that's the case. It would depend, she said, on whether the dues go directly to the professional development foundation.

Although not familiar with the specifics of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro chamber's concerns, Freeman said they are similar to those of other

chambers around the country that have objected to some of the organization's stands.

Chambers in San Francisco and Seattle recently distanced themselves from the national chamber, and several companies, including Apple and Pacific Gas and Electric, withdrew their membership over a dispute over the chamber's stand on greenhouse gas emissions.

"The chamber works on hundreds of issues," Freeman said. "We're never going to have 100 percent of our members agreeing on everything."

The U.S. chamber works through consensus, she said, and any member organization is welcome to weigh in on the issues. The U.S. chamber, she said, also has been targeted by groups such as Moveon.org.

"There's a lot of misinformation out there about our positions," Freeman said. She said the organization supports controlling greenhouse emissions but not through the means spelled out recently in legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Nelson said concerns about the relationship between the two chambers were raised two years ago after the U.S. chamber sponsored robo-calls in this area in support of the candidacy of Republican Elizabeth Dole in her race for U.S. Senate against Democrat Kay Hagan. Hagan won heavily Democratic Orange County with 70 percent of the vote. The robo-calls prompted a slew of email complaints to the local chamber.

SEE CHAMBER PAGE 3

INSIDE

It's time to fix the State Employees Health Plan

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MUSIC CALENDAR



RJD2
Cat's Cradle
Sunday, January 10

THURSDAY JAN 7

Blue Bayou: Joshua Jay. 9pm. Free
The Cave: LATE: Applesauce, Will Dawson
General Store Cafe: Bernie Petteway. 7-9pm
Local 506: Old Avenue, Blue Light Music, Catie King. 9:30pm. Free

FRIDAY JAN 8

Blue Bayou: Tim Alexander Band. 9:30pm. \$6/8
The Cave: EARLY: Loose Screws. LATE: Old Bricks
General Store Cafe: Nixon, Blevins and Gage. 8-10:30pm
Harry's Market: Big John Shearer. 7-9pm
Local 506: Erie Choir, Audubon Park, Butterflies. 10pm. \$8
Open Eye Cafe: The Brothers Marier. 8pm

SATURDAY JAN 9

ArtsCenter: Big Mama E and The Cool, Will McFarlane Band ft. Armand Lenchek. 8:30pm. \$15
Blue Bayou: Spoonful of Soul. 9:30pm. \$8/10

Cats Cradle: Abbey Road live. 9:30pm. \$12/15

The Cave: EARLY: The Bros. Marler LATE: Puritan Rodeo, Angela Faye Martin
General Store Cafe: Over The Hill Band. 8-10:30pm

Local 506: Transportation, North Elementary, The Library, Adam Price and Matt McMichaels. 9:30pm. \$6

Nightlight: Old Avenue, Blue Light Music, Catie King. 9:30pm.

SUNDAY JAN 10

ArtsCenter: Robin and Linda Williams. 7pm. \$18

Cats Cradle: RJD2, The Constellations, Happy Chichester. 9:30pm. \$15/17

The Cave: EARLY: Cole Park, Old 86. \$5

Local 506: Mysterium Tremendum
Reservoir: Billy Joe Winghead, Pinche Gringo

MONDAY JAN 11

The Cave: LATE: Sub Verso, Goodbye Titan, Boat Buring

TUESDAY JAN 12

The Cave: LATE: Money
Local 506: Dark Water Rising, 100 Yorktown, River City Ransom. 9pm. \$5

WEDNESDAY JAN 13

Local 506: Jemina Pearl, The Ettes. 9:30pm. \$10

THURSDAY JAN 14

Cats Cradle: Elliott Yamin. 8pm. \$20/23

The Cave: EARLY: Patrick Phelan LATE: Willie Neal Heath, John Howie Jr and The Sweethearts. \$5

General Store Cafe: Bourban Street Jazz. 7-9pm

Local 506: Jocelyn Ellis, Lucky Five. 9:30pm. \$8

Nightlight: Tomahawks, Bellman Barker, Dylan Sneed. 9:30pm. \$5

Reservoir: Lollipop Factory, Jokes and jokes and Jokes, Gutter Glitter

FRIDAY JAN 15

Blue Bayou: Swamp Doctors. 9:30pm. \$8/10

Cats Cradle: The Old Ceremony, Dex Romweber Duo. 9:30pm. \$10

The Cave: EARLY: Bob Funch and The New World Heroes LATE: A Night of Danny Mason and Friends, Fuse Band, Shithorse

General Store Cafe: Sin Savage Tigers. 8-10:30pm

Local 506: The Public Good, Bustello. 9:30pm. \$7

SATURDAY JAN 16

ArtsCenter: Catie Curtis, Lindsay Mac. 8:30pm. \$18

Blue Bayou: Robin Rogers. 9:30pm. \$14/16

Cats Cradle: Who's Bad (A Tribute to Michale Jackson) 10pm. \$15

The Cave: EARLY: Left on Franklin LATE: Blair Crimmins and The Hookers

General Store Cafe: Nikki Meets the Hibachi. 8-10:30pm

Local 506: Movits. 9:30pm. \$8/10

Open Eye Cafe: Mercurial and Evenkeel. 8pm

SPOTLIGHT: 2nd FRIDAY ARTWALK



Old Ladies at the Beach, by Daniel Vaughan

The next 2ndFriday Artwalk is in Carrboro and Chapel Hill this Friday evening from 6 to 9 p.m. Many of the galleries will have live music and other art-related entertainment. Admission is free.

2ndFriday Artwalk brochures, maps and lists of venues are available at any participating art location and at 2ndfridayartwalk.com

The Center Gallery at The ArtsCenter will display work by Daniel Vaughan, a local pastel artist. His large-format landscapes include scenes of North Carolina as well as the American West, Canada, Iceland and Europe. John Wendelbo's geometric abstractions also will be on display at The ArtsCenter, in the East End Gallery.

Twig at Village Plaza will have work by Michelle Lyon and Julie Mullins. Lyon's Peculiar Pets are stuffed creatures made from vintage textiles and wool felt. Mullins' functional creations are made from scrap cloth and corded sewn into a display of color and texture. Sewing support was provided by a local Montagnard refugee cooperative.

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FR 1/15
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SA 1/16 WHO'S BAD?*

SU 1/17**(\$15) DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND
FR 1/22 THE LAST WALTZ ENSEMBLE**(\$10/\$12)
TU 1/26 FLICKER
FR 1/29 COSMIC CHARLIE (GRATEFUL DEAD COVERS)**(\$6/\$8)
SA 1/30 URBAN SOPHISTICATES, THE BEAST, INFLOWENTIAL, KAZE**(\$10/\$12)

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TU 2/9 JONATHAN RICHMAN**(\$10/\$12)
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FR 2/12 JOHN BROWN'S BODY**(\$15)
MO 2/15 TORTOISE W/DISAPPEARS**(\$15)
TU 2/23 CAGE THE ELEPHANT**(\$14/\$16)
WE 2/24 CLIENTELE, VETIVER**(\$13/\$15)
TH 2/25 STATE RADIO W/BIG D AND THE KIDS TABLE**(\$15)
SU 2/28 NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALL-STARS**(\$16/\$18)
WE 3/3 COPELAND W/I CAN MAKE A MESS LIKE NOBODY'S BUSINESS, PERSON L, DEAS VAIL**(\$14/\$16)

SA 3/6 ROGUE WAVE**(\$14/\$16)
TH 3/25 THE XX**(\$14/\$16)
FR 4/2 THE BIG PINK W/A PLACE TO BURY STRANGERS**(\$13/\$15)
MO 4/5**(\$13/\$15) TED LEO AND THE PHARMACISTS
SU 4/4 YEASAYER**(\$14/\$16)
TH 4/22 NEEDTOBREATHE W/WILL HOGE**(\$15/\$18)

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FRI 1/29 THOSE DARLINS
SAT 3/6 JENNY OWEN YOUNGS, BESS ROGERS, ALLISON WEISS
WED 3/17 FRUIT BATS
THE ARTSCENTER (CARRBORO)
SAT 3/13 OVER THE RHINE
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News Briefs

Transit in Orange County tweaked

Chapel Hill Transit (CHT) will implement schedule changes this Monday. Time adjustments will be made to weekday routes F, G, NS and V to improve schedule reliability and better reflect actual travel times. Time adjustments will also be made to Saturday routes CM, CW, DM, FG and JN. While the service hours for Saturday will not change, many routes will operate fewer trips. New schedules are available at www.ci.chapel-hill.nc.us/index.aspx?page=1176 and will be provided on buses starting Friday.

Public forum on solar energy

UNC's Solar Energy Research Center will hold a public forum and information session to explore the crucial energy issues of the coming decades. The free event, "A Sustainable Energy Future-Mapping the Way," will be Friday, Jan. 15, at the William and Ida Friday Center in Chapel Hill. It begins at 5 p.m. with interactive displays and videos, followed by an open-discussion panel at 7 p.m. The panel will feature experts on current and developing energy sources, conservation and efficiency and politics and public policy. Panel members will include leaders from the environmental, scientific and business communities. For more information, visit serc.unc.edu/outreach.pdf

Chapel Hill Rec programs coming soon

Registration has begun for Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation winter-spring programs. Residents of Chapel Hill and Orange County may register now; non-residents may register beginning Monday, Jan. 18. Camp registration begins on Feb. 1 for Chapel Hill residents, Feb. 8 for Orange County residents and Feb. 15 for non-residents. Pick up a brochure of parks and recreation programs or visit townofchapelhill.org/register to browse and register.

Saturation patrol

Carrboro police were on saturation patrol in downtown Carrboro from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. on New Year's Eve. There were 28 charges, including DWI arrests, speeders, reckless drivers and a man carrying a concealed weapon. A saturation patrol involves a large number of officers concentrated in a small geographic area.

Transit plan input sought

There will be a public-information session on the final draft of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro 2035 Long Range Transit Plan on Tuesday, Jan. 12 from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Chapel Hill Town Hall. The plan may be viewed at townofchapelhill.org/index.aspx?page=1284. If you are unable to attend the information session, you may submit comments by email to chtransit@townofchapelhill.org, by phone at 969-4900 or faxed to 968-2840.

Tar Heel Temps to shutter operations this month

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

UNC CAMPUS — Tar Heel Temps, the university's temporary staffing service that has operated for 17 years, will close at the end of the month, officials announced this week. In an email to department heads and senior staff, Brenda Malone, vice chancellor for human resources, said the decision was a difficult one and "made with a heavy heart." In addition to being one of the largest local sources of tempo-

rary work, for many the service has proved an informal route to permanent jobs on campus. Malone cited a drop in temporary hiring, tight budgets and an increase in administrative overhead as the key reasons for the closure. In an interview Tuesday, she said her department is working on long-term plans and strategies for handling temporary staffing. She said the number of employees in the Tar Heel Temp system has dropped considerably in the past two years as a budget squeeze led to a de-

crease in hiring. Only about 125 temps are employed under the system — down from about 200 this time last year and far below normal levels. The number of university departments and other units using the service has declined as well. "It boils down to economics," Malone said. "Our business is down." Malone said once the decision to close the service was made, the task became designing a new system for departments who rely on temporary labor. "We wanted to minimize the

disruption to university units that employ temporary workers," she said. At the end of the month, current Tar Heel Temps employees will be converted to department payrolls and each department will take over hiring its own temporary workers either directly or through other temp services. Malone said she is hoping that by reallocating and reassigning roles within her department she can avoid layoffs for the eight human resources staff members who administered the temps program.



Chilly weather hasn't stopped work on downtown Carrboro's newest public parking lot. Manuel Turner and Chad Dusenberry work on marking off some of the roughly 90 spaces soon to be available at the corner of Roberson and Greensboro streets.

PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

CHAMBER FROM PAGE 1

Calls made by the U.S. chamber in support of candidates, Nelson said, are not often clear about which chamber is calling. With the U.S. chamber's rising profile in opposition to a public option in the recent health care reform debate, more

complaints to the locals have been lodged. Nelson has occasionally tried to point out the difference between the national and local groups, and last month he and his board of directors took the unusual step of including a note about it in its annual membership reminder. "Lately, the U.S. chamber has taken positions on health care and gas emissions that are getting lots of publicity, and we

wanted to be clear about the relationship between our organizations," Joanne Fiore, chair of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro chamber's board of directors said in a recent email response to The Citizen. "We are a separate, autonomous organization and set our own agenda with our own local members' needs in mind." Nelson said he and the board have become increasingly com-

fortable with distancing themselves from the national organization. "We want to make that real clear to everybody," he said. There's been no formal split as yet, he said, but local officials recently sent at least one indication of their displeasure. When dues time recently rolled around, Nelson said, instead of the usual check for about \$600 he wrote one out for \$1.

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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Sweeps of broomstraw color some of the fields at Mason Farm.

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA
FROM PAGE 1

The one I believe is most commonly used for broom-making is old-field broomstraw, or broomsedge, *Andropogon virginicus*. We walked out into Wayne's front yard and discovered he had two different species right there. Wayne was disparaging of his front-yard broom because it wasn't as tall as what was growing in an adjacent field. I guessed that he had mowed his yard midway during the summer, which he acknowledged, and that accounted for his native broom grass being shorter than the unmowed near-by field.

Broomstraw is a native grass, and native grasses generally grow actively during the warm months of the year. It is in sharp contrast to the popular lawn-turf exotic fescue, a cool-season grass, which prefers cooler growing conditions. Broomstraw begins to really express itself in the mid-summer and doesn't become noticeable until it begins to shoot up in August and September and sports those delicate plume-like seeds in October and November. If mowed in late summer, it never quite catches up with its unmowed neighbor.

It is one of the pioneer native species to appear in an abandoned field and it can hold on for several

years before other perennials and shrubs and trees begin to move in, the classic "old-field succession" of ecology texts.

Beginning in October and continuing well into the following springtime, broad sweeps of copper-reddish broomstraw across the native landscape are a beautiful sight to behold.

Next time you are out walking, pause from time to time to discover subtle differences and be appreciative of the old-timers who utilized those wild grasses to keep clean their hearths and yards.

I'm very proud of the broom I made under Wayne's tutelage, and I have it proudly displayed next to my back door.



From the mouths of babes, 1977

Dear reader, permit me the indulgence of sharing an old image from the Lauterer family album that speaks to our times. In this new year and new decade, who better than a wise 8-year-old to offer advice for the future? Back in 1977, I had just taught Selena how to ride her bike, a process with many ups and downs. As the little girl, scraped but happy, snuggled into bed with Max the Cat, she concluded drowsily, "Sometimes life is like learning to ride a bike — you just gotta keep pedaling — no matter what!" So Happy New Year, y'all — and keep on pedaling.

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.

We can all breathe easier.



As of January 2, 2010, all indoor areas of NC restaurants and bars are smoke-free.

www.smokefree.nc.gov

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