

FRIDAY
Overcast
41/32

SATURDAY
Partly Cloudy
47/36

SUNDAY
60% Chance of Rain
56/49

C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

'Find the Pie' contest
See page 3



FREE



There are many uses for Fraser firs. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

In an uncertain economy, towns navigate changes

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

For the past two years, as officials in Chapel Hill and Carrboro have begun working up their respective budgets, the game has been to tread water through cost cutting and putting off major projects and expenditures. As southern Orange County continues to post anemic growth numbers and stubbornly high unemployment, leaders in both towns profess caution. But this year, out of necessity and opportunity, both towns will try to forge ahead a bit.

Bare necessities

For Carrboro Town Manager Steve Stewart, the biggest necessity is getting the soon-to-be-completed Fire Station 2 — the largest construction project in the town's history — up and running. "We've got our work cut out for us,"

10 for 10 TEN LOCAL CHALLENGES FOR 2010

Stewart said in a recent interview. "It promises to be a difficult budget year." Stewart said the town remains in a "soft freeze" on hiring and has delayed purchases of major equipment. He's also relied on the town's employees to find ways to cut costs.

But the costs of operating the new Homestead Road facility and hiring three more firefighters will put a drag on finances. The station is expected to be completed later this year. The town has spread out the hiring and training of the new fire crew over the past few years. Hiring three more firefighters over the next year should bring the crew to full-

strength by spring. Stewart said federal and state grant money, which helped the town defray some of the cost of the new positions in the past, may be available, but as yet nothing is definite. "We've got that expense," he said of the new personnel, "plus the expense of a brand-new building."

Another big-ticket item affecting the town this year will be the reconstruction of Weaver Street and a possible state-mandated increase in retirement contributions. Stewart said the town is likely to go "slow and steady" on the Weaver Street project.

Revenue projections, particularly sales taxes, do not appear to be recovering. Stewart expects to draft another lean budget. He noted that the gloomy 9.3 percent drop in sales-tax revenues he projected last year turned out to be fairly accurate.

This year's budget, he said, will be much the same as last year's. "We're going to be very cautious and only do what we absolutely have to do," Stewart said.

Opportunity knocks

Chapel Hill Town Manager Roger Stancil said the town's quick action to throttle back in the fall of 2008 continues to pay dividends. He said the money saved by cutting back early not only helped fill a gap in the current year's budget but set the town up to take advantage of financing opportunities this year.

SEE ECONOMY PAGE 5

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Fraser firs deserve better

With ally Clay Hudson, I am in dead-heat competition with other "tree ferriers" to deliver the greatest number of orphaned Christmas trees to Diana Steele's Willow Hill Preschool. For years, Diana has inspired energetic curbside rescuing of discarded trees, mostly native North Carolina Fraser firs, *Abies fraseri*.

Under Diana's supervision, these trees eventually settle into meandering brush piles in the woodlands containing her magical gardens and preschoolers' discovery ground.

The former magnificent North Carolina high-altitude evergreen Fraser fir forests, described as "Christmas Tree Land" by B.W. Wells in *The Natural Gardens of North Carolina*, are much diminished now by the exotic balsam woolly adelgid insect pest. I remember being awed back in 1967 by the solid blue-green Fraser fir ridgetops along the Blue Ridge Parkway's highest elevations west of Asheville. Those ridgetops today are steep-sloped deserts of giant dead stems of the former magnificent firs.

Today we see Fraser firs mostly as Christmas tree farm crops in our western counties. Though helping the economy of the region, those farms don't replace the magnificence of the former Fraser fir forests.

Unfortunately, much of the Christmas tree production depends upon heavy pesticide and herbicide use with resulting toxic runoff. A bright side is that some farms are now moving toward pollution-free organic operations.

SEE FLORA PAGE 10

A little school with a big heart

BY KATE GRIESMANN
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — For the last two years, Nakeizha Robinson, 11, has missed more days of school than she attended. Instead of sitting in math class or going to lunch, three days a week Nakeizha, a sixth-grader from Greenville with end-stage kidney disease, could be found hooked up to a dialysis machine.

On those days, about halfway through the three-hour treatments, Karen Weatherly, a UNC Hospital School teacher, would stop in to work with Nakeizha. As other patients in the room dozed or watched television, the pair practiced the same concepts that Nakeizha's class was covering, helping her stay on top of her schoolwork even in her absence.

The UNC Hospital School, founded in 1965, provides instruction and assistance to more than 2000 students with serious medical issues each year. Funded by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School District, the N.C. Department of Education and UNC Hospitals, the school is largely unknown to people in the community, but affects the lives of children across the state.

SEE SCHOOL PAGE 8



UNC Hospital School teacher Karen Weatherly spends some time in the pediatric ICU with her student Nakeizha Robinson, who is recovering from kidney transplant surgery. Robinson, who will turn 12 later this month, was born with chronic kidney disease and has needed to go to the hospital three days a week for dialysis for the past two years. Weatherly has worked with Nakeizha to keep her on grade level, teaching her during her dialysis treatments. Fortunately, a kidney became available to Robinson, and she received the transplant last week. PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW

Community celebrates MLK



Longtime community activist and civil rights lawyer Ashley Osment was presented the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award at services at First Baptist Church in Chapel Hill. Osment is a senior attorney for the UNC School of Law Center for Human Rights located in Carrboro. PHOTO BY JOCK LAUTERER

BY BETH MECHUM
Staff Writer

While most of the community took the day off, more than 100 citizens gathered on a chilly morning in front of the Chapel Hill Post Office, or Justice Plaza, as speakers, presenters and musicians made their way to the podium to express their thankfulness for the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. and the spirit shown by their community.

Rev. Robert Campbell was one of the many speakers Monday morning who charged those in attendance

with the task of bringing a change in their social lives.

"We must be the voice of economic justice," he said. "We must act with compassion and love."

Music was provided by the Faith Tabernacle Oasis of Love, and members of the Carrboro and Chapel Hill branches of the NAACP also spoke.

Michelle Laws, president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Branch NAACP, reminded those preparing to march down Franklin Street that they weren't on their way to a funeral and should be "fired up, ready to go."

Rally participants organized themselves for the march to First Baptist Church as the sun finally began providing warmth, and, with children leading the way, blazed down the street at a pace more suited for a trot than a march.

With every possible seat and much of the floor space of the church filled, the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Worship Service Program was ushered in with song by the Community Church of Chapel Hill Universalist Choir.

SEE MLK PAGE 9

Carrboro loses Barnes Street case

CARRBORO — Northwest Property Group, which wants to build a shopping center at the intersection of Jones Ferry Road and Barnes Street, has won an appeal in its case against the Town of Carrboro.

In September 2007, the developer sued after the town approved its development but limited access to Barnes Street to emergency vehicles due to concerns about safety at the intersection. In a suit heard in April 2009, Northwest argued that the town's condition, which effectively killed the project, was not backed up by a finding of fact on the traffic and safety concerns.

The board of aldermen had sided with residents on Barnes Street and the adjacent neighborhood who said the intersection was already unsafe and a store entrance and exit would make it even more so.

In a 2-1 decision handed down in late December, the state Court of Appeals ruled that the trial court had erred in finding in favor of the town. In its 48-page ruling, the court said the town had not presented sufficient facts to back up its case that the intersection would be unsafe.

Town officials, who declined to comment because the case involves pending litigation, are expected to discuss next steps in the case in the next few weeks. The town could appeal the decision to the North Carolina Supreme Court.

— From Staff Reports

INSIDE

Biz Beat: Locals look ahead

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MUSIC CALENDAR

THURSDAY JAN 21
Blue Bayou: West Trinity. 9pm. Free
Carrboro Century Center: Resound. noon

The Cave: EARLY: Amy Alley
 LATE: Vintage Fresh
General Store Cafe: Tony Galiani Band. 7-9pm
Local 506: Jason Webley, Billy Sugarfix. 9:30pm

FRIDAY JAN 22
ArtsCenter: Lucy Kaplansky. 8:30pm. \$20
Blue Bayou: Da Muthas. 9:30pm. \$8/\$10

Cat's Cradle: The Last Waltz Ensemble. 9:30pm. \$10/\$12
The Cave: EARLY: Pegan Hellcats
 LATE: Lizzy Ross
General Store Cafe: Coty Hogue. 8-10:30pm
Harry's Market: Gregory Blaine. 7-9pm

Local 506: The Farewell Drifters, Michael Ford Jr and The Apache Relay, Allen Thompson. 9pm. \$8/\$10
Nightlight: Caltrop, US Christmas, Curtains of Night. 10pm
Open Eye Cafe: Paul Edelman. 8pm

SATURDAY JAN 23
Blue Bayou: Too Much Fun. 9:30pm. \$6/\$8
Cat's Cradle: Haiti Earthquake Benefit with The Moaners, Terry McInturf, New Town Drunks, Charles Pettee, Puritan Rodeo, HWYL, Kitty Box and the Johnnys. 6pm. \$10
The Cave: EARLY: The Lowbots
 LATE: The Mercators, Bobby's Fever
General Store Cafe: The Belfast Boys. 8-10:30pm
Horace Williams House: Parisian Baroque. 8pm. \$15
Local 506: Matt Hires, Jason Castro, Caitlin Crosby. 9pm. \$10
Nightlight: Cantwell Gomez and Jordan, Whatever Brains, Birds and Arrows. 10pm
Open Eye Cafe: Acoustic Garage. 8pm

SUNDAY JAN 24
The Cave: The Screaming Crayons, Philip Henry Mancuso. 8pm. \$5
Local 506: Six Foot Orchard. 9:30pm. Free

SPOTLIGHT



HAITI BENEFIT AT CAT'S CRADLE

Cat's Cradle will host a Benefit for Haiti this Saturday. The show starts at 6 p.m. and the last performer goes on at midnight. In order, the acts are **Kitty Box and The Johnnys, HWYL, Puritan Rodeo, Charles Pettee, New Town Drunks, Terry McInturf and Friends and The Moaners**.
 Puritan Rodeo will still be performing at The Pickled Onion in Raleigh later that night at 10:30.
 Half of the proceeds will be going to Doctors Without Borders and half to the Red Cross.

Open Eye Cafe: Tad Dreis Brunch Show. Noon
University Methodist Church: "Ain't I a Woman" with Womens Voice Chorus. 3pm. \$15 adults/\$5 students
Open Eye Cafe: Tad Dreis Brunch Show. Noon

MONDAY JAN 25
The Cave: LATE: Boy Genius, Western Div. \$5
Local 506: Arielle Bryant, Nathan Asher. 9:30pm. Free
TUESDAY JAN 26
Cat's Cradle: Flicker. 8:30pm. \$3



MANDOLIN ORANGE
 Open Eye Cafe
 Saturday, January 30

The Cave: LATE: The Duplicators
Local 506: O' God The White Whale, Jokes and Jokes and Jokes, Rhetoric. 9:30pm. Free

WEDNESDAY JAN 27
The Cave: EARLY: Moonfisher. \$5
 LATE: Bums Lie, Last Year's Men. \$5
Local 506: The Entrance Band, Lights. 9:30pm. \$10

THURSDAY JAN 28
Blue Bayou: Exxon Valdez Trio. 9pm. Free

Carrboro Century Center: Kevin Van Sant. noon
The Cave: EARLY: Matt Lee LATE: Triple Overhead Cam, Mother Jackson. \$5
General Store Cafe: Marie Vanderbeck Quartet. 7-9pm

Local 506: Colossus, Zardo, Mrose Vitality. 10pm. \$5

FRIDAY JAN 29
Blue Bayou: Lockdown Blues Band. 9:30pm. \$6/\$8

Cat's Cradle: Cosmic Charlie. 9:30pm. \$10/\$12
The Cave: EARLY: Anniversary Club, Trunks and Tales. \$5
 LATE: Killer Filler, Blood Red River
General Store Cafe: The Drowning Lovers. 8-10:30pm
Harry's Market: Puritan Rodeo. 7-9pm

Local 506: Those Darlins, Pine Hill Haints, Violet Vector and The Lovely Lovelies. 9pm. \$7/\$8

Open Eye Cafe: The Honey Dewdrops. 8pm

SATURDAY JAN 30
ArtsCenter: Justin Townes Earle, Dawn Landes. 8:30pm. \$16
Blue Bayou: Jacob Johnson Band. 9:30pm. \$8/\$10
Cat's Cradle: The Urban Sophisticates, Kaze, Infowential, The Beast. 9:30pm. \$6/\$8
The Cave: EARLY: Paul Edelman

& Jangling Sparrows. LATE: Jo Gore and The Alternative, Highway 54

General Store Cafe: Leroy Savage and The Bottom Feeders. 8-10:30pm. \$5

Local 506: Minor Stars, Transportation, Devries. 10pm. \$5

Nightlight: Soft Company, Roadside Graves. 10pm

Open Eye Cafe: Mandolin Orange. 8pm

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CAT'S CRADLE

FR 1/22 LAST WALTZ ENSEMBLE

TU 2/9 JONATHAN RICHMAN

TU 2/2 WE 2/3 CITIZEN COPE TWO SHOWS!!

TH 2/25 STATE RADIO

TU 3/30 MAJOR LAZER

FR 1/22 THE LAST WALTZ ENSEMBLE PLAYING THE MUSIC OF BOB DYLAN AND THE BAND(\$10/\$12)**

SA 1/23 HAITI EARTHQUAKE BENEFIT THE MOANERS, THE BIPOLAR BEARS, KICK THE FUTURE, NEW TOWN DRUNKS AND MORE(\$10) 6PM SHOW**

TU 1/26 FLICKER LOCAL SHORT FILMS

FR 1/29 COSMIC CHARLIE (GRATEFUL DEAD COVERS)(\$6/\$8)**

SA 1/30 URBAN SOPHISTICATES, THE BEAST, INFOWENTIAL, KAZE(\$10/\$12)**

TU 2/2 AND WE 2/3 **(\$22-2-DAY PASS \$40) CITIZEN COPE TWO SHOWS!

FR 2/5 TOUBAB KREWE(\$14/\$16)**

SA 2/6 BOB MARLEY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION MICKEY MILLS AND STEEL, JAM ROCK, DUB ADDIS, TRUTH AND RIGHTS(\$15/\$20; \$3 DISCOUNT FOR UNC STUDENTS)**

TU 2/9 JONATHAN RICHMAN(\$10/\$12)**

TH 2/11 BRANDI CARLILE W/AMY RAY'S ROCK SHOW

FR 2/12 JOHN BROWN'S BODY W/GIANT PANDA GUERRILLA DUB SQUAD AND VINTAGE FRESH(\$15)**

SA 2/13 NC COMEDY ARTS FESTIVAL EDDIE BRILL, MIKE MACRAE**

SU 2/14 THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE(\$20 OR SPECIAL COUPLES RATE: \$36 PAIR)**

MO 2/15 TORTOISE W/DISAPPEARS(\$15)**

FR 2/19 SWASO W/VIOLET VECTOR & THE LOVELY LOVELIES, THE GUNS OF EL BORRACHO**

SA 2/20 NC COMEDY ARTS FESTIVAL MC FRONTALOT**

TU 2/23(\$14/\$16) CAGE THE ELEPHANT W/AS TALL AS LIONS, MORNING TELEPORTATION**

WE 2/24 CLIENTELE, VETIVER(\$13/\$15)**

TH 2/25 STATE RADIO W/BIG D AND THE KIDS TABLE, COBALD AND THE HIRED GUNS(\$15)**

FR 2/26 SAM BUSH BAND(\$20/\$23)**

SU 2/28(\$16/\$18) NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALL-STARS W/CITY CHAMPS**

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)**

FR 3/12 KICKIN GRASS BAND, ADRIENNE YOUNG**

SA 3/13(\$10/\$12) THE LOW ANTHEM**

TH 3/18(\$10/\$12) THE BLACK LIPS W/IBOX ELDERS**

TU 3/23 RX BANDITS W/THE BUILDERS AND THE BUTCHERS AND ZECHS MARQUISE(\$14/\$16)**

TH 3/25 THE XX W/JJ(\$14/\$16)**

MO 3/29 KING KHAN & THE SHRINES W/THE FRESH AND ONLY(\$14/\$16) ON SALE 1/22**

TU 3/30 MAJOR LAZER W/RUSKO(\$15/\$17)**

FR 4/2 THE BIG PINK W/A PLACE TO BURY STRANGERS(\$13/\$15)**

SA 4/3(\$12/\$14) MIDLAKE**

SU 4/4(\$14/\$16) YEASAYER**

MO 4/5(\$13/\$15) TED LEO AND THE PHARMACISTS W/SCREAMING FEMALES AND PINK FLAG**

WE 4/7 THE MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA W/THE FEATURES, BIFFY CLYRO AND O'BROTHER(\$14/\$17) ON SALE 1/21**

TU 4/13(\$12/\$14) THERMALS W/PAST LIVES**

TH 4/22 NEEDTOBREATHE W/WILL HOGE AND MATT HIRE(\$15/\$18)**

MO 4/26(\$10/\$12) QUASI**

SA 5/1(\$12/\$14) BEACH HOUSE W/WASHED OUT**

SU 5/2(\$17/\$20) THE ENGLISH BEAT**

ALSO PRESENTING

LOCAL 506 (CHAPEL HILL)

FR 1/29 THOSE DARLINS W/PINE HILL HAINTS AND VIOLET VECTOR AND THE LOVELY LOVELIES

SA 3/6 JENNY OWEN YOUNGS, BESS ROGERS, ALLISON WEISS

WE 3/17 FRUIT BATS W/BLUE GIANT (EX-VIVA VOCE)

TH 3/25 SHEARWATER W/WYE OAK AND HOSPITAL SHIPES

THE ARTSCENTER (CARRBORO)

SU 2/14 JOSEPH ARTHUR

SU 2/14 BEN SOLLEE/ DANIEL MARTIN MOORE

(DEAR COMPANION TOUR)

SA 3/13 OVER THE RHINE

CAROLINA THEATRE (DURHAM)

TH 3/25 JOANNA NEWSOM

DPAC (DURHAM)

SA 3/27 WILCO SOLD OUT

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MOVIES We suggest you call ahead for exact show times

CHELSEA THEATER
 Timberlyne, 1129 Weaver Dairy Road, 968-3005
 The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus; A Single Man; The Young Victoria, Broken Embraces

CAROLINA THEATRE OF DURHAM
 309 W Morgan St., 560-3030
 (1/22-28) Broken Embraces, nightly at 7:10, 9:30 p.m., Sat and Sun matinees at 2:10, 4:35 p.m.; The Road, nightly at 7 p.m., Sat and Sun matinees at 2 p.m.; The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus, nightly at 9:15 p.m., Sat and Sun matinees at 4:15 p.m.

THE LUMINA
 Southern Village, 932-9000
 The Book of Eli; It's Complicated; Leap Year; Sherlock Holmes; The Spy Next Door

REGAL TIMBERLYNE 6
 120 Banks Drive, 933-8600
 The Book of Eli; Leap Year; The Lovely Bones; Sherlock Holmes; The Spy Next Door; Youth in Revolt

VARSITY THEATER
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Broken Embraces
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 Sat & Sun Matinees at 2:10 & 4:35 PM

The Road
 Nightly at 7:00 pm
 Sat & Sun Matinees at 2:00 pm

Imaginarium Of Dr Parnassus
 Nightly at 9:15 pm
 Sat & Sun Matinees at 4:15 pm

309 West Morgan St. Downtown Durham
 www.carolinatheatre.org | 919.560.3030

News Briefs

Blood needed

Recent bad weather across the country on the heels of the holiday season has drastically decreased the Red Cross' blood supply in its Carolinas Region. Type O negative and type B negative blood supplies have dropped to emergency levels, and help is needed. Since type O negative blood can be used for any patient when there is not time to determine the patient's blood type, it is crucial to have a sufficient supply.

The next blood drives will be Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 25 and 26, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Great Hall in the student union on the UNC Campus. Sign up to give at unc.givesblood.org

There also will be a drive on Sunday, Jan. 31 from noon to 4:30 p.m. at New Sharon United Methodist Church on New Sharon Church Road in Hillsborough.

Blood can be safely donated every 56 days. Most healthy people aged 17 and older, or 16 with parental consent, who weigh at least 110 pounds are eligible to donate blood and platelets. Donors who are 18 and younger must also meet specific height and weight requirements.

For more information or to locate a nearby blood drive, visit redcrossblood.org

Felony charges leveled

On Friday, Jan. 15, Chapel Hill Police investigators charged Corey Scott Shepherd of Wake Forest with 19 counts of felony breaking and entering, one count of felony larceny and 20 counts of misdemeanor damage to property. Shepherd was arrested at Chapel Hill Police headquarters and is suspected in a rash of area business break-ins that have occurred in recent months.

Chapel Hill investigators worked with investigators from the Carrboro, Durham and Hillsborough police departments, as well as the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, after each jurisdiction experienced a series of overnight smash-and-grab break-ins. Shepherd was released on a \$43,000 unsecured bond and made his first appearance in court on Tuesday.

Route adjustments for Chapel Hill Transit

Chapel Hill Transit implemented a schedule adjustment to the F route (p.m. only) on Tuesday, Jan. 19. Additional afternoon trips also will be added, starting at 2:45 p.m.

The bus stop at the Newman Center will be closed for about 18 months due to construction on Pittsboro Street. A temporary bus stop is at 210 Pittsboro St. (News Services Building) near the intersection with Cameron Avenue.

The right lane of Pittsboro Street from beyond the temporary bus stop to McCauley Street is closed. The left lane will remain open. Chapel Hill Transit routes may experience delays as a result of the lane closure. CHT is advising customers to expect delays and to allow extra travel time.

For questions about the route change, call a CHT customer service representative at 969-4900, visit chtransit.org or email chtransit@townofchapelhill.org

Learn about affordable housing

The Town of Chapel Hill is continuing a public review process for a draft Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance to help address the need for more affordable housing in Chapel Hill. A public-information open house is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2, at Chapel Hill Town Hall, 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Repeating presentations will take place at 5:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

A task force appointed by the town council developed ideas and worked with consultants to prepare a draft ordinance, which is posted online at townhall.townofchapelhill.org/agendas/2009/09/28/7b/ with related information. Information is also available by calling 919-2728.

The Feb. 2 meeting is one of multiple opportunities for public review and comment, leading up to a public hearing tentatively scheduled for March 15.

For more information, contact the Town of Chapel Hill Planning Department by emailing inclusionary-zoning@townofchapelhill.org or visit townofchapelhill.org/planning

Board discusses long-range plans

BY BETH MECHUM
Staff Writer

The Board of Aldermen met at Town Hall Tuesday night to further discuss a long-range water-supply plan and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro 2035 Long Range Transit Plan.

Both plans had been presented to the board last year and the aldermen had resolved to meet again to parse out some of the details.

For the OWASA draft long-range water-supply plan, the board had previously taken issue with a sentence that read, "It is more cost-effective to reduce the

drawdown of OWASA'S reservoirs by purchasing available water than by implementing water use restrictions."

Board members were opposed to this option because they thought it implied OWASA customers would not be notified of a crisis and therefore could not take possible conservation measures.

"The public is being fooled into thinking their water usage is sustainable when it is not," Aldermen Randee Haven-O'Donnell said.

Carrboro representatives from OWASA were on hand to further clarify the matter.

Secretary of the OWASA ex-

ecutive board Braxton Foushee urged the aldermen to look back to the drought of 2007 when residents were kept apprised of water levels and ways to conserve. He said that will again be done if necessary.

"Our actions spoke volumes," he said.

The issue, Foushee said, was in the particular language of the draft, and he said he's receptive to the board of aldermen finding the wording that will hold OWASA to be as transparent as the aldermen want it to be.

The board also received updates to the 2035 Long Range Transit Plan. These updates in-

clude recommendations that the plan include language to evaluate the use of existing rail corridor for light rail, that a lane reduction be implemented on Martin Luther King Boulevard to convert the two outer lanes to bus-and-bike-only lanes and that the board of aldermen support a lighted bicycle and pedestrian commute route from the UNC main campus through Carrboro.

The board also received a presentation on criminalizing wage theft in Carrboro and referred the matter to town staff to learn more about the legalities of such an issue.

OBITUARIES



Kenneth P. Strong

Kenneth P. Strong, longtime PlayMakers Repertory Company actor and dramatic arts professor at his alma mater, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, died Jan. 12, 2010 after a long battle with cancer.

He had appeared with PlayMakers, UNC's professional theater company in residence, since 1979, having been in more than 50 productions. Most recently, he was seen in *Pericles, Amadeus* and as the Aviator in PlayMakers' 2007 holiday production of *The Little Prince*. Strong is also remembered for roles in *God's Man in Texas*, *King Lear*, *Art and Death of a Salesman*, among others.

Ray Dooley, PlayMakers company member and professor in UNC's department of dramatic art, said Strong "radiated love to everybody that knew him. When the history of PlayMakers is written, he will hold a place of honor."

Strong appeared on Broadway in *Inherit the Wind* with George C. Scott, Off-Broadway in *Easter* with the New York theater company Naked Angels, as Atticus in *To Kill a Mockingbird* at Syracuse Stage and as Mitch in the Intiman Theatre (Seattle) production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

He also was seen on television shows including "Law & Order," "Matlock," "In the Heat of the Night" and "Spin City." Strong also appeared in films, including *Cold Sassy Tree*.

Strong earned a bachelor's degree in 1979 and a master's in fine arts in 1983, both from UNC. He was a native of Fayetteville, N.C., where Bo Thorp, artistic director of Cape Fear Regional Theatre, asked him to found a theater school in conjunction with Cape Fear. He named it THE STUDIO and set about the business of teaching and shaping young lives, which he went on to do as

a faculty member in the UNC department of dramatic art.

He is survived by his wife, Kee Strong, of Durham; his mother, Sara Strong, father, John Strong, and brother, Richard Strong, all of Fayetteville; father-in-law, Jack Fortes, of DeLand, Fla.; and brother-in-law, Scott Fortes, of Talking Rock, Ga.

Marcel Robins

Marcel G. Robins, 86, passed peacefully on Jan. 14, 2010 at the Health Center of Carolina Meadows in Chapel Hill, N.C. after a brief but intense battle with cancer. With him were his loving wife, Helen, and his devoted daughters, Ann and Didi.

Marcel served in the British Army, Jewish Brigade, during World War II. He was a builder in Westchester County, N.Y. and continued building commercial properties in the Southeast after his move to Chapel Hill 40 years ago.

No services are planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or to the American Red Cross for Haiti earthquake relief.

Eleanor Neyhart

Eleanor Fitzpatrick Neyhart, 89, of the Carolina House of Chapel Hill, N.C. passed away peacefully Jan. 11, 2010 after a brief illness.

Born Dec. 10, 1920 in Lynn, Mass., Eleanor was the only child of William and Rita Fitzpatrick. Surrounded by a loving Irish-Catholic family, Eleanor's childhood years were spent in Lynn and Ridgway, Pa. She attended Allegheny College and Pennsylvania State University, where she earned a degree in accounting in 1942. After

completing her education, Eleanor was employed as one of the first female accountants at the Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, N.Y. during the 1940s and 1950s. She spent most of her adult life in the Rochester area, where she married James Henry Neyhart of Rochester in 1957. They lived in Penfield, N.Y. throughout their marriage, and in 2008 Eleanor moved to North Carolina to be near her family after the death of her husband in 2006. Eleanor's lifelong interests included golf, needlework, ballroom dancing, flower gardening and jazz music. She volunteered many hours at the Penfield symphony orchestra.

Eleanor is survived by her son, Gregory Allen Neyhart, and his wife, Clara Danziger, of Chapel Hill, as well as two grandchildren, Emily Clara Neyhart and Christopher Cole Neyhart, of Chapel Hill.

Patrick is survived by his wife, Irene; his mother and step-father, Leatrice and Lawrence Henry; his children, Mary, Christopher, Shannon, Stuart, Michael, Dustin, Patrick II, Elizabeth, Jonathon and Precious Joy; four brothers and a sister; and three grandchildren.

Patrick Robeson

Patrick Michael Robeson, 50, died Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010 at UNC Hospitals.

Patrick was employed as a master carpenter. He was predeceased by his father, Edward D. Robeson, and daughter, Rachael Ann Robeson. He loved people and especially his family. He loved to serve his Lord and said, "Addicts and prisoners need salvation too. I will go to the depths of hell to bring people to salvation."

Patrick is survived by his wife, Irene; his mother and step-father, Leatrice and Lawrence Henry; his children, Mary, Christopher, Shannon, Stuart, Michael, Dustin, Patrick II, Elizabeth, Jonathon and Precious Joy; four brothers and a sister; and three grandchildren.

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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Find the Pie in Today's Citizen

(The one in the Weaver Street Market ad doesn't count!)

Celebrate National Pie Day

Saturday, January 23

Tell us where the pie is by e-mailing contest@carrborocitizen.com.

Next week, five winners will be drawn from the submitted correct answers and each winner will receive a gift certificate for a fresh-baked pie from Weaver Street Market!

See today's Weaver St. Market ad for details on a canned food drive to help the hungry.

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW
Librarians Tricia Huegerich, left, and Steve Oliva, behind the computer, check materials out to patrons of the Chapel Hill Library, where last Friday was the start of a holiday weekend and a rare slow day.

ECONOMY
FROM PAGE 1

"We're in good shape, but it's still a time for caution," Stancil said. He pointed out that the town has held on to its Triple A bond rating, which speaks well of where the town is fiscally. But the local economy still leaves him with trepidation.

"[The area] is not rapidly rising out of recession," Stancil said. And with a slow economy statewide, there is always con-

cern that the legislature will shift additional costs to local governments.

Still, Stancil said Chapel Hill has been frugal enough and built enough of a fund balance to look for opportunities in the bond market.

That means a likely go-ahead on the expansion for the Chapel Hill Public Library, a major cost that the town delayed in part to save costs and in part because of uncertainty in credit markets.

Stancil said credit markets have stabilized, and low interest



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS
Carrboro's new fire station under construction on Homestead Road.

UNC NOTES FRANK HEATH

In college basketball, how quickly paradigms can shift. As recently as two weeks ago, ESPN announcers had the UNC basketball team penciled in for a slot in the NCAA Elite Eight. Now, following early league losses to Clemson and Georgia Tech, the Tar Heels found themselves battling for their postseason lives Wednesday night, playing at the Smith Center against a dangerous Wake Forest team, and certainly not wanting to drop to 1-3 in the league.

Regardless of the outcome of the Wake game, there remains time for the Heels to right their ship. But with all of its remaining games to be played against conference opponents, Carolina will need to perform consistently better on the court if it hopes to win enough games to make it into the NCAA Tournament this spring.

And in that regard, there are many questions to be answered.

Can the Tar Heel guards – Larry Drew II, Dexter Strickland and, especially, Leslie McDonald – grow up quickly and begin to be a steadying influence and inspiration on the court? Will the Tar Heels find a way to end the devastating runs by

opponents, fueled by Carolina turnovers, that have occurred in several of their losses?

Can Marcus Ginyard get into shape and return to being the all-around force and team leader he has been in years past?

Will Carolina's stable of big men begin to hold their own against the rugged post players they will continue to encounter throughout league play? (Travis Wear's improved play against Georgia Tech gave hope for some progress in this area.)

Did junior Will Graves' fantastic offensive outburst against Georgia Tech, and the Tar Heels' subsequent inspired play in the second half of that game, signal a new dawn of understanding for the team – or was that positive stretch just another lost thread in a season marked by false starts?

One good reason for the Tar Heels to keep their heads up comes in the form of a reminder from recent history. It's a fact that coach Roy Williams and his staff have a track record of steady UNC squads that faltered early (at least by Carolina standards) and gotten them back to playing good "North Carolina basketball" by the second half of

the conference schedule and/or tournament time.

In each of the past four seasons, in fact, Carolina had rough patches that resulted in similar questioning by fans and media as to whether the team would be "all right."

A 2-3 league start for the 2006 team – led by then-freshmen Tyler Hansbrough, Marcus Ginyard and company – brought on speculation that the youthful Heels had hit the freshman wall or that opposing coaches had figured out Hansbrough's tendencies. All that team did to extinguish those doubts was to finish with a 10-1 run to end the ACC schedule, even winning at Duke on senior night for J.J. Redick and Shelden Williams.

The next year, Carolina lost three of five games midway through the league slate before winning seven straight in March on its run to the Elite Eight.

In 2008, the Heels came through the first half of the league schedule with a sub-par 6-2 record before winning 15 straight en route to the Final Four.

And who has forgotten last season's 0-2 ACC start, which had everyone from Jay Bilas to

rates present a good opportunity.

"Most towns are not getting out in the market," he said.

As a result, Stancil said, the town is likely able to sustain the debt to build the addition without raising taxes.

The town also will sort through capital needs such as improvements to parks and recreation facilities, he said.

While this year may be one of seizing opportunities, there will be some fiscal consequences down the road. The library addition might be built without a tax increase, Stancil said, but staffing and operating it could be a different story. The increases in personnel and operating costs are expected to add \$700,000 to \$800,000 to the annual budget. Making that up through taxes, Stancil said, would add about 1.5 cents to the tax rate.

FARMERS' MARKET

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What's at Market?

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

New Item this Week: DRIED RED PEPPERS, cormeal, green onions, mustard greens, rutabagas, creasy greens, totsoi, dill, cilantro, turnips, beets, carrots, cauliflower, celery, sweet potatoes, broccoli, lettuce, chard, radishes, turnip greens, shiitake mushrooms, green tomatoes, sorrel, acorn squash, butternut squash, eggplant, delicate squash, tomatoes, beans, bell peppers, new potatoes, arugula, onions, wheat flour, garlic, salad mixes (spicy and non), collards, fresh herbs, kale, pecans, flowers such as zinnias, sunflowers and lilies, meats like goat, beef, pork, lamb, chicken, buffalo, and specialty meats like liverwurst, bologna, hotdogs, etc, cow's and goat's milk cheeses, eggs, breads, doughnuts, tortes, pies, cakes, jams, and relishes.

Jalapeno- Chili Cornbread topped with fresh tomatoes and basil

Recipe Provided by: Sarah Blacklin, Market Manager (This recipe was adopted from a my friend Marilyn in Kingston, Canada)

Ingredients:

6 jalapeno peppers 3 slices bacon 1/4 inch dice
2 eggs 1 cup canned cream or regular corn
1 cup sour cream 1/4 cup grape seed or corn oil
1/2 cup all purpose flour 1/2 cup yellow cormeal
1/3 cup sugar 2 Tbls baking powder
1 Teaspoon salt 2 Tbls chopped cilantro Fresh basil
1/4 cup onion (green if available) 1 tomato sliced
Preheat oven to 350, lightly grease muffin tin (or use a cast iron pan). Place jalapeno peppers on baking sheet and roast in the oven for 20 minutes or until their skins darken. Leave oven on and transfer peppers into a bowl and cover with plastic wrap for ten minutes to help loosen their skins. Peel, deseed and cut in 1/8 inch dice. Sauté bacon in frying pan on medium heat for about 5 minutes or until crispy. Drain on paper towel. Combine eggs, corn, sour cream and oil in large bowl. In another bowl combine flour, cormeal, sugar, baking powder and salt and add flour mixture all at once to the corn mixture then mix until just combined. Stir in jalapeños, bacon, cilantro and onions. Pour batter into muffin tins or cast iron frying pan and bake in oven for 30-40 minutes until golden brown. Remove and let rest for 10 minutes. Cut into an open faced sandwich and top with a fresh tomato, salt, pepper and fresh basil. Enjoy!!

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- 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
- Terrance Simien & The Zydeco Experience • FRI 3/12
- Over the Rhine • SAT 3/13

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

While we were putting out the most recent issue of *The Citizen*, the true extent of the destruction in Haiti was just becoming evident. Photos from far above were showing widespread damage – mile after mile of collapsed structures in a heavily populated area.

Throughout the past week, we all zoomed in quite quickly to street level and to more graphic and gut-wrenching images. The stories have been heart-breaking. And they are endless. We may never know how many perished in those awful first minutes and how many died suffering from their wounds in the hours and days later. We only know that humanity has received a very severe blow and that our instinct is to reach out and help.

Our community has always been a friend to the world at large. You get that way when you are a crossroads for so many nationalities. Our faith community has missions and efforts going in dozens of countries, with Haiti a main focus for many even before this catastrophe.

On campus, there are a half-dozen institutes, offices and centers with the word “global” in them. This is where all the rhetoric you hear about a state more engaged in the world is being made reality. Many researchers, particularly in the field of public health, have worked in Haiti and know of the steep challenges that were already there before the buildings came down.

In all this, work connections have been made, bonds have formed and when a day dawns on a calamity in a place with which you're familiar, part of you is there.

Our response here has been solid, but we can do more and, as the scope of what is required becomes more obvious, more will be required. Over the weeks ahead, there will be plenty of events, shows, fundraisers and appeals asking you to play your part.

The university has set up a website to help keep track of the needs and the organizations supporting relief efforts at unc.edu/cps/disaster-haiti.php

Links to local relief efforts can also be found on *The Citizen's* website and blogs.

And if your organization is sponsoring an event or holding a fundraiser for Haiti relief, please send information our way at calendar@carrborocitizen.com

Dialing in

From time to time, I'll spend part of a walk through the downtowns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro conducting an informal survey of cell phone use by motorists. The result is almost always the same – about every other driver is on the phone. Quite a few of the pedestrians are, too. Bicyclists, not so much; but I've seen it.

I've become convinced that there is nothing this paper could do or say to change what is an almost universal act. But after the recent incident in Efland in which a motorist tried to cross train tracks through downed crossing arms while on her cell, I thought I'd try again. Sadly, 26-year-old Erin Brett Lindsay-Calkins was killed that day along with her 5-year-old son. Her 4-month old son survived.

There may be places and times where it seems OK to make a call while driving. But they don't include downtowns full of people, bikes and cars, or really anywhere where you ought to be paying attention.

And isn't that just about everywhere? Hang up and drive. The odds aren't with you.

Something to celebrate

Saturday is National Pie Day and whether you intend to enter our find-the-pie contest and win yourself one or you plan to bake a pie in celebration, let me remind you that the finest thing you can do with a pie is share it with someone you love and/or the hard-working staff of your local newspaper.

— Kirk Ross



The more things in Raleigh change the more they stay the same

CHRIS FITZSIMON

Nobody talked directly about North Carolina's sputtering economy and budget problems at meetings of two high-level panels Jan. 14, but the anxiety wasn't far from the surface. And neither were signals that make it hard to imagine any serious reform proposals emerging from either group for quite a while.

The Joint House and Senate Finance Committee spent the morning listening to detailed presentations about the sales tax and how North Carolina compares to other states in what it taxes. There is widespread agreement that the tax code is out of date and that expanding the sales tax to include more services makes sense, and more closely ties the revenue system to the state's economic activity.

Several high-powered commissions have recommended broadening the sales tax rate in the last several years. The joint finance panel was created last summer after Senate proposals to expand the sales tax became a sticking point in final budget negotiations.

Thursday's meeting was the first one since some legislative leaders said publicly that tax reform is unlikely this year. That prompted House Minority Leader Paul Stam and other Republicans to call for a tax proposal to consider instead of attending more information

sessions.

It is no secret that politics is the primary reason tax reform won't come up in 2010. Democrats are worried about the November elections and would rather not take any chances or anger any wealthy special interests until the election is over.

Stam is playing politics, too, of course. He wants Democrats to come forward with a sales-tax plan so Republicans can mischaracterize it and make it a central part of their fall campaign.

Somebody needs to ask Stam where his tax-reform proposal might be. All he has really offered so far are proposals to make it harder procedurally to raise taxes in the future. That's not reform, that's a talking point.

Not long after the tax commission adjourned, Gov. Beverly Perdue's Budget Reform and Accountability Commission held its third meeting in its quest to find savings and efficiencies in state government to help the budget crisis.

The commission is stacked with well-connected political heavyweights who know their way around Raleigh, but watching the committee operate doesn't inspire confidence that it will recommend dramatic changes.

Thursday the commission directed state agencies to come up with better ways to manage the state's procurement process and put

off discussion of the ongoing problems with local Alcohol Beverage Control Commissions that have made headlines recently.

Commission members seem sincere about their work, and maybe they can come up with some long-term improvements in the way the state operates, but don't look for any big savings in the short term.

IBM executive Curtis Clark told his fellow members about the difficulty in reorganizing state government, and Clark should know. He headed the 1993 Government Performance Audit created during the budget crisis of 1991.

Some of the audit's smaller recommendations were adopted, but the proposals for significant changes were largely ignored. It's striking how similar the language in the 1993 audit is to the discussions held last week about state purchasing and technology management.

North Carolina desperately needs tax reform, and a more efficient state government wouldn't hurt either. But Thursday's events don't lead you to believe that either one is coming soon.

The more the names and faces change, the more the special interests and political considerations stay the same.

Chris Fitzsimon is executive director of N.C. Policy Watch.

Saving money and improving health care quality

ADAM SEARING

With the health reform debate in full force, it's time to take a close look at what these bills will do – not only to expand coverage and contain costs, but also to improve the quality of our health care.

To begin with, reforms in both the House and Senate bills now under consideration would help contain our nation's health care costs in a fiscally responsible way. Key to this is the effort in Congress to expand coverage and contain costs simultaneously. Reforming one without the other is like squeezing a balloon – compress one side and the other side pops up bigger than ever.

Why? Controlling costs without expanding coverage would put an intolerable burden on hospitals and safety-net providers and, ultimately, our communities and millions of families. It would be unwise and politically unsustainable. We would be asking our providers to continue to see millions of uninsured people while lowering their costs overall as well. Conversely, coverage expansion without cost-growth containment would be fiscally irresponsible and economically unsustainable. The best strategy is to pursue both goals at the same time.

Both the Senate and House bills contain costs and expand coverage, and the way they do this is just as important. Each cost-control measure and expansion measure also looks to improve the quality of

care people receive. How is it possible to move towards accomplishing all three of these critical goals at the same time?

First, the Senate reform bill receiving the most discussion right now is innovative in ways that are vital to preserving and protecting programs like Medicare for the long term and containing costs and improving efficiencies overall. For example, it would allow us to develop quality assessments in order to link payment to better-quality care. This means we can start paying for health care based on value and better health outcomes rather than paying based on the number of services or tests performed. This is good news for anyone who has a loved one struggling with illness or health problems.

The millions of people who navigate the health system every day know that their loved one needs the right test or treatment at the right time – not an abundance of repeat or erroneous services that don't give them answers or make them better. This isn't primarily about saving money. It's about making health care more efficient and effective for patients. We need to apply to health care the innovative spirit Americans are familiar with in products like the iPhone. Two years ago, the iPhone cost \$600 and did half of what it does now more efficiently and effectively as a \$200 product.

Second, both bills introduce much-needed new models of delivering health care as we expand. Many of these new programs are

specifically designed to improve care coordination and prevent unnecessary hospital readmissions. For example, North Carolina's successful Community Care program is looked to as a national model. Community Care connects patients with primary-care physicians to create “medical homes” for families and builds an environment where groups of doctors – not insurance companies – work together to identify how to better care for their patients.

Because congressional passage of health reform is only the start of the work we need to fix our broken health care system, reform will allow us to test new models over time so we can find out what works the best and continuously build on our success.

There are no silver bullets or easy answers. Realistically, expanding coverage will increase costs in the short-term. But over the long-term, the health care delivery, quality and payment reforms contained in the reform bills offer an essential framework for lowering the trajectory of health care costs. The status quo is no longer an option and the cost of doing nothing is too high – for families, workers, health care providers, businesses and for the nation's long-term fiscal health. Balancing the need for change and making sure we do change right is the key to sustainable reform.

Adam Searing is director of the North Carolina Health Access Coalition.

Shame on you, Mother Blue

BILL SOMMERS

Recently, unsuspecting N.C. residents have found their mailboxes awash with Blue Cross Blue Shield mailings that shed manufactured crocodile tears on the “horror” of a relatively small public program included in the Obama Health Plan proposal, calling it a “vast expansion in the government's role,” while praising its own righteous stance for “health care that works.” This mail-order crusade was predicted back in May, when Paul Krugman's New York Times column “Blue Double Cross” noted that after private insurers had a cooperative photo-op with the president, BCBS of North Carolina, among others, began “gearing up for a major smear campaign.” And so it has come to pass.

Their insulting insertion of the postcard mailing trick underlines BCBS's reckless fear that any kind of competition is an attack on its profit margin; it also symbolizes the inability of most private health insurers to contribute to the country's greater good against the morass of increasingly botched private health care providers and rising insurance premiums. BCBS's constant misrepresentation of the true goal of a public health-insurance sector has made the United States the negative model for health care when compared to so many developed – and developing – countries. Despite its protestations, BCBS wants to keep that negative model alive and well for as long as it can.

In fact, most of the private insurers like BCBS of North Carolina began raising their rates as Congress started the process of implementing a major overhaul of our failing system. The major reason is the fact that the insurance industry is under pressure from Wall Street to get ahead of any legislative changes that might reduce its profits. Small businesses suffer most from the insurance industry's greed – of which BCBS is a significant part. One small businessman in Columbia, Pa., for example, was told by his current insurance carrier that his workforce was becoming “too old and very expensive” after demanding a 160 percent increase in the company's coverage.

After receiving the first of the BCBS's mailings, I wrote to their Durham office complaining about the mailings and the gross inaccuracies included therein. I shortly received a reassuringly bland letter from the project manager of “Member Experience and Customer Satisfaction.” GEE! Among a litany of well-practiced positively stated negative pronouncements, one sentence seemed a summation of attitude and status:

“We think it's critical that North Carolinians understand how a government-run health plan and increased taxes could impact health coverage costs and choice. That's why we're working to educate North Carolinians to do that.”

GEE. Here's Mother Blue Cross sitting on her Blue Shield telling all her North Carolina children to be quiet and go out and play while Mother Blue takes care of the problem. GEE WHIZ!

But Mother Blue is a bit of a scoundrel. She forgets to tell us that BCBS has for many years been – and currently is – a full participant in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program (FEHB), a government-run health plan that is a model of the plan BC/BS decries with such moral fervor. In it, the U.S. government pays between 60 percent and 70 percent of premium costs to the participating insurers – BCBS included – through the budget of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. Under FEHB, BCBS offers “fee-for-services” plans in eight states, while in a slightly different mode offers HMO health participation in six states.

Well, Mother Blue, how do you justify this immorality to your poor children? On the one hand you tell us that these awful government-run health plans are serious threats to the country while with the other hand – unseen to your trusting children – you are taking funds from the U.S. government hand over fist?

PLEASE!

Bill Sommers, a Ferrington Village resident, is a regular contributor to Chatham County Line, where this column first appeared.

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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BIZ BEAT

Local biz owners forecast

MARGOT C. LESTER

Enough about last year. What does 2010 have in store for the local economy?

"I think at best that it will be a year of very slow growth," says Brad Broadwell, Orange County's economic development officer. "Some exceptions for moderate growth potential can be found in the areas of health care and in enterprises that drive technology development through federal grants and research dollars or contracts."

Dianne Reid, president of the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation, notes positive signs too. "Locally, we see some companies expanding hours for their employees, going back to five-day operations, beginning to consider expansion possibilities."

Some sectors probably won't experience much improvement. "New construction, retailers selling luxury items and high-end personalized services will continue to struggle," Reid notes. "Consumers will continue to insist on value and to save more of their earnings than in previous decades. In addition, highly leveraged businesses will continue to struggle because credit has not loosened and is not likely to in the near future."

So what do local business owners expect? We asked a few to get out their crystal balls and tell us what they foresee for this year.

"I'm sworn to silence about 2010. Not that I'm superstitious, but, yes, I'm superstitious."

Damon Lapas chef/owner/manager The Barbecue Joint, Chapel Hill

"The summer of 2009 was the slowest time on record for our electrical business, [but] we finished the year struggling to keep up with demand for our services. I predict a busy year in 2010. Gas prices are high and I expect people in our area to be avoiding travel and investing in their homes. I could be wrong about 2010, and if the tough times continue I want to be prepared. Therefore we will resist the temptation to grow the company. We do not plan on hiring more people right now, but we are expanding our services to

include more of a focus on solar power, geo-thermal and energy efficiency. We hope that by offering assistance to home and business owners who are interested in investing in long-term energy savings, we can help our company grow while doing our part to keep energy costs down for everyone in our area. Another coal power plant is not the answer." Brad Bonneville, owner

Bonneville Renovation & Repair LLC, commercial and residential electrical/power contractor, Carrboro

"We are anticipating nice growth in 2010. People may be drinking less-expensive wine, but they are still drinking wine, and our products are a fun and inexpensive way for people to have a fuller wine experience. We have a brand-new website and we will be working to integrate various social media, such as Twitter, Facebook and blogs, into our customer relations."

Ashley Atkins, Southeastern U.S. regional sales manager Oenophilia, wine accessories and barware wholesaler, Hillsborough

"2010 will be the year that Piedmont Biofuels comes out of 'startup' and becomes a full-fledged business. Stand by for solid growth in fuel production. 2010 will also be a high-water year for our research and analytics endeavors, in which we will release a new technology that will change the way biodiesel is manufactured and will eliminate expensive co-products from the equation. We also anticipate growth in our design-build projects. [This] will be the year that our eco-industrial park expands. With nine individual businesses 'inside the fence' and an increase in tour traffic, we will see more building permits pulled and more structures rise from the earth."

Lyle Estill, vice president of stuff Piedmont Biofuels, biodiesel producer, Pittsboro

"I think there will be some improvement in the economy in 2010, albeit gradual. The past 18 months, we have seen declines in sales primarily due to customers having less disposable income. I was in Atlanta at the January Gift show and it was encouraging to see an increase in buying activity. As employment opportunities improve, there should be an uptick in sales, but we will still need to manage our cost of goods sold and watch other expenses. We look forward to hiring additional design staff as the sales improve."

Charles House, owner University Florist, Chapel Hill

"After an average dip in sales across all 50 states of 30 percent in 2009 and painfully deep expense cuts, we enjoyed a healthy rally in the fourth quarter thanks to special promotions, a national event involving 235 stores and some exciting online activities that promoted our stores. We expect 5 to 10 percent sales growth in 2010 over last year for our VIETRI Outlet Store in Hillsborough (retired and slightly flawed products and samples at discount), our full-service VIETRI retail store in Fearington, as well as at three very important local customer locations. We'll increase web-based marketing on www.vietri.com, Facebook and Twitter."

Frances Gravely, co-founder and co-owner VIETRI Inc., importer of Italian handcrafted tabletop and gift products, Hillsborough

"In 2010, we hope to reach out to new customers [with] selective marketing. We also hope for us and all our neighbors here in downtown Carrboro that the new parking space on the old Andrews-Riggsbee property will be a benefit for our businesses. We're going to be letting new customers and existing ones know that Carrboro has a nice, new public space for parking. We're putting our best face on for new shoppers who can now get here and park."

Matt Neal, co-owner Neal's Deli

Big boxing: Senator, shopkeepers spar over Costco

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

CARRBORO — Sen. Ellie Kinnaird's push for a Costco for Carrboro has some shopkeepers fuming over what they say is a slight against them that she's used in making her argument.

Meanwhile, town officials say it is very unlikely a store will be sited here.

Kinnaird, who met with Costco and town and county officials two years ago seeking a store for the area, has said the company's pay and benefits and its corporate practices are a good match for the town. Landing one, Kinnaird says, could be a major shot in the arm for the local economy.

"The only way to make our taxes less of a burden to homeowners is to increase the tax base by developing a vigorous commercial tax base in Carrboro," she said.

Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton acknowledged that there have been discussions in the past, but said the company ruled out Carrboro because there were no sites near a major four-lane highway.

"We're not talking to them, we've met with them twice at least in the last four years, but at no time in the last year or two," he said in a recent interview. "I think there are some places in Chapel Hill they could potentially be interested in, and that's what I got

from my conversation"

Costco officials have remained mum on any discussions. In an email response, a spokesperson for Costco chairman and co-founder Jeff Brotman told *The Citizen* last week, "Our corporate policy is to not comment on specific markets." The closest Costco to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro market is on North Pointe Drive in Durham.

Kinnaird recently revived her Costco push, asking town officials to support the effort. In making her case about wages and benefits, however, she has raked proponents of a more locally focused economy, including members of the nascent LocalMotion organization, which promotes homegrown enterprise and cooperation.

Wootini gallery owner Michael Maher said the senator's position is out of step with efforts to build a strong locally based economy. Maher said while he agrees that building the tax base is important, he feels small businesses and not big box stores like Costco are the way to do it. Locally owned businesses, he said, return a much higher percentage of their sales to their communities than do chain stores.

"If you want honest growth — grow from within. The money and development you would use to lure a Costco . . . you could better use to create an incubator program for entrepre-

neurial business, enhance the artistic community, promote what is already here," Maher wrote in an email response to *The Citizen*.

In her letter outlining the case for a Costco, Kinnaird insists that the town's small boutiques and shops shouldn't be the basis for the local economy.

"More importantly, those small businesses cannot pay a living wage or health insurance to their employees. The small workforce they hire is therefore deprived of both," Kinnaird wrote. "Costco, on the other hand, paid \$18 an hour some years ago, and I suspect pays more now. Every employee, full and part time, is provided with health insurance."

She acknowledged taking heat over the issue and said she wished she had noted that the smaller shops can provide owners and small-business people with a good living.

Carrboro alderman Dan Coleman said it appears that Costco and other larger retailers are not interested in locating in Carrboro. While a diversity of opinion on economic policy is a good thing, he said, it makes more sense for the town to focus on growing and supporting its locally-owned businesses.

Kinnaird's case for a Costco and Maher's response is available on *The Citizen's* website, carrborocitizen.com/main Beth Mechum contributed

Walk Carrboro



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

The Carrboro Merchants Association, now in its second year, held a get-together at founder Jesse Kalisher's gallery on Friday to announce the second edition of its Walk Carrboro map.

Mayor Mark Chilton was on hand for the unveiling and said he hopes the map and the Walk Carrboro effort, along with the increase in downtown parking spaces, continue to help Carrboro build its brand as a shopping and dining destination.

Kalisher said several new locations and landmarks have been added to this year's edition. The maps will be distributed throughout downtown and are available on the Walk Carrboro web site at walkcarrboro.com

Business Briefs

Call for nominations

Leadership Triangle seeks nominations for the 2010 Goodmon Awards recognizing regionally minded leaders and organizations. Citizens may nominate businesses and nonprofits for the Exemplary Regional Leadership by an Organization award, lauding an entity that has developed an innovative regional program to address a pressing regional issue or has consistently provided outstanding support and leadership on regional issues. Nomination criteria and forms are available at leadership-triangle.com.

Green architecture talk

The UNC Center for Sustainable Enterprise presents a lecture by Rob Watson, chairman, CEO and chief scientist at ECOTECH International from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 11 at the Kenan-Flagler Business School's Koury Auditorium. Watson is known as the founding father of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) concept, the most widespread and fastest-growing green building measurement worldwide. RSVP to cse@unc.edu

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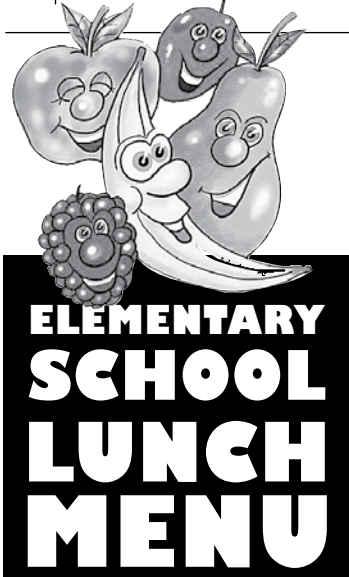


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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

FRI 1/22 — Cheese Pizza; Pepperoni Pizza; Sloppy Joe on a Wheat Bun; Garden Salad; Seasoned Green Beans; Chilled Applesauce

MON 1/25 — Chicken Nuggets w/Wheat Roll; Beef Tacos w/Salsa, Cheese, Lettuce & Tom; Spanish Rice; Corn on the Cobb; Apple Halves

TUE 1/26 — Pork Egg Roll w/Wheat Roll; Mozzarella Cheese Sticks; w/Marinara Dipping Sauce; "Fun on the Run"; Brown Rice Pilaf; Asian Mixed Vegetables; Chilled Apricots

WED 1/27 — Roast Turkey w/Gravy; Tuna Salad w/Lettuce, Tomato and Crackers; Fresh NC Grown Baked; Sweet Potatoes; Seasoned Lima Beans; Chilled Pears

THU 1/28 — Ham & Cheese Sub on a Wheat Bun; Cheese Pizza; Pepperoni Pizza; "Fun on the Run"; Carrot & Celery Sticks; Steamed Broccoli; Vanilla Pudding

School Briefs



Phoenix Academy has first graduating class

Phoenix Academy High School celebrated its first graduates on Jan. 15, as Principal LaVerne Mattocks awarded diplomas to Marcus Juan Long and Tremayne Keith Hairston.

Prior to this school year, Phoenix Academy operated as a program rather than an independent school. The change to the school was accomplished over the summer. Previously, graduates received diplomas from their base high schools rather than from Phoenix.

Board of education meeting Thursday

The CHCCS Board of Education will meet Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. at Chapel Hill Town Hall. Options for high school honors courses and AP course offerings will be discussed. In December, the board of education considered options for offering additional

honors-level courses in the high schools. It became clear during the board meetings that additional input was needed to make a more informed decision about the options. Five options will be presented Thursday night. These options are described in depth on the board of education page at the CHCCS website at chccs.k12.nc.us

Cultural diversity at Smith Middle

Smith Middle School's ninth annual Cultural Performance Night will be Thursday, Jan. 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Chapel Hill High's Hanes Auditorium.

A \$1 donation (children under 5 get in free) will guarantee a seat and a chance to see children celebrate cultural diversity and compassion through dance, poetry, skits and more from around the world.

Contact Sally Merryman at 918-2145 ext. 21411 or Megan Webb at ext. 21999 for more information.

BRMA volunteers rewarded with Disney incentive

Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate is joining the HandsOn Network to encourage volunteerism through the "Give a Day. Get a Disney Day." program. New BRMA mentors and tutors are eligible to receive a free one-day, one-theme park ticket to Disneyland or Walt Disney World. Volunteers must make a full commitment to their BRMA role and meet all the registration guidelines of the HandsOn Network and Disney.

To find out more or to register to volunteer, visit handsonnetwork.org/disney



Day of Service – Malika Rauf of East Chapel Hill High spent Martin Luther King Jr. Day cleaning up the Lincoln Center. BY BETH MECHUM

SCHOOL FROM PAGE 1

"One of the challenges is that education is not the primary reason the kids are in your school," said Principal Flicka Bateman, who has spent her career working in hospital-school environments, including 13 years in her current position. "As important as school is, it is secondary to the medical needs."

Often that means lessons are scheduled and rescheduled around medical procedures, physical therapy and a student's energy level that particular day. This balancing act often leaves Weatherly asking, "Do I push this kid today? Or do I say, 'This kid needs to rest today.'"

Weatherly has been at the school for 10 years and, like all of the school's teachers, has a spe-

cial-education degree. She and five other teachers make up the school's pediatrics department, while another five work in psychiatry. The two departments, while sharing a principal, media specialist and other faculty, operate differently in order to best meet the needs – both academically and medically – of their students.

In pediatrics, teachers are assigned to a particular medical department, such as oncology, burns or, in Weatherly's case, nephrology. Teachers work with students in that department regardless of what grade they are in. Sometimes, as in Nakeizha's case, teachers will have the same students off and on for years; other times they may only see them for a few days.

Depending on a student's mobility, teachers may lead bedside lessons or bring students to the pediatrics' classroom – a cheer-

ful room with large windows and just a few desks. Nearby is a media center and a preschool room that resembles many kindergarten classes across the state.

"We want to do as much as we can to normalize their experience while they're here," Weatherly said. "It's one thing to be a kid these days; but these kids, on top of everything else, have a chronic medical illness."

A positive environment

A few floors down in psychiatry, students are split into classes according to their ages. The teachers here try to emulate a structured classroom routine, and because these children have often had negative experiences in school, the goal is creating a positive environment.

"A main focus of what we do is working on their behavior," said teacher Elin Nagel, who works in the psychiatry primary class. "You

really see a tremendous amount of change in a short amount of time."

Nagel has worked in the psychiatry class for eight years and finds the work incredibly rewarding, if challenging at times. Teachers often run the risk of burn out after years of hearing difficult and heartbreaking stories from families, but Nagel has learned how to cope with them and still continue to do a job she loves. "In order to be helpful, you have to keep your distance," she said. "You have to keep good boundaries."

Since students are limited to the hospital building, the school works with other organizations to bring the wider world to them. Through partnerships with the N.C. Museum of History and the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, students participate in online fieldtrips several times a month. A program called Heal-

ing and Hope Through Science brings a science teacher to the hospital to lead hands-on experiments each week.

The average length of stay for a Hospital School student is nine days, which means teachers are constantly meeting new students, coordinating with home schools and coming up with lessons at the spur of the moment.

"It has its pluses and its minuses," said Bateman of the school's student turnover rate. "You certainly don't want kids to stay so you can feel gratified in working with them ... but sometimes by the time you figure out a strategy that will work, the child leaves."

Some families come prepared with books, assignments and homework. For others, contacting a school about makeup assignments is the furthest thing from their minds. It's the job

of the Hospital School staff to make sure the needs of all those students are met equally well, and it's something for which many parents – and students – are grateful for.

For students such as Nakeizha, who know the hospital routines and staff as well as those of their home school, the hospital school offers an additional support system and opportunities to feel successful and hopeful.

Hopeful is a word to describe Nakeizha and her team of doctors this week. After a year on the transplant list, Nakeizha received a new kidney last Wednesday, meaning her future may include less time at the hospital and more time with her peers. While she recovers from surgery, Nakeizha can expect daily visits from Weatherly, reminding her that school is part of being a kid – even a kid with a new kidney.



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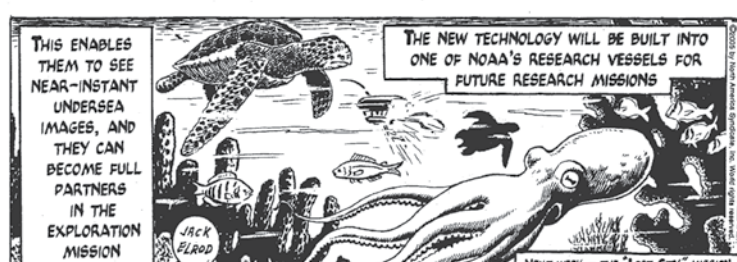
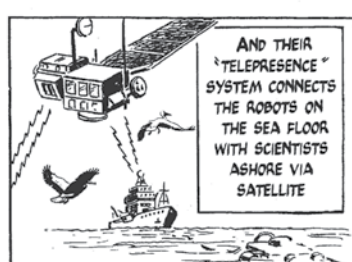
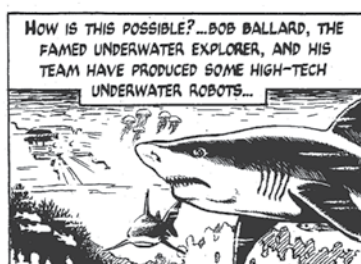
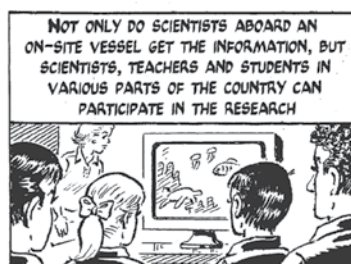
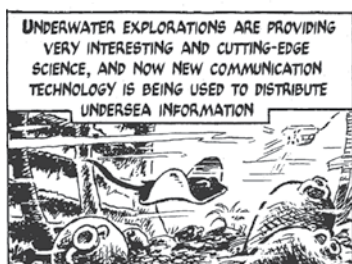
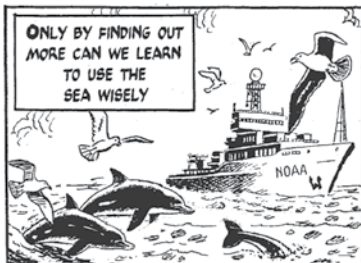
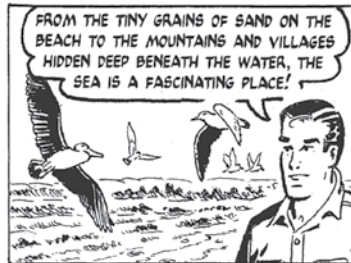
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PHOTO BY BETH MECHUM

Marchers round the corner of Franklin Street and head to First Baptist Church as part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day festivities in Carrboro and Chapel Hill.

MLK

FROM PAGE 1

The mayors of Carrboro and Chapel Hill, Mark Chilton and Mark Kleinschmidt, extended greetings from their respective towns.

"How great it is to be part of a community that can pause to recognize this momentous occasion," Kleinschmidt said.

Ashley Osment received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award for her work as a community activist in Chapel Hill, and Timothy Tyson was on hand to give the keynote address. Tyson is a research scholar at Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies and author of *Blood Done Sign My Name*.

Tyson's reminded the audience that though King became the face of the civil rights movement, it was Southern black communities that were the backbone of change.

Tyson called attention to members of the community who don't have a day named after them, like the sit-in lead-

ers, the educators in the school system and even Rosa Parks and the work she did before she became known as the woman who wouldn't sit in the back of the bus.

"We are honoring Dr. King because he is a symbol of that movement," he said.

Tyson ended his speech with a call to rid North Carolina of neighborhood schools because, he said, they lead to unjust segregation and severely hindered those on the low end of the socioeconomic spectrum.

"Segregation was never about water fountains," he said. "It was about teaching black students they were 'less than.'"

Many of the students in attendance made their way to the Lincoln Center after the speech to help in a cleanup effort.

East Chapel Hill student Malika Rauf was one of those who spent a day off of school giving back to her community

"I decided to come out here today because it is important to volunteer, because it shows we care about the community and are making a difference," Rauf said.

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Rescued Fraser firs highlight Willow Hill welcome bunny.

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

so many creative uses on the home grounds for these trees, there is no sense discarding them curbside, making more work for public-works crews.

Once again, Diana Steele gets the annual "Citizens' Award for Creative Orphaned Christmas Trees Recycling." Not only do these trees provide instant dramatic landscape effect throughout her garden, but before dozens of them ever make the journey down to become woodland brush-pile wildlife habitats, the kids in her preschool move them around and, like budding architects, make tree fortresses, tree castles and even giant bird nests for their creative energies to explore for weeks on end.

So begin planning now on ways you will keep your Christmas tree on your home turf next year!

FLORA FROM PAGE 1

Just about everyone who enjoyed an indoor tree this past holiday season had a tree cut from one of those tree farms. With the holidays past, those trees are discarded along curbsides into February. Though we are fortunate to have curbside pick-up for landfill composting, it's sad that we don't offer each tree a more reverent appreciation by extending its beauty and usefulness outdoors on the home turf.

I want to stop and rescue every curbside discard, take it back and stand it upright in my yard, where it will continue to remain green for many more weeks.

Sited near bird feed-

ers, the trees become excellent shelter and approach perches for birds. Simply set upright in the ground, they provide evergreen elements all around the garden and home landscape for several more months. After the visual landscape effects are past, the branches can be cut and applied as mulch around trees, shrubs and on garden beds. There are



Willow Hill preschoolers celebrate their Fraser fir creation.
PHOTO BY DIANA STEELE



Bill and Ruth Crabtree, 1945

Well, you can see why Ruth fell for the dashing seaman in his Navy uniform — and Bill for Ruth, with her winning smile and flashing eyes. Bill, 90, says he won her in his Navy uniform — and that may be so. But winning is one thing; making it last is another. On Tuesday, Bill and Ruth Crabtree of Damascus Church Road outside of Carrboro celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary, and they still have the secret of maintaining a long marriage — uniform or not.



A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER

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