

Friday
Partly Cloudy
55/39

Saturday
Clear
57/31

Sunday
Clear
58/39



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE
Tiny speedwells blooming now in local yards

Splendor in the grass

FLORA

By Ken Moore

I'm lucky to live where neighbors have not legislated against hanging laundry out to air dry. In addition to saving electricity and having sun-fresh clothes, I soak up some natural Vitamin D and have the opportunity to enjoy the late February blooming yard.

Many of you have a blooming yard, but you may move over it too quickly to enjoy the diversity of flowers scattered there. But if you have one of those deliberate lawns of turf grass — severely maintained with fertilizers, herbicides and copious amounts of water — you will not have a blooming yard.

To have a blooming yard, you must set about to maintain a "freedom lawn." Such a lawn is not really too much of a challenge to create and maintain. To succeed, all you have to do is nothing. Your yard will become filled with all sorts of volunteer plants that produce flowers during the growing season. In flower now is an assortment of winter annuals that begin growing in the late fall and burst forth with flowers in early February. February and March snows and ice storms merely provide an extra blanket of warmth from freezing temperatures. Flowering close down on the ground seems to be an advantage during typical cold weather.

You may have to get down on hands and knees to conduct some "belly-button botany" observations to appreciate the floral display. One of my favorites is the lowly common chickweed, *Stellaria media*. This bane of the lawn perfectionist can shine up at you like hundreds of little bright stars speckled across a bed of pale-green chickweed foliage. Close observation of the tiny quarter-inch diameter flowers will reveal five pure white petals that are split like rabbit ears, appearing to be ten petals. Gently pull one double petal away from the flower to enjoy

SEE FLORA PAGE 7

Cheating scandal rocks high school

By Susan Dickson
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill High School Principal Jackie Ellis said school officials are investigating a cheating incident that students say involved a stolen master key and that dates back several years.

Four Chapel Hill High School students will be suspended and receive zeros on mid-term exams as a result of an incident in which a student took pictures of exam answers on a camera phone and emailed them to other students. While investigating the incident, Ellis said students told officials about a master key to the school that was stolen a number of years ago.

"When one cheating incident was uncovered, a tip led to others with master keys," Ellis said. School officials do not know the last time students used the key, but the cheating incident was discovered last week.

"We have a couple of students who we 100-percent-certain know had access to the building with a master key," Ellis said, adding that school officials are investigating allegations that more students were involved and had keys. According to Ellis, students have said the key was stolen several years ago and has been passed down as students graduated. She said officials might approach graduates regarding the allegations.

According to Stephanie Knott, assistant superintendent for community relations with Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, the school district is treating it as an isolated incident because they lack evidence that more students were involved.

The district held a press conference about the incident Tuesday afternoon, but Knott was the only district official to attend.

"We're concerned about the reputation of the school, of the students, of the district," Knott said. "There are so many instances of students who perform so well, who do so many things, and they do it the right way."

Ellis said she did not know why these particular students felt the need to cheat, but she knows that there is pressure in the school's competitive environment.

"I know what the research says about high schools cheating. I know what the research says about the pressure of students doing well," she said. "We're in a society now that's highly competitive."

"Do I think that students feel pressure to get into the best, most competitive schools? Yes I do," she continued. "I would say that for the most part, I think kids opt to cheat to gain an advantage to do better."

Ellis said the response from the student body has been mixed.

"Some [of the students] are very angry. Some are very sad. It's been unfortunate that ... there's been a divide," Ellis said. "Part of the senior class, they feel that there is a negative reflection on their class and that people will remember their class as the class involved in the cheating incident with the master key."

Ellis said the school is required to notify colleges of any cheating if the schools request a final report on students at the end of the school year.

SEE CHEATING PAGE 8

Teens take charge



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

Students, most of them from Cissy O'Neal's ninth grade social studies class at McDougle Middle School, took up the temporary roles of mayor, members of the board of aldermen and concerned citizens offering their opinions to the board at the annual Town Hall Day for Teens Monday at Town Hall. Wendell Rogers, the recreation supervisor with the town's Recreation and Parks Department, who helped organize the event, said he was impressed with the amount of thought and preparation the young people put into the meeting. Town Manager Steve Stewart said he thoroughly enjoyed the discussion,

the student's thoughtfulness and their interest in local government. In the photo above, Mayor Anne Myers (brightly colored hair, in the middle) and Aldermen Alex Savelli, Chris Rupert, Elizabeth Wilkes, Amelia Riely, William Hutchison and Manoj Paladugu hear a presentation on a proposed new town teen center. Other items on the agenda for the evening included housing for the homeless, sidewalks and bike lanes for Davie Road and/or James Street and, in a demonstration that the students have been paying close attention lately, a proposed new parking lot for downtown.

Buckhorn Village plan draws praise, ire

By Susan Dickson
Staff Writer

County residents were both strongly opposed to and in support of the proposed Buckhorn Village development at a packed Board of County Commissioners public hearing Monday night.

Several residents who live close to the site of the planned development, which is near I-85 and Buckhorn Road at the site of the Buckhorn Flea Market, said they were concerned the development would drive up their property taxes and they wouldn't be able to sell their homes.

"This development is going to be detrimental to my property," said Debra Elmore, a Buckhorn Road resident. "Nobody's going to want to buy my land because it's sitting right beside a mall."

"This township where we're located has always been like the stepchild of Orange County," she continued. "All of sudden, these developers are coming in and we're like the golden child."

"People's lives are going to change in this community."

Others said the development could bring in much-needed sales tax revenue.

"The project will bring more

revenue that can fund a lot of school teachers," said Bill Bunch, chair of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, adding that the project's developers are locally based and will work to attract local businesses.

Developers and county officials have said the development could bring in sales tax revenue and curb property tax increases. According to county Planning Director Craig Benedict, while county residents lead the state in per capita retail dollars spent, 53 percent of those dollars are spent outside the county.

SEE BUCKHORN PAGE 3

Board approves Roberson Square

By Kirk Ross
Staff Writer

After a long negotiation over parking, a five-story condominium, office and retail project on South Greensboro street won approval Tuesday night from the Carrboro Board of Aldermen.

Construction could begin as early as this summer for the 91,575-square-foot Roberson Square project on the site of the old Andrews-Riggsbee hardware store.

The parking issue had been a main hitch in the plans. Efforts by developer Darcon of NC, represented by architect David Ripperton, to reduce the number of spaces were met with strong opposition from downtown businesses and nearby residents.

In the end, Ripperton and the town agreed on a plan that would prohibit the building from housing a restaurant. Having a restaurant would have required Roberson Square to provide 104 parking spaces. Instead, the building will be configured with three floors of condos — a total of 18 units — and two floors of office and retail space.

Under the town's affordable housing rules, three of the condos will be sold in conjunction with the Orange County Land Trust.

The majority of parking will be underground in a 65-space garage, but the board Tuesday agreed to count an additional seven on-street parking spaces along Carr Street toward the parking goal.

Eliminating the restaurant reduced the number of parking spaces required from 104 to 76 and Ripperton asked that the board again consider eight spaces being built along Roberson Street in the parking-space total. That, the underground garage and the seven new spaces on Carr Street should suffice to meet the goal, he argued. The board had been reluctant in the past to do so since those spaces are already part of the downtown-parking inventory, but agreed to certify the project as meeting the parking goal, clearing the way for final approval.

Ripperton said Wednesday that it will take some time to complete the final construction drawings, but that construction could start in the summer and the project could be well under way by late in the year.

He told the board Tuesday night that the building's design, which includes a number of setbacks, archways, an interior courtyard and other features will be a challenge to construct.



RENDERING COURTESY OF DAVID RIPPERTON
Roberson Square viewed from Carr Street.

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INSIDE

Next Week:

Realtors are noting a slowdown and homebuilders are feeling the crunch. How the nation's housing and credit woes are playing out in Orange and Chatham counties.

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Following her heart after saving one

RECENTLY...
By Valerie Schwartz

When, in the summer of 2004, Maggi Grace learned that the life of her uninsured partner of one year depended upon heart surgery that would cost \$200,000, she responded with both reactions to the fight-or-flight response.

When fighting with the medical community didn't work (her logical approach resulted in cold negative responses), she quickly moved to Plan B provided by her eldest son, Bryan, then a medical student at Stanford University — she looked to India.

SEE RECENTLY PAGE 2



PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ
Maggi Grace, in her Carrboro studio, has truly found her way in the world.

RECENTLY FROM PAGE 1

Within two months of the diagnosis, they arrived in New Delhi, where the surgeries (it turned out that two were required), care and one month's stay were provided for less than \$10,000.

Grace didn't know that she had done anything more than save her man until the worldwide media (among them, CNN, Bloomberg Magazine, 60 Minutes, The Washington Post, AARP) began clamoring to interview this first couple from the United States to take such a pilgrimage.

Two months after they returned home, Grace began to write the book about their experience that was published last year as *State of the Heart* (New Harbinger Publications, 2007).

Her dream of becoming a published author was coming true at long last.

But before the book was released, the relationship ended, leaving her with a book to promote that featured a relationship from which she needed to heal. She soon learned that talking about it, like ripping bandages from a healing wound, hurt a lot, but promoted true, deep healing.

Grace, a Carrboro artist, who teaches painting and poetry in her home through The ArtsCenter, is a study in life's metaphors.

"When I finish a painting, I cover it so it dries slowly," Grace said of her own curing process. "It's been very hard, but it's a good kind of healing."

Through email and on the book-selling circuit, she has heard the stories of countless Americans who faced serious health issues with no insurance. In some instances, remaining loved ones shared stories, but the book has given new hope to people wrestling with the issues.

"It's been wonderful to hear the audiences' take on the health care system," Grace said. "The public reception has been very gracious."

The book, like its writer, delivers information with genuine warmth and rich details. The reviews have been excellent.

"I've been connected to the world in such a way it makes the world feel more accessible to me," she said as she told of a woman who attended a reading in Florida fresh off a plane from India. "She was best friends with the doctor who did the surgery and stayed after the reading to talk to me."

As the advocate of the patient, Grace made decisions when he could not, and saw the well-oiled machinery of the Indian hospital. She has been the spokesperson since it all started and was the one who received the calls after stories were released — from others with health concerns and from those looking to turn medical tourism into a business. After saying no to many who asked, late last year she said yes to a job with a New York-based company, One World United, which has an Indian subsidiary called Best Med Journeys (bestmedjourneys.com) that has simplified the process for Americans traveling to India for the medical care they require.

On her most recent (and fourth) trip to India, Grace spent time with the owner of the company and knows he is more dedicated to simplifying the process for people in this situation than in capitalizing on their hardship.

Her title hasn't changed, but now she delivers keynote speeches and PowerPoint presentations and wears a Blackberry.

"I have joined them as the 'patient advocate' so that I can communicate with perspective patients and answer their questions to be sure communication flows smoothly," Grace said. She appreciates that the path will be easier for those following behind her.

"India has a part of my heart there. It ripped a piece out — and it's OK — it didn't take anything away from me, it multiplied me," she said.

"When I land there and feel the air, it feels like coming home."

Grace reads from her book and answers questions at 3:30 p.m. March 21 at the Chapel Hill Public Library.

Contact Valarie Schwartz at 923-3746 or valariekeys@mac.com

Community Briefs

Seeking artists

The Orange County Arts Commission seeks applicants for a public art project at the Robert and Pearl Seymour Center.

The project is open to all artists living in North Carolina, working in any media. Artist teams are eligible to apply, including teams of artists from multiple disciplines. Orange County artists are encouraged to apply.

The project's budget is \$10,000 and includes all costs associated with the project,

including artist's design fee, travel, materials, fabrication costs, documentation, transportation and installation of the work.

Applications must be post-marked by April 1. For more information, visit www.art-sorange.org.

Boulder champ

Culbreth Middle School student Calvin Wagner placed second in the nation at the American Boulder Series Championship in the Male Youth C category for ages 12-

13. Calvin earned a spot on the national team as a result of his



Calvin Wagner took bouldering silver in Boulder.

performance in the competition, which was held in Boulder, Colo.

Seeking gardeners

The Orange County Partnership for Young Children is sponsoring the community gardens in Carrboro and seeking volunteers, preferably families with young children, to apply for gardening space. Support is provided and gardeners can take on space at the Martin Luther King Park garden and the Carrboro Elementary garden. Applications can be found at www.orangecountystart.org. For more information, call 967-9091.

Community Calendar

Special Events

North Carolina Environment Justice Network Quarterly Summit Meeting

— will be held at the Faith Tabernacle Oasis of Love Church on Saturday, March 1 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. with speakers discussing landfill issues, water and sewage issues and the concerns of Smithfield Foods workers.

1st Annual Collectors Fair

hosted by the Town of Carrboro and the N.C. Recreation and Parks Department. Sat, Feb 23, 9am-3pm. Century Center, 100 N Greensboro St. Collectible items such as coins, stamps, trading cards, comic books, dolls, toys & more will be on hand. Vendor booths available for \$25-\$35. Call Brendan Moore at 918-7392 or visit townofcarrboro.org for more info.

Lunchbox Concert Series

— Thursdays through Mar 6. Bring lunch to the Century Center and hear live music from noon to 1pm. Free coffee provided by Open Eye Café. 100 N Greensboro St. Call 918-7392 or visit townofcarrboro.com/rp/cc.htm for more info.

Carolina Mountain Dulcimer Players

will meet at 7pm, Thu, Feb 21. Carol Woods Retirement Community, 750 Weaver Dairy Rd. Beginners & experts are welcome. Call 929-5359 or e-mail ShirleyRay@aol.com for more info.

Thoughts on Reentry: American Politics After Returning From Syria

— Lecture by Sarah Shields, Ph.D. Sun, Mar 2, 11am. The ArtsCenter, 300-G E Main St. Hosted by The North Carolina Society for Ethical Culture. Free and open to the public.

Monitoring Civil Rights on the Ground

— screening of footage by local videographer of UNC students supporting citizens of Jena, La., during the town's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration and discussion of local civil rights issues. Wed, Feb 21, 7pm. Chapel Hill Town Hall, 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Hosted by the Orange County Bill of Rights Defense Committee. Open to all.

Volunteers

Meals on Wheels — Seeks volunteers to deliver meals and/or bake

simple desserts for recipients in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro area. For more info, call 942-2948.

Goathouse Cat Refuge

— Seeks volunteers to help with rescued cats & kittens. For more info, call Bonny at 545-2825 or email her at brooze@embargmail.com.

English as a Second Language Conversation Club

seeks volunteers to talk with groups of international students Fridays from 11:30am-1:30pm. University Methodist Church on Franklin Street. Call 967-1448 or email harwellja@bellsouth.net.

Kids

Toddler Time — At the Carrboro Branch Library. Every Thursday at 4pm. For more info, call 969-3006.

Preschool Story Time

— At the Carrboro Branch Library. Every Saturday at 10:30am. All preschoolers are invited to this free program. For more info, call 969-3006.

ComedySportz 4 Kidz

— Games & improv for the 12 & under crowd. Saturdays, 5pm. \$10, students \$8, kids under 5 \$5. DSI Comedy Theater, 200 N Greensboro St, Ste B-11, Carr Mill Mall, Carrboro, 338-8150. www.dsicomedytheater.com.

Express Yourself!

— Art program for ages 3-8 & their caregivers. Weekly art projects for children & adults to explore their own creative paths; registration requested. Saturdays, 10:45-11:15 & 11:30am-noon. \$2. Kidzu Children's Museum, 105 E Franklin St, Chapel Hill. 933-1455. www.kidzuchildrensmuseum.org.

Health & Wellness

Community Grief Support Group

— offered by UNC Hospitals' Bereavement Support Services. Group will focus on sharing and moving toward healing in a safe, supportive setting. Mondays through Mar 10, 6:30-8pm. United Church of Chapel Hill, 1321 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Free and open to anyone, regardless of faith background. To enroll, contact Heidi Gessner at 966-0716 or hgessner@unch.unc.edu.

Living with Advanced/Metastatic Cancer

— A bi-weekly support group. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month, 3:30-

5pm. Drop-in, no charge. Cornucopia House Cancer Support Center, 111 Cloister Ct, Ste 220, Chapel Hill. 401-9333. www.cornucopiahouse.org.

NAMI Family-To-Family Education Program

will host a series of 12 weekly classes for people who have family members with a serious mental illness. Classes offered in Chapel Hill. Contave Gove Elder, 967-5403. Classes begin Mar 4. Registration required. Email confidential inquiries to gbelder@bellsouth.net.

The Compassionate Friends:

Self-help support after the death of a child. Free and open to all adults grieving the loss of a child or sibling. Third Mondays, 7-8:30pm. Evergreen United Methodist Church. 11098 Highway 15-501. Call Julie Coleman at 967-3221 or visit www.chapelhillctf.org.

Museums

Planetarium & Digital Theater Shows

— Science LIVE Demos. Ongoing. Morehead Planetarium, 250 E Franklin St, Chapel Hill. Info hotline 549-6863, office 962-1236, tickets 843-7997. Thu-Sat 10am-5pm, 6:30-9:15pm. Tickets \$5.25; \$4.25 seniors, students & children. For more info, visit www.moreheadplanetarium.org.

A Nursery of Patriotism:

The University at War, 1861-1945. Exhibit on war's historic impact on UNC-Chapel Hill. In the Manuscripts Dept (4th floor), Wilson Library, UNC campus, through Feb 29. www.lib.unc.edu/spotlight/universityatwar.html.

Films

We Shall Not be Moved:

A History of the Tillery Resettlement (2007) — A history of the New Deal resettlement community of Tillery, N.C. from slavery to present through archival film and video footage, historical photographs and narratives by Tillery's elders. Thu, Feb 21, 7pm. Free and open to the public. Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History. 150 South Rd, UNC campus. Call 962-9001 for more info.

Dance

Havana Nights — Cuban Salsa. 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 10pm. Mansion 462, 462 W Franklin St, Chapel Hill, 967-7913. www.mansion462.net.

Salsa/Mambo

— 3rd Saturdays, lesson 8pm, dance 8:30-11pm. \$7. 358-4201. salsa_4u2@yahoo.com. Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 4702

Garrett Rd, Durham (Hillsborough).

Ballroom — Dancing. 4th & 5th Thursdays, 7-9:30pm. \$2. 933-8982. Seymour Senior Center, 2551 Homestead Rd, Chapel Hill, 968-2070.

Literary Discussion/ Open Mic

What Are These Graphic Novels I've Been Hearing So Much About? — A discussion led by Chapel Hill Comics owner Andrew Neal. Thu, Feb 28. Reception at 5pm, program at 5:45pm. Wilson Library, UNC campus. Call 962-4207 or e-mail liza_terll@unc.edu for more info. Free & open to the public.

Open Mic — For poetry, music & short fiction. Tuesdays at 7pm, Market Street Books & Maps, Southern Village, 610 Market St, Chapel Hill. 933-5111. www.marketstreetbooks.com.

Other

Public Art 360: A Symposium from Seven Perspectives

— a national convention to address the functional and aesthetic interaction among public art, profession design disciplines, private development and government. Registration for the April 11-12 symposium is \$60 before Feb 22, \$70 after Feb 22. Visit www.publicartcollaborative.org for more info.

VITA, a free tax assistance program for low- to middle-income clients runs through Apr. For enrollment requirements or more info visit www.co.orange.nc.us/ag-ing/VITA.asp.

Introduction to Buddhism.

Wednesdays through Mar 5, 7:30-9pm. Piedmont KTC Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Center: 35 Perkins Dr, Chapel Hill. Call 933-2138 or visit www.piedmontkctc.org for more info.

Weekly Peace Vigils. Fridays, 5-6pm. At the corner of Elliot Rd & E Franklin St. Call 942-2535 for info.

Learn to incorporate a solar hot water system

into construction projects and homes. Wed, Feb 27, 1-5pm. Central Carolina Community College, Pittsboro. Workshop presented by GreenPros LLC. \$60. Call 542-6495, ext 223 for registration info.

Got a Community Event you'd like us to know about?

Send your submissions to calendar@carrborocitizen.com

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PETS OF THE WEEK



APS OF ORANGE COUNTY — Hey, my name is Peaches. Just look at my sweet face! I am a 6-month-old beagle mix, I'm housebroken, I LOVE to play, (I am a puppy!) I love to chase rabbits, squirrels and leaves and I love to play with other dogs! Visit me today at Animal Protection Society of Orange County, 6311 Nicks Road, Mebane, or call 304-2300. You can also go online at www.animalprotectionsociety.org.



ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES — Meet Charlotte! She's a 5-year-old spayed orange tabby who is as sweet as they come! Charlotte came to Orange County's Shelter from Hendersonville, NC, when a private facility was ordered to close by the State's Department of Agriculture in January. Charlotte is definitely a lover, purrs nonstop when held and adores being petted. Don't miss out on this sweetheart! Stop by Orange County's Animal Shelter, 1081 MLK Jr. Blvd, Chapel Hill, or call 967-7383. You can also see her online at www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp.

News Briefs

School board member resigns

Orange County School Board member Dennis Whitling resigned last week following his arrest several days prior.

Whitling, 52, was charged with embezzlement, false pretense, obstruction of justice and corporate malfeasance. He had served on the school board for almost four years.

He is accused of stealing more than \$58,000 from the Durham law firm owned by Thomas J. Stevens, where he worked from 1984 to 2007. Whitling left the firm in 2007 to start his own business.

The board decided it would not fill Whitling's seat before the May election.

Hillsborough drought workshop

Orange County will hold an informational workshop about ways to cope with the drought for well water users in rural areas on March 5 at 7 p.m. at Stanback Middle School in Hillsborough.

Speakers will present an update and forecast on the drought situation, information about wells and water production in Piedmont North Carolina geology, how to use sustainable landscaping practices and other basic tips on conserving ground water.

For more information, contact David Stancil, environmental and resource conservation director, at 245-2590 or dstancil@co.orange.nc.us.

Youth charged in shooting

The Chapel Hill Police Department on Monday charged 17-year-old David Earl Ellis Jr. with attempted first-degree murder in the shooting of a 16-year-old victim.

Ellis is accused of shooting the victim on Johnson Street on Monday evening. He is being held in the Orange County jail under a \$200,000 secured bond and appeared in court in Hillsborough on Tuesday.

OWASA meets to discuss shortage

At its meeting tonight (Thursday), the OWASA board will discuss declaring a Stage Three Water Shortage, which would include additional restrictions and surcharges for water use. The meeting is at 7 p.m. at the Chapel Hill Town Hall and will be televised on local cable channel 18. Water reserves have steadily dwindled since last summer. Recent rainfall has not significantly raised lake levels and the current supply would last about five or six more months without further rainfall. OWASA staff recommended that the Stage Three Shortage be declared if lakes were at less than 45 percent capacity at the end of the month. They stand at about 40 percent now.

The board will also consider the use of Jordan Lake as a reservoir in the future, but it would be years before the necessary infrastructure could be built.

MLK resurfacing

Today (Thursday) a company hired by OWASA will repave part of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Chapel Hill where OWASA recently repaired a water main. The work is expected to last from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. but weather and other factors may affect the schedule. Only one lane will be closed at a time, but drivers are encouraged to use alternate routes. There is also expected to be some noise and dust created by the work.

Census jobs

The US Census Bureau is hiring census workers for Chatham County. About 300 workers are needed in the next three weeks and can earn from \$13.75 to \$15.25 per hour. Most of the available positions are part-time and temporary. Potential workers must take a basic skills test and agree to work about 20 hours a week. English and Spanish speakers are needed. For more information call 1-866-673-2008. The hearing impaired can call (704) 344-6114.

Woman completes 100 trips around the sun

By Kirk Ross
Staff Writer

Madeline Clara Smith spent the first part of her 100th birthday in a way any of us would have it.

"I've been on the phone all morning," she said in a voice that was surprisingly strong and unmistakably that of a true Mainer.

As the calls from family members kept rolling in, the Lewiston, Maine native spent that time on the phone in the comfy confines of her Covenant Place apartment, where she keeps an impressive variety of houseplants.

She is quick to answer one of the most standardized questions in journalism.

Q: How did you live to be 100?
A: Oh, how should I know?

Honestly, she said she never thought she'd live to see Feb. 21, 2008, and then rattled off the age of passing of siblings, parents and friends.



Madeline Smith jokes with fellow Covenant Place tenant Bettie Graham as Smith's 100th birthday celebration starts up.

She spent almost all of her years in Maine, where she had a career as a nurse. She moved to Covenant Place ten years ago to be close to her son Richard Smith-Overman, her daughter-in-law Patty and

their children. Most days she does some knitting.

"I knit blankets for the children's clinic in Yanceyville where my daughter-in-law works," she said.

Sitting on her walker, she said knitting is difficult at times — some of that due to problems seeing, but mostly because of arthritis. She held out her hands, and though most of her fingers were stiffened she demonstrated the agility that's allowed her to keep making blankets for the little ones. Other than that, no real complaints.

"I make out," she said.

Later, after being seated as the guest of honor at her birthday party, she told a gathering of fellow tenants and Covenant Place staff that they shouldn't have.

"I didn't know it was going to be like this," she said. "I was just going to have a cup of coffee."

Ten candles were lit around a cake that day and for the 100th time Madeline Smith was serenaded with "Happy Birthday."

Then, refusing any help in the endeavor, she slowly and deliberately blew out every last candle on the cake.

BUCKHORN FROM PAGE 1

According to the developers, if the project is approved they would break ground in mid-2010 and anticipate completion four or five years later. Roger Perry, president of East West Partners, the firm developing Buckhorn Village, said the project could bring in \$6 million a year in sales tax revenue.

The proposed development includes three individual development districts totaling nearly 130 acres, with a proposed maximum of about 1.1 million square feet of building space for the entire property. The first district, about 41 acres, would include no more than four large retailers with a total of 185,000 square feet.

The second district, about 40 acres with 522,000 square feet of buildings, would support mixed-use development including retail, office, restaurants, indoor theaters,

hotels, residential and other similar uses. The third district would be the development's largest district, with about 606,000 square feet on 48 acres. It would include large-scale retail development as well as possible mixed-use projects and an area for local government that would house police, fire or emergency services.

For the Buckhorn Road Associates to begin work on the development, the county must approve the proposed rezoning and special-use permit.

Ben Lloyd, a former county commissioner and a resident of Efland, said that the commissioners need the development in order to bring in additional revenue and curb property tax increases.

"This Buckhorn Village, I applaud. It's the first positive step in years relative to providing the needs for the people and giving us tax relief," he said. "Something has got to give somewhere. People are paying all they can pay."

Other county residents said they were concerned about the effects the mall could have on the county and encouraged the board to pursue other types of projects to bring in revenue and jobs.

"I am almost appalled that the future for Orange County is a mall. This is not why we live in Orange County. We would live in Charlotte or Cary," said Jim Stock. "I think that there is such a lack of leadership that people are being led by developers."

"With more PhDs per square foot that you can shake a stick at, this county ought to be able to come up with something beneficial for the future," he continued. "We can say no to this [development] I think."

The commissioners will discuss the proposed development at their regular meeting on March 6, and could take action as early as May 1. The Orange County Planning Board will provide recommendations to the board of commissioners throughout the review process.

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Tuesday — Mozzarella Sticks w/ Marinara Dipping Sauce; Turkey, Dressing & Gravy w/ Wheat Roll; Garden Peas, Fresh Orange

Wednesday — Cheese Pizza; Pepperoni Pizza; Ham & Cheese Melt; Green Beans; Chilled Fruit Cocktail; Chocolate Pudding

Thursday — Chicken Nuggets w/BBQ Sauce & Wheat Roll; Baked Potato w/wo Meat & Cheese w/ Wheat Roll; Broccoli Cuts; Fruited Gelatin

MIDDLE & HIGH

Friday — Beef & Cheese Nachos w/ Salsa; Fishwich; Sweet Yellow Corn; Chilled Peaches

Monday — Cheese Ravioli w/ Garlic Bread; Corn Dog; Green Beans; Chilled Apricots; Chocolate Pudding

Tuesday — Mozzarella Sticks w/ Marinara Dipping Sauce; Chicken Nuggets w/BBQ Sauce & Wheat Roll; Sweet Yellow Corn; Fresh Apple

Wednesday — Oven Baked BBQ Chicken w/ Wheat Roll; Double Cheeseburger w/ Lett & Tom; Collard Green; Tossed Salad w/ Dressing; Fruited Gelatin

Thursday — Cheese Quesadilla w/ Salsa; Pork Egg Roll; Spanish Rice; Green Peas; Fresh Orange



This week's lunch menu is sponsored by Club Z! In-Home Tutoring. See our ad this page.

School Briefs

New kindergartners

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools is now accepting registrations for kindergarten students for fall 2008.

Incoming kindergartners must turn five years old on or before October 16. All students entering kindergarten in the fall must have a physical exam prior to the first day of school. A physical exam any time during the year preceding the first day of school is acceptable.

To register, parents should bring: proof of district residency, including a current Orange County property tax bill, settlement statement, lease or rental agreement, unpaid Duke Power bill, OWASA or Public Service Gas bill; a certified copy of the child's birth certificate; immunization record; the child's Social Security number; and any custody arrangement documentation, if applicable.

Registration forms are available online at www2.chccs.k12.nc.us/registration or by mail by calling registrar Marlen Orio and leaving a name and address. In addition, parents can pick up registration forms at the Lincoln Center on Merritt Mill Road. Forms should be returned to the registrar at the Lincoln Center, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Orio at 967-8211, ext. 268 or orio@chccs.k12.nc.us. For preschool information and registration, contact Michelle Brewington at 918-2153, ext. 20291 or mbrewington@chccs.k12.nc.us.

Tiger Open

The Chapel Hill High School annual Tiger Open Golf Classic fundraiser will be held April 5 at the Challenge Golf Club in Graham.

The 18-hole scramble tournament will include novelty contests, a raffle, prizes and food.

Proceeds from the event will help fund a major upgrade of the school's

conference and state championship trophy display cabinets.

To register, contact Jim Williams at 270-8920. For corporate sponsorship opportunity information, contact Lynn Duffy at duffys4@bellsouth.net or 969-8554.

Special education night

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools will host an Exceptional Children District Parent Night, "Navigating the Special Education Process," on March 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Carolina Center for Educational Excellence on the Smith Middle School campus.

The program will feature three informational sessions, including:

- Becoming Your Child's Best and Most Effective Advocate;
- Planning for Transition from School to the Adult World; and
- Understanding the Referral Process and Eligibility Determination for Special Education.

Light refreshments will be served. Pre-registration is recommended and required by March 7 for childcare. To register or for more information, visit www.chccs.k12.nc.us or call Karen Patillo at 967-8211, ext. 234.

District takes awards

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools received several awards at the North Carolina School Public Relations Association's annual Blue Ribbon Awards for Excellence in Communication celebration in January.

The district received awards for four of its publications, including the 2005-06 Annual Report, the 2007-08 Parent Calendar and Handbook, the 2007-08 Study Skills Series and the 2007-08 Academy posters and informational brochures. The winning publications have been entered in the National School Public Relations Association's Golden Achievement Awards, which will be announced in July.

The NCSPPRA presented 99 awards to school systems across the state in its annual tribute to outstanding publica-

tions, marketing campaigns, electronic media, websites, photography and excellence in writing.

Teen workshops

The Drug and Alcohol Awareness Team and the Chapel Hill Police Department will sponsor workshops on parent education awareness of teen alcohol and drug issues.

CHPD crisis counselor Matt Sullivan will lead the workshops, which will provide information on how to keep teens safe from the harmful consequences of substance use. Sessions will be held at 7 p.m. on March 6 at Carrboro High School and on March 11 at Smith Middle School.

Both sessions will contain the same material, so parents should pick the date and location that is most convenient for them. The workshops are free and open to the public. For more information, call 942-3300 or email dalepratt-wilson@nc.rr.com.

Emerson benefit

Emerson Waldorf School will hold a benefit auction and dance for the school's annual fund on March 8 at 7 p.m. at the Barn at Valhalla on Charles Lane in Chapel Hill.

The event will feature entertainment by the Saludos Company band and food and drinks in addition to the auction.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door. For advance ticket purchases, more information or to make a donation of goods or services, contact Leigh Sparacino at 929-7688 or events@emersonwaldorf.org.

Woods Charter benefit

Car's Cradle will host a benefit for the Woods Charter School on March 14, featuring performances by Hobex, Great Big Gone and Lynn Blakey and Ecki Heins.

Tickets are \$10. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. for the 8 p.m. show.

New Morris principal

William Spagnardi, principal fellows intern at Seawell Elementary School, has been named assistant principal of Morris Grove Elementary.

Morris Grove will open in August. Six teachers have been named to the Morris Grove Elementary Planning Team. These include: Tina Mansfield, Lisa Frangipane, Kate Cook, Cheri Ensby, Katherine Andrews and Crystal Epps.

In addition, Kiley Brown, counseling intern at Forest Pines Elementary in Raleigh, has been named guidance counselor at Morris Grove. Angela Snider, family specialist at Glenwood Elementary, has been selected as Morris Grove's family specialist.

School concerts

It's the time of year when musical students come together to show what they can do. Chapel Hill-Carrboro school concerts coming up:

- The Carrboro High School Orchestra and Chorus Concert will be held on Sunday at 3 p.m. at Culbreth Middle School. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and free for Carrboro High students.

- The Elementary Choral Festival Concert will be held March 4 at 12:45 p.m. in Hanes Theater at Chapel Hill High School.

- The Chapel Hill High School Choral Program will present its Festival Concert on March 6 at 7:30 p.m. at Chapel Hill High. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for students under 18

- The Chapel Hill High School Tiger Band will present "Speakeasy," the 12th annual Jazz Dance, featuring the award-winning Tiger Jazz Ensemble, on March 8 at 7 p.m. at Chapel Hill High. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students in advance and \$15 for adults and \$7 for students at the door. For information, call 933-4726.

- And the Chapel Hill High School Band Festival Concert will be held March 11 at 7:30 p.m.



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CitizenCryptoquote

By Martin Brody

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

YDTB GBDGRB KYOBL TB NP NI EK Y JDNWJ ID
FB K LDEWBU ID XDTB FKXO KWL GRKA DW K
XRDRBIB IBKT, KPIBU GRKANWJ DW K EDURL
XZKTGNDWYZNG IBKT KWL N LDW'I IZWNW
IZBA SWLBUIKWL EZKI NI NY RNOB ID GRKA
ZBUB. - RDUUNB PKNU (SWX YDXXBU YIKU)

Answer appears here in next issue

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★ ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

A PLUS

ACROSS	1 Buddy	4 Verne hero	8 Cantata composer	12 Goo	17 _____ corny as Kansas."	19 Orenburg's river	20 Literary pseudonym	21 Like Schoenberg's music	22 Like Felix Unger?	25 Act like Holmes	26 "Card" ('90 film)	27 Comic Orson	28 Bungle	30 Sweater letter	31 On the nose	34 Skinny novelist?	39 Get on	40 Rocker Tom	41 Curly coil	42 Saving Private Ryan" extras	48 Mollo or Magnani	47 Peagae's Peter	49 Offer an apple?	52 Pinnacle	54 Dawns. to Donne	56 Coarse flour	58 "On My Pillow" ('58 song)	60 Stiller's partner	62 Tread the boards	63 Man from Munich	65 Ponderosa, for one	68 Mrs. Zeus	71 Mineral suffix	72 Sgt., e.g.	73 Gamble	75 Extremely encouraging	79 "Kitten" comment	80 Sharpston and	81 Hockey great	82 A sweeping success?	83 Calliope's sister	85 '66 Tommy Roe tune	88 Merino male	90 Shiva	93 Throw	94 The "Flamoyana" heroine	97 Actress Samantha	100 Jury member	101 Economize	103 Calligraphy supply	105 Land in the sea	106 Longing	107 Jets, Mets, or Nets	109 Release	111 Hideaway	114 Dishonest anchorman?	118 New Jersey's Pine —	121 Port. abbr.	122 Director	123 "Dies —"	125 Be of use	130 Corrupt college official?	135 Acid's opposite	136 Bronte	137 Ice-cream thickener	138 Writer Hunter	139 June birthstone	140 Paper quantity	141 Slimk	142 Prior to, to Prior	DOWN	1 BB-gun sound	2 "That's —"	3 Paint ingredient	4 Lots of laughs	5 Part of NATO	6 Hayes of westerns	7 Crafter's need	8 Publisher	9 Ginger —	10 Security grp.	11 Condit's stand	12 Canonized	13 King's "Salem's —"	14 Motionless	15 "Man" ('78 song)	16 Singer John	18 Farm sight	21 Direction-less	23 Native Peruvian	24 Yam	29 Singer Chris	32 Soho streetcar	33 Carson's successor	35 Particle	36 AMEX rival	37 Scacchi of "The Player"	38 Seascape painter	40 Cisco's chum	42 Pin	43 The — Capades	44 Einstein's chair?	46 New Deal	48 agoy	49 Convent wear	50 Dentist's fee?	51 Vestige	53 Geologic division	55 Cook	57 Veggie	58 Make chair legs	59 Chilly powder?	61 Social worker?	64 Swerve	66 Word with pork or karate	67 Toast start	69 Dietary abbr.	70 TV's "Hearts" —	73 Big party	74 Cary of "The Princess Bride"	76 Bit of a beach?	77 Leisured, Leoncavallo	78 Team	84 Palm oil?	86 Lloyd Webber musical	87 Principle	89 Booker T.'s group	91 Billy — Williams	92 Fancy planter	95 Slope	96 Cain's victim	98 — breve	99 Bring up	102 Gauguin setting	104 Feminist Gloria	108 Pie ingredient?	110 Greek sandwich	112 Neighbor of Turkey	113 Variety show	114 Tight	115 Actress Berry	116 Stozak or Alexander	117 Consumer advocate	69 Flapj	118 Stocking shade	119 Creduious	120 Indian instrument	124 Way over yonder	126 Director Adrian	128 Roller-coaster unit	129 Under the weather	131 Hook's mate	132 Southern constellation	133 Scottish refusal	134 Annoy
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8TH GRADE

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Eric Anderson, Matthew Arena, Rachel Baker, Holly Bard, Alexey

AB Honor Roll List:

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SPORTS

By Frank Heath
Sports Columnist

Where does one start, with so much happening in this quickly dwindling UNC and ACC basketball season? Any other year, the spectacle of Carolina's relentless forward Tyler Hansbrough waving as he passes so many legendary names in the basketball record books would be the story of the season. A week ago Hansbrough was leaving Bobby Jones, Mike O'Koren and Walter Davis in his rear view; now he's 20 points behind Antawn Jamison's career scoring number. And the way Tyler's been scoring lately, he could pass Antawn in the first half this Saturday against Boston College! But Hansbrough will be the first to remind anyone that it's all about winning, above any of that, so we must move on.

In sports, one of the most important things a team can possess or learn is the capacity for endurance. Because, as Brad Daugherty puts it, above all else "you gotta sustain." Well, in clawing back from what, on February 8, following their lackluster loss to Duke, looked like potentially a dire and deteriorating situation, the Tar Heels have somehow found, or gained, just that quality.

Three weeks ago, UNC was down to third-string point guard Quentin Thomas, the little-used senior whose unpredictability has often caused Carolina fans to cov-

er their eyes in worry during his short substitute stints. In the ACC race, the Heels were two games behind Duke, where Coach K seemed to have concocted another of his black magic brews, coaxing the Devils along on an undefeated run through the first half of the league schedule.

And even before UNC's loss to Duke and Lawson's injury, things really had not seemed to be "clicking," at least not on a level corresponding to Carolina's potential and combined skill levels on offense and especially defense.

But a funny thing happened about midway through what was beginning to look like Carolina's first-ever loss at home to Clemson: The Tar Heels seemed to stop throwing their hands up about their situation, and, in essence, grew up. At least that's what it looked like.

The comeback against Clemson was most striking for the way in which Carolina went from being an at-times discombobulated group during the opening minutes — nearly collapsing beneath Clemson's defensive pressure — to, by the overtimes, exerting their will offensively and getting just the shots they wanted.

Since that miraculous save against the Tigers, UNC has played and won four ACC games in classic "Carolina Basketball" form.

Hansbrough has been nothing short of magnificent, with point

totals over the past nine games of 23, 32, 29, 35, 18, 22, 28, 39 and 23, and single-game rebound totals of 21, 18, 13 and 12, en route to averaging 13.7 boards. Tyler is shooting 57.8 percent from the floor and 80.5 percent from the foul line during that same stretch. Tack on his 14 steals over the past five games and you're talking about near-complete court domination.

But Carolina has had more than just the big guy's stats and leadership to lean on. Thomas, who had averaged barely a point for his career prior to Lawson's injury, has been one of the more pleasant surprises in recent memory. Over the past seven games, Thomas is averaging 6.6 assists and 7.4 points on 59 percent shooting from the field. Even more impressive has been the steadiness and leadership he shows on both ends of the court. If there were a "most improved" award, he would win it.

Wayne Ellington, after bottoming out with eight points against Duke, has put up scoring totals of 28, 19, 19, 21 and 17, and made 17-of-31 three-point attempts — with at least three made three-pointers in each of those games. His shot selection has become more focused — as has that of the entire team — and he exhibits a much more open confidence and focus with the ball in the open court and on the drive.

As a team, this UNC squad sits atop the NCAA in rebounding margin, with a plus-12 per game edge; ranks second nationally in scoring; is tied for seventh in free throws attempted; and is 12th overall in free-throw percentage. (On average, Carolina makes 20.1 foul shots in 26.6 attempts every game, a 75.7 percent clip.)

These are all huge advantages for any team to have, and are stats that can decide the direction a season turns. In totality, they point to the validity of one

statistic: North Carolina's 26-2 overall season record.

And while Carolina has reeled off these five straight victories, Duke reverted to some play more characteristic of its forgettable 2006-07 season, tanking in road losses against Wake Forest and Miami. Duke's lapses, combined with Carolina's developing resolve and focus on the tasks at hand, has UNC back to first place in the league, with the opportunity to determine its own path for the post season by winning its final three regular-season games.

Some may have concerns that the return of Tywon Lawson to the court could throw off these Heels' newly etched chemistry; but one has to remember that Lawson is one of the more unique and dangerous players ever to play college basketball. His North Carolina teammates have learned the

hard way that a team has to adjust and sacrifice some things in order to overcome obstacles. The fact remains, the players on this team all will be made better by Lawson's presence. A big part of UNC's improvement during the past three weeks can be seen as the culmination of a lot of hard work by all of the players, and they are now in position to capitalize even more fully with the return of a rested Lawson.

The Tar Heels cannot, obviously, rest at this point. But it appears this team has finally grown to understand that resting is not the point of basketball. Carolina travels to Boston College this Saturday, then tackles Florida State at home midweek before the final at Duke on March 8th. The Heels need to win these games, but now at least they see how they can do just that.

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A large number of the tickets for the dinner are distributed to people who might not otherwise be able to afford to attend. You can feed a family of four with a \$22 donation!

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY - Because there is limited seating for this event, tickets are only available in advance, so be sure to get your tickets before we sell out.

The Community Dinner is not a fundraising event, but rather an awareness raising event, designed to bring people from all walks of life together for an afternoon of great food and entertainment.

For more information visit www.communitydinner.org

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FOR THE RECORD

Live by the test scores . . .

There is palpable concern in the air about the reputation of Chapel Hill High School. It might be a good time in the midst of all the concern about tests and cheating to look for a moment at how we've judged that school, and all schools for that matter.

In short, there's been an emphasis on numbers and not so much on reading comprehension.

In 1999 for instance, a weekend real estate edition of *The Wall Street Journal* contained a chart — one of those little snapshot info boxes — from an Ohio-based research firm. Using a combination of mainly SATs scores and percentage of students taking AP courses, the company named CHHS one the top ten schools in the U.S.

Not long after that, the school and the district were noting quite often that *The Wall Street Journal* itself had named Chapel Hill High one of the top ten in the country.

Folks at East Chapel Hill High, which hadn't been around long enough to make it to the Journal's chart, were miffed. But not long after, *Newsweek*, owned by the same corporate media giant that owns Kaplan testing, gave both schools high rankings based mainly on the number of students taking AP tests. (Kaplan, by the way, makes a good bit of its money by helping kids prepare for those tests.)

For its part, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools administration did a lot more student measuring and reporting and was fairly transparent about its struggles to reach all students. And even though disaggregated test scores pointed to trouble, the top ten label wasn't discarded.

Then the state followed the federal government in getting involved in measuring schools in a more comprehensive fashion. No Child Left Behind, the federal accountability program, has many, many flaws but it did serve to open more eyes to the work before us to live up to education ideals.

By many measures, Chapel Hill High has long deserved its reputation as providing one of the state's best high school educations. But it is far from perfect. No high school is.

And one of those imperfections, named by students on surveys again and again, is the high stress atmosphere that accompanies the growing reliance on tests and testing to measure student achievement.

The school administration is trying to put the situation in perspective, but in a region where the brand "Chapel Hill High" is highly regarded, the cheating scandal is likely to snowball. It's one of those "bigger they are/harder they fall" stories and the school community is trying to sort this out under intense and often simplistic media scrutiny.

Just like the athletes on a team disqualified because one of their teammates cheated, the rest of the student body at Chapel Hill High and its many proud graduates will be unfairly sullied.

It's unfortunate, but it's also a teachable moment for everyone involved. As this year began, Chapel Hill High's School Improvement Team recognized that the school needs to improve in the area of honor and integrity. And we have years of reports from students that they feel like they're in a testing pressure cooker.

As for the scandal in question, we don't know the specifics or even if reports that this behavior has gone on for a while are true or exaggerated.

The school and district administrations are promising to deal quickly with the issue. Let's hope that in their haste to get past this episode, they do not fail in fully examining the extent of the cheating and, perhaps even more importantly, the atmosphere that fueled it.



"SO, HOW DO YOU WANT TO SPEND OUR REBATE?... FILL OUR PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE MONTH, PAY THE LIGHT BILL OR BUY A TANK OF GAS FOR THE CAR? ..."

An open letter to Hidden Voices

FRANCESCA HYATT

[Editor's note: The following is an open letter to Hidden Voices and the participants of The ArtsCenter's production "Because We're Still Here (and Moving)."]

I was deeply moved by the performance this past Friday, and grateful that so many were willing to share their stories. Some of the stories were almost unbearably sad — stories of prejudice and fear, of meanness and ignorance. Some of the stories were beautiful — stories of family and tight-knit community, of providing for each other's needs, of inter-generational relationships. Some things I learned were alarming; I never understood so clearly until watching the performance how damaging integration policies were to the Northside community.

One element that I felt was missing in the performance was even a mention of the need for healing between the Caucasian population of Chapel Hill/Carrboro and the African-American community. I realize that the focus was on telling stories that might otherwise be forgotten, but if we only tell the story of oppression and the desire to overcome, we will continue to create a world where we are all battling for power instead of learning how live together. I'm not suggesting that this is the sentiment of those who were involved in the project — I'm sure that it's not. But I am wondering — what is the next step and how can I be involved?

The Hidden Voices brochure says that in Stage 3, at the per-

"Sometimes I feel paralyzed, aware that good intentions aren't nearly enough to bring healing to wounds that are older than the hills."

formances, "interested audience members will be prompted to choose one of several targeted actions as a means of addressing the issues raised by the show." I'm not sure if I missed this or if it didn't happen — but I don't think it's too late!

I am a Caucasian female and have been living in the Sunset neighborhood for six months. I realize that I am part of the change that is happening in this community, that I am here because I can afford to rent one of the new houses built on an empty lot where someone probably used to raise chickens and grow vegetables. It terrifies me to think that I might be contributing to the breaking apart of a community, when one of the main things I want in life is to live in a neighborhood where people look out for each other, where grandparents impart wisdom and kids can play freely outdoors.

I would love to sit with residents of the Northside neighborhood and hear more of their stories and ideas, and find out

what can be done to keep this community thriving. I would love to hear what my neighbors would like from me, an outsider. Sometimes I feel paralyzed, aware that good intentions aren't nearly enough to bring healing to wounds that are older than the hills. I have fears that whatever I do will be wrong, because I'm throwing my white privilege around and can never hope to fully understand the complex issues that are attached to an old community. So I'm asking — can I be part of the conversation? Can I be part of the healing?

Please, if it's possible to contact the individuals who gave interviews for this performance and find out if they would like to be part of a community-wide conversation about the issues raised in the performance, I would be thrilled.

Thank you again for the wonderful work you did putting this piece together. You stirred up a lot of questions and ideas, and I hope that something wonderful will come out of this.

Francesca Hyatt works at SEEDS Community Garden and lives in Carrboro.

LETTERS

Thanks, Ken

Though a Chapel Hill-ian, I have grown more and more fond of reading your weekly paper, *The Carrboro Citizen*. In recent weeks, I find myself eagerly awaiting the next installment of Ken Moore's "Flora" column. His appreciation for the natural world and eloquent expression make his columns a pleasure to read. Most recently I enjoyed a chuckle of recognition when Ken described his "panic" at the "constant assaults of springtime awakenings," as they prevented him from completing "well-intentioned chores and worthy projects set aside for the winter months." I thought I was the only one feeling that way each February! I am slowly becoming resigned to the fact that I live in a climate that beckons me outdoors all four seasons of the year, so those winter projects will continue to escape my attention.

Thank you to Ken Moore for reminding me of that fact and letting me know it's OK.

NILS BRUBAKER
Chapel Hill

Town should act

I was very dismayed to read about the bicycle accident suffered by musician Dave Laney. Particularly so, because I had just written to Mayor Chilton a few days ago about unregulated traffic in Carrboro. Aside from putting up with the speeders and the tailgaters, I have discovered that cars are not stopping as I attempt to go to and from the Century Center, within the crosswalk, at night. This was my second letter in a year, and I have received no reply. Interestingly, a recent letter to parks and recreation about children in the dog park, received immediate attention and response. Not only are human lives at stake here, but surely the town recognizes the potential liability of not enforcing the laws and regulations that it creates.

VIVIAN PHILLIPS
Carrboro

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Letters should be no more than 425 words in length and must be accompanied by the author's name, address and contact information. We will publish one letter per author per month. Typed letters are preferred and email even more so. That said, send your letters to:

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Carrboro, North Carolina 27510
EMAIL: editor@carrborocitizen.com
FAX: 919-942-2195

A series of problems

BY CHRIS FITZSIMON

The crisis in North Carolina's mental health system is center stage this week in the state's political debate, something long overdue considering the woeful performance of the system that is supposed to provide care for people with mental illness, a developmental disability or addiction.

The Raleigh *News & Observer* kicked off a five-part series Sunday about the ongoing problems with the 2001 mental health reform efforts under the bold banner headline "Reform wastes millions, enriches providers, fails to serve mentally ill."

All but two of the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor were scheduled to answer questions about mental health policy Monday before an audience of mental health advocates, patients and providers at the RBC Center in Raleigh.

More details about the candidates and their proposals, or lack of them, in a future Fitzsimon File and on the Progressive Pulse, the N.C. Policy Watch blog, but early presentations were less than reassuring, filled more with clichés and slogans than displays of meaningful understanding of the system's problems, much less solutions to them.

The first part of the *News & Observer* series included more disturbing revelations about a mental health system plagued by problems since the 2001 reform effort began.

Thirteen people have died since then from suicide or overdose shortly after leaving a state mental hospital, numbers that may have been reported before, but still raise serious questions about access to community services, hospital discharge policies and the lack of effective re-entry programs for patients.

The first installment of the series highlighted two new pieces of information: one the determination that the state has wasted \$400 million on one category of mental health services,

designed to help people with mental illness or a developmental disability with a variety of life skills, with the goal in many cases to help the patient live independently or with less-intensive care.

The state launched community support services in 2006 and expected it would cost \$5 million a month, according to the *News & Observer* report, but a year later the bill was more than \$90 million a month, prompting a state audit of a small sample of providers of community support services.

The audit concluded that more than a third of the services provided were not "medically necessary." The *News & Observer* extrapolated the numbers to come up with the \$400 million in waste and assigns much of the problem to a decision to pay companies \$61 an hour for services actually provided by employees with a high school diploma.

The state tried to lower the reimbursement rate to \$41 last year, which provoked a firestorm of protest, so the state compromised with the current figure of \$51 an hour. No one disagrees that providers shouldn't be charging high rates for services provided by low-wage workers, but the community support issue is more complicated than portrayed in the *News & Observer*.

The story includes anecdotes of workers taking patients to the mall or out for breakfast and charging the top rate. The rate is a legitimate issue, but helping people with mental illness or a disability shop for themselves or overcome their fear of interacting with other people in public is a legitimate service that must be part of treating people in their communities instead of in large institutions.

The story doesn't explicitly say the services shouldn't be provided, but many readers are likely to seize on the activity itself as waste, not the reimbursement rate.

There is no confusion over the startling claim by Gov. Mike Easley that his administration opposed the 2001 reform efforts, led by

Health and Human Services Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom, who Easley says "vigorously" opposed the plan in the General Assembly. That must certainly be news to state lawmakers and the media who covered the debate. The Sunday story quoted Easley from a December meeting with reporters, saying that reform "just happened sort of overnight in late October and we never thought they would do it."

That's troubling enough — that the governor of the state, with a huge staff monitoring the General Assembly every day, missed one of the biggest pieces of legislation in the last 20 years that directly affects the biggest department in his administration.

But whether Easley knew the reform effort was happening or not, he signed the legislation that created it. Signed it, not vetoed it, not held a press conference to condemn it, but signed it.

And as for Hooker Odom, who resigned last year, she was a fixture at the General Assembly and was involved in every step of process to craft the reform legislation. That might explain why she wrote an op-ed column in November 2001, just after Easley signed the bill, saying she had made "fixing the mental health system a top priority" and that "reform has been attempted many times, but this effort is going to succeed because the time is right."

Doesn't sound like very vigorous opposition. The newspaper series resumes Tuesday, so maybe we'll find out more about the governor who opposed reform but didn't tell anybody.

One thing Easley has done is unite politicians from both parties, judging from the presentations by candidates to mental health advocates Monday. To a person, every one agreed on the biggest problem with the state's mental health services — a lack of leadership. Hard to argue with that.

Chris Fitzsimon is director of N.C. Policy Watch. www.ncpolicywatch.com

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Recipe of the week

QUICK SPINACH SALAD WITH CARROT GINGER DRESSING

Recipe provided by Market Manager: Ben Horner

Ingredients

- 1 bag of spinach
 - 1 medium beet
 - 1 medium turnip
- Dressing:
- 1 large carrot
 - 1 tablespoon of freshly grated ginger
 - ½ tablespoon soy sauce
 - 1 tablespoon of rice vinegar
 - 2 tablespoons of sesame oil

Procedure

Wash spinach thoroughly and trim off unnecessary stems. Place spinach in large salad bowl. Peel the beet and grate overtop the spinach. Peel and thinly slice the turnip and add to the spinach salad. Set aside.

Dressing: Peel and roughly chop the carrot so that it can fit into a food processor. Peel and grate the ginger. Place all dressing ingredients into a food processor. Liquify. Serve overtop the salad.

*Total preparation time: 10 minutes

*Available at Market



Chickweed flower has five rabbit ear-like petals

FLORA FROM PAGE 1

the tiny white rabbit ears in the palm of your hand. I can't resist doing that!

Rather than curse the lowly chickweed, being a lazy, carefree gardener, I simply let this early-spring annual romp around on the yard and through garden beds. The tender foliage makes a tasty addition to salads and it is a treat relished by my two parakeets. By late spring, it's gone, out of sight, until the next winter.

My truly favorite of all the many early-spring yard flowers is the beautiful little speedwell, *Veronica persica*. Hundreds of blue

flowers greeted my downward glances as I was hanging out the laundry a couple of days ago. I never cease to be humbled by the clean beauty of this little quarter-inch-broad four-petal flower when examined at close range.

As did the common chickweed, the speedwell accompanied the Europeans to North America long ago. The speedwell has an herbal heritage as a beneficial diuretic tea that also aids blood purification. For me, the sheer beauty of the flower is reason enough to value underfoot in one's yard. Looking down on a warmish, sunny winter day to see dozens of them is to experience a "splendor in the grass."

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

IN SEASON



ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK

New farmers' market opens

The Orange County Farmers' Market opens for the first time on Saturday. The market is at The Public Market House at 120 East Margaret Lane, Hillsborough (behind the Sheriff's department).

Due to a dispute over who would manage the market, county government has created a leadership committee for the market. The county is recruiting

for the market's Interim Oversight Committee, which will review market operations and advise the market manager. Applicants may not sell or have a financial interest in products sold at the market. Anyone else can apply online at www.co.orange.nc.us or email athompson-rockett@co.orange.nc.us or call 245-2125 for more information.

L&T Briefs

Water talk

The Community Action Network will host "Water: The Cycle of Life: A Water Resources and the Future of Orange County Symposium," in which lecturers will present information on Orange County's water supply and quality.

The talks take place on Sunday March 9 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Southern Human Services Building on

Homestead Road in Chapel Hill.

Speakers include: Charles Daniel, presenting the results of the US Geological Survey study of the Orange County water supply; Rick Bolich of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources; Pat Davis, OWASA utility manager; and Tom Konsler, the county environmental health director, who will speak about wells and groundwater. For information, call 967-0683.

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MARK TRAIL

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BUT THERE'S NO GENETIC EVIDENCE THAT DOGS IN THE NEW WORLD WERE BREED WITH WOLVES

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CHEATING FROM PAGE 1

“Some teachers have revoked their recommendation letters,” Ellis said.

Lynn Lehman, a parent of a student at Chapel Hill High and vice president of the school’s Parent-Teacher-Student Association, said in an email response to inquiries from *The Citizen* that she hopes the school community will learn from the incident.

“Our community is competitive, and our students feel that,” Lehman said. “As seniors, they are experiencing probably the most conflicting time of their young lives. They are feeling like they have to have it all figured out. They want to please their parents. They want to be loyal to their friends. But we need to remember that they are still kids.”

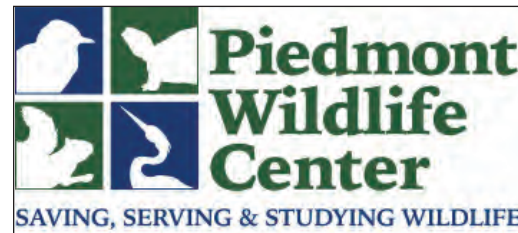
Lehman said she was concerned about the privacy of the students involved and the morale at the school.

“It is hard to improve the morale at the school when the TV camera

trucks are parking outside and the rumors are flying,” she said.

Ellis said students and teachers are discussing cheating and integrity in their homeroom classes and will discuss the incident in their English classes next week. She added that the school earlier this year formed an honor and integrity committee to develop plans to curb cheating at the school.

Student government requested an assembly to discuss the incident, but Ellis said she wants to wait until things settle down before meeting with the entire student body.



Come see what we've got going on this spring & summer!

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Lake Crabtree County Park in Morrisville

1-mile Fun Run at 8:30 5K Run at 9:00

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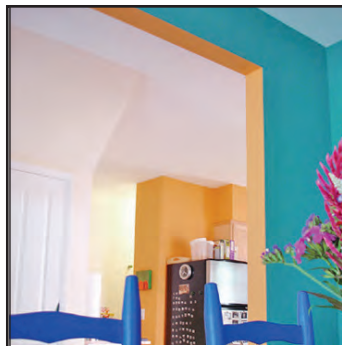
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ASSISTANT TO THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR in Town of Carrboro. FT/ P. Performs independent research; develops policy recommendations; assists director with budget preparation; supervises clerical staff and possibly labor force personnel; and compiles and interprets statistical data. Req. excellent oral/ written communication skills and education and exp. equal to graduation from an accredited college with major course work in public or business admin. or related field. Salary range: \$42,533-\$65,927; excellent benefits. Application deadline: March 21, 2008. For application contact HR, 301 W. Main St., Carrboro, NC 27510; (919) 918-7320 or visit our website at www.townofcarrboro.org. EOE.

Data collectors needed for breast cancer research project. Part-time, flexible hours. E-mail muic@unc.edu or call 1-800-349-5858.

SERVICES

LOCAL ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONAL seeks contract with socially responsible business for part-time book-keeping duties. available up to 12 hours per week. reasonable rates complement unsurpassed quality. please send inquiries to gwenebelle@yahoo.com

GIFT CERTIFICATES \$10 OFF! SPRING INTO HEALTH & WELLNESS with Intrinsic Touch Massage Therapy, Stress relief, muscular pain reduction, 20 years of Experience, Carrboro Office www.ITmassageTherapy.com 619-0323

LOST AND FOUND

LOST DOG - Red short haired dog, loud voice, curly tail, 70 lbs. Name: Aesop - missing since 2-20 968-1065

MISCELLANEOUS

WANTED STACKABLE WASHER/DRYER Can pay up to \$325.00 Please contact me @ dymondmami7@yahoo.com

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REAL ESTATE

MOBILE HOME FOR RENT

WHY PAY MORE? Mobile home, from \$500 / month, Quiet park, Chapel Hill. Water/Sewer included. 929-2864



HOMES FOR SALE



WWW.2508OVERLAND PASSAGE.COM Perfect for the first time homebuyer and their dogs. 1 acre lot with fenced backyard. 2 bedrooms, 1 and a half baths. Huge kitchen, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors. In great shape. \$190,000 Call Terra Nova 919.929.2005.



PRIVATE RETREAT Contemporary home on 3+ wooded acres. Wood floors in most rooms. Skylights & big windows. Numerous porches, decks & balconies. Space for workshop. \$229,900 WeaverStreetRealty.com 929-5658

WALK TO OPEN EYE CAFE From this 1920s mill house 1 block from downtown Carrboro. Some upgrades. Lot fronts W. Carr St. & Old Pittsboro Rd. \$315,000 WeaverStreet-Realty.com 929-5658



10 ACRE HOMESTEAD under ancient oaks near Carrboro. 3000 sqft farmhouse w/ sunroom, screened porch & full basement. Fenced pastures, gambrel-roof barn and outbuildings. \$425,000 WeaverStreet-Realty.com 929-5658

SYLVIA SQUARE CONDOS Totally renovated 2BR/1BA condos, large deck(10'X24'), backyard, in Carrboro, on free busline, MINUTES walk to center of town. Call Chuck 740-0813



WWW.307SWEETBAY.COM Downtown Carrboro! Open floor plan, spacious kitchen 929-2005

LAND FOR SALE

10 ACRES under the lea of Pickards Mountain near Carrboro. Gorgeous wooded lot in protected neighborhood bordered by 300 acres of conservation land. \$279,000 WeaverStreetRealty.com 929-5658

66 ACRES FOR DEVELOPMENT at Orange/Durham Co. line. Zoned RR-SubE. Beautiful wooded land w/elevated areas. Would also make a lovely estate. \$1,595,000 WeaverStreetRealty.com 929-5658

3.3 ACRE LOT w/creeks on two sides. Building sites overlook deep woods & dramatic ravine. In small subdivision 10 minutes south of Chapel Hill. \$82,000 WeaverStreetRealty.com 929-5658

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Register Now!

Summer Day Camp June 16 - August 8 Ages 4 - 11

- ◆ activities ◆ games ◆ hikes
- ◆ crafts ◆ take-home projects
- ◆ explore acres of forests and wetlands!
- ◆ live animals

9:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Friday
Extended day care available 8:00 am-5:30 pm

Space is limited, so sign up quickly!

Visit www.piedmontwildlifecenter.org for more information about all of these events or call the administrative office at (919) 489-0900

Piedmont Wildlife Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supporting native North American wildlife



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