Schools

School Briefs



The cornerstone from Orange County Training School was found in a county-owned storage facility. PHOTO BY STEPHANIE KNOTT

Cornerstone celebration

The cornerstone from the Orange County Training School was recently found in an Orange County storage facility. To celebrate, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools will hold a gathering of alumni from the school (plus Lincoln High and Northside School alumni) today (Thursday) at 1 p.m. on the stone steps of the Northside site, the future site of elementary school 11 and the former site of the Orange County Training School.

Alumni are invited to be photographed with the stone and to share their contact information with district staff for future events.

CHCCS shakeup

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Superintendent Tom Forcella has announced a reorganization of the district's central office staff. Magda

Parvey will start as the assistant superintendent for instructional services on Monday, focusing on content area instruction, professional development, leadership and assessment. Sherri Martin is now the executive director of professional development and special instructional programs.

In addition, Rodney Trice has become the associate superintendent for student and school services/equity oversight, and Graig Meyer will support Trice with equity programs.

District band honors

Ten students from CHCCS middle schools were named to the Middle School Central District Bands. They were chosen from more than 700 students who auditioned.

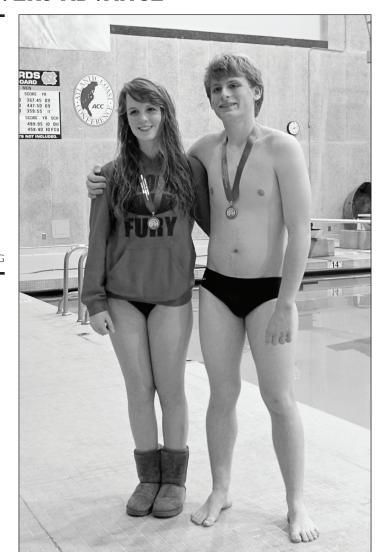
The students selected from Culbreth Middle School were Mia Morrell, Shengtan Mao, Neel Herfarth, Simon Deshusses and Jack Dozier. The students selected from Phillips Middle School were Justin Takamiya, Alex Ho, Peter Bevington and Tucker Owens. Hayden Loeb was selected from McDougle Middle School. Mia Morrell and Alex Ho are eligible to audition for the All-State Honors Band.

Ethics bowl

The Parr Center for Ethics at UNC will host the 2nd Annual Triangle High School Ethics Bowl on Feb. 11. The event, which is open to the public, will feature 14 teams from local high schools discussing and debating real-world ethical scenarios, with dozens of professionals serving as moderators and judges. Visit parrcenter. unc.edu/hs-ethics-bowl for more information.

CARRBORO DIVERS ADVANCE

At the Triangle High School Diving Conference Championship last week, two Carrboro High School divers advanced to the regional finals. Briana Merrigan placed second in the women's IA/2A group, while Andrew McDaniels placed first in the men's group. Merrigan and McDaniels will compete at the regional finals in Greensboro on Feb. 3. PHOTOS BY TED SPAULDING





FRIDAY 1/27

Elementary: Chicken Nuggets, Turkey Corn Dog, Garden Salad, California Vegetable Blend, Tater Tots, Chilled Peaches, Fresh Apple Middle and High School: Baked

Ziti, Garlic Bread, Herbed Broccoli & Cauliflower, Fish Sticks w/Wheat Roll & Tartar Sauce, Ranch Potato Wedges

MONDAY 1/30

Elementary: Crunchy Beef Tacos w/Lettuce & Tomato, Toasted Cheese Sandwich, Chicken Caesar Salad, Black Bean & Corn Salsa, Seasoned Turnip Greens, Fresh Apple, Raisins

Middle and High School: Pulled BBQ Pork, Texas Toast, Baked Beans, Seasoned Green Beans, Buffalo Chicken Sandwich w/Oven Fries

TUESDAY 1/31

Elementary: Fish Sticks w/Tartar Sauce, Ham & Cheese Sub, Spinach Salad, Baked Sweet Potato, Seasoned Green Peas, Orange Smiles, Chilled Peaches

Middle and High School: Chicken Fajitas on a Tortilla w/Grilled Peppers & Onions, Corn Cobettes, BBQ Pork Riblet Sandwich w/Tater Tots

RECENTLY FROM PAGE I

Three months later the superintendent was presented a check for \$1,300 - enough to secure an art teacher.

After three years of operation, the guild expanded the use of the proceeds to the PTA of used as the school deemed best. It was by then the PTA Thrift stream in a building with retail Shop and everyone used it – for donating, shopping and volunteering.

"We warmly welcomed customers from many backgrounds to the shop – even dogs were allowed in." —Sherry Jones

There will also be a new revenue and office space that they will lease out.

each school (based on volunteer district to headquarter its Pre- for her to donate to, but that hours provided by each) to be K and Head Start programs. the merchandise was there for everyone to appreciate and purchase. She took the message to heart.







By 1961 it had provided more than \$7,000 for the schools.

Sherry Jones started working there in 1971.

"It was my first job right out of college and it was a hoot," Jones said. The shop was where Italian Pizzeria #3 (IP3) is today. She worked there for five years, first as assistant manager, and then manager for three years. "We warmly welcomed customers from many backgrounds to the shop - even dogs were allowed in." Famous people also shopped there. "I have a vivid memory of British actress Maggie Smith briskly strolling into the shop with two young girls in tow, all three of them decked in white with white straw hats. The professor and author Max Steele was also a regular customer," Jones remembered.

In 1979 the PTA Thrift Shop, by then a nonprofit organization, bought the Carrboro location it had been renting for several years. After saving 15 percent of revenues for three years, through the leadership of Sherri Ontjes of the Thrift Shop Board, the building and parking lot (formerly a grocery store, and the first location of Adam & Eve) were purchased for about \$85,000.

Now the PTA Thrift Shop is involved in a capital campaign that will deconstruct the old building (as well as adjacent buildings it now owns) and create a new focal point at the intersection it has so long inhabited.

We own an acre of land," said Barbara Jessie-Black, executive director. "We're expanding but we aren't gaining that much space - we'll have less outdoor space." Besides the two-story store, there will be more efficiently designed space for intake, processing and storage; and room for the school

"This provides a great way to maximize and leverage, creating economic development for Carrboro," Jessie-Black said.

Last September the PTA Thrift Shop gave \$265,000 to the schools, having raised \$1.4 million (it employs 28 with a living wage and full benefits at its two locations). Last year it also partnered with the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service in a voucher program, providing free clothing to 1,300 families. It gave away 280 coats and participated in Dress for Success.

Over its 60 years it has provided countless entry-level jobs.

Then there's the awesome merchandise available, from which probably everyone in town has a story. There are the old stories, like the volunteer who slipped out of her shoes to give her tired feet a rest only to discover a few moments later they'd been sold; or the time when a 3-year-old half-Arabian horse was donated.

And there are newer stories.

When her son, John, was in first grade at Frank Porter Graham Elementary, Patti Thorp became the school representative for the PTA Thrift Shop. She volunteered regularly and particularly enjoyed hauling "grice," which are textiles that can't be sold in the store (items that are ripped, stained or too worn out) that are put in plastic bags and loaded into an 18-wheeler to be sold by the ton.

"One day though," Thorp said, "one of the bags broke open and out came this great winter parka-style coat. I was in desperate need of a coat that I could wear out in the snow with the kids. I couldn't see anything wrong with it so I took the coat back inside, gave them \$2 and went on my merry way." She said this was the moment when she realized the store wasn't just

In 2009, a few weeks after it was announced that Holden Thorp would be the new chancellor of UNC, I ran into Patti and complimented her on the lovely knit sweater top she was wearing. She said she had worn it the day of the announcement, which was also the day she and Holden had a ceremonial recommitment of their wedding vows.

"I got it at the PTA Thrift," she told me of the shirt.

Last October on University Day, Patti was with her husband at many public events, including the Speaker Ban monument unveiling, where she wore a classically elegant dress in Carolina Blue that I thought she surely had paid someone to make for her.

"Got it at the PTA Thrift," she said happily.

This week she said, "Some of my favorite people in the world have been – and still are – the long-time staff members of the Thrift Shop. Their continuity and amazing ways of dealing with the volunteers keep people coming back to volunteer."

And the fabulous donations of the community keep people returning to shop.

From 6-10 p.m. on Saturday, the PTA Thrift Shop invites you to wear your favorite duds found there and help them celebrate at the 60th Birthday Bash at the Top of the Hill Great Room. The event includes hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, the jazz band Equinox and Ron Stutts as emcee. Valet parking makes it all so easy to join the fun and support this valuable entity that has provided so much. Buy tickets (\$40 each or \$70 per couple) at ptathriftshop.com or at the door.

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

CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER: Semantics

In the name of tolerance, we're not being tolerated. - Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, of the Diocese of Springfield, III., which is losing state contracts because it refuses to consider same-sex couples as foster parents.