

All up in your business

Part of a periodic update on local businesses

Compiled by City Editor Chessa DeCain



Rathskeller will not re-open again

The latest attempt to revive The Rathskeller has failed. Mary Stockwell, building manager for the 157 E. Franklin St. property, said on March 9 she terminated Diane Fountain's lease, who had hoped to re-open "the Rat."

Stockwell said Fountain did not pay her rent. She also said it was unlikely the Rat restaurant would ever move back into its old site, due to the high cost of repairs needed to reopen in that space. She said estimates put

the cost of repairs between \$800,000 and \$1 million. "We have started considering other possibilities for the space," Stockwell said. Fountain said in an email that Stockwell failed to make any repairs to the building.

But Stockwell said she's been working on permanently fixing the building's structural damage. "It's the landlord's responsibility to provide a safe building," she said. Fountain said in an email she plans to try to open the Rat in another location.



BSKi's making change-skis

Born and bred in Chapel Hill, BSKi's owners say they're ready to expand the restaurant. Brad Smith, co-owner of BSKi's, said they will allow others to buy a franchise of the restaurant.

Smith said the process began about two months ago. A website has also been launched to showcase the franchising option. He said they would like to open franchises in other college towns. "Anywhere from North Carolina to South Carolina, Georgia, West Virginia and

D.C." he said. Tennessee is also a possible franchise site. Smith said he had several parties interested in buying a franchise, but no deals have been finalized yet. BSKi's is also about to expand its beverage offerings.

Another touch-screen drink machine with more than 125 flavors will be installed for delivery orders soon. Smith said they don't use the current machine for deliveries, as it would hinder in-store customers.



No tenant yet for former Gumby's site

Though landlords were hopeful that the former home of Gumby's Pizza, at 306 W. Franklin St., would be filled by the end of the summer, they have not finalized a deal yet. The space has been vacant since June, when Gumby's was shut down for failing to pay rent after operating there for 18 years.

The building is owned and was taken over by Zapolski Real Estate after Gumby's shut down. Sabrina Jones, director of East Coast operations

for Zapolski, said they were still looking at offers from several different businesses to take over the space. "We have a ton of interested parties," she said. "But no lease has been signed yet."

Jones said it is likely a lease with a new tenant will be signed by the time schools reopen. But that doesn't necessarily mean a new business will be ready to open at that time, she said. "We're just not sure at this point," Jones said.

State to map hiring needs

A new initiative will help connect students with potential careers.

By Alex Pyun
Staff Writer

A new initiative by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction seeks to improve the job prospects of high school students unable to attend a four-year institution. The department has launched a pilot program — Pathways to Prosperity — in certain parts of the state that explores the hiring needs of businesses.

Joanne Honeycutt, director of career and technical education for the Department of Public Instruction, said this program will eventually be used to connect students with their desired careers by providing counseling and further academic and technical training. "It's a different way of thinking," she said.

The Department of Public Instruction will be working closely with the N.C. Community College System to increase awareness about vocational training programs.

The program was inspired by a report issued by the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The report criticizes the country's public school systems for pressuring students to enroll in four-year institutions.

"The American system for preparing young people to lead productive and prosperous lives as adults is clearly badly broken," the report said.

"Our current system places far too much emphasis on a single pathway to success: attending and graduating from a four-year college after completing an academic program of study in high school."

Van Wilson, associate vice president of student learning and success at the N.C. Community College System, said he was enthusiastic that the new program will better incorporate employers and businesses in the education of students.

June Atkinson, N.C. superintendent of public schools, said the program aims to help students find a career path by connecting them with employers and educators.

She said the program will give greater value to career and technical educations, and connect students to the increasing numbers of middle skill jobs in the health, science, engineering and manufacturing industries.

North Carolina is one of six states to launch such a program.

Honeycutt said the state is working with the Harvard Graduate School of Education to explore the labor needs of industries in the northeastern and southwestern portions of the state — areas that were identified as facing unique economic hardship.

She said the new initiative will supplement, but not replace, local job-placement and training initiatives that exist at the county level.

Wilson said an inaugural meeting will be held in the fall to determine how community colleges can help the program proceed.

Nancy Hoffman, vice president and senior advisor of Jobs for the Future, said she believes the program will provide good jobs and educational opportunities for low-income young adults.

She said her group hopes to help the state in establishing the program.

"We look forward to working with North Carolina and like the many things North Carolina brings to this agenda," Hoffman said.

Contact the State & National Editor at state@dailytarheel.com.

Leimenstoll works to meet campaign promises

Leimenstoll has helped lobby for UNC-system funding increases.

By Sam Schaefer
Staff Writer

In the student government office, pictures hang on the wall of every student body president since the beginning of the twentieth century.

Will Leimenstoll, who took office in April, is working on his three main platform goals of equity, efficiency and environ-

ment to leave his own mark on the University. As part of his focus on equity, Leimenstoll traveled to Raleigh three times to lobby for additional funding for the UNC system, as the N.C. General Assembly debated the Modify 2011 Appropriations Act, which revised the state's biennial budget. The act was approved on July 2, despite Gov. Bev Perdue's veto.

The act will allocate \$19.6 million in additional funding to the UNC system, significantly less than the \$216 million increase sought by UNC administrators or the \$145 million increase Perdue



Will Leimenstoll has been working on a comprehensive financial website that is on schedule to be ready by January or sooner.

proposed, but more than the \$10.5 million increase proposed by the House of Representatives in its original version of the bill. Sen. Richard Stevens, R-Wake, said part of the funds will support a faculty retention fund and another part will be allocated to additional funding of need-based

"We are 100 percent where we need to be at this point."

Chris Scanzoni,
Will Leimenstoll's chief of staff

financial aid. Leimenstoll considers the additional funds the system secured to be a victory.

"The biggest thing that we were able to do was to provide a student perspective on how the issues actually impact us," he said.

Stevens, who has been a proponent of additional funding for the UNC system, said he agreed.

"Given the general economic conditions of the state and the economy we're in right now, I thought it was a good budget," Stevens said.

Leimenstoll and his staff are also working on a proposed financial aid website, money.unc.edu.

When completed, the website will provide easy access to all available financial aid offered by the University. Leimenstoll and his staff are on track to complete the database for the website by July 20, and expect the site to be up by January or sooner.

They have also received mid-summer reports from all but two cabinet committees. Leimenstoll

said that by preparing for potential problems now, student government's work should proceed smoothly when students return in August.

The reports, which were due to Leimenstoll by the end of June, are compiled by the cabinet heads and list where they stand in preparation for the academic year.

"The more that we can just have things ready to go as soon as students get back in the fall, the better," he said. "That's when things really get done, but it's also when things fall through the cracks, so if we can remove as many barriers as possible to getting things done before the school year starts, I think that will set us up for a great year."

Chris Scanzoni, Leimenstoll's chief of staff, said he is happy with how the incoming student government is preparing.

"We are 100 percent where we need to be at this point," he said.

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.



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Sun: 4:30, 7:00 Tue-Thu: 7:00, 9:30

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