

News Briefs

Tax service

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance will provide a free tax service beginning Feb. 2. Clients of any age whose family income is less than \$50,000 are eligible for the service, which is provided by IRS-certified volunteers and the Orange County Department on Aging's RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program. Returns are filed electronically at no charge. The service will be available Monday through Saturday, Feb. 2 through April 15 at several sites in Orange and Chatham counties. Appointments for the homebound or disabled can be made by special arrangement. For more information, visit [www.co.orange.nc.us/vita.asp](http://www.co.orange.nc.us/vita.asp)

Aquatic center opens

The Homestead Aquatic Center will open on Saturday. Area swimmers are invited to enjoy the new facility, run by the Town of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department. The center is located in the northwest corner of the 40-acre Homestead Park at 300 Northern Park Drive off Homestead Road in Chapel Hill. The center has two pools, locker rooms, bleachers, a reception area, offices and public art. For more information on swimming schedules, classes and admission fees at the Homestead Aquatic Center, call 968-2784, or check online at [www.chapelhillparks.org](http://www.chapelhillparks.org)

CCCC spring registration

Central Carolina Community College will hold open registration for spring semester classes, including distance education, on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at its campuses in Chatham, Harnett and Lee counties. The registration locations are: Building 2, 764 West St., Pittsboro; Miriello Building, 1075 E. Cornelius Harnett Blvd., Lillington; and Dennis A Wicker Civic Center, 1105 Kelly Drive, Sanford. Classes begin Jan. 9.

Red Cross blood drives

The Orange County American Red Cross will hold a number of blood drives over the next weeks. Locations include: Berry's Grove Baptist Church, 9828 Berry Road, Timberlake, Jan. 4 from 1 to 5 p.m.; Piedmont Electric, 2500 N.C. 86, Hillsborough, Jan. 8 from noon to 5 p.m.; University Mall, 201 S. Estes Drive, Chapel Hill, Jan. 9 from 2:30 to 7 p.m.; UNC Hospitals, Manning Drive behind the hospital, Jan. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; and New Sharon United Methodist Church, 1601 New Sharon Church Road, Hillsborough, Jan. 18 from noon to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 942-4862.

2008 FROM PAGE 1

combined to set off alarms among wary rural residents, particularly those near relatively flat lands within a short drive to the hospital. We spent all too much of 2008 in tears. The early-morning shooting on March 5 of UNC student body President Eve Carson wasn't just another sad example that this community is a lot less safe than it appears. It drove town and campus into deep, profound mourning before the eyes of the world. Shame, anger and soul-searching followed. Carson was a vibrant, brilliant and dedicated woman, and her death weighed on all of us, especially community and campus leaders who knew her well. In 2009, we will relive those events when the two young men accused in Carson's kidnapping and murder go to trial. It won't be the only horrific, brutal killing to be replayed in a court of law. Six young men, most of them in their late teens, stand accused in the late-July killing of Joshua Bailey. The parents of one of those accused have been charged with assisting in the gruesome

aftermath. With so many defendants, there are likely to be pleadings, and as a result we are going to learn more about this crime than we'd ever want to know. The sudden loss of young people, some as victims of crime and most through accidental means, cast a pall over the year (see editorial, page 6, and our schools year in review on page 1). Still, the youth of this community also cast the brightest lights of the year when they showed what an energized, informed and dedicated generation can do in an electoral system that had for too long been characterized by ugly slugfests over handfuls of undecided voters. No attack ad could stem the tide of new voters, and on the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 5 Barack Obama was president-elect. Throughout much of the community, especially in traditionally African-American enclaves, there was a sense that change had indeed come. The youth vote, and the thousands more who voted for the first time or the first time in a long time, significantly altered this state's politics and, along with Virginia's similar shift, changed the common — and wrong-headed — view that the south was a monolithic, predictable entity. Call us the

If past is prologue, then take a deep breath after you toast the New Year.

New New South. Much of what we saw this year will carry over to the next. The challenges facing new administrations at the national, state and county level are tremendous. There are still optimists, but the drumbeat of bad news in the economy is not going to cease with the coming of January. (Anticipate a very loud thud when end-of-year 401k and 403b statements are opened in about two weeks.) Also carrying over to next year are continued disagreements over the waste transfer station, the impact of tight budgets, the negotiations between local governments over the Carolina North project and the airport controversy. The year ahead may not be quite as intense as the one just past, but in many ways '08 set the stage and the tone for '09. If past is prologue, then take a deep breath after you toast the New Year. And buckle up.

SCHOOLS FROM PAGE 1

a 2 a.m. showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show when the driver ran a red light, killing Manis and seriously injuring Jurov. Then in August, Chapel Hill High senior Atlas Fraley was found dead in his home. He had called 911 earlier that day and told operators he thought he was dehydrated and needed an IV. Fraley, a football player, participated in two scrimmages that morning, and had suffered from dehydration in the past. Orange County Emergency Services has said paramedics arrived at Fraley's home shortly after his call, but have not released information regarding whether or how he was treated. Tragedy again struck Chapel Hill High in November when senior football player Rodney Torain, one of Fraley's good friends, was killed in a hit-and-run car crash. Torain was riding home with two friends along Old Greensboro Highway when a car began closely following their vehicle. The car then began to pass, striking the vehicle on the left side and causing it to run off the road.

Police are still looking for information regarding the driver of the car that struck the vehicle. Despite the tragedies, the school community moved forward. Among the 2008 schools' highlights: Morris Grove Elementary opens Morris Grove Elementary School, the district's 10th elementary school, opened its doors to more than 500 students in August. The school, located on the corner of Eubanks and Dromoland roads, was named for Morris Hogan, a freed slave who founded the original Morris Grove School near the site of the new elementary school in the 1880s. Thomas replaced Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools officials announced in June that Carrboro High School principal Jeff Thomas had been reassigned to the central office. Superintendent Neil Pedersen said his decision to replace Thomas was based on unsolicited feedback from staff and parents, confirmed by student and teacher surveys, as well as his own ex-

perience working with Thomas. Thomas submitted his resignation from the district in July. New principal at Carrboro High Carrboro High School started its second year with new principal Kelly Batten. Batten, a graduate of UNC, came to Carrboro High from Wake County Schools, where he served for a number of years as an assistant principal and high school world-history teacher. Scroggs retires Long-time educator and administrator Steve Scroggs retired in June as assistant superintendent for support services for the school district. Scroggs served as assistant superintendent for eight years and worked in North Carolina public schools for 35 years. He led Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools through a period of massive growth, overseeing the construction of five schools. He was replaced by Todd LoFrese.

New facility for Phoenix Academy Phoenix Academy celebrated 10 years of success and the opening of a brand-new facility this fall. The academy, created by the school board in 1998 and previously housed in three trailers in the parking lot of the Lincoln Center, serves as a school for students who are at risk of dropping out due to long-term suspension. The new facility is located in the old pottery shop building behind the Lincoln Center administrative offices. Hemminger resigns, McElveen appointed to school board Greg McElveen was ap-

pointed as the newest member of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education in November. The board selected McElveen from a pool of seven applicants to fill the seat left by Pam Hemminger, who resigned in order to serve on the Orange County Board of Commissioners. McElveen has lived in Chapel Hill for 14 years and works in corporate market research at IBM. He has six children.

Scroggs retires

New school for Northside District officials voted in July to build the district's 11th elementary school in the Northside neighborhood in downtown Chapel Hill. The site was the location of the Orange County Training School, a school for black students that later became

Northside Elementary School, which closed its doors when schools were desegregated in the 1960s. The elementary school is scheduled to open at the site between Caldwell and McMasters streets in the fall of 2011.

Racial slurs used at CHS

The Carrboro High community was left saddened and bewildered in January after racially charged comments led to a fight among three students. The school rebounded, coming together to form a committee of students, staff and parents to hold discussions on race issues at the school.

Cheating scandal rocks CHHS

Four Chapel Hill High School students were suspended in February in connection with a cheating incident that school officials said involved a stolen master key to the school and dated back several years. According to school officials, a student took pictures of exam answers on a camera phone and emailed them to other students. While investigating the incident, school administration learned about a master key that was stolen a number of years ago. The school then held discussions about the

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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