

News Briefs

Reward upped in Torain case

Crime Stoppers is offering up to \$2,000 for information leading to an arrest relating to the hit-and-run crash that caused the death of Rodney Torain in November.

The crash occurred during the early-morning hours of Nov. 16. According to police, a small silver or gold four-door vehicle, possibly occupied by several Hispanic individuals, is believed to have followed the vehicle in which Torain was a passenger, and should have damage to the passenger side of the car.

Callers to Crime Stoppers are anonymous. To provide information relating to the accident, call Crime Stoppers at 942-7515 or submit information online at www.crimestoppers-ch-cunc.org

Revaluations arriving this week

The 2009 official property revaluation notices should begin arriving this week.

The letters, mailed by the Orange County Tax Assessor's Office, are not tax bills, but notices of each property's new value. Orange County performs a revaluation of property every four years to keep taxable property values more equitable and aligned with market values.

Since Jan. 1, 2005, the date of the last revaluation, the market value of Orange County properties has increased an average of 20 to 30 percent.

The tax rate is set by the Orange County Board of Commissioners when the budget is adopted each June. A similar process is completed for each of the local municipalities who set their own tax rates. Historically, the commissioners and town councils have been able to lower tax rates in revaluation years and these efforts have offset some of the increases in values.

There are two new tax reduction programs as of 2009. One is for 100 percent disabled residents 65 and older whose 2008 household income did not exceed \$38,400. The second is for honorably discharged veterans with a 100 percent disability that is service related.

For more information, visit www.co.orange.nc.us/assessor or call 245-2100.

Temporary Chatham water changes

Chatham County will temporarily stop adding ammonia to its water-treatment disinfection process from Jan. 15 to Feb. 15, affecting water supplied to the northeast and southeast parts of the county.

The water will still be safe for everyday use, including drinking and cooking, but some special customers are advised to take precautions. Customers with kidney dialysis and those who keep fish in ponds or tanks filled with county water should treat the water to remove chlorine or use alternative water sources. In addition, customers who pre-treat county water using filters or softeners should be aware of the temporary change and consult the manufacturer of their equipment for recommendations.

The utilities department will also flush the water distribution system during this period of time, which could result in minor discoloration of water. Customers should be cautious while laundering light-colored items during this period.

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources requires all water systems using "chloramination" treatment to stop the addition of ammonia for a one-month period each year.

For more information, contact Chatham County Utilities Customer Service at 542-8270.

Carey named to key state post

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

Governor-elect Beverly Perdue has appointed former Orange County Commissioner Moses Carey as the chairman of the Employment Security Commission for the State of North Carolina.

Perdue announced the appointment over the weekend. The Employment Security Commission (ESC) provides employment services, unemployment

insurance and labor market information to the state's workers, employers and the public.

Unemployment in North Carolina reached 7.9 percent in November – the highest since 1983. Carey said he's up to the challenge of assisting those in need as more North Carolinians lose their jobs.

"They're going to need all the help they can get from the agency they rely on to provide some stability," Carey said. "I'm happy to be asked by the governor to

help provide some assistance for them."

Carey said his first task will be to assist those who have lost their jobs.

"First and foremost, we have to provide some help for the people that are going to be displaced." Then, "the issue becomes providing employment-related services, workforce-related services."

Carey said he believes his experience in local government and working directly with people in need will serve him well as chair-

man of the ESC.

Carey served on the Orange County Board of Commissioners for 24 years, before stepping down this fall. He ran unsuccessfully for state senate last year, losing to incumbent Ellie Kinnaird. While he has not ruled out another run for senate, Carey said he does not plan to do so while serving on the ESC.

"My first priority will be serving as chairperson of this commission," he said.

CLARK
FROM PAGE 1

A Chatham County native, Rebecca Clark was orphaned at 11 and spent much of her early years working service jobs at the university. Later in life, she walked with a cane and would complain she ruined her knee pressing clothes in the university laundry near the power plant on Cameron Avenue. The building where she worked was later named for her.

She was born five years before women's suffrage and at the height of the Jim Crow South. She worked to see Chapel Hill become the first major Southern town to elect a black mayor and registered voters for Barack Obama. In an interview with *The Citizen* the day after the election of the nation's first black president, she said expressed hope, not just because of the election but because so many young people had stepped up to "pull the plow."

It was something she understood very well, and many of the people she worked with in politics excelled.

"In many ways, you could say she wrote the book on grassroots politics," states school board chairman and former mayor of Chapel Hill Howard Lee said Wednesday. Lee remembers Clark as a skilled organizer who made certain that people got to the polls. "She was not one of these talkers. She provided a means."

Lee said Clark was skilled not only at politics but in holding those she helped get elected to their word.

"She would hold your feet to the fire," he said.

Though her support was crucial — she at first didn't want Lee to run for mayor, but was his biggest supporter once he did — her friendship and guidance were even more highly valued.

"I consider Ms. Clark somewhat like a second mother," Lee said. "I will personally miss her very much."



PHOTO BY AMY THOMAS
Rebecca Clark often shared her experiences with students. Here she's with fifth-grade students at McDougle Elementary School.

Fourth District U.S. Rep. David Price called Clark a mentor and friend and a persistent advocate for social justice.

"I and many others will continue to be inspired and challenged by her memory," he said.

Speaker of the North Carolina House Joe Hackney said he knew Clark for more than 40 years and was always impressed by the way she used politics to improve the lives of others. "She was somebody who truly

used politics — in the best sense of the word — to achieve for people who needed help."

Former Orange County Commissioner Moses Carey, who was appointed last week-end to chair the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina, said he took her guidance in public life.

"She certainly was a beacon for me in public service," he said. "She helped me to focus my attentions on people in need."

OBITUARY

Eric Edwin Diener

Eric Edwin Diener, a green home builder who spent most of his life in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area, died unexpectedly Dec. 29 in Montgomery, Ala. He was 39.

Deeply saddened by this loss are his wife Laura Dominkovic, his parents Thomas and Patricia (Pam) Diener of Brentwood, Tenn., his sister Erin Diener of Wilmington, N.C., and many dear friends.

A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 11, 2009, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville, 1 Edwin Place. Weather permitting, his ashes will be spread in Graveyard Fields after the service (dress appropriately), followed by a reception at the home, 29 Spinnet St.

Memorials gifts may be donated to Save the Children at www.savethechildren.org. To donate to a specific country, call 1-800-728-3848. Eric was dedicated to supporting countries in critical need, such as Zimbabwe, the Congo, the Gaza strip, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Eric Edwin Diener spent most of his life growing up and living in the Chapel Hill/Car-



boro area. He graduated from Chapel High School in 1987 and attended Appalachian State in Boone, N.C. Eric loved the mountains and spent time in Boone and Brevard before returning to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area. After settling in Carrboro, Eric worked at the Emerson Waldorf School as the busi-

ness manager and impacted many children, parents and teachers while there. From 2001 until 2004 Eric served as the construction manager at Orange Community Housing and Land Trust. He managed the completion of the Legion Road Townhomes in 2001 and managed the entire development and construction of the Rosemary Place Townhomes in Meadowmont in 2002-03. Eric was intelligent, curious and thoughtful about his work. He strove to improve the homes that were built to better serve homebuyers and he worked hard to ensure that the homes were well built and affordable. After leaving Chapel Hill-Carrboro, Eric spent a year in Croatia before marrying his wife Laura Dominkovic and moving back to the mountains to settle in Asheville, N.C. For the past four years, Eric was a green home builder in Asheville and started his own business there, Solstice Building Company, two years ago. He was a wonderful, loving son, brother, husband, dog lover and friend to many and he left a positive and valuable impact on our world. All who were touched by him were honored and will strive to make sure his vision and service continues to live on in the community.

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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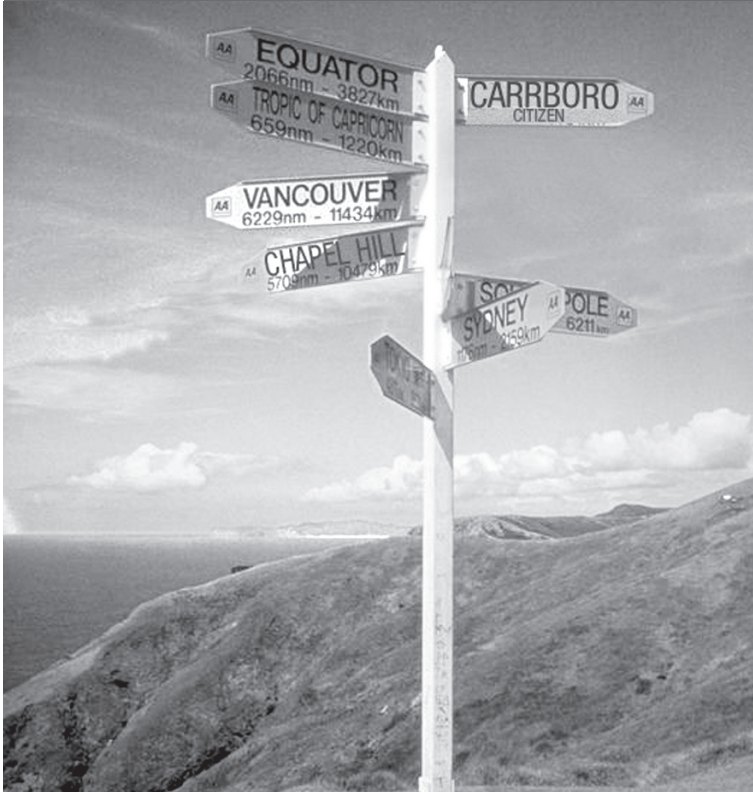


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