

Briefs

Police seek information in rape case

The Chapel Hill Police Department is seeking information about a reported rape that occurred on Feb. 9 around 2:15 a.m. The victim said she was walking near the alley behind Cosmic Cantina when she was forced behind a dumpster and raped. The victim has requested police not pursue an investigation, but police are still asking anyone with information related to this incident to call the Chapel Hill Police Department at 968-2760 or Crime Stoppers at 942-7515.

Recycling bins installed in Chapel Hill

Thanks to a \$13,000 grant from the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Chapel Hill is installing 17 new recycling bins around town. Four bins will be in Southern Village’s central business area, while 13 will be installed along Franklin Street. The bins are intended to collect bottles and cans.

Positive rabies test

On Feb. 8 Orange County Animal Services received its second positive rabies test of 2012. Animal Control responded to a call near Borland and Old Woods roads after a resident witnessed her dog killing a raccoon on her property. The dog was currently vaccinated against rabies and has received a booster shot as mandated by state law.

Bus detours

Beginning Friday, the HS and NU bus routes will be detoured due to a street closure on Airport Drive. Bus stops on Airport Drive will be temporarily closed and alternative stops will be on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard at Airport Drive and Barclay Street.

Buses to the Dean Dome

The Tar Heel Express will provide service on Saturday for the UNC men’s basketball game against Clemson at 4 p.m. at the Dean Smith Center. Shuttle service will begin at 2:30 p.m. from the Friday Center, Southern Village, University Mall and Jones Ferry park-and-ride lots. Tickets are \$3 for one-way and \$5 round-trip. A shuttle will also run from Carolina Coffee Shop and will cost \$2 one-way or \$4 round-trip. The shuttles will run every 10 to 15 minutes prior to the start of the game and will operate for 45 minutes following the game.

Orange County services merge

The Women’s Center and the Family Violence Prevention Center of Orange County have announced that they will merge into a comprehensive service organization. By merging and combining resources, both agencies believe they will be better equipped to provide services to the women and children of the area. Both organizations expect to finalize a merger agreement during the first quarter of 2012.

Filings pick up for May 8 primary

BY TAYLOR SISK
Staff Writer

Orange County Commissioner Valerie Foushee has announced she will run as a Democratic candidate for the N.C. House of Representatives District 50 seat in the May 8 primary. Under redistricting plans, District 50 will include portions of Orange and Durham counties. That seat is presently held by Bill Faison, who announced he will be vying for the Democratic nomination for governor. Rod Chaney and W. Lewis Hannah Jr. have announced they are running for the seat in the Republican primary. In a prepared statement, Foushee listed her priorities, if elected, as promoting economic recovery and development, restoring funding to all levels of education, strengthening health care and restoring transparency to government.

In District 54, Republican Cathy Wright and Democrats Deb McManus and Jeff Starkweather will seek election to the seat previously held by Joe Hackney, who announced he will not run for reelection. The newly drawn District 54 includes all of Chatham County and a portion of Lee County. Last week, Rep. Verla Insko announced she will seek reelection to the District 56 seat. District 56 includes Carrboro and Chapel Hill. Democratic incumbent Sen. Ellie Kinnaird on Wednesday filed to run for her ninth term representing the 23rd district in the N.C. Senate. Also announcing for reelection was Democratic Rep. David Price, who will be seeking his 13th term in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving the state’s Fourth District.

Orange and Chatham

In Orange County, Bernadette Pelissier will run in the Democratic primary for a second term as an at-large member of the board of commissioners, and Mary Carter will run in the Republican primary for the same seat. Pam Hemminger will seek reelection to a District 1 seat, and will be challenged in the Democratic primary by Chapel Hill Town Council member Penny Rich. With Foushee’s departure, two seats are up for election in District 1. Democrats Steve Yuhasz, an incumbent, and Renee Price will square off for one seat in District 2, and Chris Weaver will run in the District 2 GOP primary. In a statement, Pelissier said that if reelected she will work to “promote economic resilience, secure the fiscal sustainability

and expand the non-residential tax base by creating new jobs for Orange County residents that support our community values of social equity, quality education, environmental health and economic vitality.” In Chatham County, Democrat Sally Kost announced last week she will seek a second term to the District 1 seat on the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. Democrat Mike Cross had previously filed to run for reelection to his District 2 seat. And Karen Howard, a lawyer and mother of four, filed on Monday to run for the District 1 seat in the nonpartisan Chatham County Board of Education race. Howard has served as vice president of two PTAs in the county schools. The deadline for filing for all offices is noon on Feb. 29.

School board talks budget strategy

BY ROSE LAUDICINA
Staff Writer

Nearing the end of their annual retreat at the Friday Center on Tuesday, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education tackled one of the biggest items on their agenda: the 2012-13 budget. Considering potential funding from both the state and the county, the preliminary outlook appears mixed. The district is still waiting to receive the state’s projected enrollment and budget figures, but according to Ruby Pittman, executive director of budget and finance, the district has projected

an enrollment of 12,048 students for the 2012-13 school year, an increase of 330 students from 2011-12. With an increase in enrollment comes an increase in funding, since both the state and the Orange County Board of Commissioners fund the district on a per-pupil basis. However, with increased enrollment also comes the need to hire additional teachers to retain the district’s current student-to-teacher ratio standards. Taking all the various costs into account, Pittman told the board she estimates the district will have a net overall increase of about \$66,074 from the state for next year.

While, given the slight increase from the state, the outlook appeared to be good, board Chair Mia Burroughs shared news from a meeting with county commissioners that drew concern. “Their first thought was to cut both of the school districts’ budgets by a combined \$1.2 million,” Burroughs said. “This is in the opposite direction of what we need,” she added. Considering possible cuts from the county, the board discussed the specific types of budget items they wanted to request from the county, including the possibility of asking for an increase in the amount paid per pupil, but ultimately decided against that request.

“I am interested in just asking for what we need and being sensitive for local taxpayers,” board member Jamezetta Bedford said. The board also discussed what budget expansion requests – extra money requested by the district to maintain or expand services – they would be making to the county. One major expansion request the board identified was the need for \$340,593 for the elementary school 11 planning budget. The board directed staff to return with recommendations for additional expansion requests along with recommendations for possible cuts that would allow for reallocation of money.

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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