

Lunch Menus

JAN. 18-24

Every meal is served with a choice of milk. Breakfast is served daily.

ELEMENTARY

Friday — Fishwich; Chicken & Noodles w/ Wheat Roll; Tater Tots; Coleslaw; Steamed Carrots  
Wednesday — Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza; Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwich; Green Beans; Chilled Fruit Cocktail; Chocolate Pudding  
Thursday — Baked Potato w/ or w/o Meat & Cheese; Fun on the Run; Broccoli Cuts; Apple Halves

MIDDLE & HIGH

Friday — Beef & Cheese Nachos w/ Salsa; Fishwich; Sweet Yellow Corn; Chilled Peaches  
Wednesday — Oven Baked Chicken w/ Wheat Roll; Double Cheeseburger w/ Lett & Tom; Collard Greens; Tosses Salad w/ Dressing; Fresh Apple  
Thursday — Cheese Quesadilla w/ Salsa; Pork Egg Roll; Spanish Rice; Garden Peas; Fresh Orange  
Info: 967-8211 ext. 270

School Briefs

PAGE meeting

PAGE-CHCCS, a parent advocacy group for academically gifted students in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, will meet January 24 at 7 p.m. at the Chapel Hill Public Library.

The group plans to discuss gifted education, advanced classes and other AG issues in the school district. Carol Horne, the district's coordinator of Gifted Programs, will make a brief presentation and receive parent feedback.

The meeting is open to the public. For more information, contact Dabney Grinnan at dabneygrinnan@nc.rr.com.

Healthy teen forum

The Parent-Teacher-Student Associations of Carrboro, Chapel Hill and East Chapel Hill high schools will sponsor a Parenting Healthy Teenagers Forum on February 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Chapel Hill High School Hanes Auditorium.

The forum will feature a panel of experts who will present information and answer questions regarding alcohol, drugs, obesity, toxic foods, anorexia and health screening.

The forum is open to the public.

MLK closing

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and offices will be closed on Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Day. On Tuesday, district offices will reopen and schools will observe a teacher workday.

Mini College night

Carrboro High School will hold a Mini College Night on January 24 at 6:30 p.m. Participating colleges include High Point University, Western Carolina University, UNC-Charlotte, East Carolina University, Appalachian State University, North Carolina Central University, Salem College and others.

The event will be held in the Carrboro High Café Commons.

Board to discuss long-term plan

By Susan Dickson  
Staff Writer

In its first meeting of 2008, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education will tonight (Thursday) examine the 2008-13 District Strategic Plan, which will help guide the school district through 2013.

The district's current strategic plan expires in June. The proposed plan outlines specific goals, outcome measures and strategies to reach those goals, which include:

- All students will graduate as high-achieving learners with 21st-century skills;
- All educators will provide an effective educational program for all students;
- All learning environments will be safe, inviting, respectful and promote character development; and
- All district and school leaders will be responsive and accountable to their constituents and ensure that the resources provided by the community are used effectively.

The proposed plan also states that "all means all," adding that the Strategic Planning Committee "wanted to ensure equitable services for students of all racial, ethnic, socio-economic and academic groups."

Last week, Chapel Hill-Carrboro

NAACP and Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance leaders distributed a report card to school officials outlining failures in 11 categories, including eliminating the minority achievement gap and decreasing the dropout rate of black students.

According to the school district, about 44 percent of black elementary school students passed both reading and math End of Grade tests, compared with 93 percent of white elementary school students.

In a weekly district newsletter, Superintendent Neil Pedersen wrote, "While I agree that improvement is not only possible, but necessary in many of the identified areas, I find failing grades to be unsupported and insulting to the many dedicated and talented staff members in our district," adding that the district has made "significant progress in many critical areas."

The proposed plan's strategies include expanding alternative programs for high school students, implementing systematic intervention programs, fully implementing the district's Professional Learning Communities and more.

The board is set to review the plan tonight and February 21, and then adopt the plan March 6.

SPORTS

“I had a dream last night that North Carolina was playing in the national championship game, and...”

By Frank Heath  
Sports Columnist

Will this UNC basketball team go down in history as one of the Tar Heels' best-ever?

The Tar Heels, whose 93-62 skunking of ACC rival NC State on Saturday was their seventeenth win without a defeat, are certainly positioning themselves to be "in the conversation."

The last Carolina team to reach 17-0 was the 1997-98 team that included Antawn Jamison, Shammond Williams, Vince Carter, Ed Cota, Ademola Okulaja, Brendan Haywood ... and was pretty darned good itself. But the '98 Tar Heels will not be remembered among the very top echelon by most because they did

not reach the national championship game.

The judging criteria in such an argument are pretty stringent, and the current UNC team, while on a roll, is not even halfway to its destination. Certainly by going undefeated this year (which in this day of expanded schedules would extrapolate to 40-0), Carolina could join the hallowed company of the 1956-57 team, a 32-0 national champion. The odds of UNC doing that, though, remain quite low, as no Division I team has survived unbeaten since the 1976 Indiana Hoosiers.

These Tar Heels will lose at some point, and chances are they may look bad in doing it. UNC's national championship teams in 1982, '93 and 2005 all suffered losses against the Wake Forest Deacons, and all three of them looked, on those days, like pretty ordinary basketball squads. The '77 Tar Heels, who reached the title game before losing against Marquette, suffered an awful 20-point defeat at Clemson that season before reeling off 17 straight wins.

It was how these earlier champions responded to their losses, more than the losses themselves, that determined their destinies.

Now it appears as though this year's UNC team will decide its destiny by the way they play defense.

With Ty Lawson running the break at warp speed, Wayne Ellington becoming a more calculating assassin from the wing with each week and the great All-American Tyler Hansbrough showing no signs of slowing down or tiring, the Tar Heels have all the pieces in place on offense to compete with the best the rest of the country has to offer. They are pretty good at rebounding, as well. But Coach Roy Williams has reminded anyone who will listen this year that his guys need to "guard the ball" better.

In the runaway win over State, Carolina saw firsthand the sort of results that it can get by playing defense well. The effort started — as it must — out front, with Lawson and Ellington pushing State's perimeter ball-handlers 30 feet out from the basket, sometimes even pinning the Pack's guards at half-court.

But Carolina's defensive assault did not end or even slow down there, as everyone on the team was active on "d." Once State did maneuver the ball into the post, UNC's double teams came quick, passing lanes were impeded and shot blockers were on alert. Carolina batted away eight shots in the first half alone, and Danny Green and Deon Thompson altered as many shots

as they blocked. State missed 18 consecutive field-goal attempts, and, as Carolina's offense fed off of the team's defensive intensity, the Pack could only watch as the Tar Heels ran off 25 unanswered points. The domination was so complete that the game's eventual outcome was obvious several minutes before halftime.

If these Tar Heels will consistently give that sort of effort on defense, they'll make themselves a difficult team to beat. What it will require is a considerable number of those elements that do not necessarily register on the stat sheet, but that coaches can identify in a split second: things like hustle, effort, focus, determination and execution.

Those same coaches will remind everyone that offense is more like fun, while defense is more like hard work; but when defense is done right, the resulting consequence can be just as fun.

The 1993 national championship team took to defense naturally, while the talented UNC team that won the national championship in 2005 was able to recognize the challenge it faced and elevate its defense to match the way it already could play on offense. If the 2007-08 Tar Heels do the same, there is no reason why they can't end up "in the conversation" when people 10, 20 and 30 years down the road talk about the greatest North Carolina teams ever. But for this team, defense remains an if, not a given, as one game a season does not make.



PHOTO BY GEORG T GORDON  
Omni Lester (15) of the varsity Carrboro Lady Jaguars lets fly a shot at the basket during a game against the North Carolina School of Science and Math on Tuesday, Jan. 15 in Carrboro. The Lady Jags won, 43-39. The Varsity Boys team also won against Science and Math Tuesday, 74-56.

Coaches' Reports

Culbreth Middle Boys' Basketball

(via Mike Harris)  
Tuesday 1/15)

Culbreth's Boys Varsity Basketball team improved their overall record to 5-3 with a nail-biting win over a much improved Gravelly Hills team. Culbreth exploded out of the gate, pushing the ball up the court with their preferred fast-breaking offense and opened a 10-2 lead. Gravelly fought back to take the lead at halftime, 27-

23, and maintained a lead for most of the second half until Keenan van Name's 3-pointer with about a minute left in the game broke a 40-40 tie and put the Cougars up by three. Gravelly had a final opportunity to pull out the win with 13 seconds to go and down by one point. However, a smothering Culbreth defense forced a turnover and Denzel Ingram picked up the loose ball to run the clock out and seal the win. Ingram led Culbreth with 17 points, although the win would not have been possible without outstanding aggressive play from Drew Davis, Dylan Arant and Jacob Junker.

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