School Briefs

School board to review superintendent applications

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education will hold special meetings on Feb. 21 and 25 to review applications received in conjunction with the superintendent search.

The board is looking for a replacement for Superintendent Neil Pedersen, who will retire in June. The meetings will be held at the Lincoln Center and will not be open to the public.

Chapel Hill Public Arts awarded grant

Chapel Hill Public Arts, in conjunction with the Street Scene Teen Center, has been awarded a grant for the Between the Lines program.

The program will involve 20 teens who will collaborate to create a poem that will be set to music, dance and woven fabric with the help of textile artist Peg Gignoux. Students who are on the Chapel Hill Youth Council and others will participate in the residency.

The Between the Lines project aims to provide avenues of expression for local teens in order to build self-esteem and create works of art that have meaning for the youths involved. The project also hopes to raise awareness of the Teen Center and afterschool programs – such as tutoring, a music lab and leisure activities - that the center offers.

The project will begin Jan. 28. Michael Irwin, director of the Arts Academy of Chapel Hill High School; Mary Gratch of Carrboro High School; and Kane Smego of the Sacrificial Poets will identify student participants. For more information, contact Liz Carter at 968-2481 or Jeff York at 968-2750.

Movie at CHHS

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation will host a screening of Race to Nowhere on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Hanes Auditorium at Chapel Hill High School.

The documentary explores the stress students face as they try to meet the demands of school, college applications and extracurricular activities. A panel including high school principals, college administrators, mental health professionals and high school students will discuss the subject of stress after the screening.

Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$10 online at racetonowhere.com or at the door for \$15. All proceeds will benefit the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School

Board hosts legislative breakfast

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education was joined by local and state elected officials for the district's annual legislative breakfast on Friday.

Attendees included U.S. Rep. David Price, state Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, state Rep. Joe Hackney, state Rep. Verla Insko and Orange County Board of Commissioners Chair Bernadette Pelissier. School board members presented a number of concerns, including the continuation of city school districts, the cost of the N.C. Virtual Public School, physical education and Healthful Living state requirements, charter schools and the legislative platform of the N.C. School Boards Association.

Superintendent Neil Pedersen shared a summary of the district's budget picture for 2011-12, while legislators shared their perspectives on the upcoming session of the General Assembly, which opens Tuesday.

ANDERSON

FROM PAGE I

"For me to have this accident, it was rotten luck," he said. "But in some other ways, I've been incredibly lucky."

The self-employed architect had been up most of the night of March 9 finishing drawings he was to deliver the next day. With his wife, Stephanie, away on business, Anderson cooked dinner on March 10 for his two children, Drew, 18, and Emma, 15, at their home near Calvander. After dinner, he dozed off on the couch, but was awoken by his daughter, who said that a grease fire had started in the kitchen.

Anderson got Emma, Drew and the family dog, Jolene, out of the house and called 911.

While telling the story, Anderson pauses before the next part one of those "what if" moments.

"Here's my major mistake: I went back in." He'd hoped to stop the fire from spreading. But when Anderson didn't come back out, Drew crawled in to get his father.

"He basically saved my life," Anderson said. "I remember him saying 'Dad, we can get a new house ... but I can't get a new dad.""

Anderson's state of shock prevented him from realizing the severity of his burns; even after Drew pulled him out of the house, he continued to try to fight the fire, running around back to get the hose. When Drew grabbed his dad to prevent him from trying to fight the fire, skin from Anderson's arms deteriorated in Drew's hands.

After emergency services arrived on the scene, paramedics took Anderson to the Jaycee Burn Center at UNC Hospitals.

"I'm very lucky to be alive, and I'm very lucky that my son was there and that the EMTs got me to the burn center in time," he said. "We have a facility here that saved my life."

He would remain at that facility for the next four months.

Recovery

There is much of Anderson's story that he doesn't remember, and even more that he only remembers as a bizarre collage of



Kim Anderson spent four months in the hospital after he was badly injured in a fire last March.

dreams. Immediately after he arrived at the burn center, doctors put him into a medically managed coma; he wouldn't awaken

Stephanie Anderson arrived at the hospital the morning after the fire. Though she'd been briefed by doctors on her husband's condition, nothing could prepare her for what she would see. Burn victims' bodies often swell, and Anderson's head was the size of a medicine ball.

"I think the scariest moment was having to walk into the room for the first time and not knowing what to expect," she said. "He was just unrecognizable."

For the next two months, she spent every day at the hospital, and was present as Anderson underwent five skin-grafting surgeries. After the first couple of weeks, Stephanie Anderson knew her husband would live, and promised him they would walk out together.

"You could kind of see him emerge out of this weird body into who he was," she said. As Anderson improved, doctors reduced his medication and slowly brought him out of his coma.

That brought on new difficulties. "When you first realize the predicament you're in, and I can remember that very clearly because I was having trouble sleeping at night," he said, "that's like undergoing the trauma all over

"It's suddenly very depressing," he said. "If you don't look at it in a PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ANDERSON certain way, you're screwed."

And while Anderson did become somewhat depressed, he set off down the long road to recovery, including learning to walk again.

"At times, I was not a very good patient, I'm sure," he said. "Physical therapy is very, very painful.

"I'm 59 years old, and I cried like a baby on a number of occasions."

Changes Anderson can't say enough

about the Jaycee Burn Unit, from the surgeons to the housekeeping staff. "It's a special unit," he said.

When it was time for Anderson to go home, he walked out of the hospital, as his wife had promised.

His family had spent the four months of his hospitalization in a nearly empty house down the street from their former home, where they remain today. While their old house has been repaired, the Andersons don't plan to return.

Anderson has found that his relationships with family members have changed, particularly with Drew, who saved his life.

'What do you say to your son when he says, 'Dad, I need to borrow the car this weekend'?" he said. "It's interesting. [Our relationship] will continue to be changed for a long time, and we're both dealing with it in our own way."

Meanwhile, Anderson continues to spend several days a

week in therapy.

"Just in the last six weeks, I've made really, really good strides in my physical therapy and occupational therapy," he said. "It's tremendously frustrating, and tremendously humbling. ... There are some things that I probably will not be able to do ever again," like play the guitar. But, "I love to fish, and I now can fish again," he said, recalling an annual trip to the Outer Banks over Thanksgiving.

Most of all, Anderson has changed the way he looks at

"There's an incredible amount of stuff that you used to take for granted that you don't take for granted anymore" - simple tasks, like tying your shoes or showering.

What if, and luck

Anderson does sometimes wonder "what if" regarding the events of that night: What if he hadn't gone back into the house, what if his son hadn't come to get him, what if he hadn't lived near an excellent burn center?

What if I did not have the support of all the people?" he said. "I could choose to think that I was really unlucky ... but in being unlucky, I was incredibly lucky."

Though Anderson's lost much of his architecture business, he manages to find the positive.

"Here again, I'm incredibly lucky." Because demand for his type of work had dropped off sharply before the fire, "It was the most fortuitous time for it to happen to me."

Though part of his right index finger had to be amputated, Anderson said, "It was very easy for me to learn how to use a mouse left-handed. I could do work now, if there was any work to be done."

Physically, Anderson said, he is very lucky.

"Almost all of the damage is under my clothing," he said. "Two years from now, to look at me, you would never know that I had had an accident.

"You can look at it all different ways," he continued. "This was an event that was destined to be meaningful to me and everyone else that was involved."

School Lunch

Friday 1/21

JMacaroni & Cheese, Mixed Vegetables, Black Eyed Peas

Monday 1/24 Salisbury Steak w/ Gravy, WW Roll, Herbed Potatoes,

Fresh Local Collard

Tuesday 1/25

Pasta Bar – WW Rotini & Spaghetti, Marinara & Roasted Cream Sauces, Meatballs, Roasted Italian Vegetables, Herbed

Broccoli & Cauliflower

Wednesday I/26

Chicken Stir-Fry with Oriental Brown Rice, Steamed Local Cabbage, Fortune Cookie

Thursday 1/27 Cheese Quesadilla, Vegetable Soup, Sea-

soned Pinto Beans

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE I

"It looks like a wash," council member Laurin Easthom said. "It looks like we're not going to have any savings."

But Stancil and Town Attorney Ralph Karpinos reminded the council that they have not been given the green light to negotiate with Madison Marquette either on price

or the structure of the deal.

Karpinos said he would need to gather more information about what type of purchase would satisfy the requirements and what rights the town would retain over the property.

Stancil said the town would also save a considerable sum by moving the Parks & Recreation Department to Pritchard Park instead of building a new headquarters.

Council member Gene Pease said while the purchase requirement may raise the cost, he'd like to see more information on the actual range of costs. "I think you have to really scrub the numbers," he told Stancil.

The council heard several concerns raised by library supporters, including Johnny Morris, who said the mall is going downhill and would probably

mall off the tax rolls.

"I don't believe the town should be buying up properties," Morris said. Others reminded the council

that the voters approved the bonds for the upgrade of the building at Pritchard Park. Council member Penny Rich

said the responses to the town have

been running about 70-30 against the move to the mall. While the numbers are important, she said, residents are making it known they want to keep the li-

brary where it is. Council member Sally Greene said she was also concerned about a change in ownership of the mall and other issues that might affect

library operations. She asked Stancil to include in

fail. He also said the town had his report what would happen if no business taking part of the the mall were to be sold and how the rights of the other tenants of the mall might affect free speech and public access at the library.

> In other action Tuesday, the council accepted a \$623,000 grant from Orange County to install synthetic turf at Cedar Falls Park and set a public hearing for Feb. 21 on improvements to Coolidge Street.

The council was also scheduled to meet Wednesday for a public hearing after The Citizen went to press. The schedule for the meeting included proposed homeless shelter guidelines and the town's "Complete Streets" policy as well as a concept plan review of the New Life Fellowship Church. The Citizen will include an update from the meeting in next week's edition.



High **School Basketball**

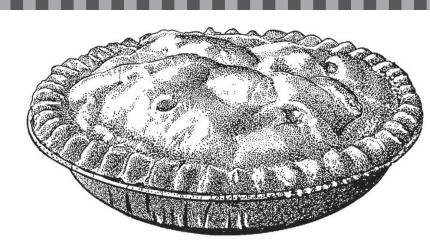
Keenan Van Name on a fast break during Carrboro High School's convincing 76-44 victory over North Carolina School of Science and Math last Saturday. Van Name led the Jaguars

PHOTO BY TED SPAULDING

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CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER: You're Kidding, Right?

Not if I could avoid it. No, I mean, who would? - Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, asked on the NBC News program, "Meet the Press", if she would go through an airport security pat-down.



Find the Pie?

Find the pie in this issue of *The Citizen* and email contest@carrborocitizen.com with the location.

Correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a limited number of gift certificates for free pie from Weaver St. Market. (Employees of The Citizen and Weaver St. Market and their immediate family members not eligible.)

HINT: the pie you are looking for is not the one in this ad or the Weaver Street Market ad, or the one on the front page. It's a different pie.