#### **Biz Briefs**

#### Coworking catches on

Business at Carrboro Creative Coworking continues to grow. "My very unscientific guess is a 5 percent increase in the past month," says owner-founder Brian Russell. He attributes part of the growth to time. The shared workspace has been open for several months now and word is spreading. But there's also the fact that businesses are tightening their belts.

"I've heard from several people that they are downsizing their office requirements, and more people are making their businesses virtual," he says. "In a small office-based business, everyone can theoretically work at home. But they need a place to meet at once a week or once a month. We have workspace and meeting space, so we're filling those niches."

For more information, visit carrborocoworking.com.

#### Cliff's Meat Market honored

Cliff Collins, owner of Cliff's Meat Market, has received the 2009 Pauli Murray Award in the business category. The award is given annually to a local business that works to create equality, justice and human rights for all citizens. Collins was nominated for reaching out to the Spanish-speaking community.

"I don't doubt that his association with this fairly new community benefits him, but I think he has done an extraordinary job of reaching out to a less empowered group that has a lot to offer," wrote Tim Peck in his nomination. Cliff Collins will join other winners at an awards ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 22, from 3 to 5 p.m. at New Hope Elementary.

The free event is open to the public. For more information, call

#### PR nominations sought

The North Carolina chapter of the Public Relations Society of America seeks nominations for its Inspire Awards. Submissions are welcome from public relations, communications and marketing agencies, teams and solo practitioners.

Deadline is Feb. 27. Nominate online at www.ncprsa.org.

# Investors Title reports \$4 million loss in Q4

Investors Title Co. (Nasdaq: ITIC) reported losses of \$3.9 million on \$12.3 million in revenues during the fourth quarter of 2008. The Chapel Hill-based company reported a net loss of \$1.1 million for the year, compared to a net income of \$8.4 million for 2007. Investors Title sells title insurance – policies that protect property owners' or lenders' financial stakes in

property against losses from liens, title defects and other challenges. If you own a home, for instance, you probably have this insurance, since most major lenders won't give you a mortgage without it.

And therein lies some of the reason for the losses. The company wrote 20.4 percent fewer premiums in the final quarter.

"We are closely monitoring

conditions in the current real estate market in order to best position the company during this downturn while being mindful of opportunities to enhance our competitive strengths and marketing position, and prepare ourselves for when the market stabilizes," said ITIC Chairman J. Allen Fine in a news release issued Tuesday.

Other factors were \$2.2 mil-

lion in realized losses on investments and \$5.2 million in three large claims. "The largest, at \$3.3 million, was for unpaid mechanic liens by a large regional builder and the other two were both fraud-related, where funds intended to pay off mortgages were diverted out of trust accounts for personal use by individuals," Fine said.

— Staff Reports

#### **PRICE**

FROM PAGE I

Price said transportation money in the stimulus plan should be beneficial to Chapel Hill Transit and the Triangle Transit Authority. North Carolina will see about \$900 million in transportation funding, Price said. "A lot of that is for bridges and highways, but there's also [money] for bus replacement that should help Chapel Hill Transit and TTA.'

UNC-Chapel Hill and other research universities will also benefit from National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation money in the bill.

"It's hard to say how much, because those funds are competitively awarded," Price said. But researchers in the Triangle should be well positioned to win some of the contracts.

Price, a member of the House Appropriations Committee and chair of the subcommittee that oversees funding for the Department of Homeland Security, said he would like to have had more time with the bill and seen a higher degree of bipartisan support. None of his Republican colleges in

the House voted for the measure. One criticism was that the bill was pushed through in six weeks.

"I would have liked to have had 12 weeks, but this is an emergency situation," he said. "Even six weeks seems like a long time when you're losing tens of thousands of jobs every day."

The debate was often principled, he said, but also marked by stark differences in ideology, including a "pre-New Deal" mentality on the part of some opponents.

The results of attempts at bipar-

tisanship are "not encouraging," he said. "The price of getting Republican support [on the stimulus bill] was pretty high." In the end, he said, the move probably trimmed the numbers of jobs created or retained due to the bill by hundreds of thousands.

Price said that the stimulus negotiations are an example of how retirements and the recent election have reshaped the ranks of the House GOP. Few moderates remain, he said.

"The Republican membership is pretty hard core."

Looking ahead, Price said Congress and the president are likely to take up health care and energy policy along with winding down the war in Iraq. Several pieces of key legislation are also up for reauthorization in this session, including the Surface Transportation Act and No Child Left Behind, which, he said, needs major changes.

As part of the regular appropriations process, Price said he'll continue to find ways to strengthen the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Although he voted against including FEMA in the massive Department of Homeland Security, Price said it's probably not time to "unscramble the eggs."

The congressman also favors a review of the way local sheriffs are working with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and expects the Obama administration to work toward more comprehensive immigration reform.

Price said that getting local sheriffs and local governments involved in immigration issues is the result of the failure of the federal government to enact comprehen-

"It requires a federal solution," Price said.

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# The Carrboro Citizen 2008 Press Awards



FIRST PLACE NEWS ENTERPRISE: Taylor Sisk, Rogers Road

FIRST PLACE PROFILE FEATURE:

Taylor Sisk, ''A few moments with Beulah SECOND PLACE NEWS ENTERPRISE:

SECOND PLACE GENERAL NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY: Isaac Sandlin, Eve Carson candlelight vigil

Taylor Sisk, Breakdown: A series on mental health in N.C.

THIRD PLACE EDITORIAL PAGE: Kirk Ross

THIRD PLACE GENERAL EXCELLENCE IN NEWSPAPER WEB SITES

Last week was a big week for *The Carrboro Citizen*. It marked the publication of our 100th issue. We also were pleased to announce that we won six North Carolina Press Association awards.

It was our first year in the contest, and of course winning is delightful. Our mental health series and our study of the Rogers Road community and environmental justice, both penned by contributing editor **Taylor Sisk**, earned us top honors for enterprise reporting. Of the Rogers Road series, the judge wrote:

"Amazing! Kudos! I could use dozens of other words to describe how taken aback I was after reading these stories

... By far the best of the bunch."



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# ere can I find my Citizen?



#### CARRBORO

Weaver Street Market The ArtsCenter Amanté Gourmet Pizza Carrburritos Piedmont Health Services Midway Barber Shop VisArt Video Carolina Fitness Carrboro Business Coop The Red Hen Orange County Social Club Speakeasy - Greensboro &

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Carrboro Town Commons
Cliff's Meat Market
PTA Thriftshop
Calvander Food Mart
Carrboro Mini Mart
Padgett Station
Southern Rail

Open Eye Cafe
Carrboro Branch Library
The Beehive
Auto Logic
Reservoir
Johnny's Sporting Goods
Carolina Cleaners Laundromat
(Willow Creek)
Crescent Green Assisted
Living Living Jones Ferry Rd Park & Ride

CARRBORO PLAZA
Carrboro Plaza Park & Ride
North American Video
Tar Heel Tobacco
Super Suds
UPS Store
Curves Wingman

WHITE CROSS Harry's Market Fiesta Grill White Cross BP Express Lane

CHAPEL HILL **DOWNTOWN** Caribou Coffee/downtown Visitors Center Jiffy Lube Job Development Center Sandwhich/The Courtyard

West Franklin town racks (near Chapel Hill Cleaners) Internationalist Books Ham's Restaurant Time Out East Franklin town racks (near Subway) Courthouse Alley town racks North Columbia St. town racks (at bus stop)

**UNC CAMPUS** UNC Student Union Bullshead Bookshop Davis Library / UNC
UNC Family Medicine

Chapel Hill Post Office/Estes Caribou Coffee/ Franklin at Whole Foods
Harris Teeter / University Mall
University Mall / Kerr Drugs

Chamber Of Commerce

oniversity wall / Kerr Drugs entrance VisArt Video/Elliot Rd. Phydeaux Owen's 501 Diner Bruegger's Bagels/Eastgate Peak Fitness/Elliot Rd Chapel Hill Public Library Food Lion/Ram's Plaza

NORTH Hunan Chinese Restaurant Chapel Hill Senior Center Carol Woods Bagels on the Hill Eubanks Rd. Park & Ride That Coffee Place Cup a Joe Margaret's Cantina Chapel Hill Mini Mart

**SOUTH**N.C. Botanical Garden
Covenant House
15-501 South Park & Ride

**GOVERNOR'S CLUB** Bean & Barrel/ Governor's Village Vincenzo's Ristorante/ Governor's Village Carolina Meadows/Café

**MEADOWMONT** UNC Wellness Center Brixx Pizza Cafe Carolina LaRussa's Deli The Cedars
Young Simpson Underwood
Friday Center Park & Ride
Courtyard Marriott

#### SOUTHERN VILLAGE La Vita Dolce Park & Ride bus stop Market Square

**FEARRINGTON** McIntyre's Books Fearrington House Inn Old Granary Galloway Ridge

HILLSBOROUGH Weaver Street Market

Wal-Mart Maple View Farms Visitors Center Chamber of Commerce Orange County Senior Center Cup a Joe / outside box Sportsplex Durham Tech/student lounge

#### **PITTSBORO**

Pittsboro General Store Chatham Marketplace Pittsboro Public Library Carolina Brewery Pittsboro Family Medicine

**CHATHAM CROSSING** Torrero's Restaurant Chatham Crossing Medical Lowes Foods / outside box