

News Briefs

Business survey conducted

To evaluate its garbage services and reduce waste, the Orange County Solid Waste Department is conducting an online survey for businesses. The survey can be found at www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling/news. The data will be used to improve waste services and respondents are eligible for prizes including gift certificates and parking tokens.

Banner missing again

A second Cackalacky banner on display in Carrboro was stolen again and the company is responding by giving away free bumper stickers at Cliff's Meat Market. The stickers are available free while supplies last. For more information, visit www.cackalacky.com. And, if you have the banner, please give it back.

Man charged in youth's death

The Alamance County man accused of killing a 16-year-old Mebane resident has been charged with felony death by vehicle, felony hit and run and driving while impaired. Scott Steven Belling, 47, is being held in the Orange County Jail on \$70,000 bond. According to N.C. Highway Patrol, the victim, Che Skaggs, was skateboarding with his brother in front of his house on Claibornes Road at about 5:15 p.m. when Belling's vehicle ran off the road and struck him. Belling was apprehended at a convenience store about five miles from the scene of the accident. He had a 0.23 blood alcohol level, according to state troopers.

Physics demo

The UNC Department of physics and astronomy will hold the 8th Annual Physics Demo Show, Energy All Around Us! On March 1 at 2 p.m. The show will address questions such as: Why do we need energy? Where can we find energy? How can we conserve energy? Physics professors and graduate students will perform fun physics demonstrations. The event is fun and educational and is suited for all ages. The show will be held in Room 215 of Phillips Hall on the UNC campus and is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dan Burke at dburke@physics.unc.edu. Seating is limited to 150 people, and groups of 10 or more should contact Burke ahead of time.

Drug and Alcohol awareness workshops

The Drug and Alcohol Awareness Team and the Chapel Hill Police Department will sponsor a series of workshops on parent education awareness of teen alcohol and drug issues. CHPD crisis counselor Matt Sullivan will lead the workshops, which will provide information on how to keep teens safe from the harmful consequences of substance use. All sessions will be held at 7 p.m. on the following dates:

- Feb. 20, McDougle Middle School;
- Mar. 6, Carrboro High School; and
- Mar. 11, Smith Middle School.

All sessions will contain the same material, so parents should pick the date and location that is most convenient for them. The workshops are free and open to the public. For more information, call 942-3300 or email dalepratt-wilson@nc.rr.com.

Work on McCauley Street to start

Work will begin next week on a new electrical duct bank to upgrade the connection between the electrical substation on Cameron Avenue and the main campus of UNC. The work will cause some traffic delays and changes in on-street parking along McCauley Street and a small stretch of Pittsboro Street. Both McCauley and Pittsboro streets will remain open to traffic during the project, expected to end in late spring. When a lane needs to be closed because of construction, traffic will be directed by flagmen. Some on-street parking may not be available because of construction. Alternate parking is available between 5 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. in the nearby Wilson Court parking lot on the Carolina campus. The trimming of low-hanging tree branches along the street is scheduled to begin Feb. 19, followed a week later by excavation for the duct bank.

Leaf collection ends Feb. 29

The Town of Carrboro will end its annual loose-leaf collection on February 29. Loose-leaf collection is in residential areas only. Residents are requested to follow these collection service guidelines:

- Leaves may be raked curbside for collection
- Leaves must be free of all debris (leaves only)
- Leaves should not be placed in the street, drainage ditch, bike lane or on sidewalks
- Leaves may be bagged and placed curbside for collection (no more than eight plastic bags or unlimited paper bags, weighing no more than 50 pounds each)

Leaves may be bagged as of March 1 and placed curbside for pick up. The town will pick up no more than eight plastic bags or unlimited paper bags per household. Bagged leaves as of March 1 will be picked up according to your normal yard-waste collection schedule. Residents may call Paul E. Hellwig, landscaping and grounds supervisor, if there are questions or concerns regarding loose-leaf collection service. He can be reached via email at grounds@townofcarrboro.org or by telephone at 918-7431.

Mental health provider shutting down

By Taylor Sisk
Staff Writer

Citing insufficient funding from the state, Caring Family Network – the primary provider of mental health treatment in Orange, Person and Chatham counties – announced it will be discontinuing most of its services within the next month. Caring Family Network is a private agency that contracts to provide mental health and substance abuse services through the OPC Area Program. OPC is a local government agency tasked with providing oversight and management of mental health, developmental disability and substance

abuse services in the three counties. Prior to last spring, Caring Family Network had been serving approximately 1,000 clients in Orange County. In May, the organization announced that due in large measure to rate cuts by the state for community support services it would be restructuring its services. The Medicaid rate reimbursed to organizations providing community support services previously had been \$60.96 an hour and was reduced to \$51.28. In June, it then announced a cut-back in services. Caring Family Network has now announced that community support and outpatient services will be discontinued at the

end of this month and psychiatric and nursing services will no longer be provided after March 10, while therapeutic foster care homes will remain open. Jim Martin, who previously served as director of Caring Family Network's Chapel Hill clinic, has been hired by OPC to oversee the transition of services. He said that OPC is currently in negotiations with two providers to pick up the Caring Family Network's service capacities in Orange County. "I'm optimistic that we're going to get through this transition," he said. "Obviously, it's a big process, but we have a plan in place and we're going to work through it."

Schools maintain lowest drop-out rate in the state

The drop-out rate in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools in 2006-07 fell to 1.12 percent, the lowest drop-out rate of any school district in the state. The number of drop-outs in the district fell to 41, from 57 students in 2005-06, a 28-percent improvement. In North Carolina, the overall drop-out rate rose to 5.24 percent, a

slight increase from 2005-06. Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools has held the state's lowest drop-out rate for several years. The number of suspensions in the district held steady, with 363 suspensions in 2006-07 and 366 in 2005-06. District officials attribute the drop-out rate improvement to the efforts made as a result of

the district's participation in the High Five Regional Partnership for High School Excellence. According to a district press release, the district's three high schools have recently implemented strategies to thwart drop-outs, including identifying and providing support to students who struggle academically in middle school as well

as to other students who are prone to dropping out, such as those who are old for their grade levels. In addition, the district recently added a Middle College program with Durham Technical Community College, as well as career and thematic academies.

— STAFF REPORTS

Man arrested after fatal shooting in Northside

The Chapel Hill Police Department have charged a Chapel Hill man with first-degree murder in connection with a shooting in the Northside neighborhood Tuesday afternoon. William Albert Stroud, 27, of 222 Knolls St., was apprehended by police after he was located with his vehicle on Crest Drive. Police had received information that the suspect had fled the scene of the shooting, near Sykes Street and Gomains Avenue, in a burgundy Chevrolet Cavalier. The victim, Marshall Ralph Brown, 51, was found by police lying on the ground with a gunshot wound to the back and died later at UNC Hospitals. Stroud is being held without bond at the Orange County Jail.

— STAFF REPORTS

Covering summer reading choice

The 2008 Summer Reading Program Book Selection Committee at UNC has selected *Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights* by Kenji Yoshino. As part of its summer reading program, UNC asks all first-year and incoming transfer students to read a book over the summer and participate in small group discussions led by faculty and staff once they arrive on campus. Yoshino, the Guido Calabresi Professor of Law at Yale University, specializes in constitutional law, law and literature and Japanese law and society. In *Covering*, published in 2006, he uses his identity as Japanese-American and gay to illustrate sociologist Erving Goffman's notion of "covering" – down-playing stigmatizing identities in order to assimilate to the cultural mainstream. Yoshino challenges ideas about minority

rights and the sometimes-damaging effects of social integration. A nine-member book-selection committee of students, faculty and staff began meeting last fall to consider books for this year's program. Committee chairman Peter A. Coclanis, associate provost for international affairs and Albert A. Newsome Professor of History, said the book would push students to rethink the definition of equality and how "covering" degrades everyone's civil rights. The committee chose *Covering* from more than 160 suggestions made by 224 students, alumni, faculty and community members.


— STAFF REPORTS



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