

WHAT'S UP IN RALEIGH

10/24 to 11/6

10/24:

--Junior League of Raleigh A Shopping Spree @ Raleigh Convention Center (through 10/28)
--Still-Life Masterpieces @ N.C. Museum of Art (through 1/13)
--A Reel-ly Scary Cary Presents Shutter Island @ Koka Booth

10/25:

--A Reel-ly Scary Cary Presents Woman in Black @ Koka Booth Amphitheatre
--Raleigh Fashion Week: Local Boutique Fashion Show @ Renaissance Grand Ballroom

10/26:

--Carolina Hurricanes vs NY Rangers @ PNC Arena
--Fall Festival @ North Hills
--Edwin McCain @ Lincoln Center
--A Reel-ly Scary Cary Presents The Spiderwick Chronicles @ Koka Booth Amphitheatre

10/27:

--Larry's Beans Fall Tour @ Larry's Beans
--Artstober @ Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts
--Raleigh Zombie Walk 2012 @ Moore Square
--Mordecai House Ghost Tours @ Mordecai Historic Park
--Raleigh Living Dead Halloween Festival @ City Plaza
--Raleigh Fashion Week: Finale show @ Babylon
--A Reel-ly Scary Cary Presents The Rocky Horror Picture Show @ Koka Booth Amphitheatre

10/28:

--Monster Dash 5K @ Cameron Village
--Carolina Hurricanes vs Blue Jackets @ PNC Arena

10/31: HALLOWEEN

11/2:

--ACC Women's Soccer Semifinals @ WakeMed Soccer Park
--Carolina Hurricanes vs NY Islanders @ PNC Arena

11/3:

--Flea Market Reopens @ NC State Fairgrounds
--NC State Football vs Virginia @ Carter Finley Stadium
--Fall Foliage Hike @ Historic Yates Mill County Park
--NC State Basketball vs Belmont Abbey @ PNC Arena
--Marine Mammal Day @ NC Museum of Natural Sciences

11/4:

--Raleigh City of Oaks Marathon

11/6: ELECTION DAY

Presidential Candidates Seek to Differentiate, Validate Positions

Where the Presidential Candidates Stand on Welfare – Allison Pappas

The main U.S. welfare program Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), has been discussed by both Mitt Romney and Barack Obama in recent campaign ads.

Started in 1996 by President Clinton to replace the existing welfare programs of the time, "TANF is a block grant program to help move recipients into work and turn welfare into a program of temporary assistance." While TANF provides states with the flexibility to design their own programs, the federal government imposes work requirements and a five year limit on those receiving aid.

The grants total \$16.5 billion with an additional \$6.6 billion available. It has not been increased since the inception of the program in 1996, so inflation has decreased it by 40 percent. Less than half of eligible families actually participate in the program. In 2009, Obama awarded an additional \$5 billion for TANF under the Emergency Fund.

In response to complaints, the Obama administration asked states how the TANF block grant could be improved. Many states responded by saying that "their caseworkers spend more time completing paperwork than helping people get work." On July 12 the Department of Health and Human Services announced that it would be accepting waivers from states to reduce some of the state reporting requirements and increase states' flexibility.

Romney has attacked Barack

Obama's proposed waivers and accused him of "gutting" the TANF work requirement. "Heritage Foundation Policy specialist Robert Rector [states] that liberals...have historically opposed work requirements for welfare." In contrast, Romney has stated that he does "not want to install a spirit of dependence on government" and that "the linkage of work and welfare is essential to prevent welfare from becoming a way of life."

President Clinton, who developed the original TANF program says that Obama's waivers are not lessening the work requirement. Furthermore, welfare experts frame Obama's change as a reprieve from the stringent work requirements added by George W. Bush in 2005 rather than as an attempt to get rid of the original work guidelines.

Where the Presidential Candidates Stand on Military Spending – Zelle Brown

The United States is currently spends close to 16 percent of the federal budget on military spending. President Obama believes defense cuts are necessary in the budget, and presidential candidate Mitt Romney plans to spend more on defense if elected.

According to the USA Today, "Obama said that the military will indeed be leaner, but the U.S. will maintain a budget that is roughly larger than the next 10 countries' military budgets combined." Obama has proposed to cut \$487 billion from the defense budget over the course of the next decade. Obama's budget cuts would remove older ships while delaying the produc-

tion of new ones. He wants to reduce the number of troops and have them focus on "hotspots." According to the Huffington Post, Obama proposes to reshape the military "between now and 2020 with an emphasis on countering terrorism, maintaining a nuclear deterrent, protecting the U.S. homeland and "detering and defeating aggression by any potential adversary."

In opposition, Romney argues that "The Obama administration's cuts have left us with a military inventory largely composed of weapons designed forty to fifty years ago," according to his website. Romney also claims that the U.S. needs 328 naval ships in order to defend American security, yet there are currently only 284, the lowest since 1914.

Romney plans to reverse Obama-era defense cuts, to rebuild the navy and to replace aging equipment. Instead of nine new naval ships per year, Romney plans to build 15 and raise the number of troops by "100,000 extra troops, which would bolster the entire military force to over 1.5 million," according to CNN. "The centerpiece of Mr. Romney's proposal is a promise to spend at least 4 percent of gross domestic product on [the] military.... That would add as much as \$2.3 trillion to the defense budget over 10 years" Romney argues that "the cost of preparedness may sometimes be high, but the cost of unpreparedness is almost always higher — not just in tax dollars but in human life and in the survival of liberty and representative government."

LOCAL BEAT



The Interior of Quail Ridge Books.
Image via quailridgebooks.com

Quail Ridge Books

Jennifer Cash, staff writer

As soon as you step into Quail Ridge Books and Music you know you are not in Barnes & Noble. The atmosphere is calming and homey. Not sure what book you want? The Quail Ridge staff is willing to help. It is just one of the many things that set Quail Ridge apart from the big box stores. All of the staff at Quail Ridge are knowledgeable readers who read many books before their publication date, so that they can help give selections to customers. They can also assist you in finding the perfect book for a gift. If you are looking for a gift, Quail Ridge even offers free

gift-wrapping and they have a wonderful selection of greeting cards. It is your one stop shop.

It is hard to imagine that someone would not be able to find something at Quail Ridge. They offer books in many different genres from fiction and non-fiction titles to cookbooks to books on art & architecture, travel, religion, business; you name it, and Quail Ridge most likely has it. They also offer many books and CDs of North Carolina authors and musicians. This really puts a local touch on the store because many of these books are highlighted in their own sections, so it is clear that it is from someone local. Quail Ridge also has books for young adults as well as a section for children.

Quail Ridge has been around for 28 years and was founded by Nancy Olson. General Manager, Sarah Goddin says, "Our main goal is to be different." Quail Ridge strives to stand out from chain stores like Barnes & Noble by trying to connect with customers and bring them more of what they want. One distinguishing factor about Quail Ridge is their many author events. Both national and local authors have come to Quail Ridge and the Quail

Ridge staff keeps working to bring more big names to the store. In fact, Quail Ridge will be hosting TV chef, Rachel Ray in December at Jones Auditorium on the Meredith campus. "We value our relationship with Meredith," says Goddin.

One of the biggest factors that set Quail Ridge apart from national bookstores is that when you shop at a local bookstore you are helping to support your city by keeping your money locally. Goddin says, "three times more money is put into the local economy versus shopping at a chain store." Quail Ridge was recently part of a study by Civic Economics that compared 13 Raleigh independent businesses with 4 national chains (including Barnes & Noble). The results found that the independent businesses return 51.1% of their revenue to the local economy where as the chain stores only returns 13.6% to this area. When you shop local you are also helping your local economy.

Quail Ridge is located behind Meredith in the Whole Foods shopping center on Wade Avenue. For more information visit their website at www.quailridgebooks.com.