

HOMEGROWN FEAST



DTH/MADONNA LEE

Local farmers held the first special pre-Thanksgiving Carrboro Farmers' Market on Tuesday afternoon from 2 to 6 p.m. The market gave customers a chance to buy locally grown produce and homemade baked goods to add to their Thanksgiving feasts. Quilts, baskets,

cedar furniture, yarn and knit hats also were available. The market normally is open during the summer months from 7 a.m. to noon Saturdays and from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays. The market is located at 301 W. Main St., next to Carrboro Town Hall at the Town Commons.

CHCCS wins national award

Technology program gets accolades

BY LINDSEY LISTROM
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools has been selected for one of the 2004 President's Technology Awards for its innovative and far-reaching technology initiatives. The district is one of 18 recipients of the award, which is given annually by the American Association of School Administrators. The association recognizes leadership in utilizing technology to advance teaching, learning and achievement.

Ray Reitz, chief technology officer for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro district, said the award recognizes the district's attempts to revolutionize technology within the school system.

"Based on several years of strategic planning, we have developed some break-the-mold solutions that are being noticed by professional educational organizations and school districts throughout the country," Reitz said.

Kim Hoke, CHCCS spokeswoman, said the district's Connect 2 School program is at the forefront of the technology initiative.

The program's foundation rests on providing "anytime, anywhere access" to students, she said.

Through the Connect 2 School campaign, the district provides computer devices to students at the middle school and high school levels who otherwise would not have computer access at home.

The devices, called thin-client computers, enable students to have access to the district's server and a home Internet connection without buying a traditional computer, said Bob Stocking, CHCCS director of instructional technology and media.

"All the computing power sits in the servers located at school,"

Stocking said. "Instead of needing a 'fat' computer, (students) only need a monitor, a keyboard, a mouse and a device that allows them to connect," he said.

Hoke added that the district provides home technology at a reasonable initial cost. "We use donated monitors, and the district also provides the families with three months of free Internet access."

This access is provided through a combination of sponsorship and district funding.

Hoke said the program has contributed to equity among students.

"It has helped provide access for students who wouldn't normally have the opportunity from their homes to operate on a level playing field with students whose families have a computer," she said.

Reitz said the district's improved reliability through a dependable infrastructure also contributed to the award.

"It just means providing our educational community with a system that is based on industry standards and opens up great opportunities for students and teachers."

With the proposed merger of Orange County Schools and CHCCS pending, officials said the two district's networks could be connected if need be.

"We are working with the Orange County government and the town of Chapel Hill on several collaborative efforts to create one single network, so this is an area that we have been working on for several years," Reitz said. "As far as technology goes, we think that there are many resources that the city and county can share."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Senate passes Medicare bill

Bush to sign revamped plan into law

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Senate gave final congressional approval Tuesday to the most sweeping changes to Medicare since its creation in 1965, including a new prescription drug benefit for 40 million older and disabled Americans. The 54-44 vote sends the bill to President Bush, who is eager to sign it into law.

Supporters said the \$395 billion measure, which gives private insurers a large new role in health care for seniors, was an overdue change for the 38-year-old program.

Drug coverage won't begin until 2006, although seniors next year will be able to purchase a drug discount card that officials said could

reduce their pharmacy bills by 15 percent to 25 percent.

Seniors "will finally have the prescription drug coverage they need and the choices they deserve," Senate Majority Bill Frist of Tennessee said. "At the same time, it preserves traditional Medicare."

Democratic opponents complained that the bill was a giveaway to insurers and drug companies. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said it will dump seniors "in the cold arms of the HMOs."

While Frist and others called it a bipartisan vote, the tally fell largely along party lines. Forty-two Republicans, 11 Democrats and an independent backed the legislation. Nine conservative Republicans

joined 35 Democrats in opposition. The GOP-controlled House passed the bill near dawn Saturday on a 220-215 party-line vote.

Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota said Republicans would pay a price in coming elections because "seniors by an overwhelming margin oppose this legislation."

Republicans relished their political triumph on an issue that Democrats have long exploited in political campaigns. Bush sees the bill as fulfilling both his and many lawmakers' campaign promises.

"Year after year the problems in the Medicare system were studied and debated, and yet nothing was done," Bush said Tuesday at a hospital in Las Vegas. "Some said Medicare reform could never be done. For the sake of our seniors,

we got something done."

When the legislation made it through the Senate for the first time, in June, Daschle and Kennedy were part of the overwhelming 76-21 vote for the bill. But in months of closed-door negotiations, Republicans and two Democratic senators forged a compromise bill that most Democrats believed favored private insurers at the expense of traditional Medicare.

"It didn't have to be this way," Kennedy said.

At its heart, the Medicare legislation was designed as a grand bargain, with the new drug coverage for all Medicare beneficiaries long sought by Democrats combined with a Republican-backed plan to give private insurance companies a vast new role in health care for the program's beneficiaries.

Report details spread of AIDS

New wave affecting China, Russia

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — The HIV/AIDS epidemic continues its devastating march across the globe, with more deaths and infections this year than ever before, according to a U.N. report released Tuesday.

The report by UNAIDS, the U.N. agency responsible for coordinating global efforts to fight the disease, said the epidemic killed more than 3 million people in 2003. About 5 million more acquired the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, bringing the number of people living with the virus to between 34 million and 46 million.

"This is an epidemic that at the start was a white middle-class gay man's disease. Today, if you use a stereotype, the face of AIDS is a young woman from Africa," Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of UNAIDS, told a news conference in London.

The report said the epidemic is rampant in sub-Saharan Africa — an estimated 26.6 million of the continent's people are living with HIV — and a new wave of the disease is threatening China, Indonesia and Russia because of transmissions through drug use and unsafe sex.

There was some positive news in the report, with several countries making progress in combating the spread of the disease. Uganda was considered one success story, marking its 12th consecutive year of reduced HIV infections.

UNAIDS also said the global response to the crisis had expanded significantly in the past two to three years, with spending on anti-retroviral medication and education increasing in many countries.

"However, it is quite clear that our current global efforts remain entirely inadequate for an epidemic that is continuing to spiral out of control," said Piot.

The report said anti-retroviral treatment coverage remains dismal in sub-Saharan Africa, and basic knowledge of HIV/AIDS is disturbingly low in many countries, especially among women.

Voluntary counseling and testing services are all but absent in many nations, and only 1 percent of pregnant women in heavily affected countries have access to services aimed at preventing mother-to-child HIV transmission, the report states.

A report by the Washington-based International Center for Research on Women said the stigma of the disease continues to impede testing, prevention and treatment for women in Africa.

"It is now incumbent on international policymakers to definitively address stigma and discrimination to alleviate the burden of suffering it has added to the lives of people living with HIV and AIDS," said Geeta Rao Gupta, president of the center.

Insurgents targeting Iraqis with violence

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Attacks on U.S. troops in Iraq have declined in the last two weeks and insurgents increasingly are targeting Iraqis working with the U.S.-led coalition in an effort to intimidate them, the top U.S. civilian and military leaders here said Tuesday.

Another international humanitarian organization announced it was curtailing its operations in Iraq because of the deteriorating security situation.

After sunset Tuesday, large explosions were heard in central Baghdad, followed by sirens and sporadic gunfire from the west bank of the Tigris River. The cause was not known immediately.

Insurgents this month have fired mortars on the U.S. headquarters compound in central Baghdad, known as the "green zone." There has been no firing in that area since the U.S. military launched "Operation Iron Hammer" to strike at guerrilla hideouts in the city.

Chief administrator L. Paul Bremer said the insurgents' recent attacks on the coalition itself were not having the desired effect, so they were turning to Iraqis who help occupation forces.

"The security situation has changed," Bremer said at a press conference with Gen. John Abizaid, the chief of the U.S. Central Command.

"They have failed to intimidate the coalition," he said. "They have now begun a pattern of trying to intimidate innocent Iraqis. They will not succeed. ... If Saddam taught the Iraqis nothing else it was how to endure the depredations of thugs."

Abizaid said that the number of daily attacks on coalition forces were down by about half during the last two weeks. He gave no figures, but U.S. officials have said U.S. forces were being attacked on average of 30 to 35 times a day.

"In the past two weeks, these attacks have gone down, attacks against coalition forces, but unfortunately we find that attacks against Iraqis have increased," Abizaid said. He said the attacks had increased not only in number but in severity.

Abizaid said some foreigners were fighting with the insurgents, but their numbers were small.

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TIMELINE R 1:30-4:15 (7:00)-9:40
HAUNTED MANSION R 12:50-3:00 (5:10)-7:20-9:35
\$5.50 for college students with ID
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DR. SEUSS: THE CAT IN THE HAT* R Daily 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
THE HAUNTED MANSION* R Daily 11:00, 1:00, 3:05, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35
THE MISSING* R Daily 12:30, 3:10, 7:10, 9:50
BAD SANTA* R Daily 11:10, 1:10, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:40
GOTHIKA* R Daily 11:05, 1:10, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45
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Chapel Hill 942-7762 Durham 286-2872 for appointments for walk-in times

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RUSSELL CROWE MASTER OF COMMANDER
HOLIDAY MATINEES FRI. 11-28
7:00, 9:35, FRI-SAT-SUN 1:50, 4:20
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HOLIDAY MATINEES FRI. 11-28
STARTS WEDS. 11-26
LOVEACTUALLY
7:00, 9:35, FRI-SAT-SUN 1:50, 4:20
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KENNETH TORAN, LOS ANGELES TIMES
MYSTIC RIVE
STARTS WEDS. 11-26
7:00, 9:30, FRI-SAT-SUN 1:50, 4:25
STATION AGENT HUMAN STAIN 7:15, FRI-SAT-SUN 2:15, 9:20, FRI-SAT-SUN 4:30
SHATTERED GLASS
7:10, 9:30, FRI-SAT-SUN 2:10, 4:40