

County presents health review

Obesity, child abuse cited as concerns

BY ERIN GIBSON
STAFF WRITER

Orange County residents tend to be healthy, but there are still some health problems that need to be addressed, according to a 2004 county health assessment presented Thursday by the Healthy Carolinians of Orange County.

The Healthy Carolinians presented the report at a joint meeting with the Orange County Board of Health. The organizations have been working since January 2003 to develop an assessment of county health concerns.

"There are two overarching themes," said Maria Hitt, Healthy Carolinians coordinator. "The first is that the cost of living and the

cost of staying healthy are too high in Orange County. The other is that there are significant health disparities between minority and white populations."

She said other areas of concern include lack of health insurance, barriers to accessing services, obesity, substance abuse and mental health.

The assessment, required every four years by state law, is designed to involve the community in determining health issues and finding solutions. The issues dictate areas of focus for health departments.

The 14 concerns voiced in the focus groups were compiled in a survey. Seven hundred people then ranked their top five concerns on

the survey.

Other areas of concern, based on statistics from hospitals, schools and health agencies, include the high rates of cancer, suicide and reported and substantiated child abuse. "Orange County has the highest rate of people diagnosed with cancer in the state," Hitt said. "But we also have a low death rate from cancer, so we have to take that into consideration, too."

Domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault are comparable to statewide levels, but the survey indicates that residents are still worried. The assessment notes the numerous cases that remain unreported.

The Advocates for Children committee is already working on child abuse issues. Committee Chairwoman Linda

Foxworth said her organization is preparing for events to increase awareness about child abuse, beginning with brown-bag lunch seminars.

Hitt said the Voices for Healthy Adolescent Choices committee is working on a new approach. "We want to continue the prevention programs, but we now need to attack mental health for teens," she said.

The committee has developed a six-month plan to make mental health services more accessible to students.

The Healthy Choices, Community Voices committee is focusing on reducing obesity in Orange County workplaces.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Iraq attack leaves 9 dead

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Attackers killed nine people in an outburst of violence, including four Christian women headed to jobs at a U.S. military base and two American soldiers. South of the capital, the security chief of Spanish troops in Iraq was shot in the head during a raid.

Two Iraqi policemen were killed Thursday and three others were wounded when gunmen fired on a police checkpoint between

Fallujah and Ramadi, two insurgency hot spots west of Baghdad.

Elsewhere, two U.S. soldiers were killed and another wounded during a rocket and mortar barrage late Wednesday on an American camp near Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad. American troops returned fire.

The deaths of the soldiers brought the number of American service members who have died since the U.S. launched the Iraq war March 20 to 505.

ILLNESS

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The number of patients trickled down to about seven students Thursday, Covington said.

"As far as we can tell, we're on the downward trend with this, if

UNION

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he said. "We've breezed through all kinds of things and the entire team is real pleased with it."

Even with the delay, Luse said the reopening festivities, which will involve food, entertainment, prizes and a speech by Chancellor James Moeser, will not change. The 2001 senior class gift aquarium also will be unveiled at the event.

Luse said the final product will be something that the campus community can take pride in. "We just have to be a little more patient, and what we get is certainly going to be worth the wait."

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not over it," Reinhardt said.

Sample analyses might return from the lab this afternoon at the earliest, King said, and questionnaire results will be collected and tabulated throughout the weekend.

"As we crunch the data, we'll be able to give you better information," Covington said. "It's just a question of massaging that data, and that will come with time."

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BOG

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state. He added that the goal is to have the best educated work force and to promote jobs in the state.

BOG members added that UNC-CH still would be an attractive option for out-of-state students. "Given the ability of the campus at Chapel Hill to meet financial need, it does not strike me as unfair," Phillips said.

Broadwell also said that out-of-state students would be drawn to the University for its standing as a top public university. "Chapel Hill has a unique reputation nationwide," he said.

Board members were not willing to speculate on whether the tuition increase would be approved before formal discussions. A BOG task force meeting is scheduled for Feb. 6 to discuss the proposal. The board meets in its entirety Feb. 13 and is expected to vote.

Contact the State & National Editor at stnidesk@unc.edu.

HEALTH CARE

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While not specifically mentioning Roper, Rand said business savvy was a necessity for the job.

"The UNC Health Care System) is a huge financial enterprise to oversee," he said.

"We wanted a person to advocate on behalf of health-care schools."

The new CEO of UNC Health Care System will take on the responsibility of a hospital system with almost \$600 million in annual revenue and almost 5,000 employees.

Jeffrey Houpt has held the posi-

tion for the past seven years. Houpt announced last May that he would step down at the end of the 2003-04 academic year.

A press representative said Houpt would not comment on the search.

A closed-session Personnel and Tenure Committee meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., followed by a full BOG meeting at 10:30 a.m. to appoint the new CEO, Williams said.

The appointment is the only item on the agenda for the meeting.

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TUITION

FROM PAGE 1

released today, Shelton said.

Shelton said he will not reduce the dollar amount originally allocated for faculty salaries, teaching assistant salaries and staff salaries by the Tuition Task Force, which crafted this fall a \$900 three-year increase that the BOT rejected.

With the extra funds the \$1,500 increase generates over the task force's plan, Shelton said, he will place highest priority on funding faculty salaries.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

CORRECTION

•An article in Tuesday's paper should have said that Howard Dean is a former Vermont governor and that Dick Gephardt is a current U.S. representative from Missouri.

To report an error, contact Managing Editor Daniel Thigpen at dthigpen@email.unc.edu.

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P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515
Elyse Ashburn, Editor, 962-4086
Advertising & Business, 962-1163
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THE Daily Crossword

By Josiah Breward

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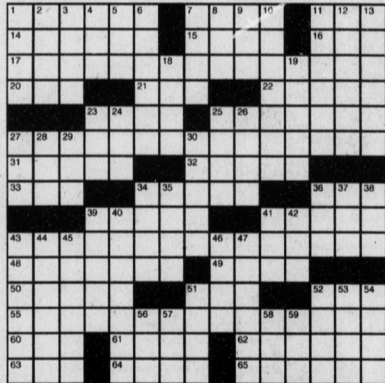
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