

POLICE LOG

FROM STAFF REPORTS

■ Chapel Hill police arrested a local man at 2 a.m. Monday and charged him with one felony count of strangulation and two misdemeanor counts of assault on a female, police reports state.

According to reports, Michael Wayne Ramsey, 37, was arrested at his home on Friar Lane after he came home drunk and began punching his wife and oldest daughter.

Ramsey is being held without bond and is scheduled to appear today in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ A Chapel Hill convenience store was the victim of a strong armed robbery at 10:30 p.m. Sunday, police reports state.

According to reports, the suspect stole an undisclosed amount of money from the Etna gas station at 1509 E. Franklin St.

■ The Chapel Hill High School student arrested at 6:30 p.m. Friday and charged with one count of felony kidnapping, one count of misdemeanor assault and battery, and one misdemeanor count of larceny has been linked with a sexual assault complaint that took place at the school before Christmas, said police spokeswoman Jane Cousins.

Cousins said Mario La-Chad Burgess, 17, held the victim in the bathroom against her will as she tried to fight him off.

■ Chapel Hill police responded to several breaking and entering and larceny complaints this week-end, all involving UNC students, police reports state.

Police responded to a breaking and entering with no force and attempted larceny and assault at 6 p.m. Friday at the Kappa Alpha fraternity house at 110 W. Cameron Ave., reports state.

The victim found the subject attempting to steal cases of meat.

A senior was the victim of larceny at 4 a.m. Saturday at his home on South Merritt Mill Road when a suspect stole a Miller Lite keg valued at \$99.

A junior was the victim of breaking and entering and larceny from his vehicle on Henderson Street at 10:20 p.m. Saturday when a bottle of cologne valued at \$30 was taken.

A sophomore was the victim of larceny at 12:15 a.m. Saturday on Isley Street after a subject took her purse, which had a digital camera worth \$200, from off her car trunk.

County seeks input on school

BY CATHERINE SHAROKY
STAFF WRITER

A decision on the fate of the city schools' 10th elementary school has again been postponed.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners voted Monday to delay current plans in an effort to incorporate input received from nearby residents in December.

The commissioners were presented with a range of options for the Twin Creeks project, including an option to keep current plans and an option of a complete redesign that could take as long as a year.

Twin Creeks will include an elementary school, a middle school and recreational facilities and will be located north of Carrboro between Eubanks Road and N.C. 86.

The commissioners voted to support a compromise that would incorporate some of the citizen-proposed plans into the current plans.

"I've got a real problem in going back and throwing all that work out," Commissioner Stephen H. Halkiotis said about the proposition of a complete redesign.

David Stancil, the director of the county's Department of Environment and Resource Conservation, agreed.

"A redesign effort done right would take resources away from other projects," he said.

The county is currently involved in the construction and planning phases of, among other projects, Orange County Schools' third middle school, the city schools' third high school and two new county senior centers.

"We use the Jenga analogy," Stancil said of the idea of a complete redesign. "If you pull something out from underneath, it tends to collapse."

Vice Chairman Barry Jacobs suggested that the commissioners focus efforts on four main points, one of which is moving the elementary school within walking distance of its surrounding neighborhoods — the principal concern voiced by residents in December.

"The issue of walking is a factor but should not be the driving and deterring factor," Jacobs said.

The commissioners were also unsure that children would walk even if given the option.

"The driving force in my opinion is that walkability is one thing for planners and another thing for parents," Halkiotis said.

Jacobs also suggested leaving

the athletic field configuration; moving the proposed stadium closer to the other active recreational facilities; and considering a proposal for an action sports park that could include a dirt bike jump trail and a concrete bowl for skateboarding.

"We've made a commitment to the soccer community who's been crying out for facilities," Jacobs said.

Twin Creeks was scheduled to be funded through 2001 voter-approved bonds.

Halkiotis suggested that Chairman Moses Carey Jr. join Commissioner Alice Gordon in an ad hoc committee to incorporate suggestions so that the commissioners can hear a final proposal April 12.

Jacobs suggested that the project work group only accept written comments to keep the project moving forward.

"We need to limit it to no more than three months and limit the input we get from the public," Carey said, "because this thing could go on and on."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Local legends may see honor

BY DAN SCHWIND
SENIOR WRITER

Seven weeks after the Chapel Hill Town Council voted to rename Airport Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, the council is looking at taking on another renaming.

The council accepted a petition Monday night from Mayor Pro Tem Edith Wiggins and Mayor Kevin Foy to rename the Town Municipal Building in honor of former Mayor Howard Lee and his wife, Lillian Lee.



Former Mayor Howard Lee might see his family name on the town hall.

"I was both surprised and very flattered to be given such an honor," said Howard Lee, Chapel Hill's first black mayor. "I certainly had not expected it."

The petition asks that the Town Municipal Building be renamed the Lee Municipal Building. If approved, the change would take effect May 8, the same day Airport Road is officially set to change its name.

"I think it would be really great to have a Lillian and Howard Lee Municipal Building," said Rebecca Caldwell, who contributed to Howard Lee's successful 1969 mayoral campaign. "That would be absolutely wonderful. ... (Howard) brought a lot to Chapel Hill."

Howard Lee became the first black mayor in the South elected in a predominantly white city in 1969.

"We used to stand outside (the old municipal) building at the height of the civil rights movement to make sure the police didn't act inappropriately," said R.D. Smith, who also served on Howard Lee's

mayoral campaign. "It would be great to see him and Lillian honored this way."

As mayor, Lee created the Chapel Hill bus system, despite much public opposition, and also helped modernize water and sewage systems in the Northside neighborhood.

In addition, Howard Lee was also responsible for the creation of the very building that might soon be named after him.

"When I first ran for mayor ... the citizens had voted to build a new municipal building," he said. "Part of my campaign promise was to construct the building in my first year ... I achieved that."

Lee also served five terms in the N.C. Senate, and is current chairman of the state Board of Education.

Lillian Lee began her career as a secretary at UNC Hospitals, then known as N.C. Memorial Hospitals. She moved on to teach in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools for 32 years before retiring in 2000 as dean of students at Chapel Hill High School.

She ran several voter registration drives in local high schools with much success, according to the petition.

"To be a good teacher, you have to motivate people ... to make a difference," Smith said. "She did that."

Lillian Lee said that the petition came as a surprise, but that both she and her husband felt honored.

"We both have worked very hard in Chapel Hill but we never did things for personal recognition," Lillian Lee said. "But it's always nice to know that people appreciate what we've done. ... Anyone would appreciate that."

City Editor Ryan C. Tuck contributed to this story. Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Middle school bids move forward

BY BRIANNA BISHOP
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

With funding issues now resolved, work on the county's newest middle school can move forward into the construction phase.

The Orange County Board of Education, after receiving funds from the county to cover budget over-runs, unanimously approved bids for construction at its Monday night meeting.

The middle school, which will be the third in the Orange County School district, is situated on a 100-acre site in Efland that is co-located with a soccer complex.

The district broke ground on the school Nov. 30.

Rising costs in materials caused the price of the school's construction to increase more than \$3 million over original estimates.

Before the school board could address the bids Monday, it had to wait on approval from the Orange County Board of Commissioners for the additional funding.

George McFarley, director of auxiliary services for county schools, reported back to the school board after attending the commissioners' meeting.

He said the commissioners discussed the budget situation for more than half an hour before unanimously approving the funding to cover the shortage — about \$3.5 million — for the third middle school.

Commissioners referred to the money they will use to cover the budget over-runs as an additional funding source, McFarley said.

Superintendent Shirley Carraway said she thought the commissioners would be as accommodating in responding to increasing budget demands for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools' third high school.

"I'm assuming that they'll do that for the additional overage that they need for high school number three," she said.

Before approving the bids, board Chairwoman Libbie Hough

thanked McFarley and his associates for the effort they made in securing the additional funds.

"I really appreciate the work that you did," she said.

The bids approved by the board are for four contractors: J.H. Allen Inc., Indacor, Starr Electric Co. Inc. and ABL and Associates Plumbing LLC.

Each approved contractor will cover a different aspect of construction such as electrical or plumbing.

The bidding process began Dec. 7, and according to a letter to the superintendent, bids were reviewed and approved in discussions Dec. 14.

With the overage funded and the bids approved, the construction phase of the new middle school might soon begin.

"We're looking to begin mid-February," McFarley said.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

CORRECTION

■ Due to a reporting error, a Jan. 24 brief states that the UNC women's basketball team plays at the Smith Center once this season. The team has played there twice and will play there again Feb. 20.

To report corrections, contact Managing Editor Chris Coletta at c.coletta@email.unc.edu.

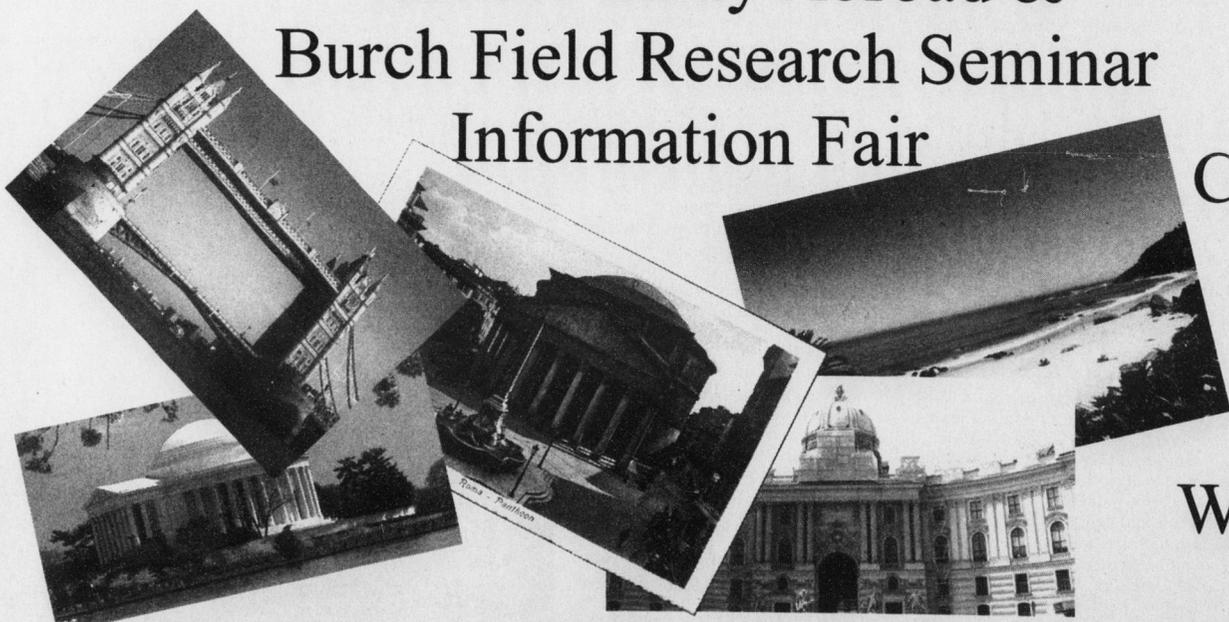
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