Legislators take shot at court Town to pick up tab on home repair

BY AARON PRUITT

In an effort to streamline the elections process, legislators filed bills in both houses of the General Assembly on Tuesday that would establish procedures for dealing with contested results.

Sen. Dan Clodfelter, D-Mecklenburg, sponsored the bill in the Senate, and Reps. Deborah Ross, D-Wake, and Beverly Earle, D-Mecklenburg, co-sponsored it in the House

"This is just setting up a procedural mechanism," Clodfelter said. "We've had this power for quite some time; we just haven't needed

to use it in quite some time."

The N.C. Constitution gives the legislature jurisdiction over disputed elections for governor, lieutenant governor and positions in the Council of State. But it doesn't stipulate how to go about it.

Ross said the purpose of the bill is to fulfill the General Assembly's constitutional duty and to help expedite the process in contested elections.

"If it weren't for this bill, you

would have to go up and down the court system and all over the place," Ross said.

Under the bill, the Speaker of the House and the Senate president pro tem each would appoint five people to a special committee after a losing candidate files a contest.

After reviewing the evidence, the committee would give a recommendation to a joint session, which could accept a proposal, reject it or send it back to committee.

The bill comes less than a week after the N.C. Supreme Court threw out more than 11,000 provisional ballots cast statewide.

ballots cast statewide.

"We're not sure why the courts even heard the case," Clodfelter said. "The courts have no jurisdiction in contested elections.

Under the state constitution, courts aren't in a position to decide the outcome of a contested election, said Ferrel Guillory, director of UNC's Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life.

"Courts aren't empowered to rule in elections," he said. "The courts can only apply the law. The state consti-

tution gives the legislature the right to rule in election matters."

Some say having the legislature decide an election would over-politicize the results, but Guillory said it's a moot point.

"Everything in an election is politicized; that's the point," Guillory said. "Ross and Clodfelter are just filling in a gap in the pro-cess of contested elections. They are letting the politics of an election play out in an orderly way." Clodfelter stressed that this bill is

not new to North Carolina or to the country. "This provision has been around for almost 160 years here in the state, and several other states have a similar provision," he said.

"Most people agree who won an election — the person with the most votes — but recently there have been challenges over who gets the votes," Clodfelter said. "It is pretty rare for this provision to be used. Contested elections

just (don't) happen all that often."

Contact the State ℧ National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Grants to assist low-income areas

BY GREGG FOUND

Residents in affordable housing need not worry about paying for repairs to their homes — the town might be willing to help them out.

Applications for federal

grants through the Community Development Block Grant and the Orange County HOME Program are due Feb. 28.

And Northside neighborhood residents have the option of applying to the Comprehensive Housing Rehabilitation Program, which was established in 2003 by the Chapel Hill Town Council. There is no deadline for this grant program. The comprehensive program

was created to keep low-income residences up to the housing code, targeting problems including insulation, wiring and heat.

"For a homeowner to qualify for this grant, there has to be a minimum housing code violation," said cants so far.

Jamie Rohe of the council's program. But if a person is handicapped, we could also use the grant money for accessibilities such as a ramp, rail-

ings or handicapped toilet."

Northside, which is located north of West Rosemary Street and west of North Columbia Street, is home to many households that qualify for affordable housing — earning less than 80 percent of the area's median income.

Rohe said the council's program also pays for no-interest, forgivable loans, which the homeowner doesn't have to repay as long as he stays in the house for a set amount of time. Loans are offered for five, 10 and 15 years.

"We just want to make sure we don't rehab someone's house and then they go and sell it," Rohe said, adding that the homeowner would only have to pay back the loan if he moves before his time is up.

Rohe said the loans typically pay for common home repairs such as a hole in the wall or a leaky roof. There have been about 20 appliBut households outside of Northside that fit affordable housing standards can still apply for

either of the federal grants.

"They could be used for home repairs, new construction or down payment assistance," said Robert Dowling, director of Orange Community Housing and Land Trust, which uses the grants to

fund affordable housing projects. He said that some of the grants will be used in Northside, but it is hard to judge where the money will go because no one has asked for a grant yet for the 2005-06 year.

Dolores Bailey, co-director of EmPOWERment Inc., an organization that helps with development projects in Northside, said the federal grants make homes affordable.

"We offer the grants to home-buyers as a subsidy," she said.
"We have a very difficult time

competing with a large developer who can offer more money," she added. "We just don't have the money to give to them."

> Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

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LANDSCAPER LOOKING for 2 people with landscap-ing experience to help with building garden beds

PROVIDE ONE-ON-ONE assistance to senior Provide ONE-ON-ONE assistance to senior citizens, including transportation, meal prep-aration and help with other daily tasks. Great opportunity for students pursuing careers re-lated to health care, psychology, and social work, but all majors are welcome. Flexible schedule. 12-40 hrswk. Call A Helping Hand, 969-7111 or email ahlpnghnd3@aol.com.

TENNIS INSTRUCTOR: Teach youth and or adult all levels: Monday, Wednesday, Tuesday, Thursday, morning or evening classes. Season runs March through Octobe. Teaching experience preferred. Pay rate \$13/hour. Apply by Monday, February 28, 2005: Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation, 200 Plant Road (968-2784), E.O.E.

CINDERCARE OF CHAPEL HILL is now hiring for a part-time cook and a full-time teacher. Please

Help Wanted

SUPER ORGANIZER NEEDED for help in home office a few hours/week, computer skills a plus, \$10/hour. Please leave detailed message at 942-3268.

PAID TO STUDY? COUNSELOR ASSISTANTS needed part-time, 2-3 nights/week at Three prings of North Carolina's outdoor residential treatment program, located near Pitts-boro, NC. Dutles include monitoring campsites between 10pm-8am. \$9/hour. Send resume to dzienisjoseph@hotmail.com, fax 919-542-5565.

THE POTTED PLANT. Help wanted for Valentine's Day. Need delivery driver (must have own car). Will pay mileage plus hourly rate. Also need store help. Apply at Eastgate.

GREAT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY. Energetic, dependable mentors needed to work one-on-one with individuals with disabilities and a trisk youth in Chapel Hill and surrounding areas. Gain experience in mental health and social services. Flexible after school, evening, and weekend hours. Send resume attra Julia (720 Egion Road, Suitz 260, Chapel Hill, NC 27517 or email to ahrchapelhill@bellsouth.net.

WORKING MOM IN Durham needs part-time caregiver for 18-month-old. 7 am some mornings and 2-3 hours in the evening on weekdays. Also 4 hours on Saturday/Sunday, flexible timings. Undergraduates and graduate students only. Please respond to rao00012@mc.duke.edu.

WEEKEND/HOLIDAY VETERINARY ASSISTANT LO-CAL to Chapel Hill/Durham. Experience preferred. Fax resume to 408-0485 or apply in person: 2226-A Nelson Highway 54, Chapel Hill.

MAINTENANCE: QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL needed to assist maintenance technicians at Chapel Hill property. Can begin immediately, starting at 20 hours/week and increasing during the summer. Please call Pam at 929-8600.

AUTISM SOCIETY OF NC seeks COUNSELORS for summer camp serving persons with autism. May 22 through August 5. Contact David Yell, dyell@autismsociety-nc.org or www.autismsociety-nc.org. CHAPEL HILL LAW firm seeks part-time administra-tive assistance mornings this semester plus sum-mer. Spanish proficiency preferred. Email resume in WORD format to unctarheels87@aol.com.

PLATO'S CLOSET: Selling gently used teen/young adult clothing. Seeking assistant manager, full-time and part-time positions. 4600 Chapel Hill Blvd. Call 919-523-7824.

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AFTERNOON TEACHER ASSISTANT position 1-6pm, M-F: Chapel Hill Day Care Center: a 5-star, NAEYC-accredited center. Experience, education in Early Childhood a plus. Email resume: chdcc@bellsouth. net. Fax resume 967-7529.

BASKETBALL OFFICIAL: Referee adult basketball games Tuesday and Thursday. Late February through April. Knowledge of NC High School rules and expe-rience preferred. Pay \$17game. Apply by Friday February 18, 2005: Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation, 200 Plant Road (968-2784). EOE.

BASEBALL INSTRUCTORS: Teach boys and girls ages 5-6 the fundamentals of the game of baseball. Knowledge of the game preferred, Experience working with youth helpful but not required. Sessions are held on Saturdays April 2 through June 4, Sam-12:30pm. Pay rate \$10hour. Apply by Tuesday, March 1, 2005: Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation, 200 Plant Road (968-2784). EOE.

Help Wanted

SOFTBALL / BASEBALL UMPIRES: Umpire youth games MrF evenings & Saturday mornings. Season runs April through June Experience preferend, training provided. Knowledge of NC High School rules helpful. Payrange \$10-\$16(game. Apply by Monday, February 28, 2005: Chapel Hill Braks and Recreation, 200 Plant Road (968-2784), EDE.

FIELD SUPERVISOR: Supervise & keep score for youth & adult games M-F evenings & Saturday mornings, Season uns April through June. Exper-ence preferred, training provided. Knowledge of baseball & softball helpful. Pay 57-59 25/hour. Apply by Monday, February 82, 2005: Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation, 200 Plant Road (968-2784). EDE.

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE HELPER needed part-time in Chapel Hill to perform general clerical duties, including: answering phones, filing, data entry, other administrative tasks as needed. Send your resums to: frank.xmontez@aexp.com, Reference: Position #55530. Epc. DAYTIME WAITSTAFF WANTED for restaurant/bar in Durham's Brightleaf Square district. Experience wanted but not required. Part-time/full-time. Please send email with background and experience to info@thefederal.net to schedule an interview.

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KINDERCARE OF CHAPEL HILL is now enrolling. Please call 942-7223.

WANTED 5-05: RELIABLE MOTHER'S HELPER. Drive kids from camp/school to activities, housework. 4 kids from camp/school to activities, housework. 4 afternoons, 15 hours/week. 6 month commitment, references, car required. \$10/hour. 919-942-9550. NANNY/HOUSE MANAGER for 3 boys (20 months,

UPPERCLASSMAN NEEDED to care for 9-year old boy weekday afternoons and weekend even-ings. Must have own transportation and supply ref-erences. Call Bobbi 968-6650, 3-6pm. SEEKING AFTERSCHOOL CHILDCARE (from 2:30pm on) several days a week in Chapel Hill home.

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Able to exchange room & board for services. Please Able to exchange room call Pam at 967-0707.

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UNC BASKETBALL TICKETS wanted, season & individual games. Cash paid. Local pick-up. 218-2165. DUKE TICKETS NEEDED! Looking for two tickets to March 6th game. Will pay \$400 for pair. Contact 757-544-6025 or blassiter@titan.com.

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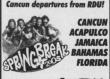
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pend your hard-earned money on developing r skills. The textbooks won't tell you everything. You'll make more from on-the-job training.

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s (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is an 8 - You're going to get a lot smarter soon. That's the good news. Now it's up to you to watch out, so you don't learn the hard way.

- Today is a 7 - Conditions are changing, slowly, into your favor again. This weekend it's up to you have the promise of the conditions are changing.

ces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is an 8 - Your time for contempla-tion is coming to an end. The next few days you'll be immersed in group activi-ties. Enjoy.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -Today is a 6 - The key to your success is your willingness to do a lot of work in a very little time. Alleviate the overload, and you'll make points.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)
- Today is a 9 - You won't have to tow the line much longer. You'll soon be able to party with friends. Set it up.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

-Today is a 6 - Talk it over with your part-ner before you head out shopping. You may be able to afford more than you thought you could. Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 7 - If you need help, don't hes-itate to let the right person know. He or she can't read your mind. Make a phone call, for heaven's sake.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

- Today is a 7 - The opportunity is coming, soon, to take on another assignment. Don't hesitate, this will make up for your previous deficit.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
- Today is a 7 - Studying is helping you not only learn a new skill, but also making you more confident, and even more attractive. Besides, it's fun. Enjoy. Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

- Today is a 6 - Proceed with caution when rearranging household items or fixing things. With replacements, get the very best you can afford.

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