

CITY BRIEFS

Missing Chapel Hill lawyer could face multiple lawsuits

Chapel Hill lawyer John McCormick, who was last seen July 10, could come under investigation for illegally mishandling clients' accounts, said Orange-Chatham District Attorney Jim Woodall. A missing person report was filed July 11 for McCormick, 58, after a car registered to the family was found parked near an entrance of Duke Forest. McCormick was last seen at about 3 p.m. July 10 near Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Weaver Dairy Road. He has been the attorney for the Chapel Hill Carrboro City Board of Education for more than 20 years. School board officials have said McCormick did not have access to public accounts. McCormick also owns several million dollars' worth of real estate in Orange County. The N.C. Bar Association has asked that trust accounts where McCormick placed client money be frozen after about \$1.3 million appeared to be missing from the accounts. National homebuilding company D.R. Horton Inc. has filed suit against McCormick claiming more than \$800,000 from real estate closing agreements is missing.

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CAMPUS BRIEFS

UNC medical school gifted a radiology imaging system

Philips Medical Systems has donated an image and information system to the UNC School of Medicine's radiologic science division in the allied health sciences department. The iSite Picture Archiving and Communications System delivers images that can be used for diagnosis over existing networks, to advanced radiology reading stations for radiologists and for long-term storage. The technology increases image availability and overall reading efficiency. The system has been installed in a teaching laboratory in the newly renovated Burnett-Womack Building and will allow instructors to use the images as teaching tools.

STATE BRIEFS

Democrats could run Perdue for governor in 2008

Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue is the most likely candidate to win the Democratic Party's nomination for North Carolina governor in 2008, according to a poll of likely voters. Public Policy Polling asked voters who among Perdue, Rep. Bill Faison, D-Orange, or N.C. Treasurer Richard Moore they would be most likely to elect. Of the 542 likely Democratic primary voters polled July 12, 36 percent responded that they would pick Perdue. Moore garnered 23 percent and Faison took 6 percent. The remaining 35 percent of those polled did not list a preference among the candidates.

Two UNC-TV shows will be canceled due to budget cuts

Two public affairs shows will be canceled this year because of a budget shortfall at UNC-TV. "North Carolina Now," a 30-minute show that has aired for 12 years, ends Sept. 29. "Legislative Week in Review" will end after the current legislative session. UNC-TV spokesman Steve Volstad said the station budgeted \$1.8 million a year for the two shows. Volstad said the cuts were necessary because state and private funds haven't grown with the station's costs.

N.C. Green and Libertarian parties sue election board

The Libertarian Party of North Carolina and the N.C. Green Party have filed a lawsuit stating that candidates third and independent parties are unconstitutionally restricted from state elections. The suit, against the N.C. Board of Elections, asks that laws such as the requirement of about 70,000 verified signatories to petitions to add independent candidates' names to primary ballots be repealed. The parties also cited the election law that a candidate must receive at least 10 percent of the vote in a primary to remain on the ballot as a way the state discriminates against outside parties. In May, Judge Orlando Hudson denied the state's motion to dismiss the case. The Green Party is being represented by the American Civil Liberties Union's N.C. Legal Fund. The Libertarians are being represented by attorney Robert Elliot, of Winston-Salem, a partner of the ACLU.

Drugstore probes downtown

Walgreens keeps eye on the Hill

BY GRAY CALDWELL CITY EDITOR

Another big business could be headed to Franklin Street. Walgreens Co. is opening new stores in North Carolina and is looking specifically at Chapel Hill, said Carol Hively, the corporate spokeswoman for the drug store. "We have been growing very quickly in the state, and we're looking at a lot of locations," Hively said. "It's just too soon to say where we're opening a store and when. It could be that we've asked or made inquiries, but there's nothing (in our database) right now." The potential location is expected to be on the corner of Franklin and Columbia streets, underneath Top of the Hill Restaurant and Brewery. "What we're looking for is the very corner of a major intersection," Hively said of typical Walgreens locations. Hively said the time frame for opening a Walgreens drug store ranges from nine months to three years, because of factors such as who owns the property and how long it takes to get a project green-lighted by Walgreens itself. Joe Riddle, of Fayetteville-based Riddle Commercial Properties, owns the property under Top of the Hill. He was unavailable for comment Tuesday, but has told The Daily Tar Heel in past interviews that he hoped to fill the space with a single tenant. Scott Maitland, the owner of Top of the Hill, wrote in an e-mail that his restaurant was originally planning to move into some space in Riddle's property. "At one point there was discussion about Top of the Hill taking some space downstairs that was unwanted by a national organization that would be taking the rest of the space," Maitland wrote. "Unfortunately, it appears as if there is some holdup with the national organization and, quite frankly, it is unclear if the deal will work out with our landlord."

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If Walgreens is the national organization, it would compete with Kerr Drug, located across the street at 109 E. Franklin St. and Sutton's Drug Store, at 159 E. Franklin St. Hively said the location in Chapel Hill, within walking distance of campus, as well as so close to UNC Hospitals, would be very beneficial to the drug store. "The pharmacy is the biggest part of the business at the store," she said. "The other part, the convenience SEE CORNER, PAGE 4

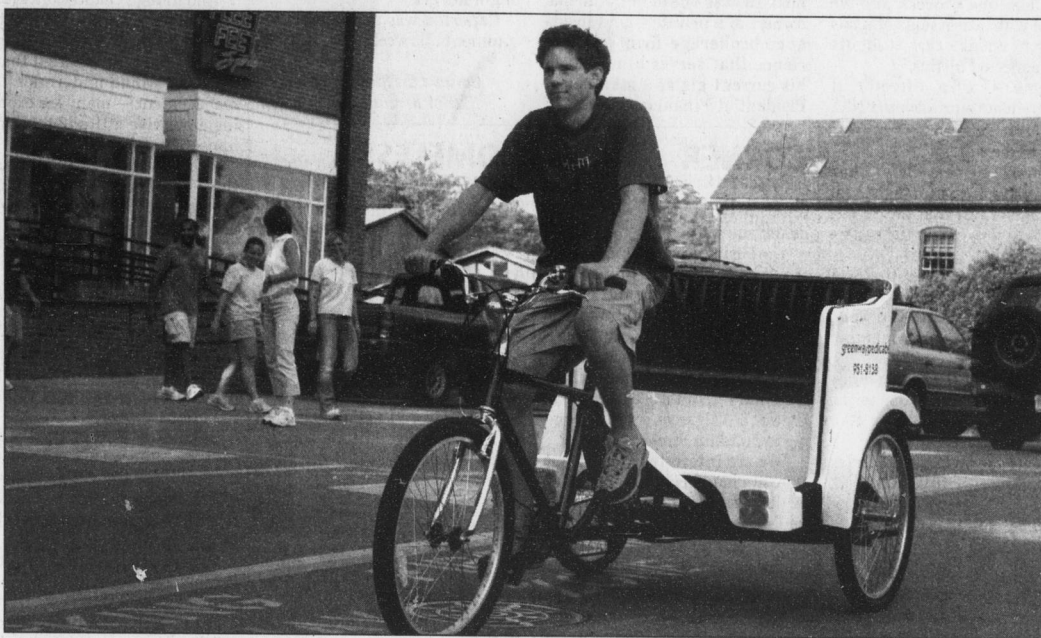
Shelter faces unclear future

New location a 'top priority'

BY TOM HARTWELL STAFF WRITER

The Inter-Faith Council for Social Service is unsure about the future of its homeless shelter in downtown Chapel Hill. The 100 W. Rosemary St. building, once home to the Chapel Hill Police Department, houses a men's shelter and a soup kitchen. But Executive Director Chris Moran said the needs of the area's homeless population now exceed the capacity of the building. "We have outgrown the space," Moran said. "We want to transform either the facility we own in Carrboro or another facility." Finding the right location for a larger shelter has been an ongoing project for several years. The council has considered sites on Millhouse, Merritt Mill and Legion roads. Opposition from residents of those areas was strong. The IFC met Wednesday at the United Church of Chapel Hill to discuss its ongoing projects and future. The meeting occurred after The Daily Tar Heel's press time. Moran said finding a location for the men's shelter was a top priority. "We need to tie up a piece of property," he said. "We need to do that this year. After doing that, we can get more specific about things like what the facility will look like and who will pay for it." Another priority is to open a soup kitchen closer to the IFC's food pantry in Carrboro, Moran said. "Our pantry and our kitchen should be brought together, so that when people can't get food at the food pantry, we can send them across the hallway to get a hot meal," he said. The problem of space at the facility has become especially pressing this summer, as construction workers working on projects around UNC's campus have been crowding the 48-seat dining room at lunch, sometimes bringing the crowd to more than 150 people. "This is something that's been growing slowly all year, but once school let out it exploded," said Paul Eberhart, who manages the shelter and the kitchen during the day. "There was a time when we would have said 120 was a busy day. Now we're saying 120 is a slow day." By the staff's own estimates, the kitchen served 6,740 meals in April; in June that number ballooned to 8,200. "It's completely blindsided us," Eberhart said of the influx. "The numbers are up, but donations aren't up to reflect the increase in demand."

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Niles Barnes, 21, bikes through Weaver Street Market on Tuesday afternoon before a run with Greenway Pedicabs. "It's becoming a national trend," said Barnes, who initiated the formation of a Pedicabs service in Chapel Hill and Carrboro just this summer.

A NEW WAY TO GET AROUND

BY TOM HARTWELL STAFF WRITER

You might have seen him one of these summer evenings, gliding along Franklin Street on a bicycle with a rickshaw in tow, and maybe you pictured those cheery old cabmen from back in the horse-and-carriage days. Tim Yarborough is a student at UNC pursuing a major in environmental science, but he moonlights as a driver for Greenway Pedicabs, a bicycle taxi service that has been growing in both visibility and ridership since it began operating 3 weeks ago. The service runs on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., and is available for reservation during the day. The company is the brainchild of Dennis Markatos-Soriano and Niles Barnes, two environmentalists who conceived the idea as a way to raise money for a campus activist organization that Barnes worked for and Markatos-Soriano managed. They decided to start their own company. They enlisted private investors, raised \$10,000 and received a \$2,500 pledge from the A.J. Fletcher Foundation. They

also bought insurance for both their drivers and customers. They hired drivers, applied for special permits and bought bicycles and two rickshaws from a Colorado company called Main Street Pedicab. Barnes said their company was modeled after similar programs in cities such as New York, Charleston and Charlotte. "It's great," said Barnes, who also drives for the company. "The weekends are great, people really love it — locals and out-of-towners. I think it's going to blow up once school gets started." The activism group that both owners are members of, Students United for a Responsible Global Environment, will receive 25 percent of profits earned in Greenway Pedicab's first year and 10 percent of profits in following years. The owners said the program encourages emissions-free transportation. Not surprisingly, the rickshaws have become a favorite medium for getting home safely after a night out at Franklin Street's bars. "Sometimes people are pretty inebri-

ated, they want to get home. And we get 'em there," said Markatos-Soriano. "Other people want a pleasure ride. It's a mix. It's something that's a really nice novelty but also something that can be functional and useful whether you want to get to class or go to a romantic restaurant for a date." Yarborough named outdoor exercise as one of the job's perks. "I really enjoy the kind of job where you can be physically active and outside and talk to people, be social, but at the same time provide a service that I think the town of Chapel Hill is really going to pick up on." Markatos-Soriano said he is looking forward to more opportunities for the service that may arise. "We have gotten a couple of wedding reservations, which his kind of fun. We're looking forward to that ride and making the pedicabs look a little nicer than they do now, putting some flowers on them. We're just excited to be a part of important events in peoples lives like that."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Buffaloe charged with BOG post

BY STEPHEN MOORE STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

A new face will soon be coming to the UNC-system Board of Governors, adding new life a year after the board last changed shape. Laura Buffaloe, a retired North Carolina educator and 1965 graduate of Elizabeth City State University, will be joining 31 other members of the board as result of legislation coming from the General Assembly. Nominated to the post by Sen. Jeanne Lucas, D-Durham, Buffaloe said she couldn't wait to get started. "I am very excited," she said. "I have given 40 years up to education in the state of North Carolina, and I do look forward to this." Buffaloe comes aboard the system leadership to replace Willie Gilchrist, the superintendent of Halifax County Schools since 1994 and a 1973 graduate of Elizabeth City State. Gilchrist can no longer serve as a member of the board, as he is leaving to become interim chancellor of ECSU. Born in Elizabeth City, Buffaloe said she knows the ins

and outs of the state's education system, having worked in a variety of capacities. "Since I have retired, it would be a good thing to do (to join the board)," she said. Originally working as an eighth-grade teacher, Buffaloe also has served as a professor at Halifax Community College and later as vice president of instructional services for the school. Buffaloe retired from those positions last year. "She appeared to me to be qualified," said Sen. John Garwood, R-Wilkes, who also signed on to the bill that makes Buffaloe a BOG member. Buffaloe said that she was flattered by the legislative nod and excited about the opportunities that it could bring. She said she had a variety of ideas of what she would like to work toward as a member of the board. However, she said that since she had never been to a BOG meeting, she needed to look over what the board was currently working on before she would move forward with her own ideas. SEE BOG, PAGE 4

School slips below U.S. standards

Kids may leave Carrboro Elementary

BY GRAY CALDWELL CITY EDITOR

Carrboro Elementary School failed to meet federally mandated standards for student performance last year — and the school could lose students because of it. School officials announced Tuesday that the school's Latino students failed to meet so-called Annual Yearly Progress standards outlined by the federal No Child Left Behind law. Because at least one of the school's populations hasn't met those standards for the second straight year, parents have the option of taking their students out of the school and sending them to either Ephesus Road Elementary or Estes Hills Elementary instead. But Stephanie Knott, assistant to the school superintendent for community relations, said all other elementary schools in the district would be in danger of overcrowding if students tried to transfer there. "I think the message for parents in particular is: If your child is proficient and is well adjusted in the environment at Carrboro — has friends at Carrboro, Carrboro is convenient because it's your neighborhood school — you want to stay at Carrboro," she said. "The school choice option is specifically made available for parents who feel their children's needs are not being met." Under the No Child Left Behind Act, certain populations of pupils in every school must meet federal standards. If even one group fails, the entire school is considered to have failed. That's what happened to Carrboro Elementary. Only 62 percent of Latino students at the school achieved proficiency in reading — short of the 77 percent required for the group to have met the benchmark. Because students who receive free or reduced lunch didn't meet federal standards last year, Carrboro Elementary is considered to have failed Annual Yearly Progress standards for two years in a row — leading to parents' ability to transfer their students out of the school. Estes Hills was on a federal watch list after failing to meet mandated reading proficiency scores last year, but the school met all standards this year. Lisa Stuckey, chairwoman of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education, said the federal numbers don't necessarily mean that Carrboro Elementary is a

bad school. Since the standards only refer to small parts of school populations, she said, that's not the case. "We want each category of students to be successful," she said. "But the failure of one group of students results in the failure of the entire school. That does not mean that the vast majority of students aren't doing very well." Tammy LeMoine, president of the Carrboro Elementary PTA, said the response she has heard from parents indicates that most students will stay put.

By the numbers: AYP for local schools

- 89% Carrboro Elementary School's overall proficiency rate
- 93% Chapel Hill-Carrboro elementary schools average
- 77% Annual Yearly Progress standard for proficiency in reading for 2005-06
- 62% Latino population's reading proficiency at Carrboro Elementary

Source: Chapel Hill-Carrboro

SEE AYP, PAGE 4

-From staff and wire reports.