

N.C. candidates file for elections

BY ELISABETH ARRIERO AND ARIEL ZIRULNICK SENIOR WRITERS

Let the race begin. As of noon Monday, public office hopefuls could begin filing for state office in Orange County and throughout North Carolina. All candidates have until Feb. 29 to file. Filing is a formality, signaling that candidates have made a final commitment to run for office, said Ferrel Guillory, director of the UNC Program on Public Life.

dural moment when candidates put themselves on the ballot," he said. "We've known for a good while who the major candidates will be."

Orange County contests

This election year marks the first year of the county's new districting plan that increased the county's Board of Commissioners from five to seven members. The November 2006 referendum increased the number of commissioners and also split the representation across two districts.

Three members represent District 1, which covers most of Chapel Hill. Two members represent District 2, which covers the rest of Orange County. The final two commissioners are to be at-large members who may live anywhere in the county.

Pam Hemminger, who filed at the Orange County Board of Elections office in Hillsborough on Monday for the District 1 seat, said she is excited about the new system. "It's going to be all confusing with the new system," Hemminger said. "I'm excited about it because it will provide more opportunities for voters."

Hemminger is the chairwoman of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education. "I think we need someone very knowledgeable about education to serve on the board," she said. Tommy McNeill, a Democrat who lives in the Eno Woods subdivision in Durham, filed for the District 2 seat Monday. McNeill declined to comment on his platform issues without his campaign manager present.

North Carolina races

The governor's seat and many General Assembly posts are up for grabs, as well as U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives posts.

Many high-profile races are competitive this year, meaning the main focus for candidates will be the May 6 primary, when party nominees will be chosen.

One anticipated contest is the race for Republican incumbent Elizabeth Dole's Senate seat. She is being challenged by Democrats Jim Neal and Kay Hagan, the state senator representing Guilford county.

"North Carolina has a very competitive two-party system," Guillory said. "We tend in this state to have very close races between Democrats and Republicans."

Although filing is just a formality, especially at the state level where campaigns must begin months in advance in order to gain the necessary recognition, candidates still treat filing as a significant step.

"It's a real milestone in that it symbolizes that the election is becoming close at hand," said David Kochman, Lt. Gov. Bev Perdue's gubernatorial campaign spokesman.

"As we move past that point, voters will start to tune in more."

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

Women's tennis team notches two top-8 victories in Wisconsin

Watch for North Carolina women's tennis to make a jump in the rankings this week — that's generally what happens when you knock off the No. 2 and No. 8 teams in the country in the same weekend.

No. 14 UNC needed every point in pulling off back-to-back 4-3 upsets at the ITA Indoor Nationals against UCLA and Southern California.

Saturday in Madison, Wis., UNC finally fell 4-0 to No. 3 Northwestern.

"It's an incredible accomplishment to get as far as we did," coach Brian Kalbas said. "But it's also a disappointment that we didn't have a better showing against Northwestern, who is a very good team."

No. 14 Sanaz Marand, though, had straight-set victories against two powerhouse opponents, No. 41 Tracy Lin of UCLA and last year's NCAA singles runner-up, Lindsey Nelson of USC.

Seeing results after playing against the toughest competition, the Tar Heels might have cemented their No. 2 and No. 3 doubles pairs for the season. Laura Reichert was paired with Katrina Tsang for all three days, as was Austin Smith with Meg Fanjoy.

"We're going to still continue to evaluate it," Kalbas said of the doubles teams.

"But at a consistent level I think the teams we have out there are three good teams. It's going to be a work in progress throughout the whole year."

— COMPILED BY JOE MCLEAN



Sanaz Marand helped lead the Tar Heels to wins against UCLA and USC.

Men's tennis

Many members of the men's tennis team are in uncharted territory as UNC endures its first consecutive regular season losses since 2005, when the team lost to Duke and Georgia Tech in the same week.

The seniors on this team were just freshmen then.

The Tar Heels' last defeat, a 4-2 loss Sunday at Ohio State, was not what the team was hoping for after a one-point loss to Rice a week earlier.

Ohio State, meanwhile, was able to earn its eighth consecutive victory to start the season and remain undefeated against UNC all-time.

The Buckeyes won the doubles play — which the Tar Heels lost in their defeat against Rice, as well.

Chris Kearney got the Tar Heels on the road to a comeback with a convincing straight-set victory against Matt Allare. But fellow sophomore Stefan Hardy and senior Benjamin Carlotti fell in the next two matches to give OSU the win.

— COMPILED BY JORDAN MASON

National and World News

FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Polls call Obama ahead of McCain

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Democrat Barack Obama would narrowly defeat Republican John McCain if they were matched today in the presidential election, while McCain and Hillary Clinton are running about even, according to an Associated Press-Ipsos poll released Monday.

Recent primaries and Mitt Romney's departure from the Republican race have made McCain the favorite to win the GOP presidential nomination. Clinton and Obama are locked in a Democratic battle.

Evangelical leader endorses McCain

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Republican John McCain challenged the notion he is struggling to rally conservative critics as he picked up the endorsement Monday of evangelical leader Gary Bauer.

Bauer's endorsement, a leading conservative voice, came at a critical time as McCain shifts to campaigning as the Republican nominee-in-waiting. McCain's emphasis since last week has been on reaching out to conservative critics in an effort to unite the party.

Insurgent car bomb targets U.S. allied Sunni tribal leaders in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — Twin car bombs targeted a meeting of Sunni tribal leaders Monday, killing as many as 22 people in the latest attack against U.S. allies who have turned against al-Qaida in Iraq.

The attackers managed to penetrate heavy security to leave bomb-rigged cars near a Baghdad compound hosting chieftains from the western Anbar province, where the so-called Awakening Council movement against al-Qaida emerged last year.

The blasts were also near the offices of one of Iraq's most powerful Shiite politicians, Abdul-

Aziz al-Hakim. But Iraqi authorities said the apparent target was the Sunni tribal heads.

Insurgents — either led or inspired by al-Qaida — have stepped up assaults against fellow Sunnis who are credited with helping drive out extremists from key parts of Baghdad and surrounding areas.

Sheik Ali Hatem al-Sulaiman, deputy chief of Anbar's biggest Sunni tribe and a leading member of the Anbar Awakening Council, blamed al-Qaida in Iraq, which has increasingly targeted Sunnis who have turned against it.

4 Impressionist paintings stolen

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Three gunmen in ski masks and dark clothes burst into a museum just before closing time. After a quick run through the building, they hustled out the door and sped off with four paintings by Cezanne, Degas, van Gogh and Monet valued at \$163.2 million.

Authorities appealed Monday for any witnesses to help reconstruct the robbers' getaway from the E.G. Buehrle Collection, a private museum of Impressionist works whose founder had his own troubled history with stolen art.

Pakistanis wound Taliban militant

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistani security forces critically wounded a top figure in the Taliban militia fighting U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, among six militants captured after a firefight near the border Monday, the army said.

Mansoor Dadullah, the brother of slain Taliban military commander Mullah Dadullah, and five others were challenged by security forces as they crossed from Afghanistan into Pakistan.

Officials say that Pakistan's border regions are a staging point for cross-border attacks on U.S., NATO and Afghan forces.

Candidate profiles

The lowdown on all the candidates running for student elections. Vote today. See pg. 6, 7 for story.

Defensive coordinator

North Carolina's defensive coordinator is leaving to go to the Baltimore Ravens. See pg. 5 for story.

Networking for artists

Local artists and organizations will talk to students succeeding with their art. See pg. 3 for story.

Men's hoops

UNC plays Virginia in Charlottesville today. Go online for game predictions.

Trekking with Hinton James

Today is the 213th anniversary of UNC's first student arriving on campus. See pg. 1 for story.

Sudoku

By The Mepham Group

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games

Level: 1 2 3 4

5					6			
7	4	2				9		
8			9					2
		4	1	5				
3			6					8
		5	8	7				
6				1				7
		8			3	5	1	
7								9

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Solution to Monday's puzzle

7	5	4	3	8	6	2	9	1
8	3	1	9	2	7	6	5	4
6	9	2	5	4	1	3	8	7
4	2	6	1	3	8	9	7	5
1	7	9	6	5	2	8	4	3
5	8	3	4	7	9	1	2	6
3	1	5	2	9	4	7	6	8
9	6	8	7	1	5	4	3	2
2	4	7	8	6	3	5	1	9

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THE Daily Crossword

 Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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ACROSS

- Letters before www
- Computer image file format
- Old lab burners
- MP's target
- Rice-like pasta
- Mythical crier
- 2002 AL Cy Young winner
- Uncommon blood type, briefly
- Directory
- Vane dir.
- Royalty of rhyme
- Morphine-like narcotic
- Thunderstruck
- Surveyor's map
- Backless sofa
- Turn bad
- Flow oh-so-slowly
- Rip off
- D.C. figure
- "One Soldier's Story" author
- Ms. Thurman
- Chopped down
- Part of FDA
- Shady spot
- Park, CO
- Tot holder
- Abrasion
- Fastened, nautically
- Star part
- Turn left!
- Milk dispenser?
- Sheep output
- ESPN football ana-

DOWN

- Initiated fraternity pledges
- Packing cord
- Indian post
- Middle East org.
- Merchandise unit
- Gearshift letters
- O.T. bk.
- "The Wayward Wind" singer Grant
- Conundrum
- Destroyers, casually
- Vivarin rival
- White poplar
- H.S. course
- Reach dental rival
- Type of orange
- Actor Wallace
- Bygone birds
- Alligator shirt maker?
- Mineral spring
- Chicken
- Hautboy
- Storage spot
- Latin lesson word
- Disfigure
- Time after time
- Singer Steve
- Cul-de-sac
- Small inlet
- Steeple toppers
- Basement
- Losing streak
- Fragrant wood
- Brit's wireless
- "Have Gun Will Travel" star
- Philly griddy
- Nerd
- Singer Stefani
- Hitchhiked successfully
- Cut with an ax

ETTA SPAR PAGES
LOAN TIDE ALIVE
LUCKY AND MINIVER
STOLEN SIRE ENE
ENDS TALC
GCS BATA STRENS
ALSC RIDE GALON
MOMAND OUBTFIRE
AVISO BAMA TOME
SEBAME TACH TAR
BILO GHAD
ABE NADA EUROPA
MOTOAND OALLOWAY
ENACT EURO NENE
NOLTE REAR ENTS

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The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is conducting a 4 month research study in men and women to examine methods to prevent weight gain common in young adults.

You may be eligible to participate if you are:

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- * Women who are pregnant are not eligible to participate.

For more information please call 919-966-5852 or email weightresearch@unc.edu

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- Tickets purchased for Feb. 13 will be honored Feb. 19. Refunds will be available until Feb. 19; for complete information, visit www.unc.edu/cuab