

The Daily Tar Heel

WATER RATES INCREASING

OWASA declares Stage 3 shortage

BY ANASA HICKS
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill and Carrboro residents can say goodbye to swimming pools, car washes and sprinklers.

Stage 3 water shortage restrictions will go into effect Saturday, and corresponding water rate increases will start March 17.

The Orange Water and Sewer Authority's Board of Directors voted unanimously Thursday to move into Stage 3 restrictions despite the urging of a majority of residents who spoke at the meeting.

"I don't see that we have a choice right now," board member Gene Pease said.

Because reservoir levels did not reach the goal — 45 percent of full capacity — by Thursday, OWASA Planning Director Ed Holland recommended upping the restrictions.

OWASA staff also recommended residents voluntarily reduce their water consumption to 35 gallons per day per person. Raymond DuBose, director of UNC's energy services, praised the University's conservation efforts and pointed out the obstacles UNC would face under Stage 3 restrictions.

In addition to construction limitations and the need to water athletic fields, the restrictions will cost UNC a projected \$1.2 million dollars if the drought lasts another three months, DuBose said.

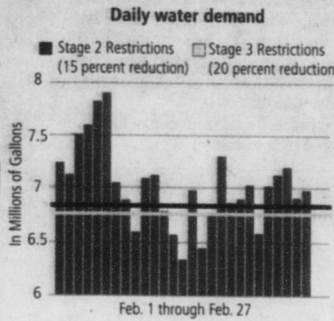
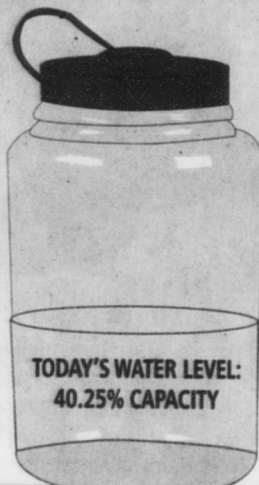
"We're gonna have to find alternative means to do things that we want to," he said.

Business owners who attended the meeting asked the board to consider the impact restrictions will have on their industries.

Tara Onthank, vice president of the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals and co-owner of Rising Sun Pools in Raleigh, cited the benefits of contained water during emergencies and the health risk of "foul, unsightly bodies of water."

MAKING EVERY DROP COUNT

Take a look at the following numbers and learn how you can save water in light of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority's implementation of stricter water restrictions.



Where can I get more information?

- See how much water you are using: owasa.org/pages/WaterCalculator.html
- Perform a water audit to what you are missing: owasa.org/pages/WaterAudit.asp
- Tips on conserving water: owasa.org/pages/conservation.html

1.432

billion gallons of water in the University Lake, Cane Creek and Quarry reservoirs Thursday

202

estimated days of water remaining

4,700

gallons of average water use per month at a single-family residence

6.969

million gallons of water demanded Wednesday by OWASA customers

6.81

million gallons of water, the goal of average daily demand under conservation restrictions

3.79

inches of February rainfall at the Jones Ferry Road Water Treatment Plant

3.84

inches of normal rainfall for February

SOURCE: [HTTP://OWASA.ORG/PAGES/SUPPLYDEMANDGRAPH.ASP](http://owasa.org/pages/supplydemandgraph.asp); [HTTP://WWW.WATERUSEITWISELY.COM/FAMILYWATER/INDEX.SHTML](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/familywater/index.shtml)

DTH/REBECCA ROLFE

Under Stage 3, OWASA customers will not be able to top off or refill their pools.

"The public health risk is not worth the fraction of water it will save," Onthank said, adding that the amount of water that evaporates from pools in a season is equivalent to the water used by a family of four when brushing teeth.

Robin Cutson, who ran for the Chapel Hill Town Council in 2005, implored residents to ask local elected officials in both towns to slow residential development, which she blamed for the town's water problems.

"You add population growth, you need more water," she said.

Cutson predicted that if Chapel Hill and Carrboro continued to grow, local businesses would leave because they wouldn't have enough

water to operate.

Before voting, Pease recommended that OWASA encourage businesses to work together to ease the burden of the restrictions.

The board also discussed the possibility of partnering with the city of Durham and Chatham County to use Chatham's Jordan Lake as a water source.

"We believe that it would be smart for us to participate in these discussions," OWASA utility manager Pat Davis said.

Holland said Stage 3 restrictions are expected until at least April.

"If at April 1, the lakes are up to 60 percent full, we'd recommend going back to Stage 2," he said. "By May 1, it would have to be 65 percent."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.



Carrboro's University Lake, pictured in October, has been reduced to stream. For a slide show of more drought photos, visit dailytarheel.com.

Exam prep classes costly

Pre-professional exam costs rising

BY ABBY FARSON
STAFF WRITER

It's 6 p.m. Sunday, and Austin Spencer is in class.

It's not a UNC class, and he won't be graded. The junior chemistry major is in an MCAT prep course at the Chapel Hill Kaplan Center.

"It's more independent work than I initially expected," Spencer said. "You put in maybe 20 hours a week. It's pretty rigorous."

The five-month class costs \$1,849 and meets for three hours on Sundays.

Spencer, who is planning to take the MCAT this spring, sits in a room with about 25 other students, bent over their thick textbooks as they listen closely to instructor Dan Verges.

A first-year medical student at UNC School of Medicine, Verges said he took this class two years ago. He credits Kaplan with helping him achieve his high MCAT score.

He said he has seen the interest in prep courses grow during the years. "When I took the MCAT, I think there were only two people in the room who hadn't taken a Kaplan or Princeton Review prep course."

Last year 300,000 students nationwide took Kaplan courses to prepare for tests including the SAT, ACT, MCAT, GMAT, LSAT and GRE, said Russell Schaffer, senior communications manager for Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions.

"As the admissions process becomes more competitive, students and their families are rec-

SEE TESTING, PAGE 5

Candidates may revisit tax credit

Tuition returns a part of aid reform

BY REBECCA PUTTERMAN
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Tax credits are one form of financial aid that often goes unnoticed, showing up in a tax return long after tuition has been paid.

But for Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, tuition tax credits are part of their multifaceted plans to meet the mutual goal of making college more affordable.

Two aspects of their higher education priorities have recently been addressed by the U.S. Congress.

Increases to Federal Pell Grants became law in September, and a simplification of FAFSA is part of a bill that passed the House Feb. 7.

Increases in tax credits have not been revisited since 1997.

"Generally tax cuts and tax credits are targeted toward that middle-income family that actually filed a tax return," said Kimrey Rhinehardt, UNC-system vice president for federal affairs.

"When you're running on a national platform, you're trying to appeal to a broad array of constituencies, and I think this is their attempt to appeal to the middle-class voter."

Education reform: Clinton vs. Obama

Today: Tax credits

The Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning Tax Credits, signed

into law in 1997 by President Bill Clinton, allows for an income-conditional tax credit of up to \$1,650 that cannot be refunded or advanced.

"I haven't liked it a whole lot," UNC-Chapel Hill Director of Scholarships and Financial Aid Shirley Ort said.

"Families never consider those tax credits as aid because they paid the bill already," she said. "They see it as something that can help their tax bill but not their financial aid."

In the 2006-07 fiscal year 8.5 million people received tuition tax credits, according to economist Sandy Baum, a senior policy analyst for the College Board.

Hillary Clinton pledges to increase the Hope credit to \$3,500 and to allow refunds and advances.

"Ten years worth of experience has told us that we need to make it a refundable credit to really help lower-income students," said Karen Regan, UNC-CH director of federal affairs. "Sen. Clinton's proposal directly addresses this concern."

Both Obama's proposal for a new tax credit program, the American

SEE TAX CREDITS, PAGE 5

Walk-on ready for senior night start

BY SAMANTHA NEWMAN
SENIOR WRITER

Meghan Austin has walked through Carmichael Auditorium countless times during her career on the North Carolina women's basketball team. But Sunday she'll take center stage — well, center court.

Austin will be honored, alongside fellow seniors LaToya Pringle and Erlana Larkins during the Tar Heels' final regular-season

home game against Duke.

And she's certainly walked to get there.

After walking on to the UNC squad as a transfer from Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, NCAA regulations forced Austin to sit out a year. An ACL tear her junior season sidelined her again, and Austin endured almost nine months of rehab so she could play again.

For four years she's juggled classes, practices and road trips with the team — all for the chance to play a few minutes at ends of blowouts.

But when Austin makes her



Senior Meghan Austin will make her first career start for UNC Sunday against Duke.

first career start Sunday, it will be worth the time and effort.

"If I had to do it all over again, I would totally do it," Austin said. "Just being here just fills me up inside. ... Everyone always wants to be at the highest level, so I

National, local talent featured in jazz festival

31st annual event ends Saturday

BY BENNETT CAMPBELL
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

Jim Ketch has been a busy man this week.

A professor of jazz studies at UNC, Ketch is the driving force behind the 31st annual Carolina Jazz Festival, a four-day event that began Wednesday with a performance by Ketch and other faculty members in Hill Hall.

The festival concludes Saturday with the headlining performance in Memorial Hall by the nationally acclaimed San Francisco Jazz Collective.

Ketch created the festival as an extension of the music depart-

ment in spring 1978 — his first year at UNC — and he said the nature of this year's performances are indicative of the festival's growth.

"The size and financial resources have developed it into a University event," Ketch said. "And as a result it does have a regional flavor."

Ketch spent Thursday afternoon ensuring the Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Festival, another one of the week's events, ran smoothly.

He said giving high school students the opportunity to perform and also to witness an act as esteemed as the San Francisco

ATTEND THE PERFORMANCES

Time: 8 p.m. Today and Saturday
Location: Memorial Hall
Info: www.carolinaperformingarts.org

Jazz Collective is part of the festival's goal of education.

"We have 300 high school musicians here today, and some of them will never hear the caliber of musicians we have this week," Ketch said. "(SF Jazz Collective member) Joe Lovano is, to many people, one of the top two or three sax players on the planet right now."

Emil Kang, UNC's executive director for the arts, said the collective's penchant for innovation made it an ideal choice for the

WATCH THE BASKETBALL GAME

Time: 5:30 p.m. Sunday
Location: Carmichael Auditorium
Broadcast: Radio: WCHL, 1360 AM; TV: Fox Sports Network

dreamed about it, but I never thought it would be possible."

It only took a year for Austin to realize Lafayette wasn't the right fit. She wanted to be closer to her home in Lynchburg, Va., and the constant sheet of snow covering the ground

SEE AUSTIN, PAGE 5

festival's featured act.

"They're all about the creation of new work for the jazz field," Kang said. "Any one of them could headline a performance at Memorial Hall individually, and here we have eight of them all together."

The members of the SF Jazz Collective will perform several original compositions Saturday.

"With the work they do, jazz is not just a work of the past but a constantly changing, living art form," Kang said.

"Having them rotate members, which they do every one or two years, keeps it fresh."

And while the visionary ensemble brings a national flair to the

SEE JAZZ FESTIVAL, PAGE 5

online | dailytarheel.com

STATE & NATIONAL A study says N.C. religion mirrors nation, not South

UNIVERSITY Campus hosts eating disorders awareness events

ARTS Pauper Players musical 'A New Brain' highlights heart, music

FEATURES A Chapel Hill church encourages sustainability for Lent

CITY Residents invited to help build labyrinth for community arts project

SPORTS UNC women's lacrosse pulls out a 12-8 defeat of Brown



sports | page 4

LAWSON MAY RETURN

Point guard Ty Lawson, who practiced lightly this week, could return to the court for the first time in seven games Saturday against Boston College.

this day in history

FEB. 29, 2004 ...

UNC guard Melvin Scott air balls the first of two intentional foul free throws with 8.3 seconds remaining in a four-point game against N.C. State. UNC still won, 71-64.

weather

Partly cloudy
H 54, L 39

index

police log 2
calendar 2
sports 4
games 7
opinion 8