

National and World News

Orange County living pricey

FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Obama's focus on general election

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. (AP) — Sen. Barack Obama is talking about Republican rival John McCain and all but ignoring the Democrat who stands between him and his party's presidential nomination.

Even though Sen. Hillary Clinton was campaigning in Philadelphia, Obama criticized the likely Republican nominee's policies on the U.S. troop presence in Iraq, trade and tax cuts. Obama has sought to frame the race as a general election matchup between him and McCain.

Superdelegates' role debatable

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the superdelegates who may ultimately decide the Democratic party's presidential nominee have a right to vote as they wish, and that the contest between candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama should be allowed to reach its conclusion.

Pelosi recently drew objections from Clinton backers when she said she shared Obama's view that superdelegates should be guided by the vote for pledged delegates.

Army to allow husbands and wives to share sleeping quarters in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — When American soldiers get off duty in Iraq, the men usually return to their quarters, the women to theirs. But Staff Sgt. Marvin Frazier gets to go back to a small trailer with two pushed-together single beds that he shares with his wife.

In a historic but little-noticed change in policy, the Army is allowing scores of husband-and-wife soldiers to live and sleep together in the war zone — a move aimed at preserving marriages, boosting morale and perhaps bolstering reenlistment rates at a time when

the military is struggling to fill its ranks five years into the fighting.

Long-standing Army rules barred soldiers of the opposite sex from sharing sleeping quarters in war zones. Even married troops lived only in all-male or all-female quarters and had no private living space.

Military analysts said this is the first war in which the Army even gave the idea any serious consideration — a reflection not only of the large number of couples sent to war this time, but also of the way the fighting has dragged on and strained marriages.

Israel may reopen border with Gaza

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's defense minister said he would consider reopening Gaza's border crossings if violence from the territory ceases, but defense officials warned Tuesday that such a move is a long way off.

The officials said Ehud Barak's statement was aimed at bolstering the moderate Palestinian government of President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank. Barak has previously opposed opening Gaza's borders since the Hamas militant group, which often fires rockets into southern Israel, violently seized control of the area last June.

Children plotted to murder teacher

WAYCROSS, Ga. (AP) — A group of third-graders plotted to attack their teacher, bringing a broken steak knife, handcuffs, duct tape and other items for the job and assigning children tasks including covering the windows and cleaning up afterward, police said Tuesday.

The children, ages 8 and 9, were apparently mad at the teacher because she had scolded one of them for standing on a chair. A prosecutor said they are too young to be charged with a crime under Georgia law.

BY ANASA HICKS

Levon Murriell said Chapel Hill has been expensive for as long as he can remember.

"Everything costs too much around here," he said.

Orange County has the second highest cost of living in North Carolina, behind Wake County, according to a recently released report by the N. C. Justice Center.

Residents and those who work on behalf of lower-income people said the high cost of living has to do with increasing housing costs and low wages, and is worsened by an influx of people.

John Quintero, the report's author, said most of the adults in families that earn below the income needed to survive in Orange County are already working full time.

"Why is there this disconnect between wages and what it costs a family to pay for a simple lifestyle?" he said.

Many people who work in Orange County aren't making enough to get by, said Carrboro

resident Rebecca Gunn.

"Many people who actually have enough money to live comfortably make assumptions that people who work in nice places are making living wages, and they're not," she said.

Because of increasing property values, it's become harder for the Chapel Hill nonprofit Empowerment Inc. to buy homes, Executive Director Delores Bailey said.

Empowerment buys and renovates homes, then rents them to low-income families.

"(The cost of living) affects everyone who lives here, whether it's via property values going up or gas prices," she said.

Orange Community Housing and Land Trust Executive Director Robert Dowling said he was surprised Orange County isn't first on the list because housing here is more expensive than the rest of the state.

That impacts teachers, social workers and other people who do not make a lot of money, he said.

"Those people are very important to the community," Dowling said. "If it's expensive to live here,

they won't live here."

Living is so expensive because Orange County has become a very desirable place to live, Gunn said.

"In Carrboro, when I was little, it was very cheap," she said. "Now a tiny house is \$350,000 dollars."

Bailey said she thinks there isn't much hope of the cost of living decreasing as long as people continue to move here who are willing to pay high prices for housing.

"Who can close Pandora's box at this point?" she said.

Jonnie Williams, who has been homeless in Chapel Hill for seven years, said the only way to ease the cost of living is to increase wages.

But Quintero said improving assistance for those in need and the quality of jobs in the state also could improve the situation for lower-income families.

"What we are showing is that many of the problems all across the state really are linked to problems in the labor market," he said.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

READ

FROM PAGE 3

qualifies as level one and will win a bookmark.

A pizza lunch will be provided to students who reach level six — 2,401 minutes read or more.

The school partners with the PTA to raise money to enhance programs at the school. Sponsors can pledge money per minute to the students.

Even though it's a fundraiser, the most important part of the program is to get students excited about reading, Susan Miller said.

The school also integrates the Read-A-Ton into the regular school day.

A green frog balloon is placed outside a classroom, and when the students see that they have been "Frogged," they must drop everything and read for 30 minutes.

"Children can't wait to read," Coleman said. "A boy read two hours last night, and it has not even started yet."

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GREEK SAFETY

FROM PAGE 3

Terry recommended looking on top of, under and inside your car before going in.

"As soon as you sit down in that car, lock those doors," he said.

Brown reminded students that the campus is open to the public.

"If you have something unlocked, they're going to go through it and take things of value," Brown said. "You don't want to become victimized for something as simple as not locking your doors."

Stay with the masses

It's important to avoid being alone and to stay in areas that are full of people.

"When the streets start to clear out, that's when it's time to go home," Terry said.

Also, keep cell phones fully charged and on at all times. This way it's easy to make a phone call quickly. When your phone is on, its GPS is activated, and it's easier for police to locate you.

"It's a pretty good system," Terry said.

Fight or flight?

If you find yourself confronted by someone looking to take something from you, such as your purse, the best option is to give it to them and run, Terry said.

Rather than carry pepper spray, which can be harmful to you unless you're trained to use it, carry a whistle or something that makes noise.

"We're not trying to scare anybody," Burns said. "It's an awareness thing. We don't want people to be a statistic if we can help it."

Terry said the most important thing is to use common sense.

"We can all agree that Chapel Hill is not less safe now than it was a few weeks ago," he said. "If something is out of the ordinary or scary to you, call 911."

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DEORNELLAS

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public editor's job, surveying reader response to stories and writing excerpts about them.

DeOrnellas also said she wants to help writers develop their own story ideas, something she has worked to improve during her time as state and national editor.

"People on my desk are developing as writers and journalists," she said. "It is amazing to see people take on new roles and foster their own goals."

Assistant State & National Editor Devin Rooney testified to DeOrnellas' ability to develop writers for the better.

"I'm better at getting things done on time, and she has helped me to

be bold with my writing without stepping over the boundaries of editorializing," Rooney said.

If elected, DeOrnellas plans to encourage staffers to explore all the avenues the DTH has to offer.

"Everyone who works for us should not just write but also be able to take a picture, design simple elements and put things online," she said.

DeOrnellas said her goals for next year have everything to do with her experiences at the DTH.

"Knowing what the paper has meant to me and knowing how great it is for our community inspires me to explore how much better it has the potential to be."

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NICHOLS

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on the visual side, adding more photo stories and graphics, as well as easy-to-read stories for quick access to news.

"If we don't make this change," she said, "the model we're working off of won't be sustainable."

A major part of her platform emphasizes staff growth and training. She said providing adequate support to the staff will ultimately help the paper grow.

Nichols also wants to commit to a more diverse front page with alternative story forms, incorporating the different desks to make a better product.

"With her creativity and open

mind, I know she will allow the paper to grow to become something bigger and better than what it is," Norfleet said.

Beyond the infrastructure of the DTH, Nichols wants to delve into a dialogue with readers by investigating reader preferences.

"One of the things I want to do is to start a public forum when something about the DTH coverage sparks controversy," she said.

If she is selected to be editor-in-chief, Nichols said the most important thing is that the DTH reaches its full potential.

"It's important to me that this paper be excellent," Nichols said.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

High-schoolers try to 'kick butts'

BY ELISABETH ARRIERO

ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Local high school students can kick butts today without fear of suspension. In fact, they're encouraged to.

Today is National Kick Butts Day, a nationwide youth-led initiative encouraging teens to stop tobacco use.

Orange County students who are members of their high school's Tobacco Reality Unfiltered club will celebrate the day by using statistics to educate fellow classmates about the dangers of tobacco use, said Pamela Diggs, the Health Department's Youth Tobacco Use Prevention manager.

All five local high schools from the county's two school districts will participate in Kick Butts Day throughout the next two weeks.

Activities include tobacco trivia and cigarette ingredient displays.

"We'll be teaching students about the harmful effects of tobacco, but we'll be doing it in a fun

way with games and displays," said junior Shannen Jacobs, the TRU president at Cedar Ridge High School.

Diggs also said that three of the high schools will have memory walls to inspire teens to resist tobacco.

"We're going to have a wall of truth where students can memorialize those people that they know that have been affected by tobacco use," she said.

Students who write on the wall also will trace their hands. The goal is to have 1,200 handprints, representing the number of people who die each day from tobacco-related illnesses, on each school's wall.

"Students remember those visuals that TRU students create," Diggs said.

"The visual of seeing how many people just in their school know people who have been affected by tobacco is really powerful."

Landon Hawkins, a senior and TRU club president at Chapel Hill

High School, is one such student who has been affected by tobacco use.

"My grandfather was a smoker, and he died right before I had a chance to meet him," Hawkins said. "That affected me because I didn't really know much about my grandfather."

Hawkins said he wants students to become more aware of the dangers of smoking through events such as National Kick Butts Day.

Jacobs also said she hopes the group's persistent efforts to educate the student population on the consequences of smoking will pay off.

"We've hammered it into their heads countless times that smoking's bad," Jacobs said.

"I'm hoping that by seeing our displays and listening to us talk, we'll convince at least one person never to pick up a cigarette."

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ECU

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candidates who did not win are disappointed," Brockett said. "A lot of negativity has been coming from those who were not elected."

Brockett added that although N.C. State's involvement is welcome regarding new initiatives and collaboration in the Association of Student Governments, their letter might have crossed a line.

"When it comes to election issues, I think it's important that student leadership work out those problems on their own," she said. "We have leaders in place that have the tools to uphold the integrity of their institution."

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

IN ACCORDANCE WITH NC CODE 163-33(8), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

to the qualified voters of Orange County, the NC Primary Elections will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 to vote for Federal, State, Judicial and County Offices along with a Local Referendum.

The polls for the May 6th Primary election will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Residents who are not registered to vote must register by April 11, 2008 to be eligible to vote in this election. Registered voters who moved within Orange County should notify the Board of Elections, in writing, of their address change by the same date.

Any qualified voter may vote prior to Election Day, at one of the One-Stop voting locations listed below. At these locations voters may also request one-stop registration and voting on the same day.

Locations and Times for One-Stop Absentee Voting

- Hillsborough**
Location: Orange County Public Library Conference Room
300 W. Tryon St., Hillsborough
Dates and Times: Thursday & Friday, April 17th - April 18th, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday, April 21st - April 25th, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday, April 28th - May 2nd, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday, May 3rd, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Carrboro**
Location: Carrboro Town Hall, 301 W. Main St., Carrboro
Dates and Times: Thursday & Friday, April 17th - April 18th, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday, April 21st - April 25th, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday, April 28th - May 2nd, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday, May 3rd, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Chapel Hill**
Location: Morehead Planetarium, 250 E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill
Dates and Times: Thursday & Friday, April 17th - April 18th, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday, April 21st - April 25th, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday, April 28th - May 2nd, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday, May 3rd, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Chapel Hill**
Location: Robert & Pearl Seymour Center, 2551 Homestead Rd., Chapel Hill
Dates and Times: Monday - Thursday, April 21st - April 24th, 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Monday - Thursday, April 28th - May 1st, 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Saturday, May 3rd, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Voters may request their ballots be mailed to them. This request must be submitted in writing to the Orange County Board of Elections, PO Box 220, Hillsborough, NC 27278, and received at the board office by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday April 29, 2008.

Citizens with questions concerning registration, absentee ballots, location of polling sites or other related matters, should call the board office between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or inquire at our website at <http://www.co.orange.nc.us>.

The Orange County Board of Elections will hold Absentee meetings in the board office at 110 E. King Street, Hillsborough, NC at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15th, April 22nd, April 29th, May 5th, and 11 a.m. on May 6th

The Orange County Board of Elections will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 in the board office at 110 East King Street, Hillsborough, North Carolina to canvass the votes cast on Tuesday, May 6th in the Primary Elections.

If a second Primary is needed it will be held Tuesday, June 24, 2008.

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DRILLBIT TAYLOR PG 12:45-2:55-5:05-7:15-9:40
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