PROCONIAN

Sophomore Damecco Mahatha shows patriotic pride during spirit week.

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Students take advantage of new credit program

NICK ELSTON

Whether they speak a second language at home, regularly attend science camp every summer or are simply not looking forward to relearning math concepts, students now have the option to achieve credit for a course through the "Credit by Demonstrated Mastery" (CDM) program without taking the course in school.

The only requirement for a Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS) student wishing to bypass a course is to pass two tests written by administrators. Upon passing the first test, students gain access to the second. If a student passes both tests, they will gain credit for the course and, if it is a graduation requirement, no longer be required to take it in school.

The Credit by Demonstrated Mastery program became a statewide requirement for public high schools in 2014. The specific assessments for a student to gain credit vary by district and course, but the reward for passing is the same.

During the program's first year of availability, 85 students across the district took phase one assessments, with 31 students continuing to the phase two assessment. Credit was awarded to 27 students. The most popular course was Civics and Economics, which five students received credit for. Biology, Math I and Spanish III each had three students.

Sophomore Eric Xu has earned credit by demonstrated mastery for both Civics and Economics and English 10 at Chapel Hill.

"I felt the CDM assessments were a good evaluation of what a student's knowledge should be as if he/she had taken the course," Xu said.

Xu chose CDM in order to create space in his schedule.

"I wanted to open up room in my schedule for other classes I may want to take," Xu said.

Xu filled the two open spaces with AP World History and AP English Language and Composition.

Sophomore Sayali Gove also participated in the CDM program last year.

"I really like this program and would recommend it to anyone who feels they don't have enough periods to cover all of their interests," Gove said.

One benefit of the program for students is that there are no penalties for failing either of the tests.

PHOTO CREDIT: NICK ELSTON

Sophomore Eric Xu works on classwork in the library. Xu is one of 27 students in the district who received Credit by Demonstrated Mastery last school year.

"There is no mark on your transcript if you don't pass," Stephen Weber, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction & High School Programs at CHCCS, said.

According to statistics provided by Weber, the majority of students who applied to the CDM program last year did not pass the phase one assessment.

The CDM program will likely have implications for class rank. Students like Xu are now able to take more AP classes, giving them an advantage over students who take all of the required courses in the classroom.

"It gave the option of taking harder classes if I wanted to, since I filled the prerequisites through the CDM process," Xu said.

"We are hoping more [students] apply this year," Weber said. "Last year, it was new, and people were kind of skeptical."

Football numbers decline

PHOTO CREDIT: JARED WEBER

The Chapel Hill Tigers football coaching staff discusses game strategy October 9 at Southern High School.

JARED WEBER

Issac Marsh has been coaching football at Chapel Hill High School since 2004. Never before has he had as few kids try out for the team as he had at the beginning of this season.

"I would say the turnout was probably 30 guys less than usual," Marsh said. "It's the worst I have seen since I've been here."

The Chapel Hill varsity football team, which currently posts a record of 5-5, has five players who see the field on both offensive and defensive possessions, limiting time to rest between series. Given that the team began the season with 30 active players, Marsh said that "depth has definitely been an issue."

In wake of recent findings concerning head trauma and other physical ailments that are commonly associated with playing football, fewer American parents are allowing their children to take the field on Friday nights.

A December 2014 poll released by Bloomberg Politics indicated that 50 percent of parents would not want their sons to play football. In the Triangle area, especially in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools district, the effect has proven to be widespread.

East Chapel Hill head coach Ryan Johnson has seen the effects of declining participation first-

See **FOOTBALL**, PAGE 15

School board seats open

PHOTO CREDIT: JARED WEBER

Political signs line High School Road in anticipation of the CHCCS Board of Education election on November 3.

JARED WEBER AND SAM NIELSEN

Four of the seven spots on the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS) Board of Education will be selected on November 3.

Eight candidates are in the running thus far, including the incumbents seeking reelection.

The competing incumbents are Annetta Streater and David Saussy. Mike Kelley, current chair of the board, and fellow board member Jamezetta Bedford are not running for reelection.

One of the decisive issues is support of Project Advance, a professional development and leadership program scheduled to begin next year. Candidates also differ on their solutions to close the achievement gap.

Kelley, a board member since 2003, decided to step aside to give other community members an opportunity to serve.

"I felt it was time for a change to allow others to contribute," he said. "Our community is highly invested in public education, and we are fortunate there are others who can take up the mantle of leadership with new vigor."

Since being elected to the board in 2011, Streater has worked on a variety of projects, including opening the area's first magnet dual language school and developing Project Advance.

See **ELECTIONS**, PAGE 7

IN THIS ISSUE:

Math teacher Keith Cooper brings Go-Pro cameras into the classroom

page 3

Students start college early with Middle College program

page 6

North Carolina decides to continue funding Driver's Education

page 7

Bestselling author Richard Ford visits local bookshop

page 10

A Cappella groups use LGBTQ inclusive language in audition posters

page 12

Chapel Hill and East Chapel Hill set aside rivalry for 9/11 game

page 14

Students split between concern and relief over new library policy

MILLY AMES

A new library policy instituting a pass system and stricter monitoring was implemented by School Library Media Specialist SaCola Lehr at the beginning of the school year and has left the student body divided on changes to the learning space.

The new policy was designed to assist students who wish to use the media center as an academic resource.

Some students were disappointed to find that the library is no longer a place for people to gather and socialize in the morning and at lunch.

"The library policy was revamped to provide an equitable and safe learning space to meet the needs of all students in the school," Lehr said. "We listened [to] and heard the needs of students about using the media center as a space to read, work, study and collaborate without distractions."

Students are required to sign up for an "Early Morning" or "Lunch Bunch" pass if they plan on regularly using the library before school or during lunch.

Once inside the library, students are asked to follow typical library etiquette and remain studious and quiet throughout their visit.

Senior Bryna Loranger feels that the library is now a more useful place for students.

"The library passes are nice because it keeps the library more calm; it's a good space for when you really need to get work done," Loranger said.

In order to obtain a pass, interested students must fill out a form that can be found at the main library desk.

Senior Maggie Adams pointed out that the process to get a pass is not particularly taxing.

"All I had to do was sign my name on a piece of paper, and I was done," Adams said.

However, others feel that the pass system and socializing restrictions are too disruptive to their daily lives.

"[The library policy is] kind of irritating. It prevents me from socializing in an area [where] I used to," senior Iain Dixon said.

Another issue students have regarding the policy are the new printing limitations.

Students now have to get a library pass to print at anytime other than the five minutes in between classes. In years prior to the change, students were accustomed to having unlimited access to the library printer.

Junior Rachel Hotong now has her own pass for the morning, but says she struggled to get a pass because she did not have her school ID with her.

"Now [the library] seems more exclusive and harder to use because we have to use these library passes. If you want to go print out something, you can't just print it out. You have to sign all these forms," Hotong said.

Though some students feel the policy is inconvenient, Lehr maintained that it was never made to be a hindrance to students and that the library is now a greater resource.

"I believe that media centers are the heart of any school by being the information hub for faculty, staff, and students," Lehr said.

Freshman Jordan Ren signed up for a pass because he needed to print an assignment at the library.

"It just took around half a minute to sign up," Ren said. "I only really use the pass to print stuff, but it was definitely worth it to take the second to get a pass in order to be able to print stuff whenever I need to."

PHOTO CREDIT: MILLY AMES

PHOTO CREDIT: ELI ROSE

Above: Senior Jared Devon works on his math homework at the library during fifth period. Below: Freshman Lani Smith checks into the library at the beginning of lunch using her "Lunch Bunch" pass.

Lehr hired for library

MILLY AMES

After multiple career changes, new School Library Media Specialist SaCola Lehr has found a home at Chapel Hill.

Lehr has many passions. But with 15 years of experience as a librarian, she has found cemented herself in the media center.

"Before coming to work in Chapel Hill, I worked in banking and finance and made a career switch to education," Lehr said. "I started out as a middle grades English Language Arts teacher, and then became a School Library Media Specialist."

Lehr feels that she has found a way to combine her experience in business and her love of education in her new job.

"I came to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school system to be a part of a strong academic environment with the opportunity of growth and advancement," Lehr said.

This year, the school library has undergone not only a staff change but also a policy change.

The library is cracking down on the amount of socializing that goes on before and after school, which can be distracting for students who are trying to use the library to study.

Lehr is determined to make the library the best resource possible for both students and teachers.

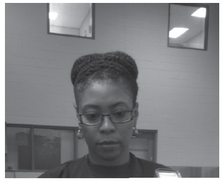

PHOTO CREDIT: MILLY AMES

New media specialist SaCola Lehr organizes books in the library.

"Currently, we are working on designing the layout of the library to reflect a 21st Century learning space. We will do this by creating an additional classroom area large enough to allow teachers the opportunity to collaborate," Lehr said.

Providing the school a resource is not Lehr's only passion. In addition to being a self proclaimed "foodie," her interests include spending time with friends and family, dancing and volunteering in the community.

New counselors found for Chapel Hill

GILLIE WEEKS

There are two new counselors at Chapel Hill this year: Julia Royal and Allison Moore.

Royal has been a counselor in North Carolina for seven years and used to work for a federal grant program in California that focused on college access for high school students.

Royal enjoys her job as a counselor because she loves to help students succeed.

"I love working with teenagers … It is a very transitional time in your life, so you're thinking about what you are going to do. I like being a part of that," said Royal.

The availability of help for students at the school is what Royal likes most about Chapel Hill High School.

"There are a lot of resources here for students that I think are wonderful," she said.

Moore was a counselor at a school in eastern North Carolina for two and a half years. Moore said that transitioning to a new school was a relatively easy process.

"The other counselors were great. They were really welcoming," Moore said.

Moore's journey to becoming a counselor began when she took Advanced Placement Psychology in high school and loved it. She therefore decided to major in psychology in college. Her major, which allows her to better help students struggling emotionally, combined with a love of the school setting, led her to become a high school counselor.

"I really like how on the ball and involved all the students are," Moore said.

Junior Matthew Yarnell has Ms. Moore as a guidance counselor and said that she made a good first impression when they met.

"She is friendly and really energetic," Yarnell said. "If you need someone to talk to about classes or life in general, she's just the person you need."

Junior Allison Haines feels that Royal is a receptive person with a lot to contribute to the Chapel Hill community.

"I haven't interacted with [Royal] much, but she has been very responsive whenever I had to," Haines said. "I'm sure she will be great."

Royal and Moore have transitioned to working at a new school and are both currently working to help seniors apply to colleges and universities.

PHOTO CREDIT: ELI ROSE

Newly hired Chapel Hill guidance counselors Julia Royal (left) and Allison Moore (right) both began their first full years at Chapel Hill at the beginning this August.

Teacher turnover brings new faces, perspectives to Chapel Hill

ELI ROSE

There are 27 new teachers at Chapel Hill High School. The history department has seven new full-time teachers: Anne Beichner, Tim Campbell, Lauren James, Matt North, Patrick Roeber and Kevin Taylor. The English department has four new teachers: Jordan Kroll, Morgan Mertz, Tiffany Newsome and reading specialist Erica Kinney. In the mathematics department, Samuel Boss, Aaron Ideus and Nathan Kosiba are the new additions. Lastly, a pair of Erins—Erin Baldwin and Erin Hsu—joined the world languages department. Proconian's *Eli Rose was able to talk to four of the new faces and learn their favorite things about Chapel Hill High School.*

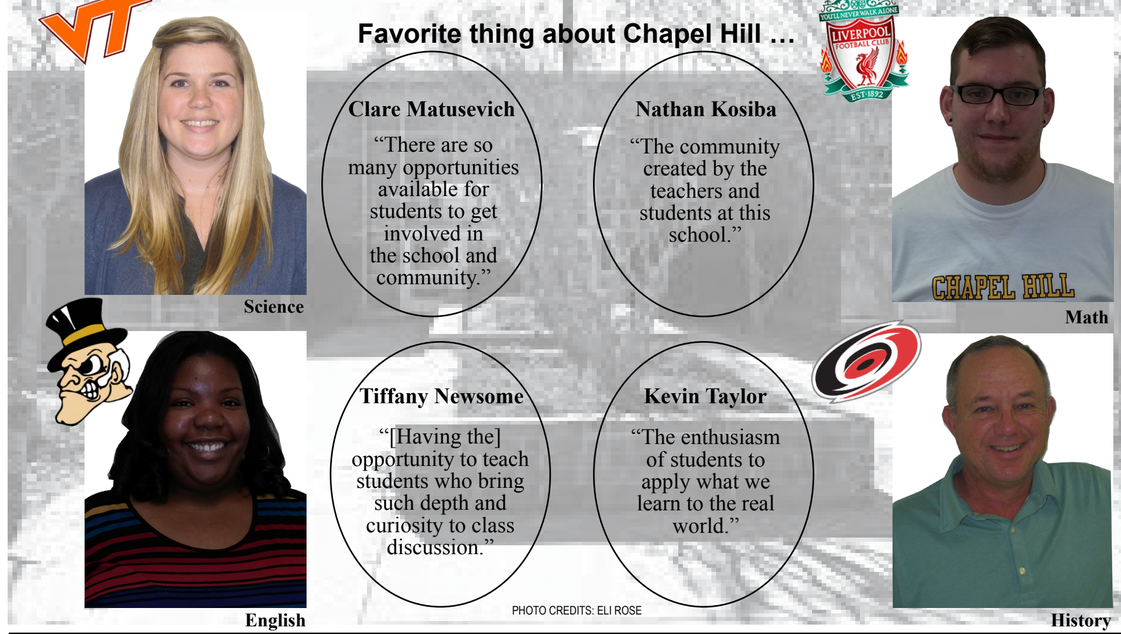

PHOTO CREDITS: ELI ROSE

Students rock out during Club Day

The Half Moon Band, a Chapel Hill country rock musical group, performs at the amphitheater during Club Day festivities. The band played after performances by the Chapel Hill High School Drumline and Chinese yo-yoist Jesse Chen. While music played in the courtyard, students had the opportunity to walk around the upper gym and sign up for clubs that fit their interests, many of which offered food and other treats to entice potential members.

PHOTO CREDIT: ELI ROSE

Montez gives college tips

Former Chapel Hill High School guidance counselor Montez Thomas started his new job as Assistant Director of Admissions at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this fall.

Plan ahead: Give yourself plenty of time to complete all of your items before the school deadlines. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill reads every application line-by-line, so students cannot count solely on their grades and/or test scores to "get in." You must also have thoughtful essays, strong letters of recommendation and detailed extracurricular activity sheets. All of these factors are taken into consideration for the admissions process.

Visit: When possible, it is important to visit the schools you are considering. Many schools may sound similar based on their websites or promotional materials, but the best way to truly get a sense of the campus is to experience it for yourself. At UNC, we offer information sessions and tours Monday-Friday, at 10:30 am and 2:30 p.m.

Breathe: Sounds simple enough, right? The college search process can be stressful, and it is the first major decision that many people are asked to make. However, regardless of whether or not you get accepted into your first, second or third choice, life will go on. You will still have wonderful opportunities to chase your dreams and goals. Just trust the process.

In the event you do not get into your top school the first time around, know that many schools accept students on a transfer basis after completing courses at another four-year institution or two-year community college. In fact, 15 percent of students who started at UNC for the 2015-2016 school year are transfer students.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTEZ THOMAS

TOWN & WORLD

Upperclassmen get head start with Middle College program

KRISTINA KIM

Middle College, a local academic program, has gained popularity as a way of fulfilling high school course requirements while earning college credit. Six Chapel Hill students now participate in the program.

The program, run through the Durham Technical Community College (DTCC), offers free honors high school and college credit courses, as well as summer classes.

Senior Peter Newell has attended Middle College for the past two years.

"This program is great because you can get your college credits in high school and it isn't too challenging academically, where you feel too overwhelmed," Newell said.

Newell is currently taking English IV, a high school course, and three college courses: Chemistry, Computer Programming and Calculus III at Middle College.

"I like the schedule because we get to build it ourselves, and for the college classes we only have to meet two or three times a week," Newell said.

Middle College allows students to get high school and college credits so they have a head start when they graduate from high school. The program offers classes to upperclassmen from Durham Public, Orange County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS).

PHOTO COURTESY OF BIZZY SCHUMACHER

Junior Bizzy Schumacher (right center) and her friends hang out at Middle College's Durham campus. Schumacher is one of six Chapel Hill students currently enrolled in the district's alternative college preparation programs.

"DTCC benefits students by introducing them to a college setting early on," Newell said.

High school classes offered at Middle College begin at 11 a.m. in the morning and finish at 3 a.m. in the afternoon, while the college classes offered by DTCC meet at different times throughout the day.

The variety in class times gives flexibility to applicants when they create their schedules. The classes are also set up in a block format so that they last longer and students can get more work done without interruption.

Middle College students are also able to count college classes as credits for uncompleted high school courses.

Middle College by the numbers:

87

Percentage of 2014 Middle College graduates enrolled in a four-year college

1,571

Number of credit hours earned by 2014 graduates

6

Number of Chapel Hill students currently attending Middle College

"I had no language credits when I started Middle College, but then in two semesters I took two college-level Spanish classes, which got all my credits done for both high school and college," Newell said.

As a result of its connection with DTCC, Middle College offers many classes that are not taught at Chapel Hill. The courses include Meteorology, American Sign Language I, Veterinary Assisting and many more.

Newell says that the program has very few downsides. Some of the night classes run late, but students can always opt for morning or afternoon classes to avoid the problem.

Middle College junior Bizzy Schumacher, though, regrets missing some parts of the high school experience.

"For instance, prom is not as big of a deal and there are a lot less students. There are not a lot of clubs offered like there are at Chapel Hill," Schumacher said.

Through the Middle College program, junior Nabila Bustillos-Francis and other students at DTCC are expected to graduate with enough college credits to count for a full year of courses, saving time and tuition money.

"This program allows me to graduate another way that gets me to college earlier and with less stress," Bustillos-Francis said.

To register, students must be a juniors or seniors, be scheduled to graduate on time and have an unweighted GPA of 2.3 or above.

Students can learn more about the DTCC Middle College program by picking up information in the counseling office or visiting mchs.dpsnc.net.

Pruitt brings ideas and charisma to new Leaders gig

JARED WEBER

New Leaders director Ben Pruitt's infectious enthusiasm for working with teenagers stems from his experiences at Camp Kanata.

Pruitt, 25, fell in love with the camp as a child. Starting at age 17, he worked at the summer camp, a job he kept for eight years. He began as a Camper In Leadership Training (CILT) and eventually became the Training Coordinator in 2013, his self-described "ideal job."

"The thing that makes Kanata different is that people are immediately accepted there. The overwhelmingly accepting environment comes from the staff and from the culture that has been built there over the years," Pruitt said.

Pruitt is looking to bring a culture of camaraderie to his new position as Teen Programs and Leaders Director at the Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA.

Leaders Club is a volunteer organization for kids in middle school and high school that is run through the YMCA. 150 Chapel Hill students are current members of the club, through which they partake in service learning activities and grow their character.

Pruitt feels that Leaders Club already has a reputation for being a great volunteer organization with great people. He plans to build on what he inherited.

PHOTO CREDIT: JARED WEBER

New YMCA Leaders Club director Ben Pruitt directs a meeting on September 16.

"Bringing the belonging and the acceptance into the program via the retreats we do and creating an atmosphere where it is safe to be who you are no matter what," he said, speaking of his goals for furthering the club's reputation.

Pruitt knew he had "big shoes to fill" when he took over in May for Whitney Kahn, the club's longtime director. Many students have been in the club for four years or more, all of them with Kahn.

One of the club's longtime members is Leaders Club president and Chapel Hill senior Maggie Adams.

Adams had gotten to know Kahn very well over the course of her four years in Leaders Club. Although it took some time to get used to the new director, she has nothing but praise for him.

"[Pruitt] is willing to work with our executive board and put all of our ideas into motion," Adams said. "He's come in with a lot of energy and ideas. He's really helped the club grow."

Among Pruitt's ideas is involving the Leaders in fundraising the club's annual campaign. Each member has been tasked with raising $100 dollars, with the ultimate goal of bringing in $15,000 total to fund the club's yearly costs.

Pruitt finds it important for the Leaders to take personal initiative in financially supporting themselves.

"As an organization, we have to raise money through the community to cultivate all of the work we do," he said. "I am really excited for it."

Chapel Hill graduate and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill freshman Matt Gilleskie has attended meetings and worked as a senior leader this year.

"The senior leaders serve to perform the week-to-week tasks the club needs in order to run," Gilleskie said.

Gilleskie said Pruitt "works very well with people and expects a lot out of each leader."

"I think he will help our leaders to perform to their full potential," Gilleskie said.

Like any great leader, Pruitt yearns to constantly improve himself. Someday, this could possibly come at the expense of his new position.

"I envision myself in this role anywhere between three to five years," he said.

Pruitt hopes to better himself and the people around him. If a new opportunity to help him improve his ability to do that presents itself, he plans to take it into consideration.

"I think it would be foolish not to," he said.

Where's Whitney?

JARED WEBER

Former Leaders Club director Whitney Kahn left the Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA in May to pursue new interests and change career paths.

Kahn, who played an integral role in multiple YMCA operations, said she felt she needed a change of scenery.

"I'm looking to change directions in my career and find the next great opportunity where I can utilize my skills," Kahn said.

The new opportunity she seeks is likely to be a non-profit organization called Gigi's Playhouse. The project serves to open educational and developmental doors for people with down's syndrome across the Triangle area.

Kahn hopes that many people will support the cause and volunteer when the group's headquarters opens in May of 2016.

"It's great to give connection to the Down Syndrome community in our area," Kahn said. "It's a really amazing program."

Kahn has stayed connected to the YMCA since departing. Whenever new Leaders Club director Ben Pruitt is in need of assistance, Kahn is there for what she calls "behind the scenes insight."

New neighborhoods built

PHOTO CREDIT: JARED WEBER

Sarya Krishnamarty, 7, plays soccer in his driveway. His family is among the many to recently move to Birch Kove.

JEFF RICHARDSON

New housing developments along Homestead Road will bring additional students to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School (CHCCS) district.

One of the neighborhoods, Burch Kove, is located less than a mile from Chapel Hill High School. Burch Cove contains over 70 lots and offers residents a pool, a playground and a community dog park.

Junior Hannah Rayala moved into Burch Kove last winter.

"The construction has moved at a fast pace since we got here," Rayala said.

Rayala moved to Burch Cove from Parkside last February and has attended Chapel Hill for two years.

Sophomore Maite Ramos, who also lives in Burch Kove, noted that the new neighborhoods have attracted many families with younger children.

Students in the new neighborhoods will be districted to Seawell Elementary School, Smith Middle School and Chapel Hill High School.

Ramos says that one of the perks to living in Burch Kove is the proximity to Chapel Hill, which is convenient when commuting to and from school.

"I walk to school now, and it is a lot easier to go back and forth from my house," Ramos said.

Construction on Claremont, a development further down Homestead Road, began in 2008.

The neighborhood originally planned to expand to Jones Ferry Road, but after it was unable to do so, it built across the street from its original location.

Senior Alex Ramirez's family owned the property on which Claremont expanded, but was forced to move after the government seized the land under eminent domain.

"We lived a happy life [there]," Ramirez said. "But they had to add more houses and they couldn't do it [elsewhere]."

Ramirez and his family have since relocated to Bolinwood Condominiums.

New, improved homeless shelter opens

NATHAN GUSKIEWICZ

The Inter-Faith Council (IFC) for Social Service opened a new homeless shelter on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. on September 24.

Construction on the $5.76 million project began last fall, replacing the previous shelter located on West Rosemary Street.

The new shelter, named after the State Employees Credit Union, its largest donor, has 52 beds open for use by the homeless.

The home will also have an additional 17 beds for emergency housing for people reported by the police department or hospital when outside temperatures go below 40 degrees.

Michael Reinke, new executive director of the IFC, highlighted the improvements that have been made in the building of the new shelter.

Reinke has been the executive director of the IFC since August 17. Before earning the position, he worked with his predecessor, John Dorward, to plan the new shelter.

"The new shelter is so different from the old place," Reinke said. "The term 'night and day' doesn't even begin to describe it."

The Rosemary Street location served as the Chapel Hill Town Hall, courthouse and jail in the past but was never designed to be a homeless shelter.

PHOTO CREDIT: NATHAN GUSKIEWICZ

The Inter-Faith Council opened a new homeless shelter on Martin Luther King Blvd. on September 24. The new shelter offers visitors a variety of amenities, including an exercise room, a medical clinic and a dental clinic.

The new facility encompasses 16,543 square feet and has naturally lit rooms, queen beds, a kitchen, an exercise room, a dining room and twice as many showers as the old location.

The shelter will also have a medical and dental clinic on location.

"I had the opportunity to direct a state coalition for the homeless, and I saw a lot of different shelters all over the North," Reinke said. "I've never seen a shelter that had a medical and dental clinic located [inside it]."

Unlike the old location, which provided only emergency shelter, the new facility will have a program that helps residents get back on their feet.

Residents will have access to a library where they can read and take literacy classes. Additionally, the shelter provides job counseling and therapy.

There is no specific time limit that residents can be housed by the shelter.

The IFC community kitchen on Rosemary Street will continue to offer free food to anyone who needs it.

Students are encouraged to volunteer at the shelter.

ELECTIONS, from PAGE 1

Streater stressed diversity in her pitch to potential voters.

"Choose me if you want leadership that supports student focused policies, leadership that supports effective training for teachers and leadership that advocates for and stresses the need for a school culture that embraces diverse learners and fosters excellence," she said.

Saussy had a different path to his seat than the other incumbent board members.

After former board member Mia Burroughs was appointed to the Orange County Board of Commissioners in November 2014, the board decided to appoint Saussy for the fourth year of her term.

Saussy plans to continue what he started in 2015 if he is reelected.

"In my next term, I will continue to address the achievement gap and the challenges of providing all students a rigorous education," Saussy said.

New candidates include Joal Haul Broun, Gregg Gerdau, Pat Heinrich, Theresa Watson, Margaret Samuels and Rani Dasi.

Dasi, a mother of four, moved to Chapel Hill with her family because of the "high quality" school system. But after taking a closer look, she feels the system is "not effectively educating all of its students."

"Teachers and administrators were working hard but in some cases lacked consistent direction and the necessary resources," Dasi said.

If elected, she plans to develop a milestone program for determining progress made by all students.

"We need to develop metrics that will help the community understand if we are on track," Dasi said.

Gerdau found motivation to run for the board through his appreciation for education.

"I believe education is the most valuable asset we have in our community," Gerdau said. "My family and I moved to Chapel Hill 12 years ago for the excellent school system, and I want to make sure it continues to be highly regarded."

Gerdau plans to improve teacher retention rates, close the achievement gap and develop closer relationships with other local governments, including Carrboro's Board of Aldermen, Chapel Hill's Town Council and the Orange County Board of Education.

Students who are registered to vote will be eligible to cast a ballot in the upcoming election.

State continues Drivers Ed funding

PHOTO CREDIT: GILLIE WEEKS

Chapel Hill driving instructor Barbara Garmon was among many relieved by the state's decision to continue funding for Driver's Education programs.

GILLIE WEEKS

Prospective drivers statewide were worried this summer about the possibility of North Carolina no longer funding Driver's Education classes.

"It's not fair. We want to drive without paying for it," freshman Mia Bocko said.

Luckily, Bocko and all other high school students across North Carolina no longer have to worry about the possibility of paying a large fee for Driver's Education.

After weeks of postponing the budget deadline, the North Carolina state government came to a consensus on September 18 to continue to fund the Driver's Education program.

New students across the state will have to pay a maximum of $65 for Driver's Education instead of the $300-400 that would have been required had funding been cut.

Driver's Education was free in North Carolina until 2011, when the General Assembly voted to allow school districts to charge students up to $45 for the class. In 2014, the fee was once again raised to $65.

Some felt that cutting the program would have led to students waiting until they were 18 years old to get their license, in order to avoid paying for the class.

"This would lead to unskilled, unaware new drivers on our roadways, jeopardizing everyone's road safety," Barbara Garmon, driving teacher at the Jordan Driving school, said.

Although the government has continued to fund the program, the uncertainty of funding still affected students and driving schools. Over the summer, more than half of North Carolina's school districts suspended or downsized their summer driving classes because of the possibility of losing their funding.

Garmon congratulates Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS) assistant superintendent Todd Lofrese, for leading the process through financially difficult times.

The government's new budget mandates that students can return to taking Driver's Education for $65 or less. Garmon is happy with the decision.

"If the program—long and short term—experiences cut funding, we fail our young people and future leaders," Garmon said.

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PACE Academy closes its doors

PAUL MCLAUGHLIN

Former Chapel Hill alternative school PACE Academy had its charter revoked in August by the State Board of Education (SBE), less than two weeks before the school year was set to begin.

The SBE cited PACE Academy's inability to live up to enrollment and financial standards as the reason for the closing.

The school was originally given a ten-year charter by the SBE in 2004 to personalize students' education plans.

However, in February 2014, the SBE did not renew the school's charter, citing that PACE Academy had low academic performance, low attendance and financial losses.

PACE Academy appealed the ruling in May and was granted a temporary three-year charter.

However, the SBE stripped the charter school of its temporary certification three months after it had been issued due to its failure to comply with additional conditions set by the SBE. The ruling permanently closed the charter school.

Joey Fassler, who went to McDougle Middle School, decided after eighth grade to attend PACE instead of Chapel Hill High School.

PHOTO CREDIT: JARED WEBER

PACE Academy was forced to close less than two weeks before the school year began this Fall. It is the second time PACE has been forced to close a building.

"[PACE Academy's] program offered smaller class sizes and block scheduling. For me, that's a better and more efficient way to learn," Fassler said.

Fassler enjoyed his time at PACE academy.

"With smaller class sizes and longer class periods, I was able to learn the material faster and easier. I had the freedom to decide how quickly I wanted to earn my credits towards graduation," Fassler said.

Since PACE Academy closed, Fassler has been home schooled.

Junior Dearie Bourne attended PACE Academy last year, but now attends Chapel Hill.

Bourne was upset upon hearing that his former school was closing for good. He felt that the school was a very good fit for him while he attended it.

"PACE Academy has had a great impact on my educational level. It's a very small setting, it's easier to work in and you get just enough attention to learn and memorize the steps to equations or any subject," Bourne said.

The closure marks the second location that PACE Academy has been forced to shut down. The previous school, located at 1713 Legion Road, is now the site of a rock climbing center.

Man cleans up Franklin

PHOTO CREDIT: NATHAN GUSKIEWICZ

Michael Mangee, 82, picks up trash on Franklin Street every day.

NATHAN GUSKIEWICZ

Rain or shine, 82-year-old Chapel Hill resident Michael Mangee picks up trash along a four mile stretch of Franklin Street every day.

The retired physician starts at Deming Road in Chapel Hill and walks to where the restaurants in Carrboro start and then back down the other side of the road.

At first, Mangee would pick up bottles and cans to recycle, but soon after began to pick up litter along the road.

Mangee walks not only for the betterment of the town, but also for heart.

His routine initially began as a way to pass the time while getting in his daily exercise.

"I've always been athletic and interested in my general health," Mangee said. "When I started walking, it was very boring. So just for the heck of it, I started picking up trash."

For most of his professional life, Mangee would run every day. But, he injured his knee playing football in high school and running up and down the hills of Chapel Hill.

"That was the end of that," Mangee said.

Senior Claire Danes is the vice president of Green Tigers, a Chapel Hill student-run club that focuses on reducing the school's carbon footprint and making the town a more environmentally conscious place.

Danes commends Mangee for his longtime commitment to beautifying Chapel Hill's center street.

"It's the things like what Mangee does that our club is about," Danes said. "Anyone who tries to make an effort should be commended for it."

Mangee plans to continue picking up trash "as long as [he] is standing."

Teachers rewarded by North Carolina with $750 bonus

DAN KLEISSLER

A fall budget proposal will give all teachers a $750 raise, increasing the base salaries for new teachers to $35,000.

In an effort to combat low salaries, lawmakers proposed a two percent increase across the board for all teacher and state employee salaries. As budget deliberations progressed, a final plan of action was approved.

The two percent raise proposed by the House of Representatives became a one-time $750 bonus after negotiations with the Senate. The bonus amounts to an average raise of 1.75 percent.

Salary increases proposed by the budget will affect all state employees, with special provisions instituted for community college teachers and correctional officers.

The proposal also allows teachers to move up pay steps that would increase salaries based on experience. Pay steps, originally instituted in 2014, require an annual decision on funding.

In the August 2014 pay step, the state upgraded the salaries of teachers who had been employed for five or six years. Recently hired teachers and tenured teachers only received raises of 0.7 percent, according to the *Asheville Citizen-Times*.

The changes promote the retention of new teachers, inciting complaints that salary increases focused on new teachers ignore the plight of more experienced educators.

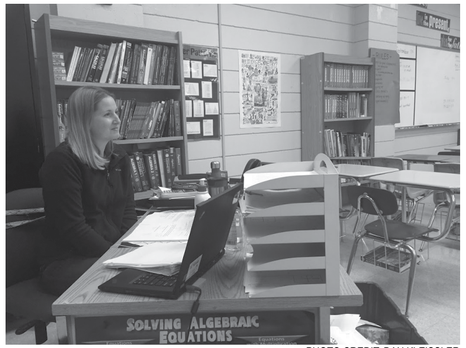


PHOTO CREDIT: DAN KLEISSLER

Math teacher Pamela Rohman was among the Chapel Hill teachers who were pleasantly surprised by a $750 bonus that the state gave to them.

"I think that that's exactly what legislators feel towards teachers," science teacher Sheila Wilkerson said. "Legislators want younger teachers because they cost less money, and they are more amenable to being told what to do."

Math teacher Pamela Rohman moved from Virginia, a state that ranks higher than North Carolina in teacher pay, three years ago.

Rohman feels that teachers should focus not only on what they are paid but on the more positive aspects of teaching.

"I'm not in teaching for the money. I love what I do. I can't imagine doing anything else," Rohman said.

Even so, she recognizes the pay differential between North Carolina and Virginia.

"I knew what the money was going to be before I started teaching," Rohman said. "I don't necessarily think that it's fair."

Even with the pay raise, as well as one enacted in 2014, the average teacher salary in North Carolina remains $10,000 under the national average, according to *The News and Observer*.

In new data that accounts for public education spending and average teacher salary, North Carolina ranked 50th among all states and federal districts.

Wilkerson believes that the $750 bonus is an attempt by "certain groups" to defund public schools and give the funds to charter schools.

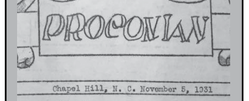
"They want to make sure that certain parts of the population are isolated—economically and socially," Wilkerson said.

The budget, including the $750 bonus, will be reevaluated during the next fiscal year.

"I think the state should give teachers a lot more raises then," sophomore Jonas Todd said. "The teachers deserve much better for all that they do."

***Proconian* staff writer Milly Ames weighs in on the decision made by the North Carolina State Congress to award a $750 bonus to all teachers in the form of a political cartoon entitled *Five Year Plan*.**

SEE PAGE 13


PROCONIAN

Chapel Hill, N. C. November 5, 1931

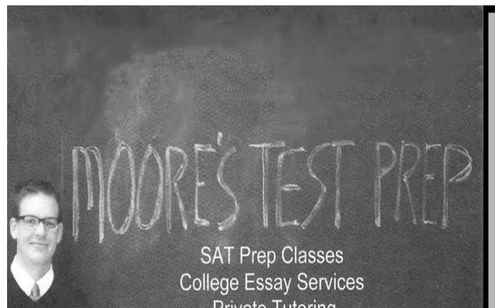
4 SCHOOL BOY AND FACULTY MEMBER
BOY IN ACCIDENT
9th. Mark Whitaker Special to COMPLETE

Proco Throwback

The following excerpt is taken from the November 1931 issue of Proconian. *The article updates students on the state of the new school library. The writer of the passage was not listed.*

"The total circulation (books borrowed) from September 10 to October 21 was 2,322. This is a slight decrease over the same period last year—a fact which I attribute solely to the unusual heat we have had this autumn …

The library atmosphere is improving. The students are realizing that the library is a laboratory for quiet work and reading, that those who disturb do not belong in the library where a maximum of freedom is given to those who are able to use it wisely."



Crêpe Traditions opens

Proconian's Sam Nielsen stopped by the newly opened Crêpe Traditions on Franklin Street to weigh in on the quality of the eatery.

PHOTO CREDIT: SAM NIELSEN

One of the available options on Crêpe Traditions' menu is the "Nutella Fruit."

SAM NIELSEN

The crêpe is a versatile food: it can be eaten with any number of different fillings, ranging from cream and fruits to ham and cheese. But it never fails to be delicious.

Now, locals have easy access to the French treat with the opening of Crêpe Traditions at 140 West Franklin Street, the spot previously used by Gigi's Cupcakes.

I had the Cordon Bleu, a savory crepe with chicken, ham, mushroom, spinach, bleu cheese crumbles, mozzarella and lemon aioli. It was great for the most part; however, the lemon aioli was very strong, and I became tired of it when I was down to the last few bites.

I also tried the Nutella Fruit, a dessert crepe with Nutella, banana, pineapple, strawberries, granola and powdered sugar. It was really good: sweet, but not too sweet, with a good balance of chocolate and fruit.

The restaurant also serves breakfast crepes, which are available until 11 o'clock each morning, and coffee crepes, which can have fillings such as cream, cinnamon, pecans and banana.

The restaurant provides hot chocolate, sodas and a variety of caffeinated beverages.

The interior of the restaurant has a pleasant atmosphere, with simple wooden floors and tabletops, calming colors and good natural lighting. Noise levels were low, allowing for a peaceful and enjoyable meal.

Overall, I strongly recommend Crepe Traditions. The food is good, the decor cozy and the prices reasonable.

Chapel Hill welcomes exchange students from across the globe

Chapel Hill High School is currently hosting seven foreign exchange students from around the world. The students come from multiple European countries and South America. Proconian's *Brendan Holly had the chance to sit down with four of the female students and get to know their interests, favorite movies and what they think about life in Chapel Hill.*

Emma Myhre

Senior from Porsgrunn, Norway

Favorite thing about Chapel Hill: "I like how liberal it is and how there is a lot of diversity."

Favorite American food: "Pancakes."

Favorite class so far: "Creative Experiments."

Favorite movie: "*The Untouchables.*"

PHOTO COURTESY OF EMMA MYHRE

Florence Gester

Senior from Liege, Belgium

Favorite thing about Chapel Hill: "Sports at the school and meeting new people."

Favorite American Food: "Chipotle burritos."

Favorite class so far: "French."

Favorite movie: "*She's The Man.*"

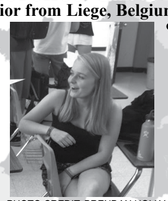


PHOTO CREDIT: BRENDAN HOLLY

Iida Hirvonen

Senior from Helsinki, Finland

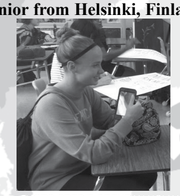


PHOTO CREDIT: BRENDAN HOLLY

Favorite thing about Chapel Hill: "There are so many school sports and clubs to participate in."

Favorite American Food: "Waffles and bagels."

Favorite class so far: "Sports Medicine."

Favorite movie: "*The Avengers.*"

Catalina Gonzalez

Senior from Punta Arenas, Chile

PHOTO COURTESY OF CATALINA GONZALEZ

Favorite thing about Chapel Hill: "I really love the environment—all the green places."

Favorite American Food: "Deep fried Oreos."

Favorite song: "Lisztomania," by Phoenix."

Favorite movie: "*Birdman.*"

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Tiger Chill stays late

PHOTO CREDIT: CHLOE MCNEAL

Juniors Adam Lennox and Kris Chellani serve cotton candy at Tiger Chill. Proceeds from the event benefitted many school clubs.

CHLOE MCNEAL

Tiger Chill has recently become a fundraising opportunity for Chapel Hill High School clubs, but, this year, the event was focused on boosting morale and school spirit.

On October 3, the annual school carnival introduced "After Dark," a nighttime showcase of local high school musical acts.

Tiger Chill serves as an attraction for families and young children every year. The event features entertainment and game booths set up by Chapel Hill student clubs.

The Parent Teacher Student Association, which organizes Tiger Chill every year, came up with the idea for After Dark.

"We were sitting around at lunch one day trying to come up with ideas, and this is where it led," Laura Malinchock, president of the Parent Teacher Student Association said.

The layout plans for Tiger Chill were changed just days before the festival was set to happen. The event, which is normally held outside, was moved indoors to Chapel Hill High School's B-building due to rainy weather.

Despite the last minute change of location and wet weather, families and students still came out to the event.

After Dark began at 6 o'clock with a performance by the Chapel Hill High School Drumline.

Senior Nick Young performed at After Dark with the Half Moon Band, a Chapel Hill rock band.

"Tiger Chill was pretty awesome, and it's great to get out there and play music with people you really enjoy being around," Young said. "It's always fun with the Half Moon Band."

After Dark concluded with a set by East Chapel Hill rock band Vernacular.

The event raised over $16,000 in revenue for the school's clubs, Malinchock said.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author visits local bookshop

SAM NIELSEN

Richard Ford, author of *The Sportswriter*, *Independence Day* and *The Lay of the Land*, presented *Let Me Be Frank With You* at Flyleaf Books on October 13 as part of the book's paperback tour.

Let Me Be Frank With You is the fourth book in Ford's Frank Bascombe series, which follows a sportswriter in modern-day America.

The book includes four short stories about Bascombe's life after Hurricane Sandy hit New Jersey.

At the talk, Ford read aloud two passages from the book, answered questions and signed attendees' books.

"It's an honor to be here tonight, it's an honor to be in a bookstore," Ford said as he greeted the crowd. "I know what a wonderful place for the community this bookstore is."

When asked about his favorite part of writing the Frank Bascombe series, Ford replied that he enjoyed the opportunity to express himself fully and share viewpoints that were not necessarily his own.

"Writing novels is not a matter of self expression. To get yourself fully expressed is to get everything you know onto the page," Ford said. "And Frank lets me do that, and with some humor too."

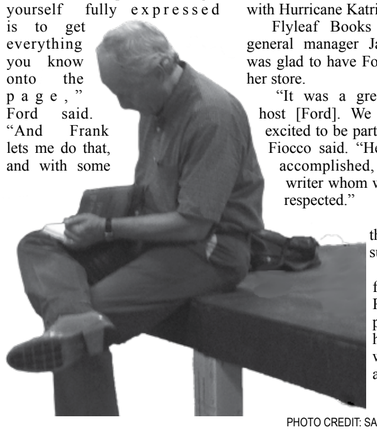


PHOTO CREDIT: SAM NIELSEN

Richard Ford signs a book following his talk at Flyleaf Books. *Let Me Be Frank With You* draws on current events (like Hurricane Sandy) that Ford lived through himself.

Ford said that some inspiration for the events of the book came from his experiences with Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Flyleaf Books owner and general manager Jamie Fiocco was glad to have Ford present at her store.

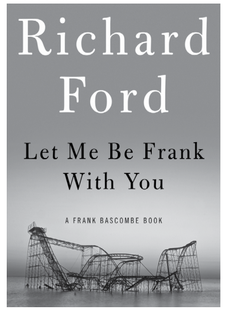
"It was a great honor to host [Ford]. We were really excited to be part of his tour," Fiocco said. "He is such an accomplished, intelligent writer whom we've always respected."

To Fiocco, the talk was a success.

"It was fantastic. Richard is a pro; he reads his work well—not all authors do—and the audience was rapt," Fiocco said. "The energy in the room was positive and electric."

The talk had a large amount of attendees, something that Fiocco wants to characterize the bookstore in the future.

"That's part of our mission; to bring the community together to have experiences which enrich our lives. To allow a place, a time and an expert to discuss things together that are important to us," Fiocco said.



Kleon teaches readers *How to Steal Like an Artist*

PHOTO CREDIT: SAM NIELSEN

Kleon signed attendees' books after the event at Flyleaf Books.

SAM NIELSEN

He already taught you how to steal like an artist; now, he has found a spot for you to store your loot.

Austin Kleon, author of the *New York Times* bestselling *Steal Like an Artist*, presented *The Steal Like an Artist Journal* at Flyleaf Books in September.

The journal features a variety of activities and prompts meant to improve the user's creativity, such as lists, drawing exercises and charts to fill.

Kleon started the talk with a slideshow of images taken from the journals of such luminaries as Albert Einstein to Thomas Jefferson. After the slideshow, he answered questions.

During his presentation, Kleon talked about the value of journaling daily.

"One of the challenges in the book is to take a 30-day challenge—to fill a page in the journal every day […] and to see if you can keep it up for a month," Kleon said. "I think something really magical happens when you do something every day and it becomes a ritual, a routine."

Kleon finished the talk with some advice on using a journal.

"I recommend keeping a notebook and carrying it with you wherever you go," Kleon said. "I think, if you find a way to take 10 to 15 minutes every day to write something, really good things happen."

Senior Georgie Chase attended the book talk.

"I thought it was really interesting, and I liked learning about the famous people that had journals," Chase said. "It made me want to start keeping a journal."

Austin Kleon is also the author of *Newspaper Blackout* and *New York Times* bestseller *Show Your Work!*

Attendees had the option to buy the book at the event, though it was officially released October 6. Kleon signed copies after his presentation.

"I've been keeping a journal for 20 years—over two-thirds of my life," Kleon said. "I hope the habit treats you as well as it has treated me."

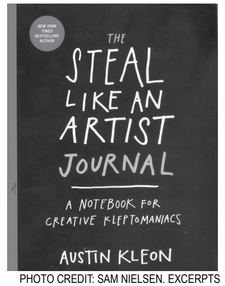


PHOTO CREDIT: SAM NIELSEN. EXCERPTS TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM THE TEXT.

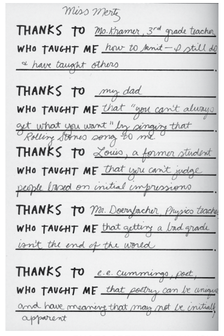


PHOTO CREDIT: ALLIE VAUGHN

English teacher Morgan Mertz did a prompt asking the writer to thank people who taught them something.

Try It Yourself!

Kleon's book gives aspiring journal writers some prompts and ideas to get their creative juices flowing—now you can try some of them out for yourself!

Make up 10 pseudonyms for yourself.

Get a haircut. Recall your conversation with your barber or hairdresser.

Go to the movies. Draw in the dark.

Make a poem out of newspaper headlines.

Who do you trust with your secrets? Why?

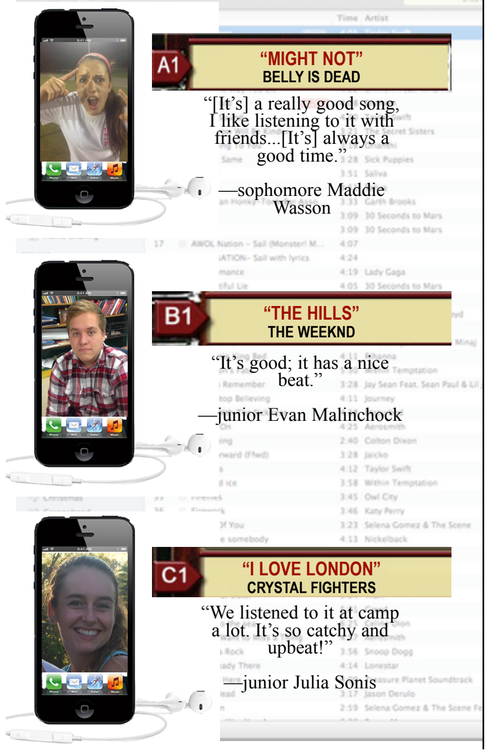
Watch a TV show with the sound muted. Invent your own dialogue.

"Sit at your desk and listen"
-Franz Kafka

Take a walk on your lunch break. List everything you hear, see, or think.

Happy writing!

What was your summer jam?



McClelland sings with national choir

DAN KLEISSLER

Walking into the Black Congressional Caucus Gospel Extravaganza, English teacher Joanne McClelland remembers thinking to herself, "oh God, we're out of our league."

McClelland took part in the 45th Annual Legislative Conference of the Black Congressional Caucus in Washington, D.C., held September 16-20. From workshops on entrepreneurship to jazz music concerts, the week was filled with a variety of forums and performances.

One of the performances was the Gospel Extravaganza, a choral event that brought together choirs from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Mississippi. Each group was nominated by a member of Congress to represent their state.

U.S. congressman and chairman of the North Carolina Black Caucus G.K. Butterfield nominated McClelland's choir, the Orange Grove Missionary Baptist Church Choir, to represent the state at the conference. While the choir had been nominated in the past, it had never attended the event.

The performances took place at the United House of Prayer for All People in the federal district.

McClelland said that her choir came to the Extravaganza with the sole purpose of worship. While she wishes she had been able to participate in the other festivities, she values the "honesty" in their performance.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOANNE MCCLELLAND

The Orange Grove Choir is an experienced choir, having performed in Europe and recorded multiple CDs; however, this was its first Gospel Extravaganza.

A few of the choirs in attendance were twice the size of Orange Grove, McClelland said, and their performances greatly impressed her. However, due to the order of rehearsals, none of the other groups was able to hear the North Carolina choir practice before the show.

"We heard them, but they didn't hear us," McClelland said.

McClelland's choir impressed at the actual performance, receiving a standing ovation from the audience.

"We were there to worship. I think that's why [...] people were just amazed at the strength of our voices," McClelland said. "It was so amazing. People stood up; they were crying."

As a testament to the power of the performance, McClelland recalled her music minister's reaction.

"After we finished, [he] began to cry," she said.

Butterfield and another representative exchanged congratulations following the performance.

"It's about time you brought a choir that could sing," the representative said.

A federal judge invited the choir to perform at his function in Raleigh this December.

Overall, McClelland said the Gospel Extravaganza was a special experience for the many people she made lasting connections with, as well as the bonding and memories she was able to make with her choir.

"We [in the choir] have a very close relationship," McClelland said. "It was just fun."

Students snap in style with new, exclusive Snapchat Geofilter

KRISTINA KIM

Students can now show their school pride—but only for an instant.

Junior Kethan Galloway created a Snapchat geographical location tag, or Geofilter, that is unique to Chapel Hill High School.

Snapchat, a picture messaging app released in 2011, is popular among high school and college students. The ability to submit Geofilter designs was opened to the general public in 2014.

Galloway initially came up with the idea to make a Geofilter as he was signing up for Tiger Roar, a school club centered around promoting school spirit.

"I wanted to help make students feel more proud of our school in a way that hasn't been done before," Galloway said.

Galloway designed the Geofilter using Adobe Photoshop and then submitted it by following directions (see far right column) on the Snapchat website.

"The students' reactions were really positive, and it was really cool seeing all the stories posted using the Geofilter I designed," Galloway said.

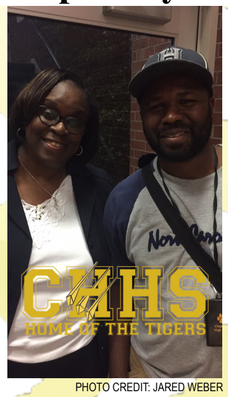


PHOTO CREDIT: JARED WEBER

Chapel Hill Principal Sulura Jackson and custodian Anthony Little pose for a selfie with the new Geofilter.

Senior Claire Lancaster is one of many students excited to have a school Geofilter.

"I saw that Panther Creek had their own, and now we finally have one, too," Lancaster said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KETHAN GALLOWAY

Junior Kethan Galloway uses his Geofilter, taking a Chapel Hill Snapchat with junior Becket Leinenweber.

Some students responded by creating Geofilters of their own.

Junior Sarah Popkin was inspired to design a Geofilter after learning how Galloway created one.

"I liked how we were able to personalize [the filter] to make it our own. The process wasn't that hard to follow," Popkin said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLIE WEBB

Substitute teacher Charlie Webb, better known as "C. Webb," takes a science hall selfie with the new Geofilter.

Expect to see plenty of Snapchat Stories featuring Galloway's Geofilter at Chapel Hill High School.

Thinking of making your own Geofilter? The Snapchat official website has some guidelines for creating your filter that will make your Geofilter design more likely to be selected:

—All graphics must be 100% original.

—Be creative and make it visually compelling.

—Don't cover up too much of the screen.

—Make sure it's relevant to the location and something that people will want to use.

Find out more at: support.snapchat.com/a/geofilter-guidelines

OPINIONS

The problems with Chapel Hill High School's new dress code policy

ALLIE VAUGHN

Are shoulders really distracting? Can the length of a girl's shorts be offensive? If her midriff is showing, will she will lose the respect of other students? Almost every high schooler would answer no; however, the school's new dress code suggests otherwise.

The new dress code policy was instituted to create an effective learning environment, free of distraction. However, some students, specifically females, have interpreted it differently.

There are certain parts that seem trivial, such as the rule that "no hoods should be worn in the school buildings." There are others that have incited more discussion among students, such as the fingertip rule.

Dress code restrictions are meant to teach students that the school has high standards for them. The policies can prepare students to dress more professionally later on in life. Yet, I feel that it instead teaches them they do not have control of their identity. It takes away some of their freedom.

If you look in the student handbook, you will find explanations of the specific dress code requirements, followed by a list of six rules entitled "Appropriate Dress." The first rule states "undergarments should NOT be visible at any time." I was called out for violating this particular rule a few weeks ago; my bra straps were visible and I was reprimanded by my teacher.

PHOTO CREDIT: ALLIE VAUGHN

Four anonymous female students demonstrate violations to the newest addition to the school's mandatory, "The Fingertip Rule." Female students have disapproved of the outfit restrictions and many have been reprimanded already this year.

I was embarrassed in front of my peers. The incident made me feel like my body had gotten me in trouble. In my opinion, the rules should not have such negative effects on students.

The fourth rule, in my opinion, is slightly unreasonable: "when a student stands with arms straight down by their sides, the bottom of their shorts, skirts and/or dresses should reach their fingertips or below."

The rationale behind the test makes sense, but it does not account for the difference you will see between heights of girls. I am 5'8" tall, and I know it will be harder for me to pass the fingertip test than a girl who is 5'3" tall.

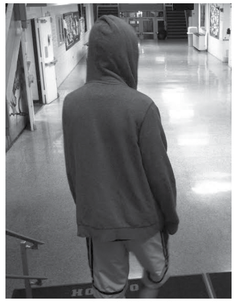


PHOTO CREDIT: SAM NIELSEN

The new dress code policy also prohibits students from sagging their shorts and wearing hoods while at Chapel Hill.

Though the fifth rule states "slacks and shorts should be belted below the waist to prevent sagging below the waistline," it is mostly applied to boys who sag their pants. I have not yet seen it enforced.

The sixth rule is also rarely acknowledged: "Clothing should not make references to crude, illegal, or otherwise inappropriate or disruptive content." Attire that is blatantly inappropriate is dealt with, but the line between funny and offensive becomes blurred with certain clothing.

Graphic T-shirts are fairly common, and most of them have funny depictions or witty phrases. However, some shirts have sayings like, "cool story babe, now make me a sandwich" or "beer pong champion".

It is mostly males who wear these shirts, and, when they are not reprimanded for them, it feels like there is a double standard in place here.

The dress code applies mostly to girls, but it still makes assumptions about male students. The idea that boys cannot control themselves when it comes to girls is a common notion, but also an offensive one.

From my experience, most high school boys are not going to be distracted by bra straps or athletic shorts. It seems like the dress policies have become more exaggerated than the reality of what students are wearing.

The dress code is genuinely meant to make a positive difference. But I believe that changes need to be made in order for the policy to appear more reasonable and allow students to benefit from its intended purpose.

Inclusive audition flyers indicate progress

DANIEL KLEISSLER

Efforts of the transgender community at Chapel Hill High School over the past year have progressed in leaps and bounds. Gender neutral bathrooms and dress code policies were among the first battlegrounds; however, the endeavors paid off in an unexpected manner.

Evidence of such efforts populated the hallway walls throughout the school in the form of a Capella posters. Changes were made in the phrasing, the inclusive language, of such posters.

Inclusive language involves a manner of speaking that seeks to accept and affirm a variety of identities. Examples of inclusive language can include the use of appropriate pronouns, respect of the difference between gender and sexual orientation and the use of "person centered" language.

Lucky 13, the school's all-female a Capella group, displayed posters that included the line, "if you identify as a female." The new wording is a departure from the exclusive language that is denoted by an "all-female" or "all-male" group.

An a Cappella advertisement may seem an unlikely place for a voice of the transgender community to be heard, yet, the inclusive language featured in this year's audition posters declared an open-minded approach to transgender students.

PHOTO Credit: DAN KLEISSLER

All-female a Cappella group Lucky 13 rehearses for the October choral concert. The group welcomed transgender students to audition this year by using inclusive language in its flyers.

"It was just really heartwarming to see that they went that extra step to be inclusive in their language," senior Abigail Stern, President of the Queer Student Association at Chapel Hill, said.

Indeed, Lucky 13's "heartwarming" action was necessary. In order to advance the attitude taken towards the LGBTQ community at this school, drastic action must be taken. The members of Lucky 13 were brave in their decision.

While the language is an important step for the school's gender nonconforming students, there is still work to be done.

"I think gender non-binary students are still excluded from the dichotomy of a Capella groups," Stern said.

What we cannot allow is complacency. It would be unwise to take the time to pat ourselves on the back for being so open minded.

As long as LGBTQ teenagers, such as the late Leelah Alcorn, an Ohio teenager who killed herself after not being accepted by her parents, still face such damaging oppression, not enough has been done.

After all, making casual jokes about Kaitlyn Jenner transitioning into womanhood based solely on money and public attention is still accepted in the school community.

The school community should take inclusive language as a stepping stone. Teachers can start to implement it in their classes, clarifying all students' preferred pronouns at the beginning of each year. Students can begin to use the phrasing in their everyday vocabulary, encouraging acceptance and respect.

We can only hope that the breakthrough is one of the first changes at Chapel Hill High School that will make it a more welcoming and open environment for all.

I Am That Girl

PHOTO Credit: JEFF RICHARDSON

***Proconian* staff writer Jenna Nicotra started a club urging females to find their own individualism at Chapel Hill.**

JENNA NICOTRA

The average female model is 5'10" tall and weighs 107 pounds. She has impossibly high cheek bones, perfectly full lips and unattainably flawless skin. She is everywhere we look: magazine covers, television shows, movies, billboards, the internet.

In the western world, women are constantly subjected to the media's idealized standards of what a woman should be. For the average American woman, standing 5'4" tall and weighing 166 pounds, everyday exposure to such self esteem can be daunting—so much so that her self esteem is often degraded.

This year, my friend Niki Billman and I founded a club at Chapel Hill aimed towards empowering women and undoing the images instilled into them throughout their lives. After observing the school for two years, we felt the club would be extremely beneficial to students.

The club is a chapter of a national organization called I Am That Girl.

The organization's mission, according to its website, is to help "girls transform self-doubt in to self-love by providing a safe space to connect and have honest conversations about things that matter."

Self-love is one of the major societal issues that Billman and I plan to tackle.

"Our goal is to encourage community members to be comfortable in their own skin and spread love and kindness to others," Billman said.

We are hoping to promote positive mind sets and make sure students can look in the mirror and acknowledge how special they are. Our meetings will allow everyone's voice to be heard, and we will discuss how to love our insecurities.

We plan to promote self esteem and acceptance all over Chapel Hill High School, one girl at a time.

The club meets twice a month on Fridays at lunch in room D-211.

How to be a Happier Human: sleep more, live better

Sleep. Everyone needs more of it. In fact, Proconian*'s Milly Ames and Gillie Weeks's number-one tip for being a happier human is practicing better sleep habits. The question is, how? The National Sleep Foundation suggests teenagers sleep between eight and ten hours every night. But studies show that only 15% of teens actually rest for the minimum recommended amount on school nights. Ames and Weeks offer their sage sleep advice in this edition of "How to be a Happier Human."*

Gillie: For some people, falling asleep can be difficult when you have everything from a stressful day still on your mind. It can be frustrating to try to go to bed early, but end up spending a few hours just staring at the ceiling.

Believe it or not, one cause of not being able to fall asleep might be your computer. Studies have shown that the light from a computer screen lowers the body's production of melatonin, a hormone that regulates the sleep-wake cycle. Having lower amounts of melatonin can cause you to stay awake.

My tip for you is to do your homework requiring a screen earlier in the night, so that the light from the screen does not affect you as much later on and you can fall asleep. I realize that, sometimes, it is difficult to control when all of your homework gets done. So if you have to do homework on the computer late at night, or you just have to watch the most recent episode of Grey's Anatomy, try turning the brightness down on your computer.

Milly: After experiencing the junior year workload, being able to fall asleep is not an issue for me. By the time I am even close to being finished with my homework, it is at least 12:00 p.m. By 2:00 a.m., I typically call it a day, even if I still have assignments left over.

Going to sleep late and waking up early is an appalling prospect for anyone, but as a high school student, sometimes it is the only option. It is unfortunate, but as I have learned over the past two years, morning study time can be a useful tool for meeting deadlines.

In order to get up early, I always leave my blinds half open before I go to bed. Natural light helps alert the brain that it is time to wake, making early morning study sessions easier and more productive.

However, sometimes waking up to natural light is not an option. If you need an alarm clock to get you out of bed, but, like me, tend to press the snooze button a lot, try placing your alarm across the room. That way, you will have to actually get up to turn it off.

Gillie: Have you ever noticed that even if you go to sleep and wake up at the same time, it is easier to get out of bed some mornings than others? For me, it is hard to wake up every morning, but I agree that some mornings it is easier than others. That is because your sleep pattern changes. Everyone's sleep pattern includes periods of light and deep sleep, and it is much easier to wake up if your alarm rings during the middle of a light sleep period.

Like anything else in the world, there is an app for that. Though there are many apps that help with this problem, a common, and free, application is called Sleep Better. To use Sleep Better, put your phone next to your pillow before you go to sleep. By recording your movements, it can tell whether you are in a period of deep or light sleep. You can then set an alarm on the app for a 30 minute time period. The app will wake you up during the time that your sleep is at its lightest. This way, you will always wake up feeling less tired and have a great start to your day.

Milly: Regardless of what time you wake up, or how you go about doing it, there are things you can do to start your day off better. Personally, I always make sure I have a glass of water on my bedside table, so I can drink it immediately after I wake up. Your body needs to rehydrate from the suggested eight hours of sleep during which no fluids were consumed.

If you need a caffeine fix in the morning like I do, you might find that drinking water beforehand will help extend your energy boost. Though it still takes me at least two cups of tea to get out of the house, I never, usually, crash during the day.

Your morning helps set the tone for the rest of the day, but most of us are not morning people. Though it is important to keep up to date on global issues, you can avoid getting unnecessarily worked up by not watching the morning news or logging into Facebook.

Mornings can be rough for all of us, but following a routine like mine can make them easier.

A lesson plan for all

In an effort to close the achievement gap, new policies have been set in place to aid learning in the classroom. Lesson plans are now supposed to be centered around an essential question and teachers are required to maintain binders to mark progress.

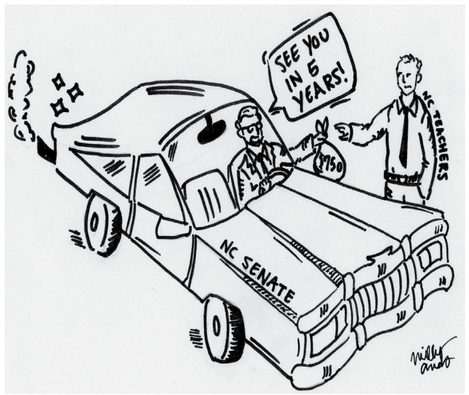
Most teachers support the idea of structured lesson planning, but feel that the initiative has been set in motion amid other initiatives.

"We've had so little time to figure out how the initiative works best, but we are still supposed to be doing it," one teacher said.

According to the district website, the implementation of the Learning Focused lesson policy comes less than two years after the school system rolled out its Understanding By Design and Institute for Learning plans.

If the school system hopes to see the impact of its ideas, it should give them time to gel. Otherwise, the plans risk not amounting to their potential.

The ideas and resources are there. Now, just patience is needed.



FIVE YEAR PLAN, BY MILLY AMES

A letter from the editors

Chapel Hill High School is an eventful place. Over the course of our combined six years here, we have witnessed faculty turnover, student activism and one memorable snowpocalypse. Some people might look at the common chaos we have all come to accept as a negative. However, we like to think that it just makes for a good newspaper.

We plan to use our talents and resources to bring the school news to you through a variety of ways, including our newspaper, website and social media.

We are honored to be your head editors and cannot wait to see what 2015-2016 holds.

Sincerely,

Jared Weber Sam Nielsen

PROCONIAN

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proconian@gmail.com

www.proconian.org

Editors-in-Chief

Sam Nielsen

Jared Weber

Managing Editor

Eli Rose

Section Editors

Eli Rose, School News

Sam Nielsen and Jared Weber, Town and World

Sarah Taekman, Arts And Entertainment

Jeff Richardson, Opinions

Nathan Guskiewicz, Sports

Staff Writers

Milly Ames

Nick Elston

Chloe Grill

Brendan Holly

Kristina Kim

Paul Mclaughlin

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Grace Newton

Jenna Nicotra

Forrest Pratson

Berry Rigdon

Miguel Rivera-Torres

Allie Vaughn

Gillie Weeks

Webmaster

Nick Elston

Business Manager

Forrest Pratson

SPORTS

Parents of former UNC basketball star center write parenting book

Steve and Lorri Zeller know better than anyone that parenting can be a difficult task. The high school sweethearts from Springville, Iowa accomplished the tall task of raising three seven-foot professional basketball centers. And they did it the right way; or as they would describe it, "The Zeller Way." Their new book, Raising Boys The Zeller Way, *chronicles all facets of their relationship and experiences raising the three boys, while also offering parenting advice to current and future parents.* Proconian's *Jared Weber caught up with Lorri, Steve and Tyler, and asked them questions about the new book and life.*

Tyler, what lesson that your parents taught you as a kid has stuck with you the most?

Tyler: Really that if you continue to work hard, no matter what happens, you'll have times you succeed and times that you fail. And when you fail, you have to continue to pick yourself back up and try to become better. It's the only way you can succeed in life. You have to continue to work as hard as possible.

Steve and Lorri, what are your favorite lessons you have passed down to your sons?

Steve: Spend a lot of time with your kids and make it quality time. Even when you are doing other things, make quality time for them. The second thing is to learn from your kids. There are so many times that I can look back and say that I learned something just from being around my boys. I learned a lot from them as far as making myself a better person.

Lorri: I think that it is important for them to be well-rounded people. It's fine that basketball is a big deal to them, but we made sure that [life] wasn't just basketball. We wanted them to be good at other things. Most of all, we wanted them to be great people off the court. Academics was probably the number one priority. They did great in school because someday, they won't have basketball anymore. But they're always going to have academics.

PHOTO CREDIT: JARED WEBER

Lorri, Tyler and Steve Zeller (left to right) held a book signing at Flyleaf Bookshop in Chapel Hill in June. The three sat down for an exclusive *Proconian* interview.

What are all of your favorite anecdotes that are told in the book?

Tyler: Honestly, I really just like how they put the whole story together. It takes you through childhood then high school and how we all continued to work hard and progress all the way into college, and eventually fulfill our dreams. Obviously, the bike story when I hit the back of the van with the bike is a good one, though. It's one of those stories we tell a lot.

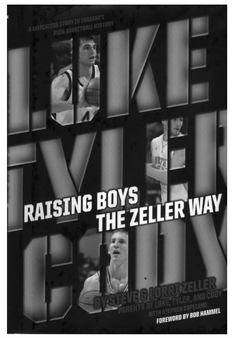
Steve: I think my favorite one comes at the end of the book. When we were talking, about how I had heart surgery; an open heart surgery to put a mechanical valve in. In the book, Luke prays over top of me, and it's just a touching story. It shows that all of the things that I did as far as discipline, and all of the different things that I did as a father, all came back to me.

Lorri: My personal favorite is the bed-wetting story about Cody. When we do speaking engagements, Steve always tells that story, and people just love it.

Writing a book about your children must have been a really rewarding experience, right?

Steve: It was actually a lot of fun. Stephen Copeland, our ghostwriter, did a really great job putting together interviews in which we sat around and talked about what we did and how we did it. Then, he put it into words. He did a great job.

Lorri: It was really fun. I think, for any parent, it's easy to talk about your kids. That's all it was! Just reminiscing and talking about our kids. A lot of people had told us, "Oh, you should write a book because you've had success raising these boys." We're the first ones to say that we're not perfect parents, but maybe, if we've learned something, we can pass it on.



An excerpt from the book:

* * *

"This life isn't a dress rehearsal. It's the real thing. It might as well be enjoyed, treasured, and approached with a sense of severity—that the decisions we make and opportunities have meaning and significance.

In each and every phase, enjoy the ride."

— Steve Zeller, page 199

Rivals come together for 9/11 game

MIGUEL RIVERA-TORRES

The Chapel Hill Tigers and East Chapel Hill Wildcats soccer teams came together on September 11 to play regular season games to commemorated the lives lost to terrorist attacks 14 years ago.

The game served as a fundraiser for the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund (IFHF), a non-profit organization that builds mental health centers in military bases across the country. The clinics provide support to military personnel with traumatic brain injuries and psychological health conditions.

Chapel Hill varsity head coach Jason Curtis commended both teams for rallying around the cause together.

"The cooperation with East Chapel Hill was really neat," Curtis said. "It shows that even cross-town rivals can come together for something special like this."

The game helped to raise more than $200 for the construction of the Intrepid Spirit Center that is currently being built at Fort Bragg.

Donations were collected from spectators at the game. Fans were also able to buy submarine sandwiches, that were donated by Jersey Mikes, with all of the proceeds going towards the organization.

PHOTO CREDIT: MIGUEL RIVERA-TORRES

The Chapel Hill and East Chapel Hill soccer teams take a group photo after their September 11 memorial soccer games. The varsity match ended in a 1-1 draw.

Both teams came out wearing T-shirts reading "United in soccer, never forget 9/11/01." The commemorative shirt had a decal of the Twin Towers and the names of the two schools written on the back.

The shirts were designed by students and soccer players in Chapel Hill JV coach Kevin Schoden's Introduction to Graphic Communications class.

The varsity game ended in a 1-1 draw. The lone Chapel Hill goal was scored by junior Paul McLaughlin.

Junior Harrison Broun was proud of the teams for coming together.

"It was a great display for the town of Chapel Hill," Broun said.

The JV team came out on top with a 3-0 win over the Wildcats, with goals scored by freshmen Gabo Tobin-Xet and Cam Kerr and sophomore Richard Vaca.

"I was very honored to play," sophomore Juan Castro said. "It was lucky that the game fell on this day because we were able to pay tribute to the people who lost their lives on September 11."

The varsity teams met for a rematch on October 16 at East Chapel Hill, that again ended in a tie, by a score of 3-3.

Junior catches his wish

FORREST PRATSON

Junior Richard Staelin will be treated to an all-expenses paid deep-sea fishing trip courtesy of the Make-A-Wish foundation.

The nonprofit organization accepted Staelin's application and is currently working out the details in order to provide him with what he hopes to be an "epic fishing trip."

"I love what he has come up with," Julie Lowe, Wish Granter at the Make-A-Wish foundation, said of Staelin's excursion. "It's going to be a unique trip."

The Make-A-Wish foundation is based in Arizona, but Staelin's wish is being handled by the Eastern North Carolina branch.

The foundation is centered around giving children with life-threatening illnesses memorable trips of their choice, in order to help them take their minds off of everything they are going through.

The foundation chooses children based on recommendations, and makes decisions depending on the severity of their conditions.

"My mom registered me," Staelin said. "[Make-A-Wish] looked over my file to see if I was qualified and I was."

Make-A-Wish foundation Wish Granters create and facilitate trips for children ranging from the ages of two-and-a-half to 18 years old.

"We do not focus only on terminal illnesses," Lowe said. "It must be a condition that is life threatening at that moment."

Lowe and Staelin are still working together to plan the trip, but it will definitely feature deep sea fishing.

"So far, the biggest thing I have caught is an 80-pound stingray. I am just looking for a typical Florida fishing trip with more big game," Staelin said.

The trip will be completely paid for by donations to the nonprofit organization.

Lowe is excited to work with Staelin to grant his special wish.

"I have worked with many different kids with many different wishes," Lowe said. "It is great to do something fun for these children."

Besides a trophy fish, Staelin also wants something less tangible from his trip.

"I hope to get an experience I have always wanted," Staelin said. "I want my family and me to do something together that we will all enjoy."

Sophomores, seniors win big at Powderpuff games

Powderpuff returned for a second year at Chapel Hill High School, pitting seniors against juniors and sophomores against freshmen. Powderpuff is a nationwide high school tradition typically carried out during Homecoming week. The senior and sophomore teams were victorious in their respective games. The flag football games featured female students as players and football team members as coaches. The seniors defeated the juniors 46-6. "It was fun to play a game none of us really knew without any pressure," senior Hannah Cable said. "Plus, it's awesome when all of the seniors get to come together and beat up on the juniors." The sophomores beat the freshmen 44-6. "The game was super fun and everyone got to play a lot and contribute to the team," sophomore Grace Tate said. "It was exciting to keep our winning streak alive."

PHOTO CREDITS: NATHAN GUSKIEWICZ

FOOTBALL,
from PAGE 1

-hand.

Last year, as an assistant coach for the Wildcats, Johnson saw his football program shut down midseason because of the team's lack of depth.

"When we got down below 20 [players], we knew that with conference coming around, playing the type of competition we were going to be playing, it was going to be pretty tough to compete safely," Johnson said.

Johnson and the rest of the East Chapel Hill coaching staff were forced to make a tough decision.

"Not having the numbers or support to compete, you have to step back for a minute and look at your kids. We had to do what we had to do," Johnson said.

East Chapel Hill is not the only local high school that has forfeited games because of low numbers.

Carrboro conceded its October 16 homecoming game versus Bartlett Yancey when it was only able to field a team of 15 players.

This August, for the first time, more Chapel Hill High School students tried out for the men's soccer team than for the football team.

Andy Berner, father of soccer player and Chapel Hill senior Will Berner, said he would have been uneasy had his son wanted to play football.

"I don't know that I would have said absolutely no if he was really into it, but we would have had to talk about it a lot," Berner said. "I would have been worried about injuries."

However, Marsh does not think safety is the issue that is keeping Chapel Hill football participation at an all-time low. He feels that it might take a collaborative football clinic by all three area high schools to get back on track.

"It might take putting on something for the youth for the participation to improve," Marsh said. "I don't think it's a safety concern. It's more just getting the idea of football back out there."

Marsh does not anticipate safety concerns will continue to chip away at his team's depth chart. He expects to see more football players arrive from Smith and McDougle Middle Schools in the coming years.

"Right now, both Smith and McDougle have 30-plus kids playing football," Marsh said. "In another year, l think we'll be back with solid numbers."

Sports Briefs

Accurate as of October 28, 2015

Football

Chapel Hill's varsity football team is off to a 5-5 start, with a conference record of 2-3 in the Big Eight 3A. The team is led by senior captains **Brian Jones**, **George McBurney** and **Hudson Price.** The team will play Northwood High School on November 6 and is only two games back in conference play.

Women's Golf

Chapel Hill's women's golf team finished its season with a 1-1-3 record in the Carolina Central Golf Conference. Team captain and leading scorer sophomore **Gina Kim** won the North Carolina 3A Golf State Championship by six strokes. The team gained two new members this year, sophomores **Anne Crabill** and **Katherine DeHart**.

Men's Soccer

The Chapel Hill soccer team is continuing a strong season with an overall record of 15-2-3. The Tigers finished conference play with a record of 11-1 and are this years 3A Big Eight conference champions. The team is led by senior captains **Nick Hebert** and **Blake Johnson.** The top scorer is junior **Sam Linker**. The Tigers planned to play their last regular season game against Carrboro on October 28, but the Jaguars forfeited due to injuries. The first playoff game and senior night will take place November 4.

Volleyball

The volleyball team, coached by Jody Brown, finished its regular season with a 13-10 record overall and a conference record of 8-4 in the Big Eight conference. Junior **Katie Huge** led the conference with 595 assists and is second in serving aces with 58. Junior **Shea Golden** led the conference in attack kills with 313. The team lost to Gray's Creek High School in the first round of playoffs.

Women's Tennis

The Chapel Hill women's tennis team finished its regular season with a record of 15-2. The Tigers were conference champs with a perfect record of 10-0 in the Big Eight. The team is lead by senior captains **Gabriel Chew** and **Joy Stouffer.** The team has made it to the third round of Dual Team 3A state playoffs and will play its next game on November 2.

Field Hockey

The women's field hockey team has a record of 15-4 with key out-of-conference victories coming Durham Academy and R.J. Reynolds. Captains **Lundy Fine**, **Jane McMurry** and **Elizabeth McBurney** have led the team to the top of the Big Eight 3A conference. **Caroline Murphy** leads the team in goals. New head coach and Chapel Hill High School alumna **Anna Long** sees the team making a deep playoff run.

Men's Cross-Country

The men's cross country team heads into the 3A Middle East Regional race ranked third in the state. Seniors **Dan Kleissler**, **Max Blackburn** and **Zachary Allen** have led the team to an undefeated record at home. Six of seven varsity runners have been named all conference.

Women's Cross-Country

The women's cross country team has gotten off to a 4-4 start to the season. Captains **Milly Ames, Reagan Roeber, Jenna Bateman, Anna Passanante** and **Marija Crook** have led the Lady Tigers to key victories, including their recent win at the Conference Championship. The 3A Middle East Regional race will take place on October 31 and the State Championship race will be held November 7.

CHAPEL HILL HIGH SCHOOL SURVIVAL GUIDE: TIGER LIFE HACKS

A life hack is any simple solution that helps solve one of life's little problems. Chapel Hill High School is full of daily dilemmas, and we want to help make your school days a little bit easier. Follow the tips below to streamline your life.

#1

Put your keys on your lunch every night, so you don't forget it in the morning.

PHOTO CREDIT: SAM NIELSEN

#2

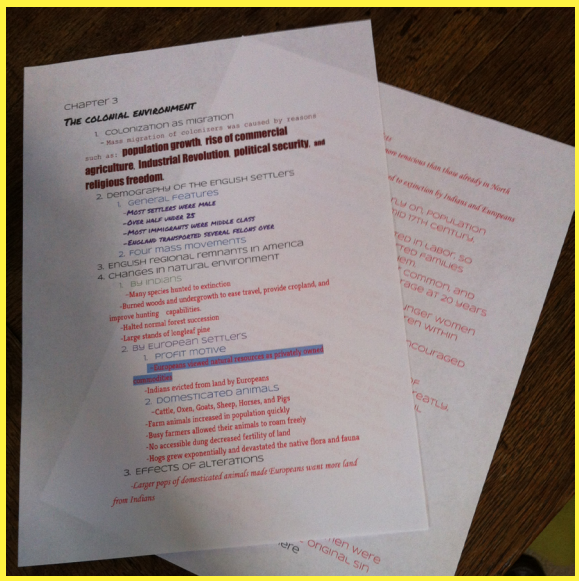
Coffee ice cubes: good for preventing your iced coffee from getting watery before school.

PHOTO CREDIT: GRACE NEWTON

#3

Chew gum before tests to reduce stress and stay focused.

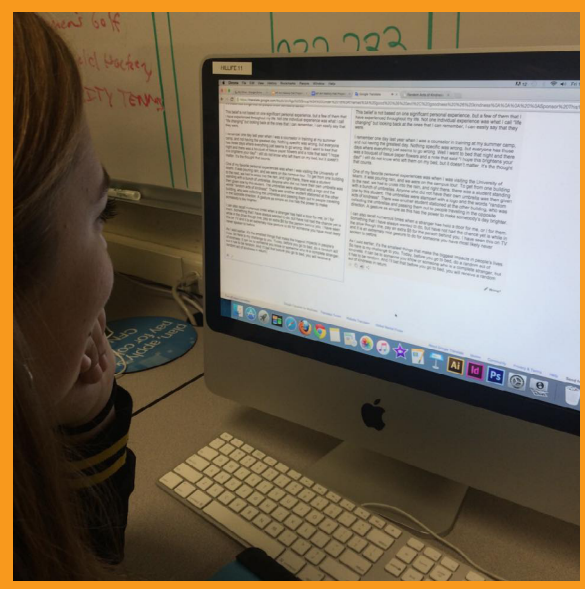
PHOTO CREDIT: JARED WEBER



#4

Type out notes in unique fonts to make all of the facts and ideas easier to remember.

PHOTO CREDIT: SAM NIELSEN



#5

Have Google Translate read your papers back to you to make finding errors easier.

PHOTO CREDIT: CHLOE MCNEAL

#6

Stop by history teacher Veena Rajan's room for free candy.

PHOTO CREDIT: JARED WEBER