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Businesses displaced by connector could get aid

By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector

Wednesday, September 09, 2009

The Greenville City Council during tonight’s meeting is scheduled to consider providing aid to businesses that will be relocated because of the Stantonsburg Road-10th Street Connector project.

The proposed four-lane road will connect East Carolina University with Pitt County Memorial Hospital primarily along Farmville Boulevard. A project steering committee has yet to choose between three final designs, and construction is expected to begin in 2013.

Business owners expressed frustration at public input meetings about the high costs of having to relocate and buy property in another area. A 10th Street Connector Supplemental Relocation Program for homeowners was approved by the City Council in 2007.

Councilwoman Rose Glover asked that council members discuss a similar program for businesses. City staff will estimate costs of a program after receiving council direction.

Land acquisition is handled by the N.C. Department of Transportation, which is partnering with the city on the project.

Ordinances that will restrict some private and public club activities are not on tonight’s agenda. The three draft ordinances, requested by a City Council vote at an Aug. 24 meeting, have been delivered to club owners throughout the city, and they will be asked for opinions and input at a meeting on Wednesday.

A mutual aid agreement also has been sent to the Pitt County Alcohol Beverage Control Board for consideration.

The City Council will consider a “Crime-Free Rental House Program” presented by Kathy Harrington — one of 25 citizens who spoke at the public hearing on crime. She said the program will establish a relationship between landlords and police and will proactively reduce crime.

The council also will discuss creating a task force on public safety as requested by the Greenville-Pitt Chamber of Commerce.

Also on the city council agenda:

A report and recommendations from the Bicycle Friendly Task Force.

Funding for a basic trail to be called the Fork Swamp Greenway (near Evans Street as it approaches Fire Tower Road) from the general contingency fund. The greenway would provide a walking trail to Paramore Park for the local neighborhoods of Sheffield and Bedford.

A review of the Public Works Department’s construction and demolition debris removal service.

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at k kennedy@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9566.

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Thomas Stuart Tripp

Thomas Stuart Tripp WILMINGTON - Thomas Stuart Tripp, 88, died Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009 at Cypress Pointe Rehabilitation and Health Care Center in Wilmington. Stuart was born on June 23, 1923 in Ayden, son of the late N.C. and Retha Edwards Tripp. He was preceded in death by sisters, Bonnie Tripp McCormick and Louise Tripp Hardee; nephews, James Stuart McCormick and Eugene Hardee. He leaves to treasure his memory, a devoted wife of 59 years, Christine Stocks Tripp; son, Christopher Edwards Tripp; daughter, Kaye Stuart Tripp Dowless and husband, Daniel McNeil Dowless; granddaughter, Samantha Tripp Dowless, of Carolina Beach; nephews, Hugh Hardee Jr. and N.C. Hardee and their families. Stuart was a graduate of Ayden High School and of East Carolina Teachers' College, now East Carolina University, where he obtained a masters degree in Education and Administration. He was a member of Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Society. His career span of 42 years as an educator included one year in Roxboro; two years in Tarboro; and other years in his beloved home town of Ayden as teacher, coach, mentor and school principal. He was noted to have good leadership skill and served many years on the State Education Advisory Council and was a delegate to the National Education Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. During the first year of college, Stuart played center on the Pirates football team and was a letter winner. This legendary 1941 team was untied and undefeated, the only such record in the history of the college. His love for athletics was exhibited throughout his career and community involvement. His use and promotion of sports as a vehicle to involve youth in worthwhile activities enabled many to excel, achieve goals and become successful. He volunteered much time and effort to motivate and help students, involved parents and community to uphold positive spirits. He was an outstanding coach and produced two consecutive State championship basketball teams. A superb Little League ballpark named "Stuart Tripp Field" was erected in his honor and the old Ayden High School Gymnasium was renamed for him. He was inducted into the High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 1994. Two scholarships have been established in his honor-the Thomas Stuart Tripp Scholarship at East Carolina University and the Stuart Tripp Scholarship at Ayden Griffon High School which now expands in the Community Foundation, Inc., a non profit corporation to manage town funds that impact student athletes at Ayden Griffon High School and other worthwhile community endeavors. Stuart has held membership in several professional organizations, to include East Carolina Alumni Association, the National Education Association, East Carolina Pirates Club, North Carolina Athletic Association and the Ayden Governing Board. He was a life-long member of Ayden Christian Church. He served tirelessly on many committees and in various ways to include Chairman of the Board, Elder, teacher of Loyal Men's Sunday School Class for 30 years, Director of Vacation Bible School, director of Summer Church camp, Chairman of the Building Committee to help raise funds for the new church. Stuart was selected "Man of the Year" at Ayden Christian Church in 1989. Upon retirement as principal of Ayden Elementary, he was elected as town commissioner and served in that capacity for 8 years. His civic work included charter member of Ayden Golf and Country Club and Rotary International. He was first native son to be selected as Grand Marshall of the annual Ayden Collard Festival. "Coach Stuart Day" was held at the old Ayden High School in 2004 by former students, athletes, and friends. It was a spectacular well-attended celebration of honor and accomplishments. He will surely be remembered as a dedicated public servant and a servant of God. He leaves a legacy of having touched the lives of many students and pointing them in right directions. He earned respect, loyalty, love, and peace of God which passes all understanding. Memorials in his honor may be directed to the Stuart Tripp Scholarship and Community Foundation, Inc. at Ayden Griffon High School or to the Ayden Christian Church. Condolences may be sent to FarmerCondolesences@embarqmail.com. Funeral service will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 11, 2009 at Ayden Christian Church, Pastor Michael R. Goff officiating. Family will receive friends from 10:00-11:00 a.m. (one hour prior to service) at the church. Arrangements by Farmer Funeral Service.

Published in The Daily Reflector on September 10, 2009
Children's book illustrator Brian Pinkney may interest younger readers.

Courtesy of N.C. Literary Festival
Literally victorious

N.C. Literary Festival overcomes obstacles to put on a show

BY CRAIG JARVIS, Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL - For a state that has long boasted of its wealth of writers, it was a grim prospect to think the Triangle's major universities would have to let the biennial N.C. Literary Festival die on the vine because it had become too hard to organize.

Yet that's what almost happened a year and a half ago, until UNC-Chapel Hill stepped up to salvage the event. Although delayed more than a year, the resurrected fifth edition of the festival kicks off today and runs through the weekend with a lineup of 100 authors, both famous and not so, local and from afar.

It's an ambitious return, and organizers anticipate somewhere around 10,000 visitors to the UNC-CH campus over the next four days, with most of the programs happening over the weekend.

"We're thrilled with the lineup," festival director Amy Baldwin said Tuesday. "We feel we have a pretty good variety of authors, with different styles and types of writing."

Although it couldn't be easy to sign up that many writers, Baldwin said one of the biggest challenges was deciding whom to leave out.

"This could probably happen in only a few other states, but instead of scraping for local writers we came up with a list of 600 people," she said. "We're really fortunate."

There are the familiar North Carolina names -- Allan Gurganus, Lee Smith, Doris Betts, Fred Chappell, Elizabeth Spencer, Jill McCorkle, Michael Malone, for instance -- along with some visiting bright lights in literature and popular fiction: Tobias Wolff, John Grisham (who now lives part time in Chapel Hill), Kathy Reichs, Dorothy Allison, and memoirist and former New York Times reporter Rick Bragg among them.

Elizabeth Edwards will be interviewed on stage about her latest book, and actress and playwright Anna Deavere Smith will be one of the keynote speakers. Many unknown and lesser-known writers are included.

This time around there will also be ongoing children's readings -- "Goosebumps" author R.L. Stine included -- and reading-related activities.

Music will be incorporated into two programs: one featuring Smith and McCorkle and musicians who worked with them on the musical "Good Ol' Girls," the second featuring Clyde Edgerton and original Red Clay Rambler Mike Craver, who collaborated on a new CD inspired by Edgerton's latest book, "The Bible Salesman."

Taking a page from the successful 2006 festival at Duke University, many of the authors will be paired and grouped in conversation about topics ranging from Twitter to food to inspiration to wrongful convictions. There will be keynote speakers in Memorial Hall, where the events are free but tickets are required in advance.

Baldwin has been working on the festival since May 2008, when she was brought out from Arizona because of her background in organizing large festivals and fundraising.
The previous November, it appeared that UNC-CH would have to pass on its turn to host the every-other-year festival, and plans were under way to scale it back drastically into a series of library programs at the four campuses: UNC-CH, Duke, N.C. State University and N.C. Central University. The event never had a permanent staff and had to be organized from scratch each time one of the universities took its turn.

When UNC-CH Chancellor James Moeser learned the festival might wither away, he ordered $200,000 in private gift money to hire a full-time organizer and pay for additional expenses to get the ball rolling. This year's festival was ultimately paid for entirely by gifts and grants, according to Baldwin.

Baldwin said that after the festival concludes, representatives of UNC-CH, Duke, NCSU and NCCU will work out the details of the next event. "The festival will continue," Baldwin said.

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N.C. Literary Festival

Where: Various locations at UNC-Chapel Hill. Start with the information booth between Wilson Library and South Building.

When: 4-8:30 p.m. today, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday


Sessions: First-come, first-served seating. Each lasts 55 minutes. Authors will sign books after they speak. John Grisham and Anna Deavere Smith will not be signing. Rick Bragg will sign only after his second appearance, at 2:40 p.m. Saturday.

Books: The campus bookstore will have a sale area beside Memorial Hall; each venue will sell the books of the authors who read there.

Parking: Generally free in campus parking areas on Saturday and Sunday, but there are exceptions. See the parking link on the Web site.

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CDC Says Most Won't Need Drugs for Flu

By David Brown
Washington Post Staff Writer
Wednesday, September 9, 2009

With pandemic influenza cases on the rise across the country, federal public health authorities on Tuesday urged physicians to prescribe antiviral medicines to high-risk patients promptly but reminded the public that most people won't need, and shouldn't expect to get, the drugs if they come down with the flu.

The guidance is aimed at getting optimal benefit from Tamiflu and Relenza while preventing overuse, hoarding and shortages of the drugs, as was seen briefly during the spring outbreak of swine flu.

Specifically, authorities said, practitioners shouldn't wait for lab tests to confirm the presence of the novel strain of the H1N1 virus before starting antivirals in high-risk patients who show symptoms of flu. The drugs work best when started within 48 hours of illness.

"We think that [time] window is very important," said Anne Schuchat, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

She added, however, that "the majority of adolescents and adults and most children won't need antiviral treatment and can be cared for with Mom's chicken soup at home."

About 70 percent of people hospitalized with the new flu strain have had conditions such as pregnancy, diabetes or emphysema that put them at risk for serious complications. For such people, treatment with an antiviral drug if they show signs of flu is "generally recommended," Schuchat said during a telephone news conference.

Doctors should also consider giving preventive treatment to high-risk patients who have been exposed to someone with the flu. However, in a change from the guidance this spring, the CDC now says it is also acceptable for practitioners to watch such patients carefully and prescribe an antiviral only if a fever develops.
Recent College Grads Suffer Hits to Salary

By SARA MURRAY

Haunted by fewer job offers this season, recent graduates with jobs took a hit to their salaries, the National Association of Colleges and Employers said Tuesday.

Those who graduated with bachelor’s degrees in 2009 received a $48,633 average starting salary offer, down 1.2% from last year, according to a survey of 140 college and university career-services offices. It is a stark change from 2008, when the average starting salary was 7.6% higher than those offered to the class of 2007.

Engineering and computer-science graduates fared the best in 2009 and saw increases in their average starting salaries. Average offers fell among business and liberal-arts graduates.

The drop in 2009 is due, in large part, to the scarcity of offers for new graduates, which forces down starting salaries. Survey respondents reported 20% fewer offers in September 2009 compared with the same time last year.

The wage cuts add to evidence that demand for recent college graduates has been hard-hit during the recession, spurring consequences that may last for more than a decade. Young people tend to be a particularly vulnerable demographic in economic downturns and are often the first to be laid off or are competing against laid-off workers with years of job experience.

A preview of 2010 shows next year’s graduates may face similar hardships. Employers expect to cut college-graduate hiring by 7%, a separate survey of 219 NACE employer members showed.

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