

briefs & announcements

dispatches

Poetry Slam is slam-dunk success

Jaki Shelton Green, the dynamic writer, teacher, and former Poet Laureate of the Piedmont, completed a week-long artist-in-residency program on Friday, February 26, at Horton Middle School in Pittsboro. Ellen Hadley, the 8th Grade Language Arts teacher, hosted Ms Green. The culmination of the residency was a Poetry Slam held at 5 p.m. that Friday during which students volunteered to read their works to parents and friends. Ms. Green had been working with five Language Arts classes for five days, opening their thoughts, senses and imaginations to finding poetry in everyday things and occurrences, which she called "triggers". The results were amazing. Some of their work was sad, some funny, some profound, all real.

Commenting on the week, Ms. Green praised Ms. Hadley for "doing a tremendous pre-residency orientation, preparing students for the energetic week of creative expression. She noted, "At the Slam, students read with sharp articulation, poise and confidence. The Poetry Slam, individualized creativity boxes of triggers, and the well-attended program indicated strongly how significant this week of writing impacted the students' usage

of language."

Jaki Shelton Green, from Mebane, is known statewide for her poetry. Ms. Green's residency was sponsored by the Chatham County Arts Council ("ChathamArts") and the NC Arts Council, with additional help from Horton Middle School.

The social studies teacher also included certain student presentations based on Martin Luther King Day and African American history before the reception held for the attendees.

During the same week, ChathamArts also sponsored two other artist residencies: one co-sponsored with NC Arts Council was held at J S Waters Elementary. Martha Burdette, visual artist, worked in Sherry Farmer's two classes to teach math through creating wall tiles for a mural. Meanwhile at Silk Hope Elementary, Lola Davis Jones, a drama/movement specialist taught Holly North's two classes to write about pirates and sea tales through drama. Two more ChathamArts residencies will be held in the spring.

— Daryl F Walker

Primary election set for May 4

The Republican field is crowded for a change as the filing period ended on Friday, February 26 for the May 4 primary election. In the race for Chatham County Commissioner in District 3, incumbent George Lucier is running unopposed in the Democratic primary, while Brian Bock of Chapel Hill and Cadle W. Cooper of Pittsboro face off in the Republican primary. In District 5 incumbent Carl Thompson is running unopposed in the Democratic primary while Kim Beal and Walter Petty, both from Siler City, face off in the Republican

Primary. In District 4, incumbent Tom Vanderbeck and Pamela Stewart, both from Pittsboro, and both running unopposed in the Democratic and Republican primaries respectively.

Complete information on the primary is available on line at the Board of Elections website, at link to which can be found at the Chatham County government website, www.chatham-nc.org.

briefs



Students volunteers from Villanova University working in Chatham during Spring Break 2009.

Students to spend holiday with Habitat

More than 150 college students from across the country will volunteer with Chatham Habitat for Humanity during Spring Break 2010 as part of the Collegiate Challenge program. Weekly through April, students from Siena College, Villanova University, DeSales University, Washington University, Springfield College, Syracuse University, and Georgetown Law School will help build houses in Pittsboro and Siler City.

This year marks Chatham Habitat's eighth year of hosting Collegiate Challenge students. The

students from Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York, Missouri, Massachusetts, and Washington, D.C., will partner with eight local families to help build approximately eight homes. In addition the students raised more than \$19,000 in contributions for CHFH.

From February through April, 12,000 Collegiate Challenge participants from across the country will volunteer in 210 Habitat for Humanity locations. In the past 21 years of the program, more than 170,000 students have volunteered with Habitat during their school breaks. In addition to building, most students involved raise money to help fund Habitat houses.

For more information, visit www.chathamhabitat.org.

Breakfast to examine real estate scene

The Chatham and Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chambers of Commerce, Greater Chapel Hill Association of Realtors and Home Builders Association of Durham, Orange and Chatham Counties will host the fourth annual Chatham County Development Briefing at Governors Club on Tuesday, March 9 from 8 to 10 a.m. Please register online at www.carolinachamber.org or call Laura Morrison 919.357.9989 if you would like to attend. Cost is \$25

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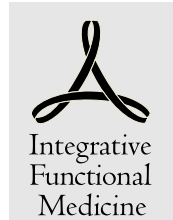
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P.O. Box 1357
Carrboro, NC 27510
phone: 919.933.6492
fax: 919.932.2602
chathamcoline@mindspring.com

Chatham County Line is a community newspaper serving all of Chatham County as well as the southern part of Orange. Our mission is to inform our community by providing a forum "where all voices are heard." We seek all views and ideas about our community, and we report on important matters — including our cultural life — comprehensively and in depth. Our commitment is to create the best-written, best-edited and most stylish community newspaper anywhere. Chatham County Line is published ten times a year.

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