

briefs & announcements

dispatches

Remembering Margie Ellison

Dec. 28, 1949–Oct. 2, 2009

I met Margie during the election season of 2004. We made our bond quickly and worked together, particularly on outreach to voters all over the county who felt forgotten. In 2005 we headed the Outreach Committee for the Chatham Coalition, and by 2006 I had joined Carl Thompson's campaign team with Margie as his campaign manager. Nothing held her back. She urged all of us to follow our passion, and hers was working for social and political change that would make all our lives better, particularly the lives of African Americans. In 2005-6 I asked her to visit my Freshman English classes at St. Augustine's College in Raleigh. She loved young people, and if eyes can be said to beam love, hers did. Margie understood that 9/10 of good communication is body language, tone of voice, the eyes. In 2008 she pushed herself so hard to get Obama elected that I was afraid for her health.

I will miss her terribly, but her passion for justice and for truth-telling is planted deep in me. A poem I wrote for her from Sing, Muse! gives a feeling for the kind of support she gave those with whom she sympathized. "Don't let/ their opinion matter to you. Don't wait for their/ approval or

acknowledgment. They are tied in/ their own knots. Their only hold over you is that/ it matters to you what they think. Let it go. Do/ your work, and listen to your spirit. When your/ spirit speaks to you, then speak your truth."

May we all heed these words and be wise.

— Judy Hogan

Literacy Council elects directors

The Chatham County Literacy Council welcomed new President Joan Greene and two new directors at its annual meeting.

Greene was installed Oct. 14, along with new board members Gloria Wilkins of Galloway Ridge and Charles Johnson of Siler City. Johnson also was elected treasurer, joining Greene and Vice President Evelyn Ullman and Secretary Beverly Long Chapin of Galloway Ridge on the Executive Committee.

Greene has taught reading, competency skills and Adult Basic Education in Harnett County, taught Reading Recovery in Orange County, and coordinated a federal Reading is Fundamental program in Harnett County. Greene, who lives in North Chatham County, earned a master's of education degree at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Johnson is the owner of Confidential Tax Service and Johnson Real Estate and Investments. He is a past president of Siler City's Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club and is running for mayor of Siler City. Wilkins, who is active in several community and civic groups, is pursuing

an advanced degree in English as a Second Language.

Literacy Council Executive Director Bonnie Bechard told the board that CCLC now has more than 150 students, two part-time employees, 55 tutors who are matched with students or are in the pipeline, and about a dozen volunteers. Literacy centers were opened in July at 206 E. Raleigh St. in Siler City and in the JOCCA (Joint Orange-Chatham Community Action) building at 105 Chatham St. in Pittsboro, and the program is continuing to expand across the county, she said.

briefs

Pittsboro Relay For Life Kickoff

Learn how to celebrate more birthdays at the Pittsboro Relay For Life Kick-off Celebration on Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 p.m. at the Council on Aging, 365 NC Hwy 87. The guest speaker will be Robert Logan, Superintendent of Chatham County Public Schools.

The theme for this year's Relay For Life is "Celebrating More Birthdays", a reflection of the American Cancer Society's recent launch of its "The Official Sponsor Of Birthdays" campaign, which highlights the ways the organization saves lives and strives to create a world with less cancer and more birthdays. The Kick-off Celebration in Pittsboro is open to everyone who wants to learn how to create a team, volunteer, participate, or sponsor the Relay For Life scheduled for May 2010 at

Northwood High School.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. This year, there are plenty of opportunities in our local Relay For Life chapter to volunteer as team captains, sponsors, committee members, and event chairs.

For additional information on starting a team, participating as a survivor, or making donations, please visit the new Relay web site at www.relayforlife.org/pittsboro.

ALBC wants rare breeds on the table

Pittsboro's American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC), a national, non-profit organization that is dedicated to ensuring the future of agriculture through the genetic conservation of endangered breeds of livestock and poultry, will present its 27th Annual Conference at the Clarion Hotel State Capital in Raleigh, November 13-14.

With ALBC protecting over 170 livestock and poultry breeds, some with population numbers more critical than the endangered Giant Panda, this conference comes at a pivotal time. Traditional breeds are disappearing on

BRIEFS continued on page 12.

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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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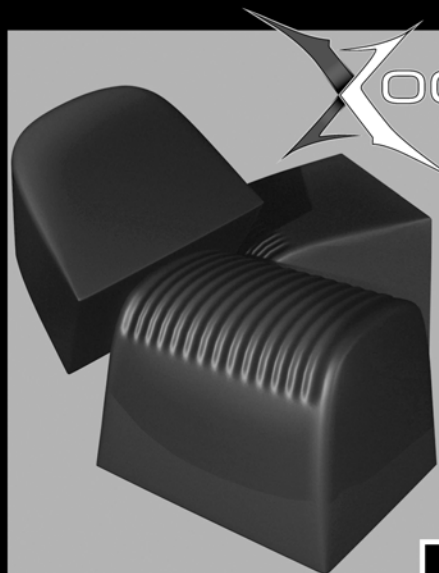
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