

### Regresos Difíciles

Por Luis Melodelgado  
y Nora Haenn

Para quienes re-entran Calakmul, lugar desde donde escribimos, todo apoyo institucional queda en la frontera. No existe asistencia social para las familias en el área. Aquí y entre paréntesis, encontramos que los migrantes necesitan mucho más que saber navegar el laberinto burocrático mexicano. Por ejemplo, algunas familias deben readaptarse a padres muchos años ausentes, quienes para sobrellevar las presiones resultantes de haber cruzado la frontera (deportación, nostalgia por terruño y familia, etc.), pudiesen haber adquirido adicciones.

A su regreso a México al inmigrante no lo esperan comités oficiales de bienvenida. Cruzando las garitas de inmigración quizá se tope con



Hombres como Mortadelo no emigran solo por dinero, viajan para probar su calidad laboral.

FOTO DE NORA HAENN

Para el caso, Mortadelo. Quien vivió tres meses en la Florida y tuvo problemas adaptándose al regresar a México. Afortunadamente a él su religión bautista lo ayudó a escapar los abismos de la adicción. Llegado a Calakmul, y después de haber participado en la campaña política del Alcalde Municipal, comenzó a trabajar como mecánico automotor del ayuntamiento, \$350 dólares mensuales con los que tuvo que mantener su familia de 3. Él necesitaba un trabajo mejor pagado y sabía muy poco de mecánica. Contrariado,

Sin embargo, las respuestas recibidas muestran al apoyo estatal del sector agrícola (diezmado por el TLC); la creación de trabajos y de un sistema de empleo basado en meritos no en amistades o los perennes círculos clientelistas, como sus principales preocupaciones. Una constante general, la creación de trabajos, crucial para la moral del recién llegado.

inquietaba cuando podía a su jefe con su preocupación. “En México, trabajo y dinero son para los privilegiados”, solía decir. Cierta día, su arrinconado jefe le dijo: “Necesito gente para viajar al Canadá”. Mortadelo viajará pronto a Canadá.

El proceso de matrícula tomó 6 meses e incluyó examen médico y entrevista personal. La separación familiar en los Estados Unidos había descorazonado a Mortadelo. El programa canadiense anticipa este y otros problemas de la migración ilegal. Ellos ofrecen seguro médico y gastos de viaje; también regresará a Mortadelo a su país después de 6 meses. Si trabaja bien, Mortadelo podría registrarse para un segundo viaje en el futuro.

Su experiencia en el extranjero lo convenció que en otros países avanzan quienes trabajan duro y, particularmente, que el gobierno estadounidense está preocupado por el bienestar popular. Querriamos que él no estuviese equivocado pero tememos que la situación en nuestro país es un tanto más complicada. Anteriormente, su regreso a México fue amargo. Aunque contento por haber regresado al seno familiar sintió no poder probar su verdadero valor. Ahora él esta nuevamente dispuesto a arriesgarlo todo por la oportunidad de demostrarlo.

Luis y Nora son residentes de Chatham County. Los intereses de Luis son la escritura y el teatro. Nora enseña antropología con énfasis en asuntos mexicanos en NCSU.

### BIZ BRIEFS

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#### Het Landhuis hosts Grand Opening

Het Landhuis, a Dutch influenced estate setting for special events, located at 1898 Henderson Tanyard Road, hosted a Grand Opening on August 19. The estate can host weddings and receptions, conferences and retreats. It features manicured grounds in a country setting, with cabins converted to modern guest houses, wrought iron fences, a pool and all modern deluxe amenities.

For more information, check out [www.hetlandhuis.com](http://www.hetlandhuis.com) or call 919.545.2280.

#### Time to consider flood insurance

A flood can happen anytime, anywhere, in all 50 states, even low-risk areas. Just a few inches of water can do a lot of damage; a severe flood could destroy a home and all its contents. Flood insurance can prevent a major financial.

Standard renter's or homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damages caused by floodwaters. If your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you can purchase a flood insurance policy from the federal government or a participating insurance agency.

Flood policy coverage might include financial recovery from personal property damage, mechanical and structural damages to the building, and debris removal.

Hurricanes, winter storms and snowmelt are often overlooked causes of flooding. But don't wait for the storms; flood insurance policies have a 30-day waiting period. Discuss your options with an insurance agent.

— Pam Herndon, State Farm Agent

#### Chatham Chamber's Annual Meeting

The Chatham County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting and Silent Auction will be held at the Shady Wagon Farm located at 2312 Pea Ridge Road in New Hill on September 28. It begins with a Silent Auction at 10:30 a.m. The meeting will start around 11:20 a.m. and end by 1:15 p.m. Brian Hamilton will give

a presentation on the “17 Do's of Starting and Running a Business.”

Brian is the Co-Founder and CEO of Sage Works, Inc. in Raleigh. We will enjoy a delicious meal by XU Catering during Brian Hamilton's presentation. Please RSVP at 919.742.3333 no later than September 21 if you will be attending. There is a \$25 charge for Chamber Members and \$35 for Non-Members.

### BRIEFS

#### Chatham County Fair invites all to its 60th

The Chatham County Fair gears up for the 60th time Wednesday, September 29 through Saturday, October 2 at the Chatham County Fairgrounds on Martin Luther King Boulevard. Hours are 11 a.m.–10 p.m., with Friday running late.

Fair rides, fair food, bull riding, wrestling and much more. Participants welcome. To rent a booth, call 919.542.3292.

#### Read and *recherche* Marcel Proust

Judy Hogan, Moncure poet and creative writing teacher, will teach a series of four courses in order to read all of Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time* [Remembrance of Things Past], beginning Monday, September 13, 7:30-9:30 p.m., at Galloway Ridge north of Pittsboro. Class size is limited to 12.

For more info or to enroll, 919.545.9932. [judyhogan@mindspring.com](mailto:judyhogan@mindspring.com) <http://judyhogan.home.mindspring.com>

#### Tapas and more at Chatham Marketplace

Chatham Marketplace is bringing back Tasting and Tapas, beginning September 15 at 7 p.m. and continuing on the third Thursday of each month through the end of the year. Our wine buyer, Dave Schirmer, who also happens to be our chef, will introduce you to the impressive varieties of wine that are available in our wine section. Tapas, (the Spanish concept for small dishes of hot and cold appetizers), will be served to add to your

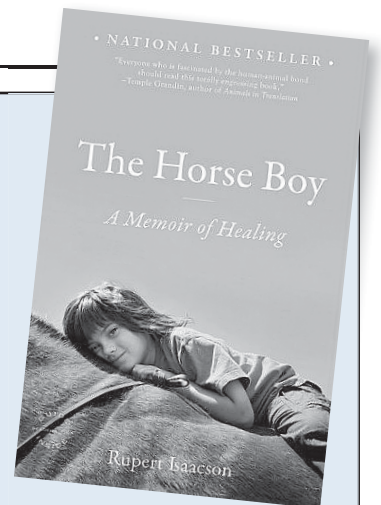
#### Therapeutic Riding Benefit features author of “Horse Boy”

Rupert Isaacson, author of *Horse Boy*, will be visiting Chapel Hill to participate as a speaker at the 2010 Mane Event at the Carolina Inn Thursday, September 23. This is an annual benefit dinner in support of the North Carolina Therapeutic Riding Center, and he will be joined by Dr. Joseph Piven, director, Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities.

Rupert's story tells of his son, diagnosed with autism at the age of two, and how he and his wife used every tool in their bags to help their son connect with them. “You'll be amazed at what his son learned from the horses,” said Sarah Shapard, executive director, NCTRC. “And how far they went in realizing his potential and their own sense of possibility as a family.”

The event is also an opportunity for these two groups and the general public to enjoy champagne, wine, art and a delicious dinner during a delightful evening.

To purchase tickets, visit [www.nctrcriders.org](http://www.nctrcriders.org). Discounted tickets are available for members of NCTRC, Autism Society, Autism Speaks, TEEACH and CIDD.



culinary pleasures. The cost is \$20 if you are pre registered and \$25 at the door.

On Saturday, September 18, Linda Watson, author and cooking instructor, will come to present her fourth class at Chatham Marketplace. Linda is an inspiring teacher whose focus is eating good, healthy food on a budget. The topic of September's class will be Back-to-School ideas and recipes.

Also in September is the continuation of the Kid's Day series. We will be having free kid's events the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. Our first Kid's Day in September will be on September 9. Morgan Jones will be leading this class.

Contact Marian Wall ([marian@chathammarketplace.coop](mailto:marian@chathammarketplace.coop)) or Mary DeMare, General Manager ([mary@chathammarketplace.coop](mailto:mary@chathammarketplace.coop)) with further inquiries.

#### Dance Jam in Downtown Pittsboro

It's time for the Ninth Pittsboro Community Dance Jam Saturday, September 11, 7–10 p.m. at the Pittsboro Community House, 65 Thompson Street, downtown.

Family friendly, alcohol- and smoke-free; \$5 suggested donation, under 12 and over 60 free. No one

turned away for lack of funds.

Let dj k luv, dj diego and DJ passionfruit move you with hot jams from around the globe (Soul, Latin, African, R&B, Reggae, Old Skool and Conscious Hip Hop...)

Bring your own cups to enjoy homemade herbal tea from “Planty” Kim (aka dj k luv) and thirst-quenching water from mother earth.

Funky fresh, organic, and local fun. Dress to celebrate life.

#### Thirteenth annual Carrboro Music Festival

Free musical extravaganza beginning at 1 p.m. Sunday, September 26. All types of music. The event features 24 venues throughout downtown Carrboro with over 170 musical acts. There will be a children's zone with two large inflatable play areas and participatory games as well as food and craft vendors.

Shuttle bus from Carrboro Plaza Park and Ride from noon–8:00 p.m.

Schedule and other information at the festival website: [www.carrboromusicfestival.com](http://www.carrboromusicfestival.com). Call 919.260.0661 for information.

Got Briefs? E-mail your news to [chathamcoline@mindspring.com](mailto:chathamcoline@mindspring.com).