



ROBINSON MIDFIELDER IN BREAKOUT SEASON

Navarro balances time on highly ranked school team and local squad full of relatives. **Page 7**

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Neighbors

CORNELIUS Town gets greener via statewide challenge. **Page 4**

MOORESVILLE Opening of new hospital wing strains volunteer ranks. **Page 5**

LAKE NORMAN AREA AND CABARRUS COUNTY

The Charlotte Observer

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Around the Region



CONCORD

The Cabarrus County Solid Waste Department will offer free backyard composting classes to residents. Classes will meet 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday and 6-8 p.m. Nov. 19. Registration required. 704-920-3280.

KANNAPOLIS

Cabarrus Meals on Wheels' annual Sunday Soup Sampling is 12-2:30 p.m. today at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 525 Lake Concord Road, Concord. Sample soups, desserts and coffee from area restaurants. \$25 per person.

HUNTERSVILLE

Birkdale Village will host Huntersville's first flash mob dance at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, followed by the lighting of its 34-foot Christmas tree at 5 p.m. 704-895-8744.

CORNELIUS

"Santa" Gene Ervin and Ashley Barlow of TSS Photography will make Santa photos with children at the Mount Zion United Methodist Church Craft Fair and donate profits to the church's youth groups. Photos will be 5-7 p.m. Nov. 20 and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Nov. 21.

DAVIDSON

Davidson's Veterans Day observance will be 11 a.m.-noon Wednesday at the Town Green.

MOORESVILLE

Lake Norman State Park ranger Daniel Schewlakow will explain how animals survive in the wild at a free program 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday at Mooresville Public Library, 304 S. Main St. 704-332-5696; www.lakemanwildlife.org.

TROUTMAN

Troutman area businesses have collected \$1,100 in donations to help outfit a new town police car.

STATESVILLE

City Council will have a workshop on establishing a Special Assessment District for the Larkin Project 11 a.m. Thursday at the city office on Front Street.

WEST SHORE

The state will host a regional bicycle planning public drop-in 7-8:30 p.m. Monday at Unity Presbyterian Church, 8210 Unity Church Road, Denver.

OBSERVER GIVING GUIDE

Attention nonprofits: Please send a contact e-mail address to rlglassberg@charlotteobserver.com if you want to be included in the updated Giving Guide. The guide gives readers information about nonprofits that need donations and volunteers. Deadline for submissions is Monday.

Offices, shops set for I-85 exit

Developer promises 'new urbanism' look for project near entrance to North Carolina Research Park.

By **JOE MARUSAK**
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KANNAPOLIS — A Charlotte developer plans to build a 32-acre commercial-retail park at Interstate 85 Exit 63 as a gateway to the North Carolina Research Campus. Research Commerce Park will anchor the southwest corner of the exit

and have a dozen parcels for commercial use, including five outparcels for retail and two hotel sites, officials with developer DPE Investments announced recently. The anchor tenant will be a hotel and conference center at the corner of the interchange, the developer said. The park will be across the street from the 4,700-seat Fieldcrest Cannon Stadium, home of the Kannapolis Intimidators minor league baseball team. The developer worked with Kannapolis, Concord and the LandTrust

for Central North Carolina on its master plan. The plan involved a land swap in which DPE Investments provided about 62 acres beside Concord's municipal water supply, Lake Fisher, to the city of Concord. That land will be permanently protected from development through the land trust, officials with DPE Investments said. In return, the developer received 17 acres from Concord that it will combine with land the developer already owned to create the park. All 32 acres are in Kannapolis, the developer said.

Doug Ehmann of DPE Investments said he had received interest from potential developers of hotels, medical offices and restaurants. He said he expects the park to employ hundreds of workers. "This is very positive for the area," Ehmann said. "It provides economic development for Kannapolis, watershed protection for Concord and a conservation easement for the state." The developer intends to break ground on the \$35 million project in 2010 and complete the project in three

SEE DEVELOPMENT, PAGE 2



Mount Pleasant High School principal Edie Sayewich, the 2010 Wachovia Principal of the Year for Cabarrus County Schools, is as comfortable among her students as they are with her. "I've never heard her yell," says senior Jeremy Mayhew, 17.

A calm hand at the wheel at Mount Pleasant High

By **JOE MARUSAK**
jmarusak@charlotteobserver.com
MOUNT PLEASANT — Growing up in Long Island, N.Y., Edie Sayewich had eight sisters and brothers. So that helps explain her calm in the daily sea of 944 students at Mount Pleasant High School. With so many siblings, you learn that your elders can't always tend to your every little quandary. "You figure out a way to make it work and move on," she said. Her quiet, steady way is the first thing students will tell you about Sayewich, selected by her peers as 2010 Wachovia Principal of the Year for the Cabarrus County Schools. "She's really outgoing, really nice, and she doesn't yell at you," senior Jeremy Mayhew, 17, said as Sayewich walked the halls during lunch last

week. "I've never heard her yell." Students aren't afraid to approach her with ideas they're not sure will fly, student body president Aurelia Edwards said. Seniors wanted to paint the Senior Wall in the cafeteria black this year, which had never been allowed because the color is tough to paint over, Edwards said. Sayewich OK'd it. When seniors wanted to wear crowns the first day of school, Sayewich gave the go-ahead. "We pitched it to her, and she thought it would help a lot with (school) spirit," Edwards, 18, said. Seniors won't merely lecture about the importance of staying in school when they visit fifth graders at Mount Pleasant Elementary School soon. Thanks to an idea from Sayewich, they'll show up in

their caps and gowns. "She's very approachable, and I say that not only as a peer but a parent," Mount Pleasant Middle School Principal Sam Treadaway said. It's reassuring to know that students advance from his school to Mount Pleasant High, "where the administration led by Mrs. Sayewich is so strong," Treadaway said. Sayewich has been principal at Mount Pleasant since 2001, after three years as an assistant principal. A four-sport athlete in high school, Sayewich played field hockey and softball at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass., from where she graduated in 1976. She started as a physical education teacher in Amsterdam, N.Y.

SEE PRINCIPAL, PAGE 2

Humanity through the fingers, eyes of art

Cabarrus Arts Council show depicts human form in sculpture, paint, mixed media and photography.

By **MEGHAN COOKE**
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An exhibit featuring 13 artists' depictions of the human form through sculptures, paintings, photography and other media will be on display through Dec. 22 in Concord. "Figuratively Speaking," sponsored by the Cabarrus Arts Council, focuses on the portrayal of the human figure with works that range from classical to contemporary and realistic to abstract. "I think there will be something in there for everybody," said Lin Barn-



Photography by Lukas Johnson will be displayed in the Cabarrus Arts Council's "Figuratively Speaking" exhibit.

CABARRUS ARTS COUNCIL

hardt, visual arts director of the Cabarrus Arts Council. Works from Robert Crum, Warren Dennis, Holly Fischer, Tim Ford, Jan

Kransberger, Lukas Johnson, Eric Olsen, Osiris Rain, Joan Rasmussen, Mark Stephenson, Kate Long Stevens

SEE ART, PAGE 2

AROUND THE LAKE



JOE MARUSAK

Cabarrus joins in Birthday Blessings

CONCORD — When Amy Cervantes throws a birthday party for children, some of them try to give the gifts back to her. Many of them have never had a birthday party or gotten a present, she said. They don't understand why they're getting one now. The children are homeless. Cervantes and her husband, John, founded the nonprofit Birthday Blessings in 2005 to give birthday parties for Charlotte-area homeless children. The all-volunteer group — now operating in Mecklenburg, Union and York counties — will introduce itself to Cabarrus County next Sunday with a family event at Frank Liske Park. Admission is free with a donation of a new, unwrapped birthday gift, a new baby item or new party supplies and decorations. Charlotte-based Birthday Blessings has distributed more than 2,500 birth-

SEE BLESSINGS, PAGE 2

Help to make homes ready for winter

New rules, added stimulus money expand county program to make homes, appliances energy-efficient.

By **MEGHAN COOKE**
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County mechanics worked at a house in Kannapolis last week, repairing sheetrock and adding insulation. The woman who lives there lost her job about a year ago, around the same time her heating and air conditioning unit gave out. Now her refrigerator, which the mechanics said contributed \$272.80 a year to her electric bills, will be replaced with one that costs about \$50 a year to run. And she won't be needing to use space heaters this winter to heat the home she shares with her son. "If anything can bring my bills down, I'm thankful for it," she said. "I'm just blessed that I'm getting this work done." The repairs are part of the N.C. Weatherization Assistance Program, which reduces utility bills by saving energy in low-income homes. Federal funding filtered through the state from the U.S. Department of

SEE WINTERIZATION, PAGE 2

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