

# briefs & announcements

## CCCC opens new Siler City campus

Western Chatham County has taken an educational leap forward with the completion of Central Carolina Community College's new Siler City Center. It is the first facility built in the western part of the county specifically for the college's educational programs.

This long-awaited event was celebrated Nov. 15 with a ribbon cutting and open house at the facility, located in the Central Carolina Business Campus industrial park.

"We have been looking forward to this day for a long time," CCCC President Bud Marchant told the gathering of almost 200. "We are extremely happy you could join us for the ribbon cutting for this spectacular building."

The college's programs for western Chatham have been housed in the old Henry B. Siler School, in Siler City, since 1984. Sally Kost, chair of the county's board of commissioners, said that building a new Siler City Center for the college in the industrial park was a strong, strategic move to make the park more attractive to business and stimulate economic growth in western Chatham County.

Other speakers for the event were Siler City Mayor Charles Johnson, N.C. Senator Bob Atwater, N.C. Speaker of the House Joe Hackney, CCCC Board of Trustees Chair Ed Garrison, and CCCC Chatham County Basic Skills Coordinator Sara Lambert.

The two-story, 23,800 square-foot Siler City Center is located on a 41-acre wooded site in the Business Campus. It is one of only a handful of North Carolina community college centers in an industrial park. The location offers the advantage of workforce training for companies that decide to move into the industrial park.

The new facility enables the college to expand workforce training, basic skills, adult education, curriculum programs, and enrichment classes in western Chatham County in a major way. Sculpture classes will begin with the spring 2011 semester and university transfer and other



programs will be added in the future.

The college has been offering adult education classes at various locations in Siler City since 1965. From 1977 to 1984, it used the former Paul Braxton School and then moved to the former Henry B. Siler School. Over the years, the need for adult education and workforce training outgrew that school. The facility also was found to need major renovations for continued use.

Instead of renovating, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners approved the construction of a new Center in the Business Campus. Ground was broken for it in November 2009 and construction was completed in October 2010.

The Center was designed by Taylor Hobbs of Hobbs Architects, Pittsboro, and built by Monteith Construction Corp., of Wilmington. Hobbs described the architectural design as "modern," created of geometric shapes in brick, aluminum and glass.

It is energy efficient, with sustainable features such as the solar oriented site design, minimal site and habitat disturbance, low-flow water systems, use of recycled materials, natural daylighting of interior spaces, and reflective roof materials. The building is expected to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Level – or higher – certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The Center cost approximately \$4.2 million to build, with another \$1.4 million for equipment, design and engineering, and contingency. It houses classrooms, offices, a student center, computer and class labs, vocational/industrial training shops, a bookstore, and other services.

— Katherine McDonald

## Wine, lunch, and more now available at Frosty



Brandon Neutson working behind the counter at Frosty.

Frosty Trading Post, a fixture at the corner of Jones Ferry and Crawford Dairy roads, is under new management. Brian Plaster, who transformed Johnny's in Carrboro, bought Frosty from long-time owner Becky Crabtree.

"We officially opened October 1," said Plaster. At Johnny's, formerly Johnny's Sporting Goods, Plaster transformed the bait store into a café offering pastries and bread from Guglhupf Bakery, seasonal produce, gourmet coffee and microbrewery beer. It regularly hosts food trucks offering fare as varied as Mexican and crepes.

Plaster has similar plans for Frosty. "We are doing some work in the back of the store where we are going to have our wine

selection," he said. "There will also be a really good beer selection. We offer lunch every day – sandwiches and burritos. Every Thursday night we have the pizza truck, Stonestrow Pizza. That's been popular. Business has been steady."

Out front, Christmas trees are a new item. Inside, the store is airier and the product selection has grown. Behind the counter, Brandon Neutson said there has been a good mix of customers, including folks who have visited Frosty's for years and others who have just started stopping by.

Said Plaster, "It gives something to Chatham County where there had been nothing, food-wise."

— Julian Sereno

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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.

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