

ELECTION 2015



Jillian Johnson, left, and Mel Norton react Tuesday during a stop at the People's Alliance returns party at 106 Main.

The Herald-Sun | Bernard Thomas

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA Online courses anything but slam dunks

BY RAY GRONBERG
RGRONBERG@HERALDSUN.COM;
919-419-6648

CHAPEL HILL — Students in the UNC system's online courses are performing worse in them, on average, than their colleagues in traditional classroom settings, a report to the Board of Governors says.

Freshmen in particular seem to have more trouble, dropping online classes or taking a D or F in them more often than they do in same-course campus offerings.

Drop-or-fail discrepancies additionally aren't "consistent across all disciplines," said Kate Henz, the system's associate vice president for academic policy, planning and analysis.

SEE ONLINE/PAGE A7

Grant to help more of Durham's homeless

BY KEITH UPCHURCH
KUPCHURCH@HERALDSUN.COM;
919-419-6612

DURHAM — More homeless patients in Durham who have been discharged from the hospital and need interim housing will be helped by a \$600,000 grant awarded this week.

The Durham Medical Respite Program, a nurse-led initiative that provides safe and supportive housing to homeless persons who need a place to heal, won the grant from the Rita & Alex Hillman Foundation based in New York City.

The three-year grant will provide temporary housing for those who are too sick to return to a homeless shelter but not sick enough to remain in the hospital, according to Sally Wilson, executive director of Project

SEE GRANT/PAGE A7

INSIDE TODAY

LOCAL

Northgate nixed

Deep Dish Theater
Company won't move to Durham mall after all | A6

Primary results predict general election

BY LAUREN HORSCH
LHORSCH@HERALDSUN.COM;
919-419-6646

DURHAM — After months of campaigning, two faces will join Mayor Bill Bell and incumbent council member Steve Schewel around the table as decision makers with the City Council.

Jillian Johnson and Charlie Reece, who both brought in double-digit voting percentages in the primary election, garnered enough votes on Tuesday to replace outgoing council members Diane Catotti and Eugene Brown.

Just as the primary elec-

DURHAM ELECTION RESULTS			CITY COUNCIL (Three at-large seats)		
Durham Precincts Reporting	56 of 56		Candidate	Total	Pct.
Total ballots cast	19,352		Steve Schewel*	14,933	28.1
Percentage turnout	10.72		Jillian Johnson	12,409	23.4
			Charlie Reece	9,632	18.1
MAYOR			Mike Shiflett	7,331	13.8
Candidate	Total	Pct.	Ricky Hart	5,790	10.9
Bill Bell	*16,198	86.8	Robert Stephens	2,886	5.43
James Lyons	2,387	12.8	* Incumbent		

tion in October predicted, the two also brought in double-digit returns.

During the election process many of the candidates discussed their visions for the future of Durham

— including how they would address the city's needs for affordable housing and keeping working class families able to afford to live in the city.

The election also saw the

battle of virtual newcomers to the political scene and long-standing civic leaders in both the City Council and Mayoral races.

SEE PRIMARY/PAGE A2

Kleinschmidt, Storrow, Ward ousted in Chapel Hill

BY KATIE JANSEN
KJANSEN@HERALDSUN.COM;
919-419-6675

CHAPEL HILL — Voters made their voices heard at the polls Tuesday evening, electing Pam Hemminger as their new mayor and choosing to reelect only one incumbent to the town council.

With all 21 Chapel Hill precincts accounted for, Hemminger pulled in 53.8 percent of the vote, while Mark Kleinschmidt received 45.11 percent.

Neither candidate returned calls for comment.

The third candidate, Gary Kahn, pulled in 78 votes — less than 1 percent of the vote.

Supporters of Hemminger celebrated at City Kitchen at University Place, while Kleinschmidt held an elections gathering at The Crunkleton.

Voters shook things up on the town council as well, choosing not to reelect incumbents Lee Storrow and Jim Ward, who were seeking a second and a fifth

CARRBORO ELECTION RESULTS			TOWN COUNCIL (Four seats)		
Precincts reporting	8 of 8		Candidate	Total	Pct.
(All races uncontested)			Jessica Anderson	5102	17.0
MAYOR			Donna Bell*	4297	14.3
Candidate	Total	Pct.	Nancy Oates	4247	14.2
Lydia Lavelle*	1746	96.4	Michael Parker	4015	13.4
			Jim Ward*	3894	13.0
BOARD OF ALDERMEN (Three seats)			David Schwartz	3720	12.4
Candidate	Total	Pct.	Lee Storrow*	3029	10.1
Michelle Johnson*	1635	33.7	Adam Jones	866	2.9
Bethany Chaney*	1585	32.7	Paul Neebe	730	2.4
Damon Seils*	1562	32.2	* Incumbent		
* Incumbent			BOND ISSUES		
CHAPEL HILL ELECTION RESULTS			Orange Precincts Reporting	21 of 21	
MAYOR			Bond	Yes	No
Candidate	Total	Pct.	Streets/sidewalks	6559	1712
Pam Hemminger	4651	53.8	Trails/greenways	6618	1823
Mark Kleinschmidt*	3900	45.1	Recreation	6090	2228
Gary Kahn	79	0.9	Solid waste	6756	1620
			Stormwater	6803	1507

term, respectively.

Incumbent Donna Bell was reelected as the second top vote-getter. Voters also selected Jessica Anderson, Nancy Oates and Michael Parker.

Anderson, who works in education policy, and

Oates, a longtime blogger about Chapel Hill development projects, both received endorsements from the relatively new Chapel Hill Alliance for a Livable Town, which focuses on smart growth.

Many voters had called for change before the election in light of recent developments approved by last year's council, including Obey Creek.

SEE CHAPEL/PAGE A2

CALL US
News: 919-419-6630
Advertising: 919-419-6706
Classifieds: 919-419-6700

DELIVERY QUESTION?
Circulation: 919-419-6900
SEE A NEWS ERROR?
Call our newsroom at 919-419-6678 or send an email to corrections@heraldsun.com



Business A10 Food C1
Classifieds B5 Nation/World A7
Comics C4 Obituaries A4
Crossword C3 Sports B1
Editorials A11 Television C5

Weather
Isolated Rain
high 68, low 56 | C5

GOP wins Kentucky governor's race in top state election

BY CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky voters on Tuesday elected just the second Republican in four decades to hold the governor's office, in a race that hinged largely on President Barack Obama's signature legislation, the Affordable Care Act.

The result was a potentially troubling sign for Democrats ahead of next year's presidential election and represented a big win for the GOP as it continues to consolidate political power across the South. Democrats also were thumped in Virginia, where they made a big push to win a majority in one chamber of the state Legislature.

The governor's race in Kentucky was the highest profile contest in Tuesday's off-year elections. The only other gubernatorial campaign was in Mississippi, where Republican Gov. Phil Bryant won re-election.

Elsewhere, Ohio voters rejected an initiative that sought to legalize the recreational and medicinal use of marijuana, and Houston voters defeated an ordinance that would have established nondiscrimination protections for gay and transgender people in the city.

In Kentucky, Republican businessman Matt Bevin had waged a campaign to scale back the state's Medicaid expansion that was made pos-



Republican Matt Bevin, left, talks to one of his supporters Tuesday as he greets well wishers at the Republican Party celebration in Louisville, Ky.

sible under the federal health care overhaul. Some 400,000 lower-income people who gained health coverage under the expansion could be affected.

The Republican also played up his support for Kim Davis, the Rowan County clerk jailed for refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

His Democratic opponent, two-term Attorney General Jack Conway, embraced Obama's health care reforms, saying hundreds of thousands of residents could lose access to taxpayer-

funded insurance if Bevin won.

Around the country, several high-profile ballot initiatives tested voter preferences on school funding, marijuana, gay and lesbian rights and the sharing economy. Despite the relatively low number of races, the results could be an important bellwether of sentiment ahead of next year's presidential elections.

In Virginia, a swing state, Democrats failed in an expensive bid to take control of the state Senate and empower Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe in negotiations with Repub-

licans who control the state House.

The governor's race in Mississippi was overshadowed by a fight over a constitutional amendment that would allow people to sue the state to increase funding for public schools. Critics say it would take budget decisions away from Mississippi lawmakers and give the courts too much power. The Legislature has put forward its own ballot measure that would prohibit "judicial enforcement" of school funding.

The outcome could prompt similar efforts in other states where edu-

cation remains a key challenge for lawmakers as they look to balance their budgets with tax revenues that have yet to rebound to pre-recession levels.

In Houston, the nation's fourth-largest city, efforts to secure non-discrimination protections for gay and transgender people failed. Now that same-sex marriage is legal, such laws have become a priority for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender groups. Opponents, including a coalition of conservative pastors, said the measure would have infringed on their religious beliefs.

Houston voters also were choosing from among 13 candidates to replace outgoing Mayor Annise Parker. It was one of more than 300 mayoral races happening across the country. In Philadelphia, former longtime Councilman Jim Kenney was elected mayor on a promise to fight poverty and push for universal pre-kindergarten education.

The Salt Lake City mayoral race featured two-term incumbent Ralph Becker, one of President Barack Obama's appointees on a climate change task force, and former state lawmaker Jackie Biskupski. If Biskupski wins, she will be the city's first openly gay mayor.

State judicial elections in recent years have

become a focal point for political parties and interest groups seeking to influence the courts. Tuesday's election to fill three open seats on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court was the latest judicial contest to attract heavy attention and spending.

So far, campaign contributors have poured \$11.5 million into the Pennsylvania high court race, most of it going to the Democratic candidates.

San Francisco voters were deciding a citizen-backed initiative to restrict the operations of Airbnb, the room-rental site, and a \$310 million bond package for affordable housing.

In Washington state, a proposal backed by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen would add state penalties for anyone who imports certain animal products for commercial purposes, such as elephant ivory or rhino horns.

And Colorado voters decided to let the state keep \$66 million in tax revenue generated from the sale of recreational marijuana. An existing state law requires excess tax revenue to be returned to taxpayers, but on Tuesday voters agreed to make an exception with the marijuana revenue and direct it instead toward public education and drug-prevention programs.

GRANT

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Access of Durham County, which helps uninsured patients get medical care.

The respite program, started a year ago by the Partnership for a Healthy Durham, will be able to hire more case managers to work with homeless persons, Wilson said.

"We're providing them a safe place to stay and connecting them with services in the community," she said.

In the fiscal year that ended June 30, the pilot program served 20 homeless people who needed temporary housing after a hospital stay.

The grant will also expand the program's outreach to others who are homeless but don't need the respite part of the program, Wilson said.

"In the past, it's been a struggle to pull together resources for the homeless," she said. "We would call non-profit agencies and try to find funds to place them in housing. Now we have a secure

interim housing.

"We'll be able to service many more homeless people in Durham," Gamble said.

Some things the nurse care coordinator does is:

- Make sure patients pick up their medicine and takes it correctly.
- Remind patients of their medical appointments and arrange transportation.
- Help them get food stamps and insurance benefits.

"These are services they might not be able to get on their own," she said. "If

you're homeless, it can be

daunting to go to an agency and try to get help."

In addition, the grant will pay for two community health workers who will perform tasks such as filling out applications for benefits and accompanying patients to appointments.

"We've seen that the need isn't just for folks to have a place to recover," Gamble said. "We hope that by expanding the program, we can prevent people from being so sick that they would need the respite services."

ONLINE

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

"This is not great," she said. "We need to get to the bottom of this."

The report compared performance figures from the 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic years and found that 11 broad types of courses had significant performance discrepancies in both areas.

The largest were in engineering and math disciplines, but the humanities, social sciences and trades all showed some too.

Freshman in general can struggle even in traditional, face-to-face classes. They drop, fail or just barely pass traditional courses that can be compared with an online offering at a 20-percent rate.

But they do worse online, coming up on

the wrong end of the grade sheet 32 percent of the time.

Henz noted that it usually doesn't come down to a professor having to hand out a low grade, as "most students, if they get in trouble in a class" will simply drop it.

More broadly, the report noted that online courses are more popular with part-time students and older, "non-traditional" ones over age 24.

Across the system, about two in five of the system's students took an online course in 2013-14. That's roughly 94,000 students, versus nearly 150,000 who stuck to traditional classroom offerings.

That figure "underscores the scale at which our online programs are operating and the success we've had in solving an access problem in the state," said Matthew Rascoff,

the system's vice president for technology-based learning.

"The classic educational tri-lemma says it's really hard to get low cost, access and high quality going on at the same time," he added. "We've done a good job on access, an OK job on cost and have work to do on quality."

To improve, system officials intend to look harder at courses to see if they can figure out why the ones that don't seem to work as well as their traditional counterparts are performing that way.

They also are coming to believe online students have to be treated as "an at-risk population," to back up with advising and other support systems, Rascoff said.

All told, the system's 16 universities provided 12.2 percent of their total credit hours online in 2013-14.

Four schools — East Carolina University, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University and UNC Pembroke — topped the 20-percent mark in the proportion of credit hours

their professors taught online.

UNC-Chapel Hill was near the other end of the scale, offering only 3.8 percent its 2013-14 credit hours online. N.C. Central University

was slightly above the system average, offering 14.9 percent of its credits online in 2013-14.

Follow Ray Gronberg on Twitter @rcgronberg.

Miele
Anything else is a compromise

Miele Vacuum Cleaners
Starting at **\$249.99**

alexander's
Sewing & Vacuum Center • Shops at Northgate
1720 Guess Rd., Durham • 919-286-9290

The Crystal Garden

GEMS CRYSTALS JEWELRY

NEW STORE!

www.the-crystal-garden.com

Come see the wondrous beauty and variety of nature. Perhaps find that perfect gift for a friend or an enchanting decorative piece for your home or hand-crafted jewelry for yourself!

Timberlyne Shopping Center
(Near the Post Office)
1129 Weaver Dairy Rd, Chapel Hill
919-265-8038

COLONIAL TIRE AND AUTOMOTIVE

Oil Change with Tire Rotation!

\$21.99

- Drain Oil & Change filter
- Add up to 5 qts. 10W-30 Oil
- Top Off Fluids
- Includes a 27 Point Vehicle Check

Expires 11-30-15. Not valid with other offers. Present coupon.

2105 E. NC Hwy 54 • Durham • 919.544.1723
(At intersection of Hwy 55 & 54 behind Taco Bell)

DOMINICK HUCKABEE NOBLIN & TRENT INSURANCE

www.dhntinsurance.com

Business • Home • Auto • Bonds

Varonda Reynolds, Becky Hill, Sherry Sloan, Kim Sudderth

3604 Shannon Rd., Suite 105
Durham • 286-7473

CENTRAL INSURANCE COMPANIES