

## Skate party will honor shooting victims

If Millai McGee had his way, there would be a school playground in memory of the children who lost their precious and innocent young lives in the second deadliest act of school-shooting carnage in this country's history.

He's 8. But he feels the pain for Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., where a lone gunman just eight days ago took the lives of 20 students, ages 6

and 7, and the lives of six faculty members, including the school principal.

**Bill Kirby Jr.** "Thinking about my school-age children and discussing the incident with my son," Joe McGee, 43, says. "I asked him, 'How can we help the kids of Sandy Hook Elementary School?' His reply he wants to build a new school and playground with a sign of all the kids' names who passed."

Call it a tall order for a youngster to build a school and a playground, but it got Joe McGee to thinking.

### 'Moment of silence'

"We are hoping for 1,000 letters," Joe McGee says about the Pre-Christmas Skate Party and Letters to Students of Sandy Hook Elementary event, which is scheduled from 1 to 4:15 p.m. Saturday at Round-a-Bout Skating Rink at 115 Skateway Drive.

Originally, it was planned by Joe McGee as just a holiday skating get-together for Millai and students from Cliffdale Elementary School.

Now, it has evolved into an expression of human compassion for the little town with the meandering stream as it copes with tragedy while saying goodbye to children with so much promise for tomorrows they'll never know.

"To bring a letter or Christmas card is free and our way of expressing condolences for the students and families," says Joe McGee, who is director of Giving Opportunity Through Dedication And Devotion, or GOTDAD, a nonprofit benevolence group for fathers founded in 2004.

"We are encouraging all elementary school-age children to write a personal letter expressing their thoughts, feelings or just a simple a drawing Christmas cards are welcome, too."

"All letters and Christmas cards will be mailed to Sandy Hook," Joe McGee says.

Some 100 members of the COC East North Carolina Bikers Association, McGee says, are bringing about 400 letters from Walker-Spivey Elementary School.

"They are doing a Toys for Tots at Walker-Spivey for underprivileged youth from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.," he says, and then they'll be heading to the skating rink. "We're excited about this venture with the COC, as youth who may not have had the ability to go to the skating rink can still participate and show their support."

Joe McGee says all who participate, whether skating or not, will pause at 4:15 p.m. for a moment of silence in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the deadly shooting rampage.

Christmas, despite broken hearts, shattered lives and a grieving New England town, is coming.

And so are letters from the schoolchildren of our town, who join Millai McGee in wishing for all of Newtown to know that you are not alone and in their thoughts, their hearts and their prayers.

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# Martin: UNC fraud began in '97

## Report clears athletic department of wrongdoing

Former Gov. Jim Martin answers questions Thursday about his report on academic irregularities at Carolina.

AP photo/The Herald-Sun



By Emery P. Dalesio  
The Associated Press

**CHAPEL HILL** — A months-long investigation of academic fraud at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill finds the problems were confined to wrongdoing by the former chairman and an administrator of the school's African studies department and didn't involve other faculty or members of the athletic department, according to a report released Thursday. The report also finds that the problems go back a decade earlier than previously uncovered.

The investigation by former Gov. Jim Martin said the university's Department of African and Afro-American Studies remained at the heart of the two-year athletic and academic scandal that has contributed to the departures of football coach Butch Davis and

resignation of Chancellor Holden Thorp.

No other university academic departments allowed students to cheat, but the investigation found the problems if the African studies began in 1997, Martin said. Former African studies chairman Julius Nyang'oro and department administrator Deborah Crowder, both of whom have

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## CANINE CRIMEFIGHTERS



# 4-legged officers show off

## Fayetteville police train 3 newcomers in detection

By Nancy McCleary  
Staff writer

**T**hree new officers have joined the ranks of the Fayetteville Police Department.

Three officers who together have 12 legs, three tails and three excellent noses.

Maize, Hemi and Remi are the newest additions to the department's K-9 squad. They bring the total of canine officers to 13, said Sgt. Tracy Campbell, who heads the K-9 division.

Maize and Remi are German shepherds, 14 months and a year old, respectively.

They'll be trained to sniff for marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, Ecstasy and heroin, Campbell said.

Hemi, a brindle Dutch shepherd, is a little older than her counterparts and is in training to learn to alert on explosives.

Maize and Remi, like

most other police dogs, were purchased from a kennel in the Netherlands, Campbell said, at a cost of about \$7,000 apiece.

Hemi's story is a bit different.

She belonged to a Fayetteville couple, one a retired K-9 training officer from South Africa, who anticipated that the dog would be purchased by an unnamed department, Campbell said.

"They (the department) said she was too little and she was a girl, so they didn't want her," Campbell said.

Hemi had already shown the potential needed for a career in law enforcement, he said. Among those are being social, good retrieving skills and a drive and desire to play.

"The dog has to have 100 percent passion," Campbell said.

Hemi's owners kept

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Top, Officer Tracy Campbell prepares to work with Maize during training at the Fayetteville police training academy. Above, Hemi jumps out of a tire with his toy after finding explosives. Left, Maize chews on a plastic tube containing marijuana.

Staff photo by Andrew Craft

# Fort Bragg rechecking child care workers

The probe is part of an Army-wide review ordered by the Pentagon after problems were found at a Virginia facility.

By Drew Brooks  
Staff writer

Fort Bragg officials are reviewing more than 600 employees as part of an Army-wide probe of day cares on military installations.

The scrutiny of employees at

cludes employees at 10 child development centers for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years, three locations for school-aged children up to fifth grade and one youth activity center for middle and high school-aged children.

At least 31 people were fired from two Army day care centers at Fort Myer after officials scrutinized their backgrounds and found criminal convictions ranging from

fourth-degree sexual assault and drug use to other types of assaults, according to The Associated Press.

Following the findings, Secretary of the Army John McHugh directed an Army-wide review of management and procedures at child care centers and a review of compliance with existing policies and procedures.

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