




Friday
Rain/Thunder/Wind
58/30



Saturday
Partly Cloudy
59/34



Sunday
Partly Cloudy
59/34



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE
Coral Honeysuckle flowering in mid-winter

“Dead of winter” summer reflections

FLORA

By Ken Moore

It’s the dead of winter, and two summer-flowering vines have captured my interest. A Coral Honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens*, caught my eye two weeks ago when it screamed across my deck for attention from beneath its cap of snow! Several clusters of scarlet tubular flowers continue to flower in spite of the subsequent below-freezing temperatures. It’s the nature of this native vine to flower off and on throughout the summer into mid-December. Flowering now in midwinter is unusual. But, hey, that’s nature!

Normally, you may glimpse a few red flower clusters reaching out from the forest edge or roadside in late spring and early summer. More noticeable, however, are the masses of flowers where gardeners have established a Coral Honeysuckle on a mailbox, fencepost or other trellis structure in full sunlight. If you pause attentively for just a few minutes, you will likely be rewarded with a sighting of a hummingbird that can’t resist the nectar-filled flowers. Most nurseries now carry one or more cultivars of the Coral Honeysuckle, selected for vigorous re-blooming throughout the season. For me, the pure species puts on just as much of a show.

Coral Honeysuckle is common throughout our forests and roadsides. Unfortunately, we seldom notice this common vine because it does not thrive in forest shade or on sunny sites in competition with numerous exotic invasives, most particularly the Japanese Honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica*. The Japanese Honeysuckle is loved by many because of its nectar-rich white flowers that scent up fields and woodland edges on warm early-summer evenings. However, this is not reason enough to allow such an invasive pest to continue covering our wild and cultivated landscapes.

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Cabela’s rival cautions against economic incentives

Retailer says it has no plans for store at Buckhorn Road development

By Kirk Ross
Staff Writer

Though not certain that Cabela’s is indeed the anchor tenant for the recently announced Buckhorn Village retail and mix-use center, a competitor of the outdoor retailer is already gearing up for a fight.

David Ewald, a public-affairs consultant who works for Cabela’s competitor Gander Mountain, said he’s heard that Cabela’s may be consider-

ing locating a store in the 128-acre site off I-85/I-40 in Orange County. If so, Ewald says, be prepared to hear that an economic incentives package is part of the mix. There are three Gander Mountain stores in North Carolina, located in Fayetteville, Greensboro and Morrisville.

Ewald, who has testified in several public hearings around the country on local government incentives for Cabela’s, said the company’s competitors have created jobs and opened stores

without asking for taxpayer money.

The group of Buckhorn Village developers led by Southern Village co-developer Montgomery Development declined to say whether the anchor tenant for what is projected to be a total of 1.1 million in commercial space is Cabela’s.

Montgomery’s John Fugo, who is handling inquiries for a group that also includes Meadowmont developer East West Partners and Hillsborough Gateway developer George Horton, said he

was not at liberty to discuss who the main tenant might be or whether the group or the company will ask for economic incentives as part of the deal.

Fugo pointed to a Feb. 25 public hearing scheduled on the project.

John Castillo, a spokesman for Cabela’s said the Sidney, Nebraska-based retailer “currently has no plans to build a store” in the area. Castillo said the

SEE **CABELA’S** PAGE 8

Man killed in Carrboro Plaza shooting

By Susan Dickson
Staff Writer

A Chapel Hill man has been charged with murdering his son-in-law in the Carrboro Plaza parking lot Monday evening.

Garland Moray King Jr., of 900 Sesame Rd., was apprehended by police shortly after 6 p.m. Monday. King, 65, was found in possession of a handgun. The victim, 59-year-old James Kenneth Imonti, was found unconscious, lying face down, having been shot once in the back. He was transported by Orange County EMS to UNC Hospitals, where he was pronounced dead an hour later.

According to Carrboro police Captain J.G. Booker, King was apprehended as soon as police arrived at the scene, and he did not resist arrest.

“Apparently, it was kind of an ongoing family-type dispute,” Booker said. According to a police department press release, King shot Imonti in the back at close range after an argument in the parking lot near Food Lion.

Christine Lysle, senior veterinary technician at Carrboro Veterinary Clinic in Carrboro Plaza, said she heard a noise that sounded like a truck backfiring while inside the clinic.

“No one really knew what was going on,” she said.

Lysle went outside to find out what the commotion was, and said people started filling the plaza as police arrived.

“It was pretty packed with a lot of people,” she said. “Anything could have happened in that parking lot. An innocent person could have come out and the bullet could have ricocheted. There were children around.”

Lysle said because the incident involved a family dispute, she wasn’t concerned about future violence at the plaza.

However, she added: “I can guarantee a lot of people in here are really worried now.

“This is the first time I’ve ever seen anything like that,” said Lysle, who has worked at Carrboro Veterinary Clinic for 17 years.

King is being held at the Orange County Jail.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVE OTTO

Following the trail along Bolin Creek means braving the occasional stepping stone.

Shooting along the stream(ing creek)

RECENTLY...

By Valerie Schwartz

Having grown up with a creek behind my house, it thrilled me to learn when I moved to Chapel Hill in 1994 that Bolin Creek flowed only a few yards beyond my new home. During the five years I lived there, few days passed without spending time with my dog, exploring and enjoying the many varieties of nature offered along property — mostly in Carrboro — that abuts, and some that encompasses, the future Carolina North.

A woodpecker pecking high above in a tree; an owl swooping down repeatedly warning of her nearby nesting brood; ripples, pools and glides repeating down the stream; fallen trees forcing new paths following a storm; descriptions of some of the many sights gifted to frequenters of Bolin Creek.

For 23 years, Dave Otto has lived above the creek in a Carrboro neighborhood. Since retiring from the Environmental Protection Agency, in a job that brought him to Chapel Hill in 1972, he has taken his love

of the creek to new levels — ones meant to ensure that the remaining stretches of native forest left in southern Orange County will remain for future generations to enjoy.

Otto, for many people, is the person who pops into mind when they hear or read the words, “Friends of Bolin Creek.” He has expanded his knowledge of the creek and surrounding forest and become an educator, helping the political forces that can make a difference for the beloved corridor understand its far-reaching potential.

It’s how the mayor of Carrboro met him. “He’s always been a real inspirational spokesperson for the organization and the significance of Bolin Creek,” Mark Chilton said. “He’s somebody who leads hikes and invites government officials to come and see what the organization is trying to preserve.”

Otto opened Chilton’s eyes so wide that the mayor envisions a public trail that will connect the soon-to-be Morris Grove Elementary School at Old 86 on Eubanks Road through trails along Bolin Creek to University Mall.

Otto’s vision extends to connecting the trail with the North Carolina system of trails

“Sometimes I go beyond
the literal definition
of nature... Looking
down at the reflections
is sometimes like looking
into the universe.”

— Dave Otto, on
photographing Bolin Creek

that will span from the mountains to the coast.

Combining his love of nature with his photographic pursuits, Otto has grown his talent into his first photo exhibition, open ing Friday at Carrboro Town Hall. A reception will be held

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INSIDE

The Tar Heels face a tough trio

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A short tale of love, lost and found

By Emily Burns
Staff Writer

Most children taunt each other with the phrase “finders, keepers; losers, weepers” when they find a toy that belongs to another child buried in the sandbox. But as they grow up, not all of them realize that finders shouldn’t always be keepers. James Latta, a security officer at Carr Mill Mall, did.

As he was patrolling the lot in front of Fleet Feet Sports on the afternoon of Jan. 11, Latta noticed something unusual — a diamond ring — lying on the ground between two cars. He moved closer to the ring, studying it carefully, and then picked

it up and placed in his pocket before continuing his rounds.

Inside, Nelson and Stella Chen were sipping tea with Bonnie Lau at Weaver Street Market. Lau and Mr. Chen were discussing the ongoing construction of Lau’s new pastry shop, Miel Bon Bons, when Mrs. Chen suddenly realized that her engagement ring was missing from her ring finger.

“All of the sudden, she got panicked, and said, ‘I have to go look for my ring,’” said Lau, whose new Carr Mill shop is slated to open in mid-February.

Mr. and Mrs. Chen left the table and frantically retraced



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

Nelson and Stella Chen pose with security officer James Latta, who found Mrs. Chen’s lost engagement ring in the parking lot.

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