



**FRIDAY**  
Clear  
49/31



**SATURDAY**  
20% Chance of Rain  
59/36



**SUNDAY**  
Partly Cloudy  
50/27

# C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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to head  
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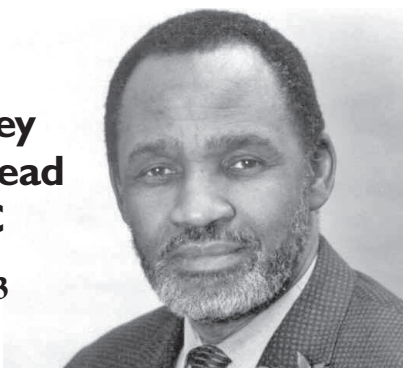


PHOTO BY KEN MOORE  
The bluish berries and scale-like leaves of this coastal red cedar are very similar to the berries and leaves of the common eastern red cedar.

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

A tale of two cedars

It was the driest of years and the wettest of years. North Carolina's two red cedars stood strong and green during the year of drought and rains.

The eastern red cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*, surrounds us in the Piedmont. Except for the outer coastal regions and the high mountain elevations, the eastern cedar tree is common throughout the eastern U.S., extending into Texas and northward up through the Midwestern states. It is adapted to a wide range of soil types, moisture regimes and temperature extremes. It grows in all but water-logged soils.

It is an early successional tree species — one of the first to appear on abandoned farmland and other disturbed sites. Birds disperse the seed, accounting for characteristic rows of cedar along fence lines and beneath power line perches. On good soils, cedars can be shaded out if competing with a dense stand of pines and they are slowly displaced by maturing deciduous forests. Cedars do require sunlight. In contrast, on really shallow soils and on xeric (extremely dry) sites, cedars compete well and can mature as a dominate tree of the plant community.

Occasionally, you will notice a dense stand of red cedars growing so thickly that other tree species have great difficulty gaining a foothold. Such cedar stands persist for decades.

Eastern red cedars grow upright, but their shapes are consistently variable. Commonly, they have steeple-like tops

SEE FLORA PAGE 8

## Residents concerned about Colleton Crossing

BY SUSAN DICKSON  
Staff Writer

With a possible decision on the proposed Colleton Crossing scheduled for Jan. 27, some community residents are expressing concerns about the project, citing safety, environmental and traffic issues.

In November, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen opened a public hearing on the Colleton Crossing development, which is proposed for 8400 and 8420 Reynard Road. The developer, MBI Development, proposes a 39-dwelling subdivision on 31.6 acres with a connector road to Claymore Road in the Highlands. According to the developer, the project, if approved, is projected to open in 2010.

Board members heard from a packed house at the hearing and expect the same at the continued hearing.

The Friends of Bolin Creek have cited issues regarding a proposed connector road to run along the east side of Bolin Creek, close to the planned development.

In addition, residents of the Highlands have expressed concerns regarding the traffic that the development could bring to the neighborhood, with access to the development planned for Claymore and Sterling roads as well as Reynard Road and Tallyho Trail. Several have raised concerns that the roads lack the capacity to support the traffic the proposed development would bring.

Drew Narayan, a resident of Claymore Road, said in November that he was concerned the narrow roads were not designed to handle the number of cars the development could bring.

Residents are also worried that the lack of sidewalks on the roads, combined with the additional traffic, could be unsafe for pedestrians.

Board member Joal Hall Broun said she would like to hear the applicant respond to some of the concerns raised by residents of the adjacent neighborhoods, particularly those regarding traffic.

Board member Lydia Lavelle said that while the board has not delved into public discussion of the development yet, the planning board

has reviewed the proposed project. Lavelle served on the planning board prior to her election to the board of aldermen in 2007.

"The planning board raised several concerns with the applicant, as did the other boards," she said.

While the applicant has addressed some of those concerns, Lavelle said, other issues could be inherent to the project, and thus hard to address.

Because of the size of the project and the concerns of many residents, Lavelle said she doesn't expect the board to make a decision on the proposed development at the Jan. 27 public hearing.

The continued public hearing will be held Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Carrboro Town Hall.



PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW  
Becky Campbell, left, coach of the East Chapel Hill High School swim team, instructs some of her team members at practice Monday in the new Homestead Aquatic Center, which opened last weekend. Monday was the team's first chance to practice in the new facility, said Campbell, and the team was especially excited about it because they got four lanes and an hour and a half, as opposed to three narrower lanes and one hour at their old practice location, the community center pool.

## Group secures Eno tracts

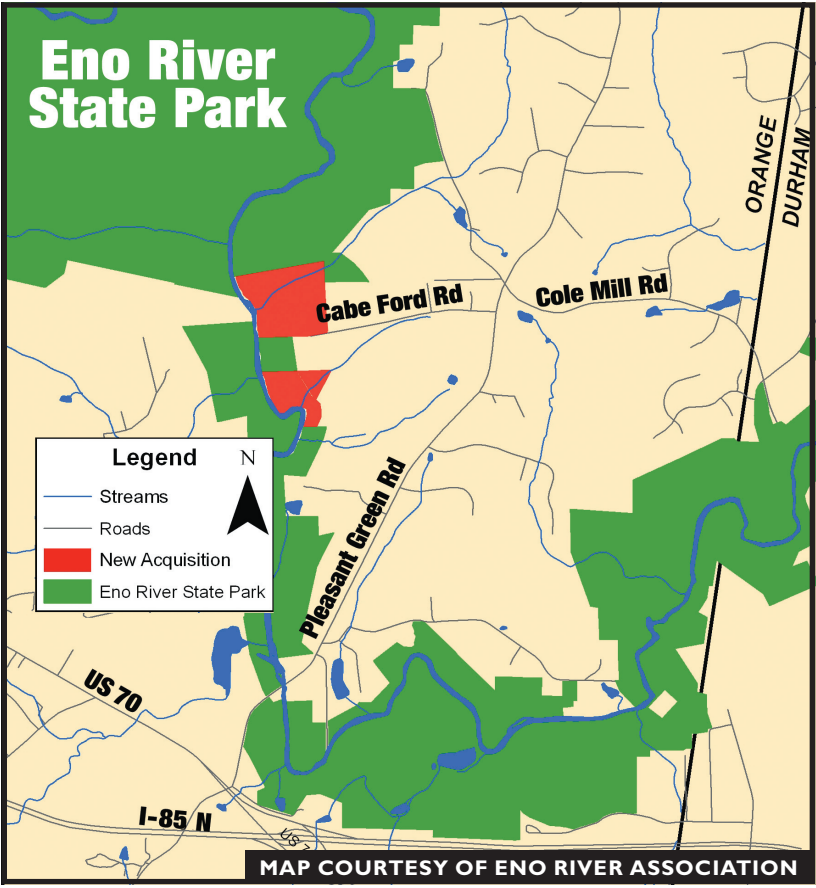
BY SUSAN DICKSON  
Staff Writer

The Eno River Association is another step closer to completing the gaps in the Eno River State Park with the recent acquisition of 65 acres of river frontage, some of the last remaining missing links.

The acreage, located on the east side of the river near Cabe Ford Road, is made up of two tracts separated by existing parkland. The association worked with the Brame family, who owned the property, for several years to acquire the land through a combination of sale and donation.

"This is an area in the park that for a long time we've been trying to acquire," said Klugh Jordan, director of land protection for the association. "It's also an area [in which] the park is trying to expand its trail system."

In addition to expanding the park, the acquisition will also permanently protect an old slave cemetery as well as rare species of mussels on the property, which has been designated as a Nationally Significant Natural Heritage Area by the NC Natural Heritage Program.



The Eno River Association has been working to protect the land around the river and in the watershed area since 1966 with the goal of completing the gaps in the Eno River State Park to create a 6,000-acre park with 16 miles of river frontage. The association also works to acquire

land outside the state park, protect as much of the watershed area as possible and minimize the amount of sediment and nutrients that flow into the river.

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## Rebecca Clark dies

BY KIRK ROSS  
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — Rebecca Clark, champion for justice, community leader and political organizer, died early Saturday in her sleep at her home on Crest Drive in Chapel Hill. She was 93.

News of Clark's death had many recalling a life marked by a deep caring and concern for all people and an acumen for community and political organizing.

Services will be held Friday at Chapel Hill Bible Church with a viewing starting at 11 a.m. and services at 1 p.m. Later, there will be repast at the Hargraves Center for out-of-town visitors.

Her grandson, Doug Clark Jr., who lives in Chapel Hill, said he and his children visited with his grandmother Thursday and shared holiday stories.

"She will be missed," he said. "They don't make them like that anymore."

The Clark family is tight knit, and even after the musical success of Doug Clark Sr. and his brother, John, the Pine Knolls neighborhood was still home.

Doug Clark Jr. said his grandmother knew everyone in the community around Cole and Johnson streets and Crest Drive.

"She was the matriarch of this neighborhood," he said. "A lot of people would drop by to seek her advice and approval."

Clark was able to weave politics and community organizing into advocacy for her neighborhood, convincing Chapel Hill to annex the area and provide paved roads and services.

Fred Battle, former president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP and a Chapel Hill native, recalled her life of service. The two spent some time together two weeks ago going over candidates for an NAACP award named in her honor.

"She did an outstanding job serving a lot of the elderly and sick, folks confined to their homes and rest homes. And she was very politically active," he said. "It was a beautiful sight when you went to the Lincoln precinct and you'd see her son Doug out there and she'd be bringing people to the polls. It was a family thing."

SEE CLARK PAGE 3

## Climbing high with a safety net

RECENTLY . . .  
By Valarie Schwartz

There's no denying the difficulties connected with being a teenager. The angst of that age involves charting unfamiliar waters and facing adult situations — sometimes with an adult-looking body — but with the experience and insecurities of a child.

For 12 years, Teens Climb High (TCH), a program of the Women's Center in Chapel Hill, has endeavored, with assistance from the middle schools, to make this passage easier and safer for some girls in our community.

Girls from families with seriously limited resources may have more exposure to potentially damaging situations, but through school referrals such girls are invited to attend afterschool sessions of TCH from sixth through eighth grade. This year, 41 girls,

divided by grade and school into five groups, meet each week. TCH transforms these middle school years from a time filled with questions and lack of confidence into one where their peers begin to turn to them for answers, frequently continuing beyond their teens.

Julia Thornton was a planner on the founding committee for the program that started in 1996. A needs assessment performed by the Resident's Council in the public housing communities in Chapel Hill indicated the need for a program that addressed teen pregnancies. Now Thornton's daughter, Allicson Rone, is a peer leader — a position that eighth-graders in the program can apply and interview for to help coordinate program events.



PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ  
From left: Allicson Rone, Destini Purefoy and Sherina Suitt partied down at the Teens Climb High Winter Celebration.

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