

Friday
Mostly Sunny
58/37

Saturday
Partly Cloudy
59/33

Sunday
Partly Cloudy
46/25

C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

Filing starts Monday for May 6 primary

by **Kirk Ross**
Staff Writer

Although the contenders on the national portion of the ticket are already campaigning, the 2008 state primary season officially starts Monday with the opening of the three-week filing period.

Candidates can file at the Orange County Board of Elections office in Hillsborough from noon on Monday, Feb. 11 till noon February 29. The primary will see a full ballot, with national presidential and congressional races and state races — including governor, lieutenant governor and council of state as well as

legislative contests — and the first districts contest for Orange County Board of Commissioners. Also on May 6, voters will select three members for the nonpartisan Orange County Schools Board of Education.

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Vote! 2008

Commissioner race gets rolling

by **Kirk Ross**
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill-Carrboro school board Chair Pam Hemminger and Orange County Planning Board member Bernadette Pelisier say they plan to file soon for the May Democratic primary for Orange County commissioner. They’ll join incumbent commissioner Valerie Foushee who has indicated previously she’ll seek another term.

Filing season starts Monday at noon and Hemminger, who sought a seat on the board in 2004, said she plans to get started early. She said she wants to run because of her concern for how the county will handle growth. Hemminger, who was appointed to the school board in 2005 and won election in 2006, said she thinks her experience with schools and as a longtime parks and recreation supporter

will be an asset to the board in dealing with growth issues. “I feel versed on it and I want to help,” she said. The county has a number of budget and tax issues to tackle, Hemminger said, including how to keep up with the need for new schools. With the school district about to open Morris Grove Elementary,

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PHOTO BY KEN MOORE
Sturdily built nest of a clever bird architect.

Signs of spring and birds’ nests

FLORA

By Ken Moore

The familiar signs of spring for most of us are already evident. Crocuses and Japanese Apricot, *Prunus Mume*, are in flower and daffodils are showing flower buds. But these are foreigners, long ago established in our cultivated gardens. True signs of spring are the deepening stem colors and swelling flower and leaf buds in the wilds of nature’s garden. This past weekend, four of us enjoyed discovering some of these spring signals along Bolin Creek trails in the university’s Carolina North Preserve (Horace Williams Tract).

Following are descriptions of some early-spring signals. But first I must digress to share what we saw while crossing a field. We spied a really beautiful tiny lichen-encrusted bird nest situated about ten feet above us on a lateral limb of a small Hackberry tree, *Celtis laevigata*. We thought the architect to be a hummingbird. The nest appeared so sturdy we could imagine it being used a second season. We’ll return in late spring to investigate. What a clever bird to site the nest in this particular Hackberry: the trunk and lower limbs are abnormal with numerous thorny, twisted twig growths emerging from the characteristic warty bark. It presents a very unappealing climb for predators.

In the tall grass beneath the tree, we discovered another small nest, this one of grass and moss, only two feet above the ground. It was neatly constructed in a thorny Carolina Rose, *Rosa carolina*, another site rather uninviting for potential predators. Perhaps one

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PHOTO BY AMANDA CRISP, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT CARRBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
Jean Thorpe, former Carrboro Elementary teacher, during a recent visit to Carrboro Elementary School, where students learned about Black History (see story, Page 8).

Effort to celebrate Carrboro’s architectural heritage moves forward

by **Susan Dickson**
Staff Writer

Old mill houses are scattered throughout downtown Carrboro. And while probably few passing by notice, dozens of them are almost exactly the same, built by mill owner Thomas Lloyd around the turn of the 20th century.

Like these mill houses, many Carrboro buildings — both residential and commercial — were built long ago, during Carrboro’s era as a mill town; but over the years, they’ve become difficult to spot.

According to *Carrboro, N.C.: An Architectural and Historical Inventory*, published by the Carrboro Appearance Commission in 1983, more than 150 structures within Carrboro’s city limits were built prior to 1930.

To identify these buildings for visitors and residents alike, the Carrboro Appearance Commission has launched the Carrboro Historic Building Plaque Program.



Seeing Double? These houses, which are home to the Red Hen and Provence are two of many built by Thomas Lloyd.

The program is hosting a contest for local artists to design the plaque that will mark Carrboro’s historic buildings. The winner will receive \$500.

“It’s a great little project,” said Catherine DeVine, coordinator of the project and former member of the appearance commission.

DeVine said she started working on the project about a year ago with fellow appearance commission member Tom Wiltberger.

Many owners of the historic buildings have maintained and restored the properties, DeVine said. “We said, ‘Let’s start marking all these historic buildings,’” she



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

added. “We convinced the rest of the appearance commission that it was a great idea.” DeVine said the commission sent mailings to about 150 residents and business owners in historic buildings to gauge the interest in a plaque program.

While only about 20 people

attended the program’s first meeting, DeVine said she plans to send out a second mailing soon and hopes to attract more interest from the owners of historic Carrboro buildings.

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RECENTLY...

By Valarie Schwartz

As much as any other knowledge, high school students seek to know who they are and where they want their next steps in life to take them.

Teachers like Rob Greenberg, who teaches Earth and environmental science at Chapel Hill High School, help them explore beyond typical parameters, and with the “Celebration of Earth and Sky” exhibit at Carrboro Century Center from 2 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, community members can also participate in the opening of young minds toward new realms.

Attendees of the event will find the results of a month-long group project Greenberg assigned that covers elements of geography, geology, ecology, climatology, business and architecture — and, of course, creativity.

The assignment was to pick a location anywhere in the world and create an ancient island there — during pre-human times. The loca-

tion would predicate the topography, climate and ecology of the island, which would all be included in a map and key the students were to draw of the island they would name.

The second part of the assignment was to draw a map of the island today, including infrastructure designed to leave the smallest footprint, paying attention to all elements of human existence, including dealing with their water, energy and waste requirements within a 10-square-mile area with a population of 1,000 to 2,000. They were also to design a community building — be it a school or recreation or town center.

It’s a lot to cover in four weeks, but by sharing the work among four student teams a lot was learned by 110 students of all grades, with some pretty creative results.

“In the real world, they’re going to have to be able to problem-solve,” Greenberg said. “No child left behind is a good idea — nobody should be left behind — but teaching to a test isn’t. There’s a lack of science taught in elementary school because of the preparation for a multiple-choice test.

The real world is not about hiding answers from others and taking a standardized test, but [about] memorizing facts and concepts then applying them, making predictions, executing ideas, trying to solve problems.

Greenberg’s helping them look for “green” solutions first.

He chose the assignment (which may become his own master’s thesis next year) and he chose who would work together.

“We didn’t even know each other names,” said Louisa Sloan of her teammates, who are all seniors except for Andrew Hertzberg, a junior.

“We work pretty well together,” Natalie Archer said.

They created the island North Acesulfame off the northern coast of New Zealand (the name was lifted from the ingredients in a bottle of water).

“We did research finding out different things specific to our island,” said Jess Hitt.

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