



FRIDAY Partly Cloudy 58/31
SATURDAY Partly Cloudy 54/38
SUNDAY 60% Chance of Rain 49/34

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

Frank Heath Basketball Notes See Page 7



Ice flowers form at the base of only a few plants. PHOTO BY PATRICK COIN

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Ice flowers

Last week, Botanical Garden staffer J.C. Poythress enthusiastically asked whether I had seen the ice flowers. Responding, "What's an ice flower?" he quickly led me out to the gardens behind the Totten Center to show me several. Wow, another first-time experience. Then another staff person described an article about ice flowers in the Botanical Garden Newsletter of Nov. -Dec. 2006.

That article, "One Flower You'll Never Find in the Herbarium," was written by Carol Ann McCormick, assistant curator of the UNC Herbarium. Though you may never discover one of these ice flowers on your own, I hope, like me, you will be happy to at least know they exist.

With permission, I am sharing here an abbreviated version of Carol Ann's article.

"The UNC Herbarium is a research collection of 750,000 pressed and dried plant specimens. An herbarium specimen, if a wildflower, is the entire plant, glued and sewn onto stiff, acid-free, 11 1/2 x 16 1/2 inch paper. If a tree, then a twig with leaves and flowers is mounted on the paper. Bulky items like pine cones or black walnuts are kept in acid-free cardboard boxes.

"Ice flowers, as you will learn, are never found in herbaria.

"I first encountered ice flowers several years ago along my driveway in Alamance County. One cold December morning, I was peeved to see Styrofoam packing peanuts scattered along a rocky east-facing bank uphill from Big Branch Creek. I got out to clean up the litter and discovered that they were not Styrofoam, but delicate whorls of ice. Even more amazing, each whorl of ice was around the base of only one kind of plant, wild oregano, Cunila origanoides. There were plenty of other plants on the rocky bank, Christmas ferns, goldenrods, and melic grass, but ice whorls only at the base of wild oregano.

SEE FLORA PAGE 8

Shock and sadness over devastation in Haiti

BY BETH MECHUM AND KIRK ROSS Staff Writers

It was on the eve of Lori Easterlin's final Haiti immersion class at Trinity School of Durham and Chapel Hill that a devastating earthquake hit the impoverished Caribbean country. "Everybody is just overwhelmed

and sad and devastated," Easterlin said. "We have students who in the last week have become attached to Haiti and the issues that they have and are really committed to serving that country, and something like this happens."

Easterlin is the teacher of the class, which exposed students to the ways of life of the Haitian people, who live

in one of the poorest countries in the Southern Hemisphere.

The culmination of the 10-day class was to be a spring break trip in March to volunteer at a Haitian school.

As of Wednesday, the trip had not been canceled, but Easterlin said if they did travel there it would be in a different capacity.

"We will have an impact on Haiti," she said. "It depends on what the needs are of the country. Instead of serving at a school, we will definitely be involved in rebuilding in some aspect."

Trinity School is one of dozens of local organizations and churches with connections to Haiti.

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Remembering King

If you've recently made your way across the square in front of Chapel Hill's downtown post office, you may have noticed an inscription near the flagpole that says "Peace & Justice Plaza."

Below those words are the names of eight individuals — men and women, black and white — who were at the forefront of this community's civil rights efforts. Below that are the words of Martin Luther King Jr.: "True peace is not merely the absence of negative forces, it is the presence of justice."

You may or may not know the names Charlotte Adams, Henry Anderson, James Brittan, Joe Herzenberg, Mildred Ringwalt, Joe and Lucy Straley and Gloria Williams. They're largely responsible for that little square in front of the post office being hallowed ground. It was the setting for countless rallies and protests during the civil rights era and each year on the third Monday in January it serves again as a gathering spot for those dedicated to keeping King's dream alive.

There the NAACP's annual rally in remembrance of King and the cause he fought and died for begins on Monday at 9 a.m. From there, the annual march down Franklin Street will start at 9:30 and proceed down to First Baptist Church on Roberson Street for a worship service. The service starts at 10:30 a.m. Tim Tyson, author of the book Blood Done Signed My Name and an extensive study of the 1898 Wilmington Riots, will be the keynote speaker.

The rally, march and worship service are among dozens of events throughout the community, including several for those who want to honor King with a day of service to their community.

Events include:

- Sunday, Jan. 17 — University-Community Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Banquet, 6 p.m., Friday Center, with Rev. Mitchell Simpson, pastor of University Baptist Church;
Monday Jan. 18 — National Day of Service (see sidebar); MLK Youth Leadership Program for middle

school students, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Potluck Unity Dinner, 5 p.m., UNC's Student Union Great Hall; "He Was a Poem, He Was a Song," 7 p.m., theater of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History off South Road, with performances by the Triad Youth Jazz Society and Tar Heel Voices;

- Tuesday, Jan. 19 — Cleve Jones, creator of the AIDS quilt (aidsquilt.org), speaks at the Great Hall in the student union at 7 p.m.;
Wednesday, Jan. 20 — A showing of the documentary Standing on My Sister's Shoulders, noon, Graham Memorial Building; MLK Oratorical Contest, 6 p.m., Sonja Haynes Stone Center;
Thursday, Jan. 21 — Candlelight vigil at 6:30 p.m. at the Old Well and MLK Memorial Lecture by Danny Glover at 7:30 at Memorial Hall;
Friday, Jan. 22 — "I, Too, Sing America," 6:30 p.m., Great Hall, student union.

For more information about these and other events, please visit unc.edu/diversity/mlk. —Staff Reports

"A Day On Not a Day Off" Orange County locations for National Day of Service

- Orange County Signature Project — Volunteers will create Valentine's Day care packages for U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. People will also make blankets and scarves for clients of local United Way of the Greater Triangle partner agencies. Children, families and volunteers of all ages can include their dreams on the "Road to a Dream" wall. 10 a.m.

- 1:30 p.m., Christ United Methodist Church, Southern Village;
Freedom House painting and cleanup — 10 volunteers are needed from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.;
McDougle Elementary and Middle schools outdoor cleanup — 10 volunteers are needed from 9 a.m. to noon;
Culbreth Middle School outdoors cleanup — 30 volunteers are

- needed from 10 a.m. to noon
Lincoln Center outdoor cleanup — 30 volunteers are needed from 10 a.m. to noon;
YMCA's Camp Clearwater cleanup — 8 volunteers are needed from 9 a.m. to noon.
To sign up or for more information on these and other United Way sponsored events, visit unitedwaytriangle.org/mlk

Council OKs new process for shelters

BY KIRK ROSS Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — The Chapel Hill Town Council approved a change in the town's land-use management ordinance that would require any new homeless shelters to first obtain a special-use permit — a lengthier, more-public process than the current ordinance requires.

The change, approved in a unanimous vote at a council meeting Monday night at Town Hall, removes a cap of 25 residents. The move clears the way for an anticipated special-use permit application from the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service, which wants to construct a new 52-bed facility on a parcel near the corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard and Homestead Road. The new facility would replace the men's shelter currently housed in the old Chapel Hill municipal building at the corner of

Rosemary and Columbia streets.

Several residents from neighborhoods near the proposed site asked the council to not make the ordinance change, asking that the cap remain in place.

Mark Peters, who assembled data from police reports to underline the number of law-enforcement calls to the current shelter, asked the council to "look at the big picture" and take into account that the women's shelter and Freedom House, which works with individuals battling addiction, are also in the vicinity.

"It's not just the shelter, but these other facilities," he said.

Supporters of the change noted that the recent cold weather made it clear that a cap of 25 was impractical.

Shelter manager Laurie Tucker said the downtown shelter has had to open up extra floor space to handle the need of late.

Council members supporting the change said they were concerned that if the cap were left in place, it would adversely impact the current shelter as well as facilities like the Ronald McDonald House.

Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt argued that the change would give the public more input and the council more flexibility on shelters. Without the change, he said, a shelter that fit the zoning rules could be approved without review by the council.

Under the new section of the land-use management ordinance, the capacity of a shelter would be set by the council as one of the stipulations in a special-use permit.

In other action, the council decided to research and possibly pursue an application to the state Wildlife Resources Commission for an in-town bow hunt to cull the deer population.

The hunt application, which must be submitted by April, would allow the council the option of authorizing a hunt for next year's season. It's too late for the town to receive permission for a hunt for this year's season, which typically runs from late January to mid-February.

Council member Ed Harrison argued that although he might not vote to allow a hunt, it would be prudent to move ahead on the application so as not to close out the option.

Also on Monday night, the council decided to schedule a public forum to discuss a proposed public information and input process for development at Carolina North.

The meeting began with the swearing in of Donna Bell, who was appointed last month to fill remaining two years in the term of Bill Strom, who resigned on Aug. 1 of last year.

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MLK by the numbers

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