

FRIDAY
50% chance of rain
88/72

SATURDAY
50% chance of rain
85/72

SUNDAY
50% chance of rain
88/70

C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE
Rare Gray's lily on Roan Mountain's open grassy balds.

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

A story of Gray's lily and mountain balds

Once in a while, I take leave of the wealth of local natural areas to see North Carolina treasures farther afield. One of my favorite places is the string of Roan Mountain grassy balds striding the border of North Carolina and Tennessee, where there is a very special wildflower. Every time I see Gray's lily, *Lilium grayii*, I am thankful for the Southern Appalachian Highland Conservancy's (SAHC) efforts to preserve this and other highland areas of North Carolina. Since 1974, this group has protected more than 38,000 acres of significant natural areas in the highlands. I first saw Gray's lily on a botany field trip back in the 1960s. It was rare back then and it is rarer now. Its worldwide distribution is centered in a few mountain counties in the corner of Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia.

The best viewing opportunities are on the balds of Roan Mountain. If you have never visited the Roan, you have missed an opportunity to fall in love with a mountain. Most folks really do fall in love with it. That certainly is the feeling of the 42 people who participated in this year's SAHC 15th Grassy Ridge Mow-Off, a thoughtfully planned effort to preserve the balds and rare plants like Gray's lily. You see, that lily and other rarities are being displaced by the encroaching growth of blackberries, alders and that much-admired purple rhododendron, *Rhododendron catawbiense*.

Formerly, the balds of Roan were more extensive. In recent years, as the Roan highlands have moved from private ownership to conservation lands, grazing farm-animal activity has been eliminated. As a result, the once-extensive open balds began shrinking.

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Bill Strom resigns from town council

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — Bill Strom, who has served on the Chapel Hill Town Council since 1999, announced Wednesday afternoon that he is resigning “to pursue other personal and professional opportunities outside the community.” In a statement emailed to *The Citizen*, Strom said his resignation is effective Aug. 1. He thanked his colleagues and the community. “Serving as a council member in Chapel Hill has been a great honor, and I am deeply thankful for my fellow citizens’ trust and confidence in electing me three times,” the statement said.

Speculation about Strom’s plans began after he sold his home on Greenwood Road earlier this year and heated up when he did not enter the Chapel Hill mayor’s race after Mayor Kevin Foy said he would not seek another term. Strom was widely viewed as having a strong interest in the office. He served as one of the town’s chief negotiators with the university on expansion plans for the main campus and Carolina North and was a member of the Triangle Transit Authority’s board of trustees. He recently was named by Leadership Triangle as the winner of the Goodmon Award for regional leadership by an elected official. Strom’s announcement comes

too late for his seat to be included in this year’s municipal races. The filing period for those races, which this year include mayor and four council seats, ended on July 17. According to Chapel Hill Town Attorney Ralph Karpinos, had Strom stepped down within three days of the end of the filing period his seat would have been included on the ballot and the town council would have been charged with filling his seat until the election. With the announcement falling after the end of the filing period, Karpinos said the council will follow the procedures it used recently after the death of council member Bill Thorpe. Karpinos said at the next council

meeting, scheduled for Sept. 14, Foy will officially announce the vacancy. The council will then set a time period of not less than seven and not more than 30 days for applications for the seat. Council members will then review the applications and officially place names in nomination. After the nominations, the council must wait at least one week before making its decision. The new council member will serve out Strom’s term, which ends in December 2011. *The Citizen* has published both Strom’s resignation announcement and Karpinos’ memo to the mayor and council on the procedures for filing the vacancy on our website at carrborocitizen.com/main



Picnic in the park

BY BETH MECHUM
Staff Writer

The Goat Patrol doesn’t need a lunch break. Its entire day is a lunch break. And the business works out such that it benefits all interested parties. The dog park at Hank Anderson Community Park now has a lot less poison ivy and the goats are to be thanked for that. A *baaaahhhh* is what you’ll get in response – the same sound heard around the park last Tuesday and Wednesday, as Goat Patrol human coordinator Alix Bowman watched her goats clear the land without the use of any pesticides or noisy machinery. Bowman said the goats have the same hours as most landscapers and are even more efficient in getting to the hard-to-reach places. “The goats are often less expensive and get into a lot of stuff other workers wouldn’t want to touch,” she said. What’s poisonous to humans can be dessert to goats. But they don’t eat just anything. Bowman comes out to survey the land to make sure what needs to be cleared is something the goats will want to nibble on.

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PHOTOS BY KIRK ROSS
Town of Carrboro Streets Supervisor David Poythress and Goat Patrol’s Alix Bowman survey the work of the herd on Wednesday morning.

Gaining perspective on a life in athletics

BY BETH MECHUM
Staff Writer

Charlie Adams has the beach on his mind. He’s picturing toes in the sand, fun in the sun, a dive into a seafood basket. But before any of that can transpire, he knows he has a job to finish. Adams has been director of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) since 1984 and on staff since 1967. He’ll retire in February after an illustrious career that includes an induction into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame. Adams knows he’d like to relax after he retires, and perhaps reflect on the great career he’s had to further gain perspective when he’s no longer the man in charge. Which is ironic, considering it’s the process of gaining perspective that has kept him so busy for all these years. “I think our job at the high school level is to make sure we keep things

in the proper perspective,” Adams said. “We have to work doubly hard to make these youngsters know that playing is really short time, but your academics, your education are a lifetime, and you need to learn to be good sports, you need to learn to be good citizens.” There have been times when his patience has been pushed to the brink. It’s Adams who parents call if they think their kid isn’t getting enough playing time or enough ink in the local newspaper. “Parents in this day and time are much more aggressive, much more litigation oriented,” Adams says, adding, with a good-natured laugh, that parents very often conclude their conversations with, “‘Well, you’ll hear from our attorney,’ and we say, ‘Fine.’” It’s also Adams who has to tell a team they’ve been declared ineligible. He remembers one instance when the team was actually loading onto the bus, heading to a game, when he had to break the bad news.

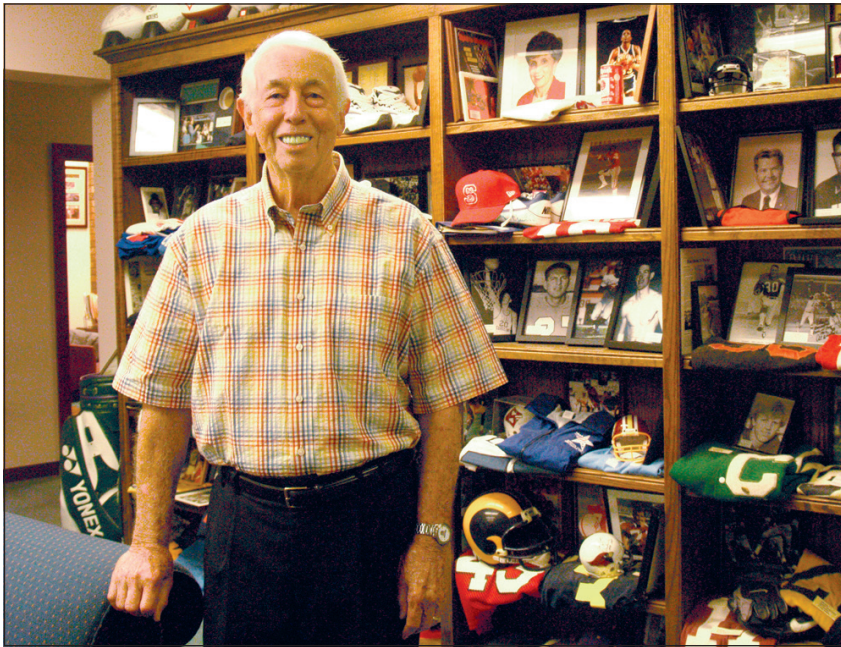


PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS
Charlie Adams stands in front of years of memorabilia from N.C. high school athletes.

“I think there is a mentality right now that is ‘win at all costs’ in many places, and I think there’s a disregard for rules,” says Adams. “It’s our job to make the rules, interpret the rules and enforce the rules.”

But he recalls these experiences with no bitterness in his voice. It’s all been part of his job – a job, he says, that offers more good experiences than bad.

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A Few Moments With Charlie Adams