

## Ball park planned in Green Level

Cary bought 32 more acres of park land this month in the Green Level Community of Western Wake County, but it will be at least two years before area residents will be playing ball there.

The 32 acres are next to a 95-acre tract that was purchased in January of 1996. The town paid \$19,000 per acre for the recent 32-acre purchase, which was closed Jan. 7.

"We wanted to get in front of development," said Mary Barry, Cary Parks and Recreation Director, "before land prices went up too much."

Design of the ball fields will begin next year, and construction will begin in 1999, Ms. Barry said.

Eight athletic fields are planned, along with lighted parking, concession stands and bathrooms.

The site also includes four acres for a fire station. The fire station will provide better security at the park, and will save the town money because it won't have to buy land later for a fire station, Ms. Barry said.

The tract is located on Green Level Church Road near its intersection with Green Hope School Road, west of N.C. 55. It is bordered on the east side by the proposed Wake Outer Loop.

Cary's purchase sparked a response from some residents of the Green Level community, who are considering whether to incorporate as a town to prevent Cary from expanding into their area further.

-By Mary Beth Phillips

## Kirkland named publisher

Ann C. Kirkland has been named publisher of the monthly *Morrisville & Preston Progress* and its sister weekly newspaper, *The Apex Herald*.

Mrs. Kirkland has been secretary-treasurer of Kirkland Newspapers Inc., since its formation in 1992. She also has served as advertising manager for both the *Progress* and *The Herald*.

She is a native of Durham and lives there with her husband, Bill Kirkland, who is publisher of the four other newspapers affiliated with the KNI Newspaper Network.

Mrs. Kirkland is a graduate of Meredith College with a B.A. degree in American Civilization. She received her associate in arts degree from Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville, Va.

A son, Kirk, is the advertising manager of the *Fuquay-Varina Independent* and the *Holly Springs Sun*. A daughter, Elizabeth Stokles, is associate manager of a retail clothing store in Florida.

"We are committed to putting out the best community newspapers," Mrs. Kirkland said. "Our future efforts will be directed toward making the newspapers even better."

Thank You For Reading The Morrisville and Preston Progress!

## The Progress

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## Preston scientist's research drawing attention

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International. Among numerous other honors is the DAAD Fellow (1987) in the Physics Department, University of Dortmund, FRG and Gladden Senior Visiting Fellow (1992) in the Mechanical Engineering Department, the University of Western Australia.

He joined NCSU in 1981 as an associate professor, and became full professor four years later while serving as graduate administrator in the Department of Nuclear Engineering.

Murty came to the United States from India in 1964 as a graduate student at Cornell University where he received his master's in Materials Science and doctorate in Applied Physics.

But for Murty, honors have always been a part of his life. Born in a relatively well-to-do and philanthropic family in Anakapalle, a small town in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, he recalls

always being what he refers to as "a sincere student, always thriving at being the best in his class."

And he was. Murty stood first at every stage from high school to Andhra University (bachelor and masters degrees in science). During his academic studies in India, he received several awards among which are the Metcalfe Medal, Snpathe Medal for outstanding achievement in Andhra University.

"It was mainly due to the environment created at home by my parents and grandparents," he says. "Yet, I was always interested and involved in sports, especially a game in India called badminton where it is played with a ball."

The stress-strain microprobe Dr. Murty is working with these days is a product of Advanced Technology Corp. of Oak Ridge, Tenn. It is used to determine the degree of damage that has occurred without causing harm of the structure.

Current and planned nuclear power plant aging management

practices are design to identify and address this deterioration before it becomes a threat to plant safety. However, many of the practices are elaborate and expensive.

Dr. Murty explained that, while pressure vessels are made of low alloy steels and start with good ductility and toughness, exposure to radiation causes brittleness.

Steel, the material used to make the reactor vessel, becomes more prone to fracture when exposed to radiation. Also, the steel parts are welded together, and the weld zone of the vessel is relatively more sensitive to radiation damage.

"Conventional methods of testing cannot be administered while the facility is in service, and often the laboratory results are of limited usefulness," Dr. Murty explains, pointing out that the tests also require removal of chunks of material from various reactor components.

"This isn't practical," the professor adds, "and can also leave weak points in the structure." The microprobe system he's

using is based on what is called an "automated ball indentation (ABI) technique", which involves lowering a small spherical indention device into the reactor and gathering data with no harm to the vessel. "ABI takes no material from the test site and changes in the material properties of various components can be made in situ (in the original location)," he says.

"That's what excites me about this - the possibility of using the technology so we can probe in situ without taking a part from the reactor." He estimates that the ABI technique could be practically applied within two to three years.

Phil MacDonald, senior research scientist at INEL feels it's an extremely promising technology for the nondestructive examinations of aged and embrittled components.

"It's likely to become used in commercial industry in the near future if Dr. Murty's program is successful," he said.

Not bad for a former badminton player.

## Emu farmer takes bird products to market

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the large tracts of land. Where a farmer would need 50 acres for cattle, he can now raise the same number of emus on five acres," he explains.

"For birds so large, they are gentle, far more prolific, and far more efficient to raise, than cattle. They thrive on a simple, inexpensive diet, grazing on grass and feeding on processed grain. Mature, proven emu breeder hens can produce as many as 20 chicks a year and be productive for 20 years. The emu is being called a new frontier in ranching."

The emu booth located in Building 3 at the Farmer's Market is a treasurehouse of commercially attractive products. "Virtually every part of an emu's body is used for something," says Davis. "The feathers are tough and can be used for clothing. Skin on the legs is tough, much like the skin of an alligator and is used on shoes and handbags. Toenails and beaks are made into jewelry, as are the shells of the eggs it produces after they are drained, carved, and painted." Among the items displayed are several eggs carved and made into music boxes.

Davis says each emu can produce an average of 5 to 6 liters of deep-penetrating natural oil. This complex, primitive oil, properly rendered, is non-toxic, anti-bacterial, anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory. It is said to be an excellent moisturizer and emollient,

soothing and softening the skin. In bum creams, Davis points out, it helps to calm the tissue beneath the burned skin and restore elasticity. Additional oil applications include hair-care products, sun screens, and perfumes.

For example, Davis points out, the oils can eliminate stretch marks on the skin, relieve eczema and poison ivy, heal canker and cold sores, and prevent sun blisters.

"Research indicates skin grafts faster and that the oils reduce age spots and diminish the appearance of fine lines." Today the oil can be found in the family medicine cabinets to the professional sports

training rooms. "Eighty percent of the National Football League teams use emu cream for muscle pulls," he adds.

"Emu leather is also perfect for designer apparel, handbags, boots, and other accessories. It is an exceptionally durable, beautifully detailed, very supple, breathable leather. One hundred percent of the emu body hide has an attractive fully-quilted pattern. The surface visually shimmers due to the raised imprints left from the feather follicle structure. Emu leather also has the ability to accept and enhance any color dye."

Davis says the skin from the legs

has a dramatic reptilian texture, which fashion designers find a suitable substitute for certain hides from endangered species, while its feathers, eggs and toenails are being used as creative jewelry accents for fashion items and craft goods.

"You know, the emu roamed the outback of Australia some 80 million years ago and the Aborigines looked upon it as the core of their existence, much like Americans did the bison," Davis says.

"Today this bird of the past is playing a large role in the future of American agriculture. That's what we're trying to show at the State Farmer's Market."

## Registration starting in Feb. for spring sports

Want to play baseball or softball this Spring? How about flag football?

Morrisville Parks and Recreation Department will be taking registrations for these sports from Feb. 10 through 28 at the Community Center on Morrisville Parkway.

The children's baseball leagues are broken down as follows: T-ball for the 5- and 6-year-olds; Pee Wee for the 7- and 8-year-olds; rookie for the 9- and 10-year-olds, and Little League for the 11- and 12-year-olds.

Practices will begin Saturday March 15. Play will start the week of April 14.

The adult men's open, co-rec and women's open softball leagues will be forming at the same time. These teams will have corporate sponsors, and will be \$350 per team. Non-residents can sign up for a \$20 fee.

Play will begin the week of April 7.

A corporate-sponsored basketball league will also be forming, with play to begin the week of March 24. The games will be played at Morrisville Community Center's new regulation size outdoor basketball court.

The adult flag football tournament will be held Saturday, March 22 and Sunday, March 23. Sign-up dates will also be Feb. 10 through 28.

Volunteer coaches are needed for all town-sponsored leagues.

For more information or to volunteer, call Assistant Recreation Director Jimmy Huggins at the Morrisville Community Center at 469-9760.

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