

The Progress

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Morrisville may get world class arts center

By Mary Beth Phillips
Staff writer

A site in Morrisville is in the running for the prestigious Performing Arts Institute of North Carolina, and members of the town board of commissioners couldn't be more excited about the idea.

The Performing Arts Institute, the dream of the late Terry Sanford, would be home to theaters, classrooms and a dormitory for artists-in-

residence.

Actor Tony Randall has expressed an interest in basing his repertory company at the new center, which has been described as a "world class" center similar to the Lincoln and Kennedy centers. The American Dance Festival, which has outgrown its space at Duke University, would also be based at the new center.

Judge Robinson O. Everett told the Morrisville board on September 14 that the list of sites has been nar-

I like the idea that it's in the Shiloh community, which I think is a very remarkable community, for tradition, for history.'

—Judge Robinson O. Everett,
property owner

rowed to five, and his land in the Shiloh community next to Imperial Center and split by the new I-540, is

still in the running. There are two other sites in Durham, one in Hillsborough and one in the

Research Triangle Park.

Everett offered the land for sale or lease to the steering committee made up of 30 prominent business, political and university leaders. It is part of his mother's estate and has been held in trust for the law schools at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

There are about 10 acres on the north side of the interstate, and about 23 acres on the other side.

Leaders for the institute have said they would need at least 10 acres for the center.

Morrisville Mayor Gordon Cromwell said Everett's site is "probably as good a location as any in the Triangle. It's the best location because of I-540 and the transit system when that comes through."

Everett concurred. "It is in the center of the Triangle... with accessibility to the airport, accessibility to

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Be like Mike



PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE

Michael Jordan chips on to the green at the Highlands' 18th hole at Prestonwood Country Club during the Jimmy V Classic.

Michael Jordan, Mia Hamm, Scott Wolf boost Jimmy V to record crowds

By Mary Beth Phillips
Staff writer

Jordan Flake, an eighth grader from Raleigh, hoped that his father's visit to Michael Jordan's restaurant in Chicago would help him get the superstar's autograph.

Clutching a Michael Jordan shopping bag, which also contained a menu from the Chicago eatery, he waited with his friend, Ali Gholizadeh (who had brought along an ordinary basketball) to catch the pro basketball player's attention during the Jimmy V Celebrity Golf Classic on August 30.

But the young fan will have to find another way to grab the star's attention as autographs by Jordan were few and far between with several thousand fans crowded around him on all 18 holes and with a bevy of security guards ensuring that those fans didn't get too close.

But Michael Jordan was not the only attraction that caused a record crowd to plunk down their \$5 and attend the golf classic.

Mike Medina of west Raleigh and Keith Brooks of Cary were among quite a contingent who followed Mia Hamm, the professional soccer player who, like Jordan, made her name at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"I didn't think much of soccer as a sport



PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE

Party of Five's Scott Wolf greets a fan on the course. Wolf had throngs of young female fans following him all afternoon.

until I saw Carolina women's soccer," Medina said. "They're great. They play the way it's meant to be played, aggressively."

Hamm gracefully signed autographs for her fans, and she also played a mean game of golf.

"I could take some lessons from her!" said Larry Phillips of Raleigh after a particularly good shot.

His daughter, Meghan, a sixth grader and a soccer player herself, said she already had Hamm's autograph. She had sent her a letter and asked her for a picture with her auto-

graph, and it came in the mail.

Kerry and Erin Soukup had brought a poster of Mia, bought at the US National team game in Washington, DC, and Hamm cordially signed it.

Then there was the young, teenage contingent who swooned over Scott Wolf, of the television show *Party of Five*.

"He was who we came to see," said Tawny Brown and Alicia Wilson, who waited in a long line to pose with the TV celebrity for photographs.

Patrick Duffy, who now stars on *Step by Step*, was also popular with the teens, while their parents laughed and recalled the *Dallas* days.

"I grew up with *Dallas*," said Vicki Kauffman, a Preston resident who was watching the stars go by her back yard. "He's such a clean-cut personality."

Prestonwood Country Club members are given free tickets to the golf classic, to make up for the fact that they can't play on the course during the weekend. But some did not take advantage of the tickets. Sherry Stine, Kauffman's neighbor, said her husband was playing golf at North Ridge Country Club on Sunday.

Many lawn chairs were set up in back yards. Billy Deering, at the 14th green of Fairways course, was offering Bloody Marys to all of

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Board approves 180-foot tower

By Mary Beth Phillips
Staff writer

Saying they had no other choice, the Morrisville Board of Commissioners reluctantly approved a communications tower for BellSouth Mobility at the meeting Sept. 14—and listened to a presentation by AT&T Wireless asking for another tower.

The BellSouth request had been tabled at the previous meeting, August 24, after Commissioners C.T. Moore and Leavy Barbee originally led a vote to deny the request. Cautioned by Town Attorney Frank Gray, they withdrew their motion and tabled the request.

Gray Stiers, representing BellSouth had brought slick, professional notebooks in support of his request in July. The 160-foot high tower will be located on the J.F. Wilkerson property, 1,100 feet to the east of NC 54 near the future extension of McCrimmon Parkway. BellSouth will lease a 50-foot by 50-foot section of the 9.5-acre Wilkerson property on which to locate the tower.

The board requested that BellSouth move the tower back 50 feet away from the proposed McCrimmon Parkway extension. The vote to grant the special use permit for the tower was unani-

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Interactive Magic hits mark with new game

Morrisville company completes IPO of 2.6 million shares this summer

By Ron Page
Staff writer

Ever dream of being a Navy pilot at the controls of a fighter plane poised to take off from the aircraft carrier deck of a ship like, let's say, the USS Abraham Lincoln?

Picture the ship plowing through the waves in enemy waters as you sit in the cockpit with the ability to click on every switch inside the aircraft. That's when the excitement begins, when dreams can come true.

The much-anticipated iF/A-18E Carrier Strike Fighter CD-ROM game developed by Morrisville-based Interactive Magic, the award-winning developer and publisher of Internet, online and CD-ROM games, has arrived at retail stores. What it offers is a realistic simulation of the US Navy's new F/A-18E Super Hornet, allowing players to fly exciting missions in both the Persian Gulf and Aegean (Greece and Turkey).

It can be scary.

You suddenly become a wartime pilot, sitting snug at the realistic controls, and with a click you're suddenly hurling skyward with throttle wide open. The ability to "cat shot" (catapult shot while taking-off from the ship) is yours. So is the challenge of landing your jet back on the carrier while it is steaming along in the ocean. In between it's sheer excitement. It will get you to the edge of your seat, increase breathing, even make you inadvertently duck. This is no kid's game.

Designed by Interactive Magic's Jim Harler, a retired Marine Corps A-6 "Intruder" navigator, Carrier Strike Fighter contains a wide variety of missions, each designed to

'With the release of iF-22 Persian Gulf v5, Seven Kingdoms Plus, and other new titles, 1998 will be another great year for our company.'

—"Wild Bill" Stealey,
Interactive Magic Chairman

accurately simulate battle situations. "Missions vary from escorting F-15 fighters deep into enemy territory to protecting allied naval forces stationed off the coastline," he said, noting that the company's 25th CD-ROM title, iF-22 Persian Gulf version 5.0, a major upgrade of the award-winning iF-22, had been released earlier this year.

"When we started Interactive Magic in 1994, we were determined to quickly become one of the leading simulation and strategy game companies in the world," said Interactive Magic Chairman "Wild Bill" Stealey.

"With Apache, Hind, WarBirds, iF-22, Capitalism, Seven Kingdoms, and other award winning titles, we have certainly made our mark. With the release of iF-22 Persian Gulf v5, Seven Kingdoms Plus, and other new titles, 1998 will be another great year for our company."

Earlier this year the company became the Triangle's first public computer gamemaker.

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