

Chapel Hill Library Ranks 1st in State

By TRICIA BARRIOS
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Public Library was recently deemed the best library in the state according to a national library ranking index.

The Hennon's American Public Libraries Rating Index, which measures public library performance on a nationwide basis, recently gave the library, located at 100 Library Drive, a score of 808 out of a possible 1,000.

Kathy Thompson, director of the library, said the high ranking reflected the demanding community it served.

"The community demands excellent library service," she said. "They fund it at a level to get the service they want." The rating was based on several fac-

tors including circulation, staffing, materials, reference service and funding levels. Thompson said the library had been a leader among state libraries in past year's rankings.

"For years, Chapel Hill has ranked as the leading lender in the state," she said. "Per capita we beat everyone out."

In 1999, the library circulated 15 books per person in Chapel Hill, with the nearest competition being Southern Pines, which circulated 10 books per person.

Thompson said the number of books checked out per full-time library employee in Chapel Hill was also the highest in the state.

"The number of books per (full-time employee) is 22,900 per staff member," she said. "The next closest is Bladen County at 21,805. The average is 15,000.

The bottom line is that the staff is working very hard."

Thompson said the rankings were important in the Library Needs Assessment Task Force report that would be presented to the Chapel Hill Town Council. The report examines library resource needs for staffing, facilities and technology.

"The report said that whether the library maintains its services or expands, it will require more resources," she said.

Thompson said a customized report from the library index would definitely be used in the needs assessment report.

"We're delighted with the funding we have," she said. "Adding more resources will take care more."

Meghan Otto, of 1533 Pathway Drive in Carrboro, said she agreed with the

library's high rank. "I think they do a very good job helping people," she said.

Cynthia Bashford, of 210 Columbia Place West, said the library's high ranking was an impressive accomplishment. She credited much of the high ranking to the library's conscientious staff.

"I come once every two weeks," she said. "It's spacious, and the workers are very helpful."

Town Council member Edith Wiggins said good library services were a consistent asset in Chapel Hill for many reasons. "In order for us to have the best library, we have to have the best staff and the best facility," she said. "We're very proud."

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Eastern Town Thanks Local Police for Help

After Hurricane Floyd ripped apart the town of Grifton, Chapel Hill police officers lended their hands to help.

By WALTER HERZ
Staff Writer

Officials from a small, flood-ravaged eastern N.C. town presented an award to the Chapel Hill Police Department this week for its help following the wrath of Hurricane Floyd.

Tim Bright, mayor of Grifton, stopped by Chapel Hill Town Hall to hand the Grifton Public Service Award to Police Chief Ralph Pendergraph during a brief and informal ceremony Wednesday.

Grifton Police Chief Linwood Outlaw said the police department was one of several agencies that responded to his department's plea for help last October.

"Basically, we made a request to law enforcement agencies across the state to help us because of our situation after (Hurricane) Floyd," he said. "So many homes were flooded that we were looking for assistance in maintaining their security until we could allow the residents to return."

Outlaw explained that his department desperately needed outside help in the weeks after Hurricane Floyd.

"We were a small department, with only six full-time officers working," he said.

"We just didn't have the personnel to handle all the checkstations we had set up and do everything else we had to do."

Chapel Hill Town Manager Cal Horton said Chapel Hill police answered Grifton's call by sending six officers to help out the police force.

"Their officers were just not able to get any rest," he said. "We basically provided some relief for them, so they could get some sleep."

Officer Lee Sparrow was one of the officers who traveled to Grifton.

"We stayed there for four days and three nights, providing security and helping answer some calls," he said. "It was pretty peaceful. The people were drained and exhausted."

Grifton Town Manager Paul Spruill explained that the award presented to the police department was reserved for distinguished civil service.

"The Grifton Public Service Award is given to Town Council members who have served more than two terms or any other citizen or official who makes a significant contribution to the community," he said. "We just wanted to express our public appreciation for their assistance."

Chapel Hill police Maj. Gregg Jarvies said this kind of mutual aid between towns was not unusual.

"We do it all the time, though not particularly in situations this tragic," he said.

"Each Halloween we ask for help from other departments. We also asked for help during the snowstorm earlier this year."

Spruill said that despite the combined efforts of several cities and agencies, Grifton had a long way to go before things were completely back to normal.

"We're slowly getting there," he said. "All of our people are not back in their homes yet. Twenty to 30 percent of our population of 2,560 has been displaced. Thirty percent of our residential structures were flooded. We lost our one grocery store. But we're getting there."

Sparrow said Grifton residents responded well to the help provided by Chapel Hill and the other towns involved in the relief effort.

"They were very appreciative," he said. "We talked to them, let them vent and share their experiences with us. It was very rewarding. I'd do it again in a heartbeat. I'd be glad to help out."

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McCain Bows Out, Stops Short of Endorsement

Sen. John McCain offered Gov. George W. Bush his "best wishes" but did not give him a presidential nod.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Falling as swiftly as they soared, John McCain and Bill Bradley abandoned their presidential races Thursday and chided their triumphant rivals on the way out. "Millions of Americans have rallied to our banner," McCain said as both candidates sought to leverage the support they had earned.

The Arizona senator pledged to press his case for political reform and warned that Republicans will "slip into the mists of history" without it. McCain, who pulled swarms of Democrats and independents into GOP contests, offered nominee-in-waiting George W. Bush his "best wishes" - but not his endorsement. An hour before McCain bowed out,

Bradley told reporters he would support Vice President Al Gore, but he also accused his fellow Democrat of "distortions" in their primary fight. "I hope that he will run a better campaign in the general election," said the former New Jersey senator, who was unable to win any primary or caucus.

It was a victorious day for the political establishments that backed Bush and Gore, both of whom vanquished their rivals after stiff challenges. "When you do battle with entrenched power ... it's very difficult," Bradley said.

Within minutes of McCain's announcement, Bush's team was reaching out to McCain intermediaries in an effort to mend fences. The rivals themselves spoke briefly by telephone, but settled nothing.

"John needs some time to think, and I need some time," Bush said.

Said to be still seething at the Texas governor, McCain is in no hurry to make peace. He planned to take a week's vacation before determining what leverage he had with Bush and

"There's no question that there's some bitterness there and some anger."

SEN. CHARLES HAGEL
R-Nebraska

what he might want to achieve with it, a McCain adviser said.

McCain knows he is not bargaining from a strong position, but the adviser said his boss wanted to somehow keep his signature issue - campaign finance reform - on the political agenda.

With that goal in mind, McCain quit the race but didn't shut down his campaign - a technicality that keeps his options open to make things uncomfortable for Bush, who needs McCain's endorsement to unify the party.

McCain's options, according to the adviser, include: barnstorming the country to promote campaign finance

reform, leading a platform fight at the Republican National Convention or even mounting a third-party presidential bid. Aides said that last option was remote.

McCain himself has ruled out bolting the GOP and said Thursday, "I love my home." He did, however, leave himself a loophole by saying in his departure speech that the party deserved "the allegiance of none" if it didn't embrace campaign finance reform.

One of McCain's top supporters said he urged the senator to let go of the enmity he feels toward Bush. "There's no question that there's some bitterness there and some anger," said Sen. Charles Hagel, R-Neb.

McCain was the 10th Republican to leave the race. Bradley has been Gore's only challenger.

McCain had the most potent insurgency, staggering Bush in New Hampshire and Michigan. In a testament to his drawing power, one of every four GOP primary participants had never before voted in a Republican contest.

didn't live at the address he listed on his voter registration form, but in a tent behind a car wash. One county board member called his candidacy "a sham."

State board members unanimously voted to take Campbell off the ballot for state auditor.

The 50-year-old Campbell had 10 days to appeal the Guilford County Elections Board decision in court, but state board Chairman Larry Leake said no appeal had been filed.

Campbell told the county board he was staying at a shelter during a snowstorm in January when three men approached him about running for auditor. Campbell was one of the challengers to incumbent Auditor Ralph Campbell in the May 2 primary.

Memphis Honors Dead Firefighters, Policeman

MEMPHIS, Tenn. - The city was in mourning Thursday - flags were at half-staff, bouquets of flowers were placed on fire hall steps, and firefighters and law officers wore black bands across their badges.

All were in memory of two firefighters and a sheriff's deputy who were slain Wednesday - allegedly by one of their comrades, firefighter Fred Williams - in a rampage that has angered and saddened this Mississippi River city.

"It's just so shocking," said Pam McFarlin, who took food to firefighters and brought a bouquet of flowers to the home where the men were shot. "We all just feel so bad."

Williams, 41, ambushed the firefighters as they arrived to fight a blaze at his home, authorities said. Williams' wife, Stacey, was found shot to death in the garage.

Investigators said they were still looking for a motive. They were trying to determine whether Williams set the fire to lure firefighters to the home or to cover up his wife's death. It was also unclear whether Williams made the 911 call to report the fire, Police Director Walter Crews said.

Williams, a six-year veteran of the Fire Department, was shot in the groin by a police officer when he refused to put down his weapon, authorities said. Williams was under police guard at a

hospital in critical condition. Authorities plan to charge him Friday but did not give specifics.

Witnesses said that when firefighters arrived at the burning home, Williams ran out of the garage firing a shotgun and screaming, "Get away! Get away!"

Killed were firefighter Lt. Javier Lerma, 41, the son of a Memphis firefighter who died battling a blaze in 1977, and Pvt. William Blakemore, 48, a firefighter who was working for a sick colleague, possibly Williams, Crews said.

Sheriff's Deputy Rupert Peete, 45, was shot in his patrol car.

Despite Possible Veto, House Approves Cuts

WASHINGTON - To soften the impact on employers of a \$1 increase in the minimum wage, Republicans pushed a \$122 billion tax cut through the House on Thursday despite a vow by President Clinton to veto it and grumbling from conservatives about the whole package.

Votes on alternative minimum wage proposals were planned later in the evening. GOP leaders made the tax measure part of the wage package to deny Democrats a stand-alone wage bill, which has strong support from Northeastern Republican moderates who want to defuse it as a campaign issue in the November elections.

"The question is whether we take a thoughtful approach and a balanced approach, or whether we have an ill-

conceived bill foisted upon us," said Rep. Rick Lazio, R-N.Y., a bill sponsor.

The House voted 257-169 to pass the tax bill, two-thirds of which consists of cuts in estate taxes. It will be combined with legislation that would increase the \$5.15-an-hour minimum wage by \$1 over two years or a version that would increase the wage by \$1 over three years.

Bosnian Leaders to Let Refugees Return Home

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina - Secretary of State Madeleine Albright won a pledge from senior Croatian and Bosnian Serb leaders Thursday to allow thousands of refugees to return to their homes.

The agreement, if implemented as promised, marks a major breakthrough in fulfilling the terms of the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords, which ended 3 1/2 years of ethnic warfare in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Bosnian Serb Prime Minister Milorad Dodik and Croatian Foreign Minister Tonino Picula told Albright they would submit legislation to their parliaments within three months to enable refugees to return to areas under the control of rival ethnic groups.

As a sign of good will, both sides agreed to let 4,000 Bosnian Croat and Croatian Serb refugees return home before the three-month deadline. The refugees fled their homes during ethnic wars in the Balkans.

The legislation would affect about 30,000 Serbs who fled Croatia and now live in the Serb part of Bosnia and about 70,000 Croats who escaped from Bosnia and took refuge in Croatia, according to U.N. figures.

Mozambique Victims Receive U.S. Supplies

BEIRA, Mozambique - After several days of waiting in neighboring South Africa for the go-ahead, U.S. helicopters touched down Thursday and began speedily delivering thousands of pounds of rice to hungry flood victims. But heavy rains kept aid from most of the country.

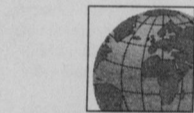
With aid agencies unable to reach scores of muddy, squalid makeshift camps in southern Mozambique, food could run out soon, said Lindsey Davies, spokeswoman for the World Food Program.

More than a quarter-million people were jammed into camps there.

Thursday's daylong downpour "just made a bad situation worse," said Davies. Forecasters said the rains were expected to continue through Sunday.

The shipment by the U.S. Air Force of 15,000 pounds of rice and other aid went smoothly, and forces were able to deliver sacks to villages along the hard-hit Save River valley in central Mozambique, where the sun was shining. U.S. aid had intended to focus on central Mozambique.

-Associated Press



Top Stories From the State, Nation and World IN THE NEWS

Homeless Candidate Violates Election Laws

RALEIGH - A homeless man running in the Democratic primary for state auditor was removed from the state ballot Thursday because he wasn't a legally registered voter.

The state Board of Elections action came after the Guilford County Elections Board ruled last month that Kenneth R. Campbell of High Point

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THE Daily Crossword

By Phillip J. Anderson

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VIOLATIONS

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Carolina University, said administrators would extend the benefit of the doubt to students with unused paraphernalia.

But she said even in those cases, the students would have to attend a drug counseling class.

Appalachian State University has a policy similar to that of ECU.

"Basically, the police reaction to this - drug paraphernalia - usually would be if they can inspect and find residue," said Lee McCaskey, director of judicial affairs at ASU.

He said administrators recommended that students not display items that could be construed as drug-related even if no evidence of drug use was found. Randy McWhorter, assistant dean for

judicial programs at UNC-Charlotte, said, "contraband and paraphernalia, according to our drug policy, is illegal."

At all UNC-system schools, students found guilty of a first-time simple drug possession violation are given the same punishment, a minimum of one semester's probation, participation in a drug education program, drug testing at the administration's discretion and written parental notification if the student is younger than 21 years old.

In most cases, noncompliance results in suspension. The sanctions get progressively more severe for repeat offenders or for possession with intent to sell, deliver or distribute.

At ECU, the mandatory drug education and counseling program is \$100 out-of-pocket for students because the school outsources the counseling, Antieau said.

But a bigger concern for administrators are the discrepancies in drug policy enforcement.

UNC-CH requires proof of violation beyond a reasonable doubt, the burden of proof required in most criminal court cases. "Most other schools (of higher education) operate with a lower burden of proof," Appiaris said. That includes all the other UNC-system schools.

"We work on a preponderance of the evidence - did it most likely occur?" McCaskey said of ASU.

Antieau said she thought it was more appropriate to use a lower burden of proof. "A violation of the university policy on drugs is an administrative violation, not a criminal case."

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UNC HOLLYWOOD

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try. "It's a real one-on-one experience," Weerts said. "It teaches students to come out here and succeed."

Winston interned for NBC, where he worked in the sourcing department and helped negotiate deals for the behind-the-scenes components of all the network's shows.

"We negotiated payments for everything from camera equipment to catering to laundry," Winston said. "I basi-

cally processed invoices, did a lot of spreadsheets and negotiated a couple of deals myself.

"It educated me about all different types of jobs out there and how the system works. I made some contacts out there."

The program receives grants from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and contributions from several high-profile members of the industry, including radio personality Rick Dees, Weerts said.

Edwards emphasized how rigorous and stressful the program could be. Students intern from 9 a.m. to about 6

p.m. and then attend lectures from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

But Edwards also said that the program was beneficial and that it gave students huge boosts in starting their careers along with the possibility of receiving academic credit.

"It helps students understand how the business works, not how it is supposed to work," Edwards said.

"I've never had anyone say that their eyes weren't completely opened after the experience."

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