

The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 115, ISSUE 52

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2007

www.dailytarheel.com

One-stop voting to hit N.C.

No preregistration needed in new state voting system

BY REBECCA PUTTERMAN
STAFF WRITER

John Locke warned that apathy is the poison that can make a democracy go sour.

Democratic representatives in the N.C. House recognized this reality all too well when they drafted the legislation to implement one-stop voting, where eligible voters can register and vote all at once on election day, a move they hope will encourage voter turnout.

The bill was ratified July 12 and is likely to become law sometime this week as expectations are high for Gov. Mike Easley to sign the bill.

"The idea is that it would provide more opportunities to get people involved in voting when it's closer to the election," said Rep. Deborah Ross, D-Wake.

As the law stands now, registration is required 25 days in advance of an election.

Yet, Ross explains how young people, the demographic least involved in elections, get involved and motivated only days before an election when the media coverage of the race is most exciting and hyped up.

Ross said 40 percent of unregistered voters in North Carolina are between 18 and 25.

"States where there is a shorter period of time between registration and voting have a much higher turnout and particularly a much higher youth turnout," said Ross.

But the N.C. GOP is not so sure.

Republicans in the House have stood vehemently against the legislation, arguing that the bill's absence of a requirement for photo identification at registration sites opens the system up to terrorism, identity theft, illegal aliens and fraudulence in general.

"Our purpose in opposing this bill is to protect democracy. We cannot protect democracy if we have people voting who should not be voting," said Brent Woodcox, press secretary for the N.C. GOP.

Rep. Verla Insko, D-Orange, finds the Republican argument to be nothing more than a red herring.

While Woodcox argued that it's not very difficult to provide photo identification, such as a driver's license, Insko presented familiar cases in which people lack any form of photo ID.

"It's been shown that the photo ID would discriminate against poor people and minorities. If they don't drive, they would have less ability to get a photo ID than people with more means," said Insko.

"It would decrease the participation among the poor; those are the people we really need to have participate," she added.

SEE ONE STOP, PAGE 6

How to vote in One Stop

- ▶ Go to a designated registration/polling location.
- ▶ Photo ID is not necessary. Only a document confirming your name and address is required.
- ▶ Visit www.sboe.state.nc.us for registration locations.



Fire Chief Dan Jones, Fire Chief Travis Crabtree, and Deputy Fire Chief Trey Mayo honor the United States flag during the graduation ceremony of the Chapel Hill Fire Academy on Saturday afternoon. Graduates of the joint ceremony between Chapel Hill and Carrboro will work in one of the two towns.

DTH/ALIA DICKINSON

PROTECT AND SERVE

Town graduates new fire, police classes

BY DAVIS WILLINGHAM
STAFF WRITER

Thirty-four proud men and women had cause to celebrate on Friday the 13th as the Chapel Hill Fire and Police training academies graduated their most recent classes.

As emergency personnel are apt to do, the graduates brushed aside any fears about the day's superstition and maintained focus on their duties to the community.

"I'm not superstitious at all. To me, it was like any other day, but a great one," said Jaime Palacios, a new member of the Chapel Hill Fire Department. He added that he was "eager to go out and start working."

Twelve men comprised the police

graduation class, while 22 men and women graduated from the fire academy.

Both ceremonies were family affairs, with auditoriums filled with adoring parents and spouses, as well as babbling babies whom, caught up in the excitement of the day, were some of the graduates' most vocal supporters.

Love and camaraderie were also apparent among the graduates and their training leaders. Just like siblings, many of the teachers took playful verbal jabs at their students, but not without showing appreciation for the cadets' dedication and perseverance.

"You all probably thought you knew how to drive when you got here. Well,

you were wrong," Chapel Hill Interim Chief of Police Brian Curran said regarding the trainees' difficulties with demanding driving coursework.

"But you're all wonderful people, and we are proud of you."

Discussed frequently throughout the night was the diversity of the graduating classes. In addition to three trained chefs, a jeweler, and other eclectic previous work experience, the Chapel Hill Fire academy graduated Dr. Preston "Chip" Rich, Chief of Trauma and Medical Care of the University's School of Medicine.

Dr. Rich said a trip to Waveland, Mississippi during the cleanup of Hurricane Katrina and the interaction he had with "fantastic first responders and EMS personnel" sparked his desire to become a firefighter.

"It had been a childhood dream of

mine and I never had time to do it. But, that experience moved me and changed me in a lot of ways, and I decided to go through the academy and become a firefighter."

Though it was difficult to balance his job at the University as well as the 18 weeks of fire training, he said that "failure was not an option", and believes that he could not have done it without the support of his family and his colleagues.

"My family was initially worried about me, but I think over time they realized that even though it's inherently an unsafe job, we make it as safe as we possibly can," Rich said.

He will be contracted by the town of Chapel Hill and anticipates working a couple of shifts each month,

SEE GRADUATION, PAGE 6

Pollution reduction for reservoir

Jordan Lake

▶ **Nutrient Management Rule:** Commercial fertilizer application must be done by trained professionals or in accordance with an approved plan.

5-year cost: \$63,000 for land management community

▶ **Agriculture Rule:** The agricultural community must collectively reduce levels of nitrogen and phosphorous in its runoff.

5-year cost: \$2.57 million for agricultural community

▶ **New Development Rule:** Developers must maintain the land's ability to process storm water runoff, and incorporate runoff filtration systems that remove 85% of the contaminants.

5-year cost: \$1.11 million for developers

▶ **Existing Development Rule:** Local governments must per-

form feasibility studies, develop educational programs, and identify nutrient reduction measures. Municipalities and counties may work together and share costs.

5-year cost: \$16.4 million for local governments

▶ **Wastewater Discharge Rule:** Wastewater treatment plants must follow stricter regulations of nutrient concentration in discharge, which vary with the type of plant.

5-year cost: \$57.31 million for local governments and private industry

▶ **Nutrient Strategy for State and Federal Entities:** Universities and the Department of Transportation must reduce erosive flows and nutrient concentrations in runoff.

5-year cost: \$58.5 million for the state, the Department of Transportation, and Universities

Critics say plan too expensive

BY DEVIN ROONEY
STAFF WRITER

A plan to improve water quality in the impaired Jordan Reservoir is now under public scrutiny.

The reservoir is a popular recreation spot and provides drinking water for 460,000 people in North Carolina, but harmful levels of nutrients are threatening the viability of the lake.

Many of the municipalities in the watershed support improving the water quality but are concerned about the costs of the plan presented by the N.C. Division of Water Quality. The plan places most of the financial responsibility on local governments.

The rules address runoff from new and existing developments, landscaping and agricultural operations, state and federal enti-

ties, as well as wastewater treatment discharge.

Many community members who attended a public hearing on the plan at the Carrboro Century Center July 12 said the benefits of the reservoir outweigh the costs of improving water quality.

"Water is one of the necessities of life," said Rita Spina, vice president of the Chatham Citizens for Effective Community.

"We already know that in the not-too-distant future, it will become a scarcity that people will fight over."

The plan's aim is to reduce the levels of nutrients that cause the overgrowth of algae in the lake.

Certain species of algae produce toxins which irritate human skin and mucous membranes. Algae also can be unsightly.

"Think green slime," said Elaine Kioso, executive director of the Haw River Assembly.

SEE JORDAN LAKE, PAGE 6

Aretha cancels, Al Green now booked

BY ALEXANDRIA SHEALY
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The Carolina Performing Arts Series announced Monday that Aretha Franklin, slated to head-

line in the season-opening concert Sept. 13 in Memorial Hall, has cancelled her performance.

Replacing The Queen of Soul will be highly regarded gospel, soul, rhythm and blues singer, Al Green.

A Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award winner who holds nine additional Grammys, Green is best known for 70s classics "Let's Stay Together"

and "I'm Still In Love With You," among others.

The series has also committed Jazz vocalist Lizz Wright to open for Green.

"We wanted to find an artist that would equal the stature of Aretha, and, frankly, there aren't many of those people," said Emil Kang UNC's executive director for the arts.

"We only had a few options, and we didn't want to go off in a different direction."

Kang said it took a less than a week to book Green and Wright once he was alerted that Franklin had cancelled.

In lieu of the change, Carolina Performing Arts has cancelled its season-opening party for charity that was to take place on the day of Franklin's performance. Refunds

SEE MEMORIAL HALL, PAGE 6

online | dailytarheel.com

Promotion Opportunities UNC's Employee Forum discussed internship programs at their monthly meeting.

No Queen of Soul See why Al Green's replacement of Aretha Franklin at Memorial Hall is just as good for UNC.

arts | page 8

Spoon full of sugar Indie sensation Spoon's latest album is a sparkling example of their sound. But is it their best album yet? Find out in this week's review.



dive | page 9

Harry Potter tribute Read our comprehensive coverage previewing the release of the final installment of J.K. Rowling's acclaimed Harry Potter series.

state | page 7

Price of war Rep. David Price, D-N.C., introduced a bill that would redeploy U.S. combat troops out of Iraq 120 days after being signed into law.

dive blog

For more arts reviews, visit dive.dailytarheel.com

index

calendar	2
games	6
sports	11
opinion	12