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Black Mountain News

WEEK OF MARCH 1 - 7, 2018

SERVING THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY SINCE 1945

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Community thanks Monte Vista owners for eight years

Barney Fitzpatrick and Sue Conlon are selling the historic hotel to group headed by Mike Boles

Fred McCormick
Black Mountain News | USA TODAY NETWORK

Visiting Black Mountain in 2010, Sue Conlon and Barney Fitzpatrick drove by the historic Monte Vista Hotel and were so taken by the brick structure that they bought it later that year.

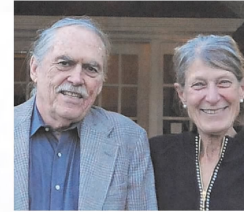
On Feb. 21, more than 100 people, including local leaders, business owners and patrons of the Monte Vista, gathered inside the 81-year-old brick building overlooking State Street to bid farewell to Conlon and Fitzpatrick and thank them for their contributions to the community. Conlon and Fitzpatrick

are selling the hotel, a place they fell in love with nearly eight years ago.

"Barney and I had been looking all over the country for an historic hotel to renovate," Conlon said, recalling that trip from their home in Melbourne, Florida at the time. The couple was leaving Blowing Rock, where they just finished looking at The Green Park Inn.

Fitzpatrick and Conlon decided the

See **HOTEL**, Page 8A



Barney Fitzpatrick and Sue Conlon received a warm send-off from the community at the Monte Vista on Feb. 21. The couple sold the hotel after owning and operating it for eight years. FRED MCCORMICK

REMEMBERING BILLY GRAHAM



A large crowd of people gathered along State Street in downtown Black Mountain to say goodbye to the Rev. Billy Graham, who passed away in his Montreat home on Feb. 21. Graham's funeral procession on Feb. 24 exited I-40 in Swannanoa and traveled east through Black Mountain before returning to the interstate. FRED MCCORMICK

Area mourns the loss of Billy Graham

Montreat and Black Mountain recall his influence

Fred McCormick and Paul Clark
Black Mountain News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Billy Graham may have met with presidents and witnessed to hundreds of millions of people on his crusades. But in Montreat, he was just a guy who loved hand-churned ice cream and homespun tales, residents said.

Between trips spreading the gospel around the world, Graham liked coming home to the peace and warmth of Montreat, with its wooded cove and bark-sided houses. It was here that Graham relaxed, visiting with neighbors and loving his family, residents said.

Graham, regarded by many as the most influential preacher in the history of Christianity – and the Swannanoa Valley's most famous resident – died at

his Montreat home at age 99.

Fran Aceto, who with her husband lives in Montreat, remembers Fourth of July parties that the late Andy Andrews used to give and that Graham attended. Grilled hamburgers and homemade ice cream were on the menu, but what impressed Aceto was how Graham would eat at the table with the younger peo-

See **GRAHAM**, Page 6A

Black herbalists were tonic the Valley needed

Anne Chesky Smith
Special to Black Mountain News

Editor's note: This is the second part of Anne Chesky Smith's story about two African-American midwives treated black and white residents of the Swannanoa Valley. The first part ran in the Feb. 22 Black Mountain News.

Inez Daugherty, a Black Mountain resident and civic leader who passed away in 2007 at age 95, remembered only two midwives who served Black Mountain – her aunt, Annie Daugherty and Mary Hayden.

Born in the High Top Colony community of Black Mountain in 1888, Daugherty delivered many, if not most, of the babies born in Black Mountain. Katherine Daugherty DeBrow told a local filmmaker in 2001. Hayden may have delivered the rest.

"If there were any whites, I don't know about them," Daugherty told an interviewer for an oral history ar-

See **MIDWIVES**, Page 10A

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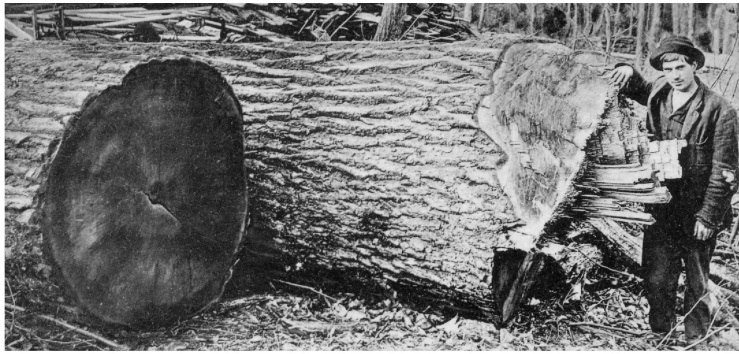
The weight loss results are coming in!

"I have tried several different approaches to losing weight. The thing I like so much about this plan is that it is truly a wellness blueprint. I'm choosing healthy options for my body, but don't feel deprived. The support and encouragement have been phenomenal. Most importantly, I feel good. I don't wake up sore in the mornings, I am sleeping better and have so much more energy. I see this as a positive lifestyle change to continue—**Jackie Garrison**, (Phil's Bar B Que Pit Co-Owner)

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VALLEY REWIND



This huge tree was felled on the grounds of the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly during the heyday of lumbering in the valley, c. 1915. Logging was the primary method of offsetting the purchase price of the assembly grounds. The photographer, Herbert W. Pelton, chose one of the logging crew's shortest members, Edward Sneed, to pose by the tree to emphasize its size.

POSTCARD, SWANNANOVA VALLEY MUSEUM & HISTORY CENTER

Tractor Supply donates food to animal shelter

From Staff Reports
Black Mountain News
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Tractor Supply Co. store in Black Mountain is donating 34 bags of pet food to Rusty's Legacy Dog Rescue in Marion to feed dogs and cats in need of adoption.

In addition to the pet food donation, Black Mountain Tractor Supply hosts pet adoption events throughout the year. Visit TSCEventPartners.com or call the store at 669-0725 to learn more. For information and tips on adopting an animal and raising pets, visit TractorSupply.com/PetCare.

Black Mountain News

Serving the Swannanoa Valley Since 1945

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Board hears updated timeline on Avadim project

Fred McCormick
Black Mountain News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Work on the water and wastewater infrastructure related to the planned expansion of Avadim Technologies, Inc. will begin in the coming months, according to the project timeline submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Erica Anderson, director of economic development for the Land of Sky Regional Council and administrator of the grant associated with the project, shared that timeline with Black Mountain aldermen on Feb. 12.

Avadim, an Asheville-based biotechnology company, announced in September 2016 that it would build a \$24 million headquarters just outside the town limits, west of Blue Ridge Road and south of Interstate 40. The expansion will bring 551 new jobs to the surrounding area, according to the company.

Though the 100,000-square-foot facility will be located outside town limits, Black Mountain will provide 250,000 gallons of water per day Avadim needs to produce its hygienic care skin products.

The town received grants from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (\$827,580) and Golden LEAF (\$775,000), as well from the privately owned Black Mountain Commerce Park (\$52,000), to purchase a water pump capable of moving 750,000 gallons of water per day. The grant money will also cover the site water and wastewater infrastructure.

The EDA grant was awarded to the town on Dec. 1. Beginning stages of the project got underway officially on Jan. 2 in the form of a "project kick-off" phone call with EDA, Anderson said.

The next step is to submit to the EDA the necessary site certification document, which will allow work to take place in the various rights-of-way leading to the site. Once that documentation is approved by the EDA, bids for the project will be accepted.

Alderman Larry Harris said the infrastructure work could begin about April. He said road work being done for the project would take about three months.

"The only thing I would add, for the public to be aware of, is that the (N.C. Department of Transportation) will start work on the access road at about the same time," he said. "That project is already funded through the NCDOT."

Harris asked town manager Matt Settlemyer if the work on the water and sewer infrastructure would take eight to nine months.

"I think so," Settlemyer said. "The goal is, if all goes well, to have it done by the end of the year."

In an unrelated business, the board furthered its support of Children and Friends Enrichment Center's pursuit of a State Employees Credit Union grant that could allow the Black Mountain daycare to build a facility at White Pine Drive. Aldermen voted 4-0 (Carlos Showers was absent) to approve a resolution of support for the organization's request of the funding. All five members of the board previously voted to approve a memorandum of understanding outlining the parameters of a possible agreement between the daycare and town.

In another item, alderman Ryan Stone, the Black Mountain representative on the French Broad Metropolitan Planning Organization Board, announced that funding for a parking study of downtown Black Mountain was approved in January. The MPO Board is made up of government representatives from 21 municipalities in the region.

The state will provide \$28,000 for the study, while the town is required to contribute \$7,000. Through a request for proposal, the town will solicit a contractor to perform the study.

Also at the meeting, aldermen voted unanimously to adopt a "resolution of the town's intent and desire" to accept the vast majority of land left to the Southern Appalachian Conservancy by Mary Hemphill to be used as a park. Hemphill passed away in February 2017 and asked that more than 25 acres of her land, south of I-40 on the town's east side, be used by the town to develop a park.

The board's resolution specified that the town would not accept a 1.7-acre piece of land on a noncontiguous parcel with limited access.

"This resolution acknowledges our intent to develop that property as a town park and not to develop it any other way," Settlemyer said. "We've had discussions about uses for that property as we move forward, and this resolution expresses our interest with the conservancy and the estate as well."

DEAN'S LIST

Wheaton College student Tiffany Luper of Swannanoa was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2017 semester. To earn Dean's List honors at Wheaton, in Wheaton, Illinois, an undergraduate student must carry 12 or more credit hours and achieve a 3.5 grade point average or higher on the 4.0 scale. Katherine Roberts of Black Mountain made the Dean's List for the fall 2017 semester at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have a 3.0 or higher academic average for the semester.

CRIME REPORT

The Black Mountain Police Department and the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department reported these recent incidents and arrests.

Incidents

Disorderly conduct was reported on Feb. 15 on the 100 block of Lake Eden Road.

Possession of a Schedule II controlled substance was reported on Feb. 15 on the 3100 block of U.S. 70.

Motor vehicle theft was reported on Feb. 16 on the 800 block of Lakey Gap Road.

Simple physical assault and criminal damage to property (vandalism) were reported on Feb. 17 on the 100 block of Cragmont Road.

Driving while impaired was reported on Feb. 18 on the 2100 block of U.S. 70.

Larceny of a tag was reported on Feb. 19 on the 2500 block of Riceville Road.

Larceny of a tag was reported on Feb. 20 on the 200 block of Ninth Street.

Possession with intent to manufacture, sell or distribute a Schedule I controlled substance; possession with intent to manufacture, sell or distribute a Schedule II controlled substance; maintaining a vehicle, dwelling or place for a controlled substance; possession of a Schedule II controlled substance and drug violations were reported on Feb. 21 on the 3000 block of U.S. 70.

Motor vehicle theft was reported on Feb. 21 on the 3000 block of Old U.S. 70.

Simple physical assault was reported on Feb. 21 on the 200 block of N.C. 9.

Disorderly conduct was reported on Feb. 21 on the 100 block of Lake Eden Road.

Larceny was reported on Feb. 21 on the 100 block of High Rock Acres Drive.

Arrests

Jerry Alvin Jones, Jr., 36, of Asheville, was arrested on Feb. 10 on the 200 block of N.C. 9 and charged with second-degree trespassing.

Cameron Ellis McElrath, 20, of Swannanoa, was arrested on Feb. 11 on I-40 at exit 66 and charged with fleeing or eluding arrest with a motor vehicle, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, driving with license revoked not impaired, reckless driving to endanger, resisting public officers and failure to stop at a red light.

Bryan Mitchell Arthur, 50, of Cherryville, was arrested on Feb. 15 at the intersection of U.S. 70 and Blue Ridge Road and charged with failure to carry a valid driver's license and resisting public officers.

Elizabeth Michelle Settlemyer, 33, of Hickory, was arrested on Feb. 15 at the intersection of U.S. 70 and Blue Ridge Road and charged with possession of a Schedule II controlled substance.

Clarence Roosevelt Wheeler, 41, of Asheville, was arrested on Feb. 16 on the 500 block of N.C. 9 and charged with resisting public officers, injury to personal property and providing fictitious information to an officer.

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Look for These Announcements Weekly

TOWN HALL INFORMATION
Additional Information:
www.townofblackmountain.org

News & Events:

- Our current Board of Aldermen Meeting can be viewed on Charter Channel 162 each Sunday at 8:00 p.m. following the monthly Monday meeting.
- Visit our website at www.townofblackmountain.org to access current Announcements, Board Agenda Packs, Meeting Minutes, Videos, and the Town Calendar.
- Establishment opportunities are listed on our website at www.townofblackmountain.org
- Visit Black Mountain Recreation & Parks website for fun seasonal activities for all ages. www.blackmountainrecreation.com

Scheduled Meetings:

- Urban Forestry 5:30pm @ Town Hall March 6th
- Board of Aldermen Agenda Workshop 5pm @ Town Hall March 8th
- Board of Aldermen Regular Session 5pm @ Town Hall March 12th
- AEC Board 5pm @ AEC Suite March 15th
- ZBA 5pm @ Town Hall March 15th

All meetings are open to the public. Please visit the town's website calendar for cancellations. Please contact the Town Clerk for more information.

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REMEMBERING THE MINISTER TO MILLIONS

Trump, Congress honor Billy Graham at Capitol



'America's pastor' is to be buried Friday in Charlotte

Sean Rossman and Marilyn Icsman
 USA TODAY

President Donald Trump and congressional leaders praised Billy Graham as America's pastor during a private ceremony Wednesday at the U.S. Capitol as the late preacher lies in honor.

Graham, an evangelical preacher who spoke to millions in his lifetime, died Feb. 21 at 99. His casket was placed in the center of the Capitol Rotunda for the crowded morning ceremony attended by members of Congress, the

Cabinet, the president and Vice President Mike Pence. The general public was able to pay their respects Wednesday afternoon.

Throughout the 30-minute ceremony, the president and first lady Melania Trump sat next to the Graham family.

The president called Graham an "ambassador for Christ," who changed America and the world. He recalled how his father, Fred Trump, was a fan and brought the family to see Graham speak at Yankee Stadium.

"It was something very special,"

See **GRAHAM**, Page 4A

Christian evangelist Billy Graham's casket lies in honor during a ceremony attended by members of Congress and the Trump administration Wednesday in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/EPA-EFE

State has 15,000 untested rape kits

Sam DeGrave
 Asheville Citizen Times
 USA TODAY NETWORK

RALEIGH — North Carolina has a backlog of more than 15,000 untested rape kits, according to a report released Wednesday by the State Crime Laboratory.

"This is a major problem, and it's going to require thoughtful strategy to attack it," N.C. Attorney General Josh Stein told the Citizen Times. "We need to test all these untested kits in our inventory."

It will cost about \$10.6 million to test all of the state's 15,160 untested sexual assault evidence collection kits, at a cost of \$700 each, the crime lab report states.

The N.C. General Assembly during its last session mandated all law enforcement agencies submit to the crime lab an inventory of untested sexual assault evidence collection kits. Police agencies were to report their findings by Jan. 1. 46 of the state's 563 law enforcement agencies failed to do that.

Stein said he's thankful for the mandate, without which the Department of Justice wouldn't know the extent of the backlog. Before the inventory was finished, Stein said he would've guessed that the state was sitting on about 5,000 or 6,000 untested kits, based on numbers the crime lab had received from law enforcement agencies that voluntarily reported.

"I didn't have a firm sense going in, but it's more than I thought there would be," Stein said.

The legislative mandate requiring law enforcement agencies inventory their untested rape kits asked that they sort the data into categories. Police had to report how many kits hadn't been tested for each of the following reasons:

■ The victim didn't report the assault to police.

See **RAPE KITS**, Page 7A

Asheville council calls for assault weapons ban

Joel Burgess
 Asheville Citizen Times
 USA TODAY NETWORK

ASHEVILLE — The City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to tell state and federal leaders to ban assault weapons, saying in a resolution that "on average, nearly two dozen children are shot each day in the United States."

It was the first council meeting since the latest mass shooting, which left 17 children and educators dead at a Florida school Feb. 14.

Members of the public, including three students, spoke before the vote at

City Hall, some agreeing with the council and others calling for different approaches they said would be more effective or more politically feasible.

"From what I've witnessed throughout my short lifetime, it is apparent that weapons like those are only catalysts for anguish and suffering," said Sean McDowell, an 18-year-old Roberson senior, who supports an assault weapons ban and tighter background checks.

But adult speaker Charlene Thibodeau said she didn't think a ban would help as much as other measures, such

See **BAN**, Page 6A



Katy Jo Schroer and Elyrika Hawk show signs of support at the Rally Against Gun Violence in Asheville on Feb. 18.
 CAROL SPAGNUOLA/
 CITIZEN TIMES

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USA TODAY

Parkland students return nearly two weeks after shooting. 1B

Asheville firefighter dies

Will Willis died Tuesday after a yearlong battle with a rare form of kidney cancer. 3A

Weather

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