

# Book stores open in Montford and Battery Park

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Asheville book lovers and bargain shoppers may delight in the opening of two new bookstore locations offering variety, quality and values rivaling that of the existing established downtown book retailers.

Montford Books and More and the Battery Park Book Exchange are the newest contenders in the popular local market. However, each of the store's owners offer unique angles differentiating their independent bookstores.

"The best thing you can have as a retailer, in my humble opinion, is to have all your competitors as close to you as possible, so when you go to look for books you think about going to downtown Asheville," Thomas Wright, owner of the Battery Park Book Exchange, said.

## Book Exchange presents a new twist in a competitive market.

Located on the corner of Battle Square, the Battery Park Book Exchange, owned by Wright and his wife Donna, offers the distinct dynamic of being a bookstore as well as a champagne bar.

"The best description of it is a bookstore that serves beverages, which also includes wines and champagnes," Wright said. "Used books are so much better in price than new books that I think the whole market has shifted over to shop-



A-B Tech instructor, Chris Franklin, chats with Montford Books and More owner, Kay Manly. The book store opened in mid-January, but Manly plans a grand opening celebration for her store on Valentine's Day.

Susan Terry - Staff Photographer

ping in less expensive venues."

Housing an extensive selection of used, new and rare books, Battery Park Book Exchange aims to stock between 50,000 and 60,000 titles.

"We're trying to make it very commodious as a bookstore, for people who

enjoy books and some other place to go," Wright said. "If you get a reputation of being a book town, you'll start getting more people and the pie will grow larger, so your share of the pie will grow proportionately. Competition in that aspect is very good."

The selection of champagnes and wines is as diverse as the books neatly organized around the welcoming shop.

Including sparkling wines from as far away as New Zealand and as close as

SEE BOOKS PAGE 13 |

# Sex addicts receive little sympathy from the community

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Bill suffered from an addiction. When the public found out, he lost everything.

"It took about six months to lose my job, a year to lose my license and about two-and-a-half years of civil court," Bill said. "I don't regret any of that now because it all got me into recovery, and my recovery is more important than any of my professional life. I didn't have a spiritual life before, and now I do and that's worth whatever the cost."

Bill's addiction involves neither nee-

dles nor liquor and his addiction presents no legal conflict. Bill suffers from sexual addiction.

Public reaction affected him so negatively before he moved to Asheville that he only agreed to discuss it anonymously. His name has been changed for this article.

Before he began the recovery process, Bill engaged in continuous extramarital affairs.

"It was like smoking. I swore it off, and I swore it off, and I swore it off, and I'd be back at it again in a day or a week or a month," Bill said. "It's just chaos. I had kids and a wife and a successful business,

and I felt terribly guilty and ashamed. I was just absolutely powerless to stop."

In Asheville and across the country, support groups for sex addiction welcome addicts who wish to recover. However, the stigma associated with sexual addiction inhibits many individuals' recoveries, according to Mildred Williams, a psychology professor at Webster University and West University.

"There was a time where you actually would have to call a phone number, and they'd have to call you back and kind of screen you before they even allowed you to go to the meeting, because it's such a shame-based illness," Williams said.

The stigma affects sex addicts more powerfully than alcoholics or narcotics addicts because there are fewer members, according to Williams.

However, despite their smaller number, sex addicts' issues vary. Sexual addiction runs the gamut from masturbation to fantasy and from cheating to engaging in anonymous sex, according to Williams.

When a practitioner recovers from their compulsive behavior, the community terms the addict "sober," reflecting alcoholism terminology.

"Having sober sex with my wife is dif-

SEE ADDICTS PAGE 12 |