

The Blue Banner

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SEE ENTERTAINMENT 5

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By Courtney Meta

hristopher McCollum devotes his career to ciated studying the paranormal.

As both the owner of the said Katie Haunted Asheville Ghost Tour and Goodman, sopha member of the League of Energy Materialization and Unexplained Phenomena Research, much of his know what many of them life involves the abnormal.

"It's just a blast being a paranormal investigator and running this tour, hopes to change this. ghost tour," said McCollum. "I get to call my greatest hobby my job."

Asheville has a large documented history dealing with the paranormal.

are several There books written on the topic, the most famous being Haunted Asheville by Josh P. Warren. Warren's book, which is the inspiration behind the Haunted and some of these sightings hap-Asheville Ghost Tour, is a pening only a few months ago."

bestseller, according to McCollum. "I've heard that there are a lot of ghost stories that are assowith

regional

Asheville," omore student. "But, I don't really are.'

McCollum, through his "All the stories that we talk about are on the tour are all true,"

said McCollum. "They have all been reported by at least three to ten different people with no relation to each other. And these stories go back over 120 years with

reportings

going well back into the 1800s,

Another supposedly haunted are aof Asheville is Church Street. It was constructed in the early 1870s, and has a long history of ghost reports.

"Church street is unique because, as there are many Church Streets

around

the country, this is one the few, if not the only one, that was actually lined from beginning to end with actual churches," said McCollum. Today, there are only three main churches remaining on the street. Trinity Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian First Church, and the Central Methodist Church. The story true that sparks many of the most popular ghost sto-

ries on Church Street, involved a nun in the Episcopal Church and a minister from the Methodist Church. The nun and minister were hav-

according pregnant, the only way to protect his reputation, and the church's, was to kill her. However, during this time, Church Street was being widened ing an affair and the nun became and many of the graves in the can still be seen. McCollum said,

to cemeteries were being moved to while he is uncertain why she has expansion, they found the body of

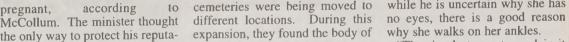
MEGAN WILDMAN - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Church Street is supposedly one of the only streets by the name that was actually lined only with churches some time in the past, according to Christopher McCollum, creator of the Asheville Haunted Ghost tour.

haunted

A street once lined completely with churches gives life to the story of a ghost

the nun and the mystery was solved. According to the stories, the nun



The simplest way to explain it is that her feet are underground because the sidewalk was not there in 1903," said McCollum.

Inside

Mother's ghost still haunts visitors of Helen's Bridge



MEGAN WILDMAN - STAFF PHOTOGRAPH Several suicides and ghost sightings account for eerie stories. **Architect of Grove Arcade dies before** completion, years of solitude follow

Additionally, two of the buildings built by E. W. Grove are also supposedly haunted. Both the Grove Arcade and the adjacent Battery Park Hotel have had ghost sightings.

The Grove Arcade, which began construction 1926, was never finished because Grove died in 1927. The building was abandoned and used for various purposes, including an FBI warehouse and to house important historical documents including the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence during World War II. People have reported hearing the sounds of construction in the building and finding mysterious construction materials around the build-

"There has not been a single reported haunting since the building was turned back into an indoor-outdoor shop-

ping mall, which is what it was intended to be," said McCollum.

The Battery Park Hotel, which was built between 1923 and 1924, has had 10 reported suicides from the ledge on the 13th floor.

"The building has always been associated with the paranormal," McCollum said. "Even the trees lean away from it."

The most widespread ghost story in Asheville, according to McCollum, is the story of Helen's Bridge. This story, which takes place at a small bridge on Beaucatcher Mountain, is also one of the most misconstrued ghost stories about Asheville, according to McCollum.

"There are lots and lots of stories surrounding this bridge, and life. none of them are true except the about Helen," said one McCollum.

Helen, a native a Beaucatcher Mountain, was married to a man

prison, came to Asheville.

Maxwell, he was

told that

s h e

left town,

according to McCollum. Pearl

Maxwell was actually trying to

protect her sister, and Harris

knew it. He became enraged and

it.'

who had acquired a vast fortune in New Zealand. The couple lives in a castle on the mountain with their 8-year-old daughter. While Helen and her husband were in town one day, their daughter was playing in the stables when she knocked over a lantern. The fire consumed the stables, taking the young girl's

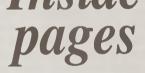
Upon hearing of the death of her daughter, Helen, overcome with grief, went to the local walking bridge and hung herself.

"Popular local legend says that some kind of accident or suicide."

if you drive your car up to that bridge and say three times 'Helen come forth' the car will stall out or Helen will put her handprint somewhere on your vehicle," said McCollum. "But, I have tried this about 317 thousand times and never got a result."

However, Goodman says that this story seems to popular to believe.

"I have heard of tons of stories like this," said Goodman. "You always hear about a bridge and



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West Asheville celebrates old and new

Plan passed to control tuition coasts

Green Game results

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Alumnus lives on mountaintop

Taylor takes heat over ad

Crime update

Barley's Taproom sits on the site of a mass murder, according to McCollum. Five people were killed at once in the early 1900s. began beating Maxwell in her enforcement the next day and his body was hung in Asheville to be

apartment.

the apartment drew police attention and started Harris' killing spree, resulting in the deaths of five people where Barley's currently sits. Harris was captured by law

Loud noises coming from



viewed by the public.

ing.

"I had no idea that we had

that kind of crime take place in

Asheville," said freshman Neal

Beckett. "The history part of

the story was really interest-