

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

DEVOTED 100% TO OUR COMMUNITY — THE GROWING SWANNANOVA VALLEY

Serving --

- ★ Black Mountain
- ★ Swannanoa
- ★ Montreat
- ★ Ridgecrest

Thursday, July 7, 1977, Vol. 33, No. 38

Directors election set in Swannanoa

On Tuesday, July 12, persons living within the Swannanoa fire district will have the opportunity to vote for a new board of directors for the 1978 fiscal year.

Due to confusion in last year's voting, the polls will be held only from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the firehouse. A nomination committee will select names to be placed on the ballot, and a space for absentee candidates will be available, according to Emma Crawford of the Ladies Auxiliary. A short committee meeting will precede the election.

Those persons who have not been set up for the Neighborhood Watch program may do so at the election, she advised.

The department will be offering a free course in first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) beginning Friday July 8 at 7 p.m. to all residents of the fire district. Sessions will last from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. each Friday at the firehouse. Two instructors from A-B Tech will teach the course.

The Board of Directors will be holding their monthly meeting July 7 at 7 p.m.

A joint meeting of firemen, ladies auxiliary and jr. ladies auxiliary will be held July 11 at 7 p.m.

On July 28, two engines and 11 men were called to put out a trash fire at the Beacon Dump.

The department conducted two investigations last week.

On June 30, one man investigated a smoke alarm at a residence on Eastwood Ave. that was set off by a grease fire on a stove. On July 1, three engines and 15 men were called to an investigation of smoke at the Tack Shack on U.S. 70. No damage was reported.

Last month, the department reported four fires and seven drills, accounting for a total of 507 man-hours.

Fireman of the month is Barry Roberts, a veteran of the department for nine months. He has formerly served on the Center Pigeon Fire Department in Canton. He is an employee of the Juvenile Evaluation Center and lives in Swannanoa with his wife, Debbie and daughter.



Senior citizens led the July 4 parade in Black Mountain. See additional photos on pages 4 and 5 (Dan Ward)

Jaycees take 3rd in national projects

by Dan Ward

The Black Mountain-Swannanoa Jaycees have been awarded a third place certificate nationally for their Swannanoa River Cleanup project last year. In addition, Bob Watts, project chairman, received a third place certificate for outstanding projects.

Mike Moser, district director for the Jaycees, received the certificates for the Black Mountain-

Swannanoa Jaycees in Seattle at the national Jaycees convention June 29. The certificate honored outstanding chapters in the Energy and Environment category.

The Black Mountain-Swannanoa Jaycees received a first place in the Energy and Environment category for the River Cleanup at the state Jaycee convention last month.

The Jaycees, under Watts' supervision, were responsible for removing 18 junk cars and 15 truckloads of trash from the

Swannanoa River between Ridgecrest and Otten. The river is now designated a trout stream and has been stocked with fish. The river is now safe for canoeing.

The state, as a result of the cleanup, has spent \$60,000 to \$70,000 to prevent silt from the construction of I-40 from polluting the river.

Margaret Slagle, on behalf of the Town Board, has congratulated the Jaycees on winning the award.

Fire district okayed, rates reviewed

by Dan Ward

The Buncombe County Board of Commissioners voted June 30 to expand the Swannanoa fire district to include all areas the Fire Department requested except some of its proposed eastern borders-leaving the Drexel, Kearfott and Ex-Cell-O plants within the Black Mountain service area.

The Board split 3-2, with Chairman Curtis Ratcliff and Comm. Doris Giezantner objecting to modifying the eastern boundary. They said that they felt that the rates

now charged persons in that area were unfair to Black Mountain residents, who must pay taxes for the service.

Black Mountain Fire Chief Mark Kirkpatrick said that the rates charged non-residents covered by the Black Mountain Fire Department are now being reviewed. He said he has sent a letter to the state Department of Insurance requesting a legal opinion on the best means and of assessing non-residents.

In the meantime, Kirkpatrick said he has done a survey of other towns that

provide fire protection outside their city limits, and has found that they have handled a situation similar to Black Mountain in a variety of ways. He also said that he is in the process of obtaining calculations of the cost to the town of providing protection to non-residents.

At this time, non-resident homes are assessed a \$5 per year "donation" for fire protection. Industries are charged on a sliding scale, depending on their fire frequency and degree of hazard, Kirkpatrick said.

Health system plan available

The Western North Carolina Health Systems Agency's governing Body has established and adopted a draft Health Systems Plan. This plan is now being scheduled for review by interested citizens in a series of public hearings.

The WNCCHA Health Systems Plan is a statement of desired achievements for improvement in the health status of area residents and in the health system serving western North Carolina. Copies of this plan are available for public inspection at all main public libraries in the 26 counties of western North Carolina. Persons wishing to obtain a copy of this draft may do so by writing or calling the Agency's main office in Morganton - Telephone (704) 433-1636. Copies of this plan will be distributed according to the WNCCHA Public Access Policy at cost of reproduction. All interested persons are invited to submit their recommendations and comments regarding this plan by writing the Western North Carolina Health Systems Agency, P.O. Drawer 1749, Morganton, NC, 28655, or appearing at one of the public hearings. Written comments regarding the plan will be accepted until August 29, 1977. A hearing is scheduled at August 1, University of North Carolina - Asheville, 7:30 p.m., Lecture Hall.

Summer house broken into

The breaking and entering of a summer house on Hiwassee Ave. is under investigation by the Black Mountain Police.

burglary took place. Asst. Chief Jim Wiseman said there are no suspects at this time.

Police issued three traffic citations last week. Two accidents were recorded, on U.S. 70 east and on Hiwassee Ave. Many Black Mountain Police worked, without pay, during their time off to direct holiday traffic over the weekend.

At 14, Kristy Moore sees art published

by Dan Ward

Carolina and collected by Kristy's Mom, Joyce, went on sale July 4. Kristy drew the hundreds of illustrations in the book while she was a 13-year-old eighth-grader at Swannanoa School last year.

Kristy, who will study art at Owen High School next year,

would "sit down and draw two or three cartoon-like sketches each day to go with favorite recipes sent to her mother from area people.

In her spare time, she would also paint rocks and conventional canvases. She also has worked with ceramics, pottery, and has carved wooden flowers. Her youthful enthusiasm for art even rubbed off on little brother, Jeffrey, 5, who did a sketch for Mom's Cooking.

Joyce Moore said she decided to put a recipe book together because people she knew were always borrowing each others' most favorite recipes. She put an ad in a number of newspapers in Western North Carolina offering a prize for the best recipe--only the most favorite recipe from each individual.

The result is a collection of everything from Potato Chips and Chicken Casserole to a number of ancient mountain recipes--from ancient mountain folks.

She said she thinks that the fact that the recipes are all from people from Western North Carolina will make the book attractive to tourists. She has had them placed on magazine racks in the area so that travelers can find them as easily as local people.

In the meantime, has Kristy been spoiled by becoming a published cartoonist at 14?

"I'd like to do cartoons--but I like all kinds of art," was her reply.

Weekend a good time

by Dan Ward

Holiday traffic, the heat, and a lack of publicity may have kept some away from Black Mountain over the weekend, but all-in-all, Valley residents seemed to have a good time.

In Montreat, a would-be masked Jimmy Carter, complete with surly secret service bodyguards accompanied a fire truck, paraders and a police car in a parade on July 4.

In Black Mountain, the Swannanoa Valley Medical Center Fair on July 1 and 2 attracted a good number of craftsmen and other exhibitors, but drew a smaller group of fair-goers than last year. Proceeds from the fair, however, are expected to be near those of last year, a spokesperson for the center said.

The Black Mountain-Swannanoa Jaycees vs. Black Mountain Fire Department donkey baseball game resulted in tons of laughs and bruises--but an audience of only about 300. The firemen won that game with two runs in the last inning--resulting in a score of 2 to 1. Tom Turner, riding for the Jaycees, set a new baseball record of being thrown 10 times.

The firemen also put on a rescue demonstration at the Black Mountain Grammar School. The Fourth of July

festivities in Black Mountain were for the most part a huge success, with a tremendous crowd turning out for the dedication of the Old Dept. At the depot, local women demonstrated quilting and spinning wool.

Belle Mordell and Marshall Cole were awarded engineer's hats for their efforts in renovating the depot. The depot is now open as an arts and crafts gallery and museum. Ed Weber, president of the Chamber of Commerce, emceed the dedication, and Mayor Margaret Slagle cut the ribbon to symbolically open the depot.

Black Mountain also featured a short parade, including cowboys and an antique car, as well as fire engines and a group of senior citizens in colonial costumes who sang patriotic songs at the depot dedication.

A number of persons set up arts and crafts displays on Cherry Street. Although reviews from Cherry Street businesses were mixed, activity on Cherry Street appeared to be lively. Musicians performed on a makeshift stage in front of the Music Shop on Cherry Street throughout the day.

In the evening, a large number of people filtered back to Cherry Street to participate in square dancing sponsored by the Black Mountain Recreation. Live music was

performed by the Bear Creek Ramblers.

It's in the wind

Couple opens chime gallery

by Dan Ward

Rick Spaulding and Lisa Milton have decided to put an end to the endless line of curious eyes they notice peeking between the sheets of newspaper covering the window of Appalachian Windchime Factory, their business, across from the Old Depot in Black Mountain.

They opened a retail gallery in their shop.

Rick and Lisa, who have been making wind chimes from clay for the last two years, decided they needed a place where the public could come in and see their chimes, and maybe buy one. Although their business is primarily wholesale, they said they need to have a feedback from the public on what a good wind chime is.

They now produce four styles of chimes. The cheapest, which retails around \$12, consists of a handful of different size stars hanging from a smiling man-moon. Rick said that model has been popular as a mobile in children's bedrooms.

Like all of their chimes except the tube chimes, the most expensive model, the moon and stars and stars is made from flat, rolled pieces of ceramic. They bake the pieces in a small hobby kiln in the shop.

"Each batch sounds a little different," Rick said of the chimes. "They change with the amount of fire and humidity." Various "knacks" are needed to produce pieces for each style of chime, Rick explained. The rings for the ring chime, one that produces a range of tones, must be kept

flattened by sandwiching them between sheets of plaster for days. To make the beads, a good sense of timing is needed to know when to put holes in.

To make the face chimes, a series of seven faces with different expressions, it takes a special ability to roll a perfect oval of the right thickness out of the clay--something like rolling a perfect pie crust.

Lisa, a native of Black Mountain and Owen graduate, said that learning the different properties of clay has been the most difficult stage to making a business of wind chimes. But the couple feel they've got their work near perfection.

"We're really picky," Rick said. "We even cut our lines (they use fishline to suspend the chimes) down to the end and put a match to it to keep it from untying."

The couple is so sure of their work and of the strength of the clay that they guarantee their work.

"We've dropped pieces on concrete and they would break--but we've never had any break that we've hung up," Lisa said. She said she's dropped many pieces on wooden floors or the ground without ever having one break.

The couple got into wind chime making in a roundabout way. Both graduated from NC State University with degrees in product design. They had intended to open an advertising business in Black Mountain, but found that impossible.

"We decided to come up with a product that we could

market," Rick said. After kicking around an idea to manufacture a wooden toy that could be formed into a number of shapes, they settled instead on making planters out of laced-together sheets of ceramic. The planters didn't sell well at craft shows.

When they started making the faces that are now used in

the face chimes, sold originally as pendants, a number of persons asked the couple why they didn't incorporate the faces into a wind chime.

Rick and Lisa took their advice and now have a viable wholesale business going--and are trying out new designs all the time.

