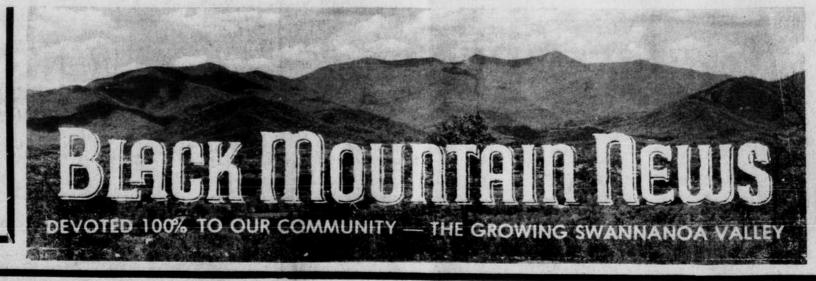
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Serving--

- **★ Black Mountain**
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Even in black and white, the change of leaf color can be seen after last week's frost. (Dan Ward)

WNC Hospital care to change

by Dan Ward

Employees of WNC Hospital in Black Mountain were advised last week to begin training for a transition at the hospital from care of respiratory diseases to care of the mentally retarded by Dr. Sarah Morrow, secretary of the Department of Human Resources

Morrow told directors of the state's specialty hospitals October 6 that WNC Hospital will be phased down to a 50bed unit for tuberculosis (TB) in-patients, while the satellite unit of the Western Carolina Center, now occupying 40 beds, will be expanded considerably.

According to Jack Ellison. administrative director of the hospital, reaction among the

274 employees was mixed. 'The immediate reaction was relief that the hospital would remain open. There is some wondering of 'where I will fit in', though.' Ellison said he was mainly happy that Morrow chose to utilize the facilities for state health care and that she placed first priority on placing present hospital personnel in new positions that will open at the

satellite unit.

Morrow, in a memo to employees, said that training for the new position will be given to any employees who desire it, and that they will be given first consideration for

the new jobs.

Ellison said he did not know how many employees would be kept on for the reduced respiratory facility.

The hospital contains 215 beds, 40 of which are now used by the satellite unit and 90 by the respiratory unit. With reduction of the respiratory unit, a total of 165 beds could be utilized for care of mentally retarded.

Western Carolina Center, located in Morganton, is now

an average of 20 requests per month for beds for the retarded. Last year, only 10 vacancies occurred there, leaving an enormous waiting

"I'm just happy this facility will be serving a real need." Ellison said of the transition,

due to take several months. Ellison said that of the 50 patients the hospital will continue to serve, 32 will be for TB and the others will be exceptional cases involving

serious respiratory diseases that cannot be handled by local clinics.

ENC Hospital, in Wilson, will continue to serve respiratory disease patients on an out-patient basis only, and will be used primarily to care for geria ic patients from the state's mental hospitals.

The specialty hospital in McCain will continue to serve TB patients. including in-patients now cared for at ENC Hoeptal

Towns get street repair checks

State Transportation Secretary Tom Bradshaw has announced that checks totaling more than \$33.5 million have been mailed to 452 municipalities in North Carolina for local street construction and main-

tenance. The monies make up the 1978 allocation of state street aid (Powell Bill) funds. Black Mountain, with 27.02 of eligible miles of streets, received a check for \$59,557.09 for street repairs. Montreat, with 11.75 miles of eligible

street miles, received \$15,473.02 Each year the Powell Bill returns to qualified municipalities one cent of North Caroline's 946 cent state niotor fuel tax and requires that these funds be disbursed by no leter the ursed by no later than

"The checks were prepared," explained Secretary Bradshaw, "on the basis of the allocation formula prescribed by the 'street aid legislation.' The formula reflects the population of the community and its local street mileage.

"This year's sum of \$33,502.142.52 is the largest amount ever returned to North Carolina communities under the Powell Bill provisions. In fact, it is nearly \$1.5 million more than last year's record disbursement," Bradshaw added.

"Sharing these resources is another example of our partnership with the communities we serve in our joint effort to meet transportion needs locally as well as statewide,"the transportation secretary said.

From this year's Powell Bill

Funds, the largest single check went to the City of the most recent annual Charlotte. Charlotte' s estimates of population as allocation of \$3,813,424.29 was certified by the North based on a population figure of Carolina Department of 306,230 and a local street Administration

mileage figure of 1,117.76 The smallest check Of the total amount under the act went allocated as part of the Powell icipality of Caswell Bill Funds, 75 percent is Brunswick County, proportioned among the which i'l receive a check for municipalities on the basis of Caswell Beach will population and 25 percent on receive its share of the Powell the basis of non-state system Bill Funds based on a local street mileage. Each population figure of 70 and municipality furnishes its own local street mileage of 0.21



Church in Charlotte, and Mel Perry, pastor of the Tenn., picket the Montreat gate in protest of Billy Graham's trip to Communist Poland last week. The two said Graham is playing to propagandists who

Town re-applies for grant

over a previous offer of ap-

proximately \$17,000.

by Dan Ward

The Black Mountain Town ard voted to take another Community elopment Grant to install water lines in Cragmont upped its settlement offer family whose house was troyed by a fire truck at its lar meeting October 9. May Forn Sobol Tal that town will have another portunity to apply for partment of Housing and ban Development (HUD) nmunity Development nding with a second round funding in November and

He said adapting an earlier plication that was rejected simply be a matter of nging dates. In addition, town will be required to ld two more public hearings

pressure put on HUD when only 4 per cent of grant funds in North Carolina went to the western half of the state, Black Mountain and other western municipalities may have a better chance of being awarded grants. If the to install new water lines and fire hydrants is approved, the town would stand a better chance of receiving other grant money, including funds through the Appalachian

The board also met in closed session with the son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.E. McMahan, whose house was destroyed when it was hit by a Black Mountain Fire truck

before it can re-apply.

Sobol said that, in view of agreed 4 to 1 on a new settlement offer to the Mc-Mahans that Sobol called "substantially increased"

> Ald. Ruth Brandon opposed the figure, saying she thought the couple should receive more compensation.
>
> A written copy of the offer will be drawn up and sent to the couple this week.

The board also voted to ask for new bids for a new police car. Police Chief Crait Slagle suggested that the town try to get a car added to an order made by the Asheville Police from Apple Tree Chevrolet, at \$6073 per car, as opposed to low bids from Black Mountain dealers of \$6570 and \$6895. On recommendation of Ald. Jim

Norton and Ald. John Kluttz that the town buy from a local dealer, and a suggestion from Ald. A. F. Tyson that a better price may be negotiated locally, the board voted to advertise for new bids.

The board also gave Town Manager Mack Kirkpatrick permission to buy a back-hoe attachment for the water department at a cost of \$3049. Most of the meeting con-

sisted of an appeal from Jeanette Clevenger for some town funding for the Meals-on-Wheels Program in view of a cut in Community Development funding for that

The Meals-on-Wheels program is sponsored by ABCCM, and delivers hot lunches to 17 to 25 shut-ins in the Black Mountain area at a cost of \$1.65 per meal.

"Surprisingly enough, lower grade children now are doing

The competancy tests deal

only with the most basic math

and reading in day-to-day

situations - reflecting what

The fact that many students

have not mastered the most

basic skills suggests they may

not have been tested enough

on the basics before moving

on to other work. Lytle said.

He said that classes in remedial reading and math

are now taught after normal

school hours four days each week at Owen. Teachers are

also stressing basics needed to

pass the competency test in

regular math and English

"My personal opinion is that

this is one of the best things to

ever happen. I think it is going

to make teachers, principals,

superintendents, boards of

education more aware of their

responsibilities to students

and parents. By the same

token, I think it's going to

make parents more aware

that they have some

responsibility to their children'

"I' m afraid our whole

society, particularly mothers

and fathers, need to get more

involved in the educational

process. You can't wait until

the child is 16 years old and do

school, it starts down in the

primary grades,' he said.

Recognizing this, state law

also requires that stan-

dardized tests be given to

'This doesn't start in high

something about it.

s education, too,"he said.

classes now, he said.

well on math,"he said.

American society.

On Sobol's recommendation, the board agreed to make a decision on funding the program at the regular November meeting.

Kirkpatrick told the board that, contrary to reports by Asheville media, Black Mountain is not buying Asheville water. He said the water level in the reservoir is down six feet, and water is still being pumped from the lower collection pond. He said Black Mountain did buy water from Asheville for three days in June while a pump was repaired.

The board also told Kirkpatrick to have Carolina Power and Light install three sodium vapor lights near the NC9 exit off of I-40. The lights will cost \$316.80 per year to

Montreat water meeting set

by John Abernethy When the Montreat Board of

Commissioners meet Monday afternoon for the regular October session, they will hear an interim report from the Water and Sewer Negotiating Commission. The town council will be advised that the Montreat Management Council will delay farther discussions until after the N.C. Attorney General has made a ruling on the appeal now in his hands. That decision could seriously affect the process of negotiations regarding the transfer of the Water and Sewer system from the Mountain Retreat Association to the Town of Montreat.

The board also will hear a report regarding the completion of the Texas Road Extension bridge, which already is being used by residents who live in the area. There will be discussion about road repair scheduled before the onset of winter weather.

The Board of Commissioners usually meets the second Thursday each month. but the meeting was rescheduled when it was found that a quorum could not be present. The meeting will begin at 4 p.m. Monday in the Board's usual meeting place in Gaither Hall. Visitors are

victor Hall, pastor of the Bible Presbyterian Grace Bible Presbyterian Church in Nashville, use his visits as an example of freedom of religion behind the Iron Curtain. (Dan Ward)

New test causes concern for some percent higher than the state Many times that of the new math we went When it was announced that average on the trial comnumber will be left behind if through - I think that was one of the primary causes.

by Dan Ward

suncombe County Schools anked above the state verage on a trial high school ompetency test last year, owen Principal Charles Lytle was hardly gleeful with the

If a new state law requiring Ith grade students to pass the implement test to receive a liploma had gone into effect ast year, as many as 82 Owen eniors would graduate this ear with only a certificate of ttendance to show for 12 ears of schooling. Buncombe County juniors

cored approximately 10

petency test, now required for graduation. In Buncombe County, 32 out of 100 students failed the math segment of the test and 9 out of 100 failed the reading segment.

"We were just about where Buncombe County was, "Lytle

"But the thing people forget in looking at statistics is that sooner or later it boils down to individual people, not statistics,"he said.

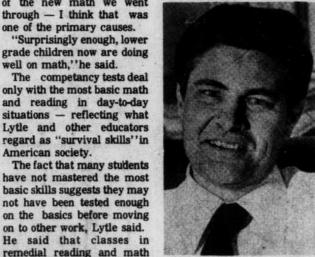
Lytle said that out of senior classes of about 200, all but 6 to 10 out of each class have received diplomas in past

the trial test last year is any indication.

Owen juniors will have their first of three chances to pass the test November 1 and 2. Even when they pass the test, the students will have to fulfill the school requirements of 18 hours credit and passing grades on required courses.

The fact that almost a third of Buncombe students failed the math segment of the test has a number of educators trying to compute what went wrong, and Lytle is no ex-

"I think a lot of it is a result



first, third, sixth and ninth grade students.

"Those tests will do as much good as the competency tests, because now we'll know all along how well they are doing. I think we'll see an end to social promotion,' 'Lytle

One of the greatest advantages of the testing will be that parents who had formerly thought they had no part in their children's education will now have to take a more active role in seeing that school work gets done if the children are to graduate, Lytle said..

"I think more parents are concerned now, but how they are getting involved I'm not sure," he said. He said one place that parental help is needed is in discouraging

"I think one of the dangers of testing is that everybody will tend to make everyone else a scapegoat,' 'Lytle predicted. "I don't think that should be a basic concern-I think we should all just work together to make it work."

The Black Mountain Fire Department made four runs last week.

No damage resulted from a chimney fire at the Phelps residence on Montreat Road October 4. Two engines and 25 men responded.

Also that day, one engine and four men were called to wash down after an accident on Montreat Road.

One engine and 16 men were called to put out a fire on a light pole on West State Street October 6.

The Mountain Search and Rescue Team responded to a call October 7 to assist the Broad River Fire Department in a search and rescue mission, only to find that the missing woman had been found. One truck and 11 men

The Buncombe County Ambulance Service made 10 routine, two emergency and one unneeded run last week.

Fire drills held

scheduled to be held in conunction with fire Prevention

department was scheduled to participate in drills at the

Grammar School, Carver School, the Primary School



Black Mountain Gramma- ' . with the Black Mountain Fire Department, holds a fire drill down Fire Prevention Week. (Dan Ward)



This is one of the best things to ever happen' - Lytle