

Town manager resigns; will stay on to July 3

Town manager Ernest Hudgins gave his resignation to the Town Board last week, but agreed at a called meeting Monday morning to stay on until July 3.

Hudgins, who has been town manager since February, 1980, said in a written statement that his reasons for resigning are personal and "involve no personalities."

The Town Board is considering delaying the hiring of a new town manager until after November elections. "As far as a replacement is concerned," explained Mayor Tom Sobol, "it's the wrong time, when it could be only temporary."

Hudgins said he regrets leaving the town employees he has worked closely with. "I have thoroughly enjoyed serving the people (of Black Mountain); they're why I came back," said the former Black Mountain police chief.

Hudgins said his family was concerned for his health if he continued on as town manager. He said he plans first to work on his house and then on the farm of a relative. "I have business and other interests which have been totally neglected for the almost 16 months I have been here because of the requirements of this position," his statement reads.



Members of the board expressed regret that Hudgins had resigned. Alderman Margaret Slagle said the resignation was "accepted with much regret."

Alderman Ruth Brandon said, "I just can't find words to express my regret at his resignation. I think he has literally worked himself to death, many times working 16 to 18 hours a day." She also said, "He has saved the town an untold amount of money."

Hudgins said he felt confident that Midge Blakeslee, town accountant, and Suzanne Turner, assistant to the city manager, could carry out the administrative aspects of his job until November, with the assistance of the mayor and board.

Birth expectations survey scheduled

How many children do married women expect to have within the next five years? Will they average the same number as in the recent past? Answers to these questions will help indicate the future growth and composition of the nation's population, data vital to planners both in government and private business.

Joseph Harris, acting director of the Bureau's Regional Office in Charlotte, announced that information on birth expectations of American women will be collected during the week of June 15-19, from a sample of households in this area. The questions are in addition to those usually asked in the monthly survey on employment and unemployment conducted nationwide by the Bureau for the U.S. Department of Labor.

Households in this area are part of the sample of 71,000 across the country scientifically selected to represent a cross section of all U.S. households.

Information supplied by individuals participating in the survey is kept strictly confidential by law and the results are used only to compile statistical totals.

Interviewers who will visit house-

holds in this area are: Dorothy M. Leeder, Swannanoa and Mary L. Patterson, Clyde.

Hamburg destination for exchange

Hamburg, West Germany, was announced as the destination of the 1981 Friendship Force exchange at an announcement party Saturday. About 250 Western North Carolinians, several from the Valley, will stay with families in Hamburg October 10-23, while citizens of Hamburg will stay in homes here during the same dates.

The announcement was made Saturday by a representative from Hamburg, Fritz Bauer, on his first visit to the North Carolina mountains.

Hamburg, Bauer said, is the largest city in West Germany, with 1.6 million people. He also said that it was colder than Asheville and that the ambassadors could expect temperatures in the 40s in October.

Host families and some ambassadors are still needed for the exchange. For more information or to apply, call the Friendship Force office at 255-8021.

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MOUNTAIN NEWS

Dedicated to the growing Swannanoa Valley

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Bolt of lightning ends semester at grammar school

Students at the Black Mountain Grammar School started summer vacation early when lightning struck a 30-foot brick chimney atop the school last Tuesday night.

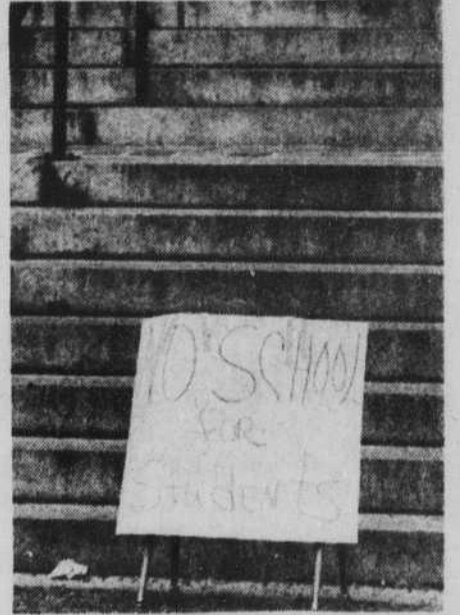
Little League games were being played in the field behind the grammar school and at the nearby primary school when the lightning hit about 8:15 p.m. George Venturella was looking in the direction of the chimney and described what he saw.

"It looked like a flashbulb (went off) right above the chimney," he said. "A gray line went down the chimney, then the bricks started flying. It all happened so fast."

Some of the bricks fell through the roof of the school. Other debris fell into the parking lot behind the school, causing extensive damage to a car owned by David Cox.

Although some at the ball game felt minor electrical shocks, no one was injured. A man mowing the lawn at the school also received a shock.

People at the primary school ball game saw the lightning strike and a "big noise" was reported by people all over town.



The Black Mountain Fire Department went to the scene, but no fire broke out.

The cracked chimney remained a potential danger to students and school was closed Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week. Plans are being made for the chimney to be dismantled and replaced during summer vacation.

Grammar school students received their report cards and retrieved belongings in the school gymnasium Tuesday.

Town Council

New privilege tax fees set

A new privilege tax ordinance was passed at Monday's Town Council meeting after the ordinance passed by Council in May was rescinded.

The new ordinance sets a minimum tax for all businesses located in Black Mountain at \$10. Those taxed for over \$10 last year will pay 10 percent more this year, except those already paying the maximum set by state statute.

Town Manager Ernest Hudgins said it would save the town extra postage if those who have already received bills would come to the Town Hall to learn their new rate and pay without receiving an additional bill through the mail.

Lakeview Center

In other business before Town Council, Mayor Tom Sobol read a letter received from Elizabeth Harper, chairperson of the Lakeview Advisory Council. The letter asked Town Council to continue to fund the senior citizen center there.

Members of the Senior Citizen's Center also spoke in support of the center. Mrs. Hattie Simmons said her life and that of her blind husband had been greatly enhanced by the activities at the center, and that she appreciated the income for the four hours a week she is paid to work there.

"We love the center and we love our director," said Mrs. Simmons. Laine

Calloway is director of the program.

Town Council members expressed support for the program.

Revitalization

Kathy Wacaster, Community Development administrator, reported findings of her study on revitalization of downtown Black Mountain. She compared revitalization to a wheel. "The idea is not to create a new one," she said, "but to reactivate one that's slowed down."

The Board instructed Wacaster to return in July with a resolution of intent to support the program and further information about funding.

Senator's office

Larry Notestine announced to the board that Senator John East will open a "western office" in Asheville located in the main post office downtown. The senator's address there is P.O. Box 2779, Asheville, 28802. The telephone number is 254-3099.

Meetings

A revenue sharing hearing will be held at Town Hall June 22 at 8 a.m. Citizens are welcome to come and voice an opinion on how \$22,000 in revenue sharing funds should be allocated, Mayor Sobol said.

The next budget workshop will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, June 22.



Lee Stafford, his mom and coaches Dan Pierce and Keith White: first Excelsior Award.

Stafford wins 1st Excelsior Award

Lee Stafford was named the first recipient of the annual Excelsior Award at Black Mountain Middle School Monday. The award is given to the athlete who best exemplifies the virtues of desire, effort and sportsmanship, selected by the coaches.

A trophy, which will remain in the school display case, and a plaque were

donated for the new award by C and R Realty Company.

Coaches Keith White and Dan Pierce said Lee has participated in both softball and basketball, displaying the qualities for which he received the award. "In addition," White said, "his leadership on the field and in the classroom have further qualified him for

this award."

Lee is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Stafford of Black Mountain.

Lee was to have received the award in front of the entire student body last Friday at an awards assembly, but students have not been allowed to enter the school since lightning struck the chimney.

National Hollerin' Contest highlights N.C. events for June

There will be a lot of hollerin' in North Carolina in June as contestants from far and wide gather in Spivey's Corner for the National Hollerin' Contest on June 19 and 20.

There will be another special gathering in June too as the people who built and operated the Tweetsie Railroad will be honored at the Tweetsie Railroad theme park in Blowing Rock on June 27.

June also marks the opening of many of North Carolina's outdoor dramas including "The Lost Colony" in Manteo on June 12; "Unto These Hills" at Cherokee on June 15; and "Horn in the West" at Boone June 19. "The Immortal Showboat," the story of the U.S.S. North Carolina, begins June 5 in Wilmington.

June is also a time of flowers with the Rhododendron Festival at Bakersville June 17-20. And there will be music in the air as the Eastern Music Festival begins in Greensboro June 30, and the Brevard Music Festival opens June 26 in Brevard. The annual "Singing on the Mountain" will be staged June 28 on Grandfather Mountain at Linville.

Pirates will invade Beaufort June 27 recalling an earlier era when "Blackbeard" roamed the waters along the North Carolina coast.

There will be plenty of festivals across the state, such as the "Great River Race" on the Dan River in Eden

on June 20, Summer Festival in Washington June 12-22, and the Ameri-

can Dance Festival begins in Durham June 13 and continues through July 25.

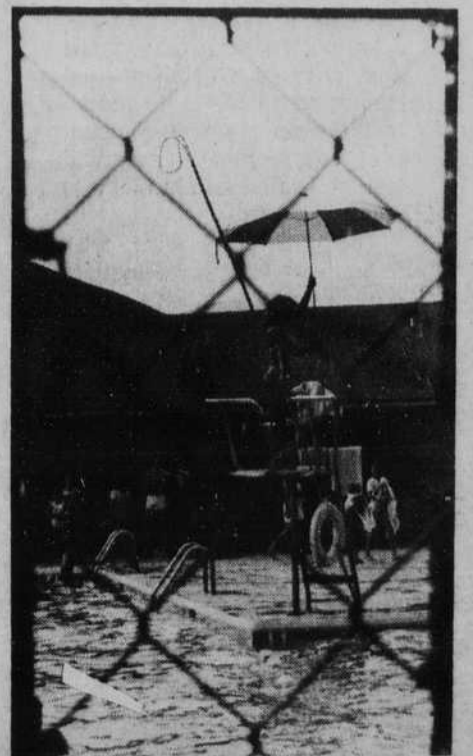
Weather review



June 2--high 80, low 63 degrees; .19 inches precipitation.
June 3--high 78, low 62 degrees; .1 inches precipitation.
June 4--high 80, low 60 degrees; .47 inches precipitation.
June 5--high 84, low not recorded; .12 inches precipitation.
June 6--high 80, low 55 degrees; .7 inches precipitation.
June 7--high 80, low 64 degrees; .13 inches precipitation.
June 8--high 83, low 57 degrees; .02 inches precipitation.

In the past month, 7.84 inches of rain has been recorded, bringing the total precipitation for 1981 to 18.67 inches.

Weather information courtesy of WFGW Radio, Black Mountain.



Following draining and repairs last week, the Black Mountain pool is open again--just in time for the end of school. Lauri Venturella puts up the umbrella over the lifeguard stand. Photo by Bill Student Jr.