

New well tested; reservoir level down

The news is both good and bad concerning water in Black Mountain. On the one hand, the Town could face a critical water shortage in a matter of weeks. On the other hand, the new well at the golf course, after a 24-hour test, has surpassed the wildest dreams even of Al White, water department head, who had confidence in it from the beginning.

The new well is being tied into the town water system with six-inch pipes instead of the two-inch pipe originally planned because of the excellent rate of flow. During the 24-hour test, 236 gallons of water per minute were pumped. The recovery rate (the amount of time necessary for the well to refill after pumping) is "extraordinary," according to Town Manager Ernest

Hudgins. "It's the best thing that's happened to Black Mountain since the railroad came through," Al White told the Town Board Monday. The well is the best the town has, according to Hudgins and White. Hudgins expects a report back from the N.C. Department of Health on the quality of the water in about 10 days. If

the water is pure, the pump already in place will be started and the well will immediately be connected to the town's water system. If the water is not pure, Hudgins said, it will still be useful—it will be used to water the golf course. On the minus side of the water situation, the lower lake at Dunsmore Cove went dry Monday night. And, as of Monday, the upper lake was down

about a foot, Hudgins said. "We're all right right now," Hudgins said, "but if we don't stop using water at the same rate we're using now, by August or September we're looking at a critical, an extremely critical, water shortage." Mayor Tom Sobol said that the

weather of the next few weeks and when and if the new well is connected to the water system will determine whether or not the town experiences a water shortage this summer.

Budget allotted

Recreation program cut

Town Council passed a 1981-82 budget, based on a 78 cent per \$100 property tax, at a called meeting Monday morning.

The budget includes a 28 cent across-the-board raise for all town employees, a six-month schedule for the Recreation Department and a contingency fund of \$10,000.

The Board voted separately on whether or not the position of director for the Lakeview Senior Citizens Center should be funded for four or six hours per day.

When rebuilding of the club house in 1976 was partially funded by a federal grant through the Council on Aging, the town agreed to provide a full time director for the center for a period of 10 years. The Division on Aging in Raleigh has been asked by Mayor Tom Sobol to define "full time director" in writing.

A motion was made by Alderman Slagle and seconded by Alderman Brandon which would reduce the position to four hours from the current six. Aldermen Begley and Tyson voted against the proposal and the tie was broken by Mayor Sobol, defeating the resolution 3-2. Alderman Stafford was not present.

Mr. Tyson stated, "If we can get a ruling to reduce it (the number of hours required for a director), I want to amend it (to four hours per day). I want to save money, but I don't want to cripple the program." Depending on the advice of the Division on Aging, the board may rescind their decision.

Mrs. Brandon and Mrs. Slagle agreed that the center could be covered by unpaid volunteers for four hours a day and supervised by a director for the other four hours the center is open.

In the new budget, the fire department will receive \$8,523 for fall-out gear and breathing apparatus.

The police department will receive an \$83,041 increase, nearly double the amount budgeted for the department last year. The department has increased from five to seven officers and two vehicles have been added. Another reason for the increased budget is the increase in cost of maintenance for the vehicles.

In a summary of the new budget, Town Manager Ernest Hudgins stated, "The seven percent increase in the tax rate will not cover any emergency or unbudgeted expenses that may arise during the fiscal year 1981-82, and will only serve to continue services offered in past years."

Hudgins said the major items which forced the raise in taxes are increased cost of utilities and automotive supplies, plus the administrative costs involved in hiring a new town manager at an increased salary.

In other action, Town Council passed budget amendments unanimously and, in appreciation for the services of Ernest Hudgins as town manager, the Board voted to award him a lifetime membership in the Black Mountain Golf Course.

Have a safe-- and legal-- holiday

North Carolina is a state that bans all fireworks, including sparklers, but many families drive to neighboring states to purchase what they hope will be Fourth of July fun. But, besides being illegal, fireworks can maim and kill.

—It was May, 1976, in a New Jersey high school. A prankster had tossed an illegal fireworks device into a glass cabinet in a corridor. Seconds later, two teenage girls passed within three feet of the cabinet as the device exploded. One girl died when glass cut her jugular vein.

—Having fun was the reason two boys gave for setting off a firecracker in a tree stump in Walnut Creek, Calif., in June, 1979. When firemen finally put their hoses away, two persons had been hospitalized and three homes gutted; damage was set at \$330,000.

—In the aftermath of new year's celebrations in January, 1980, some children on the island of Kauai, Hawaii, gathered pieces of firecrackers and put

them in a small glass bottle. One lighted the powder. A three-year old girl died and six companions were hospitalized for injuries from the explosion.

Bystanders are often innocent victims of explosions. Last July 4, an 18-year old Bremen, Indiana, man died from a fireworks accident, a four-year old East St. Louis, Ill., boy was killed when a roman candle misfired in a home fireworks celebration, and on the preceding day, a Montana man died when a mortar shell exploded.

Many thousands of fireworks displays on Independence Day are uneventful except for the festive holiday spirit that results from the "bombs bursting in air." Cities, towns and villages across the nation stage the displays because residents are less likely to set off their own fireworks after having their fill of the public celebration.

In spite of this, untold Americans risk life and limb every year in an effort to create their own explosive devices. On July 3, 1979, three persons died when homemade fireworks exploded in the basement of a West Philadelphia, Pa., home; three explosions ripped through the structure. A few days later, a 16-year old Texas youth died when his homemade firecracker exploded.

If you have a yen for fireworks this Fourth, take the family to the display at Lake Julian or Rec. Park in Asheville. Not only will the family be safe, but it is a misdemeanor to have or explode fireworks and if you are caught you could face up to a \$500 fine, six months in jail, or both.



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BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

Dedicated to the growing Swannanoa Valley

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Chief Slagle honored as first Law Officer of the Year

The Swannanoa Valley Optimist Club presented a plaque to Black Mountain Chief of Police Craig E. Slagle last Tuesday, honoring him as Law Officer of the Year.

The presentation was made by Optimist President Bill Burgin in the Rotary Room of Highland Farms Retirement Community.

The plaque was a part of the annual Optimist-sponsored "Respect for the Law Week." The special week usually consists of banners and speeches on topics dealing with respect for the law, but this year the club decided to do something a little different, Burgin explained.

"This is the first award," he said. "It will become a yearly thing."

"This is in recognition of his years of service and especially for his excellent work with area youth. He takes a lot of his own time out to talk to kids and set them on the right path," Burgin said.

"He's gained quite a deal of respect from the youth," he added.

Chief Slagle said, "I don't know why they chose me. All law enforcement officers I know deserve an award of their own. But, of course, I do appreciate the award."



Chief Slagle accepts the first annual Law Officer of the Year Award.

Before the presentation, Detective Jim Dolan spoke on the rights of the accused. Dolan has worked in New York, Florida and Los Angeles. The plaque presented was made by Optimist Club member Norman Dougherty.

Scots band, parade to highlight 4th celebration

Montreat's annual Fourth of July parade will begin in Montreat Saturday at 11 a.m. Everyone is invited to participate in the parade—in a car, on a homemade float, on foot, in a little red wagon, on roller skates. The parade will end with a flag raising ceremony at Anderson Auditorium.

Field events begin at 2:30 p.m. on the Anderson Field and include greased pole climbing, carnival booths, parachute games, gave painting, crafts, folk dancing, pie-eating contest, watermelon eating contest, and many more activities.

The Old Timers Softball Game will begin at 4:30 p.m. and the Lake Susan swim is scheduled for 5 p.m.

A Scottish band, The Chimney Rock Highlanders, directed by Joe Bailey and sponsored by the Montreat Scottish Society, will play throughout the afternoon.

The day's activities will finish with a square dance at 8 p.m. on Montreat's tennis courts with the Stoney Creek Boys providing music.

Everyone is invited to attend the festivities.

Hollifield and Jeter first in golf tournament

by Bill Studenc Jr.

About 80 golfers competed in the Member Guest Golf Tournament held at the Black Mountain Golf Course last weekend. Winners in the championship flight were Truman Hollifield and Harry Jeter (126). Second place was taken by J.C. Hyatt and J.C. Hyatt Jr. (129). Third place was won by Jerry Ballard and Art Clayton (131).

Placing in the first flight were: first,

second, Woody Weaver and George Ledford (135); and third, John Simpson and Danny Willis (136).

Second flight winners were: first, Jim Hollifield and Charlie Daniels (137); second, Curt Brooks and Carroll Hudgins (139); and third, Ken Frizzell and Fred Boren (140).

Placing in the third flight were: first, Jim Gaddy and Sharkey Madrazo (141); Tom Blizard and Jack Dobson (133);

second, Chick Henderson and Wallace Edge (146); and third, Jeff Richardson and Frankie Ross (146).

Winners in the fourth flight were: first, Carl Bartlett and Lee Thompson (150); second, Kim Martin and Mike Reece (154); and third, Ernest Hudgins and Leroy Posey (155).

The ladies putting contest was won by Brenda Henson. Placing second was Kay Walker.



Champs: Truman Hollifield and Harry Jeter.

Weather



review

June 23--high 85, low 61 degrees; .17 inches precipitation.
June 24--high 89, low 61 degrees.
June 25--high 89, low 60 degrees.
June 26--high 80, low 62 degrees.
June 27--high 76, low 56 degrees.
June 28--high 78, low 56 degrees.
June 29--high 80, low 50 degrees.

Weather information courtesy of WFGW Radio, Black Mountain.