

Town to receive \$320,000 ARC grant

Black Mountain is to receive \$320,000 in Appalachian Regional Council (ARC) funds to revamp the town water system, Mayor Tom Sobol learned Tuesday. The figure is a reduction from the \$500,000 the town had originally asked for and expected to get as a first back-up priority for funding by ARC.

In a letter to Mayor Sobol, Governor James B. Hunt explained that despite a 48 percent reduction in funds imposed by Congress and the Reagan administration, Black Mountain would receive

only a 36 percent reduction in its original request.

Mayor Sobol stated that the figure of \$320,000 was given to the Governor by himself and former town manager as the absolute minimum at which the town could still make water system improvements, when it became apparent that Congress was going to reduce ARC funds.

"We felt we could live with \$320,000," Sobol said. "We were extremely fortunate getting it."

Firemen to challenge disc jockeys in ballgame

A Donkey Softball Game, played between the Black Mountain Fire Department and WWNC Radio disc jockeys, will begin at 6 p.m. August 5. This fundraising event for the Black Mountain Fire Department will be one of the first events in the 1981 Sourwood Festival, and, according to the firemen, will also be one of the funniest.

Those who have seen a donkey ball game before say the clever donkeys have no respect for riders and feel no remorse whatsoever for dumping them on their "dignity".

Appearing at the game will be Easy Rider, billed as "America's buckingest donkey." After hundreds of attempts, Easy Rider has yet to let anyone ride him.

Bob McKinley, nationally famous rodeo clown, will also appear with a half-time show featuring comedy animal acts.

The donkeys, which come from the Tarheel Donkey Ball Company of Denver, Colo., will also carry firemen in the Sourwood parade, which begins at 4 p.m. the same afternoon.

Courtesy of local merchants, residents of the Western Carolina Center will be able to attend the donkey softball game. Tickets will be \$2 each, and proceeds will be used to purchase equipment for the fire department.

The game will be held at Burgess Field beside the Phillip 66 station on U.S. 70.

The gates will open at 5 p.m. and the game will begin at 6.

Cherry St. festival Saturday

The 1981 Cherry St. Musical Festival will begin at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 11. Sidewalk artists and craftsmen are invited to set up on the street between 1:30 and 2 p.m.

Music will start at 3 p.m. with a contemporary Christian band called Smyrna. At 4 p.m., Fox Watson will play and sing traditional and folk music. At 5 p.m., "Uncle" Walt Davis and his band will play "old-timey" music. At 6 p.m., Bagshot Row will play rock 'n' roll music and at 7 p.m., Robert Brown and Robert Swain will play and sing.

Finally, there will be a street dance with Carolina Bluegrass and the Spivey Mountain Cloggers from 8-11 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Free balloons and bubble gum will be handed out to the children.

Ground breaking held at Highland Farms for new lodge facility

by Bill Studenc Jr.

Highland Farms in Black Mountain, one of the South's most complete retirement facilities, broke ground on Saturday, July 4, for the Lodge, the newest phase of the retirement complex.

Chet Prentice, president and executive director of Highland Farms, said, "The Lodge will be a hotel-type residence and will complete the full range of accommodations already offered."

Highland Farms presently offers a choice between cottages, apartments and a health care center staffed by skilled nursing personnel.

"The Lodge is for persons who no longer want private home or apartment living, but do want the convenience of full meal service, housekeeping and other hotel-type services," Prentice said.

He added that the Lodge should be complete and ready for occupancy on or about September 1, 1982.

The new facility will contain 48 units, many of which have already been reserved. Each unit will have a living-sleeping area, a large closet and complete bathroom. Pairs of rooms may be connected to provide larger living quarters.

Rather than the traditional spade-shovel routine, Prentice chose to climb aboard the company back-hoe tractor and break ground with it.

Allan Robertson, chairman of the board of directors of Highland Farms, Inc., gave the introductory remarks and a short history of Highland Farms.

A dedicatory prayer was offered by Dr. Paul Lambert, one of the founders of the company and a resident of the retirement community.

Inquiries from persons interested in the Lodge should be directed to Mrs. Jewell Price, director of the Lodge.



Participants in Saturday's ground breaking at Highland Farms included Chet Prentice, executive director and president of Highland

Farms on the back-hoe and, from left to right, Allan Robertson, chairman of the board of directors; Frank Washburn, immediate past

chairman of the board; Dr. Paul Lambert, past president, and Jewell Price, director of the Lodge.

Two truckers killed on Old Fort Mountain

A Florida couple driving a tractor-trailer loaded with frozen foods were killed Saturday about 8:10 p.m. when their rig lost its brakes and crashed into the right guardrail on Old Fort Mountain.

The driver of the truck, Dell Pety Hoard, 44, was eastbound on Interstate 40 when he apparently lost his brakes. His wife, Joyce, 43, was a passenger in the vehicle. Both were thrown from the

cab in the accident.

The tractor-trailer overturned, sliding over 300 feet on its side along the guardrail, which tore into the cab. The rig came to rest a short distance from a sandpit designed to stop runaway vehicles safely.

Heavy holiday traffic was backed up for several miles in either direction after the accident, which blocked all four

lanes. One eastbound lane was opened about three hours later. The contents of the trailer remained scattered along the road throughout the weekend.

The rig, totally demolished in the accident, was owned by the driver.

Because of its exceptionally steep grade, Old Fort Mountain has been the scene of many accidents involving runaway trucks with brake failures. In

the last seven years, over 20 have lost their lives on the mountain.

A manned trucker information station was replaced by flashing warning lights and signs between Ridgcrest and the top of the mountain this spring. The information station, manned by law enforcement officers, was opened in September, 1980, as a temporary measure to warn truckers of the danger.

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Ex-quarterback Roman Gabriel tees off in Black Mountain

by Bill Studenc Jr.

Ex-professional football stand-out Roman Gabriel paid a visit to the Black Mountain Golf Course Tuesday as part of a two-week vacation in his native state of North Carolina.

"We're here to play that famous par-six hole and we want to see if we can get through before nightfall," the former Los Angeles Ram and Philadelphia Eagle quarterback explained.

A Wilmington native, the former star said jokingly that when he was born six-foot-three and weighing 215 pounds, he knew he was going to be a football player.

Gabriel said he owes much of his success to his father, who gave him the inspiration he needed to continue to strive for success.

"My dad was a full-blooded Filipino," Gabriel said. "He came to this country with nothing in his pocket."

Gabriel said that though his father was

not athletic, he still had been his idol. "He set quite an example for me with



Ex-quarterback Roman Gabriel relaxed at the Black Mountain Golf Course Tuesday afternoon.

Julia Codington art exhibit in Montreat

Watercolors on exhibit in Convocation Hall in Montreat are the work of Julia Neville Codington. A major portion of the show is work done by Julie while serving three years in Bangladesh as a volunteer in mission for the Presbyterian Church, U.S.

Ms Codington was born in Kobe, Japan and was raised in Korea where her parents were missionaries. She was graduated from Agnes Scott College with a major in art before going on to Cornell Nursing School in New York City. Julie then went to Bangladesh to serve.

Julie returned to the United States and settled in Black Mountain. She began working as a nurse for Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville. Julie died December 23, 1980, when she was involved in an automobile accident returning home from work late that night. She was 29 years old.

The Julia Codington exhibit will be in Montreat's Convocation Hall through the month of July. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Weather review

June 30—high 82, low 51 degrees.
July 1—high 77, low 58 degrees; .73 inches precipitation.
July 2—high 70, low 58 degrees; 1.45 inches precipitation.
July 3—high 70, low 61 degrees; .15 inches precipitation.
July 4—high 80, low 57 degrees.
July 5—high 84, low 74 degrees; .04 inches precipitation.
July 6—high 82, low 64 degrees; .04 inches precipitation.

Weather information courtesy of WFGW Radio, Black Mountain.

his determination. I feel very fortunate that I am athletic and have his determination."

Originally hoping for a career in professional baseball, Gabriel attended North Carolina State where, under Coach Claude Gibson (who now coaches at Mars Hill) he opted for football.

"The opportunity to become a pro football player was suddenly staring me in the face, so I took it," he said.

Playing for 16 years, Gabriel has many memories of his football days. Some stand out in his mind, including the 1969 Most Valuable Player Award and the 1973 Comeback Player of the Year Award. He also holds about 13 Ram's passing records and has the lowest lifetime interception ratio in the NFL.

Retiring in 1977, Gabriel cites "16 years and five knee operations" as his reasons for leaving the game.

He began broadcasting football games for CBS-Sports in 1978 and also coached a high school squad for a few years. He signed last April as head coach of California Polytechnical Institute.

Noting the difference in professional football 10 years ago and today, Gabriel said, "I think overall when I played it

was a thing you wanted to do, enjoyed doing, and appreciated the opportunity to do.

"But now they play still because they enjoy the game, but now the great amounts of money shorten their careers because they don't have to play as long."

Character is the trait Gabriel feels is most important in youngsters wishing to pursue a career in professional football. "By character, I mean being a positive person, not a negative person. Eliminate the words, 'I can't' and turn 'I can't' situations into 'I can' situations," he explained.

Other traits admired by the ex-gridiron pro are desire, organization, discipline and the ability to set and reach goals.

Because he is now coaching football, Gabriel said he does not miss playing football as much as he would otherwise. "My interest is still around the game and I'm able to help others, and help them hopefully not make the same mistakes that I made," he said. "I believe you should correct your mistakes from the past, live today and let tomorrow take care of itself."



Roman Gabriel (left) joined his ex-coach Claude Gibson and Black Mountain Golf Course manager Wilbur Waters for a photo before teeing off.

Swannanoa Library to launch Friends group

The Swannanoa Friends of the Library organization will be launched this coming Tuesday, July 14. President pro-tem Wayne Watters announced that all people interested in being patrons and supporters of the library are invited to meet in the Community Center Club House in Grovemont at 7:30 p.m. It is hoped, he said, that a large number of people will attend for the organizational meeting.

Plans for the formation of the organization and for the initial meeting have been formulated by members of the Steering Committee: Vivian Astley, Louise Hardie, Helen Hipp, Frances Mann, Ruth Szitty, Jess Venable, Frank Austin, David Faucette, Greg Gamble, David Rozzell, and Roger Stuck.

Following the brief business meeting and the election of officers, Dr. Howard Thomas will show slides and discuss his

recent return to The People's Republic of China.

Refreshments will conclude the evening.

Swannanoa fire department elections

The Swannanoa Volunteer Fire Department will hold elections for its board of directors July 14 at the volunteer fire department from 2-7 p.m. Anyone who lives in the fire district and pays taxes is eligible to run and to vote in this election.