

Town Council

Recreation director resigns; town manager applicants considered

The Town Board accepted the resignation of Black Mountain Recreation Director Alice Schweitzer, effective August 17, at a called meeting Friday, July 17.

In other action at the meeting, the board passed a resolution to cancel a contract with Ferguson Well Drilling and agreed to sign a contract with Green Brother for test wells at In-the-Oaks.

Acting Town Clerk Suzanne Turner said of the previously accepted bid, "We weren't in a position to let bids because we hadn't met all the require-

ments at that point."

Bids were advertised again and the Green Company came in with the lowest bids.

The board considered changes requested by the Episcopal Diocese in the contract for the well sites at In-the-Oaks. The changes included a limitation on time lapsed between the date the wells might be abandoned by the town before the site returned to the diocese; a 600,000 gallon per year limitation on free water for In-the-Oaks instead of the previously agreed on 50,000 gallons per month; and a clause stating that

construction would not be done on the site during the summer months.

The board approved the changes, except to request that drilling be allowed to take place this summer and that the six months for abandonment be changed to one year.

At the Friday meeting, the board appointed Albert Richardson chairman of the ABC board.

The meeting was continued on Tuesday, July 21, for the purpose of considering applications for town manager.

The board read applications from the

six men and two women received by the deadline date, July 13, but decided they needed more time to review them before deciding which candidates to interview.

Next Tuesday, July 28, the board will reconvene at 7:30 a.m. to decide which of the applicants to interview. Interviews were tentatively set for August 3, with a decision to be made at the next regularly scheduled board meeting on August 10. September 1 will most likely be the starting date for a new town manager, the board decided.



Chris Waters (left) and Seth Adams, both 11, won first and second places, respectively, in the Junior Golf Tournament at the Asheville Municipal Golf Course last week. Chris, who had a score of 105, and been playing golf since he was six years old. Seth, who scored 123 in the tournament, has only been playing the game since March.

BLACK

MOUNTAIN NEWS

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Motorcyclist injured in accident on U.S. 70

A motorcyclist was injured on Wednesday, July 15 in an accident that occurred at the intersection of Cragmont Road and U.S. 70.

Steve Melin of Azalea Ave., Black Mountain was traveling west on U.S. 70 when a car driven by Larry Wayne Clark of Newland, N.C. entered the intersection from Cragmont Road without

stopping. Melin's motorcycle struck the left side of the automobile.

Witnesses said Melin was thrown onto the car and then into the highway in the 7:10 p.m. accident. He was taken to Memorial Mission Hospital, where he remained at press time, in satisfactory condition.

Hendon aide fields questions here

by Cynthia Reimer

Stating that Representative Bill Hendon "grew up here in the mountains. He's hiked the mountains, fished the streams. He understands," Hendon's district assistant, Bob Orr, sought to

reassure environmentalists at a Monday morning meeting at Black Mountain Town Hall. Other issues of concern voiced by residents and aldermen included bureaucratic red tape and inflexibility of government programs,

the fate of the Social Security program and abortion legislation.

About 13 attended the one-hour meeting, one of many Orr is conducting throughout the 11th Congressional District to discuss issues and concerns with citizens.

Orr said Hendon favors a "balanced approach" to the issue of wilderness vs. economic use for public lands. Hendon, Orr said, makes decisions on a case-by-case basis, deciding whether economic considerations are the greater need or if the environmental impact would be too great to justify the monetary gain.

"You can't lock the mountains up," Orr said. "It's not a good policy not to use any of the resources."

Alderman A.F. Tyson asked Orr to relay his belief in Hendon that local government should be given more authority and flexibility in administering state and federal grants.

Orr stated that block grants are a step in this direction because money is awarded federally and local officials and townspeople make the decisions about their use.

"Billy (Hendon) would like to get as much as possible (power) down to the local level," Orr said.

If anyone knows of specific instances of unreasonable governmental red tape, Orr said, a complaint should be made in writing. "If we know exactly where it is we can make a specific complaint," he explained. "We have to have the specific complaint to make any headway."

On Social Security legislation, Orr said, "There aren't going to be any easy

answers. Billy's going to put a lot of thought in this.

"Billy feels absolute commitment to citizens who earned Social Security payments. That's the bottom line.

"They're not going to be let down by him. He's going to do everything he can to protect them, keeping in mind Social Security is in trouble."

Asked by a citizen to state Hendon's views on abortion issues, Orr said, "I'm going to dodge that one. Talk to Billy about specific legislation."

After the meeting, Orr said he found North Carolinians concerned about mostly the same issues—jobs, the economy, social security, relationships with federal agencies and road projects. Environmental concern was much stronger in this area than in other parts of the 11th Congressional District, he said.

Anyone unable to attend the meeting wishing information or wanting to state their views on issues to Mr. Hendon can call him at his Asheville office in The Mall, 298-9437.

New manager appointed for nutrition center

Mae Sawyer has been appointed new site manager for the nutrition program for senior citizens at the Lakeview Center. Mrs. Sawyer, who has worked as an assistant for 18 months, began her new duties on July 13th.

The center provides lunch for 50 to 60 senior citizens a day. A program usually follows lunch, Mrs. Sawyer said, on music, legal aid, religion and a variety of other topics. Mrs. Sawyer is responsible for arranging the programs, planning and serving the food and keeping records of the program.

"Keep them well-fed and happy—that's the biggest thing," she said of her job.

Several volunteers assist Mrs. Sawyer,

but a permanent assistant will be assigned soon by the Council on Aging, funder of the program.

Planned jointly by Mrs. Sawyer and Laine Calloway, head of services to senior citizens at Lakeview Center, is a new diet and exercise class designed to help those who are having trouble losing a little weight.

Phoebe Putnam, nutritionist for the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Office, will provide the expertise on diet and Ms. Calloway will lead exercises.

Mrs. Sawyer has been a resident of Buncombe County all her life and moved to Black Mountain five years ago.



Mae Sawyer

Water situation acute

The water situation in Black Mountain is becoming acute, according to Water Department liaison A.F. Tyson. If we don't have rain in the next week, he said, water will have to be rationed in Black Mountain.

According to Water Department head Al White, the level of the Dunsmore Cove Reservoir has dropped almost five feet from the spillway leaving only 15 feet of usable water remaining in the reservoir.

That, said White, is about a 10 day supply for the town.

If water users don't voluntarily cut back drastically in their water use, and unless the town receives heavy rainfall in the next few days, Town Council will have no choice but to put mandatory restrictions on water usage.

Album first for dulcimer maker

by Bill Studenc Jr.

Jerry Read Smith. The name itself seems to possess a magical, lyrical quality. Whether or not the name has music in it, the man who claims that name most certainly does.

Recent sales of his first album, "The Strayaway Child," a collection of folk songs performed on the hammered dulcimer and other similar instruments, offer proof enough of Smith's musical ability.

The album, a collaboration between Smith, owner of "Song of the Wood," a dulcimer shop in Black Mountain, and Tom Fellenbaum, owner of a similar shop right next door, has sold over 1,500 copies in the two-and-one-half weeks since its release.

The huge number of copies is especially amazing, Smith point out, because Smith himself is the sole distributor of the album.

"I can't believe it, and I can't understand it," said Smith. "It's what I was hoping and looking for, but I can't believe that it's really happening."

Smith describes the sales of the album as "snowballing." For example, one lady heard the album at a party attended by seven people. The record

was played nine times in a row. The lady ordered 10 copies and told Smith that everyone at the party was planning to order one.

Because of the success of the album, orders for dulcimers are also on the rise. Smith has a waiting list for 25 to 30 dulcimers. He said that he got six orders on Monday alone, an unprecedented amount of orders for one day.

Smith attributes the success of the album to the fact that it has broad appeal. Since most of the songs on the album are Irish folk songs, it especially appeals to lovers of folk music.

"It is also interesting from a musical perspective because of the way the hammered dulcimer sounds. It's something different and pretty," said Smith.

Smith and Fellenbaum first decided they were going to make an album about two years ago. They started working on it and recorded some basic tracks in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

"We never got together to finish it because we weren't excited enough about it to carry it through," Smith said. "Until last December, when we started to really work hard."

The main idea behind "The Strayaway

Child" was to give the two instrument-builders a chance to make an album with the instruments they were building.

"We wanted to carry it the full way," said Smith, "from selecting the wood at the mill to playing and recording the album."

Continued on page 8

Weather review

July 14—high 89, low 71 degrees; trace precipitation.

July 15—high 88, low 63 degrees.

July 16—high 83, low 66 degrees; .10 inches precipitation.

July 17—high 87, low 63 degrees; .19 inches precipitation.

July 18—high 79, low 68 degrees.

July 19—high 84, low 69 degrees; trace precipitation.

July 20—high 87, low 66 degrees; .43 inches precipitation.

Homemade boats to race on lake Aug. 8

The Black Mountain Sourwood Festival will sponsor a homemade boat race on Lake Tomahawk Saturday, August 8. Prizes will be awarded in both the under-12 and over-13 age divisions for the race winner, most original boating



attire and most original boat. No motors will be allowed in the race, but any other propulsion—including oars, paddles, sails, hot air, solar power swim fins or galley slaves may be used—as long as it is homemade.

Styrofoam, milk jugs, tubes and coolers are favored building materials of past Lake Tomahawk champions.

Lifeguards will be on duty and life jackets will be required. Some life jackets may be available for use by contestants. Anyone who could provide life jackets for the race should call Sharon Allison, 669-5008.

Registration will take place Saturday morning at 10:30 in front of the of Black Mountain Clubhouse at the lake. The race itself will begin at 11:30 a.m. One complete circuit of the lake, passing around a marker near the dam, will make up the course.

Police and fire report

Rash of smash-ups

Black Mountain
Police Department

Drivers with their cars in reverse are having problems in town lately—Black Mountain Police Department records show a rash of accidents involving one vehicle backing into another recently.

On July 11, \$950 damage was caused by a vehicle backing into another on Broadway. On July 11, a vehicle backing up in a lumber company parking lot caused \$200 damage. On July 13 a vehicle backing out on Broadway backed into another vehicle, causing \$1,000 damage.

Only July 14, \$350 damage was caused by a vehicle in reverse in the library parking lot. On the same day, a vehicle attempted to turn off U.S. 70 east when a vehicle in front of him began backing up, striking the first vehicle and causing \$110 damage.

On July 18 the larceny of a mandolin was reported from McDibbs on Cherry

Street. Someone ran in the door, grabbed the musical instrument and ran back out, an officer said. The mandolin was valued at \$180.

If anyone has property stolen, Police Chief Slagle said, it should be reported to the police department. "It could be at the police station," Slagle said, "and we don't have any way of knowing who it belongs to."

Black Mountain
Fire Department

On July 15, Black Mountain firemen performed a wash-down after a wreck on U.S. 70 in front of Fast Fare that involved a car and a motorcycle.

On July 19, firemen extinguished a mattress on fire at the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center. Damage was confined to the mattress. The fire was caused by a cigarette, a fireman said.