

Black MOUNTAIN NEWS

Serving the Swannanoa Valley

Second class postage paid
at Black Mountain, NC 28711

Thursday, December 8, 1983, Volume 31: Number 49

Member of the NCPA

25¢



Making winter fantasies come alive at the Black Mountain Primary School are six youngsters who are pictured creating ornaments to hang on the community Christmas tree. They are: (l-r) Freddie Banks, third grader; Tammy Creasman, fourth grader; Aaron Mundy, fifth grader; Christy Gregory, kindergartener; Kendra McMahan, second grader; Valerie Eubanks, first grader.

Community Christmas to be celebrated

Children from Swannanoa Elementary, Black Mountain Primary and Carver Optional Schools have been invited by the Chamber of Commerce to make ornaments to decorate a community Christmas tree that will be erected on the green between Cook Electric and the Western Auto on Broadway.

Festivities will get underway at 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12 when the children gather there to decorate the tree. Everyone is invited to come and share in the cheerful event.

At 6:30 p.m., those who wish to join in community caroling around a

traditional yule fire are asked to come to the corner of Vance Avenue and Number 9. Bring a log to keep the fire burning while singing is enjoyed. Hot cider and cocoa will be furnished to the carolers.

Some merchants in the downtown business district of Black Mountain are planning to keep their stores open that evening until 9 p.m. to accommodate local Christmas shoppers.

The Black Mountain-Swannanoa Chamber of Commerce is the sponsor for the festivities. The Chamber invites the public to share in this fun-filled time which it hopes will become an annual community celebration of Christmas.

Christmas parade rescheduled

Due to inclement weather last Saturday, Dec. 3, the Chamber of Commerce sponsored Black Mountain Christmas Parade was postponed.

It has been rescheduled for this coming Saturday, Dec. 10 and will begin at 10 a.m.

The Black Mountain-Swannanoa Jaycees remind everyone that they will have a food float in the parade and want to collect non-perishable food stuffs to help families in the Valley during the Christmas season by restocking pantries. Everyone attending the parade is asked to bring an item to contribute.

Black Mountain to celebrate Arbor Day

Noting the increasing interest the citizens of Black Mountain have shown over the past several years in planting and maintaining trees in the Town, Mayor Tom Sobol has proclaimed Friday, Dec. 9, 1983, as Arbor Day in the Town of Black Mountain. A commemorative tree planting will be held at 10 a.m. at the intersection of US 70 and Old US 70 on the west side of town. This is one of the areas designated by the Urban Forestry Commission for beautification.

Representatives from the Board of Aldermen, the Urban Forestry Commission, and Town Hall will be on hand for the planting. All interested citizens are invited to attend.

Aldermen to meet

Following the oath of office for the re-elected Alderman and the appointment of a Vice-Mayor, the town board will consider these items of new business when they hold their regularly scheduled monthly meeting in the town hall at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12.

To be considered are sidewalks, amendments to the zoning ordinance, resolutions to accept W. College Street, tax releases, Church Street sidewalk bids and an appointment to the planning board.

Communications from the Mayor and Town Administrator will bring the Board up-to-date on events since the last meeting.

This is an open meeting and the public is welcome.

SVFD Board to meet Thursday

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Swannanoa Volunteer Fire Department will be held on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the fire station.

Chamber of Commerce Meeting Was Informative

Community spirit, hard work, enthusiasm for continued planned progress for the Valley were the three things most evident in brief reports made by members of the Black Mountain-Swannanoa Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Committee that highlighted the annual meeting held in Assembly Inn in Montreat on Monday, Dec. 5.

Topics touched on in the talks were recent improvements made to Black Mountain. Townlift projects, the educational needs facing the Valley, the second Annual Mt. Mitchell Ski Challenge, and the renovation of the new Chamber facility.

EDC Chairman Wendell Begley said his committee had been working for just under two years and felt that the hard work of its 18 members had "touched the lives and life style" of many in the Valley.

Executive Secretary of the Chamber Andy Andrews listed the many accomplishments of that organization during the past calendar year. He commended the 46 men and women who volunteer regularly at the Chamber office for

their work that has helped the office handle the many thousands of visitors who stopped there this year. His talk recapped the year's work and among the many accomplishments he mentioned were the Christmas and Sourwood parades, Secretary Recognition Day, the quarterly luncheons held to open the lines of communication and co-operation among Chamber members, and the recognition of Black Mountain as a Community of Excellence for the second year.

George Venturella told of the improvements made to the new Chamber facility and listed work still to be done. He challenged each member to get involved with time, money or materials to complete the renovation which could enable the Chamber to become a focal point in the community.

More than 220 attended the meeting representing 65 Valley businesses. Also present were Congressman and Mrs. James McClure Clarke, former Congressman and Mrs. Roy Taylor, N.C. Representatives Greenwood, Nesbitt, Crawford and Mayors Tom Sobol of Black Mountain and John Abernethy of Montreat.



Members of the Economic Development Committee gave reports at the Black Mountain-Swannanoa Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet and business meeting. Pictured are: (l-r) Michael Clevenger, Hugh Thomas, Bob Dickey, Jim Aycock, Bob Watts and Wendell Begley.

In Special Session

School Board Acts on Resolutions



Members of the Buncombe County School Board are pictured above during a special session held Thursday, Dec. 1. During the session the Board unanimously passed motions to be presented to the Buncombe County Commissioners at a meeting to be held on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

Owen District representative Ms. Jane Smith is pictured at the far right. Pictured counter-clockwise at the table from her are Bill McElrath, an Associate Superintendent; John Carroll, Chairman of the Board; Dr. N.A. Miller, Superintendent; Dr. Roger A. James, Board member; Robert E. Greene, Board member; Vernon Dover, Board member; and James Lewis, Board member.

Pictured behind Ms. Smith is William Hamby, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs.

The Buncombe County Board of Education met in a called session on Thursday, Dec. 1 to act on three resolutions that will have a decisive bearing on the future of public education in the county.

The first resolution called for the repeal of prior resolutions the board had passed asking the County Commissioners to provide additional school facilities.

The Board then approved a resolution asking the county commissioners to provide \$32.7 million for new construction and improvements in the county school system.

The final resolution called for the commissioners to set aside \$2 million annually for use for capital improvements within the system so that it will not fall behind in construction as it has at the present.

The Board will also ask the commissioners to officially call for a bond referendum to be held in March of 1984 to fund the proposed improvements. The funds realized from the passage of that bond would enable the Board to "play catch-up ball" in the words of Superintendent N.A. Miller so that existing health and safety hazards in county schools could be eradicated and additional construction that is needed immediately could be undertaken.

The Asheville City School Board met on Friday, Dec. 2 and voted to ask the commissioners to provide an additional \$5.3 million to build a new elementary school and make improvements to two existing schools.

The Commissioners will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. in the Courthouse to consider resolution of both Boards.

Although a total of \$38 million worth of projects are being requested by the two Boards, the bond will be set at \$32 million. The other \$6 million would come from interest and surplus in the school construction fund.

The bonds would be paid off over a 20-year period with revenues from the school construction fund, which consists of one-half of the 1-cent local option sales tax in Buncombe County.

No additional taxes would be needed to repay the bonds.

In addition to Owen High School would be funded by bond money and land for a new high school could be secured with funds from it also.

On a motion made by Owen District Representative Jane Smith, the Board voted to declare that it was their intention to replace the inadequate cafeteria in the Black Mountain Middle School.

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Solution to the
December 1
Crossword Puzzle