



Keeping the
'Laughter' in
Manslaughter

Briefs

Escaped local pet monkey reveals owner's hidden drugs to police

Before euthanization, other pound animals shunned simian snitch

Former attorney Sam Neill ready to tell his side of embezzling \$2M but only over the course of \$750K in billable hours

Asheville Brewers Alliance partners up with 'Strive Not to Drive'

Asheville's doula-to-fetus ratio now 6:1

Navy corpsman from Arden receives military's lowest honor

'Not even a name for it, more of a high-five type of deal'

'Retro Night' in Clyde enters 45th year

Anthropologist: Breast-feeding 3-year-olds perfectly acceptable but could lead to unhealthy disinterest in breast fetish porn

The Asheville Disclaimer is parody/satire.

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Spike in downtown violent crime leaves new Asheville police chief 'having one of those days'

ASHEVILLE, MONDAY — As the recent explosion of violent crime has become the focus of interest for local media outlets, new Asheville Police Chief William Anderson has turned to Sudoku puzzles for solace.

"Something about Sudoku puzzles simply takes my mind off my own troubles for a while," said Police Chief Anderson. "Of course, by the time I complete one, I've got brand-new troubles. But I also have a lot of brand-new Sudoku puzzles."

According to the new police chief's wife, the uncontrolled "violence-fest" in Asheville's central business district almost immediately upon his arrival has "un-vigorated" her husband, the end result being that "Willie's lost that pep in his step."

As the number of assaults and robberies in the last few weeks hits record levels and have the police chief, according to him, "feeling dog-tired just from the second I wake up in the morning," other members of the police force are stepping forward to provide answers.

"Since it is a record-breaking spike in crime, clearly the shift from a warm winter to a wet spring has given everyone an aggressive case of 'spring fever,'" said Capt. Wes Wade. "Everyone enjoys a nice springtime, even violent offenders. No stopping that."

Some locals suspect otherwise.

"All this local talk about brewing beer has just sent packs of teens over the edge, clearly," said Samuel Simons, founder of the Asheville Chapter for the Repeal of the Repeal of Prohibition. "Like a good Ashevillean, I must note that I do homebrew non-alcoholic beer, and it's just as funky tasting as regular homebrewed basement beer, every bit."

Suspects who have been apprehended in "community survey sweeps" claim the spike in crime is



A surge in violent crime downtown is the result, according to APD officials, of the "Springtime blues."

nothing personal against the new police chief.

"Normally, we like to let the new guy get acclimated to his new city, have a dinner or two downtown to get a feel for it, before we organize an incomprehensibly random festival of violence," stated one anonymous survey taker.

To its credit, the Asheville police department is late to respond, but in a more proactive manner this time.

"We've been talking about shifting some units from point A to point B for years, but now we're taking that conversation to a new level of informal discussion," said one officer.

The public, however, is howling for the release of the department's full arsenal of resources.

"Half the force has access to a fleet of Segways, and you're telling me we can't get a grip on crime here? Segway is the leader in personal, green transportation, and we're just conceding that tactical advantage?" said one downtown business owner. "And how about more bicycle patrols on the highways? Are we just surrendering?"

Citizen-Times columnist Susan Reinhardt re-re-visits the Gerton 'Mountain Man'

Lawdy, it's been just 10 days since my last update on the "Mountain Man" of Gerton, who I wrote about in a column months ago and have since revisited the topic for some good ol'-fashioned mountain milking.



After my third visit to the "front porch" of the dilapidated and downright charmingly ramshackle repurposed storage container the "Mountain Man" and his hopelessly addicted but lovely wife live in and sit in front of day after day inexplicably waving to cars while dipping in and out of beer-induced blackouts, have I got some stories for you.

First off, yes, the rats are still there. Y'all should really make the trip and look for the rats the next time you're driving by to gawk and throw pocket change at the Mountain Man's head — an act they've come to love since I recommended it in my first installment on these two despair-proof drunken lovebirds.

Of course, Mountain Man wasn't wearing a shirt — he never does. But get this: now he doesn't even wear pants when reporters come to visit. These mountains are just full of surprises.

His wife sold her teeth for beer last week, so hopefully one of my readers will be a dear and drop off a case of Natural Light (I can't due to journalistic ethics). Otherwise, she keeps troopering on and making daily nine-mile walks to the nearest gas station to "git her fixins," occasionally getting a ride back home from passerby reporters who just happen to be driving alongside her, enjoying the day and not romancing the misery of others to fill column inches. It's a mountain thing — y'all wouldn't understand.

Spending time with real mountain folk is a hoot. This time, Mountain Man spewed authentic down-home mountain vomit! A passing motorist who was a veterinarian stopped, examined Mountain Man's stomach innards, and offered to put him down. You can't put down real mountain folk — they're too darned proud!

I guess real mountain values for most folks are hard to swallow, especially if your husk of a wife has dropped a cigarette butt in your half-full beer can. I can't overstate how much Mountain Man threw up during my latest visit.

Here's to real mountain folk, my favorite kind, and the reader responses and online page views their stories elicit. Some (everyone in Gerton and its surrounding communities) may say that their nonstop drinking and depressing circumstances don't need sensationalizing, but I say he's the real mountain deal who vomits real mountain truth.

Stay tuned for the next crazy update!