

APRIL

100 years of McCormick Field



Photo courtesy of the Asheville Tourists

The Asheville Tourists began a season-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of McCormick Field with an April 3 game against the Fayetteville Woodpeckers. The exhibition came 100 years to the day after the Asheville Skylanders defeated the Detroit Tigers in the inaugural game at the stadium, which is now the third-oldest ballpark in Minor League Baseball (MiLB).

On Aug. 28, the City of Asheville and the Tourists began work on the McCormick Field Centennial Restoration & Capital Improvements Project. The 18-month, \$38.5 million facelift aims to bring the stadium in line with rigorous MiLB facility standards implemented in 2020.

The work is set to be completed by the Tourists' 2026 season. In the meantime, the team will play amid construction. ❌



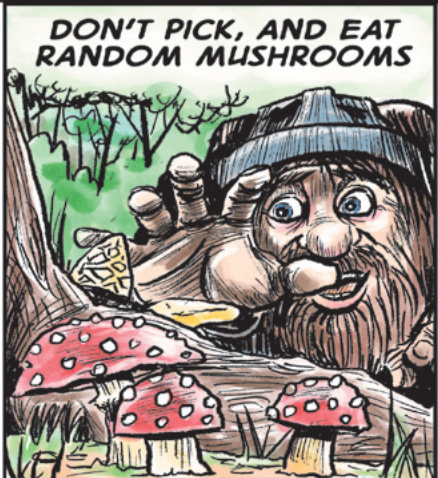
Photo courtesy of Buncombe County Special Collections, Pack Memorial Library

'Selfie Bear' makes international headlines

Asheville went viral for all the wrong reasons when a video was posted to social media showing several people pulling two black bear cubs from a tree at an apartment complex and taking selfies. One of the cubs was seen running away in the video and was never located. The other bear, a female, was later found wet and alone in a retention pond, exhibiting signs of stress. Officials with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) took "Selfie Bear" to Appalachian Wildlife Refuge in Candler to be cared for.

The story has a happy ending. In November, NCWRC released the orphaned cub in an undisclosed and remote Western North Carolina mountain area. Have a great life, "Selfie Bear." ❌

WESTERN NC SPRING NATURE SAFETY TIPS



Cartoon by Brent Brown

Residents support Southside Community Farm

Hundreds of residents attended an April 24 board meeting of the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville (HACA) to protest a proposal to demolish Southside Community Farm to make way for an outdoor youth play area. The 10-year-old farm occupies a half acre of HACA-owned land in the historically Black Southside neighborhood. In 2023, it produced close to 2,000 pounds of fresh vegetables and fruits, according to farm manager **Chloe Moore**.

In May, **Monique Pierre**, then HACA president and CEO, told farm staff they would not be allowed on the property "after the end of 2024." But Pierre was fired in November, and the future of the farm is uncertain under interim Executive Director **Rhodney Norman**. ❌



Southside Community Farm manager Chloe Moore, front row, second from left, was one of hundreds of community members who attended an Asheville Housing Authority board of commissioners meeting to advocate for preserving the farm. Photo by Gina Smith

MountainTrue keeps pushing U.S. Forest Service

Asheville-based nonprofit MountainTrue and others sued the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on April 18, alleging logging proposals in the 2023 Pisgah-Nantahala Forest Plan could put endangered bats at risk, therefore violating the Endangered Species Act. It was the third lawsuit in a flurry of legal actions against the federal agency.

In the April lawsuit, the plaintiffs challenged the administrative record compiled by USFS as incomplete and are awaiting a decision on whether USFS will be required to provide additional documents, says **Gray Jernigan**, deputy director and general counsel of MountainTrue. ❌

SONG OF THE Month

Isa ibn Wali, "Murder Me"



Photo by Bill Pence

After a few years away from the mic, the local MC returned with a vengeance in 2024, dropping two volumes of his *Free the World* series over the course of a month. On Vol. 1's closing track, the artist formerly known as SIYAH spits confident, complex rhymes from the perspective of a powerful force whose greatness will inevitably be viewed as a threat by the powers that be. Is he referring to himself? A higher power? Something in between? As with the best lyricists, the ambiguity is part of the fun. Listen at avl.mx/edd. — Edwin Arnaudin ❌

COVER OF THE Month



Illustration by Brent Brown

FOOD NEWS

After an initial stint in downtown Asheville, Zella's Deli relocated to 2372 U.S. 70, Swannanoa. The site was destroyed by Tropical Storm Helene, but owners **Michael Reppert** and **John Tressler** say they intend to rebuild in Swannanoa.

Auction House Food Hall opened in Fletcher.

IN CONVERSATION WITH Drake Fowler

"While the storm has upended almost every part of our organization, our focus has not changed, and we have only seen the need for a peaceful connection with nature increase during this crisis. As a landscape architect, I strongly believe that connection is foundational to the human experience and the arboretum continues to focus on creatively fostering that connection."

— **Drake Fowler**, executive director of The N.C. Arboretum.

For the full interview, visit avl.mx/edy ❌



Photo courtesy of The N.C. Arboretum

BOOK RELEASE

In 1927, more than 2,000 people combed the mountains of Western North Carolina in search of Broadus Miller, a Black laborer accused of murdering Gladys Kincaid, a 15-year-old white girl, in Morganton. Miller was found near Linville Falls. Commodore Burlison, a member of the posse, shot and killed him. Miller's body was later displayed on Morganton's courthouse lawn.

Kevin W. Young, a lecturer at Appalachian State University, has spent nearly two decades researching the topic for his book, *The Violent World of Broadus Miller: A Story of Murder, Lynch Mobs, and Judicial Punishment in the Carolinas*, released on April 30. ❌

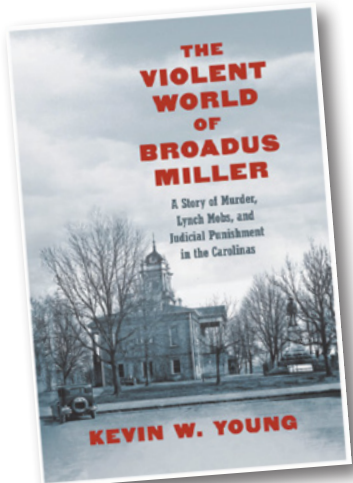
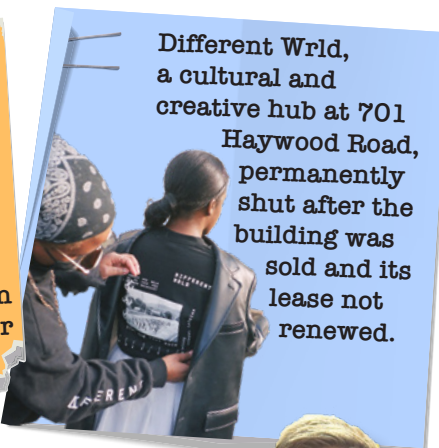


Photo courtesy of Music City Asheville



Music City Asheville on Patton Avenue closed April 29 after 35 years in business.



Different Wrld, a cultural and creative hub at 701 Haywood Road, permanently shut after the building was sold and its lease not renewed.

Photo courtesy of Different Wrld