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THE MOUNTAINEER

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FROG LEVEL BUSINESSES — The Trader and Depot Village are two of the businesses in Frog Level that are open for business.



FROG LEVEL'S TRANSITION

'There's less littering, loitering

BY VICKI HYATT

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It's been a year since The Open Door stopped serving hot meals and providing other services out of its Frog Level storefront.

It was a change business neighbors had long sought, and one the landlord insisted on last year.

The transition was to occur by June 1, 2020, but was speeded up by the coronavirus pandemic. It is a change

several business owners in the district said has made a significant difference.

For the past 10-15 years, business owners in Frog Level have complained about The

Frog Level continues on 11A



OPEN FOR BUSINESS — There are three regularly open businesses along Depot Street in Frog Level. Other buildings are vacant or still have owners/employees working remotely.



PLENTY OF APPLIANCES — Those looking for appliances such as washers, dryers or stoves are likely to find something to fit their needs at The Trader.

Child killer dies in prison

BY KYLE PERROTTI

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A man serving 25 years for murdering an infant has passed away in prison.

Tony Alan Coleman, 56, died in Raleigh's Central Prison on March 17, according to state records, and while the specific nature of his death wasn't released, John Bull, commu-



Tony Coleman

Killer continues on 10A

Cause of fatal mill fire released, citations issued

Evergreen Packaging cleared in blaze

BY KYLE PERROTTI

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A fire that cost the lives of two contractors during maintenance at Canton's Evergreen Packaging paper mill ended in hefty fines for two contractors.

On March 16, N.C. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health division hit Rimcor, Inc., out of Bastrop, Louisiana, with \$5,775 in fines, while Industrial Services

Group, Inc., DBA Universal Blastco, out of Sumter, South Carolina, was fined \$112,000 for a series of alleged violations, including one that was "willful serious."

Within the notifications for citations, the cause of the fire, which occurred during a planned maintenance outage and killed two contractors from Rimcor, is explained. While those employees from Rimcor were working in one section of the mill's D2 down flow tank/tower, employees from Blastco were working in another section, using a heat gun to warm an epoxy vinyl ester resin, which was being

Evergreen continues on 12A

Changing of the guard ahead for Downtown Waynesville Association

BY BECKY JOHNSON

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An instrumental figure in downtown Waynesville's revitalization and continued success over the past three decades will be stepping down later this year.

Buffy Phillips, who's served as the executive director of the Downtown Waynesville Association for 13 years and as assistant director for 18 years before that, will be retir-

ing by year's end. Phillips has been part of the DWA almost since its inception — from the early downtown renewal efforts to its coveted status as one of the premier Main Street destinations in the state.

Phillips is one of only two executive directors to lead the DWA since 1990. While the decision to step down was a difficult one,

Phillips, who will be turning 70 this year, said it's finally time to turn over the reins.

Phillips made the announcement during a meeting of the DWA executive board Tuesday. She did not set a hard and fast time frame, but instead pledged to remain in her role until

DWA continues on 9A

Becky Johnson

POUNGING THE PAVEMENT — Downtown Waynesville Association Director Buffy Phillips (right) with her assistant Beth Gilmore during the annual Waynesville Christmas Parade.



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WORDS TO LIVE BY:

"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."

- Albert Einstein

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