

Ashvegas: Local Olympic hero and celeb sighting

Sep 05

citizen-times.com

Tamayo FTW

Lauren Tamayo, Asheville's Olympic rock star, arrived home this week from London to the hugs, cheers and handshakes of family, friends and admirers. Tamayo's track cycling team won silver in the team pursuit competition. It's been a whirlwind of emotion and attention ever since.

Tamayo received a key to the city from City Council on Tuesday, then repaired to Pack's Tavern for a hero's welcome. In between congratulatory calls from congressmen and interview requests from ESPN reporters, Tamayo signed autographs for young riders and talked about the rigors of training and the thrill — and pain — of the big race. One unexpected consequence of winning an Olympic medal: neck pain from wearing her prize of precious metal, which weighs just under a pound.

Mayor meets Kristofferson

Asheville Mayor Terry Bellamy recently got a snapshot with movie star and musician Kris Kristofferson last week. Kristofferson was in town to play a show with county music legend Merle Haggard at U.S. Cellular Center.

Bartenders wanted

MG Road, the new downtown bar and lounge below the beloved Chai Pani restaurant, is coming together, and owner Meherwan Irani is hiring. A Craigslist post announces that MG Road is hiring bartenders for its 19 Wall St. location. The lounge will be classy and comfortable, Irani promises.

More salt, please

A salt cave is moving into Asheville — which will officially make us a two-salt-cave town. Sola, which is renovating a space at 10 Eagle St., promises “a salt-enriched microclimate which allows the body and mind to gain relaxation, rehabilitation and balance.” Salt therapy is thought to ease respiratory ailments, cardiovascular issues, skin problems and other disorders.

This is the second salt cave in Asheville. The first one, Saltasia, The Salt Spa of Asheville, opened on Hendersonville Road last December. We taste a trend.

TV Eye closing

Marc McCloud's planning on having one heckuva sale soon. McCloud and a business partner own TV Eye Emporium, a DVD rental store on Lexington Avenue. But it's time to move on, said McCloud, who also owns Orbit DVD on Haywood Road in West Asheville. The store will close for a few days in about a month, then sell its entire stock of 20,000 movies, according to McCloud.

Book nerds, rejoice!

The folks at Malaprop's book store recently announced that Neil Gaiman will perform in Asheville in September at Diana Wortham Theatre. The award-winning author of fiction and graphic novels is touring with an acclaimed storytelling network called The Moth in support of independent bookstores. The Unchained Tour features storytellers, musicians and circus performers. From unchainedtour.org: "Unchained believes that the art of the raconteur — the telling of unscripted, personal, porch-style stories — is one of the great arts, and that nights of storytelling are vital to any vibrant and healthy community." Stay tuned to the unchainedtour.org website for tickets, and keep an eye out for other Gaiman sightings — Gaiman's son is getting married in Asheville next month.

Reach Jason Sandford with tips and ideas at jsandford@ashevillescene.com.