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Area developer John Turchin, left, and daughter Ashley, right, party with Black Eyed Peas members Will.i.am and Apl.de.ap on Turchin's yacht in Miami, Fla. Photo submitted

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Developer parties with the Peas

By Lauren K. Ohnesorge

Local real estate mogul John Turchin partied with the stars Saturday in Miami, and, if all goes as planned, the party may move to the High Country.

Pop rockers the Black Eyed Peas were transported directly to Turchin's yacht after their Saturday concert, making them late for their own *Playboy* after party.

"They were playing, and a call came, and I accommodated," Turchin said.

Not only did he serve them drinks and music, he showed them a video of what's going on at his Banner Elk development project, the Lodges at Eagle's Nest.

"I've invited them all up to come and stay in our houses and write some music," he said.

The band's management and Eagle's Nest have been in touch for awhile about the possibility. It's part of Turchin's long-term plan.

"Ever hear the phrase 'if you build it they will come?'" he asked.

Inspired by the phrase, Turchin built an amphitheater and recording studio at Eagle's Nest in hopes of attracting artists.

"My idea is to have a place like this where bands can come up here, bring their families, stay in our houses and write some hits," he said.

He hopes to have the Black Eyed Peas at

the amphitheater soon.

"They showed a lot of interest in what we're doing," Turchin said.

His daughter, Ashley Turchin, was on hand for the yacht event and said the Black Eyed Peas were unexpectedly humble.

"They are very down to earth, real and cool and gracious," she said.

In particular, power voice Fergie was the life of the party.

"She basically sat on my mom's lap on the couch for awhile," Ashley said. "She's just a teeny tiny girl and is so beautiful in real life."

Miami was the second stop on the Peas' tour. They hit Charlotte Feb. 20, and it's a show Ashley said no one should miss.

"They just had such good energy, and they were so amazing," she said.

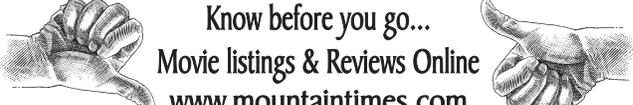
Turchin hopes to bring that energy to the High Country.

"Our mission is to get them up here to the mountains," he said.

For more information on Eagle's Nest, the summer camp inspired development in Banner Elk, visit www.eaglesnestbe.com.

The Black Eyed Peas play at Time Warner Cable Arena in Charlotte Feb. 20 at 8 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$20 to \$82.

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