

Medley...continued from page 1

Medley, *the man with the golden pipes*, says the music industry has become too electronic today, with the artists getting away from the heart and soul of the sound.

"Obviously, there's still some great stuff being recorded," he said. "But you can go into the studio today and make almost anybody sound like a singer. If you've got a good song and a good track, you've got a shot."

"But who's going to play it and where you're going to sell it, man, I don't have a clue," he said.

"I come from the real Rock N' Roll era," he said. "To me, Rock N' Roll was the 50s."

Everything afterward became an opinion or interpretation of what the performers believed to be Rock N' Roll, Medley said.

"Today, there's still Rock N' Roll, but it certainly has taken a different approach," he said. "It's not the Rock N' Roll that I grew up with."

Today's Rock N' Roll is more dance music with a great beat, Medley said.

"But it doesn't really say anything," he said. "I'm concerned that the music is losing the heart and soul. I think today's artists are getting away from the heart."

Medley has a surprise for Hiwassee when he arrives to perform at 7 p.m., Jan. 22 at Anderson Music Hall. He's bringing his 23-year-old daughter McKenna Medley with him to perform at The Hall.

"There are a lot of people interested in her, they want to record her," Medley said. "She's doing her own writing. There are some things that she wants to accomplish before jumping into the middle of the industry."

"But, this year will be the year," Bill Medley said. "It's time for her to enter the ring. She's a singer's singer, she loves music. She just loves the songs. She's a Medley."

In the show, the Medley experience includes all the hits and an unplugged session where Bill Medley gives a little bit of the history of how he and Bobby Hatfield got where they were going as the Righteous Brothers.

"I talk about going on

the road with the Beatles and Rolling Stones. I talk about our experiences with Elvis. Without a doubt, it's a fun show," he said.

It's been a while since Bill Medley has been in Georgia so he's looking forward to a return to the Peach State.

"I love the North Georgia Mountains," he said. "It's a slice of Heaven."

Bill Medley has had a million experiences in the entertainment and music industries. Oddly enough, his fondest memory is doing a monologue with iconic comedian Jack Benny.

Bill Medley also remembers accompanying the first Beatles tour, going on the road with the Rolling Stones and touring with Elvis Presley.

Being in Las Vegas in 1965 with Frank Sinatra also ranks high on the list.

"Sinatra took us to Vegas and we got to know all of the Rat Pack," he said. "It's just been an incredible career."

Bill Medley and Hatfield were the Righteous Brothers, complete with an R&B sound. They recorded a song called *You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'*, a tune they felt good about coming out of the recording studio. They had no idea it would go on to become the most played song in the history of American Radio.

"We were just very fortunate to get our hands on some great songs," he said. "You never know at the time, but thank God that the people remember the ones that were big hits."

The Righteous Brothers seemingly had faded into the sunset when their music found its way back into the pop spotlight with younger listeners. Their music resurfaced thanks to the Silver Screen.

"*Lovin' Feelin'* was in *Top Gun*, then I did (*I've Had The Time of My Life* with Jennifer Warnes for *Dirty Dancing* and they used *Unchained Melody* in *Ghost*. That was in 1989, 1990 and 1991 and they were huge hits so we were back as hot as we ever were."

"Young kids were telling their parents that they

had heard a great song, *Unchained Melody*, and their dad would tell them that he used to dance with their mother to that tune," Medley said. "The 1990s were a pretty interesting time for us."

Medley said The Righteous Brothers' 2003 induction into the Rock N' Roll Hall of Fame was a surprise to both he and Hatfield.

"There was some political stuff going on that kept us out so long, so we didn't think we were going to get in," he said. "We had ourselves convinced that it doesn't matter if we get in or not. When we got the call that we were going into the Rock N' Roll Hall of Fame, we flipped out."

"It is wonderful, it was wonderful and it was a great night," he said. "I had all my family there; Bobby had all his family there. It was a wonderful experience; it was I guess a stamp of approval. It was like we were here and our music touched some people."

The March 2003 induction was special for Bobby Hatfield's family. The other half of the Righteous Brothers died in November 2003.

"It wasn't long after our induction that Bobby passed away," Medley said. "I'm glad he went out knowing he had a place in history."

"Being a part of the Righteous Brothers was an incredible experience," he said. "Being able to go out night, after night and do what you love to do. We would have done it for nothing. Bobby and I were two guys, but it was really one voice."

The music continues to give Medley the drive to continue performing today, he said.

"It's the love of the songs, enjoying the audiences," he said. "It's in my blood, I love to do it. Traveling is the toughest part, it always has been, but you have to travel to get where you're going."

Tickets for the 7 p.m., Jan. 22 Bill Medley Concert at Anderson Music Hall in Hiwassee are still on sale. Ticket Prices are \$35 plus \$2 handling for Level I seating and \$25 plus \$2 handling for Level II seating.

"Tell the folks in Hiwassee to come on out and we'll have a great time," Medley said. "You might say we'll have *The Time of Our Lives*."

Towns Beta Epsilon members attend meeting



Pictured left to right: Barbara Hale, Patti Kay, Donna Howell, Janice Cochran, Julie Thompson, Cindy DeFoor, Janice Moore, Dionne Berrong and Alecia Frizzell

Beta Epsilon Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International held its December meeting at Moschetto's Restaurant in Young Harris.

The focus of the meeting was a Silent Auction held to raise money for the International Scholarships and local scholarships. The State

and International organization provides scholarships for outstanding educators who are pursuing advanced degrees. The local scholarship is awarded to a high-school senior who is planning to go into education. The recipient for 2010 was Allison Arnold who is studying music education at

Young Harris College.

The Beta Epsilon Chapter also supports community needs through donations to S.A.F.E., Towns County Food Pantry, Fannin Crisis Center, book donations to various libraries and the Humane Society. T0Jan12,F4CA

Happy 1st Birthday, Layla



Layla Grace Crawford

Layla Grace Crawford celebrated her 1st birthday on December 6, 2010 with a fabulous birthday party. Over 65 relatives and friends attended the event at Cadence Bank Community Room. Big sister Zoe, age four and a half, welcomed everyone to the celebration.

Layla's parents are Hope and Garra Crawford of Blairsville, GA. Grandparents include Gary and Sheliah Crawford of Blairsville, Greg Guffy of Young Harris, and Missy Guffy of San Diego, CA. Great grandparents include Pete and Thelma Crawford of Nashville, TN, great great grandmother Katherine Crawford of McCaysville, great great grandmother Susie Ledford of Murphy, NC, and great great grandmother Christine Mitchell of Blairsville. Happy birthday, Layla!

NT(Jan13,Z12)

Community...continued from page 1

Gordon Lee won the tournament with Holy Innocents finishing second. The Indians missed a trip to State Duals by one spot.

Before they even arrived in Atlanta on Thursday, the wrestling team faced a critical decision: wait to see if the snow is coming or find a way to get to the Metro Area ahead of time.

Area 3 Duals, or the wrestling equivalent of Region Team Championships, were scheduled for Friday at Holy Innocents School in Atlanta.

The National Weather Service had issued storm alerts with weather models predicting snow for Towns County on Friday morning. The two-day tournament scheduled to begin on Friday was in serious doubt for the Indians.

"If we don't make it to Area Duals, we don't have a shot at going to the State Duals Tournament," Head Wrestling Coach Jeff Stowers said. "These kids aren't wrestling for their health; they're wrestling to reach the highest goal within their reach."

Coach Stowers had already spent the team's booster money on hotel rooms for Friday night. He needed an additional \$500 to get his team secured in a hotel for Thursday night to avoid a potential snow storm.

"We've got some kids that live in some hard to get to places if it snows," Coach Stowers said. "Without additional funds, we're possibly stuck here in Hiwassee."

The community stepped up to the plate to help the team in a pinch.

"The top priority is getting those kids safely to Atlanta and give them an opportunity to compete," said The Ridges Resort General Manager Chad Hooper. "We were glad to help. As we've said all along, we're all about community and the happenings here. This is a fine wrestling team and we'd hate to see them miss an opportunity to get to the state tournament."

"It was a no brainer when it came time to help them," he said.

Juanita Shope, city ex-

ecutive for CB&T agreed with Hooper.

"You listen to the weather reports and you want to make sure those kids get down there as safely as possible," she said. "We are a part of this community and we feel those kids are part of our responsibility. We were more than happy to play a pivotal role in helping them get to Atlanta."

Towns County Herald Editor Charles Duncan said the newspaper was honored to help the Indian grapplers get to Area 3 Duals.

"Jeff Stowers and his coaching staff do a magnificent job with those kids," Duncan said. "It would break my heart if they didn't get a chance to compete in Area Duals. We rallied around our team and did what we could to get them there ahead of a potentially dangerous storm."

"We're proud of the Indians and we're always going to support the local athletic and academic teams," he said. "We're just glad we had the chance to help."

Mountain Realty makes gift to Food Pantry



Left to right: John Allen, Janet Allen, Carmolita Haney, Teresa Parker receiving for Food Pantry, Karen McKin, Brenda Jackson and Sandra Navarre.

Mountain Realty's staff gave to the Food Pantry for Christmas 2010 instead of giving

to each other. Agents are Chuck Albury, Janet Allen, John Allen, Carmolita Haney (Broker),

Brenda Jackson, Sandra Navarre, Howard Smrz and Office Manager Karen McKin. T0Jan12,F1)SH