

# Speaker Ralston...continued from page 1

locals about why they should support the Incumbent State Representative in the upcoming November general election.

Allison, a deputy whip in the state House, represents Towns, Union, Rabun, and White counties. He's completing his first term. State Rep. Allison defeated incumbent District 8 State Rep. Charles Jenkins in the 2008 General Election.

In his first year in of-

fice, Allison either sponsored or co-sponsored 24 legislative actions, including House Bill 667, which related to hospital acquisition and House Bill 782 which offered Towns County residents the right to cast ballots to increase their local home-stead exemption from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

He's opposed by Lance, a Blairsville attorney. A political newcomer,

Lance, 30, seeks to unseat the incumbent representative Allison, 39 in November.

Though a newcomer to the political arena, Lance is no stranger to politics, having served on the staff of retired U.S. Sen. and two-term Georgia Gov. Zell Miller.

Miller recently endorsed Lance as his candidate of choice in House District 8.

# Fireworks...continued from page 1

chef at The Oaks. It was a huge event. I think it was great spectator event.

"It pumped up everyone who works here," he said. "We look forward to the future coming up. They're planning on doing more fireworks events like this and hopefully, it'll be bigger and better every time."

The fireworks itself was a showcase, lasting almost a half-hour. Every time the crowd thought the fireworks had ceased for good, another round of colorful blasts lit up the sky.

"This was great," said Paula Phillips, who drove all the way from Royston to attend the event. "It's the kind of event that boosts your morale. It was fun being around a crowd this large. You could feed off the excitement."

Hooper is excited about The Ridges' new ownership.

"We consider them local owners, hands on owners," Hooper said. "They own other marinas and they understand the marina business. They want to be com-

munity supportive, they want to be involved locally and they want to be involved in the works of this project we call The Ridges Resort."

Plans for new projects at the Resort are intense, Hooper said, and the new owners want to roll up their sleeves and get involved in the Resort's future.

"They want to be hands on owners," he said, referring to the couple from Knoxville, Tenn. who now owns the Resort. "They want to come in and build a strong team and make sure they're involved in the business operation of the Ridges. That includes the lodging, the restaurants and the marina side.

"They really enjoy being a part of the day-to-day operations and seeing the expertise that they can bring to the table from their past experiences," Hooper said. "The community will soon begin to notice changes on the grounds and subtle improvements that will make a difference to The Ridges experience."

The Ridges will host

three fireworks show each year that don't impact the Fourth of July fireworks display at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Hooper said.

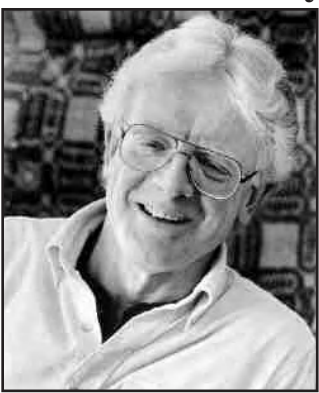
"They're looking closely at ways they can give back to the community and be involved in making a difference in Towns County," he said.

Events on Sunday included pontoon rides, Cornhole competition and horseshoes. Some folks just kicked back and enjoyed the fireworks under the stars.

"We're hoping to see this event in particular grow throughout the years," Hooper said. "We expect the event to get bigger and the fireworks to become an attraction well into the future. We want this to become a community event and that's what our new owners want it to become."

The Ridges new ownership kicked off the excitement of being a part of the Towns County community with an overwhelming bang that was enjoyed by all who attended.

# Norman Kennedy to perform at Folk School



Norman Kennedy

The John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown will present a free concert by Scottish folk singer Norman Kennedy on Friday, September 10 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will be held in the Festival Barn, but those attending are urged to park near Keith House or the Dining Hall and walk to the Festival Barn where there will be only a limited number

of handicapped parking spaces available. In the barn there is hay bale seating, so audience members may wish to bring a lawn chair or blanket for comfort. Admission is free and donations are welcome.

Norman Kennedy was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, into a family with roots in that port city dating to the 13th century. The Kennedys had been shipbuilders and merchant seamen for generations. While learning songs, stories, and lore from family members and neighbors, Kennedy spent part of his teen years "hanging around" the local handweavers.

During the 1950s, he made annual trips to the Outer Hebrides to learn the local weaving, Gaelic songs, and cultural practices. In 1965, he was invited to perform at the Newport Folk Festival to represent Scotland.

From 1967 to 1972, he

served as the master weaver at Colonial Williamsburg. Finally, Kennedy founded the Marshfield School of Weaving in Marshfield, Vermont, in 1976 where he taught until it closed in 1995. He currently travels the country performing the old songs, telling stories, and teaching traditional weaving techniques. He received a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2003 and in 2006 appeared with Nova Scotia fiddler, Natalie MacMaster at Carnegie Hall.

Upcoming Folk School concert performers include Ivan Stiles (September 22) and Staber and Chasnoff (October 1). The Folk School concert schedule is available on the world wide web at: <http://www.folkschool.org>. For further information call the Folk School at 1-800-FOLK-SCH or 837-2775. NT(Sep8,A4)SH

# Netwest annual writers' picnic

North Carolina Writers Network West will be having their 19th annual picnic on Sunday, Sept. 12th at 3PM at the Western Carolina University in Cullowhee at the picnic grounds. Kathryn Stripling Byer, program coordinator and the Jackson County members are hosting the event.

Cathy Smith Bowers, the poet laureate of NC will be the guest reader with an open mic reading to follow.

There is much cause to celebrate this time. Echoes Across the Blue Ridge, Stories, Essays, and Poems by Writers Living In And Inspired By The

Southern Appalachian Mountains is the newly published anthology by NCWN West. It is on sale in bookstores now.

All writers are invited. You do not have to be a member of NCWN West to attend. A table will be set up to sell copies of books by any writers that have them.

Bring family and friends, a chair and a covered dish or dessert to share. Meat, tea, plates and forks will be provided. Go to the main entrance and follow the traffic circle to the left. Turn to the left after the track or go to [www.wcu.edu/546.asp](http://www.wcu.edu/546.asp) for a map.

# Computer group to meet

On September 13, there will be a presentation on the Ubuntu Linux software. The presentation will be given by MCUG board member Art Frenz, who also serves as the club's Publicity Chairperson. Art will demonstrate how you can download and install this free operating system and application software as an alternative (or in addition) to existing proprietary systems for your personal computer. Art will discuss options for using the graphical Linux interface that can co-exist with your current operating system.

A "Q&A" session will begin at 6 PM (prior to the presentation) so bring your questions and we will try to find you an answer. Join us for an interesting evening discussing personal computer stuff. The meeting will be held in the Goolsby Center, Young Harris College. All the Mountain

# Yard sale for Garden Club

Hiawassee Garden Club (directly behind Courthouse on River St.) Friday and Saturday, Sept. 10-11, 8 a.m. Many different families contributing.

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# S.A.F.E. Board monthly meeting

The next monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of S.A.F.E. (Support in Abusive Family Emergencies, Inc.) will be Tuesday, September 21st, at 5 p.m. Call 706-379-1901 for location. NT(Sep8,Z6)SH

# Mountain Community Seniors to meet

The Mountain Community Seniors invite you to join us on September 9 at 2 at the Senior Center in Hiawassee. We will have Sheriff Clinton as our guest speaker followed by refreshments with our own Jean Ward providing the background music. See you there!

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# Castaway Critters Pet of the Week



Little Muffin is just one of the very many kittens awaiting a forever loving home at Castaway Critters. If you are interested in scheduling an appointment to see any of the cats or kittens at the shelter, please call June at 706-379-2169 for more information. The adoption fee includes the spay/neuter and up to date vaccinations of the pet. We have lots to choose from and they all have so much love to give! See more cats and dogs on our website [castaway-critters.org](http://castaway-critters.org) where you can learn more about us, info on volunteering, donating and upcoming fundraising events.

# Licklog Players box office now open



David Spivey of Franklin and Chris Hendley of Hiawassee duel in the disastrously funny scenes from Shakespeare at the Shrewsbury, PA Moose Lodge in "Leading Ladies."

The box office is open for the Licklog Players' farce, Leading Ladies, at the Peacock Playhouse in Hayesville. The comedy will run September 17-19 and 24-26.

If you liked the classic movie, Some Like It Hot, with Jack Lemon, Tony Curtis, and Marilyn Monroe, you'll like Leading Ladies. David Spivey and Chris Hendley play two down and out Shakespearean actors who, in desperation, become con men when they hear a wealthy, dying woman in York, PA is searching for her sister's children from England. The paper lists the names as Max and Steve. Unfortunately, Max and Steve are nicknames for Maxine and Stephanie and the hilarity begins. In rehearsals, Spivey and Hendley are finding out that being a woman is not easy with hairdos, pantyhose, and heels.

The play has romance, a villain, a roller skater, a hapless doctor and his equally hapless son, as well as a mean old woman who won't die. Directed by Edie Kleinpeter, the play moves along at a rapid pace. Audiences have been asking for more farces, and they have gotten their wish with this play by Ken Ludlow. One

of Ludlow's plays, Lend Me a Tenor, is currently playing on Broadway. The audience will be asked to participate, when the hapless actors present their unpopular Scenes from Shakespeare at the Shrewsbury, PA Moose Lodge.

David Spivey of Franklin is a Licklog favorite. He has been in countless plays throughout North Carolina as well as several movies. Chris Hendley, now from Hiawassee, is new to the area but not new to theater. He has been in plays in Macon, Athens, and Atlanta. He recently completed a role in an independent movie shot in Atlanta. One of his favorite roles was Jesus in Godspell. Hendley is an adjunct professor of voice at Young Harris College and also is teaching a course at Tri-County Community College. Both Spivey and Hendley are having lots of fun with this play.

The box office hours are from 9-1 Monday through Friday. Tickets may always be reserved by phone: 828-389-8632 or 877-691-9906. They are \$13 for adults and \$8 for students. Evening shows begin at 8 with Sunday matinees at 2:30. The show is rated PG13 for content. NT(Sep8,Z5)SH