

Former Kings Mountain resident writes book

The Harvest: A September 2003 release from Kensington Books and Doubleday Book Club).

Special to The Herald

For Boone author and former Kings Mountain resident Scott Nicholson, the Southern Appalachian mountains are a playground rich in folk tales and colorful legends. But it's also a place where the old and new battle each other, sometimes to the death.

Nicholson's new novel, "The Harvest," uses suspense, horror, and a sprinkling of science fiction to explore the conflicts of growth versus preservation. When an alien entity lands in the rural Appalachians, the residents of the nearby town of Windshake find their way of life threatened by something beyond their comprehension and control. Neighbors turn against one another as a strange infection spreads.

Tamara Leon, a college psychology professor, receives telepathic messages that make no sense. Chester Mull, a moonshine-swilling farmer, is suspicious of the green glow in the woods behind his shack. Herbert DeWalt is a disillusioned millionaire who's desperate for spiritual truth. The three



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Scott Nicholson's love for the Appalachian mountains inspired book "The Harvest."

team up to take on the alien in a remote forest where even nature itself seems to be an enemy.

"The Harvest" is on one level an allegory for the impact that progress has had on the rural mountains," Nicholson said. "As an Appalachian native, I've witnessed the changes that have swept many of the old traditions away, and not all the changes have been good. In fact, to my mind, very

few of them have been beneficial. It's easy for people who have lived here for 20 years to feel like they've been invaded by something they can't understand and are powerless to stop.

"On another level, though, 'The Harvest' is an entertaining thriller that twists the hillbilly stereotypes around. I call it 'Deliverance' meets 'Invasion of the Body Snatchers,' but in my novel, the banjo boy would be the

good guy. I can relate to the banjo boy. It's the outsiders and intruders that you have to keep an eye on."

Nicholson's first novel, "The Red Church," inspired by an old haunted church near his home, was a finalist for the Beam Stoker Award and was a Mystery Guild Editor's Choice. Nicholson often uses the mountains as a setting, coining the term "Appalachian Gothic" to describe his work.

civilized society," he said. "But the region's settlers were highly adaptive, self-reliant, and creative, though there's also an ingrained suspicion of city folk. Just because we tend to talk a little more slowly doesn't mean we don't do a whole lot of thinking."

"I hope my novel reflects some of those characteristics, because I think the message is important. Maybe it's silly to use mass market fiction as an agent of social change, but at least I'm basing my work on a way of life that I see every day. I feel like the 'Deliverance' banjo boy with a typewriter. Plus I'm having a lot of fun sharing these stories."

Nicholson is an amateur folklorist and ghost story collector and works as a newspaper reporter. He's currently working on a haunted house novel called "The Manor" that will be released next year.

(For more information on "The Harvest" contact Scott Nicholson at publicist@hauntedcomputer.com)

Music festival slated in Shelby

The Cleveland County Arts Council presents the Art of Sound, Foot o' the Hills Music Festival Saturday, October 18 in uptown Shelby. Over 30 musicians and groups are scheduled to perform at nine different venues from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m. Admission wristbands are available in advance for \$15 for festival goers over age 12.

A wide variety of musical styles ranging from bluegrass, jazz, blues, country, rock, Christian, Irish, and Latin will be featured. Other activities include guitar and dulcimer clinics, storytelling and poetry readings.

There will be a musical instrument clinic at Shelby

Music Center.

The Foothills Dulcimer Club will conduct a "walk-in clinic" at Shelby Music Center from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. An advanced dulcimer clinic for those who already know the basics will be held starting at 9:30 a.m. at Shelby Music Center.

As night approaches the fun continues with local restaurants 5-East Marion, Joe's Place, Ichabod's, Mi Pueblito, NiFen Epicurean and Shelby's own Opryhouse, Leatherwoods serving as more intimate concert venues.

For more information call the Arts Council at 704-484-2787 or visit www.artof-soundcc.com.

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Kings Mountain Weather Report

(Compiled by Kenneth Kitzmiller)

| | Sept. 24-30 | Year Ago |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|
| Total precipitation | .98 | 1.62 |
| Maximum 1 day | .98 (27th) | .82 (26th) |
| Month to date | 3.75 | 5.09 |
| Year to date | 77.26 | 25.84 |
| Low temperature | 44 (28th) | 59 (25th) |
| High temperature | 82 (27th) | 78 (27th) |
| Average temp. | 65.6 | 68.8 |

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