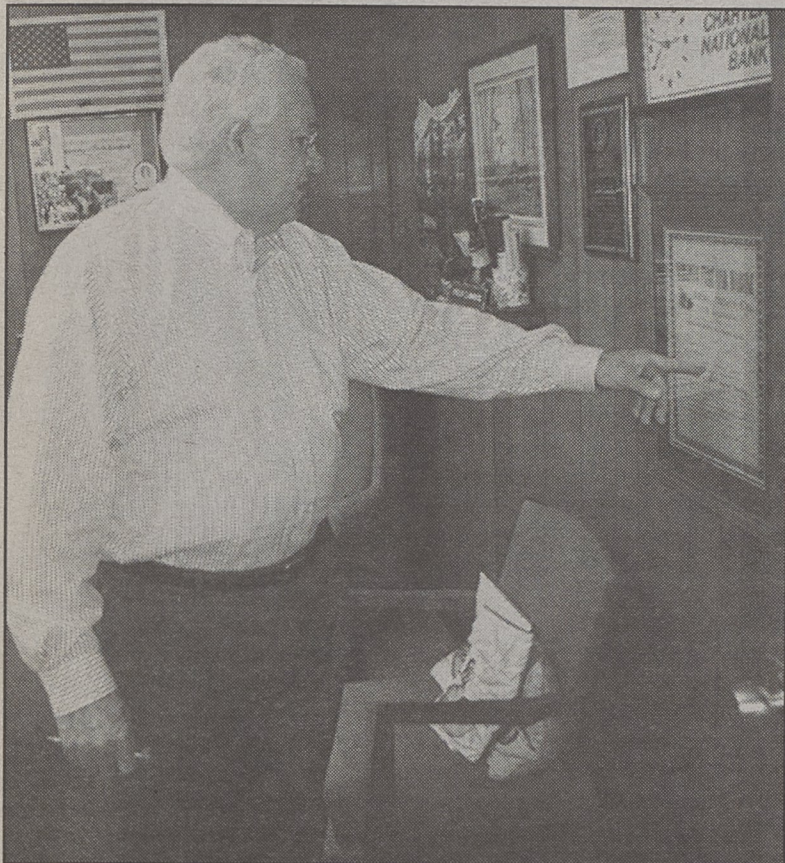


LOCAL



REBECCA PISCOPO/HERALD
Larry Hamrick, Sr. points to the original deed, dating back to the 19th century, for Hays Insurance which hangs in his office. John Warlick, of Warlick & Hamrick Insurance, purchased Hays agency in 1971.

Extreme Talent Productions opens next week in downtown

REBECCA PISCOPO
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Dawn Rickus - a lifetime dancer, actress, and performer and the New Faces Director for Wilhelmina-Evolution in Charlotte - claims that her mission is to discover talented children and teens in Kings Mountain through her new agency on Battleground Avenue, Extreme Talent Productions, which is due to open next week.

"It's my job to scout talent, bring them into the agency developed, and ready to go," Rickus said.

With four dance studios in KM, according to Rickus who also owned one, she wants to expose all types of talent.

"I realize there's a need in this area to train actors, singers, and models because the people here don't realize you can go on and do that professionally," Rickus stated.

Rickus hopes to use the

downtown studio as a "launching pad" for Wilhelmina in Charlotte.

Kings Mountain talent, which she has witnessed perform either on stage, as extras or in small roles on-screen, include local actors Dan Walega and Rachel Mower. Other kids she has represented have appeared in "Cloverfield" and "Enchanted."

At the local level, Rickus says, they will work closely with the Kings Mountain Little Theater at the Joy, which is down the street.

Some urban legends concerning kid entertainment, which Rickus plans to counteract, are pushy stage parents.

"One of the first things we do is talk to the parents. We will not take a child if parents are aggressive," Rickus said.

Performing should be what the child or teen has a passion for, Rickus said.

For those with the "passion" and techniques, who are accepted at Extreme, they will have

opportunities such as auditioning for Wilhelmina's performance (singing and dancing) troop, "Kidz in the Biz." Right now the troop has 15 kids, doing 20 minute shows. Rickus claims that they received a standing ovation after they performed in Disney World this summer.

There will also be chances to take workshops with trained actors such as Rickus's friend, who played Belle from *Beauty and the Beast*, in Disney World for seven years.

"We focus a lot on games and improvisation. We want them (the kids) to be real and be able to follow directions. We want to develop the individual," Rickus said.

Whether or not the future KM talent chooses a professional acting career or to go to college, Rickus says that her agency offers the opportunity to build confidence and character, which the kids can use in the future, in front of a big screen or before a board of executives.

SENIOR CALENDAR

Patrick Center to celebrate National Senior Center Month, Grandparents Day Friday

The Patrick Senior Center is celebrating National Senior Center Month and Grandparents Day from 11 a.m.-noon Friday, September 5, 2008, featuring a salad bar with all of the trimmings and deserts. A gift will be given to each grandparent present. Seniors are asked to help with the salad by providing vegetables from their gardens on Thursday, Sept. 4.

The following activities are planned at the Patrick Senior Center throughout the month of September:

Friday, Sept. 5 - National Senior Center Month and Grandparents Day celebration 11 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 9 - Cholesterol education by Cleveland County Home Health 11 a.m.; commodities distribution 1 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 11 - Dutch Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. (to Dairy Queen in Shelby)

Tuesday, Sept. 16 - Inspirational words by Wray Canipe 11 a.m.; volunteer meeting 12:15

Wednesday, Sept. 17 - Blood pressure clinic sponsored by Total Care 10-11:30 a.m.; East

Elementary School birthday party 10:30 a.m.; Duplicate Bridge 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 18 - Duplicate Bridge 1:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 19 - All senior center activities are canceled; center and nutrition site will be open

Tuesday, Sept. 23 - Birthday party by Summit Place 10:45 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 26 - Last day to sign up for Mountain Trip and Senior Fair Day

Tuesday, Sept. 30 - Senior Fair Day

Mondays - Ceramics 9-12

noon; Senior Chorus 10:30 a.m.; Sit for Fitness 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Quilting 12:30 p.m.; SHIIP counseling by appointment only 1-3 p.m.

Tuesdays - Knitting 9-10:30 a.m.; Line dancing 10 a.m.; Bible history 10 a.m.; Sewing class 10:30 a.m.; Shopping 12-2 p.m.; Beginner's line dancing 1 p.m. (except on Sept. 9)

Wednesdays - Healthy lifestyles 8:30 a.m.; HL exercise class 9:30-10:15 a.m.; Sit for Fitness 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Fit for a King exercise class 2 p.m.

Thursdays - Line Dance class 9:30-11 a.m.; Bingo 10:45 a.m.;

Shopping 12-2 p.m.; Quilting 1 p.m.

Fridays - Sit for Fitness 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Men's coffee and

women's tea 10 a.m.; Fit for a King exercise 2 p.m. (except for Sept. 5); all activities are canceled on Sept. 19

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