



**THE 4TH IS ONLY PART OF THE FUN**  
The July calendar of events – E8

COPIOUS NOTES

## Recent arts headlines have eerie familiarity

Ballet, Actors Guild's fortunes reversed



**RICH COPLEY**  
HERALD-LEADER CULTURE COLUMNIST

The past few weeks have brought about some interesting Lexington arts headlines.

**Lexington Ballet hires executive director:** The Lexington Ballet reached, almost literally, across the fourth-floor lobby of ArtsPlace to hire the Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra's education director, Joe Tackett, as chief business officer.



**Joe Tackett** comes to the Lexington Ballet from the Philharmonic.

The ballet's board president, Michael Potapov, said, "Over the past several years, the board has worked to position the organization to once again become a pillar of the cultural landscape in

Lexington." The ballet begins auditioning for a new professional company this week.

**LexArts cuts Actors Guild's funding:** After what LexArts says has been several years of trying to work through financial travails with Actors Guild of Lexington, the united arts fund's allocations committee cut off funding for Lexington's only semi-professional theater for adults.

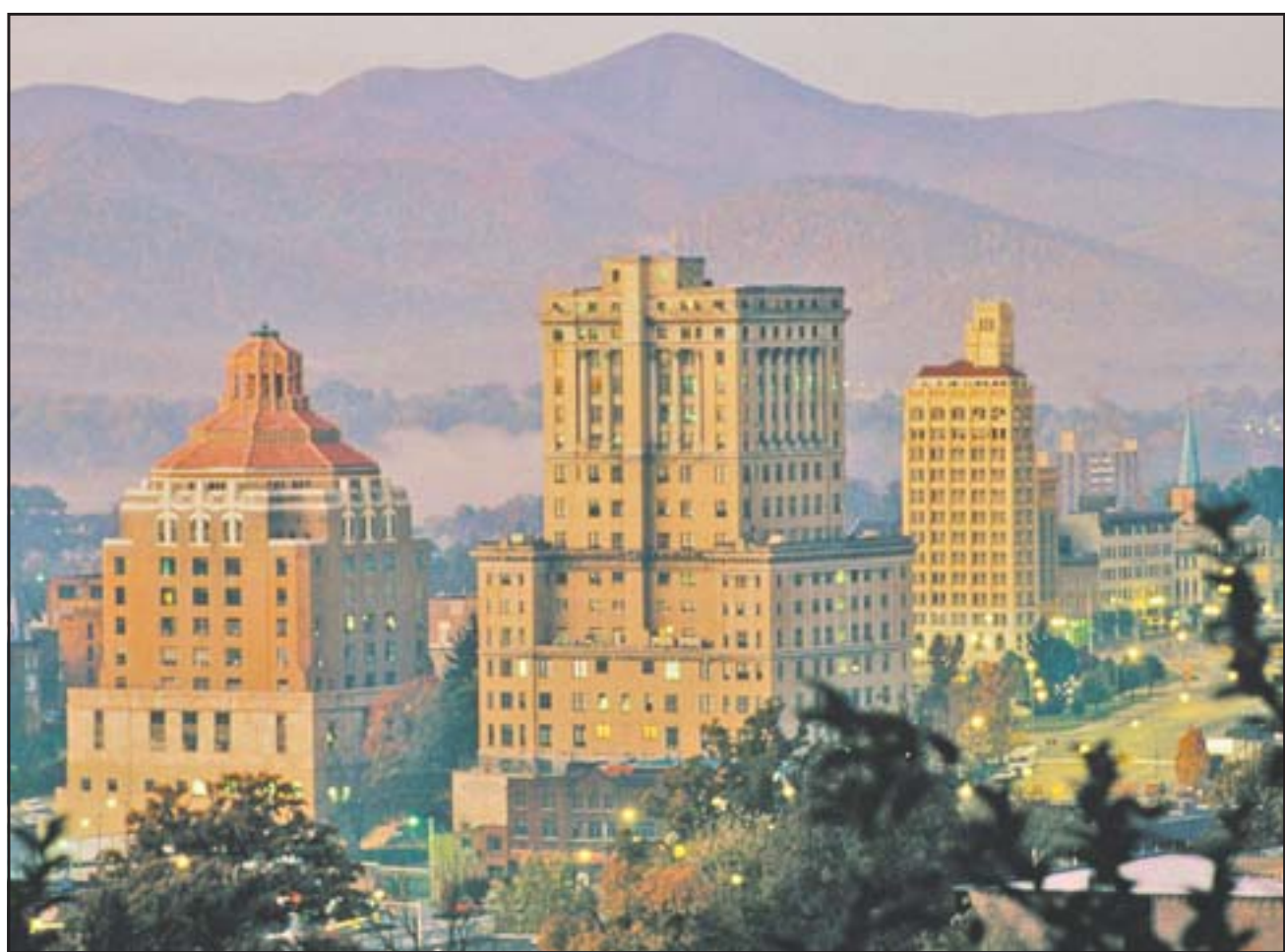
AGL had requested a \$70,900 allocation from this year's Campaign for the Arts, a figure comparable to the theater's allocations in recent years. Actors Guild has appealed the de-funding.

That Actors Guild and the Lexington Ballet almost

See **COPLEY, E3**



Rich Copley writes about local and national arts and entertainment daily at his blog, Copious Notes, at LexGo.com.



COURTESY ASHEVILLE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Asheville, N.C., nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, has become one of the top travel destinations in the United States.

With a mix of natural beauty and charm, North Carolina city makes itself a top stop

# Asheville

By **Patti Nickell**

Contributing Travel Writer

ASHEVILLE, N.C.— My ritual was the same every morning during my visit. Cup of coffee in hand, I would ease back into the rocking chair on the front porch of At Cumberland Falls Bed and Breakfast, breathe in the aroma of the linden tree that shaded the front yard, listen to the tinkling of the pineapple fountain, and watch dawn break over the Blue Ridge Mountains and this charming town nestled in the midst of them.

The B&B's owners, Gary and Patti Wiles, are typical of the restless breed of creative folk who have given Asheville its soul. Gary, a native Floridian and former nuclear power plant worker, and Patti, a New Yorker by birth and a nurse by profession, chucked their day jobs 10 years ago, moved to Asheville and opened the bed-and-breakfast. It was a serendipitous move, both for the Wileses and for the guests who make At Cumberland Falls their home away from home.

Natives and transplants — like the Wileses — with a passion for the city and the region have made Asheville one of America's travel hot spots.

Of course, some might argue that a city along the

scenic Blue Ridge Parkway, surrounded by the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky mountains and with "America's castle" (the Biltmore Estate) as its premier attraction has a decided advantage in the tourism sweepstakes and *should* be one of the country's top destinations. That might be true, but Asheville hasn't been content to rest on its considerable laurels. It just keeps reinventing and embellishing itself.

You should plan to spend a day at Biltmore, the legendary manor of George Vanderbilt, architecturally inspired by the châteaux of France's Loire Valley, filled with priceless art treasures (five new rooms have been opened to the public recently). After touring the mansion, stroll through the Biltmore Gardens, designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, breathtaking in every season (the roses were on display during my visit a few weeks ago), and end with a tasting at the estate winery.

The traditional and the avant-garde blend seamlessly here.

But you also should wander through the gritty River Arts District, an area of warehouses that once

See **ASHEVILLE, E2**



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COURTESY OF HIGH HORSE BOOKING

Bill Mallonee, who has led the Vigilantes of Love in its various forms, has had an extensive solo career as well.

## Mallonee has a lot to say; so does his music

By **Walter Tunis**

Contributing Music Writer

At the close of our interview, Americana songsmith and band leader Bill Mallonee apologized for not speaking in "short, pithy sentences."

As a wildly prolific solo artist and the past and present chieftain of the newly reformed Athens, Ga., collective Vigilantes of Love, Mallonee was genuinely concerned. Yes, he spoke politely in lengthy, detailed narratives about his philosophies of music, his life in music and the music itself, which accumulates at such a staggering rate that Mallonee needs multiple MySpace pages and Web sites for them.

But maybe the main reason Mallonee, who

IF YOU GO

**Bill Mallonee and Guy Forsyth**

**Note:** Wednesday's concert was originally to be a Vigilantes of Love show but has been re-scheduled as a double bill featuring Mallonee with Muriah Rose, plus Texas song stylist Guy Forsyth.

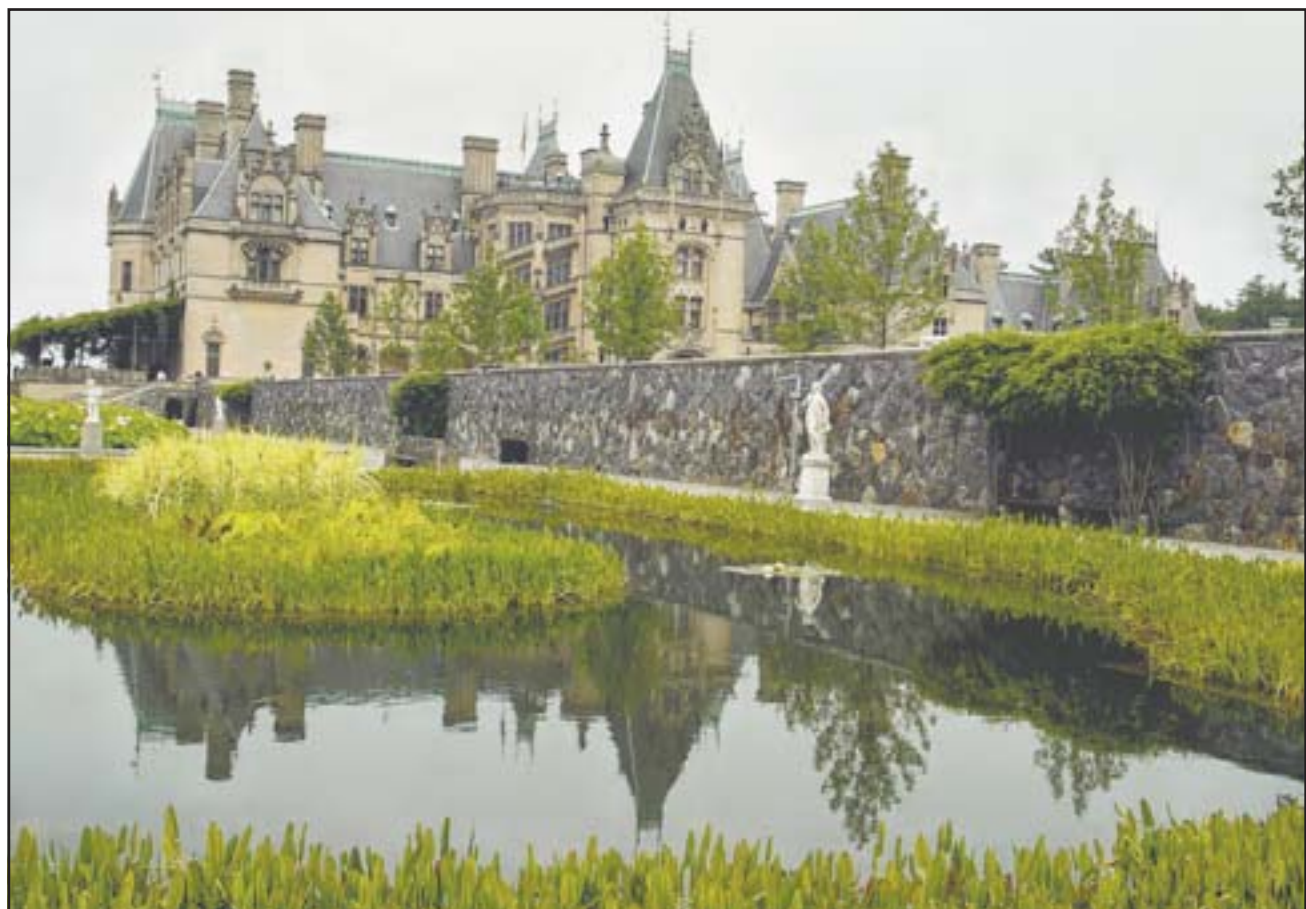
**When:** 8 p.m. July 1.

**Where:** The Dame, 367 E. Main St.

**Tickets:** \$7. Call (859) 231-7263 or go to [www.dameky.com](http://www.dameky.com).

returns to Lexington on Wednesday for a performance at The Dame, has so much to say about his music is because the

See **MALLONEE, E4**



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The 250-room house on the Biltmore Estate took more than six years to complete in the late 1800s. Millions have visited it.