

# HEAVEN'S LANDING

## Like no Place on Earth

February 2012

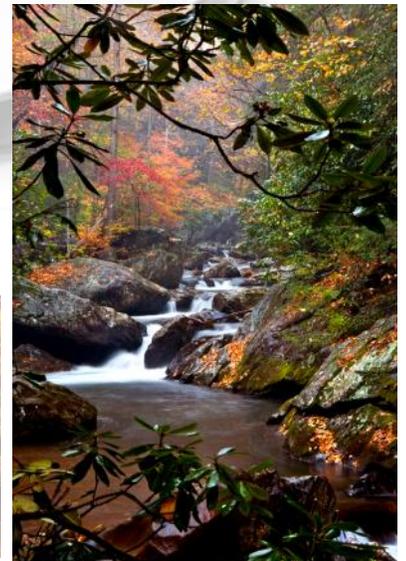
### Location, Location, Location—We are Ready for Our Close-up.

If you pick up our weekly paper, the *Clayton Tribune*, or the occasional *Variety*, you might notice, that Rabun County is making a name for itself in Hollywood. Rabun County, Georgia maybe over 2 thousand miles from the glamour of Hollywood, California's film and television industries, but suddenly, it is "on the map" for a hot production locale. The current "fever" began in February 2011, spurred by a renewed effort by local representatives to promote the county along with financially enticing legislation offered at the state level. Location managers on both small and big budget productions now have incentives to visit. In the first weeks of 2012, high caliber names, including Travolta, De Niro, and Eastwood have been working in the county (see more below). Of course, our mountains have been in the spotlight before in a variety of features. The most notable among these are, the *Great Locomotive Chase* (1956) and the infamous *Deliverance* (1972); but the current rebirth promises to be one of those defining moments in our county's history.

Pam Thompson is the Rabun County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) Camera Ready Liaison. As a volunteer from the CVB and a Rabun County native, Pam, along with the CVB Executive Director Pete Cleaveland and Assistant Teka Earnhardt, saw the amazing opportunities and benefits in promoting the county's unique and richly endowed features to the film and broadcast industry. "Camera Ready" is exactly what it sounds like. It is a term used by the Georgia Film Commission and defined by Georgia.org as a "designation given to participating Georgia communities interested in attracting film and television production." The CVB team has worked diligently to fill out the appropriate forms and continues to download hundreds of images of the county into the Film Commissions databases in order to attract productions.

The digital databases are the first steps in the process of being "scouted." Location managers search for storyline features by typing key terms into a service like [reel-scout.com](http://reel-scout.com). The more images and diversity of locations available and uploaded into this type of search engine, the more likely a production will become interested. When an area in Rabun County is selected as a potential location shoot, contact is made with Pam. Location scouts will often then request to flyover sites followed by land-based visits. In the

short history of our Camera Ready county, Pam reports that a great deal of attention has been paid to our natural resources including sites like [Tallulah Gorge State Park](#), [Black Rock State Park](#) and the [Wild and Scenic Chattooga River](#). According to Ms. Thompson, when widespread forests, rugged terrain, Native American culture, or historical and Appalachian lore are any part of the story, Rabun simply fits the bill. "We are so unique," she states, "we don't really 'compete' with other counties."



McIntosh Photography captures some beautiful scenes from around Rabun County. clockwise: Fireworks on Burton, Upper Tallulah River, and Hambidge Center Baker's Creek Mill.

**Location**

**U.S. Sport Expo**

**Sun 'n Fun**

**St. Patty's Party**

**Heavenly Stars**

**Chattooga River Festival**

**Dental Offer**

**Valentine's Day Specials**

**Events**

**Community**

**Trainer**

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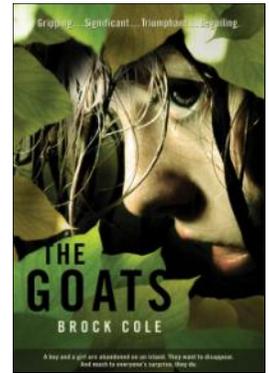
**Fuel Prices**

- continued page 2.

## Location, Location, Location—Big Names and Big Rewards

*Continued from Page 1.* —The communities of Rabun County have a balance of hometown feel and sophistication, Pam explains. She reports, the public and businesses have been extremely welcoming and accommodating. "It is my belief that we are on the front end of a tidal wave with the film industry, and I am proud to be a part of that." She adds, "tourism generates \$41 million dollars a year in Rabun County, and it is growing!"

This past fall, the independent film, *The Goats* (2012), from Director [D.J. Caruso](#) (*I am Number Four*, *The Shield* (TV)), brought actor [Val Kilmer](#) (*Top Gun*; *The Doors*; *Batman Forever*) with young stars, [Chandler Canterbury](#) and [Annalise Basso](#), and a sizeable production crew to Rabun. The film is based on a young adult novel by Brock Cole which involves an embarrassing prank played on the two young main characters while they are attending a summer camp, and their resulting adventures after they decide to run-away. "Their [*The Goats*] production office, warehouse, and wardrobe were located in two buildings in Clayton, and the economic impact of 100 people eating, staying, shopping, and playing in for the six weeks they were here was phenomenal," Pam concludes.



Credit from left: Glenn Harris; wiki commons; Pacificcoastnews.com

As of this writing (late January), [Robert De Niro](#) and [John Travolta](#) are currently at the county's state parks filming scenes for *Killing Season* (2014; Director [Mark Steven Johnson](#) (*Ghost Rider*)). The *Killing Season* calls for a remote cabin in a heavy forest with wild water and terrain. The film's co-production company, Nu image/Millennium Films' CEO Avi Lerner states in *Variety*, "[This film is] thrilling, imaginative, unexpected, and dominated by two extraordinary characters [De Niro and Travolta's] on a collision course." CVB Director Pete Cleaveland adds, "This movie with these two stars is going to get a lot of exposure...[the production crews are] going to fill up rooms at a time of the year when they are usually vacant, so that's great!"

In 2008, the state of Georgia began offering up to a 30% transferable tax credit on in-state production expenses plus sales and use tax exemption for qualifying entertainment productions. This is cited as the driving force for the record number of productions in the state last year, accounting for 126 productions up from 94 the previous year. The *Los Angeles Times* reports that the *Killing Season* producers stated that the mountains in Rabun and the tax friendly incentives offered by the state are what ultimately sealed the deal for the filming in Georgia.

With this undeniably favorable environment, the Rabun CVB are confident they are going to be really busy welcoming projects and coordinating tours. Ms. Thompson and Mr. Cleaveland are delighted to announce that a [Clint Eastwood](#) production, *Trouble with the Curve* (2013) starring [Amy Adams](#) (*The Fighter*) is actively scouting locations in Rabun, and that *The Goats* crew will return for follow-up shooting here in the coming weeks. Rabun has been and always will be that perfect balance of remote tranquility coupled with ease of access - a very unique and enticing combination.

The week long shoot for the *Killing Season* has been exciting for many of us. Don't expect this to go to our heads, but, one can't help get a little *starry-eyed*. If you are local, you just might catch sight of some of these big names around town eating and staying at our fine local establishments.

One simply needs to look on your friend's Facebook posts! John Travolta has certainly been gracious to stop in at least one restaurant each evening around town creating quiet the buzz. From Mama G's to La Cabana, to Zeppelin's, photos are cropping up. "What a cool guy!" has been heard more than once among his growing local fan base.



Michele Gaglio Asbury



From Facebook Mama G's staff



Above credit: onlocalvacations.com



Credit - Peter McIntosh

## Sebring Light Sport Expo

Sebring U.S. Sport Aviation's 4th Annual Expo was held January 19-22 at the Sebring Regional Airport (SEF), FL to the delight of the 16,000 in attendance. "It was by far the best light sport aircraft event in years due to the mood of the exhibitors and reception of the attendees," reports our own Mike Ciochetti. The soaring numbers broke records and made the Sebring Control Tower the busiest in the world for a period with 1,256 total operations on Saturday, reports Air Traffic Manager Bert Simpson.



Craig Fuller's quick visit with Holly and Mike.

The Expo had something for every member of the family, and it welcomed attendees with 156 exhibitors, 149 displayed aircraft, food and wine tastings, an AvBid Aircraft Auction, contests, and a seaplane base to name just some highlighted activities. For Mike and Holly, the best parts came from being singled out—twice. "The highlight for Heaven's Landing was AOPA President Craig Fuller's unsolicited testimonial and endorsement of Heaven's Landing and the outpouring of true friendship that he showed toward Holly and myself during his Town Hall speech in front of a standing room only crowd!" recalls Mike. "It gives me a great sense of pride when I hear Craig tell the crowd about his first-hand experience at Heaven's Landing and his desire to bring his wife, Karen, back in the near future."

"He was on such a tight schedule that his staff wanted him not to spend time interacting at the exhibit hall," adds Holly. "But as he was taken on a quick tour in a golf cart, he saw us, stopped at our booth, got out, gave us a hug, and said, 'I just had to say, 'hello,' even if my staff gets angry at me.' He is just a warm and amazing man."

Heaven's Landing will see you again next year in Sebring on January 17-20, 2013.

## Just in Time, Sun-N-Fun is Around the Corner

Are you ready for beautiful warm weather and bright skies? Do you long to meet new friends from around the world while you spec-out the perfect aircraft, only to then rejoice, as you locate the most exquisite airpark to live and invest in? Well, shake off those winter doldrums and mark your calendar, because Sun 'n Fun in Lakeland, Florida is coming soon. It is your opportunity to do all this and "see" Heaven's Landing. Join Mike, Holly, and our ever popular angels at the spectacular Heaven's Landing exhibit (located at D-083/084) at [Sun 'n Fun International Fly-In & Expo 2012](#) on March 27-April 1 at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport (KLAL).

[Buy your tickets today.](#) A perfect gift to the aviator in your life (with the box of chocolates) for Valentine's Day!



2012 Event Poster designed by: Melissa Rankin, Creative Services Manager of SUN 'n FUN Fly-In, Inc

## You are in Luck! Follow the Rainbow to the Heaven's Landing Clubhouse.

### Saint Patrick's Day Pot Luck Party with Music and Dance!

Come hear the Bagpipes on St. Patrick's Day with Jean Hayes and see the amazing little dancers from a local Irish dance academy!!

This year St. Patrick's Day falls on Saturday! Spend the weekend celebrating with us. Starting at **6:30 pm on Saturday, March 17** join us for an evening filled with friendship, dance and good cheer.

Call Holly at 706.982.5245 to coordinate for this epic pot luck dinner celebration.



## Heavenly Stars

Becky and Butch Harben of Heaven's Landing are the proud grandmother and grandfather of Isabella (10) and Ava Acres (7) of Los Angeles, California. Their two young angels have achieved more than most adults do in a lifetime, thanks to a united family effort to manage and guide these two amazing young performers in their prolific careers.

Chances are good, you have seen the girls in film or in the numerous television roles and national commercials they have been in over the last few years. "Our son, Tim and his wife, Catherine, are both thespians," states Becky, "Tim acts and also writes music." After realizing how much the girls enjoyed children's theater productions and seeing the successes they had in the Atlanta market, the family decided to move from their home in Atlanta, Georgia to Hollywood to further their careers.

Despite what the stats show for those who have the same dreams and desires, the Acres' girls found themselves getting some very exciting casting calls. In only five years, both have extensive résumés. Isabella has reoccurring roles in *Better Off Ted* and *Desperate Housewives*, and Ava recently finished a Lifetime Television production entitled, *Five*, directed by Demi Moore, and she is the voice of "Erik" from the film *Happy Feet 2* which co-stars Robin Williams, Elijah Wood, Brad Pitt, and Matt Damon. Isabella and Ava also appeared together in an adorable [Keebler Elves Cookie commercial](#) from last year. Clearly, you don't have to be their grandparent to see why the camera loves them. Both are also extremely talented and enjoy song and dance as well.



Isabella in a recent publicity photo.



Ava and Demi Moore at the October premiere of *Five*.

"Tim and Catherine devote themselves to the girls," comments Becky. "They are with the kids everyday at every possible step when working. This is a full-time family job, both at selecting roles and keeping the girls grounded and safe in the process. It is nice that the entire family has the same goals as their careers develop and as they look toward the future."

Becky and Butch see their west coast family about once a year. "We just love having the girls in Georgia," adds Becky. "They are getting to the age that they may soon be able to stay with us for a while at different times of the year." Becky reports that the girls absolutely love Heaven's Landing –the wide open spaces, the changing fall color, waterfalls, and even the beautiful creek rocks. To come from the hustle and bustle of California life to the scenic mountains of Northeast Georgia is "pure magic for them."

Becky and Butch own a house on the equestrian area of Heaven's Landing. "Their mother, Catherine, grew up with horses," comments Becky, "so we are happy to offer a place in the future the entire family can enjoy."

## Chattooga River Festival

If you haven't spent the day on the Chattooga River you haven't yet fully experienced Rabun County's scenic beauty. The Chattooga River is the Southeast's premiere whitewater river, dropping 2,500 feet over it's 57 mile stretch. The river was designated *Wild and Scenic* in 1974, resulting in 15,432 acres of land protected from development and overuse. Veiled in pink and white blossoms in late spring, dazzling with crystal clear waters all summer long, and dappled in autumn color for months in the fall, the Chattooga River is a place of magic for visitors and boaters from around the world.



On June 22-24, 2012, both Rabun County, Georgia and Oconee County, South Carolina, which border the river, will unite to create the first annual [Chattooga River Festival](#). The organizers' goals are to host a yearly celebration of the River and to "encourage environmental stewardship...protecting and preserving the unique ecological environment and scenic beauty of this valuable resource."

They chose 2012 as the launch year for this project to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the 1972 film, *Deliverance*, which was filmed in Rabun County on both the Chattooga River and in the Tallulah River Gorge. The well-known James Dickey story features a fictional river, Cahulawassee River, and a misadventure set in the rural Appalachians, portraying the people of the mountains in stereotypical, vile, and horrific scenes. Although the film is billed as "one of the most disturbing movies of all time," there is no doubt that *Deliverance* can also be credited with bring billions of dollars in tourist money to the area over the decades. The film's popularity is also linked to the Wild and Scenic designation and ultimately responsible for the need to protect the stunning river for generations of users.

Rabun County Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Pete Cleaveland is assisting with the Festival efforts. He states that Warner Brothers Entertainment will coordinate with event organizers to release the 40th anniversary DVD of *Deliverance* the weekend of the festival. Cleaveland is also working with WB to get many of the original actors to make appearances during the weekend events. All a great opportunity for the promotion of the area, but organizers also know they need to balance embracing the popularity of the film with an emphasis on inviting people from around the world to discover the true beauty of the area in nature and in the *real* people of the mountains.

Visit the Facebook page often for updates on this summer's planned events. A "Festival Village" will be set up at the [Chattooga Belle Farms](#), a venue with epic views of Oconee County. The village will have live musical performances, artesian market and plenty of great down home foods.

## Heaven Landing's Dental Offer

Mike and Holly stopped off in Columbia Missouri this past month for a visit with one of our new Heaven's Landing owners, Molly and Colin Malaker, DDS. "We met Molly and Colin in Oshkosh last year," states Holly, "they came soon after and on their first visit the left with one of my favorite Heaven's Landing lots, number 137."



Not only was it a pleasant social visit for Mike and Holly, but Colin owns [Sterling Dental Care](#), and Dr. Malaker provided some needed care to both Mike and Holly's pearly whites. "Colin did an amazing job," continues Holly, "I loved the office environment and staff. They are a great addition to our community." Dr. Malaker has graciously offered a 10% discount on any dental services to our Heaven's Landing owners.

We welcome the Malakers. Please see their website for a complete listing of their many dental services.

## Valentine Get-A-Way



This Valentine's Day plan a trip to the mountains with the person you love. Picture yourself settled in for the evening by a blazing fire with a fine bottle of wine after a romantic local gourmet meal. Your extended weekend can include a variety of activities and first on the list is the long awaited tour of Heaven's Landing and the surrounding area. Call Mike and Holly today at (800) HEAVEN 2, and check out these web sites for the perfect retreat.



*The Dillard House*



LAKE RABUN HOTEL

# Upcoming Events

## Heaven's Landing:

### **Heaven's Landing Super Bowl Pot Luck**

Never a dull moment in a room full of opposing fans! Join us at the Heaven's Landing Clubhouse for a fun-filled evening. Call [Holly](#) for details at 706-982-5245.

**February 5**

### **Saint Patrick's Day Pot Luck**

Bring your Irish heritage, your good cheer and a covered dish for Heaven's Landing's annual St. Pat's party at the Clubhouse on Saturday, March 17th at 6:30pm. Call Holly for all the details at 706.982.5245.

**March 17**



## Area Events:

### **Open Mic Night**

Join us at the Promenade of the Arts in Mountain City for a showcase of talents with piano accompaniment. Open to all ages and sponsored by Blue Ridge Music. 7-10 pm. Admission is \$2. Call 706.982.4162 for additional information.

**February 3 & March 2**

### **The Drowsy Chaperone**

Always fantastic and so professionally done, this year's Winter Musical by Rabun Gap Nacoochee School Students at the Rearden Theater, will certainly entertain. It is a 'Musical within a comedy'. Performances are at 7:30 pm on the 3rd and 2:30 and 7:30 pm on the 4th. Tickets call 706.746.7467.

**February 3 & 4**

### **Winter Dinner in Provence**

Celebrate Valentine's a little early at the [Beechwood Inn](#). On Friday Night we will offer hors d'oeuvres and French Wine at 5:30pm. On Saturday Night we will offer a full feast from the South of France, featuring rare and wonderful wines. Saturday Dinner and wines is \$75 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Aperitif at 6:30, dinner is served at 7:00pm.

**February 4**

### **Chocolate and Wine at Tiger Mtn. Vineyards**

The release of Tiger Mountain's '08 Norton which has aromas of deep berry and cherry, smoke, and – yes, chocolate! Cheese, chocolate fondue and music by Greg Presmanes Trio. Music Performance from 1-3pm, \$10 per person. If your group number is 8 or up please call for reservations at 706-782-9256. For more information go to [www.tigerwine.com](#)

**February 11**

### **FAITH Sweetheart Ball**

Enjoy the night dining and dancing at the Rabun County Civic Center with all proceeds going to an amazing organization. This is FAITH's (Fight Abuse In the Home) annual fund raiser gala providing care to local women and children. Cost is \$65 per person and \$100 and up for reserved tables. 6– 11 pm. Evening includes silent and live auctions and live music by the O'Kaysons! Call 706.782.1003.

**February 11**

### **The Letterman**

Take a trip down lover's lane on Valentine's Day at the Smoky Mtn. Center for Performing Arts. Show starts at 7 pm; tickets range from \$18-24.

**February 14**

### **Annual Rabun County Sportsman Banquet**

Sponsored by Tabernacle Baptist Church. Starts at 4 pm; tickets cost \$10 call 706.782.2734 for details.

**February 18**

### **John Tartaglia's Imagenocean**

A fantastic one of a kind black light puppet show. Starts at 7 pm at the Smokey Mtn. Center for the Performing Arts in Franklin; Students \$10; Adults \$15.

**February 18**

### **Sammy Cortino**

Another great family performance at the Smokey Mtn. Center for the Performing Arts in Franklin, NC. This will be an evening of mind-bending stagecraft and illusion to delight the entire family. 7-9 pm; tickets \$12-15.

**February 25**

### **Top of Georgia Bluegrass Jamboree**

Two days of amazing bluegrass at the Dillard House Conference Center. One or two day admission available from \$30-\$90.

**March 16–17**

## Our Community



- **Weather Link.** Stay up to date on the Clayton, GA weather conditions and forecast from NOAA. <http://forecast.weather.gov/>



- **Wi-Fi** is available at the Clubhouse. Stay connected with your personal devices as you enjoy the amenities.



- **What's New with You?** Share photos and stories of what is new in your flying circles. Please send submissions to [janclay@windstream.net](mailto:janclay@windstream.net). (All submissions are subject to editing and the evaluation of content.)



- **Go Green!** Please update your contact information with our office at 706.212.0017 or [sales@heavenslanding.com](mailto:sales@heavenslanding.com) and make sure we have your latest email address, so you will stay informed.

- **Stay in Touch.** "Like" us on [Facebook](#), "[Heaven's Landing Residencial Airpark.](#)"



- **Let us Know About Your Aviation Groups.** Give the office a call and share what groups and organizations you belong to, the website address, and the organization's contact information. (800) HEAVEN 2.



- Fish year round and enjoy our local lakes. It is always time to go boating! We wish to remind all owners and visitors to take advantage of our area lakes. Rentals are available at [Anchorage Boat Rentals](#) at 706-212-0534 or [LaPrades Marina](#) at 706-947-0010.

## Personal Trainer—Elisa Hopkins



Heaven's Landing welcomes Elisa Hopkins. Elisa is a certified Personal Trainer and tailors training for men and women to the individual's interest and goals. Elisa currently conducts five classes ranging in aerobic, kick-boxing, dance aerobics, and strength training at the dance studio at Rabun Gap Nacoochee School. She has offered to conduct classes and specialized instruction for Heaven's Landing owners and their guests in the Clubhouse fitness room.



Contact Elisa at 706-982-2302.

## Heaven's Landing Services

### Heaven's Landing Concierge Service

We offer the finest, personalized, and professional services to meet your needs. Whether it's scheduling a trustworthy service to clean your home, picking up groceries, or keeping up with routine maintenance, Heaven's Landing Concierge Service will maintain your property, so you can fully enjoy your Heaven's Landing home. Please contact our office for an estimate: 706.212.0017 or [sales@heavenslanding.com](mailto:sales@heavenslanding.com).



*"Work with someone you know and trust."*

## Our Current Fuel Prices



### Self Serve Pumps

AV GAS	\$5.65/ gal*
JET A	\$4.95/ gal*



*\*Prices Subject to Change. Prices as of February 1, 2012*

Thank you for being a part of Heaven's Landing. For an archived electronic library of our Heaven's Landing Newsletter showcasing the year's local and aviation events as well as the amazing beauty of Heaven's Landing and surrounding areas, please see [www.heavenslanding.com](http://www.heavenslanding.com) and "newsletter" link.

For questions or comments regarding the newsletter please contact Jan at [janclay@windstream.net](mailto:janclay@windstream.net).



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