



DVD cover shows former Washington resident and film producer Roy Kirkland (top center) and the cross that was burned in his front yard.

New movie chronicles rural Ga. hate crimes against former resident

A new motion picture documentary, produced by a former resident of Washington, has received an award at the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival and will be shown at a special screening here next week at the Retro Cinema.

"A Cross Burning in Willacoochee" is the story of events leading up to and following the night, in 1993, when someone burned a cross in Roy Kirkland's front yard. A group of men yelled anti-gay slurs in front of the house where Kirkland lived in Willacoochee, Georgia, with filmmaker Doug Sebastian. The couple's mailbox was destroyed twice and death threats were left on their answering machine. In the 16 years since, no charges or arrests have been made.

Both Kirkland and Sebastian, who directed the film, will be in Washington at the Retro Cinema for

the special screening on Saturday, November 21, at 7:30 p.m. They will be available for questions and answers following the presentation and will visit with viewers for drinks and hors d'oeuvres before the showing.

The film was also an official selection at the 2009 Atlanta Out On Film Festival and is currently available on DVD. To see trailers and for more information, go to www.acrossburning.com.

Kirkland lived in Washington for a time a few years ago when he owned the classic antebellum home known as the Tupper-Barnett House in downtown Washington. There, he suffered similar harassment, though to a lesser degree, and at the end of the film, credits then County Commissioner Donna Hardy with putting an end to it through personal intervention.

Giving opportunities ... (continued from page 1A)

that Angel Tree reaches are identified through the schools and other sources as those children who, for various reasons, might not be remembered at Christmas," she said.

To help a needy Wilkes County child have a better Christmas, she said, stop by the First Methodist Church, select an angel or angel family, and register in the sign-up book. Volunteers will deliver the gifts to the recipients.

Wilkes County seniors won't be forgotten at Christmas, either. The annual "Operation Love and Care in a Shoe Box" brings useful and comforting gifts to neighbors in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, said organizer Margie Burke. "The last few years have gotten better and better, and we hope to take gifts to every single resident of facilities like Washington Manor, Wilkes Health Care Center, Harper's Personal Care Center, and to any others who may be shut-ins in their homes."

Several groups have taken up the Operation Love and Care challenge, already starting to fill shoe boxes with a variety of gifts and necessities for seniors. To take part in filling shoe boxes for seniors, contact Margie Burke at Shooboxesoflove@gmail.com.

Patients in Georgia's mental institutions are also remembered at Christmas time. For more than 50 years, the Mayors Motorcade has brought the joy of the holiday season from Georgia cities to patients at Georgia's seven regional mental health and retardation hospitals. The program relies on citizen participation in each city to donate gifts for the patients. According to the hospital staff, many of the patients at these hospitals have lived there most of their lives and have little, if any, support or contact with friends and family.

Donated items from the City of Washington will be delivered to East Central Regional Hospital in Augusta on December 12. Civic

organizations, businesses, churches, schools, scout troops, and individual citizens are encouraged to contribute. For more information on how groups can participate, call Mayor Willie E. Burns at 706-678-3277.



Pompey's Chapel Baptist Church will have pastor appreciation and a birthday celebration Sunday, December 27, 12 noon. The pastor is W.R. Ferrell and the guest speaker is Rev. Lance Pitts.

Charlotte Ritchie will be in concert at the Lincolnton First Assembly of God on Sunday, November 15, at 6 p.m. Ritchie previously sang with Jeff and Sheri Easter before embarking on a solo career several years ago. A love offering will be received. The First Assembly of God is located on the Thomson Highway in Lincolnton. For more information, call the church office at 706-359-7237.

Country Music Artist Ty Herndon will present a benefit concert for Calli Nickels on Thursday, December 3, in Wilkes County.

The Wilkes County Board of Registrars will meet Tuesday, November 24, in Room 323, Wilkes County Courthouse at 10 a.m.

The Mount Nebo Baptist Church Choir will be having its annual Christmas musical Sunday, December 20, 3 p.m.

The Bartram Trail Regional Library Board Meeting will be Tuesday, November 17, at 5 p.m., at the Mary Willis Library Conference Room.

Bufford to perform in New York's Metropolitan Room

Lincoln County native Carole Bufford was named second runner-up in "The MetroStar Talent Challenge," which led to a show-stopping performance at the Lincoln Center in New York City.

During the cabaret contest, held in Manhattan's Metropolitan Room, Bufford sang Bessie Smith's "You've Been a Good Old Wagon;" "Someday (You'll Want Me to Want You);" "Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen;" and "I Want to Hold Your Hand," among others.

Scott and Barbara Siegel, cabaret and Broadway critics for the "Talkin' Broadway" website, wrote: "But for sheer talent matched with a gutsy go-for-broke bravado, give us Carole Bufford. Slightly built, boyishly beautiful, but possessing a powerhouse voice that belies her fragile appearance, she is a find if ever there was one."

The exposure to cabaret enthusiasts at the Metropolitan Room resulted in Bufford receiving an invitation to appear at the New York Cabaret Convention, celebrating its 20th anniversary in the Frederick P. Rose Hall, the home of "Jazz at Lincoln Center."

For her debut at the Lincoln Center, Bufford selected Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues" and "Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out," written by Jimmie Cox.

In his review of Bufford's performance for "New York Calling," William Wolf wrote: "Smith (Donald Smith, head of the Mabel Mercer Foundation, which sponsors the convention) makes a point of spotlighting someone new, and Carole Bufford wowed the audience with her ability to handle the blues in grand style, saying she was inspired as a youngster listening to recordings by Bessie Smith. We'll surely be hearing more about her."

Then there was Stephen Holden of The New York Times: "Nurturing young talent, of course, is essential to the genre's survival. And the appearances of a traditional crooner like Mr. King (Nicolas King, 18) and Carole Bufford, a folk-blues singer who delivered strong pop-planted renditions of Johnny Cash and Bessie Smith songs, suggest that the talent is there waiting to be



CAROLE BUFFORD

harvested."

In a telephone interview with Bufford concerning her Lincoln Center debut, she said, "Performing at the Lincoln Center was a surreal experience, probably the most thrilling experience I've had on stage. To be accepted by the other performers and people in the audience, who had never seen me before, was an amazing feeling."

For those planning a trip to New York, the rising star will be making her Metropolitan Room solo debut. Her cabaret, titled "intro," will feature the songs of Bessie Smith, Cole Porter, Johnny Cash, Sam Cooke, Jimmie Cox, Bobby Russell, and more.

Bufford is scheduled to sing at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, and at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 21.

For tickets, visit www.metropolitanoom.com.

Bufford is currently living in New York, where she is carving out a

career for herself as a professional singer and actor.

"I keep busy, trying to sing as much as possible," she said. "I also audition like a maniac."

Since her 2004 graduation from Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York, with a Bachelor of Art in musical theatre, the LCHS graduate has experienced quite a few career highlights. These include landing the title role in the touring cast of the musical, "Junie B. Jones;" performing with the Upright Cabaret in Los Angeles; playing the role of Kween in the off-Broadway production of "Trouble in Shameland;" serving as

the understudy for two members of the cast of "A Christmas Carol" at the Lucille Lortel Theater in New York City; playing the title role in the Atlanta Lyric Theatre's production of "Peter Pan;" and performing a solo cabaret in Manhattan, titled "An Inappropriate Evening With Carole J. Bufford," which garnered rave reviews.

Bufford is the daughter of Kaye and Bill Bufford of Lincolnton and the granddaughter of Eva and Ed Burdette of Washington; Cliff and Gwinn Ware of Evans, formerly of Tignall; and the late Buddy Bufford and Lilly Bufford Wells.



MC victim Alicia Hill receives her medallion.

Medallion honors MS victim

Kyle Brown, president of the Washington Optimist Club; Sherry Hudson, president of the Washington Kiwanis Club, and Dr. Bill Robinson have presented a medallion to Alicia Hill, a victim of Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

The medallion was given to Dr. Robinson at the completion of his MS 150 bike ride which he completed in honor of Miss Hill. She also received a picture of the Road Rash team.

More than \$1,900 was raised in honor of Hill for the National MS Society.

The sole purpose of the MS Society is to put an end to MS which is the No. 1crippler of Americans over the age of 30, and to help victims who suffer from MS. The money was raised by donations from the caring members of the local Optimist and Kiwanis Clubs, as well as a large number of local individuals.

Robinson states that he plans to ride again in 2010 for the MS Society and hopes to enlist more riders and raise even more money for this cause. Both he and Hill express appreciation to those who contributed to this year's ride.

Callaway retires from health dept. after 34 years

Karen G. Callaway has retired from the Oglethorpe County Health Department following 34 years of service.

Mrs. Callaway began her 34 years at the young age of 17 in 1976 as a clerk-typist. She retires as office administrator. Her loyalty to the county and the Northeast Health District will be missed.

When Mrs. Callaway began her career with the department there was a mass swine flu vaccine campaign. A clinic was held in the Oglethorpe County High School Gym administering swine flu vaccinations. Now in 2009 at the time of her retirement, the H1N1 vaccine is again being administered.

As office administrator, Mrs. Callaway led the project for the construction of a new health department building for Oglethorpe County in 2005.



'Tree of Love' to be sponsored by WMH Auxiliary

The Wills Memorial Hospital Auxiliary will sponsor its third annual "Christmas Tree of Love" during November and December.

The Auxiliary will begin its annual celebration on Tuesday, November 24, during the Downtown Candlelight Shopping on The Square. A special ceremony will be held to light the evergreen tree in front of the courthouse with brightly colored lights.

The lights will serve as a symbolic tribute to those who are honored or memorialized. Lights may be purchased for a \$5.00 donation to have the name of loved ones inscribed in the Book of Love and also commemorated in *The News-Reporter* during the holiday season. The Book of Love will be displayed in the Wills Memorial Hospital lobby.

Proceeds from the project will fund the purchase of necessary equipment for the hospital. Donations are tax deductible.

Members of the Auxiliary ask that donations be made by November 20

for the lighting ceremony, however, donations received by December 23 will be included in *The News-Reporter* article.

The lighting ceremony on The Square will be Tuesday, November 24, at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available at the Chamber of Commerce following the ceremony.

Donations may be mailed to the Auxiliary at 120 Gordon Street, Washington 30673, or by filling out the form on this page and mailing it to this address.

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Christmas Tree of Love

Yes! Please include my donation of \$ _____ and add my loved one(s) to the Book of Love.

Name(s) to be honored: _____
(A loved one who is living)

Name(s) to be memorialized: _____
(A deceased loved one)

This donation is given by: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please send this form along with your donation to:
WMH Auxiliary; 120 Gordon Street; Washington, Georgia 30673



Perfect attendance gets rewarded

Washington-Wilkes Elementary School Principal Wanda Jenkins accepts Kids's Meal gift cards from Shanteka Hampton, assistant manager of Zaxby's on behalf of the fourth and fifth graders with perfect attendance during the first nine-weeks grading period, Jenkins said. "We wanted to reward all these

children for their perfect attendance," she said. "Daily attendance at school is a contributing factor to high levels of academic achievement. We want to recognize the children for being at school each day and commend their parents for seeing to it that they are here each day ready to learn."