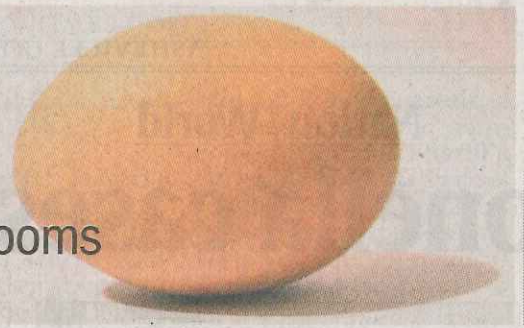
TAINTED EGGS



Salmonella outbreak looms

NATION/WORLD, A2

WORLD MUSIC

Akira Satake and Danny Ellis do local shows

INSIDE TAKE5

ASHEVILLE

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Friday
August 20, 2010

Please see CLEMENS on A4

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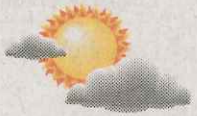
Forecast



Partly sunny
High 88, Low 65
Weather, C10

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THRILLER NIGHT: Best-selling N.C. mystery novelist John Hart headlines this year's fund-raising dinner for the Literary Council of Buncombe County. **Page B4**

PARKER: The mosque in Lower Manhattan should be built precisely because we don't like the idea very much. **Page A9**

ATLANTA FALTERS: The Washington Nationals never trailed while defeating the Braves on Thursday. **Page C1**

COLLAGE

ncoln exhibit comes a close today

HENDERSONVILLE — The exbit "Forever Free: Abraham ncoln's Journey to Emancipaon" closes today at the Henerson County Public Library, 01 N. Washington St.

The exhibit examines how ncoln's beliefs about freeing e slaves were transformed by evelopments during the Civil Var.

The exhibit is 9 a.m.-6 p.m. day. Visit www.henderson.o.nc.us more on this and other orary programs.

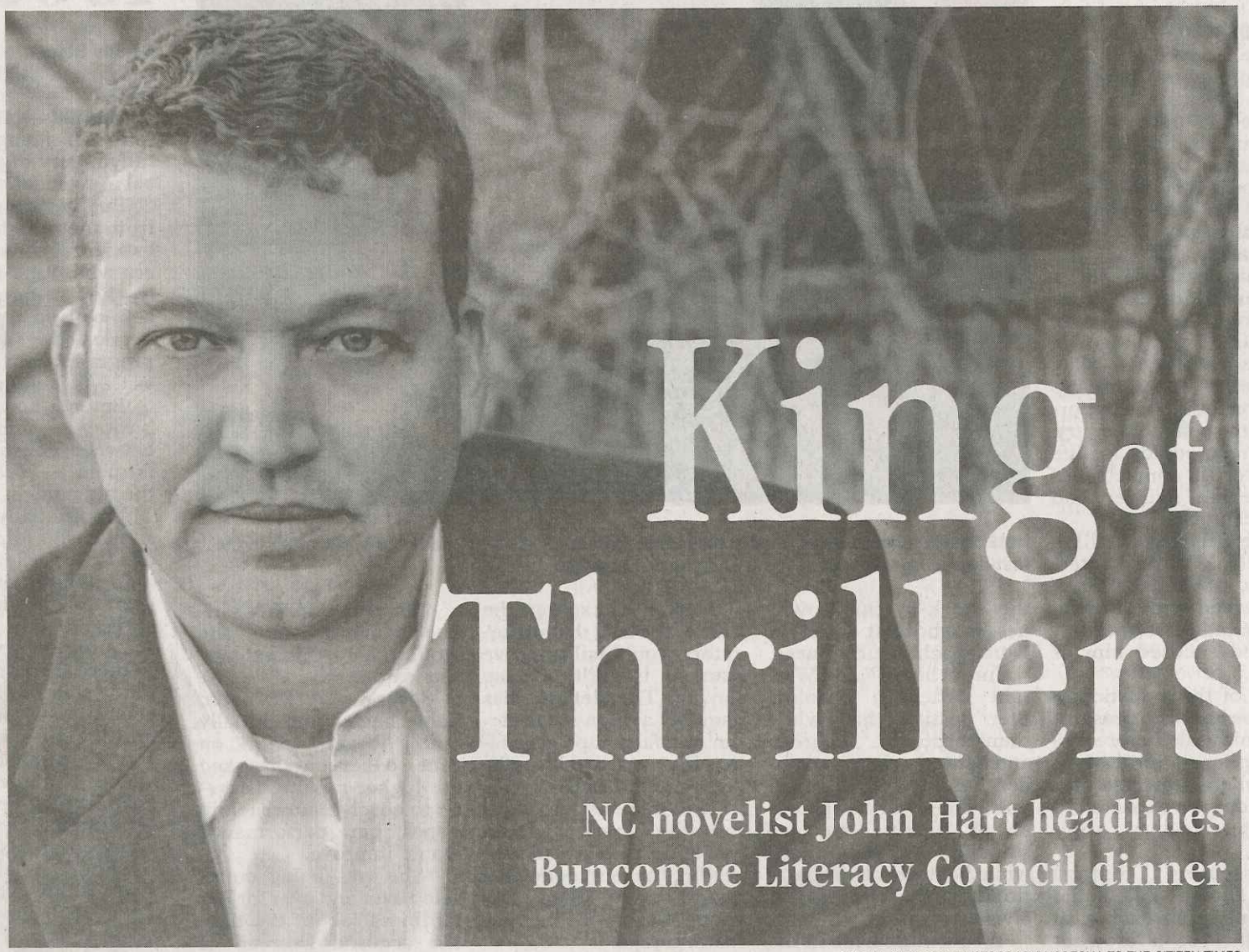
dopt a new friend

Skye is a 1-year-old Siamese ix who loves to curl up with eople. She's available from arge's Animal Rescue Foundaon.

To learn ore bout Skye nd other ats and ogs available for doption, all 246-050, visit ww.sargendfriends.org or stop by arge's headquarters for Saturay adoption day at 1659 S. Main t. in Waynesville.

rants to boost WNC gricultural system

MARSHALL — WNC Agricul-



King of Thrillers

NC novelist John Hart headlines Buncombe Literacy Council dinner

ABIGAIL SEYMOUR PHOTOGRAPHY/SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN-TIMES

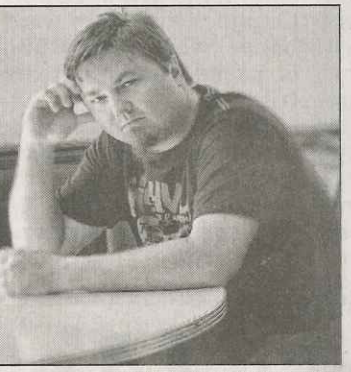
Best-selling North Carolina thriller novelist John Hart will speak Aug. 27 at the Authors for Literacy Dinner and Silent Auction at the Asheville Renaissance Hotel, benefiting the Literacy Council of Buncombe County.

ble to fund at least three farm-
r-led projects that address
rocessing, marketing, packag-
ng and other agricultural dis-
ribution needs in the mountain
egion.

The maximum amount
rant amount available per ap-
licant group is $20,000.

Applications are available at
vww.wncagoptions.org or at
ounty N.C. Cooperative Ex-
ension offices. Postmark dead-
ine is Nov. 22.

TAKE5 TODAY



SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN-TIMES

dwin McCain plays tonight at he Orange Peel, 101 Biltmore ve.

Music by McCain

Singer-songwriter **Edwin McCain** is back for a show to-night at The Orange Peel, 101 Biltmore Ave. **Taylor Moore** opens t 9. Tickets are $25 at the door. Visit www.theorangepeel.net.

or more local entertainment news, visit

By Rob Neufeld
CITIZEN-TIME CORRESPONDENT

When North Carolina author John Hart sat down to write "King of Lies," his first published novel and a 2007 best-seller, it was do or die. He'd tried medical, accounting and legal careers with no satisfaction and knew writing was his passion.

"King of Lies" became a nationwide success, and on Aug. 27, Hart will talk about his work at the annual Authors for Literacy Dinner and Silent Auction, a fundraiser for the Literacy Council of Buncombe County. He'll bring along a resume that includes consecutive Edgar Awards for mystery writing and three best-sellers.

Hart grew up on a 1,500-acre farm in Rowan County, son and grandson of surgeons. The sale of the farm, and its complete erasure by development, affected Hart. "Raven County," based on Rowan, became the setting of "Lies" of his second novel, "Down River." He serves on the board of the Land Trust of Central North Carolina.

"The Last Child," Hart's 2009 novel, grew out of "Down River," the author explained in an interview with the Citizen-Times.

Question: How did Johnny Merrimon, the misunderstood, 13-year-old hero of "The Last Child" come into being?

Answer: I wanted him to be this amazing kid. In order for a child to be motivated enough and strong enough to drive a book that at its heart is really a thriller, he has to be willing to do extreme things in a somewhat credible manner. He has to be put in a position in which he has no choice.

The stakes are really high. His sister's missing. ...

I had the idea for the kid long before I had the idea for the missing sister. ... In "Down River" ... the protagonist sees the boy (a vision of wholesome life) in his rear view mirror. ... And I fell in love with this kid, and I knew, before I wrote page five, that I wanted this kid to be the protagonist of my next novel. ... It was just a question of what could take away this wonderful life that I saw in this boy in "Down River."

Q: Could you tell a story about how you got hooked on reading early in your life?

A: My earliest reading memory is my father reading to me before I went to sleep.

He was a young doctor in residency where he was pulling 30, 40 hours away, then home for 18, then back for another grueling stretch. It was a pretty rare thing when he had the time to read to me. I actually still have that first book.

Q: What was that book?

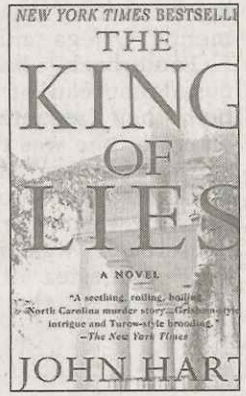
A: It was called "Divers Down" (by Hal Gordon and James Temple). It was about some kids at an engineering camp in Hawaii working to bring up some ancient sunken ship that had belonged to a Hawaiian king. They had to figure out the best way to raise it without destroying it.

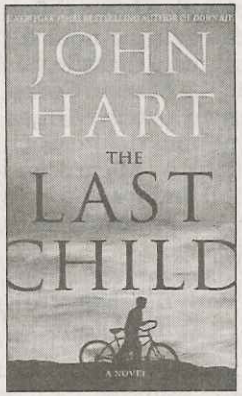
Q: What is one of your ways of making words powerful?

A: One of the best places to get the biggest bang for your buck is at the end of a chapter. It's those last words that resonate in the reader's mind as they turn the page and move deeper into the story.

One of my favorite things to write in "The Last Child" was the time we see Johnny going out in the woods and digging deep for this mysticism, these Indian mythologies, things that he thought would give him power. ... Then you go another couple of pages, and it's the end of that chapter and he's back in the car. "His eyes in the mirror showed red lines and blackened lids. He was untouchable, he told himself, a warrior. The engine turned, and he put the car in gear. He was an Indian chief."...

That's the pleasure of writing ... to encapsulate not just the visual of a character, but also the fundamental belief system and how dramatically (in Johnny's case) it has changed from the Bible that was stamped with gold letters and given to him by his childhood priest. He needs older gods.





IF YOU GO

What: The Authors for Literacy Dinner and Silent Auction, the Literacy Council of Buncombe County's annual fundraiser.
When: 6 p.m. Aug. 27.
Where: Renaissance Hotel, 31 Woodfin St., Asheville.
Tickets: $75, or $125 for the addition of a private reception with the author. Call Ashley Vandewart at 254-3442, ext. 205. Visit www.litcouncil.com/events.htm for more, including a list of auction items.