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March 2015

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DISCOVER

◆ the Inside ◆

Jonesborough..... page 4
Area Attractionspages 4-5, 12-13, 17-20, 23-24
Bristolpages 6 & 8
Abingdon..... pages 10-11
Smyth County..... pages 14 &16
Wythevillepages 21 & 24
Floyd..... pages 25-26

Welcome to **DISCOVER TriCities & SWVA**, a new publication highlighting some of the many interesting events & places that our area has to offer.

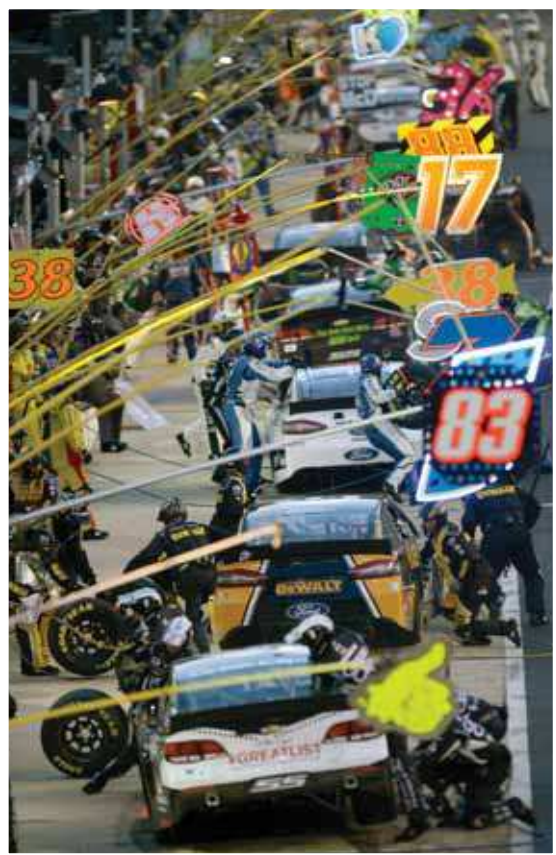
If you have comments, please contact Steven Jameson at **276-645-2521** or **sjameson@bristolnews.com**

A BH Media Group Publication

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- David Crigger
- Jeff Simmons
- Doug Thompson

Designed by Carol Sue Repass



Left: Bristol Motor Speedway; Above Right: Country Music Museum; Right: Memorial Day Parade; Below Left: Muddy Creek - Photos by David Crigger



JONESBOROUGH

- by Laura J. Mondul

The historic Town of Jonesborough, Tennessee, has worked hard to preserve its heritage while developing an eclectic community for the arts. The small-town environment welcomes visitors to this distinctive community while offering an appreciation of the arts usually found in larger cities. There is no shortage of things to do in this charming town.

Founded in 1779, Jonesborough is known as Tennessee's oldest city and retains some of its original buildings. The downtown area is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The oldest surviving building in Jonesborough is the Christopher Taylor house, built in 1777. Originally located about a mile outside the town, the house has been relocated into the historic downtown district. Sightings of the ghost of Andrew Jackson have been reported at the house - Jackson lodged at the residence in 1788.

The Chester Inn, built in 1797, is also among the preserved historic structures. Constructed as a hotel, the inn is now open as a historic site, The Chester Inn Museum. The museum chronicles the history of Jonesborough, and features exhibits detailing the history of the State of Franklin, The Chester Inn, the 1873 cholera epidemic, and much more. The museum also features activities specifically for children, including a scavenger hunt.

The Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum is another opportunity for history enthusiasts. Exhibits bring history to life as they depict scenes from frontier life in Tennessee, provide local education history, and there is also a rotating exhibit honoring veterans.

Built in 1886, the Oak Hill School has been carefully restored to look as it originally did, right down to the color of the walls. Visitors can now visit the school and see what education was like for the town's first settlers.

For visitors that prefer a guided tour of the town's historic sites, Jonesborough also offers walking tours of the town several days a week. The tour provides visitors a more comprehensive, detailed history of what town life was like hundreds of years ago.

Known as the Storytelling Capital of the World, Jonesborough is home to the International Storytelling Center. Dedicated to preserving the art of storytelling, the center houses the Mary B. Martin Storytelling Hall, as well as a state-of-the-art performance theater, a gift shop, and rents rooms for weddings, events, business meetings and the like. The center also keeps a 'teller-in-residence' from May through October, featuring a different artist each week.

Perhaps the most well-known aspect of the town is the National Storytelling Festival, held in the beginning of October each year. The festival transforms downtown Jonesborough into a city of tents, from smaller tents to those seating up to 1,600. The tents feature storytellers and performers from around the country. The festival entertains visitors from far and wide with its dedication to oral tradition as a means of preserving culture and history, and of educating and entertaining both young and old. Since its creation in 1973, the festival has grown from a total of 60 people, audience and performers, to now boasting over 30 world-class storytellers and thousands of visitors.

Jonesborough also has much to offer for visitors interested in the other performing arts. The Jonesborough Repertory Theatre offers live performances year round, including the well-known USO show, honoring our nation's veterans.

For music-lovers, musicians from the region perform live every week at Music on the Square. The performances are free, so visitors need only bring a lawn chair and sit back and enjoy the music.

The historic downtown district is also packed with photo studios, art galleries, specialty shops with handmade jewelry, cafes and restaurants, and much more.

Visitors interested in the arts and crafts won't want to miss the McKinney Center, located in the former Booker T. Washington School building. The school houses the Mary B. Martin Program for the Arts, and holds a juried art show for four weeks every year.

Art-lovers can also enjoy Fine Art in the Park, a judged and juried art show occurring the third weekend of each October.

Jonesborough Days is a patriotic festival held every July, and is organized to celebrate America's heritage. The weekend features a parade, games, an animal petting zoo, a children's area, live music on the Main Stage, as well as arts, crafts, food and of course fireworks.

Jonesborough has many distinctive lodging accommodations, with charming bed and breakfasts, historic inns and upscale lodges and suites. For the outdoorsman who wants to experience nature at its best, the town even has campgrounds. With so many unique and historically significant activities, Jonesborough is a perfect destination for travelers looking for a piece of Americana.

AREA ATTRACTIONS LISTED ALPHABETICALLY BY TOWN

DISCOVER: ABINGDON, VA

FESTIVALS

Plum Alley Day
www.abingdonkiwanis.org/plum-balleyday.html

Virginia Highlands Festival
vahighlandsfestival.org/

HISTORICAL SITES

Fairview Historic Homestead
Hillman Highway
Abingdon, VA 24210

276-628-3167
www.fairviewhistorichomestead.blogspot.com

Keller Interpretive Center
1780 Muster Place
Abingdon, VA 24210
276-525-1050
http://abingdonmustergrounds.com/keller-interpretive-center/

The Martha Washington Inn
150 West Main Street
Abingdon, VA 24210

276-628-3161
www.themartaha.com

Walnut Grove-Yearly Cabin
Between Valley Street and Plumb Alley
Abingdon, VA 24201
276-676-2282
http://visitabingdonvirginia.com/listing/walnut-grove-yearly-cabin/

Whites Mill
12291 Whites Mill Road

Abingdon, VA 24210
276-628-2960
http://whitesmill.org/

MUSEUMS

Fields-Penn 1860 House Museum
208 West Main Street
Abingdon, VA 24210
276-676-0216

Heartwood: Southwest Virginia's Artisan Gateway
One Heartwood Circle

-continued on page 5

-continued from page 4
Abingdon, VA 24210
276-492-2400
www.heartwoodvirginia.org

William King Museum
Center for Art and Cultural
Heritage
415 Academy Drive
Abingdon, VA 24210
276-628-5005
www.williamkingmuseum.org

PARKS

Virginia Creeper Trail
Abingdon, VA 24210
www.vacrepertrail.com/

SPAS

**Healing Waters Day Spa and
Salon**
107 Charwood Drive
Abingdon, VA 24210
276-628-4233
www.healingwatersdayspa.com

**The Martha Washington Inn and
Spa**
150 West Main Street

Abingdon, VA 24210
276-628-3161
www.themartha.com

THE ARTS

Arts Depot
314 Depot Square
Abingdon, VA 24210
276-628-9091
www.abingdonartsdepot.org

Barter Theatre
127 West Main Street
Abingdon, VA 24210
276-628-6991
www.barthertheatre.com

**Crooked Road: Virginia's
Heritage Music Trail**
One Heartwood Circle
Abingdon, VA 24210
276-492-2409
www.thecrookedroad.org

**Heartwood: Southwest
Virginia's Artisan Gateway**
One Heartwood Circle
Abingdon, VA 24210
276-492-2400
www.heartwoodvirginia.org

Holston Mountain Artisans
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Abingdon, VA 24210
276-628-7721
www.holstonmntnarts.com

LOVEwork in Abingdon
150 West Main Street
Abingdon, VA 24210
800-435-3440
www.visitabingdonvirginia.com

**'Round the Mountain:
Southwest Virginia's
Artisan Network**
One Heartwood Circle
Abingdon, VA 24210
276-492-2407
www.roundthemountain.org

TOURS

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GhostWalk**
110 North Main Street
Abingdon, VA 24210
423-743-9255
www.abingdonghostwalk.com

WINERIES AND BREWERIES

Abingdon Vineyard and Winery

20530 Alvarado Road
Abingdon, VA 24211
276-623-1255
www.abingdonwinery.com

Wolf Hills Brewing Co.
350 Park Street
Abingdon, VA 24210
303-550-8762
www.wolfhillsbrewing.com

DISCOVER: BIG STONE GAP, VA

FESTIVALS

**Gathering in the Gap Music
Festival**
www.gatheringinthegapmusicfes-
tival.com/

MUSEUMS

Harry W. Meador Coal Museum
East Third Street and Shawnee
Avenue
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219
276-523-9209
www.bigstonegap.org/attract/
coal.htm

PARKS

-continued on page 12

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BRISTOL

- by Laura J. Mondul

As stated on the iconic sign downtown, Bristol is a good place to live. But it's also a great place to visit.

Heralded as the Birthplace of Country Music, Bristol TN/VA offers many attractions for visitors. The city straddles the state line of Tennessee and Virginia - downtown State Street divides the city, with Tennessee on one side and Virginia on the other.

State Street offers a bustling downtown atmosphere, lined with antique stores, historic buildings, charming cafes and restaurants, as well as unique specialty stores and other businesses.

Bristol has always been a supporter of the arts. State Street also features the historic Paramount Theatre and Theatre Bristol, which offer year-round performances in dance, theatre and music.

Also downtown are numerous art galleries offering a plethora of visual treats. Bristol boasts many local artists, and you can see and purchase their works at the many galleries on and around State Street.

If you visit at the right time of year, you can participate in the Haunted Historic GhostWalk in downtown Bristol or watch the annual Christmas parade. In the fall, Bristol features the annual Rhythm and Roots Reunion, a three-day festival held downtown celebrating the city's musical heritage, featuring more than 20 stages with live music. The festival features Americana, bluegrass, folk, Celtic, old-time and progressive Appalachian music.

Just off State Street is the Birthplace of Country Music Museum, featuring photos and exhibits detailing the rich history of music in Bristol, going back to the very first country music recordings on State Street in 1927 by the Carter Family, Jimmy Rogers, Ernest Stoneman and others. The Bristol Sessions are known as the "Big Bang" of country music. Also for music enthusiasts, The Pickin' Porch is located on State Street at

the Foundation Event Facility at the Birthplace of Country Music Mural, and features weekly live performances.

But there is much more to Bristol than downtown. Several miles out of the downtown area is the famous Bristol Motor Speedway, a favorite of NASCAR fans across the country. Known for its steep-banked turns, the racetrack brings more than 200,000 visitors a year. Furthermore, the Bristol Dragway, also known as Thunder Valley, is located at the complex. And every year during the holiday season, the racetrack features the breathtaking "Speedway in Lights," an annual holiday light show that allows visitors to drive through the complex, including the actual race-track, ending at the Christmas Village in the center of the track.

For outdoor enthusiasts, Bristol offers many scenic attractions and al fresco adventures. Steele Creek Park and Nature Center covers 2,200 acres in scenic Bristol, Tennessee. The park includes a 54-acre lake, 150 acres of

recreational area and almost 2000 acres of undeveloped forested knobs. The forest features numerous hiking trails and beautiful scenery. Water enthusiasts can rent paddle boats or canoes to tour the lake. The park features picnic areas and a rustic lodge that is available for rent, a nine-hole golf course, and even a train that is sure to bring a smile for youngsters. The park also offers a Nature Center that is open to the public year-round, and herb and flower gardens.

Another treat for the outdoor enthusiast is South Holston Lake, which features boating, waterskiing, camping, swimming, and the TVA South Holston Dam, which provides electricity to many of the surrounding areas and offers scenic views of the lake and fantastic photo opportunities. The lake teems with wildlife, the connected Holston River offers some of the best trout fishing in the world.

For the visitor that enjoys shopping, in addition to the many shops available

-continued on page 8

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Top Left: Country Music Museum Saturday; Top Right: Irwin Tools Bristol Motor Speedway; Above left: Mountain Stage; Above Right: Night Snow; Far Left: Fireworks; Middle Left: Highlands Festival; Near Left: Creeper Trail Trestle; Below Left: Totem Pole; Below Middle and Inset: Rhythm & Roots Festival; Below Right: Highlands Festival - Photos by David Crigger

-continued from page 6

downtown, the Bristol Mall also offers several large department stores, small retail shops, a food court and a movie theatre. Another movie theatre complex, Tinseltown USA, is located at Bristol, Virginia's Exit 7 area off of Interstate 81 and offers state-of-the-art theatre experience. Also located at Exit 7 are a plethora of restaurants, shops and hotels.

In case you're looking for that great photo opportunity, Bristol features two "LOVEworks," large outdoor art pieces, one at the Virginia Welcome Center of Interstate 81 and the other on State Street. Furthermore, the huge guitar outside the Bristol Chamber of Commerce on State Street is a favorite of visitors. And while you're here, don't forget to visit the famous Bristol sign on State Street by the historic Trainstation, which declares Bristol as "A good place to live."

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Be sure to look us up online for an updated calendar of events!

www.HeartwoodVirginia.org



ABINGDON

- by Laura J. Mondul

The historic town of Abingdon is nestled among the Blue Ridge Mountains of Southwest Virginia. Rich in culture and scenic beauty, Abingdon has something to offer for all visitors.

A designated Virginia Main Street, Abingdon has a charm all its own. The downtown district features brick sidewalks and tree-lined streets that evoke memories of a rich heritage. Established in 1778, Abingdon is alive with history, and played a part in both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

One of the town's well-known landmarks is the Martha Washington Inn, a palatial residence built in 1832. In 1858, the home became Martha Washington College, which operated through the Civil War and the Great Depression.



Above Top: Emory & Henry Shenandoah; Above: Plumb Alley Festival - Photos by David Crigger

During the "War Between the States," the college doubled as a hospital for wounded soldiers from both sides, resulting in the many ghost stories now surrounding the building. Today, the Martha Washington is an upscale hotel, complete with a fine dining restaurant, tennis courts, a fitness center, a pool, a library and a spa, all of which carefully adhere to the elegance and splendor of the structure's original architecture.

A short walk down Main Street from the Martha Washington is the historic Barter Theatre, established in 1933 during the Great Depression. The Barter was originated with the idea of allowing patrons to pay for their admission with produce from their farms and gardens. The famous theatre has been stage to

many well-known actors, including Gregory Peck, Patricia Neal, Ernest Borgnine, Ned Beatty, and many others. Like many of the historic buildings in Abingdon, the Barter is rumored to be haunted.

For those visitors who are drawn to the ghostly, the town offers the Abingdon Historic GhostWalk around Halloween, which details the various haunts

-continued on page 11

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4-7
Mon-Thurs

-continued from page10

and specters of the many centuries-old buildings.

Abingdon also offers many attractions for those interested in the arts. The William King Museum of Art is a premier visual arts facility. The museum inhabits a former school building dating back to 1913. William King features three main galleries, as well as a student gallery and a panoramic gallery that features self-curated shows by local artists. The museum also houses artist studios, a reference library, research archives and an outdoor sculpture garden.

Abingdon is also home to the Arts Depot, a community-based art gallery housed in a 19th century freight train station. The Depot features three galleries, and all art is available for purchase.

A recent addition to the arts scene in Abingdon is Heartwood: Southwest Virginia's Artisan Gateway. Heartwood offers a visitor and sales center featuring the work of artisans and musicians. Visitors can learn about Southwest Virginia's history, heritage, recreation and scenic beauty through songs and

stories. The Center features artisan studios, cafes, restaurants, music venues and outfitters, all housed in the eight-acre complex located next to Virginia Highlands Community College.

Outdoor enthusiasts will also find plenty to do in Abingdon. The historic Virginia Creeper Trail, a former railway, is now a 34-mile trail open to biking, horseback riding and hiking. The scenic trail begins in downtown Abingdon and stretches through mountain passes, forests and streams to its culmination at Whitetop, near the North Carolina state line.

The historic White's Mill has been serving the outlying Abingdon community since the 18th century. The mill has recently been renovated, and visitors can now tour the Mercantile, which houses local artwork, handmade quilts, and more. White's Mill also hosts the Harvest Days festival in October, featuring live music, fishing and food.

Speaking of festivals, a great time to visit Abingdon is during the annual Virginia Highlands Festival every summer. The festival is held in downtown Abingdon and features live music, arts and crafts, food, handmade products


and more. Each year, Main Street is packed with tents and booths selling anything and everything Appalachian.

For those visitors with a fine palate, Abingdon is also home to the Abingdon Winery and Vineyard. Also, the town hosts a busy Farmer's Market open two days a week, offering fresh, locally grown foods.

Historic Abingdon is home to a plethora of exciting and fun things to do - a town rich in history and cultural heritage with a strong focus on the arts. With too many things to do to include in one listing, visitors won't want to miss a thing when visiting this charming town.



Barter Theatre - File Photo

barter  theatre

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276.628.3991
bartertheatre.com

Virginia  is for Lovers

The Case of My Fair Lady (2014)

-continued from page 5

**Southwest Virginia Museum
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276-523-1322

[www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/
southwest-virginia-museum.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/southwest-virginia-museum.shtml)

THE ARTS

June Tolliver Playhouse
518 Clinton Avenue East
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219
276-523-1235

[www.myswva.org/venue/june-
tolliver-playhouse](http://www.myswva.org/venue/june-tolliver-playhouse)

**Trail of the Lonesome Pine
Amphitheatre/June Tolliver
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www.trailofthelonesomepine.com

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DISCOVER: BLAND, VA

THE ARTS

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DISCOVER: BLOUNTVILLE, TN

ATTRACTIONS

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DISCOVER: BREAKS, VA

PARKS

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DISCOVER: BRISTOL, VA

FESTIVALS

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MUSEUMS

**Birthplace of Country Music
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www.virginia.org

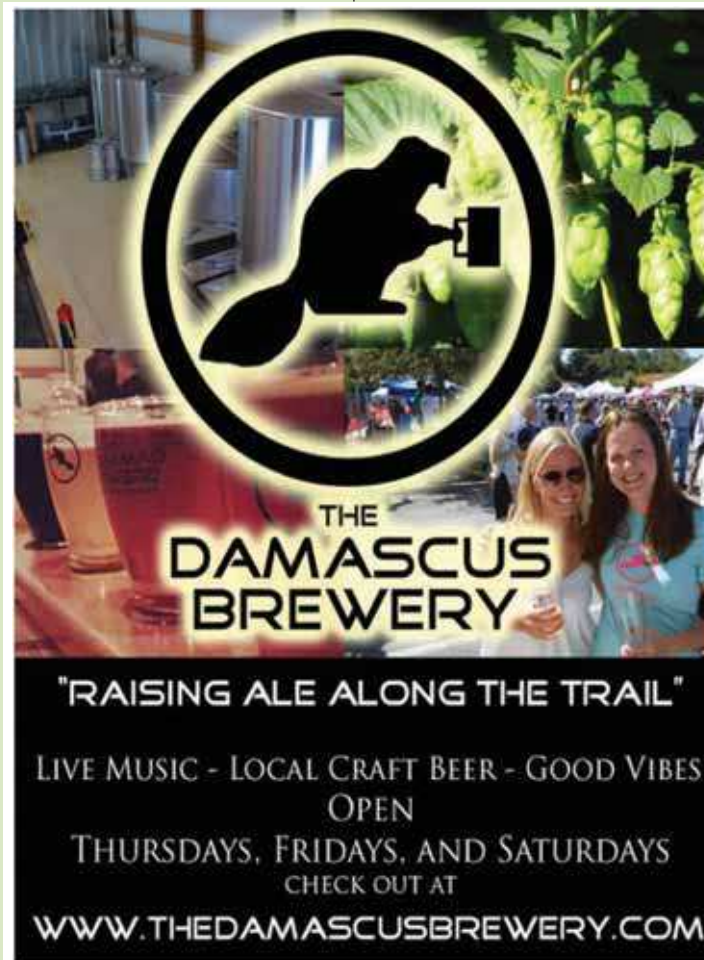
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276-644-9700
www.believeinbristol.org

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www.pickinporch.org

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-continued on page 13



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-continued from page 12

Tinseltown USA
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276-669-0588

TOURS

Haunted Historic Bristol
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423-743-9255
www.bristolghostwalk.com

DISCOVER: BRISTOL, TN

ATTRACTIONS

Bristol Caverns
1157 Bristol Caverns Road
Bristol, TN 37620
423-878-2011
www.bristolcaverns.com/

Bristol Motor Speedway and
Dragway
151 Speedway Boulevard
Bristol, TN 37620
423-989-6900
www.bristolmotorspeedway.com/

FESTIVALS

-continued on page 17

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www.davisvalleywinery.com

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SMYTH COUNTY

From history buffs to fishermen, bikers to hikers, music buffs to movie fans, Smyth County can help fuel the passions of many interests.

For the history buff, Smyth County is home to sites of historic importance dating back to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Annually, Saltville is host to re-enactments of two major Civil War battles. Saltville is also home to the Museum of the Middle Appalachians that boasts exhibits worthy of major galleries. Its exhibits range from the Ice Age (paleontologists continue explorations in the community) to Saltville's 80 years as a company town. Visitors to the museum can also view and purchase copies from its collection of more than 4,000 photos.

In Groseclose, the Settlers Museum tells the story of the people who settled Southwest Virginia and how its unique culture was formed. The museum grounds include a visitor's center, 1890's one-room school and farm.

In downtown Marion, visitors can explore a variety of exhibits in the Holston River Heritage Center, which showcases history organized by the Smyth County Historical & Museum Society Inc. Marion is also home to Sallie's Crying Tree. It serves as a reminder of Sallie, a child who was purchased and brought to Marion as a slave in 1840. She cried with grief and loneliness from being separated from her family and would wrap her arms around the tree for comfort.

20th-century author Sherwood Anderson lived and wrote in Smyth County and was buried in the community.

Coming soon is the Wayne C. Henderson School of Appalachian Arts being developed in the town's 1908 Schoolhouse that was saved from becoming a parking lot.

The school's name honors Wayne Henderson, a world-renowned musician and luthier of handmade custom guitars, including one for Eric Clapton and another for the late Doc Watson.

The school will offer music and instrument-making classes but will also encompass other traditional arts, including storytelling, writing, art, gardening and preserving.

Many examples of the region's traditional music as well as plays, movies and special

events can be found on the stage of The Lincoln Theatre, also in downtown Marion. The 500-seat theater presents a wide variety of performing art shows throughout the year. Restored in 2004, it is one of three existing Art Deco Mayan Revival theaters in the country. Its stage is also home to Song of the Mountains, an ongoing concert series featuring old-time, bluegrass and Americana musicians. The series is aired on PBS stations around the country.

April through December, Marion's arts community hosts the Second Friday Alive After Five art walk in the downtown area.

For outdoor enthusiasts, Smyth County offers a plethora of opportunities.

The world-famous Appalachian Trail crosses through Smyth County near Sugar Grove and Groseclose. The county and Marion are a designated AT community.

Marion is also home to Hungry Mother State Park, where visitors can find easy and challenging hikes, fish from the banks or take a boat out on the lake, swim from the beach, enjoy a paddleboat ride or have a family picnic. The park offers a variety of camping options from primitive to cabins available for rent.

The about 200,000 acres of National Forest land that make up the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area include a portion of Smyth County. Virginia's two highest peaks are within the Mt. Rogers NRA. The land is home to a herd of wild, free-ranging ponies that many people enjoy photographing. The NRA is open for camping, picnicking, sight-seeing, bird watching, trout fishing, hunting, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and swimming. Over a million visitors come to Mount Rogers every year.

For gentle hikes, a river-walk is open in Marion and Saltville offers the Helen Williams Barrow Interpretive Trail in its well fields, which are also a great spot for bird

and wildlife watching and learning about history. The Virginia Salt Trail is a multi-use trail running 8.5 miles between Saltville and Glade Spring.

For individuals who prefer to see the county's great views from a motorcycle seat, there's the Back of the Dragon, a 32-mile ride on Rt. 16 between Frog Level in Tazewell County and Marion. The Back of the Dragon offers more than 260 curves and reaches elevation up to 3,500 feet.

-continued on page 16



Above Top: Damascus Trail Days - Photo by Jeff Simmons
Above: The Lincoln Theatre - File Photo

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June 20	A Life of Sorrow
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www.holstonhillsgolf.com**

-continued from page 14

In addition to fishing in Hungry Mother Lake, the South Fork of the Holston River in Smyth County features two special regulation areas that have helped earn the river recognition as one of the premier trout fisheries in the state.

If golf is more your style, Holston Hills Community Golf Course offers an 18-hole course as well as a swimming pool. Golfing is also available in Chilhowie and Saltville, and Saltville offers a unique wave pool.

From May through the early fall, multiple farmers markets can be found throughout the community, offering a wide array of fresh produce.

With all this activity, folks are bound to get hungry. From fast food to eateries with a pub atmosphere to fine-dining, the community has a variety of dining establishments. The best known is the iconic Hi-Way Drive-In just outside of Marion that's known for its unique Dip Dogs that folks will travel from far away to sample. The red bumper sticker that declares "got Dip Dogs?" has been photographed around the globe.

Appalachian Mountain Spirits Mercantile & Stillhouse Store can be found on Main Street in downtown Marion. The mercantile offers tastings, the opportunity to learn how the handmade corn whiskey is made and a variety of goods for sale. Distillery tours can

also be booked there.

Smyth County is also home Davis Valley Distillery and Winery in Groseclose. The establishment features a Virginia ABC Store and Tasting Room.

That's only the beginning of opportunities in Smyth County. There's a drive-in movie theater and entertainment complex, antique shopping, summer concerts and new possibilities arriving all the time.

To learn more, individuals may stop in, call or email the Smyth County Tourism Center in the historic Bonham House in Chilhowie just off Interstate 81 Exit 35.



Above Left: Hungry Mother Lake; Above Right: Rich Valley Fair; Near Right: Hungry Mother Festival; Far Right: Crab Orchard Museum; Below Bottom: Tazewell County Air Show - File Photos • Near Below: Damascus Trail Days - Photo by Jeff Simmons



-continued from page 14

Bristol Rhythm and Roots Reunion

www.bristolrhythm.com

HISTORICAL SITES

Tennessee Ernie Ford Home

1222 Anderson Street
Bristol, TN 37620

423-989-4850

www.bristolhistoricalassociation.com/ernieford.html

MUSEUMS

The Mountain Music Museum and Mercantile

626 State Street
Bristol, TN 37620

423-573-2262

www.appalachianculturalmusic.org/

PARKS

Steele Creek Park and Nature Center

4 Little Lane
Bristol, TN 37620

423-989-5616

www.friendsofsteelecreek.org/

THE ARTS

Paramount Center for the Arts
518 West State Street

Bristol, TN 37620

423-274-8920

www.theparamountcenter.com/

Theatre Bristol

512 State Street

Bristol, TN 37620

423-383-5979

www.theatrebristol.org

DISCOVER: BUCHANAN, VA

MUSEUMS

Art on Gold and Portraits on Gold Creations

19818 West Main Street

Buchanan, VA 24066

540-254-3183

www.portraitsongold.com

DISCOVER: BASTIAN, VA

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Wolf Creek Indian Village and Museum

6394 North Scenic Highway

Bastian, VA 24314

276-688-3438

http://www.indianvillage.org/

DISCOVER: CEDAR BLUFF, VA

THE ARTS

Appalachian Arts Center

2157 Steelesburg Highway

Cedar Bluff, VA 24609

276-596-9188

http://apparts.sw.edu/

DISCOVER: CHILHOWIE, VA

THE ARTS

Eller Instruments

595 Horseshoe Bend Road

Chilhowie, VA 24319

276-646-3620

www.ellerinstruments.com

The Arts Place

124 East Main Street

Chilhowie, VA 24319

276-759-1800

DISCOVER: CLINTWOOD, VA

THE ARTS

Dickenson Arts Center and Gallery

Pioneer Art League/PO Box 715

Clintwood, VA 24228

540-926-5358

Jettie Baker Center

-continued on page 18

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-continued from page 17

East Main Street
Clintwood, VA 24228
276-926-8694
www.townofclintwood.com/
jettie-baker-center/

**Ralph Stanley Museum and
Traditional Mountain Music
Center**
249 Clintwood Main Street
Clintwood, VA 24228
276-926-8550
www.ralphstanleymuseum.com

**DISCOVER: COEBURN, VA
FESTIVALS**

Guest River Rally Festival
www.townofcoeburn.com/
guestriver.php

THE ARTS

**Historic Lays Hardware Center
for the Arts**
409 East Front Street
Coeburn, VA 24230
276-395-5160
www.layshardware.com/

**DISCOVER: DAMASCUS, VA
FESTIVALS**

Trail Days
www.traildays.us/

WINERIES AND BREWERIES

The Damascus Brewery
32173 Government Road
Damascus, VA 24236
540-314-2782
www.thedamascusbrewery.com

**DISCOVER: DUFFIELD, VA
CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail
1420 Natural Tunnel Parkway
Duffield, VA 24244
276-940-2674
www.danielboonetrail.com
Parks

Natural Tunnel State Park
1423 Natural Tunnel Parkway
Duffield, VA 24244
276-940-2674
www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-
parks/natural-tunnel.shtml

**DISCOVER: ELIZABETHTON,
TN**

FESTIVALS

East Tennessee Celtic Festival
www.uppereasttncelticsociety.
org/index.php?template=festival

PARKS

**Sycamore Shoals State Historic
Park**
1651 W. Elk Avenue
Elizabethton, TN 37643
423-543-5808
tnstateparks.com/parks/contact/
sycamore-shoals

HISTORICAL SITES

Doe River Covered Bridge
Elk and Hattie Street
Elizabethton, TN 37643
423-547-3850

DISCOVER: EWING, VA

PARKS

Wilderness Road State Park
8051 Wilderness Road
Ewing, VA 24248
276-445-3065
www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-
parks/wilderness-road.shtml

**DISCOVER: FLOYD, VA
CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Floyd Historical Society Museum
217 North Locust Street
Floyd, VA 24091
540-745-3247
www.floydhistoricalsociety.org

FESTIVALS

Floydfest
www.floydfest.com

MUSEUMS

**Floyd County Historical Society
Museum**
217 North Locust Street
Floyd, VA 24091
540-745-3247
www.floydhistoricalsociety.org

THE ARTS

Bell Gallery and Garden
112 North Locust Street
Floyd, VA 24091
540-745-4494
www.bellgalleryandgarden.com

Blue Ridge Views Scenic Images
429 Penn Road SW
Floyd, VA 24091
540-239-2705
www.blueridgeviews.com

Carter Holliday Art Gallery
883 Thunderstruck Road NE
Floyd, VA 24901
www.carterholliday.com

Crenshaw Lighting Studio
592 Paradise Lane
Floyd, VA 24901
540-745-3900
www.crenshawlighting.com

**Floyd Artists Association - Blue
Ridge Art Connection**
203 South Locust Street
Floyd, VA 24091
www.floydartists.com

Granatelli Pottery
207 Slusher Store Road
Floyd, VA 24091
540-745-4613
www.silviegranatelli.com

Hensley Polseno Pottery
1643 Starbuck Road
Floyd, VA 24901
540-745-4624
www.16hands.com

June Bug Center
251 Parkway Lane
Floyd, VA 24901
540-745-6550
www.junebugcenter.org

Icove Lighting Design Gallery
5773 Franklin Park SE
Floyd, VA 24901
540-745-3546
www.icovelighting.com

Little River Designs
446 Little River Road
Floyd, VA 24901
540-745-4598
www.little-river-bedandbreakfast.
com

Painting Studio of Joli Ayn Wood
657 Poor Farm Road
Floyd, VA 24901
540-449-5078
www.jolisart.blogspot.com

Phoenix Hardwoods
2540 Floyd Highway North
Floyd, VA 24901
540-745-7475
www.phoenix-hardwoods.com

Rhythm Fire Dance Company
477 Rain Dance Drive
Floyd, VA 24901
540-798-9516
www.rhythmfiredance.com

Sarvisberry Gallery and Studios
174 Sarvisberry Lane SW
Floyd, VA 24901
540-745-6330
www.sarvisberry.com

Shankin Pottery
297 Summer Lane NE
Floyd, VA 24901
540-745-3595
www.ellenshankin.com

**The Jacksonville Center for the
Arts**
220 Parkway Lane South
Floyd, VA 24091
540-745-2784
www.jacksonvillecenter.org

**The Natural Woodworking
Company**
1527 Franklin Pike SE
Floyd, VA 24901
540-392-6287
www.naturalwoodworkingco.com

**The Sun Music Hall and Cultural
Arts Center**
302 South Locust Street
Floyd, VA 24901
540-745-7883
www.thesunmusichall.com

Tom Phelps Studio
635 Stagecoach Road SE
Floyd, VA 24901
540-745-3154
www.potterystuff.com

Troika Contemporary Crafts
203-205 South Locust Street
Floyd, VA 23901
540-745-8764
www.troikacrafts.com

WINERIES AND BREWERIES

Chateau Morrisette Winery
287 Winery Road SW
Floyd, VA 24091
540-593-2865
www.thedogs.com

Villa Appalaccia Winery
752 Rock Castle Gorge
Floyd, VA 24091
540-593-3100
www.villaappalaccia.com

**DISCOVER: FORT CHISWELL,
VA**

HISTORIC SITES

-continued on page 19

-continued from page 18

Fort Chiswell Mansion
325 Factory Outlet Drive
Fort Chiswell, VA 24360
304-323-5435
www.fortchiswellmansion.com

DISCOVER: GATE CITY, VA

ATTRACTIONS

Creation Kingdom Zoo
1642 Snowflake Road
Gate City, VA 24251
276-690-5450
www.creationkingdomzoo.com/
index.php

FESTIVALS

Grillin at the Gate
www.gcitygrillin.com/

THE ARTS

LOVEwork in Scott County
Highway 23 and 58
Gate City, VA 24251
276-386-6521
www.explorescottcountyva.com

DISCOVER: GALAX, VA

FESTIVALS

HoustonFest
houstonfestgalax.com/

Leaf and String Festival
www.visitgalax.com/leafand-
stringfestival.html

Old Fiddlers Convention
www.oldfiddlersconvention.com/

THE ARTS

The Rex Theatre
Grayson Street
Galax, VA 24333
276-238-8130

DISCOVER: GRAY, TN

FESTIVALS

Appalachian Fair
www.appalachianfair.com/

MUSEUMS

**East Tennessee State University
and General Shale Natural
History Museum**
Visitor Center and Gray Fossil Site
1212 Suncrest Drive
Gray, TN 37615
423-439-3659

DISCOVER: GRUNDY, VA

THE ARTS

Jag's
21950 Riverside Drive
University Plaza #4
Grundy, VA 24612
276-935-4311
www.facebook.com/pages/
JAGS/415489751804295

DISCOVER: HILTONS, VA

MUSEUMS

A.P. Carter Museum
3449 A.P. Carter Highway
Hiltons, VA 24258
276-594-0676
276-386-6054
www.carterfamilyfold.org

THE ARTS

Carter Family Fold
3449 A.P. Carter Highway
Hiltons, VA 24258
276-594-0676
www.carterfamilyfold.org

DISCOVER: JOHNSON CITY,

TN

FESTIVALS

Blue Plum Festival
www.blueplum.org/

HISTORIC SITES

Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site
2620 South Roan Street
Johnson City, TN 37601
423-936-3631
www.tipton-haynes.org

MUSEUMS

Hands On! Regional Museum
315 East Main Street
Johnson City, TN 37601
423-434-4263
handsonmuseum.org/

DISCOVER: JONESBOROUGH,

TN

ATTRACTIONS

International Storytelling Center
116 W. Main Street
Jonesboro, TN 37659
800-952-8392
www.storytellingcenter.net

FESTIVALS

National Storytelling Festival
www.storytellingcenter.net/
events/national-storytelling-
festival/

HISTORIC SITES

Christopher Taylor House
Main Street
Jonesborough, TN 37659
423-753-1010
www.historicjonesborough.com/
history/history-jonesborough-tn.
php

The Oak Hill School
212 East Sabin Drive
Jonesborough, TN 37659
423-753-9580
www.heritageall.org/education/
programs/oak-hill-school/

MUSEUMS

**Jonesborough/Washington
County Historical Museum**
117 Boone Street
Jonesborough, TN 37659
423-753-1010
historicjonesborough.com/visi-
tors-center-jonesborough-tn.php

The Chester Inn Museum
116 Main Street
Jonesborough, TN 37659
423-753-4580
www.historicjonesborough.com/
thingstodo/chester-inn-museum.
php

THE ARTS

**Jonesborough Repertory The-
atre**
125 ½ West Main Street
Jonesborough, TN 37659
423-753-1010
www.jonesboroughtheatre.com/

DISCOVER: KINGSFORT, TN

FESTIVALS

Funfest
funfest.net/

Racks by the Tracks
www.racksbythetracks.com/

HISTORIC SITES

Exchange Place
4812 Orebank Road
Kingsport, TN 37664
423-288-6071
http://exchangeplace.info

PARKS

**Bays Mountain Park and
Planetarium**
853 Bays Mountain Park Road

Kingsport, TN 37660
423-229-9447
www.baysmountain.com/

Warriors' Path State Park
490 Hemlock Road
Kingsport, TN 37663
423-239-8531
tnstateparks.com/parks/about/
warriors-path

DISCOVER: LIMESTONE, TN

ATTRACTIONS

Bright's Zoo
3425 Highway 11
Limestone, TN 37681
423-257-1927
www.brightszoo.com/

PARKS

**Davy Crockett Birthplace State
Park**
1245 Davy Crockett Park Road
Limestone, TN 37681
423-257-2167
tnstateparks.com/parks/about/
davy-crockett-birthplace

DISCOVER: MARION, VA

FESTIVALS

Hungry Mother Festival
www.hungrymotherfestival.com/

MUSEUMS

Appalachian Spirit Gallery
144 West Main Street
Marion, VA 24354
276-759-3890
www.appalachianspiritgallery.com

THE ARTS

Park Place Drive-in
205 Park Boulevard
Marion, VA 24354
276-781-2222
www.parkplacedrivein.com

The Lincoln Center
117 East Main Street
Marion, VA 24354
276-783-6093
www.thelincoln.org

DISCOVER: MAX MEADOWS,

VA

WINERIES AND BREWERIES

**West Wind Farm Vineyard-
Winery**
180 West Wind Drive

-continued on page 20

-continued from page 19

Max Meadows, VA 24360
276-669-2020
www.westwindwine.com/index.php

DISCOVER: NORTON, VA

THE ARTS

Central Drive-In
5113 Kent Junction Road
Norton, VA 24273
276-679-3761
www.centraldrivein.com

Country Cabin II Appalachian Traditions Village
6034 Kent Junction Road
Norton, VA 24273
276-679-3541
www.appalachiantraditionsinc.com

DISCOVER: PINEY FLATS, TN

MUSEUMS

Rocky Mount Living History Museum
200 Hyder Hill Road
Piney Flats, TN 37686
888-538-1791
www.rockymountmuseum.com/

DISCOVER: PENNINGTON GAP, VA

THE ARTS

Appalachian African-American Cultural Arts Center
230 North Leona Street
Pennington Gap, VA 24277
540-546-5632
www.myswva.org/venue/appala-

chian-african-american-cultural-center

DISCOVER: PULASKI, VA

FESTIVALS

PulaskiFest
www.pulaskifest.com/

MUSEUMS

Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley
21 West Main Street
Pulaski, VA 24301
540-980-7363
www.facnrva.org

Raymond F. Ratcliffe Memorial Transportation Museum
51 Commerce Street
Pulaski, VA 24301
540-980-2307

540-994-8696
www.theratcliffemuseum.com

THE ARTS

Lambert's Woodturnings
20 12th Street NE
Pulaski, VA 24301
540-980-5975

Pulaski Theatre
14 West Main Street
Pulaski, VA 24301
540-994-9555
www.pulaskitheatre.org

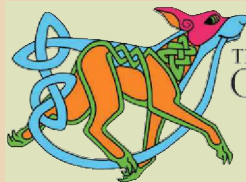
DISCOVER: ROAN MOUNTAIN, TN

FESTIVALS

Rhododendron Festival

-continued on page 23

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Museum of the Middle Appalachians



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WYTHEVILLE

- by Laura J. Mondul

Named for George Wythe, the first signer of the Declaration of Independence, Wytheville was founded in 1792. A town rich in history, Wytheville is often known as the “Hub of Southwest Virginia” or the “Crossroads of the Blue Ridge.” plenty of outdoor activities and many cultural and historical sites, Wytheville is located at the convergence of two major interstates and is a convenient and exciting destination for visitors.

At the time of Wytheville’s beginnings, the town was located at the junction of two major western roads - the Ingles Ferry and the Peppers Ferry Trails. Today, the town is home to many fascinating historic sites that recall the early days.

Wytheville was the birthplace of Edith Bolling, who became the second wife of President Woodrow Wilson. Downtown Wytheville now honors this famous First Lady with the Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Museum, which is located in the bottom floor of the historic Bolling home. The museum celebrates the history, heritage and romance behind this remarkable woman.

Located just outside Wytheville and overlooking the New River, Shot Tower was built more than 200 years ago to make firearms for early settlers. Lead from nearby mines was melted atop the 75-foot-tower. Guests may now ascend the tower, which is listed among the National Register of Historic Places.

The Wytheville Genealogical and Historical Association offers visitors an extensive collection of books, documents and records about the history of the town. Furthermore, the Wythe County Historical Society operates the Wythe County Historical Library, which is open to the public.

Located in the Wytheville Training School and Cultural Center, the African-American Heritage Museum explores the role of African-American’s in the history of Wytheville. The museum features artifacts and memorabilia as well as information about the important cultural history of the town.

Visitors who are enthralled by history won’t want to miss the Halloner-Gibney Rock House Museum. Built in 1823, the house was originally the residence of the town’s first resident physician. The museum features furnishings and records from the era, and even a 19th-century herb garden.

The Thomas J. Boyd Museum also offers visitors a glimpse into the life of the early residents of Wytheville. The collection

includes the town’s first fire truck, early farming equipment and tools, military uniforms and more.

For visitors who need to quench their thirst after a busy day touring, the WestWind Vineyard and Winery. This fourth-generation homestead offers hospitality, wonderful views and of course, a plethora of wines for sampling.

The Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre is a unique and exciting way to experience Wytheville. Featuring a 200-seat arena, the theatre provides four-course meals served and customized to complement the Broadway-style productions offered year-round. Also at the theatre is the Matterhorn Restaurant and Lounge, which offers authentic German cooking, and the Bier Garten, featuring café-style dining offered during warmer months.

Those visitors who enjoy scenery will love Big Walker Lookout, a 100-foot lookout tower at an elevation of 3,405 feet. The BW Country Store offers handmade arts and crafts from the region, as well as old-fashioned fudge, jams, jellies and relishes.

Outdoor enthusiasts will also be captivated by the Beartown Wilderness, composed of 5,609 acres and bordered by the Appalachian Trail.

The Beagle Ridge Gardens and Herb Farm features four miles of nature trails, 14 themed displays, as well as a gift

shop with herbal bath soaps, lotions, and herbs and season-

-continued on page 24



Above Photos: Chautauqua Festival - Photos by Jeff Simmons



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Left: Snow in the Cove section of Wythe County; Top Middle and Top Right: Bland Festival of Leaves; Below Left: Appalachian Trail; Below Middle: Rocky Gap Spring; Below Right: Country Scene - Photos by Jeff Simmons



Below Left: Bland Festival of Leaves; Below Middle: Rural Retreat Lake; Below Right & Below Left Middle: New River Kayaking; Bottom Left: I-77 thru Bland County Fall Leaves; Bottom Right: Hillsville Flea Market - Photos by Jeff Simmons



-continued from page 20

www.roanmountain.com/festival.htm

PARKS

Roan Mountain State Park
1015 Hwy 143
Roan Mountain, TN 37687
423-772-0190
tnstateparks.com/parks/about/roan-mountain

DISCOVER: RURAL RETREAT, VA

WINERIES AND BREWERIES

Rural Retreat Winery and Vineyards
201 Church Street
Rural Retreat, VA 24368
276-686-8300
www.ruralretreatwinery.com

DISCOVER: SALTVILLE, VA

MUSEUMS

Museum of the Middle Appalachians
123 Palmer Avenue

Saltville, VA 24370
276-496-3633
www.museum-mid-app.org

DISCOVER: WEBER CITY, VA

THE ARTS

The Pickin Parlor Jam Sessions
The Pickin Parlor
U.S. Highway 23
Weber City, VA 24290
267-386-2654

DISCOVER: WISE, VA

FESTIVALS

Wise County Famous Fall Fling
www.wisefallfling.com/

THE ARTS

Charles W. Harris Gallery
124 Library Road SW
Wise, VA 24293
276-328-1251
www.charlesharrisgallery.org

Clisso Photography
4896 Southridge Drive
Wise, VA 24293

276-328-5200
www.clisso.com

Herchel Stallard Studios

607 Spring Avenue SE
Wise, VA 24293
904-318-3741
www.herchelstallard.com

WINERIES AND BREWERIES

MountainRose Vineyard
10439 North Reservoir Road
Wise, VA 24293
276-328-2013
www.mountainrosevineyard.com

DISCOVER: WYTHEVILLE, VA

ATTRACTIONS

Fort Chiswell Animal Park
569 Red Hollow Road
Wytheville, VA 24382
276-637-6754
www.fortchiswellanimalpark.com

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Edith Bolling Wilson Memorial Birthplace

145 East Main Street
Wytheville, VA 24382
276-223-3484
www.edithbollingwilson.org

Wythe County Genealogical and Historical Association

115 East Main Street
Wytheville, VA 24382
276-228-2445
www.wythecogha.org

FESTIVALS

Chautauqua Festival
www.wythevillefestival.org/

MUSEUMS

African-American Heritage Museum

410 East Franklin Street
Wytheville, VA 24382
276-625-0042
www.visitwytheville.com/african-american-heritage-museum.html

Butterfly Flowers

1934 Matney Flats
Wytheville, VA 24382

-continued on page 24



-continued from page 21

ings. For flower-lovers, Butterfly Flowers features the region's only butterfly house along with its beautiful flower gardens. Field of Flowers at Pleasant Hill Farm even allows visitors to cut their own flowers from the 50 large flower beds and take them home in a mason jar.

For children or the young at heart, the Fort Chiswell Animal Park is the perfect place to spend the afternoon. This 45-acre zoo features animals from six continents and offers hands-on, interactive fun for all ages.

Keeping with Appalachian tradition, Wytheville offers many opportunities to experience live music. The town has the Summer Saturday Concert Series at WestWind Winery and Vineyard, weekend Music at Big Walker Lookout, Gerta's House of Music, the Matterhorn Lounge Tuesday Night Music, the Old Stage Jam on Thursdays, and the WCC Bluegrass and Old Time Jam, plus much more.

With so many activities and attractions and its convenient location at the junction of Interstates 81 and 77, Wytheville is a great destination for a day trip or even a weekend. A blend of the great outdoors, history and heritage, Wytheville has something for everyone.



Buffalo Mountain - Photo by Jeff Simmons



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Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Museum

145 East Main Street
Wytheville, VA 24382
276-223-3484
www.edithbollingwilson.org

Thomas J. Boyd Museum

295 Tazewell Street
Wytheville, VA 24382
276-223-3331

PARKS

Big Walker Lookout and BW Country Store

8711 Stoney Fork Road
Wytheville, VA 24382
276-663-4016
www.scenicbeauty-va.com

THE ARTS

Beagle Ridge Herb Farm and Flying Flowers

1934 Matney Flats Road
Wytheville, VA

276-621-5411
www.beagleridgeherbfarm.com

Stony Fork Workshop

407 Gullion Fork Road
Wytheville, VA 24382
276-228-8349

Wohlfahrt Haus Theatre/ Matterhorn Restaurant and Lounge

170 Main Drive
Wytheville, VA 24382
276-223-0891
www.wohlfahrtHaus.com

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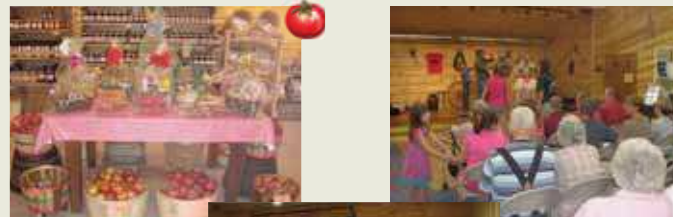
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FLOYD

- by Laura J. Mondul

Established in 1831 and originally named Jacksonville, the Town of Floyd sits atop a plateau among the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains of Southwest Virginia. Known for its many outdoor activities and thriving music and arts community, Floyd is a great destination for visitors looking for adventure.

With over 40 miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway running through Floyd County, this quaint Virginia town has a never-ending supply of scenic views. For the outdoor enthusiast, there are plenty of campgrounds, hiking and mountain biking trails in the area. Rustic cabin rentals, bed and breakfasts, and numerous charming inns and mountain resorts offer visitors many distinctive choices for accommodations. Water enthusiasts are sure to enjoy the Little River, which offers canoeing, kayaking and tubing adventures for everyone from a greenhorn to more experienced river-goers.

The small town of Floyd is rapidly gaining popularity as a music destination. Located along The Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail, Floyd hosts annual music festivals as well as weekly live music gatherings. Floydfest is music festival held every year in July, featuring many musical genres including rock, bluegrass, folk, Appalachian, and others. The festival also features local arts and crafts, dance workshops, morning yoga sessions, storytelling, poetry readings and camping.

Festival-goers will also appreciate the annual Floyd County Arts and Crafts Festival, held every fall. Located on the campus of Floyd High School, the festival features over 180 foods and arts and crafts vendors and provides shuttlebus rides from nearby campgrounds.

Located in the quaint downtown area, The Floyd Country Store hosts the Friday Night Jamboree, featur-

ing gospel, bluegrass and old-time music for listeners of all ages. Reminiscent of the traditional country store of old times, the store has barrels of old-fashioned candy on the porch, and sells clothing, supplies, food and more. The store even has its own café serving homemade soups, sandwiches, and more.

For the art lover, Floyd is a mecca of unique and creative art - ranging from visual arts, pottery, woodworking, sculpture, stained glass and every medium you can imagine. Twice a year, the 16 Hands art tour brings visitors door-to-door to the shops and galleries of the many artists who call Floyd home.

The Jacksonville Center for the Arts has transformed an old barn into a community showplace for rural tradition, arts and crafts. In addition to arts and crafts, the center features mountain music, theater and dance and celebrates all aspects of rural heritage. The center also offers classes and workshops in a variety of unique and traditional art forms.



Above Top & Bottom: Floyd Jubilee; Above Middle: Floyd Fest - Photos by Doug Thompson

-continued on page 26

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Above: Floyd Jubilee; Above Right: Floyd Fest - Photos by Doug Thompson; Right: Floyd Yoga Jam - Photo by Colleen Redman

Floyd is home to several wineries and vineyards, as well as wonderful cafes and restaurants to appease every palate. The Harvest Moon Food Store offers organic and bulk foods, as well as specialty items. And there are many unique gift shops and specialty stores throughout the downtown area where visitors are sure to find that perfect keepsake.

Located in nearby Meadows of Dan, Mountain Meadow Farm and Craft Market not only houses a gift shop with authentic handmade crafts, including the proprietor's famous gourd art, but also holds the annual Indian Summer Days Festival and the Meadows of Dan Folk Fair. The farm also offers family fun with the seasonal corn maze and pumpkin patch.

With structures and buildings dating back hundreds of years, visitors to Floyd will enjoy touring the historic sites. The Mabry Mill is a restored gristmill, sawmill and wood-working and blacksmith shop. The mill offers demonstrations of old-time skills like basketweaving, seat caneing, spinning and weaving. History buffs will also visit the Floyd County Historical Society Museum, housed in the former Ridgemont Hospital - Marie Williams House.

Whether its arts and crafts, the great outdoors, music or history that piques your interest, Floyd is a great destination for travelers looking for a unique place to visit.



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