

Wilkes County

NORTH CAROLINA

Visitor Guide

Better Living
Better Communications
An Encouraging

WORD page 32

BETTERCOMMUNICATIONSNC.COM

WelcometoWilkes.net
2013 Official Visitor Guide



**Proud to help build our
community's future.**

At Lowe's, we're committed to supporting public schools and non-profit groups like the YMCA and the Greenway Project in Wilkes County. After all, helping the community grow is just as important as helping our customers.



Adventure Awaits

Recreational opportunities in the Wilkes County area are endless: camping, hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, fishing boating, wildlife viewing, and mountain-biking

EXPLORE OUR
GREAT
OUTDOORS

Forested hillsides surround more than 1400 acres of W. Kerr Scott Reservoir.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

CALL OR VISIT WEBSITES TO CONFIRM TIMES AND DATES

Green Visitor Center Welcomes You!

The Northwest North Carolina Visitor Center and rest area is the state's first green rest area. The center, located in Wilkes County, has several environmentally friendly features, including a 28,000-gallon cistern on the front lawn that collects rainwater to flush toilets, solar panels above the main entrance that pre-heat water for the sinks, large windows that provide natural light for much of the building, and motion sensors which turn lights off when people aren't around.

Agritourism Thrives in Wilkes County

Reflect on times past as you travel through present scenery of Wilkes County, with generational homesteads, barns and farms. Quilt blocks were chosen from centuries old patterns; placed on barns of local residents wishing to ensure this legacy; and enjoyed by all who gaze and recognize these pieces as an art form. Sharing rich heritage through quilt design, Wilkes County Quilters Guild in partnership with Cultural Arts Council of Wilkes began with a Barn Quilt Trail of twelve quilts. Wilkes County Public School art students participated in producing three blocks, initiating future generations to keep the historic quilting tradition alive. Listed below is the trail to follow to enjoy this rich heritage. Visit www.wilkesquilters.org for more information about the Wilkes County Quilt Guild. And enjoy your drive!

Presently there are 16 quilts displayed as listed below:

8 Point Stars - 11605 W. US 421, Purlear
American Flag - Corner of 4th and E Streets,
North Wilkesboro

Baby Bovines - 1842
Country Club Rd,
Wilkesboro

Carolina Lily - 196 Vic-
tory Ln, Ronda

Double Wedding Ring
- 319 Shingle Gap Rd,
Purlear

Double Wedding Ring
- US 421 East between
exits 276 and 278

Dresden Plate - 2241
Lewis Fork Baptist
Church Rd, Ferguson

Drunkard's Path -
10421
Longbottom Rd, Traphill

Drunkard's Path - 5124 Sparta Rd, NC 18,
North Wilkesboro

Fan - 1335 Shingle Gap Road, Purlear
Lemoine Star - 7688 N. NC 16,
Millers Creek

Lightening Strike
- 5900 Boone Trail,
Millers Creek

Stars Aglow - The
Record Park, Corner of
6th & E Streets, North
Wilkesboro

Sunbonnet Sue - 6281
South NC Hwy. 18,
Moravian Falls

Tulip Block - 3450
Sparta Rd, NC 18, North
Wilkesboro

Vegetable Garden -
689 Glen
Carlton Road, Boomer



WKBC's Hometown Opry

When: Friday mornings at 7AM

Where: Minton Music & Pawn at 302 North Main Street, North Wilkesboro

People gather at the Minton Music and Pawn in North Wilkesboro to see a live musical performance that is simultaneously broadcast on WKBC 800AM. This event, "The Hometown Opry," features a different bluegrass, gospel, or country music group each week. The back room or "studio" of the Minton Music and Pawn has a large stage and enough room to seat 80 to 150 folks. Memorabilia, pictures of groups that have played there before, and musical instruments fill the studio walls. Coffee is available and donations are accepted to raise money for needy people. This is indeed an excellent venue with both local groups and pro taking the "Hometown Opry" stage. The "Opry" usually draws a large crowd.

JANUARY

Four Season Wine Tasting Dinner

When: January 9, 2013 6PM – 9PM

Where: Villa Raffaldini, Raffaldini Vineyards, 450 Groce Road, Ronda, NC



Please join us for our quarterly wine tasting dinner held at Villa Raffaldini. The Four Seasons Wine Tasting Dinners are held spring, summer, autumn and winter and will feature four seasonal food courses and four specially

chosen wines to complement the food. Culinary and wine descriptions will be given during the evening to enhance your enjoyment. This is an opportunity to share your food and wine passion with like-minded friends. The atmosphere will be relaxed and casual with a focus on meeting new friends and enjoying la dolce vita. Call (336) 835-9463 for more information and reservations. Visit www.raffaldini.com for a full calendar of events and tasting room hours.

Wilkes Art Gallery - 33d Annual Blue Ridge Overview

When: January 11, 2013 - February 22, 2013

Where: 913 C Street, North Wilkesboro

An exhibition of juried photography. The competition show is open to all photographers whose primary source of income is not photography. For more information visit www.wilkesartgallery.org or call (336) 667-2841.

Celebrate Black History Month

When: January 26, 2013 7PM to 9PM

Where: Stone Performing Arts Center, 613 Cherry Street, North Wilkesboro 28659

You will enjoy this concert featuring local African-American church choirs and duets singing spirituals, gospels and slave songs. Admission is free, and ALL are welcome.

Music Jam Series

When: January 26, 2013 at 7PM to 9PM

Where: Benton Hall, 300 D Street, North Wilkesboro 28569

Jam with the 13th Tribe Contemporary Rock Gospel Group. Admission is free-donations are accepted. Call (336) 838-PLAY for more information.

The Italian Kitchen

When: January 27, 2013 1PM – 3PM

Where: Raffaldini Winery, 450 Grace Road, Ronda, NC

Learn the secrets of the Italian Kitchen! Join us for an afternoon of food and wine as we invite Chef Kevin Fisher, owner of The Screaming Rooster in Winston-Salem to cook for you. Enjoy an afternoon of good food, good wine and new friends. For more information or reservations call (336) 835-9463

FEBRUARY

Wilkes Has Talent!

When: February 2, 2013 from 7PM to 9PM

Where: Wilkes Heritage Museum, 100 E. Main Street, Wilkesboro 29697

This new program will feature talented youths ages 8 to 23 of Wilkes County in quarterly competitions. A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to each quarterly winner. The scholarship is made possible by the Watauga, Ashe and Wilkes Scholarship Fund. For more information, call Jennifer Furr at (336) 667-3171. Admission is charged at the door.

Hooray for Hollywood

When: Friday, February 8, 2013 from 8PM to 11:55PM

Where: The Walker Center at Wilkes Community College, 1328 South Collegiate Drive, Wilkesboro 28697

This nostalgic musical take you through the last 50 years of music. A cast of 14, over 300 costume changes, and 30 familiar songs will have you tapping your toes and humming bars for days. Call the Walker Center box office 336-838-6260 for information or reservations.

Black Cat Station Railroad Club Open House

When: February 9, 2013 from 10AM to 2PM

Where: 800 Elizabeth Street, North Wilkesboro Black Cat Station Railroad club boasts "HO" scale model railroads.

Visit www.blackcatstation.com for more information or call (336) 838-4060.



The Vineyards of Swan Creek Association present **For Chocolate and Wine** pairing event

When: February 9, 2013 from 11AM to 5PM

Where: Take exit 73B off I-77 and follow the grape cluster signs to each vineyard.

Go to www.swancreekvineyards.com for more information.

A weekend of Amore!

When: February 16, 2013 from 11AM to 5PM

Where: Raffaldini Winery

Traditional accordionist Michael Raybould will roam our Tuscan-style villa from 1 to 4 PM while you enjoy a deli picnic and Raffaldini wines. The view is spectacular—perfect for amore.

When: February 17, 2013 at 1PM and 3PM

Where: Raffaldini Winery

Our own Erin Doby will lead the one-hour workshop, which includes the performance of "Un Bel di Verdremo" from Madama Butterfly. Admission is free, but space is limited. Please RSVP. For more information call 336-526-1078 or Email: info@raffaldini.com

Comedy Pet Theatre

When: February 22, 2013 at 7PM

Where: Walker Center at Wilkes Community College 1328 South Collegiate Drive, Wilkesboro 28697

Your hearts are sure to be warmed by the world famous Greg Popovich and his talented stage buddies—15 cats and 10 dogs all of whom were rescued from animal shelters. Enjoy an evening of family fun, laughter, and juggling. The four-legged stars will steal your hearts.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

CALL OR VISIT WEBSITES TO CONFIRM TIMES AND DATES

MARCH

Vineyards of Swan Creek Wine and Cheese Festival

When: March 2-3, 2013



Raffaldini, Dobbins Creek, Shadow Springs and Laural Gray Vineyards offer pairings of wines and local cheese from the Ashe County Cheese Factory. Visit www.swancreekvineyards.com for more information.

Raffaldini Wine and Cheese Pairing

When: March 3, 2013 1PM and 3PM

Where: Raffaldini Vineyards, Ronda, NC

Join us for a special afternoon of wine and cheese offerings paired with our wines. Visit www.Raffaldini.com for more information on this other events. You may also call (336) 526-1078 for reservations.

Black Cat Station Railroad Club Open House

When: March 9, 2013 from 10AM to 2PM

Where: 800 Elizabeth Street, North Wilkesboro 28659 Black Cat Station Railroad club boasts "HO" scale model railroads. Visit www.blackcatstation.com for more information or call (336) 838-4060.

Roots and Boots Concert

When: March 8, 2013 at 8PM

Where: Wilkes Community College at 1328 South Collegiate Drive, Wilkesboro 28697
Aaron Tippin, Sammy Kershaw and Joe Diffie—the best country music can offer on one stage! This trio will rock the house and you don't want to miss it. For ticket information visit www.walkercenteronline.org or call (336)838-6260.

16th Annual Make A Joyful Noise Concert

When: March 16, 2013 at 7PM - Doors open at 6PM

Where: Walker Center at Wilkes Community College 1328 South Collegiate Drive, Wilkesboro 28697

The show features The Inspirations, The Wishons, and The Good Shepherd Quartet. The show is sponsored by Hometown Christian Radio 1240. You may purchase tickets by visiting walker.boxoffice@wilkescc.edu or by calling (336) 838-6260.

APRIL

Vineyards of Swan Creek Spring Herb Festival

When: April 5 – 6, 2013 11AM to 5PM April 7, 2013 Noon to 5PM

Where: Dobbins Creek, Laurel Gray,

Raffaldini, Shadow Springs and Windsor Run Vineyards

Join the vineyards of Swan Creek and sample food prepared with each vineyard's signature herb paired with wine. To reserve tickets or for more information, visit www.raffaldini.com or call (336) 526-1078. Tickets are \$25 per couple.

Four Season Wine Tasting Dinner

When: April 10, 2013 6PM – 9PM

Where: Villa Raffaldini, Raffaldini Vineyards, Ronda, NC

Please join us for our quarterly wine tasting dinner held at Villa Raffaldini. The Four Seasons Wine Tasting Dinners are held Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter and will feature four seasonal food courses and four specially chosen wines to complement the food. Culinary and wine descriptions will be given during the evening to enhance your enjoyment. This is an opportunity to share your food and wine passion with like-minded friends. The atmosphere will be relaxed and casual with a focus on meeting new friends and enjoying la dolce vita. Call (336) 835-9463 for more information and reservations.



Black Cat Station Railroad Club Open House

When: April 13, 2013 from 10AM to 2PM

Where: 800 Elizabeth Street, North Wilkesboro Black Cat Station Railroad club boasts "HO" scale model railroads.

Visit www.blackcatstation.com for more information or call (336) 838-4060.

Wilkes Has Talent!

When: April 20, 2013 from 7PM to 9PM

Where: Wilkes Heritage Museum, 100 E. Main Street, Wilkesboro 29697

This new program will feature talented youths ages 8 to 23 of Wilkes County in quarterly competitions. A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to each quarterly winner. The scholarship is made possible by the Watauga, Ashe and Wilkes Scholarship Fund. For more information, call Jennifer Furr at (336) 667-3171. Admission is charged at the door.

Candlelight Ghost Tours by the Wilkes Heritage Museum

When: April through October 2013 on the 3rd Saturday of the month

Where: Meet at the Old Jail, downtown Wilkesboro

Follow an historically clad tour guide at the Museum's monthly 'Candle Light Ghost Tours'. Find out which spirits are roaming through the Old Jail, Cleveland House, and Smithey Hotel. Tours last about 90 minutes. Contact the Museum for more information at (336) 667-3171 or visit www.wilkesheritagemuseum.com/Ghost

Leatherwood Mountains 10 Miler and Ultra

When: April 20, 2013

Where: Leatherwood Mountain, Ferguson, North Carolina

Horse lovers need look no further. Mount your trust steed and join this 10 mile trail ride. Contact bigfootultras@gmail.com or call (704) 530-8856 for details. Visit www.lwmtultrarun.com for more information.

MerleFest

When: April 25 – April 28, 2013

Where: Merle Watson Amphitheater on Wilkes Community College Campus

This Americana music celebration since 1988 is hosted by Doc & Richard Watson in memory of Eddy Merle Watson. Come and join the 80,000+ folks who attend this 4 day event each year, starting on the last Thursday in April. This event offers crafts, food, dance, and family activities. Come and join the 80,000+ folks who attend this four day event. Visit merlefest.org for tickets & information or call (800) 343-7857. Visit www.merlefest.org for more information.

MAY

Shine to Wine Festival

When: May 4, 2013 from noon to 6PM

Where: Downtown North Wilkesboro

The 9th Annual Shine to Wine Festival is scheduled for the first Saturday in May from Noon to 6PM in Downtown North Wilkesboro. Enjoy live entertainment, art, vendors, wine, and food. This outdoor event showcases the burgeoning wine industry in our area. General admission is FREE, and wine tastings are only \$15 in advance or \$20 the day of! Call (336) 667-4875 or visit www.shine-towine.com for more information.

Black Cat Station Railroad Club Open House

When: May 11, 2013 from 10AM to 2PM

Where: 800 Elizabeth Street, North Wilkesboro
Black Cat Station Railroad club boasts "HO" scale model railroads. Visit www.blackcatstation.com for more information or call (336) 838-4060.

Daniel Boone Day

When: May 11, 2013 from 11AM to 5PM

Where: Whippoorwill Village and Academy, 11928 NC Hwy 268 West, Ferguson, 28624

Talk a walk into the 1760's at Whippoorwill Village. Experience life 200 years ago--all historic buildings will be open for self-guided tours. Matt's Store, Whippoorwill Academy, Daniel Boone replica cabin, Yadkin River Jail house, Chapel of Peace, Daniel Boone Tavern, Smokehouse art gallery, wash house, visitor's center, and blacksmith shop.



Enjoy music by the Wilkes Acoustic Folk Music Society, R.G. Absher, Carol Minton and Mary Jane Noland. Period demonstrations include blacksmithing by Andy Soots, hearthside cooking by Mary Bohlen, wood carving, spinning and an art exhibit by Margaret Martine's private students. Watch a performance by the Tom Dooley Legend cast, the Foothill cloggers, and a short play "Jemima Boone Kidnapped by Indians." The N.C. 26th regiment will also perform military drills.

Vendors will be available with wood turned articles, quilts, baskets, a variety of crafts, homemade soaps, jewelry, and stained-glass.

Admission is free; donations for Samaritan's Ministries or Relay for Life cancer research are appreciated. For more information email whippoorwillvillage@hotmail.com or call (336) 973-3237.

Candlelight Ghost Tours

When: April through October 2013 on the 3rd Saturday of the month

Where: Meet at the Old Jail, downtown Wilkesboro

Follow an historically clad tour guide at the Museum's monthly 'Candle Light Ghost Tours'. Find out which spirits are roaming through the Old Jail,



Cleveland House, and Smithy Hotel. Tours last about 90 minutes. Contact the Museum for more information at (336) 667-3171 or visit www.wilkesheritagemuseum.com/Ghost

Ricky Nelson Remembered

When: May 17, 2013 at 8PM to 11PM

Where: Walker Center at Wilkes Community College 1328 South Collegiate Drive, Wilkesboro 28697

Join Nelson's twin sons celebrating the life and music of Ricky Nelson and see never-before-seen footage of the Nelson family. Call (336) 838-6260 or visit www.WalkerCenterOnline.org for more information.

ChickenFest

When: May 24 – 26, 2013 beginning Friday evening through Sunday afternoon

Where: Record Park on the corner of 4th and E Streets, North Wilkesboro

Enjoy Americana music, family fun, and vendors serving up a variety of chicken dishes. Call (336) 667-0134 for more information. This event is free to the public. For more information visit www.therecordofwilkes.com

Cinema & Raffaldini

When: May 24, 2013 7PM to 9PM

Where: Raffaldini Vineyards, 450 Gorce Road, Ronda 28670

Enjoy an open Italian buffet, award winning Raffaldini wines, a spectacular sunset, and a showing of "Panne e Tulipani" in traditional al fresco style as you relax on the piazza, or bring your blanket and lounge on the lawn. Tickets are \$45 per person and include movie admission, dinner and a glass of

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

CALL OR VISIT WEBSITES TO CONFIRM TIMES AND DATES

Raffaldini wine. Visit www.raffaldini.com or call (336) 526-1078 for more information.

Wilkes Acoustic Folk Music Society Concert

When: May 26, 2013 3PM to 5PM

Where: Whippoorwill Village and Academy, 11928 NC Hwy 268 West, Ferguson, 28624

Enjoy fabulous acoustic music; Josh Cooper demonstrating real blacksmithing; and the Foothills Cloggers performing. Author Randell Jones will be pleasing crowds with a book signing of *The Daniel Boone Wagon Train*. Famous southern barbecue sandwiches will be available for purchase. Admission is free.

BURN 24 Challenge Mountain Bike Endurance Race

When: May 27 - 28, 2013

Where: Dark Mountain Trail of W. Kerr Schott Dam & Reservoir, Wilkesboro 28697



Participate in the annual Memorial Day Weekend Mountain Biking event. The BURN 24 Hour Challenge is the Southeast's premiere 24-hour mountain bike solo and team relay race. Register online, or at the race. Visit www.burn24hour.com for more information.

JUNE

The Wilkes Acoustic Folk Music Society

When: June 2

Where: Whippoorwill Village and Academy, 11928 NC Hwy 268 West, Ferguson, 28624

Additionally, enjoy Randell Jones' book signing for *The Daniel Boone Wagon Train- 1963-1973*. Renee Moore Frost wrote *Miss Eda, My Dearest Friend*, a collection of Civil War letters written by Eda Ferguson from Elkville and Hardin Spicer from Traphill, compiled by Ferguson and Spicer descendant, Frost. Frost will also be signing her

historical, fascinating compilation.

2013 Blue Ridge Music Hall of Fame Ceremony

When: June 8, 2013

Where: Stone Center for Performing Arts on Cherry Street, North Wilkesboro 28659

Inductees will be heralded into the Hall of Fame in categories such as

Nationally Known Artist, Pioneer Artist, Songwriter, and Regional Musician to name only a few. For tickets and information visit www.wilkesheritagemuseum.com.

Black Cat Station Railroad Club Open House

When: June 8, 2013 from 10AM to 2PM

Where: 800 Elizabeth Street, North Wilkesboro
Black Cat Station Railroad club boasts "HO" scale model railroads. Visit www.blackcatstation.com for more information or call (336) 838-4060.

Father's Day Brunch

When: June 16, 2013 from Noon to 3PM

Where: Raffaldini Vineyard, 450 Groce Road, Ronda 28670

Celebrate Dad with brunch at the Vineyard! The vintage '51 Dodge truck will be on display too. Tickets are \$45 per person and Dad receives a free gift. Visit www.raffaldini.com or call (336) 526-1078 to make reservations or for more information.

Singing in the Foothills 2013

When: June 20 - 22, 2013

Where: Wilkesboro Raceway Park, 774 Dragway Road, Wilkesboro NC
Singing in the Foothills is a three-night Southern Gospel Spectacular event. Come rain or shine, Singing in the Foothills is held under a giant camp meeting-style tent. One hundred-percent of the proceeds go to benefit the Ebenezer Christian Children's Home. Call toll free for tickets and information (866) 601-SING or visit www.singinginthefoothills.org Group rates are available.



Candlelight Ghost Tours

When: April through October 2013 on the 3rd Saturday of the month

Where: Meet at the Old Jail, downtown Wilkesboro

Follow an historically clad tour guide at the Museum's monthly 'Candle Light Ghost Tours'. Find out which spirits are roaming through the Old Jail, Cleveland House, and Smithy Hotel. Tours last about 90 minutes. Contact the Museum for more information at (336) 667-3171 or visit www.wilkesheritagemuseum.com/Ghost

Otto Wood: The Bandit

When: June 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 and July 5 and 6, 2013 with music beginning at 7PM and curtain at 7:30PM

Where: The Record Park, Corner of 4th and E



Streets, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659
Enjoy outdoor theatre and this historical stage production of a depression-era desperado born in Wilkes County in 1894. The stage production is written by Jerry Lankford and directed by Heather Dean. Call (336) 667-0134 or visit www.therecordofwilkes.com for more information.

JULY

Independence Day Celebration

When:

July 4th
beginning at
6:30PM

Where:

Parking
Decks of
Downtown
North
Wilkesboro
Join Historic
Downtown
North
Wilkesboro
on the
Parking
Decks for an
evening of
fun and
excitement! A
completely



FREE event featuring Bluegrass, Country, and Rock musical performances, dance performances, children's activities, Fire Truck Parade at 8PM, and of course Fireworks 9:30PM! Come early and bring your lawn chairs! Visit www.downtownnorthwilkesboro.com for more information.

Tom Dooley: A Wilkes County Legend

When: Selected dates from July 4 – 27, 2013 with curtain at 8:30

Where: Forest's edge Amphitheatre in Fort Hamby Park off US 421 North.

Set in the Civil War era, the nation's first highly publicized crime of passion is in its 13th season is presented in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Experience the real story of Tom Dula and the two women who are his undoing. Call Blue Moon Productions at (336) 838-4278 for tickets.

Candlelight Ghost Tours

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Where: Meet at the Old Jail, downtown Wilkesboro

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Independence Day Celebration – Musica & Gelato

When: July 4, 2013 11AM to 5PM

Where: Raffaldini Vineyard, 450 Grace Road, Ronda, NC 28670

Join us for an afternoon of fresh gelato and music in the vineyard! Visit www.Raffaldini.com or

call (336) 526-1078 for details.

Four Season Wine Tasting Dinner - Summer

When: July 20, 2013 6PM – 9PM

Where: Villa Raffaldini, Raffaldini Vineyards, Ronda, NC

Please join us for our quarterly wine tasting dinner held at Villa Raffaldini. The Four Seasons Wine Tasting Dinners are held Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter and will feature four seasonal food courses and four specially chosen wines to complement the food. Culinary and wine descriptions will be given during the evening to enhance your enjoyment. This is an opportunity to share your food and wine passion with like-minded friends. The atmosphere is relaxed and casual with a focus on meeting new friends and enjoying la dolce vita. Call (336) 526-1078 for more information and reservations.

AUGUST

Afternoon with the Winemaker

When: August 17, 2013 at 1PM

Where: Raffaldini Vineyards, 450 Groce Road, Ronda 28670

Join Kiley Evans, the Raffaldini winemaker as he guides you on a tour of the winery. To reserve a ticket, call (336) 526-1078 or visit www.raffaldini.com for more information.

Candlelight Ghost Tours

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Where: Meet at the Old Jail, downtown Wilkesboro

Follow an historically clad tour guide at the Museum's monthly 'Candle Light Ghost Tours'. Find out which spirits are roaming through the Old Jail, Cleveland House, and Smithey Hotel. Tours last about 90 minutes. Contact the Museum for more information at (336) 667-3171 or visit www.wilkesheritagemuseum.com/Ghost

Americana Day

When: August 31, 2013 beginning at 11AM

Where: The Record Park on the corner of 4th and E Streets, North Wilkesboro

This event is dedicated to youth musicians—no one over 18 performs. The young people present Bluegrass and Americana music. Enjoy incredible music and craft vendors and good food.

SEPTEMBER

Music in the Vineyard

When: September 2, 2013 Noon to 4PM

Where: Raffaldini Vineyard, 450 Groce Road, Ronda 28670

Relax on Labor Day weekend with an afternoon of music in the vineyard at Raffaldini. Enjoy an eclectic mix of music, wine and a picnic from the

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

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fully stocked deli case. Call (336) 526-1078 or email info@raffaldini.com for more information.

6 Hours of Warrior Bike Race

When: September 7, 2013 from Noon to 5PM
Where: W. Kerr Scott Dam & Reservoir
Come watch riders challenge themselves at the newest and toughest course in our trial!

Wilkes County Quilters Annual Quilt Show

When: September 7 - 8, 2013
Where: Stone Center for the Arts, Cherry Street, North Wilkesboro 28659

For the love of quilting! Enjoy 2 days of the finest needlework and treat your senses to the majesty of color and fabric on earth. Visit www.wilkesquilters.org for more information on the quilt show or how to join this group of talented stitchers. You can email directly to Jo.scorof@gmail.com.

Vine to Wine

When: September 20, 2013 9:30AM to 9PM
Where: Raffaldini Vineyards, 450 Groce Road, Ronda 28670
Calling oenophiles to spend a day in the Yadkin Valley at Raffaldini Vineyard and participate in the day to day running of a vineyard and winery. Learn about grape varietals, harvesting and the wine making process. This is a behind-the-scenes event you won't want to miss. Call (336)526-1078 or email eventplanning@raffaldini.com for additional information.

Candlelight Ghost Tours

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Where: Meet at the Old Jail, downtown Wilkesboro
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Old-Fashioned Gospel Singing

When: September 21, 2013 3PM to 5PM
Where: Whippoorwill Village and Academy, 11928 NC Hwy 268 West, Ferguson, 28624
Enjoy an uplifting evening of gospel with Reverend Horace Minton, the Reverent Gwyn Johnson Quartets and other local musicians. Barbeque sandwiches will be available. Admission is free.

OCTOBER

Brushy Mountain Apple Jam & Festival

When: Apple Jam - October 4, 2013 from 6PM - 9PM at Brushy Mountain Ruritan Club's Brushy Mountain Apple Festival Park at the corner of 10th and Main Streets. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy incredible music. The Jam kicks off the Brushy Mountain Apple festival.
When: Festival - October 5, 2013 from 8AM to 5PM
Where: The streets of downtown North Wilkesboro



The Annual Brushy Mountain Apple Festival is one of the largest one-day arts and crafts festivals in the southeast. And it's FREE! Shuttles are available. For more information about the Brushy Mountain Apple Festival visit www.AppleFestival.net or email at info@applefestival.net

Four Season Wine Tasting Dinner - Autumn

When: October 5, 2013 6PM - 9PM
Where: Villa Raffaldini, Raffaldini Vineyards, Ronda, NC 28670
Please join us for our quarterly wine tasting dinner held at Villa Raffaldini. The Four Seasons Wine Tasting Dinners are held Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter and will feature four seasonal food courses and four specially chosen wines to complement the food. Culinary and wine descriptions will be given during the evening to enhance your enjoyment. This is an opportunity to share your food and wine passion with like-minded friends. The atmosphere will be relaxed and casual with a focus on meeting new friends and enjoying la dolce vita. Call (336) 526-1078 or visit www.raffaldini.com for more information and reservations.

County Fair

When: October 1 - 5, 2013
Where: Willow Lane, North Wilkesboro
For over 30 years, the North Wilkesboro Rotary Club hosts the annual county agricultural fair each October, providing fun for the whole family. Wilkes County 4-H presents special activities along with other features that include a petting zoo and agricultural exhibits. Visit www.wilkesnc.org for a complete listing of special events. Call Mike Staley at (336) 902-7052 for more information.

Old-Fashioned Day of Worship

When: October 6, 2013 begins at 11AM
Where: Whippoorwill Village and Academy, 11928 NC Hwy 268 West, Ferguson, 28624
Worship service to be held at the Chapel of Peace. Bring a picnic lunch to share at noon. Admission is free.

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Annual Best of America by Horseback Fall Colors Ride

When: October 24-46, 2013
Where: Leatherwood Mountains Resort, 512 Meadow Road, Ferguson, NC
Enjoy the best riding vacations can offer and see the color of the mountains while you do it. You won't want to go home. Details available at www.lwmtns.com or call (800) 462-6867.

Annual Trail of Treats on the Greenway

When: Saturday before 10/31 unless October 31 falls on a Saturday - 3PM
Where: Along the Yaddin River Greenway
Happy Halloween! Trick or Treaters have safely ventured on the Yaddin River Greenway Trail of Treats for some spooky and some-not-so-scary treats. Sponsored annually since 2003 by the North Wilkesboro Police Department with Samaritan Kitchen becoming an annual sponsor in 2008.

NOVEMBER

The Record's Salute to Veterans

When: November 2, 2013 beginning at 10AM
Where: Record Park on the corner of 4th and E Streets, North Wilkesboro
While this is open to public, the Record salutes veterans and their families with good music and a complimentary chicken BBQ dinner.

Light Up Downtown

When: Check Historic Downtown North Wilkesboro website for exact date and time.
www.DowntownNorthWilkesboro.com
Where: Main Street, Downtown North Wilkesboro



Annually, Historic Downtown North Wilkesboro kicks off the holiday season with the lighting ceremony soon after dusk. Main Street is filled with the lights, joys, smells, and sounds of Christmas. Santa can be found in the lobby of Wilkes Towers ready for photos with the little ones (FREE). Local community groups take part in providing hay rides, live entertainment, foods, crafts, and kids activities

DECEMBER

Whippoorwill Christmas Open House

When: December 3, 2013 from 2:30PM to 5PM
Where: Whippoorwill Village, 11928 NC Hwy 268 West, Ferguson 28624
Tour the Whippoorwill Academy schoolhouse,

Matt's Store, Tom Dooley Museum, the Smokehouse gallery and more while finding irresistible pottery, folks toys and stocking stuffers for those on your Christmas list. Call (335) 973-2327 for more information.

The Village will close on December 21 and re-open April 1, 2014.

Vineyards of Swan Creek Holiday Open House

When: December 7 - 8, 2013
Where: Dobbins Creek, Laurel Gray, Raffaldini, Shadow Springs Vineyards, and Windsor Run Cellars. Celebrate the season with a complimentary sample of Raffaldini vineyards peppermint chocolate wine-infused brownies and mulled apple cider. Call (336) 526-1078 for more information.

Christmas Parade

On the 1st Saturday of December beginning at 1:00pm community businesses and organizations parade through downtown North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro in the splendor and majesty of Christmas with all the trimmings, and of course, Santa will be there, but not in a sleigh . . . riding atop a Fire Truck!

Holiday Tour of Homes

Enjoy the beautiful splendor, harmonious sounds, and decadent tastes of Christmas by touring magnificent homes extraordinarily designed & decorated. Dessert reception follows this annual event since 2002. Wilkes Art Gallery is located at 913 C Street, North Wilkesboro. You may call (336) 667-2841 or visit www.wilkesartgallery.org for more information.

Christmas with Old Wilkes Open House

When: December 14, 2013 from 10AM to 4PM
Live Holiday music ~ refreshments and merriment for all! Tours include the Wilkes Heritage Museum (20th Century), Old Wilkes Jail (19th Century), and Robert Cleveland Cabin (18th Century) decorated in period style Holiday splendor. Santa is always there too! Pleasing the public on the 2nd Saturday in December since 2005. Visit www.wilkesheritagemuseum.com for more information on this other events.





RG Absher

Discover Rich History on *Wilkesboro's* Walking Tour

If These Walls Could Talk . . .

Within a few blocks distance in the heart of downtown Wilkesboro is a wonderful collection of historic homes and historic places which take one back to the days of the early settlers. From the 1779 Robert Cleveland log home to the majestic 1902 Courthouse, now the Wilkes Heritage Museum, the historic buildings share a rich and well-documented past. Thirteen buildings

within easy walking distance of each other are on the **National Register of Historic Places**. The history of Wilkes County and Wilkesboro come alive when you look at the stories within the walls.



The land where Wilkesboro now rests was once an ancient Native American Indian site. Archeologists date this area to at least 10,000 years ago. Ken Robinson, a retired Wake Forest University archeologist, explained this area was once called **Mulberry Fields-- Keowee** in the

Cherokee language--before being named Wilkesboro. In pre-settlement history, Mulberry Fields was one of the largest Native American villages in North Carolina. The area might have been occupied by various Catawba or Cherokee tribes as well before settlers started to arrive in the mid 1700s. Certainly, early 18th century explorers such as the Moravian exploration party in 1752 were astonished when they encountered so many Indians along the Yadkin River bottomland.

During the 1780 Campaign to the Battle of Kings Mountain under the command of **Colonel Benjamin Cleveland** and **Major Joseph Winston**, about 350 Wilkes and Surry Militia marched through the area near the Old 1902 Courthouse. **The Tory Oak Site**

immediately behind the museum is reminiscent of the vicious, civil struggle which took place during the American Revolution. Around the corner is the



continued on next page

Robert Cleveland house.

Robert fought under his brother Colonel Benjamin Cleveland at the Battle of Kings Mountain. R. Cleveland and his large household of 24 lived in the home at its original location in the current Purlear community in western Wilkes County. A short walk away is the statue of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, a massive man in actual size and robust in character. He had a reputation for being a strong courageous leader in battle while, at the same time, being brutally hard on British Loyalists or Tories. Also nearby is the infamous hanging site--the Tory Oak. It is a place where a mighty tree stood until 1992. This marks the location where Colonel B. Cleveland executed at least 5 loyalists during the Revolutionary War.

The 19th century is evident on the downtown walking tour. The town of Wilkesboro was laid

out in 1800 by Revolutionary War hero and North Carolina statesman William Lenoir. Today, the towering Sugarberry Trees along Main Street near the Brown Cowles House are said to have been planted by Lenoir when he laid out the streets for Wilkesboro.

Other 19th century buildings include the Law Office, the Brown Cowles House and slave quarters, the Presbyterian Chapel and The Johnson Hubbard House. In March of 1865, Civil War General George Stoneman's United States Cavalry and 6,000 mounted Union soldiers rode into town and encamped in the large bottom lands near the confluence of Cub Creek and the Yadkin River. Stoneman's Raid was a short time before General Robert E. Lee's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox marking the

end of four bitter years of fighting during The War Between the States.

The 1859 Old Wilkes Jail is a highlight for many as they stand in a jail cell where notorious inmates were incarcerated. These infamous inhabitants include the late 1920's gangster Otto Wood as well as famous post-Civil War prisoner Thomas C. Dula (Dooley) who was incarcerated in 1866 charged with the murder of Laura Foster.

Around the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, other buildings tell of the changing and developing times. The Smithey Hotel, originally built in 1881, came along as the timber industry helped mold the local economy. Visiting the Smithey Hotel today, which now houses the Mother Earth Food Store, reveals photos on the walls depicting a Wilkesboro with dirt streets, horses hitched to posts, and people wearing old-fashioned clothing. The

pictures look like a street scene from a western movie set.

The Other buildings and sites downtown also speak of the history of Wilkesboro. The JT Ferguson store, The Federal Building, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, The Carl Lowe House and two historic cemeteries, the Wilkesboro Town Cemetery and the St. Paul's Episcopal Cemetery all testify to Wilkes County's presence in American history.

You may begin your self-guided Wilkesboro Walking Tour at the Wilkes Heritage Museum. The Heritage Museum is open Monday through Friday from 10AM- 4PM. Saturdays by appointment. Visit the museum online at www.wilkesheritagemuseum.com

***See Sites Along the Tour
beginning on page 14***

***See pictures of
Wilkesboro with dirt
streets, horses hitched to
posts, and people wearing
old-fashioned clothing.***

A Historical Sketch - Sites along the Tour

1902 Wilkes County Courthouse

The Mulberry Fields Meeting House was built of logs and established by 1777.

The log structure was replaced with another structure in 1830 which lasted until 1900. The construction of the 1902 courthouse was performed by contractors L.W. Cooper and Company of Charlotte who had also built the courthouses at Statesville and Laurinburg. The cost for the buildings was approximately \$47,000. The county accepted this new courthouse in January 1903. The 1902 Courthouse served the citizens of Wilkes County until 1997 when the building was vacated. Today, the Old Courthouse is the Wilkes Heritage Museum. The Heritage Museum



is one of the finest county museums in the state and has become a center for interpreting the region's history for hundreds of school children and members of the public.



and has been restored, and managed by the Wilkes Heritage Museum, Inc. Tom Dula (Dooley) was one of its more famous inmates. The paint on the interior walls has been peeled back to reveal inmate writings on the wall in the upstairs cell. It is an example of mid-19th century jails, one of the few intact examples in the state.

The Robert Cleveland House

The home of Robert Cleveland, gentleman farmer, and his family of 17 children was built in 1770s in Purlear, western Wilkes County. It was moved to Wilkesboro and restored behind the Old Jail. Col. Benjamin Cleveland, Robert's brother, lived in Wilkes County, and led forces from this region to the Battle of Kings Mountain during the Revolutionary War.



Sites along the Tour



The Brown Cowles House and Slave Quarters - The Brown Cowles House dates from the 1830s and is the oldest known building remaining in Wilkesboro. Hamilton Brown (1786-1870) built the central structure and Congressman William H. Cowles (1850-1901) expanded it. The slave kitchen and curing house are

among the few outbuildings still remaining in the area. At the back of the house are two buildings in which slaves lived prior to the Civil War. Today the slave quarters are open during the Heritage Museum's seasonal ghost tours which run from April to October.



The Presbyterian Church – The Presbyterian Church was established in 1837 and built in 1849-50. The Church is two blocks east of the Courthouse on the south side of Main Street. It served the oldest Presbyterian congregation in 21 western North Carolina counties. Its tetra style Doric portico is an excellent example of the popular design of the time.



The Wilkesboro Town Cemetery

– The old cemetery is located just south of the Presbyterian Church in downtown Wilkesboro. The cemetery contains the graves of slaves, Revolutionary War soldiers, Civil War soldiers, and prominent citizens.

The Johnson Hubbard House

- The Johnson-Hubbard House was built in 1855 by Stephen Johnson and purchased in 1885 by Julius C. Hubbard. Until recently, the house had remained in the Hubbard family. It is largely in its original state. The risers on the steps and the upstairs bedroom ceilings were painted with designs made with a smoking pine torch.



Sites along the Tour



The JT Ferguson Store - The J. T. Ferguson Store is across the street from the Smithey Hotel. The building's front is made of cast iron and pressed metal facade produced in St. Louis in 1887. The classical and Victorian details are still bold and impressive. The manufacturer sold more than 5,000 building fronts during a 23 year period; this is one of the few remaining.

The Smithey Hotel - The Smithey Hotel is east of the Courthouse and was built in 1891. The old hotel boomed during the early days of the logging industry. It was once a center of mercantile trade on the ground floor with the area's main hotel above. This late 19th century example of small town commercial architecture remains relatively unaltered outside. In 1906, the building was purchased by Nike B. Smithey, and with his family, he ran the Wilkesboro Hotel and department store along with other Smithey's Stores in northwest North Carolina. Other Smithey stores were located in nearby towns like Taylorsville and Elkin. Nike passed away in 1953 and his family continued to run the Smithey Store chain until the early 1990s when the retail business was sold.



The Law Office - The late 19th century building had a succession of lawyers practice in it through the years. It is a diminutive, well-preserved carpenter gothic building--an excellent example of its type. It is now a leased to private business by the Wilkes Heritage Museum.

Sites along the Tour

The Carl Lowe House -

The Carl Lowe House was built in 1889 and is located at the top of Brook Street at Woodland Blvd. It is a fine remaining example of Queen Anne and late Victorian houses with irregular design and rare ornamentation



St. Paul's Episcopal Church -

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is on the crest of the hill above the town and the Yadkin River on Cowles Street. It was completed in 1849,

one of the earliest consecrated churches in the Episcopal Diocese of western North Carolina. It is a good example of small parish, gothic revival churches, much in its original condition. Today the Episcopal Church contains a beautiful outdoor labyrinth and inside is an original Frescoe painted by painter Benjamin F. Long. The Frescoe is on the Frescoe tour route which includes



other similar works in Charlotte, Statesville, and West Jefferson. The adjacent cemetery also contains the monument and tomb of confederate General James B. Gordon along with many prominent Wilkes County citizens.



The Federal building -

The Old Federal Building is on the south side of Main Street. It was built in 1915, and is an example of revival style architecture. It is unusual in its preserved, refined classical elegance and its use of terra cotta, brick, wood and plaster.

~DINING GUIDE~

AMALFI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA

1919 US Highway 421
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
336-838-3188
Sun. 11:30-9:30; Mon.-Th. 11-10
Fri. & Sat. 11-10:30
www.amalfispizzeria.com

Step into Amalfi's for traditional Italian cuisine. The menu boasts offerings straight from Italy prepared by the Italian chef. You will enjoy every morsel. Now serving Angus Beef!

ARTIC GRILL

706 River Street
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
336-838-9871
Mon.-Sat. 7am-9pm

Accepts Visa, Mastercard & Debit Card

Always a good family choice with something on the menu for everyone. And don't forget the ice cream! Serving Hot Dogs, Burgers, Fish, Chicken, BBQ with French Fries, Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner. Try our ice cream, sundaes, and shakes. We strive to serve our customers quality food with a smile.

BRUSHY MOUNTAIN SMOKEHOUSE

Hickory Smoked Pulled Pork Barbecue, St. Louis Ribs and Chicken -- Handcrafted Ice Cream, Full Service Catering
201 Wilkesboro Blvd
Downtown North Wilkesboro
336-667-9464
Wed-Mon 11am-9pm
Sun 10am-2pm

BRUSHY MOUNTAIN CAFÉ

2958 Hwy 16 North Downtown Millers Creek
(336) 667-4870
Mon. – Wed. 6am – 8pm, Thurs & Fri. 6am – 9pm
Sat. 6am – 12:30pm Closed Sunday
Breakfast *Lunch *Dinner *Takeout
Features Many Smokehouse Favorites: Pulled Pork Barbecue, Handcrafted Ice Cream, Our Hand-Battered, all white chicken meat Chicken Bites. Visit us today.
www.brushymtnsmokchouse.com

MONTE DE REY

1804 Winkler St.
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
336-903-1276

Authentic Mexican restaurant with everything you would expect. You will enjoy every bite and be back the next day for more.

CHICK-FIL-A

2007 W US Highway 421
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
Phone: 336-921-2697
Fax: 336-921-2698
Store Hours
Mon.-Sat. 6:30am-10pm
Closed Sunday

Chicken Sandwich, Nuggets and Strips, Salads and Wraps, Desserts including our Hand Spun Milkshakes and More!

MASON JAR GRILL

3600 W. NC Hwy 268, Wilkesboro, NC 28697
336-921-3533 -- Call for take-out
Hours: 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM Wednesday – Sunday
Mason Jar Grill offers a pleasant dining experience in a charming, family atmosphere serving lunch and dinner. Cuisine is fresh, never frozen, prepared fresh to order. From hickory smoked barbecue to the bootleg wings, moonshine burgers, and sirloin tips, each dish is specially prepared and served hot and delicious. The impressive menu will delight even the most demanding of appetites. Don't forget to check out the Home Cooked Sunday Specials!

PIZZA HUT

We deliver
1204 School St. Wilkesboro, NC 28697
336-667-2023,
78 Sparta Rd, N. Wilkesboro, NC 28659
336-667-5775
Sun-Thurs 11am-11pm
Fri-Sat 11am-12am

This is the pizza America has come to love. Enjoy a custom pizza or the all you can eat buffet. Whatever you decide, your experience will be hot and delicious.

MORAVIAN FALLS GRILL

2094 Moravian Falls Rd.
Moravian Falls, NC 28654
336-838-5955
Mon-Fri 6am-8pm Sat 7am-2pm Breakfast all day
Saturday

Home cooked daily specials Mon-Fri
Stew beef, Country style steak, Meatloaf, baked spaghetti, wide variety of veggies, and homemade cakes. Home cooking at its very best and breakfast is served all day on Saturday. Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and check out the daily specials at Moravian Falls Grill. Save room for desert- Moravian Falls Grill has home made cakes as good as mama's.

~DINING GUIDE~

SUBWAY

Wilkes (Hwy 421) 336-838-7782
Moravian Falls (Hwy16/18) 336-838-7827
North Wilkes (Hwy 18) 336-667-4300

For a meal where everyone can have their sub their way- come to Subway. Always fresh ingredients and rolls baked fresh daily. All three locations now serve breakfast beginning at 7:00AM on weekdays and 8:00AM on Saturday and Sunday. Special Event? Subway offers a wide variety of catering options from Giant Subs to Party Platters and Box Lunches to Subway Cookie Platters.

TERESA'S CAROUSEL RESTAURANT

1510 Mall Square,
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
336-838-9141

Mon-Fri 11AM-9PM Sat 3PM-9PM The inviting and casual family atmosphere coupled with the menu variety makes Teresa's a sure thing. The food is fabulous and the prices are affordable. Owner for 22 years, daily specials, excellent salad bar, dinners, sandwiches, subs, pitas, homemade chicken salad, 13 homestyle vegetables, friendly family atmosphere. We serve the best!

TALIA

809 Main Street
N. Wilkesboro, NC 28659
336-838-0111



Open Monday-Saturday www.taliaespresso.com
You will certainly enjoy this bistro style coffee house. Homemade sandwiches, quiches, and pastries will compliment your favorite espresso beverage.

TALIA ESPRESSO ON THE GO DRIVE THRU

1921 Hwy 421 Wilkesboro
M-F 6:30-5:30
Sat 7:30-5:30

Fast and convenient double sided drive up order windows.

WOODHAVEN

West D. Street, N. Wilkesboro, NC 28659
336-667-6201
Open 7am- 7 days

Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner

Mon.-Stew beef & mashed potatoes, Tues.- Fried chicken special, Goodwill burgers 2/2.00 Thurs - all u can eat spaghetti w/one trip saladbar, Fri. & Sat. – Surf & Turf, Sun.- Buffet which includes 3 meats, veggies & chicken-n-dumplings. Incredible! The salad bar, the menu, the daily specials, and the amazing customer service. Thursday and Friday nights offer surf and turf specials. Sundays will delight your tummy with Woodhaven's buffet. This family restaurant will delight everyone's palate.

FINE FRIENDS

101 6th St Ste 4, North Wilkesboro 28659
Inside Melody Square
(336) 838-3331
8am – 2pm Mon. – Sat.

Closed on Sundays to give thanks
Fine Friends welcomes you! Most Items Homemade. Enjoy Salads, Burgers, Sandwiches, Soups and more. Offering after hours in house parties - call for availability. Catering Available.
Good Food, Good Parties, Good Friends,
Good Times.

GLENN'S TASTEE FREEZ & RESTAURANT

800 River Street, Wilkesboro 28697
(336)838-2541

6 am – 9 pm Monday - Saturday
Serving Breakfast- Lunch- Dinner

Glenn's, a Wilkes County icon where, for years, families have dined on delicious Hot Breakfast Plates, Ham Biscuits overflowing with perfectly prepared country ham, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries and so much more ...topping it off with Delicious desserts featuring their creamy soft serve Ice Cream Cones, Banana Splits, Hot Fudge Cake, Ice Cream Sundaes, Parfaits, Milkshakes and the list goes on and on. Whether you choose to Take out or bring the family and friends to sit down and enjoy a delicious feast together, Glenn's is an enjoyable and friendly place to be.

JO'S ICE CREAM & SANDWICH SHOP

2190 Boone Trail, North Wilkesboro 28659
(336)667-YUMM (9866)

Open 7 Days a Week
11 am – 8 pm

Take- Out at Its Finest!

Everything Fresh—Hand Breded—Fresh Cut Fries
Jo's Ice Cream & Sandwich Shop, a new experience in Take-Out Dining. Everything is made fresh to order. All sandwiches have a choice of breads or wrap and are made to order. Serving Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Chicken Tenders, Chicken Sandwiches (Grilled or Fried), Chicken Salad (Grilled), Hotdogs w/Chili, Club Sandwich, Rueben Sandwich, Fish, Chili Buns, Steak & Cheese (Brisket), Homemade Soups: French Onion, Chicken Noodle, Salads, Fresh Sides: French Fries, Cheese Fries, Onion Rings, Mozzie Sticks with Marinara. Try their delicious Ice Cream: 12 Flavors-Cones or Cup and Waffle Cones, Ice Cream Sundaes, Milkshakes. The menu is too varied to list everything...Stop by today and try some homemade, hot and yummy cooking served with a smile.

Treasure Hunt of a Lifetime

By Peggy Knight-Osborne

Researching and discovering the history of ancestors is a treasure hunt through the jungles of time—a treasure hunt that contains many pieces scattered throughout the dense jungle. Many miles can be covered via a computer or a car traveling to the library, courthouse or archives. Each hidden piece is just waiting for discovery and equally important to the hunt. In a treasure hunt, the pieces are not always obvious. A true hunt may require hacking through the undergrowth of the jungle to find a nugget of history. When found, the knowledge gained, the familiarity gained—priceless!

Finding an old photograph of great-great grandparents is more precious than gold. Remember the photograph box that Grandma kept in her bedroom for safe keeping and only brought out on special occasions? Her face would light up like the sun in the sky as she drew the pictures out one by one. Pictures of her parents, her grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins all reveal stories about her ancestors—clues to how they lived, where they lived, their short and sassy hair styles, and even the hemline of



their dresses. The classic argyle socks reveal stories about the family member's personalities.

The photograph of Aunt Shirley; see that smirk of a smile? She has a secret for sure. Look at the sad frown and pinched brow in Uncle Willard's photo. Wonder what he's upset about? Look at your mother's family portrait, the one that

was made outside their house in the front yard in 1956. Look closely. Some of the girls are wearing dresses and some Bermuda shorts. And Aunt Catherine is in her short-shorts; she lived up to her perky reputation. Remember? She left home at the age 14 and married that sailor boy who swept her off her feet.

continued on page 22

Holly Mountain

Enterprises

Welcomes You to Wilkes County
Coffee House • IGA • Run In Food
• Woodhaven Restaurant

NOW OPEN NEW IGA
HWY 115/421



Full line of Groceries

- Meats • Produce • Housewares
- Health and Beauty Aids

Highway 268 East
in the Rock Creek area

Run-in

Food Stores

14 Locations in Wilkes County

BP Gas • Marathon Gas
Run-In Gas

*All you have to do is Run-In!
Everything you need is right
here:*

Snacks • Ice • Bread • Milk
and a full line of groceries

Open 24 hours a day at these four locations
Brushy Mountain Road • Highway 18 North
Wilkesboro across from Tyson
• West Jefferson

WOODHAVEN

FAMILY RESTAURANT

"The Home of Home Cooked Meals"

667-6201

West D Street • North Wilkesboro (across from CVS)



Fresh Ground
Coffee

OPEN 7am - 7 Days

- Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

Breakfast or Lunch
Sunday

Join us before or after
church

ALL YOU CAN EAT
Soup and Salad Bar
Huge Variety

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT
SALAD BAR



Friday and Saturday
Nights Surf and Turf
Some of the Best Steaks
& Seafood in Town

Senior Discount Cards • Kids Meals



continued from page 20

While a picture is worth a thousand words, the backside can reveal a great deal too. You might find names, dates or locations. If nothing is there and you know something of the picture, now is the perfect time to document that information for the next generation.

Even jotting anecdotes on the back of pictures help tell more about an ancestor's personality. Remember the trick Uncle Jesse always tried to pull on us when we went to visit the family farm? You know, "pull my finger." Now you remember. Little nuggets like these give a family tree character.

An oak tree is made of many roots, a trunk, and many, many branches with an abundance of leaves. Your family tree is made up of your parents, grandparents, aunt and uncles, and the past generations—the roots. You are the trunk that shoots up toward the sky, branching out in different directions in the persons of your children, grandchildren and their children.

Exploring your family tree is a way to discover the jewels of information about your family. Each family has made an interesting journey through the jungles of life. Ancestors, notorious or not, have lived in interesting places, leaving clues or trinkets along the way. Perhaps each generation has traveled the same roads, lived in the same communities only in a different era—or not.

Genealogy is the best way to find out who ancestors were and where they lived. Collect the stories left along the way; everyone has a story. You might find out that your great grandmother loved the seashore as much as you do. Maybe your love of horseback riding comes from your great-great-
22 great-great grandfather who raised

Morgan horses in the Yadkin Valley in the late 1700's.

Exploring your family tree is time well enjoyed. You will find out many fascinating things about yourself by taking this virtual journey. Pictures will reveal facial similarities. Diaries will relate interesting experiences or closely guarded secrets: the love of wild flowers or the secret desire to be a famous writer. Oh, you love wild flowers and you have a desire to be a writer? See you have learned something about yourself already.

Letters speak the thoughts of your ancestors. Uncle Jesse was homesick during his tour of duty in the South Sea Islands during World War II. He could not write about where he was nor the purpose of his ship's mission; but he always asked the folks back home if they had heard from his brothers. The letters your dad wrote during the same time period from the Philippine Islands—he was always asking for money to be sent to him. There must have been a reason for his continual request for money. But what?

Humorous greeting cards can point to where your sense of humor hails—Grandad or Grandma. Newspaper articles that were saved provide information about family friends or community activities. Articles document associations, club memberships, church activities, even career promotions.

The treasures you seek are not far from you. Family gatherings are perfect places to pick up the stories that have circulated through the family for years. Listen to tidbits of conversation. These events are places where families have the opportunities to share stories and the do-you-remember-whens.

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Your family tree is made up of your parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and the past generations—the roots.



For additional help, the Genealogy Room of the Wilkes County Library located at 215 Tenth Street in North Wilkesboro is the place to "beat the bushes" and "hack through jungle undergrowth." The Genealogy Room has been described by out of state

visitors as one of the best in the southeastern part of the country.

As you browse the shelves and search through the books, files, and microfilm, remember, some of the best treasures are hidden in plain sight.



706 River Street
Wilkesboro, NC
838-9871

Mon thru Sat 7am - 8 pm



2 Locations to Serve You

Talia Espresso is a bistro style coffeehouse that specializes in gourmet hot and cold espresso based drinks, fresh seasonal salads, delicious homemade sandwiches, quiches, and a wide variety of freshly baked pastries and desserts.

809 Main Street

In Historic North Wilkesboro

Mon.- Fri. 7:30 - 5:00pm • Sat. 8:30 - 5:00pm
336-838-0111

Talia Espresso Drive Thru

1921 Hwy. 421 Wilkesboro

(in front of the Crossroads Harley Davidson Dealership) Fast and convenient double sided drive up order windows. Delicious lattes, cappuccinos, coffee, smoothies, cold espresso drinks, frozen creams, pastries and more.
Mon-Fri 6:30-5:30pm. Sat 7:30-5:30pm.
call ahead orders are welcome

336-838-1011

taliaespresso@hotmail.com
www.taliaespresso.com



Whippoorwill Academy and Village

features a chapel, an old jail, a country store, a replica of Daniel Boone's cabin, a smokehouse, a reconstructed one room schoolhouse built in 1880 by Andy Gould, a well known carpenter and miller and much more.

The schoolhouse is now used as a local museum. In the loft are the paintings and drawings of "The Legend of Tom Dooley" and Dooley (Dula) memorabilia. Admission is free. Call (336) 973-3237 for directions and more information.



Edith Carter (right) helps an out of town couple with local genealogy

www.explorewilkes.com/whippoorwill or call 336-973-3237

JOIN A CAUSE, JOIN THE Y

Wilkes Family YMCA and Wilkes Express YMCA
Strengthen Local Community



TNT participants participate in a group workout at the YMCA last year



See more information on the next two pages about the YMCA



Bring in this ad and receive half off on one entree with the purchase of another entree at equal value.
GOOD DURING LUNCH OR DINNER
Not Valid with any other discounts.

Monte De Rey
1804 Winkler Street • Wilkesboro, NC
336-903-1276

JOIN A CAUSE, JOIN THE Y

Wilkes Family YMCA and Wilkes Express YMCA Strengthen Local Community

At the Y, our cause is strengthening the community. When you join the YMCA, you're joining a nonprofit that nurtures the potential of children, promotes healthy living and fosters a sense of social responsibility. At the Y, membership means more.

When dealing with life's daily demands, people need a place to go where they can feel supported. Adults need help finding balance in life and motivation in managing their health. Children need safe environments where they're nurtured and inspired to reach their full potential. Seniors need a place where they can be active and find camaraderie. And, families need opportunities and places to connect and strengthen relationships with one another.

"At the YMCA, you're not only part of an organization, but part of a community and a cause that benefits you and your neighbors," says Sam Franklin,

Executive Director of the Wilkes Family and Wilkes Express YMCAs. "Here, a membership means more – it's an opportunity to feel good while being part of a cause that helps make positive changes in people's lives."

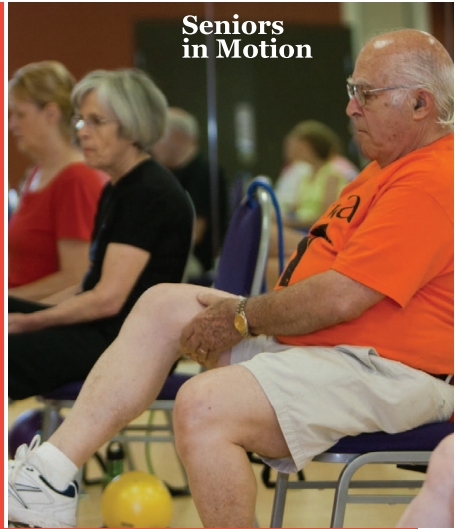
The YMCA offers a variety of programs to the community, with something for everyone. Here are just a few highlights:

- Youth Sports
 - After School Care
 - Child Watch
 - Family Events
- throughout the year
- Summer Day Camp
 - Swim Lessons
 - Wellness Programs
- including group exercise classes, personal training, and boot camps
- LIVESTRONG® at the YMCA for Cancer Survivors
 - Water Aerobics
 - Active Older Adults
 - Volunteer Opportunities
 - And more!

To learn more about the YMCA and to get involved, visit www.wilkesymca.org or call 336 838 3991. Find us on [Facebook.com/WilkesFamilyYMCA](https://www.facebook.com/WilkesFamilyYMCA)

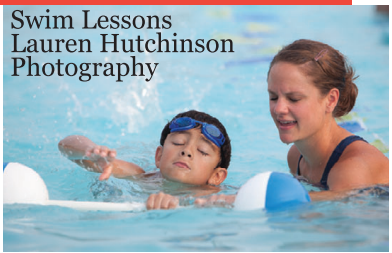


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Seniors in Motion

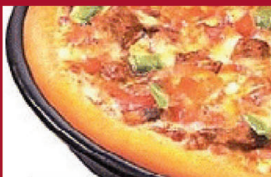
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913 C.Street North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

The Wilkes Art Gallery hosts a variety of special events throughout the year. Gallery staff and volunteers plan events to entertain and educate our audience. These annual events include the Holiday Tour of Homes, Silent Auction and Cash Drawdown, Young Affiliates Parties, Wine Tastings and more. We encourage you to get involved and experience all that the Gallery has to offer.

The Wilkes Art Gallery is dedicated to providing classes and workshops for all ages. Throughout the year, adult classes are offered in ceramics, painting, knitting, watercolor, drawing, stained glass, fibers and much more. Children can enjoy classes in many of the same media. We also offer a month of Summer Art Camps, a Summer Honors Art Program, special Saturday workshops and other children's activities.

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* Research the weather. Before choosing a campsite, get a firm grasp of what to expect from Mother Nature while you're there. Research weather patterns and how much the weather can vary during the time of year when you will be vacationing. Does the weather fluctuate significantly during the daytime and nighttime hours? Is rain likely or unlikely? Weather conditions will dictate which gear is necessary for the trip. Adults might be able to cope with a rainstorm or two, but such conditions may make everyone miserable.

* Find an activity-friendly campground. When looking for a campground, look for one that boasts a lot of activities. Adults might enjoy the simple relaxation of camping, but kids will likely need more to do. Look for a campground that can offer activities the children will like, such as hiking, kayaking, rafting, or even mountain biking.

* Determine who you are as campers. Not all campers enjoy the rustic life of camping. Some need to combine camping with the amenities of modern life, including running water and toilets that flush. If you and your family will need a shower, consider renting an RV for the trip or choose a campground with accessible showers and restrooms. Veteran campers might scoff at such amenities, but families would likely prefer some combination of roughing it in the wild and modern day living.

* Get the right gear. Entry to many campgrounds is free or nearly free. However, camping gear could cost money. The good thing about camping gear is it's reusable. If this year's camping trip is a success, then next year's trip won't cost nearly as much. Visit a local camping store and explain your situation, including what you hope to get out of the camping trip and where you'll be heading. An associate should be able to help you find the right gear for your trip, including a tent, lights, a water filter, cooking materials, and inflatable mattresses.

* Stock up on the essentials. Once you have purchased the right gear, don't forget to stock up on the other essentials. Particularly during the warmer months, campgrounds can be very hot and insects abound. Be sure to

bring adequate amounts of sunscreen and bug spray and apply each liberally every day. Even if the sky is overcast, apply sunscreen to avoid painful sunburn. Other essentials include toilet paper (bring more than you expect to use), bottled water, plates and utensils, and garbage bags. Be sure to bring extra garbage bags to avoid littering in the campground.

* Don't forget to have fun. Families should emphasize having fun when visiting the campground. Because camping is not a resort-style vacation, it's up to Mom and Dad to entertain the kids. Bring along a guitar for a campfire sing-a-long, and pack a few board games the family can enjoy under the stars at night. If a nearby park is known for being especially family-friendly, consider it as a campsite. Kids might meet fellow campers their own age and make some new friends.





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Angelic Guidance

There are different ways in which God can choose to lead His people. The most common method of guidance for the believer is through the “inward witness”. This is seen in the following Scriptures.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Romans 8:14)

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. (Romans 8:16)

How does a believer in Christ know they are saved? It is not determined by how a person feels. It is possible to wake up in the morning and due to a bad night of restless sleep a person may not “feel” saved. But thank God we are still saved despite what our feelings tell us. A child of God knows they are saved because the Holy Spirit bears witness on the inside, within your spirit, that you are a child of God. This is the number one way in which a person knows they have been born again in Christ. This constant inward confirmation that is given by the Holy Spirit not only reveals the genuine experience and security of your salvation, but it is also the primary method that God uses to lead you in other areas of your life. There are also other methods in which God may choose to lead you. These other methods of guidance will always be in agreement with the Bible, and they will peacefully harmonize with you inwardly.

It is important to understand that at times God may choose to lead you by **angelic guidance**. We are never to seek after angels or try to force things to happen that only the Holy Spirit can bring

forth. We should be content to allow the Lord to choose if He wants to grant us such an experience. On the other hand, we don't want to shut out these divine happenings because of a lack of understanding. It is wise to be open to such encounters because sometimes this is the method that God selects to guide us.

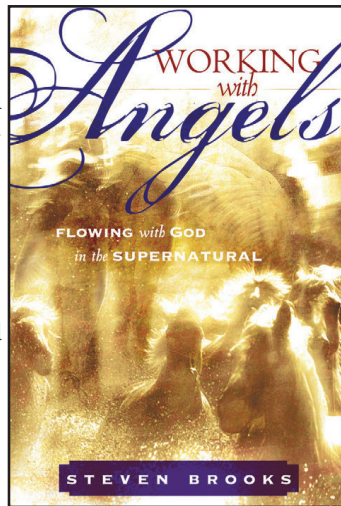
Angelic guidance may seem strange to some, but not to those who are familiar with their Bibles. There are many instances in the Bible where God has used holy angels to intervene in the lives of people and supply supernatural guidance. This happened to Joseph the step-father of Jesus several times

But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be

afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:20-21)

Joseph received angelic guidance concerning how he should treat Mary in light of the fact that she was pregnant and he was not the father of the baby. The angel also told Joseph the name for the child, which was to be Jesus. Joseph had other instructions shared in further angel visits.

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you
continued on page 34



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word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” (Matthew 2:13)

Joseph was always quick to do exactly what he was told by the angel. When the angel told him to leave and flee to Egypt he did not waste a moment of time. He quickly packed their belongings and they left that very night. Herod had issued an official government death edict on all male children in Bethlehem and its districts for those of the age of two years and under. An angelic message should always be carried out swiftly – lives may depend upon it.

One must be careful to respect the ministry of God's holy angels and not provoke an angel who is carrying out its divine assignment upon the earth. Balaam once provoked an angel of the Lord. The holy angel stood before him with his sword drawn waiting to strike Balaam down once he drew near. If it were not for the extraordinary miracle of Balaam's donkey talking to him to check the madness of the prophet then Balaam would surely have died. In the book of Acts Herod was struck down in divine judgment by an angel because he did not correct the crowd for heaping adulation upon him when he should have given the glory to God. He was eaten by worms and died. Zacharias had a face to face encounter with the angel Gabriel and oddly enough he still expressed doubt concerning the truth of the angel's words. Because of this provocation Gabriel pronounced that Zacharias would be mute and not able to speak until the message was fulfilled. For over nine months Zacharias was unable to utter a single sound from his mouth. That must have been a very humbling experience. You don't want to provoke God's holy angels, but rather cooperate with them.

A believer in Christ may say, “Pastor Steven, I'm not really interested in angels and that “spiritual stuff”, all I want is to see people saved and go to heaven.”

34 However, a proper understanding of

angels and how they can give guidance will facilitate the harvest of souls in which the church is actively engaged. After all, the very first Gentile convert was led to salvation in Christ through a process that involved angelic guidance. In the tenth chapter of the book of Acts we have the story of the salvation of Cornelius and his entire household. In a vision an angel of God came to Cornelius and instructed him to do the following;

“About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius!” Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do.” (Acts 10:3, 5-6)

Angels do not preach the gospel, for that assignment belongs to the people of God. But angels do actively partner with us in the labor for souls to hear and receive the gospel. Cornelius did what the angel advised him to do and he sent three men to the port city of Joppa to inquire for the apostle Peter to come. Upon hearing the invitation to minister the gospel Peter agreed to come to Caesarea to meet Cornelius. When Peter preached to Cornelius and his household the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The unbelievers were saved, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke in tongues, and were baptized. Thus the first non-Jewish believers were added to the church.

If you want to see souls saved you will want to utilize every possible means that God makes available to the church. God may want to send an angel to you to aide in the effort to bring salvation to a lost soul. In a similar way we see that an angel was involved in initiating Philip's journey which concluded in the salvation of the Ethiopian Eunuch.

Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down

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from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (Acts 8:26)

Philip is not told the purpose of his journey, but he still begins traveling in faith expecting something good to happen. He eventually crosses the path of a high ranking government official who is the treasurer for the queen of the Ethiopians. He hears him reading from Isaiah the prophet. At this point the Holy Spirit speaks to Philip.

Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.” (Acts 8:29)

We must now ask ourselves an interesting question. We initially see that an angel spoke to Philip to launch him on his journey. Now the Holy Spirit speaks to Philip with further instruction. The question is, “How do you tell the difference between the voice of an angel and the voice of the Holy Spirit?” There must be a distinction because Philip identifies the source of the two different voices. Over time I have learned that when an angel speaks the voice appears to come from “outside” of you. Often it will seem to come from over your shoulder, as if a person were standing behind you and spoke. When the Holy Spirit speaks the voice comes from “within” you and vocalizes then outward, very similar to a theatre surround-sound system. The voice seems to surround you. Also, the voice of the Holy Spirit is much more authoritative as compared to an angel. The voice of the Holy Spirit instantly inspires unusual boldness when you hear Him speak.

The result of Philip's obedience to angelic guidance and the Holy Spirit's directive is that another soul is brought into the kingdom of God.

Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” So he commanded the chariot to

stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. (Acts 8:36-38)

We must be open to the biblical examples of angelic guidance. The body of Christ is called to work with the angels in the plan and fullness of expanding God's kingdom into the hearts of those who need to receive eternal life in Christ. God is still sending angels on assignment; it is possible that one may be sent to you for a divine purpose. This is part of the joy and responsibility of kingdom living. Be open and obedient to what God chooses to do through you!

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New Years Resolution?? Not me.

by **Kathy Kozak**

This is the first time in 3 years that I have decided to join a gym. First and foremost I have found that aging, (which is inevitable) has its challenges. I had lost much needed strength that I had in prior years.

The epiphany I had was that I had become what I had been teaching about for over 30 years. Being an owner of a fitness studio and personal trainer in the past, I knew better. For many years I was active in helping people keep their own personal goals, only to find out that I have become what I was preaching about!

What a shocker. Now, I do run

regularly at least 4-6 days per week, but the muscle strength, stamina and agility were lacking.

Here I am in January making a change. Now this is NOT a new years resolution...I promise. It is simply an awakening to feel better and this is what has happened, I feel better.



Lets face it, here in Wilkes the options are plentiful. From amazing greenways, endless parks to hiking locally or perhaps a bike ride along our friendly streets and trails, the options are plentiful for outdoor activity. But I needed more.

I am now a member of Anytime Fitness. I love this concept. I can workout anytime I want to, even on Sundays if I choose. I have continued my cardio work out but have added free weights and leg, back, and arm machines. I always knew that our body responds quickly to activity and that what takes 10 years of inactivity your body can feel the changes in 10 weeks.

It's never to late to start something new. Perhaps you are rethinking your personal fitness past and need an upgrade. Well take it from me, I feel so much better adding a little more to my fitness lifestyle.

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T. Wise
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Last fall
 Pastor Dan tackled a subject that no one wants to hear about; few want to think about it; and practically no one wants to admit that their "roots" are anything but altruistic.

Where are Your Roots?

Our pastor is one who is blest with the gift of oration.

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Hebrews 12:14-15 says (New Geneva **continued on page 40**)



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April Farr sorrow, why suffering and death? There is one answer: sin. Is everyone who suffers a sinner? No. But the fact is, we live in a fallen world, and as

the result poverty, disease and destruction have come about. Is this God's fault? Well, let us consider the world into which God placed His creation: the Garden of Eden, where man's every need was met, where

The question skeptics and believers alike have asked for centuries: If God is love --and according to 1 John 4:8 He is-- then why pain, why

God himself walked with man in the cool of the evening. This glimpse of paradise which we find in Genesis is a snapshot of the life God desired from the beginning for His creation-- no toil, no pain, no suffering,

Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

no sickness, no disease, no death. What does that say about God's will for us? Only after man chose to disobey God did that setting change to one of

corruption. Man did it, not God. In fact, God wants to restore all that was lost, so much so that He gave His only Son to die in the place of a world that deserved eternal

continued on page 41

Where are Your Roots?

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Study Bible) *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled . . .*

The image of a mighty oak comes to mind. What we see above the ground is direct reflection of that which is alive beneath the surface. Trees which do not receive adequate water, for example, show shriveled leaves and often prematurely turn color in the fall. Trees which are enjoying healthy soil and plenty of water are lovely and green and give abundantly in terms of fruit or shade. Trees which receive too much water also show signs of ill health with leaves turning brown in the middle of summer. No matter what is seen when looking at an oak, it is the roots which are feeding it. The same is true for people.

Hebrews speaks of roots of bitterness. People are the trees and we have root. Our 40 spiritual life, our faith is what feeds our

roots. Others can actually see faith—they see the effects of living faith. When rooted in bitterness, our branches, or behavior, will show chaos, clamor, wrath, anger, malice, or slander. As a result of bitterness, what people see is not a pretty sight. Instead of being a witness for Christ, we are a witness for fear, depression, lust, anxiety, criticism . . . Ever seen anyone like that?

When observing or interacting with someone, it doesn't take long for true rooted-ness to be evident. Someone who is rooted in bitterness is not someone around whom anyone wants to spend much time. When rooted in faith, grace, and the Word of God, Christians show compassion, grace toward one another, kindness, gentle spirits, patience . . . think of the fruits of the Spirit.

It is a difficult thing to take a hard look at ourselves. We try hard; we work hard; the world is hard. However, it is critical to remain rooted in that which is holy and righteous.

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death (Jn. 3:16). God gave us a way back into paradise through His son Jesus Christ. That paradise is not upon this earth, but rather the promised eternity to come, where our tears shall be washed away, all sorrows of this life forgotten, ***“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”*** Rev. 21:4 (see v1-5). This is the promise to all those who respond to God's calling, and He has called everyone (Acts 17:30); however, some choose not to believe, and if they do not want God, God will not force them to have Him.

Indeed, many of us have known good people who have suffered in this life, and sometimes our reply is to lash out and blame God for it. But why is God responsible for pain which mankind began? The fact that any of us have breath in our lungs is an act of God's love. God's intention is certainly not pain and suffering, but God also gave us a free-will, and some use their will to choose evil and cause harm; and we know that those who do will surely be judged for their deeds. Remember also that we do not always see the whole picture, the good that can come from the bad, but God does, and perhaps this is why He allows it. I say “allows” and not “causes”, because I do not believe God is the author of evil; God's full and perfect will is to prosper us, ***“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”*** Jer. 29:11. But let us not forget that there is one who contends with God for our souls, a Devil intent on pulling as many into the acutest suffering of an eternity in torment right alongside himself (1 Pet. 5:8). Remember that it is

that fate from which God desires to save us, first and foremost. The wicked will be judged for the innocent who suffer at their hands, but those innocent who suffer have an eternity of glory before them.

So, do we serve a God who heals and even raises the dead to this day? Yes, we do. I have seen it, and I will choose each time to believe that He will. If He doesn't? There must be a reason, only He sees the full picture; either way, we do not live for the hope of this world, but of the world to come. An eternity of no more tears.

April Farr

aroseinchrist@gmail.com

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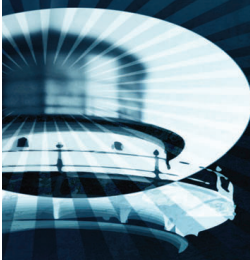
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Alleged "impossibilities" are opportunities for our capacities to be stretched.

Chuck Swindoll



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

John 1:5

An Encouraging **WORD**
Beloved I'm persuaded of better things concerning you.

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Without good health, it's difficult to work effectively, raise a family or enjoy life to the fullest. Most Americans eat a diet of foods which are high in animal fat, refined sugars and empty calories. We are overfed and undernourished!

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Health has been defined as "the absence of disease" but it is so much more. A truly healthy person has plenty of energy when they get up in the morning, enough vitality and stamina to work hard all day, the ability to think clearly, a healthy appetite for nutritious foods, an adequate thirst for water, good elimination and sound sleep all night long.

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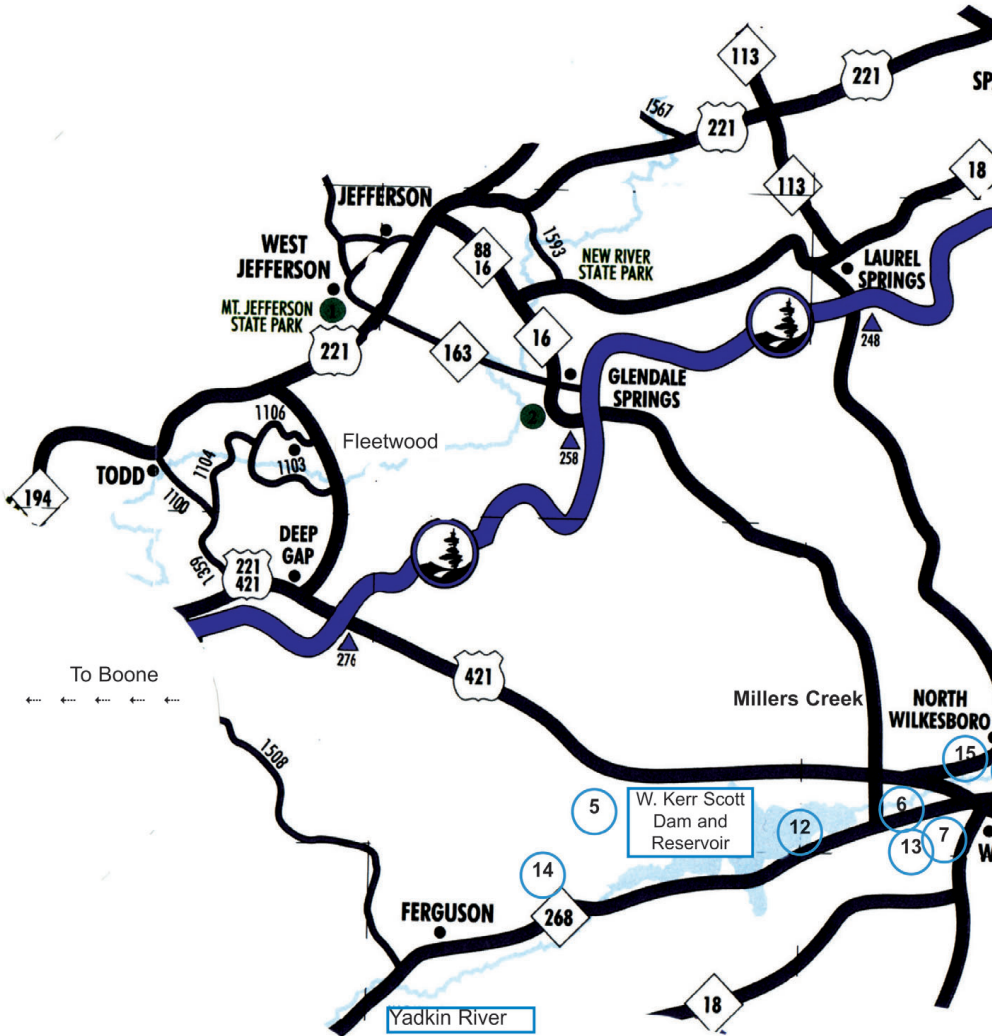
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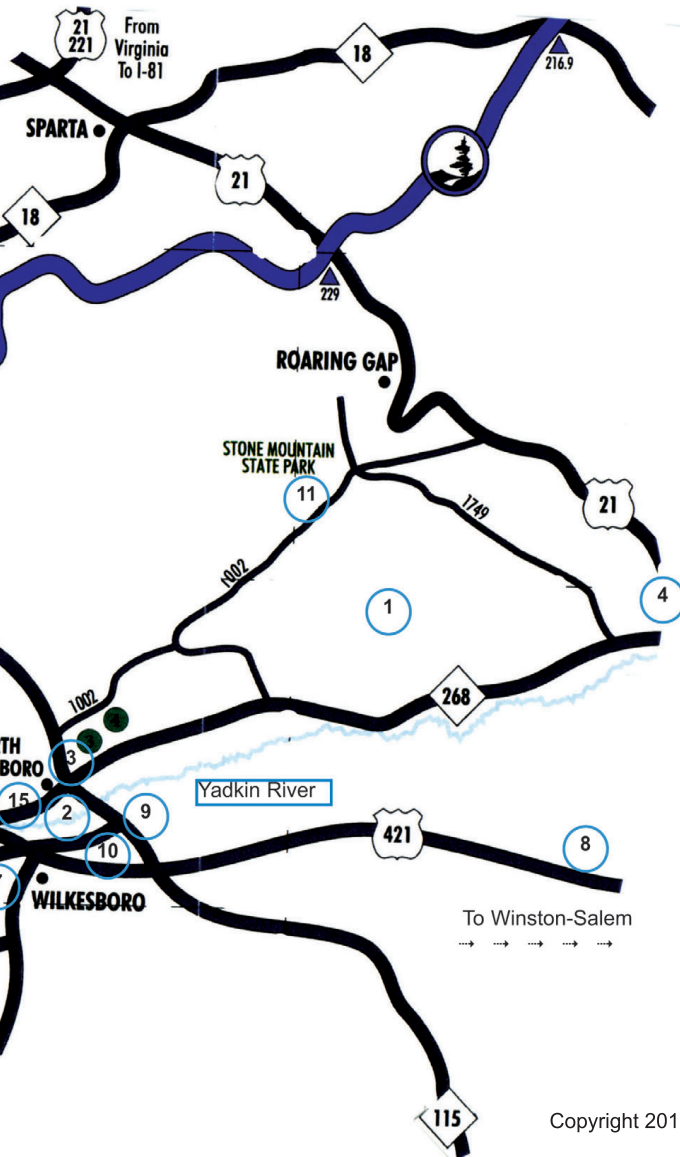


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ESSENTIAL OILS AND RAINDROP THERAPY

Linda Hill Stevens
RN, BS
Plants not only play a vital role in the ecological balance of our planet, but they have also been intimately linked to the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of people since the beginning of time.

As the most powerful part of the plant, essential oils and plant extracts have been woven into history. Essential oils have been used medicinally to kill bacteria, fungi, and viruses. They provide exquisite fragrances to balance mood, lift spirits, dispel negative emotions, and create a romantic atmosphere. They can stimulate the regeneration of tissue or stimulate nerves. They can even act to oxygenate and carry nutrients into the cells.

Essential oils were mankind's first medicine. From Egyptian hieroglyphics and Chinese manuscripts, we know that priests and physicians have been using essential oils for thousands of years. In Egypt, essential oils were used in the embalming process, and well-preserved oils were found in alabaster jars in King Tut's tomb.

There are 188 references to essential oils in the Bible. Oils such as frankincense, myrrh, rosemary, hyssop, and spikenard were used for anointing and healing the sick. In Exodus, the Lord gave a recipe to Moses

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for "an holy anointing oil" using four essential oils and olive oil.

The three wise men presented the Christ child with essential oils of frankincense and myrrh. There are also accounts in the New Testament of the Bible where Jesus was anointed with spikenard oil;

"And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman

having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head" (Mark 14:3) "then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment" (John 12:3). Some have even said that essential oils carry the consciousness of Christ.

Therapeutic grade essential oils are produced to meet the highest certification standards in the field of aromatherapy. The ability of essential oils to act on both the mind and the body is what makes them truly unique among natural therapeutic agents. There are three basic ways to utilize essential oils: diffusing of direct inhalation, topical application, and taking essential oils internally. Key areas to apply essential oils topically include: Crown of head, Forehead, Temples, Behind the Ears, Neck, Back, Abdomen, over specific organs, Soles of the Feet and Ankles.

There is no doubt that essential oils

are ordained as medicines for mankind and will become the medicines of our future: the missing link of modern medicine, where allopathic and holistic medicine join together to bring healing to all humanity.

Raindrop Therapy is a powerful yet

gentle, non-manipulative technique that combines the science of therapeutic aromatherapy with bodywork and energy healing techniques to

restore balance, health and vitality to the body. It works on the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual levels, clearing blockages and bringing about deep relaxation and rejuvenation.

The name Raindrop comes from applying the oils like little drops of rain from a height of about six inches above the back and massaging them along the vertebrae. Eight Therapeutic-Grade Essential Oils (Valor a blended oil that combines spruce, rosemary, blue tansy and frankincense in almond oil is applied on the feet and shoulders and helps balance electrical energy and is the first one used. then oregano, thyme, basil, marjoram, wintergreen, cypress and peppermint are applied) are sequentially applied along the spine and worked into the back using acupressure and bodywork (swedish and deep-tissue) techniques to bring about structural and electrical (nervous system) balance. This is combined with warm compresses, shiatsu stretches and lymphatic

NATURAL HEALING FOR THE SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY

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continued from page 48

drainage to energize, detoxify and balance all systems of the body. The essential oils used are therapeutic grade and have been used historically for relief of many ailments and their many added benefits.

Raindrop integrates Vita Flex which stands for vitality through the reflexes and is a form of reflexology. This relaxing foot massage utilizes the same seven essential oils that are applied to the back and warm compresses are also use.

Reported Benefits:

Spinal Health and Relief: the oils and techniques used are shown to reduce inflammation, alleviate pain, relax nerves and muscles, and stimulate tissue regeneration. Testimonials indicate back, neck and shoulder relief, especially associated with chronic muscular tension, sciatic pain and scoliosis.

Detoxification: the oils and techniques used are shown to stimulate the body's natural detoxification response by increasing circulation, stimulating lymphatic drainage (thereby reducing overall congestion) and delivering more oxygen and nutrients to cells (thereby detoxifying the organs and glands).

Immune Support: the oils and techniques used are shown to stimulate the body's natural healing response

by delivering more oxygen and nutrients to cells, eliminating invasive pathogens, chronic bacterial, viral, fungal and yeast overgrowth), boosting immune cells and balancing hormonal health.

Emotional and Mental Well-being: the oils and techniques used are also known to support mental and emotional patterns and clearing negative energetic blockages.

The Raindrop Technique is not a cure-all or a magic bullet. A healthy body is the result of a well-rounded program of exercise and proper diet. Health is everything we do, say, hear, see and eat. Raindrop is only one tool to help restore balance in the body that will result in good health. This treatment can be used as a natural alternative for managing chronic pain, such as fibromyalgia and arthritis, as well as, a great stress reliever.

*By Linda Hill Stevens RN, BS
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Hope Jordan

Mint at Your Garden Gate...

Many of our ancestors devoted much of their garden space to herbs. These 'first gardeners' used herbs for both medicinal and culinary uses. Today very few gardeners grow herbs for curing ailments, but many do grow herbs for cooking or purely for their fresh scents. Most herb gardens were grown near the kitchen door. This location allowed for the cook to quickly grab what was needed for the meal being prepared. However, herb growing expanded to kitchen window sills for the cooking benefit year round.

An herb that is one my favorites that grows in abundance



here in Wilkes County is mint. There are actually several mint herbs that grow well here. Peppermint and Lemon Mint are my two favorites. These herbs are hearty! They grow to about 2 or 2-1/2 feet at my home. These herbs grow best in well-drained soil. They do prefer moisture in the soil... but adapt well to the current conditions. They multiply easily if grown in soil that is rich in nutrients. Each spring my 'patches' of mint expand by feet instead of inches! I have planted mine in partial sun as well as in full sun. The patch in partial sun actually seems to multiply faster as well as the leaves seem to be lusher. I just love working in the garden and brushing up against these herbs as they scent up the whole area!

Mint has been a highly valued herb for
50

generations. There are even Biblical references that the Pharisees collected tithes in mint, dill and cumin. According to my little reference book on herbs (RD Home Handbooks, Herbs) which I highly recommend, the Hebrews even laid mint on the synagogue floors because of the desired scent.



Today, mint is used in teas, vinegars, mint sauces/jellies, chocolates and as garnishes for refreshing summer beverages. One of my most favorite mint treats is mint jelly with lamb chops! What a pairing!

Mints have many more uses as well of course. Mints used in baths can stimulate and invigorate! Mint is also used in toothpastes and mouthwashes. Actually... a bit of baking soda and peppermint oil make wonderful natural toothpaste. Mint is also used as a medicinal herb, infused as a tea to aid in digestion and to remedy colds. Mint planted near your roses deters aphids! Fresh or dry leaves from mint also will deter mice. There are so many uses for this herb!

Harvesting mint is simple. Pick the leaves of the plant just before they flower. You can preserve them by packing the leaves into plastic baggies and freezing. Another great idea is to chop the leaves, pack them into an ice tray, add water and freeze. One cube would equal about 1 tablespoon of mint. Freezing seems to preserve more flavor than drying the herbs in my opinion.
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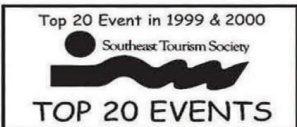
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Greetings Saints,

You will never give up on life! God created each of us with eternity in our heart. Our DNA is to live! Eternal life is the life of God with an eternal nature. Simply said God never has to be "plugged in." God has always been and will always be the present tense "I Am." Yo! Let this ignite your zeal for life!

From day one in the Garden of Eden (Garden of time) the Kingdom of God has totally been all about living in the eternal nature of God. When Adam through sin severed briefly the life of God, bringing death forth as the wages of sin, God initiated HIS foreknown plan of restoring life; Life's name is Jesus the Christ the last and final Adam. Jesus came that we might have life more abundantly than ever before.

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They can be dried too though.

At the end of the growing season, in preparing for the winter season, I simply cover my mint patches with leaves or mulch for a bit of insulation against the cold weather. These herbs should emerge again for you during the spring. You can even pot up 3 to 4 inch healthy cuttings with plump leaves, cover with a clear plastic bag... loosely and raised above the cuttings to start new plants for indoor growth through the winter. These cuttings should show fresh new leaves in about 6 weeks' time. (Be sure



to remove the clear plastic covering once rooting starts). Cuttings can also be rooted in water during the summer to cultivate new plants.

I encourage you to find a special place for mint amidst your gardens this year! I'm confident the scent alone will be worth your gardening efforts. Don't forget to pot up some to grace your kitchen window sill during the winter season too!

*Wishing You Gardening Blessings
Through-Out the Year!*

**-Hope Jordan
NC Master Gardener Volunteer**

"To everything there is a season...a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted."...Proverbs 3

Father, I pray for gardening grace for all my fellow gardeners. I pray for bountiful blessings in blooms and harvest. We Thank You and Adore You, Our Gardener Mentor!



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continued from page 52

Important that we understand that the life of God is not some future event but that since the instant of Jesus' vicarious death and his liberating resurrection, life eternal has been available.

May God richly bless you with ongoing eternal resurrection power. Enjoy this fun article.

Gale

ZEAL FOR LIFE

By Gale Maiden

The following event took place in the mid 1990's. I was recently reminded of this blessed occurrence and felt in my heart that I was to testify again for the benefit of those who are presently challenged. The following article was written at the time mentioned above. It is as though it happened this morning attesting to our God Who is full of time and always dwells in the "now".

"Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven let it be done with ZEAL for the house of the God of heaven, lest there be wrath against the kingdom of the king and his sons." (Ezra 7:23, NAS, emphasis added)

This verse says that we are to do the commandments of God with zeal. Our God has commanded blessings and life forevermore!

"For there the LORD commanded the blessing-life forever." (Psalm 133:3b, NAS)

I am making the following declaration:

"I do the commandments of God! I do the blessing- life forevermore... WITH ZEAL and therefore I am free from the wrath of God! I am not appointed to wrath!"

I have often mused at the thought of the wisdom of God catching up with my zeal. Lookout kingdom of God! I have simply been overwhelmed of late with a great love for life. I find myself loving and enjoying every aspect of life. Besides
54 loving God, family and neighbors, I

love my dog, the neighbor's cat, the kitchen table, my business, my vehicles, the trees, the highways, convenience stores, a good pair of socks, the IRS...you name it and I love it. This is God!

The Kingdom of God is present in the Earth. His glory now fills the Earth! (Isaiah 6:3). We are the vessels in which the Kingdom of God resides. We, in Christ, are the light of the world. We, in Christ, are the salt of the Earth. Praise God forevermore!

Visible Peace

I recently had an annual visit by a minister from Kenya. He stated that I was walking in a new realm of peace. He wasn't telling me something I didn't already know. I am here to tell you that there is a dimension of peace in God that most of us have never experienced. I now understand to a much greater degree the extent to which God wants to command every aspect of our lives and as we allow this to happen with zeal, life and peace will be added.

"My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; For length of days and years of life, and PEACE they will add to you. (Proverbs 3:1, 2, NAS)

Dwelling in the 3rd Heaven at Ground Zero

I had an experience recently, where the tangible presence of God in love, joy and peace flooded my being. This happened on a Saturday, which day is my weekly home

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continued from page 54

chore catch up day.

I decided to load my trash and haul it to the local county dump. As I began to meticulously gather and bag the trash, I became so aware of the presence of God.

The thought came to me to take my dog, a beagle named Tyler, with me to the trash dump. I have a 1987 Toyota pickup, which I use for various work functions. This pickup reeks with the odor of spilled soft drinks, sweat, and even an occasional mushroom or two growing from the floorboard. This is God!

I placed my precious beagle upon the seat beside me and opened a bottled soft drink. Away we went! The weather was mostly sunny with a few fluffy clouds here and there. I had the windows down, left arm out the window, my right hand stroking my beagle's head and my soft drink between my legs. I was still able to shift the gears on my four-speed pickup. This is God!

I was simply overwhelmed with thankfulness. I was yelling, "Thank you God for my dog, thank you God for my pickup. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" This

was truly a discovery of the ever-present heaven on Earth. The heavens are at hand! God is ever present! This is God!

This was an out of the body, 3rd heaven experience, manifesting at ground zero. What do I mean by an out of the body experience? Simply that the Spirit of God was totally in control during this time and I was not aware of any bodily influence or control. It was out of this world! I was flowing in the Holy Spirit fruits of love, joy and peace. This is God!

continued on next page

Pharmacy & Your Health



Don Manus R.Ph.
Pharmacist/Owner



Corticosteroid Drugs Have Many Uses

Cortisol is a hormone in the body that is released by the body's adrenal glands. This chemical is vital in regulating blood sugar levels, metabolism of fats and proteins, and the body's reaction to stress. It is also important for its ability to reduce swelling. Cortisol levels can vary during certain times of the day, illness, or injury. Due to the vast effects of cortisol, more potent man-made versions of cortisol are frequently used to treat a wide array of health conditions. These drugs are known as *corticosteroids* and most are available only through prescription.

Prednisone (*Sterapred*), prednisolone (*Millipred*, *Prelone*), methylprednisolone (*Medrol*), and budesonide (*Entocort*) are corticosteroids that are taken by mouth for allergic reactions and asthma. Corticosteroids inhaled through the mouth such as beclomethasone (*Qvar*) are used for asthma. Nasal inhalations such as mometasone (*Nasonex*), triamcinolone (*Nasocort*), and fluticasone (*Flonase*) help with runny nose due to seasonal allergies. Swelling in the eyes can be treated with eye drops like fluorometholone (*FML*). A variety of skin conditions can be treated with topical corticosteroids like and betamethasone (*Diprolene*) and clobetasol (*Clobex*, *Olux*, *Temovate*), which are available as creams, lotions, ointments, and foams.

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ZEAL FOR LIFE

continued from page 56

Charge

I have often been called a “Holy Spirit cheerleader.” If we are to imitate Jesus our Lord then we must duplicate the following Jesus declaration concerning the power of zeal and cheer.

“These things I (Jesus, your head cheerleader) have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of GOOD CHEER; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33, KJV)

God has commanded us to reveal His Kingdom in the Earth. As the scripture above declares, let us do it with ZEAL! The Kingdom of God is righteousness, joy and peace, in the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Lord, give us zeal for this ongoing, ever-present tangible manifestation of your glorious presence. Those who maintain a heart of zeal will overcome the world leading many into the glory of God.

Thy Kingdom (has) come... Thy will (is being) done... on Earth (and therefore is being produced) in Heaven!

Go for it and give praise to God Forevermore!

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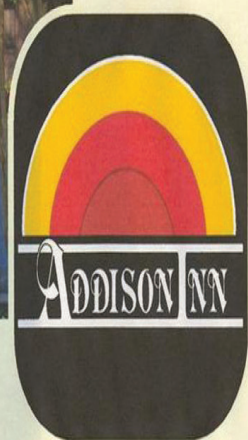
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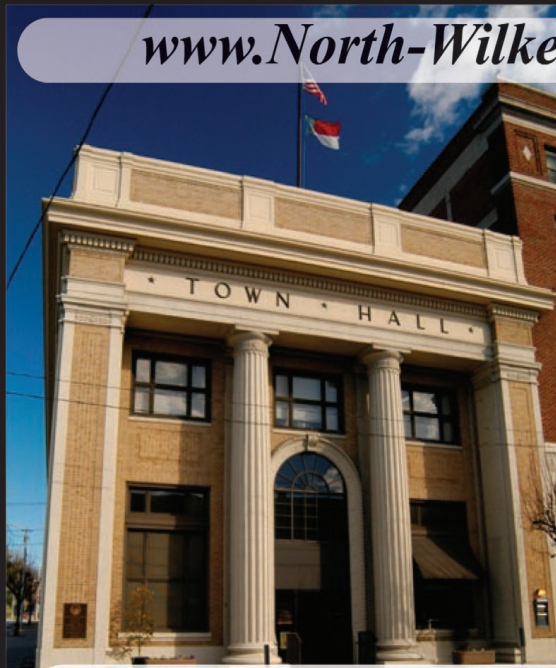


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The foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and Wilkes County seem to pop with race car drivers. **Benny Parsons** was born in 1941 and began his racing career in 1963 at Mt. Clemens Speedway. Throughout his racing career, Parsons won multiple awards beginning with Automobile Racing Club of America Rookie of the Year in 1965. Not a bad beginning for a race car driver.



Parsons life began with humble beginnings. He was raised by his grandmother, "Mama Julia", in Purlear, North Carolina. It is fitting that Parsons is also buried in the Family Cemetery on the same grassy expanses where he once played as a boy.

While racing was a part of Parsons life for 25 years earning him prize money and awards, he went on to join teams of analysts and commentators with ESPN, NBC and TNT. In 1996 Parsons won the ESPN Emmy Award. Another Emmy was coming for Parsons in 2006 for the sports series "NASCAR on NBC/TNT". Parsons experience and knowledge made him an invaluable resource for networks.

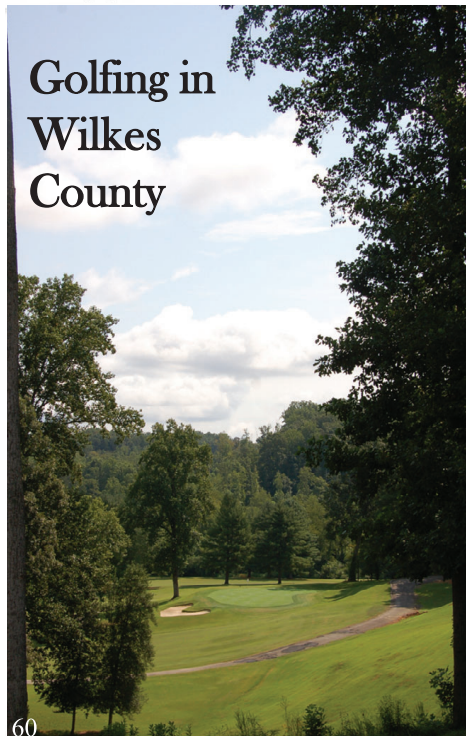
Talent for racing didn't stop with major television networks, however. Parsons was the host for the nationally syndicated radio show entitled "Fast

Talk with Benny Parsons". Perhaps the name of the show is fitting since Pasons was the first person to ever qualify a stock car over 200mph.

You can tell a great deal about a person based on the foods they cherish. And, Parsons was a man of varied interests. He loved good food and published a cookbook Buffet Benny's Family Recipes. One quick glance through the cookbook and it is clear that good food and family were cherished companions.

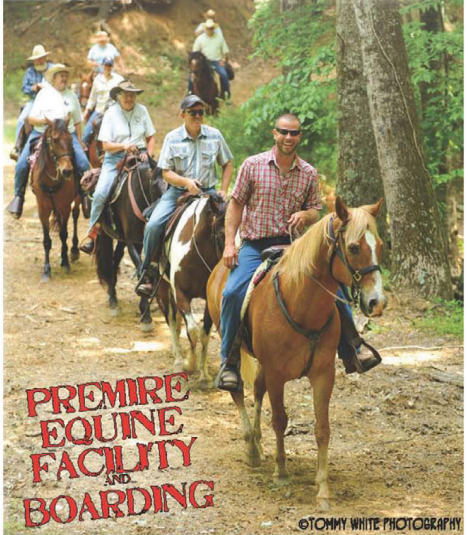
From Rookie of the Year in 1965 to championships in 1968, 1969, 1970, 1973 and 1975 to name a few years, Parsons helped changed the landscape of racing in America. For all his accomplishments, Benny Parsons never lost sight of his beginnings, his family, his sport, and his country.

By: T.Wise



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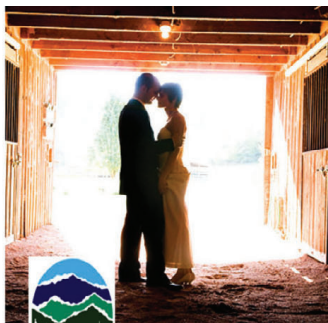


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There are eight North Carolina Birding Trail sites in Wilkes County. W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir has documented 216 species of birds.



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Steeped in History



Wilkesboro was settled along the southern ridge of the Yakin River in 1800. The area has seen turmoil, hope, wars and famous citizens. If only the Yakin River could talk . . .

Wilkesboro has offered many of its citizens for public service. One of the first of these is Montford Stokes (1762–1842) who lived in Wilkesboro. Stokes, an American Democrat, served as a US Senator from 1816–1823 and the 25th Governor of North Carolina from 1830 to 1832. Wilkesboro citizens do not dominate the historical stage, however.

One of the most famous pieces of history in Wilkesboro is “The Tory Oak” where Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, a Wilkes County Patriot, ordered the hanging of Loyalist soldiers who supported the crown in Britain and opposed America’s independence. The old oak tree no longer grows here, but the history is alive.

The Civil War brought more turmoil and hope simultaneously—it just depended on which side you placed your loyalties. And shortly after the War, the famous Tom Dula was tried and hanged for the murder of his finance. And the jury is still out on Dula’s guilt or innocence. Did Dula kill Laura Foster, or one of his jealous ex-sweet-hearts? In 1958 the entire sorted affair was made legendary by the Kingston Trio with the song “Hang Down Your Head Tom Dooley.”

Simply looking upon the Wilkesboro landscape gives one cause for reflection. However, when you stop to consider the historical importance of Wilkesboro in the development of an emerging country, it fairly leaves you speechless.

T. Wise



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 336-651-7344 Fax
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- Adult Softball & Flag Football
- Youth Tennis & Soccer
- Merlefest Camping
- Horseshoe Pitching
- Outdoor Basketball
- Outdoor Volleyball
- Youth & Adult Baseball and Softball Tournaments
- Youth Basketball
- Girls Youth Volleyball

www.wilkescounty.net

These are not your grandmother's retirement homes -Retirement in Wilkes County

As the Baby Boomer generation enters retirement age, there has been an increased demand for services that meet the needs of this segment of the population. Amenities such as active-living communities that boast top-of-the-line features typically are the first things individuals seek.

Age-restricted, 55-plus communities cater to what the name implies -- people who are age 55 and older. However, these home developments are a far cry from what they used to be. Now they rival some of the best resorts in their features and are designed entirely around the needs of a group of active, amenity driven people. Plus, considering there now are more Americans age 65 and older than in any other point in history, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, developers understand the benefits of catering to this group of people. Therefore, there are more

high-end active-living communities now than ever before.

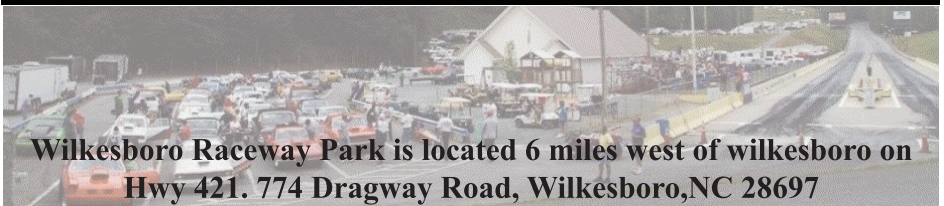
There are many choices with regard to active adult retirement communities. Many of these developments boast everything from detached, single-family homes to villas to condominiums. These residences are built with the active adult in mind. Here are some of the benefits that these communities boast.

Community companionship

Due to the age-restricted nature of active-adult-home-developments, the residents are all in a similar age range, and may have similar interests. At a time in life when friendships from work may waver due to retirement, and older children may be busy with their own lives, these communities can help foster new
continued on page 68-69



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Wilkes Art Gallery

By: Kara Elmore

Located in the heart of historic downtown district in the original North Wilkesboro Post Office building, the Wilkes Art Gallery is the cultural center of North Wilkesboro.

Throughout the year, the Gallery hosts nine exhibits of local, regional and nationally recognized artists and sponsors classes and workshops for all ages. The Gallery also houses the Gallery Gift Shop which features unique gifts from local and regional artists and craftspeople.



In April, the Gallery Gift Shop will hold its annual Spring Open House and introduce new artists and craftspeople whose work is featured in the shop. Gifts ranging from handcrafted jewelry to pottery, books and baby gifts are featured in the Gallery Gift Shop. The Gallery Gift Shop offers free gift wrap and special promotions throughout the year.

In March, the Gallery hosts the Youth Art Celebration. This event displays the work of talented students from every school in the county. In addition to exhibiting student artwork from over 350 local students, the Gallery hosts an Opening Reception for the students.

In addition to the Youth Art Celebration, the Gallery also sponsors the Annual Northwest Artist's League Juried Competition each spring. The competition will be on display March 5 through April 17 this year. Entries for this competition will be accepted in early March in three categories. The categories are Division I: Paintings, Drawings and Mixed Media; Division II: Sculpture, Pottery and Fibers and Division III: Photography. For more information or a complete prospectus, please contact the Gallery at 336.667.2841 or email to kara@wilkesartgallery.org

The Wilkes Art Gallery is open Tuesday through Friday from 10am to 5pm and Saturday from 10am to 2pm. For more information, visit the Gallery's website at www.wilkesartgallery.org. The Wilkes Art Gallery is also now on Facebook. Check us out by searching Wilkes Art Gallery at www.facebook.com





Doc Watson

MerleFest, considered one of the premiere music festivals in the country, is held on the campus of Wilkes Community College in Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

MerleFest was founded in 1988 in memory of Eddy Merle Watson and is a celebration of what Doc Watson calls “traditional plus” music, meaning the traditional music of the Appalachian regional plus whatever other styles we were in the mood to play.” The annual festival has become the primary fundraiser for the WCC Endowment Corporation, funding scholarships, capital projects and other educational needs.

Visit www.merlefest.org for this year’s lineup, tickets, directions, where to stay, and all other important MerleFest information. We’ll see you at MerleFest!

MerleFest History Our History

It all began with a gardener who wanted to raise funds for gardens on the campus of a rural North Carolina Community College and a community of musicians who wanted to honor the memory of a fallen friend and his musician father. It grew to an internationally renowned music festival and fundraiser that contributes more than \$12 million to the region annually. It’s MerleFest.

Before he was MerleFest Executive Director, “B” Townes began his career at Wilkes Community College in the horticulture department. Driven by the

goal of raising funds to improve the campus’ gardens, Townes had the idea to hold a concert in the fall of 1987 as a fundraiser. It was going to be a “one time, one night, one man show.”

Townes recruited Ala Sue Wyke, a WCC Gardens board member, and Bill Young, a retired banker from Northwestern Bank and a first class guitar picker who happened to have a friend named Doc Watson. In October of 1987, the three met with Doc Watson who generously agreed to do the concert in the John A. Walker Community Center and had a November date available for the event. “That was less than a month away,” remembers Townes.

"I naively said, 'great,' and then learned the next morning from Bud Mayes, the manager of the center, that you do not simply decide to have a concert today and fill up all of those 1,100 seats tomorrow!"

Doc's wife RosaLee and daughter Nancy suggested a festival to be held at the end of April. At that suggestion, the group began planning a two-day, multiple artist event for Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1, 1988 with all proceeds going to the Eddy Merle Watson Memorial Garden for the Senses.

Townes focused on the logistics of organizing a festival while more and more of Doc and Merle's musician friends committed to play the festival and soon the group had a soldout event. "We began to feel frustration... because we had all these people... wanting to attend the concert," said Townes. "I spoke to Cliff Miller... and he suggested another site and having multiple venues." The first festival was held over two days on two stages with a schedule that was written literally hours before the artists performed and a workshop was held in the Pit Auditorium.

The 1988 event featured Doc, Earl Scruggs and fiddler Jim Shumate, Tony Rice, Chet Atkins, Grandpa Jones and daughter Alisa, Marty Stuart, Mike Cross, New Grass Revival, David Holt, Jack Lawrence, The Smith Sisters, John Hartford, Mark O'Conner, Jerry Douglas, George Hamilton IV, and others. That first year was a truly special one explained Sam Bush to MerleFest's hometown newspaper the Wilkes Journal-Patriot in January 2001, "Since it hadn't been long since Merle had passed away our thoughts that first year were... centered on wanting to be with the Watson family to celebrate Merle's life."

The festival had been known as the Merle Watson Memorial Festival until the summer of 1994. Kay Crouch of the band Strictly Clean and Decent had performed at the festival in 1994.

As the band hit the road after the festival, they soon broke down in Boomer, NC and while waiting to get back on the road,

Crouch wrote a song called "Boomer Breakdown." Crouch wrote a letter to Townes, included the song and asked the dates for the next "MerleFest." Townes was intrigued by the term and brought the idea of renaming the festival to the Watson Family. With their blessing and enthusiasm, MerleFest became the official name.

As the festival grew organizers continued to use the Pit Stage in Thompson Hall and added the popular Midnight Jam in the Walker Center, the workshop oriented Creekside Stage, the Dance Stage and the Little Pickers Family Area.

Jammin' became a defining feature of MerleFest from the beginning as the mix of artists collaborated in unique and seldom seen ways. Award-winning artist Laurie Lewis says it well, "you never know what's going to happen, what questions people will ask. And you get the chance to play with people you don't usually perform with."

In 1992 WCC staff collaborated with North Carolina Public Television to tape all four days of the festival. Edited down into two-hour and eight one-hour versions, the series "Pickin for Merle" was shown on public television stations nationwide over a three year period. This enhanced exposure increased attendance and MerleFest 1995 saw total participation reach 38,433- an increase of almost 12,000 in just two years.

MerleFest 2000 brought a permanent, covered Creekside stage, a paved road from Hillside Stage to the on-campus RV campground, and the debut of the R&R tent. Following the crowding of the largest single day ever on "Dolly Parton Saturday" of MerleFest 2002, MerleFest 2003 witnessed additional major improvements in the festival infrastructure that permitted more general admission space.

MerleFest 2008 kicked off the new era of a greener MerleFest as the organizers and volunteers began to work toward reducing the environmental impact of the festival and setting a positive example of responsible environmental stewardship.



Retirement in Wilkes County *continued*

continued from page 64

friendships. Whether through community-sponsored activities or just through home proximity, residents can enjoy one another's company and never worry about feeling lonely into their retirement years.

Low- or no-maintenance living

One of the biggest attractions to active-adult living is that these homes are built to provide worry-free living. Included in the home ownership fees are provisions to take care of much of the interior and exterior maintenance. That means should a pipe leak or the lawn needs mowing, maintenance staff rather than the homeowner will handle the problem. This peace of mind enables residents to pursue their interests rather than worry about the upkeep on their homes. Many times the community is expertly manicured, helping

to create an aesthetically pleasing environment.

Activity-based fun

Many communities build activities into the living plan. Therefore, there may be a workout room, the game center, exercise classes, movie nights, and many other attractions to keep residents busy. Active-adult communities may be similar to all-inclusive vacations and cruises in that they have their own activities coordinator on staff. Should residents prefer solo activities, the property on which these homes are built are often created with recreation in mind. There can be walking paths or areas for cycling. Pools and spas are often part of the living package as well.

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Individuals who are no longer bogged down with work requirements may be more likely to take vacations or go visiting. In a traditional home, there may be worries about leaving the home unattended for a period of time. However, in 55-plus residences, homes may be in gated communities or have security patrols. Also, the sheer number of homes in a townhouse-style building can camouflage homes that are currently vacant, easing the minds of those who are planning on going away.

Concierge services

Some of the more exclusive communities may have staff who can help with everything from booking vacations to helping with moving details. There also are developments that offer transitional homes, and someone may be available to help with the transition from an active-style home to one that has nursing staff or assisted living offerings at that time in life when it is needed.

Active-living communities offer many



of the features that recently retired people seek in homes that do not compromise on amenities. Individuals who are looking for comfortable, maintenance-free homes often seek out these developments for the convenience and services they offer.

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Carl Buchan later purchased the company from his brother-in-law and partner, James Lowe. Buchan anticipated the post-World War II building boom and concentrated on selling only hardware, appliances and hard-to-find building materials. By eliminating wholesalers and dealing directly with manufacturers, Lowe's established a lasting reputation for low prices. Sales grew over time, and stores opened in neighboring towns throughout western North Carolina.

The company went public in 1961, and began trading on the New York Stock Exchange in 1979 (NYSE: LOW). During this time, U.S. housing starts soared and professional builders became Lowe's loyal customers, comprising most of Lowe's business. In 1982, Lowe's had its first billion-dollar sales year, earning a record

profit of \$25 million. Lowe's stores then reported serving a new type of customer: Do-It-Yourself homeowners seeking to improve the value of their properties.

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Lowe's stores stock 40,000 products and have hundreds of thousands more available by special order — offering everything customers need to build, maintain, beautify and enjoy their homes.

Although times have changed since Lowe's first opened its doors in 1946, Lowe's values have not — the company remains committed to offering quality home improvement products at the lowest prices, while delivering superior customer service.

**For more information
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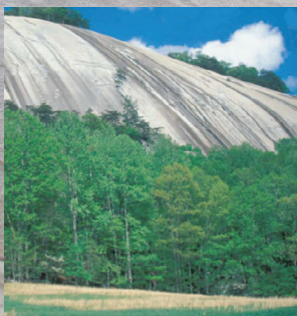




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Located at 3042 Frank Parkway in Roaring Gap, you can test your fly-fishing techniques in more than 20 miles of designated trout waters. Or, with more than 16 miles of trails, take a hike in the park. Designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1975, Stone Mountain is bounded on the north by the Blue Ridge Parkway and on the west by the Thurmond Chatham Game Lands. More than 14,100 acres of mountain beauty offer opportunities for outdoor activities of all kinds.



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Friends Along the Way

It's easy to feel at home in North Wilkesboro. It's been a proper town since 1891. The folks here have had plenty of time to practice their home town welcome—that's what the founding fathers envisioned, after all.

The original settlers of North Wilkesboro were planners working with the railroad and local developers to lay out and build a town which would prosper. These people-of-vision had every expectation of rolling out the welcome mat for travelers and new residents alike.

It really doesn't matter what the season is, strolling along Main Street in North Wilkesboro is an experience in friendliness. Merchants call to greet one another and passers-by. Students call to one another on their way to and from school. Local artisans meet to collaborate and share ideas. The atmosphere is one of congeniality, and it doesn't take too long before you are waving and calling out greetings to friends you haven't yet met!

North Wilkesboro boasts a coffee house turned favorite meeting area, a newspaper that truly takes you back in time when you step through the front door, an art gallery with traveling exhibits and gift shop, and merchant shops specializing in everything from jewelry to stylish clothing to engraved plaques to chic home décor.

Remarkable festival help embrace visitors and locals—the Brushy Mountain Apple Festival in October, Light Up Downtown in late November, Shine to Wine festival in May. No matter where you are from or when you meander along the friendly streets of North Wilkesboro, you are always welcome and you will always meet friends.

Spring in
Wilkes County



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6 HOURS OF WARRIOR CREEK

Endurance Mountain Bike Race



For almost 20 years, the Brushy Mountain Cyclist's Club has worked to promote cycling in Northwest North Carolina through rides, meetings, trail-building and special events.

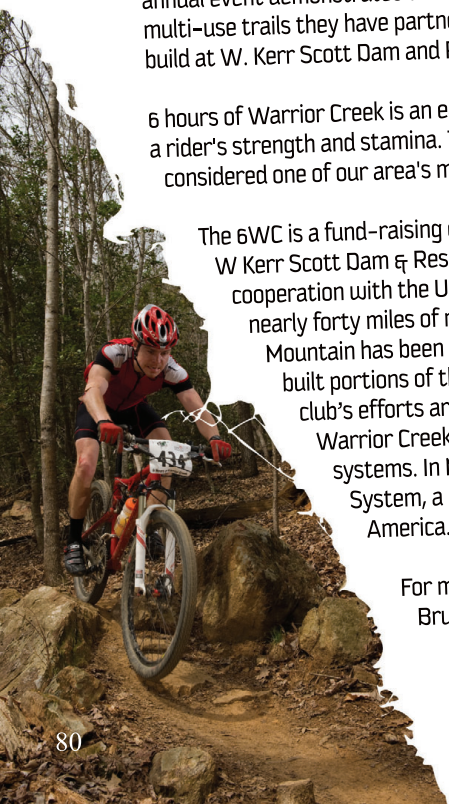
The 4th Annual 6 hours of Warrior Creek will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2013. This annual event demonstrates the strength of the organization and the quality of the multi-use trails they have partnered with the US Army Corp of Engineers to design and build at W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir.

6 hours of Warrior Creek is an early season endurance race that serves as a true trial of a rider's strength and stamina. The race is held on the 12 mile Warrior Creek loop that is considered one of our area's most scenic and well-designed mountain biking trails.

The 6WC is a fund-raising event for continuing trail development on the grounds of W Kerr Scott Dam & Reservoir in Wilkes County, NC. Since 2003, the BMCC, in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers, has built and maintains nearly forty miles of multi-user trails at Kerr Scott. The trail system at Dark Mountain has been designated as a National Recreation Trail. The BMCC has built portions of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. The club's efforts are currently focused on building additional trails in the Warrior Creek Campground and continual maintenance of existing trail systems. In November IMBA named Kerr Scott as an EPIC Trail System, a designation reserved for only the best trails in North America.

For more information about the 6 Hours of Warrior Creek or the Brushy Mountain Cyclist's Club visit www.bmcc.us

For more photos of the event visit
RyanSigsbeyPhotography.com



Interesting Facts & Demographics

1 in 5 Americans aged 16 and older cycle regularly.

Mountain biking adds \$26 billion to the American economy annually.

In the Southeastern US, mountain biking contributes \$11.3 billion to the economy, supports 135,000 jobs and generates more than \$1.6 billion in annual state/federal tax revenues.

Average mountain bike enthusiast is male, 32 years of age with a median income of \$75,000.

More than 35 percent of cyclists are married with children.

Average mountain biker owns two or more bikes with an average retail price of over \$2,000.

Women comprise 55 percent of recreational riders/spectators.

Cyclists are eco-aware and socially responsible consumers, who search for quality in products/services they purchase.

- Statistics from IMBA, Shimano American Corporation and the Outdoor Industry Foundation

Article by Kara Elmore
Photos by Ryan Sigsbey



Famous Wilkes County Residents from the Past

Chang and Eng Bunker

The world-famous Siamese twins who were a popular attraction in Asia, Europe, and North America in the nineteenth century, settled in Wilkes County in the 1850's and married two local sisters.



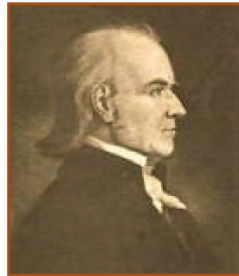
John Wilkes

The county was formed in 1777 from parts of Surry County and Washington District (now Washington County, Tennessee). It was named for the English political radical John Wilkes who lost his position as Lord Mayor of London because of his support for the colonists during the American Revolution.



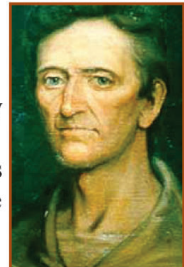
William Lenoir

A distinguished officer in the American Army during the Revolutionary War, he was the First President of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and lived in Wilkes County. He built Fort Defiance in Wilkes in 1792.



Daniel Boone

He was a legend in his own time. Quite a feat in the 1700's! Boone was an American settler, pioneer, hunter and Revolutionary War militia officer whose frontier exploits made him one of the first United States folk heroes. After publication of his adventures in 1784, Boone became a legend in Europe as well. Daniel Boone made Wilkes County his home for several years before moving west to Kentucky.



Make Your Relocation a Smooth One

In an effort to leave the unemployment line behind them, many men and women have decided they would relocate for jobs if the opportunities presented themselves. According to the Atlas Van Lines 2012 Corporate Relocation Survey, 52 percent of all relocations in 2011 were new hires. That's not only reflective of people's willingness to move for new opportunities, but also companies' willingness to help new hires make smooth transitions. Whereas many companies were forced to reduce or eliminate their relocation budgets during the depths of the recession, more and more of them now have more money to help candidates relocate.

Finding a company that's willing to incur some, if not all, of an employee's relocation costs is certainly one way to make the process go smoothly. But even those who can't find such a willing employer don't have to rule out relocation. The following are a few ways to make relocating for your career as successful as possible.

* Don't be afraid to negotiate. The Atlas relocation survey noted that 87 percent of the firms surveyed had a formal relocation policy. continued on page 84-85

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These policies can run the gamut from very accommodating to extremely limited. But many policies leave room for exceptions, so men and women should not be afraid to negotiate. The company may offer additional benefits to entice you to relocate, but the applicant has to ask about those benefits.

* Do your homework. Companies often expect quick responses when they offer out-of-towners a position. Applicants likely won't have enough time between receiving the offer and meeting their deadline to accept or deny the position to do all of the research that needs to be done. Before applying for positions within a given city, learn about the city, including the cost of housing, the reputation of the city's school districts, and anything else that will ultimately have an impact on your decision to move or stay put.

-Wilkes County Realtors are available to answer any questions you might have about relocating to Wilkes County.-

If possible, visit the city before beginning your job hunt. If you find the city fits your lifestyle, then begin your pursuit of a career.

* Don't overlook temporary housing. Many firms provide temporary housing for new hires or existing employees who relocate. This option should not be overlooked. Firms expect quick answers when asking an existing employee or a new hire to relocate. In fact, the Atlas survey found that 72 percent of firms give an employee two weeks or less to accept an offer to relocate. So you likely won't have enough time to find your next place to call home. In such instances, consider temporary housing, ideally offered by the company. If the company does not provide temporary housing, then stay with a friend or family member or **contact realtors and explain your situation. A real estate agent should be able to help you find temporary housing and can then help you once the relocation is complete and you're ready to**



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find a permanent residence.

* Know the repayment provisions. While many people consider their decision to relocate a success, others find their new job and city are falling short of expectations.

That can be a sticky situation if your new company helped pay for your relocation. Before accepting the job offer and relocating, ask to read the relocation policy and make note of its repayment provisions. Some firms



that help relocate new hires or existing employees have the right to ask for those costs back if the employee leaves the company within a given time frame. Know these provisions before you decide to relocate.

Adversity is not simply a tool. It is God's most effective tool for the advancement of our spiritual lives. The circumstances and events that we see as setbacks are oftentimes the very things that launch us into periods of intense spiritual growth. Once we begin to understand this, and accept it as a spiritual fact of life, adversity becomes easier to bear.

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photo by Margie Bender

A Special Thank you to Horton Design and Kara Elmore

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