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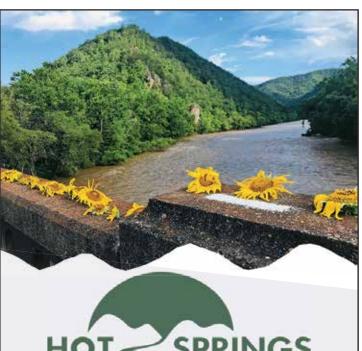
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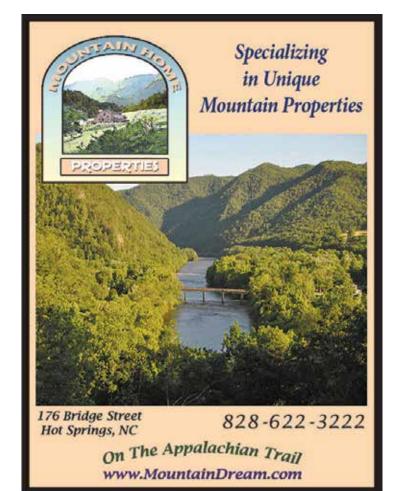
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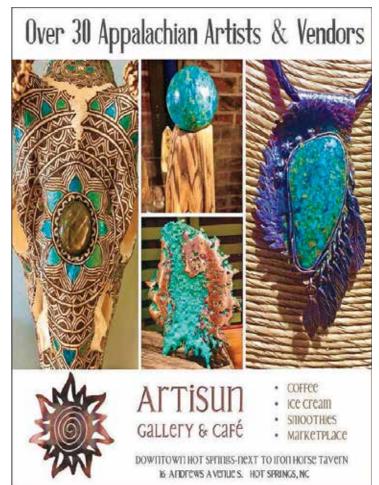
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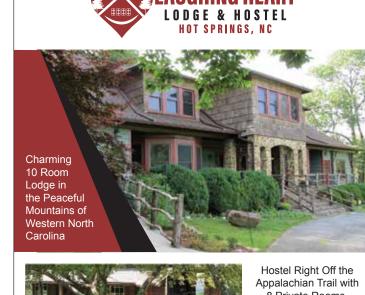
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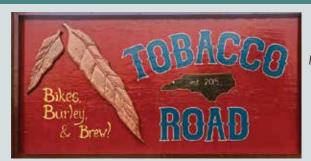






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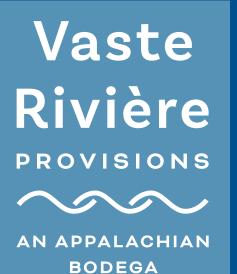
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# WELCOME TO Madison County

Paul Moon | Contributor

Time can stand still when you cross the county line. Regardless of what car brought you here, you'll feel like you're cruising in a DeLorean that traveled through time when you look out the window. Whether staring at the eye-catching courthouse on Main Street in Marshall or ambling past the tobacco barns that dot its rural landscape, you'll find that Madison County is more about staying true to tradition rather than finding the latest fad.

Move slowly to experience all the area has to offer. The county's three towns – Marshall, Mars Hill and Hot Springs – each offer an opportunity to experience an America that can be hard to find in an era of strip malls and chain stores. Specialty shops and lunch spots are almost exclusively independently-owned, a true throwback. Those looking to get away from text messages and constant connection can find peace in the natural beauty of the area's mountains, fields and streams.

That's not to say that Madison is short of action. Nightlife is characterized by live music with restaurants rooted in the contemporary local food movement. Those looking for adventure can easily find it, with skiing, rafting, hiking, hunting, fishing, cycling and more all on offer.

Whether you're here to recharge or explore, to see new things or feel the more familiar, Madison might just have exactly what you're seeking. Forget your itinerary, put your plans away and enjoy the past while living every moment of the present.

# The Jewel of the Blue Ridge

#### TIPS TO NAVIGATE MADISON COUNTY

The hustle and bustle of modern life can seem far from the Jewel of the Blue Ridge. As you make your way across one of the countless mountain roads, it's easy to imagine the pavement as hard-packed dirt and your car a horse-drawn carriage. Of course, this rural setting means cell phone service doesn't necessarily touch every nook and cranny. That can sometimes pose challenges in today's high-tech, ultra-connected world. Here are some tips to keep in mind when making your away around this neck of the woods:

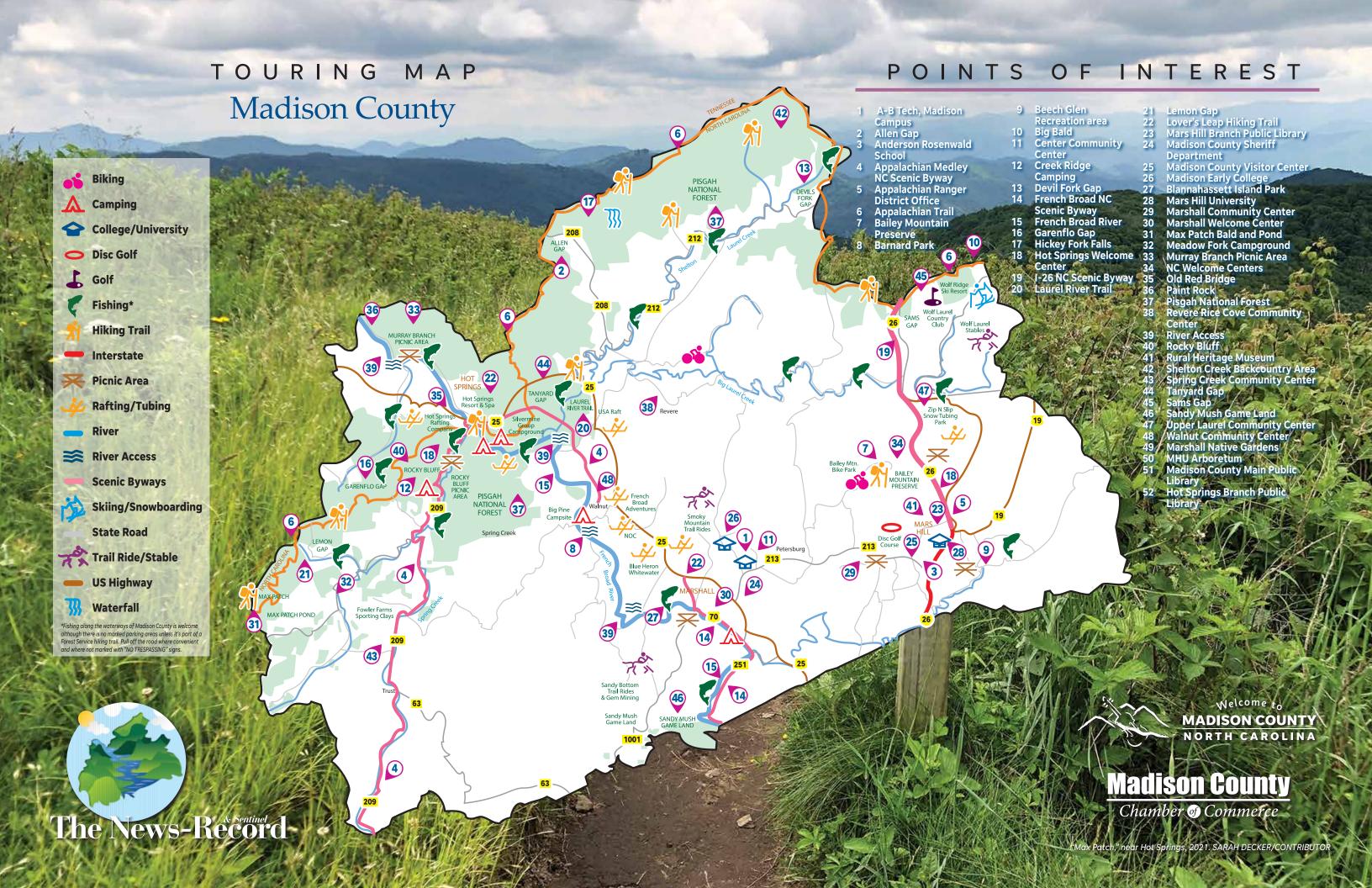
**PRINT OUT DIRECTIONS** If you're relying on a signal from the sky to map your every mile to a trailhead like the trek from Sams Gap to Big Bald, where you'll get classic Blue Ridge views, 5,516-foot summit of Big Bald Mountain, or a fishing spot like Spillcorn Creek, the hatchery-supported trout stream that feeds Big Laurel Creek, printing directions, or jotting down notes is probably a good idea.

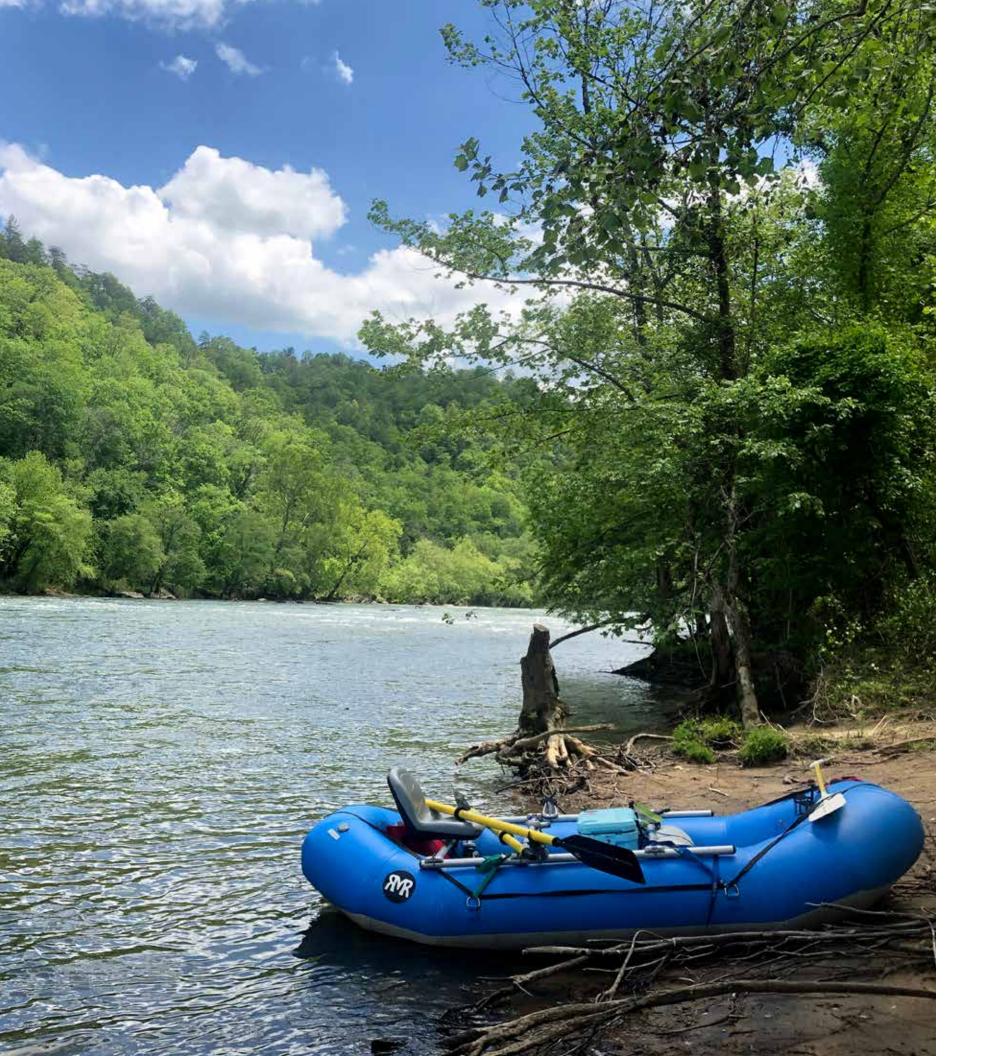
It's even better if your directions come from a local as opposed to some satellite. You won't think your smart phone is so smart when it can't get a signal or it takes you on a gravel road "shortcut" that really just dead-ends after you've driven miles up a mountain. It happens, even to locals, so know before you go.

**GET TO TALKIN'** It's fairly easy to strike up a conversation with just about anyone in Madison County, whether they're a lifelong local or a recent transplant. Most are happy to share their knowledge. In addition to the excellent resources offered at Marshall Welcome Center, Hot Springs Welcome Center and Mars Hill Visitors Center, roadside stops like Highland Station Coffee and Market, Sara Jo's Station, and Trust General Store have a lot more to offer than freshly baked goodies and cold drinks. So, if you're looking for an off-the-beaten path idea to pass the time, don't be afraid to stop and ask the locals.

**SLOW DOWN** Things may move a bit more slowly in Madison County than you are used to, so get in the groove, and take it easy. Consider backing off the accelerator to take in the views. For an even better angle on rolling streams, consider trading in your four wheels for two, or get on the water and float down the French Broad. Mossy Mountain Bikeworks in Marshall, has bike rentals available for those eager to see more of the mountains without a windshield getting in the way, while Blue Heron Whitewater offers everything from calm water floating trips to full-day whitewater excursions. Or, to really fly through the mountain color, consider a zipline ride with French Broad Adventures for an experience you won't soon forget.









# HOT SPRINGS Business owners celebrate 2/22/22 with tutu-themed party

Johnny Casey | Madison County Communities Reporter

Hot Springs has long been a unique town with a distinctive flair. As such, a tutu parade to commemorate Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022 (2/22/22) falls right in line with the town's identity.

Left, "French Broad River," 2021; Above, "We thought it would be fun to stop and take pictures in front of all the local businesses," Sara Jo's Station owner Sara Jo Litwak said of the "Twosday Tutu" parade held Tuesday, February 22, 2022 in Hot Springs. SARAH DECKER; SARA JO LITWAK/CONTRIBUTORS

Hot Springs' Sara Jo's Station owner Sara Jo Litwak said the town's "Twosday Tutu parade" event throughout the town was a collaborative effort with the Spring Creek Tavern owners, Amanda and Tim Arnett, and employee Mandy

"We thought it would be fun to stop and take pictures in



front of all the local businesses," Litwak said. "I own the gas station in town and had to work (Feb. 22), so I just got to don my tutu and come out and dance in the parking lot of my business with everybody else, but people were honking their horns and laughing and smiling and stopping in their cars."

A number of other Hot Springs businesses also participated.

"The folks at Bluff Mountain Outfitters bought Tootsie Rolls, and the folks at (restaurant) Vaste Riviere Provisions turned up the song, 'Don't Mess With My Toot Toot,' and everybody danced in front of that business. So, we had told some folks about it, but not everybody. I think it was a little bit of a surprise and kind of a fun thing to do at the end of a slow February for us."

Litwak said the festivities' closing took place at Big Pillow Brewery, as the popular brewery held a Tutu bingo event.

"(Spring Creek Tavern's) Mandy Myers called the bingo in her blue beautiful tutu," Litwak said. "That was awesome. It was pretty fun."

According to Litwak, the collaboration's success spurred



the creation of more projects down the line.

"We were talking about how there's not going to be a 2/22/22, but there will certainly be another 2/22 - so we decided this will be an annual event for us on Feb. 22," she said. "So that's what we're going to try for."

Additionally, Litwak said Iron Horse Station's Karen Goss hosted an "80s weekend" theme party Feb. 25-27.

"That also involves all the businesses, so there was an 80s karaoke at Big Pillow, an 80s dance party at the Spring Creek Tavern," she said. "So, we've decided that the tutu parade can always lead up to the 80s weekend, because that's always the last weekend of February.

"This is the time of year we get kind of bored - we're waiting on the hikers to come, so we had to create our own fun."





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# DOWNTOWN MARSHALL'S Zuma Coffee celebrates 20-year anniversary

Johnny Casey | Madison County Communities Reporter

Madison County staple Zuma Coffee founder Joel Friedman said he still can picture the downtown Marshall landscape when he first moved here with his ex-wife from Truckee, California, in 2001.

On April 2, the popular coffee shop/ eatery/music destination celebrated 20 years in business, with music from jazz pianist Steve Davidowski.

"It's really vivid in my memory," Freidman said. "The bones here are the bones. It's always been here. It's always looked like this. Physically, it's still the same mile-long, street-wide set of buildings."

Friedman, an Atlanta native, said while the existing commercial and

residential landscape has remained similar, the concept of community has grown exponentially in his 20 years here

"What's changed is the community and the atmosphere," Friedman said. "The (Marshall High) School (on Blannahassett Island) changed a lot when it turned into artist studios. That made a big difference in the community. But yes, most of Marshall is really recognizable (from 20 years ago), as far as the physical part. Seeing it happening

Left, "Rhododendron Views," Blue Ridge Parkway, 2020; Above, downtown Marshall's Zuma Coffee celebrated its 20-year anniversary, April 2,2022. AMANDA HILTY/CONTRIBUTOR; JOHNNY CASEY/STAFF

- this much traffic on a Wednesday afternoon, seeing evenings happening, seeing weekends busy, that's what's different."

The owner said it's hard to believe the growth the business and the community has experienced.

"Music and artwork has always been a part of the Zuma plan," he said. "It didn't start out necessarily as a big thing, because I had no room over here. What would happen is, that Martin guitar that hangs in the back here, my friend David in Atlanta mailed it to me

Friedman, 61, said he just may decide to put in another 20 years, as he renewed a five-year lease in February with an additional five-year option.

"I live in a great community," the owner said. "I work in a great commu-



"The community has built up around it, and anything that we thought possible has exceeded my goals and plans," Friedman said. "I can't even tell you what was not happening 20 years ago - none of this was happening 20 years ago."

#### **MUSIC AND ART**

Zuma originally operated across the street from its current location, in the basement of the Marshall Container Company building, for five years.

"We were called to it, I guess you could say," Friedman said. "Some friends of ours had bought the building across the street, and they would literally call us almost monthly and tell us about this building they had bought, and that there was space underneath it to put in this little coffee shop. We only had about 400-square-feet. It was

March 11, 2002, was the day Zuma opened to the public. Despite the original building's limited space, musicians gradually began to flock to Zuma to pick and sing for customers, Friedman said.

in 2002. My friend wrote a note with it saying, 'In my dream, I had seen that you'd opened up a coffee shop for the community to enjoy, and throughout the dream I kept hearing music playing. So I bought this guitar for you."

With his friend's David gift, local celebrated musicians such as Josh Goforth and Joe Penland would come and perform for Zuma's customers.

"They would just sit around and play outside, and it kind of became a thing there," Friedman said. "Then, I moved to this building, and Bobby Hicks said he wanted to come and play fiddle. You don't say no to that."

Friedman said the shop spotlights an artist on its walls. Currently, Madison County painter Calvin Edney Jr.'s work is on display.

"The artwork component of Zuma is key," he said. "Having a revolving group of artists to show, who, in most cases don't have another outlet to show, has been very rewarding. They're not showing their work at galleries. But every once in a while, they get to have a show and sell some of their work."

nity. What else is there - what could be better? To have some sense of community is pretty special. It's the intangibles.

"People ask me back home why I moved here, and I can't tell them, because they don't understand," Friedman said. "It's about the community. Their kids have shared their artwork on these walls. Their friends have played music here."

With 20 years in Marshall in his rearview, Friedman said he looks back fondly on his time in Madison County, and hopes to continue to build on Zuma's legacy as an integral aspect of the fabric of Marshall.

"I say, 'I'm not going to get rich doing this, but I am going to have a rich life," Friedman said. "What else is there? It doesn't get any better than that. That wasn't the plan. But that's how it's turned out. Twenty years, and I want to do it another 20 years."

Joel Friedman, owner of Zuma, hopes to continue to build on Zuma's legacy as an integral aspect of the fabric of Marshall, JOHNNY CASEY/STAFF















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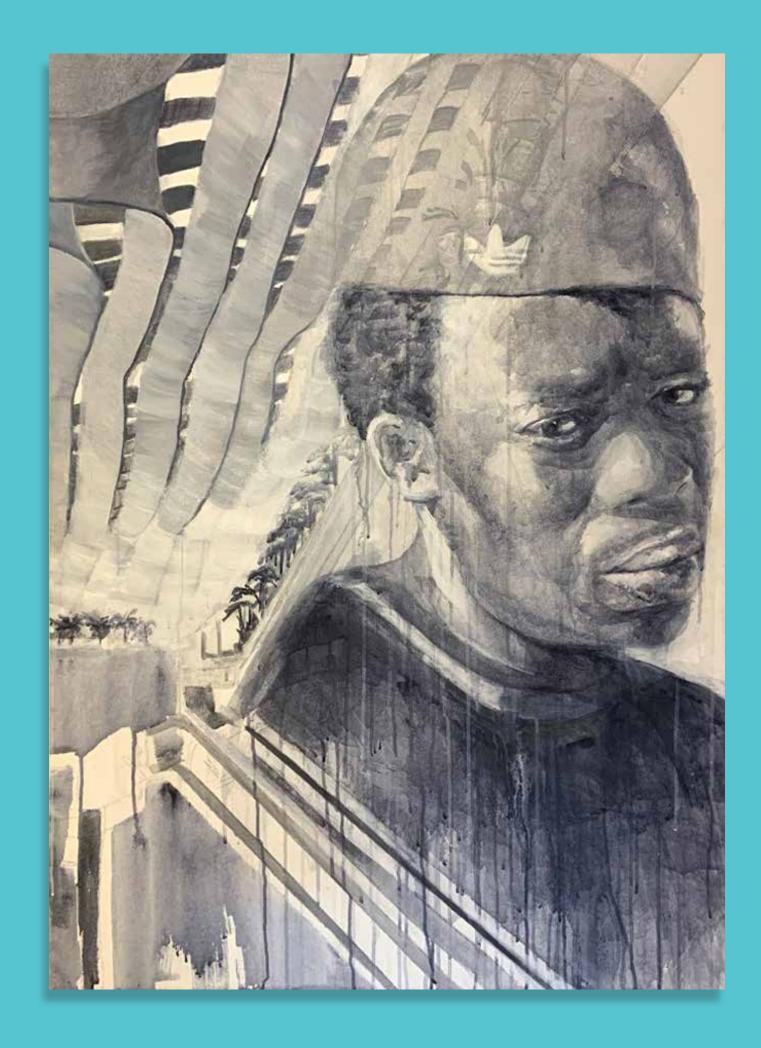


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# MARS HILL New art gallery attracts more than 300 at opening

Johnny Casey | Madison County Communities Reporter

Mars Landing Galleries opened in downtown Mars Hill, a tangible symbol of the town's rich artistic identity.

symbol of its rich artistic identity, as a gallery opened in downtown Mars Hill in July.

Mars Landing Galleries opened July 10, and the grand opening attracted more than 300 people, according to owner Miryam Rojas.

The gallery features 20 artists, many of them local, with the featured work ranging from photography to ceramic goods and paintings. Rojas bought the building, which was built in 1945 and served as a roller rink and then sewing factory.

Rojas operates on a 50% commission for the featured artists.

"A lot of places charge for the space," she said. "I thought about doing that, but I felt like it wouldn't give me the motivation to really promote them. Also, I just think

Madison County now has a tangible it's a tough outlay for people. I wanted to also control who I brought in, and how (the pieces) were hung." Rojas said Marshall High Studios owner Rob Pulleyn has told her that a similar migration is happening at his studio space on Blannahassett Is-

> "They're full now,' she said. "It took him a number of years, but they're full now. They've got a lot of artists coming out of the RAD (River Arts District)."

> In addition to the gallery, Rojas built a workshop space available for individual events. She said she plans to use the workshop space to offer programming such as painting classes to the public.

> "I'm hoping to get three different artists who are interested to offer oil painting, or cold wax, or jewelry-making," she said.

Left, Vered Pasternak's "Belonging/Jerome" is one of the pieces from her Visible Voices Miami series, which details homeless subjects in Miami. The piece is available at Mars Landing Galleries in Mars Hill; Above, "Yellow trillium," Mountain Magnolia Inn, Hot Springs, 2021. JOHNNY CASEY/STAFF; WENDY STANCIL/CONTRIBUTOR

Mars Landing is the first gallery Rojas has owned. She said her remodeling of the 6,000-square-foot building was done thoughtfully and meticulously.

"Leaving some open space for people to digest the work is what my objective has been here," she said. "I think some galleries that charge artists for wall space - they're very en"She tries to bring them to the forefront, because she struggles - she's of Iranian descent...and felt very displaced. I think a lot of times people don't look at (homeless) people, or just try to imagine they're not there or are intimidated by them. So by her bringing them out...they're really intense, and you get to sit and look at the painting because you don't





tertaining and very fun, and I love going in them, but I get personally a little overwhelmed with everything. I just don't think it elevates the artwork. I feel like by the end of it, I'm just tired."

One of the artists on display at the gallery is Skip Rohde, the director of the Weizenblatt Gallery at Mars Hill University.

Rohde was an officer in the U.S. Navy for 22 years and earned his BFA from UNC-Asheville. He spent one year in Afghanistan before returning home in 2012 and telling his wife he would no longer go to war zones. His "Faces of Afghanistan" series - a collection of more than 80 drawings, mostly of Afghans he met during his time there - is featured at the Smithsonian Museum of American History.

"What I love with him is he works with charcoal first with his models," Rojas said. "But then he embellishes the colors with pastel to bring out the character and the personality of the person."

Miami-based painter Vered Pasternak is another artist on display at the gallery. Pasternak's series "Visible Voices Miami" spotlights homeless subjects as a way of humanizing them. have the ability to do that in real life."

Though Rojas does not consider herself a working artist, she studied art history at George Washington University. She also worked for 18 years in art direction and set decoration on TV/film sets while living in South Florida.

Rojas has been coming to Western North Carolina for around three years.

She said she feels artists are increasingly turning to Madison County after being priced out of Asheville.

"I've been a little underwhelmed with the art representation in the River Arts District," Rojas said. "Obviously, there's still some good artists in there, but there's just so much noise - like so many other artists that they get drowned out. But (the art scene in Madison County) is something that happened so naturally because of the largely underrepresented talent surrounding Asheville, where rents have gone up so much that affordability becomes a huge factor."

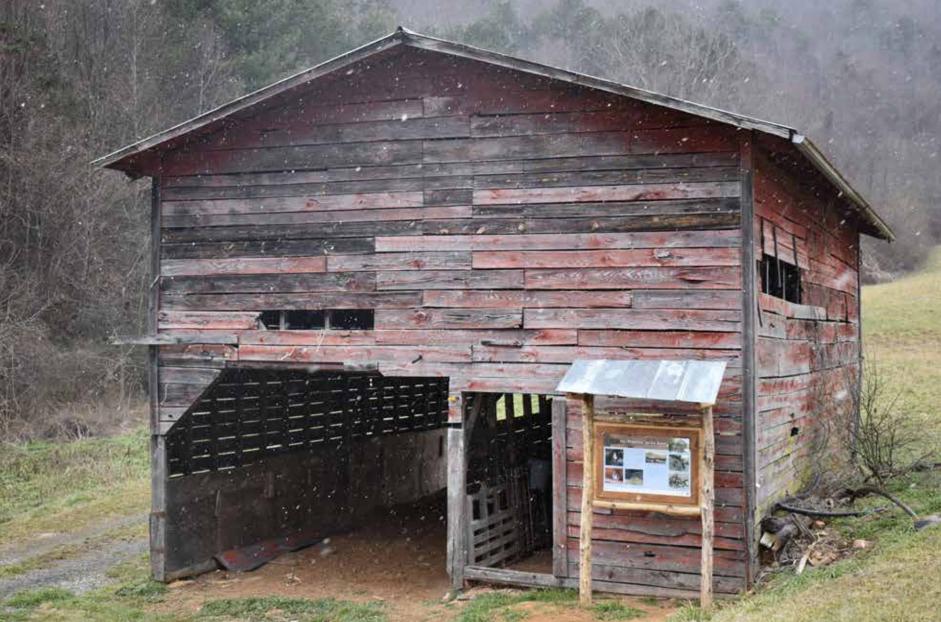
Rojas is seeking to rent out the building's 2,800-squarefoot basement as well.

Mars Landing Galleries is located at 37 Library St. A. For more information, visit its website at /marslandinggalleries. com.

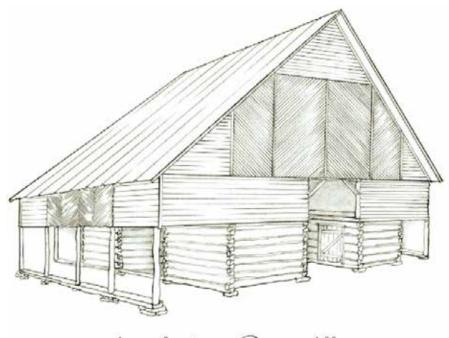


At left, Miryam Rojas, owner of Mars Landing Galleries, 37 Library Street, Mars Hill, which opened in July; Above, Asheville's Valerie Hoh has four different exhibits featured at Mars Landing Galleries in Mars Hill. JOHNNY CASEY/STAFF









Appalachian Barn Alliance

# FOR THE LOVE OF BARNS Appalachian Barn Alliance celebrates 10-year anniversary

Johnny Casey | Madison County Communities Reporter

"Sometime I want to tell you about my idea," Appalachian Barn Alliance President Sandy Stevenson remembers Ross Young telling her years ago.

The idea was to start a nonprofit organization aimed at restoring and renovating Madison County barns. The organization's mission is to preserve the rural heritage of Madison County and surrounding areas through the documentation of the historical barn building traditions and the barns they represent for future generations, according to its website.

Top left, the all-purpose small barn is one of three barns Appalachian Barn Alliance is preserving with the town of Mars Hill. Signage at the three barns was unveiled in Oct. 2021; Bottom left, Appalachian Barn Alliance President Sandy Stevenson, right, is joined by lead researcher Taylor Barnhill, middle, and former County Extension Director Ross Young Jan. 26 during the organization's 10-year anniversary open house. JOHNNY CASEY/STAFF

In January 2012, Young assembled a team to brainstorm the possibility of founding an organization.

Now, 10 years later, the organization celebrated its 10-year anniversary at Marshall's N.C. Cooperative Extension, holding an open house for residents to learn more information about ABA's work.

"If it weren't for that man right there, we would not be



where we are," Stevenson said of Young, who, along with Stevenson, joined ABA lead researcher Taylor Barnhill in presenting comments to the crowd.

"It was his idea to preserve this heritage, and we did it by focusing on that iconic symbol of the agricultural heritage: the barn," the ABA president said. "Ross will tell you there are more than 10,000 barns in Madison County. So, we decided to preserve that heritage for future generations. We want our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to really understand how important that culture was to the Southern Appalachians."

In introducing Barnhill, Stevenson called him "the face, the heart, the soul and the connection with this community," along with Young.

"(The barn owners) have scraped up the money to maintain their barns, they've grown tobacco and other crops for so many years," Barnhill said. "They have such pride in these barns, and when the tobacco program ended, it broke a lot of hearts because they knew that they couldn't afford to keep the barns up. But some people have really gone the extra mile to maintain these barns. Our mission is to document them and those traditions before all these barns disappear. Madison County barn owners are really the reason we're here."

Young - who announced he will be retiring Jan. 31 after 31 years as the county extension director and moving into a new part-time role with the county - said he was emotional in the days leading up to the ceremony.

"I almost teared up because I was in awe at seeing the work that has transpired over that 10 years," Young said. "But then I thought, 'Where did 50 years go?' That's where my love affair with barns started. Fifty years ago, my grand-



father would come and get me and say, 'Let's go milk the cow.' At four years old, I remember going. From that point on, barns became a very critical point of life. The environment I grew up in, your houses were small, and your barns were big.

"You went to the house to eat and to sleep. You did everything else in and around the farm and the barn. That's just where life was. You played there. You fixed the tractor tire there. You hung tobacco there. You built forts out of hay there. You kissed your girlfriend there. All those things happened in barns. There's just so much history. I'm humbled by the work that's transpired. It humbles me to see their work portrayed in a room where I can see it all come together."

The Smith Farm at Bailey Mountain Preserve was deeded to the town of Mars Hill in 2018. The 8-acre Smith Farm Heritage Farmstead at 889 Forest Street serves as a welcoming entrance and public park to the other 78 acres where there is a hiking path leading up Bailey Mountain.

On Oct. 29, ABA commemorated the organization's receipt of grant funding during a ceremony in which new signs were unveiled at three barns on the Smith property.

"I will forever be grateful that these wonderful folks took

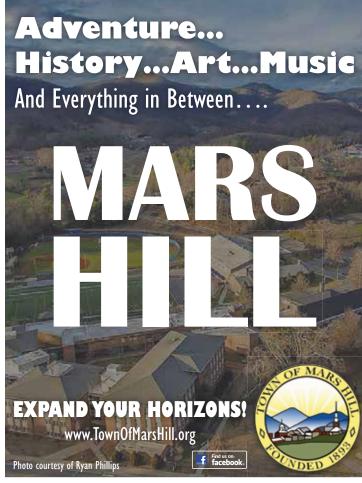
Above L-R, Appalachian Barn Alliance President Sandy Stevenson, left, chats with two residents Jan. 26, 2022 during the organization's open house celebrating its 10-year anniversary; The Barley Tobacco Barn is one of the three barns located on the Bailey Mountain Preserve the Appalachian Barn Alliance deeded to the town of Mars Hill in 2018. On page at right, Appalachian Barn Alliance hosted an open house to celebrate the organization's 10-year anniversary Jan. 26, 2022 at Marshall's N.C. Cooperative Extension. JOHNNY CASEY/STAFF

my thoughts and my little bit of help and created something that, I hope, is timeless, and gives honor to those of us that own some of these barns, and helps esteem the value that the history that's portrayed by these barns has," Young said.

The Feb. 9 edition of The News-Record and Sentinel included a story on Ross Young retiring after 31 years as the county extension director, as well as his new part-time role with the county.







# MARSHALL'S THE DEPOT REOPEN Hosts Norfolk Southern Lawmen

Johnny Casey | Madison County Communities Reporter

Famed Marshall music venue The Depot reopened in Nov. 2021 for the first time in nearly two years.

Last month, the film crew for Amazon Prime Video's upcoming show "The Peripheral" wrapped up their work at the venue, which was repurposed into a bar for the TV show.

"Everybody said, 'Oh, leave the outside like it was," The Depot's board Chair Pat Franklin said. "When I said that to Mr. (the late board member and cofounder of The Depot Forrest) Jarrett, he said, 'Well, it wouldn't be The Depot then."

On Nov. 26, the venue helped people dance off their Thanksgiving meals with The Depot's first Friday night jam session since March 2020.

Franklin said while the reopening has been a cause for excitement for the town, she can't help but think about those who were lost in the time since the venue was last open.

"It's good to be back," Franklin said. "Every band that we've had that we organized to play, they've lost somebody to COVID. There have been a lot of people who came here every single Friday night that died here from COVID. We're going to have a service in the spring, whenever COVID lightens up a little bit, and have a board with their pictures on it."

On Dec. 3, the venue celebrated the 93rd birthday of the late Forrest Jarrett, a current board member.

"I had a birthday cake a show dog couldn't jump over," Jarrett said. "Miss Pat took me up there, and I blew out the '93' and got a big hug. Everybody had some birthday cake, and I really appreciated the whole thing."

#### NORFOLK SOUTHERN LAWMEN SHOW

While The Depot's Friday night jams are back in full swing, the music and dance venue will welcome the Norfolk Southern Lawmen on Dec. 18 for the venue's first official concert performance since 2020.

It only makes sense that the celebrated venue's first big musical act will be The Norfolk Southern Lawmen, which today exists as a reiteration of the outfit formed in 1951 and was composed of five members of the railroad's police department.



The Depot building served as the original Southern Railroad Depot for the town of Marshall until the 1970s when passenger service was shut down.

As for Jarrett, he served as Norfolk Southern director of police in the 1980s. In all, he compiled a 37-year, storied career as the chief policeman for Southern Railway and Norfolk Southern in 20 states and the District of Columbia.

During his time as chief policeman for Norfolk Southern, he saw the band play more times than he could count. Occasionally, he will even get up and join the band on stage to sing a number or two.

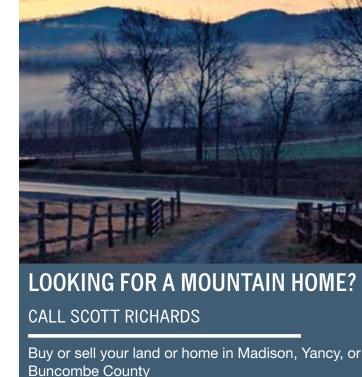
"They play every kind of music there is - gospel, blue-grass, hymn music, modern, whatever," said Jarrett, who lists Roy Acuff, George Jones, Willie Nelson and Roy Clark as some of his favorite musicians. "We have a little bit of all of it."

For Franklin and Jarrett though, to have music back at The Depot is a treat.

"(Music) is just like a merger between two railroads," Jarrett said.

Tickets are \$5 and available by contacting 828-649-2332 or patrfranklin@yahoo.com.

"If you have not had the COVID shot, wear a mask," Franklin said. "Free masks are available at The Depot."



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## GRAB A BITE AND A DRINK Marshall - Mars Hill - Hot Springs



#### **BIG PILLOW BREWING**

Locally brewed craft beer, partners, Latin American cuisine. 25 Andrews Avenue North, Hot Springs, bigpillowbrewing.com

#### **CAMDEN'S COFFEE HOUSE**

Coffee, tea, espresso, specialty drinks, smoothies and protein shakes, breakfast food, pastries. 40 North Main Street, Mars Hill. camdenscoffeehouse.com

#### **DAVE'S 209**

Classic and signature burgers, American style favorites. 13075 NC Hwy. 209, Hot Springs, daves209.com

#### **HIGHLAND STATION**

Local coffee, espresso, house made baked goods and empanadas. 5247 US Hwy. 25/ Hwy. 70, Marshall, 828-649-9043

### HICKORY NUT GORGE BREWERY AT MARS HILLS THEATRE

Craft beer, ales, American classic food and British favorites in a functioning movie theatre. 70 Main Street, Mars Hills, hickorynutbrewery.com

#### **IRON HORSE STATION**

Southern comfort cuisine to specialized organic dishes, beer and wine. 24 South Andrews Avenue, Hot Springs, theironhorsestation.com

#### MAD CO. BREW HOUSE

Small-batch craft beer, cider and ginger beer, handcrafted pizzas and salad. 45 North Main Street, Marshall, madisoncountybrewing.com

#### MARSHALL'S MAIN STREET CAFÉ

Classic American diner, traditional homestyle



country cooking. 18 North Main Street, Marshall, 828-649-8260

#### **MEADOWSWEET CREAMERY**

Artisan ice cream sandwiches and cones made with local and seasonal ingredients. 37 Library Street, Mars Hill, meadowsweetcreamery.com

#### **STACKHOUSE**

Local and regional bites, burgers and beer. 37 South Main Street, Mars Hill, stackhouserestaurant.com

#### **STAR DINER**

Fine dining menu with rotating and seasonal menus. 115 North Main Street, Marshall, stardinerwnc.com

#### THE CBD CAFÉ

Healthy, organic house made food, elixir



and smoothie bar. 38 Bailey's Branch Road, Marshall, the-cbd-cafe.com

#### THE ORIGINAL PAPA NICK'S

Homestyle pizza, Italian food, and salads 15 College Street, Mars Hill. theoriginalpapanicks.com/mars-hill-location

#### THE WILD VIOLET

Teahouse, café, juice, smoothie and vegan mylk bar, herbal apothecary and grocery. 14 North Main Street, Mars Hill thewildvioletwnc.com

#### **VASTE RIVIERE PROVISIONS**

Café, wine shop and gourmet grocery store near the Appalachian Trail, indoor seating and heated patios. 158 Bridge Street, Hot Springs | vasteriviere.com

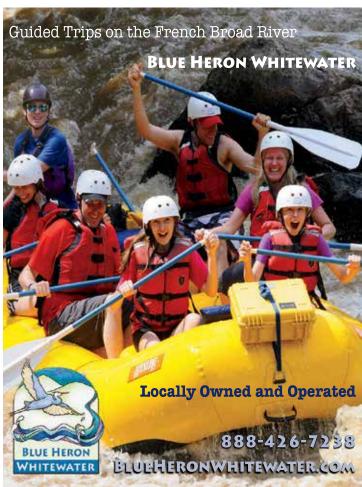
#### **ZADIE'S MARKET**

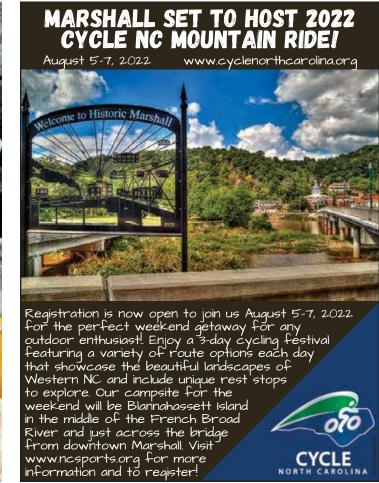
Specialty market, bar and eatery located in the Old Marshall Jail. 33 Bailey's Branch Road, Marshall, oldmarshalljail.com/zadies

#### **ZUMA COFFEE AND PROVISIONS**

Light bites and full meals, espresso-based chai, lattes, mochas, kombucha, elixirs, smoothies, iced and frozen drinks. 7 North Main Street, Marshall, zumascoffee.com

Above L-R, "French Broad River," just below Frank Bell's Rapid between Marshall and Hot Springs, 2020; "Madison County Courthouse," Marshall, 2021; Center, "Trillium," Pisgah National Forest, 2020. WENDY STANCIL; ROGER FRENCH; SARAH DECKER/CONTRIBUTORS







# C A L E N D A R Of Events

#### **MAY**

FRI., MAY 20-22, DOGGETT GAP TINY MUSIC AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL Rare Bird Farm, screening David Hoffman's film, *Music Makers* 



of the Blue Ridge and musicians from Madison County area, fostering a community of music, nature lovers. 91 Duckett Top Tower Rd., Hot Springs. Rarebirdfarm.org/concert-tickets.

**SAT., MAY 21, VINTAGE BMW FESTIVAL** The Vintage BMW festival, Hot Springs Resort and Spa, 9AM-Noon. atthevintage.com.

#### JUNE

**SAT., JUNE 4, MERMAID PARADE** Downtown Marshall, 15th annual Mermaid Parade, 5PM. Costumes encouraged. Art, music, food and water fights. facebook.

SAT., JUNE 11, BLUFF MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL Hot Springs Resort and Spa, 10AM-6PM, presented by Madison County Arts Council, 25th annual, special tribute to Arvil Freeman, old time, bluegrass, ballads, world-class clogging, silent auction, cash raffle, food vendors, art market. 828-649-1301, madisoncountvarts.com.

**SUN., JUNE 19, KRUGER BROTHERS WITH KONTRAS QUARTET** Madison County Arts Council, the Kruger Brothers and The Kontras Quartet. 4-8:30PM, Ebbs Chapel Performing Arts Center.

#### **JULY**

**SAT., JULY 2, INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS IN HOT SPRINGS** Spectacular fireworks at Hot Springs Resort and Spa. Come early, enjoy shops, restaurants and street vendors. Stay late. Dance to live music on N. Andrews Ave.

MON., JULY 4, CELEBRATION AT MARS HILL

**PARK** Celebrate Independence Day with Mars Hill. Day activities will be followed by evening fireworks.

**SAT., JULY 9, HOT DOGGETT 100** 16th annual Hot Doggett 100. Three rides: Hot Doggett 100 Century, Devil Fork Metric 100, and Big Laurel Grind. Hotdoggett100.org.

**THURS., JULY 14, WILD GOOSE FESTIVAL** Cocreating art, music, story, theater. Robust,



respectful conversations with leaders and artists. eventbrite.com/e/wild-goose-festival-2022-tickets-169888247321.

**SUN., JULY 24, 4PM, JOSH GOFORTH IN CONCERT** Madison County Arts Council presents Josh Goforth, Madison County Native and maestro of music, 2022 Ebbs Chapel Concert series. \$20 advance, \$25 day of show. 828-649-1301. madisoncountyarts.com/events/josh-goforth-in-concert-at-ebbs-chapel.

**SUN., JULY 24, BLACKBERRY FESTIVAL** Ebbs Chapel Performing Arts Center. Hear the call of the mountain song. 8AM-3PM. Craft vendors, food and music. 828-689-3465. Free to the public.

#### **AUGUST**

FRI., AUG. 5-7, CYCLE NC MOUNTAIN RIDE

Marshall, 3-day cycling festival, variety of routes beautiful landscapes of Western NC, unique rest stops to explore. Campsites at Blannahassett Island in French Broad River, across the bridge from downtown Marshall. ncsports.org/event/cyclenc mountain ride.

SUN., AUG. 21, THE BURNETT SISTERS WITH COLIN RAY - Madison County Arts Council's Ebbs Chapel Concert Series shows. 4PM, madisoncountyarts.com/events/the-burnett-sisters-band-in-concert-at-ebbs-chapel.

#### **ONGOING**

**LIVE ACTION RODEO COMPANY, LLC** Every other Sat. beginning April 2, 7:30PM, wild horse, sheep, calf, junior bull, mature bull, and open

bull riding, barrel racing, team roping and chute dogging, games for kids, rodeo clowns, family entertainment. To enter, call Mon.-Thurs. week of the rodeo, 828-206-6969, facebook.com/madisoncountychampionshiprodeo.

APRIL 21-UNTIL, THIRD THURSDAYS IN MARSHALL Downtown Marshall, 5-8PM, gallery openings, open studios, shops, happenings, eats and drinks. facebook.com/



ThirdThursdayMarshall.

BIG PILLOW BREWERY, THE IRON HORSE STATION AND THE SPRING CREEK TAVERN IN HOT SPRINGS live music with full menus of classic American fare. bigpillowbrewing.com, theironhorsestation.com, thespringcreektavern. com.

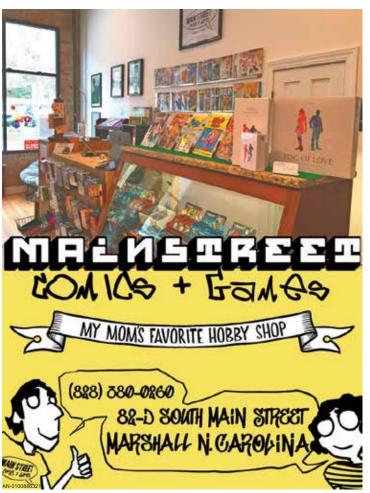
MAD CO. BREW HOUSE LIVE MUSIC Marshall and Madison County's first brewery and Marshall Pizza Co. 3,000 square feet, covered patio, tasting room, back deck overlooking the French Broad River, Live music most nights. madisoncountybrewing.com

**SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN REPERTORY THEATRE** (SART) Owen Theatre, Mars Hill
University. Plays, musicals and original works,
many portraying the rich culture and heritage of
Southern Appalachia. sartplays.com.

**THE MARSHALL DEPOT** Every Fri. night community event, 6:30PM-Until, local musicians, toe-tapping music and dancing. facebook.com/the-depot-in-marshall-nc-304632369608183.

**ZUMA COFFEE MUSIC** Marshall's meetup, hangout spot. Check website for music schedule. zumascoffee.com.

Above L-R: "Forest Light," Little Mountain above Upper Paw Paw Road, Marshall, 2020; "Smoke rising on a young fisherman," Shelton Laurel, 2021; "Laurel River Trail," 2021. DAVID CHEATHAM; MEGAN BALDWIN; SARAH DECKER/CONTRIBUTORS



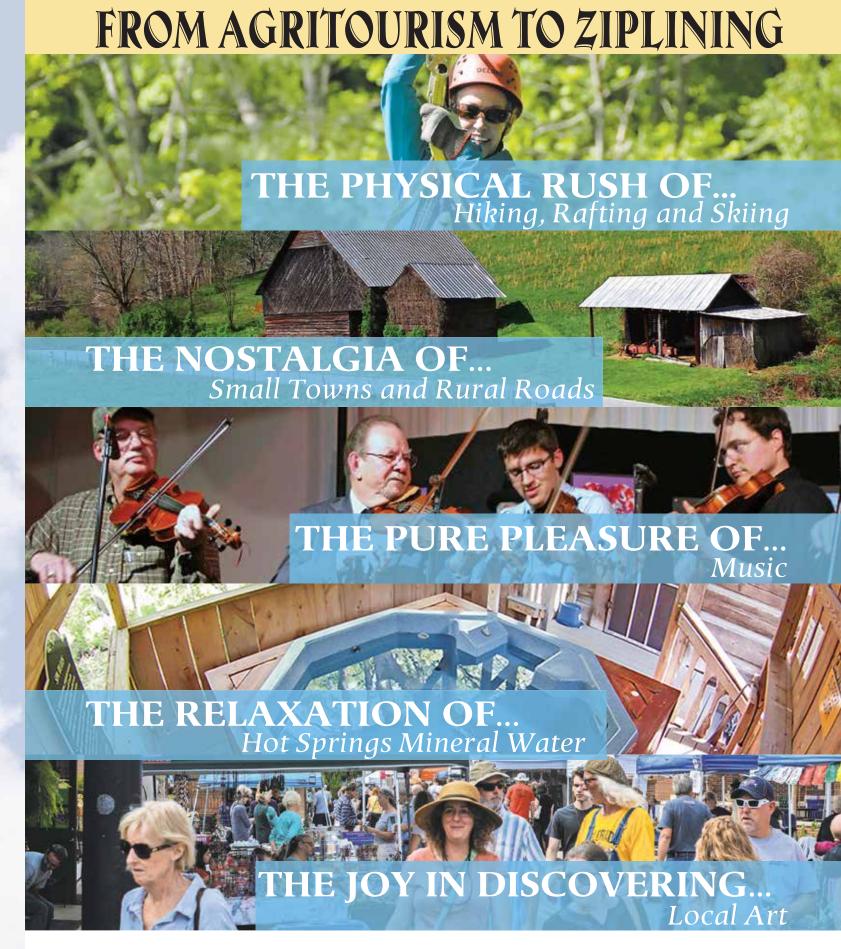




# 100 Ways to "Come Play with Us" in Madison County

- 1. Go whitewater rafting on the French Broad River
- 2. Listen to free bluegrass music jam at Zuma
- 3. Take in a Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre play
- 4. Ski or snowboard the slopes at Wolf Ridge
- 5. Dance (or just tap your toes) to traditional music at the Depot
- 6. Take a picnic to Max Patch Bald- the 2nd highest spot in the county
- 7. Shop for antiques or local crafts
- 8. Soak in the natural hot mineral springs
- 9. Fish one of the many secluded streams-stocked with trout
- 10. Attend an Arts Council concert
- 11. Hike a portion of the Appalachian Trail
- 12. Visit the Civil War sites along the Civil War Trails
- 13. Stand on the Old Buncombe Turnpike (Drover's Trail)
- 14. Take a driving tour through the Blue Ridge Mountains or the Pisgah National Forest
- 15. Walk through our 100-year old Courthouse designed by Richard Sharp Smith, head architect of the Biltmore House
- 16. Browse the galleries for local artists' work
- 17. Buy local produce, baked goods, and crafts at one of the Farmers' Markets
- 18. Eat some southern comfort food in one of the many local restaurants
- 19. Go on a horseback ride
- 20. Attend the annual Madison Heritage Arts Festival celebrating our cultural history
- 21. Stay in a cabin, inn, or bed & breakfast
- 22. Visit where Cecil Sharp collected ballads in 1916
- 23. Attend Bluff Mountain Festival for food, fun and free music
- 24. Drive the North Carolina Scenic Byway on I-26
- 25. Go sledding or tubing in the snow
- 26. Practice your shooting skills at Fowler Farms Sporting Clays
- 27. Celebrate the Appalachian Trail at Trailfest
- 28. Browse the local craft booths at Art on the Island in Marshall
- 29. Glide through the trees on a Zipline
- 30. Walk by the oldest buildings on the Mars Hill University campus—the oldest educational institution in western North Carolina still on its original site
- 31. Experience traditional music at the Bascom Lamar Lunsford Festival
- 32. Take a tour of one of the local farms
- 33. Visit a working artist's studio
- 34. Try your hand at finding garnets in the Little Pine Gem Mine
- 35. Walk the Laurel River Trail or one of the other hiking trails in the county
- 36. Play a round of disc golf at the Mars Hill University Disc Golf Sanctuary
- 37. Discover petroglyphs on Paint Rock
- 38. Take in panoramic view of Hot Springs from Lovers' Leap Rock
- 39. Watch the national champion Bailey Mountain Cloggers perform
- 40. Ride your bike in the Hot Doggett 100 (or just cheer them on)
- 41. Have some fun at one of the summer events in Downtown Marshall
- 42. Visit the new Marshall Welcome Center located on Main Street in the Madison County Arts Council.
- 43. Enjoy the spectacular view from the NC State Welcome Center on I-26
- 44. Wander through Weizenblatt Gallery on the Mars Hill University campus
- 45. Kayak or canoe down the French Broad River
- 46. Enjoy the outdoors at a local campground
- 47. Visit the location of the original Allanstand-the foundation for the Southern Highlands Craft Guild
- 48. Stand where the Minstrel of Appalachia, Bascom Lamar Lunsford, lived
- 49. Visit the site of a World War I German Internment Camp
- 50. Take a dip in an old-time swimming hole on the Laurel River Trail
- 51. Pick berries at a local farm
- 52. Take a self-guided walking tour of the town of Mars Hill
- 53. View some of the buildings remaining from the Dorland-Bell School

- 54. Drive the NC Scenic Byway along NC Highway 209 through Trust and Luck
- 55. Fish for smallmouth bass and muskie on the French Broad River
- 56. Cut a Christmas tree at a local tree farm
- 57. Go to our Madison County Fair
- 58. Enjoy the music at the various restaurants in the area that have live music
- 59. Take a pottery class
- 60. Marvel at the tiny St. Jude's Chapel in Trust
- 61. Drop in to one of the local breweries in each of the three towns
- 62. View the historic Anderson Rosenwald School in Mars Hill
- 63. Stroll through the Marshall High Studios which was renovated from the old
- 64. Visit the sites which tell the tragic story of the Shelton Laurel Massacre during the
- 65. View the outdoor sculptures at the Manufacturing Art Park on the Otis T. Duck Greenway near the MHU campus in Mars Hill
- 66. Enjoy a meal in an old rock building built in the early 1900s in Spring Creek
- 67. Fish off the pier on Blannahassett Island in the French Broad River across the bridge from downtown Marshall
- 68. Take home some local art from one of the galleries in each of the three towns
- 69. Take a self-guided walking tour of the town of Hot Springs
- 70. Drive the North Carolina Scenic Byway along the French Broad River (the third oldest river)
- 71. Attend the annual Fiddler's Tribute concert in March
- 72. Wander through the Arts Council gallery's latest exhibit
- 73. Stand on the Appalachian Trail right in downtown Hot Springs
- 74. Watch rodeo riders compete at the Marshall Rodeo July 4th weekend
- 75. Visit the site of historic resorts which attracted the rich and famous to Hot Springs since the mid 1800s
- 76. Enjoy a concert at historic Ebbs Chapel Performing Arts Center
- 77. Take a self-guided walking tour of the town of Marshall
- 78. Fish in a trout pond (no fishing license required)
- 79. Stop by the local newspaper office located in an old railroad car in historic downtown Marshall
- 80. Climb the Rich Mountain Fire Tower- constructed by boys from the Hot Springs CCC Camp in the 1930s - for great views
- 81. Relax in a pew in Dorland Memorial Presbyterian Church, a National Register Historic Building built in 1900 designed by Richard Sharp Smith
- 82. Drive by the many barn guits decorating barns and buildings in the county
- 83. Walk across the Old Red Bridge in Hot Springs
- 84. Grab your gear for the downhill bike trail
- 85. Celebrate the French Broad River Festival
- 86. Marvel at the carvings on the Broyhill Chapel door (Mars Hill University)
- 87. Visit or stay at the restored Old Jail in Marshall
- 88. Visit the site of the first 9-hole golf course in North Carolina
- 89. Spend the night at a local farm
- 90. Read about the detailed stories of Hot Spring's history at the Hot Springs Welcome Center exhibits
- 91. Take a guided van tour or drive a self-guided tour of our historic barns
- 92. Use the walking path which takes you around Blannahassett Island
- 93. Celebrate "Fat Tuesday" at Marshall Gras
- 94. Take a hike on Bailey Mountain Preserve in Mars Hill
- 95. Take a yoga class at various places in Madison County
- 96. Examine the Bascom Lamar Lunsford collection at the Liston Ramsey Center on the ground floor of MHU Renfro Library
- 97. Wonder at the sight of thousands of fireflies in a meadow in the month of June
- 98. Tune into wART FM 95.5 radio station
- 99. Research genealogy at the Madison County Library in Marshall
- 100. Stop by the Visitor Center- a renovated service station in downtown Mars Hill



VisitMadisonCounty.com



# SHOP ReClaim Madison!









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