Come and Do The Locomotion With Me Page 10

GAZIN

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November 8-December 5, 2019 • One Copy FREE

ORANGE GOUNTY, VIRGINIA

Carolina Shine

The Laurie Holladay Shop: A Gordonsville Experience

Page 2

OC Magazine

A monthly publication

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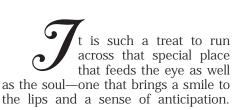
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The children's corner at the Laurie Holladay Shop. All photos by Carol Barfield

The Laurie Holladay Shop: A Gordonsville Experience





The Carolina Shine of the Great Smokey Mountains Railroad.

Laurie Holladay welcomes everyone to her shop in Gordonsville. All photos by Carol Barfield

Cover designed by Marilyn Ellinger.

By Carol Barfield Correspondent

Laurie Holladay's Shop on Main Street in Gordonsville is just such a place. The brick façade is alive with color from the tumbling flowers and greenery that frame the entrance, and it says, "Welcome, I'm special," before your feet even cross the threshold. "Every year we had a big garden with flowers and vegetables at our home," said Laurie, "but we got too busy. I have to express myself now by gardening here at the shop!" She takes great delight in welcoming her customers with beauty, which is reflected inside the shop as well. The fact that Main Street Gordonsville is beautified in the process is a plus, and an excellent way to welcome visitors and to give back to the community she loves.

For 13 years, Laurie and her husband Jim have operated at this location. Jim was born and raised in Gordonsville, majored in journalism in college, and retired from American Press International Printing Company, an industrial catalog and magazine company that was based in town. The pair met at the Toliverhouse Restaurant where they were introduced by a mutual friend who thought Laurie would give permission for Jim to go fishing on the pond at the family farm. He won that permission--and Laurie's hand in marriage!

A doorway links the two sections of

the store: Jim operates Mr. Holladay's Lamp Repair on the right side of the shop, while Laurie operates out of the left side. This proximity is symbolic of the teamwork that unites them, both in marriage and in business. Jim does the bookkeeping and inventory and is in charge of the lamp business. It was a good idea to have a service base that brings people in and most people who come in end up visiting both shops. Sometimes Laurie and Jim see heirlooms lamps pass through; lamps that the customers loved as children that are in disrepair are brought back to life by Jim, to be enjoyed for the next generation and not just thrown away. It is a serious endeavor that pays the bills, and one that he adores. Jim also designs lamps and can rewire, restore and repair any type of lamp or fixture. They ship all over the country, and Laurie designs lampshades at the request of both interior designers and customers, choosing from the many fabrics in the store as well as from other sources. "We can do anything with a lampshade," she promises.

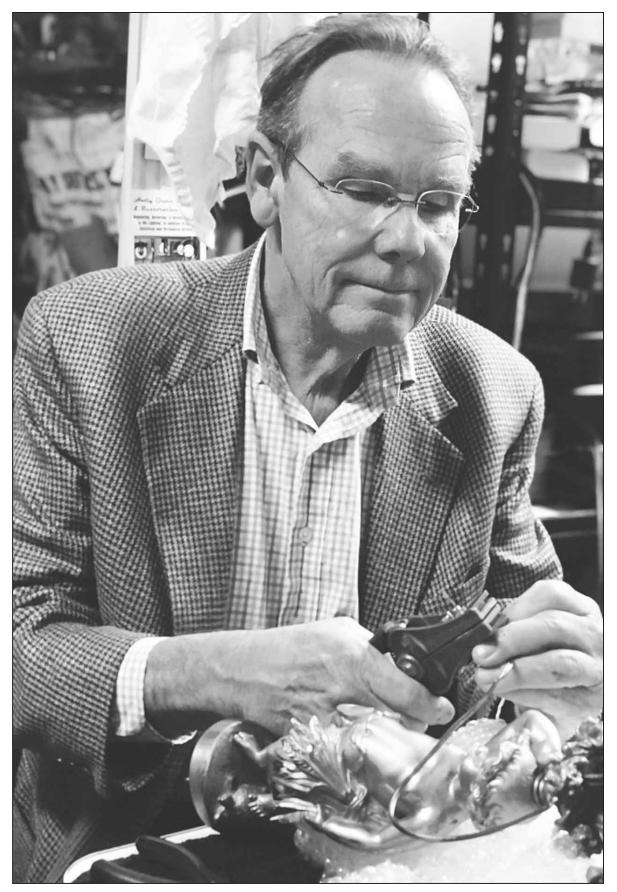
Walking through the connecting passageway, the interior of Laurie's shop is colorful and exciting, with something new to see at every turn. From floor to ceiling, there are one-of-a-kind finds to be had--all classic, distinctive merchandise of the highest quality. There is the



Some of the many finials to choose from in the showcase.

fine baby gift corner, a beautiful display of glass Christmas ornaments nestled on rich velvet, handcrafted pillows tossed on settees, and eye-catching lamps atop tables laden with treasures. Racks of designer cards, pajamas, capes with fur collars, specialty treats to eat, and a whole section of distinctive gifts and books are arranged beautifully throughout the store. Paintings and pictures cover the walls, and customers obviously enjoy themselves, looking, touching, and experiencing the atmosphere. "People appreciate and enjoy classic design. When you live with beauty, it makes you feel comfortable. Customers frequently comment on how visiting here brings back strong memories from their childhood and gives them a feeling of happiness." Laurie specializes in finding non-trendy purchases with great design-- stock that can't be found in other places. Her customer base covers a cross-section of people who come locally, from Virginia, other parts of the U.S., and all over the world. Her task is to assemble an artistic and beautiful, yet eclectic collection of items and put them together in a manner pleasing to the eye. "I do my own thing-no consultants. I grew up in this business and had on-thejob-training by watching my parents run Nassau Interiors, Inc., on Nassau Street in Princeton, New Jersey. My dad was a classic entrepreneur and business advocate, who encouraged others to become business owners. He felt it was the best way to support

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Jim Holladay diligently at work in the lamp repair shop.



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Holladay from page 3



Display of beautiful Christmas ornaments.

personal oneself and express individuality at the same time." Laurie's father, Leonard LePlaca, learned valuable lessons by working for a husband and wife team who owned an upholstery and drapery shop in Princeton, NJ. He was able to purchase the business from them while still in his early 20s, and expanded it to include an interior design department, a custom lamp collection, fine furniture, artwork and accessories. Through mutual friends, he met Laurel Smith from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who was trained in fine

art, design and architecture. She soon came to work in the store, where they fell in love and were married. This amazing team supported themselves and a family with style and taste, supplying a customer base that had grown to include Princeton University. In their later years, when they retired, merchandise from the store was kept in a warehouse. Before the opening of Laurie's Gordonsville shop, her mom and dad, who had purchased



Flowers in front of Laurie Holladay's shop.

See Holladay page 6



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Laurie in one of the showrooms located on the second floor of the shop.

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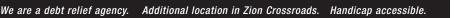
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Ruthie Windsor-Mann and Betsy Brantley look over books.

a farm between Gordonsville and Keswick, would make trips bringing the warehoused merchandise to her by minivan. "They made trip after trip bringing things to me. It's amazing how many of my customers still remember my parents and the Nassau store in Princeton. On my buying trips I still return to some of the vendors and artisans that my dad worked with!" exclaimed Laurie.

There is another telling bridge between her past and her current life. After Laurie and Jim married, his new father-in-law had a confidential chat with Jim and said, "I want you to think about having a lamp repair business on the side. It is interesting and lucrative and you will always have a great skill to draw on." He brought a standing drill press to the house with lots of lamps and parts for Jim to practice on. Jim grew to enjoy it immensely, and in later years that hobby turned into a livelihood after Jim's employer went out of business.

Although Laurie consistently returns to High Point, North Carolina, the Atlantic Gift Mart in Georgia, and to New York City for the NY City Gift Shows, she is buying things more and more from non-commercial vendors. "In order to focus on finding new and exciting merchandise I haven't seen in other places, I have to really dig to find products not shown at commercial markets. That takes some searching.

At times, my customers will even clue me in to interesting items they see during their travels." The twice-yearly trips are stimulating yet tiring, and she must bring focus, discipline and the skills of quick decision-making to her search. "Like my father told me, in the world of business you can never stay still. The store is always in my mind, almost as if it were a physical being who I am protecting and nurturing. It must be fed with new ideas, expanded and Next week, next month, refreshed." next season are all in her mind as she searches for new objects d' art to adorn her protégée. "I never take anything for granted; if you do nothing, nothing happens, so this enterprise gets all I've got to give every single day. I also cannot do what I do without my uncomplaining husband; he's my greatest supporter." Another key to Laurie's success is a team of wonderful employees who work to provide coverage by being flexible in scheduling. Ben, Scotty, Jill and Sarah are employees of long-standing and everyone's personality is a good fit with the store. The most recent hire, Betsy, has a warm way with customers and a twinkle in her eye. She has an interesting history, having appeared with Sean Connery in the film "Five Days, One Summer" as his love interest!

Next time, you feel a little restive or blue, or you are needing that special something for that special someone,



The entrance to the Laurie Holladay Shop.

consider making a trip to meet Laurie and Jim Holladay in Gordonsville. Laurie makes a lot of sacrifices to run a successful business, but she does so happily, and shares, "Customers have come in and told me they weren't having a great day, then thanked me for having created a place that makes them happy. It's a blessing to be able to make such a difference!"





Lampshades in Mr. Holladay's lamp repair part of the shop.

PART-TIME REPORTER



OC Magazine

NEEDS A PART- TIME REPORTER

OC Magazine is currently seeking a part-time reporter to write about Orange County's rich history and interesting people.

Please email resume with samples of writing, to: valleyeditor1@gmail.com

Carlos Santos, Publisher

Events and <u>Announcements</u>



Veterans Day Weekend Free for All U.S. Military Veterans at James Madison's Montpelier

November 8 -11, 2019

During Veterans Day Weekend, Montpelier says "thank you" to all U.S. military veteran guests with a free House tour and Museum Shop

discount. Hours:9 am-5 pm



Gingerbread House Contest - December 6-17, 2019; Entries Due December 2, 2019

The annual gingerbread house contest returns for 2019 in partnership with The Arts Center in Orange. This contest is FREE TO ENTER and open to residents of and those who work in Orange

County, VA. Be festive and have some fun making and entering a unique gingerbread structure with your friends and family. Read our official contest rules and submit your online entry form by December 2, 2019. Structures must be delivered to the Arts Center on December 6 or 7, 2019. For Details and Rules, call (540) 672-5435.

Online Entry Form Available at: www.orangecountyva.gov/parksandrecreation



7th Annual Fall Shopping Mall Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 11 AM – 4 PM Town of Orange Public Works 235 Warren St, Orange, Virginia Hosted by Emy Lou's Boutique

Come on out to get all of your Holiday shopping done in one convenient location at the Fall Shopping Mall Vendor Show! Saturday November 23rd from 11am-4pm! Last year we had a great time, this year we will have even more vendors! Stay tuned to see the list of compa-nies that are included this year!

If you would like to be a vendor at this event please email events@emylous.com or call Emily @ 540-729-0180 Open to the community!



Open 7 days a week, year round

Christmas Bazaar

& Silent Auction Saturday, Dec. 14th 2019

9:003:00

St. Jude Parish Hall

Mineral, VA

Crafts! Christmas Gifts! Stocking Stuffers! St. Nicholas

Numerous vendors! Raffle!

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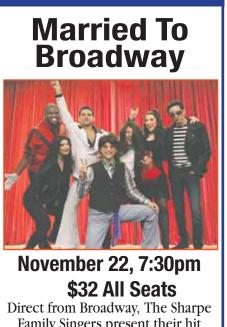
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Band Concert Sunday December 22, 3:30pm Orange County High School

Christmas

Annie Gould Gallery



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Come and do the Locomotion With Me

By Carol Barfield Correspondent



Steam engine in its corral snorts clouds of moisture into the cold air. All photos by Carol Barfield



hat adventure is available to you when the fall colors start to turn and the hint of chill is in the air?

My husband began the search and was immediately attracted to the town of Bryson City, NC, located a little west of Ashville. The town is the home of the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad, which runs year-round through beautiful wilderness areas. He made reservations for an RV site at Grumpy Bear Campground, (which concerned me a bit for his state of mind), but it turned out to be very pretty--a tiny, privately-owned venture nestled next to a river, complete with a neat picnic area and well-kept gravel roads that led the back way to the train station.

A quaint family-run roadside stand with pumpkin patch and corn maze carried on a brisk business near the campground. Fall decorations were everywhere; the only questionable adornment was a plugged-in drooling, seven-foot werewolf that met me at the entry to the bathhouse. (It WAS near Halloween, but I suspect somehow he is permanent!). It may have been an attempt by the proprietor to keep the showers brief—once having seen it, the aura of imminent attack lay in the back of my mind during the vulnerable sudsing and rinsing stages!

The first evening we were impressed by a variety of train whistles that floated on the air. One was deep and sonorous (our favorite,) and one was brash and strident (more a get-out-of-my-way variety). Families, retirees, and young couples shared the campground, and we were located by one small camper whose occupant had a laugh straight out of the Beverly Hillbillies—more strident than our least favorite train whistle and, imaginably, laced with whiskey.

I have discovered that just about any circumstance can be improved by imagining people to be characters in a book, so we were not put off. The laugh suggested to the imagination a character more colorful than one could hope to make up! It is a great memory--train whistles and whiskey giggles.

Let me give you another example: I attended church for the first time and sat next to an elderly woman. She looked at me, then down to where I was sitting and said, "That is where I USUALLY put my hymnal." Now, at first impression, one could be justified in taking offense, huffing off never to return. But with a little imagination, and visualizing what a delightful book character she would make, the situation became simply amusing... "Well, then, I'll just hold your book for you!" I replied. I made a fast friend that day and discovered the church we have enjoyed for years.

When we first bought our RV, we decided to only use bicycles for transportation, which we hoped would guarantee a healthy vacation no matter what we burnt on the campfire and stuffed in our faces. That decision became a bit dicey when, on our maiden voyage with the extended family, our 11-year old grandson fell out of the RV bunkbed and broke his jaw. Although at that moment we felt completely

James Madison's Decorated for Christmas

December 7, 2019• 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Free

11350 Constitution Hwy, Montpelier Station,

Tour the Madisons' home, decorated according to 19th-century customs, and visit with the Madisons. At the David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center, enjoy visits with Santa, hands-on history activities, and delicious food.

Let Us Treat You in This Season of Giving

James Madison's Montpelier invites you to a free community holiday event, in a gesture of thanks for the ongoing support of our neighbors and friends. Take a break from the holiday frenzy to relax and enjoy the season with a bit of history, tradition, and family-friendly activities.

Make Montpelier a Part of Your Holiday Tradition

The Madisons' home will be decorated according to 19th-century customs. The House is open for tours from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and the Madisons will be at home and greeting guests. At the David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center, enjoy visits with Santa, kids' hands-on history crafts, a delicious soup buffet with cornbread, rolls, and pumpkin cake prepared by the Exchange Cafe (\$10/adults, \$6/kids 12 and under), and free cookies and cider. Browse the galleries and do some Christmas shopping in the Museum Shop, where you'll get a 10% discount. Become a member, and enjoy an additional 10% discount! Register for an opportunity to win a gift basket worth \$200. Bundle up and head out into the brisk weather, walking along Montpelier's 8+ miles of trails through horse pastures, meadows, and old-growth forests.

Last House tour 4:00 PM



stranded, an ambulance was dispatched, and all was well after a long recuperation. We chose to see that as a one-off, and still take just bikes, although no one is allowed to sleep on that bunk anymore!

The next morning, we were absolutely entranced with the wonderful 20-minute bike ride to town. The liquid music of the river filled our ears. In the middle of the frothy stream, rocks gleamed and stranded trees balanced haphazardly in the water. A fly fisherman in wading boots was desultorily flicking his wrist to cast a line, his countenance completely peaceful. On the far shore, rustic cabins perched on rocky cliffs. Our journey was made even more magical by our new companion: a dark brindle dog, young and lithe, who took it upon himself to accompany us down the gravel path. He ran alongside us, looking to the left and right, scanning the undergrowth (for grumpy bears?!) and seemed to take a real interest in guarding us on our trek. When we reached the paved fork in the road leading to town, he sat down calmly and looked at us as if saying, "This is as far as I go folks. You're welcome. Please return with gratuity!"

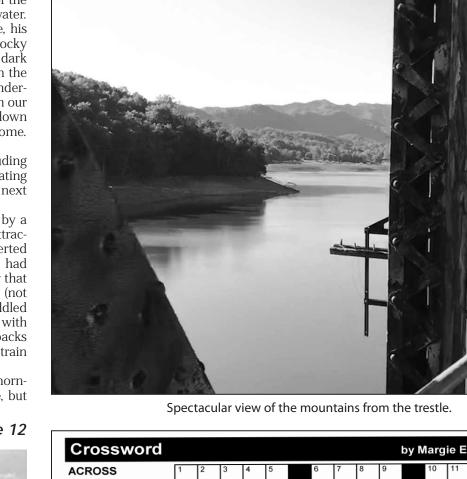
We were so enthused with our self-propelled trip and town experience, including perusing the many one-of-a-kind stores, specialty gift shops and delicious eating emporiums, that instead of asking the proprietor to take us into town early the next morning, we decided to throw caution to the wind and go by bike again.

Somehow what seemed like a good idea in the sparkling daytime, backed by a very nice late afternoon stout at Nantahala Brewing Company, became less attractive as darkness fell. The wind picked up, and the weatherman gleefully asserted that the mountains were facing the first frost of the year. May I add that we had purchased the open car on the train expedition to be closer to nature! In a way that many can relate to, we decided that it would be just too OLD AGE to back out, (not to mention rude to call the proprietor after 10 pm begging for a ride), so we saddled up at o-dark-thirty with our trusty bike light, bundled to look Nanookish, with makeshift backpacks of eco-conscious grocery bags (we forgot our real backpacks at home) and headed out in the windy cold dimness to make our way to the train station.

Somehow the idea of bears coming down to the stream for a refreshing morning drink was on my mind, looming as large as the werewolf in the bathhouse, but

See Train Page 12







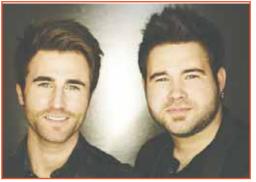
The Tuckasegee River seen from the train.

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LOUISA Arts CENTER PRESENTS:

The Swon Brothers



January 25, 7:30pm, \$37 All Seats

Coming from the hit show "The Voice," The Swon Brothers were the first country duo to make it to the finals with the help from their coach, Blake Shelton. Since then, they've received a CMA nomination for "Vocal Duo of the Year," and spent a year touring with Carrie Underwood. With hits like "Later On,""This Side of Heaven," and "Pretty Beautiful," this is a country show you won't want to miss!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

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Train from page 11 —

our trusty canine companion showed up again, and I felt quite a bit relieved that at least there would be a witness to our possible demise.

As is usually the case when catastrophizing, nothing bad happened. The station was filled with excited people. The clanging movement of the trains, the huffing of the train whistle, and the enticing smell of rich coffee put us back in the mood for adventure. There was some blowing and stamping of feet, and I can't say that there weren't some wistful, envious glances at those ticket holders sitting smugly in the glassed-in cars, but we all climbed aboard and began the journey in our diesel locomotive through the Nantahala Gorge. As we headed out, we saw a steam locomotive-one of only two remaining in the United States--discharging billowing white clouds of steam as it embarked on its journey along the Tuckasegee **River**

Our four-hour excursion was a 32mile round trip with beauty and history at every turn. Especially enjoyable was experiencing up close the visual evidence of how difficult cutting this passageway through the mountains must have been. There is very little space between the rock face and the train, and we received repeated cautions

See Train Page 14



The train engine 711.



A native of Louisa, Monty Mongomery's work can best be described as emotional language created using his innate intuition about color and object relationships to connect with the viewer. His abstract work includes geometric shapes and vivid colors to combine urban sensory with his impressions of the natural landscape into pieces of art that capture attention and intrigue.

In the Gallery

The artwork will be in our gallery from September 27-November 22. The Purcell Gallery is open Tuesday-Friday from 12pm-4pm

LOUISA *Arts* **CENTER PRESENTS:** Wade Preston and the Movin' Out Band



Direct from Broadway, the Movin' Out Band is the ultimate tribute to Billy Joel! The band is led by Wade Preston and includes musicians from the original Broadway ensemble. This five-piece band plays hits like *"Uptown Girl," Piano Man,"* and *"Only the Good Die Young."*

January 11, 7:30pm, \$40 All Seats

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Health & Rehabilitation and Senior Living Services



David Mercer DNP, visits with Dogwood Village resident, Barbara Bonnell.

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Santa suit for adults and Elf ears for children
Refreshments provided

Santa Run will take place rain, snow, or shine!

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Grab your friends, family or co-workers and team up to fundraise for the Arc!

All proceeds support the programs and services that The Arc of the Piedmont provides for people in our community with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Train from page 12

about keeping our hands and heads inside the rails. It was thrilling to cross Fontana Lake, over the trestle; however signs of drought were distressingly evident. Water levels, which were supposed to be up to the base of the trees, were alarmingly low, and floating docks lay at steep angles stranded on the bare sand of the shrunken shore. Even so, the sparkling water and changing colors of the trees lining the lake were breathtaking.

During an hour-long stop at Nantahala Outdoor Center, we read a bit of the history of the Cherokee Indians and the trail of tears, and watched young kayakers learn the ropes on handling the Nantahala River (you have to be licensed to run the The Appalachian trail runs rapids). directly through this area, and hikers were crossing the river here, stopping to take advantage of the fabulous outfitter store and eating at the restaurant overlooking the river. When it was time to leave, I tried powerwalking to the front of the train to catch a picture, but before I made it to the front, the departure whistle began its warning blow. Only managing to take a quick snap of the conductor, I raced back to our compartment. We had been enjoined that the train left punctually, and cab fare back to the station would be a slap to the tune of \$120, so everyone complied.

On the return journey, everyone switched sides for a new perspective. We saw a cabin dating to the Civil War in a beautiful valley, caves that housed Indian tribes, and signs of recent landslides. Fallen trees were stacked closely to the railroad tracks, the chainsaw marks rigidly visible. Stacks of old railroad ties showed up at intervals, with ambitious seedlings attempting to take root in the cracks. The return journey was just as enjoyable and much warmer. After disembarking, we hoofed around town, visiting the shops we had missed the day before, then headed back to our bikes, our RV, and a restorative rest.

Wheels up saw us traveling to the historic Rex Theater in Galax, Va. Relatives had promised to introduce us to authentic mountain bluegrass music. For a mere \$5 each, we had a night of fun listening to the group 'Slate Mountain Ramblers'. People young and old danced the two-step on a wooden floor in front of the stage. A Grandma Clampett look-a-like joined in the hootenanny with a skirt-liftin', foot-stompin' flatfoot. We munched popcorn and M&Ms, wishing our joints were as welloiled as granny's so we could shake a leg! The event was broadcast live on the radio, and the raw trueness of the mountain music was so authentic it made our teeth hurt a little-but we were sorry the evening ended so soon and purchased a CD to enjoy on the journey back home.

Each traveler's journey will be filled with the idiosyncrasies that chance and personal persuasion bring; maybe a comfortable hotel and a glassed-in train car is more your speed. Either way, give this destination in our neighboring state a look-see. Check out: www.gsmr.com In November and December, a Polar Express, and an Uncorked Expedition are offered.



The power of the rushing rapids.



Double houseboats on Fontana Lake.



Pretty and gnarly pumpkins at the Farmer's Market near Grumpy Bear Campground.



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FOR SALE

FOURTH ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF CONTEST: and lunch at Bethel Baptist Church, 227 Bethel Church Road, Palmyra, VA 22963 on Sunday, November 10 at 12 Noon. This competition is free and open to all interested chefs. Award for first and second place prizes. Free lunch ! Contact Scott David (757) 254-9778 or email: scottneh810@gmail.com , for more info.

ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER at Scottsville United Methodist Church, 158 E. Main Street in Scottsville, Saturday, November 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults -\$10, Children 7 to12 - \$6, Children under 6 – free. Serving Turkey with all the fixings/dressing/gravy, cranberry sauce/mashed potatoes & yams, green beans, rolls and variety of homemade desserts. Live music: Four Hits and a Miss. All are welcome! Take out is available.

FOR SALE

WOOD BURNING STOVE: England Solid Fuel Burning Room Heater. Model 24-FC/24-AC. You pick up in Lake Monticello. Call (434) 589-2651. Make an Offer!

CEMETERY SITES: Holly Memorial Gardens and Monticello Memory Gardens. Significant savings. Call (434) 295-1750.

HELP WANTED

FLUVANNA SELF STORAGE: Part-time, 20 hours per week; Reliable; Both office and outdoor tasks; Strong Customer service; both in person and on phone; Computer skills ; Call (434) 589-2222 or email: manager@storeFSS.com

RENTALS

MONTICELLO PROPERTIES: For current home rentals call (434) 589-7653 for Genevieve or email:MonticelloPropertiesMgt@gmail.c om

THISTLE GATE VINEYARD: Reserve Thistle Gate Vineyard for your next organization or private event. Located at 5199

RENTALS

W. River Road, Scottsville, VA. We are a family-owned and tended vineyard. Contact Leslie at (434) 327-3137 or leslie@thistlegatevineyard.com.

SERVICES

HEALING/WELLNESS THERAPIES: In your home. Reflexology. Reiki. Hypnotherapy. Ion Detox. Tuning Fork Sound Frequency. Crystal Therapy. Energy Center Re-balance. Call (434) 391-3366 for appointment.

EQUINE HEALING THERAPIES: At your barn. Lame. Laminitis, Colic Emergencies. Reiki. Crystal Healing. Neuromuscular Touch. Sound Frequency. Chakra Re-balance. Call (434) 391-3366 for appointment.

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HEARING AIDES! Medical-Grade Hearing Aids for less than \$200! FDA-registered. Crisp, clear sound, state of-the-art features & no audiologist needed. Try it RISK FREE for 45 days Days! Call 1-(855) 408-4459.

KNEE, BACK or JOINT PAIN? If you are suffering from joint pain maybe a pain relieving Orthotic Brace can help! We handle the paperwork! Call now 1(855) 496-7716.

Answers to the Crossword Puzzle from page 11



SERVICES

DAVID ROWE'S TREE, YARD & HANDY-MAN SERVICE: Carpentry, painting, power washing, gutter work, fencing, tree work, reseeding, fertilizing, mulching & more. Fully insured. Call for a free estimate 540-937-2144 or 540-522-1662.

LOHR'S PIANO SALES & SERVICE: Reliable quality tuning and repair with 40 years experience. Also offering good used and new pianos priced reasonably. Call 540-672-5388, evenings. Depend on Lohr's for your piano needs.

SPECIAL NOTICES

ATTENTION VETERANS AND DEPEND-ENTS: Do you know your Veterans Benefits? We do! Virginia Department of Veterans Services, https://www.dvs.virginia.gov or, https://www.virginiaforveterans.com. Need Help? Call 1(800) 827-1000, M-F, from 8 a.m to 9 p.m., Veterans Affairs Benefits and Services. Or phone: (434) 529-6431.

WANTED

OLD COINS: I buy old coins. 434-466-7968.

HELP WANTED

PART-TIME REPORTER



OC Magazine

NEEDS A PART- TIME REPORTER

OC Magazine is currently seeking a part-time reporter to write about Orange County's rich history and interesting people.

Please email resume with samples of writing, to: valleyeditor1@gmail.com

Carlos Santos, Publisher



Community Heart & Soul[®] A project of the Orange Downtown Alliance, Inc.

By actively seeking the collective wisdom of all residents, including those whose voices are often missing, Community Heart & Soul brings people together to build stronger, healthier, and more economically vibrant communities. This resident-driven model takes into account both the unique character of a town and the deep emotional connection of the people who live there — a town's "Heart & Soul[®]." Because the model is resident-driven, Community Heart & Soul builds stronger, healthier, and more vibrant small cities and towns based on what matters most to everyone.

The Town of Orange has been selected as the first Virginia community to field the Community Heart & Soul program, and the Orange Downtown Alliance is serving as the proponent for the program. OD is looking for interested volunteers to join our team and serve as leaders and connectors. Together, we can build a vibrant, economically viable future for Orange.

To learn more, contact ODA at **540.672.2540**, or send an email to **odaexecd@gmail.com**

