

WINTER 2025
**ON THE
VINE**

CAROLINA WINE COUNTRY NEWS

DYNAMIS NOMINATED FOR 'AMERICAN WINERY OF THE YEAR'

NEW RESTAURANT, BREWERY OPENS IN YADKINVILLE

SURRY WINTER WINE PASSPORTS NOW AVAILABLE

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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ON THE VINE

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ON THE COVER:

In the barrel room at Dynamis Estate Winery in Jonesville.

PHOTO BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

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WELCOME TO WINTER

let's get cozy



**KITSEY
BURNS
HARRISON**

Welcome to the Winter edition of On The Vine. I hope you spent a fabulous fall season with us here in the Yadkin Valley, as there was plenty to see, do and sip; and that you have plans to keep cozy with us as temperatures drop.

If you're looking for that perfect holiday gift for your wine-loving friends, be sure to check out the Surry Winter Wine & Beer Passport. It is truly the gift that keeps on giving all winter with tastings at eight area wineries, and four breweries, as well as other dining and lodging discounts.

In this edition you'll also read about all the fun we had this fall with special events like Mount Airy's

Autumn Leaves Festival and Elkin's new music fest. Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's celebrations!

Also in this edition we're featuring Pages bookstore in Mount Airy, a great place to grab coffee, wine and your new favorite read. The shop also features great author events. Nationwide bestselling author Hank Phillippi Ryan made a stop there in September to debut her newest thriller.

In truly thrilling news

for the Yadkin Valley wine region, Dynamis Estate Winery, in Jonesville, has been nominated by Wine Enthusiast magazine as "American Winery of the Year."

Don't let the winter blues get your down this season, make your way to wine country and see all we have to offer for a special cozy season!

Cheers!

Kitsey Burns Harrison,
Editor

ON THE VINE

CAROLINA WINE COUNTRY NEWS



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Bestselling AUTHOR visits Mount Airy BOOKSTORE

BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON | kburns@yadkinripple.com

USA Today Bestselling author Hank Phillippi Ryan made a visit to local bookstore Pages in Mount Airy on Sept. 22 as part of the shop's 'Between the Wines' event. Pages hosts weekly book clubs, author visits and more. During Ryan's visit she spoke about her newest thriller, "All This Could Be Yours" which debuted Sept. 9.

"All This Could Be Yours" is billed as a cat-and-mouse thriller about a debut author with a widely successful book, but her whirlwind national book tour takes a sinister turn when she realizes she is being stalked by someone who seems too eager to reveal secrets from her past.

Luckily, for Ryan, she is not being stalked on her own book tour, but she is no stranger to being in tense situations. Ryan also has a career as an investigative journalist where for the past 40 years she has worked to uncover crime.

"I've wired myself with hidden cameras and confronted corrupt politicians and chased down criminals and gone undercover and in disguise as an investigative reporter," she said. Those experiences, Ryan said, color the work she does in her career as a writer of crime fiction.

Her latest book was inspired, she said, from a conversation at a book signing, when she realized her notation in a reader's book could potentially serve as a future alibi for both herself and the reader. That brief interaction led to her write a story about an author on a book tour.

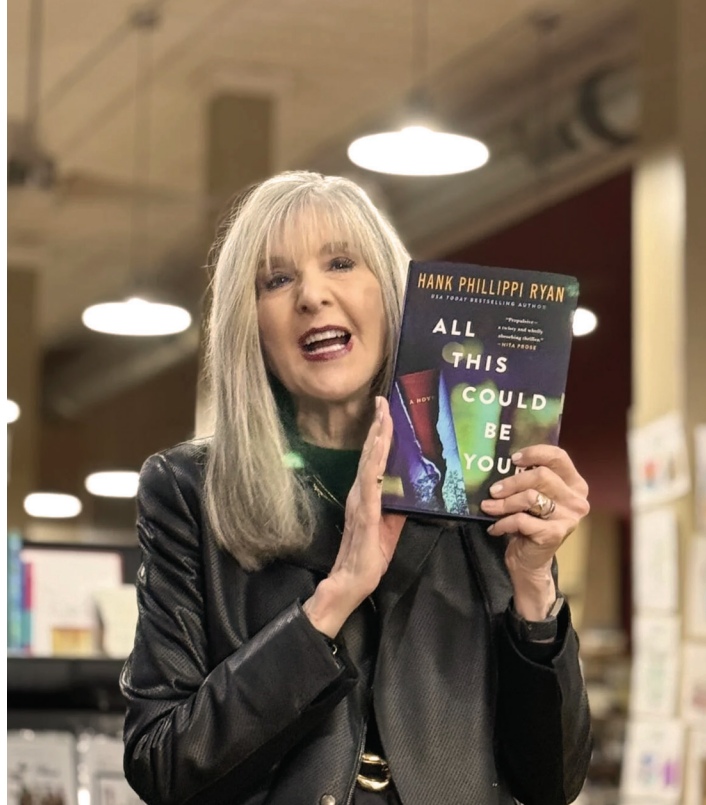


PHOTO BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

Author Hank Phillippi Ryan visits Pages Bookstore in Mount Airy to speak as its 'Between the Wines' book event about her newest thriller.

Ryan said she loves the process of writing. She called it "a joy and an honor" and "a surprise every day." She described sitting at her desk in Boston looking out the window at the sugar maple in her yard and "hearing voices" of her characters as she writes, though it is largely a solitary process. Once the book is complete and she can introduce it to readers, Ryan said, "it's like walking into the sunshine after a cloudy day."

"I'm convinced that the book isn't fully realized until someone reads it," Ryan said.

She greatly values the "connection between the author and the reader" and said, ahead of the Pages event, that she looking forward to her visit to Mount Airy. While Ryan has visited North Carolina before, this was her first time in "Mayberry."

"North Carolina is somehow the book center of the universe," Ryan said. "The appreciative and smart and intelligent readers seem to congregate in North Carolina and





PHOTO BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

Pages bookshop owner Cynthia Taylor with author Hank Phillippi Ryan and book/author promoter Barbara Collins. Collins has been instrumental in bringing authors to visit local bookstores, libraries and wineries.

it is really one of my most favorite places to visit.”

Ryan said she always feels welcome and embraced when she visits North Carolina and gets the chance to spend time with its readers. While her newest novel was written to be, and is, a cat-and-mouse thriller, she said it’s more than that.

“It turned out to also be a love letter to independent bookstores and libraries and especially to readers,” Ryan said.

Several area wineries in the Yadkin Valley have begun hosting their own book clubs and author events, bringing together both wine lovers and readers.

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Jonesville WINERY

nominated for 'American Winery
of the Year' by Wine Enthusiast

PHOTO BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON
Cabernet Sauvignon on the vine at Dynamis Estate Wines, located at 1004 Highland Road, Jonesville.

BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

kburns@yadkinripple.com

Dynamis Estate Wines, located in Jonesville, has been nominated for the prestigious American Winery of the Year honor by Wine Enthusiast magazine. It is the only North Carolina winery to be selected among the five nominees.

Dynamis was founded in 2019 at a historic property in Jonesville that was the former Highland Orchards which operated from 1910 to 1975, growing apples, peaches and grains. After decades of dormancy, the 1,500-acre property was purchased by a private owner who planed thirty acres of grapes in 2015 to 2017.

Local winemakers Matheson Worrell and Katy Kidd had used grapes from the property to produce wines for another area winery, which then led to a vision for a



The Mountain, one of the Dynamis Estate Wines, premier wines.

PHOTO BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON



PHOTO BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

Dynamis co-owner and Vineyard Manager Joseph Geller leads a tour and tasting in the vineyard.

luxury winery located at the site that features soil producing excellent wine grapes. The vineyard's location, at 1,640 feet above sea-level, also offers excellent growing conditions.

The hard work and dedication to old-world techniques paired with modern precision has paid off for Dynamis with recognition from Wine Enthusiast.

"This recognition validates the vision we had long ago to create world-class that speak with the voice of this mountain," said Worrell. "From day one, we combined Burgundian discipline with Appalachian resilience, and today our wines carry both precision and soul."

"Wine is a story," explained Kidd, at a media event held recently to announce their nomination. Both she and Worrell spoke about their desire to stay true to wine making techniques employed for generations upon generations and using the terroir of this unique site in the Yadkin Valley to produce not only award-winning wines, but wines that

will be celebrated and shared by families and friends around their tables.

Vineyard Manager Joseph Geller shared details about the rocky soil where the vines are planted that make for excellent drainage. The height of the location is another unique feature that provides some protection from heavy frosts as the cold will often settle in low-lying areas.

Dynamis differs from other local wineries, with its focus on seated tastings that provide an elevated guest experience. Dynamis' wine club is a special experience, too, as members enjoy wine pick-up parties at the luxury home located on property with live music, food and more.

Wine Enthusiast magazine is set to announce the winner of American Winery of the Year, as well as other wine awards, in November.

To learn more about Dynamis Estate Wines or to schedule a tasting or tour, visit Dynamisestatewines.com.



PHOTO BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

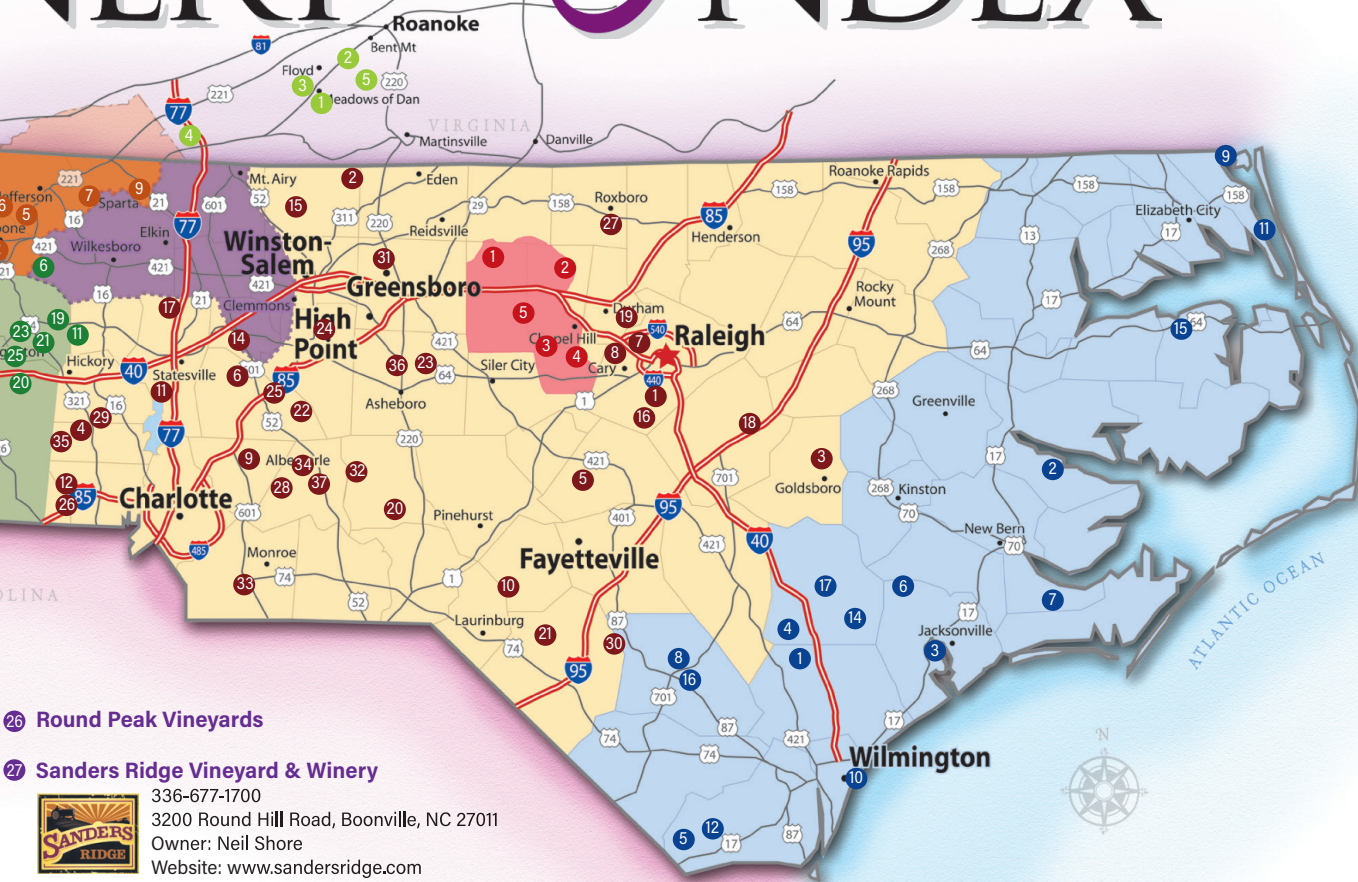
Co-owner and Winemaker Katy Kidd in the barrel room at Dynamis Estate Wines in Jonesville.



PHOTO BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

Dynamis co-owner and Winemaker Matheson Worrell in the barrel room.

WINE INDEX



26 Round Peak Vineyards

27 Sanders Ridge Vineyard & Winery



336-677-1700
3200 Round Hill Road, Boonville, NC 27011
Owner: Neil Shore
Website: www.sandersridge.com
Hours: Thur-Sun 12pm-5pm

39 Serre Vineyards

28 Shelton Vineyards



336-366-4724
286 Cabernet Lane, Dobson, NC 27017
Owner: R. Edwin Shelton
Winemaker: Gill Giese
Website: www.sheltonvineyards.com
Location: Surry County — I-77 to Exit 93 Dobson. Turn right, then take first right onto Twin Oaks Rd. Go 2.5 miles to the Shelton Vineyards entrance on the right.

36 Skull Camp Wines

29 Slightly Askew Winery



336-835-2700
913 N. Bridge Street, Elkin, NC 28621
Owners: Tim Gentry and Karen Defreitas
Website: www.slightlyaskewwines.com
Location: Surry County — Take Exit 85 from I-77. West on 268 bypass (CC Camp Rd) .9 miles turn left on S-21 (N Bridge St.) go .8 miles, winery on right (yellow house).
Wine List: Large selection of wines. 20+ wines from semi-dry to Dry Whites and Reds, and large selection of Fruit/Sweet wines

30 Stony Knoll Vineyards

31 Surry Community College Winery

32 Sweet Home Carolina Vineyard & Winery

33 Weathervane Winery

34 Westbend Winery & Brewery

SWAN CREEK AVA

1 Dobbins Creek Vineyards

2 Laurel Gray Vineyards

3 Midnight Magdalena Vineyards

4 Piccione Vineyards



336-571-1024
2364 Cedar Forest Rd., Ronda, NC 28670
Email: info@piccionewine.com

Tasting Room Hours: Every day 12:00 to 6:00pm. Last call at 5:30pm
Live Music Almost Every Weekend. Check our events at piccionevineyards.com or visit us at



5 Raffaldini Vineyards & Winery, LLC



336-835-9463
450 Groce Road, Ronda, NC 28670
Website: www.raffaldini.com
Email: info@raffaldini.com
Hours: Sunday 12pm-5pm
Monday 11pm-5pm
Wednesday - Saturday 11am-5pm

6 Shadow Springs Vineyard

7 Windsor Run Winery & Distillery

8 Stardust Cellars



336-466-4454
1202 Curtis Bridge Road,
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
Website: www.stardustcellars.com
Owner: Nick von Cosmos

Hours: Thursday 4pm-9pm, Friday 4pm-10pm, Saturday 2pm-10pm, Sunday 2pm-8pm

9 Dynamis Estate Wines



336-468-6702
1004 Highland Road
Jonesville, NC 28642
Winemakers: Matheson Worrell & Katy Kidd
Website: www.dynamisestatewines.com
Hours: Wed - Sat 11am - 5pm, Sun Noon - 5pm

10 Castello Barone

11 Sotrio Vineyards and Winery

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PIEDMONT REGION

- 1 Adams Vineyards and Winery
- 2 Autumn Creek Vineyard
- 3 A Secret Garden Winery
- 4 Baker Buffalo Creek Vineyard & Winery
- 5 Black Rock Vineyards
- 6 Cauble Creek Vineyard
- 7 Chatham Hill Winery
- 8 Cloer Family Vineyards
- 9 Cougar Run Winery
- 10 Cypress Bend Vineyards

11  **Daveste Vineyards**
704-528-3882 info@daveste.com
155 Lytton Farm Rd., Troutman, NC 28166
Website: www.davestevineyards.com
Tasting Room & Art Gallery
Vineyard, Winery, Brewery and Event Venue. Offering dry to semi-sweet wines in both red and white varieties of grape.

- 12 Fiddler's Vineyard
- 14 Garden Gate Vineyards
- 15 Germanton Vineyard & Winery
- 16 Gregory Vineyards
- 17 Grietje's Garden Vineyard & Small Event Venue
- 18 Hinnant Family Vineyard
- 19 Honeygirl Meadery
- 20 Little River Wines
- 21 Locklear Vineyards & Winery
- 22 Morgan Ridge Vineyards & Brewhouse
- 23 Native Son Vineyard and Farm
- 24 Old Homeplace Vineyard
- 25 Old Stone Winery
- 26 Owl's Eye Vineyard & Winery LLC
- 27 Rock of Ages Winery
- 28 Rocky River Vineyards
- 29 Southern Charm Winery
- 30 Stephens Vineyard & Winery
- 31 Stonefield Cellars

32  **Stony Mountain Vineyards**
704-982-0922
26370 Mountain Ridge Road,
Albemarle, NC 28001
Website: www.stonymountainvineyards.com
Owners: Ken, Marie and Devron Furr
Location: Stanly County — Take Hwy 24-27 East from Albemarle.
Turn left at Stone Mountain sign. Turn right on Mountain Ridge Rd.

PIEDMONT REGION

- 33 Treehouse Vineyards
- 34 Uwharrie Vineyards
- 35 Woodmill Winery
- 36 Zimmerman Vineyards
- 37 Dennis Vineyards

COASTAL REGION

- 1 Bannerman Vineyard And Winery
- 2 Bennett Vineyards
- 3 Botticelli Vineyards
- 4 Duplin Winery
- 5 Grapefull Sisters Vineyard
- 6 Huffman Vineyards Winery & Mirey Creek Gifts
- 7 Lake Road Winery

8  **Lu Mil Vineyard**
910-866-5819
438 Suggs-Taylor Road,
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
Website: www.lumilvineyard.com
Owner: Ron Taylor
Tasting Room Hours: Monday - Saturday (10am - 6pm) &
Sunday (1pm - 6pm)
Wine List: Old Cumberland, Taylor Divine, Bladen Blush, Harmony Hall, Cape Owen Red, Merry Christmas, Sir Walter Raleigh, Red Sangria and White Sangria

- 9 Martin Vineyards
- 10 Noni Bacca Winery
- 11 Sanctuary Vineyards

12  **Silver Coast Winery**
910-287-2800
6680 Barbeque Rd.,
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
Southport Tasting Room
910-777-5151
105 S. Howe St., Southport NC 28461
Owners: John and Maryann Azzato
Website: www.silvercoastwinery.com
Location: Brunswick County — From Hwy. 17 (7 mi. north of S.C. border) take Hwy. 904 west. After 1.5 miles, take right on Rustown Rd. After 1.5 miles, take 4th right on Barbeque Rd.

14 The Tippy Bee

15 Vineyards on the Scuppernong, LLC

16  **Cape Fear Vineyard & Winery**
Winery Address: 195 Vineyard Drive
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
Phone (844) VINE-FUN
Monday - Sunday Lunch 11:30 am - 4 pm
Wednesday - Saturday Dinner 5:00 pm - 9 pm
Website: www.CapeFearWinery.com

- 17 The Country Squire Restaurant,
Inn & Winery

HAW RIVER AVA

- 1 Grove Winery
- 2 Iron Gate Vineyards & Winery
- 3 Silk Hope Winery
- 4 Starrlight Mead
- 5 Wolfe Wines

MOUNTAIN REGION

- 1 Addison Farms Vineyard
- 3 Biltmore Estate Winery
- 4 Burntshirt Vineyards
- 5 Calaboose Cellars
- 6 Cerminaro Vineyard
- 7 Cherokee Cellars Winery
- 8 Eagle Fork Vineyards
- 9 Elk Mountain Winery
- 10 FernCrest Winery
- 11 Ginger Creek Vineyards
- 12 Green Creek Winery
- 14 Mountain Brook Vineyards
- 15 Nottely River Valley Vineyards
- 16 Overmountain Vineyards
- 17 Parker-Binns Vineyard
- 18 Saint Paul Mountain Vineyards
- 19 Shadow Line Vineyard
- 20 Silver Fork Vineyard & Winery
- 21 Six Waterpots Vineyard & Winery
- 22 South Creek Vineyards
- 23 Twisted Vine Winery
- 24 Valley River Vineyards
- 25 Waldensian Heritage Wines
- 26 Lake James Cellars

APPALACHIAN HIGH COUNTRY AVA

- 1 Banner Elk Winery and Villa
- 2 Grandfather Vineyard & Winery
- 3 Linville Falls Winery
- 4 Plumtree Valley Vineyards
- 5 Raven Rock Vineyards
- 6 Spencer Mountain Vineyards
- 7 Thistle Meadow Winery
- 8 Watauga Lake Winery and Vineyards
423-768-0345 or 423-768-3633
6952 Big Dry Run Road, Butler, TN 37640
Website: www.WataugaLakeWinery.com
- 9  **Williamson Mead and Brewing**
661-827-7290
3047 Shawtown Rd, Glade Valley, NC 28627
Wed - Fri 12pm-6pm Sat 11am - 7pm; Sun 11am - 6pm
Website: www.williamsonbrewing.com

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA REGION

- 2 Chateau Morrisette
- 3 Foggy Ridge Cider
- 4 Mt. Vale Vineyards
- 5 Villa Appalachia

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WINE SYMPOSIUM

set for Nov. 20 at SCC



The 2025 Southeastern United Grape and Wine Symposium is set to run on Thursday, Nov. 20, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Surry Community College.

This year's event is designed to explore the theme "Taste the Story: Connecting with Consumers through Education." Doors will open at 8 a.m. for registration, breakfast, and the opportunity to meet with sponsors.

The symposium is being presented by Surry Community College's Shelton-Badgett N.C. Center for Viticulture & Enology on Surry's Dobson campus. This center serves the grape and wine industry, not only in North Carolina, but the entire Southeast by providing workforce training and industry support. The symposium was created to address the needs of winegrower professionals in the Southeastern U.S. and is a direct result of SCC's mission to provide hands-on, technical education programs in the viticulture and enology industry.

"When you really think about it, we know so much about producing high quality

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1 Yadkin Cultural Arts Center

Yadkin Cultural Arts Center
226 East Main Street
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Website: YadkinArts.org
Phone: 336-679-2941
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2 Barn Star

3 Jonesville Tourism Development

4 Underdown Ball Real Estate

5 Lewis Furniture



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101 East Main Street
Elkin, NC 28621
Phone: 336-258-8077
Website: WisdomTable.com
Email: Info@WisdomTable.com
Dining starts at 5:30pm.
Weekly menus can be found at WisdomTable.com
Wed - Fri 5:30pm - 9:00pm
Sat 2:00pm-9:00pm

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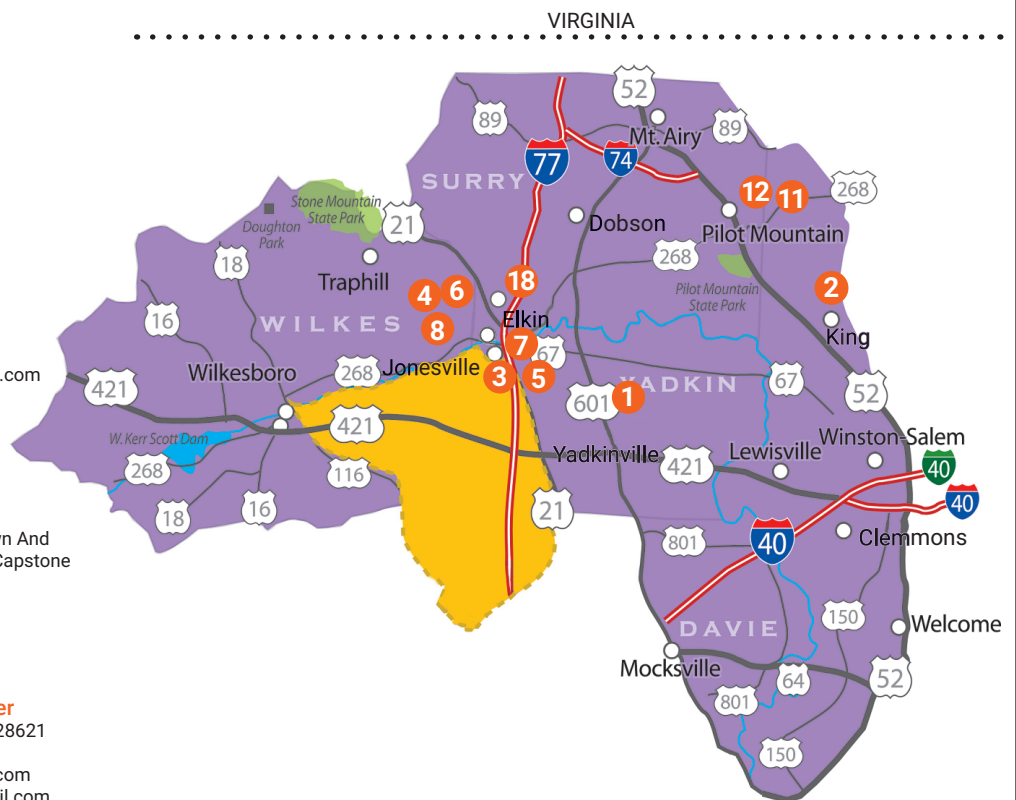
8 Yadkin Valley Chamber of Commerce

11 Mount Pilot Antique Mall

12 Econo Lodge Inn & Suites

18 Cypress Trails Event Center

157 Interstate Way, Elkin, NC 28621
Phone: 910-574-5396
Website: cypresstrailsevents.com
Email: cypresstrailstara@gmail.com



TNNC261920-1



The Surry Community College Shelton-Badgett N.C. Center for Viticulture & Enology is the location for the Southeastern United Grape and Wine Symposium on Thursday, Nov. 20, featuring noted speakers and a Grand Wine Tasting. Learn more and register online at symposium.surry.edu.

products, but the industry is struggling to remain relevant with consumers,” said Sarah Bowman, viticulture instructor at the college. “There are many aspects to the grape and wine industry, and the consumer matters every step of the way. This event is intended for professionals in every facet of the grape and wine industry, and it’s important that we work together as a whole to better understand each part of the process from beginning to end, from the farm to the family table.”

Symposium presenters this year include Paul Wagner, instructor for the Viticulture and Winery Technology Department at Napa Valley College; Jodi Songer Driedger, director of undergraduate programs at North Carolina State University’s Horticultural Science Department; Sarah Lowder, extension viticulture specialist and assistant professor at University of Georgia’s Department of Horticulture; Drew Harner, extension specialist and assistant professor of viticulture at Virginia Tech’s School of Plant and Environmental Sciences; Nicole Chesney, executive director of the NC Wine & Grape Council; Jay Cummins, representative for Waterloo Container; and Lexie McDaniel, viticulture research scholar at NC State Extension. Topics for talks include viticulture education, Southeastern grape breeding

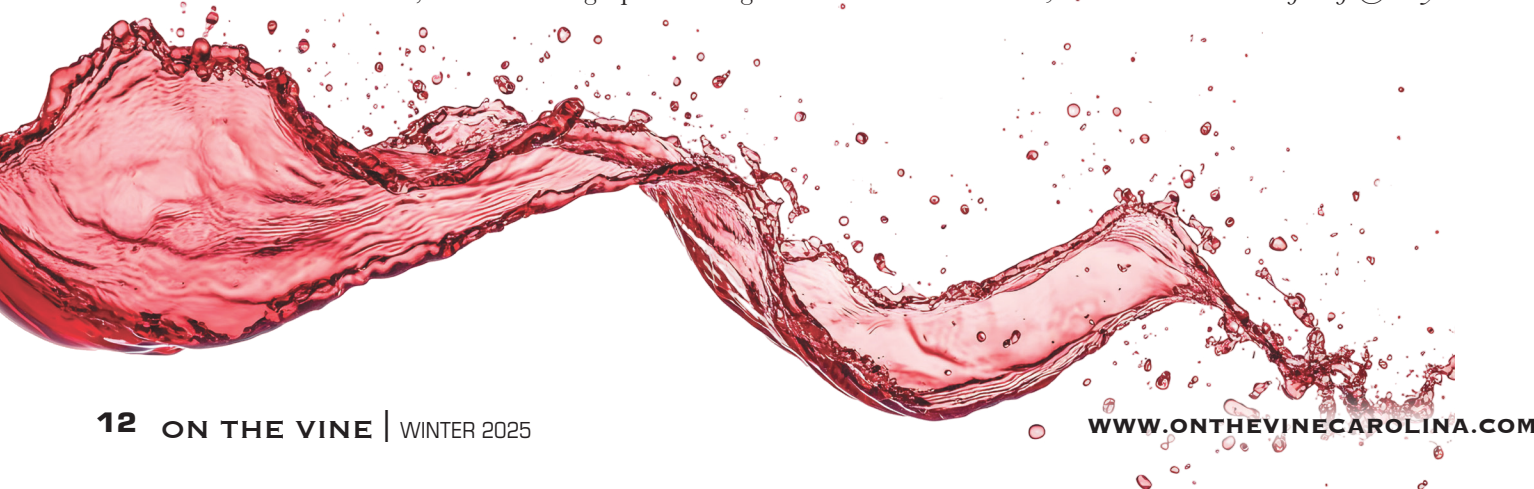
projects, NCSU current research projects, closure selection, and marketing strategies within the North Carolina wine industry.

“When people learn the ‘why’ behind a wine, the connection deepens,” adds David Bower, SCC enology instructor. “Today’s consumers aren’t just looking for a flavor—they’re looking for a story that mirrors their own experiences. Whether it’s commitment, struggle, creativity, inclusion, or simply hard work, education gives wineries the power to make those stories resonate.”

This event will also include a Grand Wine Tasting from 5 to 7 p.m. This event is at the heart of the symposium, serving wines from all around the Southeast United States, according to organizers. Food will also be provided. Additionally, industry networking will take place in the winery at 4:15 p.m. with sampling of Surry Cellars wine.

Online registration is open. The cost is \$125 for this event, including the Grand Wine Tasting, or \$50 for the Grand Wine Tasting only. Register at symposium.surry.edu.

Anyone with questions about the program, contact Jeff Jones, sciences division chair, at 336-386-3391 or jonesjr@surry.edu.



ELKIN ROCKS

with first ever
Milltown music fest

BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON | kburns@yadkinripple.com

Elkin's Milltown Get Down brought music-lovers out to enjoy two days of live performances at multiple venues downtown on Oct. 10-11. This new event was a reincarnation of the popular Reevestock Music Festival which began in 2011 at a private venue, Elkin's hidden amphitheater on Ivy Circle.

"Milltown Get Down was great!," said Explore Elkin's Natalie Eidson. "It was amazing to see the stages at the Heritage Center used to their full potential and we're looking forward to watching the festival grow in its new downtown Elkin footprint."

Performances took place at both stages near the Heritage Center on Standard St. as well as The Reeves Theater, the Farmers Market shelter and the Railyard. This year's lineup featured headlines Shadowgrass on Friday night and The Nude Party on Saturday. Other performers heard throughout the weekend included Paul McDonald & The Mourning Doves, Charlie Hunter Trio, Gabe Lee, Michael Daves and Jacob Jolliff, Holler Choir, Maia Kamil, Mason Via, and ZG Smith.

Sam Tayloe, founder of both Reevestock and the Milltown Get Down, also performed with his band Time Sawyer.

DaShawn and Wendy Hickman present: Sacred Steel, was also part of the weekend. A Surry County native, pedal steel player DaShawn Hickman is recently returned from a run on television's popular America's Got Talent where he performed with a four-member band headed by Steve Ray Ladson.

Also performing during this inaugural Milltown Get Down festival were Emanuel Wynter, Drew Foust and The Wheelhouse, The Hotz, The Burchette Guitar Hour, and Joe's Cousin.

"We had a great turnout and truly appreciate the support of our community and sponsors," added Eidson.

The 2026 Milltown Get Down is slated for Oct. 9-10, 2026. Visit milltowngetdown.com for updates on the line-up of musicians for next year.



PHOTO BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

Festival-goers in Elkin for the first-ever Milltown Get Down music festival.



PHOTO BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

Paul McDonald and The Mourning Doves perform on the River Stage in downtown Elkin at the first-ever Milltown Get Down music festival.

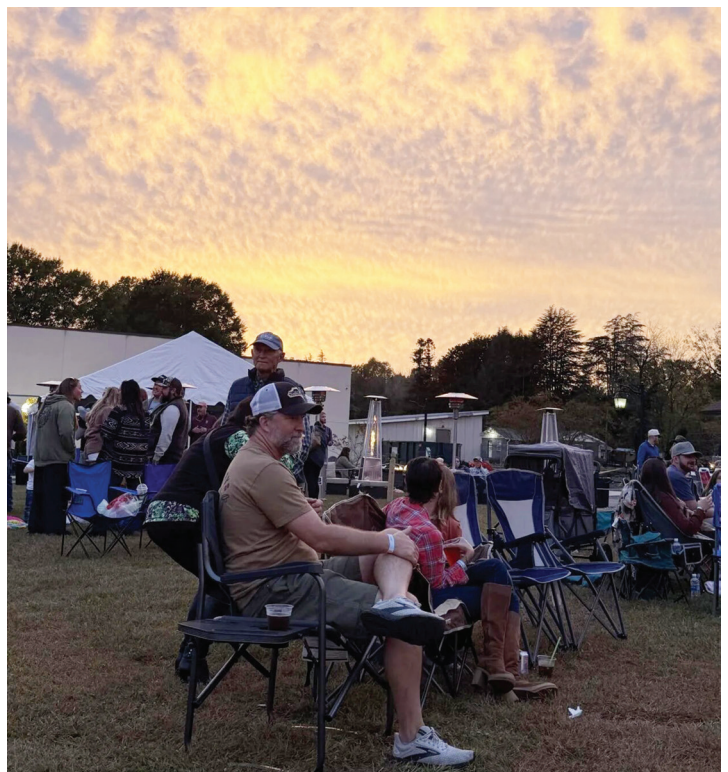


PHOTO BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

A perfectly painted sky sets the backdrop for Saturday evening's live performances at the River Stage as part of the first Milltown Get Down music festival in Elkin.

Sip and savor this winter with the SURRY WINTER WINE & BEER PASSPORT

The Yadkin Valley Winter Wine & Beer Passport provides a season full of tastings at wineries and breweries in the towns of Dobson, Elkin and Mount Airy.

The program begins the day after Thanksgiving (Nov. 28) and runs through March 29, 2026.

Purchasers of a Yadkin Valley Winter Wine & Beer Passport receive either one or two tastings at each of 12 participating locations. There are eight wineries and four breweries. Passport holders also receive discounts at local restaurants, accommodations and merchants.

Participating wineries for 2025-2026 are: Adagio Vineyards, Carolina Heritage Vineyard, Christian Paul Vineyards, Elkin Creek Vineyard, Grassy Creek Vineyard, Haze Gray Vineyards, Roaring River Vineyards, and Shelton Vineyards.

Breweries are: Angry Troll Brewing, Thirsty Souls Community Brewing, and White Elephant Beer Company.

The passport has an estimated retail value of \$350 and makes a great gift for holidays, birthdays, anniversaries and romantic getaways.

Early bird passport rates for winter 2025-2026 are \$95 for an individual passport and \$150 for a two-person passport. Early bird rates are only available from Oct. 15 through Nov. 27.

Regular rates for the 2025-2026 winter season are \$110 for an individual passport and \$175 for a two-person passport.

Lodging discounts at 10 properties as well as discounts at local restaurants and retailers are also included.

Passport holders are encouraged to make their visit a weekend getaway or multi-day stay. Lodging discounts of 10% or more are available at the following accommodations: Byrd's Branch Campground, Elkin Creek Cabins at Elkin Creek Vineyard, Fairfield Inn & Suites Elkin, Hampton Inn & Suites Dobson, Klondike Cabins at Grassy Creek Winery, Mayberry Motor Inn, The Rockford Inn, Six28 House Bed & Breakfast, Hampton Inn in Jonesville, and Three Trails Boutique Hotel.

For more information about the passport, call the Yadkin Valley Chamber at 336-526-1111.



PHOTO BY SAM DEAN

Elkin Creek Vineyard is among the participants in the Winter Wine Passport event.



PHOTO BY SAM DEAN

Wine lovers enjoy a cozy time at a local winery during the annual Winter Passport event.

Autumn Leaves FESTIVAL

showcases community spirit

BY TOM JOYCE | tjoyce@mtairynews.com

Downtown Mount Airy streets were filled with people, music, artisans/crafters offering every product imaginable and food galore during the weekend-long Autumn Leaves Festival, which celebrated its 59th year Oct. 10-12.

While the three-day event is spearheaded by the Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce, chamber CEO and President Ashly Lancaster made it known during an opening ceremony Friday morning that it really belongs to the people.

"This is our festival," Lancaster said with emphasis from the WPAQ Bandstand where more than 30 bluegrass, old-time, gospel and Americana groups would perform throughout the weekend.

CHAMBER WEATHER

Even before the official start of the annual fall gathering on Oct. 10, it seemed as though every square inch of space downtown was filled with vendor stations and people of all ages from near and far.

And that was the case throughout the weekend, aided by no rain in the forecast and pleasant weather in general, although morning temperatures were cool before giving way to warmth — what Lancaster called "beautiful fall North Carolina" days.

"The turnout is already looking great — we could not have asked for better weather for the weekend," City Manager Darren Lewis remarked the first day of festival while strolling through the central business district.

Around 200 vendors were to be found there, offering items ranging from artwork, candles, pottery, jewelry and tie-dyes to leather goods, wood creations, toys, clay works, cotton creations and everything in between.

Ellie's Slime Emporium, operated by two teen-age sisters from Concord with help from their mom, Amber Nelson, was a new festival attraction this year.

"We're excited," Nelson said of the chance to offer a variety of slime products featuring gooey substances of liquid and solid qualities treasured for both their amusement and therapeutic value.

The slime world is especially popular among young girls and Nelson was awaiting the end of classes Friday afternoon "when the kids get here."

Another relatively new presence at the festival was Caricatures by Brian Vasilik, who drew cartoon-like figures of



PHOTO BY TOM JOYCE | THE NEWS

Folks make their way along a crowded North Main Street during the Autumn Leaves event.

folks as they came by his site on North Main Street.

"I was here last year," said Vasilik, who lives in Asheville and had made an effort to be part of the Autumn Leaves event, praising it as a "nice family festival."

Another out-of-towner there, Brian Schoppe of Mocksville, also had good things to say about the gathering.

"It's well-organized," Schoppe said, indicating that the festival was offering everything a person could wish for including conveniently placed restrooms.

Food also was an attraction, ground steak sandwiches prepared by the Flat Rock Ruritan Club, for example, where long lines were the norm at its location.

UNIVERSAL APPEAL

"The Autumn Leaves Festival is such a great event for our town," Downtown Business Association official Jennie Lowry said as she surveyed the scene.

"It brings so many new faces to experience our businesses and our music — and also old friends," she commented.

During the opening ceremony, emcee Tim Frye asked for a show of hands among the crowd watching for anyone who had been to every Autumn Leaves Festival since it began in 1966.

No one except Frye had that distinction, and he complimented teams of volunteers over the years who have kept it extremely viable in a changing world.

As Mayor Jon Cawley pointed out Friday in reading a proclamation in honor of the event, it began as a celebration of tobacco and apple harvesting seasons coming to an end.

Now it revels in the breathtaking autumn season in the North Carolina foothills.

"It's turned into one of the biggest things in the southeastern United States," Frye observed, consistently ranked among the top-20 events in that region by the Southeast Tourism Society.

NEW RESTAURANT, BREWERY opens in downtown YADKINVILLE

Those visiting the Yadkin Valley will now have a new place to dine, and enjoy local beer with the opening of Muddy River Tavern, Brewery & Eatery.

A ceremonial ribbon cutting was held to celebrate the opening of a new restaurant, located at 121 South Monroe Street, in downtown Yadkinville in October.

Locally owned and operated, Muddy River offers a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere where friends and neighbors can enjoy delicious food and drinks, and genuine Southern hospitality. Muddy River will soon be offering handcrafted brews from its own Buck & Doe Brewery, featuring crisp lagers and bold ales brewed with pride on site in the Tavern.

The owners of Muddy River Tavern hope it will soon become a favorite spot for Yadkin County locals as well as visitors from neighboring counties.

Hours for Muddy River Tavern will be 4:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday; 4:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Friday; 12 noon to 11 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday; closed on Wednesday.



COURTESY PHOTO

New restaurant Muddy River Tavern is now open in downtown Yadkinville.

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