

Features

Apple Festival in Hendersonville

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Hendersonville's 54th annual Apple Festival celebrated small town life and the productive apple season.

The festival focus was on the apples, but also offered a unique display of crafts and a variety of music and entertainment.

The festival gave me a new appreciation for the culture of a small southern town. I felt like I had stepped back 50 years in time. The Appalachian mountain lifestyle is disappearing, but was briefly resurrected only 30 minutes away from Asheville.

The main reason for the festival is the celebration of the apple. Henderson County produces approximately four million bushels of apples each year. The apple orchards cover about 5,000 acres of the county.

The streets were lined with vendors from apple orchards across Henderson County. I had never realized how many different varieties of apples exist. It turns out there are over 100, and more are being developed. The most popular varieties are Golden Delicious, Red Delicious, Granny Smith, Jonagold



PHOTO BY JUSTIN MECKES

Downtown Hendersonville festival attracted WNC fans. and Honeycrisp.

If you are wondering what you could do with all of these apples, the fine folks from Otanola Farm, a local 100-acre orchard, can help. They offered applesauce, apple juice, apple cider, caramel apples, apple chips and even apple cider slushies.

The apple cider slushies were better than I expected, and the apple pies put the grocery store variety to shame. The rest of the food offered was typical carnival food, including cotton candy, Polish sausages and funnel cakes.

The crafts were also an attraction of the festival. Artists of all disci-

plines lined the sidewalk to create their crafts before an audience. Glass blowers and basket weavers set up shop at small tables and an elderly man whittled small wooden ducks on the sidewalk. It was a chance to see many folk art forms being created.

The music also emphasized the jubilant spirit of the festival. The main musical attractions included The Original Tams beach tunes and the R&B sounds of The Mighty Kicks. However, they were not as interesting as some of the smaller musical displays.

Lisa Lynne Franco and George Tortorelli performed many selections with a Celtic harp and bamboo flutes creating an enchanting sound. They perform at art festivals across the nation.

David Rowe and Michael Miller also gave notable performances on a hammer dulcimer and a classical guitar. The duo's rendition of Pachelbel's "Canon in D Major" attracted a large crowd. Their music was a blend of Appalachian folk, Celtic and classical.

There were also musicians wandering through the crowds playing bagpipes and flutes.

The festival also included square dancing and performances from the Green Valley Cloggers and the Appalachian Valley Cloggers.

graphical works in the American fiction canon, and it depicts Asheville and its residents as its author saw them, which led to the book being banned from all schools and libraries in town for over seven years, according to the Thomas Wolfe Society.

The first copy of the book in Pack Memorial Library was donated by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Wolfe's reputation in Asheville has improved steadily since then, and today his childhood home, which was pur-

chased from his relatives in 1949, is a memorial maintained by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

There are a number of events planned for the months of Sept. and Oct. commemorating the 100th anniversary of Wolfe's birth.

There will be an exhibit of drawings by artist Douglas Gorsline, who illustrated "Look Homeward, Angel," at the Asheville Art Museum beginning Sept. 29.

A stage production of "Look

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Homeward, Angel" will open at the Asheville Community Theatre on the same day.

The events will continue until Oct. 3, Wolfe's birthday, when the Thomas Wolfe Commemorative stamp will be issued.

There will be a reception for the publication of "O Lost," Wolfe's original manuscript for "Look Homeward, Angel" and "To Loot My Life," a collection of correspondence between Wolfe and his editor at Scribner's, Maxwell Perkins.

Flower

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This would be a nice place to go if you just wanted to go out for coffee and dessert.

Wildflower serves four different kinds of cheesecake with large slices. They also have everything from a lemon tort to something strawberry with ice cream.

We tried the strawberry dessert, which had strawberries, vanilla ice cream, whipped cream and a caramelized sauce. It was good and I had never had anything like it before. It was exotic, as are most of the desserts.

Throughout our meal, there was

light jazz music playing. It was loud enough to be noticed but it did not muffle our conversation. The lights were slightly dim and the shades were open.

Wildflower is definitely a place where you can have a conversation. There is not a lot of background noise so you could talk without being distracted.

One important thing you might need to know is what to wear. I had on nice jeans and a casual shirt and sandals, while my friend wore khakis and a button up shirt. I felt a little underdressed. Although the

lunch crowd was slightly more relaxed, I would suggest khakis or a casual dress for dinner.

This would be a suitable place to go if you were taking a group out to dinner. They do not have a private dining room, or even a partition, but they do have room enough for large parties and they welcome them, according to our waiter.

Wildflower lunch hours are 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Dinner is served 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Bannockburn

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During his time in the throne, Scotland remained free, according to Paige.

As far as the production of "Bannockburn" is concerned, there has been a lot of work done to give the performance a sense of presence and authenticity. There has been an extensive amount of work done in the choreography of "Bannockburn," according to Paige.

Flight

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any trouble with them.

Angel spends many months auditioning to no avail when she hits gold with "Positively Ahab," the musical version of Moby Dick.

Despite her triumph in landing a role in a play, which was her dream, she packs up and leaves for the farm back home.

Angel's character brought some genuine moments of sympathy to the play as the audience sees her change from a teetotaler preaching restraint into a woman so downhearted she finishes a whole bottle of beer.

The issue of love comes up with all of the women with whom Cummings has contact. Throughout his narration, it becomes apparent that these fleeting connections are the most significant relationships in his life.

His final neighbor Gwen, a driving instructor, has just left her hus-

band, a homicide detective with the police force. Gwen has the most effect on Cummings' life.

When she and Cummings become involved, he worries about her husband fearing he might be caught "sleeping with Dirty Harry's wife."

Gwen makes him realize he is searching for something more than companionship.

The three women are all different from one another. They are tough, childlike, or heartsick, yet Monid does an excellent job conveying each character as a unique and sympathetic individual.

The two-person show of this husband and wife team brought chemistry and fun to what otherwise could be a play overflowing with trivial banter and an overabundance of one-liners. The sex jokes seemed especially popular with the old folks.

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Kings

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Out of the four performers, his act was the least amusing, but nonetheless I kept a steady smile on my face. He harped on how evil kids can be and joked about the right to beat them.

His material was not personally offensive. It was just redundant.

Steve Harvey held the stage. His jokes were also controversial, but every once and a while a clear message was heard. The issues he remained serious about were never ambiguous.

He criticized present hip-hop music for failing to focus more on love. His self-defined "old-school" self wonders where all of the compassion has gone.

One of the most amusing impressions he did was his hip-hop concert re-enactment, which included him running around the stage, with his arms raised, babbling into the microphone.

I could not help but laugh aloud despite my love for the particular type of music he was scrutinizing.

If you are unable to laugh at your-

self, "The Original Kings of Comedy" will succeed at offending you.

Cedric the Entertainer kept everyone in the audience screaming with laughter due to his hilarious impressions, even though his mannerisms lacked the enthusiasm the other comedians emitted.

He expressed his love for Reggae music by singing a mock song about the perils of hunger in relation to a peanut butter sandwich.

The wonderful thing about all of these men is their ability to make fun of something while actually being good at it. Each of them can sing, and their resounding voices only make their jokes more powerful.

D.L. Hughley addressed many issues that are understood by the majority. A substantial portion of his act joked about the banality most of us face in the workplace.

"The Original Kings of Comedy" will not fail at making you laugh. To sum it up, Chas Moore commented, "It was nothing outstanding, but it was funny."

It's a

win, win, win, win, win

situation.

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