

# COZY CHRONICLE

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MAGNOLIA RIDGE, SC

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## Founder's Day Festival

Summer is in full swing, and around here, that can only mean one thing: the Founders Day Festival is happening!

This year is set to be the biggest celebration Magnolia Ridge has ever hosted. The Historical Society is preparing to unearth a 100-year-old time capsule, originally buried during the town's 1925 celebration. Its contents will be displayed in a special exhibit at the high school gymnasium—an event that has the entire town buzzing with excitement.

"I think people will be surprised by what's inside," says Historical Society chair Vivian McAllister, who's been overseeing the project. "This year's Founders Day isn't just a festival—it's a chance to connect with our past in a whole new way."

Vivian also mentioned they're expecting up to 8,000 visitors this year, thanks in part to the media attention surrounding the time capsule. That means more vendors, more food trucks, more live music, and yes—more traffic.

Road closures and parking tips:

With crowds this large, residents are asked to avoid parking on the street and to plan ahead for detours. Main Street, Magnolia Avenue, and Chestnut Lane will be closed to vehicles starting at 6:00 a.m. Saturday until the festival ends on Sunday night.

Be sure to stop by the Squawking Chicken for your favorite fried pickles, visit the Petal & Stem booth for flower crowns, and don't miss the firefly lantern parade on Saturday evening at 8:30 p.m.

Whether you're here for the funnel cakes, the history, or the small-town charm, this year's Founders Day Festival promises to be unforgettable.



## *Festival Parking*

Parking is available in the following locations for the festival: First Church on Central Drive, Magnolia Ridge High School on Beacon Street, and The Water Company on Second Street. These locations have all volunteered their parking lots this year.

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## Spotlight of the week

This week, we are putting our community spotlight on  
Emma Richardson.

Tell me, Ms Richardson, how does the owner of a small  
town diner become the town's most important sleuth?

"I didn't really have a choice. When Lenny died in the  
Squawking Chicken Diner, I knew I had to figure it out fast  
or we risked losing the diner. I wanted people to know  
they could trust us."

When was it that you realized you had a knack for this?

"Oh, I don't know about that. I take the pieces and put the  
puzzle together. That's all."

Have you ever been scared during an investigation?

"Only once. I got a threatening call, and I was worried that  
if something happened to me, Max would be alone."

Could you tell us a little bit about your canine  
companion?

"Max is my boxer. I got him after MeMaw passed. The  
man who had him couldn't keep him, so I took him in."

So he's a rescue.

I don't know. PopPops always said, "Don't take any  
wooden nickels. the rescuer..

Tell us a bit about The Squawking Chicken.

MeMaw and PopPops opened the diner after World War  
2. MeMaw wanted to have a place where people could  
heal from everything that had happened over the past  
decade.

What has changed in the diner since

Nothing yet, but we are planning to turn the back lot into  
a dining area for nice weather.

How will that impact parking downtown?

"It shouldn't impact it at all. The only ones that park there  
are staff."



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## Magnolia Ridge High Eagles Take the Field

The dog days of August haven't slowed down the Magnolia Ridge High Eagles. With school still a couple of weeks away, the football team has already been out on the practice field, helmets gleaming in the Carolina sun.

Coach Donnelly says this year's squad is showing promise, despite the blistering heat. "These boys are tough," he told the Chronicle, wiping his brow with the same towel he's been carrying since 1987. "They'll be ready come kickoff Friday."

Practice has been running mornings and late evenings to avoid the worst of the temperatures, but even so, parents watching from the bleachers are quick to bring coolers of ice water, popsicles, and the occasional misting fan.

Senior quarterback Tyler Hayes, whose arm has been the talk of town since last season, told us he's ready to lead the Eagles to victory. "It's our year," he said, though he admitted the hardest opponent so far has been the August humidity.

The first game of the season is set for Friday, September 12, right here at home against the Cedar Haven Wildcats. Townsfolk are already planning their tailgates, and the booster club has promised fresh barbecue and cheerleader bake sale tables.





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## This Week's Forecast

Hold onto your straw hats, Magnolia Ridge—Founders Day is about to sizzle!

A sweltering stretch of summer heat has settled over our little corner of South Carolina, and it's showing no signs of letting up for the big celebration. Temperatures are expected to climb into the upper 90s, with heat indexes easily topping the century mark by afternoon. Locals are already calling it "air you can wear" weather, and they're not wrong.

Expect sticky mornings, scorching afternoons, and the kind of evenings where even the fireflies look too tired to blink. A faint breeze may roll down from the hills now and again, but don't count on it lasting long enough to cool your sweet tea.

Advice for festival-goers:

- Bring a wide-brimmed hat and maybe two fans—one for yourself and one for your neighbor.
- Keep a bottle of water handy (lemonade counts in a pinch, but sweet tea does not).
- Seek shade when you can, especially if you're planning to watch the pie-eating contest.





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## Book Nook

If you've ever sipped coffee at The Squawking Chicken Diner or been greeted by the ever-mischievous boxer pup, Max, you'll feel right at home in Chloe Jaxon's debut mystery, *Murder at the Squawking Chicken*.

Set right here in Magnolia Ridge, this cozy whodunit follows diner owner Emma Richardson as she stirs up more than just biscuits and gravy when a shocking death interrupts small-town life. With a nose for the truth (and for trouble), Emma teams up with her best friend Charlie—and of course Max—to uncover secrets that some folks would rather keep buried.

Readers have called the book "funny, heartwarming, and delightfully twisty." Expect red herrings, laugh-out-loud diner chaos, and plenty of Southern charm.

### Where to Find It

Available now in paperback and e-book formats. Check it out Elderberry Bookstore, where copies have been known to disappear faster than Max can steal hearts.

So if you're looking for your next cozy read while cooling off after Founders Day festivities, grab a slice of pie and settle in with *Murder at the Squawking Chicken*. You might just find yourself looking twice at your neighbors



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## Recipe of the month

Nothing says late summer in Magnolia Ridge quite like a basket of juicy peaches. With Founders Day Folly just around the corner, families will be gathering for picnics, barbecues, and long evenings under the fireworks. What better way to celebrate than with a dish that's as sweet and comforting as small-town life?

This easy Peach Cobbler is perfect for sharing. Serve it warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, and you'll have folks coming back for seconds (and maybe thirds!).

### Ingredients:

- 6–8 fresh peaches (about 5 cups, peeled and sliced)
- 1 cup sugar (divided:  $\frac{1}{2}$  for peaches,  $\frac{1}{2}$  for batter)
- 1 cup self-rising flour
- 1 cup milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter (1 stick, melted)
- A dash of cinnamon (optional, but highly recommended)

### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. In a bowl, toss peaches with  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar and a pinch of cinnamon. Let sit while you prepare the batter.
3. In another bowl, mix flour, remaining sugar, and milk until smooth. Stir in melted butter.
4. Pour batter into a greased 9x13 baking dish. Spoon peaches (and their juices!) evenly over the top.
5. Bake for 40–45 minutes, or until golden brown and bubbly.





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## Back to School

Parents, sharpen your pencils—and your patience! School bells will be ringing in just two short weeks, and the teachers at Magnolia Ridge Elementary have kindly shared their recommended supply list:

For the Little Learners (Grades K–2):

- 24 pack of crayons (no glitter crayons this year, please—our janitor is still sweeping up last year's)
- 2 wide-ruled composition notebooks
- 1 pair of blunt-tip scissors
- 4 glue sticks (the good kind that actually stick)
- A sturdy backpack—bonus points if it zips without a fight
- Optional: Tissues for runny noses and teacher sanity

For the Busy Bees (Grades 3–5):

- 12 #2 pencils (sharpened, if you please)
- 1 pencil box or pouch (must fit inside desk—no tackle boxes this time, Joey Miller!)
- 2 spiral notebooks
- 1 pack of washable markers
- 1 ruler with inches and centimeters
- Folders in red, blue, and yellow (teachers promise the color coding really does help)



For the Almost-Grown (Grades 6–8):

- 3 binders, 1 inch each, with dividers
- Loose-leaf notebook paper (wide-ruled preferred, though the debate continues)
- Mechanical pencils or pens (blue or black ink only—no gel pens that sparkle)
- 1 scientific calculator (the kind that won't also play games)
- Highlighters in at least two colors
- Earbuds for computer lab (to avoid “borrowing” the ones from the lost-and-found)



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## Grocery Specials

Magnolia Ridge Market Weekly Specials

Good through Founders Day Weekend

🍑 Fresh Peaches – \$0.99/lb

Picked just down the road in Cedar Haven. Perfect for cobbler, jam, or eating straight over the sink.

🍖 Ground Beef – \$2.49/lb

Stock up for burgers at your Founders Day cookout.

🥛 Whole Milk – 2 for \$5

Because no cereal-loving kid should go without on the first day of school.

🍗 Fried Chicken (8-piece) – \$6.99

Hot, crispy, and ready to go. (Perfect for picnics... or for when you don't feel like cooking.)

🌽 Sweet Corn (Local) – 5 for \$2

Still in the husk, still dripping with summer sunshine.

🍪 Bakery Fresh Cookies – Buy 1 dozen, get 1 dozen FREE

Yes, really. But don't blame us if they disappear before you get home.

🍹 Lemonade Mix – \$1.99

Pairs well with front-porch swings and neighborhood gossip.



Magnolia Ridge Market

"Proudly serving our town since 1954."

Open daily 7 AM – 9 PM •