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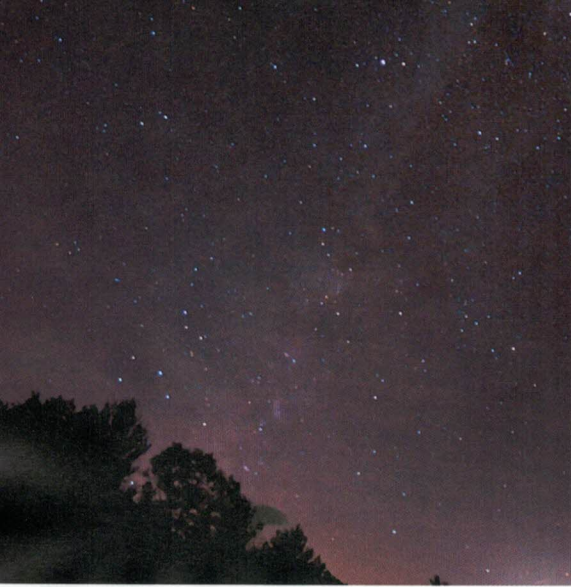
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**Come Wander
through Autumn...**





More Autumn Regional Happenings

Ashe County

Lost Province at the Lansing School

Prior to the 20th century, the counties of the northwest corner of North Carolina (Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga) were separated from major economic centers of the state by their mountainous terrain. Known as the Lost Provinces, this area was relatively inaccessible. By the early 20th century, roads had been carved through the mountains and the N&W Railroad opened the area for transport; by mid-century, Lansing, NC had become a thriving part of Ashe County.

The stately Lansing School was constructed in 1938 under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and is recognized by the National Register of Historic Places. It was the center of education in Ashe County from 1939 until the early 1990s, but has since had limited use.

Lost Province Center for Cultural Arts (LPCCA) was founded in 2018 by two community leaders, Beth Rembert and Carole Ford, who believed that the traditions and arts of Southern Appalachia were at risk of being lost forever due to generational lifestyle changes. They saw an opportunity to repurpose the vacant Lansing schoolhouse to create a center to preserve “all-things Appalachian.”

Their long-range vision includes renovating the Lansing School buildings to create a learning center that promotes Appalachian arts, crafts and skills. The preservation of the historic property will provide a spacious venue for classes, special events, sustainable multi-use housing, a signature farm-to-table restaurant and a showcase gallery.

The purchased buildings—a schoolhouse building made with traditional construction clad with local native stone, and a two-story brick classroom building—sit on the 4.475 acre original school site, along with a favorite Lansing destination, Molley Chomper Cidery.

On Saturday, September 19, from 2-6 p.m. the public has the opportunity to take a tour of Lansing School. Each tour takes approximately 30 minutes, and the tours will adhere to social distancing guidelines (masks required). To learn more about the Lansing School, the Lost Province Center for Cultural Arts, and future tours and events, visit <https://lostprovincearts.org/>.

After touring Lansing, head over to downtown West Jefferson and visit the town's unique shops, restaurants and galleries. Ashe County also offers a number of outdoor opportunities during the fall months, including barn quilt tours, corn mazes and choose and cut tree farms. Visit ashechamber.com for a guide to some of the area's most popular activities and destinations.