

PATRIOTS: New England has cold welcome for Broncos. **C1**

D I S T I N G U I S H E D N E W S P A P E R A W A R D W I N N E R

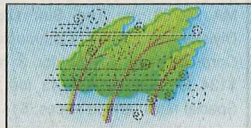
THE SUN CHRONICLE

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Weather



Today: Very windy;
flurries; high 32

Tonight: Windy; low
14

Tomorrow: Mostly
sunny; cold; high 33

B8

Inside

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Celebrities



Macy's parade starts
holiday season.

Pullout section

City & Town



Mansfield's
Turkey Brigade
provides fixin's
for the holiday.

B1

Living Well



Yes, Virginia, it's
worth a trip

E1



Home delivery
\$4.60 per week
508-222-4091



Meet Virginia

You'll appreciate the state like never before after a trip along the picturesque Blue Ridge Parkway

BY LINDA FASTESON
FOR THE SUN CHRONICLE

The 469 mile drive along the Blue Ridge Parkway is one of America's most scenic road trips.

This mountaintop roadway provides scenic vistas from Virginia's Shenandoah National Park to Smoky Mountain National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee.

This time we traveled the section in southwestern Virginia north and south of Roanoke.

We stopped to explore country roads, enjoyed city attractions, visited unique museums, moseyed around small towns, sipped local wine, and savored southern cooking.

Points of interest are easy to find thanks to concrete mileposts along the Parkway.

Woodland trails for all ability are part of the outdoor experience.

Roaring Run Furnace, a remnant of a 19th century iron industry that is on the National Register of Historic Places, is at the beginning of an easier trail along cascading water to the picturesque Roaring Run Falls.

Trout fishing in Roaring Run Creek is said to be some of the best around. The headwaters of the James River are renowned for fishing and canoeing.

There are many scenic overlooks, so you needn't be an outdoor adventurer to enjoy the idyllic countryside. The Parkway also runs through a region of cities and towns rich in historical, cultural and culinary experiences.

Roanoke is a good base for exploring the Blue Ridge Parkway to the north and south and has a walkable downtown area.

Its downtown hub includes the historic City Market and the multi-cultural complex, Center on the Square, which opened in May after renovations and innovations. It houses the interactive Science Museum of Western Virginia, the History Museum of Western Virginia, the Harrison Museum of African American Culture, and the Mill Mountain Theater.

Roanoke is called the Star City of the South for the 100-foot illuminated star on Mill Mountain.

Erected to attract holiday shoppers, it was too large to store, and remained to become a symbol of the city and a national historic site. An overlook by the star provides a bird's-eye view of the city.

The Hotel Roanoke, with marble floors, elegant chandeliers, antique lobby furnishings, and frescoes, is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its signature peanut

SEE TRAVEL, PAGE E4 ►



The Back in the Day Blue Grass Brethren performs in the parlor of the Homeplace Restaurant in Catawba.



PHOTOS BY ROGER FASTESON / THE SUN CHRONICLE

Mabry Mill is one of the most photographed spots along the Blue Ridge Parkway.



The Roanoke Star glows by night and can be seen as far as 60 miles away.

On the menu



Peanut soup and spoonbread are signature dishes served in the Regency Room of the Hotel Roanoke.



Entrees at Chateau Morristettes Restaurant include this cinnamon chili rubbed pork tenderloin with apricot-orange glaze, collard greens and bacon rice pilaf — and for only \$15.

TRAVEL: Several worthy stops on Virginia's Blue Ridge Parkway

FROM PAGE E1

soup and spoonbread, served in the elegant Regency Room, are legendary.

To learn about the Blue Ridge Parkway and its history, stop at the 1,100-acre Explore Park at milestone 115 to see the visitor center's film and exhibits. There are hiking and biking trails and a one-mile interpretive trail.

In the 1800s, the Johnson family made brandy from farm apples. Peaks of Otter Winery at Johnson Orchards now makes Fruit of the Farm wines with names like Pumpkin Pie, Apple Truffle, and "Kiss the Devil" chili pepper. Stop by for some local flavor.

Mabry Mill, milepost 176.1, is one of the most photographed spots along the Blue Ridge Parkway. There's living history at the restored pioneer grist mill, sawmill, woodworking shop and blacksmith shop.

The Blue Ridge Institute at Ferrum College is along the Crooked Road. It chronicles folkways of the people in and around the Blue Ridge Mountains and is the official State Center for Blue Ridge Folklore. The Blue Ridge Farm Museum and annual Blue Ridge Folklife Festival are located here.

Rent a boat at Bridgewater Marina on Smith Mountain Lake, known as the Jewel of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Round out the day with a stop at the 3,400-square-foot Artisan Center on the Crooked Road in Rocky Mount to browse the work of local artists and authors.

Learn about one of America's most prominent African-American educators, authors and orators at the Booker T. Washington National Monument on the plantation in Moneta where he lived his first nine years as a slave. Freed after the Civil War, he went on to found Tuskegee Institute and advise Presidents Roosevelt and Taft.

The Franklin County Historical Society Museum is a repository of the area's past. There's a full-size still out back for describing the "likker-making" that made Franklin County the Moon-



PHOTOS BY ROGER FASTESON / THE SUN CHRONICLE

The Norfolk and Western Railway built the grand Hotel Roanoke in 1882.



Specialty wines at the canine-themed Chateau Morrisette include Our Dog Blue, The Black Dog and New Chien.

shine Capital of the World.

For accommodations surrounded by the forest and mountain air, there's lodging at Peaks of Otter Lodge, at milepost 86 of the Blue Ridge Parkway. An \$8 round trip shuttle is available for those who prefer riding to climbing up the nearby 3,862-foot Sharp Top Mountain.

There's small town charm on Main Street in Salem.

Shop for fruits and veggies,

jams and jellies, baked goods and crafts at the Farmer's Market. The Salem Museum, in the historic Wilderness-Brown House, is on the Wilderness Road for pioneers heading west.

Sip a Lime Rickey at the vintage soda fountain at POP's Ice Cream and Soda, in Roanoke's Grandin Village, two miles from downtown. Visit the restored 1930s movie theater, browse the vintage books at Too Many Books and hunt for architectural treasures at the 40,000-square-foot Black Dog Salvage.

The Historic Roanoke City Market is a popular spot for a quick meal, but for local flavor grab a stool at the nearby Texas Tavern for favorites like the cheesy western sandwich.

It's comfort food made from scratch at the Roanoker, on Colonial Avenue, named one of Virginia's best breakfast spots by Southern Living Magazine. The light and fluffy buttermilk biscuits are the best around.

The Homeplace Restaurant in Catawba is in a 1907 farmhouse on 150 acres in the mountains.

Porch swings and rockers and a sprawling lawn where children play ease the wait for a table.

It's all-you-can-eat family-style southern comfort food, including fried chicken, country ham, mashed potatoes, buttermilk biscuits, gravy, apple butter, home cooked vegetables and ice cream topped cobbler.

For rustic Southern elegance with spectacular scenery, visit Chateau Morrisette Winery at milepost 171.5 in Floyd and sample their Black Dog wines.

Try specialties like the cinnamon chili rubbed pork tenderloin with apricot-orange glaze, collard greens and bacon rice pilaf in the Old World-style Chateau Restaurant. Packages are offered with lodging partners. Special events include the Black Dog Music Festival.

The Floyd Country Store is an entertaining stop for shopping, ice cream, or lunch.

Bluegrass and old time mountain music by local and visiting musicians, food, and dancing can be enjoyed at the Friday Nite Jamboree.

Floyd is part of the Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail, and is known for the annual Floydfest Music Festival.

For more information see visitroanokeva.com.