

New River offers outdoor adventures

Your kayak glides silently over placid water as you wind by pastureland with grazing cattle, past rugged hillsides, along meadows of wildflowers and through pristine forests. An osprey perches on a branch, pausing a moment before noting your presence and then taking flight, reminding you this is birding country. This river is especially sought by anglers for its redeye, small-mouth bass and the elusive muskie. It is home to abundant wildlife — deer, wild turkey, muskrat and the occasional black bear.

This is the New River that

flows from its two branches with headwaters in Watauga County, through Ashe County into Alleghany County, where its larger South Fork merges with its North Fork to form what is sometimes called the Big River that meanders along the North Carolina-Virginia border. Despite its name, it is thought by some to be the second-oldest river in the world (second only to The Nile in Egypt) and has retained much of the rugged beauty of that long-ago, historic past.

The New has much to offer those seeking outdoor adventure. Al-

though located in the heart of the Blue Ridge, it is convenient to the western Piedmont for residents of Winston-Salem and Greensboro to come up for a day trip and close enough for residents of Charlotte and the Raleigh-Durham area to enjoy a weekend adventure.

There are over 26 miles of designated National Wild and Scenic River in North Carolina's South Fork that moderate development and preserve nature's wonders. Much of your journey will wind through regions touched little by modern development.

This stretch of the New River should not be confused with the section farther downriver in West Virginia known for its whitewater. Most of this section of the New River is gentle enough for beginning canoers and kayakers and well-suited for tubing. There are sections to challenge the more experienced paddlers, which will appeal to those looking for a little more excitement, as well as sections for those seeking a leisurely day on its waters.

For those unfamiliar with the

Continued on page 6

Golf courses provide challenges for all skill levels

You don't have to sweat through a round of golf in Alleghany County. Cool mountain air, scenic surroundings and an unhurried atmosphere are all features of golfing in these mountains. You will find pleasant elevation changes, challenging courses and local hospitality.

New River Country Club

New River Country Club, just three miles from downtown Sparta, is a semi-private 18-hole course featuring 6,011 yards of golf from the longest

tees and a par of 71. It is open March 15 through Nov. 15, seven days a week, from 8 a.m. until dark.

Tee times are not required on weekdays, but are required on holidays and weekends, June through August. It features four tees for different skill levels.

Find New River Country Club at 611 Golf Course Rd., Sparta, call 336-372-4869, visit their website (sparta-nc.com/newrivergolf) or seek out their Facebook page. It can be reached from U.S. 21 north of Sparta. Coming from Sparta, turn onto

Golf Course Road, just past Twin Oaks General Store.

Old Beau Resort and Golf Club

Olde Beau Resort and Golf Club is a semi-private course in the Roaring Gap community. The 72 par course features 6,710 yards of golf from the longest tees. Three tees are available for different skill levels.

Situated on the eastern edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains, its location affords breathtaking views. Olde Beau also has tennis, swimming, hiking trails, a par 3 course and other amenities.

Olde Beau's course has been rated 4.5 stars by Fodor's, was named one of the "Top 50 Development Courses in the Southeast" by GOLF WEEK magazine and was recognized as the #9 Public Golf Course in North Carolina by NBC Golf-Pass in 2024.

It is open from late March to early December. Call for tee times, 336-363-3333 or 800-752-1634, or visit oldebeau



resort.com on the web.

Olde Beau is at 729 Olde Beau Blvd. in Roaring Gap, accessible on U.S. 21 South about 11 miles from the center of Sparta.

Private Country Clubs

Alleghany also has two private country club courses, each featuring 18 hole, 72 par golf in pristine terrain. Roaring Gap Club and High Meadows Country Club are in the Roaring Gap community of eastern Alleghany off U.S. 21.

Local organizations hold a number of tournaments as annual fundraisers. Visitors are welcome at these events.

The New River Outdoor Guide

Publisher: Coby LaRue, publisher@alleghanynews.com
Sales and Ad Design: Carlean Lyall, classifieds@alleghanynews.com
Production and Story Updates: Brian Funk, news@alleghanynews.com
Cover, Ad Design: Sarah Maynor, ads@alleghanynews.com
Proofreading: Cynthia Grant

This guide was produced by Alleghany News Specialty Publications in conjunction with the Alleghany County Tourism Development Authority and the cooperation of the Alleghany Chamber of Commerce.

P.O. Box 8, Sparta, NC 28675 • 336.372-8999

For publication schedule, rates & deadlines: publisher@alleghanynews.com

