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THE MAYBERRY DEPUTY

Making a return to Mount Airy

ASWEET TREAT

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You'd be hard-pressed to find a sweeter, or friendlier, place than Opie's Candy Store, which has been serving visitors and local residents alike for more than two decade.

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If you're in town, or even nearby, there's plenty to do in Mount Airy. Concerts, plays, radio shows...the list is nearly endless. Check out our extensive calendar of events.

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Margaret Teele is one of many former The Andy Griffith Show actors who have taken part in the annual Mayberry Days parade, as in this photo by Tom Joyce.

Mayberry DAYS

OFFERS ESCAPE FROM MODERN PROBLEMS

BY TOM JOYCE | tjoyce@mtairynews.com

With all the turmoil in the world today, wouldn't it be nice to escape to a simpler place in a more laid-back time? Mayberry perhaps?

While Mayberry is a fictional town providing the setting for "The Andy Griffith Show," many believe Griffith largely patterned it after his birthplace of Mount Airy including incorporating local names and places.

Whether or not the modern-day Mount Airy is really an embodiment of 1960s Mayberry, at least that tends to be the case during the annual Mayberry Days celebrated in the small North Carolina town.

Organizers seem to go all out in supplying the atmosphere for what Executive Director Tanya Jones of the Surry Arts Council considers "the ideal, iconic small town," a term often used by major newspapers and other media outlets in describing Mayberry.

The official of the arts group, which has staged Mayberry Days since it started in 1990, points out that folks who go on vacation are engaging in escapism to some degree.

This might include seeking some unhurried spot to enjoy a little peace and serenity – especially with the tense situation in the nation and world.

"I think now, more than ever, a small town gives you the chance to find that," Jones said. "I think Mayberry Days, in general, is positive."



Mayberry fans line up to visit the Andy Griffith Museum.



PHOTOS BY TOM JOYCE | THE NEWS

The Andy Griffith Show Rerun Watchers Club is a Mayberry Days fixture.

This can be accomplished with something as simple as the checkers tournament held during the annual tribute to all things Mayberry.

Mayberry Days also includes other games and appearances by individuals who appeared on "The Andy Griffith Show," musical performances, special shows and programs, a popular parade through downtown and more.

It is scheduled this year from Sept. 22-28.

SPECIAL MILESTONE

Along with being proud that 2025 represents Mayberry Days' 36th year, which even continued through the COVID-19 pandemic, Jones says the upcoming celebration is special in light of another milestone.

This is the 65th anniversary of "The Andy Griffith Show," which first appeared on the CBS network for a lengthy run and still is shown widely in syndication and on streaming services.

While most of the actors and actresses from the home-spun comedy series are deceased, members of the survivor ranks show up for Mayberry Days.

With some confirmations still outstanding, the list this year is expected to include Keith Thibodeaux and Dennis Rush, who played pals of the Opie character; Margaret Teele, who portrayed Agnes Jean Parker, a blond member of a crime family Barney encounters while in Raleigh; Rodney Dillard of the bluegrass-playing Darling family; and possibly Margaret Kerry, who was the mother of a family about to be evicted during one episode.

Clint Howard (Leon, the boy always wielding peanut butter and jelly sandwiches), Ron's brother, could be a late celebrity guest attendee.

"Clint knows he's always welcome and always lets me know at the last minute," Jones said concerning a busy schedule maintained by Howard.

Family members of a key cast member are scheduled to attend and headline shows, including Karen Knotts, a regular guest who is Don Knotts' daughter, and Bill Knotts, the Barney Fife actor's nephew.



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Actress Margaret Teele, shown riding in last year's Mayberry Days Parade, will be in Mount Airy again this September. She played the attractive member of a crime family in Raleigh seeking to glean information from unsuspecting Deputy Barney Fife.

"Bill Knotts is new," Jones mentioned.

Family members of Harvey Bullock, who wrote episodes of the show, also are to be here.

In addition, The Bellamy Brothers will be giving a concert, and although the band has no connection to Mayberry, members want to be part of the annual event.

Actor Daniel Roebuck, a co-star on Griffith's "Matlock" series, will be another special guest.

Also planned are comedy shows, other musical performances, lecturers, tribute artists and more.

(Information on schedules and other specifics can be found on the Surry Arts Council website at <https://www.surryarts.org/mayberrydays/>

STILL GOING STRONG

Jones, the Surry Arts Council official, also addressed the notion that the Mayberry phenomenon and the public's fascination with events such as Mayberry Days are waning as time passes.

"For me, I've been listening to this since the late 1980s," she said, when the Griffith show was "only" 29 years old.

Then there were other factors supposedly spelling the Mayberry's mystique's demise: it will cease to be popular when Andy dies (which occurred in 2012), and the idea that the show's fans themselves are aging and gradually passing.

Jones said none of those theories are legitimate, as evidenced by the continuing popularity of "The Andy Griffith Show."

"The show has been on 65 years non-stop – need you say more?" she emphasized. "Even during COVID there was a revival of watching the show."

This persistence surrounding Mayberry is apparent in Mount Airy even when Mayberry Days is not held.

Jones said one example of this involves the fact that more than 500 people visited the Andy Griffith Museum on Rockford Street during one recent Saturday, representing all age groups.

"The numbers at the museum are not changing at all," the Surry Arts Council official said of such heavy visitation.

"And I think that tells the story about Mayberry Days."

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SIMPLY MAYBERRY • SUMMER 2025

A CAREER AS THE MAYBERRY DEPUTY

Browning returning to Mayberry for book fair

BY JOHN PETERS | jpeters@mtairynews.com

Anyone who visited Mount Airy's Mayberry Days prior to 2017 -- or a host of other fairs, festivals and similar events throughout the Southeast -- may know the Mayberry Deputy.

No, not THE Mayberry Deputy -- Barney Fife -- but the next best, and most recognizable, version of the deputy, a character developed and portrayed by David Browning.

Of course everyone, including Browning, acknowledges there's only one Barney Fife, played by the incomparable Don Knotts. He made the sometimes neurotic, often-times bumbling, but always lovable character a household name during "The Andy Griffith Show's" eight-year run, so much so that Barney is still considered an American icon six decades later.

Browning, who lives in the Bristol, Tennessee area, was well aware of the show, and Barney Fife, while he was making his own way in the entertainment business.

"I was an actor in the Tri-cities, from the time I got out of high school," he said of the Tennessee region of Bristol, Kingsports, and Johnson City. He worked in productions at area colleges, got some local and regional television commercial work, and eventually volunteered at Theatre Bristol, which he said is the longest-running community theater in the region.

Soon, he was hired as artistic director, the group's first paid employee.

He was working there, as well as pursuing other acting opportunities when bluegrass music promoter Tim White told Browning he was doing a show that featured the Dillards, a band which portrayed The Darlings on "The Andy Griffith Show."

"He asked me if I could throw together a Barney Fife-looking costume and emcee the show."

Browning had no idea that decision would change his life.

At the show Rodney Dillard "really encouraged me" to develop the character. Soon, Browning was working at Big Stone Gap, Virginia, where the "Trail of the Lonesome Pine" production is held every year.

There, working before audiences before and after the show, and with other productions, Browning said he "really began to develop the character."

That led to engagements at civic clubs and other organizers, where he would be the lead entertainer as The Mayberry Deputy.

Jim Clark, known as co-founder of the famous Andy Griffith Show



FILE PHOTO

The Mayberry Deputy entertains a Mayberry Days crowd in 2015 with Elizabeth MacRae, who had a recurring role as Louann Poovey on "The Andy Griffith Show" spin-off, "Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C."

Rerun Watchers Club, encouraged Browning to expand his act, and gave him another piece of life-altering advice.

"Jim called me and told me about the festival," Browning said of learning about Mayberry Days. "You really ought to go down and participate. So I did. I went down on the street, mingled with people on the street on Saturday, had a good time, then got back in my car and drove home."

The following week, he got a phone call from someone at the Surry Arts Council.

"Where did you go? We heard about you, we couldn't find you," he quoted the caller as saying. "Tanya wants to book you for next year."

The caller was referring to Tanya Jones, executive director of the Surry Arts Council and founder of Mayberry Days.

For 27 years afterward, he worked Mayberry Days, often as an emcee of various shows, a comedy act, or any number of other roles he could take on as The Mayberry Deputy.

The same Jim Clark encouraged Browning to do a Mayberry-themed event in Nashville.

"My job was to come in and mingle in the crowd as the Mayberry Deputy," between the major stage acts.

One of those acts featured none other than the man himself -- Don Knotts.

At the conclusion of the show, Browning said one of the stage workers approached him with a message -- Don Knotts wanted to see him in Knotts' dressing room.

"I didn't know what was going to happen," Browning said, admitting a major case of nerves, and a little trepidation, when he approached. "I didn't know if he was going to be upset with me, or what I was doing."

Turns out, just the opposite.

"He really encouraged me," Browning said. "He told me he enjoyed my act...he asked me if I would be his opening act when he

came back East for a show.”

“Mayberry Days was really a catapult to get other bookings,” he said of the Mount Airy festival. “Then I met Don the next year, he encouraged me to do this. I began opening for him in 1994, at a show at Milligan University in Elizabethton (Tennessee). By ‘94, I was keenly aware I could take it and do it full time.”

He quickly made the leap to full-time deputying. While he still did other acting work, or would take shows that weren’t as Mayberry Deputy-centric, that was the character most people wanted to see. “There were some years I had in the neighborhood of 200 bookings. All over the US at festivals, law enforcement events, county fairs, civic clubs.”

He said each show was different, and he relied on improvisational skills to alter the presentation based on the audience. For a banquet, for instance, “I was there by the time the doors opened, I mingled, mingled, mingled with the people while they were talking, having drinks before the dinner...by the time I was introduced they were ready to roll.”

Finally, after nearly three decades on the road, he began cutting back on outdoor events – his last Mayberry Days was 2017 – and by 2022 he had done his last show.

This July, he’ll be making his return to Mayberry, but this time not as the Mayberry Deputy. Instead, he’ll be himself – David Browning, the author. Browning is part of the first-ever Mayberry Book Festival, slated for July 19, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. to be held at the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History. He’ll be one of 30 authors on hand for the event, which is a fundraiser for the Perry Family Scholarship. A



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
David Browning with his wife, Patty. He will be in Mount Airy on July 19 for the Mayberry Book Festival.



TOM JOYCE | SIMPLY MAYBERRY
David Browning as The Mayberry Deputy, along with Allan Newsome, as Floyd the Barber during a 2015 Mayberry Days event at Cross Creek Country Club in Mount Airy.

wide variety of authors will be there, from novelists and poets to history writers and those selling memoirs.

Browning falls into that latter category, with his book, “We Have Security Tonight: My Life As The Mayberry Deputy.”

“It’s just really a retrospective on my own life, before the deputy, and the years traveling as the deputy,” he said. There are plenty of stories in the book, “and a lot of pictures in my book, people will be interested in that.”

Among those are photos of golf legend Arnold Palmer, who Browning said was a big Andy Griffith Show fan, and singer Charlie Daniels, who “Was a huge Mayberry fan.”

The book tells of his travels with the Dillards doing their Mayberry-themed shows, and it “Talks about my early life, nine children in my family, how I found the theater, and how I found The Deputy.”

Browning credits Tom Perry, who owns and operates Laurel Hill Publishing and is the founder of The Mayberry Book Festival, with being a major influence on his decision to write the book and for helping him put it together.

For more information about the book festival, visit <https://www.facebook.com/laurellhillpub/>

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How sweet it is

Ice cream, Andy Griffith, and the art of nostalgia

BY RYAN KELLY | ryan.kelly@mtairynews.com

The late afternoon sun streamed through the windows of Opie's Candy Store on Main Street at 135 North Main Street in downtown Mount Airy recently as three generations of a visiting family settled into mismatched chairs around a small table. The grandfather pointed to the television mounted in the corner, where Sheriff Andy Taylor is teaching his son Opie a lesson about honesty, while the parents enjoyed a scoop of ice cream and the children pressed their faces against glass jars filled with penny candy.

Episodes of *The Andy Griffith Show* are playing continuously throughout the day, providing more than just background entertainment. The familiar scenes spark conversations between folks enjoying a sweet treat and perhaps taking a break inside the air conditioning during a traipse down the main drag of Mount Airy's fictional sister: Mayberry. There is a timeless quality to the lessons from the show just as with penny candies that have the ability to transport one to a bygone era.

SWEET CHANGES

Luke Morrison manages Opie's for owner Neil Edlin, splitting his time between the candy shop and Gates Pharmacy. He was found on a recent afternoon smiling while organizing and arranging display items as customers floated in and then back out onto Main Street. When he's not at the pharmacy, he can be found helping customers navigate more than 300 varieties of candy that line the shop's walls in vintage Montana glass jars.

"We've had people walk in the front door, close their eyes and say this is pure joy," Morrison says. "Like I'm flooded with memories of my grandfather right now. It's such a cool experience."

The transformation Edlin implemented after purchasing the business in March 2024 reflects a broader evolution in how downtown Mount Airy serves both residents and tourists. Where the previous iteration focused heavily on antique sales alongside candy, the current version prioritizes creating spaces where families can gather, rest and connect.

"There's not a ton of places to come inside and have a seat and rest because it's some hills," Morrison explains, gesturing toward Main Street's gently sloping terrain.

"Having the air conditioning and some ice cream in the summer and these tables -- it's great to be able to sit inside and not have to have an ice cream out in the sun," he explained, painting a messy picture in the process.

The shop's seating area, carved from space previously occupied by antique furniture and merchandise racks, hosts an ongoing parade of multigenerational groups. Parents introduce children to Charleston Chews while grandparents recall their own childhood candy preferences. Teenagers discover flavors like Michigan Pothole -- dark



PHOTO PROVIDED BY OPIE'S CANDY STORE

Seats outside Opie's Candy Store stand ready to provide a respite for weary downtown visitors who may have just picked up an ice cream treat inside the shop.

chocolate ice cream with black tar fudge -- while their elders stick to butter pecan. Rush Hour, a coffee ice cream with espresso chocolate chips, has become a popular flavor, while Carolina Peach appeals to regional preferences. You want a fruity ice cream? Check. Something rich and chocolatey? They have it. Peanut butter fudge you say? Consider it done. Big ole' waffle cone? Your wish is their command.

Morrison said they extended the store's hours -- until 8 p.m. on weekends, compared to the previous 5 p.m. closing time -- representing a strategic shift that benefits the broader downtown ecosystem. Diners from Mi Casa he said can wander over for dessert. Families finishing early dinners at other establishments have somewhere to continue their evening and enjoy more time in the downtown which is something local business leaders appreciate.

THROUGH THE YEARS

The multigenerational appeal creates family traditions that span decades. Tamara Smith-Williams describes her family's ritual: "When our niece, her husband, and their children come to visit from Wilmington, we go to Opie's. Last time our little great nephew got his own bag. But, his 40-something dad must have his own bag too. I think Dad has more fun than his little son. Dad always got his own bag even before the kids were born."

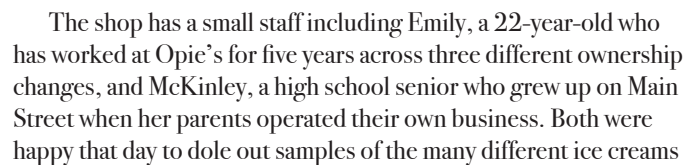
Morrison estimates the shop serves customers from every U.S. state, drawn by Mount Airy's connection to "The Andy Griffith Show" and the town's broader Mayberry experience. But local residents comprise an equally important customer base, particularly since the shop extended its hours to accommodate after-dinner crowds seeking dessert.

"A lot of the downtown restaurants don't offer dessert," Morrison notes. "So a lot of people like to take a stroll after they eat just to digest, and this is a great spot where you can come in and you're not limited to just ice cream either."

The candy selection itself serves as a bridge between past and present. Pop Rocks remain among the best sellers, creating intergenerational moments as adults introduce the crackling candy to



Ashly Lancaster, president and CEO of the Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce, speaks to the shop's long-standing commitment. "Opie's will celebrate 20 years with the chamber in September. They are one of our long-standing members whom we can





on tiny plastic spoons so the shoppers could make the best decision for their tastebuds.

Even local business leaders aren't immune to the shop's appeal. Lancaster admits, "You will often find me down there on a weekday afternoon stocking up on Bulls-Eyes, the danger of being within walking distance of all of those sweet treats."

SWEET HISTORY

The story of Opie's begins with Freddie and Carolyn Quesinberry, who returned to their Mount Airy hometown in 2004 after retirement. They chose a century-old building that had housed a shoe repair business for decades. After hours of restoring the 100-year-old building and researching old candies, they transformed it into a candy store that opened in March 2005.

The Quesinberrys built their business around authenticity — real candy varieties that had sustained corner stores and five-and-dimes for generations, displayed in traditional Montana glass jars with red lids that still line the shop's walls today. Carolyn was remembered for her big smile and contagious personality, establishing customer service standards that subsequent owners work to maintain.

Following Carolyn's death in 2015, Freddie continued operating until around 2021, when Mark Schwartz, an Ohio tourist passing through on his way to Myrtle Beach, fell in love with Mount Airy and bought the business.

Neil Edlin's acquisition in March 2024 marked the beginning of the current chapter. The transition happened organically when Morrison casually asked Schwartz during a family visit, "Would you ever be interested in selling?"

"He just kind of looked at the ceiling, thought about it for a second and said, 'I hadn't thought about it, but yeah, let's talk,'" Morrison recounted.

LOOKING FORWARD

The physical transformation under new ownership honored the shop's candy-focused heritage while adapting to contemporary customer expectations. The removal of antique inventory created space for seating areas where families can linger over ice cream and conversation. The Montana glass jars with red lids, no longer manufactured, remained in place as both functional containers and nostalgic touchstones.

Preserving historical elements remained important throughout the renovation. The weathered Coca-Cola sign that the Quesinberrys had purchased from an Ohio barn — complete with its backstory of children using it as a sled — stayed mounted on the wall as a conversation piece. A 1942 7UP cooler found new life as storage



A generous serving of ice cream inside a tasty waffle cone are ready to be procured at Opie's Candy Store on Main Street in downtown Mount Airy along with a wide assortment number of penny and novelty candies.

while a modern glass-front refrigerator took over ice cream service.

The shop's ice cream program, featuring both traditional Mayfield flavors and unique Ashby's varieties, caters to diverse tastes while encouraging exploration. The selection allows kids of all ages to discover that ice cream flavors can extend far beyond vanilla and chocolate, while providing familiar options for more traditional palates.

Social media has become an important tool for maintaining connections with both regular customers and distant admirers. The shop's Facebook page features photos of customers spanning multiple generations, often showing the same families visiting across decades as children grow into adults and bring their own children.

"We have a lot of people who have been coming for many, many years and have pictures of their kids when they're 2 years old — their kids are 20 now and they still come back," Morrison says.

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RYAN KELLY | THE NEWS

Shoppers browse the selection of treats inside of Opie's Candy Store while others enjoy a bit of ice cream on a hot afternoon. The young man at the table is seen watching 'The Andy Griffith Show' whose episodes run all day inside the store.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

These two young ladies appear to have had a plan for the day that involved ice cream and turned that plan into a reality. Opie's Candy Store manager Luke Morrison said there are still shoppers who come in that are unaware the shop has ice cream available.

"They've made it a memory, which has been really fun to be a part of."

Looking toward the future, Morrison envisions Opie's continuing to evolve within Mount Airy's changing downtown landscape while maintaining its essential character. "We didn't change the model too much," Morrison reflects. "We just are telling our story a little better."

The shop's success under new ownership demonstrates how established businesses can refresh their approach while honoring their core mission. By prioritizing customer experience and community connection over pure retail volume, Opie's has positioned itself as a destination rather than just a stop.

For Morrison, the reward comes in moments of pure joy -- watching a child's face light up at their first taste of Pop Rocks, seeing grandparents share stories triggered by familiar candy brands, observing teenagers discover new flavor possibilities while their elders enjoy time-tested favorites.

In these moments, surrounded by century-old Montana glass jars and the gentle hum of conversation, Opie's fulfills its quiet promise to be a place where memories are made, traditions are born, and the simple pleasure of sharing something sweet creates connections that span decades.

"There's something for everybody," Morrison says, surveying the shop as afternoon light filters through windows that have witnessed nearly a century of comings and goings on Main Street. "That's what we're trying to get out there -- a place to come in from the heat and enjoy with your family."

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What's Happening In MAYBERRY

Concerts, shows and more!



ON THE BORDER

Whether visiting Mount Airy for a day, or staying a week, there's always something going on -- concerts, shows, displays, and more.

CONCERTS & EVENTS

Note: For tickets to all concerts that are part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series or the Blue Ridge And Beyond series, or to purchase season tickets, visit <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/menu.html>, or call 336-786-7998. Season ticket prices, good for admission to any or all of the summer concert series shows at the Blackmon Amphitheatre, are \$160. Tickets for individual Summer Concert Series tickets are \$20 for most shows, with children 12 and younger admitted free. Prices vary for the Blue Ridge And Beyond series. Concessions are on sale at each of the Summer Concert Series shows. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

JULY

17 The **Legacy Motown Revue**, takes listeners back to the days of The Drifters, The Coasters, The Jacksons, Earth Wind & Fire, The Temptations, and so many more legendary icons featuring singing, dancing, and a six-piece horn band. The concert is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

18 While staying true to their R&B and Beach Music roots, **The Entertainers** also satisfies the most diverse audiences by playing selections from the latest Top 40, Classic Rock & Roll and Country music. The group's years of performing experience and recording prowess culminated in the release

of their latest album entitled, "The Inside Story." This record, which contains the #1 Beach Music hit, "Thank Goodness She Cheated" and Classic Beach and Soul hits, will surely lead you to the dance floor with a smile on your face. Part of the Surry Arts Council Summer concert series, with the concert beginning at 7:30 p.m.

19 **On the Border, the Ultimate Eagles Tribute** pulls it off like no other Eagles Tribute can. These guys emulate the true sound of the Eagles music. Note for note musically, along with 5 part harmonies, these guys nail it on all the hits. Having played all over the U.S selling out venues and wowing crowds of all ages. Part of the Surry Arts Council Summer concert series, with the concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre.

24 **North Tower Band**, considered one of the South's great party bands for nearly four decades will bring its high-energy performance to the Blackmon Amphitheatre at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

31 **Envision** is a high-energy band performing R&B, Beach, Motown/Oldies, Pop, Dance, Funk and Jazz from the 1960s all the way through to today's Top 40 Hits. The band is set to take the stage at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

AUGUST

1 **Too Much Sylvia** will play a little of something for everyone. "The audience can expect to hear anything from a few

unplugged tunes, some beach, Motown, funky 70's, retro 80's, a few of the top current hits, and even some country." Performance begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

2 **Heartbeat of Soul** is part of the outdoor summer concert series at Blackmon Amphitheatre. Heartbeat of Soul's musical range is extensive, encompassing Top 40 Hits, Motown Classics, Carolina Beach Music, R&B, Funk, Pop and Rock. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

2 **Donna The Buffalo, with Joe Thrift & the Hotz** opening. Donna The Buffalo is not just a band, rather one might say that Donna The Buffalo has become a lifestyle for its members and audiences. Since 1989, the roots rockers have played thousands of shows and countless festivals including Bonnaroo, Newport Folk Festival, Telluride, Austin City Limits Festival, Merle Fest, and Philadelphia Folk Festival. Show is part of the Blue Ridge Music Center's 2025 concert series at the outdoor amphitheater. Show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35 Advance, \$35 Day of Show, \$15 for ages 12 and younger. Online ticket sales end at 10 a.m. on the day of the show. Tickets will be available at the concert gate beginning at 5:30 p.m. on the day of the show..

7 **The Embers** featuring **Craig Woolard** are widely considered a musical marvel and have laid the groundwork for what has become known as Beach Music in the Carolinas, Virginias, the gulf coast region of North America, and every beach in between. The popular group will be on stage at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Tickets \$20 or Annual Pass.



BAND OF OZ

8 Main Event Band brings a varied musical style to the stage, playing hits from the 80s and 90s, up to modern favorites. The band will perform beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the **Blackmon Amphitheatre** as part of the Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

9 Landslide, **Fleetwood Mac Tribute** pays homage to one of the greatest and most popular bands in music history, LANDSLIDE recreates the hits from yesteryear, taking fans on an electric journey through FLEETWOOD MAC's incredible catalog of music, including the hits from their solo-careers. Because of LANDSLIDE's genuine love and reverence for FLEETWOOD MAC, they spare no effort in captivating fans with an authentic concert experience. LANDSLIDE is truly one of the crown jewels of the National Tribute Band music scene. The band will perform beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

14 **Band of Oz** is one of the most successful groups in the Southeast and continues to get the best reviews from the top people in the entertainment business. The band now features a full horn section to total a dynamic eight-member group. The band will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

15 **Cassette Rewind** brings its 80s vibe to the stage. Its members say they were "Born in the '80s, raised on radio," and they feature many of the Big 80s hits in a concert



CATALINAS

at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

16 **The Tonez** is an eight-piece musical act that aims to keep crowds on their feet dancing and enjoying live music with its mix of oldies, Motown, rock & roll, country, funk, R&B, and beach music, taking its act to the stage in a 7:30 p.m. show at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

16 **Sister Sadie with Foreign Landers** opening. Sister Sadie is a force to be reckoned with in the bluegrass genre and beyond, celebrated for their electrifying performances, stellar musicianship and the seamless blend of tradition and innovation they bring to bluegrass music. The band is composed of six musicians, each with a rich history of individual achievements that elevate the collective magic of Sister Sadie. Show is part of the Blue Ridge Music Center's 2025 concert series at the outdoor amphitheater. Show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35 Advance, \$35 Day of Show, \$15 for ages 12 and younger. Online ticket sales end at 10 a.m. on the day of the show. Tickets will be available at the concert gate beginning at 5:30 p.m. on the day of the show.

21 For more than 60 years, **The Catalinas** have performed the best of Carolina beach music. The hit "Summertime's Callin' Me" has become the anthem for North and South Carolina beach-goers. With lead vocals by a Mount Airy native, this group livens up a downtown summer evening. Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and is part of the Summer Concert Series Blackmon Amphitheatre. Those

attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

22 **The Holiday Band**, 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Playing hits from the 1950s through today and blending genres such as Current & Classic Top 40, Soul, Funk, Rock & Roll, Motown, Jazz, and more. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

23 **North Tower Band**, considered one of the South's great party bands for nearly four decades will bring its high-energy performance to the Blackmon Amphitheatre at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

23 **Paul Thorn with Time Sawyer** opening at the outdoor amphitheater at the Blue Ridge Music Center near-by Galax, Virginia. Paul Thorn is an American Southern rock, country, Americana, and blues singer-songwriter whose style is a mix of blues, country, and rock. Show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35 Advance | \$40 Day of Show | \$15 for ages 12 and younger. Online ticket sales end at 10 a.m. on the day of the show. Tickets will be available at the concert gate beginning at 5:30 p.m. on the day of the show.

28 **Jim Quick and Coastline**, recipient of multiple Carolina Music Awards, will perform a fusion of soul, blues and Americana music when it takes the stage for a show at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.



29 **The Entertainers** consistently brings its R&B and Beach Music to the stage, and more -- regularly diving into the latest Top 40 hits, classic rock & roll, and even country music. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions available for purchase. Show begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Tickets \$20 or Annual Pass.

30 Founded in 2005, **The Konnection** has been tabbed as one of the East Coast's premier party bands, specializing in a variety of music including Top 40, Rock, Country, R & B, Beach, and Oldies and has become a regular in Mount Airy. The concert gets underway at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre. Part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series.

SEPTEMBER

5 The **Part Time Party Time Band** is a variety band that has been performing around the Southeast since 1980. While the band plays a lot of Beach music, you can also expect to hear some Motown, soul, and other timeless classics. The concert gets underway at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre. Part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series.

6 **The Extraordinaries**, from Hickory, has been known to have its audience on their feet dancing to the sound of four horns and strong vocals, incorporating brass instrumentation to provide high energy rhythm and blues sounds. The band plays popular and rock classics from across the years as well as plenty of beach music. The concert will take place at the Blackmon Amphitheatre beginning at 7:30 p.m. Part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series.

12 **Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot**, will deliver a high-energy R&B performance beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre in Mount Airy. Part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series.

19 **The Attractions Band** of Burlington, a seven-member beach band inducted into the Carolina Beach Music Hall of Fame in 2009, will bring their talent to the stage in Mount Airy with a 7:30 p.m. show at the Blackmon Amphitheatre. Part of the Surry

Arts Council Summer Concert Series.

20 **Phatt City** is a nine-member band playing the best of Motown, dance and beach music, drawing inspiration from the bands Chicago, Earth, Wind & Fire as well as the energetic audiences that attend their concert. Show begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

23 **The Embers featuring Craig Woolard** are widely considered a musical marvel and have laid the groundwork for what has become known as Beach Music in the Carolinas, Virginias, the gulf coast region of North America, and every beach in between. The popular group will be on stage at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series.

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WEEKLY EVENTS

Experience the **Merry-Go-Round**, the second-longest continuously running live radio broadcast in the nation, with a live show every Saturday at The Historic Earle Theatre from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each week. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. Admission is \$8 or a Merry-Go-Round Annual Pass is \$20, or a current Surry Arts Council season pass.



LANDSLIDE

LIVE THEATER

Footloose brings the rockin' rhythm of its Oscar and Tony-nominated Top 40 score, augmented with dynamic new songs, celebrating the wisdom of listening to young people while guiding them with a warm heart and open mind. Shows will be Friday, July 25 and Saturday, July 26 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, July 27 at 3:00 p.m. at the Andy Griffith Playhouse. Tickets are \$20/\$25. Visit <https://www.surryarts.org/> to purchase tickets.

ONGOING

The Old-Time Music Heritage Hall, housed in the Historic Earle Theatre at 142 N. Main Street in Mount Airy, is open daily throughout the year. Exhibit hours are 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sundays, noon to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on Saturday WPAQ's Merry-Go-Round and exhibits are on display from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Self-guided tours of the Old-Time Music Heritage Hall are \$8 per person plus tax per person and includes admission to the Andy Griffith Museum, Betty Lynn Exhibit and Siamese Twins Exhibit.



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