



Simply MAYBERRY

WINTER 2026

MAYBERRY'S FUTURE

Definitely looks bright

WINE COUNTRY?

Surry County transformation

MUSICAL GIANT

Festival honors Tommy Jarrell

BORED?

Concerts, shows & more



THE REGION'S ONLY COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE
To Entertainment, Fun And All Things Mayberry!

*In Home-Aide
Agency*



www.americanhealthcare-services.com

915 Rockford Street, Mount Airy, NC 27030 • 336-789-2273

*Providing In-Home Aide Assistance
For The Following Programs...*

PRIVATE DUTY SERVICES

American Healthcare Services, Inc. offers sitting and companionship, meal preparation, light housekeeping, errands, and personal care. We sit privately in hospitals and nursing facilities.

All caregivers provide socialization, a safe environment and support.

- ♥ Long Term Care Insurance
- ♥ Alzheimer's and Dementia
- ♥ Worker's Compensation
- ♥ Veterans
- ♥ Home and Community Block Grant
- ♥ Family Caregiver Support - Voucher
- ♥ EPSDT - Medicaid under 21 years old
- ♥ CAP - Community Alternative Programs
- ♥ PCS - Personal Care Services



**Need Help With a Loved One?
Let Us Help. Call for a few hours or up to
24 hours. We Provide the Best. In Home
Aide Service.**

Locally Owned & Operated Serving Surry, Yadkin & Stokes Counties

- State Licensed American Healthcare
- Established in present location since 2000
- Random Drug Testing & Pre-Employment Drug Testing
- IHA and CNA
- Referenced, SBI and National Checks Done
- Registered Nurses available for the Aide 24 hours a day
- Active Member of the Association of Home and Hospice Care of NC.
- Member of Alzheimer's Foundation of America
- Plans in place to cover absences
- Bonded and Insured

TN0291041

Simply MAYBERRY

WINTER 2026

Can be delivered to your home! A subscription for all 4 issues over twelve months is just \$38. Call 336-415-4630 to subscribe today!

GENERAL MANAGER
SERENA BOWMAN
serena.bowman@mtairynews.com

EDITOR **JOHN PETERS**
jpeters@mtairynews.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS/
PHOTOGRAPHERS
**KITSEY BURNS-HARRISON,
TOM JOYCE, RYAN KELLY**

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
MANAGER **MARTHA EATON**
meaton@mtairynews.com

SALES CONSULTANTS
**NATHANIEL BLEVINS, KIM CAGLE,
CAYSEE SCHMIDT,
SAMANTHA TURNER, BOB WARD**

APG GRAPHICS DESIGN CENTER:
DONNA THOMAS
dthomas@apgcreate.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN
DARLA ALLEN

PUBLISHED BY
THE MOUNT AIRY NEWS

The Mount Airy News

319 North Renfro St., Mount Airy, NC 27030 • 336.786.4141

**Simply
MAYBERRY**

Get 4 issues delivered to your home

Subscribe Now!

Only \$38.00

**Simply
MAYBERRY**

INSIDE
PILOT MOUNTAIN AND THE GRUBBIN
BLUE RIDGE MUSIC CENTER AND FIDDLER'S CONVENTION
MAYBERRY IN NCT

For faster service or to give a gift, call (336) 786-4141.

TNNC218791-1

CONTENTS

4

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR MAYBERRY?

Mount Airy, the real-life Mayberry, has long been the home of all things Mayberry, and that isn't changing anytime soon. That connection may well be spurring a bright, if different, future for the city.

7

WINE COUNTRY?

Mount Airy and the greater Surry County area is known for its natural beauty, along with a history steeped in agriculture. Those two factors are combining to make the county part of one of the richest vineyards and winery regions in the nation.

12

TOMMY JARRELL FESTIVAL

One of the true greats of old-time music left us four decades ago, yet Tommy Jarrell's contributions to the genre are remembered with his annual birthday celebration, including a big concert and dance.

14

MORE THAN YOU CAN DO

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...

ON THE COVER

The Round Peak Band will be making a return trip to this year's Tommy Jarrell Festival.

MOUNT AIRY

Celebrating the past while moving into a

BRIGHT FUTURE

BY TOM JOYCE | tjoyce@mtairynews

Fan of “The Andy Griffith Show” often talk about longing for the fictional simple times depicted in the show, when life was a bit slower, everyone in town took care of everyone, and life was just quieter and easier.

Many of those fans — easily more than 100,000 — sojourn to Mount Airy every year to sample a bit of life in Andy Griffith’s hometown. They come to Mount Airy all year long to visit his museum, take in a show at The Andy Griffith Playhouse, or to simply walk up and down Main Street, checking local shops, maybe walking the same ground that Andy did as a child.

During the annual Mayberry Days held each September, thousands descend on the city for shows, Andy Griffith trivia contests, to meet some of the surviving stars of the show, to have their pictures taken at Floyd’s Barbershop, to watch the parade, and to simply imagine, at least for a few days, life is really what “The Andy Griffith Show” portrayed.

What most of those folks don’t see is what stands just a few blocks off of Main Street, the same scenes they might see all over the South — decaying industrial buildings with overgrown parking lots, standing as mute tribute to the ghosts of textile glories past.

But thanks to the seemingly everlasting — even growing — interest in that 60-year-old show, and some hard work by Mount Airy officials, the real-life Mayberry has been able to wrest itself from that depressing fate.

Mount Airy’s economy has changed dramatically over the past three decades as the town shifted from an industrial base built on hosiery and textiles into a 21st century model centered on tourism. Against that backdrop, the town bought the former Spencer’s property in 2014, seven years after the last infant garment rolled off the production line.

It is resurrecting the former Spencer’s textile mill property downtown for new uses including a Marriott Tribute hotel and the Granstone Conference Center.

“It’s going to bring a lot of life to an area that ever since Spencer’s closed, has been kind of dead,” Mayor Jon Cawley said.

“Not dead, but kind of dead,” he specified. “There’s going to be a lot of life moving around the city there.”

Jessica Roberts, executive director of the Mount Airy Tourism Development Authority, described the situation using similar terms.

“That part of town has been sitting as a ghost town for a long time,” Roberts said of a development area centered in the vicinity of Willow and Franklin streets.

“I think it’s really going to change the landscape of our town,” she



FILE PHOTO

The Mayberry Days parade on Saturday is always a big hit in Mount Airy, with thousands lining Main Street to interact with Mayberry Days guests, artists, and character tribute artists. It’s the unique draw of Mount Airy to Mayberry fans and others alike that helped the city land a soon-to-be-open conference center and downtown hotel, transforming part of the city’s old industrial base into a modern-day draw for tourists.

predicted regarding the Balladeer Hotel and Granstone Conference Center.

The 70-room lodging establishment will greet its first guests next spring, with construction on the conference center to be finished in late 2026.

ROUGH ROAD AT TIMES

It hasn’t been easy for the Spencer’s redevelopment to reach this point.

The city government has overcome many pitfalls since acquiring the former textile site in 2014, 10 acres containing more than 20 buildings — some dating to the late 1800s.

A private firm, Sunhouse Hospitality, bought the Sparger Building and is transforming the towering, five-story structure into the Balladeer Hotel.

“A Marriott downtown is a great thing,” City Manager Darren Lewis said of the boutique hotel to operate under that brand.

That hotel will be put to good use during most of the year for Mayberry visitors as well as groups that already hold annual meetings in the vicinity — and it will most definitely be popular during Mayberry Days, when all hotels within 30 miles often are booked solid.

Meanwhile, the municipality secured \$15 million in appropriations from the state Legislature to build Granstone Conference Center, for which a groundbreaking was held in November at its location on Franklin Street.

The idea is that persons using the center will stay at the Balladeer, along with the typical Mayberry tourists.

“It’s going to bring in a different group of individuals that do not come to Mount Airy now,” Lewis believes.

They will include members of different organizations or business groups who’ll be venturing here for conventions and other large-scale meetings.

The town has assigned Jenny Smith of the Mount Airy Visitors Center to recruit meeting planners and organizations to book the facility.

“We do really well with leisure travel, leisure tourism, but one thing that we are lacking is these meetings and conferences,” Smith



FILE PHOTO

Perhaps the single largest event in Mount Airy every year is the three-day Autumn Leaves festival, purported to bring more than 200,000 people to the city some years. Events such as this keeps tourists coming to the city, and helped Mount Airy officials draw the interest of developers who revitalizing old, closed textile facilities to use as a conference center and hotel.

said. “We have had to turn down a lot of those.”

Smith believes Mount Airy has a competitive advantage over typical conference destinations.

“We have an advantage because we are in a walkable community,” she said. “A lot of these conference centers that I’ve been to, you know, they’re surrounded by hotels, but there’s not a whole lot that you can walk to from there.”

Plans have called for the Granstone to include one large ballroom, multiple (two to three) breakout rooms and other programmable spaces for exhibits and meetings. The city commissioners awarded a contract for architectural and engineering services to Workplace Architecture and Design.

City officials acknowledge one challenge: while the Granstone can



FILE PHOTO

A Mayberry Days parade participant leads a cow sporting footwear down North Main Street in reference to an “Andy Griffith Show” episode about a thief who puts shoes on a similar animal to make it look as if more than one person was responsible for a Mayberry crime spree. While these types of parade acts recall the deep past, they and the crowds they draw also are bridging the gap to Mount Airy’s future with new development in the city.

hold up to 300 attendees, the adjacent Balladeer Hotel will have only 70 rooms. Commissioner Calvin Vaughn pointed out the capacity gap during a council meeting, noting that larger conferences could exceed the hotel’s room inventory.

A new buzzword, “Bleisure,” a blend of business and leisure, is being tossed around in envisioning what the Granstone will generate in terms of visitors arriving for conventions who also want to have fun while in town.

“So I think that this is going to be a major marketing tool for Mount Airy,” the city manager said of the hotel/conference center pairing.

“Both of these, along with the entire Spencer’s Mill Redevelopment, will be one of the largest projects the city has ever been involved with,” Lewis declared.



TOM JOYCE | THE NEWS

A groundbreaking for Granstone Conference Center in November is attended by state and local officials.



TOM JOYCE | THE NEWS

Project Engineer Madison Allred stands in a room of the soon-to-be-completed Balladeer Hotel.



CITY OF MOUNT AIRY

A rendering of the new Granstone Conference Center in Mount Airy, depicting its west side.

ABOUT THE NAME

The term Granstone obviously is a play on Mount Airy granite.

It emerged in 2024, being selected by a committee planning the convention center which needed to come up with a “working title” for the facility, according to Mayor Cawley.

There was a need to establish a “trademark” for the center including a name “they could get a license for that no one else is using,” Cawley has said.

Committee members weighed several options and settled on Granstone, which he agrees ties in nicely with the local granite industry tradition.

“It felt like it fit,” the mayor said.



TOM JOYCE | THE NEWS

Workers give new life to formerly abandoned hallways in the Sparger Building of the old Spencer’s textile mill complex.

Invested In Your Business

When it comes to marketing your business, look no further than your own backyard where you have local knowledgeable consultants striving to grow your business.



Full-Service Marketing Solutions

- Magazines - Targeted Banner Advertising
- Social Media Management - SEM
- SEO Social Media Advertising - Direct Mail
- Banners & Signs - Direct Email - Brochures
- Flowcodes - Geofencing - Branded Content
- Programmatic Audio - CTV/OTT
- Netflix - Amazon Prime
- Ad Messenger - OOH Digital Billboards
- Reputation Management - Websites

**Contact us today for
a free consultation.**

MOUNT AIRY
REGIONAL MEDIA GROUP PRINT • ONLINE • & MORE

The Mount Airy News - The Tribune - The Carroll News
The Stokes News - The Yadkin Ripple

336.786.4141 ext. 3
advertising@mtairynews.com

TNNC268623-1

WINEYARDS

FUEL TOURISM

in Surry County and beyond

BY KITSEY BURNS HARRISON | kburns@yadkinripple.com

Mount Airy may be known as the real-life Mayberry, with tens of thousands flocking to the city every year for the Mayberry experience.

But even more people often journey to the greater Surry County and Yadkin Valley region to take in the area's burgeoning wine and vineyard businesses.

The modern wine industry in the region grew from the decline of the region's more traditional agricultural roots. When the cash crop of tobacco began to fade, the farmers of the Yadkin Valley began the search for new innovations in farming which then led to grape growing. The vineyards of the Yadkin Valley region, which includes parts of Surry, Wilkes and Yadkin counties, have grown beyond expectations, making the region an agri-tourism destination.

From the first grapes grown to now more than 40 wineries in the Yadkin Valley Wine region, Surry County alone boasts close to 20 unique vineyards to explore, with a special wine trail that hosts events and promotes local vineyards.

"Located centrally in the Yadkin Valley Wine Region, The Surry Wineries Group is an organization of many wineries in the area. It is a wonderful community of local wineries that collaborate together on events and support each other through our mission to grow and elevate Yadkin Valley Wines," said Louis Jeroslow, a winemaker at Elkin Creek Vineyards. "Visitors experiencing the Surry Wine Trail have a unique opportunity to enjoy many beautiful wineries, varieties of wine and flavors, and friendly smiles to greet you. You can feel the warmth and enthusiasm from the owners, winemakers, and tasting room staff that is shared throughout this blossoming region."

Each year the Surry Wine Trail offers its Yadkin Valley Winter Wine & Beer Passport which provides a season full of tastings at wineries and breweries in the towns of Dobson, Elkin and Mount Airy.

The program begins the day after Thanksgiving and runs through March 29, making it a wonderful option for a holiday gift to wine lovers. Purchasers of a Yadkin Valley Winter Wine & Beer Passport receive either one or two tastings at each of 12 participating locations. There are eight wineries and four breweries. Passport holders also receive discounts at local restaurants, accommodations and merchants.

Participating wineries for 2025-2026 include: Adagio



Vineyards, Carolina Heritage Vineyard, Christian Paul Vineyards, Elkin Creek Vineyard, Grassy Creek Vineyard, Haze Gray Vineyards, Roaring River Vineyards, and Shelton Vineyards. Breweries are: Angry Troll Brewing, Thirsty Souls Community Brewing, and White Elephant Beer Company. For more information about the passport, call the Yadkin Valley Chamber at 336-526-1111.

The wineries of the region are known for raising European vinifera as well as French-American hybrids.

Each regional vineyard has its own unique style and setting, some like Shelton and Jolo, both in Surry County, have on-site restaurants, host weddings and other special concerts and events throughout the year.

Smaller wineries like Elkin Creek, on the site of a century-old mill, features Sunday-only dining with wood-fired pizzas.

Located just outside Mount Airy is Round Peak Vineyards with a picturesque setting framed by the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Carolina Heritage, near Elkin, proudly stands as North Carolina's first USDA Certified Organic Vineyard and first solar-powered winery. In addition to the nine acres of American native and hybrid grapes, the winery also cultivates 1.5 acres of native blueberries.

Grassy Creek Vineyard and Winery is perfect for nature lovers, with on-site trails leading to beautiful natural views, including nearby Carter Falls. Grassy Creek is located on a former dairy farm just north of Elkin. Enjoy wine tasting in the historic Red Barn, plus live music and food trucks on the lawn outside the tasting room. Overnight excursions are also available on-site at the Klondike Cabins.

Surry County also boasts two veteran-owned wineries, Haze Gray and Golden Road.

Haze Gray Vineyards, which draws its name from the color of U.S. naval ships, is located on an 85-acre former corn and tobacco farm just outside Dobson. The vineyard is a certified Homegrown by Heroes farm, signifying agricultural products produced by U.S. military veterans.

Also certified by Homegrown by Heroes is Golden Road



KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

A row of Christian Paul Vineyards wines in the wine library at the tasting room.

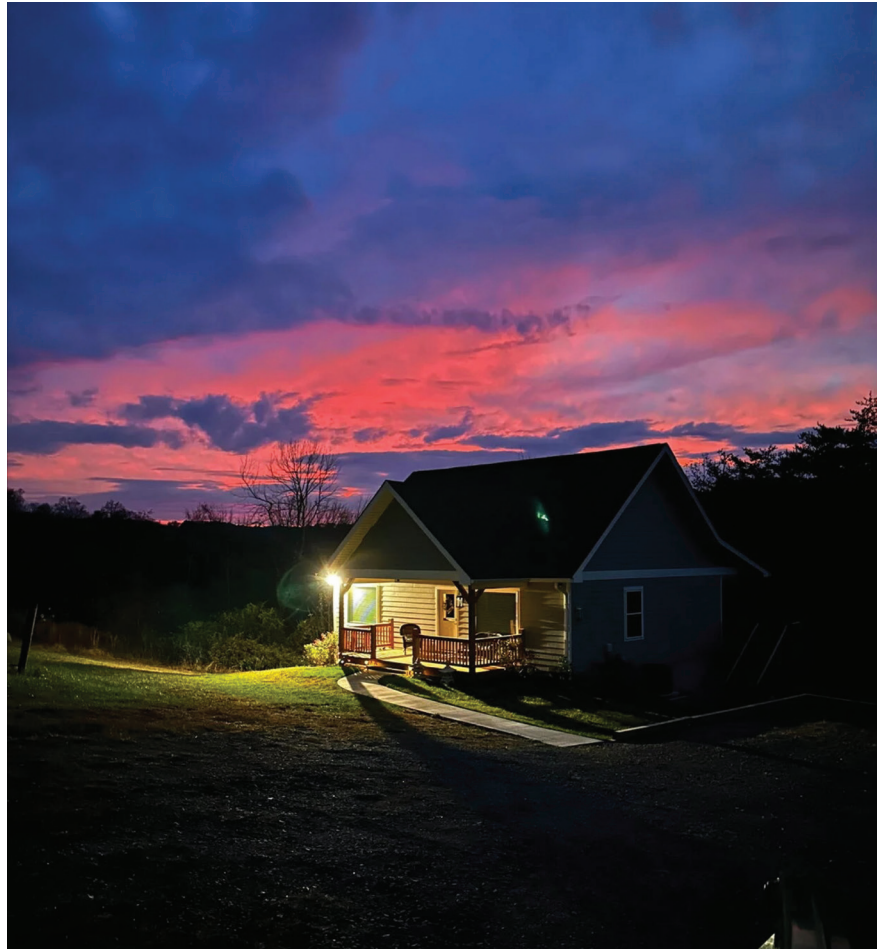
Vineyards. Tucked along its namesake road with a backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Golden Road Vineyards covers 25 picturesque acres in the community of State Road, just outside Elkin. The vineyard's Wine Way Cottages also make for a great weekend stay option.

Stony Knoll Vineyards, located minutes away from Historic Rockford and the Yadkin River, is a family owned vineyard on a North Carolina Century Farm founded in 1896. The tasting room and outdoor brick porch overlook Stony Knoll's designer vineyard framed by a mountain backdrop. Guests can spend a night or two in the vineyards at the Wine Lodge at Stony Knoll Vineyards, a renovated farmhouse with master suite on the upper floor featuring a king bed and two-person hot tub.

Adagio Vineyards in Elkin, named for a musical term meaning to perform slowly with passion, features a spacious tasting room built above the 3,000-square-foot winery. Tasting room decor is rustic elegance, with three tasting bars, including a large, curved stand-up serving bar, a sit-down kitchen tasting bar and the violin showcase bar. Adagio has two vineyards, a six-acre tract about a mile from the winery, and a three-quarters of an acre vineyard surrounding the winery.

Also in Elkin, Christian Paul Vineyards is one of the newest wineries in the region, having opened in September of 2023. The tasting room and vineyards sit on a 25-acre estate that features rolling hills framed by a backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Initial vineyard plantings include Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Traminette and Malbec. Owners Christian Ercolani and Andrew Weyl craft their wines in the style of those from various international wine regions in France, Italy, Germany, Argentina and Australia.

Another Elkin favorite, Slightly Askew winery, offers a large selection of sweet wines produced from grapes and fruits harvested locally, as well as from some of the better wine regions in the world. Fruit wines have whimsical names like Peachie Keen, Numb Knutz



Peaceful evening view at Golden Road Vineyard's Wine Way Cottage.

COURTESY OF GOLDEN ROAD VINEYARDS

and Bubba Lou's Choice. The winery also produces more traditional reds and whites, such as Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon. A few steps from the back patio is the Slightly Askew Winery Vacation House, a modern four-bedroom, three-bathroom vacation rental featuring a large back deck with hot tub.

Just northwest of Elkin is Jones von Drehle Vineyards and Winery, a



KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

Christian Paul Vineyards' Blanc de Blanc, a champagne-style sparkling wine is one of its most popular.



KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

Guests sample wines from Hanover Park, Yadkin County's oldest winery and vineyard, during the 2023 Yadkin Valley Wine Festival in Elkin.



KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

The wine library at Christian Paul Vineyards in Elkin.



In this photo from the 2023 open house, Surry Community College Viticulture Instructor Sarah Bowman talks with prospective students in the Surry Cellars vineyard.



KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

Christian Ercolani, of Christian Paul Vineyards, pours sparkling wine for the annual Hugh Chatham Health Wine Gala.

65-acre family-owned winery on the rising slope of the Blue Ridge, with 30 acres of classic wine grapes including Merlot, Chardonnay, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Viognier, Malbec and Petit Manseng. Jones von Drehle is known for its quality dry wines, many of which are served in finer restaurants throughout North Carolina.

Serre Vineyards in Mount Airy features 10 wines and spectacular sunsets from its grassed terrace overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains. Its 3,000-square-foot tasting barn featuring a modern farmhouse motif with European accents, is the centerpiece of a 70-acre property sloping westward to the Fisher River. Guests are welcome to take a bottle of



KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

Shelton Vineyards is among the participating wineries at the 19th annual Yadkin Valley Grape Festival held in Yadkinville. Shelton led the way in the early development of the Yadkin Valley region as a wine producer area.



C&B Lumber Inc.

TOP-NOTCH LOG HOME MATERIALS MANUFACTURER

What We Do

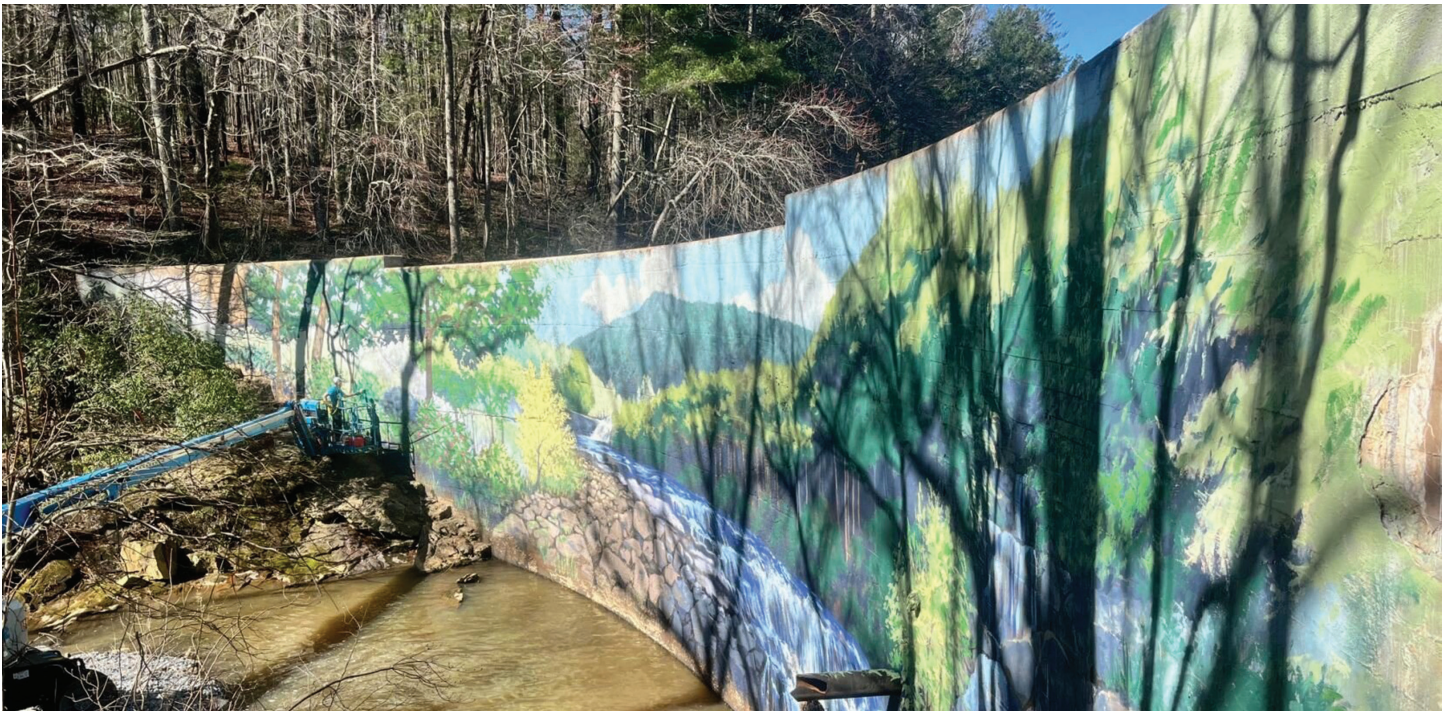
We are a manufacturer of a wide variety of log home materials. These include but are not limited to:

- Tiny home Materials
- Log Siding
- Heavy Timber Beams
- Cedar Railing
- Tongue and Groove





3594 Turkey Knob Road Fries, VA 24330
276-744-3337 | info@candblumber.com



JOE MICKEY

Artist Eva Crawford at work on the mural at Klondike Dam near Grassy Creek Vineyard and Winery.

wine and hike down to the river on a three-mile trail system.

Hidden Vineyard is a boutique winery tucked on nine acres between Dobson and Pilot Mountain. The vineyard produces Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chambourcin, Chardonnay, Merlot, Petit Manseng, Petit Verdot and Pinot Gris. A spacious and cozy tasting room has an industrial farmhouse design with lots of natural light and a porch with rocking chairs overlooking the vines. Guests are encouraged to walk the vineyard, including an open trail through the middle of the grapevines that features a nice view of the peak of Pilot Mountain.

Also in Surry County is Surry Cellars, an actual working winery on the campus of Surry Community College. Under the guidance of the faculty, students grow and harvest grapes, make and bottle wines, design labels and learn how to market the finished product.

The local Chambers of Commerce in the Surry County area say that vineyard visits are a huge economic and tourism driver.

“We have 16 wineries who are members of the Yadkin Valley Chamber. We normally have 16-18 wineries who participate in the Yadkin Valley Wine Festival in May each year. They bring thousands



KITSEY BURNS HARRISON

The vineyards at Dynamis Estate Winery in Jonesville.



Harvest season at Sotrio Vineyards.

COURTESY PHOTO



Golden Road Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon

COURTESY OF GOLDEN ROAD VINEYARDS

of people to the Yadkin Valley each year. The economic impact and exposure to the Yadkin Valley is beyond measure. Wineries are probably the greatest driver of tourism for the Yadkin Valley,” said Yadkin Valley Chamber of Commerce Director David Steelman.

Mount Airy Visitors Center and Communications Manager Jamie Johnston added, “The Surry County wine region plays a significant role in fueling tourism by offering visitors a unique blend of award-winning wineries, scenic countryside, and small-town hospitality.”

“As part of the Yadkin Valley AVA, Surry County attracts travelers

seeking authentic, relaxed wine experiences that encourage longer stays and return visits. Local wineries act as tourism anchors, driving visitation to nearby lodging, restaurants, outdoor attractions, and downtowns. Through tastings, events, and seasonal activities, Surry County’s wineries help strengthen the local economy while positioning the county as a welcoming and memorable destination.”

To learn more about the Yadkin Valley Wine region and the wineries of Surry County visit, yadkinvalleynec.com/guides/surry-county-wine-trail/



Shelton Vineyards.

CORRIE HUGGINS



The Ray Family of Jolo Winery and Vineyards.

COURTESY OF JOLO

Destined for greatness

Annual fete honors musical giant

BY JOHN PETERS | jpeters@mtairynews.com

Who could have known?
Born not long after
the turn of the century

— on March 1, 1901 — young Tommy lived through two World Wars, the Spanish flu pandemic, and the Great Depression.

Throughout his adult years he plied his trade, working as a road builder, operating a motor grader later in life, until his 1966 retirement from the North Carolina Highway Department. Despite the fact that some of the roadways he built are no doubt in use today, his real legacy is what he did on his own time — with a banjo and fiddle.

Then again, with the name Thomas Jefferson Jarrell, it would seem he was destined for greatness.

That is exactly what he achieved as a musician and singer.

Jarrell is remembered today as one of the pioneers of the Round Peak style of play, something emulated by musicians the world over.

During the latter years of his life, old time and blue grass musicians from around the world would journey to his home in Surry County, North Carolina, to spend time with him, to learn from him, to understand his style of playing.

Even today, musicians who had the opportunity to study under his tutelage count that as among their greatest achievements. His first fiddle, which he is purported to have purchased for \$10 in his younger days, is in the Smithsonian Institution. He was among the recipients of the inaugural National Endowment for the Arts' National Heritage Fellowships in 1982, three years before his Jan. 28, 1985 death, just a few weeks short of his 84th birthday.

In his home community, in Surry County, his work



and legacy is celebrated every year with the annual Tommy Jarrell Festival, held each February, the final weekend of the month before his birthday.

The celebration is different from year to year — sometimes there are workshops by those who either studied under Jarrell or by those whose long-time work has begun to etch their own legacy in the land of old time music. Still other festivals include free youth lessons in dance, fiddle, guitar, and banjo mandolin. Not too many years ago there was a screening of a film about Jarrell — there are two documentaries about Jarrell and his music, the 1983 “Sprout Wings and Fly” by the late Less Blank and the later 1994 film — “My Old Fiddle: A Visit with Tommy Jarrell in the Blue Ridge,” by Blank. Other years, bluegrass and old time groups may be invited to come in and play.

Always, though, there is the youth competition — keeping the spirit of Jarrell’s music alive and well — and the birthday concert and dance.

The concert and dance is usually the final act of the weekend’s activities, but often the highlight. With the last grips of winter cold outside, the interior of the Historic Earle Theatre almost becomes a cathedral, the band playing in celebration of Jarrell’s life, the audience clapping and cheering, some members unable to contain their excitement, taking to the dance floor, flat-footing away, the visage of Jarrell staring down from his portrait on the wall.

This year, in 2026, the festival will focus on the youth competition along with the concert and dance.

That competition will be held on Saturday, Feb. 28, beginning at 4 p.m. at the Surry Arts Council’s Arts Center, 215 Rockfrod St. — just across the street from the Andy Griffith Playhouse.

Categories include clawhammer banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, band, dance, vocal, and other (which includes all other instruments and combinations not listed) in two age levels: 5-12 and 13-18. Each contestant may enter only two categories. Contestants



HOBART JONES | SURRY ARTS COUNCIL

The Round Peak Boys will be playing for the Tommy Jarrell Birthday Concert and Dance on Saturday, Feb. 28.

will have three minutes to perform and can have one accompanist, though no recorded backup is permitted.

Contestants may register in advance by calling 336-786-7998 or on-site on the day of the competition.

The birthday concert and dance will feature The Round Peak Band that evening, in a show set to begin at 7 o'clock in the Historic Earle Theatre on Main Street in Mount Airy. General admission there is \$12.

For more information on the youth competition, the concert, or to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/tommyjarrell.html>



HOBART JONES | SURRY ARTS COUNCIL

Winners from a previous Tommy Jarrell Celebration Youth Competition pose for a photo with Jim Vipperman, and award-winning musician and teacher who serves as judge.



KYLE
REALTY & INSURANCE

GALAX:
276-236-6134

FANCY GAP:
276-728-4994

**1080 E. STUART DR,
GALAX, VA 24333**

**7833 FANCY GAP HWY,
FANCY GAP, VA 24328**

kyle-realty.com



SNAPPY LUNCH

HOME OF THE
**WORLD FAMOUS
PORK CHOP
SANDWICH**



The Signature Sandwich of Locals and Visitors alike!

125 N. Main St. | Mt. Airy, N.C. 27030
336-786-4931 | thesnappylunch.com

Monday - Friday 6am - 2pm
Saturday 6am - 2:30pm Sunday Closed

What's Happening In **MAYBERRY**

Concerts, shows and more!

Whether visiting Mount Airy for a day, or staying a week, there's always something going on -- concerts, shows, displays, and more. Unless otherwise noted, tickets for shows that are part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series are \$20, or a season pass for \$175. For concert series

CONCERTS & EVENTS

FEBRUARY

6 North Carolina A&T Fellowship Gospel Choir will be performing at the Andy Griffith Playhouse at 7 p.m. in this free concert in celebration of Black History Month. Hosted by the Surry Arts Council and African American Historical and Genealogical Society.

7 WPAQ 77th birthday celebration is slated for 5:30 p.m. at the Historic Earle Theatre, 142 N. Main St. in Mount Airy. This free celebration will include a number of area bands celebrating nearly 80 years of broadcasting and community involvement by Mount Airy's WPAQ -- one of the stations keeping old time and bluegrass music thriving. Music, singing, and plenty of dancing for those inclined to take to the dance floor. Event is free.

28 Tommy Jarrell Birthday Concert and Dance, featuring The Round Peak Band, will get underway at 6:30 p.m. at the Historic Earle Theatre. The event features Surry County Old-Time music and traditions and celebrates the life of Surry County native and old time musical legend Tommy Jarrell. General admission tickets are \$12. To order tickets, or for more information, visit the Surry Arts Council at <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/blueridgebeyond.html>

MARCH

7 Andy Beningo Comedy Show, at 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Earle Theatre. Hailed for his "everyman" style, Andy Beningo's brings a night of clean, relatable humor to Mount Airy. Named "Best Comedian" by the Detroit Metro Times, Andy finds the funny in everyday topics such as being a middle child, which has made him a crowd favorite across thousands of performances. With millions of views on social media for his special Adorable Tough Guy, he has appearances on Drybar Comedy and the Bob and Tom radio show, Beningo is a top-tier act. Tickets are \$25 for orchestra seating, \$20 for balcony seating. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/comedy-club-at-the-earle-andy-beningo-tickets-1766688345399> for tickets



FELLOWSHIP GOSPEL CHOIR

or more information.

MAY

9 Landslide, Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band, part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series, 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre. Experience all the timeless hits you know and love, from the enchanting harmonies of "Rhiannon" and "Dreams" to the powerful, iconic sound of "Go Your Own Way" and "The Chain." With meticulous attention to musical detail and a genuine love for the band, Landslide delivers an authentic concert experience that captures the captivating energy and spirit of Fleetwood Mac. Tickets \$20 or 2026 Annual Pass.

14 Band of Oz, part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series, 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre. Get ready to shag the night away with what some call one of the most beloved Beach Music groups in the Southeast. For more than 50 years, this group has delivered performances that blend classic hits with their lively stage presence. Join the party and experience an evening of high-energy music, dancing, and good times. Tickets \$20 or 2026 Annual Pass.

15 The Entertainers, part of the Surry Arts Council Summer C15 Concert Series, 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre. Get ready to groove with the Entertainers, masters of Beach Music for more than 30 years. Their performance combines classic R&B, Top 40 hits, and soulful throwbacks, guaranteeing a night of dancing and good vibes. From their iconic smash hit "Living For The Summer" to the infectious energy of their live show, the Entertainers have a proven track record of bringing the party to every stage they grace. Tickets \$20 or 2026 Annual Pass

16 North Toward Band, part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series, takes to the stage at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre. After decades of delighting audiences with their energetic performances, the legendary North Tower Band is bringing their dynamic show back to Mount Airy 2026. Expect a night of sizzling brass, soulful vocals, and a wide-ranging setlist that spans beach music, Motown, disco, and Top 40 hits. Whether you're a longtime shagger or a first-timer, North Tower will have you on the dance floor. Tickets \$20 or 2026 Annual Pass.

21 Jim Quick and Coastline, part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series, will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre. Ready for a night of soulful blues, R&B, and pure Southern rock energy? Get ready for a performance by the band known as the Coastline Crazies, performing a blend of Americana and Carolina backbeats. With Jim Quick's engaging humor and 18-time "Entertainer of the Year" accolades, you can expect a fun and high-energy show that will keep you on your feet. Tickets \$20 or 2026 Annual Pass.



ANDY BENINGO

22 Special Occasion Band will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series. Get ready to dance and sing along as this band delivers a mix of genres, from rock anthems to timeless dance hall rhythms, that is guaranteed to get you on your feet. Tickets \$20 or 2026 Annual Pass.

23 The Pink Slips Band will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series. The band's eclectic sound covers everything from Carolina beach music and soul to country and classic rock. With their stellar brass section, killer guitar solos, and infectious crowd involvement, The Pink Slips Band promises a night of top-tier entertainment and southern hospitality. Tickets \$20 or 2026 Annual Pass.

JUNE

21 Elkin Big Band will perform "Singin' & Swingin'" in this concert that brings the sound of the Big Band era and the talent of local musicians together for a show in Mount Airy. "Singin' & Swingin'" is an all-vocals program featuring songs made famous by Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Burt Bacharach, Etta James, The Andrews Sisters, Bobby Darin, Michael Buble, Cole Porter. Krista Jo Wells, Kirsten Beach-Whiteley and her husband Colin will display their vocal talents. Show takes place at 3 p.m. at the Andy Griffith Playhouse. Preferred seating is \$25, orchestra seating is \$20. For tickets or additional information visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/elkin-big-band-singin-swingin-tickets-1979228989186?aff=oddtcreator>

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.

LIVE THEATER

FEBRUARY 20-21

Disney Descendants: The Musical, by the Surry Arts Players, set for a two-day run, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. at the Andy

Griffith Playhouse. Based on the popular Disney Channel Original Movies, Disney's Descendants: The Musical is a new musical packed with comedy, adventure, Disney characters, and hit songs from the films. Imprisoned on the Isle of the Lost – home of the most infamous villains who ever lived – the teen-aged children of Maleficent, the Evil Queen, Jafar, and Cruella De Vil have never ventured off the island – until now. When the four troublemakers are sent to attend prep school alongside the children of beloved Disney heroes, they have a difficult choice to make: should they follow in their parents' wicked footsteps or learn to be good? To

order tickets, or for more information, visit the Surry Arts Council at <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/livetheatre.html>

APRIL 24-25

Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr., April 24 at 7 p.m. and April 25 at 3 p.m. Fall down the rabbit hole with Alice as she navigates the curious world of Wonderland on a journey of self-discovery. When young Alice finds herself in a strange world where everything seems upside down, she must find her way home... and find herself along the way. As she travels through Wonderland, she encounters all of the iconic characters that audiences have come to love: including the ever-tardy White Rabbit, the grinning Cheshire Cat, a cool Caterpillar, the wacky Mad Hatter, and the hot-tempered Queen of Hearts. For tickets or additional information, visit the Surry Arts Council at <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/livetheatre.html>. Preferred seating tickets are \$25, orchestra seats are \$20.

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.



Dalton Body Shop

276-728-3461

TNNC28931-1

685 Emory Road Hillsville, VA 24343
Steven Quesenberry
daltonbodyshop1@gmail.com

Fax: 276-728-3918
Cell: 276-733-5031



Kubota®

**Some farm hands work harder,
and faster, than others.**

Farmers have a lot of ground to cover. The Sidekick utility vehicle gets you there in a hurry with a top speed of 40 mph and the strength to haul a half-ton and tow a full ton.



SIDEKICK RTV-XG850



**MT. AIRY EQUIPMENT
COMPANY, INC.**

**1431 West Pine Street
Mt. Airy, NC 27030**

336-786-6240

TNNC23979-1

*Excludes California models. © Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2024. Your Kubota Limited warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may have other rights which vary from state to state. Kubota Tractor Corporation does not authorize any person to create for KTC any obligation or liability other than that stated in the limited warranty. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For complete warranty, disclaimer, safety and product and incentive offer information, consult your local Kubota dealer and the Owner's Warranty Information Guide for the Kubota limited warranty on all products. Visit KubotaUSA.com/disclaimers for more information.