



SPRING 2024  
ISSUE 40

# Mayberry

MAGAZINE



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# WHAT'S INSIDE

## Cover Story —

### THE STORY CONTINUES

Mayberry Man, the movie was not just a one-off theatrical tribute to The Andy Griffith Show and its modern-day fans. Now, Mayberry Man: The Series returns fans to the world of Andy Griffith, with old-time values and good, clean, fun, family entertainment.

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### MORE THAN MAYBERRY

Andy Griffith Show fans know Mount Airy as Mayberry central — the city Andy based his fictional town of Mayberry on, and the home of the annual Mayberry Days Festival. But there is so much more to Mount Airy — shops, festivals, the arts, and plenty of fun.

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### SO, YOU THINK YOU KNOW THE ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW?

Test your Andy Griffith knowledge with our somewhat expanded Mayberry Trivia Quiz. Learn about Barney's Mom, his girlfriends (yes, plural), Aunt Bee's biggest adventure, Opie's runaway friend, and see how Andy ranks among television's greatest dads.

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### WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO DO...

This might be winter and the early, chilly days of spring, but that doesn't mean there is not plenty to keep you busy visiting Mount Airy. Concerts, live theater shows, old-time music celebrations and so much more in our Calendar of Events.

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# MAYBERRY MAN: *The series*

Show continues story which began in *Mayberry Man: The Movie*

By John Peters

jpeters@mtairynews.com

Many people visit the annual Mayberry Days festival held in Mount Airy every September.

Most go home with great memories of meeting up with old friends, perhaps getting an autograph and a word or two with tribute artists or remaining members of the cast. Few come away with plans — and the means — to essentially continue “The Andy Griffith Show” franchise with a modern-day feature film.

That is exactly what brothers Cort and Starke Howell did. The sons of Andy Griffith Show actor Hoke Howell first visited Mayberry Days in 2018.

“I’ve always been a fan of the show, but I was shocked to discover the spirit of Mayberry still exists today within the tight-knit Mayberry fan community,” Starke Howell said not long after that visit, when he and his brother decided to have



A behind-the-scenes shot of director Stark Howell directing Greg Schell and Chris Hudson on the back lot of Santa Clarita Studios in California.

their own modern spin of “The Andy Griffith Show.” “It’s the perfect setting to tell a modern-day, family-friendly story that expresses the virtues of the fictitious town of Mayberry that we all fell in love with so many years ago.”

That is exactly what he and his brother did, along with a cadre of Mayberry friends and fans. Two years after announcing their intentions, the brothers debuted *Mayberry Man: The Movie* in a series

of premiere showings in Mount Airy, Danville, Illinois, and Los Angeles. Since then, the movie has been shown on select screens around the country, available for rent or purchase as a streaming download or DVD on Amazon, Weaver’s Department Store, at [mayberryman.com](http://mayberryman.com), and elsewhere.

Last year, the movie became free to stream on Amazon Prime, Tubi TV, Youtube, and other platforms.

And that led to *Mayberry Man: The Series*, which may be released as early as spring. Cort Howell recently said work on



A scene from episode 1 of *Mayberry Man, The Series*, shows the townsfolk turning out at Wally's Service Station to tell Kate good-bye. This scene was shot in Mount Airy.

the series, in effect, began when he and his brother were overseeing the filming of the movie.

“My brother Starke, the writer-director, was thinking about the sequel, during the making of the movie,” Cort Howell said. “Then we looked at these ideas for a sequel, we thought it would work well with a series. After consulting with some folks in the industry, that’s the direction we chose to go.”

The movie, with a cast of professional actors and Andy Griffith Show fans, told the story of a fictional movie star, Chris Stone. Played by Brett Varvel, Stone is an egotistical, self-indulgent star who shows little respect for anyone, or anything. After being pulled over for speeding, Stone finds himself sentenced to spend a week at Mayberry Fest, based largely on Mayberry Days. There, he slowly grows close to some of the quirky tribute artist characters, and grows especially close to the festival’s director, Kate, played by Ashley Elaine.

The series picks up close to where the movie left off, following the developing relationship between the two, while also following a few of the tribute artists once they are out of character and back to their normal lives.

One of the advantages of the series format, he said, is that the producers and writers had a chance to delve a little more into the

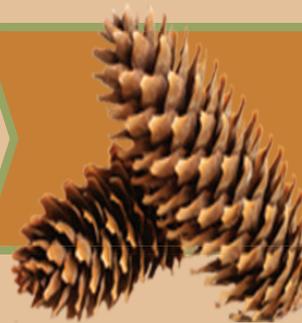


A behind-the-scenes shot of Karen Knotts preparing for her close up. To the left is Allan Newsome.

individual characters, explore who they were and “give them their own story line.”

For budgetary purposes, he said the shooting schedule was done much like a movie.

“Your typical television series might shoot one episode, then the next, then another, with each episode potentially utilizing a set or location in multiple shooting sessions. We would shoot scenes from episode 1, 3, and 5, at one location. We approached it like we were



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A behind-the-scenes filming at The Loaded Goat in Mount Airy with J. Scott Freeman, right, owner of The Loaded Goat, playing the role of “Scott” and his daughter Ashton Freeman portraying “Ellie.” Also pictured are Allan Newsome, left, and Rik Roberts.

shooting a movie, to keep the cost contained.”

Another difference in the series is how it was financed. The movie was largely crowdfunded, with fans donating money to the project, with rewards given to supporters based upon how much they gave. Those ranged from Mayberry Man hats and early videos of the movie to being given roles in the film and being listed as one of the producers, depending on the level of support.

While *Mayberry Man; The Series* also included crowdfunding, Cort Howell said that money was a supplement to the main budget.

“We went out and raised private investment,” he said, aided in part because of the existence of the movie.

“We have a proof of concept, they saw the movie, they saw that we delivered an extremely high quality project relative to the budget.”

While those differences are important to the film makers and producers, the major differences the audience will see is in the story-telling itself.

As Cort said, a series format allows fans to see a fuller story for each of the main characters. It also gives the audience a peak at the characters in a different way — as people not playing a tribute artist.

As an example, he said in the movie, the Floyd the Barber character, played by Allan Newsome, is shown almost exclusively as a person doing Floyd the Barber. In the series, which takes place after *Mayberry Days*, you see the character as a real-life person who occasionally plays Floyd the Barber, but is mostly shown in his regular daily life in the movie.

Another difference, he said, is the fact that there will be a few new characters added to the series, and others will have expanded roles.

“The late George Lindsey Jr. passed away just weeks after he filmed his scenes with us. Ronnie Schell makes a cameo appearance in the final episode. Laura Hagen has always supported us by providing music from the *Andy Griffith Show*, she makes a cameo appearance. Karen Knotts, this time she has a regular role, she plays a character, a Mayberry citizen. I think people will really enjoy what she did in the series, there’s definitely some tributes to Don Knotts and what he did on *The Andy Griffith Show*.”

Schell is mostly known for playing Duke Slater in the *Andy Griffith Show* spin-off “*Gomer Pyle. U.S.M.C.*,” but he also appeared in two episodes of “*The Andy Griffith Show*.” Hagen is the widow of the late Earle Hagen, composer and whistler of the show’s iconic theme song. Knotts, of course, is the daughter of

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Don Knotts.

As with the movie, folks viewing the series may see a few familiar sites. Some of the series was filmed in Mount Airy in scenes featuring The Loaded Goat, Wally's Service Station, and other areas around town. Other locations include filming in Danville, Indiana, home of the now-defunct Mayberry in the Midwest festival; Los Angeles; and a few scenes shot in Indianapolis.

Another difference, he said, is that each episode will not have a major story arc that is wrapped up and finished by the end of the episode, as was the case with "The Andy Griffith Show." Instead, he said the major plot lines and story arcs will run throughout the series.

The series is complete at five episodes, and has already had some limited screenings for its financial backers and supporters. Howell said now he is working to find a home for the series.

"We're on the verge of making some decisions and announcements for the series," he said in late January. "We've been shopping it around to different cable networks, streaming services. We do have offers, we're weighing those offers for what best for the future of the project."

Howell indicated they were close to making a decision when the process had to come to a halt.

"We received new interest just this week," he said, indicating it may be a larger streaming service or cable outlet that is interested, although he said he could release no details at that time. "Now we have to tap the brakes on one of the other deals we were contemplating. We're hoping to get clarity by the end of the month."

Whichever direction they go for distribution, Howell said he anticipates a release date some time this spring.

The future of Mayberry Man, whether there will be a second season or not, is still up in the air.

"There are definitely hopes for a season 2, that will be decided by the reception for the series, how successful that it is once it comes out, whether it gets picked up by a larger company or streamer, and orders more episodes."



A shot of Allan Newsome as Floyd, just to the left of the microphone, and Ronnie Schell, to the right, making a cameo appearance as himself, surrounded by other cast members during the Christmas episode of Mayberry May, The Series.

For now, Howell said it's a matter of finalizing distribution deals for the series, then to switch gears and market heavily — and hopefully, get that commitment for a second season.

For more information, or to follow the progress of the series, visit [mayberryman.com](http://mayberryman.com)

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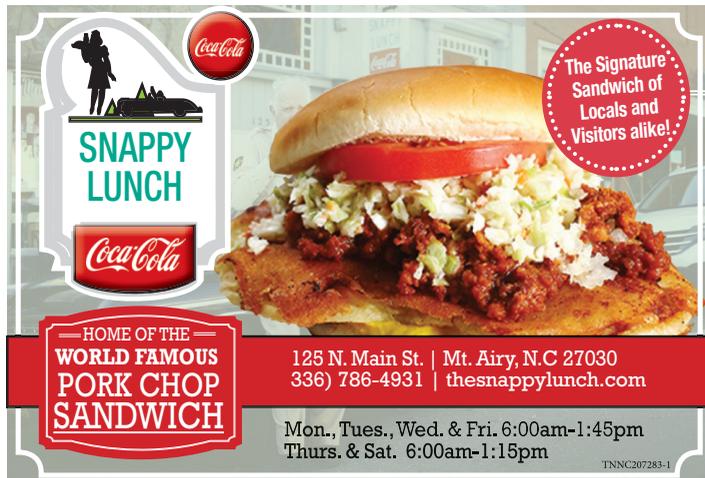


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The Andy Griffith mural greets visitors as they drive into downtown Mount Airy. It is one of several murals on downtown buildings honoring natives or local residents who have found success in the entertainment and arts fields.

## Mount Airy is more than Mayberry

By John Peters  
[jpeters@mtairynews.com](mailto:jpeters@mtairynews.com)

Every fan of “The Andy Griffith Show” knows Mayberry is fictional, but Andy Griffith based much of the homey, friendly town on his memories of growing up in Mount Airy.

The spirit of Mayberry has returned to the Big Screen with the 2022 release of “Mayberry Man” and this year, that continues with “Mayberry Man: The Series.” While The Andy Griffith Show was based on Mount Airy, and parts of both Mayberry Man the movie and series were filmed in Mount Airy, there is far more to Mount Airy than the shows and movie.

“The shopping experience draws people,” said Morgan Vasquez, the Main Street Coordinator for Mount Airy. “We have plenty of boutique and gift shops downtown.”

There are plenty of other non-Mayberry

draws to the town as well. Among those are a number of restaurants featuring a wide variety of cuisine, and many weekends, particularly during warm weather, visitors are treated to live music.

“Having such a heavy tourist base, even throughout the week we will have tour buses come in. During the week, and especially on the weekends, we have quite a bit of foot traffic, especially for a town our size,” she said. It’s those tourists that help keep many of those shops, stores, and restaurants operating.

“A lot of those tourists are Andy Griffith Show driven; that’s what brings them here, but then they see downtown, which is pretty vibrant for a town this size. They see so much more. There is something for everyone. There is antiques,

clothing and gift shops, speciality stores,” she said.

That, she said, keeps folks coming back to Mount Airy even after they may have had their fill of the Andy Griffith displays.

### Murals

One thing that stands out to anyone soon after entering the downtown area of



Members of Ballet Folklorico del Museo de Mount Airy often appear in local festivals on Main Street.

Mount Airy is this: The town apparently loves murals.

There are quite a few dotting the alleyways and businesses in Mount Airy, all honoring a favorite son or daughter.

Andy Griffith is, of course, featured prominently on one such mural, but he is far from the only famous person from Mount Airy.

Donna Fargo, a country star whose songs, including “Happiest Girl in the Whole. U.S.A.” dominated the charts in the 1970s, is featured in one mural showing different stages in her career. While she no longer lives in her native Surry County, Fargo does visit and maintain friendships with area residents. Her mural, in Mount Airy’s Canteen Alley, next to Walker’s Soda Fountain at 175 N. Main St., is the latest in a long line of such tributes to local artists, having been officially dedicated in July 2023.

Prior to that, Mount Airy’s favorite son, Andy Griffith, was immortalized in mural form when the giant tribute to his work on the side of First Citizen’s Bank building on Renfro Street.

Two years earlier, international jazz great Melva Houston was honored with a mural and an entire alley — Melva Houston Alley — being dedicated in 2021.

That same year another mural, this time honoring the Gospel group The Easter Brothers, was dedicated at the Jack Loftis Plaza on North Main Street.

The murals, local town and business officials have said, add a bright artistic touch to downtown while honoring those from the area who have had distinguished careers in the entertainment industry.

### Museums

One of the more imposing structures in downtown is the



A popular downtown event is the annual Moonshiner’s and Racer’s Reunion, held every September in Mount Airy.

Mount Airy Museum of Regional History. The three-story building at 301 N. Main Street is far more than simple local history. In many ways, it has become a cultural center of Surry County.

It’s filled with artifacts, interactive presentations, and other displays that show the history of Surry County and the communities here, from a time when Native Americans were the exclusive residents of the region, through early European settlement, a wide ranging look at local life across the 19th and 20th centuries, right up

to today.

But that’s just the beginning. The museum’s courtyard is home to the annual Reading of the Declaration of Independence, usually by local actor and playwright Brack Llewellyn, dressed in traditional colonial-era garb. Other festivities that day often include face painting, games for kids, and assorted other events before and after the annual Independence Day parade.

One of the museum’s largest — and still growing — events is the annual Dia de los Muertos — or Day of the Dead — observance.

“It’s a time to celebrate and remember loved ones,” said the museum’s Cassandra Johnson. The gathering often includes an ofrenda, where people can leave pictures and other mementos of loved ones who have passed on.

Other parts of the celebration include a number of craft, gift and food vendors, along with the popular Mexican dancing often done by local dance groups.

Another popular activity there is the Mount Airy Ghost Tours, held Friday and Saturday nights from spring until November, completed with local guides and story tellers sharing tales of the supernatural, while walking along a path that takes the tour past sites of some of the other-worldly events.

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Always looking to reach more people, the museum has recently begun hosting the winter productions of the Cherry Orchard Theatre.

Created by writer and orchard owner Frank Levering, the theater does a series of outdoor plays, readings, and other productions during the summer in the mountains across the Virginia border, overlooking Mount Airy and the Piedmont behind it.

This year, for the second consecutive season, three of those shows are moving indoors being produced for a second run, at the museum in January, February and March.

Just down Main Street from the history museum is the Historic Earle Theatre. While the building is not exactly a museum, inside is the Old-Time Music Heritage Hall, which is open at various hours seven days a week. The self-guided tours give visitors a look at the rich old time and blue grass musical history of the region. Among those featured in the hall are some of the giants of the field, musicians and song writers whose work is known the world-over.

Proceeding down Main Street, then onto Rockford Street is the city's third museum — The Andy Griffith Museum. Here visitors can see all sorts of artifacts and memorabilia from Andy Griffith's life and career, including a heavy dose of items from both "The Andy Griffith Show" and "Matlock."

### Arts and Entertainment District

While not technically on Main Street, the Market Street Arts and Entertainment District is just a few steps over from Main Street.

The area is bounded by restaurants and microbreweries, all of which were suffering during the COVID shut-downs. In response, the businesses there, along with Mount Airy Downtown Inc., developed the entertainment district — a place where tables are set up for outside dining. The city



The Autumn Leaves Festival keeps Main Street and surrounding roads filled with visitors to town.

council amended its local laws to allow for outdoor drinking there, along with a public pedestrian area from of vehicular traffic during limited hours.

Since then, the entertainment district has grown. It's now pedestrian-only, and serves as a center of local art displays, live musical performances, along with being the center of the city's Juneteenth celebrations.

"This area lends itself well to having live music," said Mount Airy Downtown's Morgan Vasquez. "People can gather around, people can dance, It's been a great place to host local vendors. Crafters and artists who will come out on the weekend to sell their goods. On an average weekend there's almost always a food truck or some sort of live music going on."

Festivals and fairs Mount Airy hosts a number of festivals throughout the year. One of the biggest, of course, is the aforementioned

Mayberry Days Festival, held the fourth weekend of September, with thousands of Mayberry fans descending on the city for a nostalgic return to Mayberry.

Just a couple of weeks later, on the second full weekend of October, is the Autumn Leaves Festival, where crowds can swell well over 100,000 over the three-day craft and food extravaganza. More than 100 booths line Main Street and surrounding side streets, with hand-made crafts, food, and more, available.

Early every September is the Moonshiner's and Racer's Reunion, featuring drivers, crew members, and cars from racing throughout the decades, along with a few old-time cars used in moonshine running. This festival features old-time race car drivers, some from NASCAR, on hand to sign autographs and reminisce.

There are plenty of other events — two annual food truck festivals, FarmFest, car shows, and more, to keep Mount Airy busy, offering something for nearly everyone, all on or along Main Street of America's Hometown.



The annual July 4 parade brings a long line of floats, automobiles, and many fans to Main Street.



Food trucks can often be found in downtown Mount Airy, especially during two Food Fests held annually by Mount Airy Downtown.



Every spring the annual Farmfest and Tractor Show lines Main Street.



Market Street Entertainment and Art District is a popular spot for area artists, as well as for those wishing to dine outside with cuisine and drink from several establishments in that area.



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# Test your **MAYBERRY KNOWLEDGE!**

## Andy Griffith Trivia

1. Aunt Bee was no shrinking violet. Despite not having learned to drive until she was in her 60s — when Goober finally taught her to drive — she was definitely a woman who liked to take on challenges. She had her own business, was featured on one of the more dominant forms of media for the day, and a couple of years after learning to drive that car, she was in a bigger, more ambitious vehicle. What was the business, what was her media exposure, and what else was she trying to learn to operate?

\*\*\*

2. With this edition of Mayberry Magazine on the stands during Valentine's Day season, let's take a look at some of the great love stories of The Andy Griffith Show. How many girlfriends did Barney have, and who were they? Did Barney ever marry?

\*\*\*

3. Speaking of girlfriends, we all know Andy and Helen became an item, and were married in the first episode of Mayberry RFD, a spinoff that began after The Andy Griffith Show concluded its eight-season run. One night, Andy ended up chowing down three full dinners, all to please Helen. What did he eat?



4. In the season 1 episode "Runaway Kid," Opie befriends a young boy, George "Tex" Folely, who has run away from home. Soon, Tex must move on with plans to continue his journey all the way to Texas. Wanting to be a good friend, Opie packs up some sandwiches for him. How many sandwiches did he pack, and what were they?

\*\*\*

5. In 2004, TV guide ranked the 50 Greatest TV Dads of all time. Where did Andy Taylor rank, and who was ahead of him?

\*\*\*

6. The Andy Griffith Show was a ratings beast, and was one of only three shows that was ranked No. 1 in the Nielson seasonal ratings its final year on air. Many hit shows will peak for a year or two, but over the longer term their ratings often start low and build before falling again, or start high then fall in the end. What was the lowest The Andy Griffith Show was ever ranked, for a full season, by Nielson?

\*\*\*

7. While some characters on The Andy Griffith Show were never seen — Juanita and Leonard Blush are two examples — others make brief appearances throughout the series. When did we get to meet Barney's parents, and who played them?

## Andy Griffith Trivia **ANSWERS**

1. In season 7, episode 21, she puts up some money to take an ownership stake in a Chinese restaurant and does quite well, until a fortune cookie scares her into getting rid of her stake. Aunt Bee also managed to land a cooking show in season 8, episode 17 — called The Mayberry Chef — on a local television station. In season eight, episode 23, Aunt Bee took to the friendly skies, getting flying lessons. Seems she was a woman of many talents — except when it came to making pickles. But that's for another day.

\*\*\*

2. As with many things related to Barney, this is a little bit up to interpretation as to what, exactly, was a girlfriend in Barney's eyes, but we're going with four girlfriends. There was Miss Rosemary, who had a crush on Barney in the Season 1 episode "Andy the Matchmaker." She was played by Amzie Strickland, who later made an appearance playing Otis' sister-in-law. Also in Season 1, in the episode "Ellie for Council," Barney's girlfriend is Hilda Mae, played by Florence MacMichael. And there is the mysterious Juanita, a waitress at the diner who Barney often talks with but who is never seen. Of course, The One was Thelma Lou, played by Betty Lynn. They eventually married, but it wasn't until the 1986 movie "Return to Mayberry."

\*\*\*

3. It was spaghetti. Aunt Bee was away, so Goober took it upon himself to make a big spaghetti dinner for Andy. After stuffing himself with the pasta dinner, Goober remembered Howard had called to invite Andy over. Howard had not, but when Andy showed up at his doorstep, Howard and his mother whipped

# Mayberry

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# What's Happening In MAYBERRY?

## Concerts, shows and more!

*Your comprehensive guide to live concerts, shows, and other entertainment in Mount Airy and the surrounding communities. For additional information on all Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series shows, performances at The Historic Earle Theatre, or shows at The Andy Griffith Playhouse, please see <http://www.surryarts.org/surryart/index.html>. Please call ahead for any show to confirm it is going on as planned, particularly before setting out for those shows that are some distance from Mount Airy.*

### CONCERTS & EVENTS

**Note:** For tickets to all concerts that are part of the Surry Arts Council 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 shows at the Blackmon Amphitheatre, is \$150. Concessions are on sale at each of the Summer Concert Series shows.

#### February 3

WPAQ 76th Birthday Celebration. This concert and dance marks the annual celebration of WPAQ, still one of the premiere blue grass and old time radio stations in the nation. From the earliest days of the station's existence, WPAQ has featured local musicians who were among the giants in the old time music field. The celebration gets underway at 5:30 p.m. at the Historic Earle Theatre in Mount Airy. Free admittance.

#### February 10

Black History Month Celebration beginning at 7 p.m. at the Andy Griffith Playhouse. This will be a night of music and celebration for all — the bands and performers are yet to be announced. Free admission.

#### March 1-2

Tommy Jarrell Festival, celebrating the early blue grass and old time music pioneer Tommy Jarrell. This two-day event features workshops, dances, concerts, youth competition and more. Among the events scheduled for the festival are:

**Wayne Erbsen Banjo Concert** on March 1 at 7 p.m. at the Surry Arts Center, \$12. As a musician, Wayne is a master



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#### Balsam Range

of old-time, bluegrass, folk, Appalachian, cowboy, pioneer, railroad, and gospel music and music of the Civil War. He plays clawhammer and bluegrass banjo, fiddle, mandolin and guitar. Wayne has performed all across America and in western Europe and has won numerous prizes at fiddler's conventions, including first place in clawhammer banjo at the Old Time Fiddlers Convention in Galax, Virginia; and first place in senior old-time fiddler at the Fiddler's Grove festival.

**Tommy Jarrell Celebration Youth Competition**, March 2, 4 p.m. at the Andy Griffith Museum Theatre. Free. Categories include fiddle, clawhammer banjo, guitar, vocal, dance, and other instruments, in two age levels: 5-12 and 13-18. Each contestant may enter only two categories. Contestants 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. There is no fee for competing. Competition led by Lew Bode and Jim Vipperman.

**Tommy Jarrell Birthday Concert** featuring The Round Peak Boys on March 2, 7 p.m. at the Historic Earle Theatre, \$12 admission. Concert features the best of Surry County Old-Time music, utilizing the Round Peak style developed by Tommy Jarrell.

#### March 9

Balsam Range in concert as part of the Blue Ridge and Beyond concert series, 7:30 p.m., at the Historic Earle Theatre. Balsam Range, from western North Carolina, was named the 2018 International Bluegrass Music Association's Entertainer of the Year award. Additionally, the group has claimed 12 other IBMA awards while producing 13 critically acclaimed albums, including a number of Top 10 hits. Tickets are \$65 for preferred seating, \$55 for orchestra seating, and \$45 for balcony seating. Visit <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/blueridgebeyond.html> for tickets or additional information.

#### March 16

The Morris Family Band will be in concert as part of the Blue Ridge and Beyond concert series, 7:30 p.m., at the Historic Earle Theatre. The Morris Family Band has delighted area residents with its Irish-American sounds during St. Patrick's Day festivals, at local cafés, and in shows at regional amphitheatres. All Morris family members are trained with most string instruments, which comes in handy for the family's distinct, Celtic style. Guitars, violins, flutes, whistles, cello, mandolin and others are featured. The family band, from Davidson, has released two albums to date. Tickets are \$15. Visit <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/blueridgebeyond.html> for tickets or additional information.

#### April 20

Rhonda Vincent and The Rage will be in concert as part of the Blue Ridge and Beyond concert series, 7:30 p.m., at the Historic Earle Theatre. Both in her solo career and with The Rage, the Rhonda Vincent has won more than two dozen awards from blue grass associations, producing a string of hit singles and albums. Tickets are \$75 for preferred seating, \$65 for orchestra seating, and \$45 for balcony seats. Visit <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/blueridgebeyond.html> for tickets or additional information.

**May 2**

The Embers featuring Craig Woolard, one of the region's most popular bands, will return to Mount Airy in the inaugural show of the 2024 Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series. The concert will get underway at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre. Admission is \$17 or a season pass, children 12 and younger are admitted free. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase. To order tickets, or for more information about the concert series, visit <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/amphitheatre.html>

**May 3**

The second concert of the Summer Concert Series opening weekend features the Magnificents Band, bringing its high-energy and varied musical style, including Motown, beach, Top 40 and dance tunes. The concert will get underway at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre. Tickets are \$17 or with an Annual Pass. To order tickets, or for more information about the concert series, visit <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/amphitheatre.html>

**May 4**

The annual Wine & Craft Beer Budbreak Festival, downtown Mount Airy from noon until 5 p.m.. This celebration of the area wine and craft beer industry includes wine and beer tastings, live music featuring Tim Elliot, food vendors and more. Tickets are \$25, or \$35 day of the event. Visit <https://budbreakfestival.com/> for more information or to purchase tickets.

**Live Theater  
February 24**

The Cherry Orchard Theatre, which brings locally written and produced shows to an outdoor audience during the summer, will produce one of its shows on the indoor stage at the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History. Two separate productions, "A Little Something For The Ducks" will take the audience on a journey from feeding ducks to a discussion on life, death, and chicken livers, and "Raw Toads" takes place in a diner where there is only one thing on the menu. Show time is 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15, with popcorn and a drink for \$5 more. Call 336-786-4478 for tickets or more information.

**March 23-24**



**The Magnificents at Blackmon Amphitheatre**

Grease: School Version. Here is Rydell High's senior class of 1959: duck-tailed, hot-rodding "Burger Palace Boys" and their gum-snapping, hip-shaking "Pink Ladies" in bobby sox and pedal pushers, evoking the look and sound of the 1950s in this rollicking musical. Head "greaser" Danny Zuko and new (good) girl Sandy Dumbrowski try to relive the high romance of their "Summer Nights" as the rest of the gang sings and dances its way through life. Grease: School Version retains the fun-loving spirit and immortal songs of the blockbuster show, but removes any profanity, lewd behavior, and Rizzo's pregnancy scare. Directed by Tyler Matanick Performances are Saturday, March 23 at 7 p.m. and March 24 at 3 p.m. at the Andy Griffith Playhouse. Orchestra seats are \$20.

**March 30**

"The Distance Between Us," another show in the Cherry Orchard Theatre scheduled for 8 p.m. at the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History. "This dramatic and heart-warming show by Frank Levering is a series of letters between an estranged mother and daughter spanning 22 years beginning in 1814." Tickets are \$15, with popcorn and a drink for \$5 more. Call 336-786-4478 for tickets or more information.

**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



**The Embers**



**Dancing during the weekly WPAQ Merry-Go-Round**

is \$8 or a Merry-Go-Round Annual Pass is \$20, or a current Surry Arts Council season pass.

### 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 from 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.



WPAQ celebrates its annual birthday with live music and dancing.

## Answers

From page 12

together a big spaghetti dinner. Just about the time he finished, Goober remembered it wasn't Howard who invited him over, it was Helen. So Andy scurries off to Helen's, arriving quite late, only to find himself presented with a big old plate of spaghetti.

\*\*\*

4. Hope you have a strong stomach. In addition to sweet pickles (hope they weren't Aunt Bee's), marshmallows, olives and bubble gum, Opie made a peanut butter and baloney sandwich, a peanut butter and liverwurst sandwich, a peanut butter and sardine sandwich, and a peanut butter and peanut butter sandwich.

\*\*\*

5. Andy Taylor was ranked 8th on the list. Ahead of him were Cliff Huxtable from The Cosby Show, Ben Cartwright of Bonanza, John Walton Sr., of The Waltons, Charles Ingalls of Little House on the Prairie, Danny Williams of Make Room for Daddy, Jim Anderson of Father Knows best, and Steve Douglas of My Three Sons.

Ironically, the next father on the list is Howard Cunningham of Happy Days, which means Ron Howard played sons of two of the best fathers in television history, first as Opie Taylor, then as Richie Cunningham. (And he actually appeared on screen with Danny Williams' character in the Andy Griffith Show Pilot, which was actually a skit on the Danny Thomas show).

\*\*\*

6. The show was seventh in its second season, which is the lowest it ever finished for a season. For the entire run, the show finished fourth in its inaugural season, seventh in year 2, sixth in year 3, fifth in year 4, fourth in year 5, fifth in year 6, then finished with his highest ratings at a ranking of third in season 7 and No. 1 in season 8.

\*\*\*

7. This is a bit of a trick question. While Barney did speak of his parents — he bought them a septic tank for their anniversary — we never saw his dad. However, we did see Barney's mother, briefly, in the first season when he pulls her over to make sure she's not a wanted escapee "But Barney,

I'm your mother!" she protests. The actress who played the role was actress Lillian Culver,

best known for her portrayal of Mrs. Schooner in "Dennis the Menace."

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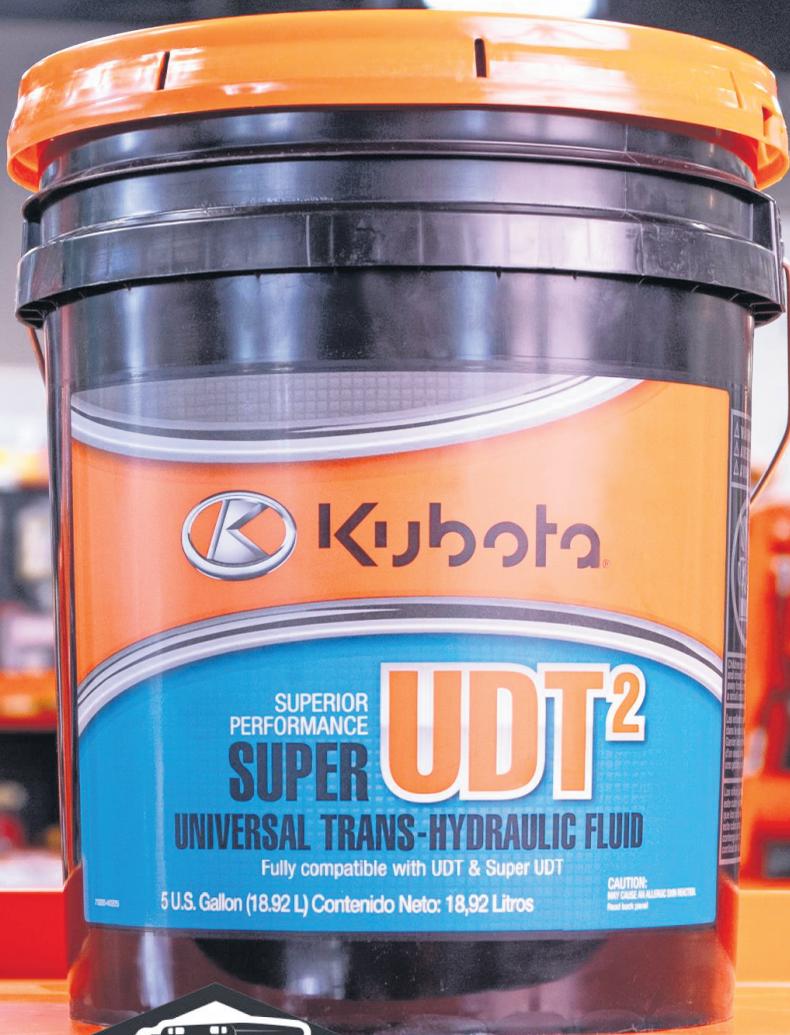
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