

Mount Airy, NC

THE
AuJumn Leaves
FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 11-13, 2024

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AUTUMN LEAVES FESTIVAL

The Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce and premier sponsor Carport Central warmly welcome you and your family to this three-day extravaganza - one of the largest festivals of its kind. Enjoy a diverse range of vendors, craft exhibits, delectable food, and more.

The Autumn Leaves Festival offers something for everyone, including a variety of local musical favorites, "Mayberry Style!"

A special shout out to our KidFest Sponsor Chatham Nursing and Rehabilitation - for helping create a fantastic atmosphere for our youngest festival



PHOTO BY RYAN KELLY

These vendors saw no reason to stop knitting, even to pose for a photo, during an Autumn Leaves Festival in Mount Airy.

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supporters. Find KidFest located on the corner of Main Street and Oak Street, inside of Bark & Meow Co. Pet Spa's parking lot.

Don't miss exploring our vibrant downtown Main Street shops, where you'll discover a multitude of gifts, souvenirs, and more from our local businesses - truly a part of what makes our city of Mount Airy so special.

We hope you have a memorable weekend at the 58th Annual Autumn Leaves Festival.

Wendy Wood
Chair, Board of Directors
The Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce



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AUTUMN LEAVES FESTIVAL

TRADITION CARRIES ON

Thousands flock to destination craft fair

STAFF REPORT

On just a few weeks barricades will go up, Main Street and other parts of downtown will be closed off to vehicular traffic, and Mount Airy will be inundated with shoppers, musicians, craftspeople, music fans, and others.

The Autumn Leaves Festival will get underway the morning of Oct. 11, running through late Sunday afternoon Oct. 13.

“North Carolina’s longest running, most successful events, and is consistently recognized as one of the Top 20 Events in the Southeast by the Southern Tourism Society,” according to officials with the Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce, which is the sponsor of the annual event.

While staff turnover at the chamber has prevented the organization’s officials from being accessible to talk about the upcoming event, the festival is a long-running institution, with a momentum that keeps the event running and successful

“Hundreds of thousands...of visitors have enjoyed the true spirit of America’s Hometown through the rich heritage and scenic beauty that surrounds the community,” the chamber’s leaders have said in past years.

While there is no official count, area officials have estimated that some years more than 200,000 people have visited the festival over the three-day gathering.

Jordon Edwards, who was the Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce’s Autumn Leaves Festival director, said the 2023 edition would include plenty of old favorites among crafters, vendors, food booths and other activities to keep visitors



PHOTOS BY RYAN KELLY

Attendees are seen enjoying an appearance of the sun along Main Street during the Autumn Leaves Festival in 2024.

returning. That was certainly true, as it will no doubt be in 2024.

There also were plenty of new parts of the festival in 2023 to keep things fresh for those visiting Mount Airy. Some of that newness will be returning.

“One big difference...is the expansion of the festival, with the additional footage on Independence,” she said in 2023, speaking of the plans to spread the festival beyond the intersection of Main Street and Independence Boulevard.

That expansion will likely be in effect this year as well. Chamber officials said at the time the festival’s footprint was



There were more than a few canine friends spotted at the Autumn Leaves Festival including this snazzy pooch who is ready for their closeup.



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A juggler on stilts making his way through the crowd of Autumn Leaves Festival goers with gusto and more confidence than some a few on the ground around him had.



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expanded that was not done to cram in more vendors.

On the contrary, the expansion allowed vendors to spread apart, leaving more room for shoppers to move around among the vendor booths as well as granting easier access to downtown businesses.

Another area of change is more for children to do, Edwards said.

For many years the festival had a few bounce houses and similar activities for kids. The 2023 edition of the Autumn Leaves Festival showed organizers were attempting to put more emphasis on the kids, with jugglers, magicians, different people doing different acts at different times. The

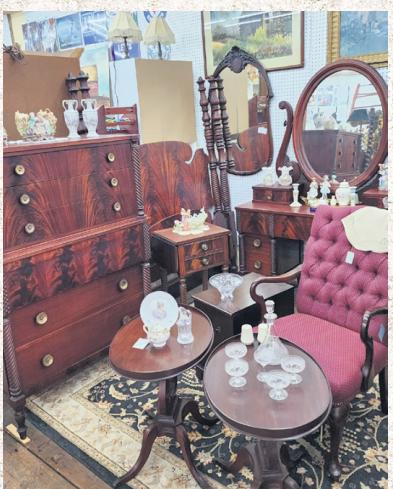


Mitchell Leagan and daughter Isla are seen making a candle together along Main Street during the Autumn Leaves Festival.

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PHOTO BY RYAN KELLY

Music is found throughout the festival with bands on the main stage and a rotating group of performers who, as is tradition, set up camp on Main Street amid the crowds to entertain.



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PHOTO BY RYAN KELLY

"Good music begets dance," is not the fourth of Sir Isaac Newton's Law of Motion, but those spending time outside the music tent on Main Street may beg to differ.

idea was, and is, to make the festival even more of a family event with entertainment for all ages.

That expansion gives families with children more to do, and more opportunities for the kids to have fun.

Another missing piece from past festivals, she said last year, was easy handicapped accessibility.

"The lot off of Moore Avenue has been designated for handicapped parking and merchant parking," she said, adding that downtown merchants who need close parking — without having to pay fees — also will be allowed to use that parking lot.

Of all the changes, Edwards said she was "most excited about" the close handicapped parking, and hopefully that will be in place again this year.

Another addition that dovetails nicely with spreading out the vendors will be seating for folks to utilize while eating. Throughout the festival area she said picnic tables will be located.

While the chamber hasn't officially released this year's hours, the festival typically is up and running 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The official opening ceremony is generally at 11:30 a.m. on the Friday of the festival.


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3pm-5pm

Mayberry Cool Cars & Rods Cruise-in

Sunday, October 20th

23 November **Downtown Mount Airy Christmas Parade**

5:00pm

30 November **Small Business Saturday**



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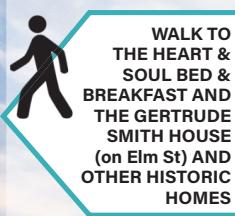
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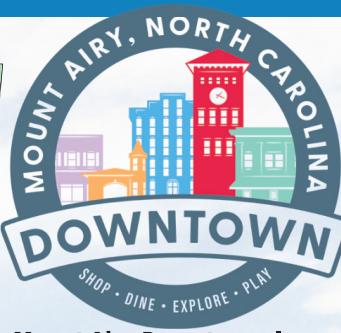
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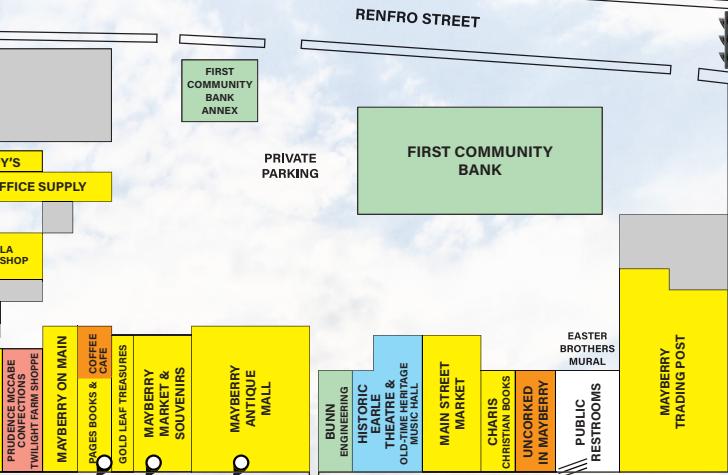


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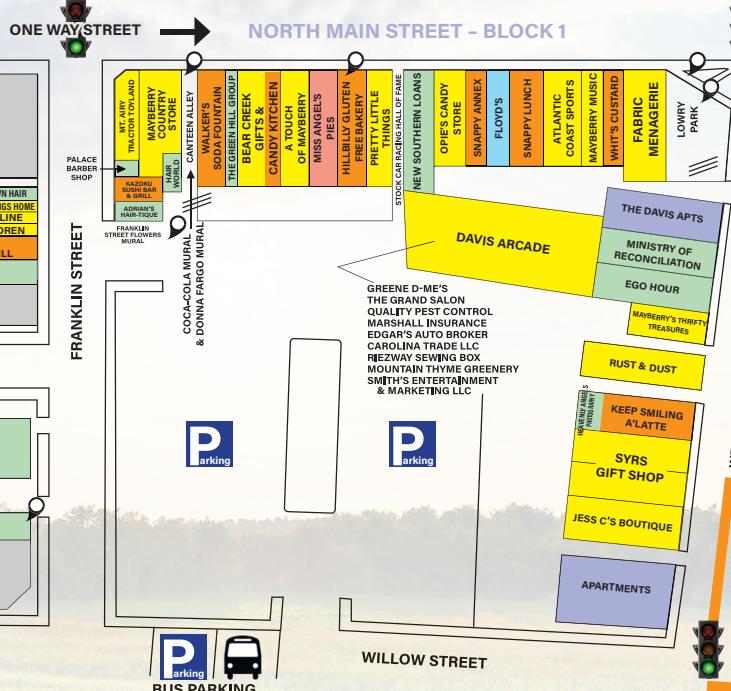
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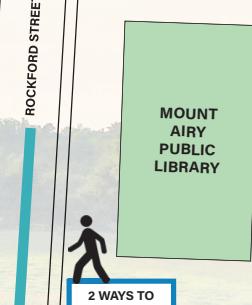
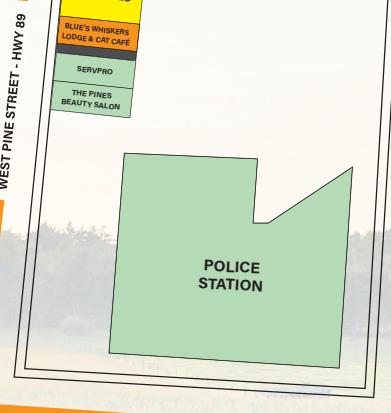
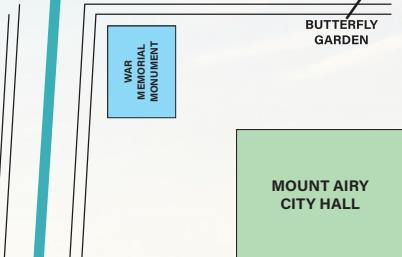
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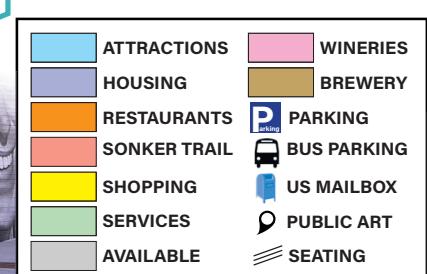
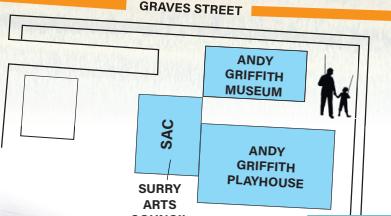
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BAND STAND SCHEDULE

MAIN BANDSTAND

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

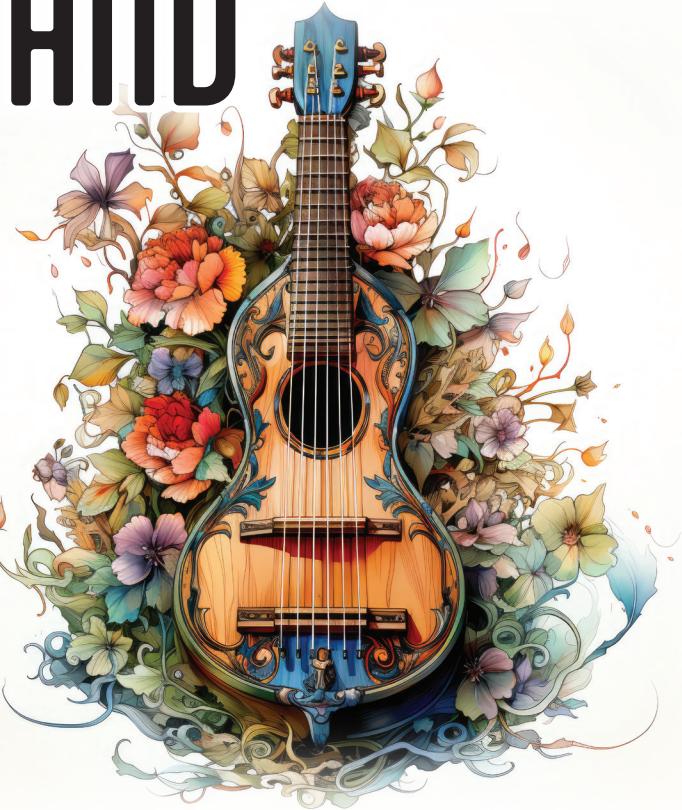
- 11:30AM Opening Ceremonies
- 11:50AM Sugarloaf Mountain Band - Bluegrass
- 12:35 PM Crossriver - Bluegrass/Gospel
- 1:20 PM Over The Hill Bluegrass Band - Bluegrass
- 2:05 PM Jack Holt & High Country Grass - Bluegrass
- 2:50 PM Shelton Brothers - Bluegrass/Gospel
- 3:35 PM Robert Tilley & The Hard Times Band - Bluegrass
- 4:20 PM Snow Creek Old Time Band - Old-Time
- 5:05 PM 2 Young 2 Old - Bluegrass
- 5:50 PM Hubert Lawson & The Bluegrass Country Boys - Bluegrass
- 6:35 PM Surry Line - Old-Time
- 7:20 PM Indian Grove Ramblers - Old-Time
- 8:05 PM Trish Fore & The Wildcats - Old-Time

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH

- 9:15 AM Possum Hollow Old-Time String Band - Old-Time
- 10:00 AM Bill & Maggie Anderson - Americana
- 10:40 AM Mountain Road Bluegrass - Bluegrass
- 11:20 AM Bluegrass & Beyond - Bluegrass
- 12:00 PM Paula Dellenbach & Fox River - Bluegrass
- 2:45 PM Fishers Peak Timber Rattlers - Old-Time
- 1:30 PM The Biscuit Eaters - Bluegrass
- 2:15 PM The Nunn Brothers - Bluegrass
- 3:00 PM Mountain Blessings - Bluegrass
- 3:45 PM Larry Sigmon: The Unique Sound Of The Mtns & The Virginia Girls - Old-Time
- 4:30 PM Harrison Ridge - Bluegrass
- 5:15 PM Slate Mountain Ramblers - Old-Time
- 6:00 PM The Country Boys - Bluegrass
- 6:45 PM Steve Marshall & Highroad - Bluegrass
- 7:30 PM The Surry County Bobcasters - Old-Time
- 8:15 PM Travis Frye & Blue Mountain - Bluegrass

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

- 1:00 PM Pen-N-Carol - Americana
- 2:00 PM The Brothers Young - Bluegrass
- 3:00 PM Southern Gentlemen - Bluegrass
- 4:00 PM Davis Bradley - Americana





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LOCAL BANDSTAND

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

12:00AM **Tina B Smith** - Religious/Country
 1:05 AM **Ericca Latza Music** - Country
 2:10 PM **Lady Sajg** - Old School R&B
 3:15 PM **Gatlin Hiatt** - Country/Rock
 4:50 PM **First Presbyterian Church** - Choral
 5:30 PM **NC Forest Service- Smokey the Bear and Ranger** - Storytelling
 6:00 PM **First Presbyterian Church** - Choral
 6:30 PM **Thunder Rose** - Rock & Roll

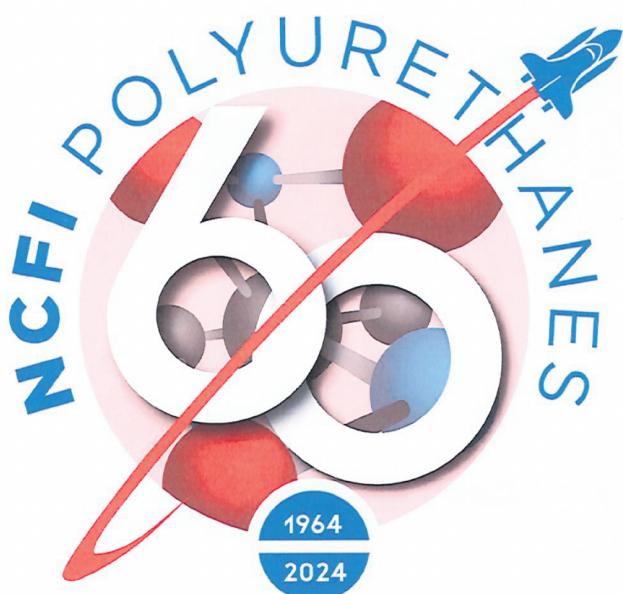
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH

9:30 AM **Gypsy Laurel** - Folk/Rock
 10:35 AM **NC Forest Service- Smokey the Bear and Ranger** - Storytelling
 11:05 AM **Tina B Smith** - Religious/Country
 12:10 PM **VOCE** - Broadway
 12:55 PM **Ericca Latza Music** - Country/Guitar
 2:00 PM **Lady Sajg** - Old School R&B
 3:05 PM **Jack Marion** - Country

4:10 PM **That 90's Duo** - Variety
 5:15 PM **Christian Cail** - Rock & Roll
 6:20 PM **Thunder Rose** - Rock & Roll

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

12:00 PM **Tonantzin** - Mexican Folk
 1:00 PM **NC Forest Service- Smokey the Bear and Ranger** - Storytelling
 1:35 PM **Tina B Smith** - Religious/Country
 3:00 PM **Mountain Gospel Singers** - Gospel



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AUTUMN LEAVES

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

While the Autumn Leaves Festival is certainly the big show in town in October, there's still plenty of other activities and entertainment to enjoy. When you're done with the festival, or later when you want to visit Mount Airy again, check out some of these.



MOUNTAIN BLESSINGS

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 \$17, 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.



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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

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05
OCT

The Elkin Big Band returns for a 7:30 p.m. show at the Blackmon Amphitheatre, playing a broad repertoire of greatest hits from the 1920s all the way to the present day. This 18-piece band features 13 horns and a full rhythm section. Irving Berlin, Miles Davis, Stevie Wonder, George Gershwin, and Quincy Jones are just some of the many artists whose work the band performs.

12
OCT

Craig Southern & Phoenixx will be in concert in a show slated to get underway at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series.

22
OCT

Mountain Blessings will be in concert at 6:30 p.m. at the Historic Earle Theatre. Reserved seats are \$12. Mountain Blessings is a bluegrass and bluegrass gospel band formed in the Foothills of North Carolina. These award-winning band members love to play music and engage the audience. Visit <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/blueridgebeyond.html> for more information or to purchase tickets.

07
DEC

Dailey & Vincent Christmas 2024D, 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Earle Theatre. For the past four years, Dailey & Vincent have brought their multi-award-winning American Music (bluegrass, traditional country, and gospel music) to a national television audience on their top-rated, national, weekly television show, The Dailey & Vincent Show on RFD TV. Grand Ole Opry members, five-time Grammy award winners individually, three-time Grammy award



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18
DEC

nominees collectively, four-time DOVE Award winners and winners of 35 IBMA Awards altogether Dailey & Vincent's reedy harmonies and musicianship has gained praise for their style and worldwide recognition. Preferred seating tickets are \$90; Orchestra Preferred \$85; Orchestra \$80; Balcony Preferred \$70; Balcony \$65. Visit <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/blueridgebeyond.html> for more information or to purchase tickets.



ELKIN BIG BAND

19
DEC

Christmas with the Embers, featuring Craig Woolard, 7:30 p.m. at the Andy Griffith Playhouse. Reserved seat tickets are \$30. The world-famous Embers Band with Craig Woolard presents their Christmas show featuring holiday favorites and a few visitors, like Frosty, Rudolph, and friends.



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CRAIG SOUTHERN & PHOENIXX

AUTUMN LEAVES

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING

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.

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.

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LIVE PLAYS AND STAGE SHOWS

31
OCT

THROUGH

1
NOV

Young Frankenstein. From the creators of the record-breaking Broadway sensation, The Producers, comes this monster new musical

comedy. Grandson of the infamous Victor Frankenstein, Frederick Frankenstein (pronounced “Fronk-en-steen”) inherits his family’s estate in Transylvania. With the help of a hunchbacked sidekick, Igor (pronounced “Eye-gore”), and a leggy lab assistant, Inga (pronounced normally), Frederick finds himself in the mad scientist shoes of his ancestors. “It’s alive!” he exclaims as he brings to life a creature to rival his grandfather’s. Eventually, of course, the monster escapes and hilarity continuously abounds. Young Frankenstein has all the panache of the screen sensation with a little extra theatrical flair added. With such memorable tunes as “The Transylvania Mania,” “He Vas My Boyfriend” and “Puttin’ on the Ritz,” Young Frankenstein is scientifically proven, monstrously good entertainment. Directed by Tyler Matanick, show at the Andy Griffith Playhouse. Tickets are Preferred Seats \$25; Orchestra Seats \$20. Shows are Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 2 at 3 p.m. Some content may be inappropriate for children under 13. To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/livetheatre.html>

8
DEC

The Nutcracker performed by New York Ballet for Young Audiences, along with Surry Arts Council dance students, at 3 p.m. at the Andy Griffith Playhouse. Preferred Seats \$25, Orchestra Seats \$20. To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/livetheatre.html>

13
DEC

THROUGH

16
DEC

Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol, starring Matlock’s Daniel Roebuck, at the Andy Griffith Playhouse. Enjoy special guest star, Dan Roebuck, as Scrooge

and the Surry Arts Players as they share this traditional Christmas story. Dickens’ A Christmas Carol recounts the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an elderly miser who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner, Jacob Marley, and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Christmas Yet to Come. After the visits, Scrooge is transformed into a kinder, gentler man. Preferred Seat tickets are \$30; Orchestra Seats are \$25. Shows are Dec. 13, 7 p.m., Dec. 14 and 15 at 3 p.m., Dec. 16 at 7 p.m., and Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.

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