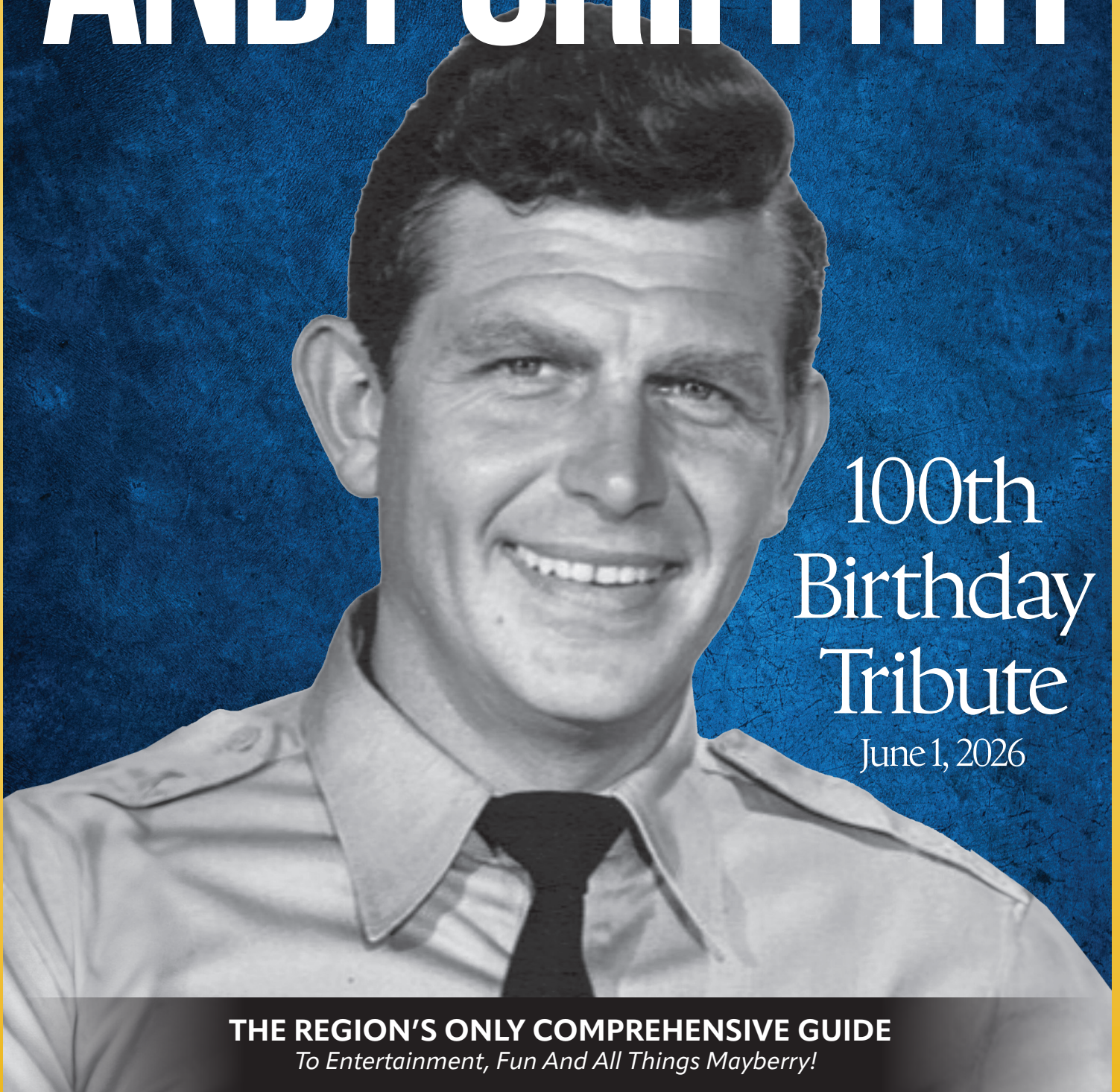


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PUBLISHED BY
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CONTENTS

55

99

155

177

199

A True Legacy

Movie and television stars come and go, but Andy Griffith's legacy has proven far-reaching, not just in the entertainment world, but in his hometown of Mount Airy, North Carolina. The town where he grew up, the community that served as a model for Mayberry, is still feeling the effects of his life -- from the annual Mayberry Days festival, a vibrant arts community he supported for decades, to a dynamic Main Street business community still healthy from his influence, Andy's reach in Mount Airy is spanning generations.

Andy at 100

While it has been 14 years since Andy Griffith passed away at his beloved home in Manteo, the entertainment icon is still popular with millions of fans. With the recent passing of his 100th birthday, we take a look at the long, storied career of Mayberry's favorite son.

Hometown Birthday Bash

Andy Griffith's 100th birthday was June 1, and the folks in his hometown of Mount Airy, along with many of his fans, did not let the day pass unnoticed. From a Mayoral Proclamation recognizing the day, to the unveiling of a new exhibit at the Andy Griffith Museum, to free screenings of two of his movies, and plenty of other activities, there was plenty for his fans to do. And more activities are on the way.

Andy's Endearing Qualities

The Andy Griffith Show may be unique in television history -- having left the airwaves almost six decades ago, the show remains among the most popular around the world, through station reruns, cable network replays, and constant streaming downloads. Despite a constantly changing television and entertainment industry, the show still thrives. Let's take a look at what it is about the show, and its stars, that maintains that popularity.

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N.C. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Andy Griffith appears as Sheriff Andy Taylor in a scene with Ronny Howard, whose career blossomed due to that association.

Andy's influence on region runs deep

BY TOM JOYCE | TJOYCE@MTAIRYNEWS.COM

Tanya Jones knew there was something uncommonly special about Andy Griffith's legacy long before she headed the Surry Arts Council, while working as a volunteer with that organization in the 1980s.

This was before the annual Mayberry Days celebration began in 1990, when there also was no Andy and Opie statue, Griffith museum or giant mural which exist now.

In fact, there was little acknowledgement of the star's local link, one exception being the Andy Griffith Playhouse, a former school where Jones was working on its lower level at that time.

Shortly after becoming a volunteer, Jones learned a key fact, a secret formula perhaps, one creating magic to this day: "Folks were coming to Mount Airy in search of an 'Andy Griffith experience,'" she recalled, which has kind of turned into a



HOBART JONES | SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Andy Griffith visits the statue of the Mayberry sheriff and son Opie headed to the fishing hole, during a 2004 trip to his hometown.

forever thing.

Jones communicated with a tourism expert at the N.C. Department of Commerce, "a brilliant guy named David Long."

This led to an inventory of place-based assets, which revealed that Andy Griffith was clearly number one here, and events subsequently were set into motion for an organized Mayberry tourism campaign drawing folks from near and far since.

That is pretty much year-round, peaking in September during Mayberry Days held then, and could be even greater during 2026 in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Griffith's birth. He died in July 2012.

"All of these people show that Andy Griffith is still the number one draw for Mount Airy," Mayor Jon Cawley said of those seeking the coveted experience.

That realization of Andy's deep influence dawned much later on Ashly Lancaster, president and CEO of the Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce, but it was just as profound as that of Jones 40 years ago.

"I didn't truly come to appreciate what Andy Griffith's legacy means to our community and everyone who loves Andy, until I came to work at the chamber (also home to the Mount Airy



Tanya Jones, Surry Arts Council

Visitors Center that guides tourists)," Lancaster said of that occasion in 2024.

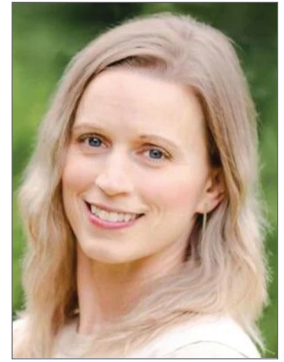
This assessment is shared by Jessica Roberts, executive director of the Mount Airy Tourism Development Authority.

"Even 100 years after his birth, Andy Griffith continues serving as one of the most powerful tourism ambassadors our region and state has ever had," Roberts observed.

"And his legacy remains a driving force behind why so many people choose to visit Mount Airy each year."

In addition to the Surry Arts Council for which Jones now serves as executive director, local businesses became part of the Mayberry scene over the years.

These include Snappy Lunch, a longtime local eatery mentioned on the show, and Mayberry Squad Car Tours.



Chamber CEO Ashly Lancaster



Tourism official Jessica Roberts

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PERSONAL CONNECTIONS KEY

Mayor Cawley believes the appeal is not just due to Andy himself as a local icon, but the values espoused on "The Andy Griffith Show" that debuted in the early 1960s and remains popular today.

"The charm of 'The Andy Griffith Show' for me was that whatever the situation," Cawley said, Andy interacted with the other characters in a positive manner.

"He treated them with respect and dignity even though he laughed with them," Cawley added, sometimes at them. "And the problems are solved within a 22-minute skit (allowing time in each half-hour episode for commercials)."

The mayor believes the genius of the show lies in the way it perpetuates hope "with simple values that are timeless."

Lessons from the TV series have gripped generations of viewers and today include fans both young and old.

"Through Mayberry, Andy created a connection that continues inspiring visitors from across the country and world to experience the charm and authenticity of our area for themselves," said Roberts, the tourism official.

The show's popularity among fans transcends an appreciation for its well-crafted episodes by also containing personal elements, according to Lancaster.

"It is about who they watched the show with, what they were doing, where they lived at the time, that truly intertwined Mayberry with their lives," in the chamber official's view.

"What makes it especially remarkable," according to Roberts, "is that the appeal spans generations - many visitors arrive because they grew up watching Andy Griffith, while others discover Mount Airy because they are searching for an authentic small-town experience."

AIDING OTHERS' CAREERS

Not only has Andy Griffith's television and movie success benefited his hometown and region, he also has played a role in helping other actors.

They include Ron Howard, who portrayed Opie on the show, an experience that propelled him to become an A-list Hollywood director.

The same goes for Ron's little brother, Clint (Leon, the boy always appearing with his peanut butter sandwich), who has enjoyed a successful acting career.



Mayor Jon Cawley



Andy Griffith in 1940 while a high school student in Mount Airy.

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"Andy was an excellent role model, the guardian of good taste and good humor," their late father, Rance Howard, once wrote.

"Andy never allowed the show to interfere with our parenting and always put Ron's welfare first," Howard mentioned in reference to himself and wife Jean.

"He was our friend during the show's eight-year run and we remained best friends afterwards."

Another beneficiary of Griffith's influence professionally is Daniel Roebuck, a fellow cast member on the "Matlock" TV show also widely viewed in reruns.

After initially appearing on the program in its first season, Griffith was so impressed with Roebuck's work that he promised the young actor he would have a regular role on the show, according to the Internet Movie Database (IMDb) website.

This would take five seasons, two additional guest appearances as different characters and a change of networks, from NBC to ABC, but Griffith kept that promise and Roebuck finally became a "Matlock" series regular.

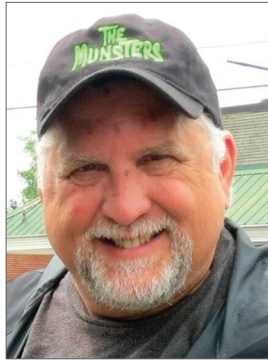
He also is known for a key role in "The Fugitive," a popular movie starring Harrison Ford and Tommy Lee Jones.

"What I remember most about my time with Andy Griffith is that there wasn't a day when we weren't laughing and smiling and having a good time," Roebuck said in a 2022, which was despite the hard, grueling work required by episodic TV.

Roebuck was so grateful for how Griffith shaped his career that he has visited Mount Airy regularly to pay tribute to him and soak up the atmosphere of his home community.

Jones, the Surry Arts Council official, said this included wanting to see the Andy Griffith Playhouse stage that his mentor performed on as a youth and where Roebuck played Scrooge in a local "Christmas Carol" production.

Such admiration is prevalent in this part of the country and beyond.



Fellow actor Daniel Roebuck

"Andy Griffith's influence on Mount Airy and this entire region is truly immeasurable," Roberts commented.

"What began as the story of a small-town boy from Mount Airy became a legacy that introduced millions of people to the values of community, kindness, hospitality and hometown pride," she noted.

"Through Mayberry, Andy created a connection that continues inspiring visitors from across the country and world to experience the charm and authenticity of our area for themselves."

"Our community and our region have so much to offer, but I'm not sure we would have the booming tourist economy we have without our ties to Andy," Lancaster, the chamber president and CEO, summarized.

"I believe it has laid the foundation for driving people to visit here," she asserted.

"The good news is, people may come here for Andy, but they come back for people, our community, our town."

But it all started with the hometown boy who made good in a major way.

"His contributions to the arts in Mount Airy, to the Surry Arts Council, to tourism in Mount Airy and to the area's economy are unmatched," Jones said of Griffith.

"We are forever grateful to Andy, a true artistic genius and talent that is enduring – I will forever be a fan."

A celebratory advertisement for The Loaded Goat Sports Pub & Grill. At the top, it says "HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY ANDY GRIFFITH!" with colorful balloons and confetti. Below this is a black and white photo of Andy Griffith reading a newspaper. To the right of the photo is the text "From the staff and owner at...". Below the photo is a cartoon goat holding a pencil and a sign that says "THE LOADED GOAT SPORTS PUB & GRILL". To the right of the goat is a photo of a family sitting in a car. At the bottom, the address "247 CITY HALL STREET MOUNT AIRY, NC 27030" and phone number "336-755-2070" are listed, along with the website "THELOADEDGOAT.COM". On the right side, it says "WE ARE OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK! CLOSED ON TUESDAYS".

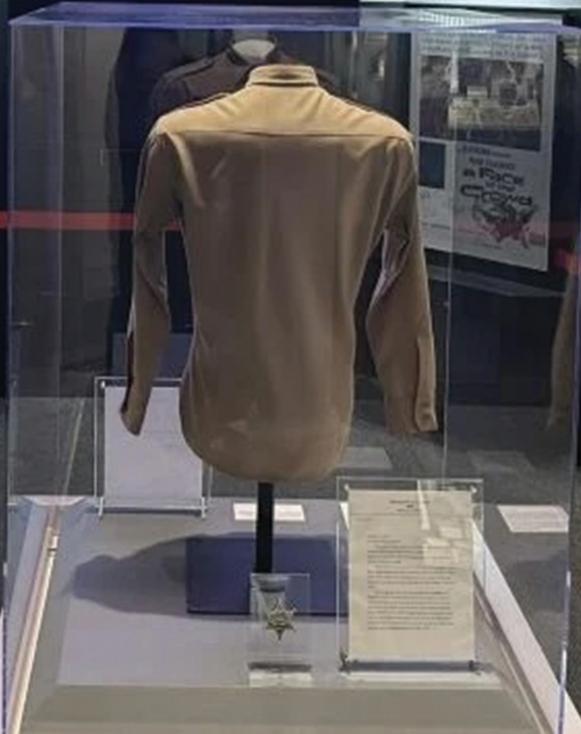
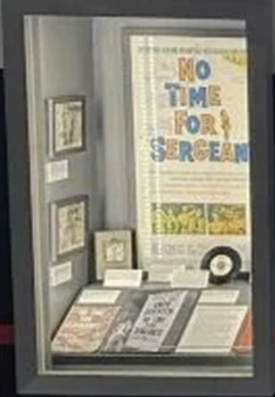
An advertisement for The Plumber LLC. It features a stylized American flag at the top. Below the flag, the text reads "THE PLUMBER LLC" in large, bold, blue letters. Underneath that, it says "Contact us today!" in a smaller, blue, italicized font. The phone number "336-326-8633" is prominently displayed in large, bold, blue numbers. At the bottom, it says "LICENSED, INSURED & READY TO WORK" in bold, blue capital letters.

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RYAN KELLY | THE NEWS

A display at the Andy Griffith Museum recreates the marquee of the Historic Earle Theatre, showcasing Griffith's film career including "A Face in the Crowd" and "No Time for Sergeants."

Andy Griffith at 100

The laughs, music, and lasting legacy

"He was a great father. I love him and still miss him. This probably should be named the Carl Lee Griffith Parkway. He was much greater than I. He gave me my family values, my sense of humor. He gave me everything." - Andy Griffith

BY RYAN KELLY
RYAN.KELLY@MTAIRYNEWS.COM

One of Mount Airy's favorite sons would be celebrating one of those monumental birthdays, the kind with just a little more oomph than others. The man who brought Mayberry to life, Andy Griffith, would have marked a full century on June 1.

Griffith, who died July 3, 2012, at age 86 at his home on Roanoke Island, left behind a career that spanned seven decades and touched virtually every

corner of American entertainment. He was a comedian, a Broadway actor, a film star, a television icon, a gospel singer, a Grammy winner and even a restaurateur.

To millions of viewers, he will always and forever be the warm, wise sheriff of a small Southern town. To the people of Mount Airy, he was something more.

"Andy Griffith means the world to the arts everywhere, not just here in Mount Airy," Tanya Jones, executive director of the Surry Arts Council, said after his death. "His contribution to us,

the Surry Arts Council, and the town of Mount Airy cannot be measured.”

Born Andy Samuel Griffith on June 1, 1926, he was the only child of Carl Lee Griffith and Geneva Nunn Griffith. His early years were modest by any measure. The family struggled financially, and as a baby Griffith lived with relatives until his parents could afford a home of their own.

The house his father bought on Haymore Street cost \$800. It had three small rooms, a front porch and a back porch with a toilet that was “kind of an afterthought,” as Griffith later recalled. The wood siding was so old it had turned black and snow blew through the cracks in winter. The only heat came from the kitchen stove and a fireplace in his parents’ bedroom.

In an October 2002 speech at the dedication of the Andy Griffith Parkway in Mount Airy, Griffith recalled one hard freeze when his father left the kitchen faucet running overnight to keep the pipes from bursting. The faucet kept flowing, but the drain froze. By morning there were two inches of ice across the kitchen floor. “I remember her crying and cutting that ice with an axe,” he said of his mother. “She couldn’t fix breakfast, couldn’t fix daddy’s lunch.”

“It was a good life,” he told the crowd.

Griffith never forgot his father’s role in shaping what came after. Standing at the dedication of a parkway bearing his own name, he told the crowd it had been given to the wrong Griffith.

“He was the greatest foreman and bandsaw operator any furniture factory ever had,” Griffith said of Carl Lee. “He was a great father. I love him and still miss him. This probably should be named the Carl Lee Griffith Parkway. He was much greater than I. He gave me my family values, my sense of humor. He gave me everything.”

A MUSICAL AWAKENING

Griffith’s path into the arts began at 14, when he was sweeping out the high school for \$6 a month. Swing music was all the rage, and he spent his free time staring at two pages of musical instruments in a Spiegel catalog, trying to decide which one he wanted.

Then he saw the movie “Birth of the Blues,” featuring trombonist Jack Teagarden. “He took a slide off the trombone and played that with a glass over the end of the slide, and I thought that was the coolest thing I ever saw,” Griffith recalled in the 2002 speech. He ordered a reconditioned trombone from the catalog for \$38, paid for with that \$6-a-month sweeping job.

For two months, he had no idea what to do with it. Then his father heard about a preacher who taught boys to play horn. So Griffith got on his bicycle and rode up to meet the Reverend Edward Timothy Mickey, minister of the Moravian church.

“He gave me my first lesson, and I ate it up,” Griffith said. “He gave me lesson after lesson. I kept eating it up.”



SURRY ARTS COUNCIL

Andy Taylor, Thelma Lou, Barney Fife, Gomer and Aunt Bee pile into Barney’s car for a Sunday drive in “Barney’s First Car,” one of the most popular episodes of “The Andy Griffith Show.” Opie was also along for the ride, but is hidden behind Thelma Lou.

Within months, Griffith played a solo in church. Before long, Reverend Mickey had taught the young man every horn in the church band. At 16, the minister talked him into singing lessons, which Griffith resisted at first. Nonetheless, he went ahead, and before long he was singing in churches and civic clubs all over town. His voice would partly pay his way through college.

Before the music, though, there was a laugh. In the third grade at Rockford Street School, each homeroom was supposed to put on a program during Friday assembly, but the third grade hadn’t prepared anything. On the way home to lunch, Griffith told a classmate named Albert McKnight he would get up and sing if Albert would too. Albert agreed. However, when the third grade’s turn came, Griffith stood up to let Albert out. Albert never moved.

“I don’t know what possessed me, but I left my seat and marched up that aisle and got on the stage and put my arms



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behind me and sang two verses of 'Put on Your Old Gray Bonnet,'" Griffith recalled. The audience erupted. "It was the first big laugh I ever got."

After graduating from Mount Airy High School, Griffith enrolled at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, initially intending to become a Moravian preacher. His interests shifted once he discovered drama and musical theater on campus, and he graduated in 1949 with a degree in music.

In 1949, he married Barbara Edwards, a fellow UNC actor. He also joined the cast of "The Lost Colony," the long-running outdoor drama on Roanoke Island, eventually earning the lead role of Sir Walter Raleigh. It was on that island that Griffith first fell in love with the Outer Banks.

Two local businessmen helped make the leap into show



Andy Griffith as president of the Men's Glee Club in the 1947 UNC Chapel Hill yearbook "Yackety Yack."



RYAN KELLY | THE NEWS

Ben Matlock's signature suit on display at the Andy Griffith Museum. Griffith starred as the folksy defense attorney in "Matlock" from 1986 to 1995.

business possible. Jim Yokley, who owned the furniture factory where Carl Lee ran the bandsaw, and Robert Smith loaned the young Griffith \$1,000. "That kindness was given me 50 years ago and led to my career," Griffith said. "And I cannot be more thankful."



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RYAN KELLY | THE NEWS

Andy Griffith's childhood home on Haymore Street in Mount Airy, where his father Carl Lee bought the three-room house for \$800.

A COMEDY BREAKTHROUGH

Griffith's path to stardom began with a comedy monologue. In 1953, a Chapel Hill record company released "What It Was, Was Football," a routine in which Griffith, playing the role of an affable country preacher, tried to make sense of a football game he had stumbled upon. The success of the monologue led to appearances on television variety shows and opened doors that would not close again.

In 1955, Griffith starred in a teleplay of "No Time for Sergeants," playing a country boy drafted into the Air Force. The role moved to Broadway, and Griffith earned a Tony Award nomination for his performance. He reprised the role in the 1958 film version, where he appeared alongside a young Don Knotts, marking the beginning of one of the most enduring creative partnerships in television history.

Film gave him a chance to show his range. In 1957, director Elia Kazan cast Griffith in "A Face in the Crowd," a dark film about a drifter who becomes a power-hungry media personality. The role was a sharp departure from the folksy characters audiences would come to associate with him.

Abigail Linville, who gives tours of the Andy Griffith Museum in Mount Airy, has said the film surprises many visitors who only know Sheriff Taylor. "It's really jarring, I'm sure. But it's my favorite," Linville said. "I like it because it makes me see him differently."

Griffith earned a second Tony nomination for the musical "Destry Rides Again" in 1959, but the show struggled. It was during its run that Griffith went to his agent and said he'd struck out in movies and theater. Maybe he should try television. He didn't know it would lead to what he later called "a great 40 years."

SHERIFF OF MAYBERRY

In January 1960, Griffith shot a pilot that aired as an episode of "The Danny Thomas Show." He played a small-town sheriff who arrests Danny Thomas for speeding through a place called Mayberry. The pilot featured Frances Bavier, who would become



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The tuba Andy Griffith played as a member of the brass band at Grace Moravian Church, alongside photos and memorabilia from his early years in Mount Airy.

Aunt Bee, and a 5-year-old Ron Howard as Opie. It got big laughs, the show sold to CBS and the crew beloved by many to this day was made complete with a phone call. After the pilot aired, Knotts called Griffith and asked, "Don't you need a deputy?"

"That changed the whole course of everything," Griffith recalled. "Instead of me telling funny stories about the people

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in Mayberry, I realized the story should be constructed so that Don was funny, and I played straight to him." Griffith played the straight man to a host of characters and anchored the show with quiet warmth while the comedy swirled around him.

"The five years we worked together were the best five years of my life," Griffith said of Knotts.

Karen Knotts, Don's daughter, spoke of that bond after Griffith's death. "The people were important, the jokes were second," she said. "He was a very good friend to my dad. He always looked out for him."

The show ran for eight seasons and 249 episodes before ending in 1968. Griffith insisted that Mayberry be set in North Carolina rather than some generic Southern locale, and he began seeding real names into the scripts. Asheville, Siler City, but most notably Mount Pilot, which anyone from Surry County recognized immediately. Names of people he knew from Mount Airy turned up as characters.

"People started saying that Mayberry was based on Mount Airy," Griffith said. "It sure sounds like it, doesn't it?"

Ron Howard, who went on to become an acclaimed director, said he learned the craft of filmmaking from his years on the show. "I'll always be grateful for the creative environment he established on the set of 'The Andy Griffith Show,'" he said in a message shared at a 2012 tribute in Mount Airy. "I learned how much care had to go into a program if it was going to be truly worthy of an audience's time."

BEYOND MAYBERRY

After the show ended, Griffith struggled to escape its shadow through several short-lived series in the 1970s. Then,



A young Andy Griffith during his years at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he graduated in 1949 with a degree in music.



Andy Griffith as Sir Walter Raleigh alongside his wife Barbara in "The Lost Colony," the long-running outdoor drama on Roanoke Island where Griffith performed from 1947 to 1953.

in 1983, he was stricken with Guillain-Barré syndrome, a neurological disorder that left him partially paralyzed. After six months of rehabilitation, he made a full recovery.

His comeback was definitive. In 1986, Griffith returned to television as Ben Matlock, a folksy but brilliant defense attorney. The show ran for nine seasons, introducing him to a new generation of viewers.

Music ran through Griffith's life from that \$38 Spiegel catalog

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trombone all the way to the end. He performed for troops in Korea. And at the back end of his career, as he put it, he made two gospel records “that have been played and sold all over the world, and I won a Grammy for one of them.”

That Grammy came in 1997 for “I Love to Tell the Story, 25 Timeless Hymns.” He received a second nomination for “Just As I Am” and was inducted into the Country Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1999.

Linville, at the museum that bears Griffith's name, has said many visitors are surprised by the breadth of his career. “He was a multi-talented threat. He did just about everything,” Linville said. “I don't think a lot of people know.”

THE MAN BEHIND THE CHARACTERS

Griffith was an intensely private man. After retiring from acting, he and his wife Cindi Knight settled on Roanoke Island, the same stretch of coastline where he had performed in “The Lost Colony” as a young man.

He had not made a public appearance in Mount Airy for more than four decades when he returned in October 2002 for the parkway dedication. More than 2,500 people turned out and Gov. Mike Easley presided.

Griffith spent the night before in the old house on Haymore Street where he had grown up. “It was a thrill,” he said. His childhood friend Emmett Forrest took him on a tour of the town, stopping at Snappy Lunch, the playhouse and the museum. At the playhouse, formerly the Rockford Street School auditorium where he had performed as a child, the 76-year-old Grammy winner put his hands behind his back and sang “Put on Your Old Gray Bonnet” once more.

He came back once more, in September 2004, to unveil the bronze statue of Andy and Opie on Rockford Street during Mayberry Days. It was his last public visit to his hometown.

In 2005, President George W. Bush awarded Griffith the Presidential Medal of Freedom for “demonstrating the finest qualities of our country and for a lifetime of memorable performances that have brought joy to millions of Americans of all ages.”

A QUIET FAREWELL

On July 3, 2012, Griffith died at his Roanoke Island home with Cindi at his side. He was 86.

Betty Lynn, who had played Thelma Lou on the show, recalled a phone call she made to him on his birthday, about a month before he died. They talked, she said, commiserating about the infirmities of age. “And finally, we told each other how much we loved each other,” Lynn said. “And that was the last time we talked, and I am so glad we did.”

Russell Hiatt, once the barber at Floyd's Barbershop, had known Griffith since they were young men. He put the loss simply. “There are a half-million people in my guest book. He



SURRY ARTS COUNCIL

Andy Griffith, left, and TV Land President Ed Jones unveil the bronze statue of Andy and Opie at the Blackmon Amphitheatre in September 2004. It was Griffith's last public appearance in his hometown.

brought them here. This will leave a big hole in the whole town.”

Three months later, 500 people filled the hillside at Blackmon Amphitheatre for a tribute during Mayberry Days. The Grace Moravian Church Band played. Two horns sat on the stage, one Griffith had played as a boy and one he and Cindi had donated to the band years later. The crowd stood, held hands and sang “Will the Circle Be Unbroken.”

Fourteen years later, the circle holds. The reruns still air. The fans still come. The town Griffith put on the map still draws visitors from across the country who come looking for a place that feels like Mayberry, and find it.

In 2002, standing on a podium in the town he'd left behind as a young man, Griffith closed his parkway dedication speech with a promise. “I think of you often,” he told the crowd, “and I won't be such a stranger from here out.”



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Celebrating Andy's 100th

Birthday activities include new museum display, free movie viewings

BY JOHN PETERS | JPETERS@MTAIRYNEWS.COM

While fans of Andy Griffith know he was a man of many talents – singer, actor, musician, writer and director – few knew he also was a time traveler.

At least one of his famous characters – folksy attorney Ben Matlock – was.

Sort of.

Griffith, who of course played Sheriff Andy Taylor in “The Andy Griffith Show” as well as starring as the titular character of the legal drama “Matlock,” was on screen for 193 episodes of the latter show. One episode in the sixth season, titled “The Nightmare,” featured his character, Matlock, bumping his head and losing consciousness. The episode is essentially a vivid dream Matlock has while he’s knocked out, finding himself in the Old West, trying to defend his associate, Conrad, who is facing a hanging death for a murder he didn’t commit.

On Monday, June 1, the westernized Matlock suit that Griffith wore for that episode was unveiled at The Andy Griffith Museum, on loan from Terri Forrest, daughter of Griffith’s long-time friend, Emmett Forrest. The unveiling was part of the day’s activities planned around June 1 being the 100th anniversary of Andy Griffith’s birth.

Terri Forrest, on hand Monday for the ceremony, said Griffith’s wife, Cindi Griffith, gave her the suit, but Terri Forrest knew it had to eventually go to the museum.

“This makes me smile,” Terri said that day as museum visitors stopped to view the exhibit, talking about how Andy Griffith was among their favorite actors and his shows among the ones they liked best. “This is why we do it.”

“It,” in this case, is loaning such material to the museum. The facility, which first opened its doors in September 2009, was largely built with items donated and loaned by Emmett Forrest. A lifelong friend of Andy Griffith, the latter often gave his friend items and paraphernalia from his work in movies and television. As his personal collection grew, Emmett Forrest decided he would like to share those items with Griffith’s adoring public, so he worked with the Surry Arts Council to develop the museum.

“It’s great to have these things, but no one enjoys it if it’s in a closet somewhere,” Terri Forrest said of her dad’s philosophy. “If you don’t share it, no one can see it...enjoy it.”

The museum, which houses displays of The Andy Griffith Courthouse set, video clips of various movies and shows in which Andy appeared, along with other items and artifacts



HOBART JONES | SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Mount Airy Mayor Jon Cawley and Terri Forrest pose for a photo next to the display showing an Old West-style suit worn by Andy Griffith during an episode of “Matlock.”

from his career, attracts tens of thousands of fans every year.

On June 1, a couple of dozen people filtered in and out of museum in the hour or so before noon. Most were from out of state, and had no idea that was Andy Griffith’s birthday – they had simply journeyed to Mount Airy because of their love of “The Andy Griffith Show.”

Sisters Paula Burke and Lise Murer were among those checking out the museum. Paula, of Topfield, Massachusetts, and Lise, of Williamsburg, Virginia, were to meet their other sister in Mount Airy. “This was the halfway place,” Paula said.

The third sister grew ill and was not able to meet them, but the two said they weren’t going to miss a chance to visit the real-life Mayberry.

“We both love the show,” Lise said.

Paula, who works in the tourism industry in her hometown, said she was impressed with Mount Airy and how the Surry Arts Council’s efforts to keep “The Andy Griffith Show” fandom alive was beneficial to many in the city.

“I love how you’ve taken the opportunity to really benefit the community...investing in the thing he, Andy, cared about – the arts.”

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Tamara Sybert and Pattie Bering were visiting from Jonesborough, Tennessee.

"We didn't know today was his birthday," Pattie said.

"I just watch the show, I find it relaxing," Tamara said. The two added they had long wanted to visit Griffith's hometown and were happy to be in Mount Airy.

BIRTHDAY ACTIVITIES

Whether they knew Monday was Andy's birthday or not, many visiting the museum were thrilled to learn of the activities planned for the day.

The day kicked off with a ceremony unveiling the suit and associated display, with Mount Airy Mayor Jon Cawley declaring June 1 as Andy Griffith 100th Birthday Day.

In comments after the session, the mayor said Andy Griffith was among a select few people in history so well-known that people journeyed to his hometown to visit his home and the area where he grew up.

"People around the world come here because of his work," the mayor said. "That's a hard find. There's probably 50 people in history...that people come to their hometown because of their work."

"The show started in 1960 and has been constantly on the air since then," Terri Forrest said, alluding to all the reruns, streaming service availability, and constant cable stations use of the show. "Andy would be real proud of that. I don't know of any other show that's true of," she said.



JOHN PETERS | MOUNT AIRY NEWS

Lise Murer, of Williamsburg, Virginia, is among visitors checking out displays at the Andy Griffith Museum in Mount Airy on Monday.

"There aren't any," Mayor Cawley responded.

In addition to the exhibit unveiling, Surry Arts Council had a long list of activities planned throughout the day. Among those were free showings of two of Griffith's movies at the Historic Earle Theatre – "No Time for Sergeants" and "A Face in the Crowd." Other activities were a behind-the-scenes tour of the Andy Griffith Playhouse and a new Andy & The Earle display at the theater.

Tanya Jones, executive director for the arts council, said additional birthday celebration activities would take place during this year's Mayberry Days in September, but for now those plans are being kept under wraps.

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The Andy Griffith Show's lasting popularity



RANDY TURNER

BY RANDY TURNER

The Andy Griffith Show premiered on Oct. 3, 1960, when its star, Andy Griffith, was 34 years old.

June 1, 2026, marked the centennial of the icon's birth. Most shows from the Golden Age of Television are long forgotten, and the best of that era may be known, but "The Andy Griffith Show" is far more than that.

TV has changed drastically from the 1960s, the days of the "Big Three" networks. It is fragmented across hundreds of channels, not to mention other avenues for accessing episodes, whether through streaming or physical or digital formats like Blu-ray. Setting aside digital versions and looking only at channels such as MeTV and TVLand, reruns draw literally millions of viewers per episode. Millions of viewers. More than six decades later, in spite of all the other viewing options available. The series is such a fixture that names like Mayberry, Barney Fife, and Gomer Pyle have entered the American lexicon as shorthand for widely known concepts.

As to the question of why "The Andy Griffith Show" remains so popular, there are too many reasons to list and discuss in detail here, but several are especially important. The beloved series is widely acknowledged as one of the best-acted and best-written ever produced.

Some would argue that the answer can be found in two words: Don Knotts. As Barney, Knotts clearly gave the actor's genius the ability to shine, even in the occasional dramatic scene. Griffith had starred in films and was twice nominated

for Tony Awards for his work on Broadway. Frances Bavier had a long, esteemed career on the Broadway stage, and it can be convincingly argued that Ron Howard is the best child actor ever seen on television.

The leads were all excellent actors, but the guest stars were exceptional as well. Looking at the second season alone, one sees many instances.

Among them is Academy Award- and thrice Emmy Award-nominated actor

Jean Hagen. Jackie Coogan, the first child actor to be broadly merchandised after starring in the Charlie Chaplin film "The Kid," soon played the popular Uncle Fester on "The Addams Family." Buddy Ebsen, shortly after co-starring in "Breakfast at Tiffany's," was soon to be Jed Clampett on "The Beverly Hillbillies." Allan Hale Jr., Bill Bixby, Barbara Eden, and more continue to make the point.

Instead of something akin to the modern writers' room, the series had numerous writers who wrote the episodes independently of one another. Story consultant and associate producer Aaron Ruben oversaw everything for the bulk of the series to such a degree that it is often said that all scripts passed through his typewriter. Griffith famously wanted no jokes in the scripts, ensuring the humor was character-driven.

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The show was designed by its star to evoke nostalgia. The courthouse still used a candlestick telephone, and calls were handled by a town operator. Griffith famously said he wanted the show to have the feel of the 1930s and '40s, his own childhood era.

The show was also designed to be evergreen and thus timeless. Any reference to real-world events was exceedingly rare. Even though the series was set in the 1960s, references to the past were the norm.

Use of a single camera to film the show, the same technique used for movies, made it different from shows that used the three-camera technique with multiple cameras filming from different angles what was, essentially, a play in front of a live audience. Griffith believed nuance was lost in performances on that type of series and that the actors naturally and understandably broadly played to the live audience.

The creators did a masterful job of making Mayberry feel like a real town. Part of this was because of the single camera. Three-camera shows were usually limited to just a couple of sets. On "The Andy Griffith Show," you actually saw people at lakes or in the woods, car chases on country roads, cars driving along the street, and other people walking in the background in town scenes.

But the core reason the show worked so well is that it was tailored to fit the sensibility of its star. Andy Griffith was known for maintaining a "happy set." Everyone was expected

to do their jobs, but there were no tensions when the camera stopped rolling. Instead, there was music and laughter.

Griffith himself often contributed to the scripts. He never took a writer's credit, nor had himself listed as a producer. But in fact, he was a regular presence at story meetings and contributed ideas and storylines that were later adopted by the scriptwriters. Griffith did not want the series to be "preachy," but made sure the writers understood there should be a moral message conveyed in every episode. This morality was never heavy-handed. It was instead implicit in the way the characters treated each other. He summed this aspect up by saying the show was ultimately about love.

Some people believe that in a few more years, no one will remember "The Andy Griffith Show." But then, the same thing has already been said and has been repeatedly proven wrong for decades. The series endures because it is so well done, and well-crafted entertainment rises to the level of art.

Whenever anyone suggests the show will be forgotten, my response is to wonder aloud whether people in Hannibal, Missouri, used to think the same thing about Mark Twain's writings.

Quality endures, and so will "The Andy Griffith Show."

Randy Turner's most recent book is "The Enduring Legacy of The Andy Griffith Show." Randy has written several books about the classic series and is an in-demand public speaker about the show.



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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 at the Blackmon Amphitheatre are \$20, or a season pass for \$175. For concert series shows, those attending are encouraged to take blankets or lounge chairs. Beer, wine, and food are sold at selected events. No coolers are allowed. Information on the concerts, or ordering tickets, can be found at <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/amphitheatre.html>

CONCERTS & EVENTS

JUNE 11

The Part Time Party Band will be on stage beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. The variety band is known for its beach music, but those attending can also expect to hear some Motown, soul, and other timeless classics. Tickets are \$20 or a Surry Arts Summer Concert Series season pass.

JUNE 12

The Castaways Band will be on stage beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. This Carolina Beach Music Awards Hall of Fame band has been delighting audiences with their lively mix of beach music, soul, and rock 'n' roll for years. It's a show that will have you on your feet all night long, with a little country and top-40 thrown in for a perfect blend of nostalgic hits and modern favorites. Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.

JUNE 13

The Blackwater Rhythm and Blues Band will be on stage beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Known for their captivating live shows, this premier group from North Carolina will fill the venue with the soulful sounds of rhythm and blues, funk, and beach music. Whether you're looking to dance the night away or simply soak up the incredible talent, their diverse and dynamic sound guarantees a good time for all. Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.

An Evening With Steep Canyon Rangers is on tap in the outdoor amphitheater at the Blue Ridge Music Center, on Music Center Road in Galax, Virginia, Milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Steep Canyon Rangers have long held traditional bluegrass paramount, while possessing an ability to bring it down the mountain and incorporate other influences from around region. With the band's past few albums they have gained recognition from well beyond the world of bluegrass, earning a reputation as some of the most influential songwriters in Americana today. The three-time Grammy nominees have released 14 studio albums, three collaborative albums with actor and banjoist Steve Martin, been inducted into the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame, and appeared on some of music's biggest stages. In 2013, Nobody Knows You won the Grammy Award for Best Bluegrass Album, while 2012's *Rare Bird* and 2020's *North Carolina Songbook* garnered nominations in the same category. Show starts at 7 p.m., gates open at 5:45 p.m. Tickets are \$40 in advance, \$45 day of the show, \$20 for ages 12 and younger. For more information, visit <https://www.blueridgemusiccenter.org/concerts/summer-concert-series/>

JUNE 18

Area favorite The Embers featuring Craig Woolard will be in concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Dance the night away with the legends of Beach Music at a concert featuring The

Embers and lead singer Craig Woolard. As North Carolina's official Ambassadors of Music, The Embers have been creating unforgettable memories since 1958 with their signature blend of "heart and soul, rhythm and blues." Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.

JUNE 19

A free Juneteenth Celebration featuring the band Envision gets underway at 7:30 p.m. at the the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Covering everything from timeless hits of the '60s, '70s, and '80s to the latest Top 40 tracks, Envision's stage show is as exciting to watch as it is to dance to. From R&B and Motown to Funk, Pop, and Beach Music, their versatility promises an unforgettable experience for every music lover. Hosted by the African American Historical & Genealogical Society of Surry County and Surry Arts Council.

JUNE 20

North Tower Band will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. at the the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. After decades of delighting audiences with their energetic performances, the North Tower Band is bringing its dynamic show back in 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's ability to fill the dance floor is guaranteed to make it a night to remember. Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.

The Martha Bassett Show with guests Earl White Stringband, along with Murphy Campbell, will be on stage at the outdoor amphitheater at the Blue Ridge Music Center, on Music Center Road in Galax, Virginia, Milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Martha Bassett Show is a weekly, live radio program airing on 88.5 WFDD that blends the fabric of the national roots and Americana scene with the rich artistry, history, and flair of North Carolina's Piedmont region. Helmed by one of the state's most distinguished musicians, the live show features national artists, fresh local faces, and the music of Martha Bassett. This live taping will feature special guests Earl White Stringband and Murphy Campbell collaborating in song and conversation with Martha and her band. Show starts at 7 p.m., gates open at 5:45 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 day of the show, \$10 for ages 12 and younger. For more information, visit <https://www.blueridgemusiccenter.org/concerts/summer-concert-series/>

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>

JUNE 25

The Catalinas will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. at the the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Get ready to dance the night away with the legends of beach music! The Catalinas, a Carolina institution since 1957, are bringing their timeless sound and infectious energy to the stage for a concert you won't want to miss. With their signature hit "Summertime's Calling Me" and decades of other feel-good classics. Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.

JUNE 26

Phatt City will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. at the the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. With a repertoire of hits covering beach music, R&B, Motown, and classic dance tunes, Phatt City is ready to bring the party to the stage. The nine-member band delivers a high-energy performance, inspired by the sounds of legendary groups like Chicago and Earth, Wind & Fire, that will have the crowd on its feet all night long. Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.

JUNE 27

80z Nation will be on stage at 7:30 p.m. at the the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Step into a time machine and relive the greatest

hits of the '80s as 80z Nation takes the stage for an electrifying night of neon and nostalgia. Hailed as the Carolinas' premiere 80s tribute band, 80z Nation is dedicated to authentically recreating the decade's iconic look and sound, from synth-pop anthems to epic hair metal ballads. Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.

The Burnett Sisters Band, as well as Michael Daves & Jacob Jolliff will perform in the outdoor amphitheater at the Blue Ridge Music Center, on Music Center Road in Galax, Virginia, Milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Burnett Sisters Band has played for more than 13 years and continues to share traditional music all across the United States, Ireland, England, and Canada, with a repertoire that pulls from bluegrass and old-time, swing, folk, and country. Michael Daves is Grammy-nominated for his work with Chris Thile and has collaborated with bluegrass luminaries including Tony Trischka, Andy Statman, Bruce Molsky, and Peter Rowan. Jacob Jolliff has become one of the country's most notable contemporary mandolinists, touring with Béla Fleck, Yonder Mountain String Band, and his own quartet. Show starts at 7 p.m., gates open at 5:45 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 day of the show, \$10 for ages 12 and younger. For more information, visit <https://www.blueridgemusiccenter.org/concerts/summer-concert-series/>

JUNE 28

The 208th Army Band 81st Readiness Division will be in concert at 3 p.m. at the the Blackmon Amphitheatre. As the official musical ambassadors of the U.S. Army Reserve's 81st Readiness Division, these talented citizen-soldiers deliver a powerful performance that honors their fellow service members and connects with the community. With a legacy that spans decades, the band showcases its musical excellence through a diverse repertoire that includes stirring marches, concert pieces, jazz, rock, and heartfelt patriotic selections. This concert is free.

JULY 2

The Legacy Motown Revue will be on stage at 7:30 p.m. at the the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series in a show that pays homage to

the legendary artists who defined an era. Featuring powerhouse vocalists, dazzling choreography, and backed by a dynamic horn band, this is more than just a concert—it's a high-energy journey through the golden age of soul. You'll hear all your favorite classics from icons like The Temptations, The Four Tops, The Jacksons, and more. Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.

JULY 3

Ridzo Revival is back and ready to rock in a 7:30 p.m. concert at the Blackmon Amphitheatre. Get ready for an evening of electrifying music and high-energy performances as Ridzo Revival takes the stage. Their powerful vocals and tight instrumentation are guaranteed to have you on your feet all night long. Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.

JULY 9

Jim Quick and Coastline brings their soulful blues, R&B, and pure Southern rock energy to the stage in a 7:30 p.m. concert at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Jim Quick's brings music and humor to the stage as the 18-time winner of the title "Entertainer of the Year." Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.

JULY 10

The Main Event Band takes to the stage at the Blackmon Amphitheatre for this 7:30 p.m. concert. Known as the ultimate party and variety band, the group brings R&B and Soul to Classic Rock, Funk, Beach music, and Country to the stage. Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass to this Summer Concert Series show.

JULY 11

Appearing on the Blackmon Amphitheatre stage for a 7:30 p.m. Summer Concert Series show, The Pink Slips Band brings a high-energy night to Mount Airy. The band's eclectic and captivating sound covers everything from Carolina beach music and soul to country and classic rock, with audience members often taking to the dance floor or singing along.




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The Krüger Brothers and The Little Mercies will perform in the outdoor amphitheater at the Blue Ridge Music Center, on Music Center Road in Galax, Virginia, Milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Krüger Brothers are known for their long association with MerleFest, where they first played in 1977, and have appeared every year since. After touring extensively in the U.S., brothers Jens and Uwe Krüger along with bassist Joel Landsberg moved Switzerland to Wilkesboro, N.C. in 2002. They have since earned widespread acclaim and developed a devoted following for their innovative fusion of bluegrass, folk, and classical music. The Krüger Brothers are members of the Blue Ridge Music Hall of Fame, the Wilkes County Hall of Fame, the International Banjo Hall of Fame, as well as the American Folk Music Hall of Fame. Opening the show is The Little Mercies, known for their powerful harmonies, raging twin fiddles, and tear-wrenching lyrics. Show starts at 7 p.m., gates open at 5:45 p.m. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 day of the show, \$15 for ages 12 and younger. For more information, visit <https://www.blueridgemusiccenter.org/concerts/summer-concert-series/>

JULY 16

Join the Special Occasion Band for a performance filled with high-energy hits and soulful classics. Get ready to dance and sing along as this band delivers a mix of genres, from crowd-pleasing rock anthems to timeless dancehall rhythms, their powerful and versatile sound has something for everyone. Show begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.

JULY 17

Get ready to groove with The Entertainers, masters of Beach Music for more than 30 years. Their performances combine classic R&B, Top 40 hits, and soulful throwbacks, guaranteeing an unforgettable night of dancing and good vibes. From their iconic 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. Show begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre. Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass. Part of the Summer Concert Series.

JULY 18

The Part Time Party Band brings a night of sizzling brass, soulful vocals, and a wide-ranging setlist that spans beach music, Motown, disco, and Top 40 hits to the stage in this show which begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre. Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass for this Summer Concert Series show.

TopHouse and PigPen Theatre Co. will perform in the outdoor amphitheater at the Blue Ridge Music Center, on Music Center Road in Galax, Virginia, Milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. TopHouse is a Montana-raised Americana/Folk band, located in Nashville, made up of Jesse Davis, Joe Larson, Will Cook, and Andy LaFave. In 2020, they wrote, recorded, and released their second album, Snapshot, and in 2021 they were invited to be the house band for Tennessee Brew Works and are working on their newest music release. PigPen Theatre Co. is a band of storytellers, who began creating their unique brand of theater music, and film as freshmen at Carnegie Mellon School of Drama in 2007. PigPen's debut album, Bremen, was named #10 album of the year in The Huffington Post's 2012 Grammy preview. In 2015, they performed at Mumford & Sons' Gentlemen of the Road Festival and made their feature film debut in "Ricki and the Flash" starring Meryl Streep. Show starts at 7 p.m., gates open at 5:45 p.m. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 day of the show, \$15 for ages 12 and younger. For more information, visit <https://www.blueridgemusiccenter.org/concerts/summer-concert-series/>

JULY 23

Step into the spotlight and get ready for a night of pure musical magic with Envision, delivering a high-energy performance featuring their signature silky-smooth harmonies, powerhouse lead vocals, and tight musicianship, covering everything from timeless hits of the 60s, 70s, and 80s to the latest Top 40 tracks. Show begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre. Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass. Part of the Summer Concert Series.



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JULY 25

Scythian and Ettore Buzzini will perform in the outdoor amphitheater at the Blue Ridge Music Center, on Music Center Road in Galax, Virginia, Milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Named after Ukrainian nomads, Scythian (sith-ee-yin) plays roots music from Celtic, Eastern European and Appalachian traditions with thunderous energy, technical prowess, and storytelling songwriting, beckoning crowds into a barn-dance, rock concert experience. The foursome brings various influences together to create a conglomerate which is technically precise and steeped in various folk traditions. Ettore Buzzini is an 18-year-old Swiss-American bluegrass prodigy whose songwriting, picking, and show-stopping performances are drawing new young fans to cutting-edge bluegrass. His virtuosic music blends the iconic acoustic sounds of Americana, the youthful energy and hard drive of pop-rock, and the epic, soul-stirring, romantic emotions of classical music. Show starts at 7 p.m., gates open at 5:45 p.m. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 day of the show, \$15 for ages 12 and younger. For more information, visit <https://www.blueridgemusiccenter.org/concerts/summer-concert-series/>

JULY 30

North Tower Band will be on the Blackmon Amphitheatre stage in a 7:30 p.m. concert, which means plenty of fans will be on the granite dance floor when the North Tower Band. Expect a night of sizzling brass, soulful vocals, and a wide-ranging setlist that spans beach music, Motown, disco, and Top 40 hits. Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.

JULY 31

Too Much Sylvia will be back in concert in Mount Airy, on stage for a 7:30 p.m. show at the Blackmon Amphitheatre. Voted into the Carolina Beach Music Hall of Fame, this crowd-pleasing variety band delivers a dynamic and interactive show that spans multiple genres, from soulful Motown and funky 70s hits to classic rock, country, and today's top 40. Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.

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

Something Rotten! will be on stage at the Andy Griffith Playhouse on Friday, July 24 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, July 26 at 3 p.m. Welcome to the Renaissance and the outrageous, crowd-pleasing musical farce. Set in the 1590s, brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom are desperate to write a hit play but are stuck in the shadow of that Renaissance rock star known as "The Bard." When a local soothsayer foretells that the future of theater involves singing, dancing and acting at the same time, Nick and Nigel set out to write the world's first musical. But amidst the scandalous excitement of opening night, the Bottom Brothers realize that reaching the top means being true to thine own self, and all that jazz. Preferred seats are \$25, orchestra seats are \$20. Visit <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/livetheatre.html> to order tickets.

ONGOING

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

Mayberry Cool Cars and Rods Cruise In Series, held on the third Sunday of every month May through October. Free registration begins at 1 p.m. at the Carlos Jones Blue Ridge Park, under the gazebo on the corner of Main and Oak Streets. Dates are June 21, July 19, August 16, and Sept. 20, 1 to 5 p.m. each day.

Upcoming Events



MAYBERRY FARM FEST

Saturday, May 16th • 9am-6pm
A full day of family fun featuring:

- Farm demonstrations
- Local vendors & artisans
- Live entertainment
- Kids activities
- Food trucks & hometown favorites



TRACTOR PARADE MAY 15TH 6PM

Celebrate the tradition, craftsmanship, and community spirit that make Mayberry special.

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Bring the family and stroll through rows of timeless rides in historic downtown.





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- ▶ **Fighting Healthcare Monopolies:** Took bold action by challenging Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, including publicly calling for the resignation of its CEO over alleged misconduct.
- ▶ **Combating Insurance Fraud:** More than tripled the number of fraud investigators, bringing hundreds of millions of dollars into the state General Fund.
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- ▶ **Racking Down on Political Corruption:** Played a central, courageous role in a 2019 FBI sting that exposed political corruption and bribery.

“The 12-year prison sentence and \$1.6 billion in restitution reflects the seriousness of Greg Lindberg's crimes and the harm he caused to policyholders. This sends a powerful message to anyone who would consider engaging in fraud involving insurance companies that crime doesn't pay. “I appreciate all the hard work and effort that the U.S. Department of Justice has devoted to this investigation and prosecution. We at the Department of Insurance remain committed to protecting policyholders and preserving the integrity of the insurance industry in North Carolina.

– Statement from Mike Causey on the 12-year sentence given Greg Lindberg in federal court”



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