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

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David and Shannon Murphy, of High Point, N.C., chose Mount Airy as the place they would exchange vows, because they wanted a Mayberry wedding



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Fiddlers CONVENTION TUNED IN TO TRADITION

BY TOM JOYCE | tjoyce@mtairynews.com

Much has changed in the world since the Mount Airy Bluegrass and Old-Time Fiddlers Convention debuted in 1972, but the music performed there – and the good times to be had – remain constant.

The annual gathering held during the second full weekend in June (June 6-7, Friday and Saturday, in 2025) showcases the traditional mountain music of this region to appreciative fans who come from near and far – even many foreign countries.

“I think the fiddlers convention is hugely important to Mount Airy and our area,” said Executive Director Tanya Jones of the Surry Arts Council, which is heavily involved in the event.

This includes sponsoring workshops during the convention which are taught by local fiddlers, banjo pickers and others – offered free to enthusiastic students.

“It not only preserves the musical heritage that is unique to Surry County,” Jones added of the convention, “but also promotes and brings attention to Surry County musicians.”

In addition to the competition onstage, the convention features countless impromptu jam sessions on the park grounds, which Jones says any musician can feel comfortable joining regardless of his or her skill level.

“It preserves and perpetuates the music of our region,” she said of how such openness and accessibility plays a role in that.

TRADITION BEGINS

Just as it is today, the first edition of the Mount Airy Bluegrass and Old-Time Fiddlers Convention was held at Veterans Memorial Park on West Lebanon Street.



A guitarist walks the stairs to stardom.



PHOTOS BY TOM JOYCE | THE NEWS

One of many impromptu jam sessions to be found on the grounds at the fiddlers convention unfolds as musicians basically just grab a seat and start picking.

It was launched by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion groups that own the park, which are still involved today.

The late G.F. “Ronald” Collins, a VFW member and longtime convention organizer, is credited with being the driving force in launching the event and having it become a fixture on the local music scene.

Collins was a member of The Camp Creek Boys old-time string band.

He had thought a fiddlers convention would go over well in Mount Airy, which has proven to be the case.

The national, and international, status it enjoys today was set right from the start when a representative of Time magazine attended to take pictures at the inaugural event in 1972.

The grandstand at Veterans Memorial Park was reported to be filled, with another 200 persons standing outside and “listening in,” according to a news account at that time.

They got a special treat when veteran old-time fiddler Tommy Jarrell ventured onto the stage to entertain the large crowd.

Jones, the Surry Arts Council official, says that was significant in terms of the preservation aspect of this area’s traditional music.

“Tommy Jarrell is to old-time music what Bill Monroe is to bluegrass,” she said in reference to Monroe’s status as the “father” of that genre.

And thanks to Jarrell, the closely related old-time music “is a recognizable sound around the world,” Jones observed.

Jarrell not only was known for his performances, but a willingness to host young visitors from all over at his home in Toast who made pilgrimages here to learn from the old master.

For the record, Roy McMillan and the High Country Boys won the bluegrass band competition in Year One, with Earnest East and the Pine Ridge Boys winning in the old-time category.

That competition format yet continues, with not only band competition broken down in bluegrass and old-time contests, but also individual instruments. Youth categories additionally are included along with dance.

Ample camping space is available on the park grounds, accommodating both motorized units and tents.

UNIQUE VISITORS

One never knows who they might run into at the Mount Airy Bluegrass and Old-Time Fiddlers Convention.

Over the years this has included visitors from Ireland, Australia, England, Germany, Japan, Canada and other nations, along with virtually



Convention competitors line up for their chance to woo the judges with performances onstage.

every corner of the United States.

They have attended from such domestic locations as Texas, Colorado, New Jersey, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Delaware, Nashville and other areas of Tennessee, based on recent entry listings and license-plate surveys, along with North Carolina/Virginia.

"You will inevitably have people from Great Britain here," Jones mentioned.

This includes the BBC (British Broadcasting Corp.), which has had a convention presence over the years.

Other drop-in notables have included Dom Flemons and Rhiannon Giddens of the acclaimed old-time band The Carolina Chocolate Drops, musician and folklorist Mike Seeger, members of the group Donna the Buffalo and many others.

WORKSHOPS ADD SPICE

Tanya Jones seems especially proud of the Surry Arts Council's sponsorship of the workshops held every year during the fiddlers convention.

These allow the public to get firsthand instruction from area musicians in instruments such as fiddle, banjo (bluegrass and clawhammer), mandolin and autoharp (added last year) with dance also included.

The workshops particularly are geared toward convention attendees from other areas.

And the fact they are free reflects a rationale that these folks already have forked out hefty sums on travel, tickets, lodging, dining and other costs just to be here.

Jones said the council spends about a fourth of its "sub-grant" funding on the workshops, which comes from outside sources to support arts-outreach programs in the community.

The workshops are conducted even before the convention starts officially.

"Our focus is Wednesday through Friday," Jones said. "We're getting people here earlier in the week."

Some convention-goers have been known to arrive a week in advance, typically camping out and playing music with others leading up to Friday's opening.

(Specifics on the workshops were still being finalized at last report, with persons interested advised to regularly check the fiddlers convention website at <https://www.surryarts.org/mafiddlersconvention/> for updates in addition to other information about the event.)

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SIXTEEN YEARS OF 13 BONES

has left fingers sticky and stomachs full

BY RYAN KELLY | ryan.kelly@mtairynews.com

One of area residents' favorite places to eat for ribs, steaks, seafood and more is 13 Bones located at 502 South Andy Griffith Parkway in Mount Airy. Having just celebrated 16 years in business, this Mountie Award winning establishment shows no signs of slowing down and will soon be featured on the series America's Best Restaurants.

Owners Angie Venable, Freddy Hudson, Ellie Needham, and Johnny "Opie" Newman are proud of what they have created and the quality of the food they deliver.

On March 31, the foursome celebrated a big birthday: 13 Bones' Sweet 16. Since 2009, Venable said the goal has been, "To provide a great place to work for our employees along with providing a place with affordable food. Community involvement has always been a goal since day one."

FRESH, LOCAL, TASTY

The concept of farm to table food is appealing to people for a variety of reasons, not least of which is the guarantee of freshness. There is also something to be said for the satisfaction it brings to some to support local farmers and growers.

To that end, 13 Bones is offering up a selection of meats sourced locally from the Mount Airy Meat Center and Ambrose Creek Farm.

"We do my farm to table special from Ambrose Creek Farm, its beef I raise in the State Road area and it's brought right here," Newman said. The State Road community is just a shuffle down the road, about 25 miles to the Southwest from the restaurant meaning the commute from farm to table is a short one.

"That's my farm where I raised the beef, local raised and USDA inspected," he explained. Some locally grown and grain-fed black Angus may be just what a discerning steak eater is looking for.

He said a portion of his beef is sold to folks living around the area, but 13 Bones is getting a goodly supply from Ambrose Creek Farm. "I have people that buy like halves and wholes and stuff. But besides that, we use most of them here."

When selections come in from his farm, they are used for different dishes as Venable explained. "You're not going to feed 800 people the same, so we'll feature whatever is up next as a cut."

This past weekend they were offering up some farm fresh filets. Newman recalled a recent encounter with a pair of satiated steak eaters who were sitting at the restaurant's bar, "Had two of the people at the bar that was from out of state that got two filets, and they just went on about how good. Said they want to know how I could ship them. I said, 'Well, I guess you could. If you don't mind paying for it, right?'"

Oh, the lengths some people will go for a good cut of meat.

Opie Newman said to ask about Ambrose Creek Farm meats to see what may be available on the day, supplies are limited and will be first come, first satisfied.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE MEDIA COLLECTION

13 Bones is found at 502 S Andy Griffith Pkwy in Mount Airy. They are open six days a week: Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday they are open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Co-owner Opie Newman suggests trying their smoked prime rib special available on Saturday, but he said get there early.

The group said that freshness and quality are mainstays on the menu, and that does not end with the sirloins or rib eyes.

"One thing that makes us unique too, I would say, is that over 90% of our stuff is made from scratch in house," Venable said. She faltered for a moment trying to recall what those items were, which if one is being honest about it is a pretty good sign.

With help from Hudson, they determined some of the dressings and perhaps a few desserts were not made in house, but little else. The steaks and veggies are all hand cut he pointed out.

Hudson perked up when talking about food but was a tad coy when trying to identify his favorite menu item was. It turns out kitchen staff often create their own off menu meals that the rest of us would probably pay top dollar for. Perhaps 13 Bones' feature on America's Best Restaurants may shed some more light on those concoctions.

Their selection to be part of the web series was by nomination as all the establishments shown are similarly selected. The owners were not fully certain who had recommended them, but nonetheless a camera crew and host came in January, poked around, tried out the food, and spoke to some diners. The final product is due out sometime in late April.

The fab four are about as ready for prime time as possible and said to keep an eye out on the 13 Bones Facebook page for a link when the feature is broadcast. It will also be featured on the America's Best Restaurants social media platforms as well.

BE OUR GUEST

It is neither boastful nor hyperbolic to say that folks from all over the world come to Mount Airy to take a look at Mayberry U.S.A. They come to stroll the downtown shops, take a picture at the Andy Griffith statue for their fridge, and maybe pop into the new Siamese Twins Museum at the Arts Center building.

Some even dare to leave the city limits and take in the natural splendor of the surrounding area. Whatever they do though - hunger follows. Thankfully, Opie Newman said that many guests visiting the area are being given the inside information on where to find a quality made meal from their innkeeper.

"Seems like about every time when I hear the people at the bar talking about them being recommended here, its folks coming from motels. We're the first place that got mentioned and they like local owned stuff too. They



Perhaps best known for red meat, 13 Bones co-owner Angie Venable said not to sleep on their selection of seafood items.

like stuff that's not chains," he said.

Needham added that the folks coming to Mount Airy, especially those coming in for arts festivals or the nostalgic siren song of Mayberry, are seeking something authentic.

"The clientele that's coming to Mayberry is the clientele that wants home cooking. I think we're not run of the mill, not a chain. You know, some people like consistency, you know? They like to go in and know exactly what they're going to get, but I think that the clientele that Mayberry brings is more into the small town, local feel," she said.

"They're actually hunting for something like that," Newman added.

"I think that for at least one meal that they are here, they are going to try something locally owned," Needham stated.

A lot of locals find themselves coming back time and again too, the proprietors of 13 Bones said. Newman joked that he has asked some of the local regulars who sit at the bar where exactly it is they go to eat when not dining with him.

"Most of them tell me that we're the only really good place, you know, as far as consistency and quality, that this is where you got to come to get it the good stuff and I think we're probably cheaper too," he said.

To get first-time guests in the door on a recommendation from local hotel front desks or motel operators means a lot to Venable. Getting the nod comes from building relationships within the community, which sometimes is done with a tray of food and some gratitude.

"It's about saying thank you. We go every so often and take them a tray of something or something for their employees to say thank you," she said.

TOUGH TIMES MAKE STRONG BONDS

For such a non-assuming building off Andy Griffith Parkway, it may come as a surprise to know that 13 Bones employs between 60 to 70 staff members. There are about as many employees left from day one as there are owners, an impressive feat for any business hitting 16 years. Venable said that all their current full time staff had been with them for at least five years, "if not longer."

"I think people are shocked when they hear how many people we employ," Needham observed.

Turnover in the food service industry is common, but she said that their staff members are happy working there and the feeling is mutual. At varying times, the owners all spoke about the importance of and their loyalty to their staff.

Even when times were darkest during the pandemic, and restaurants



The name 13 Bones is taken from the number of bones found in a full rack of ribs, one of the signature items at the restaurant.

were shifting gears or closing down, they found a way through the mess - together.

"I don't think (closing down) was ever an option for us. We were going to survive," Venable noted.

"COVID really, really forced us outside of our comfort zone. And we had to think outside the box, and I mean to keep people employed," Needham said.

"Even now, there may be times when we need to shut down for three of four days to do a major renovation. But we're always worrying about our staff because they can't go those three of four days without a shift."

They gave staff a chance to make money in creative ways like painting the exterior of the building. "Just to keep everybody going. You could

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be outside and do it. We literally were like, ‘Who wants to come in and do maintenance?’ Because we would find stuff to do to keep everybody rolling,” Needham said.

A feature that helped 13 Bones make it through the storm is a favorite of locals: the drive through window for call-in orders. “This past weekend, it was insane. We were five deep here waiting for them and then they were lined up all the way out there,” Venable said.

Newman said the appeal is simple, “I think people just like driving through because they don’t care how they’re dressed, it doesn’t matter.”

While the drive through had always been popular, Needham said COVID normalized getting to-go food for a lot of people and it was a lifeline for steak lovers during lockdown.

During those days, the owners made other changes like adding a covered outdoor seating area featuring a coffee hut from Grounded Coffee Co. from Dobson. Venable said people like waiting out there for a table rather than in the small waiting area near the door.

A feature some may not be aware of may mean that Fido can come along for the visit. “Some folks really love that the outdoor area is dog friendly. People who are traveling with their pets will eat out and maybe get a to-go order and sit out there and eat it,” she added.

Newman added that it is common to see cornhole games in progress and during the cooler months they will turn on some heaters to keep guests cozy.

THRIVING OPERATION

While the restaurant is the primary business venture, they also touted a robust catering business. “We take all the catering we can,” Needham said.

Some months the catering feels like a complete second business Venable added. During the holidays they were averaging three caterings a weekend and that tends to require a crew dedicated to only catering jobs.

Their successful catering operation rose from the ashes of a failed expansion into other markets. Venable said an attempt to branch out into new cities proved to not be making money and they shut the expansion down. Lemonade, however, was made from the situation as they said the catering business of today was born from those closing doors.

“We finished our lease out in Winston-Salem, and I actually got pregnant with my son, and was like, I just can’t travel back and forth anymore. Our lease was up, so we started catering,” Venable said.

“We were dabbling in catering, but then we really took it seriously,” Needham recalled. That was ten years ago now; the fruits of that lemonade surely now taste fairly sweet today.

Add on top of that their wedding venue, White Sulphur Springs, which opened during the pandemic.

Venable let out a sigh in talking about how those days felt, to be working toward opening a wedding venue during what was still an emerging public health emergency. “Yeah, it was great,” she said with evident sarcasm. “We were so far in it; you couldn’t turn back.”

The venue is now a sought-after venue for weddings Needham said, “We have a lot of destination weddings. You really have a lot of people that are not local that get married here.”

They estimated that perhaps 20% of all their brides reside within an hour of the venue, from within an hour of the venue so Needham mentioned some bridal parties avail the opportunity to rent an on-site cabin to have easier access.

“So typically, with weddings they rent all of them because we have a lot of destination weddings. Each cabin had a different theme like a



A server is seen bringing food to hungry guests of 13 Bones in Mount Airy.

Yellowstone groomsmen’s cabin with a poker table,” she said.

A lot of thoughtful planning went into the design of the venue space which they feel has helped set them apart from others. “There’s a million other venues around, I think what makes us appealing is we’re a legit business and ADA compliant. We went through everything and pulled all the permits to make sure because you gotta’ think, a lot of weddings have elderly people and you can’t just throw them out on the farm with no toilet,” Needham said.

WE ARE FAMILY

Among the four owners, there is a sense of comfort and familiarity that has grown to extend to staff and regulars. “Oh ya, the Youngs, the Welches, Davieses, the Shepherds used to come in every day,” Venable started when discussing their regular customers.

Needham said they notice when the regulars are gone. “Like when they go on vacation and then come back, we’re asking them how it was... You build kind of a family relationship.”

“When the Davieses come in, before they get gone there’s gonna’ be six to eight people come and sit down and talk to them. There’s three of ‘em and there’s always an empty seat and I don’t miss too many times to chat unless we’re real busy,” Newman said.

Being a member of the community is more to them than just knowing the names of their regulars, but also about giving back. Venable explained. “When you support us, you support the community. That’s always been our number one goal, to give back to the community. I feel like we have kept that promise from the first year.

“We have partnered with Mount Airy Meat Center to feed people on Thanksgiving day, and have donated heaters through school social workers, and another year we just got them gift cards to do whatever they needed to do for some of their students. I don’t feel like any fundraisers that walk through here that we haven’t given a gift card to,” she said.

For a group of owner operators who are down in the trenches slinging the steak, laboring over rising food costs, or who might call out five minutes before dinner starts - they appear to really get along with one another.

“I mean, we do get along. Some people don’t believe that, but we actually really do,” Venable said. “We’re all kind of like-minded and so it makes it really easy. We all know where we’re wanting to go and what the ultimate goal is.”

Mayberry is for Lovers?

**Fictional town
draws together
real-life couples**

BY JOHN PETERS | jpeters@mtairynews.com

With apologies to the city's northern neighbor, where Virginia officials declare their state is for lovers, Mount Airy may be able to stake claim to that title as well.

Or maybe it would be more appropriate to say Mayberry is for Lovers, because it seems Mount Airy's ties to the fictional town have a rather romantic effect on those looking to tie the knot.

David and Shannon Murphy, of High Point, are the most recent example of folks visiting Mount Airy to find wedded bliss, having married on Dec. 7 in the replica Mayberry Courthouse and Jail.

"I've always been a fan of the show, my wife has been a huge fan," David said recently in describing their reason for choosing the Granite City for their nuptials. "I've been coming up to Mayberry for years, going to Snappy Lunch, going to the courthouse." He said he and family and friends make regular drives up to Mount Airy, doing many of the same activities, but also trying to add a little something new to each trip. He also is a regular to the Surry Arts Council's Summer Concert Series shows, so much so that he said this season they'll probably buy season tickets.

David and Shannon had been friends for years, and he discovered she had never visited Mount Airy.

He changed that in short order, the couple visiting several times, taking in the Mayberry sites and activities.

Once the two decided to marry — they were engaged in the spring of 2024 — David said he half-jokingly said "It would be cool if we could get married in Mayberry."

Shannon didn't take it as a joke, instead running with the idea. By December, they had a full wedding planned, with the help of some Mount Airy folks. There, he said they "worked out a price for us." The price was all-inclusive — including rooms at the Mayberry Motor Lodge, the bride being picked up and driven to the wedding in a squad car, and one little surprise.

"Norm Shultz came in as Otis," David said of a local resident and actor, both he and Shannon laughing when relating the memory. "He burst in as Otis the drunk, made his way to the jail cell and locked himself in...it was a total surprise to us. We all laughed at that...it was a magical day, and when Otis came bursting in, that was just the icing on the cake."



PHOTO COURTESY AMBER ADAMS

David and Shannon Murphy exchange rings during their December Mayberry-themed wedding at the replica Mayberry sheriff's office.

After the wedding, the couple and their friends and family made their way to Snappy Lunch, for a Mayberry-themed wedding reception. Nearly every facet of their wedding was all about Mayberry and the real-life Mount Airy. David said they used all local business — from the florist and hair stylist to the photographer and baker, they were all based in Mount Airy.

Even before the wedding, the couple said people around town were getting in the spirit.

"We were in a restaurant and a couple sitting there eating next to us, they struck up a conversation while we were there," David said. "We told them about our wedding, — they said 'Can we come to your wedding?' Dadgum, if they didn't show up with their two kids."

"When we would be sitting there, waiting, people would say 'You're that couple getting married' and we'd say yeah, we are, and they'd say 'Can we get a picture of you all?'" Shannon said.

Before the wedding, Shannon said her Mayberry Squad Car driver motored her around town for a few minutes waiting for traffic to clear near the courthouse.

"People were blowing horns and waving, it was just wonderful," she said. Even people who weren't at the wedding wanted to see the couple, so after the ceremony, they walked from the courthouse to



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Snappy lunch.

"People were waving and talking to us. My dress train is black from walking along the sidewalk, but it was so worth it."

David said the main reason he initially began visiting Mount Airy was because of its connection to "The Andy Griffith Show," but now it's as much about the people of Mount Airy.

"We just appreciate the people there," he said, adding that whenever he has visited, he can strike up a conversation with just about anyone as if they were old friends — something that doesn't happen in most communities.

"It's just home to us," he said. "When you leave, you feel like you've actually been to Mayberry."

"It's like you've been with family," Shannon said of visiting the town. "The closest thing I can tell you, it is actually just like Mayberry. People will smile and wave, they'll talk to you in a restaurant."

"We just love Mount Airy," he said.

NOT THE FIRST MAYBERRY MARRIAGE

That the Murphys would love Mount Airy so much they wanted their marriage ceremony to take place there should be no surprise — they aren't the first.

During the 2023 Mayberry Days, Bonita Sohn and Chris Bray, two long-time friends from Elizabeth City, were married on stage at the Blackmon Amphitheatre at the conclusion of that year's opening ceremony.

They weren't just married there — the couple were in full Mayberry regalia, he as Ernest T. Bass and she as Charlene Darling. The ceremony got off to a rocky start when the first bride turned out to be Barney Fife tribute artist Brett Harris, hiding his true identity behind a wedding veil and poorly fitting bride's dress — a take-off from one episode of the show.

Once he was chased off, the ceremony went without a hitch, with plenty of Mayberryesque components. Eric Lowery, from Scottsburg, Indiana, is a well-known Mayor Pike tribute artist who has been a regular at Mayberry Days for many years. He also is an ordained minister, which made him perfect for conducting the ceremony while dressed as Mayor Pike.

All around the couple were family, friends, and quite a few folks in town for Mayberry Days — many dressed as Mayberry



Here comes the bride -- Shannon Murphy is escorted into the Mayberry replica courthouse for her wedding.

characters. She was even escorted toward the stage by Bill Hiatt, whose father Russell Hiatt operated Floyd's Barbershop in Mount Airy.

"Ya'll are my family and I didn't want a wedding anywhere else," Sohn told the gathered crowd of Mayberry fans and tribute artists just before Mayor Pike proceeded with the wedding. "Now, every time we come to Mayberry Days it will be our anniversary," the happy bride said after the ceremony.

EVEN MAYBERRY STARS FIND LOVE

"Andy Griffith Show" fans may well know the name of Margaret Kerry — she twice appeared on the show. Perhaps her best-known appearance was in the only Christmas-themed episode as Bess Muggins (or Helen Scobey, she went by both thanks to some script writing issues).

Her character and her husband were jailed on the insistence of miserly store owner Ben Weaver. The story had a happy ending, of course, when Andy and company threw a Christmas shindig right there in the jail, one so festive even Old Man Weaver eventually joined in.

Kerry also played an extensive role in the Disney universe, being the model upon which the animated character Tinkerbell was created; and she has enjoyed a long career as both an actor and a voice artist with more than 600 characters to her credit.

Way back — in the days immediately after World War II — Kerry was working in California, getting regular roles in television and hoping to make it big. A young man named Robert Boeke — one of the few to see combat action during World War II in both Europe and the Pacific — was finishing up college and, after a chance meeting, the two struck up a





David and Shannon Murphy, shortly after their Dec. 7 wedding, pose in front of the Andy Griffith mural in Mount Airy.

relationship that grew to the “meeting the parents” stage.

About that time is when Kerry got the call from Disney, and Boeke was beginning a career with Mobil Oil. Young and both on the verge of reaching major career milestones, the relationship eventually ended after Boeke accepted a job transfer.

The next 60-something years saw both lead successful, but separate, lives. Kerry was twice married, one ending in divorce and the other with the death of her second husband. Boeke likewise was married twice, and twice widowed.

Living for many years in Hilton Head, South Carolina, he befriended Dr. Sue Andracchi, his ophthalmologist and a person with a keen interest in his World War 2 service. He once made an offhand comment to Dr. Andracchi about having once dated Tinkerbell many decades earlier.

In an earlier interview with The Mount Airy News, he said Andracchi soon was playing matchmaker, contacting Kerry, though Boeke thought the effort would be futile. While he’d never forgotten that young lady who became Tinkerbell, he was certain, after all those years, she would have no idea who he was.

What he didn’t realize was that Kerry had never forgotten him.

“I remembered Bob,” she said. “I remembered him lovingly. He was just a dear man. I’ve only dated three men in my life, and he was one of them.” In fact, she still had an anklet he had given her all those years earlier. One of the first things she did upon hearing from Dr. Andracchi was to go to her jewelry box and pull out that anklet from so many years ago. “I don’t know why I kept it. Several times I thought about getting rid of it, but then I’d pull it out, think of Bob, so I would

keep it.”

The two did reconnect, talking by phone and email for a few months, and then, during Mayberry Days in 2019, the couple reunited.

They hugged, they kissed, and they spent quite a bit of time simply talking, reminiscing, which they’ve been doing ever since.

“It was marvelous,” Boeke said of that reunion. “I recognized her right away.”

“We saw each other across the room and that was it,” she chimed in during an interview at the 2019 Mayberry Days.

Since then the two married, and are still together — even traveling a bit — and enjoying a second chance at romance, a second chance that was rekindled in Mayberry.

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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.

CONCERTS & EVENTS

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

APRIL

26 Rhonda Vincent and the Rage, part of the Blue Ridge and Beyond concert series, at 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Earle Theatre. Preferred tickets are \$80, Orchestra \$75, Balcony \$55. To date, Rhonda Vincent and her band, The Rage, have won one Grammy, nineteen IBMA Awards (including the top Entertainer of the Year honor in 2001 and consecutive. Female Vocalist of the Year wins between 2000 and 2006), and eighty-nine SPBGMA Awards.

MAY

3 Taylor Vaden & Memphis Thunder at 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Earle Theatre in Mount Airy as part of the Blue Ridge and Beyond series. Taylor is an award-winning Independent Christian artist, entertainer, singer-songwriter who is known for his Elvis tribute songs and shows. Tickets are \$35 for preferred seating, \$30 for orchestra \$30 and \$20 for balcony seating.

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



RHONDA VINCENT AND THE RAGE

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

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

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

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

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

22 Jim Quick and Coastline, recipient of multiple Carolina Music Awards, will perform a fusion of soul, blues and



AMYTHYST KIAH

JUNE

5 The Magnificents Band has a wealth of live playing experience in varied styles of music, including classic soul, beach, Motown, Top 40, and dance hits. The band brings a diverse high-energy collection of music and motivation to get people dancing. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

6 Too Much Sylvia will play a little of something for everyone. “The audience can expect to hear anything from a few unplugged tunes, some beach, Motown, funky 70’s, retro 80’s, a few of the top current hits, and even some country.” Performance begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

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

7 The Dirty Dozen Brass Band will be on stage at the amphitheater at the Blue Ridge Music Center, at milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, near Galax, Virginia. The Grammy Award-winning New Orleans-based band has taken the traditional foundation of brass band music and incorporated it into a blend of genres including Bebop Jazz, Funk and R&B/Soul. Tickets are \$35 in advance and day of the show, \$10 for those age 12 and younger. Online ticket sales close at 10 a.m. the day of the show, and will be available for sale at the gate beginning at 5:30 p.m. For more information visit <https://www.blueridgemusiccenter.org/>

12 Special Occasion Band bills itself as the pre-eminate special occasion and party band in the Southeast. The band is set to go on stage at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.



THE LEGACY MOTOWN REVUE

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

14 80z Nation brings its version of the Big 80s music to the stage in a 7:30 p.m. concert at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

14 Shadowgrass will be in concert at the Outdoor Amphitheater at the Blue Ridge Music Center, at milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, near Galax, Virginia, beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance and day of the show, \$10 for those age 12 and younger. Online ticket sales end at 10 a.m. on the day of the show. Tickets will be available at the concert gate beginning at 5:30 p.m. on the day of the show. For more information visit <https://www.blueridgemusiccenter.org/>

19 Juneteenth Celebration featuring The Legacy Motown Revue. The celebration begins at 6:30 p.m., with the band scheduled to take the stage at 7:30 p.m. in this free event.

20 Cassette Rewind brings its 80s vibe to the stage. Its members say they were “Born in the ‘80s, raised on radio,” and they feature many of the Big 80s hits in a concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

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



BAND OF OZ

21 Sierra Green & the Giants will be on stage at the amphitheater at the Blue Ridge Music Center, at milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, near Galax, Virginia, beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance and day of the show, \$10 for those age 12 and younger. Online ticket sales close at 10 a.m. the day of the show, and will be available for sale at the gate beginning at 5:30 p.m. For more information visit <https://www.blueridgemusiccenter.org/>

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

27 Envision will bring its cover of hits from the 60s, 70s and 80s, all the way up to the contemporary sound of today's Top 40 to the stage in a show beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. Those attending are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

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

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.



MELISSA CARPER

ONGOING

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

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