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Mayfest

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GENERAL MANAGER
SERENA BOWMAN
serena.bowman@mtairynews.com

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

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

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

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

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

GRAPHIC DESIGN
DARLA ALLEN

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



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CONTENTS

4

Concert series the envy of many

With more than 50 concerts scheduled on the stage of the Blackmon Amphitheatre, the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series is the envy of many much larger towns, and a draw for weekly music tourists from around the region. Check out this year's series, along with a bit of history on the series.

7

Bear Creek -- something for everyone?

There are plenty of charming shops and stores for visitors to check out along Mount Airy's Main Street, but few offer the wide variety of Bear Creek Gifts and Country Kitchen. From the sweetest of sweets to Mayberry-themed t-shirts, from mugs and gift items to flavored popcorn and Aunt Bee's home made preserves -- and plenty more -- Bear Creek offers something for nearly everyone to enjoy.

10

Mayfest

Across the region there are more festivals, fairs and craft shows than one can shake a stick at. But every May, over Mother's Day Weekend, Pilot Mountain's Mayfest stands apart. Drawing visitors from near and far, the festival features craft and commercial vendors, food booths and trucks, plenty of games and activities for the kids, and something special -- the change to make a real difference in the lives of those in need, not just on festival weekend, but all year long.

13

More than you can do

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

ON THE COVER

A display of t-shirts, mugs, and other gift items in Bear Creek Country Gifts and Candy Kitchen, all of them designed by the store.

JOHN PETERS | SIMPLY MAYBERRY



HOBART JONES | SURRY ARTS COUNCIL

Mount Airy's Andy Griffith was the keynote speaker during the 2004 unveiling of the Andy and Opie statue. The ceremony took place in the Blackmon Amphitheatre just days after the floor had been put down.

Concert series keeps local residents, visitors coming back

BY JOHN PETERS
JPETERS@MTAIRYNEWS.COM

Not too many years ago, Mount Airy might have been one of those typical small towns, where the pace of living is nice, everyone is friendly, but when local residents want to find some entertainment they're filling the highways out of town.

That's certainly changed.

Of course, nearly everyone in the universe knows the city for its Mayberry connection, with upwards of 25,000 fans flocking to the town every September for Mayberry Days, not to mention the continuing and constant influx of Mayberry tourists the rest of the year that probably bring enough visitors to fill five or six Mayberry Days festivals.

And in October there's the giant Autumn Leaves Festival, with visitor numbers reaching well into the six-figures over the three-day event.

On a daily or weekly basis, there are plenty of opportunities for some entertainment of various sorts -- several groups regularly do live plays and stage shows, there movies and shows of all kinds at the Historic Earle Theatre, the Spoken



HOBART JONES | SURRY ARTS COUNCIL

A common scene at the Blackmon Amphitheatre, folks dancing to the lively music played there two or three times a week during the summer concert series.

Word Society and other groups have regular open mic nights and author talks, local restaurants bring in local and regional acts for concerts...the list could go on.

But one of the things that's keeping people in town on weekend nights – and even bringing people from as far away as Greensboro – is the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series.

It should be no surprise. The series, which features some of the best-known beach music and classic top 40 hits bands in the Southeast, and increasingly some national touring acts, brings live entertainment to the city two or three times most every week from April through September.

The Fantastic Shakers, Legacy Motown Revue, The Embers, Band of Oz, and Landslide are just a few of the nationally and internationally known musical acts which take the stage in Mount Airy every year. Some make two or three trips to the city each season.

Tanya Jones, executive director of the Surry Arts Council, said some of those bands, the ones in demand throughout this region of the country, often call her and ask to be put on the Mount Airy schedule.

“We have become well known among the beach music bands and fans,” she said.

But it wasn't always that way.

The series had its beginnings nearly two decades ago – well, truth is, the genesis of the series goes back much further, well into the past century.

When the library was built in 1982, the city of Mount Airy's long-range plan included an amphitheater at that location, according to Jones.

She said her agency was able to get a \$5,000 grant for grading the site. “I thought, if we could just grade that property ... I wasn't even thinking at that time about a building, I was just thinking about grading and having some sort of music out there,” she said during an earlier interview.

Once the project got underway, though, the idea blossomed.

“We thought we should move forward with that project,” she said of the idea of expanding the grading to constructing a full amphitheater, rather than simply an outdoor field for music. “Initially, we had about \$60,000 in funding, so without a capital campaign, we raised some additional funding with assistance of the Tourism Development Authority, and selling granite tiles, and a significant donation from the granite quarry.”

Those granite tile sales were a way for folks to help with the project, while having their name – or the name of someone they wished to honor – memorialized on the tile.

And the granite quarry to which she refers is, of course, North Carolina Granite Company, which at one time oversaw the world's largest open-faced granite quarry. Company officials, Jones said, really wanted the arts council to use Mount Airy Granite in the construction, leading the firm to financially support the project.



HOBART JONES | SURRY ARTS COUNCIL
Phatt City brings their unique sound to Mount Airy as part of the Summer Concert Series.

Top that with a donation for naming rights for Zack Blackmon Sr. then what was going to be an open outdoor dance floor transformed into a modern amphitheater.

The timing was good, too, for garnering community support.

“It was also the time Andy Griffith was visiting Mount Airy and it added excitement to building the facility,” Jones said. He had been in the city – his hometown and the model for his fictional Mayberry – just a couple of years earlier for the dedication of the Andy Griffith Parkway.

Now, though, he was back in town, generating a great deal of buzz.

“Andy actually unveiled the TV Land station there before it (the amphitheater) was completed,” she said. The statue, of course, is the bronze sculpture of the iconic Sheriff Andy Taylor and his son Opie, carrying their fishing lines down to the fishing hole. Although the statue sits at a point between the Andy Griffith Playhouse and the Andy Griffith Museum, its first exposure to the local public was just down the street at the still under-construction amphitheater.

“The cement had been poured literally days before the unveiling,” Jones said. “Everyone was certainly excited. Andy Griffith was the first person to ever step foot on the amphitheater, along with Ed Jones, president of TV Land.”

That was in September 2004. The following summer, the structure was complete and the first Surry Arts Council Summer

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Concert series was produced.

But it wasn't easy.

"There was no concert series here prior to that," Jones said.

Instead, if local residents wanted live music, or if tourists to the city were looking for something other than Mayberry-specific activities, they hit the road to larger cities.

"There was not a lot of activity for people in the community on the weekends," Jones said. "This (the concert series) was something I thought would work."

While she found a fair bit of support for the idea of building the amphitheater and starting a concert series, there was opposition as well. Jones, however, believed in the concept.

"Having been here and realizing there was not a lot of activity for people in the community on the weekends, a lot of driving elsewhere to do things, we were in the tourism mindset at that point, and we were trying to develop venues to get people to drive into Mount Airy rather than drive out of Mount Airy for entertainment."

Even after convincing those in the community it would work, and getting support for the amphitheater, once Griffith christened the facility with the statue unveiling, the real work began.

"In those first years, it was extremely hard for me to book the bands," Jones said. "I was trying to book the bands a year in advance and ... our series had no credibility."

Many of the bands simply have too many opportunities to play in larger communities, or to play corporate gigs that pay well, so it was hard to convince those groups to block out a date or two a year down the road for a concert series no one had ever heard of, in a venue still under construction.

"Now, bands are calling us to be part of our series. We have become well-known among the beach music bands and fans." While the series is known mostly Beach Music along with R&B and Top 40, Jones has a wide variety of genres represented, including Caribbean music, 80s bands, even nationally touring Fleetwood Mac and The Eagles tribute bands.

"Certainly, as far as that goal of being an entertainment venue, it has worked. It is not a profit center for the arts council, but it has been successful. It is a community service – our goal is always to break even, and we've been able to do that.

"Attendance has grown. We used to think 200 or 300 was a great crowd, now we think 700 or 800 is a great crowd." Some concerts, she said, will even crack the 1,000-person mark. And, she said, people of all ages seem to enjoy the shows. "Literally you see everything out there from kids to 90-year-olds on the dance floor.

One of the byproducts of holding a regular concert series is that Mount Airy becomes a destination place for folks seeking a few hours of entertainment, and it offers up something for the daytime Mayberry tourists to do at night.

"We are capturing an increasing number of those folks," Jones said. Her organization's annual publication, *Mayberry Confidential*, released each September and distributed throughout the year, lists the concert series for the upcoming year. "We're getting calls from folks who are here from the weekend, who are learning about the shows from *Mayberry Confidential*," she said.

Additionally, Jones said a number of regional residents drive in from Wilkes County, from Norman, Greensboro, and recently they even had a call from some folks in Durham, asking about the concerts and directions to the amphitheater.

"We're becoming a well-known venue for good music and dancing. There are dance clubs that promote it as place for their members, as a place to dance. They drive in, even spend the night."

While the series and its fame has grown, the one challenge that remains persistent is the weather. In the early years of the series, if bad weather threatened, the event would be moved to the Andy Griffith Playhouse. Now, it goes to The Historic Earle Theatre on Main Street.

That facility, Jones said, offers more room for seating, a dance floor, and a concession stand where popcorn and soda is sold.

Regardless of whether the shows are held at the Blackmon Amphitheatre, or the Earle, one thing remains constant: the series has now made Mayberry a real-life concert destination center for tourists and regional residents alike.

For a complete schedule for the year, or for more information, visit the Surry Arts Council's website at <https://www.surryarts.org/> or by calling 336-786-7998.



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JOHN PETERS | SIMPLY MAYBERRY

Bear Creek Country Gifts and Candy Kitchen co-owner Jerry Caudle shows some of the Mayberry-themed t-shirts for sale in his shop. He said the store designs the logos and material on all of the shop's shirts, mugs, and other gift items, making them unique to Bear Creek.

Bear Creek

Always growing,
always evolving to
meet customer needs

"I want to take Bear Creek and not just be a store in Mount Airy...I don't want it to be a brand, I want it to be a lifestyle." - Jerry Caudle

BY JOHN PETERS
JPETERS@MTAIRYNEWS.COM

Bear Creek Country Gifts and Candy Kitchen is more than just a gift shop and candy store.

The store, on Main Street in the heart of Mount Airy's downtown retail district, does have a wide

variety of Mayberry-related gifts - many of them unique to the store. And the fine candy and sweets line shelves that seem to go on forever.

But at its core, Bear Creek is the story of owner Jerry Caudle, his partner Steven Martin, and their desire to constantly evolve, grow, and most of all meet their customer's needs with what they consider the

highest quality merchandise.

Caudle began his business odyssey nearly four decades ago. After having served in the army, then working two-and-a-half years as a contractor in Saudi Arabia, he found work as a maintenance mechanic at Cross Creek Apparel, one of the textile firms that once dominated Mount Airy's employment scene.

Most of those firms closed in the 1990s and early 2000s as new international treaties and agreements opened the U.S. market to cheaper goods made in other nations. Caudle said he knew the good times for American-based textile manufacturing were coming to a close.

"I saw 40 years ago this wasn't going to last," he said. "I saw the writing on the wall. I wanted something of my own, something I could build. So, I picked up a catalog and started selling."

For a full year he simply sold -- door-to-door, in meetings with friends and associates, wherever he could -- peddling a wide variety of items to anyone who would listen. His first sale was a decorative water ball, sold to a colleague at Cross Creek.

Those efforts led to establishing the downtown business Specialty Gifts, which he helped operate for three years, before moving on to Harris Gifts, a business he operated for 15 years.

Then, he said, he and Martin teamed to begin Candle Station, which as the name implies, sold primarily candles of all sorts from a small storefront in Mount Airy.

A few years later, he said local businessman Fred Jennings offered them a chance to move into their present location, at 165 N. Main St.

Once in the building, they faced a daunting challenge -- "We had almost no inventory," Caudle said. Their entire line of candle products filled on a small portion of the facility, and they weren't really in a position to immediately buy enough new stock to fill the rest of the space.

"We just added little by little," he said recently while giving a tour of the store. As they added, Caudle said

he and Martin constantly noted not only where their clients were coming from, but what was selling well in similar shops around the region and nation, helping to develop what Bear Creek is today.

"We service a lot of local clientele, but this is a tourist business, we sell a lot of Mayberry items...candy is the icing on top."

The store is jam-packed with goods. One section is filled with t-shirts and similar clothing items, another portion has plushies and gift goods, there is still a robust candle section, there are mugs, ornaments of different types, jewelry, and a corner chocked full of Aunt Bee jarred foods. Among those foods are various sorts of jelly and jam, hot sauce, syrup, and, of course, pickles.

"There's no kerosene in our pickles," Caudle jokes, referencing an episode of "The Andy Griffith Show" that made Aunt Bee's pickles famous -- or infamous.

Despite its age, Caudle said the business has not settled into a holding pattern -- he and Martin are always looking for ways to continue evolving and growing Bear Creek.

The candy sales are a perfect example of that.

The impressive display of sweet goods began five years ago, Caudle said. He and his partner traveled around the nation, studying other small shops



JOHN PETERS | SIMPLY MAYBERRY
Bear Creek Country Gifts and Candy Kitchen co-owner Jerry Caudle and Manager Theresa Danley show off some of the shop's pecan pralines.

and businesses.

"The businesses that had been around 30, 40 years were candy stores," he said. After researching how to implement that line in their business, Bear Creek Gifts became Bear Creek Gifts and Candy.

Another change is always evaluating what works and what doesn't. Years ago, Christmas-themed shops became popular around the nation, so Caudle and Martin installed a section for Christmas-only items. It did well for a number of years, but that segment of the gift industry has cooled, so he said they're tearing down those displays and replacing them with other goods.

He also is still looking for ways to

expand.

“You need multiple revenue streams,” to ensure long-term success, he said. In addition to their store, Caudle said the shop sets up a booth outside at Autumn Leaves Festival, which is always successful. And they set up a shop at the Festival of Lights at Tanglewood Park in Clemmons during the holiday season.

Bear Creek has also established an online presence -- some days, he said, the business might see as much in sales online as walking through the door.

Now, Caudle said, he and his partner are considering the next major step -- possibly opening a second, and even a third, location.

He said they have reached a point where the business has matured, that he could even step away for a couple of days, maybe even a couple of weeks, and his staff would continue running things without much in the way of hiccups.

“When you reach that point, you

either retire, or you expand.”

Still driven to grow, to build, he said the choice for he and Martin is to expand. While he places no timetable on a potential expansion, they are looking at a few tourist markets, including Pilot Mountain and Boone.

“I want to take Bear Creek and not just be a store in Mount Airy...I don't want it to be a brand, I want it to be a lifestyle.”

“We've been at this a long time...we've had our ups and our downs. But we've always just kept to ourselves and focused on our business...we focus on the important things, our customers and our products.”



JOHN PETERS | SIMPLY MAYBERRY

Five years ago, Bear Creek Country Gifts and Candy Kitchen added fine chocolates and candy to its offerings, to great success.

And that focus, he hopes, will keep Bear Creek growing for years to come, in Mount Airy and elsewhere.



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Mayfest

more than just a festival

Event draws visitors from far and wide

It stands on the eastern edge of Surry County, near the border with neighboring Stokes County, but it is visible for close to 60 miles in any direction on a clear day. For centuries it has stood as a beacon -- to Native Saura it was known as Jomeokee, which translates to "great guide" or "pilot," a point that has served as a guide for travelers throughout the centuries.

Today, the distinctive dome shape of the mountain, scientifically known as a quartzite monadnock, left behind after millennium of erosion peeled away surrounding, softer land, still serves as a guide to Surry County and the town of Pilot Mountain. During the second weekend of May, the mountain stands sentry, as thousands gather in its shadow for the annual Mayfest in downtown Pilot Mountain.

The festival, a Mother's Day celebration which heralds the warmer, summer-like times ahead, began more than four decades ago when the Pilot Mountain Civic Club started the event as a fundraiser. The club, known for carrying out a number of charitable works in the community -- helping other non-profits with funding, assisting local families in need among them -- saw Mayfest as a way to raise money for the club's efforts.

Mayfest still does that, serving as the single largest fundraiser for the club, but the popularity of the event has grown the annual gathering to much more. Thousands, perhaps tens of thousands of individuals, families, and groups of friends travel to the small, picturesque town for the three-day event. They come from surrounding counties, even neighboring states, to enjoy the food, the crafter booths, the games, and to simply spend a spring day, or two, in a town becoming known widely for its variety of festivals and gatherings, charming downtown shops and friendly residents.

While there are so many events held in the town throughout the year, Mayfest is special to many.

"Mayfest is one of Pilot Mountain's greatest traditions," former Pilot Mountain Mayor Evan Cockerham said about the event during 2025. "To me, Mayfest is the time when the community opens for the spring and summer months to welcome visitors who love the welcoming atmosphere that is unique to our small town," he added.

The festival has served that purpose for many years --



with the exception of one cancellation during the COVID-19 pandemic, the festival has been held every year for more than four decades -- the 2026 version will be the 43rd festival.



COURTESY | PILOT MT. CIVIC CLUB

Young singers from Mount Pilot Child Enrichment Center perform before the start of Mayfest last year. This year's Mayfest begins with opening ceremonies on Friday, May 8.

"The event aims to bring the community together, celebrate the arts, support local businesses and promote civic pride," organizers with the Civic club said in 2025. "Our town may be small, but not on Mayfest weekend. Our streets are stacked with activities to ensure you have an enjoyable experience."

Meagan Hutchens, in her second year as director of the festival, said just the number of vendors will bump up the town's population for the day.

"As of this morning, we had 187 craft applicants," she said recently. "That's the most we've ever done...That number isn't including our food vendors and our commercial vendors, we still allow a select few commercial vendors."

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Last year, her first as director, saw a record number of craft applicants, and this year is surpassing that.

"They won't all be in," she said, given that the town isn't quite as big as some others, so they can't fit in 200 or more booths, but she hopes to be as close as possible.

Hutchens said about 90 vendors from last year reapplied, so she anticipates a nice mix of returning vendors from 2025, vendors who have been there in other years, as well as new folks.

She explained that attracting a wide variety of vendors is a year-round job. Over the past year she's visited several other festivals, including Southern Charm at the Farm in Mocksville, which hosts a couple of major craft festivals each year, and the massive Autumn Leaves Festival in Mount Airy.

"I go to see what vendors they have," she said, explaining that helps her get to know what's popular among those attending the festivals, as well as allowing her to talk to and get to know various vendors.

In addition to growing the major attractions -- craft and food vendors -- this year will see growth in the amount of space dedicated to the Kid's Zone. Last year the zone returned to Mayfest after an absence, with games, face painting, and special kid-oriented treats. This year, she said that will expand.

"But no rides," she was quick to add with a quick laugh. "I'm not sure I'm ready for those yet."

Hutchens, in trying to describe the importance of Mayfest, said the growth of the event isn't just about being able to say the festival is bigger -- more vendors, more visitors, means the Civic Club can affect more people's lives.

"Las year, we were able to give back more than \$45,000, as of today, for local nonprofits, food, and housing shelters, rehabilitation shelters, we are able to sponsor five of the 11 county elementary schools PTOs... we still sponsor the East Surry Little League," and, she said, for the past 18 months or so, the club has been partnering with other agencies helping with recovery of Western North Carolina communities in the wake of Hurricane Helen's devastation there in the fall of 2024.

The club has also been able to help with the Loads of Love program -- "a 2026 version of the school backpack programs," she explained -- and this past August, the club held a Back to School Bash, where 300 children and youth were able to get help with clothing and school supplies.

Much of that, she said, is a result of the money raised during Mayfest.

"It's so much more than a festival, and until you've been in my position or on the civic club and you feel, not just see, but feel what Mayfest means to our community, it's hard to understand," she said. "It's a vessel for good...Everything Mayfest brings in is just another example of a force for good."



COURTESY | PILOT MT. CIVIC CLUB

Mayfest t-shirts will be on sale throughout the festival. Here is the Mayfest 2024 t-shirt which was designed by Pilot Mountain's Lila Key.

Upcoming Events



MAYBERRY FARM FEST

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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 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.

CONCERTS & EVENTS

May 9

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

May 14

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

May 15

The Entertainers, part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series, will be in concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre. Get ready to groove with the Entertainers, masters



Band of Oz



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of Beach Music for more than 30 years. Their performance combines classic R&B, Top 40 hits, and soulful throwbacks, guaranteeing a night of dancing and good vibes. From their iconic smash hit "Living For The Summer" to the infectious energy of their live show, the Entertainers have a proven track record of bringing the party to every stage they grace. Tickets \$20 or 2026 Annual Pass

May 16

North Toward Band, part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series, takes to the stage at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre. After decades of delighting audiences with their energetic performances, the legendary North Tower Band is bringing their dynamic show back to Mount Airy 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 will have you on the dance floor. Tickets \$20 or 2026 Annual Pass.

May 21

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

May 22

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

May 23

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



Shawn Camp will be in concert at the Blue Ridge Music Center Outdoor Amphitheater at 7 p.m. The music center is at milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, near Galax, Virginia. Camp began playing guitar as a child, growing up outside Perryville, Arkansas. Mandolin and fiddle followed, all before he could drive, eventually working in Nashville, playing with major national stars. His latest album is "The Ghost of Sis Draper." The concert is part of the music center's Summer Concert Series. Admission gates open at 5:45 p.m.. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 day of the show, \$15 for ages 12 and younger.

May 28

Sail On: Beach Boys Tribute Band, will be in concert at the Blackmon Amphitheatre at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series. "Get ready for a night of "Fun, Fun, Fun" as Sail On, the world's most booked Beach Boys tribute band, brings the iconic sounds of an 'Endless Summer' to the Blackmon Amphitheatre," concert organizers said. Tickets are \$20 or 2026 Annual Pass

May 29

The Tonez will be on the stage at the Blackmon Amphitheatre at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series. "This dynamic eight-piece band is a premier variety act, renowned for keeping crowds on their feet with a versatile mix of beach, Motown, disco, rock & roll, funk, R&B, and oldies," concert organizers said. "Whether you love beach music or want to relive the classics, The Tonez guarantee a night of non-stop hits and pure entertainment." Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.

May 30

On The Border, The Ultimate Eagles Tribute will take to the stage at the Blackmon Amphitheatre in a show which begins at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series. "Experience a night of timeless classic rock with a tribute band that captures the iconic sound of one of the greatest bands in history," concert organizers said. "Prepare for a masterful, authentic concert experience as they flawlessly recreate every hit from the legendary songbook." Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.

June 4

Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Surry Arts Council Summer



Too Much Sylvia

Concert Series. "Hailing from North Myrtle Beach, this R&B and soul party band is bringing their high-energy show and rich musical repertoire to the stage," organizers said. "Known for their captivating performances, the band delivers decades of hits across multiple genres, including classic soul, funk, jazz, and Carolina beach music." Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.

June 5

Too Much Sylvia takes the Blackmon Amphitheatre stage at 7:30 p.m. for a Summer Concert Series show. "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," concert organizers said

Their fun-loving antics and ability to read the crowd ensure every performance is unique and memorable." Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.

June 6

The Konnection will be on stage beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the Summer Concert Series. "Since 2005, The Konnection has earned its reputation as one of the East Coast's premier party bands—bringing high-energy performances and a crowd-pleasing mix of Top 40, rock, country, R&B, beach, and oldies to every stage they hit," concert organizers said. Tickets are \$20 or an annual pass.



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Blackmon Concert

June 21

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

Weekly Events

Experience the Merry-Go-Round, the second-longest continuously running live radio broadcast in the nation, with a live show every Saturday at The Historic Earle Theatre from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each week. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. Admission is \$8 or a Merry-Go-Round Annual Pass is \$20, or a current Surry Arts Council season pass.

Live Theater

Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr., Friday May 8 at 7 p.m., Saturday May 9 at 3 p.m. Andy Griffith Playhouse, tickets \$20. "Fall down the rabbit hole with Alice as she navigates the curious world of Wonderland on a journey of self-discovery," organizers said. "When young Alice finds herself in a strange world where everything seems upside down, she must find her way home... and find herself along the way. As she travels through Wonderland, she encounters all of the iconic characters that audiences have come to love: including the ever-tardy White Rabbit, the grinning Cheshire Cat, a cool Caterpillar, the wacky Mad Hatter, and the hot-tempered Queen of Hearts." Visit <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/livetheatre.html> for more information or to purchase 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.

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