

# THE BRANSON INSIDER™

Welcome to



## OZARK MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS

# JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

## HOLIDAY SHOWS, ATTRACTIONS, SHOPPING & **FUN!**

### STARS LIGHT UP



THE **MANSION**  
ENTERTAINMENT AND MEDIA CENTER

— P 6

### BRANSON'S NEW FUN SPOT!



— P 16



### WELCOME HOME!

— P 3



Branson's  
**VETERANS HOMECOMING!**  
Nov 5-12



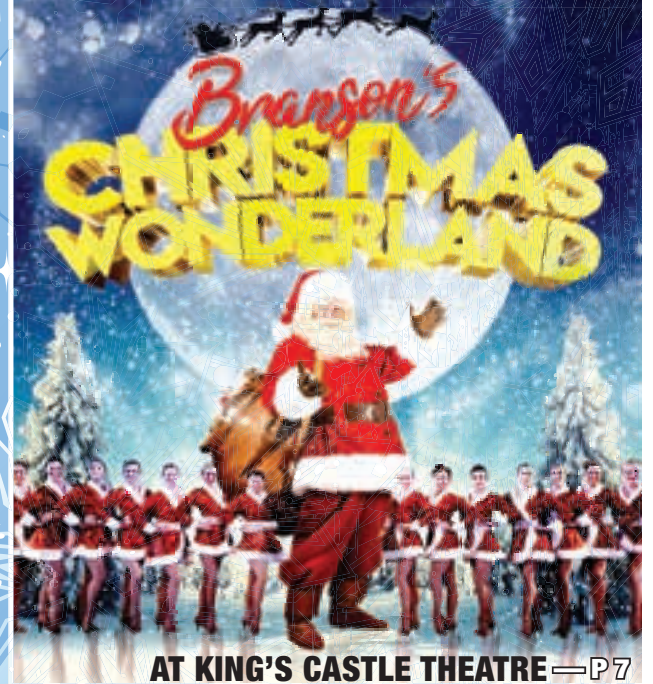
— P 8

### AWARDS SHOW *Galas!*

### STARS ON THE MOVE!

- STEVIE LEE WOODS & NASHVILLE ROADHOUSE  
LIVE! **NOW** at **PIERCE ARROW THEATRE!** — P 30
- THE MORACE FAMILY LISTEN TO THE MUSIC!  
**NOW** at **JERRY PRESLEY'S  
GOD & COUNTRY THEATER!** — P 29

November/  
December 2023



Branson's  
**CHRISTMAS  
WONDERLAND**

AT KING'S CASTLE THEATRE — P 7

### REMEMBERING OUR BRANSON LEGENDS



**BUCK  
TRENT**

**BOB  
LEFRIDGE**  
Branson's Famous  
Baldknobbers

— P 31

## SHOW GUIDE • MAP • FOOD • SHOPPING • **FUN!**

BRANSON'S FAMOUS  
**BALDKNOBBERS**

NOW CELEBRATING

Branson's FIRST....Branson's BEST



**64 YEARS!**

**THE SHOW THAT STARTED IT ALL!**



**So what are you waiting for?**

~ New country hits  
~ Traditional country favorites

~ Classic Rock  
~ Soulful gospel music  
~ Patriotic salutes

~ Hilarious comedy  
and MORE!

**BOOK YOUR  
TICKETS NOW!**  
**417-231-4999**  
[www.baldknobbers.com](http://www.baldknobbers.com)

# Stuff Happens

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER



November/December



VETERANS HOMECOMING! NOV 5-12

**Veterans Observances and Events** For a complete calendar of events, contact the Branson Veterans Task Force (417-337-8387 [BransonVeterans.com](http://BransonVeterans.com))

**Nov-Jan 7 Ozark Mountain Christmas!** The festive time of year when all Branson gets magically transformed into a Christmas wonderland of holiday shows, dazzling lights, Christmas trees, Christmas treats and a shopper's dream! And it all includes honoring "the reason for the season!" Acclaimed by *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal* and the *A&E Network* as one of America's top holiday destinations! Events include several in Branson's historic downtown.

■ **Nov 5—Dec 30 An Old Time Christmas®** at Silver Dollar City, Branson's award-winning 1880s theme park! Celebrate the true meaning of this magical season amid the glow of over 6.5 million dazzling lights, including the awe-inspiring *Joy On Town Square®*, and a nightly "Rudolph's Holly Jolly™ Christmas Light Parade" with musical lighted floats and dozens of costumed characters! Voted the #1 **Best Theme Park Holiday Event in America** in *USA Today* readers choice poll!

■ **Thru Nov 7**

• **Let There Be Lights! Christmas Drive Thru Display & More!** At Branson's Promised Land Zoo. Get close to the animals and enjoy the Christmas spirit! 2751 Shepherd of the Hills Expy 417-337-9453

• **Shepherd of the Hills Trail of Lights** Millions of multi-colored lights, themed and animated displays. Free hot chocolate afterwards at the outside Snack Shack! (Single axle vehicles only.)

• **Lights of Joy!** All over Branson! [lightsofjoydrivethru.com](http://lightsofjoydrivethru.com)

■ **Thru Nov 21 Freedom Journey Show** Through live patriotic and gospel music, this amazing show explores the struggle of tyranny, faith and freedom resulting in America's founding documents. (See story on pg. 5)

■ **Thru Jan 5 Branson Landing's Winter WonderLanding** Branson's famous lakeside shopping attraction is transformed for the holidays!

■ **Nov 5 & Dec 3 Branson's Jammin for Jesus Concert** (benefiting MO Veterans Home) Free Admission with donation of postage stamps and full size personal care items. (Separate love offering will be taken.) Performing: Baldknobbers stars Brandon and Megan Mabe, and a full cast of Branson entertainers. 2pm show. At Branson's Famous Theatre 417-231-4999 [bransonjamminforjesus.com](http://bransonjamminforjesus.com)

■ **Nov 7-14 Breaking the Silence: Stories of Vietnam Veterans:** The Royal Oak Forum, Keeter Center. (417) 690-2212

■ **Nov 23**

• **POW/MIA Service of Remembrance** 8am

At Vietnam Memorial Wall, weather permitting. Will move inside if weather is extreme. Public welcome, no charge. Info: 417 336-4232. 1984 Historic Hwy 165 Ste A

• **Hughes Brothers Thanksgiving Show—We're Thankful For You!** Special performance of **The Hughes Brothers Christmas Show** at 10:00 AM. Kids 12 and under FREE! (See page 24-25)

■ **Nov 24-25 Branson Landing's Black Friday Blowout!** Great Store Sales, Raffles, prizes and more!

■ **Nov 17, Dec 8 Barn Dance at Hartwood Barn!**—Dance at the ranch! Instead of having a barn dance instructor, the DJ will play the music for guests to dance to! Open to guests of all ages. Pizza Food Truck will be open. Admission \$13.00, ages 3-11 \$7 Sycamore Creek Family Ranch, Hollister 417-278-6675 [sycamorecreekfamilyranch.com](http://sycamorecreekfamilyranch.com)

■ **Nov 23 Chateau on the Lake Thanksgiving Feast.** This year, we're serving up double the joy with not one, but two delectable feasts to choose

from. Indulge in the flavors of the season and make your holiday truly special. \$75 adults, \$25 kids. 417-243-1773

■ **Dec 3 Adoration Parade** The parade begins with the annual lighting of the largest area nativity scene overlooking Lake Taneycomo at dusk (known as the "Adoration Scene") and culminates with a community gathering like no other. Celebrating the true meaning of Christmas, the parade features performances by local high school marching bands, a variety of floats created by community organizations from several states, and an appearance from St Nick himself! Begins at 5pm in downtown Branson.

■ **Dec 31-Jan 7 New Year's Week in Branson!** Special shows, parties, fireworks and more! Many shows, attractions museums, shops and accommodations are open for your special getaway. Start the new year with a fun New Year's Week!

■ **New Year's Eve Shows**—All over Branson! **Happy 2024!**

## Nov 5-12 Veterans Homecoming Week:

■ Although Branson honors Veterans every day of the year, Veterans Homecoming Week is a special annual event for service members and their families. Veterans Homecoming Week will host many different occasions for veterans and their families to be part of including mini reunions, memorials, a military ball and the Veteran's Day Parade. **Nov 5 Sunday Worship Service with Barbara Fairchild** 10am Baldknobbers Thtr. , **Opening Ceremonies** at Americana Thtr 5pm-6:30pm . **Veterans Celebration Show** sponsored by Humana. 2pm-4 pm At Freedom Encounter Theatre, 3220 Falls Pkwy. (417) 544-0372 **Opening Ceremony at Traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial, "The Wall"** 2pm. The Wall will be on display and open to the public for viewing at the Lodges at Timber Ridge, 1984 Historic Hwy 165 **Nov 5-10 Veterans Village** gathering area at Ballparks of America. 9:00 am – 4:00pm **Nov 5-11**. The official half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the most visited

memorial in Washington, D.C. spans nearly 240 ft in length and lists the more than 58,000 names of the nation's fallen heroes in the Vietnam Conflict. Open for public viewing daily from 8:00 am-6:00pm **America's Wall of Honor** (see page 5), **Nov 6-10 IMAX™ Military Film Festival** Free to all veterans and \$6 for additional guests. Box Office opens at 7:30am films begin at 8am. **Nov 6, America's Wing Responds** **Nov 7, Maggie's War: A true story of courage, leadership and valor in WWII** **Nov 1, USS Indianapolis: The Legacy** **Nov 9, Return to Dak To** **Nov 10 Her War, Her Story: World War 11** **Nov 6 Vietnam Vets Reunion** Americanlnn by Wyndham, 275 Tanger Blvd, 4pm-6pm, lunch, entertainment, door prizes and lots of time to talk RSVP Dee at 870-421-3511 **Nov 7 Sandbox Party** at Mel's Hard Luck Diner, Grand Village. Breakfast for Vets from Gulf War or after. No admittance charge. RSVP Dee at 870-421-3511 **Homefront Hero's (Spouses)**

*Continued on page 23*

## November & December at THE MANSION

THEATRE for the PERFORMING ARTS



The Oak Ridge Boys **1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16**

Jimmy Fortune **Nov 4, 9**

Gene Watson **Nov 11**

The Gatlin Brothers **Nov 17**

The Bellamy Brothers **Nov 18**

Daniel O'Donnell **Nov 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16**

A Most Wonderful Time with the

Springfield Symphony Orchestra **Dec 10**



For Concert Dates and Times Visit [TheMansionTheatre.com](http://TheMansionTheatre.com) or call **417.335.2000**

## That's the Spirit Theo N. Cider

Local expert, part-time preacher.



## Happy Holidays. Sorta.

All right. Got that “season’s greetin’” outta the way. Now on to givin’ you’uns the Good Word from the Good Lord to get us through another day what seems to be like poor little Chicken-Licken squawlin’ “*the sky is fallin’!*”

But I guess from the looks of you all, most are too young to ever hear of that little fairy tale kiddie story, so I guess we gotta move on and give you all another one of them little pick-me-up sermons you came here for, since TV news and your sorry little empty billfold might mean you could use you some!

Usually, this time of year is a feel-good time of year for yer feel-good sermon. Them feel-good feelin’s come from them good times of gettin’ ready for some family fun and family feasts of smoked turkey, cranberry sauces, pumpkin pies, (or apple, chocolate or butterscotch, if you’d like one of them better,)—then watchin’ football games together while you ladies go back to the kitchen to talk and the kiddos run loose and make crazy noise with their crazy games and crazy toys!

Meanwhile, these good times need us to gear up for Christmas shoppin’, Christmas eatin’, Christmas presents, Christmas Eve—and last but not least—Christmas Day when we get to see what we got!

The season kinda hits us like a hammer on the head the way it drops on us that morning after Halloween—but even though we feel like we got clobbered and ain’t even close to bein’ in the mood yet—it don’t take more than just a few days before we start to soften up a tad and let them Christmas songs and pretty fallin’ leaves of the season soothe our weary and sorry selves as it all ropes us into that cloud of comfort, joy and *tra-la-la*. It’s then when we start makin’ our lists, checkin’ ‘em twice, and goin’ about our happy business of makin’ our happy holidays.

But this time it ain’t quite the same. The world has this time gone off the rails. It pretty much always does, but this time it seems to want to drag us all into the blues whenever we turn on the TV and watch all the heartbreaker news sandwiched

in-between all them wild and crazy Christmas toys-to-buy commercials.

But back to the good news. Feel-good Christmas songs. Feel-good Christmas sermons which we like to hear this time of year. Even though we’re non-stop ornery, it’s a time we like to turn over a new leaf and give it another shot this time around.

So now that we got yer attention, I hope we got y’all softened up enough to drop an even bigger hammer—(this time a *sledge!*)

I know it’s the time of year when religion feels good to hear in church or in them happy Christmas carols on the radio. Truth be told, it’s enough to make you wanna reach in the pocket and buy you some of that music to have it goin’ on in the house whenever you want. That part of religion feels good.

But tryin’ to do the right thing — dot all them i’s and cross all them t’s — ain’t fun. And it seems p’ert near impossible to do, even though all them “churchy” folks act like they do, though, (*God love ‘em*),—they surely gotta be *puttin’ us on!*

So in the middle of all them crazy churchy notions here’s the zinger I’m about to throw at you’uns: Christmas ain’t about religion. And our Lord, Creator and Heavenly Father ain’t about religion. He ain’t about “have-tos”, or smackin’ us with a ruler cause we can’t measure up! He’s about *loving* Him. Like a Dad. Our Creator. Our Father. The One we get to live with forever because His Son paid for all our sins on that cross. All we got to do is love Him back, give our ornery lives to Him every day, hide His Word in our heart, ask His forgiveness for our ornery ways whenever we remember ‘em. Then watch. He changes our lives!

And we need to talk to Him. Always. And pray for Him to change things, which He does. He gave this ol’ world to us. We handed it over to the Evil One. But now, as children of our Creator, we get to call on our Heavenly Father to start winnin’ it back!

What you all just heard, folks, is pretty much the real Christmas story that began with that little baby in the manger. So, Merry Christmas—and let’s all do what the Good Book tells us to do—Let’s pray for the peace of Jerusalem. *Psalms 122:6* ♦

 /Theo.N.Cider  /TheoNCider

## INSIDER Revelations

Richard Freihofer

Wisdom & knowledge from His Majesty  
the Editor & Publisher

## Ozark Mountain Christmas

Even though your Branson getaway might have sprung the holidays on you a little early—please allow us to treat you to a very merry Ozark Mountain Christmas!

Don’t worry about not yet being quite “in the mood” for all the hooplah. Don’t torment yourself with your inner holiday deadlines. Don’t be annoyed by all the lah-dee-dah festivities that surround you if you’ve still got some blues on the inside. Don’t even pine for loved ones far away, or even for loved ones lost. To all this, we



say—let Branson do its thing for you.

Prepare only for this: a holiday experience that will be very special. One to bring you genuine comfort and joy. One that will lift your spirits, flood you with fond memories and fill your heart with thanksgiving for all the blessings in your life. One that feels like home.

That’s what happens when you place yourself among hundreds of talented entertainers, attractions and locals who not only celebrate the season, but who celebrate boldly, loudly and unanimously Who the season is about.

You feel it. Some call it the “Christmas spirit.” Some call it “the reason for the season.” Some call it just the spirit of brotherly love. And some call “it” a “Him”.



So just allow yourself to kick back, relax—and enjoy the show. Merry Christmas! ♦

 /TheBransonInsider  /Branson\_Insider

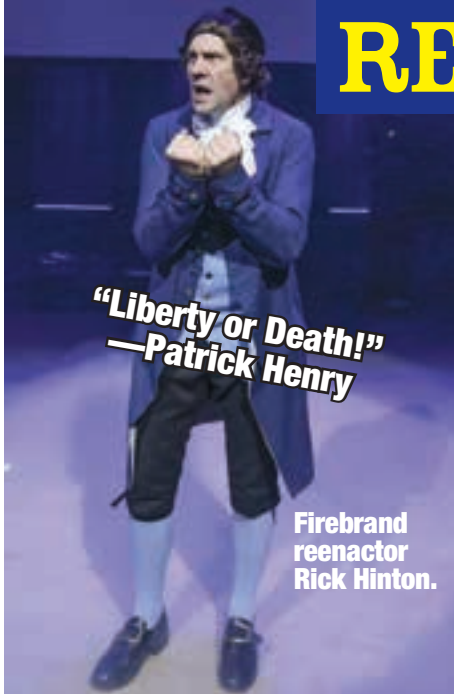
## New Year’s Eve Shows!



All over Branson!  
Happy 2024!

**Fine Print that Nobody Reads:** *The Branson Insider*™ November/December 2023 Vol.14 No.5 Copyright © 2023 by Performance Media, Inc. All rights reserved. Published bi-monthly by Performance Media, Inc. P.O. Box 580 Ozark, MO 65721. Phone: (417) 827-4025, [TheBransonInsider.com](http://TheBransonInsider.com). e-mail: [Editor@TheBransonInsider.com](mailto:Editor@TheBransonInsider.com)  /TheBransonInsider **Boring Lawyer Stuff:** Information published herein is subject to change without notice. Reproduction in whole or in part is strictly prohibited. *The Branson Insider*™ makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of published information, however the publisher cannot be held responsible for any consequences arising from errors or omissions. Distribution: For distribution issues, (*beb-heb*, did you catch that pun?), call our office. **Editor & Publisher:** Richard B. Freihofer **Advertising:** Whoever answers the phone. **Photography:** Jennifer Sisco Grant, Adam Hughes, Marshall Meadows, Tonya Newman, Richard Freihofer **Graphic Design:** Gryphix-Stan Griffin, Lindsey Griffin **Business Manager:** Theresa K. Freihofer Keep up with all the latest Branson news at  /The Branson Insider

# REVOLUTIONARY PRODUCTIONS!



**“Liberty or Death!”  
—Patrick Henry**

**Firebrand  
reenactor  
Rick Hinton.**

never-before-seen production this Season 2023 at **The Freedom Encounter Theatre!** Briefly described, The Freedom Journey Show is a combination of live music, storytelling, laughs, and multi-media. But folks, that's not all! Appearing live, on stage and in person—are thrilling performances by legendary patriots **Patrick Henry, Benjamin Franklin,** and more!

## EXPERIENCE NUMBER 2

Premiering this Season 2023 is yet *another* riveting production: this one being called **The Freedom Journey Experience!** This all takes place in an area soon to be visible while entering the grand, (and *inspiring*) theater lobby, where all eyes will immediately see a new one-room schoolhouse, the scene of a colonial church and a smaller theater. Here, a new show will include interactive experiences and living history performers in person. This shorter production will be performed during the day and can even be scheduled for groups. (Both shows can be purchased in a discounted combo ticket).



**NOVEMBER 5: 7pm NOVEMBER 6-8: 2pm, 7pm**

This incredible 57' X 10' Memorial Wall contains nine “seals” forged from dozens of layers of stainless steel and glass.

Each of the 9 seals was created from hundreds of pieces of laser-cut stainless steel welded into multiple layers, powder coated for permanent color, and mounted on layers of LED light-embedded acrylic glass. The Presidential Seal contains 607 individual pieces of stainless steel. To

understand the complexity of each Seal the Eagle alone is made of over 200 pieces!

A patriotic musical production with many quotes from America's founders will

reveal each of the seals. This inspiring event celebrates freedom and honors the veterans and first responders who paid the price for freedom. ♦



The Logos Theatre's production of **C.S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia: The Horse and His Boy** is coming to Freedom Encounter in Branson this Christmas! When Shasta and a talking horse, Bree plan their escape from slavery to the land of Narnia and freedom, they soon realize the journey holds far more danger than they could have ever imagined. With an army ready to attack the countries of the North, Shasta and Bree's journey becomes a race against time to not only escape the slavery they have known, but to save Narnia and the North! With

a cast of 45 actors, life-size puppetry, gigantic sets and stunning costumes, *The Horse and His Boy* brings the unforgettable world of Narnia to life on stage!

From a successful run at Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., this fantastic production will inspire audiences of all ages in Branson! ♦

## PERSONAL APPEARANCES!

Freedom Journey's patriot rebels regularly appear at churches and at venues as various as patriotic and public events, public schools, colleges, club meetings and more. For **BOOKING INFO OR DONATIONS:** Call (573)-308-7592 OR go to [FreedomEncounter.com](http://FreedomEncounter.com)

**S**ometimes, there are just no words. Before you read any further, see if you can pull out that smart phone of yours and take 2 minutes and 39 seconds of your valuable time to watch a short video that we predict, could very well inspire your Great American heart to the point of tears. Be prepared. Within seconds, you may find yourself awakened, challenged, moved, thankful and energized with a renewed hope—almost all at once! Here goes: [freedomfocus.us](http://freedomfocus.us) When you get to the website, scroll down for the video.

## LIVE ON STAGE!

That video should give you a glimpse of **The Freedom Journey Show**—a live stage production that for many seasons has roared into towns across America like a modern day Paul Revere! If you've seen the show during Branson's Veterans Homecoming Week in seasons past, then be advised: you are about to witness a



**FREEDOM ENCOUNTER THEATER**

**LIVE ON STAGE!**

**THE EMOTIONALLY CHARGED SHOW THAT IS WOWING AMERICA!**

**FREEDOM JOURNEY**

**OUR CAUSE. OUR CRISES. OUR HOPE.**

**Live Music • Powerful Multi-Media • And One Truly Incredible Story!**

## TICKETS

**ONLINE:** [FreedomJourneyShow.com](http://FreedomJourneyShow.com)  
**PHONE:** 417-544-0372

**SPECIAL FREE TICKETS**  
(SEE BELOW)

**FREEDOM ENCOUNTER THEATER**

(Formerly Tony Orlando's  
Yellow Ribbon Theater)

3220 FALLS PARKWAY, BRANSON, MO

**FREE TICKETS FOR VETERANS, FIRST RESPONDERS, KIDS 12 & UNDER PLUS SENIOR DISCOUNTS!**

# ALL STAR HOLIDAY REVUE: LEGENDARY SUPERSTARS AT THE MANSION

The Mansion Theatre is home for a wide range of shows and performances for all! Whether it's the kids experiencing holiday shows, or family and friends enjoying some classic country music—all are coming to the right place! Stay tuned for upcoming shows and get tickets for current shows TODAY before they run out!

## THE OAK RIDGE BOYS FAREWELL TOUR: Nov 1-2, 8-9, 15-16

They created one of the most distinctive and recognizable sounds in the music industry! Their four-part harmonies and upbeat songs have spawned **dozens of Country hits, a Number One Pop smash**, earned them **Grammy, Dove, CMA, and ACM awards** and garnered a host of other industry and fan accolades! Every time they step before an audience, the Oaks bring four decades of charted singles, and 50 years of tradition, to a stage show widely acknowledged as among the most exciting anywhere!



## Jimmy Fortune Nov 4 & 9

Jimmy Fortune toured, sang and performed with the legendary Statler brothers for 21 years. He joined them first as a temporary replacement for Lew DeWitt, after DeWitt heard him singing at a ski resort and recommended him. Due to the debilitating effects of Crohn's Disease, Lew was unable to return to the stage with the Statlers and Jimmy was hired as a permanent replacement in August of 1982.

## THE GATLIN BROTHERS COUNTRY & CHRISTMAS Nov 17

They've received countless awards, appeared on countless stages and TV shows—and have even performed several times at The White House! Early on, Larry caught the attention of **Dottie West, Kris Kristofferson** and **Johnny Cash**. Impressed with Larry's singing and song-writing talent, all three helped open doors for the young artist. Joined by his brothers, Larry and the Gatlins were soon rolling out the Grammy award-winning hits—**Broken Lady, All the Gold in California, Houston (Means I'm One Day Closer to You)**, and so many more. Larry describes the group's latest releases as "A little bit edgy. We don't like to play it safe!"



## THE BELLAMY BROTHERS Nov 18

**The Love still flows!** Howard and David's 40 years of success began on the pop charts in the '70's—then took a winding turn into country music in the '80's, paving the way for so many other duos to come. Their first smash hit (3 million copies) was **Spiders & Snakes**, written by David and recorded by **Jim Stafford**. The group's 1976 hit **Let Your Love Flow** was the first of many chart-toppers to follow—including over 20 international hits, including **If I Said You Had**

**A Beautiful Body (Would You Hold It Against Me?), Dancing Cowboys, Sugar Daddy** and many more. Their latest project is an album aptly titled **40 Years—an anniversary collection** which contains 20 of their biggest hits and 20 brand new songs!

## GENE WATSON Nov 11

One of the most masterful voices in country music today, Gene Watson still sings in the same key as 30 years ago and continues to prove why he is rightly referred to as "The Singer's Singer". His powerful voice and multi-octave range allows him to sing some of the most challenging songs with ease that comes from pure, natural talent as well as from his many years performing onstage!



## Daniel O'Donnell Nov 1-4, 6-8, 10-11, 13-16

Irish singing sensation, PBS star and a legendary Branson favorite, Daniel O'Donnell performs our favorite Irish, American, and international classics in a heart-stirring holiday show that has become a traditional gathering of his multitudes of fans—(whose numbers never stop growing!)

## HEARTS AND HOPES OF HEROES - 3 Heath Brothers NOV 6

A heartwarming youth tribute honoring all veterans right in the heart of Branson's Veterans Homecoming Week! This epic event brings bands and choirs from around the country to perform as part of an inspiring mass ensemble. This year, the wildly popular teen sensations 3 Heath Brothers will add their voices to this patriotic event! **About the 3 Heath Brothers:** Re-envisioning what Christian music can be in the 21st century, they have performed for over 20,000 public school students across the US and have over 100 million views on social media. About their records and concerts, this is their statement: "It's not about us... it's all about Jesus!~"



**Springfield Symphony Orchestra**  
— featuring Local Choral Guest NOV 10

**TICKETS:**  
**417-335-2000**



# KING'S CASTLE THEATRE

WORLD CLASS ENTERTAINMENT



## COMING IN MAY 2024!

King's Castle Theatre invites you into a world where the impossible becomes possible, where dreams take flight, and where your imagination knows no bounds. Get ready to believe in the extraordinary, to dream with your eyes wide open, and to be swept away by the enchantment of *CIRQUE ~ Electric Dreams*.



"The Biggest Rock Party in Branson" showcases the number one Hits from the most famous bands of the 20th century, including *Queen, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Bon Jovi, Led Zeppelin, Journey, Aerosmith*, and many more. Songs include, "Don't Stop Believing", "Another One Bites the Dust", "Dream On", "Jump", and "Hotel California" among others, in this exciting high-energy production that will have you dancing and singing along to the greatest Rock hits of all time in this magnificent Rock experience.



Celebrating its 9th blockbuster season in Branson! A Broadway hit and award-winning movie (*Jersey Boys*) introduced new generations to the group that stole the hearts of nearly all who came of age in the 1950s and '60s! Backed up by incredible production numbers, the legendary crooners bring us *Sherry, Rag Doll, Big Girls Don't Cry, Can't Take My Eyes Off of You, Walk Like a Man* and so much more.

## DUBLIN'S IRISH TENORS & THE CELTIC LADIES

*A CELTIC CHRISTMAS* is filled with songs that'll bring joy and the true spirit of Christmas to your holiday season. Listen in amazement as these talented singers take you on a breathtaking uplifting musical journey of traditional Irish Classics, as well as covering Christmas favorites like, *Christmas in Killarney, Mary Did You Know, O' Holy Night, What Child is This, O Come All Ye Faithful, and Ave Maria*.



## BRANSON'S FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION

No yuletide trip to Branson would be complete without seeing Branson's Christmas Wonderland, one of Branson's largest holiday productions. A sparkling cast of singers and dancers takes you on an unforgettable and magical sleigh ride to a grand Christmas extravaganza. Don't miss this perennial favorite, which rings in the spirit of the Christmas season with high-energy dance, elaborate costumes, beautiful scenery, gorgeous production numbers and the highest-kicking chorus girls this side of the North Pole!



19th Annual Star Showcase  
September 10, 2023

Nashville Roadhouse at The Branson Star Theatre

**T**o be honest, the real answer to that headline's question is this—we are. The audience. *We're the winners. We're the lucky ones who get to enjoy the performances Branson entertainers try so hard to entertain us with—performances designed to make us all reach the point of leaving theaters absolutely dazzled, amazed and hungry for more!* So let's have some fun with these paparazzi pics of all the glitz and glam, the entertainment, (obviously), the dramatic, nailbiter unveiling of this year's recipients—and the event's relaxing "afterglow" on this starry night in Branson!

## BUT FIRST, HERE ARE THE NOMINEES:



Despite how it looks in this picture of entertainers all in the same show, there were only a few awards nominees in each category announced this past summer. Yet seen here, this cast of The Morace Family: *Listen to the Music* just all happened to receive nominations for their awesomeness! You can see them all now at Jerry Presley's God & Country Theater—or wait, just see them all on page 29 first! Left to right, vocalists Kristy McConnell, and Leisa Morace, comedienne Cheri Winger, drummer and vocalist Irielle McConnell, (daughter of Kristy), and guitarist Eric Green.

## NOW... ON WITH THE SHOW!

**W**hat better stress reliever can there be in between awards announcements than for entertainers to put on a show for their fellow entertainers! Actually, entertainers are so busy entertaining on a daily basis, they rarely have an opportunity to take in a fellow entertainer's Branson show! Until nights like this. So, while they're wondering if their name will be announced and they are called to mount the stage, accept their award, and nervously recite that acceptance speech they've been practicing all afternoon—kicking back to be entertained for a few minutes is a stress reliever for them, while being a SUPER SHOW of Branson entertainment for the rest of us!



### ELTON JOHN!

Tribute artist **Pete Crane** get's the party started with Elton's rock and roller *Saturday Night's Alright for Fighting!* (Just a fun and goofy rock song, not a real statement. Just sayin'.)

### STEVIE LEE ROCKS!

Photos by Jennefer Grant



Technically, Stevie's show is described as "where country meets rock 'n roll," so yeah, he rocks, as we see here, but he also countrys! Since he's moved his show, now we need to follow him and **Nashville RoadHouse Live!** over to the **Pierce Arrow Theater**, ( Go to page 30 for starters).

## AND THE WINNER IS.

### SPIRIT OF THE DANCE!

Scotland's **Jacqui Bell** has definitely got the spirit, being as how she's both the show's Dance Captain and the **Kings Castle Theater** Manager! All that *definitely* deserves a hug!



### Elvis

Americana Theater's **Elvis: The Story of A King** star **Matthew Boyce** thanks us. Thanks us *very much!*



# ENTERTAINERS ARE...

## MATINEE IDOL!



Matinee Show of the Year recipient Diana Allynn, star of *Carpenters Once More*, receives her award.



## ELVIS TO NEIL

Elvis tribute artist Bobby Darin Allynn presents a Neil Diamond Tribute Award to Neil Diamond Tribute artist Keith Allynn, his Dad.



## AFTER SHOW AFTERGLOW



King's Castle Theater's Jacqui Bell poses for us alongside Celtic singer Sarah Joy and Jacqui's daughter, dance competitor and (no doubt future dancing star) Skye Bell.

## ENTERTAINERS OF THE YEAR!

Nashville Roadhouse LIVE! star Stevie Lee Woods and his entire NRL Band poses for fans and paparazzi with their prestigious *Entertainers of the Year* Award. Looks like our crew didn't get good eye contact for the shot but, hey, Congrats anyhow guys!



## FEMALE ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR!



*Awesome 80s* mega star Adrianna Fine strikes a lovely pose for us paparazzi people. But where's her award? *Oops*, it looks like this shot was *before* she received her award! Oh shoot. Looks like we'll just have to chase down that "money shot" and put it up on [TheBransonInsider.com](http://TheBransonInsider.com). If we succeed. Fingers crossed!

## GRAND FINALE

Stevie, his brother Gary, plus Stevie's award—all pose for paparazzi with Branson Show Award Directors Jim Kast (cowboy at left), and Gary Wackerly, (cowboy at right.) A nice way to end the event. (Before the "after party" begins!)



## And the Award Goes To...

Award Recipients featured in this issue of *The Branson Insider*:

## BRANSON SHOW AWARDS

**Band of the Year!**  
Double Diamond Show Band  
A Neil Diamond Tribute  
Jerry Presley's God & Country Thtr

**Instrumentalist of the Year!**  
Michael T. Hermsmeyer  
Nashville Roadhouse LIVE  
Pierce Arrow Thtr.

**Lead Guitarist of the Year!**  
Jordan Crane  
Elton John Tribute  
Jerry Presley's God & Country Thtr

**Steel Player of the Year!**  
Greg Moody  
Branson's Famous Baldknobbers

**Dance Troupe of the Year!**  
Spirit of the Dance  
Kings Castle Thtr.

**Duet of the Year!**  
Jonathan/Deanna Edwards  
Absolutely Country/  
Definitely Gospel  
Jerry Presley's God & Country Thtr

**Tribute Artist of the Year!**  
Matthew Boyce  
Elvis: Story of a King  
Americana Thtr.

**Evening Show of the Year!**  
Re-Vibe  
Hughes Family Thtr.!

**Illusionist of the Year!**  
Phil Dalton

**Gospel Show of the Year!**  
Elvis Live! &  
the Blackwoods Gospel Show  
Jerry Presley's God & Country Thtr.

**Matinee Show of the Year!**  
Carpenters Once More  
Jerry Presley's God & Country Thtr.

**Female Entertainer of the Year!**  
Adrianna Fine  
Awesome 80s  
Americana Thtr.

**Male Vocalist of the Year!**  
Stevie Lee Woods  
Nashville Roadhouse LIVE!  
Pierce Arrow Thtr.

**Entertainers of the Year!**  
Nashville Roadhouse LIVE!  
Pierce Arrow Thtr.

# 46<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BRANS

Sunday, September 24, 2023, Branson's Famous Baldknobbers Theatre

It's an awards show which began back in 1977, making the one this year, (according to our smartie phone calculator)—the 46<sup>th</sup> one! It began as a joke, when **Fort Worth DJ Terry Beene** caught an awards show on TV and decided to announce on his radio show a Terry Awards Show of his own. That announcement threw the radio station and the venue where he said it would happen in an absolute tizzy! After being flooded with calls for tickets, both contacted Terry immediately, begging him to call off the joke! Terry humbly apologized for the joke, then delightedly went right back at it the next day! Which ended up turning into a real event! One which became legendary. Due to his love for the music industry and his love for Branson, Mr. Beene, (who today lives way down yonder in Georgia), eventually brought the industry event to us here in Branson and re-named it *The Branson Terry Music Awards!* Lucky us! And with that big move came Terry's big agenda—to raise money for **charities** dear to his heart.

As for Terry's love for the music industry, that's no joke. Besides spending four years in the **United States Navy**, he also spent several years as a professional drummer, traveling America and drumming for the likes of **Jerry Lee Lewis, Tammy Wynette, Faron Young** and even our own **Barbara Fairchild**, (just to name a few!) But then things started to take a turn for the worse. Fortunately, however, the sad story of that turn resulted in a transformed life that Terry celebrates today wherever he goes. It's even celebrated on the cover of the **Branson Terry Awards program** handed out to all attendees. Front and center, big and bold are the words "*Serve the Lord with Gladness: His presence with singing.* —Psalm 100:2 Read a tad more about Terry's amazing story on page 18.

## RED CARPET ROYALTY!

Read all about 'em over on page 17. Oh, but also seen here with this famous fam of entertainers is **Tonya Newman** and her husband **Bobby**. (at right) Tonya is a venue manager who somehow manages to run everything amazingly over at Branson's new **WRANGLER'S STAR-STUDD HONKY TONK!**



WRANGLERS'  
STARS!

Photos by Jennefer Grant



WOAH!

That's **Jay Osmond**, one of the legendary **Osmond Brothers!** What's he doing back here in Branson? Us Branson Insiders got on the case immediately and found out Jay and his lovely wife **Karen** were in town for a one night appearance way back in October. *Earth to Jay and Karen: "Y'all come back!"*



HUGHES  
BROTHERS  
PLUS!

Branson's famous bro's are seen here with a small sampling of the humongous Hughes family enterprise numbering somewhere over 40 Hughesez. Happily, we get to see the whole gigantic family entertain us all on the same stage—just for the price of one ticket to the **Hughes Music Show!** (As seen on pg. 25)

**CJ Newsom's Classic Country & Comedy star CJ Newsome** makes one as she strikes a fashionista pose for our red carpet camera!



FASH

# ON TERRY MUSIC AWARDS!

## THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!

**W**ho gets an award? Who doesn't? Not gonna lie, there's some tension in the room. That is—until in-between announcements—there's entertainment, which fast breaks tension to smithereens! Like we keep saying, entertainers rarely get the chance to behold the performances of other entertainers, so seeing each other perform is pretty much off-the-charts fun!



**Branson's Famous Baldknobbers girls (R to L) Megan McCombs Mabe and Ashley Dawn are seen here "killin' it!" (Showbiz speak).**



**For some heart-stirring music that both entertains and inspires—who you gonna call? Well, these guys of course—those incredible Hughes Brothers! (And technically speaking—Hughes Bros' plus one Hughes son.)**



**Stars in Disguise!** "We've heard these are entertainers from Grand Country Music Hall, but due to their costumes, their identities to us Branson Insiders seem somewhat confusing."

## AND THE 2023 AWARDS GO TO... continued on page 28

## ION STATEMENT!



**Branson Mayor Larry Milton and First Lady Lianne** graciously pose for a red carpet photo op as they arrive to lend their support to Branson's entertainment community. But according to our reporters, they also came because the Terry Awards Show, for them, (and the rest of us)—is fun!



### THE GAMBLER AND HIS LADY!

**Terry Awards producer and Kenny Rogers tribute artist Rick McEwen and Lady Debbie Herring Wood** make their grand (and quite fashionable) red carpet entrance! Rick stars as **The Gambler** over at the **IMAX Little Opry Theater** which, we have to say, (*hand on the Bible*) is the **Kenny Rogers** tribute not to miss!



**Elvis has not left the building!!** Elvis' cousin, (& Elvis tribute artist) **Jerry Presley** and his date **Cheri May** definitely bring glam to the red carpet as they arrive, not *leave*. (It would have been kinda disappointing to report that an Elvis had actually left the building, as it was so classically announced at the end of Elvis' legendary performances!)

# 1959-2023 BRANSON'S FIRST SHOW:

**TOPS** itself  
**YET AGAIN!**

**BRANSON'S FAMOUS BALDKNOBBERS**

*Christmas Show!*

**H**ere it is in a nutshell: Award winning musicians, vocalists and comedy, plus huge new production enhancements of sound, lights and whiz-bang special effects!

## THE FIRST HALF:

**T**op country hits, traditional country favorites, southern rock, gospel, patriotic salutes, hilarious side-splitting comedy and more—the “more” being about the hottest musicians, vocalists and country comedy in this particular galaxy! Expect some of that “outlaw country” with “attitude”, some bluegrass, and even some classic rock!



**Award-winning singing stars:**  
3rd Generation Baldknobber  
Brandon Mabe and Brandon's  
lovely wife Megan!

## THEN COMES CHRISTMAS!

**A**s generations of Baldknobbers fans have known ever since 1959, something always happens to this wild bunch at this time of year. And it happens right before our eyes!

After a full blown funfest of music, laughs and Baldknobbers just being Baldknobbers, the Christmas Spirit suddenly descends on these outfits—first, with a holly, jolly North Pole Revue, then, with words and music that leads all hearts and minds to a starry night, to a holy land, to a tiny village, then to a stable, where inside, in a manger built for animals to feed, there lay a child who would change the world that was, the world that is, and the world that is to be—forever. Feel it. Experience it. Right here. Where it comes alive, and where the comfort, the joy and the “reason for the season remains long after the curtain closes.

**BIG BALDKNOBBER  
NEWS FOR SEASON  
2024!**

(Sneak Preview at Branson's  
Famous Baldknobbers on )

**MAJOR  
ANNOUNCEMENT!**

**FINAL SEASON FOR  
AWARD-WINNING COMEDY LEGEND  
JERL “HARGUS” ADAMS!  
JUST FOR LAUGHS, HARGIS HAS DECIDED TO  
KICK BACK & ENJOY THE SHOW  
WITH HIS FAMILY!  
WARNING: OUR LAST CHANCE FOR SOME  
BIG LAUGHS WITH  
HILARIOUS HARGUS!**

## THE 2023 PRODUCTION

Step inside the completely revamped and remodeled theater lobby. That should tell you something.

Now for the show. Heading up the show is **Brandon Mabe**, son and grandson of the family that “started it all”. At Brandon’s side is his lovely wife, leading lady, and **Branson’s 2021 Female Vocalist of the Year Megan Mabe!**

Backing up this dynamic duo is a posse of multi-award-winning musicians and vocalists, plus a bona fide comedy legend! Topping it all off is the show’s huge new production enhancements of sound, lights and whiz-bang special effects!

Expect top country hits, (including some of that “outlaw country” with “attitude”), traditional country favorites, southern rock, soft rock, old time rock n’ roll, bluegrass, gospel, patriotic salutes, hilarious side-splitting comedy and more—the “more” being about the hottest musicians, vocalists and country comedy in this particular galaxy!

## THE TAKE-AWAY

It’s unheard of for a show to stay popular for over 60 years. That is an historical fact. But this isn’t just a show with a history. Whenever the curtain rises, this show aims to *make history!* ♦



**Ashley  
Dawn!**

Gospel singer, Nashville recording artist & star vocalist with the MO Natl Guard's 135th Army Band!

**Shane!**

From Nashville: a heart-stealing voice of Country and Gospel!

Terry Awards

And The Awards go to...

MEGAN!

MORE BALDKNOBBER STARS!

The 2022 Branson Terry Music Awards  
2022 FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR!

Ashley Dawn Stanton!

Branson's Famous Baldknobbers!

2022 LEAD GUITAR PLAYER OF THE YEAR!

Grant Moody!

Branson's Famous Baldknobbers!

2021 Female Vocalist of the Year  
Megan Mabe,  
Branson's  
Famous Baldknobbers!

DAD!

NATHAN!



Steel Player of the Year Greg Moody, Branson's Famous Baldknobbers—seen here receiving his award from multi-award winning Baldknobbers's lead guitarist Grant Moody. (Greg's son!)

Fiddle Player of the Year Nathan Agdeppa, (right) Branson's Famous Baldknobbers! (Presented by fellow fiddler Wayne Massengale, of Grand Country.)

## THE VINTAGE BALDKNOBBERS SHOW

**W**OW! Original songs, Christmas music, comedy and even COSTUMES and SETS from vintage versions of Branson's first show—all the way from the 60s,70s thru the 90s! We're talkin' sequins, shoulder pads, fringe—the works! Plus of course, the country classics and funny business that sparked the Branson explosion that turned our small Ozarks village into the Showtown we see today!

Here's our big chance to experience the spark that blew up into a national and even international sensation! For The Baldknobbers cast, this show is the joy of their lives. "I grew up with this show," says Brandon Mabe, fourth generation member of the family that "started it all". "This is a tribute to my family. I'm doing two songs from my late Uncle **Dennis (Mabe)** who I adored growing up. Everything in this show is a tribute to all those who came before us. It's what helped shape us to



who and what we are. It's our attempt to pay respects to that. It's what started everything we see in Branson today."

Says Megan, Branson's wife and co-star, "I'm going to sing two Dolly Parton songs—two

which **Joy Bilyeu** sang back in the day. I would be far more nervous singing those two songs in front of Joy than if I had to sing t in front of Dolly! Even though Dolly is an idol, those people like Baldknobbers stars **Joy, Dennis, Gene Dove, Bob Leftridge** and all the rest—those folks are **our** idols.

'Our passion is to carry on what was handed down to us. The history, how it evolved—for us it's paying tribute and honoring all the Baldknobbers performers who came before us. Even though we weren't there in 1959 or 1989, we want to make sure people see how special it is, as we help carry it on and hopefully hand it to someone else to carry on further.' ♦



# My Voice

by Megan McCombs Mabe

Star of Branson's Famous Baldknobbers and TV's Branson Famous!

## Christmas in the Heart

**C**hristmas time is nearly here, and that means another year is set to wrap itself up and store itself into the history books.

The holidays truly are my favorite season in Branson—the lights, the decorations and the exciting buzz of anticipation and excitement for the impending celebration of our Savior's birth. It's magical. Yet, I can't help but feel a pang of sadness and nostalgia as another season comes to an end. My grandmother always used the phrase, "That was another lifetime ago," in reference to special times in the past. I have always felt this statement holds true as we move through each new phase of life. As each show season finds its conclusion, a chapter and a "lifetime" lands itself in our review mirror.

Each year, we begin our show planning process with excitement and anticipation. The possibilities are endless, and the hopes for a successful and well-received production are all-consuming.

Hours of preparation and rehearsal fill an entire off-season. Nerves, stress, and worry are sprinkled throughout each week. As a new season approaches, the road ahead is unknown. The chapter is unwritten. The thrill of the uncharted is electric. Like riding a roller coaster, we hop on, not knowing what hills and drops are ahead. We will wait for the end to decide if we want to ride again.

We always do. We always ride again.

The sadness comes in knowing the ride will never be the same. The memories and experiences we have during a show season are what lead us to jump on the show train for another go, but we know that the memories are just that, a piece of the past. New memories will be made, but the memories of each "last season" will fade. They will soon become a part of reminiscent conversations—stories we will tell

the next generation. We will look at each experience and story as we do a priceless photo album—with fondness and a twang of pain. Pain from knowing that each beautiful moment is fleeting and often unappreciated until it's gone.

If only we knew how special each moment was while we were in it.

As always, as this show season's ride eventually comes to it's end, we cherish its every passing moment, both big and small, sometimes even wishing we had held on to each one just a bit tighter.

As we settle into this Christmas season, I will soak up every final moment of our 2022 show. I will feel the weight of each experience—big or small. I will enjoy the view a bit longer. I will look forward with anticipation to the next "lifetime", but I will quietly shed a tear as this chapter closes.

*"Through the years, we all will be together, if the fates allow..."* ❁



# THE HOLIDAYS AT LEGENDS!



Produced in Las Vegas, **Legends in Concert** is a dazzling extravaganza of the world's top tribute artists—all appearing live on stage at the iconic **Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theatre** right in the heart of the Branson strip! (W. Hwy 76, Country Music Blvd!) Refer to ad on page 20

Backing up these superstar legends is a smokin' live band of all-star musicians and a stellar cast of backup singers and amazing dancers!

During evening performances, guests can add to the fun by opting for dinner and cocktails. Now that's entertainment!

## Legendary Eats!

Concession include such goodies as Johnsonville Brats, Chili-Cheese Dogs, Ham & Turkey Croissants, Fresh-out-of-the-oven Gourmet Cookies and Chocolate Covered Bananas! Mmmm!

## Upstairs Lounge!

Enjoy craft beers, champagne and a variety of fine wines, (before the show or during intermission)—all in a relaxing lounge decorated with Dick Clark's priceless memorabilia. Guests can also choose the VIP balcony, where drinks can be served during the show!

## A MERRY COUNTRY CHRISTMAS!

Celebrate the magic of the season with **Legends in Concert's** legendary holiday cast! This year, we get to enjoy a **Merry Country Christmas** with the stars! Each of these illustrious tribute artists will be performing their star's favorite Christmas songs along with the hits that made them famous! But that's not all! We even get to ring in the New Year with these entertainment legends!

## BROOKS N' DUNN

Now we get to experience the star duo that took the country world by storm before retiring in 2010 and collecting their **Country Music Hall of Fame Award** in 2019! Lucky us, for they're back—not only with their long list of country hits—but with some of their holiday hits from their classic Christmas album! As all us fans know, Shreveport, Louisiana native **Kix Brooks** is the live wire of the duo—the ultimate boot-scootin', high-energy country showman, while Coleman, Texas native **Ronnie Dunn** is the soulful, traditional country voice that can melt the stoniest heart with a smooth country ballad! Putting these two together on stage turns into a country music *tour de force* of thunder and lightning! To prove the point, how about a little list of some of their unforgettable hits? **Believe, Boot Scootin' Boggie, Play Something Country, My Maria, Brand New Man, Neon Moon, Red Dirt Road, Ain't Nothing 'Bout You, You're Going to Miss Me When I'm Gone, Hard Workin' Man.** But wait, it's Christmas, so how about some tunes off their classic Christmas album—***It Won't be Christmas Without You, Hangin' 'round the Mistletoe, Rockin' Little***

**Christmas, Winter Wonderland**—and yeah, *that's* the holiday spirit!

## GARTH BROOKS

He's the guy who shook up the music world by giving country music a little shot of pop, a little spike of rock, and a whole lot of onstage theatrics that resulted in sold-out arenas all over the globe! His record-breaking live performances, off-the-charts record sales, endless awards—all came from his music that to this day remains in much of our world's hearts and minds! How about these few titles for some memory triggers—***Ropin' the Wind, No Fences, Friends in Low Places, If Tomorrow Never Comes, The Thunder Rolls***—and wow, can you feel it?

## JOHNNY CASH

Do you "hear that train a-comin'?" Roarin' 'round the bend? Well, we ain't stuck in Folsom Prison, "*where time keeps draggin' on*," but just hearing that thunderous **Johnny Cash** voice comin' round the bend is about all it takes for us to "blow those blues away" a whole lot better than that train's lonesome whistle! With a booming voice that overtook the country music world, (plus much of the pop music world to boot.)—the legendary "man in black" struck a chord

in the hearts and minds of generations. He famously teamed up with stars from a variety of musical genres, performed many charity concerts, including many for those behind bars, and his troubled, yet spiritually transformed life became an inspiration for us all. From ***Folsom Prison Blues, I Walk the Line, and Ring of Fire*** to ***I've Been Everywhere, A Boy Named Sue*** and ***Ain't No Grave***, the music, and even more importantly the voice of Johnny Cash is a treasure to behold!

## THE BLUES BROTHERS™

Of course back by eternally popular demand are those furiously dancing and soulfully singing hipsters from Chicago—the fabulous Blues Brothers!

## ELVIS GOSPEL!

Elvis; the superstar whose popularity has transcended the generations. There's just something about that voice—the moves. Then there's the side of Elvis that not everyone saw, or even knew about. With friends, or sometimes even alone, he sang the music that gripped his heart throughout his entire lifetime. It was music that was found on his record player upon his passing. It was the music of his life. You can feel it in his voice, or during heart-stirring visits to Graceland. Expect to feel it in this show, especially at this time of year! ✦



Holiday fun with those "soul men" from "Sweet Home Chicago!"—the fabulous Blues Brothers!

## Rockin' New Years Eve Show!

Dec 31 9:30pm



Since hindsight is 2020, (or technically, 2022), it would be best not to miss the New Year's Festivities at Legends in Concert, where the Legends guest stars will ring in 2023 with a fun fest surely to be long remembered! Pretty cool, that we get to party with **Brooks N' Dunn, Garth, Johnny, those Blues Brothers**—and yes, even **Elvis!** Happy 2024! Party on!

# MAGIC'S GLOBAL MAESTRO!

ILLUSIONIST

RICK THOMAS

STUNNING MAGIC. EXTREME COMEDY. EXQUISITE DANCERS. & BREATHTAKING MOMENTS OF PURE INSPIRATION!

MANSION DREAMS

Magicians all over the world know it, so we'll just go ahead and say it here—**Illusionist Rick Thomas** is an absolute master of performing that art and craft we like to call magic!

What is most obvious to all, is Rick's absolutely unique way of combining his mind-blowing illusions with his brilliant performance of dance. Adding to that is his absolutely delightful comedy, his knack for having fun with his audience—and his amazing gift to take his audience on a sweeping journey of heart-stirring, often breathtaking emotions—all which lead to a grand finale of pure inspiration!

**Audience reactions?** Pretty much what one Las Vegas critic wrote: "Wow. Wow! WOW!"

The curtain opens. Immediately, things happen. Jaws drop. Reality is

**PHOTO OPS! MEET RICK, CAST & DOG STARS! BACKSTAGE DURING INTERMISSION! DETAILS AT BOX OFFICE!**

suspended. We are stupefied, as one unbelievable event transforms into another at almost breakneck speed. Special effects are astounding.

The music, the dancing and theatrics are spectacular. Rick is a world champion ballroom dancer, and it shows, especially when he takes the hand of the show's lead dancer; **international ballet star Tara**, his dancing (and marriage) partner. The performance is mesmerizing. Then, something happens that is downright shocking.

## THE SHOCK!

The music stops. Rick breaks character. He grins. Turns around and looks at the stage, then shrugs, looking almost bewildered. "Wow," he says. "That was pretty cool."

We laugh. Then we see the other side of Rick. He's a fun guy. He makes us laugh. He's relaxed. He plays with our heads. He asks for willing volunteers. Every kid's hand goes up. They love this guy!

**Then it happens again**—Rick the spectacular illusionist reappears, complete with mind-bending illusions, the music, the dancers, the theatrics. Once again, jaws drop, reality blurs,

sometimes becoming surreal, sometimes dreamlike, sometimes funny, sometimes eye-popping, astounding—and other times just absolutely beautiful.

We are told by those who know that there is nothing like Mansion of Dreams—not here, not in Vegas, not anywhere else in this world. We believe it, for not only are we being entertained by one of the

world's most celebrated magicians of our lifetime—many of us may discover, upon leaving The Mansion of Dreams, something else. Due to the show's theme, and to things said and performed for our entertainment, long-forgotten dreams of the heart can very well be awakened anew—almost as if by magic. ♦

## WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?

**Answer:** Rick—until he makes his 140 lbs. Great Pyrenees celebrities become *the incredible shrinking dogs!* Trust us, the end result will "wow" the entire family!



## About Rick Thomas

**Awarded Magician of the World!**  
World Magic Award

**Headlined in Las Vegas for 15 years!**  
Tropicana, Bally's, Planet Hollywood, Mandalay Bay, Mirage, Bellagio, Orleans, SunCoast, Sahara, Stardust!

**5 World Tours in over 50 countries!**  
5 Continents!

## About Tara

**Rick's wife and leading lady! Lead Dancer, Mansion of Dreams!**  
Raised in the country of Zimbabwe, Tara has been trained in ballet since the age

**2-Time Branson Entertainer of the Year!**

**Awarded Stage Magician of the Year!**  
Entertainer of the Year!

**As Seen on TV!**  
ABC, CBS, NBC, Discovery Channel, MTV, Animal Planet, Hallmark, History Channel and many more!

of 5, earning her the prestigious honor of being Senior Member of the National Ballet and Tambuka Dance Company Her dancing career took her to stages and cruise ships throughout the world.

FROM ZIMBABWE—



Tara, world renowned star of dance—plus Mom to the magical couple's Preston!



"Epic!"  
New York Times  
"Stunning!"  
LA Times  
"Fabulous Entertainment for the Entire Family"  
Chicago Tribune



# BRANSON'S NEW HONKY TONK HOT SPOT!



Since the grand opening in September, the word is starting to get out—and it's already beginning to cause a shockwave. The reason? Because there's nothing like it in these parts. Which is why more and more, with numbers growing daily, they're coming from faraway places. In droves.

They're coming because they've heard there's some of the best performers in the world of country music playing there live on stage every evening. They're coming for the food, which by all accounts is absolutely irresistible. They're coming to peruse the exotic menus of the venue's two country bars. And they're coming to dance. Country-Western Two-Step. Country Waltz. Texas Swing. All kinds of Country Line Dancing. Urban Cowboy era stuff. Bob Wills stuff. Then, later in the night, when the older ones have gone home and the young ones are still up and at'em, some of the newer "hot country" to dance to. (Even like fiddlers fiddling a Led Zeppelin tune!)

Welcome to **Wranglers Star Studded Honky Tonk.**

*Continued on page 33*

*by Richard Freihofer, Editor and Publisher*



*Photos by Marshall Meadows, Jennifer Grant and Tanya Newman*



**Jim takes a spin on the dance floor with his lovely wife Teresa**



**The band in action.**



# MELODY HART & THE ALL-STAR BAND

**MELODY HART** Branson's 3-Time Female Vocalist and 3-Time Fiddler of the Year!



Melody is known for performing with country music artists **Joe Diffie, Brenda Lee, Buck Trent** and many others, (including with her husband **Wayne Massengale** and their sons **Garrett and Dillon**.) She was the 2018 Fiddler of the Year, for the Arkansas CMA Awards

**GARRETT MASSENGALE** 3-Time Terry Award Drummer Nominee



Garrett has played at the **Grand Ole Opry** and has performed with artists such as **Rhonda Vincent** and **Moe Bandy**. His recognition at the age of twenty marks him as a promising talent in the music industry.

**DINO STRUNK** 8-Time Guitarist of the Year!



Dino has worked with such artists as **Joe Diffie, Johnny Lee** and **Mickey Gilley**. He is also the staff band lead guitarist for **Scotty's International Guitar Convention**.

**ROBBY SPRINGFIELD** Member of the Steel Guitar Hall of Fame and Recipient of the Terry Beene Award!



Robby has played for artists such as **Dwight Yoakum, Brooks and Dunn, Jo Dee Messina** and **Billy Dean**. His talent on the steel guitar has made him a major figure in the music industry.

**DILLON MASSENGALE** 2023 Arkansas CMA Young Artist of the Year!



Dillon, age 19, has already made his **Grand Ole Opry** debut and appeared on the **Woodsongs TV show** with **Rhonda Vincent**. He has also recorded with such artists as **Leona Williams** and **Junior Brown**.

**WAYNE MASSENGALE** 14-Time Fiddler of the Year!



A top fiddler in the country music scene, Wayne's storied career includes five years with country legend **Roy Clark**, performances on **Hee-Haw, The Grand Ol Opry**, and many years performing in Branson shows.

## HEAD WRANGLERS

The two Arkansas Wranglers who rode into Branson and whupped up an old storied showplace into a lively new fun spot (and yummy eatery)—are not only the bosses who head up the posse here—these two cowboys also happen to be *brothers!* And wow, this outfit's got a *reputation!* Firing up and running businesses is just what they do! But this time it's different. This start-up they



**Brothers & "Pards"**  
(L. to R.) Jim and Harry Huson

did for *fun!* They love country music, they love country two-step dancing and they love country cookin'. So, boy *howdy*—with them riding herd on the place we get the whole *enchilada!*

Hailing from nearby Fayetteville and Hot Springs in Arkansas country, brothers **Jim and Harry Huson** have been starting, running,

selling and buying up businesses pretty

*Continued on page 33*

## MENU • "SNEAK PEEKS!"

### • SMALL PLATES •

LOTS of 'em! Things like Fried Dill Pickles, Coconut Shrimp, Pig Skins, Catfish & Fries, Pulled Pork or Smoked Chicken Sliders, Homemade Cornbread and Honey Butter, Cheesburger Sliders, Cheese Dip Salsa, Chips...and wow!—a whole lot more!

### Proudly Serving

### CATFISH BBQ!

### • BURGERS •

### • THE BIG SALAD •

Add Smoked Chicken, Pulled, Pork, Fried Catfish and a whole lot more!

### • MAINS •

Catfish Plate, (fried or boiled), Shrimp-N-Grits, Smothered Chicken, Bourbon Glazed Salmon, Fried Shrimp Plate, Grilled or Coconut Shrimp, Hand Breaded Chicken Tenders, 8 oz Top Sirloin, 12 Oz Ribeye—plus a whole lot that comes with each "main!"

### • WRANGLER'S MERCH •

wranglers Honky Tonk T-Shirts and more!

### • HICKORY SMOKED BBQ PLATES •

Smoked Brisket, Sausage, Pork—plus St. Louis Style Pork Ribs and a 2 meat, 2 side combo! \*SIDES\* Regular: Sidewinder Fries, Pinto Beans, Cole Slaw, BBQ Beans, Green Beans, Potato Wedges, Cheesy Corn Deluxe Sides: Onion Rings, Red Beans & Rice, Loaded Baked Potato Salad, Baked Potato with butter, sour cream & chives. Yum!

### • DESSERTS •

Pies: (Coconut Cream, Lemon Meringue, Chocolate Cream) Carrot Cake, Cheesecake (Turtle or New York) plus Peach or Blackberry Cobbler. Yummy!

### • WRANGLER'S BAR •

Signature Cocktails, Beer, Seltzers, Wine, Whiskey & Bourbon, Vodka, Scotch, Liqueurs, Rum, Rum, Tequila, Gin—basically the "full enchilada" as they say Out West!

**WRANGLERS**  
STAR STUDED HONKY TONK

DINING & DANCING!

PULL BAR  
OPEN - CLOSE

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY  
DOORS OPEN AT 4 PM

LIVE MUSIC  
STARTING AT 8 PM

21 AND UP ONLY AFTER 7 PM \$5 COVER CHARGE

FEATURING DOWD'S CATFISH & BBQ

625 STATE HWY 165 • BRANSON • 417-544-1405

WRANGLERSHONKYTONK.COM

THE AMERICANA THEATRE PRESENTS:



Experience the history of Country Music brought to life! Enjoy classic hits from Country's biggest stars—Johnny Cash, Buck Owens, Conway Twitty, Merle Haggard, George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton, Glen Campbell, Waylon Jennings, Garth Brooks, George Strait, Brad Paisley—and yes, even more! Many more.

Relive the life and times of a legend through a show packed with heartwarming stories and hard rocking songs performed by critically acclaimed impersonator Matthew Boyce. Warning: catch the show before Elvis leaves the building.

**TICKETS:**

**BOTH SHOWS!**

THE AMERICANA THEATRE 2905 W Hwy. 76 Branson

Phone: 417-544-8700

**BUY ONE TICKET, GET ONE  
50% OFF  
TO ANY OTHER SHOW  
AT THE AMERICANA THEATRE!**

See page 22, PLUS all Americana shows listed on pg. 20



## THE STORIED LIFE OF TERRY BEENE

*We learned the first chapter of his life back on page 10. Now we get the rest of the story!*

**B**ranson Terry Music Awards founder and producer **Terry Beene** has lived a storied life. It was a long and winding road of a life before the **Terry Awards** came to Branson some years ago.

Part of that life was lived serving in the **United States Navy** aboard the **USS Roosevelt, USS Kennedy and USS Enterprise**. Then, several years of it were spent traveling the world as a drummer for some of the biggest names in the world of country music, which later led to years of being a legendary record producer, disc jockey and TV show host in Fort Worth, Texas. It was at that point when famously, as we learned back on page 10—he began The Terry Awards as a joke.

But in the midst of it all, was the bad news hinted at in the previous part of this story. Drugs caused Terry's life to spiral into addiction.

The breaking point was when a friend driving a tour bus in the middle of the night spotted him wandering along a Texas freeway, an event Terry doesn't even remember. "It was a God thing," Terry tells us.

But it was one that landed him in rehab, where he ended up living for an entire year. "For some Godly reason, God was lookin' after me" says Terry.

Fortunately, he came out of rehab, even though many of his friends did not, their lives being snuffed out due to the devastation of their addictions. Terry's life had been on its way to a similar sad ending, yet in contrast, his life suddenly became an absolute joy ride!

The title of his speaking engagements is the big clue—**"From Drugs to Jesus."**

Since that life

transformation, Terry has been on a different track. Although living in Georgia, his love for country music and for people who need the love of God brought him to Branson to continue The Terry Awards, this time for a completely different reason—to raise money for charity.

Charities is where the ticket money goes—to musicians who need medical bills paid, or whose children need financial help for their schooling, or for others needing car repairs or having other pressing needs. As Terry tells *The Insider*, "We're not doin' it for the money, we're doin' it out of love for people in need."

All year long, Terry is joyfully laboring to produce Branson's annual extravaganza. To cite a quote from Terry himself, The Branson Terry Awards, in the midst of all the glitz, the glamour and fun—is definitely "a God thing." ♦



Branson Terry Awards Founder Terry Beene and Terry's friend Liz Summit strike a red carpet pose for paparazzi.

# CHRISTMAS WITH ELVIS! Starring Elvis' Cousin JERRY PRESLEY & THE BLACKWOODS!



**Wow!** It certainly could be a *Blue Christmas* without Elvis! But fret not, the music of Elvis has not left the building for the holidays! Neither has his cousin **Jerry Presley**, nor the Elvis trademark entourage of keyboards horns, electrics, percussion—and to top it all off—Elvis's legendary Gospel backup group **The Blackwoods!** Anyone of any generation who never knew how insanely awesome an Elvis concert was—here's your ticket to rock n' roll heaven! The most common reaction

season 2023 we get the glorious return of **The Blackwoods**—Elvis's original backup singers! And just to add another zinger—two members of Jerry's current cast, (singer **Denny Yeary** and trumpeter **Jay Daversa**) **also performed with the King himself!**

**ELVIS, CHRISTMAS AND GOSPEL!** — Those three words together are enough to give anyone in the know a fast case of goosebumps! In this show, we get the music closest to Elvis' heart, all in one blockbuster production! **Santa Bring My**

that's about all we can cite here without cryin' in the chapel ourselves!

## KEEPIN' IT REAL!

Elvis couldn't have found a better guy to carry on his legacy. A devout Christian, Jerry's life has not suffered the turbulence that befell Elvis—yet the kindness, respect, generosity and even heart for God that Elvis was known for—is alive and well in cousin Jerry Presley—the one we believe to be very much the keeper of the flame. ♦



## THE TCB GROUP!

(Elvis translation: **Takin' Care of Business!**)

Left to right: (front) Donna Blackwood, Andrea Blackwood, Page Kingsbury. (Top) Denny Yeary, Mark Kingsbury, Elvis, (er, technically Jerry Presley), Clel Petray and R.W. Blackwood.



from fans "in the know" is this: "It's the most authentic Elvis show I've ever seen!"

What other Elvis performer is related to Elvis three ways, hung out with Elvis, was encouraged by Elvis, attended over a dozen Elvis concerts and even served in the Army like Elvis? But folks, that's not all! Like Elvis—Cousin Jerry even has a twin brother! And it gets even better, for this

**Baby Back to Me, Silver Bells, I'll be Home for Christmas, Silent Night** and too many more to list without getting emotional! But that's even before we get deeper into that great Elvis heart with a full repertoire of his legendary Gospel favorites—**In the Garden, He Touched Me, How Great Thou Art, Help Me, Rock My Soul, Peace in the Valley, Amazing Grace, Cryin' in the Chapel**—and

## Elvis & Jerry

- Jerry is related to Elvis 3 ways • He was one of the first Elvis tribute artists out there • Elvis's Manager Colonel Parker disapproved of Jerry • Elvis came to Jerry's rescue, encouraging him • Jerry attended over 13 Elvis concerts • He met Elvis at Graceland • He treasures several gifts Elvis gave him • He met briefly with Elvis backstage in June of '77 • In August, he received a note from Elvis apologizing for the short meeting and inviting him back to Graceland • Days later, Elvis died • At Graceland after the funeral, Jerry ran into Elvis's Dad Vester sitting on the stairs. "I guess it will never be the same around here anymore," said Jerry. With tears in his eyes, Vester answered, "No, Son, I guess it never will be." • "Elvis was a humble guy," says Jerry. "He didn't put himself up on a pedestal. He loved people. He was such a giving person. There will never be another Elvis."

## Tribute Shows APPEARING LIVE AT GOD & COUNTRY!



A GEORGE STRAIT TRIBUTE



THE MORACE FAMILY LISTEN TO THE MUSIC



ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE!



ABSOLUTELY COUNTRY: DEFINITELY GOSPEL!

## \*\*\* Jerry Presleys \*\*\* GOD AND COUNTRY THEATERS

Branson's LIVE Showplace for The Music You Love!



## ELVIS LIVE!

ALOHA FROM HAWAII CONCERT  
JERRY PRESLEY & THE BLACKWOODS

THE LAST CONCERT  
JERRY PRESLEY & THE BLACKWOODS

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN CONCERT  
JERRY PRESLEY & THE BLACKWOODS

SUNDAY: ELVIS GOSPEL  
JERRY PRESLEY & THE BLACKWOODS

\*\*\*

**PLUS:**  
ABSOLUTELY COUNTRY,  
DEFINITELY GOSPEL!

ROCKET MAN  
ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE

THE SONS  
MUSIC CELEBRATION

GEORGE STRAIT:  
STRAIT TO BRANSON

THE MORACE FAMILY  
LISTEN TO THE MUSIC

417-334-6806

1840 W. Hwy 76  
www.GodandCountryTheaters.com

**Branson's**  
**CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND**

Save!  
**\$10.00**  
With Promo Code:  
**BRN23**

SCAN TO BUY NOW

To Reserve Tickets:  
**417-334-2500**  
KingsCastleTheatre.com

**A MERRY COUNTRY CHRISTMAS**

**Legends**  
IN CONCERT™

Join us for a Rockin' New Year's Eve  
with Special Guest **6X**

**A MERRY COUNTRY CHRISTMAS**  
Nov. 2 - Jan. 1, 2024  
Regular shows will be performed after Christmas

Tributes to:  
Brooks & Dunn  
Johnny Cash • Garth Brooks  
The Blues Brothers™ • Elvis Gospel

Lineup subject to change.

LEGENDSINCONCERT.COM  
417.339.3003  
1600 W 74 Country Blvd, Branson MO

™ The Blues Brothers™ is a registered trademark owned by "Tom Arford and Judy Reback"

# 2023 BRANSON SHOW GUIDE

Shows appearing in **THE BRANSON INSIDER** are listed in **RED!**  
\*MEAL GUIDE: B (BREAKFAST), L (LUNCH), D (DINNER), A (ALCOHOL AVAILABLE)

Please See Theatre Website for Show Times		Map Grid	See Pages	Show Season	Meal Avail*	Menu Page
<i>The Americana Theater</i> 2905 W Hwy 76 • 417-544-8700	<a href="http://americanatheatre.com">americanatheatre.com</a>	E-6	18,22			
CJ Newsom's Classic Country & Comedy Christmas Show			18,22	Nov-Dec		
America's Top Country Hits	<a href="http://americanatheatre.com">americanatheatre.com</a>		18,22	Nov-Dec		
Awesome 80's	<a href="http://americanatheatre.com">americanatheatre.com</a>		18,22	Nov-Dec		
The Best of Motown & More				Nov-Dec		
British Invasion	<a href="http://americanatheatre.com">americanatheatre.com</a>			THRU Nov		
Broadway to Buble: George Dyer: Christmas Show				Nov-Dec		
Elvis: Story of The King	<a href="http://americanatheatre.com">americanatheatre.com</a>		18,22	THRU Dec		
Andy Williams Moon River Theatre 2905 W Hwy 76 • 417-334-4500		E-8				
Branson Central Theatre 625 St. Hwy 165 •	See listing for Wranglers Star Studded Honky Tonk	F-5				
<i>Branson Famous Theatre</i> 645 Hwy 165 • 417-231-4999	<a href="http://baldknobbers.com">baldknobbers.com</a>	F-4	2,9,11 12,13,28			
Branson's Famous Baldknobbers Christmas	<a href="http://baldknobbers.com">baldknobbers.com</a>		2,9,11 12,13,28	Nov-Dec		
Vintage Baldknobbers Show	<a href="http://baldknobbers.com">baldknobbers.com</a>		2,9,11 12,13,28	Nov-Dec		
The Doug Gabriel Christmas Show	<a href="http://douggabriel.com">douggabriel.com</a>			Nov-Dec		
Reza: Edge of Illusion	<a href="http://rezalive.com">rezalive.com</a>			Nov-Dec		
Branson Hot Hits Theatre 206 South Commercial St • 417-337-7426	<a href="http://bransonhothits.com">bransonhothits.com</a>	F-13				
Motown Downtown				Nov-Dec		
Doo Wop & More				Nov-Dec		
Patsy to Patsy Music of Patsy Cline				Nov-Dec		
Platters & Golden Sounds of the 50's				Nov-Dec		
Queens of Soul Starring Sade Shine				Nov-Dec		
James Taylor and the Soft Rock of the 70s & 80s				Nov		
Dean Martin and More Tribute				Nov-Dec		
Branson Magic Theater 2527 State Hwy 248						
El Mago Pop: Magician Antonio Diaz	<a href="http://elmagopop.com">elmagopop.com</a>			2024		
Clay Cooper Theatre 3216 W. Hwy 76 • 888-222-8910	<a href="http://claycoopertheatre.com">claycoopertheatre.com</a>	E-5				
Clay Cooper's Country Express: Christmas Show				Nov-Dec		
#1 Hits of the 60's Christmas Show	<a href="http://1hitsofthe60s.com">1hitsofthe60s.com</a>			Nov-Dec		
Dean Z's Rockin' Christmas Show				Nov-Dec		
The Haygoods Christmas Show				Nov-Dec		
Hot Rods & High Heels Christmas Show!				Nov-Dec		
Special Shows and Events (See website for info)				THRU Dec		
Copeland Theater at the Meadows • 417-332-5338	<a href="http://copelandtheater.com">copelandtheater.com</a>	C-9				
All Hands on Deck Christmas Show				Dec		
Ray: You Got The Right One Baby...						
The HITS						
On Fire: The Jerry Lee Lewis Story						
New Years Hits On Fire						
<i>Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theatre</i> 1600 W. Hwy 76 • 417-339-3003	<a href="http://legendsinconcert.com/Branson">legendsinconcert.com/Branson</a>	E-10	14,20			
Legends Christmas Spectacular Show			14,20	Nov-Dec	DA	

# 2023 BRANSON SHOW GUIDE

Shows appearing in **THE BRANSON INSIDER** are listed in **RED!**  
 \*MEAL GUIDE: B (BREAKFAST), L (LUNCH), D (DINNER), A (ALCOHOL AVAILABLE)

Please See Theatre Website for Show Times		Map Grid	See Pages	Show Season	Meal Avail*	Menu Page
Legends A Merry Country Christmas			14,20	Nov-Dec	D,A	
SIX Christmas				Nov-Dec		
Dolly Parton's Stampede 1525 W. Hwy 76 • 800-520-5544	<a href="http://dpstampede.com">dpstampede.com</a>	E-10		THRU Oct	L,D	
Dolly Parton's Stampede Christmas				Nov-Dec	L,D	
The Dutton Family Theatre 3454 W Hwy 76 • 417-332-2772	<a href="http://theduttons.com">theduttons.com</a>	E3				
The Duttons Christmas Show				Nov-Dec		
Yakov Smirnoff		<a href="http://Yakov.com">Yakov.com</a>		Nov		
<b>Freedom Encounter Theatre</b> 3220 Falls Parkway • 417-544-0372			G-5	5		
The Freedom Journey Show		<a href="http://FreedomJourneyShow.com">FreedomJourneyShow.com</a>		5	Nov-Dec	
The Freedom Journey Experience				5	Nov-Dec	
Chronicals of Narnia: The Horse Boy				5	Dec	
Grand Country Music Hall 1945 W Hwy 76 • 417-335-2484	<a href="http://GrandCountry.com">GrandCountry.com</a>	E-10				
Amazing Pets!					Nov-Dec	
Branson Country USA live TV Broadcast					Nov-Dec	
Comedy Jamboree					Nov-Dec	
Down Home Country						
Grand Jubilee					Nov-Dec	
New South Gospel					Nov-Dec	
Ozarks Gospel					Nov-Dec	
Ozarks Country					Nov-Dec	
Hamner's Variety Theater 3090 Shep. of the Hills Expy • 417-334-4363	<a href="http://hamnersunbelievable.com">hamnersunbelievable.com</a>	C-6		SEE WEBSITE		
Hamner's Unbelievable Christmas Spectacular					Nov-Dec	
Abba Tribute: Thank You For the Music					Nov-Dec	
Beach Boys "California Dreamin"					Nov-Dec	
Back to the BeeGees					Nov-Dec	
Mike Walker: Lasting Impressions						
Statler Brothers Revisited					CALL THEATRE	
<b>The Hughes Brothers Theatre</b> 3425 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-0076				E-4	10,11 24,25	
The Hughes Family Christmas Show					10,11 24,25	Nov-Dec L, D
Hughes Brothers Country & BBQ					10,11 24,25	Nov-Dec L, D
Cassandra: Voice of an Angel & Johnson Strings						Nov-Dec
Escape Reality Magic: Dinner Show						Nov-Dec L, D
Country Evolution		<a href="http://countryevolution.net">countryevolution.net</a>				Nov-Dec L
Re-Vibe!					9,10,11 24,25	Nov-Dec L, D
Branson's IMAX™ Little Opry Theatre 3562 Shep. of the Hills Exp • 417-335-4832	<a href="http://bransonimax.com">bransonimax.com</a>	B-4		SEE WEBSITE		
George Jones & Friends Remembered						Nov-Dec
Smoke on the Mountain						Nov-Dec
Sanders Family Christmas						Nov-Dec
The Petersens Gospel						Nov-Dec
The Petersens Christmas						Nov-Dec

continued on page 22

**ILLUSIONIST**  
**RICK THOMAS**  
**HOLIDAY MAGIC!**

**"EPIC!"**  
 - New York Times -  
 BROADWAY

**MANSION OF DREAMS**

**#1 VOTED SHOW FOR ALL AGES**

SCAN TO WATCH VIDEO!  
 SCAN FOR BEST SEATS!

*Wicked Alley*  
**GRAND SHANGHAI THEATRE**  
 PHONE: 417.336.0888  
 3455 W 76 COUNTRY BLVD. • RICKTHOMAS.COM

# THE AMERICANA THEATRE PRESENTS:



Let's get real. If you want the "real deal" in your search for a Country Music Show that serves up everything from classic country all the way up to hot country 2023—this is your show!

But if you also want laughs, then when it comes to laugh-out-loud hilariousness, THIS one is the "show of shows"!

The unbelievably good news is that we get a "two-fer", all in one supershow starring multi-award-winning country singer (and one who channels Patsy Cline like no other) **CJ Newsom!**

And just for laughs, you also get hall-of-fame, multi-award-winning comedy legend (and **Hee-Haw** TV veteran) **Terry Wayne Sanders**—all in the same show!

So if you like country, Hall-of-fame comedy, and if you like an inspiring patriotic segment—then you are sure to like a classic Branson show. This one, for example. The real deal.

**Comedy Legend Terry Wayne Sanders as "Grandma Beulah".**

**BUY ONE TICKET, GET ONE 50% OFF TO ANY OTHER SHOW AT THE AMERICANA THEATRE!**  
See page 18 PLUS all Americana shows listed on page 20



Yeah, the 80s were awesome. Totally. Dude, compared to the music of the 80's, everything today is all bogus. (Kidding, of course.) Some say the 80s was the best decade of music for launching songs that both kids and adults still know and love. Well, dudes and dudettes, this show take us on a **Journey** of the groups that will make a body wanna **Jump** out of its "rad" seat! **Every Breath You Take**, you will be **Livin' on a Prayer** as you recall the **Glory Days** of **R.O.C.K. in the USA!** Our recommendation: **Don't stop Believing** because **Who You Gonna Call** to get tickets? Answer: Call the number you see here!

**TICKETS:**

**BOTH SHOWS!**

THE AMERICANA THEATRE 2905 W Hwy. 76 Branson

Phone: 417-544-8700

# 2023 BRANSON SHOW GUIDE

Shows appearing in THE BRANSON INSIDER are listed in RED!  
\*MEAL GUIDE: B (BREAKFAST), L (LUNCH), D (DINNER), A (ALCOHOL AVAILABLE)

Please See Theatre Website for Show Times		Map Grid	See Pages	Show Season	Meal Avail*	Menu Page
Sons of Britches				Nov-Dec		
Rick McEwen Presents "The Gambler"			11	Nov-Dec		
Todd Oliver & Irving the Talking Dog				Nov-Dec		
Jerry Presley's God and Country Theatre 1840 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-6806	<a href="http://GodandCountryTheaters.com">GodandCountryTheaters.com</a>	E-10	8,9,11,19	SEE WEBSITE		
Cowboy Church			8,9,11,19	Nov-Dec		
Elvis: The Last Concert-Jerry Presley & The Blackwoods			8,9,11,19	Nov		
Elvis & The Blackwoods Gospel Show			8,9,11,19	Nov		
Christmas with Elvis—Jerry Presley & The Blackwoods			8,9,11,19	Nov-Dec		
A Neil Diamond Christmas	<a href="http://aneildiamondtribute.com">aneildiamondtribute.com</a>		9,27	Nov-Dec		
Absolutely Country: Definitely Gospel!			8,9,11,19	Nov-Dec		
Carpenters Christmas Once More	<a href="http://backtothe70stributes.com">backtothe70stributes.com</a>		9,26	Nov-Dec		
George Strait: A Country Legend			8,9,11,19	Nov-Dec		
The Morace Family: Listen to the Music			8,9,11,19	Nov-Dec		
Rocket Man! Elton John Tribute			8,9,11,19	Nov		
Sons of Branson: A Musical Tribute			8,9,11,19	Nov-Dec		
Waylon, Willie & The Good Ol Boys			8,9,11,19	Nov-Dec		
King's Castle Theatre 2701 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-2500	<a href="http://kingscastletheatre.com">kingscastletheatre.com</a>	E-8	1,7,8,19,20			
Anthem of Rock			1,7,8,19,20	Nov-Dec		
Dublin's Irish Tenors & Celtic Ladies			1,7,8,19,20	Nov-Dec		
New Jersey Nights: Music of The Four Seasons			1,7,8,19,20	Nov-Dec		
Branson's Christmas Wonderland			1,7,8,19,20	Nov-Dec		
Majestic Theatre 2849 Gretna Rd. • 417-231-2420		C-7				
Branson Murder Mystery Dinner Show • 417-849-8331	<a href="http://bransonmurdermystery.com">bransonmurdermystery.com</a>			Nov-Dec	D,A	
Murder by Eggnog Christmas Show • 417-849-8331	<a href="http://bransonmurdermystery.com">bransonmurdermystery.com</a>			Nov-Dec	D,A	
The Mansion Theatre 189 Expressway Lane • 417-385-1118	<a href="http://themansiontheatre.com">themansiontheatre.com</a>	B-9	1,3,6			
Guest Stars				Nov-Dec		
Special Events				Nov-Dec		
Mickey Gilley Grand Shanghai Theatre 3455 W Hwy 76 • 417-336-0888		D-3				
Shanghai Circus	<a href="http://amazingacrobats.com">amazingacrobats.com</a>			THRU JAN 1		
Johnny Lee				CALL THTR		
The Texas Tenors				SEL DATES		
Rick Thomas, Illusionist: Mansion of Dreams	<a href="http://rickthomas.com">rickthomas.com</a>		1,11,15,21,28	Nov-Dec		
Nashville Roadhouse Theater at The Branson Star 3750 W 76 Blvd • 417-320-3418	<a href="http://nashvilleroadhouse.com">nashvilleroadhouse.com</a>	C-3			D,A	
Nashville Roadhouse Live starring Stevie Lee Woods	NOW AT PIERCE ARROW THTR.					
Grand Ladies of Country Music	NOW AT PIERCE ARROW THTR.					
Phil Dalton, Theatre of Illusion	TO BE ANNOUNCED					
The Kendalls	NOW AT PIERCE ARROW THTR.					
The Morace Family Show: Listen to the Music!	NOW AT JERRY PRESLEY'S GOD & COUNTRY THEATER					
The Morace Family Christmas Show						
The Best of Motown & More	TO BE ANNOUNCED					
Steve Sanders -Than Mentalist Guy	TO BE ANNOUNCED					

# 2023 BRANSON SHOW GUIDE

Shows appearing in **THE BRANSON INSIDER** are listed in **RED!**  
 \*MEAL GUIDE: B (BREAKFAST), L (LUNCH), D (DINNER), A (ALCOHOL AVAILABLE)

Please See Theatre Website for Show Times		Map Grid	See Pages	Show Season	Meal Avail*	Menu Page
Waylon, Willie & The Good Ol' Boys	TO BE ANNOUNCED					
50 Years of Kenny Rogers	TO BE ANNOUNCED					
Pierce Arrow Theatre 3069 Shep. of the Hills Expy • 417-336-8742	<a href="http://piercearrowtheatre.com">piercearrowtheatre.com</a>	C-5				
Pierce Arrow Country				Nov-Dec		
Pierce Arrow Presents Decades				Nov-Dec		
Nashville Roadhouse Live starring Stevie Lee Woods			1,8,30,31	Nov-Dec		
Grand Ladies of Country Music			1,8,30,31	SEL. DATES		
The Kendals			1,8,30,31	SEL. DATES		
Presleys' Country Jubilee 2920 W. Hwy 76 • 800-336-4874	<a href="http://presleys.com">presleys.com</a>	E-6				
Presley's Country Jubilee				Nov-Dec		
Sight & Sound Theatres 1001 Shep. of the Hills Expy • 800-377-1277	<a href="http://sight-sound.com">sight-sound.com</a>	B-8				
Queen Esther				Nov-Dec		
Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Thtr. 13260 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-7469	<a href="http://ShepherdoftheHills.com">ShepherdoftheHills.com</a>	A-3		SEE WEBSITE		
Funny Farm Dinner Feud				THRU OCT DEC 27,29	D	
Million Dollar Quartet Dinner Show				Nov-Dec	D	
Goldwing Express Morning Show				Nov		
A Christmas Story Dinner Show				Nov-Dec	D	
A Shepherds Christmas Carol Dinner Show				Nov-Dec	D	
Showboat Branson Belle 4800 W. Hwy 76 • 800-475-9370	<a href="http://bransonsilverdollarcity.com">bransonsilverdollarcity.com</a>	J-3		Nov-Dec	L,D	
Yakov Theatre 470 St. Hwy 248 • 417-336-3838	<a href="http://yakov.com">yakov.com</a>	B-12		Nov		
Comedy Star Yakov Smirnoff	<b>DUE TO FIRE DAMAGE, SEE YAKOV'S SHOW THIS SEASON AT THE DUTTONS FAMILY THEATRE</b>					

## Stuff Happens Veterans Week

*Continued from page 3.*

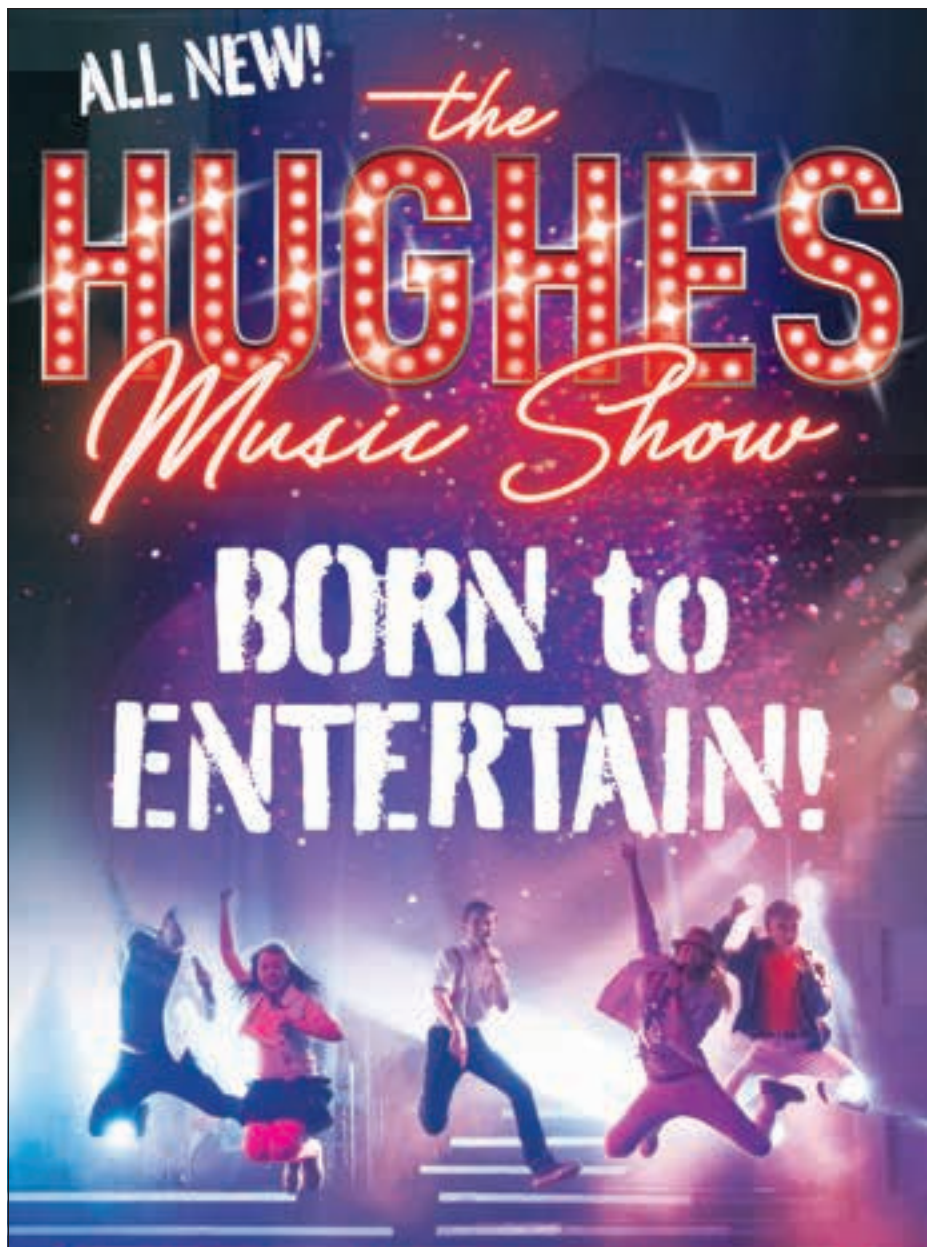
Salute 1-3pm Join us for entertainment, door prizes, hot meal. Americalnn by Wyndham, 275 Tanger Blvd RSVP by calling Dee at 870-421-3511 or online at [www.veteransshow.com](http://www.veteransshow.com) Nov 8 WWII and **Korean War Vets Mini Reunion**, Americalnn by Wyndham, 275 Tanger Blvd Castle, 2-4pm. No charge. Call Kathy/Mac, 417-230-1282. **Women Veterans Rose Petal Ceremony** Stone Castle 12:00 N to 1:30pm. 11:30am. **Nov 9 The Casuals** Dick Clark's American Bandstand Thtr This is a ticketed event. The 60th Anniversary Rock & Roll show will be performing as their pre-show Nov 9 from 7:10pm-7:40pm. In 1963 the four airmen at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas formed a rock band that became the hottest group in North Texas and Oklahoma! [Becky Jewsbury@wgresorts.com](mailto:Becky.Jewsbury@wgresorts.com) **Tribute to Veterans Show & Lunch** Pre show, 8:30 am, Main Show 9am. The Mansion Theatre. The event will be hosted by the incredibly talented Barbara Fairchild and Roy Morris again this year! Lunch following at Branson Sports Club, 418 Buchanan Rd 11:30

am-1:30pm. Info: Dee at 870-421-3511 or [veteransshow.com](http://veteransshow.com) **Nov 10 Medics, Nurses and Combat Vets Mini Reunion** Grand Pavilion at Westgate Resort 2-4pm Contact Becky at 417-332-3557 or [Becky.jewsbury@wgresorts.com](mailto:Becky.jewsbury@wgresorts.com). **Navy Memorial Service**, Grand Pavillion at the Westgate Resort 8:30 am. Public bell tolling ceremony to honor the lives and service of Naval shipmates. Coffee and entertainment at 8:30am, followed by the service at 9am. Call Becky at 417-332-3557 or email [Beckyjewsbury@wgresorts.com](mailto:Beckyjewsbury@wgresorts.com). Women vets free. Adults \$12, Children 4-12 \$6. Info: 417-332-3557 **Nov 11 Veterans Day Sunrise Service** College of the Ozarks 7am Annual Veterans Day Parade Downtown Branson. 11am. **Nov 12 Military Gala & Banquet at Chateau on the Lake** 5-11pm. All branches, all wars welcome. Public invited. Dinner, USMC Birthday Cake Cutting, DJ/Dancing. Fireworks, Entertainment. Business attire, after 5. Uniforms, Mess Dress, formal wear, please. \$69 a person. Reservations required. 417-336-4232.

## New Year's Eve Shows!

# Happy 2024!

**ALL NEW!** *the*  
**HUGHES**  
*Music Show*  
**BORN to ENTERTAIN!**



New for 2023! Branson's #1 Show for great MUSIC features the Hughes Family, the largest live on-stage performing family in the world, all born to entertain! Over 50 amazing singers, dancers, and musicians present brilliant choreography, world-class production, sensational lighting, outstanding sound, lighthearted humor, and family fun. From country to Broadway to Pop to comedy to patriotic to gospel to rock-n-roll, the Hughes Music Show is everything you want to experience in a Branson show...and more.

HUGHES BROTHERS THEATRE 3425 WEST 76 COUNTRY BLVD, BRANSON  
 HughesMusicShow.com 800-422-0076  
 ADD DINNER IN THE THEATRE BEFORE THE SHOW!

**HUGHES YOUTH'S BRILLIANT PRODUCTION!**



**Alert to all generations of show-goers:**

**EXPECT A MASTERFUL PERFORMANCE OF VOCALS, DANCE AND MUSICIANSHIP THAT WILL NO DOUBT TAP INTO THE MUSIC OF YOUR LIFE. YES, EVEN YOUR LIFE!**

**C**an't help sayin' it—if you saw it last season—*Surprise!* This year's amazing production is a complete renaissance!

Here's another surprise: if you "like" Re-Vibe on Facebook, you've got a "voice"! The group posts new songs almost weekly. Songs that get the most "likes" just *may* get approved to appear in the show! Depends on you!

Spanning the ages from 14 to 23, Re-Vibe's troupe of brilliant entertainers brings to the stage a full buffet of music adored by a multitude of generations, be it music falling into genres such as Pop, Soul, Disco, Doo-wop, 40's Swing, Jazz, R&B, Country, Rock n' Roll, (50s,60s70s & beyond), Hip-Hop, Tap, Drums, Guitars, Fiddles,—*whew!* What are we missing?



Oh yeah, let's add this: Amazing choreography; (translation: dazzling dancing!), hilarious comedy, marvelous harmonies, fun costuming, incredible lighting artistry and great sound that is music to our ears. For real. ♦

**Check out their awesome 80s medley shot at New York's Times Square!**

**(Go to Re-Vibe on Facebook, then scroll down to the March 31 post!)**



**KIDS FREE!**



# Hughes News

The Latest News From The World's Largest Performing Family!

Christmas Issue: November, December 2023



## HUGHES REVIEWS: THE HUGHES FAMILY CHRISTMAS SHOW

Here's what our show critic has to say about **The Hughes Brothers Christmas Show**: "The show's 50-plus member cast does *everything!* They sing angelically, play instruments brilliantly, they dance magnificently, they do comedy hilariously and they fill the heart with such comfort and joy that around here, Christmas just wouldn't be the same without them! They've also been voted "**Best Christmas Show**" 7 times! And speaking of the holidays, this band of brothers has also scheduled special performances (with holiday eats) for **Thanksgiving Day and New Years Eve!** For New Years, expect noisemakers, balloons, and a dance party with the stars after midnight! (And folks, as our reporters testify: Hughes Nation *really* knows how to party!)"



it all comes from one amazing family of over 50 brilliant entertainers! Put all that together, and you've got a whole lot more than a Christmas show—you have a Christmas experience to cherish for a lifetime!

Where else can you find a family of over fifty Moms, Dads and young people of all ages perform heart-stirring Christmas classics in a massive bell choir? Or present the Nativity in a heavenly ballet? Or perform dreamlike renditions of Christmas classics in grand pageantries of singers, dancers, musicians—and angels!

The Hughes family has been rehearsing this Christmas show ever since August, when some of us were still at the lake, at the beach or planning our backyard barbecues.

It shows. It's no wonder that the annual awards shows typically bestow the **Branson's Best Christmas Show** title to this spectacular production. Calling it a "must see" show at this time of year—well, that's stating the obvious! ♦



## THE THROWBACK SHOW

We speak of the new **Hughes Brothers Country Show** which has already kicked up a cyclone of high praises! Yes, it's new, yet only kinda sorta, since Country Music is what originally stole the hearts of Branson audiences back in the day and made this outfit a showbiz legend! Yet with all the changing whims of us audience types, The Hughes boys expanded into all our musical cravings—but their country roots have always remained.

So here we are, back in the saddle again! Expect Country Music past, present and way cool, plus a whole lotta "horsein' around". In other words, this ain't just no concert—it's a fun fest that's a hoot, helped along by some of the Hughes youngsters singin', pickin' and grinnin'! ♦



Brothers, is a treasure richer than all the gold in California, for brotherly voices in harmony for a lifetime is an experience to behold. ♦



## ADD A MEAL AT THE HUGHES MUSIC SHOW

### Celebrity Dinner Theatre

Save time, avoid traffic and stress—and enjoy a relaxing gourmet dinner before the show! Fresh garden salad, sliced chicken breast topped with homemade vegetable ratatouille, pork loin topped with homemade balsamic dressing (everybody wants the recipe),— baby roasted potatoes, fresh green beans sauteed in garlic and sea salt, plus beverages of course. We will cite the dessert entrée to help paint a picture: luxurious dark chocolate mousse topped with a heavenly light whipped cream & fresh raspberries. Oh Yum. (See ad on p. 15)

## FREE CHOW AT THE CHUCKWAGON!

Can you believe it? It comes with every country show, both afternoon or evening! We're talkin' pulled pork sandwich with pickles and onions, home-made BBQ sauce, fresh coleslaw, baked beans and pork chunks and plenty of cool water! (Other beverages available). Meals can be et at tables before the show, or served during!

But we're saving the best for last, so here it is—The harmonies of this band of brothers, these country crooner Hughes

## BREATHTAKING!

With what other word can you describe a brilliant, magnificent, glorious and grand Christmas production that dazzles the senses with music, dance and comedy performed by a cast of all ages? Again,

**KIDS FREE!**  
SHOWS

**SEE IT  
IN BRANSON  
BEFORE IT'S BACK  
"ON THE ROAD AGAIN"!**

# CARPENTERS CHRISTMAS ONCE MORE MUSIC, AND A LIFE, THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING!

It's Christmas time! If we stop and listen to the music serenading us these days, whether it be on the radio, at the shopping mall, the hair salon or on earphones plugged into whatever they're plugged into—we will no doubt hear an awful lot of **The Carpenters** once more. To this day, The Carpenters remain prominent on the soundtrack of our lives, ever popular, and ever-uplifting. Bringing to life this music that generations of us all love is multi-award winning singing star **Diana Lynn**.

## About The Carpenters

You might not remember her name, but trust us, you know her hit songs and you know her story—one which frankly, changed history.

Unusually, **Karen Carpenter** was both a singer and a drummer. She and her brother **Richard**, (**The Carpenters**) used their own voices to create multi-track masterpieces

that dominate the airwaves even to this day. That innovation literally changed the world of music. A few examples: (**They Long To Be Close to You, We've Only Just Begun, Top of the World, Hurting Each Other, Merry Christmas Darling**, and so many more.

## The Shock!

When Karen's young life succumbed to the effects of **anorexia nervosa** at the tender age of 33, the world was shocked. Until then, the eating disorder, (**anorexic**) was largely unheard of among the general public. But that was then and this is now. It was the tragic loss of Karen Carpenter that educated us all. It literally changed the world. As Diana reminisces, "You know how when a star passes, you remember exactly where you were? When I learned of Karen's passing on February 4, 1983, I was at home listening to the Carpenters Christmas Album and writing

my Carpenters Once More tribute production. I was devastated." Yet Diana's sorrow, thankfully, turned into a living tribute helping to keep Karen's legacy very much alive.

## We've Only Just Begun!

The show begins with a gentleman taking a seat at the piano to portray Karen's brother **Richard Carpenter**. He begins to play. Then we hear the real **Karen Carpenter** begin to sing. Diana suddenly appears and Karen's voice becomes hers. It's seamless. It's the voice, the stage presence and the captivating personality that draws us into the talent of Karen Carpenter channeled by the amazing talent of Diana Lynn!

## The Dream

Diana grew up in a family of entertainers and has been an entertainer all her life,

(even during those years as a registered nurse, but we digress, for that's *another* amazing story.) Her showbiz experience comes across the moment she takes the stage, for her sunny personality, both warm and upbeat, is literally contagious. Audiences love her. Throughout her life, Diana has performed in shows of every kind. But her lifelong inspiration, was Karen Carpenter. She and Karen both share the same vocal range. Says Diana, "I always say, I was taught by Karen Carpenter. And I've always dreamed of performing her music."

It's obvious, Karen was taught good. And some dreams do come true. ♦

## THE AMAZING CAST!



**WES LARSON** - (aka **Richard Carpenter**) **Keyboard & Vocals** Wes has been an actor, musician and a well-rounded entertainer for many years. He has also produced several stage productions—**Two from Galilee, Passion plays, patriotic productions** and many more. He also loves to teach vocal, keyboard, guitar and bass guitar lessons. Check out **WES LARSON VOCAL COACH** to get started today!



**JAY DAVERSA** **Music Director, Trumpet** Jay has performed on several legendary TV shows — **The Mary Tyler Moore Show** and **The Bob Newhart Show**, to name a few. But WOW, Jay has also played with such music icons as **Barbara Streisand** and **Elvis!**

**THE Elvis!** As a studio musician, he is featured on numerous albums, including several tunes of **The Carpenters!** Yes, **THE Carpenters!** But one of Jay's most memorable performances is in the theme song of the legendary TV show **The Waltons!**



**JAMES MCCALL** **Master Percussionist** His storied musical career includes playing with rock legend **Leon Russell**. Currently, James plays for **A Neil Diamond Tribute**, **Chicago Tribute** and several rock bands.



**TIM POPE** **Music Director, Arranger & Drummer** The Compton, California native originally played with the legendary **Ray Charles!** (He is also featured in Ray's Coke commercials! Check them out on **youtube!**) Tim has played with many greats— including over 20 years with the great **Tony Orlando!**



**ROBERT TERRY** **Bass Guitar** Robert has played with **The Osmonds, The Lennon Sisters** and currently with **A Neil Diamond Tribute** and **The Hughes Brothers**.



**BOGIE BOHINC** **Lead Guitar** Bogie came to us from California with **Tony Orlando** and later joined **Andy Williams** at Andy's **Moon River Theater**. He also plays for **A Neil Diamond Tribute** and several traveling shows.



**TERRY LAIRD** **Lead Guitar** Performing in Branson for over 39 years, Terry has been music director for such shows as **The Rankin Brothers** and **The Chicago Tribute** and has worked with **The Plummer Family, The Lawrence Welk Show, Silver Dollar City**, and **Mike Walker**.



**JAY PARKS** **Trombone** Jay began his career in the **Army Band at West Point!** He went on to play in **several Army Bands** for over 20 years, as well as with **Bobby Vinton** and the **Glenn Miller Orchestra!**



**BILL REDER** **Flute & Saxophone** Bill was famously a resident musician at Las Vegas's famous **Caesars Palace!** He has played with **Tony Bennet, James Brown, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Johnny Mathis, Glen Campbell, Liberace, Chuck Berry** and many more!



**TINA SIBLEY** **Violinist & Vocalist** Tina has performed with a whole host of national stars, including eleven years with the legendary **Wayne Newton!** Branson fans will also recognize Tina for her many amazing performances at Silver Dollar City.

**2PM**

**CARPENTERS**  
Once More  
Christmas

**10 PIECE ALL-STAR BAND!**

**ROCKUMENTARY SERIES**

**417-46-4TIXS**

**DIANA LYNN**

# HIT SHOW RETURNS WITH BAND OF ALL-STARS!



(More on that a tad later.) But as we probably too often like to say—"folks, that's not all!"

As might be guessed by all genuine Branson Insiders, Keith's return is in the company of his lovely wife **Diana Lynn**, who opens her own award-winning **Carpenters Once More** show at the same



**ALL STARS!**  
Some in Keith's backup band have played with Andy Williams, some with Ray Charles, Tony Orlando—and the list just goes on and on. In conclusion: these backup A-listers have SO got Keith's back!

**L**ucky us, for world renown Neil Diamond tribute artist **Keith Allyn** is back in Branson after a summer of packed out/sold out shows on his whirlwind tour of Indiana, Texas and Florida!

Like they've been doing for a whopping *ten years straight*, Keith's adoring fan base in Branson is ready, willing and able to once again swarm his show throughout Branson's fall and Christmas seasons!

But wait—*this time*, the fans are in for a surprise, for now Keith is backed up by a band of all-star musicians who, like Keith, are legendary performers in their own right!

power-packed performance venue as her husband—namely, **Jerry Presley's God & Country Theatre!** (More about Diana's show on the previous page)

## WHO'S NEIL DIAMOND?

**W**hen you hear the songs he wrote and sang—our guess is that you'll find yourself singing along and knowing the words that you never even knew you knew!

## 2023 Nominations for this 8-Time Tribute Artist of the Year!

(Branson's most awarded tribute artist! This Season 2023, Keith is celebrating his 15th year as a Neil Diamond Tribute Artist)

### Branson Show Awards

Band of the Year-Neil Diamond Band  
Tribute Artist of the Year  
Tribute Show of the Year

### Branson Terry Music Awards

Tribute Show of the Year

Prediction: at the end of this show, you'll be on your feet singing your heart out. And at this particular time in our world, you may have to fight to hold back tears. More on that later. Here are some of Neil's songs which create the soundtrack of our lives:

**Cherry, Cherry, Sweet Caroline, I am, I said, Solitary Man, Cracklin' Rosie, Holy, Holy, Shilo, Soolaimon, Kentucky Woman, I'm a Believer, Brother Love's Traveling Salvation Show, Song Sung blue, Pretty Amazing Grace**, and one we are saving for the end of this story. Stay tuned.

## WHO'S KEITH ALLYNN?

**B**esides being an amazing Neil Diamond tribute artist, Keith Allyn is one of the most captivating entertainers you are likely to ever experience. Entertaining is not just his vocation—it's his lifelong passion. He's brilliant, he's warm, he's funny, he's full of mesmerizing Neil Diamond stories, and he literally "owns" not only the stage, but the hearts of most all of us audience types. Example: He recently performed a one-nighter for 5,000 people. No band. Just him and a guitar. The audience was so overwhelmed, the venue pleaded that Keith would stay for another show. Then another. 5,000 packed out each one. That says it all.

## END OF STORY

**A**t the show's finale, drums begin pounding. On screen is a flag waving. Keith begins singing—"Far, we've been traveling far, without a home, but now without a star. Free, only want to be free, we huddle close, hang on to a dream. On the boats and on the planes, they're coming to America. Never looking back again, they're coming to America. Home, don't it seem so far away, Oh, we're traveling light today, in the eye of the storm, in the eye of the storm. Freedom's light burning warm. Got a dream to take them there, they're coming to America. Got a dream they've come to share, they're coming to America. My Country 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing—"

During these times in which we live, the words, the music, of Neil Diamond's **America**—resonates deep in our heart of hearts. The drums are pounding as the music swells, the audience rising to their feet. Many are wiping away tears. There is scarcely a dry eye in the house. End of story. ♦



**A NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE**  
aNeilDiamondTribute.com

**KEITH ALLYNN** 10 PIECE ALL-STAR BAND!

**417-46-4TIXS**

Nov-Dec  
**10AM**  
Tues - Wed & Thurs

ROCKUMENTARY SERIES

Continued from page 11

# AND THE 2023 AWARDS GO TO...

**MALE VOCALIST  
OF THE YEAR!**



**SHANE VAN CAMP!**  
*Branson's Famous Baldknobbers!*

**STEEL GUITAR PLAYER  
OF THE YEAR!**



**MICHAEL T.  
HERMSMEYER**  
*Nashville Roadhouse Live!*

## PLUS THESE BRANSON LEGENDS!



**LIVING LEGEND!**  
**BARBARA  
FAIRCHILD**  
*Grand Ladies of  
Country Music!*



**LIFETIME  
ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD!**  
**JACK & PETER HERSCEND**

## ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR!



**RICK THOMAS**  
*Illusionist Rick Thomas:  
Mansion of Dreams!*



**PRESS POSE:** Rick faces the cameras with members of his cast, his wife and leading lady Tara, and the magical duo's son Preston, custodian of the award.



**Silver Dollar City,  
Herschend Entertainment**  
(With his brother Peter) **Jack Herschend**, (seen here with his wife Mary) is co-founder of Branson's **Silver Dollar City** theme park, as well as several other attractions throughout America. And as all Branson insiders know, Mary too is a legendary humanitarian in her own right—making these award recipients worthy of awards only Heaven can provide.



**HUMANITARIAN  
OF THE YEAR!**  
**BUD LYNN**  
*Shepherd of the  
Hills Outdoor  
Drama, Ozark  
Trails Magazine*



Terry is seen here with Baldknobbers stars Brandon and Megan, theater hosts of the Terry Awards

*By all accounts, this annual festive occasion t'was a job well done and a star-studded night enjoyed by all!*

# The Christmas Show of Their Lifetimes!

## MORACE FAMILY LISTEN TO THE MUSIC!

NOW AT JERRY PRESLEY'S GOD & COUNTRY THEATER!

**Good News:** Now Branson gets a family show that has been captivating audiences of all ages ever since the show's founders became a family—or technically, since the founders found each other, got married, started a family and became a traveling family show! (Which now, due to music added for the season, can be better described as a family *Christmas* show!)

For years, this family who hails from South Louisiana—would pack up their reportedly “gigantic” family van and hit the road to perform in churches, public events, recording studios, TV programs, music festivals and more. But a few years back, this performing family discovered Branson, which they fell in love with on day one. And the rest is history.

Now we get to experience what much of America has been treated to for decades—an entire season of **The Morace Family's Listen to the Music Show**—live and in person right here at **Jerry Presley's God & Country Theatre!**

### SHOW STOPPERS!

When it comes to what “the biz” calls “show stoppers”, well, about every piece of music this production performs qualifies. No matter the age, (child, teen, young adult, older adult, or even way older adult) music here is going to tap into “the music of your life” as they say. And wow, what a performance!

For starters, the voices of a family singing in harmony sound amazingly angelic. But wait—it gets even better, for this group fluently switches their parts, alternating between soprano, alto, and both high and low tenor! The results are pretty much this: they can sing anything and make it sound heavenly.

Then come the instruments, (a live band), the accompanying performers, the comedy, (hilarious) the veterans tribute, and a show segment of pure inspiration.

Comedy star Cheri Winger serves up the laughs!



Left to Right (Front) are Tristan and Leisa, (a.k.a. “Mom”), and (Back) Bethany, Robert (a.k.a. “Dad”) and Somer.

To help paint a musical picture you can almost hear (if not see) we can drop a few hints by drawing from the show's song list. At this time of year, expect many of your treasured Christmas favorites, including the best of the best, which celebrate the true “reason for the season”. But there are other moments where favorites throughout the music catalogue of our lives are also performed beautifully: songs like *Dream* by the Everly Brothers, *Love Can Build a Bridge* by the Judds, *Walkin on Sunshine*—(and many more, including an inspiring patriotic segment.) Here's hoping that kinda paints a picture we can almost hear.

### THEIR STORY

Music in the Morace family began, well, pretty much at the *beginning*. **Robert**, the husband and Dad of the group, started playing piano in church at the age of 3. Since then, his talent has never stopped growing.

The two met when a group Robert was performing in was in need of a female vocalist. The girl, (**Leisa**) got the job (of course). Then came love, then came marriage, then came children—and the music never stopped.

Both of the Morace daughters, without any pressure from the parents, wanted to sing with their family from the very “git-go” (as they say in Louisiana). What fast became apparent, was the amazing vocal gifts both girls had. It wasn't long before the family became a family singing group. They began in church, travelled to other churches, then performed at events, festivals, shows, and on TV. In-between, they would hit the recording studios in Nashville to produce their latest album. Finally, this family story (and show) has a happy ending. It comes when the show's Gospel music finale sings us the good news that today, even today—can be a new beginning. ♦

ALL IN THE FAMILY!

FIND OUT MORE AT [MoraceFamilyShow.com!](http://MoraceFamilyShow.com)



SINGING SISTERS!

Bethany and Somer are definitely dressed for the holidays!



IN THE MOOD!

Looks like there's some Santa music in the house!

Tristan gets double-smooched.



Bass man Eric Green rocks out with Irielle McConnell on the drums, who is (no surprise here) absolutely *amazing!*

TICKETS  
JERRY PRESLEY'S GOD & COUNTRY THEATER  
(417) 334-6806  
Or: (417) 230-7361

NASHVILLE  
**RoadHouse**

SEE IT NOW AT BRANSON'S  
PIERCE ARROW THEATRE!

# MULTI-AWARD-WINNING SUPER STARS AND SUPER SHOWS!

**BREAKING  
NEWS!**

SEE IT ALL NOW AT THE PIERCE ARROW THEATRE!

PLUS **MORE** BIG NEWS!  
THE AWARDS JUST KEEP A-COMIN'!

(See the latest on the next page!!!)

PLUS!  
NASHVILLE ROADHOUSE LIVE'S NEW TV SHOW **GOES GLOBAL!**  
(Again, read all about it on the next page!!!)



**NASHVILLE  
ROADHOUSE LIVE**

Starring Stevie Lee Woods and The NRL Band

## WHERE COUNTRY MEETS ROCK & ROLL!

### ABOUT NASHVILLE ROADHOUSE LIVE!

This show's first season in Branson was an absolute awards sweep, as plainly seen on the next page! PLUS—it was the debut of Stevie Lee Wood's new single, which is sweeping the globe and climbing the charts even as we speak!

### ABOUT STEVIE LEE WOODS

Heading up this all-star supershow is powerhouse performer **Stevie Lee Woods**, whose music career in both country and rock music charted hits all the way to #1 (*Is there anything left?*) for example—and for years had him on the road opening for the likes of **Lorrie Morgan, Martina McBride, Brooks & Dunn, Diamond Rio** and just about everyone in-between. On

stage, he's explosive—consuming it like a hybrid of **Mick Jagger, Garth Brooks** and maybe even **Brooks & Dunn**—all while backed up by a lovely troupe of high-steppin', boot-scootin' dancers and one of the hottest band of all-stars ever assembled, each one a Branson legend with a big league showbiz resume a mile long!

Folks, this show is a high energy fun fest that moves fast and furious—but with

plenty of heart, soul and a whole lotta love. The level of performance and musicianship is an absolute showbiz earthquake! It's that awesome! You can see the love the performers have for the music, for each other, and even for us audience types. You can feel it.

Stevie's showbiz roots run deep. His Dad played guitar with the legendary **Lester Flatt** and **Earl Scruggs**, then later with fellow legend **Eddy Arnold**. In fact, Stevie's whole family is in the music world. Besides charting country hits, Stevie also hosted **Today's Hot Country** on TV's **Nashville Network**.

Looks like the wheel is coming full circle! ♦

**TICKETS**  
CALL 417-336-8742  
PIERCE ARROW THEATRE



Your Host:  
Country/Rock Star  
Stevie Lee Woods



## THIS JUST IN: EVEN MORE AWARDS!

As we've hopefully mentioned more than once before, **Nashville Roadhouse Live**, although only in appearing in Branson for just the last few seasons, has already chalked up more awards than any other Branson show ever—(unless there's some we forgot—Editor) But folks, that's not all! Adding to the ones we see here, there is a major announcement about another **HUGE** award coming, but we can't blab it yet or they probably would have to "you know what" us! But stay tuned for that good news, which will surely be splashed all over [f](#) / nashvilleroadhousetheater plus [f](#) / TheBransonInsider!

Here they are:

### Branson Show Awards

**Entertainers of the Year!** Nashville Roadhouse Live! **Band of the Year!** Nashville Roadhouse Live! **Steel Player of the Year!** Michael Hermesmeyer!

### Branson Jerry Music Awards

**Keyboard Player of the Year!** Lyman Clark!  
*Congrats, guys! We all SO appreciate your awesomeness!*



awesome after-party, where all were welcomed!) And here comes the best part—for any of us unfortunate enough to miss the TV taping party of riveting performances, amazing guest stars and plenty of just plain fun—here's your good news: Not only are there many more TV episodes to come—the admission for being in the audience that will be broadcast all over the world is **FREE!**

No charge! Nada! And there's not even a catch! So—any takers? Oh yeah, *we see those hands!* ♦

**Nashville Roadhouse Live's Branson Star Theatre** has been recently all abuzz as a packed-out audience enjoyed a marathon taping of **Nashville RoadHouseLive's new TV show**— soon to hit screens *all over the entire world!* We're talking **billions** of viewers!

Even though the taping took over eight hours, fans happily dodged cameras, cranes and booms to applaud, cheer and wave cell phones in the dark! Truly, good times were had by all! (Including at the

**GET FREE TICKETS TO A TV TAPING!  
OF NRL PLUS GUEST STARS!  
CALL THE BOX OFFICE!**

## NASHVILLE ROADHOUSE LIVE!

### AT THE BRANSON STAR!

Starring Stevie Lee Woods  
& NRL Band

**PLUS**

### GUEST STARS

**CALL BOX OFFICE FOR SHOW DATES!**

**THE KENDALLS**

**GRAND LADIES OF COUNTRY MUSIC**

Leona Williams, Mary Lou Turner,  
Barbara Fairchild

**KENTUCKY HEADHUNTERS**

**NOV 10 & 11**

**PENNY GILLEY**

**PLUS: (IN THE WORKS...)**

**VINCE GILL • ALISON KRAUSS**

**RONNIE MILSAP • KEVIN COSTNER**

**BILLY BOB THORNTON**

**CALL FOR TICKETS:**

**417-336-8742**

**PIERCE ARROW THEATRE**

# REMEMBERING OUR BRANSON LEGENDS

In these past weeks, we've lost two legendary entertainers—loved by the entire Branson community and by generations of family, friends and fans throughout the world. In a few short words, we wish to pay tribute to their legacy—with all our hearts.

## BOB LEFRIDGE



January 19, 1942—  
September 21, 2023

## BUCK TRENT



February 17, 1938—  
October 9, 2023

**B**ranson nation for years has enjoyed the incredible music and comedy skills of Bob as he served as the "front man" for Branson's iconic **Baldknobbers** show. A true country boy from Lentner, Missouri, Bob as a young aspiring entertainer, teamed up with a buddy to form the performing duo of **Luther & Gofer**, a music and comedy act that fast got them on TV, the **Ozark Opry at Lake of the Ozarks, The Ozark Nashville Opry**—and onto Nashville, where Bob joined the prominent band **The Homesteaders**. He soon became a **Grand Ol' Opry** mainstay, working alongside the biggest stars in country music. That led him to traveling the world, performing at **New York's Carnegie Hall**, and to lead vocals on the 1966 hit "**Show Me the Way to the Circus**" A prolific songwriter, he began penning hits for both himself and for other Nashville stars. He later became the front man for the legendary **Ozarks Country Jubilee** in nearby Springfield. Bob has been known as the consummate emcee, cowboy singer, impressionist, guitar picker, bass vocalist, plus as a hilarious comedian. He is survived by his loving wife Kay, two sons and their families and many beloved nieces, nephews, grandchildren and friends. ♦

**H**ailing from Spartanburg, South Carolina, Buck's talents resulted in being able to perform on radio at the age of 11. Those developing talents included becoming a whiz on banjo, dobro, steel guitar, mandolin, electric bass and guitar. He burst upon the Nashville scene in 1959 when he first appeared on the **Grand Ol' Opry**. From there he went on to play and travel with country music legends **Bill Monroe, Porter Wagoner, Roy Clark** and **Dolly Parton**, appearing regularly on **The Roy Clark TV Show, Hee-Haw** and playing on Dolly's immortal classics "**I Will Always Love You**" and "**Jolene**." With Roy Clark, he was part of the first country music show to appear in the Soviet Union. With **Mickey Gilley**, he became one of the first national acts to open a show in Branson. Generations will never forget his signature phrase, (which originated on Hee-Haw)—the thumbs up, "**Uh-huh, oh yeah!**"

Branson **Mayor Larry Milton** has proclaimed **December 13** as **Buck Trent Day**. In October Buck was inducted into the **Banjo Hall of Fame**. He is survived by his loving wife Jean Trent, two children, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. ♦

# THE BECK MUSEUMS OF BRANSON PRESENT THE WORLD'S LARGEST TOY MUSEUM PLUS:

If you haven't been there lately, then you haven't been there. Giant new add-ons to this mega attraction have been rolling out over the last few months faster than a 1925 Lionel freight train!

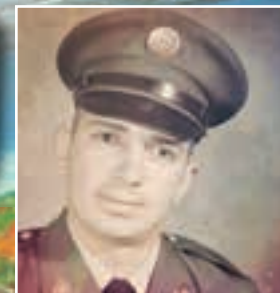
Let's get one thing straight—yes it truly is the **World's Largest Toy Museum**, (over 1 million toys), but don't get stuck on that word "museum". This isn't just some relic show. For most folks, a trip here turns into one of the funnest experiences ever—whether the folks be Moms and Dads with the kids in tow, the grandfolks—or even (no kidding) newlyweds! Yes, you heard right—*newlyweds!* Seems toys spark memories that the newbies begin to vocalize—pretty much a giant leap in their new life of getting to know each other!

## Fun Stuff Galore!

The minute you step inside this monster attraction comprised of six different inside pavilions, you'll feel more like you've walked into a lively theme park than some still-life-of-a museum!



**FAMILY PASSES  
VETERANS DISCOUNTS  
Kids 5 & under FREE!**



**US Army Veteran Tom Beck, owner (and host) of The World's Largest Toy Museum**

The family of Doug and Andrea Fritz from Lakeland, Florida gazes excitedly at the attraction's 37 foot long HO gauge train complex. Four year-old Julia looks particularly fascinated, while little one-year-old Olivia appears borderline mesmerized! The exciting "show" includes switchyards running three main lines, freight loading, tunnels through mountains and valleys, and of course the sounds of those chugging locomotives and those "lonesome" whistles!

Among all the pleasant background noises of toys and games both mechanical and electronic, you are likely to hear shrieks

of delight, giggling kiddos—and the unmistakable soundtrack of voices telling the stories this place so magically inspires!

## Just Go!

Just so you know, this is not just old stuff from flea markets or garage sales. These are enormous collections gathered from all over. We'll explain that later. First, a little name-dropping here to help paint a picture of what you can expect to see—a giant Star Wars Collection, Star Trek, Marvel, Barbie, TV Westerns from the 1950s, GI-Joes wearing just about every uniform in history, the most spectacular model train set up ever, courtesy of The Roark Valley Modular Railroad Club, model circuses (created by The Circus Model Builders Association), sports memorabilia, Native American artifacts, bicycles, cap guns, car toys, (probably more than you'll see in your lifetime,) planes toys, pedal toys, models, farm toys, firemen toys, police toys, Care



**Miniature Towns, trains, and even a circus!**

## The Inside Scoop

Let's take a look around. To orient ourselves in this huge toyland, know that there are six distinct areas located in three adjoined buildings on three levels, each with amazing gift shops that you're going to love. (A set of chattering teeth, anyone? How about some **Pez? Hot Wheels? Yo-yos? Tinker Toys? Retro Barbies? Lincoln Logs?** Some **magic tricks** the store hosts will be glad to demonstrate for you? Perhaps a set of **ball and jacks**, or a **Daisy BB gun?**



Says longtime museum host Ron Howard, (not the Opie guy), "We've got lots of nostalgia items you won't find anywhere else. Some don't have buttons or screens or batteries," he laughs,—"so kids today sometimes don't know what to do with them!"



**RETRO FUN!**

Neil and Karen Bruner of Little Rock, Arkansas help the kiddos discover the fascinating world of tinker toys and legos at one of the museum's interactive play areas. 8 year-old Gavin seems to be building upwards while 4 yr. old Gabby works on a new set of wheels.

Experience the **ONE AND ONLY...**

**WORLD'S LARGEST TOY MUSEUM COMPLEX**

SEE OVER 1 MILLION TOYS!

Over 30,000 sq. ft.  
2 Buildings / 3 Areas

2 HUGE GIFT SHOPS!

- Toys, Antiques & Memorabilia
- The National BB Gun Museum
- Roark Valley Modular Railroad Club scale model trains running daily
- 1800's General Store
- Classic Military Toys
- Western Toys, 4,000+ Dolls
- Antique Cars, Tractors, Bicycles

3409 W. Hwy 76 • Branson, MO 64616 | Kids 5 & under Free. Passes good all day. Open Mon. - Sat.

**417-332-1499 | OPEN ALL YEAR!**

[www.worldslargesttoymuseum.com](http://www.worldslargesttoymuseum.com)



# 7 MUSEUMS: 1 PRICE!

- HAROLD BELL WRIGHT HISTORICAL MUSEUM!
- NATIONAL BB GUN MUSEUM!
- PAUL HARVEY Jr. '50s MUSEUM
- STEARNSY BEAR MUSEUM
- WORLD OF CHECKERS MUSEUM
- MEMORY BARN MUSEUM
- DUSTY BARN FINDS MUSEUM!

Bears, Trolls, Shirley Temple, metal toys, cast iron toys, Red Ryder, Stearnsy Bears—Disney, and then there's big stuff, like a real stagecoach, a real car used by Queen Elizabeth II—the toy collection from the household of legendary broadcaster Paul Harvey—oh, we give up! There's no way to describe this place! Just go!



Massive doll collections and doll houses spanning the centuries!

## BUY, SELL, TRADE?

Perhaps. This place is on the hot list of both TV's *American Pickers* and *The Antiques Roadshow*, so anything can happen. To be appraised by toy expert Tom Beck, toys must appear in person and be arranged for appraisal in advance. Offers to purchase any museum item will be considered. ♦



Mom teaches 8 year-old Amelie all about Raggedy Ann & Andy while 2-year-old Cecily kicks back in a Raggedy Ann EZ chair!

## 3 NOSTALGIA TOY SHOPS! JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!



Aisles and aisles of classic toys and games!

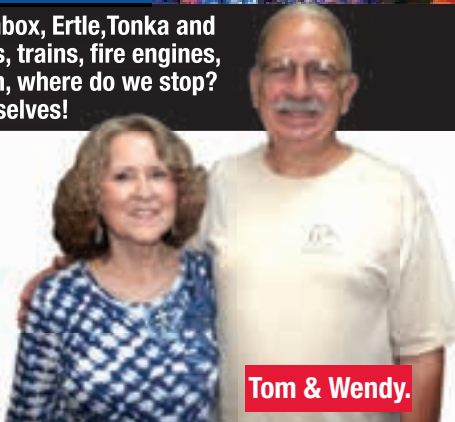
Doll house collectibles! And everything else!

ATTENTION CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS!

Decades of collectable Hot Wheels, Matchbox, Ertl, Tonka and much, much more! (Cars, trucks, airplanes, trains, fire engines, police cars, tractors, antique vehicles—oh, where do we stop? Y'all just come see for yourselves!

### Tom & Wendy's Toy Story

Let's meet the people behind all this: **Tom and Wendy Beck**. Seriously—go ahead and meet them. They're usually right there! Besides being a Veteran, Tom had a long career in the retail store business. Wendy taught school. "I wanted to do something that was fun," Tom tells *The Insider*. "So—what could be more fun than toys?" ♦



Tom & Wendy.

# BRANSON'S NEW HONKY TONK HOT SPOT!

Continued from Page 16

The hard wood dance floor is amazing. The building, which was once a dinner theater (next door to Branson's Famous Baldkobbers), has been totally revamped with a brand new look—the new look being, well, the look of a genuine Country Western Honky Tonk, which actually it kinda sorta actually is!

## THE INSIDE SCOOP

Two bars. A dance floor. A live band on stage, (Melody Hart & The All-Star Band). Well-lighted areas where we can dine, enjoy the live band and watch others dancing under colorful lights glowing in the dark. Then there are those private, upstairs areas we can dine, fellowship or just relax in. We can enjoy it ourselves, or have our favorite club, charity or reunion of friends or classmates rent it out for private parties—one side accommodating up to 30 people, (The Buckle Club), the other, (Gentleman Diamond Club) accommodating

smaller groups of up to 12.

## THE ENTERTAINMENT

As for the musicians, the Branson fan base knows them all. But as any outsider will instantly recognize, there are no musicians, singers and all around entertainers who are better. Anywhere. Period. Come experience what we mean by that profound, yet accurate statement.

## THE DINING

It's to die for. Here is the review of our food critic: "Yum".

That says it all. (Read all about it in the menu.)

## FAMILIES & KIDS

For now, the doors swing open at 4:00pm.

So come enjoy. Fun atmosphere. Fabulous food. Then arrange for the kiddos to flee before 7pm. After 7, the night life for us adults in the room begins. (Can you feel it?)

Then, ladies and gentlemen—let us dine, enjoy—and dance the night away. ♦



## HEAD WRANGLERS

Continued from Page 17

much all their lives. But now it's time to kick back and pursue their favorite lifelong hobbies, (which happen to be country music and country dancing) Oh, but Harry's hobby is also both raising and racing racehorses—(but that's another story.)

As for Jim's story, he spent his growing up years listening to **Grand Ol Opry** at night. "Country Music has been a hobby, I guess with me," Jim tells *The Insider*. "Studying it and enjoyin' it. I don't play the first note of anything, but I'm a good fan. I understand music and I study the history of it and how it's progressed over the years. It's just been something I've kept up with. Me and my wife Teresa also love to country dance. We've been all over Texas, Nashville, you name it."

And Jim's no stranger to Nashville. While going to school he struck up a friendship with a fellow student who played in the band of Country Music legend **Ernest Tubbs**. That friendship led to getting to meet and getting to know Mr. Tubbs himself—which led to Jim following his

itinerary and taking in his shows whenever he could.

But country music, we learn, is not Jim's only hobby. Spending time with grandkids tops everything else. In between his commutes to Branson, Jim doesn't miss one of his Grandson's football games. Spending time with a grandson is Priority 1. "I'm always trying to teach my grandson. He's always callin' and tellin' me he drove by somewhere and saw a "for sale" sign on a building, and you know, 'maybe we oughta look at that.' He's thirteen. And I've got him raising longhorn cattle out at the farm so he's got his own herd. He's got his own brand registered with the state. I teach him to plant and grow different things; cotton, tobacco, sugar cane—always something different. There's things they oughta know. Like how to pick a 5 gallon bag of cotton. He loves comin' up here. We'll let him bus a table or whatever as long as the family is all here."

And that, folks, pretty much describes Wranglers. It's got country food, live country music, dancing—and plenty of country heart. ♦

# A WHOLE NEW WORLD! AT BRANSON'S WILD WORLD!

Whether you've been there before, or never before—Season 2023 is a whole new world at **Branson's Wild World!**

Expect new adventures, stunning new attractions, amazing background music that makes us feel like we're in an epic wildlife adventure, (which, of course actually we *are!*)—and once again, experience a **transformed shopping area** whose specialty gifts, toys and education items fulfill us animal lovers' wildest dreams!

Oh, and one more thing—expect new wildlife. *Much* new wildlife!

## HANDS ON

Feed sharks. Real sharks. Get eyeball to eyeball with howling wolves, mountain lions, living dinosaurs—all returning stares mere inches away! Hold a boa. Pet dingos. Enter an undersea world and try a round of mini-golf, while sea creatures swim among you. Or just watch you.

## ANOTHER WORLD!

As you will quickly discover during your website investigation, Branson's Wild World is no typical zoo and aquarium attraction. Here, wild animals are not hiding under rocks or snoozing in the dark shadows of some faraway corner. Instead, they inhabit beautifully crafted habitat that keeps them comfortable, active and happy while you visit their spaces—up close. Very up close.

## NEW STUFF!

The Abyss: The Search for The Lost City of Atlantis! More crazy-looking sea creatures, like that 20' giant eel, or those 16' manta rays, or that "gulp" monster croc! Lots of new wild and crazy wildlife. Lots of new giant animatronics. Sort of a Disney gone wild. (Our words, not theirs.)

**YeeeeEEESH!**



## SHARK TANK!



Mini-golf the Wild Abyss under the sea, as real creatures swim among you, (real and unreal)—or just watch.

## WORLD CHANGERS

All winter long Branson's Wild World transformed the environment of this amazing attraction into an all-encompassing, immersive experience. As far as the scenery and theatrical effects, you might at first feel like you've entered a Disney creation. That notion soon evaporates, as the sights, sounds, and atmospheres transport you beyond the realm of fantasy and imagination and into the very worlds where those wild things dwell — a world you can feel, and even touch.



## Snake Hugs!

## CREATING ATTRACTIONS WORLDWIDE

The designer, owner and operator of Branson's Wild World is known throughout our wild world as a leading expert in the design of tourist attractions. After creating over 300 different attractions in over thirty countries, 47 year-old St. Louis native **James Kelly and his wife Lisa** have decided to call Branson home and make Branson's Wild World their labor of love.

A creative visionary much like **Disney**, James seems to be constantly adding new animals and new attractions to Branson's Wild World. As we studiously observed, he seems very "hands on" and "24-7". We couldn't resist asking him—what's the motivation? More visitors? More money? More fame? *More anything?*



## GLOBETROTTERS!

World renown attractions designer James Kelly & his wife Lisa.

To that, James shook his head "no."

"I do it 'cause it's fun."

And there you have it: the very reason why this place is so fun! ♦

## LEMUR LOVE!



## A Christmas Shopper's Wildest Dreams!

WILDLIFE TOYS, GAMES, STUFFED ANIMALS! WILDLIFE-THEMED APPAREL, GIFTS AND DÉCOR!

## PLUS:

WILD DEALS! (INCLUDING WILD GIFTS UNDER \$5!



# IT'S GOTTEN WAY WILDER AT BRANSON'S WILD WORLD!

## Thanks to Wild Valley

**NEW Outside Foot Safari!  
Wilder Animals. No Extra Charge!**

**UP CLOSE  
& PERSONAL!**

Yes, all of us can get as close to lions and tigers as caretaker Efrain Malagon, who is seen here offering free head massages to two takers—yet alas, a see-through protective shield now keeps the rest of us from offering that service. But we still get to cozy up.

**S**hocking news: Just now, for no extra charge, we can step into a lovely new outdoor safari at **Branson's Wild World**,—and get face to face and eyeball to eyeball with some lovable lions, tigers, wolves, cougars, jackals, dingoes, arctic foxes and more! **Goosebump alert:** These animals are adorable—until it suddenly dawns on one's self that folks like us, to them, could look kinda delicious!

Welcome to **Wild Valley**—the outdoor world of the indoor **Branson's Wild World!**

Follow us as we step outside of Branson's Wild World and enter a wild valley where we can get inches away from some magnificent beasts. By the time we read this, however, a beast-resistant see-thru super shield will keep our flesh from their paws, claws and jaws. So now we can safely charm them with sweet talk and stare admiringly into their deep, alluring eyes. And watch them stare back. Lock eyes. Lick teeth. Roar. (*Gulp.*)

This place was already one of the price friendliest animal attractions out there. So—with all these exciting new add-ons—are we ready to take a walk on the outdoor *wild side*?

Oh yeah! ♦

A young adventurer poses for his Mom, (plus our paparazzi) while on safari at Branson's Wild World. (Note the curious passenger in the back of the SUV. Yikes.) But fear not, visitors can safely pose for this "money shot" with their ferocious hitchhikers thanks to a sturdy glass barrier. *Whew!*

**PHOTO OPS!**



**UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES!**

**Branson's WILD WORLD**

**ANIMAL ADVENTURE PARK & AQUARIUM**

2020 West Highway 76 (Located on the strip next to WALMART)  
Branson, MO • 417-239-0854  
[www.BransonsWildWorld.com](http://www.BransonsWildWorld.com)

# GOODBYE OZARK MOUNTAIN CRAFT MALL: HELLO BRANSON T-SHIRT CO.!

**W**ait—before you panic—here's the news: Many of your favorite vendors from the **Ozark Mountain Craft Mall** have NOT, repeat NOT ridden off into the sunset, as their former location might visibly, yet wrongfully suggest! Quite to the contrary, many of those popular vendors have followed their friendly craft mall owners and operators (Mark & Jennifer Grant plus their family, friends and puppies) to the **BRANSON T-SHIRT CO.**, their quaint and classy new Victorian-style shopping attraction just a short ways up The Branson Strip and just 2 doors East of the Andy Williams Moon River Theater! If you can't find it with the help of those directions and the picture we're giving you here...well, then, you might just have to be suffering from some sort of that vacation derangement syndrome or something! But no worries. Finding it should be Easy-Breezy!



**47 lbs Down**

**WEIGHT LOSS  
MIRACLE!**

*Confidence  
Regained!*



Jenn will be happy to tell you all about it! And also about that Grandbaby of hers who we see here! (LOL!)

butters, house décor, ukuleles, knives, swords, kids toys, collectables, cold sodas—(yeah, cool refreshments even!) And way too much more to try to list here. But those should be some clues.

**Warning:** Don't miss exploring the upstairs! Up there it's more cool stuff galore! (Honestly, some folks get their eyes so glued on the downstairs, they leave not even knowing *whassup!*)

"Whassup" is this: vacation shopping fun at THE BRANSON T-SHIRT CO!

## THE INSIDE SCOOP

**N**ow let's give you a few Branson Insider hints of what you'll find on the *inside*. Some of it you'll surely recognize—yet boatloads of it are vast collections of apparel, guy stuff, specialty items, souvenirs, amazing things you just won't ever find back home, and plenty of other things designed for folks having fun on vacation!

Let's make some lists. Here we've got both a downstairs and an upstairs where we get to shop custom T-shirts (with zillions of designs to add on site), clothing, (ladies, children's, guys), swimwear, candles, homemade BBQ sauces, jams and



**COLOR ME  
CRAZY!**



**Oh YUM!**

Where else can you find such mouth-watering delicacies as Papa Brown's Home-Made Bar-BQ Sauce, or Papa's Irresistible Jam and Butter Barn? **Warning:** this stuff is deliciously addictive. Just sayin.

Swimwear, Tie-Dye Clothing, Active Wear, Knives, Swords  
Air Soft, Sunglasses, Jewelry, Flags

# Branson T-Shirt Co.

Children's Wear, Souvenirs, Over 100 T-Shirt Design's & MORE!

2420 W. HWY 76 Branson 417-320-1221

Have Jenn do a little "show & tell" at her "Color Me Crazy" blending bar. She'll be glad to demonstrate how she customizes her water-based makeup for the ladies to match skin tone perfectly—plus perform anti-aging wonders! Jenn was trained by a professional who specializes in makeup for the stars. For an appointment call 417-380-4264!

# RETRO MANIA IS LIKE 1980s FUN TO THE MAX!

THE FASHION. THE MUSIC. THE MOVIES. RELIVE THE BEST DECADE EVER!



"C-c-catch the wave!"

## THE INSIDE SCOOP!

Want some fun for all ages? Well, here you go—that totally awesome **Retro Mania** at the hub of The Branson Strip! The outside looks interesting, so let's get you the Inside scoop! ('Tis what we do.)

Right away, our eyes behold a whole new world. Yet many of us are not exactly strangers in a strange land. Many of us have been to this world at other points in time and space—but today, here we are—**back**



80's memorabilia everywhere! Killer cuisine! Trust us, you'll want to take a picture of your serving! 80s faves for every taste. (Alcohol also available) And we're saving the best for last, for **karaoke** is on tap, and **live bands playing nothing but 80s hits** appear all season!

## in the 1980s!

What is unveiled before our eyes is what creative geniuses have built—*fantabulous* entertainment—*awesome* stuff to do, (*totally*), *righteously rad* stuff to see, *bodacious* stuff to eat, and *stellar* 80s stuff to shop through! But people, even *that ain't* all! The attraction's new *bad-to-the-bone* eatery, (**New Wave Café**) will be featuring not only karaoke fun, but **incredible live bands** playing nothing but classic 80s jams! *Woah, dude! That is so fly!*

## STUFF TO SEE

**H**ollywood memorabilia—(like **Mel Gibson's** actual motorcycle from **Lethal Weapon 3**, or that car out front from **RoboCop 2**), boatloads of signed **boss** movie posters and *rad* record albums (**Madonna, Cyndi Lauper, Michael Jackson**)—and ka-gillions more—corridors of movie scenes, movie characters and iconic pop stars that, interestingly, are the *exact same size* as the celebs in *real life!* *Dude, we thought those stars were so humongous, but woah, they're like regular, or even smaller, like us!* Trust us, get a picture of you beside some! It's *wicked* true! As for 80s memory triggers, should we name names? Okay. **Top Gun, Flash Dance, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Batman, Star Wars, Indiana Jones, Terminator, Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure, Footloose, Beetlejuice**,—oh, let's go on to music—**Bon Jovi, Van Halen, Blondie, ACDC, U2, Prince, MC Hammer,**

**Bruce Springsteen, Whitney Houston**, oh *duh*, this list could go on forever! Just come see it all!

## STUFF TO DO

**SLASHER'S HAUNTED HOUSE** (Gulp), not gonna lie, it's creepy in there! No, nobody's gonna grab you or anything, but walking into scenes from **Friday the 13th**, or **Michael Meyers Halloween**, or seeing those scenes from **Chuckie**—well, y'all have fun in there! It's fun walking into Hollywood movie scenes, as long as you can walk out at any time! We promise, hand on the Bible—you

The Simpsons try out their new hand-held remote!



*can*, unless you prefer to just enjoy the creepy stuff as long as you want!

**RETRO ROCKER MINI GOLF** Play amongst your favorite 80s rock stars, while your ears enjoy a never-ending soundtrack of 80s classics. We've said it before—seeing these characters in almost real life standing before you at their exact height, makes them feel—well, almost like real people. Like the rest of us!

**TWO ESCAPE GAMES** Fun stuff, but not to panic—technically you can escape at any time, but as all non-scaredy cats know, it's more fun to just try and figure it out!

Escape to the future is based on, yeah, you guessed it—that 80s movie franchise **Back to the Future!** The other escape game, **ALIEN ENCOUNTER** is based on, yeah, you guessed it again—**Alien!** **GREMLIN'S MOVIE THEATRE** Grab a bag of popcorn and enjoy an 80s classic—no extra charge. You can even leave and come back to catch a later show—**FREE! FREE PLAY ARCADE** 80s Arcades, no coins needed! Which is **AWESOME!**

**GIFT SHOP!** Nostalgic fashions, toys, games, fun stuff—it's all here, parachuted in from the 80s! *Good Times!* ♦

**TOTALLY 80's! TOTALLY AWESOME!**  
*Fun for the Whole Family!*  
 www.Retromania.com  
**RETRO MANIA**  
 I ♥ 80's  
 • Cafe  
 • Mini Golf  
 • Arcade  
 • Escape Game  
 • Movie Museum  
 • Theater  
 • Haunted House  
 • Karaoke  
 • Gift Shop  
 FREE PLAY 80's ARCADE  
 Featuring Pacman, Frogger, and all the classics!  
 3307 West 76 Country Blvd.  
 417-544-0143

# HOLIDAY SHOP 'TIL YOU DON'T WANNA STOP!

**CUSTOM T-SHIRTS!  
CUSTOM TUMBLERS!  
LOTS A HOLIDAY CUSTOMS!  
BULK ORDERS INCLUDED!**

**Y**eah, you found the fun spot to check off your holiday gift list! Here you get fun stuff at friendly prices that your friends and loved ones will absolutely love and they wouldn't be able to find anywhere else, no matter how hard they shopped!

But here's the vacation surprise—not only is there fun stuff to shop, it's also fun to shop here, thanks to the fun folks who run the place! (Some of Branson's most popular locals!)

So let's have a drumroll as we reveal this fun spot to be **Ozark Mountain T-Shirt Co.**, which, trust is, is way more shopping fun than just T-shirts, (yet T-shirt fun is pretty awesome too).

**Look for it right on the Branson strip, across from Grand Country and right next door to that big Duck boat!**

Inside you're gonna find T-shirts, (of course), which can be custom made, or ordered in bulk—hundreds of designs to choose from—but you're also gonna find men's women's & kids **clothing, hoodies, gifts, souvenirs**—oh we give up—there's just so much we just gotta paint a picture with some pictures! Check out the ad below, then come have fun shopping for a very merry Christmas! ♦

**T-SHIRTS  
3 FOR \$10!**



# UNBELIEVABLY TRUE! AT THIS AMAZING SHOPPING ATTRACTION EVERYTHING IS

★★★★ **MADE IN THE USA!** ★★★★★

**ATTENTION CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS:  
GREAT STUFF HERE YOU'D BE LUCKY TO FIND BACK HOME!**

**F**orget imports. What better time is there to BUY AMERICAN than during these pandemically, politically, and economically challenging times? The answer is: there is no better time to buy American than TODAY! But wait—this is no charity appeal! An old timey styled General Store right here in Branson, Missouri offers a bona-fide shopper's wonderland loaded with just about everything you can think of—and here's the catch—every item, repeat, every item is made right here in the Good Ol' USA! Hard to believe, but it's true!

To see for yourself, go directly to **Made in the USA General Store**, inside **The Shoppes at Branson Meadows!** Upon arriving you will no doubt be amazed as you discover here a full buffet of incredible merchandise! And here's an added treat: if you drop everything and head there right now, bargains will await you, as well as a vast treasure trove of awesome items you'd be lucky to find back home! ♦

## ★ MUSIC TO A HOMEMAKER'S EARS! ★

One item in particular is a genuine **star attraction** in this shopper's dream! It's also been selling like hotcakes ever since our Branson visitors first got wind of it! So far, over **25,000** of these have been sold here!—probably because nobody has reported seeing them anywhere else! We're talking about a colorful collection of cotton dish cloths and dish towels which **NEVER** sour, mildew or stink—attributes which, going by the expressions seen on many faces, are music to a homemaker's ears! Most want at least two, or three, or a handful! Need a gift idea? *Voila!* ♦



**Brian shows us his star attraction.**

## ★ A SHOCKER FOR VETERANS & PATRIOTS ★

When was the last time you saw veterans' merchandise, Americana items, or even American flags that were actually **MADE IN THE USA**? Well, you will here! We're gonna even shout out a shocking statement: **THIS IS THE LARGEST SELECTION OF AMERICAN MADE MILITARY THEMED MERCH ANYWHERE!**

**A shock for VETERANS! and all Patriots! SEE BELOW!**





**Bed, Bath...**



**...and Everything Else!**

★ **THE MERCHANDISE** ★

Folks like you will also enjoy perusing the Men's, Women's & Children's clothing, the kitchen department's high-grade cast iron cookware, the bed and bath area, the home décor, the Christian themed area, the vast toy department, the tools, the old timey candies, spices, gourmet food, gifts, jams, jellies... the old time ice-cream parlor & soda shop and—wow, where do we stop?

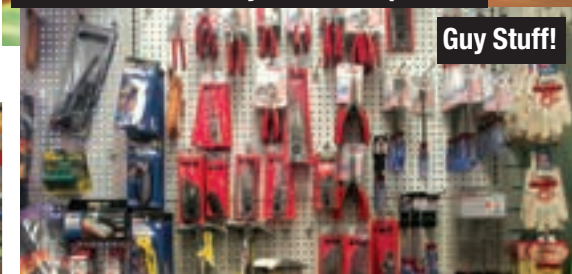
★ **MAN ON A MISSION** ★

Made in the USA's owner Brian Karn aims to do his part to bring back American manufacturing and create new jobs in our good ol' USA! To that idea, we throw in a hearty "Amen!"



**YUM ALERT!**

Brian serves up all-American treats at the store's old timey ice cream parlor!



**Guy Stuff!**



**The old Candy Shop!**



**MADE IN THE USA GENERAL STORE**

Clothing • Housewares • Bed & Bath  
Kitchen • Military • Gifts • Jellies  
Candies Toys & Much Much More!

MERCHANDISE

**100% MADE IN THE USA!**

**NEW EXPANDED LOCATION!**

4270 N. Gretna Rd.

Visit us at [www.mitusageneralstore.com](http://www.mitusageneralstore.com)

**AT THE SHOPPES AT BRANSON MEADOWS 417-336-USA (8721)**

**MAP LOCATOR**

See Map on back page. **KEY:** Listings are followed by their location on the map grid.

**SHOWS**

At the Americana Thtr E-6

- CJ Newsome's Classic Country & Comedy
- America's Top Country Hits
- Awesome 80s
- Elvis: Story of the King

At the Branson Famous Thtr F-4

- Branson's Famous Baldknobbers Christmas Show
- Baldknobbers Famous Baldknobbers Vintage Christmas Show

At Dick Clark's American Bandstand Thtr E-10

- Legends in Concert: A Merry Country Christmas
- Legends in Concert Rockin' New Year's Eve

At Freedom Journey Thtr G-5

- Freedom Journey Show
- The Freedom Journey Experience
- Chronicles of Narnia: The Horse and His Boy

At The Hughes Family Thtr E-4

- Hughes Brothers Christmas Show
- New Years Eve Party Show
- Hughes Brothers Country & BBQ Show
- ReVibe

At Jerry Presley's God & Country Thtr E-10

- Elvis/Blackwoods LIVE! Aloha From Hawaii
- Elvis/Blackwoods LIVE! The Last Concert
- Elvis/Blackwoods LIVE! Madison Square Garden Concert
- Elvis LIVE! and The Blackwoods Christmas Show
- Elvis/Blackwoods LIVE!

Gospel Concert

- A Neil Diamond Tribute
- Carpenters Christmas Once More
- Absolutely Country, Definitely Gospel
- Cowboy Church
- George Strait: A Country Legend
- The Morace Family: Listen to the Music
- The Sons, Music Celebration
- Rocket Man: Elton John Tribute

At King's Castle Thtr E-8

- Anthems of Rock
- Dublin's Irish Tenors & The Celtic Ladies
- New Jersey Nights: The Four Seasons
- Branson's Christmas Wonderland

At The Mansion Thtr B-9

- Guest Stars

At Mickey Gilley Grand Shanghai Thtr B-3

- The Magic of Rick Thomas: Mansion of Dreams

Pierce Arrow Theatre C-5

- Nashville Roadhouse Live starring Stevie Lee Woods and the NRA Band
- Grand Ladies of Country Music
- The Kendalls
- Guest Stars

Wrangler's Star Studded Honky Tonk F-4

- Melody Hart and the All Star Band

**ATTRACTIONS**

Branson's Wild World F-9

New Wave Café E-5

Retro Mania E-4

World's Largest Toy Museum D-3

**SHOPPING**

Made in the USA General Store

The Shoppes at Branson Meadows C-9

Branson T-Shirt Co. E-13

Ozark Mountain T-Shirt Co E-9

World's Largest Toy Museum D-3

**DINING**

New Wave Café at RetroMania E-4

Wranglers Star Studded Honky Tonk F-4

*Y'all be here New Year's Eve when we ring in 2024!*

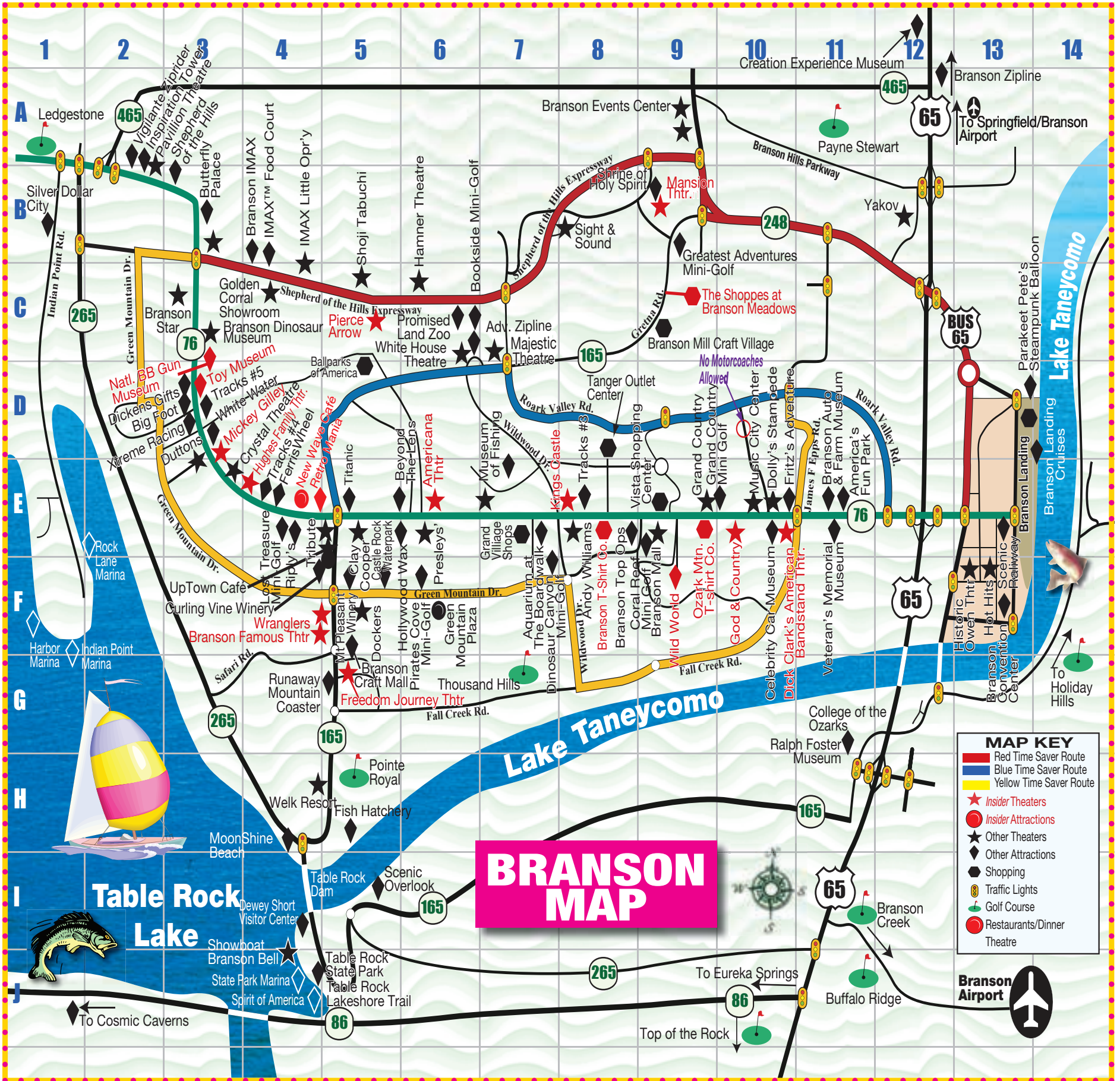
**KEEP UP!!**

Get the hottest daily news (& deals)

for all things **FUN** in Branson!



**Facebook.Com/TheBransonInsider**



# BRANSON MAP

MAP KEY	
<span style="color: red;">—</span>	Red Time Saver Route
<span style="color: blue;">—</span>	Blue Time Saver Route
<span style="color: yellow;">—</span>	Yellow Time Saver Route
★	Insider Theaters
●	Insider Attractions
★	Other Theaters
◆	Other Attractions
⬠	Shopping
⦿	Traffic Lights
⦿	Golf Course
⦿	Restaurants/Dinner Theatre