

THE BRANSON INSIDER™

March/April 2020

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ON THAT **UPSIDE DOWN**



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YIKES!

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

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INSIDER Revelations

Richard Freihofer

Wisdom & Knowledge from His Majesty
the Editor & Publisher

Do It All!


You're on vacation and you're here to see and do it all—so here goes!

Step inside a Branson theater and treat yourself to some of the world's greatest singers, dancers, musicians and performers of every kind. Note the feelings these shows leave you with. The lifted spirits. The joy. The

excitement. The carefree fun. The inspiration.

This Branson entertainment is not like entertainment elsewhere. It comes from a different place. It's inspired by a community that champions core values of faith, family and a love and appreciation of our country, our freedoms and our veterans. There is no better way to get to the heart of what this town is all about than to experience a Branson show. Or two. Or many.

So have fun wherever you roam, but then bring it all home. Check out our show guide, read our stories, make your picks, then kick back—and enjoy the show. ♦

 /TheBransonInsider

This Just in: INDUSTRY RAVING OVER RICK'S NEW SHOW

While on tour throughout North America this winter, Branson's multi award-winning **master illusionist Rick Thomas** discovered, to his amazement and delight, that the entertainment industry is all abuzz about **Mansion of Dreams**, his new Branson production which premiered last year and brought him awards as **Entertainer of the Year** and **Show of the Year!** As one prominent Las Vegas show producer told Rick, "I'm telling you straight up—the buzz in the industry is that this is the greatest production

anybody has seen. Everybody who has seen it is loving it. What they're all saying is this: Rick Thomas is the show to see!"

As Rick soon found out himself, that was pretty much the "good word" he was getting throughout his North American tour.

We tracked Rick down by phone and caught him in-between shows in Vegas, the place where he reigned for 15 years as the most successful family show in Vegas's history.

"When I first came to Branson's Andy Williams Theatre," he told us, "owner **Jimmy Osmond** said to me, "Rick, this is the "show me" state. It's where we've all got to "show-em" we are worthy of being here."

"I knew then, that Branson was the place to unveil the production I have been dreaming of and laboring over throughout my entire life and career. My goal, to take my audiences on a journey of a lifetime, whether they are fans of magic or not. And it was also to give them plenty of laughs! A lady came up to me after a recent production, saying, "Rick, my husband refuses to go to a show while on vacation. Finally, I was able to drag him to yours. Just so you know," she told me, "he absolutely loved it."

No show critic could write a better review! Rick will be out on the road throughout March and April, (but will do a week of shows in March) before coming back to Branson May thru Dec. Definitely the show to see! **For tickets:**

Call 417-334-4500
andywilliamspac.com

That's the Spirit Theo N. Cider

Local expert, part-time preacher.



WHAT'S THE POINT?

As we all know, this old world has gone loco. And plenty of us know we're supposed to pray about it all. But at some point we gotta ask ourselves—*what's the point?*

Now already I can almost hear your brain chirpin' me the answer out loud. The point, sez you, is that The Bible tells us to pray. But if we think about that whole prayer thing for a New York minute, it really don't even make sense.

"But, Oh, wait," sez you—"If you just got faith," sez you, stuff happens! Mountains move! Broke gets fixed! Sick gets well! Empty gets full! Lost gets found! Owed gets paid! Poor gets rich! Ornery gets civilized! Sad gets happy! Mad gets nice! All's what we gotta do is pray, have faith—and "bingo!" It sure has happened plenty of times to preachers, the folks in church and even to you and me a time or two! But not always.

Then there's you bless-your-heart other folks who are all lovey-dovey about Planet Earth, animals and not eating meat who tell us we should all just "think good thoughts" and broadcast some "positive energy" at the whole sorry mess we find ourselves in!

So honestly, which makes less sense?

We get told to pray so pray we do. Sometimes it makes a body feel better, sometimes it makes it feel worse. Especially when we ain't in the mood to hear our own voice bouncin' off the walls and right back into our eardrums. The whole thing sounds ridiculous.

It's like The Good Lord is up there busy with the whole mess and here we are, a flimsy little "voice cryin' in the wilderness" tryin' to get His attention so He'll maybe get around to pulling some strings like a puppet master to make somethin' happen for us down here. Or maybe if we fall on our face, cry like a baby and pound the floor as we beg Him till we get all the cry out of us—maybe, just maybe, He'll send us a couple of angels to duke things out with the devil 'til the devil gets knocked down and flees!

But at some point we gotta ask ourselves—if this Good Lord loves us

so much, why do we gotta do all that before He'll give us a break down here?

Well, boys and girls—these is some good questions, but you came here for answers so here we go.

In the beginning, The Good Lord created this earth and gave it to us Adam types to rule it and take care of it. Trouble was, The Good Lord made us in His image, which is why we got that lightning in a bottle called "Free Will." But *uh-oh*, here comes that fallen angel called satan, (who used his free will to go up against Our Creator and to get kicked out of the Kingdom) Now that snake is in the garden out to get this scary new Adam creation on his side of the fence. You know the story. He used *his* free will to woo Adam and Eve to use *their* free will to follow him to the "other side." The dark side. And Adam took the bait.

So death came to Adam and to the rest of the world, including us, not even yet born. And as The Bible tells us, satan became the god of this world, and the world fell into a curse of sin, destruction and death. That's the bad news. Satan is the god of this world and he wields the "powers, principalities and wickedness in high places".

Now for the Good News. The Son of God came into this world, paid for the sins of the world with His own blood on the cross and was condemned to death and sent to hell. But then, the universe changed when God raised Christ from the dead to rule and reign throughout all eternity! And in His Kingdom is all those who will believe, lay their lives down, and follow Him and His Word. But there's more.

All who are followers of Christ—the sons of God, have the authority to call on the Lord and His Heavenly Host to intervene, change and overcome the events in this fallen world! He has given us a weapon, His Word, and the authority to use it in the Name of Jesus Christ, the "Name above all names!" His promises in His name are the weapons we are to take to prayer. We are to call on Him, and His Word to over-rule the god of this world, and to reverse the course of his rule of sin, ungodliness and death. Rule has been restored to the sons of God!

Therefore, Saints—let us pray!

Not beg. But pray. Let us pray His Word and His promises.

Amen. Good preachin'. Especially at times like this. Hope we all get the point. ♦

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Stuff Happens

March/April

Mar/Apr

Veterans Observances and Events. For a complete calendar of events contact the Branson Veterans Task Force (417) 337-8387 BransonVeterans.com

Jammin for Jesus First Sunday of each month. Charity event featuring a loaded showcard of Branson stars. Free with donation of canned good or paper goods. 2pm at The Branson Famous Theatre. For info: 417-336-5622.

Silver Dollar City Events Upcoming festivals at Branson's award-winning 1880s theme park. Silverdollarcity.com

- **Mar 17-22, 24-29 9:30am-6pm Apr 3 & 5 9am-6pm Spring Ride Days.** Over 40 rides and attractions!
- **Apr 3-5 Young Christians Weekend** The ultimate 3-day youth event including live bands, powerful workshops, national speakers and some of the world's greatest thrill rides! Featured artists: **Manic Drive, Newsboys & Elle Limebear, Pictures of Silver, Audio Prophets, Crutchfield, After Grace, Nathan Sheridan**
- **Apr 8-26 Festival of Wonder.** Prepare to be amazed! Every act is a "wow"! Fantastical acts of curiosity and larger-than-life performances!...from **CirqUnique**, to Paint Jam, from one-man band virtuoso **Eric Haines** to **The Bottle Boys** and stunt performing **Professor Wes Wesley**. Be further amazed by precision card-throwing, WeFlip entertainment, the comedic juggling of **The Passing Zone**, the beautiful music of **The Bottle Boys**, and much, much more. And yes, returning for 2020 are those amazing **Foods of Wonder!**

March/April

Titanic Museum Attraction

- **Mar 1-31 Annual Irish Celebration** A Tribute to the Irish and where they built Titanic!
- **Mar 1-June 15 World Exclusive – Visiting Display: RMS Titanic Violin** Wallace Hartley's violin has only been seen in public at The Titanic Museum Attraction. Authenticated, it sold at auction for \$1.7 million, the highest price of any RMS Titanic artifact. Experience this haunting relic from that historic "night to remember" in 1912.
- **Mar 14-21 Titanic Flashlight Tours**

Mar 6

FLW College Fishing Tournament Table Rock State Park Marina

Mar 6

Actor Kevin Sorbo Meet 'N Greet The award-winning actor will be in Branson at for the premiere of his new faith-based film *Miracle in East Texas*. Appearing at the Comic Con at the Welk Resort. Tickets: Bransoncomicon.com

Mar 6-8

Branson Comic Con The area's home to all things Pop culture, Sci-Fi, comics and celebrities. Dress in your favorite costume, and prepare to celebrate the industry with some of its biggest stars and most dedicated fans. At Branson's Welk Resort.

Mar 7

FLW High School Fishing Tournaments Scholarship competitions for students from grades 7-12. Table Rock State Park Marina.

Mar 16

Hughes Music Show's St Patrick's "Luck of the Irish" Show! Wear your green, put your ticket into the Pot of Gold and win \$1,000 in gold coins & other valuable prizes at this magical St. Patrick's Day show! That's no blarney! We'll sing a limerick or two and dance a jig for you too! Add dinner and your luck gets even more bold with TWO big entries into the Pot of Gold! \$1,000 in gold coins & other valuable prizes will be given away! Dinner served at 6:30pm, Show at 8pm. At The Hughes Brothers Theatre, (See ad on p.15, story on p. 13)

Mar 21

Tanger Outlets Presents PJ Masks Join favorite characters like **Catboy, Gekko** and **Owlette** from the children's hit tv series "**PJ Masks**" at **Tanger Outlets** in Branson this spring! On Character meet & greets, pajama parade, dance party, crafts, life music, balloons and more! At Tanger Outlets, 1-4pm.

Apr 1-5

13h Annual Branson Elvis Festival, (Story on page 6)

Apr 1-5

KVD Big Bass Classic Kevin Van Dam Big Bass Classic Over \$135,500 Guranteed Prizes & Payouts. On Table Rock Lake. Info: BigBassTour.com

Apr 1-5

Women of Joy Conference Share a few days with a ministry that has been changing the lives of women since 1994. Based in Decatur, AL and lead by Phil and Debbie Waldrep, these weekends serve and minister to crowds ranging from 1,000 to 14,000 women at each event. At Branson Convention Center. [Visit WomenofJoy.org](http://VisitWomenofJoy.org)

Apr 5

Jammin for Jesus First Sunday of each month. Charity event featuring a loaded showcard of Branson stars. Free with donation of canned good or paper goods. 2pm at The Branson Famous Theatre. For info: 417-336-5622.

Apr 12

Easter Brunch

- **Chateau on the Lake Resort Spa & Convention Center** 888-333-5253
 - **Keeter Center – College of the Ozarks** 417-239-1900
- Continued on page 15*

2020 Guest Star Dates!

Not only does Branson sport over 100 live shows of our own during the regular season—we're the "go-to" place for guest stars! Here are guest stars booked so far for 2020

- Mar 1—The Wizard of Oz (Musical)** Historic Owen Thtr
- Mar 28—Phil Vassar and Billy Yates** Historic Owen Thtr
- Mar 19-22—The Odd Couple** Historic Owen Thtr.
- Apr 16-26—The Hunchback of Notre Dame (Musical)** Historic Owen Thtr.
- Apr 1—Ronnie Mcdowell** Dick Clark's American Bandstand Thtr.
- Apr 2—Wink Martindale & Sandy Martindale "Memories of Elvis"** Dick Clark's American Bandstand Thtr.
- Apr 3—Manic Drive** Silver Dollar City
- Apr 4—Newsboys & Elle Limebear** Silver Dollar City
- Apr 4—Pictures of Silver, Audio Prophets, Crutchfield, After Grace, Nathan Sheridan** Silver Dollar City
- Apr 5—Ryan Ellis & After Grace** Silver Dollar City
- Apr 17-18—Branson Music Fest** Clay Cooper Thtr.
- Apr 17-18—The Oak Ridge Boys** The Mansion Thtr.
- May 9—Michael W. Smith** Welk Resort Thtr.
- May 10—Pat Boone and Billy Dean** Dick Clark's

American Bandstand Thtr.

- June 21—Janie Frickie & Moore & Moore** Dick Clark's American Bandstand Thtr.
- July (Sel. Dates)—Janie Frickie & Moore & Moore** Dick Clark's American Bandstand Thtr.
- July 15-Sept 9—The Texas Tenors** Andy Williams Performing Arts Center
- July 25-26—Kids Roc** Clay Cooper Thtr.
- Sept 23-24, 30—The Oak Ridge Boys** The Mansion Thtr.
- Sept 24—Jimmy Fortune** The Mansion Thtr.
- Oct 1, 7-8, 14-15, 21-22—The Oak Ridge Boys** The Mansion Thtr.
- Oct 1, 22—Dailey & Vincent** The Mansion Thtr.
- Oct 3—Lee Greenwood & T.G. Shepherd** Welk Resort Thtr.
- Oct 5-9—Larry's Country Diner** Clay Cooper Thtr.
- Oct 8 & 15—Jimmy Fortune** The Mansion Thtr.
- Oct 9—Neal McCoy** The Mansion Thtr.
- Oct 11—Country's Family Reunion** The Mansion Thtr.
- Oct 16—The Bellamy Brothers** The Mansion Thtr.
- Oct 17—B.J. Thomas and Jay and The Americans** Welk Resort Thtr.
- Oct 1, 7-8, 14-15, 21-22—The Oak Ridge Boys** The Mansion Thtr.
- Oct 23—Gene Watson** The Mansion Thtr.
- Oct 24—60s Supershow** starring **Gary Lewis & The Playboys, Mitch Ryder, Dennis Tufano of The Buckingham, Chris Montez and Brian Hyland** Welk Resort Thtr.

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REPORT:

THE INSIDE SCOOP ON THAT UPSIDE DOWN

WonderWorks



Okay, here's the low-down on that upside down super-structure which appears to have crashed head-first on our Branson strip! (a.k.a. W. Hwy 76) Thanks to our undercover snoops and stealth reporters, you're getting the inside scoop here for what's about to be revealed on some undisclosed day this Spring 2020! (Keep up by following us on Facebook!)

Apparently, an eccentric scientist by the name of Professor Wonder was working on an experiment to harness the power of a tornado, when suddenly—*ka-booeey*—up goes the entire laboratory! Into the sky? All the way to outer space? Who knew? What we *do* know, is that the whole enchilada has landed smack-dab and upside down right here on the Branson strip! (Sounds strangely like the story of that scientist Nikola Tesla whose "oscillator" is said to have created a New York City earthquake back in 1898! But we digress.)



The aftermath is what we have here—a new attraction which, architecturally speaking, is one of the most unusual and amazing buildings in the world! But thanks to our eyeballs, we already knew that. What our eyeballs *didn't* know, is that this thing is also one of the most unusual and amazing places in the world on the *INSIDE!* That's the story we're getting from our reporters, who somehow were able to see into the future of what is about to be revealed in the coming weeks, days, or hours, depending on when you read this.

BREAKING NEWS:

Our intrepid reporters recently filed the following report, (which we later discovered they had just pirated from a brochure). "Wonderworks is a science-focused, indoor amusement park for the mind that holds something unique and interesting for visitors of all ages. There are four floors of non-stop "edu-tainment" with over 100 hands-on interactive exhibits that serve STEM educational purposes to challenge the mind and spark the imagination."

Our first question, since our education was back in the 1900s, was concerning the meaning of STEM. Apparently, nowadays everybody except us knows that it stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. When we asked our reporters to boil all that down for our readers (like us) to easily grasp, they suddenly all shouted out—"The place is FUN!" We suspect they got that from the attraction's motto, which actually comes from a quote by

science genius **Albert Einstein**: "Play is the highest form of research!"

WHAT WE NOW KNOW:

So here's what we've got so far about this "amusement park for the mind". It's got four floors and 45,000 sq.ft. of "edutainment", over 100 hands-on exhibits, a wonder coaster, laser tag, Extreme 360 bikes, a "bubble room", an Xd theater with 3D film, full motion seating and there is just too much to list here. We shall summarize it all as a place that has rides, hands-on exhibits, and—well, plenty of fun for all ages! Let's just call it this: an interactive, indoor amusement park.

ZINGERS

There are just too many moving parts to this mind-blowing attraction to report here, so let's hit on a few zingers that we can't resist blabbing. Besides experiences that take us into space, into wild scientific phenomena and to the wide world, (including the world of our five senses)—there is an eye-opening area called **The Branson Experience**. Here, we discover all the strange, unique and amazing things in these fascinating Ozarks that surround us. **The History of Route 66** section does likewise. But then comes the **American Pride** area, which we also gotta mention. Here, we discover how our freedom of religion, speech and thought has sparked the creativity and innovation that our

nation has so dramatically contributed to our world. Here, we learn that the "American dream" is about dreaming the impossible and then making the impossible happen. And here, our **United States Army** gets us up close and personal with the core



values of a soldier, then demonstrates how each military branch is active in STEM education—inspiring future generations to lead by example.

BULLET POINTS

There is much to report here, so to make it easy, here goes: •Treasure Hunt: Rocks hidden all over Branson display the word "Wonder Works." Amazing prizes await all finders. •Available on site: Elevators, wheelchairs, Food & Concessions, •Special programs for schools and special needs guests, some which include visits by a Nasa Astronaut •School art contests and gallery •Birthday club •Fundraising opportunities •Meeting space •Catered lunches •Team Building •Corporate programs

Conclusion: Let your imagination run wild. (See ad on page 4). ♦



A LEGENDARY SEASON 2020!



THE STARS OF MARCH/APRIL!

GARTH BROOKS!

FREE UPGRADE TO RESERVED SEATING!
(See ad below)

Produced in Vegas, **Legends in Concert** is a dazzling extravaganza of the world's top tribute artists appearing at Branson's **Dick Clark American Bandstand Theatre!** Backing up these legendary superstars is a smokin' live band of all-star musicians and a full 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!** Concessions include such goodies as Johnsonville Brats, Chili-Cheese

Dogs, Ham & Turkey Croissants, Fresh-out-of-the-oven Gourmet Cookies and Chocolate Covered Bananas! **Upstairs Lounge!** Enjoy craft beers, champagne and a variety of fine wines before the show or during intermission 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.

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 packed 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**—can you feel it?

THE TEMPTATIONS

Next on the Legends in Concert showcard are the legendary **Temptations!** The moves and grooves of their signature "Temptations walk" taught the world that visual music was impossible not to dance to! Let's take a moment to think about these hits: **Cloud 9, I Can't Get Next To You, Ain't Too Proud to Beg, Get Ready, ("Cause Here I Come)**—and of course, **My Girl**. To us, just presenting that list is enough to make a body wanna move and groove!



THE TEMPTATIONS!

THE BLUES BROTHERS

Of course back by eternally popular demand are those furiously dancing and soulfully singing hipsters from Chicago—the fabulous **Blues Brothers!** Honestly, who can resist getting goosebumps at seeing the almost rubber-like moves this dancing duo channels while singing their signature hits: **Soul Man, Sweet Home Chicago,**

Rawhide and **Gimmie Some Lovin'!** What other act has such a knack for getting us laughing, singing and dancing all at the same time? Answer: these guys.



BLUES BROTHERS!

TWO SIDES OF THE KING

Finally, we have two other signature events which happen in this show. It comes in the form of one word: **ELVIS**. It's the word that says it all.

Voila! Legends in Concert to the rescue! In the show's first Elvis performance, we get **Elvis from the Movies!** Remember? **Blue Hawaii, Viva Las Vegas, I Can't Help Falling in Love, Jailhouse Rock, Gi Blues** etc. etc!

Then, for Legends in Concert's Grand finale, we get **Vegas Elvis**, complete with the spectacular Vegas jumpsuit, the karate moves, and of course, those legendary showstoppers which include **Suspicious Minds, In the Ghetto** and so much more, as we witness this incredible live performance of the ultimate legend of Legends! The legendary, if not historic medley of **Dixie** and **The Battle Hymn of the Republic!** Getting goosebumps just reporting that. ♦



MOVIE ELVIS!



VEGAS ELVIS!

WORLD'S GREATEST LIVE TRIBUTE SHOW

Legends in Concert

2020 LINEUP

SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Feb. 1 - May 19	May 21 - Sept. 8	Sept. 10 - Oct. 31	Nov. 1 - Jan. 2, 2021
Elvis (Movies)	Brooks and Dunn	Johnny Cash	Kenny Chesney
Garth Brooks	Taylor Swift (May 21 - July 31)	Liberace	Frank Sinatra
The Temptations	Aretha Franklin (Aug 7 - Sept 5)	Barbra Streisand	Aretha Franklin
The Blues Brothers™	Michael Jackson	The Blues Brothers™	The Blues Brothers™
Elvis (Las Vegas)	The Blues Brothers™	Elvis	Elvis

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*Lineup is subject to change
*The Blues Brothers™ is a registered trademark owned by "Dan Aykroyd and Judy Belushi."

BRANSON ELVIS FESTIVAL: APRIL 1-5

DICK CLARK'S AMERICAN BANDSTAND THEATRE

Festival Highlights: Live performances by the world's top Elvis Tribute Artists, TV icon Wink Martindale with "Memories of Elvis", Elvis Meet & Greet Dinner, Elvis Vendor Village, Youth Tribute Showcase, Festival Happy Hour, After Party, and of course The Ultimate Elvis® Tribute Contest!

BransonElvisFestival.com
417-339-3003

1959-2020 BRANSON'S FIRST SHOW:



LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE!

Just like they've been doing every year since back in 1959, **Branson's Famous Baldknobbers** are roaring into Star Date 2020 like a freight train—and like always, are upping the ante! This season, the Mabe family enterprise (Branson's first show) begins its seventh decade as a triple threat! (Nothing to be afraid of, that's just showbiz speak which means three spectacular productions.)

First, there is (obviously) **Branson's Famous Baldknobbers**, which our inside leaks and whistleblowers have informed us will be "better than ever", and sure to "wow audiences" with its award winning musicians, vocalists and comedy, plus its huge new production enhancements of sound, lights, and jaw-dropping special effects. We are told we are to expect top country hits, traditional country favorites, southern rock, gospel, patriotic salutes, hilarious

side-splitting comedy and more.

Second, as you will discover below, there's a brand new Baldknobbers throwback show opening this year. Although "new throwback" may sound like what they call an "oxymoron"—we're just reporting the news here. What it's called is **Vintage Baldknobbers**, a "blast from the past" so to speak. Our undercover informants, backstage snoops and undisclosed sources are reporting that this new/old show will focus on music and comedy from the Baldknobbers' golden years—(the 60's, 70's and 80's.) We are also told that anyone who loves traditional country music will be thrilled by this old/new production.

Thirdly, again, as plainly seen below, there is the key element of what would later be known as the Branson show "formula" which Branson's first show pioneered: the straight-up Gospel segment. However, starting last year, Baldknobbers Gospel was no longer just

Warning! Award-winning comedy star Jerl "Hargus" Adams is up to something. We have been warned, he will have surprises this year. Many surprises.



a show segment—it was a whole new full-blown show of its own: **Branson's Famous Baldknobbers Gospel Show!**

And at awards season, the awards just keep on-a-comin', just like they've been doing since away back in 1959!

SINGING STAR ASHLEY DAWN



Folks, you're hearing it here first—The Baldknobbers are excited to announce that longtime Gospel recording artist **Ashley Dawn** has joined the cast this Season 2020! Ashley's career began at an early age, singing with her family as **The Praters**, the acclaimed Gospel group whose career and multiple albums were popular with fans and critics alike. In addition to performing in all three Baldknobbers shows, Ashley tours as lead vocalist with the **Missouri National Guard's 135th Army Band**, she writes songs, she's in the recording studio working on tracks which are already turning heads in Nashville, and (did we mention?) she's Mom to sons Kyler, 15, Casten, 12, and daughters Hali, 13, and Lakoda, 8. Of course there's more to this story, and that would be Ashley's husband Bo. Ashley's musical roots, besides contemporary Gospel, are country and bluegrass. That would make The Baldknobbers, in our not-necessarily-humble opinion, the perfect fit.

CLUES Need a little help knowing what to expect in these Baldknobbers shows? Look no further. For starters, in each show prepare yourself for a whole new, almost stunning blast of comedy like you've never seen before. We'll just say this: be surprised. Be very surprised. And try not to laugh yourself to the "looney bin!"

Clue #2. Each show, as all shows since Day 1, will honor all veterans in a stirring patriotic tribute which celebrates each branch of our armed forces. And each show, also as all shows since Day 1, will include the "Gospel segment"—the one

which aims to turn every heart to The One "from whom all blessings flow!"

For **Branson's Famous Baldknobbers**, you're gonna get variety—like some of that "outlaw country" with "attitude", some bluegrass, and even some classic rock. Let's drop some names. Keith Urban, Eagles, Jason Aldean, Marshall Tucker, Loretta Lynn, Janis Joplin, Vince Gill, Trisha Yearwood, Lady Antebellum—are we painting a picture here?

As for **Vintage Baldknobbers**: how about some Johnny Cash, Glenn Campbell, Patsy Cline, Merle Haggard? In a nutshell, it's this: 100% traditional Country & Gospel.

For the **Baldknobbers Gospel Show**, well, it's a mix of rock-the-house Southern Gospel, contemporary Christian, praise and worship—and nothing less than a heartfelt celebration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Legendary Gospel tenor Dan Keeton brings "rock-the-house" Gospel to all three shows!

THE TAKE-AWAY

It's unheard of for a show to stay popular for over 60 years, an historical fact that landed Branson's Famous Baldknobbers with a display at The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. That being said, this isn't just a show with a history. Whenever the curtain rises, this show aims to make history! ♦



Award-winning singing stars: 3rd Generation Baldknobber Brandon Mabe, and lovely wife (and co-star) Megan!

NEW FOR 2020!

A TRADITIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC "BLAST FROM THE PAST"

BRANSON'S FAMOUS **BALDKNOBBERS** Vintage

417-231-4999

BACK FOR IT'S SECOND FULL SEASON!

"OH COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD" Psalms 95:1

BRANSON'S FAMOUS **BALDKNOBBERS** Gospel

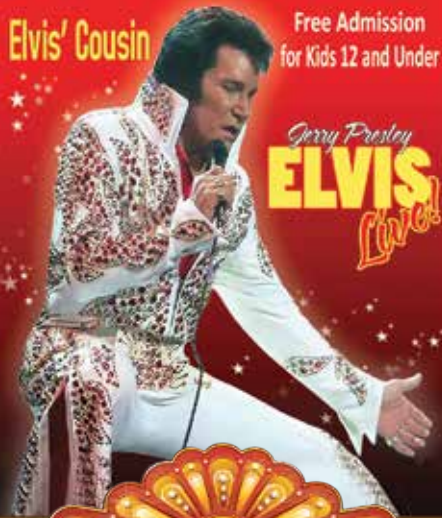
417-231-4999

★★★ Jerry Presleys ★★★
**GOD AND COUNTRY
 THEATERS**

Branson's LIVE Showplace for The Music You Love!

Elvis' Cousin

Free Admission
 for Kids 12 and Under



Jerry Presley
**ELVIS
 LIVE!**



**ELVIS ALIVE:
 MADISON SQUARE GARDEN**

**ELVIS ALIVE:
 ALOHA FROM HAWAII**

* * *

ALABAMA ROLLS ON

**CHICAGO
 COLOR MY WORLD TRIBUTE**

**DREAMS
 A FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE**

**THREE DOG NIGHT TRIBUTE
 SHAMBALA**

**THE STATLER BROTHERS
 REVISITED**

**THE BEST OF
 NEIL SEDAKA**

A NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE

**JAMES TAYLOR
 & FRIENDS**

**THE TEMPTATIONS
 MOTOWN LEGENDS**

**CARPENTERS
 ONCE MORE**

YEARS OF KENNY ROGERS

**WAYLON, WILLIE &
 THE GOOD OL' BOYS**

417-334-6806

1840 W. Hwy 76
 www.GodandCountryTheaters.com

ELVIS & JERRY PRESLEY: WHAT A STORY, WHAT A SHOW!

Anyone of any generation who never knew how insanely awesome an Elvis concert was—here's your ticket to rock 'n roll heaven! Seriously, somebody ought to declare this show a National Treasure! Might as well be us, so here goes: **Elvis LIVE! starring Elvis's cousin Jerry Presley** is a National Treasure, and it's now playing at Branson's God & Country Theatre!

Note the two Elvis shows listed in the marquee at left. In these shows, we're not just seeing the world's most authentic Elvis concerts this side of Elvis himself, we're actually experiencing some history! 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 served in the Army like Elvis? But folks, that's not all! Like Elvis—Jerry even has a twin brother! But it gets even better, for **Elvis's original band, backed up with The Stamps Quartet**, performed with Jerry for years! That too, is a pretty hefty endorsement!

Jerry was one of the first Elvis tribute artists out there, something which quickly made the youngster a victim of **Colonel Parker's wrath**, (Elvis's notorious manager.) Fortunately, Elvis himself came to Jerry's rescue, but that's another story!

What we love most about Jerry's Elvis concerts is that they are real. No over-the-top Elvis exaggeration and shtick—just amazing performances crafted to recreate Elvis live shows as they really were. We also love the fact that in-between numbers, Jerry too is real. He's not Elvis. But what a guy. A gracious host and full of Elvis stories, Jerry has fun with the audience as well as his fellow performers. After the show, he's more than happy to visit and small talk with us regular folks. But when the music starts, Jerry becomes Elvis.

Says Jerry, "You will never see me out on the street in an Elvis jumpsuit, or doing Elvis anywhere else but in the show. It's not that I'm proud or arrogant, it's just that I always want to be able to be the best that I can be. I'm not an impersonator. I'm a family



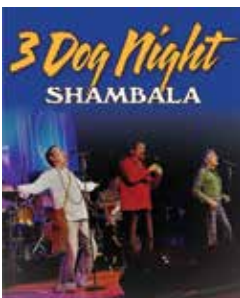
member doing the songs of Elvis and I try to keep it as authentic as I can. You will never see me do things that Elvis didn't do."

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. ♦

APPEARING LIVE AT GOD & COUNTRY



**JAMES TAYLOR
 Tribute**



**3 Dog Night
 SHAMBALA**



**FLEETWOOD
 MAC
 Dreams
 THE STEVIE
 NICKS
 FANTASY
 CONCERT
 TRIBUTE**



**ALABAMA
 Rolls On**



**The Original
 Best of
 NEIL SEDAKA**



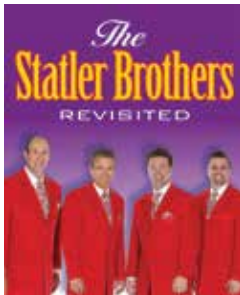
**NEIL DIAMOND
 TRIBUTE**



**50 YEARS OF
 KENNY
 ROGERS**



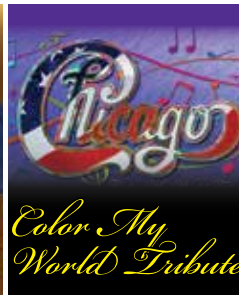
**The
 Temptations
 Motown Legends**



**The
 Statler Brothers
 REVISITED**



**WAYLON * WILLIE
 and the
 GOOD OL' BOYS**



**Chicago
 Color My
 World Tribute**



**CARPENTERS
 Once
 More**

Hughes News

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

MARCH/APRIL 2020



When *USA Today* called them “the world’s largest performing family”—that was no “fake news! (Fact check: We are now counting over fifty members of this off-the-charts talented family appearing on stage in each spectacular performance!)”

to see what this year’s massive family entourage of singers, dancers and brilliant musicians roll out for our 2020 audience gatherings of families, couples, and folks of all ages! Experience tells us that we won’t be disappointed—nor shall we fail to be



Although the four Hughes Brothers and their ever-expanding family of star performers have been playing to packed out Branson audiences for over twenty years, we are issuing this **ADVISORY:** If you haven’t seen **The Hughes Music Show** lately, then you haven’t seen the **Hughes Music Show**, that showbiz extravaganza that was the toast of Branson’s 2019 awards season!

(Variety Show of the Year!, Patriotic Salute of the Year! and Christmas Show of the Year!)

Our stealth reporters have been told that incredible, astounding and unbelievable new show surprises will continue to roll out, (as usual) for the big 2020! We tried to get some juicy details, but our inside contacts remained tight-lipped, yet were grinning knowingly.

We can’t wait, (and that’s putting it mildly)—

completely blown away!

What can we expect? Well, incredible singing, dancing, musicianship—and a full assortment of pop, country, Hollywood, Broadway, forties throwback—*oh, we give up!* Expect anything and everything from a cast of little kids, big kids, Moms & Dads, teens, young adults, babies, and yes, the legendary Hughes Brothers themselves! ♦



Stars of the Hughes Family Show pose with their honors at The 2019 Branson Show Awards!

FAMOUS BLOGGER

TIFFANY JENKINS

MAY 2, 2020

6PM
HUGHES BROTHERS THEATRE

“BLOGGING BRANSON BUSINESS BREAKOUT”

TICKETS INCLUDE A PERFORMANCE OF

THE HUGHES MUSIC SHOW

STARRING THE “WORLD’S LARGEST PERFORMING FAMILY!”

ABOUT TIFFANY:



Millions of viewers tune into Tiffany’s social media channels to get a raw dose of reality. Anxiety, addiction, mental health, and motherhood are all addressed in funny and sometimes shocking ways. Tiffany has a way of making you feel ok about your reality!



Celebrity Dinner Theatre

Save time, avoid traffic and stress—and enjoy a relaxing gourmet dinner before the show—prepared by acclaimed Swedish chef Reggie Regnall! 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)

Celebrity Bistro

An exquisite new addition open to all throughout the day: Enjoy fresh homemade sandwiches, delicious wraps, flavorful soups, tasty salads, refreshing smoothies & yummy desserts—all designed by Swedish Chef Reggie! Phone 417-334-0076



SUMMER: 2020

Learn “the biz” of Showbiz! Master classes taught by showbiz pros from Los Angeles, New York and Branson! ♦Vocal ♦Choreography ♦Staging & Much More! Workshops include *Things I Wish I Had Known*, *Audition Tips Networking*—& many more. Visit local shows and perform onstage! All-Inclusive: Workshops, Master Classes, Entertainment & Meals with an add-on for Housing. (Tag-Along Packages for parents, guardians & Teachers.)

BOOTCAMP INFO:
417-334-0076



My Voice

by Megan McCombs Mabe

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

The Rock of Our Foundation

Since 1959, gospel music has always been the foundation on which every Baldknobbers' show has been built. It has been the most important segment of each performance and stands as a lasting message for each audience member. To celebrate sixty years of family entertainment, we decided it was time to spread this message further. We knew we could do more—so we added a Gospel show to accompany our gospel staple (*Jammin' for Jesus*). It was all to spread joy and leave audiences filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus is in the house, folks!

With our **Baldknobbers' Gospel Show**, We have taken our nightly gospel segment and expanded it into two hours of soulful praise and worship. We have added to our cast one of the most talented tenor vocalists you will hear—**Dan Keeton**—to create what we believe to be a spiritually-altering experience. Everything from southern gospel to contemporary Christian worship songs are crafted together to leave each audience member feeling as though they have been taken to church!

Jammin' for Jesus remains the highlight of each month's first Sunday afternoon. Led by its fearless leader and founder, **Phyllis Rotrock**, *Jammin'* provides the opportunity to praise and serve at the same time. Each *Jammin'* Sunday is dedicated to raising funds for local charity—focusing on benefiting community through faith. A true

ambassador of faith and service, *Jammin' for Jesus* is the pride of the Branson Famous Theater.

Of course, **Branson's Famous Baldknobbers** evening show and the new **Vintage Baldknobbers** afternoon show will remain true to their roots, ending each and every performance with a gospel segment. Gospel is at the heart of all that we do, and we save it as the final exclamation point of each show. If audiences leave with just one memory—just one take-away—we hope that it is the word of God. If we achieve this one goal, we have found our success. Our show may be the only exposure some audience members have to the word of God. We don't take the responsibility of spreading our faith lightly.

Sixty years for any family brings struggle, heartache, joy, and endless change. Sixty years in the entertainment business would be impossible without Jesus, which is why on this anniversary year, it is so very important to us to emphasize the love and appreciation we have for our Savior. He is the reason the curtain goes up. He is the reason we have survived the ups and downs of life—the changes that can break us. He is the reason we do what we do. So, how better to celebrate this anniversary year than with the one who will guide us to our next anniversary and beyond.

The Lord is our rock, and to Him we owe all the glory. ✨

MARCH-APRIL

Shows appearing in **THE BRANSON INSIDER** are listed in **RED!**

* **B** (Breakfast), **L** (Lunch), **D** (Dinner)

2020 BRANSON SHOW GUIDE!

Please See Theatre Website for Show Times		Map Grid	See Pages	Show Season	Meal Avail*	Menu Page
The Americana Theater 2905 W Hwy 76 • 417-544-8700	americanatheatre.com	C-6				
The Blackwoods				Mar-Dec		
Broadway to Buble: George Dyer				Apr-Dec		
CJ Newsome's Classic Country & Comedy	patsyclineandfriends.com		13	Apr-Dec		
Dolly & Friends: A Tribute				Apr-Dec		
The Johnson Strings				Mar-Dec		
Raiding the Country Vault	raidingthecountryvault.com		13	Apr-Dec		
Andy Williams Performing Arts Ctr & Thtr 2600 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-4500	AndyWilliamsPAC.com	E-9				
Illusionist Rick Thomas: Mansion of Dreams	rickthomas.com		3	Mar-Oct		
Branson Famous Theatre 645 Hwy 165 • 417-231-4999	baldknobbers.com	F-4				
Branson's Famous Baldknobbers	patsyclineandfriends.com		1,2,7	Mar-Dec		
Vintage B.F. Baldknobbers			1,2,7	Mar-Dec		
BF Baldknobbers Gospel Show			1,2,7	Mar-Dec		
The Doug Gabriel Show	douggabriel.com			Mar-Dec		
Reza: Edge of Illusion				Mar, May-Nov 18		
<i>Jammin' for Jesus</i> with Phyllis Rotrock			4	Mar-Dec		
Branson Hot Hits Theatre 206 South Commercial St • 417-337-7426	bransonhothits.com	F-13		See Website		
Clay Cooper Theatre 3216 W. Hwy 76 • 888-222-8910	claycoopertheatre.com	E-5				
Clay Cooper's Country Express				Mar-Oct		
#1 Hits of the 60's (& 50's too)!				Mar-Oct		
The Haygoods				Mar-Oct		
Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theatre 1600 W. Hwy 76 • 417-339-3003	legendsinconcert.com/Branson	E-10				
Legends in Concert			6	Feb-Jan 2	DA	
SIX (Real Brothers)	thesixshow.com			Mar-Oct		
Dolly Parton's Stampede 1525 W. Hwy 76 • 800-520-5544	dpstampede.com	E-10		Mar-Oct	LD	
The Dutton Family Theatre 3454 W Hwy 76 • 417-332-2772	theduttons.com	E3				
The Duttons				Apr-Oct		
The Magic & Comedy of Taylor Reed	taylorreed.com			Mar-Dec		
Leroy New Tribute to Marty Robbins				Mar-Dec		
Grand Country Music Hall 1945 W Hwy 76 • 417-335-2484	GrandCountry.com	E-9				
Amazing Pets!				Mar-Dec		
Branson Country USA live TV Broadcast				Mar-Dec		
Comedy Jamboree				Mar-Dec		
Down Home Country				Mar-Dec		
Grand Jubilee				Mar-Dec		
New South Gospel				Mar-Dec		
Ozarks Gospel				Mar-Dec		
Ozarks Country				Mar-Dec		
Hamner's Variety Theater 3090 Shep. of the Hills Expy • 417-334-4363	hamnersunbelievable.com	C-6		See Website		

Gospel Music Hall of Fame vocalist Dan Keeton leads the Baldknobbers Gospel Show to "the rock of our foundation!"



MARCH- APRIL

Shows appearing in **THE BRANSON INSIDER** are listed in **RED!**

* **B** (Breakfast), **L** (Lunch), **D**, (Dinner)


2020 BRANSON SHOW GUIDE!

Please See Theatre Website for Show Times		Map Grid	See Pages	Show Season	Meal Avail*	Menu Page
The Hughes Brothers Theatre 3425 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-0076	Hughes-Brothers.com	E-4				
The Hughes Music Show			1,9,11	Feb-Oct	L, D	
Oh Happy Day: Goin' Back to Gospel!				CALL THRU		
IMAX Little Opry Theatre 3562 Shep. of the Hills Exp • 417-335-4832	bransonimax.com	C-4		SEE WEBSITE		
George Jones & Friends "Keepin' Country Alive!				SEE WEBSITE		
Ol' Time Gospel Hour				SEE WEBSITE		
The Petersen's Family Bluegrass Band				Mar-Oct		
Petersens Bluegrass Gospel				Mar-Oct		
Sons of Britches				Mar-Dec		
Jerry Presley's God and Country Theatre 1840 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-6806	GodandCountryTheaters.com	E-4	1,8	SEE WEBSITE		
Jim Stafford Theatre 2835 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-4528	jimstaffordtickets.com	E-7				
Jim Stafford				Apr-Jul/ Sep-Nov		
Jimmy Buffett Tribute: Parrotville				Mar-Dec		
King's Castle Theater 2701 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-2500	kingscastletheatre.com	E-3				
Anthems of Rock				Mar-Oct		
Broadway's Greatest Hits				Mar-Oct		
Dublin's Irish Tenors and Celtic Ladies				Mar-Dec		
New Jersey Nights: Music of The Four Seasons				Mar-Dec		
Branson's Christmas Wonderland				Nov-Dec		
Majestic Theatre 2849 Gretna Rd. • 417-231-2420		C-7				
The Ruby Room Thtr. & Lounge Doo-Wop & The Drifters	therubyroomatthemajestic.com		1, 12		DA	
The Ruby Room Thtr. & Lounge Dancin' in the Street: a Motown Revue	therubyroomatthemajestic.com		1, 12		DA	
Mickey Gilley Grand Shanghai Theatre 3455 W Hwy 76 • 417-336-0888	amazingacrobats.com	B-2				
Amazing Acrobats of Shanghai				Mar-Dec		
Mickey Gilley & Johnny Lee: Urban Cowboy Reunion				Apr-May, Sep-Dec		
Pierce Arrow Theatre 3069 Shep. of the Hills Expy • 417-336-8742	piercearrowtheater.com	C-6				
Pierce Arrow :Decades				Mar-Nov		
Pierce Arrow :Gold				Mar-Nov		
Presleys' Country Jubilee 2920 W. Hwy 76 • 800-336-4874	presleys.com	E-6		Mar-Dec		
Sight & Sound Theatres 1001 Shep. of the Hills Expy • 800-377-1277	sight-sound.com	B-8				
Noah				Mar-Dec		
Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Thtr. 13260 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-7469	ShepherdoftheHills.com	A-3		SEE WEBSITE		
Showboat Branson Belle 4800 W. Hwy 76 • 800-475-9370	bransonsilverdollarcity.com	E-3		Mar-Dec	L,D	
Tribute Theatre 3310 W. Hwy 76 • 417-239-1000	bransontributetheatre.com	E-5		SEE WEBSITE		
Yakov Theatre 470 St. Hwy 248 • 417-336-3838	yakov.com	B-12				
Yakov: Make America Laugh Again!				Jul/Oct-Dec		
Comedy Hypnosis with Austin Singley 417-243-0243	bransonhypnotist.com			Mar-Dec	A	

ALL NEW!

the HUGHES Music Show

BORN to ENTERTAIN!



New for 2020! 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!

POWERHOUSE PERFORMERS HEADLINE ELEGANT NEW SHOWPLACE FOR RHYTHM & BLUES



Derek & company rock the Terry Awards.

When they exploded on stage at the prestigious 2018 Terry Awards, the place went nuts! The whole Branson entertainment community was instantly swept away by a powerhouse performance that rocked like an earthquake and rolled like a shockwave! Made a body wanna “move and groove!”

What Branson experienced that night was a medley of rhythm and blues, some doo-wop and soul, and some Motown memories that lit a fire in every heart! Made it tough to resist leaping up and to just start dancing—. You could feel it!

What all had just witnessed was a

music to the world. What began with one kid, (Barry Gordy) and \$800 became a music explosion—and you’ll hear it all here. **Smokey Robinson, Marvin Gaye, The Supremes, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder, The Four Tops**, and many more. And the songs: *My Girl, I Heard it Through the Grapevine, Tracks of My Tears, I Can’t Help Myself, Get Ready, Stop in the Name of Love*, and more. Many more. Oh, and one more thing: surprise guests include **The Supremes!** (Hint, Hint!)

DooWop & The Drifters. Again, to educate all youngsters, we will explain “DooWop” as that early rock n’ roll music style that originated with Harlem teenagers singing four-part harmonies on street-corners back in the 1950s and early 60s. But come

The Ruby Room stars: (Left to Right) Doc Hutchinson, Earl Lee, Andre Shepard and Derek Ventura.



NEW THEATER • NEW SHOWS

The Ruby Room at the Majestic Theater & Lounge

Tickets at:

2849 Gretna Road

TheRubyRoomattheMajestic.com or Call (800)595-4849

Dancing IN THE Streets a Motown Revue



THE GREATEST HITS OF
THE BIGGEST MOTOWN
ARTISTS IN HISTORY

Mon, Tue, Fri, Sat
Evenings at 7:30

DOO WOP
& the
DRIFTERS

FEATURING
DEREK VENTURA
ORIGINAL MEMBER
OF THE DRIFTERS
Wed and Thur
Evenings at 7:00

performance by a legendary entertainer and his entourage. Leading it is **Derek Ventura**, an original member of **The Drifters**, the iconic music group who gave us those immortal classics of *Under the Boardwalk, Up on the Roof, There Goes My Baby, Save the Last Dance for Me*, and over thirteen other chart hits—all which landed The Drifters in the **Vocal Group Hall of Fame!**

This Season 2020, Derek and company are starring in two electrifying performances at an elegant new venue which will certainly be unique in the Branson music scene. The shows, as we see here—are **Dancing in the Streets** and **DooWop & the Drifters**. And for the showplace: allow us to introduce **The Ruby Room at the Majestic Theater & Lounge!**

THE SHOWS

Dancing in the Streets: A Motown Revue (which obviously recalls the immortal classic of Motown’s Martha & the Vandellas) is aptly described as a production presenting the greatest hits of the biggest Motown artists in history. And to educate all youngsters, we will elaborate by explaining that “Motown” is that historic “Motor City” record company in Detroit which took rhythm and blues and soul

to think of it, thanks to the popularity of oldies stations and Internet, kids today are highly educated in popular music, so most everybody under seventy probably knows all about Doo-Wop. This show takes us back to those golden sounds of **The Drifters, Frankie Lymon & The Teenagers, The Five Satins, Dion and the Belmonts, The Del Vikings, The Coasters** and so many more.

THE RUBY ROOM’S SHOCKING SURPRISE!

This exciting new showplace at The Majestic is described as an elegant, intimate theater and a lounge. Table service offers appetizers, shareable flatbreads, desserts, bar service—and it all comes with a shocking surprise! (For those of you restless souls too impatient to discover the surprise before heading to the Ruby Room, we’ll go ahead and blab it here, although we’re turning it upside down for the rest of us who don’t like spoiling the fun ahead of time! Either way, you’re going to love this place. We’re insiders. We saw it under construction. We’ve seen these guys perform. *We know!* ♦

Your table will be served by the stars
of the show!

SCOOPS & PIX from our ROVING REPORTERS & PROWLING PAPARAZZI!

THE REAL DEAL!

For the “real deal”, we’ll give you 2 examples: award winning country singer **C.J. Newsom** and award-winning comedy legend **Terry Wayne Sanders**. The good news is that the real deal is also one of the best deals in town, for you can get ‘em both as a “twofer” in the very same show, along with an all-star band, (**The Recliners**) and a stellar entourage of singers and dancers! Of course we speak of **C.J. Newsom’s Classic Country and Comedy** at the iconic Americana Theatre, right in the heart of the Branson strip! Such a deal!

To describe this country music extravaganza, we are reminded of the Country Tonight show, that dazzling Vegas production that enjoyed several blockbuster seasons here in Showtown. Likewise, this full blown country variety show comes at us fast and furious with a catalogue of country hits that spans the decades. CJ’s powerful vocals are backed up by a multi-award-winning troop of singers and dancers—plus those red hot music makers called **The Recliners!**

Then there’s that comedian of many characters who goes by the name of **Terry Wayne Sanders**, (when not **Grandma Beulah, Barney Fife, Fred Smoot, Joan Rivers** or **Homer Lee!**) Terry’s 40 year career, from **TV’s Hee Haw**, to today, has earned a list of accolades seriously too long for this issue.

If you like **country**, award-winning 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.

NEW FOR SEASON 2020:

This season, CJ has added some new faces to her star-studded entourage!

Sarah hails from Wisconsin and brings with her a hefty resume as singer, dancer, and actress. After obtaining degrees in Vocal Performance, Theatre and Bible from Northwestern, Sarah performed at The Wisconsin Dells before being wooed to Branson. Since then she has appeared in a number of Branson shows before joining C.J.’s stellar cast!



SARAH JOY McCORD!



MESA MITCHELL!

Mesa’s career began with Paramount Productions’ children’s tour of *Scooby Doo’s Movie Madness/Flintstones Go Hollyrock*. Most recently, she has appeared in

several Branson shows, as well as at Silver Dollar City and in the show *CHICAGO THE MUSICAL*. A former teacher and Mom of four, Mesa also serves as an Education Specialist for the Youth Summer Institute at the Branson Regional Arts Council.

Rachel’s career began at the age of seven—performing in her family’s church in Stockton, Missouri.

By the time Rachel reached age 14, she was performing her own “gigs” at area festivals and events. After a softball scholarship took her to college degree, she followed her heart to Branson where she fast became a part of “Showtown’s” entertainment community. ♦



RACHEL MERRICK!



Homer Lee



ALSO AT THE AMERICANA!

RAIDING THE COUNTRY VAULT

REAL STARS. REAL COUNTRY.

This acclaimed Vegas-style country music showcase features the all-time classics from country’s biggest acts. Dropping a few names, we can’t help but mention the likes of **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 many more.

In one spectacular production, **Raiding the Country Vault** tells the story of country music—from all the way back to the 1960’s to all the way up to this

millennial year of 2020!

Performed by an all-star cast of award-winning Branson musicians and Nashville stars, **Raiding the Country Vault** in three years has won multiple awards; including “**Entertainers of the Year**”, “**Best Band**”, and many individual band awards. In addition, the show enjoyed an unprecedented rise to number 3 on TripAdvisor within 12 weeks of opening due to fan reviews. The following year it was ranked **#1 Branson show** and voted “**Best of Branson**” in 2018. ♦



TICKETS:

C.J. NEWSOM’S CLASSIC COUNTRY & COMEDY RAIDING THE COUNTRY VAULT
THE AMERICANA THEATRE
2905 W Hwy. 76 Branson
Phone: 417-544-8700

BRANSON'S WILD WORLD GETS WILDER!

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 dingoes. Enter a dark world and try your hand at a round a mini golf among slithering snakes and the world's wildest animals—who are watching! Take a 6D motion ride, shooting targets in a 3D movie. Enter a dark world and try your hand at a round of mini golf, while pirates distract—and live animals watch. Welcome to **Branson's Wild World!**

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.

CREATING ATTRACTIONS WORLDWIDE



GLOBETROTTERS!

World renown attractions designer James Kelly & his wife Lisa.



SHARK TANK!

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.

NEW IN 2020!

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!

A WHOLE NEW WORLD

Although well established, Branson's Wild World is ever-changing and ever-expanding. New additions and enhancements are being unveiled continuously. In our view: If you haven't been there for a few months, welcome to a whole new world!

INDOOR FOOT SAFARI

Let's attempt to paint a picture. On your foot safari through Branson's Wild World you are sure to see, (rain or shine) such wildlife (some dangerous, some deadly) as **gators & crocs, sea turtles, a wolf pack, sharks, snakes, eels, talking parrots, dingos, lemurs, living dinosaurs**—and more. You can **swim with stingrays, feed whoever is hungry, play with dingos**—and more. Much more.



CREATURE COMFORTS!

Indoor safaris here are wheelchair accessible and resting benches are plentiful. Safari Guides also remain close to help with animal interactions, feedings, or educational info.



Dingo Kisses!



Snake Hugs!

CHOOSE YOUR FUN

Fun is abundant and options are many—making it easy to design the fun around every budget. We think we've made our point: this is truly your place for some *seriously wild times!*

WORLD CHANGERS

All winter long Branson's Wild World has been transforming 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.

THE LOST WORLD

Enter a new area called **Living Dinosaurs**, a collection of some pretty scary creatures who have been living on our planet since they shared it with **T-Rex, Raptors and Brontosaurus**. Monster prehistoric sea creatures now inhabit a new 21,000 gallon tank eight feet tall, (with windows), while prehistoric reptiles lurk nearby. Meanwhile, animatronic dinosaurs growl and roar to provide goosebumps and photo ops.

We deliver!
**NOW in
 SPRINGFIELD!**
 @Battlefield Mall



Pizza Ranch
BUFFET ALL DAY
 SALAD BAR · CHICKEN
 PIZZA · DESSERT



**PIZZA RANCH
 FUN ZONE
 ARCADE**

BRANSON
 1464 STATE HWY. 248
 417-337-5060

KVVO510 - PRE1813

WILD VALLEY

For adventurers eager to take on another, somewhat different type of safari, we direct you a few short miles down the road to **Wild Valley** at Branson West, another masterful attraction created and operated by James and Lisa. This one is 100 percent designed around animal interactions, (some at different levels of course, since animals vary from kangaroos to cuddle to lions and tigers to feed from a wise distance.)

For anybody seeking some wild times while on vacation, we recommend heading to where the wild things are. These two places, for example. ♦



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



Stuff Happens

Continued from page 4

- Center Stage Grill 417-320-6079
- Level 2 Steakhouse 417-243-3433

Apr 16-19

Branson.com Honors Purple Heart Recipients Special room rates at Westgate Resort. 417-334-8325

Apr 17-18

Branson Music Fest Branson's biggest Springtime event, showcasing Branson's world class live entertainment and Ozarks cuisine! 20+ top entertainers, Meet & Greets with the stars, Celebrity Iron Chef Showdown, Cooking demos, Prizes & Giveaways and a Vintage Marketplace At The Clay Cooper Theatre.

Apr 17-18

Branson Auto Auction Held at the Branson Convention Center, this semi-annual auction showcases some of the most elusive and unique cars in the Midwest area. Open to the public. Showcase your car at this world-class event! Call 800-335-3063 to consign your classic car to the 40th annual Branson Collectors' Car Auction.

Apr 30

Branson International Film Festival BransonIFF is a Christian, faith-based, family friendly festival. All films will be free of nudity, profanity and sexual content. The 2020 Festival is designed to educate, equip and empower Christian Filmmakers from around the world here in the heartland of the United States. At Music City Center. BransonInternationalFilmFestival.com ♦

FOR OLDE TIMEY PHOTO FUN THESE TWO OUTFITS GOTCHA COVERED!

If you head UP, the “Branson Strip”, (which we call “Westerly”), your best shot for photo fun is **Shooters Old Time Photos**, pretty much across the street from The Branson Mall. But if you head back the other direction, (Easterly), just a short hop down the road your best shot is Mrs. **Brenda’s Old Time Photos**, right across from Grand Country. Either way, you’re in good hands, for both outfits are owned by the same good folks.

THREE GOOD REASONS

We gladly recommend either place for three good reasons: One. Those high-pressure sales tactics to get you to spend big bucks on pictures of yourself are not allowed here. Two. Both of these high class photo studios have amazing costumes and sets that will make you feel like you’re in

a Hollywood movie! And three: The folks taking the pictures are an absolute hoot!

DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

Be forewarned, you’re going to end up having so much fun you may want to try both studios, for each one has completely different costumes and sets. Between the two you can picture yourself in an Old West saloon, an old time parlor from the Victorian era, a 1930s bank robbery, a hillbilly homestead, a jailhouse—or even in a Civil War scene looking like it’s right out of *Gone With the Wind*!

We agree with **Trip Advisor**, who rates **Shooters Old Time Photos** and **Mrs Brenda’s Old Time Photos** right up there at the top of the list for old timey photo phun! Here’s some of the reasons:

1. As we said, customers get to choose from a whole menu of some pretty awesome themes for their shoots, complete with Hollywood level sets and lavish costumes!
2. The folks here are creative nuts and funnier than a herd of cats eating jalapenos—plus they are fun to have fun with!
3. Both outfits are all about family values and good, clean fun. (Hugs at the end of the fun photo shoots are pretty common!)
4. Families, honeymooners, twosomes, wedding parties, friends, ball teams, or even showbiz types are guaranteed to have a blast at both **Shooters** or **Mrs. Brenda’s**.
5. Be aware, you may encounter a small, but

Saturday night in the Ozarks!



A Victorian belle primps with perfume....



...then poses in the parlor!

potentially yappy guard dog who has been taught to forbid any high pressure sales tactics on the premises. That being said, the aforementioned dog, (Penelope), usually wags her tail happily when customers browse the studio’s photo packages, CDs and photo editing services! (FYI, Our reporters snagged a picture of Penelope which you will see if you look over to the page on your right.)



As plainly seen here, Mrs. Brenda’s paparazzi caught some shady and nefarious-looking Wild West varmints acting up at the local saloon!

Check out the ads below, see some of the photo phun on their facebook pages and websites—then let either or both give you and your folks their best shot! ♦



Mother and daughter “back in the day”. (Or quite possibly just last week!)

Branson's Largest Bar For BIG Groups! **Mrs. Brenda's** Southern Belle & Gentleman **Biggest Studio In Branson**

Saloon Girl N Cowboy **Old Time Photo** 417-320-6221 1940 W. Hwy 76 Branson

Gangster & Flapper

SHOOTERS OLD TIME PHOTO

76'S ONLY JAIL & CAR IN A BANK WALL!

VISTA PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER
2005 W. HWY 76 SUITE 205
417-335-4220

“THE BEST SPOT TO GET SHOT”

SUPERSTAR CRAFTERS GET NEW HOME!

Good News! Some of Branson's most popular, (and world-famous) crafters are back! Thanks to the efforts of Ozark craft connoisseurs Mark and Jennifer Grant, Branson's superstar crafters and working vendors have been carefully selected, sought out, and welcomed into their new home at the all new **Ozark Mountain Craft Mall**, located right across from Grand Country on W. Highway 76, (the Branson strip!)

This regathering of crafters, some with a world-wide fan base, includes several whose works were main attractions at both Branson's legendary **Engler Block**, (razed after the 2013 Leap Day

Tornado), and the popular **Branson Mill**, (later converted by developers into a trampoline Park). But the good news, like we said, is—*they're back!*

For this we can thank the aforementioned Mark and Jennifer, owners of **Mrs. Brenda's Old Time Photos** (a few doors down) and **Shooters Old Time Photos**, (across from Branson Mall.) As Mark tells us, "Jennifer and I also had an old time photo attraction at The Branson Mill. A lot of real friendships with other vendors came out of that.

We were like family. We ate our meals together every day. We worked together. When that location changed hands and broke

up that family, it really hurt."

But things would later change—for the better! Over the holidays, an opportunity presented itself in the strip shopping center which was also home to Mrs. Brenda's Old Time Photos. Says Mark, "When we saw that we could bring part of that family of vendors back together in a new location, we jumped on it. Having

Mark and Jennifer, seen here with Penelope, the mall's "greeter".



Local resident Heather Anderson shops quilts.



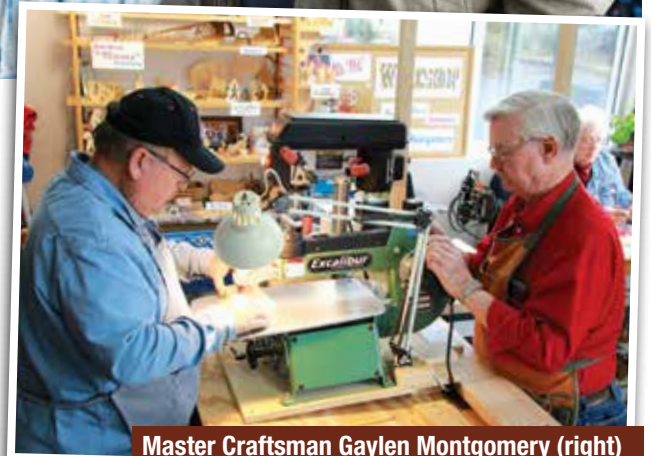
Meanwhile, Heather's 3-year-old daughter Miah shops the toy department!

these crafters, artisans and working vendors come back together, each with their own talents and uniqueness—is something really special. It's representing the heritage of Branson."

Briefly described, every booth in the **Ozark Mountain Craft Mall** features unique items not found elsewhere. Some include classes offered by the crafters themselves. Manning the attraction is Mark's wife Jennifer, a self-described, life-long fan of working with retail items she personally enjoys. When it comes to customer service, Jennifer has no equal. "We really care about our customers," she tells us. "If you're looking for something, we will do whatever we can to help track it down. We'll answer questions. We just want to create a great experience for all ages."

Our conclusion is this: Mission Accomplished. ♦

Paparazzi's awesome bling!



Master Craftsman Gaylen Montgomery (right) disciplines a student in the art of the scroll saw.

Ozark Mountain Craft Mall

See Our Working Crafters!
 Quilts, Scroll saw artist, Paparazzi, Painting classes, Serendipity jewelry, Papa Brown's BBQ, Pet supplies, Toys, Sugar scrubs, Lamps, Custom tumblers, decals and MORE!

1940 W. HWY 76 Suite 120
 Branson MO
 417-320-1221
 www.ozarkmountaincraftmall.com
 or Facebook



Emergency Alert:
 Electronics necessities at a fraction of retail prices!

Now OPEN
in Branson AND
Springfield

A BOOMING FRANCHISE

Pizza Ranch

BUFFET RESTAURANT

WITH A WORTHY MISSION!

Besides being a national foodie sensation, the **The Pizza Ranch** success story also has something to with the company's vision and mission. Of course what gets folks to the Pizza Ranch in the first place is the incredible eats! But it's not long before the mission unfolds and the folks start bonding with everything Pizza Ranch does. And is.

**ALL-YOU CAN EAT
BUFFET YOUR WAY!**

It was Pizza Ranch's **"Buffet Your Way!"** that scored the eatery's first home run—the good news that the folks could design any goofball pizza order they wanted and

The Ranch would put it right out on the all-you-can-eat buffet at no extra charge! (Pickles and sauerkraut pizza, anyone?)

ABOUT THAT CHICKEN...

We sent our food critics over to try Pizza Ranch's chicken buffet and of course they came back with rave reviews—just like every other food critic on the Pizza Ranch map! Quotes to note: *"Best ever! Period! Absolutely over-the-top mmmmmMMM! Go try some and prove us wrong! We DARE you!"*

AND MORE!

With all this comes an elaborate **salad buffet, dessert buffet, (with endless ice-cream), plus endless drinks** at no extra charge. Staff is trained to be living epistles of the company motto: "Service from the heart".



Service from the heart!



Critically acclaimed chicken!



Elaborate salads!



Endless goodies!



THE INSIDE SCOOP!

We got it from legendary Branson restaurateur Doug Kissinger: "Pizza ranch is a very Christian company. We're all about giving back, as you see in our community impact nights, where we partner with churches or schools who serve as guest attendants



Doug reveals the vision—and the mission.



KIDS EAT FREE!
Tue after 4pm. 1 kid (12 & under) per 1 adult.

and bussers. Their tips plus 10% of sales goes to their charity. That, plus our own missions trips, are examples of our company's vision and mission." ♦

FREE COMMUNITY ROOMS!

Available for groups up to 120! Great for parties, family reunions, sports teams etc! Call in advance: 417-337-5060

THE KID WITH A VISION

Pizza Ranch was founded in 1981 by an eighteen year-old kid from Hull, Iowa named Adrie Groenweg. Young Adrie laid a good foundation for his company.

Vision: To glorify God by positively impacting the world

Mission: To give every guest a legendary experience.

(See Ad on p. 15 and map grid B-11 on p. 12)

Branson: 1464 State Hwy. 248
Springfield: Battlefield Mall

BACK BY POPOULAR DEMAND!



PASTA & BREADSTICKS!

Recipe: Buttered rotini noodles with a Sweet Marinara Sauce, plus all new savory breadsticks! **Result:** Awesome.

CRANTASTIC SALAD!

Recipe: Cranberries, red onions, candied pecans, spinach/iceberg lettuce. **Result:** Awesome.



Enter an arcade wonderland. The kiddos may not want to leave it. Nor you.

UNBELIEVABLY TRUE! AT THIS AMAZING SHOPPING ATTRACTION EVERYTHING IS



Forget imports. Wanna see what awesome products your clever fellow Americans are capable of coming up with? Then look no further! Go directly to

Made in the USA General Store, inside The Shoppes at Branson Meadows. Upon arriving at this shopping attraction styled like an old-timey general store, you will no doubt be amazed as you discover here a full buffet of incredible merchandise—all Made-in-the-USA! And here's an added treat: if you drop everything and head there right now, bargains will await you, as well as a wonderland of items you'd be lucky to find back home!

A SHOCKER FOR VETERANS!

When was the last time you saw veterans' merchandise or even American flags that were actually MADE IN THE USA? Well, you

will in this store's entire department of veterans items! Included is clothing, hats, all kinds of veterans gear, collectables, décor, memorabilia & more! Let's shout out



Brian shows us his star attraction.

A shock for veterans!

a shocking statement here: **THIS IS THE LARGEST SELECTION OF AMERICAN MADE MILITARY THEMED MERCH ANYWHERE!**

STAR ATTRACTION One item, for real, has been selling like hotcakes ever since our Branson visitors first got wind of it. So far, over 15,000 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! Most homemakers want at least two, or three, or a handful! Need a gift idea? *Voila!*

THE REST OF THE STORY Folks like you will



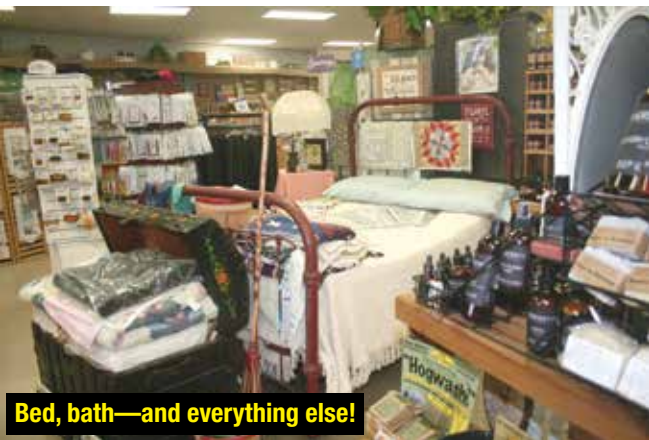
Kids discover the toy department!

also enjoy perusing the Men's, Women's & Children's clothing, the kitchen department's 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!" ♦



All-American edibles!



Bed, bath—and everything else!

MAP LOCATOR

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

SHOWS

- At Andy Williams Performing Arts Center & Thtr E8
- Illusionist Rick Thomas starring in *Mansion of Dreams*
- At the Americana Thtr E6
- CJ Newsome's *Classic Country & Comedy*
- *Raiding the Country Vault*
- At the Branson Famous Thtr F4
- Branson's Famous Baldknobbers
- Branson's Famous Baldknobbers Gospel Show
- *Vintage Baldknobbers Show*
- At Dick Clark's American Bandstand Thtr E10
- *Legends in Concert*
- At Hughes Brothers Thtr E4
- *The Hughes Brothers Music Show*
- At Jerry Presley's God & Country Thtr E10
- *Elvis Live! Aloha From Hawaii*
- *Elvis Live! Madison Square Garden Concert*
- *Elvis Live! Gospel Concert*
- *3 Dog Night: Shambala Tribute*
- *A Neil Diamond Tribute*
- *Alabama Rolls On*
- *Carpenters Once More*
- *Chicago Tribute Concert*
- *Dreams: Fleetwood Mac Tribute*
- *James Taylor Tribute*
- *Neil Sedaka, his music legacy*
- *The Statler Bros. Revisited*
- *The Temptations: Motown Legends*
- *Waylon, Willie & The Good Ol' Boys*
- *Years of Kenny Rogers*
- The Majestic Theatre C-7
- *The Ruby Room*
- *Doo Wop & The Drifters*
- *"Dancin' in the Streets" Motown Revue*

ATTRACTIONS

- Branson's Wild World F9
- Mrs. Brenda's Old Time Photos E9
- Shooters Old Time Photos (Vista Shopping Center) E8
- Wonderworks E6

SHOPPING

- Made in the USA General Store The Shoppes at Branson Meadows C9

DINING

- Pizza Ranch B11

MADE IN THE USA GENERAL STORE

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

MERCHANDISE

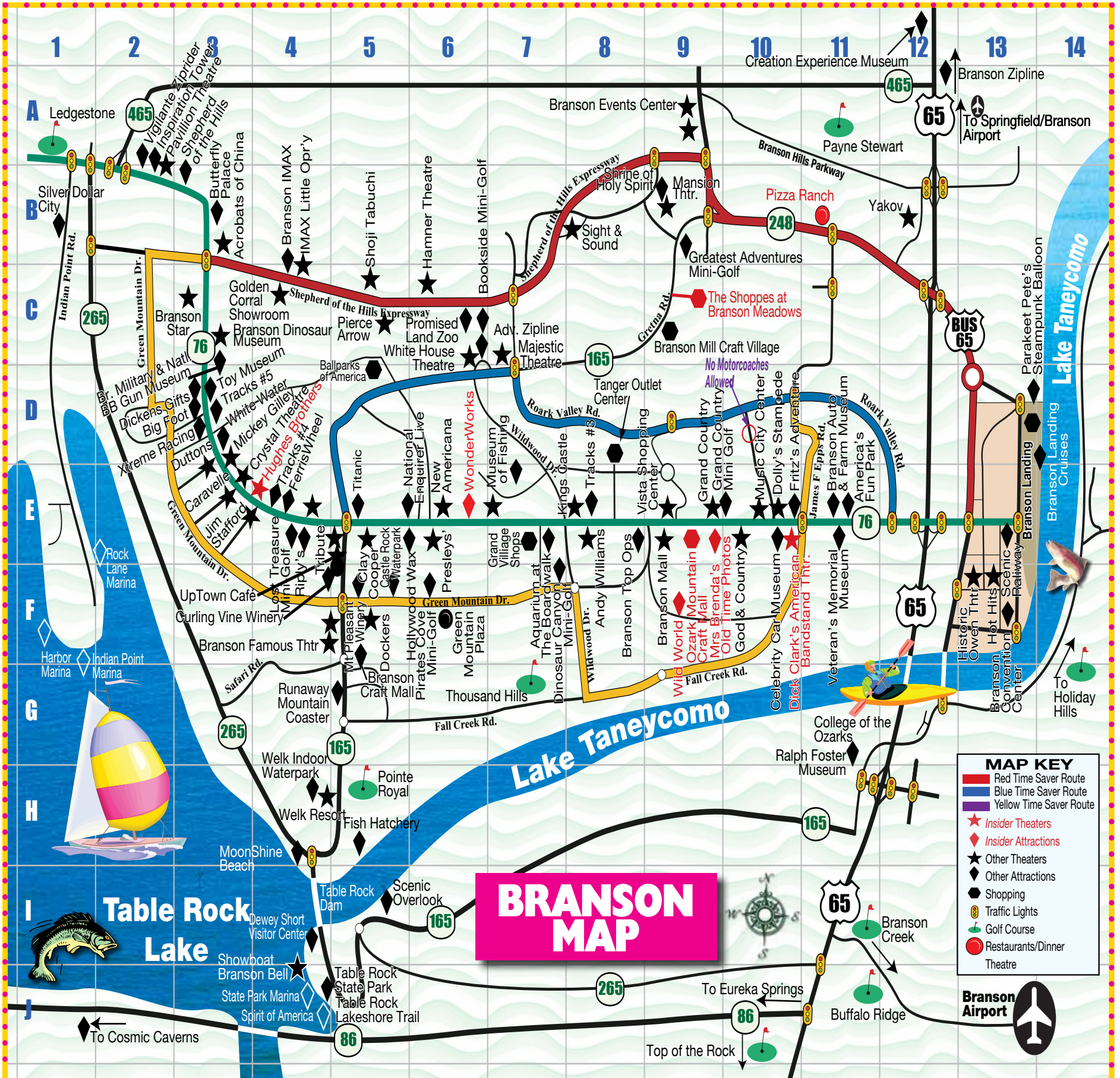
100% MADE IN THE USA!

NEW EXPANDED LOCATION!

4270 N. Gretna Rd.

Visit us at www.mitusageneralstore.com

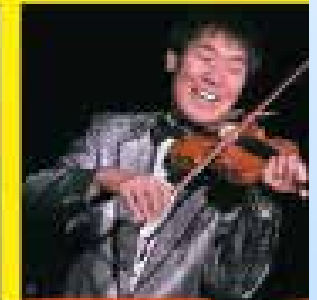
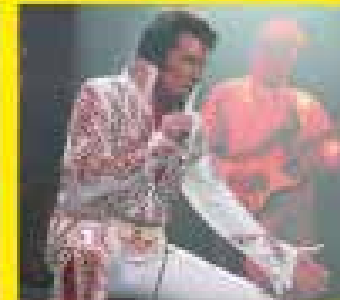
AT THE SHOPPES AT BRANSON MEADOWS 417-336-USA (8721)



26th Annual HOT WINTER FUN

★★★ BIG SHOW ★★★

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5, 2020, - 7:00PM
DICK CLARK'S AMERICAN BANDSTAND THEATER • BRANSON MO



ENTERTAINERS

Hughes Music Show
Legends In Concert
Grand Country Jubilee
SIX
Doug Gabriel
The Petersens
Comedy Jamboree

Jerry Presley's "Elvis Live"
Sons of Britches
CJ Newsom's Classic
Country & Comedy
Jones, Haggard, & Friends
Shoji Tabuchi
Christina Tabuchi & More!



**Emcee
Joshua
Clark**



**& A Mystery
Co-Emcee Will
Join Him on
Stage For
Lots of Laughs!**



**EVENT ALSO INCLUDES
SPECIAL TREATS, SOUVENIRS, AND OTHER FUN!**

\$40
VIP SEATS
(rows 1-6)

\$35
REGULAR
SEATING

\$60
VIP BALCONY
Seating includes
Dinner and Cash Bar



For Tickets Call
417-339-3003



That's when I figured a lot of things out.

It was from that day on that I started talkin' to the Good Lord all through the day. I thanked Him for anything and everything that would kinda jump out at me. I talked and I paid attention and listened. I asked questions. More and more I began to see what I appreciate about Him and what a genius He is for making all the complicated little outfits that are all over this world, and how endless this universe is to make this world of ours float along in it like a grain of sand in a forever ocean!

But folks, I'm here to tell you—there's more to this story! It's this: when you spend time with The Good Lord, and when you sit at His feet, so to speak, and listen to Him speak in your Bible reading or at your preaching—you will get to know Him more. Get close to Him more. And love Him more. Praising and worshiping Him, even in all those simple ways like simple folk like me do—will cause faith, hope and love to well up in your insides. That's when you can grab that little prayer list and that "faith that moves mountains" runs you through it like a race horse at the Kentucky Derby! In this old world, there is no equal to the peace and joy of staying close to our Heavenly Father. They might not tell us that on the nightly news, but you're getting the real news here. Amen. *"And this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith". (John 1:5) ♦*