

Boots, Beats, Life

Weekly NEWSLETTER

January 12, 2026 | Issue #15

Your Ultimate Dance Week Starts Here!



This Week's Highlights:

- **A Massive Night in Troy (Friday, Jan 16)**

The energy is building for this Friday's "Hootenanny Line Dance Night" at The Lodge by Boulder Lake in Troy. Running from 6:00 PM to midnight, this event is the perfect opportunity to experience one of the region's largest dance floors—5,800 square feet of pure "grand cabin" vibes. With food trucks parked out front and a bonfire ready for those mid-dance breathers, it's shaping up to be the definitive Friday night destination for the St. Louis dance community.

- **The Return of the Flatts (Saturday, Jan 17)**

The big stage lights up this Saturday as Rascal Flatts brings their "Life Is A Highway" 25th Anniversary Tour to the Enterprise Center. This is more than just a concert; it's a celebration of two decades of country-pop hits that have filled our local dance floors for years. With Chris Lane opening the night, expect a high-energy crowd and plenty of singing along to the anthems that defined an era of country music.

- **Local Grit and New Sounds**

Beyond the big stages, we are keeping our eyes on the local scene as The Trophy Mules bring their authentic "Alt-Country" sound to Crossroads Sports Bar this Friday night. Simultaneously, the community is buzzing over Zach Bryan's brand-new album, *With Heaven on Top*, which dropped just a few days ago. Whether you are catching a live local set or listening to Zach's new tracks to find your next favorite two-step rhythm, there is no shortage of great music to fuel your dancing this week.

Featured Venue of the Week



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Road Trip Discovery: The Lodge by Boulder Lake

Why We Love It: The Lodge by Boulder Lake in Troy is more than just a dance hall; it's a long-held dream brought to life by a wonderful husband-and-wife duo. The venue feels like a grand cabin, featuring a stunning 5,800-square-foot dance floor perfect for foot-stomping fun. On chilly Missouri nights, you can warm up by the cozy fireplace or head upstairs for a game of pool. What truly makes this place magical is the setting—a picturesque three-acre lake surrounded by trees, handmade wooden benches, and a trout pond with a charming bridge. From the friendly bar staff to the bonfire area overlooking the water and lighted horseshoe pits, every detail creates an incredible atmosphere for the country music community.

Join the Hootenanny

This Friday, January 16, 2026, The Lodge is the place to be for their Hootenanny Line Dance Night from 6:00 PM to midnight. I've attended the last few dances here, and the energy is unmatched; our talented DJs keep the beats flowing from the dedicated stage while food trucks wait just outside the front entrance to keep everyone fueled up. Whether you are dancing under the grand cabin rafters or taking a break by the lake, it is the perfect spot to create new memories. Admission is \$15 for those under 21 and \$10 for those 21 and up. Don't miss out on the chance to support this amazing new addition to our local dance scene!

Check it out before you go here: [**The Lodge at Boulder Lake.**](#)

Country Music Spotlight:

National Spotlight: Zach Bryan

This week, all eyes are on Zach Bryan as he continues his meteoric rise from Navy veteran to the definitive voice of modern folk-country. On January 9, 2026, Bryan surprised fans with the release of his new album, ***With Heaven on Top***, a project that further cements his reputation for raw, unapologetic storytelling. His music has become a staple for Missouri dancers, providing the perfect mid-tempo rhythm for thoughtful two-stepping and soulful floor movement. As he gears up for his most ambitious stadium run to date, Bryan remains the artist who proves you don't need a polished "Nashville sound" to capture the heart of the country.

- **The Latest Release:** His brand-new album, ***With Heaven on Top*** (released January 9, 2026), features 16 tracks of stripped-back instrumentation and poetic lyrics that are already dominating the streaming charts.
- **Where to See Him:** St. Louis fans should mark their calendars for **March 7, 2026**, when he brings his "With Heaven On Tour" to **The Dome at America's Center**. This is one of the most anticipated stops in the Midwest this spring.
- **Why We're Watching:** We are watching Zach because he is currently the bridge between "Red Dirt" country and mainstream success; his ability to pack a stadium while maintaining the intimacy of a backyard bonfire is exactly the kind of authenticity our dance community loves.

Local Artist/Group of the Week: The Trophy Mules

If you are looking for the heart of the St. Louis "Alt-Country" scene, look no further than The Trophy Mules. Fronted by the soulful songwriting of Corey Saathoff, this band captures the grit and honesty of the Midwest, blending traditional country roots with a rock-and-roll edge. They have become a favorite for those who appreciate music with a story—the kind of tunes that feel right at home in a dimly lit South City tavern or a bustling St. Charles dance floor. Their sound provides a driving, steady rhythm that is perfect for a relaxed two-step or simply nodding along with a cold drink in hand.

- **The Latest Release:** Their most recent project, *Sunset on the Honor System*, continues to be a local staple, featuring tracks like "Waiting for the Bonus" that highlight their signature "rural-rock" sound.
- **Where to See Them:** Catch Corey Saathoff and Josh Kean performing an intimate set this **Friday, January 16, 2026**, at **Crossroads Sports Bar**. It's a great opportunity to support local talent in a venue that truly appreciates the craft.
- **Why We're Watching:** We are watching The Trophy Mules because they represent the authentic, "no-frills" side of the St. Louis music community. In a world of over-produced tracks, they remind us that a great song and a steady beat are all you really need to keep the local scene alive.

Need to plan your night out? Check out our comprehensive Guide on Venues & Instructors within the Saint Louis region to find exactly where to wear your boots tonight!

Your Weekly Dance Planner: Where to Two-Step & Line Dance This Week!

New & Noteworthy: Beginner line dance class starting in January at Bottleneck Blues Bar! Check our website for details.

● Monday Dances

- (W) Lumiere of Chesterfield – Chesterfield, MO | Line Dancing with Mona | 6:00-7:30 pm
- (W) VFW Post 1234 – Collinsville, IL | [Line Dance Lessons with Stompin' Boots](#) | 6:00-7:00 pm, Open Dance 6:00-9:00 pm | Lessons \$3.00 | Open Dance Free

● Tuesday Night Shuffle

- (W) Silver Creek Sports & Social – Belleville, IL | [Line Dancing w/ Little Cactus Line Dancing](#) | Lessons & Open Dance | 7:00-9:00 pm | Free Event
- (W) MK Ranch Bar & Grill – Warrenton, MO | [Line Dancing with Krissy Schulze](#) | 6:00-9:00 pm | Free Event All-ages
- (W) Brookdale Farms – Eureka, MO | [Line dancing w/Stacey Schwartz](#) | 6:30-10:00 pm | \$7 Cover | 18+ Event
- (W) High Ridge Elks Lodge #3455 – High Ridge, IL | [Line Dance Lesson & Dance](#) | 6:30-9:30 pm | \$5 Cover | All-ages
- (W) [Social Bar & Grill Soulard](#) – Saint Louis, MO | [Line dancing with DJ Fish](#) | 8:00 pm-12:00 am | \$10 for 18-20 | \$5 for 21+

● Wednesday Moves

- (W) Bottleneck Blues Bar – Saint Charles, MO | *Line dance lessons w/Mona Frame 7-8PM | Open dance with DJ Fish 8PM-12AM | 21+ Only | \$5 Cover unless you show your receipt from Salted Lime*
- (W) Stovall's Grove – Wildwood, MO | Partner dance lessons | 7:00-11:00 PM
- (W) [The Marquee at New Town](#) – St. Charles, MO | Line dancing 6:00-11:00 PM | Line dance [Lessons by Tiffanie](#) 6:30-7:30 PM | Music by [Listen Up Productions](#)
- (W) [The Outfield Sports Bar and Grill](#) - Marthasville, MO | [Free lessons](#) 6:00-7:00 pm Open Dance 7:00-9:00 pm | Free Event | All-ages
- VFW Post 5694 – Highland, IL | Line dancing [w/ Little Cactus Line Dancing](#) | 7:00-11:00 PM
- (W) VFW Post 5691 – Collinsville, IL | Line Dance Lessons w/Stompin' Boots | 6-7 PM | Open Dance 7:00-8:30 PM | 8:30-9:00 PM Partner dance lesson | \$3.00

● Thursday Throwdown

- (W) Stovall's Grove – Wildwood, MO | Line dance lessons w/Sami | 7:00-9:00 pm | Free Event | 21+
- Rec Hall STL – St. Charles, MO | Line dancing lessons w/Mona and DJ Fish | 7:00-10:00 PM | \$5.00 Cover 21+ | \$10 Cover 18-20
- American Legion - Breese, IL | [Little Cactus Line Dancing](#) | 7:00-9:00 pm

● Friday Night Fiddle Fest

- (W) *Stovall's Grove* – Wildwood, MO | Live music (unknown band - website down | 7:30-11:30 pm
- (W) *54 Country* – Kingdom City, MO | [Line dance with Club Ready-Line Dance LOTO](#) | 6:00-11:45 pm
- (W) “*The Office*” *Bar and Grill* - Washington, MO | [Line Dance Lesson](#) 6:00-9:00 pm
- *Trainwreck Saloon Westport* – Maryland Heights, MO | [Live music and dance](#) w/Rough Ryders band | 8:30 PM - 12:00 AM | 21+
- VFW Post 5691 – Collinsville, IL | Friday Open Dance w/Stompin’ Boots | 7-10 PM | \$10.00 - \$18.00 per couple
- The Lodge at Boulder Lake – Troy, MO | Hootendanny w/Country Line Dancing | 6 PM - 12 AM | \$15 Under 21 | \$10 - 21+
- The Garage STL – St. Louis, MO | Honky Tonk Nights | Live music w/Johnny Henry Band | 7PM
- Main Street Bar & Grill – Old Monroe, MO | Line dancing night w/Mabee Fitness Line Dancing | 7PM

- **Saturday Night Shindig**

- (W) *Stovall's Grove* – Wildwood, MO | Live music Live music (unknown band - website down | 7:30-11:30 pm
- (W) *Gene's Country Club* – Pevely, MO | Live music [The House Cats Band](#) | 7:00-11:00 pm | \$10 CAD | 21+ | NOTE: Cash Only Event
- (W) *54 Country* – Kingdom City | [Line dance lessons - Live band - Open dancing](#) | 8:00 pm-1:00 am
- [Main Street HonkyTonk](#) – St. Charles, MO | Live music with The Gusto | 9:00 PM
- Bottleneck Blues Bar – St. Charles, MO | Mark Perkins Debuts | 8PM

- **Sunday Soul Steppers**

- (W) *Sugar Creek Winery* – Eureka, MO | [Line dance lessons and dance](#) | 1:00-5:00 pm | Free | All-ages
- [Main Street HonkyTonk](#) – St. Charles, MO | Live music with Russo & CO | 9:00 PM
- Just Dancing Studio St. Louis – Manchester, MO | Country Swing Workshop | 1:30 PM
- Fast Eddie’s Bon Air – Alton, IL | Live band and dancing w/The Truckers | 1:00 PM
- Defiance Ridge Vineyards – Defiance, MO | Live music w/Garden Party | 1PM

Several of these local venues offer weeknight line-dance nights with lessons for beginners; cover varies, and floor-size/material details are inconsistent across listings.

This Week's Featured Article

Strike a Pose: How to Catch the Eye of Oggie Photography

There is a unique magic that happens on a Missouri dance floor—the synchronized snap of a line dance and the genuine smiles that only come from a favorite song. As the eye behind **Oggie Photography**, my mission is to capture those fleeting moments of joy.

Whether I'm using my **Sony ZV-E10** for crisp stills or my phone for smooth, AI-processed video in those dimly lit honky-tonks, I am always looking for that "perfect shot." To help you land in the next "Photo of the Week" on BootsBeatsLife.com, here are a few tips from behind the lens.

Read the full photography guide at BootsBeatsLife.com.

Is your brain full yet? 🧠🔥 Between global TikTok trends and the constant stream of new choreography, "New Dance Fatigue" is hitting the scene hard. Here in St. Louis, we are "blessed" to have our own world-class choreographers at **Cedar Lake Cellars** and **The Quarry**. Whether you are a newcomer mastering the basics or a vet pre-learning on YouTube, read how to stay inspired without burning out in this week's featured article.

The "New Dance" Fatigue: Building a Bridge on the Floor

We've all been there: you finally master a complex 64-count dance, only to arrive at the venue and find out three *new* dances were taught while you were away. In the fast-paced world of 2026, the stream of choreography can feel like a flood.

According to the **December 2025** "Line Dance Saint Louis" poll, our city is currently obsessed with hits like **"Gives Me Shivers,"** **"3 Tequila Floor,"** and **"The Wolf."** While these keep the floor packed, the learning curve can be steep. I've noticed a shift in how we keep up: the younger crowd is gathering at homes to "group-study" new moves, while veterans use YouTube to pre-learn basics before class.

[Read the article on my [Blog](#)]

Community Corner Spotlight

Spotlight: *Evan Vanscoyk & Thomas Poon*



This week, we are spotlighting **Evan Vanscoyk and Thomas Poon**, the high-energy architects behind some of the most electric dance floors in the St. Louis region. These two are in our spotlight for their exceptional ability to turn a massive venue like **The Quarry** into a tight-knit community, specifically during the major "Boots & Bourbon" event that kicked off this January 2026.

They aren't just instructors; they are the "connectors" of our scene, masterfully bridging the gap between the nervous first-timer and the seasoned pro. By breaking down national-level choreography into manageable pieces while maintaining an infectious enthusiasm, Evan and Thomas ensure that no one is left standing on the sidelines. Whether they are teaching at a packed workshop or leading the line during open floor, their presence is the spark that keeps the Missouri dance family growing and thriving.

Your St. Louis Dance Hub

Your Comprehensive Guides: Venues & Instructors

We've compiled detailed resources to help you find the perfect place to dance or the ideal instructor. These comprehensive guides provide extensive lists of venues within a two-hour drive and a directory of country and line dance instructors.

Explore the full interactive Venue Guide on our website – [Venue Guide](#)

Find Your Perfect Instructor in our online directory! – [Instructor Directory](#)

Community Call to Action.

Don't miss a single step! If you were on the floor this past week, head over to our private Facebook group, "[Country Music and Dance Halls](#)," to find your up-close and personal action shots from [Oggie Photography](#). If you haven't joined yet, hit the link below and become part of our inner circle!
[\[Join the Private Group\]](#) | [\[View the Full Photo Gallery\]](#) | [\[Share this Newsletter\]](#)

The Heartbeat of Our Community

We all move to the same beat! Help us keep the Midwest moving:

Question of the Week: **What's your 'signature move' when you see the Oggie Photography camera pointed your way on the dance floor?**

Help Us Grow: Share events, invite friends, and support local venues!

How you can help keep the scene strong

- Attend consistently—regular turnout encourages venues to expand.
- Tip bands and instructors and buy a drink or two.
- Coordinate “community nights” to bring more dancers together in larger rooms (Marquee or Schuetzenground are good candidates).
- Share event pages and invite friends—numbers matter to venue owners.

Connect With Us:

Got an event or story? Email us at events@bootsbeatlife.com or newsletter@bootsbeatlife.com

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Photo of the Week: **The Quarry (New Melle)**



This week we turn our spotlight toward a venue that is quickly becoming one of the most exciting spots on the St. Louis circuit: [**The Quarry**](#). Currently under new ownership, this location is poised to rival some of the best outdoor venues in the area.

You know I'm a sucker for great lighting, and the main building at The Quarry is a beautiful site at night; in my "Photo of the Week," you can see how the front just glows against the dark background, offering a truly cinematic entrance.

But the atmosphere isn't just about looks. The owners have just installed a new, beautiful 30 x 15-foot laminate wood-look dance floor, which is fantastic for our boots! They are committed to growing the dance community, hosting line dance nights at least once a month with instructions from the [**Line Dance St. Louis**](#) crew.

The future here looks bright. They recently broke ground to build a [**large outdoor event area**](#), promising live music and a host of other activities throughout 2026. Keep The Quarry on your radar as the next big destination for country music and dancing.

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Where Country Music Sets the Beat and Dancehalls Become Our Rustic Sanctuary.