

Boots, Beats, Life

Weekly NEWSLETTER

January 19, 2026 | Issue #16

Your Ultimate Dance Week Starts Here!



This Week's Highlights:

In 2026, the St. Louis country dance scene is thriving with a mix of national stadium tours and local venue favorites. Here are the top highlights for the week of

January 19–25, 2026:

- **New Dance Home: Bottleneck Blues Bar:** We are thrilled to welcome a new home for our community! Keep an eye on **Bottleneck Blues Bar** (located inside Ameristar Casino) as it becomes a premier destination for country music and dancing in the St. Charles area.
- **Ruston Kelly at Old Rock House (Tonight, Jan 19):** Kick off your week with a dose of "Dirt Emo" and Americana. Ruston Kelly brings his *Pale, Through the Window Tour* to this iconic STL venue tonight for an intimate, soul-stirring night.
- **Thursday Nights at Rec Hall St. Charles:** Don't miss the chance to learn from our **Community Spotlight artist, Sami**, every Thursday night. It's the perfect mid-week "bridge" to master your footwork in a high-energy, supportive environment.
- **Friday Road Trip to Troy:** Following last week's massive Hootenanny, **The Lodge by Boulder Lake** continues its winter momentum. Head out to Troy to experience their massive 5,800 sq. ft. floor and grand cabin atmosphere.
- **Sunday Funday with Klose Kuarters (Jan 25):** Cap off your weekend at **KT's Saloon** from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM. **Klose Kuarters** will be providing the live soundtrack for a rowdy afternoon of two-stepping and swing.
- **Winter Warmth at Sugar Creek Winery:** After a successful "Boot Scootin' Sunday," keep this Eureka/Defiance gem on your radar for its family-friendly vibe. It's one of the few places where you can bring your own snacks and watch the next generation of dancers learn alongside the pros.

Ameristar St. Charles - Bottleneck Blues Bar Events Ruston Kelly at Old Rock House - Jan 19, 2026 Rec Hall St. Charles - Weekly Schedule The Lodge by Boulder Lake - Upcoming Events KT's Saloon - Live Music Calendar Sugar Creek Winery - Boot Scootin' Sundays

Featured Venue of the Week



Road Trip Discovery: Sugar Creek Winery (Defiance)

Why We Love It: Perched on a scenic hilltop in the heart of Missouri Wine Country, Sugar Creek Winery in Defiance is a true multi-seasonal treasure. This family-owned business, set in a charming turn-of-the-century Victorian home, offers a “take to the hill” experience with breathtaking views of the Missouri River Valley. What makes it a standout for our dance community is the climate-controlled Hittop Venue, which features a cozy stone fireplace for the winter months and plenty of room to move. Between the award-winning wines, the inviting hearth room, and the friendly, relaxed atmosphere, it is the perfect spot to escape the cold while keeping the energy high on the floor.

The Boot Scootin’ Experience

Yesterday’s Boot Scootin’ Sunday proved why this venue is a local favorite for line dance enthusiasts and wine connoisseurs. Running from 1-5 PM, these events bring the barn-dance spirit to the vineyard with high-quality sound and lessons led by Eagle Entertainment. The beauty of Sugar Creek is its inclusivity—it is common to see a big mix of dancers, from seasoned pros hitting every turn to young children following along with their parents. While they don’t host food trucks, you can purchase delicious meat, cheese, and cracker trays, and guests are welcome to bring their own food to enjoy with their wide selection of wines, soft drinks, tea, and free cold water. It’s a premier destination for those who want to turn a Sunday afternoon into a full-family dance celebration.

Check it out before you go here: [Sugar Creek Winery](#).

Country Music Spotlight:

National Spotlight: Ruston Kelly

Today is a major day for fans of “Dirt Emo” and Americana-grit, as Ruston Kelly brings his critically acclaimed *Pale, Through the Window* Tour to St. Louis. Known for his raw, soul-searching lyrics and a voice that blends traditional country storytelling with indie-rock energy, Kelly has become a definitive artist for those who prefer the deep, emotional side of the genre. His music provides a perfect change of pace for dancers looking for mid-tempo, heartfelt tracks that prioritize feeling over fast footwork.

- **The Latest Release:** His current album, “The Weakness,” remains a standout project featuring anthems of self-evolution and hard-won joy that have redefined the Americana landscape.
- **Where to See Him:** Catch him performing tonight, January 19, 2026, at the Old Rock House in St. Louis. Doors open at 7:00 PM for this highly anticipated tour stop.
- **Why We’re Watching:** We are watching Ruston because of his unique ability to bridge the gap between country, folk, and emo catharsis, offering a vulnerable sound that resonates deeply with the local Missouri “alt-country” community.

Local Artist/Group of the Week: Klose Kuarters

If you are looking for the definitive “Sunday Funday” soundtrack, Klose Kuarters is the band to follow. A staple in the Count County and Oakville scenes, this group is known for delivering high-energy, versatile sets that range from classic country hits to driving rock favorites. They have mastered the art of reading a room, ensuring the dance floor stays busy whether they are playing a rowdy Saturday night roadhouse or a relaxed Sunday afternoon at the local saloon.

- **The Latest Release:** While consistently gigging across the region, their recent live session updates showcase a refined, high-energy sound that has made them one of the most requested “party bands” in the area.
 - **Where to See Them:** You can catch them this coming Sunday, January 25, 2026, for a special afternoon set at KT’s Saloon from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM.
 - **Why We’re Watching:** We are watching Klose Kuarters because they represent the authentic, hard-working spirit of the St. Louis music scene, providing the exact kind of rhythmic, reliable sets that our local two-step and swing community thrives on.
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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 | \$10 Cover | 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/Sindie and Warren 2 Line Dance | 7:00-9:00 pm | \$10.00 cover | 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
- *Fast Eddie's Bon Air* – Alton, IL | Live band and dancing w/The Truckers | 6:00-10:00 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/Southern Gypsy band | 8:30 PM - 12:00 AM | 21+
- Main Street Honky Tonk – St. Charles, MO | Live music w/Shotgun Creek | 9:00 PM
- Silo Point at Brookdale Farms – Eureka, MO | Boots Bourbon and Bonfires line dancing w/Stacey Swartz | \$10.00 21+ or \$15.00 18-20

- **Saturday Night Shindig**

- (W) *Stovall's Grove* – Wildwood, MO | Live music Live music | 7:30-11:30 pm
- (W) *Gene's Country Club* – Pevely, MO | Live music Diesel Island | 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
- Olde Wicks Factory – Highland, IL | Live music w/Borderline band and Little Cactus Line Dancing | 6:00-11:00 PM
- Community Hall – St Jacobs, IL | 2nd Annual Chicken & Beer Dance w/Shotgun Creek band | 6:00-11:00 PM | 21+ | Cash Bar only | \$33.85 per ticket
- The Franchise Sports Bar & Grill – Wood River, IL | Live music w/Tracy Inman Band | 8:00 PM - 12:00 AM |
- American Legion – Mascoutah, IL | Line dancing w/Stompin' Boots Line Dance | 6:30 - 10:00 PM
- *Trainwreck Saloon Westport* – Maryland Heights, MO | [Live music and dance](#) w/Twisted Road band | 8:30 PM - 12:00 AM | 21
- The Garage STL – St. Louis, MO | Honky Tonk Nights | Live music w/Presley Aaron | 7PM

- **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
- HandleBar in the Grove – St. Louis, MO | Sunday Stomp line dancing | 4:30-7:30 PM
- Main Street HonkyTonk – St. Charles, MO | Sunday funday w/Russo & Co |

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

Our Safe Havens” Why the Tush Push & Slappin’ Leather Endure

When new choreography feels like too much, we all have that one dance that brings us home. This week, we celebrate our “Safe Haven” classics and why they remain the heartbeat of S. Louis.

[Find the full articles on my BootsBeatsLife.com]

Is your brain full yet? Dolly’s Milestone 80th: Today, Monday, January 19, 2026, is a historic day in country music—the legendary Dolly Parton is celebrating her 80th birthday. She currently holds the world record for the most #1 songs by a woman in country music history.

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Tulsa Time Roots: The original version of Slappin’ Leather was choreographed by Gayle Brandon back in 1978. It was first danced to “Tulsa Time” by Don Williams, long before it became a staple for modern hits like “Fishing in the Dark.”

The Secret Language: How St. Louis Dancers Beat the Curve

How do some dancers “just know” a new dance before the first lesson? We’re breaking down how our community stays ahead, from living room sessions to YouTube “pre-gaming.”

[Find the full articles on my BootsBeatsLife.com]

Community Corner Spotlight

Spotlight: *Sami Mabee of Mabee Fitness Line Dance*



This week, we are spotlighting Sami, the heart and soul behind Mabee Fitness Line Dance. Sami has built a reputation as one of the most nurturing instructors in the St. Louis region, specifically for her ability to guide dancers through their first nervous steps on the floor. She doesn't just teach choreography; she builds a community where everyone, regardless of skill level, feels welcome to join the line. While she has moved on from previous venues, her energy is currently the driving force behind the Thursday night crowd in St. Charles.

Sami is in our spotlight because she provides the essential “bridge” our community needs to grow. You can find her teaching every Thursday night at Rec Hall STL in St. Charles, where she breaks down popular moves for a packed house of eager learners. Beyond her weekly residency, she is also highly sought after for private events and specialized instruction, offering a personal touch that helps dancers master everything from basic footwork to those tricky intermediate turns. Her genuine care for her students and her presence in the St. Charles' scene make her a true cornerstone of our Missouri dance family.

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@bootsbeatslife.com or newsletter@bootsbeatslife.com

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Photo of the Week: **Sugar Creek Winery (Defiance)**



Yesterday's Boot Scootin' Sunday at Sugar Creek Winery in Eureka was a masterclass in community spirit. Despite the January chill outside, the atmosphere inside was perfectly balanced—warm enough to keep the boots moving but cool enough for the high-energy dancers to stay comfortable all afternoon. I took this shot while focusing on the multi-generational lines that formed during the mid-tempo sets. Using my 33mm f/1.4 lens, I was able to capture the beautiful depth of the room, keeping the foreground dancers in sharp focus while letting the sea of dancers and moving feel blue softly into the background.

What makes the events at Sugar Creek so special is the incredible mix of people that Eagle Entertainment brings together. Looking through my lens yesterday, I saw the true spectrum of our dance family: seasoned veterans leading the way with effortless precision, standing side-by-side with young children following their parents' lead as they took their very first steps in a line. It is a powerful reminder that dance is a “life skill” passed down through families. With Eagle Entertainment keeping the beats flowing and the lessons tailored for all levels, Sugar Creek continues to be a destination where everyone—from the youngest beginner to the most experienced pro—can feel right at home on the floor.

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