

JULY/AUGUST 2025

# MissouriLife

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Roller  
Coaster  
Reviews

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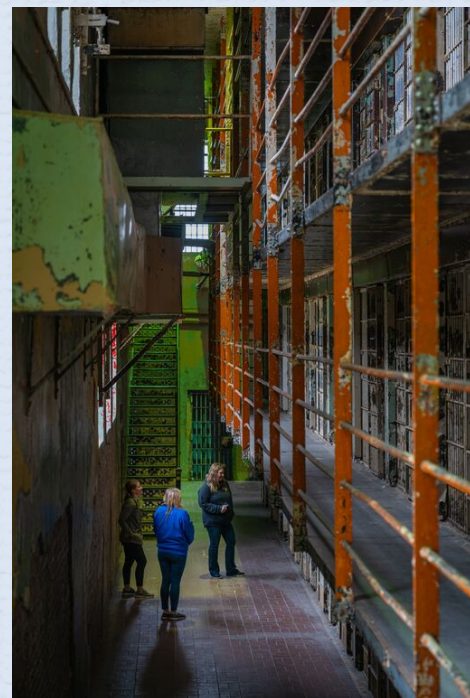


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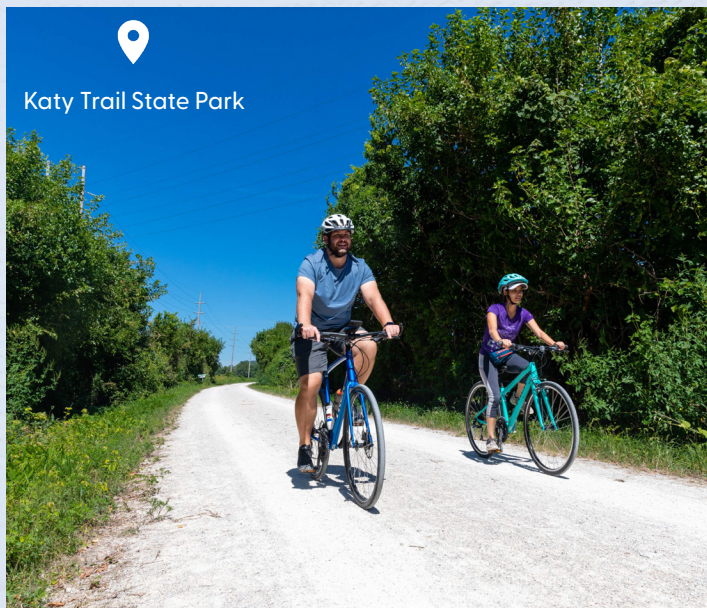
The Missouri State Penitentiary is a beloved treasure to history buffs and thrill-seekers alike. Tour the penitentiary and learn of its 168-year operation and infamous criminals who were housed inside "The Walls."

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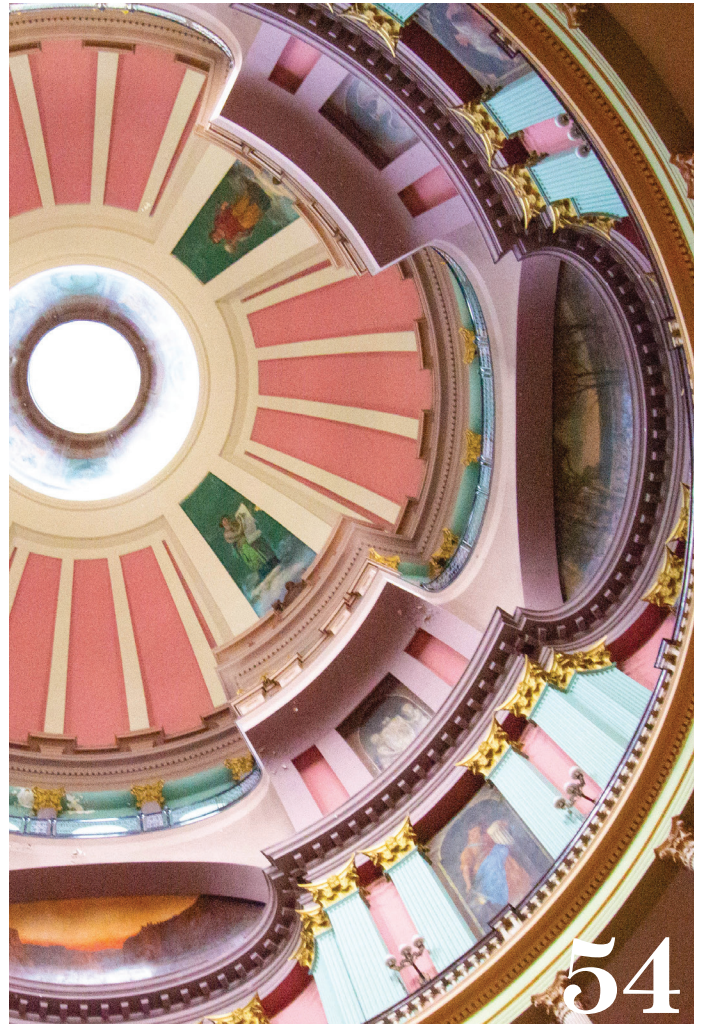
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DREAM,  
EXPLORE, &  
DISCOVER



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# MissouriLife

THE SPIRIT OF DISCOVERY

PO Box 57, 208 Columbia St., Rocheport, MO 65279

## SUBSCRIBE

MissouriLife.com  
Info@MissouriLife.com  
1-800-492-2593

**PUBLISHER** Greg Wood

**EDITORIAL DIRECTOR** Danita Allen Wood

**ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER** Evan Wood

## EDITORIAL AND ART

**DESIGN DIRECTOR** Dan Bishop

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS** Andrea Kaneko,  
Sydney Jones

**COPY EDITOR** Tara Clarkson

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

Matt Crossman,

Kim Hill, Daniel Pliska, Ron Soodalter

**Columnists** Doug Frost, Lorry Myers, Greg Wood

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS**

**AND ILLUSTRATORS**

Merit Myers

## MARKETING

**DIRECTOR OF SALES AND DEVELOPMENT**

Deborah Marshall, 573-514-5453

**ADVERTISING AND MARKETING EXECUTIVES**

Mary Leonard Bullington, Kansas City, 816-868-7498

Thomas Ruesch, St. Louis, 314-359-0598

Kaycee O'Neil, Springfield, 417-414-2352

**ADVERTISING COORDINATOR**

Amy Stapleton, 573-514-5453

## OTHER MEDIA

MISSOURILIFE.COM, MISSOURI LIFE TV,

FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, X,

MISSOURI LIFELINES (NEWSLETTER), DIGITAL EDITION

**WEBSITE** Adam Wright

## MISSOURI LIFE MERCANTILE

**MANAGER** Melinda Strain

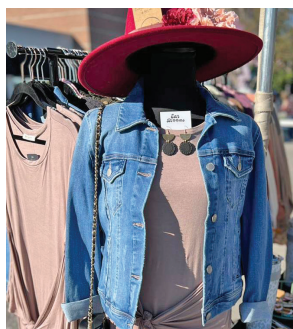
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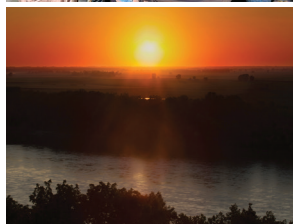


Exploring Lexington is pure fun! Shopping, antiques, eateries, historic venues plus beautiful parks to enjoy. Lots to see and plenty of opportunities to make memories. Come visit. We can't wait to see you!

**Join us for Lexington's  
monthly Second Sundays event.  
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Mexico's greatest asset is our citizens. They're hard working, progressive, ethical, friendly, and caring. Mexico has excellent public and private educational facilities, including over 35 churches of all denominations, an outstanding public library, historical museum complexes, 483 acres of beautiful parks, a historic theatre and performing arts center, abundant activities for the avid outdoorsman, and organized programs and activities for all sports and all ages.

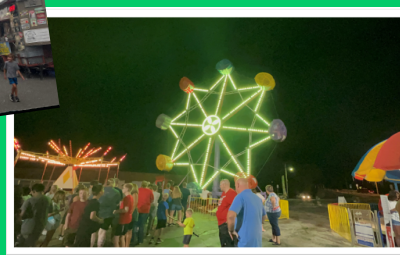
Mexico is host to the Mexico Farmers' Market, Mexico Jaycees Soybean Festival, Mexico Young Farmers Truck and Tractor Pull, Audrain Historical Society Walk Back In Time and various other events. Mexico offers boutique shopping in the downtown Village Square along with outstanding restaurants.



Mexico Young Farmers  
Truck/Tractor Pull



Mexico Jaycees  
Soybean Festival



Promotional Funding Provided By The Mexico Tourism Tax



# Railway Reflections

**I NEVER GOT TO TRAVEL MUCH GROWING UP**, so once I entered adulthood, I was primed for adventure outside my backyard.

Upon graduating from the University of Missouri in Columbia with a bachelor of arts degree, I took an Amtrak train to Chicago. Armed with my very brief resume, I pounded the city's pavement to find any kind of entry-level job in media in the dazzling city I desired to live in, although I never did.

I remember that trip vividly and fondly, as it was my first train ride and first solo trip. My dad took me to Union Station at sunrise on a beautiful May morning, and although I was a confident person, I was a little nervous. I still remember my chosen outfit for the day was navy blue bell-bottoms and a Liz Claiborne blouse, along with a scarf. I never went anywhere without a scarf in 1979.

It was a long ride; I was able to finish the book *The World According to Garp*, which was very popular at the time. This adult-ish story explores gender roles and sexuality, among other themes, in a way that was new to me. I felt like a true grown-up. When I smelled fresh coffee, I walked to the cafe car for a cup of coffee and a sandwich. Upon that first sip, my tongue burned from the too-hot coffee. I specifically remember watching a well-dressed lady add ice to hers, so I tried that too.

The cafe car was filled with interesting people drinking iced tea, playing cards, or just reading. Most of the passengers were older than my fresh-out-of-college self, but that didn't stop me from making small talk. My mom was raised in Arkansas, and I learned about basic friendliness from her. One gentleman inquired about my trip, and when I explained what I'd be doing, he asked, "Are you a Cubs fan or a White Sox fan?" I had to think about that one because all I knew were the Royals.

Eventually, I returned to my comfortable seat where my book, considered scandalous by some, was waiting. That was the thing about the train—you could really relax and not worry about traffic or checking your gas supply or anything.

I didn't take the Amtrak train again until 2006, and then I wasn't embarking on a new chapter in life. It was for my daughter, Emily, as she embarked on her next adventure. We were going to tour colleges, and the top



Mary Leonard Bullington

## Amtrak trains crossing Missouri

- Lincoln Service: Kansas City–Chicago
- Missouri River Runner: Kansas City–St. Louis
- Southwest Chief: Chicago–Los Angeles
- Texas Eagle: Chicago–San Antonio

[Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com)

two on her list were in Chicago. We went with another mom and her daughter, and the girls shared a sleeping bunk, which turned the trip into a mini slumber party. I didn't have the chance to devour an entire book this time, but with the wonderful company, the ride didn't seem so long.

I hope to take another Amtrak trip since it has been almost 20 years since my last one. I wonder what adventure the train will lead me to next?

*Mary Leonard Bullington is a marketing representative for Missouri Life and lives in Kansas City. She plays pickleball and bakes cookies when she visits staff in Rocheport. To read a story about another Amtrak journey, see page 48.*



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## LIFTING UP LORRY

Good afternoon, Lorry. I just read your article in *Missouri Life* ["Underlined Twice," March/April 2025] and wanted to let you know how much I could relate, as I am sure many out here can. I lost my husband and have traveled many times alone, both driving and on planes, but usually I meet up with family or friends for sightseeing. I'm glad you got to tour Washington, DC. All Americans need to at some point in their life. God bless you.

—Dee Davidson Dosch, Springfield

I have never had the pleasure of meeting you, but after reading your column ["Underlined Twice," March/April 2025] this morning and then reading Randy's obituary (which I am sure you wrote),

I wanted to say I felt a real connection with the life the two of you have lived. My wife Susan and I will be celebrating our 57th anniversary in December. Thanks for sharing such input and the important thoughts and messages in such a kind and loving way. Very well done!! All the best.

—Frank Hackmann, St. Louis

I love, love, love your column in *Missouri Life*! Second time I've written. Every time you write for us, you give us a glimpse into your soul, and I like what I see! You are a wonderful matriarch, and you make me wish I lived in Centralia to experience Centralians and the Myers family. Oh, duh ... that just happened as I read the column! ["The Reason Why," January/February 2025]

—Margaret Kraeuci, St. Louis

I had to write after reading your article about family and Centralia ["The Reason Why," January/February 2025]. My sister, Brenda, loves Centralia Anchor Fest, library, grocery store, and more. She lives off Route Z at Murry about 10 miles from where we grew up. Her first husband graduated from Centralia High School in 1971. My sister and I graduated from Fulton High School. Sorry to hear about your son-in-law's cancer. Your readers will be praying for your family and you. Keep up the good work with your column.

A loyal reader,

—Barbara Greicius, Little York, Illinois

## WASH, WORSH, OR WARSH?

Was just reading about Missouri dialects. ["What Did You Say?" found on MissouriLife.com, or in our January/February 2023 edition.] Don't forget about "wash" and "worsh" and "warsh."

—Sam Rose, Independence

## RESONATING WITH RON

Going to miss Ron Marr! [Ron was a long-time columnist.] He has expressed my sentiments so many times. But we hopefully will have Lorry Myers for a long time!

Greatest magazine ever!

Thank you.

—James R. Maloney, Macon

## WRITE TO US

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# Speed, Screams, & Statistics

Six Flags in St. Louis, Silver Dollar City in Branson, and Worlds of Fun in Kansas City are not only world renowned for their roller coasters that launch, toss, and tumble riders but also for their other remarkable attractions.

**200,000 gallons**

Each minute, this much water flows through the Mystic River Falls ride in Silver Dollar City.

**164 feet**

The Catwoman Whip at Six Flags catapults riders this high into the air as it flings them in a circle.

**80 days**

The Jules Verne novel, *Around the World in 80 Days*, inspired the international theme at Worlds of Fun.

**75 miles per hour**

Riders fly through the air at this speed while also being whipped back and forth on The Joker: Carnival of Chaos at Six Flags.

**52 years**

The Viking Voyager, a classic log flume ride at Worlds of Fun, has been plunging riders into water for 52 years.

**20 minutes**

Passengers ride the Frisco Silver Dollar Line Steam Train through Silver Dollar City and the park's adjoining woods for 20 minutes.

**9 water attractions**

There are nine ways to make a splash at Hurricane Harbor at Six Flags in St. Louis.

**4.5 G-force**

This is the number of Gs riders can experience on the Detonator at Worlds of Fun.

**3 years**

For the third consecutive year, the *USA Today* 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards named Silver Dollar City the number one theme park in America.

To read our roller coaster reviews, see page 34.



Mystic River Falls ride at Silver Dollar City

SILVER DOLLAR CITY

SOURCES: Silver Dollar City, Six Flags, and Worlds of Fun

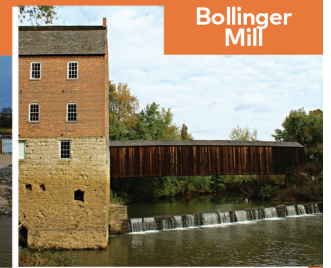




Cape  
Catfish



River Wall  
Mural



Bollinger  
Mill

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July 4<sup>th</sup> : 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in  
Downtown Salem

Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> : 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Salem  
Chamber of Commerce Rodeo



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## TOTEM POLE TREASURE

About five years ago, Judy Strodman visited the Tlingit indigenous community in Alaska, where her nephew has a heritage. It was there she fell in love with totem poles carved and painted with a series of symbols that are typically created by indigenous people.

When a walnut tree in her yard at Fayette had to be cut down due to an electric line, she asked the electric company employees to leave the bottom part of the tree standing. She and her children then asked Dan Allenbaugh, a woodworker based in Liberty, to carve the tree into a totem pole. It features a woodland spirit, arrowhead, cross, indigenous person, owl, and eagle.

"It is absolutely wonderful. I have little spotlights on it at night so you can see it as you drive by," Judy says. "All my neighbors love it." —Andrea Kaneko

See the totem pole by driving by 370 State Route W, Fayette.



## MUSIC FESTIVAL AT A BLACK SILO

Black Silo Winery at Trenton hosts an annual music festival, the Mid-America Music Festival. This year the festival is July 18 and 19. Dubbed "northern Missouri's premier country music & camping festival," it takes place on the 70-acre grounds of the Black Silo Winery, with space for RV and tent camping. Performers this year include Creed Fisher and Kassi Ashton. Enjoy food trucks, the Jim Beam Grain Bin, and several local vendors as you take in the tunes and sample the wine.

But you can visit this winery in open countryside at other times too. Grapes are grown on-site and then are pressed and fermented into wine. Owners Jenn Hottes and Duane Urich opened this hidden gem to "bring the Green Hills something unique and wonderful, something of the earth and personally touched."

Try Jesse James, a dark red, or Show Me Sweet, a classically sweet red Missouri wine. Enjoy by the glass or bottle.

Pair the Silver Dollar dry white wine with a pizza from the Black Silo Grill, such as The Silo which comes with dill cream cheese sauce, sliced tomato, smoked chicken, Canadian bacon, peppers, and balsamic glaze, or soak in the sunshine with a glass of Covered Bridge semi-dry red wine as you enjoy the signature Silo Smashburger with the works.

All food at Black Silo is made by the Roll'n Blue BBQ food truck, which provides Trenton and its surrounding areas with smoked meats. Roll'n Blue BBQ caters from 5 PM–8 PM, Thursdays and Fridays. —Danielle Bopp Breshears

BlackSiloWinery.com • 4030 East 10th Street, Trenton  
1 PM–9 PM, Thursdays–Saturdays, April–December







## WINDING PATHS, WATERFALLS, AND WILDFLOWERS

Sitting as an oasis of green in the middle of the busy city of Columbia, Shelter Gardens can be a respite in nature for walkers, photographers, and plant enthusiasts alike. In addition to providing paved walking paths and alcoves where visitors can sit and relax, the gardens, located at Shelter Insurance's corporate office, are home to over 15,000 plants and 300 species of trees. Shelter Insurance first opened the garden in 1975 after an employee suggested turning extra land near the offices into a botanical garden.

When stopping by in the summer, visitors can expect to find several stone bridges that pass by waterfalls and arch over streams, one of which is filled with orange and white koi fish. Many trees, including oaks and pines, provide cool shade for those walking along the paths. On a nice day, the large, flat grassy areas of the park are frequented by people sprawled out with picnic blankets enjoying a meal or reading a book.

While Shelter Gardens is a great place to soak in the beauty of nature, it is also an educational experience. Many of the plants in the garden have accompanying identifying labels along with their scientific names for those interested in expanding their knowledge.

Toward the back of the garden is a sensory area for the visually impaired and a Vietnam veterans' memorial. At the center of the park is Newcomer School, a replica 19th century one-room schoolhouse where visitors can sit at period school desks, view an antique world globe, and draw on a large chalkboard.

For those looking for a picturesque stroll, a plethora of beautiful plants and trees, or a pristine



picnic area, stop by Shelter Gardens.

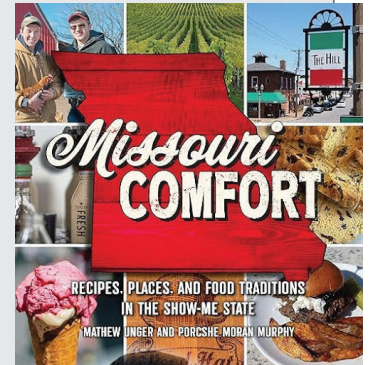
Sharon Burris, a regular visitor to the park, says that she enjoys viewing the colorful blooms in the park. She also looks forward to hearing the sound of the wind chimes that are placed in the trees.

"I'm always impressed by the cleanliness of the park and how well maintained it is," Sharon says.

—Sydney Jones

1817 West Broadway, Columbia  
8 AM–dusk every day except for Christmas.

## MissouriLife MERCANTILE



### A BOOK SIGNING

On July 12, *Missouri Life* Mercantile in Rocheport will host a book signing with author Porcshe Moran Murphy for a newly released book, *Missouri Comfort: Recipes, Places, and Food Traditions in the Show-Me State*. This 160-page cookbook delivers 67 Missouri recipes from the most basic of dishes to those worthy of fine dining. Missouri's culinary history runs deep, and foodies can hear Porcshe talk about this at 11 AM and 1:30 PM. Books are available at *Missouri Life* Mercantile at 208 Columbia Street, Rocheport, or [MissouriLife.com/shop](http://MissouriLife.com/shop).



**Missouri Life** has paid to plant over 1,400 trees to replace those used to make this magazine since we joined this program two-and-a-half years ago.



# Daiso Comes to Missouri

A Japanese housewares store opens in Wentzville.

STORY *Andrea Kaneko*

Last summer, I visited Japan to meet some of my husband's grandparents and extended family for the first time (my husband's father is from Japan). I was delightfully overwhelmed by the towering shrines bursting with red and orange colors, polite strangers bowing at every turn, quaint shops full of handmade ceramic bowls for ramen, and food layered with rich flavors of fish and vegetables. While each of these experiences hold a place in my heart, there was something about visiting Daiso in Japan that I truly longed for after I returned home.

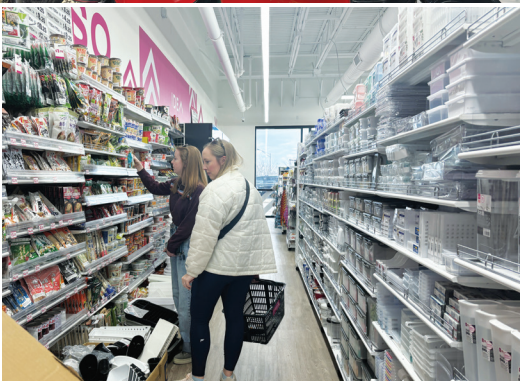
Daiso is a chain store found throughout Japan that carries household goods. At the time of my visit, everything in the store was 100 yen, which was equivalent to about 64 cents in US currency.

The high-quality goods were set at a cheap price, so I furiously collected everything from a porcelain sake set to hairpins to snacks to a kitchen tool to make *onigiri* (a triangular rice ball wrapped in seaweed). I begged to visit Daiso as we passed through each town in Japan.

When I got back to Missouri with a suitcase full of Daiso products, I presumed it would be a long time before I once again heard the welcoming “Daiso, Daiso” jingle that plays when you enter a store.

But now there is a Daiso in Wentzville.

“Daiso is expanding across the US, and we’re very excited to have our first store in Missouri because



From top, Daiso sells Japanese bowls for rice, ramen, and miso soup. It is traditional in Japan to remove shoes when entering a home, making slippers a common household item. The store carries hundreds of Japanese snacks.

of the great feedback we’ve received from people wanting us to come to this area,” says Denisse Uriarte, marketing coordinator for Daiso USA.

The Daiso in Wentzville opened in January 2025. It is almost 7,000 square feet and carries Japanese products, such as snacks, drinks, stationery, skincare, plushies, and kitchenware, including the exact same sake set I transported across the world. The prices range from \$1.75 to \$15. Daiso also plans on opening stores in Chesterfield and Brentwood, Denisse says.

“Daiso in Japan is a very popular store and is well known for its affordable and fun items,” Denisse says. “Daiso expanded in the US because they saw the demand and interest for Japanese-inspired products. Their goal was to bring the same unique and affordable shopping experience to customers in the US.”

For more information, visit [DaisoUS.com](https://DaisoUS.com).







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# Down on the Farm

From baby goats to pumpkin patches, this park lets people discover farm life for free.

STORY *Kim Hill*

Not many generations ago, most families were connected to agriculture—including the Rutledge and Wilson families, who farmed land west of Springfield for more than a century. When their farmland went up for sale, the Springfield-Greene County Park Board saw an opportunity to preserve the legacy for future generations and purchased it.

Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park reconnects people to agriculture through education and recreation on its 207 acres of land. Visitors can explore animal barns, pastureland, a farm-themed playground, a fishing pond, 20 acres of native prairie, and a mile-long paved trail along Wilson's Creek Greenway. Sheep, cows, goats, chickens, turkeys, and hogs all live on-site, and you can also rent your own garden plot.

"Visiting the animals and seeing how they live is a big draw," says Jenny Fillmer Edwards, public information administrator for the park board. A large barn doubles as an Education Center, where guests can interact with animals and learn how milk gets from cow to carton and how pollinators support the food chain.

For many in the Springfield area, the park is a restful safe haven. Nova Center of the Ozarks, a support organization for families and individuals with autism and developmental disabilities, takes field trips to the park often. "We love visiting because it offers the chance to connect with nature, interact with animals up close, and feel truly part of the community," says Jessie Edwards, the day services program director at the center.

The park offers memorable opportunities throughout the year with scheduled special events. Whether it's a Family Fishing Fun Night, Craft Night, or Heroes at the Farm, where local first responders and



emergency workers display their work vehicles, you can typically find the farm buzzing on the weekends.

The biggest celebration is Harvest Fest each October. A maze is cut through a sorghum field, instead of through corn, because sorghum remains green in the fall. You can also pick out pumpkins and ride a Cow Train made from plastic barrels painted like Holstein cow faces.

Admission to the park and its events is free, with fees for extras like the Cow Train, garden plots, playing on the inflatables, and renting fishing gear. "It's a real farm," Jenny says. "It smells and looks like a farm, and you can experience hands-on learning while having a lot of fun."

From top, visitors can interact with and hold goats on the farm. Cows can be found grazing in the fields. The big red barn serves as an Education Center and classroom where school groups can gather. East of the barn, visitors can pet animals like chickens.

[ParkBoard.org/FarmPark](http://ParkBoard.org/FarmPark)  
3825 West Farm Road 146, Springfield



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# Flower Power

This flower farm produces an oil that can do it all.

STORY Sydney Jones



After months of planting, watering, and tending, Kent and Kathy Brown, their son Phillip, and his wife, Amberlyn, all owners of Show Me HH Farms, have just 10 short days to enjoy their sunflower blooms.

In late August, the flowers will bow their heads, the photography sessions will fade to an end, and the field will be cleared. Though the blooming season will have ended, for the Brown family, the hard work of the harvest season has just begun.

Running the sunflower field as an attraction for the public is a bonus element of the job, while the family's true passion is transforming their fields of sunflowers into a healthy, multi-purpose oil. The variety of sunflower at Show Me HH Farms is high in oleic acid. This version of the plant produces seed oil that is thought to help inflammation in the body.

The process of making the oil starts the moment the sunflower seeds are harvested. "We start with harvesting our seeds, and that'll be in late October, early November," Kent explains. "We want the seeds to dry in the field. We don't use any insecticide if we can keep from it. We have a seed cleaner on our farm that we just purchased, and it will clean the seed."

After the seeds are cleaned, the family dumps the dried seeds into 1,000-pound super sacks. Then, the sacks are stacked in their warehouse and clamped shut before being hooked—one bag at a time—onto a seed press. The machine cold-presses the sunflower seed, avoiding the use of chemicals or heat to pull out the oil. It runs through the contents of each bag until it is completely empty, which takes an astounding 30 hours per sack. "I have a feeling we're going to have 40 to 45 bags this year," Kent says. "We're going to spend a tremendous amount of time [pressing], but you can kind of go off and do other farm chores ... just make sure something's not going to run out."

When the Brown's began the business in 2021, they thought that they were entering into a huge sunflower



Above, the shop at Show Me HH Farms sells sunflower oil in a variety of forms and quantities. It also carries several other items including soaps, skin care, and honey.

oil market in Missouri. According to Kent, they were surprised to learn they were only the second producer in the country to extract sunflower oil. Today, there are several farms doing this. "It's an all-natural product, and a lot of people are really surprised by that," Kent says. "We have zero waste, because what comes out of our press is a dry material that is fairly high in protein. We sell that to a family that uses it as a livestock supplement for their sheep and their cattle. Then, when we filter the oil, what comes back out of the filter is used in our sunflower soap."

Sunflower oil is great to use for cooking, for baking, and in soaps, Kent says. "Sunflower oil is really high in vitamin E and vitamin K, so it's perfect for soap, and it also has a 450-degree smoke point," Kent says. High smoke point oils are great for frying, searing, and





Above, the Brown family stands in their sunflower field. Back, from left, Amberlyn, Phillip, Kathy, and Kent Brown. Front, from left, Amberlyn and Phillip's children, Abby, Elijah, Josie, Rosaleigh, and Orrin, and Kent and Kathy's daughter, Dani Hudson. Below, Kent on the tractor and Phillip set up the farm's newest cold-press machinery.

cooking at high temperatures without the oil smoking or breaking down.

The oil is a healthy option due to being produced from sunflowers that are high in oleic acid, also known as omega-9 (a polyunsaturated fatty acid necessary for brain and heart health) and low in linoleic acid, also known as omega-6 (a polyunsaturated fatty acid that helps with brain function). While the body needs both of these fatty acids, too much omega-6 can lead to an increase in the body's inflammatory response. "Omega-6s are what usually cause inflammation in your joints, and this is why people try to stay away from seed oil," Kent says. "But what we use is actually higher in omega-9s."

Kent says that the majority of people who visit the farm are skeptical about the taste of the sunflower oil. One of his favorite things is giving samples of Show Me HH Farms' sunflower oil and seeing the faces of visitors when they give it a try. "It has an amazing flavor, a light, mild flavor that is nutty," Kent says. "We invite them in and show them our operation, and they're just amazed, especially when we tell them that most of the oil that you purchase at the supermarket is extracted with chemicals."

When Kent was asked about his favorite part of running the sunflower farm, his immediate answer was, "Meeting the people!" Run as a family operation with Kent, Kathy, Phillip, Amberlyn, and Kent and Kathy's daughter, Dani Hudson, the team works to provide a healthy sunflower seed oil for customers to enjoy.

*Visitors can see the sunflower fields in late July or August. Visit Show Me HH Farms' Facebook page for open dates and hours. The shop is open year round at 55115 State Highway HH, Hannibal. ShowMeHHFarms.com*



When we support and buy products grown, manufactured, processed, or made in Missouri, our state becomes stronger. Buy Missouri is a program within Lieutenant Governor David Wasinger's office that promotes these products to our fellow Missourians, the country, and the world. The Buy Missouri program already has more than 650 members and continues to grow.



STORY Sydney Jones

**PURPLE PASSION**

Cathy and Scott Smith returned to their family's farming roots in 2015 after purchasing acreage in Osage County. They wanted to "create a sustainable business supported by a natural lifestyle," as Cathy describes. After visiting a lavender farm in Oregon and learning about the many benefits of the plant, including sleep support, reduced inflammation, and reduced anxiety, the couple decided to grow lavender and sell lavender products.

"Planting, harvesting, weeding, pruning, covering for harsh winter weather, drying, removing buds, and creating products are done by hand," Cathy says. "Lavender farming truly is a labor of love."

Customers can browse through different lavender products on the Lavender Rhapsody website. The products include soaps, lotions, candles, bath salts, neck wraps, essential oils, and culinary items like baking mixes and lemonade mix.

[LavenderRhapsody.com](http://LavenderRhapsody.com)

**THERAPY TOOLS**

After Janet Stephens' older sister, Kathy Schumacher, graduated from college in the late '90s with a degree in music therapy, they both recognized a gap in the market for learning tools and supplies for music therapists and educators.

A long-time lover of sewing and crafting, Janet decided to create and hand-sew music therapy movement props. She sells them through her business Bear Paw Creek based in Miller, which opened in 2000.

Soon Bear Paw Creek's creative movement products, such as chiffon scarves, streamers, bean bags, balloon balls, hand instruments (like bells and drums), and cases for movement props, were being sold to customers worldwide.

Janet and two other seamstresses, Sarah Waddle and Cindy White, have been working together for over 20 years, developing the products and sewing each one by hand. More recently, Janet added a third seamstress, her daughter Madison Stephens, who also runs Bear Paw Creek's social media.

One of Janet's favorite parts of the job is experiencing the impact that her products are having on people's lives at schools, libraries, and nursing homes. "It is wonderful to connect with the people utilizing and benefiting from our products, and it's humbling to know that you're sewing and making something that is going to end up in their hands," she says.

[MusicAndMovementProducts.com](http://MusicAndMovementProducts.com)



LAVENDER RHAPSODY, BEAR PAW CREEK





## HAND-MIXED WATERCOLORS

Artistic Isle specializes in selling hand-mixed watercolor paint. Artist Lindsey Starr first sold her own watercolor paintings of island landscapes in Maui, Hawaii. After moving to Georgia, she began mixing her own paints with water, honey, and mineral-based pigments. "It took a while to get my exact formula the way that I wanted it," Lindsey says. Soon after she began selling her handmade watercolor paints, Lindsey moved to Sedalia and opened a brick-and-mortar watercolor store there. "I had sales from day one," Lindsey says. "My first sale was to a nurse in Columbia, and I was just thankful that she thought enough of me to buy my paints."

Inside the store, customers can try out and purchase hand-mixed watercolors, ceramic mixing palettes, watercolor kits, high-quality watercolor paper, and painting tools. Customers can also sign up to take a watercolor class to learn the basics. After working in the shop, Lindsey often ends her day with her own watercolor painting—the inspiration that started the business years ago. "I love making the color, making the paint, and mixing the colors," Lindsey says. "And my favorite part is painting with them!"

ArtisticIsle.com • 120 East Sixth Street, Sedalia



Lindsey and her husband Daniel

## COOKIE LEGACY

Julie's Chewies, which began in Springfield in 1988, is still baking the same delicious treats. Desserts include chocolate chip, butterscotch, toffee, and cinnamon-swirl cookies and peanut butter, lemon-blueberry, coconut macaroon, and gooey butter bars. Specials at Julie's Chewies are made daily. Owners Todd Ruff and James Hostetler pride themselves on using the same legendary recipes that Julie Higgins used.

"It's the love for what we do that fuels us," says general manager Keith Casteel.

JuliesChewies.com • 1325 South Glenstone Avenue, Springfield



## PUZZLE PERFECTION

Jim Beachler and his team at Hollow Woodworks in Ferguson produce handmade wooden puzzles and other products. Customers can order customized wooden name puzzles, puzzle stools, name trains, and toy boxes. If a customer loses a piece from a Hollow Woodworks product, the company will replace it for free, only charging for



Jim in his workshop



shipping. Each puzzle is unique, and all paints, finishes, and wood are child safe and sourced from the United States.

"We meet people at a happy time in their life—either they have a new baby or they need a birthday gift or something like that—and we do everything to make sure their product comes out perfectly," Jim says.

HollowWoodworks.com



To learn more about hundreds of Buy Missouri businesses as well as the ones featured in this issue or to enroll your business, please visit [BuyMissouri.net](http://BuyMissouri.net).



# Collector to Creator

One woman's love for glass turned into an artistic pursuit.

STORY *Sandy Selby*



Wanda is a juried member of The Best of Missouri Hands, a 500-member nonprofit dedicated to developing and recognizing Missouri artists and artisans.



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**MissouriHands.org**

Wanda Tyner's artistic journey began with her admiration of glass art. She and her husband collected glass art for their home, and that interest inspired her to take a glass art class, simply to learn how the art she loved was created.

"I signed up for a beginning class thinking, 'I will understand more and then move on.' Instead, I fell in love with glass in a whole new way," she recalls. "I took all the local classes I could find. I also traveled to take classes with glass artists that I admired."

The next step was to purchase a kiln and to figure out all the technical aspects of preparing, programming, and firing glass.

Wanda's work today is a complex merger of texture, shape, and color, but she started off with simple forms like platters. As her skills evolved, so did her art. Now she is a master at manipulating glass into wall art, sculptures, vases, and uniquely shaped bowls. "I continue to experiment and evolve my art, keeping it interesting," Wanda says.

At her in-home art studio at Lee's Summit, her process begins with clear glass or solid-colored glass made by a manufacturer. "I manipulate the glass at high temperatures to create glass with interesting patterns, swirls, and designs," she says. "The glass is then cut and combined together to achieve the colors and designs I need. I fire this glass multiple times in

Wanda makes everything from jewelry and bowls to wall art and sculptures.

the kiln at various temperatures to achieve smooth and textured results to make various artworks."

The inspiration for Wanda's designs comes from the things that interest her most: nature, travel, and music. "I love kayaking, hiking, exploring our world, and spending time in nature. Nature is the most amazing artist and such an inspiration. I also started taking piano lessons a few years ago. Music speaks to most of us in different ways, and that inspired me to make music-related sculptures, including music notes, guitars, saxophones, flutes, and pianos."

Wanda's advice for budding artists is this: "Share your work when you are excited about it for the joy of sharing it. Don't be your worst critic. It's easy to focus on imperfections or compare to others. Don't! Join Best of Missouri Hands and a local art organization for networking and learning. Art is joy."

Purchase Wanda's artwork at [WandaTynerGlass.com](http://WandaTynerGlass.com) or at Missouri Life Mercantile in Rocheport.



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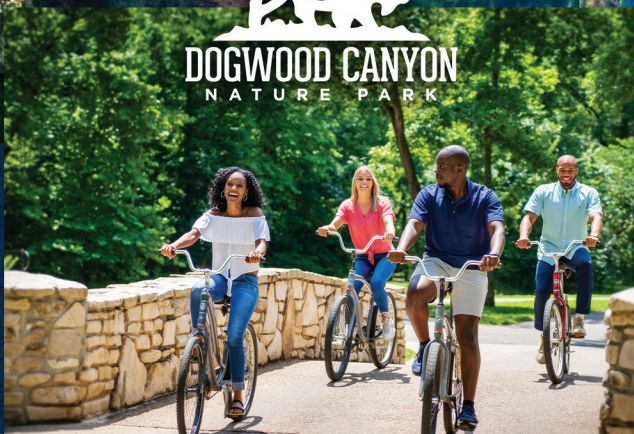
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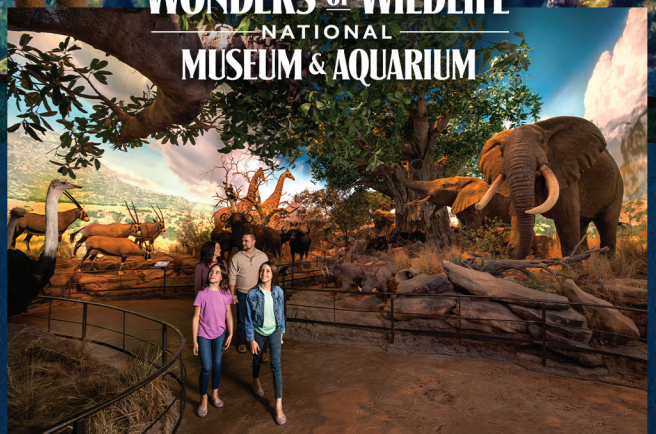


# STILL

  
**DOGWOOD CANYON**  
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# The Pear Tree's Enduring Magic

Experience swarm service and superb steaks in Macon.

STORY Chef Daniel Pliska



**M**any years ago, right after I relocated with my family to Columbia, I heard through the grapevine about the Pear Tree Restaurant in Bevier. I took my family there for dinner. I still remember the warm, congenial service and the good food.

Sadly, the original restaurant, opened by the late Albert Abbadessa in 1986, burned down in a fire in 2012. Thankfully, his son Michael, along with the Abbadessa family, carried on with the Pear Tree name, merging it with Pear Tree's sister restaurant in Macon, A. J.'s Eat and Drink, that the family started in 2011, a year before the Pear Tree in Bevier burned. In 2019, the new combined restaurant in Macon became the Pear Tree Kitchen & Bar.

The restaurant still offers a continental cuisine and an inviting atmosphere, which were hallmarks of the original establishment. And just as the previous restaurant had done, the one in Macon features what could be described as "swarm service," a type of service where a team of staff attends to guests' every need and desire.

In the early days of the restaurant, Albert brought this type of service to northern Missouri after being inspired by his dining experience at the acclaimed but now closed Tony's restaurant while on a trip to St. Louis to see the Cardinals beat the New York Yankees in the 1964 World Series. Albert became motivated to open what became the original, famed Pear Tree Restaurant in Bevier.

This style of service is still the standard at the Pear Tree in Macon. Another service standout is how the entrees are delivered to tables via a hot cart, where the entrees are presented table-side by a well-choreographed team of servers. According to Michael, the core philosophy of the restaurant is to focus on three pillars of hospitality—presentation, quality, and service—to ensure each guest has the best experience possible.

One characteristic of any well-run restaurant is the ability to keep team members for a long time, and at



Above, appetizers include Twisted Shrimp (center), yellowfin tuna with thin-sliced cucumbers and sesame dipping sauce (below right), and batter-dipped and fried slices of portobello mushrooms with red-pepper aioli sauce (above left).

the Pear Tree, this is evident with many staff members, including executive chef Brenda Nanneman. She has been working for the family for 39 years, and sous chef Ron Rushton has been working at the restaurant for 20 years. Ron rose from the ranks of the culinary team, first starting as a prep cook, leading to his current role as sous chef, second in command of the kitchen.

Chef Brenda, who received formal training in Kansas City at Johnson County Community College, began her career as an apprentice at the Country Club in





From top, hand-breaded items are a specialty at the restaurant; here, a crispy, fried onion ring crowns a burger. Entrees are served from a hot cart, which builds anticipation among diners. Open beams and light from chandeliers enhance the ambience.

Mission Hills. After she completed her three-year apprenticeship there, she moved to The Potted Steer at the Lake of the Ozarks, where Albert was the general manager. He recruited her in 1986 to join him and his team at the Pear Tree. Chef Brenda says that in her current role as chef, it's not just about food, it's about the people she serves, the team she leads, and the Pear Tree's rich culinary legacy.

The menu offerings have found success over the years, especially the in-house aged Creekstone Farms steaks, batter-fried lobster tails, garlic croutons, dressings, desserts, and many other homemade recipes that have become customer favorites.

One standout on the menu is the Prime Cowboy Ribeye served with bone marrow butter. This is an excellent steak, and although not as visually striking



as the more popular tomahawk steak found in many restaurants and butcher shops, it is a more sensible and cost-effective menu option because the extra-long rib bone that is left on the tomahawk adds additional weight to the purchase. Using bone marrow enhances the rich *umami* profile that already exists in the bone of a ribeye steak.

Another interesting menu option is the Voodoo Salmon served on spicy slaw and topped with Cajun butter. The menu also includes some notable burgers, sandwiches, and pasta dishes, along with special seasonal menu options.

The Pear Tree features a long bar where patrons can sit and relax. The full-service bar features signature cocktails along with numerous wines. Two cocktails that are popular with guests are the Old Fashioned and Raspberry Amaretto Martini. The bar also carries a wide selection of draft and bottled beers.

Any restaurant that has been in operation and successful for such a long period of time is undoubtedly a special place and one that has built a lasting legacy. I highly recommend taking the drive to Macon to dine at the Pear Tree Kitchen & Bar.

[ThePearTreeRestaurant.com](http://ThePearTreeRestaurant.com)  
1407 North Missouri Street, Macon

From top, chefs Brenda Nanneman and Ron Rushton have a combined 59 years of experience. The full-service bar offers signature cocktails and a wide selection of wines and beers.



**CHEF DANIEL PLISKA** is a certified executive chef and author. He teaches culinary arts at Ozarks Technical Community College in Springfield.



# Residency on the River

A new memoir portrays the town of Rocheport as it existed in another era.

REVIEW BY *Evan Allen Wood*

It is perhaps the fate of every city known for nurturing struggling artists to become so mythologized by the legacies they leave behind that it one day becomes devoid of the very amenities that attracted them there. These include cheap rent, cheap food, and

some semblance of community. In the 1920s, American artists immigrated to Paris in droves seeking favorable currency exchange rates and the company of their peers. Meanwhile, in New York City in the 1960s, an upstart folk singer, say, could lease an apartment in Manhattan for less than \$1,000 per month in today's money, and considerably cheaper options existed for those willing to live a more nomadic lifestyle. The Euro has been stronger than the US dollar for most of the past decade, and Manhattan's average rent today is over \$5,000. The artists we

associate with these places—from Ernest Hemingway and Josephine Baker to Bob Dylan and Joan Baez—left behind a vision of a particular moment in time that helped those cities develop into the posh, expensive places they are today.

It seems odd to consider a river town in mid-Missouri with just over 200 residents beneath the same lens as Paris and New York City, but a new memoir from Kristen Heitkamp about life in Rocheport invites this comparison. *Cabin Fever*, published this year during Rocheport's bicentennial, chronicles the author's life in a small cabin on Gaw

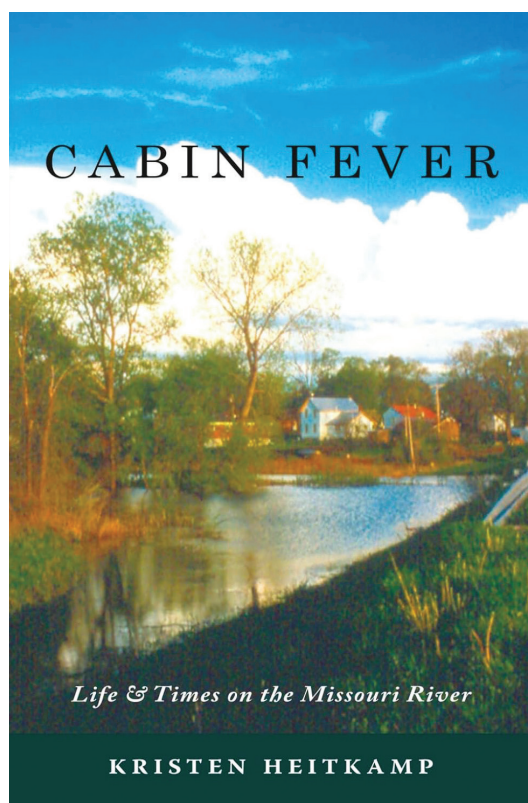
Street from the late 1970s through the early '90s. When Kristen arrived, the town, according to her, "had long squandered her fortunes." The once busy river port had no school, no bank, and the trains that rolled through on the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad no longer stopped. What the town did have, however, was affordable rent, natural charm, and a collection of neighbors who "pretty much lived in each other's pockets," as Kristen puts it.

The memoir relates the stories of these neighbors, each with their own sets of idiosyncrasies. There's George Swope who was apparently born in 1899 and once cured a case of frostbite with a bottle of whiskey, Joe Cochran who left his home at 13 and fought in World War II, and Sweetie who claimed to have seen Blind Boone perform at an ice cream supper in the little town as a child. They age, they repeat their stories to Kristen, and we see their neighborly bonds strengthen even as their antics sometimes frustrate our narrator (for example, when George asks for a ride to the grocery store in nearby New Franklin then leaves his wallet there, forcing them to drive back for it in a snow storm).

As the residents' lives change, so too does the town. A sewer is built. The MKT is turned into the Katy Trail. A bakery arrives but eventually goes out of business. The old schoolhouse becomes a bed-and-breakfast, and outlines of the town as it exists today begin to emerge.

At one point in the memoir, Kristen expresses the skepticism she felt at the time that Rocheport would become a draw for tourists. Today, walking on the Katy Trail past B&Bs and restaurants, this trajectory seems inevitable. Although the town's transformation has sometimes been referred to as a revitalization, it's difficult to avoid reflecting on what's been lost with the arrival of weekend visitors and increasing property values.

Perhaps one measure of the town's character is the number of artists living and working in it. For now, there are still plenty, and we at least have Kristen's book to transport us back to the old Rocheport to see what's changed and what's stayed the same.



## CABIN FEVER

Kristen Heitkamp,  
168 pages, memoir,  
self-published,  
softcover (5.25 x 8  
inches), \$14.99.



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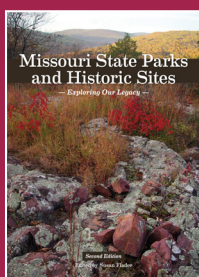
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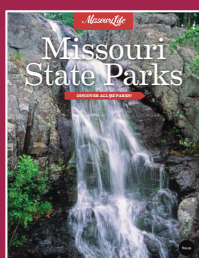
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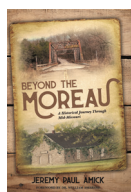
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# Missouri Authors

They write about the Moreau River, small towns, sports, and a sloth.

REVIEWS BY Sydney Jones



**BEYOND THE MOREAU: A HISTORICAL JOURNEY THROUGH MID-MISSOURI**, Jeremy Paul Amick, 326 pages, nonfiction, Yorkshire Publishing, paperback (6 x 9 inches), \$21.99. The Moreau River, which runs through Cole, Miller, Moniteau, and Morgan Counties in Missouri, is home to historic events and many notable people that are featured in this account. This collection of stories is divided into chapters focusing on the people, education, businesses, and faith found in the area. The lives of those along the river are complemented by full-page historic images and detailed captions that help bring their voices to life. For those interested in what makes mighty Missourians, this book is an indulging read. Author Jeremy Paul Amick lives in Russellville.



**THE NEW SALVATION AND OTHER STORIES**, Daren Dean, 147 pages, fiction, Cowboy Jamboree Press, paperback (5.5 x 8.5 inches), \$13.99. This collection of short stories leads readers through complex elements of the human condition like tension, beauty, and profound sadness. Each story introduces new characters with different life experiences while exploring both the beauty and conflict of human emotions. Daren Dean teaches English and creative writing at Lincoln University in Jefferson City.



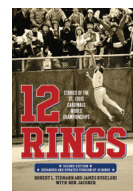
**THE SECRET LIFE OF SLOAN THE SLOTH**, Aaron Fox, 33 pages, children's fiction, Mascot Books, paperback, \$10.72. Written by Aaron Fox, who grew up south of Jefferson City and lives in Columbia, and illustrated by Stacy David Wallingford, this children's book goes through the normal life of Sloan the sloth and his secret of being a not-so-normal rainforest superhero. Readers meet Sloan's sloth friends and watch as he comes to their rescue as they face a shifty jaguar criminal. Full of lovable characters and clear, vibrant illustrations, this

story highlights the power of friendship and how ordinary characters can do the extraordinary.

**SMALL TOWN MISSOURI, LEGENDS, LORE, AND ATTRACTIONS IN THE SHOW ME STATE**, Caitlin Yager, 144 pages, nonfiction, Reedy Press, paperback (11 x 8.5 inches), \$29.95. Discover the beauty and history of Missouri's small towns with this informative book. Author Caitlin Yager says that while Missouri is home to iconic places like St. Louis, Kansas City, and the University of Missouri, there's so much more to the state hidden within its small towns. With each of the 50 small towns that are highlighted, their founding story, legendary figures, and lore are explained, and the town's population count, attractions, events, and fun facts are listed. This book is great for those looking to explore the lesser-known corners of the state and experience hidden-away adventures.



**12 RINGS: STORIES OF THE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**, Robert L. Tiemann, James Rygelski, and Ron Jacober, 256 pages, Reedy Press, paperback (9 x 6 inches), \$22.50. In this historic account, baseball historian Robert Tiemann, journalist and newspaper editor James Rygelski, and broadcast journalist Ron Jacober come together to recount the 12 World Series wins of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team. Each World Series win has its own chapter, including a summary of the championship game, the events leading up to it, statistical sheets, commentary from Ron Jacober, and corresponding photographs. Sports fans, especially those fond of the St. Louis Cardinals, will find this book to be both informative and nostalgic.



**WARREN'S HILL: A BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINTOP HOME, PLAGUED BY DARKNESS**, Linda Koenig, 212 pages, fiction, Off & Running Publications, paperback (6 x 9 inches), \$17. Amidst the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas sits Warren's Hill, the picturesque piece of land that is the setting for this novel. Though beautiful, Warren's Hill holds secrets too. This novel follows the lives of two women who live on the same piece of land, but a century apart. Though they are from different time periods, the women experience similar peculiarities, accidents, and strange, unexplainable events while on the property. Each woman uncovers secrets and works to escape the darkness found on Warren's Hill. This book is author Linda Koenig's second novel, her debut novel being *Edgewood Village*. She lives in Columbia.





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STORY *Andrea Kaneko*



# SHOW ME

REACH NEW HEIGHTS ON MISSOURI ROLLER COASTERS.





Silver Dollar City's  
Time Traveler

# THRILLS

Unexpected nosedives, curves that cause screams to spontaneously emit from throats, loops with a crushing amount of G-force, and spins that make eyes cross are all attributes of the alluring thrill of roller coasters.

Undoubtedly, Missouri offers feats of engineering unlike any other with its iconic roller coasters. Our state is home to three world-class amusement parks: Silver Dollar City in Branson, Six Flags in St. Louis, and Worlds of Fun in Kansas City. I decided to ride the three biggest roller coasters at each park, then compared them on a scale I created, at right, for various aspects. Traverse the tracks alongside me as I describe this daring assignment.

**RATING  
SCALE**  
**1–10, 10 highest**

DROPS  
SCREAMS  
DIZZINESS  
FAMILY FRIENDLY  
ROUGHNESS

SILVER DOLLAR CITY



**RATING**

DROPS

.....7.....

SCREAMS

....5.....

DIZZINESS

....5.....

FAMILY FRIENDLY

.....7.....

ROUGHNESS

•2.....

**WILDFIRE**

WildFire is a stereotypical modern roller coaster. Barreling at 66 miles per hour, WildFire does a full loop and a corkscrew and then drops 15 stories. It also has a unique feature of a double inversion “cobra roll,” which is a loop resembling a cobra head.

This is a perfect ride for those wanting to try out their first big coaster. It has smooth loops and traditional front-facing drops. While it is thrilling, it is not truly frightening. Each row seats four people, so it would be a great opportunity for children over 52 inches tall to ride with their parents or friends as their first ascent—or is it descent?—into the carnival of speed and screams.



## OUTLAW RUN

Outlaw Run is a classic wooden roller coaster. It is characterized by its late 1800s appearance, complete with interwoven wooden beams and steel tracks, but with modern engineering, allowing for a corkscrew spin. In fact, this coaster is the only wooden coaster in the world to twist upside down three times. Rhythmic and suspenseful clicking sounds mark its first uphill climb before it sends riders diving down more than 16 stories at 68 miles per hour, making it one of the fastest wooden coasters in the world. I didn't expect the corkscrew toward the end of the ride. But the moment I was suddenly hurtling upside down through a tunnel of timber with only a lap bar holding me in place, I threw my hands up in both fear and jubilation. I left the exhilarating ride feeling impressed, wobbly, and wide eyed.

### RATING

DROPS  
.....9..  
SCREAMS  
.....6....  
DIZZINESS  
.....6....  
FAMILY FRIENDLY  
.....5.....  
ROUGHNESS  
.....8..

### RATING

DROPS  
.....8..  
SCREAMS  
.....7....  
DIZZINESS  
.....8..  
FAMILY FRIENDLY  
.....3.....  
ROUGHNESS  
.....1.....

## TIME TRAVELER

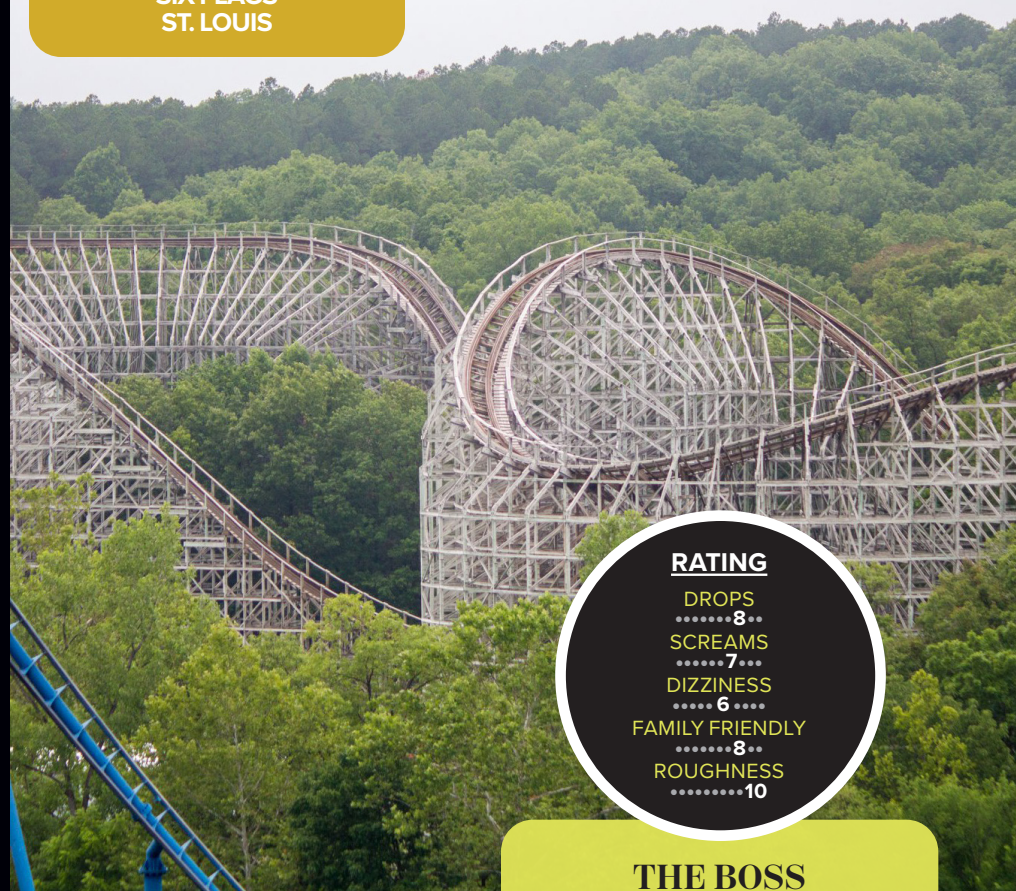
While traveling over 50 miles per hour, riders of the Time Traveler will spin in their clock-themed cart styled with gears and gold and plummet 10 stories next to the Ozark hills. This coaster, which is 100 feet tall, includes a 95-foot-tall vertical loop and a 90-degree vertical drop. With the cart spinning, I couldn't get my bearings. At some points, I was moving backward while spiraling straight down, while at others, I was twisting upside down. Unable to anticipate what was next, my stomach dropped at the slightest move and bump. As if the spinning cart wasn't enough to catch me off guard, the roller coaster paused abruptly during the ride. For a moment, I felt genuine terror that the ride had broken. But in the blink of an eye, I was jerked forward again and tossed into the next loop. If you are a thrill seeker searching for a ride that has mastered the art of suspense, then the Time Traveler is the coaster for you.



## MR. FREEZE: REVERSE BLAST

In the early summer heat, the theme of Mr. Freeze: Reverse Blast is what I loved most about the ride—the theme is ice. Chilled air blows on riders, and blue lighting accents the scene. Right out of the gate, the light blue coaster blasts riders backward from zero to 70 miles per hour. I couldn't even process what had happened before the ride spun me into a 150-foot loop then spit me out. The ride zips through curves and loops and finally shoots riders up a 218-foot-tall vertical tower and then ...freezes.

When I was hanging like a rag doll frozen in mid-air, a scream ripped through me. Looking straight down at the pavement below while simply hanging was terrifying. After a few heartbeats, the coaster nosedived headfirst, which caused my stomach to drop and my head to snap backward. This short and chilling ride packs a punch. Be ready to get blasted away.



### RATING

DROPS

.....8..

SCREAMS

.....7..

DIZZINESS

.....6..

FAMILY FRIENDLY

.....8..

ROUGHNESS

.....10..

### RATING

DROPS

.....9..

SCREAMS

.....8..

DIZZINESS

.....4..

FAMILY FRIENDLY

.....3..

ROUGHNESS

.....2..

## THE BOSS

With a track spanning almost 5,000 feet, The Boss is known for its iconic wooden structure and large drops, including a 150-foot double drop. Hidden on the edges of the park, this coaster is known as a “terrain twister” because it covers 12 acres of land and follows the natural topography of the Missouri hills. This can make the rider feel like a bird, rising and falling with the earth. But be warned, this wooden coaster is deceptively intense.

It flung me in sharp turns, lifted me from my seat during drops, squished me into my fellow passenger, and rattled my brain with its rough rails. Riders fly 66 miles per hour through wooden shafts with only a lap bar to keep them from soaring off into the trees. Looking up while in the catacombs of crisscrossing wood, riders can see layers of overlapping tracks—either tracks they just traversed or tracks lying ahead. The Boss would be a great coaster for those who don't like loops, but it could be overwhelming to some due to the bumpy ride and whiplash turns.





## BATMAN: THE RIDE

Before visitors even get in the park, they can hear the roar of Batman: The Ride foreshadowing their upcoming adventure. While waiting in line, I walked through Gotham City in pipe tunnels lined with ominous red lights while dogs barked and police sirens pierced the air. Once riders are seated, four to a row, they climb 11 stories in the air and are immediately flung into a 360-degree loop. Then the 55-mile-an-hour coaster embarks on a second loop that presses 4 Gs of force onto passengers. I couldn't even lift my arms. My favorite part of the ride was the feeling of my feet dangling, left exposed, making the experience feel dangerous and thrilling.

After disembarking, I overheard a teenage boy tell his friend, "I'm never leaving the ground after that. I'm kissing the ground." I would highly recommend this ride to roller coaster connoisseurs who enjoy loops, the ambience of a themed ride, and a huge adrenaline rush.

### RATING

DROPS

...4.....

SCREAMS

.....7...

DIZZINESS

.....8...

FAMILY FRIENDLY

...4.....

ROUGHNESS

..2.....



## PATRIOT

At the start of Patriot, an Americana-themed coaster, I was met with a warm announcement that said, "Fly high, patriot." Flashes of the red, white, and blue rail system painted the sky as I soared through the air and dropped more than 120 feet. I circled a 90-foot loop upside down, launched into a zero-G roll, and flipped around in a corkscrew. During the 65-mile-per-hour ride, this coaster unexpectedly lifted me from my seat, making me feel weightless as I zipped through its loops. I was pleasantly surprised by every twist and turn, but my favorite part of the ride was when it came to an end as we coasted up to the boarding platform. Underneath us, there was a sprinkling of bracelets and hair ties dropped by previous riders. It felt like a unique bonding experience, connecting past, present, and future people, reminiscent of the melting pot that is America.

### RATING

DROPS

..... 6 .....

SCREAMS

.... 4 .....

DIZZINESS

..... 6 .....

FAMILY FRIENDLY

.... 5 .....

ROUGHNESS

.... 5 .....



## RATING

DROPS

3

SCREAMS

3

DIZZINESS

4

FAMILY FRIENDLY

8

ROUGHNESS

7

## PROWLER

Screeching metal-on-metal is the call of the Prowler, a wooden coaster with steel tracks. Going up to 50 miles per hour, this coaster takes a drop of 85 feet, which leads to sharp turns. This coaster was satisfyingly thrilling, and seeing as there was no one in line, I went on to ride it two more times. I became friends with the ride attendants, and they joked and cheered as the carts flew in and out of the station with me and only a few other passengers inside them. This was a rough ride, although relatively smooth for a wooden coaster. I recommend the Prowler for younger riders over four feet tall or those wanting to conquer their fear of coasters and experience a fun rush.

## MAMBA

Don't be fooled by the lack of loops on this ride. It was the scariest roller coaster I rode in all three parks. This neon green steel coaster, known as the Mamba, slowly inches riders higher and higher up the first incline, which gave me plenty of time to anticipate what was coming and regret hopping on. Then it dropped me 200 feet at the speed of 75 miles per hour.

I had naively planned to have my hands up the entire ride, but on my way down that first drop, I clawed at my lap bar, trying to prevent myself from being lifted off my seat. I couldn't even scream or take a full breath before being dropped again more than 180 feet. This time I couldn't control myself from floating off the seat.

When our ride was finally over, a boy at the back of the ride got sick. I didn't blame the poor kid—I felt sick from terror myself. I fled from the ride with trembling hands, promising myself I would never do that again.

## RATING

DROPS

10

SCREAMS

5

DIZZINESS

6

FAMILY FRIENDLY

0

ROUGHNESS

6





# Conquering the Coaster

A BUCKET LIST  
ITEM LEADS  
TO TACKLING  
A DAUNTING  
COASTER.

STORY *Matt Crossman*

**M**y 14-year-old daughter, Jane, makes endless lists. She makes packing lists, homework lists, Halloween candy received lists, and lists of her lists. Last summer, she made an all-timer: a bucket list.

It's color-coded with immaculate handwriting and boxes for her to check off as she completes each achievement. Every single item will result in joy for her, joy for her friends, or even joy for me, my wife, and our other daughter. This list includes Cardinals games, hikes, road trips, sleepovers, double sleepovers, trampoline sleepovers, tubing, watching fireworks, and making s'mores.

For some of them she needs me, for some of them she needs my money, and for some of them she just needs her friends. To ride a big roller coaster, she needed all three.

That one's a doozy. It is by far the most ambitious item on her list and the one I wondered when, or even if, she would check it off. Her previous "attempts" to ride big roller coasters were not really attempts at all. She flatly refused to even consider it. Yet as the summer progressed, her goal became even bigger. She didn't want to ride just any big roller coaster; she wanted to conquer Batman at Six Flags, a beast of a ride that rates among the fastest,

gnarliest, and scariest in the state.

I sometimes think of the rides my kids go on at amusement parks like marks on a door frame, only instead of measuring how tall they are, they measure chutzpah. In that sense, going on Batman would be the equivalent of growing a foot in one year.

To get to Six Flags, she needed me to drive her and buy her a ticket. To find the courage for the ride, she needed the support and encouragement of her friends—and not just any friends, but a very specific group of them—Ella, Lily, and Heidi.

We call ourselves the Blocrossdetters, a smushing together of our last names (Blough, Crossman, Devorss, and Ritter). There are eight parents and 13 kids, seven of whom are teenage girls (including Ella, Lily, Heidi, and two of mine). Together we do holidays, camping trips, backyard cookouts, and as of one glorious Sunday, trips to Six Flags.

We arrived at the park and hustled straight to a roller coaster called American Thunder, where my daughter saved me a seat next to her. I climbed in and asked how she was feeling. She said, "Fine," and she looked fine ... but then a dead giveaway: She pulled our shared seatbelt—OUCH!! TOO TIGHT!!—and pain seared across my waist.

The ride started, and she grabbed my arm and squeezed it. Quickly, she let go of me and her fears. We hadn't been inside the park for 20 minutes, and already she had completed the biggest (80 feet high) and fastest ride (50 miles per hour) of her life. That would have counted as a bucket



Matt Crossman and his daughter Jane.

list item if she hadn't talked so much about Batman.

We ran off American Thunder to the concourse, where her smile encompassed her whole face. She proclaimed herself proud that she did not swear as she screamed on that ride.

"Good job, darl—Wait, what?"


She artfully changed the subject and vowed she was ready for something scarier. Hoping to seize the momentum, even if this was happening way faster than I anticipated, I blurted out, "Let's do Batman then."

Could she be ready for that already? I thought it would take all day for her to gain the courage.

She is usually an inside-her-own-head overthinker. Not today, apparently, and maybe never again.

As we speed-walked to Batman, I wondered where my timid little girl



A large roller coaster car, filled with riders, is shown in a steep vertical drop. The car is yellow and blue, and the riders are wearing safety harnesses. The track is a dark blue-grey color. The background is a clear, bright sky. The car is positioned diagonally across the frame, from the top left towards the bottom right.

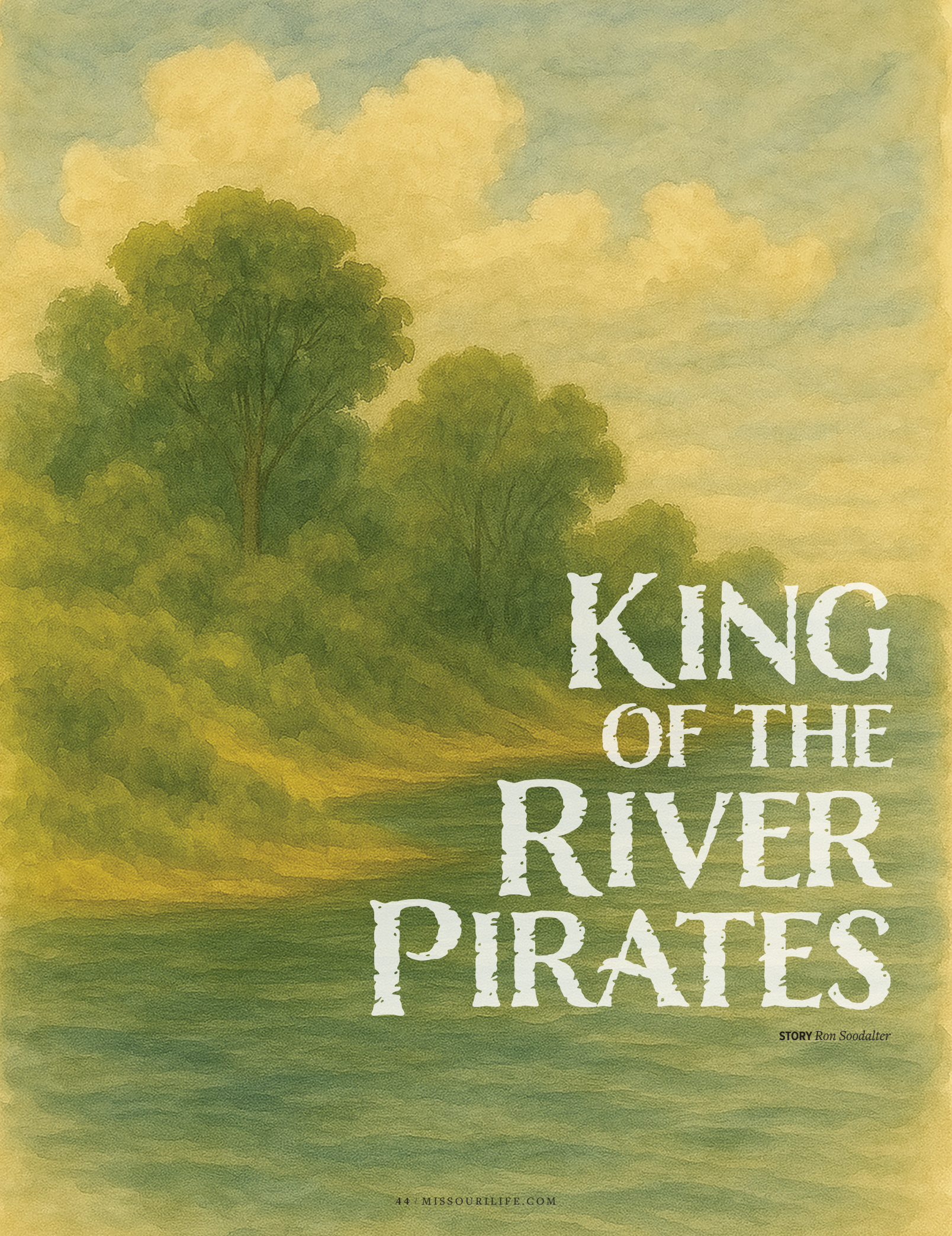
went and who this thrill-seeking young woman was. The presence of the Blocrossdettter girls helped—Ella, Lily, and Heidi are her best friends in the whole wide world, and they are all fearless roller coaster riders. But my daughter was not just swept along by peer pressure. She was leading as we arrived at Batman, and she didn't miss a beat as she walked through the entrance.

She wanted to ride with her friends—Batman sits four per car—and I pretended like I didn't care and jumped in the row behind her. We crawled to the top of the first big hill, cut a nasty right turn, and suddenly that bucket list was going to get a great big check mark.

Batman threw us more than 50 miles an hour over the one-minute-and-40-seconds ride covering 2,693 feet. We flipped upside down five times and pulled four Gs, and I yelled so loud for so long that whatever bad words came out of her mouth, I didn't hear them.

Yes, I was sad she was up there with her friends and not me, but sitting behind her worked out because I saw an important detail I otherwise would have missed: her feet kicking in delight as the ride ended.





# KING OF THE RIVER PIRATES

STORY *Ron Soodalter*





**W**hen you hear the word “pirate,” you might think of Johnny Depp in the *Pirates of the Caribbean*, the celluloid swashbuckler and dashing adventurer. But true piracy most often attracted men of few scruples and those with a skewed moral compass who were driven by a lust for gain and had an inclination toward violence. These ruthless cutthroats were the scourge not only of the blue waters of oceans and seas but also of big rivers.

In the years following the American Revolution, there was a virtual epidemic of piracy on and along the Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio, and Illinois Rivers. These so-called “river pirates” preyed upon travelers on both the brown water and traces (or narrow roads) that often ran along rivers. All traffic, from keelboats to riverboats, and all who journeyed, from solitary travelers to horse-drawn coaches, were susceptible. The most favorable scenario for sojourners who were waylaid by these brigands was simply to be lightened of their purses and allowed to continue on their journey; at worst, they would lose their

## THE STORY OF SAMUEL ROSS MASON

lives as well as their property. After a robbery or murder, the pirates would simply disappear with impunity into the endless forests or rock-faced mountains.

One of the most notorious of the river pirates, who at times operated in Missouri, was Samuel Ross Mason.

By 1800, a reward of \$2,000 had been posted on his head. He moved operations from the Ohio River, establishing a base on Wolf Island on the Mississippi, about 50 miles southeast of Cape Girardeau and near the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. The unincorporated community at Wolf Island today is likely close to where the base was in the Mississippi River.

### GENTLEMAN TURNS KILLER

**O**n the surface, Sam seemed the unlikely person to become an outlaw. Born in late 1739 to a prominent Virginia family, Sam had been afforded all the privileges of his class. He married a respectable woman and, over time, fathered eight children. When the Revolutionary War broke out, he



volunteered and was made a captain in the Virginia State Forces. Sam was soon placed in command of Fort Henry on the Ohio frontier.

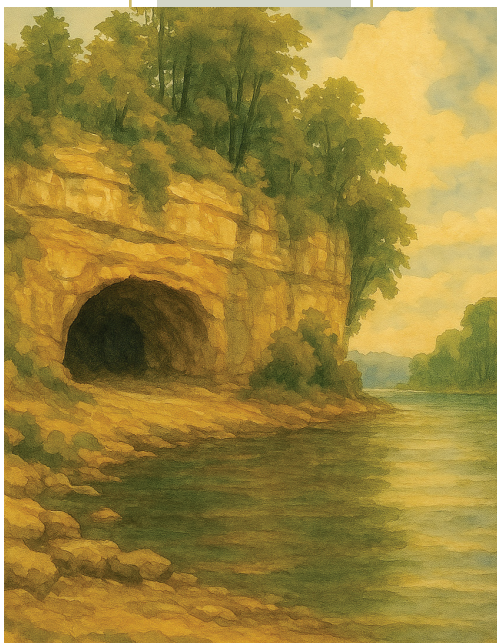
The region was rife with British-allied Native American tribes, and in late August 1777, Captain Mason and his command were lured into a trap in which everyone but Sam was killed. Seriously wounded, he survived by hiding behind a log. Upon his recovery, he was again assigned command of the fort, serving in this position for another two years. He apparently served with distinction. As Otto A. Rothert, author of *The Outlaws of Cave-in-Rock* states, “Captain Mason participated in several campaigns to defend frontier settlements from British-allied Native American tribes. ... His leadership was particularly notable during the western campaigns, where he operated in volatile and unforgiving terrain.”

The type of warfare waged on the frontier was unimaginably brutal. Both sides offered significant bounties for scalps—White and American Indian. There were those who made a living in obtaining scalps. In Carter F. Smith’s article, “Samuel Mason: Revolutionary Turncoat or Opportunistic Pirate?” published in the *Journal of the American Revolution*, he observes that Sam’s experiences “likely exposed him to the harsh realities of frontier warfare, shaping his worldview and preparing him for the life of an outlaw.”

In 1779, Sam moved his family to a 500-acre farm in Pennsylvania, where he initially prospered. Within two years, he was elected justice of the peace and named an associate judge. However, he went heavily into debt and fled to Kentucky, where he formed a gang of brigands, which would come to include his four sons. They began preying on travelers on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Sam established a headquarters at Cave-in-Rock, a deep, wide natural cavern overlooking a bend in the Ohio River on the Illinois side of the border between present-day Illinois and Kentucky. From here, he would watch for river craft, most often flatboats, hauling goods and passengers. To lure crews to the shore, sometimes a gang member would pretend to be a stranded local or else a navigator offering to help negotiate the often turbulent stretches of river. On other occasions, Sam’s female accomplices would tempt the crews ashore and ply them with liquor, while Sam and his gang inspected and stole their cargoes. Having converted the cave into a tavern of sorts, at times he would invite crews and travelers to eat and rest and then rob them. He would give them the option of joining his gang and, if they chose not to, kill them. Nor were the vessels themselves spared; they were

**Cave-In-Rock**, which was also used by other outlaws, has become Cave-In-Rock State Park in Illinois. The cave is within the heavily wooded park, which has high bluffs overlooking the Ohio River. Local lore claims Frank and Jesse James left their marks in the cave after the Civil War, and various visitors have reported sightings of the ghost of Sam Mason.



generally either sunk or sold. (In the epic 1962 film *How the West was Won*, Walter Brennan plays a Sam Mason-like character, who lures an unsuspecting fur trapper, played by James Stewart, into his well-stocked cave, only to rob him and attempt to kill him.)

Concerted efforts were made to catch the pirate leader, but his knowledge of the countryside helped him avoid capture. That \$2,000 bounty on his head at the turn of the 19th century was a stunning amount, about \$51,000 in today’s money. When a self-appointed group of vigilantes calling themselves the Exterminators came after Sam, he abandoned Cave-In-Rock and moved operations downriver to the strategically located Wolf Island on the Mississippi River southeast of Cape Girardeau.

At one point, Sam diversified, and along with his gang, he began to ply his trade as a land pirate. He focused his activities on the infamous Natchez Trace, an ancient Indian traveling and trading path that now runs some 450 miles as a scenic parkway from Nashville, Tennessee, to Natchez, Mississippi. In the early 1800s, it was arguably the most dangerous travel path in North America, upon which robbery, murder, and kidnapping were frequent occurrences. Furthermore, boundaries between areas governed by different countries were vague, and the question of jurisdiction among the Spanish, French, and Americans was, at the very least, confusing. As a result, relatively few miscreants were captured.

## THE POSSE CAPTURES SAM

Finally, Sam’s luck ran out. By early 1803, Mississippi Territorial Governor William C. C. Claiborne, driven to action by a wealthy and prominent Revolutionary War veteran whom Sam had robbed, took significant steps to catch him; he dispatched Colonel militia leader Daniel Burnet with orders to capture the bandit and his gang, writing, “These Men must be arrested; the honor of our country, the interest of society, and the feelings of humanity, proclaim that it is time to stop their career. ... [I]mmediately endeavour to procure 15 or 20 men as volunteers and place yourself ... at their head.”

The governor added, “If you should fall in with Mason and his party, you will use all the means in your power to arrest them ... and I desire, that the person or persons arrested, may immediately be conveyed under a strong guard to Natchez.”

Word had spread that Sam had been seen in the neighborhood of Little Prairie, present-day Caruthersville. The governor’s posse found the cabin in which Sam, eight men, and one woman were living. The lawmen





surrounded the cabin and arrested the gang without mishap.

Sam and his cohorts were sent in chains to the Spanish authorities in New Madrid (in present-day Missouri) for trial, where they faced numerous charges, including piracy, robbery, forgery, kidnapping, and murder. Although Sam reportedly claimed to be a guiltless farmer, in Kathy Alexander's book, *Legends of America*, an opposing view is shown. Kathy states that "the presence of \$7,000 in currency and 20 human scalps in his baggage convinced [the court] he was guilty." Scalps aside, the \$7,000 found in his belongings would be valued today at over \$177,000.

### THE PIRATES ESCAPE

Once again, the murky issue of jurisdiction arose. Sam and his gang were sent to New Orleans to appear before the Spanish authorities, who determined that the case, in fact, should be adjudicated by the Americans. Sam and his gang were placed aboard a ship, this time to face trial in Natchez, Mississippi. Along the way, they staged a daring escape. In the gunfight that ensued, Sam was wounded in the head but escaped and survived.

The governor then raised the reward to a stunning \$2,500—more than \$60,000 in today's money. This time, the Spanish government also offered a reward for

From Cave-In-Rock, Sam would watch for river craft, most often flatboats, hauling goods and passengers.

Sam, dead or alive, and the manhunt grew into a frenzy. Ultimately, the reward proved too tempting for two of Sam's long-time confederates.

One day, they appeared before the authorities in Old Greenville, Mississippi, with a severed head preserved in a ball of clay, claiming it was that of Samuel Mason. Others, including Sam's wife, did not agree. The conflicting testimonies carried enough weight with the court to discredit the bounty hunters' claim. Rather than receiving the reward, the two were arrested, tried, and hanged for their own crimes, and their heads were mounted on poles on the Natchez Trace as a warning to would-be miscreants.

Since there was no legally recognized acknowledgment of Sam's death, the story entered the realm of folklore. As with such notable outlaws as Jesse James and Billy the Kid, word of sightings persisted, many placing Sam somewhere in Canada. Other stories had Sam dying from wounds he received in his escape. Whatever the resolution, the region's rivers had seen the last of Samuel Mason and his gang of cutthroats.

Although oral tradition and lore would portray Sam as a heroic outlaw fighting against authority, he was far from a courtly highwayman. Samuel Mason was nothing more than a former war hero who abandoned that course of life to take on the mantle of thief and murderer.



STORY *Andrea Kaneko*

# TRAIN



The Southwest Chief Amtrak train departs from Union Station in Chicago. It crosses Missouri on its way to Los Angeles.



# TRAVELERS



EVERY  
SEAT  
HOLDS  
A STORY.

**“It is a great day to meet someone new,”** the train conductor bellowed over the intercom, his voice a counterpoint to the train wheels rhythmically thudding over rail joints as our train sped down the steel track. I was taking the Southwest Chief Amtrak train from Chicago to Kansas City. It was a double-decker overnight train set to make its full route, a 43-hour trip from Chicago to Los Angeles. Yet I, like many others, planned to ride only a portion of the journey.



## THE PSYCHIC

As soon as the train started rolling, I wobbled my way down the blue-carpeted aisles to the Sightseer Lounge car, which was enclosed in glass and lined with comfortable seats and dining booths. A few passengers sparsely dotted the car.

Within a few minutes of nestling into my cushioned seat facing the flat Illinois scenery, I overheard a woman in the dining area mention to another passenger that she was from St. Louis. My ears instantly perked up at hearing a fellow Missourian.

I meandered over to her. She was wearing a white beanie that completely covered her hair, a black hoodie with a white cross over her heart, and a gold zebra pin that hung lazily under the cross. Light-pink eyeshadow was painted over her pale eyelids. On the table in front of her lay a computer and three drinks: sparkling water, plain water, and ginger ale.

"I heard you're from St. Louis," I said, as I sat diagonally from her.

"Yeah, and you are a writer, aren't you?" she smirked.

I leaned back in shock. *How in the world did she know this?* I was holding a notebook, but nothing else identified me as such. The sway of the train car plus her intense declaration made me a bit nauseous.

Noticing my surprise, she continued by saying, "I can tell because I am a psychic medium. I'm the real deal."

After I confirmed her suspicion that I was a writer, she invited me to slide into the seat across from her—a two-foot-wide table barely separated us. She didn't seem to want to elaborate more about her psychic powers, but I divined her name was Rebecca. She was from the south side of St. Louis and was heading to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

While attempting to explain her living situation, she simply said that she was "a refugee in her own country." She didn't seem to have a permanent house, but instead used trains as her home.

When she takes train trips, she told me she makes an effort to stop and "rap battle adolescent boys," as a form of philanthropy. Did I understand what that meant? No.

According to Rebecca, she is autistic and has stage IV kidney failure but has never taken medicine for it. She appeared to be a fervent Christian and insisted she was a prophet. When talking about Jesus, her voice was quick and sharp, just like her stare.

After we talked about our lives, religion, dreams, and goals, I explained further that I was there to write about the people on the train. Then suddenly, she asked for a sheet of my notebook paper and began quickly scribbling. In cursive, she wrote me a note that said, "You will see we are all the same. Root cause at discretion (LOL), some not so fun. However, rel." I was not sure exactly what the cryptic message meant, but it felt like getting my fortune told.

As our conversation began to lull, I heard the lounge car door slide open behind me. Out of the corner of my eye,



I saw flashes of blue sweep through the train car. I spun around to see an army of Amish flood the car.

## THE AMISH

Every empty seat filled with Amish people, young and old, wearing plain-colored clothing, bonnets, suspenders, and straw hats. Amongst themselves, they were speaking Pennsylvania Dutch, a mixture of German and English commonly spoken by the Amish.

Across from Rebecca and me, five children and one young adult woman squeezed into one booth. They began playing a card game called "Cover Your A\$\$sets." The Amish choosing to play a game with this playful but perhaps a bit risqué name was unexpected and felt ironic to me. The goal of the game is to build wealth while also protecting the wealth you already have. Lucky for me, I already knew how to play the game.

"Can I play?" I asked the young group, unsure how they might respond. A young woman in black shoes, a light-blue linen dress, thin black glasses, and a white prayer cap nodded slightly and muttered, "Yes." The entire group of Amish people stared at the interaction between us with a mixture of curiosity and suspicion.

The young woman's name was Leanne, and she was 20 years old. While we played the game, she became the spokesperson for the other children, who were her cousins. When I asked the young, ginger-haired, freckled boy what his name was, he simply stared doe-eyed at Leanne until she responded, "His name is Jeremiah."



*"Yeah, and you are a writer, aren't you?" she smirked.*

*I leaned back in shock. How in the world did she know this?*

*I was holding a notebook, but nothing else identified me as such. The sway of the train car, plus her intense declaration, made me a bit nauseous.*

When I wanted to challenge Elmer, the adolescent boy with a blonde bowl cut, in the game, he seemed to look at Leanne for permission before playing with me. I had similar interactions with each child. Due to their unease and fear of challenging me, I ended up winning the game.

When the game ended, I thought of another route that might break their tension and timidity. "Have you guys ever played Dutch Blitz?" I asked. In an instant, every member of the Amish community in the train car gave me a look of utter shock, and some even quietly gasped. While I was asking just the team of card players, it seemed the whole Amish group had been eavesdropping on our conversation.

Dutch Blitz is a traditional Amish/Mennonite game, which explains their surprise at my awareness of it. The game involves quickly stacking numbered cards that have colored icons, such as an old-style plow, buggy, watering pail, and watering pump.

A 75-year-old Amish man with a long gray beard in the booth behind smiled broadly, "How do you know what Dutch Blitz is?"

I began to explain to the entire group, who all seemed to lean forward to hear my reply, that my husband's family is of Mennonite descent. At family gatherings, they get together and play. I even threw in the fact that my mother-in-law's maiden name is Yoder. Together, we laughed and bonded at the difficulty of the fast-paced game. The men dipped their wide-brimmed hats in respect, while the women offered unbridled excitement. I went from being the awkward intruder to being fully welcomed with open arms.

The Amish patriarch who had asked me how I knew the game cheerfully told me that the group was traveling from their home in Wisconsin to Colorado for his 18-year-old niece's wedding. Together, the group was made up of the older man and his wife, their six children and spouses, plus 26 grandchildren. This would be the first time they would meet the bride.

When I mentioned I got married young as well, at 21 years old, the patriarch's wife, who was seated next to him, furrowed her brow and said, "Why isn't your husband with you then?" I simply explained that my husband was at a training course for his job.

As the sun warmed the pleather seats and the train blurred past silos and flat Illinois prairie land, I heard my dinner reservation being announced over the speakers.

### THE ECCENTRIC TWINS

Walking into the traditional dining car, I was welcomed with an ambience of charm and class. Waitstaff beckoned me to my booth with warmth. The tables were adorned by a single velvet rose and white tablecloths. Soft mood lighting cast a golden glow. As I slid into my window seat, I made the assumption that this was going to be a soothing dinner. Boy, was I wrong.

Because I was a single rider and the dining booths seated four, I would be dining with three strangers.

Across from me settled two fraternal twins in their

Opposite page: The Sightseer Lounge car has large windows and a cafe directly below it. Left: The Amish line up to board. We were all welcomed by an Amtrak attendant.





early 60s, Sammie and Krista [*some people's names have been changed*]. The twins were both holding dingy and matted stuffed animals. Sammie, dressed in an inside-out black shirt, clung to a lion, panda, and horse, and Krista held to two bears and an elephant.

Beside me sat Kelleen, another single rider, who appeared to be in her 70s. Kelleen was heading home to Wichita, Kansas, after surprising her 80-year-old sister in Chicago for her birthday.

Throughout the three-course dinner, Kelleen and I seemed to bond over the oddness of the twins. We shot each other knowing glances as the sisters, with wrinkled hands, pretended to make the stuffed animals drink water and eat the rolls. We both grimaced as we watched Krista salt every part of her meal, including the water, roll, and salad. Our eyes grew wide as Sammie called someone on her old-school flip phone and said, "Hi, I'm a clown from New York, and I'm calling to ask you to invest in a three-ring circus," then hung up. Our lips formed a tight line when Krista outright asked Kelleen why the left side of her face drooped downward (a brain tumor had caused partial face paralysis). We both leaned back as the twins rapidly rambled about their journey.

According to the twins, they were thrown off a Greyhound bus on its way to New York. They explained this was because they were "too stinky." Kelleen and I noticed their smell as well. They said they were heading to Sammie's cardiologist because her "oxygen would get down to 70 percent." Periodically throughout our dinner, Sammie would place a pulse oximeter on her finger, yet her oxygen never got below the low 90s. I never figured out where they were currently traveling to, since we were heading away from New York. I'm not sure they knew either.

Behind us sat a young couple and my Amish comrades. Occasionally, I would look over my shoulder and see the group with their hands over their chests while full-belly laughing or smiling politely as they buzzed about farming and school. The more my stomach retreated from the twins' chaos and odor, the more I longed to be at one of the Amish's tables.

After dessert came and went and the train had successfully screeched across the Mississippi River near Fort Madison, Iowa, before entering Missouri, I said goodbye to the twins and thanked Kelleen for making the dinner more tolerable, then retreated to the lounge car.

## THE SUPER-FAN

The sunset cast a burnt orange blanket across the lounge car as I crossed the metal threshold. Walking in, I spied a woman with rich brown hair about my age decked out in black skinny jeans, a band T-shirt, a lip piercing, and a nose piercing. There was something about her gentle face that lured me in.

Without a second thought, I sank down in a chair next to her and rested my feet on the metal bar lining



the large windows, trying to look nonchalant. Almost abruptly, I asked where she was heading. Looking up from her Nintendo Switch game, she excitedly said she was heading to a Dir En Gray concert. Elaborating further, she explained to me that Dir En Gray is a Japanese heavy metal band that she is obsessed with. After that, I became just as excited as she was.

My husband's father is from Japan, so I am learning Japanese. I asked her if she knew how to read the Japanese characters, as I have been learning them.

"I can read hiragana and katakana," she said. Then, in unison, we both said, "But, never kanji!"

This caused us to erupt in laughter, despite the silent train car. From there, we shared our love of *onigiri* (a triangular rice ball with salted fillings such as salmon or tuna that is wrapped in seaweed) and Japanese culture, which started an unlikely friendship.

The 27-year-old woman's name was Lily [*some people's names have been changed*]. This was her first trip alone. She drove from her hometown of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Chicago, then was riding the train's full route of 2,200 miles to the concert in Los Angeles. She was so determined to attend the concert that she was riding the train for 43 hours instead of flying, for fear that airline layoffs might affect her flight. Our conversation didn't dwell on the small talk of her trip though. It melted into her personal life within minutes.

She talked about her strained relationship with one of her friends and her family. (If I ever meet her sister, I am



*Throughout the three-course dinner, Kelleen and I seemed to bond over the oddness of the twins. We shot each other knowing glances as the sisters, with wrinkled hands, pretended to make the stuffed animals drink water and eat the rolls.*

giving her a firm talking to). She complained about the stupidity of the people who call her at her remote customer service job at a pasta company. Many people call to ask how many calories are in the pasta, even though the information is on the back of the box. I reassured her as she explained her singleness.

She leaned close to me to show pictures of the six pets she has with her two roommates, including her tuxedo cat. She lifted her worn-out band T-shirt sleeve to reveal a tattoo of a faded, tattered movie ticket on her bicep, a matching tattoo she got with a former friend. Now, it reminds her every day of the broken friendship. Lily became even more vulnerable with me as she explained how the tattoo of a fern on her wrist covers up old self-harm scars.

As Lily revealed bits of her life to me, I gasped at her misfortunes and would have liked to scold people who had done her wrong, just as I would have empathized when gossiping with a friend. I added advice whenever I felt like I had something worthwhile to say. Despite the heavy topics we dove into, her extroverted smile never disappeared. It felt like she truly loved speaking with me, rather than simply tolerating public transportation conversation.

By the time the train neared my stop in Kansas City, I felt like Lily had opened the naked pages of her life and let me read them. I had the fleeting privilege to learn about one of the most bubbly and gleeful people I have ever met, yet someone who struggles as we all do.

Before we went our separate ways—me to the Kansas City departure car and her to the sleeper car—she said, “Thank you for just listening to me. I hope it wasn’t too much.”

I responded, “I promise, I love when people share with me. That is probably why I am a journalist.”

## ARRIVAL

Teetering back through each segment of the train surrounded by night, I spotted the travelers I’d met on my journey. They were spotlighted by the dim glow of the overhead lighting.

The psychic winked at me as I strode down the aisle of the first car. I gave her a knowing grin in return, as if to thank her for giving me the confidence to start my story. A few rows down sat the super-fan, Lily, who was preparing to settle in for the night. With headphones in, she lifted her hand in a little wave.

I passed the twins, Krista and Sammie, with their arms still overflowing with stuffed animals, and Kelleen, who appeared to already be asleep. I entered an entire train car filled with hues of blue, black, gray, and white. I made eye contact with Leanne and the Amish children whom I had played the game with.

After my eight-hour train trip, while clambering through the long centipede of cars to reach the exit car, I realized each person I met had shared a piece of themselves with me. In an age where we fill our time with distractions and phones, it felt cathartic to realize people still desire relationships with one another. I was now connected to strangers, even though I may never see them again.

**Opposite page:** Sammie sat her worn, dirty stuffed animals on the table during dinner. Left: Lily played Animal Crossing on her Nintendo Switch for parts of the trip.









STORY Sydney Jones

# Order Restored

GLORY RETURNS TO THE GRAND OLD COURTHOUSE.



Known for its detailed Greek Revival architecture, which includes chiseled stone, rotundas, tall symmetrical columns, and a towering dome, the Old Courthouse stands as one of the most significant historical buildings in the city of St. Louis. The interior renovation, which was its first comprehensive renovation since 1979, was completed in May of this year. Visitors can now once again walk the majestic and historic halls of the Old Courthouse and learn about its history through new exhibitions.

The program manager for museum services and interpretation at the Old Courthouse, Pam Sanfilippo, describes the space as “hallowed ground,” being home to Dred Scott’s first trial in 1848, *Dred Scott v. Emerson*, wherein he fought for his freedom. While they were enslaved in Missouri for the majority of their lives, Dred and his wife, Harriet Scott, were also

taken to live in the free states of Illinois and Wisconsin during their enslavement. According to the Missouri Compromise, the Scotts should have been freed from slavery while in the free territory. However, they were denied the right. In the *Dred Scott v. Sandford* court ruling in 1857, Congress deemed that it did not have the jurisdiction to ban slavery in any territory. This directly challenged the Missouri Compromise—written into law 37 years prior—which deemed it unconstitutional, enraging Northern sympathizers. This case not only heightened tensions between the North and South but was also a defeating ruling for abolitionists since it increased the possibility of slavery expanding into northern “free” states with no federal repercussions.

The Old Courthouse is also known as the place of Virginia Minor’s case in support of women’s voting rights



Virginia Minor

Left, the *Dred and Harriet Scott Statue*, created by sculptor Harry Weber, is made of bronze. Above, the dome’s lunettes (the recessed, oval-shaped paintings) have been restored more than four times due to exposure to moist conditions.



and the location of the legal battles of over 300 other suits of St. Louis slaves fighting for their freedom.

Walking through the main entrance into the hall of the Old Courthouse, visitors will see the artistic brainchild of architects William Rumbold and Henry Singleton.

The dome in the building's main entrance hall contains intricate details on the ceiling that seem like they are piped on with icing. Turquoise fluted columns that tower 15 feet high support each of the three levels of the dome. Swirling capitals (the uppermost portion of the supporting columns) are coated in luminescent gold paint.

If visitors stand in the middle of the main floor rotunda, look up, and speak into the dome, they can experience incredible acoustics as their voices echo back at them.

Murals on the ceiling's lunettes, originally painted by



The Northwest Gallery, *Pathways to Freedom*, tells the stories of St. Louisans, like Moses Dickson and William Wells Brown.

Carl Wimar in 1862, detail key historic St. Louis figures and events.

One of the oldest preserved elements of the courthouse is the rotunda's limestone floor. Once a rough surface, it has since been buffed and smoothed by centuries of foot traffic.

Beyond the main entrance to the rotunda, there are four restored and newly curated off-shoot wings to explore, along with two replica courtrooms upstairs.

### SOUTHEAST AND SOUTHWEST GALLERIES

To the right of the main entrance is the wing to the Southwest Gallery named *See You in Court*. This gallery is a refurbished and fully furnished courtroom that is also a classroom used for educational purposes, like class field trips where students can hold a mock trial. An informational placard describes the bar—a wooden railing separating the judge, lawyers, and jury from the rest of the public—and helps explain the phrase “passing the bar.” When a student becomes a licensed attorney, they



can then pass the bar that separates the legal officials from the general public. Several additional placards are placed around the room, explaining the significance of the furniture and describing the US court system.

This same wing leads to the Southeast Gallery named *Designed for Justice*, where visitors can learn about the creation of the courthouse, how it was built, and who was involved. In this bright, airy space, the original ceramic tile floors, six-foot-tall windows that let in natural light, and towering ceilings have all been restored. On exhibit are eight-foot-tall displays of the original blueprints and plans for the Old Courthouse along with the biographies of the men who created them. Visitors can look over three-dimensional models of the courthouse and read about its intricate construction process.

### NORTHEAST AND NORTHWEST GALLERIES

To the left of the main entrance is the elevator and stair access to the second floor. Beyond that, this wing offers two additional exhibits: the Northeast Gallery exhibit named *Dred and Harriet Scott* and the Northwest Gallery exhibit named *Pathways to Freedom*. These exhibits tell the compelling stories of the Scott family and many other Black St. Louisans who fought relentlessly for their freedom throughout the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement.

The Northeast Gallery exhibit includes a large display with an educational video on Dred and Harriet Scott, narrated by Dred and Harriet Scott's great-great-granddaughter, Lynne Jackson.

The Northwest Gallery contains historical maps and photographs that help tell the stories of Black St. Louisans throughout the 1800s. Within the exhibit are interactive elements, such as large touchscreen pads, where visitors can walk through timelines or see high-resolution historical images up close. Visitors can also view artifacts such as a school desk that would have been used by students in the 1800s.





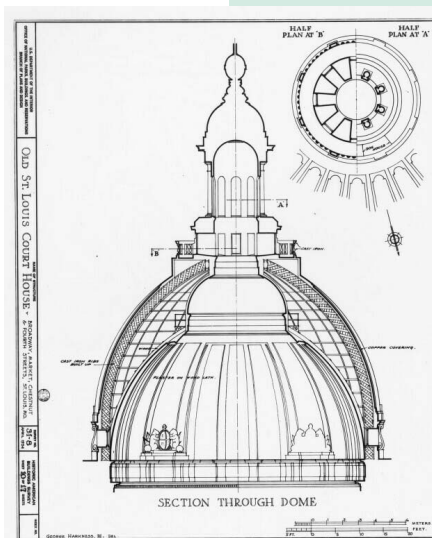
Left, the *Designed for Justice* exhibit has tactile panels so that visitors can feel the materials used to build the Old Courthouse. Below, original sketches of the Old Courthouse show the architectural intricacies of the dome. The *See You in Court* exhibit allows visitors to sit at the judge's elevated bench and use an 1800s-style gavel.

## SECOND FLOOR COURTROOMS

History hangs heavy in the air in the two reconstructed courtrooms from 1860 and 1910 on the second floor. "We're telling stories where they happened. This is where it all started," the program manager, Pam, says. Each of the courtrooms are filled with furnishings from the time period.

In the 1910 east courtroom adorned with towering columns and red walls, visitors can stand in the exact place where Dred and Harriet Scott won their freedom in 1857.

*The Old Courthouse museum is free to the public and is open from 9 AM–5 PM, seven days a week. Visit at 11 North 4th Street, St. Louis, or go to [Nps.gov/Jeff](https://www.nps.gov/jeff).*



## The History of the Old Courthouse

In the early 1800s, St. Louis had no government buildings where court could be held. Oftentimes, legal business was done inside a church, a home, or even a store. Following a donation of land from St. Louisan Auguste Chouteau and Judge John B. C. Lucas in 1816, the courthouse began construction. The city's first courthouse was a simple brick structure that was completed in 1828. The land was donated under the contingency that it be "used forever as the site on which the courthouse of the County of St. Louis should be erected," according to the land deed. Though the original courthouse was completed in 1828, by

1839, the population of St. Louis had increased exponentially, outgrowing its designated space for court proceedings.

Under the creative direction of architect Henry Singleton, a second courthouse was designed that would include the original courthouse as its east wing, and in 1839, construction began. This would start the transformation of the courthouse to become the artistic and architectural wonder that St. Louisans recognize today.

By 1930, the old building was abandoned by the city of St. Louis, and for the next 10 years, that space was utilized by an art school

and a religious organization and housed the offices of two justices of peace.

Around this time, descendants of Auguste Chouteau and Judge John B. C. Lucas fought with the city over ownership of the original building and its property since it was no longer being used for the purpose that was stated on the deed. However, the court eventually ruled against the families, and the courthouse was deeded to the federal government.

Meanwhile, President Franklin D. Roosevelt incorporated the Old Courthouse and its land as part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. On December 21, 1935, under executive order 7253, President Roosevelt declared the structure a place of "national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States." The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial became a part of the Gateway Arch National Park in 2018.





# Forward to the Past!

**THERE ARE SEVERAL SURPRISES** for wine lovers new to Missouri wine. One is that Missouri is routinely ranked among the top 12 wine-producing states. Another is that Missouri was once number one. Okay, it was a century and a half in the past and probably lasted only a year or two, but still. We earned bragging rights.

The story of wine in the United States was bedeviled by the wee beasties that slumber in our soils and by a long-held consumer preference for European grapevines. There are dozens of species of grapevines native to the Americas. The species that give us the Chardonnays, Cabernets, and Pinot Noirs of the world are native to Eurasia, and when exposed to our environment, pests, and diseases, they have suffered when grown here. Even good ol' Thomas Jefferson couldn't seem to coax European vines into life, though he tried.

People tried making wine from native grapevines with mixed success. They crossed the European vines with our own, creating grapes that we still use today, like Concord, Catawba, and Norton. Concord and Catawba are routinely identified as native grapevines but were actually created by plants intermixing in the wild or perhaps in someone's East Coast vineyard. Catawba provided the first big-time wine business in the United States; a handful of Cincinnati-based wineries sold more than a million cases of sparkling Catawba in the 1850s. But here too our endemic diseases and pests eventually ruined the vineyards.

In the 1830s, German settlers moved to Missouri and planted vines. By the time Cincinnati was fading, Hermann and Augusta were rising. French settlers had already discovered good sites in Ste. Genevieve. St. Louis was the most dynamic city in the West, and wines were slaking the city's thirst.

As the 19th century was ending, Missouri, Texas, and Arkansas were in the business of sending native vines to Europe. Vineyardists there had finally embraced the idea that native American species could survive just about anything, and the European vines could be grafted onto American roots. There were new and sturdier grapevine crossings, and things were looking good until Prohibition put paid to it all. From 1919 until the early '60s, there wasn't much Missouri wine being fermented, though beer and whiskey were flowing in Kansas City. The boss of the city at the time, Tom Pendergast, famously ignored Prohibition until



he was tossed in jail in 1939. Then lawful rule was once again restored.

The '70s saw a new wave of wineries in America; Missouri was no exception with Montelle, Hermannhof, St. James, and others being founded. They used new grapevine crossings and created grapes like Vignoles, Vidal Blanc, Seyval Blanc, Chambourcin, Valvin Muscat, Traminette, and Chardonel, which are all well established today among the more than 130 wineries in the state.

It's been a bumpy ride for wine in the United States and, though California might like us to think otherwise, Missouri has often been at the vanguard of its development. The past of our state's wine has been remarkable, and it's future is being built upon surprisingly deep foundations.



## BY DOUG FROST

Doug is both a Master of Wine and Master Sommelier, one of only three in the world to achieve both titles. He lives in Kansas City.

## DISCOVER SOME OF THE OGs OF MISSOURI WINE

**Adam Puchta** (established in 1855)—great Norton, Vignoles, Vidal Blanc, Chardonel, Chambourcin, Traminette, and port.

**Stone Hill Winery** (established in 1847)—everything they make is first rate.

**Mount Pleasant Estates** (established in 1859)—excellent Vidal Blanc, Vignoles, Chardonel, bubbly, and ports.



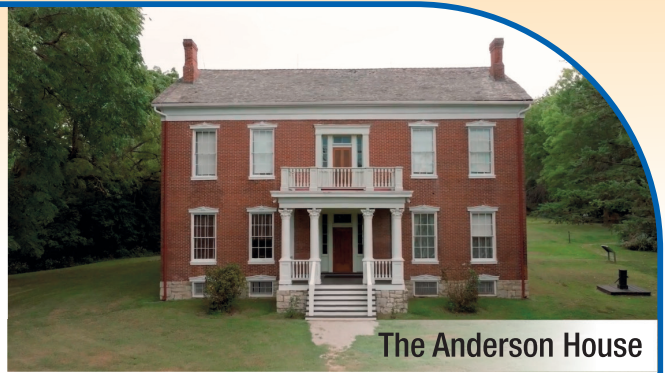
# MissouriLife<sup>TV</sup>

Available on  YouTube

Take the journey to Lexington, Missouri, founded over 200 years ago on the bluffs overlooking the Missouri River. This town is a one-stop shop for all things history, entertainment, and dining. Join us as we dine at the beautifully restored 1884 bank building, Ten Twelve Main, which offers a menu featuring locally grown beef. Together, we will also relax at the River Reader Bookstore, which invites visitors in with the allure of a comfortable atmosphere full of books and coffee. A tour of Rasa Orchards will entice you to come and experience locally grown apples and peaches. Join us on a trolley tour highlighting the town's monuments and historic homes—one such home is the Anderson House, located on a former Civil War battleground.



Historic Courthouse



The Anderson House



Host Meredith Hoenes



Madonna of the Trail Monument



AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# lexington

MISSOURI

[historiclexington.com](http://historiclexington.com)



# The Red Wagon

IT WAS SHINY AND RED with seating enough for a family of eight. Before SUVs and certainly before seat belt laws, station wagons roamed the highways. Our wagon had two long bench seats up front with a third-row seat in the very back that folded down flat.

That's how my family rolled.

My parents learned the hard way that I was the child who got carsick. If the trip was long or the road curvy, I was going to be sick. It helped when I rode up front, so that became my assigned spot, perched between my parents. My three sisters lined the second row, the older ones by the windows with the younger middle sister, naturally, riding in the middle. In the very back were my two little brothers with the seat folded down, lounging in a nest of pillows built around the suitcases. I longed to ride somewhere in the back where all the laughing and singing and fighting came from, but nobody wanted that.

Nobody but me.

On our last vacation in that red station wagon, I was dozing off as we neared the east side of Kansas City. On the Wild West that was, and is, I-70, a loud bang rocked the wagon as its back tire blew. Dad struggled to get the wounded wagon off the interstate, and when he did, he told us to stay put. In the front seat, a burning smell just as my dad jerked open her door, looked hard into her face, and said, "The car is on fire."

My mother leapt into action.

She dragged me out of the front seat, throwing open the back door at the same time. Mom ordered my older sisters to hold hands while Dad grabbed my little brothers out of the car. We stood awkwardly just off the shoulder of the road. My father then turned back and noticed flames licking the gas tank.

"Run!"

Coming our way was an 18-wheeler hauling a load of steel. My father left us huddled on the grassy shoulder and stepped to the edge of the interstate, frantically



*On the Wild West that was, and is, I-70, a loud bang rocked the wagon as its back tire blew. Dad struggled to get the wounded wagon off the interstate, and when he did, he told us to stay put.*

waving his arms. That quick-thinking trucker laid on those air brakes and managed to get that shivering rig to a screeching stop. The driver then came running toward our car with a fire extinguisher in his hands, smothering the flames like he had done this before. When the fire was out, that truck driver took one look at us clutching one another along the roadway and sighed. "Come on. I-70 is not a place for children."

The seasoned trucker picked up my littlest brother and led the rest of us to his rig, loading us one by one into the cab of his truck. There were six of us, including our mother, crammed together in that slim semitruck sleeper, a tangle of legs and arms and worried faces, while my grateful father and wide-eyed brother sat up front with the driver.

As our hero trucker pulled away, my mother glanced back at the scorched red station wagon, looking like she was the one about to be carsick. It was a crowded, bumpy ride to a nearby Higginsville truck stop, but I never once thought about getting sick. From where I sat, I had a clear view of the road ahead, and despite our situation, I found myself grinning.

Finally, I got to ride in the back.



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# How We Almost Lost Moonstruck Pond

## WE HAVE A TOTAL OF SEVEN PONDS

**ON OUR FARM.** Most of them are very small, built by hand or with horse-drawn equipment, but our favorite (and our biggest pond) is Moonstruck Pond. It was named after the movie *Moonstruck* with Nicolas Cage and Cher, who played characters fated to be soul mates, and also because when a full moon rises from the east, it always seems perfectly positioned to reflect on the water.

When we moved to our farm 30 years ago, after working at building our house all day and after the kids were asleep—all three in the same room in the old Sears “shotgun house” that was beyond renovation but sufficed for a while—Danita and I would sneak down to the pond and take a swim by the light of the moon.

The pond continues to be the center of a lot of activity, especially in the summer. After a long session of hunting arrowheads, a trail ride, mowing the lawn, or gardening, there’s nothing better than to shed some hot, sweaty clothes and jump in!

Unexpectedly, we came close to losing Moonstruck Pond a few weeks ago. The overflow spillway on one side of the pond had silted in over the years. It no longer allowed the overflow to dump into another nearby pond. When a big rain came, the water had to go somewhere, so it went over the dam of Moonstruck Pond, carving a deep ravine on the back side.

One day, Danita happened to go look it over. She came back and said, “We better do something about this now, or we might lose this pond.” I took a look, and she was right. The pond’s dam was inches away from breaking. I had visions of an empty pond and a muddy mess.

That same day I called a local contractor, David Allphin, who builds ponds, and he agreed to come out and help. As we waited to see if the pond could be

saved, a few vivid memories of this special place came to mind.

There was the time when our son, Evan, had a few too many of his friends on the dock, and the support posts that held the dock up gave way, along with all the friends. I replaced the support with an old trampoline frame, and so far, it’s held well.

During our daughter’s wedding reception, which was behind our house with a view of the pond, I spotted Evan and other guests out on a boat in the pond. That was a sight!

We’ve also ice skated on that pond when the kids were younger.

Were we going to lose all this fun?

David came out the next day, and after about five or six hours of moving dirt, we were extremely relieved to see the spillway cleared out and draining like it should, as well as a repaired dam. Just a few days later, we had about a four-inch rain, and both worked perfectly.

Now when I’m floating on a raft on Moonstruck Pond with Danita, the kids, and the grandkids, I can rest easy knowing the dam won’t break through, leading to all of us floating, or more likely, tumbling head over heels into the pasture behind the pond.

I’m glad it held. Moonstruck Pond is such a main character in our lives. Sure, it may hold a lot of fish, but it holds even more memories.



Above, moonlight inspired the name of the pond. Left, Greg and grandkids Ada and Arlo enjoy the pond on a hot summer day, and wedding guests took a boat ride.



**BY GREG WOOD**  
PUBLISHER  
LIVIN’ A COUNTRY LIFE  
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Around the State

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[MissouriLife.com/events](http://MissouriLife.com/events).



**SOUTHEAST**

## Lions Club Carnival

JULY 2–5, ROLLA  
Rides, games, drone show, drawing  
to win a car, and fireworks. Lions  
Club Park. [VisitRolla.com](http://VisitRolla.com)

## Food Truck Rally

JULY 2 AND 30, JACKSON  
Plus music and cornhole. Iron  
Mountain Railway.  
[Find on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ironmountainrailway).

## 4th of July Fireworks Display

JULY 3, CUBA  
Hood Park. [VisitCubaMO.com](http://VisitCubaMO.com)

## Freedom Parade

JULY 4, ROLLA  
Downtown. [VisitRolla.com](http://VisitRolla.com)

## 4th of July Parade

JULY 4, SALEM  
Downtown. [SalemMo.com](http://SalemMo.com)

## Concert For a Cause

JULY 4, WILLOW SPRINGS  
Concert by Ha Ha Tonka and fire-  
works show to benefit Whetstone  
Boys Ranch. Pine Meadows.  
[ExploreWestPlains.com](http://ExploreWestPlains.com)

## Fourth at the Fort!

JULY 4–5, CAPE GIRARDEAU  
Celebrate the birth of the USA with  
rifle and cannon fire and flying  
flags. [FortDHistoricSite.com](http://FortDHistoricSite.com)

## Summer Concerts

JULY 4–5 AND AUG. 16  
AND 30, EMINENCE  
Different concerts each date. Echo  
Bluff State Park. [MoStateParks.com](http://MoStateParks.com)

## Peter and the Star Catcher

JULY 10–20, ROLLA  
Prequel to Peter Pan. Cedar Street  
Playhouse. [OzarkActorsTheatre.org](http://OzarkActorsTheatre.org)

## County Fair

JULY 11–13, STE. GENEVIEVE  
Livestock shows, truck pull, music,  
and demolition derby. County  
Fairgrounds. [VisitSteGen.com](http://VisitSteGen.com)

## Summer Music Series

JULY 11, 18, & 12, STE. GENEVIEVE  
Different concert each week. Orris  
Theatre. [SteGenChamber.org](http://SteGenChamber.org)

## Summer Wine Tasting

JULY 12–13, ST. JAMES  
Visit five wineries to sample wine  
and food pairings.  
[MeramecRiverWineTrail.org](http://MeramecRiverWineTrail.org)

## Crawford County Fair

JULY 15–19, CUBA  
Once Upon a Fair themed with  
parade and concerts. Hood Park.  
[CrawfordCountyFair.info](http://CrawfordCountyFair.info)

## Eric Bolander Concert

JULY 17, CAPE GIRARDEAU  
Americana/folk music with guest  
Jefferson Fox. [TheScoutHall.com](http://TheScoutHall.com)

## Grand Illusion

JULY 18, STE. GENEVIEVE  
Styx tribute band covers albums  
from 1973 to 1983. Orris Theatre.  
[SteGenChamber.org](http://SteGenChamber.org)

## Music in the Park

JULY 19, ST. JAMES  
Funky Butt Brass Band performs.  
Maramec Spring Park.  
[VisitStJamesMo.com](http://VisitStJamesMo.com)

## Heroes for Kids Comic Con

JULY 19–20, PERRYVILLE  
More than 80 vendors, cosplay/  
costume contest, lectures, brick  
building contest, and gaming tour-  
naments. Perry Park Center.  
[HeroesForKidsComicCon.org](http://HeroesForKidsComicCon.org)

## Brilliant Minds

JULY 24–26, BONNE TERRE  
Steve Jobs, Marie Curie, and Albert  
Einstein are portrayed, plus food.  
City Hall Auditorium.  
[BigRiverChautauqua.com](http://BigRiverChautauqua.com)

## Shotgun Creek

AUG. 1, STE. GENEVIEVE  
Country and southern rock band.  
Orris Theatre. [SteGenChamber.org](http://SteGenChamber.org)

## Seminary Picnic

AUG. 1–3, PERRYVILLE  
Carnival, live music, crafts, and fair  
food. Seminary Picnic Grounds.  
[VisitPerryCounty.com](http://VisitPerryCounty.com)

## Tunes at Twilight

AUG. 1–29 (FRI.), CAPE GIRARDEAU  
Different concert each week. Ivers  
Square Gazebo. [VisitCape.com](http://VisitCape.com)



## Elvis Festival

JULY 26, WEST PLAINS

Vendors, food trucks, photo booth, Elvis movie, wiggle contest, silent  
auction, dunking booth, and Elvis tribute artist contest. This event is a  
fundraiser to get a new roof for the theater. [TheAvenueTheatre.org](http://TheAvenueTheatre.org)

## Cowboy Up! Festival

AUG. 2, SIKESTON  
Arts, crafts, parade, and activities  
for kids. Legion Park. [Sikeston.net](http://Sikeston.net)

## Bootheel Quilters Guild Show

AUG. 2–3, SIKESTON  
Quilts on display, quilt raffle, crafts,  
and demonstrations. Miner  
Convention Center. [Sikeston.net](http://Sikeston.net)

## Pictures by the People

AUG. 3–31, POPLAR BLUFF  
Photography contest. Margaret  
Harwell Art Museum. [MHAM.org](http://MHAM.org)

## Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo

AUG. 6–9, SIKESTON  
Rodeo events, pageant, and  
concerts. Rodeo Grounds.  
[SikestonRodeo.com](http://SikestonRodeo.com)

## Zach Williams in Concert

AUG. 9, WEST PLAINS  
Grammy-winning Christian rock  
artist. Civic Center.  
[OzarksSummit.org](http://OzarksSummit.org)

## Jour De Fete

AUG. 9–10, STE. GENEVIEVE  
200 arts and crafts booths, and  
music. Historic Downtown.  
[SainteGenevieveJourDeFete.com](http://SainteGenevieveJourDeFete.com)

## Laid Back on I-55 Truck Show

AUG. 15–16, PERRYVILLE  
More than 100 semitrucks show-  
cased and parade. Downtown.  
[VisitPerryCounty.com](http://VisitPerryCounty.com)

## River of Oz Art Fair

AUG. 16, ST. JAMES  
Art vendors, authors, and talent  
show. [StJamesWinery.com](http://StJamesWinery.com)

## Peach Goldman

AUG. 16, STEELVILLE  
Southern gospel concert.  
[MeramecMusicTheatre.com](http://MeramecMusicTheatre.com)

## Edgar Prairie Days

AUG. 22–24, EDGAR SPRINGS  
Live band, dancing, barbecue,  
parade, and Extreme Cowboy  
event. [VisitRolla.com](http://VisitRolla.com)

## Home Grown Farm Tour

AUG. 23, POTOSI  
Farmers' market, vendors, food,  
and self-guided farm tours. Town  
Square. [WashCoMoChamber.com](http://WashCoMoChamber.com)

## Chamber of Commerce Rodeo

AUG. 30–31, SALEM  
Plus games for kids and vendors.  
Dent County Commons.  
[SalemMo.com](http://SalemMo.com)





# Greater Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce

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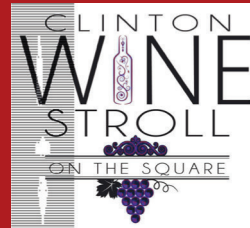
## KATY TRAIL

The Katy Trail is a 240-mile recreational trail in Missouri, built on the former Missouri-Kansas-Texas (MKT) Railroad, and is the longest developed rail-trail in the country. It spans from Clinton in the west to Machens in the east, offering various activities like biking, hiking, and horseback riding on a crushed limestone surface. Much of the trail follows the Missouri River, offering scenic views of forests, fields, and bluffs.



## DEMOLITION DERBY

The Demolition Derby at the Henry Co. Fairgrounds in Clinton will take place on July 26th in 2025 beginning at 7pm sponsored by the Henry Co. Fair.



## WINE STROLL

The 11th Annual Wine Stroll in Clinton for 2025 is scheduled for Sat., Oct. 18th on the Historic Downtown Square ... Missouri's Largest Courthouse Square. This is presented by Clinton Main Street.



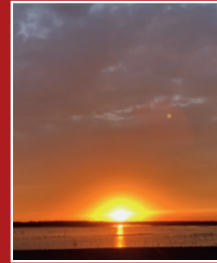
## CRUISE NIGHTS

Cruise night is a cruise-in held on the Clinton Square, from 4pm till 7pm on the 2nd Saturday of the month from May thru October. Plenty of shade and parking available, with food vendors on site, music and giveaways. After several cruise nights, there will be an actual short cruise.



## RODEO

This year's rodeo in Clinton, presented by the Henry Co. Fair, is Sept. 19th and 20th. It will take place at the Henry County Fairgrounds beginning at 7pm.



## TRUMAN LAKE

Truman Lake is located between Clinton and Warsaw on the Osage River. The lake is known for its crappie, catfish and bass fishing, among others. It's also a recreation lake for boating, skiing, kayaking, swimming and more.

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## CENTRAL

### What Color's Your Wild Tour

JULY 4, CAMDENTON

Trace Adkins concert.

[OzarksAmphitheater.com](http://OzarksAmphitheater.com)

### Fire in the Sky

JULY 4, COLUMBIA

Activities for kids, food trucks, music, and fireworks show.

Stephens Lake Park. [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov)

### Independence Day Celebration

JULY 4, FORT LEONARD WOOD

Live music, car show, and fireworks show. Gammon Field.

[VisitPulaskiCounty.org](http://VisitPulaskiCounty.org)

### Salute to America

JULY 4, JEFFERSON CITY

Vendors, food, beer garden, main stage concerts, birds of prey, parade, Kidz Zone, and a fireworks display over the Capitol. Downtown. [SaluteToAmerica.org](http://SaluteToAmerica.org)

### First Fridays Art Walk

JULY 4 AND AUG. 1, COLUMBIA

Music, art demonstrations, activities for children, and refreshments.

[NorthVillageArtsDistrict.org](http://NorthVillageArtsDistrict.org)

### Drake Harbor Fireworks

JULY 5, WARSAW

Fireworks show overlooking the Osage Arm of the Lake of the Ozarks. [WarsawMo.gov](http://WarsawMo.gov)

### Laclede County Fair

JULY 5–12, LEBANON

Carnival, exhibits, and grandstand events. Lebanon Fairgrounds.

[LacledeCountyFair.org](http://LacledeCountyFair.org)

### Bluegrass Festival

JULY 9–12, CONWAY

Concerts and jam sessions.

[StarvyCreek.com](http://StarvyCreek.com)

### Boone County Fair

JULY 15–19, COLUMBIA

Ham show, livestock shows, contests, and vendors.

[TheBooneCountyFair.com](http://TheBooneCountyFair.com)

### Crystal Gayle

JULY 18, JEFFERSON CITY

Country music legend. Capital Region Amphitheater.

[VisitJeffersonCity.com](http://VisitJeffersonCity.com)

### Smokin' on the Osage

JULY 18–20, OSCEOLA

Barbecue contest and car show.



### Cattlemen Days Rodeo

AUG. 22–23, ASHLAND

Bareback riding, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing, and bull riding, plus mutton busting, parade, Kiddy Round Up, and live music.

Cedar Valley Saddle Club Arena. [CattlemenDaysRodeo.com](http://CattlemenDaysRodeo.com)

The square and RV Park.

[OsceolaMoChamber.com](http://OsceolaMoChamber.com)

### Fiber U

JULY 19–20, LEBANON

Vendors and fiber arts classes.

Cowan Civic Center. [Fiber-U.com](http://Fiber-U.com)

### Lawn Chair Concert in the Park

JULY 20, COLUMBIA

Douglass Park. [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov)

### Something Rotten

JULY 24–AUG. 3, COLUMBIA

Musical. [MaplewoodBarn.org](http://MaplewoodBarn.org)

### Kansas & 38 Special

JULY 25, CAMDENTON

Classic rock concert.

[OzarksAmphitheater.com](http://OzarksAmphitheater.com)

### Vintage Lamp Show & Sale

JULY 25–26, JEFFERSON CITY

Capital Plaza Hotel and Convention Center. [VisitJeffersonCity.com](http://VisitJeffersonCity.com)

### Zucchini Races

JULY 26, COLE CAMP

Zucchini with wheels race to win prizes. Downtown.

[CityOfColeCamp.com](http://CityOfColeCamp.com)

### Duck Race

JULY 26, WAYNESVILLE

Dressed up decoy ducks race down the river. Fundraiser for Armed Services YMCA. Roubidoux Park.

[VisitPulaskiCounty.org](http://VisitPulaskiCounty.org)

### Old Settlers Days

JULY 26–27, WAYNESVILLE

Reenactors, vendors, and living history camps. Roubidoux Park.

[Route66Courthouse.com](http://Route66Courthouse.com)

### Cole County Fair

JULY 28–AUG. 2, JEFFERSON CITY

Main stage concerts, exhibits, tractor pull, and carnival. Cole County Fairgrounds.

[VisitJeffersonCity.com](http://VisitJeffersonCity.com)

### Route 66 Yard Sale

AUG. 1–2, LEBANON

100-mile yard sale on Route 66.

Laclede, Pulaski, and Webster Counties. [VisitLebanonMo.org](http://VisitLebanonMo.org)

### Fabulous Fakes

AUG. 2, DIXON

Legends in music dinner show. Music in the Barn.

[VisitPulaskiCounty.org](http://VisitPulaskiCounty.org)

### Smokin' Hot Harborfest

AUG. 2, WARSAW

Live bands, beer garden, and Kids' Zone. Drake Harbor.

[VisitBentonCoMo.com](http://VisitBentonCoMo.com)

### Missouri State Fair

AUG. 7–17, SEDALIA

Carnival, livestock, main stage entertainment, and exhibits.

[MoStateFair.com](http://MoStateFair.com)

### Jammin' on the River

AUG. 9, GLASGOW

Performance by The Yard Dogs and food vendor. The Overlook & Water Street Stage.

[VisitGlasgowMo.org](http://VisitGlasgowMo.org)

### Tour De Jeff

AUG. 10, JEFFERSON CITY

Family-friendly 15-mile moonlight bike ride. Starts and ends at Hy-Vee. [JCParks.com](http://JCParks.com)

### Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

AUG. 14–23, JEFFERSON CITY

Musical based on Roald Dahl's book. Capital City Productions. [CCPJC.org](http://CCPJC.org)

### I Hear Thunder Tour

AUG. 21, COLUMBIA

Tad Benoit with GA-20. [TheBlueNote.com](http://TheBlueNote.com)

### Festival of the Arts

AUG. 21–23, BOONVILLE

Performing and visual arts. Thespian Hall and Hain House.

[FriendsOfHistoricBoonvilleMo.org](http://FriendsOfHistoricBoonvilleMo.org)

### Kaleidospoke

AUG. 23, COLUMBIA

Nighttime ride on the illuminated MKT Trail to Twin Lakes Recreation Area and back. Flat Branch Park. [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov)

### Benton County Rodeo

AUG. 29–30, WARSAW

Behind Beth's Osage Mini Mart. [VisitBentonCoMo.com](http://VisitBentonCoMo.com)

### Mokane World's Fair

AUG. 29–31, MOKANE

Carnival, bingo, beer garden, music, and antique tractor and truck pull. Main Street. [FindOnFacebook.com](http://FindOnFacebook.com)

### Beer and Bagel Run

AUG. 30, COLUMBIA

Run 4(ish) miles and enjoy beer, bagels, and home cooking at the end. Albert-Oakland Park.

[VisitColumbiaMo.com](http://VisitColumbiaMo.com)

To discover even more events and to enter your own, visit [MissouriLife.com/events](http://MissouriLife.com/events).



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## SOUTHWEST

### Fireburst

JULY 2, KIMBERLING CITY  
Professional fireworks display by Kimberling City Bridge.  
[VisitTableRockLake.com](http://VisitTableRockLake.com)

### Famous for the 4th Celebration

JULY 2–5, RICH HILL  
Carnival, parade, fireworks display, pie auction, and concert. Downtown. [VisitMo.com](http://VisitMo.com)

### Liberty Light Up

JULY 3, BRANSON  
Concerts and fireworks over Lake Taneycomo. [BransonLanding.com](http://BransonLanding.com)

### First Thursday ArtWalk

JULY 3 AND AUG. 7, JOPLIN  
Local artists and musicians. Downtown. [VisitJoplinMo.com](http://VisitJoplinMo.com)

### Red, White & Boom

JULY 4, CARTHAGE  
Food trucks, vendors, and activities for kids. Municipal Park. [CarthageMo.gov](http://CarthageMo.gov)

### Fire & Thunder Fireworks

JULY 4, SHELL KNOB  
Over Table Rock Lake. [ShellKnob.com](http://ShellKnob.com)

### Duck Derby and Fireworks Show

JULY 5, POMME DE TERRE  
More than 2,000 plastic ducks race down the river, plus crafts, games, live music, and fireworks show over the water. Pomme de Terre Dam. [PommeDeTerreChamber.com](http://PommeDeTerreChamber.com)

### Independence Day Celebration

JULY 6, BRANSON  
Fireworks display and barbecue. [ChateauOnTheLake.com](http://ChateauOnTheLake.com)

### Vernon County Youth Fair

JULY 7–12, NEVADA  
Exhibits, livestock shows, and entertainment. Fairgrounds. [Find on Facebook](http://Find on Facebook)

### Food Truck Friday

JULY 11 AND AUG. 8, CARTHAGE  
More than 10 food trucks, lawn games, and music. Central Park. [ExperienceCarthageMo.com](http://ExperienceCarthageMo.com)

### Candlelight Concert

JULY 12, SPRINGFIELD  
String quartet plays Cold Play and Imagine Dragons. Stone Chapel at Drury University. [FeverUp.com](http://FeverUp.com)



### Heritage Festival

AUG. 8–9, MOUNTAIN GROVE  
“Take Me Out to the Ballgame” themed festival celebrates the baseball and softball history of the area. Bellamy Brothers concert, more than 175 vendors, baseball memorabilia, trading card collectors, batting and pitching cages, and bounce houses. City Square. [VisitMo.com](http://VisitMo.com)

### Cherry and Jerry

JULY 12, WEBB CITY  
Ragtime & '20s blues music. Webb City Library. [VisitJoplinMo.com](http://VisitJoplinMo.com)

### An Evening with Robin Trower

JULY 17, SPRINGFIELD  
Rock and roll concert. [GilliozTheatre.com](http://GilliozTheatre.com)

### JoMo Jammin’

JULY 19, JOPLIN  
Music festival. Harry M. Cornell Arts & Entertainment Complex. [Connect2Culture.org](http://Connect2Culture.org)

### Shoal Creek Water Festival

JULY 19, JOPLIN  
Cardboard and shoebox boat races, rubber duck race, and fishing derby. [WildcatGlades.org](http://WildcatGlades.org)

### Making Memories Day Carnival

JULY 19, SPRINGFIELD  
Roaring '20s themed festival with costume contest. The Barley House. [MoonTownCrossing.com](http://MoonTownCrossing.com)

### Ozark Empire Fair

JULY 24–AUG. 2, SPRINGFIELD  
Carnival, pig races, main stage

concerts, art exhibits, and livestock shows. [OzarkEmpireFair.com](http://OzarkEmpireFair.com)

### Pollinator Garden Workdays

JULY 26 AND AUG. 30, CASSVILLE  
Join park staff in maintaining and restoring the native plants pollinator garden at the Ozark Chinquapin Nature Center. Roaring River State Park. [MoStateParks.com](http://MoStateParks.com)

### Marian Days

JULY 31–AUG. 3, CARTHAGE  
Religious pilgrimage of Vietnamese Catholic families. Congregation of the Mother Co-Redemptrix. [CarthageMo.gov](http://CarthageMo.gov)

### First Friday Art Walk

AUG. 1, SPRINGFIELD  
Artwork, demonstrations, local history, and live music. Downtown. [SpringfieldArts.org](http://SpringfieldArts.org)

### Emancipation Day Celebration

AUG. 1–3, JOPLIN  
Car show, movie in the park, live music, kids’ market, vendors, and information on African-American history. Ewert Park. [JoplinEmancipation.com](http://JoplinEmancipation.com)

### Guided Bison Saunter

AUG. 2, MINDENMINES  
2-mile walk to see bison. Prairie State Park. [MoStateParks.com](http://MoStateParks.com)

### Birthplace of Route 66 Festival

AUG. 8–9, SPRINGFIELD  
Car show, live music, parade, and Route 66 exhibits. Downtown. [Route66FestivalSgf.com](http://Route66FestivalSgf.com)

### An August Evening with Wilco

AUG. 13, SPRINGFIELD  
Grammy Award winning band. [GilliozTheatre.com](http://GilliozTheatre.com)

### Howdy Neighbor Days

AUG. 13–16, PIERCE CITY  
Carnival, vendors, duck race, and live music. South Park. [HowdyNeighborDays.com](http://HowdyNeighborDays.com)

### Concerts in the Wild

AUG. 14, SPRINGFIELD  
Queen City Chorale. Dickerson Park Zoo. [SpringfieldMo.org](http://SpringfieldMo.org)

### Jeeves at Sea

AUG. 15–17 & 22–24, CARTHAGE  
Madcap case of mistaken identity. [StonesThrowDinnerTheatre.com](http://StonesThrowDinnerTheatre.com)

### Roots & Boots

AUG. 16, LAMPE  
Country music icons Aaron Tippin, Collin Raye, and Sammy Kershaw. [BlackOakAmp.com](http://BlackOakAmp.com)

### Hank Williams Jr.

AUG. 16, RIDGEDALE  
With Old Crow Medicine Show. [ThunderRidgeNatureArena.com](http://ThunderRidgeNatureArena.com)

### Broiler Festival

AUG. 21–23, CRANE  
Celebrate the town’s poultry farming heritage with barbecue chicken dinner, Slick Chick Beauty Pageant, carnival, and vendors. [CraneBroilerFestival.org](http://CraneBroilerFestival.org)

### Rt. 66 Balloon and Kite Festival

AUG. 29–31, JOPLIN  
Plus helicopter rides, tethered balloon rides, food trucks, music, and artisan vendors market. Old Joplin 66 Speedway. [VisitJoplinMo.com](http://VisitJoplinMo.com)

### Thunder Days

AUG. 29–31, SPRINGFIELD  
Bull riding, music, and pyrotechnics. [GreatSouthernBankArena.com](http://GreatSouthernBankArena.com)

### Tim McGraw

AUG. 31, RIDGEDALE  
Country music legend. [ThunderRidgeNatureArena.com](http://ThunderRidgeNatureArena.com)

To discover even more events and to enter your own, visit [MissouriLife.com/events](http://MissouriLife.com/events).



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# Missouri State Cornhusking Contest

**Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025**

**8 AM - 5 PM**

### Additional activities:

- 2025 Missouri Valley College Rodeo starting at 6 PM
- Fun activities for the whole family throughout the day
  - Corn toss
  - Wagon ride-along
  - Learn how to compete and enter classes
  - Cornhusking history
  - Food truck

Saline County Fairgrounds, Marshall, MO

Facebook: [Facebook.com/mocornhusking](https://www.facebook.com/mocornhusking)

For more information, call Emma Schnepf at **636-384-0325**





## NORTHWEST & KANSAS CITY

### Patriotic Concert

JULY 1, LIBERTY  
Outside Rooney Justice Center.  
[LibertyMissouri.gov](http://LibertyMissouri.gov)

### Jurassic Garden

JULY 1–AUG. 31, KINGSVILLE  
See life-sized dinosaurs and the flora that shared their world.  
[PowellGardens.org](http://PowellGardens.org)

### Red, White & Blue Springs

JULY 3, BLUE SPRINGS  
Kids Zone, live music, vendors, and fireworks. Young Park and Blue Springs South High School.  
[BlueSpringsGov.com](http://BlueSpringsGov.com)

### Liberty Fest

JULY 3, LIBERTY  
Balloon artists, glitter tattoos, food trucks, beer garden, live music, and fireworks display. Capitol Federal Sports Complex.  
[TheLibertyFest.com](http://TheLibertyFest.com)

### July 4th Impromptu Parade

JULY 4, ARROW ROCK  
Join in the parade or the kazoo band. Main St. [ArrowRock.org](http://ArrowRock.org)

### Independence Day

JULY 4, LEE'S SUMMIT  
Music, crafts, games, and living history interpreters. Missouri Town Living History Museum.  
[MakeYourDayHere.com](http://MakeYourDayHere.com)

### Fourth of July Celebration

JULY 4, PARKVILLE  
Parade, music, vendors, skydiving exhibition, and fireworks. Downtown. [ParkvilleMo.org](http://ParkvilleMo.org)

### Independence Day Celebration

JULY 5, INDEPENDENCE  
Family games, music, and fireworks display. Visitors' Center.  
[IndependenceMo.gov](http://IndependenceMo.gov)

### Mozingo's 30th Anniversary

JULY 5, MARYVILLE  
Fireworks over the lake and entertainment. [MozingoLake.com](http://MozingoLake.com)

### Carroll County Fair

JULY 8–12, CARROLLTON  
Games, music, and food. Fairgrounds. [Find on Facebook](http://Find on Facebook).

### Nodaway County Fair

JULY 10–12, MARYVILLE  
Live music, parade, carnival,



### Briarfest X

AUG. 15–16, RIVERSIDE  
Music festival with 17 bands performing, food trucks, vendors, art, wine, and beer. Proceeds benefit the Midwest Music Foundation and Briarcliff Business Partner Alliance. E. H. Young Riverfront Park. [BriarFestKC.com](http://BriarFestKC.com)

livestock shows, and vendors. Main Street. [Find on Facebook](http://Find on Facebook).

### Fiddler on the Roof

JULY 11–13, ST. JOSEPH  
Missouri Theater. [RRSTStJoe.org](http://RRSTStJoe.org)

### 9 to 5 The Musical

JULY 11–13, WESTON  
West Platte Performing Arts Center. [WCTShows.org](http://WCTShows.org)

### Summer Concerts in the Park

JULY 11, 18, AND 25, KANSAS CITY  
Central Park. [ZonaRosa.com](http://ZonaRosa.com)

### Antique and Craft Fair

JULY 12, INDEPENDENCE  
100 vendors. Bingham-Waggoner Estate. [BWState.net](http://BWState.net)

### Raytown Live!

JULY 12 AND AUG. 9, RAYTOWN  
Concert, vendors, and food trucks. Greenspace in Town Center. [Raytown.live](http://Raytown.live)

### KC Fringe Festival

JULY 17–27, KANSAS CITY  
Performances ranging from theater to film to fashion. [KCFringe.org](http://KCFringe.org)

### Summer Chill

JULY 18–19, LEE'S SUMMIT  
More than 100 art and craft vendors. The Pavilion at John Knox Village. [IBDPromotions.com](http://IBDPromotions.com)

### Mid-America Music Festival

JULY 18–19, TRENTON  
Country music concerts, camping, vendors, and fireworks. Black Silo Winery. [MidAmericaMusic.com](http://MidAmericaMusic.com)

### Christmas in July

JULY 18–20, MIAMI  
Decorated campsite contest, ugly sweater fashion show, and Christmas treats and crafts. Van Meter State Park. [MoStateParks.com](http://MoStateParks.com)

### Trolley Wine Tour

JULY 19, LEXINGTON  
Brunch followed by a tour of three wineries and receive a wine tote. Meet in front of the Chamber office. [HistoricLexington.com](http://HistoricLexington.com)

### Christmas in July Beer Crawl

JULY 19, LIBERTY  
Don your holiday best to win a prize and sample 25 beers. [HistoricDowntownLiberty.org](http://HistoricDowntownLiberty.org)

### Lawn Party

JULY 20, KANSAS CITY  
Food trucks, lawn games, and live music. Lawn of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. [Nelson-Atkins.org](http://Nelson-Atkins.org)

### Ain't Too Proud

JULY 22–27, KANSAS CITY  
The life and times of The Temptations. [KCStarlight.com](http://KCStarlight.com)

### Fourth Fridays Art Walk

JULY 25, LEE'S SUMMIT  
Artists showcase their work, plus live music. Downtown. [DowntownLS.org](http://DowntownLS.org)

### Festival of the Arts

AUG. 2, FAYETTE  
Art and quilt shows, music, crafts, and cake contest. Courthouse Square. [FayetteFestival.org](http://FayetteFestival.org)

### Pennytown Homecoming

AUG. 3, MARSHALL  
Worship, lunch, and speaker. Historic Pennytown Freewill Baptist Church. [PennytownChurch.org](http://PennytownChurch.org)

### PickleCon

AUG. 7–10, KANSAS CITY  
Pickleball tournaments, open play, clinics, vendors, and panel discussions. Kansas City Convention Center. [PickleCon.com](http://PickleCon.com)

### Parties on the Parkway

AUG. 14, ST. JOSEPH  
St. Joseph Symphony concert. Corby Pond. [StJoMo.com](http://StJoMo.com)

### BBQ on the River

AUG. 15–16, EXCELSIOR SPRINGS  
More than 50 teams compete, plus music, food trucks, and beer. Downtown. [VisitExcelsior.com](http://VisitExcelsior.com)

### Ethnic Enrichment Festival

AUG. 15–17, KANSAS CITY  
Food, crafts, music, and traditions from more than 60 cultures. Swope Park. [EECKC.org](http://EECKC.org)

### Irish Fest

AUG. 19–31, KANSAS CITY  
Bands, whiskey tasting, Irish dance, and activities for children. Crown Center. [KClrishFest.com](http://KClrishFest.com)

### Parkville Days

AUG. 22–24, PARKVILLE  
Music, arts, crafts, and carnival. Downtown. [ParkvilleMo.org](http://ParkvilleMo.org)

### Landslide

AUG. 23, LEE'S SUMMIT  
A tribute to Fleetwood Mac. Legacy Park Amphitheater. [CityOfLS.net](http://CityOfLS.net)

To discover even more events and to enter your own, visit [MissouriLife.com/events](http://MissouriLife.com/events).





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for more information.

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## NORTHEAST & ST. LOUIS

### Summer Concert Series

JULY 1–AUG. 12, CHESTERFIELD  
Different concert each Tues. Faust  
Park. [ChesterfieldMoChamber.com](http://ChesterfieldMoChamber.com)

### National Tom Sawyer Days

JULY 2–6, HANNIBAL  
Arts, crafts, Tom and Becky contest,  
parade, fence painting contest, and  
fireworks. Downtown.  
[HannibalJaycees.org](http://HannibalJaycees.org)

### Celebrate St. Louis

JULY 3–4, ST. LOUIS  
Concerts, parades, and fireworks  
shows. Downtown.  
[CelebrateStLouis.org](http://CelebrateStLouis.org)

### Community Days

JULY 3–4, WEBSTER GROVES  
Children's pet pageant and parade  
and fireworks. Downtown and Me-  
morial Park. [WebsterGrovesMo.gov](http://WebsterGrovesMo.gov)

### Heritage & Freedom Fest

JULY 3–6, O'FALLON  
Carnival, parade, concerts, art  
demonstrations, and fireworks  
show. Ozzie Smith Sports Complex.  
[HeritageAndFreedomFest.com](http://HeritageAndFreedomFest.com)

### Independence Day Celebration

JULY 4, EUREKA  
Concert, food trucks, and a fire-  
works show set to music. Central  
Avenue Spur. [Eureka.mo.us](http://Eureka.mo.us)

### FreedomFest

JULY 4–5, HERMANN  
Parade, concert, and fireworks.  
Riverfront Park. [VisitHermann.com](http://VisitHermann.com)

### Red, White & Blue Festival

JULY 4–5, KIRKSVILLE  
Concert, pie sale and auction, car  
show, and fireworks. Downtown  
and North Park. [VisitKirksville.com](http://VisitKirksville.com)

### Riverfest

JULY 4–6, ST. CHARLES  
Live music, parade, activities for  
kids, and fireworks display. Frontier  
Park. [StCharlesCityMo.gov](http://StCharlesCityMo.gov)

### Lincoln County Fair

JULY 8–12, TROY  
Horse shows, concerts, carnival,  
and monster trucks. Fairgrounds.  
[LincolnCountyFair.net](http://LincolnCountyFair.net)

### Let Them Eat Art

JULY 11, MAPLEWOOD  
Live art demonstrations, music,



### Town & Country Fair

AUG. 6–10, WASHINGTON  
Concerts featuring ZZ Top, Vanilla Ice, Dustin Lynch, and Jackson Dean,  
motorsports, Brewfest & Wing Ding, chainsaw carvers, junior farm  
mechanics show, exhibits, livestock shows, pickleball tournament, 20 plus  
midway rides, and parade. Fairgrounds. [WashMoFair.com](http://WashMoFair.com)

food, and activities for kids.  
Downtown. [MaplewoodMo.gov](http://MaplewoodMo.gov)

### Concerts in the Park

JULY 11 AND AUG. 8, WARRENTON  
Different concert each month. Dyer  
Park. [Warrenton-Mo.org](http://Warrenton-Mo.org)

### Filmfest

JULY 12, HERMANN  
Festival highlighting filmmakers  
from the region. Showboat Commu-  
nity Theatre. [VisitHermann.com](http://VisitHermann.com)

### Jazz at the Riverside

JULY 13, AUG. 10 AND 31,  
ST. CHARLES  
The St. Charles Big Band. Frontier  
Park. [DiscoverStCharles.com](http://DiscoverStCharles.com)

### NEMO Fair

JULY 15–19, KIRKSVILLE  
Garden tractor pull, pie contest,  
concerts, queen contest, games,  
rodeo, beer tent, and carnival.  
[NEMOFair.net](http://NEMOFair.net)

### BBQ Festival

JULY 18–19, HANNIBAL  
Concerts, barbecue, and beer.  
Heartland Field. [HannibalBBQ.com](http://HannibalBBQ.com)

### Summer Concerts & Food Trucks

JULY 18 AND AUG. 15,  
DARDENNE PRAIRIE  
Different concert each month. City  
Hall Park. [DardennePrairie.org](http://DardennePrairie.org)

### Earth, Wind & Fire

JULY 22, MARYLAND HEIGHTS  
St. Louis Music Park.  
[CenteneCommunityIceCenter.com](http://CenteneCommunityIceCenter.com)

### County Fair

JULY 22–26, ST. CHARLES  
Carnival, music, area for children,  
exhibits, and tractor pulls. Rotary  
Park. [StCharlesCoFair.org](http://StCharlesCoFair.org)

### Pioneer Days

JULY 23–26, QUEEN CITY  
Parade, car show, tractor display,  
and music. Community Center.  
[Find on Facebook](http://Find on Facebook)

### Berries & BBQ Wine Trail

JULY 26–27, HERMANN  
Berries and barbecue paired with  
wines. [HermannWineTrail.com](http://HermannWineTrail.com)

### Dead Letter Office

JULY 27, ST. LOUIS  
Tribute to R.E.M. [CityWinery.com](http://CityWinery.com)

### Balloon Glowdeo

AUG. 1–2, EUREKA  
Balloon glow, rodeo, games, farm  
animals, and concert.  
[BrookdaleFarms.com](http://BrookdaleFarms.com)

### Missouri Bourbon Festival

AUG. 2, HERMANN  
Samples from more than 20  
Missouri distilleries, plus souvenir  
glass. Copper Mule Distillery.  
[MissouriBourbonFestival.com](http://MissouriBourbonFestival.com)

### Sneaker Emporium

AUG. 3, ST. LOUIS  
Celebration of sneaker culture and  
streetwear. [TheHawthornStL.com](http://TheHawthornStL.com)

### Tennessee Williams Festival

AUG. 7–17, ST. LOUIS  
Artistic and educational events,  
performance of *A Street Car Named  
Desire*, and a Stella shouting con-  
test. [TWStL.org](http://TWStL.org)

### Festival of the Little Hills

AUG. 15–17, ST. CHARLES  
More than 300 art and craft  
vendors, Kids Corner, and food.  
[FestivalOfTheLittleHills.com](http://FestivalOfTheLittleHills.com)

### Fork & Cork Festival

AUG. 16, MACON  
Art, craft, and antique vendors,  
concert, food, and beer garden.  
Downtown. [MaconMoChamber.com](http://MaconMoChamber.com)

### Dragon Boat Festival

AUG. 16, MARYLAND HEIGHTS  
Traditional Chinese boat race,  
cultural performances, arts, and  
crafts. Creve Coeur Park.  
[GatewayDragonBoat.com](http://GatewayDragonBoat.com)

### Jersey Boys

AUG. 18–24, ST. LOUIS  
Play about Frankie Valli and The  
Four Seasons. [Muny.org](http://Muny.org)

### Soybean Festival

AUG. 22–23, MEXICO  
Crafts, concerts, parade, beer  
garden. Downtown square.  
[MexicoSoybean.org](http://MexicoSoybean.org)

### Gateway Cup

AUG. 29, ST. LOUIS  
Racers bike one-mile laps with  
commentators announcing their  
race strategy. Lafayette Square,  
Francis Park, The Hill, and Floris-  
sant. [GatewayCup.com](http://GatewayCup.com)

### Harvest Festival

AUG. 30, HERMANN  
Vendors, lawn games, winery tours,  
and wine and grape tasting.  
[StoneHillWinery.com](http://StoneHillWinery.com)

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# The Grand Army Farm

She's a farmer and physician.

INTERVIEW *Jim Winnerman*

**R**osalie Truong, owner of Grand Army Farm, was born in Vietnam during the Tet Offensive in 1968. By 1975, her physician parents decided to depart from the communist regime in Saigon and immigrate to France.

After seven years in France, her mother and father were concerned that a newly installed socialist government might shift toward communism, and they sent Rosalie and her 18- and 21-year-old brothers to California to become US citizens.

Since then, she earned a medical degree and became an obstetric anesthesiologist at St. Luke's Hospital in St. Louis County. She also farms and makes vibrantly colored craft wools.

**Q | Do you remember Vietnam?**

**A |** I was seven years old when we moved to France. I still have fond memories of the people, the markets, the beaches, and the food. We were lucky to be able to leave Vietnam when we did.

**Q | Why did you start farming?**

**A |** I had a desire to own a farm from a very young age. In 2008, at age 40, I purchased 88 acres in Labadie and started raising Angora rabbits, eventually adding fiber goats. I began to dye their

wool and make knitting yarn balls and wool clothing like hats and scarves. Angora wool dyes to vibrant shades, retains its shape, sheds dirt, and imparts a sheen onto finished articles. I dye the socks, gloves, and silk scarves that I sell. Later, I added chickens, ducks, geese, quails, and sheep. That launched my career into supplying eggs and meats to restaurants and the public.

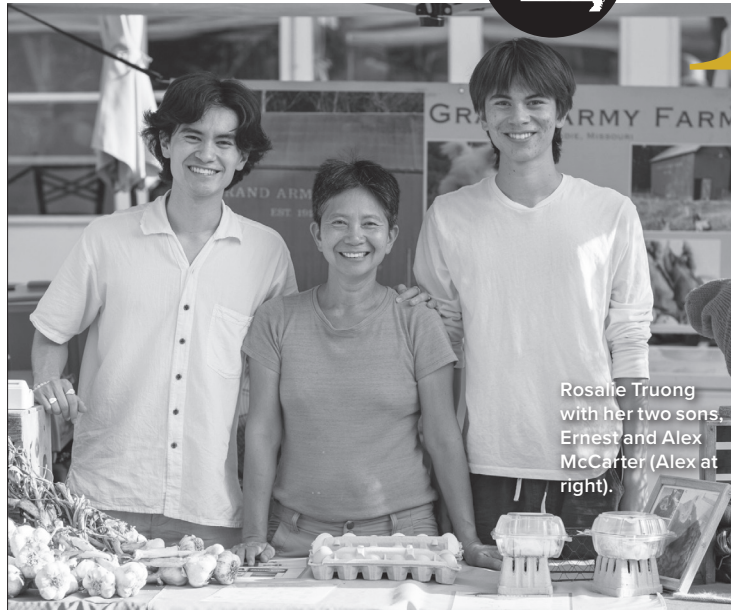
**Q | How can you be a doctor and farmer at the same time?**

**A |** I work as an obstetric anesthesiologist three weekends a month and work at least 100 hours at the farm every week. I used to manage the farm by myself, but it has grown to where

I need assistance. I was walking seven miles a day just to feed the animals and collect a hundred-dozen eggs a week. In the beginning, a few high school students helped out, but now it's expanded to include six employees, delivery people, and a farm manager who lives in the 1930-era white frame house on the property.

**Q | Is it difficult to balance being a doctor and a farmer?**

**A |** Yes, especially when I come to the farm very tired after a rough hospital shift. The farm can be both physically and intellectually challenging on a completely different level. Not only do I need to ensure the animals are healthy and well cared for, but I also manage the people working at



Rosalie Truong with her two sons, Ernest and Alex McCarter (Alex at right).

the farm. With my love of animals, I prefer being at the farm.

**Q | What is your passion?**

**A |** I want to make people healthy by providing unprocessed food, such as eggs and meats. We specialize in producing fresh, wholesome meat and eggs for the public and local chefs.

Refrigeration was not common in Vietnam, so each day was spent acquiring fresh food and preparing for the evening meal. My whole culture centers around fresh-food preparation. I process the animals myself and shear the sheep and rabbits myself too.

Also, I am on a mission to raise awareness for the German Angora rabbit that is in critical danger of extinction. There are fewer than 100 in the United States, and it is a magnificent fiber animal.

**Q | What else do you do?**

**A |** If you want to rent my goats to graze to clear a field, purchase some nutrient-rich goat manure, camp next to my five-acre lake, or take a farm tour, call me. Also, we occasionally offer shearing lessons and fiber and dye workshops. I like my days to be full. When I die, I want to know I have lived a productive life.

*GrandArmyFarm.com*  
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