

US 23 FREE COUNTRY MUSIC HIGHWAY TRAVEL GUIDE



Adventure
Tourism:
hiking,
& more!
ziplining,

attractions

restaurants

lodging

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MUSIC

*And read about stars from
along the highway*

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See article on page 33.

WWW.IDITTY.NET



Photo by Allen Bolling

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We would like to thank Allen Bolling of Prestonsburg KY for providing photos for this publication. Many of his photos are available for purchase.

For more information go to www.abprophoto.biz.



Welcome to Kentucky's U.S. 23 Country Music Highway

On March 1, 1994, an historic bill sponsored by State Representative Hubert Collins was passed and little-known U.S. Route 23 Highway in eastern Kentucky became the "Country Music Highway." This was done to recognize all the well-known country music stars that came from this region. Only eight years later and with the vision and perseverance of Congressman Hal Rogers, the Country Music Highway was recognized as a National Scenic Byway in June 2002. This 144-mile stretch of highway runs north and south along the eastern part of the state of Kentucky and covers seven counties.

The musical talent that has developed from these Appalachian hills includes Loretta Lynn, Wynonna & Naomi Judd, Billy Ray Cyrus, Tom T. Hall, Ricky Skaggs, Keith Whitley, Dwight Yoakam, Gary Stewart, Patty Loveless, Crystal Gayle and more. Visitors to this area will quickly realize that this entire region is steeped in cultural and musical history.

There are many opportunities to hear the sounds of all types of music at the many venues along the Country Music Highway. In addition to the many venues, there are countless shows and festivals that feature the sounds and talents of the region.

The Country Music Highway is not only about country music. When you travel the Country Music Highway you can also learn about Native Americans, pioneers, the Civil War, and the coal mining industry. The story of eastern Kentucky has been influenced by those who, early on in the nation's history, began searching for land west of the Appalachian Mountains. Not long thereafter, as a result of being a border state between the North and South, sections of the area became battlegrounds for the Civil War.

As the area began to develop and grow, coal mining became an essential chapter in Kentucky, and still is. This area is well known for a very notable feud *The Hatfield-McCoy Feud*, which became a nationally-known event. The two families have recently formed a working relationship and have collectively developed the *Hatfield-McCoy Reunion* on the second weekend of

June in Pike County.

While on the trail of feuders, pioneers, or miners, the area along the Country Music Highway is full of natural beauty and recreational opportunities. The region is blessed with six beautiful state parks from *Greenbo State Resort Park* in Greenup County to *Kingdom Come State Park* in Letcher County. *Jenny Wiley State Resort Park* in Floyd County also features Broadway-type musicals at *Jenny Wiley Theatre*.

Welcome to one of the most beautiful and historic places in the nation. As you travel along the Country Music Highway and meet the friendly folks of this Appalachian region, you will quickly realize that you have found a hidden treasure. We know that you will enjoy the music and crafts that abound here. The key to a successful visit in this region is to make sure you have enough time to see and hear it all!



JENNY WILEY THEATRE

Jenny Wiley Theatre is eastern Kentucky's only professional theatre east of I-75, located just off the Country Music Highway. In 2013, JWT will celebrate their 49th season of offering Broadway quality musicals, comedies and dramas under the stars in the beautiful amphitheatre and in the Wilkinson/Stumbo Convention Center inside Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. JWT continues their professional productions in the fall and winter at a variety of locations throughout the region.

SUMMER FUN

Jenny Wiley Theatre will certainly entertain you this summer! Meet the four ladies and the pastor in the church basement, fall in love and take a ride in the surrey with the fringe on top, and be transported to the majestic mountains of Austria as the hills come alive to the sound of music! Jenny Wiley's Footlights Theatre Camp will take you deep in the jungle and to the beloved world of Dr. Seuss!

FALL/WINTER

This Fall and Winter, history comes alive in eastern Kentucky. Experience first-hand one of the most famous family feuds in history, be astonished at the story of eastern Kentucky's most famous pioneer woman, and as the holidays approach, the real Chris Cringle makes an appearance on 34th Street.

Make plans to join JWT as they celebrate 49 years of professional theatre in eastern Kentucky! For more information and to purchase your tickets online, visit us at www.jwttheatre.com.

Jenny Wiley THEATRE
877-CALL-JWT
www.jwttheatre.com



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Butcher Hollow is in Johnson County and home of the world's most famous coal miner's daughter, Loretta Lynn. Her birthplace and family home is nestled between two fog shrouded mountains up a "holler" just two miles south-east of the coal mining camp of Van Lear.

For more information call Webb's General Store at (606) 789-3397.

The Mountain HomePlace... where history comes alive.

The Mountain HomePlace opened in July 1995, with five original 19th and 20th century structures - all of which came from the surrounding area - making up the core of the farmstead. It is located next to Paintsville Lake, just west of Paintsville.

The buildings consist of a family cabin which is a double pen cabin, a double crib barn, a one room schoolhouse, and the old Fishtrap United Baptist Church.

Interpreters in authentic period costumes perform daily chores on the farm April thru October.

The farm offers families and groups unique experiences from touring the grounds, to having an old-fashioned wedding at the church. Visitors can also enjoy a concert at the newly constructed "In the Pines" amphitheater. There are always things to see and do at the HomePlace.

606-297-1850
606-297-1469

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Country Music Highway Museum

U.S. 23 is a designated National Scenic Byway, honoring country music entertainers who were born or lived along Route 23. The U.S. 23 Country Music Highway Museum in Paintsville offers fans an opportunity to see displays created to honor many of the country music entertainers who consider U.S. 23 their home.

Be sure to join us every Thursday night at 7pm for "Front Porch Pickin'". Bring your instrument and/or your dancin' shoes! Admission is only \$1!!

Paintsville Tourism
800-542-5790
www.VisitPaintsvilleKy.com

Kentucky
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Paintsville Golf Course

Established in 1929, the historic Paintsville Golf Course offers a unique and challenging golfing experience for the novice to the most skilled golfer. A true Kentucky original, the Paintsville Golf Course was one of the first 18-hole golf courses in Eastern Kentucky.

For tee times and yearly membership rates, please call (606) 789-4234

www.PaintsvilleGolfCourse.com

3000 KY RT 1107
Paintsville, KY

Kentucky
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Ashland

“Small Town With Big Fun”

The main street serving Ashland, “Winchester Avenue,” is home to many arts venues including the historic Paramount Arts Center. The Paramount hosts the Kentucky Music Trail, the Youth Education Series, *A Broadway Series*, and many other wonderful cultural programs and concerts. During the Thanksgiving season, the theatre is transformed into a holiday extravaganza entitled “Festival of Trees,” which has been named one of the top ten Kentucky winter events by the Kentucky Travel Industry Association.

While visiting Ashland, don’t miss the Frame Up Gallery, Central Park, The Highlands Museum & Discovery Center (home to the Country Music Museum), the Upstairs Gallery, Quilt Trail, Floodwall murals, and the Pendleton Art Center (working artisans).



A visit to Ashland would not be complete without stopping by the Jesse Stuart Foundation and Bookstore which includes a wonderful gift shop showcasing Kentucky products.

The city is has recently opened the first phase of the new riverfront development. Already in place are beautiful floodwall murals featuring the first quilt block to be painted on a floodwall in the United States. Catlettsburg, Kentucky also has gorgeous floodwall murals and a historic courthouse and many other beautiful buildings.



During the other seasons, visitors can enjoy many other family festivals including the Redbud Festival, Summer Motion, Poage Landing Days, Catlettsburg Labor Day Celebration, the Boyd County Fair, Chili Fest and Youth Fest.

The newly established Ashland-Boyd County Quilt Alley currently has nine blocks on display and is planning to add numerous blocks in the near future. Ashland is rapidly becoming a quilt destination.

Come and enjoy Country Music Highway 23 - you’ll hear lots of great music while enjoying our life and culture. The third annual U.S. 23 Yard Sale is scheduled for the last weekend in May. Small Town – Big Fun!



Ashland Kentucky is Playing Your Tune!

Conveniently located off I-64 along Kentucky's Country Music Highway, Ashland offers a harmonious blend of history, culture, scenic venues, outdoor recreation and festivals. Experience true Southern hospitality at the beautiful and historic Paramount Theatre or explore aviation, regional art, country music and more at the Highlands Museum & Discovery Center, an interactive family museum.

800.377.6249

www.visitashlandky.com



PRESTONSBURG

THE STAR CITY OF EASTERN KENTUCKY

Join Prestonsburg for a ride on U.S. 23 Country Music Highway Road to Fame talent search. Let's all discover the next Loretta Lynn or Dwight Yoakam! For details go to www.cmhroadtofame.com.

The star also represents the vast amount of entertainment in Prestonsburg. Prestonsburg is home to The Mountain Arts Center, a 1,050 seat theater that presents local talent as well as national headliners. Billie Jean Osborne's Kentucky Opry is our own troupe of talented performers. Jenny Wiley Theatre has been providing "magic under the stars" for decades with its classic Broadway type shows. StoneCrest Championship Golf Course, which is built on a reclaimed mountain top, puts you as close to the stars as you can get. The newest addition to a galaxy of fun is the East Kentucky Science Center & Planetarium with its traveling exhibits, laser shows and 40 foot domed planetarium.

For information on attractions, lodging, and events, go to www.prestonsburgky.org or call 1-800-844-4704.



Jenny Wiley Theatre



Billie Jean Osborne's Kentucky Opry



StoneCrest Golf Course

WE'VE SET THE STAGE . . .

KENTUCKY OPRY 2013 SUMMER SEASON
FRONT PORCH PICKIN AT THE MAC
LATE JUNE THRU EARLY AUGUST

BATTLE OF MIDDLE CREEK RE-ENACTMENT
& THE KENTUCKY HIGHLAND FOLK FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 2013
JENNY WILEY FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 2013

2013 SUMMER SEASON
OKLAHOMA!
THE SOUND OF MUSIC
CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES
MID JUNE - MID AUGUST

2013 ROAD TO FAME
SCHEDULE @ THE MAC
QUALIFYING ROUND - MAY 4
SEMI-FINALS - JUNE 14 & 15
FINALS - JULY 13

WHILE IN PRESTONSBURG VISIT:

- STONECREST GOLF COURSE
- EAST KENTUCKY SCIENCE CENTER
- HISTORIC MAIN STREET
- HISTORIC MAY HOUSE
- MIDDLE CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

1-800-844-4704 WWW.PRESTONSBURGTKY.ORG



Pike County, Kentucky

Pike County - Learn the history of the largest county in Kentucky by visiting the Hatfield and McCoy sites and hearing the stories surrounding the two families that involved love, triumph and the Civil War. At the Heritage Museum it all comes to life as history reawakening, or visit the Pikeville Cut Through Project, an immense earth moving project second only to the Panama Canal in size and scope, is an engineering marvel that must be seen to be appreciated.

Take in an evening performance at the Artist Collaborative Theatre in Elkhorn City or a concert at the East Kentucky Expo Center, where music and arts come to life! Every April you will find homecomers heading back to Pike County to attend the second largest festival in the state, the Hillbilly Days Festival, where we see our old friends and make new ones!

Seeing is believing in Pikeville by taking in an afternoon walk of our Historic City locations, shopping, eating and taking in the beauty of our downtown that so many come and stay for! Or enjoy a day of outdoor adventure of hiking, biking, kayaking, or canoeing. Don't forget to attend the Muscle on Main, where the second Saturday brings the Vroom, Vroom back to our town with cars and more cars. Pike County, where beauty abides and hospitality flows!

Pikeville Pike County, KY

Hatfields & McCoys

HISTORIC FEUD TOURS

TourPikeCounty.com • twitter.com/Hatfield_McCoy

For a free information packet call Pike County Tourism CVB at
800-844-7453 or 606-432-5063

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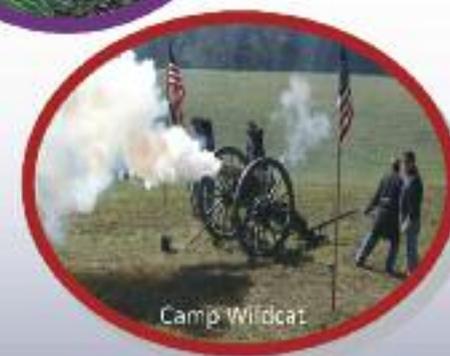
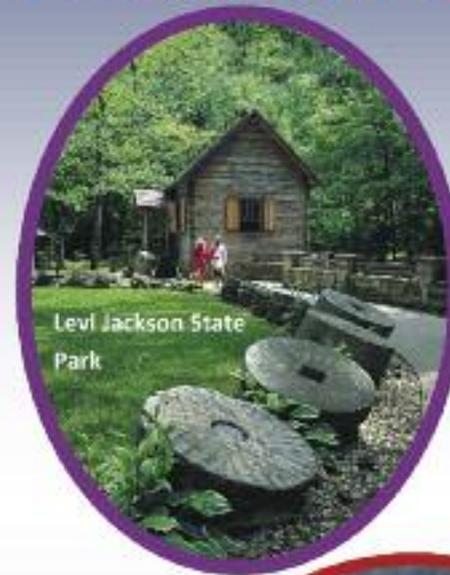
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Mountains, Lakes & Music

23
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www.visiteasternky.com

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London-Laurel Co. Tourist Commission

140 Faith Assembly Church Rd., London, KY 40741

Toll Free: 800-348-0095

www.laurelkytourism.com



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www.chickenfestival.com

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Explore Lawrence County KENTUCKY

"Heart of the Country Music Highway"



Fred M. Vinson House



Restored Historic Home



Yatesville Lake



Fallsburg Falls



Hole #9 Eagle Ridge Golf Course

Louisa and Lawrence County are rich in history and down home hospitality. Come explore our county!

Lawrence County Park offers a great place for family reunions, camping and cabins for rent. Eagle Ridge, at Yatesville Lake State Park near Louisa was ranked #10 by Golf Digest as the best public 18 hole course in Kentucky for 2013-2014.

Come camp, swim, boat or just relax. For more information contact us through our web site.



www.LawrenceCoKyTourism.com

LODGING

- Best Western Plus Louisa 18199 US 23 606-638-3420
- Super 8 Motel 191 Falls Creek 606-638-7888
- Creek Side Cabins and RV Park: 5462 North Highway 3 606-686-2915
- Joes Lost Creek Cabins, 606-297-5005 740 US HIGHWAY 23 Mile Marker #1. 4 Cabins
- Falls Campground, US Highway 3, Fallsburg KY 41230 606-686-3398
- Lawrence County Park-Boones Landing Cabin Rentals 77 Wilderness Road 606-673-1166
- Yatesville Lake State Park Camp Ground Pleasant Ridge Road 606-673-1490

EVENTS

- Front Porch Pickin, Louisa Community Center Contact Charlie Fyffe 606-638-4875
- US 23 Country Music Highway Yard Sale, Last weekend in May.
- Lawrence County Farm and Home Field Day, June 21, 2013 at the Lawrence County Extension Office, 249 Industrial Park Road.
- Lawrence County Septemberfest, 1st Weekend after Labor day.
- Lawrence County Farm and Home Field Day, July 13, 2012 at the Jay Sexton Farm.
- July 4th Celebration, Downtown Louisa, Music, Fireworks, fun for the whole family.
- Lawrence County Fair, 1st Weekend in August
- Heritage Harvest Tour: A driving tour of Kentucky Appalachia on
- Scenic KY Route 3 in Lawrence and Boyd Counties. Sept. 28, 2013
- Fallsburg Haunted House, Weekends in October

Lawrence County Tourism Commission
315 East Madison Street
Louisa, KY 41230
606-638-0078

www.LawrenceCoKyTourism.com



Ricky Skaggs

RESTAURANTS

- Dees Drive Inn, Downtown Louisa 606-638-4646
- Kentucky Fried Chicken Rt 32 and 2565 606-638-9636
- Made Especially For You Bakery 211 East Madison St. Louisa, 606-638-3331

ATTRACTIONS

- Fred M Vinson Museum 315 E Madison 606-638-0078
- Painted Cow Gallery 103 South Main Cross 606-638-1313
- Falls Creek Pavilion and Country Music Highway Welcome Center





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visit www.CountryMusicHighway.com

- ◆ Event Calendar ◆ Videos ◆ CMH Stars
- ◆ Travel and Resources ◆ Highway History ◆ Map



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www.VisitPaintsvilleKY.com
 Paintsville Tourism: (606) 297-1459
 Paintsville Main Street: (606) 789-6487
 Paintsville/Johnson County Chamber of Commerce: (606) 789-5698



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 or locally
 606-886-2623



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Letcher County, Kentucky

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And your Journey begins in
LETCHER COUNTY

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• ATV Trails • Hiking Trails
• Four Dedicated Biking Routes

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• Lilley Cornett Woods
• Little Shepherd Trail

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the Letcher County Tourism and Convention Commission*



BIKE NITE ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE - May 11, Live music 1 - 9 pm
606-454-7486

MOTHER MUDDER ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY RIDE - May 11, 606-634-9253 or
606-335-0566

CARCASSONE COMMUNITY SQUARE DANCE - May 11, June 8th, July 13th,
Aug. 10th, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Doors Open at 7:00 p.m. Dancing from 8:00
to 10:00 p.m. 606-633-2092.

SUGAR GROVE OPRY MOUNTAIN COAL MUSIC FESTIVAL - May 10 and 11 at
the Kingdom Come Elementary School, Linefork, KY (Hwy. 160). 606-279-5758,
606-536-4501 or the Community Center at 606-589-9194.

MEMORIAL DAY MUD RUN - ATV ride for our fallen heroes. Time and date TBA.
Contact: Steven Burke at 606-634-9253 or Jessica Brown at 606-335-0566.

AGRESTIC MUSIC FESTIVAL - "A Benefit Concert for Autism" that is certain to
rock on with the "Battle of the Bands" will be held at Riverside Park in Whites-
burg School with music beginning on Friday, May 31st and Saturday, June 1
from 4 p.m. to midnight. Admission is free with donations accepted. Contact:
Cody Sexton at 606-335-9275 for more information about the event.

FRIDAY NIGHT BLUEGRASS - Every Friday Night at Hemphill Community
Center. Doors open at 7 p.m., music begins at 7:30. 606-855-6607

ISOM DAYS FISHING TOURNEY, TBA. 606-633-5961, 606-633-1111, or 606-
633-8467

BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL by the CREEK - June 1 - 12-8 p.m.
Campbell's Branch Community Center, Corvettsville, KY. 606-633-7929

SEEDTIME FESTIVAL - June 7-8. Appalshop Grounds, 91 Madison Ave., Whites-
burg, KY. 606-633-0108

SEEDTIME ARTWALK - Friday, June 7 from 2-7 p.m. Exhibit runs through June
28th, Tuesdays through Fridays at the Underground Gallery 229 Main Street -
Whitesburg, KY

LITTLE SHEPHERD DRAMA CAST PARTY - Friday, June 14. Opening Night
Cast Party. Contact the Ticket Office at 606-832-1453 to reserve your seats.

MINI-MUDDERS ATV/UTV YOUTH RIDE - June 8. For kids 11 and under,
begins at 12:00 pm. 606-634-9253 or 606-335-0566

BIKE NITE SHRINERS CHARITY RIDE - June 8, Live music, games, dancing in
the street and more! 606-454-7486

LITTLE SHEPHERD DRAMA - June 15, 22, 29th, July 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug. 3, 10, 17,
24, 31, Sept. 7, 606-832-1453 for tickets.

DAD'S DIRTY RIDE - Saturday, June 15. Special prices for dads. 606-634-9253
or 606-335-0566

MEGA MUDDERS - June 22. ATV ride for the older younguns. 606-634-9253 or
606-335-0566

PARTY at the POND - Saturday, June 29 is a FREE Fishing Tournament for the
Kids. 606-821-5625

FRIDAY NIGHT BLUEGRASS - Every Friday Night at Hemphill Community
Center. 7:30 pm. 606-855-6607

ISOM DAYS FIREWORKS - July 3 at Isom Fairgrounds. 606-633-5961, 606-633-
1111, or 606-633-8467

CITY OF WHITESBURG JULY 4TH CELEBRATION - July 4. Celebration begins at
4 pm - Live music, food and games. 606-633-3700

MUDWORKS CELEBRATION - July 6. 606-634-9253 or 606-335-0566

BIKE NITE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ABUSE PREVENTION CHARITY RIDE -
July 13. 606-454-7486

MINI-MUDDERS ATV/UTV YOUTH RIDE - July 20. 12 pm - ages 11 and under.
606-634-9253 or 606-335-0566

MEGA-MUDDERS ATV/UTV RIDE - July 20 & 27. 11am. ages 12 and up.
606-634-9253 or 606-335-0566

McROBERT'S REUNION - Friday and Saturday, August 2 & 3. Relive the "Good
'Ole Days." Contact: Jim Scott at 606-832-4789.

HAYMOND CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION - August 8, 9 & 10 at Skyview Park.
606-855-7401 or 606-855-7126

**THUNDER ON THE MOUNTAIN; THE RETURN OF GENERAL JOHN HUNT
MORGAN** - August 9, 10 & 11. 9am. Re-enactments Saturday, August 10 and
Sunday, August 11. 606-633-2226

BIKE NITE CHRISTMAS CHARITY RIDE FOR FOSTER CHILDREN - August 10,
Live music, games and more. 606-454-7486

RIVERSIDE DAYS - August 15, 16, 17. 2013. 606-832-2079
www.riversidedays.com

MASTER OF THE MOUNTAINS RACE - August 24 8 am. 13.1 mile foot race
that will be held on the grueling course of the Pine Mountain Trail State Scenic
Park Highlands Section.

JENKINS HOMECOMING DAYS - August 22-24. "Exile" is the headliner on
Saturday night. Festival features music performances, food, parade, contests,
and more. 606-832-4937

LABOR DAY MUD RUN - August 31, at 11:00 a.m. 606-634-9253 or 606-335-
0566

ISOM DAYS - August 28-September 1. 606-633-5961, 606-633-1111 or 606-
633-8467

LETCHER COUNTY COAL MINERS MEMORIAL BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL -
Sept. 2. 606-855-4075

HERITAGE 2K13 MINI-TRUCK AND CAR SHOW - Sept. 6-8, 2013. Historic
Whitesburg, Kentucky. 606-633-4823

NEON AREA DAYS - September 13 & 14. 606-855-7703

LCCHS BENEFIT GOLF TOURNEY - September 21. Raven Rock Golf Course.
606-832-2955 or 606-855-9212

**BIKE NITE HONORS DAY CHARITY RIDE CELEBRATING COAL MINERS, OUR
HERITAGE, VETS AND MORE** - September 21. 606-454-7486

MOUNTAIN HERITAGE FESTIVAL - September 23-28. 606-633-9644

BIKE NITE JOINS MOUNTAIN HERITAGE PARADE - September 28. Parade
line-up at 10 a.m. downtown Whitesburg. 606-454-7486

FALL ART EXHIBIT - Exhibit opens on Thursday, September 26, at the
Underground Gallery: 229 Main Street, Whitesburg, KY

20 MILE YARD SALE - October 4 and 5th. Hwy. 931 and Hwy. 7 becomes the
largest peddlers mall in the area with something for everyone.

INDIAN SUMMER - October 3, 4 & 5. Education Days - October 3 & 4. Little
Shepherd Amphitheater, Jenkins, KY. 606-832-2416

JENKINS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
October 12 & 13. 606-855-7401



Mountain Heritage Festival
September 23 - 28



Thunder on the Mountain:
the Retaking of Pound Gap by
Confederate General
John Hunt Morgan

ARTWALK - October 26 from 4-9 p.m. - Exhibit continues for four weeks
Tuesday through Fridays at the Underground Gallery, 229 Main Street,
Whitesburg, Kentucky. 606-632-9542.

BLACKKEY DAYS - October 11 & 12. 606-633-7451. 606-633-5820

BIKE NITE BREAST CANCER AWARENESS RIDE - October 12. 606-454-
7486

MOLASSES STIR-OFF - October 12, 10 am - 4 pm. BOL Battlefied near the
General Store, Leatherwood, KY. 606-653-8591

HAUNTED HAYRIDE - Fishpond Lake, October 18 & 19. 606-855-7900

HAUNTED FOREST - October 18, 19, 26, & 26. Little Shepherd Amphithe-
ater - 444 Amphitheater Drive - Jenkins, KY. 606-832-4570

BATTLE OF LEATHERWOOD - October 25, 26 & 27. Re-enactments occur
at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, October 26 & 27 at the Leatherwood
Battlefield. 606-653-8591. www.battleofleatherwood.com

HAUNTED HAYRIDE - Fishpond Lake, October 25 & 26. 606-855-7900

WHITESBURG SAFE NIGHT - October 31 in Historic Downtown Whites-
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AMERICAN CHESTNUT FESTIVAL - November 1 - 2, Kingdom Come
Elementary School, Linefork, KY. 606-279-5758 or 606-589-9194

"BIG SEXY" MEMORIAL ATV RIDE - November 20. 606-634-9253 or 606-
335-0566

JENKINS CHRISTMAS PARADE - December 7, TBA. Main Street, Jenkins,
Kentucky. 606-832-4937

CHRISTMAS ARTWALK - December 13 11 am - 9 pm and Saturday,
December 15 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

WHITESBURG CHRISTMAS PARADE - Dec. 13, 5:30 pm. 606-633-3700

BIKE NIGHT JOINS WHITESBURG CHRISTMAS PARADE - Dec. 13

"LIGHTING OF THE NIGHT" - Dec. 19, 5:30 pm Whitesburg.

SANTA'S ATV SLEIGH RIDE - Dec. 21. 606-634-9253 or 606-335-0566

YOUTH RABBIT HUNT - December 21. Hunt begins at 7 am. No hunting
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Stars of the Country Music Highway

What makes the Country Music Highway so unique? It's the vast number of Country Music Highway stars that hail from this region. Nowhere in the United States will you find a region more rich in musical heritage.

We begin our journey along the Country Music Highway in the northern-most county of Greenup. Here, **Billy Ray Cyrus** formed his first band and honed his skill as a singer and a musician. Billy Ray later found another talent in acting, starring in the hit series *Doc*. Later, Billy Ray teamed up with his daughter, Miley, in the mega hit series *Hannah Montana*.

Moving south from Greenup County we enter Boyd County - home of **The Judds**. Naomi and Wynonna worked as a duo and won five grammys. They were named the CMA's *Duo of the Year* eight times. After Naomi's health problems forced her to leave the act, Wynonna became a solo sensation. Another famous Judd, **Ashley**, has found her passion in acting, achieving great success and landing leading roles in several major motion pictures.

Next down the line we come into Lawrence County, home of both **Ricky Skaggs** and **Larry Cordle**. Ricky began his career playing with such legends as Ralph Stanley and Keith Whitley. Ricky says he's just "trying to make a living" playing the music that he loves. With his band, *Kentucky Thunder*, backing him up, Ricky Skaggs is certainly one of the greats of bluegrass music.

Larry Cordle, also from Lawrence County, moved to Nashville in 1985 to be a staff writer for Amanda-Lin Music. At last count, Cordle's songs had appeared on projects that had sold a combined total of more than 50 million records, including artists like Alison Krauss, Garth Brooks, George Strait, Reba McEntire, Alan Jackson, and many others.

We keep moving south along the highway and come to Johnson County, home of **Loretta Lynn** and her baby sister **Crystal Gayle**. In the 1970's Loretta was one of the nation's most sought-after performers. She began singing duos with Conway Twitty and was the first woman to be named *Entertainer of the Year* by the Country Music Association. Loretta continues to perform across the United States, and has released several singles.

Crystal Gayle's style was more pop, rock and Broadway along with a little gospel and country. Crystal received numerous awards including *Best Female Country Vocal Performance*, *Best Country Song for Don't it Make My Brown Eyes Blue*, and *Female Vocalist of the Year* for both the *Academy of Country Music* and the *Country Music Association*.

Johnson County is also home of **Hylo Brown**. His signature song, *Last to a Stranger*, was part of his first album and is in the collection at the *Smithsonian* in Washington, D.C. Hylo performed on television shows and concerts throughout the '60's and '70's. Hylo Brown passed away in 2003.

Our next stop takes us to Floyd County, home of **Dwight Yoakam**. Dwight moved to Nashville in 1977 to pursue a career in music. After a brief time in Nashville, Dwight moved to California, which was more receptive to his style of country. Dwight released an EP and hit the road with such artists as Los Lobos and The Violent Femmes. In 1991, Dwight began his acting career, starring in major motion pictures. Currently, Dwight is still active in recording, touring, and filmmaking.

Our next county along the highway is Pike, home of **Patty Loveless**. Patty began her musical career singing gospel with her mother. She eventually moved to Nashville, where she broke into the business by writing and performing with the Wilburn Brothers. Patty has had numerous number one hits and has received critical acclaim performing at many bluegrass festivals. Patty was inducted into the *Kentucky Music Hall of Fame* in April of 2011.

Our southern-most county is Letcher, home of **Gary Stewart**. Gary was born near the Virginia border. He moved to Nashville in the 1960's, where he first wrote songs and began his own recordings. His solo music career included a number one hit, *She's Actin' Single (I'm Drinkin' Doubles)*. After leaving the music scene for a time, he began recording again in 1990 and wrote songs until his death from a self-inflicted gunshot wound in 2003.

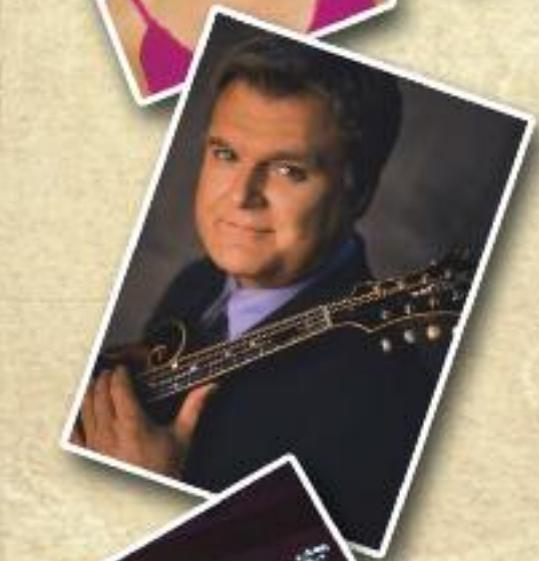
Right off the highway in Carter County we have the home of "The Storyteller," **Tom T. Hall**. Tom T.'s big break came in 1963 when Jimmy C. Newman recorded his song, *DJ for a Day*. Soon after, Tom T. moved to Nashville and wrote songs for dozens of country music stars, including Johnny Cash, George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Waylon Jennings, and Bobby Bare. One of his earliest songs, *Harper Valley PTA*, was recorded by Jeannie C. Riley and sold over six million copies. This song won him both a Grammy and CMA award and inspired a motion picture and television program.

Just off the highway we have **Keith Whitley** from nearby Elliott County. Whitley wrote many great country songs including *On the Other Hand*, *Nobody in His Right Mind Would've Left Her*, *Don't Close Your Eyes*, *When You Say Nothing at All*, *I'm No Stranger to the Rain*, and many others. In 1986 Whitley married singer Lorie Morgan and they had one child, Jesse Keith Whitley. Whitley passed away in 1989 of severe alcohol poisoning.

Why do so many great musicians, singers, and songwriters come from this stretch of highway? Some say it's in the water, so be sure to drink lots of our water on your visit to Eastern Kentucky. You could be the next big star!

For more information on the Country Music Highway and the stars that come from this region, visit our website:

www.CountryMusicHighway.com





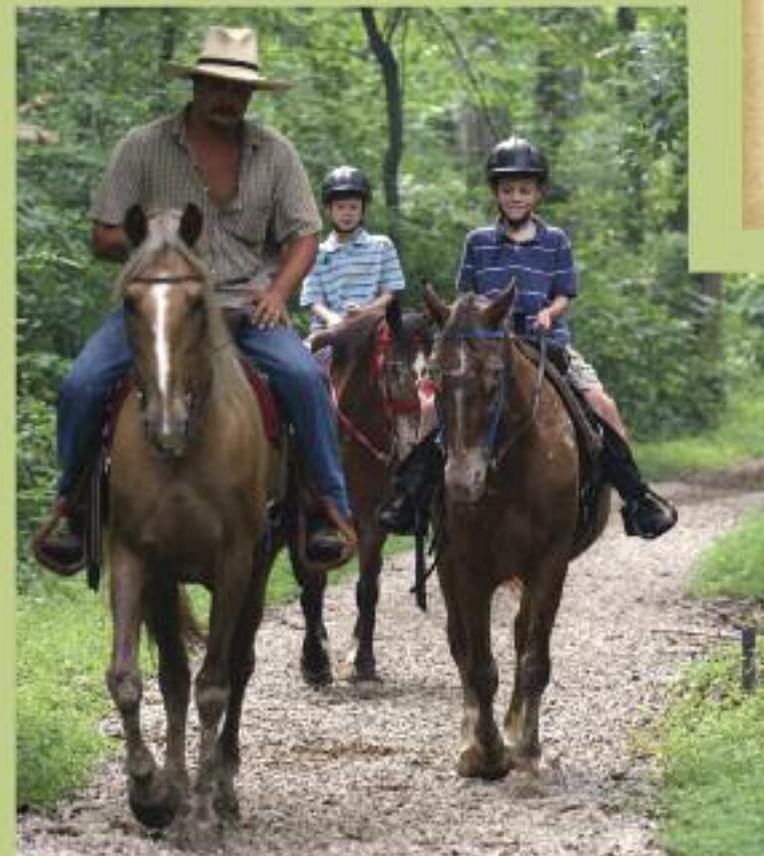
Adventure Abounds along the Country Music Highway

The Country Music Highway isn't just the home to some of Kentucky's greatest musical legends, but also some of Kentucky's greatest outdoor adventures. Memorable trails can be found throughout the mountains of eastern Kentucky at State and National Parks. Scenic waterways and mountain lakes offer great fishing and paddling. Modern campgrounds and hidden-away back country sites offer numerous opportunities to get away.

One such location caters to the off roading enthusiasm sweeping eastern Kentucky. The Ashland area is home to the Commonwealth's newest off road destination, Rush Off Road. It's the newest addition to an already impressive line up. Located on 7,000 acres in the small community of Rush, it boasts 100 miles of trails and welcomes any and all off road vehicles. From traditional ATVs and side by sides, to jacked-up jeeps and buggies, all will find great places to ride and climb at Rush Off Road.

At the southern end of the County Music Highway is Elkhorn City and Breaks Interstate Park. Appropriately dubbed the Grand Canyon of the South, the Russell Fork River is a tributary of the Big Sandy River, and cuts a magnificent gorge as it winds through the mountains of eastern Pike County. This river has gained increasing popularity among paddle sport enthusiasts from across the country. Every October, kayaks and rafts of all shapes and sizes descend on Elkhorn City for some of the best paddling found anywhere in the region. The Russell Fork offers a number of different runs. From easier, beginner level floats that are great for families, to extreme Class V+ trips that should only be attempted by the most experienced paddlers.

These are but two of the great adventure opportunities that await visitors to the County Music Highway. To learn more about all there is to see and do in the great outdoors of eastern Kentucky, visit www.getoutky.com.



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Dawkins Line Rail Trail Opening Spring 2013

At a total length of 36 miles, the Dawkins Line Rail Trail will be the longest rails-to-trails project in Kentucky, and will more than double the total rails-to-trails mileage. Beginning just outside of Paintsville in Hagerhill, the trail will wind up through Magoffin County and the community of Royalton, and dip back down where it ends in Breathitt County.



This trail will be open to hikers, cyclists and horseback riders, and will have a number of memorable features. One of the more unique attributes of this trail will be the two tunnels that trail users will travel through. Trestles of varying length are also present all along the Dawkins Line, helping to make it a one-of-a-kind trail experience.

This rail line was once a service of the Dawkins Lumber Company. Originally constructed by the Big Sandy & Kentucky River Railroad in 1912, ownership of the line changed hands over the years until it became the property of R.J. Corman. Now, it will serve to transport trail users across some of the most scenic areas of the Commonwealth.

Championed by Governor Steve Beshear and First Lady Jane Beshear, the Dawkins Line is one of two projects in Kentucky recognized as a part of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, which focuses on getting people back outside and involved in recreation. An 18-mile section of the trail is expected to open in spring 2013. The trail will be managed by the Kentucky State Parks.

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Dawkins Line Rail Trail

The Dawkins Line Rail Trail, at 36 miles, will be the longest rails-to-trails project in Kentucky when it is completed.

The line begins at Hagerhill in Johnson County and winds through Magoffin County and the community of Royalton, and ends in Breathitt County.

An 18-mile section of the trail is expected to open in the spring of 2013.

This trail will be open to hikers, cyclists and horseback riders. It will be managed by Kentucky State Parks.

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Paintsville TOURISM Kentucky

Paintsville Lake

With steep cliffs and wooded coves along the shoreline, Paintsville Lake provides 1,140 acres of boating, skiing, and fishing pleasure. After a day on the lake, relax in the campground featuring 32 developed sites and 10 primitive sites. The full-service marina offers rental houseboats, pontoon boats, and fishing boats, as well as a restaurant.

For more information on Paintsville Lake State Park, please call (606) 297-8486 or (606) 297-8488.

Breaks Interstate Park

In 1954, through the joint efforts of Virginia and Kentucky, the United States Congress created this park as a way to conserve the rugged beauty of the area, and its centerpiece -- the deepest river gorge east of the Mississippi River. Breaks Park covers 4,600 acres in Kentucky and Virginia and has the special distinction of being one of only two interstate parks in the country.

The history of Breaks is deep and colorful. It began more than 180 million years ago when the entire area was covered by a vast inland sea. As time passed and the Earth's climate began to change, the sea receded and the waterway that is now the Russell Fork River began to carve the beautiful, immense gorge that we now call the 'Breaks'.

It was Daniel Boone who is credited with discovering the Breaks in 1767 as he attempted to find improved trails westward into Kentucky and the Ohio River Valley. The Breaks proved to be a very rare passageway, or break along the 125-mile long Pine Mountain.

Today you'll find lakefront cabins, cottages, camping, hiking, biking, fishing, birding, geocaching, and more in addition to a water park facility, which is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Come find your adventure at Breaks Park: The Grand Canyon of the South!

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"CMH Magazine's exclusive interview with Angelina Presley from the Pistol Annie's!"

Country Music Highway Magazine: Okay, first question. The name. Presley. Is that your real name?

Angelina Presley: Mhmh! That's my name.

CMH: Are you related to the most famous Presley?

AP: I don't think so, but my dad looks a little bit like Elvis.

CMH: So where are you from? You're from Beauty, Kentucky, right? Have you lived there all your life?

AP: I'd say I lived there until I was about a freshman in high school. Then we moved to the other side of the hill.

CMH: How long have you been in Nashville?

AP: It's going on 11 years now I think.

CMH: So did you come out here as a songwriter?

AP: Well, my mom is a teacher -- an educator -- in eastern KY, my aunts are all teachers and my cousins are all teachers, so it was pretty much a given that I was going to have to go to college. Went to college. Got that over with. Got in the car and drove to Nashville, with my guitar and my degree strapped on my back.

CMH: Had you written any songs up to that point?

AP: Yes. I was writing songs since I was about 16, I guess. I have an uncle, Uncle Bobby, and he played guitar -- he was sort of the only musical person in my family -- but he was awesome. He played guitar just like Willie Nelson. He used to sing Bill Young songs to me. So he was kind of my first impression of music, and he had excellent taste. So I got excited about music through him. I've always wanted to play, I was always fascinated by it. My dad had this old guitar in the closet. He knows about three chords; he can play House of the Rising Sun, Wildwood Flower, and Mama Tried. So I dragged the guitar out of the closet one day and said "Dad, will you teach me how to play this?" He said



"Sure I will! All you need to know in country music is three chords." After he taught me what he could -- my hands were sore with blisters -- I learned two more chords [on my own] and then started writing songs. I had all these words in me. Some higher power -- God -- working through me and led me to music.

CMH: How does a girl from Martin County get teamed up with Miranda Lambert, one of the biggest names in country music?

AP: Well it was a long, hard road.

CMH: So it wasn't just one night she came up to you and said "Hey I want you in my group?"

AP: No! (laughs) I'm an 11-year overnight success story. I moved to town, starting playing little clubs. A publisher saw me and he liked what I did and I got a publishing deal. Publishing deals, the way that they work, publishers set you up with other writers that they think will complement your writing style. So I guess about six years into my publishing deal, my publisher set me up with Ashley and I walked in the room. I knew about Ashley and I knew she sang like an angel, but I walked in and sat down. I had this dumb idea that I was working on. I played a little bit of it and she was like "I don't know. I kind of like darker stuff." And as soon as she said that I was like "Me too!" So I started playing this other thing and she was like "Yeah, that's it." So we wrote this song called "Let the Babies Sleep" and it was about these two people who were partying and fighting and cussing and the hook was "Please, Lord, let the babies sleep through this." So we just hit it off. Immediately. She and I were friends, you know, forever, and time went on and she one day out of the blue said

"Hey, Miranda, do you know Angela Presley's music?" because she and Miranda were friends.

The next thing I know, they're calling me at one o'clock in the morning telling me to get out of bed now and email us your record, we want to hear the whole thing. And I'm like "Who is this?" And she was like "It's Ashley! It's Ashley and Miranda!" And I'm like "Miranda who?" And she says "Miranda Lambert!" So I got up and sent them my record and the next week Miranda called and asked me to hang out at the CMA awards, and that's all she wrote.

We started writing songs within 15

minutes of knowing each other. The thing is, this is a heartbreak town. You're gonna get your heart broken 50 times before a miracle happens. You just have to keep on going.



CMH: So perseverance is key?

AP: Yes. It's not like I was little and dreaming about a big ol' limousine and I was all glitzy and glamorous and I had people waiting on me hand and foot, but no. That ain't how it works (laughs). It is a LOT of hard work to be in the music business. I'm thankful for my roots because my parents WORKED. They were some of the most hard working people you'll ever meet in your life. My dad worked the coal mines -- underground -- for 30 years. And I think he only missed about 12 days of work in that whole time. So I got my work ethic from my dad.

CMH: I want to ask you about the Road to Fame now. I understand you're going to be somewhat of a spokesperson for it. What made you want to take on that position?

AP: Well, you know, I'm just so passionate about Eastern KY. I love it there, I loved growing up there, and my role model my whole life was Loretta Lynn. I just thought she was the bee's knees. There's just something in the water back home. There's just something about it where there's just so many talented people. I believe our connection to nature -- I don't even know how to explain it, really. There's something in me, and my mom, and my dad. There's just something in the water. With Road to Fame, it's so obvious. There are just so many people there that have yet to be plucked out. I'm so excited about this competition, because that place has yet to be harvested. There is some good talent growing down there.

CMH: So you really have a desire to help future artists?

AP: Yes!

CMH: Wouldn't it have been cool to have a program like this when you were planning on moving?

AP: Oh yes. When I moved, I had no clue what to expect. I just picked up a guitar and said "I'm moving to Nashville!" I had no resources, didn't know where to go. I just picked up a newspaper and was like "Where do songwriters go? Where do songwriters meet?" So just the education part about getting people from home educated about music business. I feel like I did four wheelin', you know? I had to lock in the hubs and climb up the hills. So it's nice that y'all are making it available

so they can maybe get inside the car and just cruise. When you cruise you have so much more time to focus on your craft.

CMH: Without this program, someone like Logan Hall wouldn't have had an opportunity at all.

AP: I met Logan. He's like coal miner's daughter -- he's a coal miner and he's a daddy! He's awesome, we have so much in common and we plan on writing together.

CMH: What were music programs like when you were in school? I remember when they were vibrant, but now it seems like they're dwindling down to almost nothing lately.

AP: When I was in school, we had music class once or twice a week. We sang all these fun songs. I would love to see programs in KY where you put a fiddle in a kindergartner's hand, or a mandolin, or even a guitar. One of my goals is to have programs in KY where we are just taking advantage of the talent (through the school system). Just think of what could happen.

*Angaleena Presley is this year's celebrity spokesperson for the Country Music Highway Road to Fame.

www.CMHRoadtoFame.com



Logan Hall, Road to Fame 2012 winner
www.LoganHallMusic.com
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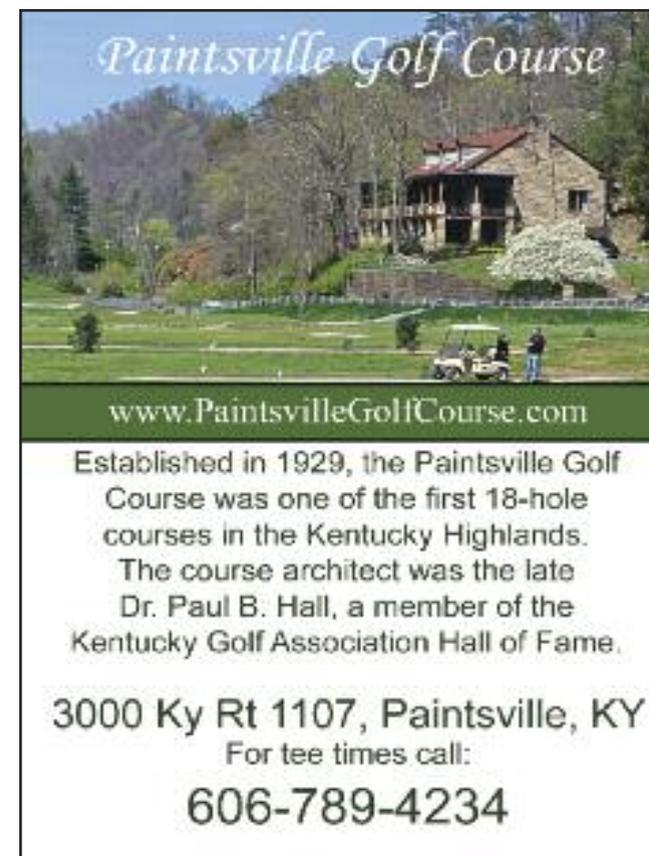
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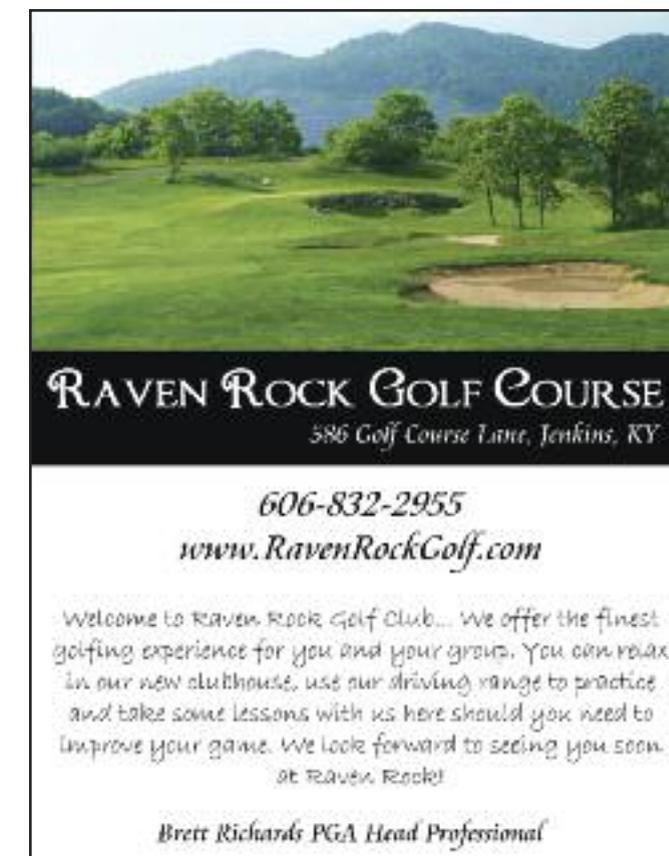


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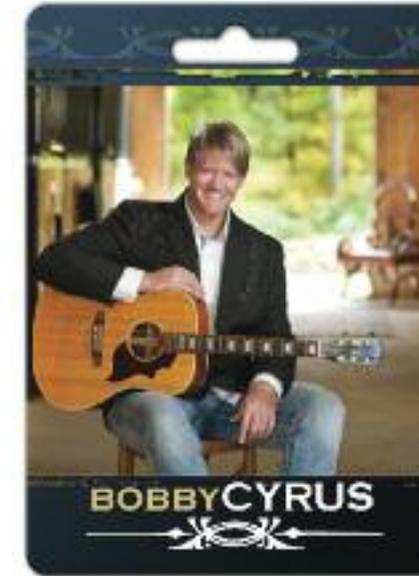
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see the artist's touring schedule, pictures and any videos that the artist may have available. It is no wonder that many artists, labels and consumers are excited about iDitty.

iDitty is now available in the App Store for iPhones and Androids (see ad on this page). To see how iDitty works, go to the inside front page of this magazine and do the following:

- ◆Download "iDitty" App to your iPhone or Android.
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Artists interested in creating your own free iDitty account should go to **iDitty.net** home page and click on "Order." Enter Rep Code **1804** when registering (located on line #6).

NOTE: Great SkyDitty Feature!

The current problem for performing artists (especially those who travel) is that there is less and less music product to sell off the "merch" table. Many music buyers do not want to buy a CD and therefore the artist's only alternative, prior to iDitty), was to encourage buyers to go to places like iTunes to download their songs. These digital download sites are good but payment to artists is slow and a significant amount of money is retained by these companies. Now, the consumer could purchase an iDitty Digital Scan Card directly from the artist and utilize their iPhone or Android's App to immediately download their music. In addition to downloading music, a consumer could also

SkyDitty. Sign up for a free account and register all your devices (computer, phone, iPod, etc) to your account. When you purchase an iDitty card and download it to one of your devices it will make it available on all your registered devices. It keeps them all in sync. How cool is that?

(Thanks to Ashland Independent for their contribution to this article)

For more information on iDitty – go to **iDitty.net**



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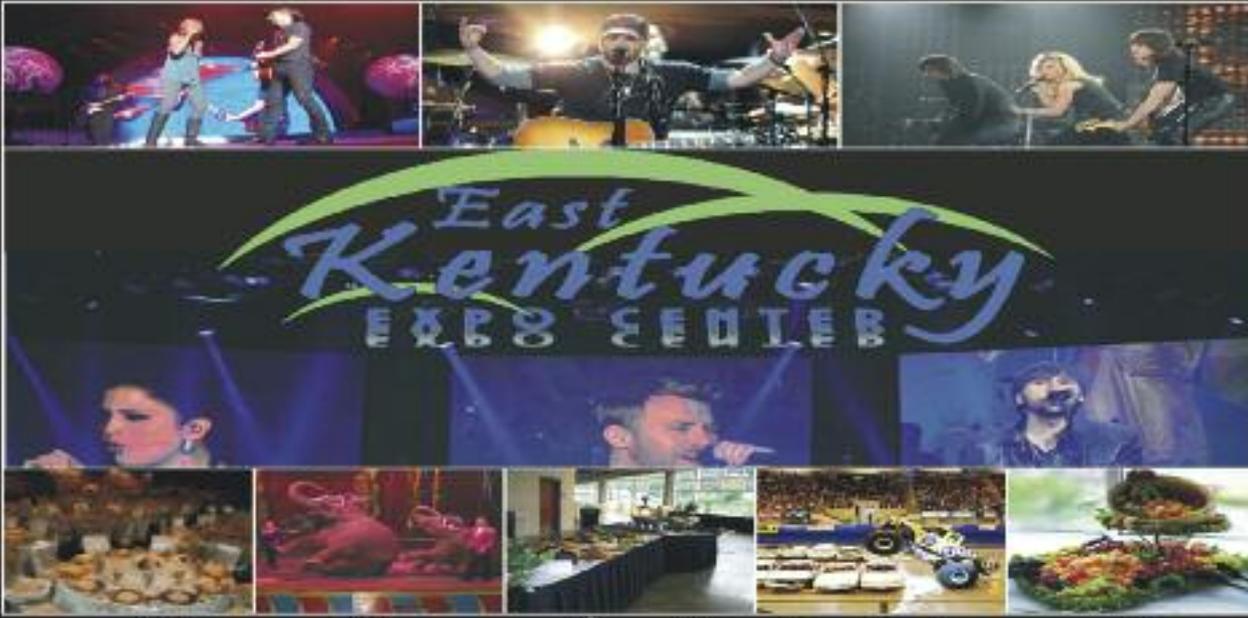
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POP'S CHEVROLET HILLBILLY ARM DROP

Photo by Allen Bolling



Mission Statement

Our continuing mission is to promote the sport of Armdrop Drag Racing via Participation, Promotion, and Example by providing a legal & safe venue for competition in an affordable manner for participants and fans. We are committed to the promotion of Tourism by growing our events every year in an honest and effective manner. our goal is to provide local investment in our communitites with grants and scholarships, etc., based on board decision with divisible surplus. We will always strive to give our sponsors value for their investment in reaching out to our fans and participants and making them aware of sponsorship involvement and recognizing sponsors for making the events possible. We will lead by example by keeping our goals of safety and integrity always first in all business decisions. our mission is to always provide family friendly events by honoring God and Country and the people we serve.

HORSEPOWER IN THE HILLS OF EASTERN KY

What started out as a burnout contest on the streets of Prestonsburg, KY, has turned into a huge event that has drawn as many as ten thousand spectators. "The race was started when the mayor and chief of police came over to my shop and asked if I would come to town and put on a burnout contest for them," says Kent Rose, founder of the Hillbilly Arm Drop, the largest racing event in Eastern Kentucky. "They knew I was an old school drag racer, and always loved fast cars and kids."

Other towns in the area were doing burnout contests, but those were simply too boring for Kent's taste. He wanted to do things his own way, and thus the Hillbilly Arm Drop was born. It began as a burnout contest in a parking lot, but eventually Kent talked them into letting him do a 300 foot drag race behind Prestonsburg's Mountain Arts Center. The turnouts eventually became so large that they decided to move the race to the airstrip, making it 1/8 of a mile long. The event is biannual, and their most recent race had 206 cars participating and over 10,000 spectators.

What makes the property the race is hosted on so unique is that it's owned by both Prestonsburg and Paintsville, Kentucky. The Arm Drop provides the two cities an opportunity to work together, and both cities' mayors give their full support to the event as it continues to grow.

The event is affordable and family friendly. Kids 12 and under, as well as coal miners who have lost their jobs, get in for free. Kids between the ages of 3 and 8 have the opportunity to race Big Wheels during the event, and every child who walks through the gates receives a Hot Wheels toy car.

The show spans across two days, and anyone -- driving any kind of car -- can race for a small fee. For more information, visit www.PrestonsburgMotorSports.com/race

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**Please note: All locations are approximate,
not exact. For more detailed information, refer
to the ads for phone numbers and addresses.



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