

Free

# KENTUCKY'S US 23 COUNTRY MUSIC HIGHWAY TRAVEL GUIDE 2009-2010

Map Inside

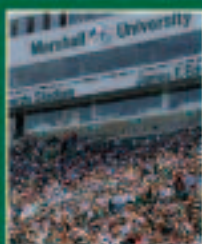
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Visitors Center at The Station – 210 11th Street – Across from Harris Riverfront Park





### ***US 23 Country Music Highway Travel Guide 2009/2010***

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# Kentucky's US 23 Country Music Highway

On March 1, 1994, an historic bill sponsored by State Representative Hubert Collins' was passed and little-known US 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 venues along the Country Music Highway. Beginning with the northern part of the highway in Greenup County, you have the beautiful **Greenbo Lake Amphitheater** at Greenbo Lake State Resort Park. Then going south you come to Boyd County, home of the historic **Paramount Arts Center** in Ashland, Kentucky. This venue launched the careers of Billy Ray Cyrus and The Judds. Billy Ray's famous "Achy Breaky Heart" video was filmed there. In Johnson County you have two venues, the **Mountain Homeplace Amphitheater**, **Country Music Highway Museum**, and **Memories**. Moving further south to Floyd County, in the city of Prestonsburg, you will find the **Mountain Arts Center**, home of the popular professional entertainment ensemble, **The Kentucky Opry**. In Letcher County, the multi-purpose facility, **Appalshop**, with a quaint theater that features many Appalachian and Bluegrass concerts. **The Eastern Kentucky Exposition Center** is located in Pike County, and is designed as a multi-purpose facility that is available for concerts, conventions and special events. The newest venue in Pike County, is the **Artists**

**Collaborative Theater** in Elkhorn City. In addition to the above 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 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!

For information on current events go online to:  
[www.CountryMusicHighway.com](http://www.CountryMusicHighway.com)



# www.CountryMusicHighway.com

Everyone understands the power of the internet. It is no longer the past time of young tech-savvy teenagers but a valuable tool for everyone. Information is still its major contribution to the world. Those - young and old - travelling locally or globally, are utilizing the internet to make the most of their vacation planning. Tourism businesses that do not currently have a web site are truly at a disadvantage to their competitors who have grasped the significance of having all of their company's information available to the inquisitive travelers.

Goodyme Productions has recently made a major commitment to bolster the

www.CountryMusicHighway.com web site to further assist travelers who may be planning a vacation or a short visit to the Country Music Highway. Some of the exciting additions we have made on our site include the following:



1. A current calendar of events covering the country music highway corridor.
2. A listing of key travel businesses in the region.
3. Pictures and stories on all the Country Music Stars that are the basis of this National Scenic Byway.
4. Links to all seven county tourism sites along the Country Music Highway.
5. A map of the region.
6. A weekly blog that will feature some of the most interesting stories of music and history the area has to offer. The theme of each blog will be "Every \_\_\_\_\_ has a story!" The "blank" spot will be filled in with one of many stories of people, places or events from the region. Kentucky's US 23 Country Music Highway is loaded with great stories and we are excited to share them with you each week. We will archive each story to allow visitors to retrieve and read them at their leisure.

We will also be adding the following soon:

1. Video streaming that will allow travelers to see some of our talented singers, artisans and/or actors in action
2. Coupons that will provide discounts at venues, hotels, museums, dining etc.
3. Vacation Package giveaways and contests!
4. Links to key tourism businesses in and around the region.

***Visit [www.CountryMusicHighway.com](http://www.CountryMusicHighway.com) often to see what is new and exciting along this beautiful National Scenic Byway.***

# Welcome to Greenup County Home of Billy Ray Cyrus



William Ray (Billy Ray) Cyrus was born August 25, 1961, in Flatwoods Kentucky. Before he was even old enough to go to school, Billy Ray began singing with his father's gospel quartet and his mother's bluegrass band. As a young man, he formed a country duo with his brother. When he was 19 he began playing guitar and performing locally with *Sly Dog*, a band named after his one-eyed pet bulldog. The band started performing in an Ironton, Ohio bar called *Changes*. In 1984, the bar burned to the ground, along with the band's equipment. With not much left in Kentucky, he packed up and headed west. After spending two years in Los Angeles, he ended up with a dead-end job selling cars instead of stardom. His heart turned back to Kentucky, and he returned home to reform *Sly Dog*. The newly formed *Sly Dog* landed a gig at *The Ragtime Lounge* in Huntington, WV. At this point, Billy Ray started making regular trips to Nashville to "knock on doors".

While opening for Reba McEntire in Louisville, KY in 1990, Billy Ray was discovered by Mercury talent scouts. Of course by then he was a seasoned pro. Two years later he blasted the music world with *Achy Breaky Heart* and his hit album, *Some Gave All*. His follow-up album was the million selling *It Won't Be the Last*. But by the time he released 1994's *Storm in the Heartland*, Cyrus' was no longer a favorite among radio stations. He was forced to change his style a bit and came up with the earthy sounds of *Trail of Tears*. The

1996 album earned a single of the year award from the TNN/Music City News Country Awards voters. He assembled a greatest hits collection called *Cover to Cover*, which included *It's All the Same to Me*. This performance returned him to radio in 1997 and paved the way for his next album, *Shot Full of Love*. His next album, *Southern Rain*, was released in 2000.

Billy Ray has a deep and profound connection to his fans. Few artists have given as much of themselves. His devotion to the community is outstanding, and the amount of charity work he does has been staggering. Because his early hits were so catchy, he became an instant favorite with children. As a result, Cyrus has been seen holding many dying and crippled children in his arms. Cyrus' first four albums for Mercury Nashville put his sales in excess of 13 million units. He has earned multitudes of awards from the Country Music Association, the American Music Awards, Billboard, the Recording Industry Association of America ( R I A A ) ,

TNN/Music City News Awards and numerous other organizations. In early 2001, Cyrus took his starring role in the dramatic series, *Doc*, on cable network PAX-TV. More recently, Cyrus has teamed up with daughter Miley for the Disney Channel's highly popular series "*Hannah Montana*".



Miley Cyrus as  
"Hannah Montana"



## Greenup County



### Jesse Stuart, Kentucky Novelist

**Jesse Stuart**, KY novelist, short-story writer, poet, and teacher, was the son of a man who could barely write his name. Stuart was born

August 8, 1906 in a small cabin in Greenup County, Kentucky a few miles from the Ohio River. He was the son of Mitchell and Martha Hilton Stuart, and was the second of seven children.

Jesse Stuart's father was a coal miner and tenant farmer. Even though uneducated himself, Mitchell Stuart' philosophy was "Since I didn't get any education, I don't want my youngins to grow up in this world without it. They'll never know what they're missin' until they don't have it".

Jesse Stuart began school at Plum Grove in 1912. There he wrote his first short story - about the Easter Bunny - when only eight years old. Stuart was extremely bright, reaching the seventh grade by the time he was ten years old.

Stuart's first major influence was his English teacher at Greenup County High School, Mrs. R. E. Hatton. She encouraged him to write short stories and poems. Stuart was Mrs.

Hatton's favorite student and he thought of her as his "literary mother".

After graduating from Greenup High School, Stuart worked in a steel mill in Ashland until September. In the fall of 1926 he was admitted to Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tennessee. He received more encouragement to write from Harry Harrison Droll, one of his English professors. He spent 1931-32 as a graduate student at Vanderbilt University.

In his poem, "Kentucky is My Land," Jesse Stuart expresses his love for his homeland.

"(...) And when I go beyond the border,  
I take with me growth and beauty of the seasons,  
The music of wind in pine and cedar tops,  
The wordless songs of snow-melted water  
When it pours over the rocks to wake the spring.  
I take with me Kentucky embedded in my  
brain and heart,  
In my flesh and bone and blood  
Since I am of Kentucky  
And Kentucky is part of me"  
-Jesse Stuart

**Experience Greenbo Lake  
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*Browse through booths of Antiques & Collectibles,  
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Greenbo Lake  
State Resort Park  
at 800.325.0083  
or 606.473.7324**



An event sponsored by: The Greenup County Tourism and Convention Commission  
Phone: 606-834-0007 • [www.EastGreenupCounty.com](http://www.EastGreenupCounty.com)

**Vendors Wanted!!!**



# Greenup County

## Greenbo Lake State Resort Park



**Greenbo Lake State Resort Park** holds the pristine beauty of the Kentucky hills that inspired poet Jesse Stuart, a lifelong resident of the area. You will appreciate his visions as you visit the beautiful fieldstone lodge or relax in front of the copper-hooded fireplace in the lodge lobby.

Enjoy the view at the Jesse Stuart Lodge. Most of the 36 rooms feature private patios and balconies overlooking beautiful Greenbo Lake.

A swimming pool adjacent to the lodge is for the exclusive use of lodge guests. A newly-built community pool features a water slide and a childrens area with a rain tree.

Enjoy the great outdoors at the Greenbo Lake Campground. The campground features 63 sites with utility hookups, as well as 35 primitive sites. We now take reservations, by going to our web site, [www.parks.ky.gov](http://www.parks.ky.gov).

The Jesse Stuart Lodge now features "Anglers' Cove Restaurant" with a seafood flare, a 232-seat dining room where you can experience the finest in courteous service and Kentucky cuisine for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The park also offers full service convention/on-site catering for up to 400 people.

Experience boating and fishing on Greenbo Lake. This 225-acre lake is home of two state large-mouth bass records! The lake also holds bluegill, crappie, catfish, and trout. The park also provides a full service marina on a first-come first-serve basis.

Daily summer activities and year-round events are scheduled for both children and adults. These events are planned under the guidance of a trained

recreation director.

Be sure to ask about our Tee's & Zzz's golf package and other business retreat packages available through our group sales office. Don't forget about the Model Railroad Show held each March, as well as the Annual Antique Show held each November.

The park now features a newly constructed Amphitheater that will host numerous musical and special events.

While visiting Greenbo Lake State Resort, also check out these other recreational facilities:

- ♦Miniature Golf ♦Tennis & Basketball Courts
- ♦Bicycle Rentals ♦Picnic Shelters & Playgrounds
- ♦Jesse Stuart Library & Reading Room
- ♦25 + miles of Horseback, Hiking, & Mountain Bike Trails open to the public.



### EVENTS

**The Odd Couple** - June 4 - June 7th, 2009 8 p.m. nightly

**The Wiz** - June 25 - 28, 2009 - 8 p.m. nightly

**Colonel Bill Williams Greenup Heritage Music Festival** August 15 and 16th 2009

**Scrapbooking** Jan. 15, 16, 2010

**Art Festival** Feb. 19, 20, 2010

**Railroad Weekend** March 20, 21, 2010

**Greenbo Genealogy Conference** March 26, 27, 2010

**Easter Egg Hunt** April 4, 2010

**Quilt Show** April 17, 18, 2010

**Dogwood Writers** April 23, 24, 2010

**Tractor Show** May 15, 2010



Toll Free Reservations 1-800-325-0083  
<http://parks.ky.gov/greenbo2.htm>



# Welcome to Boyd County

## Home of Wynonna, Naomi, & Ashley Judd



Both **Wynonna and Naomi Judd** were born in Ashland, Kentucky. Naomi became pregnant, married her high school sweetheart and gave birth to Wynonna all before her high school graduation. In 1968, the family left the deeply-rooted life they'd known in Kentucky and moved to California, where Naomi gave birth to a second daughter, Ashley. Wynonna was seven, and Ashley only three, when Naomi divorced. They moved from place to place but by 1976 were settled back in Kentucky, living in a small house on a mountaintop with no telephone or television. Naomi recalls, "I wanted my daughters to be close to our family and our heritage. I wanted them to learn where they came from and to be free to develop their imaginations and talents."

Wynonna learned to play the guitar and sing. Naomi gave her the guitar to give her something to do. They started singing together for their own entertainment, never thinking of fame or awards. Times were tough, and money and tempers were short, but Wynonna and Naomi found harmony in their music.

In 1979, the girls moved to Nashville to pursue their newfound dream. They began shopping for a producer who could develop the unique sound they had in their hearts and minds. They were determined to maintain the integrity of their music.

They found producer Brent Maher in the hospital where Naomi was a nurse. She had been treating Maher's daughter after a car accident.

On March 2, 1983, Wynonna and Naomi were granted an appointment at RCA Records. Their meeting was to be a live audition for the label's executives. Within

forty-five minutes, The Judds were RCA recording artists.

Throughout the 1980s, it looked as if there was no end to success for this dynamic duo. But in October of 1990, Naomi learned she had contracted Hepatitis C. The debilitating illness left her no choice; after a lifetime of dreams and eight years at the top, Naomi would have to retire.

The Judd's Farewell Tour began in February of 1991 and stopped in 116 cities across North America. The tour grossed over \$21,000,000.00 and The Judds were named the top grossing concert act of 1991. The tour broke records but it also broke hearts, as the girls said a tearful goodbye to the loyal fans who had loved and supported them for nearly a decade. On December 4, 1991, The Judds performed their final concert. The sell-out crowd and over six million pay-per-view fans watched as Wynonna and Naomi took their final bows. It was the end of an era.

Wynonna, now a mother of two, continues to record and tour. As a solo artist she has sold more than nine million records and has celebrated fourteen top ten hits, including five #1's. The Los Angeles Times proclaimed, "Wynonna may just be the most complete and gifted female singer of her generation, and we're not just talking country music."

Naomi, now in remission, serves as a spokesperson for the American Liver Foundation. She's a best-selling author, radio talk show host, judge on 2003's hit TV reality show, *Star Search*, and a highly sought after motivational speaker, traveling the country sharing her message of healing.



**Ashley Judd** pursued an acting career and has starred in numerous major films. Ashley was recently named one of "the 50 most Beautiful People in the World" by People Magazine. Ashley has quickly become both a darling of the critics and of audiences after roles in films like *Smoke and Heat*. She also won an Independent Spirit Award for her role in 1993's *Ruby in Paradise*.



# Ashland, Kentucky

## "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 Tourism Council.

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

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.



**Flood Wall Mural**

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



**Ashland City Park**

During the other seasons, visitors can enjoy many other family festivals including the Brass Band Festival, 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 first annual US 23 Yard Sale is scheduled for the last weekend in May. Small Town – Big Fun!





# Brandon Webb

Brandon Tyler Webb (born May 9, 1979, in Ashland, Kentucky), is a National Major League Baseball starting pitcher for the Arizona Diamondbacks and was the 2006 National League Cy Young Award winner.

Brandon and his wife, Alicia, make their home in Ashland. He decided to stick close to home for college, attending the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Webb attended Paul G. Blazer High School in Ashland, Kentucky, and was a decent student and a letterman in baseball. Webb graduated from Paul G. Blazer High School in 1997.

## Professional career

### 2003: Rookie Season

Webb joined the Diamondbacks right after Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling went down with injuries in the year. He was honored with Baseball America Rookie of the Year Award and placed third in the Major League Baseball Rookie of the Year Award.

### 2004:

Webb finished the season with a 7-16 record, leading the team in losses. He was ejected from his first game on September 17, 2004, after hitting St. Louis Cardinals' starter Woody Williams with a pitch.

### 2005:

Webb switched uniform numbers from # 55 to # 17. In 2005, he posted a 14-12 record and an ERA of 3.54. After the season, he signed a four-year contract extension worth a guaranteed \$19.5 million and a team option for the 2010.

### 2006: Cy Young Award

Through his first 13 starts of the 2006 season, Webb had an unbroken 8-0 record. Webb pitched in the 2006 Major League All-Star Game, recording one hitless inning.

Webb went on to finish the 2006 season with a record of 16-8 and an ERA of 3.10, and was recognized with the NL Cy Young Award. His 16 wins tied five other pitchers for the most victories in the National League. Webb's win total marked the lowest for a starting pitcher who won the Cy Young in a full season. His 3.10 ERA was the fourth best in the majors.

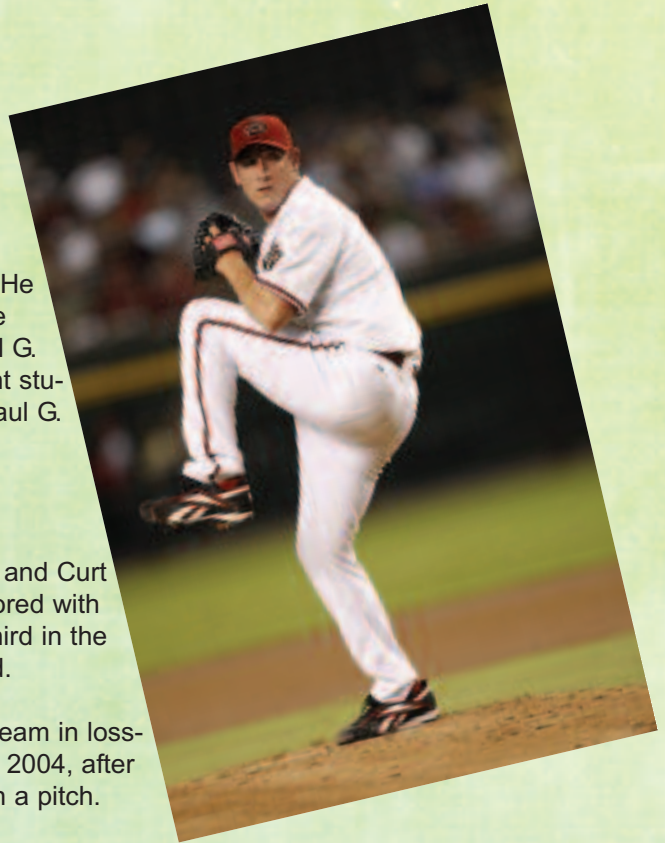
### 2007: Scoreless Innings Streak

As of the conclusion of his start on August 17, 2007, Webb had logged an Arizona Diamondbacks franchise record with 42.0 scoreless innings including three straight complete game shutouts. This is the twelfth longest such streak in major league history, and the fifth longest since 1940. His three consecutive complete game shutouts during the streak was the longest streak since Roger Clemens accomplished the same with Toronto. In December 2007, the City of Ashland, KY, re-named a section of Highway 60 the "Brandon Webb Highway" in honor of their local hero.

### 2008:

On May 15, 2008, Webb won his ninth game in as many starts. Webb became the first pitcher in the Majors to win his first nine starts of the season. Near the end of June, Webb was leading the major leagues in wins. He made the All-Star team and threw a scoreless 14th inning with two strikeouts at Yankee Stadium.

Webb finished the 2008 season with a career high 22 wins and just 7 losses. Despite leading the National League in wins, Webb finished second in the National League Cy Young voting to division rival Tim Lincecum.





## Boyd County



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events with a home-cooked feel*

[www.AshlandPlaza.net](http://www.AshlandPlaza.net)





# Boyd County



Area Attractions	2009 Festivals & Events		
   	<p><b>Ashland Main Street</b> 1645 Winchester Avenue, 606-325-7692</p> <p><b>Paramount Arts Center</b> 1300 Winchester Avenue, 606-324-3175</p> <p><b>Pendleton Art Center</b> 1517 Winchester Ave., 606-920-9863</p> <p><b>Fannin Antique Car Museum</b> U.S. 60 W. 606-929-9000</p> <p><b>Highlands Museum &amp; Discovery Center</b> 1620 Winchester Avenue, 606-329-8888</p> <p><b>Jesse Stuart Foundation</b> 1645 Winchester Avenue, 606-326-1617</p> <p><b>City of Catlettsburg</b> Historic Courthouse and Floodwall Murals 36th &amp; Broadway Street, 606-739-5223</p> <p><b>Ashland Central Park</b> 17th &amp; Central Avenue, 606-327-2046</p> <p><b>Ashland Floodwall Murals</b> Riverfront, 606-329-1007</p> <p><b>Ashland Tennis Center</b> 1300 Coliseum Road, 606-329-2245</p> <p><b>Wellpen Woods Pioneer Village</b> 939 Boks Fork Road, 606-928-6975</p> <p><b>Ashland Historical Walking Tour</b> Downtown Ashland, 606-329-1007</p> <p><b>KYOYA Mall</b> 10699 US Rt. 60, 606-928-3835</p> <p><b>Ashland Town Center Mall</b> 500 Winchester Ave., 606-324-1100</p> <p><b>Catlettsburg Antique Mall</b> 2606 Louisa St. - Catlettsburg 606-739-9786</p> <p><b>Diamond Links Golf Club</b> Sc. Rt. 3 - Catlettsburg 606-928-5335</p> <p><b>Sandy Creek Golf Course</b> 9701 Maude Springer Rd, Meads 606-329-9093</p>	<p><b>Easter Egg Hunt</b> Ashland Central Park, April 11</p> <p><b>Donkey Derby</b> Ashland Central Park, May 9</p> <p><b>Annual Brass Band Festival</b> Ashland Central Park, June 5</p> <p><b>NRP Bluegrass Junior Golf Tournament</b> Bellevue Country Club, June 15-19</p> <p><b>Summer Motion</b> Central Park/Riverfront, July 1-5</p> <p><b>Independence Day Parade</b> Downtown Ashland, July 4</p> <p><b>Patriotic Fireworks Display</b> Riverfront, July 4</p> <p><b>Boyd County Fair</b> Boyd County Fairgrounds, August 18-22</p> <p><b>US 23 Road Rally</b> Greenup Co. to Letcher Co., August 22</p> <p><b>Catlettsburg's Labor Day Celebration</b> Downtown Catlettsburg, Labor Day Weekend</p> <p><b>Poage Landing Days</b> Downtown Ashland, September 18-20</p> <p><b>Chili Fest</b> Paramount Arts Center, September 26</p> <p><b>Halloween Festival</b> Ashland Central Park, October TBA</p> <p><b>Dining with the Past</b> Highlands Museum &amp; Discovery Center, October TBA</p> <p><b>Winter Wonderland of Lights</b> Central Park, November 16 - January 1</p> <p><b>Festival of Trees</b> Paramount Arts Center, November 21-28</p> <p><b>Holidays at the Highlands</b> Highlands Museum, December 4-31</p> <p><b>New Year's Eve Celebration on the Plaza</b> Judd Plaza - December 31</p>	   



1509 Winchester Ave., Ashland, KY • 41101  
606-329-1007 • 800-377-6249  
e-mail: [aacvb@visitashlandky.com](mailto:aacvb@visitashlandky.com)  
[www.visitashlandky.com](http://www.visitashlandky.com)





## Boyd County

### HIGHLANDS MUSEUM & Discovery Center

Celebrate the Past, Explore the Present,  
& Move into the Future!

Experience our  
Country Music Heritage Hall  
with Hwy 23 Stars! See Miley Cyrus as  
Hannah Montana, the newest member of  
our Country Music Family!  
Try our Interactive Music Quilt!  
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# Welcome to Lawrence County

## Home of Ricky Skaggs

**Ricky Skaggs** was born July 18, 1954, in the small rural eastern Kentucky town of Blaine. Most would easily agree that Skaggs was a child prodigy. At age three he was singing in church with his mother, Dorothy, and by age five his dad Hobert had given him his first mandolin. With no formal instruction, it wasn't long before the young boy had learned his way around the instrument. Soon he was singing and playing with his family at local churches, fairs, and town socials in his native Eastern Kentucky.

It was about this time that Skaggs had a chance to play on stage with the great Bill Monroe. During a personal appearance in Martha, Kentucky, the local audience requested that the Opry star let "Little Ricky, Hobert and Dorothy's boy" play a tune. Ricky performed "Ruby," on Bill Monroe's Gibson mandolin. Just two years later Ricky performed the same song on Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs' popular Martha White television show. This was to be his first paid performance. He received \$52.50.

Ricky's first major break came in 1970 when he and fellow singer Keith Whitley joined Ralph Stanley's legendary band, *The Clinch Mountain Boys*. As Ralph told the story, "We were late for a show. I think we had a flat tire or something. I walked in and these two boys were singing the Stanley Brothers music better than the Stanley Brothers." After being on the road for four years, Ricky moved to Washington, D.C., where he took a day job for the Virginia Electric and Power Company. By 1974 he signed on as the fiddler with the popular bluegrass band, the Country Gentlemen. Following his gig with the Gentlemen he worked with banjoist J.D. Crowe before forming his own band, Boone Creek, which included dobroist Jerry Douglas.

While in the nation's capitol, Ricky landed a job with Emmylou Harris. He wrote arrangements for the album, *Roses In The Snow*, sang harmony and played mandolin and fiddle.

Ricky released three critically acclaimed records for the independent Sugar Hill Records including *Sweet Temptation* which provided him with his first chart single, *I'll Take The Blame* and an album of duets

with guitarist Tony Rice, *Skaggs and Rice* before moving to Nashville in 1980. Once in Nashville, Ricky soon signed with Epic Records. He produced his debut album, *Waitin' For The Sun To Shine*. The album pro-



duced four chart singles including two back-to-back number ones. Ricky Skaggs was fast on his way to becoming a major country music star.

From that point on, the 1980's belonged to Ricky Skaggs. He joined the world famous Grand Ole Opry in 1982 - at that time the youngest member to be included. More importantly Ricky helped to bring country music back to its roots. He helped to pull country music out of the slick pop sound that had dominated the industry for many years. He blended traditional elements such as bluegrass, gospel, honky tonk, and western swing with state-of-the-art production techniques.

Today, Ricky has gone back to his roots in bluegrass music. Says Ricky, "I always want to try to promote the old music as well as trying to grow and be a pioneer, too."



# Lawrence County

## Explore Lawrence County Kentucky Recreation - Unique Shopping - Cultural Events

### Yatesville Lake State Park



Marina

Campground

Golf Course

\*606-673-1492 (park mgr) \*606-686-2361 (marina) \*606-673-1490 (campground)  
\*606-673-4300 (eagle ridge golf course)

### Parks/Recreation

Lawrence County Riding Stables - Pleasant Ridge Road  
673-1166

Lawrence County Park at Pleasant Ridge-Cabins, picnic shelters, camping, putt-putt golf, playground, conference center and amphitheater.  
Call 606-673-1166 or 606-638-4102.

Stella Moore Athletic Complex-lighted ballfields, playground, concessions (seasonal) and basketball court. Home of the Louisa/Ft. Gay Little League.  
Call 606-638-4102.

Chapman Park-Tennis and basketball courts, restrooms, picnic shelter and limited camping. Located in the Chapman community of Lawrence County.  
Call 606-638-4102.  
Home of the Chapman Reunion on July 4th holiday.

City of Louisa Pool and Recreation Area-Municipal Pool complex with picnic shelters and basketball court. Private parties available.  
Call 606-638-4050 or 606-638-9038. (Seasonal)

City of Louisa Main Street Park-Picnic shelter, park benches and gazebo in downtown Louisa.  
Call 606-638-4050.

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife-Manages all hunting and fishing regulations and the Yatesville Lake Wildlife Management Areas  
Call 606-673-3643 or 686-3312.

Fallsburg Community Center-Basketball court, picnic shelter / gazebo. Call 606-686-3344

Blaine City Park/Community Center/ Picnic area  
City of Blaine, KY Call 606-652-9175

### Lodging/Cabins/Campgrounds

Super 8 Motel  
U.S. #23 Louisa  
800-800-8000 or 606-638-7885



Best Value Inn  
117 E. Madison St. Louisa  
606-638-9417

Lawrence County Park  
Pleasant Ridge Road  
606-673-1166

Creek Side Cabins  
5461 N. Hwy 3  
606-686-2915

Falls Campground  
State Rt. 3-Fallsburg  
606-686-3398

Lawrence County Park	Pleasant Ridge Road	606-673-1166
Yatesville Lake State Park	Pleasant Ridge Road	606-673-1490/673-1492
Creek Side RV Park	5461 N. Hwy. 3-Fallsburg	606-686-2915
Falls Campground	State Rt. 3-Fallsburg	606-686-3398

Lawrence County Tourism Commission  
PO Box 267 Louisa, KY 41230  
606-638-4102

Lawrence County Recreation Board  
606-638-4102

[www.lawrencecountytourism.com](http://www.lawrencecountytourism.com)  
[www.Parks.ky.gov](http://www.Parks.ky.gov)





# Lawrence County

## Events

**Country Music Hwy Yard Sale**  
May 28, 29, & 30  
Rt. 23 from Ashland to Jenkins

**Chapman Park  
Local Musicians**  
Every Sat. night from Memorial Day  
to Labor Day (weather permitting)

**Lawrence County Farm & Home  
Field Day**  
June 26, 2009 606-673-9495

**City of Louisa July 4th Celebration**  
Music, Parade, Fireworks  
606-638-4050

**Coal Miner's Bluegrass Festival**  
August 15, 2009  
Lawrence County Park  
606-638-4102/606-686-1166  
Open stage night August 14th

**Lawrence County Septemberfest**  
Old-fashioned Street Festival  
Best Little Festival in Kentucky  
Downtown Louisa  
Sept. 11, 12, 2009  
606-673-3387

**Appalachian Bike Tour**  
Yatesville Lake State Park  
Sept. 19, 2009 (rain date 9-26)  
[www.appalachianhiketour.org](http://www.appalachianhiketour.org)



## Unique Shops/ Attractions

**Ambience Gifts**  
433 HWY 2585, Louisa, KY  
606-638-0266

**Amy's Hallmark Cards & Gifts**  
184 Townhill Road, Louisa, KY  
606-638-0082

**Cindy's Corner Cupboard**

**Country Livin' Primitive Home Decor**  
205 E. Pike Street, Louisa, KY  
606-638-3331

**Farmhouse Memories Florist & Antiques**  
75 HWY 32, Louisa, KY  
606-638-7800

**The Hay Barn**  
Clayton Lane, Louisa, KY  
659-497-1475

**Hometown Florist & Gift Shop**  
111 E. Madison St, Louisa, KY  
606-638-9220

**Jenny Lynn's Boutique**  
210 E. Madison St, Louisa, KY  
606-638-9455

**Marketplace Flea Market**  
US 23 - 5 miles N of Louisa, KY  
606-696-3350

**On Eagles Wings - Christian Bookstore**  
123 S. Main Cross St, Louisa, KY  
606-638-3393

**Painted Cow Art Gallery**  
103 S Main Cross St, Louisa, KY  
606-638-1313

**Presley Paper Patch**  
205 N Lock Ave, Louisa, KY  
606-638-4030

**Primitive Dwelling - Primitive & Country  
Decor**  
1851 HWY 581, Ulysses, KY  
606-673-4628

**Sandy River Outfitters**  
341 HWY 2585, Louisa, KY

**Wellman Hardware**  
309 E Main St, Louisa, KY  
606-638-4185

**Yatesville Bait & Tackle**  
1220 HWY 1185, Louisa, KY  
606-696-3350



Louisa Coca-Cola Bottling Co.



**Fred M. Vinson Home/  
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Pinchill Cemetery  
Louisa, Kentucky  
606-638-4185



**Farmhouse Memories  
Florist and Antiques**  
75 Highway 32  
Louisa, Kentucky  
606-638-4185



**Wellman Hardware**  
309 East Main Street  
Louisa, Kentucky  
606-638-4185







# Welcome to Johnson County

## Home of Crystal Gayle & Loretta Lynn



**Crystal Gayle** grew up in Butcher Holler, KY and is Loretta Lynn's baby sister. Crystal was the youngest of eight children and the only not born in the little cabin at Butcher Holler. Crystal jokes that her mother sensed she'd have trouble out of her and that's why she decided to give birth to her in the hospital.

Born Brenda Gayle Webb, Crystal changed her name at the suggestion of her older sister Loretta, since there was already a "Brenda Lee" in the music industry.

Complete with a brand new name, Crystal began a recording career envied by many.

Her latest project, "All My Tomorrows", contains timeless classics such as "Cry Me a River", "Sentimental Journey", "It Had To Be You", and "Smile". "These are songs any artist loves to sing," stated Crystal in a recent interview.

One of Crystal's most beloved songs, "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue", made her a household name from Louisville to Leningrad. Thanks to this song, Crystal became CMA's "Female Vocalist of the Year", for two consecutive years, and became a Grammy Award Winner for "Best Female Vocal Performance". Crystal also received three "Top Female Vocalist" statuettes from the "Academy of Country Music Awards".

In the mid 1970's, Crystal was seen on her own prime time special on CBS television. This CBS special was followed by a groundbreaking HBO concert special viewed by millions. She appeared in Bob Hope's historic NBC-TV Special, "On The Road To China." She was seen hosting the "American Music Awards," the "Academy of Country Music Awards", and her third network special, "A Crystal Christmas from Sweden." She has toured extensively in the US, as well as Japan, England, Canada, Ireland, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Finland, Holland, Australia and the Far East.

No matter how many television specials or tour dates, Crystal never has forgotten her roots. She remains attached to the area in which she was rocked on the porch and sung to as a child.

**Loretta Lynn** was born in Butcher Hollow (pronounced "Holler"), Ky, on April 14, 1934. The second of eight children born to Ted and Clara Webb, Loretta was welcomed with open arms by the young couple. With her parents blessing and encouragement, young Loretta soon found her voice and a place where it would be appreciated. During the first twelve years of her life, she sang in churches and at a variety of local concerts.



At age thirteen, Loretta married Oliver "Mooney" Lynn. Within the first few months of marriage, Mooney and Loretta's brother, Jay Lee Webb, Jr., hitchhiked to Washington looking for work. Thirteen year old pregnant Loretta stayed behind until Mooney sent money and a train ticket several months later. Settled into a new state, fourteen year old Loretta gave birth to her first child, Betty Sue, in Custer, WA. As a young mother and housewife, Loretta stopped singing publicly, and shared her passion for music with her young daughter, singing to her regularly.

By the time she was seventeen, Loretta had four children. Inspired by his wife's vocal abilities, Mooney bought her a guitar on her eighteenth birthday, and Loretta began to teach herself to play. Within a few months, Loretta was writing her own music and with her husband's encouragement, she began singing with a local band on the weekends.


Loretta's big break came when Mooney entered her in a local talent contest. Not only did she win, but she also received a personal invitation from Buck Owens to perform on his television show. This was only the beginning of a groundbreaking career for Loretta which included numberless hit records and countless personal appearances.

Today, Loretta is a successful businesswoman who owns her own music publishing company. She also owns and operates a Dude Ranch and campground in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee, which features a plantation-style home and an exact replica of her childhood home.



## Johnson County

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10am - 8pm Monday thru Friday  
10am - 5pm Saturdays & 1pm - 5pm Sundays

*Paintsville Golf Course*



Established in 1929, the Paintsville Golf Course was one of the first 18-hole courses in the Kentucky Highlands. The course architect was the late Dr. Paul B. Hall, a member of the Kentucky Golf Association Hall of Fame.

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## Johnson County

### Black Barn Produce

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The Black Barn offers local produce in season, freshly ground peanut butters, over twenty flavors of fudge, and an ice cream shop. Gift baskets can be made with a personal touch, choosing jams and jellies, pickled beans and corn, Kentucky made sorghums and barbecue sauces, and even goat's milk soap products.

The Black Barn is a family owned and operated business, keeping the memories of yesteryear alive. Come visit us at the Black Barn and take a stroll through our greenhouse, enjoy an ice cream cone while rocking in a handmade oak rocker, or sit at the checker table and enjoy a game of checkers; there is always someone there ready for a game.



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[www.BlackBarnProduce.com](http://www.BlackBarnProduce.com)





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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 on 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.

For information call:  
Reva Rose @ 606-297-1850  
Supported by Paintsville Tourism

[www.MountainHomePlace.com](http://www.MountainHomePlace.com)

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# US 23 Country Music Highway Museum

*Located right off US 23 in Paintsville, KY*



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.

Visit displays from Billy Ray Cyrus, Miley Cyrus, The Judds, Tom T. Hall, Ricky Skaggs, Hylo Brown, Loretta Lynn, Crystal Gayle, Rebecca Lynn Howard, Keith Whitley, Dwight Yoakam, Patty Loveless, and Gary Stewart.

The museum also has a unique gift shop that is filled with items supplied directly from the various entertainers. There are also items by local Appalachian crafters and artists that reflect the culture of US 23.

For more information contact  
Paintsville Tourism

606-297-1469 or 1-800-542-5790

[www.US23CountryMusicHwyMuseum.com](http://www.US23CountryMusicHwyMuseum.com)

[www.VisitPaintsvilleKy.com](http://www.VisitPaintsvilleKy.com)

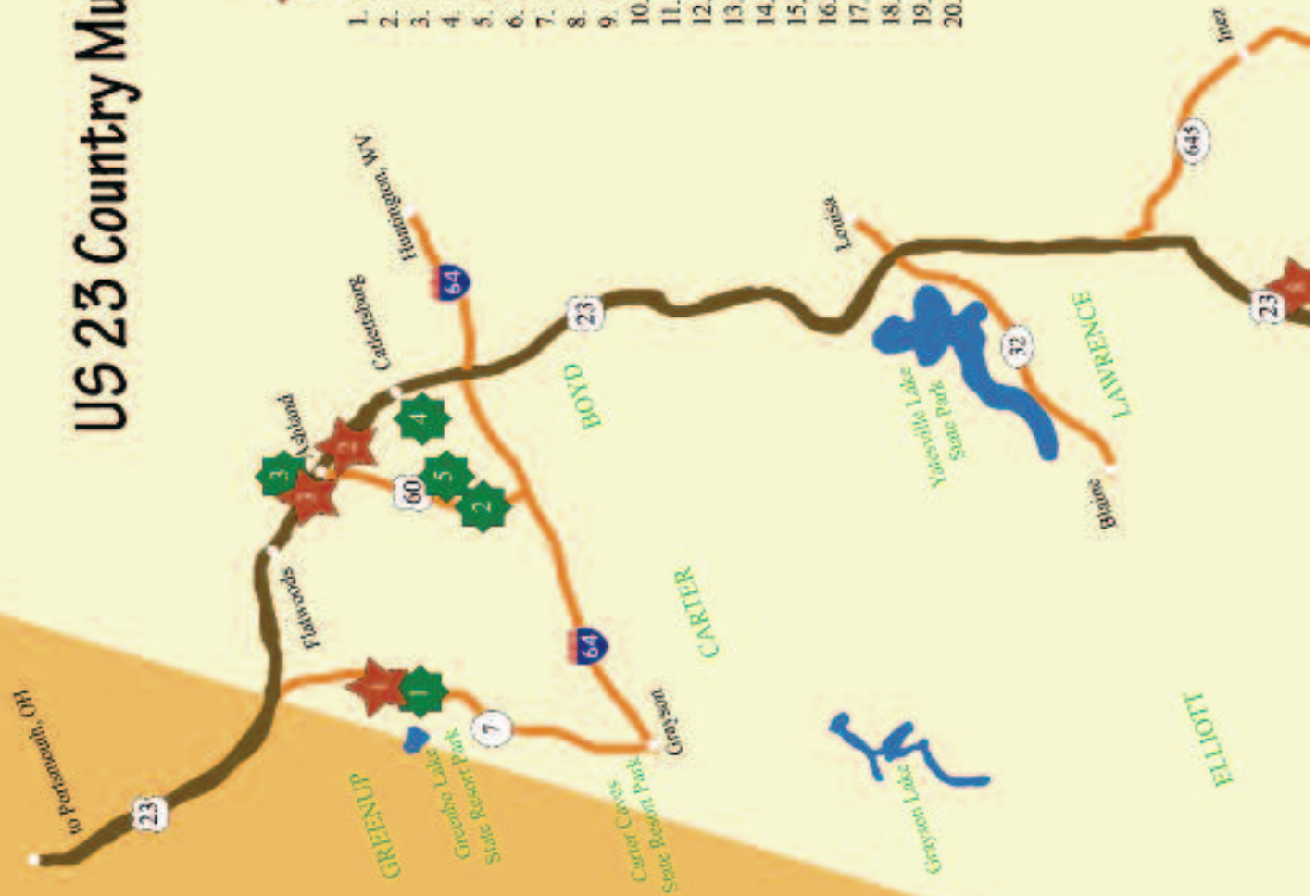
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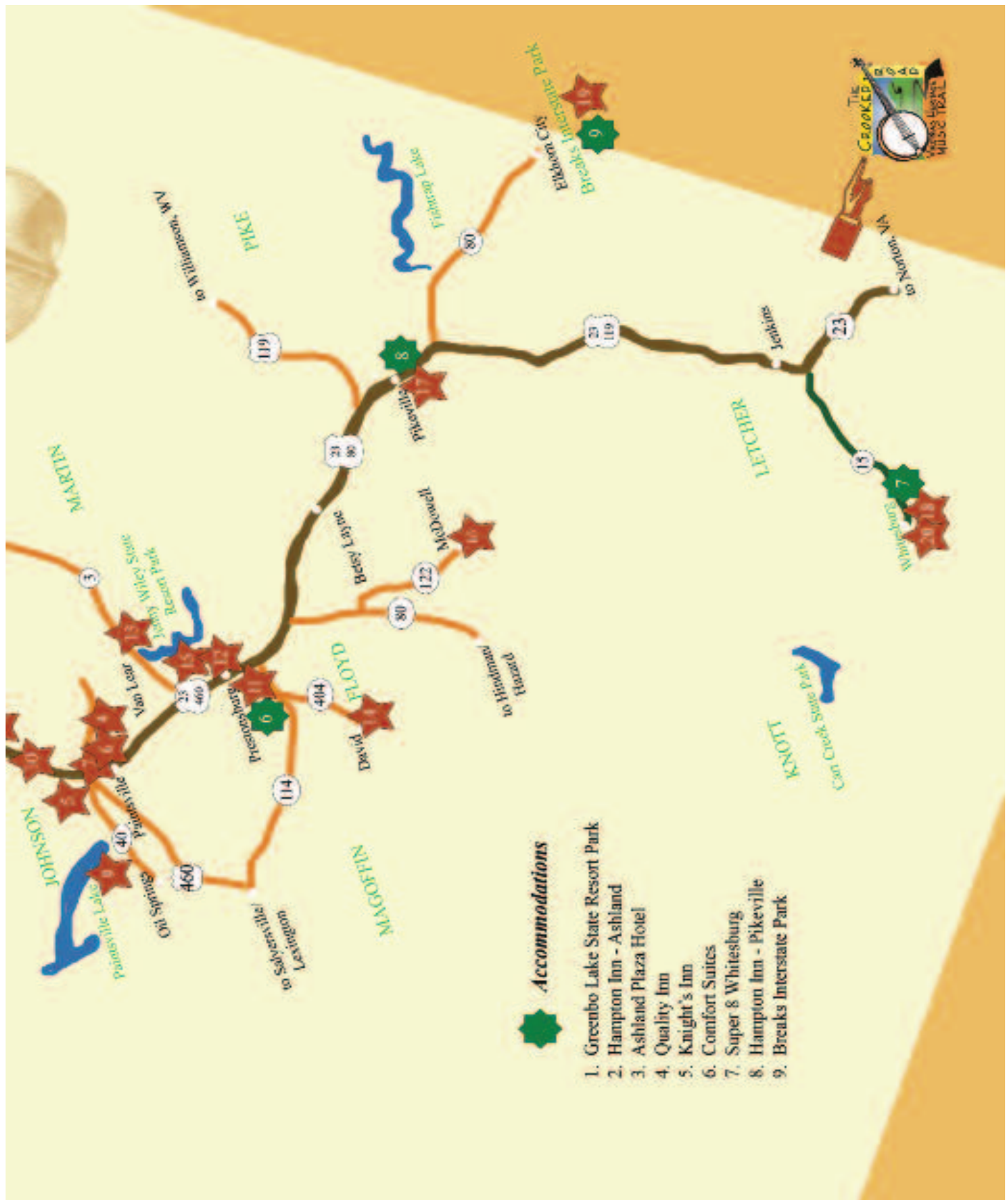
# US 23 Country Music Highway Map

## ★ Country Music Highway Attractions

1. Greenbo Lake State Resort Park
2. Highlands Museum and Discovery Center
3. Paramount Arts Center
4. Paintsville Golf Course
5. Country Cottage
6. Wilma's Restaurant
7. Precious Memories
8. Black Barn Produce
9. Mountain HomePlace
10. Country Music Highway Museum
11. Mountain Arts Center
12. Sandy's Restaurant
13. StoneCrest Golf Course
14. David Crafts
15. Jenny Wiley Theatre
16. The Perfect Setting
17. East Kentucky Expo Center
18. Courthouse Cafe
19. Breaks Interstate Park
20. Pine Mountain Grill









## Johnson County

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# Quilt, Art, & Antique show

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Johnson Co. Extension Office

606-789-8108

Paintsville Tourism

606-789-1469



*Area's largest quilt show:  
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for more information on  
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*Travel the Country Music Highway!  
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2010



## Johnson County

# *Holiday Happenings Art, Craft & Antique Show*

*November 6 and 7, 2009 (first weekend in November)  
Ramada Inn, Paintsville, Kentucky*



*One of the Region's most beautiful shows, complete with  
handcrafted items, just in time for the Holidays!  
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606-789-8108 or Paintsville Tourism 606-789-1469.*

### *Meet 4 of Route 23's CHN Roster Artists*



*Lewis Newman  
Visual Artist*

*Esta Johnson  
Folk Artist*

*Florence Newman  
Textile Artist*

*Regina Daniels  
Portrait Artist*



# Welcome to Floyd County

## Home of Dwight Yoakam



Respected roots country singer-songwriter **Dwight Yoakam** was born in Pikeville, Ky and spent much of his boyhood in Betsy Layne. In 1956, Yoakam, the eldest of three children, moved with his family to Columbus, Ohio, where he began playing guitar and listening to vintage country and honky-tonk at an early age.

During his teens Yoakam played in various rock and country bands, but by the time he was in his 20s he had settled on country and moved to Nashville to seek his fortune. At the time (the late 1970s) the country establishment was interested in slicker styles than Yoakam's stripped-down sound, so he relocated to Los Angeles and took refuge in the local punk rock scene, where his raw style attracted country fans and underground rock fans alike. By the mid-1980s Yoakam was played on college radio, and in 1986 he made his full-length debut with *Guitars, Cadillacs*, which attracted both rock and country fans and earned critical praise. Thanks to the Top 5 hits *Honky Tonk Man* and *Guitars, Cadillacs*, the album went platinum.

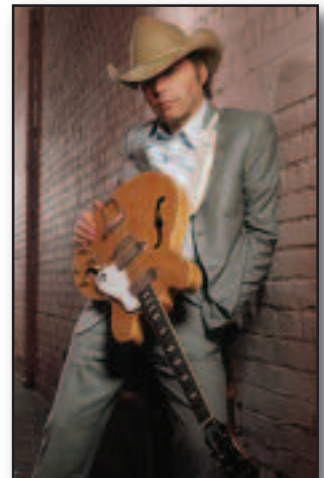
In 1984, the release of a mini album on the Enigma label led to him signing for Warner Brothers. Two years later he registered Top 5 US country chart hits with Johnny Horton's *Honky Tonk Man* and his own *Guitars, Cadillacs*. His driving honky-tonk music made him a popular visitor to Britain and gave him some success in the USA, but his outspoken views denied him wider fame. In 1987 he scored with his version of the old Elvis Presley pop hit *Little Sister*. He followed it in 1988 with a US country number 9 hit with his idol Lefty Frizzell's classic *Always Late (With Your Kisses)*, and a number 1 with his self-penned *I Sang Dixie*. He would also make the top of the country charts with *The Streets Of Bakersfield*, duetting with veteran '60s superstar Buck Owens.

In 1997 he released *Under the Covers*, a collection of countrified covers that includes material by Van Morrison, the Beatles, Ray Davies and the Clash, returning to hard country with *A Long Way Home* the fol-

lowing year.

Yoakam played several concerts with Owens, after being instrumental in persuading him to come out of retirement and record again for Capitol. Like Don Williams and others, he seems permanently attached to his stetson, perhaps due to his receding hairline, while the graphic designers of his album sleeves would seem to suggest that his long jean-clad legs and backside are his main selling features. There seems little doubt that Yoakam's songwriting talents and singing style will ensure further major success and some of his honky-tonk music has done much to attract the rock audiences, much in the way that Garth Brooks has done.

Casting an eye on another facet of Los Angeles' entertainment world, Yoakam began acting. After appearing on TV, Yoakam played a truck driver in John Dahl's acclaimed neo-noir *Red Rock West* (1993); he then provided the music score for *Red Rock West* star Dennis Hopper's 1994 comedy *Chasers*. Yoakam played a larger part in the TV docudrama *Roswell* (1994) (not to be mistaken for the 1999 teen series). After moving to a starring role as a rodeo clown in the action movie *Painted Hero* (1995), Yoakam earned critical raves for his intense performance as an abusive drunk in Billy Bob Thornton's Oscar-winning drama *Sling Blade* (1996). Yoakam again garnered positive notices (though the movie did not) as a humble safe-cracking associate of the titular gang in *The Newton Boys* (1998). Sticking with off-center screen fare, Yoakam subsequently starred as one of the detectives that Owen Wilson's serial killer, Van, imagines is stalking him in Hampton Fancher's idiosyncratic crime story *The Minus Man* (1999). Aiming to try more creative pursuits, Yoakam wrote and directed, as well as scored and starred in, his next film, *South of Heaven, West of Hell* (2000). Yoakam returned to acting in David Fincher's thriller *The Panic Room* (2001).





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## Floyd County



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Come on down and enjoy our Down-Home Hospitality!  
Please help keep Floyd County clean and put litter in its place!



## Floyd County

### Prestonsburg Star City of Eastern Kentucky

**Prestonsburg is the "Star City" of Eastern Kentucky.** Named so for two reasons. First, as a star has five points, Prestonsburg has five modern highway entry points into the City; US 23 north and south, the Mountain Parkway from the West, Rout 80 from the south, and Rt. 3 from the east.

Secondly, Prestonsburg is the Star City because visitors can attend a great musical production outdoors at **Jenny Wiley Theatre** under the beautiful evening stars. This year four shows rotate throughout the eight weeks of the summer; "A Chorus Line", "The Wizard of Oz", "Honky Tonk Angles" and "Little Red: Life in the Hood". The season opens June 13th.

The **Mountain Arts Center** stage presents stars like Loretta Lynn, Ricky Skaggs, or other US 23 Country Music Highway stars each year. The MAC is the home of **The Kentucky Opry**, the best local talent this side of the Smokey Mountains. They produce various holiday theme shows throughout the year and have a Saturday night schedule during the summer, starting June 21st.

Enter the virtual galaxies broadcasted by a state of the art laser light system on the 40 foot domed ceiling and travel through the star system at the **East Kentucky Science Center and Planetarium**. Lobby science and nature exhibits rotate on a regular basis and are a favorite to visitors.

The highest elevation championship golf course in Kentucky is at **StoneCrest Golf Course**, where players are literally closer to the real stars. Fairways and greens are beautifully designed and feature bent grass, which maintains a lust green color throughout the year. During December, January, and February, StoneCrest is open for golf 75% of the time!

Prestonsburg also features **Jenny Wiley State Resort Park** and **Dewey Lake**, where thousands of visitors enjoy fishing, boating, camping, nature watching, and elk tours. The May Lodge features rooms and cabins and convention space in the **Wilkinson/Stumbo Convention Center**.

**Archer Park** is a thirteen acre park in Prestonsburg featuring, tennis, swimming, picnic shelters, ball fields, and horse ring.

**ThunderRidge Racing Complex** has live harness racing three days a week from May through July. They also have off track wagering all year long.

**StoneCrest Equine & Sports Complex** features a horse ring with 200 stables, two soccer fields, and five baseball and softball fields.

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## Floyd County

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out on a hunting expedition.

In a flash, Indians rushed into the Wiley home, killing Jenny's three oldest children, and capturing Jenny Wiley and her baby son. Shortly afterward, the Indians also killed Jenny's youngest child.

After many months in captivity, the brave Jenny Wiley managed to escape and make her way back to Harmon's Station in what is now Johnson County.


She then returned to Walker's Creek where she was reunited with Thomas. They had five more children.


Jenny Wiley was a great heroine who showed much faith and courage in her time of peril, and her story has touched many hearts all throughout the great state of Kentucky.

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The musical was written by Peyton Dixon and Jenny Wiley Theatre's Artistic Director Scott Bradley. For more information go to [www.jwtheatre.com](http://www.jwtheatre.com) or call 1-877-CALL-JWT.

*by Staci Carriere*






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## Floyd County



Convention and Visitors Bureau

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# Welcome to Pike County

## Home of Patty Loveless



### **Patty Loveless**

was born in Pikeville, Kentucky and spent much of her childhood in Elkhorn City, Kentucky - a small town near Belcher Holler. She, like Loretta Lynn, was the daughter of a coal miner. Eventually the family was forced to leave their eastern Kentucky home and move to Louisville to seek medical treat-

ment for her father, John Ramey's, black lung disease.

It's hard to say whether it was life in the mountains where everyone knew everyone or the loneliness of the big city that burnt the sorrow in Patty Loveless' voice. Either way, the loss and the longing permanently colored the voice that touches so many hearts. Patty used to sit in the kitchen and sing *Sounds of Loneliness* for her father. It was his favorite song, possibly because of his loneliness for the mountains.

The Ramey's house was filled with music - the Opry on the radio, her mother humming and singing around in the kitchen, her brothers' and sisters' records. At age six, the family got its first TV, and the country based programming of the era - "Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs had a show, which Daddy never missed on Saturday, the Wilburn Brothers had a show with Loretta Lynn and various guest artists, also the Porter Wagoner show was always in the background," Loveless recalls.

"When I saw these people doing this, they looked like they were having such a good time," Loveless remembers. "There was such a love there, you could tell. So whenever I would see a movie on TV - and you have to realize I was 6 years old, so TV was like bringing the world into our home - me and my cousins would pick out characters we wanted to be. Whatever character was up on the TV screen, singing and dancing, I'd think, 'That's what I want to be'."



There's nothing quite like being a kid from the backwoods in the big city. Loveless found herself struggling in school and socially after the family moved to Louisville. Recognizing her struggle, her father bought Patty a small guitar when she was 11. While it didn't make the world perfect, it provided an outlet the child truly needed.

"Here I was, a kid that talked funny, and every time I opened my mouth, I was afraid someone would make fun of me," she confesses. "I was very shy and I had been used to having my brothers and sisters around me. Back home, we all went to the same school together and rode the same bus home. There was this little store across from the school where a lot of the older kids would gather. It had an area that had a soda fountain and had a counter with six bar stools for sitting, a juke box and a wooden floor for dancing. I would sneak over during my lunch break and spend all my lunch money in that jukebox. From hanging out around that little store, I heard a

lot of music for a dime. All that changed in Louisville."

These days, "when I record music, I do the songs as if they're about me. For the person listening, I let them decide if it's something they could've experienced, too, because music can be as true for the listener as it is for the singer...to

do that, I have to really dig down in order to get to any kind of emotion. You can't just sing, you have to feel it.

"Whenever I'm recording or performing a song, I tend to revisit my life - where I've been, what I've done, people I've met. I think about my Mom and my Dad, my brothers and sisters, all the special moments we've had. Because, you know, every day was exciting in its own way because I could fantasize and dream.

"So with this music I do, a lot of my past is the place where it all begins. Revisiting the place where I come from is what lets me make music I can feel. This is the music I grew up on and it's the music that is who I am at the core."





## Pike County



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# Pike County

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- Elkhorn City Railroad Museum
- Hatfield-McCoy Feud Sites & Audio Driving Tour
- Historic Dils Cemetery
- Historic Downtown/Pikeville Walking Tour
- Pike County Artisan Center
- Fishtrap Lake State Park
- Artist Collaborative Theatre
- Apple Blossom Festival
- Eastern Kentucky Exposition Center
- Whitewater Rafting
- Golf in the Mountains
- Bushwhacking on the Russel Fork River (Civil War Event)
- Pine Mountain Trail State Park



Whitewater Rafting

Apple Blossom Festival



Pine Mountain Trail



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## Pike County



One of the most famous feuds in history happened right here in Kentucky. It was the feud between the Hatfield's and the McCoy's.

No one knows exactly what the cause of the feud was. Some say it began when Floyd Hatfield stole a pig belonging to Randolph McCoy. Supposedly, Randolph spotted Floyd stealing one of his pigs. Randolph was furious, and they went to court. The jury consisted of 6 Hatfield's and 6 McCoy's. The verdict was...that Hatfield was innocent. The final clincher was a testimony which stated that it was, in fact, Hatfield's pig.



Others may tell you the feud's fire was fueled because of the love between Roseanna McCoy, Randolph's daughter, and Johnse Hatfield, the son of William Anderson, or "Devil Anse," Hatfield. The story is like a 19th century version of Romeo and Juliet. Roseanna spotted Johnse one day, and it was love at first sight. One night, while with Johnse, instead of going home, Roseanna stayed with him. Later, after Johnse refused to marry her, and after many pleas from her mother, Roseanna went back home. Life at home, though, was intolerable for the poor girl, so she later moved in with her aunt, Becky McCoy. This allowed the two lovers to get back together. One night, while they were together, Roseanna's brothers surrounded her and took Johnse prisoner. They said they were taking him to jail, but Roseanna believed otherwise. Roseanna rushed to Devil Anse's house on horseback to tell him. Anse quickly came to his son's aid, and rescued him.

Whatever the cause, violence was always common between the families. But the worst was to occur on January 1, 1888. A group of Hatfield men, led by Devil Anse's uncle, Jim Vance, raided Randolph McCoy's home. Fearing that this raid would lead to court trials, the Hatfield raiders threatened to kill anyone who would testify against them, leading to more friction between the families.

The Hatfield's set fire to a McCoy home, killing Alifair and Calvin, two of Randolph's children, and injuring his wife, Sarah. Randolph was unharmed. Some Hatfield's were sent to prison, and one was ordered to be hanged.

Everything seemed to calm down after Devil Anse Hatfield moved near Logan and joined the Baptist church. He died in 1921. Randolph McCoy had died seven years earlier.

The Hatfield's and McCoy's now have a huge family reunion in Pike County and have signed a peace treaty. The families are no longer feuding and hold the Hatfield-McCoy Reunion each June in Pikeville. Hatfield-McCoy Historic Feud Sites Audio Driving tour is now available. For more information contact the Pike County Tourism Commission at 1-800-844-7453.

**Staci Carriere**





# Welcome to Letcher County

## Home of Gary Stewart



**Gary Stewart** was born May 28, 1945, in Jenkins, Ky. His family moved to Florida when he was 12, where he made his first record for the local Cory label and played in a beat group called The Amps. Teaming up with a policeman, Bill Eldridge, he wrote Stonewall Jackson's 1965 US country hit *Poor Red Georgia Dirt*. Several songwriting successes followed including

chart entries for Billy Walker (*She Goes Walking Through My Mind, When A Man Loves A Woman (The Way I Love You), Traces Of A woman, It's Time To Love Her*, Cal Smith (*You Can't Housebreak a Tomcat, It Takes Me All Night Long*) and Nat Stuckey (*Sweet Thang and Cisco*). Stewart recorded an album for Kapp Records, *You're Not the Woman You Used to*

*Be*, and then moved to RCA Records. He had his first US country hit with a country version of the Allman Brothers' *Ramblin' Man* and then made the Top 10 with *Drinkin' Thing*. For some years Stewart worked as the pianist in Charley Pride's road band and he can be heard on Pride's *In Concert* double album. He established himself as a hard-driving, honky-tonk performer with *Out Of Hand* and a US country number 1, *She's Actin' Single (I'm Drinkin' Doubles)*. His 1977 *Your Place or Mine* included guest appearances from Nicolette Larson, Emmylou Harris and Rodney Crowell. His two albums with songwriter Dean Dillon were not commercial successes, and Stewart returned to working in honky-tonk clubs. However, drug addiction got the better of him and his life collapsed when his wife left him and his son committed suicide. In the late 80's, he returned to performing, carrying on in the same style as before with albums such as *Brand New* and *I'm a Texan*. He was found dead in his Florida home with a self-inflicted gunshot wound on December 16th, 2003.

## Marion Sumner "Fiddle King of the South"

Marion Sumner, who earned the title "Fiddle King of the South", was raised on George's Branch, above Vicco in Perry County. His years on the road with Opry stars Johnny and Jack, Kitty Wells, Roy Acuff, Jim and Jesse, and Don Gibson made him a legend among fellow musicians. Marion Sumner's influence as a fiddler upon others of his generation was notable, particularly on Kenny Baker, who won wide acclaim as a sideman for Bill Monroe over a long period. Although born in sunny Florida, Marion Sumner moved with his parents back to their Kentucky mountain homeland in 1921.

His extended family contained numerous musicians and young Marion became something of a child prodigy. At age 10, he was especially captivated by the fiddling of the Grand Ole Opry's Arthur Smith. At 16, Marion took his first radio job with the Haley Brothers at WCPO Cincinnati, Ohio. After winning a fiddle contest during the 1937 Black Gold Festival in Hazard, he gained the attention of Cousin Emmy and joined her group where he performed for several years. During WWII, Sumner worked briefly for Molly O'Day and Lynn Davis, and then with Eddie Hill and Johnny Wright (replacing Paul Warren, who was in the service). In the post-war period, Marion worked as a sideman with many bands on WKIC in Hazard. He later joined Don Gibson and Chet Atkins in Knoxville and Esco Hankins in Lexington. Marion spent briefer periods with Cowboy Copas, the York Brothers, Preston Ward,

Archie Campbell and the then youthful duo of Jim & Jesse.

Sumner also fiddled extensively on the night club circuits in Cincinnati, Columbus and Knoxville. Somewhat surprisingly, he recorded but sparingly in his wide travels, doing a session with Preston Ward for King Records in 1947 and no more than two with Don Gibson. Marion got off the road in 1965. For a time he worked in a band called the Payroll Boys, but mostly just honed his skills. In 1979, he cut a well-received album for June Appal. In the mid-80's, he waxed two more albums, both with the assistance of Jesse McReynolds, who always held Marion's fiddling in high regard. Marion was also the featured fiddler in the hit movie "Coal Miner's Daughter", the Loretta Lynn Story.

Before his death on August 17th 1997, Sumner lived in retirement in Isom, Kentucky in Letcher County.





## Letcher County

# General John Hunt Morgan

On June 2, 1864, General John Hunt Morgan, the Thunderbolt of the Confederacy, began his last raid into the north. In order to be successful, he had to maneuver his army of approximately 2300 men through Kentucky using the old Rebel Trace trail. Standing in his way was a force of union soldiers of approximately 800 men entrenched on the apex of a hill known as Pound Gap. The success of the mission depended upon his ability to take the gap by surprise...

On August 7-9, 2009, One hundred forty five years later, a reenactment honoring that historical incident will take place along the actual Fincastle/Trace Trail. The event will take place at the Little Shepherd Amphitheatre site, Jenkins, KY, (sponsored by the Cumberland Mountain Arts & Crafts Council) Friday, August 7, 2009, there will be a living history featuring a period encampment, artillery demonstrations, and stations with living historians. Saturday will see several national recognized characters. Saturday and Sunday will have a reenactment both days, a ladies social/tea, authors, presentations by Voices of the Past, period church service, music, ghost roast at dusk, drill, artillery demonstration, and Meet the Generals. General John Hunt Morgan will be portrayed by Stan Dalton. He is nationally known and recognized as General Nathan Bedford Forrest, having starred in that Rebel Forrest and several documentaries. Stonewall Jackson is represented by Dan Buckner who has been in plays and films such as Gods and Generals, RE Lee, Pendleton, Breckinridge, Kemper, and others. Butternut (Roger Kelley), one of the most photographed living historians in the nation, will be available as a sharpshooter. He has been featured in several major movies along with documentaries on the History and



Discovery Channel. Come and be a part of history...

John Hunt Morgan was born in Alabama, and raised in Lexington, Kentucky, as a southern aristocrat by wealthy plantation owners. The dashing young southerner joined the Confederate Army when war started in the spring of 1861. He rapidly rose through the ranks due to his daring and skill as a cavalry leader. Some of his skill at using the "hit and run" tactics he became famous for was taught to him by General Nathan Bedford Forrest. He made 3 daring raids, each time using Pound Gap as an entrance and exit to the north.





## Letcher County

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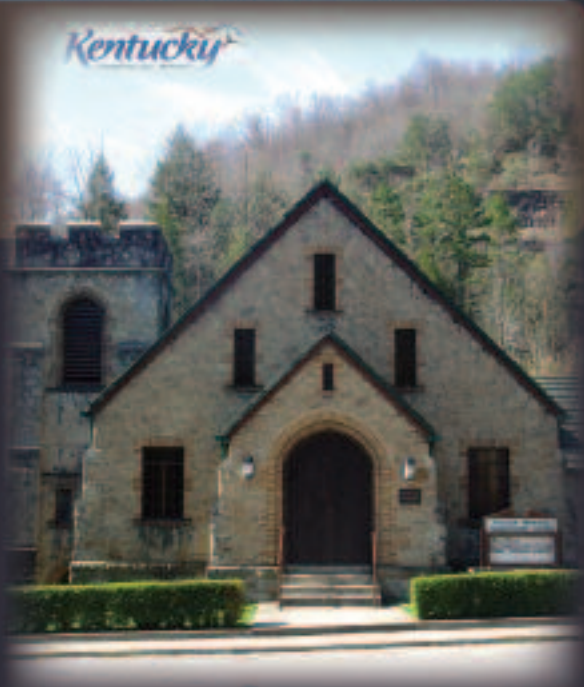
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### 2009 Schedule of Events

May	2	Strawberry Festival - McRoberts Ballpark
	2	Kids Day - Calvary Campus, Blackey
	7	Third Tyme Out at Bluegrass Express Live Appalshop, Whitesburg
	7/8	Red Bud Weekend Hike/Bike Ride
	9/10	Red Bud Weekend 5K Run/Bike Ride/Art Walk
	9	Spring Fling - Whitesburg City Park
	30/31	Coal Miners Memorial Weekend - Hemphill
	30	Bike Night - Hobo's Diner, Whitesburg
June	6	Kids Day - Jenkins City Park
	12	Relay for Life
	10-13	Seedtime on the Cumberland - Appalshop
	14	Appalachian Summer Author's Showcase
	18	Little Shepherd of Kingdoms Come Drama (Continues on Saturday nights through Labor Day - except Aug. 8)
	TBA	Battle of the Bands
	27	Bike Night - Hobo's Diner, Whitesburg
July	7-9	Thunder on the Mountain
	11	Skate Off
	25	Bike Night - Hobo's Diner, Whitesburg
	31	Back to School - Riverside Park
	31-Aug 2	McRoberts Reunion Festival
August	1-2	McRoberts Reunion Festival
	7-9	Thunder on the Mountain - Jenkins
	7-8	Jenkins Class Reunion Classes of 1958-60
	13-15	Riverside Days - Whitesburg
	27-29	Jenkins Homecoming Days
	29	Bike Night - Hobo's Diner, Whitesburg
Sept.	5-7	Isom Days
	11-13	2K9 Car Show
	11-13	Neon Days
	18-19	Grape Stomping - Highland Winery, Seco
	21-26	Mountain Heritage Festival
	25	Art Walk
	26	Bike Night - Hobo's Diner, Whitesburg
	27-28	RAM - LCCHS, Whitesburg
Oct.	3	Haymond Homecoming
	10	Blackey Day
	8-10	Indian Summer Music & Drama Fest. - Jenkins
	8-10	Hunley Exhibit
	15-17	Pioneer Days
	16-17, 23-24	Haunted Forest
	22	Presidential Debate (Jefferson Davis vs. Abraham Lincoln)
	30-31	Battle of Leatherwood
	31	Bike Night - Hobo's Diner, Whitesburg
Nov.	19	Shadows of Gettysburg
Dec.	11	Christmas in the Park - Whitesburg Whitesburg Christmas Parade & Art Walk



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## More Country Music Stars of Eastern Kentucky

*Not only is the Country Music Highway a hot bed for stars, but all of Eastern Kentucky. The following are stars from nearby regions of the Country Music Highway.*



**Tom T. Hall** was born at Olive Hill, Kentucky, in nearby Carter County, on May 25, 1936. He started out playing music as a teenager, in a band he put together called "Kentucky Travelers." After that, he performed over The Armed Force Radio Network while in the army, and later

became a radio announcer at WRON in West Virginia.

His big break came in 1963, through songwriting. Country singer Jimmy C. Newman recorded his song, "DJ For a Day." Hall moved to Nashville, and in the blink of an eye, his songs were at the top of the charts. His nickname became "The Storyteller," and he wrote songs that were later recorded by artists such as Johnny Cash, George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Alan Jackson, and others.

In 1968, Jeannie C. Riley had a major hit with Tom's song "Harper Valley P.T.A." It spent three weeks at the top of the charts and was voted Single of the Year by the Country Music Association. This hit brought attention to Hall's own recording career. "Ballad Over 40 Years," his first song to make the top ten, went all the way to no. 4 on the charts.

Throughout 1969 to early 70's, Hall had numerous hit singles such as "A Week in a Country Jail," "The Year That Clayton Delaney Died," "Old Dogs, Children, and Watermelon Wine," "I Love," "Country Is," "I Care," and "Faster Horses (The Cowboy and the Poet)."

Hall planned to retire in 1986, though artists still continued to record his songs. In 1996 he recorded Songs From Sopchoppy, his first album in ten years. At the same time, Alan Jackson recorded his own rendition of Hall's "Little Bitty," and that song stayed no. 1 for three straight weeks.

Tom T. Hall continues to write original songs, and has his own recording studio, still contributing to the ever-thriving bluegrass community.

**Jessie Keith Whitley** was born on July 1, 1955 in Sandy Hook, Kentucky. He was singing at an early age, and won a talent contest at age four. He learned to play guitar at eight, and in just a year he was performing at a local radio station. Whitley started his first bluegrass band at age 13, then formed the Lonesome Mountain Boys with his high school friend, Ricky Skaggs, a few years later.

In the late 1960's, Ralph Stanley invited Whitley and

Skaggs to join The Clinch Mountain Boys after Stanley's brother, Carter, passed away. They stayed with The Boys for two years, and in 1973, Whitley left the group. He went through various country bands, as opposed to bluegrass. He then returned to The Clinch Mountain Boys in 1975, and stayed with them for another two years.

In 1978, Keith Whitley joined JD Crowe's band, The New South, which he later left in 1982. He signed with RCA and released his first solo album, Hard Act to Follow, in 1984.

In 1986, Whitley married his wife, rising star Lorrie Morgan, and reached the top 20 for the very first time with "Miami, My Amy." Whitley finally reached no. 1 in 1988 with "Don't Close Your Eyes," followed by "When You Say Nothing At All," and "No Stranger to the Rain."

Sadly, Keith Whitley passed away due to alcohol poisoning on May 8, 1989.



Crossover country-pop singer **Rebecca Lynn Howard** grew up in Salyersville, KY, and moved to Nashville in 1997, where she began a career as a songwriter. Her compositions were recorded by singers like Patty Loveless, Reba McEntire, Lila McCann, and John Michael Montgomery.

When Howard began recording on her own, she drew just as much from adult contemporary pop as she did from country, much in the manner of Shania Twain's crossover bids. After a delay for some retooling, her self-titled debut album was released in the spring of 2000. The album was a minor success, but she didn't make the splash anyone expected and she returned to the studio to retool her approach. Cutting some of the obvious commercial elements of her debut while alternately bringing in newer ones, resulting in 2002's better received Forgive. ~ Steve Huey, All Music Guide



# Haunted Country Music Highway

Every city, every town, and every highway has an old, creepy building that is assumedly flocked with ghosts and bumps in the night; the Country Music Highway is no exception. With original buildings dating all the way back to the early 1800's, of course there are many legends, rumors, and tall tales regarded phantasms and unexplained apparitions. One building in particular is the Van Lear Coal Mining Museum in none other than Van Lear, Kentucky. A renovated Victorian-era home, this museum is brimming with artifacts, furniture, and memorabilia gathered from all across the ages.

At first, one might think this is one of your run-of-the mill old, freaky buildings which automatically spawn rumors and the workings of active imaginations. However, this one is unique in the fact that almost every person that steps foot in the building, particularly after dark, experiences something that cannot be described as anything besides other-worldly. There are multiple written and eye-witness accounts of strange apparitions, "shadow people", noises, and even direct communication with those beyond the veil. There are documentations on video, audio, and in photographs. One account states



*Coal Miner's Museum*

that a two-year-old girl went missing in the museum, to be found in the library seemingly talking to someone nobody else could see. There have also been accounts of feelings of children sitting on laps and footsteps walking through the building when no one else was there.

It has been discovered that three people have died in that building: a man named PJ, in the craft room; Dan, in the dining room; and Elmo in the model room.

Several different Paranormal Investigation teams conducted research in the building. They confirmed the presence of spirits, particularly when a female voice told one of the men to be careful while climbing a ladder. The catch? There were only two people in the building at the time, and both of them were male.

The museum conducts occasional "ghost tours" after dark for anyone wishing to see a spirit or two. If you want to see one of these apparitions, however, you'd better bring extra batteries for your flashlight - the ghosts find amusement in draining your power.



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Greenup Kentucky*

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# The 2010 Alltech FEI Equestrian Games are coming to Kentucky!

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Kentucky's US 23 Country Music Highway Travel Guide for 2010/11 has been selected by the tourism officials from our region as the official 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games publication for the US 23 Country Music Highway. A special insert highlighting all of the Country Music Highway events will be included in next year's edition (May, 2010). Find out how many of Kentucky's US 23 Country Music Highway stars will be performing in our region!



  
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