

2023

2023

Free TOURIST AND VISITORS GUIDE Free

Eastern Kentucky & The Country Music Highway

**Another Eastern Ky.
Music Success Story**



**2022 American Idol
Noah Thompson**

**Tyler Booth
Wolfe County's
Pride**



**Floyd Co.
Has A New
Boat Dock**

**Knott Co. Trail
Rides Are Set**

**Festival Planned
to Help Women**

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Here Are
Our Localities
Who Have
Issued A
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To Visit in
2023!

You'll Be So Glad You Did!!

East Kentucky & Country Music Highway 2023

Tourist and Visitors Guide

Page 3

Country Music Highway Adds Another Superstar, Noah Thompson

Noah Thompson first wound up on TV because a good friend felt strongly he just might win as an American Idol contestant if he would just give it a shot.

That friend, Arthur Johnson, was proven right, as Thompson grabbed the top prize in the 2022 season of American Idol. His ascension in the music continued to Page 11

TEAM KENTUCKY

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Looking for a unique place to stay? The Red River Gorge offers cabins, inns, yurts, treehouses, campgrounds, and SO much more! Our region is also filled with locally owned and operated small businesses like restaurants and gift shops!

Be sure to stop at the Slade Welcome Center off Mtn Parkway Exit 33 to pick up a map of the Natural Bridge State Resort Park of the Red River Gorge Geological Area. Our staff are happy to help with hiking guidance and a local's perspective for where to find everything you are looking for.



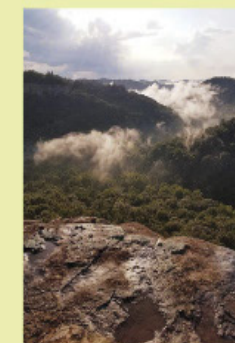
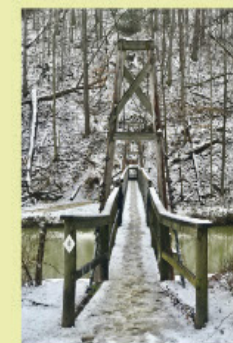
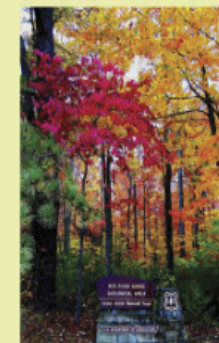
PLAN YOUR ADVENTURE TODAY!

For a full list of things to do and places to stay in the Red River Gorge area, visit:

www.redrivergorgeguide.com



Come explore the Gorge in any season! Check out our monthly event calendar or to download a free map at WWW.GOPOCO.ORG



Floyd County, Kentucky

Something for Everyone!

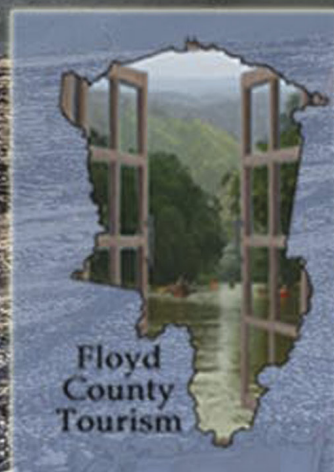
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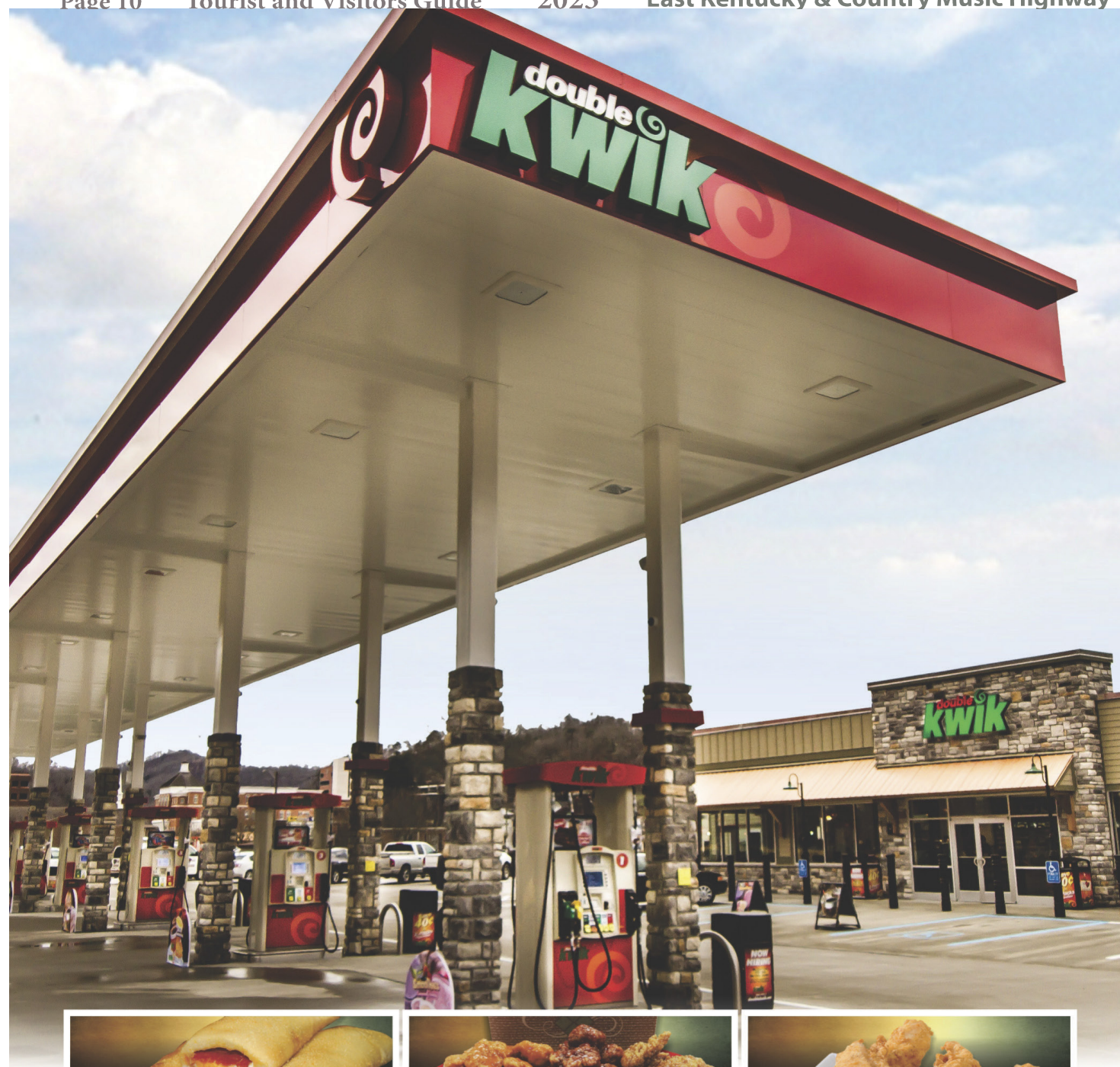


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Noah Thompson Is Getting It Done

From Page 3

world makes him the latest bright spot in the on-going parade of country entertainers coming out of Eastern Kentucky, and the Country Music Highway.

After his hard fought win on network TV, his first single was "One Day Tonight". which rose to No. 2 on the Canadian iTunes chart in May of 2022. This first song climbed all the way to the top of the iTunes hit list in the U. S. A.

He has relocated to Nashville, Tennessee earlier this year as his career options have blossomed.

He messaged his Instagram fans that he is living in a new house in Nashville and is pleased "everything is coming together, and he is looking forward to getting back out on the road and giving his fans some new music."

Recently Noah Thompson and his runner up on season 20 of Idol have been performing together in Nashville. One important show they did together was at the Skydeck on Broadway. In this performance, aired on March 23 on American Idol, the duo allowed singing sensation and current American Idol contestant, Mariah Faith of South Carolina, to sing for the Skydeck crowd.

The man who stepped forward and signed Noah up for the TV auditions even though the future Idol winner was not completely with the plan is a 31-year-old fellow musician and a co-worker. Thompson was a construction worker prior to his foray into the big time, He and his best friend Arthur Johnson actually played acoustic sets together in the area's bars and clubs earlier on.

Johnson accompanied Noah to the televised competitions that started in Austin, Texas. He said neither he or Noah knew very much about what was ahead.

Tyler Booth Has Found His Niche in Nashville

Tyler Booth is a singer and songwriter from Wolfe County, and has climbed the ladder of success in the music business, joining the parade of talented performers with roots here in Eastern
continued on Page 20

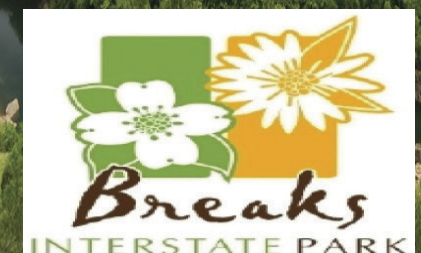
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TEAM
KENTUCKY

East Kentucky & Country Music Highway

2023

Tourist and Visitors Guide

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Popular Fishing Spots in Pike County, KY

Maybe it's time for a fishin' trip in the
Appalachian Mountains?



Pike County is Kentucky's
hidden gem for fishing.
Below are some fishing
spots for you to check out:

Grants Branch Park: Feat.
fishing pier, rainbow trout,
largemouth bass, channel
catfish, flathead catfish.
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**Levisa Fork of the Big
Sandy:** Feat. Pauley
Bridge (pedestrian bridge),
smallmouth bass, spotted
bass, rock bass and
channel catfish. Pikeville,
KY



Photo by Chad Webb

Russell Fork River: Feat.
smallmouth bass, rock bass,
channel catfish, rainbow
trout and walleye. Elkhorn
City, KY

Tug River: Feat. trout,
smallmouth bass, catfish,
gar. Blackberry, KY

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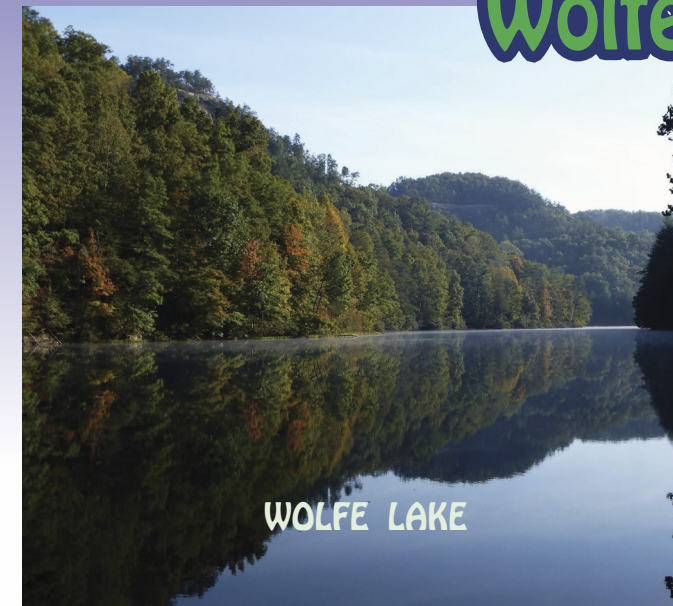


Pike County Motorcycle Tour Routes

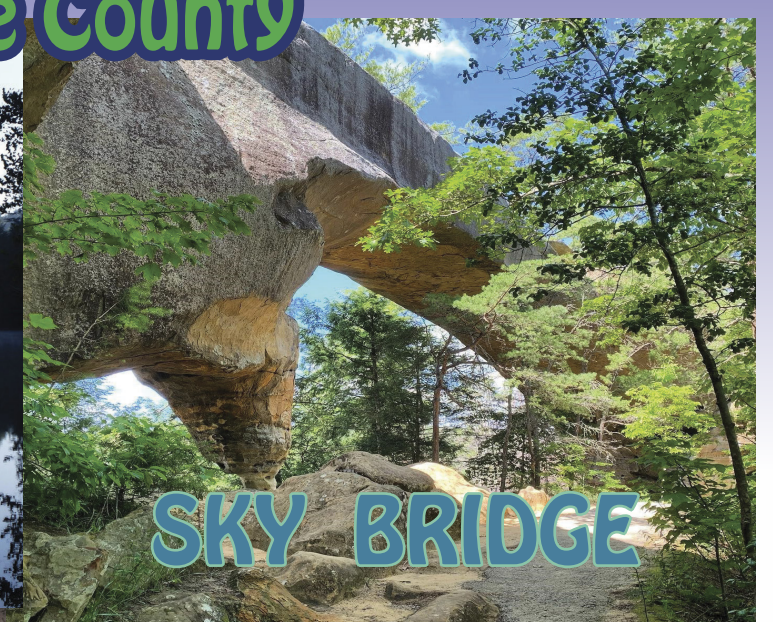


Loretta Lynn's Butcher Hollow Tour

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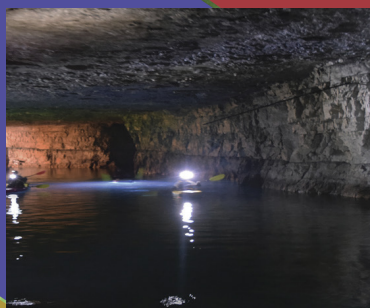
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MAY 4,5,6
MAY 20
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JUNE 1,2,3
JUNE 8,9,10
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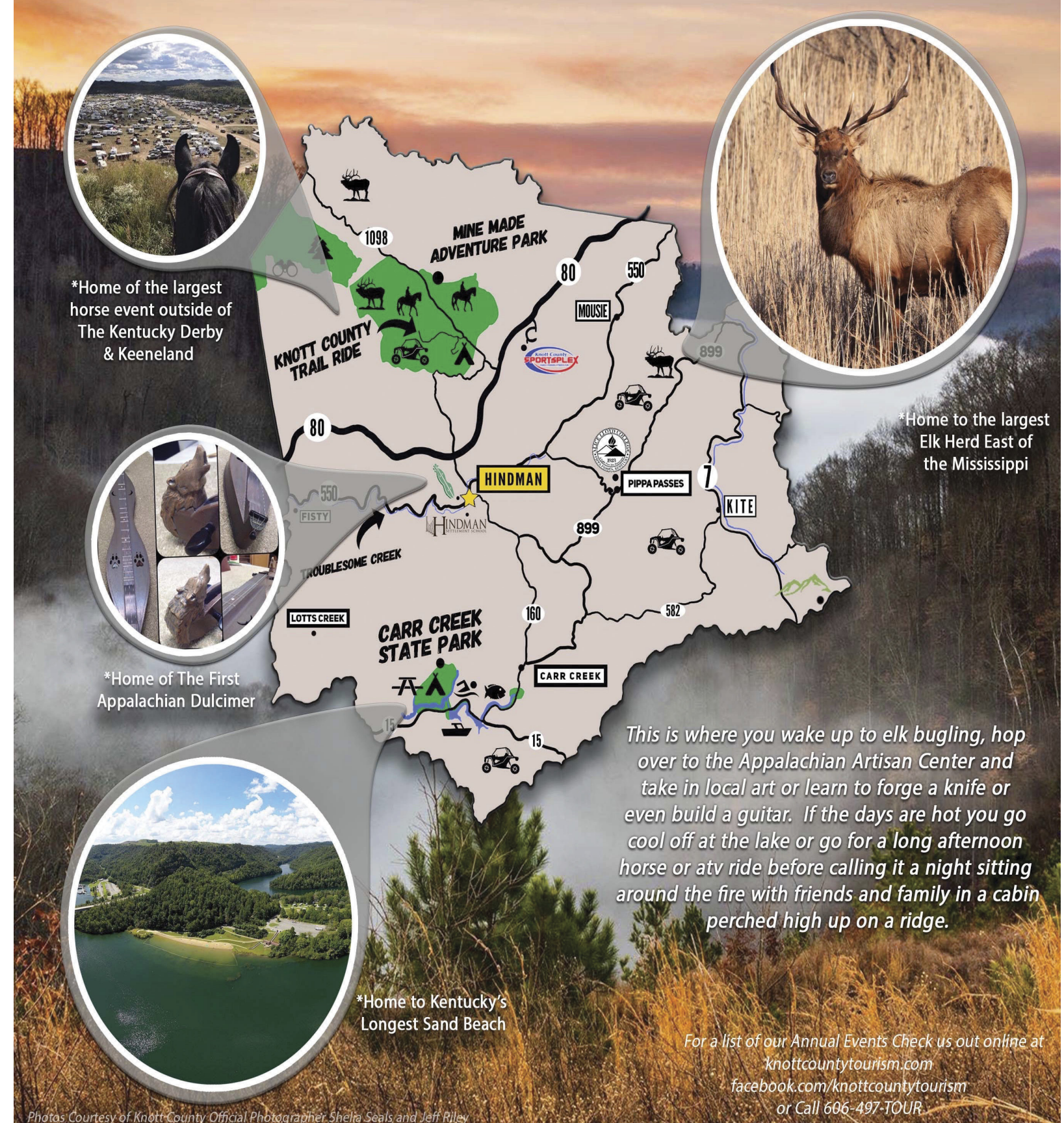
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Photos Courtesy of Knott County Official Photographer Shelia Seals and Jeff Riley

Wolfe County's Tyler Booth Is Making Waves

From Page 11
Kentucky.

Tyler Booth was performing on the road with Kid Rock in 2020, racking up Tik Tok views in excess of 100,000.

The 26-year-old calls Campton his home town, and got an early boost when he was awarded a music scholarship from Morehead State University. He was enthusiastically supported by a music teacher at the college and went on to ink a major recording deal with Sony in 2020.

His deep voice and preference for honky tonk styled songs have seen him draw a comparison with superstars like Randy Travis, Alan Jackson, or Josh Turner. He earned these distinctions from the contents of his "Grab The Reins" 2021 EP.

He recently released "Bring On The Neon" about the rigors of being on the road and the sacrifices it demands.

Country superstar Jamey Johnson co-wrote this

East Kentucky & Country Music Highway

latest hit, along with Tyler, and Jeremy Popoff.

Booth started his first tour as the headliner last October, and his route included stops in Louisville and Lexington.

Booth made an appearance at Appalachia Rises in 2022. The concert was organized to help with the flood relief from the devastation left behind by flooding in July that impacted Southeast Kentucky. T. Graham Brown, Halfway to Hazard and Taylor Austin Dye performed at the Come Hell or High Water Flood Relief Benefit Show at the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg.



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Help For Appalachian Women Is Focus Of The Mt. Grrl Experience

Its the third year for the Mountain Grrl Experience, an award winning collaboration among a host of talented performers and artists from the Eastern Kentucky region. The event has as a main goal of raising funds for Turning Point Domestic Violence Services in Pike County's domestic abuse shelter. Last year, \$3000.00 was raised, and again this year, the resources will be applied to materials used in music and art therapy.

In the latest information for the June 15,16, and 17 celebration of mainly talented females, Country Superstar Rebecca Lynn Howard, winner of two Grammys and s twice-nominated country singer by the Academy of Country Music, will be s key participant.

June 15th, the first night, will be Bluegrass Night. The event will be at the Mountain Top

Continued on Pg. 26

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US 23 Country Music Highway Museum

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The Sipp Theater

If you are wanting a unique wedding venue that will allow your artistic side to show, then the SIPP is for you. The newly renovated theater has room for 300 guests with a stage as your backdrop and our beautiful downtown streets for photos.



Photography by: Ashley Dawn Photography, Amy Wallen Photography, Gingersnaps Photography, Reggie Beechner Photography

Maysville Voted Best Small Town in U. S. A.

USA Today asked their readers to help identify the Best Southern Small Town and the winner was the historic Mason County seat, Maysville. The announcement of the award was on March 3, 2023.

Maysville is an extremely old Kentucky town, having hosted legendary pioneers many times over. Daniel Boone, Simon Kenton, and Lewis and Clark were in that number.

For those planning a trip to the #1 Best Southern Small Town, Tourism Director Katelyn Bailey says, "We offer the perfect getaway for families, couples, and friends interested in history, charm, and entertainment."

History credits Maysville
More on Pg. 31



Kaye Savage Browning
Art In Miniature Results In Governor's Arts Award For Maysville's Kaye Browning

Kaye Savage Browning is an accomplished advocate for the arts. At the Maysville Ky. Gateway Museum Center, she display an impressive group of miniature (1/12 scale) items.

She grew up in Maysville
Continued to Page 27

Knott Co. Spring Trail Ride is First Thurs., Fri., and Sat. in May

A favorite event in Eastern Kentucky has been the bi-annual Knott County Trail Ride, scheduled for the first full weekend of May and again in late summer during the first full weekend of October.

The event offers plenty of trails and room to ride, with an emphasis on horseback adventure coupled with a horse show and even a race or two.

The location is the Mine Made Adventure Park at Leburn, Ky, about 5 miles north of the Knott County seat of Hindman. The park is just a few miles off Ky. 80, and was built on reclaimed mining property on the mountaintops.

Early May and early October, horse owners and equestrian enthusiasts fill up the wide expanse to take advantage of food booths, live music on stage, in addition to making new friends and talking about and seeing great horses and several wagons and buggies.

More on Page 27



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TEAM
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Appalachian Women Assemble for A Major Late Spring Event To Assist Other Mountain Women June 15-17

continued from page 21

Stage and features free admission. Starting everything off at 6 p.m. it is the duo Good Ground, next at 7 p.m. it is another duo, the Price Sisters. At 8 p.m., Coaltown Dixie will sing, and the evening

Coal Town's Historic Gym Gets New Life Amid Renovations

In the storied coal town of Wayland in southwest Floyd County, big plans have been set in motion for major upgrades to an historic gymnasium that was once the home base high school for Kentucky's highest scoring basketball player, the legendary King Kelly Coleman.

He owned the record for several decades for the most points scored in a single high school basketball game.

Four-term Wayland Mayor Jerry Fultz is excited about remodeling and additions that have already

Continued to Page 27

wraps up when Kelly Caldwell takes the stage at 9 p.m. She will be accompanied by the Dean Osborne Band.

The entertainers in addition to Rebecca Lynn Howard include Bee Taylor, Chelsea Nolan, Luna and the Mountain Jets, Bek and the Starlight Revue, Coaltown Dixie, The Price Sisters, Building Rockets, Sarah Kate Morgan & Megan Gregory, Zoe Howard & Yellowstone, Emily Jamerson, Kelly Caldwell, Tia Woods, Mady Goins, Brittany Avery Mullins, Them Lasses, and Good Ground.

Artisans, workshops, artists under 17 years of age, demonstrations, and artisan vendors will be available and ongoing.

Official mission statement for the Mountain Grrl Experience is "to help Appalachian Women in need, and to be a female run festival raising money for women in need."

if you ever lose this magazine you can still find it and view every page ONLINE AT:

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A HAPPY ENDING INDEED! THESE DESCENDANTS OF THE HATFIELDS AND MCCOYS ARE GETTING ALONG JUST FINE THESE DAYS. CHECK OUT MORE INFORMATION AT TOURPIKECOUNTY.COM

First Game in 52 Years Is a Sellout

From previous page

been made to the original gymnasium adjacent to the old Wayland High School, and is pushing for important improvements still to come.

Plans for the Wayland High School gym, built in 1927 have brought it up to standards for public gatherings.

The gym will be used for public events, sporting events, festivals, and music shows.

In February of 2023, a historic throwback game was played at the gym, with two teams from the modern era "replaying" one of the old rivalries from the 50s.

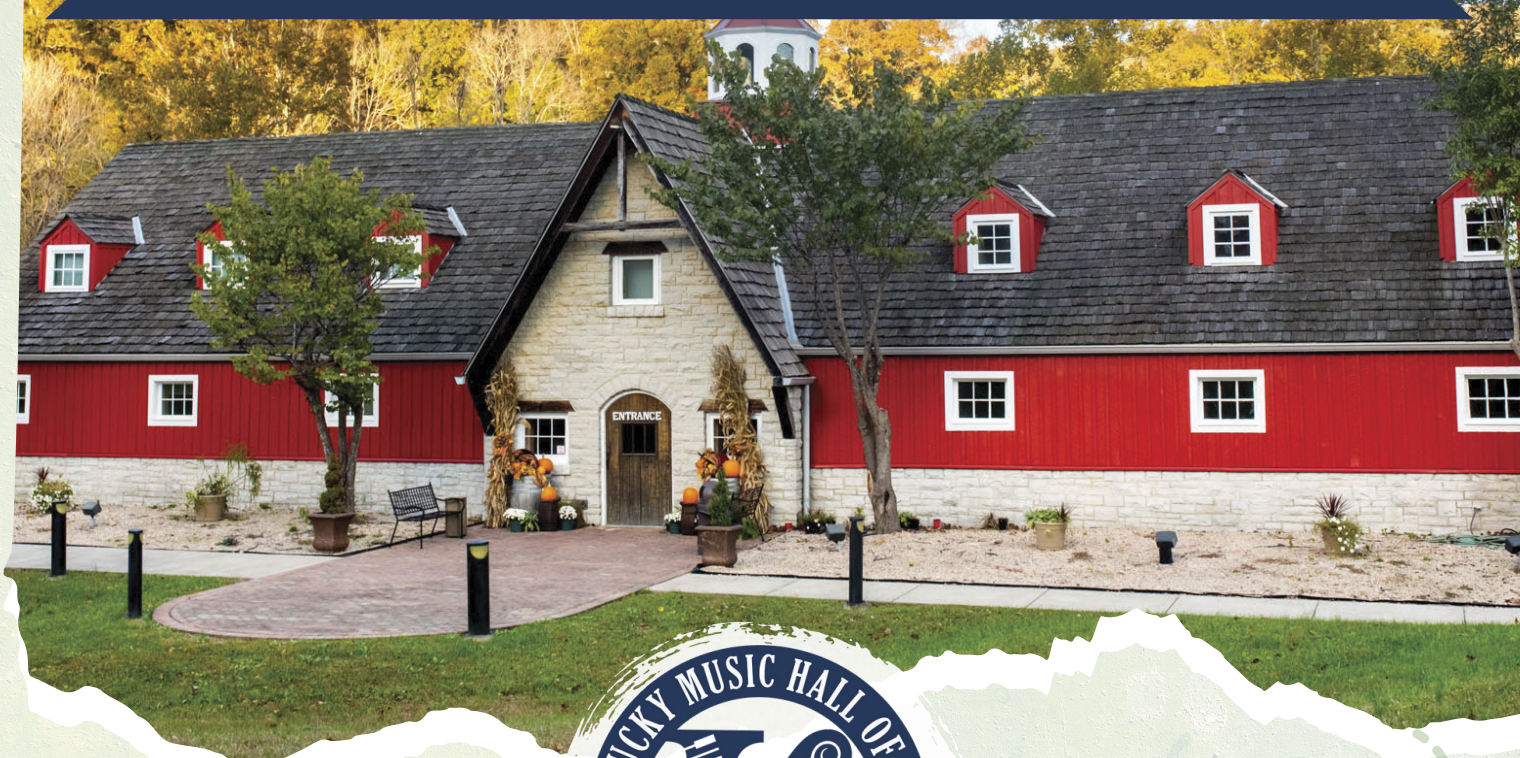
The Floyd County Central team suited up in uniforms copied from the old Wayland Wasps once led by King Kelly, and the opponents were from Knott County Central, wearing uniforms of the old Hindman Yellow Jackets.

Fults said it was wonderful to hear the whistle blow, sneakers squeaking on the floor for the first time in 52 years.

A two-story addition is planned for the building that will have an elevator, walking track and access to a new balcony.



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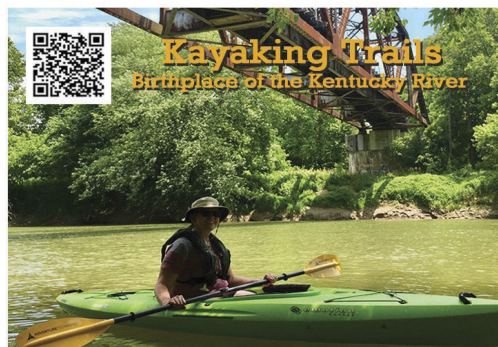
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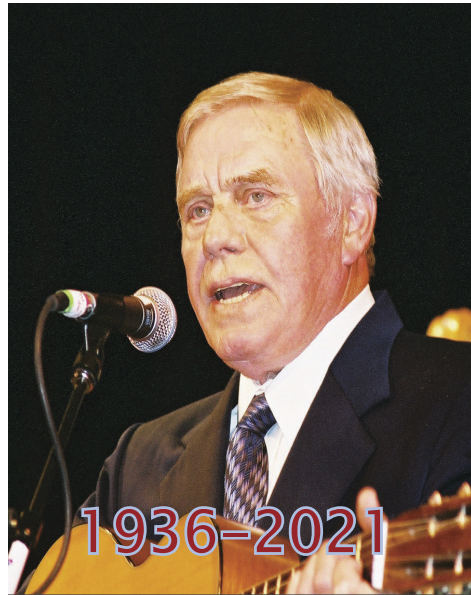
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Goodbye to Loretta, Tom T. and Naomi We'll Miss You Greatly, Thanks For Leaving Us All Your Good Work



She Has Created Miniature Houses, Landmarks, Instruments, Tools, And They All Work!

From Page 25

and was the recipient of the 2022 Governors
School For The Arts Milner Award. She also cap-
tured the 2018 Buffulo Trace Community Leader-
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tourism growth in the region. .

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Maysville Is 2023 Best Small Town

From Page 27

as the original spot where bourbon began, and is
a small town that “lives big”.The oldest theatrical
group in the Commonwealth, the Maysville Play-
ers, reside here. and the state basketball champions,
the Mason County Royals.

Nominees for the Small Town honor were
chosen by a panel of travel experts and a com-
bination of editors and contributors from USA
Today.

and the globe. My passion for collecting high-
ly detailed 1/12 scale artistry has brought much
joy to me over the years, and watching the
joy that this collection brings to our museum
visitors from 50 states and 37 countries is truly
thrilling

While Browning's world travels have in-
spired many exhibits, perhaps her most
beloved are the three fine-scale buildings
representing her hometown of Maysville: the
Russell Theatre, Bethel Baptist Church and the
Cox Building.

Browning is author of “Collectively Speak-
ing: My Passionate Pursuit of Miniatures,” Vol-
umes 1 and 2 and has been published in three
languages. She is working on a third book and
continues to be a popular subject of miniatures
magazine articles, podcasts, and television
broadcasts. Browning is married to her greatest
supporter, Louis Browning.

As a young military wife, Kaye's appreci-
ation of historical artwork was planted while
living in Italy. She has resided in both Malta
and Naples.



**A WARM
WELCOME
IS WAITING
HERE, AND A
SUPER MEAL!**

