

2026
H&H
Hootin an
Hollarin
FESTIVAL GUIDE
Celebrating
250 Years
of the USA



FREE

Sept. 17-19, 2026
Gainesville, Mo.



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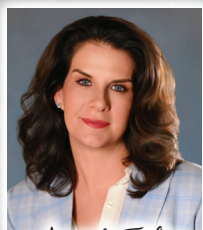
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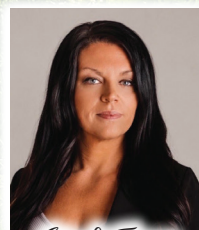
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2026 Hootin and Hollarin festival schedule



On the cover

This year's cover photo was taken by Karla Smith during the 2025 Hootin and Hollarin queen pageant, as contestants performed a square dance. Square dancing is a festival staple and is held, with a live band, on the dance platforms in front of the Main stage from 9 p.m. to midnight each night.

*All activities listed on this schedule are FREE to participate in except the 5k race, car show and shotgun/archery competitions. See those event page for details on specific entry fees.

This festival guide is published by:

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

5:30 to 6 p.m.

National Anthem and Gainesville mayor's welcome

National Anthem by 16-year-old Jessica Suit, welcome by Gainesville Mayor Gail Reich

5 to 7 p.m.

Quilt show viewing - building on southwest side of square

6 to 7:30 p.m.

Ozark Thunder performs - Main stage

7:30 to 9 p.m.

Queen pageant - Main stage

During tallying of votes, citizen of the year and parade marshal will be honored

9 p.m. to midnight

Square dancing - platforms in front of Main stage

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Quilt show viewing - building on southwest side of square

10 a.m. to noon

Shelter Insurance kids corner open, southwest corner of square

***Dena, the balloon lady, will offer free balloon animals from 10 to noon Friday at kids corner*

10:30 a.m.

Terrapin races at Shelter Insurance kids corner

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Mammoth Worship Team performs - Main stage

Afternoon

Gazebo pickin' - gazebo, northwest courthouse lawn

1 p.m.

Cedar Pete and Addie Lee contest - Main stage

1:45 p.m.

Princess pageants - Main stage

3:30 to 5 p.m.

Blayd and Tara Law perform - Main stage

4 to 5 p.m.

Old fashioned kids' games - parking lot off NW corner by City Hall

5 p.m.

Bed races - southwest corner of the square by Molly's Salon

5:30 p.m.

Outhouse race - northwest corner of square/City Hall

5:30 to 7 p.m.

New Grass Attack performs - Main stage

7 p.m.

Ozark County FFA Bull Blast - Gainesville Saddle Club, Main St.

7:30 to 9 p.m.

Psychobilly Cadillac performs - Main stage

9 p.m. to midnight

Square dancing - platforms in front of Main stage

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

8:30 a.m.

Hillbilly 5K run/walk - northwest corner of the square by City Hall

9 a.m.

Archery/shotgun shoot - grassy area across Highway 160

9:30 a.m.

Pet show - Main stage

9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Car show - on Third St. between 160 Pit Stop/White Oak Station

10 a.m. to noon

Shelter Insurance kids corner open, southwest corner of square

10:30 a.m.

Terrapin races at Shelter Insurance kids corner

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Quilt show viewing - building on southwest side of square

10 a.m.

Cornhole tournament - Parking lot off northwest corner by City Hall

11 a.m.

Costume contest - Main stage

11:30 a.m.

Pie contest - at Shelter Insurance, southwest corner of square

Noon to 12:30 p.m.

Calling contests - Main stage

Afternoon

Gazebo pickin' - courthouse gazebo, northwest courthouse lawn

12:30 to 2 p.m.

Buckshot performs - Main stage

2 p.m.

Parade - from Main Street around the square to Third Street

Ozark County Farm Family and Century Farm will be recognized on the Main stage before parade.

3:15 to 4 p.m.

Magic show - Main stage

4 to 4:30 p.m.

Simply Southern Cloggers perform - Main stage platforms

4 to 5 p.m.

Old fashioned kids games - parking lot off NW corner by City Hall

5 to 6:30 p.m.

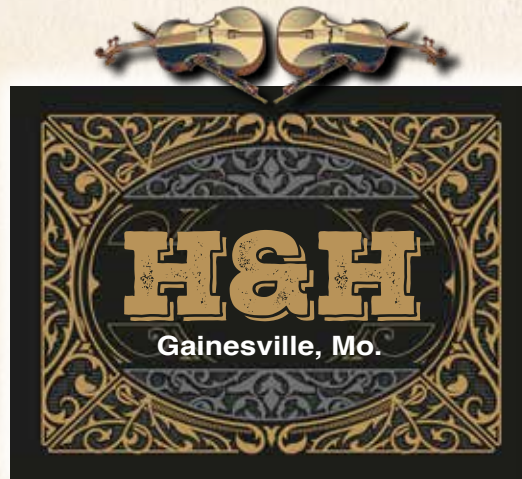
Stringed Union performs - Main stage

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Hannah Harper and her band performs - Main stage

9 p.m. to midnight

Square dancing - platforms in front of Main stage



HOOTIN AN HOLLARIN

September 17 to 19, 2026

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HOWDY, FOLKS!



Welcome to Hootin an Hollarin

It's that time of year again! The square is about to fill up with music, food, old-time crafts, friendly faces and enough goings-on to keep you busy from sunup to sundown. Welcome to Hootin an Hollarin!

As festival chairman, I'm glad you're here, whether you're a lifelong Ozark Countian, a former resident coming home for a visit or a first-time Hootin an Hollarin guest. There's a whole lot packed into three days, and it's easy to miss something. So take a look through this guide and make a plan, but be sure to leave a little room for the unexpected, too. That's part of the fun around here.

Celebrating 250 years

This year's theme, "Celebrating 250 Years of the USA," gives us a good reason to be extra proud of our country and the folks who have helped make it what it is. Ozark County has always been proud of its people, heritage and especially its veterans.

Those veterans will be honored during the big parade at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19. The festival committee will provide floats for veterans who would like to ride on them. Those wishing to participate should call Heather Bushner at 417-679-3321 or Kerrie Zubrod at 417-372-1372 ahead of time so we can make sure there are enough seats. If you have a mobility concern, let them know and they'll do their best to make arrangements.

Looking out for folks

We've also made a few changes this year with safety in mind. A new law enforcement and ambulance command center will be set up in front of the Ozark County Ambulance office, next to MFA Oil near the Highway 160 entrance to the square. It will give sheriff's deputies, ambulance crews and other public-safety personnel a central place to coordinate and respond quickly if needed.

It will also serve as a triage and cooling area for EMS. Ozark County Ambulance Administrator Nathan Boone says they hope to have a nurse practitioner lined up to help there Saturday. If you or someone in your family gets overheated, needs medical attention or simply needs a place to cool down, that's



where to go. But, in an emergency, always dial 911.

A little magic & a whole lot of music

Thanks to Douglas Hawkins-Shelter Insurance Agency, a new magician will be taking the Main Stage this year: Robert Morris, The Coloring Magician of Branson, will perform after the big parade Saturday, likely around 3:15 to 4 p.m. Be sure to stick around, you never know what kind of magic might appear!

And Saturday night, we're bringing you a Hootin an Hollarin first: 2026 *American Idol* winner Hannah Harper and her full band will take the Main Stage at 7 p.m. A huge crowd is expected. Please keep in mind how unbelievable it is to have an *American Idol* winner performing at Hootin an Hollarin at no cost to you. I wouldn't be surprised if it's standing-room only. If you plan to sit in a lawn chair, you may not be able to see the stage.

Don't miss the old-time ways

Don't forget to visit one of the most special parts of Hootin an Hollarin, our old-time demonstrators.

Many will be set up on the shady courthouse lawn behind the vendor booths. There you'll find folks making fiddles, running a pedal-powered scroll saw, a mountain man showing off an authentic teepee and outfit, dutch oven cooking and a booth where you can

make your very own homemade ragdoll—free of charge! The Missouri Department of Conservation will have furs and traps on display there, too. Other demonstrators will show the skills of bread making, glass blowing, broom making, flint knapping and chainsaw carving at their individual booths. Check the booth map in this guide to find them all.

These are the kinds of things that make Hootin an Hollarin special, a chance to see some of the old ways that still have a place around here.

New booths and vendors

We're welcoming some new vendors this year, too. New food and drink vendors include The Pink Flamingo, Dutch Oven Delights, The Stable, Smith's Delicious Blessings, Boss Hog's Street Eats and Whip It Good.

You'll also find Lana's Candle Corner, Hillbilly Stitchery, Dara Collins and Whitney Miller, Nerd Girl Creations, On Angel Wings, Quiet Lady Enterprises, Funny Shirts and Decals, Ozark Creations, S&S Boutique, Belle & Them, The Artsy Way and SB Leather joining the booth lineup this year. So come hungry, come curious and leave a little room in your shopping bag.

One important note this year: a new Gainesville city ordinance prohibits outside booths, food trucks and other vendors from setting up on public or private property within the city limits during Hootin an Hollarin unless registered and approved as a vendor through the official Hootin an Hollarin committee. Businesses and food trucks already established in town may continue operating from their regular locations.

Come on down!

All in all, we think this is shaping up to be a pretty fine Hootin an Hollarin. There will be music, good food, homemade treasures, old-time demonstrations, a big parade, a little magic and plenty of folks to visit with.

So bring your family, bring your lawn chair, bring your appetite and bring your neighbor. Most of all, come ready to have a good time. We'll see you on the square Sept. 17-19!

Paula Rose

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VENDOR BOOTHS



FUN AND GAMES

Hootin an Hollarin's many old-time craft and food vendors circle the square during the three-day festival, creating great shopping, watching, visiting and eating anywhere you look.

The next few pages give a look at the vendors and booths that are scheduled to attend this year's festival. Additional vendors are listed on pages 11, 14 and 15. A vendor booth map is located on page 17. Numbers beside each booth name correlates with the booth's position on the map.

Fun and games

The following booths offer paid games and other fun. Some booths listed here are also listed on the other vendor pages, as they also provide crafts, food or drinks or are part of a community group.

- **Dart game** (#68): the Gainesville High School seniors will offer a dart booth.
- **Dunk tank** (#40): Check out the Brixey-Rockbridge VFD booth for your chance to drop a volunteer into the icy cold water of the dunk tank.
- **Face painting** (#28): Renea Vaughn will offer face painting at her booth.
- **Hoop shoot** (#70): Lutie freshmen will have a basketball shooting game.
- **Inflatable slide and bounce house** (#91A-92): An inflatable slide and bounce house will be located in the Century Bank of the Ozarks parking lot. All-day wrist bands (\$10) and one-time entrance (\$2) fees will be available for purchase at the GHS Scream Team booth (#89).
- **Kids train rides** (#64): Lutie juniors will operate a kids train from their booth on the northwest corner of the square in front of Molly's Salon.
- **Putt-putt game and skee ball** (#69): Lutie High School is hosting a hole-



Lutie High School students will again be selling turns for their inflatable Skee Ball game, pictured above, and a hole-in-one putt putt game to this year's Hootin an Hollarin festival.

in-one putt putt game and a skee ball game (see photo above).

- **Ragdoll making station** (behind the cabin on the courthouse lawn): A free ragdoll making booth will be available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Come learn how to make these old-time toys - and leave with a completed ragdoll of your own. All supplies provided free of charge.
- **Rock climbing wall** (#93): A rock climbing wall will be at this year's festival in the Century Bank parking lot. The cost is \$5 per climb, which can be paid for at the GHS scream team booth, located near the wall (#89).

- **Water yo-yo** (#51-52): At the Chigger Ridge Fudge booth, guests can use a fishing rod to "fish" for water yo-yo balloons out of a kiddie pool. Participants then get to take the water balloon yo-yo home with them.

Additional free games/activities:

In addition to these paid attractions, there are several free opportunities for kids at the festival. See pages 36-37 for information on the Shelter Insurance Kids Corner (with free games, activities and facepainting), old-fashioned kids games, ter-rapin races, a balloon artist and more - all free of charge!



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VENDOR BOOTHS



Alpine Shave Ice will be returning to Hootin an Hollarin, serving up a variety of flavored shave ice and fresh-squeezed lemonades.

FOOD AND DRINKS

From sweets to refreshing drinks and full-on meals, this year's food vendors have got you covered.

- **Alpine Shave Ice and Fresh Squeezed Lemonade (#53-54):** a variety of flavored shave ice and fresh squeezed lemonade.

- **Andrea's Pies & More (#31-32):** fried pies, funnel cakes and pork tenderloin sandwiches.

- **Big O' Fish (#45-46):** fish, chicken strips, ribbon fries, pork loin and hot dogs.

- **Billy Jack's Root Beer (#7-8):** homemade root beer and floats.

- **Boss Hog's Street Eats (#30):** grilled cheese, reuben, chicken cordon blue, grilled spaghetti, smash burgers, fries, mac and cheese bowls and loaded fries.

- **Caney Mountain VFD (#15):** homemade baked goods.

- **Carol Latham (#3B):** free homemade bread and apple butter samples given away, along with bread, baking and other mixes and jellies for sale.

- **Chigger Ridge Fudge (#51-52):**

homemade fudge with free samples.

- **Curtright Catering (#43-44):** flavored kettle corn, bacon puffs, fresh squeezed lemonade.

- **Dara Collins and Whitney Miller (#94):** sweets and baked goods.

- **Drips & Dips Loaded TATTOYS (#106):** loaded baked potatoes and iced coffee drinks.

- **Dutch Oven Delights (courthouse lawn):** Fruit cobblers cooked in dutch ovens, topped with ice cream.

- **East Wind (#22-23):** variety of jarred nut butters and baked goods.

- **GHS juniors (#67):** cotton candy, sodas, water.

- **Hillbilly Grub Shack (#29A&B):** burgers, corn dogs, breakfast items, chili dogs, fries, grilled cheese, taco salad, nachos, chicken strips.

- **Hillbilly Kettle Corn (#13-14):** kettle corn, pork rinds and drinks.

- **Options Pregnancy (#65):** flavored snow balls.

- **Our Place Food Hibachi (#4-6):** hibachi chicken, fish and shrimp, fried rice, noodles, egg rolls, crab rangoon.

- **Smith's Delicious Blessings (#64B):** dip ice cream, Mexican corn dip and chips, biscuits and gravy, drinks.

- **Snider's Family Restaurant (#73-75):** pulled pork, brisket, ribs, turkey legs, roasted corn.

- **Sno-Biz Shaved Ice (#101-102):** flavored shaved ice.

- **The Canteen Grille (#41-42):** smash burgers, grilled chicken, Italian beef, nachos, breakfast items, desserts, sides.

- **The Juan and Only (#24-25):** Mexican food and drinks.

- **The Pink Flamingo (#102A):** lemonade, dirty sodas, dirty Alanis, charcuterie boxes to go, slushes.

- **The Stable @Shook Farms (#38-39):** BBQ sandwiches, brisket, pulled pork, green chili chicken, specialty ribbon fries, nachos.

- **Tin Lizzie's Tonic Truck (#105):** handcrafted sodas, ice cream floats, tea, coffee.

- **Whip It Good (#63A-B):** Dole whip soft serve, sodas, lemonade.

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VENDOR BOOTHS

HANDMADE CRAFTS



The Piper's Attic booth, which had a good display of wood signs and other handcrafted items last year, will be returning to the festival this year.

These booths and vendors will offer a wide array of various handmade crafts and other items.

- **Amateur Radio Club of the Ozarks** (#16): information about the ham radio and the club.

- **Belle & Them Co.** (#79): handmade jewelry.

- **Betian's Creative Collections** (#77): oil and acrylic paintings on canvas or bowling pins; diamond dot artwork, happy hats.

- **Brixey Rockbridge VFD** (#40): dunk tank, selling raffle tickets.

- **Caney Mountain VFD** (#15): crafts, homemade baked goods.

- **Carol Latham** (#3b): packaged bread mixes, baking mixes, jellies and more (also demonstrations with free samples of homemade bread and apple butter!)

- **Chigger Ridge Fudge/River Jordan Art Glass** (#51-52): art glass,

fudge, crochet items, water yoyos, face painting.

- **Dara Collins and Whitney Miller** (#94): handmade bracelets, fidget toys, car freshies.

- **DayStar Shirts/Judy Cowin Evans** (#49-50): Hootin an Hollarin t-shirts, caps and bags.

- **Devil's Backbone Knives and Designs** (#80-81): custom hand-forged knives.

- **Eagle Ridge Chainsaw carvings** (64a): chainsaw carvings for sale and demonstrations.

- **East Wind** (#22-23): nut butters, rope sandals, hammocks, yarn, crafts.

- **Funny Shirts and Decals** (#72): funny shirts and decals.

- **Get to the Points Knapping** (#9a and courthouse lawn): flint knapping, selling arrowheads, stone knives, stone tomahawks, wire

wrapping.

- **GHS Scream Team** (#89): temporary tattoos, tickets/armbands for inflatables, tickets for rock climbing wall.

- **Grandma G's** (#55-56): jewelry, sewn items and novelty items.

- **Hidden Hollow Crafts** (#107-108): woodworking, planter boxes, keychain, car freshies

- **Hillbilly Stitchery and Crafts** (#96): handmade dolls, bears, kitchen sets, resin cups, recycled vases.

- **Hootin an Hollarin information booth** (#3): festival guides, information, vendor check in and lost and found.

- **J Buck Woodworking** (#30a): wooden crafts, games.

- **Jay's Glass Flow** (#84-85): glass blowing demonstrations and sales.

- **Jeanine James** (#17): hairbows, forever flowers, tumblers, resin art.

- **Jessica's Creative Designs** (#36): glitter dipped tumblers and pens, embroidery items, accessories, water.

- **Lana's Candle Corner** (#95): wax bouquets, melts, skincare products.

- **Lasting Scentsations** (#61-63): wire wrapped rocks, rings, arrowheads, cool ties, crocheted hat, cob-web catcher.

- **Lick Creek VFD** (#20-21): selling raffle tickets for two Golden Henry rifles (a .22 and a 45-70).

- **Loblolly Soap Company** (#60): soaps, lotions, balms, salves, oils, washes.

- **Maria Simple Creations** (#87-88): sublimation, epoxy, laser engraved tumblers.

- **Miller's Leather Shop** (#97-99): leather belts, wallets, bags (personalized).

VENDOR BOOTHS



AND COMMUNITY BOOTHS

- **Oak Ridge Homestead (#10-11):** crocheted, knitted, woven items, beaded bags, charms and demonstrating the art of weaving, spinning yarn.

- **On Angel Wings (#86):** Tu-tus, hairbows, baby essentials, kitchen stuff.

- **Ozark County Extension (#76c):** Mizzou items, sharing of information.

- **Ozark County Library (#72A):** sales of used books and DVDs, raffle tickets sold for choice of full set of Black's Readers Service Books (29 volumes of classic authors dated 1927-1950) or The New Illustrated Medical and Health Encyclopedia, volumes 1-13.

- **Ozarks Creations (#76a):** 3-D cedar signs, fishing, hunting, faith, humor.

- **Ozarks Healthcare (#48):** free blood pressure checks and selling bottled water.

- **Piper's Attic (#18-19):** tumblers, jewelry, 3D printer toys, wood signs.

- **Pixie Kreations (#76):** shelves, sun and dream catchers.

- **Quiet Lady Enterprises (#60A):** beads and beadwork items.

- **Ragdoll making** (behind cabin on courthouse lawn): make a free ragdoll to take home or take a free DIY kit home.

- **Renea Vaughn (#28):** crocheted wearables, towels, rugs, face paint, seasonal items.

- **Robin Hill Family Creations (#12):** quilts, blankets, baby and kids items, kitchen towels, potholders.

- **Rose Family Wood Products (#57-59):** Hiking sticks, canes, log jewelry boxes, handmade knives, wooden toys, wooden home décor, chainsaw carvings.

- **S&S Boutique (#17a):** t-shirts, clocks, freshies, hats, cups, door hangers, wax melts, candles, dish towels, rugs, car coasters, keychains.

- **SB Leather Co. (#47):** leather



Tracy Shipley and Makayla Ryan are pictured here at the Ozarks Healthcare booth, offering water for \$1 a bottle and a variety of OzH brochures and items for free.

goods, purses, knife sheaths, wallets, earrings, bags.

- **Sewing Creations by Kathi (#100a):** sewn items, quilts, aprons, potholders, table runners.

- **Shimmer-n-Shine (#71):** Pet body wash, shampoo.

- **Sid Pierce, author (#3B):** Sid Pierce will be selling his book, "Roadie: From the Tour Bus to the School Bus," from noon Saturday until he's needed to help with sound for the Hannah Harper concert at 7 p.m. that night. He'll be in the booth next to the Main stage.

- **Stone Circle Crafts (#100):** wood cooking utensils, macrame, gourds, trivets.

- **Sweet Daisy Journals & Designs and Articles Particles (#27):** handmade journals and notebooks, cards, bookmarks, magnets, clay jewelry, necklaces, stickers, mixed media art.

- **Tabor Creek Customs (#82-83):** custom cutting, cheese and charcuterie boards.

- **The Country Crafters (#34-35):** Wood items, paintings, jewelry, keychains, shelves.

- **Thompson Custom Creations** (courthouse lawn): pedal-powered scroll saw art with names.

- **The Artsy Way (#26):** paintings, illustrations, tote bags.

- **Tina Riffey, author (#37):** books, bookmarks.

- **Unite the Light/The Old Rugged Cross (#78):** raffle for "The Old Rugged Cross."

- **White River Connect (#33):** information about fiber internet and providing internet at festival.

- **Wolf's Broom Shop (#9):** demonstrating the art of corn broom making and selling assorted handmade corn brooms and broom items.

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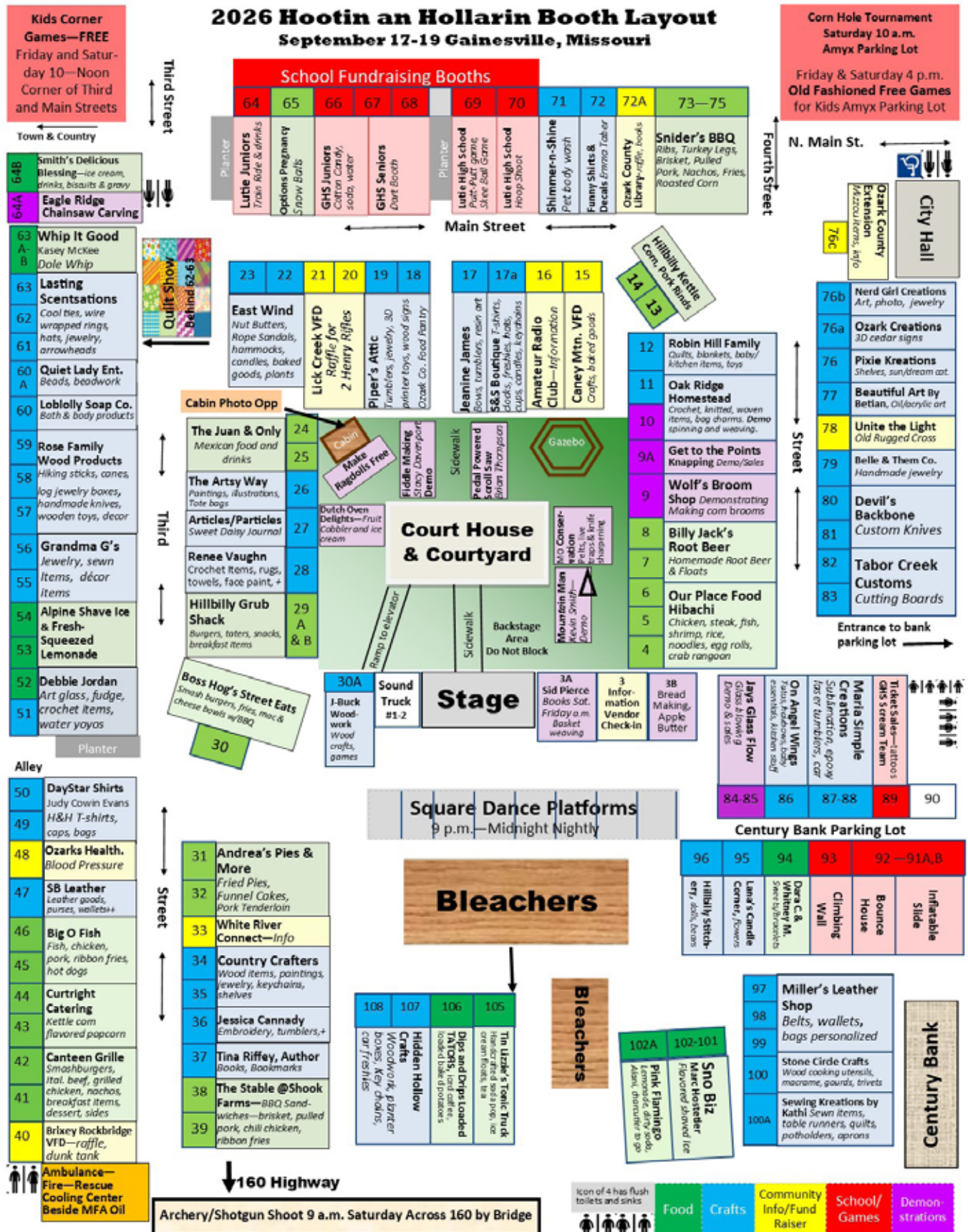
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WAYS OF THE OLD DAYS

DEMONSTRATORS

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The spirit of Ozark County's past shines brightest through the many demonstrators who set up at Hootin an Hollarin each year. These talented volunteers give their time freely to share the skills and traditions that once defined daily life in the Ozarks.

From practical homestead skills to fine handcrafts, each demonstration gives visitors the chance to watch heritage come alive right before their eyes. Some demonstrators will be set up at various booths along the square (see page 17 for a booth map), while many will be demonstrating from the shady courtyard this year. Make sure to stop and take a stroll under those maples. The trees make the perfect backdrop for a step back in time to a bygone era in Ozarks history.

This year, the festival will have the following demonstrations:

- **Basket weaving** (#3A): Roxanne Wallace will be demonstrating the art of basket weaving from 10 a.m. to noon on Friday, Sept. 18, in the booth next to the Main stage.

- **Broom making** (#9) Darrell Wolf will be demonstrating the traditional art of making corn brooms with the dried and cleaned stalks of the broomcorn grass. He will also have several handmade brooms and other items for sale.

- **Chainsaw carving** (#64A): Jason and Brittany Morton of Eagle Ridge Chainsaw Carving will be on site with live carving demonstrations just off the southwest corner of the square, across from Shelter Insurance. They will also have chainsaw art for sale.

- **Dutch oven cooking** (Courthouse lawn): Bill Butler and Jennifer Thompson will be making fruit cobblers in cast iron dutch ovens over an open fire on the



courthouse lawn. Stop in to watch how its done, or buy a scoop of cobbler straight from the dutch oven, topped with ice cream to get the full experience.

- **Fiddle making** (Courthouse lawn): Stacy Davenport will again be set up on the shady courthouse lawn in a booth where he has various fiddle-making supplies and is always up for a chat about just what goes in to making those instruments.

- **Flint knapping** (Courthouse lawn and #9A): Andrew Leach and his crew from Get to the Points Knapping will be at the festival demonstrating the art of flint knapping. He'll also have arrowheads, stone knives, stone tomahawks and wire wrapped items for sale.

- **Glassblowing** (#84-85): Jay Thomas of Jay's Glass Flow will again be located near the entrance to the Century Bank of the Ozarks parking lot off the northeast corner of the square demonstrating glass blowing techniques using a torch on a table.

- **Homemade bread making** (#3B): Carol Latham and others will be serving up free samples of homemade bread and butter, as well

as selling bread mixes, jellies and more, which festival goers can take home and enjoy in their own kitchens. She'll be located in a booth that sits next to the information booth near the Main stage.

- **Mountain man** (Courthouse lawn): Demonstrating the attire and life of a typical Ozarks "mountain man" in pioneer times, Kevin Smith will have a teepee set up on the courthouse lawn. Step inside to see more. He will be demonstrating primitive guns and fire-making skills.

- **Pedal-powered scroll saw** (Courthouse lawn) Brian Thompson will be operating a pedal-powered scroll saw at his booth on the courthouse lawn, where he's able to cut out custom names and words for those in attendance.

- **Ragdoll making** (Behind cabin on courthouse lawn): This year's festival will again feature the popular old-fashioned ragdoll making station, free of charge! It will be available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both Friday, Sept. 18 and Saturday, Sept. 19, on the shaded courthouse lawn behind the festival booths.

- **Spinning and weaving** (#10-11): Cynthia Stevens will demonstrate the art of weaving dyed wool fibers at her booth Friday and Saturday, on the inside of the north side of the square directly across from City Hall. She also be weaving an Alpaca and wool scarf.

- **Wildlife display and live traps** (Courthouse lawn): Employees with MDC will be set up on the courthouse lawn with a wildlife display and a demonstration of live traps.

To sign up as a festival demonstrator of old-time skills, call Barb Luna at 417-712-1946.

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HELPFUL INFO



FLUSHABLE RESTROOMS

This year's Hootin an Hollarin festival will again have two nice restroom trailers with flushable toilets, handwashing sinks and air conditioning. The bathroom trailers, which are similar to the photos above, will be located in the Century Bank of the Ozarks parking lot. Regular port-a-potties will also be available on the southwest, northwest and northeast corners of the square (see booth map, page 17).

AMBULANCE/ LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMAND CENTER

New this year is a law enforcement and ambulance command center, which will be located in front of MFA Oil near the entrance to the square from Highway 160. It will serve as a central location for law enforcement, EMS and other public-safety personnel working the Hootin an Hollarin festival.

The command center will give officers a central point to coordinate resources, remain in communication and respond quickly to incidents throughout the festival area.

Ambulance staff say that the EMS will also be able to triage patients at the command center, and staff are hoping to have a nurse practitioner there to help out Saturday night, as larger than normal crowds are expected for the Hannah Harper performance. The command center will also provide a cooling station for those who are overheated or need other help.

It's important to remember that if you have an emergency, you should still dial 911.



HANDICAPPED PARKING SPOTS

Handicapped parking for the Hootin an Hollarin festival will be available at the areas pictured in red, above:

- #1: The gravel lot between Farm Bureau and the Ozark County Christian Thrift Store on Main Street;
- #2: Near the GHS senior's fundraising parking lot, located across from the Ozark County Christian Thrift Store and City Hall;
- #3: On the sides of the roadway on Fourth Street up to Harlin Drive.

These areas are designated only for festival attendees who are handicapped and have mobility issues. Those parking there should have a handicapped tag or sticker viewable from the front glass of their vehicle.



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



Ozark Thunder

THURSDAY

5:30 p.m. - Festival welcome

Festival welcome by Gainesville Mayor Gail Reich, National Anthem and other songs by 16-year-old Gainesville resident Jessica Suit.

6 to 7:30 p.m.

Ozark Thunder

Country and southern rock band

7:30 to 9 p.m. - Queen pageant

Girls age 14-18 compete for crown

9 p.m. to midnight

Square dancing to live music

Square dancing is held on the platforms in front of the Main stage. This year's square dance musicians are David Scrivner and Ashley Forrest on fiddles, Joel Hinds on guitar and Nathan McAlister on banjo.



Unless otherwise noted, performances will be on the festival's Main stage, named in honor of the late Dr. Bob Main.



Psychobilly Cadillac

FRIDAY

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Mammoth Worship Team

gospel music

Noon to afternoon

Gazebo pickin'

held in gazebo on courthouse lawn

1 p.m. - Cedar Pete and

Miss Addie Lee contest

contest for boys and girls ages 4-5

1:45 p.m.

Princess pageants

Contest for girls in 1st to 6th grades

3:30 to 5 p.m.

Blayd & Tara Law

Southern rock, country, classics

5:30 to 7 p.m.

New Grass Attack

Traditional bluegrass

7:30 to 9 p.m.

Psychobilly Cadillac

Modern and classic country hits

9 p.m. to midnight

Square dancing to live music

platforms in front of main stage



Hannah Harper

SATURDAY

9:30 a.m. - Pet show

Animals of all varieties welcome

11 a.m. - Costume contest

Open to all ages, old-fashioned costumes

Noon to 12:30 p.m. - Calling contests

Pig, cow, turkey and husband calling

Noon to afternoon

Gazebo pickin'

held in gazebo on courthouse lawn

12:30 to 2 p.m. - Buckshot

Classic and new country, classic rock

2 p.m. - Parade

Circling the square

3:15 to 4 p.m. - Magic show

Interactive, fun illusions and comedy

4 to 4:30 p.m.

Simply Southern Cloggers

Traditional clogging group

5 to 6 p.m. - Stringed Union

Bluegrass and gospel bluegrass

7 to 8:30 p.m. - Hannah Harper

American Idol winner, country/bluegrass

9 p.m. to midnight

Square dancing to live music

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THE PERFORMERS



Festival welcome

5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17

The festival kicks off with a welcome from Gainesville Mayor Gail Reich and the National Anthem and other songs by returning young vocalist Jessica Suit, 16, of Gainesville.



Ozark Thunder

6 to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 17

Ozark Thunder will bring its blend of country and southern rock to the Hootin an Hollarin stage from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, getting the crowd warmed up before the Hootin an Hollarin Queen Pageant. Hailing from Flippin and Yellville, Arkansas, the band features Kirk Knapp on lead vocals and rhythm guitar, Stacy Davenport on electric guitar, harmonica and fiddle, Roy Dillard on bass guitar, Doug Mears on drums, Tammy Mears on vocals and Jack Smith on lead guitar. With a full lineup of musicians and a mix of country and Southern rock, Ozark Thunder is sure to set the stage for a lively first festival night.



Mammoth Worship Team

**11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 18**

Mammoth Assembly of God's worship team will bring a morning of uplifting music to the Hootin an Hollarin stage Friday, Sept. 18, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The group will share a mix of worship favorites and encouraging songs, offering festival-goers a chance to pause, listen and enjoy some heartfelt music from local musicians.



Gazebo pickin'

Friday and Saturday afternoon

The annual gazebo pickin' jam sessions are held Friday and Saturday afternoons in the gazebo on the northwest corner of the courthouse lawn. Musicians of all ages and skill levels are invited to pull up a chair, unpack an instrument and join the circle for an informal afternoon of music. Spectators are invited to stop and enjoy one of Hootin an Hollarin's favorite longtime traditions.



Blayd & Tara Law

3:30 to 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18

Meet Blayd and Tara Law, two trailblazing local artists bringing people together with their soul-stirring performances. Hailing from our own Ozark mountains in Gainesville, their unique blend of southern rock and melodic harmonies ignites a sense of community and nostalgia, as they re-imagine beloved classics and original tunes that inspire.

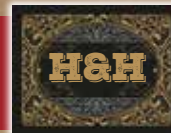


New Grass Attack

5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18

New Grass Attack brings a fresh take on the bluegrass tradition with a talented group of musicians and a love for good, old-fashioned picking. Catch them on the Hootin an Hollarin stage from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, for an afternoon of bluegrass music and Ozarks-style fun.

THE PERFORMERS



Psychobilly Cadillac Band

7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18

Psychobilly Cadillac is the final band to take the stage Friday night, beginning at 7:30 p.m. and playing to about 9 p.m. with a variety of country music favorites and a few surprises thrown into the mix. This band will get you onto your feet and dancing!



Buckshot

12:30 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19

Get ready for a little country and a little rock 'n' roll when Buckshot takes the Hootin an Hollarin stage from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19. The band, who will play new and old country favorites with old-school rock 'n' roll thrown in, features Shawn Beaver on lead guitar, Joey Sasser on bass guitar and fiddle and Stan Risley on drums. Buckshot will also be joined on stage at Hootin an Hollarin by special guest Kent Coffey on rhythm and lead guitar for their festival performance.



Magic show

3:15 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19

New this year! Robert Morris, The Coloring Magician from Branson, and his assistant Lilly take the Main stage after the Saturday parade for a magical show the whole family will enjoy! Grab your group, get ready to hoot and holler and prepare for a colorful adventure because when The Coloring Magician takes the stage, laughter, wonder, and a little Ozark magic come to life!



Stringed Union

5 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19

Stringed Union performs from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, playing bluegrass and bluegrass gospel music with a few original songs and some folk tunes thrown into the mix. The band consists of Alan Strickland of West Plains on banjo, Rory Ezell from Jackson on mandolin, Sharry Lovan of Willow Springs on bass and Gene Collins of Ozark on guitar.

Simply Southern Cloggers

4 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Simply Southern Cloggers, a traditional-style clogging group from Mountain View, Arkansas, will perform on the wooden dance platforms in front of the Main stage at 4 p.m. Saturday afternoon. The group, which is directed by Jennifer Mitchell, is a returning festival favorite, having performed at the 2023 Hootin an Hollarin.





THE PERFORMERS

Hannah Harper and full band

7 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19 • Main stage

Hootin an Hollarin is bringing a star to the Gainesville square this year, and folks won't want to miss it! Hannah Harper, the 2026 winner of ABC's *American Idol*, and her band will take the Main Stage from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, as the headline performer for this year's festival.

Harper, a 25-year-old mother of three from Willow Springs, captured America's attention during Season 24 with her powerful voice, down-to-earth personality and original song "String Cheese," which she performed during her audition. The song, inspired by the everyday chaos and joys of motherhood, quickly became a fan favorite and helped launch Harper on her journey to becoming the season's champion.

Her appearance at Hootin an Hollarin comes just months after her *American Idol* victory, making the Gainesville performance a pretty special opportunity for festival-goers. Harper grew up singing with her family's bluegrass gospel group and began performing at just 9 years old, bringing with her a deep Missouri musical heritage that has shaped her sound and songwriting.

The concert is free, and everyone is welcome. Organizers emphasize that they have no idea what to expect when it comes to crowd size for Harper's performance, but they are preparing for a busy Saturday night. The extra set of bleachers normally located on the northwest corner of the square will be moved to face the Main stage this year to provide additional seating. Still, festival-goers should plan accordingly and expect the square to be especially busy during Harper's performance.

It's possible the crowd may wrap around the other sides of the square, where guests will still be able to hear Harper's performance but may not have a direct view of the stage.

Organizers ask that guests keep in mind that Hootin an Hollarin is a free community festival, and while every effort will be made to accommodate the crowd, the festival simply does not have the same resources or setup as a ticketed concert, where admission sales help fund additional staging, seating and production needs.

Above all, organizers hope guests will extend a little grace, find a spot to enjoy the music and remember that having a performer of Harper's caliber on the Hootin an Hollarin stage, free for the community, is something pretty special.

Harper's performance is sponsored by Century Bank of the Ozarks and Shelter Insurance-Douglas Hawkins Agency.



Main Stage sponsors

Thank you to the following businesses for their sponsorships of this year's Hootin an Hollarin live entertainment lineup. We appreciate you!

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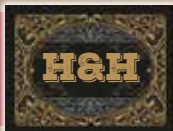
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SMALL TOWN ROYALTY

H&H QUEEN PAGEANT

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17 • Main stage

The Hootin an Hollarin queen pageant will be held at its usual time of 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17.

The pageant is open to girls who are 14 to 18 and are either home-schooled or attending high school at the time of the festival. Contestants must either live in or attend school in Ozark County.

The pageant usually includes a good mix of returning queen candidates and new participants who don old-timey dresses and step to the microphone, one by one, to answer questions designed to let them show their creativity and imagination.

A panel of judges chooses the queen and the queen's court, including a deputy queen and three princesses. Another honoree, Miss Sweetie Pie, is chosen by the contestants themselves after voting in secret for the contestant who has been kindest and most supportive to the group.

Hootin an Hollarin queen committee chairmen are happy to help any qualified contestant with their dress or sponsorship for the contest.



Isabelle Workman was crowned 2025 Hootin an Hollarin Queen. She is a Gainesville High School student and the daughter of Aaron and Jessica Workman. In the photo above, she is pictured with her court. From left: Princess Ella Sue Barber, Deputy Queen Cami Strain, Queen Isabelle Workman, Princess Makayla Smith and Princess Khloe Simmons, who was also voted Miss Sweetie Pie by her fellow contestants.

Each contestant receives a Hootin an Hollarin T-shirt and other gifts, and the contestants will enjoy a pizza party and mini photo shoot by Karla Smith during rehearsals.

The queen receives a cash prize and a tiara, a \$500 scholarship to Arkansas State University-Mountain Home and a full photo shoot donated by Karla Smith. Special charms are also given to the queen

and her court.

Citizens of the year Jane and Andy Elder and Hootin an Hollarin parade marshal David Murphy will be honored on stage while judges are tallying the votes.

For more information on the queen pageant, contact Becki Strong at 417-989-9617 or Jerri Sue Crawford at 417-331-6538.

Past Hootin an Hollarin queens include:

1964 Pam Carter
Hutchinson,
1965 Barbara Mahan
Sutherland,
1966 Glenda Evans
Douglas,
1967 Karen
Flanagan Barton and
then Delores Smith
James when Karen
and her family moved
away,
1968 Karen Dancy
Stewart,
1969 Beth Taber
Peters,
1970 Charlene
Sweet,
1971 Loretta Terry
Walker,

1972 Sidney Duncan
Casey,
1973 Sheila Parsley
Calhoun,
1974 Jane Ewing,
1975 Connie Horn
Murray,
1976 Marsha Watson
Evans,
1977 Carol Land
Ebrite,
1978 Kimberly Terry
Kinney,
1979 Kathy Laughlin
Morrison,
1980 Pam Morrison
McGlynn,
1981 Brenda White
Warren,

1982 Shana Long
Zahn,
1983 Melanie Forrest
Deweese,
1984 Kim Dillsaver
Liss,
1985 Jolene
McFarland Harley,
1986 Susan
Ledbetter,
1987 April Clark,
1988 Tammy Strain
Doebler,
1989 Cathy Grant,
1990 Kelli Kyle
Humphries,
1991 Cari Lewis
McMahon,
1992 Shelly Uchtman
Finley,

1993 Angela Smith
Broomer,
1994 Jade Tetrick
Benson,
1995 Katie Huggins,
1996 Alma Squires
Reder,
1997 Mary Marley,
1998 Kristin Lawson
Lowther,
1999 Kristian
Richison Wallace,
2000 Kara Smith
Henson,
2001 Ashley
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2002 Jessica Long
Dreckman,
2003 Melissa Young,

2004 Kristin
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2005 Misty Campbell
Chaney,
2006 Charley
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2007 Tyne Rose
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2013 Kendra Tetrick,

2014 Sunni Amyx,
2015 Andrea Belt
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2017 Payton
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2018 Jaima DeVries,
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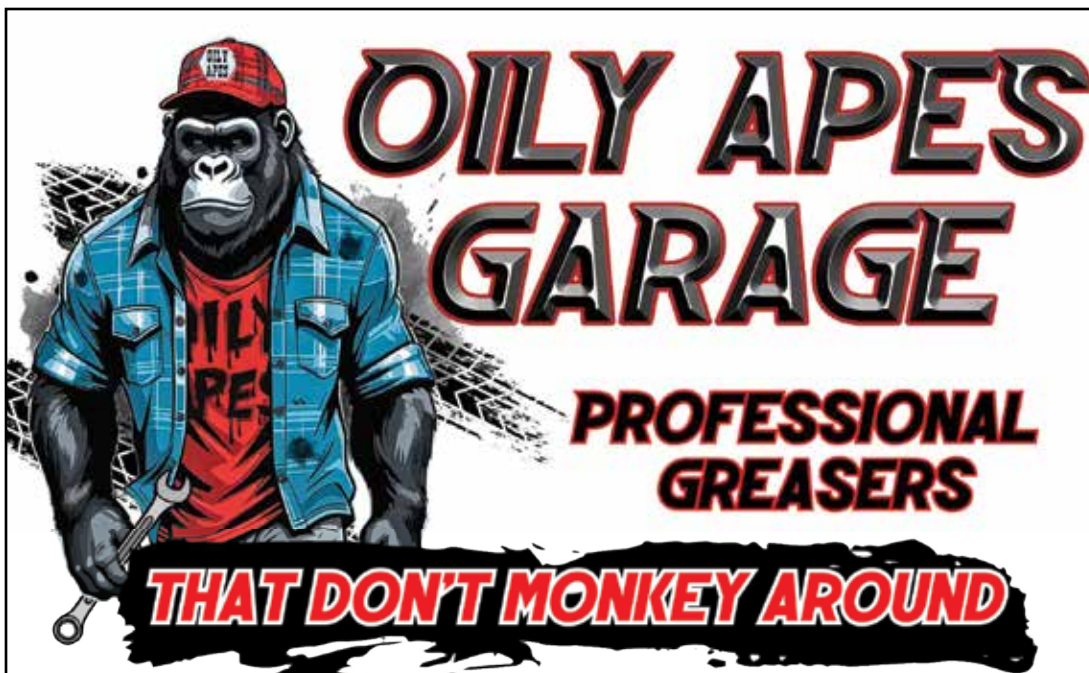


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READY TO DO-SI-DO?




It's a long-standing tradition for Hootin an Hollarin festival-goers to kick up their heels on the square dance platforms in front of the Main stage. This photo, taken by Karla Smith at a festival a couple years ago, shows a wide view of the dancers on the platforms. Last year organizers added an additional platform to accommodate the growing number of dancers.

SQUARE DANCING

9 p.m. to midnight • Thursday, Friday and Saturday

To find the heart of the Hootin an Hollarin spirit, look no further than the swirling, twirling groups of folks out on the old wooden platforms dancing the night away under the starry September sky.

Every night from 9 p.m. to midnight, Hootin an Hollarin turns its focus to one of its most fun and festive features – square dancing.

Last year festival organizers added an additional square dance platform to help accommodate the ever-growing popularity of the event. With more room to kick up their heels, even more dancers can join in on the tradition that keeps the festival alive with music, laughter and good, old small-town community spirit.

Want to join the fun? Here's how

Hootin an Hollarin square-dance regulars recommend you get your start: Usually there's a big group of youngish square dancers on the south platform, the one farthest from the stage. It's generally accepted that everyone is welcome on that dance floor, and those young whippersnappers are good at teaching novices of all ages the basics of how to step, twirl and allemande through the caller's commands. Just ask someone in the group if you can join. Thursday night usually has fewer dancers than Friday and Saturday, making it a great time to learn.

The Gainesville Elementary School has been giving lessons to students in gym class, so they'll be ready to join in on all the fun too!

If you're ready to try to participate with the more experienced dancers on one of the platforms closer to the stage, wait 'til they're taking a break between songs and then ask one of the dancers if you might join their square for a song or two.

It's worth taking a minute or two to watch the most experienced, organized groups of four couples dancing the night away. They are a sight to see and are usually found on the platforms on the north end toward Century Bank of the Ozarks.

Don't be afraid to jump right in, whatever your skill level. You'll soon be do-si-doing with the best of 'em (literally!) and having a great time doing it. It's what Hootin an Hollarin is all about.

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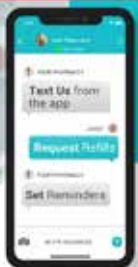


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ART IN FABRIC



H&H QUILT SHOW

5 to 7 p.m. Thursday • 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday

This year's Hootin an Hollarin quilt show, sponsored by the Friendly Neighbors Extension Club, will again be held inside an air conditioned building on the south side of the square next door to Ozarks Wifi. Look for the quilt show sign out front.

Lily Branco, one of the show's organizers, says the volunteer workers are looking forward to showing off this year's submitted quilts and quilted items.

There's a category for just about anything quilted. The only requirement for the show is that the quilt being entered has not been entered in a previous Hootin an Hollarin quilt show.

"This is an important part of our heritage here in the Ozarks and one of the highlights of the Hootin and Hollarin festival. So don't be shy and bring your creation for the visitors to admire," Branco said.

Quilts to be judged need to be brought to the show site between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15 to be entered.

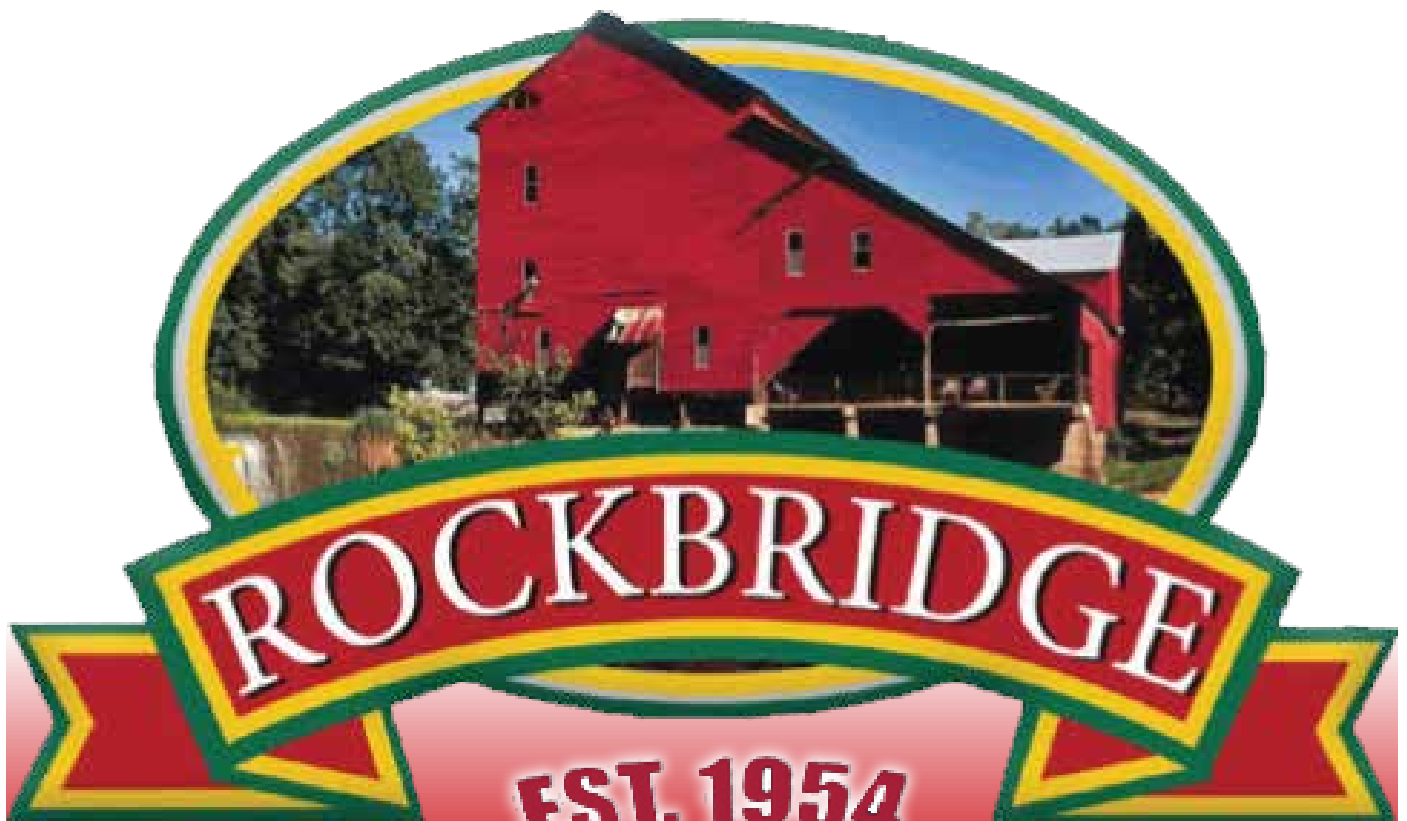
Quilts will be available for viewing from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17; from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18; and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19.

Ribbons are awarded to winners in a total of 10 quilt show categories. Special ribbons will also be given for People's Choice (voted on by festival attendees), Judges' Choice and Best in Show.

Contact Branco for more information, 417-989-1313 or lilybranco@hotmail.com.



The 2025 Judges' Choice quilt show ribbon was awarded to this quilt, made from uniforms Wesley Simpson wore while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. The quilt was entered by Simpson (shown here with his grandson for whom the quilt was made) and was pieced and quilted by Janis Voldbakkey.



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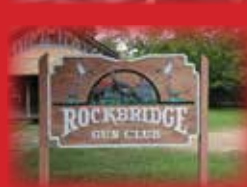
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"For whosoever shall call up on the name of the Lord shall be saved." - Romans 10:13

Do you know this Lord Jesus Christ today? If you're not sure, the Bible says:

1. ADMIT TO GOD THAT YOU ARE A SINNER.

Romans 3:23 . . . "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

2. REALIZE SINS' PENALTY IS ETERNAL SEPARATION FROM GOD, IN A BURNING HELL.

Johns 3:36 . . . "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

3. HAVE TRUE REPENTANCE

2 Peter 3:9 . . . "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

4. BELIEVE WITH ALL YOUR HEART ACCORDING TO ACTS 8:37 THAT:

A. JESUS PAID YOUR SINS' PENALTY ON THE CROSS WITH HIS OWN BLOOD.

Romans 5:8-9 . . . "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."

B. JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD.

Romans 10:9-10 . . . "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, though shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

C. JESUS DOES ALL THE SAVING BY HIMSELF.

John 14:6 . . . "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

D. ONCE YOU ARE SAVED, YOU WILL NEVER LOSE YOUR SALVATION.

1 John 5:13 . . . "These things have I written unto your that believe on me of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

5. CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD TRUSTING HIM TO SAVE YOUR SOUL.

Romans 10:13 . . . "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

The following is a suggested prayer of faith. Do not just say the words, but pray believing with all your heart, trusting Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and you will have eternal life:

Dear God, I confess that I am a sinner and cannot get to heaven based on my goodness. I believe that Jesus Christ shed his blood, suffered, died on the cross, was buried, and that He rose from the dead the third day to save me from the wrath of God. With a sorrowful and repentant heart, I trust you and ask you to forgive me of my sins and to please come into my heart and wash my sins away so I can go to heaven when I die. Thank you for saving me, help me serve you and to do your will in my life. In Jesus' name I pray, amen!"



Pastor Jakob Smith

Service Times

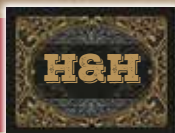
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FREE FUN FOR KIDS

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Free kids games and other fun • 10 a.m. to noon Friday & Saturday



Games, facepainting and other fun

10 a.m. to noon Friday and Saturday

Looking for free fun for the kids? Don't miss the "Hootin an Hollarin Kids Corner," sponsored by Shelter Insurance — Douglas Hawkins Agency, with help from David Murphy and the Freedom Church youth group. The Kids Corner will be open from 10 a.m. to noon Friday and Saturday, offering a variety of surprise games and activities that sponsor Doug Hawkins promises will be a hit with all ages. This year's festivities will again include free face painting during open hours by Jessica Suit. Follow the signs, bring the kids, and enjoy. Everything is free and everyone is welcome.



Balloon art

**10 a.m. to Noon
FRIDAY ONLY**

Dena, the beloved "balloon lady," will once again bring her talent and creativity to this year's Hootin an Hollarin festival, delighting children with some of the most amazing balloon animals, whimsical characters and imaginative creations they can dream up.

This colorful and crowd-pleasing attraction was added to the Kids Corner a couple years ago by Douglas Hawkins—Insurance Agency and quickly became a favorite.

Her balloon art is free to attendees, but will only be available from 10 a.m. to noon on Friday, Sept. 18, so be sure to stop by then to join in the fun.



Terrapin races

**10:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday
Sign up at 10 a.m.**

The annual Hootin an Hollarin Terrapin Races are a highlight for local kids. This free-to-enter event invites participants to bring their own terrapin or turtle to compete in the 10:30 a.m. races on Friday or Saturday (or both). Sign-up begins at 10 a.m. in front of Shelter Insurance. Most years, there are so many terrapins that multiple heats are needed each day to determine the winners. Once the contestants are ready, each child places their terrapin in the center circle and lets it loose; the first to reach the outer circle wins. Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places, and each day's first-place winner will also receive a unique trophy crafted by Todd Freise. Organizers ask that no paint or alterations be made to the turtles' shells and that all turtles be returned to their original locations after the races to ensure the creature's future survival.

FREE FUN FOR KIDS



FREE RAGDOLL MAKING

*10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday
booth setup on courthouse lawn*

This year's festival will again feature the popular old-fashioned ragdoll making station, free of charge! It will be available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both Friday, Sept. 18 and Saturday, Sept. 19, on the shaded courthouse lawn behind the festival booths.

Guests can assemble their own doll at the booth to take a DIY kit with instructions home with them, which will allow them to make a ragdoll at their convenience.

The dolls, which are basic in design, are fashioned after years past when money was scarce, and children's toys were made from scrap material left over from sewing projects. The dolls can be made in a dress, but a doll with pants can also be made by braiding the bottom scraps into two legs. The booth, sponsored by the Hootin an Hollarin committee, was added in 2018 to demonstrate old time crafts.



*3:15 to 4 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 19
Main stage*

MAGIC SHOW

After the Saturday parade, it's time to keep the little ones entertained with a little Hootin an Hollarin magic!

Shelter Insurance-Douglas Hawkins Agency has sponsored a magic show for several years now, but the magician this year is new to Hootin an Hollarin!

The Coloring Magician, Robert Morris from Branson, will take the festival's Main stage from 3:15 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, along with his assistant, Lilly.

Kids and families can settle in for a colorful, entertaining show filled with laughter, wonder and plenty of magical surprises. It's the perfect way to keep the fun going after the parade and give the kiddos a chance to enjoy a show made especially for them.

So, grab the family, find a spot near the Main stage and get ready to hoot, hollar and watch the magic come to life! The Coloring Magician is sure to add a fun splash of color to your Hootin an Hollarin experience this year.

OLD-FASHIONED GAMES

4 to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the parking lot off NW corner of square

Don't miss out on this dose of extra free fun for kids attending the festival both Friday and Saturday afternoons.

Old-fashioned kids games will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the parking lot off the northwest corner of the square, adjacent to City Hall.

The games will be a surprise, but they are sure to be fun. In the past, the fun has included sack races, rubber chicken flickin', frog hop and more. The event is headed up by Renee Hambelton, and medals will be awarded to winners. All equipment will be supplied.





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KIDS CONTESTS



CEDAR PETE AND ADDIE LEE

1 p.m. Friday • For boys and girls ages 4 and 5

The Lil Cedar Pete and Lil Miss Addie Lee contest leads the lineup of children's celebrity competitions, beginning at 1 p.m. Friday on the Main stage. (Sign up beside or behind the stage 15 minutes before the contest).

Contestants age 4 and 5 will be interviewed on stage by an emcee, who will ask gentle questions, usually things like their favorite color, if they have any brothers or sisters, their favorite food, if they have any pets, what their favorite part of Hootin an Hollarin is—and if they'd



like to share anything else: a song, joke or story. (Someone will meet the contestants backstage before the contest to tell them what will be asked and to encourage the kids to have fun.)

Old-time costume is optional, but serves as a fun added element for participants.

Sponsored by the Ozark County Chamber of Commerce, the contest commemorates two of the founders of Hootin an Hollarin. Addie Lee Lister is known as the "First Lady of Hootin an Hollarin," and credited artistic woodworker Ed Petterson with thinking up the name Hootin an Hollarin. Petterson also designed the whimsical hillbilly character Cedar Pete, who served as the festival's first logo.

PRINCESS PAGEANTS

1:45 p.m. Friday • For first through sixth grade girls • Pre-register by Sept. 14

The Hootin an Hollarin princess contests, which begins at 1:45 p.m. Friday on the Main stage, feature Ozark County girls sharing their most adorable Hootin an Hollarin personalities.

The category of Lil Princess is open to first and second graders. Those contestants will say their first name and then three hobbies or interests or tell a 15-second story.

The Lil Miss category is open to third and fourth graders and Junior Princess is open to fifth and sixth graders. Contestants in both groups can tell a 20- to 30-second story about anything. They are also able to bring a prop on stage to talk about. There is no dancing, singing or playing an instrument allowed, and contestants cannot use live animals in their performances.

Stories will not be timed.



All contestants must pre-register. The deadline for signing up is Monday, Sept. 14.

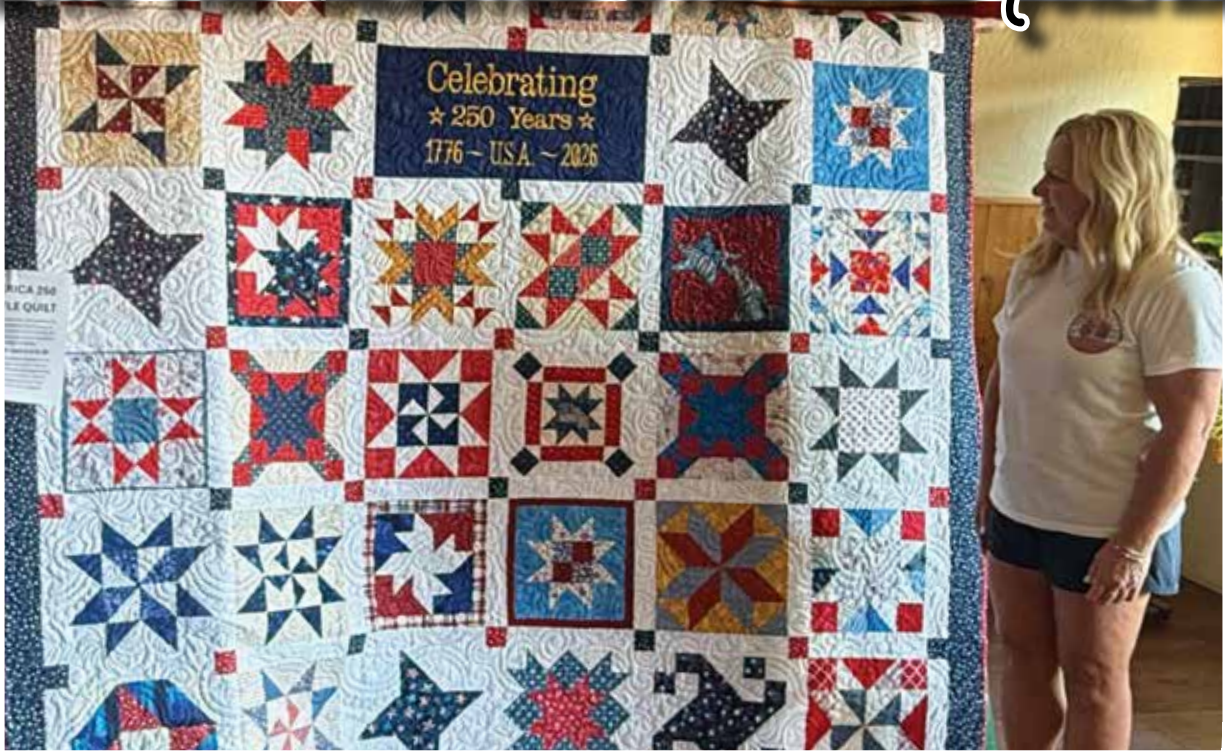
To register, call Janette McDaniel at 417-255-3312 and leave a message in her voicemail or text her with this information: the girl's name, grade and three interests or

hobbies.

Judging will be based on 25 points: 5 for dress (old time or Sunday), 10 for personality (while talking) and 10 for poise on stage.

Winners will ride on the princess float in the parade on Saturday afternoon.

COME CELEBRATE AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY WITH THE TALENTED HISTORIUM QUILTERS!



Historium visitor Karen Brantingham admires the Historium Quilters' beautiful patriotic quilt that's being raffled.

During Hootin an Hollarin, stop by the Ozark County Historium to admire this beautiful, one-of-a-kind quilt the creative Historium Quilters made in honor of America's 250th birthday. It's a labor of love for our community because it's being raffled, with all proceeds going to help local schools assist students in need. We invite you to support this charitable project by purchasing a handful of tickets (\$1 each or six for \$5) so your name will be in the pot when the winner is drawn Saturday evening, Sept. 19. (Winner doesn't have to be present.)

After you buy your raffle tickets, enjoy our heartwarming display of other red, white and blue patriotic quilts, plus dozens of historic photos showing Ozark County landmarks and events, as well as our collection of scrapbooks showing how Hootin an Hollarin has evolved through the years.

The Historium is a welcoming, easily accessible place to sit a spell and cool off. We'll be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day of Hootin an Hollarin. Stop by and enjoy a colorful celebration of Ozark County's history and America's big birthday.

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HILLBILLY RACES



BED RACE

5 p.m. Friday • Southwest side of the square • Sign up in front of Molly's Salon

When's the last time you saw a bunch of runners pushing a bed down the road, lickety-split?

If you're a regular Hootin an Hollarin visitor, you know it happens every year on the west side of the Gainesville square.

This sleep-defying spectacle, sponsored by Top Dog Fitness Center and open to those age 10 and older, begins at 5 p.m. Friday, when dream teams show their high-performance bed-pushing techniques – or model their creative nighttime attire and story lines.

Teams consist of five members (four pushers and a rider); the high-speed, super-sport racing bed is pro-

vided. No house slippers please! Organizers suggest participants wear sneakers or tennis shoes.

Teams start their nap, er, lap at the stop sign on the southwest side of the square and zzzzzzzoom up Main Street to the finish line at City Hall. Bystanders are cautioned to stay well out of the way. The bed's steering system is a nightmare (and nonexistent)!

Teams can choose to prioritize speed or to ham it up with costumes, dances and skits in the middle of their run to keep things lively and the crowd entertained. The more original, the better!

Cash prizes will be given to first,

second and third place teams in the timed event, and another prize is awarded to the best-dressed team (for those who prefer to saunter down the street in dreamlike-style rather than run like crazy).

Chairperson Paula Rose appreciates pre-registration (417-989-1282), but it's not mandatory.

Sign up forms are available at the *Ozark County Times* office. Entry is free. Last-minute entries are welcome.

Teams should gather on the southwest corner of the square in front of Molly's Salon at 4:30 p.m. Friday before the 5 p.m. starting time.



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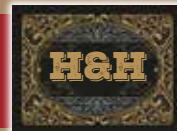


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HILLBILLY RACES



OUTHOUSE RACE

5:30 p.m. Friday • northwest side of the square • Sign up in front of City Hall

For those who really need to *go*, the Hootin an Hollarin outhouse race fills a thrilling need.

This one-of-a-kind competition, is sponsored by Top Dog Fitness Center and **open to those age 10 and older**, combines athleticism and laugh-invoking urgency. It can be especially thrilling, given that spectators closely line the race course and the racing vehicle, the ultimate in “portable” potties, has no brakes and no steering. But don’t let that stop you! Organizers are adapting this year’s outhouses to be safer than in past runs.

The runs start in front of City Hall. Teams streak to the stop sign on the opposite side of the square, pushing on past it before making a quick change of riders. Then they bring ’er home, skidding over the finish line back at City Hall for the victory - or not.

The 2026 race will be held around 5:30 p.m. immediately after the bed races, and teams are encouraged to participate in both events. There’s no entry fee. Cash prizes will be given to first, second and third place teams in the timed event.

Call chairperson Paula Rose for

more information (417-989-1282).

Sign up forms are available at the *Ozark County Times* office. Last-minute entries are welcome.

Teams can be school, community or business groups, families, friends or strangers. You just need four pushers and a rider agile enough to hop off the pot halfway through the race and swap places with a pusher.

Sturdy running shoes are recommended, as are creative team names – but race coordinator Paula Rose reminds teams their name must be something that can be announced to the crowd.

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BAKERSFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

(from left) Firefighter Kelly Fowler; Firefighter Zach Fowler; Firefighter Zaylor Watts; Fire Chief Greg Watts; Junior Firefighter Kacy Watts; Ozark County Sheriff Cass Martin; Andrea Martin; and Firefighter Luke Croney. Not pictured: Firefighter Sarah Fowler, Junior Firefighter Tera Watts and Asst. Chief Punk Stone.



TECUMSEH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

(from left, back row) Junior Firefighter Kyle Winrod; Fire Chief Nathaniel Winrod; Firefighter Anthony Duke; Asst. Chief JB Duke; Firefighter Jonathan Winrod. (front row) Junior Firefighter Kenneth Winrod; and Junior Firefighter Gavin Duke.



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OZARK COUNTY FFA BULL BLAST

7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18 • Saddle Club Grounds • FFA sponsored

FFA chapters at Bakersfield, Dora and Gainesville Schools will sponsor the sixth annual Ozark County FFA Bull Blast, a bullriding competition at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, at the Gainesville Saddle Club arena. The entrance to the arena is located on Main Street less than a half mile off the northwest side of the square.

The show is being held during Hootin an Hollarin but is not affiliated with the event.

FFA members are selling

sponsorships and advertisements on the show bill as part of their fundraising work related to the event. Proceeds are used to allow FFA members to travel to leadership activities and conferences.

Gate admission will be \$5 for students and \$10 for adults. Kids age 5 and under are free. The event is open to everyone.

The bulls will be provided by Roughstock Unlimited out of Harrison, Arkansas. For more information, call your local Ozark County FFA Chapter.





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Ozark County's annual events

Aug. 1, 2026:

Ozark Countywide
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Sept. 5, 2026:

Pontiac Fireworks -
Pontiac Cove

Sept. 17-19, 2026:

Hootin an Hollarin -
Gainesville Square

Oct. 31, 2026:

Trunk or Treat -
Gainesville Square

Dec. 4, 2026:

Wonders of Christmas -
Gainesville Square

Dec. 5, 2026:

Theodosia Area Chamber
of Commerce Christmas
Parade

Feb. 27, 2027:

Mardi Gras

Dates may change. Check websites for updated event information.

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STRETCH YOUR LEGS



HOOTIN AN HOLLARIN 5K RUN/WALK

8:30 a.m. Saturday • Sign up in front of City Hall

Runners and walkers are invited to participate in Ozark County's oldest 5K race, the Hootin an Hollarin 5K, set for 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19.

You won't want to miss this! "This is the granddaddy of them all," said 5K sponsor Doug Hawkins. Race coordinator David Murphy added that it is the "flattest and fastest 5k course in Ozark County!"

The race is a pet-friendly event, Hawkins said, and walkers are also welcome and are encouraged to par-

ticipate.

Sign up is at 7:30 a.m. race day next to Gainesville City Hall, or participants can pre-register by mail with registration forms that can be picked up at 5K sponsor Shelter Insurance or at the *Ozark County Times* office before the Hootin an Hollarin festival.

Mail the completed form to Doug Hawkins, Shelter Insurance, P.O. Box 115, Gainesville, MO 65655.

Registration is \$25 per participant. Make checks payable to

Gainesville High School.

All participants receive a commemorative T-shirt.

Unique custom trophies made by Todd Friese of Bargain Bin in Gainesville will be awarded to the race winners.

Proceeds from this year's event will benefit the Gainesville High School running programs with funds split between the track and field and the cross country teams.

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SHOOTING COMPETITION



SHOTGUN & BOW SHOOT

9 a.m. Saturday • In grassy area across Highway 160 from square

Hootin an Hollarin sportsmen and sportswomen can show off their shooting skills at the annual Hootin an Hollarin shotgun and archery shoot, which begins at 9 a.m. Saturday.

The event, sometimes referred to as the “turkey shoot,” is always well attended by spectators as well as participants. It’s held across Highway 160 from the Gainesville square in the grassy area near the Barney Douglas Bridge.

Missouri Department of Conservation agent Tom Leeker will oversee the shoot with help from MDC’s Mark Henry again this year.

The event features shooting competitions in 12- or 20-gauge shotgun and bow categories.



In the shotgun competition, shooters test their skill by taking aim at paper targets.

For the archery portion, competitors shoot 3D targets (generally three different animals and one block target).

Multiple matches in each category will be held to involve all participants who want to compete.

Competitors can choose to compete in one or both categories.

It costs \$3 each to enter each round of competition (per shot for shotgun and per four targets on archery), and there is a 100 percent payout in Town and Country gift certificates for the winners.

Those wishing to participate should register just before 9 a.m. at the competition site.

Participants in the archery category should bring their own bow and at least four arrows.

Participants in the shotgun competition should bring their own firearm; shotgun ammunition will be provided.

The event generally takes around an hour to complete.

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PETS OF ALL KINDS



ANNUAL PET SHOW

9:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19 • Sign up 8:45 to 9:15 a.m. • Main stage

All different types of pets are welcome in the fun, lighthearted Hootin an Hollarin pet show directed by Ozark County veterinarian Konnie Plumlee and emceed by Dr. Katlin Hornig of the Gainesville Veterinary Hospital.

Contestants and their owners are asked to sign up in front of the main stage on the east side of the square between 8:45 and 9:15 a.m. Saturday before the pet show, which starts at 9:30. No contestants will be allowed to sign up after 9:15 a.m. due to the tight festival

schedule Saturday morning that includes the 11 a.m. costume contest following the pet show.

Some pets come in costume, some show off fancy tricks and others wow the judges simply by being adorable.

Bring your companion of any species, show the crowd and the judges what it can do, and share in all the fun and animal love.

Pet show judges are quite imaginative in creating categories and awards so most contestants win a ribbon or a title of some kind.

Past categories have included hardest working, best behaved, best wagger, most unusual, best costume, best personality, most talented, friendliest and best in show. Who knows what title your pet might win?

All animals must be restrained. Konnie also emphasizes that temperatures inside vehicles quickly reach dangerous levels, and pets should not be left inside them before or after the show.

A container of drinking water is provided for pets at the show.

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CORNHOLE GAMES



CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

10 a.m. Saturday • in parking lot across from City Hall just off the square

The fifth annual Hootin an Hollarin cornhole tournament will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, in the parking lot of Donald Amyx's building, off the northwest corner of the square, across from City Hall.

Teams consisting of two people are encouraged to pre-register; however, preregistering is not mandatory, and competitors can sign up just prior to the event.

There are no differing age categories, so teammates can be of any age. There is no entry fee.

Tournament organizers say there

will be several cornhole boards and bags available for use, allowing multiple games to be conducted at the same time. Gift bags with prizes will be awarded to first and second places.

To pre-register contact Renee Hambelton at 417-989-0116 or Gabe Blackburn at 417-838-3369.

Cornhole is a lawn game in which teams of two take turns tossing fabric bean bags at raised, angled boards with a hole in the far end. The goal of the game is to score points by either landing the

bean bag on the board or through the hole.

Although cornhole has become increasingly popular across the country in recent times, it's said that it originated from an 1880s game called Parlor Quoits, which was similar to the modern game with the exception that the boards had a square hole instead of a round one.

It's 19th century start and current popularity make it the perfect fit for the Hootin an Hollarin festival.



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DRESSING THE PART




COSTUME CONTEST

11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19 • Sign up at 10:30 a.m. • Main stage

One of Hootin an Hollarin attendees' favorite events is the annual costume contest, when folks young and old – and sometimes whole families – dress up in old-fashioned, hillbilly and pioneer attire to wow the spectators and judges.

The contest is held on Saturday morning to allow students who are normally in class on weekdays to participate.

The time and shady location behind the stage usually provides mild temperatures for participants who are many times wearing heavy and hot costumes.

Participants can sign up behind the main stage beginning at 10:30 a.m. At 11 a.m., the costumed participants will be led in front of the stage and each

have an opportunity to step up before the judges and give 'em his or her best smile.

Children and adults of all ages are welcome to join in the fun and enter the competition, which is broken down into these categories:

- Judges' Choice
- Large group (4 or more)
- Small group (3 or fewer)
- Girls age 0-3
- Boys age 0-3
- Girls age 4-7
- Boys age 4-7
- Girls age 8-12
- Boys age 8-12
- Girls age 13 and older
- Boys age 13 and older
- New dress
- Old dress



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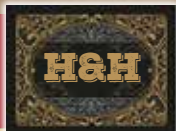
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TASTIEST EVENT OF ALL



ANNUAL PIE CONTEST

11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19 • Shelter Insurance building, Third Street

The 2026 Hootin an Hollarin pie-baking contest will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Shelter Insurance office on the southwest corner of the square.

Area bakers are encouraged to show off their pie-baking skills by bringing any type of homemade pie—pot pies, mincemeat pies, savory pies, fruit pies, cream pies, fried pies or anything else you can dream up.

Pies will be accepted beginning at 10:30 a.m. There are no age limits, residency requirements or other qualifications for entrants.

A panel of judges will sample all of the pies and choose a grand champion as well as first, second and third places. Pies will be judged on appearance, taste and crust.

After the winners are announced on the Main stage, the office will be opened (likely around 12:30 p.m. or so) for guests to come and sample the winning pies.

The grand prize pie contest winner will receive a unique trophy handmade by Todd Friese of Bargain Bin in Gainesville.





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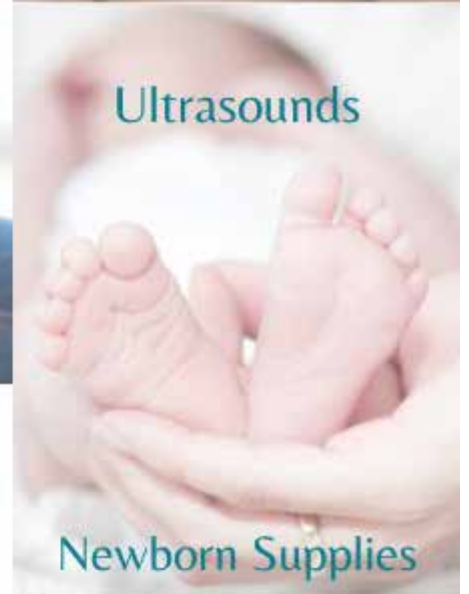
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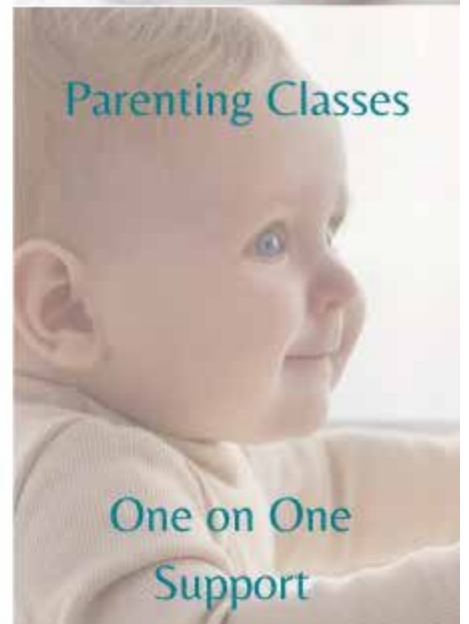


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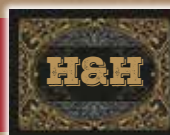
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HOOTIN AN HOLLARIN AUTO ROUNDUP CAR SHOW

9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19

Check in at 8:30 a.m. • Join parade at 2 p.m. • 102 First Street, Gainesville (in lot west of 160 Pit Stop)

The third annual Hootin an Hollarin Auto Roundup Car Show, sponsored by The Antler Restaurant and Motel, will run from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19 with car check-in at 8:30 a.m. The show will be held in the parking lot on Main Street that sits between 160 Pit Stop and the Phillips 66/White Oak Station convenience store (formerly J-Mart).

The location also allows car show participants to easily pull out and participate in the Hootin an Hollarin parade, which begins at 2 p.m.

The event is open to all ages. The cost to enter is \$20 per vehicle, which can be paid at the time of the

show.

The show has five categories:

- Current rides: 1995-2024
- Stylin' classics: 1994-1975
- Anne-Teaks: 1974-1962
- Cedar Pete Specials: 1961 and earlier
- Custom: any age customized automobile

Prizes will be awarded at 1 p.m. The top two people's choice winners in each category will receive a plaque.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Gainesville High School auto mechanics class.

To find out more, call Heather Gardner at 417-250-1318.



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SATURDAY PARADE

2 p.m. Saturday • Floats judged at 12:30 in lot off First Street (see below)

Hundreds of spectators will line the Gainesville square on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 19, in anticipation of the big parade, which steps off at 2 p.m. that afternoon.

The parade is being organized around this year's festival theme, "Celebrating 250 Years of the USA." With that in mind, the festival committee wishes to honor area veterans. They are invited to ride on multiple floats, provided by the Hootin an Hollarin committee, in this year's parade. Any and all veterans who are willing to participate are encouraged to attend. Organizers just ask that they sign up ahead of time so that enough seating can be secured. If a veteran has a mobility issue, please let the organizers know, so accommodations can be made.

This year's parade promises to be another crowd pleaser, with several marching bands, imaginative floats, antique cars, vehicles, horses and all sorts of other entries. Parade co-chairs Kerrie Zubrod and Heather Bushner say more floats and other entries are welcome!

Keeping in mind this year's patriotic festival theme, area organizations, families and individuals are encouraged to round up friends and neighbors, tap into their inner creativity and build a float on a pickup bed or a flat-top trailer (or whatever) to join the parade.

There's a good chance that float will win a prize. The float prizes are \$150 for grand prize, \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place or \$25 fourth place.

Floats must be available for judging at 12:30 p.m. Saturday in the grassy area near O'Reilly Auto



Parts on First Street. Judged floats will then wait there for their turn to enter the parade lineup.

The Hootin an Hollarin Ol' Auto Roundup car show participants will enter the parade directly from the car show location, in the grassy area just west of 160 Pit Stop on First Street.

Other antique cars, horses, fire engines and a roaring-good assortment of other vehicles and contraptions will also add to the parade excitement. Those vehicles and all other entries should check in behind Dollar General and line up on Highway MM just west of the entrance to the MoDOT shed. Line-up begins there at 1 p.m. with step-off an hour later.

Horse riders can wait in the grassy area near O'Reilly Auto Parts (with the parade floats) for their turn to enter the parade lineup.

The 2026 Hootin an Hollarin queen and her court, Lil Cedar Pete and Lil Miss Addie Lee and the princess pageant winners will be

among those smiling and waving from floats and vehicles. Winners of Saturday morning's costume parade are also invited to stroll around the square to show off their prize-winning attire. (Costume winners gather at Clinkingbeard Funeral Home to walk in the parade from that point.)

The parade route proceeds east on First Street from Highways 5 and MM, turning onto Main Street in front of Town & Country Supermarket and entering the southwest corner of the square, going completely around it and exiting the square onto Third Street at Shelter Insurance and dispersing from there.

David Murphy will serve as this year's Hootin an Hollarin parade marshal. He will be joined by 2026 Citizens of the Year, Andy and Jane Elder, and a host of other folks waving from vehicles.

To sign up to participate, call Kerrie Zubrod at 417-372-1372 or Heather Bushner at 417-679-3321.

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HONORING A VOLUNTEER

PARADE MARSHAL

David Murphy is this year's Hootin an Hollarin parade marshal

Hootin an Hollarin has always been about more than music, homemade pies, clever costumes and a big parade around the square. At its heart, it's a celebration of the folks who make Ozark County the special place it is.

And this year, one of those folks will be riding front and center in the Hootin an Hollarin parade as one of the most honored guests.

Festival chairman Paula Rose recently announced that David Murphy has been chosen as the 2026 Hootin an Hollarin parade marshal, honoring a man who has spent nearly 30 years pitching in, helping out and being an active part of this Ozark County community.

And while David says he's still trying to figure out how he was chosen for the honor, Paula says that's easy to explain: "He has given so much to his church youth, his coworkers, our school, community and Hootin an Hollarin for so many years. He is very deserving."

David moved to Ozark County in 1997 when he married his wife, Gayla, and has called the area home ever since. The couple has three children: Aidan, 23, Ryder, 19, and Harper, 11.

"He's just one of those people who is always willing to help," Paula said. That willingness has shown up in all kinds of places over the years.

David has been involved with several Hootin an



2026 Parade Marshal David Murphy and daughter Harper

Hollarin activities, including the Shelter Insurance Kid's Corner, the Hootin an Hollarin 5K and serving as a judge for the festival's pie contest (undoubtedly the hardest job of them all—but David says someone has to do it).

He has also spent years coaching local youth sports and the Gainesville High School cross country and track teams, giving local kids steady encouragement, a few pointers about the sport (and life) and giving them plenty of reasons to keep moving.

And moving is something David knows a thing or two about. For a period, he competed in ultramarathons, endurance races ranging from 50K to 100 miles, held at locations all across the country. He used many of those events as opportunities to raise money and awareness for charitable causes, including the Ozark County Relay for Life.

His service to our coun-

try started long before his running days. Before moving to Ozark County, David served four years in the United States Marine Corps as a military police officer. That service is another reason he was chosen as parade marshal this year, as the festival celebrates and honors the veterans in this community and elsewhere on the 250th year of the United States.

After serving in the Marine Corps, David later attended Drury University, graduating summa cum laude in 2005 with bachelor's degrees in criminal justice and psychology.

Today, he works as operations manager for Southern Construction, Inc., where he helps oversee crews and day-to-day operations in the utility right-of-way vegetation management industry.

Away from work, David is active in Freedom Church in Gainesville, serving in both church leadership and youth ministry.

He has volunteered in a

variety of other community efforts over the years, too. So many that it's hard for him to list them off: "I've never really kept a tally, just tried to fill in and do my part," David told the *Times*.

That may be the most Hootin an Hollarin-way possible to describe a community volunteer. No tally. No fuss. Just pitch in where you're needed and get things done.

One of his favorite volunteer jobs is helping to bring a little Christmas magic to the Gainesville square each year, as he is *the* official who arranges a special visit from Santa Claus and his elves during the Wonders of Christmas celebration each year (*wink, wink*).

And next week, he'll have another special assignment in that same location. At 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, David will climb aboard the parade route as the 2026 Hootin an Hollarin Parade Marshal, waving to the crowds and taking his place among the festival's long line of honored community members to serve in the role.

Paula says she's thrilled that Hootin an Hollarin gets to celebrate another volunteer, who goes above and beyond for the community in so many ways.

And after nearly 30 years of pitching in wherever he's needed, David is now getting a turn to sit back, wave at the crowd and let Ozark County say a big, community-wide "Thank you."



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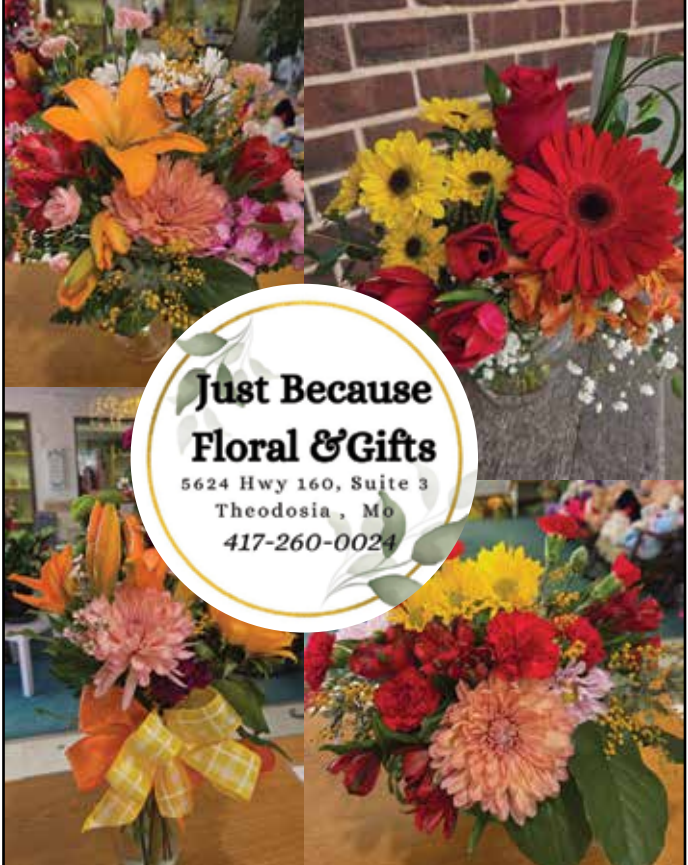


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RURAL ROOTS

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2026 OZARK COUNTY FARM FAMILY

This year's farm family of the year is that of Dalton and Sarah Jo Nash of Pontiac

Editor's note: The Nash family will be recognized on the Main Stage at Hootin an Hollarin just before the 2 p.m. parade Saturday, Sept. 19.

Dalton and Sarah Jo Nash, the 2026 Ozark County Farm Family, are raising their family and carrying on the agricultural tradition of generations before them on their 300-acre cattle ranch near Pontiac. The couple live on the farm with their children, 9-year-old Hayden, 7-year-old Holten and 6-year-old Hesten.

The Nash family's connection to the property stretches back 38 years, when Dalton's grandfather, Joe Nash, purchased the farm in 1990. Today, Dalton handles the day-to-day operation of the ranch, spending his time caring for the cattle and managing the many jobs that come with running a farm, including buying and selling cattle.

Sarah Jo works as a nurse at Baxter Health in Mountain Home, Arkansas, while also operating her own aesthetics business, Radiance by SJ. Despite busy schedules, the couple say they love raising their children on the farm, where the kids are already learning that there's always work to be done (and plenty



of fun to be had) in the country.

For the Nashes, farming is about more than cattle and chores. It is a way of life rooted in family, community and a deep love for the place they call home.

"Ozark County has been our home for our whole lives. We were both raised in Ozark County, and our families include many generations of Ozark Countians before us," Sarah Jo told the *Times*. "We love traveling, especially to the

mountains, but it's always good to come home - and the beauty just doesn't compare."

That love of home, along with their commitment to family and agriculture, makes the Nash family a fitting choice for the 2026 Ozark County Farm Family honor.

Their story is one of generations of hard workers and the simple joy of raising the next generation on the same Ozark County soil their families have called home for decades.

Farm Family Day is a partnership with Missouri Farm Bureau and other key industry organizations. For 66 years Farm Family Day at the Missouri State Fair has been recognizing Missouri's Farm Families, and the role they play in our state's economy and vitality. Nominated families from each county are selected to represent their county for this honor, based on their farming operation, their activity in their community, their participation in or with 4-H and on upholding the qualities that honor farming's roots. The Missouri Farm Bureau, along with the Missouri Department of Agriculture, the Missouri State Fair and State Fair Commissioners, MU Extension and Engagement and the University of Missouri College of Agriculture Food and Natural Resources, partner annually to put on this traditional event. The families honored represent all the varied farming operations that make up our state, everything from row crops and cattle, pork and chicken operations to organic farms, nut and fruit orchard operations, agritourism and even intercity urban gardening operations — the Farm Families represent a slice of rural life in our state. For a number of years MU Extension and Farm Bureau have worked together to handle the details of the event. Members of MU Extension County Councils from all 114 counties, along with their counterparts in all the Farm Bureau Offices in each county, nominate and vote on that year's honor family. The event itself falls on the first Monday of the fair. On that day, approximately 500 family members that comprise those honor families from each county come together to be honored at a BBQ awards dinner and day at the fair.

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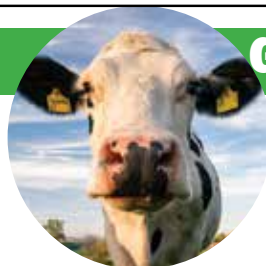


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You may want to try your

hand at the skill too. There have been years when inexperienced city-slickers have taken home trophies after letting loose their inner-hillbilly voices on the Hootin an Hollarin stage.

The four calling categories include cow, pig, turkey and husband, and the winner of each is awarded a trophy.

Those who wish to participate should sign up behind the main stage just prior to the show.

Then, when your turn comes, step up to the microphone and let loose your best hill country call.

Judging is left to the audience after all the callers have given it their best shot. As the emcee holds a hand above each contestant's head, the audience is encouraged to clap, hoot and hollar for their favorite caller. The contestant who gets the loudest reaction wins the contest.



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GENERATIONAL LEGACY

OZARK COUNTY CENTURY FARM

Judy Kruse honored for continuing Shanks family farm ownership for 100 years

When Judy Kruse accepts the honor of having her property recognized as Ozark County's 2026 Century Farm at Hootin an Hollarin Saturday, Sept. 19, she won't just be celebrating 100 years of land ownership. She'll be celebrating a century of family history rooted in the hills, springs and creek beds of Ozark County.

The farm, located north and south of AA Highway (including Cap Knob and the Brushy Knob Cemetery), came into the Shanks family in 1926, when Judy's great-grandparents, Colonel E. Shanks and Clara Luna Shanks, purchased the property from a Weidensall for \$500. The abstract reaches back to 1886, but 2026 marks 100 years since the Shanks family made the farm their own.

Colonel Shanks was a farmer, cattleman and blacksmith, while Clara was a descendant of Elisha and Eliza Luna of Zandoni. Colonel and Clara also worked at the Luna Store and were among the founders of Brushy Knob Church. Clara played the organ at the church, an instrument that has remained in the family and is still owned by Judy today. The couple also donated land for the Brushy Knob Cemetery, where they are now buried.

Colonel and Clara had one child, Ausburn "Aus" Shanks, who married Opal May Carter, affectionately known as "Pood." Family stories say Aus and Pood spent their first days together living in what is now known as the chicken house, a structure that is still standing on the farm today. In 1937, Colonel and Clara transferred approximately 300 acres north of AA Highway to their son. The abstract lists the purchase price as simply "\$1, Love & Affection."

Aus and Pood raised their children on the farm, including EllaRee Shanks McGee and Judy's father, Eddie Shanks. A third child, Freddie, lived only three days. EllaRee and Eddie grew up helping with the family dairy



Photo at left: Colonel and Clara Shanks are pictured here with their son Ausburn "Aus" Shanks, and his wife, May (known affectionately as "Pood"), along with their son Eddie and daughter EllaRee (far right). Photo at right: The farm is now owned by Colonel and Clara's great-granddaughter, Judy Kruse, and her husband Galen.



operation, raising cattle and tending a large garden, the kind of farm work that was simply part of everyday life for generations of Ozark County families at that time.

After Aus and Pood died, the farm was left to EllaRee. Eddie had passed away previously, so his share went to his twin daughters, Judy and Joy Shanks. EllaRee, who was living in Idaho, and Joy, who was living in Colorado, eventually sold their shares to Judy in 1988, making her the sole owner of the property.

Judy and her husband, Galen Kruse, have continued caring for the farm and making improvements over the years. Galen, a pool contractor and a farm boy himself, has helped maintain the property while the couple have continued raising cattle and enjoying the natural beauty of the land.

Judy says the farm is more than 100 acres of Ozark County countryside. It

is a place filled with family stories, old buildings, springs and a creek that she has been told has never gone dry. It is also a tangible connection to the generations who came before her, from Colonel and Clara Shanks and the Luna family to Aus and Pood, and now to Judy and her family.

How special that a century after Colonel Shanks paid \$500 for the property, the land remains in the Shanks family, a living piece of Ozark County history that has seen generations grow up, work the soil, raise cattle, worship and build memories.

The Shanks farm will be recognized as Ozark County's 2026 Century Farm during this year's Hootin an Hollarin festival, on the Main stage just before the 2 p.m. parade, honoring not only the longevity of the property's ownership but the family, faith, hard work and history woven into the land over the past 100 years.



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COMMUNITY MINDED



CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

This year's Barney Douglas Citizens of the Year are Jane and Andy Elder

Jane and Andy Elder have spent nearly five decades putting down roots in Ozark County, becoming familiar smiling faces to many in the community through their work, volunteer service and love of old-time Ozark traditions.

This year, the Gainesville Lions Club has chosen the couple for its 2026 Barney Douglas Citizens of the Year designation. They will be honored during the tallying of the votes at the Hootin an Hollarin Queen Pageant, set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, on the Gainesville square.

The award is a fitting recognition for two beloved citizens who have quietly invested much of their lives in this community which they've called home since 1977.

Jane taught special education in Gainesville schools for 30 years before retiring in 2003. Andy worked as a carpenter and took on a variety of building and remodeling projects around the area. He also served two terms as Ozark County assessor before retiring from that position in 2007.

The Elders came to Gainesville in May 1977 after living in Oregon County, Missouri. They settled into the old Jim Hale house on Harlin Drive and Fair Street and, over the years, remodeled several homes around town before eventually building a rustic home in the country northeast of Gainesville, in the area known as Luna.

"We enjoy living in the country with beautiful surroundings and



Jane and Andy Elder

good neighbors," they said.

They have one daughter, Nina, who lives in Rhode Island with her husband Matt and son Gus.

Their involvement in the community has continued long after their working years.

Jane volunteers at the Ozark County Historium, helping preserve and share the county's history. Both Jane and Andy have also become well-known ambassadors for another piece of Ozark heritage—and one that's pretty special to Hootin an Hollarin: old-time square dancing.

The Elders began square dancing in 1985 after joining a club that met at the Senior Citizens Center. Local callers Verda Fay Hambelton and Cecil Lambe helped teach Andy the basics, with Hambelton among the area's few female callers at the time.

What began as a hobby grew into a decades-long tradition. For years, the Elders traveled nearly every

week to dances in places such as Kissee Mills, Ava, West Plains and Mountain Grove. They also became teachers themselves, helping generations of local dancers, including many young people, learn the steps.

Their enthusiasm for square dancing has made them a familiar sight on the Gainesville square during Hootin an Hollarin, where they have danced and called for countless festival-goers over the years.

Andy has described his own dancing with characteristic humor as "rhythmic thrashing," but the Elders' contribution to the local dance tradition is anything but casual. They have helped keep the old-time music and dance traditions alive by inviting others into the sets and patiently teaching them along the way.

The couple was honored as Hootin an Hollarin parade marshals in 2015, but their connection to the festival and the Gainesville square has continued well beyond that recognition.

Today, Jane and Andy remain active in passing along the square-dancing traditions they learned from earlier generations of local callers.

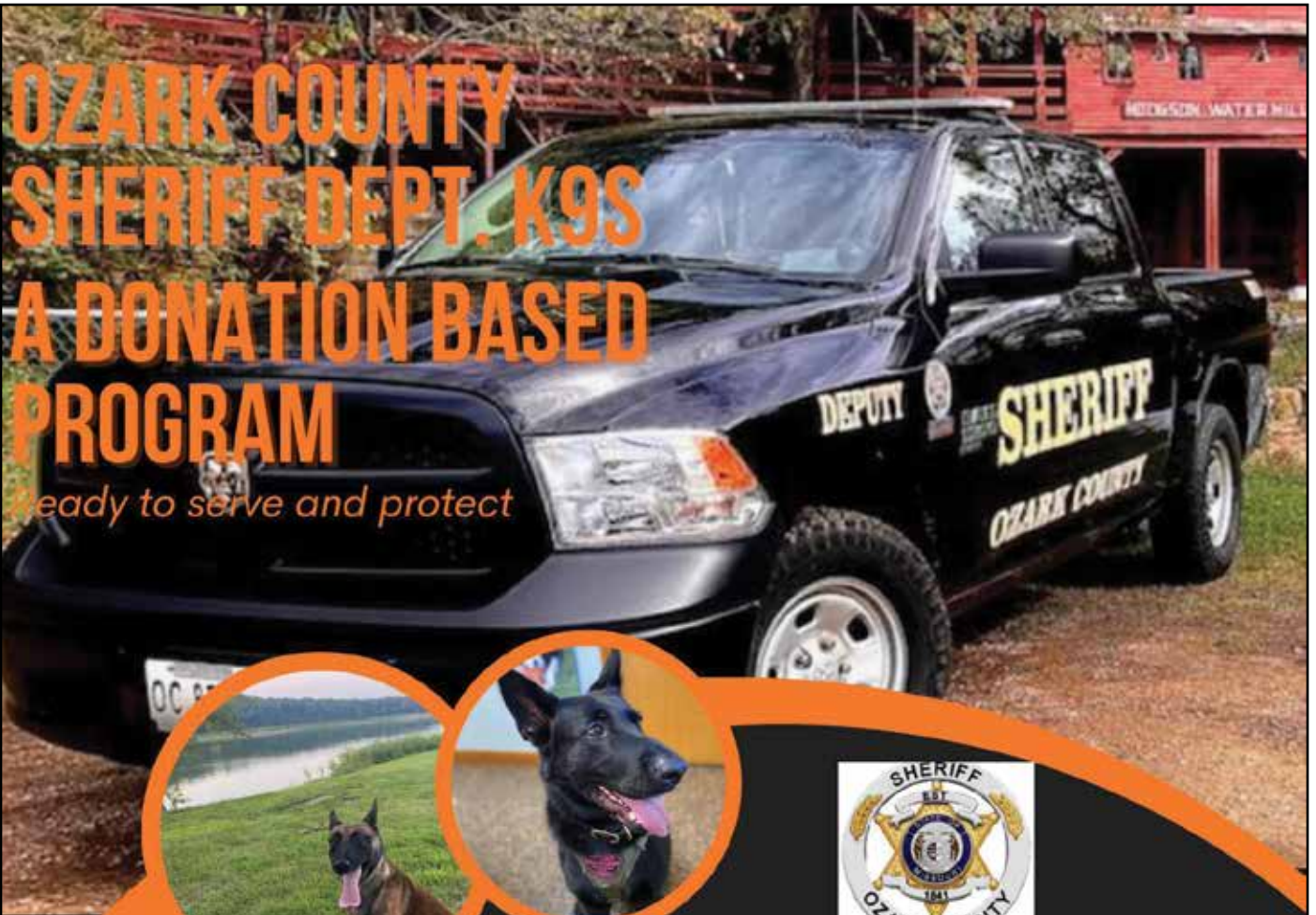
By the time their names are called as the 2026 Citizens of the Year, Jane and Andy will have spent nearly 50 years doing exactly what good citizens do: showing up, lending a hand and helping keep the best parts of Ozark County alive for generations to come. And for that, we all thank you.

The Gainesville Lions Club's Citizen of the Year Award is named for the late Barney Douglas in honor of his many years of service to the community in an endless variety of volunteer activities including helping with Hootin an Hollarin setup and cleanup. The Gainesville Lions Club chooses the citizen of the year from nominations made by the community.



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65 YEARS...



The Hootin an Hollarin terrapin race has been a beloved event for children for decades. This 1970s photo shows the eager children racing their terrapins on a table. Now, the race is held on the ground in front of Shelter Insurance–Douglas Hawkins Agency.

OUR HISTORIC FESTIVAL

A week after Gainesville's first Hootin an Hollarin in 1961, the *Ozark County Times* reported, "Ozark County festival draws largest crowds in years; may become annual event."

That was Nov. 2, 1961, and Hootin an Hollarin has been drawing large crowds to the Gainesville square every fall since then (with the exception of 2020, when the festival was canceled due to the covid-19 pandemic).

The festival came about when local Extension agent Fred Oehring

and the county agent for community affairs, Doyle Sanders, organized a meeting to bring together three distinctive factions of Ozark Countians – country folks, townspeople and resort owners – around a common "community interest."

Two hundred people attended that first meeting, and among the ideas shared was the late Addie Lee Lister's idea of holding a special day with booths to demonstrate early homemaking skills and other crafts. Addie Lee credited the late Ed Petterson, an artistic wood-

worker, with creating the name Hootin an Hollarin and developing the festival's original Cedar Pete logo.

The first festival was held the last weekend in October with Springfield radio entertainer Loyd Evans serving as master of ceremonies and Rex Ebrite and J. J. Pace serving as announcers.

The schedule was filled with demonstrations by local residents making lye soap, hominy, sorghum, shingle shakes and other old-time items.

...AND COUNTING



A horse-drawn hay wagon took folks on a moonlight ride to the ball-park and back, and Brixey blacksmith Henry Hubbard brought in a forge and shod six horses.

The Pontiac Area Association (later incorporated into the Theodosia Chamber of Commerce) served charcoal-grilled hamburgers and other delicious choices, and on Saturday a "basket dinner" was served on the courthouse lawn, open to everyone. The *Times* reported that the food for the dinner was contributed by the Lions Club and local residents. Servers listed were Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Pace, Lyndell Strong, Dorcas Rackley, Betty Rackley, Mrs. G. R. Crisp, Mrs. G. W. Rogers, Mrs. Loren Taylor, Helen Marie Luna, Frances Johnson and Lou Anna Wade.

To serve as a landmark for the event, a cabin that served as someone's former smokehouse, was moved to the southwest corner of the square by "Roy Smith, who hauled it in almost intact," the *Times* reported. "He was aided by Mel Hambelton, M. L. Kirkpatrick, O'Dean Evans, John Dodson and others. Elbert Owen of Dora supplied a corn-shuck mop and Mrs. G. R. Crisp a gourd dipper for atmosphere. Gordon Archie of Theodosia and Nick Salst of Ocie brought in rails for a stake-and-rider fence."

A moonshine still – or parts of one – stood next to the cabin. Several years ago, Addie Lee Lister recounted how it came to be there:

"What I really wanted was a still. I knew it couldn't actually be a working still, but I thought we could have parts of one to make a display. I asked around town if anyone knew anyone who had a still, and of course everyone insisted they'd never heard of anybody having one. But then one morning I stepped out on the front



Noah Kingsolver and his cousin Shedd Green came rolling into the 2005 Hootin an Hollarin costume contest in their "Old Stump Jumper," fashioned from a bathtub and spare boat parts.

porch of our house in Gainesville, and here was all this stuff - metal parts and things. It was a still," she said.

Addie Lee hauled the parts to the square and deposited them by the cabin. As she tried to set it up, she was watched by "the loafers," as she called the old men who sat on the courthouse lawn benches, whittling and talking.

"They were hollering that I was doing it wrong," she said. "But when I said, 'Well, come over here and show me how it goes,' they claimed they didn't know how it went together – they just knew I was doing it wrong."

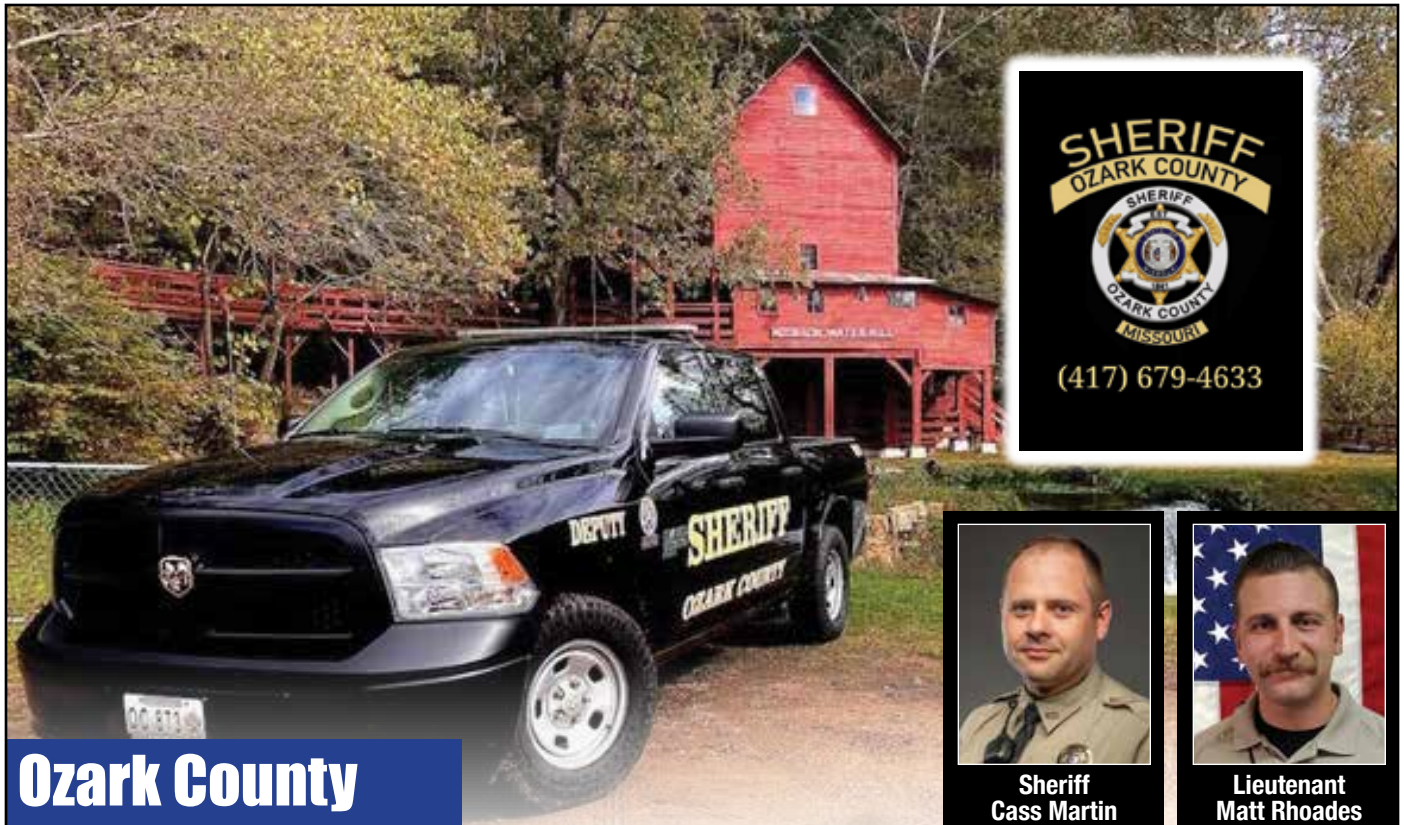
The first festival featured coon-dog trials, greased-pig scrambles, a best-decorated hat contest, cake walks and contests judging turkey and cow calling, fox horn blowing, archery, horseshoes, fiddling, square

dancing and other skills.

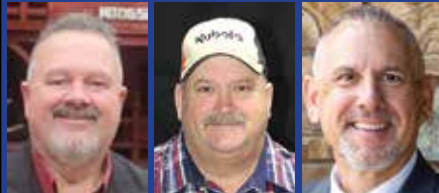
Nighttime entertainment was furnished by local musicians and out-of-towners too, including Randolph Hutchison, Grant Wallace, Everett Wallace, Hoy Shaw, Leonard Croney, Bobby Sullivan, Theodore Shipley, Willard Cobb, Phyllis Wood, Loyd Evans, Rusty and Vera Cline, Curt Williams, Terry and Jerry Gott and Ezra Hawkins.

Now, 65 years later, today's Hootin an Hollarin still draws large crowds to the Gainesville square.

And while each year's theme and lineup change, the focus remains the same. The emphasis is still on Ozark County people and their traditions, and on having fun and commemorating the past while enjoying great bluegrass and country music and reconnecting with friends and family.



Ozark County Commissioners



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The Ozark County Commissioners hold their weekly meeting at 9 a.m. Mondays in the commission's office in the upper level of the Ozark County courthouse in Gainesville. The meetings are open to the public. To contact the commissioners, leave a message on their office phone at 417-679-4096 or contact individual commissioners:

PRESIDING COMMISSIONER TERRY NEWTON

ozarkcountycommission@outlook.com

WESTERN DISTRICT COMMISSIONER LAYNE NANCE

ozarkcountycommission@gmail.com

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Chris Bryant**

Crisis Intervention Team

The program focuses on equipping law enforcement officers with de-escalation techniques, trauma-informed response strategies and stronger coordination with behavioral health providers. It also emphasizes building partnerships with local mental health agencies, regional providers and groups such as substance abuse task forces to improve access to care and ensure follow-up support after a crisis. The team coordinator's role is to help connect individuals with the proper resources when they need them most. This is a community resource for everyone. Anyone who is struggling with mental health issues, substance abuse, homelessness or going through difficult times can reach out. The coordinator is not a law enforcement officer, but his position is a complementary one to local officers, extending the reach of services the sheriff's department can now offer.

Our History Runs Deep

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BEHIND THE SCENES



The 2026 Hootin an Hollarin festival committee, pictured above, includes (from left): back row: Barbara Luna, Jerri Sue Crawford, Gabe Blackburn, Melanie Cook, Doug Hawkins, Mike Gardner, Dave Bushner, Becki Strong. Second row: Nancy Walker, Paula Rose, Linda Harlin. Third row: Kerrie Zubrod, Renee Hamblen, Heather Gardner, Konnie Plumlee. Front row: Diana Premer, Karen Brantingham and Tammy Mitchell. Not pictured: Chris Harlin, Lily Branco, Janette McDaniel, Mollie Smart, Gary Maupin and Carol Latham.

2026 H&H COMMITTEE

The faces behind all the hard work involved in making the festival happen

It takes a lot of people working hard all year round to put together a festival with as many components as Hootin an Hollarin. From the entertainment, contests, vendors, parade and more... each detail is thoroughly discussed and planned with intention.

The photo above of the dedicated Hootin an Hollarin commit-

tee was taken at one of its meetings last month. The group meets monthly - and then weekly closer to the festival.

In addition to the committee, the festival is made possible by various financial sponsors and donors. For those who would like to make a financial donation for next year's event: make checks

payable to Hootin an Hollarin and send to Chris Harlin, Century Bank of the Ozarks, P.O. Box 68, Gainesville, MO 65655.

For more information on the festival, visit www.hootinanhollarin.com or contact Paula Rose at 417-989-1282 or paularose1979@gmail.com.

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