

A FREE ADVENTURE MAGAZINE FOR INDEPENDENCE COUNTY & BEYOND

FALL 2026

monster country



in this issue

📍 DEVIL'S KNOB

- 👤 Landon Downing
- 🏠 Bean Fest & Outhouse Races
- + More

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A **FREE ADVENTURE MAGAZINE**
FOR INDEPENDENCE COUNTY & BEYOND

SUMMER 2026 1.3

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editor'snote

It's fall, friends! This is my favorite season. Cooler weather, the leaves, football, the leaves, pumpkin pie, the leaves, turkey, and all the colorful leaves! What's not to like?

We have Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas coming. Those are my three favorite holidays! It's time for big family gatherings, festivals, haunted houses, and Christmas lights. Again, what's not to like?

Another thing I look forward to every fall is Batesville's annual Christmas treasure hunt, put on by Johnson's Cutting Edge Survey and an ever-growing list of sponsors. I think I like solving the clues as much as I like putting boots on the ground in search of the treasure. My family and I have enjoyed the hunt for many years now. We get so close every time. Maybe this will be our year.

If you like treasure hunts as well and haven't heard about our lost medallion, then make sure you check out the center spread. Clues for our treasure's location can be earned by playing our Monster Games. More ways to get clues can be found by following us on Facebook, and there may even be a clue hidden within this issue. If you're feeling generous, you can donate to the prize pool. We give 10% of each issue's ad revenue—that's right, businesses can donate, too. Whoever finds the medallion will receive 75% of the funds, and the rest will go to the Jamestown Crag Foundation. 'Tis the season of giving, right?

One last thing I love about the fall is hiking. There's no better time of year to go on a hike, and hiking, well, it's the best way to see all the leaves. We have some great hiking destinations around here—Jamestown Crag and the Sylamore/Blanchard Springs area are two great ones. Want to learn about another great place? Well, you're just one page away.

-Damian



thething

by Damian DeLoach

DEVIL'S KNOB

Picture this. It's a brisk autumn morning. You hiked in the dark to reach the perfect spot. Now, sitting on a bluff in complete solitude, you watch as the sun peeks out from behind a mountain on your left to

through a hardwood canopy of post oaks and hickories.

Once on the ridge, the forest thins out into open stone glades. The dirt path

hunting under Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) guidelines.

Bear, crow, deer, quail, rabbit, squirrel, and turkey are all fair game here during

...sitting on a bluff in complete solitude, you watch as the sun peeks out from behind a mountain on your left to highlight the fog on your right—rolling into the valley like a river in slow motion.

highlight the fog on your right—rolling into the valley like a river in slow motion. The warm light of dawn sets the turning leaves ablaze. It's panoramic.

Tucked roughly 10 miles southwest of Melbourne in Izard County, Arkansas, lies a landscape defined by sharp contrasts, where rare botany meets ancient geology, offering sweeping Ozark views with a fraction of the foot traffic found at higher-profile state parks. Devil's Knob-Devil's Backbone Natural Area, a preserved sanctuary managed by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC), delivers a rare combination of recreational opportunity, geological wonder, and ecological richness.

The Hiking Experience

While there is only one trail at Devil's Knob-Devil's Backbone Natural Area, the short 1.25-mile round-trip path punches above its weight for naturalists, photographers, and solitude seekers.

In the corner of a small gravel parking lot on one of Mt. Olive Access Road's sharpest curves, about 1.4 miles from Highway 9, is where the trail begins. With a difficulty rating of moderate, it wastes no time, making a brief, direct ascent up

disappears when it meets solid bedrock. Look for blue diamond markers on trees and blue ribbons marking the route.

Following the ridge line out across the "saddle" brings you to dramatic rock overhangs and sheer bluff lines. From here, you can take in unobstructed views of the surrounding Ozark hills and the forested valleys below.

The hiking experience at Devil's Knob can vary dramatically, depending on the time of day and the season. Catch the sunrise on a foggy morning for a truly magical experience. In the spring, expect comfortable temperatures and a smorgasbord of wildflowers. The fall, of course, brings vibrant colors. With winter comes unobstructed long-range views through the bare hardwoods.

A Hunting Ground

While the trail is just a short loop, the Natural Area, itself, spans 822 acres, and is a co-managed Wildlife Management Area (WMA). For this reason, it's important to **wear bright orange during hunting seasons**, especially when exploring the woodlands below the ridge.

The natural area permits seasonal

their respective seasons. Find the WMA on AGFC's website for specific details.

Geological Wonder

At first glance, the natural area's name sounds like local folklore, but it accurately describes its striking topography. The reserve centers around two high points—Devil's Knob to the north and a second knoll to the south—connected by a narrow, uplifted rock ridge known as the Devil's Backbone.

It is the underlying geology that makes this ridge ecologically special. The natural area sits on a rare convergence of three distinct rock layers. Limestone and Dolomite form the exposed bedrocks and vertical bluff lines. These are protected by Sandstone Caprock, which weathers down to feed sandy, nutrient-lean soil pockets.

Because topsoil on the ridge is paper-thin, rainfall drains almost immediately, creating a desert-like micro-environment known as a cedar glade.

Ecological Richness

This unique habitat is the perfect setting for many rare plants and lichens, along with a variety of other wildlife.

Hiking Trail



Among the ridge's exposed rock slabs grow gnarled, weathered trees that look like native bonsai. These are Ashe's junipers (*Juniperus ashei*). While they rarely reach great heights, many of these twisted trunks measure over 30 inches in diameter and are centuries old.

Alongside the junipers, open glades host specialized flora like the silky aster, glade coneflowers, and prickly pear cactus, which burst into bloom each spring.

In 2011, lichenologists Kerry Knudsen and Richard Harris discovered a new species of lichen right here on Devil's Knob. *Trimmatothelopsis sphaerosperma* thrives on the calcium-rich dolomite rocks found in the natural area.

Not everything here is sessile. Keep an eye out for lizards basking in the sun, seasonal songbirds, and raptors riding ridge thermals.

Local History

While the natural area feels secluded today, the land immediately surrounding it was once the epicenter of commerce and politics in north-central Arkansas.

Long before Melbourne existed, Mount Olive was established in the early 1800s along the banks of the White River (originally named Pine Bayou by pioneer Jehoiada Jeffery). From 1836 to 1875, Mount Olive served as the county seat of Izard County. Frontier judges, farmers, and traders gathered at its log-hewn courthouse to settle land disputes and govern a sprawling Ozark territory.

Throughout the mid-19th century, Mount Olive flourished as a primary steamboat



landing. Goods like timber, cotton, and harvested freshwater mussel shells were loaded onto riverboats bound for Jacksonport and Batesville. During the Civil War, the area's strategic location along the river made it a target for Union river raids and skirmishes in early 1864.

When railroad lines bypassed the riverbank late in the 19th century, economic activity shifted inland, and the county seat moved to Melbourne. Today, Mount Olive has quieted into a peaceful riverside community, but its history still echoes beneath the bluffs.

Parting Tips

Footwear: Wear sturdy hiking boots with good traction; exposed limestone slabs can be slick when wet and uneven underfoot.

Tread Lightly: The biological crusts on open rock glades are extremely fragile. **Be mindful and take extra care to avoid damaging rare glade plants and lichen.**

Hike the Base: A hike around the base of the ridge offers a different perspective of the area's unique geology. There is no trail here, but the hike is unobstructed and easy to navigate. The bluff walls, overhangs, and unique rock features are just as impressive as the topside views.

Make a Day of It: Combine a morning hike along the high, windswept ridge of Devil's Backbone with an afternoon down at the Mount Olive river access. Whether you're casting a line into the White River or taking in the solitude from the bluffs above, it remains one of Izard County's finest hidden treasures.



LANDON DOWNING

As Vice President, Commercial Loan Officer, and Director of Community & Customer Engagement at Citizens Bank, Landon Downing spends his professional life helping others invest in a

Ultimately, his love for the outdoors and desire for preservation grew into involvement and projects centered around not just experiences in the Arkansas outdoors, but personal responsibility to take care of it through conservation and stewardship.



future built to last. Outside of his work, (quite literally, outside), Downing is making a different kind of investment: an investment in the future of the Arkansas outdoors.

Downing has been rooted in the outdoors for most of his life.

"I have always been drawn to the outdoors. Caving and hiking are probably two of my favorites, but I love climbing, mountain biking, kayaking, gravel riding and really anything that gives me a reason to be outside," he said.

Downing's adventures in the outdoors have led him through the depths of caves to the heights of sandstone cliffs, and from the Ozarks of Arkansas to the Himalayas of Nepal. The more time he spent in nature, the more he realized that the opportunities for exploration seemed to have no limits, that is, as long as these important areas are properly cared for.

In 2013, the sandstone bluffs in Jamestown, near Southside, were in danger of being lost. Brothers Aaron, Kyle, and Nathan Christopher, close friends of Downing, invested their own resources to purchase and protect the climbing property. For more than a decade, Downing has worked alongside them to conserve and build community around the place now well known as Jamestown Crag.

Together with a growing circle of friends and outdoor enthusiasts, Downing has closely been a part of efforts to maintain trails, develop climbing routes, manage access, host the annual King of the Crag and build rescue capabilities. What began as a climbing area shared by a small group has grown into a destination for visitors near and far.

As Jamestown grew, so did the realization that caring for the property could not depend solely on a handful of people. That led to the creation of the Jamestown Crag Foundation, with Downing serving as its founding president.



The Foundation's work reaches beyond climbing. Its mission is centered on conserving the landscape, maintaining responsible access, promoting outdoor ethics and safety, and creating a community of people who understand that enjoying a place also comes with a responsibility to care for it.

For Downing, access and conservation are not competing ideas. He believes people are more likely to care for places they have had the opportunity to experience, and that giving people that opportunity can help create the next generation of stewards.

That philosophy has carried Downing beyond Jamestown. In 2025, he was appointed to the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, which works to conserve Arkansas's natural heritage and protect significant natural areas across the state.

Downing and his wife, Madelyn, are soon welcoming their second son into the world. With his growing family his responsibility to nature has become even more personal.

"I want to raise my children with a genuine passion for the outdoors," he said. "I believe God gave us creation to steward and take care of, but He also gave it to us to enjoy and to benefit



from physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Experiencing creation should give us a deeper appreciation for it and a stronger desire to protect it."

Perhaps the greatest adventure is not limited to simply exploring the beauty the outdoors has to offer but helping make sure it is still there for future generations to experience. For Downing, that means doing more than enjoying the places he loves. It means showing up, getting his hands dirty, and doing his part to leave them better than he found them. In the end, it may be the kind of investment that leaves the greatest legacy.

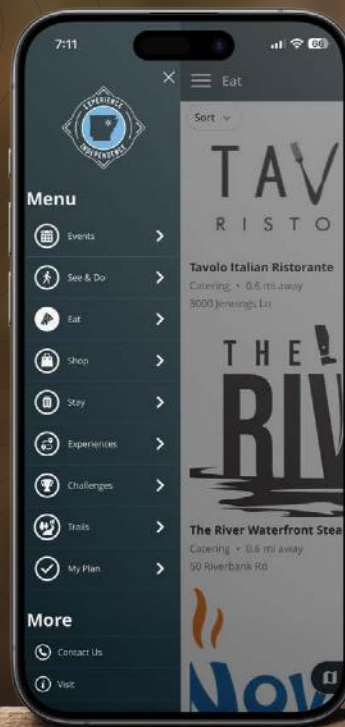
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monstergames

by Damian DeLoach

MONSTER HUNT

Welcome, once again, to our Monster Games! If you're new here, don't worry, this first game is fairly simple. See those little guys below? Those are our adventurous little mascots, and they are based on actual local legends. I know! It's like we live in—I don't know—Monster Country? Okay, so here's how the Monster Hunt works:

As you flip through these pages, keep your eyes peeled. **The monsters below are each hiding somewhere else in this magazine. Find them, tell me which page each is hiding on, along with the issue in which you found them, and I will reward you with a clue to help you find my lost medallion (see page 10).** Message Monster Country on Facebook or text (870) 805-8243.

Grotto

Grotto comes from a highly advanced race of blue human-like beings who reside underground. The gateway to the blue people's subterranean civilization, according to legend, is a place you may know—Blowing Cave in Cushman, Arkansas. You can learn more about the blue people in our Summer 2026 issue.

Finley

You may know Finley's grandfather, the OG White River Monster. He has been lurking in the cold waters of the White River since at least 1915, according to the first documented sighting. Since then, he's become a bit of an icon around these parts. Check out our Spring 2026 issue to learn more about White River Monsters.

Ranger

Ranger is our resident Bigfoot. Believe it or not, there are records of Bigfoot sightings in our area, too. If you haven't heard of Bigfoot, you must be living under a pretty big rock. One of those giant boulders below Jamestown Crag, maybe? You'll find out more about Bigfoot on page 14.





Scott Wood
DODGE Jeep

ADVENTURE ACROSS & DOWN

A D V E N T U R E Q X M
R O F F R O A D T R A I
K Z E X P L O R E U B L
A A C O M P A S S B C Q
N R R I V E R X M I E W
S K M U D Q W E R C E R
A S J E E P C R E E K A
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X D I R T Q W E R T Y G
W R A N G L E R U I O L
P O I U Y T R E W Q A E
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I didn't go more than 60 miles (by car) from
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I only explored on public land and never strayed
more than 500 feet from a designated trail.



I obeyed the rules and took proper safety precautions at each area I visited.

I didn't do any climbing, digging, or swimming.

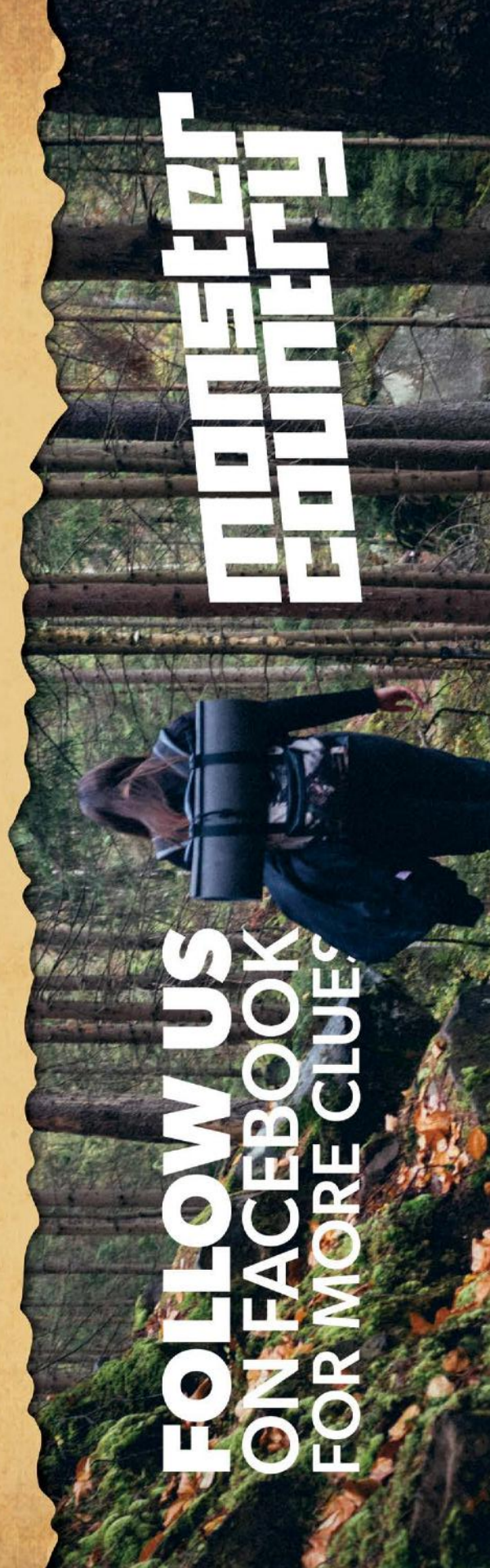
I didn't lift any rocks, logs, or anything of that sort.

I didn't get dangerously close to any steep ledges.

I simply set my medallion down, somewhere safe, and forgot to grab it.

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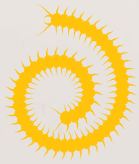
by Damian DeLoach

MONSTER SNACKS

Grotto, Finley, and Ranger need your help! But first, let's go over some rules. If you choose to handle any bugs or other creatures, do so at your own risk, and please release them once you are done—we don't want to see anything dead. Don't pick any wildflowers—we just need a photo. Do not harm any wildlife for the sake of getting a photo. Do not disturb nesting birds. Please follow the rules/regulations of any search areas and respect the environments of the wildlife you are documenting. Any actions on your part that we find to go against these requests may result in disqualification. Now, here's how you can help:

The monsters are hangry and need your help satisfying their rather unusual cravings. **Find one of the monster's favorite morsels below in real life, snap a photo of it, then send the photo and general location to Monster Country via Facebook Messenger or text it to (870) 805-8243. As a reward, you will receive another clue to help you recover the lost medallion.** You only need to find one monster snack; finding two will not yield you two clues.





creaturefeature

by Madison Campbell

BIGFOOT

Bigfoot. The Fouke Monster. The Boggy Creek Monster. The Arkansas Wild Man. Whether myth, legend, or real-life cryptid, the mysterious, ape-like creature has captivated generations of believers in the Ozark Mountains and beyond. While Bigfoot is often associated with the rugged wilderness of Washington or the dense swamps of Florida, Arkansas and Missouri's Ozarks have their own long history of reported sightings and strange encounters. Some of those stories come from right here in the foothills of the Ozarks, including Independence County.

Arguably the most famous Arkansas Bigfoot is the Fouke Monster of Miller County in southern Arkansas. Although stories of a strange creature in the area date back centuries, reports intensified in the 1970s. In May 1971, Bobby and Elizabeth Ford reportedly encountered the creature when it attacked their home. The incident was followed by a surge of sightings and helped propel the Fouke Monster from

spread as far as the East Coast, prompting speculation about what the strange figure might have been. Was it an ape-like cryptid? Or perhaps a feral human, supposedly created as a byproduct of the New Madrid earthquake? Although reports of the Arkansas Wild Man eventually faded, the legend remains part of the region's folklore today.

According to the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization (BFRO), north central Arkansas has also been the site of numerous reported Bigfoot encounters. The following accounts have been adapted from submissions to the BFRO and are classified as Class A or Class B sightings.

In neighboring Jackson County, where the mountains meet the delta, one reported encounter occurred near Highway 87 in Bradford during the summer of 1986. A 12-year-old was staying at his grandmother's home, a large farm near the White County-Jackson County line. Around 9:30 a.m., the

When he looked toward the window, he saw a figure more than 8 feet tall staring back at him.

local folklore into regional and national fame. The stories eventually inspired the film *The Legend of Boggy Creek*. While many continue to believe there may be truth behind the reported encounters, skeptics maintain that the legend grew from an elaborate hoax.

Closer to home, the legend of the Arkansas Wild Man originated just east of Independence County in the Crowley's Ridge region of eastern Arkansas. According to local lore, early Arkansas settlers encountered the creature during hunting and settlement expeditions in the 1840s. News of the reports

child awoke with the distinct feeling of being watched. When he looked toward the window, he saw a figure more than 8 feet tall staring back at him. The figure was covered from head to toe in reddish-brown hair and had a slender, muscular build. The child watched the figure for approximately 30 seconds before getting out of bed to investigate. The child then moved to the back of the house for a better view and watched as the figure ran across the field toward an old barn.

Independence County has its own collection of Bigfoot stories. In the fall of 1999, a duck hunter on the White River



near Oil Trough reported seeing a “large, hairy, apelike creature” across the river. The former Marine said the figure was flipping rocks and walking with an unusual gait that did not resemble a human’s. He compared its movements to those of an emu or ostrich. Despite having hunted the area for more than 25 years, he said he had never encountered anything like it.

About 10 miles away in Salado, another unusual report emerged during the winter of 2005. A resident was gathering firewood behind his home when a distinctive “whooping” sound began coming from the woods. Nearby horses suddenly trotted away from the area, while the witness’s dog barked continuously and ran around as though it were tracking something. The resident had lived there for 12 years and said he had never heard anything like it before. The encounter occurred around 9 p.m., and the witness also reported noticing a strange odor, describing it as similar to the smell of an animal enclosure at a zoo.

Another report came from neighboring Stone County during the summer of 2017. A man and his son were fishing in an isolated creek outside Mountain View. Because portions of the creek were shallow, they were able to wade into the water as they fished. After spending about an hour near a low-water bridge, they decided to move upstream to a deeper pool filled with lily pads, hoping to find bass. The father instructed his son to move quietly so they would not disturb the fish. When they reached the deeper pool, the man noticed what he initially assumed was a beaver. As it moved, however, he realized its shape was unusual and that it appeared far taller than any beaver he had ever seen. The figure remained partially concealed among the rocks.

The man began making noises in an attempt to startle it into the open. The creature then swam toward the opposite bank and rose from the water. The man described it as “massive,” noting that the water would normally have reached a human’s chest at that depth. He reported seeing reddish-brown fur and enormous arms that nearly reached the water when hanging at its sides. The figure then climbed a roughly 10-foot vertical bank, using a tree for leverage. According to the account, it pulled the tree completely from the ground before disappearing into the woods. The man and his son quickly returned to their truck and left the area, never returning to that fishing spot.

Whether Bigfoot is a creature of folklore, an unidentified animal, a series of misidentified encounters, or something yet to be explained, the stories remain woven into the history of the Ozarks. Perhaps that is what makes the legend so enduring. With miles of secluded forest, winding rivers, and rugged ridgelines, the Ozarks are a landscape where the unfamiliar can feel surprisingly close. A sound carries through the trees, a branch snaps somewhere beyond the trail, or something moves along the opposite bank before disappearing into the brush. Whether you believe the witnesses, remain skeptical, or simply enjoy the stories, the legend of Bigfoot will likely continue to roam the Arkansas wilderness for generations to come. Somewhere beyond the roads and riverbanks, deep among the trees, the question remains: What might be watching from the woods?



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thehappenings

BEAN FEST & OUTHOUSE RACES 10/23-24

Welcome to our fall event listings! On this page you'll find our feature event, and among the remaining pages you'll find more events we think you may enjoy. All information regarding these events comes from their organizers, and is subject to change—check before you go! Do you have something happening in January, February, or March that you would like to promote? Email the details to damian@monstercountry.com.



Celebrate the arrival of fall with one of Arkansas' most unique festivals! The 44th Annual Arkansas Bean Fest and Championship Outhouse Races return to Mountain View for two days of fun and food. On Friday and Saturday, October 23-24, 2026 the town comes alive with the smell of 1,000 pounds of beans cooking in antique cast iron pots around the court square. Teams of local chefs, some dressed in quirky costumes, compete for the title of "Best Beans" while the public enjoys free servings of beans and cornbread at noon.

The excitement continues in the afternoon with the quirky and much-loved Outhouse Races. Watch teams race their handcrafted, "people-powered potties" through the streets, vying for the coveted Gold, Silver, and Bronze toilet seat trophies and cash prizes. Don't miss the Parade of Outhouses, where teams show off their decorated outhouses and spirited costumes before competing for the title of fastest privy in the Ozarks.

109 N Peabody Avenue, **Mountain View**, AR 72521
mountainviewarkansas.com/beanfest



ARKANSAS STATE PARKS DAYS VARY

Looking for something fun to do? Check out the event calendars for your nearby state parks, like Jacksonport, Ozark Folk Center, Blanchard Springs, and Woolly Hollow.

arkansas.com/state-parks/experiences/park-events

BATESVILLE FARMERS MARKET WED + SAT

If you're looking for fresh produce, local goods, and a fun, family-friendly atmosphere, then join us at the farmers market in the heart of downtown Batesville.

Pocket Park (WED)/Maxfield Park (SAT) | [Batesville](#), AR 72501

exploremsb.com

CAVE CITY FARMERS MARKET TUE + SAT

Come check out Cave City's farmers market, with local vendors and fresh produce from across the region. We're doing an apple and a pumpkin themed market in October!

Leona's Garden | 7765 N St. Louis, [Cave City](#), AR 72521

[Follow The Market at Leona's on Facebook](#)

DISC GOLF BATESVILLE SUNDAYS

Come out and play with us every Sunday. It's free to play, unless you'd like to become a club member and be eligible for prizes. Join our group for more information.

Various Locations, [Batesville](#), AR 72501

[Join Disc Golf Batesville on Facebook](#)

GREASY BEND OFF-ROAD PARK DAYS VARY

This mudder's paradise has multiple fall events lined up, including their Monster Mash, Toy & Blanket Drive, and New Year's Celebration.

300 Meade Road, [Batesville](#), AR 72501

[Follow Greasy Bend Off-Road Park on Facebook](#)

LIBRARY ADVENTURES DAYS VARY

The Independence County Library hosts a variety of FREE recurring events, like adult coloring, crafting, puzzle club, table-top games, tween robotics, yoga, and more.

Ind. Co. Library | 267 East Main Street, [Batesville](#), AR 72501

indcolib.com

MUSIC BINGO NIGHT WEDNESDAYS

Grab your crew and come out for a night of music, drinks, and bingo fun. Join us from 6–8pm for some great music, great energy, and chances to win every round!

Fathead Pizza | 1325 East Main Street, [Batesville](#), AR 72501

[Follow Fathead Pizza Batesville on Facebook](#)

TCG PLAY NIGHTS TUE, WED, THU, + FRI

Join us from 4pm to 8pm for some friendly TCG competition! We're doing Pokémon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Magic on Wednesdays, and One Piece on Fridays.

151 W Main Street Unit B, [Batesville](#), AR 72501

[Follow Oliver's Card House on Facebook](#)

THE RIVER HAUNT FRI, SAT, + HALLOWEEN

Tis the season, for haunted houses! The new River Haunt Hotel is now open (for the month of October) in downtown Batesville. Hours are 6:30pm to 10pm. Don't be scared!

171 W. Main Street, [Batesville](#), AR 72501

[Follow The River Haunt on Facebook](#)

MIC DROP MAYHEM 10/2

Get ready for a night of big laughs, wild antics, and unexpected moments when Mic Drop Mayhem comes to Polk & Paddle in Downtown Batesville! For ages 18 and up.

Polk & Paddle | 146 N 3rd Street, [Batesville](#), AR 72501

[Follow Polk & Paddle on Facebook](#)

JEEPIN' FOR JUDE 10/3

The NEA Jeep Club is back for another fun Jeep day and St. Jude fundraiser! We are inviting all Jeeps to join us inside the gates for this event! Visit our website for more details.

Jackson Farm | 2798 Hwy 117, [Black Rock](#), AR 72415

visitjacksonfarm.com

OZARK TRAIL FESTIVAL 10/3

Come out and join us for a variety of vendors, food trucks, live music, a car show, a motorcycle show, a poker run, a 5K, a dog show, cornhole, a petting zoo, and more!

Spring Park | East Main Street, [Heber Springs](#), AR 72543

[Follow Ozark Trail Festival on Facebook](#)

PLEIN AIR FESTIVAL 10/6-10

Watch art come to life during the Plein Air Festival, a five-day celebration of outdoor painting in Batesville and throughout Independence County.

Downtown & Other Locations | [Batesville](#), AR 72501

gallery264.com

AMBER VIOLET LIVE 10/10

Order your favorite dish, settle in, and enjoy two hours (7-9pm) of live music from Amber Violet, whose distinctive vocals blends influences from a variety of music genres.

Polk & Paddle | 146 N 3rd Street, [Batesville](#), AR 72501

[Follow Polk & Paddle on Facebook](#)

HEROES FOR HOPE 5K 10/10

Join us for a fun, family-friendly morning bringing our community together to make a real difference across Sharp and Independence Counties.

Cave City Park | West South Street, **Cave City**, AR 72521

runsignup.com/Race/AR/CaveCity/HeroesForHope5Kandfunrun

KING OF THE CRAG 10/10

Come compete for some stellar prize packages, or just come hang out! Be part of one of the most unique, grassroots experiences in the state. Don't forget your camping gear!

1650 Jamestown Loop, **Batesville**, AR 72501

[Follow Jamestown Crag on Facebook](#)

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL 10/16-17

Celebrate the harvest season with a two-day immersive workshop focused on the harvest and uses of Ozark culinary herbs, medicinal plants, and native plants.

1032 Park Avenue, **Mountain View**, AR 72560

tickets.ozarkfolkcenter.com

ARTOBERFEST 10/17

Come out from 10am to 3pm to enjoy artist vendors, live music, art demonstrations, and other family fun activities. This one-day event is FREE for the community.

Downtown | Main Street, **Batesville**, AR 72501

batesvilleareaartscouncil.org/artoberfest

COSTUMES & CLEATS SPOOKTACULAR 10/17

Grab your team, throw on your best costumes, and hit the field for a Halloween-themed tournament packed with softball, vendors, food, awards, and more!

Terry Sims Sports Complex | **Batesville**, AR 72501

usasoftballofarkansas.com

FALL CLEANUP 10/17

Join us at 10am for our Fall Cleanup, part of the nationwide cleanup event sponsored by Keep Arkansas Beautiful. Earliest arrivals will receive a free t-shirt.

Jacksonport State Park | 111 Avenue St., **Newport**, AR 72112

arkansas.com/state-parks

KARAOKE FOR A CAUSE 10/17

Join us on for an evening filled with great entertainment, delicious food, drinks, and community—all while supporting Family Violence Prevention.

Los Ramones Barn | 5335 Harrison St., **Batesville**, AR 72501

[Follow Family Violence Prevention, Inc. on Facebook](#)

TWILIGHT MAZE 10/17

Experience the corn maze like never before—after dark! Grab your flashlight and get ready for a nighttime adventure packed with surprises.

Jackson Farm | 2798 Hwy 117, **Black Rock**, AR 72415

visitjacksonfarm.com

SCAVENGER HUNT HIKE 10/18

Join a park interpreter at 10am for a 1.25-mile hike in search of various items, animals, sounds, and colors found in nature. Wear sturdy shoes and bring along some water.

Jacksonport State Park | 111 Avenue St., **Newport**, AR 72112

arkansas.com/state-parks

WHERE THE RIVERS MEET 5K 10/18

This isn't a race. This is a community movement. We are bringing people together to build healthier habits, stronger minds, and a stronger community.

Jacksonport State Park | 111 Avenue St., **Newport**, AR 72112

[Find the event on Facebook](#)

ARKANSAS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL 10/23-25

Every year, Batesville plays host to one of America's most popular Scottish festivals. Come out and enjoy the pipers, drummers, dancers, athletes, Scottish clans, and vendors.

Lyon College | 2300 Highland Road, **Batesville**, AR 72501

arscottishfest.com

GÜDRON-NORTHWOODS MTB FEST 10/23-25

It's almost time for biking vikings to descend on Hot Springs! Don't miss three days of mountain bike events, like the Slow Roll Fun Ride and the Attila the Hun XC race.

Cedar Glades Park | 461 Wildcat Rd, **Hot Springs**, AR 71913

northwoodstrails.org/events/gudrun

870 CARD CON 10/24

Calling all trading card collectors! Join us at the Batesville Community & Aquatic Center from 9am to 5pm for some for a variety of vendors from around Arkansas and beyond.

1420 20th Street, **Batesville**, AR 72501

[Follow Oliver's Card House on Facebook](#)

BIG FALL FESTIVAL 10/24

Come be part of the very first fall festival at Leona's Garden! There will be food, crafts, live music, family activities, local vendors, and much more.

Leona's Garden | 7765 N St. Louis, **Cave City**, AR 72521

[Follow The Market at Leona's on Facebook](#)

FALL NEXT GENERATION CONCERT 10/24

Enjoy an evening concert starring the region's best youth stringbands and veteran folksingers at Ozark Highlands Theater during the annual Bean Festival.

1032 Park Avenue, **Mountain View**, AR 72560

tickets.ozarkfolkcenter.com

ZOMBIE CRAWL 10/24

Come experience our annual ZOMBIE INVASION. Bring your kids (and your brains) downtown for a zombie parade, spooky music, a scavenger hunt, Thriller dance, and more.

Downtown | **Eureka Springs**, AR 72632

[Follow Eureka Springs Zombie Crawl on Facebook](#)

JACKSON FARM HALLOWEEN 10/31

Characters, candy, and a whole lot of Fall fun! Join us for some pumpkin smashing, a candy cannon, life-size characters, and more!

Jackson Farm | 2798 Hwy 117, **Black Rock**, AR 72415

visitjacksonfarm.com

SCAVENGER HUNT HIKE 10/31

Join a park interpreter at 10am for a 1.25-mile hike in search of various items, animals, sounds, and colors found in nature. Wear sturdy shoes and bring along some water.

Jacksonport State Park | 111 Avenue St., **Newport**, AR 72112

arkansas.com/state-parks

BIRDEYE '26 11/6-8

Birdeye is a rally-style event for runners and gravel cyclists, mixing it up with music, food, and fun cultural activities. Don't miss this one-of-a-kind adventure on Crowley's Ridge.

Birdeye Farms | 10 Co. Rd. 334, **Cherry Valley**, AR 72324

studiodriftar.org/events/birdeye26

CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM 11/7-8

Start this holiday season with a cozy and festive farm experience like we've never done before. We are staying open one week longer and going all out for Christmas!

Jackson Farm | 2798 Hwy 117, **Black Rock**, AR 72415

visitjacksonfarm.com

FALL BLUEGRASS FEST 11/12-14

The Mountain View Fall Bluegrass Festival is held every year during the second weekend of November. Come out to the Ozark Folk Center for a weekend of live bluegrass!

1032 Park Avenue, **Mountain View**, AR 72560

mountainviewbluegrass.com

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS AT THE RANCH 11/21

Come out to the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranch for a variety of vendors and enjoy free family activities from 10am to 3pm. There will be Santa photos, a petting zoo, and more!

100 St. Vincent Plaza, **Batesville**, AR 72501

[Follow Rentals at the Ranch on Facebook](#)

MIKE OREGANO LIVE 11/21

Order your favorite dish, settle in, and enjoy two hours (7-9pm) of live music from Mike Oregano, a one-man band unlike anything you have seen before.

Polk & Paddle | 146 N 3rd Street, **Batesville**, AR 72501

[Follow Polk & Paddle on Facebook](#)

TURKEY DAY 5K 11/26

Start your Thanksgiving off on the right foot! The race kicks off at 9am on Thanksgiving Day, giving you the perfect excuse to enjoy that extra slice of pie later.

600 Eagle Mountain Blvd., **Batesville**, AR 72501

runsignup.com/Race/AR/Batesville/BatesvilleSwimTurkeyDay5K

WHITE RIVER CHRISTMAS MARKET 11/27-29

Step into a shopping wonderland where the spirit of the season comes alive. We invite you to share in the warmth and joy of the White River Christmas Market.

Becknell Gymnasium | E. College Avenue, **Batesville**, AR 72501

whiteriverexpo.com

OZARK HOLIDAYS CRAFT SHOW 11/28

Resident crafters, guest artisans, and farmer's market folks will have their unique, high quality, handcrafted items available, direct from the person who made them.

1032 Park Avenue, **Mountain View**, AR 72560

[Follow Ozark Folk Center Holidays Craft Show on Facebook](#)

GARRETT YEAGER HALF MARATHON/5K 12/5

Run the Hope for the Holidays Half Marathon/5K in memory of Garrett Yeager, benefitting the New Hope Refuge program for women struggling with substance abuse.

600 Eagle Mountain Blvd., **Batesville**, AR 72501

[Follow Hope for the Holiday 5K & Half Marathon In Memory of Garrett Yeager on Facebook](#)

BATESVILLE CHRISTMAS PARADE 12/12

Gather your family and friends and enjoy an evening filled with festive floats, community groups, local organizations, and plenty of Christmas cheer. Parade starts at 6pm.

Downtown | Main Street, **Batesville**, AR 72501

[Follow Batesville Kiwanis Christmas Parade on Facebook](#)

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