

# DISCOVER

A musician wearing a hat and a light-colored shirt is shown in profile, playing a double bass. The scene is lit with dramatic blue stage lights, creating a moody atmosphere. The musician is positioned in the center-left of the frame, with the instrument extending towards the right. The background features several bright spotlights and beams of light that create a sense of depth and focus on the performer.

January 2023 - Volume 3 - Issue 2

**TENNESSEE  
TOURISM**

*What's New In 2023*

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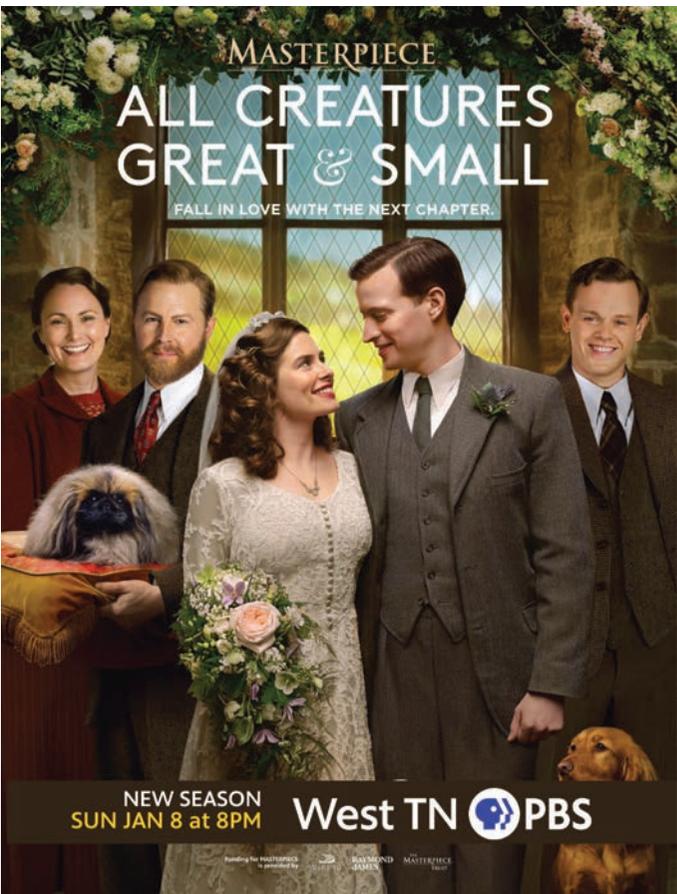
**ON THE COVER -**  
A scene from The Big Ears Festival in Knoxville, Tennessee. Copyright: Brock Caldwell/Big Ears Fest

# DISCOVER

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*Dollywood's Firechaser Express in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Copyright: Dollywood/Steven Bridges*

# TENNESSEE TOURISM

## *What's New in 2023*

Tennessee promises unique experiences in 2023 with new attractions, restaurants, distilleries, hotels, exhibits, milestone anniversaries and renovations, as well as trends with farm stays that take relaxing and learning new skills to the next level, chef-driven restaurants and hands-on experiences.

### *New Restaurants & Retail*

**Memphis** – Memphis is known for its unique and renowned cuisine, including new restaurants for 2023 like Amelia Gene's, Coccozza American Italian, Ya Mas! Taverna, Three of Cups wine & cocktail bar, Ashtar Garden and Anima Coffee & Amaro Bar.

**Nashville** – Iconic names take over some of Music City's newest restaurants, including Eric Church's Chief's, Garth Brooks' Friends in Low Places and Sinatra Bar & Lounge. Check out the complete list of new restaurants, from high-end chef-driven concepts to hip cocktail bars.

**Shelbyville** – Humble Baron will open in spring 2023 at Nearest Green Distillery. It's slated to be the world's longest bar, with 17 bartender stations, live music, dining and a dance floor.

**Clarksville** – Shelby's Trio opens early 2023, a three-story restaurant with a different theme on each floor, including a 50s burger joint, fine Italian dining and a rooftop bar with 360-degree views.

**Murfreesboro** – Overflow Brews & Bakes, a locally-owned, veteran-owned scratch bakery offers premium coffee, freshly brewed tea, and bubble tea located in the historic downtown. Also, M.L. Rose Craft Beer & Burgers expands with a fifth location in Murfreesboro, featuring 36 local and craft beers on tap, craft burgers, snacks, happy hour, late night drinks and weekend brunch.

**McMinnville** – Snag a sweet treat at Oh Sugar, a bakery with cakes, cupcakes, cake pops, chocolate-covered strawberries and seasonal goodies like hot chocolate bombs.

**Lewisburg** – BB's Boutique on the downtown square carries women's, men's and children's clothing and offers

personalization, including engraving and monogramming.

**Crossville** – Dirty Girls Nursery is a unique spot for beautiful flowers, plants, hands-on classes and Mud N’ Grub Kitchen, which rotates the menu weekly with dishes from what’s grown on the farm.

**Chattanooga** – Mac’s Kitchen & Bar focuses on working with local farmers to create a farm-to-table restaurant that uses seasonal produce to create a one-of-a-kind experience in quality and flavor.

**Knoxville** – Come inside and off the trails to 71 South, located within Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness. The casual restaurant features new American cuisine, located inside the original, nearly 100-year-old sanctuary of Sevier Heights Baptist Church.

**Clinton** – Get your vintage candy fix at Evans Candy Company, a candy, snack and soda-pop shop which includes an old-fashioned and retro section.

**Pigeon Forge** – Celebrate, order a slice, grab a beer from the beer wall, watch a game on one of 14 televisions and try axe-throwing at West by God CoalFired Pizza & Country Roads Axe Co.

**Kingsport** – Two Dad’s Downtown Deli & Ice Cream Parlor specializes in diner classics like hot dogs, sandwiches, soda floats and ice cream treats. Also, The Crumbum is now open, an artisan bakery combined with a fine art gallery.

**Springfield** – Mystic Picnic Wine & Whiskey Bar is an upscale neighborhood wine and whiskey bar that features Tenn. and Ky. wines, an organic focused/internationally sourced wine list, and elevated snacks utilizing regional ingredients.

Winchester – Chef Jim Filo serves up Modern American, made-from-scratch comfort food with the finest locally-sourced ingredients at Filo’s Tavern in the historic downtown.

### *New Breweries, Distilleries, Wineries & Spirits*

**Memphis** – IBIS, a new cocktail bar in the South Main Arts District neighborhood, features a rooftop deck, a speakeasy in the basement, a patio and events featuring gospel music, DJs and burlesque.

**Henderson** – Forty Cannons Winery, a small craft winery located on Stillwaters Farm, is expected to open spring 2023 with small batch and experimental wines and Crow’s Nest Tasting Room.

**Hendersonville** – TailGate Brewery Hendersonville, a taproom and lagerhaus overlooking Old Hickory Lake has 22 beers on tap, a kitchen and a dog-friendly patio. In spring 2023, guests can experience a larger taproom, expanded patio, two-story deck and 10-barrel brewing system.

**Murfreesboro** – Cedar Glade Brews, founded by four local beer lovers, has a mission to produce high-quality craft beer that recognizes the traditions, land and culture of Middle Tennessee.

**Gainesboro** – A mother/son do everything by hand, down to the labeling at Roaring River Distillery, and work to preserve the history of their downtown building and stories that come with it. Master distiller Chad Hunt was featured on Discovery Channel’s “Moonshiner’s Master Distiller.”

**Knoxville** – The founder of Drop Zone Distilling is Rod “Sarge” Parton, a fourth-generation moonshiner with family recipes going as far back as 1934 belonging to his great-grandpap. The distillery features a tasting bar and retail area.



*An owl perched on a Discover Tennessee sign near Blackberry Farm in Walland, Tennessee. Photo by: Sara Rau*



*Antique tractors at Discovery Park of America in Union City, Tennessee. Copywrite: Journal Communications/ Brian McCord*

**Sevierville** – From a family recipe to your glass; combat Veteran, pilot and niece of Dolly Parton, Danielle Parton brings her love of moonshine and unique blends like Red Velvet to Shine Girl, a female-owned and operated distillery.

**Kingsport** – Fizzy Fairway Mini Golf Bar is a 9-hole indoor interactive miniature golf course featuring over 60 arcade games on 10 machines along with a variety of beer, seltzer, ice cream and craft sodas.

**Statewide** – Sample wonderful wine with a chance to win prizes along the new Tennessee Wine Trail featuring more than 40 wineries, meaderies and cideries.

### *New Hotels & Places To Stay*

**Memphis** – Memphis Aloft Hotel, expected to open spring 2023, will be a perfect spot to stay downtown in a musically-designed boutique hotel by Marriott.

*Tennessee Tourism*

**Nashville** – Music City celebrates growth with new hotels like Cambria Hotel Church St. (Sept. 2023), BNA Airport Hilton Hotel (Late 2023), Hyatt Place Green Hills (Nov. 2023) and the new Four Seasons Hotel Nashville (opened Nov. 2022) for travelers looking to experience the upscale side of the city.

**Franklin** – A luxury resort with a focus on living off the land, Southall is now open with rooms, suites, cottages, a spa, well-being journeys with transformative treatments, mindful rituals, adventure activities and a signature chef-driven restaurant.

**Chattanooga** – A luxury treehouse resort, Treetop Hideaways, on Lookout Mountain overlooking Chattanooga at Ruby Falls, will be available for online bookings spring 2023. Each treehouse is built with artfully curated reclaimed materials, elevated amenities and private fire pits with s'mores kits.

**Chattanooga** – Rest up at AVID Hotel, which focuses on sound sleep with high-quality mattresses and bedding,

black-out roller shades, sound-reducing headboard, free breakfast and freshly ground 24-hour bean-to-cup coffee.

**Knoxville** – What's old is new again at Hotel Cleo, a 16-room boutique hotel on Gay Street downtown inside the storied 1898 Hope Brothers Building, once home to a shoe store, bank and jewelry business.

**Knoxville** – A new campground, The Drop Inn, is opening in an amazing spot bordering Ijams, Marie Myers Park and Bakers Creek Preserve, with access to 50 miles of trails and wooded wetlands to explore.

**Loudon** – Discover a boutique luxury resort on over 500 acres in the heart of the Tennessee Valley at Windy Hill Farm & Preserve. Enjoy world-class upland quail hunting, kayaking, paddleboarding, archery, wine hikes, meditation and dinners featuring heirloom ingredients imaginatively prepared.

**Rockwood** – Rockwood Marina & RV Resort, set to open spring 2023, features

nearby trails for mountain biking, hiking and trail running, with walk or bike access to town to local restaurants and shops.

**Pigeon Forge** – Dollywood’s Heart-Song Lodge & Resort, opening fall 2023, is a five-story resort with themed suites and loft rooms, epic indoor and outdoor pool, a picture-perfect outdoor cove with family gathering spaces, communal firepit and screened-in porch, the perfect Smoky Mountains getaway.

**Pigeon Forge** – DreamCatcher Hotel, coming to the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains, features 200 AAA-Rated Four Diamond guest rooms, rooftop restaurant and world-class guest experience.

### *New Attractions, Exhibits & Experiences*

**Memphis** – Memphis Sports and Events Center, located inside the heart of Liberty Park outside Memphis’ Liberty Bowl Stadium, will include indoor basketball and volleyball courts, outdoor turf fields, entertainment, shops, café and concessions.

**McEwen** – Something Wild Riding School focuses on programs to help riders

learn how to ride horses safely and offers camps and pony horse training days.

**Nashville** – The new Rock Hall at the Ryman exhibit pays tribute to the iconic Ryman Auditorium, including stories about Elvis Presley, James Brown, Dolly Parton, the Foo Fighters and today’s hitmakers.

**Nashville** – FanDuel Bracket City Live (March 16-18) comes to Nashville for its first festival centered around music, basketball, and action. Later in the year, the National Hockey League’s draft (June 28-29) and awards (June 26) will be hosted for the first time in the same city since 2006.

**Leiper’s Fork** – Enjoy shopping, music, locally-sourced fare from Hen House Food Truck, classes in beekeeping, floral design, jamming and biodynamic farming at Patina Home & Garden, by design duo Brooke and Steve Giannetti.

**Franklin** – A new vintage trolley hop-on, hop-off tour allows guests to experience and explore Franklin and the village of Leiper’s Fork. Expert guides on Franklin Hop point out and share stories at over 50 points of interest like the historic downtown, The Factory at Franklin, Carnton, Carter and Lotz Houses.

**Clarksville** – F&M Bank Arena opens Summer 2023, offering concerts, hockey and events for all ages. It’s also the future home of Austin Peay State University Men & Women’s Basketball.

**Murfreesboro** – Classy Cactus Farm, a greenhouse and plant nursery, offers classes, workshops and social events like Succs & Sips, as well as the perfect succulent and cactus gifts.

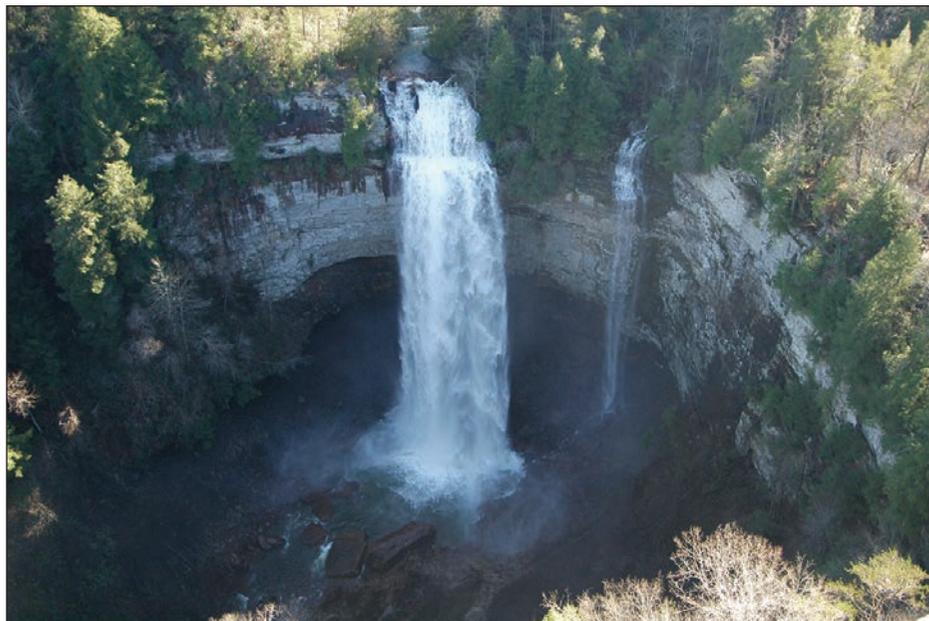
**Cookeville** – Tour the Upper Cumberland specializes in custom shuttle bus tours and private bookings, highlighting the scenic beauty and unique points-of-interest of the 14-county region on the Cumberland Plateau of Tennessee, as well as day and evening trips from Cookeville.

**Granville** – See the nation’s largest whiskey decanter beginning May 6 at the Whiskey Decanter Museum featuring 5,000 decanters. Also experience the Cornbread & Moonshine Festival featuring a cornbread cook-off, Tennessee Whiskey Trail event with tastings, live music and more.

**South Pittsburg** –Lodge Museum of Cast Iron takes visitors on a journey of how cast iron is made, why it matters, celebrates food, culture and stories –and features the World’s Largest Cast Iron Skillet. On site, Big Bad Breakfast, a restaurant with custom-created meals, fresh biscuits and preserves and more, is set to open Jan. 2023.

**Knoxville** – The Southern Fried Poetry Slam (June 7-10) hosts one of the largest Spoken word and Performance Poetry tournaments in the world and showcases extraordinary writers, orators and artists.

**Chattanooga** – Rock the Riverfront presents Los Trompos, an art installation featuring eight larger-than-life three-dimensional, woven spinning tops in a variety of shapes and colors, opening March 2023 as both an art piece and gathering place for relaxation, social interaction and entertainment.



*Fall Creek Falls State Park in Spencer, Tennessee. Copywrite: Tennessee State Parks*

**Pigeon Forge** – A sweet addition at Titanic Museum Attraction, TITANIC's Frozen Custard & Chocolate Attraction, set to open fall 2023, will feature a chocolate machine, custard, decadent desserts and special merchandise.

**Sevierville** – SkyLand Ranch transports guests via a scenic chairlift to the top of SkyLand Ranch, where hours of fun await, including a mountain coaster, suspended bridge, canopy walks and a variety of miniature animals like cows and donkeys, which are all rescues.

**Kingsport** – Celphie, a new selfie museum and private event venue, offers more than 20 unique, interactive selfie scenes with updated themes to create stunning photos for your next photo opp.

**Statewide** – Tennessee has two new colorblind viewfinders, including at The Lodge at Montgomery Bell State Park and Paris Landing State Park, for a total of 15 colorblind viewfinders with special lens technology that enables colorblind visitors to see a broader range of clear, vibrant colors.

### *Renovated or Reimagined*

**Memphis** – Tom Lee Park's massive renovations include an open 20,000 square-foot canopy for events like Memphis in May, landscape improvements at Beale Street Landing, pavilions, a café overlooking the river, meditative paths, 1,000 new trees, pollinator plantings and endangered butterfly habitat.

**Nashville** – Flying in and out of Nashville International Airport (BNA) will have a new look and feel with new local eateries, local gifts at Music City Shop, new state-of-the-art International Arrivals Facility, a nine-story airport Hilton hotel, fourth major concourse and a massive terminal parking garage complex.

**Nashville** – Famous for its Nashville hot chicken twists on classic dishes and boozy slushies, Party Fowl will expand its downtown location into a new, larger

space in 2023. Party Fowl has six restaurants in total with additional outposts in Nashville International Airport and Nissan Stadium.

**Nashville** – Von Elrod's Beer Hall & Kitchen expands to include a new indoor/outdoor pavilion opening spring 2023 to include live music and events. Guests can enjoy a fast-casual option with a walk-up, concession-style bar and grill featuring steins of beer, cocktails and its own wood grill.

**Murfreesboro** – With a \$14.5 million dollar expansion, Siegel Soccer Complex and Community Park includes seven new synthetic turf fields and an indoor soccer training facility with increased seating at the Championship Field.

**Monterey** – Stay awhile and relax at Belle Ridge Campground, which features new luxury cabins and overlook lodging, 50 full hookup RV sites, bath house, swimming pond and a pavilion.

**Chattanooga** – Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel and Gardens are undergoing a \$10 million restoration for 2023. The renovation will feature 102 hotel rooms in the original building and 25 Pullman train car rooms.

**Chattanooga** – The Signal, a live music and event space, will be renovated to feature a state-of-the-art concert hall and event venue, opening April 2023 at its new home on the Chattanooga Choo Choo grounds.

**Knoxville** – Kern's Bakery, opening summer 2023, is being reimagined into a social gathering food hall with culinary offerings from local chefs, unique goods from independent makers, bar, multiple rooftop patios and outdoor event lawn to be home to games, movies, live music and more.

**Clinton** – Historic Downtown Clinton has undergone multiple revitalization efforts, including a greenspace initiative to allow more parking, a pavilion to host outdoor concerts and new events like

Tasty Tuesday' Food Truck Rally and A Sip of Summerfest.

### *Iconic Anniversaries*

**10th Anniversary** – Discovery Park of America with special celebrations – Union City

**10th Anniversary** – Johnny Cash Museum – Nashville

**10th Anniversary** – Big Ears Music Festival (March 30-April 2); Knox Asian Festival – Knoxville

**15th Anniversary** – The Wilderness at the Smokies resort will expand its Wild WaterDome indoor waterpark, add a Cloud Coaster, XD Theater in the immersive Adventure Forest and build 12 villas as part of its \$40 million expansion.

**20th Anniversary** – Market Square Farmers' Market - Knoxville. Cafes, restaurants, and sweet shops kick-off the entire month of May with creative specials featuring locally sourced fruits, vegetables, over-the-top cocktails, scrumptious salads, luscious ice creams and desserts.

**20th Anniversary** – Stax Museum of American Soul Music – Memphis. Each month, Stax Museum will host a series of free events, lectures, film screenings, a birthday party in May and, in July, a concert series of intimate performances known as "Live in Studio A."

**25th Anniversary** – Nashville Shores celebrates the milestone with the new Riptide Racer, the largest slide of its type in the world, giveaways, discounts, birthday party, fireworks and special events yearlong.

**50th Anniversary** – CMA Fest (June 8-11) – Nashville

**50th Anniversary** – Dunbar Cave State Park – Clarksville – The state park celebrates its milestone anniversary with special events all summer long.

*Tennessee Tourism*



Kaylie Watkins, COTA/L, is a certified occupational therapist assistant serving out of the Dynamix of Humboldt and Milan



Elena Taylor, OTR/L is a certified occupational therapist serving out of the Dynamix of Humboldt and Milan



JT Wright, OTR/L is a certified occupational therapist serving out of the Dynamix of Dyersburg



## Dynamix Physical Therapy Offers Occupational Therapy at Primary Locations

Dynamix Physical Therapy expands its services and now offers occupational therapy (OT) for clients. These services are offered out of the Dyersburg, Humboldt and Milan locations.

Different from physical therapy, occupational therapy is one part of the multidisciplinary rehab approach to help people of all ages participate in their activities of daily life. From dressing to driving to drawing, OT has limitless ways to help patients regain skills. A big part of therapy is patient education and encouragement as they take the skills they have learned in their sessions and implement them into their day-to-day lives.

Elena Taylor, OTR/L, was hired as the first occupational therapist for the company and is based at the Milan location. She is originally from Texas and moved to Tennessee several years ago to be closer to family. Her interest in OT began when she was very young when she watched her mother and coworkers help improve the physical abilities of their patients in a fun and creative environment.

“I loved watching my mom build relationships with her patients that helped unlock the success of their rehabilitative journey,” said Taylor. “Observing her, I knew I wanted to help people, too, so in high school I shadowed an outstanding occupational therapist and soon realized this was my calling.”

Taylor enjoys problem solving and providing tangible tools to improve her patients’ successes. Since joining Dynamix, she has hired Kaylie Watkins, a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA/L), who is helping with patients. Watkins will be floating between the Humboldt Dynamix and Milan Dynamix to see patients.

Another occupational therapist has recently joined the team and will offer his expertise at the Dyersburg Dynamix. JT Wright, OTR/L, received his Master of Occupational Therapy degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in May 2022. He is thrilled to be offering his skills in OT in Dyer County and the surrounding areas.

“I knew my calling was to be in the healthcare field, helping people,” said Wright. “After many hours of observation and research, I discovered that occupational therapy was my passion. Helping my patients get back to performing daily tasks, such as brushing their teeth or cutting up food, brings me tremendous joy. I am excited to be part of the growing Dynamix team, bringing my skills here and to also continue to grow in my profession.”

Dynamix as a company is growing exponentially, and will end



Elena Taylor, OTR/L, is measuring wrist flexion on one of her patients.

the year with 13 locations throughout West Tennessee. Russ Huffstetler, co-founder and CEO of Dynamix, shared his thoughts on expanding the services Dynamix offers to clients.

“With OT services added to our Milan, Humboldt and Dyersburg clinics, we can now serve our clients with the best care they need to get back to their day-to-day activities,” said Huffstetler. “Having Elena, Kaylie and JT on our team is a win-win for both Dynamix and our patients, as they will receive the best care in their rehabilitative journey.”

All three OT staff are members of the American Occupational Therapy Association and the Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association. Taylor is a member of the American Society of Hand Therapy.

Dynamix now offers occupational services out of the Dyersburg, Humboldt and Milan clinics. To schedule an appointment or a free consultation, please call the closest location near you. You can find a complete list of locations by visiting [dynamix.life](http://dynamix.life).

### **About Dynamix Physical Therapy**

*Dynamix Physical Therapy is West Tennessee’s leader in elite physical therapy and sports medicine, and is the recipient of the 2022 Ascend National Practice of the Year Award. With the mission of being the bright spot in customers’ day while pursuing excellence in healthcare and service, Dynamix offers multiple services, including manual therapy, a hands-on based treatment unique to this area, sports medicine, fitness, free injury assessments and work conditioning.*

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## *Leaders Credit Union Goes into the Community as Part of 'From Leaders with Love' Goodwill Project this Christmas*

Leaders Credit Union, a member-owned financial cooperative based in Jackson, Tenn., spread holiday cheer around the community with their annual “From Leaders with Love” Christmas project. Each branch and department adopted a project in the community to give back. Projects included donating to the Memphis Boys & Girls Club, Gibson County Carl Perkins Center, Dyersburg Humane Society, Dream Center, RIFA, Habitat for Humanity, St. Mary Manor, Kirkland Cancer Center, and many others. Leaders carried out a total of twelve projects throughout West Tennessee.

“Our ‘From Leaders with Love’ project allows us the opportunity to give forward, in hopes to bless others who are making an impact,” President and CEO Todd Swims said. “We are thankful that we, as a credit union, can impact our community in a positive way and encourage others. The best way we can lead is by example.”

Each branch and department were encouraged to pick a project they felt passionate about. The results ranged from hosting a BBQ to raise awareness for the Habitat for Humanity ReStore to packaging gifts for the Laurelwood Health

Center. Leaders Credit Union released a compilation video of the projects on their social media platforms including Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube on Friday, Dec. 16, highlighting the projects in the community. As of Dec. 19, 2022 Leaders has reached over 1700 people.

“The camaraderie involved in giving of yourself – of your resources, of your time, together as one is immeasurable. The ripples of a gift stretch deep and wide into the core of who we are. That is what From Leaders with Love is about,” Swims said.

**When someone in your family gets sick,** it can seem inevitable that everyone else in the household will also get sick. After all, viral illnesses like the cold and flu are passed from person to person. When you're in close quarters with others, as we are often during the winter, your risk of "catching" the illness increases. When sickness invades your home, you're definitely in close quarters with germs!

While you may want to run away and hide in another location until your family member is feeling better, that's not a realistic solution. Fortunately, though, getting sick is not a certainty. There are some steps you can take within your household to help prevent illness from spreading.

#### 4 Tips for Avoiding Illness During Cold and Flu Season

If someone in your family has the common cold or the flu, it may seem impossible to steer clear of the germs. But some proactive steps can help you limit your risk:

**Wash hands often.** Wash your hands every time you come in contact with the sick family member, after using the restroom or changing a diaper, and before preparing or eating food. And be sure you're doing it the right way.

**Steer clear as much as possible.** Designate a space as the "sick" room, then work on keeping the person who's sick inside the room and the family members who are not sick outside the room.

**Disinfect surfaces and objects.** To keep the germs from the sick family member from creeping up on those who are well, disinfect everything, and often. Essentially, anything the person who's sick touches should be disinfected. Use disinfecting wipes or spray to wipe everything down.

## Cold and Flu Season: Keeping your family healthy when someone is sick.

Cold and flu season is running rampant in Tennessee. This brings to mind a common question—what can you do to keep the rest of your family healthy when one member of your family is sick?

**Practice immune-boosting habits.** Get at least 30 minutes of exercise on most days, aim for between seven and nine hours of quality sleep each night, and eat a healthy diet filled with fruits and veggies. Certain foods, like yogurt and green tea, may help give your immune system an added boost.

These habits are good for both the person who's sick, since they'll help him or her recover faster, as well as the family members who are trying to avoid getting sick.

**Down and out with illness but don't know if it's the common cold or the flu? Visit [WTMGMORE.com](http://WTMGMORE.com) to find a provider.**



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## *Shiloh National Battlefields Visitor Center to be Upgraded*

Shiloh Battlefield's Visitor Center is scheduled to undergo construction work throughout the entire 87-year old building. "This work began Monday, November 28, and will take several months to complete," said Superintendent Allen Etheridge. No re-opening date has been scheduled.

During this period, a temporary visitor contact station will be set up outside of the building and

manned by rangers to assist visitors. Restroom facilities will still be available in the main parking area and picnic area. As always, the park grounds will remain open from dawn until dusk, and the park bookstore will be open winter hours from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The bookstore and visitor contact station will be close Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

"We're excited to have the

opportunity to upgrade the current exhibits which are around 35-years old," states Etheridge, "but, understand that this work will necessarily alter our daily operations." Historically, park administrative history records that the initial park staff worked out of tents during the early years of the park, from 1895 until a permanent administrative building was finally constructed in 1911.



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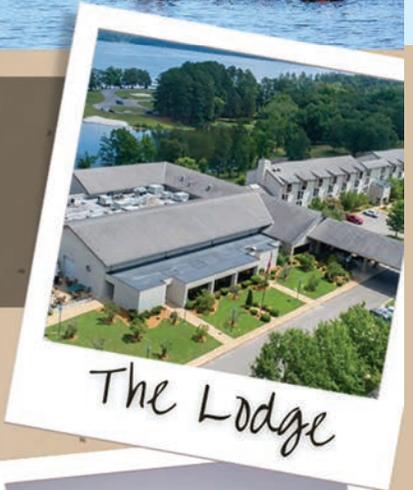
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# Tennessee Songwriters Week 2023

Discover the musical story of Tennessee from the ones who are writing it. Songwriters began signing up on Dec. 15, to participate in qualifying rounds across the state as part of Tennessee Songwriters Week, a celebration of the statewide craft that put Tennessee on the map. For more information on how to sign up, visit [tnsongwritersweek.com](https://tnsongwritersweek.com). Sign up information is located under each venue.

Helmed by the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, Tennessee Songwriters Week was established in 2019 to support music venues, celebrate songwriters with live performances in all genres of music, drive visitation and inspire travelers to experience the state's music stories, history, attraction and venues.

During the first two weeks of Feb. 2023, more than 50 music

venues are hosting qualifying rounds across the state, from Memphis to Northeast Tennessee. Songwriters chosen to advance from the qualifying rounds will perform at one of seven pre-determined showcase events:

Monday, Feb. 20, 2023 – The Bijou in Knoxville

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023 – Songbirds Foundation in Chattanooga

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023 – Lafayette's Music Room in Memphis

# A Wonderful Way to Winter



**TourHardinCounty.org**

**Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023 – Ole Red in Gatlinburg**

**Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023 – The Franklin Theatre in Franklin**

**Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023 – The Down Home in Johnson City**

**Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023 – The Palace Theatre in Gallatin**

Seven finalists, one from each showcase, will win the opportunity to perform at Nashville's historic Bluebird Cafe during a private event with music indus-

try professionals. Finalists also win a branded commemorative Taylor guitar, a two-night hotel stay in Nashville, \$100 gift card for travel and one-year membership to Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI)

Local judges within the songwriting community will consider lyric originality, performance and connection with the audience. The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development partners

with The Bluebird Cafe, NSAI, Taylor Guitars, music venues and local convention and visitors' bureaus, chambers and partners across the state, all committed to make sure songwriters can share their original work onstage with other writers.

Follow the journey of these songwriters and join the fun by following @tnvacation on social media and #tnsongwritersweek.



*Discovery Center, the museum at Discovery Park of America in Union City, Tenn.*

## *Discovery Park of America Offers Free Admission for Children and \$10 Admission for Adults Throughout the Month of January 2023*

Thanks to a partnership with Magnolia Place Assisted Living, children 17 and younger will receive free admission to Discovery Park of America throughout the month of January 2023. Adult general admission will be just \$10 in January to kick off the museum and heritage park's 10th birthday.

There will also be many other opportunities for children and adults to celebrate

Discovery Park's 10th birthday throughout the year. Included are updates to two of the museum's most popular experiences — Discovery Theater and the Water Tables in the Simmons Bank Children's Exploration Gallery.

The designers of the new Water Tables have opted for a larger experience that snakes throughout the entire gallery and incorporates many new interactive

activities. New elements added include a fishing pond, interactive rain clouds, moveable aqueducts, many new water toys and an activity that encourages children to direct fog using a series of pipes.

Another updated space, The Discovery Theater, was recently upgraded to incorporate a state-of-the-art, laser-illuminated 3D projection system, the latest high-efficiency 40,000-lumen laser

projector on the market and an advanced surround-sound system. The ability to show 3-D films will provide significant new programming capabilities in the theater. In 2023, two award-winning 3D films will be shown throughout the day. “Dinosaurs of Antarctica 3D” uses the latest in CGI technology to follow a team of paleoecologists on a quest to understand the southern continent’s profound transformation from a warm and bio-diverse Mesozoic to the frozen desert we know today. “Tiny Giants 3D” is an adventure film created by the award-winning nature filmmakers Michael Gunton (“Africa, One Life,” “Madagascar”) and Mark Brownlow (“Planet Earth,” “South Pacific”) and narrated by English actor, broadcaster and comedian Stephen Fry.

Discovery Park’s new greenhouses and the Farm Credit Mid-America Education Pavilion will also open in 2023 and will provide hands-on educational spaces for visitors to learn more about the horticulture of the region. A new permanent exhibit that will open in 2023,

“Duck, Duck, Goose: Waterfowl of the Mississippi Flyway,” is being created in partnership with Ducks Unlimited. The exhibit will use three-dimensional objects, interactive elements and hands-on experiences to tell the story of waterfowl hunting, conservation and the ecosystem of the Mississippi Flyway.

Open Jan. 21 to May 21, 2023, is a temporary exhibit, “Inside the Cornerstone Box.” It will feature items the Discovery Park exhibits team discovered inside a cornerstone box that was found in the rubble of Dresden First United Methodist Church of Dresden, Tennessee, after the devastating tornado in 2021. From June 1 to Oct. 29, 2023, The Southern Artist Showcase gallery will feature the work of Kimberly Greene-Bugg, award-winning artist and member of the Oneida Nation on the Six Nations Reserve in Ontario, Canada. Residing in Obion County, Tennessee, Bugg is one of the nation’s top Native American artists, and her art will be displayed in conjunction with Discovery Park’s inaugural Northwest Tennessee Native

American Education Pow Wow to be held Oct. 27 – 29, 2023. The Northwest Tennessee Photography Club Showcase will be updated in June and December 2023, and an additional exhibit, exclusive to Discovery Park and featuring photographs by outdoorsman Seth Dortch of Union City, Tennessee, will be on display Aug. 11, 2023 to March 31, 2024. The photographs in this exhibit were taken during waterfowl hunts along the Mississippi Flyway and in the Reelfoot Lake region.

New hours in 2023 will also provide more opportunities to visit. From January through February and September through December, Discovery Park will be open Tuesday through Sunday and closed on Mondays. From March through August, Discovery Park will be open seven days a week. Days and hours of operation along with more information to plan a visit can be found at [DiscoveryParkofAmerica.com/visit](https://DiscoveryParkofAmerica.com/visit).

For a complete list of exhibits, programs and events in 2023, visit [DiscoveryParkofAmerica.com](https://DiscoveryParkofAmerica.com).



*Guests exploring the new “Let it Glow” walk-thru. Photo credit: Jeremy Rasnic*



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