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**A ghost town resurrected**



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# Ozarks

M A G A Z I N E

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## ON THE COVER

**Welcome** to our 2022 Ozarks Magazine winter edition.

With fall safely in our rearview mirror, we are more than ready to welcome winter, and all the wonderland beauty that this time of year brings to north central Arkansas and south central Missouri.

Our winter cover features a photograph of a snowy covered bridge located in Galloway Park of West Plains, Mo.

Inside you will find stories highlighting those things that make these Ozarks hills spectacular.

Writer Chris Herbolsheimer takes readers to a ghost town in Thayer, Mo. whose purpose for existing is shrouded in mystery. Later in the magazine, Herbolsheimer reminds writers that the Ozarks is a beautiful place for a hike, even in the depths of winter.

Helen Mansfield, of The Baxter Bulletin, educates readers on the latest innovations in bicycle technology, and how these advancements have made cycling more accessible to all.

Kim Langston has done the holiday leg work by assembling a tasty list of delicious recipes.

Looking to soothe the nerves or beat the winter blues? Then tag along with Jeff Brasel as he hikes Hammerschmidt Falls in Mount Sherman, Ark.

These Ozarks hills are famous for their stories, and with Ozarks Magazine we hope to share a few of them with you.

*Thanks for reading!*

Jim Holland, publisher

Editor: Chris Herbolsheimer

Writers: Donna Braymer, Jeff Dezort, Helen Mansfield, Jeff Brasel, and Chris Herbolsheimer

Sales: Sherry Harper, Travis Rhoads, Vicky Rutter, Sheri Underdown



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# ECHOES OF THE PAST VILLAGE

## A GHOST TOWN RESURRECTED

by Chris Herbolsheimer

**T**HAYER, MO. — For many, the phrase “ghost town” calls to mind thoughts of ghostly, evil apparitions, unexplained phenomena and a haunting chill in the air. For others, it’s images of dusty streets, tumbleweeds and the theme of “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.” In reality, the expression is attributed to an abandoned town that for whatever reason, whether mysterious or practical, is no longer a place of residence.

Just 2.5 miles north of Thayer, Mo., on U.S. 63, a ghost town with an unusual history attached to its very existence is still standing and, with a lot of care and attention to detail, has been lovingly restored for the public’s pleasure. ►



**Diane and Larry Pugh, proprietors of Echoes of the Past Village near Thayer, Mo., stand in front of the old Whitrow Schoolhouse, where antique school desks from a neighboring community have found a new home.**

**Diane and Larry Pugh painstakingly disassembled a blacksmith shop in nearby Alton, Mo., moved it by trailer and rebuilt it in their resurrected village.**

PHOTOS BY CHRIS HERBOLSHEIMER

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Lynn Crossing, a covered bridge over the living water creek that runs through Echoes of the Past, is a relic left behind by Dode Jones, who originally built the village in the 1970s.

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Upon entering Echoes of the Past Village, the name given to the ghost town by owners Larry and Diane Pugh, one feels as if the flux capacitor has been activated, 88 mph achieved, and a trip back in time has been accomplished. The town, which for years had been deemed a ghost town by locals, due in part to its deserted location, and in part to the shroud of mystery surrounding the village, was created in the early 1970s by local businessman, the late Dode Jones. It was constructed by Jones and members of his church in what many say was a family retreat complete with lake, pavilions, a gym and eventually an entire western type town.

Used primarily for a yearly revival, through the 1970s the property of Dode and Dorothy Jones was bustling with thousands of devout believers who came from numerous states to worship and observe healing miracles. At each year's gathering, the children would attend bible camp, the women would cook the meals in the summer kitchen under the pavilion overlooking the lake, and the men would raise another building.

Many who still live in the area, proclaim to have witnessed at

religious meetings held on the farm, acts of faith healing performed by pastors during prayer services in which hands were laid on ill and suffering persons.

The church of which the Jones family were members was non-denominational and most were devout believers in the teachings of the late William Marrion Branham. Branham was a minister from Kentucky who was most famously credited with the post World War II faith healing movement and is considered by many believers to be a prophet.

The Branhamites, as they were known, were devout and gathered at Jones' farm to listen to local pastors' messages during their annual June meetings during the early 1970s and early 1980s.

"We had wanted a property with a spring on it for years, and as we step foot on this property, we knew we were at home," said Larry Pugh. The living water creek that runs through the property invites visitors to stand in it and be restored.

Many locals who knew Jones, including believers who visited his sanctuary, described him as a very eccentric man, one whose love for his family led him to construct a miniature town complete with a jail, post office, ►

general store, chapel, snack bar, covered bridge and school.

In addition to the buildings that were part of the town when the Pughs purchased it, they have also brought a hand hewn log barn to the property from Myrtle. Diane said she and her husband painstakingly disassembled the barn and logs and hauled it to the present location on a trailer. Another such building is the blacksmith shop that was relocated from nearby Alton, Mo.

The school building boasts numerous antique desks that were used in the schoolhouse in Thomasville, Mo.

It is unclear why Jones built the town. Some say it was to keep the men who were there for the yearly meetings busy. Some say it was a sort of an end-of-the-world retreat Jones had prepared for his family. Still others say he simply built it for his wife Dorothy, who loved old-time western things.

Regardless of the reason for construction, the town is worth seeing.

Following Dorothy Jones' death and eventually the death of Dode, the town was left untouched for years, other than by the occasional vandal who was aware of the location of the

abandoned town.

"When we first started working out here, cars would come down the road and when they saw us would quickly turn around and leave," said Echoes of the Past venue manager Jody Mills.

Many locals have witnessed strange things at the property, including members of the Pugh family, including hearing singing, seeing strange orb-type figures in a common location and even UFOs. Photographed images of strange apparitions near a particular tree on the property, named by the Pughs as simply "The Ghost Tree" are not uncommon in the area.

Many locals, including those who knew Jones, told stories of his hiding large amounts of money. It was reported by many who knew him personally and even some who had worked for and attended church with him in the 1970s during the construction of the town, that \$40,000 in cash was found in the wall of Dode Jones' glass shop, which was formerly located in Thayer. Another person said the money was buried, not hidden in the wall. Despite the contradictions, all three persons told the same stories in regard to the amount and its state of decay. ▶



Locals in the Thayer, Mo., who knew the village's founder, Dode Jones, described him as a very eccentric man, one whose love for his family led him to construct a miniature town complete with a general store and jail.

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The money that was reportedly found was badly decayed and housed in a jar.

To many, Jones' mysterious nature and acts of doing things as reportedly hiding large amounts of money are most likely the basis for a lot of the rural myths and mystery surrounding the property and the real reason for its rather out of the ordinary construction in such an odd location.

While the true motivation of the original builder may never be known, thanks to the Pugh family, the town has been beautifully resurrected more than three generations later and will be the topic of discussion and speculation for years to come.

The quiet nature of Echoes of the Past Village is perfectly in tune with nature, as the water slowly bubbles from the blue spring and the elaborate rock work done by Jones' son-in-law at the top of the lake where baptisms were reported to have taken place.

The Pughs have completely restored the town as a type of picturesque retreat for weddings, reunions and parties. They have taken great pride in the restoration of the buildings, which, complete with original shake shingles, stand as a

weathered and distinguished tribute to days gone by.

In recent years Larry and Diane have passed the operation of the venue to their daughter, Jody Mills.

"I started out doing this to help my parents as they work tirelessly and put everything they have into this place. It's just such a neat place, and people need to see it," said Mills. "After I took over operation of the venue it became clear how much I enjoy working with our brides and other clients, to help them have the absolute best, most memorable day ever.

Jody's daughter, Whitney, also helps tremendously with the management of the venue.

Each December, Echoes of the Past Village is illuminated with over 30,000 Christmas lights, and the Pughs say all are welcome to attend. This year's Christmas spectacular will be Dec. 10 through 25, and the site will be open from 6 to 8 p.m. each day.

It is hard to stand amid the splendor that is Echoes of the Past Village and call it a ghost town. Today it stands, full of life, as a refuge in the wilderness where one can escape the "ghosts" of everyday life. ■



More than just a trip back in time, Echoes of the Past serves as a quaint venue for weddings and reunions.

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# WINTER HIKES

## *always beautiful*

By JEFF BRASEL

**M**OUNT SHERMAN, Ark. — The temperature may be cold outside, but hitting the Ozark trails can be a tranquil experience that can sooth the nerves or beat the winter blues.

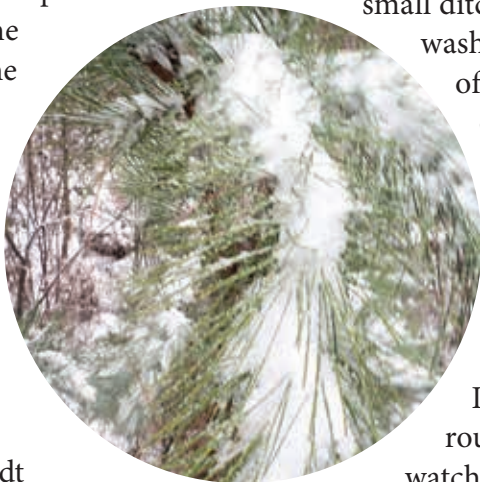
One of those trips is an easy, short hike that can find a beautiful waterfall at the end of the journey.

Hammerschmidt Waterfall is named after long-time U.S. Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt. The waterfall that bears his name is 46-foot in height.

An old dirt road is the main trail for a quarter of a mile. The trip to the waterfall is only a total of a third of a mile one way.

The trip to the waterfall has a small descent. There are two small ditches that have washed out because of heavy rains over the years. These have to be crossed, but they are not deep and easily maneuvered. If traveling this route during snow, watch for drifts

At .2 of a mile down the road on the right side of the path there is the foundation of a home that was once occupied on the land. There are several old ▶



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**There are several scenic views on the trail to the Hammerschmidt Waterfall in Newton County, Ark. The stacked rocks allow for photo opportunities during any season.** PHOTOS BY JEFF BRASEL/STAFF



**The snowfall along the Buffalo National River in Newton County, Ark. offers a scenic view for visitors.**



**The Hammerschmidt Waterfall offers a tranquil setting for a winter hike. The falling snow offers a pleasant visit to this waterfall located off of Highway 74 in Newton County, Ark.**

household items that give visitors a view of the past.

The foundation is made of stone and it is easy to trace the outline of the home. It is fun to play a guess game with small children about the location of rooms in the house.

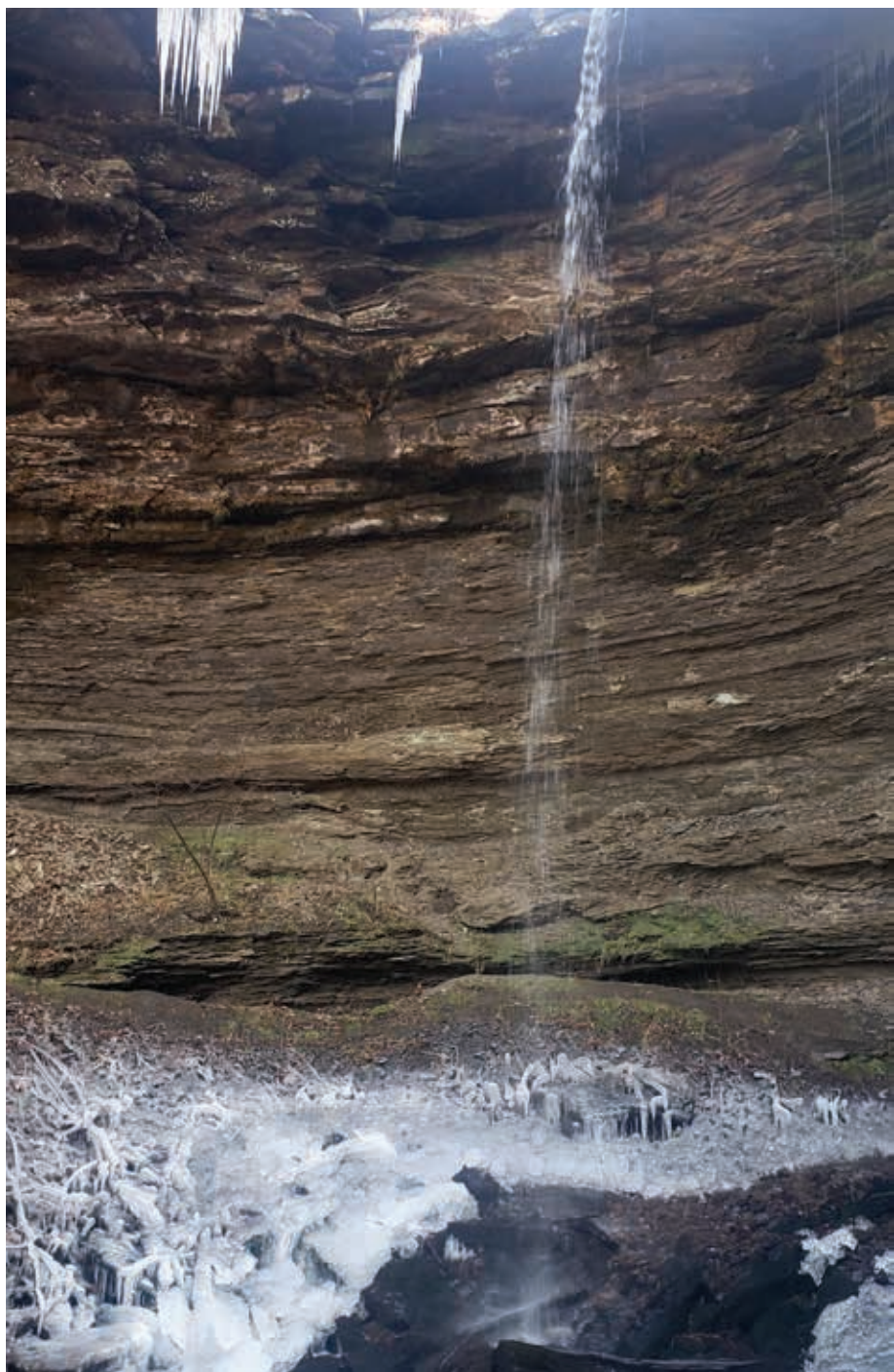
When hikers have made it to .25 of a mile, the road ends and the trail takes a left turn.

There will be a small stream that will run to the right of the trail. This is the water that will be falling soon over the bluff. At this point the trail becomes a small foot trail with room for one person. There is no much growth along the trail so creating a path to view something is very easy.

The small stream has several drops along the way. There are plenty of opportunities



**A small creek leads to the Hammerschmidt Waterfall in Newton County, Ark.**



**Ice forms at the bottom of the Hammerschmidt Waterfall during the winter months. The hike to the waterfall is only .33 of a mile from Arkansas Highway 74.**



**Hikes are readily available during the winter months in the Ozarks. Be prepared before leaving with the necessary equipment.**



**The new snow contrast with the green of the pine trees that dot the Ozark countryside.**

to sit on the rocks for photographs. The rocks offer chances for large groups to be photographed. During warm stretches, this stream is shallow enough for children to play and enjoy the trip more.

It is a short trip to the waterfall from the turn. The path leads to the top of the falls.

A view of the waterfall can be seen from the left side. It is .07 miles on the path to start the descent to the bottom of the waterfall.

Walking sticks are urged for the trip to where the water meets the rocks below.

The waterfall can be viewed year-round, but in the dry summer months the water may be just a trickle. There is always a nice stream during the spring and after rain falls during the fall and winter.

Getting to the waterfall requires no travel down a dirt road. The parking for the waterfall is located on Arkansas Highway 74.

At Jasper turn west on 74 and travel 7.5 miles. On the left hand side of the road there will be Newton County Road 8154. Turn on this road and park immediately on the right. Walk across the road to start the hike. ■



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# PELTON, SCHMELOTON ...

## EBIKES COULD BE BEST EXERCISE OPTION FOR THOSE WHO LIKE STATS AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS

By Helen Mansfield

**N**ORFOLK, Ark. — At first glance, the Serfas® eDASH 350W eBike doesn't look much different from most sturdy street bikes on the roads today but, as the letter "e" indicates, this bike is electric — both figuratively and literally.

For those riders who are looking for the tech aspects of a stationary set up like a Peloton, but would also like to be able to cruise outside and not pay Peloton prices, this eBike model might be for you.

Bike Shop Manager Rusty Harvey of Norfolk Adventure Supply Bike Shop said the bike is a recreational model that offers fitness and fun. While it is mainly designed for paved use,

the 350-watt bike can handle light off-road use and even assist riders up large hills without completely exhausting them.

Like traditional bikes, Harvey said riders can find anything from aftermarket conversion kits, to full suspension mountain bikes, to hunting kits, to road performance, and even high speed motocross. Depending on what bells and whistles you want, you can find it.

Mountain and road eBike varieties can run in the tens of thousands of dollars, depending on how many bells and whistles you add to it. He said there's even robust models marketed for hunters with lots of variations for whatever game the hunter is after.

He said the eDASH 350W is one model that the shop can consistently get during the nation's ongoing supply chain issues and comes ►

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**Bike Shop Manager Rusty Harvey of Norfolk Adventure Supply Bike Shop reviews the specs of the shop's current eBike, the Serfas® eDASH 350W. He describes the bike as a leisure model that offers some light fitness options. While it is mainly designed for city use, the 350-watt bike can assist a rider up Push Mountain Road without completely exhausting them.** PHOTOS BY HELEN MANSFIELD/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

with a \$1,950 price tag — which is about \$500 less than most Peloton models.

The eDASH 350W comes in a step-through and step-over style, three frame sizes, four colors and Harvey said he can assemble a new bike in about an hour, as well as service them.

One of the benefits of an eBike, according to Harvey — is that the motor on the bike can encourage the rider to bike longer, and with additional help in acceleration — can lower the rider's heart rate. And with the pedal assist system (PAS), the rider can commute to work without too much exertion, so they're not all pitted-out and sweaty-looking when they get there.

Harvey has considered an eBike for himself as a commuting option. If he used an eBike instead of a traditional bike, his bicycle commute time could be cut in half

He adds that he lives 28 miles from work, so an eBike would be a solid commuting option for him.

The 350W can be fitted with fenders and racks so the rider can ride and pick up a few groceries.

The bike does offer a calculator-size display unit on the handlebars, that can serve as a speedometer, and be set to track distance and other options. It has a backlight option.

The bike has a pretty zippy throttle on the handlebars. When it's cranked back, the bike will take off. Additionally, the crank sensor will wind up as the rider pedals.

"You can even turn the motor off, then you're riding a regular bike," he added.

The bike has some built in safety features that provide a seamless and intuitive ride. If the rider gets off the bike and needs to "walk it," there's an option where it can be set to roll itself at the same speed as the one walking it.

eBikes charge with a provided charger and regular wall outlet and while charging time is going to vary from brand to brand, the Serfas eBikes indicate they are ready to ride in roughly 90 minutes.

Harvey said Serfas likes to say that the 350W will get a rider 30 miles on one charge, but he adds that a lot of factors could knock that mileage down like the weight of the rider, the condition of the road and even the temperature. He prefers to say one charge will likely last two hours.

All-in-all, he calls the 350W a good, entry-level bike and finds himself hard-pressed to tell a rider that they need more bike.

"Anyone could have a potential use for it," Harvey said. "It will get you up from the bottom of a hill."



**While there are other eBike options available in big-box stores and online, Rusty Harvey — the bike store manager of Norfolk Adventure Supply Bike Shop — said the Serfas® eDASH 350W is one that they can consistently get during the nation’s ongoing supply chain issues. The eDASH 350W comes in a step-through and step-over style, three frame sizes, four colors and Harvey said he can assemble a new bike in about an hour, as well as service them.**

The bike is one that Harvey would recommend for a younger person. It could be a great option for commutes, recreation, or even a student getting around campus if the campus allows for safe riding.

“If you don’t know what you’re looking for, come talk to us,” Harvey said.

Ultimately, getting the right bike is like picking out a motor vehicle to fit your needs. A sedan might not be practical if you need to pull a horse trailer. Likewise, a dually truck might not be necessary to

get groceries. If you get a bike that suits your needs, you’ll find the ride experience much more enjoyable.

Harvey said at nearly \$2,000 he would consider layaway payments on the 350W, as long as they didn’t go beyond 90 days.

Norfolk Adventure Supply Bike Shop is open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, visit its Facebook page @ Norfolk Adventure Supply Bike Shop or its website at [norforkadventure.com](http://norforkadventure.com) ■





# WINTER HIKE

## *Wonder of a winter hike*

By CHRIS HERBOLSHEIMER

**I**n a few short months, spring will return to the Ozarks. The days will warm, the buds will bloom, the bees will buzz, and the creatures will stir.

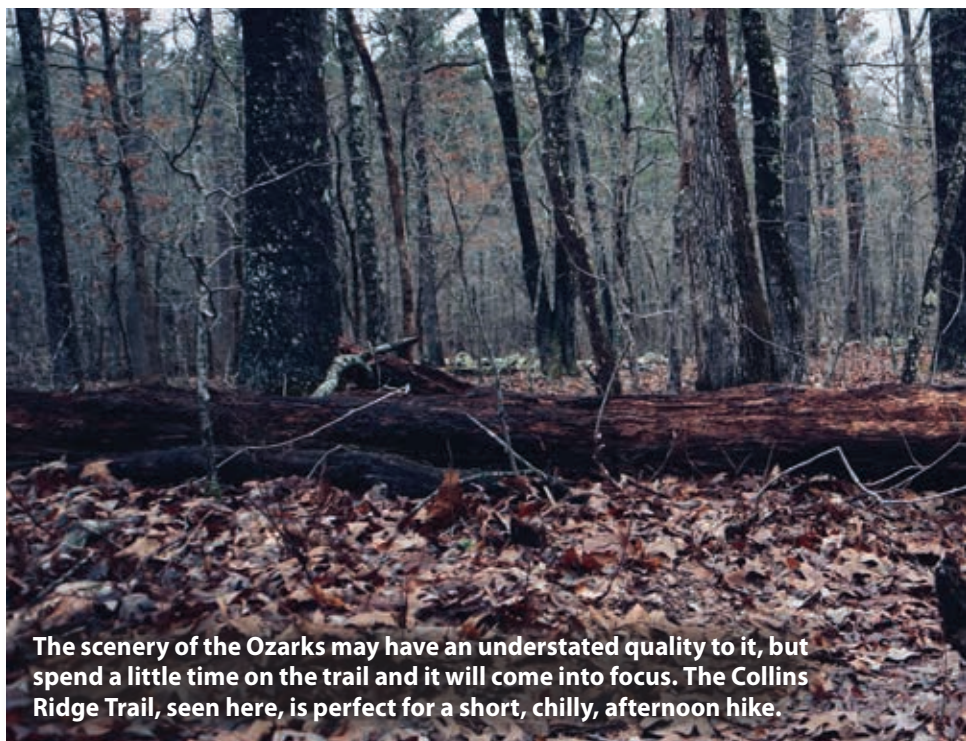
It is easy to hear Mother Nature's call to come and commune with her in such obvious beauty. The vibrant colors, and smells, of the great outdoors make hiking in the Ozarks more of a spiritual experience than a grueling exercise.

It's normal for hiking shoes to be thrown in the closet at the end of fall where they don't see the light of day until the following spring, but winter in the Ozarks holds a special, less obvious, kind of beauty.

The trees stand naked, in stark contrast to the luscious fullness of summer. Gone are the radiant blooms. The green grass has to brown. ►

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**Montauk State Park, near Salem, Mo., is another fantastic hiking destination in the Ozarks.** STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS HERBOLSHEIMER



The scenery of the Ozarks may have an understated quality to it, but spend a little time on the trail and it will come into focus. The Collins Ridge Trail, seen here, is perfect for a short, chilly, afternoon hike.

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**Multiple trails wind their way through the Devil's Backbone Wilderness making it a hiker's paradise.**

Where once the air hummed with the sounds of life and activity, it is now filled with a cold silence.

While on the face of it many people might describe the experience of hiking in such an environment as dreary or sad, with a little effort, a trek through the Ozarks on a cold winter day can deliver a similar spiritual experience.

A great winter hike in the West Plains area is at the Devil's Backbone Wilderness.

A long, narrow ridge — known to early settlers as The Devil's Backbone — is the main attraction in this 6,687 acre wilderness. Elevations reach from 1,020 feet at the highest point to 680 feet at the lowest. Thirteen miles of trails rated moderate difficulty by the U.S. Forest Service follow the Backbone — and four other ridges — dropping off into surrounding forested hollows.

The area is ideal for day hikes and overnight backpacking. Four trailheads offer good entry points. Three springs in the area flow into the North Fork of the White River, which transits the area.

On an overcast day in January, five miles into an 11

mile hike, the subtle beauty of the scene snaps into focus. The trees are bare, but the clean lines and subtle shades of grays and browns call to mind an oil painting done with a knife.

The silence of solitude is a living, breathing being that completely envelops anyone who comes to stand in its presence. Breath vapors hang in the air like tiny clouds, a reminder of the sense-sharpening cold.

A little farther down the path a rare winter sighting of two squirrels scurrying across tree limbs, often seeming to defy the laws of physics, is a hint of the hidden life all around. Slowly the realization hits that everything that will be admired in the months to come is already contained inside the seemingly dull scene that surrounds, just waiting for its moment to emerge.

Finishing the hike brings with it not only a tremendous sense of accomplishment, but a profound feeling of having been enriched by the experience.

The hall closet is no place for hiking shoes. Get them out, lace them up, and explore the awesome of wonder of a winter hike in the Ozarks. ■



# Recipes for **HOLIDAY FAVORITES**



By KIMBERLY LANGSTON

There's usually nothing quite like Christmas to conjure up fond memories of cookies, candies, and appetizers that might be made only once a year for parties, or to munch on while unwrapping presents or enjoying holiday movies.

Here are a handful of favorites that have been in the holiday cooking and baking rotation for decades in

my family.

This classic recipe for rolled and cut sugar cookies is courtesy of the tried-and-true Better Homes and Gardens cookbook. They may be decorated with any homemade icing or canned cake frosting and garnished with sprinkles, cinnamon red hots, or edible glitter; or dusted with colored sugar or a cinnamon and white sugar mixture before baking. Cookie dough may be made ahead and refrigerated until use, allowing a little counter time to get closer to room temperature for easier rolling and cutting.

### Sugar Cookie Cutouts

1/3 cup	margarine or butter
1/3 cup	shortening
2 cups	all-purpose flour
1	egg
¾ cup	sugar
1 Tbsp.	milk
1 tsp.	baking powder
1 tsp.	vanilla
dash of salt	

Beat margarine and shortening with an electric mixer, medium to high speed, for 30 seconds. Add about half of the flour, the egg, sugar, milk, baking powder, vanilla, and salt. Beat until thoroughly combined and add in the remaining flour. Divide dough in half, cover, and let chill in the refrigerator for three hours. ►

On a lightly floured surface, roll half of the dough at a time to a 1/8-inch thickness, then cut into desired shapes with a cookie cutter. Bake at 375 degrees for seven to nine minutes on a non-greased cookie sheet, or until edges are firm and the bottoms are slightly browned, then cool on a wire rack. Makes two to three dozen, depending on the size of cookie cutters used.

Next is a recipe handed down and its origin is unknown, but it has been in our family for at least 45 years. It is similar to peanut butter “buckeyes,” but is spread into a baking pan with a layer of melted chocolate spread on top. It is closer to mass produced peanut butter cups and is suited to

cutting into squares or shapes with cookie cutters. The chocolate used for the topping can be varied to taste, from dark to semi-sweet, milk, or even white chocolate.

### **Peanut Butter Candy**

1 cup	peanut butter
2	sticks of margarine or butter, softened
1 lb.	of powdered sugar
1 ¼ cups	of finely crushed graham crackers

Mix well and spread in a small baking pan or dish. For the chocolate topping, melt 8 to 10 ounces of chocolate bar or baking chips in a double boiler, spread over peanut butter mixture and allow to chill, then cut ►

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as desired.

A bite-size appetizer that allows holiday party-goers to take a break from sweets may be appreciated. Here is a simple recipe for a doughy, savory snack that has also been in my family as long as I can remember.

**WW** 2 cups of Bisquick or other boxed baking mix  
1 lb. of bulk breakfast sausage  
1 lb. of mild cheddar cheese, shredded

Thoroughly combine the dry mix, sausage and cheese, using a wooden spoon or by hand. Form into one inch balls and bake for 20 minutes at 350 degrees.

No holiday gathering would be complete without a sweet drink. The recipe for this favorite was lost to us for several years, until a cooks.com search finally turned up the combination of ingredients everyone remembered from childhood. This punch is sweet and tart thanks to lime sherbet and pineapple juice, and maraschino cherries frozen in ice cubes may be added as a festive garnish. The recipe is somewhat vague on the amounts of pineapple juice and ginger ale, so our family adjusts the proportions to taste. The recipe makes quite a large amount, so have a large container or clean two-liter bottles handy to hold what doesn't fit into the punch bowl.

## Lime Green Punch

2 packages of lemon lime Kool-Aid or other drink mix.  
2 quarts of water  
1 ½ cup sugar  
1 lg. can of pineapple juice  
1 two-liter bottle ginger ale  
½ gallon lime sherbet

Mix the first four ingredients, add ginger ale just before serving, and pour over lime sherbet scooped into a punch bowl. Garnish with lemon or lime fruit slices, cranberries, or maraschino cherries frozen in ice cubes.

The following is a “bonus” no frills recipe for hot cocoa mix that can be kept on hand, or given as a jarred gift spruced up with miniature marshmallows, crushed peppermints, holiday cookie sprinkles, baking chips, or other creative add-ins.

## Hot Chocolate Mix

1 eight quart box of powdered milk (4 cups)  
1 pound can of cocoa powder  
6 oz. jar of Coffeemate or other dry creamer  
1 cup of powdered sugar  
- dash of salt

Mix ingredients well, and use ¼ cup dry mix per cup of hot water. Store in an airtight container. ■



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**A gyroscope ride mirrors the activity of an astronaut.**

By DONNA BRAYMER

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Headquartered in Orlando,

Florida the company has sites in Orlando, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Pigeon Forge, Tennessee; and Syracuse, New York. The Branson structure began construction about three years ago, and opened in 2020.

“It was an interesting time to open a new attraction. But we ►

**A partial NASA space suit is designed for guests to step behind it and have their photo taken. Landry Braymer of Orlando, Florida enjoyed looking like an astronaut.** PHOTOS BY DONNA BRAYMER/STAFF

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WonderWorks has three floors of activities.

have a very unique and different concept and have done very well. WonderWorks is an educational and entertaining facility with more than 100 exhibits and plenty of room to spread out with 40,000 square feet on three floors.” Faith Schaffer, sales and marketing director said.

Most of the exhibits stay at the Branson location year round. But currently there is a LEGO reproduction which rotates between all the properties. ►

The climbing wall is a fun activity for kids and parents to do at WonderWorks.





## A paleontology display shares proposed past geological periods by studying fossils.

The outside of the building is just as eye-catching and entertaining as the exhibits inside.

WonderWorks is built on the former site of the Baldknobbers Theater — on the strip of Branson Hwy. 76. Because of the unique history of the site, the Baldknobbers signed bricks which are located on the first floor and there are two red theater seats the theater owners used to sit in are hanging from the ceiling on the third floor.

The building is designed to look like a tornado picked it up, and placed it back on the

same site — upside down. But Professor WonderWorks continues to conduct his scientific experiments as guests come through to lend aid.

Parents and educators can feel good about the time spent at WonderWorks because as Professor WonderWorks says, “Play is the highest form of research.”

The first floor includes physical physics, history of Branson, party rooms, cafe and gift shop. The physical physics area includes a “motorcycle” looking piece of equipment that ►

**The lobby area of WonderWorks shows a unique view of the upside down structure.**



**WonderWorks in Branson is built at the former Baldknobbers Theater location on the 76 Strip. It was designed to have the appearance of a building after a tornado turned it upside down.**



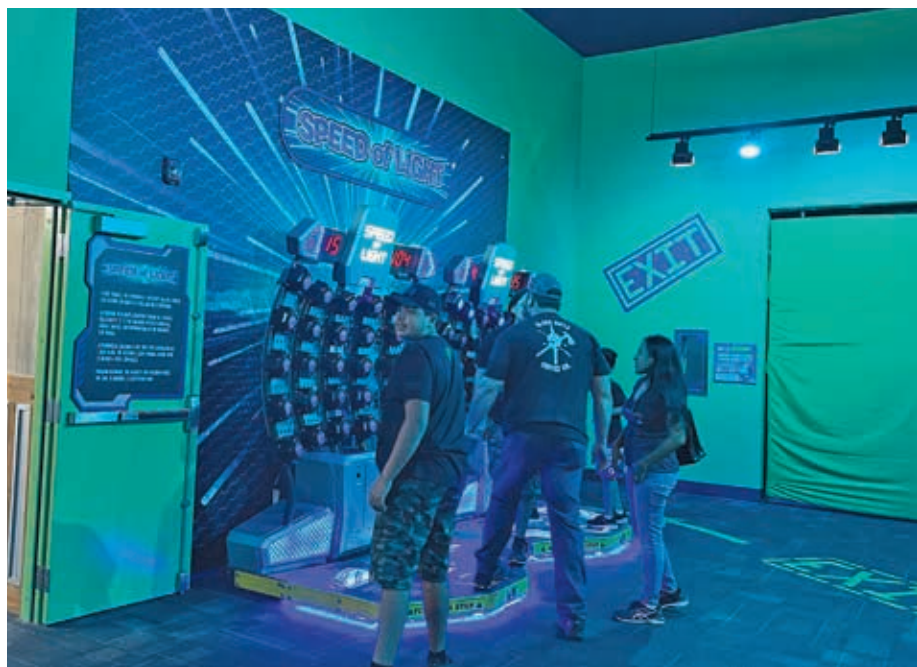
**This is a recreation of the famous upside building located in Orlando, Florida. It was on display at the Orlando International Airport for two years. It took a British artist 40 hours to create this 9,000 LEGO brick model. The real building is actually three stories high and one of the most photographed buildings in the world.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

guests have to pedal to get it to go completely around in a 360 degree circle. There is also a gyroscope which simulates astronaut's movements for guests to ride in.

The second floor explores light, sounds and senses. The American Pride Theater shows a film of how the military uses STEM (science, technology, electronics and math) in

their careers. A STEM room, explains each division in more detail. A unique art gallery gives each guest a look at images from different vantage points which actually change what the viewer sees. Some large paintings are actually composed of tiny pixels of photos that make a larger than poster size piece of art.

Third floor includes ►



**A speed of light activity allows participants to test their response time against another player.**

weather and space information. Guests can attempt to land a space shuttle in a simulator, or find their home on an extra large Google Earth display. A clip and climb allows kids and parents to try a climbing wall. An arcade and laser tag area can be fun for the whole family.

WonderWorks offers discounts for groups and seniors and is open 365 days a year and located at 2835 W. 76 Country Boulevard. Visit [wonderworksbranson.com](http://wonderworksbranson.com) or call 417-231-9999. ■

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