

# Entertainment

# JOURNAL



## Exhibit melts hearts

### Directions to Opryland from Knoxville:

- Take I-40 West toward Nashville
- Take exit 215B, Briley Parkway North
- Take exit 12
- Turn left onto Magavock Pike
- The Opryland Resort & Convention Center will be on your left.

For more information, call (888) 777-OPRY or visit [gaylordhotels.com](http://gaylordhotels.com)

By STEPHANIE EDWARDS  
S.Edwards@TheKnoxvilleJournal.com

"I must stop this whole thing! Why, for fifty-three years I've put up with it now. I must



Photos by Stephanie Edwards

stop Christmas from coming ... but how?"

This is a famous quote from Dr. Seuss' popular holiday book, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

For the second and final year, many of the "Grinchy" scenes from the book have been brought to life in Ice!, a colorful ice sculpture



exhibit at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center.

Now even at 9 degrees, the holiday favorite character manages to melt the hearts of visitors as he realizes that "Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!"

Guests see dozens of sculptures the ones that depict the Grinch preparing to make his dog Max load up the sleigh with stolen Christmas goodies.

Of course, the most heart-warming part of the exhibit is the collection of sculptures that depict the Grinch's transformation from bad to good and him returning the Whos' gifts and roast beast.

"I am thrilled to see Ted's creation being used in, well, such a creative way. It seems right that the Grinch and all the Whos would be carved out of ice," Audrey Geisel, the widow of Dr. Seuss (Theodor Geisel) said.

"I think that if Ted were alive, he would be

tickled.

"When Ted wrote the book, we didn't know that it would unite families (from one generation to the next). Now with this (Ice!) it is going to continue to unite families."

Ice! will be open at the Gaslight Theater until Jan. 4. Hours of operation vary.

Admission is \$20 for adults and \$14 for children.

Tickets can be ordered at [www.gaylordhotels.com](http://www.gaylordhotels.com) or by calling (888)-777-OPRY. ■

## Louise Mandrell brings joy



By STEPHANIE EDWARDS  
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One of Pigeon Forge's most-loved ladies has ended her sabbatical from the world of entertainment to present "Joy to the World," a Gaylord Opryland Christmas production.

Country music icon Louise Mandrell closed her Pigeon Forge theater two years ago so she could move home to Nashville and spend more time with her husband who had been ill.

"Until now all I'd done was charity events. They (Gaylord Opryland) called and asked me if I wanted to do a Christmas show," Mandrell said.

"My sister Barbara came out of retirement, well I kind of forced her out of retirement, to help me write the show. She's been here since the show opened."

So the Mandrells began searching their hearts for the show's theme.

"I'm a joyful Christian, so I told my sister, the name of the show should be 'Joy to the World.'"

Barbara is not the only family member who has collaborated on Louise's show. Barbara's son, Matt Dundey, and his wife, gospel singer Christy Sutherland, are also part of "Joy to the World."

"When they told Aunt Louise they wanted a family show, she took them literally and put the family in the show," said Dundey, who emceeds the show.

"I get to work with my family. That is so important to me," Mandrell said.

"Joy to the World" begins with a heartfelt performance of the song

cious holiday-time meal that is set out on a large lazy susan in the middle of the table.

Guests take turns spinning the serving piece around to their desired dishes, which are delivered to the table in three separate courses.

First up on the table is the salad course, which includes an apple salad with bleu cheese, bloomed wild rice and a selection of fruits and cheeses.

Next, is the main course with comfort foods galore such as beef tenderloin pot pie, chicken stuffed with cornbread stuffing, candied yams swirled with molasses and toasted English walnuts, scalloped potatoes with a mozzarella crust and country-style green beans.

The meal had a sweet ending — bananas foster bread pudding with eggnog cream and New York-style cheese cake covered in chocolate shavings and a sweet cherry sauce.

If you have dined at Opryland before, this meal is what you have come to expect — elegant but comfortable at the same time. And if you haven't eaten at the Nashville resort before, this meal will keep you coming back for more.

"Joy to the World" will be on stage at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center until Dec. 25.

Ticket prices are \$65 for adults, \$32.50 for children ages 4-11 and free for children ages 3 and younger.

For more information, call (888) 999-OPRY or visit the Web site — [www.gaylordopryland.com](http://www.gaylordopryland.com). ■

that helped inspire the show's title.

Mandrell and her co-performers delight the crowd with a number of traditional, religious Christmas hymns. Then, the show's tempo takes a steady climb right up to the dizzying dance finale.

While Mandrell is well-recognized for her sensational voice and comedic ability, she has not even come close to receiving the respect she deserves for all of her talents.

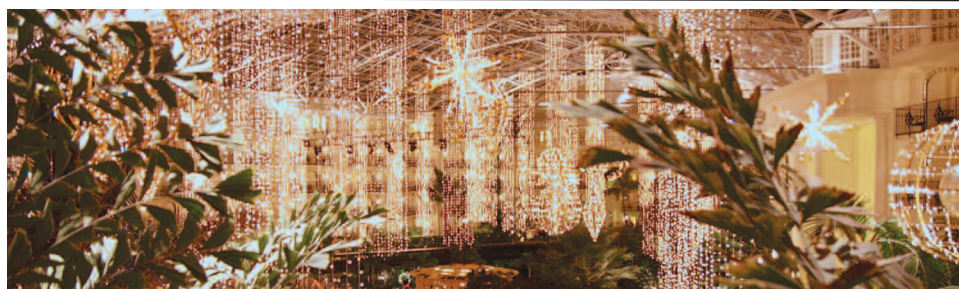
During the show, Mandrell plays in excess of 10 instruments ranging, from the steel drums to an electronic woodwind instrument.

She also manages to pull off astounding acrobatic stunts while dancing.

It is a truly amazing experience to see Mandrell's many talents showcased on stage.

"The variety is because I want to please my audience. I am the exception to the rule. I love signing autographs and meeting fans. That is who I am. That is the real me," Mandrell said.

Prior to being entertained by Mandrell and her crew, "Joy to the World" audience members are treated to a deli-



## Christmas is merrier at Opryland

By STEPHANIE EDWARDS  
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The Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center is one of the best places in the world to get into the Christmas spirit.

More than 2 million lights glow throughout the resort, and if you have never experienced it, this alone is worth the two-and-a-half hour drive to Nashville.

Each of the hotel's three atriums — Cascades, Delta and Garden Conservatory — are decked out in twinkling white lights.

Views in these atriums are breathtaking at any time of day, but when the sun goes down, the light displays that dangle from the atrium ceilings and other structures, create an incomparable glow.

And if it's the atrium views that you crave, you can book a balcony-guestroom that overlooks the area of your choice.

Cascades, as the name implies, features amazing several-stories-high waterfalls. Sleeping inside a guestroom with an atrium view in this area is simply narcotic with the calming, rhythmic sound of the flowing water.

Fine dining abounds in this atrium with the Cascades Seafood Restaurant, known for its fresh seafood; Wasabi, the resort's trendy sushi bar; and the Cascades revolving lounge. Even though the food is divine, the best part of dining in the Cascades atrium is the view.

Relaxation, home to the resort's spa, fitness center and swimming pools, can also be found in the Cascades.

The original portion of the hotel, the Magnolia, features casual dining establishments including Findley's Irish Pub, which serves up delicious Gaelic dishes like shepherd's pie and chick-

en pot pie; and Rusty's Sports Bar, which offers guests more casual fare like nachos and burgers.

Anyone seeking night life will want to go to Fuse, the resort's new, hot Vegas-style nightclub.

No matter which area of the hotel guests choose to stay in, they will find spacious rooms with extremely comfortable beds, upscale décor and furnishings, high-speed Internet access, hair dryers, irons and ironing boards, two-line phones and voice mail.

Plus there's plenty of shopping, entertainment and dining destinations within the 400-square-foot resort.

Making the resort an even more attractive tourist destination is its charming "A Country Christmas," most of which will be held at venues within walking distance of the hotel until Jan. 4. This year's holiday event includes the following attractions:

- Ice! featuring "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"
- The General Jackson Showboat's "Tim Watson's Tennessee Christmas" and "NashVegas on the River" shows
- "Radio City's Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes"
- Winter Wonderland in the Ryman Exhibit Hall, featuring the Hall of Trees, the Treasures for the Holidays Craft Show and Gingerbread Corner
- Louise Mandrell's "Joy to the World," including a delicious holiday dinner and a performance by Mandrell and her crew

Rates vary depending on season and room type. The resort is located at 2800 Opryland Dr. in Nashville.

For more information, visit the Web site — [www.gaylordhotels.com](http://www.gaylordhotels.com). ■

## Radio City Spectacular — a holiday favorite



By **STEPHANIE EDWARDS**  
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No matter how old you are, it is difficult to not be in awe of the Radio City Rockettes, especially during their Christmas Spectacular.

On Nov. 21, I was sitting in the Grand Ole Opry House, eagerly awaiting the beginning of the much-loved holiday show, when I noticed a little girl who was about five years old.

I couldn't help but glance at her to catch her reaction from one high kick to the next. It was easy to see that she was completely engrossed in the show, and I can relate to her reaction.

During the show, 20 Rockettes, 22 singers and dancers, six little people, four children and Santa Claus, all combine talents to spread Christmas cheer.

This two-hour show is designed to amaze children and adults of any age.

The Rockettes' tap rendition of the traditional holiday tune, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is breathtaking. Not only do the girls complete remarkable dance moves in unison,

but they also sing portions of the song without missing a note.

"The 'Twelve Days of Christmas' is my favorite because it starts with just our legs showing. They're supposed to be 'stockings.' It is a very long number, and it's really hard. It is such a varied number," said Rockette Heather Duckworth.

An especially impressive portion of the show is the "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," when the dancers portray a group of wooden soldiers. They flawlessly move together in extremely impressive formations.

Santa Claus' performance of "Santa's Gonna Rock & Roll," is both entertaining and humorous.

Children and adults who are dreaming of sugar plums will enjoy the show's tribute to Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker."

This is not the traditional ballet, but a whimsical spin on the holiday favorite. Instead of fairies, teddy bears represent their respective countries, like pandas representing China.

The show comes to a close with "The Living Nativity," a touching presentation of the Christmas story that features religious holiday songs, three camels, five sheep and a donkey.

The 2008 production will run until Dec. 28.

Tickets range from \$35 for second upper balcony to \$84 for Gold Circle seats.

The Rockettes got their start as the Missouri Rockets in 1925. Since then, the dance troupe has become well-known for their ability to move as one during extremely intricate dance moves.

"This is my first year as a Rockette. I am learning precision, the importance of being able to move as one and being a team," Duckworth said.

And this group of talented girls are more than just dancers. They are each other's family.

"We are away from home at Christmastime so we have to be each other's family," said Rockette Clare Holmes Tewart.

For more information, call (888) 999-OPRY or visit the Web site — [www.gaylordopryland.com](http://www.gaylordopryland.com).



Photo by Stephanie Edwards

Louise Mandrell decorates her Christmas tree at the Hall of Trees.

## Deck the halls with celebrity's trees

By **STEPHANIE EDWARDS**  
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It is a rare occurrence to have Louise Mandrell, a baby kangaroo from Kentucky Downunder and the Rockettes together in one room.

But on Nov. 22, they, along with a large group of celebrities and business people, gathered in the Ryman Exhibit Hall at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center to decorate Christmas trees.

Mandrell was especially enthusiastic about her tree.

"I had the Picture People design these ornaments," Mandrell said, as she showed off an ornament with three people holding hands and the words, "Joy to the World" written on them.

Mandrell's nephew, Matt Dundey, and his wife, Christy Sutherland, were on hand to help decorate the tree.

"It is so important for

me to be with my family and to tell people to give the gift of time to someone who needs it this holiday season," Mandrell said.

Each celebrity or company's tree will be auctioned off at [www.christmasatgaylordopryland.com](http://www.christmasatgaylordopryland.com). Proceeds will benefit charities like the American Cancer Society, Soles for Souls, Special Olympics and Nashville Alliance for Public Education.

Admission to the Hall of Trees is \$6. Guests are welcome to walk through, look at the trees and vote on their favorite trees by giving a monetary donation to the tree's respective charity.

The Hall of Trees is part of Opryland's new Winter Wonderland Attraction, which is also home to Treasures for the Holidays Craft Show, Gingerbread Corner, Photos with Santa, the ACC Express and Cocoa Station.

Treasures for the Holidays Craft Show is

a great opportunity for purchasing one-of-a-kind Christmas gifts. More than 80 vendors have set up displays in the exhibit hall.

Gift items include homemade crafts like candles, jewelry, artwork and food items. Among the more interesting gifts being sold is Nicaraguan pottery, which is signed by each artist. Pottery pieces will come with a bio and picture of the artist who made it. Admission is \$5.

Families will also want to check out Gingerbread Corners, where they will be able to make a delicious gingerbread house and decorate it with candy canes, gumdrops, chocolate squares and lollipops. Admission is \$12 per guest.

Then, children can take take a ride on the ACC Express train, have their picture taken with Santa Claus and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate. ■



Photo by Stephanie Edwards

Rockettes Heather Duckworth and Nirine S. Brown pose with the Radio City Christmas tree in Nashville.

### FANTASY OF TREES

East Tennessee Children's Hospital will host the Fantasy of Trees Nov. 26-30 at the Knoxville Convention Center.

The event will feature hundreds of designer-decorated trees, beautiful decorations, holiday gift shops, colorful gingerbread houses, live entertainment and dozens of children's activities.

Proceeds will benefit

East Tennessee Children's Hospital.

For more information, call (865) 541-8385 or visit [www.etch.com/fantasy.cfm](http://www.etch.com/fantasy.cfm).

### EARTH FARE EVENTS

Earth Fare, 10903 Parkside Dr., will host the following events:

- Final Friday Music Series, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Nov. 28

- Throughout the month of November, 10 cents will be donated

every time a shopper brings their own bags for their groceries.

For more information, call (865) 777-3837.

### OLD HARP SHAPE NOTE SINGINGS

The following Old Harp Shape Note Singings will be held:

- Annual Thanksgiving Eve Community Potluck and Singing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 26 at the Laurel Theater, 16th Avenue

and Laurel Avenue.

- Franklin Monthly Old Harp Singing, Greenville
- Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 210 North Main St., Greenville. ■

### SANTA PAWS

Pet owners can have their furry friends' pictures made with Santa Claus during the following Santa Paws events:

- Jefferson City Walmart from 9 a.m. to 2

p.m. on Dec. 6 and from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 7

- Morristown Utility Building, from noon to 4 p.m. on Dec. 13 or noon to 4 p.m. on Dec. 14

A donation of \$15 includes a photo session with Santa for up to two pets, a 4x6 print of your choice in a Christmas card.

You can include additional pets or people in your photos for \$5 per pet/person.

Additional photo sittings are only \$10 each.

One hundred percent of the donations go toward improving the health and lives of NOAH's ARC rescued animals.

NOAH's ARC, Inc., is a no-kill animal rescue organization.

For more information, call (423) 586-2293 or visit [www.noahsarc.petfinder.com](http://www.noahsarc.petfinder.com). ■

### RULE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

Rule High School alumni who graduated from 1967-1991 will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month at

Shoney's, 4032 Broadway.

For more information, call at (865) 219-9712. ■

### "A KILLED CHRISTMAS"

Coyote Run will perform at the Palace Theater in Crossville on Dec. 2.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

For more information, visit [www.performingartsalliance.org](http://www.performingartsalliance.org). ■

### "A TUNA CHRISTMAS"

"A Tuna Christmas" will be presented at 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 30 at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Greeneville.

For more information, call (423) 638-1679 or visit [www.greenvillenpac.com](http://www.greenvillenpac.com). ■



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SHOWTIMES FOR NOV. 26 - DEC. 4, 2008

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Notices must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for publication consideration on a first-come, first-served basis.