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8-12-09

## **Branson Chamber Chatter**

### **Neal McCoy Sightings**

Country music superstar Neal McCoy graciously stopped by the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce to say hi this week. He spends a lot of time in Branson, performing now at the Yakov Smirnoff Theatre. He's friends with a couple other entertainers who had their own theaters here. Early in his career, McCoy was the opening act for Charley Pride, a friendship that led to his first record deal. He also traveled on USO tours with Wayne Newton.

McCoy, of Irish and Filipino descent, was born in Texas. He's twice been named öEntertainer of the Yearö and has three platinum albums. Among his biggest hits are öNo Doubt About Itö and öWink.ö

Perhaps even more significant is his Academy of Country Music's Home Depot Humanitarian Award for his extensive work with the USO and the East Texas Angel Network. He's at Yakov's theatre Aug. 18-20 and Aug. 25-27. Also this fall, Sept. 29-30 and 18 shows in October. Adults can receive \$5 off tickets through Nov. 1. Call the box office at 866-559-2568. Visit [www.nealmccoy.com](http://www.nealmccoy.com).

### **A Week of Good Eats**

On Tuesday, Aug. 18, the Bleu Olive restaurant in the downtown Chappy Mall is celebrating its one-year anniversary with a Fine Wine and Food-Tasting Social at 6:30 p.m. There will be live entertainment, wines from around the world as well as tasty treats. Cost is \$25 per person. For reservations, call 332-2538.

On Friday, Aug. 21, the Payne Stewart Golf Club and Palate Fine Wine and Provisions will present a Wine Pairings Tasting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Many Faces of Payne Bar and Grill. They'll serve appetizers, cheese and Askinosie Chocolate with California wines. The event will be presented by Hilton Executive Chief Nathan Read and Palate manager and wine buyer Stewart Langer. Cost is \$25 per person. For reservations, call Jason at 337-2963, ex. 107.

### **John Fullerton Sings Bob Nolan**

Branson's Singing Cowboy John Fullerton just finished a yearlong recording project, "The Song Poems of Bob Nolan." Nolan wrote many songs for the Sons of the Pioneers including "Cool Water" and "Tumbling Tumbleweeds." Hear Fullerton sing and play with the singing Horn Family's öRiders of the Circle Bö Supper Show at 4:15 p.m. The theater is on Wildwood Drive across from the Branson Variety Theatre.

Fullerton has been a fan of the Sons of the Pioneers since he was a child and has a significant collection of Sons memorabilia. On the CD, Fullerton plays all the instruments

and sings all of the vocal parts including harmony cowboy yodeling. Fullerton's new CD is on sale at the theater. Call 800-678-6179 or visit [www.circleshow.com](http://www.circleshow.com).

### **Dionne Warwick and B.J. Thomas**

Better not wait to get tickets as next month's music scene heats up in Branson with a concert featuring two giants in the music business at RFD-TV The Theatre.

Leave it to legendary producer Joe Sullivan to get two stars with parallel careers together for a concert. Dionne Warwick and B.J. Thomas both had early success on Scepter Records label. Both had huge hits with Burt Bacharach-Hal David songs. And both sold millions of records, had many top-ten hits and won several Grammy Awards.

Warwick's hits include "I'll Never Fall In Love Again," "Walk On By" and "Alfie." Among Thomas's hits pop/rock "Hooked On A Feeling," and country "Hey Won't You Play) Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song."

They'll do 8 p.m. concerts Sept. 18 and 19 at RFD-TV The Theatre. For tickets, call 417-332-2282 or visit [www.rfdtv.com](http://www.rfdtv.com) or [www.sullivanshows.com](http://www.sullivanshows.com).

### **Stone Hill Wins Governors Cup**

For the sixth time, Stone Hill Winery received the Governor's Cup at the 2009 Missouri Wine Competition for their 2007 Cross J Vineyard Norton. The small vineyard surrounds the home of Winery owners Jim and Betty Held overlooking the Missouri River.

The Norton Cynthiana is a native grape and also Missouri's official state grape. Stone Hill captured the most awards at the competition. At the Stone Hill Winery in Branson, they're waiting to get a shipment of the latest winner, said Carrie Green. They currently have the 2005 and 2006 Cross J Vineyard Norton for sale. The Winery has enjoyed a busy season with families touring the facility, watching the bottling process and sampling wines, Green said.