St. Paddy’s Weekend

In Jonesborough

More loafing inside:
• Road Trip March Story Slam
• Annual Songwriting Contest
• QuinTango Returns to Barter Theatre
Janet & Dave just bought their first home, and need new furniture on a budget!

Janet & Dave went to the GRAND Kingsport Basement Outlet and found furniture up to 80% OFF.
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on the cover

St. Paddy's Weekend

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BEEZWAX by John Martin

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Come celebrate St. Patrick’s Day, Jonesborough style March 16 and 17 in Tennessee’s Oldest Town. Join in on the weekend-long fun with a scavenger hunt, fun run, leprechaun search, live music, brews and more throughout the weekend.

Participate in the Jonesborough Gold Hunt, a mobile-friendly QR code scavenger hunt, taking place throughout downtown all weekend long. The hunt will include almost 20 locations incorporating Jonesborough’s unique history and architecture. You can find more information about the hunt and get started at jbohunt.com.

While exploring downtown Jonesborough, keep your eyes peeled for Paddy the Leprechaun. Clues on where to find Paddy will be announced on Main Street Jonesborough’s Instagram page. When you find Paddy, he may have a special treat to share with you and be sure to get your picture made with him and hashtag #OnlyInJonesborough #FindPaddy to be entered to win a giveaway each day.

Friday evening, Jonesborough will host Paddy’s Dash: Brew Fun Run starting at 7 p.m. at the Storytelling Center. The 2-mile walk/jog/run will loop through town with an option to stop by Depot Street Brewery for a free 5 oz. beer and end back at the Storytelling Plaza with a Beer Garden. After the run, stick around for the Lighting of the Clocktower as it shines green for the weekend!

Then on Saturday, join us for Shamrockin’ on the Plaza from 4-7 p.m. Enjoy Celtic music, beers from Depot Street Brewery and a special menu of Irish foods from Boone Street Market. The Historic Jonesborough Dance Society will also offer a Saint Patrick’s Day Contra Dance from 7:30-10:30 p.m. at the Visitors Center. Admission is $7 for adults, $5 for children and students or $15 for families.

Downtown merchants will be offering promotions and special menu items throughout the weekend in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. Also enjoy St. Paddy’s inspired arts with the McKinney Center at the corner of Fox Street on Saturday from 1-3 p.m.

For more information, go to Main Street Jonesborough’s Facebook page or call 423-753-1010.
“Road Trip” is the theme for March in East Tennessee State University’s “Re-Generation: A Johnson City Story Slam” series.

This free public Story Slam will be held Friday, March 16, at 8 p.m. at JRH Brewing, located at 458 W. Walnut St. Donations at the door are welcome.

The “Re-Generation” series of unvarnished storytelling concerts opens the door to audience members instead of paid professional tellers.

Storytellers in the audience may share true tales based on their interpretations of the “Road Trip” theme. Stories should be 10 minutes or less in length and should be told and not read from a manuscript.

Patrons who wish to tell a story may drop their names into a hat, and names will be drawn at random to compete. Three novice judges selected from the audience will pick the winners, and the first-place winner will receive a cash prize from donations collected at the door. Individuals whose names are not drawn to compete will have an opportunity to share their stories during an “open mic” session following the competition.

The March Story Slam will feature David Joe Miller as the master of ceremonies. Miller has been a professional storyteller since 1989, when he began his career with the National Storytelling Association in Jonesborough. He has told stories in performance settings all over the country in such venues as Disney, World Bank, the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian, as well as for former Vice President Al Gore.

“Re-Generation: A Johnson City Story Slam” is sponsored by the ETSU Department of Communication and Performance and its Storytelling Program. The date of the final story slam of the 2017-18 academic year is April 20. This event is not suitable for children.

For more information, contact the ETSU Storytelling Program at 423-439-7606 or storytel@etsu.edu, or Dr. Delanna Reed at 423-439-7601 or reeddk@etsu.edu.
Civil War Encampment at Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

The Department of East Tennessee (DET) will be hosting its Camp of Instruction at Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site on Saturday, March 17. The gates will be open to the public from 9am till 3pm.

Have you ever wondered what camp life was like during the Civil War? Come and learn as reenactors from the DET camp, drill, march, and prepare for their 2018 reenacting season. During the encampment visitors will be able to study how soldiers lived in camp, examine different types of uniforms, watch how soldiers drilled, hear the numerous commands of the officers, see the various weapons carried during the war, and so much more. Bring a picnic and simply enjoy the day as you step back in time to the Civil War. Also, come and explore the eleven historic buildings, cave, and nature trail.

Admission is $5 for adults and $2.50 for children twelve and under (children 3 and under are free). As always, Tipton-Haynes members are FREE! Donations are welcomed and will go to help the site continue its mission values.

Tipton-Haynes is a Tennessee Historical Commission State-Owned Historic Site.

Tipton-Haynes is located at 2620 South Roan Street in Johnson City. For additional information, please call 423-926-3631 or email tiptonhaynes@embarqmail.com.

Tailwater Roundup Kicks off the weekend

This is one very cool event. The Fly Fishing Film Tour held @ Holston River Brewing is this coming Friday. Doors open at 4:00 and the shows start at 6:00. The fishing demonstrations are always very well done, but the door prizes are even more interesting. There is no cover charge, so come on out, enjoy a refreshing brew and see what Fly Fishing is all about. Proceeds go to benefit river cleanup, a rather worthwhile cause!

Activities continue all weekend; the actual cleanup day is Saturday followed by a participation rally. Then Sunday brings the Soho Two-Man Fly Fishing Tournament. You can check out all the activities at www.flyfilmtour.com or at a local retailer.

Virginia Ground's "Lucky JamRock" St Paddy's Day w/ Fritz & Co

It will be one heck of a St. Patrick's Day Party at the Brewery. Virginia Ground is playing with special guest Fritz & Co. They call it a ‘jamrock’ and I can see why. This is going to be a memorable evening from the music standpoint. Add in the party atmosphere, good food, great beer and a goodly number of kindred spirits and – well, there you go! See you out there – remember, everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day!
The 2018 “Gathering in the Gap” Music Festival, featuring Seldom Scene, offers area songwriters entry into its annual songwriting contest. A crowd favorite, the songwriting contest showcases outstanding, but under-recognized, performing songwriters who represent the spirit and traditions of Appalachian culture. Gathering in the Gap will be held at the Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park in Big Stone Gap on Saturday, May 26.

Song topics include songs relative to Americana and related topics and topical songs about historic or current events. Song genres should have roots in Appalachian culture, such as Old-Time, Folk, Bluegrass, Country, Gospel, Blues, and Rockabilly. A panel of professional songwriters, publishers and other music industry professionals will judge entries based on the following criteria: originality, lyrics, melody and relevance to criteria. Music production and performance quality of submittal are not considered.

From the original mailed cd entries, panelists will choose ten finalists. The ten finalists will compete on the main stage in the Gathering in the Gap’s songwriting contest. Each finalist will be given a free-access ticket to the festival, along with a festival t-shirt. The top three winners will receive cash prizes and plaques.

The entry deadline is April 28, 2018 by 4 p.m. with an entry fee of $10 for the first song and $5 for a second song. Please send a cd copy of the submission with a check or money order payable to the Friends of the Southwest Virginia Museum, 106 West 1st Street North, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219 or drop off during business hours at the Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park in Big Stone Gap, VA. All entries must arrive by deadline, not by postmark.

For a complete set of competition rules, a schedule of events, or a downloadable registration form, please visit the festival website at www.gatheringinthegap.org and click on “Songwriting Contest.” For more information about the songwriting contest or festival events, please call the Museum at 276-523-1322 or visit the website mentioned above.

The award-winning Virginia State Parks are managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. For more information about Virginia State Parks’ activities and amenities or to make reservations in one of the more than 1,800 campsites or 300 climate-controlled cabins, call the Virginia State Parks Reservation Center at 800-933-PARK or visit www.virginiastateparks.gov.

SUREFIRE Bluegrass Band
IN CONCERT AT CARTER FOLD

Saturday, March 17th, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. the Carter Family Fold in Hiltons, Virginia, will present a concert by the Surefire Bluegrass Band. Admission to the concert is $10 for adults, $2 for children 6 to 11, under age 6 free.

For traditional bluegrass at its’ finest, don’t miss Surefire at the Carter Family Fold! Surefire delivers a performance that would indicate they are a band with many more years of experience than they have. Their professionalism, stage presence, and sheer talent will amaze you. Tom, Robby, and the band have played with many other groups at the Fold. They have a bright future in bluegrass music, and we’re proud to welcome them back to the Fold.

For more information, go to carterfamilyfold.org, or call 276-386-6054.
The Easter season is approaching and there is no better way to celebrate than to watch the story of the passion of Christ come alive on stage. Lamplight Theatre is premiering a brand new Easter musical called “Redemption’s Song.” This production promises to bring great quality family entertainment with a timeless message. The authentic costumes, elaborate set design, original songs, and a beautiful story will take you on a journey to Biblical Jerusalem in an incredible display of the compassion of Christ toward the most rejected in life.

“Redemption’s Song” is told through the eyes of the outcast, both rich and poor. As Jesus embraces His destiny to suffer as their Messiah, the most rejected are drawn to His words of hope and redemption. Tax collectors including Zacchaeus and Levi, along with people of ill repute like Mary Magdalene, find themselves broken before a loving Savior. The backstories of other obscure characters in the Bible like Susanna, and Joanna unfold in this powerful musical narrative. From witnessing incredible miracles and seeing Jairus’ daughter raised from the dead, these misfits become believers. Their redemption comes at a price as their dreams are crushed on a cross at Calvary. Little do they know… their Hope will rise again.

Come and experience the power of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection in “Redemption’s Song.” Performances will begin March 16th and will run through April 8th. Shows will run nightly Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7 PM with additional matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Saturday matinees will be at 2:00 PM and Sunday matinees at 3:00 PM. No performances on Mondays and Tuesdays. Doors will open one hour prior to the performances. Admission is a suggested donation of $10 Adults, $5 Students, Free for children 5 & under. “Youth Night” will be Thursday March 29th. Church youth groups and all other youth are invited to a mini-concert and challenge by Billy Wayne at 6:15 PM, prior to the performance.

Dinner Theatre packages in “The Emporium” next door to the theatre are now available! Dinner is offered March 24th at 5:30 pm to accommodate both showtimes. Cost for Dinner and Show is $30 for adults and $15 for students. Bring a group of 10 or more and receive a group discount!

For reservations and information, please contact the LampLight box office at (423) 343-1766, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or online at www.LampLightTheatre.com.
It was sometimes last Spring, I think, when I was flipping around on a lazy Saturday afternoon at home and came across the 1958 film “Auntie Mame” on Turner Classic Movies about right in the middle of the movie. The film is such a delightful charmer that I usually stop and watch it when I catch it on, and generally see it at least once a year during one of those TCM airings. As I watched “Auntie Mame” on that Spring afternoon, one thought kept popping into my head as I looked at all the colors on display: “Boy, this movie would look really great on blu-ray. Shame it hasn’t happened yet.” Fortunately, this has come to pass with a sparkling new blu-ray of the film from Warner Archive.

Based upon the Novel of the same name by Patrick Dennis, and more the stage play adaptation of that novel, “Auntie Mame” stars Rosalind Russell in an Oscar-nominated performance that she is reprising from the Broadway stage. Patrick Dennis is a ten-year-old boy who finds himself orphaned and sent off to live with this nearest relation, his father’s sister Mame Dennis, a rich and eccentric woman who enjoys life with a gusto and passion that frightens most people. Over the film’s 143 minute running time, we see Mame grab life with all she’s got, and the effect it has on her friends and Patrick—whose stuffy trustee wants to do all he can to make sure that Mame’s influence doesn’t take root.

“Auntie Mame” is a film that has been delighting audiences for years. First as the smash hit stage play, then as the hit film, then again as the stage musical “Mame” in the mid-1960s with Angela Lansbury stepping into the role. But in this version of the film, it’s hard to not see why Russell made this role her own. She plays Mame as a larger than life force that refuses to be stopped by anyone. Her supporting cast is equally good too. Forrest Tucker, Fred Clark, Coral Browne, and venerable screen actor Patrick Knowles (who played a key part in my favorite Abbot and Costello movie, “Who Done It?”).

The film is hard to stop watching once you start, which is why I always set the remote down if it’s on and I catch it. Usually every Christmas you can see the film on TCM, and it’s one of those films that I can’t recommend enough if you haven’t seen it. It’s the type of loud, joyful farce that they just do not make anymore. Shot in the Technirama format, where film ran Vertically instead of Horizontally through the camera, Warner Archive’s blu-ray of “Auntie Mame” looks fantastic, using an original Technirama interpositive as the source of the 2K scan presented on the disc. That particular color pallet comes through with a dazzling sharpness. Thanks to that large negative format the film was shot in, the picture looks not of a film 60 years old, but almost of one just ten years old.

I was so happy when I heard Warner Archive was bringing “Auntie Mame” to blu-ray. It’s a film I’ve long been a fan of, and to see it looking better than perhaps it did when it was released in 1958 is a dream. This one comes highly recommended by me, you’ll want this one on your shelf. See you next week.
The 2nd annual Johnson City Jazz Festival, a 3-day celebration of live jazz music with 8 stellar bands playing a variety of jazz styles, is scheduled for March 15-17 at Carnegie Hotel in Johnson City.

Steve Scheu of Time & Pay, one of the major sponsors, noted. "We have some great jazz artists in our region but there just aren't that many opportunities to hear live jazz," said Scheu. "This festival showcases the amazing talent we have in the region, plus it features some very talented national artists including Justin Stanton of Snarky Puppy, and Walt Weiskopf, an extraordinary saxophonist who has played with the likes of Steely Dan and Buddy Rich.

Organizers have worked to make the festival very affordable. There is no charge for Thursday night's Jazz Jam although attendees are encouraged to "tip" the bands. The cost for Friday, March 16 and Saturday, March 17 is $15 for each night or $25 for both nights.

Carnegie Hotel, the other major sponsor, is the location for all shows, which run 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm each night. There is a special room rate of $119 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights during the festival for jazz fans that want to stay overnight. To reserve, call the hotel directly at 423-979-6400 and say that you are attending the Johnson City Jazz Festival.

In addition to major sponsors, Time & Pay and Carnegie Hotel, other sponsors include Bank of Tennessee, Albert's Pawn, Dunham & Deitel, Christian Schmid, Mr. Electric, Livewire Radio 103.9, Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union, caseSensitive Photos, Winning Tortoise Productions, Interstate Graphics and JRH Brewing who created Ensemble, the signature beer of the 2nd Annual Johnson City Festival.

For more details about the festival and to buy tickets, visit http://www.johnsoncityjazzfestival.com and follow the festival on Facebook (Johnson City Jazz Festival) and Instagram. (johnsoncityjazzfestival).

For more information, contact Joan Scheu at 423-854-8860 or email to info@johnsoncityjazzfestival.com.

Spring Cooking Course

"Dreaming of Springtime Alfresco Dining" is the topic of a five-week cooking class led by local restauranteur Sheridan Dockery Nice beginning March 22.

Sponsored by East Tennessee State University's Office of Professional Development, this course will meet in the Foods Lab of Hutcheson Hall on the ETSU campus from 5:30-9 p.m. each Thursday through April 19.

"Alfresco dining is one of the best things nature has to offer," says Nice, who, along with her husband, Steve, owns Mona Lisa's Gelato and Café in Johnson City. "People have traditionally feasted en plein aire, 'in the open air,' in European countries for hundreds of years, particularly in the warm summer months. Nice is a graduate of La Verenne, Ecole de Cuisine, Paris, and a recipient of a Baking and Pastry Scholarship from the International Association of Culinary Professionals to The Culinary Institute of America in California's Napa Valley.

Registration is $219 and includes all food for a meal at every meeting.

For registration or more information, call the ETSU Office of Professional Development at 800-222-3878 or visit www.etsu.edu/professionaldevelopment. For disability accommodations, call the ETSU Office of Disability Services at 423-439-8346.
As a rule I love science fiction films. There are, however, those rare occasions when I see a sci-fi film that leaves me wondering what went wrong, or what could have been. Such is the case with the new sci-fi/horror film "Annihilation." The film stars Natalie Portman ("Black Swan") as Lena, a biologist and former soldier in the Army. The film begins on a downer note as Lena's husband Kane (Oscar Isaac of "Star Wars") has been missing for a year and is presumed dead. Lena has a pleasant surprise when Kane shows up one day with no notification, but is behaving strangely. When Kane starts bleeding, he is rushed to the hospital only to be stopped along the way by the military who take him out of the ambulance and sedate Lena. Later Lena wakes up in a hospital type room where she is told she is being held in an area named Area X, near where an object from outer-space struck a light house, which resulted in an anomaly called "the shimmer". The "shimmer", an electromagnetic field, reminded me of a very large and expansive rainbow. While the shimmer is attractive and mysterious in appearance, when you go beyond the boundaries of the shimmer, it's like a trip through the looking glass.

Lena is recruited by a psychologist to venture into the shimmer, where no one, save for the comatose Kane, has returned. Several other women join Lena and the psychologist behind the shimmer, and the group quickly discover, via a mutated crocodile, they are not in Kansas anymore. After being attacked by said crocodile, the group discovers an abandoned military base, where Lena discovers Kane's role in an expedition beyond the shimmer. The frightening role Kane played in the expedition is stomach churning, and soon after viewing a video of Kane and company, the women continue their journey to the light house where the object landed causing all the chaos. This is the part of the movie that really turns bizarre, as the group encounter human-shaped plants, and a vicious mutated wolf-like creature that takes one of the group out. It's quite obvious the shimmer is acting as a genetic prism, resulting in mutations of all types. While all of the aforementioned sounds fascinating, I actually found myself nodding off a couple of times during the film, which is never a good sign.

Perhaps the combination of the mesmerizing soundtrack and the colorful special effects sent me on a brief visit to the Sandman. After my brief nod off, I managed to make it to the end of the film, which seems an hour too long. After all, how many scenes can one take of Portman's character trying to give the details to government officials in a very slow and studied manner. I actually wanted to shout at the screen for Portman to get on with it, but I refrained. I will say the concept of an alien invasion typically involves huge space ships, so it was refreshing to see a film that relies on an invasion smaller in scope, that could still lead to the annihilation of the human race. In addition, Portman gives her all to her role, I just wish she had better material. The supporting cast, which includes Jennifer Jason Leigh, are convincing in their portrayals, but Isaac is much better suited to roles similar to that of his character in the new "Star Wars" films. Basically, "Annihilation" is an alien invasion film that attempts to be a bit too intellectual for its own good, resulting in more misses than hits. Perhaps I should have stayed asleep.

Rated R

Aliens (out of 4)

Pop Life
By Ken Silvers
ksilvers@theloaferonline.com

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ARTISAN & CRAFTER BOOTHS
available for Old Oak Festival

There are limited spaces still available for artisan and crafter booths for the 2018 Old Oak Festival, which returns to the Tusculum campus April 20-22.

Deadline for vendor applications is March 30 or until all spaces are filled. Participants will find a form at www.oldoakfestival.org or may request one by calling 423.636.7303.

This year’s festival will feature a wide variety of music, food and fun, the Old Oak Festival will span across three days, featuring something for everyone, be it live music, theater, arts and crafts or fabulous festival food.

Throughout the weekend on stage, the festival will present the sounds of the region, with a wide variety of music from bluegrass to jazz featuring local vocalists and instrumentalists.

This year’s special events will include an art show at Allison Gallery, theater performances by GLAWPIGT (Great Literature Alive, Well and Playing In Greeneville Tennessee) and literary readings.

The Allison Gallery will feature recent work by Clem Allison with a focus on aspects of the Tusculum campus. Allison previously served as art department chairman and director of the Division of Arts and humanities until his retirement as professor emeritus of art in 2000. He continues to produce his own art and is presently preparing for an exhibit of his recent works in April at Tusculum’s Shulman Center.

The youth theater group, GLAWPIGT, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary, will showcase the young talent of the Greeneville and Greene County school systems with special performances each day during the festival.

There is no fee to attend the festival. Art vendor hours will be Friday from noon until 6 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Price at 423-636-7303. Entertainment and food continues into the evening.

Service animals are welcome; however, paperwork is required and no pets allowed. Coolers, firearms and alcohol are also prohibited on Tusculum College campus property during the festival. Lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged. For updates and more information, visit the website at www.oldoakfestival.org or on Facebook.
If you or your band are playing in the upcoming week and would like to be in The Spotlight, call in advance to (423) 283-4324 or go online to: theloaferonline.com. Due to last minute cancellations or changes, please call the location to confirm.

**TUESDAY - March 13 -**
- Drifters Two
- Bloom Cafe and Listening Room

**Downtown Country**
- Jiggy Ray’s Pizzeria

**Stemwinder**
- Rock’s Wood Fired Pizza & Grill

**WEDNESDAY - March 14 -**
- Sabrewulf / Hyborian / 1134
- The Hideaway

**Open Mic**
- The Willow Tree Coffeehouse & Music Room

**Miss Ellie & Friends**
- Harvest Table Restaurant

**Bluegrass Jam**
- Gypsy Circus Cider Company

**HB Beverly**
- Rock’s Wood Fired Pizza & Grill

**THURSDAY - March 15 -**
- Jam w/ Peterson Perkins
- Wellington’s Restaurant

**Gerald Sheppard**
- Blackbird Bakery

**Rusty Steel w/ Quarter Bounce**
- Woodstone Deli

**The Tides**
- Rock’s Wood Fired Pizza & Grill

**If Birds Could Fly**
- Rain Nightclub

**Anthony Mangrum**
- Zachary’s Steak House

**FRIDAY - March 16 -**
- Jake Quillin / A Great Disaster / The Aaron Jaxon Band
- Capone’s

**Indighost / Jaggermouth**
- O’Mainnín’s Pub

**Common Bond**
- Boogie Mo’s

**SATURDAY - March 17 -**
- Nightshift Band
- Show Palace

**Solo Goat**
- Our House Restaurant

**The Lost Fiddle Stringband**
- Damascus Brewery

**Big Smo**
- Rio’s Grill & Sports Bar

**Rick Morris Band**
- Buffalo Ruritan

**Broad Street Station**
- David Thompson’s Produce

**Virginia Ground / Fritz & Co.**
- Holston River Brewing Company

**Junkyard Dogz**
- Bears Bar

**Southern Rebellion**
- Country Club Bar & Grill

**SUNDAY - March 18 -**
- Mike Snodgrass
- Wild Wing Cafe

**Bill & The Belles**
- Bone Fire Smokehouse

**Spotlight**
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- **SUNDAY - March 18 -**
  - Mike Snodgrass
  - Wild Wing Cafe

- **Bill & The Belles**
  - Bone Fire Smokehouse
Kara Ke

**TUESDAY**
- Karaoke w/ Crossroads & Josh Blevins at Dawg House Tavern
- Karaoke at Zachary’s Steakhouse - Kingsport
- Family Night Karaoke at CJ’s Sports Bar
- Karaoke at Numan’s

**WEDNESDAY**
- Karaoke w/ Southern Sounds Karaoke at American Legion 8pm
- Karaoke at CJ’s Sports Bar
- Karaoke w/ Absolute Entertainment at Smokey Bones
- Turn the Page Karaoke At VFW Post 2108 - Johnson City

**THURSDAY**
- Karaoke w/ Absolute Entertainment at Macado’s - Kingsport
- Karaoke at Zachary’s Steakhouse - Kingsport
- Karaoke at CJ’s Sports Bar
- Karaoke at Numan’s
- Karaoke w/ DJ Marques Top Shelf Entertainment at Wild Wing Cafe - Johnson City
- Karaoke w/ Absolute Entertainment at New Beginning’s
- Karaoke at Jiggy Rays Pizzaria

**FRIDAY**
- Karaoke w/ Southern Sounds Karaoke at Sportsman’s Bar & Grill
- Karaoke w/ Shane Rouse at Bear’s Bar
- Karaoke at Kingsport Moose Lodge
- Karaoke w/ Reverb Karaoke at The Cottage 8:30 pm
- Turn the Page Karaoke at VFW Post 2108 - Johnson City
- Karaoke w/ Absolute Entertainment at Moe’s Original BBQ
- Karaoke w/ Toddzilla at Sportsmans Pub
- Karaoke At Elizabethton VFW
- Karaoke w/ DJ Marquez & Top Shelf Entertainment At Holiday Inn (Exit 7) - Bristol VA
- Karaoke at Numan’s

**SATURDAY**
- Karaoke at The Horseshoe Lounge
- Karaoke w/ Toddzilla at Sportsmans Pub
- Karaoke at Kingsport Moose Lodge
- Turn the Page Karaoke at VFW Post 2108 - Johnson City
- Karaoke w/ Absolute Entertainment at Macado’s - Kingsport
- Karaoke at Numan’s
RUSSIAN HERO
Leonov Tapped for Moon Voyage

Two great space heroes from different countries are still friends after not knowing they were competing against each other for the greatest prize in adventure, the Moon.

Russian Alexi Leonov, 83, is still a space advocate, reminiscing about his near-death experience performing mankind’s first spacewalk 53-years ago this week, and his training to put his footprints on the Moon.

Four-time NASA space flier Tom Stafford, 87, shook hands in space with Leonov in the first international mission of Apollo/Soyuz in July 1975, paving the way for today’s global citizens from 16 countries sharing the International Space Station.

Through the decades, Leonov and Stafford have remained best friends, comrades in space arms and believers in the future of manned space travel.

Stafford is one of those unsung heroes of NASA's Moon Race with the Soviet Union, flying two important Gemini missions, and then commander of Apollo 10—the full-dress rehearsal down to 9 miles of the Moon's surface with future last man-on-the Moon Gene Cernan, clearing the way for Apollo 11 in July 1969.

All of NASA’s manned space mission were openly reported to the world, but the Communist Soviet Union operated in complete secrecy. Their new agency, TASS, was a propaganda machine with the goal of touting the superiority of the Russian man and woman.

So, when TASS announced on March 18, 1965 that their cosmonaut had performed the first human spacewalk, the details were vague, but the boasts of space leadership were loud.

Exiting the two-man Vostok spacecraft for a short stroll in outer space, Leonov took the big leap outside while Pavel Belyelev was inside their spacecraft, 200 miles above Earth, traveling 17,500 mph. And the propaganda made it sound so easy.

But Leonov’s historic Extravehicular Activity (EVA) of only 12 minutes into space was difficult and dangerous every step of the way, though that wasn't revealed for decades until détente between the two Superpowers disclosed the truth about many space secrets.

So secretive was the details of Leonov’s spacewalk, that space observers only speculated about the specifics. There was even a conspiracy theory in the 1970s that the Soviets had faked their spacewalk in a studio.

Now Leonov tells the tale in a freer Russia. The Vostok 2 had an inflatable airlock cylinder that he crawled into to keep pressurized Belyelev and the vacuum tubes of the controls. The training airlock is on display attached to a real Voskhod mockup at the fabulous Once outside the spacecraft, Leonov said his suit ballooned larger than expected. That made it difficult to get back inside the tunnel, shut the airlock hatch and then get inside the spacecraft hatch. He had to let air out of the spacesuit, barely squeezing inside, making him overly exerted. This difficulty would have been nice to share with NASA before the first American spacewalk by Ed White during Gemini 4 on June 3, 1965.

Not only was the Russian EVA difficult, but Voskhod 2 landed 200 miles off target in a snowy forest. The rescue team couldn’t arrive until the next morning, and it was a freezing 23 degrees. The spacecraft had no working environment system, the heavy hatch was blown off, and the cosmonauts got wet and cold. Then a pack of wolves arrived on the scene and had to be scared off a pistol. Because of that near-disastrous encounter with wolves, every Russian spacecraft has a special weapon, called a TP-82, under the commander’s seat. It’s a combination shotgun, 22-rifle and machete, and yes, the docked Soyuz spacecraft to the International Space Station each have one under the seat!

NASA astronaut Stafford and Leonov met when training for the Apollo Soyuz Text Project, when three American astronauts docked and shared two days with two cosmonauts. It was a major publicity stunt by the Nixon Administration, but had the benefit of sharing space technology between the two Moon Race rivals.

After decades of mystery, finally a complete picture of the Soviet Union’s moon program has come to light. While Stafford was barnstorming the Moon in 1969, Leonov was also training to be the first man on surface. The plan was two cosmonauts on the Moon voyage, one left in orbit in a spacecraft called Zond and the second landing in the vehicle called LK, Lunar Craft.

Leonov has told the tales of his training for the Moon landing, often saying that in 1969 the lack of training and equipment reliability made it a suicide mission for himself.

Leonov is also an artist and the first man to sketch impressions with chalk while in orbit. He is a popular world celebrity while his health holds out.

Stafford, too, enjoys the continued limelight as his mind is alert though his back troubles standing up straight. Air Force Lt. General Stafford grew up in Weatherford, Oklahoma where he has built a fabulous air and space museum that rivals any of the Smithsonian institutes.

Gen. Stafford’s space career included two Gemini flights, a trip to the Moon and the final mission using an Apollo module. He had several harrowing moments, least of which is an aborted launch of Gemini 6 when it engines shutdown two seconds after ignition. Commander Wally Schirra, a veteran of a Mercury flight, felt nothing move so he didn’t pull the “D-ring” for the ejection seats. The rocket got fixed after Gemini 7 was launched, and Schirra and Stafford rendezvoused their Gemini 6 to within two feet of each other on Dec. 15, 1965.

Stafford was in space again just six months later Gemini 9 as backup commander because the prime crew were killed in a plane crash. He and Gene Cernan took over the mission, but in orbit discovered the target rendezvous rocket’s docking shroud didn’t eject. And Cernan had trouble on his EVA, overheating and blinded from a fogged visor, aborting the spacewalking plans.

The Apollo/Soyuz docking mission in July 1975 garnered the international attention of two superpowers working together. And the outgoing personalities of American Stafford and Russian Leonov provided a perfect end to the Apollo era as both nations turned to building space stations.
Celestial events in the skies for the week of Mar. 13-19, 2018 as compiled for The Loafer by Mark D. Marquette.

The evening skies are moonless, and Orion, Taurus and Gemini are in their glory until they set after midnight. The Big Dipper is standing on its handle in the northeast while the “W” of Cassiopeia is in the northwest. Jupiter is visible after midnight as a bright yellow “star” in the east, while Mars and Saturn are above the eastern horizon by 4 am. Notice that bright “star” after sunset, that’s Venus with fast-moving Mercury nearby through this week.

**Tuesday, March 13**
On this 1781 date in space history, William Herschel discovered the sixth planet, Uranus from the backyard observatory in his mansion in Bath, England. He was the greatest telescopic astronomer to just use his eyes, discovering thousands of double stars, nebula, galaxies and star clusters—though the exact nature of these objects would await photography, pioneered by his son, John.

**Wednesday, March 14**
Three interesting men of space history share this birthdate: 1845 was born Giovanni Schiaparelli, who was the first to call lines he saw on Mars “canals;” 1879 was born Albert Einstein—need I say more?; and 1934 was the birthdate of the late NASA astronaut Gene Cernan, the last man on the Moon in December 1972.

**Thursday, March 15**
On this 2009 date in space history, Space Shuttle Discovery was launched on the STS-119 construction mission to the International Space Station and a swap of astronauts. Three space walks added a new support truss where more solar panels were installed.

**Friday, March 16**
On this 1926 date in space history, Robert Goddard launched the first liquid fuel rocket (the size of a two-liter bottle) on his Aunt Effie’s farm in Massachusetts.

Forty years later this date in 1966, Gemini 8 was launched with astronauts Neil Armstrong and David Scott quickly docking with a rocket sent up earlier. They narrowly escaped death when a stuck thruster spun their spacecraft once a second, nearly blacking them out. Armstrong’s quick reaction saved them, and an emergency landing went smoothly.

**Saturday, March 17**
New Moon, and St. Patrick’s Day…which has nothing to do with astronomy. But on this 2011 date in space history, NASA's Messenger spacecraft began orbiting Mercury. The successful mission ended after the entire surface of the first planet was photographed by Messenger.

**Sunday, March 18**
On this 1965 date in space history, Alexei Leonov, 79, took the world’s first space walk outside the Voskhod 2 spaceship. Watching inside the spaceship was cosmonaut Pavel Belyayev. Leonov also commanded the Soviet spaceship that docked with an Apollo manned spacecraft in 1975 and is a Russian national hero.

**Monday, March 19**
The morning sky before sunrise is beautiful with three planets and the Milky Way rising. Jupiter is brightest directly south, and to its left will be reddish Mars. To the left of the Red Planet will be Saturn.
Have you ever heard of The Emerald City? Most of you will raise your hand and say, “yes, that is where the Wonderful Wizard of Oz resides”. While that statement may be true, this week we are bringing you a different Emerald City. In this metropolis, there is no Wizard, no lovable singing Munchkins, and no scarecrow. But wait, is that Glenda the Good Witch of the North laughing and talking with The Wicked Witch of the West while in line to get a photo and autograph from Will Wheaton? TBBT fans? Who knew… That’s right folks, this week we come to you from The Emerald City, but not any Emerald City you may know of. This Emerald city is packed full of nerds, comic geeks, fanboys (and fangirls) and cosplay characters from Doctor Strange to Batman and Ghostbusters to, you guessed it, The Wizard of Oz! This is The Emerald City Comic Con!

If you are taking the time to read this column, there is a good chance you have at least heard of a comic con. The Emerald City Comic Con, held in Seattle Washington, is the Northwest premier con. This year’s event ran from Thursday, March 1st to Sunday, March 4th, and while this year’s official attendance numbers have not been made public yet, we are sure it will beat the 91,000 that were in attendance at the 2017 con. Now for those of you taking the time to read this column that has no clue what a comic con is, let us explain. Comic Con’s are held throughout the year in various cities all across the US with some of the notably larger or more known being the San Diego Comicon held each year in July, the Tampa Bay Comic Con held each year in August and the New York Comic Con held each year in October. Now these are just some of the larger con’s that are out there, but here locally we have some that are just as good. Rob Con, the Tri-Cities largest comic book convention is held each year in July (July 27-29 this year) and has normally been at Viking Hall in Bristol. This year, it is moving to the Meadowview Convention Center for 35,000 square feet of fandom (more to come later on this)! Down the road in Knoxville, we are treated with several different cons throughout the year. Fanboy Expo (June 29 – July 1), MarbleCity Comicon (April 21 & 22) and over in Pigeon Forge, there is Anime-Con anime convention (Nov 30 – Dec 2). So you may still be asking, what goes on at these events?

The Emerald City Comic Con was four days of fun! There were exhibitors, artists, celebrity panels, autographing and so much more! Fans this year found themselves amongst celebrities such as Amy Dumas – WWE’s Champion, Billie Piper – Doctor Who, Brian Herring – Star Wars, Christine Bain – Voltran Legendary Defenders, Christopher Llyod – Back To The Future, David Hayter – Metal Gear Solid, David Tennant – Doctor Who, David Yost – Power Rangers, Felicia Day – Supernatural, Jennifer Morrison – Once Upon A Time, Jeremy Shada – Adventure Time, Josh Keaton – Spider-Man, Karl Urban – Thor Ragnarok, Khary Payton – The Walking Dead, Matthew Lewis – Harry Potter, Ricky Whittle – American Gods and so, so many more! If you like cosplay, you would be in heaven at the ECCC. Known for its over the top following of cosplay members, you would have been able to find almost any character you loved to watch! Have a special piece of memorabilia that you would love to have signed? Celebrity and entertainment guests were signing autographs all weekend, and for that extra $$ you could even have your picture taken with them!

Even if you didn’t make it to Seattle for ECCC, you may have noticed some “con” craziness going on right here around home! ECCC teamed up with the ever-so-popular Funko Pops (more on this craze in another article) to release “con exclusive” characters. If you weren’t sleeping in bed like any other sensible person, you may have noticed people lining up at 4AM in the morning outside of places such as Barnes & Noble, Toys R Us, or at the mall entrances to get to GameStop, Hot Topic and Box Lunch. All of these retailers had a special Funko POP character with a little green sticker on the front of the box to show that you have a “piece of ECCC/Funko gold”! That’s right, people stand in line for hours to get these Comic Con items and if they miss it, are willing to pay hundreds of dollars to buy on the aftermarket.

So now that you know a little more about the Emerald City Comic Con, you’ll be able to book your hotel and buy your tickets for Seattle in March of 2019. Make sure to stay tuned to this column for more information on other Con in and around our area. We will talk about them in advance and then give you a full coverage after the event.
Mister
By Jon Lester
jlester@theloaferonline.com

Millennials: the generation known for being lax in the life department are now leading the pack of home buyers; the leading motive? Their fur babies.

Canines Over Children

We all know it: millennials don’t like to invest [in any form of investment]. And what requires an immense amount of investment? Children. Sure, there are millennials out there with a families of four, but majority of millennials are in favor of an "all-fours" type of investment. Why? Canines are simply cheaper than children.

Laura Schenone said to NBC News, "Some millennials say they are having dogs [instead] of children. That's a leap, but not hard to believe; after all, they are less well off than boomers and Gen-Xers were at their age, and more burdened by student loans and debt. Everybody needs love and a family: dogs are cheaper, easier, and provide love."

A man's best friend now helps with a man's best investment.

Chasing Snakes 2018
10K Race and 4K Fun Run
Saturday, March 17 at 8:30 AM
St. John’s Episcopal Church
500 N Roan St, Johnson City

A St. Patrick’s Day tradition in Johnson City for "10" years, this race was established by parishioners of St. John's Church to be a community outreach, green, and fun running event. Just as the legend says that St. Patrick chased the snakes out of Ireland, Chasing Snakes is chasing homelessness out of our community. Since 2009 the race has donated $65,000 to Family Promise of Greater Johnson City (formerly IHN) directly serving homeless families and children in need -- keeping them united, keeping them sheltered, keeping them positive, keeping them job-focused, with the ultimate goal of helping them be self-sufficient. Registration runs through March 14th. Register early for the best prices! www.chasingsnakes10k.com.
The Tri-Cities City Boating Club announced today the offering of TWRA’s Safe Boating Course March 20 and 22, 2018. This course, and the associated permit received after passing the course, is required for all boat operators in Tennessee born after Jan 1, 1989.

The course will be taught by qualified members of the Tri-Cities Boating Club at NE State Community College, Blountville, 5:30 to 8:00pm on both evenings in room L-106. The exam will be administered on Thurs the 22nd after completion and final review of the course material.

Cost is $10.00 and includes your book, instruction and test administration. Pre-registration is not required, but is strongly encouraged due to limited seating. Web search on TWRA East Tennessee Testing Locations, Passcode NES.

In order to take the exam and get your TN Boat Operator Permit, you must purchase ahead of time, and bring with you, TWRA’s Type 600 Boating Safety Exam Permit. These can be purchased for $10 at any TWRA hunting/fishing license vendor (for example, Walmart.)


For more information on this TWRA course, contact: Clarke Lucas at (423) 538-4643 or Rich Moakler at richmoakler@gmail.com

The Tri-Cities Boating Club is the premier boating organization in our region promoting boating education and safety, community service, and fellowship. It is a unit of the United States Power Squadron, “America’s Boating Club”, a national boating educational organization dedicated to making boating safer and more enjoyable for the boating community. For further information, visit tricitiesboating.org.
Humptyesque

The problem
Which strained and strangled
my vocal chords
Removing
My ability to vocalize
But for which
I was unaware
Until recent revelations
Was never that I stopped loving you
But I stopped loving me
And now I find myself
Sifting through rubble
Searching for what few pieces remain
While trying to figure out
How to replace those
That are gone forever

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The Bridge Home has an ongoing aluminum can collection in front of the shelter at 2061 Hwy 75 in Blountville, TN 37617 and a second aluminum can collection site at Airworks Heating and Cooling, 5633 Memorial Blvd Kingsport. The cans are collected by a volunteer and the money from the aluminum goes towards badly needed food and supplies for the animals.

The Bridge Home No Kill Animal Rescue has started a pet food pantry for people that have had financial hardships because of job loss or medical problems and are struggling to feed their pet. They can come by the shelter and get cat or dog food to get through the tough time.

Donations can be sent to The Bridge Home Shelter PO Box 654 Blountville, TN 37617. Every animal in their care is spayed or neutered and fully vaccinated before being adopted. Being a non-profit the shelter is funded entirely by membership dues and private donations. They always need volunteers or monetary donations.

Other always needed items: pet food, cat litter & cat toys, dog treats & dog toys, paper towels, cleaners, office supplies, Purina weight circles. Phone: 423-239-5237 Hours are Mon-Fri 12pm-6pm Sat 12pm-3pm and Sun 2pm-4pm. Website is www.bridge homerescue@gmail.com or like them on Facebook: www.Facebook.com/bridgehome

Delilah is a beautiful border collie mix. She is such a good mommy and had the cutest puppies. Such a sweet and friendly dog!

This is one of Delilah’s cute puppies! Two have been adopted and there are three left! Please consider these cuties for your family!

OF THE WEEK

Delilah is a beautiful border collie mix. She is such a good mommy and had the cutest puppies. Such a sweet and friendly dog!
**THINGS TO DO**

**Tax Preparation**
With the financial support of Eastman Credit Union (ECU), a group of East Tennessee State University (ETSU) business student volunteers, under the guidance of accountancy faculty members Dr. Anthony Masino and Dr. Michelle Freeman, will offer free tax preparation assistance again this year through the Internal Revenue Service Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. As an approved VITA location, the ETSU group will assist taxpayers who had $55,000 or less in income during tax year 2017. Hours have been extended for the 2017 filing season. Volunteers will be available to offer tax preparation services on the following Saturdays – March 24, and April 7 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sam Wilson Hall, room 318, on ETSU’s main campus. For more information or to make an appointment, contact Masino at 423-439-4432 or Masino@etsu.edu or Freeman at 423-439-4432 or freemanms@etsu.edu. For disability accommodations, call the ETSU Office of Disability Services at 423-439-8346.

**Crafting St. Patrick Class**
Those looking for a different way to observe St. Patrick’s Day can learn how to create a clover, Celtic knot or other symbol related to the holiday in a one-day class, “Crafting St. Patrick: Smithing a Celtic Knot,” on Sat, March 10. Offered by East Tennessee State University’s Office of Professional Development, this class will be held from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Skillville, 224 W. Market St. (The main entrance is on Montgomery St. at the back of the building). Participants will learn basic metalsmithing techniques, including sawing, piercing, filing, sanding, hammer texturing and stamping, as well as how to make jump rings and create a green patina on the metal. They will create a piece of art out of copper or brass that may be used to hang in windows or on doors, or may be worn as a necklace. Enrollment is limited to 13. The $149 class fee includes metal and other art supplies, and a list will be provided to registrants of items they will be responsible for bringing, such as protective gear and drawing materials. Participants should make plans for lunch on their own.

**Blood Drive**
Marsh Regional Blood Center will conduct public blood drives at the area locations. Visit tinyurl.com/n4aujx9 to find a location near you. In addition to scheduled blood drives, donors are welcome at Marsh Regional’s collection centers: 111 W. Stone Drive, Suite 300, Kingsport, 2428 Knob Creek Road, Johnson City and 1996 W. State St., Bristol. For more information about scheduling a blood drive at a local business, church, school or community organization, please call 423-408-7500, 423-652-0014 or 276-679-4669 or visit marshblood.com.

**Family Makerspace: Duct Tape**
All ages are invited to make duct tape creations. The program will be held in the Jones Meeting Room on Thursday, March 29 at 6:00 p.m. For more information about this free program or other Youth Services programs, please call 423-434-4458. Follow the Johnson City Public Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for updates on programs and services.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Looking for Community Volunteers**
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Tri-Cities (BBBGTCT) is looking for community volunteers to make a difference in a child’s life. Spending approximately 4 hours a month with an at-risk youth can help them improve in school, their behavior and their self-esteem. Our local Big Brothers Big Sisters office is part of one of the oldest and largest youth mentoring organizations in the United States. It’s a system that has been proven to work and transforms the lives of children who might not otherwise ever get the support they need to grow and successfully meet life’s challenges. Child-volunteer matches are made based on in-depth and comprehensive interviewing with parents, children and potential volunteers. Stringent safeguards are in place to assure that all parties are safe. Volunteer and parent engagement and training also play a big role. Anyone wanting to find out more about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Tri-Cities should contact the office by calling 423-247-3240, or visiting TennesseeBig.org.

**St. Patrick’s Day Contra Dance**
The next contra dance of the season is on Friday March 17, 2017 at the Jonesborough Visitors Center at 117 Boone Street at 8:00 PM. The featured band is “The Organic Family Band” from Baltimore, MD. Admission is $7, $5 for students and children. A special family package for members is now offered for a total of $15. For more information, contact David Wiley at 423-534-8879, or email david@historicjonesboroughdancesociety.org.

**Cryptogram**: For pleasures past I do not grieve, nor perils gathering near; My greatest grief is that I leave nothing that claims a tear.

**DropQuote**: “We were a silent, hidden thought in the folds of oblivion, and we have become a voice that causes the heavens to tremble.”
Over the years I have subscribed to many magazines, in the probably misguided hope that I would somehow become better informed as a result. What really happened is that I rarely did more than peruse their tables of contents and then quickly found myself surrounded by stacks of magazines that had to be eventually discarded or given away. After subscribing to the usual suspects like National Geographic (I liked the maps), Rolling Stone (I read the record reviews), Entertainment Weekly (I must confess that I did read this cover to cover, pop culture junkie that I am), Time (I read book and movie reviews), Newsweek (I stared at the covers), Oxford American (I enjoyed the yearly CD insert), The New York Review of Books (the publication size was too large and unwieldy), and The New Yorker (I felt more cultured just by knowing a new issue would show up each week in my mailbox, regardless of whether or not I read it), and Wired (lots of tech stuff I couldn’t understand), I came to the conclusion that there must be a better way to keep informed. Yes, I know I could just surf the internet, which I do now but couldn’t do when I became a magazine subscriber; however, “real” magazines and books still hold a magic spell over me.

Well, I am happy to report that my mailbox is no longer filled with magazines each week. Instead, I have a subscription to Texture, the online magazine repository that gives me access to all the magazines I ever wanted, and then some. At first I balked at the subscription price, but then quickly realized that it was much cheaper than the cost of subscribing to multiple magazines that come in the mail, and, perhaps most important, a Texture subscription gives me access to weekly and back issue copies of magazines to which I would never subscribe. Plus, I don’t have to worry about where to store all those back issues I will probably never revisit. Of course, I can now easily access my weekly Loafer ideas quickly from Texture and all my favorite news apps like Flipboard. Back in the day, when I began writing this column, I had no choice but to thumb through countless magazines before I landed on something I could use as a springboard for my thoughts.

Texture is divided into three grand divisions. First, you will encounter Highlights, which is a selection of articles from various magazines, curated by the folks at Texture. This selection comes complete with all the expected headlines: “Stories Just For You,” based on your subscription list, “New & Noteworthy Stores,” “Top 10 Reads,” “Long Reads for the Week” (which magically changed to “Long Reads for the Weekend” every Friday afternoon), followed by top stories in various categories like Science and Tech, Business and Finance, and Entertainment. The second division is “My Library” that contains all the issues that you can choose as your favorites. The third division, “Saved Stories,” is where you curate your favorite articles and essays from all the magazines. All too often, this section should more accurately be titled “Saved and Forgotten Stories,” because, like all those folders you have created in your email server, this is where you consign things you never expect to see again, despite all your good intentions. Fortunately, I use this section to save stuff I might use for upcoming Kelly’s Place columns.

Although, as I noted previously, I prefer thumbing through the pages of “real” magazines, I am so impressed by the visual quality of Texture’s magazines, I am beginning to prefer these digital versions to the “real” thing. And I have lots of magazines, some I consult more than others. Magazines like Fast Company, Forbes, Billboard, Architectural Digest (a publication that should be retitled, “Lots Of Beautiful and Sumptuous Things I Can Never Afford”), Interview, Mother Jones, PC World, Macworld, Reminisce (a textbook on the many fallacies of nostalgia), Reader’s Digest (a very old friend) The Atlantic, Texas Monthly (a surprise even to me), Variety, and Real Simple (which should be classified as fantasy). Needless to say, I have also curated those familiar faces from years past: The New Yorker, Time, Newsweek, Entertainment Weekly, Rolling Stone, Esquire (can’t get enough of those pretentious fashion ads), and Smithsonian.

Now, the important question: “Do you read all these magazines every week?” The answer is a big resounding No. In fact, despite all the glitz and glamour, I probably don’t read much more than I did when I was receiving published copies of these magazines—or, only a small sampling of what I have now—each week or month. Take The New Yorker, for instance. Although this is one of the most prestigious publications in America, I still go straight to “Briefly Noted,” to see what four books are being reviewed this week.

So much to read and so little time. I suspect the main appeal of Texture is the illusion it gives us of mastery. Just seeing all these magazines in my queue each week gives me a strange sense of security and completeness. Does it really matter whether I read each and every one of these magazines each week or month? Probably not. And this is the paradox of our Age of Everything. We can’t possibly get to all of this, but we are comforted (or sometimes bewildered) that we have such complete access for the first time in human history. Although it would be infinitely better to subscribe to only one well-read magazine than to dozens of barely-to-never-perused publications, we persist in our illusions of completeness. I stand guilty as accused. Needless to say, I have no plans to discontinue my Texture subscription any time soon, and I encourage you to subscribe as well.

See you next week, right after I read “Briefly Noted” in The New Yorker.
A NIGHT OUT IN BRISTOL

Paramount ticket purchases now have another perk! Not only do you get to see a great show but you also get exclusive offers from these downtown establishments the day of the show, before or after!

The Paramount Center for the Arts has gained the support of these downtown Bristol establishments. These offers are exclusive to this partnership and you MUST present your ticket or ticket stub to receive the offer. See Paramount Theatre schedule on back page.

Here’s How It Works

Bring your Paramount ticket or stub to any participating Partner and take advantage of their offer. You can use your ticket before the theatre, afterwards – or both! Visit paramountbristol.org 24/7 for tickets, online calendar and more info.

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