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BEEZWAX by John Martin

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Founder: Bill Williams

Let’s Get Social!
The City of Johnson City has recently begun a research-driven, community-wide branding initiative. This effort will help Johnson City stand out in the marketplace as we grow toward our preferred future. Currently we are conducting research inside and outside the community to uncover perceptions, attitudes and what's unique about Johnson City.

We start by conducting research inside and outside the community to uncover perceptions, attitudes and what's unique about Johnson City. All of that data is transformed into compelling creative tools that tell the Johnson City story in ways that visitors, businesses and residents can understand. Next begins the integration of the new brand, not just into marketing and communications, but also into the fabric of our community and our daily lives.

A new brand won't solve all our problems. What branding can do is focus people on the positive differentiator in Johnson City, which can help us stand out as a preferred location. The stronger and more defined our reputation, the more people will want to live, work and play here.

You can see numerous examples of community branding on the website of North Star Destination Strategies. This agency is the City of Johnson City’s branding partner. www.brandjc.com

People have opinions about Johnson City. We want to hear them all. And the only way to do that is to gather lots of data from inside and outside the community. That data then becomes the primary driver for uncovering Johnson City’s brand. A statistically significant body of quantitative and qualitative research ensures the brand represents the perceptions of all audiences inside and outside the community.

At the heart of the Johnson City brand are the stories of the people who call Johnson City home. And we want to hear them all. Did you start a business or a family here? Buy your first house or car? Please share the details. What does your church mean to you? Did your kids learn to swim in a local pool? Where do you go to have fun with your friends? What is your favorite memory?

Uncovering and telling our unique story.

BRAND

Johnson City

The first step in our community branding initiative is conducting research to figure out what Johnson City’s existing reputation is. At the same time we will conduct research to determine what Johnson City’s greatest strengths are. What makes our city special and unique? This allows us to look at where we are reputation wise, where we want to be based on our greatest strength, and then we come up with creative tools, strategies and advocacy programs that help close the gap between the two.

A new brand won’t solve all our problems. What branding can do is focus people on the positive differentiator in Johnson City, which can help us stand out as a preferred location. The stronger and more defined our reputation, the more people will want to live, work and play here.

If pictures are your preferred way to tell your story, post a picture of you, your family and friends at a favorite Johnson City hangout. Post both stories and pictures on Instagram at #ShareYourJohnsonCityTN. The best pictures might even be used in a social media campaign associated with the rollout of the new brand! If you really have a passion to help with this process, sign up to become a Johnson City Brand Ambassador below. Ambassadors are kept updated on the project and given the tools to spread the good word about Johnson City within their own personal spheres of influence.

Most importantly, we need to hear from you. Take the Community Survey before MARCH 25th at brandjc.com.
The Tony® Award-winning Broadway musical Million Dollar Quartet, inspired by the electrifying true story, rocks the Niswonger Performing Arts Center on Sunday, March 25th at 7:30 p.m.

On December 4, 1956, an auspicious twist of fate brought together four young musicians – Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Elvis Presley. Sam Phillips, the undisputed “Father of Rock ‘n’ Roll” who was responsible for launching the careers of each of these icons, gathered the four legendary singer/songwriters at the Sun Records studio in Memphis for the first and only time. The result? One of the greatest rock ‘n’ roll jam sessions in history.

Million Dollar Quartet brings that unbelievable musical moment to life with an irresistible tale of broken promises, secrets, betrayal, humor, celebration, unforgettable performances of such timeless and enduring hits as “Blue Suede Shoes,” “Fever,” “That’s All Right,” “Sixteen Tons,” “I Walk the Line,” “Great Balls of Fire,” “Folsom Prison Blues,” “Whole Lotta Shakin’ Goin’ On,” “Hound Dog,” and more.

The four music icons of Million Dollar Quartet are portrayed by Daniel Durston as Elvis Presley, Taylor Gray as Jerry Lee Lewis, Austin Hohnke as Carl Perkins, and Peter Oyloe as Johnny Cash. Andy Ingalls plays Sam Phillips. The cast also features Tiffan Borelli as Dyanne, Bill Morey as Brother Jay (Jay Perkins), and Jon Rossi as Fluke.

The show is directed by Susanne Boulle, and features a book by Colin Escott and Floyd Mutrux, with original concept and direction by Floyd Mutrux. The creative team includes Hana Lee Goff (Scenic Design), Lee Alexander Martin (Costume Design), Andrew Morehouse (Lighting Design), Tony Angelini (Sound Design), and Jon Rossi (Musical Direction).

Million Dollar Quartet won a Tony® Award for Best Performance by a Featured Actor in a Musical and received two Tony® nominations, one for Best Musical and one for Best Book of a Musical (Colin Escott and Floyd Mutrux). The show received an Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical, a Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Musical Revue, and three Drama League nominations including Distinguished Production of a Musical and Distinguished Performance.

Million Dollar Quartet is produced by Gershwin Entertainment, in association with the Barter Theatre. General management is provided by Dhyana Colony/Colony Creative Group.

For more information, please visit the Million Dollar Quartet website at www.MillionDollarQuartet.net.

Relive a moment in time with Million Dollar Quartet on Sunday, March 25th at 7:30 p.m. Seating is limited for $40 mezzanine seating and balcony seats are $35. Tickets may be purchased online at NPACgreeneville.com, in person at the NPAC box office, or by calling 423-638-1679. NPAC offers online seat selection with no processing or delivery fees. There is an additional $1.50 ticketing fee per ticket regardless of purchase method. The box office hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The 1150 seat performing arts center is located adjacent to the campus of Greeneville High School. For venue information, and to purchase tickets, please visit www.npacgreeneville.com.
The 16th Annual Kingsport Spring Spectacular Photography Contest and Exhibition will be held at the Kingsport Art Guild Main Gallery and the Atrium Gallery located in the Kingsport Renaissance Center in Kingsport, TN.

The Kingsport Spring Spectacular Photography Contest and Exhibition is looking for entries for this year’s event. There are three levels of competition: Youth, Amateur, Proficient. Competition categories are: Nature, Pictorial, and the Carrie Penley Special Theme. This year’s theme is the color “AGE.” The photographs can be in color or monochrome (black & white).

Cash Prizes and ribbons are awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, People’s Choice, Best of Show and the Jerry Penley “I Love the Blue Ridge/Appalachian Region.” Honorable Mentions will receive ribbons.

Entries can be turned in Monday-Friday April 30-May 11, 2018 from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. and on Saturdays May 5 and 12 from 10 a.m. till 3 p.m. at Rainbow’s End Floral and Gift Shop located at 214 E. Center St. Kingsport, TN. Deadline is Saturday May 12th at 3 p.m. Entries may be shipped to Ann Fortney 154 W. Wanola Ave, Kingsport TN 37660, but entries need to arrive by the deadline.

Judging will be Saturday May 19 from 10 a.m. till finished. Times depend on number of entries. Judging will be at the Kingsport Renaissance Center located at 1200 E. Center St. Kingsport, TN and is open to the public.

The Kingsport Spring Spectacular Photography Exhibition will be from June 3-June 29, 2018. The exhibit will be at the Kingsport Art Guild Main Gallery and the Atrium Gallery located inside the Kingsport Renaissance Center and will be open during regular business hours. The Reception Awards Ceremony will be Sunday June 3, 2018 from 2-4 p.m. All awards will be presented that day with the exception of the People’s Choice Award; which will be presented June 19, at 6:00 p.m. Deadline for voting for the People’s Choice award is June 19, at 6 p.m.

For more information contact Ann Fortney at 423-914-5453, email anniepenjac2@aol.com or Facebook: Kingsport Spring Spectacular Photography Contest and Exhibition.

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On March 24, Johnson City Symphony Orchestra will perform the fourth program in its Master Classics series entitled Russian Romance. The program will include Mason Bates’ Mothership. Bates’ was named 2018 Composer of the Year. His piece, Mothership, has electronic accompaniment using a computer. Also on the program will be Pytor Tchaikovsky’s Serenade for Strings, which is considered one of Tchaikovsky’s best works. Finally, we will be entertained by the many movements of Modest Mussorgsky’s/Maurice Ravel’s Pictures at an Exhibition. The program will begin at 7:30 pm at Milligan College, Seeger Chapel in Elizabethon TN. Prior to the concert at 6:45 pm, Conductor and Music Director Robert Seebacher, will give a lecture providing background for the evening’s pieces. Tickets are $15 for students, $35 for seniors and $40 for adults. For more information about ordering tickets, visit www.jcsymphony.com/events or call the Symphony office at 423-926-8742. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Forty-one million Americans, including 15 million children, live at risk of hunger. In conjunction with the League of American Orchestra’s Feeding America program, JCSO will have a food drive to benefit Second Harvest of Northeast Tennessee during the week of March 19-24. Suggested donations include Cereal/ Rice/ Dried Beans/ Canned Soups/ Peanut Butter/ Canned Meat/ Canned Veggies and Fruits/ Mac & Cheese/ Pasta Sauce & Noodles. You can drop off your donations at the JCSO office located at 172 W. Springbrook Dr. between 1 and 5 pm, Monday through Friday, or bring food items with you to the concert on March 24. Because of the Feeding America program, 5.4 million Americans are fed every week. Your donations can make a difference!
Lyrical Geometry

Third Coast Percussion chimes in with ‘mind-tingling’ music

The Chicago-based Third Coast Percussion has been praised by for its “palpable groove” by Time Out New York, its “precisely timed wit” by the Washington Post and its “inspirational sense of fun and curiosity” by the Minnesota Star-Tribune – descriptions not typical of percussion groups.

But these four classically trained percussionists have gone rogue with a common mission, to explore and expand the sonic possibilities of the percussion repertoire.

“Percussion ensemble is inherently new music, at least within the context of the classical music tradition,” says Robert Dillon, ensemble member and development director of TCP. “The oldest pieces for percussion ensemble are from the 1930s and '40s … The music of John Cage, Steve Reich and Iannis Xenakis were some of the experiences that made us all want to play in a percussion ensemble, but we still felt like there were still a lot of unexplored possibilities, a lot of great percussion ensemble music yet to be written. So, we started commissioning and composing new works right from the beginning, and mixed those in with the existing repertoire we loved.”

Third Coast Percussion will bring its “mind-tingling rhythmic lucidity,” as MusicWeb International calls it, to the Science Hill High School Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, sponsored by ETSU’s Mary B. Martin School of the Arts. TCP’s “Lyrical Geometry” program will feature music from Third Coast’s Grammy-winning album of Steve Reich’s work; pieces by Philip Glass and Thierry De Mey; and original music, composed by Dillon, Peter Martin and David Skidmore.

These four musicians – Dillon, Skidmore, Martin and Sean Connors – share not only a musical bond, but also an educational one. They all attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., overlapping at slightly different times and finally intersecting as a group because of their passion for new music and sharing it with others. “We loved playing this type of music and decided we wanted to see how far we could go with it …” Dillon says.

In Dillon’s “Ordering-Instincts,” the percussionists share eight wooden planks, an octave of loose crotales and two tom-toms to create a variety sonic colors in tightly interwoven rhythms, while Skidmore’s “Aliens with Extraordinary Abilities” explores the idea that the same piece of music can move at different speeds at the same time. “Aliens” also incorporates an electronic audio track and video.

Third Coast Percussion’s imaginings have become reality – and an acclaimed niche, inspiring The Washington Post to say that the ensemble proves “just how vital and fertile new American music really is.” Another indicator that their musical experimentation is working is their 2017 Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble performance for their recording of Steve Reich’s works for percussion. The CD “just knocked my socks off,” says Reich in a TCP You Tube video.

The Chicago Tribune has credited the ensemble with contributing to a “youthquake” in Chicago’s new-music scene, especially with its Emerging Composer Partnership, commissioning two new artists every year. “It’s very natural for us to feel connected with contemporary music because most of the music we have experienced has been written within the last few decades,” Connors told KUAF Radio. “As artists, we feel really strongly that we should be interacting with our contemporary culture and what’s going on right now.”

All educators – and Ensemble-in-Residence at University of Notre Dame – Third Coast also interacts through educational outreach programs, such as “Waves” and “Think Outside the Drum,” at elementary and high schools, as well as universities, such as East Tennessee State University.

“Third Coast is another group that I have long wanted to bring to ETSU and the area,” says Anita DeAngelis, director of the Martin School of the Arts. “We will not only get to enjoy their unique musical talents, but ETSU and Science Hill students will benefit from their musical vision and expertise in outreach at Science Hill and on campus.”

In the Thursday evening performance and the Wednesday and Friday sessions with students, the Third Coast percussionists will showcase what percussion is capable of, Dillon says. “There will be music that is rhythmic and visceral, music which is beautiful and introspective, music which is tuneful and music which is humorous and theatrical,” he says. “There will be sounds people have never heard and musical experiences that they wouldn’t have imagined percussion instruments would be capable of creating.

“We work really hard to craft a finely-tuned performance, and it’s always a lot of fun.” For more on the ensemble, visit http://thirdcoastpercussion.com or download their free apps for iPhone/iPad on iTunes.

For more information about ETSU’s Mary B. Martin School of the Arts or to purchase tickets, visit www.etsu.edu/martin or call 423-439-TKTS (8587). Tickets are $20 for general admission, $15 for seniors 60-plus and $5 for students of all ages.
There are railroads, with tracks, whistles, and engines. Then there are railroads, with sweet harmonies and lyrics that get stuck in your head, and a beat that makes you want to move.

On Saturday, March 31, 2018 a railroad with the latter attributes will be rolling into Bristol’s Paramount Theatre. Confederate Railroad will take the stage at 7PM along with special guest Jim Brown. The band will be performing some of their greatest hits including “Queen of Memphis”, “She Never Cried”, “Jesus and Mama”, “Daddy Never Was the Cadillac Kind”, and many, many others. Tickets are on sale now at the Paramount Box Office.

From rowdy country to raw emotion the group’s concert today covers a wide range of feeling. Young people will rock to the more rowdy songs, while the parents and even grandparents will likely be singing along to their greatest hits from the 90’s era. Opening the show will be Tennessee native Jim Brown who is a talented songwriter as well as an electrifying performer. Jim has played Bristol before to an incredible crowd who raved over his unique song stylings and performance presence. Jim does a wide variety of tunes including, “You Can Take it With You When You Go”, “Favorite Waste of Time”, and a very patriotic song “By God”. For more information on tickets, contact the Paramount @ 423-274-8920. Box Office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 12 Noon until 6PM and day of show. To purchase ticket go to www.paramountbristol.org.

Getting a great deal on some cool gear and help fund scholarships for students at the annual Scholars Attic rummage sale happening April 5th and 6th at Northeast State Community College.

Sponsored by the Northeast State Scholars Foundation, the Scholars Attic sale happens Thursday, April 5, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and Friday, April 6, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The sale is being held in the Faculty/Staff Dining Room, A110, of the Student Services Building on the College’s Blountville campus.

The sale is open to the public. All proceeds from the sale benefit Northeast State Foundation Scholarships awarded to students and the Student Needs Project.

Shoppers browse a variety of items including adult and children’s clothing, household goods, small appliances, furniture, books, DVDs, and toys. All purchases must be made by either cash or check only. Items must be picked up and removed from campus at the time of sale.

For more information about the sale, contact the College’s Office of Scholarship Programs and Student Needs at 423.279.7637 or scholarships@NortheastState.edu.
Sunday March 25th 2018 Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church 3:00 PM 10.00 admission at the door for the public. Seating is first come first served. Doors open at 1:45. All students are admitted free.

Originally from Switzerland, where the trio first formed, Jens Kruger and Uwe Kruger later moved to Wilkes County NC. The brothers began playing North American folk music at an early age and were particularly inspired by recordings of Doc Watson, Flatt and Scruggs, Bill Monroe, and other progenitors of country, bluegrass and folk music. They teamed up with American bass player Joel Landsberg, inaugurating a trio that has been playing professionally together since 1995.

The Kruger Brothers song writing and composition draw closely from their personal experiences. The result is a catalog of songs distinguished by rich detail and an insight into the delicacy and complexity of everyday life. The honesty of their writing has become a hallmark of the trio’s work.

Another important hallmark of the Kruger Brothers sound is the banjo playing and composition of Jens Kruger. Jens is one of the world’s most musically sophisticated and technically accomplished five-string banjo players. Most recently their music has ventured further into the themes and forms of classical music, as in their 2011 release, Appalachian Concerto.

Today the group is highly regarded within the world of acoustic music in North America and Europe, in particular by those within the industry. They play venues world-wide and often play their compositions with symphonies.
A-1 Expert Tree Service
A Cut Above Lawn Care
About Face
Andrea Spires Puckett - Realtor
Appalachian Caverns
Caddy's Catering & Cuisine
Cartridge World
Changes Medical Spa & Laser Center
CJ's Sports Bar
Country Club Bar & Grill
Décor Exchange Home Furnishings
Fringe Furnishings & Décor
Kickin' Back @ King Alley
Grand Home Furnishings
The Gun Rack
JK's Kollections
Joe Earles for Sheriff 2018
Lone Pine Exterminating
Mac's Medicine Mart
Mary B. Martin School of the Arts
Mr. K's Used Books, Music and More
Northeast Community Credit Union
Northeast State Community College
Painter Creek Marina
Rocks Wood Fired Pizza & Grill
Sexton's Marine
Shabby Allie's Boutique
Tri-Cities Airport
Tri-Cities Pools & Spas
Union Home Mortgage
Warranty One Mobile Mower Repair
Watchdog Surveillance & Spy Gear
Woodstone Deli
Located in the beautiful Sullivan Gardens area of Kingsport, A1 Expert Tree Service has been providing expert Tri-Cities tree removal, tree pruning, stump removal and other arborist services to anyone in need of excellent tree care. This family owned business began with David William’s father. When David was 12 years old, one of his biggest desires was to run his dad’s largest chainsaw which was an 056 Stihl Magnum. And so, the business was passed down. And soon, passed down again to the next generation.

At A1 Expert Tree Service, they have a strong and passionate affinity for trees. They value their customer base and discuss your landscaping goals, and make the best recommendations to achieve your vision. “We live in a very blessed area and it seems like this area is never affected by the economic climate of the nation. I personally attribute that to one of the strongest companies in this area which is Eastman”, says David. A1 Expert Tree Service provides a high-quality service that is informative to the public and strives to treat their customers with respect and a dependability that is unmatched. Their customer base is of those that are passionate about their trees and understand the benefit trees bring to their life and aesthetics of their yard. They have formed many good relationships over the years and continue to look forward to establishing many new ones in the upcoming years.

They offer expert residential service and commercial service to all of Tri-Cities and surrounding areas, soon to be extending into the Knoxville and Pigeon Forge areas. Next year, A1 Expert Tree Service plans on starting a green waste recycling center and wood processing yard that will go hand in hand with what they do. At the end of the day, wouldn’t you like to work with a company that says they will do what they say and you can be proud of and recommend to others.

“One of the silliest questions I get from time to time would be “Do you do tree work?” This question is typically asked while I am standing beside one of my trucks with what we do on it. My funny answer to people is “no, we do roofing and follow that up with, yes, we do tree work and I have fun at what we do and love my work and would be glad to look at your job to give an estimate” says David.

Don’t leave your tree care in anyone’s hands. Let A1 Expert Tree Service take care of you.
A Cut Above Lawn Care & Landscaping Inc.

We are big enough to serve you, yet small enough to know you.

Todd & Stephanie Reed

A Cut Above Lawn Care is a family owned, full service Lawn Care and Landscape Company serving Residential and Commercial customers in East Tennessee.

They are licensed, insured, bonded and certified to insure industry standards are met. This also gives their customers a piece of mind knowing professionals are at work. “We have been blessed with wonderful customers. Our goal is to create lasting relationships. Many of our customers have become dear friends” says Owners, Todd & Stephanie Reed.

A Cut Above Lawn Care uses only the best equipment, assuring your lawn gets the pampering it deserves. Their experienced team is committed to offering their customers a professional and quality service every time. With attention to detail, their employees take pride in their work and are committed to giving their clients the best customer service. Whatever your lawn care needs are, they have the knowledge and expertise to make sure the job is done right the first time.

Their mission is to provide a professional service to their customers. Whether your property is big or small, they are dedicated to offering you a reliable service for a fair price. Their goal is to create lasting relationships with their customers. With their dependability, fair and affordable prices you can’t go wrong.

A Cut Above Lawn Care & Landscaping is THE ONLY A Cut Above Lawn Care servicing the Tri-Cities area.

“Frequently we have customers ask for inexpensive, no maintenance landscaping that stays green and blooms all year. My reply: Artificial Plants. Fact: All landscaping needs some form of maintenance to stay beautiful” states Stephanie when we asked her what one of the silliest questions customers sometimes ask.

With A Cut Above Lawn Care & Landscaping services, you can put your property on auto pilot and you’ll never have to go artificial.
At About Face, they strive to provide patients with the highest quality weight loss experience, skincare products and cosmetic skin treatments and services using our medical-grade technology and a team of expertly trained licensed estheticians and nurse practitioners. Owned by Sue Cressel, FNP. Sue created About Face as a result of her love of helping people and making them feel better about themselves. For over 10 years, About Face has been consistently named one of the most successful med spas in the Tri-Cities. Dr. Brett Odum is our Supervising Physician (available offsite). In 2017, About Face was voted the #1 Best Med Spa in Bristol and the #1 Best Weight Loss in Bristol.

As Owner and Lead Injector of About Face, Sue Cressel brings over 11 years of experience in the weight management and aesthetic fields. This expertise, partnered with her desire to help each client look and feel their very best, results in clients traveling hundreds of miles to benefit from her skills and careful attention to detail. Never satisfied, Sue continues to train and learn the latest techniques, including InstaTox® and the groundbreaking ArqueDerma® injecting techniques, along with Vampire Face Lifts and the P-Shot, O-shot Therapy helping About Face clients achieve their very best results.

Sue’s commitment to excellence and her compassionate, friendly manner results in About Face being one of the most successful med spas in the area.

If you would like to learn more about our services, please call one of our two convenient locations — Bristol (423) 989.3223 or Abingdon (276) 525.1693.
When buying a house, there are three main areas of finding a realtor you might want to look for. Someone you can trust, someone who can complete your transaction, and someone you want to spend time with. Meet Andrea Spires Puckett, Realty Executives.

Andrea launched her career in real estate after residing in South Florida where she began her specialization as a yacht broker. She trained with some of the top mega yacht salesmen in South Florida for 5 years learning about contracts, negotiations and international sales. Their structure was very similar to that of real estate. The only difference, she was selling real estate on water, as opposed to land. This experience eventually led her to relocate back to East Tennessee to use her knowledge in the realty industry here.

“When I start working with Buyers, I have the mindset that this is going to be one of the largest and most important purchase of their life. As a real estate agent, I have a huge responsibility, legally, when completing contracts and other documents. Without organization and attention to detail, the smallest mistake could cost me and/or my clients thousands of dollars. I have consistently educated myself on the every changing economic, social, technological and legal aspects of this business.” Andrea has perfected the usage of modern technology, making it easy for clients to sign any document with the click of a button from their smart phone or computer and real estate agents can access any home listed on the mls with an app. In addition, it has shortened the time needed to process a mortgage and get a home loan in as little as 2 weeks. With the right real estate agent, buying a house is much simpler these days.

Andreas clients range from young first-time home buyers to families purchasing their 3rd home. “There is no greater feeling than helping someone achieve the American Dream of home ownership”, says Andrea. Her clients know that they can fully trust her from initial contact all the way through closing. “I always stress to my clients to ask questions. Lots of them. As many questions as possible so that they feel comfortable and educated throughout the entire process”. Her honesty, reliability and professionalism have proven to be unmatched!

We ask Andrea to tell us of a moment in her business that she will never forget. Her response, “The worse showing appointment I’ve had was when my clients and I walked into a home and the owner was sitting on his couch in his underwear and smoking a cigarette. We immediately walked out! I mean, how can you expect to sell your home like that?? Ha-ha!”

With Andrea Spires Puckett on your side, your experience will be less stressful. Andrea will guide you through the process and assist you every step of the way. Let Andrea help you open the door to your new home!
Appalachian Caverns located in Northeast Tennessee, is a glorious example of the majesty of nature. It is the perfect destination to experience amazing natural beauty located deep beneath the Earth's surface. The site features guided tours of the caverns, a campground, picnic area, gem mine, and gift shop.

Since 1991 Appalachian Caverns has been Tennessee's most historic natural attraction, over 500 million years in the making! Roger W. Hartley has been the steward at Appalachian Caverns for past 14 years. After serving in the air force and working at various factory jobs, Mr. Hartley says “Working at the cavern is a spiritual experience and very peaceful. When I bought it, my wife told me to pick her or the caves. So, I got divorced cause the caves made me happy.”

All tours at Appalachian Caverns are led by a well-trained guide. There are three levels of a tour, starting with a walking tour, to a down and dirty three-and-a-half-hour tour—where a hot shower is provided afterward in warm weather. But there’s more to Appalachian Caverns than just the caverns, there’s also a campground and gem mine. Mr. Hartley: “When you come to Appalachian Caverns we want you to enjoy your visit. If you don’t like history, geology, or nature at all then maybe you can still learn something. Our tours are not on a script so if you come here a few times during a year some things will be different, a different guide or with the same guide each tour we try to base it on the group.”

We ask Mr. Hartley “What is one of the silliest questions you’ve been asked?” He proceeds to chuckle and tell us of a patron who asked “Are all the caves underground?” ??? We will just leave that right there.

Groups are all welcome, with discounted rates offered. Every kind of group from school, scout and church groups have visited Appalachian Caverns. The tours appeal to all age groups. When you’re looking for a different kind of nature activity in the region, Appalachian Caverns should be on the top of your list.
Brenda Poe is a new kid on the block in Kingsport. Poe’s mom started her off in the Restaurant business in the late 70’s – Since her passing it has become Brenda’s passion to renew her legacy by preparing some of her best homecooked recipes for everyone to enjoy. Brenda spent most of her career in Corporate America – and every day was bringing someone something to eat. She was and still am, always cooking, for someone.

For as long as she can remember her Mother was always doing what she loved the most... Cooking for others. Her recipes (now Brenda’s) date as far back as the late 1920’s as they were passed on from her own Mother and include dishes prepared in some of the finest dining establishments like the “Waldorf Astoria” where she worked as a young woman growing up in NY and later evolved to include the beloved Southern favorites she specialized here in the Hills of TN.

Brenda has always had the dream to continue to share her legacy and her talents with as much joy as she had doing exactly that during her lifetime.

“Downtown Kingsport is growing and it’s exciting to be a part of that growth. I grew up in Church Hill – coming to Kingsport was a “treat” for me as a young girl. I thought it was a big place even then”, says Brenda about her new location in downtown Kingsport. Since Brenda enjoys being so involved with her company by either being in the kitchen cooking or being with her customers, time is always the biggest issue. You will finder her in the wee hours of the morning or late night planning those new menu items for Spring and Summer.

Caddy’s Cuisine and Catering is a Southern Fine Dining company that caters to the breakfast, lunch and dinner customer and on to the busy parent by preparing a made from scratch meal the entire family can enjoy. Their team has a wealth of experience and we are passionate about what we do -Bringing southern home cooked meals- worthy of a fine dining experience straight from “Mom’s Cookbook” to you. They specialize in catering for the office lunch and events, special occasions and Holiday celebrations and more.

Delivery is available every day in our area and they welcome the opportunity to bring the family back to the table together for an evening meal by preparing their “Feed Four” specials ready to pick up- warm up- and eat up- while you share the details of your day with your family free from the stress of having to prepare a meal.

And in the words of my Mom...“Have a good day, and God Bless”.
In February of 2005 Cartridge World of Johnson City opened their doors, thus becoming the first Cartridge World franchise location in the state of Tennessee. Franchise owners, Larry and Debbie England would soon open a second location, this one in Kingsport followed by a third in Bristol and a fourth in Greeneville. Cartridge World of the Tri-Cities offers businesses and consumers an alternative to high priced ink and toner printer cartridges. For their business accounts, Cartridge World also offers FREE delivery to anywhere in the Tri-Cities and beyond. In 2009 the Englands traveled to Washington, DC where they were awarded the “Blue Ribbon – Small Business Award” by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, one of only 56 small businesses recognized across the country to honor American companies that showcase excellence in several categories of entrepreneurship. That same year the Englands received the Franchise of the year award at the Cartridge World National Convention in Las Vegas. Larry also served for several years on the Cartridge World Franchise Advisory Council.

During their thirteen years of business the Englands have also been busy giving back to their community; both have been members of local Rotary Clubs. Larry is a past President of the Johnson City Morning Rotary Club and past President of the MSHA Foundation Washington County Community Board. During his ten years on the MSHA Foundation Board Larry chaired or co-chaired many of the signature events such as the Dragon Boat Festival, Niswonger Golf Classic and the Spirit Gala. Larry has also served for four years as the Board Chair of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) East TN Chapter. Larry is a past board member of The Chamber of Commerce and currently serves as a Washington County - County Commissioner and will be seeking re-election in the upcoming August election.

Fast forward thirteen years from the opening of their first location and many changes have taken place. The Bristol and Greeneville stores are no longer open and the Johnson City and Kingsport stores have moved to new locations. The Kingsport store is now located at 1420 East Stone Drive, not far from the original location and the Johnson City store is now located at 805 Sunset Drive, across from Mahoney's. Although the Bristol and Greeneville stores are no longer in operation, FREE deliveries continue to be made in both areas to their business customers. Not only does Cartridge World offer savings of up to 30% on printing consumables but they now offer printer repair and a FREE printer lease program to qualifying business accounts.
he field of Medical Laser Aesthetics has rapidly changed in the past 10 years, with new procedures and equipment providing better results and little to no downtime, as well as new treatments for issues previously correctible only by surgery. Changes Medical Spa & Laser Center in Johnson City was founded 5 years ago to bring those new technologies to the Tri-Cities and Mountain State Region. Under the daily on-site supervision of Richard Jackson, MD, Changes offers many new effective, affordable treatments not available elsewhere in a day’s drive. Often being one of the first in the nation to offer new laser procedures, Changes has attracted patients from 19 states, including other healthcare professionals from across the region, dozens of state and local title holders in the Miss America Organization, and patients from as far away as New York City. Their youngest laser patient was 9 years old, and their oldest was in her late 80’s.

Some of their innovative treatments include:
- Fotona 4D Laser Facelift & rejuvenation without surgery or downtime
- IncontiLase for female stress urinary incontinence
- RenovaLase for post-menopausal vaginal rejuvenation
- IntimaLase Vaginal Tightening post childbirth
- NightLase for snoring and sleep apnea
- MiraDry for permanent reduction of underarm sweat, odor, and hair
- TightSculpt and SculpSure lasers for permanent elimination of fat cells
- A new to the U.S. fractional laser skin resurfacing laser technique to reverse signs of aging
- BioTe all-natural highly effective bioidentical hormone & thyroid optimization
- LipLase Laser Lip Plumping without injections
- TightSculpt and SculpSure lasers for permanent elimination of fat cells
- And more.

Dr. Jackson and his staff are also dedicated to making procedures as comfortable as possible, choosing equipment for its comfort as well as effectiveness. Comfort measures also available at Changes include:
- Nitrous Oxide now available on request
- Numbing creams or injections if needed
- Surface chilling devices for temporary numbing
- New, almost microscopic needles for nearly painless Botox injections

Laser procedures are medical treatments, and as such, should be supervised by a licensed physician trained in the procedure. Tennessee medical regulations stipulate that any use of laser or light (as in Intense Pulse Light - “IPL”), Photodynamic Therapy (“PDT”), or others, must be overseen by a licensed M.D. or D. O. who reviews the medical status of the patient before the treatment is done. “This requirement is not always met at some businesses advertising laser procedures and IPL,” said Dr. Jackson, “Which is why we encourage the public to make sure there is a licensed physician not just signing off on a chart but actually involved in and supervising their laser treatment.” Dr. Jackson is a member of the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery and the American Medical Association and has been a licensed physician since 1981.

Changes offers free consultations on all procedures, with written estimates.
CJ’s Sports Bar is located in Kingsport, Tennessee. They offer 10 imported, domestic and local beers as well as a wide variety of coolers. Great food, live music from local bands, line dancing AND karaoke on Thursdays with dance lessons 6:30-7:30 P.M. and karaoke 8-11 P.M.

CJ’s Sports Bar is a 21 and over venue with a $6 cover for band nights unless posted otherwise.

Follow us on Facebook for more details and to keep up with the latest events! They post all their upcoming events so you can travel near or afar to join them at CJ’s or leave them an awesome review on their page.

CJ’s venue has lived in its current location since 2016 and is big enough for great events, such as private parties, benefits, fundraisers and more. CJ’s is now home of Ringside Championship Wrestling.

At CJ’s, their customers are treated with respect and make sure that their customers feel like family.

We asked CJ’s “What is the most silliest question your patrons ask?”. Their answer, “We haven’t had this too many times yet, but our favorite question has to be when someone buys a beer or cooler that they’ve never had before and they don’t like it, they ask, “can I swap this for another beer since I haven’t drank all of this one? I don’t like the taste!” The only answer we ever really can give is, “I’m sorry, but if we did that every time that someone asks, we would be making no money!” Often times, it leads to looks of disbelief, but it always manages to make us laugh.”

Facebook.com/CJsSportsBarKPT
Located just 2 miles from I-81 on 11-W/State Street, you will find Country Club Bar & Grill and conveniently located for travelers visiting Bristol Motor Speedway or Thunder Valley. This massive venue boasts pool tables, dance floor and seating for 400 plus. You will feel safe with a large well-lit parking lot and friendly staff. Make this Bar & Grill a place to meet, mingle, and meet new friends or old buddy's. A Favorite watering hole for bikers. Country Club Bar & Grill has become a top watering hole for bikers taking a pit stop before or after a long day riding or a long day in the mountain's.

“I got interested in the night club business when I met my late husband Sam in 1996. He had been involved in the music industry/night life scene since the early 80's. During the time we were together, I learned a lot of how the business was ran from “The Man” who brought the first night club to the Tri-Cities. We also traveled a lot checking out different night clubs all over the East Coast. When he passed away in 2008, I took all that he had taught me as well as my own business experiences and opened the Country Club Bar & Grill in February 2010. I have found when you work with the public you are on the cutting edge of knowing you will be involved in different experiences on a daily basis” says Owner, Michelle Gibson.

“The internet and social media have sky rocketed since opening 8 years ago. While social is a great way to advertise, post, go live with bands, I truly miss the days when everyone spoke to one another, danced, talked, and interacted. I never thought I would see the day where no matter where you are, people can’t seem to put their phone down!”

You can always catch live music on the weekends at Country Club Bar & Grill. With a huge dance floor and live DJ, the party never stops. Come out and enjoy.

Pocket Change makes their debut on March 30th
Moonshine Band April 6th
Ali Randolph and the Outta Luck Band April 7th
Victor Lawson April 13th
Get your Swag on Wylde Style with Soul Swagger and Wydlheart April 14th. Soul Swagger takes the stage at 9pm. Wydlheart will rock the stage at 10:30pm.
Most people today love hunting for a deal, a treasure. On the other hand, many people have too many treasures and need to sell. Look at the rise over the past 15 years of services such as eBay or Craigslist. You can find anything and everything on both of these sites; but, what if you want to buy or sell home furnishings locally? That is where Décor Exchange Kingsport comes in. They offer an alternative to selling items on your own. For a fee they will take your gently used furnishings and display them beautifully in an inviting 14,000 square foot showroom. By consigning, sellers don’t have to worry about shipping, advertising, dealing with phone calls, having strangers come to their home, haggling over price or just not showing up at all. Décor Exchange prices the items, displays them and will even provide a third party for pickup and delivery where needed. The same goes for buyers. They don’t have to look through advertisements, make phone calls, and spend their time driving from place to place to look at merchandise.

At Décor Exchange, shoppers will be pleasantly surprised at the beautiful quality furniture and home decor in the upscale atmosphere. Because Décor Exchange has such an eclectic mix, buyers can find anything from antiques, vintage, traditional and modern décor, as well as finer jewelry and handbags. Additionally, they find lots of unique and one of a kind items from all over the globe. In 2004, Lesa Horne, having a love for yard sale and flea market bargain hunting, came up with the idea of home furnishings consignment. She declares, “I thought it would be great to have ‘all the nicer things’ in one location. I had seen clothing consignment shops, but never one with furniture and home décor.” Though taking the plunge to start a business was scary, she soon realized there was a huge demand for this service in the Tri-Cities. Within months the business won the KOSBE “New Business Startup Award.” Since opening in 2004 with 1500 square feet, Décor Exchange has expanded four times and is now over 14,000 square foot showroom adjacent to the North Eastman Road Post Office. The store is open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 6pm. Small furniture and home décor consignments are accepted Monday-Friday, from 10:30a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and larger furniture is taken by appointment.
The art of good interior design is to combine the subtleties of a home owner’s personality, style and sense of place with practical considerations of a home’s flow and function.

When done correctly, a room or home becomes a sanctuary. The combination of furniture and accent details create a harmonious atmosphere, which nourishes all who spend time there. You’re intuitively reminded, each time you return home, of what you value in your home life, and what gives you joy.

Fringe Furnishings & Decor is not your traditional furniture store, it’s different with something for everyone. Unique pieces and arrangements highlight their love of interior design and showcases quality furniture at reasonable prices.

Anne Estep opened her own interior design business in Knoxville in 1990, did freelance interior design with several pronounced businesses for over 20 years along with real estate staging. Her experience plays a big role in the success of her business.

“I want your home to reflect you and what you love. Together we create an environment for refuge and to reenergize. I love an eclectic mix of products. And our one-of-a-kind finds and Norwalk custom furniture allows your own personal style to shine” says Estep.

So, come on in. Take a look around. Say Hi to Anne and Mark Estep. With their new business conveniently located on Mountcastle Drive, they’d love to have you stop and take a look. You won’t be disappointed.

Featuring custom one-of-a-kind pieces and Norwalk custom furniture.

423-328-9330
fringefurnishings.com

155 East Mountcastle Drive
Johnson City, Tennessee
LOCATED BEHIND THE TARGET SHOPPING CENTER JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE
Kickin' Back @ King Alley

Kickin' Back @ King Alley is a free summer concert and event series in Gate City, Virginia. Talented bands from across the region perform at the King Alley location in downtown Gate City. Our events are made possible by a collaborated effort between the Town of Gate City, Gate City Frontier, Inc., Scott County Tourism, local civic groups, and our sponsorship partners.

In 2013, Kickin' Back at King Alley was developed as a venue to help capture the rich music heritage in Gate City and surrounding areas. The Town of Gate City recognizes that by developing a vibrant music economy, it will drive value in several important ways. It fuels job creation, economic growth, tourism development, and artistic growth, and strengthens the Town’s brand.

Today, their events bring 15,000 visitors and tourists to Gate City annually.

Every event is geared to provide family fun for all ages to enjoy. Visitors will enjoy local food, antique shopping, and arts and crafts. There is a Beer Garden onsite. Many events include activities for the kids, car and motorcycle shows, and sport venues and more. Be sure to bring your friends and your lawn chair!

Downtown Gate City, VA is rich with locally owned restaurants and antique shopping within walking distance of our music event venues. They are pet friendly but don’t forget the leash!

If you have an idea for an event, please let them know. They are constantly looking for new ideas! Their events are always free! Discover the small-town charm and visit Gate City, VA today!

If you are interested in performing at a future concert series please contact us via email: info@mygatecity.com.

For a full list of upcoming events, please visit their website at kingalley.com.
Based in Roanoke, Grand Home Furnishings is one of the largest furniture store chains in the South with 19 stores located in Virginia, Tennessee and West Virginia. Grand stores offer furniture for every room in your home as well as outdoor furniture and mattresses. For over a half-century, Grand has been known for its signature custom of greeting customers at the door with a cold Coca-Cola. Each year the chain serves about 1.25 million beverages.

Part of making you happy is making sure our community thrives. Giving back is hardwired into our DNA at Grand Home Furnishings. It's something we've done since the very beginning. Long before it was trendy for companies to be good corporate citizens, Grand was providing tens of thousands of dollars each year in support of charitable organizations in the communities we are a part of. And we'll still be doing it after this trend fades away. It's the right thing to do. It makes us happy. It makes our employees happy. And it makes you, our neighbors and customers, happy.

Making you happy isn't just what we say at Grand Home Furnishings, it's what we do. Everyone on our staff is thoroughly trained to help you through every stage of furnishing your home. They will make sure you're happy before, during and after the sale. From selecting the right pieces, to finding the right financing, to delivery, our goal is a completely satisfied and happy customer. At Grand, you'll find all the latest styles and the area's best selection. You'll find it at the guaranteed lowest price and a great deal.

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**GRAND Home Furnishings**

**Spring 3.20 FLASH SALE**

**TODAY ONLY**

Save 3 x 20%

Celebrate the first day of Spring with fresh looks at incredible TRIPLE SAVINGS!

**BRISTOL** 3325 Lee Highway

**JOHNSON CITY** 3026 East Oakland Ave.

**KINGSPORT** 1535 East Stone Drive

*Some items excluded. See store for details.

**1** Save 20% Off Storewide* Off MSRP

**2** An Extra 20% Off That

**3** An Additional 20% Off That

Use Code: MAR20

Code valid in-store only on 3/20
Rusty McCrary built The Gun Rack empire 25 plus years ago in 2 other locations. Present owner Sally Simpson moved it to N. John B Dennis Highway to expand the business with an indoor pistol range.

With social media at its height with anti-gun posts, The Gun Rack is committed to responsible industry practices and total customer satisfaction. They promote laws and regulations that balance the interests of the industry with those of consumers, as well as supporting and encouraging responsible industry practices. The Gun Rack holds their customers in the highest regard, and are committed to their “Best Practices Policy.”

This policy includes providing full disclosure to customers, complying with all state and federal laws and regulations, advertising truthfully and encouraging and promoting community responsibility and commitment.

Their gun selection of new and used changes daily. Take a look online at gunracktn.com. If you don’t see what you want then call for availability. You can buy with confidence in knowing you are allowed to fire rental or used firearms before and/or after buying any products. Carry Permit Classes offered; we recommend you come and practice to stay proficient with your shooting. The Gun Rack is proud to boast about their indoor pistol range for you to use.

Their shooting range offers the opportunity to fire rentals and used pistols; however, The Gun Rack sells and sponsors all types of rifles, shotguns and other weaponry. The range is open to people from age 12 up. We provide a safe environment for promoting fellowship and good sportsmanship, while keeping firearm safety paramount in the pursuit of all these activities.

When you purchase your products through The Gun Rack, remember that local business owners and their employees often possess a level of expertise and a passion for the product they sell that is not found at national chains. They also tend to have a greater interest in getting to know their customers who are also their neighbors. The Gun Rack takes pride in their trade and is easily seen in the employers and employees of this locally-owned businesses. The $10 you might have saved at the national retail chain didn’t yield you a personal consumer relationship like it does when you purchase at The Gun Rack.

No need to ask. Yes, they have guns. Yes, they have ammunition. Yes, they sell silencers and adhere to ALL government regulations. Yes, they have layaway. “Here at The Gun Rack, we know the meaning of real customer service.”

"AFTER 12 VISITS TO THE PISTOL RANGE, YOU GET ONE FREE VISIT"
Three generations, Patty Belgeri and her daughter Janet Novak and granddaughter Stacy Mills opened JK’S Kollections in Colonial Heights to serve women of all ages. These ladies opened this store with the painful truth. They LOVE clothes and they LOVE to shop. Three generations of serious shoppers with a passion for clothing. That can be a scary thing.

There are people who know exactly how to put an outfit together. Patty Belgeri, is one of those individuals. Utilizing her sense of fashion and the assistance of her daughter and granddaughter, JK’S Kollections lady’s boutique is a store with a variety of styles of all ages. They want to appeal to a wide group of women and offer clothes and accessories that cover the three generations that work there, while offering reasonable prices.

Besides being fashion forward with brands such as Flax and many others, JK’s Kollections orders a limited amount of what they carry and once it’s gone they don’t order more. They want to provide one-on-one service to build a wardrobe. Personal services are there main priority.

At JK’s Kollections, their customers are like family. With their own sense of family closeness, it has a waterfall affect at their store. It’s the kind of store that even husbands love to come and visit. You come in as a customer and leave as part of the family. You never know, you might even be invited for Sunday family dinner.

JK’s Kollections sets itself apart from the others with its uniqueness. They cross over three generations of different clothing styles and opinions…. However, there are times that they hit the nail on the head and all three of them have to wear it. They buy minimal amounts so you won’t see yourself coming and going all over the Tri-Cities.

Ask them “Does this look good on me?”; they’re gonna tell you the truth. They want everyone who leaves their store to feel confident about themselves and feel good in what they are wearing. They love to hear their customers say “every time I wear something from your store people always ask “WHERE did you get that?”

You can follow JK’s Kollections on Facebook for new clothing lines coming in and items currently in the store.
"YES" I can make a difference, because I will give you a Sheriff and not a Politician.

The safety of our families, friends, and our communities in Sullivan County deserve the best we can afford.

It is imperative that the Sheriff’s Office be accessible, more responsive to the Sullivan County Mayor, Commissioners, area businesses, municipalities and the residents of Sullivan County to solve issues County wide.

When I am elected, the residents of Sullivan County will get to meet and learn the faces of the Sheriff’s office, because the Sheriff cannot do it alone.

I will make the Sheriff’s office more accessible, by having an open-door policy and be more visible and active in the entire County.

I will be diligent about making the operations of the Sullivan County Sheriff’s Office more efficient and effective for both the employees and the public. My passion is police work. I dedicated 30 years to the citizens of Kingsport in a variety of positions. If elected Sheriff I would put my experience to work for the people of Sullivan County.

I will work on opening communications with the other branches of the County as well as the District Attorney’s Office and all the cities in Sullivan County.

Working together on the drug problem will be one of my top priorities. The communities of Sullivan County need to feel safe and know that the Sheriff’s Department is out there doing its job.

I will encourage the officers to get to know the community and the people they are serving.

The people of Sullivan County have one of the strongest Sheriff’s Offices in the state.

The officers of the Sheriff’s office are the greatest assets of the county. By motivating them and mentoring them they can create a safer community for all of Sullivan County.
WHAT STEPHEN HAWKING MEANS TO THE WORLD

Throughout human history there are people who have altered the mind of man, changing our course of thinking and in turn making us look back upon our fragile selves. Such a beautiful human was theoretical astrophysicists Stephen Hawking.

One of the world’s greatest minds, Hawking died on International Pi Day (3.14) March 14, 2018, also Einstein’s birth date, at his home in Cambridge, England. His work changed the way we understand the Universe, refining the great work of Einstein less than a century earlier.

He was a longtime sufferer of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), which left him paralyzed for decades. He was one of the longest survivors with the dreadful ALS disease when he died at age 76, spending decades in a wheel chair and communicating through a computer synthesizer.

His most ground-breaking work was the discovery where Black Holes leak energy and break down. Hawking’s bestseller book of 1988 “A Brief History of Time,” made him a house-hold word and a pop culture icon.

Hawking’s work centered around new concepts for Black Holes, proving they don’t hold back everything, emitting energy now called “Hawking Radiation.” He also tried to find proof of Albert Einstein’s Unification Theory, questioning Einstein’s statement that “God doesn’t play dice” in the Universe, saying God, if existing, may have loaded the dice. He was also mathematics professor at The University of Cambridge, a post once held by Sir Isaac Newton, another giant of physics upon who’s shoulders both Hawking and Einstein stood upon. Hawking never took an I.Q. test, and considered those who boasted about their intellect as “losers.”

Britain’s Royal Astronomer, Lord Rees, summed up this great scientist of the world: “Stephen was far from being the archetypal unworldly or nerdish scientist. His personality remained amazingly unwarped by his frustrations. Few, if any, of Einstein’s successors have done more to deepen our insights into gravity, space and time.”

Hawking admitted his thoughts of God were unconventional, along the lines of a Deist, who says a supreme entity placed the ingredients in the Universe and allowed the laws of nature to do the cooking. In recent years, he affirmed he was an atheist, and did not believe in heaven, the afterlife or that he had a soul.

In A Brief History of Time, he wrote: “If we discover a complete theory, it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason – for then we should know the mind of God.” In the same book he suggested that the existence of God was not necessary to explain the origin of the universe.

Hawking’s thoughts on the issues of this world—and alien worlds—are interesting. He urged caution in contacting intelligent aliens, which he believed thrive throughout the Universe. He said that any civilization we meet would be centuries ahead of our technologies and probably hostile. Advanced aliens might see Earth as easy prey for our abundant natural resources of water, minerals and slave labor. On the subject in 2010 he said, “If aliens visit us, the outcome would be much as when Columbus landed in America, which didn’t turn out well for the Native Americans.

One of the rare scientists who transcend their academic intellect to the mainstream public. Einstein was one. Astronomer Carl Sagan in the 1970s and ‘80s, and Neil deGrasse Tyson today are also brainy “superstars” of science.

Hawking was also a media star, appearing on many movie and sitcoms as himself, and indeed, a good biographical movie called “The Theory of Everything,” which was a true pursuit to merge relativity and quantum mechanics.

Hawking’s image and synthetic voice became famous on the television shows “Simpsons” and “Futurama.” Perhaps the best of his television appearances has been on “Big Bang Theory” where he validates the genius of show star Sheldon.

Not only did the stargazing nerds talk about Hawking in their circles, but it was fashionable to display that copy of “Brief History…” on the bookshelf of any home party to spur a little small talk and show off your smarts.

One of the most repeated of Hawking’s many inspiring statements is the one urging people to keep their heads up, not down on the floor and streets. He also urged people to never retire, to keep working at something enjoyable and challenging. And he also talked about love, something that nerdy scientists are supposed to be inept about. “If you’re lucky enough to find love, remember it is there, and don’t throw it away.”

Stephen William Hawking’s biographical thumbnail: Born in Oxford, England, Jan. 8, 1942, 300 years after Galileo died; his parents were academics, his dad a doctor specializing in parasites; he had two younger sisters and an adopted brother; twice married with three children; at age 21 he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or “ALS” and Lou Gehrig’s disease, that gradually paralyzed him over the decades. He lost his speech but was able to communicate with a voice-generating computer. His collegiate education made him Director of Research at the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology at the University of Cambridge.

The official Hawking family statement said: “His courage and persistence with his brilliance and humor inspired people across the world. He once said, ‘it would not be much of a universe if it wasn’t home to the people you love’. We will miss him forever.”

The world weighed in with memorials:
Astrophysicists and popular science communicator Neil deGrasse Tyson on Facebook: “His passing has left an intellectual vacuum in his wake. But it’s not empty. Think of it as a kind of vacuum energy permeating the fabric of spacetime that defies measure.”

NASA on Twitter: “Remembering Stephen Hawking, a renowned physicist and ambassador of science. His theories unlocked a universe of possibilities that we & the world are exploring. May you keep flying like superman in microgravity, as you said to astronauts on @Space_Station in 2014.”

And also on Twitter from Big Bang Theory: “In loving memory of Stephen Hawking. It was an honor to have him on the #BigBangTheory. Thank you for inspiring us and the world.”
Celestial events in the skies for the week of Mar. 20-26, 2018 as compiled for The Loafer by Mark D. Marquette.

T he first full week of Spring. The Moon has slipped back into the early evening, and Venus blazes with Mercury right after sunset. And the morning sky before twilight has planets and stars strung lightbulbs. Whether evening or morning, take the time to sit down, look up and lose oneself in the contemplation of the stars…it’ll be time well spent. And something the great, late theoretical physicists Stephen Hawking urged all humans to do frequently.

**Tuesday, March 20**

Vernal Equinox is today at 12:15 pm as the Sun enters Aries the Ram…and the long, hard winter is over. Seen from the equator, the Sun is directly overhead at noon, and around the world there are an equal 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of night.

**Wednesday, March 21**

There is more dark time in the morning before the 7 am sunrise, thanks to Daylight Saving Time. And that means you can see the planets Jupiter, Mars and Saturn strung across the sky. Look south at 5 am and Jupiter is brightest, right of the Milky Way in Libra. To the left is the red star Antares in Scorpius, Mars is to its left, and Saturn is yellowish in Sagittarius.

**Thursday, March 22**

In the southwest skies after twilight, the crescent Moon is above the reddish star Aldebaran in Taurus the Bull. On this 1997 date in astronomy, the world was abuzz as Comet Hale-Bopp was closest to Earth and an easy naked eye sight in the evening skies.

**Friday, March 23**

On this 1840 date in astronomy, the first photo of the Moon through a telescope was made by William Draper on a silver platinum photographic plate. Just 174 years later, most of us have a digital camera on our cell phones that will take a great Moon photo through any telescope.

**Saturday, March 24**

First Quarter Moon is tonight, in the feet of Gemini the Twins, right above Orion the Hunter. For a few hours in the evening, the winter constellations still dominate—brilliant star Sirius blazing above the southern horizon.

**Sunday, March 25**

Palm Sunday. On this astronomy date in 1996, naked eye Comet Hyakutake was closest to Earth, heading back out in the Netherlands of the Solar System after whipping around the Sun.

**Monday, March 26**

Next Sunday is Easter, a varying date determined by astronomy. The date is always determined by the first Sunday (April 1) after the first Full Moon (Saturday March 31) after the Spring Equinox (March 20).
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 20** -
  - Stemwinder
    - Rock’s Wood Fired Pizza & Grill
  - Downtown Country
    - Jiggy Ray’s Pizzeria

- **WEDNESDAY - March 21** -
  - Redleg Husky
    - O’Mainnin’s Pub
  - Open Mic
    - The Willow Tree Coffeehouse & Music Room
  - Rusty Steel
    - CJ’s Sports Bar

- **THURSDAY - March 22** -
  - Fireside Collective
    - Bone Fire Smokehouse
  - The Diamonds
    - Blackbird Bakery
  - Doctor Ocular
    - The Willow Tree Coffeehouse & Music Room
  - Leann Mazzel, Jenn Peters
    - Rock’s Wood Fired Pizza & Grill

- **FRIDAY - March 23** -
  - Shooter Band
    - Elizabethton Elkins Lodge
  - Lodi Band
    - Quaker Steak & Lube
  - Miss Tess & The Talkbacks
    - Down Home
  - Andrew Scotchie & The River Rats
    - The Willow Tree Coffeehouse & Music Room
  - Crossroads
    - Outdoorsmen Club
  - The Kind Therives
    - Wolf Hills Brewing
  - Asylum Suite
    - CJ’s Sports Bar
  - HB Beverly
    - Rock’s Wood Fired Pizza & Grill
  - Borderline
    - Rush Street
  - Rusty Steel & Jeremy Vance
    - O’Mainnin’s Pub
  - Drop Dead Dangerous
    - Woodstone Deli
  - 3.0
    - Country Club Bar & Grill
  - Lodi Band
    - Quaker Steak & Lube
  - SHAKE yo MoneyMaker
    - Studio Brew

- **SATURDAY - March 24** -
  - Mountain Blue
    - Rush Street
  - Loose Enz
    - Elizabethton Moose Lodge
  - Wyldeheart
    - Holiday Inn
  - Johnson City Symphony Orchestra
    - Milligan College - Seagar Chapel
  - Saul Brooks Band
    - Holston River Brewing Company
  - Victor Lawson
    - Quaker Steak & Lube
  - Broke-N-Busted
    - Silver Spur
  - Haven
    - Woodstone Deli
  - BasketCase / Gipsy Danger
    - Mecca Lounge
  - Archaic Knowledge
    - Mecca Lounge
  - Model City Tap House
  - Nightshift Band
    - Johnson City Country Club
  - Victor Lawson
    - Quaker Steak & Lube

- **SUNDAY - March 25** -
  - Donny and the Dry Heavers
    - High Voltage
  - Million Dollar Quartet
    - Niswonger Performing Arts Center
  - Wolf Hills Jazz
    - Bone Fire Smokehouse
  - Mike Snodgrass
    - Wild Wing Cafe
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 Sportsman’s 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 Sportsman’s 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
Batteries Not Included
By Andy Ross
aross@thelaferonline.com

Between 1949 and 1976 Author Ross Macdonald wrote a series of novels that featured his private eye character Lew Archer. The first two novels in this series “The Moving Target” and “The Drowning Pool” were both adapted into motion pictures with Paul Newman in the role, however a few concessions were made as “The Moving Target” was translated to the big screen for 1966’s “Harper.” When Newman was cast in the role he requested the name change from Archer to Harper. The story goes Newman didn’t want to break his streak of having successful moves with “H” names like “The Hustler” and “Hud.”

Newman’s Lew Harper is a private eye who lives in his office and is quick-witted. Harper is married, but the marriage fell apart and his estranged wife, played in the film by Janet Leigh, is constantly annoyed he can never turn up for divorcee proceeders as he’s constantly chasing after a case. This time Harper’s been called 90 miles up the road to the lush estate of a worried wife (Lauren Bacall) who wants Harper to find her missing husband—who has a nice value of about $20 million. Along the way, the simple missing person case evolves into a kidnapping, and Harper interacts with a number of characters played by a wonderful cast that includes: Robert Wagner, Shelley Winters, Arthur Hill, Julie Harris, and Strother Martin.

“Harper” is an incredibly entertaining movie that I enjoyed the hell out of. It has one hand in the Noir tradition of private eye flicks of the ’40s, including the ones that starred Bacall’s husband Humphrey Bogart, and also has one hand in the modern era of the Swingin’ Sixties. “Harper” also plays fair with the audience, if you pay attention you can solve the mystery. Frankly, it’s one of the most enjoyable detective films I’ve ever seen. Audiences at the time thought so too, and perhaps showing Newman’s desire to “H” titles to be true, “Harper” was a big box office hit.

Nine years later Newman returned to the role for 1975’s “The Drowning Pool” which kept the name of the novel it was adapted from. Newman not only returned to the role, but brought his wife, Joanne Woodward along for the film, and reunited with “Cool Hand Luke” director Stuart Rosenberg. “The Drowning Pool” also shows just how much film had changed in nine years. Unlike “Harper,” “The Drowning Pool” is not nearly as light touched and is more in style with being a neo-noir. Harper still has his moments of barbs and jokes, but the film is more guttural than its predecessor.

In “The Drowning Pool” Harper has been called to the bayou outside of New Orleans by an old flame (Woodward) who is now an oil heiress with a blackmail note she doesn’t know what to do with. As Harper begins to investigate he finds himself quickly dealing with the cops keeping tabs on him, and a trail that leads him deep in over his head into a world of ruthless oil business and political payoffs.

“The Drowning Pool” is a good movie, but I didn’t enjoy it as much as I did “Harper.” Newman is surrounded by a fine cast that includes Murray Hamilton and in one of her first big screen roles Melanie Griffith. But overall it’s not quite as much fun as “Harper” though it is a very much an indication of how much Hollywood had matured since 1966. Audiences at the time must have felt disappointed, or maybe even had forgotten about “Harper” as “The Drowning Pool” was not a success.

Warner Archive brings both “Harper” and “The Drowning Pool” to blu-ray for the first time, both films feature brand new 2K scans made from original source material. If you’ve seen any of Warner Archive’s blu-ray releases before you know that they bring their A-game to every title, both films look great, with a slight nod to “Harper” being more dazzling thanks to being a fair bit more colorful than “The Drowning Pool,” though the latter film is VERY sharp in the darker scenes. Both films sport an English 2.0 Mono DTS-HD Master Audio track, both tracks sound clear and sharp.

Bonus features are minimal, both films feature a trailer and “Harper” has an audio commentary by its screenwriter William Goldman, ported over from the 2006 DVD release. “The Drowning Pool” features a vintage behind the scenes featurette “Harper Days Are Here Again.” Though both films are welcome additions to the Warner Archive catalog, I must say I’d lean more towards calling “Harper” a must buy, and “The Drowning Pool” worth checking out before committing to a buy. But regardless how you feel about both films Warner Archive has done their usual fantastic job with these two titles. See you next week.
The Anderson family started in the termite and pest control business in 1956. Currently they provide services in southwest Virginia and east Tennessee. Ron grew up on a “termite truck” while working with his father. He’s licensed, bonded, and an insured Master Technician in the field of termite and pest control. All employees are trained in their respective fields from Technician to Master Technician. Continuous schooling both for Ron and his employees is necessary to meet growing demands and a changing environment. Lone Pine Exterminating Company went “green” before going “green” was even relevant.

Whether it be large corporate complexes, state or local government buildings, bottling plants, janitors, coal miners or retirees, their large area of service and 56 years in business ensures a level of expertise that rises above the competition. One thing Lone Pine Exterminating does not do is monthly, homeowner contracts because they feel EXTERMINATION should be the goal first and foremost. They don’t want to just write a contract; no, they want to SOLVE the problem first time (perhaps a quarterly or yearly follow-up as needed).

Some of the challenges to their business have been companies going out of business, economic factors, changing demographics, closing of coal mines leading to fewer residents are just a few problems they have encountered; but, have managed, through hard work and dedication to overcome.

To each customer, their pledge is simple: Lone Pine Exterminating Company, Inc. will provide you with the most professional, efficient, and cost-effective pest management services available. Their methods will have met and exceeded Federal, State and EPA guidelines. It is their goal to establish customer satisfaction as the principle objective while performing their services. They are committed to providing you with the very best quality and reliable services at an affordable cost. And, above all, honesty and integrity are their policy.

Visit their site today at www.lonepinepestcontrol.com.
Mac’s Medicine Mart, a staple in the community since 1989, has a full-time pharmacy with compounding, essential oils, natural foods, eldercare products, durable medical equipment, natural supplements, gifts and specialty items. Their Pharmacists are Barry Walton, Kevin Smith, Nikki McDavid and Al Gilliam. We asked Mac’s president, Barry Walton a few questions about the business.

How did you get started in this business? After my senior year in high school, I went to work at Berry’s Pharmacy and really enjoyed taking care of people. I planned on being an attorney and actually graduated from UT-Knoxville with a degree in political science, but changed my mind and became a pharmacist. I’m very happy I did so. I joined the team at Mac’s in 2005 and continue to take care of people today!

Why are you located where you are? Mac’s Medicine Mart found our permanent home on East Center street after being located just down the street in the old Kroger building. That building was sold to Mafair United Methodist Church. Phillip McManus, our founder along with his wife Barbara, had the foresight to buy the lot 2 doors down a few years earlier. We were able to build on that site and are so thankful because we have established ourselves in this neighborhood and didn’t want to leave. It made for an easy convenient move, as well as allowing us to expand our offerings and care better for our patients.

Whether you are looking for natural remedies or diabetic supplies, one of Mac’s Medicine Mart’s team members have you covered. Our compounding pharmacists can also formulate medicines for better dosage, form and administration. Our customers are from all walks of life and many are looking for solutions to their elder care problems. Our customers are loyal and long term and we always welcome newbies!

Mac’s Medicine Mart continues to work with the biggest issues in the healthcare industry, which are state and federal governmental regulation, insurance, and pharmacy benefit managers. The requirements can be frustrating. “The laws of unintended consequences” can have unforeseen effects and limits our ability to affect good patient care and handle our patient’s insurance. And some insurance plans won’t offer contracts for certain networks which can be very frustrating and interferes with the pharmacist/patient relationship which has been built over years if not decades.

Get personalized prescriptions with the help of a reputable compounding pharmacy. Turn to the licensed pharmacists at Mac’s Medicine Mart in Kingsport, TN. Mac’s is known for our dedication to improving health by providing customized medication for the patient’s specific needs. We are conveniently located at the intersection of Center Street and Fort Henry Drive, and open to serve you seven days a week with medications for your unique medical needs. Stop in and say Hi. Many people in healthcare know, when an item is hard to find…. Make Tracks to Mac’s!
Since its beginnings in 2009, the Mary B. Martin School of the Arts at East Tennessee State University has offered nine seasons of music concerts, theater, dance and storytelling performances, film screenings, lectures, exhibitions, visual artists, public art projects, comedy and illusion. The mission of the Martin School of the Arts is to bring to the region a program of high-caliber public performances, exhibitions and other activities for students and the greater community.

“Our seasons are always eclectic,” says Anita DeAngelis, director of Mary B. Martin School of the Arts at ETSU. “We have a lot to offer many different audiences in our community. To me that is part of the reason why I think every season is exciting. “Together with our guest artists we’ve danced, laughed and sometimes cried. We’ve learned more about history, about cultures and about ourselves.”

The Mary B. Martin School of the Arts’ spring 2018 season includes slam poetry and comedy with The Mayhem Poets; arts/health advocacy with painter Regina Holliday; a cappella vocals with The Swingles, live from London; cutting-edge percussion from Third Coast Percussion; and chamber music with Parker Quartet and pianist Esther Park, as well as four new and award-winning documentaries.

Previous seasons have brought viol music of the 17th century; Mountain Stage with Larry Groce; music, dance and visual art by Tibetan monks; the vocal tradition of Negro spirituals; stories from Turkey, Israel and Asia; Cherokee, Mexican, American and regional art and artists; classical, Appalachian, jazz, country, old-time and contemporary music; and dance spanning genres and continents.

All of this is made possible because of a generous gift by James C. Martin in 2009 in memory of his late wife. A lifelong resident of Johnson City, Mary B. Martin graduated from Boones Creek High School and while working full time at Eastman Chemical Co. in Kingsport, took classes and graduated from ETSU with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry in 1962. Jim Martin, who also had worked as a chemist at Eastman, passed away in December 2015.

“Jim Martin said his goal in financially supporting the School of the Arts, the local symphony orchestras, the International Storytelling Center and other regional arts programs, was to ‘weave a tapestry’ of arts organizations and events to form an influential presence in our area,” DeAngelis says.

The Martins’ influence on the arts has indeed been felt region wide, and DeAngelis and the Mary B. Martin School of the Arts have worked to strengthen the network of the area’s arts groups and programs, connect students and community with artists and bring a yearly collection of varied arts experience to audiences of all ages and incomes. Because of the Martins’ support, many of the School of the Arts’ events are free and ticket prices are much lower than other venues.

“The funding that this endowment provides is exciting for all of arts areas, on campus and off,” DeAngelis says. “ETSU arts facility, students and programs have provided the broader community with significant arts events over the years, and we often struggled to fund such activities. Mr. Martin has made it possible for us to bring additional high-caliber artists and performers to our community that we might not have here otherwise.”

For more information about Mary B. Martin School of the Arts, call 423-439-TKTS (8587) or visit www.etsu.edu/martin.
When Kaveh and Mary Dabir came across a scruffy used bookstore in the heart of Oak Ridge, TN in 1996, they knew that with a little TLC and some vision, the place could become a community icon. It did, and a little more than two decades later, the Dabirs have opened four more locations in the Southeast.

"Mr. K's Johnson City is far from the scruffy bookstore where it all began. With over 11,000 square-feet of hand-chosen merchandise, our knowledgeable, friendly staff, precise store organization that enables books and other items to be easily located, and our ability to sell and trade sets us apart in the community," says Dabir. "Because a large percentage of the store's inventory comes directly from this selling and trading with the public, new items come and go every day, all day long."

Mr. K's sells and trades new and used books, CDs, DVDs, vinyl records, comic books, video games, game consoles, and books-on-CD. Affordable prices, a varied selection, rare and collectible comics, and a collectible book section devoted to first editions, signed copies, leather-bound volumes and hard to find out-of-print titles ensures every customer will find something to pique their interest.

The Dabirs' distinct philosophy that stands as the foundation of Mr. K's business is to create a "home-away-from-home" atmosphere for employees and customers alike. They encourage the local writing community by hosting author book signings, selling local authors' books on consignment, and ordering material for area book clubs and kids' school-required summertime reading.

"Our close-knit atmosphere allows our frequent customers and staff to get to know each other, and our knowledgeable staff is always ready with a personalized tip or recommendation. The opportunities for new reads and treasured finds are ever-changing along with our selection of inventory," says Dabir. "You never know what you'll find at Mr. K's!"
Northeast Community Credit Union is a member-owned cooperative financial institution and serve anyone who lives, works or worships in Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington counties in Northeast Tennessee.

Northeast Community Credit Union was chartered in October 1952 as Elizabethton Teachers Credit Union. The City School Superintendent at that time, along with eight of the city’s schoolteachers (including current Northeast Community Credit Union Board of Directors Chairman Bill Armstrong), petitioned the Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions to start a credit union. Teachers back then had very few loan options due to their irregular school payroll schedules. These determined individuals sought to help teachers meet every day needs and achieve their goals. The first loan the Credit Union granted allowed a schoolteacher to buy a washer and dryer. In 1996, our volunteer Board of Directors requested a name change to better reflect the composition of our membership, as numerous local employee groups had been added over the years. They have loaned millions of dollars for their 11,000 plus members – everything from helping a family get a service dog for a handicapped child, to financing airfare for a member going for an organ transplant, to helping couples buy their first homes. Their Board of Directors is highly focused on community outreach and support, and sponsor a multitude of programs in this regard, they help local schools and non-profit agencies, teach financial literacy classes, serve as donation centers, and assist in raising funds for many worthwhile community projects. They are also extremely dedicated to literacy efforts in the communities they serve, to help improve the futures of the next generations; their staff members work many hours as volunteers in the community on a regular basis. NCCU has offices in Elizabethton, Roan Mountain, and Johnson City, and are recognized as caring, dependable community partners in all the areas they serve.

We live in an age of convenience and digitization. People want to do their financial business anytime day or night, seven days a week; they want it to be convenient, secure, and easy to use, and they want to do business with a financial partner they can trust. NCCU is pleased to offer all that and more. Members use their tablets, phones, or computers with their free home banking services to check their credit scores, make deposits by snapping photos of their checks, apply for loans, check balances, make payments, and transfer funds – all with just a click or swipe. Members can call, or text to compare rates, request a loan appointment, volunteer for outreach projects, and so much more. You know you can trust NCCU to have your best interests at the core of all they do. Northeast Community Credit Union is ranked in the very highest tier among financial institutions for safety, strength, and soundness. Providing personal service, building relationships, supporting families and the community, and offering the most convenient free financial products along with great rates and features, that’s how they succeed at being the best.

“It’s the greatest feeling in the world to know we’re making “business decisions” based on what will most positively impact someone’s life in a major way, we listen to our members, and we find ways to help folks during the bad times and celebrate with them in the good times; that’s how we make a difference. Folks know they’ve got a financial partner who cares and truly wants to help them, their families, and their communities. Our noteworthy designation as a Community Development Financial Institution as well as our reputation for compassionate, convenient service are things that truly set Northeast Community Credit Union apart. We care, and it shows.”
Tennessee Reconnect, a scholarship program for adult students, offers individuals free tuition to pursue a degree or technical certificate.

The program is a last-dollar scholarship that allows all Tennessee adults who qualify to attend tuition-free at any of the state’s 13 community colleges, 27 colleges of applied technology, or other eligible institutions.

“The importance of a degree or credential is more important than ever; it means earning higher wages and opening up career opportunities,” said Jim Henrichs director of Enrollment Services at Northeast State Community College. “TN Reconnect can help individuals get to the next level.”

Northeast State Now accepting TN Reconnect applications for free tuition

Henrichs said the TN Reconnect process requires four steps:
1. Complete the scholarship application at www.TNReconnect.gov;
2. Apply to a local community college, or eligible TN Reconnect institution;
3. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and be classified as an independent student. The application is online at https://fafsa.ed.gov/;
4. Enroll in a degree or certificate program at least part-time (six credit hours).

Also, a prospective student must be a current Tennessee resident (at least one year) and not have an associate or bachelor’s degree. The program is open to currently enrolled adult students at Northeast State who meet all the qualifications.

According to Henrichs, a college degree is also an investment in the future of an individual’s family. One of the most significant predictors of a child attaining a college degree is the educational attainment level of his or her parents.

“A degree is a great way to impact the next generation,” Henrichs said.

To maintain eligibility, students must:
• Maintain continuous enrollment and attend at least part-time (6 hours)
• Maintain a 2.0 GPA for the academic year
• Renew the FAFSA every year
• Participate in the TN Reconnect Success Plan

The Reconnect Success plan involves a series of questions to help students identify challenges they may face when returning to school as an adult, and next steps they may be required to take. Answers to the questions will generate a plan for each student—a “map” of resources personalized for their needs and available through his or her local Tennessee Reconnect Community or community college.

Tennessee is the first state in the nation to offer all citizens—both high school graduates and adults—the chance to earn a postsecondary degree or certificate tuition-free.

Henrichs noted that TN Reconnect would not cover the costs of some fees, textbooks, travel, childcare, and TN eCampus online course fees.

Northeast State Office of Enrollment Services are happy to provide information and answer questions about Tennessee Reconnect. For more information, email tnreconnect@northeaststate.edu or call 423.354.2481.
Painter Creek Marina is nestled right on beautiful South Holston Lake just 10 miles north of Bristol Motor Speedway and 10 miles south of I-81. It is the most family-friendly and accessible marina on SOHO. It is an enjoyable place to bring your family and friends and encourages guests of all ages to come and have fun. Painter Creek Marina is a family-owned/operated business through several generations since 1972. Once sold to a corporation for a couple years, Sabrina & Franklin Brown, II purchased the marina in May 2001. Franklin grew up working at the marina from a very early age, having 30+ years of experience. Sabrina entered this venture with little knowledge of the marine industry. After 25+ years, and counting, of experience she has since gained a wealth of knowledge as a marina owner/operator and a restaurant & bar owner/operator. Both were lucky enough to have supportive people that helped lead and guide them in the right direction. That and the school of learning as you go has helped Painter Creek Marina & Painter Creek Bar & Grille become what it is today.

There are so many things to do on the lake, it is the hope that customers put down their mobile devices and enjoy the beauty of the mountains, the lake and the company they are with. “One of the best things about working at Painter Creek Marina is that when our hard-working customers come they are off work, in a good mood and here to have some fun. That’s what makes our customers so special,” Sabrina says. During the high season, Painter Creek employees 50-65 team members. Painter Creek’s number one priority has always been customer service. It makes no difference how big or small the vessel they drive in or if they arrive by foot or automobile; everyone is treated the same. “We do our best to make everyone feel welcome & know how much we appreciate them. This job affords us the privilege to get to know so many people. Not just customers but thru employees also, some just starting out in the workforce. We have the opportunity to help mold and shape them into striving adults. We are training kids for the future. This is one of the biggest perks of this job.”

The most difficult issue facing most marinas are storms. Whether that being snow storms or wind storms. Being prepared is essential. But Mother Nature still has the final say, no matter how prepared one may be at any given point in time. One of the most frequently asked questions about rentals is do boats have brakes. So now when folks call us about renting boats we let them know, if you can drive a car you can drive a boat. Just remember there are not brakes, you just have to hit reverse.

I hope our business continues to grow exponentially through the next 5-10 years. We have both our sons and two first cousins that work & help support the marina. We are a four-generation marina at present with the hopes of more generations to come."

Sabrina Brown
Rocks Wood Fired Pizza and Grill got started by default. Larry Sangid has owned the Northridge Centre for over 10 years, and when another restaurant was about to close, he stepped in and soon turned it into ROCKS.

Rock's is known for their pizzas. All of the pizzas are artisan handmade and cooked in an Italian wood burning brick oven. Their sauce is made from crushed San Marzano tomatoes with no fillers or preservatives. Their flour is imported from Naples, Italy from the oldest mill in Europe. They strive to make their wood fired pizzas as authentically Neapolitan style as possible.

Live music is a big part of our restaurant as well. Typically, at least three nights a week they have live music on their spacious patio with a beautiful stone fireplace. You can find their events at www.rockswoodfired.com!

Their core values are: serving superior quality food, using locally sourced, organic and non-gmo food when available, exceptional customer service and providing a casual, elegant fine dining atmosphere.

Everything we have learned has been through trial and error. We had never run a restaurant before. It has been the hardest work we've ever done. But it is very rewarding! We have an extraordinary, hard-working staff and have made relationships that will last a lifetime.”

“In the next five years, we will be here! That's all we can say for sure. :) We have high aspirations. To this point we have exceeded all the goals we have set. We can honestly say that we are just getting started! In the months to come we will be coming out with a new menu with appetizers and main plates, as well as expanding our catering menu. Stay tuned for new and exciting menu items and more local entertainment!”

Larry Sangid
Sexton’s Marine

Since 1987

By Paul Kavanaugh

So, I'm talking to Mike Sexton, honcho at Sexton’s Marine, and I ask him, as if I didn’t know, what makes you different. Here’s what he has to say.

“Want to know what it’s like to be treated with respect when dealing with your boat? You get to deal with the owners at our place. Serving you since 1987 – same family, same location - we proudly offer Sweetwater, Aqua Patio and Harris Pontoon boats, powered by Honda, Yamaha, Mercury and Tohatsu outboards.

Our business started as they opened the new Hwy 421 in 1987 in a small simple block building. Dad began by himself; the mission - to treat people well, be appreciative that they stopped by to see him and offer fair pricing – the same ideals we aspire to today. You have choices where you spend your boating dollars and we are grateful that so many folks have chosen to stop by and see us. Our buildings have grown – our product line has expanded - but we still cherish making new friends. Stop by.”

He started telling me about all the warranties on the various boats and motors, and my eyes glazed over. Mike knows his stuff, so just tell me what works!

Naturally I had to ask him a couple off the wall questions:

Tell us one of the worst moments/mistakes you ever made in your business?

“We picked up a houseboat for repairs, had it delivered to the shop, and realized the driver had picked up the wrong boat. Ruhh Ro! A 45 foot houseboat!

Every customer has a silly question from time to time; tell a “silly” question in your business and how you responded to it?

A lady called after several days of rain and was worried that her pontoon boat would sink as the dock went up and wanted us to put longer ropes on her boat.

Funny stuff everyone! Go see Mike or Scott.
Shabby Allie’s Boutique is a hidden gem in Downtown Kingsport. Located at 117 Shelby Street in the former Dobyns Taylor location. Celebrating their 6 year anniversary, Shabby Allie’s has a variety of services to offer. You can find antiques and collectible items as well as other unique vendors and if you are a lover of all things painted, well you can find that too. Owner, Allison Russell has spent many years customizing furniture pieces into a work of art and also welcomes your heirloom items as well. Other services include gift wrapping, candy bouquets, gift baskets and gourmet baskets for those special occasions. These are customized specifically for the recipient and are sure to brighten someone’s special day. Allison has also been working in the wedding industry for several years helping to plan your perfect wedding day or any special event. Many decorative items are available for rental specializing in rustic, shabby chic, elegant and vintage style gatherings. Directing and catering services are also available.

They recently opened The Bakery Café inside Shabby Allie’s which is owned and operated by Patricia Michaels where you can have lunch and shop at the same location. Lunch is served Tuesday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you want to start your day off with a well balanced breakfast delivered to your door, you may want to consider The A.M. Kingsport for that as well.

One of their most recent and sought after developments is the opening of Taylored Venue and Events. If you are looking for a venue to have your wedding or other celebrations then they have the hottest spot in Kingsport for you. Many services are provided inside Taylored as well including customized party themes, weddings, anniversaries, birthday meetings and baby showers. Decorations and Catering are provided on site to help make your event a success.

You may contact them at 423-367-0957 for any questions you may have or visit us on Facebook at Shabby Allie’s Boutique & Catering At The Vintage Market or Taylored Venue & Events.
Planning a trip to Northeast Tennessee? Save time and forget the hassle of traffic and family feuds by flying into Tri-Cities Airport (TRI). Perfectly situated between Bristol, Johnson City and Kingsport, Tennessee, the airport serves as the gateway to an unspoiled Appalachian paradise.

When your flight touches down at Tri-Cities Airport, you are only minutes away from local folklore, the first recording of country music, the rumble of NASCAR or the thunder of dragsters. Even if you prefer the quiet thrill of outdoor activities like hiking, mountain biking, kayaking or fishing, catch a flight to TRI. Within a short distance from the airport, you can experience the rich history of the Northeast Tennessee region.

From the moment you arrive at the airport, you are surrounded by the breathtaking vistas which make this area famous. A profound serenity and unmistakable hospitality greet you in the friendliness of the airport’s staff and relaxing atmosphere. The only thing absent from your travel experience is the hustle and bustle associated with larger airports in major cities. With a modern design, clean and efficient facilities and convenient location, flying TRI is an easy choice.

Tri-Cities Airport is a full-service commercial airport serving Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, Western North Carolina and Southeastern Kentucky. Allegiant, American and Delta offer non-stop service to Atlanta, GA; Charlotte, NC; Orlando/Sanford, FL; and St. Petersburg/Clearwater/Tampa, FL. With countless connecting flights available, TRI sees visitors from all over the country and world each year.

Convenient resources are easily accessible at the airport to get your vacation in Northeast Tennessee started on the right foot. With taxi, limo and rental car services, and incredibly knowledgeable staff at the airport’s information desk, TRI’s personnel are prepared to serve your every need as you travel to or from Northeast Tennessee.

The Airport’s 23,000-sq-ft. concourse provides comfort and convenience for travelers with seven spacious gates, restaurant, bar, gift shop, business center and free WiFi. The main terminal offers travelers a restaurant, bar, gift shop, business center and free WiFi. The main terminal offers travelers a restaurant, bar, gift shop, ATMs, free WiFi, and a staffed airport services counter to answer questions, page individuals and provide tours.
Create your own luxurious swimming pool or spa from Tri-Cities Pools & Spa. Have their experience design team help you create the perfect getaway right in your own backyard. Everyone likes to take a break from the hectic lifestyle after you get home from work by having a swimming pool installed by a certified professional. You will find the best prices in the area along with free estimates and delivery.

Tri-Cities Pools & Spas is a family owned business celebrating 30 years and values its customer service and quality of work. It is their desire to build your dream backyard. Their workmanship speaks for itself. Every pool at Tri-Cities is unique and based on your needs. Because of this, their loyal customers have voted them the Best of Johnson City numerous times. You are like family to them. They value their friendships and loyalty and treat them with respect.

Tri-Cities Pools & Spas can handle all your backyard needs. From in-ground and above ground pools, pool maintenance, spas, repairs, supplies, fencing, enclosures, to decks and patios, they can do it all.

If you need to service your pool or spa in your home, hotel, apartment complex or condo association, call Tri-Cities Pools & Spas. Their fully trained and certified professionals are ready to repair any equipment problems you may have.

And in case you’re wondering and want to ask, “How do they fill up those swimming pools once finished?” … Yep, you got it, they still use the good old-fashioned way of a water hose.
The family at UHM prides itself on creating "Raving Fans" among our customers. We accomplish this by consistently exceeding their expectations.

We offer a variety of loan options to support you in achieving your homeownership dreams:
- Conventional
- FHA
- VA
- USDA
- FHA 203K
- HomeStyle
- HomeReady
- Construction-to-Perm, One-Time Close

Each loan application is given personal and professional attention by our mortgage professionals. We strive to match you with the best possible loan for your unique situation, and will personally communicate with you through every step of the process.

MEET DEE

Purchasing a home is an exciting milestone and one of the biggest decisions most people will make in their lifetime. With the variety of products and programs available, it's important that you feel confident in choosing the best loan to fulfill your unique needs. That's where Dee comes in.

For the past 13 years of industry involvement, Dee focuses heavily on educating her borrowers so they feel comfortable with the details and fully understand the process. Dee's passion for helping others is extended through her community service, supporting non-profit organizations including Challenger League, local chambers, Junior Achievement and more.

Dedicated to honesty and thoroughness, Dee's commitment to a wonderful home buying or refinancing experience for every client is second to none.

Contact Dee anytime to get your questions answered and get your world-class home buying experience started!

Dee Bardes
Loan Originator | NMLS 149465 | TN 108008 | VA MLO-1911VA
o: 423.228.5855 | c: 423.477.9363
dbardes@unionhomemortgage.com
UnionHomeMortgage.com/DBardes
10368 Wallace Alley St., Suite 7
Kingsport, TN 37663
Warranty One Mobile Mower Repair is an authorized Cub Cadet dealer in Kingsport and Johnson City TN. If you are not sure which Cub Cadet product is right for your needs, they will happily assist you and demo products. As always, they want you to have the right Cub Cadet product for the right job. For years their customers have turned to them when they needed outdoor power equipment and also when they’ve needed that equipment serviced. They are proud of their commitment to their neighbors and community and it’s their promise to you that they will help you find the right equipment for your home or business.

John Jewitt, owner of Warranty One started working with engines in middle school and by the time he graduated from high school he was a class A diesel mechanic. He put himself through college at SMU running a repair business fixing cars and racing equipment. Located in Kingsport, Warranty One’s building was originally a trucking company’s parts building and was centrally located with easy in and out. Food City expanded and everything had developed since then. Find the mural and you will have found Warranty One Mobile Mower Repair.

“Right now, lawn mower and especially generators are a popular business to get into and a number of people have; however, they don’t necessarily have the engine background needed to be able to follow thru from installation to repair and maintenance. Generators are not just a plug and play item. They require experience and training beyond electrical knowledge” says John.

Hiring good people is the hardest part; it’s always tough in any business, finding good mechanics that like what they are doing enjoy it and wish to further their education. Mechanics continually have to keep attending school to upgrade their skills. You must have pride in what you do in life! But with over 15 team members on staff, Warranty One has the experience to repair and maintain your precious equipment.

Warranty One is the only multi-line warranty backed dealer for Generac, Kohler, Cummins, Briggs & Stratton and Champion generators for fully automatic standbys up to 150kw.

Warranty One’s promise after the sale, we’ll keep that equipment running right for as long as you own it. So, before you make your next purchase, give a call or visit our store location. They’re sure you’ll find great products and services to meet your needs and look forward to seeing you.
There's a new kid in town and you better watch out. They have their eye on you. Watchdog Surveillance and Spy Gear is strategically located between the University and many of the Medical Institutions and close to downtown Johnson City. Owner Mark Beck opened Watchdog Surveillance after being introduced to its franchise office in Knoxville. He has been a video engineer for many years, and his partner worked in the Knoxville store for quite a long time and knows the business well. Between the two, you can be assured that your surveillance needs will be met.

Watchdog Surveillance & Spy Gear specializes in Professional Grade Surveillance Equipment (commercial and residential) and Cutting Edge Spy Gear. We stock everything from hidden cameras and GPS trackers to law enforcement grade surveillance gear. Our customers include families, businesses and government agencies. We invite you to drop by and check out our products in person – our discreet and courteous retail staff would be happy to give you a live demonstration! We can also recommend professional surveillance system installation team for large jobs or customers who don't have time to set everything up.

Don’t trust the safety and security of your business or loved ones to a questionable online-only retailer. We strive to outshine the rest by standing behind the products we sell and providing you with the peace of mind that comes with a 100% satisfaction guarantee! If you want a team that works relentlessly to set new standards in the personal security industry, choose Watchdog Surveillance and Spy Gear. Follow us at facebook.com/watchdogcity.
Woodstone Deli
Since 1979

Woodstone was originally opened for business in 1979. Since, it has recently been bought by new owner Naomi Quillen in 2017. Naomi’s experience includes a venue she owned in Florida and in Charlotte in years past along with her team members that all contribute to making Woodstone a place to be.

After being a customer of Woodstone Deli for years, she decided to purchase the venue and has added pool tables, bands 4 nights a week and Thursday night bike nights and DJ Trivia which has all been a huge success.

Along with a dance floor and great live entertainment, Woodstone Deli boasts 16 beers on tap from local brewery’s and domestic import beers. Hungry? If you can’t pick between the burgers, appetizers, salads, wings, deserts, try the best biscuits in gravy in town. If it can be homemade, it is homemade, including all the side items. You can even find weekly daily specials and $6 lunch specials each day. Did you know that Woodstone Deli was voted Best Burgers in Town for the last 3 years in the Times News? Now that’s GOT to be a good burger! Go try one for yourself.

Naomi believes in giving back to the community by donating food to local school booster clubs and athletic organizations along with promoting children’s charities, Hunger First and Benefit Rides for Veterans.

Delivery services offered, private parties welcomed, catering available. Mark your calendars for May 2018 ‘wing fling’ in downtown Kingsport. 16 different wing flavors and for Brody’s Run in July. Also announcing in 2018, Woodstone Catering. Location to be announced, so keep an eye open for it.
A Wrinkle in Time first burst onto the world of pop entertainment in a 1962 novel, and later in a 2003 television movie. 2018 brings the story to theaters in a special effects laden film featuring an all star cast, including Reese Witherspoon, Oprah Winfrey, Mindy Pena, Chris Pine, and Zach Galifianakis. The story follows a teen-age girl named Meg (Strom Reid), who sets off on an adventure with three astral travelers to find her missing father, Dr. Alex Murry (Pine), a brilliant scientist who has been missing after he discovered a new planet. Murry is an expert at Astrophysics and both Meg and her mom Kate (Gugu Mbatha-Raw) feel he may have been teleported to another world. After her father’s disappearance, Meg is bullied at her school and not only has to suffer due to missing her father, but with her tormentors as well. Often coming to her rescue is her younger adopted brother Charles Wallace (Deric McCabe), who is brilliant in his own right. One night at the families home, Charles Wallace brings a mysterious neighbor, Mrs. Whatsit (Witherspoon) into their home.

Mrs. Whatsit reveals she knows a way to help the kids find their father. The kids and Mrs. Whatsit are joined in the quest by Mrs. Which (Winfrey) and Mrs. Who (Kaling), the other two astral travelers who help the kids travel to the planet Uriel via a reality ripple. Meg’s father is being held by a malevolent robot-alien hybrid called “IT” because of his experiments. IT is ever expanding, and brings and is bringing darkness to all the universe. The astral ladies convince Meg, with some help from The Happy Medium (Galifianakis), that she, her brother, and their friend Calvin (Levi Miller), must be warriors in order to fight the IT in order to keep the darkness from spreading. Eventually Meg and company find Dr. Murry, who is being held in a set straight off the set of any “Star Trek” film, but not before a shocking twist involving Charles Wallace. If all the aforementioned sounds a bit overwhelming, it can be, and if you have never read the novel, I recommend going with the flow of the story-line. The special effects and the colorful costumes of the leading ladies will certainly distract you from any confusion you may experience during the story. All the actors involved appear to be having a blast in their roles, and I have no doubt it was fun for the leading ladies to enjoy eccentric costumes. As Meg, Reid is an inspiring heroine, and proves heroes come in all shapes, sizes, sexes and colors. Pine was also excellent in a role providing him the chance to be a fatherly figure who regrets most of his decisions in life. To me the main theme of the story was love and how important it is to appreciate and love those around you. While “A Wrinkle in Time” is best described as eccentric eye candy, the film has a simple message, and can be enjoyed by kids and adults alike.
White Oak Sinks

Each and every day, Cades Cove sees thousands of visitors flood the idyllic valley nestled in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. No wonder, for this is no doubt one of the most beautiful natural areas anywhere in the eastern U.S. Views across the dale’s open fields take in the looming presence of Rich Mountain, with Thunderhead Mountain and Mount LeConte in the distance. Here visitors can spot turkey, black bear, and herds of deer, along with the plethora of historical structures which were spared destruction during the park’s establishment. Abrams Creek cuts an exuberant path through the grassy meadows and patches of wood scattered along its bank, rushing to its inevitable climax at Abrams Falls miles away.

Cars snake along the twisty Cades Cove Loop Road as visitors try to take in all the sights, and as anyone who has visited the park on a hot July weekend can attest, it doesn’t take long for it to come to a complete standstill. Great Smoky Mountains National Park is famous for its title as the most-visited park in the country, with more than ten million visitors every year. Many don’t realize that if Cades Cove was its own national park unit, it would still be in the top dozen or so most popular parks! The traffic is sure to be as bad as ever this year, as the National Park Service has started a much-needed paving project on Laurel Creek Road.

If you plan on visiting the Cove this year, take some time to explore some of the more isolated portions of the surrounding landscape. Hiking any trail beside Abrams Falls can give some much-needed solitude. These include Gregory Ridge and Cooper Road trails. Go adventuring on the gravel roads leading out of the Cove such as Parsons Branch Road. One of the best ways to leave the crowds behind is to wander the open fields with a camera or picnic basket in hand. Just be sure to keep your eyes open to avoid an encounter with the local furry residents.

One of our favorite parts of the park lies just to the east of the valley, easily accessible from Laurel Creek Road. While thousands of visitors drive by the Schoolhouse Gap Trailhead every day without giving it a thought, a magical world lies just a short walk up the trail. Known to locals as White Oak Sink, this smaller version of Cades Cove is devoid of the crowds and subsequent wear and tear which come along with it. Here one can wander along wooded paths which lead through an eruption of the Park’s most remarkable wildflower displays. Waterfalls tumble into the dark recesses of caves below. Yes, several caves dot the floor of this giant sinkhole and provide a safe haven for the critically-endangered Indiana bat.

To reach the sink, park at the trailhead for Schoolhouse Gap Trail and head up the wide, gravel pathway. Believe it or not, this actually was a road that was meant to connect nearby Maryville with the communities which lay across the state line in North Carolina. You can follow the rest of its path along Bote Mountain Trail which begins on the other side of Laurel Creek Road. The trail gently climbs for 1.1 miles as it parallels a small stream on its way to Dosey Gap. Here at the ridge crest, you’ll see Turkeypen Ridge Trail split off to the left. Just a couple hundred feet past this marked trail junction you’ll soon see another trail on the left side as well. It is bereft of a trail sign, as the NPS doesn’t officially recognize the track into the basin as an official trail. Most likely this is to protect the delicate environment of the Sink.

Follow the narrow manway about another mile as it crosses a small stream and then climbs the side of a ridge in order to navigate the lip of the Sink. It will soon plunge steeply down, so watch your step carefully. One last slippery spot marks the end of the descent, and you’ll find yourself in a surprisingly flat area completely surrounded by steep mountain slopes on all sides. April is by far the best time to visit, as the ground is completely covered in delicate blossoms. Trilliums, foamflower, mayapple, blue phlox, and wild geraniums are just a few of the dozens of species found here. Follow the pathway—carefully, so as not to injure any plants—as it leads to the highlight of this Smoky Mountain gem. White Oak Sink Falls is stunning as it plunges over sheer cliffs before disappearing into a black hole below, its destination unknown. Nearby, several caves are blocked by sheer bars in order to keep would-be intruders out of the critical bat habitats.

While exploring the bottomlands, it’s easy to see the hand of man in shaping this wilderness to his will. Believe it or not, several families had cabins all the way down in here. Stone fences still stand and trace the outlines of fields once green with corn and sorghum. Rusty items lie scattered about, tossed aside or left behind decades ago and left to succumb to the elements. A small cemetery lies off on a side trail. Feral hog traps show how humans have upset the natural ecosystem here even in indirect ways.

As you explore this Appalachian jewel, once again be aware of your surroundings. The delicate ecosystem here needs constant observation in order to stay healthy, and a careless footfall can damage delicate blooms or erode loose soil. Over the last few years, the park service has limited access to the Sinks on several occasions during the spring months. Sometimes this closes the entire area, while sometimes just portions of the trails are blocked off with bright orange fencing. We have checked the park website (www.nps.gov/grsm) and it appears to currently be open. If it does close, please be patient and adhere to the park’s guidelines so everyone can have access to this natural oddity for years to come.
Believe it or not, the term OneKingsport has been around a really, really long time. The earliest recorded memory of OneKingsport was back in 1949 as it was the cover of a Kingsport Chamber Annual Report. The title across the cover of the book said “There’s only OneKingsport”. This is true...there’s literally only ONE Kingsport in the entire United States. Several Bristol’s, Johnson City’s, Knoxville’s and Nashville’s exist, but there’s only OneKingsport.

The most recent association with ONEKingsport is the ONEKingsport Summit, ONEKingsport Post-Summit Workgroups and now the ONEKingsport Advisory Commission. The last visioning process occurred under Mayor Jeanette Blazier in 1999 where projects like the Kingsport Academic Village and MeadowView transpired to further the city’s vision.

Mayor Clark campaigned on the fact it was time for another visioning effort within our community. In October 2015, hundreds of citizens gathered, in person and via livestreaming, for a two-day summit to discuss a population growth issue in Kingsport. The purpose of the ONEKingsport Summit was to create a five-year roadmap to become a vibrant 24/7 city.

Seven workgroups were created that addressed the major areas for the visioning effort: Arts & Entertainment, Destination City Investments, Downtown Revitalization, Health & Wellness, Higher Education Innovation, Housing, and Job Creation and Entrepreneurship.

There’s Only One

Bays Mountain: The Trail Forward

Bays Mountain is working towards a National Recreation Trails certification. A new venue will be located at Lily Pad Cove to be utilized for weddings, parties and other events.

• Update the Nature Center to include a world-class area with new animal habitats.
• Create a new entrance for a grand first impression.
• Add new amenities that enhance the overall customer experience.
• The average annual attendance is 220,000 visitors, and there is room for increased capacity.

Bays Mountain has a desperate need for improvements noted in a strategic master plan that was developed in 2010.

Downtown Playground

The General Shale Complex has the potential to become a premier destination for Kingsport. In addition to Brickyard Park that brings in regional and national youth sports tournaments, the next phase will be to create a multipurpose outdoor venue. Potential use include adventure racing, festivals, major concerts, benefit walk/runs, car shows, cross country races, cyclocross course, boat shows, tractor/farm equipment shows, to name a few. The outdoor venue has the potential to exceed economic impact.

Innovate Kingsport: The Creation Center

From industry to innovation, Kingsport has been a maker city since inception. In an effort to capture the best and brightest, the product creation center would be the hub serving as a makerspace, a product creation arena and a hub for those wanting to "make" things and careers.

Neighborhood Commission: Love Where You Live

Neighborhoods are the core of a city, and Kingsport’s are rich with character and tradition. People who live in a city want to see it flourish and are willing to be engaged in positive quality-of-life improvements. Through the neighborhood commission, the city and its citizens can build stronger neighborhoods and increase engagement at the city.

The Riverfront: Rediscover the Riverfront

The Riverfront has been a long desired area for development. The natural beauty of the river is a great location for outdoor activities, the greenbelt, and retail and restaurant establishments. As one of Kingsport’s main assets, the river is a unique feature because most cities do not have the natural beauty of a river running through their downtown. This KOHO District (Kingsport On the Holston) has much potential.
Saturday, March 24th, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. the Carter Family Fold in Hiltons, Virginia, will present a bluegrass concert by the Loose Strings Band. Admission to the concert is $10 for adults, $2 for children 6 to 11, under age 6 free.

The Loose Strings Band is an all women band, five members ranging in age from fifteen to twenty years of age from Galax, Virginia. The band has been together for nine years, playing at bluegrass conventions, special events, ceremonies, and festivals. They are well-known in the Blue Ridge Mountains and beyond for their nice blend of tight vocal harmonies and sweet rhythms. Their style is also unique in that they all play an instrument and sing. The band has been well supported and embraced by many through the years.

Last year, the ladies performed a live show at the Lincoln Theater for the PBS series “Song of the Mountains,” and they are anxiously waiting to see the televised performance when it airs later this year. Having gone through their early years, their high school years, and now college, the band has stayed true to their heritage and the music they grew up with. In their music careers, they have maintained a fine balance between studies, family, and extra-curricular activities. Somehow through their love of music, determination, and very busy lives, they have continued to perform and have completed three albums. Their latest release of As We Travel, came out in late 2016.

This concert will mark the first performance of the Loose Strings Band at the Fold. Come on out and join us for some of the best mountain bluegrass our region has to offer. Bring along your friends and your family for an unforgettable concert in the place where mountain music had its’ humble beginning. Don’t forget to bring along your dancing shoes! Go to www.theloosestringsband.com/ for additional information on this up and coming group. You can also check them out on YouTube and Facebook. The Carter Fold is proud to welcome the Loose Strings Band.

For more information, go to www.carterfamilyfold.org, or call 276-594-0676.

The year was 1964, I was in the eighth grade when I first heard I Want to Hold Your Hand. It was a seminal experience and led me to a lifetime of loving the Beatles and their music. Our teacher that year didn’t think much of this music, and even stated that a year from now no one will remember who these guys are. What do you have to say now, Mr. Silvestrini? 54 years later they remain as popular as ever. And now a Grammy-nominated tribute band brings the Fab Four sounds to the Tri Cities. The WannaBeatles, comprised of four guys with an uncanny ability to replicate the sounds of John, Paul, George and Ringo, come to Holston River Brewing on Friday night at 9:00. Get ready for a different kind of Beatles experience that combines great Beatles classics with hilarious on-stage antics, audience involvement and award-winning entertainment. This is one show you don’t want to miss. Saturday night sees the Saul Brooks Band take the main stage at 8:30, bringing their high-energy musical talents to the Brewery. If you haven’t heard them, you’re in for a treat. Great music and the innate ability to get you up and out on the dance floor makes this band a fun evening. Head on out, enjoy a delicious craft beer or interesting cocktail, and just have a rocking good time. See you all out there.

By Paul Kavanaugh

Before 1852, what is now the heart of the City of Bristol Tennessee / Virginia was part of the vast plantation of Rev. James King. Rev. King had a son-in-law, Mr. Joseph R. Anderson, then a merchant of Blountville, Tennessee, who when learning that two railroads would meet upon the King land, foresaw that the site would be ideal for the founding of a city.

On July 10, 1852, Anderson contracted for 100 acres of the King plantation: forty-eight acres in Tennessee and fifty-two acres in Virginia. On July 16, 1852, he chose the name “Bristol” for his planned city, narrowly edging out the name “Paradise” by only one point. The survey of Bristol began August 1, 1852 and continued for three days. During the summer of 1853, Mr. Anderson had a combined residence and business house erected on what is now the southwest corner of State Street and Martin Luther King Blvd. This was the first building erected in the Town of Bristol and was the beginning of this city. Anderson moved his family from Blountville to this house on September 18, 1853. The Bristol post office opened in this house on November 5th. His general mercantile store opened for business on December 24th of the same year. Banking began in 1854. This corner is now called the Birthplace of Bristol.

Samuel Goodson, who owned land that adjoined the original Town of Bristol at its northern boundary (Beaver Creek was the divided line), started a development known as “Goodsonville”. In 1856, that town and the original Bristol, Virginia were merged to form the composite town of Goodson, Virginia. However, the Depot continued to be known as Bristol, Virginia. In 1890, all the development on the Virginia side returned to the name “Bristol” and so remains today.

It can truly be said of Bristol that it is a unique city with a unique past and a unique people.
The Spring Doll & Bear Show will be held at the Jonesborough Visitor’s Center on Saturday, March 24, from 9:30 to 3:00. Featured for sale at the show will be antique, vintage, modern and art dolls. Bears and other doll related items, such as clothing and accessories, will also be available to purchase.

The Jonesborough Visitors’ Center is located at 117 Boones Street in Jonesborough, TN. There is ample parking on both sides of the building. Admission to the show is free, but voluntary donations will be accepted for St. Jude Research Hospital. Collectors and enthusiasts are welcome. Come talk to our many knowledgeable vendors or just take a walk down memory lane. For further information contact Ellen at 423-753-0022 or Mary at 423-247-1639.

DISCOVERY DOWNSOUTH

Yes. It’s exactly what you think it is—but more and more men are saying YES to their NO-NO region.

Before I get you to the waxing portion, I want to provide you with a brief waxing history—this is your chance to have a breather before the whole YOU KNOW WHAT.

In 1992, The J Sisters Salon of midtown Manhattan, brought the Brazilian method to the United States. Janea Padilha, 55, the inventor of the Brazilian of the J Sisters Salon was the first to perform The Brozilian.

So what exactly is The Brozilian? Well, it's process of the application of wax to the pubic and buttock regions, and the removal of hair from those regions—you could say it's not for the taint of heart. I'm kidding. It's honestly not that intense as one would think.

Now, what's the level of pain one would expect? It's all about the amount of prep work you invest in. The night before your appointment, take the time to trim down (manscape) to a reasonable length; this will minimize the pain during your removal treatment.

Is The Brozilian something you want to experience? If you desire breezy weather conditions in the Nether region, then Undergo the Bro, bro.

The Spring Doll & Bear Show

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The NCAA College Basketball Tournament has as wide appeal as even the Super Bowl. You can thank the myriad brackets filled out by millions of people in offices, clubs, bars, colleges, etc. for the extreme level of interest. Everyone hopes to get the picks right and avoid the dreaded “bracket buster”. The actual chance that anyone can create a perfect bracket has longer odds than the lottery, which is why you see such enormous prizes being offered for just such a bracket. Not going to happen! But don’t despair; with no one perfect, you have as good a chance as anyone in your own pool.

Our two heavily rooted local teams, Tennessee and Virginia Tech, both made the big dance, as the tournament is affectionately known. We had an early deadline this week, so I only know the Tennessee result from round one, but it was a big, convincing win. Tech certainly has the ability to advance a round or two – and in this tournament, who knows. It all comes down to who gets hot at the right time. Both of our local squads have that ability, and they both play solid defense, a mandatory requirement if you’re going to advance.

Hey – if basketball isn’t your favorite sport, fear not. Baseball season is right around the corner, The Masters is less than a month away, the winter team sports are getting ready for their playoffs and the weather is getting nicer so that we can all get outside and enjoy whatever it is we like to do. Local golf courses and tennis courts begin to see much more play, softball leagues are getting organized and even bowling leagues are gearing up for their summer season. Just in case your bracket gets busted!

By Paul Kavanaugh
Transparent Shadows

Haunted by ghost
I run
Quickly
A sense of urgency
Grips me
Or is this fear
The fear of reliving
A thousand deaths
Of seeing myself
As I once was
Those whom I betrayed
Others that responded in kind
I see their faces
Hear voices
Both familiar
And unknown
These strange specters
Without shape or form
Disguise themselves
Torment
For their own amusement
How long
Shall they take residence
In my frontal lobe
Behind my orbital sockets
Tricks are played
I can no longer
Trust
My senses or my mind
Therefore
What is there left to come to
Perhaps
It is best to dine with these spirits
And table
My hunger for the truth
That I may actually find it

The Casual Word
By Langley Shazor
Follow Langley at TheCasualWord thecasualword@gmail.com

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Answers on page 58

DROP QUOTE

CRYPTOGRAM

QIYXJANZVLIY HITBC RJ XZNVBG LPFAIXJC RG VDJ QIYNVZVYV TNJ IW

WITA NLPFBJ HIACN: L CI YIV SYIH.

— Andre Maurois
T

he 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.bridgehomerescue@gmail.com or like them on Facebook: www.Facebook.com/bridgehome

GOOD GIRL

Good Girl is a very young shepherd mix. She will be spayed and up to date on all vaccines. What a beautiful and sweet dog!!

This puppy is another of Delilahs, a border collie mix. They are so cute and will be spayed or neutered and up to date on all vaccines soon!
**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.

**Virginia Creeper Fest**
The Virginia Creeper Fest is a free, family-friendly event celebrating all things outdoors, and now, in its second year, it can add “award-winning” to that list of adjectives. At the recent American Advertising Federation Awards, SWVA Chapter, Virginia Creeper Fest took home a Gold Award for the Virginia Creeper Fest advertising campaign, as well as the People’s Choice and overall Best in Show. The festival returns Saturday April 28th to downtown Abingdon.

Virginia Creeper Fest returns for a second year Saturday April 28, from 10:30am to 5:00pm. With activities like a climbing wall, hammock hangouts, disc dog exhibitions, and field games for the kids, tree identification along the trail and scavenger hunts, there will be plenty to keep the hardcore outdoor enthusiasts and novice nature lovers busy all day. There will also be live music, food trucks and local outfitters throughout the day, as well as raffle giveaways. The festival takes place in Abingdon, at the intersection of Green Spring Road and A Streets, near the trailhead. Additional activities, like nature walks and bike rides, will take place on the trail itself. A full schedule and festival guide will be available online.

**Adult Softball Spring League**
What better way to get your exercise this spring and have a good time with friends that by participating in the adult softball program being offered by Bristol Tennessee Parks and Recreation. The Spring League which includes Church, Open, and Recreational teams. The league will have an organizational meeting on Sunday, March 25, 2018 at 2PM in Slater Center. Slater Center is located at 325 McDowell Street, Bristol Tennessee. The deadline for teams to register is Monday, April 16, 2018. There is a team fee of $375.00. Games will begin on Monday, April 30, 2018 and will be played on the fields of Whitetop Creek Park located on Highway 394. Bring your team and play this spring on some of the best fields in the area.

**The Casual Word**
Adult Creative Writing Class
Join us for a free, fun, engaging, and different look into writing. In this class, we will not focus on structure, form, or rules, but on the freedom of writing. It is the goal of this class to open the mind to its full creative potential by allowing participants to write what they want, how they want to write it. Sessions will be student lead; we will engage in topics and subjects that are of interest to the students. The atmosphere is casual and jovial. This class is designed for all those 18 and up who wish to try their hand at creative writing. Thursdays @ 6:00 p.m. Jones Creativity Center. Bristol Public Library.

**Sponsor**
ETSU’s Multicultural Center as part of the 2018 Student Government Association Civility Series, “Step Into Civility.” Gibson has headlined performance venues from coast to coast with readings on war, class, gender, bullying, sexuality, love, spirituality and other topics, and has been featured on the BBC, Air America, C-SPAN and Free Speech TV. Gibson has released a fifth full-length album, “Flower Boy,” and a second book, “The Madness Vase.” For more information, call the ETSU Multicultural Center at 423-439-4844. For disability accommodations, call the ETSU Office of Disability Services at 423-439-8346.

**Cryptogram:** Conversation would be vastly improved by the constant use of four simple words: I do not know.

**DropQuote:** "Everything you need for a better future and success has already been written. And guess what? All you have to do is go to the library."
I read quite a bit of news every day, both online and offline, and I still feel pretty ill informed. However, after reading a very interesting column in a recent online issue of Quartz, I suddenly feel more informed than ever. And, by following the advice given by the column’s author, Ephrat Livni, I plan to read even less news, or to at least pay attention to things I generally ignore. Of course, I am not advocating your reading less “Kelly’s Place” columns. I certainly appreciate all the readers I can get.

Livni offers us a profile of Richard Watson, who enjoys being recognized as a futurist and a consultant to several global companies and educational institutions. As a student and teacher of history, I wonder if I can be recognized as a pastist? There, I’ve coined a term that might look really impressive on a business card. I’ll put in my order for a box of cards inscribed, “Jim Kelly, Pastist,” right away.

Watson proposes that we follow ten simple rules to help us live an informed life without burdening ourselves with FOMO (Fear of Missing Out). The first, and perhaps most practical piece of advice is to practice “selective ignorance.” Since we can’t hope to “think about everything,” we need to choose “quality over quantity.” It is a fact that our data-driven and information-all-the-time culture values quantity over quality, we need to reverse the equation and to “consume less and better data.” I have always followed the principle of selective ignorance, and I am glad Watson has given it a name.

The second thing Watson urges us to do is to “randomly pick up books and magazines, and strike up conversations with strangers.” This sounds like a technique I often use to find new material for my weekly columns. And I have found some of what I consider to be my best by just randomly perusing some websites, books, magazines, and of course movies, TV shows, and music (especially from my Apple Music app).

Watson next suggests that we find “tall poppies,” those individuals who are also tall thinkers and full of curiosity. Spending time with these types of thinkers is more valuable than perusing countless sources. I tend to agree with us only up to a point, because it is so tempting to defer to the opinions of so-called “experts.” Interestingly enough, Watson includes as his fourth point the advice to take the “path untrodden” by not following “the herd,” and in his fifth point he gives us the very important advice that we evaluate all our sources very carefully, a task that is much more valuable now that we live in an era of fake news (not the first time we’ve done this, of course).

The sixth point is a little mysterious in its advice that if we just chill out “relevant information makes it way to us and that much of what we fuss over daily is just stuff that will soon be forgotten.” I’m not sure what this means, because relevant information has never made its way to me, or at least in ways that sound as simple as presented by Watson. I do agree, however, that we should “carve out designated reading time.” He gives us the example of Bill Gates who “takes time to reflect on the future of technology from deep in a forest.” Yes, it is very easy to carve out designated reading time from deep in a forest when you are a billionaire. We don’t need to find a forest in order to find some time to read and think. Closely related to this is the eighth point that tells us to “start listening. Be curious all the time.” This sounds like advice I give to my students that they be curious, creative, and connected.

Watson’s last two words of wisdom are closely related in that we should stop spending so much time on social media. We should instead “become cynical about trends. Watch for counter-trends. Visit the fridge.” If we can manage to do this we should “go dark” by turning off all our channels of communication and information gathering for at least “once a week and every evening.” We should seriously “dare to own no cellphone.” This might be going a little too far, because our smartphones are great sources of information, and it’s up to us to decide how much of this information we need. Perhaps we should opt for something I call “focused attention.”

And what’s the take-away from all this advice? According to Lenvi, we should “be contrarian [and] get smart by not worrying about where the crowd is going.” Why do we need all the foregoing points if we internalize this simple piece of advice? Simpler is often better.

My advice resembles some of the ideas above but is much briefer. I think we should start our learning process by being curious, and distrustful of any bits of information we initially find. We should, in short, treat any news we come upon as an opportunity to think more deeply and to come up with perspectives we can use to better understand the world around us.

See you next week with my own springboard to provoking you to think--at least that’s hopefully what I hope my newest column will become.
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