TENNESSEE CRAFT BEER MONTH

ART OF CRAFT BREW CONTEST
FIRST ANNUAL

‘GO TO’ CRAFT BEERS
WHICH ONES MADE YOU HOPPY.

ALSO INSIDE
JRT Presents the Music of Irving Berlin in I Love a Piano
Photographs of Cecil Sharp, 1916 to 1918
7th Annual Thirsty Orange Brew Extravaganza
Designing a room FULL of Furniture has never been so Easy... with Endless Possibilities.
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BEEZWAX by John Martin

Hey! How are you doing?

Nice to see you!

How’s the wife and kids?

Glad you are feeling better!

Looking good Charlie! Welcome home!

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Founder: Bill Williams
Last year for our Craft Beer issue we interviewed three local brewers, gleaned a ton of information and included them in the story. This year we are adding another local brewery, Yee Haw, of Johnson City. We also decided to go back and revisit the three originals and see what has changed over the past year. Then we sponsored a contest for the best ‘Go To’ craft beer as voted upon by our readers. We’ll reveal the winner. Whew! That’s a lot of craft beer stuff, but it promises to be interesting, so let’s get the ball rolling.

Yee Haw Brewing Company opened its doors in downtown Johnson City in July of 2015, and in less than two years has become a fixture of the JC craft beer scene. They always have their four main beers, Dunkel, IPA, Kolsch and 80 Shilling available and supplement those with seasonal offerings and high gravity beers. Their best seller, the Dunkel, won a Bronze Medal at the 2016 World Beer Cup, and they are entered again this year.

The actual brewery is in the very capable hands of Yee Haw’s Master Brewer, Cris Ellenbecker. Cris sources some ingredients locally, but due to the nature of his beers, he gets most of his malts from Europe and his hops from Oregon and Washington. While the tap room came first, Cris knew the long-term goal was to package his product and get it out to retailers and bars. They do bottle some beer, but they have moved to cans for the most part, claiming that they are the better vessel for beer.

Along the way they have had to overcome some obstacles as any new business would. Their first mistake was underestimating the popularity of their Dunkel. They began to run out rapidly and had to get scrambling because this particular beer has a 5-week brewing cycle. But they have managed to handle this and anything else that came along, usually unplanned! The goal was to become The Beer of Tennessee. While not there yet, they have been making great strides towards that end. We recommend that you stop by and try some of Cris’s wares. You are sure not to be disappointed.

When last we chatted with Ken Monyak at Bristol Station Brews and Taproom we heard the whole story about how he got started in this business. Well, fast forward a year and things have changed quite a bit. First, as of this month, they are now canning their own beer, four varieties to begin with. This was a year-long process to get all the approvals, labels, UPC codes, etc. Ken is using a mobile canning company to create the actual cans of beer, which they do right on premises. Ken gets the cans and labels delivered, the canning company gets them completed and voila. He just has to make sure he has enough beer on hand! The taproom itself has evolved too. In nice weather bands still perform in the outdoor arena, but every Friday he hosts a Singo event. This is like bingo only using snippets of music. Apparently, everyone sings along with the tunes that all are familiar with and everyone has a great time. Since Ken has said from the beginning that his goal is to have a fun and relaxed atmosphere in the taproom, it appears that yet another goal has been reached. The beer is quite good, so stop by and try one of them.

Adam Bailey, Master Brewer at Holston River Brewing Company, gave us all a great education into different types of beers, malts and hops in last year’s article. During the ensuing year, Adam has experimented with several new types of beers and refined some old ones. He tells us that the trends he sees are moving to more fruit beers, especially a Peach Cobbler Ale he has crafted that uses some cinnamon, peach flavors and non-fermentable milk sugars to achieve a really refreshing taste. He thinks that the mini-trend towards sour beers has not really taken off yet, Session IPAs are in decline and some IPAs are getting tamed down just a little to enhance drinkability. He is bringing back his coffee porter as folks have been asking about it, but he is perhaps most proud of his RatRod, a Vienna Style lager that uses Munich malts and German Perle Hops and is named after the popular June RatRod festival held on the brewery property. It’s been a busy year for Adam, and he is looking forward to another year of experimenting and concocting more great beers. He is well on his way. Stop by and check out some of the newer offerings.

Last but certainly not least is Studio Brew, deftly managed by Erich Allen with a big assist from his wife Pamela and his Head Brewer Keith Dancy. In addition to expanding the number of products available for retail sales and gaining umpteen new outlets for their beer, Erich and team have been working and collaborating on several new offerings. He is especially proud of his newest collaboration, this one with Stone Brewing, one of the largest privately held brewing companies in the world. While flattering to get the opportunity, you still must deliver. All signs point to this being a wonderful beer, a Belgian Strong Ale IPA that will be released at a party on April 6 at the taproom. They were joined in this effort by Jim Sipp, Stone’s Brewing Process Manager. Mr. Sipp was in town for several days as they got their collaboration going and Erich says that is was like learning all over again considering the amount of suggestions, tips, etc. Mr. Sipp provided. At the end of the day, the beer is the result, of course. We’re planning on stopping by on the 6th to see how this much anticipated beer turned out. Please join us.
It's been an interesting couple of weeks on the local craft beer scene. Our contest, with our readers doing the voting, generated a lot of buzz.

And the winner is . . .

**JRH Brewing Company** for their Tree Streets Pale Ale. Congratulations to the entire JRH team for creating and promoting their fine craft beer. JRH wins the coveted Loafer Trophy. Luci Tate, our publisher and Janie Jarvis, the local sales executive will present the trophy to their team.

The Loafer thanks all our nominees and especially our readers for their participation.
The Jonesborough Repertory Theatre is honored to present the masterpieces of the great composer Irving Berlin in their production of I Love a Piano. The show runs March 30 through April 15 at the theatre located at 125½ West Main Street in Jonesborough.

I Love a Piano captures the spirit of America from the ragtime era of the early 20th century through the swinging elegance of the 1920s and ’30s and beyond. From the songs that inspired a nation through the Great Depression to the innocent optimism of the 1950s, I Love a Piano embarks on an exuberant journey through musical family fun. Timeless classics such as “Puttin’ on the Ritz,” "There's No Business Like Show Business," "Change Partners," "How Deep Is the Ocean," "God Bless America," and "White Christmas" do more than identify the music of a generation, they define the music of our country.

The music and lyrics of Irving Berlin span over seven decades of American history. I Love a Piano includes 64 of Berlin’s most enduring and popular favorites.

This musical revue, written by Ray Roderick and Michael Berkeley with music and lyrics by Irving Berlin, is directed by Jennifer Ross and assisted by Alexis Turner. The production is sponsored by Denny Dentistry, Morningstar Farm, and Sonia King/Mary B. Martin.

Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00, and Thursday, April 5th, at 7:30 p.m. There will not be a show on Easter. Tickets are $16 general admission, $14 for students and seniors. To purchase tickets, call the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center at 423.753.1010 or go online to jonesboroughtheatre.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 anniepenjacc2@aol.com or Facebook: Kingsport Spring Spectacular Photography Contest and Exhibition.
Most of the attention in the Craft Beer industry is rightly focused on the brewers and breweries; however, if you want to sell it somewhere besides your own brewery, you’re going to need retailers—probably quite a few. So, we thought this year we would look at the burgeoning industry’s retailers and the thoughts they have regarding craft beer. To accomplish this, your intrepid craft beer team met with both one of the newest major outlets and one of the ones who caught on early to this trend. Pretty darn interesting! Here’s what they had to say.

The early craft beer adopter was George & Sid’s, a rather unimposing retail outlet on Commonwealth a couple blocks into Virginia. But what they lack in curb appeal is more than made up for by the excellent variety of craft beers and the wonderful customer service. Owners Karen and Brian Self made the decision over four years ago to start acquiring and stocking craft beers and taking a chance on everything they could get their hands on—most distributors didn’t carry many crafts in those days. They reached out to many brewers, only to find out that very few were canning or bottling their wares. Carrying kegs is fine, but it severely limits your buying audience.

Well, to make a long story short, the crafts were a hit, the supply has expanded, and they now have a robust clientele buying ever more far-reaching craft beers. Riding this wave, their craft beer expert, Brant Biggs, constantly researches what is available, what consumers are saying, and what appears to be selling. Thus, he continually refines and expands the selections available in the store.

I asked him about trends, what he sees in the near term in the ever-changing pop culture world of craft beer. “Although IPAs are the hottest sellers right now, I see a bit of a migration to lagers and pilsners. I do see gains in the flavored field; cherries and watermelons, tangerine wheat, even chocolate porters. But the best signal of all is word-of-mouth.” We understand that. In a small but ever-growing share of the overall beer market, the age-old personal recommendation travels fast in a connected world. That’s why a guy like Brant is so valuable. An ever-changing market means the retailer must be adept as well. As far as we can tell, that is exactly what is happening at George & Sid’s.

Now for the newbie. Vickie Dugger, proprietor of Parkway Wines and Liquor, had been observing the craft beer phenomenon for some time when circumstances gave her the opportunity to dive in head first. Space became available in her building, so she and her team decided to open the Bristol Beer and Cigar Emporium. Their soft opening was last fall, but the actual Grand Opening is this week. Her initial take on being a craft beer retailer is to stock as many brands as she can. That total is over 400 now. The plan is to see what sells and what customers ask for and comment about. Over time if something is not selling, they intend to put ‘mystery six packs’ together and move them that way, then simply not reorder. Seasonal offerings will be another feature of the store; you know, those select beers that are only available for a few months different times of the year.

She took to the cigar business in the same dive-in fashion. Getting advice from a friend and professional cigar person, she started acquiring different brands of cigars and now has over 150 in stock. A new walk in humidor is part of the store now and is the perfect place to stash the cigars.

Vickie’s store is the perfect addition to the Tri Cities craft beer scene. Stop by Thursday, Friday or Saturday to check out the grand opening and peruse the collection.
The Birthplace of Country Music Museum is proud to present The Appalachian Photographs of Cecil Sharp, 1916 to 1918, on display in the Special Exhibits Gallery at the museum now through May 31, 2018.

"The songs and musical traditions that were brought over by the English and Scots-Irish immigrants who settled in Appalachia are part of the story of early hillbilly and traditional music, and so this exhibit focused on Cecil Sharp and his exploration of those connections with Maud Karpeles and Olive Dame Campbell is a wonderful fit for us," says Head Curator René Rodgers. "The photographs he took while he traveled around Appalachia are poignant and expressive, and the captions, taken from his diaries and letters, underline the affinity he felt with the singers he met and his interest in their everyday lives."

During the period of 1916 through 1918, Cecil Sharp and his assistant Maud Karpeles, from England, spent 46 weeks traveling through the mountain regions of five Appalachian states in search of what Sharp believed to be surviving traditional English folk ballads. He had already collected these songs, as well as dances, in north and west England during the start of the folk-revival period. During this time, he collected 500 songs from 281 providers in America.

Sharp felt these traditions were fading away, and therefore he sought to capture this piece of culture before it was gone or overtaken by modern influences. During his mountain travels, he documented many of his sources for ballads in photographs, visiting with these people many times, often staying at their homes and developing an appreciation and fondness for the mountain life in the process. The photographs taken during these years and on display in this exhibit are a stunning record of the Appalachian people and the times.

The exhibition consists of framed prints and photographs, a period camera, and period books of ballads and folk and nursery songs from Appalachia. A related program, "Strong Mountain Women: How Ballads Power People. Songs and Stories from the Appalachian Collections of Cecil Sharp, Maud Karpeles, and Olive Dame Campbell," will be held on Friday, April 6 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. EST. The event will feature a talk by Donald Hughes, exhibit curator, and a performance by eighth-generation North Carolina ballad singer and storyteller Donna Ray Norton. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased at BirthplaceofCountryMusic.org.

The Appalachian Photographs of Cecil Sharp, 1916-1918 is on loan from The Country Dance and Song Society with permission of the English Folk Dance and Song Society. For more information about the special exhibit and to plan your visit BirthplaceOfCountryMusic.org/museum.
Try It Tiny is SO excited to announce Tiny House Village at the Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, Tennessee. We welcome you and your families to join us April 6th - 8th and explore dozens of Tiny Houses crafted by some of the best builders in the nation. Early Bird tickets are $15 for a 1-day pass and $25 for a weekend pass (free admission for children 10 and under). Early Bird specials will end on March 23rd and each ticket includes:

- Touring Tiny Houses
- Chatting with Tiny House Experts and Builders
- Learning about Living Sustainably and the Tiny House Movement
- Meeting other Tiny House enthusiasts!

Tiny House Village Hours
April 6th: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
April 7th: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
April 8th: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Reserve your tickets today to join in on the fun. #BristolTHVillage #TinyHouseHomeshow #TryItTinyBristol

Ph7 Dermatology and Drs. Ellis and Mefford Dental Associates are sponsoring health and wellness activities for the entire family. Underground Fitness will lead warm-up activities prior to the start at 9am. Wild Wing Café and Fleet Feet are also on-board!

Packet pickup will be at Fleet Feet Friday the 30th from 4-6pm. Winning Tortoise Productions will be preserving the memories of the day! Pre-registration ends on March 29, but participants can register to participate on the day of the event during last minute packet pick-up from 7:30am.

The entry fee for the 5K is $20 per person in advance and $25 on the day of the race. Kids 12 and under can participate in all events at no cost, and the first 50 kids at the race will receive bunny ears. Participants who are 13 years and older and pre-register will receive a T-shirt. Register online at www.athlinks.com/event/196147.
The Kingsport Chamber 26th Annual Golf Scramble is set for Monday, May 7 at Ridgefields. Due to the popularity of the event, two rounds will be available with tee times at 8:45 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Sponsored by Food City, Pepsi and Hunter Smith Davis, the tournament benefits the Kingsport Chamber and its Keep Kingsport Beautiful and Leadership Kingsport programs.

Texas Roadhouse is the lunch and dinner sponsor and breakfast will be provided by Food City.

Media sponsors include the Kingsport TimesNews, AM 640 WXSM Xtreme Sports Monster and Spectrum Reach.

“Our Kingsport Chamber Golf Scramble is always a fun and very popular event and a great way to network with a number of Kingsport business leaders,” Kingsport Chamber President and CEO Miles Burdine said. “This is an important fundraiser for two of our vital programs – Keep Kingsport Beautiful and Leadership Kingsport. A big thanks to Food City, Pepsi and Hunter Smith Davis for being the title sponsors and to all of the other companies and individuals who support this tournament. We invite everyone to enter a team or sponsor a hole and join us for what promises to be another fun and enjoyable day at Ridgefields.”

Awards will be given to the top three places in two flights in both the morning and afternoon rounds.

Hole competitions include prizes for longest drive on two holes, most accurate drive on two holes and closest to the pin on each of the four par threes.

Hole sponsorships are available for $250 and individual player entry fees are $150 per player or $600 for a team of four.

A chairman’s discount package is offered for $775 and includes a team of four and hole sponsorship.

To enter the Kingsport Chamber 26th Annual Golf Scramble or to sponsor a hole, call Nora Davis, Kingsport Chamber communications and events coordinator, at 392-8827 or send an email to ndavis@kingsportchamber.org.

“We are most grateful to Ridgefields and its outstanding and talented team for hosting the Kingsport Chamber Golf Scramble again now for the twenty-sixth year,” Burdine added. “Ridgefields is a beautiful club and it’s a huge asset for our community. We hope golfers will take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful and challenging Donald-Ross golf course at Ridgefields and have a fun day of fellowship with other Kingsport Chamber members.”

For more information on the Kingsport Chamber, go to KingsportChamber.org or call (423) 392-8800. We’re social too; follow us on our Facebook page, Your Kingsport Chamber, and on our Twitter account, @KPTChamber.
Ted Yoder’s cover of Tears for Fears’ “Everybody Wants to Rule the World” became one of the most-watched Facebook Live posts in 2016, with more than 101 million views from fans around the world. When a barefooted Yoder performed the hit on his hammered dulcimer in his Indiana family’s backyard with their pet raccoon, he immediately became an Internet sensation known as “Dulcimer Dad.” His unique performance style in popular songs including Journey’s “Don’t Stop Believing,” The Beatles’ “Eleanor Rigby,” and classics such as “Amazing Grace” and “The Little Drummer Boy” has become known as “Yoderizing.”

For all the Internet hoopla, Ted Yoder is a musician with real chops. His talent and showmanship are steeped in an Appalachian musical tradition with origins that can be traced back to 300 BCE in Greece. He has played the dulcimer for decades and even won America’s National Hammered Dulcimer Championship in 2010. Until you hear Ted Yoder, it is impossible to imagine that one wooden stringed instrument can sound like an entire rock band or a whole symphony orchestra all in one.

Don’t miss “Dulcimer Dad” this Thursday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. at The Paramount Center for the Arts Bristol, TN. Get tickets online at www.ticketfly.com.
It’s not about the bowling…it’s about the kids! Bowl For Kids’ Sake is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Tri-Cities largest annual fundraiser bringing together community members to bowling parties to raise funds for a great cause.

There are two exciting ways to participate. Build a team of four and set a fundraising goal, minimum $100 per team, (but AIM HIGH, some of our top team’s raise a lot more!) Or register yourself to bowl and come out and bowl to support children in our area. It’s easy to get started. Register online at BowlForKidsToday.org or call the office at 423.247.3240.

Bowl For Kids’ Sake is the perfect way for individuals to make an impact on our community – it only takes a little bit of effort to raise the money that is vital to our program’s success. As a “thank you” for your support and enthusiasm, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Tri-Cities hosts a celebratory party at your local bowling center. No bowling expertise is required, only the willingness to share in our heartfelt and sincere thanks for helping us transform our community.

Step 1: Register! It’s easy to do online.
Step 2 Set a team or individual fundraising goal- AIM HIGH!
Step 3: Ask friends, family, or co-workers to join your team, then choose your bowling session. There are two bowling sessions from which to choose. Each team member receives the tools to create a personal Webpage to collect online donations.
Step 4: Bowl! Show up to your scheduled bowling time and bring your pledges to the bowling center 15 minutes before your scheduled start time. Turn in your pledges, get your t-shirt and goody bag and have a great time while enjoying bowling, food and fun prizes.

If you or your business would like information on sponsoring Bowl for Kids’ Sake, contact Kathy Lowdermilk at 423-247-3240.

COMING TO A LANE NEAR YOU
April 13, 5-9 pm, Bass Pro Bowling Alley in Bristol, TN; April 14, 5-9 pm, WarPath Lanes in Kingsport, TN
If you have questions or want to register over the phone, call Kathy Lowdermilk at 423-247-3240.
The popular tribute to steam locomotives – “Steam Up!” – will return to East Tennessee State University’s George L. Carter Railroad Museum during Heritage Day on Saturday, March 31.

From Thomas the Tank Engine to the legendary Union Pacific Big Boys, Heritage Day will highlight these miniature machines in action. Sometimes referred to as “iron horses,” steam engines had a sound, smell and appearance of their own, brought to life by pressured water vapor that could move tons of equipment. With side rodding churning, drive wheels turning and fuel burning, this form of locomotion continues to fascinate children and adults alike.

“It has been stated that the business of railroading lost some of its soul when steam locomotives disappeared,” notes Geoff Stunkard, coordinator of the museum’s Heritage Days program. “They were perhaps the most magnificent creations of the industrial age and were in large measure responsible for the success of the growing nation. This day honors the technology in this realm, with our museum spanning primarily the 1900-1950 era, when it reached its pinnacle of design.”

Recent equipment upgrades to the Carter Railroad Museum’s layouts will also be on display, including the Rolling Thunder sound system added to the 24x48-foot HO-scale layout.

Volunteers from the Mountain Empire Model Railroad club (MEMRR) and the George L. Carter Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society will be on hand to operate equipment and meet with visitors.

Located in the Campus Center Building at ETSU, the Carter Railroad Museum is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and includes model railroad layouts, a children’s activity room, and ongoing programs. Heritage Day is held the last Saturday of each month. There is no admission fee, but donations are welcome.

The museum is also seeking artifacts for display, including the newest addition dedicated to the “Tweetsie” line, the ET&WNC, which will be open for guided tours during event days. In addition to the displays, there is a growing research library, and an oral history archive being established as part of the museum’s programs. For more information, visit www.etsu.edu/railroad. Members of the George L. Carter Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and MEMRR coordinate the exhibits. For more information, visit www.memrr.org or www.glcarternrhs.com.

The museum can be identified by a flashing railroad-crossing signal at the back entrance to the Campus Center Building. Visitors should enter ETSU’s campus from State of Franklin Road onto Jack Vest Drive and continue east to 176 Ross Drive, adjacent to the flashing RR crossing sign.

For more information about Heritage Day, contact Dr. Fred Alsop at 423-439-6838 or alsopf@etsu.edu. For disability accommodations, call the ETSU Office of Disability Services at 423-439-8346.
In 1986, a nuclear reactor at the Chernobyl plant in Pripyat, Ukraine, Soviet Union, exploded, catalyzing the world’s worst nuclear accident.

In 1997, Belarusian writer and historian Svetlana Alexievich published “Voices from Chernobyl: The Oral History of a Nuclear Disaster,” based on her interviews with survivors of the nuclear meltdown. The book won the 2006 National Book Critics Circle Award.

The disaster and book were revisited in 2014 by Luxembourg director Pol Crutchen and his crew, who, using unconventional, experimental cinematic techniques, sought to bring to life the voices of those who remain in a country still in turmoil.

“Voices from Chernobyl,” the resulting 2016 documentary film based on Alexievich’s book, will be presented in a free public screening at East Tennessee State University on Monday, April 9. This Earth Month event, sponsored by ETSU’s Mary B. Martin School of the Arts, will take place at 7 p.m. in the Ball Hall auditorium (room 127) and will be followed by a reception.

“This film is not talking about Chernobyl but of a world which we know almost nothing,” said the Luxembourg committee that selected “Voices” to represent the country’s films at the Oscars. “Some people from everyday life are raising their voices to testify. Through their supplication, the film takes us on a journey into the human soul.”

The film, like the book, is a collection of eyewitness accounts. Scientists, teachers, journalists, couples and children speak of their daily lives, the catastrophe, their losses and how they have survived. They express the suffering of men, women and children exposed to lethal levels of radiation and misinformed by Soviet authorities as to the true danger of their surroundings.

Rather than filming the actual eyewitnesses from the book, Crutchen cast actors to read the accounts, creating what he calls “a cinematographic essay.” The actors recount the stories in French, with English subtitles. “I could not contemplate filming the real witnesses,” Crutchen says. “[But] I needed men and women. That human fabric is crucial to the film. In her book, Svetlana speaks more about humanity than about the catastrophe itself.”

“Voices” was entirely shot in Pripyat. “We had a moral obligation to shoot on the premises,” he adds.

“The voices which combine to form ‘Voices from Chernobyl’ are multitudinous,” says Crutchen, who graduated from Paris’ École Supérieure d’Études Cinématographiques. “Voices that bear witness of a catastrophe of global proportions speaking directly to us. They touch us with their veracity, their intelligence, their courage and their humanity. And they also touch us because they are of such relevance now.”

“Voices from Chernobyl” was selected for the Martin School of the Arts spring 2018 season for a number of reasons, says Anita DeAngelis, director of the school.

“We wanted to bring an event as part of Earth Month on campus,” she says, “but the documentary also has been screening in venues like the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and dovetails with literature classes at ETSU that are studying Alexievich’s writing. Plus ‘Voices’ is truly an eerily beautiful film that we all can learn from.”

The film “Voices” won Best Documentary honors at the Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival and the Grand Prix award at the Festival International du Film d’Environnement in 2016.

“We have a tendency to banish Chernobyl to the past and to a remote corner of Ukraine, as if it were part of history,” says Crutchen. “But Chernobyl is undeniably our present. A present which bears the stigmata of the past and also fears for the future.”

The Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers is a program of South Arts. Southern Circuit screenings are funded in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. Founded in 1975, South Arts is a nonprofit regional arts organization building on the South’s unique heritage and enhancing the public value of the arts.

For more information, call the Martin School of the Arts at 423-439-TKTS (8587) or visit www.etsu.edu/martin. For disability accommodations, call the ETSU Office of Disability Services at 423-439-8346. Additional information on the film is available at www.lasupplication-lefilm.com.
Wetlands Water Park, in Jonesborough announces the return of its preseason discount on Season for the 2018 season. Wetlands is located within beautiful Persimmon Ridge Park and has been the premiere Tri-Cities summertime family destination for 25 years.

Wetlands Water Park, offers a wide variety of family friendly fun including 3 flume water slides, 2 family otter slides, a lazy river, zero depth entry pool, full service café and beach volleyball court. Wetlands also plays host to numerous private parties, birthday parties, swim lessons and special events throughout the season.

Purchase your season pass between April 3 and May 4 to receive $10.00 off each season pass. Season passes may be purchased online at wetlandsjonesborough.com, by visiting the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center or calling 423-753-1553. Purchasing a Wetlands Season Pass ensures that you and your family will have a great summer. A season pass also entitles you to discounted rates on birthday parties, swim lessons and much more!

Wetlands Water Park will hold its 2018 Grand Opening on Saturday, May 26. Regular hours of operation are Monday through Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For more information, please call 423-753-1553 or visit our website, wetlandsjonesborough.com.
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.

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<td>Eyehatedgod / Cro Mags / Navajo Witch The Hideaway</td>
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<td><strong>- FRIDAY - March 30 -</strong></td>
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<td>Pocket Change Country Club Bar &amp; Grill</td>
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<td>The Grim State Tour featuring Silent on Fifth Street / Inari / Persistent Shadow / Boundy By The Crown Capone's</td>
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<td>Rusty Steel w/ Quarter Bounce Rush Street</td>
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<td>Acoustifried Wild Wing Cafe</td>
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*For show time & more details, visit theloaferonline.com*
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 Sportsmen’s Bar & Grill
Karaoke w/ Shane Rouse at Bear’s Bar
Karaoke at Kingsport Moose Lodge
Karaoke w/ Reverb Karaoke at The Cottage 8:30 pm
Turn the Page Karaoke at VFW Post 2108 - Johnson City
Karaoke w/ Absolute Entertainment at Moe’s Original BBQ
Karaoke w/ Toddzilla at Sportsmans Pub
Karaoke At Elizabethton VFW
Karaoke w/ DJ Marquez & Top Shelf Entertainment At Holiday Inn (Exit 7) - Bristol VA
Karaoke at Numan’s

SATURDAY
Karaoke at The Horseshoe Lounge
Karaoke w/ Toddzilla at Sportsmans Pub
Karaoke at Kingsport Moose Lodge
Turn the Page Karaoke at VFW Post 2108 - Johnson City
Karaoke w/ Absolute Entertainment at Macado’s - Kingsport
Karaoke at Numan’s
A LATE EASTER? Blame it on the Moon

Some of us are looking at the calendar this week and wondering why is Easter on April 1st? …without making a fool of one’s self, of course! Which also may provoke the question: Why is the day for Easter always flipping around from sometime in late March to late April? What determines it?

Blame it on the Moon. The Full Moon, that is. The date for Easter Sunday and all the Christian observances for celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is a simple formula:

Easter is the first Sunday after the first Full Moon that occurs on or after the Spring Equinox. That means Easter Day cannot be earlier than March 22 or later than April 25.

Says who? So, says the Christian authorities that may go back to the Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD.

Our Easter Sunday 2018 will be on April 1st, yep, April Fool’s Day. The first day of Spring was Tuesday, March 20th. The next Full Moon is Saturday, March 31st, and the next Sunday, April 1st, is Easter Sunday.

Forty days before Easter is the Holy Day of Ash Wednesday, and this year it was February 14. That was the beginning of Lent, a symbol of Jesus’ 40 days of fasting. Mardi Gras is the last fling of decadence before giving up something for the Lent observance. That’s the idea of “Fat Tuesday,” to be gluttonous before cutting back.

Everything about the Christian Easter season is into the first Full Moon in the Spring. Native American Indians called the Full Moon of March names like the Sap Moon, the Worm Moon and the Crow Moon. April names are also appropriate—Pink Moon (for phlox ground covering), Egg Moon and Sprouting Grass Moon.

The March 31st Full Moon is the second of the month, which also happened twice in January. February, with 28 days, was left without a full phase Moon. That won’t happen again until 2037!

The Moon takes 27.3 days to go around the Earth once, called the ‘synodic period,” but 29.5 days to go from one Full Moon to the next, the “sidereal period.” Why the difference? As the Moon goes around the Earth, the pair also move together part-way around the Sun. The alignment of the Earth between the Sun and Moon takes an extra 2.2 days along its orbit for the Moon to create that straight line.

Why does February have only 28 days and the other 11 months either 30 or 31 days? No one knows for sure, but it goes back to pre-Christian Rome when the calendar was based strictly on the phase of the Moon. In 45 B.C., emperor Julius Caesar reformed the calendar to synchronize it with the Sun rather than the Moon. He added 10 days to the year (which before then had 355 days) and added an extra day to February every four years. This lengthened the year to 365.25 days, which is very close to the actual average day length of 365.2425. That is called the “Julian Calendar.” More than 1,000 years later, extra minutes become days and the seasons were getting out of whack—Spring Equinox creeping into mid-April, for example. Pope Gregory XIII decreed that two weeks be skipped in October 1582, to keep the Winter Solstice in December and not January. But landlords charged a full month’s rent! Today we still live by that “Gregorian Calendar.”

So important is the Moon in our daily lives, yet, our closest neighbor doesn’t have a fancy name. Earth’s moon is called Moon. Though big in our minds, the Moon only occupies one-half degree of the sky—360 Moons would span across the sky from horizon to overhead to horizon. At 240,000 miles away, you can cover it up with an extended thumb.

Use a simple pair of binoculars to look at the Moon, and you’ll be amazed at the detail of craters, mountains and dark seas of frozen lava.

Traveling at 2,100 mph eastward, the Moon moves about 12 degrees a day, or its own diameter an hour. As the Moon moves, so does the line between light and dark—the terminator—where the shadows provide the most detail in binoculars or telescope.

There are a hundred or so named moons in the Sun’s system of planets. But ours is the most important to us, and simply called Moon.

So, put on your Easter Bonnet and enjoy the Moon’s silvery light, a certain welcome sight during the early Spring days of thawing and coming alive again.

Stargazer
By Mark Marquette since 1996
stargazermarq@gmail.com
Celestial events in the skies for the week of Mar. 27 - Apr. 2, 2018 as compiled for The Loafer by Mark D. Marquette.

Astronomical hi-jinx on April Fool’s Day are no stranger to the nerdy science think-tanks in science history. Some of the pranks over the years include the revelation that the two moons of Mars are actually Martian satellites; life discovered on Jupiter; Google accepting applications for a new research center on the Moon; the Space Shuttle accidentally landing in San Diego; and astronomical papers shuffled amongst the academia, like new discovery of “bigon” particles—just to keep their brethren on their toes. Watch out for Twitters of alien invasions and Facebook posts of messages from Little Green Men. And as always, trust none of what you see or hear without giving it a serious once over!

**Tuesday, March 27**
To the North is the Big Dipper standing on its end, and in the east, the Leo the Lion is high and proud. When looking in this direction we are looking away from our Milky Way Galaxy and into the depth of the Universe. That’s why amateur astronomers enjoy finding the several dozen easy galaxies to find among the thousands of galaxies seen by professional observatories and telescope photography..

**Wednesday, March 28**
The sky is changing rapidly, eight 1st magnitude stars before they set in the west. Castor and Pollux in Gemini; below is Procyon in the Little Dog and the brightest star in the sky, Sirius in Canis Major; Rigel and Betelgeuse in Orion; Aldebaran in Taurus; and high above, Capella in Auriga the Charioteer..

**Thursday, March 29**
On this 1974 date in space history, NASA’s Mariner 10 made the first close flyby of inner planet Mercury. Revealed was one of the most heavily cratered surfaces in the Solar System, the small, 1,365-mile diameter planet looking much like our 1,250-mile-wide Moon. NASA’s Messenger spent three years orbiting the iron heavy first planet, revealing water ice at the poles and an 800-degree hot, sulfur laden surface.

**Friday, March 30**
You’ll really feel Daylight Saving Time this evening when it takes from 8 pm sunset to almost 8:30 pm for the stars to come out. After your day of maybe church, recreation and friends, recharge your mind under the canopy of Spring stars that are astounding to gaze upon.

**Saturday, March 31**
Full Moon today, the Pascal Moon and one that determines the date for Easter. Oh, and it also a Blue Moon, the last full phase also occurring in March, on the 1st.

**Sunday, April 1**
Easter Sunday. And the Marquette Meteor Shower will begin shortly after dark and rain hundreds of meteors a minute—NOT!

**Monday, April 2**
On this 1845 date in space history, the first photograph of the Sun was taken by two French physicists. Today, several websites provide a live, 24/7 look at our most important star.

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**SKIES THIS WEEK**

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The 7th Annual Thirsty Orange Brew Extravaganza presented by Superfly Fabulous Events will be held on April 7, 2018 in Johnson City, TN as the official closer of the Tri-Cities Craft Beer Week. The Thirsty Orange Brew Extravaganza was the first beer festival to serve as a partner in the ‘Support your Local Brewery’ campaign and was named a Top 5 Beer Festival in the US in 2014, 2015, and 2016. The festival will have over 150+ different and unique beers to sample throughout the day. In addition, there will be two mobile beer infuser lines pumping beer infused with ingredients like jalapeno, toasted coconut, and many other fresh ingredients.

Thirsty Orange will host the Thirsty Orange Brew Off and the Tennessee Iron Brewer Challenge where brewers add their secret ingredient in an amazing brewing challenge. The Big Orange Mixology Bar will be on hand, so you can have your beer, your way. The Thirsty Orange is the official host of the Tennessee Championship of Beer.

Music from The Kindest and Dr. Ocular will be on hand along with entertainment throughout. Grand Tasting tickets include 4 hours of tasting and a commemorative tasting glass. First Pour Tickets receive early entry to the festival while enjoying the first pour of the amazing creations. Tickets can be purchased at www.thirstyorange.com. Proceeds benefit Trout Unlimited. #ThirstyOrange
I had never heard of “King of Jazz” until this restoration was announced in 2016, the online classic film world quickly became geeked up over the news that this film was getting restored to as intact a form as possible—a re-release trimmed the film and much of that cut material hasn’t been seen by audiences since the 1930s. This amazing restoration comes home on a wonderful new blu-ray edition from The Criterion Collection, which I sat down last night and watched. “King of Jazz” is, without question, one of the most lavish, most gloriously over the top films I have ever seen.

“King of Jazz” today serves as a great document of stage and vaudeville talent of the era, that otherwise would be just names on a piece of paper. It also serves as a look into what mainstream pop culture was at the time. This film has sets that are overwhelming in their size—designed by Universal art director Herman Rosse, who would also create the gothic art design of “Dracula” and “Frankenstein.”

There’s the first Technicolor animation early on the film, designed by Walter Lantz (who would create Woody Woodpecker) and William Nolan, vocal group The Rhythm Boys that features a 27 year old Bing Crosby, 16 chorus girls, a rubber legged dancer that will make your jaw a drop, and a man wearing a suit, scuba fins, and playing “Hooray for the Red, White and Blue” on a bicycle pump. I always don’t like to say “they don’t make them like they used to” but that VERY much applies to “King of Jazz.”

The Criterion Collection’s blu-ray of “King of Jazz” shows off the 4K restoration beautifully. The film looks stunning. You can tell what material was sourced from the 35mm nitrate negative as it has a clarity that few films of the 1930s have when scanned for HD. There are some softer shots where material from the 35mm prints are used to fill in missing negative material, and some missing parts where only the audio survives are gapped with still photos—but those are few and far between.

Extra features on this blu-ray include a superb introduction to the film by jazz and film critic Gary Giddins—he helps bring a great deal of context to the film that I found helpful in appreciating “King of Jazz.” Giddins also appears on a commentary track alongside critic Gene Seymour and bandleader Vince Giordano. An interview with musician Michael Feinstein, four video essays by archivists James Layton & David Pierce, Deleted scenes and an alternate opening sequence, plus two short films from the era, and two Oswald The Lucky Rabbit cartoons that use animation and music from “King of Jazz.” An essay by critic Farran Smith Nehem rounds out the special features.

“King of Jazz” is mind-blowing in his audacity and ambition. A huge, lavish film that shows some of the most popular musicians and talent of the era. It’s a fascinating film to watch, and often will dazzle your senses. The film looks stunning in this 4K restoration, and this is one that everyone who is interested in the history of the Hollywood musical should give a look at.

See you next week.
Featuring dozens of artists from around the region, Jonesborough’s Open Juried Art Show is one of the area’s premier exhibitions. With works ranging from ceramics, acrylics, watercolors, photography, encaustic, metal work, mixed media, and more, art lovers will have the opportunity to see the best in the region as this annual event opens in April.

This exclusive event is set apart from other art exhibitions in Northeast Tennessee. Theresa Hammons, director of the McKinney Center, explains, “First, you get to see credible artists who have been through a submission process. The work that has been chosen to be in the show has been judged by someone with notable art experience.” She continues by adding that the event is important for artists and patrons alike. “Artists in the show build their visibility, and the general audience also gets the opportunity to view artwork from local artists and meet them. This in-turn builds community and relationships.”

One of the most exciting aspects of Jonesborough’s Open Juried Art show is the reputation of the jurors that have been brought to town, and their fascinating lectures on the juried works that is given on opening night. In the past, the jurors have provided insight into the works of art, as well as talking points to engage with and think about. This year’s juror is Arnaldo Ugarte, a Honduran born artist who for two decades, has worked as a sculpture conservation technician under the direction of the curator at Kykuit, the Rockefeller Estate in New York. Ugarte studied sculpture as well as industrial design at The Pratt Institute in Brooklyn New York from the years 1985 to 1990. He acquired his experience over the years by working in various foundries and other institutions, including the Donald M. Kendall Sculpture Park at Pepsi-Co. In addition, Ugarte has assisted many well-known artists in their personal studios and foundries, such as Frank Stella, Louise Bourgeois, Kiki Smith and Erick Fischl, as well as numerous others. Over his professional career, Mr. Ugarte has served in an assortment of local juried art shows and has participated as a consultant in assistance to other art curators. Mr. Ugarte strives to continually engage his creativity and knowledge by visiting museum conservation laboratories and often travels to attend major art exhibitions around the country to expand his experiences in and of the art world. In his work at the Rockefeller estate, his practice as a sculpture conservation technician includes maintaining the outdoor sculpture collection as well as other objects at the estate. As an artist, Arnaldo Ugarte strongly believes that everything has the protentional of being regarded as a work of art and therefore everyone should seek to observe all aspects of visual language. He holds strong to the notion that oneself has the personal and social responsibility to constantly give their best in each and every aspect of one’s life.

Ugarte will be present on April 13 to provide a lecture at the International Storytelling Center at 6 p.m., and will assist with the presentation of awards at the opening reception at 7 p.m. at the McKinney Center. The lecture, reception, and the exhibit is free and open to the public. Most artists will be present at the opening night reception, providing an opportunity for attendees to meet them. In addition, most of the artwork will be for sale.

The exhibit runs through May 5, Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Dollywood is currently alive with the sights and sounds of the Festival of Nations running now through April 9th. The festival just happens to be one of my favorites of the parks festivals, and not only features entertainment from around the world, but tasty international food items. The festival features several new acts this year, including Grammy winners Ladysmith Black Mambazo, the National Dance Company of Siberia, Los Vivancos presenting The Flamenco Kings, and JigJam. Returning to the festival are popular Invaders Steel Orchestra, musical group Atahualpa, and stilt performers Zebra Stelzentheater from Germany. All the aforementioned shows are wonderful, but the act that steals the festival this year is Los Vivancos, seven brothers from Spain performing as The Flamenco Kings. Just like Drum! and Mother Africa in past festivals, this act is getting marvelous word of mouth accolades, and is a must see during the festival. You may have seen the brothers performing on ABC’s "Dancing with the Stars", where they no doubt brought down the house. The brothers were raised by a wandering musician family, and traveled the world incorporating cultures that influenced their current flamenco performance. They attended the Barcelona Dance Conservatory, and their style includes martial arts, ballet, street dance, acrobatics, theater, and of course flamenco. 

The minute the brothers hit the stage you know this will be a spectacular show. The show at the park includes the brothers performing on various instruments, some playing and dancing simultaneously. When not playing instruments, the brothers practically wear out the stage with their impressive dancing. The high energy dancing is accompanied by a soundtrack that would be fitting for "Game of Thrones" or any superhero movie, and only adds to the thrills of the show. One of the most crowd pleasing moments is when the brothers dance upside, leaving the crowd cheering. You can tell the brothers are seasoned performers as they really know how to work the crowd. The day I saw the show for a second time, Dolly popped on stage to twist in her Spanish style costume, crack a few jokes, thank the performers and the crowd, and just be Dolly. Los Vivancos performing as The Flamenco Kings is a show you don’t want to miss, and along with other diverse shows and delicious international treats, are only a few of the reasons why you must rush to Dollywood before the Festival of Nations comes to a close on April 9th. Now if I could only learn to dance upside down. Los Vivancos is on social media and videos of past performances can be found on YouTube. For park hours and showtimes visit www.dollywood.com or Dollywood on Twitter or Facebook.
We all remember the double denim disaster brought to our attention in 2001 by the infamous Justin Timberlake and Britney Spears—in that event, SOMETIMES it's okay to CRY ME A RIVER.

However, denim doesn't have to be this fashion faux pas we've been accustomed to all these years—in fact, it can be quite the statement piece to your ensemble.

Think outside your jeans when it comes to denim: denim jackets. From light and lightweight, to dark and heavyweight, there's limitless possibilities to don denim.

If you choose to proceed down the denim detour, color and fit are of the utmost importance. Opt for a hue that is light blue in color (it pairs well with anything); when it comes to fit, the oversize apparel trend is not on trend in this case; Men, make sure your denim does fit. I don't want to have to put you on The Worst Dressed List. I certainly have no problem doing that.
Saturday, March 31st, 2018, at 7:30 p.m., the Carter Family Fold in Hiltons, Virginia, will present a special concert by Kilby Spencer & the Crooked Road Ramblers – an old time band. Admission to the concert is $10 for adults, $2 for children 6 to 11, under age 6 free.

The Crooked Road Ramblers are an old-time band from southwest Virginia, steeped in the traditional mountain music of the Blue Ridge. You’ll find them providing a mixture of instrumental dance music, old ballads and traditional country and bluegrass at notable venues across the region like the Carter Family Fold, Houstonfest, the Albert Hash Memorial Festival, and the Wayne Henderson Festival.

The band was started by fiddler Kilby Spencer. Having grown up in Whitetop, Virginia, Kilby has been playing old-time music most of his life - learning from his parents, Thornton and Emily, who were and have been in the Whitetop Mountain Band for over 40 years. He also counts Johnny Miller and Dean Sturgill among his influences, in addition to the recordings of Albert Hash, Otis Burris, and G. B. Grayson. He started his band in order to carry on the driving southwest Virginia “big” band sound that makes people want to dance.

Don't miss Kilby Spencer and the Crooked Road Ramblers at the Carter Family Fold. It will be an evening of down-home entertainment. Bring along your friends and your dancing shoes! Kilby literally grew up playing on the stage of the Carter Fold, and he knows exactly what Fold audiences expect. He delivers just that in the style his family always has. The Spencers are one of the few bands remaining today that have performed at the Fold continually over the past 43 years. In fact, Kilby’s planning on bringing along some special guests for this performance. For more information on the Crooked Road Ramblers, go to crookedroadramblers.com.

Carter Family Memorial Music Center, Incorporated, is a nonprofit, rural arts organization established to preserve traditional, acoustic, mountain music. For further information on the center, go to www.carterfamilyfold.org or call 276-594-0676. If we don’t answer you right away, we’ll get back to you in 24 hours.

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We’ll give you something to talk about. Stay connected!
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Queen of Country Music, Dolly Parton herself recently kicked off the new season at Dollywood with surprise appearances and two parades through the Pigeon Forge theme park. It seems we were just enjoying the light displays and hot chocolate at Smoky Mountain Christmas, and here it is already, a brand new season, filled to overflowing with new experiences for all guests to enjoy throughout the entire year!

This is the first year in a while that we haven’t seen a new multimillion expansion at one of the parks, but we’re pretty sure you wouldn’t notice unless we told you. Last year saw Drop Line debut, which was soon followed by Tailspin Racer at Dollywood’s Splash Country. Lightning Rod raced into the park at the start of 2016, 2015 gave us DreamMore Resort, and 2014 introduced Firechaser Express. This was all part of Dolly’s pledged $300 million expansion to transform the park into a full-fledged destination resort, and while it appears that much of that has already been used, Dolly asked Dollywood President Craig Ross in front of a packed Celebrity Theater for even more funds for further expansion in the coming years. Work has already begun on an entirely new area behind Timber Canyon that will be the largest expansion in park history. While no official word has been given by Dolly, it is rumored to feature multiple rides, another award-winning restaurant, and a new family rollercoaster. Is 2019 here yet?

In the meantime, visitors can enjoy several new upgrades and new experiences throughout the park. Showstreet has a fresh new look, as the Victorian storefronts have received a much-welcomed facelift with new coats of paint. Down the street in River Town, Aunt Granny’s has been completely transformed. An all-new interior adds light and space to the formerly cramped restaurant. Dollywood has partnered with Lodge to sponsor the restaurant, and the Tennessee-based company’s signature cast-iron cookware can be found throughout the dining experience. Complementing the new look are new additions to all parts of the menu, from chicken and dumplings to apple cobbler and Dolly’s fabled Stone Soup.

Dollywood has pulled all the stops this year when it comes to entertainment and the festivals which now seem to come on a monthly basis. First up, of course, if one of our absolute favorites: Festival of Nations. Guests experience the excitement of traditional music, dance, food, and crafts from a wide array of countries while also enjoying internationally-known performing groups. Three new groups are featured this year. National Dance Company of Siberia hails from the frozen lands of northern Russia and features dozens of dancers and traditional Siberian music. The Flamenco Kings starring Los Vivancos features the six Vivancos brothers from Spain. These musicians and dancers have shown their talents on Dancing With the Stars and across the world at hundreds of prestigious venues. Ladysmith Black Mambazo is a heartfelt homage to the song and dance of Africa.

Favorite performers return as well, such as the Invaders Steel Orchestra, JigJam bluegrass band from Ireland, and Atahualpa, who fill Showstreet with the sounds of South America. Don’t forget the other main attraction at Festival of Nations: FOOD! Front Porch Cafe offers the widest variety, with Chicken Samosas from South Africa to amazing Cuban Sandwiches. Spotlight Bakery features several great desserts, Grecian Baklava, German Apple Strudel, and Tres Leches cakes from Mexico. Market Square has even more options for those who can’t get enough of the wonderful foreign cuisine offered at the festival. It’s no wonder Dollywood won the Golden Ticket Award for Best Food yet again last year!

Just two days after Festival of Nations ends on April 9, Dollywood’s all-new Spring Mix music series kicks off an entire month of concerts. The first week features classic country talent including Crystal Gayle, Suzy Bogus, and Shenandoah. Amy Grant headlines the second week, with many other performances throughout the month including Orleans, The Drifters, Carman, and Debby Boone. All these are included free with the price of admission. Check out the full concert schedule at dollywood.com/themepark/Festivals/Spring-Mix.

Dollywood’s Barbecue and Bluegrass adds another entire week this year, giving bluegrass fans even more great talent to enjoy during this kickoff to summer. An impressive bluegrass lineup will feature a total of 350 concerts from such award-winning artists as Rhonda

Continued on page 30
Continued from page 29

Vincent & the Rage, Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, Daily & Vincent, and the Grascals. Of course, don’t forget the amazing BBQ to be found throughout the park, from saucy pulled pork to barbecued chicken and ribs by the slab, it’s a carnivore’s delight! The festival will run from May 25 to June 10.

The sounds of banjos will scarcely fade before Dollywood’s Summer Celebration (June 16-Aug 5) will begin! This summertime event is marked by extended park hours from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. every single day, giving families even more time to enjoy everything Dollywood has to offer. Two new shows debut this summer, iLuminate, stars of the hit show America’s Got Talent, and DRUMline Live!, a synchronized musical masterpiece based on the hit 2002 movie Drumline. Of course, it wouldn’t be summer at Dollywood without a magical fireworks show to complete each fun-filled day. Also highlighted during the summer season will be Thrills in the Hills, a two-day event for coaster aficionados that will feature exclusive ride times on Dollywood’s biggest thrill rides as well as exclusive behind-the-scenes tours! Rock the Smokies closes out the season on August 25 with some of the biggest acts in the Christian music genre, including Toby Mac and Crowder! Check out the park website for more info on all these events!

Dollywood’s Harvest Festival, presented by Humana, stretches across two months from Sept 28 to Nov 3. The new guest-favorite Great Pumpkin LumiNights will expand to provide even more new experiences and fun! During the day, over 600 performances by award-winning Southern gospel acts take place, while each night, thousands of carved pumpkins will illuminate Timber Canyon and Wilderness Pass. Guests can enjoy the spectacular artistry of visiting crafters from across the country, or sample the special harvest-themed food items.

Closing out the year is the Best Christmas Event at any theme park worldwide, Dollywood’s Smoky Mountain Christmas (Nov 10-Jan 5). Over four million lights adorn almost every surface throughout the park, transforming it into a wintry wonderland as night falls. Holiday performances you know and love will be featured every day, with the return of It’s a Wonderful Life for its second year, as well as holiday-themed food favorites. This year marks the debut of a brand new holiday-themed area in Wilderness Pass. Glacier Ridge will sit on the site of the former River Battle attraction (yes, it’s now gone, unfortunately). While Dollywood has yet to release further details on the new area, we can expect it to be a fun and unique experience for the whole family!
Feeling Numb

On a blustery Winter day
In March As I do
On my daily commute
I could feel the cold air
Standing all my hair at attention
Trying feverishly
To shield my skin
How do I know God is real?
I am cold to the bone
But bones I cannot feel
Nor their connective sinews
In fact
I can feel nothing on the inside
Lest my belly
Yearns for sustenance
Or my joints
Which suffer from invasive surgery
Ache from rapidly changing temperatures
However
Internally
I do feel emotions
Which are not tangible
And yet just as authentic
As the physical manifestations
They elicit

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

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

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

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

Other always needed items: pet food, cat litter & cat toys dog treats & dog toys, paper towels, cleaners, office supplies, Purina weight circles. Phone: 423-239-5237 Hours are Mon-Fri 12pm-6pm Sat 12pm-3pm and Sun 2pm-4pm.

Website is www.bridgehomerescue@gmail.com or like them on Facebook: www.facebook.com/bridgehome

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<td>PETS</td>
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<td>Diamond is a 3 year old Terrier mix. She is spayed and up to date on all vaccines. This cutie loves to play! She has been at the shelter for awhile and is ready for her furrever home!</td>
<td>So many sweet kitties and adult cats ready for adoption. They are all spayed or neutered and up to date on all vaccines. Start out spring with a new addition to your family!</td>
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Wisdom of Mantra
Russill Paul, world-renowned teacher, musician and mantra master returns to Johnson City.
**Friday, April 20, 2018, 7:30pm**
Healing the Healer
Healing the Mantra Meditations
**Saturday, April 21, 2018, 1-4pm**
Transform Negative Energy into Positive Force: Mantras for Daily Living.
$40 Early bird, $45 at the door
**Sunday, April 22, 2018, 2-5pm**
Soaring With Angels and Other Spiritual Presences: Concert – Ecstatic Mantras for Dancing & Devotion.
$20 Early bird, $25 at the door

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**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. For more information contact Freddie Hickman at 423-213-1510 or Taylor Harmon at 423-464-4048 or email tharmon@bristoltn.org.

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**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 exhibits, 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 on www.vacreeperfest.com beginning April 1st.

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**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.

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**Annual Good Food for All Challenge**
Appalachian Sustainable Development’s food access program, Healthy Families-Family Farms (HFFF) has launched the Good Food for All Challenge to support local farmers and provide free, fresh vegetables to people in need who visit food banks/pantries. Since 2004, Healthy Families-Family Farms has donated over 1 million pounds of nutritious, seconds produce to food banks and pantries.

The Good Food for All Challenge will take place from now - May 15, 2018. All donations received during this time will have up to 30% added to it from ‘Friends of HFFF’. Donations can be made at: www.asdevelop.org. Supporters can also mail checks to: Healthy Families-Family Farms, P.O. Box 791, Abingdon VA 24212 with ‘Chall enge’ in the memo line. HFFF is dedicated to increasing access to fresh, healthy food for everyone in the community. A local grassroots group, ‘Friends of HFFF’, strongly committed to the work of HFFF, has established the seed fund to match each donation made during the challenge.

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**Pints for Pets**
Saturday, March 31 from 2-5pm, Elderbrew, in Bristol TN will be hosting a Benefit for the Sullivan Co. Animal Shelter. There will be Cats and Dogs available for adoption, or just to shower with attention, and love. Proceeds from all pints sold from 2-4 will go to SCAS, so come down and have a few pints to help the cause.

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Cryptogram: When she stopped conforming to the conventional picture of femininity she finally began to enjoy being a woman.

DropQuote: “We have always held to the hope, the belief, the conviction that there is a better life, a better world, beyond the horizon.”
I am not a computer nerd and only got familiar with computers after they had become consumer-friendly. Growing up in a world when “high-tech” meant an electric typewriter, I never got to experience the thrill of tinkering around with punched cards (except for a very brief introduction when I was a history student at UT in the mid-1970s), or what is now referred to as “third-generation computing,” which includes stuff built in the 1970s when I was in college. This category includes machines with interesting and exotic names like LINC, PDP-8, and VAX made by companies like Digital Equipment Corporation, Data General, and Prime Computer. And I even skipped the next generation that introduced us to the first Apple and IBM home computers. I didn’t present my family with their first computer until 1998 and we all marveled at this custom-built beauty outfitted with a dial-up modem. It was on this machine that I sent my first Kelly’s Place creation via email to our editor. That was, and still is, a pretty spooky moment that divides my life into its Pre-Email and Post-Email phases. To end this paragraph of confessions, I must confess I have never written a line of computer code, and I remember avoiding my first computer’s MS-DOS screen like the plague.

I’ve just said all that to tell you that I am reading Brian Dear’s fascinating new book, THE FRIENDLY ORANGE GLOW: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE PLATO SYSTEM AND THE DAWN OF CYBERCULTURE. If I had not spent the last few years reading about technology, new modes of learning, and the implications of living in an always-connected world I probably wouldn’t have picked up a book with this kind of title. Well, I am glad I did pick it up, because it takes us on a journey into a strange new world that is unfamiliar to most people. As a student of history, I always enjoy encountering new topics and new ways of thinking about the world in which we live. And this book certainly does all that. And it reads like a sci-fi or fantasy novel that relates a very true tale of some very nerdy students living in central Illinois in the 1970s and very busy with creating the world as we now know it. So, in a fundamental way Dear has given to us a creation story that explains how we got from then to now.

In his well-crafted prose, Dear, who is a “tech-startup entrepreneur,” tells us that “Out in the middle of that fruited Illinois plain there’s a place where a lot of the future we take for granted today got started, long ago. The town is Urbana, and the place is one of the largest universities in the United States: the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.” And in that city the future was born in a former power plant called The Mechanical Engineering Laboratory, home to a group of excitable engineering students who created a computer system called PLATO. “What happened in this building changed the world,” writes Dear, although “very few have heard” about what was created there. I know I hadn’t until I picked up this book. When I first saw its title I assumed it had something to do with Socrates’ sidekick, Plato, who was also a creator of worlds from way back in the day, long before the construction of the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory. The creations that were conjured up in this red brick building during the 1970s eventually coalesced into what we refer to today as Cyberculture and include instant messaging, chat rooms, message boards, screensavers, online games and newspapers, computer learning, multiplayer gaming, interactive fiction, social media, and those ubiquitous and sometimes annoying emoticons. All of these now common and taken-for-granted things from a very unfamiliar world first appeared on PLATO’s blinking orange screen.

During the many twists and turns of Dear’s absorbing narrative we meet the cast of characters who gave birth to a new world—familiar people like B.F. Skinner, the famous behaviorist, and not-so-familiar ones like Jo Bultman, Tim Halvorsen, Bob Rader, David Grasper, David Wooley, Richard Powers, and Paul Tenczar. Even Ronald Reagan makes an appearance, and is pictured touching the friendly orange screen in a computer lab he visited once upon a time when he called the White House his home.
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in conjunction with

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info@studibrew.beer

RELEASE DAY IS APRIL 6 @ 5PM

Also available at Thirsty Orange Beer Festival

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Cocktails Available, both normal & unique