The Loafer
PRICELESS
LEGOLDay

Also inside:
The Childress Girls
Siegman Celtic Band
W. A. Parker
Nuns Develop Drinking Habits

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Men's Concert Series
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**LEGO Day**

**your week’s line-up**

16  Stargazer  
A Typical Day of  
Outer Space History
17  Skies This Week
18  Batteries Not Included  
Never Ending Risk
19  Pop Life  
Black Panther
20  Mister  
Do You Make Scents?
21  Appalachian Wanderers  
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Longing for 1998

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**BEEZWAX** by John Martin

**MISS FLUTTEREYE, IN CASE YOU’RE NOT AWARE WE DO HAVE A DRESS CODE HERE!**

**YES! AND I THINK I’VE CRACKED IT!**

**ONE WHISTLE AND IT’S ACCEPTABLE... TWO OR MORE AND I GO HOME AND CHANGE!**

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Founder: Bill Williams
Let’s Get Social!
Come join in the engineering fun at Family Lego Day at the Johnson City Public Library. On the second Saturday of every month from 10:30 to noon, all ages are invited to the Jones Meeting Room for creative free-building. Children need creative outlets as well as problem solving and critical thinking experience. Family Lego Day gives children these opportunities, along with providing a free, family-friendly activity that all ages can enjoy. If your child is intimidated by the idea of free-building and needs a place to start, don’t worry! The library provides books with building instructions and challenge prompts for those who might need a little guidance with their creations.

In addition to the Lego programs, JCPL provides many other opportunities for families to create together. Each month, the library offers a Family Makerspace program featuring a different skill/material. In March, families will get the opportunity to create with duct tape. Additionally, Youth Services has begun a series of makerspace challenges in their new craft space. Every two weeks a new challenge is issued, and children can get their names placed on a list of achievers when they complete it. Currently, the objective is to create a marble maze with at least five directional changes. A variety of materials are provided, and children are encouraged to think through the process on their own, solving issues that may arise along the way with their designs. These challenges are open to school age children and may be completed any time they visit the library.

For more information on library services and programs, call 434-4450 or visit www.jcpl.org.
The Rogersville Arts Council is proud to offer a night of music with “Sigean”, the premier Irish traditional music band of the Tricities Region of Tennessee & Southwest Virginia. This is their first appearance in Hawkins County.

The event will be held at the Rogersville Middle School, 958 E McKinney Ave, on Friday, March 16, at 7:00pm.

The concert starts with Sandra Parker, a Celtic Fairy Harpist and vocalist, who performs in many types of venues in the region - weddings, art galleries, dinners, festivals, fund raisers, wherever the muse takes her.

After her set, “Sigean” (pronounced SHEE-gun) performs with Stepdancers adding to the excitement of the evening. The band was formed in 1997 in Bristol, Tennessee, to perform traditional Irish music. Since that time, the band has performed at many festivals and other regional music events. Additionally, the band has performed at many private events, pubs, on television, and on radio. “Sigean” includes members who have a wide variety of experience playing acoustic music, and the band provides a stimulating mix of traditional ballads, lively reels and jigs, and more modern songs.

As lobby opens at 6:30pm, you are greeted by an art display with Celtic rhythms; and refreshments are available. These vendors will be available to visit at intermission, and at the end of the show.

Tickets are $15, discounted to $10 for students and seniors, can be purchased online at rogartscouncil.org, or at the door. For more information about this event and others, ‘Like’ us on facebook, email rogersvilleartscouncil@gmail.com, or call 423-293-0882.
What do we mean by ‘Go To’ Beer? It is the beer of choice when someone is not necessarily looking for an unusual taste or exploring the more eclectic creations of the brewer’s art. Rather, it is the beer folks are looking for when they come in hot and thirsty and just want a nice cold one to quench their thirst. Something that goes down easy and cool and brings that feeling of instant refreshment.

Check it out at www.theloaferonline.com for all the details, then VOTE for your favorite. Voting closes March 21 at 11:59pm. Winners announced March 27th.

Some other Craft Beer Happenings:

Holston River Brewing Company is seeing a sharp rise in folks ordering their newest creation, RatRod. Named after the festival coming June 1-3 at the Brewery and their Thunder Mountain Campground, it is quite the refreshing beer. Try one for yourself.

Studio Brew received one of the biggest compliments a brewery can get. They were selected by Stone Brewing, one of the top 10 independent brewers on the planet, to do a collaboration brew. James Sipp, Stone’s Brewing Process Manager, came to Bristol a week ago and worked with the Studio Brew staff to create this new beer. The name and details will be released in The Loafer Craft Beer Issue at the end of this month. Keep your eyes peeled for this exciting debut.

Bristol Station has received all the requisite approvals to begin canning their own beer. March 8 is canning day, and they will initially be canning four of their best-selling beers. Owner Ken Monyak has been working on this project for over a year and all his diligent efforts are about to come to fruition. Check it out at the Taproom or find it at your favorite retailer within a few days of release.

If your brewery has any notable happenings, let us know here at The Loafer.

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**GO TO Brew Contest**

- **White Blaze Honey Cream Ale**
  - Wolf Hills Brewing
  - Master Brewer: Chris Burcher

- **Thai Fighter**
  - Elderbrew
  - Master Brewer: Michael Peck / Chris Bryant

- **Barefoot Blonde Ale**
  - Bristol Station
  - Master Brewer: Ken Monyak

- **Kolsch**
  - Yee Haw Brewing Company
  - Master Brewer: Cris Ellenbecker

- **Rat Rod**
  - Holston River Brewing Company
  - Master Brewer: Adam Bailey

- **Hop Bomb**
  - Studio Brew
  - Master Brewer: Erich Allen / Keith Daney

- **Tree Streets Pale Ale**
  - JRH Brewing
  - Master Brewer: John R. Hernritze

- **Raspberry Mocha Stout**
  - JC Brewing Company
  - Master Brewer: Eric Latham

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For more details and to vote for your favorite, visit www.theloaferonline.com.
The Capitol Theater Classics At The Capitol series celebrates March by bringing one of most celebrated films of the 1940s to their big screen, 1946’s drama of World War II Veterans returning home “The Best Years of Our Lives.” Winner of seven Academy Awards “The Best Years of Our Lives” stars: Myrna Loy, Fredric March, Dana Andrews, Teresa Wright, Virginia Mayo, and Harold Russell. The film will be shown at The Capitol on March 10th at 7:00 PM. Admission will be only $5.00, and can be purchased at the box office or online at www.capitolgreeneville.org.

Directed by William Wyler, a veteran of the Army Air Force, “The Best Years of Our Lives” focuses on Homer, Fred, and Al—played by Russell, Andrews, and March, respectively. The war has ended and the three men return to their Midwestern hometown, each of them finding difficulty in adjusting to civilian life and returning to their families. One of the most well received and successful films of its era, “The Best Years of Our Lives” remains, adjusted for inflation, one of the top 100 grossing films in U.S. history.

This screening also marks the first time a guest will be introducing a movie at The Capitol. “After having introduced films for almost a year, I’m excited to invite a very dear friend to take the stage” says Andy Ross, local film writer and Capitol board member. “My dear friend and colleague Jill Blake will introduce this film. I’m so excited to have her as our first guest introduction at our Classics at The Capitol film series!”

Jill Blake is a professional writer and the co-founder of The Retro Set. Currently, she writes for Streamline, the official blog of FilmStruck, a streaming service offered by Turner Classic Movies and The Criterion Collection. She is also a freelance script writer for Turner Classic Movies, providing content for their on-air hosts. Ms. Blake is also currently researching the careers of “Best Years of Our Lives” star Fredric March and his wife, Florence Eldridge, both distinguished actors of the stage and screen, for an upcoming project. She lives in Atlanta with her husband Thomas, daughter Ellie, and their dog, Sugar.
The Crooked Road: Virginia's Heritage Music Trail presents the Childress Girls in concert on Thursday, March 8th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Heartwood in Abingdon, VA. This concert is part of The Crooked Road Music Series at Heartwood.

The Childress Girls from Big Stone Gap, VA are a group of sisters who share a passion for music and for playing together. They have performed at churches, farmers’ markets, music venues and festivals throughout Southwest Virginia including Natural Tunnel State Park, Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park, Bristol Rhythm and Roots Reunion, Home Craft Days, The Crooked Road’s Youth Music Festival, and the Blue Ridge Music Center JAM Day. The Childress Girls play a mix of traditional hymns and mountain fiddle tunes and songs.

The Crooked Road Music Series takes place each Thursday at Heartwood. The series features youth artists each 2nd Thursday along with open jams on the 1st, 3rd, 4th (and 5th) Thursdays to showcase Southwest Virginia performers. The Crooked Road Music Series is sponsored by Heartwood, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Admission to the concert is free and donations will be accepted for Crooked Road Traditional Music Education Program (TMEP).

More information can be found at The Crooked Road website, www.thecrookedroad.org, and at www.heartwoodvirginia.org. For additional information, please call (276) 492-2409 or email: admin@thecrookedroad.org.
The Niswonger Performing Arts Center welcomes Get The Led Out (GTLO), “The American Led Zeppelin,” for a high-energy concert on Saturday, March 10th at 7:30 p.m.

For any classic rock fan, this is the Zeppelin music concert to see. The Philadelphia-based group consists of six veteran musicians intent on delivering Led Zeppelin live, like you've never heard before. GTLO have captured the essence of the recorded music of Led Zeppelin and brought it to the concert stage. Utilizing the multi-instrumentalists at their disposal, GTLO recreate the songs in all their depth and glory with the studio overdubs that Zeppelin themselves never performed. When you hear three guitars on the album...GTLO delivers three guitarists on stage. No wigs or fake English accents, GTLO brings what the audience wants...a high energy Zeppelin concert with an honest, heart-thumping intensity. This is not an impersonator act but rather a group of musicians who were fans first, striving to do justice to one of the greatest bands in rock history.

Dubbed by the media as “The American Led Zeppelin,” Get The Led Out offers a strong focus on the early years. They also touch on the deeper cuts that were seldom, if ever heard in concert. GTLO also include a special “acoustic set” with Zep favorites such as “Tangerine” and the “Battle of Evermore” being performed in its' original instrumentation with guest singer Diana DeSantis joining the band. GTLO’s approach to their performance of this hallowed catalog is not unlike a classical performance. “Led Zeppelin are sort of the classical composers of the rock era,” says lead vocalist Paul Sinclair. “I believe 100 years from now they will be looked at as the Bach or Beethoven of our time. As cliché as it sounds, their music is timeless.” A GTLO concert mimics the “light and shade” that are the embodiment of “The Mighty Zep.” Whether it’s the passion and fury with which they deliver the blues-soaked, groove-driven rock anthems, it’s their attention to detail and nuance that makes a Get The Led Out performance a truly awe-inspiring event!

Be prepared to rock with Get The Led Out: The American Led Zeppelin on Saturday, March 10th at 7:30 p.m. Seating is limited for $30 mezzanine seating and balcony seats are $25. 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.
In 2006, filmmaker and then-photography teacher Jon Olshefski met Christopher “Quest” and Christine’a Rainey and began a photo essay on the life of the couple and their family in North Philadelphia. Work turned into friendship, admiration and shared vision – and 10 years later, an in-depth story about the Raineys, their inner-city basement music studio and a collection of creative and resilient people, trying to keep their heads above the poverty line.

On Monday, March 12, at 7 p.m. in East Tennessee State University’s Martha Street Culp Auditorium, Mary B. Martin School of the Arts at ETSU will present a screening of the award-winning documentary film QUEST as part of the South Arts Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers. The screening is free and open to the public and will be followed by a Q&A and reception with filmmaker Olshefski and film subject Christopher “Quest” Rainey.

Filmed in cinema vérité over that 10-year period, QUEST is the tender and emotional depiction of this North Philly family through joy and heartbreak and a country often in turmoil. The Raineys blend together now-grown children from previous relationships, including a son with a brain tumor and a newborn, a younger daughter, PJ, and fellow musicians with addictions and other challenges.

Quest delivers newspapers to pay bills, so he can produce hip-hop records, his passion. Christine’a and others are involved in getting out the vote during elections and rallying forces against gun violence. Babies are born and tragedies occur in the Raineys’ neighborhood.

“We had this vision of telling the ‘true story’ of North Philadelphia from the perspective of the community,” says Olshefski, who filmed the entire documentary himself to keep costs down, “as opposed to the way it’s normally told from the outside … without media imposing their pre-defined point of view.”

The result, Olshefski hopes, will be multi-dimensional. “The No. 1 goal of this film was to gather material that would allow the viewer to connect to the Rainey family,” he tells Filmmaker Magazine. “The No. 2 goal was to tell the story artfully and capture images that would convey the beauty of the family and the neighborhood. The result of this long-term commitment was that I was able to fade into the background and record natural scenes where the camera was not intrusive … I was there with a camera and they knew I was there, but I became like furniture.”

A third goal, Olshefski says, was to create a film that would be a catalyst for connection and change in a society that, he says, is “incredibly polarized … and desperate for opportunities to connect across the various barriers that separate us.”

Good things have already resulted. Not only has QUEST been selected for over 75 festivals including Sundance and HotDocs, but the documentary has received the Reva and David Logan Grand Jury Award and the Kathleen Bryan Edwards Award for Human Rights from Full Frame Documentary Film Festival in Durham, N.C. QUEST is also nominated for a Film Independent Spirit Award.

On a more personal level, because of the documentary, the True Life Fund selected the Raineys to receive a “no strings attached” gift for sharing their story, and their youngest, P.J., who wants to follow in her father’s musical footsteps, has been singled out for a scholarship to Rowan University in sound and music. Olshefski himself holds an M.F.A. in Film and Media Arts from Temple University and is an associate professor of Radio, TV and Film at Rowan University.

Filgoers will see themselves in this film, Olshefski says. “I have been touring with the film for a year and people have been touched in a powerful way,” he says. “There’s something really special that happens when you watch a film with a group of people. Connections happen and community is built. I hope it goes farther than one evening of that and goes deeper than that, but I think it’s a starting point.” For more information on QUEST, visit http://quest-documentary.com.

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. South Arts, founded in 1975, is a nonprofit regional arts organization building on the South’s unique heritage and enhancing the public value of the arts.

For information about the film or ETSU Mary B. Martin School of the Arts, call 423-439-TKTS (8587) or visit www.etsu.edu/martin.
Get ready for non-stop laughs at the Jonesborough Repertory Theatre as it presents The Foreigner through March 11. This zany comedy will add a spark of fun and wit to your day, so don’t miss out!

Froggy LeSueur brings a painfully shy friend, Charlie, to a lodge in southern Georgia to stay for a few days. In order to keep people from engaging him in conversation, Froggy tells everyone that Charlie is a foreigner and doesn’t understand English. After Froggy leaves, the secrets begin to unfold as people feel a little too free to tell Charlie things they definitely wouldn’t say if they knew he understood everything.

“This show looks at the humorous side of what people will say when they think you don’t understand,” said director Janette Gaines. “People even act differently, even though people who don’t understand what you say can still see you. That, in itself, is funny.”

It’s obvious the author took great delight in relaying the stereotypical things people say and do around those they believe don’t comprehend. The fun for the audience is being able to relate to what’s happening on stage. Most of us can either recognize ourselves, or have witnessed others, doing the same exact embarrassing things.

“The script is hilarious with many play-on-words moments,” said Krista Wharton who portrays Betty. “But there are just as many hilarious moments that don’t even have words. One of my most favorite and funniest scenes from the show involves no words at all!”

Good comedy isn’t as easy to pull off as some people would think. Janette explained, “In my opinion, timing and exaggerated expressions are always the key to comedy. The actors must understand every aspect of their characters and how those characters would react to each comment or action. It is my job to see that they do understand and react properly.”

As with any comedy, this story is more than just laughs. There’s also a backdrop of lies, deceit and intolerance.

“It is a play of mistaken identity, Southern charm, wonderful humor, but with a hint of the devil,” said Shawn Hale, who plays the antagonist, Owen. “This character is an exact opposite of who I am and what my beliefs are. There are people who are actually like this character, and it saddens me to know that this kind of hate can still be around in a time when what we need to be spreading is love and tolerance.”

And the message of The Foreigner is to spread this love. Despite the characters’ quirks and foibles, they almost magically band together to prove that those things—love, acceptance, tolerance, sensitivity, kindness, decency—are the most important.

Cole Wilt, who plays the rather simple but lovable Ellard, stated, “The down to earth and relatable characters are more complex than they originally seem.” The audience will feel connected to these rich characters and root for the good guys and want to “boo and hiss” the bad guys. And that’s the way it should be.

The Foreigner is written by Larry Shue, directed by Janette Gaines and assisted by Tara White. The JRT is so thankful for the show sponsors—Lynda Wexler and Sonia King/Mary B. Martin.

Rounding out the cast are Lucas Schmidt, Heather Allen, and Kyle Mason. Shows are through 11th. 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 www.jonesboroughtheatre.com. The theatre is located at 125.5 W. Main St., Jonesborough, TN.
The Blue Moon Theatre Company located at 215 East Main Street in Downtown Johnson City will present The heavenly farce - DRINKING HABITS this Friday and Saturday night, March 9th and 10th.

DRINKING HABITS, written by award-winning playwright Tom Smith, is a play about the threat of a small convent closing its doors and two nuns who desperately try to keep them open by secretly making and selling wine. Accusations and mistaken identities run rampant in this belly-laughing farce as two reporters go undercover, spurring paranoia throughout the convent that spies have been sent from Rome to shut them down. Spirits and secrets are spilled as everyone tries to preserve the convent and reconnect with lost loves.

Drinking Habits features Rebecca Myers, Nancy Hope Major, Katie Purchase, Linda Wakely, Johnny Archer, Sean Read, and Audrey Scyphers. Directed by Edward Breese with stage management by Debbie Deisher. Special scenic painting by Marci Tolley Berkhimer.

Doors open at 7:30pm with the performance starting at 8pm on Friday and Saturday nights. Tickets are 19.99 plus tax and can be purchased through Facebook online at: www.facebook.com/BlueMoonTheatreJC or by e-mailing the theatre at Bluemoontheatreinfo@gmail.com.

The Blue Moon Theatre Company - Where The Stars Come Out To Shine!!
The McKinney Center in Jonesborough has created an event filled with barbeque, Bluegrass, and cocktails – but the best part is at the end of the night, you get to take home a piece of art crafted by a local artist.

On March 15th at 7 p.m., The McKinney Center is hosting Masterpiece Mingle which offers an elegant evening of food, music and you’ll leave with a piece of the exhibit.

The funds from Masterpiece Mingle will go to the McKinney Center’s Scholarship program. The scholarship program allows children, whose families struggle financially, to take a class at the Center at no cost to them. “The average income for families who receive the scholarship is $19,450.” Said Hammons. “The US average poverty level is $24,600. Those numbers say a lot, the McKinney Center scholarship families are $5,000 below the US average. This demonstrates a need for kids to be involved in the arts.”

The quality of life of a community is largely determined by the entertainment and educational opportunities, as well as the cultural activities available. By creating opportunities for youth and adults to nurture and stimulate their creative minds through the performing arts and special events in the community, Jonesborough is creating a more exciting community in which to live and work.

The McKinney Center has a goal of raising $6,000 for their scholarship fund this year. They have already fundraised 40% of this goal through their Go Fund Me campaign and are hoping Masterpiece Mingle can help them to obtain that goal.

At the fundraising event, Scott Wild, an American singer/songwriter specializing in vintage folk rock, will be performing along with the Sulphur Spring String Dippers, bringing along their old-timey, traditional sound.

A menu of light refreshments from the Catering Company includes BBQ Chicken Sliders, Sweet & Sour Meatballs, Spinach Artichoke Dip and Spanakopita. Sweet biscuits from Maple Street Biscuit Company will also be available along with a Tennessee Hills Distillery cash bar.

McKinney Center Director, Theresa Hammons, said this event spotlights the wonderful artists and work that comes out of this region. “It’s very easy to stereotype East Tennessee.” Hammons said. “We should be proud of our craft heritage, but a lot of people don’t associate East Tennessee with contemporary art.”

The McKinney Center has hopes that they can be a stepping stone in boosting that image.

“I am hoping that when people come to the event they will say, ‘Wow! That’s something you’d see in a gallery in New York or DC.’” Said Hammons. “We have some really amazing artists who make their living as professional artists here in the region. This is a really good opportunity to afford a piece of their work.” Masterpiece Mingle tickets are $35. This event opens the door for traditions in allowing the public to obtain high-quality pieces of art that can be passed down.

For more information and tickets, call 423-753-1010, Jonesborough.com/tickets or visit the McKinney Center on Facebook.
If you or your band are playing in the upcoming week and would like to be in The Spotlight, call in advance to (423) 283-4324 or go online to: theloaferonline.com. Due to last minute cancellations or changes, please call the location to confirm.

**- TUESDAY - March 6 -**

- Indighost / Secret Bleeders
- Nerve Endings
  - Bloom Cafe and Listening Room

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

- Jerry Pierce & The Nightlife Band
  - Dispensary

- Downtown Country
  - Jiggy Ray’s Pizzeria

- Guido Au’some and the Open Mic Playas
  - O’Mainnin’s Pub

**- THURSDAY - March 8-**

- Jam w/ Mal Cooper Trio
  - Wellington’s Restaurant

- The Diamonds
  - Blackbird Bakery

- The Blue Buds
  - Pickin Porch 2

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

**- FRIDAY - March 9 -**

- Beppe Gambetta
  - Down Home

- Christopher Paul Stelling
  - The Willow Tree Coffeehouse & Music Room

- James Meadows
  - Quaker Steak & Lube

- Ramblin Rose
  - Buffalo Ruritan

- The Oblations
  - Wolf Hills Brewing

- Railway Express
  - Johnny Cash Revisited
  - Southern Boyz
  - CJ’s Sports Bar

- Pea Pickin’ Hearts
  - Yee Haw Brewing Company

- Syren
  - Holston River Brewing Company

- Acoustifried
  - Country Club Bar & Grill

- The Kindest People w/ The Wormholes
  - Capone’s

- Farmhouse Ghost
  - O’Mainnin’s Pub

- Shooter Band
  - Elizabethton Moose Lodge

- Bad Mouth Molly
  - Rio’s Grill & Sports Bar

- Marshall Ballew
  - Bone Fire Smokehouse

**- SATURDAY - March 10 -**

- Mountain Rose Bluegrass Band
  - Down Home

- The Get Right Band
  - The Willow Tree Coffeehouse & Music Room

- Scroungehounds w/ Dead Wait
  - Bloom Cafe and Listening Room

- Retroville
  - Kingsport Eagles

- Heavy Country w/ David O’Roarke
  - Dave Martin & Danny Fields
  - Willoughby Ruritan

- Cross Road
  - “Formerly Southern Countrymen”
  - Campbells Show Palace

- Get The Led Out
  - Niswonger Performing Arts Center

- The Dan Henderson Family
  - Gospel Show
  - Bristol Cafe & Market

- If Birds Could Fly
  - Wolf Hills Brewing

- Borderline
  - Kingsport Moose Lodge #972

- Bulls Eye Band
  - David Thompson’s Produce

- Soul Swagger
  - Holiday Inn

- Whitetop Mountain Band
  - Carter Family Fold

- Blue Reign
  - Cj’s Sports Bar

- Shake It Like A Caveman
  - Yee Haw Brewing Company

- Asylum Suite
  - Holston River Brewing Company

- Junkyard Dogz
  - Bears Bar

- Rebel Mountain
  - Country Club Bar & Grill

- Nightshift Band
  - Buffalo Ruritan

- Mark Mahoney
  - Model City Tap House

- Wyldeheart
  - Wild Wing Cafe

- Beth Snapp
  - Harvest Table Restaurant Wednesday, March 7

- The Get Right Band
  - The Willow Tree Coffeehouse & Music Room

- Scroungehounds w/ Dead Wait
  - Bloom Cafe and Listening Room

- Retroville
  - Kingsport Eagles

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- Cross Road
  - “Formerly Southern Countrymen”
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- Get The Led Out
  - Niswonger Performing Arts Center

- The Dan Henderson Family
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- Junkyard Dogz
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- Rebel Mountain
  - Country Club Bar & Grill

- Nightshift Band
  - Buffalo Ruritan

- Mark Mahoney
  - Model City Tap House

- Wyldeheart
  - Wild Wing Cafe

- Beth Snapp
  - Harvest Table Restaurant Wednesday, March 7
**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 w/ Absolute Entertainment at Marx The Spot
Karaoke at Numan's

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

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

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

**SATURDAY**
Karaoke at The Horseshoe Lounge
Karaoke w/ Toddzilla at Sportsmans Pub
Karaoke at Kingsport Moose Lodge
Turn the Page Karaoke at VFW Post 2108 - Johnson City
Karaoke w/ Absolute Entertainment at Macado's - Kingsport
Karaoke at Numan's
A Typical Day of
OUTER SPACE

Many of us are busy filling up our calendars for the coming warm weather, and I mean literally writing in a calendar, like I do in an astronomy desk calendar I've bought for a few decades. Like most specialty calendars, my “The Year in Space” desk calendar is full of events that happened in history on each day of the year. So, I picked a date this week to highlight the wide range of fascinating space things that happened:

March 6th: 1787 scientist Joseph Fraunhofer born; 1937 cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova born; 1986, Russia’s Vega 1 flies by Halley’s Comet; 2009 Kepler Observatory launched; 2015 NASA’s Dawn orbits dwarf planet Ceres.

Each person and event were significant in changing the way we look at outer space. Let’s look at these events all happening on 6th day of March.

Who is the old man of the bunch, Joseph Fraunhofer? High school science students work with diffraction gratings over light to reveal a rainbow of colors. Discovered by the Bavarian physicist Joseph Ritter von Fraunhofer, most people are familiar with the dark lines in the “spectrum” strip of colored light from any source. Each element has its own black, Fraunhofer lines in its spectrum, like a fingerprint for each of the 118 elements on the Periodic Table of chemistry. Fraunhofer was born March 6, 1787 and died June 7, 1826. He also invented the spectroscope and the achromatic refracting telescope lens.

March 6th is also the 1937 birthday of Russian national space hero Valentina Tereshkova. She’s the only female to make a solo spaceflight in the first 50 years of spaceflight, her June 1963, three-day spaceflight in the cramped Vostok 6 spacecraft eclipsing the time in space by all six American Mercury spaceflights.

What the Communist propaganda machine of the 1960s hid from the free world was the fact that the first six cosmonauts in space all ejected from their Vostok spacecraft after the fiery reentry, landing by parachute on their feet separate from the vehicle they orbited Earth. The reason was landlocked Russia had no oceans to land safely, and the retro-rockets that blasted to break the fall on land were being developed. Those secrets were slowly revealed after the fall of the Soviet Union in the 1990s.

In 1963, Tereshkova was a 26-year-old textile factory worker who loved to skydive. She was chosen to orbit the Earth by the regime of Communist President Nikita Khrushchev to show the superiority of Russian women to world. With another cosmonaut Vostok 5 orbiting Earth at the same time, Tereshkova spent three days on autopilot, doing little except talking on the radio to passing countries and taking photos of Earth.

Tereshkova has enjoyed a lifetime of fame. She married the third cosmonaut in space, Andriyan Nikolayev, and they had a “space girl,” who became a doctor. The lady cosmonaut was a long-time member of the government leadership, and she lit the Olympic Flame at the Sochi Olympics in 2014. Everyone knows Halley’s Comet, the most famous of those icy boulders in our Solar System that astronomers call “dirty snowballs.” The last time Halley’s Comet passed by Earth was in 1986, and one of the spacecraft to fly by close-up was Vega 1, built by the Russian Space Agency. Vega 1 was an amazing mission, first passing by Venus and dropping off a lander and atmospheric balloon, then continuing to Halley’s Comet. An armada of a half-dozen spacecraft headed to the famous comet, and Vega 1 was first, providing important targeting data for the others.

Finally, on March 6, 2015 an amazing spacecraft called Dawn began orbiting the largest body in the asteroid belt, Ceres. Reclassified as a “dwarf planet” (with Pluto and a half-dozen other small, atmospherically active worlds), Ceres, 590 miles across, was the second object Dawn visited in the asteroid belt, having spent a year in 2011-12 flying around and in formation with asteroid Vesta, smaller at 329 miles. The spacecraft’s name is not one of those NASA acronyms, it literally stands for the “dawn” of new discovery. And spacecraft Dawn had lots mind-blowing data for its planetary scientists at the Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, Calif.

Ceres is the largest object in the asteroid belt, a rubble zone of millions of rocks, mostly a dozen or less miles in size, that orbit 100-300 million miles from the Sun between Mars and Jupiter. The dwarf planet is a fascinating world with three very reflective spots of dried salts, betraying a possible sub-surface ocean beneath the cratered crust. Several craters are filled with an atmosphere of water vapor from outgassing of ice below. And a salt water and mud volcano 2.5 miles high looks like Devil’s Tower in the Black Hills of Wyoming.

A little history from just one day of the year and look at all the wealth of knowledge!
Celestial events in the skies for the week of Mar. 6-12, 2018 as compiled for The Loafer by Mark D. Marquette.

Time to shift our time pieces and begin living again with more daylight in the evening—and less in the morning. Sunday March 11th there is no 2 am, we skip that hour and after 1:59 am it is 3 am Daylight Saving Time. There is no ending “s” in the word “saving,” but now you’ll count the number of times you hear newscasters and weather people say it “savings!” Skyward, early birds are treated to three planets strung along the morning twilight: Saturn closest to the horizon, red Mars between the ringed world and brilliant Jupiter to the right. The planets string along the ecliptic like a stellar necklace.

Tuesday, March 6
In March 1986, everybody had Halley’s Comet fever as the most famous comet was making its annual 76-year visit to the inner Solar System. On this date in 1986, the European spacecraft, Vega 1, flew by the comet, battered by icy debris and rock, and survived to transmit more than 2,000 images of Halley.

Wednesday, March 7
Planet Jupiter is south of the Moon as they rise together at 1:30 am. On this 1969 date in space history, NASA astronauts flew for the first time the Lunar Module moon ship in Earth orbit, practicing docking maneuvers with the Apollo 9 Command Module. Gemini veteran astronaut Jim McDivitt, 88, stayed in the mother ship named “Gumdrop” while in the odd-looking moonship named “Spider” were astronauts Rusty Schweickart, 82, and future moonwalker David Scott, 85. The success made possible four months later the historic Apollo 11 landing.

Thursday, March 8
On this 1979 date in space history, active volcanoes were found on Jupiter moon Io in the images sent a few weeks earlier to Earth from passing NASA spacecraft Voyager 1. In 2001, Shuttle Discovery was launched in the STS-102 mission.

Friday, March 9
The planet Mars is above the eastern horizon to the left of the Moon at 2:30 am Jupiter to the Moon’s right. Saturn will be rising at 3:30 am. These planets will dominate our late spring/summer nights as they gather in the constellations Sagittarius to Scorpius.

Saturday, March 10
In the morning twilight, the crescent Moon and planet Saturn are beautiful. Look for Mars way to the right, and Jupiter further right as you pan westward along the ecliptic.

Sunday, March 11
Daylight saving time begins. Sunlight lasts until about 7:30 pm, but its dark in the morning again until 7:45 am. Remember, a 23-hour day today as we “Spring forward” and 2 am immediately becomes 3 am in Sunday’s wee hours.

Monday, March 12
The Sun enters the constellation Pisces; at least that’s what the facts are, contrary to the fake science of astrology—which erroneously has the Sun entering the Fishes on Feb. 23. The Big Dipper is making its annual spring appearance standing on its handle of three stars at 8:30 pm. The rest of the constellation Ursa Major, the Big Bear, is sprawling ahead of the hindquarters “asterism” of the famous seven stars, called the Plow in Great Britain.
People often complain about how long it takes to play a game of Monopoly. Poppycock, I say! If you follow the actual printed rules of the game you can play games of Monopoly that end in just over two hours. But the longest games of Monopoly can’t hold a candle to the one game designed to last hour after hour after hour, Risk. Rare is the game of Risk that doesn’t last at least two hours, usually longer the more players involved. This morning, my Facebook memories reminded me that two years ago was the day of the longest, and to date, the most infamous game of Risk I’ve ever been part of.

It was a cold, snowy day. Friends and I gathered to keep watch over a friend’s house for the afternoon while they were away. We decided it would be a great time to play a game of Risk. Including myself, there were four players total. We ate a little lunch and sat down at the kitchen table and had the game set up and ready to go shortly after noon. Our friend left, we put on a Pandora station of marches, and the game began. We played one of my vintage copies (if you’ve read this column for a while you’re aware that I collect board games), which has fairly straightforward rules. Territories were divided, we rolled to see who would start, and the player who sat across for me won. He looked at the board and thought of his strategy.

For the first hour or so the game was standard Risk play. Each of us taking turns, concurring small nations here and there, but no major power shift yet. All of our armies and territories were holding strong. Then at hour three, things changed. One played hollered out “Kamchatka is mine!” and that’s when the first of our quartet dropped out of the game, all their territories had been conquered. I took my glasses off to indicate that I was about to make a terribly important remark, I looked over at my two competitors—who I couldn’t see as without my glasses I can’t see squat—and I said: “And then there were three.”

Play continued. The sun sunk down lower in the sky, at almost five hours in, I was down to one nation left. Though I had only one territory to my name, it was strong, and I was risking it all with my lone stronghold. Roll after roll of the dice, I lost a few armies, but I still was holding strong. Then, with one swift roll of a four against my two…I was gone. I was out of the game, but I remained at the table to watch the aftermath.

By now the power shift was dramatic, one friend began amassing so many armies that we had to dump boxes of other colors onto the board to meet the numbers he was banking. It was absurd, it started to look like the board was flooded with cubes of salad buffet ham. “A coward’s victory!” my friend who was loosing to the pile of armies said. As the game bore on, the sun had almost fully set. The friend we were house-sitting for returned, looked over at the table and asked: “Oh, did you all start another game?” The friend who was the first to drop out wearily said “No. This is the same game they started before you left.”

When the game finally came to an end, we all sat back and reflected on what has just happened. How long did we play? The estimations were around six, maybe seven hours. It was a good game, but we were waiting for a call from Ken Burns to make a documentary about it. We were tired and hungry and immediately began to fill facebook with posts about what had happened.

Keep this in mind next time you play Monopoly and fear it going on forever. Monopoly is nothing but a drop in a bucket compared to that eventful afternoon into evening of Risk. I can’t wait for the sequel, as Kamchatka will be mine once more! See you next week.
The character of Black Panther made his first appearance in comic books in the July 1966 edition of the "Fantastic Four." The character's real name is T'Challa, and he is the protector and king of the fictional African nation Wakanda, a secret and technologically advanced society. T'Challa has achieved his great abilities by drinking a heart shaped herb, physical training, science, wealth, and the aforementioned advanced technology, in order to battle his enemies. When Black Panther first appeared in the 1960's he was the first superhero of African descent to appear in mainstream American comics. One has to wonder why it took so long for the hero to appear on the big screen. With the release of "Captain America: Civil War", we had to wonder no more, as the film featured the first live-action interpretation of the character via actor Chadwick Boseman, and his debut was impressive.

As far as I'm concerned, despite the presence of the ever popular Spider-Man, Black Panther stole the movie. 2018 has brought Black Panther his own film, and I, for one, am further impressed Boseman and his character. After the events of "Civil War", T'Challa returns to his country to serve as the country's new leader only to be challenged for the throne by the villain of the film, his cousin Erik/Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan), who has a really nasty attitude to go with his awesome haircut. The battle between the two is epic, and results in a surprise plot twist.

The country of Wakanda is so advanced the city appears to be on another planet, and would be at home in any "Star Wars" movie. The battle between Erik and T'Challa involves many, and eventually leads to a skirmish that was very "Lord of the Rings", save for the flying crafts. Fighting along side T’Challa are several strong and dynamic female characters, all of whom could take down many men in the film. T’Challa is also aided by his 16-year-old sister Shuri (Letita Wright), who designs new technology for the country, and may very well be the smartest person in the Marvel universe. Another character aiding Black Panther is Everett Ross (Martin Freeman "Sherlock"), of the CIA, who has a shaky relationship with the hero that improves during the course of the story. The film features plenty of fights, loads of action, political intrigue, social commentary, making for a truly landmark film.

The film also sets itself apart from other Marvel films with far less humor, which in my opinion is a plus. Leave the comedy to the Guardians of the Galaxy. I was really impressed with how entertaining the film proved to be, and all the actors involved, including Angela Bassett as T’Challa’s mom Ramonda, are perfectly cast. I am a “DC guy” and huge Batman fan, but I will say Black Panther has leaped over Spider-Man as my favorite Marvel character. "Black Panther" is a film to be enjoyed by comic book fans and those who have never picked up a comic book in their life.
A St. Patrick’s Day tradition in Johnson City for *10* years, this race was established by parishioners of St. John’s Church to be a community outreach, green, and fun running event. Just as the legend says that St. Patrick chased the snakes out of Ireland, Chasing Snakes is chasing homelessness out of our community. Since 2009 the race has donated $65,000 to Family Promise of Greater Johnson City (formerly IHN) directly serving homeless families and children in need -- keeping them united, keeping them sheltered, keeping them positive, keeping them job-focused, with the ultimate goal of helping them be self-sufficient. Registration runs through March 14th. Register early for the best prices! www.chasingsnakes10k.com.
Cherokee, the only Native American reservation located in the Southern Appalachians, serves as the southern gateway to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Millions of visitors pass through on Highway 441 on their summer vacations, and with the community’s plethora of recreational activities, it becomes an annual tradition for many. Devoid of the traffic jams and non-stop activity of the Tennessee side, Cherokee offers a much more peaceful alternative for those who want to enjoy everything the Smokies have to offer.

The new Fire Mountain Trail system is open for all adventurous folks who want to walk or mountain bike among the beauty of the Smokies. Nearby at the national park entrance, crowds gather on the roadside hoping to catch a glimpse of the resident elk population wandering the fields. Hot summer days call vacationers to the cool waters of the Oconaluftee River, where tubers splash through waves by the dozens. If one wants a bit more action, they can stop by Harrah’s Cherokee Casino Resort, featuring twenty-four hours of non-stop gambling and headliner entertainment.

Poker and outdoor recreation aren’t the only draws to Cherokee, however. Being home to one of the nation’s oldest tribes, the history of the Cherokee people takes a prominent stage here. Visitors may wander about the Oconaluftee Indian Village, where history comes to life as artisans turn traditional pottery, carve dugout canoes, and demonstrate time-honored dances. Those who love to collect artifacts and handmade crafts should not miss the Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual Inc., where artisans create authentic crafts using techniques passed down through the generations. No trip to the reservation should be complete, however, without a stop at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian.

When you first arrive, you’ll be greeted by an impressive statue honoring the legacy of Sequoyah, creator of the Cherokee alphabet and written language. Parking here is free for all visitors, and the museum is open year round, only being closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. Tickets are $10 for adults, $6 for children 6-13, and free for all younger. For up-to-date information on tickets and directions, check out the museum’s website at www.cherokeemuseum.org.

Entering the first exhibit, visitors encounter several rather mysterious-looking masks lining the walls. Displays below tell traditional Cherokee legends, such as the story of the Great Buzzard who created the earth, the more familiar tale of the hare and the tortoise, and the terrifying yarn of Spearfinger, a monster which once roamed the hills of the Smokies and ate the livers of those who had the misfortune of meeting her. As you enter the theater beyond, the door will shut behind you, and an animated story will tell the origins of the Cherokee tribe itself.

Beyond, commence your walkthrough by entering Story of the Cherokee’s: 13,000 Years. The Cherokee and their earlier ancestors have inhabited these hills and valleys for millennia, and this fascinating display will take you through each era of their history, beginning with the Paleo period. 10,000 years ago, individuals created the first hand tools; this marks the start of the Archaic age. Common artifacts of the period are prominently displayed here, along with those of the next period. The Woodland period is indicated by the construction of the first permanent villages. The last of these eras before the modern age is the Mississippian period. Interestingly, its start is highlighted by the development and growth of corn called eastern flint, which enabled the Cherokee to rely much more on crops they grew.

Contact was first made by Europeans when the DeSota expedition crossed the Appalachians in 1540. The Contact and Civilization era exhibits examine the disastrous effects that foreign explorers and settlement had on the Cherokee people, from attacks and diseases to the subsequent attempted assimilation into American culture. Of course, we all know what happened soon after, and this is perhaps the most heartbreaking part of the exhibit to journey through.

This was indeed one of the darkest times in our nation’s history, and the story as told here will no doubt bring tears to many visitors’ eyes. You’ll learn the story of the hundreds who died as well as the hardy band who refused to give up their homeland and evaded capture by hiding in the wilds of the Smokies. Finally, end the Cherokee’s rich history as you learn about the formation of the current reservations in Oklahoma and North Carolina.

While the final chapter of the Cherokee ends here, the museum continues on as it delves into the tale of Henry Timberlake. Emissaries of Peace: The 1762 Cherokee and British Delegations tells the story of this British ambassador and his visits to the Overhill Towns scattered throughout the Little Tennessee River valley. Learn about these historic communities through his eyes, and follow his adventures as he takes the Cherokee’s leaders on a global trip to meet King George III in London. Artifacts, publications, and first-hand accounts add a level of authenticity to the story as it progresses.

If you’ll be visiting during the summer months, be sure to make plans to drop by the award-winning drama, Unto These Hills. Located adjacent to the museum, the outdoor theater reverberates each evening with the sounds of song and dance as the history of the Cherokee tribe is brought to life. Interesting enough as it is in the museum, it’ll be an unforgettable experience as you see it unfold before your eyes. Visit www.cherokeehistorical.org for more details.
The Civic Chorale, under direction of its Music Director, Dr. Rodney Caldwell, will perform in concert on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 7:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church, 105 South Boone Street, Johnson City, Tennessee. The concert, entitled “A Musical Potpourri”, will feature compositions by Aaron Copland, Stephen Chatman, Johannes Brahms, Randall Thompson, Z. Randall Stroope and Robert Schumann. It will also feature a collection of indigenous pieces from the Kraó tribe in Brazil, and a setting of the Newfoundland song, “Feller From Fortune” arranged by Harry Somers.

The Civic Chorale, founded in 1973, is the region’s premiere auditioned volunteer adult chorus. Dr. Caldwell is also the director of choral studies at Mars Hill University in Mars Hill, North Carolina. For additional information, visit the Civic Chorale web site at www.thecivicchorale.org.

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Soothsayer

I’m pulling my hair out
Hoping each removed follicle
Will send the second hand counter
to its natural progression
“Lefty loosey”
All my screws follow suit
Unconventional as it may seem
Perhaps thinning will remove stress
No one can see anything in pea soup
And I need clarity
So I will do my rain dance
Jump brooms
Throw salt over my shoulder
While shutting the door three times
And hex that darn cat
I know he walks that way on purpose
I can’t dodge him and not split the pole
Curse you, superstitions
In this state of balding tired
I lose traction
Control my emotions
While allowing myself to be emotional
Loose these chains
That I may move forward
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

Rusty is a 2 year old Retriever mix. He is neutered and up to date on all vaccines. This lively boy loves to play and would also do best with a fenced in yard. Come by the Bridge Home and see all the cuties for adoption!

Boss is a 3 year old pit mix. He is neutered and up to date on all vaccines. This sweetie has been at the shelter for awhile. He is a friendly dog who would do best with a fenced in yard.
**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. For more information contact Freddie Hickman at 423-213-1510 or Taylor Harmon at 423-464-4048 or email tharmon@bristoltn.org.

**Crafting St. Patrick Class**

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

**Blood Drive**

Marsh Regional Blood Center will conduct public blood drives at the area locations. Visit tinyurl.com/n4auju9 to find a location near you. In addition to scheduled blood drives, donors are welcome at Marsh Regional’s collection centers: 111 W. Stone Drive, Suite 300, Kingsport, 2428 Knob Creek Road, Johnson City and 196 W. State St., Bristol. For more information about scheduling a blood drive at a local business, church, school or community organization, please call 423-408-7500, 423-652-0014 or 276-679-4669 or visit marshblood.com.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Looking for Community Volunteers**

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

**Adult Creative Makerspace**

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.
Of the far-too-many books I own, one of my favorite collections is a group of “Year” books that generally have a single numerical year as their title, followed by a rather bold and ambitious subtitle. Here is a partial list of these books: 1966: THE YEAR THE DECADE EXPLODED, 1995: THE YEAR THE FUTURE BEGAN, 1920: THE YEAR THAT MADE THE DECADE ROAR, 1959: THE YEAR EVERYTHING CHANGED, and 1968: THE YEAR THAT ROCKED THE WORLD. Sometimes it’s not enough to focus tightly on year, as witnessed by another title on my straining shelf: JANUARY 1973: THE MONTH THAT CHANGED AMERICA FOREVER. I am waiting for the publication of an even more micro-focused book: MAY 5, 1978, 8:15 A.M. THROUGH 11:10 A.M.: THE THREE HOURS THAT TRANSFORMED REALITY.

Last week my history classes took a look at 1968 and the current fiftieth anniversary hoopla surrounding that tumultuous year. After taking a very brief interactive tour of that year’s politics, pop culture, and people, we concluded that choosing one year as the most important one in history is basically a fallacious way of thinking. Can’t we say that every year is one that changed things? Yes, we can, but we like to create mileposts, however flawed, that help us bookmark our place in the timestream. I was happy to regale my class with my (probably boring) memories of 1968, unstable as they are. For instance, I pointed out that although “Night Of The Living Dead” was one of the signature events of that year, I was not aware of it back in the day and didn’t watch it until the 1980s. The same can be said of “2001: A Space Odyssey,” a landmark movie I didn’t see until the 1970s. I do, however, wax nostalgic when I remember the zany evenings I spent watching “Rowan And Martin’s Laugh-In.” And, yes, I was sitting in front of the tiny screen when candidate Richard Nixon made his very awkward appearance saying “Sock it to me!”

Needless to say, I became intrigued by an article in last week’s theoutline.com announcing that “This Year’s Hottest Cultural Trend Is 1998.” As I write this I am listening to a playlist of music from twenty years ago, which brings back fond memories of my daughter when she was nine. I had forgotten how good most of the music was (and still is) from that mystical land that didn’t have texting, an iPhone, video and audio streaming, or wi-fi. Welcome to the age of dial-up. We got our first home computer that year and I sent my first emailed edition of “Kelly’s Place” to our fearless editor. I just finished listening to one of my favorite songs of that year—Jennifer Paige’s bouncy “Crush.” This was also the year I was introduced to Matchbox 20 and Smashmouth; the group’s shameless rip-off of ? Mark And The Mysterion’s 1966 hit “96 Tears” (“Can’t Get Enough Of You Baby) is still a kick after all these years, and I still find Celine Dion’s “My Heart Will Go On” particularly annoying. But I never get tired of Alanis Morisette’s “Ironic” or Jimmy Ray’s “Are You Jimmy Ray?”, a throwback to the rockabilly era.

1998 was a good year for movies, including “Run, Lola, Run,” “The Faculty,” “Gods And Monsters,” Gus Van Sant’s inexplicable shot-for-shot refilming (in color, no less) of Alfred Hitchcock’s “Psycho,” and a delightful neo-noir schlock-fest, “Wild Things” (my candidate for the best movie of the year, followed very closely by “Spice World,” a neat little reimagining of the Beatles’ “A Hard Day’s Night”). And that year was one in which we said our farewells, among many others, to Sonny Bono, Frank Sinatra, director Alan J. Pakula, and Monica Lewensky’s infamous blue dress.

According to Ann-Derrick Gaillot, the author of the aforementioned theoutline.com piece, “It seems like as soon as the ball dropped and marked the arrival of 2018, media outlets and public figures themselves have been encouraging us to spend as much time as possible reflecting on 1998.” Lest you get too caught up in your time-traveling to the world of twenty years ago, Gaillot advises us to “Savor your time celebrating 1998 while you can; soon it’ll be time to revisit 1999” (need I say “Baby One More Time”?)

Ann-Derrick concludes her observations by noting that “1998 is different—long enough ago that there is perspective to be gained from the couple decades of distance, but not so long ago that most people don’t remember it.” With that in mind, I guess we should scrap our celebrations of 1798 and 1898. This week I encourage you to think about whether or not we do a disservice to history by chopping it up into tidy little yearly segments. All I know is that I am happy to be alive today, and harbor no illusions that 1998 was “the good old days.” Nostalgia, after all, is the enemy of history.

See you next week with more blasts from the past, reflections on the present, and prognostications about the future, all neatly packed into a one thousand word package.
NOT AS PROUD OF YOUR WEBSITE AS YOU USED TO BE?

From desktop to mobile, your site should be stunning on every screen. Give us a call to help you gain visitors, for all the right reasons.