Loafer

music.
moments.
memories.

MerleFest

Also Inside
EmiSunshine lights up the Paramount stage
Northeast State’s Derby Day
Goat Yoga in Piney Flats
VIRGINIA Creeper FEST

SATURDAY, APRIL 28TH AT THE ABINGDON TRAILHEAD - 12PM-5PM

FREE EVENT

WWW.VACREEPERFEST.COM

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BEEZWAX by John Martin
I WORKED MY BUTT OFF THIS WEEK!
I WORKED HARD TOO... BUT APPARENTLY NOT AS HARD AS YOU!
MINE JUST HAS A CRACK!

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Founder: Bill Williams
Let’s Get Social!
With less than one week until MerleFest 2018, the campus of Wilkes Community College in Wilkesboro, N.C. is buzzing with activity. The festival, presented by Window World, kicks off next Thursday, April 26, at 2:30 p.m., and runs through Sunday, April 29; an estimated 75,000+ participants will gather at this year’s annual homecoming of musicians and music lovers to celebrate the world renowned MerleFest.

With over 120 artists performing on 13 stages spread across campus, MerleFest fans have come to expect the unexpected. Late night jam sessions, band competitions, special guests onstage, impromptu dance parties and one-time-only musical collaborations are all a part of the fabric of MerleFest – and a testament to the enduring vision of Doc Watson and the Watson family.

A key part of this vision is Doc’s love of “traditional plus” music, a moniker he created to describe a unique mix of music based on the traditional, roots-oriented sounds of the Appalachian Mountain region, including bluegrass and old-time, and expanded to include Americana, country, blues, rock and “whatever other styles we were in the mood to play.” Today, this spirit means that country music star Jamey Johnson will rub shoulders with bluegrass visionary Rhiannon Giddens, folk legend Kris Kristofferson will play the same stage as the Steep Canyon Rangers and Steve Martin. As the nation’s largest roots and Americana festival, MerleFest has room for all those who treasure musical tradition.

“The programming this year is incredibly diverse in both musical styling, origin, culture, and gender. We have artists/bands from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Sweden, Ireland, Cuba, and the United States on our 2018 lineup and we couldn’t be more excited to showcase that talent on our 13 stages. Thursday kicks off with the Kruger Brothers and follows with Kris Kristofferson, Robert Earl Keen, and The Mavericks and continues through the weekend with Bela Fleck and Abigail Washburn, Jamey Johnson, Sam Bush, Mandolin Orange, Jerry Douglas and Tommy Emmanuel, Rhiannon Giddens, Alison Brown, and Steep Canyon Rangers with Steve Martin, just to name a few. It’s sure to be a great year of music, moments, and memories!” states MerleFest Artist Relations Manager Steve Johnson.
The complete 2018 lineup may be viewed at www.MerleFest.org/lineup and is now available on the new and improved MerleFest mobile app, which includes festival updates in real time. Updates are also delivered via Twitter (@MerleFest) and Facebook. Use hashtag #MerleFest to connect with other festival goers on social media, and be sure to take a picture with Flattop, MerleFest’s raccoon mascot, to share on social channels.

Returning band members of Town Mountain are proud to be a part of this year’s MerleFest celebration. "For most of us, on either side of the stage, MerleFest kicks off the beginning of the festival season and that couldn’t be more welcomed at the end of a long winter. The significance of MerleFest is one that cannot be summed up in a quote or maybe even a textbook. But if you’ve been, then you know how important it is to the whole acoustic music community and beyond! There's nothing that feels better than to take part in an event that celebrates the lives of Merle, Doc and Rosa Lee Watson, true royalty in American music," says banjo player Jesse Langlais.

For MerleFest 2018, Town Mountain and noted songwriter Jim Lauderdale will host the Midnight Jam, presented by renowned music publication BGS at the Walker Center. Starting at 10:30 p.m. and running well past midnight, the 2018 Midnight Jam will feature a very special Doc Watson Tribute.

In addition to Lauderdale and Town Mountain, the Midnight Jam will host a wide array of talent, including performances by Buddy Miller, Frank Solivan and Dirty Kitchen, John Cowan, Andrew Marlin and Emily Frantz of Mandolin Orange, Bryan Sutton, and many more. A separate ticket is required and available for purchase by four-day, three-day and Saturday ticket holders. Town Mountain will also host the Saturday Night Barn Dance, another MerleFest moment not to be missed; the lively and loud event starts at 7:45 p.m. on the Dance Stage.

In addition to musical performances, MerleFest offers special activities and unique shopping options. The Shoppes at MerleFest is a centrally-located shopping village that features demonstrating artisans, vendors, convenience foods, official MerleFest memorabilia and services such as first aid, lost and found, and Internet access.

New at MerleFest 2018 is the Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina showcase sponsored by the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Be sure to drop by the Plaza Stage for special sets featuring North Carolina artists including David Holt, Tony Williamson, Laura Boosinger, Presley Barker, plus many others. These special sets are Friday from 3:30-5:30, Saturday from 5:00-7:00, and Sunday from 10:00-11:15.

MerleFest is meant to be a fun, educational experience for children, too. Children are taught about roots music through listening and are given opportunities to play music for themselves through experiences like the Instrument Petting Zoo. The festival also supports youth who already play music by providing them with performance opportunities in the Acoustic Kids Showcases hosted by musician Andy May and held on Friday and Saturday of MerleFest.

**MERLEFEST continued on page 26**
Shakespeare’s “Richard III” is shaking things up at Barter Stage II with rearranged seating. In this performance, running April 12 – May 5, the theatre has been altered to allow the audience to be right in the middle of the action.

In this Shakespeare classic, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, will stop at nothing to become King. With his intelligence, political brilliance, and dazzling use of language, he climbs his way to power.

This unique production has been adapted and directed by Associate Director Katy Brown who said, “I’m not after a well-behaved night at the theatre. I’m after something more fun and more liberating than that. I want to put you in the middle of the action and invite the unexpected among us.” Sean Maximo Campos, Mary Lucy Bivins, Andrew Hampton Livingston, and more of Barter Theatre’s fan favorites bring this show to life.

Shakespeare’s “Richard III” is made possible in Memory of Gary Kimbrell by friends. To purchase tickets, please visit bartertheatre.com or call 276-628-3991. Tickets for all performances of Shakespeare’s “Richard III” begin at just $20.

Barter Theatre, the nation’s longest running professional theatre, is located in Abingdon, Virginia. The theatre opened in 1933 during the Great Depression. Founder Robert Porterfield offered patrons admission to the theatre by bartering food and livestock. Barter Theatre was designated as the state theatre of Virginia in 1946. It exists today as one of the last year-round professional resident repertory theaters remaining in the United States. Barter Theatre is funded in part by The Virginia Commission for the Arts and The National Endowment for the Arts.
Each spring, the flowers bloom in East Tennessee with the help of some April showers and a little bit of sunshine. This April, the sunshine might also brighten a few faces and cause some toes to tap as mountain music virtuoso EmiSunshine lights up the stage at the historic Paramount in downtown Bristol on Saturday, April 28th at 7:30PM. A native East Tennessean, this 13-year-old has taken the music world by storm with her expertly crafted lyrics that are all at once heartfelt and haunting. An equally accomplished musician, she picks out melodies on the guitar, mandolin, and ukulele that are every bit as whimsical as the words she sings.

With numerous national festivals and TV appearances under her belt, including previous performances at Bristol’s own Rhythm & Roots Reunion and an upcoming appearance on NBC's Little Big Shots, EmiSunshine is destined for a place among the stars.

Also joining Emi will be award winning country comedian Etta May. Whether she's headlining the Southern Fried Chicks Comedy Tour or sharing her distinctly southern brand of humor on Oprah, Showtime, CMT, CBS Sunday Morning, ABC, Columbia Pictures, NBC, or SiriusXM (to name a few), the “Polyester Princess” is always guaranteed to bring the laughs with a hefty dose of Kentucky truth and wisdom.

Tickets for EmiSunshine with special guest Etta May go on sale Friday, February 2nd at 12 noon. Seats are priced at $20 and $25, with an extremely limited number of VIP seats available for $100, which also include a meet and greet, CD, autographed laminate, and a photo with Emi.

For ticket information, please contact the Paramount box office at 423-274-8920. Box Office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 12 noon until 6PM as well as on the day of the show.

Tickets may also be purchased online at www.paramountbristol.org.

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For the tenth year, SteppenStone Youth Treatment Services will hold its primary annual fundraiser, Dancing with the Tri-Cities Stars on Saturday, June 9th, 2018, at the MeadowView Conference Center from 5-11PM. SteppenStone is proud to announce that Citi will be the Presentation Sponsor of this event for the third year. This year’s event will include an elegant tapas-style dinner, incredible silent and live auction, after-party, and special “Decade of Dance” exhibition during dinner featuring past contestants from the last 9 years of the show. The Tri-Cities Stars are taught by Mike and Kim Adler, of Johnson City. Both Mike and Kim achieved World Champion status with their professional partners and as a couple with the United Country Western Dance Council.

The dancers will each perform two dances. Mirror-ball trophies will be awarded to the highest scoring man and woman. Awards will also be given for the top fundraisers.

All the money raised from this event goes to SteppenStone Youth Treatment Services. SteppenStone is a non-profit, 501c3 residential treatment facility for adolescent boys ages 13-17 years old who have experienced significant trauma, abuse and/or neglect and have developed emotional and behavioral disorders. In addition to the residential center, SteppenStone has a licensed school, group home, and foster home. The primary goal of SteppenStone is to help these young men heal and develop skills to become successful, healthy adults. There are currently 45 children who live at SteppenStone, the group home, and the staff foster home.

Tickets to the event are now on sale for $115 and can be purchased at www.dancingwiththetricitiesstars.com. For information on the Dancing with Tri-Cities Stars event, contact Dessi Foster at 423-292-2919.
Northeast State’s Derby Day

Let’s horse around for fun and a good cause! The Kentucky Derby ranks among the greatest spectacles of sports. If you can’t make it to Churchill Downs this year, watch the race with us at the Northeast State Foundation’s Derby Day party on May 5 at the Foundation Event Facility in downtown Bristol.

The event features a best hat and best-dressed contest, and live music by the Spirit of Soul Dance Band to round out the evening. It is sure to be an event to remember! Cost is $75 per person or $600 per table (seating 8). The event is being held at 620 E. State St., in Bristol. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

Don your derby hats, sip a mint julep, indulge in a full menu of savory hors d’oeuvres, and enjoy three wall-sized viewing screens to watch the race. Pick your favorite horse for a chance to win some terrific prizes. All proceeds of this event benefit Northeast State student scholarships through the Foundation.

Buy tickets online at www.northeaststate.edu/tickets or buy them at the event on race day. For more information, contact calyon@northeaststate.edu or 423.279.7630.

Tri Cities - are you ready for some Guns n Roses... This is going to be one crazy epic Rock n Roll show. It’s So Easy, a tribute to Guns n Roses, is an exciting way to go back in time and experience hair metal of the 80s GNR style....don’t miss the opportunity to see It’s So Easy as they bring you all the hits from Welcome to the Jungle, Sweet Child o Mine to November Rain and all your favorite sing along hits!!!

Tickets are available on line, so get your early. The Brewery will have their great restaurant going full blast as well as the delicious craft beers and cocktails. It is going to be one fun night. See you all out there.
Today the Cities of Bristol and the Bristol Chamber of Commerce have teamed up with Startup Tri-Cities, a local entrepreneur organization, to bring a piece of the vibrant Austin, Texas startup community to our region. The festival is a collaboration between small business owners, entrepreneurs, and the many supporting organizations that bring innovation and growth to our region.

Free community events will take place May 3rd – 5th across the Tri-Cities and will be focused on helping new businesses get started, helping existing ones grow, and connecting the region together in a celebration of the successes of our local entrepreneurs.

The festival provides our region with the opportunity to highlight the excellent programs and services already available to local entrepreneurs, and provides valuable exposure for our local subject matter experts.

Friday will be used to highlight the excellent Leadercast event taking place at Eastman thanks to the Summit Leadership Foundation. Each of the cities may also continue to host workshops and other events. The evening will culminate in a networking event in the evening.

Saturday is the biggest day of the Small Business Festival with many events taking place all over downtown Bristol. These events will be focused on growing your business and inspiring existing business owners to take their business to the next level.

As our various associations, government departments, and local experts come together during National Entrepreneurship week, we celebrate the roles we all play in our small business community year-round. We are excited to be one of the many cities hosting the national movement that is Small Business Festival.

When local entrepreneurs get together and openly share their experiences, challenges, and successes amazing things happen economically for the region’s growth and development. Bristol and Startup Tri-Cities invite everyone with an interest or experience in entrepreneurship to join them at the Small Business Festival. Learn more at StartupTri.com/sbf2018.
The Wolf Hills Community School will host a family-friendly May Day celebration and bonfire on April 28 at the Community Center of Abingdon.

Victoria Blevins, Director of Administration for WHCS, said “I have always loved the beauty and fun of the May Pole dance. The May Day tradition is something I want to share with the children.”

The fun begins at 4:30 PM with seasonal May Day crafts and an opportunity to tie dye souvenir t-shirts. At 6:00 PM there will be a May Pole dance, and the lighting of the bonfire. The rest of the evening will be filled with a program of family-friendly storytelling, music, sing-alongs and of course s’mores.

Blevins explained, “There’s really nothing like this event going on in the community. The storytelling and campfire: It’ll be something parents can do with their kids. These are fun childhood traditions.”

Admission includes crafts supplies and instruction, a t-shirt to tie dye, s’mores, and an evening of entertainment. Beer, wine, and food will be available for purchase from local vendors and all proceeds will benefit the Wolf Hills Community School.

The WHCS May Day celebration runs rain or shine from 4:30-9 PM at the Abingdon Community Center. Bring your own lawn chair if you like.

The Community Center of Abingdon is located at 300 Senior Dr, Abingdon VA.

Tickets are $5 for children and $10 for adults and may be purchased in advance at www.wolfhillscommunityschool.org/mayday. Day of tickets will be $7 for children and $12 for adults.
As parents, we all understand the absolute trauma that descends on a family when a serious disease affects one of our children. That is certainly the case for Kateyln and Wes Baker, the parents of 6-year-old Kingston. He has leukemia, a rather recent diagnosis. He is being treated at St. Jude, the outstanding children's hospital in Memphis. While St. Jude does not charge for its services, there is still a huge financial impact for the family. Time off work, leaves of absence, travel, etc. all take their toll. Young Kingston is doing ok in his treatments, thus the name of this event, Kingston Can because he definitely CAN beat this serious disease.

To help the family in this time of need, the good folks at Indian Motorcycle Bristol and Bear's Bar have enlisted several local businesses to help and are putting together a Bike Ride, the Inaugural Valley Rally Ride. Businesses as varied as Food City, Stateline Bar & Grill, Rogers Marine Upholstery, Jack Kite Co., Bakers Construction, Quality Tool Works and Mountain Air Compressor are all part of the effort. The ride begins at Indian Motorcycle Bristol and ends at Bear's Bar where two bands are playing in the afternoon and evening. Registration begins at 10:30 this Saturday with kickstands up at noon. Activities include a Dice Roll and a Pig Roast, both only $5. It's a worthy cause and a fun day, so head on out, show your support, and have a great time doing it. See you there.
On a sunny hillside in rural Piney Flats a new exercise craze more typical of elite California than Tennessee is going down. It’s Goat Yoga. And it’ll really get your goat – literally.

Leah Smith, owner of Pippy’s Pony Parties at Promiseland Farm in Piney Flats and Kalen Johnson Arnold, owner of Lady Fit Studio in Johnson City have teamed up to offer a combination of yoga workout with goat, pony and farm animal experiences that is unprecedented in the Tri-Cities.

Classes are $10 scheduled on weeknight evenings or Saturday mornings and are limited to 30 participants, children and adults who can prepay via PayPal pre-registration. Participants take in the rustic, quiet beauty of a rustic mountain farm upon arrival before taking a 10 minute warm up walk with locally renowned Pippy the Pony of Promiseland Farm and three frolicking goats to the yoga site.

Participants are required to hike up a very steep grassy hill with beautiful views in all directions with their own yoga mats. As Arnold puts the class through challenging yoga poses, Smith encourages three funny, friendly goats to jump on participants’ backs as they plank and nudge their legs as they downward dog. Locally renowned Pippy the Pony and farm dog Mr. Biggs wander through as well. It’s a 45 minute workout in the fresh mountain air, surrounded by nature and charming farm pets. Selfies with Pippy, Mr. Biggs, goats Fudge, S’mores and Cookie are always welcome, and are sure to populate Instagram and Facebook.

Lady Fit Studio is an all-accepting personal fitness training center providing live streaming workouts and on-site Bootyfit and Glow classes in an atmosphere of energy, high motivation and accountability.

Pippy’s Pony Parties at Promiseland Farm is an agritainment business offering Pippy’s Pony Parties, Pippy and Friends Farm Camp, Pippy and Friends Play Dates, and lease of the beautiful farm and barns to photographers.

To book a pony party, pony play date, or schedule a Goat Yoga class, contact Leah Smith on Facebook at: Pippy’s Pony Parties at Promiseland Farm.

To book a Goat Yoga class or book fitness coaching with Lady Fit Studio contact Kalen Johnson Arnold on Facebook at: Lady Fit Studio.
The Rogersville Arts Council is presenting for the 5th year, The Appalachian Spring Festival, May 2-5. A generous grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission has allowed us to expand our Festival to include workshops on Thursday and Friday, and to add upgrades to the street event on Saturday.

Our keynote speaker during the Welcome Dinner at 6pm, on May 2 at Price Public Community Center, is Dr. Katie Hoffman, Katie’s PhD is in English, with a specialty in Appalachian Studies. She is a singer and scholar of traditional Appalachian ballads. Katie was the traditional music producer for a 4-part PBS series entitled Appalachia: A History of Mountains and People. She and her husband Brett were married in October of 2012 and on their honeymoon, they played for a farmer’s market in Hawaii! Around home, under the name “The Tennegginians”, they play for community groups, bus tours, academic lectures, radio broadcasts, and now—Appalachian Spring in Rogersville on Wednesday, and during the street festival on Saturday! The price of the Welcome Dinner is $25.

There are workshops on Thursday and Friday which include Katie’s interactive sessions on Appalachian Culture including, customs, art, foodways (make a fried pie!), and the character of the new Appalachia. A great introduction to our culture whether you are a native of this area, or a newcomer. The venue will be the Hale Springs Inn.

The other workshops are: *Storytelling, with Marjorie Shaefer, who has worked with Hawkins County senior citizens this winter to recollect and craft family stories. Join the Story Telling Circle on Thursday to swap and/or craft a new story. Designed for adults and youth fourteen and up. On Saturday, join the Story Telling Circle to share a story about your pet, or a friend or neighbors' pet, or a pet you wish you had. Find out how to “Puzzle your story together” Hear Marjorie Shaefer tell the story of the Ghost Horse! *Creating Needle Felted Critters with internationally known fiber artist, Pat Pawlowicz, who annually travels to national fiber arts festivals to teach, using her own fiber from sheep she raises in Hawkins County. *English Folk Dance with Winnie Seals, who uses dance to give an authentic flavor to her high school English Literature classes. *Gourd Art class with Melissa Sadek and her home grown gourds. She has made and taught workshops on decorated gourds, lamp beads, and jewelry professionally for many years.

Experience the Derby like you’ve never experienced it before!

The Foundation Event Facility
620 State Street,
Downtown Bristol

Cost: $75/Ticket
or $600/Table for 8

Sponsors:

Purchase tickets online:

For more information contact:
Carol Lyon
Calyon@NortheastState.edu
423.279.7630
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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| **TUESDAY - April 24** | Tyler Westcot & Daniel Byrd  
The Willow Tree Coffeehouse & Music Room  
Rylee Peters  
Zachary's Steak House  
Downtown Country  
Jiggy Ray’s Pizzeria  
Mark Larkins  
Rock’s Wood Fired Pizza & Grill |
|                | **FRIDAY - April 27**  
Jigsaw Jane  
at Country Club Bar & Grill  
Velvet Caravan  
Down Home  
ETSU Country Music Showcase  
Capone’s  
Sam Burchfield & The Scoundrels  
The Willow Tree Coffeehouse & Music Room  
Barnyad Stompers  
Sleepy Owl Brewery  
Annie Robinette  
Quaker Steak & Lube  
Hip Gypsy & Collateral Jamage  
Bloom Cafe and Listening Room  
Folk Soul Revival  
Capitol Theatre  
Asylum Suite  
Sonny’s Cafe  
Kelly J  
Gypsy Circus Cider Company  
Grayson Jenkins  
Wolf Hills Brewing  
Borderline  
Rush Street  
It’s So Easy  
Holston River Brewing Company  
415 in Progress  
Woodstone Deli  
Alpha Halo Ali Randolph and the Out of Ouck Band  
CJ’s Sports Bar  
Alex Baughman  
Yee Haw Brewing Company  
**SATURDAY - April 28**  
Rhythm Revue  
at Country Club Bar & Grill  
Jigsaw Jane  
Elizabethton Moose Lodge  
Corey Hunt Band  
Bone Fire Smokehouse  
Loose Leaves  
High Voltage  
Highland Travelers  
Down Home  
Jon Chambers, Chris Watts, Charles Hagar, and Ben Douglas  
The Willow Tree Coffeehouse & Music Room  
Momma Molasses  
Yee Haw Brewing Company  
If Birds Could Fly  
Bristol VFW  
Blackbird  
Silver Spur  
JV Squad  
Jiggy Ray’s Pizzeria  
Retroville  
Kingsport Eagles  
Loose Leaves  
High Voltage  
Southern Countrymen Band  
Buffalo Ruritan  
Nightshift Band  
Show Palace  
Southern Rebellion  
Sonny’s Cafe  
Carson Peters & The Iron Mountain Band  
Carter Family Fold  
**SUNDAY - April 29**  
Spring Music Festival  
The Willow Tree Coffeehouse & Music Room  
**WEDNESDAY - April 25**  
Bag O’ Tricks  
O’Mainnin’s Pub  
Texas Hippie Coalition  
The Hideaway  
Open Mic  
The Willow Tree Coffeehouse & Music Room  
Mark Larkins  
Harvest Table Restaurant  
HB Beverly  
Rock’s Wood Fired Pizza & Grill  
**THURSDAY - April 26**  
The Diamonds  
Blackbird Bakery  
Deco - Joe Ti Quartet  
Wellington’s Restaurant  
Anthony Mangrum  
at Zachary’s Steak House  
Lil Wyte  
at Bristol VFW  
Saplin Grove  
Mountain Music Museum  
Donny & The Dryheavers  
Wealth of Knowledge  
Model City Tap House  
The Tides  
Rock’s Wood Fired Pizza & Grill  
**FRIDAY - April 27**  
Greco w/ Rhythm & The Roosevelts  
Capone’s  
Acoustifried  
Rush Street  
Shooter Band  
Elizabethton Elks Lodge  
**SATURDAY - April 28**  
Steele Cookin’  
Damascus Brewery  
Jeremy Pinnell  
Sleepy Owl Brewery  
Kaitlyn Baker  
Silver Spur  
Acoustifried  
Black Wolf Harley Davidson  
Heavy Country  
Buffalo Ruritan  
Appalachian Express Chorus  
Northeast State Center for the Performing Arts  
Loose Leaves  
High Voltage  
Emi Sunshine  
Paramount Center for the Arts  
U Turn, Junkyard Dogz  
Bears Bar  
Heavy Country  
Buffalo Ruritan  
Broke-N-Busted  
Woodstone Deli  
HB Beverly  
Model City Tap House  
Momma Molasses  
Yee Haw Brewing Company  
**SUNDAY - April 29**  
Spring Music Festival  
The Willow Tree Coffeehouse & Music Room
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
Michael's Krazy Karaoke at Marx the Spot
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
Michael's Krazy Karaoke at Stateline Bar & Grill
Karaoke at CJ's Sports Bar
Karaoke w/ DJ Marques Top Shelf Entertainment at Wild Wing Cafe - Johnson City
Karaoke at Numan's
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
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
One of history’s favorite stars is drawing eyes to the eastern skies shortly after sunset these Spring evenings.

Arcturus is the bright star directly east as darkness grips the night. It is the anchor star of Bootes the Herdsman. The pattern of stars that make up Bootes (boo-O-tez) are one of the most recognized and talked about through ancient history. To easily find it locate the Big Dipper directly north. The handle of the Big Dipper arcs to Arcturus and following the curve you “speed on to Spica,” the brightest star in Virgo the Virgin. Bootes is imagined to be a herdsman who is wrangling the Big Bear around the sky.

The main stars of Bootes are in the shape of a kite, or ice cream cone. The beautiful golden-yellow Arcturus is at the bottom apex. It is one of the first stars with a recorded name, dating back to the ancient stargazers hundreds of centuries ago. The star Arcturus has been important to all stargazers since it was first identified on star charts in 1500 BC.

In ancient times, the whole constellation Bootes was referred to as Arcturus, the star pattern and star being the same name. The Greek word, “boots” means plowman or herdsman, and Arcturus is a Greek derivative from “arktos,” meaning bear, and “ouros,” meaning guard. Thus, the star group has been envisioned as herding the nearby Ursa Major and Ursa Minor, the Big and Little Bears around the sky.

Ancient Japanese astronomers adopted the even more ancient Chinese astronomy name for this beautiful star—Dah Jyao in the constellation The Great Horn. Indeed, the main outline of Bootes does resemble a horn with Arcturus at it tip.

Arcturus is the fourth brightest star in all the sky, (behind Sirius, Canopus and Alpha Centauri) and the brightest star north of the celestial equator. That would have great significance to the star worshipers of the ancient world.

Polynesian sailors called the star Hokul’a or “Star of Joy” and used it as a guide post to find the Hawaiian Islands. The Arabic world called this star Al-Harithas Sama, and considered it to be the “Keeper of Heaven.”

The physical characteristics of Arcturus are staggering. It is a giant star, at the end of its life. It dwarfs our Sun in size, and that is a lot like the predicted fate of our Sun 4 or 5 billion years from now.

Swelled like a balloon as its hydrogen fuel has been converted to mostly helium, Arcturus would suck up the orbit of Venus if place in our Solar System. Another comparison is our Sun being the size of a garden pea (800,000 miles wide), and Arcturus the size of a cantaloupe (200 million miles wide)

Because Arcturus is a rather close star to us, no doubt it will be one of the first star surfaces to be imaged by future space telescopes. It is already suspected that “star spots” are the cause of some light energy output anomalies, the equivalent of sunspots on our own star.

The eventual fate of Arcturus will be exploding into a supernova as the nuclear furnace runs haywire and destroys the star. Its atomic elements will be flung into outer space to be reconstituted somewhere into maybe another star, a cloudy nebula, a planet or even a human.

After all, we are all made of star dust.

Arcturus is a mere 36.7 Light Years away from our Sun. In round numbers, that’s 37 x 6 trillion miles, or 222 trillion miles away—just a stone’s throw in astronomical terms.

Arcturus was in the newspaper headline news in 1933 when the “Century of Progress” Exposition was conducted in Chicago. At the grand opening, a telescope was used to focus starlight onto a “futuristic” photovoltaic cell to generate energy to power flood lights. At that time, it was thought that Arcturus was 40 Light Years away, and that was a tie-in to the previous Chicago fair in 1893, four decades before.

Tonight, in this Summer of 2008, the light that strikes your eyes left the surface of Arcturus in 1971. Someday when the star blows up it will be seen in the daylight and cast a shadow on the ground at night.

That might happen in 10 years or 10,000 years or 10 million years. But a supernova Arcturus will someday be...and that will put this special star back in the headlines!
Celestial events in the skies for the week of Apr. 24-30, 2018 as compiled for The Loafer by Mark D. Marquette.

Tuesday, April 24
On this 1970 date in space history, China became the fifth space-faring nation by launching their first satellite. Today, China has an escalated manned space program that has already orbited nine men and two women, occupied two small space stations and have announced plans for a permanent space station anchoring trips to the Moon.

Wednesday, April 25
Happy 28th birthday Hubble Space Telescope! It was on this date in 1990 when Space Shuttle Discovery deployed the telescope with a 96-inch mirror into orbit 450 miles above the Earth. Five service missions by Shuttles have lengthened the life of the amazing Hubble. One of the most important scientific instruments built by man, Hubble has just a few years left before being plunged in the atmosphere to a fiery destruction.

Thursday, April 26
On this 1993 date in space history, Space Shuttle Columbia was launched on the STS-55 Spacelab mission that kept seven astronauts busy for 10 days in cargo bay laboratory. The brightest star in the sky, Sirius, is skirting the southwest horizon, making its swan song.

Friday, April 27
The pre-dawn sky if filled with planets straddling the Milky Way. Looking south after 4 am until sunrise you will see from right to left: Jupiter, the red star Antares in Scorpius, the Milky Way, Saturn and Mars. These three planets will be in prime location in the late Summer and Fall, so you have plenty of time to see them in a telescope.

Saturday, April 28
Full Moon is Sunday night, but you'll think it’s tonight the way everyone will be acting. In 1991, STS-39 Discovery was launched on a Department of Defense mission with seven astronauts deploying several satellites for national security.

Sunday, April 29
Full Moon is at 8:58 pm, and it has a lot of names this late in Spring including Flower Moon, Green Grass, Duck Egg and Return-of-Birds Moon! It won't be a “Super Moon” because it is not at the closet point to Earth in its orbit, but it will be beautiful and a welcome site on a Spring evening.

Monday, April 30
That bright “star” near the Moon tonight is the planet Jupiter. The Big Dipper is just a part of the much larger constellation Ursa Major, the Big Bear. But these seven stars, that are called The Plough in Europe, are among the most recognized asterism in the night sky. Of course, “the pointer stars” of the outside bowl, Merak and Dubhe, guide us to the North Star, Polaris, in the Little Dipper, again, just a part of the Little Bear.
In 1953 Warner Brothers pictures released “The Beast From 20,000 Fathoms,” a low-budget monster movie with creature effects by Ray Harryhausen. “Fathoms” was a surprise success at the box office, it was also one of the first in the wave of 1950s “Giant monster caused by atomic radiation” movies. Warners followed up the surprise hit with “Them!” the following year. “Them!” was the first movie to invent the “radiation making giant bugs” trope—that would soon be knocked off by almost every studio in Hollywood. With an increased budget, “Them!” would be an even bigger box office hit for Warner Brothers—becoming one of their top grossing films of 1954.

A wave of “giant bug” movies soon flooded the market. Bert I. Gordon, who made a few films with giant creatures and giant humans made “The Beginning of The End”—where giant grasshoppers took over Chicago. Universal made “Tarantula” and “The Deadly Mantis.” Then Warner Brothers themselves went back to the giant bug well in 1957 with “The Black Scorpion” which has just had its blu-ray debut from those cinematic treasure collectors Warner Archive. “Black Scorpion” was designed from the get-go, it seems, to capture the same audiences that went to see “Them!” and “Beast From 20,000 Fathoms” mentioning both films in the movie’s trailer.

The plot of “The Black Scorpion” is simple and right within the formula of movies like these. An earthquake strikes Mexico, creating a new volcano overnight. Two geologists are dispatched to examine this new volcano, on the way there, they find a path of destruction. Long story short (too late), the volcano’s creation and subsequent eruptions have unleashed giant, prehistoric scorpions onto the land. Chaos ensues, and plans are hatched to dispose of the awful beasts for good.

You’re enjoyment of “The Black Scorpion” will vary on how much you like films of this type, and in many ways, one thing I noticed about “The Black Scorpion” is that it hits many of the same beats plot-wise as “Them!” I wonder if maybe that’s why WB waited a few years to put this one out, instead of rushing it after the “Them!” craze. One of the most impressive parts of this low-budget fun fest—and it is fun—is the stop-motion effect work that co-designed by a pioneer of the art—Willis O’Brien, who did the animation work on the original “King Kong.”

Warner Archive’s blu-ray of “The Black Scorpion” looks fantastic! The film's black and white image is sharp and defined, with a fine grain pattern that suits the material perfectly. The films looks far better than its low budget would have you to think. Audio is clear and asharp, thanks to a 2.0 DTS-HD Master Audio Mono soundtrack. There’s some very nice bonus features including “Stop-Motion Masters” with the great Harryahusen, footage of some tests done by one of animators who worked on “The Black Scorpion” and Harryhausen animated sequences from Irwin Allen’s 1956 film “The Animal World.”

This was a great addition to the B movie blu-ray line up that Warner Archive delightfully dips into from time to time—like last year’s beloved surprise release of the killer tree movie “From Hell It Came.” For fans of this material, who never imagined they’d see something like this get an HD release—it’s an essential buy. Taking a 1950s monster movie, and giving it all the usual polish you’d expect from any release by Warner Archive. See you next week.
Lost In Space

Danger Will Robinson! A new version of the 1960's science fiction television series "Lost in Space" is currently playing on Netflix, and I couldn't be happier. The original series ran on CBS from 1965 to 1968 and actually had higher ratings than rival space show "Star Trek" which ran on NBC. Of course we all know despite attracting little attention in its initial run, "Star Trek" moved on to become a pop phenomenon. On the other hand, "Lost in Space" languished in reruns after its network run, and attracted far less attention that Spock and company, but did reappear in comic book form in 1991, and featured stories co-written by the original Will Robinson Bill Mumy. I actually have said comics, and they are excellent. After the comic book ended it run, "Lost in Space" didn't return in any form until 1998 with the release of a big screen effort featuring William Hurt and Gary Oldman. It was hoped the film would start a franchise, but the tepid box office and less-than-stellar reviews led New Line Cinema to abandon the idea. I will say despite the failed cinematic effort, Gary Oldman was an excellent Dr. Smith.

2004 saw an attempt to revive the series with "The Robinsons" Lost in Space", which can be viewed on YouTube. I watched the pilot and enjoyed it, and was a bit puzzled why no network picked up the show. Flash forward to 2018, and fans like myself are delighted to see a new version running on Netflix. All the familiar characters are on hand, led by John Robinson (Toby Stephens), Maureen Robinson (Molly Parker), Judy Robinson (Taylor Robinson), Penny Robinson (Mina Sundwall), Will Robinson (Maxwell Jenkins), Don West (Ignacio Serricchio), and Dr. Smith, played by Parker Posey. The switch in sex for the character, ala "Battlestar Galactica’s" Starbuck, was clever, but without giving away a spoiler, is not what it seems. The beloved robot is also on hand, this time appearing very android-like in appearance, but does play homage to the original in a very clever way. The first episode of the series reveals humanity may be on the brink of extinction after a large meteor crashes to Earth. The story is set in the year 2046 and with all the advanced technology leading to a stellar space program, the Resolute is a huge craft holding various Jupiter Pods that are being launched into space to colonize a new world.

The Robinson’s have been picked for the 24th trip of the Resolute, but as with the original series plans go haywire, and the family and other must evacuate the Resolute via their Jupiter pods. The Robinsons are aboard the Jupiter 2, and along with other Jupiter pods, crash land on an unknown, but habitable planet, after being hurled through a rip in space. Once on the planet, the real adventure begins, with the family not only facing internal conflict, but external as well. On the planet, the family crosses paths with West, Dr. Smith, and the robot, none of which were on the Jupiter 2. For a change, the family is not perfect, and John and Maureen have even contemplated divorce, something the couples from the other versions of "Lost in Space" would never dream of. In this version Don West is a roughneck mechanical engineer, who also smuggles luxury goods. How very Han Solo like. Maureen is no mere housewife in this version, as her character is a brave and brilliant aerospace engineer, and I love the change in her character. In the new version, John is a former U.S. Marine pilot, and is father to two of the children, and step-father to the third. While I do love all these updates to the characters, they are still the Robinsons. Unlike a cinematic effort, the show has plenty of time to flesh out the characters, and with top notch special effects, every episode is like a mini movie. The show also features an updated chariot, so the Robinsons can venture out on their new world via foot and vehicle. There is even a nod to Debbie, the pet of Penny in the original series. Let me just say this Debbie is very different, and does provide some comic relief. The new show still features strange creatures, bizarre landscapes, all the adventure we expect from "Lost in Space". The actors are all marvelous, with Posey leading the way as the venomous and scheming Dr. Smith. Aside from my love for the charming original, I really love and am impressed with this version of "Lost in Space". I hope Netflix takes us on several years of adventures with The Robinsons. After all, there are countless worlds to explore and many aliens to encounter.
For this week’s article, we want to venture high atop one of Cincinnati’s most prominent hilltops and check out the two-story Greek Revival house that sits there and is a reminder of the elegant era when wealthier people here could escape the dirt, heat, smoke and crowded conditions of the lower city. This house built circa 1835 is the birthplace and childhood home of William Howard Taft, the 27th President of the United States and the 10th Chief Justice of the United States. The Taft house is located on approximately 3 acres of land and receives around 15,000 visitors a year. There are currently two building on the property, the main house and the Taft Education Center, that provides an overview of the property with history and contains the park offices. Before going to the house, it is best for visitors to first stop here and read the display and information made available. Here you can also talk to a Park Ranger and sign up for the guided tour. Before heading over to the house, it is good to know that the house is two levels with tall narrow staircases. Difficulty in movement or people who cannot walk up or down stairs easily will want to mention this to the Ranger so that you may stay on the first floor of the house.

When first entering the house, you will start out on the first floor. Here you will notice the tall ceilings and the long narrow hallways adorned with the period wallpapers of when Taft lived in the house. In each of the five rooms on the first floor open to the public, you will find many family portraits and pictures hanging on the walls. These items belong to the Taft family and are on loan to the National Park Service, but most of the other furnishings inside the rooms are pieces from the era but did not actually belong to the Taft family. A few of the items although are authentic Taft family heirlooms and are treasures to look at. Here on the first floor, you will be able to view the family sitting room, the music room, library/office room and a couple other multi-purpose rooms used by the family. On this floor, pay special attention to the window frames, the tile fireplaces, the lighting fixtures and wooden staircases. These are all original to the house and still in great condition.

As you finish the first floor and wind up the stairs to the second floor, here you are on your own as there is no guided tour of this floor. The room are vacant of furnishings but are all full of interpretive displays of Taft’s life and career. These displays will take you through the many different careers that Taft held before his time in the White House and after. Here you will find displays and information on Taft when he started out in law practicing as a prominent attorney and then being promoted to the bench as a judge while only still in his twenties. You’ll see items Taft returned with him when he was the civilian governor of the Philippines, like the wood and leather chair set he had custom designed with this initials in the back of it.

In another room, you will find the path to the White House. The campaign buttons, fliers, ribbons and other items used in the 1908 election. Taft’s personal bible that he used in the swearing in at the Capitol to become President, and later used for his swearing in as Chief Justice, is on display here. You’ll see actual programs from the inauguration ceremony and photos of Taft as he starts his journey as America’s 27th President.

After Taft left the White House, he didn’t feel as if his career was done and that he had more to offer to the citizens. He went back to Yale as a professor to teach and then in 1921, President Harding appointed him Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. This is a position that Taft had sought for so long and he was finally there. Only holding the position for 9 years before resigning due to failing health, Taft died the month after and was interred in Arlington National Cemetery. There is a display to show Taft’s tenure as Chief Justice and how he wanted to change America for the better.

As with most historic Presidential homes, after the family leaves they change hands and ownerships time and time again. This change causes damage and by 1961, the house was in poor condition and needed restoration, to the tune of $92,500. It was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1964. A ceremony on September 15, 1964 (William’s 107th birthday), celebrated the home becoming a National Historic Landmark. The association gained full title to the house in 1968 and in 1969 transferred it to the National Park Service, which currently operates the site as a historic house museum, so that its future upkeep is ensured. The United States government took the property title on November 1, 1970. Since then, the house has been open to the public to come and tour and look into the life before, during and after, William Howard Taft.
The Tennessee Department of Health, Rabies Control Service has scheduled Rabies Vaccination Clinics throughout Sullivan County for Thursday, May 3rd, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “Rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal that occurs in wild animals like raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes. Domestic animals account for less than 10% of the reported cases with cats, cattle, and dogs most often reported rabid.”

“In 2017 Tennessee reported 36 animals positive for rabies. Of those 36 animals there were 1 cat, 2 fox, 5 raccoons, 1 dog, 10 bats, and 17 skunks. Sullivan County reported no positives for 2017 while Johnson County reported 5 raccoons and 1 skunk positive for rabies. Greene County reported 5 skunks and 1 bat. Hawkins County reported 1 skunk positive. Since January of 2018 there have been 11 positive cases of rabies statewide. Of those 11 cases Sullivan County has reported 1 skunk positive. Neighboring Greene County has also reported 1 skunk positive. Other counties reporting positives include Hamblen, Jefferson, Rutherford, Williamson and Maury Counties. Maury County had 1 positive dog. To date all other positives have been skunks.” stated Jerry Taylor, Environmental Health Specialist with the Tennessee Department of Health. Taylor also stated that it is essential to have all of your pets, both, outdoor and indoor, vaccinated against rabies. Tennessee State law requires that all dogs and cats three (3) months of age or older must receive and maintain current rabies vaccinations. Rabies vaccinations will be offered at a reduced rate of $10.00 per vaccination. For more information regarding Rabies vaccinations for your pets, call Jerry Taylor with the Tennessee Department of Health at 423-279-1616 extension 4.
Considered one of railroading’s most interesting periods, sophisticated and timeless trains from the age of streamlining will operate in miniature form at Heritage Day on April 28.

East Tennessee State University’s George L. Carter Railroad Museum will highlight the unique steam and diesel locomotives stylized for eye-catching beauty during the 1935-1950 era.

“The Great Depression was perhaps the greatest catalyst for these changes to some of the nation’s best-known railroad operations,” recalls Geoff Stunkard, coordinator of the museum’s Heritage Days program. “The railroads were desperate for traffic, and this modernization was one way to get attention.”

Some of the best-known industrial designers were called on to do the re-stylings, which sometimes included entire trains from front to rear. Other instances were more rudimentary, with creative locomotive shop forces executing home-built designs. Regardless, many lines ended up with at least one steam locomotive meeting this criteria, and mass production of diesel locomotives just before the war and afterward would see the widespread use of streamlined power until a more utilitarian design became fashionable.

“The success of the new diesel engine designs used for these colorful trains convinced many in railroad management that it was indeed the wave of the future,” Stunkard said. “Others created custom shrouds for their steam locomotives. The World War that started in the 1940s precluded any major changes going forward, but it was an amazing era of development.”

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, some bringing in a mix of personal and not-often-seen trains to benefit the day’s visitors. Two of the four operating model layouts will feature these trains in action, though all layouts will be operational for this event.

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.
LAPEL LIMITATION

You’ve heard the term ‘less is more’; this is the opportune time to apply that term. Regulate accessories to one per area of the body. Stick to a lapel pin; keep jewelry to either a watch or ring; and shoelaces in a bold hue.

CAUSAL ELEVATION

Donning casual attire isn’t your opportunity to become indolent. Even with a white tee and a pair of chinos, you can elevate your silhouette with your wristwear of choice. I recommend a cuff bracelet in a silver hue; this will elevate your style while still remaining casual and with minimal effort.

DON’T MAKE AN ACCESSORY OUT OF YOURSELF

If you’re going to give the middle finger, put a ring on it.

LURID LACE

A clever approach to putting those laces in place is to exchange the typical brown and black laces to something more lucid and interesting. Opt for shoelaces with hues of greens, reds, blues, yellows; colors that will be quite the conversation starter.

Biker Notice

Runs, Rides and Bike Nights
Sponsored by Bear’s Bar

This will be a new addition to The Loafer. Just like the bands in Spotlight and the Karaoke events, we are adding a new section to let folks know about events in our biker community. To list your upcoming ride or event, please email details and basic info to info@theloaferonline.com. A contact name and phone are mandatory as are date, time, etc.
MERLEFEST continued from page 5

During the festival, the Little Pickers Stage offers great performances geared towards entertaining kids and their families. The Little Pickers Family Area is enhanced with crafts, face-painting, games, storytelling, a large grassy play area, and the opportunity to take pictures with MerleFest’s official mascot, Flattop the raccoon. Because of the emphasis on family, many children have grown up among the MerleFest stages, later becoming performers themselves and returning with their own kids back to participate in this legendary weekend of music.

Beginners and yogis alike are welcome to start their day with a little Downward Facing Dog; a yoga class will be offered on Friday at 9:30 a.m. on the Dance Stage. The Nature Walks of the gardens and forest on the WCC campus are offered on Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the festival.

“For those wanting an affordable weekend getaway, MerleFest provides a true value to its customers,” said festival director Ted Hagaman. “The admission prices are extremely reasonable – especially considering that we feature over 120 acts on 13 stages. Also, there are no hidden charges. We provide free parking, a free shuttle that will deliver you to the entrance, a free program guide, and all children 12 and under are admitted free with a paid adult. In addition, our Little Pickers Family Area offers each child the opportunity to make crafts and participate in several interactive exhibits – all free of charge.”


Tickets for the festival may be purchased at www.MerleFest.org or by calling 1-800-343-7857. MerleFest offers a tiered pricing structure and encourages fans to take advantage of the early bird discount; Early Bird Tier 2 tickets will be on sale through April 25. Tickets will be sold using Tier 3 pricing at the gate during the festival.
Splotches

You just can’t get enough
As soon as you think it is complete
More words spill out
I have surpassed bottles
Moving on to half gallons
Which I seem to knock over frequently
Laughing at my own clumsiness
This in just drips
From page to page
No medium is safe
It stains everything it comes into contact with
But I can’t be sorry
To clean it would be a travesty
I will simply sit here
Observe it scatter and bleed
Watching how it moves
Until the container is empty
I will lay all the sheets out to dry
While I head to the store
Time to replenish my inventory

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

Answers on page 30

DROP QUOTE

CRYPTOGRAM

R ZAIRAUA EA LXA YS LS RXXAUAXDRZIA OXASC OYELXC KYXA HXAACYK

LSC CAKYTXLTO - ZGO OFLO TYGIC TFLSWA.

— Dan Quayle
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

Chance is a 2 year old Terrier mix. He is neutered and up to date on all vaccines. Very sweet and friendly dog!

Fresca, this sweetie has been at the shelter for a long time and is ready for her furrever home!! Such a good girl and deserves a loving family!!
**THINGS TO DO**

**Johnson City Community Drum Circle**

The Johnson City Community Drum Circle meets every Wednesday evenings through October 24, 7pm - 8:30pm, inside the Farmers Market Pavilion next to Founders Park. Everyone is welcome and any body can play. Come drum, hoop/holler, dance, or just relax and take in the scene, no experience or “talent” necessary. There are shared instruments and of course you can bring your own drums or percussion. It’s all improvised, so there are no mistakes. We just smile and keep playing. Shine or rain, the pavilion has us covered. Bring your own seating!

**Train excursion & Riverboat cruise**

The George L. Carter Railroad Museum at East Tennessee State University and the George L. Carter Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society will sponsor a scenic train excursion and riverboat cruise. For more information, contact Carolyn Gregg at carolynngregg55@yahoo.com, 423-639-3966 or 423-329-4369.

**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.

**Volunteer and Make a BIG Impact**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Tri-Cities 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.

Find out more about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Tri-Cities at 423-247-3240, or visit TennesseeBig.org.

**The Cleverlys to perform Free Concert**

The Cleverlys, a faux family band that mixes comedy and musicianship in a unique fusion it calls “GrassHipPop,” will perform a free public concert at East Tennessee State University on Wednesday, April 25. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. in the D.P. Culp University Center’s Martha Street Culp Auditorium. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. Doors will open at 6:15 p.m.

The Cleverlys, comprised of Digger Cleverly and his nephews, Ricky Lloyd, Sock, DVD and STD, have traveled the globe – if the globe consisted of the United States – performing at a variety of music venues and festivals, such as Stagecoach, Telluride and CMA Fest, as well as the Grand Ole Opry.

A clear bag policy will be enforced, and all patrons will be subject to search by metal detector. For complete concert policy information, visit https://www.etsu.edu/students/sorc/documents/cleverlys_ticket_info.pdf.

**Open call for athletes to “audition” for Olympic sport**

Do you think you have what it takes to come out at the elite level in sports? The Olympic Training Site at East Tennessee State University wants to hear from you. The ETSU Next Olympic Hopeful Tryout will be held Saturday, May 26, and is open to anyone ages 14 and up. The event will be held at Science Hill High School’s Kermit Tipton Stadium from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Check-in will begin at 10 a.m. Tests to be performed at the event include a 30-meter sprint, vertical jump and maximum pull-ups. Optional tests are the one-mile run and three-repetition maximum back squat. There is no cost to participate but pre-registration is required. The registration deadline is Sunday, May 20.

**Birding Kingsport**

Birding Kingsport, a club formed to connect area birders with all things birds, will meet Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at Toy F. Reid Eastman Employee Center, 400 S. Wilcox Drive, Kingsport, at 7:00 in Room 225. Gary Bailey, well-known area birder, will present the program ‘Alaska Adventures in Birding’. For more information see birdingkingsport.org.

**Abracadabra: The Magic of Reading Revealed**

Nationally-acclaimed magician and online video sensation Justin Flom has appeared on Ellen, network late-night shows, and The Today Show, and will appear in Southwest Virginia on April 28th. Magician Justin Flom is scheduled to perform to benefit United Way of Southwest Virginia at “Abracadabra: The Magic of Reading Revealed” on April 28 at Emory & Henry McGlothlin Center for the Arts. Tickets are available now to this family-friendly event at unitedwayswva.org/magic.

**Cryptogram:** I believe we are on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy - but that could change.

**DropQuote:** “By letting it go it all gets done. The world is won by those who let it go. But when you try and try. The world is beyond the winning.”

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**Train excursion & Riverboat cruise**

The George L. Carter Railroad Museum located in the Campus Center Building at ETSU and open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or by visiting www.memrr.org and clicking on “NRHS Excursions” and “Excursions.” A signed liability waiver form must accompany the ticket request. Payment may be made by check or money order payable to the G.L. Carter Chapter, NRHS, and mailed to G.L. Carter Chapter, NRHS; attn.: Carolyn Gregg, 460 Plainview Heights Circle, Greeneville, TN 37745. Space is limited and tickets must be purchased no later than May 7. For more information, contact Carolyn Gregg at carolynngregg55@yahoo.com, 423-639-3966 or 423-329-4369.

**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.

**Volunteer and Make a BIG Impact**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Tri-Cities 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.

Find out more about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Tri-Cities at 423-247-3240, or visit TennesseeBig.org.

**The Cleverlys to perform Free Concert**

The Cleverlys, a faux family band that mixes comedy and musicianship in a unique fusion it calls “GrassHipPop,” will perform a free public concert at East Tennessee State University on Wednesday, April 25. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. in the D.P. Culp University Center’s Martha Street Culp Auditorium. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. Doors will open at 6:15 p.m.

The Cleverlys, comprised of Digger Cleverly and his nephews, Ricky Lloyd, Sock, DVD and STD, have traveled the globe – if the globe consisted of the United States – performing at a variety of music venues and festivals, such as Stagecoach, Telluride and CMA Fest, as well as the Grand Ole Opry.

A clear bag policy will be enforced, and all patrons will be subject to search by metal detector. For complete concert policy information, visit https://www.etsu.edu/students/sorc/documents/cleverlys_ticket_info.pdf.

**Open call for athletes to “audition” for Olympic sport**

Do you think you have what it takes to come out at the elite level in sports? The Olympic Training Site at East Tennessee State University wants to hear from you. The ETSU Next Olympic Hopeful Tryout will be held Saturday, May 26, and is open to anyone ages 14 and up. The event will be held at Science Hill High School’s Kermit Tipton Stadium from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Check-in will begin at 10 a.m. Tests to be performed at the event include a 30-meter sprint, vertical jump and maximum pull-ups. Optional tests are the one-mile run and three-repetition maximum back squat. There is no cost to participate but pre-registration is required. The registration deadline is Sunday, May 20.

**Birding Kingsport**

Birding Kingsport, a club formed to connect area birders with all things birds, will meet Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at Toy F. Reid Eastman Employee Center, 400 S. Wilcox Drive, Kingsport, at 7:00 in Room 225. Gary Bailey, well-known area birder, will present the program ‘Alaska Adventures in Birding’. For more information see birdingkingsport.org.

**Abracadabra: The Magic of Reading Revealed**

Nationally-acclaimed magician and online video sensation Justin Flom has appeared on Ellen, network late-night shows, and The Today Show, and will appear in Southwest Virginia on April 28th. Magician Justin Flom is scheduled to perform to benefit United Way of Southwest Virginia at “Abracadabra: The Magic of Reading Revealed” on April 28 at Emory & Henry McGlothlin Center for the Arts. Tickets are available now to this family-friendly event at unitedwayswva.org/magic.

**Cryptogram:** I believe we are on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy - but that could change.

**DropQuote:** “By letting it go it all gets done. The world is won by those who let it go. But when you try and try. The world is beyond the winning.”
I nearly let Jazz Appreciation Month pass me by, so I want to catch what little is left of it before we make our journey into May. Of course, I believe we should celebrate jazz every month. Before we begin our exploration, however, let’s agree on a working definition, while keeping in mind an observation attributed to Louis Armstrong that if you need to ask what jazz is you will never know. For me, jazz is the musical equivalent of C. S. Lewis’ oft-quoted statement that “You can’t change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.” Jazz is basically learning to do something new with what you have been given and refusing to follow the directions.

Although we probably are born with a sense of rhythm, we are not born with a preference for any particular type of music. Like most things in life, we learn to have preferences, and we are products of our choices. I can’t pinpoint the moment when I was introduced to jazz. Obviously becoming a musician was a start, and from the time my parents bought a Hammond Organ, music has become the underlying soundtrack for my life, especially after I heard Earl Grant’s incredible performance of “Swingin’ Gently” (before you read another word of this column, listen to this right now!). Maybe my writing a research paper on the music of J.S. Bach in my high school English class was an influence, because from that paper I discovered that Bach improvised many of his organ preludes and service music; that, by definition, makes him a jazz musician. The recording that led me down the path toward my current passion for jazz was Ramsey Lewis’ 1965 funky piano instrumental version of Dobie Gray’s “The In Crowd.” Shortly after this I was introduced to flautist Herbie Mann and became entranced by his renditions of pop standards. And then I began to understand that many of my favorite pop musicians, from the Doors and Blood, Sweat, and Tears, to the Allman Brothers and Chicago, were in effect jazz musicians. The only drawback at the time was I didn’t have anyone from which I could learn any jazz licks or chord substitutions other than the “Pointer System” chord lessons that came with my Hammond Organ. And thank goodness for these rudimentary lessons that showed me how chords form the foundation for musical performance. Everything I perform today is a testament to the influence of those slender blue books filled with chords.

The essential thing about learning to appreciate jazz is to listen to as many examples as possible and then picking out what you like and don’t like, understanding of course that what you dislike today may turn out to be your favorite thing tomorrow. I remember very strongly disliking Dizzy Gillespie when I first heard his bop renditions. I simply couldn’t understand how anyone could like stuff like “Salt Peanuts.” Today, after listening to countless jazz performances, I love Dizzy Gillespie and appreciate what he is doing. There are jazz performers I like better than Dizzy, but at least I have found an appreciation for something I didn’t care for at all “back in the day.” There is no excuse today for not giving yourself a jazz education. After all, you carry the world’s greatest jazz performances around in your pocket every day. Your smartphone is the world’s largest and most complete jazz club, and it is a crime not to take advantage of all this abundance. How can you not love a world that contains the joy (and the sadness) offered by people like Miles Davis, Bill Evans, Thelonious Monk, Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, Herbie Hancock, Wes Montgomery, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Shirley Scott, Jimmy Smith, Kenny Burrell, Art Farmer, and countless others. Just take a look at Art Kan’s iconic 1958 photograph, “A Great Day In Harlem,” and witness the “Big Bang” of jazz history. This picture is the jazz equivalent of the quintessential Beatles’ “Sgt. Pepper” album cover.

There are those who like to tell us that jazz is dead and no longer relevant. And these same people will tell us that the obituary for jazz was written in the early 1960s. Needless to say, I don’t believe this, and can disprove it by referring you to my AppleMusic playlist, which contains all sorts of music in addition to my extensive jazz curations. If you believe jazz is dead, take a listen to a few of the recordings release during the last two or three years—a list that includes, among many other fine examples, Esperanza Spalding, Scott Reeves Jazz Orchestra, Scott Bradley’s Postmodern Jukebox, Mike Clark and Delbert Bump’s “Retro Report,” Brad Mehldau, “After Bach,” Hush Point, The Nels Cline 4, Detroit Jazz City, Albare, the Vijay Iyer Sextet, and Diana Krall (who is married to Elvis Costello, a whole genre all by himself). And, while you’re at it, take a listen to guitarist Bill Frisell’s award-winning new album “Music IS.” A wondrous joy to behold.

Jazz is therefore a perpetual blending of the old and the new, And we have never had the ability like we do now to sample every significant recording in jazz’s long history. In the finest and most thought-provoking meditation on the meaning of jazz, Geoff Dyer’s BUT BEAUTIFUL: A BOOK ABOUT JAZZ (1996), we come across this eloquent and suggestive passage about the symbiotic relationship between the old and new in jazz: “The ongoing influence of the tradition ensures that past masters are present throughout the music’s evolution and development. Old recordings, meanwhile, are digitally remastered and repackaged to make them sound and look like new, and some of the newest-sounding music is that which is most saturated in the past. Ideas of forward and backward, the sense of the past and present, of old and new dreams, begin to dissolve into each other in the twilight of perpetual noon.” Couldn’t the same be said of all music (and art, literature, etc.)?

See you next week.
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