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Thursday Dec. 6
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LOFT TOURS

A self-guided tour of the beautiful Downtown Kingsport lofts decorated for the holidays.

December 2
2pm - 5pm | Tickets $25

Tickets on sale now at downtownkingsport.org or the Downtown Kingsport Association Office, located at 229 Broad Street.
Happy November!!! I love the Holidays, it’s my favorite time of the year. So the next few weeks make sure to check out all the great things going on in our community. I can’t believe it’s already been two months since The Loafer became part of our family. We have loved laying it out each week, getting to know new clients and are so thankful for all the support of our community. We will be having great gift ideas for those special people in your life, as well as great music and plays to go see. Let’s not forget the less fortunate this time of the year! As you know we sponsor an Adopt a Veteran event at Christmas time. We give them Christmas!! They fought for our country and this is the very least we can do for them to make their holiday a little better. If you would like more information or would like to help please call our office. Don’t forget to pick up Tri-Cities BEST Home Magazine that is on stands now and Tri-Cities Eats Magazine!! Always support our local businesses.

Happy Holidays!!

Kimberly Dugger
Publisher
MEET THE STAFF

KATLIN BUCHANAN
OFFICE ASSISTANT
"She is Clothed in Strength and Dignity and She Laughs Without Fear of The Future"
Proverbs 31:25

JACLYN LAW
OFFICE MANAGER
"Laughter is timeless, Imagination has no age, and dreams are forever" -Walt Disney

LORI HOWELL
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

KIMBERLY DUGGER
PUBLISHER
"Behind every successful woman is a tribe of other successful women who have her back."

HALEY HOPKINS
DISTRIBUTION, TRI-CITIES BEST HOME MAGAZINE & TRI-CITIES EATS

LEONA GRACIA
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

MARIA LOVELADY
INSIDE SALES
“Creativity is intelligence having fun” -Albert Einstein
It's early Thanksgiving morning, the sun is coming up slowly, and I'm thinking about all of the things I'm thankful for this year. I love to take this time to reflect, to think back on the year behind, but also to the year ahead. I have a big year ahead. 2019 will bring the opening of my first restaurant. I moved to Johnson City in the summer of 2016. After long conversations about our future, our values, and our dreams, my wife turned down a job at Johns Hopkins University in favor of a job at East Tennessee University in Johnson City, TN, a place I, quite honestly, had only heard of in the Old Crow Medicine Show song. Before we made our decision, I only had to visit Johnson City for a single day to fall in love with the beautiful mountains, the quaint downtown, and the Tree Streets neighborhood, where we now live. I knew I could bring my skills here, could thrive here, could offer something special after all of my training in fine dining kitchens across the country.

After falling in love with cooking at The National in Athens, GA, I spent time in the kitchens that most interested me, including Five & Ten (Athens, GA), The Roosevelt and Dutch & Co. (Richmond, VA), Luksus/Tørst (Brooklyn, NY), AMASS (Copenhagen, Denmark), and The Willows Inn (Lummi Island, WA). I didn't know where all this training would take me, but I chased it hungrily, always learning, seeking out techniques and ingredients I hadn't seen before, eager to grow as a chef and future restaurant owner.

If you're a chef of a certain mindset, opening your own restaurant is the goal you aspire to as soon as you have your feet under you at your first job. For so many opaque reasons, as in so many industries, you have a few forks in the road on your way to a successful career. Will you open a small “chef’s tasting menu” place, tucked away in an intimate, tiny building, charging lots of money to reveal “your vision” to a small and wealthy clientele? Will you open a casual, high-volume restaurant, with a large kitchen, lots of cooks, and a low food cost (read: cheap ingredients)? Perhaps your calling is a “neighborhood” place, often considered the holy grail of good restaurants, where the staff know everyone’s name, the food is excellent, and the clientele are a lovely mix of regulars and new guests.

After completing a 7-month pop-up restaurant, “The Orchard Mason” inside of Dos Gatos Coffee Bar, the opportunity for my first project came calling. It would be called “Timber!” and would be on West Walnut Street. I’ve been thrilled to share details for some time now, and you’re among the first to read about them here. Not only will the restaurant be taking over a beloved space, The Acoustic Coffee House, and repurposing it into a full bar with beer, wine, and cocktails, but it will serve high quality, accessible food, focused on providing something for everyone, whether they be seeking vegan, vegetarian, or omnivorous options. Drawing on my experiences in the great outdoors, the restaurant will be National Parks and summer camp themed, a perfect fit for a town that is just coming to collectively realize the special location it occupies, surrounded by such nearby natural beauty.

Timber! will serve food inspired by the nostalgia of summer camp, dishes like burgers and corn dogs, wedge salads, tater tots, pimento cheese, and fried chicken, but we are also working on a killer tofu sandwich, and family style vegetable sides. While currently still in the buildout stage, we can’t wait to open in 2019 to bring an exciting new restaurant to this amazing city!
The JRT Presents the Very Popular 1940s USO Christmas Show

Step back into the ‘40s era with Jonesborough Repertory Theatre’s radio station WJRT as the theatre presents its annual 1940s USO Christmas Show.

Just as America entered World War II, radio airwaves served as a key source of entertainment and news for families on the home front, as well as entertainment for the troops at home and overseas. The radio cast will be broadcasting live radio skits as well as singing and dancing to many patriotic and familiar Christmas tunes as they honor our military families with this memorable Christmas celebration of our freedom.

This production is written and directed by Jennifer Ross-Bernhardt, choreographed by Heather Allen, with band direction by Lucas Schmidt.

JRT gives special thanks to the sponsors: Denny Dentistry, Morningstar Farms, Joe Grandy, Citizens Bank, Chick-fil-A, Sonia King/Mary B. Martin.

Shows run December 6 through 16: Thursday through Monday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 and 5:00 p.m. Tickets are $16 general admission, $14 for students and seniors. There is also a special group rate for parties of 15 or more. To purchase tickets, call the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center at 423.753.1010 or go online to www.jonesboroughtheatre.com.

(JRT’s USO show is neither sponsored nor endorsed by the USO, and it’s not a fundraiser for the USO.)

The Civic Chorale presents "Celebration in Song" December 9, 2018

The Civic Chorale, under direction of its Music Director, Dr. Rodney Caldwell, will present its annual seasonal concert on Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church, 105 South Boone Street, Johnson City, Tennessee. The concert, entitled “Celebration in Song”, features works by Herbert Howells, Benjamin Britten, André Thomas, Mary McDonald, Ernani Aguiar, Norman Luboff, John Joubert, and others. There is a $10 suggested donation at the door.

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 website www.thecivicchorale.org.

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VHCC Choirs Christmas Concert-Dec. 4th
VHCC Keyser-Aday Theater 7:00
Students and Staff Free- Public $5.00 Donation appreciated

The annual concert by the VHCC Mixed Choir and Women’s Chorus has become a tradition in past years. The concert will blend sacred and secular favorites and will feature soloists and instrumentalists. The program will provide something for everyone and will put you in the Holiday spirit. Come and enjoy the wonderful music these students and community members will present. The groups are directed by Mary Munsey and accompanied by Krystal Smith on piano and Schery Collins on flute. Come at 6:45 to enjoy piano and flute by David and Schery Collins too!

VHCC Women’s Chorus-Sat. Dec. 1st
Abingdon Arts Depot 1:00
Free

Come enjoy the wonderful festive sounds of the VHCC Women’s Chorus as they perform a variety of Christmas music. For many years, this has primarily been a women’s choral group featuring the unique quality and beauty of female voices uniting in song. This group is comprised of students, faculty, staff, high school and community members. It is open to all women that like to sing. Enjoy the Art displays and refreshments while you are listening to the lovely sounds of these ladies. This event is FREE to everyone.

This group is directed by Mary Munsey and accompanied by Krystal Smith on piano and Schery Collins on flute.
Name: Lee Sullivan
Branch: Navy
Age Joined: 20
Rank: Petty Officer Second Class / E5
Years Served: 4 years

What made you want to serve our country? I wanted to do something that I could be proud of and might help others. I was in search of experience, independence, and I wanted to fulfill the sense of obligation I had to the greatest country on earth. As soon as I started thinking about the military, I really couldn’t shake the feeling that it was what I was supposed to be doing.

What advice would you give someone looking to go into the military? It is important to do research and talk to individuals who have done what you are interested in doing. Finding the right branch and job for you can be the difference between a fulfilling career and something you regret. When I would come across individuals who only joined because they wanted to go to college, they usually did not have a good time in the military. Not that there is anything wrong with taking advantage of the great benefits. But if that is the sole reason for joining... then they may be disappointed.

What's your favorite quote? “Speak softly and carry a big stick.” -Theodore Roosevelt

Did you make any close friendships while in the service? Did you continue any of those relationships? Absolutely. Some of my closest friends I met in the Military and I still keep in touch or see them when possible.

What was the best and worst 'military' food you were served, and why? I think the worst was the vegetarian pasta MRE. Best had to have been the food we had while in Jordan.

Tell me a funny story you experienced that could only happen in the military. In Basic Training, while marching in formation across the base, a guy in the front got crapped on by a gull. The RDC (Navy Drill Instructor) thought it was hilarious and had us do an extra lap around base, so he could show off his recruit that had bird dung from his shoulder to his boot.

How does your military experience affect your life today? It has made me a more resourceful and confident person. I have a better work ethic and a Stronger sense of patriotism and love for our country.

Were you awarded any medals or citations? How did you get them? Yes

Do you recall the day your service ended? Where were you? Yes. I was stationed in Virginia Beach and had recently returned from my second deployment. I said my goodbyes got in my vehicle and headed for Johnson City the same day.

What did you do in the days and weeks afterward? I enrolled at ETSU the following day and my girlfriend and I spent a memorable weekend moving into our new apartment. I spent some needed time getting settled and adjusting to my new life before starting school and work.

Where did you travel while in the service? I was Stationed in Virginia, but I ended up training across the U.S. in Illinois, Michigan, Washington, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Kentucky. I almost spent as much time out of the country as I did in it. To include Bahrain, Jordan, and Kuwait.

Do you recall your first days in service? Yes. It consisted of some of the coldest temperatures I had ever experienced, a lot of shouting, waiting, and sleep deprivation. The first several days of Boot Camp are the worst though. It felt surreal and seemed to make everyone pretty homesick.

Did you work or go back to school? Both. I am currently pursuing my bachelor’s in finance at ETSU and working part time on campus.

Is there anything you would like to add that we have not covered in this interview? God Bless America.
Imagine the year is 1900 and you are somewhere between Abingdon and Damascus, Virginia. It’s a sunny but cold day in February and all of the sudden you see black smoke shooting into the air, you hear strange “chugging” sounds, and then out of nowhere comes the loudest steam train whistle you have ever heard.

This would have been the first day that the Virginia-Carolina Railroad Company first rolled into Damascus from Abingdon, ready for business. Fast forward to 1912, and the steam train was rolling up to Whitetop, Virginia and in 1918, a full seventy-five miles into Elkland, North Carolina.

In 1957, locomotive #433 (now on display at the Abingdon trailhead) was one of the last steam engines to run on the tracks, being replaced by the newer, larger, and faster diesel engines. While these steam-powered beasts were huge in size, they were still no match for the steep grade while pulling a full load of lumber or freight up the mountain. Often one would hear the locals referring to the engines as “creeping up the slope,” coining the phrase, The Virginia Creeper. The new diesel engines would run the tracks until March 31st, 1977, when the very last “Creeper” would blow its eerie, chilling-sounding whistle before the tracks were removed later that year.

After the tracks were pulled up in 1977, the towns of Abingdon and Damascus worked with the U.S. Forest Service to acquire the land where the rails once were for use as a recreational trail. This pathway, now known as the Virginia Creeper Trail, runs for thirty-four miles from Abingdon into Damascus from Abingdon, ready for business. Fast forward to 1912, and the steam train was rolling up to Whitetop, Virginia and in 1918, a full seventy-five miles into Elkland, North Carolina.

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With the cooler fall/winter weather now here, we recently decided to ride the trail from Whitetop down to the town of Damascus. This is the easier part of the trail to ride, as most of it is downhill, allowing you to coast while enjoying the view. We highly recommend making reservations with one of the shuttle services in town. We have used Blue Blaze Shuttle Service (276.475.5095) each time we have gone to ride the trail. The staff is more than friendly, and provide the perfect bike for every age. We use their mountain bikes, and is around $27.00 each, including a free bottle of water and repair kit. With your own bike, the cost is only $17.00 to ride the shuttle to Whitetop.

After getting our bikes in Damascus and loading onto the shuttle, we enjoyed the thirty-minute ride to the top of the mountain. Here the shuttle will let you off at Whitetop Station to begin your journey. The Whitetop Station is actually at milepost 32.7, so if one wants to bike the full trail, they’ll need to go to the right and travel the 1.3 miles to milepost 34.0 at the state line with North Carolina and then turn around to start the journey down the mountain.

Although the path may be crowded at first, one will eventually be able to enjoy the ride in solitude as everyone finds their own pace. Since the trail drops almost two thousand feet in elevation as it descends the mountain, travelers are easily able to complete the route within two or three hours. In order to appreciate all the sights and sounds of the trail, however, one should travel at a slower speed, taking time to meander and enjoy the beauty of the Southern Appalachians to their fullest.

Almost the entirety of this portion of the trail lies within Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, a swathe of protected land spanning over 200,000 acres in the highest of Virginia’s peaks. Bikers cannot help but gaze in awe as massive Whitetop Mountain looms nearby. Keep your eyes on the trail too, however, as it quickly descends into the narrow and winding gorge carved out by the Whitetop Laurel River. Here in the gorge one will discover some of the most interesting historical features of the trail, which include more than twenty of the original wooden railroad trestles built to cross the wild stream. Bits of charcoal lie mixed in with the gravel of the trail, another leftover vestige of the era of the steam engines.

After passing through the community of Taylor’s Valley, the path shares its tread with another far more famous trail, none other than Appalachian Trail. This is one of the few places along its two thousand mile course that one is able to bike along the renowned footpath.

Not long after the A.T. splits away on its own course into town, the sounds of birds and waterfalls begin to be
JOHNSON CITY – The upcoming Johnson City Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 1 will be broadcast live on WJHL-TV 11.

The theme of this year’s event is “12 Days of Christmas.” The live broadcast will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will be hosted by WJHL morning news anchors Amy Lynn and Kasey Marler. The parade will also be streamed live on www.wjhl.com in addition to Facebook.

“The Blue Plum Organization is delighted to announce this partnership with WJHL,” said Jennifer Clements, member of the Blue Plum Organization and parade director. “With the live broadcast on television and Facebook, people who are unable to attend the parade will have the opportunity to be part of this annual celebration. This is a great opportunity for family members across the country to watch their loved ones participate in the parade.”

The parade will start on the ETSU campus and will cross University Parkway and travel onto W. Walnut St. Turning onto Buffalo Street, the parade will cross East State of Franklin and continue down East Main Street. The route will then turn onto Colonial Way and conclude in the Old Burley Lot at the corner of Legion Street and East State of Franklin. First-, second- and third-place prizes will be presented as part of the “Best Float” competition.

Leading “12 Days of Christmas” will be the grand marshal, which will be selected from a pool of nominations from the community.

For more information, contact blueplumdirector@gmail.com or visit www.jcchristmasparade.org.
If you or your band are playing in the upcoming week and would like to be in The Spotlight, go online to: theloaferonline.com. Due to last minute cancellations or changes, please call the location to confirm.

**Spotlight**

- **TUESDAY - Nov. 27**
  - Downtown Country
    - Jiggy Rays in Elizabethton 6:30pm
  - Stemwinder Band
    - Rocks Wood Fired Pizza and Grill 6pm

- **WEDNESDAY - Nov. 28**
  - Open Mic Night
    - The Willow Tree Coffeehouse & Music Room
  - H.B. Beverly
    - Rocks Wood Fired Pizza and Grill 6:30pm
  - Open Bluegrass Jam
    - Gypsy Circus Cider Company 6:30pm
  - KARAOKE NIGHT Presented by LIMELIGHT
    - Wonderland Lounge/Bar N Grill 6:30pm

- **THURSDAY - Nov. 29**
  - Steve Earle w/The Mastersons
    - Paramount Bristol 8pm
  - Karaoke with Big Mac & T-Mac!
    - C.J.'s Sports Bar 8pm
  - Jam w/the Tom Peterson Quartet
    - Wellington’s Restaurant 8pm

- **FRIDAY - Nov. 30**
  - Thomas Willard
    - The Jonesborough Barrel HOUSE J onesborough TN 6pm
  - Iliad LIVE
    - Gypsy Circus Cider Company 7pm
  - Country Band Showcase
    - The Down Home 7pm
  - 99.3 The X’s Holiday ALTercation
    - The Paramount Center for the Arts 7pm
  - Tom’s Handgun w/ Loose Leaves
    - Bloom Cafe and Listening Room 8pm
  - Matt Smile
    - Quaker Steak and Lube Bristol, VA 8pm
  - Holiday Music with H.B. Beverly
    - Blackbird Bakery 8pm
  - Caleb Caudle w/Earleine
    - The Willow Tree Coffeehouse and Music Room 8pm

- **SATURDAY - Dec. 1**
  - Railway Express
    - Holston River Brewing Company 9pm
  - King Hitter w/RevLow & Archaic Knowledge
    - Capone’s 9pm
  - A November To Remember w/ Area 52
    - C.J.’s Sports Bar 9pm
  - Pocket Change Band
    - The Country Club Bar & Grill 9:30 PM
  - Jon Charles Dwyer, Jesse Lewis, & Jacob Moore
    - The Hideaway 10pm
  - Jack’d up LIVE at the Wing!
    - Wild Wing Cafe JC 10pm
  - Mark Larkins
    - Rocks Wood Fired Pizza & Grill 6:30pm
  - Nightshift Band
    - Outdoorsman on Hwy 11W 7pm

- **SUNDAY - Dec. 2**
  - Erin Costelo
    - The Down Home 8pm

- **MONDAY - Dec. 3**
  - Student-Led Band Showcase
    - The Down Home 7pm

**for show times & more details, visit theloaferonline.com**

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Karaoke

TUESDAY
Karaoke w/ Crossroads & Josh Blevins at Dawg House Tavern
Karaoke at Zachary’s Steakhouse
Family Night Karaoke at CJ’s Sports Bar - Kingsport
Karaoke at Numan’s - Johnson City
Karaoke w/ Absolute Entertainment at Woodstone Deli - Kingsport

WEDNESDAY
Karaoke w/ Southern Sounds Karaoke at American Legion 8pm
Karaoke at CJ’s Sports Bar
Turn the Page Karaoke at VFW Post 2108 – Johnson City

THURSDAY
Karaoke w/ Absolute Entertainment at Macado’s – Kingsport
Karaoke at Zachary’s Steakhouse
Michael’s Krazy Karaoke at Stateline Bar & Grill
Karaoke at CJ’s Sports Bar
Karaoke w/ DJ Marquez Top Shelf Entertainment at Wild Wings Café JC
Karaoke at Numan’s - Johnson City
Karaoke w/ Absolute Entertainment at New Beginnings - Johnson City
Karaoke at Jiggy Rays Pizzeria
Karaoke at Wild Wing Cafe Johnson City

FRIDAY
Karaoke w/ Southern Sounds Karaoke at Sportsman’s Bar & Grill 9pm
Karaoke w/ Shane Rouse at Bear’s Bar
Karaoke at Kingsport Moose Lodge
Karaoke w/ Reverb Karaoke at The Cottage 8:30pm
Turn the Page Karaoke at VFW Post 2108 – Johnson City
Karaoke w/ Absolute Entertainment at Woodstone Deli - Kingsport
Karaoke w/ Toddzilla at Sportsman’s Pub
Karaoke at Elizabethton VFW
Karaoke w/ DJ Marquez & Top Shelf Entertainment at Holiday Inn (Exit 7) – Bristol, VA
Karaoke at Numan’s – Johnson City

SATURDAY
Karaoke w/ Toddzilla at Sportsman’s Pub
Karaoke at Kingsport Moose Lodge
Turn the Page Karaoke at VFW Post 2108 – Johnson City
Karaoke w/ Absolute Entertainment at Macado’s – Kingsport
Karaoke at Numan’s – Johnson City
Karaoke w/ Tony & Rod at CJ’s Sports Bar
College Football SATURDAYS w/ DJ Paul Gallo AND Post Game Karaoke!

SUNDAY
Karaoke w/ Absolute Entertainment at Woodstone Deli - Kingsport

Trivia

TUESDAY
Wild Wing Café JC- Trivia Tuesdays
w/ Challenge Entertainment 8:30pm
Johnson City Brewing Company- Trivia Tuesdays 7pm
Aubrey’s Johnson City- Trivia Night 7pm

WEDNESDAY
Tipton Street Pub- Trivia Wednesdays 9pm
Aubrey’s Bristol- Trivia Night 7pm
Johnson City Moose Lodge 1831- DJ Trivia 7pm

THURSDAY
Holy Taco & Cantina Trivia Night 9pm
JRH Brewing - Trivia Night 7pm

MONDAY
Barley Waters- Trivia Night 7pm
Yee-Haw Brewing- Trivia Mondays 7pm

Cryptogram: “One of the commonest mistakes is thinking your worries are over when your children get married.”
DropQuote: “No one saves us but ourselves. No one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path.”
**Tuesday - November 27th**

- **Stuff a Stocking Drive** - Gabriel's Christmas 12am
- **Town Christmas Decorating Contest** - Town of Unicoi ALL DAY
- **F3 Free Men's Bootcamp** - Founders Park 5:30am
- **Erwin Tinsel Trail** - The Gathering Place Park 8am
- **15th Annual Brenda Smith Memorial Christmas Charity Drive** - Smith Brothers Harley-Davidson 9am
- **Santa Claus is Coming to Town** - Barter Theatre 10am
- **One Acre Café's 5th Birthday Celebration** - One Acre Café 5pm
- **Tuesday Night Trot** - Fleet Feet Kingsport 6pm
- **Texas Hold 'Em** - CJ's Sports Bar 7pm
- **FiA Free Women's Fitness Tues Evenings** - Founders Park 7pm
- **SINGO** - Barley Waters 7pm
- **Cornhole Tournament!** - CJ's Sports Bar 7pm
- **That '70s Show Trivia Night** - Johnson City Brewing 7pm
- **Elf: The Musical** - Barter Theatre 7pm
- **Wooden Snowflakes** - Barter Theatre 7:30pm
- **Bingo** - Tipton St. Pub 9pm

**Wednesday - November 28th**

- **Stuff a Stocking Drive** - Gabriel's Christmas 12am
- **Town Christmas Decorating Contest** - Town of Unicoi ALL DAY
- **FiA Free Women's Fitness** - Founders Park 5:30am
- **Erwin Tinsel Trail** - The Gathering Place Park 8am
- **15th Annual Brenda Smith Memorial Christmas Charity Drive** - Smith Brothers Harley-Davidson 9am
- **Santa Claus is Coming to Town** - Barter Theatre 10am
- **That '70s Show Trivia Night** - Johnson City Brewing 7pm
- **Elf: The Musical** - Barter Theatre 7pm
- **Wooden Snowflakes** - Barter Theatre 7:30pm

**Thursday - November 29th**

- **Stuff a Stocking Drive** - Gabriel's Christmas 12am
- **Town Christmas Decorating Contest** - Town of Unicoi ALL DAY
- **F3 free men's bootcamp** - Founders Park 5:30am
- **Erwin Tinsel Trail** - The Gathering Place Park 8am
- **15th Annual Brenda Smith Memorial Christmas Charity Drive** - Smith Brothers Harley-Davidson 9am
- **Santa Claus is Coming to Town** - Barter Theatre 10am
- **Jingle and Gingerbread** - Model City Event Center 1pm
- **Wooden Snowflakes** - Barter Theatre 2pm
- **The Browder's Merry Christmas Tour! - Preaching Christ Church** 7pm
- **Anatomy Trivia Night** - Gypsy Circus Cider Company 7pm
- **FiA Free Women's Fitness Thurs. Evenings** - Founders Park 7pm
- **Wonderland Wine & Food Tasting Event** - Wonderland Lounge/Bar N Grill 7pm
- **Freshly Brewed Comedy November** - The Willow Tree Coffeehouse and Music Room 7pm
- **Elf: The Musical** - Barter Theatre 7:30pm
- **The Santaland Diaries** - Barter Theatre 7:30pm

**Friday - November 30th**

- **Coffee with a Cop** - Maple Street Biscuit Company (Johnson City) 7am
- **Erwin Tinsel Trail** - The Gathering Place Park 8am
- **15th Annual Brenda Smith Memorial Christmas Charity Drive** - Smith Brothers Harley-Davidson 9am
- **Santa Claus is Coming to Town** - Barter Theatre 10:30am
- **Hometown Holiday Street Fest** - Downtown Johnson City 6pm
- **Christmas Tree Lighting** - King Commons 6pm

**Saturday - December 1st**

- **Stuff a Stocking Drive** - Gabriel's Christmas 12am
- **Town Christmas Decorating Contest** - Town of Unicoi ALL DAY
- **F3 free men's bootcamp** - Founders Park 5:30am
- **Erwin Tinsel Trail** - The Gathering Place Park 8am
- **15th Annual Brenda Smith Memorial Christmas Charity Drive** - Smith Brothers Harley-Davidson 9am
- **Santa Claus is Coming to Town** - Barter Theatre 10am
- **Erwin Tinsel Trail** - The Gathering Place Park 8am
- **2018 Johnson City Christmas Parade - Downtown Johnson City** 10:30am
- **Santa Claus is Coming to Town** - Barter Theatre 10:30am
- **Doggone Christmas** - Historic Jonesborough 11am
- **Christmas Market** - International Storytelling Center 11am
- **Whoville Village** - Pavilion at Founders Park 12pm
- **Miss Winter Wonderland - Holiday Inn Bristol Conference Ctr (Bristol, VA)** 12pm
- **Allandale Mansion Holiday Tours 2018 - Allandale Mansion 1pm**
- **Downtown Kinsgport Tree Lighting & Christmas Parade - Downtown Kinsgport 2pm**
- **Colors of Christmas: Tour and Dinner - Historic Jonesborough 3pm**
- **Theatre Bristol's "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" - Theatre Bristol 5:30pm**
- **2018 Downtown Christmas Parade - Elizabethton, Tennessee 6pm**
- **Christmas at the Carter Mansion - Friends of Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park 6pm**
- **Every Christmas Story Ever Told! (and then some) - Blue Moon Theatre Company 8pm**
- **Elf: The Musical** - Barter Theatre 8pm

**Sunday - December 2nd**

- **Stuff a Stocking Drive** - Gabriel's Christmas 12am
- **Town Christmas Decorating Contest** - Town of Unicoi ALL DAY
- **Erwin Tinsel Trail** - The Gathering Place Park 8am
- **Allandale Mansion Holiday Tours 2018 - Allandale Mansion 1pm**
- **Christmas Spectacular Market** - Carnegie Hotel Special Events 1pm
- **Winterfest Art Show - Friends of Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park 1:30pm**
- **Downtown Kinsgport Holiday Loft Tours - Downtown Kinsgport Association 2pm**
- **Theatre Bristol's "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" - Theatre Bristol 2:30pm**
- **Elf: The Musical** - Barter Theatre 3pm
- **Wooden Snowflakes** - Barter Theatre 3pm
- **The Santaland Diaries** - Barter Theatre 7pm

**Monday - December 3rd**

- **Stuff a Stocking Drive** - Gabriel's Christmas 12am
- **Town Christmas Decorating Contest** - Town of Unicoi ALL DAY
- **FiA Free Women's Fitness Mondays** - Founders Park 5:30am
- **F3 Free Men's Run Group at Science Hill Track 5:30 AM**
- **Erwin Tinsel Trail** - The Gathering Place Park 8am
- **Celebration of Trees** - Historic Jonesborough 8am
- **Winterfest Art Show - Friends of Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park 9am**
- **15th Annual Brenda Smith Memorial Christmas Charity Drive** - Smith Brothers Harley-Davidson 9am
- **Santa Claus is Coming to Town** - Barter Theatre 10:30am
- **Peter Mayer Group's "A Junkman's Christmas Eve" Tour-V** - Barter Theatre 7:30pm
If you are a fan of the "Harry Potter" and "Fantastic Beasts" film series you are no doubt thrilled about the new release "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald." The new film is the follow up to the 2016 release "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them", and continues the story of Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne), an employee of the British Ministry of Magic in the Beasts Division. You see, Newt helps control and regulate magical creatures as we discovered in the first film. The film is set in 1927, and begins in New York City where the Magical Congress of the United States is in the process of transferring the extremely powerful dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald (Johnny Depp) to London where he will be tried for his crimes in Europe. While in transit, the dark wizard escapes thanks to help from an ally. The film then moves three months forward with Newt appealing to the British Ministry of Magic to restore his right to international travel, after he lost the right when in New York City. Newt is finally granted the right to international travel if he will work of the Ministry along side his brother Theseus (Callum Turner), of whom he has a warm but tumultuous relationship, as they can't quite understand each other. The two are assigned the duty of locating Credence Barebone (Ezra Miller), who was responsible for widespread in New York after releasing his Obscurus parasite. Before traveling to Paris to find Credence, Newt and his brother meet up with Albus Dumbledore (Jude Law) at Hogwarts (!) who gives the brothers said assignment. While in Paris, Newt, Theseus, and several other characters manage to attend a rally being held by Grindelwald, who espouses the idea of "freedom" in order to no longer hide from Muggles (ordinary humans). Newt and his group have secretly surrounded the meeting, but are uncovered by Grindelwald, who turns his followers against Newt and company, resulting in a brief battle between the two groups. Eventually, Credence, who has been discovered in Paris, joins Grindelwald, and a shocking revelation is revealed at the films conclusion. After the battle at the meeting, which is so intense, the entire city of Paris is at risk, Newt and company head back to Hogwarts where he presents a vial to Dumbledore which he took from Grindelwald, which he realizes is the reason Dumbledore could not face Grindelwald himself. During the course of the film we see a younger Newt at Hogwarts, and learn about the origin of one very familiar character from the "Harry Potter" films. The film ends with the perfect set-up for the third installment, which no doubt will be thrilling. I found the film to be extremely entertaining, and Redmayne is once again in top form as the shy, but effective Newt. The supporting cast is on spot, with Law stepping into some big shoes as the younger version of the much beloved Dumbledore character. Meanwhile, Depp is totally creepy as Grindelwald, and with his haircut and one light colored eye, make me think of a cross between singers David Bowie and Billy Idol. The film is filled with amazing CGI creatures and marvelous special effects. If the film isn't nominated for a Best Special Effects Oscar, I will be very surprised. While the character of Newt may never quite reach the popularity of Harry Potter, he certainly is giving the character a run for his wand. I consider "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald" to be "The Empire Strikes Back" of this film series, with its dark tone and intensity. For a magical movie experience, be sure to head to theaters for this fine sequel. (Rated PG-13)
A Boatload of Benny

From the early 1930s until his death in 1974, Jack Benny was one of the most popular and influential comedians of his time. It's been reported that Johnny Carson, who idolized Benny, broke down in tears upon the news of his death. Though Benny was most prominent in radio and later on television, he did make a few attempts at finding stardom on the big screen, a common practice during the 1940s, where sometimes even entire radio programs would get big screen adaptations like the horror/suspense series “The Whistler” and “Inner Sanctum Mysteries.”

In the early ‘40s, Benny signed a picture deal with Warner Brothers studios, and two of the four films that were made from that deal have been released on DVD by Warner Archive. The first film Benny made for the studio, 1942’s “George Washington Slept Here,” and his last film for Warners, 1945’s “The Horn Blows at Midnight.” The latter film was such a notorious flop that its failure became a running gag on Benny’s radio and TV programs for years. But is “The Horn Blows at Midnight” worthy of decades of Benny’s jokes about it, or is it a film that actually holds up better than one may think? I’ll get to that in a moment, but first...

1942’s “George Washington Slept Here” serves as a sequel of sorts to Warner Brothers widely successful film “The Man Who Came to Dinner” that was released early in the year. Like “Dinner” before it “George Washington Slept Here” was based off a Broadway play by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. Additionally, both films star Ann Sheridan, and share the same director, William Keighley.

Benny plays Bill Fuller, a city loving apartment dweller whose antique loving wife Connie (Sheridan) secretly buys a dilapidated country house where George Washington supposedly stayed one night. What follows is the kind of comedic farce centered around the joys of homeownership, setting the tone for future films like “Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House” and “The Money Pit.”

Warner Brothers re-dressed the set of “Arsenic and Old Lace” to serve as the dilapidated farmhouse. Which you can see if you know that film’s layout, particularly when characters stand around the main entrance to the home. “George Washington Slept Here” is a fun, funny movie. Though it doesn’t quite translate to the screen as well as that previous Kaufman and Hart work, there’s a lot of fun to be had here. Benny does a great job being constantly flummoxed by his new home he didn’t ask for. There’s one great gag where he walks upstairs and into a room with arms full of luggage. Followed by a crash, and Benny walking out of the downstairs kitchen, arms still full of luggage.

Where does one quite begin with “The Horn Blows at Midnight?” I’ll go as far as to say it’s one of the most offbeat and unusual comedies ever made during the classic Hollywood era. The gist is this: Benny plays Athanel, an angel who is sent to earth to blow the first notes of the “Judgement Day Overture” signaling the end of the world. However, another pair of fallen angels does all they can to keep Athanel from his horn and starting the judgment day. I can’t imagine how the pitch meeting for this movie went, so I can imagine softening the “blow” of the plot it’s all framed around Benny being a horn player in the orchestra of a radio program, who falls asleep while the show is on the air and dreams the story.

Compared to other comedies of the era “The Horn Blows at Midnight” is decidedly quirky, there’s a good bit of humor mined from Benny gently telling mortals that “their worries for tomorrow are unfounded.” It’s an odd film to say the least, but rather charming in what a bold comedic exercise it was for the time. People have debated for years why the film flopped so hard, some have attributed it to the subject material, while others have said that it was the film opening shortly after the death of sitting President Roosevelt.

At a brisk 78 minutes “The Horn Blows at Midnight” moves at a breakneck speed. It’s just the right length for the film too, it never has time to linger or anyone gag or tire out the premise. It just goes and goes and goes. It’s a fun movie, and one that I think holds up much better than Benny thought after making it a punchline for years. One notable moment from one of Benny’s TV shows is when Benny pulls up to the lot of Warner Brothers and the guard won’t let him in. Benny protests “But I made a movie here, The Horn Blows at Midnight!” to which the guard replies “I know, I DIRECTED IT!”

Both “George Washington Slept Here” and “The Horn Blows at Midnight” come to DVD with new transfers from Warner Archive. Both films look good, the black and white are clear with minimal dirt and specs in the prints of each respective film. A trailer for each film is included as well. It’s a good effort from Warner Archive, and it’s nice to have both of these Benny films out to see whenever one wants. If you want to explore something a bit out of the ordinary, or if you’re just a comedy nerd like me, you owe it to yourself to pick up “The Horn Blows at Midnight,” and “George Washington Slept Here” to complete the Jack Benny double feature. See you next week.
Some area children are getting more than expected under the Christmas tree this year, thanks to the leadership of the Jonesborough Department of Public Safety and with the help of several other police and fire departments across the region. Now in its tenth year, these groups have joined forces as volunteers to assist more than 100 children in the area each year by making Christmas a lot brighter for themselves and their families.

On December 19 from 6:00-8:00 p.m., the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center becomes a fun-filled arena where children spend the evening with police officers and firefighters from across the region, along with public safety volunteers that assist with the event.

The children are preselected based on income and their needs by the local school system and Shop With A Cop & Firefighter’s organizer, Jonesborough Police Major Jamie Aistrop.

Children and their siblings will also find special gifts at home from Santa Claus on Christmas Day. These items came from donations to the Shop with A Cop & Fire Fighter Angel Tree at CrossPoint Church in Jonesborough, as well as items donated to the Police and Fire Departments. Parents were given these gifts secretly after dropping their child off for the program that evening.

The fun begins with a pizza party followed by a meet and greet, with the area’s public service agencies including Jonesborough Police and Fire, THP, TWRA, Tusculum Police, Embreeville Fire, Elizabethton and Carter County, area Constables and other First Responders.

After dinner, the children get to board tour busses, provided by Clark Family Tours, to the Walmart located on West Market Street to pick out the most coveted items from their Christmas want and wish lists.

The program takes support from the entire community, and civic organizations like the Kiwanis Club of Jonesborough and the Jonesborough Civitans, and is completely donation based.

Upon arrival to the event, the children are partnered up with an officer or firefighter and are acquainted over pizza donated by area businesses including Papa Johns, Rocky’s, Jonesborough Pizza Parlor, Luke’s Pizza, Pizza Plus, The Black Olive and Little Caesars.

While the children check items off their Christmas shopping lists, parents and guardians pick up donated and wrapped gifts including clothing, toys and food that are ready to be placed under the tree on Christmas. After shopping, a group of volunteers are assembled to wrap the children’s new treasures before they are picked up by their parent or guardian.

The shopping lists include items children are in need of such as clothing sizes and favorite toys. Major Aistrop and a group of volunteers spend the days leading up to Shop With A Cop & Firefighter dividing the donations among the list of children and to be picked up that evening.

A fundraiser is held in November at Jonesborough’s Pizza Plus, and numerous donations from people and businesses across the surrounding area take place year-round. With each donation, a tax donation receipt is returned.

Donations are already being accepted for next year’s Shop With A Cop & Firefighter program. Donations can be dropped off at Town Hall or Jonesborough Public Safety Department located at 123 Boone Street.

For more information about Jonesborough’s Shop With A Cop & Firefighter program, contact Major Jamie Aistrop at 423-753-1045 or jamiea@jonesboroughtn.org.
Jonesborough’s Annual Celebration of Trees
December 3-23 in Downtown Jonesborough

Twinkling lights, the scent of Fraser firs, handcrafted ornaments and lovely Christmas decorations are filling the shops and store fronts of downtown Jonesborough. The annual Celebration of Trees, a unique exhibit of beautifully decorated Christmas trees, will be held in Historic Jonesborough December 3-23.

This year’s exhibit begins at the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center where 6 beautifully decorated live trees will be on display within the Old Town Emporium Gift Shop. These trees are all sponsored and decorated by area businesses and non-profit organizations. Here you can pick up a program which features a listing of nearly 25 locations throughout the historic district where you can view over 30 decorated trees.

The Celebration of Trees has been a Jonesborough tradition for more than 28 years. Growing over the years it has now become an event that stretches from the Visitors Center to the Jonesborough Senior Center to the Chucky Depot Museum at Jonesborough on 2nd Ave. The exhibit features many spots in between as well, with stops at the Historic Eureka Inn, International Storytelling Center, Noelle, Gabriel’s Christmas, Boone Street Market, McKinney Center and many others. You are sure to leave in the holiday spirit!

The exhibit is free and open to the public on display Monday, December 3 through Sunday, December 23. Exhibit programs are located at the Jonesborough Visitors Center and the International Storytelling Center. All locations are open to public viewing during their normal operating hours.
TEA WITH THE
Sugar Plum Fairy

The Intercity Ballet Theatre invites moms and daughters to join them for tea with the Sugar Plum Fairy and her friends!

Saturday, December 1st from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm at the reNEWed Coffee Company, 213 East Center Street, Kingsport.

Please join us in the telling of the story of Clara and her dream while being served sumptuous treats by the Sugar Plum Fairy and some of your favorite Nutcracker characters!

Tickets can be purchased at:
- Centre for the Performing Arts - 727 Eastman Road 423-246-2199
- Holloway Dance Studio - 2605 East Center St. 423-246-8541

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- Centre for the Performing Arts - 727 Eastman Road 423-246-2199
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K is for Kingsport Piranhas

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20
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C is for Washington County Co-op
G is for Golfing at Cattails at Meadowview
D is for Dalton Direct Carpets & Flooring
H is for Hamlett-Dobson
I is for Into the Fire

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Jorge Blasini 423-967-4264
www.kingsportpiranhas.com
Email: swimkingsport@gmail.com

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O is for On, Dasher!
On Dasher, on Dancer
on Prancer and Vixen
On Comet, on Cupid
on Donner and Blitzen!

U is for Used Car Paradise at Rainbow Motors

P is for Peace
Peace, Joy and Love
This Holiday Season

Q is for Quiet
Not a Creature Was Stirring
Not even a mouse.

W is for Wolfe Williams & Reynolds Law Firm
Wolfe Williams & Reynolds
Attorneys At Law
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470 Park Avenue
Norton, VA 24273
276-679-0777

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Authentic Vietnamese Cuisine

V is for V’s Authentic Vietnamese Cuisine
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R is for
Camp Ruff-n-More

N is for Northeast Community Credit Union

T is for Tennessee Hills Distillery

S is for Healing Waters Day Spa & Salon

Y is for Your BEST Choice for Hitch & Propane Needs
Christmas

R is for
Camp Ruff-n-More

S is for
Healing Waters
Day Spa & Salon

T is for
Tennessee Hills
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X is for X-mas

Y is for Your BEST Choice for Hitch & Propane Needs

Z is for Zoom around the track at Speedway in Lights

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CRYPTOGRAM

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YMBFDGUC JU GUCC, RC W VULUM YNWVT RDBFY YNUJ.
The Elizabethton/Carter County Animal Shelter is a Government operated Animal "Adoption Shelter." We only accept and adopt out domestic cats and dogs from Carter County. We do not accept Feral animals nor wildlife nor farm animals and we do not provide veterinary or euthanasia services to the public. We are a very small shelter and do not kill animals to make space to take in more animals. Just like a hospital, nursing home or human shelter, when we are full we are full. We do have a waiting list and, as we adopt pets out and have room, we will accept new animals.

### Concert Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Concerts</th>
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<td><strong>BRISTOL TN/VA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Paramount</td>
<td>Dec. 1 - Roger McGuinn &amp; Chris Hillman w/Marty Stuart &amp; His Fabulous Superlatives</td>
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<td>Dec. 14 - Black Jacket Symphony presents Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers Damn The Torpedoes album</td>
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<td>Dec. 15 - Corey Smith</td>
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<td><strong>JOHNSON CITY</strong></td>
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<td>Freedom Hall</td>
<td>Dec. 1 - Thompson Square</td>
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<td>Dec. 15 - Newsboys</td>
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<td><strong>GREENEVILLE, TN</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>NPAC</td>
<td>Nov. 30 - Home Free: A Country Christmas Tour (SOLD OUT)</td>
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<td>Dec. 2 - David Phelps</td>
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<td>Jan. 12 - MJ Live-a Michael Jackson Tribute</td>
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<td>Jan. 18 - Crowder (SOLD OUT)</td>
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<td>Jan. 25 - Dugger Band</td>
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<td>Feb. 17 - The Platters and The Drifters</td>
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<td><strong>KNOXVILLE, TN</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thompson Boling Arena</td>
<td>Nov. 29 - Chris Young</td>
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<td>Dec. 7 - Trans-Siberian Orchestra</td>
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<td>Feb. 15 - Luke Combs</td>
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<td><strong>NASHVILLE, TN</strong></td>
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<td>U.S. Cellular Center - Asheville</td>
<td>Nov. 30 - Kansas</td>
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<td>Dec. 7 &amp; 8 - Warren Haynes 30th Annual Christmas Jam with Dark Side of the Mule, Grace Potter, Jamey Johnson and others</td>
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<td>Dec. 21 - Lindsey Stirling</td>
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<td>Jan. 12 - 3 Dog Night</td>
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<td>Apr. 14 - David Sedaris</td>
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<td><strong>KNOXVILLE CIVIC AUDITORIUM</strong></td>
<td>Mar. 5 - Joe Bonamassa</td>
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<td><strong>PARAMOUNT</strong></td>
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<td><strong>U.S. CELLULAR STAGE at the Bijou Theatre</strong></td>
<td>Nov. 30 - Delbert McClinton</td>
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<td>Dec. 5 - Tim Shelton</td>
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<td>Dec. 13 &amp; 14 - Dave Barnes (Christmas)</td>
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<td><strong>TENNESSEE THEATRE</strong></td>
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<td>Dec. 2 - Chris Tomlin (Christmas)</td>
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<td>Dec. 5 - Celtic Thunder</td>
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<td>Dec. 12 - Mannheim Steamroller</td>
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<td>Mar. 19 - Kacey Musgraves</td>
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<td><strong>CHARLOTTE, NC</strong></td>
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<td>Dec. 17 - Jesse McCartney</td>
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<td>Jan 18 - Scotty McCreery</td>
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**CONCERTS**

- **CITY WINERY**
  - Nov. 29 - Taylor Hicks
  - Dec. 23 - Jan Lynch
  - Feb. 1 - Delbert McClinton
  - Feb. 18 - Procol Harum
- **RYMAN AUDITORIUM**
  - Nov 28 & 29 - Amy Grant and Vince Gill
  - Dec 2 - Brian Setzer Orchestra
  - Dec 27 - Robert Earl Keen
  - Dec 30 & 31 - Old Crow Medicine Show
  - Feb 27 & 28 - Kasey Musgraves
- **NASHVILLE MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM**
  - Dec 31 - Moon Taxi

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THE JOHNSON CITY COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND

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Christmas Concert

Monday, December 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

First Christian Church
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Bring family and friends.

Hum along to traditional carols.

Tap your toes to new rhythms.

Bask in the glory of the season.

All are welcome.

Admission is free.
Space Station Armed and Full of Surprises

As the International Space Station celebrates 20 years of the first USA and Russian segment being united in space, imagine this scenario in a “Hollywood Script Synopsis”:

As political ties are severed after mutual embassy closings in Washington, DC and Moscow by the feuding USA and Russian Superpowers, 250 miles up in the International Space Station, two cosmonauts unholster their guns stowed under their spaceships and put four other astronauts under arrest in a takeover of the once internationally-partnered, space complex.

Too far-fetched? Let’s hope so.

But docked to the orbiting, $100 billion ISS are two Russian Soyuz TMA spacecrafts serving as crew ferries and lifeboats…and under the commander’s seat of each spaceship is a three-barreled gun!

Though more like a hunting gun than a hand gun, this same weapon is rumored to be aboard manned Chinese spaceflights in their Shenzhou spacecraft, which looks similar to the bulbous Russian Soyuz.

And it is something that NASA really doesn’t like to talk about. Our American astronauts carried survival knives in a survival kit aboard the one-man Mercury, two-man Gemini, 3-man Apollo and six-person Shuttle spacecraft, but there are no other weapons stowed aboard the ISS.

The secret of a weapon aboard the Soyuz manned spacecraft was kept until American astronauts began training for the six visits to space station Mir from 1995-1997. Our astronauts who were training for Mir missions were taken to the Black Sea and learned the techniques for a water splashdown the Soyuz. And they were surprised to stand toe-to-toe with cosmonauts mastering target practice with a gun aboard the Soyuz.

The TP-82, as it is called, is a strange, three-barrel gun with a plastic shoulder stock that is also a machete. One barrel is for flares, one for a .38-caliber bullet and the third one for shotgun shells.

Of course a gun needs ammunition, and the TP-82 has 20 rounds of bullets and shells, and 30 flares. The Soviet arsenal can definitely do some damage if discharged in the confines of a space station!

When it learned the Soviet gun was standard survival equipment for the past 30 years of Soyuz flights, NASA at first protested wanting to know why a weapon was necessary on the Soyuz. The Russians told them it was for survival after landing, and refused to consider removing the gun.

The TP-82 was apparently added to the Soyuz after a 1965 errant landing that had the two cosmonauts fending off wolves in a snowstorm while rescue forces took two days to reach them. That was the mission of Voskhod 2 when Alexi Leonov performed the first spacewalk in history with another cosmonaut watching inside their spaceship.

The Russians have always landed their manned spacecraft in the central plains of the country. After a fiery re-entry, parachutes deploy to bring the spaceship to the ground where retrorockets fire at 8 feet to cushion the impact.

After 150 spaceflights over 40 years, only a dozen or so have had reentry problems throwing the Soyuz off course. In each case, local villagers were the first to see the spacemen, and rescue teams followed within a couple hours. Of course the dramatic and safe launch abort in October 2018 of the ISS-bound Soyuz with an American and Russian emphasized the need for survival training. Those two rocket men were rescued within minutes of the unexpected landing just 200 miles from the launch pad.

Early American spacecraft all landed in the Atlantic or Pacific oceans. The astronauts of Mercury, Gemini and Apollo all trained for ocean, desert and jungle survival, but the only weapon on board was a machete.

The TP-82 is never discharged on Earth. But if it had to be used in the ocean, it would be deadly. The three surviving Orbiter missions of NASA’s Space Shuttle fleet were permanently mothballed in museums: Endeavour at Los Angeles Science Museum; Discovery at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.; and Atlantis at Florida’s Kennedy Space Center. Challenger was destroyed during launch in 1986; Columbia was lost during reentry in 2003.

It took 35 Space Shuttle missions and more than 250 space walks to construct the ISS, the size of seven nice mobile homes sprawled out over an area that would cover a football field. The complex arrays of gold, wing-like solar panels extend for another 300 feet out away from the “Station,” as NASA calls it.

Continuously occupied since November 1999, there have been more than 250 astronauts/cosmonauts inside the incredible Station.

The Space Station orbits Earth every 90 minutes, 17 times a day. The ISS is easy to see when passing over inhabited areas just before dawn or after sunset. Download an app on your Smartphone and you will see the ISS usually one week in the morning and one week in the evening every month. It will be the brightest “star,” moving like an airplane but without the blinking lights. And at 5 miles a second, you’ll see it move faster as it moves closer overhead, so don’t forget to wave!

Stargazer

By Mark Marquette
since 1996
stargazermarq@gmail.com
The Early Learning Center and FUMC invite you to the 7th Annual 5K REINDEER RUN AND SANTA STROLL

Join us on the afternoon of

12.2.18

Sunday Dec. 2nd at 4:00 p.m.

we will begin the afternoon with a 100 yard dash for children 9 and under

@3:45 The 5K will begin at 4:00!

This is a CERTIFIED course through the historic tree streets of Johnson City.

THE COURSE IS FAST AND FLAT!

*LONG SLEEVED T SHIRTS GUARANTEED FOR EVERYONE WHO PRE-REGISTERS by Nov. 25th!!!

LIVE MUSIC! AWARDS AND PRIZES!

CHRISTMAS GOODIES!

*more info at 1stchurchjc.org
*register at www.runtricities.org
Since beginning this column, I have received so much love and encouragement from the people around me. Even people I don't really know have shared my articles to their Facebook pages or approached me out and about just to tell me they enjoyed my writing. This type of praise is so much appreciated by me I could never truly express it. I have always loved writing and wanted a creative outlet where I could let my voice shine through without alienating my audience, and any time someone tells you you're doing a good job at something you love, it's guaranteed to make you feel good.

But out of the hundreds of compliments, “likes” and shares, there came two negative comments. And of course these are the ones that stand out to me the most. One comment was silly, from another female I vaguely recognize from my bartending days, another was in the form of a private message from a stranger, a “man,” if you want to call him that, who told me I should “keep trying.” I absolutely hate that I even let things like this affect me, but as someone who constantly doubts myself, of course criticism is going to sting. And to be honest, the comment from the other female affected me more than from the idiot in my inbox.

I don’t know why women have such a hard time praising one another. I don't think any of us were raised to be hateful or jealous or speak poorly of another woman's personal success, so why do we do it? In the time it took that woman to type her negative comment, she could have just as easily said something nice, or, better yet, saved her valuable time by not saying anything at all and moving on with her day. Women have it hard enough out here without the criticisms of our fellow females. I love to see successful women making an impact in the Tri-Cities. I love to see good things happen for my friends, for them to excel in their careers or achieve personal goals. One of my best friends is a fellow wine rep for my biggest competition and I truly love seeing her successes. She is a great salesperson and it drives me to up my game.

The woman who commented about me has probably not thought twice about what she said, and I am guilty of saying things that may be hurtful and not realizing it until it's brought to my attention. Maybe her intent wasn’t to be crappy or hurt feelings. But when it comes to something you care about and are proud of, words can leave a lasting impression. I hope you reading this, male or female, but especially to the ladies, next time you catch yourself wanting to be negative toward another, maybe think twice. Say something empowering and uplifting, and if that’s too hard, then say nothing at all. This world is a nasty, cold place sometimes. There can be absolutely no harm done in emitting positivity and lifting those around you up with praise and kindness. You never know when words of encouragement could inspire someone to do something great in their life! I would much prefer to be the reason someone smiled today than the reason they went home and cried or doubted themselves.

Being able to write every week for the Loafer is truly an honor for me and a great deal of the respect I have is due to the fact that it is run by an all-female team. I am proud to be a part of what this group of smart, independent women are doing here in the Tri-Cities. Let's all do our part in empowering one another when we see people doing good things. Even better, be encouraging when you see people doing NOT so well. It might be just what they needed.

XO- Kathie

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**TEA TIME**

with Appalachian Barbie
Colors of Christmas: Historic Tour and Dinner

The ultimate way to kick off the holiday season is with the Colors of Christmas Historic Tour and Dinner. Hear the stories of years past as you tour private homes and historic buildings beautifully decorated for the season. Cap off the evening with an elegant, multi-course meal and live music.

This December marks the second year for the Colors of Christmas, a historic tour and dinner taking place in Tennessee's Oldest Town. In 2017, the Heritage Alliance partnered with the Town of Jonesborough to merge the Holiday Tour of Homes and the Progressive Dinner into one elegant evening. This holiday tradition will continue on Saturday, December 1st.

On the tour, you'll have a once in a lifetime seek peek at historic homes and structures. The tour spotlights the architectural, historical, and cultural heritage of our region. Each location on the tour has a unique story rich with history. You'll also enjoy sounds of the season with live music featured in various locations during portions of the evening. The Tour takes place from 3 to 7 p.m. and there will be a shuttle continually running the route.

End your evening by enjoying a delectable four-course meal set in another of Jonesborough's historic buildings. Elaborate entertainment will fill the space between courses, keeping the holiday spirit refreshed and relaxed. Have your pick between two seating times, 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Guests will enjoy appetizers in the Historic Inns of Jonesborough from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. or 7:00 to 7:45 p.m. before being transported to the dinner location. Whether you choose the tour only, dinner only or combine both, the Colors of Christmas is the ultimate kick-off to the Holiday season in Jonesborough.

Colors of Christmas celebrates the restoration of buildings, which does more than simply repair old walls and ceilings; it rebuilds connections, strengthens community and restores the spirit. Not only will you be celebrating restoration during the Colors of Christmas, but you'll also be supporting two, worthwhile causes. Your Colors of Christmas dinner ticket helps to fund the preservation and education mission of the Heritage Alliance. The Colors of Christmas tour helps the Town of Jonesborough fund the many free events, such as At Home with Santa, dedicated to children throughout the year.

Come home to Jonesborough for the holidays and take part in Colors of Christmas on December 1. The tour is $15 and will be from 3 to 7 p.m. The dinner is $85 and will be at 4:30 or 7 p.m. This year’s event is a guaranteed sell out, so secure your reservations today.

Purchase your tickets at Jonesborough.com/tickets or call the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center at (423) 753.1010.

Christmas Goes to the Dogs in Jonesborough

The Christmas in Olde Jonesborough series continues on Saturday, December 1 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. with Doggone Christmas. Santa will be in his sleigh for visits and pictures with your furry friends. Professional photography will be available from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. with proceeds going to the Jonesborough Dog Park and the Washington County Animal Shelter; photos are free with donations encouraged. Homemade treats will be available for you to custom decorate and add to your dog’s stocking. The Christmas Market will also be offering handmade local goods including several vendors with pet-friendly items.

At 11 a.m., children ages 5-12 are invited to make a gingerbread dog house at the International Storytelling Center. Workshop is free and you may register at jonesboroughtn.org. Dog Costume Contests will begin at 1 p.m. in front of the Courthouse including Ugliest Christmas Sweater, Best Holiday Costume and Pet/Owner Look-a-like. Prizes will be awarded for best overall in each category. For more information about this weekend or the Christmas in Olde Jonesborough Series, visit jbochristmas.com or call 423.753.1010.
Friendly Farm began in 2012 on a leased farm. The owners originally just wanted to see if they would enjoy farm life, turns out they didn't like it. They loved it! When their lease was up they were blessed beyond belief in October of 2017 with the opportunity to purchase of a beautiful piece of property in Hancock county TN. They have now been on the farm for just under a year. A friend wanted to start a goat dairy and they thought he was crazy but were looking for a new adventure so they found a piece of property that was abandoned with a nice barn; leased it and bought a couple goats. As animal lovers, the family now has not only goats, but sheep, pigs, pot-belly pigs, chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, bunnies, horses, and donkeys.

Their mission statement can pretty much be summed up by their tag line: Friendly Farm where farming meets FUN and learning! They love what they do and enjoy educating others. Friendly Farm is a place where families can come to learn about farm life including all the animals, interact with the goats, sheep, pigs, bunnies, ducks, turkeys and more. All while relaxing on their peaceful farm in the country and enjoying time unplugged. While on the farm ask the owners about all the great products produced on the working farm. Maybe even take home some farm fresh sausage, lamb, ham or goat milk soap and lotion from their Daisy Doe line of products. All of their products are also available on their website and facebook page.

In addition to their farmer duties they also hold events. Their favorite being their Fall Family Fun Fest starting in October. The farm will be open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from October 4 till November 3 for guests to visit the farm, go on a hayride, take a walk through their pumpkin patch, enjoy the corn maze, hug a pig, feed a goat, hold a chicken, pet a bunny, and just have great family time outside unplugged. They also host field trips in an effort to help kids learn where their food comes from. As well as birthday parties, church picnics, corporate events, baby cuddling days, Breakfast with Santa, dinner with Santa, an Easter Egg hunt, and more. They also have a farm stay event where all you bring is your food and clothes.

Friendly Farm has overcome many challenges. Coming from a city background, learning the fine art of farming is a huge challenge, life is changing every day. Their company culture is simple, they are FRIENDLY farm. It is a family run business, one parent and three boys CJ age 18, John 14, and Hunter 10. For the most part they are the only employees.

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Visit Friendly Farm today at 1104 Rebel Hollow Road Tazewell, TN 37879. Also, for more information call 865-247-1874 or visit their website friendlyfarm4fun.com.
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| Nov 23 | **STEVE EARLE & THE DUKES**
30th Anniversary of Copperhead Road with Special Guests the Mastersons |
| Nov 29 | **EAST TN PBS FREE SCREENING**
Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World                           |
| Nov 29 | **ROGER MCGUINN AND CHRIS HILLMAN**
Celebrate 50 Years of Sweetheart of the Rodeo                       |
| Nov 30 | **99.3 THE X’S**
Holiday Altercation with AJR, Andrew McMahon in the Wilderness, Flora Cash, and Jukebox the Ghost |
| Dec 01 | **PARAMOUNT BRISTOL PRESENTS**
A Clint Black Christmas                                              |
| Dec 09 | **PARAMOUNT BRISTOL PRESENTS**
Corey Smith Great Wide Underground Tour                              |
| Dec 14 | **PARAMOUNT BRISTOL PRESENTS**
Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers “Damned the Torpedoes”                 |
| Jan 04 | **EMPORIUM PRESENTS**
Home Free Timeless World Tour                                         |
| May 05 | **BRISTOL BALLET PRESENTS**
The Nutcracker                                                        |
| May 05 | **MOSCOW BALLET’S**
The Nutcracker                                                          |

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