ROCKING AND WRITING

Too early for Christmas music

Our society rushes into the Christmas season faster than ever before.

Stores sell Christmas products prior to Halloween, people put up their Christmas trees before the first frost, and you're humming "Jingle Bells" by mid-November.

Why?

Don't get me wrong. I love Christmas for many reasons, but I have a hard-and-fast rule in my house that we don't decorate for Christmas until after Thanksgiving.



AARON SNYDER

Now, I've cracked on a couple things, admittedly. Last year, I strung LED lights around the house in order to brighten the night for any occasion. It is nice to not have to untangle or test bulbs this year. So, technically, my lights are already up.

I've been a day-after or weekend-after Thanksgiving guy when it comes to the living-room tree. My wife has me talked into Thanksgiving night this year since it works out best for the schedule. I agreed under the condition I could take a few peeks at the football game between the Bills and Chiefs while fluffing branches and hanging ornaments.

I also have another rule that I can't always control and most seem to not abide by: Christmas music needs to wait until after Thanksgiving.

Ashland does a great job of embracing the Christmas spirit — and the town and park always look wonderful — but Christmas music flowing from the speaker outside of the Camayo Arcade all of November 2025 was overkill.

Does this mean I hate Christmas music? No. In fact, there are several songs I truly enjoy (more on that in December).

But I certainly wish not to hear "Santa Baby" or "All I Want For Christmas is You" before I've had my turkey and dressing.

Where can you check out local live music this Halloween weekend?

• Jerk Riley's Irish Pub, Ashland: Nick Carr, Friday, 9 p.m. to midnight

• Jerk Riley's Irish Pub, Ashland: Redefyned, Saturday, 9 p.m. to midnight

• Jerk's-Pullman Square, Huntington: Saving Abel, Pete's Diary, Kings Hollow, Thursday, 7 p.m. (ticketed event)

• Jerk's-Pullman Square, Huntington: Will Shepard Band, Saturday, 8-11 p.m.

• Jerk's-Pullman Square, Huntington: Rehab, Oray Band, Reup Tha Boss, Sunday, doors at 6 p.m. (ticketed event)

• Patties & Pints, Ironton: Black Dahlia, Thursday (today), 6:30-9:30 p.m.

• Patties & Pints, Portsmouth: From The Hills, Friday, 8-11 p.m.

• Kentucky Bluebird Grill & Pub, Summit: Kristofer Lee Bentley with The Protectors, MDS Weekend Residency, Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m.

Please let us know who's playing where each week by emailing me (email address below). We love to highlight the local talent in our area.

Rock on, readers.

Reach **AARON SNYDER** at asnyder@dailyindependent.com or (606) 326-2664.

Concerns grow over aging hoarder sister

Dear Abby: My immediate family consists only of my brother (75, same age as me) and a sister who's four years older than us. My sister, "Marilyn," is divorced with no children. She has a long-term diagnosis of depression and remains under the care of a psychiatrist, who has her on several medications.



JEANNE PHILLIPS

Marilyn has a shopping addiction and an issue with money. She purchased a condominium for some $20,000 in the 1970s. Now she owes about $80,000 on it. Whenever she needed money for a large purchase, such as a car, she took out another mortgage, dipping into its equity. She loves jewelry and has piles of it all over her home. Her income is $80,000 per year, but she's been through bankruptcy for debts and a foreclosure for failure to pay condo fees. We've tried for years to get her rein in her spending.

Marilyn is in failing health, and her home is a hoarder nightmare, requiring one to climb over items just to get to the bathroom. Should she need assisted living or a nursing home, she has no ability to pay for it. My brother and I are adamant that we won't assist her financially, but we worry. Marilyn won't help us by signing a financial power of attorney, a will or a transfer-on-death deed for her condo. She has managed to maintain herself, albeit chaotically and on the edge, so guardianship would not be appropriate. I have no wish to be her guardian anyway. What advice do you have about this situation? --Beleagured brother

Dear Brother: You can't force Marylin to stop shopping or spending money she doesn't have, but you can help ensure that she's not a physical danger to herself. Because she is already under the care of a psychiatrist, it's time to inform that caregiver about Marilyn's hoarding and her shopping addiction. You can bet Marilyn hasn't brought them up! Be aware that the doctor's office won't inform you of her progress and may not even confirm that she is a patient, but they should at least listen to your concerns.

The state of her condo sounds like it poses a health risk, so a call to Adult Protective Services is in order. They can come to her home, assess the risk and put her in contact with someone who can help her get it under control.

Dear Abby: We gave our good friends a gift and a card for their special anniversary. When our anniversary arrived a few months later, all they gave us was a card. I know they can afford a gift, so why didn't they reciprocate? I thought we were good friends. We are feeling hurt, though we know we should get over it. Can you offer some advice? - Golden couple in Maine

Dear Golden Couple: Your friends appear to be less invested (literally and figuratively) in anniversaries than you are. Friendships should not be measured by whether gifts are exchanged. Perhaps your friends were trying to tell you it's time to cut back on the gift-giving at this point in your lives. Whatever the reason, don't let this spoil a meaningful friendship.

Contact **Dear Abby** at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 270135, Kansas City, MO 64127.

LITERATURE

JESSE STUART FOUNDATION

• The JSF Bookstore is open to walk-in customers Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. In-store shopping at other times is available by appointment; call 606-326-1667 or e-mail jsf@jsfbooks.com to make an appointment. Curbside pick-up is available from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm Monday – Friday.

• The Regional Readers book discussion group meets Tuesday, November 24 in the Jesse Stuart Room; coffee and conversation at 1:00 pm and the book discussion at 2:30 pm. The November selection is True Christmas Stories from the Heart of Appalachia, compiled and edited by James M. Gifford, Judith F. Kidwell, and Wayne Onkst. The book group is open to all and new members are always welcome.

• The JSF will be closed Thursday, November 26 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

• The Jesse Stuart Foundation is located at 4440 13th Street in Ashland. For more information, call 606-326-1667, e-mail jsf@jsfbooks.com, visit www.jsfbooks.com, or follow us on Facebook.

CLUBS AND SHOWS

AMERICAN LEGION POST 325

Fridays, 6:30 p.m. — Bingo.

The post is in Flatwoods. Hours: Noon to midnight Monday through Saturday; (606) 836-7184.

ASHLAND EAGLES

Sunday, 9:30 p.m. — Queen of Hearts.

Monday — Happy Hour all day.

Tuesday — Dart tournament, when in season.

Wednesday and Thursday, 7 p.m. to midnight — Karaoke by Melinda.

Thursdays, 7¯p.m. — Pool tournament.

Sunday, 9:30 p.m. — Queen of Hearts.

Happy hour is 5 to 7 p.m.

Full capacity, members only.

Kitchen is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 6 to 11 p.m.

First and third Monday of the month, 7 p.m. — Members' meeting.

Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, 6 p.m. — Women's meeting.

701 Carter Ave. in Ashland. For more information, call (606) 324-7644

ASHLAND ELKS 350

Members and guests only. Clubroom hours 10 a.m. to midnight Monday through Wednesday; 10¯a.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday; 10¯a.m. to 2¯a.m. Friday and Saturday.

900 Carter Ave. Call (606) 325-3557 for lunch specials and carryout orders. elks.org/lodges/home.cfm?lodge=350.

SEE **EVENTS** | B6

CLASSIFIEDS! 606-326-2600

FOR SALE!

FOR SALE! BAD BOY TRACTOR 35 HP VERY LOW MILES $19,995 CALL 606-473-2288

2022 BUICK ENCLAVE 40,000 MILES $27,000 CALL 606-922-2707

TRAILER FOR RENT!

TRAILER FOR RENT 3 BEDROOM 2 BATH $725.00/MO OFF U.S. 23 ON BLAINE STREET 606-624-9208 606-483-1722

TRAILER FOR RENT WESTWOOD AREA 2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH INCLUDES STOVE AND REFRIGERATOR W/D HOOK UP $1,000 per mo $1,000 Deposit. No HUD. No Pets. Utilities Not Included. Must Mow Own Grass. 606-325-7079

LEGALS!

SALE for BLUEGRASS FLEET MAINTENANCE, INC. dba AFFORDABLE TOWING Date of Sale November 30th, 2026 at 9:00am Auction will be held at Bluegrass Fleet Maintenance, 101 Armco Blvd. Ashland, Ky. 41101 2011 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE VIN: 1GNKVEED0BJ342569

ESTATE SALES!

LIVING ESTATE SALE 19140 Pine Valley RUSH • KY Thursday & Friday 9:00AM-4:00PM Saturday 9:00AM-2:00PM NOVEMBER 19-21 LOG HOME, GARAGE, WOODWORKING SHOP FULL OF TREASURES! From I-64, take Cannonsburg Exit, Turn left onto South Rt. 3, Approx 5 Mi., turn right onto Rt 854, turn left onto Pine Valley By The Jungue Ladies Estatesales.net

HELP WANTED!

WANTED! SALES REP FOR HEALTH & WEIGHT LOSS COMPANY LOSE UP TO 17 LBS IN 7 DAYS UNLIMITED INCOME! MEETING TUESDAY NIGHTS AT THE CARL PERKINS CENTER ROOM C 859-948-4376 For More Information

FOR RENT!

EFFICIENCY RENTALS NO LEASE! PRIVATE! NEAR CAVE RUN LAKE FULLY FURNISHED... ALL UTILITIES, WI-FI, SATELLITE TV! CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION 606-776-6567

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES!

KITCHEN/BATH REMODELING INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING WINDOWS/DOORS DRYWALL REPAIR! FREE ESTIMATES Call David Summers 606-371-0261 LICENSED & INSURED!

TREE & SHRUB TRIMMING & REMOVAL FREE EST. PLEASE LEAVE MSG 928-2007 465-3325

Count On LOCAL PROS! CONSIDER ONE OF THE HOME IMPROVEMENT OR LAWN & GARDEN PROS LISTED HERE!



ESTATE SALE BY River Valley Estate Sales 9814 Alley Branch Rd CATLETTSBURG, KY THUR & FRI: 9AM-4PM SATURDAY: 9AM-2PM NOVEMBER 19, 20 & 21 QUALITY FURNITURE WATERFOR LAMPS PB MOSS PRINTS & MORE SEE ESTATESALES.NET