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**1** Here's a puzzle. Since the Fourth of July was on Wednesday, is this weekend the Fourth of July weekend? Or was it last weekend? Whatever you call it, this weekend could easily be spent doing those fun things you've been meaning to do — like having a nice wet adventure in Pigeon Forge. Or seeing a cool movie in a nice cool theater. First, the wet fun. Dolly Parton's "Splash Country" has been open for about six weeks. Park hours are from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. One-day admission, including tax, is \$26.40 for adults and children 12 and older, \$19.90 for children 4 to 11 or senior citizens 60 and older. Children 3 and under are admitted free. The big screen to a big splash, summer PG-rated movies include the new "Cata & Dogs," the animated "Atlantis: The Lost Empire," "Dr. Dolittle 2" and "Shrek."

**2** The Cumberland County Playhouse is visiting from Crossville during upcoming summer weekends to present two musical plays at Knoxville's downtown Bijou Theatre. "Smoke on the Mountain," a production about a devout but slightly nutty family, will be presented at 8 p.m. today and Saturdays, July 14 and July 21, and Friday, July 27. "HONK!" a play that retells "The Ugly Duckling" fairy tale in its own special way, will be presented at 8 p.m. Fridays, July 13 and 20, and Saturday, July 28. Tickets for each show are \$21 or \$25 for adults, \$12 or \$16 for students. A double-play package of tickets is \$40 or \$46 for adults and \$18 or \$28 for students. For information or reservations, call the Cumberland County Playhouse at 1-877-868-8710. The Bijou is at 803 S. Gay St. in downtown Knoxville.

**3** Plan ahead for next week. It's hot, it's muggy and you want something cool to eat. The American Museum of Science and Energy wants to help you out. The museum at 300 S. Tulane Ave. in Oak Ridge is hosting a family classroom activity called "Cool Science Treats." The workshop is at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. on Friday, July 13. Class size is limited, so first-come, first-served. Workshop attendees will conduct experiments about why and how food freezes while making and tasting frozen treats. To learn more, call the museum at 576-3200.

**4** Like bugs? Then this one's for you. Ijams Nature Center on Island Homes Avenue in South Knoxville is hosting its popular "Bug Night" once again. "Bug Night" is from 7 to 10 p.m. next Saturday, July 14. There'll be bug collecting, bug races and a beauty contest among bugs. Bring a collecting jar and get ready! University of Tennessee plant pathology and entomology professor Reid Gearhart will lead the program that promises to help you get at what's bugging you. The program is for all ages. A \$2 donation per person is encouraged by the nature center. You need to sign up by calling Ijams at 577-4717, ext.11.

**Amy McRary**  
 News-Sentinel staff writer

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## Jehovah's Witnesses to convene

About 8,000 delegates from Western North Carolina, East Tennessee, southwest Virginia and southeast Kentucky are expected to gather at Johnson City's Freedom Hall Civic Center for one of two Jehovah's Witnesses conventions Friday through Sunday, July 13 to 15, and Friday through Sunday, July 20 to 22.

Eight Knoxville-area Bible educators will participate in the programs at the two conventions. The civic center is on Liberty Bell Boulevard.

Nationwide, the conventions are expected to draw more than 1.5 million people and will be conducted in 15 languages, including American Sign Language, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

Worldwide, Jehovah's Witnesses number more than 6 million. Their administrative center is in Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Sherri Gardner Howell's column, Rhymes & Reasons, will return later this month.**

*A queenly touch, a spiritual tradition fill church pews with*



There's an art to wearing hats and hugging friends, as Carolyn Andrews, left, demonstrates as she hugs Ruthelma Woodfin during Sunday service at the Trinity Tabernacle Church of God in Christ. Rose Clark, a member of Mt. Moriah Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas in Mechanicsville, wears a cone-shaped hat in the next row.

# 'Black ladies in hats'



Dessie Forkland, who worships at the Tabernacle Baptist Church, is known to the community as "Mama Dessie." "I love my hats," she says.



A simple straw hat trimmed in leopard print matches Chekee Robinson's leopard-print dress. She holds her daughter, Jacharia, 3, as they listen to evangelist Sharon Seay-Eiland during Sunday services at Trinity Tabernacle Church of God in Christ.

**By Jeannine F. Hunter**  
 News-Sentinel staff writer

A monarch is distinguished by a crown and all that it symbolizes. Seeing themselves queenly, many black women don church hats, showcasing military and supporting centuries-old cultural tradition. Distinguishing their field clothes from their church clothes was a way slaves denoted the sacredness of going to church and substituted their role of chattel for churchgoer. Church hats are the intersection where fashion meets faith.

"We want to adorn ourselves for the King for the Lord," said Dorothy Ware, a church member at Trinity Tabernacle Church of God in Christ in East Knoxville, and operator with Carolyn Andrews of a women's clothing shop. "If we're children of the King, we're

royal; we're royal women, all women." Ware said. "Women are important, and we have found the heart of our shop is at our church. When women dress nicely, they feel good about themselves, and it extends to their outward appearance. A hat is an added touch for an already beautiful woman."

On Women's Day at Trinity Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, women were charged to don hats. The goal was to have 100 women bedecked in headgear. Some chose demure pillbox styles, and others chose more extravagant, head-turning, jaw-dropping numbers.

Church hats are made with a variety of materials from pail to silk to tulle. Some feature pearls, beading, ribbons, small faux animals and unusual

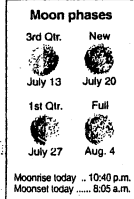
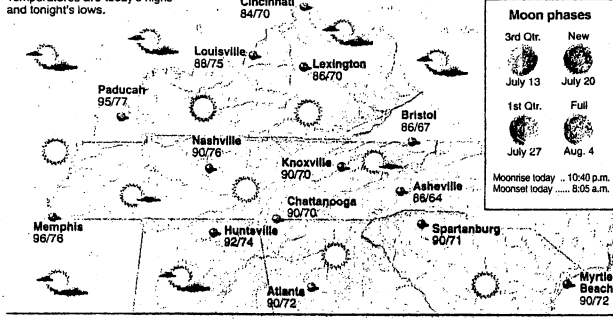


"We want to adorn ourselves for ... the Lord," says Dorothy Ware, a member at Trinity Tabernacle Church of God in Christ. She is looked upon as a matriarch of the church.

Please see HATS, page B10

News-Sentinel photos by Cathy Clarke

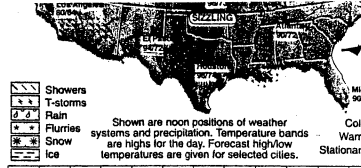
Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



Barometric pressure: 30.05, falling. Wind: West at 4.1 mph. Highest speed: 8 mph.

World cities

Table listing temperatures for various world cities including Athens, Berlin, Cairo, London, Mexico City, Moscow, Paris, Sydney, Toronto, etc.



Friday's extremes in the 48 contiguous states. National high: 111° McCook, Neb. National low: 34° Peloton, Mich.

National cities

Large table listing temperatures for numerous national cities across the United States, including Albany, Albuquerque, Anchorage, Atlanta, Baltimore, etc.

Lake stages

Table showing lake stages for various locations like S. Holston, Watauga, Boone, etc.

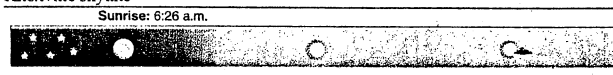
East Tennessee

Table showing weather conditions for East Tennessee cities like Knoxville, Chattanooga, etc.

Air quality

Table showing air quality index and pollutant levels for various locations.

Knoxville skyline



BRIEFS

Religious college eligible for state grants. RICHMOND, Va. — A federal appeals court has ruled that a Seventh-day Adventist college can participate in a state program that pays for courses and programs at public and private colleges.

Texas jail's Christian program unconstitutional. AUSTIN, Texas — A Christian-studies jail unit dubbed the "God Pod," violates the constitutional separation of church and state, the Texas Supreme Court has ruled.

Group seeks revision of children's Bibles. DETROIT — A national interfaith group wants to remove what it says are anti-Jewish phrases from a handful of children's Bibles.

Wearing a yellow-and-black hat with a black dress, Shavonne Gray claps with the music at Trinity Tabernacle Church of God in Christ.



Adorned in white hat and blue dress with corsage, Jessie Downs sways to the music during worship service at Trinity Tabernacle Church of God in Christ.

the aisles of the church, stars of splendor, beauty beyond measure. Black ladies in hats.

Don't get it twisted, church pianist Jessie Downs of Trinity Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, warmed gently. "We'll sing them off and praise the Lord — and wigs, too — when it comes to serving the Lord," Downs said. "Don't let the fashions fool you."

Hats

Continued from page B1

shapes that defy gravity. Yet despite how extravagant they look on mannequins in stores, the hat caps off a look once atop a woman's head.

educator, and her daughter, Jacquelyn Moore, editor of the Knoxville Black Pages, a directory of community organizations and businesses. They are both community advocates and belong to service-oriented Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

her. But as she got older, she acquired more hats and began enjoying wearing them, carrying a reputation for donning a variety of styles that include tarms, old Kangols and jeweled cowboy hats, as well as several black hats that she keeps until "the sides roll down and the felt is worn."

interviews and photographs of women who share their stories. "These aren't hat stories," Cunningham told CNN.com. "They're stories about life and love and loss, about faith, folklore, about redemption. And some of them are about winking at life every now and then."

members of a Sunday sorority, wrote poet Maya Angelou in the forward to "Crowns."

Admire from afar. If it's blocking your vision, you move rather than asking her to remove it.

Journalism & History may be reached at 606-648-6334 or history@news.com.