

LifeSunday

the list

PLACES TO GO



■ **SLIPPING THE BONDS OF EARTH** Airshow Chattanooga continues today with a performance by the world-famous Blue Angels. The gates open today at the Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport at 9 a.m. The show is noon to 4 p.m. Admission is \$16 for adults and \$8 for children 5-12. Children under 5 are free. Park at Eastgate Town Center or Chattanooga State Technical Community College.

THINGS TO KNOW

■ **TOP TUNES** The top albums in America last week were:
1. "I Am Me," Ashlee Simpson.
2. "Thanks for the Memory ... The Great American Songbook Vol. IV," Rod Stewart.
3. "Timeless," Martina McBride.
4. "All the Right Reasons," Nickelback.
5. "A Time to Love," Stevie Wonder.
— From *Billboard* magazine



STAFF PHOTO BY TIM BARBER

Dentist Andrew R. Lunn will buy back Halloween candy for \$1 per pound in an effort to raise money for the United Way of Chattanooga. The sweets will be sent to troops in Iraq, he said.

Halloween is Monday, give it up

One of the good things about getting older is that you can be crabby without guilt.

So, here's my stab at being a crab.

Frankly, I am shocked and appalled that some of you were involved last week in a lobbying effort to move Halloween. You know who you are, you Hallo-weenies.

You pretended to be confused about the correct night for trick-or-treating, didn't you? You wrote e-mails to newsrooms across Chattanooga.

You stopped just short of suggesting that the media endorse trick-or-treating last night — a full 48 hours early.

Some of you lobbied your local police departments and elected officials to encourage a Saturday Halloween. Thankfully, almost nobody caved in to your demands.

I'm here today to affirm on behalf of holiday traditionalists everywhere that Halloween is not the last Saturday in October, people. It is Oct. 31.

You Hallo-weenies remind me of the people who are always trying to get the wave started in the first inning of a baseball game. Respect traditions, please.

Halloween is not a warm, fuzzy holiday that needs to be moved to a family-friendly evening.

Still, it just sounded like a good idea to some of you to move Halloween to Saturday so it wouldn't fall on a school night, didn't it? News flash: For thousands of children, Saturday IS a school night, a Sunday school night.

Raise your hand if you heard somebody say last week, "Does anybody know when we're trick-or-treating this year? Saturday seems like the best night, don't you think. Let's say Saturday. Yes, Saturday. We always move Monday Halloween to Saturday. Let's all alert the media."

Granted, when Halloween falls on a Sunday, trick-or-treating feels a little squirmy. Watching your child change from Sunday clothes into a Chucky mask is a little disconcerting — not to mention confusing for kids.

But you can't just go uprooting holidays willy-nilly. It's a slippery slope. Wouldn't it be nice to enjoy Christmas in June one year? Or how about moving the 4th of July to

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Cash for candy

Dentist offers \$1 a pound, plus matching donation to United Way

BY SUSAN PIERCE
STAFF WRITER

Last Halloween, Sam Beard, 7, returned from trick-or-treating with a sack full of candy.

"It was a huge bag, and it was pretty heavy. He got more candy than he had ever gotten," said his mom, Angela Beard. "Then he left his bag on the hayride, it got rained on and we had to toss it."

This year that wouldn't prove to be a total washout for Sam.

Dr. Andrew Lunn, a local dentist, is offering kids the sweetest treat of all: cash for candy.

As dental associations warn parents not to let their children overindulge in the sugary treats they collect on their Halloween rounds, this local dentist is putting

his money where his mouth is.

Dr. Lunn is sponsoring the Great Halloween Candy Buy-Back on Thursday from 3-7 p.m. at his office, 1606 Gunbarrel Road, Suite 104, in the Corporate Image Complex. He will buy back children's unopened candy for \$1 per pound.

For every dollar the child receives, Dr. Lunn said he will match that amount with a donation to the United Way of Greater Chattanooga.

No child leaves empty-handed, he added. If the candy doesn't tip the scales at a pound, the child will at least get a Chick-fil-A coupon. Every parent driving a child to the event will receive a \$50 gift certificate toward the cost of a teeth-whitening proce-

sure. All the candy he collects will be sent to U.S. soldiers in Iraq, he said.

Would Sam buy that?

"No," said the first-grader.

"I would," said his mother.

"Tooth decay is the most common disease in mankind," said Dr. Lunn. "I believe dentists and physicians need to promote good health in their communities. By doing this, it's a good way to show citizens that dentists are trying to get rid of things that cause cavities in kids."

"Candy in moderation is OK as long as the child practices proper oral hygiene. The main thing is to prevent excess," said Dr. Lunn.

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Halloween fun takes many forms

BY SUSAN PIERCE
STAFF WRITER

As more parents become concerned about the safety of door-to-door trick-or-treating, they are turning to events such as church-sponsored festivals to provide their children's Halloween fun.

The Rev. Rick Spell, pastor of Red Bank United Methodist Church, said his church started an annual fall festival "expressly for the purpose of giving children an alternative to trick-or-treating."

"The idea is to have fun as a family and to do things that are good and not harmful," said the minister. "We've held

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Adoption option: It's not just for couples any more

BY JAN GALLETTA
STAFF WRITER

Valerie Ford had envisioned herself becoming a mother when she matured enough to handle the role's responsibilities. As her 30th birthday loomed, she'd long finished sowing her wild oats but still wasn't a parent.

Today, some 12 years later, the Chattanooga woman has five children she adopted one at a time from the state Department of Human Services.

Ranging in age from 14 to 8 years old, they had been regarded as preadoptive challenges, because they hailed from multisibling groups, were past the age of infancy and, in

some cases, had behavior problems. "I had it in my heart to get kids after I got my running around out of the way," said Ms. Ford, a hairstylist who now is 42.

"I gave a thought to having children, but it never happened. I really believe I was called to do this, though I didn't always think I'd adopt five."

Ms. Ford is among the Tennessee residents who last year adopted some 300 hard-to-place youngsters from state custody, according to Cheryl Talley of Tennessee Department of Children's Services in

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STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT CLARK

Valerie Ford, back right, adopted Daquan Ford, Carla Ford, Wyneshia Ford, Deominique Ford and Brianna Ford, from left. Older children and multisibling groups are among the hardest-to-place adoption groups

Coming



This week

In rare cases, story selections in Life sections may change to accommodate breaking news.

Monday

■ **Life.** See sculptures of canned foods constructed for an area charity.

Tuesday

■ **Life.** If 200 channels of television aren't enough, read about new portable video options.



Wednesday

■ **Taste.** In celebration of the microwave's 50th birthday, learn how to turn oven-baked favorites into microwave meals.

Thursday

■ **Life.** Learn how to move beyond your exercise comfort zone.

Friday

■ **Life.** Learn about the art of hairstyling for the holiday party season.



Saturday

■ **Home and Garden.** Read about efforts to re-establish chestnut trees in the Southeast.