Written by Jeff Ignatius
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Three major events converge in the Quad Cities this weekend, as they do every year about this time, but if you're a fan of jazz, some less-well-known events might also be worth your attention. Of course, this weekend features the annual Bix 7 race, the Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Jazz Festival, and the Wells Fargo Street Festival.

The **Bix 7** race starts at 8 a.m. on Saturday, with thousands of runners from around the world on one of the tougher seven-mile courses around. You can find more information at (http://www.bix7.com).

Related to the race is **Genesis Health & Fitness Expo**, July 19 through 21 at the RiverCenter. (The exposition runs from 5 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, and 7 a.m. to noon on Saturday.) Highlights of the show include a body-fat contest, physical-conditioning checkup, low-impact-workout demonstrations, samples of soy products, blood-pressure checks, and a discussion of foot care for athletes. For more information and hours, visit (http://www.genesishealth.com).

The **Wells Fargo Street Fest** offers an entertainment alternative to people who don't fancy jazz, featuring craft, commercial, and food vendors, children's activities, a family stage of entertainment, and live music Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to midnight. The festival has no admission charge. (For the band schedule, check out the *Reader*'s live-music listings.)

But jazz is largely the order of the weekend, with the Bix festival its centerpiece.

The **30th Annual Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Jazz Festival** kicks off Thursday night, July 19, at the Col Ballroom, with music from 6 p.m. to midnight. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday will feature the festival's 11 bands at the ballroom, LeClaire Park, the Davenport Holiday Inn, and Danceland (as well as a few other venues) throughout the day and night. Bill Donahoe's Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Jazz Band and Bill Allred's Classic Jazz Band close out the festivities with performances Sunday from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the Davenport Holiday Inn. For a current schedule, visit (http://www.bixsociety.org). Some of this year's bands will also provide jazz accompaniment to figure skaters at the Quad City Sports Center in **Bix on Ice**. (The show will be performed from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday and 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Saturday.) Wednesday, July 18, also features a special **Evening of Jazz** event with Sweden's Peoria Jazz Band and the Askersund Jazz Choir at First Presbyterian Church.

Those two bands will also be performing on Celebration River Cruises' **Bix on the Boat** on Thursday, July 19, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. For more information or reservations, call (309)764-1952.

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport is holding **Chicago Jazz Mass** at 8:30 and 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 22, featuring seven acclaimed Chicago jazz musicians and the up-tempo sounds

of the saxophone and clarinet. (The Bix festival also includes a worship component, with jazz liturgy at First Presbyterian Church.)