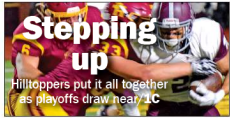


GOOD MORNING Sunday October 23, 2016



Johnson City Press

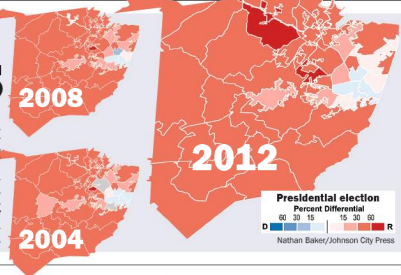
Volume 96 - No. 56 Johnsoncitypress.com Tri-Cities, Tennessee \$1.50

Solidly Republican Washington County's GOP gap grows

Vote totals show county Republicans expanding majority in recent elections

By NATHAN BAKER Assistant News Editor nbaaker@johnsoncitypress.com

Democrat, and George W. Bush, a Republican and soon-to-be next president, 14,769 Washington Countians voted for Gore and 22,579 voted for Bush. Gore finished that November by capturing 38.9 percent of the county's electorate, while Bush commanded 59.5 percent, a difference of 20.6 points between them — a much



See GAP, Page 7A

MILLIGAN COLLEGE SESQUICENTENNIAL

still to come

Even with 150 years of history, Milligan president says school's best days are



Milligan College President Bill Greer speaks during the Sesquicentennial Plaza dedication ceremony.



Hundreds turn out to celebrate school's history with parade, fireworks and more

By ZACH VANCE Press Staff Writer zvance@johnsoncitypress.com

buffalo riding in the back of a Volkswagen Beetle. While last year's homecoming parade initiated a year-long 150th anniversary celebration, Saturday's spectacle was just one in a string of sesquicentennial homecoming events. Alumnus J.D. Smith and wife Elsie Cochran Smith traveled from Hillsville, Virginia, to their alma mater just to see the 150th anniversary homecoming parade.

Hundreds gathered along Blowers Boulevard Saturday for the Milligan College homecoming parade.

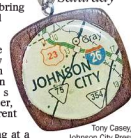
Zach Vance/Johnson City Press

See MILLIGAN, Page 2A

Merchants seek bigger Christmas footprint

By TONY CASEY Press Staff Writer tonycasey@johnsoncitypress.com

In past years, retail, restaurant and music venue owners in downtown Johnson City focused on Small Business Saturday — the day after Black Friday — to bring new customers and increased sales to their locations. This year, those merchants, now under the Johnson City Downtown Merchants Association banner, are taking a different approach. Instead of looking at a single day of sales, in recent meetings, the merchant collective has decided to aim for the entire first part of the month of December. Artisans' Village owner



Tony Casey/Johnson City Press

Downtown plans don't end with Small Business Saturday

The Local Company's goods are from within 70 miles of the city.

Young mom wants daughter to have a special Christmas

By JESSICA FULLER Press Staff Writer jfuller@johnsoncitypress.com

Eliza knows a lot about hard work. She got pregnant almost four years ago, when she was still a sophomore in high school. After giving birth to her daughter, she finished her high school diploma and started making her own way as a teen mom, even though it was hard. Now, a certified phlebotomist, Eliza has her sights set



'I know what it's like to not have Christmas.'

— Eliza

See MOM, Page 2A

WEATHER/2A High 67 Low 46

WWW Follow the Johnson City Press for breaking news, sports and information online at johnsoncitypress.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/johnsoncitypress and on Twitter at @jcpres.

DEATHS/4A, 6A, 8B

JOHNSON CITY Myrtle Lewis Campbell, Mark Hyatt, Dr. Grant L. Jones, Ruth Simerly Smith

JONESBOROUGH Jennie Devault

PINEY FLATS Donald Malcolm Sinn

TELFORD Gary Lynn Cloyd

OTHER Dana C. Goebel

HEPHZIBAH, Georgia Virginia Lee Playford

Trump vows to sue accusers after election/6A

LOCAL/3A Long John Silva's franchise owner Dee-Dee McWhorter travels each month from South Carolina to Johnson City to work — but not at one of her restaurants. She's giving her time — and free meal tickets — to a food pantry.

INSIDE Celebrations Classified ads Community briefs Editorial Good News Local Lottery On the air Puzzles Scores

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WEATHER/ FROM PAGE ONE



Tony Casey/Johnson City Press

The Johnson City Downtown Merchants Association has plans to make the upcoming holiday season a special one, in terms of sales, for the businesses that operate there.

CHRISTMAS

From Page 1A

Michael Short said once customers get their Black Friday and Cyber Monday shopping out of their system in the end of November, his business and other merchants in downtown Johnson City will have open arms and open doors for customers looking for something more purposeful, unique and local to give as a gift this holiday season.

"This isn't going to be a 'one-and-done' visit downtown," Short said. "We want it to be a re-occurring experience. So we're taking initiative."

More details are expected to solidify how a downtown-focused push will look. Travis Woodall, president of the JCDMA, said he's been part of a panel related to downtown Johnson City that will decide on activities to benefit the business. In polling his fellow merchants, Woodall said working with downtown-focused organizations and merchants in creating several Christmas-themed events will equate to better retail sales.

That means multiple downtown Johnson City events.

There will be a Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec. 2 at 5 p.m., the Johnson City Christmas Parade on Dec. 3, with a Whoville Village community gathering happening after the parade, a Dec. 23 Ista-crafty event on First Friday and the following day, self-guided downtown Holiday Tours on Dec. 6, a Loft Struck, and extended business hours through the entire week.

First Fridays are now organized by the JCDMA. Having recently taken over "First Friday" events from the Blue Pine Organization — which has

financial problems after its festival director was accused of stealing approximately \$50,000 from the organization and forging checks — the downtown merchants will adhere to the goal of using these monthly events to better commerce there.

Woodall likes the all-in-for early December approach, having heard back from the merchants about what generates their best sales.

"That's the approach we're going to take," he said. "JCDMA joins representatives from the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce, City Commission, Blue Pine Organization and Johnson City Development Authority in working to make the holiday season special for residents."

The Washington County Economic Development Chamber of Commerce said Commissioner Jenny Brock gives a great historical perspective of how downtown Johnson City used to celebrate holidays like Christmas, and has been instrumental in guiding the collection of interesting parties toward more family-friendly events that will ultimately benefit the downtown economy.

"She grew up in Johnson City," Center said. "And she has vivid memories of downtown, having worked down here, her sister worked downtown. She knows the history."

But before all of this happened in December, the JCDMA will hold its first official First Friday event on Nov. 4.

One downtown business will be celebrating a personal milestone, and offering a deal to its customers in appreciation. Sara Jane Schmetzler, one of the owners of Energy

Fitness 24/7 in downtown Johnson City, said time flies by when you're witnessing the rebirth of the area. She and partner Eric Ruhm will be embracing the downtown events to help get the word out that they'll be celebrating their 5-year anniversary with specials for the people who sign up for membership.

"It's getting better every year," Schmetzler said. "We got into downtown at just the right moment. We chose downtown Johnson City because we wanted to be in the heart of the city."

Heart is what they got, and their peers are noticing that.

Sarah Fagley, owner of The Local Company, has had her business open for a prime spot for people to buy handmade, artisan goods at an affordable cost. Fagley expects the month of December to be good to hers and her peer merchants.

Some of the seasonal gifts Fagley especially brought in include long-sleeved shirts, walking sticks and necklaces that bear the name of the place where her business resides.

Even though she occasionally still laments, "I didn't know downtown looked like this" and "we haven't been downtown here in years," Fagley is happy people are familiarizing themselves with the buzz surrounding the businesses at the exact right time.

Follow Tony Casey on Twitter @TonyCaseyJCP. Like him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/tonycaseyjcp

5-DAY FORECAST FOR JOHNSON CITY

TODAY	TONIGHT	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
67°	46°	71°	69°	71°	67°
Abundant sunshine	Clear	Abundant sunshine	Partly sunny	Nice with some sun	Not as warm

ALMANAC

Sunsets are through 8 p.m. yesterday

High/Low yesterday: 77/48°
 High/Low today: 67/46°
 Record High: 80° (6/18/87)
 Record Low: 24° (1/18/87)

Precipitation
 24-hour total high 6 p.m. yesterday: 0.00"
 Year to date: 27.45"
 Normal year to date: 34.00"

Fallen
 Leaf: Low
 Mold: Low
 Fog: Low

Source: Dr. Mark M. Frankowski

REAL FEEL TEMPERATURE

The perceived temperature (aka "feels like") is an indication of effective temperature based on eight weather factors. Shows the highest temperature you'll feel today.

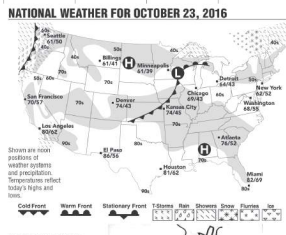
Today: 68°
 Tomorrow: 71°
 Wednesday: 72°
 Thursday: 67°

LAKE LEVELS

As of 7 a.m. yesterday	Elevation	Yr. to Date	24 hr. Change
Beaver	1523.04 ft.	+0.21	+0.21
Cherokee	1049.03 ft.	-0.09	-0.09
Diagonal	862.88 ft.	-0.45	-0.45
Henry	1253.91 ft.	-0.10	-0.10
Hudson	1713.02 ft.	-0.30	-0.30
Norris	990.33 ft.	-0.26	-0.26
Wenatchee	1946.99 ft.	-0.06	-0.06

SUN AND MOON

The Sun	Rise	Set
Today	7:45 a.m.	6:42 p.m.
Tomorrow	7:46 a.m.	6:40 p.m.
Nov 1	7:48 a.m.	6:38 p.m.
Nov 15	7:59 a.m.	6:30 p.m.



KID'S WEATHER



Zach Vance/Johnson City Press

After Saturday's parade, a festival on Derthick Lawn drew alumni — and dozens of children bundled up in jackets to slide down large inflatables and munch on kettle corn.

MILLIGAN

From Page 1A

"We just came for lunch today and to see people we knew," said J.D. Smith, a 1961 graduate who earned a degree in music and religion. "We came back just because of the fact that it was the 150th. I won't see the 200th, I doubt. (We) just came back to see the campus and see how much it has changed in some places and other places how much it has not changed."

The Smiths weren't the only alumni in town for the celebration. A host of Milligan graduates could be identified by the name tags they wore bearing their graduation date.

Directly after the parade, dozens of children bundled up in jackets gathered around Derthick Lawn to slide down large inflatables and munch on kettle corn.

College President Bill Greer joined a few alumni and current students behind the P.H. Welshimer Memorial Library for a dedication of the space and officially recognized it as the Sequicentennial Plaza.

Greer said the area has become popular among students to socialize and study, and since the area did not have an official title, it was appropriate to name it after the college's 150th year.

"What this has really done has transformed this space into one that is now used by students all the time," Greer said.

During the ceremony, Greer thanked the 500-plus alumni who bought bricks that paved much of the plaza. Saturday's celebration continued into the afternoon with "Forward with Faith: The Milligan College Story," an original play written and directed by Milligan alumnus Rosemarie Shields.

The play inside McGlothlin Street Theatre highlights Milligan's history from its early days to its current status.

"It's really humbling and somewhat overwhelming to serve as the president at this point in history, especially as

we've been able to reflect over such great leadership, so many challenges that the college has faced and overcome, (and) so many triumphs that the college has had over a century and a half," Greer said.

"I'm just really excited to be here at this point in history when we're looking forward to such a continued great future. I'm convinced that our best days are still to come."

The night concluded accordingly as the sky above Anglin Field lit up with fireworks. The homecoming celebration will conclude today with a special worship service at 9:30 a.m. in Seeger Chapel.

Follow Zach Vance on Twitter @ZachVanceJCP. Like him on Facebook at facebook.com/zachvance

AT&T buying Time Warner; deal could shake media landscape

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Grab some popcorn — AT&T wants to take you to the movies.

AT&T is buying Time Warner, the owner of the Warner Bros. movie studio as well as HBO and CNN, for \$85.4 billion in a deal that could shake up the media landscape.

The acquisition would combine a telecom giant that owns a leading cellphone business, DirecTV and internet service with the company behind some of the world's most popular entertainment, including "Game of Thrones," the Harry Potter franchise and professional basketball. It would be the latest tie-up between the owners of digital distribu-

tion networks — think cable and phone companies — and entertainment and news providers, all aimed at shoring up businesses eroded by the internet.

The deal would make Time Warner the target of the two largest media-company acquisitions on record, according to Dealogic. The highest was AOL's disastrous \$94 billion acquisition of Time Warner at the end of the dot-com boom.

Regulators would have to sign off on the deal, no certain thing. The prospect of another media giant on the horizon has already drawn fire on the campaign trail. Speaking in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Donald Trump vowed to kill it if elected because it concentrates too

much "power in the hands of too few people."

In Washington, Sen. Pat Franken said the deal "raises some immediate flags about consolidation in the media market" and said he would press for more information on how the deal will affect consumers.

Shares of AT&T, as is typical of acquirers in large deals, fell on reports of a deal in the works on Friday, ending the day down 3 percent.

Even if the AT&T deal overcame opposition in Washington, though, it's possible that regulators might saddle the combined company with so many conditions that the deal no longer makes sense.

By calling Johnson City Press Operations Manager Ron Tipton at 928-3111, ext. 3302.

Follow Jessica Fuller on Twitter @JFullerJCP. Like her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/jfullerjcp

MOM

From Page 1A

On a licensed practical nurse degree from the Tennessee College of Applied Technology in Elizabethton, hoping to work with children one day. But her schooling, topped with a full-time job and caring for her 3-year-old daughter, was beginning to weigh on her, so Eliza was forced to quit her only source of income to move and take care of her daughter.

So Eliza did her best to wrangle her daughter while they stood in line at the Christmas Box sign up, Carter County earlier this month. This will be their second year receiving aid for Christmas, and Eliza said

her daughter loved everything she got through the program last year.

At the end of the day, she just wants something for her daughter that she didn't have as a child growing up poor.

"It was the worst thing in the world to grow up on Christmas and not have many presents," she said. "I know what it's like to not have presents."

For those who wish to help, donations to the Johnson City Press Christmas Box may now be made online at jcpchristmasbox.com or by mailing to P.O. Box 1387, Johnson City, TN 37605. More information about the Christmas Box and how to help can also be obtained

TENNESSEE LOTTERY

SATURDAY MORNING DRAWING	SATURDAY DAY DRAWING	SATURDAY NIGHT DRAWING
Cash 3	Cash 3	Cash 3
7-6-5	3-2-1	2-8-8
Cash 4	Cash 4	Cash 4
2-8-7-3	4-2-9-9	1-2-2-1

07-14-20-23-44; Hot Ball: 14

FRIDAY 09-11-15-16-32; Cash Ball: 2

01-28-33-35-56; Powerball: 22

CORRECTIONS

The Johnson City Press strives for accuracy in all its reports. Readers who notice factual errors in the newspaper should call News Editor Sam Watson or Night Editor Robert Torco at 928-3111.

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