



**A TOWN  
IN A TOWN**  
**Christmas  
display**  
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**14 DAYS  
TO  
CHRISTMAS**

**PREP HOOPS**  
**Cyclones compete  
in weekend  
tournament**  
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Sunday, December 11, 2016

# Elizabethton Star

YOUR STORIES · YOUR COMMUNITY · YOUR STAR

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## Missing Indiana teen last spotted in Elizabethton

BY CURTIS CARDEN  
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The City of Carmel Police Department in Indiana is searching for a missing teenager that was reported last spotted in Elizabethton.

According to Lt. Joe Bickel of the Carmel Police Department, Madison K. Dammeyer, 17, was reported missing on Wednesday, Nov. 30. It was later discovered that Dammeyer and her boyfriend, Benjamin Sanders, 18, purchased two Greyhound bus tickets to travel from Indianapolis to Asheville, N.C. Lt. Bickel stated that records indicated the bus arrived in North Carolina on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 8:30 a.m.

While moving through the area, Lt. Bickel said

that Dammeyer placed a call to her mother on Saturday, Dec. 3, from a business in Elizabethton.



Madison K. Dammeyer



Benjamin Sanders

"That was the last update we received," Lt. Bickel told the Elizabethton Star, adding that Dammeyer was with her boyfriend.

The teenager in question is described as a white female, standing 5'3" and weighing 135 pounds with brown hair and blue eyes. Dammeyer was last seen with fake dreadlocks in her hair and wearing black yoga pants and a dark colored hooded sweatshirt.

The City of Carmel Police Department is asking for anyone that may have information on the teen to contact the department's Investigations Divisions by calling (317) 571-2511 or contacting Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana at (317) 262-8477.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MILLIGAN COLLEGE



Star Photo/Curtis Carden

Milligan College celebrates their 150th birthday on Saturday, Dec. 10. On the event of the event, Commencement was held on Friday with over 100 students graduating. For more photos of the event, see page 2A.



Star Photo/Curtis Carden

Kelsie Deaton, a graduate of Happy Valley High School, received her hood from Dr. Jeff Snodgrass, director of Occupational Therapy, for graduating with a master's degree in the OT field.

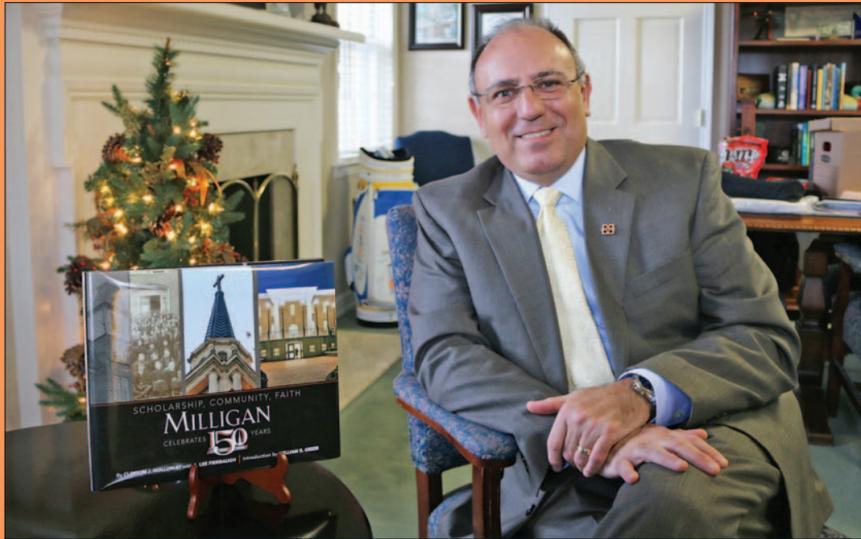
## Milligan caps off sesquicentennial celebration

BY CURTIS CARDEN  
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It all started with a dream from Josephus Hopwood and Henry Derthick.

Milligan College, which recently earned national acclaim from a variety of outlets in the country, celebrated their 150th year of operation on Saturday, Dec. 10, much to the joy of Buffaloes around the country.

After a year of celebration, Milligan College President Dr. Bill Greer shared a moment with the Elizabethton Star and added that the birthday will be a day of relaxation after over a year of events to recognize the sesqui-



Star Photo/Curtis Carden

Milligan College President Dr. Bill Greer takes a breather after a busy year of celebrating comes to a head on Saturday, Dec. 10, for the college's 150th birthday.

■ See MILLIGAN, 7A

## Turbyfill part of first-ever Adult Degree Completion Program for RN-BSN

BY CURTIS CARDEN  
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Being busy is an understatement for Samantha Turbyfill.

The Elizabethton native is the mother of two children and works at the Johnson City Medical Center as the head of the outpatient clinic for neuroendovascular surgery. With the loaded-agenda, Turbyfill checked off an accomplishment by walking down the aisle on Friday, Dec. 9, during Milligan College's Commencement, being part of the school's first Adult Degree Completion Program for RN-BSN.

"It really didn't hit me until today," Turbyfill explained about graduation on Thurs-

■ See TURBYFILL, 7A

Star Photo/Curtis Carden

Milligan College graduate Samantha Turbyfill shared the story of taking a photos atop Brutus, pictured. The Elizabethton native graduated from Milligan College during Commencement on Friday, Dec. 9.

## SNOW DAY



Carter County Schools were dismissed early on Friday, Dec. 9, after inclement weather hit the area. Carter County Schools Superintendent Dr. Kevin Ward provided the Elizabethton Star with a photo of Roan Mountain at 10 a.m., which was the cause for the school's dismissal. For more photos of the winter blast, see page 2.

## Check Inside

- City BOE to elect chair, see page 7A
- EHDA hosts open house, see page 3A
- "Pets of the Week", see page 3A

Johnny R. Campbell Sr.  
Butler



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SUNDAY \$1.50

**Obituaries**



## Friday morning snow



Contributed photos by Michael Klaus, Minister at FCC Elizabethton



## Milligan Commencement



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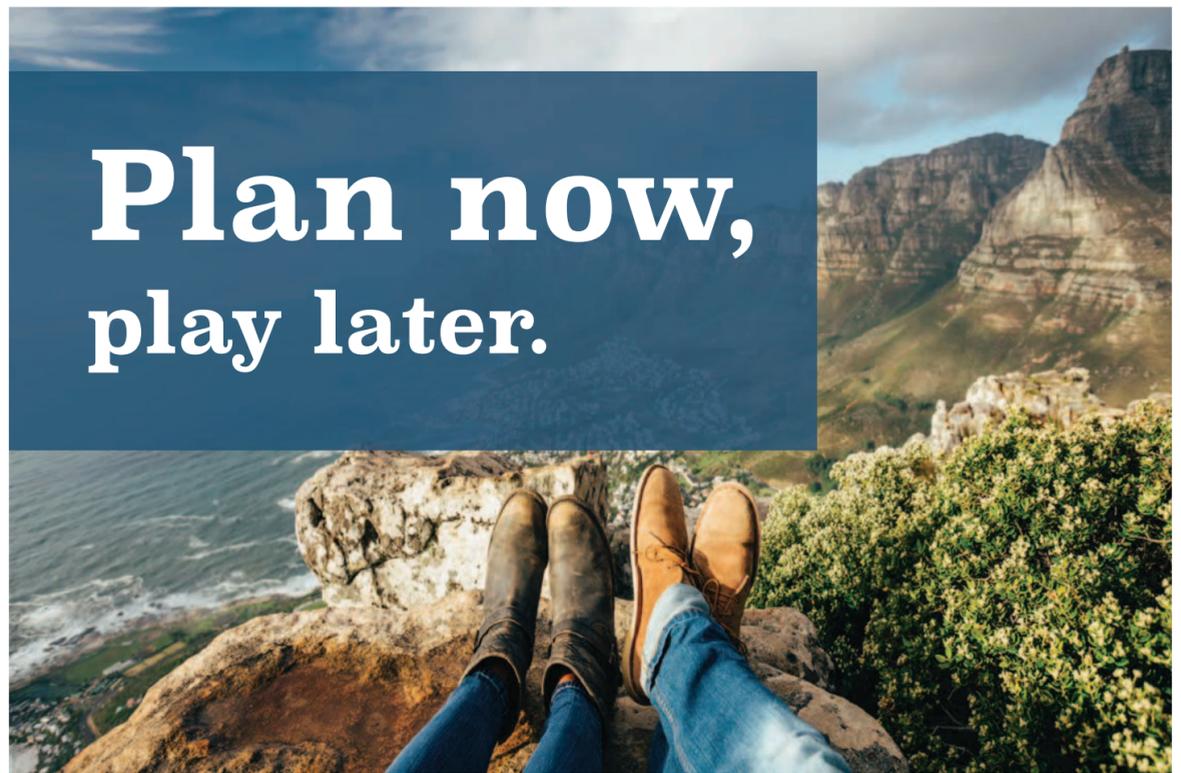


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Star Photo/Curtis Carden

Turbyfill serves as the head of outpatient services for neuroendovascular surgery at Johnson City Medical Center.

## Turbyfill

Continued from 1A

day, Dec. 8. “When I went to pick up my cap and gown and it finally hit me. Here I am, almost 36 years old and I will finally have my bachelor’s degree. It doesn’t really change anything as far as my job goes but just to be a graduate from Milligan College, it is a big deal. If you live here, you know how prestigious of a school it is.”

Turbyfill was able to have a breather Thursday. Her department, which works with stroke patients, had a busy day ahead with two brain surgeries on the docket.

“After they leave the hospital, I do all their follow-up care,” Turbyfill said. “Make sure they follow up with their doctors, make sure they have somebody to call in case things start getting weird.

“I’ve been here almost five years. The whole time I’ve been here, I’ve worked with stroke patients. I used to work on the acute care floor but then I came here to handle outpatient services. I sort of work as the in-between person for patients and their doctors.”

Johnson City Medical Center has emerged as one of the top clinics in the area when dealing with patients battling with strokes. The development of medicine over the years has allowed patients that had a thrombectomy or cerebral aneurysms receive treatment in less stressful ways. While discussing different patients, Turbyfill added two patients were seen inside the clinic

## Milligan

Continued from 1A

centennial. “We have really partied out,” Dr. Greer said with a laugh. “When we had our homecoming, we pulled out all the stops. It’ll be a little quiet with everyone gone. But on Sunday, we have asked our supporting churches that are scattered throughout the country, and the world, to remember us in the morning to acknowledge the birthday during their services and to pray for the college and our next 150 years. We will be recognizing it that way, there will also be online recognition on social media for our alumni.”

The last bit of major celebration took place on Friday, Dec. 9, with over 100 students graduating from the college.

“They are graduating on the last day of our first 150 years,” Dr. Greer said. “December 10th is the day in 1866 that Tennessee chartered the Buffalo Male and Female Institute, which we trace our heritage back to. December Commencement is always a special one. Seeger Chapel is still decorated from our concerts that we had last weekend, which were stunning and beautiful. We’re proud of all our students that will be graduating.”

During Friday’s Commencement, Dr. Greer dedicated the ceremony to Rachel Reutzel, a

— one that had a thrombectomy and aneurysm fixed while another stroke patient didn’t require any surgery at all.

“It has been an incredible experience. It’s a joy to meet everybody,” she said.

While enjoying her career now, it was the encouragement of a friend that led her down the current line of work.

When discussing graduating, Turbyfill joked about the timeframe it took to get her bachelor’s degree.

“This has been the longest time it has taken anyone to get a bachelor’s degree, ever,” she said with a laugh. “I started out at ETSU in 1999 and thought I wanted to be a teacher ... I had no idea what I was doing.

“My friend decided we should go to LPN school instead and I didn’t want to go,” she continued with a smile. “But she said ‘we’re going, you’re going to love it’. Since then, I loved being a nurse. I went back to school and got my RN at Walters State.”

Following up her time in Morristown, the proud Milligan graduate recalled the time when she heard the news about the school’s program to obtain the BSN.

“I was here, up on the stoke floor, and our manager called me and said ‘we just got an email, go check your email right now and call them right now’ because they were just starting the first RN-BSN program,” Turbyfill said. “They were doing it like a hybrid so you weren’t having to go to school every day. They were going to pay for ten people to go, covering everything. All you had to do

was put your name on a list.”

It was a joyous occasion once the phone call came in from Milligan College’s Jenny Duran.

“I never had someone call and tell me I got accepted to school before,” Turbyfill said. “I was crying on the phone because she was saying ‘I wanted to call you because it was a celebration’ ... that was right before we started school so it was around the end of 2014.”

Turbyfill said the past two years was the best experience, talking about the experiences with her instructors and “Miss Jackson,” who Turbyfill added was the “sweetest and most helpful” woman ever on campus.

“When we went to orientation, I came home and told my son that he’s going to have to find something to do at Milligan,” Turbyfill said. “You don’t realize how great of a small school is until you’re there. At the different schools I went to, nobody ever asked for someone to love me extra.”

Friday was a special moment to share with family members too, Turbyfill said, adding that she began to tear up when she saw her son, a sophomore at Elizabethton High School, receive a postcard from his first college.

With a son in high school and a daughter that attends West Side, Turbyfill said she loves living in Elizabethton and sees the similarities between the community and Milligan College.

“It’s the same way,” she said. “Milligan College is just like Elizabethton. Everyone knows everybody and is more than willing to help.”

a smile. “We’re going to position them along the large wall behind our new housing village. They’re all going to be “grazing” together ... it’ll be an interesting site to see and a point of interest on campus going forward. We’re very grateful to Burleson Construction for moving those buffaloes around for us over the past year. They placed them initially for us and moved them midyear. We appreciate their time and efforts to move the buffaloes.”

As the birthday candles’ fire fades away, the future continues to look bright moving forward, according to the president.

“We’ll continue to reflect on this for quite awhile,” Dr. Greer said. “We’re even more excited about the future holds. Milligan’s best days are ahead. We’ll look at continuing to grow and diversify but remain true to our roots as a Christian liberal arts college.”



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# BOE to select chair, vice chair Tuesday

BY CURTIS CARDEN  
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With familiarity on tap for 2017, the Elizabethton City School Board will wrap up some business to cap off this year.

The BOE is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m. inside the Mack Pierce Board Room on South Watauga Avenue and will run through a busy agenda and elect officers.

Rita Booher, Phil Isaacs and Dr. Grover May retained the seats on the board during the November election to keep their posts within the board. Booher currently serve as the BOE chair while Isaacs serves as the vice chair.

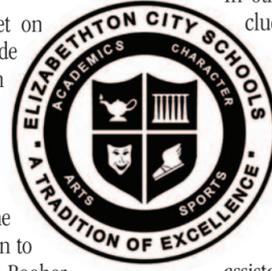
The BOE is comprised of Booher, Dr. May, Isaacs, Tyler Fleming and Susan Peters.

Director of Schools Dr. Corey Gardenhour spoke after the election process and stated that we was working forward to working with the board mov-

ing forward. A variety of projects are on the table, including renovations at T.A. Dugger. The school is celebrating its 75th anniversary with a luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 14 inside the school with former and current faculty and staff.

In other business, the BOE’s agenda includes:

- a discussion about the possibility of lower tuition rates for 2017-18 academic year.
- a vote to approve the reclassification of two part time cook positions to one full time position at West Side Elementary School.
- a vote to approve one part time assistant to the teacher position at Harold McCormick Elementary School to meet the needs of the student population.
- votes to approve a variety of board polices on a first-reading.
- recognition of the accomplishments of the Elizabethton High School Betsy Band, and students that competed in the 2016 All-East Chorus.



## Interfaith storytelling concert to raise funds for ETSU chair

Storytellers from a variety of faiths will celebrate their varied traditions in story, song and dance in “United We Stand,” an interfaith storytelling concert to be held Saturday, Jan. 7.

This concert, which will take place from 2-5 p.m. at the McKinney Center, 103 Franklin Ave., Jonesborough, is planned as a fundraiser to benefit the Kathleen M. Stern and Milagros M. Argueta Endowment for Storytelling at East Tennessee State University. This endowment will provide scholarships and an endowed chair in storytelling with a focus on therapeutic, homiletic and community-building story.

The Stern-Argueta Endowment was established by Dr. Patrick Stern, a developmental behavioral pediatrician who retired from the Quillen College of Medicine at ETSU, and his wife of 47 years, Patricia Stern, in memory of his mother and their granddaughter.

According to Patrick Stern, his mother “displayed unselfish giving to others, a humble dignity, an unending love of life, great compassion for all, and steadfast and unquestioned faith in God, especially in her role as mother and granddaughter.”

Milagros Argueta died at birth and is buried at her grandparents’ home, the Embree House Historic

Farm in Washington County. Her gravesite is adjacent to “The Milagros Storytelling Palace,” a restored barn, named in her memory, which hosts storytelling concerts.

In addition, Patrick Stern and granddaughters Grace M. and Caroline M. Argueta, Milagros’ sisters, have published a book, “Angel Guardians and Christmas Trees,” which tells Milagros’ story. Grace and Caroline, who were ages 6 and 9, respectively, at the time of publication, were the first to share the story with their grandfather, and created all of the drawings for the book; Caroline also took some of the photographs.

Milagros’ story is one of several that will be shared during the “United We Stand” concert.

“Our ambition,” Stern said, “is to promote unity in our community with diversity as different religious traditions share diverse beliefs agreeably and respectfully. Individuals from great faiths will present time-honored seasonal stories accompanied by hymns and prayers.

“This is an attempt to touch community. This is not an entertainment concert, although it will have entertaining qualities.”

Storytellers representing Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Native American faiths will participate in the program.

Also in the “United We Stand” concert will be music, including a performance by Johnny Russaw of “Thy Will,” the hit debut single from the faith-based album “Love Remains” by Hillary Scott & The Scott Family. “Thy Will,” co-written by Hillary Scott with Emily Wiseband and Bernie Herms, reflects Scott’s prayer after she suffered a miscarriage.

The ETSU Storytelling Program is housed in the Department of Communication and Performance and is one of a select few fully accredited graduate programs in professional and applied storytelling. Students pursue a master of arts in professional communication with a concentration in storytelling and theater, focusing on either performance skills to prepare for a career as a professional storyteller or on applications of storytelling in other careers and roles, such as teachers, corporate trainers, healers, librarians, parents, clergy and others.

An anonymous donor has pledged a matching gift of up to \$10,000 for every dollar raised before and during the “United We Stand” fundraising concert.

Tickets are \$10 each, and seating is limited. To reserve tickets, contact the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center at 423-753-1010.

## Agencies partner to promote senior driver safety

The Tennessee Highway Safety Office (THSO) and the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability (TCAD) join the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) to promote Older Driver Safety Awareness Week, December 5 – 9, by informing the public about the importance of supporting senior adult mobility. Collectively, the THSO, the TCAD, and the AOTA want to inform aging drivers and their families that strategies exist to help address concerns related to safe mobility and transportation.

In 2016, there have been 209 fatalities reported involving a senior driver in Tennessee. This time last year, that number was 192. The THSO encourages Ten-

nesseans to seek the necessary assistance, resources, and educational materials offered by the THSO, the TCAD, the AOTA, and other senior safety advocates to help reduce senior driver crashes, injuries, and fatalities. The THSO offers senior driver safety resources at [www.tntrafficsafety.org/seniors](http://www.tntrafficsafety.org/seniors).

According to the TCAD, more than 1.5 million Tennesseans are now age 60 or older. By 2030, Tennessee’s senior population is projected to increase to 2.1 million. Therefore, it is imperative to educate Tennesseans on safe mobility and alternative modes of transportation. The TCAD offers information about transportation services for senior adults. Learn more by contacting a local Area Agency on Aging and Disabil-

ity (AAAD) at 1-866-836-6678 or <http://www.tn.gov/aging/article/aaad-map1>.

To promote Older Driver Safety Awareness Week, the AOTA is using hashtag #ODSAW16 on social media. The AOTA offers resources and educational materials like daily podcasts and the following tip sheets: Keeping Older Drivers Safe and Driving Safely As You Age. For more information about the AOTA and Older Driver Safety Awareness Week, visit [www.aota.org/Conference-Events/Older-Driver-Safety-Awareness-Week.aspx](http://www.aota.org/Conference-Events/Older-Driver-Safety-Awareness-Week.aspx).



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