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# Elizabethton Star

YOUR STORIES · YOUR COMMUNITY · YOUR STAR

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50¢ Daily - \$1.50 Sunday

**DINE UNITED**  
Elizabethton/Carter County  
United Way  
September 2016

**Primo's**  
September 5: ALL DAY  
September 11: 4-9 pm

**LONE STAR STEAKHOUSE**  
September 9: ALL DAY

**DINO'S RESTAURANT**  
September 7: ALL DAY

**J'S CORNER**  
BURGERS & BARBECUE  
September 6: 11-2 pm

**Hardee's**  
September 8: 5-8 pm

**Bojangles**  
Famous Chicken & Biscuits  
September 6: 5-8 pm

**ZAXBY'S**  
September 20: 5-8 pm

**LIVE UNITED**  
United Way  
When you dine in one of the listed participating restaurants, they will donate a portion of the proceeds to your United Way. United Way of Elizabethton/Carter County (423) 543-6975

**Remember to tell your cashier that you support United Way!**

## Residents invited to 'Dine United' and help a good cause

BY **ABBY MORRIS-FRYE**  
STAR STAFF  
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Area residents are being invited to Dine United as a way to help the United Way of Elizabethton/Carter County raise funds to support community organizations.

"We've got a number of local restaurants who have agreed to hold fundraisers for us in the month of September," said Josh McKinney, the Community Impact Coordinator for United Way of Elizabethton/Carter County. "Some of them are all day and others are at specific times."

The local United Way has held fundraisers like this in the past and McKinney said he hopes to continue the event.

"We're planning on doing this every year, or

possibly twice a year if there are more restaurants who would like to come on board," McKinney said. "We're so grateful here to have a lot of restaurants who truly support United Way."

On the days and times set by the restaurants, a portion of the proceeds from sales to diners who mention United Way will be donated to the agency.

"All the community has to do is eat like they normally would and tell their server or cashier that they support United Way," McKinney said. "It's a wonderful opportunity for us."

"It's really a win-win situation," he added. "You're supporting local restaurants and keeping money in Carter County while also helping local residents get the assistance they need through local

■ See DINE, 8A

## Local outdoorsman helping to lead effort for National Recreation Area designation

BY **ABBY MORRIS-FRYE**  
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Northeast Tennessee is full of natural beauty and recreation opportunities and now a regional partnership is hoping to capitalize on those resources to help draw more visitors, businesses and jobs to the area.

The new regional economic development partnership formed by Carter, Washington and

Unicoi counties is in the earliest phase of seeking to have a portion of the area's National Forest land designated as a "National Recreation Area."

Just over a week ago, the Washington County Economic Development Council and its partners in Carter and Unicoi County entered into a 12-month contract with well-respected area outdoorsman David Ramsey, a Unicoi County native who has

spearheaded several outdoor projects. Ramsey will collaborate with WCEDC representatives, other community leaders and members of the public in helping to develop a roadmap for the proposal.

"We're very, very early in the game on this," Ramsey said. "It's not yet a plan, we're not that far into it. It is a proposal to do

■ See OUTDOORSMAN, 8A



Star Photo/Curtis Carden

As people of Louisiana look to regroup after catastrophic flooding affected their state, residents of Elizabethton are looking to do their part to assist. Pictured, Brittney Madden, left, and Matthew George stand at the Louisiana Disaster drop off point inside Elizabethton Collision Center. The center, along with Vivacious Tans, are serving as drop off points for anyone interested in contributing supplies.

## Helping Hand

Local businesses, churches gathering items for Louisiana flood victims

BY **CURTIS CARDEN**  
STAR STAFF  
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As the people of Louisiana look to rebuild after catastrophic flooding ravaged the state, residents in Elizabethton are looking to help in any possible way.

In an effort spearheaded by Brittney Madden and Jessica Ellis, donations of goods are being compiled and will be sent to the area.

Madden and Ellis are no strangers to assisting areas ravaged with flooding. This is the second initiative that has been orchestrated, with the

first coming off the heels of flooding that affected West Virginia during the month of June.

"She and I were talking about doing something because I had done an event like this for the West Virginia disaster that happened recently," Madden said Friday inside Elizabethton Collision Center, which is used as a drop off point for supplies. "When it came down to it and we started asking the same people who helped with that if there had been anything going on and we kept hearing no, we started taking in supplies."

In an event dubbed as the worst natural disaster in the United States since Hurricane Sandy's rampage four years ago, according to the Red Cross,

■ See VICTIMS, 4A



Photo Courtesy Milligan College

Dr. Lee Harrison, co-author of "Milligan Celebrates 150 Years: Scholarship, Community, and Faith" and Vice President for Marketing and Enrollment Management led the first seminar to celebrate Milligan College's 150-year history on Tuesday. Harrison spoke on the "Founding of Milligan College and American Reconstructionism."

## 'Buff Pride

Milligan College provides seminars highlighting 150-year history

BY **CURTIS CARDEN**  
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Since 1866, Milligan College has seen its fair share of historical moments.

The remainder of 2016 is a busy time on campus as students, faculty, graduates and members of the community celebrate the college's sesquicentennial. Milligan College will officially turn 150 years old on Dec. 8.

As the days slowly trickle to the target date, a series of historical seminars exploring history in honor of the sesquicentennial are currently underway. Dr. Lee Fierbaugh Harrison opened up the

■ See HISTORY, 8A

## History

### Continued from 1A

series on Tuesday, Aug. 23, telling attendees about the founding of Milligan College.

"I think we're off to a great start," Rhajon Smith, director of development and chair of the college's sesquicentennial committee, said. "With Milligan alum and members of the community, it was great to take a look at the history of Milligan College."

Seven seminars remain on the schedule, offered each Tuesday from Aug. 23 through Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. inside Derthick Hall with each session free and open to the public.

"It is really a great chance for people to stop by and see the growth of Milligan College over the ages," Smith said. "To see how Milligan changed, and America, with members of our faculty and even retired professors, experts and other leaders from the college."

## Outdoorsman

### Continued from 1A

something that would benefit the communities of Unicoi, Carter and Washington counties."

"Everyone is really excited about the potential of this project," he added.

According to the National Park Service, a National Recreation Area serves to preserve "significant historic resources and important natural areas in locations that can provide outdoor recreation for large numbers of people."

"This is just a step below a National Park," Ramsey said. "A National Recreation Area is much less restrictive than a National Park."

The idea being proposed by the WCEDC would be to seek the National Recreation Area designation for existing National Forest Lands which already provide recreation opportunities.

"That will give our three counties and communities a more specific destination and location to market," Ramsey said.

The designation would serve to not only attract visitors and tourists to the region to take part in outdoor activities, it would also draw in businesses that want to locate near such a recreation area.

According to WCEDC officials, the designation could also assist in recruiting new businesses and talent to the region.

"Increasingly, quality of life is a key factor in where people choose to live, and outdoor op-

The remainder of the series includes:

\* Aug. 30 - "Milligan and the Stone Campbell Movement," Dr. Dennis Helsabeck, The Henry and Emerald Webb Chair Emeritus of History.

\* Sept. 6 - "Milligan's Navy V-12, WWII & Post-war Era," Duard Walker, famed athlete, coach and athletic director.

\* Sept. 13 - "Milligan and the Cold War & John F. Kennedy Era," Dr. R. David Roberts, retired Bible and Christian ministry professor.

\* Sept. 20 - "Milligan during the Civil Rights Era and 60's," Dr. Jack Knowles, retired humanities professor.

\* Sept. 27 - "Milligan & Women's Issues," Dr. Pat Magness, retired humanities professor.

\* Oct. 4 - "Milligan in the Providence of God," Dr. Bill Gwaltney, professor emeritus of Bible.

\* Oct. 11 - "From Honors

to Humanities," Dr. Bob Wetzel, professor of ethics and philosophical theology.

Smith went on to add that the Sept. 6 session will be held at Wilson Auditorium on campus.

"These sessions are great, and we've been in a long-standing relationship with the community," she added. "The Lord has provided for the college tremendously over the years and we love to take this opportunity to show what Milligan College is all about."

The seminars are just some of the multiple activities underway for Buff Nation. With Homecoming just two months out, the campus will be celebrating the sesquicentennial with a variety of events, including an arts gala, concerts and much more.

Visit [milligan.edu/150](http://milligan.edu/150) for more information on the events celebrating the college's history.

opportunities often play a large role in that," said WCEDC Chairman Tommy Bureson, adding abundant high-quality outdoor opportunities can often be a game-changer in the decision making process when people and businesses are looking to relocate. "We know we have the assets here. We also know we need to make significant progress in showcasing them in a way that people can easily understand and make good use of."

The process to get a National Recreation Area designation could take some time, Ramsey said.

"It's a designation that has to come from Congress," he said.

Before a proposal could be sent to Congress, the WCEDC along with the support of the three counties and its residents would need to develop a plan, including which portion of the National Forest Land to request the designation for.

"The Cherokee National Forest, especially the area we are focusing on, already has camping and trails already in place as well as a portion of the Appalachian Trail," Ramsey said. "A lot of the infrastructure we would need for the designation is already in place."

Because so many of the recreation opportunities are already available, Ramsey said the effort could come at a minimal cost for the counties involved.

Since the WCEDC announced

just over a week ago its idea to seek the designation, Ramsey said some area residents have shared their concerns with him of how local recreation opportunities — particularly hunting — could be impacted by the designation. Ramsey said he hopes to help put those worries at ease.

"There isn't any activity currently taking place on National Forest land that would be prohibited in a National Recreation Area," Ramsey said. "Hunting is one of the main activities that are allowed in National Recreation Areas." The only hunting restrictions that would be in effect in a National Recreation Area are those that are already in place in National Forest lands and mainly involve safety zones, Ramsey said.

According to Ramsey, part of his job over the next 12 months will be answering questions from the public, such as the concerns he's heard about hunting, and working with local leaders to get public input and build support for the project.

"This thing really has to be driven from a grassroots level," Ramsey said. "It has to be something the community gets behind and supports."

"My job is going to be making sure everyone understands there is virtually no downside to this designation," he added. "I know that seems like a large claim to make, but I stand by it."

## Policebeats

• Penny White, 45, 303 Cedar Grove Road, Johnson City, was arrested Thursday by Carter County Sheriff's Office Deputy Paul Morrell and charged with driving under the influence and driving on a suspended license.

• Lisa Hatley, 47, 1905 Highway 91, Elizabethton, was arrested Thursday by CCSO Deputy Kevin Kemp on a warrant charging her with violation of probation.

• Holden Ledford, 22, 1412 Colony Park Drive, Johnson City, was arrested Thursday by CCSO Sgt.

David Caldwell and charged with public intoxication, vandalism, possession of Schedule II drugs and possession of Schedule IV drugs.

• Jerry Harrison, 41, 138 Canter Road, Elizabethton, was issued a criminal summons on Thursday by Elizabethton Police Department Cpl. Kirk Carrier charging him with shoplifting. Harrison was also issued a criminal summons by EPD Officer David Johnson in a separate incident on Thursday charging him with shoplifting and possession of a prohibited weapon.

## Alexander celebrates NPS anniversary with hike in the Smokies

GATLINBURG — U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander hiked the Fighting Creek Nature Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Thursday with middle and high school students to mark the 100th anniversary of the U.S. National Park Service. At a luncheon afterward celebrating Smokies' employees, the senator said, "the beauty, magic and serenity of national parks provides a great way to celebrate what's right with America."

"Today, we celebrate 100 years since Congress established the U.S. National Park Service," Alexander said. "Documentarian Ken Burns called it, 'America's best idea,' and if Burns is right, then the Great Smoky Mountains National Park must be 'America's very best idea' because each year it attracts nearly twice as many visitors than any other national park."

Alexander praised the work of the Smokies permanent and seasonal employees, telling the stories of Dawn Brackins, who started working in the Smokies in 1997 and today oversees the custodial needs of some of the busiest areas in the whole National Park Service, and Ryan Williamson, a

wildlife technician, who grew up in Cosby dreaming of becoming a park ranger and today helps track the park's bears and responds to emergency search and rescue operations.

The senator also told of his friendship with retired park ranger and mantracker Dwight McCarter of Townsend. "During his career Dwight helped find nearly 120 people lost in the Smokies," Alexander said. "And after he retired, he researched every airplane that had crashed in the Smokies. Then, he retraced the Hawkins/Meigs Line that divided settler and Indian territories at the beginning of our country. He wrote three books about these exploits."

Alexander said, "Tennesseans feel a special pride in our Smokies because the people of Tennessee and North Carolina bought the land and gave it to the United States to create the park. Back then, a ranger wrote a memo identifying the wildlife he had found in this new park. There were 100 black bears. Today, there are about 1,500. Then, there were 315 wild turkeys. On some days now, I can see a couple of dozen strutting just outside our home

in West Miller's Cove two miles from the park boundary. In 1934, there were 12 whitetail deer in Tennessee and six in North Carolina. Today, they're everywhere. Then, there were no river otters and no elk in the park, but they are both here today.

"There are other signs of progress. Today, acid rain laws are working, the air is cleaner, and the Friends of the Smokies, together with the Great Smoky Mountains Association, have contributed more than \$85 million. In May, the park opened its new Collections Preservation Center, which will preserve artifacts, archival records and other important historical items."

Congress established the United States National Park Service in 1916. Today, Alexander spoke at a luncheon, hosted by the Smoky Mountain Tourism Development Council, Friends of the Smokies and the Great Smoky Mountains Association, in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to celebrate NPS' achievements over the past 100 years. Before the luncheon, Alexander hiked a 1.6-mile loop in the Smokies with

■ See SMOKIES, 14A

## Twins

### Continued from 6A

Twins fans are county residents. What would happen if the city and county could have a shared vision? What could happen if the two governments moved beyond their "own" programs and visions to a shared vision?

In all honesty, the "shared vision" isn't there because our local elected officials are more concerned about political turf guarding than doing things to promote our community.

There are many areas in

which the two governments could work together. Some progress has been made in library funding. When it comes down to it, we all are county residents, and we all, regardless of whether we live on Main Street or on Highway 91, pay taxes.

"We must all hang together," Ben Franklin said, "or assuredly we shall all hang separately."

If county government and the City of Elizabethton do not decide to hang together on

many of the issues facing them, they will assuredly end up hanging separately.

A better spirit of cooperation is needed in government. We can do so much more together than separately. Parks, the library, and even a new Twins Stadium are good examples of how the two governments can work together, and all can benefit.

It's time to hit the restart button. Opportunity is knocking. Officials need to answer the door.

## Dine

### Continued from 1A

agencies who receive support from United Way."

The following local restaurants will be taking part in the Dine United event during September:

- Primo's — Sept. 5 — All Day
- J's Corner — Sept. 6 — 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.
- Bojangles — Sept. 6 — 5-8 p.m.
- Dino's Restaurant — Sept. 7 — All Day
- Hardee's — Sept. 8 — 5-8 p.m.

- LoneStar Steakhouse — Sept. 9 — All Day
- Primo's — Sept. 11 — 4-9 p.m.
- Zaxy's — Sept. 20 — 5-8 p.m.

Remember to tell your server or cashier that you support United Way.

For more information on the event or on United Way and its services, contact the United Way of Elizabethton/Carter County at 423-543-6975.

## Winery

### Continued from 3A

"The winner gets a free lunch and a bottle of wine of their choice."

The event will kick off at noon and the winner of the look alike contest will be selected by 1 p.m., just in time for a barbecue lunch to be served.

At the event, attendees will get the chance to witness and even take part in the stomping of the grapes.

"We will have two tubs for the grapes," Gay said. "We will have a large one for the adults where they can actually mash the grapes with their toes. Then we will have a small one for the kids."

Attending the event is free, but for \$5 visitors to the winery can participate in the grape stomp and get a commemorative T-shirt, which will be completed by placing their own footprints on the shirt after they exit the grape tub.

"This is a really fun event," Gay said. "Last year we had about 100 people."

Gay said there will be both indoor and outdoor seating available for the lunch meal, which is available for purchase. An exact cost for the meal has not been set yet, but Gay said it will not be expensive.

Visitors can also tour the winery and the tasting room, which features all of the winery's various labels of wine for sale.

Watauga Lake Winery is located at 6952 Big Dry Run Road in Butler and is owned by Wayne and Linda Gay. The winery is based out of the historic Big Dry Run Schoolhouse and opened to the public in November 2012.

For more information on the Grape Stomp event or on Watauga Lake Winery call 423-768-0345 or visit them online at [www.WataugaLakeWinery.com](http://www.WataugaLakeWinery.com).

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It is of utmost importance for people to be treated with fairness, courtesy, and respect in City Court. It is critical for the City Judge to maintain a proper judicial temperament. During the time I have served as City Judge, I have always done my best to be fair to all, to apply the law equally, and to be respectful to all appearing in City Court. The residents of Elizabethton deserve this and have a right to expect nothing less.

For the past nine years, I have attempted to maintain the highest standards in City Court, and if re-elected, pledge to continue to do so in the future.

**Your vote and support will be greatly appreciated.**

RE-ELECT  
**T.J. Little**

**Elizabethton City Court Judge**

Paid Political Adv.