



STAMPEDE

“Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.” - Thomas Jefferson

Milligan Grads Reminisce on Their Spring Break Memories

Vanessa Quinones, Staff Reporter | @nesquinones

Spring break is just around the corner, so as you're packing up for your very own trip, here are some favorite memories of Milligan graduates' past spring breaks.

Graduate Daniel Ball said his best spring break was his junior year when his best friend, Colby, paid for him to fly in to Denver, Colo. They stayed four days in Colorado Springs where they spent their days hiking. To top off the trip, Ball and his friend went skiing at Breckenridge where they enjoyed the perks of a stay in a mountain lodge, free ski rentals and discounted lift tickets.

“It's important to note I had never skied before. So I spent much of the day on my face,” Ball said.

For graduate Callie West, the best memories of spring break were made



Ball and his friend on the slopes at Breckenridge, Colorado. Photo by Daniel Ball

her sophomore and junior year at a lake house in Lake Martin, Ala. West reminisced on her time at Milligan as time with “family,” and spring breaks with that family were the best.

“We left at the end of the week. With it still being cool, playing in the water was not a thing. However, we laid in the warm sun, rode the boat and did tons of sitting in a circle talking,” West said. “Spring break in college was one of the last few times to be free. I would take them back and do them all over again if I could.”

Recent graduates Caroline Gill and Amy Aubrey chose their mission trip to Piedras Negras, Mexico, last year as their favorite spring break, although each shared a different memory about what made it a special trip.

See Spring Break, p. 3

Administration Speaks on Campus Parking

Tiffany Florian, Editor in Chief | @Tiffytbagirl

Students have plenty of spaces to park on campus, according to administration. After a report in the Stampede last month (Feb. 9) suggested otherwise, President Bill Greer and Director of Property and Risk Management Brent Nipper met with the Stampede to provide more information regarding the parking situation.

According to Nipper, there are 914 students with registered vehicles including Milligan and Emmanuel students but excluding students with Em-

manuel Village stickers.

Nipper recently recounted the parking spaces on campus and said there is a total number of 960 parking spaces available to students (1,125 if you include Emmanuel). The 960 count includes handicapped parking spaces available to students, parking areas shared by faculty and staff and the canyon parking lot.

“I have never observed a time where there wasn't space for students to park,” Nipper said. “Are there times when you

can't park right by the building you want to park by? Yes, there probably are times, but until the canyon parking lot is full, there are available spaces. They are just not popular spaces.”

Greer echoed Nipper, saying there are more than enough parking spaces for students, but they simply may not be their preferred parking choice.

“You may have to park closer to a different residence hall than your own, but it is still a privilege that we grant all of our Milligan students at no additional cost to them. I don't want that estimate to be undervalued,” Greer said.

Greer said that as a graduate student at University of Tennessee he had to pay around \$300 for a campus perimeter pass and park in a field where a shuttle picked him up and drove him to the main campus.

“It's all a matter of perspective,” Greer said. “We are a small enough campus that even if you have to park in the farthest away spot, it is still not as far as it is going to be if you were on a sprawling, impersonal campus.”

Nipper said one of the reasons Milligan does not charge for parking passes is so that more students will fill out the vehicle registration form and pick up a parking sticker.

See Parking, p. 3

Swimming Buffaloes Take on Nationals

Kristen Williams, Staff Reporter

Milligan College's swim team is headed to the Columbus Aquatic Center in Columbus, Ga., to compete in the Nationals swimming meet March 1-4.

Milligan has 10 swimmers going to nationals this year: Sara Farmer, Isabel Siegel, Anna Hathcock, Alyssa Boyer, Emily Mark, Casey Knapp, Sterling Burnett, Matt McFalls, Grant Callahan and Brian Sackett Jr.

“We had a really good season, lots of time drops and personal bests,” junior swimmer Maeve Lee said.

This will be the end to a successful season for the swimmers. They finished

the conference meet with 17 best times, 23 top-eight podium finishes and three school records. The records were broken by Sara Farmer, Grant Callahan and Sterling Burnett.

“The season is coming to an end, but I am really excited to see how my teammates and I do at nationals” sophomore Alyssa Boyer said. Boyer took the podium in all three of her races at the conference meet to qualify for the relays for nationals.

The swimmers will be racing all week in two races a day. They will race once in the morning preliminaries to see

who makes it to the top 16 swimmers. The top 16 will swim in the finals that night.

The meets will be available to watch

on the cell phone apps MeetMobile and USASwimming. Updates can also be found on fastswimmerresults.com or naia.org.

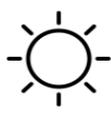


Boyer, Farmer and Hathcock cheering on Mark as she comes to the end of her race. Photo by Alyssa Boyer

WEEKEND
WEATHER



FRIDAY
46° / 27°



SATURDAY
58° / 35°



SUNDAY
65° / 46°

Editor's Note

Tiffany Florian, Editor in Chief | @Tiffytbagirl

I don't know about you, but I love the smell of old books--the puff of air that swishes in front of your face as you thumb through the worn out pages, the texture of the thick, yellow-tinted paper as you turn the next page in anticipation of what happens next.

As you read each sentence, you become more invested, more enthralled with the story. The more you read, the harder the book becomes to put down. Suddenly you find yourself sitting in the same position for six hours with eyes glazed over in curiosity and just one more chapter left to finish the book.

Whether your nose is always in a book or you only read when it is required for class, I think there is something within each of you that longs to read the gripping story that awaits.

As a reader, you resonate with stories that sound similar to your own, and you hope for the stories that allow you to live out your wildest dreams.

But what if you became more than the reader? What if you became the writer? Would your story change? Would there be a plot twist or an alternate ending?

Imagine if you picked up the pen to write your dreams, goals and fears, if you became the storyteller of your adventures instead of just the reader.

Your story is yours to write.

You cannot write anyone else's story but your own. We merely get the privilege of flipping through the pages of someone else's story every now and then.

In this edition of The Stampede you will find stories that clarify and captivate, inform and inspire.

As you engage as the reader, I hope you resonate with these stories and never stop writing your own.

Enjoy!
Tiffany Florian



Open Doors logo. Picture from Open Doors Facebook. 101 E 8th Ave., Johnson City, Tenn.



A blended chai latte at Hibbert-Davis Urban Brews. Picture from Hibbert-Davis Urban Brews Facebook. 247 Broad St. Kingsport, Tenn.

Are you looking for a place to study that has food, coffee and white noise? Finding the perfect fit is tough. There are so many factors to take into consideration. Do you want a place that could get really loud? Do you prefer filling food like sandwiches and soups or just a place that has coffee and snack foods? Do you want to go far away from campus to avoid getting distracted by people you know? Here are some places that students and faculty have decided are conducive to studying.

The Willow Tree is a popular coffeehouse among students and faculty alike. It offers Open Mic Nights every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. if you want a study break. The foods served include quiches, breakfast bagels, sandwiches and soups. It is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m.

Coffee Spots That Will Encourage You to Study

Kristen Williams, Staff Reporter

to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Another study spot in Johnson City is Open Doors Coffeehouse. This coffeehouse specializes in cast iron Belgian Liege Waffles and is a favorite spot of two Milligan professors, Dr. Heather Hoover and Dr. Kayla Walker Edin.

However, if you want to go a little farther than Johnson City, there is a coffee shop called The Corner Cup in Downtown Jonesborough, which also has several small shops and places to eat. They have savory and sweet crepes for \$7.50 (as well as gluten-free options).

"It has really good crepes on the weekends, and the coffee's good too. It has comfy chairs and is usually quiet if you get there at the right time," sophomore Kaylie Foster said.

Hibbert-Davis Urban Brews is about an hour away from campus in Kingsport. They offer coffee, tea, smoothies, milkshakes and a variety of foods including salads, sandwiches and hummus plates. They are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, and 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday. The coffee and espresso are 100 percent organic, fair trade and shade grown. Hibbert-Davis also uses

coffee from The Coffee Company in Elizabethton. Sophomore Emmah Ndune likes to study here because of the nice atmosphere and the coffee.

However, if you don't like coffee or want healthier food options, there is always the option of Panera Bread located at 3140 People's St., Johnson City, Tenn. They sell soups, salads, sandwiches and bagels free of artificial preservatives and sweeteners.



Storefront of The Corner Cup in Downtown Jonesborough. Picture from The Corner Cup Facebook. 148 E Main St., Jonesborough, Tenn.



The bookstore located inside of The Willow Tree Coffeehouse and Music Room. Photo from Willow Tree Facebook. 216 E Main St., Johnson City, Tenn.

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OPINION: Fake News Phenomenon Affects Democracy

Kennedy Weber, Staff Reporter | @xoxkennedyxo

The crazed "fake news" phenomenon has swept the nation, scaring, enraging and frustrating many of America's citizens. Who are we supposed to believe? What are we supposed to believe? Why even bother, really?

After recently accusing popular news sources, President Donald Trump has seemed to bring the "fake news" issue into the limelight, tweeting things like, "FAKE NEWS media knowingly doesn't tell the truth. A great danger to our country. The failing @nytimes has become a joke. Likewise @CNN. Sad!" According to an article from The Washington Post, Trump also barred news sources CNN, New York Times, Politico, the Los Angeles Times and BuzzFeed from attending a non-televised briefing on Friday, Feb. 24.

According to Politifact.com, "fake news" is "made-up stuff, masterfully manipulated to look like credible journalistic reports that are easily spread online to large audiences willing to believe the fictions and spread the word."

Most of the time, this misleading in-

formation is not to "expose the truth" but to get people to visit their web pages and collect the revenue that comes with each click. It's called "clickbait," which is why a sure sign of fake news is headlines in capital letters that say "MUST READ."

"Fake news," however, has been deemed by the Trump administration as basically any type of media outlet that will paint Donald Trump in a bad light. Obviously, that's not the definition of "fake news," and so Trump's reaction to CNN and New York Times, two liberal leaning news sources, is one that reminds me vaguely of a toddler trying to hide his mess from his parents.

It's clear that there is an extreme overuse of the words "fake news," especially with accredited news sources like The New York Times and CNN, when in reality they are not the "fake news" sources we should be worrying about. This rhetoric is causing distrust of media that should be trusted. They may be biased, but slightly biased media does not mean that they report fake news.

The "fake news" rhetoric seems to be a sad reflection of many people's thought processes today: "If you don't agree with what I'm saying, then you're wrong."

We cannot sit idly by and watch as the sanctity of the First Amendment is being trampled on by this loose, destructive rhetoric. We must stand up for the freedoms given to us by our Constitution, including freedom of the press. It is important for us as U.S. citizens to realize that a truly free press is a staple of democracy. The Constitution's First Amendment protects freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom to assemble, freedom to petition and freedom of the press. However, I recognize that "freedom of the press" may be difficult to put a definition to. But, long story short, the freedom of the press is actually there to protect the American people's thoughts, information and opinions. If we want the freedom to say what we want and receive reliable information about our government, then we need to stand up for the press.

A Recap of Family Weekend Festivities

Vanessa Quinones, Staff Reporter | @nesquinones



Dean's List Ceremony. Photo by Vanessa Quinones

Everyone looks forward to the weekend, but this past weekend was extra special as families flooded Milligan's campus for Family Weekend. There were a number of events held on campus including Mr. Buff, various sporting events and the Dean's List ceremony.

The main event on Friday evening was the Mr. Buff competition, a male talent and beauty competition. After a series of performances from Milligan male students, it was Bradley Harvey who took the title of Mr. Buff with his winning magic act.

Friday and Saturday were both filled with several sporting events. Milligan's

softball team played a doubleheader against the University of Rio Grande, winning one of their four games. The baseball team had two home games as well and came away with two wins against the University of the Cumberlands and Ohio State (Lima). Both the Milligan's tennis team and the men's basketball team had blowouts over Johnson University. Tennis came away with a 7-0 win, and men's basketball won their game 107-78.

Finally, topping off this eventful weekend was the Dean's List ceremony on Saturday evening. Students who achieved a grade point average of at

least 3.5 filled Seeger Memorial Chapel with their friends and family to celebrate their accomplishments. Dr. Craig Farmer delivered the keynote address, and students received their certificate from and shook hands with President Greer.

Along with these campus activities students were also encouraged to take their parents out and show them around the area. Freshman Alyson McMillan said she enjoyed the visit from her family who came from Salem, Virginia, for Family Weekend. McMillan took her family antique shopping in downtown Elizabethton and to one of her favorite places, the animal shelter. After dinner, McMillan's family watched her walk across the stage and receive her certificate of achievement at the Dean's List ceremony before heading home the next day.



Alyson and her parents pose for a photo after the Dean's List Ceremony. Photo by Alyson McMillan

Parking, from front page

These color-coordinated stickers serve as an extra security measure to identify who is on campus and parked where they should be.

"We want to make sure that the cars here do in fact belong here and that they are Milligan personnel working here or going to school here," Greer said.

Some have suggested adding new parking lots to solve the parking frustrations, but Nipper said adding new parking lots is a lot more complex than one may think.

"There is a misconception that if you have a flat piece of ground that you can pretty inexpensively create a parking lot, and that is not necessarily true. There is a lot that goes into it, and it can be expensive," he said.

Nipper added that even if more parking lots were to be created, they would be farther away than the current parking spots and would not address the issue of convenience.

Greer said, "It's a tricky proposition to keep the balance, because you want plenty of parking, but you can't afford to have so much parking that it is empty part of the time just so that it's convenient for everyone."

Greer said there is a long-range plan that serves as a possible vision for the Milligan campus that includes more parking and housing.

"It all just depends on the needs of the student population, and that is just what is drawn in for now," he said, gesturing to the map that includes a sketch of additional parking. "Over time as enrollment dictates and financing allows these would be built perhaps according to this plan."

Nipper added, "And to accommodate a higher number of students would be the assumption behind the expansion."

Introducing a New Campus Club: The Herd

Gabriel Logan, Staff Reporter | @GabexLogan

These Buffs can be seen during the day strolling around campus enjoying all the Milligan plains have to offer, but when it's game day something clicks, and The Herd unleashes their school spirit.

Sophomores Joe Lyttle and Brian Sackett started The Herd, a school club dedicated to enthusiastically supporting Milligan athletics.

Lyttle saw the need for focused participation at sporting events and decided to organize a section of students for the games.

"If you are a student at Milligan, then you are a part of the Herd," Lyttle said. "You don't have to show up to every event, but we want our athletics to have

a lot of school spirit."

Before the Herd was an official club, Lyttle and Sackett traveled across the country to support the Buffs at various athletic events. They then decided to kickstart the club and let fellow students join them in cheering at athletic events. Their club status provides funding for painting and any other accessories needed for herding in Milligan students on game days.

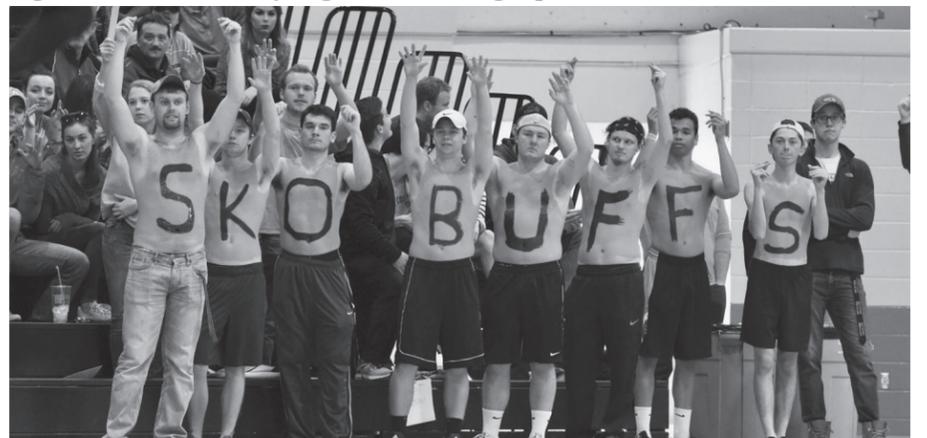
The Herd shows true dedication at softball games, baseball games and basketball games (and those rare Milligan football games).

"We haven't done anything nuts," Lyttle said. "We just want people to know we are here and to come support our

Buffs. A lot of people don't know about us, so we want to get out the word."

The Herd will continue to be at sporting events, so next time you get the "It's

Game Day" email, let your inner Buff out and follow The Herd. All you have to do to join is simply show up to the game. When you see a group of Milligan students wearing body paint or holding signs, you know you are in the right place.



Members of the Herd get painted up for home games! Photo by Gabriel Logan



Group selfie from Piedras Negras, Mexico. Photo by Amy Aubrey

Spring Break, from front page

While Aubrey was not in school for this trip it still managed its way to the top of her list. She said, "It's hard to pick just one favorite moment, because the whole trip was full of great memories, but I loved playing soccer every night on the concrete court with the kids in the neighborhood where we stayed."

"It was definitely the most rewarding trip I've been on," Gill said. She described the bittersweet moment of saying goodbye and realizing the trip had

made a bigger impact on her life than she could have imagined. Gill said she realized, as she was serving side by side with teammates, how important being part of a team at Milligan really was to her. "I love my girls, and I'm so thankful that God presented us with that opportunity."

What Are the Future Plans for Milligan's Campus? Q&A With President Bill Greer

Vanessa Quinones, Staff Reporter | @nesquinones

(President Greer opened the Q&A with a discussion regarding fundraising plans and campus advancements.)

"Many of you may not know this, but we are in the midst of the tail end of a comprehensive capital campaign for Milligan. This document here, as the campaign brochure, is the collection of fundraising priorities. I assume that you guys know we are a private college, which means that we don't get state or federal funding for things. So, that means that we are dependent on tuition and gift income. The gift income comes from alumni mainly and other donors

What is Milligan doing for handicap accessibility, and what more can be done?"

"The geography of this campus makes it inherently difficult, so that is against us. It's a great asset, but it also complicates everything we do... Every time we have to build something, we have to move a mountain to do it... So what we've had to do in the past is make special accommodations, for instance, for students who were wheelchair bound. That's why there are ways -- they may not be ideal -- but there are ways to get in virtually every building that have



President Bill Greer and his wife sitting across from SGA representatives at the Q&A. Photo by Vanessa Quinones

Can Milligan make recycling a bigger deal?"

"I know that in the past years that has been a student government project; it comes and goes based on student level of interest, so some years there is a lot

Can we do anything about the caf food?"

"I understand what it's like. Some days the food is great; I love Fiesta Friday. You can cover everything with cheese, and that's good. Some days they aren't as creative with their leftovers, but they try. It's hard to feed this many people three meals a day or however many you eat. I know they are open to suggestions... One student came to me and compared another school's meal plan to ours. I looked at that meal plan, and it was literally twice as much per semester for food. We could charge twice as much, if you want us to, and have fancy food, but we try to have an affordable plan that's of reasonable quality and healthiness. They are open to suggestions, and I'm happy to help."

How do you expect to get to the goal of 2,000 students as the brochure suggests?"

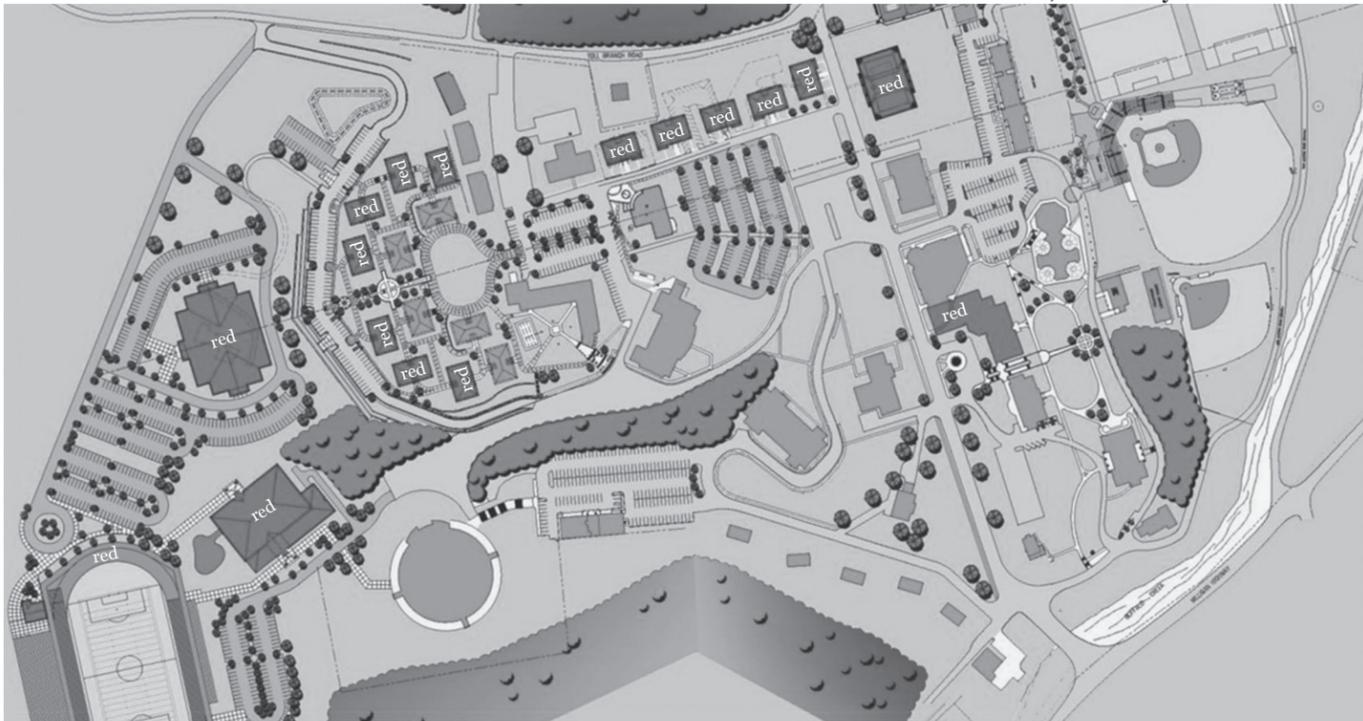
"That's a long range goal. Just a few years ago we had 900 students, and now we are 1200. That's a number that continues to grow incrementally. The goal of 2,000 isn't to say that in the next three or four years there's all of a sudden going to be 2,000 students. It's important from a financial standpoint for the college and the economic growth of the college to have that incremental growth. There's no hurry to get there, I would like us to slowly grow, because that helps us keep tuition rates down. As much as it does cost, we are at a bargain compared to most private colleges, and we want to keep that rate down as much as we can."

Will increase of students impact tuition increases?"

"My goal is for (tuition) increase(s) to get smaller. I want to get it down to 3 percent or 2 percent; this year it's a little over 3 percent. I'd like it to be in the twos. Inflation is a reality, but I would like for any tuition rates in the future to be closer to the inflation rate rather than a lot higher. A way to get there is to make sure we're bringing in a few more students each year, because it helps spread the cost. I think it's also important from a Christian standpoint, as we want more of our students out in the workplace and have the impact that they are gonna have."

Are there plans to switch athletic divisions?"

"That's a really complex question. We are constantly evaluating our athletic affiliation. We have conducted some really in depth studies as to whether to be NAIA affiliated or NCAA affiliated. At this point there's not any sort of driver to make a change. We've been long term members of the NAIA, and I think that their values mirror ours. I like the focus the NAIA has in character and character development, whereas the NCAA has less of that."



Map graphic shows new developments planned for Milligan College in upcoming years. Graphic by Milligan College who are friends of the school."

"We are very active in fundraising so that we can keep the school going, keep it growing and keep it operating to meet the needs of the students. In this capital campaign we are trying to raise \$40 million to complete the projects in the brochure, and we've already raised almost \$39 million, so we are almost done with this one, and when we are, we will start another one which will contain anything from this campaign that wasn't funded and more."

"If you look at the Campus Master Plan, you can see that anything that is in red is proposed for the future, and anything that's orange is already here. So you can see at the Village the five orange buildings that exist, but there's room up there for several more. Which means as enrollment grows and as we have the financing, that is where we will likely put future housing."

"One thing you might notice, especially if you live in Webb, is that it's gone. In its place you can see more housing that would be similar to the Village. You also can see parking lots where Kegley and Quillan are currently. The reality of this is, I don't know when all of these will be funded, because there's a lot of them... Now in a master plan like this it could be ten years, it could be twenty years; it's hard to say. If the need is that we need more housing that could be sooner, or, if we happen to have the fortune to be blessed to connect with the right donor, I would love to get the track put in because the track is a priority. We've just not hit the right donor at the right time with it. So all we can do is keep it out there and continue to do the best we can to secure those funds."

met the federal ADA requirements that we have had to meet every step of the way. As for new construction, like the Village, some of the suites that are on the ground floor are fully handicap accessible. When we renovated Derthick, we made sure there was a ramp in the right place. We are very mindful of those sorts of things and do the best we can. There are some buildings that are more prohibitively expensive, so we've had to figure out other creative ways to meet the needs, and we have. I just want to say we are not insensitive to it; we just have to work within the resources we have."

Why can't everyone have an air conditioning unit?"

"Good question. This is something I care a lot about. I assume we are mainly talking about Webb and Sutton. The problem with just putting in air conditioning units is that the electrical feed to that building is not sufficient to run an air conditioner in every room; it would explode or whatever the electrical equivalent is. So we have looked on occasion at the possibility of upgrading all the wiring, but it's literally a multimillion dollar task to be able to plug in an air conditioner in every room. At the end of the day it's a big investment for what is a relatively short window of time in which it will be really needed, and that's the challenge. It's hard to justify the many millions of dollars to do that. A better solution is just to eliminate the building and replace it down the road; unfortunately, that's where we are."

going on, and some years there is less. It may be something you can make an initiative... It will just have to be a community effort as it has been in the past; maybe we can revisit that initiative."

What are the monitors outside the grill and caf for?"

"The monitors are about to be dashboards where you can look and see how much water is being used in each dorm, how much electricity is being used in each dorm and every building on campus. There's a bench mark that we want to achieve of savings from an energy and water conservation standpoint, and these dashboards will let us do it."

Can there be a different sticker for Village residents?"

"It's a challenge, because we have more parking then we need for the Village, because there's more buildings to build. But we went ahead and put a lot of parking in so that parking can serve as overflow for Hart and Sutton. The challenge of color coding is that it would suggest that only Village residents could park there, and then that lot would have a lot of empty space. If Hart and Sutton lots are full, those residents need to go to the Village, but if they have different stickers they can't. It's not fair to either of the residents. I would encourage the Village people to use the Village lot -- because that's what it's there for -- and be courteous to the residents of Hart and Sutton so they can park as close...to their dorms as they can. I get it; sometimes the question isn't 'Is there enough parking?' but 'Is there a parking spot where I want it to be?'. If everyone tries to park in their respective area, more spots are going to be available."

Spanish Classes Use Twitter as Intercollegiate Community Building Platform

Maddie Barnett, Contributor

Students are being pushed to use their language skills outside the classroom by engaging in weekly conversations via Twitter. It is a collaboration between students taking Spanish courses at both Milligan and the University of Iowa. Students from both classes tweet their thoughts with the hashtag “comelibros,” the Spanish equivalent of “bookworm.”

Milligan’s Assistant Professor of Spanish and Humanities Dr. Allysha Martin and University of Iowa’s Assistant Professor of Languages and Literatures Dr. Heather Jeronimo met in graduate school at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where they first came up with the idea of using Twitter in the classroom. Last year, they finally put their plan into practice by using Twitter separately in their classes. Then, after that “beta test,” the two started thinking, “Wouldn’t it be cool if our students could talk to each other?”

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, a national organization dedicated to promoting the studies of foreign languages, guides foreign language teachers’ curricula with five “world readiness standards.” Of these standards, the most difficult to meet is “communities” or the ability to interact and collaborate with others in the target language.

Because this standard demands student interaction, its development is often limited to the classroom. However, by using Twitter, Martin and Jeronimo have overcome that restriction.

“With using Twitter as an online format, you don’t have to physically be with people,” Martin said. “You can use it to build an online community of Spanish learners and Spanish speakers. That was our target with this project.”

Though the project is still in its early stages, the two professors plan to publish their findings regarding the project’s effectiveness.

VITA Program to Help Local Community with Taxes

Brandon Smith, Contributor | @brandons19941

Milligan College will, once again, be a hosting site for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. This will be the eighth year the program has taken place at the college.

Occurring over three days – Feb. 18, March 18, and April 1 – from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., individuals can come to Milligan College and receive help preparing their taxes.

The VITA program offers free tax preparations for individuals who usually make \$64,000 or less a year, those with disabilities, individuals with limited English-speaking abilities and those over the age of 55.

Milligan began participating in the program in 2009 in order to serve the Johnson City area.

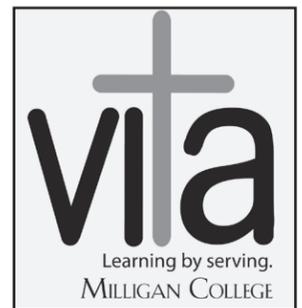
The program allows individuals, including Milligan students, who are trained and certified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), to take part in the process, allowing them to gain experience in their field of study. These students prepare hundreds of tax returns every year for residents.

For tax assistance through Milligan’s

VITA program, you must schedule an appointment. Out of 216 slots, there is currently only a single slot left open, for the April 1 session.

Those wishing to participate must bring proof of identification, birth dates and social security cards for themselves, their spouse and their dependents, as well as the total paid for any daycare provider and their provider’s tax identifying number.

For more information on the requirements, those wishing to partake can visit the IRS’s website and see the full list of requirements.



Milligan College will be a hosting site for VITA. Graphic by Milligan College



Dr. Jackson speaking at the faculty lecture. Photo by Brianna Snyder

Dr. John Jackson Presents His Research on the Old Testament

Brianna Snyder, Contributor

Thunderous applause concluded Monday night’s faculty lecture in Hyder Auditorium on “imaging God.” Dr. John Jackson, associate professor of Bible and humanities, presented his research and gave the crowd some insight into the book he is working on.

“The church doesn’t have a place for the Old Testament,” Jackson said, beginning his lecture. He spoke of the common impulse to dismiss the Old Testament, which many churches and Christians faced due to a lack of understanding or conflict with their perception of God.

“I hope to give Christians really positive ways to think about the Old Testament on its own,” Jackson said about his book. Through his book with the working title “God’s Passion,” he hopes to “encapsulate” what he is doing in his

class, Old Testament Images of God, describing the character of God and his relationship to humankind.

Jackson spoke about the relational nature of God. He suggested that humans are made in the image and likeness of God, not simply in a single characteristic but the totality of our beings. He spoke of God’s desire to have a personal relationship with humans as compared to the relationship of faithfulness between husband and wife and obedience of children to their parents.

Jackson was “pretty excited” about the size of his audience. He qualified it with a laugh, saying several students came only for the Spiritual Formation Program credit but also noted several people from the community also attended. According to Brad Wallace, there was a total of 113 SFP swipes.

“I thought Dr. Jackson did an exemplary job of interpreting the text on every level historically, literarily, and theologically,” said James McDonald, a junior Bible major. He said he was impressed by the presentation and that Jackson had a “contagious passion” for his topic. McDonald, who has taken Jackson’s Old Testament Images of God class, said, “The lecture was a condensed picture of what a discussion in class would look like.”

Dr. Ted Thomas, professor of humanities, history and German, opened the evening by leading everyone to recite Psalm 115. He explained that the faculty lecture series was an opportunity for professors to present their research and demonstrate the work they do outside of the classroom.

A Call for Action: IJM Week at Milligan College

Brandon Smith, Contributor | @brandons19941

From Feb. 21 to Feb. 25, Milligan College hosted Justice Week, a week aimed at addressing and bringing awareness to social and human rights issues.

On Tuesday, the organization held a “conversation cafe,” an interactive evening of conversations that sought to help students understand how human rights abuse can affect them.

On Wednesday, IJM hosted a screening of the 2016 film “Priceless,” which tells the story of a man who attempts to expose a human trafficking network.

On Thursday, the group organized a blood drive with the Student Government Association, and on Friday, they took part in a Justice March. Students took 60 seconds to stand in silence for those who have lost their lives fighting

against abuse. Students also prayed for the organizations fighting to expose and prevent human trafficking.

On Saturday, Milligan’s IJM chapter took part in a service with First Christian Church. They traveled to take part in the Compassion International Experience in Gray, Tenn., a simulation of what it would be like to live on \$2 a day.

According to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, more than 4,000 cases of sex trafficking have been reported in the United States in roughly the past decade alone. Unfortunately, many cases go unreported, and, while most government agencies are doing their best to stop these and similar practices, official bodies are simply unable to prevent the nearly 20.9 million

trafficked victims across the world from modern day slavery.

The International Justice Mission (IJM), which focuses on not only human trafficking but a wide range of human rights abuses, has a local chapter at Milligan College.

Praise Weru, the chair of Milligan’s chapter, believes that preventing human rights abuses starts with everyday people making a stand.

“IJM as a body seeks to empower the poor,” Weru said. “They aim to fight injustices within poor communities around the world.”

For quite some time, IJM’s biggest focus has been on human trafficking.

However, the organization hopes to prevent human rights abuses in general.

Weru said that people need to realize that human rights abuses are happening in Tennessee and even near Milligan College.

Weru hopes Justice Week changes the hearts and minds of those unaware of the human rights abuses taking place around the world.

“We hope that people come out of this week and get involved with IJM on campus,” she said.

For those interested in joining IJM, contact Praise Weru or Brad Wallace through e-mail.



Justice Week was hosted by Milligan College. Graphic by Milligan IJM Chapter

La La Land: Film Review

Jeanette Hartsough,
Contributor | @jhart334

To read about, watch commercials for, or even hear people talk about La La Land (directed by Damien Chazelle) is to be convinced that it is the movie of the century. By gosh, it swept every award at the Golden Globes and many at the Oscars. But much like the hype surrounding *Les Misérables* in 2013, this movie musical is just that: hype.

The movie follows the love story of Mia (played by Emma Stone), an aspiring LA actress, and Sebastian (played by Ryan Gosling), a jazz pianist with dreams of owning his own club. Their paths cross in musical numbers throughout the film as fate makes it clear they are meant to be together. They become involved, and Sebastian gives up his wild dreams for a stable gig that causes him to travel for weeks at a time. Meanwhile Mia works on her one woman show about her life. The longer Sebastian is gone, the further apart the couple drifts, and they discover that professional success comes with having to make important decisions about their respective futures.

In terms of plot this movie is as generic as they come. Boy meets girl, they don't like each other at first, then they do and then they fall in love.

There isn't even an interesting conflict. All of the drama happens silently in drawn out cutscenes that skip months of time to get to the end of the film. The

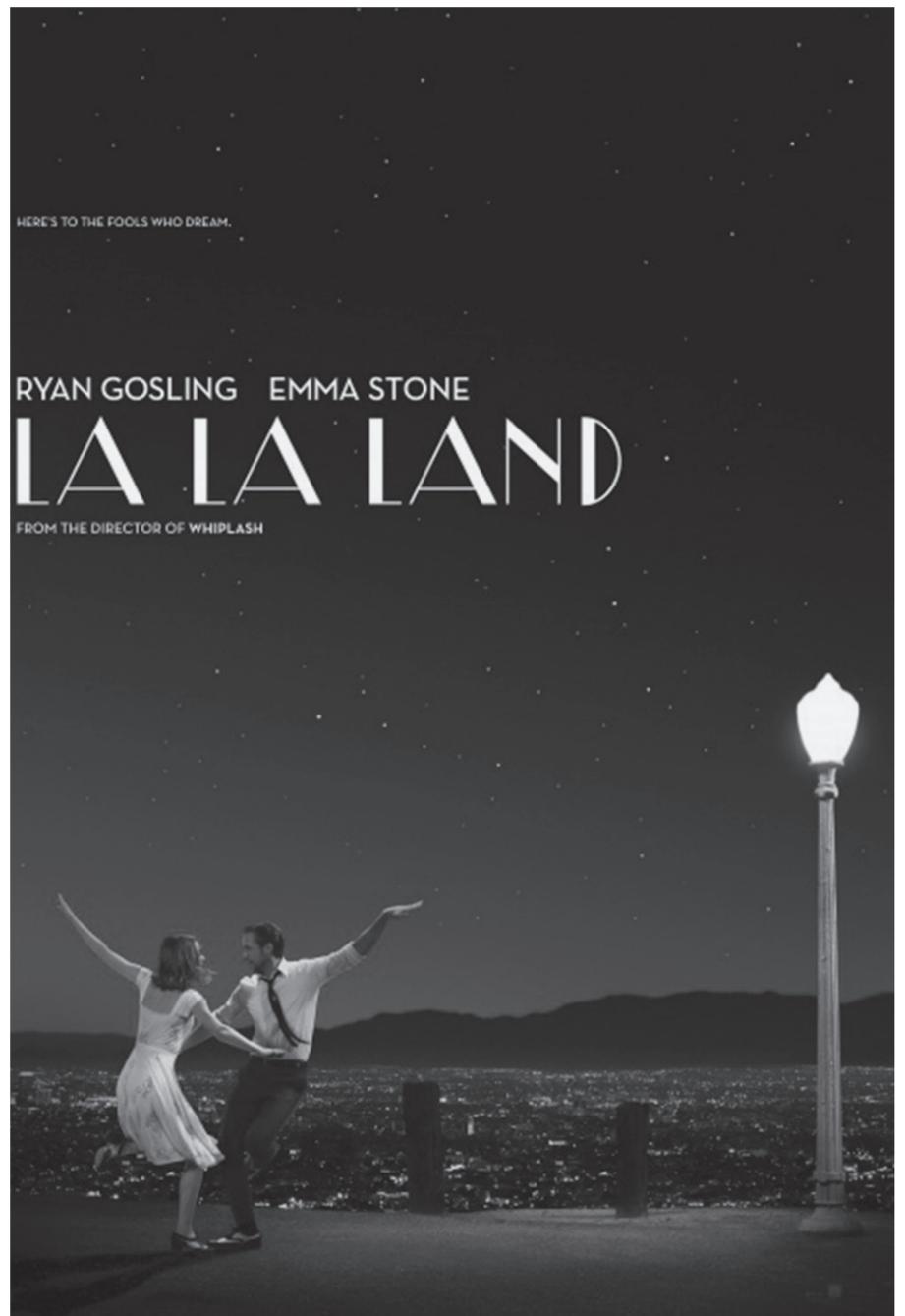
one scene that, I assume, was meant to be the climax was understated and uninteresting, the "conflict" coming in the form of a mild argument over dinner that I could have had with my fiancé last week and forgotten about.

As far as the singing and dancing talent in this film goes, it is average at best. Neither actors are singers or dancers, and it is painfully evident to anyone who has ever seen an old musical film or a staged musical. In terms of music, this "musical" is soaringly lacking with a mere six musical numbers (not counting the instrumental soundtrack where action or "dancing" takes place), one of which is repeated over and over and over in the middle of the film, and it's not even the best or second best song in the film.

The best song in the entire film is a John Legend song that barely counts as a musical number due to the fact that it's sung by John Legend in a concert scene. As someone who is studying both film and theatre I was horribly dissatisfied with the talent on screen. It was clear they went for star power and name dropping over actors qualified to be in a Hollywood musical.

This film was advertised as an homage to old Hollywood style musicals such as *Singing in the Rain*, but in comparing themselves to a historic and beautiful era of cinema, they only drew more attention to their lack of old Hollywood style and grace. You can't put on a pair of tap shoes and magically become Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds.

From the generic plot to the lack of skill or musical magic, to the miscasting and unsatisfying ending, *La La Land* was a huge miss.



by Summit Entertainment

What Are Students Doing Over Spring Break?

Gabriel Logan, Staff Reporter |
@GabexLogan

Sam Bratton (Junior)

"I will be staying here at Milligan on RA duty."

Becca Guthrie (Junior)

"I will be traveling to Hilton head island. I'm on the tennis team, and we will play a tennis tournament there."

Will Robinson (Junior)

"Nothing."

Tessa Gonc (Senior)

"My best friend is traveling from Ohio to visit me! I will be ending the week by going to Jackson, Tenn., for a Miss Tennessee Workshop."

Somang Lee (Sophomore)

"I am doing tourist stuff in New York. I will be staying with a friend from high school feeding my stomach."

Daniela Cortes (Senior)

"I am traveling to Miami and going to the beach."

Rebeca Gonzalez-Farias (Sophomore)

"I will be going to Austin, Texas, for a graduate orientation and back home to Brownsville, Texas."

Alijah Dunn (Freshman)

"I'm just going home (Kingsport, Tenn.). That's it."

Sports Recap: Milligan Athletics in Full Swing

Cody Carlson, Staff Reporter

Men's Basketball

Milligan Men's Basketball ended the regular season on a hot streak by winning their last three games of the season. Milligan beat Point University, Bryan College and Johnson University to finish off the regular season.

The win streak came with great help from Daxton Bostian, Will Buckner and Jacob Cawood to name a few. These individuals have played well with great rebounding and scoring. Even with these wins, Milligan remained seventh in conference play in the Appalachian Athletic Conference (AAC).

Although the Buffs had high hopes of winning the AAC tournament and a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics tournament berth, they could not get past St. Andrew's University in the opening round of the AAC tournament. Milligan ended the season with a 9-11 AAC record and a 14-16 overall record.

Women's Basketball

Milligan Women's Basketball ended the regular season on a hot streak by winning 11 of their last 12 games of the season. With this win streak, Milligan jolted into first place in the Appalachian Athletic Conference.

By having the best conference record of the regular season in the AAC, the Lady Buffs earned an automatic bid into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics tournament. During the win

streak, the Lady Buffs got a lot of help from Sarah Robinson, Hayley Wyrick, Lindsee Price, Kelly Barnett and Courtney Wilson. These players played very well and contributed a lot to the first place finish.

The Lady Buffs finished the regular season with an impressive conference record of 18-4 in the AAC and a 20-8 overall record.

Baseball

The Milligan baseball team started their season with some great wins. Of 11 games, so far the Buffs have won five. Three of the five wins came from a sweep against Martin Methodist University with scores of 8-1, 10-6 and 12-2.

Leading the way for the Buffs on the hitting side are Ryan Young and Juan Vasquez with three home runs each and batting averages of .356 and .343, respectively. On the pitcher's mound, Austin Perry leads with a record of 2-1 and 14 strikeouts for the Buffs.

The Buffs start conference play in the Appalachian Athletic Conference on March 3, when Milligan hosts Truett-McConnell University.

Softball

The Milligan softball team has played seven games so far, starting strong with three wins but having lost the last four games.

Leading the way for the Lady Buffs on the hitting side are Kacie Skeen and Jenna Gilbert. Skeen has hit three home runs, and she has a batting aver-

age of .318. Gilbert has hit one home run and has a batting average of .412. On the pitcher's mound, Kimberly Robinson leads with a record of 1-1 and 11 strikeouts for the Lady Buffs.

The Lady Buffs start conference play in the Appalachian Athletic Conference on March 3, when Milligan hosts regional rival Montreat College.

Men's and Women's Swimming

Milligan's men's and women's swimming teams finished the Appalachian Athletic Conference in a record breaking way.

Over the three days Milligan competed, there were 23 top-eight podium finishes, 17 personal bests and three school records. Sara Farmer broke another Milligan record by swimming in the 100 freestyle with a time of 54.90 seconds.

Milligan Men's and Women's Swimming will be competing in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics National Championship March 1-4 in Columbus, Ga.

Men's and Women's Tennis

Milligan's men's and women's tennis teams have a 1-4 record in the 2016-2017 season.

So far, the Buffs' only win came against Johnson University on Feb. 18 as the Buffs shut out Johnson 7-0. Competing for the Buffs were Joshua Crain, Joseph Lyttle, Griffin Leonard, Conly Shults and Logan Burns. Competing for the Lady Buffs were Abigail Allen, Lexie Hill, Minda Martin, Brenna Ketron, Kaylee Beaudoin and Kennedy Weber.

The Buffs will travel to Tennessee Wesleyan University to start conference play in the Appalachian Athletic Conference on March 19.



Why Kingsport? Cody Carlson, Staff Reporter

Seven out of 19 conference tournaments have been held in Kingsport, Tenn., and John Sullivan, former president and current commissioner of the Appalachian Athletic Conference (AAC), said there are three reasons why.

“First is the management and administration of Kingsport,” Sullivan said.

He applauded the Kingsport city government for its management and administration. “Kingsport does a phenomenal job for us,” he said.

Sullivan said no other city he visited had the positive vibe that Kingsport had presented.

The second reason Sullivan gave for holding the athletic conference in Kingsport is its overall location.

“Even though Milligan College is a hop, skip and a jump from Kingsport,” Sullivan believes there is no home field or court advantage. Milligan usually brings the biggest crowds to the conference tournaments, but Sullivan said that he encourages all schools to bring fans to the conference tournaments.

Lastly, Sullivan said the the overall facilities in Kingsport

are phenomenal. He mentioned that parking, hotels, restaurants and other services in Kingsport are easy to find and conveniently located.

“The MeadowView Marriott is aggressive and wants our business,” Sullivan said. “The volleyball and basketball teams compete in the MeadowView Marriott, and the players can just get out of bed and walk down to the gym.”

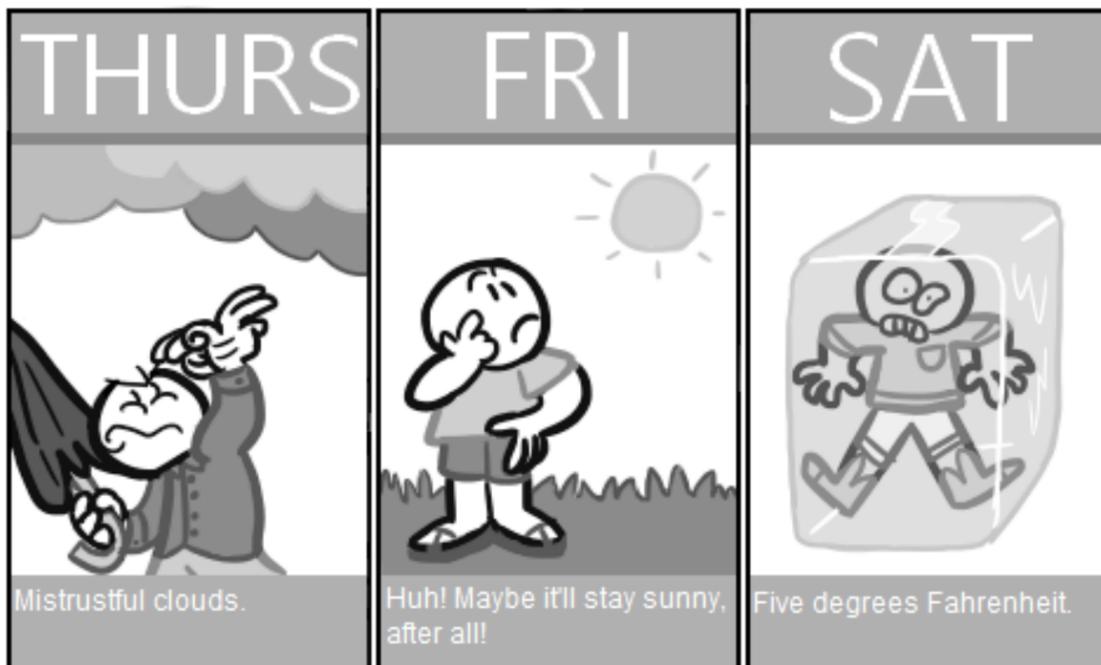
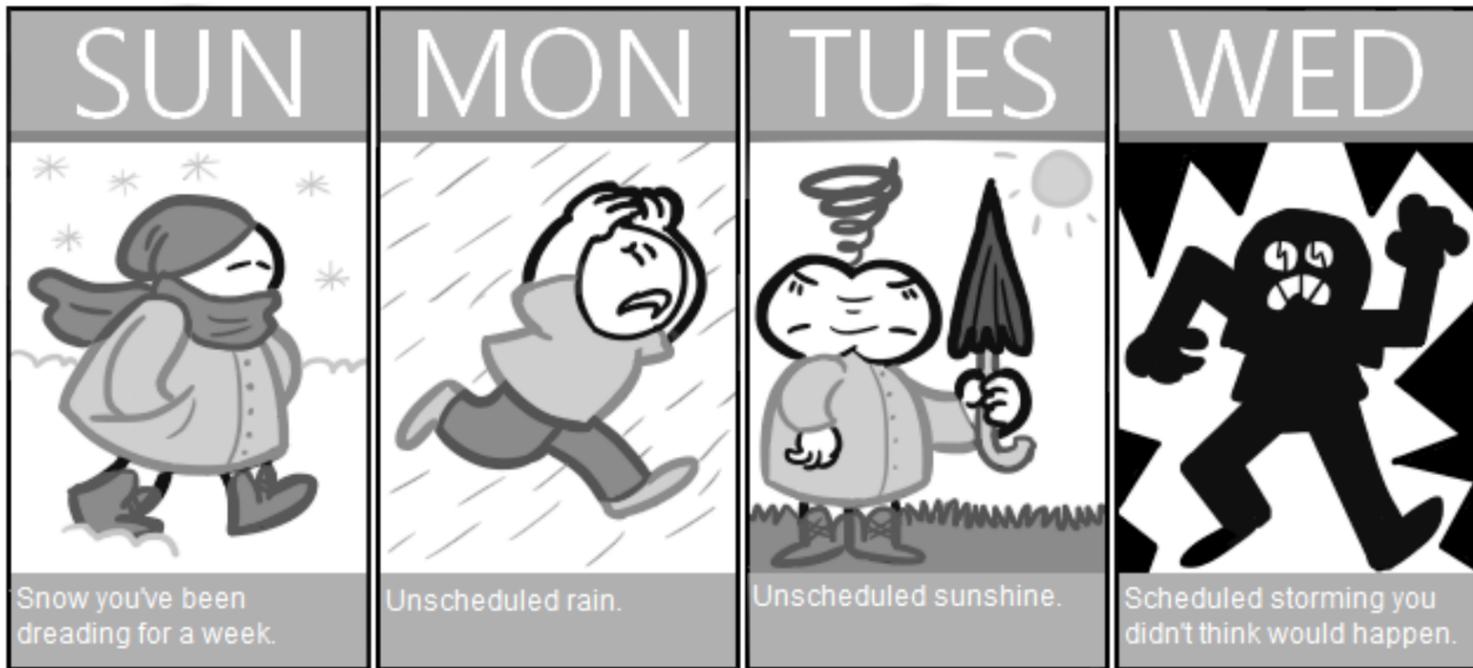
Sullivan said he would love to bring more conference tournaments, if not all conference tournaments, to Kingsport “as long as new complexes are built.”

Sullivan is encouraging the city of Kingsport to build a collegiate-like soccer complex for the their soccer conference tournaments. The city of Kingsport has seven conference tournaments currently, but the overall goal for the AAC is to bring all conference tournaments to Kingsport.

More conference tournaments are coming to Kingsport very soon. Starting at the end of 2017 and the early part of 2018, the AAC will sponsor wrestling for the first time and plans to hold the conference tournament at the MeadowView Marriott in Kingsport.

Sullivan said he and the city of Kingsport are happy about the future of the AAC and the possibility of bringing more conference tournaments to Kingsport.

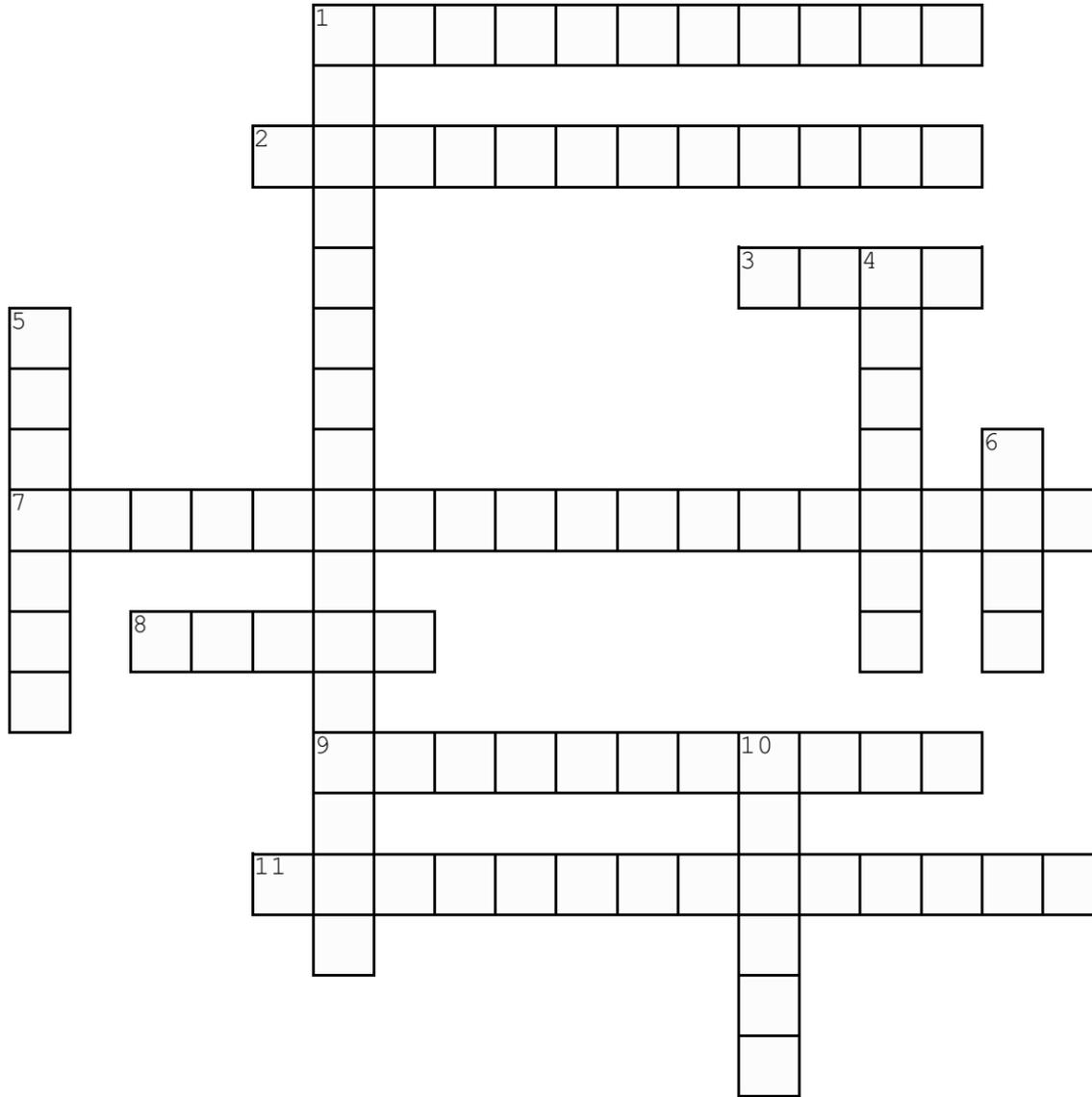
The AAC advertisement sign outside the MeadowView Marriott Hotel. Photo by Cody Carlson



by Maddie Barnett

Springtime Crossword

We're as excited as you are!



Across

- 1.** Vacation time for students in March (2 words)
- 2.** An old cliché that has become associated with young Christian singles and engagement (3 words)
- 3.** Spring Theatrical Production
- 7.** A day that occurs in the spring when classes are cancelled and fun activities are planned instead (2 words)
- 8.** The first month of spring
- 9.** The feeling of excitement at the beginning of spring (2 words)
- 11.** You spring forward in March and fall back in November (2 words)

Down

- 1.** If you don't wear green on this day you may get pinched (3 words)
- 4.** Flowers will soon...
- 5.** April showers bring May _____
- 6.** According to Roman religion and mythology, the month of March was named after _____ the God of war
- 10.** Sunday, April 16