



# The Erwin Record

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Blue Devils stay undefeated in region. See page 1-B.

## TOWN OF ERWIN

# NOLI coming to downtown

By Richard Rourke  
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Business in downtown Erwin continues to grow. A new business with a familiar name is set to join the growing list of establishments in the spring of 2019.

NOLI is coming to 105 S. Main Ave. in Erwin. Business partners Jason Howze and Jordan Haun picked Erwin over other cities to expand their business. They were offered locations in Johnson City, but chose to stay close to their roots. Both men grew up in Unicoi County.

The building, which is 4,572 square feet, will house NOLI downstairs and will host newly remodeled apartments upstairs. The walls are made from original

brick from when the building was erected back in 1904. The patio area has ceiling fans with iron tables and chairs. There is a clear garage door that will open up to the patio from the restaurant. Along the garage door there will be stools facing out to the patio and the view of downtown Erwin.

According to Howze and Haun, the restaurant will feature a full-length bar with beer options on opening day. Due to state laws, they must wait at least 30 days before being able to serve liquor. The plan is to have a full-service bar after that period is over.

"We plan on pairing cocktails to match our unique menu," Haun said.

The menu will have NOLI clas-

sics, but will be expanded. Howze has the menu in mind, but did not want to share it just yet. Keeping with the mystique of NOLI, once the building is complete, everything will be blacked out until opening day.

Currently, NOLI operates out of their food truck. NOLI was a pioneer in the recent food truck boom and continues to draw a crowd everywhere they go.

"We were the original in Johnson City, now there are 30 plus food trucks," Howze told The Erwin Record.

NOLI, which is a nod to the Nolichucky River, started out in the food truck business back in 2014. The men decided to expand the business to a storefront after a brief discussion.

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Jason Howze, left, and Jordan Haun recently announced that their food truck NOLI will open a storefront in downtown Erwin in spring 2019. The restaurant will be located at 105 S. Main Ave. (Erwin Record Staff Photo by Richard Rourke)

## BALLAD HEALTH



Erwin Record Staff Photo by Keeli Parkey

Finishing touches are being done at the new Unicoi County Memorial Hospital ahead of its opening next week. A ribbon cutting has been set for Monday, Oct. 22.

# New hospital opens next week

By Richard Rourke  
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Heritage, service, tradition and innovation are what drive the new Unicoi County Memorial Hospital, which will officially open to patients on Tuesday, Oct. 23, at 7 a.m.

Ballad Health had the future in mind when they decided five years ago to build a new hospital, according to one representative.

"This shows Ballad's commitment to Unicoi County," said Unicoi County Memorial Hospital Administrator Eric Carroll during a tour of the new facility for media on Friday, Oct. 12.

Ballad Health will celebrate the opening of the new facility with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, Oct. 22, beginning at 11 a.m. Tours will take place following the ceremony.

The hospital, which currently employs roughly 115

staff members, will have a 24-hour emergency room. There will be 10 emergency exam rooms. UCMH will also feature 10 private inpatient rooms, all with mountain views. The rooms are also large and feature couches that can convert to beds.

"Patients' families are a part of the healing process," Carroll said. "We want the families to be able stay in comfort."

The walls are lined

throughout the hospital with local artwork. With all of the modern amenities, there are some historical artifacts that are prominently displayed as well - a heritage wall features a reel from Capital Cinema, a picture of the "Erwin Nine" and an actual Blue Ridge Pottery plate.

"The items on this wall represents the best of Unicoi County," said Carroll during the tour.

Ballad brings many exclusive features to the new hos-

pital. The hospital itself is the first hospital to be completed since the merger between Wellmont and Mountain States Health Alliance. UCMH was built to give the citizens of Unicoi County the option to receive quality healthcare close to home.

"All of the services that citizens used to travel for - the CT Scans, MRI's and 3D Mammograms - can be done right here close to home," Carroll said.

The MRI machine is the

first in the state of Tennessee and the first Ballad Health facility to feature virtual theater. Virtual theater allows the patients to bring in their favorite movies or music to be played while they are in the MRI machine.

"This is a way to bring the stress level down in an already stressful situation," Carroll said.

The MRI machine is extremely quiet compared to its predecessors.

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## ELECTION 2018

# Town candidates respond to Record's questions

From Staff Reports

Recognizing that an informed electorate is essential to our democracy, the staff of The Erwin Record wishes to present our readers with information about the individuals running for alderman seats for the Town of Erwin and Town of Unicoi.

Candidates for each town were asked to respond to questions and abide by certain guidelines when submitting their responses. Candidates were asked to limit their responses to 300 words per question.

They were also asked to submit them electronically.

The newspaper also informed the candidates that newspaper staff would not be editing the responses for grammatical errors. Proofreading their responses was left up to each candidate.

Early voting for the Nov. 6 election began Oct. 17 will continue until Nov. 1. Voters are reminded to bring photo identification with them to the polls.

For more information about the election, call the Unicoi County Election Commission at 743-6521.

### TOWN OF ERWIN ALDERMAN CANDIDATES

#### MICHAEL BAKER

#### 1. Why are you seeking the office of Town of Erwin Alderman?

I am seeking the office of Town of Erwin Alderman because I want to be part of the positive change happening within the Town. I have watched the town experience so many new and positive changes and improvements in the last couple of years that it sparked my wife, Tara,

and I to start our very own business in downtown Erwin. With that being said, I would love to serve on the board of mayor and alderman to be a part of this movement of growth and continue to help move our town forward towards even more positive change.

#### 2. What background or qualifications set you apart from other candidates?

I have completed Level I and Level II of the elected officials academy through the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory

Service. I think there are two things that set me apart from my opponents. It is the combination of my age and my entrepreneurial ambitions. I have been told several times that what the town of Erwin needs to help it move forward is "young blood," and I am just that. The other quality that sets me apart is that, at my core, I am an entrepreneur. I am a multi-million dollar sales producer as a real estate agent and a newly successful business owner of Union Street Taproom. I have been able to make my own businesses successful.

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**This Week's Weather**

Thursday 61° 42°	Friday 65° 52°	Saturday 57° 34°	Sunday 52° 33°
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