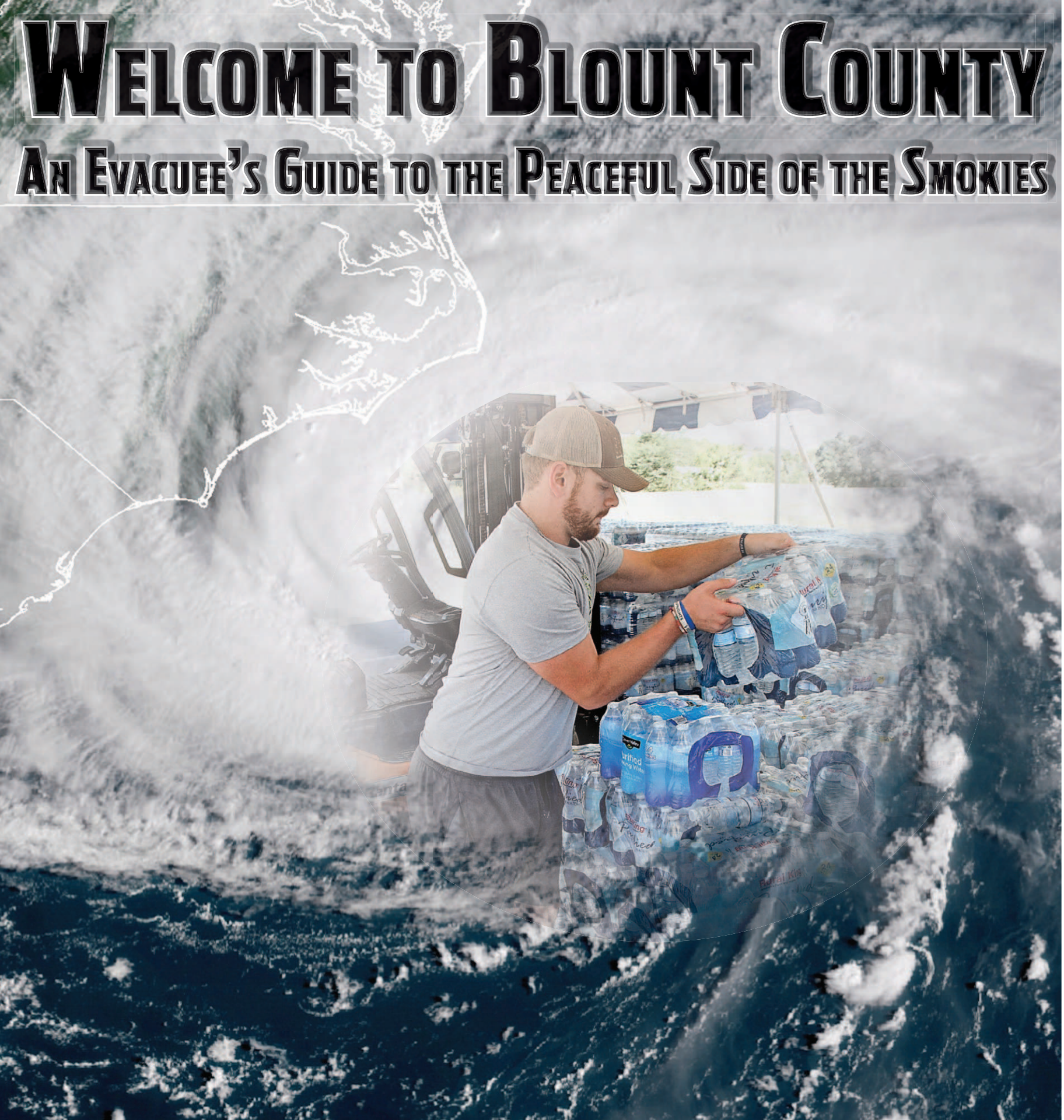




WELCOME TO BLOUNT COUNTY

AN EVACUEE'S GUIDE TO THE PEACEFUL SIDE OF THE SMOKIES

If you fled Florence,

THIS GUIDE IS FOR YOU

If you're reading this special section, you might be one of the hundreds of thousands of evacuees who fled the Carolinas ahead of Hurricane Florence and hustled to the higher ground offered by East Tennessee and other regions inland.

We know you're probably anxious and fearful; some of you might be in the process of losing everything. We know you're strangers in a strange land and that the sunny skies that might have greeted your arrival here belied the oncoming monster you were escaping.

That's why this newspaper has crafted "Welcome to Blount County: An Evacuees' guide to the Peaceful Side of the Smokies."

This is a resource guide to point evacuees to needed services. Among the features are a Blount County map with places of interest; phone numbers and addresses of nonprofits and private businesses; and options for food, shelter, pet care, medical care, communications and faith-based communities.

We also want to urge those dislocated to be on the lookout for potential price gouging,

which is illegal in Tennessee. Blount County is known for its hospitality — we are in the Volunteer State, after all — but we want you to be better safe than sorry.

Tennessee's unfair or deceptive acts or practices law makes it illegal to "unreasonably (raise) prices or unreasonably (restrict) supplies of essential goods, commodities or services in direct response" to a natural disaster, even if that disaster occurs out of state.

Penalties are up to \$1,000 per violation, and the state Attorney General's Office also may seek injunctions, consumer restitution or other appropriate remedies.

If you are an evacuee with an interesting story to tell, email us, if that's possible, at editor@thedailytimes.com, or call us at 865-981-1140. Do the same if you think you're being gouged on prices.

"During this time, we encourage Tennesseans as well as those visiting our state to report activities they believe may exploit the vulnerable conditions caused by Hurricane Florence," Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery III said in a news release

issued Friday. "Tennessee has a reputation for hospitality and volunteerism. Our office intends to bring to task any person or business who seeks an advantage from the misfortune of others."

High prices don't necessarily indicate price gouging, however.

You need to look for sudden dramatic increases in prices for necessities right before, during or after your arrival. Keep a record of your transactions and record as many details as possible, including the location of the merchant, date and time of your purchase, payment method, the item's price before the sudden increase, and the price you paid. Always keep your receipts and take photos of a listed price with your cellphone.

You can file a complaint at www.tn.gov/consumer or call regulators toll-free at 1-800-342-8385.

Meanwhile, welcome to Blount County. We trust that our community will make your stay as comfortable and hospitable as possible.

— J. Todd Foster, Editor
todd.foster@thedailytimes.com



JOY KIMBROUGH | THE DAILY TIMES

VOLUNTEERS AT ALNWICK COMMUNITY Center set up a number of beds in preparation for sheltering evacuees last year during Hurricane Irma. The center is on standby for potential evacuees fleeing Hurricane Florence.

How to contribute to hurricane relief efforts

BY SARAH GRACE TAYLOR

sarah.taylor@thedailytimes.com

The spirit of the Volunteer State is in full swing as Tennessee prepares to accommodate evacuees from the Carolinas in the wake of Hurricane Florence, but emergency response organizations are calling for donations as well as patience as relief efforts begin.

For groups like the Red Cross of East Tennessee, relief efforts already have begun, but are expected to expand once the course and impact of the storm become clearer.

"Florence is slowing down

now, but with rain and people still evacuating, we're waiting to see exactly what the storm does so we can respond accurately," agency Disaster Program Manager Kristin Manuel said. "In Tennessee, we're managing what we can to help people entering the state."

The Red Cross has opened shelters in Knoxville, Kingsport area and Chattanooga in anticipation of evacuees, but none had checked in as of Friday afternoon.

"Human nature is human nature. ... We're waiting to

SEE CONTRIBUTE, 14

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To have your story considered for publication in The Daily Times, email it to editor@thedailytimes.com.

Please be sure to include a contact name and phone number in case we need to get in touch with you. If you have a news tip, call 865-981-1115 in the daytime, or 865-981-1143 in the evening.

Corrections

The Daily Times strives for accuracy. If you spot an error, call: J. Todd Foster at 865-981-1139 Robert Norris at 865-981-1143

On the cover

CORY CRABTREE STACKS BOTTLES of water dropped off at RIO Revolution Church for relief of Hurricane Florence victims.

PHOTO: Tom Sherlin | The Daily Times

COVER DESIGN: Marcus Fitzsimmons

Send correspondence to: The Daily Times,
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*From the mountains to the sea.
Welcome to Blount County!*

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Welcome to Blount County



Our citizens are here to help you during your time of need. During your stay, we hope you enjoy beautiful Blount County, the mountains, restaurants and the Greenbelt. We are here to help you with your needs until you are able to return to your home. Wishing many blessings for you and your family.

Each day, our office works diligently to serve and meet the needs of all customers to the best of our ability.

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Variety of lodging options are available for evacuees

BY RACHEL TOTTEN

rachel.totten@thedailytimes.com

The American Red Cross opened three facilities across East Tennessee on Thursday to shelter Hurricane Florence evacuees.

Gretchen Sherrill, business operations specialist for the Red Cross' East Tennessee chapter, said the organization opened shelters at Central Baptist Church of Bearden, 6300 Deane Hill Drive, Knoxville; Crossroads Christian Church, 1300 Suncrest Drive, Gray; and Brainerd Recreation Center, 7745 E. Brainerd Road, Chattanooga.

As of Friday morning, she said no one had checked into the Knoxville shelter, but the organization had received several calls about its availability.

"We're waiting on volume and how this storm is proceeding (to open up additional facilities in the area)," Sherrill said.

Evacuees can access updated shelter information at 1-800-RED CROSS, visiting redcross.org/shelters or by downloading the American Red Cross app.

ALNWICK COMMUNITY CENTER

Howard Kerr, who manages the Alnwick Community Center, 2146 Big Springs Road, said Friday that he has offered to provide shelter for those fleeing the storm, but the Maryville facility may not be needed.

"We're still on standby," he said, noting that he's been in touch with the Red Cross and other area organizations throughout the week. "Right at the moment, they don't know of any need for us."

Kerr added that Florence's threat has "diminished" in recent days and the potential number of evacuees seems to have decreased. Nevertheless, the community center is ready to assist in any way it can.

"We'll only need about six to eight hours to open it if they need us," he said.

AIRBNB

Some Airbnb hosts are donating their homes through the



JOY KIMBROUGH | THE DAILY TIMES

A SMALL CHILD NAPS after arriving with her family to the Knoxville Civic Coliseum, after evacuating from their home in Louisiana after fleeing Hurricane Karina in August 2005.

home-sharing platform "Open Homes" program, which provides "emergency shelter to people affected by hurricanes, forest fires, flooding and other disasters" at no cost, according to the Airbnb website.

Jeanne Styles, owner of The Pinnacle Guest Cabin and Retreat, said a family from North Carolina checked into one of her Tallassee Airbnbs through the program on Wednesday and plans to stay for one week.

"We are open to extending their stay for them if we need to," she said.

Styles said her property has another available site — a vintage camper — if any other evacuees need lodging.

For more information, visit facebook.com/ThePinnacleRetreat. Additional Airbnb locations with openings in the area can be found at airbnb.com.

OTHER LODGING OPTIONS

Many hotels, cabin rentals and campgrounds in Blount County also have availability over the next few days.

The Hilton Knoxville Airport,

2001 Alcoa Highway, Alcoa, and the Holiday Inn Express, 130 Associates Blvd., Alcoa, both reported vacancies for Saturday and Sunday nights.

Ashley Joiner, an associate at the Holiday Inn Express, said the hotel has received several cancellations that have opened up additional rooms.

"We have seven or eight rooms open (Saturday) because we have had some cancellations," she said. "Sunday is one of our slowest days, so we have plenty of availability then, too."

Beth Kappler said the Townsend/Great Smokies KOA Holiday campground, 8533 State Highway 73, Townsend, also has experienced recent cancellations, but the campsites are quickly filling up again.

"We're pretty booked to begin with this weekend, and we have had a lot of calls," she said. "Tuesday we were inundated with calls."

Most of the full hook-up sites, Kappler said, won't be available until Sunday.

At Big Meadow Family Campground, 8215 Cedar Creek Road, Townsend, Barbara Johnson

said the property has both 30- and 50-amp sites available.

"We have had a few check-ins (from evacuees), but not as many as we thought we would," she said, noting that about five families fleeing the Carolinas had checked in beginning Tuesday night.

Earl Lamb said Mountain Mist Cabins, 345 Boat Gunnel Road, Townsend, has two cabins open, as well.

One cabin can sleep up to 10 people and the other can accommodate up to eight, assuming some are children. Both have a three-day minimum stay due to their larger size.

Lamb, who used to live at North Carolina's Cape Hatteras, said the storm doesn't seem to be "as big as they thought it would be."

"I've seen way worse," he said, referring to his time living on the island chain.

In Knoxville, a handful of hotels also are offering discounted room rates to evacuees with proof of residence. The list of participating hotels can be accessed at visitknoxville.com.

LODGING

ALCOA

ALCOA INN: 2450 Airport Highway; 865-970-2006

CANDLEWOOD SUITES: 176 Cusick Road; 865-233-4411

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT: 141 Furrow Way; 865-977-8333

HAMPTON INN KNOXVILLE AIRPORT: 148 International Ave., 865-983-1101

HILTON KNOXVILLE AIRPORT: 2001 Alcoa Highway; 865-970-4300

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS: 130 Associates Blvd.; 865-981-9008

LA QUINTA INN AND SUITES: 126 Cusick Rd.; 865-984-9350

MAINSTAY SUITES: 361 Fountain View Circle; 865-379-7799

QUALITY INN: 206 Corporate Place, 865-984-6800

LOUISVILLE

WOODSPRING SUITES: 4412 Singleton Station Road; 865-2328-4545

MARYVILLE

LUXBURY INN AND SUITES: 805 Foothills Mall Drive; 865-983-9839

TOWNSEND

BIG MEADOW FAMILY

CAMPGROUND: 8215 Cedar Creek Road; 865-448-0625

BEST WESTERN CADES

COVE INN: 7824 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway; 865-448-9000

HIGHLAND MANOR INN:

7766 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway; 865-448-2211

LITTLE ARROW OUTDOOR

RESORT: 118 Stables Drive; 865-448-6363

MOUNTAIN MIST CABINS:

345 Boat Gunnel Road; 865-448-6650

TOWNSEND GATEWAY INN:

8270 State Hwy 73; 865-238-0123

TOWNSEND/GREAT SMOKIES KOA HOLIDAY:

8533 State Hwy 73; 865-448-2241

TOWNSEND RIVER BREEZE

INN: 8242 State Hwy 73; 865-448-2389

WALLAND

WHISPERING RIVER RV

RESORT: 5050 Old Walland Highway; 865-310-7503

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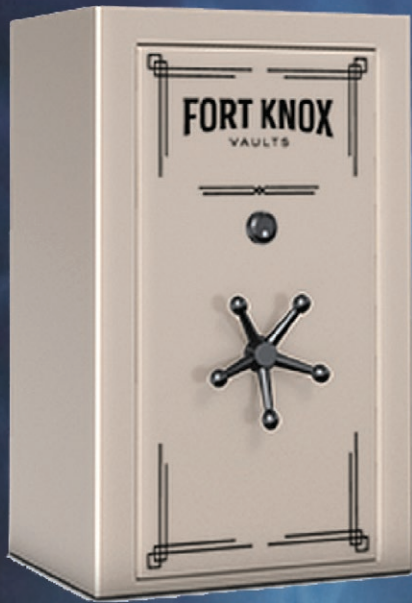
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Parks closing areas as precaution

Great Smoky Mountains National Park shuts roads, picnic areas and campgrounds ahead of expected Florence rain

From staff reports

Great Smoky Mountains National Park began closing roads, picnic areas and campgrounds on Friday and will shut down more areas today ahead of Hurricane Florence's arrival as a tropical storm.

"Predictions from the National Weather Service indicate Florence will be a tropical depression rated-storm when she reaches the Smokies beginning as early as Saturday evening," the park said in a press release Friday afternoon.

"Officials anticipate sustained winds of 40 mph with higher gusts Saturday afternoon and into Monday, with the most severe weather predicted for Sunday," the release states. "Rainfall amounts of 4-8 inches Saturday afternoon through Monday evening are estimated, with higher rainfall amounts possible for the North Carolina side of the park."

The park started closing roads and facilities Friday "out of concern for public safety."

- Heintooga/Balsam Mountain picnic area.
 - Balsam Mountain front country campground.
 - Round Bottom horse campground.
 - Balsam Mountain, Heintooga Ridge, Round Bottom and Straight Fork roads.
- Projected closures today include:
- Big Creek, Cosby and Greenbrier picnic areas.
 - Abrams Creek, Big Creek, Cataloochee and Cosby front country campgrounds.
 - Big Creek and Cataloochee horse campgrounds.
 - In Tennessee, Abrams Creek and Cosby Access roads; Foothills Parkway East; Foothills Parkway West, from Look Rock to U.S. Highway 129, at 8 p.m.; Ramsey Cascade Road, including Ramsey Cascade Trail; Rich Mountain Road, at 8 p.m.; Tremont Road (Upper) from Tremont Institute to Middle Prong



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

THE ROAD TO CADES Cove was closed at the "Townsend Wye" earlier this year due to hazardous driving conditions in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The park also is closing some roads, picnic areas and campgrounds in advance of forecasted hazardous weather brought by Hurricane Florence.

Trailhead, at 8 p.m.; and Wear Cove Gap Road, at 8 p.m.

- In North Carolina, Cataloochee Entrance Road; Clingmans Dome Road, at 8 p.m.; Newfound Gap Road,

'Predictions from the National Weather Service indicate Florence will be a tropical depression rated-storm when she reaches the Smokies beginning as early as Saturday evening.'

National Park Service

from Smokemount to Newfound Gap, at 8 p.m.; North Carolina Highway 284; and Twentymile.

The facilities and concession operations to close are:

- Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center at Purchase Knob; Appalachian Clubhouse, after last res-

ervation; Clingmans Dome Information Center, at 8 p.m.; Leconte Lodge; and Spence Cabin, after last reservation.

"If the storm continues on its current track, additional closures may go into effect on Sunday," the press release states. "Scheduled closures will make most park trailheads inaccessible. Overnight backcountry use is not recommended beginning Saturday through Monday due to the potential threat of downed trees and flooded stream crossings causing rivers and trails to become hazardous.

"All backcountry reservation holders are encouraged to change their itinerary or cancel their permit and receive a refund. Refunds will be available to those who are unable to reschedule their trip for an alternative date," the release states.

Up-to-date road and weather information is available by calling 865-436-1200. Extension 631 provides road information, and extension 630 provides a weather forecast.

Current road status updates can be found on Twitter at SmokiesRoadsNPS, or by texting "follow smokiesroadsnps" to 40404.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ALCOA ELECTRIC JOURNEY LINE tech Jed Wilson and apprentice line tech Lukas Phillips, in buckets, and senior line tech Jason Shelton, climbing the utility pole in the background, work Sept. 15, 2017, to help restore power to Georgia Power customers in Savannah, Ga., after Hurricane Irma.

Alcoa Electric to send crew to Carolinas

From staff reports

The city of Alcoa Electric Department will send a five-man electric crew in the coming days to help Hurricane Florence recovery efforts to restore power in affected areas.

Spokeswoman Tricia Tipton said the department would wait to release the crew "until it is confident there are no extraordinary threats to its own customers' service."

She said the crew expects to be assigned to a North Carolina or South Carolina area utility, and could deploy as soon as Sunday, depending on what impact the storm has on Alcoa's electric system.

"Given that our crews have received help when our system has been in need, the city of Alcoa crew is very much looking forward to giving back by assisting their fellow linemen and the people of the Carolinas in restoring the electric services damaged by Hurricane Florence," she said.

Their equipment includes a four-wheel drive pickup, a 55-foot, tandem bucket truck and one digger derrick.

The crew plans to return no later than Sunday, Sept. 23.



ROBERT BERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

ONE OF THE ZANDER family's children looks out a window in Blount County on Friday.

N.C. family reunited by Florence, hoping for best back home

BY ROBERT BERLIN

Daily Times Correspondent

For many families, evacuating from the Hurricane Florence disaster zone is a major inconvenience. One such family is using it as an opportunity to be together again.

Fayetteville, N.C., resident Scott Zander arrived in Maryville last month for military training, leaving behind his wife, three preschool-aged children and two dogs. The timing of that training already was inconvenient because the family had just closed on a brand new house and is scheduled to take possession in a few weeks.

So they were a family divided and a family in transition.

Then news of a strengthening hurricane and Gov. Roy Cooper's urging of citizens to move far inland began to weigh on them.

"My family lives in Virginia," Lynn Zander said. "So we would have experienced flooding there as well. We decided to avoid the storm altogether and join my husband here in Tennessee."

So a hurricane brought them together. But they still face a complicated set of problems.

For example, they have two homes in harm's way

SEE REUNITED, 14

Where to find health care, first aid in the area

BY WAYLON CUNNINGHAM

waylonc@thedailytimes.com

Continued access to health care is a necessity following a natural disaster. Maryville has a variety of options for those fleeing Hurricane Florence. The largest, Blount Memorial Hospital, reports to be "on standby" for any patient care situations that might arise.

"If at any point we experience an influx of patients for any reason, we can and will activate our incident command center and bring in additional staff members to help manage the situation and make sure everyone gets the care they need," hospital spokesman Josh West said.

The following is a list of care providers, pharmacies and medical supply stores. All area codes are 865.

CARE CENTERS

BLOUNT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

907 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, 983-7211, open 24 hours.

CARETODAY CLINIC (WALK-IN)

266 Joule St., Alcoa, 983-0093, Mondays through Fridays 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

PHARMACIES/MEDICAL SUPPLIES

BLOUNT DISCOUNT PHARMACY

129 Gill St., Alcoa, 984-7704

1015 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, 983-9795

131 Montgomery Lane, Maryville, 681-0520

Closed Sundays; 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; Saturdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

CITY DRUG CO.

1612 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, 982-7162

Closed Sundays; Mondays through Fridays 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

LOWE'S DRUGS & HOME HEALTH CARE

1536 E. Broadway Ave., Maryville, 982-3020

Sundays 1-6 p.m.; Mondays through Fridays 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



JOY KIMBROUGH | THE DAILY TIMES

EVACUEES FROM HURRICANE KATRINA check on their pets after arriving at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base.

If you feel you may need crisis counseling?

From staff reports

Stress, anxiety and other depression-like symptoms are common reactions after a disaster.

The Disaster Distress Helpline, sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and

Human Services, is dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster.

The support service is confidential, toll free, multilingual and available to all residents in the United States. It is available 24/7, 365 days a year.

Call 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746 to connect with a trained crisis counselor.

The Disaster Distress Helpline is staffed by trained counselors from a network of crisis call centers located across the country. These counselors provide:

- Crisis counseling for people in emotional dis-

tress related to any natural or human-caused disaster

- Information on how to recognize distress and its effects on individuals and families.

- Tips for healthy coping.

- Referrals to local crisis call centers for additional follow-up care and support.

Guide for calling, finding legal help

BY WES WADE

wes.wade@thedailytimes.com

If you've found your way here by way of Hurricane Florence, chances are you're in a strange place with no contacts and little-to-no support structure.

Cell phone carriers like Sprint and U.S. Cellular have reported working in affected areas to keep their networks up and running, but also are providing preparation tips for those who might find themselves in an emergency situation.

Maria McHale, public relations counsel representing U.S. Cellular, said residents might not be able to control network problems, but there are other steps they can take.

"What we can tell them to do is to prepare for the things they can prepare for," McHale said.

TIPS

U.S. Cellular provided the following tips to help people stay safe, connected and informed:

- Text to Stay in Touch — Texting can be helpful during severe weather. If phone service is impacted because of a storm or high call volume, text messages still could go through because they require less network bandwidth than calls.

- Leverage Device Settings — Cellular access can be turned off on apps not currently being utilized or modified to only allow programs to sync when connected to WiFi, saving power and data.

- Prepare — You can find severe weather preparedness tips on social media by searching the hashtag #SevereWeatherPrep.

- Charge Your Device — An extra battery is ideal if you



DARYL SULLIVAN | THE DAILY TIMES

EVACUEES (FROM LEFT) BETH Weber, Stephanie Vollack, Tim Vollack, Yolanda Weber and Ron Weber, all of Florida, had to evacuate to the Cades Cove campground in September 2017 during Hurricane Irma.

POLICE CONTACTS

NON-EMERGENCY BLOUNT DISPATCH:

(865) 983-3620

ALCOA POLICE:

(865) 981-4111

MARYVILLE POLICE:

(865) 273-3700

BLOUNT COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

(865) 273-5000

need to use your phone during a storm and can't charge it. Carry a spare car charger or external charging device and keep it in a waterproof bag.

- Access Social Media — Social media sites, such as Facebook and Twitter, have become a preferred way to quickly get and share information.

- Check Weather, News Apps — The Weather Channel and AccuWeather have reliable and popular apps that provide weather updates anywhere.

- Organize Contacts — Save emergency phone numbers and email addresses in your devices for police, fire, hospital, schools and other essential contacts.

SPRINT'S RESPONSE

Sprint announced in a news release Thursday that between Sept. 12-25, the carrier will waive call, text and data overage fees for its customers in areas affected by Hurricane Florence and the resulting flooding in North and South Carolina and Virginia.

"The last thing we want is for people to worry about how to

stay in touch with loved ones or critical services," Sprint CEO Michel Combes said.

LEGAL HELP

For those in need of legal assistance with insurance claims or disaster-aid paperwork, there are resources available.

Legal Aid of East Tennessee provides free assistance to lower-income individuals and families. LAET has office locations in five cities, including Maryville and Knoxville.

Jane Morris, managing attorney for the Knoxville office, said LAET can assist evacuees as it did for those displaced in the 2016 Gatlinburg and Sevier County wildfires.

"The one thing we noticed when we had the wildfires is the attorneys in Tennessee have just really big hearts, and we just had an amazing number of volunteers who came through and assisted," Morris said. "So if we end up with a lot of displaced people here in Tennessee, I'm sure we'll have no problem finding volunteer attorneys, as well as our staff attorneys, to assist them."

The Maryville office is located at 307 Ellis Ave. and can be reached at 865-981-1818. The Knoxville office, 607 W. Summit Hill Drive S.W., can be reached at 865-637-0484.

The Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services in Nashville is another resource. TALS can be reached at 1-888-395-9297, but it also helps operate a free civil legal helpline, 1-844-HELP4TN (1-844-435-7486).

Where to find food resources in Blount

BY SARAH GRACE TAYLOR

sarah.taylor@thedailytimes.com

United Way of Greater Knoxville, the American Red Cross and Second Harvest Food Bank, an umbrella organization that has member churches in Blount County, are on standby to help evacuees of Hurricane Florence.

United Way's 2-1-1 program provides a free hotline for anyone to call for finding emergency resources in their area.

'2-1-1, United Way and our partners are ready to help ... Whatever comes up, we'll do what we can to offer shelter and food and whatever else to those who need it.'

Brewton Couch

United Way

Food banks, shelters and other resources will be available to evacuees.

"2-1-1, United Way and our partners are ready to help with evacuees however we can," Brewton Couch, vice president of Branding and Messaging at United Way, told The Daily Times. "Whatever comes up, we'll do what we can to offer shelter and food and whatever else to those who need it."

While no partnering food banks have announced special hours because of the storm, Louisville Christian Assistance Center Administrator Daniel Franklin says their services will be extremely flexible for those who need it.

"We'll be available for those

impacted at any time," Franklin said of his group's food bank, clothing donation and spiritual services. "If anyone needs it, they can call me directly and we can help them out."

The LCAC, a coalition of seven local churches, offers food assistance to anyone once every two weeks. Though regular hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Franklin can be reached directly at 865-803-4579 by storm victims.

In addition to disaster relief, individuals anywhere in the United States also can text FLORENCE to 898-211 to receive information and updates on the hurricane from United Way.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANKS IN BLOUNT:

- LCAC: 2942 Topside Road, Louisville, 865-233-3112

- Community Food Connection: 311 Whitecrest Drive, Maryville, 865-977-4400

- Jehovah Jireh Food Ministry: 401 W. Broadway, Maryville, 865-984-5364

- Maryville Church of Christ: 611 Sherwood Drive, Maryville, 865-983-0370

- Fairview United Methodist Church: 2508 Old Niles Ferry Road, Maryville, 865-983-2080

- Alcoa Maryville Church of God: 2615 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, 865-983-6921

- Chilhowee Baptist Association: 1905 E. Broadway Ave., Maryville, 865-981-2992

- Lord's Disciples Ministries of Whosoever Will: 2002 Old Knoxville Pike, Maryville, 865-977-4491

- Church of the Cove: 642 Wears Valley Road, Townsend (865) 448-1929

- Townsend Church of God: Webb Road, Townsend (865) 448-8008

- Prospect Baptist Church: 519 Prospect Road, Walland (865) 984-4860

Thank You Blount County...



Bob Ramsey
State Representative

... for allowing me to serve as a part of the Blount County Legislative Delegation to the Tennessee General Assembly.

We are pleased you chose Blount County as your destination during Hurricane Florence. And, I hope you enjoy the many things we have to offer. We are blessed to have mountains, lakes, walkways, great restaurants, churches and entertainment. If you have other needs please call on us.



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Rep. Bob Ramsey

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UMC hurricane effort and church listings

BY MELANIE TUCKER
melt@thedailytimes.com

The United Methodist churches that are part of the Holston Conference (which includes Blount County) already have been contributing to relief efforts as part of United Methodist Community on Relief (UMCOR).

Clayton Hensley, communications specialist at Maryville First United Methodist Church, said his church put together 50 flood buckets for the relief effort even before Hurricane Florence began boring down on the Carolinas. Others in the community have done the same. This project is something United Methodist churches around the world take part in annually. The buckets then are shipped to a warehouse, where they remain until a need arises.

The buckets contain laundry detergent, household cleaner, scrub brush, cleaning wipes, sponges, gloves, trash bags — basically supplies you would need in the aftermath of a flood, Hensley said.

UMCOR was founded in 1940 in response to displaced populations in the wake of World War II.

The churches that participate pay all the administrative costs so that 100 percent of the donations go where relief is needed, Hensley said.

Maryville UMC has sent teams into areas in the aftermath of hurricanes and tropical storms, including Sandy in New York and Katrina in New Orleans.

He said the UMC conferences in North and South Carolina might put out a direct call for supplies, etc., in coming days. That's what happened last year in Florida.

Hensley added that he isn't aware of any UMC churches here being asked to shelter any hurricane victims who might come to the area. The Red Cross has taken care of setting those up, if needed.

Maryville First United and other Blount County churches said they welcome those fleeing Hurricane Florence to attend

services. Here is a partial listing with all area codes 865:

SPRINGBROOK CHURCH: 1873 N.

Wright Road, Alcoa. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m.; worship service 10:30 a.m.

BEECH GROVE BAPTIST: 1519 Topside Road, Louisville, 977-9315. Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m.

BETHEL BAPTIST: 132 Bethel Church Road, Townsend, 448-6972. Sunday school at 10 a.m., worship at 11 a.m.

BROADWAY BAPTIST: 2329 E. Broadway Ave., Maryville, 982-6012. Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m.

CENTRAL BAPTIST: 962 Springbrook Road, Alcoa, 982-5663. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m.; worship at 10:45 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MARYVILLE: 202 W. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, 982-5531. Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALCOA: 819 Gilbert St., Alcoa, 982-2663. Worship at 10:15 a.m.

GRANDVIEW BAPTIST: 2208 Tuckaleechee Pike, Maryville, 982-8530. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:45 a.m.

HIGH PRAISES BAPTIST: 3440 W. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Friendsville, 995-0032. Worship at 10 a.m.

LONE OAK BAPTIST: 831 W. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, 977-0686. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m.

MADISON AVENUE BAPTIST: 1918 Madison Ave., Maryville, 982-8785. Sunday school at 9 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST: 605 Dotson Memorial Road, Maryville, 982-3414. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:45 a.m.

OAK STREET BAPTIST: 218 Oakdale St., Maryville, 984-5070. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m.

SMOKY VIEW BAPTIST: 2201 W. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, 984-5101. Sunday school at 9 a.m., worship at 10:15 a.m.

SPRINGVIEW BAPTIST: 4220 U.S. Highway 411 S., Maryville, 982-



DARYL SULLIVAN | THE DAILY TIMES

WHITNEY WINSTON ADDS A cleaning kit to the stack at the Holston Conference Center in September 2017 in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. The Maryville District has 64 churches, which made and donated cleaning kits and hygiene kits.

2804. Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., worship at 10:45 a.m.

VICTORY BAPTIST: 1025 Montvale Road, Maryville, 982-2461. Worship at 9:30 a.m.

WEST MARYVILLE BAPTIST: 810 W. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, 982-1490. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH: 860 Louisville Road, Alcoa, 982-3672. Worship at 8 a.m. weekdays; noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays; 5 and 7 p.m. on Saturdays; and 8:30 and 11 a.m. on Sundays.

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC: 7719 River Road, Townsend, 448-6070. Mass is held at 8:30 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; 4 p.m. on Saturdays; 9 a.m. on

Sundays.

FIRST CHRISTIAN: 400 S. Court St., Maryville, 983-1281. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST OF MARYVILLE: 611 Sherwood Drive, Maryville. Sunday school at 9 a.m. and worship at 10 a.m.

ALCOA-MARYVILLE CHURCH OF GOD: 2615 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, 983-6921. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m.

THE MEADOW CHURCH OF GOD: 1723 William Blount Drive, Maryville 982-9447. Sunday school at 9 a.m., worship at 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

RIO CENTRAL: 370 S. Long Hollow Road, Maryville. Worship at 10 a.m.

RIO REVOLUTION: 3419 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, 983-9141. Worship at 9 and 11 a.m.

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL: 314 W. Broadway Ave., Maryville, 983-3512. Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., worship at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN: 429 Sandy Springs Road, Maryville, 982-4285. Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., worship at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

ALCOA FIRST UNITED METHODIST: 617 Gilbert St., Alcoa, 982-5551. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

BROADWAY UNITED METHODIST: 309 E. Broadway Ave., Maryville, 982-6192. Sunday school at 9 a.m., worship at 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST: 804 Montvale Station Road, Maryville, 982-1273. Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., worship at 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

ST. JOHN UNITED METHODIST: 2201 E. Broadway Ave., Maryville, 983-2290. Hispanic service at 10 a.m., English service at 10:45 a.m.

ST. PAUL AME ZION: 401 W. Broadway Ave., Maryville, 984-5364. Sunday school at 8:45 a.m., worship at 10 a.m.

WALLAND UMC: 309 E. Millers Cove Road, Walland, 738-3243. Service at 11 a.m.

HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN: 721 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, 982-9272. Worship at 10:30 a.m.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN PRESBYTERIAN P.C.A.: 3715 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, 983-9019. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:45 a.m.

NEW PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN: 703 W. Broadway Ave., Maryville, 983-0182. Sunday school at 10 a.m., worship at 9 and 11:05 a.m.

CHURCH OF THE COVE: 642 Wears Valley Road, Townsend, 448-1929. Sunday school at 9 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m.

FRIENDSVILLE FRIENDS (QUAKERS) CHURCH: 503 W. Hill Ave., Friendsville, 865-995-2231. Services at 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.

GRACE COMMUNITY: 115 E. Harper Ave., Maryville, 984-0116. Sunday school and worship held at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

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CONTRIBUTE

From 2

see how many people need our help locally, since many waited until today (Friday) to leave,” Manuel said.

While organizations assess what assistance is needed, concerned citizens are encouraged to be patient but prepared in volunteer efforts. “(The Red Cross) can only take volunteers who have gone through the application process and a background check. ... Anyone can apply now and we will get them started whenever we can,” Manuel said. “We’ve opened shelters and we’re taking donations, but the effort is just starting.”

Similarly, the Federal Emergency Management Administration calls for interested volunteers to avoid knee-jerk “self-deploying,” and to sign up through a specific organization.

“There will be volunteer needs for many months, often many years, after the disaster — especially when the community enters the long-term recovery period,” FEMA’s Responsible Volunteering Guide reads. “... Wait until a need has been identified and the local community impacted has requested support. Sign up to volunteer, and wait to travel until opportunities have been identified.”

In the meantime, East Tennessee residents can help make supply bundles, donate blood and provide monetary donations to benefit victims of the storm.

SUPPLY DONATIONS

The local Red Cross is seeking donations of bottled water, deodorant and toothpaste for evacuees. To make a supply donation, contact the East Tennessee Red Cross at 865-584-2999 for details and to check what supplies are still needed.

To donate supplies to the Salvation Army, visit give.helpsalvationarmy.org. The Salvation Army warns that

clothing and furniture rarely are needed in disaster response and encourages donations be made to the Salvation Army community stores instead.

MONETARY DONATIONS

Save the Children is collecting online donations for children impacted by Hurricane Florence. Ten percent of the donations made to victims of Florence will go to the organization’s general Children’s Emergency Fund.

Disaster relief donations can be made to the Red Cross at redcross.org, by calling 1-800-RED CROSS or texting the word FLORENCE to 90999 to make a \$10 donation. Donors can designate their donation to Hurricane Florence relief efforts by choosing that option when donating at redcross.org or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

Donations to provide medicine and other aid to victims of the storm can be made through the American Red Cross disaster relief foundation at secure.americares.org/.

BLOOD DONATIONS

According to the Red Cross, Hurricane Florence has caused more than 120 blood drives to be canceled in Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Blood donation appointments can be made by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcross.blood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

VOLUNTEERING

The Alnwick Community Center has offered to open a shelter if needed, but it is currently on standby. Should it open, interested volunteers should contact the center at 865-230-2225.

Red Cross volunteer applications and opportunities can be found at redcross.org/volunteer.

More emergency volunteer opportunities will be posted through the National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters website: www.nvoad.org.

Animal shelters full, but help available

BY AMY BETH MILLER

amy.miller@thedailytimes.com

Mako, Lefty and Athena arrived Tuesday from Camp LeJeune, N.C., and settled in at The Pup Tent in Friendsville.

The boarding and grooming facility was scheduled to be full this week but had room for the pug, American bulldog and black Labrador since some families canceled their beach vacation plans and dogs’ reservations because of Hurricane Florence, owner Joe Smith explained.

Hound Hideaway on U.S. Highway 411 South in Maryville was expecting four-legged evacuees on Friday, owner Rebekah Parker said. The doggy day care and boarding facility doesn’t have kennels, though, only suites.

Area veterinarians that offer boarding reported still having room Friday, including Countryside Veterinary Services in Louisville. Animal volunteers also reported that hotels that don’t usually accept pets were accommodating evacuees’ animals.

The Blount, Loudon and Monroe county animal shelters, however, already were full of dogs and cats before evacuees started arriving.

Young-Williams Animal Center made a public plea for adoptions and foster families to make room at the Knoxville center

for evacuees.

Sevier County Humane Society President Cheri Hagmeier said 10 boarding facilities in that county are full.

State welcome centers are maintaining a list of available lodging that includes whether the places are pet friendly, and that information also is available by calling 423-784-5820, she said. The Sevier County group also has information on a 50-acre property off Interstate 75 at Exit 201 that is offering free stalls, with boarding for large and small farm animals and dogs.

People without access to Facebook can text the Sevier County Humane Society at 817-455-9600.

Hagmeier encourages pet owners to bring the basics: vet records, carriers, harnesses or leashes, any special diet food or medications, and current photos of the pet, in case it gets loose.

For an animal that is displaced from home, having a familiar bed, favorite toy or even an article of clothing with the owner’s scent can be a comfort at a stressful time, said veterinarian Katie Maxey at Countryside Veterinary Services.

‘FEED IT FORWARD’

Director Jim Naelitz said the

Blount County Animal Center has some donated pet food it can make available to evacuees. The center at 233 Curie Ave., Maryville, is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, then closed Sunday and Monday.

The Humane Society of the Tennessee Valley launched a “Feed It Forward” campaign earlier than planned to collect donations of food and supplies at its center, 6717 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. The campaign, in partnership with Nutrena Foods, was to begin in October.

It plans to distribute unopened wet and dry food for dogs, cats and other small animals, as well as paper towels, bleach and laundry detergent to shelters affected by the hurricane and the shelters and rescues caring for animals from the coastal areas.

It’s open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, closed Mondays, and opened 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays.

Facilities that aren’t regularly open during the weekend might respond to messages left on emergency numbers or through social media.

“If we can’t be the help, we will help find the help,” said Parker, who answers messages sent to Hound Hideaway through Facebook.

REUNITED

From 9

— one of which they’ve never lived in or made their first mortgage payment on.

At the home where they currently live, Lynn said, they have gotten some news from neighbors who haven’t evacuated. They’ve been told there’s standing water and no power; however, the young couple in their 30s knows there’s a river nearby their home and watch the television carefully hoping their neighborhood won’t see the dramatic rainfall being reported closer to the coastline. Some of their neighbors who

remained decided to evacuate Friday.

“All we can do is wait for updates,” she said. “We’re getting to see dad (husband), which has been really cool. We’re calling it a vacation because there’s no point in stressing out. It’s going to be OK.”

The challenge they face now is trying to find a routine and some sense of normalcy. Her oldest son just started school for the first time last week, so he’s frustrated about not seeing his new friends.

Then there’s the problem of finding a way to keep the children and the two dogs occupied during the long boring days. They weren’t able to pack all the children’s familiar toys, so

it’s a struggle to find something new to do for hours upon hours, Lynn said.

And, finally, there’s the onslaught of news coverage and Facebook chatter that can make one think the worst.

“Thankfully we have power. We’re just glad we’re away from it all,” Lynn said.

In an area where most of the hotels already were booked for this weekend’s UT football game, she and her husband are thankful they’ve been able to make a long-term reservation at a hotel whose name they did not want to disclose. This gives them some time to figure out how much damage was done to their homes and how to begin establishing a new normal.

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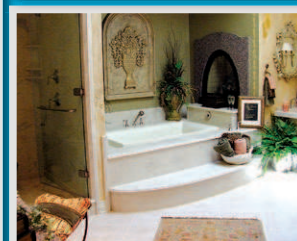
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