But Summit was more than the sum of her achievements - she was legendarily committed to basketball, to women, and to women's basketball specifically.
The farm girl from Clarksville, Tennessee, became a basketball icon.

"I guess I got that from my father", she said. Pat was a great person, loving mother, passionate coach, and loyal friend. "And she and I used to joke, I'd say, 'You know, Summitt, I'm gonna be pushing you up in your wheelchair to the court.' And she'd go, 'You're gonna be sitting right next to me.' And I said, 'Absolutely'". Her teams appeared in the NCAA Tournament 31 consecutive times.

2000: Summitt was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000.

I'm sure Tennessee is happy they made their offer to the coach. She won 72 percent of those games. Summitt's legacy is not just the eight gleaming NCAA title trophies in Knoxville, Tennessee but the constant stream of women's pro and college games on television, the dreams of thousands of girls who can aspire to a basketball career, and a national team that never seems to lose. Her victory total was the most for any Division I coach men or women. She was adamant that her players sit in the first three rows in lectures, saying, "Class is more important than a game".

At the time, Summitt was two years into her diagnosis of early onset Alzheimer's-type dementia. We had several conversations this past weekend about Summitt and I'll share some of Jody's insight in my column. Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam tweeted a video statement on Summitt's passing early Tuesday, adding, "We have lost one of the greatest Tennesseans of all time".

She announced in 2011 at age 59 that she'd been diagnosed with early onset dementia. So we maintained a very close friendship and I was honored to present her with the Arthur Ashe Award a few years ago and I was honored to serve on the Pat Summitt Alzheimer's Foundation for these past several years. Pat Summit was pregnant with her son Tyler, and she was flying to a game. I will miss her dearly, and I am honored to call her my friend. A public service to celebrate her life will take place at Thompson-Boling Arena, on the campus of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

When 60 Minutes profiled her in 1999, the coach's will to win was apparent both on and off the court.

She also made her presence felt on the global stage, earning an Olympic silver medal as a player in 1976 and coaching the United States women's team to a gold medal at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

"We had kind of joked over the years, we've signed so many (copies), whenever we had gotten one that somebody wanted signed, I said, 'If it's signed by you, I'll sign it.' " Krzyzewski said.
Pat Summitt’s impact reached from UT Martin to the Olympics and beyond  

Pat Summitt — UT Martin All-American, Tennessee Volunteers coach, gold-medal winning Olympic basketball player and coach, all-time winningest college basketball coach — was an inspiration

Summitt, who passed away this week from early-onset Alzheimer’s Disease, was named the Naismith Basketball Coach of the Century in 2000 and is the only person with TWO basketball courts named after her.

The Web Show host Matt Lincoln is joined by ASN basketball analyst Monica McNutt as ASN pauses to remember the legendary Summitt.

Employee guns on campus now a reality in Tennessee colleges

http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/

MARTIN, TN - Beginning Friday, guns are allowed on college campuses in Tennessee. Full-time employees with handgun permits at all public universities in the state can carry a concealed weapon on campus.

At the University of Tennessee at Martin, there are already six registered with campus safety.

UTM senior Ashton Goff says she feels safer walking through the quad knowing her teachers are armed. “If someone was to come in and try to shoot us or something, I’d feel more protected if one of my professors was about to carry a gun on them as well,” she says.

UTM is one of the safest four-year colleges in the state, according to a crime on campus report issued by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. That’s one of the many reasons not every professor agreed with the switch to more guns. Dr. David Coffey says he believes the Second Amendment can be interpreted in different ways.

“I don’t think there’s anything in the wording that says an individual citizen has the right to carry in a workplace,” he says. Coffey says he believes that’s especially true considering so many of his colleagues opposed the measure. He says he fears this will expand to all students as well as employees someday.

A full-time employee can’t just walk into a classroom with a concealed weapon. They have to register with campus safety and provide their concealed carry permit.

Campus safety Lt. Jerry Garcia says it’s important for campus police to know which of the 745 full-time workers are packing heat. “It’s good for us to know so we have an idea. So, if for some reason we did have a situation, that we had to go into a building, we would know who already had a handgun.”

There are some locations, including gyms and auditoriums, where employees can’t bring a gun. Students can keep a handgun in the trunks of their vehicles on campus, but they cannot carry them.
Two Greene County Natives Played For Pat Summitt; Reflect On Her Passing

http://www.greenvillesun.com/

There's nothing else that can likely be noted here about Pat Summitt that has not already been pointed out during the days since her death earlier this week.

When the news first came to us about Pat's passing, it was as if we had all lost a close friend. Even those who had never met her but had a keen interest in sports had probably seen her coach and had listened intently to her analogies prior to and after a women's basketball game.

We have all felt a sadness this week, and that includes me.

I was present at many press conferences over the years that involved Pat, and I was always impressed by the way she candidly and professionally handled the media. My first one-on-one interview with her came in 1986 when she was named Greeneville's Boys & Girls Club Executive, and she treated me like I was with The New York Times or ESPN, looking me squarely in the eye and answering all questions like she was truly glad I was taking time to talk with her.

But imagine the feeling of those former players who were so close to her during her decades of service at the University of Tennessee. Greene County was fortunate to have had two athletes be a part of those teams, and both those players were members of very special squads.

Gail Dobson Ingram was the first, and her time at UT was made special since she was a member of Pat's very first team in 1975. She got to play only one season, her senior year, under the tutelage of a lady who was then known as Pat Head.

While Gail Dobson Ingram played in the days before Title IX and no recruiting for the ladies, Debbie Hawe was a star at Knoxville in 1988 as a highly recruited standout from South Greene High School who had led her team to two consecutive state championships in 1987 and 1988. She was the final two years of her high school career she helped the lady Coach Larry Ecker compile a remarkable 77-1 record. At Knoxville, she was a member of two national championship teams, in 1989 and 1991.

Ingram "Shocked" Even Though It was Inevitable

Gail Ingram, who now serves as an administrator at Towering Oaks Baptist Christian School, said she had seen Pat only a couple of times since the announcement came in 2011 that she was suffering from early-onset dementia.

"I saw her at a surprise party that Chantelle Holdaway arranged, and I saw her again at a Lady Vol reunion," Ingram recalls. "I was able to chat with her for a few minutes that last time I saw her, and she knew who I was. She was able to recall all her former players, so that didn't surprise me."

Ingram, who also was a South Greene High School grad and whose father, the late Wayne Dobson, was a renowned town's player, both locally and nationally, is proud she was a member of Pat's first team at UT. She was a veteran when a young Pat ran across the stage. In fact, Pat was about the same age as many of her players, as she herself had just completed a great career at UT before.

Coach Margaret Hashe had been coaching the "Volettes," as they were called in those days, but she resigned to Ingram's senior year, 1975. Along came Pat Head.

The real history

Ingram played in the first game that Pat coached, an 84-83 loss to Mercer, and she was on the floor during Pat's first win as a coach, a 69-32 victory over Middle Tennessee State. Little did she know at that time that Pat Head Summitt would go on to log another 1,097 victories, making her the nation's winningest basketball coach.

"She took the game of basketball from, well, nowhere, to where it is today," Ingram said.

When Pat met with UT's four seniors that first year, she listened intently to them, and when they explained to her team's strengths and weaknesses.

"She was only a year older than me," Ingram said. "But she was my coach. That is someone who I had played against when I was at UT Martin. But she made you feel important, and you didn't want to let her down. You wanted her to be proud of you."

There have been many things that Gail Ingram has carried with her throughout her life that were taught to her by her college coach.

"Her work ethic," Ingram said. "She accepted you as an individual. If you went to her with a problem, she listened. And she demanded excellence, both on the floor and also in the classroom. She treated people as special individuals. I think one of the things she was most proud of was the 100 percent graduation rate (to those who stayed with the program all four years)."

The news of Pat's death earlier this week was very sad for Ingram.

"I was shocked. I guess. Even though you knew it was inevitable," she softly added, "you just didn't want it to happen."

'Bittersweet' Day for Hawe

We caught up with Dr. Debbie Hawe in the airport in Nashville very early Friday morning. She was ordering a bowl of grits and awaiting her flight which would eventually get her back to her home in State College, Pa., where she serves as Director of Graduate Studies at Penn State University.

"After all, you can't get grits up north," she laughed.

Hawe, along with 30-35 other former players under Pat, had been to Thursday's funeral service, which was held in Clarksville.

The funeral was a private service for family and close friends. A public memorial is planned at Knoxville's Thompson-Boling Arena on July 14. It's the site where Coach Pat Summitt spent many days and nights, practicing and working toward making her Lady Vols among the nation's elite. The playing floor at Thompson-Boling is aptly named, "The Summit."

Assuredly there were many tears shed by those players who made the trip to Clarksville Thursday, and Hawe called it a "bittersweet" day.

"It was very sad, very real," Hawe said. "On the other hand it was good to be able to see so many old friends and catch up on their lives."

Hawe said that when word came down that Pat was close to death, Pat's former assistant, Mickie DeMoss, said she felt Pat was trying to prepare everyone for the inevitable. Since her announcement that she had dementia in 2011 and her retirement from coaching in 2012, the decline in health has been rapid.

Debbie has a daughter, Nora, who is nearing 6-years-old, and she was able to take her younger to meet Pat about four years ago. That was her last visit with the coach.

"It was special for me to introduce my daughter to Pat Summitt," she recalls.

The funeral in Clarksville was held in a rather small church, Debbie said, and it was "sufficently private."

"Michelle Morinnek gave a eulogy, and it was wonderful," Debbie said.

Many of Coach Summitt's former players have gone on to professional basketball careers in the WNBA, and many others have gone on to become coaches, either at the high school or collegiate level. And there are others, like Dr. Debbie Hawe, who have gone on to sparking careers in other fields. From what has been written this week in interviews with former players, they all have shared lessons learned while they were playing basketball at the University of Tennessee.

"We ran, and then we ran some more," she laughed. "But we were never late for another team meeting."

"Now when I go into a meeting room early, and get prepared early, I just say, 'Thanks, Pat.'"
A coaching legend who changed her sport

My parents were big fans of Pat Summitt. They loved the Lady Vols. They revelled in the program’s glory days.

Both of them died several years ago, so they weren’t here to see Summitt’s demise from early onset dementia, Alzheimer’s type, or her death from the brain disease Tuesday. She was 64.

My parents would have been sad. They would have been sad like Knoxville and the rest of Tennessee, sad like all of Summitt’s former players and coaches, sad like all those touched and inspired by Summitt through the years.

You won’t forget the day Pat Summitt died. She built the sport of women’s basketball. She won eight national championships at Tennessee. Her players sat in the front row of classes and all of them graduated from UT. They became head coaches and successful professionals.

After she died, Summitt was memorialized across the nation. Coaches, athletes, politicians and dignitaries spoke of the impact Summitt made during her life. Even President Obama issued a statement.

So did Peyton Manning, former UT and recently retired NFL quarterback.

“Summitt” was one of the people I consulted with following my junior year when I was deciding whether to turn pro or stay in college,” Manning said. “She gave me some very valuable advice during that time. My teammates and I went to a lot of Lady Vols games when we were in school, and I really enjoyed watching her teams play.”

Former UT football coach Phillip Fulmer enjoyed spending years coaching alongside Summitt.

“Pat Summitt was many things to many people,” Fulmer said. “Pat was a great person, loving mother, passionate coach, and loyal friend. We shared a lot of years working together and spreading the word about Tennessee athletics. We had wonderful personal times talking about life, our respective teams, or helping each other recruit.

“Her legacy as a basketball coach is iconic, but her greatest legacy may well be through The Pat Summitt Foundation and her role in leading the battle against Alzheimer’s.”

There will be a private service and burial of Summitt for family and friends in Middle Tennessee. UT will host a Celebration of Life service honoring Summitt at 7 p.m. July 14 at Thompson-Boling Arena. The service is open to the public.

I didn’t know Summitt, but I crossed paths with her several times during my career as a sports writer.

The first time was in 1986 when I covered the NCAA Women’s Final Four for the Johnson City Press. The late Melissa (McCray) Duker, who played at Science Hill High School in Johnson City, was playing for the Lady Vols in Lexington, Kentucky, in the national semifinal. The Lady Vols lost to Cheryl Miller-led USC, 83-39, but the next year won their first NCAA championship in Austin, Texas.

My next encounter with Summitt was my most memorable, like my 15 minutes of fame with the coaching legend.

It was one of the years the SEC women’s tournament was held in Chattanooga (from 1993-97) and I was covering it for The Chattanooga Times.

I got a message from my boss to write something about the Lady Vols, and in a hurry. It was during practice sessions, and there were no interviews arranged for the day.

There was Pat Summitt, though, walking through the UTC Roundhouse. So what the heck? I walked up to Summitt and asked if she would talk with me for a few minutes.

I remember I wasn’t intimidated talking with Summitt. Instead, she welcomed an interview with a reporter she didn’t know and tried to make me feel comfortable.

A few years later, I moved to Summitt’s neck of the woods.

When The Chattanooga Times folded on Jan. 1, 1999, I soon moved to Clarksville when my wife Cheryl got a teaching job at Clarksville Academy and I got a job covering Austin Peay State University sports for The Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle.

My wife and I actually looked a house to buy in Henrietta, in Cheatham County, where Summitt grew up, before buying a house in Clarksville, where Summitt was born.

While living in Clarksville, I heard countless stories of Summitt’s life as a child. She was born June 14, 1952, the fourth of five children of the late Richard and Hazel Albright Head.

They lived on a farm in Cheatham County.

Pat worked many hours on the farm, never missed a day of school and learned to play basketball from her three older brothers.

Summitt graduated from Cheatham County High in 1970 and played basketball for the University of Tennessee-Martin, about an hour’s drive from Clarksville.

Not long after graduating UT-Martin in 1974, Summitt accepted the position as head coach of Tennessee’s women’s basketball team. Summitt was 22 years old.

Women’s basketball was an afterthought at that time. Summitt was the driving force to change that for the next 38 years as Tennessee’s coach.

When Austin Peay’s women won the OVC tournament in 2001, I covered the Lady Vols’ game against the Lady Vols in the NCAA sub-regional at Thompson-Boling Arena.

Summitt smiled the day before the game during a press conference when I asked a couple of Lady Vols if they had heard about Austin Peay’s rallying cry, “Let’s Go Peay.”

Summitt never forgot her roots.

We moved back to Knoxville in the summer of 2004, not long after my father died of heart failure. He also had dementia. He was 84.

We moved to take care of my mother, who was still an avid Lady Vol fan. She watched on television in a nursing home when the Lady Vols won the 2007 national championship.

My mom knew of Summitt’s background and could relate. She grew up in a family with little money in the tiny town of North Tonawanda, New York. She died in the winter of 2008 before the Lady Vols won their eighth and most recent NCAA championship.

My mom loved the grit, effort and intensity with which the Lady Vols always played under Summitt.

My dad loved winning at UT, his alma mater. He was a competitor, just like Summitt. He worked hard, just like Summitt. While UT men’s coaches came and went, Summitt was a symbol of stability for Big Orange faithful like my parents.

What did I learn from Summitt?

I learned to appreciate girls’ basketball. Many of my winter nights are spent covering girls’ high school basketball, and those games are as intense as any sport I cover.

Every possession is critical. Girls get after it on the basketball court. It’s the way Summitt taught the game.

I also learned a larger-than-life figure like Summitt could be a regular person who would grant an interview on the fly to a reporter she didn’t know.

Lady Vols basketball hasn’t been the same since Summitt’s diagnosis and her retirement after the 2011-12 season. It will never be the same.

But girls and women’s basketball is alive and well. Thanks to Pat Summitt.

Dave Link is a freelance journalist living in Knoxville.
Tiny fraction of employees sign up to carry guns on campus

Full-time college employees are now allowed to carry guns on campus, but only a small percentage of those employees have indicated they will do so, according to information from several law enforcement agencies.

A law allowing employees at public universities with the necessary permits to carry a concealed firearm went into effect Friday. But before they can carry their weapons on school grounds, employees need to alert campus or local law enforcement.

As of this week, a small fraction of the 27,000 eligible employees at the Tennessee Board of Regents and University of Tennessee college systems had chosen to take advantage of the new law, according to multiple agencies.

Police at UT-Knoxville had fielded requests from 72 employees who wanted to be able to bring their guns on campus, a spokeswoman said Thursday.

At Middle Tennessee State University, 15 to 20 of about 2,000 eligible employees had asked law enforcement to carry guns on campus, according to an estimate from the school’s police chief, Buddy Peaster. Peaster added that he expects more employees to register there through the rest of the month.

Other state schools have seen significantly lower interest in the law, which won wide support in the General Assembly despite strong opposition from higher education officials and campus law enforcement.

Austin Peay State University logged six requests to carry by Thursday. Tennessee State University had three, a spokesman said. Three employees at Volunteer State Community College have registered to carry guns there, a spokesman said.

Metro police — who are logging requests for Nashville campuses that don’t have their own law enforcement, such as Nashville State Community College — have logged two requests to carry guns by Thursday. Both of those requests came from employees at a local UT satellite campus.

As of Friday, 11 employees had completed the notification process to carry a handgun on the East Tennessee State University campus. Seven of the 745 full-time employees at UT-Martin had registered by the end of the week.

Supporters of the new measure, which was allowed to become law without Gov. Bill Haslam's signature in May, said allowing responsible gun owners to carry their weapons on campus could prevent or stop a mass shooting. Law enforcement challenged that assertion, saying police are better trained to respond to such an emergency.

College officials have indicated that the law has created bureaucratic headaches at many of the state’s smaller campuses. Colleges and law enforcement had to scramble to establish policies that outlined several exceptions to the law and allowed administrators to track the guns on campus without violating the law’s strict confidentiality requirements.
No doubt Summitt transcended her craft

GREG HAMMOND
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Sixty-four is not old by today's standards. Pharmaceutical companies make pills for every situation it seems. Yet Pat Head Summitt is gone. That in itself is a reason to pause and reflect; even ponder for a moment our own mortality.

While we can debate who holds the title of Tennessee's favorite son, few women deserve the label of Tennessee's favorite daughter more than Summitt. Her footprint covers both ends of the state. And I don't mean in the generic 'everyone knows Elvis belongs to Tennessee' sort of way.

Pat Summitt belonged to West Tennessee as much as she belonged to East Tennessee. But she also belongs to the sports world at-large.

University of Tennessee at Martin graduates can beam with pride knowing Summitt, a member of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, began during her time in the college ranks as a student-athlete in Martin. In great detail Summitt describes her experience at UT Martin in her 2013 book "Sum It Up."

Summitt was a trailblazer; participating in athletics during the infancy of women's college basketball. It wasn't glamorous stuff. Two borrowed stadium wagons took those UTM teams to away games. Mats on gym floors were used in lieu of hotels. There was also a lack of respect from their male counterparts.

Summitt and her teammates had to pat themselves on the back as there was little media coverage. And there would not have been much coverage of women's athletics had there been an ESPN around in 1970. Female athletes didn't get much support, financial or otherwise, in Summitt's playing days.

The grit and determination she developed while working with her older brothers on the family's tobacco farm in Cheatham County helped Summitt persevere. But hard times didn't make Summitt bitter. She was very personable.

I had the honor of interviewing Coach Summitt 13 years ago, (and just 6 days after I had graduated from UTM) during my first tour of duty as sports reporter and anchor at WBBJ.

The legendary coach was at Jackson Country Club for a tribute and scholarship fundraiser in honor of two pioneers in UT Martin women's athletics — Nadine Gearin and Bettye Giles. I was scheduled to interview Coach Summitt live.

I learned about the event a few days prior, so I was able to get Nell Huntspion and Misses Campus Corner to loan me a tuxedo for the event (there were some perks to working in television). I was more excited than nervous on the day of the assignment. I had previously watched and assisted a number of my predecessors in conducting live interviews. While I had been to Knoxville in person to cover local players in Volunteer football games, I had never made the five-hour trip for UT basketball.

This was the first time I would meet Coach Summitt in person. She was tall. She was friendly. She was accommodating. No one gave her a reason that day to use the stone-faced, icy glare she was known for on the court. It was a fun interview.

I would see Summitt in person several times over the next four years during my time as a sports reporter and anchor at WTVQ ABC 36 in Lexington, Kentucky.

It is not uncommon in sports, at any level, for successful coaches to be discourteous — especially to members of the media. But even when Mickie DeMoss and the UK women defeated the top-ranked Lady Vols in January 2006 at Rupp Arena, I can't recall Summitt losing her cool with us.

An awareness of Alzheimer's is one of the final lessons Coach Summitt left for us. And I do mean us. You didn't have to be a blue-chip, female recruit to learn at the feet of Coach Summitt.

Whether you followed her career in Knoxville closely, which spanned nearly 40 years, or simply read one of her three books — there was something for everyone to learn and emulate from Summitt.

Summitt didn't discover the cure for cancer or help topple a terroristic regime. But she is the latest reminder that it matters not what you do, but rather how well you do it. Pat Head Summitt lived well and the nation took notice. She transcended her craft. That's just what legends do.
Summitt's passing leaves a huge void in sports

Jul 2, 2016  http://www.goshennews.com/

Great is a word that is often times overused in our culture.

People are referred to as being great and, yes, some of them are. I hate to be the one to burst someone's bubble but others just fall short of the mark.

There are those certain special human beings in which the word doesn't even begin to describe what they do or have meant to the world.

We lost one of those people where the word falls far short of describing them this past Tuesday when legendary University of Tennessee women's basketball coach Pat Summitt died at age 64, leaving this world long before many of us were ready to see her go.

The coach announced in August 2011 that she had been diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Summitt approached the disease the way she approached everything else in life saying in a press release, "It's not going to keep me from living my life."

The word great doesn't even begin to scratch the surface of what Summitt meant to sports in general and women's athletics in particular. Her legacy is one that will extend far beyond her years here on Earth.

Summitt became the head coach of the Lady Vols when she was just 22 years old in 1974. Four players on that initial team, including the starting point guard, were just a year younger than their head coach.

Women's basketball was still in its beginning stages at the collegiate level. Summitt was reportedly paid $250 a month to coach the team. Money was so hard to come by that she had to wash team uniforms, drive the bus to away games and make the team lunches for road trips. She even shared in an interview once that her team slept in the opposing team's gym on one of these early road trips.
Summitt worked her magic with the program and turned the Lady Vols into a perennial powerhouse that was a contender for the national championship almost every season. In her 38 seasons, Tennessee won a total of 1,098 games, to date the most ever won by a men’s or women’s Division-1 coach in the history of the game.


When Summitt retired in 2012, only the legendary UCLA men’s coach John Wooden (10) had more national titles to his credit. UConn coach Geno Auriemma (11) has since passed both Wooden and Summitt.

Summitt’s first game as the coach of the Lady Vols was on Dec. 7, 1974, an 84-83 loss to Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. Her first win came on Jan. 10, 1975 when Tennessee topped Middle Tennessee State 69-32.

Summitt guided the Lady Vols to a 16-8 record in her first season and never had a losing campaign in her 38 years at the school.

Her son Ross “Tyler” Summitt, according to an ABC News story, issued the following statement about his mother, “She’ll be remembered as the all-time winningest D-1 basketball coach in NCAA history, but she was more than a coach to so many – she was a hero and a mentor, especially to me, her family, her friends, her Tennessee Lady Volunteer staff and the 161 Lady Vol student-athletes she coached during her 38-year tenure.”

The Lady Vols made an unprecedented 31 consecutive appearances in the NCAA Tournament. Summitt coached 14 Olympic Team members, 34 WNBA players, 21 All-Americans and 39 All-SEC players.

She also had a 100 percent graduation rate for all Lady Vols who completed their eligibility at Tennessee.

What kind of influence did she have on the game of basketball in general? When The Sporting News named the 50 Greatest Coaches of All-Time, Summitt was No. 11 and she was the only woman on the list.

Another mark of her greatness. She is the only person to have two basketball courts used by NCAA Division 1 teams named in their honor.

During her own playing career, she was a standout at the University of Tennessee at Martin, completing her career as the program’s all-time leading scorer. On Nov. 23, 1997, the school honored Summitt by naming the court in Skyhawk Arena the Pat Head Summitt Court. Summitt and her Lady Vols were the opposing team that night and went home with a 73-32 victory.
Tennessee named the court in Thompson-Boling Arena, The Summitt following a win over Purdue (75-54) in the second round of the NCAA tournament to give Summitt 880 wins and move her past Dean Smith of North Carolina (879) as the all-time winningest coach in NCAA history.

I have dealt with a number of icons in my time in this business, but few if any rank up there with Summitt.

The privilege to be in the presence of Summitt came when Shanna Zolman, perhaps the finest female basketball player to come out of our coverage area, decided to play for the Knoxville legend.

Just being in the press conference with Summitt after Tennessee had played the Notre Dame Fighting Irish in South Bend gave you an idea of the respect the coached deserved.

I have often told people she was one coach, male or female, that I would not want to get on the bad side of.

Zolman was named Miss Basketball in Indiana in 2002 after she set a state record with 3,085 points, which has since been broken. Zolman played four years for Summitt at Tennessee, scoring a total of 1,706 points.

Zolman was among the 161 former Tennessee players invited to a private service and burial for Summitt this past Wednesday.

A Celebration of Life service honoring Summitt will take place at 7 p.m. July 14 at Thompson-Boling Arena. The service is open to the public.

Zolman has asked members of the media not to contact her for interviews at this time while she goes through the grieving process.

She did post the following item on her Facebook page Friday.

"Honored to be 1 of the 161 to call her Coach. My life is forever changed because of Pat. How will YOU impact others?"
Leo Ruiz, of Fayetteville, is participating in Governor's School for the Humanities at the University of Tennessee at Martin this month.

The four-week program allows selected high school juniors and seniors to earn academic credit and get a taste of collegiate life.

Ruiz is a student at Lincoln County High School.
Adams wins first in STEM camp

ADAMS AIMS HIGH AT SKYHAWK ENGINEERING CAMP – The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted the first-ever Skyhawk Engineering Camp on June 13-17. Students in grades 7-10 learned to build basic robots and program them to complete a variety of tasks before competing against other teams. Pictured are students who placed in the overall assessment category: (l-r) James Nail, of Sharon, second place; Zakaria Adams, of Milan, first place; and Caleb Snyder, of Scotts Hill, third place (tie).

UTM Jackson Center to host Robotics Camp July 20-22

MARTIN, Tenn. – Children interested in robotics can attend the WeDo and NXT robotics camps in July at the University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center. Children ages five to seven can attend WeDo Robotics Camp from 9-11 a.m., July 25-29. Campers will design, build and control motorized robots. They will also program the robot, add sensors to complete challenges and work in teams. Students must have completed kindergarten to participate. Students ages 8-14 who are interested in building robots can attend NXT Robotics Camp from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., July 20-21, and 9 a.m.-noon, July 22. Campers will learn to program robots to perform actions such as dance, follow a line, drive around a block and park. The camp uses LEGO Mindstorms Education NXT Software for students to build and program real-life robotic solutions.

The registration fee for each camp is $155 per student, which includes the camp T-shirt. Robotic kits will be provided for use during camp, and product information will be available for those who would like to purchase the equipment.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach, formerly the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies, at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/robotics.php.
Pat Summitt had strong ties with Milan girls

By Victor Parkins

By now the entire world knows about the passing of legendary women’s head basketball coach Patricia Sue Head Summitt. Summitt died last Tuesday morning in Knoxville of complications from Alzheimer’s disease. She was just 64.

As the head coach at the University of Tennessee, Summitt set the gold standard for women’s basketball across the nation. As a player, she made a name for herself across the world when she earned a spot on the USA team that played in the 1971 World Games. She won a silver medal in the 1976 Olympics and later coached the 1984 USA team to an Olympic gold.

At the ripe age of 22, Summitt was offered the head coaching job at UT Knoxville. The Lady Vols won 8 national titles under Summitt’s watch and 32 SEC tournament and regular season championships. She owns the record for Division I career wins (both men and women) with 1,098 wins over 38 seasons. The accolades that followed her success are unmatched in the world of sports.

Summitt stepped down in 2012, one year after she announced she had early-onset dementia, Alzheimer’s type.

Although she grew up with a basketball in her hands in the small town of Henrietta, Tennessee, much of her game and career started at the University of Tennessee at Martin. And it also started with a bunch of girls from another small town: Milan.

The year was 1969 and a contingent of Milan girls that had just placed third in the Tennessee state tournament, (there were no classifications) were all headed to college at UT.

Delle Rhue Burgess and Mary Ann (Archie) Childress were part of the magical run to the state title in 1968. Lacee (Jacobs) Mallard and Nita Cooper graduated a year earlier and were also used to winning basketball games.

These girls also grew up playing ball and wanted to play in college as well. But there was no basketball team at UTM.

Burgess played on the first team UT Martin ever had. She recalls the girls from Milan organizing the basketball program at Martin.

“If it weren’t for our bunch who knows if any of this would have ever happened,” she said. “There was nothing for us to do and we wanted to play ball because we always had. There was no money for girls basketball and no scholarships. Some of us talked at the head of the Physical Education Department (Betty Giles) into letting us have a basketball team. We bought our own shorts and Coach Kay Tatum gave us socks and shoes to wear. We all had to find a blue shirt to wear and no two of them were alike.”

Contrary to reports that Summitt’s father pushed her to play at UTM, Burgess credits another great player from middle Tennessee, Ester Stubblefield, for recruiting her there.

“I don’t think Pat would have ever come to Martin if Ester hadn’t talked her in,” noted Burgess. “I'm glad she did,” Burgess noted. According to Lacee Mallard, Summitt was more than the leader of the basketball team. She was also the coach.

“That first year, Coach Nadine Guerin coached the team because there wasn’t anyone else to coach us. She didn’t know that much about basketball. So when Pat got there our second year, she was pretty much the coach. She had a gift to see a basketball player and figure her out in 30 seconds—what your strong points were,” she said.

Another gift Summitt had was making friends fast.

“Pat loved people in general,” (Cont. on pg. 3)
Pat Summitt had strong ties...

(cont. from page 1)

recalled Mallard. “And she always made time for me no matter when I saw her. I’ll never forget driving a group of Methodist women to Memphis to see the Lady Vols play a few years ago. The bus pulled up right next to my van and Pat stepped off. I yelled, Pat, it’s Lacee, and she walked over to us and hugged all the ladies in the group. Norma Jean Vawter had tears streaming down her face because of how Pat received us. That’s how she was with everyone,” she added.

As a player, Lacee remembers Summitt as a heady yet fierce competitor.

“We played 3 on 3 back then and I was pretty fast but didn’t have the best shot,” explained Mallard. “Pat would tell me to dribble the ball until she got to the goal then pass it to her. She grew up playing with her brothers so she was pretty physical,” she said.

In the early days of women’s basketball, the teams pretty much paid their own way.

“We bought our shirts from the bookstore and sewed the numbers on ourselves with orange felt,” recalled Mallard. “We slept on tumbling mats in the gym and traveled to the games in our own vehicles, which meant 8 to a car.”

Lacee’s younger sister, Janice Jacobs Ross, arrived on campus the same time as Summitt, who at that time went by Trish.

“I played basketball and volleyball with Pat,” recalled Ross, adding that most of the basketball players played both sports. “I enjoyed playing volleyball with her more than basketball but she was really good at both. In volleyball I would set the ball for Pat and she would let the other team have it. In basketball I played point guard but Pat always called the plays. Our sophomore season we switched to 5 on 5 and Pat always knew where everyone on the court would be. She always did the jump ball for us and she would tell me exactly where to be because I was fast. She told me to catch it and score but if I missed she would be right behind me and get the rebound. She scored most of the points for us.”

Another thing Ross remembers about Summitt was the fun they had on road games. “We would be in the hotel room and Pat would draw out plays using lipstick on a makeup mirror. We had so much fun and we won a lot of games because of her. But we also had other really good players on the team. Our senior year she hurt her knee and couldn’t play for about two weeks. That’s when she really took over coaching. She was just an amazing person and athlete and that’s what I remember most,” Ross said.

Nita Cooper was another girl from Milan that was instrumental in getting the first team organized at UTM. Cooper however was killed in a tragic automobile accident her freshman year at Martin.

Mary Ann Archie Childress joined the same team with Summitt at UTM in 1970.

“My lived next door to Pat in the dorm and she was one of the best people I’ve ever met,” said Childress, who lives in Bolivar now. “She’s the kind of person that never met a stranger. I was a year ahead of her but she started as soon as she joined the team. She was a very good athlete and loved the game of basketball,” she added, noting that she and Summitt were both honored as members of the UTM Sports Hall of Fame. “When Pat got to Martin, we knew we better get serious about basketball. Our entire season was only 11 or 12 games but we won the first women’s Tennessee collegiate state tournament at Memphis State and played in the championship game in a tournament in Cookeville. Pat changed the game. She got women’s college basketball off the ground,” she said.

Childress and Summitt also stayed in touch through the years, with Pat serving in her wedding.

“Basketball for girls was so much different back then,” said Carroll. “We drove ourselves to the games and Pat would usually ride with me. I remember one time my parents packed their Buick Electra full of players and took us to a game. We all went to my parents house later and my father grilled burgers for us. Pat ate 5 burgers and my daddy didn’t think she was going to stop eating,” she said laughing about the memory.

On the court, Carroll said there was no question who was in charge of the team.

“We all looked up to Pat and she would tell us what to do. She called all the plays and was amazing to watch on the court. She loved the game of basketball and we learned a lot by just watching her. She made us all want to play harder and succeed. Little did we know she would be the one that changed the game of women’s basketball. I’m so proud that I was able to know her and play with her,” she said.

Carroll stayed in touch with Summitt throughout her career, mostly through Kathy Ray Fite, a star guard from Gleason that roomed with Pat and remained lifelong friends.

“We always saw a different side of Pat than all her players did,” noted Carroll. “She was a very special person. Kathy Ray (Fite) and I were able to watch Pat win her 1,000th game and we celebrated with her when she won her 8th National Championship.”
THE FIRST UT MARTIN BASKETBALL TEAM in history was largely organized and made up of girls from Milan. (Upper photo) The team first team fielded in 1970 included Nita Cooper (front left) Delle Rhue Burgess-#25, Lacee Jacobs Mallard-#10 and Mary Ann Archie Childress-#13. (Lower photo) Pat Head (Summitt)-#55, joined the team the second season. Milan players included Lacee Mallard-#10, Janice Ross-#41, Delle Rhue Burgess-#25 and Mary Ann Childress-#13.
Matthis receives WestStar Scholarship

MATTHIS RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP - Josh Matthis, of Milan, is the 2016 recipient of the Nick Dunagan WestStar Leadership Scholarship from the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program. Dunagan, co-founder of the WestStar Leadership Program and UT Martin chancellor emeritus, established the scholarship to benefit a UT Martin student who demonstrates proven leadership skills and displays further leadership potential. Preference is given to those students who display high academic achievement and have a record of community or university involvement. Recipients are selected each spring by the WestStar board of trustees and announced at the program’s graduation banquet in June. Matthis is the son of Brad and Jennifer Winberry and nephew of Jack Matthis, of Jackson, a 2013 WestStar graduate.

The Jackson Sun
Tuesday, July 5, 2016

UT Martin to host robotics camp

Children interested in robotics can attend the WeDo and NXT robotics camps at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Children ages 5-7 can attend WeDo Robotics Camp from 9-11 a.m. July 25-29. Campers will design, build and control motorized robots. They will also program the robot, add sensors to complete challenges and work in teams. Children must have completed kindergarten to participate.

Children ages 8-14 who are interested in building robots can attend NXT Robotics Camp from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 20-21, and 9 a.m. to noon July 22. Campers will learn to program robots to perform actions such as dance, follow a line, drive around a block and park. The camp uses LEGO Mindstorms Education NXT Software for campers to build and program real-life robotic solutions.

The registration fee for each camp is $155 per child, which includes the camp T-shirt. Robotic kits will be provided for use during camp, and product information will be available for those who would like to purchase the equipment.

Contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7082 or visit www.utm.edu/departments/eco/courses/children/robotics.php for more information or to register.
Local students participate in Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences. Pictured from left: Rebecca Reed, of Dyersburg and Olivia Childress, of Bogota, spent the month of June as students at the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin. Reed, a student at Dyersburg High School, and Childress, who attends Dyer County High School, were chosen to participate after a rigorous application process. Selected students earn six hours of college credit in the agricultural sciences and participate in hands-on, real-world learning opportunities both on and off campus to gain an in-depth look at the career fields available in agriculture. For more information about UT Martin, visit www.utm.edu/advantage <http://www.utm.edu/advantage>.

UTM economic impact on Weakley County substantial

Posted on July 6, 2016 by Steve James in Local News

UT Martin students and visitors added $137 million dollars in added income to the Weakley County economy during an economic impact study conducted in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Factors in the study included operations payroll and spending which was nearly $65 million dollars in added income.

Student spending was just over $1.3 million dollars, while 91,837 visitors to the university added $1 million dollars in added income to Weakley County.

UT Martin alumni employed and contributing to the Weakley County economy amounted to $70 million dollars during the study year.

The UT Martin economic impacts study concluded that that for every dollars spent on UT Martin, society receives $7.50 in in benefits for as long as the student population remains active in the state workforce.
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT — On behalf of the Trenton Education Association, TEA President Ronny Criswell presents a scholarship to Peabody graduate Emily Campbell. Campbell plans to attend The University of Tennessee at Martin, where she will major in music education.

Same-day UTM admission at Tennessee Reconnect event July 19

Anyone considering finishing a degree or going back to college is encouraged to attend the Tennessee Reconnect event July 19 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event will take place from 5-7 p.m. in the Welcome Center, located on the first floor of the Boling University Center.

Attendees will receive information on their academic records and financial aid options, as well as meet with academic advisors and discuss online and extended campus course options.

The admissions application fee will be waived during this event, so those in attendance can apply to UT Martin and get instant feedback on their admissions status. Those accepted can have their previous transcripts evaluated, apply for financial aid and register for fall semester courses — all in the same evening.

Dinner will be provided. Tennessee Reconnect is an initiative from Gov. Bill Haslam to help Tennessee adults finish their degrees, gain new skills, advance in the workplace and increase their earning potential. For more information on this program, visit tnreconnect.gov.

For more information on the UT Martin Tennessee Reconnect event, contact Beth Edwards, event coordinator, at 731-881-7701 or by email at bedwards@utm.edu.
UT Martin Parsons Center Kid College

UT Martin Kid College had a guest speaker/teacher last week. Tom Meinzer, WBBJ-TV chief meteorologist, showed students how to make clouds, a tornado and gave a general overview of how to predict the weather.

Mrs. Amanda Pearey was one of the instructors at the UT Martin Parsons Center Kid College held last week. She taught "How to be a Super Hero" and "Super Hero Academy" to local youth who said they learned a lot and had a blast during the four day program.
The News Leader, July 6, 2016

Parsons’ own “Toby” (Shane Bridges) who directs the annual River Time Players tent show taught “Theatre Games for Young’ns” last week during Kid College at the UT Martin Parsons Center.

These young ladies really got into their work during “Seeing Art in the World Around Us” taught by Mrs. Rachel Stricklin at Kid College. Students also learned about severe weather in “Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Oh My!” taught by Mrs. Whitney Crider.

UTM names local students to Spring Semester Chancellor’s Honor Roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2015 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. To be eligible for Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Bath Springs: Steven C. Barrow, High Honors; William A. Jones, High Honors; Zachary A. T Jones, Honors; Scott D. McIntosh, High Honors; and Charlene D. Wyatt, Honors

Darden: Jennifer N. Pratt, High Honors and Rachel S. Reeves, High Honors

Decaturville: Brooke H. Barnett, High Honors; Haley A. Carpenter, High Honors; Rae L. Green, Highest Honors; Jacob L. Keen, Honors; Bryan P. McDonald, Honors; Ethan F. McKenzie, Honors; Michaela L. Parish, Highest Honors; Hayley B. Peary, Honors; Andrew C. Pirtle, Honors; Rachel L. Pope, Highest Honors; Brooklyn G. Taylor, Honors; Zachary A. Thompson, Honors; Katie B. Tubbs, High Honors; and Tad D. Ward, Honors

Henderson: Melanie N. Tuten, Highest Honors; Jackson: Deshea M. Mays, Highest Honors

Martin: Brooklyn A. Kennedy, High Honors; and Ariel L. Waits, High Honors

Parsons: Carrie K. Allen, High Honors; Chelsey J. Baker, Honors; Cary B. Bivens, Highest Honors; Kandi M. Cruse, Honors; Lauren A. Dickson, Highest Honors; Dillon C. Gibson, Honors; Eli Haggard, Honors; Ashley D. Lindsay, High Honors; Katelyn E. McFall, High Honors; Frank G. Palma, Honors; Sarah A. Pope, High Honors; Twyla K. Pratt, Highest Honors; Teresa N. Still, High Honors; Trevor G. Teague, Highest Honors; and Taylor B. Trull, Highest Honors

Scotts Hill: Samantha B. Galbraith, High Honors

Sugar Tree: Dakota C. Waits, Honors
New UT Martin tuition model approved by Board of Trustees

MARTIN, Tenn. - A new “Soar in Four” tuition model, designed to speed progress toward degree completion, was approved for the University of Tennessee at Martin on Thursday by the UT Board of Trustees. The new model encourages students to take 15 hours per semester and complete their undergraduate degrees in four years. The new model will also fund new initiatives beneficial to student success, including a completely revamped and upgraded Career Development and Internship Center.

The tuition model is supported by UT Martin’s Student Government Association, which used student input to decide investment commitments for the new funds. Other improvements include new faculty positions to meet scheduling bottlenecks and gateway courses, new degree auditing and planning software, new living-learning communities, and increased tutoring and advising.

Completing college in four years offers financial benefits for students. The fifth year in college and beyond results in the typical student adding $8,735 in debt. The student’s average annual cost to attend is $22,058, so graduating in four years will result in significant savings.

The new tuition structure immediately impacts 36 percent of UT Martin students and will be phased in from fall 2016 through summer 2020, at which point 78 percent of students will be affected. The amount of tuition paid will be based on academic hours already earned by a current student.

Most students will enter the university under the new tuition structure and pay a $3,840 flat per-semester rate, plus mandatory fees as full-time students. Part-time and online students will remain on the traditional per-hour model. UT Martin does not charge for enrolled hours above 12, which is the threshold for full-time students for financial aid, tuition and fee purposes.

Mandatory fees at the university will not increase this academic year. Additionally, the university is reducing the overall residential housing rates and increasing private scholarship assistance.

Students enrolled for online courses will pay more for courses in 2016-17. The undergraduate online course fee increased 2.2 percent for in-state and out-of-state domestic students, while graduate online course fees increased 3 percent.

For freshmen attending UT Martin this fall, a final Summer Orientation and Registration session is set July 15, followed by the final Transfer Orientation and Registration session for transfer students on July 22, both at the main campus. Fall semester classes begin Aug. 22.

With Llamas In The Mountains of Ecuador

Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts at UT Martin, gave a presentation about her recent (May 16 – 27) travel-study experience to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands at the June 22 meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Martin.

Leaders for this trip were faculty members Drs. Sue Byrd, family and consumer science; Dawn Wilkins, biology; and Craig Darroch, animal science. Dr. Barbara Darroch, plant and soil sciences, also assisted with logistics when Dr. Wilkins, who taught the spring semester biology class offered in conjunction with the trip, could not go due to a knee injury. Sixteen persons, including 11 students, participated on this trip. Among the many experiences Alexander described were visiting Quito, the oldest capital in the Americas; petting llamas in the mountains, visiting a rose plantation, exploring a cloud forest and bird sanctuary, and experiencing some of the unique wildlife and geological features of the Galapagos.

She saw domed tortoises, frigate birds, marine and land iguanas, and the famous and fascinating blue-footed booby birds. "This was a wonderful trip," Alexander said.
Local Student Participates in Tennessee Governor's School

Victoria Todd, of Palmersville, spent the month of June as a student at the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin. Todd, a student at Dresden High School, was chosen to participate after a rigorous application process. Selected students earn six hours of college credit in the agricultural sciences and participate in hands-on, real-world learning opportunities both on and off campus to gain an in-depth look at the career fields available in agriculture.

Update on UT Martin's Accreditation Process

The Kiwanis Club of Martin received an update on UT Martin's accreditation process at the June 29 meeting of the club.

Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, SACS C0C Coordinator for UT Martin and professor of mathematics, shared an update and report about the university's timeline and progress in completing the report that will address the final five of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) required 98 standards for accreditation. Dr. Kolitsch said that much progress has been made since last December when the university learned of the probationary status related to five of the standards. She described the two workshops held for faculty and staff, the naming of an assessment coordinator (Patty Flowers), the creation of the assessment web site and assessment calendar, and the monthly newsletters to keep the campus updated. She said that the first draft of the narrative has been completed and that the final draft, which will be approximately 180 pages, will be completed in August. She noted that there are hundreds of pages of supporting information.

Dr. Kolitsch explained that a SACS team will visit the campus in September and that in December the campus will know the results of that visit. "We are meeting the challenges," she said, "and we have seen real involvement from faculty and staff and a true change in attitude about assessment and accountability."

Same-Day UT Martin Admission At TN Reconnect Event Is July 19

Anyone considering finishing a degree or going back to college is encouraged to attend the Tennessee Reconnect event July 19 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event will take place from 5-7 p.m. in the Welcome Center, located on the first floor of the Boling University Center. Attendees will receive information on their academic records and financial aid options, as well as meet with academic advisers and discuss online and extended campus course options.

The admissions application fee will be waived during this event, so those in attendance can apply to UT Martin and get instant feedback on their admissions status. Those accepted can have their previous transcripts evaluated, apply for financial aid and register for fall semester courses—all in the same evening.

Dinner will be provided. Tennessee Reconnect is an initiative from Gov. Bill Haslam to help Tennessee adults finish their degrees, gain new skills, advance in the workplace and increase their earning potential. For more information on this program, visit tnreconnect.gov.

For more information on the UT Martin Tennessee Reconnect event, contact Beth Edwards, event coordinator, at 731-881-7701 or by email at bedwards@utm.edu.
Scientifically speaking, a year-end field trip recently taken by some Union City Middle School students was a huge success.

UCMS Science Club members were "totally engaged" on their annual field trip, which involved teaming with the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to sixth-grade science teacher and club sponsor Robyn Doyle.

The effort also involved seventh-grade science teacher Karyn Hill and eighth-grade science teacher Beverly Dones, both Science Club sponsors, as well, at UCMS.

Through the effort with UT Martin, the middle school students experienced goat and sheep farming, meteorological data collection, identification of minerals and fossils and a geological timeline walk.

The Science Club members left the school early on a Wednesday morning. Their first stop was UT Martin’s goat and sheep barn, where the students were informed about caring for and raising sheep and goats.

After UT Martin employee Tara Woods instructed the students on the proper handling of the goats, they were allowed to pet and handle the animals.

The second stop was the UT Martin weather station, where meteorology professors and students collect data daily from an array of weather instruments. UCMS students were given a thorough presentation by Dr. Mark Simpson on the daily routine of gathering weather data.

The students observed Dr. Simpson collecting data from the simplest instruments, such as the rain gauge, to the more advanced processes of collecting soil temperatures, air pressure, radiation levels and humidity levels. This data is united with other data collected locally and regionally and aids national weather forecasters in the important job of keeping the community informed and prepared for the varied weather in West Tennessee.

The field trip proceeded to the Joseph E. Johnson Engineering and Physical Science building, where Dr. Michael Gibson presented a hands-on lab allowing students to explore fossils and artifacts of Tennessee. He demonstrated the difference between fossils and artifacts, including how they are identified and dated, and encouraged students to continue to explore the sciences of agriculture, geosciences, and Tennessee’s natural resources.

Next, students were given a collection of minerals. Step by step, the students were allowed to observe and test various properties scientists use to identify minerals. They used their sense of taste to identify halite (salt) and smell to identify sulfur. They were also allowed to use a drop of hydrochloric acid on calcite and observe the bubbling reaction of carbon dioxide and oxygen being released.

Using a glass plate, students used the hardness of pyrite (fool’s gold) to distinguish it from gold. Gold is very soft and will not scratch glass, whereas pyrite is higher on the Mohs scale of hardness, meaning it will scratch a glass plate.

Students were also able to draw on a piece of paper using a sample of graphite.

The graphite, they learned, is the mineral in pencils that is commonly referred to as lead (although actual lead is toxic and therefore is not used).

UCMS Science Club students also experienced an outside activity called a geological time walk in which they journeyed around the quad area of college campus while discussing the geological timeline of Earth. The students observed a meteorite and different rock types, as well as pictures and fossils of organisms that lived during the different eras of geological time.

Mrs. Doyle said the UCMS Science Club field trip to UT Martin was "an amazing day of fun and education that had most students not wanting to leave."

"It is a great privilege to live close to such an accomplished university and an even greater honor to have faculty, staff and students that are so eager to pour their lives into the schools and students of our area," she added.

The UCMS teachers extended their appreciation to Dr. Gibson for arranging, scheduling and participating in the event, as well as to Dr. Simpson, Ms. Woods, Jennifer Naillon, Collin Sutton, Amelia Coalter, Nathaniel Newlin, Taylor Binkley and Brandt Gibson for their efforts in assisting the middle school students.
Tennessee Reconnect event set at UT Martin

Anyone considering finishing a degree or going back to college is encouraged to attend the Tennessee Reconnect event July 19 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The event will take place from 5-7 p.m. in the Welcome Center, located on the first floor of the Boling University Center.

Attendees will receive information on their academic records and financial aid options, as well as meet with academic advisers and discuss online and extended campus course options.

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Dinner will be provided.

Tennessee Reconnect is an initiative from Gov. Bill Haslam to help Tennessee adults finish their degrees, gain new skills, advance in the workplace and increase their earning potential. For more information, visit tnreconnect.gov.

For more information on the UT Martin Tennessee Reconnect event, contact Beth Edwards, event coordinator, at (731) 881-7701 or by email at bedwards@utm.edu.

WEATHER OR NOT — Union City Middle School Science Club members visited the weather station at the University of Tennessee at Martin during their annual year-end field trip. Among those talking about data collection were students (from left) Ashlynn Thomas, Elizabeth Lattis, Arden Stanley and Kitty Jo Graham, meteorologist Dr. Mark Simpson and students Gabi Jones and Carter Watts.

LAB LISTENERS — Dr. Michael Gibson (far right) talked with Union City Middle School Science Club students in the fossil lab at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where the students recently visited as part of their year-end field trip. The students included (from left) Olivia Hill (partially hidden), Danielle Coleman, Ashley Contreras, Tammy Huhn and Katlyn Boroff.
FARM FRIENDS — Union City Middle School students Avery Decker (front, left) and Olivia Hill held goats as they and other Science Club members recently visited the University of Tennessee at Martin’s goat and sheep barn during their annual year-end field trip. They were joined by classmates (back, from left) Chloe Pritchard, Erin Oatsvall, Ali Nelson and Jonathan Ransom.

UT Martin nursing program receives $20,000 in funding

Genex Services, a provider of managed care clinical services, has awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Nursing $20,000 in scholarship funding through its fifth annual Case Manager Scholarship Program.

Each year, Genex Services asks case managers, supervisors and branch managers within the company to nominate nursing programs at colleges and universities which they believe deserve additional funding. Susie Moore, a 1987 UT Martin alumna, nominated the UT Martin program for the award.

"The Department of Nursing at UT Martin has a proud and successful history in nursing education," Ms. Moore wrote in her nomination letter. "I am very proud of my alma mater."

Five programs are selected each year and the funds are intended to "recognize program alumni, strengthen awareness of the case management profession and invest in a new generation of graduates to fulfill a growing industry need."

Genex Services focuses primarily on handling workers' compensation claims and managing the care of injured workers.

"The scholarship award is very special to Genex because it's through this initiative that we're really helping to develop the future professionals who will continue our mission to help injured workers return safely to their jobs," said Delphia Frisch, executive vice president and chief operations officer of Genex Services. "We're very proud of this program and our case managers."

The UT Martin Department of Nursing's scholarship award committee will accept student applications in the fall semester and awards will be announced in the spring for the upcoming 2017-18 academic year. Award criteria and amounts have yet to be determined.

"All college students can benefit from financial aid, of course, but nursing majors have the added expenses of uniforms, shoes, stethoscopes and other equipment, as well as travel to various clinical sites. This gift will be very beneficial in helping them cover these costs, in addition to tuition and books," said Dr. Mary Radford, chair of the UT Martin Department of Nursing.

Others receiving awards from Genex Services this year are Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky., the University of San Diego in California, the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing in Oklahoma City and Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

For more information on the scholarship or applications, contact Dr. Radford at (731) 881-7140 or by email at marye@utm.edu.
County students receive scholarships to attend Univ. Tennessee-Martin

By Nathan Morgan
UTM University Relations

Martin, Tenn. – Several McNairy County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-2017 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Carlotta Louise Murrell, of Selmer, daughter of Sylvia Murrell and Wendell Gilchrist, will be a junior. She received the Elam Transfer Achieve Scholarship.

Rachel Smith, daughter of Richard and Teri Smith, of Selmer, will be a freshman. She received the Advance Scholarship.

Rylee Claire Smith, daughter of Stacy and Kim Smith, of Selmer, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
COX JOINS SKYHAWK RANKS - Gerrard Cox (right), of Humboldt, registered for his first college semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin during Summer Orientation and Registration on June 17. Cox joined fellow members of the incoming freshman class to learn about campus housing, student recreation, meal plans, financial aid and a host of other topics to help them transition to collegiate life. He is pictured with his mother, Derita Cox (UT Martin, 1994). UT Martin will host a final SOAR session July 15, and all incoming freshman are required to participate. For more information on UT Martin admissions, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or by email at admitme@utm.edu. Information is also available at utm.edu/advantage.

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE HUMANITIES - Ainsley Kelso, a student at South Gibson County High School, is participating in Governor's School for the Humanities at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The four-week program allows selected high school juniors and seniors to earn academic credit and get a taste of collegiate life. For more information about UT Martin or to set up a tour, visit www.utm.edu/advantage.

Reconnect Event At UT Martin

Anyone considering finishing a degree or going back to college is encouraged to attend the Tennessee Reconnect event July 19th from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the Welcome Center, located on the first floor of the Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Attendees will receive information on their academic records and financial aid options, as well as meet with academic advisers and discuss online and extended campus course options. The admissions application fee will be waived during this event, so those in attendance can apply to UT Martin and get instant feedback on their admissions status. Those accepted can have their previous transcripts evaluated, apply for financial aid and register for fall semester courses all in the same evening. Dinner will also be provided.

The initiative from Gov. Bill Haslam is to help adults finish their degrees, gain new skills, advance in the workplace and increase their earning potential. For more information, contact Beth Edwards, 731-881-7701.
Prieur hired as Dickson Intermediate asst principal

Michelle Prieur was named assistant principal at Dickson Intermediate school on Thursday.

Prieur joins Principal Corey Duke who was hired in that role in June.

Prieur started her teaching career 20 years ago at Vanleer Elementary where she taught grades 3 and 4. The last four years, Prieur has worked as an instructional coach at Charlotte Elementary.

Prieur was a 1990 graduate of Dickson County High School and a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin. She obtained her masters in Administration from Tennessee State University.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to continue the vision of Dickson Intermediate School," Prieur said in a statement. "My goal is to help create a climate of high expectations that will foster instructional success."

Pat Head Summitt Day proclaimed in Clarksville July 14

CLARKSVILLE — On the same day that the University of Tennessee will be publicly honoring the memory of the late Coach Pat Head Summitt at Thompson-Boling Arena in Knoxville, Clarksville, her place of birth, will officially observe "Pat Head Summitt Day" as well.

Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillan made it official Thursday evening through a proclamation read to the City Council in its monthly regular session. Thursday, July 14 will be the local day of observance for Summitt, legendary coach and role model particularly for women in sports worldwide.

McMillan noted in the proclamation that Patricia Sue Head was born in Clarksville on June 14, 1952, to Richard and Hazel Albright Head. Trish, as she was known in her early life, her four siblings and parents lived in Clarksville until they relocated just inside the Cheatham County line so she could play high school basketball there. She grew up on a farm in the Henrietta area and learned to play basketball in a barn there.

She went on to play college basketball at UT-Martin, then played in the inaugural women's tournament at the 1976 Summer Olympics where the team won a silver medal. She started her career with the Lady Vols in Knoxville as a graduate assistant in 1974 but was named head coach that year, initially earning $250 a month and personally washing the team's uniforms, before singularly elevating the Lady Vols, and women's basketball in general, to national prominence.

From there, Summitt brought home to Tennessee 16 Southeastern Conference titles, plus 16 SEC tournament titles, and won eight national championships for the UT program. Before her career ended in 2012, she had become the winningest coach, male or female, in Division I college basketball history, while having every player who completed college eligibility graduate with a degree.

Summitt died on June 28 following a battle with early onset Alzheimer's disease. Among family she is survived by her mother, as well as her son, Ross "Tyler" Summitt; sister, Linda; and brothers, Tommy; Charles and Kenneth.

McMillan proclaimed that July 14 will be a "day to stop and honor the passing of a legend," and she invites all Clarksville residents to join in the remembrance of Summitt's life and achievements, here in her hometown.
Christy named Creek Wood assistant principal

Leslie Christy was named a Creek Wood High School assistant principal today after working the last four years as an instructional coach.

Christy began in Dickson County Schools 16 years ago at Stuart-Burns Elementary School. She has 12 years of teaching experience before starting work as an instructional coach.

Christy attended the University of Tennessee at Martin where she received her Bachelor of Science in Education. She earned her Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Bethel University.

Christy and her husband Brandon have 11-year-old twins, Carson and Anna Claire.

They will attend William James Middle School this fall.

Christy assumes the position left vacant when Polly Spencer moved into the Creek Wood Principal role in June.

McNairy County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

Several McNairy County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-2017 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Carlotta Louise Murrell, of Selmer, daughter of Sylvia Murrell and Wendell Gilchrist, will be a junior. She received the Elam Transfer Achieve Scholarship.

Rachel Smith, daughter of Richard and Teri Smith, of Selmer, will be a freshman. She received the Advance Scholarship.

Rylee Claire Smith, daughter of Stacy and Kim Smith, of Selmer, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.

UTM Reconnect Event set for July 19

Anyone considering finishing a degree or going back to college is encouraged to attend the Tennessee Reconnect event July 19 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event will take place from 5-7 p.m. in the Welcome Center, located on the first floor of the Boling University Center.

Tennessee Reconnect is an initiative from Gov. Bill Haslam to help adults finish their degrees, gain new skills, advance in the workplace, and increase earning potential. For more information on this program, visit tnreconnect.gov.

Attendees at the UTM event will receive information on their academic records and financial aid options, meet with academic advisers, and discuss online and extended campus course options. Dinner will be provided.

The admissions application fee will be waived during this event, so those in attendance can apply to UTM and get instant feedback on their admissions status. Those accepted can have their previous transcripts evaluated, apply for financial aid, and register for fall semester courses—all in the same evening.

For more information on the UTM Tennessee Reconnect event, contact event coordinator Beth Edwards at 731-881-7701 or bedwards@utm.edu.
A LASTING IMPACT - The University of Tennessee at Martin offered three different summer STEM camps to local students this year, thanks largely to funding from the Northwest Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub. These camps allow children in grades 6-10 to have hands-on interaction with the world of engineering, science and robotics. The students pictured built robots from the ground up, which they then programmed to complete a variety of tasks.

STEM camps at UTM expand to 55 local students

"Today we had to learn how to tell the distance our rockets went when we shot them up; we had to do all the calculations. We learned about trigonometry. I didn't even know that was a thing," said Emily Grace Bell of Martin.

Bell, who attended Skyhawk STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Camp at the University of Tennessee at Martin this summer, will be a freshman at Westview High School in the fall. She is one of 55 students who participated in one of UT Martin's three STEM camps this summer.

Last year, it cost parents $195 per student to participate in these camps, putting the experience out of reach of many area families. However, thanks to funding from the Northwest Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub, registration for the 2016 camp sessions dropped to $45 per student.

"The Northwest Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub covered all equipment costs, snacks, general supplies and student intern stipends," said Dr. Louis Glover, UT Martin professor of educational studies and director of the summer camps.

Thirty students also received scholarships to cover their camp fees. Eight of these were funded by the Martin Kiwanis Club, while 22 students were sponsored by individual faculty and staff members from across the UT Martin campus.

As a result, enrollment for STEMulation camp, designed for sixth- through eighth-grade students, jumped from fewer than 10 students in 2015 to 31 students this year. Eleven students attended Skyhawk STEM.
Camp (for rising ninth- and 10th-graders) and 20 participated in the special Skyhawk Engineering Camp. A majority of these students came from Weakley and Obion counties.

"I think it’s a great opportunity for the kids to build things and to learn and have fun all at the same time, which sometimes I don’t think they know is possible," said Hannah Clayton, whose daughter, Melodi, participated in both Skyhawk STEM and Skyhawk Engineering camps.

Clayton’s feelings were echoed by Shey McGehee, whose son, Grant, attended the engineering camp.

"It challenges all the different processes of thinking and problem solving," she said. "[Grant] likes the hands-on and using his mind to be creative."

The UT Martin camps allowed students to study physics, engineering, mathematics and robotics through hands-on building activities. Campers launched rockets, built earthquake towers, tested boomerangs, raced solar-powered cars and designed robots programmed to complete specific tasks.

The experience not only helps campers understand concepts taught in their school classrooms, it also gives them a look into the world of engineering. Some of these students have always been interested in STEM-based career fields, while others were introduced to the industry for the first time.

"[Grant] has always been interested in engineering and robots and things like that," said McGehee. "I know it’s something he says he would like to do in the future, so this will give him an idea of if he really likes this area or not."

"He's been building stuff ever since he was four or five years old," said Todd Maxey, whose son, Parker, attended Skyhawk Engineering Camp. "I’d give him a box of stuff, and he just starts putting it together... This is a really good opportunity for him to get out and try something of this scale."

Glover, who has designed and directed these camps since he joined the UT Martin faculty in 2011, taught in Louisiana and Texas for 23 years before moving to Tennessee. Having hosted dozens of science camps in his previous positions, Glover was disappointed to find that UT Martin did not have an existing science camp program and built the current curriculum from the ground up.

"Everyone knows the wave is STEM. Every industry that people try to bring into the state is STEM. Today a high school diploma doesn’t count for much. You have to go to community college or vocational school or something, and they want to know, ‘Do you know computers?’" explains Glover.

"It’s really important for girls. When I was in Dallas, I did solar cars. They were street-legal... and we raced them all over the country. I always made certain that I had females on the team because girls are told, ‘You don’t do engineering; you don’t do science.’ So I always made certain I had more girls than boys," he said.

Glover hopes to make his STEM camps affordable and accessible to families of all income levels and promote STEM-based industries among all populations.

"This equipment is very expensive, and the average school can’t afford their own units in robotics. Each kit is $600. Because of the grant, we can serve 50 kids at a time," he said. "The seed has been planted, and hopefully (these students) will ask next summer, ‘Will he let us come back?’ and the answer will be, ‘Yes!’ So they’ll come back as seventh-graders and hopefully as eighth-graders and ninth-graders and then, since they’ve always been on this campus, they’ll hopefully say, ‘I’m going to this college because when I was young, I was there every summer.’"

"I’ll come back any time I can," said Tyler Molands, a rising ninth-grader. "I just think it’s a lot of fun."

The Northwest Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub is a collaborative effort between UT Martin and Dyersburg State Community College to support STEM education in regional schools, connect existing STEM assets and promote successful teaching in West Tennessee classrooms.
Genex Services funds $20K nursing scholarship at UTM

The UT Martin Department of Nursing's scholarship award committee will accept student applications in the fall semester, and awards will be announced in the spring for the upcoming 2017-18 academic year. Award criteria and amounts have yet to be determined.

"All college students can benefit from financial aid, of course, but nursing majors have the added expenses of uniforms, shoes, stethoscopes and other equipment, as well as travel to various clinical sites. This gift will be very beneficial in helping them cover these costs in addition to tuition and books," said Dr. Mary Radford, chair, UT Martin Department of Nursing.

Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky.; the University of San Diego in San Diego, Calif.; the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing in Oklahoma City, Okla.; and Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va.; also received awards from Genex Services this year.

For more information on the scholarship or to inquire about applications, contact Radford at 731-881-7140 or by email at marylnc@utm.edu.

Martin board discusses economic impact of UTM

By ASHLEY BENSON
Special to the Press

The Martin City Board, which met after a full weekend of red, white and blue events held downtown to celebrate the country's independence. After a brief recap from the fire and police departments concerning the weekend's safety, the focus was then on to new business and how to move forward.

In January the board donated $3,000 to The Economic Value of the University of Tennessee at Martin and the results are in and were presented to the board Tuesday night. Brad Thompson, director of community development, provided the findings of the impact of the university on Weakley County for the fiscal year of 2014-2015. The results can be divided into four groups on how much spending the university brings to the county: Operations spending impact, student spending impact, visitor spending impact, and alumni impact. Starting with the most impressive, the alumni impact added income was $70 million for the fiscal year of 2014-2015. This accounts for the many students who after graduation decide to stay in Martin to begin their careers. The second largest impact is that provided from the operations spending impact, which added $64.6 million. Student spending impact added income was $13 million and visitor spending impact added income was $1 million.

Along with these findings, the study shows a return for the people involved as well. According to the study, $41.2 million in taxpayer's money went to The University of Tennessee at Martin. The study also says, "For every $1 spent by taxpayers, $3.20 is gained in added state revenue and social savings for taxpayers.”

Overall, the University is a positive impact to the county and both the students and the taxpayers in the region.

Also during the meeting Tuesday night, Parks and Recreation Director Brian Moore gave the board a heads-up on the upcoming Southeast Regional Tournament, which starts on Tuesday with a meet and greet and continues on Wednesday with the games. The tournament will consist of 16 teams from around nine states, with three coming from Tennessee. Some of the teams will even be housed on the UT Campus. The tournament is machine pitch and as Moore described it during the meeting, "it's kind of like the world series for them.”

The library staff also had good news concerning young people. They were awarded $9,976 in grant money for Growing Readers, a program for children who cannot get to the library. The program starts this week.

There were three new orders of business that will be added to the agenda to discuss during the next meeting. There is a need to amend a rule for the planning committee concerning the number duplexes to be built. The library is adding new members to the board of trustees. The last order of business is the making of a water and drought plan and submitting it to the state. All of these subjects will be discussed during the next meeting and voted on whether to be adopted or not. The next meeting will be Monday night at 5:15.
UT Martin Tennessee Reconnect Event

MARTIN, TN - Tennessee Reconnect is an initiative from Gov. Bill Haslam to help Tennessee adults finish their degrees, gain new skills, advance in the workplace and increase their earning potential. For more information on this program, visit tnreconnect.gov.

Dinner will be provided. The admissions application fee will be waived during this event, so those in attendance can apply to UT Martin and get instant feedback on their admissions status. Those accepted can have their previous transcripts evaluated, apply for financial aid and register for fall semester courses – all in the same evening.

Attendees will receive information on their academic records and financial aid options, as well as meet with academic advisers and discuss online and extended campus course options. Anyone considering finishing a degree or going back to college is encouraged to attend the Tennessee Reconnect event July 19 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event will take place from 5-7 pm in the Welcome Center, located on the first floor of the Boling University Center.

For more information on the UT Martin Tennessee Reconnect event, contact Beth Edwards, event coordinator, at 731-881-7701 or by email at bedwards@utm.edu.

Celebrating Pat Summit

The public is invited to attend a live webcast of a celebration of life service honoring the life and legacy of Pat Summit beginning at 6 p.m. Thursday in the University of Tennessee at Martin's Watkins Auditorium. The auditorium is located on the first floor of the Boling University Center.

The event will be webcast from Thompson-Boling Arena on the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, campus. Summit, head coach emeritus of the UT Lady Vols, passed away June 28 at the age of 64 following a five-year battle with early onset dementia. Summit played college basketball and earned her undergraduate degree at UT Martin.

Parking is available in lots on either side of Wayne Fisher Drive outside the Boling University Center and Paul Meek Library on Mt. Pelia Road. Chris Brinkley, voice of the UT Martin Skyhawks, will offer brief remarks to open and close the webcast.

A reception will be held in the university's new welcome center following the webcast. Photos and memorabilia from Summit's life and coaching career will be displayed. The welcome center is located just outside the Watkins Auditorium lobby. The reception is also open to the public.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Development at (731) 881-7620, or the Office of University Relations at (731) 881-7615.
Coach Summitt was ‘Trish’ to classmates

Dan Morris

On Thursday, our state and nation will celebrate the life of Pat Summitt during a public service at Thompson-Boling Arena on the University of Tennessee campus in Knoxville.

If she had requested it, UT’s basketball coaching legend probably could have been buried on The Hill, perhaps near her impressive statue that salutes her eight national championships and unprecedented 1,098 victories.

Instead, Pat came home. And that speaks volumes.

Summitt

Continued from Page 18

County did not offer girls basketball. Cheatham County did, so the Heads moved to a smaller house next to a grocery they owned in Henrietta, just so Pat could play basketball.

That was when I first met Trish, which is what we called her in high school.

We were freshmen together at Cheatham County High in Ashland City, and I soon learned to admire her. She was too young to drive, so after basketball practice, she would catch a Trailways bus in Ashland City to ride 14 miles home to Henrietta.

She drove a tractor, baled hay, milked cows, worked the tobacco fields and helped in the family grocery. That’s when she wasn’t playing basketball against her three older brothers in the hayloft of their barn.

She dated one of my best friends, Mack Hagewood, who had a car. I didn’t, so we double-dated a time or two. That meant going to Henrietta and facing Mr. Richard. He had a stern disposition, especially when it came to boys visiting his oldest daughter. We often laughed about those times.

When we were seniors, Trish was elected secretary of our class and chosen as Sweetheart of the Season during basketball. She beat out three beautiful cheerleaders for that honor. She and Mack were voted “Most Popular” in our class.

Friday night I took a trip down memory lane and looked through the 1970 “Echo,” my high school senior annual. I had never before noticed how Trish wrote her name. She signed my annual in 12 locations, mainly on different photos of her throughout the book. It was surprised that on nine of those photos she wrote “Pat.”

We always called her Trish, so perhaps she sensed then that the world would know her as Pat.

I read the kind words she wrote to me on the inside cover of the annual, thanking me for our friendship. She closed by saying:

“Keep your cool and maybe I’ll see ya at UT Martin next year. Love, Trish.”

Indeed, we attended Tennessee Martin and graduated together in 1974. At that point we had no clue that our Trish would set the standard for success in college basketball.

The wins and honors kept coming. Many have forgotten that Trish got her 500th coaching victory at Jackson’s Oman Arena on Nov. 21, 1993. The top-ranked Lady Vols defeated No. 8 Ohio State in the first State Farm Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off Classic. A day earlier at Oman, defending national champion Texas Tech beat No. 2 Vanderbilt.

That was a more pleasant Jackson experience than the one Trish had during her first season as Tennessee’s coach. She lost to Coach Peggy Birmingham’s Union University team, 80-67, on Feb. 8, 1975. But the misery didn’t end there.

The state tournament that year was held at Lambuth in Jackson. All schools, regardless of size, participated in the double-elimination event. Union drew Tennessee in the first game and won, 95-90. They met again in the loser’s-bracket final, and Union won, 94-93, on a last-second shot.

Union lost to Memphis State in the state final but advanced to the Southeast Region and beat Kentucky and East Carolina before being eliminated. But the Lady Bulldogs can still boast of a 3-0 record against the Lady Vols.

Trish, of course, learned from her losses and won more college basketball games than anyone in history. She is considered a national treasure, honored by presidents and toasted by all. But she never lost the common touch.

Many of her Cheatham County teammates remained good friends with her, and the high school gym is named for her.

She always made time for me whenever I called for an interview, and I know she loved her family and the Henrietta community.

She had a good heart behind those piercing eyes, and that’s what matters most.

Dan Morris can be reached at (731) 668-1709 or by e-mail at danmorris44@charter.net.
Area Teachers Participate in UT-Martin Grant Workshops

MARTIN (July 5) — Jeff Pres-son (foreground), Logan Hubble (back, left) and Zach Tippit (back, right), all teachers at McKenzie High School, measure beam de-flections during a training work-shop hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin in the month of June. They were among more than 250 West Tennessee teach-ers who participated in one of 13 different summer workshops. The training sessions focused on classroom organization and management, cooperating teach-er strategies, new teacher train-ing, and engaging students in STEM-related subjects at the ele-mentary, middle, and high school levels. The workshops, offered to teachers free of charge, were sponsored by UT Martin’s Teacher Quality Partnership Grant, fund-ed through the U.S. Department of Education. The grant distributed more than $75,000 in stipends and classroom materials through these UT Martin workshops. For more information on UT Martin’s TQP grant program, contact Tina Har-rison, grant coordinator, at 731-881-7201 or by email at tharr170@ utm.edu.

Summitt celebration of life webcast at UT Martin

http://www.thunderboltradio.com/

A live webcast of the celebration of life service in Knoxville honoring Pat Head Summitt will be held Thursday night at 6:00 at the UT Martin Watkins Auditorium.

Summitt passed away June 28th at the age of 64 following a five-year battle with early onset dementia, Alzheimers Type.

Summitt played college basketball and earned her undergraduate degree at UT Martin.

Parking is available in lots on either side of Wayne Fisher Drive outside the Boling University Center and Paul Meek Library on Mt Pelia Road.

Chris Brinkley, voice of the UT Martin Skyhawks, will offer brief remarks to open and close the webcast.

A reception will be held in the university’s new welcome center following the webcast where photos and memorabilia from Summitt’s life and coaching career will be displayed.
By Victor Parkins, Milan Mirror-Exchange
10:30 a.m.

By now the entire world knows about the passing of legendary women's basketball coach Patricia Sue Head Summitt.

Summitt died last Tuesday morning in Knoxville of complications from Alzheimer's disease. She was just 64.

As the head coach at the University of Tennessee, Summitt set the gold standard for women's basketball across the nation. As a player, she made a name for herself across the world when she earned a spot on the USA team that played in the 1971 World Games. She won a silver medal in the 1976 Olympics and later coached the 1984 USA team to an Olympic gold.

At the ripe age of 22, Summitt was offered the head coaching job at UT-Knoxville.

The Lady Vols won eight national titles under Summitt's watch and 32 SEC tournament and regular season championships. She owns the record for Division I career wins (both men and women) with 1,098 wins over 38 seasons. The accolades that followed her success are unmatched in the world of sports.
Summitt stepped down in 2012, one year after she announced she had early-onset dementia, Alzheimer's type.

Although she grew up with a basketball in her hands in the small town of Henrietta, Tennessee, much of her game and career started at the University of Tennessee at Martin. And it also started with a bunch of girls from another small town: Milan.

The year was 1969, and a contingent of Milan girls who had just placed third in the Tennessee state tournament (there were no classifications) were headed to college at UT-Martin.

Delle Rhue Burgess and Mary Ann (Archie) Childress were part of the magical run to the state title in 1968. Lacee (Jacobs) Mallard and Nita Cooper graduated a year earlier and were also used to winning basketball games.

These girls also grew up playing ball and wanted to play in college as well. But there was no basketball team at UT-Martin.

Burgess played on the first team UT-Martin ever had. She recalls the girls from Milan organizing the basketball program.

"If it weren't for our bunch, who knows if any of this would have ever happened," she said. "There was nothing for us to do and we wanted to play ball because we always had. There was no money for girls basketball and no scholarships. Some of us talked the head of the Physical Education Department (Betty Giles) into letting us have a basketball team. We bought our own shorts and Coach Kay Tatum gave us socks and shoes to wear. We all had to find a blue shirt to wear and no two of them were alike."

Contrary to reports that Summitt's father pushed her to play at UT-Martin, Burgess credits another great player from Middle Tennessee, Ester Stubblefield, for recruiting her there.

"I don't think Pat would have ever come to Martin if Ester hadn't talked her in to it," noted Burgess, who dropped basketball after two seasons to concentrate on tennis. "Pat did all right for herself and I'm glad she did," Burgess noted.
According to Lacee Mallard, Summitt was more than the leader of the basketball team. She was also the coach.

"That first year, Coach Nadine Guerin coached the team because there wasn't anyone else to coach us. She didn't know that much about basketball. So when Pat got there our second year, she was pretty much the coach. She had a gift to see a basketball player and figure her out in 30 seconds — what your strong points were," she said.

Another gift Summitt had was making friends fast.

"Pat loved people in general," recalled Mallard. "And she always made time for me no matter when I saw her. I'll never forget driving a group of Methodist women to Memphis to see the Lady Vols play a few years ago. The bus pulled up right next to my van and Pat stepped off. I yelled, Pat, it's Lacee, and she walked over to us and hugged all the ladies in the group. Norma Jean Vawter had tears streaming down her face because of how Pat received us. That's how she was with everyone," she added.

As a player, Lacee remembers Summitt as a heady yet fierce competitor.

"We played 3 on 3 back then and I was pretty fast but didn't have the best shot," explained Mallard. "Pat would tell me to dribble the ball until she got to the goal then pass it to her. She grew up playing with her brothers so she was pretty physical," she said.

In the early days of women's basketball, the teams pretty much paid their own way.

"We bought our shirts from the bookstore and sewed the numbers on ourselves with orange felt," recalled Mallard. "We slept on tumbling mats in the gym and traveled to the games in our own vehicles, which meant eight to a car."

Lacee's younger sister, Janice Jacobs Ross, arrived on campus the same time as Summitt, who at that time went by Trish.
"I played basketball and volleyball with Pat," recalled Ross, adding that most of the basketball players played both sports. "I enjoyed playing volleyball with her more than basketball but she was really good at both. In volleyball I would set the ball for Pat and she would let the other team have it. In basketball I played point guard but Pat always called the plays. Our sophomore season we switched to 5-on-5 and Pat always knew where everyone on the court would be. She always did the jump ball for us and she would tell me exactly where to be because I was fast. She told me to catch it and score, but if I missed she would be right behind me and get the rebound. She scored most of the points for us."

Another thing Ross remembers about Summitt was the fun they had on road games.

"We would be in the hotel room and Pat would draw out plays using lipstick on a makeup mirror. We had so much fun and we won a lot of games because of her. But we also had other really good players on the team. Our senior year she hurt her knee and couldn't play for about two weeks. That's when she really took over coaching. She was just an amazing person and athlete and that's what I remember most," Ross said.

Nita Cooper was another girl from Milan that was instrumental in getting the first team organized at UT-Martin. Cooper however was killed in a tragic automobile accident her freshman year at Martin.

Mary Ann Archie Childress joined the same team with Summitt at UTM in 1970.

"I lived next door to Pat in the dorm and she was one of the best people I've ever met," said Childress, who lives in Bolivar now. "She's the kind of person that never met a stranger. I was a year ahead of her but she started as soon as she joined the team. She was a very good athlete and loved the game of basketball," she added, noting that she and Summitt were both honored as members of the UTM Sports Hall of Fame. "When Pat got to Martin, we knew we better get serious about basketball. Our entire season was only 11 or 12 games but we won the first women's Tennessee collegiate state tournament at Memphis State and played in the championship game in a tournament in Cookeville. Pat changed the game. She got women's college basketball off the ground," she said.
Childress and Summitt also stayed in touch through the years, with Pat serving in her wedding.

"My daughter attended Pats basketball camp when she was in sixth or seventh grade and Pat was so good to her. Anytime the Lady Vols played Memphis or Ole Miss we always went to the games, and Pat always made time for us. When my son served in Iraq, Pat helped me get copies of the Tennessee football games to send to him. I knew if I ever needed anything Pat would be there for me. We used to do a lot of fun stuff together," she said.

Kathy Jones Carroll graduated from Milan High in 1971 and played one season with Summitt at Martin.

"Basketball for girls was so much different back then," said Carroll. "We drove ourselves to the games and Pat would usually ride with me. I remember one time my parents packed their Buick Electra full of players and took us to a game. We all went to my parents house later and my father grilled burgers for us. Pat ate five burgers and my daddy didn't think she was going to stop eating," she said laughing about the memory.

On the court, Carroll said there was no question who was in charge of the team.

"We all looked up to Pat and she would tell us what to do. She called all the plays and was amazing to watch on the court. She loved the game of basketball and we learned a lot by just watching her. She made us all want to play harder and succeed. Little did we know she would be the one that changed the game of women's basketball. I'm so proud that I was able to know her and play with her," she said.

Carroll stayed in touch with Summitt throughout her career, mostly through Kathy Ray Fite, a star guard from Gleason that roomed with Pat and remained lifelong friends.

"We always saw a different side of Pat than all her players did," noted Carroll. "She was a very special person. Kathy Ray (Fite) and I were able to watch Pat win her 1,000th game and we celebrated with her when she won her eighth national championship."
HONORING PAT — Celebrations and honors continue to pour in for UT Martin alumn and longtime Lady Vols coach Pat Head Summitt, who died in June due to complications from early onset dementia. A Celebration of Life is planned and a Tennessee Sports Writers Association award has been renamed in her honor. Read the full stories in sports on page 6.

Photo by Nathan Morgan
with University Relations
THREE NOTABLE TENNESSEANS — Pat Head Summitt is pictured with Tennessee Gov. Ned Ray McWherter and Dr. Margaret Perry, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, in this vintage photo. Summitt, who passed away June 28, will be remembered during a celebration of life service Thursday at Thompson-Boling Arena in Knoxville. The public is invited to view a live webcast of the service at 6 p.m. in UT Martin’s Watkins Auditorium.

University Relations

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For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Development, 731-881-7620, or the Office of University Relations, 731-881-7615.
By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

When you die, you'll be glad you went to the 2016 Soybean Festival, because Elri's coming. Look at us!

Two legendary rock groups, a classic modern country performer and many more will perform starting Sept. 6 and continuing through Sept. 10. Blood Sweat & Tears, known for their hit "When I Die" and many more, will start the grand finale performance and be followed by Three Dog Night, who had hits including "Elji's Coming."

Country music star Vince Gill will perform Sept. 9 for those who prefer the Nashville sound.

Grammy-nominated, Nashville-based duo Brothers Osborne, known for their earthy, passionate country-rock, will perform on the Tennessee Soybean Festival Main Stage Sept. 6 at 8 p.m. following the festival parade.

Raised in Deale, Md., siblings John and T.J. Osborne grew up listening to their father's country and rock records. Encouraged to write and play their own music, the brothers began to practice in a shed behind their house. By their teens they had formed the cover band Deuce & a Quarter, playing songs by Lynyrd Skynyrd, Merle Haggard, Bob Seger, and others. John eventually moved to Nashville, followed two years later by T.J., and Brothers Osborne were born. The duo's debut single, "Let's Go There," appeared in 2013, followed by the single "Rum" in 2014. A year later, they released a re-recorded version of their EP track "Stay a Little Longer," which reached the Top 40 on Billboard's U.S. Hot Country Songs chart. In 2016, Brothers Osborne released their debut full-length album, Pawn Shop.

"The performance reviews for Brothers Osborne are off the charts," said David Belote, executive director of the festival. "We feel very fortunate to be able to feature for our patrons performers who are on the rise and making a current impact with their music. They have it all... it will be another fun evening at the Tennessee Soybean Festival."

The celebrated, multi-platinum pop-rock band Plain White T's will headline UT Martin's "Student Night at the Tennessee Soybean Festival" on Sept. 8.

Plain White T's, who are composed of Tom Higgenson, Tim Lopez, Dave Tirio, De'Mar Hamilton and Mike Retondo, kicked off their career in the Chicago suburbs, playing a mix of pop, punk, and melody-driven rock & roll in basements and clubs across the metro area. A decade-and-a-half later -- the guys have thousands of shows, a string of multi-platinum hit singles ("Rhythm of Love," "1, 2, 3, 4") and the 18th most downloaded song of all time, "Hey There Delilah," it speaks volumes to the work that went into securing the band by student leadership and to the community.

SEE SOYBEAN,
Page 2
SOYBEAN,  
From Page 1

overall appeal of the band. No doubt, it will be one of the best UT Martin student nights of the year.

One of the most popular singers in modern country music, Vince Gill, is set to perform on the main stage Sept. 9.

Gill is famous for his top-notch songwriting, world-class guitar playing and warm, soaring tenor, all wrapped up in a quick and easy wit. He achieved his big breakthrough in 1990 with “When I Call Your Name,” which won both the Country Music Association’s Single and Song of the Year award as well as a Grammy. Since then, he has won 17 more CMA honors, including Song of the Year four times—making him the most-nominated artist in that category in CMA history. Since 1990, Gill has won 20 Grammy Awards. The Academy of Country Music has conferred on Gill eight awards, including its prestigious Home Depot Humanitarian Award and the 2011 Career Achievement Award. Gill was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2007. He is also a member of the Grand Ole Opry. In August 2012, Gill was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He is a member of the four-time Grammy-nominated band The Time Jumpers.

“We are honored to showcase Vince Gill at the Tennessee Soybean Festival,” said Belote. “He is every bit the humanitarian as he is the consummate performer. What a combination and what a great evening it’s going to be with Vince Gill.”

Gill’s Day and The Time will bring the funk to the festival on Sept. 9. This high-energy group is best known for their over-the-top performances of soul and funk music and will perform all of their hit songs such as “Get it Up,” “Cool,” “Girl,” “777-9311,” “Wild and Loose,” “Walk,” and “Jungle Love.”


“Morris Day and The Time performed to a sell-out crowd at UT Martin in 1992,” Belote recalled. “The show also starred Prince and Roger Zapp, and is still being touted as one of the best shows ever featured at the University and in the community. Friday night will be no different. Morris Day is an amazing performer.”

Blood Sweat & Tears will kick off what is shaping up to be the most prolific classic rock gathering of artists ever to perform at The Tennessee Soybean Festival. Blood Sweat & Tears will co-bill with Three Dog Night on Sept. 10, creating what is sure to be an epic evening of entertainment.

Blood, Sweat & Tears will perform at 7 p.m. followed by the Three Dog Night performance at 9 p.m.

With world-class vocals, musicianship, and a multitude of solid gold hits, Blood Sweat & Tears is at the top of their game. Vocal dynamo and pop phenomenon Bo Bice fronts the band with a self-assured voice and good looks. Their top 40 hits include “You’ve Made Me So Very Happy,” “Spinning Wheel,” “When I Die,” “Hi-De-Ho,” “Lucretia Mac Evil,” “Go Down Gamin,” and “God Bless The Child.” The group has won Gold Records, Grammy Awards and is most important the respect of the music industry and the love of millions of fans.

To have two legendary rock acts perform on the same evening at the Festival is an amazing feat in and of itself,” said Belote. “We want Saturday night, Sept. 10, to be a memorable experience for the patrons of the Festival. It will be a ‘wow’ evening!”

Three Dog Night, the legendary American rock band, will perform at 9 p.m. on Saturday to cap a week of one of the strongest main stage line-ups of performers in the 23-year history of the Festival. Three Dog Night, now in its fourth decade, claims some of the most astonishing statistics in popular music. In the years 1969 through 1974, no other group achieved more top 10 hits, moved more records or sold more concert tickets than Three Dog Night.

With 21 consecutive Top 40 hits, including three No.1 singles, 11 Top 10’s, 18 straight Top 20’s, seven million-selling singles and 12 straight RIAA Certified Gold LP’s Three Dog Night is virtually unmatched in popular music. The band’s hits appeared on selling charts in all genres including pop, rock and country. Its records continue to sell around the world, reaching beyond the borders of the U.S. into Japan, Canada, Holland, England, Germany, Spain and elsewhere. Teas of millions of Three Dog Night records have been sold through the years. The Grammy-nominated band is not content resting on its legacy alone. Three Dog Night maintains an aggressive, year-round schedule of over 70 dates a year. Since 1986, the band has performed over 2,200 shows including two Super Bowls. Three Dog Night continues to grow its fan base and develop new ways of doing business, all the while keeping a full schedule of concerts at theaters, performing arts centers, fairs, festivals, corporate events, and casinos.

In May, the Tennessee Legislature honored the legendary American rock band with Resolution HJR0597, which recognized Three Dog Night as a dynamic and inspirational musical group along with applauding the band’s contributions to America’s cultural landscape. “They continue to impact music lovers young and old,” said Belote. “We have been making efforts for several years now to have Three Dog Night perform at the Festival and for this year it all came together. It will be a great evening!”
Three STEM camps have lasting impact

"Today we had to learn how to tell the distance our rockets went when we shot them up; we had to do all the calculations. We learned about trigonometry. I didn't even know that was a thing," said Emily Grace Bell of Martin.

Miss Bell, who attended Skyhawk STEM Camp at the University of Tennessee at Martin this summer, will be a freshman at Westview High School in the fall. She is one of 55 students who participated in one of UT Martin’s three STEM camps this summer.

Last year, it cost parents $195 per student to participate in these camps, putting the experience out of reach of many area families. However, thanks to funding from the Northwest Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub, registration for the 2016 camp sessions dropped to $45 per student.

"The Northwest Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub covered all equipment costs, snacks, general supplies and student intern stipends," said Dr. Louis Glover, UT Martin professor of educational studies and director of the summer camps.

Thirty students also received scholarships to cover their camp fees. Eight of these were funded by the Martin Kiwanis Club, while 22 students were sponsored by individual faculty and staff members from across the UT Martin campus.

As a result, enrollment for STEMulation camp, designed for sixth- through eighth-grade students, jumped from fewer than 10 students in 2015 to 31 students this year. Eleven students attended Skyhawk STEM Camp (for rising ninth- and 10th-graders) and 20 participated in the special Skyhawk Engineering Camp.

A majority of these students came from Weakley and Obion counties.

The UT Martin camps allowed students to study physics, engineering, mathematics and robotics through hands-on building activities. Campers launched rockets, built earthquake towers, tested boomilevers, raced solar-powered cars and designed robots programmed to complete specific tasks.

The experience not only helps campers understand concepts taught in their school classrooms, it also gives them a look into the world of engineering. Some of these students have always been interested in STEM-based career fields, while others were introduced to the industry for the first time.

Glover, who has designed and directed these camps since he joined the UT Martin faculty in 2011, taught in Louisiana and Texas for 23 years before moving to Tennessee. Having hosted dozens of science camps in his previous positions, Glover was disappointed to find that UT Martin did not have an existing science camp program and built the current curriculum from the ground up.

Glover hopes to make his STEM camps affordable and accessible to families of all income levels and promote STEM-based industries among all populations.

“This equipment is very expensive and the average school can’t afford their own units in robotics. Each kit is $600. Because of the grant, we can serve 50 kids at a time,” he said. “The seed has been planted, and hopefully (these students) will ask next summer, ‘Will he let us come back?’ and the answer will be, ‘Yes!’ So they’ll come back as seventh-graders and hopefully as eighth-graders and ninth-graders and then, since they’ve always been on this campus, they’ll hopefully say, ’I’m going to this college because when I was young, I was there every summer.’

The Northwest Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub is a collaborative effort between UT Martin and Dyersburg State Community College to support STEM education in regional schools, connect existing STEM assets and promote successful teaching in West Tennessee classrooms.
Online degree programs recognized on two levels

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s online degree programs have received both state and national recognition in recent months.

The university is ranked third on TheBestSchools.org’s list of the best online colleges in Tennessee, and BestColleges.com specifically ranked the UT Martin online master’s degree in school counseling 17th in the nation among comparable programs.

TheBestSchools.org published its list earlier this spring and considers all of UT Martin’s online offerings holistically. The ranking considers factors such as type and number of programs offered, program quality, faculty strengths and school awards, rankings and reputation.

UT Martin is listed in third place behind the University of Memphis, in first place, and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in second. The complete ranking can be found at www.thebestschools.org/tennessee-education/best-online-colleges-tennessee/.

The ranking by BestColleges.com, released June 29, focuses specifically on online master’s programs in school counseling and includes UT Martin in the top 20 most affordable programs. The ranking is based on the most recent data from the National Center for Education Statistics and takes into account the percentage of degree-seeking students who take out student loans, the average loan amount, the institution’s loan default rate and the average net price to earn the degree.

This complete ranking can be seen at www.bestcolleges.com/features/most-affordable-online-masters-in-school-counseling/.

For more information on UT Martin’s online programs, contact UT Martin online at (731) 881-7764 or visit www.utm.edu/onlinestudies.

UTM online programs receive state, national recognition

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Published earlier this spring, TheBestSchools.org considered all of UTM’s online offerings holistically. The ranking considered factors such as type and number of programs offered, program quality, faculty strengths, and school awards, rankings, and reputation. UTM is in third place in Tennessee, behind first place University of Memphis and second place UT Knoxville.

For more information on UTM’s online programs, contact UTM at 731-881-7764 or www.utm.edu/onlinestudies.
Joe Atnip elected president of state’s public defender system

District Public Defender Joe Atnip was elected president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference at its annual meeting.

As president, Atnip will organize conference committees, chair the meetings of the conference and the executive committee, assist the conference in its responsibility to advise the General Assembly on legislation to improve the criminal justice system and, together with the executive committee, will supervise and direct the office of the executive director of the District Public Defenders.

The Public Defenders Conference is the statewide system of elected public defenders from each judicial district. Public defenders represent those who are charged with crimes and cannot afford to hire an attorney. Atnip will lead the public defenders at a critical time, as more Tennesseans than ever — due in part to a massive increase in prescription drug addiction — face the prospect of involvement in our criminal justice system.

Atnip was elected district public defender for the 27th Judicial District (Obion and Weakley counties) in 1990, and again in 1998, 2006 and 2014. He has held various offices within the conference and has served as board member of the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He is a U.S. Navy veteran. He has served as Municipal Court Judge of Greenfield and Sharon and is a Rotarian and American Legionnaire.

He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin and Vanderbilt University School of Law.

He lives on the family farm in the home built by his great-great-grandfather. He and his wife, Kathy, are the parents of Greenfield High School graduates Katie and Becky, and the grandparents of Lloyd and Dale.

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Reconnect at UTM Tuesday

Anyone considering finishing a degree or going back to college is encouraged to attend the Tennessee Reconnect event on Tuesday at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Welcome Center, located on the first floor of the Boling University Center.

Attendees will receive information on their academic records and financial aid options, as well as meet with academic advisers and discuss online and extended campus course options.

The admissions application fee will be waived during this event, so those in attendance can apply to UT Martin and get instant feedback on their admissions status.

Those accepted can have their previous transcripts evaluated, apply for financial aid and register for fall semester courses — all in the same evening.

Dinner will be provided. Tennessee Reconnect is an initiative from Gov. Bill Haslam to help Tennessee adults finish their degrees, gain new skills, advance in the workplace and increase their earning potential.

For more information on this program, visit tnreconnect.gov.

For more information on the UT Martin Tennessee Reconnect event, contact Beth Edwards, event coordinator, at 731-881-7701 or by email at bedwards@utm.edu.

Atnip named president of PD organization

District Public Defender Joe Atnip was elected president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference at its annual meeting. As president, Atnip will organize conference committees, chair the meetings of the conference and the executive committee, assist the conference in its responsibility to advise the General Assembly on legislation to improve the criminal justice system and, together with the executive committee, will supervise and direct the Office of the Executive Director of the District Public Defenders.

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NURSING SCHOLARSHIP— Morgan Acuff, a senior from Milan, is pictured in one of the University of Tennessee at Martin's nursing practice laboratories. She and other students will be eligible for a new scholarship from Genex.

New nursing scholarship from Genex available at UTM

Genex Services, a provider of managed care clinical services, has awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Nursing $20,000 in scholarship funding through its fifth annual Case Manager Scholarship Program.

Each year, Genex Services asks case managers, supervisors and branch managers within the company to nominate nursing programs at colleges and universities which they believe deserve additional funding. Susie Moore, a 1987 UT Martin alumna, nominated the UT Martin program for the award.

"The department of nursing at UT Martin has a proud and successful history in nursing education," wrote Moore in her nomination letter. "I am very proud of my alma mater."

Five programs are selected each year, and the funds are intended to "recognize program alumni, strengthen awareness of the case management profession and invest in a new generation of graduates to fulfill a growing industry need." Genex Services focuses primarily on handling workers' compensation claims and managing the care of injured workers.

"The scholarship award is very special to Genex because it's through this initiative that we're really helping to develop the future professionals who will continue our mission to help injured workers return safely to their jobs," said Delphine Frisch, executive vice president and chief operations officer of Genex Services. "We're very proud of this program and our case managers."

The UT Martin Department of Nursing's scholarship award committee will accept student applications in the fall semester, and awards will be announced in the spring for the upcoming 2017-18 academic year. Award criteria and amounts have yet to be determined.

"All college students can benefit from financial aid, of course, but nursing majors have the added expenses of uniforms, shoes, stethoscopes and other equipment, as well as travel to various clinical sites. This gift will be very beneficial in helping them cover these costs in addition to tuition and books," said Dr. Mary Radford, chair, UT Martin Department of Nursing.

Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky.; the University of San Diego in San Diego, Calif.; the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing in Oklahoma City, Okla.; and Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va.; also received awards from Genex Services this year.

For more information on the scholarship or to inquire about applications, contact Radford at 731-881-7140 or by email at marye@utm.edu.
UTM honors Pat Summitt during ‘Celebration of Life’ service

July 14, 2016 by Bethany Thompson

MARTIN, Tenn. — Thursday night was the final farewell for a true Tennessee legend.

Summitt was held Thursday night in Knoxville, but her alma mater, the University of Tennessee at Martin, hosted a live stream viewing for the local community to honor her together.

Summitt died two weeks ago after a five-year battle with Alzheimer’s.

UT Martin is where Summitt started her college basketball career and began impacting lives on and off the court.

"The impact that she has had, I don’t think that you can put a value at how much it means to the women’s game to Tennessee," UTM women’s basketball coach Kevin McMillan said. "We just don’t know how much impact she has had on all our lives. We practice on her court every day, and we don’t take that lightly. We feel like we need to be a certain way, play a certain way because it’s her court."

During the service, her son spoke of his mother’s big heart.

"I heard three words every single day of my life: ‘I love you.’ Every day," Tyler Summitt said. "Didn’t matter how busy she was, what she had to do — she took the time to stop and tell me that."

Those who knew Summitt said she inspired them to be the best version of themselves.

“You’ve got to put your best foot forward, and you’ve got to work hard, and you’ve got to encourage people around you all the time. And she did — she was wonderful at that," Carol Kirkland said. She worked with Summitt in the UTM Alumni Association.

The service in Martin ended with a reception where pictures and other memorabilia were on display, including the jersey she wore at UTM.

Alumni from UTM are working with the Pat Summitt Foundation to host a golf tournament in Jackson this September to help raise money to find a cure for Alzheimer’s.
Former NFL and University of Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning, center, applauds a speaker along with, to his left, former Tennessee assistant coach and current LSU assistant coach Mickie DeMoss, and, to the left of DeMoss, Tennessee women's basketball coach Holly Warlick, during a ceremony Thursday to celebrate the life of former basketball coach Pat Summit.

UTM friends recall Summit

BRANDON SHIELDS

MARTIN — Christy Passmore is a Union City native who lives in Mayfield, Kentucky, now. In 1974, she was a freshman at UT Martin pledging Chi Omega sorority. She was back on campus at UTM Thursday night with friends honoring a legendary UTM alum, basketball player, coach and Chi Omega member — Pat Summit.

“She was intimidating back then,” Passmore said. “We’d be in the sorority house, and the other girls would tell those of us who were new not to do anything to get her upset because we just didn’t want to do that.”

Passmore said it wasn’t that Summit was mean. She was as intense as a sorority sister as she was a basketball coach.

“She had that glare back then that everyone knows about now,” Passmore said.

Passmore was one of about 100 members of Summit’s fan base in Martin who were at the Boling University Center gathered to watch a broadcast of Summit’s celebration of life service in Knoxville at the University of Tennessee’s Thompson-Boling Arena.

Marti Herndon is a recently retired professor at UTM. She wasn’t a friend of Summit’s, but she is a UT grad from Knoxville whose father had season tickets.

See UTM, Page 4A
for Lady Vols games. "Whenever I'd go back home, I'd go watch games when I could," Herndon said. "I remember when she was hired to coach at Tennessee. It was about the time I graduated.

"None of us thought she'd take women's basketball to the levels she's taken it to. Not just for the Lady Vols, but women's basketball and sports in general."

Carol Gardner is a UT women's basketball fan from Sharon. She met Summitt once when the coach signed a book for her.

"She was so nice that day," Gardner said. "My son was roommates with her nephew in Nashville at the time, and I mentioned that.

"She talked with me for a couple of minutes about that. But everything people have said about her being gracious and kind, she was all of that when I met her."

The group gathered and watched the service on a large screen in the auditorium of the Boling Center. They clapped when legendary Vols sports figures were introduced, and when they finished speaking.

They laughed out loud at funny stories the speakers shared. Some clapped when musicians played a version of the old song "I'll Fly Away." They wiped tears from their eyes during sad times of the service.

"It was important for me to be here tonight if I couldn't be in Knoxville," Passmore said. "The weekend before she passed, I was at a Chi Omega conference in Orlando, and Pat's name was evoked a number of times by speakers throughout the night.

"And then hours later we began to hear that she was about to complete her journey home. So I've been in a Pat-focused state of mind I guess. And I felt a need to be somewhere where she spent time. I needed to be here tonight."

UTM sports radio broadcaster Chris Brinkley shared a few words with the crowd before the broadcast began from Summitt's former coach and mentor Bettye Giles, who helped get Summitt to UTM.

"I asked Miss Bettye what the scouting report on Pat was," Brinkley said. "She said Pat put the ball on the floor, kept her elbows out and would take the ball to the goal — and anybody who was smart would stay out of her way.

"But that was how Pat did everything — played, coached, go to the Olympics and face Alzheimer's. Pat showed us how to face everything in life head-on and the right way. We're here to honor that tonight as part of her UTM family."

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**Reach Brandon at (731) 425-9751. Follow him on Twitter:** @JSEditorBrandon
Justin Hanson and Joel Howard, both of Tipton County, graduated as members of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 2016 class during a ceremony held June 22 in Jackson.

Hanson is the mayor of Covington, managing six departments and overseeing a $22 million budget. He was also voted "Best of the Best Elected Official" in Tipton County by readers of The Leader. Prior to his election, he worked as a reporter and anchor at WMC Action News Five, the NBC affiliate in Memphis, where he was nominated for an Emmy award.

Howard is the area director for USDA Rural Development, Union City Area office. He received a bachelor's degree in agriculture from UT Martin in 2005. Howard is a 2013 graduate of the Delta Leadership Institute and is a member of the Delta Leadership Network for Tennessee and the recipient of various awards within USDA-Rural Development.

The WestStar Leadership Program, created in 1989, is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership program. Boasting 768 graduates, WestStar continues to serve West Tennessee by offering leadership development and education for selected participants. The 2016 class is the 27th in program history.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or by email at vgrimes@utm.edu.

Education listings

12:02 a.m. EDT July 19, 2016

COLLEGE LISTINGS

University of Tennessee-Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. - Mary Gorsuch, of Lancaster, received the Norman Lillegard Outstanding Philosophy Student Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring semester. This award-winner is selected by the faculty in the department of history and philosophy.
LOGO WINNERS — Kassie Hooks (seated) of Fulton is one of two UT Martin students have their logo designs selected for this year’s No-Till Field Day event in Milan. She is pictured with Sarah Haig, assistant professor of graphic design. Kyle Birdwell (not pictured), a May graduate from Bruceton, was also selected.

UTM students design No-Till logo

Once every two years, the University of Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center at Milan hosts the Milan No-Till Field Day, one of the largest crop production field days in the nation. This massive event requires months of planning and coordination of countless details, but this year the AgResearch Center crew had one less chore on their list.

“We were approached in the fall by the [University of Tennessee at Martin] Department of Visual and Theater Arts to see if we would be open a logo design contest,” says Blake Brown, center director with the AgResearch Center. “The idea was the students would design the logos, we would select a winner, and then use it for our field day.”

Brown admits to some reservations to the idea … that is, until he saw the students’ designs.

“I was blown away by the quality of their work,” says Brown. “All of the logos were simply great. Choosing a winner was a very tough job.”

In the end, he chose two. The logo designed by Kyle Birdwell of Bruceton will be featured on the field day caps, while the design submitted by Kassie Hooks of Fulton will be used on all other materials. Both Birdwell and Hooks graduated from UT Martin in May.

“I thought Kassie’s design looked very professional and her illustrations clearly communicated what the Milan No-Till Field Day is all about,” says Brown. “Kyle’s use of color and text was clean and functional, making his design a great fit for the caps worn by all field day personnel.”

“We like to give our students as much real world experience as possible, so having them compete for the winning design was a natural next step,” says Sarah Haig, assistant professor with UT Martin’s Department of Visual and Theatre Arts.

Haig facilitated the logo contest during the Spring 2016 semester. The class consisted of senior design students who were selected with researching the AgResearch Center and the Milan No-Till Field Day, creating 10 sketches using the proper color palate and text elements, and narrowing their work to one final logo.

“I was impressed at the variety and quality of the designs,” says Haig. “The students came up with a number of solutions that made me happy that it was up to Dr. Brown to select the final.”

Haig says that Brown’s selection of the winning logos did not have an effect on students’ project grades, but it did provide an invaluable experience.

“As a student, it’s always a moment of accomplishment when something you designed gets produced and is suddenly this real-world thing that you can hold,” says Haig. “I think it was a great opportunity for them, and we would love to do something like this again in the future.”

The Milan No-Till Field Day is set for July 28 at the AgResearch Center. Gates open at 6 a.m. The field day features 40 research presentations, an extensive agricultural trade show and the West Tennessee Agricultural Museum.

More information is available at milantennessee.edu or at 731-686-7362.
Liggett named new county finance director

By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

John Liggett will soon be the new finance director for Weakley County. He is expected to start Aug. 1.

The financial management committee made the decision Friday morning on a 5-2 vote.

Before the decision, several members expressed their opinions on how the decision should be considered.

Commissioner David Hawks said he was concerned that Kellie Thayer, the deputy director who has been acting director since Shawn Francisco resigned, might get penalized for mistakes made in her office in the last few weeks.

He pointed out the office had lost 28 percent of its staff with Francisco’s departure and Erica Moore’s move to the mayor’s office, and said he doubted any other department could operate any better under such conditions.

“We put her in that position,” Hawks said of Thayer. He acknowledged there had been “some glitches” in the operation under Thayer, but said the other two candidates lacked specific knowledge about how the position operated.

“If we don’t pick Kellie, who’s gonna train the new employee? Kellie, and the other people in that office.”

He recommended the committee only evaluate candidates based on resumes and interviews.

Comm. Scott Fortner also supported Thayer. He said some of the candidates were stronger in education, but lacked the department’s experience.

He said the committee should look at what was the “shortest, easiest transition for the county,” and said he thought Thayer was the strongest of the three candidates.

“I don’t think we need to penalize Kellie for a few hiccups,” he said.

Fortner also said his many years in retail management had taught him that if management doesn’t promote from within, it causes resentment within the ranks.

Superintendent of Schools Randy Frazier had other thoughts.

“I don’t totally agree with promoting from within,” he said, noting that he himself had been hired from outside the school department.

“If we felt that way,” he said, referring to hiring from within, “we shouldn’t have gone through this process.”

Comm. Jim Westbrook pointed out that because of the way Francisco ran the department, he had been a risk manager and chief investment officer at Greenfield Banking Co.

In this position, his resume shows, he has been responsible for all aspects of the bank’s loan review function and he developed and wrote the bank’s loan policy, loan review policy and investment policy.

He previously served 12 years as loan review manager and vice president of First State Bank in Union City. In this position he managed the loan review department’s employees, scheduling and budgets and developed and wrote the bank’s loan review procedure manual. According to his resume, he was responsible for loan reviews of a loan portfolio of approximately $1.1 billion.

Liggett also served as an alderman for the City of Greenfield from 2010 to 2014, where he served on the city’s budget committee and gained knowledge about municipal budgeting and finance.

Liggett holds a bachelor of science in economics/finance and a master of business administration, both from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

He currently serves on the Weakley County Board of Education.
FINANCE, From Page 1
department, "Kellie didn’t actually act as deputy director." He said other employees in the office would be as qualified as Thayer to apply for the position of director.

Road Superintendent Charles Ross acknowledged that Thayer is "a very valuable asset to this department," but did not say whether he would vote for her.

"While it’s not fair to judge people, Kellie did that herself," Mayor Jake Bynum said, apparently in reference to comments Thayer made during her interview about previous actions in the finance department.

Bynum said management skills were what was most needed in the office.

"We want a culture change, and that starts at the top," he said.

He also said a candidate who repeatedly used the words "teamwork" and "trust," as Ligget did in his interview, was perhaps the most important factor.

In the vote, only Hawks and Fortner voted for Thayer. Jennifer Maloan Stroh, the third candidate, did not receive any votes.

The committee also voted to pay Thayer at the director’s pay scale for the month of July.

Ross recommended that the committee set up an evaluation process for the new director, and said he hoped Frazier’s experience with evaluations could help.

He said evaluation was "a very specific part of overseeing."

Westbrook added he thought the new director should set up an evaluation process for his own employees, as well.

Hawks recommended that after six months with the new director, each county department should be asked to anonymously evaluate the office’s performance.

"We can make the department better," he said. "We need to get our hands on it more than we have in the past."

The committee voted to establish a six-months survey as well as a yearly formal review for the finance office.

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Pitz speaks at Martin Kiwanis Club

Kristina Pitz, coordinator of the health sciences pre-professional program at UT-Martin and president of the Martin Area Toastmasters organization, was the featured speaker at the July meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Martin.

For her presentation, Ms. Pitz focused on Toastmasters, an international organization with a mission to help others improve public speaking and leadership skills. She shared a story about how she became involved in Toastmasters, which was started in the Martin area by professor Mary Wallace, a former faculty member from the College of Business and Global Affairs, who is now retired.

Ms. Pitz described the two basic Toastmasters manuals (one about competent communication and the other about leadership), explained how Toastmasters meetings are organized, and invited everyone to the Martin Area Toastmasters open house at 12:15 p.m. on Aug. 9, in the activity building of Martin University of Martin.

PITZ SPEAKS TO CLUB — Martin Area Toastmasters president Kristina Pitz was the featured speaker at the July meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Martin. Pictured with her was Kiwanis member Dr. Otha Britton, UT-Martin professor emeritus of computer science.

For more information, contact Kristina Pitz at martintoast-masters@gmail.com.
Celebrating Pat Head Summitt’s life and legacy

Josh Lemons
Sports Editor

There were quite a few tears shed in Watkins Auditorium on the UT Martin campus Thursday night, but those tears were quickly wiped away and replaced with smiles and laughter as around 50 people came together to celebrate the life of one of the most beloved figures to ever come out of Weakley County, former Lady Vols head coach and UTM alum, Pat Head Summitt.

The celebration from Boling-Thompson arena in Knoxville where, just like on UT Martin’s campus, the basketball court bears her name, was broadcast on ESPN2 and the SEC Network as well as simulcast through the internet stream to Watkins Auditorium.

Chris Brinkley, voice of the Skyhawks, emceed the event Thursday.
He said while her Lady Vol family and friends were celebrating her life together in East Tennessee, he thought this was a good way for her UT Martin family to share the same experience at her college alma mater.

“She was an amazing lady,” Brinkley said. “Pat, in her commencement address she made to UT Martin in 2005, said four of the best years of her life were at UT Martin because of her UT Martin family.

“I think it’s a wonderful occasion for her UT Martin family to get together for the Celebration of Life.”

Brinkley echoed many, in what became the sentiment of the night, addressing the crowd before the beginning of the simulcast, when he said no matter how famous or how many wins and national championships she amassed, Summitt never forgot her roots.

“I’ve talked to a lot of people who were friends of hers from the area and they say that she remembered their parents names, their kids names [and] their nieces and nephews,” he said. “She always remembered where she came from, where she had been and who had helped her to get to where she became, one of the best coaches in the history of basketball.”

At one point in her commencement speech in 2005 she addressed the students directly.

“Give back. That’s important,” Summitt said. “Don’t forget where you came from.”

Charlie Deal, associate vice chancellor for alumni relations, said these were not just hollow words. As many people said during Thursday’s celebration, “Pat walked the talk.”

“Anytime we called and asked her to do something, she was right there,” Deal said. “Whether it was the welcome video for our freshman that we would show them during opening convocation or it was coming back here to help us with our capital campaign, she not only donated her time, she donated her resources.

“She would come back on her own dime, and she supported us financially, too. She always said she knew where her paycheck came from but she never forgot where she came from.”

Janekia Mason, a junior from Covington on the UTM women’s basketball team, was one of the greeters Thursday night.

As she stood at the front door to Watkins Auditorium, she was flanked by a picture of Summitt during her playing days as, back then, a Lady Pacer.

Mason can relate to Summitt growing up a standout athlete in a small town.

“It’s kind of hard to be known in small places, so she was just a big role model to me,” Mason said. “She inspired me to get out of my comfort zone and know that I can make it further and to just push myself. She was a big motivator to me.”

She said she never thought she would be playing basketball on a court named after the legendary head coach.

“This is beyond awesome for me,” Mason said. “I can’t explain it.”

When Len Solomons moved to Martin from Memphis in 1989, she, of course, was familiar with the Lady Vols head coach on the court.

It wasn’t until she became neighbors with former women’s athletic director Bettye Giles and Summitt’s former head coach Nadine Gearin, that she began to understand who the legendary coach was off the court.

“Of course, they loved Pat and they initiated me immediately about Pat Head Summitt,” she said with a smile. “Although I had already heard of her, I saw all the letters Pat would write to Nadine. We were just telling a story about when Nadine was really ill towards the end of her life. Pat would call her up in the hospital and say, ‘You mind the doctor like he was your coach!’ And she would rally.”

Solomons said that was one of the reasons she wanted to watch the celebration with others from the community Thursday night.

“I just wanted to pay tribute to Pat. We worked together with Charlie Deal on the statues of Pat and Bettye and Nadine. We helped raise money for that,” she said. “The love is deep and it goes back a long way like so many here.

“It was healing. Just to be with those and to hear the stories from the people who knew and loved her, it is healing.

“It’s just a tribute to her memory.”

David Murphy, of Murphy Funeral Home in Martin, said there is something special about UT Martin’s campus, something he said, Summitt never forgot.

“This little campus here gave her the foundation. It helped mold her life,” he said. “And that’s the great thing about this campus. That’s why this is a special place on God’s earth.”
WE BACK PAT — A screen inside Watkins Auditorium on UT Martin's campus simulcast the Pat Head Summitt Celebration of Life ceremony held at the Thompson-Boling Arena on Thursday night from the basketball court named after the legendary Lady Vol coach and UTM alumni. Around 50 people from the Weakley County area attended the event.

Photo by Josh Lemons

A TIME TO MOURN — Although there were some tears shed, they were followed almost immediately by smiles and laughter as around 50 people gathered in Watkins Auditorium to celebrate the life of legendary coach Pat Summitt.

Photo by Josh Lemons
Christie Safin (left) and Faye Hooper, both teachers at Grove School, conduct lever experiments during a training workshop hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin in June. They were among more than 250 West Tennessee teachers who participated in one of 13 different summer workshops. The training sessions focused on classroom organization and management, cooperating teacher strategies, new teacher training and engaging students in STEM-related subjects at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The workshops, offered to teachers free of charge, were sponsored by UT Martin’s Teacher Quality Partnership Grant, funded through the U.S. Department of Education. The grant distributed more than $75,000 in stipends and classroom materials through these UT Martin workshops.

Possible same-day admission to UTM with Tenn. Reconnect event

Anyone considering finishing a degree or going back to college is encouraged to attend the Tennessee Reconnect event at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. today in the Welcome Center, on the first floor of the Boling University Center.

Attendees will receive information on their academic records and financial aid options, as well as meet with academic advisers and discuss online and extended campus course options.

The admissions application fee will be waived during this event, so those in attendance can apply to UT Martin and get instant feedback on their admissions status. Those accepted can have their previous transcripts evaluated, apply for financial aid and register for fall semester courses — all in the same evening.

Dinner will be provided. For more information, contact event coordinator Beth Edwards at bedwards@utm.edu or 731-881-7701.
MILAN — Once every two years, the University of Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center at Milan hosts the Milan No-Till Field Day, one of the largest crop production field days in the nation.

This massive event requires months of planning and coordination of countless details, but this year the AgResearch Center crew had one less chore on its list. We were approached in the fall by the (University of Tennessee at Martin) Department of Visual and Theater Arts to see if we would be open to a logo design contest,” says Blake Brown, center director with the AgResearch Center.

“The idea was, the students would design the logos, we would select a winner and then use it for our field day.”

Brown admits to some reservations about the idea — that is, until he saw the students’ designs.

“I was blown away by the quality of their work,” says Brown. “All of the logo designs were simply great. Choosing a winner was a very tough job.”

In the end, he chose two. The logo designed by Kyle Birdwell of Bruceton will be featured on the field day caps, while the design submitted by Kassie Hooks of Fulton will be used on all other materials. Both Birdwell and Ms. Hooks graduated from UT Martin in May.

“I thought Kassie’s design looked very professional and her illustrations clearly communicated what the Milan No-Till Field Day is all about,” says Brown. “Kyle’s use of colors and text was clean and functional, making his design a great fit for the caps worn by all field day personnel.”

“We like to give our students as much real-world experience as possible, so having them compete for the winning design was a natural next step,” says Ms. Haig. As assistant professor with UT Martin’s Department of Visual and Theatre Arts.

Ms. Haig facilitated the logo contest during the Spring 2016 semester. The group consisted of senior design students who were tasked with researching the AgResearch Center and the Milan No-Till Field Day, creating 10 sketches using the proper color palette and text elements and narrowing their work to one final logo.

“I was impressed at the variety and quality of the designs,” says Ms. Haig. “The students came up with a number of solutions that made me happy that it was up to Dr. Brown to select the final.”

Ms. Haig says that Brown’s selection of the winning logos did not have an effect on students’ project grades, but it did provide an invaluable experience.

“As a student, it’s always a moment of accomplishment when something you designed gets produced and is suddenly this real-world thing that you can hold,” says Ms. Haig. “I think it was a great opportunity for them, and we would love to do something like this again in the future.”

The Milan No-Till Field Day is set for July 28 at the AgResearch Center. Gates open at 6 a.m. The field day features 40 research presentations, an extensive agricultural trade show and the West Tennessee Agricultural Museum.

More information is available at milan.utk.edu or by calling (731) 686-7362.
New Milan No-Till Field Day logo designed by UTM students

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The Milan No-Till Field Day is set for Thursday, July 28, at the AgResearch Center. Gates open at 6 a.m. The field day features 40 research presentations, an extensive agricultural trade show and the West Tennessee Agricultural Museum. More information is available at milan.tennessee.edu or at 731-686-7362.

NEW LOGOS SELECTED - Kassie Hooks (seated), of Fulton, Kentucky, is one of two UT Martin students to have their logo designs selected for this year's No-Till Field Day event in Milan. She is pictured with Sarah Haig, assistant professor of graphic design. Kyle Birdwell (not pictured), a May graduate from Bruceton, was also selected.
Dr. Kelli Deere is proud to present two $5,000 scholarships to two deserving students of the University of Tennessee Martin Parsons Center. Jessica Brownyard and Chestney Jones are the first to receive the "Dr. Deere Leadership Scholarship."
When a person is labeled as a leader, just what is it that makes a person a leader? Two young women who attend the University of Tennessee Martin Parsons Center know exactly what it takes. They say they have learned them from their leader, Dr. Kelli Deere. Not only have they watched Dr. Deere in action, they have now been awarded scholarships honoring their own leadership abilities.

Jessica Brownyard and Chestney Jones have both been presented a $5,000 scholarship from the Parsons Decatur County Higher Education Foundation in honor of Dr. Deere.

The “Dr. Deere Leadership Scholarship” program all began when the board wanted to do something special for Dr. Deere after she was named in the “40 under 40 class of 2015.” They discussed a reception and other ideas, but Deere noted she would prefer them to do something for the students.

“The board decided to name a scholarship in my honor,” disclosed Deere. “I am very humbled. I appreciate UT Martin, the PDCHEF Board and Decatur County for allowing me to serve as Director at UT Martin Parsons.”

Two students were selected to receive the first Dr. Deere Leadership Scholarships, Brownyard and Jones.

“It is an absolute honor to receive this scholarship,” said Brownyard. “Dr. Deere had been such an inspiration to me since she came to UTM Parsons, and I am so grateful to receive a scholarship named after her.”

“I am very grateful,” admits Jones. “I greatly appreciate the scholarship. It’s an honor to receive it.”

Dr. Deere says both of the scholarship recipients are well deserving students. “Jessica is our longest serving Ambassador,” explained Deere. “She served as president for two years. I knew from sitting in Jessica’s first meeting as the president of the Ambassadors that she had a plan, and knew how to execute her plan. Everyone knew their job and purpose in the organization. Her excitement was contagious. During Jessica’s time as president, the Ambassadors became very involved in the community. They served as Chamber of Commerce Membership Dinner Hostess, raised money and participated in Decatur County Relay for Life, packed food for the Decatur County Backpack Program, held numerous school activities, recruited at numerous high schools and events. She was the face of the Ambassadors. She is a true leader. Jessica is now serving in an advisory role with the Ambassadors to help mentor new leaders.”

“Chestney became President this year,” continued Deere. “Chestney was very active last year and planned numerous events for the Ambassadors. Chestney comes in my office all the time with new ideas. Her excitement is also very contagious. She was at every event, and was usually one of the first to attend, and last to leave. She always went above and beyond. Chestney participated in a leadership training at UT Martin in June for the UT Martin Parsons Center Student Ambassadors. We hope to make this an annual event for our Ambassadors.”

Jessica says that she is thankful for this award for recognizing how much she put her heart and soul into the UT Parsons Center.

“Everyone I meet, whether it be at my job or at an actual recruitment, I let everyone know how much I not only love this Center but how blessed we are to have Dr. Deere as our director,” emphasized Jessica.

“Being a student ambassador is a great deal of responsibility, but going above and beyond that of which was expected of me is how I got the scholarship,” contends Chestney. “It’s more than just going to the events, it’s helping plan them, setting up and making sure everyone knows what to do at the events.”

Both young women will easily tell anyone what they think about Dr. Deere.

“She is a tremendous leader,” contends Jessica. “Before she was here, the Center didn’t feel like a home. It felt like a school which is great, but not amazing. Dr. Deere makes you want to come into this Center full steam ahead and have your dreams and ambitions come true. She has done more for me than any other educator I have ever had, and I will forever be grateful for her.”

“Dr. Deere is a wonderful person!” declares Jones. “She is a role model to all of her students. She is the true definition of what a leader should be. I think everyone has leadership abilities. When they use their leadership skills to better others is when they show that they are a true leader though.”

“When Dr. Deere started the Student Ambassadors, I was probably the shyest girl anyone has ever met,” admitted Jessica. “Since then, I feel like I have blossomed into a student that isn’t
afraid to get out there and tell as many people as possible how much I love this Center. She has changed my life forever, and now I feel like I can do anything because of the confidence I have gained from UT Martin Parsons.

"I look forward to hearing about their future in their chosen fields of study," affirmed Dr. Deere. "Jessica is a double nursing and psychology major. Chestney is an education major. They are both natural leaders."

"I am always a little sad to see Student Ambassadors graduate," reported Deere. "One year I worried, who would take Heather Coleman and Cary Haggard Biven’s place (just to name a few). Each year at New Student Orientation, the Ambassadors speak to our new freshman and this is when students can ask questions about being an Ambassador."

"I know that Student Ambassadors have helped grow UT Martin Parsons in many ways," Dr. Deere continued. "Students at the local high schools listen to current students. They feel comfortable asking them questions about college. I appreciate all of the work that every Student Ambassador did and continues to do for UT Martin Parsons. They give of one of their most prized possessions, their time to this university."

What would these two young women tell students who are just beginning their college years?

Jessica says, "To not rush to be done, and to enjoy every minute. Yes, finishing school is important, but networking and meeting the right people is too. If I would’ve graduated when I was supposed to, I wouldn’t have met Dr. Deere or be a part of the nursing program here. I wouldn’t have made any of the amazing friends I have today, or gained such a beautiful and wonderful family that I now have."

Chestney emphasizes, "This is your college experience, make memories. Don’t always study, have some fun. This is when you become who you want to be in life. You are making your dreams into a reality."

"UTM Parsons Center is so unique, it isn’t like any other school," Jessica declares. "There is no doubt in my mind that our students will change lives. Dr. Deere has laid a foundation for our students that I know we can strive to be anything we want, and be extremely successful. Having the family atmosphere is what makes our Center great, because some students have never had a family. Our Center will continue to be a place that students want to come to and want to learn and strive to be great."

Chestney says there are a thousand reasons why someone should choose to come to UTM Parsons, but the staff is one of the main reasons.

"The staff here is exceptional," avows Chestney. "They always have a friendly smile and encouraging words. One of the other main reasons is it’s close to home for most of us and we’re not just a number here, we’re a face, a name that all of our teachers know. My first day going to college I was scared out of my mind. I didn’t know anyone, I didn’t grow up around these people. Now I can’t wait for school to start back. I’m always excited about what the next year will bring. I used to be scared and I didn’t want to talk to anyone I didn’t know, and now I will talk to anyone here."

"I hope my future holds a degree in Special Education where I can help children learn and fit in with their other peers without losing their individuality," concludes Chestney. "I hope to have a happy family one day and friends that are more like family than friends."

"The first day I walked through those doors, I was a shy timid student," recalls Jessica. "I didn’t want to get involved or really talk to any new people. I just wanted to come in and go out and be done. Dr. Deere and the Student Ambassadors have forever changed my life. From the shy girl on the first day, to the girl now who has organized four successful years of Relay for Life fundraisers, four years of holiday fulfilled Christmas parade floats, and being able to be one of the students chosen to speak in front of Governor Bill Haslam and other dignitaries to help push our school and our nursing program to the next level."

"With the leadership skills I have learned through this school, Dr. Deere, and the Student Ambassadors, I know that my future will be nothing but bright," concluded Jessica. "I have so many more goals I would like to accomplish before I graduate, and this is just the beginning of something extraordinary."

Leadership: The timeless practice of guiding others in pursuit of their goal, destination or desired outcome; someone who motivates, inspires and guides. Great leaders have a remarkable impact on others during their own journey through life. It looks like that leadership line of drive and determination is growing at UTM Parsons Campus.
End of summer bash set at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin is throwing a party July 29, and high school students from all areas are invited.

The 2016 End of Summer Bash will begin with check-in at 1 p.m. in the Boling University Center, followed by an official welcome at 1:30 and campus tours at 2. Students who have already taken a campus tour are still invited to Recreation Rampage from 3-5 p.m. in the UT Martin Student Recreation Center.

Students and their families are invited to learn more about UT Martin programs of study; meet faculty, staff and current students; and participate in a variety of recreation activities.

Join in the fun by registering at utm.edu/summer-bash. There is no charge to attend.

For more information about UT Martin or the admissions process, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.

VISIT UT MARTIN — Kendra Young (left) of Union City and Amanda Fuller of Jackson recently visited the University of Tennessee at Martin for Student Orientation and Registration. Students were able to meet with faculty in their chosen areas of study and hear presentations on student housing, meal plans, financial aid and social activities. Miss Young is a graduate of Union City High School, while Miss Fuller graduated from Northside High School in Jackson.
NATIONAL FINALIST — Ashleigh Burton of South Fulton was recently named a national finalist for Best Audio D.J. by Collegiate Broadcasters Inc. She hosted a live program called “Skyhawk Street” on Friday nights on WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk” during the fall and spring semesters.

UT Martin communications major named national finalist for honor

Ashleigh Burton of South Fulton was named a national finalist for Best Audio D.J. by Collegiate Broadcasters Inc. during the spring semester recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Ms. Burton hosted a live program, “Skyhawk Street,” from 9 p.m. to midnight Fridays on WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk” during the fall and spring semesters.

Ms. Burton, a communications major, spent two years as the production director for WUTM, the award-winning student-operated radio station on the UT Martin campus. She won numerous regional and national awards for her work, including two top-five finishes for Best Production Director at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System annual conferences in 2015 and 2016.

“Ashleigh Burton is an extremely creative student who has contributed to the recent successes of UTM broadcast media,” said Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications and WUTM faculty adviser. “She has great potential and is poised to enjoy a great career in her chosen field.”

“I couldn’t be happier with how this year went. I interviewed (entertainers) Joe Nichols and Joan Jett. I love what I do and I think that’s what makes WUTM great; we all love what we do. I love what I did here at UTM, and I am excited to see what the future holds,” Ms. Burton said.

Collegiate Broadcasters Inc. is a member-driven organization serving students and advisers of college and high school electronic media outlets. The organization, headquartered in Hummelstown, Pa., strives to provide members with educational and professional opportunities and to facilitate advocacy for the career field.
Joshua Walker of Fulton worked on a project with teammates during the inaugural Skyhawk Engineering Camp recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin. It gave students in grades 7-10 an opportunity to learn to build basic robots and program them to complete a variety of tasks. They then competed. Joshua’s team won runner-up honors in two events. STEMulation Camps were also held at the UT Martin campus this summer to promote understanding in science, technology, engineering and mathematics-based areas.
AIM HIGH  — The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted the first-ever Skyhawk Engineering Camp recently. Students in grades 7-10 learned to build basic robots and program them to complete a variety of tasks before competing against other teams. Among the students who placed in the overall assessment category were (from left) James Nail of Sharon, second place; Zakaria Adams of Milan, first place; and Caleb Snyder of Scotts Hill and Caleb Collins of Fulton, who tied for third place.

PHYSICS FANS — The first-ever Skyhawk Engineering Camp was recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin, giving students in grades 7-10 an opportunity to learn to build basic robots and program them to complete a variety of tasks before competing against other teams. The many participants included (from left, front row) Caleb Snyder of Scotts Hill, Grant McGehee of Sharon, Jackson Horton of Martin and Carson Brigance of Martin, who won for the number of ping pong balls retrieved by their robot and for navigating their robot through a maze; (middle row) Skyler Davis of Halls, Jonathan Morris of South Fulton, Joshua Walker of Fulton and Parker Maxey of Dresden, who won second place in both competitions; and (back row) Peyton Stratton of Jackson, Tyler Molands of Union City, James Nail of Sharon and Caleb Collins of Fulton, whose team collected honors in the ping pong ball retrieval competition and the robotic maze race.
"Boom'ing business"

The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted STEMulation Camp for students in grades 6-8 recently. Thirty students participated in this year's event, which was designed to promote understanding in science, technology, engineering and mathematics-based areas. One competition required students to work in teams to build a boomilever, a device designed to hold a specified weight a given distance from a vertical surface. Among the participants were Fakhira Lyle (left) and Zakeria Granger, both of Union City, who claimed first place in this competition.

BLAST OFF! — UT Martin recently hosted a STEMulation Camp for students in grades 6-8. The camp was designed to promote understanding in science, technology, engineering and mathematics-based areas. The model rocket competition required students to build and test a model rocket of their own design. Participants who excelled in the event included (from left) Zakeria Granger of Union City, fourth place; Serenity Harrell of Martin, third place; Davey Richards of Martin, second place; and Zabarie Pinkins of Martin, first place.
TEDIOUS TASK — Caleb Collins of Fulton worked on a project as he participated recently in the inaugural Skyhawk Engineering Camp at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Students in grades 7-10 had the opportunity to learn to build basic robots and program them to complete a variety of tasks. They then competed against other teams. Caleb was among the students who earned honors for his efforts.

TEAM EFFORT — Carson Brigance (center) of Martin and Grant McGeehee of Sharon collaborated on a project as they and others participated in the first-ever Skyhawk Engineering Camp held at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently. The event allowed students in grades 7-10 to learn to build basic robots and program them to complete a variety of tasks. Carson and Grant were part of a team which earned honors in a competition held after construction.
Soybean Festival official announces musical line-up

By LINDA THURSTON
Special to The Messenger

When you die, you'll be glad you went to the 2016 Soybean Festival, because Eli's coming.

Two legendary rock groups, a classic modern country performer and many more will perform Sept. 6-10.

Blood Sweat & Tears, known for its hit "When I Die" and many more, will start the grand finale performance and be followed by Three Dog Night, which had hits including "Eli's Coming."

Country music star Vince Gill will perform Sept. 9 for those who prefer the Nashville sound.

Grammy-nominated, Nashville-based duo Brothers Osborne, known for their earthy, passionate country-rock, will perform on the Tennessee Soybean Festival main stage Sept. 6 at 8 p.m. following the festival parade.

Raised in Deale, Md., siblings John and T.J. Osborne grew up listening to their father's country and rock records. Encouraged to write and play their own music, the brothers began to practice in a shed behind their house. By their teens they had formed the cover band Deuce & a Quarter, playing songs by Lynyrd Skynyrd, Merle Haggard, Bob Seger and others. John Osborne eventually moved to Nashville, followed two years later by T.J. Osborne, and Brothers Osborne was born. The duo's debut single, "Let's Go There," appeared in 2013, followed by the single "Run" in 2014. A year later, they released a re-recorded version of their EP track "Stay a Little Longer," which reached the Top 40 on Billboard's U.S. Hot Country Songs chart. In 2016, Brothers Osborne released their debut full-length album, "Pawn Shop."

"The performance reviews for Brothers Osborne are off the charts," said David Belote, executive director of the festival. "We feel very fortunate to be able to feature for our patrons performers who are on the rise and making a current impact with their music. They have it all... It will be another fun evening at the Tennessee Soybean Festival."

The celebrated, multi-platinum pop-rock band Plain White T's will headline the University of Tennessee at Martin's "Student Night at the Tennessee Soybean Festival" on Sept. 8.

Plain White T's - composed of Tom Higgenson, Tim Lopez, Dave Tirio, De'Mar Hamilton and Mike Retondo - kicked off its career in the Chicago suburbs, playing a mix of pop, punk and melody-driven rock and roll in basements and clubs across the metro area. A decade-and-a-half later, the guys have thousands of shows, a string of multi-platinum hit singles ("Rhythm of Love," "1, 2, 3, 4") and the 18th most downloaded song of all time under their belts: Grammy-nominated "Hey There Delilah." The band's latest album, "American Nights," is their first independent release since 2001, and the collection features everything fans have come to expect from the Plain White T's - summery anthems, heart-on-the-sleeve lyrics and acoustic love songs. It's also their most collaborative album yet, with three of the band members contributing 11 songs to the track listing.

"The Student Activities Council at UT Martin is pleased to be able to bring a band like Plain White T's to our students and to the community of West Tennessee," said Tim Barrington, advisor to the council. "When you are able to showcase a band who can deliver the 18th most downloaded song of all time, 'Hey There Delilah,' it speaks volumes to the work that went into securing the band by student leadership and to the overall appeal of the band. No doubt, it will be one of the best UT Martin student nights ever."

One of the most popular singers in modern country music, Vince Gill is set to perform on the main stage Sept. 9.

Gill is famous for his top-notch songwriting, world-class guitar playing and warm, soaring tenor, all wrapped up in a quick and easy wit. He achieved his big breakthrough in 1990 with "When I Call Your Name," which won both the Country Music Association's Single and Song of the Year award, as well as a Grammy. Since then, he has won 17 more CMA honors, including Song of the Year four times — making him the most-awarded artist in that category in CMA history. Since 1990, Gill has won 20 Grammy Awards. The Academy of Country Music has conferred on Gill eight awards, including its prestigious Home Depot Humanitarian Award and the 2011 Career Achievement Award. Gill was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2007. He is also a member of the Grand Ole Opry. In August 2012, Gill was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He is a member of the four-time Grammy-nominated band The Time Jumpers.

"We are honored to showcase Vince Gill at the Tennessee Soybean Festival," said Belote. "He is every bit the humanitarian as he is the consummate performer. What a combination and what a great evening it's going to be with Vince Gill."

Morris Day and The Time will bring the funk to the festival on the evening of Sept. 9. This high-energy group is best known for its over-the-top performances of soul and funk music and will perform its hit songs, such as "Get it Up," "Cool," "Girl," "777-9311," "Wild and Loose," "Walk" and "Jungle Love."

Morris Day and The Time performed to a sell-out crowd at UT Martin in 1982," Belote recalled. "The show also starred Prince and Roger/Zapp and is still being touted as one of the best shows ever featured at the university and in the community. Friday night (Sept. 9) will be no different. Morris Day is an amazing performer."

Blood Sweat & Tears will kick off what is shaping up to be the most prolific classic rock gathering of artists ever to perform at the Tennessee Soybean Festival. Blood Sweat & Tears will co-bill with Three Dog Night on Sept. 10, creating what is sure to be an epic evening of entertainment. Blood, Sweat & Tears will perform at 7 p.m. followed by the Three Dog Night performance.

With world-class vocals,
musicianship and a multitude of solid gold hits, Blood Sweat & Tears is at the top of its game. Vocal dynamo and pop phenomenon Bo Bice fronts the band with a self-assured voice and good looks. Their top 40 hits include “You’ve Made Me So Very Happy,” “Spinning Wheel,” “When I Die,” “Hi-De-Ho,” “Lucretia Mac Evil,” “Go Down Gamblin” and “God Bless the Child.” The group has won gold records, Grammy Awards and, most important, the respect of the music industry and the love of millions of fans.

To have two legendary rock acts perform on the same evening at the festival is an amazing feat in and of itself,” said Belote. “We want Saturday night, Sept. 10, to be a memorable experience for the patrons of the festival. It will be a ‘wow’ evening.”

Three Dog Night, the legendary American rock band, will perform at 9 to cap a week of one of the strongest main stage lineups of performers in the 23-year history of the festival. Three Dog Night, now in its fourth decade, claims some of the most astonishing statistics in popular music. In the years 1969 through 1974, no other group achieved more top 10 hits, moved more records or sold more concert tickets than Three Dog Night.

With 21 consecutive Top 40 hits, including three No. 1 singles, 11 Top 10’s, 18 straight Top 20’s, seven million-selling singles and 12 straight RIAA Certified Gold LP’s, Three Dog Night is virtually unmatched in popular music. The band’s hits appeared on selling charts in all genres, including pop, rock and country. Its records continue to sell around the world, reaching beyond the borders of the U.S. into Japan, Canada, Holland, England, Germany, Spain and elsewhere. Tens of millions of Three Dog Night records have been sold through the years.

The Grammy-nominated band is not content resting on its legacy alone. Three Dog Night maintains an aggressive, year-round schedule of more than 70 dates a year. Since 1986, the band has performed over 2,200 shows, including two Super Bowls. Three Dog Night continues to grow its fan base and develop new ways of doing business, all the while keeping a full schedule of concerts at theaters, performing arts centers, fairs, festivals, corporate events and casinos.

In May, the Tennessee Legislature honored the legendary American rock band with Resolution HJR0597, which recognized Three Dog Night as a dynamic and inspirational musical group, along with applauding the band’s contributions to America’s cultural landscape. “They continue to impact music lovers young and old,” said Belote. “We have been making efforts for several years now to have Three Dog Night perform at the festival and for this year it all came together. It will be a great evening!”

Editor’s note: Linda Thurston is editor at The Weakley County Press in Martin.
Harper New Prevention Coalition Program Director

Suzanne Harper has joined the Weakley County Prevention Coalition as its new program director.

Harper earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing and management from the University of Tennessee at Martin. As former marketing specialist at the Weakley County Press, Harper comes to WCPC with extensive experience in marketing and public relations. She currently serves on a number of boards in the community, including Martin Business Association and the Tennessee Soybean Festival Planning Council. She is looking forward to using her combination of media experience, event planning and volunteer recruitment to expand awareness and connect with local residents, organizations and associations who share the common goal of building the Weakley County community into a healthier and safer place to live.

"I am very excited to take on this role and am looking forward to continuing the hard work of the Weakley County Prevention Coalition," said Harper. "The program has seen so much growth in recent years, thanks to successful leaders like Bethany Allen and other former directors. My goal is to continue the momentum and reach out to more community members to educate them on how they can get involved."

The WCPC's initiative is to bring the community together in an effort to strategically and comprehensively identify and address substance abuse in Weakley County, one of the largest issues facing the area today. Substance abuse is a contributing factor to the county's crime rate, and is also reported as a contributing factor to violence, higher health care premiums, child abuse/neglect, mental illness, and poverty.

"By continuing to provide training, education, and prevention programs across the county, I am confident that we can change the scope of substance abuse," Harper continued. "It starts with our youth. Real conversations about the dangers of substance abuse and strategic action to prevent it are essential to the success and vitality of the future of our community. Anyone and everyone wanting to help the cause is encouraged to get involved with WCPC. I'm calling all parents, business owners, community leaders and citizens to be a part of the solution. You are valuable; you can change lives."

Atnip Elected President Of Statewide Public Defender System

District Public Defender Joe Atnip was elected President of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference at its annual meeting. As president, Mr. Atnip will organize Conference committees, chair the meetings of the Conference and the Executive Committee, assist the Conference in its responsibility to advise the General Assembly on legislation to improve the criminal justice system, and, together with the Executive Committee, will supervise and direct the Office of the Executive Director of the District Public Defenders.

The Public Defenders Conference is the statewide system of elected public defenders from each judicial district. Public defenders represent those who are charged with crimes and cannot afford to hire an attorney. Mr. Atnip will lead the Public Defenders at a critical time, as more Tennesseans than ever -- due in part to a massive increase in prescription drug addiction -- face the prospect of involvement in our criminal justice system.

Mr. Atnip was elected District Public Defender for the 27th Judicial District (Obion and Weakley Counties) in 1990, and again in 1998, 2006, and 2014. He has held various offices within the Conference, and has served as Board Member of the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He is a U.S. Navy veteran. He has served as Municipal Court Judge of Greenfield and Sharon, and is a Rotarian and American Legionnaire. He is a graduate of UT Martin and Vanderbilt University School of Law. He lives on the family farm in the home built by his great great grandfather. He and his wife Kathy are the parents of Greenfield High School graduates Katie and Becky, and the grandparents of Lloyd and Dale.
Fuqua Completes Comprehensive Economic Development Training

Landy Fuqua, director of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) at the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center, graduated from the 10th Annual Tennessee Basic Economic Development Course (TBEDC) on May 5 in Nashville. Fuqua joined a class of 48 economic development professionals from eight different states.

TBEDC is a four-day course that serves as the foundation for the Tennessee Certified Economic Development training program administered by the University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services (UTCIS).

"This all-inclusive course helped broaden my knowledge of economic development and the available business resources in our state. The best practices learned from this course will be shared to encourage and cultivate economic growth for our clients and all of Northwest Tennessee," said Landy Fuqua.

$20,000 Funding
UT Martin Nursing Program Receives Scholarship Award

Genex Services, a provider of managed care clinical services, has awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Nursing $20,000 in scholarship funding through its fifth annual Case Manager Scholarship Program.

Each year, Genex Services asks case managers, supervisors and branch managers within the company to nominate nursing programs at colleges and universities which they believe deserve additional funding. Susie Moore, a 1987 UT Martin alumna, nominated the UT Martin program for the award.

"The Department of Nursing at UT Martin has a proud and successful history in nursing education," wrote Moore in her nomination letter. "I am very proud of my alma mater."

Five programs are selected each year, and the funds are intended to "recognize program alumni, strengthen awareness of the case management profession and invest in a new generation of graduates to fulfill a growing industry need." Genex Services focuses primarily on handling workers' compensation claims and managing the care of injured workers.

The UT Martin Department of Nursing's scholarship award committee will accept student applications in the fall semester, and awards will be announced in the spring for the upcoming 2017-18 academic year. Award criteria and amounts have yet to be determined.

"All college students can benefit from financial aid, of course, but nursing majors have the added expenses of uniforms, shoes, stethoscopes and other equipment, as well as travel to various clinical sites. This gift will be very beneficial in helping them cover these costs in addition to tuition and books," said Dr. Mary Radford, chair, UT Martin Department of Nursing.

Nursing program receives scholarship funding

Submitted Report
Contributor

Genex Services, a provider of managed care clinical services, awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Nursing $20,000 in scholarship funding through its fifth annual Case Manager Scholarship Program.

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Five programs are selected each year, and the funds are intended to "recognize program alumni, strengthen awareness of the case management profession and invest in a new generation of graduates to fulfill a growing industry need."

The UT Martin Department of Nursing's scholarship award committee will accept student applications in the fall semester, and awards will be announced in the spring for the upcoming 2017-18 academic year. Award criteria and amounts have yet to be determined.

For more information on the scholarship or to inquire about applications, contact Dr. Mary Radford, chair, UT Martin Department of Nursing at (731) 881-7140 or at marye@utm.edu.
Students invited to UT Martin end of summer bash

Submitted Report
Contributor

The University of Tennessee at Martin is throwing a party July 29, and high school students from all areas are invited.

The 2016 End of Summer Bash will begin with check-in at 1 p.m. in the Boling University Center, followed by an official welcome at 1:30 p.m. and campus tours at 2 p.m. Students who have already taken a campus tour are still invited to Recreation Rampage from 3 to 5 p.m. in the UT Martin Student Recreation Center.

Students and their families are invited to learn more about UT Martin programs of study; meet faculty, staff and current students; and participate in a variety of recreation activities.

Register at utm.edu/summerbash. There is no charge to attend.

For more information about UT Martin or the admissions process, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020.

Byford named to 4-H Hall of Fame

Dr. Jim Byford of Martin is one of 16 individuals selected to join the national 4-H Hall of Fame for his service and dedication to the organization. Byford is dean emeritus of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

Before beginning his career with UT Martin in 1987, Byford spent more than 20 years serving as an extension wildlife specialist in both Georgia and Tennessee. A certified wildlife biologist, he received a doctoral degree in wildlife from Auburn University and began working with the Georgia Extension soon after graduation.

Byford’s involvement with the national 4-H program, which in Tennessee teaches leadership, citizenship and life skills to more than 168,600 youth in grades 4-12, goes far beyond classroom instruction. During his 18-year tenure with UT Extension, Byford initiated the Tennessee 4-H Wildlife Project, which enrolls more than 30,000 members annually; the Tennessee 4-H Wildlife Judging Contest, which became a national event in 1988 and has been recognized as a national program of distinction.

Byford has given more than 60 invited presentations in 28 states, Ecuador and Japan over the past three decades, and is the author of a book titled “Close to the Land,” published by UT Press in 1999.

The National 4-H Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is scheduled to take place Oct. 7 at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Md.
End of Summer Bash set for July 29

The University of Tennessee at Martin is throwing a party July 29, and high school students from all areas are invited.

The 2016 End of Summer Bash will begin with check-in at 1 p.m. in the Boling University Center, followed by an official welcome at 1:30 and campus tours at 2.

Students who have already taken a campus tour are still invited to Recreation Rampage from 3-5 p.m. in the UTM Student Recreation Center.

Students and their families are invited to learn more about UTM programs of study; meet faculty, staff, and current students; and participate in a variety of recreation activities.

Join in the fun by registering at utm.edu/summerbash. There is no charge to attend.

For more information about UTM or the admissions process, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.

Bruceton UTM senior wins design contest

Every two years, the UT AgResearch and Education Center at Milan hosts the No-Till Field Day, one of the largest in the nation. This year, the UTM Department of Visual and Theater Arts held a design contest for seniors. The logo design by Kyle Birdwell, of Bruceton, will be featured on field day caps, while the logo by Kassie Hooks, of Fulton, Ky., will be on other materials.

"We like to give our students as much experience as possible. Having them compete for the design was a great opportunity," said Sarah Haig, assistant professor with UTM's Department of Visual and Theatre Arts. "As a student, it's always a moment of accomplishment when something you designed gets produced and is suddenly this 'real-world' thing that you can hold."

The Milan No-Till Field Day is Thursday, July 28 at the AgResearch Center. Gates open at 6 a.m. The event features 40 research presentations, an agricultural trade show, and the W. Tenn. Agricultural Museum. For more information, visit milan.tennessee.edu or call 731-686-7362.

WINNING DESIGNS - UTM Assistant Professor Sarah Haig coached two students to winning designs for this year's No-Till Field Day. Senior Kyle Birdwell, of Bruceton, was one of the winners.

UT Martin’s End Of Summer Bash

The University of Tennessee at Martin is throwing a party July 29th with high school students from all areas invited.

The 2016 End of Summer Bash will begin with check-in at 1 p.m. in the Boling University Center, followed by an official welcome at 1:30 p.m. and campus tours at 2 p.m. Students who have already taken a campus tour are still invited to Recreation Rampage from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. in the UT Martin Student Recreation Center.

Students and their families are invited to learn more about UT Martin programs of study; meet faculty, staff and current students; and participate in a variety of recreation activities. There is no charge to attend.

For more information about UT Martin or the admissions process, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.
Mayors Holden, Young graduate from Weststar Leadership Program

MARTIN, Tenn. – John Holden and Chris Young, both of Dyer County, graduated as members of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 2016 class during a ceremony held June 22 in Jackson.

Holden has served as mayor of Dyersburg since 2006. In 1994, he was elected to the Dyer County Legislative Body and served for 12 years, including three years as budget committee chairman and seven years as education committee chairman.

Young is the mayor of Dyer County. He also served as mayor of Trimble from 1989-2001, Dyer County commissioner from 2001-06 and Trimble alderman from 1979-82 and 1985-89. Young is a graduate of the 1991 Dyer County Leadership class.

The WestStar Leadership Program, created in 1989, is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program. Boasting 768 graduates, WestStar continues to serve West Tennessee by offering leadership development and education for selected participants. The 2016 class is the 27th in program history.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or by email at vgrimes@utm.edu.

UTM dean chosen for Hall of Fame

Dr. Jim Byford, dean emeritus at the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, is one of 16 people joining the national 4-H Hall of Fame for service and dedication to the organization, the school announced in a press release.

In 18 years with UT Extension, Byford initiated the Tennessee 4-H Wildlife Project, the Tennessee 4-H Wildlife Judging Contest, and the Tennessee 4-H FACE (Food and Cover Establishment) Content, which allows members to grow a wildlife food plot.

Byford started with UT Martin in 1987 and spent more than 20 years serving as an extension wildlife specialist in both Georgia and Tennessee. He is a certified wildlife biologist.

The 4-H program teaches leadership, citizenship and life skills to more than 168,000 Tennessee youth in grades 4 through 12, according to the release.

The National 4-H Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be Oct. 7 at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland.
UTM grads design
Milan No-Till logos

UTM Department of Visual and Theater Arts suggested an logo design contest. Kyle Birdwell, of Bruceton, and Kassie Hooks, of Fulton, Ky., were the winners.

Birdwell's logo will be featured on the field day caps and Hooks' will be used on all other materials. They both graduated in May.

The release said Blake Brown, center director with the AgResearch Center, was "blown away" by the quality of work submitted and said choosing winners was tough.

"I thought Kassie's design looked very professional and her illustrations clearly communicated what the Milan No-Till Field Day is all about," he said. "Kyle's use of colors and text was clean and functional, making his design a great fit for the caps worn by all field day personnel."

UTM assistant professor Sarah Haig was impressed by the variety and quality of the designs students submitted. "As a student, it's always a moment of accomplishment when something you designed gets produced and is suddenly this real-world thing that you can hold," she said. "I think it was a great opportunity for them, and we would love to do something like this again in the future."

The Milan No-Till Field Day is Thursday at the AgResearch Center. Gates open at 6 a.m. and the field day features 40 research presentations, an extensive agricultural trade show and the West Tennessee Agricultural Museum, according to the release. For information, visit milan.tennessee.edu or call (731) 686-7362.

See Logos, Page 4A
WESTSTAR GRAD - Art Sparks (left) of Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC in Obion County graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program as part of the 2016 class during a ceremony held June 22 in Jackson. Joining Sparks were (continuing from left) state Rep. Jimmy Eldridge (R-District 73) and state Rep. David Byrd (R-District 71). The WestStar Leadership Program, now in its 28th year, is the largest and oldest regional leadership program and has graduated 768 alumni to date.

WESTSTAR GRADUATE - Greg Dozier (center), business development manager with Leaders Credit Union in Obion County, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program as part of the 2016 class during a ceremony held June 22 in Jackson. He is pictured with his wife, Dr. Selena Dozier and Spencer Pratt, executive vice president of Leaders Credit Union in Jackson. The WestStar Leadership Program, now in its 28th year, is the largest and oldest regional leadership program and has graduated 768 alumni to date.
CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. – The Kiwanis Club of Clarksville (Downtown) recently awarded their annual $2,000 scholarship to Evelyn Turner.

Turner is a recent graduate of Clarksville Academy, with plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin in August. Turner was a member of the Clarksville Academy Key Club, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Clarksville (Downtown). She was selected for her outstanding academic achievement and civic involvement during her high school career.

“Evelyn is very civic-minded and passionate about giving back to her community. We are pleased to be able to support her as she enters college and wish her much success in her college career,” Downtown Kiwanis President Phillip Tucker said.
Gov. Haslam presents $1.125M for Fayette Co. UT Martin Center

Published: Tuesday, July 26th, 2016, 10:43 pm CDT
Updated: Wednesday, July 27th, 2016, 12:48 am CDT
By Amelia Carlson

SOMERVILLE, TN (WMC) - It was a welcomed day for residents of Fayette County as leaders in Somerville made a giant leap into filling the empty building that was once the home of Methodist Hospital.

After the hospital closed at the end of March of last year, the building has sat empty. But, plans were put into motion to ensure it did not remain that way for long.

Methodist donated the building to the town of Somerville in July of last year, just months after closing the hospital, in order for it to be renovated into the University of Tennessee Martin "Somerville Center". In addition, Methodist took it another step and donated $250,000. It was a donation that was matched by the Town of Somerville's Board of Mayor and Aldermen as well as the Fayette County Commission, giving a total of $750,000.

The UT Foundation raised another $125,000 from interested citizens and the State of Tennessee matched all local donations, in addition to $250,000 recurring funds, allowing Governor Bill Haslam to present a check for $1.125M Tuesday for the center.

It's something that state leaders are calling a 'game changer'.

"The presence of this facility in our community is a game changer. We are grateful for the governor's support as well as the legislators in this endeavor," State Senator Dolores Gresham said.

State Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris praised the opportunities the center will bring to the students in the area.

"The Somerville Center will bring the opportunity for higher education home for our students," Norris said. "Many of today's students cannot afford to travel very far from home for a degree. Now, those limitations have been removed and their opportunity for higher education and greater success has been paved. This campus will help lessen the distance and lower the barriers to academic success and lifetime achievement."

UT Martin will operate the Somerville Center similar to its already functioning sites in Ripley, Jackson, Selmer, and Parsons.

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The McKenzie Banner • McKenzie, Tennessee • Tuesday, July 26, 2016 • www.mckenziebanner.com

Local Resident Graduates from WestStar Leadership Program

MARTIN — Dr. Brock Martin of Carroll County graduated as a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 2016 class during a ceremony held June 22 in Jackson.

Martin is the owner of Southern Chiropractic and Acupuncture in Huntingdon and has also successfully completed both the Henry and Carroll County leadership programs.

The WestStar Leadership Program, created in 1989, is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership program. Boasting 788 graduates, WestStar continues to serve West Tennessee by offering leadership development and education for selected participants. The 2016 class is the 27th in program history.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-981-7298 or by email at vgrimes@utm.edu.
Colby Elliott, 10, builds a robot at the robotics camp Monday afternoon at the University of Tennessee at Martin Extension Center.
TIFFANY DAWSON
CONTACTS@JACKSONSUN.COM

Kids can do more than just play with robots. They can build them and program them, according to volunteers helping with a robotics camp at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

On Monday, 24 five- to 14-year-olds at the UT Martin Jackson Center built robotic vehicles they will spend the next days programming to drive, stop, turn, dance, run mazes, go in different directions, and travel at various speeds.

On Friday, the campers will program the robots to fight and knock down other robots for their "sumobots" game, said teacher's helper Micah Valdivia, who took the class two years ago.

In teams of two, the five- to seven-year-olds program robots using Lego WeDo software and eight- to 14-year-olds use Lego Mindstorms Education NXT Software. The robots have some parts made of Lego pieces.

The robots have motors to run the wheels and arms and ultrasonic, sound, pressure, and light and dark sensors, said volunteer teacher James Swanger.

They test the robots and program them from scratch to react to sensors and perform step-by-step tasks, Swanger said. "The programming we use can be applied to any computer," he said.

The kids are excited about building the robots and battling them, student worker Melody Pafford said.

They learn teamwork, how things work, and "how to readjust mechanics to make things work better," said assistant Stacie Carr.

The camp emphasizes problem solving, logical thinking, and engineering, Swanger said.

They learn by trial and error and are introduced to the STEM fields, said Debbie Mount, UT Martin director of non-degree programs. There is "lots of hands-on learning that they don't even know they're learning," she said.

Swanger gives the campers certificates at the end of the week. Four NXT campers have already taken the camp and he gives them more advanced tasks to work on.

They also work with extension kits, Mount said.

Swanger heard about robotics camp when his son took it last year, he said, and he knew it was a good camp when his son said he wanted to go back. It's a big deal for parents to see their kids get excited about math and science, he said.

Swanger's 6-year-old daughter took WeDo camp this summer. He always has a couple of girls in his class and they are usually as good as boys, he said.

The camp is helpful if you go into robotics later in life, Valdivia said, and it teaches kids how to follow instructions.

Elijah Foster, 11, is taking the class for the second time this summer, he said. He took a Lego Mindstorms EV3 Software course at Union University and has both EV3 and NXT software at home, so he attended the camp to learn NXT.

Foster's partner, Colby Elliott, 10, is taking it for the third time, Elliott said.

Jack Moore, 11, is taking the class for the second time and enjoys the engineering and robotics, he said. This year he wants to make his robot claw and climb hills.

The camp costs $155 per student, and the kids cannot take home the kits because they are expensive.

The robots are disassembled after every camp and used again, Mount said.

This is UT Martin's third year holding robotics camp, and they receive a lot of compliments from parents, Mount said.

There will be two three-hour robotics sessions on with a "Mars Mission" theme on Nov. 19 and Dec. 10, Mount said. Anyone interested in registering can call (731) 881-7082.

Drake Wallace, 10, puts an arm on his robot at the robotics camp Monday at the University of Tennessee at Martin Extension Center.
Pokemon Go drawing many university players

THE WITCHING HOUR — UTM Students gather each night to play Pokemon Go, even as the midnight hour approaches. The smartphone version allows students to search for characters using GPS. Popular gathering spots are outside the Paul Meek Library and outside the Kuszcon and Tim Sam Center.

POCKET MONSTERS WANTED — UTM students Miguel Gutierrez (left) and Charlie Reid share their Pokemon adventures as they searched for pocket monsters while playing the popular Pokemon Go game.

Photo by Jesse Kellum
By JESSE KELLUM
MTSU/Seigenthaler News Service

Prior to July 6, you probably would’ve seen summer session students trudging back to their cars or dorms, backpacks slung across their backs, after a hard day of studying. A jogger or two may have appeared.

On July 6, all of that changed, for the time being anyway, when a new installment of the popular “Pokemon” game was released on iPhone and Android and now college campuses, including the University of Tennessee at Martin, are lit up with students trying to catch their own Snorlax or Pikachu or Squirtle and become the best Pokemon trainer on the planet.

“Virtual and augmented reality are just super cool,” says Matthew Adams, a senior geology major, who was on campus last week trying to round up the digitized monsters that suddenly appear on your phone as you enter their “territory.”

“I’ve definitely walked more in the past week than I have in a long time.”

The evening seems to be prime Pokemon time at UTM. According to the university’s website, the campus is home to two “Pokemon gyms,” where players can meet to battle their online pets. The “Friends” statue outside the Paul Meek Library is one spot. The “Coaches” statue outside the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center is the second. The campus also hosts a variety of “Pokestops,” where Pokemon players often congregate.

College students have a connection with the Pokemon brand. The first Pokemon games released in the United States, Pokemon Red and Blue, were introduced to American kids in September 1998 on the Nintendo Gameboy.

Kids could spend hours looking for Pokemon, short for Pocket Monsters, in the mythical Kanto Region before, during, and after school. The brand blew up instantly, Kids begged their parents for the latest Pokemon merchandise including shirts, hats, figurines, and, of course, the famous trading cards. They couldn’t get enough of it.

Pokemon grew into a worldwide phenomenon that grabbed at every kid’s attention and every parent’s wallet. Despite the fact that these kids are now grown, they have been thrown back into a Pokemon frenzy with the release of the free cellular game.

The new game, Pokemon Go, is proving revolutionary. It’s the first to use augmented reality to connect players in the real world with digitized characters that can appear almost anywhere the player goes. Instead of sitting in a chair in the dark, the only light in the room coming from a handheld Nintendo console, players now interact with the physical world.

The game works with augmented reality and GPS to allow the user to traverse their cities in search of the fictitious monsters and compete with each other to see who can catch the most and the rarest Pokemon.

It’s hard to predict how long this game will last. Most games on the Apple app store have a lifespan of only a year or two, if they’re lucky, before people move onto the next new, viral game. Pokemon’s reputation could yield a longer lifespan than most but it’s possible that by this time next year people will already be looking back on it with nostalgia.

“I think when it gets cold it’s going to die down,” Cheyenne Mason, an education major at UTM says.

Since the game relies on the player’s day-to-day movement it’s very possible that it will lose momentum in the winter months. That downtime could end up killing the game for a lot of people, especially people who live in places that receive heavy snowfall like Ohio or Wisconsin. It’s difficult to know whether people will pick the game back up next spring.

Another issue that could lead to the game’s demise is its hierarchy of levels. Obviously, the more that you play the game, the more experience points you earn, and the more you move up in levels. Players who do not play the game as religiously as others could be put at a major disadvantage because the games combat mechanics rely on high-level Pokemon.

Another UTM student, Charlie Reid, believes that some players may begin to feel underpowered and say, “I can’t compete with that, there’s no way. I started too late.”

Charlie believes that Nintendo will add and change things about the game in the future to give newer players a better chance at competing with Pokemon trainers that have been with the game since day one.

All of the potential downfalls to the game have not detracted people from downloading and playing.

As of July 11, the game had over 21 million active members playing the game daily, according to a study conducted by Survey Monkey. Nintendo has cashed in on the success of the game as well with its stock value growing $9.3 billion dollars in the first week alone.

Already, some museums and office buildings have asked players not to play Pokemon Go in their locales.

The UT Martin Department of Public Safety urges players to be safe in their pursuit of the digital monsters. On the university’s website, “Pokemon Go” players are advised to always be aware of their surroundings while playing and to use common sense when chasing Pokemon characters into dark areas.

And, the press release states: “Players should also never enter areas where university livestock are kept.”

Enough said about that.

Jesse Kellum is a journalism major at Middle Tennessee State University. Fellow journalism major Sara Snoddy contributed to this report. Both were part of a group of students who recently spent a week in Martin writing stories for the Press.
Hunter Hayes to perform at Tennessee Soybean Festival

An award-winning performer whose reputation for live shows is “a wild, no-holds-barred vision put into action” will be taking over the stage at the Tennessee Soybean Festival 2016.

He will perform Sept. 5 at 9 p.m. at Festival Park.

Listen closely to Hunter Hayes as he talks, that million-mile-an-hour voice, all rapid-fire energy and bustling passion. Not long ago he released his second album, the country chart-topping Storyline. But the 22-year-old, mind always churning, ideas jettisoning from brain to hand and voice, can’t help but wonder what lies ahead.

“I’m on an unending search to find what it is that I love and how it is that I will do it,” he says of the wide-open, all-options future for a four-time Grammy nominee, CMA New Artist of the Year and youngest male act ever to top the Billboard Hot Country song chart. “How am I going to achieve getting the sounds that I love? What is it that I can’t resist?”

The wonder of a talent like Hayes is that even when he has a rare moment of reprieve from the mayhem of touring the world on a solo jaunt, breaking the Guinness Book of World Records’ mark for most concerts in a 24-hour period or, say, performing at the Grammy Awards, he’s focused on his craft.

“I should be fatigued of writing,” he admits. “But I have written easily a third of whatever my next project is. It’s more of a daily circle now,” he explains of his omnipresent muse. “Maybe the next record will have no delays, no reverb, no big drum sound, and no stacked overdubbed guitar sound? Maybe it’s just me with a Telecaster? Maybe I get rid of all my other guitars, hide them so I’m not tempted to try them, and I just have to make it work with this one guitar? Maybe that’s what I’m looking for?”

If anything, Hayes has learned to let go. He’s still, as he says, “wound really tight,” but as the multi-instrumentalist’s journey – and outsize popularity – has exploded since his wise-beyond-his-years 2011 self-titled debut album, the Breaux Bridge, Louisiana-native has steadily been on a quest to self-evolve alongside his artistic output. Why be in the business of creation, he believes, if you, the person people are eager to know and love; is hiding in plain sight?

“I’ve been shy. I’ve been quiet,” he admits. “I’ve kept to myself. Because in a lot of ways, that’s who I am. I can talk about anything as long as I feel like I’m comfortable. If I’m nervous in any way, shape or form, I’m very careful. That’s something that has actually hurt me more than helped me. Because the less I talk, the less people know who I am, the more I sort of hide. I’ve just been

SEE HAYES,

Page 8
Hayes,
From Page 1
afraid of saying the wrong thing or doing the wrong thing or leaving the wrong impression. But what I've realized is not leaving an impression at all is worse. It's even less productive.

Change for Hayes isn't easy. He's admittedly longed for control in his day-to-day life - whether that includes crafting a new album, dreaming up new melodies, or simply making sure he finds time to snap groceries in between vinyl and mandolin shopping. Hayes is learning to fly by the seat of his pants.

"I've had to let go of being a routine person," he continues. "We have this saying in the band, 'Do it Live.' It's how we live our lives: you do it live, you figure it out. I have to be brave enough as a person to live the way I make my music."

It's easy to look at Hayes and marvel at his oft-recounted successes: releasing his first guitar from actor Robert Duvall at age six; performing for the President the following year; signing with Atlantic Nashville Records at age 18; touring as a support act for Taylor Swift and Carrie Underwood not long after. It's all there for the world to see. Hayes wanted more.

"Dude, I had it good!" he says of opening for the two female country superstars. "I could not sit here and think that happens every day by any means. Trust me, I thank my lucky stars! But it said a lot about my heart when, even with all that, I was still pounding on the table fighting to get more than 40 minutes and a backdrop. I wanted to put on a show."

Hayes' hardscrabble mentality translated into this past year's monumental "We're Not Invisible" headlining tour, a dream realized for a musician whose concept for the massive live outing was utterly visceral.

"I wanted production. I didn't want just lights and a video screen," he explains, his voice speeding up with excitement as he recalls his vision for a live show. "I wanted more than that. I wanted my fans to experience more of a show. I wanted new arrangements; I wanted surprises. I wanted stuff that just catches everybody by surprise. I wanted a part of the show to be unplanned. I wanted energy. I wanted to be able to run around a stage, jumping up and down. I wanted to be a mix between Chris Martin, Garth Brooks and Michael Bublé."

If Hayes' live show is a wild, no-holds-barred vision put into action, Storyline is its logical predecessor. Expertly crafted yet cut with a free-flowing spirit where all ideas are worth exploring, the 14-track affair showcases Hayes' diversity and uncovering commitment to not staying the course. When posited against his debut album, Hayes views Storyline as the "person your parents saw coming home from college after a year."

"My only agenda was just to make sure I wasn't bound by repeating history, that I wasn't locked into doing what I've already done," he says. "I wanted a record that was diverse and different and had a little bit of everything."

And so on an album as equally influenced by Fleetwood Mac as Nickel Creek, there's the harmony-drenched, whiplash "Tattoo" and the foot-stomping "Wild Card" sharing space with more tender offerings like "Invisible" and "Still Fallin.'" It's his duty, Hayes says, to continue to make music he's proud of.

"My job is to find my sound based on the things that inspire me," he says. "It's not about intentionally having this or that or the other. My job is to find my own sound and bring my love for country music and country songwriting and storytelling and musically introduce it in a way that sounds like me."

"I just want people to know me," Hayes says, taking a deep breath as he looks into the crystal ball he calls his unpredictable life. "Having someone care about what you're saying is a groundbreaking feeling. That is a beautiful, life-changing experience every time. You don't get used to that."
Somerville leaders raise $1.125 million for UT Martin center


SOMERVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Leaders in Fayette County have raised $1.125 million for the development of an educational outreach center in Somerville that will be operated by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

WMC-TV reports that Gov. Bill Haslam presented a $1.125 million check for the center on Tuesday after money was raised by Methodist Hospital, Somerville’s Board of Mayor and Aldermen, the Fayette County Commission and the University of Tennessee Foundation.

The center is currently an empty building that was once the home of Methodist Hospital. The building was donated to Somerville last year to be renovated.

State Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris says the Somerville Center will bring higher education opportunities to students in the area.

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http://www.wbbjtv.com/
GETTING QUIZZED — A team from South Fulton High School won second place in the Spanish language and culture quiz bowl competition at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Modern Foreign Language High School Day during the spring semester. High school students from across the region used their foreign language skills and cultural knowledge to compete in a variety of Spanish and French competitions, including cooking, poster and quiz bowl contests. Among those involved in the quiz competition were (from left) Dr. Randy Garza, UT Martin professor of Spanish; Kimberly Jackson, South Fulton High School Spanish teacher; SFHS team members Carly Robertson, Breeanna Clark, Payton Allen and Owain Balance; and Dr. Anton Garcia-Fernandez, UT Martin assistant professor of Spanish.

Several Obion County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-17 year.

The local recipients include:
• Tyler Bolton of Union City, son of Theresa Bumpus and Steve Bolton, who will be a junior. He received the Elam Transfer Scholarship.
• Emma Bruner, daughter of Keven and Michelle Bruner of Martin, who will be a freshman. She received the Chancellor’s Award.
• Mason Todd Chandler, son of Todd and Jennifer Chandler of Kenton, who will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor’s Award.
• Jennifer Del-Castillo of Union City, daughter of James and Cindy Watkins, who will be a senior. She received the Elam Transfer Achieve Scholarship.
• Andrew Sean Kinney, son of Candi Kinney of South Fulton, who will be a freshman. He received the Achieve Scholarship.
• Jilann Fisher, daughter of Rafael Rico and Maria Montoya of Union City, who will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship.
• Kendall Speed, daughter of Brian and Yonna Speed of Union City, who will be a freshman. She received the Dean’s Scholarship.
• Zackary Williamson, son of Jim and Amy Williamson of Union City, who will be a freshman. He received the J. Harbert Bennett Scholarship.
• Kendra Young, daughter of Rozelle and Janet Dotstry of Union City, who will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship and the Harold Conner Scholarship.
Somerville leaders raise $1.125 million for UT Martin center

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By The Associated Press  |  Posted Jul 27th, 2016  @ 4:20am

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https://www.ksl.com/
"Soar in Four" costs online students more

Online University of Tennessee at Martin students will see a 2.2 percent increase in our fees for undergraduate students and a 3 percent increase for graduate.

As part of a new initiative, "Soar in Four," the university is working to promote completing degrees in four years to help students avoid an average of $8,735 in debt for the fifth year of schooling.

The new model encourages 15 semester hours per semester and will fund new initiatives beneficial to student success, including an upgraded Career Development and Internship Center.

UT Martin's Student Government Association, which used student input to decide investment commitments for the new funds supports the new tuition model.

Other improvements include new faculty positions to meet scheduling bottlenecks and gateway courses, new degree auditing and planning software, new living-learning communities, and increased tutoring and advising.

The new tuition structure immediately impacts 36 percent of UT Martin students and will be phased in from fall 2016 through summer 2020, at which point 78 percent of students will be affected. The amount of tuition paid will be based on academic hours already earned by a current student.

Most students will enter the university under the new tuition structure and pay a $3,840 flat per-semester rate, plus mandatory fees as full-time students. Part-time and online students will remain on the traditional per-hour model. UT Martin does not charge for enrolled hours above 12, which is the threshold for full-time students for financial aid, tuition and fee purposes.

Mandatory fees at the university will not increase this academic year. Additionally, the university is reducing the overall residential housing rates and increasing private scholarship assistance.

For freshmen attending UT Martin this fall, a final Summer Orientation and Registration session is set July 15 Fall semester classes begin August 22.

Local resident graduates from WestStar Leadership Program

Ross Mitchell is pictured with (from left) Sen. Dolores Gresham (R-Dist. 26) and Molly McCarley, Tennessee Career Center, Somerville.

Local resident graduates from WestStar Leadership Program

By Erin Chesnut
UT Martin Staff Writer

Ross Mitchell, Attorney at Law, PLLC, in McNairy County, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program as part of the 2016 class during a ceremony held June 22 in Jackson.

The WestStar Leadership Program, now in its 28th year, is the largest and oldest regional leadership program and has graduated 768 alumni to date.
Martin, UTM Police Departments Participate In Active Shooter Training

On July 19, 2016, officers with the Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin Police Departments participated in training which has become extremely important to law enforcement across the United States.

According to Martin Police Captain Phillip Fuqua, the officers trained at Martin Elementary School on the proper tactical methods in the event that there is an active shooter on campus.

An active shooter is defined as “an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a concentrated and populated area.”

The training gives the officers the ability to become familiar with the layout of the school and to train on various shooting scenarios to prepare them for any incident that might occur. It was also a great opportunity for the two agencies to work together as one team to accomplish a common goal.

The training was part of an eight-hour training session, during which the officers were all recertified with Tasers and OC spray, Fuqua stated.

Byford Selected For 4-H Hall Of Fame

Dr. Jim Byford, of Martin, is one of 16 individuals selected to join the national 4-H Hall of Fame for his service and dedication to the organization. Byford is dean emeritus of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

Before beginning his career with UT Martin in 1987, Byford spent more than 20 years serving as an extension wildlife specialist in both Georgia and Tennessee. A certified wildlife biologist, he received a doctoral degree in wildlife from Auburn University and began working with the Georgia Extension soon after graduation.

Byford’s involvement with the national 4-H program, which in Tennessee teaches leadership, citizenship and life skills to more than 168,000 youth in grades 4-12, goes far beyond classroom instruction. During his 18-year tenure with UT Extension, Byford initiated the Tennessee 4-H Wildlife Project, which enrolls more than 30,000 members annually; the Tennessee 4-H Wildlife Judging Contest, which became a national event in 1988 and has been recognized as a national program of distinction; and the Tennessee 4-H FACE (Food and Cover Establishment) Contest, which allows members to grow a wildlife food plot.

He also started the Tennessee 4-H Wildlife Conference, which lasted more than 35 years and was the longest-running conservation camp in the nation, and initiated the first Southern Region 4-H Wildlife Volunteer Leader Conference.

He has participated in more than 20 other state, regional and national 4-H conferences and was awarded the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents’ Distinguished Service Award in 1979.

During his 23-year tenure with UT Martin, Byford worked to ensure that 4-H members and organization events were always welcome at the university. He served as adviser and mentor to the UT Martin chapter of the Collegiate 4-H Club and often assisted with State 4-H Roundup events. He received the prestigious State Friend of 4-H Award in 2011 during the 64th annual Tennessee 4-H Congress.

Byford has given more than 60 invited presentations in 28 states, Ecuador and Japan over the past three decades, and is the author of a book titled “Close to the Land,” published by UT Press in 1999.

The National 4-H Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is scheduled to take place Oct. 7 at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Md.
Locals Graduate WestStar Leadership Program

Several residents of Henry and Weakley counties graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program as part of the 2016 class during a ceremony held June 22 in Jackson. Pictured (l-r) are graduates Donna Craig, Henry County clerk; Kelly Codega, director of marketing/communication and physician services, Baptist Medical Groups and Baptist Cancer Centers; and Shawn Francisco, head of finance, Kayser Automotive Systems. They are pictured with Elizabeth Francisco, a current UT Martin student and Ned Ray McWherter Innovator. Not pictured are Tommy Legins, executive vice president and chief financial officer, Savant Learning Systems Inc., and Elizabeth Pritchett, director of sales and marketing at Center Point Business Solutions. The WestStar Leadership Program, now in its 28th year, is the largest and oldest regional leadership program and has graduated 768 alumni to date.

Students Invited To UTM Summer Bash Party

The University of Tennessee at Martin is throwing a party July 29, and high school students from all areas are invited. The 2016 End of Summer Bash will begin with check-in at 1 p.m. in the Boling University Center, followed by an official welcome at 1:30 and campus tours at 2. Students who have already taken a campus tour are still invited to Recreation Rampage from 3-5 p.m. in the UT Martin Student Recreation Center. Students and their families are invited to learn more about UT Martin programs of study; meet faculty, staff and current students; and participate in a variety of recreation activities. Join in the fun by registering at utm.edu/summerbash. There is no charge to attend.
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The building was donated to Somerville last year to be renovated.

State Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris says the Somerville Center will bring higher education opportunities to students in the area.
Tennessee Soybean Festival

to charge for main events

By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

For the first time in its 23-year history, the Tennessee Soybean Festival is charging admission to its major musical events, much to the chagrin of many locals.

“We have labored over this move,” said Event Director David Belote.

As the festival grows each year, and as the entertainment gets better, Belote said it’s a “constant battle” over the resources needed.

Traditionally the festival has been funded through sponsorships and donations, but each year more events are added, and the same resources are being tapped repeatedly.

The main reason Belote said tickets are being sold is to improve the entertainment offered. The more popular the entertainer, and the more current he/she is, the higher the cost is to hire the entertainer.

“Our goal is to make for a better festival,” Belote said.

While many communities that stage similar activities have a contained space and can charge an entry fee for all events, the Tennessee Soybean Festival activities are spread far and wide, and most of them are still free.

Two music performances, the Fireworks Show with John-Denver-tribute performer Chris Collins, and the Faith & Community Night with Travis Cottrell, are both free, as are some very popular events such as the All-American Lumberjack Show, Cowtown USA and Panfilov’s Performing Pets, all of which will stage multiple performances for several days. The award-winning Magical Martin Day is also free.

SEE FESTIVAL, PAGE 10
Martin resident receives promotion

Jordan Long has been promoted to the Speaker of the Senate and Lieutenant Governor of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature.

Long is a political science major at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He has lived in Martin his entire life. He was a senator and committee vice-chair at the 46th General Assembly, and he was elected Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate on Nov. 14, 2015. He is moving up to fill the vacancy of Lieutenant Governor/ Speaker of the Senate pursuant to Article 5 section 9 of the Constitution of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature.

Long was the author of TISL Bill 43, which became HB2487 and SB2179 when it was introduced into the Tennessee General Assembly. The bill is to be reconsidered when the General Assembly reconvenes.

He is on track to graduate in three years. After college, he wants to attend law school to become a malpractice attorney. He plans on becoming a member of the Tennessee General Assembly in the next few years.

JORDAN LONG
He is the owner of Blue Collar Creative, a web design and marketing firm based in Martin.
He is the campaign manager for Bennie Castleman for House of Representatives.

New scholarships available at UTM Parsons Center

The Parsons/Decatur County Higher Education Foundation will finance a variety of new scholarships for students attending the University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center in the upcoming academic year.

All new freshmen who qualify to receive the Tennessee Hope Lottery Scholarship will also receive the new Kickstart Scholarship, an additional $500 over the course of the year, if they maintain a 2.75 GPA. The Parsons Reconnect Scholarship will be awarded to all new students over 25 years of age who begin a degree program at UTM Parsons Center in the fall. Students will receive $600 over the course of the year as part of this award.

Students who are already enrolled at UTM Parsons Center and have served at least one year as a student ambassador can be considered for a Dr. Kellie Deere Leadership Scholarship. Students must have a 3.0 GPA to qualify. Two $5,000 scholarships will be awarded in the 2016-17 academic year.

All students who qualify for these scholarships will be automatically considered for these awards, there is no need to submit an application. For more information, contact UTM Parsons Center Director Dr. Kellie Deere at 731-847-3880 or kdeere@utm.edu.
Agricultural Finance Conference

The 16th annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Wednesday in the Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Seats are still available, so submit registration materials as soon as possible.

The conference, a service of the UT Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, is designed to serve the lender-producer team by providing the most up-to-date and relevant information needed to grow farm operations’ bottom lines. Agricultural lenders, farmers, producers and farm-related business owners are encouraged to attend.

The conference will begin with check-in and a continental breakfast at 8 a.m., with the official welcome at 8:20 a.m. Four speaker sessions will focus on success in the economic reset, traits of top managers, agricultural policy issues, and commodity prices and marketing trends. A luncheon is included in the price of registration.

Dr. David Kohl, professor emeritus, Virginia Tech; Dr. Matthew Brock, owner and president, Brock Associates, will serve as session speakers.

Registration is $150 for lenders and agricultural service providers, $75 for farmers and producers, and $25 for students and spouses. Registration forms can be found at utm.edu/department/cbg/utconference/registration.php and should be faxed to (731) 881-7323. Payment will be taken at the door.

For more information or help with registration, contact Jennifer Schlicht at jschlicht@utm.edu or call (731) 881-7324.

Briefly

Continued from Page 1B

Roberts, associate professor, Ohio State; Dr. Bob Young, chief economist, American Farm Bureau; and Richard Hill, professor of music and director of percussion studies at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will serve as principal percussionist with the Paducah Symphony, beginning with the 2016-17 concert season.

Hill, who began her career with UT Martin in 2005, will occupy the orchestra's Bill Ford seat, named for one of the symphony's benefactors.

Hill named to symphony position

Julie Hill, professor of music and director of percussion studies at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will serve as principal percussionist with the Paducah Symphony, beginning with the 2016-17 concert season.

Hill, who began her career with UT Martin in 2005, will occupy the orchestra's Bill Ford seat, named for one of the symphony's benefactors.

"My role is to help facilitate great music by the percussion section as a whole, so we can continue to support the symphony to the best of our abilities," she said.

"I'll be responsible for assigning parts to each section member and for maintaining our percussion instruments." Hill received a bachelor’s degree in music education from UT Martin before earning a master’s degree from Arizona State University and a doctorate from the University of Kentucky.

She is currently a member of several ensemble groups, including the Caixa Trio and X-4 Percussion Quartet, both of which have performed across the country and internationally.
Chesapeake man was tortured and killed by Houthi rebels in Yemen, federal lawsuit says

By Brock Vergakis
The Virginian-Pilot

Jul 29, 2016

CHESAPEAKE

Houthi rebels tortured and killed a Chesapeake man in Yemen last year after detaining and accusing him and another American contractor of being spies after they arrived in the war-torn country on a United Nations plane, according to a federal lawsuit by the men’s families.

The complaint filed this month in Washington accuses the Syrian and Iranian governments of sponsoring terrorism by providing material support to the Houthis, a Shiite rebel group.

The court document provides the first detailed account of John Hamen’s capture and death, which first was made public in November when his wife posted on Facebook that the Army veteran and father of seven had died in captivity within weeks of arriving in the Middle Eastern country as a State Department contractor.

At the time, the Houthis still held the other contractor and the State Department and United Nations were saying little about why the men were arrested at the Sanaa airport Oct. 20 and what happened to them. The other contractor – Mark McAlister of Greenfield, Tenn. – was released into U.S. custody in April.

The lawsuit contends that Hamen and McAlister were imprisoned to compel Saudi Arabia to stop bombing Yemen or to use the men as a negotiating tactic to secure the release of other combatants. The lawsuit says all efforts to secure Hamen’s release through hostage negotiations were “fruitless.”

The Houthis took Hamen’s body to a local hospital Nov. 6, then transferred it to the U.S. embassy in Oman where he was identified by his tattoos, the lawsuit says. State Department officials told Hamen’s wife the Houthis found her husband dead in his room.

But an autopsy performed at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware concluded the cause of death was asphyxia and the manner of death was homicide, the lawsuit says. The autopsy noted that Hamen had sizable lacerations on his head, fractured right ribs and many abrasions and contusions.

“The primary evidence of torture is from John Hamen’s autopsy,” Randy Singer, a Virginia Beach attorney representing the Hamen and McAlister families, said in an email. “Although Mark McAlister did not witness the physical torture of John, since they were separated soon after they were taken hostage, his testimony of the conditions, and of what he does know about John’s captivity, is consistent with the autopsy report.”

The lawsuit says their captors separated McAlister and Hamen within hours after they were detained. The Houthis extensively searched the equipment and computers of both men looking for evidence of espionage, but found none, according to Singer.

McAlister was kept in inhumane conditions for the duration of his captivity, with no contact with anyone other than his captors who interrogated him for hours each night, the lawsuit says. He was locked in a 12-by-9½-foot concrete cell with no light and a hole in the floor for a toilet. The Houthis allowed McAlister to go outside to the prison yard three times during his captivity – the only times he saw sunlight.

The lawsuit says McAlister was forced to wear the same clothes for six months, use the bathroom without toilet paper and subsist on a bare-minimum amount of food and water. While confined, McAlister lost so much weight his ribs and backbone were clearly visible, the lawsuit says.

“He was repeatedly interrogated, threatened, intimidated and psychologically and physically abused, deprived, and manipulated,” the lawsuit says.
McAlister and his family seek $319 million in damages. Hamen’s family seeks more than $350 million.

Syria and Iran – which do not have embassies in the United States – have not responded to the lawsuit.

“Frankly, we don’t expect either country to honor the judgment from a US court voluntarily,” Singer said in his email.

If the court issues a judgment for the families, they can be paid from the U.S. Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund. Singer said his legal team also would search for assets or money traceable to Iran or Syria that the U.S. government could seize.

The lawsuit cites a confidential 2015 U.N. report that says Iran provided military support to Houthis in Yemen through arms transfers and brought thousands of Houthi soldiers into military camps in southern Syria to gain combat and weapons experience.

“Iran and Syria support the Houthis’ military activities with the intention of weakening American allies in the Middle East, including the internationally recognized government of Yemen and its close ally Saudi Arabia,” the lawsuit says. “As such, Defendants’ provision of material military and economic support to the Houthis is intentional, wanton, and willful, with the understanding that violence against Americans such as John Hamen is an expected and welcomed result of such support.”

Hamen and McAlister’s employer had a contract to maintain a former hotel that had been turned into a diplomatic transit facility adjacent to the U.S. embassy, which was in use by the United Nations.

The U.S. suspended its embassy operations in Yemen on Feb. 11, 2015, because of deteriorating security conditions. The Houthis recently had overthrown the internationally recognized government, which led to a civil war. The United Nations was allowed to use the U.S. facility as a local headquarters.

Despite the evacuation of U.S. personnel, the State Department kept its contract with Tampa, Fla.-based Advanced C4 Solutions to retrofit the former Sheraton Hotel to improve security and communications systems. Hamen’s job entailed identifying potential security risks throughout the facility and implementing strategies to mitigate them, Singer said. McAlister was a general contractor in charge of renovations.

AC4S’s biggest customer is the Defense Department, although it also provides services to the State Department in Libya, Yemen, Iraq and Haiti, according to its website. AC4S hired Hamen in July and he traveled to Djibouti in east Africa in October, where he boarded the United Nations aircraft to nearby Yemen.

Singer said Hamen’s family also has requested $2.1 million in compensation from the United Nations.

“This request was based on the fact that John Hamen was instructed to enter a dangerous situation in Yemen to provide enhanced security for United Nations personnel, that he entered Yemen via a United Nations flight, and that the United Nations, in conjunction with the United States and AC4S, made the assessment that it was safe to bring an American into Yemen despite significant indications to the contrary,” Singer said.

The United Nations has not responded to the request, Singer said.

Hamen served in the Army for more than two decades and deployed to Iraq before retiring in 2012. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

McAlister previously had worked in the Middle East for private paramilitary contractors. He was released April 29 and arrived home in Tennessee in May, just in time to see one of his three children graduate from the University of Tennessee at Martin. The crowd welcomed him with a standing ovation.

“Because of the circumstances, I really didn’t think I was going to make it. As a matter of fact, I kind of decided not to even hope for it,” McAlister told WBBJ-TV at the time. “I tried to take my mind off of it but again, God made two miracles appear and I’m here today.”

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