Some of Tennessee’s best and brightest high school juniors and seniors attended the four-week long Governor’s School for the Humanities at the University of Tennessee at Martin. UT Martin has hosted the GSH program since 1985, and this was the 10th year students were able to earn college credit. Meredith Markiewicz, from Bradley County, was one of the attendees.

Covington coach takes job with UT Martin

With nine years as a high school head coach under his belt, Dion Real has accepted an assistant coach position on the University of Tennessee at Martin’s men’s basketball staff.

Real spent the last five seasons at Covington High School before making the jump to college ball. He won five district titles and was runner-up four times in his nine years as a coach. He had a 298-84 overall record and a 110-16 mark in district action.

“Dion is a tireless worker and a very good basketball coach,” Skyhawks head coach Jason James said. “His teams have always played with a sense of urgency and discipline that I am very impressed with. He is well connected in this area, which will help him a lot on the recruiting trail. The things that stick out the most with Dion are his passion for the game and his care for the student-athletes that have played for him. These are two qualities which I find very important in being a successful coach.”

Real replaces Cornelius Jackson on the Skyhawk bench. Jackson accepted an assistant coaching job at Cleveland State University.
Jason James adds assistant coach at UTM

MARTIN, Tenn. - Dion Real has joined The University of Tennessee at Martin men's basketball program as an assistant coach, Skyhawk head coach Jason James has announced.

Real brings nine years of high school head coaching experience to the Skyhawks, including the last five seasons as head coach of Covington High School in northwest Tennessee. In those nine seasons, he has guided his team to five district championships and four runner-up finishes. Overall, Real compiled a 208-84 record at four different high schools, with a remarkable 110-16 mark (.873 winning percentage) against district rivals.

"I am very excited to be here at UT Martin," Real said. "I am thankful for this opportunity given by Coach James and the UT Martin staff."

Real replaces Cornelius Jackson on the Skyhawk bench, as Jackson accepted an assistant coaching job at Cleveland State University.

"When we lost Coach Jackson I wanted to replace him with a guy who is equally as smart and articulate as well as someone who has the same loyalty that Cornelius has," James said. "I have definitely found that in Dion. I look forward to working with him this season and into the future. We are very fortunate to have him as a member of our Skyhawk family."

James was familiar with Real's impressive body of work from his past five seasons at Covington, where he chalked up a 127-35 record while capturing three consecutive district titles thanks to a 50-2 district record from 2010-13.

"Dion is a tireless worker and a very good basketball coach," James said. "His teams have always played with a sense of urgency and discipline that I am very impressed with. He is well-connected in this area which will help him a lot on the recruiting trail. The things that stick out the most with Dion are his passion for the game and his care for the student-athletes that have played for him. These are two qualities which I find very important in being a successful coach."

Real began as a head coach at Earle High School in Earle, Ark. in 2004. He led the Bulldogs to a pair of 20-win seasons and district championships, including 27 victories in the 2005-06 season alone.

Real then made stops at Cairo (III.) High School in 2006-07 and Dyersburg (Tenn.) High School in 2007-08 before settling in at Covington.

At Covington, Real registered at least 23 victories in all five of his seasons at the helm. Under Real, the Chargers twice went undefeated in district play (16-0 in 2010-11 and 18-0 in 2012-13). He was named the District 13-AA Coach of the Year in both 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Real has been selected as the head coach for the West Tennessee All-Star Game on three different occasions (2008, 2009, 2013). He also served as a head coach on the AAU circuit in Batesville, Ark. and Memphis, Tenn. before founding and directing the AAU team located in Covington in the spring of 2009.

A native of Poinsett County, Ark., Real played collegiately for four years at Lyon College under head coach Kevin Jenkins. He graduated in 2003 with a bachelor of arts degree in history while earning his Masters degree in educational leadership from Arkansas State University in 2012.

From: UTMSports.com
Former Covington coach Real added as men's basketball assistant

Dion Real has joined The University of Tennessee at Martin men's basketball program as an assistant coach, Skyhawk head coach Jason James has announced.

Real brings nine years of high school head coaching experience to the Skyhawks, including the last five seasons as head coach of Covington High School in northwest Tennessee. In those nine seasons, he has guided his team to five district championships and four runner-up finishes. Overall, Real compiled a 208-84 record at four different high schools, with a remarkable 110-16 mark (.873 winning percentage) against district rivals.

"I am very excited to be here at UT Martin," Real said. "I am thankful for this opportunity given by Coach James and the UT Martin staff."

Real replaces Cornelius Jackson on the Skyhawk bench, as Jackson accepted an assistant coaching job at Cleveland State University.

UT Martin tuition increases six percent

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved a six percent instate tuition increase for students attending the University of Tennessee at Martin, effective for the 2013 fall semester. Approval came Thursday during the board's annual meeting in Knoxville.

Instate tuition and fees will now cost undergraduate students an additional $229 per semester for a total of $3,757 or $7,514 for a full academic year. Full-time undergraduate enrollment is a minimum of 12 hours.

Tuition and fees will increase an additional $265 per semester for a total of $4,362 per semester for instate UT Martin graduate students or a total cost of $8,724 per academic year starting this fall. Full-time graduate enrollment is nine hours per semester.

Among the fees approved was a $50 per fall and spring semester increase in the facilities fee that all UT Martin students pay, totaling $100 for the academic year. Other specialized course fees approved include a fee for art studio classes, a physical education activity class fee, a Reelfoot Lake Field Station fee and a student teaching placement fee.

Academic enrichment fees were also approved for the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences within the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and courses offered through the College of Business and Global Affairs.

In other action, the board approved naming the team room in the Rhodes Golf Center for Grover Page, longtime UT Martin golf team coach.

Fall semester classes begin Aug. 26 for the main campus and UT Martin centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and Selmer.
Bradford graduates earned more than $1M in scholarships

The Bradford High School Class of 2013 earned scholarships totaling more than $1 million. Graduates and their families celebrated commencement May 26th.

Valedictorian Allie Harris, class president Hannah Renfroe, and salutatorian Alex were the opening speakers.

Scholarship winners named were:
- Alex Vandiver – Presidential Scholarship - $16,000, GAMS - $6000, BHS Alumni - $500; Justin Clueee – Wilder-Naifeh - $2000; Benjamin Griffin – TN Aspire - $6000, Union University - $6000, Union Alumni Leadership - $8000, Union TN Scholars - $10,000, Union First Generation - $12,000.

Seventeen seniors also qualified for the Tennessee Lottery Hope Scholarship and have filled out the appropriate application to become eligible for this scholarship. The Hope Scholarship is a $4,000 renewable award to those students scoring at least a 21 on the ACT or having a 3.0 unweighted GPA. In addition to this, students must fill out the FAFSA (Free Application For Student Assistant) in order to become eligible for the Hope Scholarship recipients are: Katie Cardwell, Alex Cochran, Allie Cunningham, Kodi Darnell, Amanda Evans, Holly Frazier, Benjamin Griffin, Kristen Hall, Allie Harris, Tyler Hays, Brianna Kirk, Hope Mathis, Leah Reeves, Hannah Renfroe, Anna Roberson, Alex Vandiver, and Catie Walter.

Several students were recognized as Tennessee Scholars: Ryan Beecham, Katie Cardwell, Alex Cochran, Glenn cooper, Allie Cunningham, Kodi Darnell, Amanda Evans, Holly Frazier, Benjamin Griffin, Kristen Hall, Allie Harris, Reed Harris, Tyler Hays, Brianna Kirk, Danielle Lusk, Hope Mathis, Leah Reeves, Hannah Renfroe, Anna Roberson, Catie Walter. Tennessee Scholars must take a rigorous high school course selection. These students maintained a 2.0 GPA and completed a required amount of community service.

Students graduating with Honors were recognized: Katie Cardwell, Holly Frazier, Kristen Hall, Allie Harris, Brianna Kirk, Hope Mathis, Hannah Renfroe, Alex Vandiver, Catie Walter.

Students graduating with Distinction were also recognized: Katie Cardwell, Alex Cochran, Allie Cunningham, Kodi Darnell, Holly Frazier, Benjamin Griffin, Kristen Hall, Allie Harris, Tyler Hays, Hope Mathis, Leah Reeves, Hannah Renfroe, Anna Roberson, Catie Walter. These students met all benchmark scores for the national ACT exam.

Senior class officers recognized were: Hannah Renfroe, president; Katie Cardwell, vice-president; Holly Frazier, secretary/treasurer; Allie Harris, reporter; Tyler McCartney, sergeant-at-arms; and Benjamin Griffin, sergeant-at-arms.

Beta Club students recognized were: Katie Cardwell, Alex Cochran, Allie Cunningham, Kodi Darnell, Holly Frazier, Benjamin Griffin, Kristen Hall, Allie Harris, Tyler Hays, Hope Mathis, Leah Beth Reeves, Hannah Renfroe, Alex Vandiver, and Catie Walter.

Top Ten students for four years at BHS were recognized: 1- Allie Harris - 97.8592, 2 - Alex Vandiver – 96.8117, 3 – Catie Walter – 96.3125, 4 - Hope Mathis – 95.9666, 5 - Hannah Renfroe – 95.2916, 6 – Holly Frazier – 95.1575, 7 – Kodi Darnell – 95.0573, 8 – Kristen Hall – 94.9453, 9 – Allie Cunningham – 94.8206, and 10 – Leah Beth Reeves – 94.0833.

Principal Shane Paschall and Superintendent Dan Black awarded diplomas to the 41 seniors.
Pat Riley, the general manager of Gibson County Utility District, was presented the “Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference Award” at the WestStar Leadership Program graduation on June 20 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson.

“This award caught me completely off guard,” Riley said. “I am very excited. I truly believe in WestStar and what it stands for.”

Riley graduated in 2002 from WestStar and served on the Board of Trustees for eight years. He was recently re-elected to the Board.

In 2010, Riley introduced a new session to WestStar, “Energy, Environment and Technology.” The session has been very well received,” Riley said.

In addition to serving on the WestStar Board of Trustees, Riley is also on the Alumni Council and a lifetime member of the premier leadership program in the United States.

The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer children’s courses in jazz, ballet and dance July 8-26 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The jazz workshop is for ages 13-16 and will be held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Participants will explore various jazz styles, such as those taught by Bob Fosse, to more modern styles, such as musical theater.

The ballet workshop is for ages 9-12 and will be held from 4:15-5:15 p.m. Participants will explore ballet from the classical and modern styles, and popular music will be played.

The dance workshop is for ages 4-8 and will be held from 3-4 p.m. “Creative Movement” will explore the basics of dance moves and participants will use props.

Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing for the class.

Registration fees for each course is $40 and children must be accompanied by an adult.

Advance registration is required. Register at utm.edu/nondegree or by calling 731-881-7082.
WESTSTAR PROGRAM — Virginia Grimes (center) of Martin was joined by Dr. Bob and Ramona Smith of Franklin recently at UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program graduation. Grimes is WestStar coordinator, and Smith is a WestStar Leadership Program co-founder and president emeritus of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. The Smiths formerly lived in Martin when Dr. Smith also served as dean of the UT Martin College of Arts and Sciences dean.

WESTSTAR GRADUATE — David and Carol Reed of Martin recently attended UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program graduation at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. Carol graduated with the 2013 class. Thirty-three class members participated, bringing the total to 681 alumni over WestStar’s 24-year history. Class participants were chosen to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.
UT Alumni Association elects new officers

The University of Tennessee Alumni Association (UTAA) has elected three new officers to its Board of Governors.

Worrick Robinson IV has been named president of the UTAA for 2013-14. Robinson is the managing partner of Robinson, Reagan & Young, PLLC in Nashville and a second generation UTAA president. His father Worrick Robinson III served in the role from 1971-1972. He earned his bachelor’s degree in business in 1987 before attending law school at Samford University.

Chattanoogan Tom Losh has been named president-elect for the association. A two-time University of Tennessee, Chattanooga graduate, Losh has been a student-athlete, basketball and baseball coach, and assistant dean of Student Affairs for the Mocs.

Memphis-resident Betsy Brasher has been named treasurer. Brasher earned her bachelor’s degree in finance from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1998 and her master’s in business administration in 2003. She is currently serves as senior vice president for First Tennessee Bank.

The UTAA also added five members to its Board of Governors.

• Chandra Alston – Chandra received a bachelor’s degree in business from the University of Tennessee, Martin in 1993. She currently resides in Memphis, where she serves as assistant dean for administration at UT Health Science Center. She has served UT in a number of volunteer roles, including current Shelby County UTAA board member.

• Tim Bishop – Tim, a 1990 engineering graduate from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville owns Control Equipment Company in Kingsport. He is a former Board of Governors member. He is active with the UTAA Johnson City and Sullivan County alumni boards.

• Lisa DeBusk – Lisa earned a bachelor’s degree in communications from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2001. She is currently a relocation manager for Focus Relocation in Brentwood. She is a former Board of Governors member and has served on the Davidson County UT alumni Association for eight years.

• James Morris II – James is a 1972 graduate of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and a general surgeon in Lebanon. He previously served on the Board of Governors. He is a past president of the UTHSC College of Medicine Alumni Council and represented UTHSC on the UTAA Strategic Planning Committee.

• Doug Swafford – Doug, a 1982 University of Tennessee Chattanooga College of Business graduate, is a credit and collections manager for U.S. Xpress, Inc. in Chattanooga. He previously served two terms on the UTC Alumni Council Board.

“We are very excited about the direction the UT System and campuses are heading and the role our alumni play in advancing our institutions. These individuals will play an invaluable role as we continue to implement our strategic plan and continue to address the needs and desires of our alumni,” said Lofton Stuart, UTAA executive director.

The UT Alumni Association, which represents more than 335,000 alumni across the world, offers UT alumni from all System campuses an array of services and benefits including: alumni career services; discounts and special offers with national companies such as Enterprise and National Rental Cars, Liberty Mutual Insurance and Staples; and networking opportunities at one of our more than 80 chapters or clubs across the country. For more information on the UTAA and its benefits and services, visit utaconnect.com.
Sannablue Media Productions presents "Clarksville Outdoors" featuring local angler Grayson Smith

July 3, 2013

Clarksville, TN - Gary Baker of Sannablue Media has announced that his new outdoor fishing show, "Clarksville Outdoors," a show hosted by local angler Grayson Smith.

Production has begun on what will be one of the most exciting, locally produced, outdoor programs available.

Grayson Smith-Clarksville Outdoors

Smith, a recent graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, and recently won the co-angler division of the Bassmaster Southern Open on Logan Martin Lake near Pell City, Alabama, and was named the Bassmaster Angler of the Year.

"Our goal is to promote Clarksville and the surrounding areas with the great resources we have," said Baker. "Grayson has a tremendous knowledge of the area and plus he is ate up with fishing. But so am I," Baker said.

Putting the two avid fishermen together for an outdoors show should prove entertaining, and productive.

"We make a good team and we have a lot of fun" said Baker.

Programming and broadcast schedules for the new show will be released soon.

Dr. Joey Melhorn

Republican Women Meeting

Dr. Joey Melhorn spoke to the Republican Women during their monthly meeting in July. He reported on current events in the county, state, and nation. The group is planning a Family Night in August and events during the Soybean Festival.
WestStar class honors David Glasgow

David Glasgow (center), of Nashville, is joined by Bobby Goode (left), of Dresden, and Cary Vaughn (right), of Millington, after receiving the C.P. Boyd Leadership Award during UT Martin's WestStar Leadership Program graduation, June 20, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. The award recognizes the individual with the most leadership potential as voted by the current WestStar class. Goode is USDA Rural Development State Director for Tennessee, and Vaughn, CEO for Love Worth Finding Ministries in Memphis, was the 2012 C.P. Boyd Leadership Award recipient and is a new WestStar board of trustees member. Goode is also a WestStar graduate, while Glasgow, communications director for USDA Rural Development, graduated from the program later that evening. Thirty-three class members participated, bringing the total to 681 alumni over WestStar's 24-year history. Class participants were chosen to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

Local students recognized by ROTC

Joseph Barber, of Martin, recently received the Military Order of World Wars Award at the University of Tennessee at Martin ROTC awards ceremony. Presenting the award (right) is Lt. Col. Michael W. Johnson, professor of military science. The award is given to ROTC cadets for overall improvement in military and scholastic studies during the school year. The cadet must be in good standing militarily and scholastically and have shown marked improvement in his/her grades. The cadet must have indicated by military and scholastic grades, extracurricular activities and individual endeavor, a desire to serve his/her country.

Wesley Spangle, of Martin, recently received the Reserve Officers Association Award at the University of Tennessee at Martin ROTC awards ceremony. Presenting the award (right) is Lt. Col. Michael W. Johnson, professor of military science. The award is presented to an outstanding cadet who is in the top 10 percent of their ROTC class, and who have shown outstanding leadership qualities.
By KEVIN WEAKS
Messenger Sports

UT Martin is about to flip its football house. And, the reveal could come pretty quickly.

With approval from the Board of Trustees last month and only a few more preliminary hoops to jump through, the plan to demolish and rebuild the home seating section of Hardy M. Graham Stadium is quickly moving forward and — best-case scenario — will be completed in time for the 2014 football season.

"There is a schedule that calls for the project to be bid in the fall, the construction trucks to be backed up and ready to start when the last game is over (this fall) and the project completed by the first game of the 2014 season," UTM athletic director Phil Dane said. "We don't know what Westview's schedule is yet, but we don't play a home game until the third week of our season. So, that gives them a little more time.

"All that's required is decent weather in November, December and January. If we have any luck at all with the weather, we can be ready for the first game."

LOOKING IT OVER — UT Martin athletic director Phil Dane looks over several floor plans and artist renderings, provided by Fleming and Associates of Memphis, of the proposed new home seating section and press box at Hardy Graham Stadium. The plans call for 3,560 seats and a four-level press box building to serve both athletic and academic needs. The $6.5 million project received approval from the Board of Trustees last month and, if all goes well, construction could begin at the end of the 2013 season and be completed in time for the '14 opener.
Dane revealed the most up-to-date floor plans and artist's renderings of the new stadium, provided by Fleming and Associates of Memphis.

There are a couple of more steps in the process before demolition can begin, but if all goes well, that phase will begin immediately after the upcoming season ends. That would kick off a 10-month construction project that would put fans in the new stands for the 2014 season opener.

The 2013 regular season will end Nov. 23 against Eastern Illinois, and the '14 home opener is set for Sept. 20 against Eastern Kentucky.

The schematic design -- as well as the design and development stages -- are complete, and now approval from the state building commission will free up the architects to produce the construction documents to be used in the bidding process. As the schedule looks now, all that will be finished during the '13 season.

"The stadium itself is not a long project," Dane said. "It's a steel structural system. There's not a lot of concrete involved. Ideally, the contractors would like to build the stadium and then build the stadium to the building instead of the other way around. But, I think the latter can be done and has been at other places.

In all, the project will cost $5.5 million. Of that, $5 million will come from the general fund, and the remaining $1.5 million will be collected from the athletic department.

Athletics will fund $500,000 of its share from guaranteed games. UTM played Memphis and Northern Illinois last year, will play Memphis and Boise State this season and then visit Mississippi State and Kentucky in 2014.

The other $1 million will come from fundraising efforts. Already, the school has a pledge for $100,000, meaning another $900,000 in donations will pay off the athletic department's commitment.

The project is getting a large amount from the general fund because an athletic-academic share agreement has been worked out that will allow a college course to use one level of the press box building.

"When we were designing the building, we knew we had a ground floor and quite a bit of space before we got to the second floor and then the third floor," Dane said. "We realized after we got to that point that there was a 14-foot cavity between the first and second floors. So, really what's making this whole project work is an academic component that has been added. We didn't need that space, so the academic Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is going to move a part of its program that relates to hospitality and event and hospitality management, which fits in very nicely with the way the building's being used for athletics, to help teach students how to put on big dinners, events and programs."

The ground level will hold the concession stand with souvenirs sold from there, locker rooms for the visiting teams and referees and storage. The entrance gate and restrooms currently in place will remain.

Above the academic area, which is now the second floor, the third floor will be the Club Level with seating at round tables for 121 boosters who purchase premium seats. The level will open out to the stadium's premium seats. That floor, which also has a chancellor's suite, can be used by the academic group for hosting events during the year.

The top level will be for working media, doubling the size of the current space. In addition, separate booths are set for home and visiting coaches, home and visiting radio, the visiting athletic director.

(See Page 19, Col. 4)

The current stadium has a walkway in front, separated from the artificial playing surface by a fence.

The new section will move up to the fence with a six-foot walkway in front, elevated 40 inches off the ground. The new stadium will load from the back through tunnels.

There are 3,000 bench seats and 560 premium seats for a total 3,560 seats.

"That's about a 1,500 seat reduction, but we still feel like that meets our demands 90 percent of the time," Dane said. "There's been some concern about reducing the number of seats. But, the fact is, with the proliferation of football on television, attendance nationwide at every level is declining. We felt like what we needed to do was have adequate seating but not more than we need because that makes it even harder to sell season tickets if people know they can easily buy tickets that day. What we need is to find that point where supply meets demand and people buy season tickets in case they do come.

"We think it's a good size, and we have room (to expand) in case it ever gets too small. This will make it more fan-friendly because it is back-loading and people in their seats will be a lot closer to the game."

The seating area will stretch from one goal line to the other, and the press box will run between the two 25-yard lines.

Should the work begin following the upcoming season but the press box not be completed in time for 2014, it is possible a temporary open-air structure could be constructed to provide an area for the media to work.

The worst-case scenario, Dane said, would be to delay construction until after the 2014 football season.

Dane and the athletic department are planning a 2013 kickoff party in August, where the fans will be invited to hear about the stadium plans and its important to the university and the community. More details on that will be announced at a later date.

"All the features considered, I think it'll be the best in the conference," Dane said. "I think when you combine elevator, club level and working media area, ours will be superior to what everyone else has."
FUTURE HOME — This artist rendering from Fleming and Associates in Memphis shows the proposed new home seating section at UT Martin's Hardy Graham Stadium. The school is looking to tear down the current home section and replace it with a 3,560-seat section, accessed from the rear through five tunnels, and a four-level press box building that will house a concession stand on the ground level, an academic level, a club level for boosters and a working press box that doubles the size of the current facility. The best-case scenario has demolition beginning at the end of the 2013 season and construction to be completed by the start of the 2014 campaign. (See related coverage, Page 20.)

3 children's dance classes to be offered at UT Martin

A trio of dance classes will be offered for children Monday through July 26 at the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus.

A jazz dance workshop for students ages 13-16 is set for 5:30-6:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Participants will explore various jazz styles to more modern styles, such as musical theater.

They are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing, such as leggings and a T-shirt or tank top, and comfortable shoes.

Dance classes for students ages 4-8 are set for 3-4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

“Creative Movement” will explore the basics of dance moves and participants will use props. Participants are encouraged to dress comfortably.

For each class, the registration fee is $40 for participants. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Advance registration is required. To register, call (731) 881-7082 or visit www.utm.edu/nondegree.
MEHLHORN SPEAKS
— Dr. Joey Mehlhorn recently spoke to the Weakley County Republican Women during their monthly July meeting. He reported on current events in the county, state and nation. The group is planning a family night in August and events during the Soybean Festival.

Free Health Screenings in Martin July 9-17

Story Created: Jul 3, 2013 at 3:13 PM CDT
(Story Updated: Jul 3, 2013 at 8:37 PM CDT)

MARTIN, Tenn. – Free health screenings will be offered for a week and a half in Martin.

The free event will run from July 9-17 at Martin Middle School from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. daily. It is open to the general public.

The completely free health care will include complete physical exams, mental exams, dental and eye exams. Dental exams will include oral exams with cleanings and/or extractions. Vision care will include eye exams plus free glasses for all ages. There are no eligibility requirements.

Around 300 physicians, dentists, optometrists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nutritionists, psychologists, counselors, and a chaplain will deploy to Martin.

This free event is made possible through the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program of the United States Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. The grant was awarded to Hope of Martin Community Development Corporation. The primary purpose of the IRT mission is to conduct deployment, readiness and logistics training in an expeditionary, multi-service environment providing post disaster relief.

Ms. Ruby Black, professor of nursing at the University of Tennessee at Martin and Chairman of the Board of Hope of Martin, applied for the IRT grant through Hope of Martin Community Development Corporation.

For more information you may contact Brad Thompson, Director of Community Development for the City of Martin and Hope of Martin Board Member, at 731.587.3126.
Community garden offers free produce

By ALEX JACOBI
Special To The Press

When it comes to growing fresh produce, the Trinity Patch Community Garden does just that for free, offering the community and campus the opportunity to organically produce their own vegetables.

While the garden has existed through the university for several years with the help of sponsors and a grant through the UT Women’s Philanthropic Association, it is only in its third year at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

“The year before [the garden’s move], the university had several other plots going, and they needed to move [the garden] from a location that the university was landscaping so they put out a notice, asking if anyone knew of any property. ... As a member of both the recycling group and Trinity Presbyterian Church, I discovered that we had the property and I proposed it to the church and they agreed to do it,” said Community Garden Supervisor Robin Last.

Being a gardener who grows for 11 months out of the year, Last enjoys sharing her joy of the art with others.

“[Gardening] is really exciting because you know you dig and dig in the dirt and pull weeds and that’s no fun, but then next thing you know, you’ve got stuff coming up. ... [This garden] can offer people an opportunity to experience the real magic in gardening and making things grow and seeing healthy produce come out of it. I mean, to me, it’s a very rewarding experience,” Last said.

With the church’s mission to provide community outreach and Last’s desire to garden and teach others about gardening, the location has worked out positively.

“A lot of members who are currently involved are just friends of friends of friends; it’s more word of mouth than anything else. It’s typically people who are new to gardening and want to learn,” Last said.

Along with giving people the opportunity to learn about gardening, the Community Garden gives resources that home gardening might not.

“Our soil is really great, because we’re using composting and other practices, which really enhance the soil, and people are just amazed at how marvellous the produce is and how the plants are really thriving. So, you get to see how to do things in better ways that increase crop production, as well as satisfaction, because people are more satisfied when they see success,” Last said.

“And, we all look out for each other’s plants. If we see somebody’s area that needs work, some people come out. ... That’s one of the real benefits of doing it in a group, is that it doesn’t all fall on one single person.”

For Last, the satisfaction comes in producing clean vegetables.

“I’m not a vegetarian, but I like to eat mostly green when I can, locally. Part of my thinking is that I don’t want to buy foods grown in Mexico and sprayed with chemicals. And I have taken the master gardener program, but they don’t really focus on organic gardening. They don’t really teach you the hands-on things, so the best way to learn is just to get in there and try different things,” Last said.

“That’s been one of the real pleasures to me [about running the garden], just having people learn about the basics of organic gardening. It’s been an organic garden since the beginning and that’s pretty much how we want to remain in the future. We want to be as pesticide and chemical free as possible.”

While the garden has continued running because of Last’s dedication to managing upkeep daily, it has also thrived because of local and university support.

“We had helpers through [UTM’s] Institute of Civic Engagement, and they were very much involved while they were in operation. Like, if we needed something done, we could just put out a notice and all sorts of people would show up. Also, [UTM Behavioral Sciences Professor] Dr. James Maples has actually sent students as part of a service learning component to his class. ... In addition, Dennis Kosta has been really supportive. If I need any materials, the recycling people will really help me,” Last said.

“[Also] we have some volunteers come out who are mystery gardeners; they just feel compelled to come out and weed, and they take care of things when they see what needs to be done. And that’s pretty neat.”
PLANNING AHEAD

UT Martin moves on with design of stadium

By KEVIN WEAKS
Press Sports

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And, the reveal could come pretty quickly.

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"All that's required is decent weather in November, December and January. If we have any luck at all with the weather, we can be ready for the first game."

Dane revealed the most up-to-date floor plans and artist's renderings of the new stadium, provided by Fleming and Associates of Memphis.

LOOKING IT OVER — UT Martin athletic director Phil Dane looks over several floor plans and artist renderings, provided by Fleming and Associates of Memphis, of the proposed new home seating section and press box at Hardy Graham Stadium. The plans call for 3,560 seats and a four-level press box building to serve both athletic and academic needs. The $6.5 million project received approval from the Board of Trustees last month and, if all goes well, construction could begin at the end of the 2013 season and be completed in time for the '14 opener.
There are a couple of more steps in the process before demolition can begin, but if all goes well, that phase will begin immediately after the upcoming season ends. That would kick off a 10-month construction project that would put fans in the new stands for the 2014 season opener.

The 2013 regular season will end Nov. 23 against Eastern Illinois, and the '14 home opener is set for Sept. 20 against Eastern Kentucky.

The schematic design — as well as the design and development stages — are complete, and now approval from the state building commission will free up the architects to produce the construction documents to be used in the bidding process. As the schedule looks now, all that will be finished during the ‘13 season.

“The stadium itself is not a long project,” Dane said. “It’s a steel structural system. There’s not a lot of concrete involved. Ideally, the contractors would like to build the stadium and then build the stadium to the building instead of the other way around. But, I think the latter can be done and has been at other places.”

In all, the project will cost $6.5 million. Of that, $5 million will come from the general fund, and the remaining $1.5 million will be collected from the athletic department.

Athletics will fund $500,000 of its share from guaranteed games. UTM played Memphis and Northern Illinois last year, will play Memphis and Boise State this season and then visit Mississippi State and Kentucky in 2014. The other $1 million will come from fundraising efforts. Already, the school has a pledge for $100,000, meaning another $900,000 in donations will pay off the athletic department’s commitment.

The project is getting a large amount from the general fund because an athletics-academic share agreement has been worked out that will allow a college course to use one level of the press box building.

“When we were designing the building, we knew we had a ground floor and quite a bit of space before we got to the second floor and then the third floor,” Dane said. “We realized after we got to that point that there was a 14-foot cavity between the first and second floors. So, really what’s making this whole project work is an academic component that has been added. We didn’t need that space, so the academic Department of Family and Consumer Sciences is going to move a part of its program that relates to dietetics and event management, which fits in very nicely.

(See Page 9, Col. 1)

UT Martin...

(Continued from Page 8)

with the way the building’s being used for athletics, to help teach students how to put on big dinners, events and programs.”

The ground level will hold the concession stand with souvenirs sold from there, locker rooms for the visiting teams and referees and storage. The entrance gate and restrooms currently in place will remain.

Above the academic area, which is now the second floor, the third floor will be the Club Level with seating at round tables for 121 boosters who purchase premium seats. The level will open out to the stadium’s premium seats. That floor, which also has a chancellor’s suite, can be used by the academic group for hosting events during the year.

The top level will be for working media, doubling the size of the current space.

In addition, separate booths are set for home and visiting coaches, home and visiting radio, the visiting athletic director, WUTM and television production. The TV production area is a must-have now that FCS uses instant replay.

“This is what’s really driving why the project is being done in the first place, because our press box is so inferior,” Dane said. “We’ve added a television production area. If we were to get into the playoffs, I’m really concerned if we could host a playoff game. Now, the FCS uses instant replay, and you need another area for all that equipment. We had nothing left. We are maxed out with what we’re doing already.”

In addition to a pair of staircases, an elevator will connect all four levels.

The seating area itself will load from the back rather than the front, as is now the case.

The current stadium has a walkway in front, separated from the artificial playing surface by a fence.

The new section will move up to the fence with a six-foot walkway in front, elevated 40 inches off the ground. The new stadium will load from the back through tunnels.

There are 5,000 bench seats and 560 premium seats for a total 5,560 seats.

“That’s about a 1,500 seat reduction, but we still feel like that meets our demands 90 percent of the time,” Dane said. “There’s been some concern about reducing the number of seats. But, the fact of the matter is, with the proliferation of football on television, attendance nationwide at every level is declining. We felt like what we needed to do was have adequate seating but not more than we need because that makes it even harder to sell season tickets if people know they can easily buy tickets that day. What we need is to find that point where supply meets demand and people buy season tickets in case they do come.

“We think it’s a good size, and we have room (to expand) in case it ever gets too small. This will make it more fan-friendly because it’s back-loading and people in their seats will be a lot closer to the game.”

The seating area will stretch from one goal line to the other, and the press box will run between the two 25-yard-lines.

Dane and the athletic department are planning a 2013 kick-off party in August, where the fans will be invited to hear about the stadium plans and its importance to the university and the community. Final plans will be announced at a later date.

“All the features considered, I think it’ll be the best in the conference,” Dane said. “I think when you combine elevator, club level and working media area, ours will be superior to what everyone else has.”
International students enjoy American freedoms

Two students at UT Martin hope to start careers here

By Nichole Manna
nmanna@jacksonsun.com

Many Americans will get together today with friends and family, eat hot dogs and hamburgers, watch fireworks and celebrate the Independence Day of our country. Shen Lian, from China, and Ryota Maruyama, from Japan, will celebrate the opportunities America has given them. Shen and Maruyama came to America for a better education, better work opportunities and freedoms not given in their home.

WEB EXTRA
Watch video interviews with the two international students at jacksonsun.com.

Shen Lian, a graduate student at UT Martin (at left), speaks about his experiences in America and about how life is different in China. Ryota Maruyama, who is from Japan (at right), is a graphic design major and wishes to obtain a job in the arts after graduation. MEGAN SMITH/THE JACKSON SUN
countries.
Both men are students at The University of Tennessee at Martin. Shen is a graduate student majoring in business administration. Maruyama is an undergraduate student majoring in graphic design.

Shen came to America four years ago. He's originally from China, a place where he would have to work for his father and eventually take over the family business. If he stayed, a place where he couldn't chase his dream of running his own business and a place where he couldn't make his own decisions regarding his future family.

Maruyama came here two years ago from Japan. If he stayed in Japan, he wouldn't have been able to major in graphic design or find a career in the field because there are no opportunities for it, he said. Most likely, he would have ended up working a corporate job or something related where he couldn't use his artistic talents.

Meet Shen Lian

Shen knew the opportunities he'd have in America were something he wouldn't find in China.
"I study (in America) because here is real safe," he told The Jackson Sun on Monday. "I study (in Tennessee) because the weather and temperature is exactly like my hometown. It's very nice."

Shen said UT Martin has a reputation in China for being a good school to study at because it's in a safe area. His parents also wanted him to come here to have more freedoms, like the right to make decisions regarding his future family and the right to study religion.

"Every family in China only have one child. We have one child only policy," he said.
China, which has been known for its strict family laws, signed a new law into effect Monday that requires people to care for their elderly parents and to visit them often. Children who don't do either of those could face jail time.

In America, Shen will have the chance to be successful on his own and not rely on his parents, he said.
"I want to run a business," Shen said. "My father have a real big company (in China) and want me to be in charge of that. I don't want to do that."

He said he also chose to come to America to have the freedom to practice and learn about different types of religions.
"In China, no religion policy," he said. "Starting in preschool, teacher already teach me the only truth in this world is science. No Jesus Christ, no Buddha, no anything. They are all just imagination. That's not fair, but we grow up in that."

He said he now goes to church every weekend.
Shen said he's still learning English, but he had no trouble communicating with reporters. He said the hardest part of learning English has been writing essays for school.

Meet Ryota Maruyama

Maruyama became a student at UT Martin about two years ago. He still struggles with his English a little but knows that learning the language will give him the chance to work in America or other English-speaking countries.
"I have a choice of United States or Europe or maybe Canada, but United States have many chances for job," he said. "If I can talk or understand English, I can use words in many countries."

Maruyama also said he wants to get a job in America because the benefits employees get are much better than what they get in Japan.
"(Americans) work until 5 p.m. or 6 p.m., and if you go over time, you get paid extra money," he said. "In Japan, you have nothing extra. Japan only have service jobs. I want to get a job in the United States for drawing and making photographs and other arts."

In Japan, Maruyama said there is no such thing as a graphic-design course in school or a graphic-design job. So, he needed to go abroad to get the education and job he desires.

Assumptions and celebrations

Before moving to Tennessee, Shen said most of what he knew about America came from Hollywood movies and the news.

"We think every city in America should be a real urban city," he said, chuckling. "Tall buildings, everyone drive a race car, and there's cabs and helicopters. And the truth? We come here, and it's quite peaceful."

But before Shen made the journey, he did his research, so he wasn't completely surprised by the quietness of Martin.
"We use Google maps and find exactly the location and say, 'Where is urban city?' 'Where is big building?' 'Where can you drag race?' 'Where is LAPD?' It's nothing like the movies," he said.

But Shen isn't disappointed by Martin's lack of tall buildings and race cars.
"It's a real peaceful place," he said.
But with peace, he said, sometimes comes boredom.
"There's not really much to do," he said. "The thing is, every
weekend the American students come back home and enjoy. International students, we’re stuck here. No one wants to spend 13 hours airtine. Fourth of July, Easter Day, Martin Luther King Day, Christmas and New Year’s, and all this time American guys go home and enjoy family.”

Shen said China also celebrates a holiday similar to Independence Day.

The celebration, which is on Oct. 1, is much bigger than our celebration here, he said.

“We have seven days of holiday,” Shen said. “There are bigger fireworks shows, much bigger. You see Washington, D.C., or New York City, and you times that by maybe 20.”

Shen said the only thing he and his friends have found fun to do in Martin is visiting the local Walmart.

“It’s really funny,” he said.

Before Maruyama came to the states, he worried it would be dangerous.

The impression he had from what he saw on TV and the movies was, “There are a lot of guns, and Japanese people are very little and have small body, but United States people are big with muscle,” he said. “But I see New York or California is dangerous, but here, not dangerous, because Tennessee has good police.”

While China and America have a holiday dedicated to celebrating their country, Japan doesn’t, Maruyama said.

“Some Japanese (people) have some celebrations,” he said. “Many people only celebrate birthday or New Year or Christmas. I think only those three celebrations we have.”

Cultural differences

Maruyama said there’s one thing Americans do that he thinks is kind of gross.

“In Japan, you have shoes for inside and outside,” he said. “United States people and other countries only have one shoe for inside and outside, no separate shoes. I think it’s dirty because outside shoes get dirty. Why do you carry the outside in?”

Both Maruyama and Shen said there’s a common cultural tradition between their countries that we don’t have in America, and they kind of miss it.

“The shower is a bath,” Maruyama said. “United States people only have shower. Japanese people have bath.”

“It’s like a hot tub with all the water and it feels so good,” Shen said.

Maruyama said, between laughs, that sometimes his legs get tired standing in the American showers.

While in the states, Maruyama said he found a love for catfish and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

“In Japan, we have many fishes but catfish,” he said. “It looks weird, but it’s tasty. And meat, United States people eat many meats.”

Maruyama said that in Japan, people don’t eat as much meat as we do in America. Because of that, he’s discovered KFC and really likes the fried chicken.

Shen on the other hand, was surprised to find how Americans portray Chinese food.

“Most of the Chinese restaurant is buffet and the price is lower than $10, and it’s all you can eat,” he said. “Actually, all the Chinese people believe the buffet is only American-style Chinese. It’s too sweet, too much butter and too much cheese sometimes. The soup is like cheese soup. It’s totally different.”

But no matter the differences between America, China and Japan, both Maruyama and Shen are enjoying their time here and hope to make America their permanent home. Both of them said this is their first time traveling outside of their home countries and the experience couldn’t have been better.

Nichole Manna, 425-9657
Montgomery County 4-Hers in Western Region Horse Show

The Western Region 4-H Horse Show was recently held at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

There were a total of 86 contestants, exhibiting 145 horses with a total of 487 entries.

Exhibiting from Montgomery County and placing in the top 10 of classes were: Helena Hattendorf, Hope Brockman, Caleb Hattendorf, Hannah Hattendorf, Jordan Hagewood, McKenna Laine, Hailey McCain, Carly Ford, Whitney Teeter, Delaney Teeter, John Teeter and Ashlyn Nell.

A special congratulations goes to Jordan Hagewood and Helena Hattendorf from Montgomery County. Jordan won the Senior Division High Point Award for the Gaited Division Horses and Helena won the Senior Division High Point Award for the Western Division Horses.

ORDER OF THE ENGINEER – Austin May (c.), of McEwen, was inducted into the Order of the Engineer at a ceremony prior to UT Martin commencement. Graduates pledged to be ethical and impartial and adhere to safety codes as they enter the engineering profession. The awards were presented by Dr. Ed Wheeler (l.), Department of Engineering interim chair, and Dr. Richard Helgeson, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences dean.
Doctors Prepare for Free Health Clinic

By Natalie Potts
By npotts@wbbjtv.com
July 7, 2013

WEAKLEY COUNTY, Tenn.- More than 150 medical professionals from the military were sent to Martin for an innovative "Readiness Training Program" that will provide free medical care to West Tennesseans on Tuesday.

"It doesn’t matter if people have insurance or not. They are welcome to come," said Capt Janie Brier of the U.S. Navy.

Troops from across the country are gearing up to provide a wide range of care including complete physical exams, mental exams, dental and eye exams to residents across West Tennessee. Organizers said the dental exams will include oral with cleanings and/or extractions, and vision care will include eye exams plus free glasses for all ages.

"We have Dentists, Optometrists and Primary Care Physicians, so they will benefit from services their tax dollars are paying for," said Lt. Commander Patrick Murray of the U.S. Navy.

There is no eligibility requirements, and all health screenings are completely free and open to the public. The free health care is made possible through the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program of the United States Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. Ruby black, professor of nursing at the University of Tennessee at Martin and Chairman of the Board of Hope of Martin, applied for the IRT grant through the Hope of Martin Community Development Corporation.

Military members said the primary purpose of the IRT mission is to conduct deployment, readiness and logistics training in an expeditionary, multi-service
environment providing post disaster relief.

"We are almost pretending this is a disaster relief and we are responding to a humanitarian crisis, and it even prepares military members for a wartime scenario," said Murray.

The free health screenings will be offered July 9th-17th at Martin Middle School, 700 Fowler Road in Martin, TN. The health screenings are open to the general public and available for all ages from 8:00 a.m -7:00 p.m.

"I think the majority of people are helped with the free dental services because we can do cleanings, extractions and some limited filling," said Brier. "It's critical. If you don't take care of yourself, it's very difficult to take care of others."

For more information you may contact the Hope of Martin at 731-588-5057. For transportation needs call: 731-587-2900.
Free health care this summer

Free health screenings will be offered Tuesday-July 17 at Martin Middle School from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. These free health screenings are open to the general public and available for all ages.

The completely free health care will include complete physical exams, mental exams, dental and eye exams. Dental exams will include oral exams with cleanings and/or extractions. Vision care will include eye exams plus free glasses for all ages.

There are no eligibility requirements and health screenings are completely free and open to the public.

The free health care is made possible through the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program of the United States Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, according to a news release. The grant was awarded to Hope of Martin Community Development Corporation.

Ruby Black, professor of nursing at the University of Tennessee at Martin and Chairman of the Board of Hope of Martin, applied for the IRT grant through Hope of Martin Community Development Corporation, the release said.

Some 300 physicians, dentists, optometrists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nutritionists, psychologists, counselors, and a chaplain will deploy to Martin.

Martin. The primary purpose of the IRT mission is to conduct deployment, readiness and logistics training in an expeditionary, multi-service environment providing post disaster relief.

For more information, contact Brad Thompson, Director of Community Development for the City of Martin and Hope of Martin Board Member, at (731) 587-3126.

See BRIEFS, Page A4

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Briefs

Continued from Page A3

Justin Glover (right) of Germantown received the Freshman Scholarship at the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications annual awards banquet. He is pictured with Dr. Chara Van Horn, professor of public speaking.
TV tonight: Pat XO, the most successful coach in NCAA basketball

WASHINGTON, July 9, 2013 — Tonight at 8 p.m. ESPN is airing “Pat XO,” the remarkable story of Pat Summitt, produced by none other than Robin Roberts of “Good Morning America.” According to an ESPN press release, “this raw, authentic portrait takes the camera from the filmmaker’s hands and places it into those who know her best.”

With her son Tyler as the lead storyteller, moving recollections are shared by assistant coaches, players like Chamique Holdsclaw, Tamika Catchings and Michelle Marciniak, fellow coach Geno Auriemma, and such admirers as Peyton Manning and Kenny Chesney.

Pat Summitt’s first and only coaching job at the University of Tennessee had a humble start that reflected the glaring disparity of funding for women’s sports common before the enactment of Title Nine.

Just prior to the 1974-75 basketball season, Summitt was named head coach of the Lady Vols after the previous coach suddenly quit. Summitt earned $250 monthly and washed the players’ uniforms herself – uniforms purchased the previous year with proceeds from a donut sale. She also drove the van that carried her team to games in those early years.

In August 2011 when Summitt announced that she had been diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer’s disease and would be retiring at the end of the season, she left the game as the winningest coach in the history of NCAA basketball.

Summitt finished her coaching career with 1,088 wins in 1,306 games coached in AIAW and NCAA Division I play. No other Division I basketball head coach, men’s or women’s, has more than 1,000 career wins as of the end of the 2011-12 season.

But the legend that is Pat Summitt is much more than her remarkable career. She has a God-like status in Tennessee. Summitt is the only person to have two courts used by NCAA Division I basketball teams named in her honor: “Pat Head Summitt Court” at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and “The Summit” at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

She also has two streets named after her. “Pat Head Summitt Street” on the University of Tennessee campus and “Pat Head Summitt Avenue” on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. She was twice offered the job as head coach of the men’s team at Tennessee. At least 19 of Summitt’s former players and assistant coaches, plus her son, have gone on to pursue their careers in coaching and basketball management.

Summitt was named the Naismith Basketball Coach of the Century in April 2000. In 2009, the Sporting News placed her number 11 on its list of the 50 Greatest Coaches of All Time in all sports; she was the only woman on the list.

It is safe to say that no other person in the history of sports had the impact on women’s basketball that Pat Summitt did in her amazing 38 year career at Tennessee.

We can only hope that “Pat XO,” tonight at 8 p.m. on ESPN does her justice, if that is even possible in one short hour.
BAXTER — When most people think of scholarship signings, they turn to the core sports — football, basketball, baseball or softball.

But for Upperman's Kelsey Bussell, the recent graduate roped in an athletic scholarship of a different kind as she recently signed to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin and compete for the Skyhawks' rodeo team.

The team is the only one of its kind in the state of Tennessee and has performed well as a member of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association, with its coach John Luthi named the NIRA coach of the year.

The team won the NIRA's Ozark Region championship and the program's men's team was ranked as high as No. 2 in the nation. She will join a team that has several other Upper Cumberland student-athletes including Cookeville High's Ben Walker and Clark Adcock from DeKalb County.

Bussell recently finished a successful prep rodeo career with a state championship in breakaway roping and qualified for the national high school finals, finishing in the top 30 in consecutive years.

Bussell, the daughter of Craig and Melanie Bussell and the granddaughter of Ralph and Cathy Jackson of Cookeville and Neal and Sandra Bussell of Kingsport, plans to major in exercise science at UT Martin, with aspirations of going into physical therapy.

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Milan Chamber offers free business advice

MARTIN, Tenn. Landy Fuqua, University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneur and Economic Development Center and Tennessee Small Business Development Center certified business counselor, will help aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business owners with business advice from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m., on Wednesday, July 17, at the Milan Chamber of Commerce located at 1061 South Main Street in Milan.

Fuqua has been with the REED Center for six years and was named director in 2011. She has over 20 years of experience as the owner and operator of two small businesses in Northwest Tennessee. She will give advice about business planning, financing options, marketing, customer service, cash flow and other issues. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free.

Appointments can be made by contacting the UT Martin REED Center/TSBDC at 731-587-7333. For additional services offered by the TSBDC, visit www.tsbdc.org
Professor teaches at sea lab

Dr. Michael Gibson, a professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin, spends his summers teaching geology at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab in Dauphin Island, Ala.

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) is the common name to the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium (MESC).

MESC consists of 22 colleges and universities in Alabama. DISL is recognized regionally and nationally as a top marine sciences institution of academic and research distinction.

Four different sessions are held in the summer, with college students from undergraduate and graduate programs from any MESC school flocking to Dauphin Island. Each session provides a variety of classes — from dolphins and whales to hurricanes of the Gulf Coast. College professors from around the Southeast travel to Dauphin Island to teach classes.

Dr. Gibson is no stranger to the Gulf Coast; he has been teaching at DISL since 2006. Each summer he teaches marine geology and this summer he has added a second class — coastal geomorphology. This was Dr. Gibson’s first time teaching coastal geomorphology and he was fascinated by the new topic.

“I was able to involve the class in a real-life situation, namely the erosion of DISL Beach area. We looked at the sediment removal since the construction of the groins in 1909. I think that made the class much more meaningful to the students to investigate a real geologic issue facing Dauphin Island,” Gibson said.

Groins are structures which inhibit water flow and limit the movement of sediment.

Sediment is a focal point in Gibson’s two classes. In marine geology, students study the sedimentary processes with an emphasis on the northeast Gulf of Mexico. The class takes trips to the coast and into Mobile Bay, which appears to be a favorite.

“It doesn’t matter if we are doing fieldwork on the beach, in the marsh or from the deck of a vessel, or if it is rainy or sunny, there is never a bad class day at the beach,” Gibson said.

While the students leave with new knowledge about geology in the ocean, Dr. Gibson concludes his eighth summer with the DISL with new experiences and student perspectives.

At the college level

Four local students have been awarded scholarships for the 2013-14 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The recipients include:
- Mikaela Hardy, daughter of Ben and Barbie Hardy of South Fulton, who will be a freshman. She received the UTAA Valedictorian Scholarship.
- Katie Hawks, daughter of David and Rhonda Hawks of Union City, who will be a senior. She received the Robert “Pete” Vawter award and the Dean’s Year 4 Scholarship.
- Michelle Stanley, daughter of Rebecca Long of Union City, who will be a sophomore. She received the Valedictorian Scholarship.
- Trevor Mayhall, son of Marty Mayhall and Vanessa Mayhall of Kenton, who will be a freshman. He received the Dean’s Scholarship.
Dresden resident attends WestStar Graduation

Pictured (left to right): Brinn Roten, of Savannah, Emily Land, of Ripley, and Alyssa Bynum, of Dresden, attended UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program graduation, June 20, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. Brinn and Emily both graduated with the 2013 WestStar class, while Alyssa attended with her husband, Jake, who also graduated with the current class. Thirty-three class members participated, bringing the total to 681 alumni over WestStar’s 24-year history. Class participants were chosen to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

Pseudoephedrine by Prescription debate to be held at UTM

The Martin Police Department and the Weakley County Prevention Coalition have joined forces for an open public forum on pseudoephedrine by prescription, scheduled 7-9 p.m., July 23, inside Watkins Auditorium, located on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The City of Martin’s Board of Mayor and Aldermen have begun taking the steps necessary to require a prescription for medicine contained pseudoephedrine and ephedrine. The measure was introduced by the Martin Police Department and is supported by the Weakley County Prevention Coalition in an effort to reduce the high number of methamphetamine laboratories in the county.

During the first reading of the ordinance, Martin Police Chief David Moore explained the need for a reduction in the number of labs in Weakley County. Last year, 30 children entered state custody due to meth-related incidents, while Weakley County remained one of the top 10 counties for meth lab seizures in Tennessee. Tennessee leads the nation in reported meth labs, followed by Kentucky and Missouri.

In an effort to curb the number of labs in the county, Martin Police are pushing for an effort that would make Weakley one of the first counties in the state to require prescriptions for medicines containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine.

UTM names College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Dean

Dr. Todd A. Winters

Dr. Todd A. Winters has accepted an appointment as dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, effective July 1, 2013, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Jerald Ogg, vice chancellor of academic affairs and provost, made the announcement June 6.

Winters, a professor and associate dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, earned his Ph.D. in endocrinology/reproductive physiology (biochemistry) from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and his master’s degree in animal science from Purdue University. His bachelor’s degree in animal science is from Washington State University, and he served as a National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center in Charlottesville from 1992-94.

“I am looking forward to leading a college that is already moving in a positive direction, and I am confident that Dean Winters will be able to help further improve the college’s standing,” Ogg said. “Dean Winters is well positioned to train the workforce, and provide assistance through research and outreach to help solve important societal issues related to food production and security; environmental stewardship and climate change; nutrition and family wellness; and food safety.”

Winters succeeds Gresham, who is retiring June 30.
UOM’s online programs get high marks

Affordable Colleges Online has ranked the University of Tennessee Martin’s online degree programs among the most affordable in the nation. UT Martin placed fifth among 54 colleges in the ranking released Wednesday. UT Martin is home to UT Online and offers online undergraduate and graduate degrees for the University of Tennessee System.

AC Online provides students with information about affordable higher education options. The website provides financial aid videos, expert advice and cost-savings ideas for college. Several additional “most affordable” lists are included at AffordableCollegesOnline.org.

AC Online developed the rankings based on net tuition prices and considered colleges whose graduates earned a starting salary of at least $31,000. The selection methodology also considered colleges that are fully accredited, four-year, not-for-profit institutions and colleges with at least one online or distance-learning degree program during the 2012-13 school year.

“Today’s mobile economy demands the widespread availability of online education, and many colleges are meeting that demand head-on,” said AC Online founder Dan Schuessler in a news release. “We’ve sifted through the most complete and comprehensive data sources to find the colleges and universities offering low-cost, high-quality distance learning options.”

This ranking follows other recent recognitions for UT Martin academic programs.

The graduate secondary licensure program made the National Council on Teacher Quality Prep Review honor roll released in June by U.S. News & World Report. The program received three out of a possible four stars and was one of 104 programs or nine percent of all programs listed on the honor roll.

“This shows that UT Martin does an excellent job of preparing teachers who just happen to stay in the Northwest Tennessee area,” Dr. Mary Lee Hall said. Hall retired June 30 as the dean of the university’s College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences.

Also, U.S. News & World Report named the university’s online business program earlier this year as one of the top-10 best online graduate business programs in 2013. The online graduate business program ranking is determined by the results of a U.S. News survey administered during the 2011-12 academic year that evaluated 22 “ranking indicators.” Those indicators included graduation rate, admissions selectivity, peer reputation, faculty credentials and training, accessible technology and overall cost.

“We are proud of the quality of the students who have graduated from this program (the Online MBA for Banking and Financial Services Professionals),” said Dr. Kevin Hammond, coordinator of graduate programs in business. Hammond called the distinction “a well-deserved tribute to our faculty and administration for their foresight in the design, support and implementation of this unique program.”

http://www.wbbjtv.com/

New Bankruptcy Judge Takes the Bench

By WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff
By news@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Jul 12, 2013 at 6:17 PM CDT
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JACKSON, Tenn. - The former assistant U.S. Attorney for West Tennessee was appointed as a judge for the Western District Bankruptcy Court in March. Friday, it became official during a ceremony at the Federal Courthouse in downtown Jackson.

Judge Jimmy Croom is a graduate of University of Tennessee at Martin and the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

Prior to becoming an assistant U.S. attorney, Croom served as an estate administrator for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for Western District of Tennessee.

“(it's) overwhelming. I'm just proud for my family and it is a great day and I am a very blessed man,” said Judge Jimmy Croom.

Croom’s chambers and courtroom will be located in the district’s Jackson office.
System president loves job

UT head shapes mission statement for university

By Tajuana Cheshier
tchesier@jacksonsun.com

In his second year as president of the University of Tennessee system, Joseph DiPietro said his job is not easy, but he loves it.

"It's a privilege to have this job, it's a challenge," said DiPietro, who was in Jackson on Thursday to visit with The Jackson Sun's Editorial Board and to attend the UT Institute of Agriculture's Summer Celebration Lawn & Garden Show.

The event was held at the West Tennessee AgResearch & Education Center.

Before serving as president, DiPietro served as chancellor of the UT Institute of Agriculture from 2006 to 2010.

DiPietro said as president one of the key things he wanted to do was to build a team to work on creating a mission statement that would reflect the role of the UT system.

"It was an inclusive process where everyone wrote goals they believed could be accomplished," he said.

DiPietro highlighted five goals of the UT system, "we want to expand our education offerings, increase our research capacity, foster greater outreach, be more effective and efficient and advocate for the UT system."

He expressed frustration about the lack of public awareness of UT efforts and contributions in research.

"We do more than people know about," he said. "We have to get better at spreading the word."

DiPietro said one of the UT system's shining jewels is its partnership with Battelle, LLC, a global research and development organization involved in science and technology to transform Oak Ridge National Laboratory. It is now a global leader in supercomputing, neutron science and renewable energy, he said.

On the other side of that issue, DiPietro said UT needs to increase its financial opportunities on development of intellectual property created at UT and the royalties that follow.

"We should bring in $15 million to $20 million, but we're doing $3 million or $4 million," he said.

On the issue of online degrees and education, DiPietro said UT is moving toward a hybrid model.

In that model, students listen to short 15-to-20 minute video instructions, take a test on the subject and move on to another area. Students still attend a traditional on-campus class as well.

"I don't think online learning is going to make us close our doors, but it can change how we deliver," DiPietro said. "We have to look at the end use of our product (students). We have an obligation to have a work ready graduate. They still need to be a well-rounded person. The UT system is not going to use a trade school or technical college approach."

DiPietro said he gets out of his Knoxville office and visits the other campuses - Martin, Chattanooga, the space institute in Tullahoma and the health and science center in Memphis - at least twice a month.

"We've had a record fund-raising year, with about $165 million," he said. "Our chancellors have autonomy on their campuses. I'm there to help and to give advice when there's trouble. But it's the chancellor's job to run the campus."

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UT System president, Dr. Joe DiPietro visited the Jackson Sun on Thursday. KENNETH CUMMINGS/THE JACKSON SUN

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See SYSTEM, Page A5

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System

Continued from Page A3

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The Honorable Jimmy L. Croom takes his oath of office as the new United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District.
KENNETH CUMMINGS/THE JACKSON SUN

No 'better man' for post
Croom becomes U.S. bankruptcy judge for Western District

By David Thomas
dgthomas@jacksonsun.com

Named after his father, James Lee "Jimmy" Croom took on his own identity when he was sworn in as the United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Tennessee Friday.
The investiture was held before a packed U.S. Federal Courthouse.
"I hope this many show up at my funeral," Croom said. "I'm humbled, honored and very blessed. I look out at all the people who have helped shape and mold my career."
A career that got its start when Croom interviewed with Milan attorney Jerry Flippin in 1984.
Impressed, Flippin not only offered Croom a position, but asked the native of Sharon if he could start work on that Thursday afternoon.
Croom told Flippin he could not and repeated the same words when asked if he could begin the next day - a Friday or the following Monday.
Frustrated, Flippin asked why Croom could not even begin work on Monday.
"He told me he was getting married in three hours," Flippin said.

See JUDGE, Page A4
Judge

Continued from Page A1

But the wait for Flippin, and the bankruptcy court, was obviously worth while. “We could not have found a better man if they had scoured the country,” Flippin said.

A resident of Greenfield, Croom replaces a retiring G. Harvey Boswell from Milan, who now resides in Nashville.

In his greetings, Boswell told Croom and those in attendance he was glad Croom was selected to take his place.

“We will never find anyone with better integrity and a man of great character,” Boswell said. “I’ve watched Judge Croom as he has progressed and he has not lost his character. “He’s a man who loves God and you can see it in his character.”

Croom, 52, has been a part of bankruptcy law since he began his career. “I’m not sure it has,” Croom said, when asked if the appointment had sunk in. “I never envisioned, never considered a judgeship (but) I’ve been practicing bankruptcy law since I began my career.”

He applauded his late father and told his mother, Marie Croom, the moment was for her. Unable to thank everyone who has played a role in his life, Croom spoke to his wife Diane as if she were the only person in the room.

“My wife and best friend for 29 years,” Croom said. “This day would not be possible without her. She went to work and put me through law school.”

Croom also recalled a few words of wisdom that has helped shape his life and career, namely the Golden Rule; his father telling him not to forget where he came from and always taking his job seriously but never himself.

“I’m a very blessed man,” Croom said. “I’m thankful for my family, career and colleagues, but most of all my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Callie Croom helps her father, The Honorable Jimmy L. Croom, put on his robe after being sworn in as United States Bankruptcy Judge. KENNETH CUMMINGS/THE JACKSON SUN

Kyle Edward Kragenbrink was among 123 students recently awarded the Doctor of Optometry degree from Southern College of Optometry in Memphis. Kragenbrink graduated cum laude and was selected to receive the Och La De Paris Award.

Och La De Paris is a line of eyewear favored by Hollywood stars.

A native of Columbia, Kragenbrink is the son of Joan and Wayne Kragenbrink. He is a graduate of Columbia Central High School and the University of Tennessee in Martin, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

Optometrists are independent, primary health care providers who specialize in the examination, diagnosis, treatment and management of diseases/disorders of the visual system, the eye and associated structures, as well as the diagnosis of related systemic conditions.
MARTIN, Tenn.- A total of seven University of Tennessee at Martin football players have been honored in Phil Steele’s 2013 College Football Preview Magazine.

Among the list of honorees are linebacker Ben Johnson, defensive end D. J. Roberts, offensive tackle Charles Sweeton, kick returner Kevin Barfield, wide receiver Jeremy Butler, center Tyler Eady and punter James Satterfield.

UT Martin officially opens its season at Chattanooga on August 29.

Milan students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

Two Milan students have been awarded scholarships for the 2013-2014 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

Brooks Becton, son of Michael Becton and Laurie Becton, of Milan, will be a freshman. He received the Dean’s Scholarship.

Seth Dortch, son of Lee and Pam Dortch, of Milan, will be a freshman. He received the Martha and Andy Holt Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn., 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
Obion County Central graduate among highway patrol’s 56 new state troopers

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam welcomed 56 new state troopers — including one from Obion County — to the Tennessee Highway Patrol in a graduation ceremony Friday at Hermitage Hills Baptist Church in Hermitage.

Among the graduates was Spencer Minyard, the son of Andy and Cindy Minyard of Union City.

Minyard has been assigned to Obion County, which is in the THP’s Memphis District.

He graduated from Obion County Central High School in 2007 and then earned an associate’s degree from Dyersburg State Community College and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin, majoring in criminal justice.

He graduated from the UT National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program, offered through a partnership of the National Forensic Academy and the UT Martin Criminal Justice Program.

"Congratulations to Trooper Cadet Class 713 on graduating and becoming a part of Tennessee’s finest," Haslam said. "Live with honor. Serve with pride. is the motto that you have chosen for your class. I hope you will take those six words to heart, wear the badge of the Tennessee Highway Patrol with integrity and help protect the citizens of this state with courage and pride."

The THP Cadet Academy began with 64 prospective troopers on March 1. On Friday, 36 cadets graduated — among them 25 with law enforcement and military experience, 20 with bachelor’s degrees and 10 active military members. Four of the graduating cadets were female.

The new graduates now advance to a maximum of 10 weeks of field training.

"As a result of the change in our state law proposed by Governor Haslam known as the TEAM Act, we were able to apply higher standards in the selection of this trooper cadet class,” said Safety Commissioner Bill Gibbons. "These new troopers represent the very best from over two thousand applicants. Our state will benefit greatly from their public service."

The trooper cadets participated in several community service programs during the four-month training. They held two blood drives for the American Red Cross, donated more than 50 personal hygiene kits to children of foster care through the Department of Children’s Services and raised $600 to the Frankie N. Watson Scholarship Fund, a scholarship program for high school students in East Tennessee. The scholarship fund was established by Sgt. Lowell Russell, a friend of fallen U.S. Marine Frankie Watson.

Trooper Joe Taylor was named the top cadet and was presented the Calvin Jenks Memorial Award for Excellence for his leadership, work ethic and academics. The award was named in honor of Jenks, who was killed in the line of duty in January 2007. Taylor was assigned to Greene County in the THP’s Fall Branch District.

"We have given you the resources to be successful as a Tennessee state trooper. Once you walk out of those doors, it’s up to you to use the knowledge and skills you’ve gained to the best of your ability,” THP Col. Tracy Trott said. "I challenge each and every one of you to make a difference in your assigned counties and be of good service to citizens statewide.”

Friday’s ceremony included a procession of graduates, the presentation of the colors by the THP Honor Guard and the oath of office administered by Gibbons.
UT Martin adds top ranking for affordable online programs

Affordable Colleges Online has ranked the University of Tennessee at Martin's online degree programs among the most affordable in the nation.

UT Martin placed fifth among 54 colleges in the ranking released last week.

UT Martin is home to UT Online and offers online undergraduate and graduate degrees for the University of Tennessee System.

AC Online provides students with information about affordable higher education options. The website provides financial aid videos, expert advice and cost-savings ideas for college. Several additional "most affordable" lists are included at AffordableCollegesOnline.org.

AC Online developed the rankings based on net tuition prices and considered colleges whose graduates earned a starting salary of at least $31,000. The selection methodology also considered colleges that are fully accredited, four-year, not-for-profit institutions and colleges with at least one online or distance-learning degree program during the 2012-13 school year.

"Today's mobile economy demands the widespread availability of online education, and many colleges are meeting that demand head-on," said AC Online founder Dan Schuessler in a news release.

"We've sifted through the most complete and comprehensive data sources to find the colleges and universities offering low-cost, high-quality distance learning options."

This ranking follows other recent recognitions for UT Martin academic programs.

The graduate secondary licensure program made the National Council on Teacher Quality Prep Review honor roll released in June by U.S. News & World Report. The program received three out of a possible four stars and was one of 104 programs or nine percent of all schools listed on the honor roll.

Also, U.S. News & World Report named the university's online business program earlier this year as one of the top-10 best online graduate business programs in 2013. The online graduate business program ranking is determined by the results of a U.S. News survey administered during the 2011-12 academic year that evaluated 22 "ranking indicators." Those indicators included graduation rate, admissions selectivity, peer reputation, faculty credentials and training, accessible technology and overall cost.

http://www.wbbjtv.com/
UT Martin adds top-5 ranking for affordable online college degrees

Affordable Colleges Online has ranked the University of Tennessee at Martin’s online degree programs among the most affordable in the nation. UT Martin placed fifth among 54 colleges in the ranking released recently. UT Martin is home to UT Online and offers online undergraduate and graduate degrees for the University of Tennessee System.

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"This shows that UT Martin does an excellent job of preparing teachers who just happen to stay in the Northwest Tennessee area,” Dr. Mary Lee Hall said. Hall retired June 30 as the dean of the university’s College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences.

Also, U.S. News & World Report named the university’s online business program earlier this year as one of the top-10 best online graduate business programs in 2013. The online graduate business program ranking is determined by the results of a U.S. News survey administered during the 2011-12 academic year that evaluated 22 "ranking indicators." Those indicators included graduation rate, admissions selectivity, peer reputation, faculty credentials and training, accessible technology and overall cost.

"We are proud of the quality of the students who have graduated from this program (the Online MBA for Banking and Financial Services Professionals),” said Dr. Kevin Hammond, coordinator of graduate programs in business. Hammond called the distinction “a well-deserved tribute to our faculty and administration for their foresight in the design, support and implementation of this unique program.”
Continued from Page 1

Center, the University of Tennessee at Martin Reed Center, Dyersburg State Community College and the U.S. Small Business Administration. But organizers Maleia Evans and Landy Fuqua wish to invite all area ladies to attend.

"In our opinion, this is a conference for all women," said Evans, director of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center at DSCC. "Every woman manages something. Some women are the CEO of their household and that is just as important as serving as the CEO of a large corporation. This conference is for women from all walks of life.'" Pierce, named the Recording Industry of America’s Top Certified Female Comedian last month, will kick off events for The EDGE with a performance at 7 p.m., on Friday, Aug. 23.

The separate, pre-conference event will take place at First Christian Church with a general admission of $25. VIP tickets featuring a reception and special seating are also available for $50. (The VIP reception takes place prior to the show from 5:30-6:30 p.m.)

Whelchel will headline Saturday’s event at the Lannom Center on Saturday, Aug. 24. Tickets include a shopping expo with as many as 50 vendors, a fashion show and a luncheon, with actress, inspirational speaker and entrepreneur Lisa Whelchel providing the keynote address.

Tickets for the entire Saturday event, the shopping expo from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. and luncheon from noon until 2 p.m., are currently on sale for $29. Advanced tickets are required to attend the luncheon.

Those who just wish to spend the day shopping may purchase a separate ticket to the shopping expo for just $5. Shopping expo tickets will remain available at the door throughout the day.

Tickets for either event may be purchased at www.iTickets.com. EDGE co-organizer Maleia Evans said corporate registrations and vendor booths are still available.

Booths for vendors wishing to sell items at the shopping expo are available for $55. The 10-by-10-foot booth does not feature electricity. A vendor hospitality room with refreshments will be included. Vendor luncheon tickets are also available for $10.

Those interested in securing a booth may contact Evans at mevans@dssc.edu or 286-3201.

Local businesses and industry interested in corporate registration may choose one or both of the events presented by the EDGE Conference for Women. Corporate registrations include the company or organization’s logo on event materials and 10 VIP tickets. The deadline for logos to be printed on event materials is Aug. 1.

Corporate registration for the Chonda Pierce event on Friday, Aug. 23 is $250.

Corporate registration for the Lisa Whelchel luncheon, shopping expo and fashion show on Saturday, Aug. 24 is $450.

Corporate registrations may be secured for both events for $700.

A great gift for employees or customers, corporate registrations may be purchased by contacting Evans at mevans@dssc.edu or 286-3201.

Those interested in more information may visit www.utm.edu/EDGEConference.

Tickets available now for EDGE Conference for Women in August

VANESSA CAIN
vcain@stategazette.com

Laughter.
Shopping.
Lunch.
Inspiration.
Area ladies still have time to reserve their spot for two local events featuring nationally acclaimed women of faith.

Christian comedienne Chonda Pierce and television star Lisa Whelchel of "The Facts of Life" and "Survivor: Philippines" will both speak in Dyersburg this summer as a part of The EDGE Conference for Women. The two-day event has received a little last-minute tweaking by organizers, with a more relaxed Saturday event offered at a reduced price.

Designed to aid local women in Encouraging, Developing and Gaining Excellence, the conference is sponsored by the Tennessee Small Business Development
Overbey to play football, baseball at UT Martin

Former USJ QB was two-time Mr. Football

By Craig Thomas
cthomas2@jacksonsun.com

The already significant quarterback competition on the UT Martin football team is now a little more interesting. Jake Overbey, a two-time Mr. Football winner and former USJ quarterback, has transferred to UT Martin. Coach Jason Simpson confirmed the transfer Wednesday.

"Jake's already in summer school and participating in summer workouts," Simpson said by phone.

Overbey has been playing baseball at Ole Miss. He will play both baseball and football for the Skyhawks.

As of now he must sit out one year before playing baseball, though an NCAA appeal might allow him to play baseball immediately.

The 6-2 junior will compete to be the starting quarterback for UTM football this season. Other quarterbacks on the roster are juniors Dylan Favre and Tyler Rice, sophomore Jarod Neal and freshman Khalid Hagens.

Someone must replace Derek Carr, who graduated. Simpson didn't want to speculate about whether Overbey might be the starter.

"It's way too premature for that. He hasn't even been involved in an organized practice yet," Simpson said.

"The thing everybody's got to remember, he's two years removed from football."

Simpson described Overbey as a great competitor.

Overbey was named Mr. Football back in Division II-A for 2009 and 2010.

Overbey threw for over 3,000 yards as a sophomore and was a finalist for the award that year.

Overbey's transfer is beneficial for the Skyhawk baseball team, too.

Playing shortstop, he batted .409 his senior year at USJ and was drafted in the 10th round of the MLB Draft by the Philadelphia Phillies. He elected to join his brother Preston at Ole Miss.

UTM baseball finished 11-40 last year and did not qualify for the Ohio Valley Conference tournament.

Craig Thomas, 425-9634
Just charge it: UTM makes it easy for electric car owners

MARTIN — Dr. Stan Dunagan pulled his Nissan Leaf up to the pump for a charge. He grabbed his book bag and made the short trek over to the local barber. After his haircut, he walked across the street for a quick lunch.

After all that, Dunagan returned to his office on the west side of campus and taught class before he walked over to the football stadium parking lot to take his car off the charger and drive home. His car was fully charged and good for at least 100 miles.

Dunagan, who teaches geology in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, can charge his car on campus now thanks to UT Martin’s commitment to be green. The university installed two electric vehicle (EV) chargers in the Hardy Graham Stadium football parking lot.

“Persons driving all electric or hybrid-electric cars can come to the university and for a small fee, charge up,” Dunagan said.

Dunagan, the oldest son of chancellor emeritus Nick Dunagan, said it cost him about $20 to keep his car charged at his home charger in April. His recent charge was going to cost him about $3.

UT Martin and ECotality, the EV charger folks, will split the modest revenues, Dunagan said. As for paying for the charge, it was as simple as paying for gasoline at the pump. All Dunagan had to do was swipe his credit card.

UTM is the second university in the state to install chargers on its campus. The first was the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

In addition to the two units on campus, UT Martin also offers chargers at the Department of Agriculture and Botany building and at the CHARGE IT UP — Stan Dunagan takes time out to charge his Nissan Leaf on one of the University of Tennessee at Martin's new electric vehicle chargers in the parking lot at Hardy M. Graham Stadium football parking lot. Anyone with an electric or hybrid-electric car can come to UT Martin and charge up for a small price.

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Charge it...

(Continued from Page 1)
UTM grad, dentist puts skills to use in Navy

By JOE LOFARO
Special to The Press

MARTIN — Dr. Russell Kirk was just establishing his dental office in Lebanon when he received a letter informing him he was to report to active duty in the Navy.

"I had to get a storage unit and put everything in it and go," Kirk said.

The Obion County native and University of Tennessee at Martin graduate, who was in the United States Navy Reserve, closed his private practice after only three years to serve as the staff Oral and Maxillofa-
cial Surgeon at the United States Military Hospital Kuwait in conjunction with Expeditionary Medical Facility Dallas.

In 2006, Kirk returned home and re-opened his practice. He settled down and married Dr. Ann-Marie Sutherland and the couple has two daughters, Presley-Kate, 3, and Harper-Grace 2.

Each year since he has been in the Navy Reserves, Kirk has had to complete a two-week training obligation. He’s been to North Africa and now he has been to Martin.

A lot of people will use the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) as their training. When I heard this year’s IRT was in Martin I applied immediately," Kirk said.

Kirk is among 300 Navy, Air Force and Army personnel who have deployed to Martin. The primary mission of IRT is to conduct deployment, readiness and logistics training in an expeditionary, multi-service environment.

"This is training for us with benefits to others," Kirk said.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Kirk and other military personnel involved in dental exams provided more than $300,000 in services. Kirk said his group has seen more than 500 patients performed more than 1,500 extractions and 200 restorations.

"Most of us checked in Sunday with our gear, and then a pod of dental equipment arrived on Tuesday," Kirk said. "What happened then was remarkable. None of us know one another or never worked with one another before. We set up our individual gear and then..."

See Kirk, Page 12

Kirk

From Page 1

when the pod got here we set up the rest of our shop. We have been working 12-hour clinics since Tuesday so we can see all the people."

Ruby Black, professor of nursing at UT Martin and chairperson of the Board of Hope of Martin, applied for the IRT grant through Hope of Martin Community Development Corporation.

While there were no eligibility requirements and all health screenings were free, the IRT program is the part of the United States Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.
EV chargers on UTM campus make it easy to ‘refuel’ electric cars

By JOE LOFARO
Special to The Press

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In addition to the two universities, several Cracker Barrel Old Country Store locations in Tennessee have installed EV chargers. Drivers can make a circle around Nashville, Manchester, Crossville, Harriman, Farragut, Athens, Cleveland and East Ridge and stop at a Cracker Barrel for lunch and, while eating a scrumptious bowl of chicken and dumplings, they can get a charge.

In addition to UT Martin and select Cracker Barrel locations, Dunagan can also charge his car at home.

“This is a great commuter car,” Dunagan said about his Nissan Leaf. “If we are going to Nashville, Memphis or the beach we are taking the mini-van.”

As of March, there were 16,256 public charging points in the United States. President Obama has called for one million plug-in electric cars on the road by 2015.

With the increase in electric cars, drivers will want more EV chargers. Walgreens, McDonald’s and select shopping malls in the U.S. already offer the EV chargers.

Public forum scheduled for Tuesday at UTM

By JOE LOFARO
Special to The Press

The Martin Police Department and the Weakley County Prevention Coalition have joined forces for an open public forum on pseudoephedrine by prescription.

The forum is set from 7-9 p.m., Tuesday at the Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus. The Weakley County Commission recently passed a resolution asking each city municipality to pass an ordinance requiring a prescription before common cold and allergy products containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine could be purchased at local pharmacies or Walmart.

“The intention of the ordinance is to cut down the domestic manufacturing of methamphetamine,” said Catherine Roblio, the director of the Weakley County Prevention Coalition.

The city of Martin has passed an ordinance, but has not had its public hearing or second reading. Martin aldermen voted 5-0 in favor of the ordinance.

The city of Sharon voted 3-0, against a proposed ordinance because it only has one store, Dollar General, in its city limits.

Dresden aldermen have not discussed the ordinance, while police chiefs in Gleason and Greenfield have introduced the topic of pseudoephedrine or ephedrine to their mayors and respective aldermen.
ACT prep course offered in Jackson

An ACT preparation course for students will be offered from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, beginning today and continuing through Aug. 24 at the University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center, according to a news release.

The course is sponsored by the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies and will be held at the UT Martin Jackson Center, located at 3031 U.S. 45 Bypass in Jackson.

Linda Johnson and Katherine Moran, UT Martin adjunct instructors, will teach the course, the release said. Students will be given an

See BRIEFLY, Page B2

Briefly
Continued from Page B1

official, retired test at the first course meeting. After reviewing, students take a second official, retired test under real test conditions, guaranteeing a valid pre- and post-test comparison, according to the release.

The instructors then will use the assessment reports from the posttest to provide students with a personal study plan. The instructors will schedule one-on-one meetings with students to discuss their personal study plan.

The registration fee to attend is $225. Included in the fee are two ACT tests and diagnostic reports and two textbooks.

To register, call ECOS at (731) 881-7082, or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php.

http://columbiadailyherald.com/

Distinguished Award winners honored at Columbia State

Special to The Herald

Pitts Hinson, D.D.S., Renee Curtis, R.N., and Dr. Sam and Mrs. Lucy Kuykendall were honored at the Columbia State Community College Foundation’s annual award luncheon on Wednesday, June 19.

Selected by Columbia State President Janet F. Smith, Hinson was awarded the 2013 President’s Award of Honor for Distinguished Alumni for his outstanding service to Columbia State. A 1969 graduate of the college, he was awarded Alumnus of the Year in 1988, served on the foundation from 1988-2001 and was the chairman of the development committee from 1998-2000.

In more recent years, Hinson has devoted much of his time to his hobby of pottery making and has become well recognized, having pieces displayed in the Columbia State Pryor Gallery and throughout the region. Hinson has continued to support Columbia State by crafting a special commemorative plate glazed in green, which he donates each commencement as a token of his appreciation for the college. The plate is unique to Columbia State and can only be obtained by being selected as a commencement speaker. Each plate is engraved underneath with the speaker’s name and date of the ceremony.

“Pitts Hinson has not only demonstrated continued support and participation,” Smith said, “He has gone the extra mile and set the true example of a loyal alumnus. His vision and desire for the continued growth of his college started a wonderful tradition for the college and a special recognition for our commencement speakers.”

Hinson took a leadership role in the Enriching Lives and Securing Futures campaign and has given generously to Columbia State’s scholarships and building funds, as well as the foundation. He has volunteered his time to numerous groups and served in leadership roles on boards, including the Southern Society of Pediatric Dentistry, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and First Farmers and Merchants Bank.

Earning his B.S. from the University of Tennessee at Martin and an M.S. and D.D.S. from the UT Center for Health Sciences, Hinson has written several articles published in Dental Association journals, and he has received honors and awards for his work as a pediatric dentist and surgeon, including “Fellow of the AAPD” and a fellowship award from the Tennessee Dental Association.
The 2013 Alumnus of the Year award was presented to Curtis, a 1985 graduate of Columbia State who earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in nursing. After discovering more opportunities to provide care for critical patients, she returned in 2001 to complete the EMT-IV program to become a flight nurse.

"Ms. Curtis exemplifies Columbia State's mission and vision," said Dr. Fleming, Ed.D., dean of the health sciences division and professor of radiologic technology. "If I were picking ambassadors for learning, serving and leading, Ramee Curtis would be high on the list."

Curtis was The Tennessean's Nurse of the Year in 2004 and has developed numerous programs which serve Columbia State's rural communities, including Saint Thomas' Chest Pain Network and data registry, Stroke Network and mobile simulation lab.

In addition, Curtis has written, obtained and managed multiple grants that focus on rural stroke and heart healthy living education. As a member of community organizations, she has also served on the Cardiovascular Council (TriStar Nashville Market), the Nashville Fire EMS/ED Quality Committee, and the Tennessee Cardiovascular Systems of Care Committee.

Curtis continues to support Columbia State in her professional efforts, recruiting college personnel for membership in grant advisory committees and supports Columbia State students throughout the learning experience through mentorship.

In 1989, Curtis earned her critical care certification from the University of Tennessee in Nashville, and she completed her B.S.N. in 2004 from Middle Tennessee State University. She continues to look for ways to improve healthcare education, patient outcomes and provider skills in Middle Tennessee.

Recipients of the 2013 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy, the Kuykendalls, were recognized for their significant impact on the growth and support of the arts at Columbia State and its surrounding communities.

John Morgan, chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents, presented the award to the Kuykendalls, saying that their lasting influence and generosity will forever impact the development and support of the arts at Columbia State and its surrounding communities.

"It is through individuals like Sam and Lucy that this college will continue to provide a place for students and the community to grow and learn for many years to come," Morgan said.

Mrs. Kuykendall served as the curator of the Pryor Art Gallery from 2001-2012, using her passion and vision to lay the foundation for the arts at Columbia State. She also partnered with area elementary and high school art teachers to provide opportunities for local budding artists to display their work for a student exhibit every spring.

The Kuykendalls have also donated personal resources to develop the gallery's design and exhibits, bringing a wide variety of artists to the gallery to showcase sculpture, pottery, woodworking, glass and other media.

"The Kuykendalls have given their time and resources over the past decade to provide opportunities to broaden and enrich lives through the visual arts," Smith said. "They are well deserving of this honor."

In 2008, the Kuykendalls expanded the visual arts at Columbia State to include the envisioned sculpture garden, which now permanently showcases "The Crossings" and "The Graduate," two stainless steel sculptures commissioned by Chattanooga-based sculptor, Isaac Duncan.

"The passion, vision, hard work and financial contributions of Dr. and Mrs. Kuykendall will reap great benefit for our students and have a lasting impact in our community well into the future," Smith said.
Clarksville Montgomery County School System announces Administrative Appointments

July 20, 2013

http://www.clarksvilleonline.com/

Clarksville Montgomery County, TN - A high school principal has resigned to take a position in North Carolina and a number of administrative appointments have been made in the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System for the 2013-14 school year.

Ptosha Maclin

Ptosha Maclin, who serves as an academic coach at Barkers Mill Elementary, will be Assistant Principal at Kenwood Elementary School for the next school year.

Ms. Maclin has worked with CMCSS since 2002 as a teacher at Hazelwood and Barkers Mill Elementary Schools. She has been an academic coach since 2008. She earned her Education Leadership Endorsement from the University of Tennessee-Martin, her M.S. in education from Walden University and her B.S. in elementary education mathematics from Austin Peay State University.

THE JACKSON SUN • SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2013

FAITH AND FREEDOM

Members of an ensemble sing during the 'Faith and Freedom' celebration Saturday night at The Ned in downtown Jackson. Members include, from left, Carmen Wagster, Diann Robinson, Ken Kerr, Philip Tabler, Sidney Burngasser, Beverly Shelby and Rhonda Greer. PAM DIETZ/THE JACKSON SUN
MARTIN, Tenn. -- The University of Tennessee-Martin has installed two electric car chargers on campus.

One of the users of the service is Dr. Stan Dunagan, who said a recent full charge for his Nissan Leaf cost about $3. Dunagan said his cost for charging the vehicle at home was about $20 for April.

UT-Martin and ECOtality, the provider of the charging stations, split the revenue from them.

The chargers are in the parking lot of the university's stadium.

The University of Tennessee's main campus in Knoxville also has charging stations.
The University of Tennessee-Martin has installed two electric car chargers on campus. One of the users of the service is Dr. Stan Dunagan, who said a recent full charge for his Nissan Leaf cost about $3. Dunagan said his cost for charging the vehicle at home was about $20 for April. UT-Martin and ECOtality, the provider of the charging stations, split the revenue from them. The chargers are in the parking lot of the university's stadium. The University of Tennessee's main campus in Knoxville also has charging stations.
Rogers earns examiner status

First Citizens National bank vice president and senior fraud analyst John Rogers was recently granted the status of certified fraud examiner by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

"John met the specific CFE qualifications upon passing the CFE exam. In addition he holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Tennessee at Martin, as well as his professional experience. First Citizens is fortunate to have John on staff as a certified fraud examiner. We are one of the few community banks in the country to have a CFE on staff managing our fraud division," chief operations officer Judy Long said.

The ACFE is the world's largest anti-fraud organization and premier provider of anti-fraud training and education.

UT Martin Parsons Center Celebrates $2.25 Million Expansion

By Mallory Cooke
By mcooke@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Jul 22, 2013 at 2:06 PM CDT
(Story Updated: Jul 22, 2013 at 9:07 PM CDT)

PARSONS, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin in Decatur County will soon get a $2.25 million expansion.

"I've been here for two and half years and I'm hoping to start the BSN program in the fall of 2014," said Jessica Brownyard, a student.

Brownyard chose the UT Martin-Parsons Center because it is convenient in location and cost. "My junior year of high school my parents got a divorce and so I had to start getting my own job, making my own money," she said.

The UT Martin-Parsons Center hosted a groundbreaking ceremony Monday to celebrate the new 10,000 square foot expansion. The space will house the nursing program.

"I'm excited about all the toys we're gonna have," said Brownyard.

The West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation, state funding, and private donations will cover the cost of the project. "It's going to have an additional six classrooms, a skills lab, a sim lab, a lecture hall," said Dr. Kari Deere, UT Martin-Parsons Center Director.

The expansion allows 30 students annually to earn a nursing degree. "That's what we're about in Tennessee is providing more opportunity and more access to higher education, so that we can fill the workforce needs of tomorrow," said Governor Bill Haslam.

Brownyard looks forward to learning in the new facility. "I wasn't expecting an expansion," she said. "I always thought I'd end up having to go off somewhere, but now that I get to stay I'm really excited."

The expansion should be finished next summer.

http://www.wbbjtv.com/
**Via Ole Miss, ex two-sport USJ star transfers to UT Martin**

Jake Overbey, a former record-setting football and baseball player at University School of Jackson, has transferred to UT Martin.

Overbey, who has spent the last two seasons playing baseball at Ole Miss in Oxford, intends to play both football and baseball at UT Martin. He is eligible to play football immediately and will have three years of eligibility remaining. He will be forced to sit out this baseball season because of NCAA transfer rules but could be cleared after an NCAA appeals process. He will have two years of eligibility left with the Skyhawk baseball team.

A 6-2, 195-pound quarterback, Overbey became the only player in USJ history to rack up two Division 2-A Mr. Football awards — capturing the award in 2009 and 2010. He was a three-time all-state selection (2008-10) under head coach Mickey Marley and led the Bruins to a 30-6 record in his three seasons as a starting quarterback.

Overbey was a three-time region Player of the Year. For his career, he completed 62.1 percent of his passes (511-for-823) and threw for 8,035 yards and 102 touchdowns (against only 18 interceptions). He also added 1,044 rushing yards and 21 rushing TDs in his prep career.

“We are thrilled to welcome Jake to UT Martin,” Skyhawk football head coach Jason Simpson said. “He brings a lot of talent and an exciting strong arm to the quarterback position. He’s been out of football for two years, but we expect him to come right in and compete.”

For all of his success on the gridiron, Overbey also shined on the diamond during his USJ career.

Playing shortstop for head coach Brad Dyer at USJ, Overbey was an all-state, all-region and all-district selection as a senior in 2011. He hit .409 with 28 doubles, 10 homers, 54 RBI’s and 56 runs scored that season and was chosen as the Most Valuable Player of the West Tennessee All-Star Game.

Overbey was selected by the Philadelphia Phillies in the 10th round of the 2011 MLB Draft but chose to play alongside his brother Preston at Ole Miss.

At Ole Miss, Overbey appeared in 66 games the past two seasons, including 10 starts. He drove in six runs and scored six runs while logging 57 at-bats for the Rebels, who posted a 75-50 record under head coach Mike Bianco in Overbey’s two seasons (2012-13).

Overbey saw extended playing time during Ole Miss’ run in the 2012 postseason. He started in the Southeastern Conference Tournament game against LSU and made a start in all four games of the NCAA Tournament College Station Regional, hosted by Texas A&M.

“We are excited to have Jake join our program,” UT Martin baseball coach Bubba Cates said. “He is a quality player and wanted to continue playing baseball at the collegiate level. We hope to get him on the field a lot sooner rather than later.”

For Overbey, the opportunity to rekindle his passion for the game of football was too good to pass up at UT Martin, located just a little over 50 miles from his hometown.

“Ole Miss is a great program, and I’m glad I was a part of it,” Overbey said. “When I decided to transfer, I talked to coach Marley about going back to football. He and coach Simpson helped me get to UT Martin to visit, and I felt like this was a good place to be.”

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**Six candidates to interview for Martin city recorder job**

By JOE LOFARO
Special to The Press

MARTIN — The City of Martin will interview two current city employees and four more candidates for the city recorder’s job, a position currently held by Chris Mathis, who plans to retire Aug. 31.

All six interviews are currently set for Thursday, but some of the interviews could change because of the funeral of longtime insurance agent Stanley Edwards, the father of alderman Randy Edwards.

Both Linda Walker and Kelly Wilson are among the five finalists for the job. Both Walker and Wilson are currently clerks at City Hall. Walker has worked for the city for 40 years, while Wilson has been employed by the city for the past five months.

The other four candidates include Charles Covington, Jade Hammer, Brittainy Hill and Rachel A. Lovell.

Covington currently works at UT Martin as a grant accountant. He has worked for four years for Jack Reese, whose accounting firm has audited the city in the past. Hill has a bachelor’s degree in finance and most recently served as an independent contractor as a foreclosure field inspector.

Lovell, who lives in Greenfield, recently served as the director of operations for Mirror Lawn Turf Inc.
GETTING HER KICKS

New coach at Westview has passion for soccer

By RANDY CAVIN
Press Sports

The love of soccer and coaching the sport led Hannah Steadman to Westview.

Steadman is the Lady Chargers' new soccer coach, and when the coaching vacancy came open at the end of the 2012-13 school year, she knew she had to throw her name into the mix for the job.

The UT Martin graduate was already familiar with the success the Lady Chargers have had in recent years.

"I was very excited to hear about this job," Steadman said. "All I have heard about, since I am from UT Martin and I am around this community, is how great the program already was. These girls have such good talent already."

The first year coach graduated from UTM in May with a degree in Secondary English Education. She played prep soccer at Madison Academic in Jackson.

Steadman did not play for the Skyhawks in college, playing intramural soccer instead. College soccer was not in her plans.

"I knew college sports were not what I wanted to do," she said. "I just wanted focus on academics. Soccer has always been a sport I loved to play. Intramurals has always been a fun thing at UTM, but we have always been competitive. We tried our best to win every year."

NOW IN CHARGE — New Westview girls' soccer head coach Hannah Steadman and assistant coach Ramon Hernandez look over notes prior to a practice session recently. The former Madison Academic player and UT Martin graduate looks to continue the success of the Lady Charger program.
Steadman realizes she has to prove herself with the program former head coach Matt Cupples built. Westview made it to the sectionals all three years Cupples was at the Lady Chargers helm.

"He did build a great program," she said. "There are some big shoes to fill — definitely."

The Lady Chargers have had some difficulty in the last three years getting past the schools in and around Jackson. In 2010, the Lady Chargers lost to McNairy Central in the sectionals, and Madison Academic ended Westview's 2011 season in the sectionals. Last year it was Sacred Heart that ended the Lady Chargers season in the sectionals.

Steadman wants to change that.

"Our girls have not had the chance to play club ball like the Jackson schools have," she said. "We are at a little bit of a disadvantage, but they hold their own on that field. They have been together since kindergarten."

The first-year coach will have to replace two very good soccer players from last year's squad. McKenzie Vincent, last season's goalkeeper, graduated in May, as did Kayla Guthrie, who kept the offense going with her hustling style of play.

"We are actually on the hunt for a goalie right now," Steadman said. "We are trying to find a younger girl so we will at least have her for the next couple of years. We have a lot of girls in the lower classes that have already stepped up. They are motivated and want to be out there hustling. I am not too worried about that part."

Steadman is ready to take on the competition that makes up Region 7-A-AAA. She already knows teams like Dyersburg and Obion Central are tough opponents and are also good rivals. However, she says she is not going to pass any judgment on any team until she sees them on the soccer field against her Lady Chargers.

"I know Dyersburg is our big competition, and we have rivalry with Obion County, so that should be a fun game," the Westview coach said. "I have heard different things. I am just going to wait and see. I am not going to have any bias toward any team, but Dyersburg is definitely a team we want to beat."

What got Steadman interested in soccer is that it's an enjoyable sport for her. She started playing at a young age in park and recreation leagues. Steadman also loves the sport because of the long distance running involved in it.

"It has always been such a fun sport," Steadman said. "I really like the running part of it. I like being out there for a long time. I like the long distance part because I am a runner anyway. It is definitely a good sport to play, when you are a runner."

Steadman is looking forward to getting her team on the soccer field at the Martin Soccer complex for its first home game. She is in love with the soccer and the hard work Martin Parks and Recreation puts into it.

"The facilities here are wonderful," she said. "I am so excited these are the fields we get to play on. I went to City Hall on Monday and told them how great the fields are. The fact that the whole City of Martin takes care of it is great."

Westview will be playing in a jamboree in Dyersburg on Aug. 3.

The Lady Chargers open the 2013 season at Lexington on Aug. 20 and will have their first home game against Henry County on Aug. 22.

**UT Martin’s Johnson and Roberts make OVC list**

NASHVILLE — A 6-2, 235-pound redshirt senior defensive lineman out of Knoxville, earned All-OVC second team honors in 2012 after ranking third in the league with 11.5 tackles for loss. Overall, the 6-2, 245-pounder registered 53 tackles, 11 quarterback hurries, 3.5 sacks and two fumble recoveries.

That duo joins junior linebacker Tony Bell (78 tackles, nine tackles for loss, four sacks), senior safety J’Vontez Blackmon (76 tackles, two interceptions, five passes defended), senior defensive back Cameron Harris (29 tackles, one interception, five passes defended) and redshirt senior Thad Williams (44 tackles, two interceptions, nine passes defended) as returning starters on defense.

Returning starters on the offensive side of the ball include redshirt junior right guard Mathew Axline (21 career starts, including all 11 games last season); senior wide receiver Jeremy Butler (51 receptions, 750 yards, 10 touchdowns); redshirt senior wide receiver Dylan Davis (23 receptions, 293 yards); redshirt senior center Tyler Eady (33 consecutive career starts); redshirt junior left guard John Johnson (10 career starts, including nine last season); and redshirt junior left tackle Charles Sweeton (21 consecutive career starts).

Also returning for UT Martin is punter James Satterfield (2012 All-OVC second teamer, 42.5 yards per punt) and return specialist Kevin Barfield (24.5 yards per kick return in 2012).

The Skyhawks, who return 11 players in all, were picked to finish fifth in the 2013 league race by a vote of head coaches and sports information directors after going 8-3 last season.

UTM’s .727 winning percentage was the best in the OVC last year.
CLOSE CALL — After a strong wave of storms swept across Weakley County Sunday, a large tree on the UT Martin campus fell across University Street and narrowly missed a passing vehicle. Police officers quickly arrived on the scene to direct oncoming traffic. Authorities said debris was scattered about the area, but there were no injuries reported.
Gibson County leaders are WestStar grads

MARTIN, Tenn. – Chris Crider, Anita Hamilton and Shelby Kee, all of Gibson County, were recently honored for completing the WestStar Leadership Program sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

In its 24th year, UT Martin's WestStar program, created in 1989 to serve the 21 counties of West Tennessee by providing leadership development and training for selected participants, now has 680 graduates.

The program identifies and educates people to assume leadership responsibilities in the economic and social development of West Tennessee.

Class members participate in a series of seminars designed to provide information about major issues facing West Tennessee. Seminars feature different speakers who focus on subjects that go hand-in-hand with leadership and community progress issues such as education, health care, community and resource development and leadership skills. WestStar graduates already hold key leadership positions throughout the state in every West Tennessee county.

Crider is the current mayor of the city of Milan. He previously served three terms in the Tennessee House of Representatives for both Carroll and Gibson Counties in the 79th District. He is also a member of the Lions Club, Milan Chamber of Commerce and Carroll County Leadership. He has served as a board member of the Aspell Recovery Center, State Automotive Enthusiast Leadership Caucus, Secretary of House Republican Caucus, House Agriculture Committee and the House Health and Human Resources Committee. While serving as state representative, he won the Northwest Tennessee Development District Legislator of the Year Award and the University of Tennessee Agricultural Museum President's Award. He was voted best public official in the Humboldt Chronicle's Annual Reader's Choice Best of the Best Awards in 2007 and was named president of the West Tennessee Mayor's Association in 2012.

Hamilton is a certified public accountant/partner with Horne, LLP in Jackson. She serves as a real estate committee member for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the State Taxation Committee, and as a board member for the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants. Her community involvement includes serving on the University Board of Regents, membership in the Jackson Exchange Club and a volunteer for the Exchange Club — Carl Perkins Center for Prevention of Child Abuse. She was also named Exchangee of the Year by the Jackson Exchange Club.

Kee is the executive director for the Greater Gibson County Area Chamber. She serves on the board of directors for the Gibson County Carl Perkins Center; American Red Cross, Jackson Chapter; Patriot Equity Credit Union; and the Tennessee Association of Community Leadership. She serves on the Gibson County Workforce Development Committee and is a member of the Exchange Club and the West Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives. She is also a 2012 graduate of the Gibson County Adult Leadership Program. Kee was recognized in 2011 as one of Jackson's Finest Young Professionals, as Jackson Area Chamber Diplomat of the Year for 2011-2012 and as the Jackson Area Chamber Star Performer for 2011-2012.

Local bank adds to staff

Carroll Bank and Trust would like to announce the addition of Josh Gibson to its Bradford team. Josh is a 1997 graduate of Bradford High School and a 2002 Graduate of University of Tennessee-Martin where he obtained his bachelor's degree in Economics with an emphasis in Finance. Josh, his wife Rachel Scott Gibson and their two children Clark and Ella live in Bradford. He is the son of Mike and Donna Gibson of Bradford. He has spent the last seven years as a lender with Citibank in Union City.

"I feel privileged to be a part of the Carroll Bank team here in Bradford because of the community involvement and excellent customers we serve," Gibson said. "Carroll Bank and Trust strives to exceed customer's expectations. I look forward to developing long-term financial relationships and am excited about this opportunity to provide banking and investment services to current and potential Carroll Bank and Trust customers where we regard our customers as our most valuable asset."
Overbey transfers to UT Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. — Jake Overbey, a former record-setting football and baseball player at nearby University School of Jackson, has transferred to the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Overbey, who has spent the last two seasons playing baseball at Ole Miss in Oxford, Miss., intends to play both football and baseball at UT Martin. He is eligible to play football immediately and will have three years of eligibility remaining. He will be forced to sit out this baseball season because of NCAA transfer rules but could be cleared after an NCAA appeals process. He will have two years of eligibility left with the Skyhawk baseball team.

Overbey has strong ties to Milan. His grandfather, Jimmy Rauchle, is a local farmer who drives a school bus for the Milan Special School District.

A 6-2, 195-pound quarterback, Overbey became the only player in USJ history to rack up two Division 2-A Mr. Football awards — capturing the award in 2009 and 2010. He was a three-time all-state selection (2008-10) under head coach Mickey Marley and led the Bruins to a 30-6 record in his three seasons as a starting quarterback.

Overbey was a two-time Jackson Sun Football Player of the Year (2008, 2010) and was a three-time Region Player of the Year. For his career, he completed 62.1 percent of his passes (511-for-823) and threw for 8,035 passing yards and 102 touchdowns (against only 18 interceptions). He also added 1,044 rushing yards and 21 rushing touchdowns in his prep career.

“We are thrilled to welcome Jake to UT Martin,” Skyhawk head coach Jason Simpson said. “He brings a lot of talent and an exciting strong arm to the quarterback position. He’s been out of football for two years but we expect him to come right in and compete.”

For all of his success on the gridiron, Overbey also shined on the diamond during his USJ career. Playing shortstop for head coach Brad Dyer at USJ, Overbey was an all-state, all-region and all-district selection as a senior in 2011. He hit .490 with 28 doubles, 10 home runs, 54 RBIs and 56 runs scored that season and was chosen as the Most Valuable Player of the West Tennessee All-Star Game.

Overbey was selected by the Philadelphia Phillies in the 10th round of the 2011 MLB Draft but chose to play alongside his brother Preston at Ole Miss.

At Ole Miss, Overbey appeared in 66 games the past two seasons, including 10 starts. He drove in six runs and scored six runs while logging 37 at-bats for the Rebels, who posted a 75-50 record under head coach Mike Bianco in Overbey’s two seasons (2012-13).

Overbey saw extended playing time during Ole Miss’ run in the 2012 postseason. He started in the Southeastern Conference Tournament game against LSU and made a start in all four games of the NCAA Tournament College Station Regional, hosted by Texas A&M.

“We are excited to have Jake join our program,” UT Martin baseball coach Bubba Cates said. “He is a quality player and wanted to continue playing baseball at the collegiate level. We hope to get him on the field a lot sooner than later.”

For Overbey, the opportunity to rekindle his passion for the game of football was too good to pass up at UT Martin, located just a little over 50 miles from his hometown.

“Ole Miss is a great program and I’m glad I was a part of it,” Overbey said. “When I decided to transfer, I talked to Coach Marley about going back to football. He and Coach Simpson helped me get to UT Martin to visit and I felt like this was a good place to be. I’m just grateful that Coach Simpson gave me the chance to play football here. I’m excited to be a Skyhawk.”
Parsons welcomes facility

Ground broken on expansion to house full BSN program at UTM Parsons

By Priya Narapareddy

PARSONS — Gov. Bill Haslam came to Parsons on Monday for what he described as not only a great day for the University of Tennessee Martin and the community of Parsons, but a great day for the state of Tennessee.

Haslam spoke Monday at the groundbreaking ceremony for the expanded facility of UT Martin’s Parsons center, which will house the full bachelor’s of science in nursing (BSN) program upon its completion in the fall of 2014. He said the new facility and BSN program at the Parsons center will address a great need within the state.

Haslam said the full BSN program at Parsons will allow nursing students to obtain an accessible and affordable education, as well as to increase the number of health care professionals within the state.

“Nursing is one of the professions where the demand is greater than the supply,” he said.

Many state officials were in attendance Monday, including state Sen. Dolores Gresham and state Reps. Vance Dennis, Curtis Halford, Barrett Rich and Steve McDaniel. About 250 people attended the ceremony.

According to a news release issued by UT Martin’s Office of University Relations, initial funding for the program was included in the budget proposed by Haslam and approved by the General Assembly. The $1 million funding will be used to build a 10,000-square-foot addition to the Parsons facility, which will include classrooms, a skills laboratory and a high-fidelity computerized simulation laboratory.

Parsons native Jim Ayers said the expanded facility and full BSN program in Parsons will contribute to creating health care jobs all over the state.

“Gov. Haslam, you won’t spend a penny in the state of Tennessee that’s appreciated more than this,” he said.

Many representatives from the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation attended. The West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation also made a $1 million commitment to be given over a period of time to the nursing program facility.

Nursing students Jessica Deere and Jessica Brownyard also spoke at the ceremony.

Brownyard, a Parsons native, said she was excited for the opportunity to pursue her BSN without transferring to a larger school.

“I went home screaming at the top of my lungs,” she said. “I was so excited.”

Kelli Deere, director of UT Martin at Parsons, said the center began looking at providing a full BSN program one year ago. She said 30 nursing students will be accepted into the fall 2014 BSN program.

Deere said Jeannie Walker is the nursing coordinator at UT Martin at Parsons. She said Walker started getting calls from students about joining the program immediately after the news was announced.

Deere said about 235 students are enrolled for the fall of 2013 at the Parsons center. She said 300 students are expected to attend this fall semester.

“Our fall enrollment is looking great,” Deere said. “It’s looking to be the highest we’ve ever had.”

The UT Martin Parsons Center is located at 975 Tennessee Ave. N. For more information, call (731) 847-3880.

Priya Narapareddy, 425-9616
UTM has interesting out-of-conference games

NASHVILLE — The football players on the 2013 edition of the UT Martin Skyhawks team picked a good time to be a part of the program.

UTM has had some high profile games in recent years with teams like Auburn and Mississippi State.

There are no teams from the Southeastern Conference on the schedule this year, but the schedule out of the Ohio Valley Conference is interesting.

The Skyhawks open the season at Chattanooga, who is predicted to be among the best in the country in FCS this year.

The week after, they take what has to be one of the longest trips in the program's history when they play Boise State.

"That will be a different trip," said UTM coach Jason Simpson at OVC Media Day on Monday. "We'll charter a plane and go up on Thursday with our coaches, staff and even some of our fans.

"If we have fans going that far to watch us play, I think they deserve to get to ride the plane with us and spend some time with us once we get there. Then on Friday, we'll resume a normal Friday schedule."

The following game is a matchup with Central Arkansas from NCAA Division II before the Skyhawks venture into OVC play.

Then in November, the Skyhawks travel to Memphis to face the Tigers. This game will be different for a number of reasons including it will be the fifth matchup between the schools in five seasons and UTM beat Memphis last year.

"The team we played to start the season is a different team now," Simpson said. "They went on last year to win four games down the stretch and are in the second year with Coach [Justin] Fuente.

"This will be a much different game for us."

Will the fact that Memphis is in a new conference (American Athletic Conference) change anything about the game?

"Not much other than film to scout them," Simpson said.

The Skyhawks knocked on the door of an OVC championship last year and should be competitive again this year. But when they're not playing for it, Skyhawk games should be interesting.

Brandon Shields is the sports editor of The Jackson Sun. Contact him at 425-9751 or at bshields@jacksonsun.com. Follow him on Twitter @J5EditorBrandon.
Jarod Neal leads QB competition

Along with the departure of quarterback Derek Carr, now a UTM graduate assistant, that inconsistency also influenced the league's coaches and sports information directors to pick UTM fifth out of nine teams in the poll released Monday as part of the Ohio Valley Conference Media Day in Nashville.

"I don't like it," Simpson said Monday.

He thinks UTM has made sufficient development to become a conference title contender again despite losing Carr, receiver Quentin Sims and running backs Tevin Barksdale and Jason McNair.

"A starting quarterback might not be chosen until the season begins. Sophomore Jarod Neal, juniors Tyler Rice and Dylan Favre and sophomore Jake Overbey (USJ) are the candidates."

"If the season started today, Jarod would be the starter," Simpson said.

He said he's open to waiting until the start of the season to pick one, and he's also willing to use multiple quarterbacks in games if it seems like the best solution.

Fortunately for the Skyhawks, Jeremy Butler leads a talented group of receivers, D.J. McNeil has experience at running back and UTM brings back four of its five offensive line starters from last year.

See OVC, Page B2

OVC

Statistics from the past two years show UTM needs defensive improvement. Simpson is confident that progress is happening.

"I'll be one of the faster defenses that we've put on the field in several years," he said.

Simpson cited recruiting, player experience and the return of Jeff Byrd as defensive coordinator for a second year as reasons for confidence in the defense this year: UTM allowed 29.4 points per game in 2012.

Simpson wants his defense to dictate how each game develops instead of waiting to react to an opposing offense.

Both of UTM's preseason all-OVC players play defense: lineman D.J. Roberts and linebacker Ben Johnson.

Johnson was present at Media Day and said the defense feels responsible for assisting whoever is chosen to start at quarterback.

"It's going to be a first-year guy," Johnson said.

"We've got to make sure we put him in position to win the game."
City wants to ban over-the-counter sale of pseudoephedrine

MARTIN, Tenn. - To prescribe or not to prescribe?

City leaders and law enforcement in Martin, Tennessee want your input in deciding whether to make it illegal to buy a common cold ingredient without a prescription.

Police Chief David Moore and the Weakley County Prevention Coalition want to ban the over-the-counter sale of pseudoephedrine.

They say it's the only way to curb meth-making in the community.

Aldermen voted to pass the ordinance on its first reading and will vote again in August.

An open forum on pseudoephedrine by prescription only will take place Tuesday night at the Watkins Auditorium at UT Martin.

Law enforcement and members of the prevention coalition will be on hand to answer questions and take comments from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

REGION: Inland students graduate from universities nationwide

Students from the Inland Empire have graduated from universities across the nation.

University of Tennessee at Martin: Anthony Ringo Kelly, Jr. of Riverside graduated with a Bachelor's degree.
EV chargers on UT Martin campus make it easy to charge up for electric, hybrid-electric drivers

Dr. Stan Dunagan pulled his Nissan Leaf up to the pump for a charge. He grabbed his book bag and made the short trek over to the local barber. After his hair cut, he walked across the street for a quick lunch.

After all that, Dunagan returned to his office on the west side of campus and taught class before he walked over to the football stadium parking lot to take his car off the charger and drive home. His car was fully charged and good for at least 100 miles.

Dunagan, who teaches geology in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, can charge his car on campus now thanks to UT Martin’s commitment to be green. The university installed two electric vehicle (EV) chargers in the Hardy Graham Stadium football parking lot.

“Persons driving all electric or hybrid-electric cars can come to the university and for a small fee, charge up,” Dunagan said.

Dunagan, the oldest son of chancellor emeritus Nick Dunagan, said it cost him about $20 to keep his car charged at his home charger in April. His recent charge was going to cost him about $3.

UT Martin and EcoTality, the EV charger folks, will split the modest revenues, Dunagan said. As for paying for the charge, it was a simple as paying for gasoline at the pump. All Dunagan had to do was swipe his credit card.

UT Martin is the second university to install chargers on its campus. The first was the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

In addition to the two universities, several Cracker Barrel Old Country Store locations in Tennessee have installed EV chargers. Drivers can make a circle around Nashville, Manchester, Crossville, Harriman, Farragut, Athens, Cleveland and East Ridge and stop at a Cracker Barrel for lunch and while eating a scrumptious bowl of chicken and dumplings they can get a charge.

In addition to UT Martin and select Cracker Barrel locations, Dunagan can also charge his car at home.

As of March 2013, there were 16,256 public charging points in the United States. President Barrack Obama has called for one million plug-in electric cars on the road by 2015.

Weakley County residents join WestStar graduates

Jake Bynum and Carol Reed, both of Weakley County, were recently honored for completing the WestStar Leadership Program sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Bynum is a business development officer at First State Bank in Dresden. He is actively involved in many community activities, including serving as a past Weakley County Chamber president, Dresden Rotary Club president, Dresden alderman, Tennessee Iris Festival chairman, UTM Young Alumni Council member, Pi Kappa Alpha Alumni Advisory Board member and volunteer firefighter.

Reed is the executive director for the Entrepreneur Center of Northwest Tennessee. She is a member of the Rotary Club, UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs Advisory Board and the Weakley County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. She is also treasurer of the Martin Business Association. She is a graduate of Weakley County Leadership and Leadership North Fulton County, Roswell, Georgia. She was awarded the Paul Harris Fellow for Rotary International.

Dr. Stan Dunagan pulls his Nissan Leaf up to the pump for a charge.
Seminar targets entrepreneurs

BY DANNY WADE

Business owners in Humboldt had the opportunity recently to get free advice on how to help their businesses succeed and grow. The Humboldt Chamber of Commerce hosted a seminar “How to Write a Business Plan”.

Landy Fuqua, director of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), led the seminar last Wednesday morning in conjunction with the Regional Entrepreneur & Economic Development (REED) Center at UT Martin.

“The chamber hosts programs with TSBDC each month if there’s a request,” Humboldt Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sherri McCarter said last week. “These can be meetings, one-on-one counseling or seminars.”

Last year, McCarter was approached by business owner Eligah Glenn. Glenn wanted to know what assistance the chamber could offer him and other business owners in the community.

McCarter then contacted Fuqua to see if TSBDC would be interested in assisting. McCarter gave Fuqua Glenn’s contact information. After the three talked, they decided it would be best to hold a seminar that was open to the public. They also wanted to target minority owned businesses.

During Wednesday’s seminar several business owners attended including Glenn, Berlie Hilagle, Michael Holt, Brandon Pelley, Billy Ray Lovett, Howard Hudson and Melvin Reed.

Fuqua’s presentation hit many points of interest for business owners to consider, including:

- Business plans are an important tool to business owners. It provides a measure to determine if a decision will result in an increase in cash flow to the business and provides benchmarks and a timeline to reach the business’ goal and objectives.
- Constructing a business plan is much like writing a research paper.
- Most lenders require a business plan when a business pursues financing.

The group also discussed segments of the business plan and what should be included in each section, market research, preparing financial projections, business proposal, steps to take when starting a business, choosing a business entity, lender requirements and common mistakes to avoid were among other topics addressed.

McCarter said she was pleased with the turnout for the seminar and hopes to see even more participation in the future.
WRITE ON — Union City Middle School teacher Lea Adams was one of eight teachers who earned 52 renewal points at the University of Tennessee at Martin by participating in the 20th Invitational Summer Institute of the West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP). She was joined by Dr. David Carithers, UT Martin associate professor of English and director of WTWP.

Teachers shared demonstrations on using writing across the curriculum, learned how to incorporate more technology in their teaching and honed their writing skills in afternoon peer workshops. For more information on WTWP, visit www.utm.edu/wtwp.

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE, Dresden, Tennessee, Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Local teacher attends Summer Institute

Mary Perry, from Martin Middle School, was one of eight teachers that earned 52 Renewal Points at UT Martin by participating in the 20th Invitational Summer Institute of the West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP). Teachers shared demonstrations on using writing across the curriculum, learned how to incorporate more technology in their teaching and honed their writing skills in afternoon peer workshops. For more information on WTWP visit www.utm.edu/wtwp.

Perry is pictured with Dr. David Carithers, UT Martin associate professor of English and director of the West Tennessee Writing Project.
Pseudoephedrine by prescription focus of local forum

By Joe Lofaro
Special to The Press

MARTIN — About 40 people showed up Tuesday night at Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus for a public forum on pseudoephedrine by prescription sponsored by the Martin Police Department and the Weakley County Prevention Coalition.

The purpose of the forum was to educate people about the city’s pending ordinance to require a prescription for the purchase of common cold and allergy medicines containing pseudoephedrine. At the present time, a prescription is not required to buy such medicine as Sudafed. However, customers must present the proper identification and pass through a computerized pseudoephedrine product purchased registry known as NPLEX or Meth-check.

The reason local law enforcements want the ordinance to pass is because pseudoephedrine is needed to manufacture methamphetamine and Tennessee is in the top three states in the nation in the production of meth.

“We can fix the meth problem by controlling pseudoephedrine,” said Tommy Farmer, director of the Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force.

Farmer was one of three guest speakers at Tuesday night’s forum. The other speakers included Dennis Young, the chief of police in Winchester and David Hamby, a member of the National Drug Council.

Young, whose city was the first in the state to pass an ordinance requiring a prescription for the purchase of common cold medicines with pseudoephedrine, explained that city governments had the right to pass such ordinances.

“Counties and cities which have included general police power in their charters or constitutions have the police powers necessary to pass an ordinance that would require a prescription to purchase products containing pseudoephedrine.”

Farmer said federal law does not prevent “the ability of the State of Tennessee and its political subdivisions from further regulating pseudoephedrine.”

“Rather, Congress has preserved sufficient state regulatory authority to require dispensing by prescription only,” he said.

Phil Maness, a local resident, addressed the crowd, too. “I have lived through both sides of methamphetamine,” he said. “For the past 24 years I have been clean and sober.”

Maness has three grandchildren whose lives have been changed by methamphetamine. “We need to get this stuff out of here,” he said.

Farmer explained that

Meth...

(Continued from Page 1) since 2007, 1,625 children have been removed from homes because of methamphetamine.

A majority of the people at the forum either represented law enforcement agencies or were local aldermen or county commissioners.

“Why is this important to Martin?” Martin Police Chief David Moore said. “It is important because we (law enforcement officers) are going to put up a stop sign to those who buy pseudoephedrine for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine and it is going to say, ‘Go somewhere else.’

“We are going to protect our pharmacies and pharmacy workers.”
OUR VIEW

UT Martin Parsons expansion a great addition

Plenty has been said, written, and debated in the political arena, about the need for more higher education opportunities in Tennessee. Today's workforce must be better technically prepared than at any time in the past. Nowhere is that demand for technical competence greater than in the health care field. Health care also is where the jobs are, and where they likely will be for years to come. That's why we are encouraged by the expansion of the University of Tennessee Martin campus in Parsons to include a full bachelor of science in nursing degree program beginning in the fall of 2014.

The demand for nurses has never been greater. How health care is delivered in America is changing, with greater emphasis on health care outcomes than on paying for medical procedures. Health care delivery services and locations are diversifying, and gradually moving away from large hospital operations. Walk-in clinics located away from hospitals, including those located in large retail establishments and drug store chains, are changing how Americans access basic medical care.

Much of this diversification has been enabled by technology. High-tech medical diagnostic equipment, easily portable and affordable X-Ray machines, diagnostic computer software and sophisticated biomedical measurement devices have taken medical diagnosis from hospitals to where people lead their daily lives. And an aging population that is living longer has increased the need for medical services.

All of those factors combine to create a huge demand for highly trained medical professionals. The new program at the UTM Parsons campus follows this model by taking nurse training to where the students are. Beginning in the fall of 2014, students in the Parsons area who want to go into nursing will no longer have to move to a larger school to complete their nursing degree.

The expansion of the Parsons campus is being funded through a state appropriation of $1 million, and an additional $1 million from the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation. The new nursing program facility represents a 10,000-square-foot addition to the existing building. It will include classrooms, a skills laboratory and a computerized simulation laboratory.

Expanding higher education opportunities in Tennessee is part of Gov. Bill Haslam's effort to put more college degrees and technical certifications into the hands of more Tennesseans. That is the best way to improve the long-term prospects of the state's workforce. Moving higher education into local communities such as Parsons offers a significant opportunity for those who prefer to remain in their community while pursuing higher education.

It is good to see higher education evolving in ways that make it more accessible than traditional college campuses. Making higher education available where the people are just makes sense.
MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) — The University of Tennessee at Martin has named a new director for its library.

The university announced Wednesday that Charles A. "Chuck" Julian accepted an appointment as director of the Paul Meek Library. The appointment was effective Monday.

Julian succeeds Mary Carpenter, who accepted a position with the state late last summer.

According to the university, Julian's most recent appointment was manager of knowledge-based services and intellectual property for the National Technology Transfer Center.

Julian earned his Ph.D. in library science from Florida State University. He has a master's in library science from George Peabody College for Teachers at Vanderbilt as well as a master's in information studies from the University of Sheffield in England.
Local students return with drum corps tour

MURFREESBORO — Two local college students are marching into Murfreesboro tonight when the Drum Corps International Tour hits the field at Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium at Middle Tennessee State University at 7:30.

Rachel Steiner, valedictorian of the 2010 Riverdale High School graduating class, is performing with the Phantom Regiment. Richard "Rick" Drewry, a valedictorian of the 2010 Smyrna High School graduating class, is with the Cavaliers. Both attend UT-Martin, where Drewry serves as student body president.

"The passion that all the corps put out on the field is astounding," says Steiner, the daughter of Joe and Jan Steiner of Murfreesboro.

Steiner began attending DCI performances at MTSU since 2008 and "loved it." In 2011 she auditioned and made Phantom Regiment in the front ensemble.

UT Martin women's cross country team wins academic award

BRENTWOOD — (UTM Sports Information) — A total of 116 UT Martin student-athletes earned a spot on the Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll, while 17 of those brought home an OVC Medal of Honor for their perfect 4.0 Grade Point Average, the league announced this afternoon.

The UT Martin women's cross country squad was also recognized as an OVC Team Academic Achievement recipient, sharing the award with Belmont. Coached by Gordon Sanders, the Skyhawk women's team placed eight runners on the Commissioner's Honor Roll (at least a 3.25 GPA), which makes up 81.8 percent of the roster.

Overall, 209 OVC student-athletes earned a Medal of Honor while 1,224 student-athletes were named to the Commissioner's Honor Roll. Both of those numbers are new OVC records, breaking the previous records of 178 for Medal of Honor (set in 2011-12) and 1,063 for Commissioner's Honor Roll (also set in 2011-12).
Pierce cancels EDGE appearance

Whelchel to provide meet-and-greet opportunities

VANESSA CAIN
vcain@stategazette.com

The EDGE Conference for Women has had a change in its conference lineup, but local women interested in attending the event scheduled in Dyersburg next month can still expect to be inspired.

"Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Chonda Pierce appearance at The EDGE Conference for Women has been canceled," said Maleia Evans, director of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center at Dyersburg State Community College. "Ticket holders have all been notified and offered either a full refund or an exchange of their ticket to a VIP ticket for the conference events on Saturday, Aug. 24."

Lisa Whelchel will keynote the EDGE Conference for Women luncheon, fashion show and shopping expo on Saturday, Aug. 24. Whelchel, best known for her role as Blair on 'The Facts of Life' and for her appearance on 'Survivor: Philippines', is also a popular inspirational speaker, singer, songwriter and entrepreneur. She will host a booth at the shopping expo for book signings, autographs and photo opportunities.

Pierce was slated to appear in Dyersburg for a pre-conference performance at First Christian Church on the eve of the first EDGE Conference for Women. And while organizers are disappointed in the change, they still are very excited about Saturday's conference, shopping expo and fashion show featuring television star Lisa Whelchel of 'The Facts of Life' and 'Survivor: Philippines'.

An actress, inspirational speaker and entrepreneur, Whelchel is well known for her role as Blair on the television series "The Facts of Life." She also appeared as a child on "The New Mickey Mouse Club" and made to Tribal Council last year as a competitor on "Survivor: Philippines."

"The EDGE Conference is still very much full steam ahead and is going to be a great day with our feature event, Lisa Whelchel," said Evans. "We are extremely excited that she is participating in our conference. She, as well as every member of her team, have been just amazing to work with. I am hopeful that Dyer County will roll out a very warm welcome for Lisa and her team on Aug. 24."

The EDGE Conference for Women will take place at the Lannom Center from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 24.

Tickets for the entire Saturday event, the shopping expo from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. and luncheon from noon until 2 p.m., are currently on sale for $29. Advanced tickets are required to attend the luncheon.

Those who just wish to spend the day shopping may purchase a separate ticket to the shopping expo for just $5. Shopping expo tickets will remain available at the door throughout the day.

In addition to providing the keynote address at the conference luncheon, Whelchel will spend the day with Dyersburg ladies.

"Lisa is also going to be at a booth in the EDGE Mart throughout the day for book signing, autographs and photo ops," said Evans. "We encourage folks to come to the EDGE Mart to shop and meet Lisa."

Designed to aid local women in Encouraging, Developing and Gaining Excellence, the conference is sponsored by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center, the University of Tennessee at Martin Reed Center, Dyersburg State Community College and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

But organizers Maleia Evans and Landy Fuqua wish to invite all area ladies to attend. Fuqua is the director of the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development and Tennessee Small Business Development centers at the University of Tennessee at Martin and a co-organizer of the event.

"In our opinion, this is a conference for all women," said Evans. In addition to Whelchel's appearance, a fall fashion show featuring clothing from popular women's and children's boutiques in Northwest Tennessee, a luncheon, networking opportunities and door prizes are planned.

Vendor spots are still available. Those interested should contact Evans at evans@dscs.edu or 286-3201.

Tickets may be purchased at www.iTickets.com.
UT seeks to draw more students, instructors for summer classes

Putting the sizzle back in summer school UT seeks to draw more students, instructors for summer classes

By Megan Boechte
Posted July 27, 2013 at 7:01 p.m.

Even free money couldn't get more students to spend their summers in classrooms at the University of Tennessee.

Two years ago, the university announced plans to ramp up enrollment in summer courses as a means of getting students to stay in school and graduate on time — two measures UT likely needs to boost if it's to become a top-25 public school.

University officials offered special one-time scholarships to students taking lower division courses. They successfully lobbied the governor and Legislature to make lottery scholarship money available in the summer. They devised a marketing campaign to recruit students.

None of it worked.

The enrollment ticked up to 108 students the first year, 152 the next — a total increase of less than 5 percent from an enrollment of 5,747 students in 2010.
This summer, the final numbers are expected to be down slightly, said Sally McMillan, vice provost for academic affairs.

Chancellor Jimmy Cheek is not giving up. He commissioned a 14-member task force to reassess the university's summer school programs and figure out how to make them better.

"I think the task force really just opened the conversation campuswide around summer term and around things we can improve on to make it more accessible to students, and to make it make sense for students," said Victoria Niederhauser, dean of the college of nursing and chairwoman of the committee.

The chancellor's new goal, she said, is to raise enrollment 12 to 15 percent over the next three years.

To do that, the committee recommended a myriad of strategies, from changing the funding model to make colleges more accountable for their summer course scheduling to creating innovative programs that would package courses with summer job opportunities.

The toughest task, however, might be changing the campus attitude toward spending summer in the classroom.

In a series of focus groups, students said they need a break from coursework, that summer classes are too intense and that the instruction is subpar. Some faculty, meanwhile, view teaching in the summer as "punishment" and fear the extra work will interfere with research and family obligations.

UT will have to address some of those negative perceptions, Niederhauser said, but they mostly hope to convince both sides to focus on the advantages of teaching and learning in the summer months.

Earlier this month, three sections of students taking a microbiology course in the Hesler Biology Building collected samples from their phones, tables and even elevator buttons for an experiment. Some students were repeating the course. Others were taking one of their toughest courses at a time with fewer distractions.

"I don't want to take anatomy and microbiology at the same time, because if you have both, it's a nightmare. You're not going to get an 'A'," said Haley Bruer, a rising sophomore trying to get into UT's nursing program.

Other students agreed smaller class sizes, the lack of distractions and the quick pace that leaves little lag time between study and tests are the advantages of taking the course during the summer session.

For instructors, there are also benefits from summer classes, said Elizabeth McPherson, a senior lecturer who runs the microbiology courses year round. McPherson has rolled out a new type of lecture this summer: putting easier, broader material online for students to review on their own time while using class time to delve into more complex topics.

She says summer courses are the best time to be creative with teaching methods and to try new ideas.
"Logistically it's just easier. It's a typical lecture class in a tiered classroom, and it's completely packed in the fall and spring," she said, adding that it's also easier to get to know the students and to help those who are struggling. "Summer is a little more relaxed, and I have more fun."

Knoxville isn't the only campus examining its summer school strategy. At UT Martin, administrators have worked to expand online courses available in the summer, offered reduced housing prices, and committed $20,000 per year to marketing online graduate courses. At the Chattanooga campus, enrollment jumped 13 percent from 2009 to 2012 after the school offered more scholarships, increased the available courses and reworked the structure from five mini-sessions in the summer to two 6-week sessions.

UT Chattanooga has also implemented a "course prediction model," which alerts colleges and departments to the total number of students required to take a specific course for their degree. This allows departments to more strategically hire faculty, spokesman Chuck Cantrell said in an email.

The Knoxville task force has recommended some similar strategies, such as 12-month resident hall leases. UT Knoxville is already launching a new registration system, UTrack, this fall that will guide students through their degree program, require them to schedule the classes they need and alert the administration to demand for certain courses.

The committee has also recommended giving 30 percent of tuition generated from summer enrollment to the colleges, allowing them to budget their own faculty hires and salaries, and allowing any carry-over funds from the tuition revue to the colleges. This would encourage departments to be strategic about which courses they schedule and about encouraging their students to enroll in them, Niederhauser said.

Some task force recommendations

Give colleges shares of the tuition, making them responsible for their own summer school scheduling, salaries and budgets.

Hire a summer school coordinator responsible for marketing, data collection and communication.

Explore ways to gauge student interest in certain courses with such methods as requiring a deposit to reserve seats in those classes.

Change the attitude toward summer school among faculty by working with them to conduct research and offering competitive salaries.

Improve marketing with a campaign highlighting such opportunities as research, study abroad programs and internships, along with an external website for summer activities on campus.

Enhance courses and scheduling by using data to find out what classes need to be offered based on student need.

Increase online and hybrid course offerings and avoid overlapping time slots so students can take multiple courses.

Explore such new opportunities for students as a 3-year degree program, integrating summer school with jobs and internships, and offering 12-month dorm leases and meal plans.

© 2013, Knoxville News Sentinel Co.
Lin Dunn already has a place in six different halls of fame. She'll add a seventh next June.

The Indiana Fever coach will be among the six inductees in the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame's Class of 2014. The group was announced Saturday during halftime of the WNBA All-Star game.

Dunn is from Dresden, Tenn. She attended UT Martin and earned a master's degree from Tennessee. She's been inducted in Martin's hall as well as the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, Austin Peay Athletics, the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and halls of fame at Miami (Fla.) and Purdue.

Dunn led Purdue to three Big Ten championships and a Women's Final Four appearance in nine seasons (1987-96). In the WNBA, she's coached at Seattle and Indiana. Her current streak of five playoff appearances matches Seattle's Brian Agler for the longest active streak in the league.
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Julian succeeds Mary Carpenter, who accepted a position with the state late last summer.

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Julian earned his Ph.D. in library science from Florida State University. He has a master's in library science from George Peabody College for Teachers at Vanderbilt and a master's in information studies from the University of Sheffield in England.

Myles to go

UTM's Taylor builds mental, physical strength in ACL recovery

By Craig Thomas
ctomath2@jacksonsun.com

MARTIN — After four days off, four days free of exercises and sweat and daily schedules and progress charts, Myles Taylor’s brief vacation had ended.

Earphones resting on his head, the 6-foot-7-inch forward on the UT Martin men's basketball team walked toward the weight room. It was just before Noon on a Monday in early July.

Tamika Donaldson, the UT Martin trainer from Humboldt, who has been working regularly with Taylor, had warned him before the weekend today’s rehabilitation session would be a challenge.

"We’re fixin’ to get him!"

UT Martin basketball player Myles Taylor runs on the treadmill during his rehabilitation workout earlier this month in Martin.

Taylor hopes to return this season to help the Skyhawks compete in the OVC. MEGAN SMITH/THE JACKSON SUN

Donaldson said with a cheerful laugh.

In the following 90 minutes or so, Taylor completed a variety of tasks. He started with a series of exercises and weightlifting sets before going downstairs to the basketball court, where he did defensive slides and was allowed to move more quickly than he

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Two tough losses

On the evening of March 2, a 9-19 UT Martin team had hours earlier learned it was guaranteed a spot in the OVC tournament for the first time in two years. The Skyhawks thus did not have to win that night's regular season finale at Austin Peay, which was good because they lost 91-58.

The score wasn't the worst

See MYLES, Page D3
news of the night. His team down 7-0 early, Taylor leaped near the basket for a shot and landed awkwardly. He hobbled momentarily and exited the game seconds later, but he returned with 14:39 left in the first half and the Skyhawks trailing 14-0.

Within one minute of game time, Taylor went up for a dunk and missed it. After this dunk, Taylor hobbled again and recognized his awkward landing a couple minutes earlier had been a much bigger problem than he initially realized.
The Jackson Sun • Sunday, July 28, 2013

I hated the world

Taylor had surgery on his left knee in late March. Doctors from Sports Orthopaedic and Spine conducted the surgery in Union City.

"I hated the world after surgery. It was painful. It was ... ugh," Taylor said grunting. "I don't want to ever put nobody through that."

Donaldson explained when a patient tears an ACL, the quadriceps muscle is rendered ineffective. In the weeks after surgery, Taylor often lay flat and contracted his quadriceps muscle for 30 seconds and then relaxed.

"Basically just laying there making a quad," Donaldson said.

Taylor used crutches for a couple weeks and wore a brace for about six weeks.

Over time, Taylor has completed exercises of increasing difficulty. In early July, dressed in a UTM practice jersey and shorts, he jogged on a treadmill, made small leaps back and forth on a mat and pulled his leg up onto a tall block before gingerly stepping off on the other side.

He did it over and over, Donaldson periodically asking if it caused any pain. On this day, Taylor said no.

Part of Taylor's rehab is built on proprioception, which involves the brain's awareness of body positioning and balance. Donaldson said proprioception is especially important for basketball players.

"You're putting them really on unstable surfaces, like soft cushions or round objects, to make them try to keep their balance as well as focusing on where they are and how their posture is and everything like that," she said.

Taylor is four months into his rehabilitation. He is assessed regularly by a doctor, who determines whether Taylor is ready to progress to the next stage of his recovery.

"He's doing very well. He's where he needs to be, probably a little further," Donaldson said. "So he's been doing everything he's supposed to do. It's healed, so now we've just got to get him stronger."

An athlete's competitive streak influences the recovery.

"She encourages me and she gives me goals, and if you give me goals I'm going to complete 'em," Taylor said.

Small steps

Recovering from an injury also requires mental strength. Donaldson said athletes, after they get healthy, often must overcome a fear of re-injuring themselves.

Encouragement helps a patient believe it's OK to jump or run once a knee is healed and a leg is strong, and Taylor's desire to get back to basketball actually requires her to hold him back sometimes so he won't do too much too quickly.
"I tried to push off of it and I fell, and it wasn't because it was weak. It was because I was scared to push off of it, and that was really, really difficult for me," James said.

He said the small goals Donaldson has set for Taylor will help. Basketball activities are tough at first, though, whether the patient is recovering from surgery on an ankle, knee or something else.

"That first time you have to push on it or do something on it that you hadn't done, it's scary, man," James said. "I mean I'll be the first to tell you that it's very scary."

Taylor wants to dunk again. His last dunk attempt was his most recent basketball action, so a dunk would seem the final step of recovery and the first moment of basketball as normal for Taylor.

"I know it'll be kind of scary coming down, but I'm ready. I'm excited," Taylor said.

**The motivation to return**

Taylor's attitude and mental approach matter right now, long before his next dunk. After a short visit home to Little Rock, Ark. earlier this summer, Taylor has stayed in Martin with a rotating cast of teammates taking summer classes.

The coaches want him near UTM focused on school and health, away from the temptation to party with friends in his hometown.

"I gotta stay away from all that, get this leg better," Taylor said.

A healthy perspective is helpful. Taylor has thought about Louisville guard Kevin Ware's ugly broken leg at the NCAA tournament and recognized an injury can be worse than his own.

He has thought about his Skyslak teammates, who are tired of losing seasons and need him to help them compete in the OVC.

Sitting in the first row of seats at the Elam Center after his workout, Taylor watched jealously as teammate Mike Liabo hoisted up jump shots.

"I ain't no Derrick Rose," Taylor said. "I ain't going to sit out the whole year."

UTM is confident Taylor is on track to be ready for the start of basketball season. No one but Taylor is more eager for him to get healthy again than his coach.

James never had a major knee injury when he played basketball, but he had surgery on his right ankle as a college junior in 1998. He missed half of basketball season, and he remembers the day he was first allowed to do a full defensive slide at practice.

At Oak Grove Baptist Church, just around the bend from the Elam Center, where Taylor plays drums every Sunday, there are kids who look up to him and think he's cool even though he can't dunk right now.

Family and friends in Arkansas have high expectations for him. He plays for his father, who died when Myles was 8.

So Taylor doesn't mind telling Donaldson to add a little weight to the leg press machine. He embraces the new challenges she gives him. He practices his dribbling and talks about being the OVC Player of the Year.

It's a lofty goal, as is Taylor's suggestion of UTM winning its division when it hasn't come close in recent years. James likes Taylor's approach.

"For him to come here and be doing well in the classroom and have a little setback with an injury, to keep his mind right and to stay focused really says a lot about him as a man," James said.

"I'm proud of him and I look forward to his progress and can't wait until he can roll again."

Craig Thomas, 425-9634
UT Martin puts plenty on OVC Honor Roll

BRENTWOOD — A total of 116 UT Martin student-athletes earned a spot on the Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner’s Honor Roll, while 17 of those were named to the official roster.

The UT Martin women’s tennis team was one of eight teams named to the official OVC Academic Achievement recipient, sharing the award with Belmont.

The Skyhawk women’s team placed eighth runners on the Commissioner’s Honor Roll (at least a 3.25 GPA), which makes up 83.8 percent of the roster.

Overall, 209 OVC student-athletes were named to the commissioner’s Honor Roll.

Both of those numbers were new OVC records, breaking the previous records of 178 for Medal of Honor (set in 2011-12) and 1,063 for Commissioner’s Honor Roll (also set in 2011-12).

The Skyhawk rifle team (one), softball team (three) and women’s tennis team (five) boasted the most Medal of Honor winners out of any team in the OVC.

Meanwhile, UT Martin’s football team (23), rifle team (seven), softball team (16), women’s tennis team (seven) and soccer team (10) produced the highest amount of Commissioner Honor Roll recipients in their respective sports.

Individually, Johanie Van Zyl and Pink Winkelmann of the Skyhawk tennis team were awarded a Medal of Honor for the fourth time in their careers.

Softball’s Leah Taylor and volleyball’s Kasey Ellsaw received a Medal of Honor for the third time, while Dominika Conc (soccer), Jessica Silva (women’s tennis), Katie McCar (women’s tennis) and Iva Simic (women’s tennis) each earned their second career Medal of Honor.

Belmont has been awarded the 2012-13 OVC Institutional Academic Achievement Award.

The award is presented annually to the member institution with the greatest percentage of its eligible student-athletes that earn a 3.25 grade point average or higher for that academic year.

Morehead State was second followed by SIU-Edwardsville and UT Martin.

It marks the first crown for Belmont, which joined the OVC prior to the 2012-13 season.

Morehead State, the 2011-12 champion, holds the record with 12 OVC Academic Achievement Awards.

UTM’s Bryant to get pro shot in Germany

Former UT Martin women’s basketball player Rickiesha Bryant has agreed to terms with BG 74 Göttingen, a second division German basketball team in Göttingen, a university town two hours north of Frankfurt.

“Three years ago I would have never thought that I would be able to play professional basketball,” said Bryant. “If it wasn’t for my coaches pushing me every day, I do not know where I would be. The women’s basketball staff at UT Martin has prepared me not only for professional basketball, but for the real world as well.”

Bryant, who played at UT Martin from 2010-13 after transferring from East Mississippi Community College, will go down as one of the most dominant post players in recent Skyhawk history.

After starting just three games in her first two years with the program, averaging 3.1 points per game, her production rose substantially in her final year.

The 2012-13 season saw Bryant set a UT Martin single-season record for field goal percentage (.642), converting 129 of her 201 attempts. She cracked double-figures in the scoring column on 18 different occasions — including 17 times in the final 23 games of the season.

The Skyhawks native had nine double-doubles during the stretch, all of which coming in her final 20 outings.

In conference play she corralled at least a dozen rebounds eight times and averaged a double-double with 10.5 points and 10 rebounds per game.

In addition, she led the Ohio Valley Conference and set a single-season school record for blocks, swatting away 85 shot attempts. She turned away at least four blocks in 11 games, including flirting with a triple-double at Murray State (13 points, 15 rebounds, eight blocks) on Feb. 23. The eight block performance tied a UT Martin single-game record which had stood since 1986.

Her final season was punctuated with a remarkable effort in the OVC Tournament. In three games, she averaged 13.7 points, 11.3 rebounds and 4.0 blocks per contest while shooting 77.6 percent from the floor (14-for-18) and 86.7 percent from the free throw line (13-for-15). She was as consistent as they come in the league tournament, coming up just one point shy in the quarterfinals of tallying three straight double-doubles en route to All-OVC Tournament honors.

Bryant leaves UT Martin as part of a core nucleus which led the Skyhawks to three-straight NCAA tournament appearances after capturing a trio of OVC Tournament championships and an outright OVC championship in 2011-12.

She will join the club this fall with the season getting underway in October.

“I think it’s great for Rickiesha to be rewarded for what she did last year,” said UT Martin head women’s basketball coach Kevin McMillan. “She has grown up a lot and developed into a well-rounded player that we look forward to following in Europe.”
Plans unveiled for UT Martin Parsons Center nursing program expansion

Jessica Deere and Jessica Brownyard share more in common than the same first name. Both are nursing students at the UT Martin Parsons Center, and both will stay close to home to earn Bachelor of Science in nursing degrees as the center offers a complete BSN degree program beginning in fall 2014.

Rain and storms moved a planned groundbreaking inside to a large classroom Monday as Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam, UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes, businessman and philanthropist Jim Ayers and West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation representatives unveiled the rendering by TLM Associates for the 10,000-square-foot addition that will house the Center’s expanded nursing program.

The addition will be named the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation Nursing Wing in recognition of a $1 million gift by the foundation to fund scholarships and assist with the building expansion.

Deere of Lexington works as a licensed practical nurse and will pursue the university’s LPN to BSN program starting this fall. The new BSN program will allow her to pursue her next educational goal at one location.

“The UT Martin Parsons Center not only gives me the best academics and support to be offered, but going to school here allows me to maintain my current job and further my degree at the same time,” she told the standing-room-only audience.

Brownyard, a junior nursing major from Parsons, wanted to attend college elsewhere, but her plans changed when her parents divorced while she was in high school. Brownyard decided to live with her mother, work jobs and attend the UT Martin Parsons Center.

She planned to stay one year and then attend college elsewhere, until she “fell completely in love” with the Parsons Center after one semester. Until the announcement of the center’s new BSN program, she was again faced with going to another school and finding a way to pay for it. “I can honestly not thank everyone enough for contributing and making the BSN program at UT Martin Parsons Center possible,” Brownyard said. “We are proud to be offering a University of Tennessee degree right here in Parsons,” said Chancellor Rakes. “This is an example of where the community, the state and also a healthcare partner leveraged this along with several donors who are here today to make a real difference for us.”

Haslam echoed Rakes’ comments about the expansion is about access, affordability and quality of higher education. “But it’s also about making certain we’re providing the right training for the jobs that exist out there,” the governor said. “And there’s no question that nursing is one of those professions where the demand is greater than the supply we have right now.”

Ayers addressed the crowd and thanked Haslam and members of the Tennessee General Assembly for making a $1 million grant from the state possible, funding that was approved before the conclusion of the 2013 legislative session. He acknowledged that funding such a project wasn’t easy in tough economic times, “So Governor Haslam, I just want you to know, you won’t spend a penny this year that’s appreciated more than this,” Ayers said.

Ayers asked Parsons resident Peggy Chumney, a retired schoolteacher, to join him at the podium, where he thanked her for supporting the center from its beginnings. “I want you to know, in addition to many people, including a lot that are here in this room, Miss Peggy stepped up and helped us build this building with a significant donation way back when.” More recently, Chumney made a six-figure gift to the center expansion project.

Ayers closed by thanking the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation, represented in the program by Herbert Alexander Jr., foundation board chair. “This facility will enable increased access to higher educational opportunities that will not only benefit the residents of Parsons and Decatur County, but will have a significant impact for all of West Tennessee,” Alexander said. “Increasing the number of nurses is crucial for the continued success of our healthcare industry and will better the lives for all the residents in this area.”

The Parsons Center will have openings for up to 30 students annually for the program, with 20 slots designated for traditional students and 10 slots for licensed practical nurses. BSN program graduates will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses and obtain licensure as registered nurses.

Nursing students at Parsons will receive the same experience as those students enrolled at the Martin campus. The program works with health-care facilities across the region to provide three years of clinical experience for its students. Similar programs at other institutions offer only two years of clinical experience.

Currently, approximately 120 students are enrolled in the BSN program at the Martin campus.

Construction on the facility is expected to begin this summer.

For more information about the nursing program expansion, contact Jeanie Walker, Parsons Center nursing program coordinator, at 731-847-3880 or jwalke98@utm.edu. Additional information about the groundbreaking is available by contacting Dr. Kelli Deere, Parsons Center director, at 731-847-3880 or kdeere@utm.edu.
Julian named library director

Dr. Charles A. "Chuck" Julian has accepted an appointment as director of the Paul Meek Library, effective Monday, at the University of Tennessee at Martin, announced Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Julian, whose most recent appointment was manager of knowledge-based services and intellectual property for the National Technology Transfer Center, earned his Ph.D in library science from Florida State. He has a master's in library science from George Peabody College for Teachers at Vanderbilt as well as a master's in information studies from the University of Sheffield in England. His A.B. in education is from Glenville State College, and he is a past president of the West Virginia Library Association.

"When I visited the UT Martin campus, I observed the talented Paul Meek Library staff at all levels valuing and nurturing a vital commitment to the core mission of positively impacting student teaching and learning," Julian said. "This student-centric approach is derived from UTM's central mission and accentuates a close collaboration among students, faculty and staff — a great formula for success."

Dr. Julian succeeds Mary Carpenter, who accepted a position with the state late last summer.

"I am delighted to be joining a diverse and talented academic community at UT Martin and look forward to active involvement with projects and activities throughout the university, in the local community, and as a part of library and information professional endeavors," Julian said.

Skyhawk athletes take up plenty of room on conference Honor Roll list

BRENTWOOD — A total of 116 UT Martin student-athletes earned a spot on the Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll, while 17 of those brought home an OVC Medal of Honor for their perfect 4.0 Grade Point Average.

The UT Martin women's cross country squad was also recognized as an OVC Team Academic Achievement recipient, sharing the award with Belmont. Coached by Gordon Sanders, the Skyhawk women's team placed eighth runners on the Commissioner's Honor Roll (at least a 3.52 GPA), which makes up 81.8 percent of the roster.

The Skyhawk rifle team (one), softball team (three) and women's tennis team (five) boasted the most Medal of Honor winners out of any team in the OVC. Meanwhile, UT Martin's football team (23), rifle team (seven), softball team (16), women's tennis team (seven) and volleyball team (10) produced the highest amount of Commissioner Honor Roll recipients in their respective sports.

Individually, Johanie Van Zyl and Anna Winkelmann of the Skyhawk tennis team were awarded a Medal of Honor for the fourth time in their careers.

Softball's Leah Taylor and volleyball's Kasey Elswick each received a Medal of Honor for the third time, while Dominika Conc (soccer), Jessica Silva (women's tennis), Katie McCull (women's tennis) and Ivan Simic (women's tennis) each earned their second career Medal of Honor.

The UTM Commissioner's Honor Roll recipients are as follows (italics indicate a Medal of Honor winner, asterisks indicate each year the student-athlete has made the Honor Roll):

**Baseball (14)**: Isaac

- Armstrong, Taylor
- Cox**, Drew Erie, Jacob
- Gansert, Stu Jones
- Trevor Lundgren**, Hagen
- Nelson***, Dalton Potts**
- Chris Ross, Carter Smith**
- Phil Sorensen***, Jordan
- Stokes**, Dan Tobik**,
- Nico Zych

**Men's Basketball**
(2): Terence Smith**,
- Kristian Taylor

**Women's Basketball**
(6): Heather Butler**,
- Chelsey Hall, Jasmine
- Newsome, Katie Schubert,
- Bariann Taylor, Megan
- White***

**Men's Cross Country**
(5): Mark Graubner, Justin
- Morgan, Ryan Pett, Vance
- Poundsers***, Tallon

**Women's Cross Country**
(8): Abby
- Frantom, Samantha Hunt,
- Emily Jones****, Grace
- Lucas**, Alexandra Sover,
- Amanda Wardlaw**,
- Laura Wind**, Hannah
- Wolters***

**Football (23)**: Derek
- Carr**, Marquis Clemons,
- Dylan Davis, Tyler Eddy**,
- Bobby Ellis**, Fred
- Flenory, Trent Garland,
- Ben Johnson**, Tyler
- Kilburn, Nick Michaels,
- Matt Murphy, Ethan
- Myers**, Darrin Nalls**,
- Jarod Neal**, Tyler Rice,
- Jackson Roberts**, James
- Satterfield, Clay Sheley,
- Jordan Stokes**, Juwan

**Softball (16)**: Jessie
- Britt, Kelsey Dixon,
- Lindsey Feigl**, Autumn
- Glenn, Morgan Lewis**,
- Stephanie McClure,
- Stephanie Nidiffer, Katie
- Reiff, Rachel Scrum, Lauren
- Smith, Kenzi Tate**, Leah
- Taylor**, Casey Vincent,
- Kayla Wade**, Becca
- Williams**, Deven Wilson

**Women's Tennis (7)**
- Anna Marie Herbold**,
- Alice Laing***, Katie
- McCull**, Jessica
- Silva**, Ivan Simic***, Johanie Van Zyler**, Anna
- Winkelmann****

**Volleyball (10)**:
- Krista Beyer**, Chelsea
- Bowles, Amanda Crask,
- Brandy Dennis**,
- Kasey Elswick***,
- Jackie Harter**, Emily
- Keaton, Lucy Martin,
- Taylor Simons**, Allie
- Whitney**

**Equestrian (8)**: Ali
- Barros, Kara Bergent**,
- Emily Candelmo, Amy
- Guenther**, Kaylan Herbst,
- Sydney LaFreniere, Sarah
- Martin**, Sarah Sutton**
University of Tennessee Signs eProcurement Contract with ESM Solutions

PRWeb Tuesday, July 30th 2013

ESM Solutions will provide the University of Tennessee system with a comprehensive, value-based procure-to-pay solution.

Warrington, PA (PRWEB) July 30, 2013

ESM Solutions (http://www.esmsolutions.com), the leading provider of spend management and eProcurement solutions for the public sector, has been selected by the University of Tennessee to streamline online procurement processes across the university system through a competitively awarded agreement.

The University of Tennessee system has a presence in all of Tennessee’s 95 counties, and is comprised of campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin, the Health Science Center in Memphis and the statewide Institute of Agriculture and Institute for Public Service. Through the combined force of its education, research and outreach, the university serves and supports students, alumni, business and industry, governments and organizations throughout the state.

With more than 45,000 students and 335,000 alumni worldwide, the University of Tennessee provides a wide range of accessible and affordable educational opportunities at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels. In addition to its reputable academic programs, the university has decided to improve its administrative systems and processes.

The University of Tennessee system will utilize ESM Solutions’ easily implemented, integrated suite of sourcing, purchasing and contract management applications to control costs and manage spend, thus developing a user-friendly procure-to-pay solution.

http://www.virtual-strategy.com/
We've got your back(pack), group shows students

Tuesday, July 30, 2013
By JASON REYNOLDS – reynolds@t-g.com

Organizers of Friday's Summer Feed and Fun Blowout lined up 552 backpacks with school supplies inside the Nothing But God Ministries (NBG), which is at the old Madison Street Walmart, to distribute to children. The event was organized by the Center for Family Development, Johnson Residential Group (Summer Feed Program) and NBG.

(T-G Photo by Jason Reynolds) [Order this photo]

The first annual Summer Feed and Fun Blowout last Friday was a success, organizers say.

The event was held at Nothing But God (NBG) Ministries, the old Walmart on Madison Street. The day camp was organized by the Center for Family Development, Johnson Residential Group (the Summer Feed Program) and Luke Faulk’s Nothing But God Ministries.

About 525 out of 552 backpacks with school supplies were given out, and the remaining backpacks will be given away soon to children who attended the day camp but left early, said Benita Caldwell, executive director of the Center for Family Development.

The children came primarily from the Summer Feed Program, the Boys and Girls Club of Bedford County and Family Development, although about 200 were walk-ups, Caldwell said. The children also were fed a meal, played on bouncy houses, learned about personal safety and did other fun activities. State Rep. Pat Marsh dropped by to talk to the children.

Wayne Buckingham, a basketball camp instructor, attended, and was instrumental in getting Middle Tennessee State University football coach Rick Stockstill and a couple of players to attend and sign autographs, Caldwell said.

The event will need more volunteers next year, she said.

"Everybody was stretched pretty thin, especially with the bouncy houses," she said. "But that's to be expected. The kids were having so much fun."

The blowout was one of the last events for two Family Development interns, who will be returning to school soon but were key to Friday's success, Caldwell said. They are: Morgan Legate from MTSU and Emily Reese from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

(T-G Photo by Jason Reynolds) [Order this photo]

Children wait in line for backpacks filled with school supplies.
Library director appointed at UTM

Dr. Charles A. "Chuck" Julian recently accepted an appointment as director of the Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The announcement was made by Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Julian, whose most recent appointment was manager of knowledge-based services and intellectual property for the National Technology Transfer Center, earned his Ph.D in library science from Florida State University. He has a master's degree in library science from George Peabody College for Teachers at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, as well as a master's degree in information studies from the University of Sheffield in England.

His A.B. in education is from Glenville (W.Va.) State College.

He is a past president of the West Virginia Library Association.

"When I visited the UT Martin campus, I observed the talented Paul Meek Library team at all levels valuing and nurturing a vital commitment to the core mission of positively impacting student teaching and learning," Julian said. "This student-centric approach is derived from UTM's central mission and accentuates a close collaboration among students, faculty and staff - a great formula for success."

Julian succeeds Mary Carpenter, who accepted a position with the state late last summer.

ACT prep course set at UTM

A high score on the ACT exam could be worth thousands of dollars in scholarships for incoming college students.

High school students who wish to improve their scores are encouraged to enroll in an ACT prep course available through the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies.

The course will meet from 8 a.m.-noon on Saturdays from Aug. 24 to Oct. 5 at the UT Martin main campus.

Participants will use materials developed by Cambridge Educational Services. Students will learn how to complete test problems based on frequency, difficulty, substantive knowledge, curriculum and alternative test-taking strategies.

Students will take both a pre- and post-test under real testing conditions to determine individual skills and abilities. Each test is scored by Cambridge and students are given assessment reports with which to create a personal study plan.

The registration fee for the course is $225 per person and includes two textbooks, two official retired ACT tests and diagnostic reports. The textbooks for the course are the ACT Cambridge textbook and The Big Book of Skills textbook, both 11th editions.

To register for the course, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082 or register online at http://www.utfm.edu/departments/cece/non_credit_registration.php.
Photography course offered at Jackson Center

A basic digital photography course will be offered from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, beginning tonight and continuing through Aug. 21, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center, according to a news release.

The course will allow participants to make the most of their digital camera. The course will be taught by Roger Hughes, a 30-year veteran criminal investigator of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

Hughes later studied at the University of Tennessee and the Rocky Mountain School of Photography, under the mentorship of three acclaimed wildlife photographers, the release states. A sample of some of his works can be found at nwtpc.org.

The course fee is $125. Participants will need a digital camera, instruction manual and a tripod.

Adobe Photoshop course in August

An Adobe Photoshop Elements course will be offered from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays, beginning this week and continuing through Aug. 29, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center, according to a news release.

The course will focus on using the basic functions of Adobe Photoshop Elements 9, 10 or 11 to enhance digital photographs.

The course will be taught by Roger Hughes, a 30-year veteran criminal investigator of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

Students need to bring their own laptops with Photoshop Elements already loaded, the release said.

The course is sponsored by the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies and will be held at the UT Martin Jackson Center, at 3031 U.S. 45 Bypass in Jackson.

To register, call (731) 881-7082, or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php.
The University of Tennessee at Martin launched a new website today, and there's much more to the site than meets the eye. The website update went live at 7 a.m., complete with a new layout, less clutter and a responsive design for mobile and tablet devices. The website can be viewed at www.utm.edu.

The new site is coded to behave "responsively," making it friendly for desktop browsing and mobile devices alike. Depending on the screen size of the device used to access the site, visitors will see the same information but oriented differently, making it easier to navigate.

"Our underlying focus for this redesign was to provide an optimal viewing experience across a wide range of devices," said Craig Ingram, interim director of the Instructional Technology Center and Web Services. "We want the navigation of our site to be easy and the access of information to be convenient for all users.”

The university’s Instructional Technology Center and Web Services staff completed the redesign in-house, with the exception of a new Campus Bird virtual tour designed by concept3D.com.

Other changes include an improved search feature, offering both website and directory returns side by side. Trending search topics are also listed so that visitors can quickly see the most popular current searches. The UT Martin website averages more than 600,000 visits each month.

The new website design follows the university’s release of a new mobile application last fall, also developed by the ITC staff. The mobile app allows users access to many campus services and also includes a complete campus telephone directory, athletics schedules and news updates, and the Paul Meek Library catalog.

The free app is available for all iOS and Android platform devices (version 2.2 and up).
Bryce Heathcott, right, and director of admissions, Judy Rayburn, recently attended Summer Orientation and Registration (S.O.A.R) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Heathcott is a senior at Dyer County High School and will attend UT Martin in the fall. Students met with academic advisers and registered for classes; toured the campus and residence halls; received information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and heard detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for first-year students the week before classes). For more information about S.O.A.R., call the UT Martin Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or 1-800-829-UTM1.

Quanah Allen, right, and director of admissions, Judy Rayburn, recently attended Summer Orientation and Registration (S.O.A.R) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Allen is a senior at Gatlinburg-Pittman High School and will attend UT Martin in the fall. Students met with academic advisers and registered for classes; toured the campus and residence halls; received information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and heard detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for first-year students the week before classes). For more information about S.O.A.R., call the UT Martin Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or 1-800-829-UTM1.

Michael Godwin, right, and his mother, Mary Godwin, recently attended Summer Orientation and Registration (S.O.A.R) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Michael is a senior at Dyer County High School and will attend UT Martin in the fall. Students met with academic advisers and registered for classes; toured the campus and residence halls; received information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and heard detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for first-year students the week before classes). For more information about S.O.A.R., call the UT Martin Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or 1-800-829-UTM1.
Snakes interest Keith Paluso. So do lizards, turtles and frogs. For that matter, he’s interested in most any animal that he encounters in nature. His love for the outdoors and work with Tennessee State Parks during his college years prepared Paluso for his appointment in February as a ranger for the 1,247-acre Mousetail Landing State Park. The park is located on the east bank of the Tennessee River near Linden in Perry County.

Paluso, who lives with his wife, Bethany, near Parsons in Decatur County, earned a biology degree with a concentration in ecology and environmental biology in December 2012 from the University of Tennessee at Martin. But, his fascination with animals and the outdoors began well before his college years. To say that he’s had a lifelong interest in reptiles and amphibians is an understatement.

“Well, I’ve been interested in biology, especially in reptiles and amphibians, for as long as I can remember,” he said in a December interview before his graduation. “I remember particularly in the third grade when my teacher, Miss Jenkins, asked me what I wanted to be when I grow up, and I said, ‘a herpetologist.’ And the look on her face was just unforgettable.”

Swamps were common where he was raised in eastern Arkansas. He was active in Boy Scouts, spent most waking moments outdoors and read a lot about snakes. Homeschooled until the 3rd grade, his family moved to Atoka, Tenn., when he was in 6th grade, and he later graduated from Munford High School. His family camped almost year round, and his dedication to scouting led to an Eagle Scout Badge, the organization’s highest award. He came to UT Martin after completing two years at Dyersburg State Community College and almost left Martin after the first semester. But strong relationships with biology faculty members convinced him to stay, and he considers Dr. Tom Blanchard, associate professor of biology, a mentor.

Paluso worked summers during his high school years as a nature director for a Boy Scout Camp. His first opportunity to work at a Tennessee State Park came when he served as a naturalist for a year at Natchez Trace State Park, located 35 miles east of Jackson. He then began a research project at Reelfoot Lake, needed a place to stay for the summer and inquired about becoming a naturalist at Reelfoot Lake State Park. He cold-called asking about the position and was hired almost immediately.

“I’m surprised actually, because Reelfoot’s the park that everybody wants to be at,” he said, adding, “Reelfoot Lake has had a profound influence on my life.”

As a naturalist, he provided environmental education for the public and gave lake tours, including tours for wildlife photographers from Project Noah and National Geographic Magazine. “I gave programs all across the state with the birds that we rehab at the park, but I’ve been known particularly for my snake programs,” he said, estimating that he presented environmental education programs to more than 30,000 people during his three years at Reelfoot.

“Some of my responsibilities were not especially fun, like trail work in the swamp mid-summer, but the thing about the job is that you get out of it exactly what you put into it,” he said. “If you place yourself in the state of constant curiosity and you’re always learning something about the environment, you’ll do a better job in educating the public, and you’ll learn interesting things in the process.”

Paluso does have a special compassion for snakes. He has caught many snakes but has never been bitten by a venomous snake, which he doesn’t attribute to skill but the “misunderstood temperament of a lot of these animals.” For example, during his Reelfoot Lake work, he and others often caught cottonmouth snakes, sometimes a dozen in a day, measured and photographed them and then released the animals. In his view, cottonmouths have earned a reputation that doesn’t fit them for being aggressive.

“You just have to be careful, and you have to know about that animal,” he said. “Ninety percent of the documented venomous snakebites in the U.S. are on the face and on the hands, and that’s not because the snakes are intentionally going for the face or the hands. It’s because people are picking them up when they shouldn’t be. That’s how people get bit is picking them up.”

His research project was made possible when he received the university’s Smith, Henson, Sliger Undergraduate Research at Reelfoot Lake Grant.
which secured his naturalist job at Reelfoot. Only two papers had been published about Reelfoot Lake's herpetofaunal life, both in the 1930s, and this was the project's focus. He and a Southeastern Louisiana University graduate student split a $4,000 grant, which served as a stipend and helped to support him between his Natchez Trace State Park job and transition to Reelfoot Lake.

The research included surveying all of the reptiles and amphibians in the Reelfoot Lake complex, which included each of the national wildlife refuges in the area. He said the area includes approximately "30,000 acres of open water and swamp and bottomland hardwood forests," and the research involved obtaining various data from all the reptiles and amphibians in the area. The project was designed "so that the survey can run for about as long as there are people to work on it." He added, "Some of these long-term herpetofaunal surveys last as long as 75 years or more, and we hope that ours is going to last that long."

Outside his research, perhaps one of his most memorable Reelfoot Lake work experiences occurred during a boat tour. He was telling his audience about the black vultures that nest in duck blinds, which doesn't really involve building a nest at all: the birds just lay their eggs on the ground. The vultures are large and have a bad odor; but the eggs are distinctive and colorful.

He would often leave the boat during tours, pick up an egg from a duck blind and show them to the boat audience, something that didn't bother the mother bird. One very warm day, he had about 15 people on the boat, and he pulled up to a familiar duck blind, entered to pick up a vulture egg, and a baby vulture had hatched. He picked up the baby vulture to show the group, but instead of amazed looks, the faces reflected a very different emotion. He turned to see the mother vulture sitting on the duck blind, staring at Paluso holding her baby.

"So before I could do anything, she reacted," he said. "When vultures get mad, they throw up on you, and vultures eat rotting flesh." Right on cue, the mother vulture threw up and hit him in the chest, causing him to get sick, and a chain reaction occurred among his audience members as others became ill. Chaos followed for several minutes, and when everything calmed down, he asked, "You guys want to go home?" Thus ended a three-hour tour in less than an hour and one of his most memorable educational efforts.

Paluso has never abandoned the dream he expressed in Miss Jenkins' class. He still wants to earn a doctorate and become a full-time herpetologist. In the meantime, his new position as ranger at Mouse tail Landing State Park is perfect. In this role, he can do what he loves most, "which is teaching people about the environment so that they can preserve our natural resources."

Given his lifetime of experiences in nature, Paluso says confidently, "There is always something going on." One day on the UT Martin campus he spotted a white-throated sparrow, a bird that travels from the northern U.S. and back during the year "when we've just been sitting around doing nothing."

"You have to be open to the world around you," Paluso said, "because there's always something spectacular right in front of your face."
Locals Potts, McCall making grade at UTM

UTM Sports Information
Greenfield products Dalton Potts (baseball) and Katie McCall (tennis) are making the grade as members of UT Martin's athletic programs.

So, are 114 of their fellow student-athletes.

A total of 116 University of Tennessee at Martin student-athletes earned a spot on the Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll, while 17 of those brought home an OVC Medal of Honor for their perfect 4.0 Grade Point Average, the league announced last week.

Individually, Johanie Van Zyl and Anna Winkelmann of the Skyhawk tennis team were awarded a Medal of Honor for the fourth time in their careers. Softball's Leah Taylor and volleyball's Kasey Elswick each received a Medal of Honor for the third time, while Dominika Conc (soccer), Jessica Silva (women's tennis), McCall (women's tennis) and Ivon Simic (women's tennis) each earned their second career Medal of Honor.

For Potts The UT Martin women's cross country squad was also recognized as an OVC Team Academic Achievement recipient, sharing the award with Belmont. Coached by Gordon Sanders, the Skyhawk women's team placed eight runners on the Commissioner's Honor Roll (at least a 3.25 GPA), which makes up 81.8 percent of the roster.

Overall, 209 OVC student-athletes earned a Medal of Honor while 1,224 student-athletes were named to the Commissioner's Honor Roll. Both of those numbers are new OVC records, breaking the previous records of 178 for Medal of Honor (set in 2011-12) and 1,063 for Commissioner's Honor Roll (also set in 2011-12).

The Skyhawk rifle team (one), softball team (three) and women's tennis team (five) boasted the most Medal of Honor winners out of any team in the OVC.

Meanwhile, UT Martin's football team (23), rifle team (seven), softball team (16), women's tennis team (seven) and volleyball team (10) produced the highest amount of Commissioner Honor Roll recipients in their respective sports.
County mourns death of Col. Bob Smith

Col. Bob Smith, seen during a past Veterans Day Parade in Martin, died last Tuesday morning at the age of 88, due to complications from a recent injury. The U.S. Navy veteran, who served in World War II, was an active member in the American Legion. He is known for his involvement in his church and the community. (See story on page 4.)

County mourns death of Col. Bob Smith

Col. Robert “Bob” Wallace Smith, 88, of Martin, died Tuesday, July 23, at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital, due to complications from a recent injury.

He was one of the most beloved citizens of Martin and Weakley County and a man admired for his giving spirit.

Those who knew Col. Smith describe him as a man of wisdom and great humanitarian, who never had anything bad to say about anybody.

Col. Smith was a familiar face at patriotic events. He was one of the military veterans who rode in Martin’s Veterans Day Parade.

Bob was born March 18, 1925, to the late Leon and Susie Bell Smith of Martin.

He was one of three children. His two sisters were Mandy Lee Love and Wilsie B. Fulton.

As a young man, he was educated at the Weakley County Training School.

Bob, who served his country during World War II, left home in 1943 to become a member of the U.S. Navy Construction Battalion known as the “Seabees.”

After the war, he became an active member in the American Legion, and is a past commander of University Post 69.

In civilian life, Bob worked at Morgan Business College, Brooks Produce for 21 years, and as a painter at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the last 22 years of his working career before he retired.

Bob served as a member of many clubs and organizations, during his long and productive life, including positions of leadership and authority as follows: past president of the Weakley County Alumni Association, past member of the UTM Agriculture Board, honorary member of the UTM Rodeo Club, member of the Authentic Gospel Choir, Black Historian for 15 years, and a member of Martin Beautification Organization.

He received many awards and special recognitions in his lifetime, including; the Distinguished Lay Leader Service Award. Additionally, Bob was made a Tennessee Colonel by Governor Phil Bredesen for his years of service and dedication to the State of Tennessee. He also received the Legionnaire Award of the Year, the Community Patriarch Award, and Visual and Oral History Project Award.

As for his religious affiliation, according to family members, Bob accepted Christ at an early age and served the Lord until his death. He was a member of Miles Chapel Church, where he attended services for 78 years. Bob served as a member of the CME Planning Board in Brownsville for 10 years, which is in the Dyersburg District. Additionally, he was chairman of several church boards, including: the Stewardship Board, Building Fund, Floral Gardens, Financial Committee, and served as the contact person for the Church Banquet Hall Construction.

Funeral services were Saturday afternoon, July 27, at Miles Chapel CME Church in Martin, with Rev. Paul Jenkins officiating. Burial followed in Parham Cemetery in Martin. Murphy Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Col. Smith is survived by his wife of 30 years, Gwen Willoughby Smith of Martin; one son; four daughters; 31 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents - Leon Smith and Susie Bell Smith; and two sisters, Wilsie B. Fulton and Amanda Lee Love.

(See obituary for more information.)