'It’s a ‘We the People’ issue,’ students learn

Speaker at UTM stresses importance of quality education for everybody

By Priya Narapareddy
contactus@jacksonsun.com

Dave Dennis told students at the University of Tennessee at Martin that the right to vote is not an issue of one’s race.

“It’s a ‘We the People’ issue,” Dennis said, referencing the United States Constitution.

Dennis stood at the forefront of the civil rights movement as the co-director of the 1964 “Freedom Summer” project to help African-Americans register to vote. He was Thursday night’s keynote speaker at the 14th annual UTM Civil Rights Conference.

Dennis gave students and faculty members a timeline of the focal events of the civil rights movement, addressing the victories and the tragedies. He spoke of the March on Washington, and the deaths of four young girls inside their church during the Birmingham, Ala., bombing.

See RIGHTS, Page B2

Rights

Continued from Page B1

Dennis described the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as the “Trojan Horse” of the civil rights movement. A native of northern Louisiana, Dennis said he could not walk on the same side of the street and eat at the same restaurants as white people when he was a child.

Despite the adversity of segregation, Dennis became the first person in his family to graduate from high school. He emphasized the importance of a quality education for all children during his speech.

The future lies in the hands of today’s young people, Dennis said.

“It all depends on them,” he said.

Dennis’ mission to ensure quality education in public schools has continued with his work with The Algebra Project, and he serves as the executive director of the Southern Initiative.

Priya Narapareddy, 425-9616
Jasmine Newsome, Heather Butler enhanced each other's UT Martin legacy

By Craig Thomas
cthomas2@jacksonsun.com

MARTIN—Three trophies stand on a table in the back of the room. Pictures on the walls show women playing basketball and smiling and celebrating.

Jasmine Newsome and Heather Butler sit on the couch in the Elam Center players' lounge to reflect on their UT Martin basketball careers, and the setting seems appropriate. They didn't build this room, but they did a nice job helping decorate it.

Today is Senior Day at UTM, as the Skyhawk women and men host Austin Peay at 2 p.m., and even casual fans know what today means. Measure in points if you like. Measure in steals, awards, records, put-the-team-on-my-back moments or championships.

The partnership of Butler and Newsome is unique in UT Martin's history. Without them the team might be good next year. It might be good after that. But it will not be the same.

Perspective

Before the team's star guards arrived in Martin for the 2010-11 season, the Skyhawk women had never won an OVC tournament.

They've won all three since.

A 5-foot-6-inch guard from Millington, Jasmine Newsome has been the OVC Player of the Year the past two seasons. If she wins again this year she'll be the second player ever to win it three times. She was an All-America honorable mention last season.

A 5-foot-5-inch guard from Medina, Heather Butler has scored 2,767 career points—the most in league history. She broke the NCAA record for consecutive games with at least one made 3-pointer, and she's never had a game in which she scored fewer than 10 points. Newsome averages 19 points per game. Butler averages 23, which is 9th best in the country.

They seem good candidates to have their jerseys retired in a few years, next to Pat Head Summit, Mary Kate Long and Tara Tansil-Gentry, but they said they never thought about it until other people recently started mentioning it.

MORE ONLINE
Go to JacksonSun.com to see a video chronicling the duo's personal and athletic development from childhood to the present.

See UTM, Page D4
UTM

Continued from Page D1

That would be crazy, though," Butler admitted. They don't understand why people get caught up in those individual things when the team wins like it has this semester.

"Like people are telling me now 'Your scoring is down,'" Newsome said. "And I'm just like 'Why does it matter?'

Ashia Jones has established herself as one of the league's best posts as a freshman, and sophomore Katie Schubert is also particularly improved. Megan White, the team's third senior, is healthy this year and a 3-point threat off the bench.

Such complementary parts have ebbed and flowed throughout the last few years, and Butler and Newsome were responsible for a lot as their teammates came along.

"They have taken to the mental side of the game, the mental toughness part, and both of those have responded well to us pushing them to be mentally tough," UTM coach Kevin McMillan said.

"They do that in their academics, they do that in the weight room, they do that on the practice floor, they do that when they're in the gym by themselves, and I think there's a cumulative effect over time that allows them to handle situations in games."

This year's team is deeper than last year's and arguably UTM's best ever.

"Whenever you put all the scoring on our two shoulders, it can be a little much and it's not as fun," Butler said. "When you have everybody involved in everything, then that's when it gets fun and you enjoy playing."

"Both of them come from families that are very humble and very aware of the big picture, so to speak," McMillan said.

Before UTM

A sports management major at UTM, Newsome started taking basketball seriously after sixth grade when she played against both girls and boys and noticed she was better than some of the boys.

Her father, Vincent, Sr., served in the Navy and his work took him from Fort Knox, Ky. to Millington, where Newsome graduated high school. (Newsome's older brother Vincent, Jr. played high school basketball in Mississippi.) In high school after classes, she would play one-on-one against her dad at the Navy base gym.

"When I used to go up for a lay-up he'd foul the crap out of me," she said.

Butler is a health and human performance major with a concentration in working with Kindergarten through 12th grade. She hopes to play professionally or perhaps coach after graduation, noting she enjoys opportunities to teach kids how to play.

Her basketball activity started as a second-grader in Medina. She named the opportunity to practice with Medina's middle school team as a fourth-grader as a big moment.

Butler's high school success at Gibson County is well chronicled, as she led the Lady Pioneers to the 2009 and 2010 state titles with McMillan and current Skyhawk assistant David Russell, respectively, as head coaches.

Yet before that, as a high school freshman, Butler was not assertive and preferred to pass to teammates. McMillan took the Gibson County job before her sophomore year and said he'd bench her if she didn't shoot more. Her following seven seasons say a lot.

"He saw something in me that I didn't see, but now I do," Butler said.

Ambassadors

After a home win, the Skyhawk women will linger on the court or in the stands for a few moments to say hello to friends and family, but they often get stopped by fans they don't know who want to offer a handshake or a hug or a "Good game, girl!"

Newsome said she has gotten used to fans saying hi at Wal-Mart, not surprising given about 11,000 people live in Martin and about 2,500 fans attend each home game.

Minutes after a recent home win, a young girl holding a game program approached Butler in the stands. Sweaty and no doubt tired, the OVC's all-time leading scorer offered a smile, got on her hands and knees and placed the proper on the floor in front of the girl to autograph it.

"I still don't even think we realize how much we impact little kids and people. I really don't think we understand it just yet," Butler said.
Helping each other

So in watching Newsome and Butler play together for the past four years, what have we seen? Either one alone would be an important note on the scouting report. Together, they've been a four-year problem the Ohio Valley Conference has never really solved.

"I don't think it's ever happened in the OVC before, so to think it would happen again is not that likely," McMillan said.

"This was kind of a perfect storm for us and for those guys because Butler and Newsome fit together as players. To think that you can replace them is pretty naïve."

In Butler, Newsome sees a teammate who not only shares the pressure to excel but can talk and encourage teammates in the moments when Newsome's style dictates staying quiet.

"If she wasn't out there, I really don't know what we would do without her," Newsome said.

Now it's Butler's turn to talk on Newsome's behalf. "It's her personality, I would say," Butler said.

"Jasmine... Butler stops, cries for a few seconds, wipes her face with her practice jersey, and restarts.

"She means so much to me and this team. She's just an easygoing, laid back, goofy kind of girl and that definitely helps for sure," Butler said.

Butler mentions last year's must-win OVC quarterfinal against Eastern Kentucky, in which she and the others had a horrid first half but Newsome made every Skyhawk field goal before halftime. It saved UTM's season.

"She wasn't freaked out and she took leadership of that team," Butler said of Newsome. "... It doesn't matter if you're in a bind or what not, she's always going to be there for you and she was there that day for that team, to bring us up on top." And as far as these two are concerned, that's where the team belongs.

Craig Thomas, 425-9634

Jasmine Newsome and Heather Butler will leave UT Martin as the women's basketball team's top two all-time scorers. MEGAN SMITH/THE JACKSON SUN
King d'Iberville 2014
March 1, 2014

TOMMY TRIPLETT/GCCAClay Blalack is King d'Iberville of the Gulf Coast Carnival Association for 2014.

Name: Clay Blalack

Family: Wife, Karen Blalack of Gulfport; son, Chad; daughters, Dr. Ginny Blalack and Shannon Blalack; parents, Lynn Blalack and the late Charles Blalack; grandson, Warner Blalack.

Business: Executive director of Kare-In-Home Health Services of Central and South Mississippi.

Education: Master of accounting degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin. At UT-Martin, he received the H.K. Grantham Award, which is given to one student athlete per year for athletic ability and outstanding character. He is the NCAA record holder for most interceptions returned for a touchdown in a single season. He also received the UT-Martin football Most Valuable Player award.

Memberships: Mississippi Association of Home Care and the National Association of Home Care; serves on the Nature Conservancy board of directors. Member of the Mississippi Big Game Fishing Club and a lifetime NRA member. The Blalacks are members of First Baptist Church of Gulfport.

James dismissed as UTM hoops coach

By Craig Thomas
cthomas2@jacksonsun.com

Julio Freire said UT Martin needs to "inspire hope" among fans of its men's basketball team. His choice for the team's new coach will be his opportunity to do so.

UT Martin fired Jason James as head coach of the school's men's basketball team, Freire announced Monday morning.

James was notified Sunday evening in a meeting with Freire, and then James told his players.

"In the end there simply was not enough evidence to continue the chancellor [Tom Bostic] or myself that we were going in the right direction," Freire said in a teleconference with local media.

UT Martin will pay James for the final year of his contract, which was due to expire in April 2015.

Freire said a committee will be formed for the search process, but he did not provide a specific timeframe in which he wants to hire a new coach.

Freire said he will value candidates who can recruit well, build relationships, create a good team atmosphere and be a good "bench coach"—using strategy to earn a few extra wins each season.

UTM
Continued from Page B1

"We want somebody who will be a great fit—not a good fit but a great fit—in West Tennessee, someone who will inspire Skyhawk nation," Freire said.

He said he keeps a "short list" of potential coaching candidates for each sport and has done so for years with the hope of becoming an athletic director in mind.

James was UT Martin's head coach for the past five seasons. Despite returning their top four scorers this year, including Myles Taylor and Mike Liabo, the Skyhawks finished 8-23 overall and 3-13 in OVC play.

The UTM men failed to qualify for this week's conference tournament, the third time that happened during James' tenure.

"There was not a tipping point," Freire said. "It was more about the totality." James' best year as head coach was his second season, 2010-11, in which the Skyhawks were 12-21 and won a conference tournament game.

James was 47-117 overall and 15-69 in OVC games. He served as an assistant coach for seven years at UTM before taking over in the summer of 2009 after Bret Campbell resigned.

This was James' first head coaching job.

"It was a difficult situation because Jason is a really, really good person," Freire said. "He's got a great family and he's been loyal to this institution. So we are talking about a man of character and his family."

Freire said a couple athletes' parents have asked him about the school's stance on allowing transfers. Freire said he advises such a player to finish the semester to remain in good academic standing and wait until a new coach is announced before deciding whether to transfer.

This is the first coaching change to take place in Freire's tenure as UT Martin athletic director, which began in January.

Craig Thomas, 425-9634

James looks back on UTM tenure

By Craig Thomas
cthomas2@jacksonsun.com

Jason James had just learned he was losing his job, and he had something he wanted UT Martin athletic director Julio Freire to remember.

"Take care of my guys," James said.

James was fired Sunday after his fifth season as the UTM men's basketball team's head coach.

He and Freire met Saturday night to discuss the state of the program. Freire said they shared some ideas and differed on some ideas, and he said he respected Freire's decision.

"I told him I wanted him to do what he thought was best for the university and for the kids," James said Monday afternoon by phone.

In a Monday morning teleconference with the media, Freire complimented James' professionalism.

James wants to continue coaching, but he's not sure what kind of job he'll take.

"I really don't," he said. "I want to stay in the game. I love the game. I love making an impact in young men's lives."

"I open to all kinds of different things. Me and my family are going to sit down and decide what's best and go from there."
James
Continued from Page B1

James is married and has three young children. He said he's most proud of the number of players who graduated in the past few years. He said some of them turned out to be good players and others didn't, but either way many of them probably wouldn't have graduated college if they weren't playing basketball.

He said he likes helping boys mature into men. "I think for the most part we did that," James said.

Freire said two basketball players, who he didn't name, were worried after Saturday's loss about getting through the rest of the semester without James' guidance if he were dismissed.

Freire said he promised them the school would guide them academically and socially regardless of what happened.

James served as a UTM assistant for seven years before being head coach the past five. He said he enjoyed his time on staff, and he reiterated the basketball program should foremost be about the players' best interests.

"It always was for me, and I hope it continues to be," he said.

Craig Thomas, 425-9634
UTM Jackson Center offers pharmacy technician program

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will offer a pharmacy technician program from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, from March 15 through June 21, at the UT Martin Jackson Center.

The comprehensive 50-hour course will prepare students to enter the pharmacy field and to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board's exam, according to a news release. Technicians work in hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, community pharmacies and other health care settings under the supervision of a registered pharmacist.

Course content includes medical terminology specific to the pharmacy, reading and interpreting prescriptions and defining drugs by generic and brand names. Students will learn dosage calculations, IV flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control and billing and reimbursement.

The student tuition cost is $999, which includes all supplies and textbooks. There will be no class on April 19 or May 24.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082, or register online at www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.

Phlebotomy tech program planned at UTM Jackson Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering a phlebotomy technician program from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, from March 15 through Sept. 13, at the UT Martin Jackson Center.

The 90-hour program prepares professionals to collect blood specimens from clients for the purpose of laboratory analysis, according to a news release. Students will become familiar with all aspects related to blood collection and develop comprehensive skills to perform venipunctures completely and safely.

Classroom and lab work includes terminology, anatomy and physiology, blood collection procedures, specimen handling, practice and training in skills and techniques to perform puncture methods. There is no outside externship rotation included with this program.

The student tuition cost of $1,599 includes all supplies and textbooks.

Students will receive Phlebotomy Tech Certification through the National Healthcare Association. The NHA Certification Exam is given at the end of the course. The cost of the exam is an additional $105 (as of April 2011) and is paid directly to the NHA. The instructor will arrange for the registration and payment of the exam. NHA is accredited through the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at (731) 881-7082, or register online at www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.
UT Martin students attend TBA Credit Conference

University of Tennessee at Martin finance and banking students recently attended the annual Tennessee Bankers Association Credit Conference at the Omni Hotel in Nashville.

The Credit Conference provides senior lenders and bank presidents from across Tennessee with the most up-to-date information on the economy, credit markets and regulatory trends. The two-day conference is TBA’s largest annual event and hosted more than 500 bankers and 18 UT Martin students this year.

Student attendance is arranged each year by the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, and sponsorships are provided by TBA and individual community banks across West Tennessee.

"Thanks to our community bank sponsors and the TBA, students have the opportunity to learn about their chosen profession and network with leaders in the financial services industry. The Credit Conference augments classroom instruction and helps prepare students for the professional workforce. UT Martin’s commitment to quality teaching and experiential learning sets us apart and provides students with a world-class education right here in West Tennessee," said Dr. Tom Payne, Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and professor of finance.

This year’s conference included sessions by Greg Gonzales, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions; David Kemp, president of Bankers Management Inc.; Jeff Judy, principal with Jeff Judy and Associates; Sean Smith, director, Institute of Economic Competitiveness; and Patsy Parkin, banking compliance advisor, Butler Snow LLP.

Payne also served as a speaker at this year’s conference and presented “The State of The Economy: The Road Ahead for Tennessee and its Banks.”

“Attending the TBA Credit Conference gave us [students] a great opportunity to see the dynamic world of banking and review industry changes with hundreds of bankers from across the state,” said Tanner Swinea, a senior finance major. “UT Martin is a great school, but it really makes a difference when you attend conferences like this one and get this type of real world experience. We would like to thank all of the banks that helped fund our trip.”

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

UT Martin's Heather Butler OVC player of year

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (AP) — Heather Butler of UT Martin has been voted the Ohio Valley Conference player of the year with her teammate Jasmine Newsome repeating as the league's defensive player of the year.

The OVC announced the awards Tuesday.

Butler also was the freshman of the year in 2010-11 and becomes only the sixth player in OVC history to win both awards. She already is the OVC's all-time leading scorer and currently has 2,811 points in helping UT Martin take the regular season title.

UT Martin teammate Ashia Jones is the league's freshman of the year.

Rick Peitri of Jacksonville State is the coach of the year. He coached the Gamecocks to their first tournament berth since 2011 with eight league wins the most since 2007-08.
BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (AP) — Heather Butler of UT Martin has been voted the Ohio Valley Conference player of the year with her teammate Jasmine Newsome repeating as the league’s defensive player of the year.

The OVC announced the awards Tuesday.

Butler also was the freshman of the year in 2010-11 and becomes only the sixth player in OVC history to win both awards. She already is the OVC’s all-time leading scorer and currently has 2,811 points in helping UT Martin take the regular season title.

UT Martin teammate Ashia Jones is the league’s freshman of the year.

Rick Peitri of Jacksonville State is the coach of the year. He coached the Gamecocks to their first tournament berth since 2011 with eight league wins the most since 2007-08.

UT Martin’s Heather Butler OVC player of year

http://www.usatoday.com/

UT Martin’s Heather Butler was named the 2013-14 Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year while teammate Jasmine Newsome was selected as the OVC Defensive Player of the Year. The Skyhawks’ Ashia Jones was tabbed as the Freshman of the Year and Coach of the Year honors went to Jacksonville State’s Rick Peitri.

Butler, a native of Medina, Tenn., earns OVC Player of the Year honors after being selected as the 2010-11 Freshman of the Year. She becomes the sixth player in league history to win both awards in a career. The first team All-OVC selection has rewritten the league record books this year. She became the OVC’s all-time leading scorer earlier this year as she broke Tennessee Tech’s Cheryl Taylor’s mark that had stood for 27 years. The senior guard currently has 2,811 career points to rank 20th on the NCAA all-time list. Butler became just the 21st player in NCAA history to eclipse the 2,000 point mark for her career. She also recently set a new OVC all-time three-pointers made mark with 381 career triples so far this year. She has reached double-digits in every game of her career for a streak of 126 straight contests. In the regular-season finale against Austin Peay, Butler tied as school single-game record with 44 points and nine three-pointers made. Butler is leading the OVC with 24.1 points per game this year which also ranks 9th in the nation. She is the third different Skyhawk to earn Player of the Year honors joining Jasmine Newsome (2011-12, 2012-13) and Zabrina Harris (1999-96).

A native of Millington, Tenn., Newsome earns her second straight and third overall Defensive Player of the Year award. She becomes the first player in league history to win the honor in back-to-back years and the first to earn the award three times. The senior guard leads the league and ranks 18th in the nation with 2.8 steals per game this year. A first team All-OVC selection, Newsome also ranks fourth in the OVC with 3.1 points per game. Earlier this season, she tied the school’s single-game record with 44 points versus Gulf Coast. She became just the second player in school history to reach 2,000 points in her career. Newsome currently has 2,512 career points to rank third all-time in league history and needs just 15 points to move into second place. She also has dashed out 167 assists for 5.8 per game to rank second in the league this year. Newsome closed out the regular-season setting a new UT Martin single-game mark with 14 assists five double-d

Jones, a freshman forward from Covington, Tenn., leads the league with a 59.3 field goal percentage. She is recording 12.9 points per game this year and has reached double-figures 17 times, including last 14 games. Jones has scored 20 or more points six times, including hitting a career-high 27 twice this year. She also ranks 11th in the OVC with 6.3 rebounds per outing. So far this year, she has recorded five double-doubles. Jones is just the second Skyhawk to earn Freshman of the Year honors joining Heather Butler in 2010-11. In addition to being named the Freshman of the Year, Jones picked up All-OVC second team and All-Newcomer honors.

Peitri was tabbed the OVC Coach of the Year after leading his team to its first OVC Tournament berth since 2011. In his first year at the helm of the Gamecocks, Peitri led a team that won one game last year to an 8-8 OVC mark and a 12-17 overall mark this season. The eight conference wins are the most for a JSU team since the 2007-08 season. The last time Jacksonville State finished 500 or better in league action was in 2004-05 when it went 9-7. Jacksonville State enters the tournament having won three of its last five, including a 71-69 overtime victory over Belmont in the regular-season finale.

UT Martin’s Butler and Newsome Earn Top OVC Women’s Basketball Honors

http://www.ovcsports.com/
Joining Butler and Newsome as first-team selections are Tennessee Tech junior guard Diamond Henderson, Eastern Kentucky senior guard Marie Carpenter earns first team honors after being selected to the All-Newcomer team as a freshman in 2011-12 while Belmont's Jordyn Luffman is a first time All-OVC selection.

A native of Nashville, Tenn., Carpenter ranks second in the league with 21.5 points per outing and a 64.7 free throw percentage. She also ranks among league leaders in three-point field goal percentage (40.8%) and three-pointers made (2.8 per game). Her 1.572 career points rank just behind Butler and Newsome among active leaders.

Henderson, a Kennesaw, Ga. native is third in the OVC with 19.7 points per game this year. She is also among the league's top 15 in field goal percentage (45.7), assists (3.1 spg), free throw percentage (77.1%) and steals (1.3 spg). Henderson has recorded double-figures in points in all but two games this season, including hitting a career-high 3T versus Jacksonville State.

A product of Lawrenceburg, Tenn., Luffman is 11th in the OVC with 14.4 points per game while ranking seventh in rebounds, bringing down 7.0 boards each time out. She is also among the league's top five in free throw percentage (84.4%) and three-point field goal percentage (40.7%).

Joining Ashia Jones on the 2013-14 All-OVC second team as first time honorees are Eastern Illinois junior forward Sabina Orozsova (Bratislava, Slovakia), Jacksonville State junior guard Candace Morton (Lexington, Ky.); Tennessee State junior forward Chelsea Hudson (Midland, Texas); and Morehead State junior guard Almesha Jones (Cincinnati, Ohio).

Orozsova ranks in the league's top 5 in points (17.0 ppg) and rebounds (10.5) while Morton has put up 16.7 points per game for sixth in the OVC. Hudson is 8th in the conference with 16.0 points per game and is fourth in rebounds, bringing down 8.4 boards per contest. Almesha Jones has dished out a league-leading 174 assists for 6.0 per game this year.

Making up the All-Newcomer team with Ashia Jones are SIUE freshman forward Micaiah Jones (Covington, Tenn.); Austin Peay freshman center Tarras Banks (Louisville, Ky.); and Murray State freshman guard Taylor Porter (Louisville, Ky.).

Micaiah Jones ranks among league leaders with 10.8 points and 6.5 rebounds per game while Mills is second on the team with 9.6 points per outing. Banks is second in the league with a .537 field goal percentage and Porter is among the OVC leaders with 10.9 points each time out.

2013-14 All-Ohio Valley Conference Women's Basketball Teams
(voted on by the league's head basketball coaches and sports information directors)

FIRST TEAM
Heather Butler, UT Martin *
Jasmine Newsome, UT Martin *
Marie Carpenter, Eastern Kentucky
Diamond Henderson, Tennessee Tech *
Jordyn Luffman, Belmont

SECOND TEAM
Sabina Orozsova, Eastern Illinois
Candace Morton, Jacksonville State
Chelsea Hudson, Tennessee State
Almesha Jones, Murray State
Ashia Jones, UT Martin

ALL-NEWCOMER
Ashia Jones, UT Martin
Micaiah Jones, SIUE
Taylor Mills, Belmont
Tarras Banks, Austin Peay
Taylor Porter, Murray State

OVC PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Heather Butler, UT Martin
OVC FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR: Ashia Jones, UT Martin
OVC DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Jasmine Newsome, UT Martin
OVC COACH OF THE YEAR: Rick Peitri, Jacksonville State

UT Martin's Heather Butler OVC player of year

http://www.thedailytimes.com/

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (AP) — Heather Butler of UT Martin has been voted the Ohio Valley Conference player of the year with her teammate Jasmine Newsome repeating as the league’s defensive player of the year.

The OVC announced the awards Tuesday.

Butler also was the freshman of the year in 2010-11 and becomes only the sixth player in OVC history to win both awards. She already is the OVC’s all-time leading scorer and currently has 2,811 points in helping UT Martin take the regular season title.

UT Martin teammate Ashia Jones is the league’s freshman of the year.

Rick Peitri of Jacksonville State is the coach of the year. He coached the Gamecocks to their first tournament berth since 2011 with eight league wins the most since 2007-08.
Butler takes home final OVC honor of season

The Ohio Valley Conference announced today that the University of Tennessee at Martin women's basketball duo of Heather Butler and Ashia Jones have garnered the season's final Adidas OVC Player and Freshman of the Week honors, respectively.

The duo helped lead the team to a 22-7 regular season worksheet while posting a 15-1 record in OVC play. The two have been instrumental in leading the Skyhawks to the program's second outright conference championships while earning the No. 1 seed in this week's OVC Tournament.

Butler took home Co-Player of the Week honors after scoring 29 points against Eastern Illinois before tying a school single-game record with 44 points and nine made three-pointers versus Austin Peay. She also tallied five rebounds, four steals and three assists against APSU. Remaining highly efficient from the field, Butler shot 53 percent from the floor and 58 percent from beyond the arc for the week.

Butler currently sits 20th on the NCAA's all-time scoring list with 2,811 career points, becoming just the 21st player in NCAA history to eclipse the 2,800 point mark for her career. She also broke the OVC's career three-point field goals record with 381, passing Chynna Bozeman of Morehead State's previous mark of 377.

Jones recorded her third double-double in four games with 22 points and 10 rebounds in the win over Eastern Illinois. She followed that up with 16 points and six rebounds to help the Skyhawks defeat Austin Peay. Jones has scored in double figures in 14 consecutive games along, along with tallying 20 points or more in five straight contests.

This marks the 12th time this season that a Skyhawk has taken home at least one OVC weekly honor. The honor is Butler's 11th career Player of the Week accolade and fifth this season. Jones has taken home six Freshman of the Week honors this season, finishing the season with three consecutive weeks of honors.

see BUTLER page 2B

HS chemistry competition to be held at UT Martin

Student Members of the American Chemical Society at the University of Tennessee at Martin and at Bethel University in McKenzie are inviting area students to participate in the High School Chemistry Bowl March 22 at UT Martin.

The test will consist of two parts — a written test from the American Chemical Society and an afternoon bowl fashioned after the erstwhile GE College Bowl (http://www.utm.edu/staff/skairce/HSCheMistryBowl.html). There will be trophies for the champion and runner-up schools and gold, silver and bronze medallions for team members.

Each school will be given a copy of the Merck Index. All teachers and the two highest scoring students from each school will get green chemistry T-shirts.

The results of this contest will be used to select the local competitors — five each from northwest Tennessee and five from western Kentucky — for the National Chemistry Olympiad examination to be administered April 26 at UT Martin.

If any of the local competitors do well, they will be invited to a June 3-18 study camp at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado. After that, they may go to the 46th International Chemistry Olympiad July 20-29 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

While the students are taking the written test, teachers will have the opportunity to participate in a green chemistry workshop that will include some hands-on demonstrations of solar energy and fuel cells, as well as a lecture by an eminent author. All schools are asked to register by Friday by contacting UT Martin, a spokesman said.

Monster Concerts held at UTM

The Martin Area Music Teachers Association presents its 22nd "Monster Concerts" on a recent Saturday afternoon in February at Blankenship Recital Hall in the University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Building.

About 300 attendees heard 90 students of MAMTA teachers perform ensemble repertoire for piano, voice and guitar. As a special treat, the teachers performed two pieces.

Teachers represented include Linda Farmer of Dresden, Linda Williams and Rita Winter, both of Union City, Heather Korn of Trenton, Kathleen Parker of Troy and Elaine Harriss, Johnathan Vest, Reba Wade, Elwood Doss and Tori Russell, all of Martin.

The Martin Area Music Teachers Association is affiliated with Music Teachers National Association.
The University of Tennessee at Martin student Relay for Life executive committee was named one of the best in the state as it raised more than $25,000 in this past year's Relay. Members of the executive committee receiving the award included (from left to right) Syrena Flowers, of Jackson, Amy Belote, of Martin, Travis Henry, of Lexington, and Kayla Brockmeyer, of Jackson.

Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2014-2015 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions. Students receiving scholarships include:

Amberly Baker, daughter of Freddie and Myrtle Baker, of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Dean's Scholarship.

Nickolas Cobb, son of Ralph Jr. and Kristy Cobb, of Dresden, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor's Award.

Bethany Cole, daughter of Charles and Vicki Birdwell, of Greenfield, will be a freshman. She received the Dean's Scholarship.

Elizabeth Francisco, daughter of Chris and Shawn Francisco, of Gleason, will be a freshman. She received the Chancellor's Award.

Ryne J. Reynolds, son of James R. Reynolds, of Dresden, and Vickie L. Higgs, of Martin, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor's Award.

Blake W. Stoker, son of Stacey W. Stoker, and Bobby Stoker, both of Dresden, will be a freshman. He received the Dean's 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.
UTM offering ACT prep for high school Jrs, Srs

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering an ACT prep course for high school juniors and seniors, at 8-noon, on Saturdays, March 1-April 5, on the UT Martin campus.

The course will begin with students taking an off-record ACT test. The instructor will then provide feedback in specific areas. Students will learn how to complete test problems based on question frequency, difficulty, substantive knowledge, curriculum and alternative test taking strategies. At the end of the program, students will take another off-record ACT exam. The instructor will meet one-on-one to provide a final study preparation for the real exam after receiving post-test data. Ron Ramage, UT Martin adjunct faculty member and Obion County High School teacher, will instruct the course.

The registration fee to attend is $225. The registration fee includes two textbooks, two official, retired ACT tests and two sets of diagnostic reports. Number 2 pencils will be required. A calculator is not necessary, but if a student chooses to use one, it must be a calculator permitted by ACT.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at 731-881-7082.

---

Helicopter parents find their helipad

By Jake New, Editor @eCN_Jake
Read more by JakeNew
March 5th, 2014

A new online portal at University of Tennessee at Martin allows helicopter parents to check their students' grades, attendance and more.

To many in higher education, "helicopter parents" can be an annoyance, constantly asking institutions for updates on their adult children's finances, grades and attendance.

Some university researchers have even asked parents to cut it out, warning them that helicopter parenting can cause anxiety, depression and even ruin a student's chance at getting a job.

But the University of Tennessee at Martin is hoping that a new online tool can transform those helicopter parents from a burden to a benefit for both students and the university.

"We all need to improve retention rates, but don't have the resources to go hire more counselors and coaches," Brandy Cartmell, director of academic records and registrar at UT Martin, said. "We need to utilize the resources we do have at our disposal, and we realized that parents are an untapped resource."
Phlebotomy Technician program at UTM-Parsons

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering a phlebotomy technician program at 8-noon, on Saturdays, March 15-Sept. 13, at the UT Martin Parsons Center.

The 90-hour program prepares professionals to collect blood specimens from clients for the purpose of laboratory analysis. Students will become familiar with all aspects related to blood collection and develop comprehensive skills to perform venipunctures completely and safely. Classroom and lab work includes terminology, anatomy and physiology, blood collection procedures, specimen hands-on practice and training in skills and techniques to perform puncture methods. There is no outside externship rotation included with this program.

The student tuition costs $1,599, which includes all supplies and textbooks. Students will be receiving Phlebotomy Tech Certification through the National Healthcare Association (NHA). The NHA Certification Exam is given at the end of the course. The cost of the exam is an additional $105 (as of April 2011) and is paid directly to the NHA. The instructor will arrange for the registration and payment of the exam. NHA is accredited through the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

There will be no class on August 30.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at 731-881-7082, or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.

Pharmacy Tech program at UTM-Parsons

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies will be offering a pharmacy technician program at 8-noon, on Saturdays, March 15-June 21, at the UT Martin Parsons Center.

The comprehensive 50-hour course will prepare students to enter the pharmacy field and to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board’s (PTCB) exam. Technicians work in hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, community pharmacies and other health care settings – working under the supervision of a registered pharmacist. Course content includes medical terminology specific to the pharmacy, reading and interpreting prescriptions and defining drugs by generic and brand names. Students will learn dosage calculations, I.V. flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control and billing and reimbursement.

The student tuition costs $999, which includes all supplies and textbooks. There will be no class on April 19 or May 24.

For more information or to register, contact ECOS at 731-881-7082, or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.
SNOW DAYS — University of Tennessee at Martin junior Casey McNeil (right) pushes his friend Eric Kennedy as their friends Kelsi Clark and Mason Cullen, a sophomore watch from a distance, while sled riding on the campus of UT Martin earlier this week. After a heavy winter storm Sunday night, much of West Tennessee was blanketed in snow and ice, causing many closings and delays across the region. (Photo by Nathan Morgan/UTM University Relations)
City of Martin to contribute funds for new
UT Martin press box

By JOE LOFARO
Special to The Press

Julio Freire, the new athletics director at the University of Tennessee at Martin has been on the job less than 50 days and he has secured at least $100,000 dollars from the Martin Mayor and Board of Aldermen for renovations and a new press box at Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

After a short presentation at Tuesday afternoon’s informal session to the Martin Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Mayor Randy Brundige called Freire on his cell phone and told him the board was committed to contributing to this project.

“I think we need to support this project,” Brundige said. “UT Martin is a big part of Martin.”

What remains to be seen is if the city commits $100,000 over three years or $150,000 over five years to the university.

“The city is into community building and this project is definitely community building,” Alderman David Belote said.

The overhaul of Graham Stadium will transform the venue’s entire west side of the stadium with new bleacher seating and a four-story building that will total about 21,000 square feet. The building will stretch 50 yards, from 25-yard line to 25-yard line.

Included in the building is a floor level that will include a renovated visiting locker room, referee locker rooms and a concession stand amongst other game management space.

The new bleacher seating will extend closer to the field (directly behind UT Martin’s bench), eliminating the current walkway. The entrance to each seat will now be located through tunnels from the back side of the bleachers.

The second level will be used by the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. The area will include a hospitality and event management program operated through the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. The area will also serve as an academic support function throughout the calendar school year.

The club level is located on the third floor. On football game days, the 2,637 square-feet area will house donors, offering a unique perspective of the game while in the climate-con-
Tennessee GOP fund-raising giant Ted Welch dead at 80

Joey Garrison, The Tennessean 1:42 p.m. EST March 8, 2014
http://www.wbir.com/

The preeminent fund-raiser in Tennessee Republican politics for four decades, passed away at 80.

Ted Welch, the preeminent fund-raiser in Tennessee Republican politics for four decades, whose unmatched ability to turn phone calls into big bucks for governors, senators and U.S. presidents made him a giant in the GOP, died on Saturday.

He was 80.

Welch died around 6:30 a.m. at Vanderbilt Medical Center Hospital in Nashville, his wife Colleen Conway-Welch said, due to complications from a December fall.

A one-time door-to-door Bible salesman and longtime Nashville real estate investor, Welch became the political money man of the South through his help of Ronald Reagan, both Bushes, Gov. Mitt Romney and others.

His career began in 1970 during Winfield Dunn’s successful run for governor. It spanned to modern campaigns of U.S. Sen. Bob Corker and Gov. Bill Haslam. In between, he worked with senators Howard Baker, Bill Brock, Bill Frist and Fred Thompson, Rep. Marsha Blackburn and Republicans at the state level, such as House Speaker Beth Harwell, and even Nashville mayors.

He’s perhaps most linked, though, to the campaigns of his friend Lamar Alexander, teaming with him during his first failed run for governor in 1974 before he won four years later during his famed “Walk Across Tennessee” sporting his trademark plaid shirt.

Welch helped with Alexander’s re-election, subsequent runs for U.S. Senate and his failed run at U.S. president in a crowded field of GOP candidates in 1996.

"Ted Welch raised millions to support candidates for public office, symphonies and other charitable causes and, in my experience, never asked for one thing for himself in return," Alexander said in a statement. "He was tireless. As a volunteer, he traveled with me to 250 presidential campaign fundraising events during one year.

"The most feared seven words among those who knew him were, 'Ted Welch is holding on line one.' Honey and I will miss him greatly and extend our sympathies to Colleen and to his family."

Doctors diagnosed Welch with Alzheimer's disease in 2012. And when it came time for Alexander to reignite his run for a third term in the U.S. Senate, Welch wasn't able to make the phone calls and host fundraisers like he did in the past. He was instead named honorary finance chairman, and in April 2013 was honored during an Alexander fund-raising event called "A Salute to Ted."

In real estate, Welch was instrumental in the redevelopment of downtown Nashville, including the 1987 construction of the Nashville Convention Center. His office was atop the adjacent Renaissance Hotel.

The son of teachers at a one-room schoolhouse, Welch grew up on a farm near tiny Parsons, Tenn., in Decatur County. He attended the University of Tennessee at Martin on a football scholarship, and Indiana University for graduate school.

In his 20s, he worked as a salesman at the Southwestern Publishing House (today called Southwestern Advantage), where he sold Bibles on doorsteps all over the country. He outshined his peers, worked his way up the ladder and became the company’s executive vice president.

His entry into politics came with Dunn’s 1970 election, in which Republicans captured the governor’s office for the first time in 50 years. He became Dunn’s commissioner of Finance and Administration, but after one term he returned to campaigns.


Welch lived in Belle Meade with his wife, the longtime dean of Vanderbilt University’s School of Nursing and a powerhouse in her own field, who retired last spring after 29 years in that role.
Skyhawks dominate way to title game

By Craig Thomas
cthomas2@jacksonsun.com

NASHVILLE — Figuring out how to beat this team or that team is not specifically the discussion for UT Martin women’s basketball.

“We talk about playing to whatever our best is,” coach Kevin McMillan said.

It’s hard to imagine they didn’t come pretty close Friday. The top seed Skyhawks dominated in front of a pro-UTM crowd at Municipal Auditorium, supporting the league favorite designation they’ve held since October.

UT Martin beat a tired Eastern Kentucky team 97-45 in the OVC semifinals, the most lopsided win in McMillan’s tenure and the biggest blowout by any team in the history of the tournament.

UTM (23-7) will play No. 2 seed Belmont (14-16) at 1 p.m. today for the league’s automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

UTM beat Tennessee Tech in the past three league finals.

The Skyhawks (23-7) outshot EKU 51 to 28 percent from the field, and they made 14 3-pointers. They held Marie Carpenter, EKU’s first team all-conference guard, to three points.

Jasmine Newsome scored 21 points, moving into second place on the OVC’s career scoring list behind Heather Butler.

“It’s a great award and all, but I don’t think either one of us focuses on individual awards right now because we’re still playing,” Newsome said.

See UTM, Page C3

UTM
Continued from Page C1

A year after winning three straight OVC tournament games filled with drama and tension, UTM substituted breathing room.

An Eastern Kentucky team that had to win Wednesday and Thursday to get to the semifinals couldn’t keep up, and a rested UTM team punished them with backcourt pressure.

“You could tell when they missed their first couple shots that their legs kinda got ‘em,” McMillan said.

Within the first six minutes, Katie Schubert dove on the floor and got rewarded with a 3-pointer for a 15-0 lead. Ashia Jones made a shot, Butler hit a 3 from the top of the key and Newsome made a lay-up for a 22-0 lead.

See you Saturday.

Butler led all scorers with 23 points. UTM reserves Elizabeth Masengil and Karisma Tyson both played well early to take pressure off Butler and Newsome and finished with 11 and 10 points respectively.

“It definitely is a huge help that the bench can come out there and produce so much for the team, and it definitely helps us for sure,” Butler said.

Ashia Jones scored 10 points. Fellow freshman post Tiara Caldwell added six.

“We’re going to need her in any game we play from now on,” McMillan said of Caldwell.

Belmont beat Jacksonsville State 65-50 Friday afternoon. UTM had several hundred fans present Friday, but the Nashville-based Bruins are likely to be well supported, too.

UTM beat Belmont 82-53 Jan. 11 in Martin. The Skyhawks have won eight consecutive games at Municipal Auditorium, and no one on this year’s team has ever lost a conference tournament game.

Craig Thomas, 425-9634
Bench gives UTM quality minutes, points in early rally

By Michael Odom
michodom@jacksonsun.com

NASHVILLE — The UT Martin women’s basketball team is going to get the points it needs out of guard Heather Butler and Jasmine Newsome on a nightly basis, and freshman Ashia Jones has proven she can score when needed also.

But in UTM’s 97-45 rout of Eastern Kentucky on Friday in the Ohio Valley Conference semifinals, UTM coach Kevin McMillan got play out of his bench early before the game got out of hand.

“The bench was kind of an extra catalyst that we needed,” McMillan said. “They were an extra boost for us that we needed to have in the postseason.”

Freshman Elizabeth Masengil and Tiara Caldwell along with junior Karisma Tyson combined to go 5-of-7 from the field during the first half for 19 points.

“When the bench can produce for us, it helps,” Butler said.

The game got out-of-hand quickly as UTM opened the game on a 22-0 run in just over five minutes of action, and that forced Eastern Kentucky to play from behind in its third game in three days.

McMillan has used his bench for quality minutes to give Butler and Newsome some rest, but on Friday, those bench players matched the play of the starters and contributed.

“When Coach McMillan puts us in, we have to keep the intensity of the starters,” Masengil said. “That is what we did today.”

Masengil, a freshman from McMinn Central, played 11 minutes in the first half and 22 in the game. She put up 11 points as five Skyhawk player scored in double figures.

“Elizabeth is the ability to put up unbelievable numbers,” McMillan said. “She is working on where to fit in to help them out, and sometimes she over-thinks it.”

McMillan acknowledged Masengil’s ability to play on a big stage like this because she played in the Class AA state tournament at MTSU.

“She won a state championship, and she knows what winning is,” McMillan said.

Masengil’s McMinn Central team reached the state tournament three times with a state championship and a state runner-up finish to Butler’s Gibson County team.

“There is not much of a difference from playing here than playing in the state tournament,” Masengil said. “It definitely helped. I just have to go out and play as hard as I can, and keep the momentum up.”

Tyson got hot from 3-point land in the first half with three 3s, and she finished with 10 points in 10 minutes of action. Caldwell finished with six points in 16 minutes of action.

“Tiara played some huge minutes for her, and she was comfortable out playing,” McMillan said.
CLEAN SWEEP

Seniors lead UTM to fourth NCAA tourney in a row

By Craig Thomas
craig.thomas@jacksonsun.com

NASHVILLE — As Kevin McMillan recruited players ahead of the Fall 2010 semester, there were conversations about winning. There were not conversations about dominance.

"For this class to win four championships, I don't think we ever dreamed about that," the UT Martin women's basketball coach said Saturday.

Well, why dream it when you can.

UT Martin is the Ohio Valley Conference tournament champion for the fourth consecutive year, having edged Belmont 78-66 in the league championship game Saturday afternoon at Municipal Auditorium. The Skyhawks will go on to participate in the NCAA tournament.

Senior guard Jasmine Newsome was named OVC tournament MVP for the third time in her career, becoming one of two players in league history to do so. She scored a game-high 25 points and added six assists.

UTM is the first team to win four-straight conference tournaments since Austin Peay did so from 2001-2004. Senior guard Heather Butler and freshman post Ashia Jones joined Newsome on the all-tournament team.

The top-seeded Skyhawks (24-7), increasingly balanced over time but again led throughout the year by Newsome and Butler, were considered the top team in the conference of Media Day and stayed that way through Saturday's net-cutting.

Butler had 12 points and four assists.

"We are truly blessed and fortunate to have a team each year to be able to win an OVC championship, but it's a little different this year now because we're still hungry," Butler said. "We're not satisfied, and we want to [not only] get to the NCAA tournament but win a game and continue to prove ourselves to everybody."
Tenneisee Martin head coach Kevin McMillan acknowledges the crowd as he accepts the winner's trophy after defeating Belmont 78-56 in an NCAA college basketball game in the championship of the Ohio Valley Conference women's basketball tournament on Saturday in Nashville. AP

UTM

Continued from Page D1

No. 2 seed Belmont (14-17) also received a double bye and was thus not physically exhausted as Eastern Kentucky was the day before in the semifinals. The Bruins handled UTM's pressure defense, and though the Skyhawks made their first five shots they led by single digits throughout the first half.

Newsome found Karisma Tyson for a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to give UTM a 37-29 halftime lead.

UTM led 46-36 early in the second half when Newsome lost her balance in the backcourt, fell and grabbed her ankle. She got it wrapped and re-entered the game within a few minutes.

"She needed a little break, so she came over and got her rest in," McMillan joked.

Jones scored 16 points and blocked four shots. Freshman Elizabeth Masengil followed up a good game Friday with eight points Saturday. She scored a tough basket inside and then calmly hit a mid-range jumper for a 61-51 lead.

Belmont's Adrienne Tar-
Newsome ends OVC tournament well

By Michael Odom
michodom@jacksonsun.com

NASHVILLE — Big players seem to always rise to the top in crucial times.

Over the past four years of the Ohio Valley Conference women's tournament, UT Martin senior Jasmine Newsome has taken her game to a new level when playing on the basketball floor at Nashville's Municipal Auditorium.

Newsome said in the press conference following the championship that she comes out more focused during the tournament. UT Martin coach Kevin McNally quickly inserted that she is.

Even teammate Heather Butler concurred. Then Newsome continued, "I just don't want to lose, so I know that I have to step up my game because I know that other teams are stepping up their game."

With a 25-point performance from Newsome on Saturday, the Skyhawks won their fourth straight OVC tournament title.

Newsome brought home her third tournament MVP award after earning the award her freshman and junior seasons.

In the two games this year, Newsome combined for 46 points on 16-of-28 shooting from the field. She was 4-of-11 from behind the 3-point line and 10-of-11 from the free throw line. She also had seven rebounds, 12 assists and five steals.

In Saturday's championship, Newsome had to put the team on her back as the other part of UT Martin's fierce duo, Butler, struggled from the field.

The arena went silent on Saturday when Newsome went down with 17 minutes to go in the game and UT Martin clinging to a 10-point lead. With no one around her, Newsome managed to twist an ankle.

"I was more worried about how a player twists an ankle with no one around her then running into the table," McNally said jokingly at the press conference following the win. "I think she just needed a little break and just sat down."

She had an acrobatic jump over a ball girl while landing on a table earlier in the game.

But playing on a high level has become the custom for Newsome when playing on this floor.

Last year as UT Martin came into the tournament as a No. 4 seed, Newsome scored 98 points in three games to send the Skyhawks back to the NCAA tournament with a conference title. She had 41 Points against Eastern Kentucky and 34 in the championship victory over Tennessee Tech.

She had similar performances her freshman and sophomore years as UT Martin won titles early in her and Butler's career.

But other teams have hope for next season as Newsome will graduate in May, so next year, she cannot be here at Municipal Auditorium with the opportunity to capture fans with another performance.

Michael Odom, 425-9714
Next UTM coach needs to look closer for players

A week after announcing the dismissal of former UT Martin men’s basketball coach Jason James, athletic director Julio Freire is probably well on his way to finding the next leader for the Skyhawks.

He outlined last week during his conference call with local media what he was looking for in a coach. He wants someone that can recruit and develop talent, keep the athletes focused on academics and give them a well-rounded college experience to further them academically, athletically and socially.

Freire probably has his search committee in place and is going through applications and resumes while contacting guys he wants to bring to the Weakley County campus to court him to the program.

Freire will pick the coach he thinks will put the program in the best position to be successful, and that coach will recruit the players he thinks will make the program successful. But I hope he will look close to home first.

that the area that’s produced recent college standouts like Casey Prather, who has led Florida to the top of the NCAA top 25 this season, and Kendall Anthony, who made an immediate impact at Richmond and the Atlantic Sun Conference, hasn’t produced anybody that UTM has recruited. And this isn’t just about James’ tenure as coach. His predecessor Bret Campbell wasn’t much better. A search into recent Skyhawk rosters dating back to 2006 – the last four seasons of Campbell’s decade in charge – netted a couple of guys from Union City and one from Lake County.

Granted, it’s highly possible James recruited players from around here that decided to go elsewhere, but how many times have we heard local athletes tell us when we ask them who they’re talking to about playing in college and UTM comes up on the list?

Freire will pick the coach he thinks will put the program in the best position to be successful, and that coach will recruit the players he thinks will make the program successful. But I hope he will look close to home first.

Think hypothetically with me for a second. John Doe gets the UTM job and he immediately hits West Tennessee hard in recruiting. Three years from now, we look at the roster and we see names like Malik Hicks, Chris McNeal and Jaylen Barford on the same list with names like DeSonta Bradford, Stephon Turner and Treyyvon Brown. We look again and we see Jordan Varnado and Sadarius Delk. You think UTM would still fail to make the OVC tournament with that group of players on it plus maybe an athletic 7-footer or two?

Let’s hope the thought of UTM recruiting our local athletes becomes reality in the near future. The right ones can help the team win as well as create more local interest.

I think Freire would enjoy seeing the result of those, which would be a lot more people in the stands for Skyhawk games after they paid admission prices to get in and before they bought Skyhawk merchandise on their way out the door.

Brandon Shields is the sports editor of The Jackson Sun. Contact him at 425-9751 or at bshields@jacksonsun.com. Follow him on Twitter @JSEditorBrandon.
Dedicated Greenfield doctor
Nathan Forest Porter dies

By Karen Campbell
Special to The Jackson Sun

For more than four decades, Dr. Nathan Forest Porter saw many residents of Greenfield take either their first breath or their last.

On Sunday, Porter died at the age of 89.

A dedicated "small-town doctor" until his retirement from his family practice in 1990, he garnered a reputation as a straight-talking diagnostician. He also was recognized as a tireless community servant with activities ranging from organizing Rotary Club beauty pageants to landscaping and maintaining city medians and churches.

An avid sports enthusiast, he served as the team physician for hundreds of Greenfield High School football games and was a fixture in the stands of University of Tennessee at Martin and UT Knoxville games. He not only played golf and traveled to watch the Masters, he designed and cleared the land for the golf course at the Persimmon Hills (formerly Weakley County) Country Club.

His other passions included gardening, restoring old cars — including an Edsel — discovering treasures at estate sales and, in his later years, supporting 14 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren as an unofficial family photographer.

Born on Christmas Eve 1924 in his parents' farmhouse in Coxville, Porter was one of 10 children of Katherine "Mama Kate" and Ira "Boss" Porter. The land remains in the family and is still farmed by a Porter descendant.

The Porter siblings embraced education and became farmers, doctors, teachers and even one senator. They include James Hollis Porter (deceased), Anna Laurie "Nan" James, Ira Ford Porter (deceased), Ida Mae "Tug" Porter, King Porter (deceased), Wayne Porter (deceased), Eric Kate "Tip" McCord, Edwina Bunch and Huey Henderson Porter (deceased).

Upon graduation from Alamo High School, Porter attended UT Knoxville and completed medical school in 1948 — the same year he married nursing student Barbara Fields. With rules against marriage for nursing students, their elopement remained somewhat of a secret until her graduation. They left East Tennessee after his two-year residency.

Settling in Greenfield meant joining Dr. Ira Porter above what was then Below Drug and a couple of years later establishing Porter Clinic on Main Street. Barbara worked alongside Porter while also raising their six children — Natalie Scates, Rosalie Sullivan (deceased), Sharis Porter (deceased), Nathan Porter, Rory Porter (deceased) and Eric Porter.

Porter had privileges at Volunteer Hospital and nursing facilities in three counties. At its peak, the Porter Clinic included five beds and a staff of 10.

Decades of practice meant Porter treated many patients from the "womb to the tomb." Never one to mince words, he often explained that whatever illness was presented was a result of "smoking too much, eating too much or drinking too much."

Too often for his liking, he experienced the helplessness of knowing that no treatment would keep death at bay for long. Such was the case when his beloved Barbara died from cancer in 1985.

Porter continued his civic involvement with improvements to the city, landscapes, parks, etc., and his commitment to perfect attendance at Rotary Club, something he accomplished for 56 years from 1956 to 2012. He also served on the board of the Greenfield Banking Company since 1986. His many contributions to the city of Greenfield were recognized as...
he served as Grand Marshal in city parades and with a Dr. Nathan Porter Day hosted by the city.

In 1986, he married Margaret Campbell, who had worked as part of his clinic staff. At her retirement, she had cared for families in Greenfield alongside one Dr. Porter or another for 41 years.

Though no longer active in medicine, “Doc” did not slow down. Travel to Knoxville for Tennessee Vols games always meant a tour of Cades Cove. He became a part of the First Baptist Church congregation and sang in the choir. Before his health began to fail, he completed the second nine holes of the Country Club golf course.

Education, experience and sheer stubbornness meant Doc was often convinced of the “rightness” of a situation. When he saw a football field in Mississippi, he brought the design back to the Rotary Club to convince them it was what GHS needed for their stands. He donated land on Main Street because he wanted the town to have a larger library.

Porter is survived by his wife of 28 years, Margaret Campbell Porter; three of his children — Natalie with husband Don Scates, Nate and Eric Porter; and stepchildren Cathay Gearin with husband Donald, Kelly Campbell with wife Karen, and Karen Campbell. Stepson Bart Campbell is deceased.

His grandchildren are Cyrena Jaye Sullivan, Spencer Sullivan, Caitlin Porter, Candace Porter, Chris Porter with wife Maggie, Trent Scates with wife Beth, Corey Scates, Tim Scates with wife Kathy, Erin Puckett with husband Josh, Brandon Campbell, Selena Campbell, Laura Campbell, Bethany Campbell and Brett Campbell Peterson.

His great-grandchildren include McCall Scates, Austin Scates, Catherine Scates, Michael Scates, Matt Scates, Phillip Scates, Darien Porter, Serena Abigail Porter, Campbell Puckett, Cayden Puckett, Liam Melber and Lilah Beth Melber.

Visitation is scheduled for today, and the funeral will be Tuesday. Both will take place at First Baptist Church of Greenfield.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to Dr. Nathan Porter Library or First Baptist Church of Greenfield.
Tennessee universities differ on accepting undocumented students

Unlike Board of Regents system, UT's doesn't 'knowingly accept' undocumented students, but in-state tuition bill could change that

Mar 19, 2014 · 4 Comments

Jairo Robles didn't even bother applying to the University of Tennessee system after graduating from Nashville's McGavock High School in 2008.

"It's a well-known fact within the immigrant community that, for example, UT-Knoxville doesn't let undocumented students in," said Robles, who came to the United States with his family from Guatemala when he was 11.

"It's like a ban, even though they say it isn't. You know that if you apply, you're not going to get in."
As part of UT’s admissions process, however, applicants are asked questions related to citizenship, as well as the applicant’s primary language, federal income or tax information and place of birth.

“If the information/documentation is not provided, the applicant is not admitted to the university. Further, if the information provided reveals the applicant is undocumented, the applicant is not admitted,” UT spokeswoman Gina Stafford said in an email.

TBR schools ask similar questions. But at this same point in the process, undocumented students are simply considered out-of-state applicants.

UT officials say the in-state tuition legislation has prompted it to “re-evaluate” those practices. Moreover, if the in-state tuition bill were approved by the legislature and signed into law, they say it would signal that the “public policy of the state of Tennessee” is that undocumented students are eligible for admission.

“We don’t have an official policy, but our practice has been that we don’t admit them,” said Chuck Cantrell, associate vice chancellor of marketing and communication at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. “It’s something that probably gets debated a lot at the system level. We’ll certainly do whatever the General Assembly and the Tennessee Board of Trustees decide to do.”

In 2011, the Chattanooga Times Free Press reported that UT then also was revisiting the issue and that the system hadn’t admitted undocumented immigrants since 2007.

Need for uniformity

Immigrant advocates have opposed UT’s stance.

“Since state law does not prohibit public universities from admitting undocumented students, it seems that UT bars them by choice,” said Eben Cathey, communications coordinator for the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition. He pointed to Gov. Bill Haslam’s push to increase the state’s graduation rate to 55 percent by 2025.

“In order to meet our state’s ‘Drive to 55’ goals, our higher education institutions need a uniform policy that makes college possible for all Tennessee students,” he said.

Rep. Mark White, R-Memphis, who is chairman of the education subcommittee and supports extending in-state tuition to undocumented high school graduates, said having two university systems that differ on accepting undocumented immigrants “could be an issue, too.”

“That’s why I want to keep the conversation alive,” White said. “When you have a bill before (the legislature) like this, what it does is it moves the conversation like it’s never been done before... And if there’s something we can work out, we’ll work it out.”

Reach Joey Garrison at 615-259-8236 and on Twitter @joeygarrison.

Robles instead attends Volunteer State Community College — part of the Tennessee Board of Regents system, which takes a different view of undocumented students.

The split between Tennessee’s two systems of public universities has attracted a new spotlight as state lawmakers consider legislation that would extend in-state tuition to high school graduates who are not legal U.S. citizens.

Tennessee law is silent on whether students who arrived in the United States as children and lack documentation can attend the state’s public colleges — leaving the university systems to make the calls.

Schools affiliated with the University of Tennessee system “do not knowingly accept” undocumented students, according to system officials. This includes campuses in Martin, Chattanooga, Tullahoma and Memphis in addition to the state’s flagship university in Knoxville.

But the Tennessee Board of Regents — which includes Middle Tennessee State University, Austin Peay State University and the University of Memphis and the state’s community colleges — places students who lack documentation in its pool of out-of-state applicants.

Undocumented students who live in Tennessee are therefore accepted at TBR schools, but they are not given the more affordable in-state tuition. On this front, TBR cites the 2012 Eligibility Verification for Entitlements Act, which requires institutions verify that anyone getting a "state public benefit" is a U.S. citizen.

It was a desire to better “understand the admissions processes” of the two systems that led House Education Chairman Harry Brooks, R-Knoxville, to ask last month that voting be delayed on HB1992. The bill would add Tennessee to a list of 19 states that offer in-state tuition to undocumented high school graduates.

Brooks requested a report from the two systems, which both say they are deferring to lawmakers’ will on the bill. The House Education subcommittee is slated to take up the legislation again today.

UT reviews practices

UT and TBR officials say they don’t have “policies” prohibiting the admission of undocumented immigrants. UT also says it interprets the Eligibility Verification for Entitlement Act the same way as TBR.
NASHVILLE (AP) — The University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawks danced a little bit at mid-court enjoying their Ohio Valley Conference tournament title in a bit of a muted celebration.

After all, they have been here before. And the Skyhawks are ready for more.

Jasmine Newsome scored 25 points, and UT Martin beat Belmont 78-66 on Saturday clinching the Skyhawks' fourth straight OVC tournament title and NCAA tournament berth.

“IT's an amazing feeling,” UT Martin senior Heather Butler said. “We are truly blessed and fortunate to have a team each year to be able to win OVC championship. It’s just a little bit different this year now because we’re still hungry and we’re not satisfied and we want to get to the NCAA tournament but win a game and continue to prove ourselves to everybody.”

First-year Belmont coach Cameron Newbauer even stopped after the tournament awards were handed out to tell Butler and Newsome, the OVC's top two scorers, they can go win an NCAA tournament game now.

“If he's saying that, and he's coming from Louisville saying that we can have a chance to beat a team, that gives us good confidence for the tournament,” Newsome said.

The Skyhawks (24-7) won their seventh game in a row and 17th in the last 18 even though Butler, the OVC player of the year, matched her season-low with 12 points, well below her average of 24.1. The senior guard came in ninth nationally in scoring and is the league's all-time leading scorer.

Ashia Jones added 16 points, and Katie Schubert had 12 for UT Martin. Coach Kevin McMillan said he thinks this will be the best team he's taken to the NCAA tournament and is hoping for a No. 13 seed.

“We've got more firepower than we've ever had, and we can come at you in a bunch of different ways,” McMillan said.

Jordyn Luffman scored 16 points for Belmont (15-17), which was looking for its second NCAA tournament berth and first since 2007. Frankie Joubran added 13 points, and Adrienne Tarrence and Taylor Mills each had 10.

Newbauer and his staff put
Republican spearhead Ted Welch dies

NASHVILLE (AP) — Ted Welch, a prolific fundraiser in Tennessee Republican politics for four decades, has died. He was 80.

Welch’s wife, Colleen Conway-Welch, told The Tennessean he died because of complications from a fall. Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville confirmed Welch died at about 6:30 a.m. Saturday.


His friend, U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, said in a written statement that Welch raised millions for candidates, symphonies and charitable causes without seeking anything in return.

“He was tireless,” Alexander said. “The most feared seven words among those who knew him were, ‘Ted Welch is holding on line one.’

Welch started out as a door-to-door Bible salesman and longtime Nashville real estate investor. He grew into the political money man of the South, helping the likes of Ronald Reagan, both Bushes, Gov. Mitt Romney and others.

He’s perhaps most linked to Alexander’s campaigns, teaming with him during his first failed run for governor in 1974 before he won four years later during his famed “Walk Across Tennessee” sporting his trademark plaid shirt.

Welch helped with Alexander’s re-election, subsequent runs for U.S. Senate and served as national finance chairman during his bid at U.S. president in a crowded GOP primary in 1996.

Doctors diagnosed Welch with Alzheimer’s disease in 2012.

“Ted lived the American Dream and his positive, can-do attitude, was contagious,” said Tennessee GOP Chairman Chris Devaney. “When I took over as the chairman of the Tennessee Republican Party, Ted was the first person I sought out for advice on how to get our Party prepared financially for the upcoming election.”

Welch lived in Belle Meade with his wife, the longtime dean of Vanderbilt University’s School of Nursing and a powerhouse in her own field, who retired last spring after 29 years.

In real estate, Welch was instrumental in the redevelopment of downtown Nashville, including the 1987 construction of the Nashville Convention Center. His office was atop the adjacent Renaissance Hotel.

The son of teachers at a one-room schoolhouse, Welch grew up on a farm near tiny Parsons in Decatur County. He attended the University of Tennessee at Martin on a football scholarship, and Indiana University for graduate school.

in a different scheme in shoot-around to try to slow down UT Martin. The Bruins succeeded to a point considering UT Martin had been averaging 93.2 points in league play.

“I’m extremely proud of our team,” Newbauer said. “We just played one of the best mid-major teams in the country to a 12-point game, and I think coach McMillan will tell you we gave them fits. We gave them a great challenge.

The biggest edge came with the Skyhawks taking the game’s first 14 free throws and finished 15 of 18 at the line compared to 6 of 7 for Belmont. UT Martin outshot Belmont 51.9 percent to 39.4 percent, though the Skyhawks made only one more field goal and one more 3-pointer.

Newbauer said they tried to be physical inside and just didn’t get the calls. McMillan said UT Martin needs the game to be called tightly.

“We started being more aggressive especially in the second half,” McMillan said. “We need to get to the free throw line. We don’t necessarily have a tremendous inside game. Ashia’s very good for us, but that’s about all we’ve got. The free throws are inside points to us.”

The Skyhawks used three straight 3s to jump out to an early 13-3 lead.

UT Martin got a scare early when Newsome drove the lane and was fouled, sending her over a couple ball girls and a press table at the end of the court. She said she was trying to jump over the girl but didn’t notice the table.

The Bruins pulled within 28-27 on a 3-pointer by Taylor Mills with 3:30 left in the half. UT Martin finished the half on a 9-2 run with Karisma Tyson just beating the buzzer with a 3-pointer from the right corner for a 37-29 lead.

UT Martin opened the second half hitting its first six shots. Schubert’s 3 with 15:09 left gave the Skyhawks their biggest lead at 53-38. Belmont got as close as seven down the stretch, the last at 68-61 on a jumper by Tarrence with 3:05 left.

Butler then hit a 3 that padded UT Martin’s lead. Schubert added a 3-pointer to help the Skyhawks finish off the win.
Medina Middle School's UTM Honor Band members

HONOR BAND - This past January, the University of Tennessee at Martin held its annual Honor Band clinic on the campus of UTM. These students rehearsed for 2 days and presented a concert on Saturday, January 25. Students selected from Medina Middle school are: Front row - Garrett Mooney, Lauren Frice, Mallory Mayo, Allen Wilson, and Cameron Pemberton  Back row - Chandler Thompson, Rishika Bhojanapalli, Kayla Reasons, Kizer Brown, Trevor Boals, and Ethan Moore.

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS

Roy Herron to speak Thursday at UT Martin

Former state Senator Roy Herron will be on the UT Martin campus Thursday at 6 p.m. to discuss religion in politics.

Herron, a UT Martin alumnus, is currently the chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party.

He will be giving a speech entitled “Toward a Politics of Righteousness: Faith and American Democracy.” He will discuss why, in his opinion, people of faith should actively engage in politics, how religious people ought to conduct themselves in the political arena and how religious people can and should advocate for their values in a pluralistic society.

A question and answer session will follow Herron’s remarks, so the audience is encouraged to participate.

The event is being hosted by the UTM College Democrats and will take place in the Gooch Hall auditorium on the UTM campus.

“It is an honor to have our state party chair take time out of his busy schedule to come to UTM,” UTM College Democrats President Blake Stevens said. “Religion and politics are extremely hot topics, which is why I hope this event is highly attended on Thursday.”

Herron graduated summa cum laude from UT Martin in 1975. He studied New Testament as a Rotary Scholar at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. He also obtained a law degree and a Masters of Divinity from Vanderbilt University.

After a time serving as a Methodist minister, Herron went on to serve in the state legislature from 1987 until 2012.
Agriculture Deputy UnderSecretary Doug O’Brien recently visited West Tennessee to highlight two innovative public/private jobs initiatives and demonstrate how USDA partners with local entrepreneurs, educators, businesses and community leaders to create jobs and economic opportunity in the rural communities.

“Working together the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center, UT Martin, Memphis Bioworks, local business leaders and USDA help leverage the region’s natural strengths and assets,” said O’Brien.

“Growing innovative businesses like these that are built on the strengths of the local ag economy means the good jobs created are a natural fit for rural areas.”

In northwest Tennessee USDA has partnered with the University of Tennessee at Martin, Dyersburg State Community College, Memphis Bioworks Foundation, state agencies and local industry to help build a healthy business climate in the region’s rural communities. USDA also works with private lenders in West Tennessee to increase the pool of capital available for new and existing businesses.

During his stop Wednesday at the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center (NTEC) in Martin, O’Brien met with many of the creative minds behind start-up businesses that are benefiting from NTEC’s NextFarm Agricultural Innovation Accelerator. NTEC is part of the State’s LaunchTN initiative and is the first business accelerator in Tennessee targeted to create agriculture-related jobs in the state.

NextFarm is a private/public partnership of NTEC, Memphis Bioworks and Ag Innovation Group working with local business leaders and UTM College of Agriculture to produce new Ag-tech sector jobs and steady economic growth in the region by providing mentoring, education and training, strategic and technical support, and assistance in identifying sources of capital for entrepreneurs.

In the first 10 months of operation, the NextFarm board and mentors have screened 35 business concepts and accepted five entrepreneurs for start-up assistance, four existing companies for the growth track and three student teams into the program. The accelerator is expected to work with a wide range of agriculture-related technologies, including bio-based products, food processing and safety, precision agriculture and software, smart phone/tablet apps, livestock reproduction and nutrition, identity preservation and new crops.

"See Visit, Page 10"
TURF TEAM — The University of Tennessee at Martin Turf Team, which includes Myles Brewer, John R. Brewer, Joe Taylor and Colton Jones, finished 11th in the GCSAA Turf Bowl Competition in Orlando, Fla. (Photo by Nathan Morgan)

UTM team finishes 11th in Turf Bowl

The University of Tennessee at Martin Turf Team of Joe Taylor, Myles Brewer, John R. Brewer and Colton Jones finished 11th in the 2014 Golf Course Superintendent Association of America (GCSAA) Turf Bowl in Orlando, Fla.

The Turf Bowl is a rigorous three-and-a-half hour exam that tests every aspect of golf course management, and universities from all over the nation traveled cross-country to participate in the competition earlier this month.

Contents of the exam included the following: sight-identifying about 20 grasses, 15 weeds, 10 diseases, eight insects, five grass seeds, and three soils; listing scientific names for about 20-30 turf grasses; completing 10 fertility-spray-rig, and topdressing calibrations; labeling mower diagrams; determining soil particle sizes for a USGA regulation putting green soil profile; answering more than 200 multiple choice questions covering a wide array of topics from plant science to personnel management; and completing a golf course scenario essay in less than 30 minutes.

More than 70 teams competed in the annual GCSAA Turf Bowl competition, and out of more than 600 points, UT Martin was four-and-a-half points away from tenth place and five points from ninth.

The Top 10 teams in the Turf Bowl were:
ALWAYS CHAMPIONS — UT Martin women’s basketball seniors (from left) Jasmine Newsome, Megan White and Heather Butler show off their postseason tournament hardware following the Skyhawks’ 78-66 win over Belmont in the OVC Tournament title game Saturday in Nashville. The trio won league titles and earned NCAA berths in each of their four years. Newome was named the tourney MVP, and Butler was named to the All-Tournament team. Butler and Newsome are the league’s top two all-time scorers.
UT Martin's Civil Rights Conference honors past, present
Malorie Paine, USA TODAY Contributing Writer

In This Story:

- University of Tennessee at Martin

By John Sellers

Dave Dennis speaks at University of Tennessee at Martin's 14th annual Civil Rights Conference held Feb. 23-28.

While many look at the Civil Rights Movement as simply a moment in history, the University of Tennessee at Martin prides itself on being one of only two universities in the nation that hold an annual conference.

"Four or five years back, one of our speakers said to me 'who else is doing this?' and I started to look around," says Dr. David Barber, co-coordinator of the UT Martin Civil Rights Conference.

"At the time, I couldn't find anyone else doing it. So, I started boasting 'we are the only ones doing it.' It is something to be proud of, but it's a sad commentary on public universities."

The university is thankful to offer students the opportunity to learn from those who did not just learn about the Civil Rights Movement, but lived it.
"I am very proud of our continuing support of programming to enhance diversity initiatives such as the annual Civil Rights Conference that brings authentic perspective in ways that only first-hand knowledge reflects. Our faculty, staff and students are very fortunate to have this annual opportunity to learn from those who were a part of our past," said UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes.

UT Martin’s 14th annual Civil Rights Conference concluded Thursday, Feb. 27 with a keynote presentation by David Dennis, who was one of the Freedom Riders during the 1960s.

“Dave Dennis was an obvious choice. [His] message is relevant to college students because he demonstrates that the struggle for civil rights isn’t over ... meeting people like Dennis shows that they are humans like you and me, and if they can create change in the face of incredible adversity, so can I,” said Dr. Renee LaFleur, co-coordinator of the UT Martin Civil Rights Conference.

Dennis not only participated in the First Freedom Ride from Montgomery, Ala. to Jackson, Miss., he co-organized countless sit-ins, and was co-directors of both the Council of Federated Organization and Freedom Summer of 1964. Dennis has worked tirelessly to effect social justice and change in America throughout his life. Dennis says his own children and grandchildren keep him going with the activism.

“The issue and problem still exists; so I will do whatever I can to make it a better world for [my children and grandchildren] and for all kids” Dennis said.

He continues his activism work today with the Algebra Project, which “uses mathematics … to ensure quality public school education for every child in America,” according to the program’s website.

Throughout the week, UT Martin had several guest speakers, including Florence Roach, who played a role in the Academy Award nominate film, The Help; Yohuru Williams, who is the director of black studies at Fairfield University; Mark Anthony Neal, who is a professor of black popular culture at Duke University and Howard Romaine who worked on projects involving racial equality, poverty, labor and the Vietnam War in the ‘60s and ‘70s.

Williams’ presentation was directed at the students in the audience. He told the audience that no matter their age, they could make a change. Many of the people involved in the 1960s were young and many were in college, just like the students in the audience.

"[Williams] told the history by talking about the responsibility that all of us have today to continue the work of the Civil Rights Movement. He showed that the young people who made up the Movement in the ‘50s, ‘60s and into the ‘70s are no different than the young people who were sitting in the auditorium. The qualities in an individual, which allowed those individuals to make history in the 60s, are in all of us, and I think we all need to realize that," Barber said.

Williams spoke to the audience and told them the lessons taught on the civil rights movement are most often the incomplete version of what actually happened.
“Williams demonstrated that we have a sanitized version of the Civil Rights history. The version we have is Rosa Parks sat down, and Martin Luther King stood up. All the rest is history. The reality of the movement is that tens of thousands of people participated and made the forward motion to change to the social reality. People just like the students in the auditorium,” Barber said.

The Civil Rights Conference that UT Martin sponsors is still relevant in the eyes of the university.

“The importance of the continuation of the Civil Rights Conference is to put the agenda of the Civil Rights Movement forward in this country. It’s to say that what people were fighting for then is still important to this day. I think if Martin Luther King were to return to this country today, I think he would be very disappointed with where things are. That is one of the many reasons the Civil Rights Conference is important,” Barber said.

Malorie Paine is a senior agriculture communication major at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She is currently the Managing Editor of her school newspaper, The Pacer. Malorie has a passion for the hard hitting, breaking news stories that others typically don’t want to cover. She enjoys digging deep and uncovering the facts of the story. To stay updated on Malorie, follow her on Twitter or connect on Facebook.
Community mourns loss of Beene

University of Tennessee at Martin
Submitted Article

MARTIN, Tenn. – Deidra Beene, age 50, died March 9 from heart-related complications at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, March 11, at the Henderson Church of Christ. The family received friends at the church.

Deidra worked as UT Martin’s McNairy County/Selmer campus director since 2003. She worked for Blue Cross and Blue Shield for 12 years and West Tennessee Business College for two years.

"Deidra cared deeply about the students who attended the McNairy County/Selmer Center. She will be remembered as an outstanding mentor who also left a lasting legacy as a teacher," said Bud Grimes, UT Martin director of university relations.

She was a member of the West Star Class of 2005, Delta Kappa Gamma, and the McNairy County Higher Education Commission. She also served on the WestStar Alumni Council and was a lifetime member of the WestStar Alumni Association.

"She also had a special connection with UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program. Deidra was a 2005 WestStar graduate and offered a personal welcome for each class during WestStar’s annual visits to the center and

See BEENE, 4A

Southwest Tennessee," Grimes said.

She was born in Franklin, Ky., and moved to Henderson in 1975. She was the daughter of Jack Hilliard of Henderson and the late Lola Carter Hilliard. She graduated from Chester County High School in 1981, Freed-Hardeman University in 1983 and received her master’s at UT Martin. She was working on her doctorate at the University of Memphis. She married Anthony Beene in 1985 and they made their home in the Montezuma Community.

Beene is survived by a son, Alex Beene, of Henderson; her father Emerson Jasper "Jack" Hilliard of Henderson; and two brothers, Deryl Hilliard and wife Vicki, of Henderson, and Mark Hilliard and wife Rosemary, of Franklin.

Beene will always be remembered as a caring and genuine educator who touched the lives of countless students lucky enough to know her. We honor her life, and mourn this tragic loss for our city, county, and community.
Roy Herron To Speak On Religious Politics

Former state Senator Roy Herron will be on the UTM campus this Thursday, March 13 to discuss religion in politics.

Herron is currently the chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party, and he is a UTM alumnus.

Herron will be giving a speech entitled "Toward a Politics of Righteousness: Faith and American Democracy." He will discuss why, in his opinion, people of faith should actively engage in politics, how religious people ought to conduct themselves in the political arena, and how religious people can and should advocate for their values in a pluralistic society.

A question and answer session will follow Herron's remarks, so the audience is encouraged to participate.

The event is being hosted by the UTM College Democrats and will take place Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Gooch Hall auditorium on the UTM campus.

"It is an honor to have our state party chair take time out of his busy schedule to come to UTM," UTM College Democrats President Blake Stevens said. "Religion and politics are extremely hot topics, which is why I hope this event is highly attended on Thursday."

Herron graduated summa cum laude from UT-Martin in 1975. He studied New Testament as a Rotary Scholar at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. He also obtained a law degree and a Masters of Divinity from Vanderbilt University.

After a time serving as a Methodist minister, Herron went on to serve in the state legislature from 1987 until 2012.
Coalition continues fight against tobacco

Yalanda Parr, UT Martin Ripley Center, Michelle Brazier, Coordinated School Nurse, and Xavier Lawrence Andrews, Prevention Alliance of Lauderdale County Anti-Drug Coalition Coordinator, completed the “Tobacco or Health? Choose Health” campaign in Halls High School and Ripley High School which will aid in the fight to prevent tobacco use among youth and young adults in Lauderdale County. This is one of the many steps to help bring awareness, in order to educate and prevent the use of all forms of tobacco. Grant money was used to purchase items that help get the word out about the dangers of tobacco products and the effects they have. The Coalition purchased post-it notes, for the Post-it Blitz, in order to create tobacco ads that tell the truth about tobacco and advertisements against tobacco use, as well as the effects. Officials also purchased a video to be broadcasted in the local high schools, on channel one. The Post-it Blitz will consist of leaving a post-it on the window of every car in the high schools parking lots, writing a tobacco fact on each post-it. The Coalition also had a skeleton displayed in a prominent place at each school. The skeleton was in a chair with a fake cigarette in its hand and a poster around its neck saying “Think twice when a smoker wants you to JOIN HIM.” Receiving this $500 grant was helpful to the Coalition getting one step closer to having a healthy community and promoting lifelong healthy habits among youth and young adults.
UT Martin to host spring preview day for high school students

High school students interested in attending the University of Tennessee at Martin are invited to register for Spring Preview Day, scheduled for March 22.

Students will have the opportunity to tour the UT Martin campus, and faculty and staff will be available to answer questions about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. in the Boling University Center, and a formal welcome will follow at 9:30 a.m. An academic fair will take place at 10:30 a.m., and a tour of the campus will begin at 11:15 a.m. There will also be a session for transfer students at 11:15 a.m. followed by a campus tour.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or register online at www.utm.edu/springpreview.

THE JACKSON SUN • THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014

Roy Herron to speak on faith and politics

Roy Herron, former 24th District state senator

and current Tennessee Democratic Party chairman, will speak at 6 p.m. today in Gallien Auditorium, located in Gooch Hall on the UT Martin campus.

His presentation is titled "Toward a Politics of Righteousness: Faith and American Democracy." The presentation is sponsored by the university's College Democrats student organization, according to a news release.

According to information provided by the College Democrats, Herron will discuss why he believes that people of faith should actively engage in politics. He will offer his thoughts on how religious people should conduct themselves in the political arena and how religious people can and should advocate for their values in a pluralistic society.

Herron is a UT Martin graduate and holds master of divinity and law degrees from Vanderbilt University. He has authored three books.

Herron's presentation is free and open to the public. A question-and-answer session will follow his presentation.

For more information, email Blake Stevens, UT Martin College Democrats president, at blakestev@ut.utm.edu.
University of Tennessee at Martin finance and banking students attended the annual Tennessee Bankers Association Credit Conference last month at the Omni Hotel in Nashville.

The conference, held Feb. 6-7, provided senior lenders and bank presidents from across Tennessee with up-to-date information on the economy, credit markets and regulatory trends, according to a news release. The two-day conference hosted more than 500 bankers and 18 UT Martin students this year.

Student attendance is arranged each year by the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, and sponsorships are provided by TBA and individual community banks across West Tennessee.

"Thanks to our community bank sponsors and the TBA, students have the opportunity to learn about their chosen profession and network with leaders in the financial services industry," said Dr. Tom Payne, Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and professor of finance. "The credit conference augments classroom instruction and helps prepare students for the professional workforce."

The conference included sessions by Greg Gonzales, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions; David Kemp, president of Bankers Management Inc.; Jeff Judy, principal with Jeff Judy and Associates; Sean Smith, director of the Institute of Economic Competitiveness; and Patsy Parkin, banking compliance adviser with Butler Snow LLP.

"Attending the TBA Credit Conference gave us (students) a great opportunity to see the dynamic world of banking and review industry changes with hundreds of bankers from across the state," said Tanner Swinea, a senior finance major from Waynesboro. "UT Martin is a great school, but it really makes a difference when you attend conferences like this one and get this type of real world experience. We would like to thank all of the banks that helped fund our trip. Without them it would not have been possible for us to attend the conference."
Kirk takes on challenges in dentistry

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 U.S. Navy Reserve, closed his private practice after only three years to serve as the staff oral and maxillofacial surgeon at the U.S. 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 was in the Navy Reserves, Kirk had to complete a two-week training obligation. He’s been to North Africa and, now, this past summer he was in Martin.

"I saw a video on Facebook, and I knew I had to get to Martin to see him," Larry Wayne Armstrong said.

Armstrong and Kirk grew up together in Troy, played high school football at Obion Central and were roommates at UT Martin.
"I always bring his two little girls corn on the cob," Armstrong said. "I loaded up a tote sack and brought it to Martin, but there were so many people I left it for him. I sure hope those two little girls got some fresh corn on the cob."

Armstrong, a wildlife biology major, graduated in December and Kirk graduated in the spring. "I got a job in Alabama, and he came to work with me when he graduated. When Kirk went to dental school in Memphis at the UT Health Science Center in 1994, Armstrong ended up in Memphis and roomed with Kirk.

The roommates have stayed in touch over the years, and Armstrong, now a regional wildlife manager in Kenton, tries to always call or see Kirk when he is in Nashville.

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

Kirk was among 300 Navy, Air Force and Army personnel who were deployed to Martin this past summer. 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.

Kirk and other military personnel involved in dental exams provided more than $300,000 in services, and his group saw more than 500 patients, performed more than 1,500 extractions and 200 restorations.

"Most of us checked in with our gear, and then a pod of dental equipment arrived a couple of days later," Kirk said. "What happened then was remarkable. None of us knew one another or never worked with one another before. We set up our individual gear and then when the pod got here we set up the rest of our shop. We worked 12-hour clinics so we could see all the people."
UT Martin presents 'Book of Days' play

UT Martin's Vanguard theater opens its production of "Book of Days" at 8 p.m. today.

The play, by award-winning playwright Lanford Wilson, runs through March 23 in the Fine Arts Building's Little Theatre on the UT Martin campus.

Performance times are at 3 p.m. and all other performances are at 8 p.m.

Call the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at (731) 881-7400 during regular business hours for reservations or visit the office from 8 a.m. to noon or 1 to 5 p.m. to buy tickets. The Vanguard Box Office is also open two hours before each performance.

Tickets are $5 for students and $10 for adults.

"Book of Days" is a shakedown of many respected American institutions wrapped around a murder in a small Missouri town, according to a UT Martin news release.

Nothing is sacred in the culture wars waged in this rural community and no one comes away unscathed, the release said.

The play includes adult themes, mild violence and profanity and is not recommended for children.

Register for UT Martin Academic Quiz Bowl

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Department of Educational Studies will host its second annual Academic Quiz Bowl tournament for elementary, middle and high school students Saturday, April 12, at Gooch Hall on campus.

Check-in time is set for 8 a.m. and competition begins at 9 a.m.

The Academic Quiz Bowl, a competitive, academic, interscholastic activity, will feature teams of five students. Teams will compete in three divisions, grades 4-6, grades 6-8 and grades 9-12.

Questions included will be from literature, science, fine arts, history, geography, current events, sports and pop culture.

All contestants will receive a certificate of participation, while trophies will be awarded to each of the three divisional winners. In addition, trophies will be awarded to the grand champion and the highest-scoring team.

Pre-registration is required and all information must be received by April 5. For more information, contact Glover at lglover@utm.edu or direct correspondence to him at 240A Gooch Hall.

The Jackson Sun

The Southeastern Journalism Conference has named Tomi Parrish, journalism instructor and coordinator of the Office of Student Media at the University of Tennessee at Martin, as Educator of the Year, according to a news release from UT Martin.

"I'm pleased that Tomi has won this prestigious award," said Dr. Robert Nanney, professor and chairman of the UT Martin communications department. "It's well deserved and long overdue. I joined others in nominating her for this honor."

The Pacer, UT Martin's student newspaper, won two top 10 awards, while Bradley Stringfield, of Oliver Springs, won ninth place for Best Sports Writer in the annual competition and Mary Jean Hall, of Covington, won sixth place in Best News Graphic Designer.

The Pacer also finished sixth for the Best College Website and sixth for Best Public Service Journalism for a Veterans Day/ROTC package.

The awards, chosen from 440 qualified entries from 35 universities, were announced at the SEJC's annual convention, hosted by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on Feb. 20-22, according to the release.

"It's so gratifying to see our student media continue their winning ways at SEJC," Nanney said. "This reflects the hard work and dedication of our WUTM and Pacer students, along with the vision and mentorship of their advisors, Dr. Richard Robinson and Tomi Parrish."

WUTM was named the third best college radio station in the Southeast, and it had the third best college audio news program.

Aimee Bilger, of Martin, won third place as the Best Radio News Feature Reporter, while Mary Lynn, Williams, of Franklin, was named the Best Radio Journalist.

Overall, 169 students from 34 universities were ranked in the 30 "Best of the South" categories, the release said. The SEJC consists of 51 member universities in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Tennessee.
The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin Rodeo Pageant will be held Saturday at the UTM Watkins Auditorium.

Doors open at 4 p.m., with birth-12 months beginning at 4:30, 1-3 years at 4:50, 4-6 years at 5:10, 7-9 years at 5:30, 10-12 years at 5:50, 13-15 years at 6:10 and 16-20 years at 6:30.

The entry fee is $25 for beauty only. Side categories are available for additional cost. Call (731) 225-1227 or (731) 234-6454 for more information.

UTM students attend TBA conference

University of Tennessee at Martin finance and banking students recently attended the annual Tennessee Bankers Association credit conference at the Omni Hotel in Nashville.

The Feb. 6-7 conference provided senior lenders and bank presidents from across Tennessee with the most up-to-date information on the economy, credit markets and regulatory trends, according to a news release.

The two-day conference is TBA's largest annual event and this year's event was attended by more than 300 bankers and 18 UTM students.

Student attendance is arranged each year by the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and sponsorships are provided by TBA and individual community banks across West Tennessee.

"Thanks to our community bank sponsors and the TBA, students have the opportunity to learn about their chosen profession and network with leaders in the financial services industry. The credit conference augments classroom instruction and helps prepare students for the professional workforce," Dr. Tom Payne, Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and UTM professor of finance, said.

"UTM's commitment to quality teaching and experiential learning sets us apart and provides students with a world-class education right here in West Tennessee," he said.

This year's conference included sessions by Greg Gonzales, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions; David Kemp, president of Bankers Management Inc.; Jeff Judy, principal with Jeff Judy and Associates; Sean Smith, director, Institute of Economic Competitiveness; and Patsy Parkin, banking compliance advisor, Butler Snow LLP.

Payne also served as a speaker at this year's conference and presented "The State of The Economy: The Road Ahead for Tennessee and Its Banks."

"Attending the TBA credit conference gave us (students) a great opportunity to see the dynamic world of banking and review industry changes with hundreds of bankers from across the state," senior finance major Tanner Swinea of Waynesboro said.

"UT Martin is a great school, but it really makes a difference when you attend conferences like this one and get this type of real world experience. We would like to thank all of the banks that helped fund our trip. Without them it would not have been possible for us to attend the conference," she said.

Talented UNC Women Get NCAA No. 4 Seed, Face No. 13 UT-Martin Sunday

By Matt Cakes

The 24-9 North Carolina women's basketball team found out its NCAA Tournament fate Monday night. The Tar Heels are a No. 4 seed in the Stanford bracket.

But UNC will have the chance to play in the cozy confines of Carmichael Arena for the first couple rounds and will get their NCAA Tournament underway against No. 13 seed UT-Martin, 24-7 in the regular season.

The Tar Heels will tip things off at 3 p.m. Sunday in their NCAA opener. The Skyhawks claimed the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament title with a 78-66 victory over the Bruins of Belmont.

Also joining the Tar Heels in the Chapel Hill regional will be No. 5 seed Michigan State and No. 12 seed Hampton.

Only one school will book a ticket to the Sweet 16. The No. 1 seed in Carolina's bracket is South Carolina, a team the Tar Heels beat earlier in the season. A deep run is possible.

It is still unknown whether Head Coach Sylvia Hatchell will join her team on the sidelines for the NCAA Tournament, but a return has not been ruled out by her doctors.

"This is a great opportunity for our team. We have a young team with a lot of talent and I'm glad we will be able to start the NCAA Tournament at home at Carmichael Arena," Coach Hatchell says.

Dunnard DeShields (Courtesy of Gohawks.com)
Registration under way for UTM Academic Quiz Bowl

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Department of Educational Studies will host its second annual Academic Quiz Bowl tournament for elementary, middle and high school students April 12 at Gooch Hall on campus. Check-in time is set for 8 a.m. and competition begins at 9 a.m.

The Academic Quiz Bowl, a competitive, academic, interscholastic activity, will feature teams of five students. Teams will compete in three divisions, grades 4-6, grades 6-8 and grades 9-12.

Dr. Louis Glover, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction at UT Martin, will serve as director of the Quiz Bowl. "This will be a double-elimination contest and we will include questions from all academic areas," Glover said.

Questions included will be from literature, science, fine arts, history, geography, current events, sports and pop culture.

All contestants will receive a certificate of participation, while trophies will be awarded to each of the three divisional winners. In addition, trophies will be awarded to the grand champion and the highest-scoring team.

Pre-registration is required and all information must be received by April 5. For more information contact Glover at lglover5@utm.edu or direct correspondence to him at 240A Gooch Hall.

Matthew Dacus joins First State Bank

Matthew Dacus has joined the First State team as the online marketing coordinator. Dacus is located at 106 University Street in Martin. First State offers banking, lending, insurance and investment services through this office.

As a member of First State, Dacus will be responsible for the day to day managing of the company’s website, online advertising and search engine marketing.

“I am extremely eager about my new position with First State. I feel that I can make a difference in the way that First State is viewed online and through digital advertising media,” Dacus said. "I like First State because it is an organization that holds community values and at the same time offers its customers top products and services."

Dacus is a graduate of Dresden High School. He received his Bachelor’s Degree in General Management and his Masters of Business Administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin. He has worked for Jackson Purchase Medical Center in Mayfield, Ky., as a billing specialist and as an assistant manager at the Martin Rural King Farm and Home Store.

“I am very pleased to have Matt join the First State team. It is becoming increasingly important for First State to offer our services and communications through online, digital and social media resources,” said Mistie Witherspoon, marketing director for First State. "Matt has a distinct thirst for learning and problem-solving, as well as, striving to understand the expectations of an online customer. I look forward to effectively enhancing First State’s ability to provide an exceptional online experience for our customers and communities under Matt’s leadership."
The Southeastern Journalism Conference (SEJC) named Tomi Parrish, journalism instructor and coordinator of the Office of Student Media at the University of Tennessee at Martin, as Educator of the Year.

"I'm pleased that Tomi (Parrish) has won this prestigious award," said Dr. Robert Nanney, professor and chairman of the UT Martin communications department. "It's well deserved and long overdue. I joined others in nominating her for this honor."

The Pacer, UT Martin's student newspaper won two top 10 awards, while Bradley Stingfield won ninth place for Best Sports Writer in the annual competition and Mary Jean Hall won sixth place in Best News Graphic Designer.

The Pacer also finished sixth for the Best College Website and sixth for Best Public Service Journalism (Veterans Day/ROTC package).

The awards, chosen from 440 qualified entries from 35 universities, were announced at the SEJC's annual convention, hosted by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on Feb. 20-22.

"It's so gratifying to see our student media continue their winning ways at SEJC," said Nanney. "This reflects the hard work and dedication of our WUTM and Pacer students, along with the vision and mentorship of their advisers, Dr. Richard Robinson and Tomi Parrish."

WUTM — WUTM was named the third best college radio station in the southeast and it had the third best college audio news program. Pictured are (seated, from left) Aimee Bilger, Katie Long, MaryLynn Williams, Chloe Joy, (standing, from left) Chuck Hammer, Matt Borden, Dr. Richard Robinson, Blake Stevens.

WUTM — WUTM was named the third best college radio station in the southeast and it had the third best college audio news program.

Aimee Bilger won third place as the Best Radio News Feature Reporter, while MaryLynn Williams was named the Best Radio Journalist.

Overall, 169 students from 34 universities were ranked in the 30 "Best of the South" categories. The SEJC consists of 51 member universities in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Tennessee.

SMITH SPEAKS

— Martin Kiwanis Club member Clinton Smith recently spoke to the club about the "Special Olympics." Clinton is the assistant professor of special education at UT Martin and has been involved with the Special Olympics since 1987. His highlights include coaching local track and field athletes at the 2006 Special Olympics USA National Games and leading Team Tennessee to a national gold medal in basketball in the 2014 National Games. Since moving to Martin, he has become involved in the local Special Olympics program, Area 7, which serves Weakley, Obion, Lake and Henry counties. The Martin Kiwanis Club meets Wednesdays at noon at UT Martin.
SEEING THEIR NAME — Members of the UT Martin women's basketball team react to seeing their school's name on the NCAA Women's Tournament bracket Monday night. The team was joined by over 200 fans in the Student Life Center to watch the selection show. UTM received a No. 13 seed and will play No. 4 seed North Carolina in Chapel Hill 2 p.m. Sunday.
Headed to North Carolina

UT Martin will play Tar Heels in first round of NCAA women’s basketball tournament

By KEVIN WEEKS
Press Sports

Another trip to North Carolina. A different shade of blue.

A fourth straight trip to the NCAA Tournament has led UT Martin’s women back to where it all started — Tobacco Road and ACC Country.

The Skyhawks (24-7), who played Duke in Durham back in 2011, earned a No. 13 seed in this year’s tournament and will travel to Chapel Hill to face No. 4 seed North Carolina (24-9) 2 p.m. Sunday at Carmichael Arena. The Final Four will be played in Nashville April 6-8.

"Words can't describe what going to the NCAA Tournament means for your program, for your recruiting, for your university," UTM head coach Kevin McMillan said following the team’s selection show party at the Student Life Center on Monday night. "The publicity we're getting right now and will get the rest of this week is free. I don’t know if you can get better publicity that what we’ll get this week."

Having played Duke, Tennessee and Notre Dame in the last three NCAA tournaments, in addition to another tough non-conference schedule this season, has prepared the Skyhawks for facing one of the nation’s elite programs.

"I really don’t think our kids care," McMillan said about his team facing North Carolina. "We’ve played Baylor, Stanford, Louisville. We’ve played Duke, we’ve played Tennessee. We’ve played just about every team you can imagine over these last four years, so I don’t think North Carolina is going to scare them. You never know, though. They’re kids, but I think they’re as prepared as they can be for this trip."

In the Tar Heels, UTM will see one of the best freshman classes in the nation, led by ESPN-W Freshman of the Year Diamond DeShields. The 6-1 guard was the No. 3 player overall coming out of high school and is averaging 18 points and 5.4 rebounds per game.

She is joined by fellow frosh Stephanie Mavunga (6-3 forward), Allisha Gray (6-0 guard) and Jessica Washington (5-8 guard). All were ranked among the nation’s top 20 players coming out of high school.

"They’re kind of like the Fab Five of Michigan in that their best players are freshmen," McMillan said. "They’re young, so maybe they’ll be nervous. But, they are a very, very talented basketball team."

The Tar Heels are coached by Sylvia Hatchell, inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame in September and then diagnosed with leukemia in October. Treatment put the disease into remission in January. Associate head coach Andrew Calder has been running the program during Hatchell’s recovery, but she could be on the bench for the NCAA Tournament.

"We’re thankful she’s getting better," McMillan said. "I want her to be on the bench. She’s one of the greatest coaches to coach the women’s game."

Two undefeated teams, UConn (34-0) and Notre Dame (32-0), and two SEC schools, Tennessee (27-5) and South Carolina (27-4), earned the four No. 1 seeds.
TOBACCO ROAD TRIP

By KEVIN WEAKS
Press Sports

UT Martin got the seeding head coach Kevin McMillan felt his team deserved.

It's now up to the Skyhawks to determine if they are worthy.

UTM (24-7) locked up a No. 13 seed in the NCAA Women's Tournament, drawing No. 4 seed North Carolina (24-9) in Chapel Hill.

The teams will face off in Carmichael Arena 2 p.m. Sunday. The other game will feature No. 5 seed Michigan State (22-9) against No. 12 seed Hampton (28-4) at 11:30 a.m.

The surviving team will advance to the regional semifinals at Stanford.

"I think that's a tribute to what these kids have done throughout the year," McMillan said of the seed.

"I think they deserved a seed that was better than a 15-16, and truthfully, I thought we were better than a 14. So, for them to get a 13 is one of the highest the OVC has received in a long time, and I think that's a reflection on how good this team's been."

Having made the tournament the previous three years as either a No. 15 or No. 16 seed, UT Martin gets out of those bottom three spots where winning has been virtually impossible since the tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1994.

While No. 13 seeds have only a 6-74 record all-time vs. No. 4s, that is a far cry from the 1-16, 2-15 and 3-14 matchups. Combined, the 1-2-3 seeds are 239-1 against the 16-15-14 teams since 1994, the lone win coming when No. 16 Harvard beat No. 1 Stanford 71-67 in 1998.

"To have a chance to get out of that 1-2-3 is such a blessing," McMillan said. "But, now you're on someone's home floor, and that's never good."

And, that "someone" won't be easy for the Skyhawks.

Young, big and physical, the Tar Heels feature one of the nation's best freshman classes.

Guard Diamond DeShields (6-1), the daughter of former Major League Baseball player Delino DeShields, has been named the ESPN-W Freshman of the Year.

She leads the team in scoring with 18 points a game and is grabbing 5.4 rebounds per outing. DeShields tops the UNC list with 54 steals.

Fellow freshman Allisha Gray, a 6-foot guard, is second on the team in scoring with 14.3 ppg while also averaging 5.5 boards a contest.

Sophomore 6-2 forward Xylina McDaniel averages 11.8 points and 5.8 rebounds a game, while freshman 6-3 forward Stephanie Mavunga averages 11 points and a team-best 8.4 rebounds a game.

Jessica Washington, a 5-8 guard, rounds out the sterling freshman class, averaging 5.6 points and 2.1 rebounds a game. Her 89 assists rank second on the squad.

Even though the 12th-ranked Tar Heels will own a size advantage over UTM, especially on the perimeter, McMillan believes a tough non-conference schedule and three previous NCAA appearances have readied his squad.

"We've played five BCS schools, and all of that again is done so when you get into the NCAA Tournament, you're not shellshocked by size and athleticism, that you're not scared of what you see," the coach said. "The neat thing is they have a chance, and that's all you can ask.

"We've played Duke, we played Florida State this year, so we know what we're getting into. It's a matter of our kids preparing as best we can. Whenever you go to the tournament, all the high seeds are hoping the low seeds don't have their A-game. So, if you can catch one that gives you a C-plus and you give an A, you have a chance to win. All we want is a chance."

NOTES: UT Martin's roster features the much-heralded senior guard duo of Heather Butler (23.7 points per game) and Jasmine Newcomb (19.4 ppg) as well as freshman Ashia Jones (12.9 ppg). Butler is this year's OVC Player of the Year, Newcomb is the Defensive Player of the Year in the OVC and Jones in the league's Freshman of the Year. ...

A high-scoring game can be expected as UTM averages 84.6 ppg and UNC averages 80.7. They give up 71 and 66 ppg, respectively... The Skyhawks have won 17 of their last 18 games... The teams have played three times, the Tar Heels owning a 3-0 record in the series. The last meeting was a 96-36 Carolina win on Dec. 2, 2005, in Chapel Hill.
GOING TO CAROLINA

UTM women get highest seed, will play Lady Tar Heels

By Craig Thomas
cthomas2@jacksonsun.com

MARTIN — Three years ago they traveled to Durham, and the UT Martin women’s basketball players knew their program had changed. They were on their way to the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history.

Chapel Hill is only about 10 miles from Durham, but the Skyhawks return to the region this week as a very different team.

UT Martin is a 13 seed, its highest ever, in this week’s NCAA tournament. The Skyhawks (24-7) will play No. 4 seed North Carolina (24-9) at 2 p.m. Central time Sunday on the ‘Tar Heels’ campus. The game will be shown on ESPN.

A few hundred fans gathered Monday evening at UTM’s Student Life building, and they squealed with excitement upon seeing the pairing on the big screen displaying ESPN’s Selection Show.

Their enthusiasm stems from the 13 seed, a contrast to the past two years in which some felt UTM got a lower seed than it deserved.

Kevin McMillan says this year’s team is his best yet, but he knows the difference in seed reflects more than that.

“I think it’s a tribute to what these kids have done here over four years,” he said.

A 16 last year and a 15 the two prior years, UT Martin was previously viewed by the selection committee as one of the weakest teams in the field.

“I think starting off my freshman year we were just happy to make the tournament, and each year we’ve been hungrier and hungrier for that higher seed,” senior guard Megan White said. “This year we finally got it, so I think that this just marks another stepping stone in the right direction for the program.”

McMillan noted the OVC was considered the 30th best conference in NCAA, so the 13 indicates the committee recognizes this UTM team is no pushover.

That means a lot to someone like senior guard Heather Butler, who has been at the center of UT Martin’s development to this point.

“I feel like people are finally seeing what kind of a team we really are and what we can be,” Butler said.

Likely helping the Skyhawks’ case this time around were a 15-1 record in regular season conference games and early road wins at Alabama and Southern Illinois.

“It does take a lot of confidence in a team, when you’re the underdog, to come out and play hard against those bigger schools. So I think that us playing the big schools all year will definitely help us going into the tournament,” White said.

When Butler was asked who outside of the top three contributors (herself, senior guard Jasmine Newsome and freshman post Ashia Jones) is ready for a big tournament, she turned around and saw freshman guard Elizabeth Masengil walking by.

Butler pointed her thumb in that direction.

“I think the freshmen, honestly,” she said. “They’re not nervous, they’re keeping their cool, and I’m really shocked because I figured they would all be freaking out about this.

“Outside of us three, I honestly feel like you could go down the line and you can say that we’re ready or we’re at least going to be ready when we get there.”

Every Skyhawk starter but Jones has played in at least one tournament game.

“They’re ready for the challenge,” McMillan said. “You’ve just got to hope that’s going to be worth something to give you a little shot in the arm, to get the game going.”

Sunday’s winner will play either 5 seed Michigan State or 12 seed Hampton on Tuesday in Chapel Hill.

Craig Thomas, 425-9634
Lecture to follow dance performance today at UT Martin

A group of University of Tennessee at Martin students, who are dance education or graphic design majors or minors, will be performing "Bushashe Etude," a dance work created by Pearl Primus, to be presented along with Peggy and Murray Schwartz' lecture today in the Boling University's Watkins Auditorium.

Bushashe comes from Zaire, where Primus researched dance as an anthropologist, according to a news release. The dance is a generational ritual performed once every 20 years. Primus created the piece for educational purposes, as she felt dance could be used as an agent to encourage learning about culture, identity and humanity.

The authors of "The Dance Claimed Me: A Biography of Pearl Primus," which was published in 2011, will be the next academic speakers at UT Martin. Peggy and Murray Schwartz will talk about Primus' life, work and legacy at 7:30 p.m.
UP IN LIGHTS

The UT Martin women's basketball team watched the NCAA Tournament Selection Show with a few hundred fans in the Student Life Center on Monday night. "The publicity we're getting right now and will get the rest of this week is free. I don't know if you can get better publicity than what we'll get his week."

Having played Duke, Tennessee and Notre Dame in the last three NCAA tournaments, in addition to another tough non-conference schedule this season, has prepared the Skyhawks for facing one of the nation's elite programs.

"I really don't think our kids care," McMillan said about his team facing North Carolina. "We've played Baylor, Stanford, Louisville. We've played Duke, we've played Tennessee. We've played just about every team you can imagine over these last four years, so I don't think North Carolina is going to scare them. You never know, though. They're kids, but I think they're as prepared as they can be for this trip."

In the Tar Heels, UTM will see one of the best freshman classes in the nation, led by ESPN-W Freshman of the Year Diamond DeShields. The 6-1 guard was the No. 3 player overall coming out of high school and is averaging 18 points and 5.4 rebounds per game.

She is joined by fellow frosh Stephanie Mavunga (6-3 forward), Allisha Gray (6-0 guard) and Jessica Washington (5-8 guard).

All were ranked among the nation's top 20 players coming out of high school. "They're kind of like the Fab Five of Michigan in that their best players are freshmen," McMillan said. "They're young, so maybe they'll be nervous. But, they are a very, very talented basketball team."

The Tar Heels are coached by Sylvia Hatchell, inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame in September and then diagnosed with leukemia in October. Treatment put the disease into remission in January. Associate head coach Andrew Calder has been running the program during Hatchell's recovery, but she could be on the bench for the NCAA Tournament.

"We're thankful she's getting better," McMillan said. "I want her to be on the bench. She's one of the greatest coaches to coach the women's game."

Two undefeated teams, UConn (34-0) and Notre Dame (32-0), and two Southeastern Conference schools, Tennessee (27-5) and South Carolina (27-4), earned the four No. 1 seeds.

Sports reporter Kevin Weaks can be contacted by email at kweaks@ucmessenger.com.

NCAA sends Skyhawks back to Tobacco Road

By KEVIN WEAKS

Messenger Sports

Another trip to North Carolina. A different shade of blue.
A fourth straight trip to the NCAA Tournament has led UT Martin's women's basketball team to where it all started — Tobacco Road and ACC Country.

The Skyhawks (24-7), who played Duke in Durham back in 2011, earned a No. 13 seed in this year's tournament and will travel to Chapel Hill to face No. 4 seed North Carolina (24-9) 2 p.m. Sunday at Carmichael Arena. The Final Four will be played in Nashville April 6-8.

"Words can't describe what going to the NCAA Tournament means for your program, for your recruiting, for your university," UTM head coach Kevin McMillan said following the team's selection show party at the Student Life Center on Monday night. "The publicity we're getting right now and will get the rest of this week is free. I don't know if you can get better publicity than what we'll get his week."

Having played Duke, Tennessee and Notre Dame in the last three NCAA tournaments, in addition to another tough non-conference schedule this season, has prepared the Skyhawks for facing one of the nation's elite programs.

"I really don't think our kids care," McMillan said about his team facing North Carolina. "We've played Baylor, Stanford, Louisville. We've played Duke, we've played Tennessee. We've played just about every team you can imagine over these last four years, so I don't think North Carolina is going to scare them. You never know, though. They're kids, but I think they're as prepared as they can be for this trip."

In the Tar Heels, UTM will see one of the best freshman classes in the nation, led by ESPN-W Freshman of the Year Diamond DeShields. The 6-1 guard was the No. 3 player overall coming out of high school and is averaging 18 points and 5.4 rebounds per game.

She is joined by fellow frosh Stephanie Mavunga (6-3 forward), Allisha Gray (6-0 guard) and Jessica Washington (5-8 guard).

All were ranked among the nation's top 20 players coming out of high school. "They're kind of like the Fab Five of Michigan in that their best players are freshmen," McMillan said. "They're young, so maybe they'll be nervous. But, they are a very, very talented basketball team."

The Tar Heels are coached by Sylvia Hatchell, inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame in September and then diagnosed with leukemia in October. Treatment put the disease into remission in January. Associate head coach Andrew Calder has been running the program during Hatchell's recovery, but she could be on the bench for the NCAA Tournament.

"We're thankful she's getting better," McMillan said. "I want her to be on the bench. She's one of the greatest coaches to coach the women's game."

Two undefeated teams, UConn (34-0) and Notre Dame (32-0), and two Southeastern Conference schools, Tennessee (27-5) and South Carolina (27-4), earned the four No. 1 seeds.

Sports reporter Kevin Weaks can be contacted by email at kweaks@ucmessenger.com.
Rebels basketball:

UNLV associate head coach Schroyer leaving to take over at UT Martin

Heath Schroyer spent the past 3 seasons on coach Dave Rice’s staff after previous head-coaching stints at Wyoming and Portland State

By Taylor Bern (contact)

Tuesday, March 18, 2014 | 4:50 p.m.

UNLV associate head coach Heath Schroyer will be the next head basketball coach at UT Martin, multiple sources confirmed to the Sun today. Schroyer will be introduced at a press conference on Thursday.

Schroyer spent the past three seasons as an assistant on coach Dave Rice’s staff at UNLV, and he was credited with some of the biggest recruiting victories during that time. A Maryland native, Schroyer used his ties to the East Coast to sign several players, including incoming freshman Dwayne Morgan, sophomore Daquan Cook and junior transfer Roscoe Smith, among others.

Before UNLV, Schroyer was the head coach at Wyoming from 2007 to 2011, when he was fired near the end of the season. Other recent stops include Portland State, where he was the head coach from 2002-05, and Fresno State, where Schroyer was an assistant from 2005-07.

At UT Martin, he’s reuniting with Athletic Director Julio Freire, who ran the Rebel Athletic Fund for several years under former UNLV Athletic Director Jim Livengood. Schroyer’s deal at UT Martin is reportedly for six years, giving him some job security at a program that has had very little success. He’s replacing coach James Jones, who was fired after five seasons with a 37-117 overall record.

Jones had spent the previous six seasons as an assistant under Bret Campbell, who resigned in 2009 after an internal audit revealed he cashed or deposited checks from a summer camp into his personal account. That year Campbell was named the Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year after leading the Skyhawks to their first and only OVC regular-season title.

The move leaves assistant Stacey Augmon as the lone original member of Rice’s coaching staff. Former associate head coach Justin Hutson left after two years to return to San Diego State, and Rice replaced him with Findlay Prep coach Todd Simon.

Rice has already stated that he plans to add a position to the staff, most likely a special assistant to the head coach job for a veteran coach. If he still wants to add that position, that spot would be in addition Schroyer’s vacancy, which would likely be filled with another recruiter.

One name that keeps coming up for the staff is 72-year-old Max Good, the former UNLV interim coach who was recently fired at Loyola Marymount. And with Good could potentially come Elijah Stewart, a three-star shooting guard out of Los Angeles. However, Stewart signed a letter of intent to Loyola Marymount so the school would have to release him from that contract.

Taylor Bern can be reached at 948-7844 or taylor.bern@lasvegassun.com. Follow Taylor on Twitter at twitter.com/taylorbern.
Tennessee-Martin to hire UNLV's Schroyer

By Jon Rothstein | CBS Sports
March 18, 2014 2:12 pm ET

An official announcement is expected on Thursday.

Schroyer has been with the Runnin' Rebels since 2011 and was previously the head coach at Wyoming and Portland State. UT-Martin athletic director Julio Freire was at UNLV with Schroyer.

UNLV coach Dave Rice is targeting former Loyola Marymount head coach Max Good to be Schroyer's replacement, two other sources told CBSSports.com. Good was fired last week after serving as head coach of the Lions since 2008.

A major storyline to watch if Good winds up with the Runnin' Rebels is the status of top-100 recruit Elijah Stewart.

The 6-foot-5 Stewart signed to play for Good at Loyola Marymount, but has yet to receive a release from his letter of intent, another source told CBSSports.com.
McNairy County Mayor Ronnie Brooks and Selmer Mayor John Smith signed a proclamation declaring local observance of National Social Worker's Month for March 2014 last Monday at the University of Tennessee-Martin Selmer campus. Three social work students at the university, Katie Crutchfield, Amanda Buchanan and Jessica Crowe, took part in the ceremony reading the proclamations as our local mayors signed. The event featured food and drinks for those in attendance and students set up a special table in memory of Deidra Beene, the center's former director who passed away on March 7.
Social Work Month 2014
Proclamation

University of Tennessee-Martin Selmer
Submitted Article

(As seen on page 4A) Last Monday, at the University of Tennessee-Martin Selmer Campus McNairy County Mayor Ronnie Brooks and Selmer Mayor John Smith signed this proclamation declaring March as Social Workers Month. Here is the proclamation in its entirety:

"All People Matter"

WHEREAS, the primary mission of the Social Work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable in society.

WHEREAS, Social Work Pioneers helped lead America's struggle for social justice;

WHEREAS, Social Workers know that poverty and trauma can create lifelong social and economic disadvantages;

WHEREAS, Social Workers know that discrimination of any kind limits human potential and must be eliminated;

WHEREAS, Social Workers stand up for individuals and support diverse families in every community;

WHEREAS, Social Workers help people in every stage of life function better in their environments, improve their relationships with others, and solve personal and family problems;

WHEREAS, all children have the right to safe environments and quality education;

WHEREAS, dignity and care giving for older adults help define a nation's character;

WHEREAS, veterans and their families need community support to ensure successful transitions after service;

WHEREAS, access to mental health treatment and health care services saves millions of lives;

WHEREAS, Social Workers are change agents who put the ideals of citizenship into action every day;

WHEREAS, Social Workers believe in shared prosperity and opportunity for everyone;

WHEREAS, Social Work research and advocacy turn community needs into national priorities;

WHEREAS, Social Workers celebrate the courage, hope and strength of the human spirit throughout their careers;

NOW THEREFORE, in recognition of the numerous contributions made by America's 600,000 Social Workers, I, McNairy County Mayor, Ronnie Brooks and City of Selmer Mayor, John Smith proclaim the month of March 2014 as National Social Work Month and call upon all citizens to join with the National Association of Social Workers and the University of Tennessee at Martin in celebration and support of the Social Work profession.
1-day nutrition symposium set for April at UT Martin

The Joe and Pat Johnson Nutrition Symposium will be held April 4 from 8:25 a.m.-3:45 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

The title of the symposium is "New Perspectives on Old and Not So Old Situations" and it will present up-to-date findings and information on various topics of interest to nutrition professionals.

The one-day seminar is approved for 6.0 CPE hours for registered dietitians and dietetic technicians. The program is provided by the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at UT Martin and coordinated by Brian D. Carroll, MS, RD, LDN, director of the Dietetic Internship Program and lecturer.

The symposium will begin with registration and a continental breakfast from 8:30-9:30, followed by an opening welcome from Dr. Todd A. Winters, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at UT Martin. The dietetic intern presentations will follow from 8:30-9:30, including "The Fight Against Food-insecurity: The Effectiveness of Anti-hunger and Government Programs to Relieve the Problems of Food-insecurity Locally and Globally," by Emily Turbeville; "A Detailed Look Into Society's Misconceptions of the Gluten-free Diet," by Chelsea Guetherman; and "Early Post Operative Feeding in Gastrointestinal Surgery Patients," by Hannah Christiansen.

After a break from 9:30-10:05, the dietetic intern presentations will continue from 10:05-10:25. They will include "The Effect of Chemotherapy-Induced Dysgeusia on Nutritional Status in Cancer Patients," by Kristen Hagarty; and "The Link Between Food Additives and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder," by Denise Bell.

Following the dietetic intern presentations, Dianne Polly, JD, MS, RD, and LDN, of Memphis, will present "Being Ethical in a Sometimes Unethical World" from 10:25-11:25 a.m.

Lunch will be provided, with pre-registration, from 11:30-12:30.

After lunch, Anna McCullough, MS, RD, director of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity at St. Francis Center for Surgical Weightloss of Memphis, will speak on "Nutrition for Bariatric Surgery" from 12:30-1:30. Russell McKeith, MS, lecturer in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at UT Martin, will present "Importance of Implementing Red Meat in the 21st Century Diet" from 1:30-2:30. Nancy Armstrong, MA, CCC-A/SLP, will speak on "To Thicken or Not To Thicken Is the Not the Only Question?" from 2:30-3:30.

The evaluation and conclusion of the symposium will last from 3:30-3:45.

The registration fee is $25 per person. The fee includes material handouts, refreshment breaks and lunch. The registration deadline is March 28.

To register, call ECOS at (731) 881-7082 or go online at www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree_registration.php. Registration may also be dropped off from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays at 110 Gooch Hall in Martin. Make checks payable to UT Martin.

Quiz Bowl entries accepted

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Department of Educational Studies will host its second annual Academic Quiz Bowl tournament for elementary, middle and high school students April 12 at Gooch Hall on campus.

Check-in time is set for 8 a.m. and competition begins at 9.

The Academic Quiz Bowl — a competitive, academic, interscholastic activity — will feature teams of five students. Teams will compete in three divisions: grades 4-6, grades 6-8 and grades 9-12.

Dr. Louis Glover, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction at UT Martin, will serve as director of the Quiz Bowl.

"This will be a double-elimination contest and we will include questions from all academic areas," Glover said.

Questions included will be from literature, science, fine arts, history, geography, current events, sports and pop culture.

All contestants will receive a certificate of participation, while trophies will be awarded to each of the three divisional winners. In addition, trophies will be awarded to the grand champion and the highest-scoring team.

Pre-registration is required and all information must be received by April 5.

For more information, contact Glover at lglover5@utm.edu or direct correspondence to him at 240A Gooch Hall.
UT Martin to host preview

High school students interested in attending the University of Tennessee at Martin are invited to register for Spring Preview Day, set for Saturday.

Students will have the opportunity to tour the UT Martin campus, and faculty and staff will be available to answer questions about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. in the Boling University Center and a formal welcome will follow at 9:30.

An academic fair will take place at 10:30 and a tour of the campus will begin at 11:15.

There will also be a session for transfer students at 11:15 a.m., followed by a campus tour.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or register online at www.utm.edu/springpreview.

Skyhawk ladies to dance with UNC

UTM Sports Information

UT Martin knows its dance partner.

The Skyhawk women will battle the University of North Carolina on Sunday at 2:05 in the opening round of the NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament in Chapel Hill, N.C.

The game will be televised live on ESPN.

The UTM women are a No. 13 seed in the Stanford Regional. Meanwhile, North Carolina is the fourth seed in said bracket of the NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament.

The victor of Sunday’s contest will take on the Michigan State-Hampton winner on March 25 in the second round of the tournament.

The Skyhawks (24-7) enter the game as winners of 17 of their last 18 games, clinching a spot in their fourth straight NCAA Tournament with a 78-66 win over Belmont in the Ohio Valley Conference championship on March 8.

UT Martin is the only team in NCAA history to have two players rank first and second in their respective conference’s scoring history in senior guards Heather Butler and Jasmine Newsome.

Both players are four-time All-OVC first teamers while Butler was named the league’s Player of the Year and Newsome was named OVC Defensive Player of the Year.

As a team, UT Martin ranks amongst the country’s best in scoring average (84.6 points per game, third), turnover margin (8.03, fourth) and three-point field goals per game (9.1, sixth).

The Skyhawk women are looking for their first NCAA Tournament triumph in program history.

UTM has advanced to the NCAA Women’s Tournament in each of the past four seasons as the automatic qualifier by virtue of winning the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament.

Ranked No. 12 in Associated Press Top 25 and No. 13 in USA Today Coaches Poll, North Carolina (24-9) will enter the tournament as winner of three of its last four, with its only blemish coming against No. 10 Duke (66-61) in the ACC Tournament semifinals.

The Tar Heels rank fourth in the nation in steals (11.6 steals per game), 15th in scoring margin (+14.7) and scoring offense (80.7 points per game).

ESPNW National Freshman of the Year and ACC Rookie of the Year Diamond DeShields paces a balanced North Carolina scoring attack.

DeShields averages 18.0 points, 5.4 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 1.6 steals per game to lead the Tar Heels.

Alisha Gray (14.3 points per game), Xylina McDaniel (11.8) and Stephanie Mavunga (11.0) also average double-digits in the scoring column for North Carolina.

UT Martin To Host Spring Preview Day

High school students interested in attending the University of Tennessee at Martin are invited to register for Spring Preview Day, scheduled for March 22.

Students will have the opportunity to tour the UT Martin campus, and faculty and staff will be available to answer questions about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. in the Boling University Center, and a formal welcome will follow at 9:30 a.m. An academic fair will take place at 10:30 a.m., and a tour of the campus will begin at 11:15 a.m.

There will also be a session for transfer students at 11:15 a.m., followed by a campus tour.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or register online at www.utm.edu/springpreview.
Members of the UT Martin women’s basketball team watch the NCAA Tournament Selection Show on Monday afternoon. UTM battles North Carolina on Sunday at 2:05 p.m. UTM photo

UT Martin’s Journalism Awards

The Southeastern Journalism Conference (SEJC) named Tomi Parrish, journalism instructor and coordinator of the Office of Student Media at the University of Tennessee at Martin, as Educator of the Year.

The Pacer, UT Martin’s student newspaper won two top 10 awards, while Bradley Stinefield, of Oliver Springs, won ninth place for Best Sports Writer in the annual competition and Mary Jean Hall, of Covington, won sixth place in Best News Graphic Designer.

The Pacer also finished sixth for the Best College Website and sixth for Best Public Service Journalism (Veterans Day/ROTC package).

The awards, chosen from 440 qualified entries from 35 universities, were announced at the SEJC’s annual convention, hosted by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on Feb. 20-22.

WUTM was named the third best college radio station in the southeast and it had the third best college audio news program.

Aimee Bilger, of Martin, won third place as the Best Radio News Feature Reporter, while Mary Lynn Williams, of Franklin, was named the Best Radio Journalist.

Overall, 169 students from 34 universities were ranked in the 30 “Best of the South” categories. The SEJC consists of 51 member universities in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Tennessee.

Kiwanis Speaker

Martin Kiwanis Club member Clinton Smith spoke to the club Wednesday March 12th about the “Special Olympics”. Clinton is the Assistant Professor of Special Education at UT Martin and has been involved with the Special Olympics since 1987. His highlights include coaching local track and field athletes at the 2006 Special Olympics USA National Games and leading Team Tennessee to a national gold medal in basketball in the 2014 National Games.

Music Scholarship

The Philharmonic Music Guild of Martin will present the Harriet Fulton Music Scholarship of $500.00 to a graduating high school senior in Weakley County who will major in music at UTM during the 2014-2015 school year. The primary bases for selection will be musical ability and potential and an acceptable academic standing.

Auditions will be held Monday, April 7, at 4:00 p.m. in room 233 at the UTM Fine Arts Building. Students or teachers who want application forms may contact Charlotte May at 587-6848. Application forms must be returned by Monday, March 31. 
Davv Crockett re-enactor brings history to life at Dresden M.S.

By David Fisher
Staff Reporter

Tennessee's legendary frontiersman, politician and number one volunteer, Davy Crockett (August 17, 1786 - March 6, 1836), portrayed by historic re-enactor Arthur Hunt, an associate professor of communications at UT Martin, was a big hit with students and faculty alike, during an assembly at Dresden Middle School Friday, March 14.

The informative and entertaining presentation recounted the exciting life and times of American folk hero Davy Crockett. Crockett, who is commonly referred to in popular culture by the epithet “King of the Wild Frontier,” represented Tennessee in the U.S. House of Representatives, served in the Texas Revolution, and died at the Battle of the Alamo.

Crockett became famous in his own lifetime for larger-than-life exploits popularized by stage plays, almanacs and fake autobiographies. After his death, Crockett continued to be credited with acts of mythical proportion. These led in the 20th century to television and movie portrayals, and he became one of the best-known American folk heroes.

During the presentation, Hunt attempted to capture Crockett's dress, voice and mannerisms, as reflected in historical accounts and Crockett's own autobiography written in 1834 and published at the height of his political career. The legendary American folk hero told his life's story to a captivated audience, which sat mesmerized by his portrayal.

During the presentation, Crockett (Hunt) joked about the highly exaggerated descriptions of himself in folklore claiming he was “half-horse, half-alligator, with a touch of snapping turtle,” which he said “made the Mississippi, leap the Ohio and whip his weight in wildcats.” He said, “I have the prettiest sister, fastest horse, and ugliest dog in the district.”

Hunt gave a colorful account of one of Crockett’s bear hunts, following the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-1812 that formed Reelfoot Lake.

He also talked about Crockett's political career, including his opposition to fellow Tennessean President Andrew Jackson’s efforts to relocate the Native American tribes of Tennessee to Oklahoma, which cost Crockett his seat in the U.S. Congress. Shortly afterward, he traveled to what would later become the Republic of Texas to fight and die at the Alamo.

At the conclusion of Hunt’s speech, the audience gave a resounding applause in appreciation of his performance.

According to Dresden Middle School history teacher Pam Copeland, the re-enactment fit into the school's curriculum for Tennessee Standards for Tennessee History in the seventh-grade and in U.S. history for the eighth-grade. Copeland was instrumental in orchestrating the event.

Dresden Middle School Principal Pam Harris stated the presentation was one of the school's Explore classes, which features guest speakers from various fields, including attorneys, bankers and other professions. She noted it is an enrichment opportunity for students to learn about these professions. In the case of Hunt portraying Crockett, she said it demonstrates to students that there are more areas for actors to explore than movies or television.
James Roy Pope candidate for County Commission District 3

James Roy Pope is running as a write-in candidate for County Commissioner on the Republican ballot in the May primary for County Commission District 3, which encompasses Greenfield and the surrounding area.

Pope is a lifelong resident of Greenfield, Tennessee. He is married to the former Petrina Coffman of Junction City, Kentucky, and the couple will be married 21 years this May. They have two children: Joseph, who is 19 years old and a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin; and 15-year-old Sara Ann, who is a freshman at Greenfield High School.

James is a lifelong member of Moore's Chapel Baptist Church in Greenfield.

He graduated from Greenfield High School in 1983 and then attended UT Martin, while working part-time in the family business. Pope's Concessions and Rides is a carnival and concession business that is celebrating its 90th year. He went on to manage, and then co-own the business with his parents, the late “Jimmy” Pope and Jane Pope.

“Although my business has afforded me the opportunity to travel extensively, I have always called Greenfield my home,” Pope said.

“My passion in this community is with the future and the children. I fully believe if we do not take care of our county and our children now, they will not be here to take care of it later.”

Pope is currently serving his first term as an alderman in Greenfield and holds the position of vice mayor.

As for his trade affiliations, Pope is the current president of the Showmen's League of America, St. Louis Chapter. Additionally, he has served on the board of directors for the Tennessee Association of Fairs since the late 1980s; the board of directors for the Independent Showman's Association since 2008; a member of the Showman's League of America of Chicago; a member of the Greater Tampa Showman's Association; and a member of the Outdoor Amusement Business Association.

"I am asking for your support and any influence you might have to help me and the future of Weakley County," Pope said.
Medina's Butler continues to collect basketball accolades

College Sports Madness has recognized University of Tennessee at Martin women's basketball senior guard Heather Butler as All Mid-Major second team.

A 5-5 senior out of Medina, Butler was named OVC Player of the Year while taking home All-OVC first team and OVC All-Tournament team selections, ranking ninth in the nation in scoring with a league leading 24.1 points per game. She took home OVC Player of the Week honors five times after becoming the league's all-time leading scorer with 2,811 career points. Her 2,846 career points rank 18th on the NCAA's all-time scoring list.

Butler has scored in double figures every game of her career, ranging 128 consecutive games, ranking as the longest active streak in the NCAA. Her mark of 128 games in double figures ranks fifth in NCAA history. This season she eclipsed 20 points or more on 19 separate occasions, adding to her career total of 74 games. She tied the program record for points in a single game with 44 points on two occasions.

UT Martin is 24-7 on the year and is currently ranked 76th in the NCAA RPI rankings heading into its fourth consecutive NCAA Tournament. The Skyhawks rank third in the country in scoring with 84.6 points per game while scoring 100 points or more on eight occasions. Both Butler and Newsome rank in the top four in NCAA active scoring by combining for 5,404 career points and ranking first and second on the Ohio Valley Conference's all-time scoring list.

UT Martin preview day
March 22

High school students interested in attending the University of Tennessee at Martin are invited to register for spring preview day, scheduled for March 22.

Students will have the opportunity to tour the UT Martin campus, and faculty and staff will be available to answer questions about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. in the Boling University Center, and a formal welcome will follow at 9:30 a.m. An academic fair will take place at 10:30 a.m., and a tour of the campus will begin at 11:15 a.m. There will also be a session for transfer students at 11:15 a.m. followed by a campus tour.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or register online at www.utm.edu/springpreview.
Heather Butler finalist for Lieberman Award

Butler named a top point guard in nation

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced Wednesday UT Martin senior guard Heather Butler is one of five final candidates for the 2014 Nancy Lieberman Award. The award recognizes the top point guard in women’s NCAA Division I college basketball. Candidates exhibit the floor leadership, play-making and ball-handling skills of Hall of Famer Nancy Lieberman. The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame became the new host of the Nancy Lieberman Award in October 2013 after the Rotary Club of Detroit managed it for several years. “We are thrilled about this list of five deserving women and cannot wait to announce the winner at the Final Four,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Basketball Hall of Fame. “It was not an easy process narrowing down this list, but we are confident each of these players has earned her way to being recognized for their skills and dedication.” A 5-feet-5 senior out of Medina, Butler was named OVC Player of the Year while taking home All-OVC first team and OVC All-Tournament team selections, ranking ninth in the nation in scoring with a league leading 24.1 points per game. She took home OVC Player of the Week honors five times after becoming the league’s all-time leading scorer with 2,846 career points. Her 2,846 career points rank 18th on the NCAA’s all-time scoring list.

wcmt.com/new-utm-mens-basketball-coach-announced-today/

New UTM men’s basketball coach announced today

March 20th, 2014 - By Steve James

The new men’s basketball coach at UTM will be introduced this afternoon.

The university has been searching for a new coach for the UTM men’s basketball program since parting ways with former head coach Jason James earlier this month.

UTM Chancellor Tom Rakes and athletics director Julio Freire will address members of the media and Skyhawks fans with opening remarks before introducing the new head coach.

The press conference is this afternoon at 2:00 at the Elam Center and is open to the public.

For Skyhawks fans who can’t attend the press conference in person, it will be streamed in its entirety on the OVC Digital Network.
UNLV ties lead Skyhawks’ boss to Schroyer as new men’s coach

By MIKE HUTCHENS
Messenger Sports Editor

Julio Freire has reached into his past for someone to lead the UT Martin men’s basketball program into the future.

The Skyhawk Athletics Director — a former athletics administrator at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and on the job at UTM less than three months — has tabbed Runnin’ Rebel associate coach Heath Schroyer as UT Martin’s new head coach.

Freire is to officially introduce Schroyer at a 2 p.m. press conference today.

Schroyer will replace Jason James, who was fired earlier this month after compiling a 37-117 record in five seasons at the Skyhawk men’s hoops helm.

Freire and the new UT Martin head coach forged a relationship when the former was a Senior Associate AD serving several roles at UNLV and Schroyer an assistant coach to Dave Rice — a position he held for three seasons.

The Skyhawk AD said Schroyer’s name came to him quickly when he began the search process to replace James.

“The fact that I knew Heath and the qualities he possessed made him an immediate top candidate, in my thinking,” Freire told The Messenger Wednesday night. “After I met with our returning players, people on the (search) committee and in the community and saw that their thoughts were similar to mine, the pieces of the puzzle came together quickly and we were able to get it done.

“I believe he best epitomizes the combination of impeccable integrity and the ability to develop our student/athletes academically, athletically and socially."

Prior to his three-year stint on the UNLV bench, Schroyer was the head coach for four years (2007-11) at Wyoming and also led the program at Portland State (2002-05).

In between, he was an assistant at Fresno State from 2005 until 2007. He went 49-68 at Wyoming — his best season 19-14 in 2008-09 — before being fired two years later.

He resigned at Portland State to take a position at Fresno, his top season at PSU 19-9.

Schroyer admitted his familiarity with Freire was a factor in his interest in the UTM job, but also said there were other issues that made the position attractive.

“The vision that Julio has for not only the men’s basketball program but also the athletic department as a whole at UT Martin is something I’m thoroughly impressed with,” the new Skyhawk coach said Wednesday. “I really enjoy building programs, but you can only be successful doing that with great supportive administration and the backing of a community that wants and commits to having one.

“I believe those things are in place here at the university and in the town and surrounding communities and towns."

The new head coach will get ample time to build the sagging fortunes of a program that struggled under James, though the length of his contract has not been finalized, according to his boss.

Freire said he received more than 100 correspondences concerning the job in the less-than-three-weeks since it was posted and formal applications and/or resumes from in excess of 50 people — including associate coaches at several “big-name” schools.

He did say it was important that UT Martin move quickly to hire Schroyer.

“Just yesterday, there were six jobs to open up,” Freire concluded. “Because the bigger schools usually get their chances at the best candidates first, it was important that we identify the best man for us and try to wrap him up as quickly as we could.

“We certainly didn’t want to get out-bid by another mid-major program. And I believe we got our guy.”

Sports editor Mike Hutchens can be contacted by email at mhutch@ucmessenger.com.
steal four years of those kids’ lives and piggyback on it.”

The Skyhawks will get to ride that twosome for a little longer as the team will begin play in its fourth consecutive NCAA Tournament on Sunday against North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Tip-off from iconic Carmichael Arena is 2 p.m.

“I’m very excited to go,” Newsome said. “We get another chance to go compete. But, I’m ready for the chance to go and get a win. I don’t want to just go this time.”

Going in as No. 13 seed after two 15s and a 16 the previous three years is a just reward — and motivation to extend the season past one game.

“We are so excited,” Butler said of the tourney berth. “Each year, it gets more exciting. This is the most I’ve been excited. Seeing what seed we are and who we are playing, I felt we deserved a better seed, and I feel we got that.

“People are starting to respect us more in seeing what we can do on the floor, and I’m really honored for that and blessed for the opportunity to have played for coach McMillan, all the coaches and with all the teammates these last four years in a program we’ve been able to get to the top. I feel we can go to North Carolina and show everybody what type team we have become.”

That competitive spirit that tells Butler she can go down Tobacco Road and beat one of the elite programs in women’s basketball is not new to her. And current best friend.

“We knew each other before,” Newsome said. “We played AAU against each other and came across each other our whole high school careers, so I knew some about her. But, going into practice with her, she competed hard all the time, not just in games. She was a leader as a freshman; she was in control. I learned some things from her, and she learned some things from me. We took it from there, and I think that’s why we’ve been so good together.”

“We didn’t really communicate then because our team always wanted to beat her,” Butler added. “So, coming into college, it was a little different. I got to know her, and it’s so weird because we’ve become the best of friends. I cannot be more blessed to have a best friend like her and to have played all four years with her and with (fellow senior) Megan (White). It’s a blessing.”

One more NCAA run — and possibly not just a one-and-done — is a fitting end to a pair of players who have been winning tournaments at every level since they began dribbling a basketball.

Newsome was a back-to-back district and region tourney champion with a Class AAA state tournament appearance at Millington.

Butler, meanwhile, won district and regional titles on the way to consecutive Class AA state titles at Gibson County in 2008 and ’09.

“You can’t go out any better than how these kids are going,” McMillan said. “One way or another, their final game will be in the NCAA Tournament, and not a lot of players can say that. You feel great that Newsome and Butler are going to get a chance to be showcased in the NCAA Tournament again.”

The wild ride continues.

Sports reporter Kevin Weaks can be contacted by email at kweaks@ucmessenger.com.
Tennessee-Martin tabs Schroyer as new hoops coach

Published March 21, 2014 / Sports Network

Martin, TN (SportsNetwork.com) - Tennessee-Martin has named Heath Schroyer its new men's basketball coach.

Schroyer spent the past three seasons as associate head coach at UNLV under Dave Rice and has Division I head coaching experience at Portland State and Wyoming.

"I am obviously very humbled and excited to be here," said Schroyer. "I think we are on the cusp of accomplishing some great things. I've been doing this quite a long time but I've learned a lot and I'm ready to bring all of those experiences to UT Martin. I am anxious to get started and start trying to accomplish our goals."

Schroyer guided Portland State for three years from 2002-05 and was the second-youngest head coach in Division I when he took over the program at age 30.

After two years as an associate head coach at Fresno State, Schroyer landed at Wyoming. He spent four seasons with the Cowboys from 2007-11 and posted a record of 49-68 when he was fired in February 2011.

Tennessee-Martin needed a replacement for Jason James, who was not retained after an 8-23 season.
Schroyer happy to become coach at UT Martin

MARTIN (AP) — UT Martin has selected UNLV assistant Heath Schroyer to rebuild its men's basketball program that has lost over 20 games each of the last five seasons.

"I believe that we're going to compete for championships sooner (rather) than later," Schroyer said. "Is that going to happen in one day? No. But I wouldn't be here if I didn't believe that with my heart and my soul. I believe without a shadow of a doubt that this place can be great. We have a lot of work to do. There are a lot of things that need to be done, but I have a clear vision of where we're going to take this program. I couldn't be more excited, but I also understand that it's a tough challenge."

Schroyer previously was a head coach at Portland State and Wyoming. He went 35-47 at Portland State from 2002-05 and 49-68 at Wyoming from 2007-11.

Countians receive aid from UTM

Three Henry Countians have received financial aid to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2014-15 academic year.

Receiving dean's scholarships were Kaitlin Moran and Peter Moran. They are the children of Diana Moran of Buchanan and will be entering their freshman years this fall.

Maggie VanDyke, daughter of Richard and Pam VanDyke of Paris, received a chancellor's award. She also will be entering her freshman year in college.
Riddell to speak at UTM

Dr. M. Gatz Riddell, Auburn University professor emeritus of veterinary medicine and current executive vice president of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, will speak about current cattle industry topics at 6 p.m. Thursday at the University of Tennessee at Martin in Watkins Auditorium, located in the Boling University Center.

Riddell’s presentation is open to the public and will be of particular interest to veterinarians, cattle producers and animal science students. Topics will include animal welfare and its impact on the cattle industry and an update on the politics and science of antimicrobial use in food animals. He will also offer information about the importance of animal health, veterinarians and diagnostic laboratories to the cattle industry.

Riddell was raised in Kansas and earned a doctor of veterinary medicine degree in 1977 from Kansas State University. He practiced from 1977-81 in Tennessee following an internship and residency at Auburn University and returned in 1984 to Auburn. He retired in 2005 as professor emeritus and continues his work with the American Association of Bovine Practitioners.

Riddle’s appearance is sponsored by the West Tennessee Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, which is part of the UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources.

For more information, call (731) 881-7260.

SAR meeting slated

The Jackson Purchase Chapter of the Tennessee Society Sons of the American Revolution (TNSSAR) will be holding a spring meeting Friday at 6:30 p.m. at Ryan’s Steakhouse in Union City. The speaker will be Dr. David Coffey, professor and chair of the Department of History and Philosophy at UT Martin. He will be speaking on Gen. George Washington.

The SAR is a historical, educational and patriotic nonprofit organization dedicated to respect for our national symbols, the value of American citizenship and honor for those who served in the Revolutionary War.

All who are interested are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 885-0863.

Excel class offered

On Tuesday from 6-9 p.m. the Obion County Public Library will offer a class on the Excel computer program. This class is a beginner’s class and will be taught by Larry Holder, University of Tennessee at Martin Information Tech Services, IT administrator.

The library has computers for use or attendees may bring their own laptop computers if they have the Excel program.

The class is free to the public.

For more information, call the library, located at 1221 East Reelfoot Ave. in Union City, at 885-7000.

NUTRITION EVENT — Obion County University of Tennessee Extension Service intern Rachel Morris of Spring Hill set up a nutrition display Thursday afternoon at the Obion County Farm Bureau meeting room.

The Extension Service and the Obion County Health Department joined to teach the public about health and nutrition. Miss Morris is a dietetic major at UT Martin.
UTM picks Schroyer to upgrade program

UT Martin introduced Heath Schroyer as its ninth men's basketball coach in program history at a press conference held at the Elam Center on Thursday afternoon.

"I have known Heath for several years," UT Martin athletics director Julio Freire said. "I know he represents the qualities in a coach that our student-athletes, Chancellor, search committee and community are looking for."

"We are excited and fortunate to secure coach Schroyer to lead our men's basketball team," UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes said. "Coach Schroyer has demonstrated his expertise as a successful college coach for nearly two decades and we believe he will be a positive driving force for men's basketball."

The Messenger first reported Schroyer's hiring in Thursday's print edition. Schroyer, 42, brings 18 years of collegiate coaching experience to the Skyhawk program, including seven years as a head coach at the Division-I level. All six of Schroyer's stops at a Division-I institution have culminated in either a conference championship or postseason play.

"I am obviously very humbled and excited to be here," Schroyer said. "I've been really impressed throughout the entire process with the upper administration and with Julio. I think we are on the cusp of accomplishing some great things. I've been doing this quite a long time but I've learned a lot and I'm ready to bring all of those experiences to UT Martin."

A native of Walkersville, Md., Schroyer has spent the last three seasons at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas working as the associate head coach under Dave Rice.

The Runnin' Rebels sported three 20-plus win seasons, a 71-32 overall record (29-19 against Mountain West Conference opposition) and appearances in the 2012 and 2013 NCAA Tournaments in Schroyer's tenure.

Schroyer coordinated UNLV's recruiting efforts since he joined the staff in 2011. The Runnin' Rebels' 2012 recruiting class was ranked No. 7 in the nation by ESPN.

TALKING POINTS — Heath Schroyer addresses a gathering of players, students, boosters and members of the media at a press conference Thursday afternoon where he was introduced as the new men's basketball coach at UT Martin. Schroyer comes to UTM from UNLV, where he served as an assistant and recruiting coordinator for Dave Rice. In addition, he has two previous college head coaching jobs to his credit.
Author's new book set on UTM campus, surrounding area

Misty Cruce Watts of Cayce, Ky., recently signed a publishing deal with Ink Smith Publishing of Monrovia, Calif. Mrs. Watts, a former resident of Union City and graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, began working in the journalism field after receiving a bachelor of arts degree from UT Martin. She began writing for fun in 2009 and hasn’t stopped yet.

Her books are typically paranormal and she has independently published five to date. Her latest release, “Earthborn,” is the book that caught the attention of the publishers at Ink Smith Publishing. “Earthborn” is set mostly on the UT Martin campus and surrounding area.

“Earthborn” is a faith-fiction thriller. Declan, Max and Olivia are old college buddies who endlessly debate the existence of giants, or Nephilim, in biblical times. When they are reunited for a mass murder investigation, they find these slayings are not committed by men. The “fallen ones” have come to claim the women who are worthy to bear their children, and once again, their offspring will bring terror to the Earth.

Two secret societies have fought against each other for years. The Sodalitat has worked endlessly to prevent such a shattering event from taking place. The Camorra does everything in its power to bring upon the resurrection of the Nephilim, going as far as attempting to recreate the creatures in a lab using viable DNA from excavated bones.

A young student, Clementine, gets caught in the crossfire between her favorite professor, Olivia, and her best friend, Mae, when she is chosen. Women who are found unworthy are slaughtered. The government finds a gene marker that allows them to indicate if a citizen is a descendant of the Nephilim and calls forth those with distinct characteristics to be tested. Pandemonium breaks out across the world as citizens (See Page 2, Col. 4)

Author...

(Continued from Page 1) react to the news. Declan, Max and Olivia must find a way to stop the cosmic event from coming to fruition.

Mrs. Watts’ final independent book signing will be from noon to 2 p.m. on April 5 at the Hickman (Ky.) Chamber of Commerce. Supplies are limited, so those who have first edition copies are encouraged to bring them. She will also have two to three books on hand for purchase, one of which is a horror novella, “Willow’s Grace.”

Mrs. Watts was born and raised in Cayce, a small farming town in western Kentucky.

Author... With very little to do in a small town, she let her imagination set the better of her and always dreamed of being a published author. While not writing, she runs a small advertising/marketing company, Deep Blue Daisy, with her husband, John.

After many, many moves, she now resides once again in Cayce with her husband; three daughters; Ashley, Brigitte and Claire; and two cats.

More information can be found on Mrs. Watts’ website at www.mistywatts.com or follow her on Twitter @wattsbooks.
UTM names new coach

By Brandon Shields
bjshields@jacksonsun.com

MARTIN — Heath Schroyer’s 42nd birthday was Saturday.
At 11:37 p.m. on Tuesday, UT Martin athletic director Julio Freire offered him the position of head men’s basketball coach, which he accepted.

On Thursday afternoon, Schroyer’s week got even bigger as he was officially introduced as the Skyhawks’ head coach.

“I was raised on a dairy farm, and my fiancé grew up in a small town,” Schroyer told a crowd of Skyhawk supporters at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. “So this was a chance to get back to our roots, and this comes at a good time in our lives.”

Schroyer comes to UTM from UNLV, which Schroyer admitted has a stark contrast to the environment of Weakley County. He’s been an assistant at UNLV for the past three seasons after a couple of stints as head coach at Portland State from 2002-05 with a record of 35-47. PSU won its conference championship in his final season there before going to Fresno State as associate head coach.

Schroyer then went to Wyoming for four years and led the program to a record of 49-68.

“They’re very similar but also very different,” Schroyer said comparing the Skyhawks’ current situation to those he stepped into at his previous programs. “I like the rebuilding process, and there’s certainly some work to do here.”

Freire said he and the search committee liked what Schroyer brought to the table.

Continued from Page D1

UTM

“Utah had a list of six things we wanted in the new head coach,” Freire said. “He didn’t meet three, four or even five of them. He met all six.

“That’s why we wanted him to be the next head coach at UT Martin.”

The hire came 17 days after Freire announced the firing of former coach Jason James, and Freire said the swiftness of the hire was also because of the situation of the NCAA basketball coach job market.

“We interviewed four finalists for the job in the last few days, and I think two or three of them – if not all – will be hired as head coaches this spring,” Freire said. “And 10 jobs have come open since we made our decision to make a change. Heath would’ve been hired by somebody, and I wanted it to be us.”

Schroyer said he sees a lot of potential in the Skyhawks.

“After dinner last night, I walked around town and campus for a little while just looking around, and I saw greatness,” Schroyer said. “I saw a sleeping giant and a lot of untapped potential.

“I believe in the vision Julio and Chancellor [Tom] Rakes gave me for this program, and I want to do my best to see it fulfilled.”

Brandon Shields, 425-9751
UTM offers local fall, summer classes

The University of Tennessee at Martin has released its schedule for summer and fall classes offered at Henry County High School. Classes include public speaking, criminal procedure and criminal law.

Public speaking will be offered during both summer sessions with two classes being offered in the fall semester.

The first public speaking class is offered June 2-July 3 from 6-9:40 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Mary Jo Wallace will teach the class.

The second public speaking class is offered July 8-Aug. 8 from 6-9:40 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Terry Hailey will be the instructor. Hailey also will teach a fall session of public speaking from 6-8:45 p.m. Thursdays. Wallace will teach a second fall session of public speaking from 6-8:45 p.m. Tuesdays. Both fall classes will begin Aug. 25 and last through Dec. 5.

Jeremy Buckelew will teach criminal justice classes during both the summer and fall semesters.

Criminal procedure will be taught from 6-9:40 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from July 8-Aug. 8.

Criminal law will be taught from 6-8:45 p.m. Mondays from Aug. 25-Dec. 5.

Those interested in more information about the classes or to register should call UTM at 731-881-7080 or email ecos@utm.edu.

A few words with ...

UTM’s Heath Schroyer

By MIKE HUTCHENS
Press Sports

Before being officially introduced as the new University of Tennessee at Martin’s head men’s basketball coach, Heath Schroyer was already saying all the right things.

Here’s a sample:

On recruiting local talent:

Schroyer: “We want to take care of our own backyard, and there’s no doubt this region has proven to be loaded with Division I talent. You can start in the immediate area and drive 2½ to three hours; there are a lot of really good players in that radius.

Recruiting starts and ends with relationships, though. I plan to put together a staff that acknowledges and understands our brand and finds and fits our needs in the complete student/athlete.”

On what type of style he preferred and hoped to play with the Skyhawks:

Schroyer: “Everyone wants to run the floor and, hopefully, we can do that. The backbone of our program, though, will be to defend in the halfcourt, rebound and score in a halfcourt set. Those are the things that have proven over time to be the grass roots of the consistently successful programs.”

On the squad’s make-up as he builds:

Schroyer: “We’re going to look at everything. If we think there’s a transfer or junior college player out there who is the right fit — not only on the court, but off — we’ll certainly consider them. We obviously want to recruit the high school level for the best players.

And there are some good players already in the program that I believe can be the type of people we can build with. It’ll probably be a mixture of all of that.”

On living in rural West Tennessee away from the bright lights of Las Vegas:

Schroyer: “I can’t wait to get my son and my fiancé and move here. I grew up on a dairy farm, so the small town life is my roots. I’m really excited to make this area my home.”
Skyhawk boss uses UNLV connections to land men’s coach

By MIKE HUTCHENS
Press Sports

Julio Freire has reached into his past for someone to lead the UT Martin men’s basketball program into the future.

The Skyhawk Athletics Director — a former athletics administrator at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and on the job at UTM less than three months — has tabbed Runnin’ Rebel associate coach Heath Schroer as UT Martin’s new head coach.

Freire is to officially introduce Schroer at a 2 p.m. press conference today.

Schroer will replace Jason James, who was fired earlier this month after compiling a 37-117 record in five seasons at the Skyhawk men’s hoops helm.

Freire and the new UT Martin head coach forged a relationship when the former was a Senior Associate AD serving several roles at UNLV and Schroer an assistant coach to Dave Rice — a position he held for three seasons.

The Skyhawk AD said Schroer’s name came to him quickly when he began the search process to replace James.

“The fact that I knew Heath and the qualities he possessed made him an immediate top candidate, in my thinking,” Freire told The Press Wednesday night. “After I met with our returning players, people on the (search) committee and in the community and saw that their thoughts were similar to mine, the pieces of the puzzle came together quickly and we were able to get it done.

“I believe he best epitomizes the combination of impeccable integrity and the ability to develop our student/athletes academically, athletically and socially.”

Prior to his three-year stint on the UNLV bench, Schroer was the head coach for four years (2007-11) at Wyoming and also led the program at Portland State (2002-05). In between, he was an assistant at Fresno State from 2005 until 2007.

He went 49-68 at Wyoming — his best season 19-14 in 2008-09 — before being fired two years later. He resigned at Portland State to take a position at Fresno, his top season at PSU 19-9.

Schroer admitted his familiarity with Freire was a factor in his interest in the UTM job, but also said there were other issues that made the position attractive.

“The vision that Julio

(See Page 9, Col. 5)

Skyhawk ... (Continued From Page 8)

has for not only the men’s basketball program but also the athletic department as a whole at UT Martin is something I’m thoroughly impressed with,” the new Skyhawk coach said Wednesday. “I really enjoy building programs, but you can only be successful doing that with great supportive administration and the backing of a community that wants and commits to having one.

“I believe those things are in place here at the university and in the town and surrounding communities and towns.”

The new head coach will get ample time to build the sagging fortunes of a program that struggled under James, though the length of his contract has not been finalized, according to his boss.

Freire said he received more than 100 correspondences concerning the job in the less-than-three-weeks since it was posted and formal applications and/or resumes from in excess of 50 people — including associate coaches at several “big-name” schools.

He did say it was important that UT Martin move quickly to hire Schroer.

“Just yesterday, there were six jobs to open up,” Freire concluded. “Because the bigger schools usually get their chances at the best candidates first, it was important that we identify the best man for us and try to wrap him up as quickly as we could.

“We certainly didn’t want to get out-bid by another mid-major (program). And I believe we got our guy.”
ONE MORE RIDE

UT Martin top ladies going out in style

By KEVIN WEEKS
Press Sports

It's almost impossible to mention one without also naming the other.
Heather Butler. Jasmine Newsome.
Jasmine Newsome. Heather Butler.

They've been UT Martin's "dynamic duo" for the last four years. And, what a ride it's been.

"She's my partner in crime, my best friend on the court, my roommate," Newsome said of the Skyhawk women's basketball duo. "I wouldn't have all the success I've had here without her, and I'm thankful I've had the opportunity to play with her."

The successes — both individual and team — are almost too many to mention.

Newsome is a two-time OVC Player of the Year, while Butler took that honor this year. Newsome is the top defensive player in the league and the MVP of the conference tournament for the third straight year. Butler was named to the all-tournament team again.

Newsome is the College Sports Madness Mid-Major Player of the Year. Butler was just named one of the five finalists for the Nancy Lieberman Award.

Butler is the all-time leading scorer in UT Martin and Ohio Valley Conference history with 2,846 points. Newsome is second on both lists at 2,558 points.

"I don't think you've ever seen that from any two players in any conference — to come out one-two in scoring and playing at the same time," UTM head coach Kevin McMillan said. "It's just a phenomenal feat for those kids. What they've done for UT Martin women's basketball, we would have to write a book because of how far we've come in their four years here. They've re-written record books, they've put us on their backs to win OVC regular season championships and OVC tournament championships.

"But, the bottom line is they're great people. They have great families, and they're going to be great in life at whatever they choose to do. We feel very fortunate that we've been able to steal four years of those kids' lives and piggyback on it."

The Skyhaws will get to ride that twosome for a little longer as the team will begin play in its fourth consecutive NCAA Tournament on Sunday against North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Tip-off from iconic Carmichael Arena is 2 p.m.

"I'm very excited to go," Newsome said. "We get another chance to go compete. But, I'm ready for the chance to go and get a win. I don't want to just go this time."

Going in as No. 13 seed after two 15s and a 16 the previous three years is a just reward — and motivation to extend the season past one game.

"We are so excited," Butler said of the tourney berth. "Each year, it gets more exciting. This is the most I've been excited. Seeing what seed we are and who we're playing, I felt we deserved a better seed, and I feel we got that.

"People are starting to respect us more in seeing what we can do on the floor, and I'm really honored for that and blessed for the opportunity to have played for coach McMillan, all the coaches and with all the teammates these last four years in a program we've been able to get to the top. I feel we can go to North Carolina and show everybody what type team we have become."

That competitive spirit that tells Butler she can go down Tobacco Road and beat one of the elite programs in women's basketball is not new to her former AAU rival and current best friend.

"We knew each other before," Newsome said. "We played AAU against
TERRIFIC TWOSOME — UT Martin seniors Jasmine Newsome (left) and Heather Butler celebrate after finding out they would play North Carolina in the NCAA Tournament on Sunday. The pair, linked by amazing careers that saw them take the top two spots on the OVC all-time scoring list among their numerous accomplishments, will complete their storied college careers somewhere in the national tournament.

“We didn’t really communicate then because our team always wanted to beat her,” Butler added. “So coming into college, it was a little different. I got to know her, and it’s so weird because we’ve become the best of friends. I cannot be more blessed to have a best friend like her and to have played all four years with her and with (fellow senior) Megan (White). It’s a blessing.”

One more NCAA run — and possibly not just a one-and-done — is a fit-ting end to a pair of players who have been winning tournaments at every level since they began dribbling a basketball.

Newsome was a back-to-back district and region tournament champion with a Class AAA state tournament appearance at Millington. Butler, meanwhile, won district and regional titles on the way to consecutive Class AA state titles at Gibson County in 2008 and 09.

“You can’t go out any better than how these kids are going,” McMillan said. “One way or another, their final game will be in the NCAA Tournament, and not a lot of players can say that. You feel great that Newsome and Butler are going to get a chance to be showcased in the NCAA Tournament again.”

The wild ride continues.

UT Martin ...
(Continued from Page 8)

Butler joins final five for Lieberman award

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame has announced that UT Martin senior guard Heather Butler is one of five final candidates for the 2014 Nancy Lieberman Award.

The award recognizes the top point guard in women’s NCAA Division I college basketball. Candidates exhibit the floor leadership, play-making and ball-handling skills of Hall of Famer Nancy Lieberman.

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame became the new host of the Nancy Lieberman Award in October 2013 after the Rotary Club of Detroit managed it for several years.

Butler was named OVC Player of the Year while taking home All-OVC first team and OVC All-Tournament team selections, ranking ninth in the nation in scoring with a league leading 24.1 points per game.

She took home OVC Player of the Week honors five times after becoming the league’s all-time leading scorer with 2,846 career points. Her 2,846 career points rank 18th on the NCAA’s all-time scoring list.

Butler has scored in double figures every game of her career, ranging 128 consecutive games, ranking as the longest active streak in the NCAA. Her mark of 128 games in double figures ranks fifth in NCAA history.

This season, she eclipsed 20 points or more on 19 separate occasions, adding to her career total of 74 games. She tied the program record for points in a single game with 44 points on two occasions.

The Hall of Fame appointed a premier selection committee made up of top college basketball personnel including media members, head coaches, Hall of Famers and sports information directors to review the candidates. The original watch list of 29 candidates was narrowed to 22 in February.
Register now for the nutrition symposium at UT Martin

The Joe and Pat Johnson Nutrition Symposium will be held from 8:25 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. April 4 in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The title of the symposium is “New Perspectives on Old and Not So Old Situations,” and it will present up-to-date findings and information on various topics of interest to nutrition professionals, according to a news release. The one-day seminar is approved for 6.0 CPE hours for registered dietitians and dietetic technicians. The program is provided by the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at UT Martin and coordinated by Brian D. Carroll, director of the Dietetic Internship Program and lecturer.

The symposium will begin with registration and a continental breakfast from 8 to 8:30 a.m., followed by a welcome from Dr. Todd A. Winters, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at UT Martin.

The dietetic intern presentations will follow from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., including “The Fight Against Food Insecurity: The Effectiveness of Anti-hunger and Government Programs to Relieve the Problems of Food Insecurity Locally and Globally,” by Emily Turbeville, of UT Knoxville; “A Detailed Look Into Society’s Misconceptions of the Gluten-free Diet,” by Chelsea Guetherman, of UT Knoxville; and “Early Post Operative Feeding in Gastrointestinal Surgery Patients,” by Joe and Kristen Hanks, of UT Knoxville.

Attention nutrition professionals, according to a news release, the one-day symposium will last from 3:30 to 3:45 p.m.

The registration fee is $25 per person and includes material handouts, refreshment breaks and lunch. The registration deadline is Friday.

To register, call ECOS at (731) 881-7082, visit www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/hondegree_registration.php, or drop off registration from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 110 Gooch Hall in Martin.

To pay, make checks payable to UT Martin and mail them to 110 Gooch Hall, or use a debit or credit card by calling ECOS at (731) 881-7082.

Hannah Christiansen, of UT Chattanooga.

After a break from 9:30 to 10:05 a.m., the dietetic intern presentations will continue from 10:05 to 10:25 a.m., including “The Effect of Chemotherapy-Induced Dysgeusia on Nutritional Status in Cancer Patients,” by Kristen Hagan, of Appalachian State University; and “The Link Between Food Additives and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder,” by Denise Bell, of UT Martin.

Next, Dianne Polly, of Memphis, will present “Being Ethical in a Sometimes Unethical World” from 10:25 to 11:25 a.m. Lunch will be provided with pre-registration from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

After lunch, Anna McCullogh, director of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity at the St. Francis Center for Surgical Weight Loss in Memphis, will speak on “Nutrition for Bariatric Surgery” from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Russell McKeith, a lecturer in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at UT Martin, will present “Importance of Implementing Red Meat in the 21st Century Diet” from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Nancy Armstrong — of the Dyer County School System, Dyerburg Regional Hospital, Regional Home Care, and parent adviser with Tennessee Infant Parent Stimulation program — will speak on “Can Fish or Not to Fish? Is Not the Only Question” from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

- The evaluation and conclusion of the symposium will last from 3:30 to 3:45 p.m.

Continued from Page 88

in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at UT Martin, will present “Importance of Implementing Red Meat in the 21st Century Diet” from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Nancy Armstrong — of the Dyer County School System, Dyerburg Regional Hospital, Regional Home Care, and parent adviser with Tennessee Infant Parent Stimulation program — will speak on “Can Fish or Not to Fish? Is Not the Only Question?” from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

- The evaluation and conclusion of the symposium will last from 3:30 to 3:45 p.m.

The registration fee is $25 per person and includes material handouts, refreshment breaks and lunch. The registration deadline is Friday.

To register, call ECOS at (731) 881-7082, visit www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/hondegree_registration.php, or drop off registration from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 110 Gooch Hall in Martin.

To pay, make checks payable to UT Martin and mail them to 110 Gooch Hall, or use a debit or credit card by calling ECOS at (731) 881-7082.
Skyhawks' upset bid falls short

By Craig Thomas
ctomlas2@jacksonsun.com

There is painfully nothing left to do for UT Martin seniors Heather Butler, Jasmine Newsome and Megan White. They appeared poised to add the school's first ever NCAA tournament win to their legacy, but a difficult 10-minute stretch ended their college basketball careers Sunday afternoon in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Their teammates must take over from here, finding the proper way to respond.

"I hope this is going to sting for a while," UT Martin coach Kevin McMillan said.

There's no reason why it wouldn't.

Ahead 18 points about midway through the second half of Sunday's NCAA first round game against host North Carolina, the Skyhawks lost their lead seven minutes later and never got it back.

North Carolina's Diamond DeShields looks to make a pass under pressure from UT Martin players Heather Butler, left, Ashia Jones, and Elizabeth Masengil (4) during the first half of a first-round game in the NCAA women's college basketball tournament on Sunday in Chapel Hill, N.C.

"We were going to take a 3 to win it," McMillan said by phone Sunday night.

The Skyhawks closed their season at 24-8. UNC (25-9) advanced to play Michigan State in the second round.

"Your heart breaks for Jasmine and Butler and Megan White because they deserved a win in the NCAA tournament," McMillan said.

UTM led 35-22 at halftime. The scoreboard buzzer malfunctioned and the start of the second half was delayed a few minutes.

Freshman post Ashia Jones made a lay-up with 10:47 left that gave UTM its biggest lead, 50-32.

UTM, though, soon hit a scoring lull and North Carolina got its next seven points at the foul line. The taller Tar Heels used the offensive rebounds to cut further into the lead, and they jumped back ahead at 54-33 on Britany Roundtree's 3 with 3:31 left.

Before Tyson attempted the team's final shot, UTM called a time-out. At that moment North Carolina alerted fans of an emergency situation on campus, interrupting the timeout. [It was a campus lockdown, which was later lifted.] McMillan was unhappy with the announcement's timing.

He said the officials did not allow him to continue with his timeout, and thus he immediately called another one to discuss strategy. He said he wished he could have saved it for the final seconds to follow.

"Would that have made a difference in the game? I don't know. A lot of crazy things happened that you wish didn't happen. Let the game be the game," he said.

"It took crazy things for us to get beat in this game, and they all happened." Butler scored 19 points. Jones had 18 points and eight rebounds. Newsome and sophomore guard Katie Schubert, both of whom played 40 minutes as Butler did, each scored eight. Freshman guard Elizabeth Masengil scored five.

McMillan credited Masengil, who is taller than Butler and Newsome, for strong defense against 6-foot-1 North Carolina star guard Diamond DeShields.

The national freshman of the year, DeShields did not make a field goal until midway through the second half but finished with 15 points.

Now McMillan hopes Masengil, Jones and other returning Skyhawks take confidence from how they played and motivation from how they lost.

"I think the future of our program is going to be in the hands of those young kids," he said.

Craig Thomas, 425-9634
Wiggins named DCHS Teacher of the Year

LAWANDA NICHOLS
Special to the State Gazette

“One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for growing plant and for the soul of the child.”

~ Carl Jung

Each day, educators in the Dyer County School System strive to move students past seeking only the correct answers and on to the ‘why’ of learning. The Teacher of the Year awards not only allow us to recognize some of the best teachers in the state, but also provide an opportunity to share and learn from their inspired, effective methods of instruction.

In the 2013-2014 academic year, nine educators in the Dyer County School System earned Teacher of the Year status from their peers.

Robert Wiggins

Robert Wiggins of Troy is currently teaching math for the junior and senior classes at Dyer County High School. He has four years in education, all served in Tennessee public schools.

Wiggins earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2010. He graduated Cum Laude, majoring in accounting and minor ing in mathematics.

He began his career in education as a pre-calcul us/calculus teacher at Milan High School in 2010. He joined the DCHS faculty in 2011 teaching geometry, algebra and pre-calculus for grades nine through 12.

In Wiggins’ spare time, he tutors students in all areas of mathematics, offering additional help on the ACT after school and during learn block. He is also a sponsor of the academic-oriented extracurricular activities offered by DCHS. Wiggins has been a part of the Model United Nation and UTM Quiz Bowl. He believes these programs are instrumental in encouraging academic excellence and is proud to be a part of them.

Since the beginning of his career, Wiggins has constantly sought to enrich the academic opportunities of his students.

“Rob Wiggins is one of the most mathematically intellectual people that I have ever known,” said DCHS Principal Peggy Dodds. “We are so fortunate to have him teaching at DCHS.”

“Mr. Wiggins has become more than a teacher to me over the years,” said a DCHS student. “He has helped me get my math ACT score where it is and helped me make my math ACT score where it is and helped me make important college decisions."

The Milan Mirror-Exchange Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Gibson Co student receives scholarship to UTM

MARTIN, Tenn. – A Gibson County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2014-2015 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

Holly Terry, daughter of Bonita Terry, of Bradford, will be a freshman. She received the Leaders-in-Residence Award.
James Roy Pope announces candidacy for commissioner

James Roy Pope has announced his candidacy for County Commission District 3. Pope is a life-long Greenfield resident and is married to the former Petrina Coffman of Junction City, Ky. They have been married for 21 years and have two children: Joseph, 19, a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Sara Ann, 15, a freshman at Greenfield High School. Pope is a life-long member of Moore's Chapel Baptist Church in Greenfield. He graduated from Greenfield High School in 1983 and then attended the University of Tennessee at Martin while working part-time in the family business. Pope's Concessions and Rides is a carnival and concession business that is celebrating its 90th year.

James Roy Pope

“I went on to manage and then co-own this business with my parents, the late ‘Jimmy’ Pope and Jane Pope,” said James Roy Pope. “Although my business has afforded me the opportunity to travel extensively, I have always called Greenfield and Weakley County home. My passion in this community is with the future and the children. I fully believe if we do not take care of our county and our children now, they will not be here to take care of it later.”

Pope is currently serving in his first term as an alderman in Greenfield and holds the position of vice mayor. He is the current president of the Showmen's League of America St. Louis Chapter. He has served on the board of directors for the Tennessee Association of Fairs since the late 1980s. He has served on the board of director the Independent Showman's Association since 2008. He is a member of the Showman's League of America of Chicago and a member of the Great Tampa Showman’s Association, as well as a member of the Outdoor Amusement Business Association.

“I will be running for the office as a write in candidate on the Republican ballot in the May primary for County Commission District 3, which includes Greenfield and the surrounding area,” Pope said. “I am asking for your support and any influence you might have to help me and the future of Weakley County.”

ROBERTS SPEAKS —

Dr. Jason Roberts, associate professor of animal science at UT Martin recently spoke to the Martin Kiwanis Club about their vet tech program. To learn more about the Martin Kiwanis Club visit its email site at martinikiwanisclub.org or check its Facebook page.

‘Posters at the Capitol’ exhibit featuring student research now on display

Undergraduate student research achievements by University of Tennessee at Martin students are featured in a current Paul Meek Library exhibit. Poster displays include materials shown at the 2014 Posters at the Capitol event held at the Tennessee Legislative Plaza in Nashville. The annual event highlights the achievements of undergraduate student researchers throughout the state.

“UTM students are able to showcase their discoveries and achievements uncovered during unique undergraduate research projects,” said Dr. Rich Helgeson, dean of the UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences. “We are proud to share the results of student scientific inquiry with legislators and fellow Tennesseans.”

The exhibit, featured on the library's first floor, is open to the public through April during regular library operating hours. Additional information is available by calling 731-881-7075.

Projects featured in the exhibit include the following 10 posters, with UT Martin faculty mentors noted in parentheses:

- Evaluating Efficacy on Palmer Amaranth With Drift Reduction Nozzles – Shawn Butler, of Jackson,

See Posters, Page 10
Phi Kappa Phi initiation ceremony and banquet slated for April 8

The University of Tennessee at Martin Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi will initiate its newest members during a ceremony at 6 p.m. on April 8 in the Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

The ceremony will include junior and senior students, as well as graduate students and faculty members. The new 2014-15 chapter officers will also be recognized.

The ceremony will be followed by a banquet at 6:30 p.m. in the Duncan Ballroom, also in the Boling University Center. Tickets are $20 and are available at the University Center Information Desk on the second floor through April 4.

The 2014 speaker is UT Martin chancellor emeritus Nick Dunagan who was the eighth chancellor of UT Martin, presiding in office from 2001 to 2007.

Dunagan began his work at UT Martin in 1973 as director of development. His most recent job assignments included executive vice chancellor, vice chancellor for student affairs, and vice chancellor for development and administration.

He has also served as interim chancellor three times (1985-86, 1997-98, 2000-01), and he served as executive director of WestStar, the university's regional leadership program for West Tennessee. He is a member of the executive committee of Weakley County's Education Edge program and is a member of the Martin Economic Development Council.

A native of Caruthersville, Mo., Dunagan is a 1968 UT Martin graduate, a 1971 graduate of the University of Missouri School of Law, and received a doctorate in higher education administration in 1990 from Vanderbilt University.

He is a retired colonel in the Tennessee Army National Guard and is an active member in the Martin First United Methodist Church.

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi was founded more than 100 years ago and is America's oldest all-discipline college honor society. It awards more than $700,000 each year to outstanding members for further academic study.

Both events are open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Becky Cox, chapter public relations officer, by email at beckyc@utm.edu.

REED Center hosts ‘Small Business Basics Bootcamp’

The University of Tennessee at Martin REED (Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development) Center will be hosting a small business basics boot camp, presented by Tennessee Small Business Development Centers (TSBDC), from 6-8 p.m., Mondays, April 7-28, at the REED Center, 406 S. Lindell St., Martin, TN.

The event will be split into four sessions. The first session: What I Wish I Had Known, Best Practices, will be held April 7. The second session: Your New Best Friends, Attorney and Accountant, will be held April 14. The third session: How to Write a Business Plan, Financing, will be held April 21. The fourth session: Ideas to Market Your Business, Graduation, will be held April 28.

Pre-registration is required. The cost is $25, with all materials being provided. Participants attending all four sessions will receive a certificate of completion.

For more information or to register, call (731) 587-7333 or visit www.tsbdc.org/training.

West Tennessee Writing Project gets $20K SEED grant

The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) has been awarded $20,000 of federal funds over two years for a 2014-16 SEED (Supporting Effective Educator Development) Teacher Leadership Development Grant.

The purpose of the grant is to expand and develop teacher leadership to improve the teaching of writing and learning in the nation’s schools. The goal of this funding is to provide new learning opportunities for a minimum of 20 teacher-leaders in WTWP’s service area over the course of the two-year grant.

“I am so pleased that WTWP can continue its work of providing high-quality professional development for area teachers as a result of the SEED grant,” WTWP director and UT Martin associate professor of English David Carothers said.

Activities funded by the SEED grant include two summer institutes in June 2014 and 2015, two teacher conferences in fall 2014 and 2015 and two writing retreats for WTWP teacher consultants.

WTWP is currently accepting applications for the 2014 Summer Institute, which will be held at UT Martin. Applications can be downloaded from WTWP’s web site: http://www.utm.edu/departments/wtwp/index.php.

WTWP has been a site of the National Writing Project since 1993 and has offered over twenty invitational summer institutes for educators who want to become more effective teachers of writing across the disciplines.
Butler among five finalists

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today that University of Tennessee at Martin senior guard Heather Butler has been named one of five final candidates for the 2014 Nancy Lieberman Award. The award recognizes the top point guard in women's NCAA Division I college basketball. Candidates exhibit the floor leadership, play-making and ball-handling skills of Hall of Famer Nancy Lieberman.

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame became the new host of the Nancy Lieberman Award in October 2013 after the Rotary Club of Detroit managed it for several years.

"We are thrilled about this list of five deserving women and cannot wait to announce the winner at the Final Four," said John L. Doleva, president and CEO of the basketball hall of fame. "It was not an easy process narrowing down this list, but we are confident each of these players has earned her way to being recognized for their skills and dedication."

A 5-5 senior out of Medina, Butler was named OVC Player of the Year while taking home All-OVC first team and OVC All-Tournament team selections, ranking ninth in the nation in scoring with a league leading 24.1 points per game. She took home OVC Player of the Week honors five times after becoming the league's all-time leading scorer with 2,846 career points. Her 2,846 career points rank 18th on the NCAA's all-time scoring list.

Butler has scored in double figures every game of her career, ranging 128 consecutive games, ranking as the longest active streak in the NCAA. Her mark of 128 games in double figures ranks fifth in NCAA history. This season she eclipsed 20 points or more on 19 separate occasions, adding to her career total of 74 games. She tied the program record for points in a single game with 44 points on two occasions.

The hall of fame appointed a premier Selection Committee made up of top college basketball personnel including media members, head coaches, Hall of Famers and sports information directors to review the candidates. The original watch list of 29 candidates was narrowed down to 22 in February. The Lieberman Award winner will be announced during Final Four weekend activities.

"It is an honor to be partnering with the Hall of Fame for this prestigious award," Lieberman said. "Being a part of recognizing the top point guard in women's college basketball is an absolute honor. These women have truly remarkable abilities and I can't wait to announce a winner."

Previous winners of the Nancy Lieberman Award include last year's recipient Skylar Diggins (Notre Dame), Sue Bird (Connecticut), Renee Montgomery (Connecticut), Diana Taurasi (Connecticut), Lindsey Harding (Duke), Courtney Vandersloot (Gonzaga), Temeka Johnson (LSU), Kristi Toliver (Maryland), Ivory Latta (North Carolina) and Andrea Riley (Oklahoma State).
Lieberman Award Finalist

FROM THE CHARITY STRIPE - Medina's Heather Butler eyes the basket as she attempt a free throw. The UT Martin Lady Skyhawk is one of five finalists for the Nancy Lieberman Award that recognizes the top point guard in women's NCAA Division I basketball.
Skyhawks betting on former Vegas aide to turn around men’s hoops program

UTM Sports Information

The University of Tennessee at Martin introduced Heath Schroyer as its ninth men’s basketball coach in program history at a press conference held at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on Thursday afternoon.

“I have known Heath for several years,” UT Martin athletics director Julio Freire said. “I know he represents the qualities in a coach that our student-athletes, Chancellor, search committee and community are looking for. Today is a great day to be a Skyhawk!”

“We are excited and fortunate to secure Coach Schroyer to lead our men’s basketball team,” UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes said. “Coach Schroyer has demonstrated his expertise as a successful college coach for nearly two decades and we believe he will be a positive driving force for men’s basketball.”

Schroyer, 42, brings 18 years of collegiate coaching experience to the Skyhawk program, including seven years as a head coach at the Division-I level. All six of Schroyer’s stops at a Division-I institution has culminated in either a conference championship or postseason play.

“I am obviously very humbled and excited to be here,” Schroyer said. “I’ve been really impressed throughout the entire process with the upper administration and with Julio. I think we are on the cusp of accomplishing some great things. I’ve been doing this quite a long time but I’ve learned a lot and I’m ready to bring all of those experiences to UT Martin. I am anxious to get started and start trying to accomplish our goals.”

A native of Walkersville, Md., Schroyer has spent the last three seasons at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas working as the associate head coach under Dave Rice. The Runnin’ Rebels sported three 20-plus win seasons, a 71-32 overall record (29-19 against Mountain West Conference opposition) and appearances in the 2012 and 2013 NCAA Tournaments in Schroyer’s tenure.

Named by Bleacher Report as one of college basketball’s top 15 assistant coaches before the start of the 2012-13 season, Schroyer coordinated UNLV’s recruiting efforts since he joined the staff in 2011. The Runnin’ Rebels’ 2012 recruiting class was ranked No. 7 in the nation by ESPN and one year later, UNLV produced Anthony Bennett – the No. 1 overall selection by the Cleveland Cavaliers in the 2013 NBA Draft. Bennett joined Larry Johnson (Charlotte Hornets, 1991) as the only players in UNLV’s prestigious history be selected first in the NBA Draft.

Schroyer began his collegiate head coaching career at Portland State, where he took over the reins in 2002 as the nation’s second youngest Division-I head coach at age 30.

Schroyer propelled the Portland State program to new heights from 2002-05. His teams improved in the win column each season (jumping up 14 wins from his first to last year), culminating with a Big Sky Conference regular-season title in 2004-05, which was the school’s first-ever Division-I championship in any sport. That season, the Vikings went 19-9 overall with an 11-3 conference slate. The 19 victories were the most for the program since the 1958-59 campaign and occurred a year after he guided Portland State to a top-three turnaround in the nation during his second year.

Schroyer also was the head coach at the University of Wyoming from 2007-11. Schroyer’s best season at Wyoming was in 2008-09, when he led the Cowboys to 19 victories and an appearance in the College Basketball Invitational postseason tournament.

Schroyer started his collegiate playing career at Kings River Community College in Reedley, Calif., where he earned all-conference accolades and led the team to the California Junior College Final Four in 1992. He concluded his playing career at Armstrong Atlantic State in Savannah, Ga., where he led the team to the NCAA Division II Sweet 16 as a senior.

Schroyer prepped at the prestigious DeMatha High School program in Hyattsville, Md., where he played for the legendary coach Morgan Wootten, whose 1,274 wins as a head coach are the second-most in the history of basketball at any level. Earning his bachelor’s degree in liberal studies from Armstrong Atlantic State in 1995, Schroyer earned his Master’s degree in institutional leadership from National University in Fresno, Calif. in 1996.

Schroyer has one daughter, Sierra (17) and a son, Hayden (12) from a previous marriage and also has a fiancée, Kim Ortega.
Butler ties career NCAA 3-point mark

UTM ladies fit in among elite during defeat to North Carolina

UTM Sports Information
CHAPEL HILL, NC - The fourth time was nearly the charm for the University of Tennessee at Martin women's basketball team against nationally ranked No. 12/13 and No. 4 seed North Carolina on Saturday afternoon, but the Skyhawks final attempt fell just short as the game ended 60-58 in heart-breaking fashion.

The Skyhawks (24-8) led for the majority of the game, changing their game plan which ranked them third in the nation in scoring going into the contest to a patient half-court offense and defensive pressure. Holding the Tar Heels, a team which averaged 80.7 points per game going into the tournament, to just 60 points the Skyhawks liked their chances.

The Skyhawks shot 45.8 percent from the floor in the second half, but came up dry in the second half, shooting just 30 percent from the field. The lead changed hands four times while seeing five ties. The Tar Heels finished the game on a 28-8 run over the game's final 10 minutes of play.

The game included a pair of peculiar happenings—a halftime repair for sound system repairs included. Also, during a UTM 30-second timeout with under 20 ticks remaining, an announcement was made over the arena's public address system informing the coaches, players and fans that the facility was under lockdown due to a dangerous individual on campus.

Ultimately, the Skyhawk women had to burn their final full timeout, as well, in the aftermath of the rattling announcement. UT Martin was led by the play of senior Heather Butler who tallied a game-high 19 points on the night, including three three-pointers which tied the NCAA record for career three-point field goals made with 392 which ties Kansas State's

Continued on Page 7
New UT Martin men’s coach Heath Schroyer poses with his fiancee (left) Kim Ortega and son, Hayden. Schroyer was introduced as the new hoops boss at a recent press conference. UTM photo

UT Martin’s Heather Butler drives to the lane during NCAA Tournament play. UTM photo
The University of Tennessee at Martin Relay for Life student organization is hosting a Relay for Life Event from 6 p.m. to midnight, Friday, March 28, in the Elam Center.

"The event is open to all faculty, staff, students and the community, and I would like to ask everyone to come and support our students and their efforts to reach their goal of $40,000 for the American Cancer Society," said Dr. Desiree McCullough, faculty advisor for the student Relay for Life and a seven-year breast cancer survivor.

This past year, the UT Martin students raised more than $25,000 and achieved the distinction of being the top Collegiate Relay for Life event in West Tennessee.

The event is free, and all money raised will be added to the other Weakley County events for 2014.

Weakley County was recognized as sixth in the nation per capita in 2013.

"You can help in a number of ways," McCullough said. "Students are asking members of the UT Martin community who are cancer survivors to attend so they can be recognized during the survivors’ walk." Survivors are encouraged to sign up before the event at the link below or they may register at the event.

"Anyone can make a donation for the American Cancer Society to benefit this event," McCullough said. "Your donation can go to the entire event, a team, or to an individual person. No donation is too small."

You can honor a survivor or someone who has lost the battle by purchasing luminaries for $5 each. "Students are set up in the Boling University Center daily if you would like to donate or purchase a luminary," McCullough said. "If you would rather have someone come to you then please just contact me either by phone or email (731-881-7014 or dmcculll@utm.edu)."
“Too Many Sopranos” to be performed at UTM Theatre

So these four sopranos die and go to heaven... No, this isn’t the start of some bad joke. It is the plot of the 2014 University of Tennessee at Martin Lyric Opera Theatre production “Too Many Sopranos.”

This is the opera that pokes fun at opera and many of its stereotypes. When these four sopranos get to heaven, Saint Peter tells them that there is only room for one of them in the heavenly choir. This means that they must audition.

The only other option is to travel “down below” and retrieve some male singers who didn’t quite make it to heaven. If the women perform a selfless act, the men will be allowed into heaven and everyone will be allowed to sing in the choir.

Will the ladies do it? Will the men be allowed into heaven? Will Saint Peter go crazy dealing with these four divas? For these answers and more, you must come and find out. Sung in English, this hilarious opera promises to be a fun production, especially if it is your very first opera.

This one-of-a-kind opera is presented at 7:30 p.m. both nights, Friday and Saturday, March 28 and 29, in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre of the Fine Arts Building.

Admission is $5 for adults and children under 12 are admitted free. Tickets are sold at the door only; the ticket booth opens one hour before each performance.

For more information, please contact the UT Martin Department of Music at (731) 881-7402.

UTM instructor honored as best

The Southeastern Journalism Conference (SEJC) recently named Tomi Parrish, journalism instructor and coordinator of the Office of Student Media at the University of Tennessee at Martin, as Educator of the Year.

“I am pleased that Tomi has won this prestigious award,” said Dr. Robert Nanney, professor and chairman of the UT Martin communications department. “It’s well deserved and long overdue. I joined others in nominating her for this honor.”

The Pacer, UT Martin’s student newspaper, won two top 10 awards, while Bradley Stringfield of Oliver Springs won ninth place for Best Sports Writer in the annual competition and Mary Jean Hall of Covington won sixth place in Best News Graphic Designer.

The Pacer also finished sixth for Best College Website and sixth for Best Public Service Journalism for its Veterans Day/ROTC package.

The awards, chosen from 440 qualified entries from 35 universities, were announced at the SEJC’s annual convention, hosted by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette last month.

“It’s so gratifying to see our student media continue their winning ways at SEJC,” Nanney said. “This reflects the hard work and dedication of our WUTM and Pacer students, along with the vision and mentorship of their advisers, Dr. Richard Robinson and Tomi Parrish.”

WUTM was named the third best college radio station in the southeast and it had the third best college audio news program.

Aimee Bilger of Martin won third place as Best Radio News Feature Reporter, while Mary Lynn Williams of Franklin was named the Best Radio Journalist.

Overall, 169 students from 34 universities were ranked in the 30 “Best of the South” categories.

The SEJC consists of 51 member universities in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Tennessee.
Writing project receives $20,000 in funds

The West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP) has been awarded $20,000 of federal funds over two years for a 2014-16 SEED (Supporting Effective Educator Development) Teacher Leadership Development Grant.

The purpose of the grant is to expand and develop teacher leadership to improve the teaching of writing and learning in the nation’s schools.

The goal of this funding is to provide new learning opportunities for a minimum of 20 teacher-leaders in WTWP’s service area over the course of the two-year grant.

“I am so pleased that WTWP can continue its work of providing high quality professional development for area teachers as a result of the SEED grant,” WTWP director and University of Tennessee at Martin associate professor of English David Carithers said.

Activities funded by the SEED grant include two summer institutes in June 2014 and 2015, two teacher conferences in fall 2014 and 2015, and two writing retreats for WTWP teacher consultants.

WTWP is currently accepting applications for the 2014 Summer Institute, which will be held at UT Martin. Applications can be downloaded from WTWP’s website at www.utm.edu/departments/wtwp/index.php.

WTWP has been a site of the National Writing Project since 1993 and has offered over 20 invitational summer institutes for educators who want to become more effective teachers of writing across the disciplines.

---

An Obion County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2014-15 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Dana Barnett, daughter of Neven and Jan Barnett of Troy, will be a freshman. She received the Dean’s Scholarship.

---

Relay for Life event set for Friday night

The University of Tennessee at Martin Relay for Life student organization is hosting a Relay for Life Event from 6 p.m. to midnight Friday in the Elam Center.

“The event is open to all faculty, staff, students and the community, and I would like to ask everyone to come and support our students and their efforts to reach their goal of $40,000 for the American Cancer Society,” said Dr. Desiree McCullough, faculty advisor for the student Relay for Life and a seven-year breast cancer survivor.

This past year, the UT Martin students raised more than $25,000 and achieved the distinction of being the top collegiate Relay for Life event in West Tennessee.

Friday’s event is free and all money raised will be added to the other Weakley County events for 2014.

Students are asking members of the UTM community who are cancer survivors to attend so they may be recognized during the survivors’ walk. Anyone may make a donation to the American Cancer Society and luminaries may be purchased for $5 each.

For more information, contact Ms. McCullough at (731) 881-7014.
**UT Martin student Relay for Life event scheduled for Friday**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Relay for Life student organization is hosting a Relay for Life event from 6 p.m. to midnight Friday in the Elam Center.

"The event is open to all faculty, staff, students and the community, and I would like to ask everyone to come and support our students and their efforts to reach their goal of $40,000 for the American Cancer Society," said Dr. Desiree McCullough, faculty adviser for the student Relay for Life and a seven-year breast cancer survivor.

This past year, the UT Martin students raised more than $25,000 and achieved the distinction of being the top Collegiate Relay for Life event in West Tennessee, according to a news release.

The event is free, and all money raised will be added to the other Weakley County events for 2014.

"You can help in a number of ways," McCullough said. "Students are asking members of the UT Martin community who are cancer survivors to attend so they can be recognized during the survivors' walk."

Survivors are encouraged to sign up before the event online, or they may register at the event.

"Anyone can make a donation for the American Cancer Society to benefit this event," McCullough said. "Your donation can go to the entire event, a team, or to an individual person. No donation is too small."

People can honor a survivor or someone who has died of cancer by buying luminarias for $5 each.

"Students are set up in the Boling University Center daily if you would like to donate or purchase a luminaria," McCullough said. "If you would rather have someone come to you, please just contact me either by phone or email (731) 881-7014 or dmcculll@utm.edu."

To register, donate or join a team, visit http://bit.ly/1hSb7Of.

---

**Martin to present concert**

Chris Martin and Margaret Martin will be giving a concert Monday evening at 7:30 in the Blankenship Recital Hall in the University of Tennessee-Martin Fine Arts Building.

Since 2005, Martin has held the Adolph Herseth Principal Trumpet chair of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

He performs regularly as soloist with the Chicago Symphony and is a featured soloist with numerous orchestras.

Margaret Martin is university organist at North Park University in Chicago and organist at the Village Presbyterian Church in Northbrook, Ill. Previously, she was the Northwestern University Alice Millar Chapel organist.

Chris and Margaret often perform as a duo in both baroque and contemporary music.

The couple are the son-in-law and daughter of Gayle and the Rev. Randy Cooper, who is the pastor of First United Methodist Church in Martin.

The concert is free and open to the public, but the concert will also benefit the First United Methodist Church organ repair fund for any who wish to honor the Martins with a donation, a spokesman said.
SAR to meet in Union City

The Jackson Purchase Chapter of the Tennessee Society Sons of the American Revolution (TINSSAR) will be holding their Spring meeting 6:30 p.m. Friday at Ryan’s Steakhouse in Union City.

The speaker will be Dr. David Coffey, professor and chair of the Department of History and Philosophy at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He will be speaking on Gen. George Washington.

The SAR is a historical, educational and patriotic non-profit organization dedicated to respect for our national symbols, the value of American citizenship, and honoring those who served in the Revolutionary War.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 885-0863.

SPECIAL GUESTS — Collage Dance Collective will give a special guest performance April 11 during the UT Martin Dance Ensemble’s spring show.

UTM Dance Ensemble readies for spring show

The UT Martin Dance Ensemble has announced dates for its spring show, which will be April 10-11 at 8 nightly in the Harriet Fulton Theater in the UTM Fine Arts Building.

Collage Dance Collective will give a special guest performance during the April 11 show only.

The UTM Dance Ensemble has been working this semester to produce 12 dance works.

“The dancers have worked hard this semester in creating works that both entertain, as well as have meaning and purpose,” said Sarah McCormick, assistance professor of dance who serves as director of the dance ensemble.

All choreographers are students in the K-12 Dance Education Licensure Program, as part of the Department of Visual & Theatre Arts.

The choreographers are Carly Hill, Shannon Jester, Rachel Parsons, Marcye Dockery, Kendel Dixon, Michaela Elliott, Ciera Fielding, Erin Windham and Emily Summerville.

For her part, McCormick will showcase three new dance works.

UTM World Bazaar set for April 4

The UT Martin World Bazaar will be hosted by Soleil Garden Center on April 4 from 7-9 p.m.

Tickets are $10 at the door and everything is included.

Food and drinks will be provided and live music entertainment will add something special to the event.

The event serves as a yearly fundraiser for the percussion studio.

Door prizes and a silent auction component will be part of the event. The auction part is new this year and items are being collected from those who wish to make donations.

UT Martin Lyric Opera Theatre

The UT Martin Lyric Opera Theatre production “Too Many Sopranos” will be presented Friday and Saturday at 7:30 nightly.

This one-of-a-kind opera will be staged in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre of the Fine Arts Building.

This is the opera that pokes fun at opera and many of its stereotypes. When these four sopranos get to heaven, Saint Peter tells them that there is only room for one of them in the heavenly choir. This means that they must audition.

The only other option is to travel “down below” and retrieve some male singers who didn’t quite make it to heaven. If the women perform a selfless act, the men will be allowed into heaven and everyone will be allowed to sing in the choir.

Admission is $5 for adults and children under 12 are admitted free. Tickets are sold at the door only; the ticket booth opens one hour before each performance.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music.
City Clean-up Week begins on Monday

By SANDY KOCH
Special to The Press

There's an organized chaos to the piles of rubbish stacked in and around the recycling barn at the end of Moody Street, at the back of UT Martin's campus. All around the old Guard Armory building, now painted bright blue with flowers, stars and butterflies, there are bags and containers of the gathered waste of Martin and its surrounding towns.

But not just any waste. This garbage will be reused, or reduced or recycled once it is sent out on its way to companies with the know-how to turn garbage into something useful. Glass into counter tops. Plastic into an array of products made from the flash-cleaned sanitized chips.

What started out as a small operation in 1991 with only 50 tons recycled that year has turned into an enterprise that in 2013 recycled more than 648 tons. Not bad for a rural area spotted with small towns. According to UTM Recycles!, in 2012 recycled material equaled "enough paper to save 2,040 trees, 240 barrels of oil, and 7,200 pounds of pollution and enough in aluminum equivalent to power an average home for 20 years. The glass recycled saved 750 pounds of pollution." UTM Recycles! is a group of concerned faculty, staff, students and community members who educate schools and civic groups on recycling.

SEE RECYCLE, PAGE 2

FREE CONCERT — Margaret Martin (above) and Chris Martin (below) will perform a free concert Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Trumpet, organ concert scheduled for Monday

Chris Martin and Margaret Martin will be giving a concert Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Harriet Fulton Theater in the UTM Fine Arts Building.

Since 2005, Chris Martin has held the Adolph Herseth Principal Trumpet chair of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He performs regularly as soloist with the Chicago Symphony and is a featured soloist with numerous orchestras.

Margaret Martin is university organist at North Park University in Chicago and organist at the Village Presbyterian Church in Northbrook, Ill. Previously, she was the Northwestern University Alice Millar Chapel organist. Chris and Margaret often perform as a duo in both Baroque and contemporary music.

Chris and Margaret are the son-in-law and daughter of Randy and Gayle Cooper. Randy Cooper is the pastor of First United Methodist Church in Martin.

The concert is free and open to the public, yet the concert will also benefit the First United Methodist Church organ repair fund for any who wish to honor the Martins with a donation.
The network, along with the City of Martin, UTM, the UTM Recycle Center, Weakley County Litter Grant Program and Martin Beautiful are sponsoring the annual City Clean-Up Week, which starts Monday and runs through April 5. Teams from clubs on campus and community groups compete on that Saturday to see who can collect the most rubbish from the roadways of Martin and bring it back to the Center. Last year, the Greek Fraternity SAE brought in the most with 835 pounds of garbage.

On a recent Saturday, pickup trucks and cars pulled up in a steady stream to unload a few bags of newspapers, milk cartons, tin cans or whatever other waste citizens had learned could be recycled. For many this was the end of a week of gathering and sorting.

Two full time assistants, Tommy Wu and Kenny Rogers, along with a number of student workers met and greeted the cars as they pulled up and sorted the waste into bins. A Bobcat with metal prongs zoomed around the parking lot in front, scooping up cardboard, old computers or whatever else needed to find a home inside the proper bin inside the barn. Wu tossed computer terminals delivered from a church e-waste event into a bin. These will go to Creative Recycling in Nashville, says Recycling Center manager, Mike Davis Jr. His father Mike Davis Sr. was one of the early founders of the center. The company will extract precious metals among other materials from the old computers.

“The community has come around full circle on this,” says Davis, who brags that often 100 cars will pull up at the center.

“We are better at what we are doing,” says Dennis Kosta, one of the early organizers of the facility and UTM’s custodial manager. “People are more aware.”

Davis says that they use to get a lot of garbage that they cannot recycle now, like Styrofoam, but people seem to be more informed now and even sort their plastic, newspapers, bottles and cans into separate bags. This makes sorting easier at the barn, although Davis says they will accept materials all mixed together if that is easier.

Some regulars still bring in the “wrong” plastic, number 3, 4 and 5s, like yogurt cups, because the center used to have a home for them. Today they only have markets for number one and twos, like milk jugs and soda bottles and caps.

The team is really thankful when the jugs, cans and bottles are rinsed out thoroughly before drop-off. “All you have to do is get a few dirty dog food cans in here in the middle of the summer, and it gets pretty rank,” says Davis.

The center must find a recycling home for the goods it collects. One company Yorkville Recycling, collects cardboard that has been baled along with No. 1 and 2 plastics and some plastic bags which it recycles. Cardboard is the biggest money earner out of all of the products the Center collects but because there is not enough covered area for storage, sometimes rain will soak the cardboard before it can be collected, reducing its value.

Because the center cannot find a ready market for wood, tires and TVs, they cannot accept them there. For Styrofoam to be economical, they would have to buy a $20,000 machine to cube it and load it in a box. So they avoid it now. But they can take motor oil and batteries.

The recent increase in tonnage can in part be attributed to the trailers that are collected each week from neighboring towns like Greenfield, Sharon and Dresden. Schools also have trailers which they fill up weekly. Patrons from some stores, like 3J’s make daily runs to the center, with truck beds filled with cardboard.

The UTM Recycle Center is open Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It accepts motor oil, paper, cardboard, glass, aluminum and metal cans, other metals, plastic bottles and old computers and ink cartridges. No TVs.

Those who wish to help on the special work day on April 5, are to meet at the Center at 9 a.m. They will be furnished with special vests, bags and gloves courtesy of the Weakly County Litter Grant program. For further information e-mail recycle@utm.edu or call 881-7370.
TORN TO SHREDS — One of the features of the center is a giant paper shredder. The public can bring by papers they would like to have shredded but must stay and “babysit” the process. Lurking in the background is a 300 gallon tank that stores old motor oil that will also be recycled.

BEAUTIFUL BABIES — UTM Rodeo Booster Club and Tennessee National Guard recently held its 9th annual UTM Rodeo queen pageant at Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UTM. Winners in the birth-12 months division were (from left) prettiest eyes, Farrah Espinosa, daughter of Daniel and Brittany Espinos of Paris; prettiest hair, Bentlee Richards, daughter of Stacie Sweatt and Tyler Richards of Union City; and best model, Madelyn Michelle Dean, daughter of Matt and Mary Dean of Martin.
MISS UTM RODEO — UTM Rodeo Booster Club and Tennessee National Guard recently held its 9th annual UTM Rodeo queen pageant at Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UTM. Placing in the Miss UTM Rodeo court were (from left) first maid and prettiest hair, Kennedy Basham, daughter of Meg Shelley and Ken Basham of Martin; queen, prettiest smile and best model, Tanna Norman, daughter of Monte and Tanya Norman of Williamsport; and second maid and prettiest eyes, Hannah Stepp, daughter of Randle and Teletia Stepp of Pontotoc, Miss. Duties for Miss UTM Rodeo queen Tanna Norman will include residing over rodeo week activities during the UTM Annual College Spring Rodeo.

JUNIOR MISS UTM RODEO — UTM Rodeo Booster Club and Tennessee National Guard recently held its 9th annual UTM Rodeo queen pageant at Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UTM. Chosen for the Junior Miss UTM Rodeo court were (from left) queen, Bailey Gordon, daughter of Chris and Tammy Gordon of Greenfield; second maid, Kaylee Tims, daughter of Bobby and Amy Tims of Martin; first maid and best model, Hallie Gray, daughter of Lance and Stephanie Gray of Martin; prettiest hair Lauren Beverly, daughter of Sam and Lisa Beverly of Martin; prettiest smile, Carson Alexander, daughter of Crystal and Kyle Alexander of Martin; and prettiest eyes, Riley Jo Campbell, daughter of Cory and Sara Sims.
BEAUTIES WIN — UTM Rodeo Booster Club and Tennessee National Guard recently held its 9th annual UTM Rodeo queen pageant at Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UTM. Winners in the 4-6 year-old division were (from left) Queen, Josie Allen, daughter of Brian and Brook Allen of Martin; first maid, Aubrey Chambers, daughter of Tiffany and Brian Rhodes of Puryear; best model, Ava Bennett, daughter of Paige and Ron Bennett; prettiest hair, Allie Vincent, daughter of Josh and Jeni Beth Vincent of Martin; prettiest smile, Annie Miller, daughter of Jessie Miller of Union City; and second maid and prettiest eyes, Katie Jane Crook, daughter of Cleve and Holly Crook of Friendship.

TINY TOTS — UTM Rodeo Booster Club and Tennessee National Guard recently held its 9th annual UTM Rodeo pageant at Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UTM. Winners in the 1-3 year-old division were (from left) Queen, Farrah Jolie McDurmon, daughter of Patrick and Shawna McDurmon of Paris; second maid, Ella Porter, daughter of Brock and Lanae Porter of Greenfield; first maid and best model, Anna Marie Elliott, daughter of John and Kristian Elliott of Springville; prettiest smile, Adalyn Newton, daughter of Keith and Brittany Newton of Dresden; prettiest hair, Ella Jean Hayes, daughter of Scottie and Michelle Hayes of Union City; and prettiest eyes, Skylar Weddle, daughter of Andrea Weddle.
TEEN MISS UTM RODEO — UTM Rodeo Booster Club and Tennessee National Guard recently held its 9th annual UTM Rodeo queen pageant at Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UTM. Winners of the Teen Miss UTM Rodeo were (from left) second maid and prettiest hair, Hope Gray, daughter of Lance and Stephanie Gray of Martin; first maid and best model, Beth Ann Crowe, daughter of Phil and Lea Ann Crowe of Martin; queen, Faith Davis, daughter of Jamie Davis and Holly Hazlewood of Martin; prettiest smile, Ali Beverly, daughter of Sam and Lisa Beverly of Martin; and prettiest eyes, Jayne Shaye Bailey, daughter of Randy and Kelli Bailey of Gleason.

BEAUTIFUL WINNERS — UTM Rodeo Booster Club and Tennessee National Guard recently held its 9th annual UTM Rodeo queen pageant at Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UTM. Winners in the 7-9 year-old division were (from left) queen, Kylee Alexander, daughter of Kyle and Crystal Alexander of Martin; second maid, Kaci Finney, daughter of Russ and Tina Finney of Dresden; first maid and best model, Kaylee Butler, daughter of Craig and Lori Butler of Atwood; prettiest hair, Tristen Damron, daughter of Clint and Tori Damron of Martin; prettiest smile, Brooklyn Polinski, daughter of Jessica Estes and Tommy Polinski of Atwood; and prettiest eyes, Emery Warren, daughter of Dustin and Jessie Warren of Paris.
UTM ‘dynamic duo’ taking one last NCAA ride

By KEVIN WEEKS
Messenger Sports

It’s almost impossible to mention one without also mentioning the other.

Heather Butler. Jasmine Newsome.

Jasmine Newsome. Heather Butler.

They’ve been UT Martin’s “dynamic duo” for the last four years. And, what a ride it’s been.

“She’s my partner in crime, my best friend on the court, my roommate,” Newsome said of the Skyhawk women’s basketball duo. “I wouldn’t have

Player of the Year, Butler was just named one of the

Heather Butler. Jasmine Newsome.

Jasmine Newsome. Heather Butler.

NCAA Tournament Finalists for the Nancy Lieberman Award.

Butler is the all-time leading scorer in UT Martin and Ohio Valley Conference history with 2,846 points. Newsome is second on both lists at 2,558 points.

I don’t think you’ve ever seen that from any two players in any conference — to come out one-two in scoring and playing at the same time,” UT Martin women’s basketball head coach Kevin McMillan said.

It’s just a phenomenal feat for those kids. What they’ve done for UT Martin women’s basketball, we would have to write a book because of how far we’ve come in four years here. They’ve re-written record books, they’ve put us on their backs to win OVC regular season championships and OVC tournament championships.

“Winning is the bottom line. They’re great people. They have great families, and they’re going to be great in life at whatever they choose to do. We feel very fortunate that we’ve been able to

(See Page 7, Col. 1)
Author's new book set on UTM campus, surrounding area

Misty Cruce Watts of Cayce, Ky., recently signed a publishing deal with Ink Smith Publishing of Monrovia, Calif.

Mrs. Watts, a former resident of Union City and graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, began working in the journalism field after receiving a bachelor of arts degree from UT Martin. She began writing for fun in 2009 and hasn’t stopped yet.

Her books are typically paranormal and she has independently published five to date. Her latest release, "Earthborn," is the book that caught the attention of the publishers at Ink Smith Publishing. "Earthborn" is set mostly on the UT Martin campus and surrounding area.

"Earthborn" is a faith-fiction thriller. Declan, Max and Olivia were old college buddies that endlessly debated the existence of giants, or Nephilim, in biblical times. When they are reunited for a mass murder investigation, they find these slayings were not committed by men. The "fallen ones" had come to claim the women who were worthy to bear their children, and once again, their offspring would bring terror to the Earth.

Two secret societies have fought against each other for years. The Sodalitat had worked endlessly to prevent such a shattering event from taking place. The Camorra did everything in their power to bring upon the resurrection of the Nephilim, going as far as attempting to recreate the creatures in a lab using viable DNA from excavated bones.

A young student, Clementine, gets caught in the crossfire between her favorite professor, Olivia, and her best friend, Mae, when she is chosen. Women who are found unworthy are slaughtered. The government finds a gene marker that allows them to indicate if a citizen is a descendant of the Nephilim, and calls forth those with distinct characteristics to be tested.

Pandemonium breaks loose across the world as citizens react to the news. Declan, Max and Olivia must find a way to stop the cosmic event from coming to fruition.

Mrs. Watts' final independent book signing will be from noon to 2 p.m. on April 5 at the Hickman (Ky.) Chamber of Commerce. Supplies are limited, so those who have first edition copies are encouraged to bring them. She will also have two to three books on hand for purchase, one of which is a horror novella, "Willow’s Grace."

Mrs. Watts was born and raised in Cayce, a small farming town in western Kentucky.

With very little to do in a small town, she let her imagination get the better of her and always dreamed of being a published author. While not writing, she runs a small advertising/marketing company, Deep Blue Daisy, with her husband, John.

After many, many moves, she now resides once again in Cayce with her husband, three daughters, Ashley, Briette and Claire, and two cats.

More information can be found on Mrs. Watts' website at www.mistywatts.com or follow her on Twitter @wattsbooks.
UTM student Relay for Life event is Friday

The event is free, and all money raised will be added to the other Weakley County events for 2014.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Relay for Life student organization is hosting a Relay for Life Event from 6 p.m. to midnight Friday in the Elam Center.

"The event is open to all faculty, staff, students and the community, and I would like to ask everyone to come and support our students and their efforts to reach their goal of $40,000 for the American Cancer Society," said Dr. Desireé McCullough, faculty advisor for the student Relay for Life and a seven-year breast cancer survivor.

This past year, the UT Martin students raised more than $25,000 and achieved the distinction of being the top Collegiate Relay for Life event in West Tennessee.

The event is free, and all money raised will be added to the other Weakley County events for 2014.

Weakley County was recognized as sixth in the nation per capita in 2013.

"You can help in a number of ways," McCullough said. "Students are asking members of the UT Martin community who are cancer survivors to attend so they can be recognized during the survivors' walk." Survivors are encouraged to sign up before the event at the link below or they may register at the event.

"Anyone can make a donation for the American Cancer Society to benefit this event," McCullough said. "Your donation can go to the entire event, a team, or to an individual person. No donation is too small."

You can honor a survivor or someone who has lost the battle by purchasing luminaries for $5 each. "Students are set up in the Boling University Center daily if you would like to donate or purchase a luminary," McCullough said. "If you would rather have someone come to you then please just contact me either by phone or email (731-881-7014 or dmcull1@utm.edu)."

UT MARTIN AND UNITED WAY – UT Martin chancellor Tom Rakes (left) presents Charley Deal, the chairman of Weakley County’s United Way drive, with a check for $10,378.42. The donation represents gifts and pledges from university employees for the 2014 United Way Campaign. UT Martin has increased its giving percentage by more than 109 percent over the past three years. Weakley County’s United Way has set the goal for this year’s campaign at $150,000 to help fund local service agencies and United Way partners. Money raised locally stays locally and is allocated by the local community impact team. For information about making a gift to Weakley County’s United Way campaign, contact Deal at (731) 881-7610.
Chandler declares candidacy for County Commission

Carmen Chandler has announced her Republican candidacy for District 4 county commissioner.

"I have been a resident of Weakley County from a very young age, and having grown up here I realize the greatness of this community," she said.

Chandler is the mother of two and the wife of Scott Chandler, who is also a life-long resident of this county. Carmen Chandler is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin and is actively involved in the community and her church.

"As county commissioner, I hope to maintain and promote our small communities," she said. "We must strive to support and create an atmosphere where our local residents and businesses can thrive. Local support of our communities has declined as our dependence on the federal government has increased. Each community in the nation is unique and requires different considerations, and because of this each must maintain its identity in order to survive."

Weakley County is exceptional for many reasons: the citizens who reside here, its schools, entrepreneurs and independent spirit.

See Chandler, Page 2

CHANDLER
FROM PAGE 1

"These are attributes we must maintain and foster," she said. "We must take careful consideration as stewards of these facets of our local community."

Chandler is a constitutional conservative who believes in fiscal responsibility and an adherence to the founding principles.

"I promise to be a vigilant overseer of the county’s budget; maintaining our fiscal integrity; our schools; ensuring a quality local education system; our businesses’ atmosphere; fostering an environment conducive to growth," she said. "As a resident of this county, I understand the issues we face and the difficulties we all deal with here in our community. I hope to ensure a place for my children to not only grow up safely in, but also a place where they, too, can build a life and not have to leave to find work and support their own families. I understand our nation is facing difficult times, but I am encouraged when I look around Weakley County. Together, I know we can solve these problems."
ROTC participates in regional training with other schools

By Logan Shrum
Beat Reporter

Published: Thursday, March 27, 2014
Updated: Friday, March 28, 2014 00:03

The cadets of Tech's ROTC Golden Eagle Battalion recently participated in the annual spring Joint Forces Training Exercise (JFTX) alongside cadets from MTSU, UT-Martin and Vanderbilt University at Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville, Kentucky.

After arriving in Greenville on Thursday, March 20, Tech cadets conducted a daylight land navigation course in conjunction with cadets from other participating schools. This course included rocky, muddy, uneven terrain as well as thick brush and tree coverage. Cadets were tasked with finding points located on the training course using nothing more than a compass, protractor and map.

"The terrain was terrible," said Emanuel Martinez, a junior Tech ROTC cadet. "If I wasn't stepping into a hole, I was tripping into a briar patch, but the training gained from having to navigate through and around the obstacles was well worth it."

After the day land navigation training, cadets took part in a night land navigation course which, much like the day training, required cadets to find points spread out across the terrain of Wendell Ford using all of the previously mentioned gear with the addition of a red lens flashlight.

"It was pretty tough stumbling around in the middle of the woods at night alone, but it definitely gave me a lot more confidence in my own ability to navigate effectively," said Josh Sholly, a junior Tech ROTC cadet. "It really makes you become more comfortable with trusting your land navigation skills, seeing as how when you're out in the middle of nowhere, that's all you really have."

The following day, Squad Tactical Exercise lanes (STX) began.

These training lanes placed an MSIII Cadet, or junior-level cadet, in a leadership position in charge of a squad of roughly 10 fellow cadets. The squad must then complete a mission given by the instructors appointed over them.
These missions ranged from ambushes and reconnaissance to attacks and movements to contact. These missions tested the cadets' ability to lead, follow and think on their feet, as well as their individual knowledge of military tactics.

Samuel Dixon, a contracted Tech cadet, said the STX lanes were his favorite part of the training.

"I really liked the outstanding realism of the lanes due to the variables such as the seniors playing the part of the enemy, as well as the way the missions would change on the fly," Dixon said.

On Saturday, all participating cadets took part in patrolling lanes. These training exercises, much like the STX lanes, placed cadets in charge of an element needed to accomplish a mission, but, instead of a small squad, this time a full sized platoon consisting of three squads was brought into the picture.

"The platoon lanes were definitely my favorite events of the whole FTX," said Mitchell Powell, an MSIII Tech cadet. "It was awesome seeing how the cadets from the different schools interacted and worked together to accomplish a goal."

On the final day of the JFTX, all schools, with the exception of UT-Martin, participated in a confidence building obstacle course.

The course consisted of multiple obstacles, including a rope climb, low crawl pit, and an inverted wall climb.

The rope climb called for cadets to climb a 15-foot rope only to dismount at the top, step across evenly space beams, climb an additional 15-foot and then climb down to the ground via a rope cargo net.

The low crawl pit required cadets to crawl on their stomachs with their faces in the Kentucky dirt underneath hanging ropes meant to represent barbed wire. Prior to, and upon completion, cadets were then asked to perform 15 pushups. This tested the individual physical conditioning of each cadet.

The inverted wall, which was a wall tilted slightly towards the cadets, called for each individual to jump, grab the top of the wall, swing his or her body over to the other side and dismount safely.

After completing the obstacle course, the JFTX came to an end as Tech, MTSU and Vanderbilt cadets said their farewells and parted ways.

"The training was great overall, but I definitely made some good friends, too," said Kaitlin McDonald, a sophomore cadet. "It's funny how close you get with the people you train with in such a short time."

"I can't wait for next year," said Dixon. "You can never have too much training."
Register today for nonprofit conference

The West Tennessee Non-Profit Conference, scheduled for Wednesday at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital's J. Walter Barnes Auditorium, will work to promote the development and success of all nonprofit organizations in fundraising, legality issues and start-ups throughout the West Tennessee region.

The conference is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program.

Interested persons may register for the conference online at www.utm.edu/departments/weststar. The conference fee is $60 per person. Checks are payable to WestStar UT Martin, 321 Administration Bldg., Martin, TN 38238. Credit cards are accepted online. The deadline to register is today.

Gina Myracle, administrative director of Kirkland Cancer Center, along with Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, and Charley Deal, assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations and executive director of WestStar, will welcome guests at 8:30 a.m., and keynote speaker, Jeremy Park, president of Lipscomb Pitts Breakfast Club (LPBC) will speak at 8:45 a.m.

The first set of concurrent sessions will follow at 9:30 a.m., and participants may choose to hear from Chris Ramey, director of Advancement, Jackson Christian School, on the fundamentals of fundraising; Russ Quinn, Bellevue Baptist, on social media: important points for the nonprofit; and Robert Smith, founder of WestStar Leadership, on board relations/governance: how to work with them and not for them.

Following a break at 10:15 a.m., the second set of concurrent sessions will begin at 10:30 a.m. and attendees may hear from Jeremy Park, president of the Lipscomb Pitts Breakfast Club, on marketing and communications, and Lindiwe Lester, resource director for the southeast region of YMCA-USA, on the importance of partnership.

At 11:15 a.m., a panel will meet to discuss the best practices for nonprofits. The panel will include: Dave Bratcher, panel moderator and West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation; Pam Nash, president and CEO of Exchange Club-Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse; Jake Bynum, volunteer for the Weakley County Backpack Program; Harold Nance, executive director of the Jonah Affordable Housing Organization in Jackson; and Katie Chandler, board member of the Jackson Arts Council.

After lunch at noon, Lester will give the luncheon keynote address at 12:45. Following a door prize giveaway at 1:15, wrap-up and adjournment will be at 1:30 p.m.

'Too Many Sopranos' today, Saturday at UTM

So these four sopranos die and go to heaven... No, this isn't the start of some bad joke. It is the plot of the 2014 University of Tennessee at Martin Lyric Opera Theatre production "Too Many Sopranos," according to a news release.

This is the opera that pokes fun at opera and many of its stereotypes. When these four sopranos get to heaven, Saint Peter tells them that there is only room for one of them in the heavenly choir. This means that they must audition.

The only other option is to travel "down below" and retrieve some male singers who didn't quite make it to heaven. If the
UT Martin names White County student to Phi Eta Sigma

Ashtyn Farris, of Sparta, has been recognized for her outstanding academic achievements.

These achievements in undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin are honored with induction into Phi Eta Sigma for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Phi Eta Sigma is a national honor society that recognizes high academic achievement in the freshman year. Students who achieve a 3.5 average at the end of their first year of study are eligible for membership.

Around Town

Laura Beth Whiteside has been awarded a scholarship for the 2014-2015 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

The daughter of Paul and Hillary Whiteside of Hampshire, Laura Beth will be a freshman. She received the Leaders-in-Residence Award.

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.
UTM ROTC, SHAPE Club to host 5K

The University of Tennessee at Martin ROTC and SHAPE Club will be hosting a 5K Color Dash and Fun Run at 9 a.m. April 5 at Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The event will benefit the Wounded Warrior Project and the Community Basketball Project. Awards will be given overall and by age divisions. Door prizes also will be given away.

Pre-registration ends today, with the cost being $15. The cost to register the day of the race will be $20, with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. that day. Participants attending all four sessions will receive a certificate of completion.

To preregister online, visit https://www.raceit.com/Register/?event=25949.

Organist, trumpet player to give concert

Chris Martin, the principal trumpet of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Margaret Martin, the organist for North Park University, will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Harriet Fulton Theater in the Fine Arts Building on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Chris Martin holds the Adolph Herseth principal trumpet chair of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, according to a news release. Before his appointment in 2005, Martin was principal trumpet of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and associate principal of The Philadelphia Orchestra.

He is currently on the faculty of Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

Chris and his wife Margaret, a Martin native who is an organist and pianist, often perform as a duo in both Baroque and contemporary repertoire.

Margaret was appointed university organist at North Park University in the fall of 2012. She also holds the position of organist at The Village Presbyterian Church in Northbrook, Ill.
UTM student to serve on national board of fraternity

Dakota Brasher has never been on an airplane, but that hasn’t stopped him from traveling all over the United States.

This week, Brasher, who calls Reagan home, will get on his first airplane in Memphis and fly to Des Moines, Iowa, for the Alpha Gamma Rho National Board meeting, according to a news release from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

“This is my first plane ride,” Brasher said. “I have been all over the country, but never on a plane.”

Brasher, who graduated from Scotts Hill High School, also is the first brother from the Alpha Upsilon chapter at UT Martin to serve a one-year term as an undergraduate director for the national fraternity. He serves the local chapter as the noble ruler (president).

The animal science major raises cattle with his grandfather when he’s not in school at UT Martin. Brasher has traveled the country raising Hereford cattle.

He is president of the Tennessee Junior Hereford Association.

“I am pretty excited about this first meeting,” Brasher said.

Brasher must be in Des Moines before 2:30 p.m. Thursday.