Local Students Receive Awards at UT-Martin

MARTIN, Tenn., June 18 - Five local students received awards at U.T. Martin Honors Day. Jesse L. Robinson, of McKenzie, recently received the Outstanding Criminal Justice Student Award from the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences during the annual Honors Day celebration at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Courtney J. Caton, of Huntingdon, recently received the Cunningham Outstanding Freshman Award during the annual Honors Day celebration at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Beth A. Crocker, of McKenzie, recently received the George and Ruth Horton Curricula Award for Humanities during the annual Honors Day celebration at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Kelsey J. McAlexander, of Atwood, recently received the Sigma Theta Tau Award during the annual Honors Day celebration at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Patty Cupples, of Huntingdon, recently received the Muriel Tomlinson Award during the annual Honors Day celebration at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Outstanding student awards were given from each of UT Martin's five colleges, as well as many departmental and university-wide scholarships.
SOAR Scheduled at UT-Martin

Posted on July 2, 2014 by Charles Choate in Local News - No Comments

The final summer orientation and registration for incoming UT-Martin freshmen has been set for Friday, July 18th.

Registration will begin at 8:30 in the Boling University Center, followed by a welcoming and informational session at 9:00.

Students must have applied for admission and received a tentative, or final acceptance letter to attend the SOAR sessions.

During the event, students register for classes, tour the campus and University Village, and have the opportunity to discuss housing and financial aid.

Informational sessions will also take place for students and parents covering health services, public safety, employment and other campus topics.

The fall semester at UT-Martin is scheduled to start on August 25th.

Chi Omega House at UTM to be named for Pat Summitt

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved the naming of one of four new sorority structures at UT Martin recently at its meeting in Knoxville.

The full board unanimously approved the name of the Pat Head Summitt Chi Omega House at UT Martin when it met in Hollingsworth Auditorium on the Institute of Agriculture campus.

UT Martin proposed the Chi Omega Sorority structure be named the Pat Head Summitt Chi Omega House in honor of Pat Head Summitt, benefactor and an athletic, academic and volunteer leader of the university.

Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Omicron Pi and Zeta Tau Alpha, all established on the UT Martin campus in the early 1960s, will build new two-story structures on the southern edge of campus near University Courts.

Summitt was born Patricia Sue Head in Clarksville. She attended UT Martin, where she was a member of Chi Omega and earned All-American honors playing for the women's basketball team. Just before the 1974-75 season, with women's college basketball still in its infancy and not yet an NCAA-sanctioned sport, the 22-year-old Summitt became a graduate assistant at the University of Tennessee and was named head coach of the Lady Vols after the previous coach resigned suddenly.

Summitt co-captained the first United States women's national basketball team as a player in the inaugural women's tournament at the 1976 Summer Olympics, winning the silver medal. Eight years later, in 1984, she coached the U.S. women's team to an Olympic gold medal, becoming the first U.S. Olympian to win a basketball medal and coach a medal-winning team.

Summitt holds the record for most all-time wins for a coach in NCAA basketball history of either a men's or women's team in any division. She coached from 1974 to 2012, all with the Lady Vols, winning eight NCAA national championships.

The date of an official naming ceremony will be determined upon completion of the new house.
Final summer orientation set at UTM

The final Summer Orientation and Registration program for incoming University of Tennessee at Martin freshmen is set for July 18.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center, followed by a welcome at 8:30 and informational sessions at 9.

Students must have applied for admission and received a tentative or final acceptance letter to attend SOAR. Advance SOAR registration is required.

During SOAR, students meet with academic advisors and register for classes; tour the campus, residence halls and University Village; receive information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and hear detailed information about First-Year Initiative, an orientation for freshmen the week before classes. Students should attend both SOAR and First-Year Initiative before fall semester, which begins Aug. 25.

Informational sessions for students and parents cover student health services, public safety, the bookstore, student employment and other topics. Additional concurrent sessions cover student activities, Greek life, housing and meal plans. Administrative offices will be open, and students and parents will have additional time to visit with housing, admissions and financial aid staff members.

For more information, call 1-800-829-UTM1.

WINNING DESIGNS — Winners of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s recent STEMulation Camp Boomilever Design Competition were (from left) second-place finishers Brendan Goggins of Paris and Tyler Molands of Union City; third-place finishers Sarah Foltz and Connor Page, both of Martin; and first-place finishers Logan Coleman of Beech Bluff and Luke Woodall of Dresden. The Boomilever Design Contest allowed campers to learn about cantilever structures, which are vital to bridges, balconies, radio towers and other structures, and compete to design and build a cantilever structure that held the most mass before collapsing.

At the college level

Harrison Lee Hawks, son of Dr. Michael and Melanie Hawks of South Fulton, has been awarded a scholarship for the 2014-15 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

He received the Dean’s Scholarship.
UTM Student Ambassadors win big at Relay for Life

UT Martin Parsons Center student ambassadors represented their school “big time” during the annual Relay for Life event held Saturday, June 28 at the fairgrounds. They captured first place with their food entry with a tasty creamed cheeseburger and first place with their booth and costumes representing “Happy Days”. Each booth was a theme from a television show and there was plenty of creative competition all in the unity for finding a cure for cancer.

See page A16 for more photos.
The UT Martin Parsons Center held a faculty workshop on June 26. Presenters for the day were Jenifer Hart and Johanna Cosby from the office of Student Health and Counseling, Dr. Charles Julian from Library Services, Erica Bell from the office of Extended Campus and Online Studies, Amy McLean from the Social Work program and Christy Blount from the Parsons Center. The UT Martin Parsons Center also teamed with Air Evac Lifeteam to provide training. Brian Smith along with Hunter Earnest from TriStar Health presented on the signs and symptoms of medical conditions. Pictured above are from left to right: (Row 1) Kathleen Przybeck, Joyce Smothers, Lori Brasher, Joyce King, Marsha Venable, Amy McLean, Tammie Patterson, Dr. Kelli Deere, Erica Bell and Amy Lee (Row 2) Jim Reed, Hunter Earnest, Brian Smith, Dr. Sam Faught, Gary Roeder, Judy Duke, Tianita Duke and Jessica Brownyard (Row 3) Phillip Jones, Stacy Phillips, Jerry Forsythe, Charles Corley, Dr. Randy Cate, Dr. Alan Bell, Allen Shull and John Overton.

Sumner students attend Governor’s School at UT Martin

Three high school students from Sumner County are among the 56 students attending the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities on the UT Martin campus this summer.

The students are Emily McAndrew, Anna Buri and Filoteia Popescu.

The humanities immersion program includes high school juniors and seniors from across the state who have been selected to participate based on academic achievements, writing skills, school and community service and the recommendations of high school principals, counselors and teachers.

As part of the program, students explore subjects as diverse as philosophy and music literature, develop creative writing skills and participate in afternoon seminars specially designed to experience academic challenges with the “best and the brightest” fellow students in Tennessee.

Orientation And Registration Set

The final summer orientation and registration program for incoming University of Tennessee at Martin freshmen is set for Friday, July 18th, with registration at 8:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center. Students must have applied for admission and received a tentative or final acceptance letter to attend.

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For more information, call the Office of Admissions toll free at 1-800-829-UTM1 or 731-881-7027. Online registration is also available at www.utm.edu.
UT Martin’s Dacotah Faught secures spot on Team USA

Skyhawks’ shooter advances to compete at World Championships

University of Tennessee at Martin rifle shooter Dacotah Faught has earned a spot on Team USA at the upcoming World Championships after winning the national championship in women’s air rifle at the USA Shooting National Championships held in Fort Benning, Georgia.

The national championships is part two of an intensive qualification process that began for junior competitors during the 2014 National Junior Olympic Shooting Championships (NJOSC) back in April. The top three junior team members were identified following a selection process that included two qualifiers and a final at the NJOSC and another two qualifiers and two finals at this week’s national championships.

Faught won the Open title in junior women’s air rifle with 832 points and also won the junior silver medal. She will be joined by junior national champion Sonya May (rising sophomore at University of Kentucky) and Minden Miles (incoming freshman at Texas Christian University) on the Team USA roster at the Junior World Championships held in Granada, Spain this September.

“I am extremely proud of Dacotah,” UT Martin head rifle coach Bob Beard said. “She has achieved immense accomplishments in the very short period of time since she has joined the program.”

See Faught, Page 10

NEW SOYBEAN FESTIVAL EVENT — A guitar-painting contest has been added to the list of events for the upcoming Tennessee Soybean Festival. For the “Guitar as Art Contest and Exhibition,” artists will paint guitars and their works will be displayed during the annual festival. Brad Thompson (left) and Jason Stout show off the guitars to be issued to participating artists. See page 5 for more details.

Faught
From Page 1

This accomplishment wraps up a remarkable year for Faught. The Amenia, ND native became the fourth Skyhawk shooter to bring home Ohio Valley Conference Freshman of the Year accolades while also garnering All-OVC smallbore first team, All-Newcomer smallbore, All-OVC air rifle second team and All-Newcomer air rifle honors.

Faught was one of two female shooters to represent UT Martin at the 2014 NCAA Rifle Championships. She fired the second-highest score out of all 46 shooters in the first air rifle relay, which earned her a spot in the finals. She would eventually finish eighth nationally in the event.
UT Martin’s final summer orientation and registration set for July 18

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Informational sessions for students and parents cover student health services, public safety, the bookstore, student employment and other topics. Additional concurrent sessions cover student activities, Greek life, housing and meal plans. Administrative offices will be open, and students and parents will have additional time to visit with housing, admissions and financial aid staff members.

For more information, call the Office of Admissions toll free at 1-800-829-UTMI or 731-881-7027. Online registration is also available at www.utm.edu.

Nick Dunagan WestStar Leadership Scholarship

Caroline Cannon, a sophomore nursing major from Covington, was awarded the 2014-15 Nick Dunagan WestStar Leadership Scholarship during the WestStar graduation program June 19 in Jackson. She is the daughter of Harriet and Lenard Cannon. Harriet is area director for USDA Rural Development and a 2011 WestStar graduate.

The scholarship goes to a student who has proven leadership skills or displays leadership potential. Preference is given to students who display a high level of academic achievement and who have a proven record of community or university involvement. The WestStar Board of Trustees selects the scholarship recipient.

Dr. Nick Dunagan is a WestStar Leadership Program founder, former executive director of the program and UT Martin chancellor emeritus. He established the scholarship to be awarded to a dependent of a WestStar alumnus whose student is enrolled at the university.

Eligible students interested in applying for the scholarship can contact the WestStar Leadership Program at (731) 881-7298.
STEM CAMP WINNERS — The recent winners of the UT Martin STEMulation Camp Boomilever Design Competition were (from left) second place, Brendan Goggins of Paris and Tyler Molands of Union City; third place, Sarah Foltz of Martin and Connor Page of Martin; and first place, Logan Coleman of Beech Bluff and Luke Woodall of Dresden. The Boomilever Design Contest allowed campers to learn about cantilever structures, which are vital to bridges, balconies, radio towers and other structures, and compete to design and build a cantilever structure that held the most mass before collapsing. The Tennessee STEM Innovation Network and the West Tennessee STEM Hub partnered with UT Martin to cosponsor the camp. Pictures from all STEMulation Camp events can be found on the University of Tennessee at Martin Non Degree and Children’s Programs Facebook page.

UT Martin camp teaches kids to make robots

http://www.wbbjtv.com/

NORTH JACKSON — A camp in North Jackson is teaching students how to build and program robots.

On Tuesday, the University of Tennessee-Martin in Jackson held a robotics camp. The camp started on Monday, and boys and girls ages 5 through 7 and 8 to 10 learned how to build robots and program them through a computer.

Camp instructors say the robot and its parts come from a Lego curriculum. Where the kids learn about science, engineering and technology.

The camp lasts until Friday.

Camp instructors say the students don’t get to take the robots home.
Local students attend Governor's School for Humanities at UT Martin

Two high school students from Wilson County are among the 56 students attending the Tennessee Governor's School for the Humanities on the UT Martin campus.

STAFF REPORTS  MARTIN  JUL 8, 2014

Two high school students from Wilson County are among the 56 students attending the Tennessee Governor's School for the Humanities on the UT Martin campus.

The students included Trace Pfaff and Maggie Crowell.

The humanities immersion program includes high school juniors and seniors from across the state who have been selected to participate based on academic achievements, writing skills, school and community service and the recommendations of high school principals, counselors and teachers. As part of the program, students explore subjects as diverse as philosophy and music literature, develop creative writing skills and participate in afternoon seminars specially designed to experience academic challenges with the "best and the brightest" fellow students in Tennessee.
Local students receive awards at UT Martin

Morgan D. Cogar, of Lebanon, recently received the Outstanding Undergraduate Family and Consumer Science Student Award from the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences during the annual Honors Day celebration at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Outstanding student awards were given from each of UT Martin's five colleges, as well as many departmental and university-wide scholarships.

Kendall T. Osiminski, of Mt. Juliet, recently received the Lower Division Chemistry Award during the annual Honors Day celebration at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Outstanding student awards were given from each of UT Martin's five colleges, as well as many departmental and university-wide scholarships.

'TI was debating ... what I wanted to do'

TCA graduate to use scholarship to study psychology at UTM

By David Thomas
dgthomas@jacksontn.com

Meeting all required criteria, Lauren Ashlee Moore is the 2014 recipient of a $5,000 scholarship presented annually to a child of a Tennessee National Guardsman who has served on active duty for his or her state or country.

The scholarship is a joint effort of Central Distributors/Budweiser and the Jackson Generals, the Southern League's Double-A affiliate of the Seattle Mariners.

A 2014 graduate of Trinity Christian Academy, Moore will study psychology at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

"My dad is in the military — the Army National Guard," Moore said. "He helped spark my interest with post-traumatic stress disorder. That's what I'm really wanting to do with my degree."

Moore's father is Lt. Col. Andrew Moore.

"I was debating a few years ago what I wanted to do," she said. "I saw a commercial on psychology and enrolled in a class at Trinity and earned dual credit, and I loved it and I wanted a background in it."

Job shadowing was required before graduating, and Moore worked with Lisa Schmidt, the director of the Child Advocacy Center for the Exchange Club-Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

"Eventually, I plan on getting my Ph.D. with my major. It's not fair for kids to have to live with this (PTSD) ... vets who go to war and have to live with this the rest of their lives."

Russell Clarkson, the general manager at Central Distributors, said Tennessee Guardsmen sponsors must have been on state or federal active-duty orders due to mobilization during the period of 1995 to present or a portion of this time.

The applicant also must be a recognized dependent of a Guardsman; must be a high school senior accepted by an accredited college or university at the time of application; and must submit a completed scholarship application to be considered by the scholarship board.

"The applicant must live in Central Distributors' marketing area," Clarkson said. "Chester, Decatur, Fayette, Haywood, Hardeman, Hardin (west of the Tennessee River), Henderson, Madison and McNairy counties."

Besides her studies, Moore was a four-year member of the Lady Lions soccer team and a three-year member of the Spanish Club, participated in TCA's school play and was a member of the literature club her senior year.

Moore will arrive on campus with nine hours of dual credit, and she will take 19 hours her first semester.

The scholarship will be presented at the Ballpark at Jackson when the Generals play the Montgomery Biscuits at 6:05 p.m. Aug. 2.
National rodeo title ‘blessing’ for UTM

By RANDY CAVIN
Special to The Messenger

It was UTM’s first national championship and a “blessing” as rodeo head coach John Luthi calls it.

Luthi, who just completed his 17th year as the head man of UT Martin’s rodeo team, finally was able to let it all sink in one week after winning the 2014 College National Finals Rodeo Championship.

“I feel truly blessed right now,” Luthi said. “We put in a lot of hard work and did a lot of praying to God while we were up there competing for a national championship.”

UTM’s best finish with Luthi as the head coach at the College National Finals Rodeo was third in 2008.

The rodeo team also had a third place finish in 1985.

The rodeo team took the lead early and kept it for the rest of the way, Luthi said that was a bit deceiving.

“We took the lead on the third day only because they tallied up the total points,” Luthi said. “So that is a little bit deceiving for us.”

The coach kept everyone focused by preaching the same message.

“I kept telling them to keep finishing,” he said. “That is how we can win by finishing every day.”

Luthi said he and his assistant coach, Nelson Davis, had a feeling this year was going to be special.

“We thought we had the team to go out and win it all before the season started,” he said. “We are so blessed to have this group of people on this team. They gave UTM its first-ever national title, and that is something everyone can be proud of.”

Rodeo at UTM is getting support from all over now, and Luthi thinks that is going to continue to grow.

“We have been getting support from the middle part of the state to the eastern part of it,” he said. “We are getting support up and down the East Coast and it is continuing to grow.”

The UTM squad also did a first for rodeo.

“There has never been a national rodeo champion cast of the Mississippi River,” Luthi said. “That has never happened before now.”

And winning the national championship is only going to add to the appeal. Luthi and Davis already have the 2014-15 class signed and both will be looking to the future later this month.

“This coming season’s class is in place,” Luthi said. “We actually had to turn down some people. It was not because they were not good rodeo performers; they were all very good. We did not have the money to sign them. But we have an excellent class coming in.”

“We will be going to the National High School Finals Rodeo later this month and, hopefully, persuade some of the best high school cowboys and cowgirls to think about coming to UTM in the future.”

The rodeo team will be losing 11 seniors, including John Alley, Will Lummus, Colt Kitaif and Tyler Waltz. All four made the trip to Casper, Wyo.

AT SCHOOL — Holly Anne Seng of Union City was among 56 students who attended the recent Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. The humanities immersion program includes high school juniors and seniors from across the state who have been selected to participate based on academic achievements, writing skills, school and community service and the recommendations of high school principals, counselors and teachers.
UTM rodeo ‘blessed’ with national title

By RANDY CAVIN
Press Sports

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The UTM squad also did a first for rodeo.

“There has never been a national rodeo champion east of the Mississippi River,” Luthi said. “That has never happened before now.

“Rodeo has been very good east of the river, but no one has ever won it all until this team put it all together. I thank God for blessing us with such good men and women who want to come to UTM and be a part of this rodeo program.”

And winning the national championship is only going to add to the appeal. Luthi and Davis already have the 2014-15 class signed and both will be looking to the future later this month.

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“We will be going to the National High School Finals Rodeo later this month and, hopefully, persuade some of the best high school cowboys and cowgirls to think about coming to UTM in the future.”

The rodeo team will be losing 11 seniors, including John Alley, Will Lummus, Colt Kitaif and Tyler Waltz. All four made the trip to Casper, Wyo. Chris Adcock (junior), Tanner Phipps (junior) and Nealey Dalton (sophomore) also made the trip to Casper and will back next season.

(See Page 7, Col. 5)
Not many, if any at all, are taking a summer break. They are staying busy doing what they love.

“Most of them will be competing in rodeos throughout the region and across the county,” Luthi said. “The ones who did not make the trip to Casper are hungry for that. They want to go up there and defend our championship. So they are competing in rodeos and trying to win some titles and some money.”

Not only was it the first national title for Luthi, it was also the first time his wife Diane and daughter Katelyn were able to make the trip to Casper.

“They were never able to go before because Katelyn played basketball all through middle and high school,” Luthi said. “It was pretty demanding on her because she wanted to play basketball and also wanted to go to Casper.”

Katelyn is a Westview graduate.

It was the coach’s wife who kept him informed on the standings.

He was too caught up in the rodeo to keep an eye on the standings, and his daughter is the one who told him the team won the championship.

“Well, my wife kept sending me updates on the standings after we took over first place on the third day,” Luthi said. “I did not know we won the championship until Katelyn told me.”

Luthi did not get to enjoy the moment like he wanted to. He went straight to Kansas, where his father lives and is recovering from a serious neck injury.

“He was reaching for the end of the dresser and lost his balance,” Luthi said. “My dad is a pretty big man and he injured his neck. I just hope he can recover from this and I appreciate all of the prayers from the Martin community, the UTM campus and all of those who support the rodeo team.”

Luthi said he will be back in Martin on Wednesday if everything goes well.
Adcock part of National Rodeo Champs

The 66th Annual College National Finals Rodeo was held in Casper, WY on June 15-21, 2014, and a local resident was part of a team that made history at the event.

The CNFR is described as the "Rose Bowl" of college rodeo where the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) crowns individual event champions in saddle bronc riding, bare back riding, bull riding, tie-down roping, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing, breakaway roping, and goat tying. National team championships are also awarded to both men's and women's teams.

Over 400 cowboys and cowgirls from over 100 universities and colleges compete each year, and Clark Adcock, son of Joe and Chandra Adcock of Smithville, was there as part of UT Martin Rodeo Team. Adcock is a junior at UTM and has qualified and competed at the CNFR each of his three years of study there. He competes in team roping, tie-down calf roping, and steer wrestling, and is the second ranked tie-down roper, and the third all-around cowboy in the nation for college rodeo athletes.

Adcock earned the reserve champion honors in the tie-down calf roping in Casper, while the UTM men's rodeo team earned the national championship title, the first time a team from east of the Mississippi had ever won a team title in the history of college rodeo.

On the second day, Adcock had a blazing 8.3 run in the tie down roping to claim first place. The rest of the team competed well and were all solid in the average. In the second round John Alley and Adcock made a fantastic run on a tough steer in 6.3 seconds to finish fifth in the round. Adcock continued his strong finals with an 8.8 run in the calf roping, splitting eighth in the round and leading the average.
Alley and Adcock's team roping steer unexpectedly stopped in a round and they received a no time, but UT Martin still had a small lead after three rounds, and had qualified three cowboys into the Championship Short-go Round in four events.

Later, Adcock had an 8.8 run that placed him second in the round, the average, and the nation. He tied three out of four calves in eight seconds.

The UT Martin team had built up a sizeable lead at the rodeo and had to wait to the very end of the bull riding event to see if it would hold. The score held and the team made history bringing home the first National Team Title to UT Martin.

Adcock finished third in the nation in the men's All-Around competition. Unable to take his own horse, Adcock borrowed a ride from Dr. Frank Colwell. The horse, "Miss Doc," garnered more points than any other horse at the event, and would have been horse of the year if it had been registered on time.

Crosby receives award at UTM

William B. Crosby, of Parsons, recently received the Outstanding Chemistry Student Award and the Outstanding Chemistry Major Award from the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences during the annual Honors Day celebration at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Outstanding student awards were given from each of UT Martin's five colleges, as well as many departmental and university-wide scholarship.
Local beef, sheep exhibitors have big day at UTM regionals

BY LAURA MOSS
HOIS FFA ADVISER

Henry County 4-H and FFA members dominated at the 2014 regional beef and sheep expo July 1 at the ag pavilion at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

With the state expo contests coming up soon, nine beef and sheep exhibitors showed that they are at the top of their game and ready to make a run for state honors.

With balmy temperatures outside, show morning started off with the heifer showmanship competitors being cool and collected.

Collin Howd was named the senior high Level 2 showmanship champion and Katie Plowman was named the reserve champion of senior high Level 1. The junior high championship was awarded to Murray Perkins and Deanna Schoolfield brought the junior level showmanship championship home to Paris.

After the conclusion of showmanship, the individual breed shows began. Perkins won the late senior heifer calf and spring yearling shorthorn classes with his spring yearling, which also was honored as the grand champion of the shorthorn show.

Howd's spring yearling horned hereford won her class and was tapped as the grand champion hereford heifer of the show. To continue his banner morning, Howd's Chi Influenza heifer was named champion of that breed along with his commercial heifer being named the reserve champion of the commercial heifer show.

Schoolfield, who will be a seventh-grader at Lakewood School this fall, placed first in all three of her classes with her Angus heifers. Her spring yearling was selected as the grand champion of the Angus breed.

The supreme championship class was the next in the ring. Each of the grand champions from each breed are brought together to find the best of the best. Howd's Chi Influenza heifer was selected as the supreme champion of the entire heifer show.

In an effort to recognize quality groups of cattle within a county, the show has a class for what is known as the county group of five. At least three and up to five separate competitors from each county bring back their top five animals to compete against groups from other counties.

Schoolfield, Perkins, Plowman and Howd were the recipients of a first-place ribbon and the title of top county group of five heifers.

Moving on to the market steer classes, the influence of the strong junior livestock program in Henry County was quite evident. In the Carcass Merit Awards, which measure the steer's ribeye size, Savannah Gulish took home first-place honors, Ryan Gladwell was named third-place winner and Emily Rose was awarded the fourth-place award.

In steer showmanship, Howd and Plowman were the reserve champion shownmen in senior high Level 2 and Level 1 respectively. Perkins continued his showmanship winning streak as he was named junior high steer showmanship champion.

With eight of the 19 steers in the regional expo calling Henry County home, the show could easily be called a preview show for the upcoming junior livestock show and sale at the Henry County Fair on Aug. 7.

Plowman's and Howd's steers topped classes 2 and 4 with strong showings from Pierce and Emily Rose, Perkins, Ryan and Alexa Gladwell and Gulish in their respective classes.

The four class winners pulled back into the ring for the crowning of the champions of the market steer show. Howd's steer was named the reserve champion of the show.

Each exhibitor was encouraged to compete in the skillathon contest to test their knowledge of animal feeds, breeds of livestock and how to correctly calculate dosages of medications.

Henry County had three top competitors of the day: Schoolfield in the junior level, Perkins in the junior high level and Emily Rose in senior high Level 2.

A Premier Exhibitor also was named in each age category and was selected based off the combined scores from showmanship, class placings and skillathon. Perkins was named junior high premier beef exhibitor.

Perkins switched gears and exhibited his three market lambs in the opposite ring from the cattle. His winning ways stayed with him as he was named junior high market lamb showmanship winner.

He exhibited the reserve champion market lamb and his two eves placed first and second after they competed in the same class.

Perkins finished up having the highest score in the lamb skillathon and being named junior high lamb premier exhibitor.

After everyone arrived home, their sights turned toward the upcoming shows.

Residents should 'make an effort to come support these students' work and dedication as they continue showing their animals through the summer and fall.
After a long hot day of competition, many smiles, purple ribbons and memories were brought home to Henry County by the nine exhibitors of the 2014 regional 4-H and FFA livestock expo. To commemorate the first-place win in the county group of five steer class, (from left) Katie Plowman, Savannah Gulish, Emily Rose, Alexa Gladwell and Collin Howd and their animals pose for a celebratory picture. The competition was July 1 at UT Martin.

Murray Perkins (far left) braces his lamb as David Roper, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville livestock judging coach and regional expo judge, gathers his thoughts about the class. Perkins was named reserve champion market lamb, premier exhibitor of the beef and sheep shows and grand champion shorthorn heifer at the 2014 Regional 4-H and FFA livestock expo in Martin.

Collin Howd (second from right) shakes hands with the judge after his Chi Influenced heifer was crowned supreme champion of the 2014 regional beef expo. Howd's hereford and Chi heifers were named grand champions of their respective breeds while his commercial heifer and market steer were named reserve champions. Katie Plowman (left) stands by with her entry.
WESTSTAR GRADUATION — The WestStar Leadership Program recently held graduation ceremonies at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. Weakley Countians attending included (from left) Andrew Hart, Keith Cursey, Charley Deal, Lisha Tuck, Landy Fuqua, Virginia Grimes, Jordan Jones and Jackie Johnson. Hart, Cursey and Fuqua are all WestStar graduates. Twenty-nine class members participated, bringing the total to 710 alumni over WestStar’s 25-year history. Class participants were chosen to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

Cursey, Fuqua and Hart graduate from WestStar

Keith Cursey, Landy Fuqua and Andrew Hart, all of Weakley County, are among 29 members of the 2014 WestStar graduating class. The WestStar graduation ceremony was held June 19 at the Doubletree Hotel in Jackson.

WestStar was created in 1989 at the University of Tennessee at Martin to serve the multi-county area by providing leadership development and training. Representing 17 counties in the 21-county region, class members have a diverse range of occupations and volunteer leadership experiences.

Cursey is the human resources manager for MTD Products in Martin. He serves on numerous community organizations, including the Volunteer Community Hospital Advisory Board of Directors, the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, the NW Tennessee Workforce Board and the Martin Business Association Board of Directors. He was awarded the MTD Golden Sprig Award by his peers in 2003 for outstanding work.

Fuqua is the director of the UT Martin REED Center and Tennessee Small Business Development Center. She currently serves on the UT Martin Huron Committee for Economic Development and the Tennessee Small Business Development Center’s marketing committee. She is a 2009 graduate of Leadership Weakley County where she has served on the board since 2010. She is also a member of the Martin Pilot Club.

Hart is the UT Martin assistant director of alumni relations and annual giving. He serves on the Weakley County Youth Leadership board, City of Martin Community Development, Martin Kiwanis Club, Martin Historic Planning Committee and United Way of Weakley County as campaign cabinet education chair. He served as the first chair of the UTM Young Alumni Council and as a UTM Alumni Council member representing the College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences. Hart received the UT Martin Apple Teacher Award and was a member of the inaugural Weakley County Leadership class in 1998.

The WestStar Leadership Program now has 710 alumni over its 25-year history.
Children age 5 to 7 learned about robotics with the LEGO Educational WeDo Construction sets.
Children learn using LEGOs at UT Martin's Robotics Camp

By Nick McFerron

Last week children ages 5 to 7 and 8 to 10 sat down at the University of Tennessee at Martin Extended Campus Jackson Center to play with LEGO and learn about robotics.

The Robotics Camp lasted July 7-11 in Jackson and was held June 16-20 in Martin.

This is the fourth year the camp has been at the Jackson Center and the eighth year for the camp in Martin.

The younger group worked with the Educational WeDo Construction Sets to build simple robots, anything from a kicker-goalie combination to a roaring lion and spinning birds.

The older group used the LEGO Mindstorm Education NXT sets and software to build functioning robotic vehicles that operated with a variety of sensors using light, sound and motion to direct movement.

Dominic Fabianich will be a senior at Westview High School in Martin and has helped out with the camp since he was 10 years old.

"I took apart my first computer when I was 6," Fabianich said. "I want to be a computer engineer when I grow up."

Fabianich said he attended the camp at first and ended up helping other students with their work. The next year he came back to be part of the camp staff.

"I did the camp once. I don't even remember how old I was," Fabianich said. "I picked it (robotics) up pretty quick."

He said this is the first year the camp has used the sensor-oriented sets instead of just motors.

Fabianich was in charge of programming the sensors on the robots.

Another long-time staffer for the camp is Steve Douglas, a middle-school teacher in Weakley County. He's been working at the camps for five years.

Douglas mainly helped the kids build the sets and get started before they moved on to the software program part.

"This year's curriculum is more advanced. It's a lot tougher," Douglas said. "The biggest issue with this is that it's just so tedious (programming the sensors) and we can only do a few at a time."

While they were waiting for the light sensors to be programmed, Douglas took four kids outside to battle with their robots.

The camp was set up as a way to keep kids learning through the summer and get them interested in STEM subjects — science, technology, engineering and math.

Kayce Beam, director of the UT Martin Jackson Center, said that teaching STEM and ongoing learning is the goal behind the camp.

"The robotics are all about STEM. It's just the future and it's what they (the kids) care about."

KAYCE BEAM, director of the UT Martin Jackson Center

Nick McFerron, 425-9643
Gibson County residents graduate in 2014 WestStar class

MARTIN, Tenn. – Eric Allen, Bill Joyner and Bradley Owens, all of Gibson County, are among 29 members of the 2014 WestStar graduating class. The WestStar graduation ceremony was held June 19 at the Doubletree Hotel in Jackson.

WestStar was created in 1989 at the University of Tennessee at Martin to serve the multi-county area by providing leadership development and training. Representing 17 counties in the 21-county region, class members have a diverse range of occupations and volunteer leadership experiences.

Allen is a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Trenton. He serves on the Board of Directors and is the finance committee chairman for the Jackson Area YMCA. He also serves on the boards of directors for the Northwest Gibson YMCA, Gibson General Hospital, Trenton Industrial Board, Trenton Rotary Club and Peabody Quarterback Club.

Joyner is the vice president for Security Bank in Trenton. Currently, he is a member of the Trenton Rotary Club, Northwest Gibson County YMCA Board of Directors, Gibson County Industrial Development Board, City of Trenton Industrial Development Board, United Way of Gibson County Community Investment Panel, Trenton Relay for Life Committee and Trenton Teapot Festival Committee. Joyner was the recipient of the 2011 Gibson General Healthcare Foundation Volunteer of the Year Award and the 2012 Greater Gibson County Chamber of Commerce Young Professional of the Year Award.

Owens is the managing shareholder attorney at Hardee, Martin & Donahoe, P.A.; owner of The Victory 93.7 FM radio station; and owner of OCM Investments, LLC. Currently, he is president of the Dream Center of Jackson; board member, Milan Healthcare Foundation; board member, Carl Perkins Exchange Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Gibson County; city judge for Medina and Bradford; Gibson and Madison County Bar Associations; and the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys. In 2013, he was the recipient of the Gibson County Young Professional of the Year Award and in 2009 was named one of Jackson’s Finest Young Professionals.

The WestStar Leadership Program now has 710 alumni over its 25-year history.
Students attend Governor’s School for the Arts

Gian Garma and William McDonald, piano students of Dr. Elaine Harriss, were two of only eight pianists recently selected from across the state to participate in the 2014 Governor’s School for the Arts held at Middle Tennessee State University. Pianists received private lessons, worked in piano ensembles, studied theory and participated in several performances.

Both students are rising seniors, have participated in UT Martin’s Summer Piano Camp and have performed in UT Martin’s Piano Ensemble recitals.

Garma is a rising senior at Westview High School and has studied with Dr. Harriss for 12 years.

He has placed high in TMTA’s state auditions, has earned the Paderewski medal in the National Piano Teachers Guild and has won the UTM Pre-College Piano Ensemble Competition.

He is the son of Victor and Petchie Garma of Martin.

McDonald is homeschooled and has studied with Dr. Harriss for four years.

He has received high ratings in MAMTA, TMTA, and other competitions, and studies organ with Dr. Scott Roberts. William is the son of Joseph and Kathryn McDonald of McKenzie.
County residents graduate in '14 WestStar class

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The WestStar Leadership Program now has 710 alumni over its 25-year history.
Three Gibson County residents graduate in 2014 Weststar Class

Eric Allen, Bill Joyner and Bradley Owens, all of Gibson County, are among 29 members of the 2014 WestStar graduating class. The WestStar graduation ceremony was held June 19 at the Doubletree Hotel in Jackson.

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The WestStar Leadership Program now has 710 alumni over its 25-year history.
UT-Martin offers Kid College

Kid College for children and youth, grades kindergarten (fall 2014) through fifth will be offered from 8 a.m. to noon, July 21-25, at the UT Martin Ripley Center, located at 315 S. Washington St.

Kid College is a five-day program to provide children with an opportunity to have a fun learning experience through interesting and exciting courses. Children will be divided into small groups based on grade level and will rotate through the series of classes. Classes will include: Jungle Crusaders, where children can enjoy detective work and activities that challenge them to solve a range of wild crime mysteries using science; Survivor Island, where children play as tribes lost in the jungle and must maneuver through obstacles to find their way out without losing anyone; Art in the Wild, where children will find new ways to create art and learn the science behind it; and LEGO Simple Machines, where children will work as young scientists, engineers and designers using design technology, science and mathematics to build fun and simple models.

Family and friends are invited to Kid College Open House from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on July 25 to meet instructors and view displays and demonstrations. Refreshments will be served. The cost is $80 for registration, which includes a Kid College T-shirt and all supplies. A limited number of scholarships are available. If awarded, the registration fee is $20.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7081, or register online and apply for scholarships at www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/kidcollege.php.

UTM Director speaks to Halls Rotary

The Monday speaker for the Halls-Gates Rotary Club was University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center Director Mykle Johnson. Ms. Johnson detailed the current progress of the center and the upcoming Kid College STEM Training. Kids College focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Kids College is from July 21-25 at the UT Martin Ripley Center. For more information call 221-8778. Pictured with Johnson is Rotary President Elliott Martin.
**Pair of locals finish WestStar program**

Kent Carter and Mykle Johnson, both of Lauderdale County, are among 29 members of the 2014 WestStar graduating class. The WestStar graduation ceremony was held June 19 at the Doubletree Hotel in Jackson.

WestStar was created in 1989 at the University of Tennessee at Martin to serve the multi-county area by providing leadership development and training. Representing 17 counties in the 21-county region, class members have a diverse range of occupations and volunteer leadership experiences.

Carter is Human Resources Director for Marvin Windows and Doors of Tennessee in Ripley. He serves on the boards of directors for the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce, Lauderdale County Chamber, Tennessee Self Insures Association and the Tennessee Technology Center as an advisory board member. Carter was awarded the Leadership Award of Appreciation in 2003 from the Lauderdale County Economic and Community Development Board and also received the State of Tennessee Society of Human Resources Management “Excellence” Award in 2007.

Johnson is the Director of the UT Martin Ripley Center. She serves on the boards of Ripley’s Downtown Development, Main Street Promotions, Ripley Rotary Club, UTM Ripley Center Higher Education and Lauderdale County Relay for Life planning committees. Johnson participated in Leadership Lauderdale in 2012 and now serves on the Leadership Lauderdale Planning Committee and the United Way Allocations Committee.

The WestStar Leadership Program now has 710 alumni over its 25-year history.

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**Hall among winners at UTM rocket contest**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies hosted a STEMulation Camp, titled “Lo-Tech to Hi-Tech,” for rising 6th, 7th and 8th graders June 16-20, on campus.

The camp held multiple competitions for the participants on Friday, June 20. The Tennessee STEM Innovation Network and the West Tennessee STEM Hub partnered with UT Martin to cosponsor the camp.

The winners of the Scratch Computer Programming competition were: first place, Jacob Virgin, of Union City, Tenn.; second place, Sarah Foltz, of Martin, Tenn.; and third place, Rishika Bhojanapalli, of Medina, Tenn.

The winners of the Rocket Competition were: first place, Zakaria Adams, of Milan, Tenn.; second place, Dalton Hall, of South Fulton; and third place, Oscar Aguilar, of Hollow Rock, Tenn.

The winners of the Mousetrap Vehicle Race were: first place, Logan Coleman, of Beech Bluff, Tenn.; and Luke Woodall, of Dresden, Tenn.; second place, Brendan Goggins, of Paris, Tenn., and Tyler Molands, of Union City, Tenn.; and third place, Jacob Virgin, of Union City, Tenn., and Zakaria Adams, of Milan, Tenn.

The winners of the Boomilever Competition were: first place, Luke Woodall, of Dresden, Tenn., and Logan Coleman, of Beech Bluff, Tenn.; second place, Tyler Molands, of Union City, Tenn., and Brendan Goggins, of Paris, Tenn.; and third place, Sarah Foltz, of Martin, Tenn., and Connor Page, of Martin, Tenn.

The camp allowed participants to work individually and in teams through a series of hands-on STEM-based activities. All activities aligned with NSTA (National Science Teacher Association) and Common Core academic standards.

STEMulation Camp 2014 “Lo-Tech to Hi-Tech” was under the direction of Dr. Louis C. Glover, UT Martin Assistant Professor of Education, Department of Educational Studies.

Dr. Glover joined the UT Martin faculty in 2011. He came to UT Martin from Dallas, Texas, where he was a secondary mathematics and science instructor. Assisting Dr. Glover with the camp were UTM pre-service education majors: Andrew Eudy, Amanda Geater, Nicole Runions and Jalen Taylor.

Pictures of the event can be found on the University of Tennessee at Martin Non Degree and Children’s Programs Facebook page.
Local student takes trip to Iceland

By Ryan Richardson
news@dresdenenterprise.com

In the summer, there’s little darkness in Iceland. It’s one of the harder things to get accustomed to, according to Kailee Pritchett, who recently completed a study abroad program there. Pritchett lives in Martin and is about to enter her sophomore year at UT Martin, majoring in secondary English education, so the program was a unique experience for her.

The trip was part of a six-week long modern Icelandic language course through the University of Minnesota. “My grandmother is from Iceland, so I always felt like it was part of my heritage to learn the language,” Pritchett said.

The first three weeks were spent in residence at Minnesota, where the 13 participating students were introduced to the grammar of Icelandic. The grammar is complicated, Pritchett said, because there are many combinations that must be used to form words.

When it was time to go abroad, Pritchett said the plane landed in Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland 6 a.m. local time.

One of the first things Pritchett did was try the local rotten shark. “I tried a very mild form,” she said. “It wasn’t that bad, but the texture was pretty odd.”

Pritchett said upon trying it again before the end of the trip, the taste was actually terrible.

After trying the shark the first time, Pritchett said she mostly stuck to eating the famous hotdogs of Iceland.

Aside from the local cuisine, Pritchett was able to get a taste of the nature in Iceland. The first group excursion she went on was to Thingeyri, a municipality on the coast of Iceland. The city is also host to Althing, Iceland’s parliament, which was formed in the year 950 and serves as the oldest functioning parliament in the world.

The group also went to Barnafoss, a legendary waterfall which, when translated, means child falls. Pritchett said it is so named because of the folk legend about the waterfall. “Once there were two boys whose family was going to go to Christmas Mass, but the boys stayed behind,” said Pritchett, recounting the tale. “The mother told them to stay in the house, but they got bored and went to the bridge. When the family came back, they boys were gone because they fell off in the waterfall.”

Pritchett said she also had plenty of time to explore on her own.

“After class was pretty much do as you please,” she said. “Sometimes I would go into the town of Reykjavik and explore and walk around. It’s a national capital, but it has the small town big city feel, so you could take a

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ABROAD

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whole day to walk around and see everything.”

Pritchett never had to worry about losing her direction, though. “You know you can never get lost there, because you look up and the highest point is the church” she said. “You can just walk to it and find your way.”

In her free time, Pritchett said she mostly went to coffee shops to try local crepe and coffee. She got to experience the culture firsthand that she had learned and read about.

“Compared to the southern culture, their culture is kind of distant,” Pritchett said. “They don’t share the same touchy-feely attitude as we do. They didn’t stop to talk.”

Aside from adjusting to the people, she had to adjust to rapid weather changes. “Bring a raincoat even on a sunny day,” she said. “It’s said the weather basically changes every 15 minutes.”

After returning home, Pritchett said there wasn’t anything that she did not enjoy, and she hopes to go back in a few years.

She said she is still trying to get accustomed to back to Weakley County, with only a few minor problems. “I’m still getting used to darkness again,” she said. “And I kept expecting to look over and see a mountain.”
Kailee Pritchett of Martin was able to visit many landmarks while exploring the geography of Iceland. She took the trip as part of a study abroad program through the University of Minnesota, and she stayed in Iceland for three weeks. She will soon start her sophomore year at UTM.

Local students participate in Governor’s School

Gian Garma and William McDonald, piano students of Dr. Elaine Harriss, selected from across the State of Tennessee to participate in the 2014 Governor’s School for the Arts at Middle Tennessee State University.

Pianists participating in the Governor’s School received private lessons, worked in piano ensembles, studied theory, and participated in several performances. Both students are rising seniors, have participated in UT Martin’s Summer Piano Camp, and have performed in UT Martin’s Piano Ensemble recitals.

Gian is a rising senior at Westview High School and has studied with Dr. Harriss for 12 years. He has placed high in TMTA’s state auditions, has earned the Paderewski medal in the National Piano Teachers Guild, and has won the UTM Pre-College Piano Ensemble Competition. He is the son of Victor and Petchie Garma of Martin.

William is home schooled and has studied with Dr. Harriss for four years. He has received high ratings in MAMTA, TMTA, and other competitions, and studies organ with Dr. Scott Roberts. William is the son of Joseph and Kathryn McDonald of McKenzie.

Elaine Harriss is pictured with her piano students William McDonald (left) and Gian Garma (right) who were selected to participate in the 2014 Governor’s School for the Arts at MTSU.
Mid-South Ag Finance Conference to focus on economic conditions, commodity price risk, farm profitability and transition planning

Dr. David Kohl, internationally known speaker to agricultural lenders, small business owners, producers and agribusiness audiences, will be the featured presenter at the 13th annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference. The conference is for lenders, farmers and other farm-related business owners and will be held from 8 a.m.-2:45 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 6, in UT Martin's Boling University Center. The conference registration deadline is July 31.

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"As one of the world's leading ag economists who serves on policy boards and manages his own farming operation, Dave Kohl provides lenders and producers with the most up-to-date and practical information available," said Dr. Tom Payne, UT Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking. This year Dave will be joined by two of the most renowned experts in agricultural operations and risk management.

In addition to conducting more than 5,000 workshops and seminars for agricultural lenders and producers, Kohl is a leader in establishing national and international standards for reporting and analysis of agricultural producers' financial information. Kohl will discuss the latest trends in real estate values, changes in farm family finances and a new business equation for success. He will provide producers and lenders with an overview of the global trends and domestic policies that affect the agricultural bottom line.

Joining Kohl on the program will be nationally known experts in farm transition planning, price trends and risk management. Dr. Steve Isaacs, University of Kentucky Extension professor in agricultural economics and co-director of the Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program, will focus on passing the farm operation from one generation to the next by providing the lender-producer team with potential pitfalls and practical tips for successful transition planning.

This year's conference will also include a discussion of commodity prices and risk management. Richard Brock, president of Brock Associates, will discuss the marketing outlook and associated risk management tools for producers and lenders. Brock's recent analysis of corn, soybean and cotton price trends provides a basis for decision making for the coming year.

The conference will conclude with an interactive question-and-answer panel session with the participants and speakers. "The Ag Finance Conference always provides participants with practical 'take-home' knowledge from some of the nation's foremost agricultural experts," said Joe Brasher, First State Bank community bank president of Sharon. "Each session is designed to provide the most relevant and up-to-date information for lenders and ag producers."

The registration fee is $150 for lenders, $75 for farmers and $25 for spouses and students. Members of the total management team, including spouses and other business partners, are encouraged to attend.

Registration information is available by calling 731-881-7324 or by visiting www.utm.edu/agconference. Space is limited and the deadline for registration is July 31. A service of the UT Martin Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, the Mid-South Ag Finance Conference is made possible through the support of the Tennessee Farm Bureau, CoBank, Carroll Bank and Trust, and FarmerMac.
County resident attend Weststar Graduation

(T o r) Ted Moore, of McNairy County, and Bobby Dyer, of Henderson County, attended UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program graduation, June 19, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. Twenty-nine class members participated, bringing the total to 710 alumni over WestStar’s 25-year history. Class participants were chosen to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

West Tennessee writing project to host September conference on Writing, Teaching and Publishing

The West Tennessee Writing Project will offer a conference from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6, at Obion County Central High School in Troy.

“WTWP How To: A Conference on Writing, Teaching, and Publishing” will feature a plenary session with published authors Shannon Lyon, Julia Schuster and Jenna Wright, plus breakout sessions on writing, teaching, technology and the Common Core. The workshop is open to anyone over 18 interested in writing and publishing. Teachers will receive six hours of Continuing Education Credits after completing the conference, and all participants receive certificates of participation.

Early registration before Sept. 4 is $30 and late registration is $40, which includes lunch. WTWP teacher consultants who have completed the Summer Institute at UT Martin will present all breakout sessions and plenary sessions.

Registration is available online through UT Martin’s office of Extended Campus and Online Studies: http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php. Persons interested in attending may also call the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7080 for registration. See WTWP’s web site for updates on the conference: http://www.utm.edu/departments/wtwp/.

Shannon Lyon teaches at Obion County Central and is author of the novel Cotton’s Daughter. Julia Schuster teaches at St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School in Memphis and is author of Flowers for Elvis, a novel, and The Ingredients of Gumbo, a collection of stories, poems, essays and sketches.

Jenna Wright is chair of the UT Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages and has published writings in several journals, including Calliope, and has received honors in both nonfiction and national poetry contests. She is currently working on a memoir.

Photo Submitted
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Conference
From Page 1

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For the 91st year, 4-H members from across Tennessee are gathering for the State 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference. The annual event, which takes place Monday through July 25, recognizes the outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments of senior high 4-H members.

Approximately 300 high school age 4-H'ers from across Tennessee will meet for several days on the UT Martin campus. The 4-Hers have completed local projects in areas such as communication and public speaking, livestock, computers and technology and photography and will now compete for statewide awards that include college scholarships and trips to the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta. The theme for this meeting and for all 4-H programs in 2014 is "Tennessee 4-H: Geared for Greatness."

"Teens from all over Tennessee will come together, compete in their project areas, learn life skills such as leadership and citizenship, make lifelong friends and have a great time," said Lori Gallimore, UT Extension Specialist in 4-H Youth Development. "Roundup is one of the highlights for our 4-H program. Delegates who attend have spent years of work in their respective project areas."

In addition to project competitions, delegates will participate in a number of activities, including the 4-H All Star Conference, Vol State Ceremony, the election of the 2015 State Council officers and a service-learning project.

Delegates to the 2014 Tennessee 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference will work with Nashville-based Operation Troop Aid as their service project. OTA's mission is to provide care packages for deployed U.S. service members with the revenue generated through professional concert promotions and public financial generosity. Roundup participants already organized fundraising events in their counties and will assemble the care packages for shipping while they are at UT Martin.

"Service-learning opportunities are a very important component of the 4-H program," said Steve Sutton, director, 4-H Youth Development. "Each year, 4-Hers statewide perform tens of thousands of hours of service at an estimated value of over $1 million. Through the service-learning projects, our 4-H'ers learn that they can really make a difference in their communities."

4-H is the youth development program for University of Tennessee Extension. 4-H teaches leadership, citizenship and service learning to more than 180,000 youth in the fourth through 12th grades. 4-H also has more than 5,000 adult volunteers. UT Extension is one of four units in the UT Institute of Agriculture.
Local musicians team up to produce and perform songs for local audiences

By SAMI MOBLEY
The Press

Music is important in the city of Martin, and it can be seen wherever you look. With open mic nights taking place in different businesses, the Soybean Festival approaching and the extensive music program at UT Martin, you don’t need to look far in order to find music and musicians in this town.

“That’s how people in Martin are, they love music for music’s sake. They’re a very artistic town,” said Keegan Paulso, a local musician who graduated from UT Martin in 2013 with a degree in Music Education and a concentration in percussion. “Being a music major, I learned to motivate myself as a musician. Everything in the music department relates to real world application. Once you get into the real world, they show you how to use it.”

Paulso has kept himself and others busy since line to middle school students and work with local musicians. When open mic nights are hosted at Looking Glass Coffee, Paulso makes plans to attend, while performing at Cadillac’s when playing with different rock bands.

Paulso is set on having a record released this August. There will be nine different songs on the album. “It will have country to hard rock, to R&B, jazz, soul, and so many different styles,” he said. There will be over 20 local musicians on this record.

“Martin being such an artistic town, it kind of bridged the gap for me. I got to apply what I learned into being a freelance musician, and playing gigs all the time. We started stretching out further depending on what band I was playing with,” reflected Paulso, while discussing his years spent in town. “Martin taught me how to be a self-sustaining musician.”

West Tennessee Writing Project to host conference on writing, teaching and publishing

The West Tennessee Writing Project will offer a conference from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sept. 6 at Obion County Central High School in Troy.

“WTWP How To: A Conference on Writing, Teaching, and Publishing” will feature a plenary session with published authors Shannon Lyon, Julia Schuster and Jenna Wright, plus breakout sessions on writing, teaching, technology and the Common Core. The workshop is open to anyone over 18 interested in writing and publishing. Teachers will receive six hours of Continuing Education Credits after completing the conference, and all participants receive certificates of participation.

Early registration before Sept. 4 is $30 and late registration is $40, which includes lunch. WTWP teacher consultants who have completed the Summer Institute at UT Martin will present all breakout sessions and plenary sessions.

Registration is available online through UT Martin’s office of Extended Campus and Online Studies: http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php. Persons interested in attending may also call the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7080 for registration. See WTWP’s web site for updates on the conference: http://www.utm.edu/departments/wtwp/.

Shannon Lyon teaches at Obion County Central and is author of the novel Cotton’s Daughter. Julia Schuster teaches at St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School in Memphis and is author of Flowers for Elvis, a novel, and The Ingredients of Gumbo, a collection of stories, poems, essays and sketches.

Jenna Wright is chair of the UT Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages and has published writings in several journals, including Calliope, and has received honors in both nonfiction and national poetry contests. She is currently working on a memoir.
Mingle

From left: Jerry Brigance, of Weakley County; Michael Harper, of Henderson County; and Jo Matherne, of Haywood County, attend the WestStar Leadership Program graduation. PHOTO COURTESY OF UT MARTIN

From left: Alicia and Bradley Owens, of Gibson County, attend the WestStar Leadership Program graduation. PHOTO COURTESY OF UT MARTIN

From left: Scott Conger, of Madison County, and David Glasgow, of Davidson County, attend the WestStar Leadership Program graduation. PHOTO COURTESY OF UT MARTIN
From left: Kim and Brian Foster, of Henry County, attend the WestStar Leadership Program graduation. PHOTO COURTESY OF UT MARTIN

From left: Alex Beene, of Chester County; Amy West, of Madison County; Nelson Williams, of Tipton County; Dr. Charlotte Fisher, of Tipton County; and Tammy Hall, of Dyersburg. PHOTO COURTESY OF UT MARTIN

From left: Andrew Hart, Keith Cursey, Charley Deal, Lisha Tuck, Landy Fuqua, Virginia Grimes, Jordan Jones and Jackie Johnson, all of Weakley County. PHOTO COURTESY OF UT MARTIN
The WestStar Leadership Program graduated 29 class members June 19 at the DoubleTree in Jackson. The University of Tennessee at Martin sponsors WestStar. The program is in its 25th year and now has 710 graduates, mostly from West Tennessee. Beth Koffman, of Jackson, was recognized during the ceremony as the program’s 700th graduate. Class members were competitively selected to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential. From left: Travis Martin, Beth Koffman, Mike Hewitt, Tammy Boyd, Martin Jelinek, Diane Abbott, Jack Matthis, Shelby Kee, Anna Page, Amy West, Katie Pace and Ginger French, all of Madison County. PHOTO COURTESY OF UT MARTIN
MARTIN — Renovation work continues behind a temporary barrier a few steps outside Heath Schroyer’s office inside the Elam Center.

The coach and his players are doing a kind of renovation, too.

UT Martin athletic director Julio Freire made his first big personnel decisions in March, firing Jason James and hiring Schroyer as the men’s basketball coach. Schroyer, 42, previously coached at Portland State and Wyoming, two other programs that were struggling when he arrived.

The men’s basketball team has had five consecutive losing seasons, and Schroyer wants the players to change their habits and methods.

“I really believe that all the guys wanted structure,” Schroyer said earlier this week inside his UT Martin office. “They were starving for structure and leadership and a direction to go.”

Schroyer said 10 players have spent all summer in Martin. Through April, May and June, 7 a.m. workouts became routine. Nightly study halls did, too. Conditioning and better classwork are the goals, respectively, but those sessions are also supposed to reinforce accountability and work ethic.

If UT Martin wants to win in the Ohio Valley Conference, the players must develop those traits. Schroyer said the players received him warmly and have accepted his new ways.

Junior guard Dee Oldham said the morning workouts required a schedule adjustment but he doesn’t mind them. He said one change has been a consistently high work intensity.

“We’re doing it every day,” he said. “There’s no ‘Work hard Monday and take Tuesday light.” Oldham said.

Oldham acknowledged the players thought it might be awkward between them and Schroyer when he first got there, but Oldham was pleasantly surprised it was not. Oldham said he trusts Schroyer based on the coach’s background.

Senior forward Myles Taylor, the team’s leading scorer the past two seasons, has lost about 30 pounds. Schroyer said that illustrates his players’ willingness to do what’s asked of them.

“All of them, per a man, they want to win. They wanted to do something different,” he said. “They knew that we needed to change direction in what it is that we were doing. So that part was good.”

“Now it’s easy to say that. The hard part is actually living it.”

In two of the past five seasons, UT Martin won only four games. They failed to qualify for the Ohio Valley Conference tournament three times in James’ tenure, including last year.

There were scattered highlights, like an upset win at Murray State in 2013, but too often the ends of games were characterized by turnovers, bad shot selection and poor transition defense. (Near the end of one game last season, a then-senior received a technical foul while sitting on the bench.)

Culture is a buzzword for Schroyer in the way location might be for a realtor. His concept of “the Martin way” includes five attributes — loyalty, passion, unselfishness, discipline and work ethic. Addressing these areas is an offseason priority.

“I don’t know if there’s one of the things that we need to change the most,” he said. “I think that we equally try to establish a system, if you will, that will help govern the program and have collective accountability. That’s what we tried to incorporate literally from day one.”

UT Martin’s academic progress rate (APR) fell to 920 out of a possible 1,000 in 2012-13, the lowest of any team on campus and below the NCAA minimum threshold of 930 to avoid penalty. UT Martin thus had its allotted practice time reduced.

Further issues in this area could lead to a postseason ban, as OVC member Jacksonville State men’s basketball had in 2013.

“We obviously inherited a basketball program that hasn’t been successful, but we also inherited a program that hasn’t been successful in the classroom,” Schroyer said.

By Craig Thomas
ctthoma@jacksun.com

UT MARTIN ROSTER

* - player joined after Schroyer became coach

Seniors: Myles Taylor (forward), Marshun Newell (guard), Kristian Taylor (guard)

Juniors: Dee Oldham (guard), Alex Anderson* (guard), Terrence Durham* (guard), Twymond Howard* (forward), Arkeem Joseph* (center)

Sophomores: Javier Martinez (forward), Chandler Rowe (forward)

Freshmen: C.J. Davis* (guard), Richard Lee* (guard), Fatodd Lewis* (forward), Brandon Hitchman* (forward), Nick Detlev* (center)

Notable departures: Mike Liabo (guard/transferred to Ole Miss)

Juniors: Dee Oldham (guard), Alex Anderson* (guard), Terrence Durham* (guard), Twymond Howard* (forward), Arkeem Joseph* (center)

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Notable departures: Mike Liabo (guard/transferred to Ole Miss)
Schroyer

Continued from Page D1

UTM is not the first struggling team Schroyer has taken over. He coached Portland State of the Big Sky Conference from 2002 to 2005 and the University of Wyoming from 2007 to 2011.

Portland State had losing records in his first two seasons before winning the Big Sky regular season title in his third and final year.

Schroyer then took an assistant's job at Fresno State before becoming head coach at Wyoming, which had APR issues. The Cowboys' academic situation improved and the team reached the College Basketball Invitational tournament in Schroyer's second year.

Losing records, though, the next full season and into the fourth season, which Schroyer attributes to the team's youth and injuries, led to his firing in the middle of that fourth year.

Schroyer said he considered multiple aspects of his job and made tweaks he thought would make him more effective.

"I think that as hard as it was, that was really, really a beneficial time in my growth," he said. "...I'm a lot better now than I was the day I took the Wyoming job."

As an assistant Schroyer helped improve the program at Brigham Young and until last year worked at UNLV, where Freire served part of the same time as associate athletics director.

On the court, Schroyer is emphasizing fundamentals of man-to-man defense and shot selection on offense. He would like a rotation of nine to ten players, but he declined to estimate the minutes certain players would play. (Several newcomers have not yet arrived on campus.)

Schroyer has also implemented other aspects of his coaching style. While at UTM, James tried to use past failure as motivation.

“We talk about it every day,” James said just before the 2012-13 season, which followed a four-win campaign. “I don’t want these guys to forget it. I don’t want them to forget our struggles.”

Schroyer seems to have taken a different approach.

“To be honest we don’t talk about stuff in the past,” Oldham said this past week. “Whole new team, whole new year, whole new culture.”

Getting past that is easier to say than do, and Schroyer knows everyone at UTM is tired of losing seasons.

“It’s a new day. And I don’t think you can ever move forward if you’re always focused on the past. I’ve told our team that. I tell fans that when I speak,” he said.

“You’re going to see a very different product. We’re going to be together, we’re going to play together. We’re going to have a defensive chip on our shoulder, and we’re going to play with a purpose.”

Schroyer acknowledged UTM has a lot of work to do to match regular OVC contenders like Murray State, Belmont, Eastern Kentucky and Morehead State.

The hope is the habits being formed in this off-season translate to more success in games, with the time frame for such improvement still to be determined.

“Guys have improved. I’m not satisfied by any means,” Schroyer said. “We’re not there yet, but we’ve definitely made a lot of progress.”

Craig Thomas, 425-9634
State 4-H Roundup begins today at UTM

4-H members from across Tennessee are gathering for the State 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference, which takes place today through Friday in Martin. The annual event recognizes the outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments of senior high 4-H members.

Approximately 300 high school 4-Hers will meet on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus, according to a news release. The 4-Hers have completed local projects in areas such as communication and public speaking, livestock, computers and technology and photography and will compete for statewide awards that include college scholarships and trips to the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta.

In addition to project competitions, delegates will participate in a number of activities, including the 4-H All Star Conference, Vol State Ceremony, the election of the 2015 State Council officers and a service-learning project, according to the release.

The 4-Hers showcased projects they've worked on all year from the fields from communication to technology, livestock to crop production and much more.

"4-H in Tennessee has never been better and never been stronger. We have tremendous support across the state. We have outstanding 4-H members involved in project work," Justin Crowe said, Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development.

Students who are attending the Roundup event will be competing for top prizes including college scholarships.

"Besides that we will have a lot of workshops and educational sessions where students can learn from anything such as a rodeo lesson and cupcake wars, to people learning how to decorate and bake things," Alex Crockett, 4-H State Council President, said.

The Roundup is geared to get teens college and career ready.

"Well this event to me is kind of a culmination of a career. 4-H is all about preparing youth for making the best for their community, and their world. This is kind of the culmination of a career for a lot of these people," Crockett said.

4-H is the largest youth organization in the world, reaching more than 8 million people here in the U.S and in 80 countries worldwide.

"I'm personally from the Central Region and so I don't get to see people from East and West Tennessee very often. When everyone comes together you get to make new friends and get to see people you haven't in a year or so," Cassie Cain, 4-H State Secretary and Representative, said.

The participants experience a little bit of the college life during the competition and stay on campus for the entire week. The Roundup runs from July 21 through July 25 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Dr. David Kohl, internationally known speaker to agricultural lenders, small business owners, producers and agribusiness audiences, will be the featured presenter at the 13th Annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference. The conference is for lenders, farmers and other farm-related business owners and will be held from 8 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Aug. 6 at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Boling University Center. The registration deadline is July 31.

UTM hosting finance conference

Dr. David Kohl, internationally known speaker to agricultural lenders, small business owners, producers and agribusiness audiences, will be the featured presenter at the 13th annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference, scheduled for Aug. 6 at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Boling University Center.

The conference is designed for lenders, farmers and other farm-related business owners and will be held from 8 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

"As one of the world’s leading ag economists who serves on policy boards and manages his own farming operation, Dave Kohl provides lenders and producers with the most up-to-date and practical information available," UTM Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking Dr. Tom Payne said. "This year Dave will be joined by two of the most renowned experts in agricultural operations and risk management."

In addition to conducting more than 5,000 workshops and seminars for agricultural lenders and producers, Kohl is a leader in establishing national and international standards for reporting and analysis of agricultural producers’ financial information.

Kohl will discuss the latest trends in real estate values, changes in farm family finances and a new business equation for success. He will provide producers and lenders with an overview of the global trends and domestic policies that affect the agricultural bottom line.

Joining Kohl on the program will be nationally known experts in farm transition planning, price trends and risk management.

Dr. Steve Isaacs, University of Kentucky Extension professor in agricultural economics and co-director of the Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program, will focus on passing the farm operation from one generation to the next by providing the lender-producer team with potential pitfalls and practical tips for successful transition planning.

This year’s conference will also include a discussion of commodity prices and risk management.

Richard Brock, president of Brock Associates, will discuss the marketing outlook and associated risk management tools for producers and lenders.

Brock’s recent analysis of corn, soybean and cotton price trends provides a basis for decision making for the coming year.

"The ag finance conference always provides participants with practical ‘take-home’ knowledge from some of the nation’s foremost agricultural experts," First State Bank community bank president of Sharon Joe Brasher said.

The registration fee for the conference is $150 for lenders, $75 for farmers and $25 for spouses and students.

Registration information is available by calling (731) 881-7324 or by visiting www.utm.edu/agconference.
WestStar graduation held

Lolly Bearden of Union City was among the 29 members of the 2014 WestStar class to graduate from the program recently.

The WestStar graduation ceremony was held June 19 at the Doubletree Hotel in Jackson.

WestStar was created in 1989 at the University of Tennessee at Martin to serve the multi-county area by providing leadership development and training.

Representing 17 counties in the 21-county region, class members have a diverse range of occupations and volunteer leadership experiences.

Mrs. Bearden is a Union City community volunteer and serves as secretary and second vice-president of Main Street Union City. She also serves as a board member for the Union City Schools Foundation and Leadership Obion County, as well as president for the Union City High School Booster Club. She is married to Donny Bearden.

The WestStar Leadership Program now has 710 alumni over its 25-year history.

UTM professor coaches for Team Tennessee in Special Olympics USA National Games

Coaches are often special people, and they often have the privilege of coaching special people. Dr. Clinton Smith, UT Martin assistant professor of special education, did just that when he attended the Special Olympics USA National Games held June 14-21 in New Jersey.

Smith attended the 2006, 2010 and then this year’s National Games as a coach. He recently applied for an athletics coach’s position for the 2015 World Games to be held in Los Angeles, which includes more than 7,000 athletes from 170 countries. For all of his efforts, he was recently awarded the Kiwanis Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District Teacher of the Year, which included a $250 gift for Special Olympics. He was also honored earlier this year as the Tennessee Education Association’s Distinguished Educator for Higher Education.

Smith served as the head coach for the Team Tennessee Athletics Track and Field team. Smith coached 10 Tennessee athletes who participated in weeklong track and field events, including: 100m, 200m, 400m, 4x100m relays, long jump and softball throw. The Tennessee Athletics Team won a total of 17 medals: six gold, four silver and seven bronze. The men’s 4x100m relay team won bronze in their division, missing silver by just a .23 of a second difference in time.

“This was an amazing opportunity for me to coach some outstanding Special Olympics athletes from across Tennessee. These athletes showed true dedication and confidence in their desire to win like no other,” Smith said.

“These athletes always inspire me to be a better person but also remind me to take time to slow down and have some fun. Sometimes we get so busy with our lives we tend to forget to do that.”

The Special Olympians took Smith’s advice and had time for fun beyond the games. Non-competition activities included visiting the New Jersey boardwalk, complete with rides and games; participating in a dinner cruise on the Hudson River with a view of Freedom Tower and the Statue of Liberty; and attending a baseball game featuring the Trenton Thunder, the New York Yankees’ minor league team.

Athletes also took part in Healthy Athletes, where they received a full health screening, including hearing, vision, dental, foot care and blood pressure screenings. They participated in the opening and closing ceremonies, attended by celebrities, including model and actress Brooklyn Decker; NBA Rookie of the Year Michael Carter-Williams; WWE Stars Big Show and Daniel Otunga; actress Jane Lynch; and Special Olympics International CEO Tim Shriver. Many celebrities and professional athletes visited the game sites and awarded medals to the athletes.

“The Special Olympics USA National Games was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for some of the athletes. By being a part of these games, these athletes learned more about building confidence, friendship and teamwork,” Smith said. “These kids had a chance to compete at a national level, and they rose to the challenge by showing the nation that they are champions in their individual track and field events.”
SPECIAL OLYMPICS — Dr. Clinton Smith, (back row, far right), served as the head coach for the Team Tennessee Athletics Track and Field team. The team won a total of 17 medals at this year’s Special Olympic Games, held June 14-21 in New Jersey. Pictured are (front row, from left) Jamaica Osler, Theresa Dennis, Marie Ramsey, Alena Dingledein, assistant coach John Dennis, McKenzie Hudson (back row) assistant coach Randi Ezelle, Casey Martin, Patrick Russell, Oscar Artelejo, Chris DeBerry, Payton Davis and Smith.

Dresden student receives scholarship

Elizabeth Francisco, a 2014 Dresden High School graduate, was awarded the 2014-15 RisingStar Leadership Scholarship by the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program.

The RisingStar committee selects the annual scholarship recipient.

The RisingStar Leadership Scholarship is for a student who participated in the RisingStar summit and will attend UT Martin as a freshman. Eligible students must have a 3.0 high school grade point average and a 21 or higher ACT score.

Francisco will major in biology with a concentration in cell and molecular biology.

She plans to later attend pharmacy school.

"I got to meet a lot of new people," Francisco said of her RisingStar experience. "I learned how to be a better leader, not only in school but in the community also."
UT Martin professor coaches Special Olympics USA National team

Coaches are often special people, and they often have the privilege of coaching special people.

Dr. Clinton Smith, UT Martin assistant professor of special education, did just that when he attended the Special Olympics USA National Games held June 14-21, in New Jersey.

Smith attended the 2006, 2010 and then this year’s National Games as a coach. He recently applied for an athletics coach’s position for the 2015 World Games to be held in Los Angeles, Calif., which includes more than 7,000 athletes from 170 countries.

For all of his efforts, he was recently awarded the Kiwanis Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District Teacher of the Year, which included a $250 gift for Special Olympics. He was also honored earlier this year as the Tennessee Education Association’s Distinguished Educator for Higher Education.

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The Tennessee Athletics Team won a total of 17 medals: six gold, four silver and seven bronze. The men’s 4x100m relay team won bronze in their division, missing silver by just a .23 of a second difference in time.

"This was an amazing opportunity for me to coach some outstanding Special Olympics athletes from across Tennessee. These athletes showed true dedication and confidence in their desire to win like no other," Smith said. "These athletes always inspire me to be a better person but also remind me to take time to slow down and have some fun. Sometimes we get so busy with our lives we tend to forget to do that."

The Special Olympians took Smith’s advice and had time for fun beyond the games. Non-competition activities included visiting the New Jersey boardwalk, complete with rides and games; participating in a dinner cruise on the Hudson River with a view of Freedom Tower and the Statue of Liberty; and attending a baseball game featuring the Trenton Thunder, the New York Yankees’ minor league team.

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Special Olympics Tennessee sent 88 Special Olympians and 32 coaches and caddies to participate in athletics, aquatics, bocce, power lifting, golf, tennis, traditional basketball, unified basketball and flag football.

More than 3,500 athletes, 1,000 coaches and over 10,000 volunteers attended the National Games, which are held every four years.
Webb Scholarship awarded

Recipients of the Webb Scholarships by Bill and Tommye Webb are recognized at a ceremony at the UT-Martin Selmer Campus last Thursday. Karrie Duncan is 28 years old and a first generation college student. She is married and has a 4 year old son. This scholarship will assist her with expensive Praxis tests and student teaching fees. Emily Haendel graduated from high school in Wisconsin, but now lives in Ramer. She is an active member of Arts in McNairy and recently became president of AIM Youth Arts Guild. Since she graduated out of state, she does not qualify for the TN lottery scholarship and said that she needed help paying tuition for the coming year.
Economic conditions, commodity price risks, farm profitability will be focus of Mid-South Ag Finance Conference

Dr. David Kohl, internationally known speaker to agricultural lenders, small business owners, producers and agribusiness audiences, will be the featured presenter at the 13th annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference. The conference is for lenders, farmers and other farm-related business owners and will be held from 8 a.m.-2:45 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 6, in UT Martin’s Boling University Center. The conference registration deadline is July 31.

In addition to conducting more than 5,000 workshops and seminars for agricultural lenders and producers, Kohl is a leader in establishing national and international standards for reporting and analysis of agricultural producers’ financial information. Kohl will discuss the latest trends in real estate values, changes in farm family finances and a new business equation for success. He will provide producers and lenders with an overview of the global trends and domestic policies that affect the agricultural bottom line.

Joining Kohl on the program will be nationally known experts in farm transition planning, price trends and risk management. Dr. Steve Isaacs, University of Kentucky Extension professor in agricultural economics and co-director of the Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program, will focus on passing the farm operation from one generation to the next by providing the lender-producer team with potential pitfalls and practical tips for successful transition planning.

This year’s conference will also include a discussion of commodity prices and risk management. Richard Brock, president of Brock Associates, will discuss the marketing outlook and associated risk management tools for producers and lenders. Brock’s recent analysis of corn, soybean and cotton price trends provides a basis for decision making for the coming year.

The conference will conclude with an interactive question-and-answer panel session with the participants and speakers. “The Ag Finance Conference always provides participants with practical ‘take-home’ knowledge from some of the nation’s foremost agricultural experts,” said Joe Brasher, First State Bank community bank president of Sharon. “Each session is designed to provide the most relevant and up-to-date information for lenders and ag producers.”

The registration fee is $150 for lenders, $75 for farmers and $25 for spouses and students. Members of the total management team, including spouses and other business partners, are encouraged to attend.

Registration information is available by calling 731-881-7324 or by visiting www.utm.edu/agconference. Space is limited, and the deadline for registration is July 31. A service of the UT Martin Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, the Mid-South Ag Finance Conference is made possible through the support of the Tennessee Farm Bureau, CoBank, Carroll Bank and Trust, and FarmerMac.
West TN Writing Project to hold event at OCCHS

The West Tennessee Writing Project will offer a conference Sept. 6 at Obion County Central High School in Troy.

The event will run from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. "WTWP How To: A Conference on Writing, Teaching and Publishing" will feature a plenary session with published authors Shannon Lyon, Julia Schuster and Jenna Wright, plus breakout sessions on writing, teaching, technology and the Common Core.

The workshop is open to anyone older than 18 interested in writing and publishing. Teachers will receive six hours of Continuing Education Credits after completing the conference and all participants will receive certificates of participation.

Early registration before Sept. 4 is $30 and late registration is $40, which includes lunch. WTWP teacher consultants who have completed the Summer Institute at the University of Tennessee at Martin will present all breakout sessions and plenary sessions.

Registration is available online through UT Martin's office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at www.utm.edu/departments/edocs/nondegree.php. Anyone interested in attending may also call the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7080 for registration.

For updates on the conference, see WTWP's website, www.utm.edu/departments/wtwp/.

Ms. Lyon teaches at OCCHS and is author of the novel "Cotton's Daughter." Ms. Schuster teaches at St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School in Memphis and is author of "Flowers for Elvis," a novel, and "The Ingredients of Gumbo," a collection of stories, poems, essays and sketches.

Ms. Wright is chair of the UT Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages and has published writings in several journals, including Calliope, and has received honors in both nonfiction and national poetry contests. She is currently working on a memoir.

EARLY START — Elizabeth Gibson and Pete Gibson of Union City recently attended Summer Orientation and Registration at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where Miss Gibson will be a student starting in the fall. She met with academic advisers and registered for classes; toured the campus and residence halls; received information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and heard detailed information about First-Year Initiative, an orientation for first-year students.
UT Martin professor coaches team for national Special Olympics USA

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"This was an amazing opportunity for me to coach some outstanding Special Olympics athletes from across Tennessee. These athletes showed true dedication and confidence in their desire to win like no other," Smith said. "These athletes always inspire me to be a better person but also remind me to take time to slow down and have some fun. Sometimes we get so busy with our lives we tend to forget to do that."

The Special Olympians took Smith's advice and had time for fun beyond the games. Non-competition activities included visiting the New Jersey boardwalk, complete with rides and games; participating in a dinner cruise on the Hudson River with a view of Freedom Tower and the Statue of Liberty; and attending a baseball game featuring the Trenton Thunder, the New York Yankees' minor league team.

Athletes also took part in Healthy Athletes, where they received a full health screening, including hearing, vision, dental, foot care and blood pressure screenings. They participated in the opening and closing ceremonies, attended by several celebrities, including model and actress Brooklyn Decker, NBA Rookie of the Year Michael Carter-Williams, WWE Stars Big Show and Daniel Bryan, actress Jane Lynch and Special Olympics International CEO Tim Shriver. Many celebrities and professional athletes visited the game sites and awarded medals to the athletes.

"The Special Olympics USA National Games was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for some of the athletes. By being a part of these games, these athletes learned more about building confidence, friendship and teamwork," Smith said. "These kids had a chance to compete at a national level, and they rose to the challenge by showing the nation that they are champions in their individual track and field events."

Special Olympics Tennessee sent 88 Special Olympians and 32 coaches and caddies to participate in athletics, aquatics, bocce, power lifting, golf, tennis, traditional basketball, unified basketball and flag football. More than 3,500 athletes, 1,000 coaches and over 10,000 volunteers attended the games, held every four years.

SPECIAL ATHLETES — University of Tennessee at Martin assistant professor of special education Dr. Clinton Smith (back row, far right) served as the head coach for the Team Tennessee Athletics Track and Field team, which won a total of 17 medals at this year's Special Olympics USA National Games last month in New Jersey.

The team and its coaches included (from left, front row) Jamacia Osler, Theresa Dennis, Marie Ramsey, Alena Dingledein, assistant coach John Dennis, McKenzie Hudson, (back row) assistant coach Randi Ezelle, Casey Martin, Patrick Russell, Oscar Artelejo, Chris DeBerry, Payton Davis and Smith.
ATTEND GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL
— Dr. Elaine Harriss congratulated her piano students, William McDonald (left) and Gian Garma, who were selected to participate in the 2014 Governor’s School for the Arts held at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. They were two of only eight pianists selected from across the state to participate in the 2014 Governor’s School for the Arts. Pianists received private lessons, worked in piano ensembles, studied theory and participated in several performances. Both students are rising seniors, have participated in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Piano Camp and have performed in UT Martin’s Piano Ensemble recitals. Garma is a rising senior at Westview High School in Martin and has studied with Dr. Harriss for 12 years. He has placed high in TMTA’s state auditions, has earned the Paderewski medal in the National Piano Teachers Guild and has won the UTM Pre-College Piano Ensemble Competition. He is the son of Victor and Petchie Garma of Martin. McDonald is home schooled and has studied with Dr. Harriss for four years. He has received high ratings in MAMTA, TMTA and other competitions, and studies organ with Dr. Scott Roberts. He is the son of Joseph and Kathryn McDonald of McKenzie.

Heather Butler signs with Polish team

Medina native and UT Martin product Heather Butler has signed with MKK Siedlce, a professional basketball team in Poland. Butler confirmed the signing in a text message Wednesday evening.

The signing was reported earlier Wednesday by a Polish website. Butler said the season for her new league begins Sept. 15.

A 5-5 guard, Butler has played little this summer for the San Antonio Stars of the WNBA. Appearing in 11 games for the Stars, Butler scored a total of six points and never played more than seven minutes in an official game.

She is the first person from an Ohio Valley Conference school to play in the WNBA.

News outlets in Poland reported Butler will join two Americans on the MKK Siedlice team, Amy Jaeschke (Northwestern) and Eureka Brooks (Florida). Two Ukrainians and five Polish players are expected to be on the roster as well.
Dresden High graduate receives WestStar scholarship

Elizabeth Francisco, a 2014 Dresden High School graduate, was awarded the 2014-15 RisingStar Leadership Scholarship by the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program. The RisingStar committee selects the annual scholarship recipient, who receives $1,200 for the academic year. WestStar organizes and sponsors the annual RisingStar Leadership Summit.

The RisingStar Leadership Scholarship is for a student who participated in the RisingStar summit and will attend UT Martin as a freshman. Eligible students must have a 3.0 high school grade point average and a 21 or higher ACT score. Francisco will major in biology with a concentration in cell and molecular biology. She plans to later attend pharmacy school.

"I got to meet a lot of new people," Francisco said of her RisingStar experience, "I learned how to be a better leader, not only in school but in the community also."

The next RisingStar Leadership Summit will be held Nov. 20-21 for West Tennessee high school juniors and seniors involved in leadership roles within their community or school. The daylong program includes leadership team building, motivational speakers and university tours designed for specific academic interests.

Students interested in participating in RisingStar can contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298.

SCHOLARSHIP— Bethany Cole of Greenfield was recently awarded a $1,200 E.W. James Memorial Scholarship Award from the Tennessee Grocers Education Foundation. Cole was recognized on June 14 at the annual convention of the Tennessee Grocers & Convenience Store Association held at the Music City Center. A graduate of Greenfield High School, Cole will attend UT Martin and major in accounting. Cole, an employee of E.W. James & Sons, has been on the honor roll and Beta club all through high school and works with Hunters for the Hungry Weakley County chapter to donate meat to food banks.
Tennessee 4-H Roundup coming to UT Martin

For the 91st year, 4-H members from across Tennessee are gathering for the State 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference. The annual event, which takes place July 21-25, recognizes the outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments of senior high 4-H members.

Approximately 300 high school age 4-Hers from across Tennessee will meet for several days on the UT Martin campus. The 4-Hers have completed local projects in areas such as communication and public speaking, livestock, computers and technology and photography and will now compete for statewide awards that include college scholarships and trips to the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta. The theme for this year’s meeting and for all 4-H programs in 2014 is “Tennessee 4-H: Geared for Greatness.”

“Teens from all over Tennessee will come together, compete in their project areas, learn life skills such as leadership and citizenship, make lifelong friends and have a great time,” said Lori Gallimore, UT Extension Specialist in 4-H Youth Development.

“Roundup is one of the highlights for our 4-H program. Delegates who attend have spent years of work in their respective project areas.”

In addition to project competitions, delegates will participate in a number of activities, including the 4-H All Star Conference, Vol State Ceremony, the election of the 2013 State Council officers and a service-learning project. Delegates to the 2014 Tennessee 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference will work with Nashville-based Operation Troop Aid as their service project. OTA’s mission is to provide care packages for deployed U.S. service members with the revenue generated through professional concert promotions and public financial generosity. Roundup participants already organized fundraising events in their counties and will assemble the care packages for shipping while they are at UT Martin.

“Service-learning opportunities are a very important component of the 4-H program,” said Steve Sutton, director, 4-H Youth Development.

“Each year, 4-Hers statewide perform tens of thousands of hours of service at an estimated value of over $1 million. Through the service-learning projects, our 4-Hers learn that they can really make a difference in their communities.”

New UT Martin Jackson Center director selected

Kayce Beam is the new director of the University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center. She began her position July 1.

Beam, of Jackson, earned her bachelor of arts in graphic design from the University of Texas at El Paso and her master of business degree in leadership from Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, according to a news release from UT Martin.

She was most recently a multi-unit store manager for Walgreens in Jackson, Milan, Humboldt and Dyersburg, the release said. She also previously owned South Paw Designs and worked as art director at Davidson & Chandler Advertising, both in Jackson.

“My vision for the center is to continue to provide academic excellence to our students to enable them to succeed in a global economy,” Beam said of her appointment as center director.

The UT Martin Jackson Center offers a variety of general education courses and bachelor’s degree programs in social work, interdisciplinary studies, education and criminal justice. New for fall 2014 is a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

The center is located at 3031 U.S. 45 Bypass. For more information, call 425-9277.
Clinton Smith coaches Team Tennessee in 2014 national games

Story by UT Martin

Coaches are often special people, and they often have the privilege of coaching special people. Clinton Smith, University of Tennessee at Martin assistant professor of special education, did just that when he attended the Special Olympics USA National Games, held June 14-21 in New Jersey.

Smith attended the 2006, 2010 and this year’s national games as a coach. He recently

applied for an athletics coach’s position for the 2015 World Games to be held in Los Angeles, which will include more than 7,000 athletes from 170 countries.

For all of his efforts, Smith recently was named the Kiwanis Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District Teacher of the Year, which included a $250 gift for Special Olympics. He also was honored earlier this year as the Tennessee Education Association’s Distinguished Educator for Higher Education.

Smith served as the head coach for the Team Tennessee Athletics Track and Field team. Smith coached 10 Tennessee athletes who participated in weeklong track and field events, including 100 meter, 200 meter, 400 meter, 4x100-meter relays, long jump and softball throw. The Tennessee team won a total of 17 medals — six gold, four silver and seven bronze.

The men’s 4x100-meter relay team won bronze in the division.

“This was an amazing opportunity for me to coach some outstanding Special Olympics athletes from across Tennessee. These athletes showed true dedication and confidence in their desire to win like no other,” Smith said. “These athletes always inspire me to be a better person but also remind me to take time to slow down and have some fun. Sometimes we get so busy with our lives we tend to forget to do that.”

The Special Olympics took Smith’s advice and had time for fun beyond the games. Non-competition activities included visiting the New Jersey boardwalk, complete with rides and games; participating in a dinner cruise on the Hudson River with a view of Freedom Tower and the Statue of Liberty; and attending a baseball game featuring the Trenton Thunder, the New York Yankees’ minor league team.

Athletes also took part in Healthy Athletes, where they...
West Tennessee Writing Project to host conference

The West Tennessee Writing Project will offer a conference from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sept. 6 at Obion County Central High School in Troy.

"WTWP How To: A Conference on Writing, Teaching, and Publishing" will feature a plenary session with published authors Shannon Lyon, Julia Schuster and Jenna Wright, plus breakout sessions on writing, teaching, technology and the Common Core, according to a news release.

Lyon teaches at Obion County Central and is author of the novel “Cotton’s Daughter.” Schuster teaches at St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School in Memphis and is author of “Flowers for Elvis,” a novel, and “The Ingredients of Gumbo,” a collection of stories, poems, essays and sketches.

Wright is chairwoman of the UT Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages and has published writings in several journals, including “Calliope,” and has received honors in both nonfiction and national poetry contests. She is currently working on a memoir.

The workshop is open to anyone over 18 who is interested in writing and publishing. Teachers will receive six hours of Continuing Education Credits after completing the conference, and all participants receive certificates of participation.

Early registration before Sept. 4 is $30, and late registration is $40, which includes lunch. West Tennessee Writing Project teacher consultants who have completed the Summer Institute at UT Martin will present all breakout sessions and plenary sessions.

Registration is available online through UT Martin’s office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/ Nedegree.php. Anyone interested in attending also may call UT Martin’s Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7080 for registration. For updates on the conference, visit www.utm.edu/departments/wtwp/

RisingStar Leadership Scholarship awarded to Dresden student

Elizabeth Francisco, a 2014 Dresden High School graduate, was awarded the 2014-15 RisingStar Leadership Scholarship by the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program.

The RisingStar committee selects an annual scholarship recipient who receives $1,200 for the academic year, according to a news release from UT Martin. WestStar organizes and sponsors the annual RisingStar Leadership Summit.

The RisingStar Leadership Scholarship is for a student who participated in the RisingStar summit and will attend UT Martin as a freshman. Eligible students must have a 3.0 high school grade point average and a 21 or higher ACT score.

Francisco will major in biology with a concentration in cell and molecular biology, the release said. She plans to later attend pharmacy school.

"I got to meet a lot of new people," Francisco said of her RisingStar experience. "I learned how to be a better leader, not only in school but in the community also."

The next RisingStar Leadership Summit will be held Nov. 20-21 for West Tennessee high school juniors and seniors involved in leadership roles within their community or school. The daylong program includes leadership team building, motivational speakers and university tours designed for specific academic interests.

Students interested in participating in RisingStar can contact the WestStar Leadership Program at (731) 881-7298.
SUMMER RECRUITING — New UT Martin head baseball coach Rick Robinson (left) talks with University of Kentucky assistant and head recruiter Brad Bohannon during a recent outing to Lohaus Field in Fulton for an Ohio Valley League game. The two were in Fulton looking at a couple of prospects who played for the Railroaders. Robinson made several trips to “The Yard” this summer. The OVL is a wood bat collegiate league. In addition to players from NCAA and NAIA schools, junior college players looking to move on to four-year schools play in the league. Fulton’s season ended over the weekend.

Obion County students among UT-Martin scholarship recipients

Two Obion County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2014-2015 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Miyoshi Brooks, assistant director of admissions.

Carter Arnold, son of Troy and Amy Arnold, of Union City, Tenn., will be a freshman. He received the Alumni Association Valedictorian Scholarship.

Laina Leigh Roberson, daughter of William and Cathrine Roberson, of Troy, Tenn., will be a freshman. She received the Alumni Association Valedictorian Scholarship and the Dean’s Scholarship.
Drum line tune-up slated at UT Martin

The 10th Annual Drum Line Tune-Up Day for high school marching bands is set for 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Aug. 23 in the band room of the Fine Arts Building on the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus.

The schedule for the event includes working with individual school bands, split into seven groups.

Groups one, two and three are Liberty Tech High School, led by Ben Martin; Huntingdon High School, led by Jill Bonds; and South Gibson County High School, led by Stephen Price. These groups will perform from 8:30-11:20 a.m., followed by a door prize drawing and a lunch break from 11:30-12:30.

A group photo will be taken following lunch and, at 12:40 p.m., the UT Martin Marching Percussion Section will give a demonstration. From 1-1:30 p.m., guest artist Julie Davila will hold a marching percussion clinic.

Another door prize drawing will be held, followed by the performances of groups four, five, six and seven: Munford High School, led by Barry Troubaugh and Gary Fite; Stewart County High School, led by Phil and Josephine Bossenberger; McNairy Central High School, led by Ryan Foret and Micaiah Radcliffe; and Waverly Central High School, led by Joseph Bullington and Clint Rawls.

Those attending may purchase as many door prize tickets as they wish at $1 each.

The Aug. 23 percussion event is free and open to the public.

For more information, call the UT Martin Department of Music at (731) 881-7402.

TIS THE SEASON — The 10th Annual Drum Line Tune-Up Day for high school marching bands is set for Aug. 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the band room of the Fine Arts Building on the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus. A large crowd of participants attended last year’s tune-up day. For information, call the UT Martin Department of Music at (731) 881-7402.

At the college level

Rebecca Wisdom of Rives was recently awarded a $1,200 E.W. James Memorial Scholarship Award from the Tennessee Grocers Education Foundation.

Miss Wisdom was recognized last month at the annual convention of the Tennessee Grocers & Convenience Store Association, held at the Music City Center in Nashville.

A graduate of Obion County Central High School, Miss Wisdom will attend the University of Tennessee at Martin and major in mathematics. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has performed extensive community service through Sunswep Baptist Church in Union City.

The Tennessee Grocers Education Foundation presented 148 scholarships this year valued at $161,300 to students in the food industry. Eligible recipients are either employed by TGCSA member firms or have parents who are full-time employees of a TGCSA member firm.

Two Obion County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2014-15 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

They include Carter Arnold, son of Troy and Amy Arnold of Union City, who received the Alumni Association Valedictorian Scholarship; and Laina Leigh Roberson, daughter of William and Catherine Roberson of Troy, who received the Alumni Association Valedictorian Scholarship and the Dean’s Scholarship.

Both will be freshmen.
By KEVIN WEAKS
Messenger Sports
After a change in construction dates and a change in athletic directors, UT Martin’s football stadium renovation is back on track.

The home section (west side) of Hardy M. Graham Stadium is set to be completely torn down and rebuilt in time for the 2015 season, with the destruction phase to begin after the final home game this season.

“I think this absolutely puts us on course to be at least level with all or most of the Ohio Valley Conference because our football stadium is one of places where we’re the farthest behind from a facilities perspective,” UT Martin athletic director Julio Freire told The Messenger recently.

The project covers 16,200 square feet and will cost $6.5 million to complete. Of that price tag, UT Martin must come up with $1 million.

“The chancellor (Dr. Tom Rakes) has been very good in allowing us to find creative ways for fundraising until we get the funds in place,” Freire said. “He’s been very open to different fundraising ideas, and we will be able to fund raise our portion of it. There was a university commitment, there was a game guarantee commitment and there was a fundraising commitment, and all three of those units are going to be fulfilled.”

Until the fundraising portion is met, UT Martin has added a guaranteed money game to its 2015 schedule, covering that $500,000 portion of the price.

Freire says it is the athletic department’s responsibility and intent to raise that $500,000 and that the guarantee game is insurance to make sure the money is in place.

“While he fully supports renovating the stadium through the plans on the drawing board, Freire inherited the project from previous athletic director Phil Dane and has addressed concerns some people have about the stadium’s size.

To delay the project because of those concerns, Freire said, could doom the renovation for the foreseeable future.

Some people have asked about the size,” he said. “Is it big enough? Should it be bigger? I don’t know the answer to that question because I’ve never been to a UT football game.

But I can tell you this, if it’s not big enough, there are ways to expand. There are ways to expand on the home side that we’re going to be building, and there are ways to expand in the end zone.

“So, as far as I’m concerned, especially with the university funding a great majority of this project, it would be shortsighted on our part to say no, let’s not do this. If we were to do that, I don’t when the university would again have these types of resources available for a project like this.

“With that being said, I think it’s important to go ahead and take advantage of the resources that are in place by the university and augment those by guaranteed games and through philanthropic efforts and create for us — with all due respect — a stadium that is 1,000 times better than the one currently sits in that spot.”

The stadium’s capacity will be 3,560 and will include a club-like level in the four-story press box building that will double as classrooms for the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS), which is part of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

There are currently 135 undergraduate and 35 graduate majors within the FCS department, and the club level classes will allow an additional concentration in the hospitality industry. The level will cover the second floor of the four-floor stadium facility.

“One of the genius moves by the chancellor and others was to have classrooms on the second floor,” Freire said. “That is where the university will prepare students for hotel management and hospitality. Students are learning to prepare for 300, 400, 500 people, and on game day they actually get to do that.”

The stadium will feature visitor and referee locker rooms on the first floor, the classroom/club area, a level for the chancellor and season ticket holders and a modern press level to serve the needs of print, broadcast and social media as well as the replay booth.

The football stadium renovation will be the largest of several facilities upgrades that have either been completed or are currently in the planning stages.

The golf course, tennis courts and baseball/softball clubhouse are other facility upgrades, while lights have further enhanced the baseball, softball and tennis venues.

“I really want to thank and commend the chancellor and other university leaders for their foresight in this (football) project,” Freire said. “But also thanks go to the community, beginning with Martin and Weakley County. They’ve stepped forward and been huge participants in this, as well as people from other communities like Union City and Obion County and beyond. We have donors from Nashville, Memphis.

“All of Skyhawk Nation has taken a part in this, and that’s what it’s going to take for us to succeed.”

While UT Martin is currently focused on major gifts in the fundraising process, Freire indicating that anyone interested can contact him or Jason Sullivan, the AD says a new "entry point level" of fundraising will be rolled out in the near future.

UTM on solid foundation for football stadium renovation

(continued from page 14)

Included will be the opportunity to donate and have a plaque in the donor's honor erected at the stadium.

UTM’s final home game will be a homecoming date Oct. 25 against Austin Peay, which unveils its renovated stadium this season.
Dylan Powley of Paris has helped guide the University of Tennessee at Martin bass anglers to three-peat fame.

Powley is team president of the UTM bass anglers club. He is the son of Patty and the late Gary Powley.

The UT Martin bass anglers recently have earned a third consecutive Top-25 Association of Collegiate Anglers national ranking posted at collegiatebasschampionship.com. The team finished 17th, which followed a team-best 10th-place finish in 2013 and 22nd-place finish in 2012.

Powley, a fifth-year senior marketing major, is pleased with the recently completed season, but he wants more when the team hits the college bass fishing circuit for his final year. Moving up is a challenge as competition increases among the more than 200 college teams listed in this year’s final rankings.

Bass fishing is a club sport at UTM and depends on sponsorships, donations and university support to compete. Although fall tournaments are available for competition, college bass fishing’s main tournament schedule that most affects national rankings begins in the spring and continues through June. Top events happen in three main series: the FLW, the Association of Collegiate Anglers and the College Bassmaster.

The ACA runs the team rankings, but all three college fishing circuits figure into the final point totals.

National rankings are determined by 30 events, with up to five tournaments key to earning major points. Teams earn a point for each boat they finish ahead of in a tournament, while some events award double points. The UTM team’s first major tournament last spring was March 14-15 at the Collegiate Bass Fishing Open on Chickamauga Lake in Dayton. The team didn’t finish high in the tournament standings, but Powley said the event set the tone for “(grinding) out finishes” in later competition.

Three months and five tournaments later, Powley and teammate Colin Bennett, a senior engineering student from Gleason, finished 75th out of more than 100 boats in the 2014 Carhartt College Bass Wild Card tournament at Pickwick Lake in Florence, Ala. Although not the finish wanted, the team managed enough points to secure a top-25 national ranking.

Highlights happened along the tournament trail, including the team’s winning its first collegiate bass tournament championship March 29 at the Tennessee Collegiate Bass Fishing Trail on Kentucky Lake. Powley and Hayden Smith, a sophomore engineering major from Dickson, won the tournament with a total catch of 18.5 pounds.

“It really wasn’t a big tournament, but that was probably the best moment,” Powley said.

Another highlight came May 22-23 during the BoatUS Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship on Pickwick Lake near Florence, Ala. Miranda Carlton, one of two female team members, qualified to fish and was the only female to compete out of 170 teams. Carlton, a sophomore natural resources management major from Greenbrier, fished with veteran team member Ryan Lackey, a graduate student from Parsons, and their boat earned valuable points in the tournament.

Looking ahead to his final season, Powley is optimistic about the team’s prospects for improving its national ranking. Key graduations from the previous team included 2013 Bassmaster Angler of the Year Grayson Smith. Losing this kind of experience led to a younger roster for 2013-14 and heavier reliance on less-experienced team members.

“I was surprised. Usually freshmen, we get about two or three (on the roster) a year,” Powley said. “But we’ve got six or seven that really have stuck with it and seen very interesting and are taking steps to become better fishermen and really get involved with the club. I think it’s headed in a good direction.”

Powley is seeing college fishing become more competitive, with freshmen team members at larger schools entering the sport with more experience and making an immediate impact.

“In theory, I would only expect us to be better,” he said about the upcoming season. “It only takes one or two (freshmen) though to really jumpstart a program or give it a new boost of energy.”

Powley sees his years of involvement with the bass anglers team as an entryway into the outdoors industry. He comes from a family that fishes; his older brother, Crispin, works for Strike King Lure Co., and had an opportunity to pursue fishing professionally.

“I definitely want to get into the outdoor industry through this,” he said. “I feel like I made some connections.”

In the meantime, look for Powley and other bass angler team members to staff a booth Aug. 25 at the annual Student Organization Fair in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. The event welcomes back students on the first day of fall classes and showcases opportunities for campus involvement. The team will be looking for a few good men and women to take college bass fishing to the next level at UT Martin.
West Tennessee Writing Project to host conference

The West Tennessee Writing Project will offer a conference from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6, at Obion County Central High School in Troy.

"WTWP How To: A Conference on Writing, Teaching, and Publishing" will feature a plenary session with published authors Shannon Lyon, Julia Schuster and Jenna Wright, plus breakout sessions on writing, teaching, technology and the Common Core.

The workshop is open to anyone over 18 interested in writing and publishing. Teachers will receive six hours of Continuing Education Credits after completing the conference, and all participants receive certificates of participation.

Early registration before September 4 is $30 and late registration is $40, which includes lunch. See WTWP's website for updates on the conference: http://www.utm.edu/departments/extendcampus.

Lyon teaches at Obion County Central and is author of the novel "Cotton's Daughter," Schuster teaches at St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School in Memphis and is author of "Flowers for Elvis," a novel, and "The Ingredients of Gumbo," a collection of stories, poems, essays and sketches.

Wright is chair of the UT Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages and has published writings in several journals, including Calliope, and has received honors in both nonfiction and national poetry contests. She is currently working on a memoir.

McNairy County News

McNairy County student receives scholarship to attend UT Martin

A McNairy County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2014-2015 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Miyoshi Brooks, assistant director of admissions.

Denise Lawson, student of Selmer, daughter of Elizabeth Goodrum and Dennis Lawson, will be a senior. She received the Parry/Winkles 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.
MARCHING SEASON — The 10th Annual Drum Line Tune-Up Day for high school marching bands is set for 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 23 in the Band Room of the Fine Arts Building on the University of Tennessee at Martin. Pictured are participants attending last year’s tune-up day. For information, call the UTM Department of Music at 881-7402.

UT Martin hosts annual Drum Line Tune-up Day

The 10th Annual Drum Line Tune-Up Day for high school marching bands is set for 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 23 in the Band Room of the Fine Arts Building on the University of Tennessee at Martin. The schedule for the event includes working with individual school bands, split into seven groups. Groups one, two and three are: Liberty Tech High School, led by Ben Martin; Huntingdon High School, led by Jill Bonds; and South Gibson County High School, led by Stephen Price. These groups will perform from 8:30-11:20 a.m., followed by a door prize drawing and a lunch break from 11:30-12:30 p.m.

A group photo will be taken following lunch, and at 12:40 p.m., the UT Martin Marching Percussion Section will give a demonstration. From 1-1:30 p.m., guest artist Julie Davila will hold a marching percussion clinic.

Another door-prize drawing will be held, followed by the performances of groups four, five, six and seven: Munford High School, led by Barry Troubaugh and Gary Fite; Stewart County High School, led by Joseph Bullington and Clint Rawls.

Those attending can purchase as many door prize tickets as they wish at $1 each. The event is free and open to the public. For additional information, call the UT Martin Department of Music at 881-7402.
TIEP students bring diversity to UT Martin and community

China, Japan, Korea, Mali, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Thailand, Mexico – all of these countries and more are currently here in Martin. Or, rather, representatives from these countries live here amongst us and offer a peek into the people, countries and cultures that most of us have only dreamed about or seen on a National Geographic special.

These countries and their people are brought to you courtesy of TIEP, the Tennessee Intensive English Program, which is administered by the University of Tennessee at Martin. The primary purpose of the Tennessee Intensive English Program is to prepare international students with the language skills and the cultural adjustment needed to succeed in both undergraduate and graduate programs at the university level. TIEP is an internationally recognized program and known for its quality in English as a Second Language instruction.

Many of these students hope to attend an American university once they become proficient in the language and can pass the necessary tests or courses to gain admittance. Others just hope to increase their English skills well enough to go back home to jobs or businesses that demand the use of English – the primary language of the business world.

TIEP strives to immerse international students into the culture of the United States through field trips and activities outside the classroom. Some know little about this great country or its people, only what they have heard second-hand or what they’ve read about. TIEP also hopes the community will get to know these remarkable students who have high hopes and interesting lives. Why not find out about their country, culture and people first-hand?
CULTURAL MELTING POT — Weakley County Press news editor Brad Gaskins (center) was the special guest speaker July 18 for the Tennessee Intensive English Program, which is administered by the University of Tennessee at Martin. Students were given copies of The Press to read prior to his visit. He spoke to the students about what it’s like to work in the media field, the evolving nature of the newspaper business and how the internet has changed mass communications. “Just a few short years ago, you actually had to reside in Weakley County or the surrounding area to read The Press,” Gaskins told the students. “Thanks to the internet and nwtntoday.com, The Press can be read by anyone in the world, from Seoul to Tokyo to Riyadh to Bangkok. Today’s world doesn’t seem as big as it used to be thanks to the internet.”

Taking part in the discussion in Rebecca Searle’s Listening 3 class were (standing, from left) Emma Lark, Yao Yu, Ran Li, Adili Yilihamu, An Qiyue, Xiang Li, Abdulrazaq Alqasem, Gaskins, Khalid Alruwaili, Yassier Alharbi, Zesheng Wen, Thanin Kunakorn, (kneeling) Ali Mohsen Farhan.

GUEST SPEAKER — Weakley County Press news editor Brad Gaskins (center) was the July 18 guest speaker for the Tennessee Intensive English Program, which is administered by the University of Tennessee at Martin. Taking part in the discussion in Rebecca Searle’s Grammar 5 class were (standing, from left) Rayan Alluhaydan, Wachirawut Nakarawanakul, Faye Alana B, Gaskins, Hassan Albashari.

Taleb Alsalahi, Meshal Alkatib and (sitting) Aras Jonathan Perez Loo. Gaskins spoke to the students about media, newspapers and the importance of good grammar and writing skills in any profession. “It was an honor to speak to the TIEP students at UT Martin,” Gaskins said. “I look forward to additional opportunities in the future and am happy to assist this wonderful program in any way needed.”
After a year's delay, UTM stadium plan on solid foundation

By KEVIN WEEKS
Press Sports

After a change in construction dates and a change in athletic directors, UT Martin's football stadium renovation is back on track.

The home section (west side) of Hardy M. Graham Stadium is set to be completely torn down and rebuilt in time for the 2015 season, with the destruction phase to begin after the final home game this season.

"I think this absolutely puts us on course to be at least level with all or most of the Ohio Valley Conference because our football stadium is one of places where we’re the farthest behind from a facilities perspective," UTM athletic director Julio Freire told The Messenger recently.

The project covers 16,200 square feet and will cost $6.5 million to complete. Of that price tag, UTM must come up with $1 million.

"The chancellor (Dr. Tom Rakes) has been very good in allowing us to find creative ways for fundraising until we get the funds in place," Freire said. "He’s been very open to different fundraising ideas, and we will be able to fund raise our portion of it. There was a university commitment, there was a game guarantee commitment and there was a fundraising commitment, and all three of those units are going to be fulfilled."

Until the fundraising portion is met, UTM has added a guaranteed money game to its 2015 schedule, covering at least $500,000 portion of the price. Freire says it is the athletic department's responsibility and intent to raise that $500,000 and that the guarantee money is to make sure the money is in place.

"While he fully supports renovating the stadium through the plans on the drawing board, Freire inherited the project from previous AD Phil Dane and has addressed concerns some people have about the stadium's size. To delay the project because of those concerns, Freire said, could doom the renovation for the foreseeable future.

"Some people have asked about the size," he said. "Is it big enough? Should it be bigger? I don't know the answer to that question because I've never been to a UTM football game.

But I can tell you this, if it's not big enough, there are ways to expand. There are ways to expand on the home side that we're going to be building, and there are ways to expand in the end zone.

"So, as far as I'm concerned, especially with the university funding a great majority of this project, it would be shortsighted on our part to say no, let's not do this. If we were to do that, I don't when the university would again have these types of resources available for a project like this. With that being said, I think it's important to go ahead and take advantage of the resources that are in place by the university and augment those by guaranteed games and through philanthropic efforts and create for us -- with all due respect -- a stadium that is 1,000 times better than the one currently sits in that spot."

The stadium's capacity will be 3,560 and will include a club-like level in the four-story press box building that will double as classrooms for the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS), which is part of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

There are currently 135 undergraduate and 35 graduate majors within the FCS department, and the club level classes will allow an additional concentration in the hospitality industry. The level will cover the second floor of the four-floor stadium facility.

"One of the genius moves by the chancellor and others was to have classrooms on the second floor," Freire said. "That is where the university will prepare students for hotel management and hospitality. Students are learning to prepare for 300, 400, 500 people, and on game day they actually get to do that."

The stadium will feature visitor and referee locker rooms on the first floor, the classroom/club area, a level for the chancellor and season ticket holders and a modern press level to serve the needs of print, broadcast and social media as well as the replay booth.

The football stadium renovation will be the largest of several facilities upgrades that have either been completed or are currently in the planning stages. The golf center, tennis courts and baseball/softball clubhouse are other facility upgrades, while lights have further enhanced the baseball, softball and tennis venues.

"I really want to thank and commend the chancellor and other university leaders for their foresight in this (football) project," Freire said. "But, also thanks go to the community, beginning with Martin and Weakley County. They've stepped forward and been huge participants in this, as well as people from other communities like Union City and Obion County and beyond. We have donors from Nashville, Memphis. All of Skyhawk Nation has taken a part in this, and that's what it's going to take for us to succeed."

While UTM is currently focused on major gifts in the fundraising process, Freire indicating that anyone interested can contact him or Jason Sullivan, the AD says a new "entry point level" of fundraising would be rolled out in the near future.

Included will be the opportunity to donate and have a plaque in the donor's honor erected at the stadium.

UTM's final home game will be a homecoming date Oct. 25 against Austin Peay, which unveils its renovated stadium this season.