The 21st annual Tennessee Soybean Festival, which is expected to attract more than 30,000 people, is underway in downtown Martin. The festival continues through Sunday.

Events include a biodiesel truck and tractor pull, a festival parade on Tuesday, an art exhibition, a street fair, a carnival, a softball showcase, a barbecue cook-off, a car and bike show, a disc golf tournament, Juke and Junkin’ Fest, and music, according to a news release.

Performers will include the Cadillac Three on Tuesday; Audio Adrenaline on Wednesday; We The Kings on Thursday; The Little River Band on Friday; and headliner Lee Brice will rock out Saturday.

The soybean is celebrated because of its many uses that include human consumption, feeding livestock, energy independence, soy ink, crayons, milk, nuts, miso and more, according to the release.

Patrons may download the Martin Business Association app for a complete event schedule for the Tennessee Soybean Festival as well as coupons from Martin-based businesses, the release said.

For more information, visit www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.
WC students receive scholarships to UTM

Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2014-15 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Miyoshi Brooks, assistant director of admissions.

- Taylor Nicole Alderson, of Sharon, daughter of Jeff Alderson and Amy Wiley, will be a freshman. She received the Charles and Bettye Moore Scholarship and the Maintenance Center Family Scholarship.
- Annabelle Reece Cormia, daughter of Ross and Susan Cormia, of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Elam Alumni Legacy Scholarship and the E. C. Thurmond Memorial Scholarship.
- Katherine Jimenez, daughter of Manuel and Bibiana Jimenez, of McKenzie, will be a freshman. She received the Dean’s Scholarship.
- Jennifer Renee King, daughter of Jerry and JoAnn Petty, of Sharon, will be a junior. She received the UTM Transfer Scholarship.
- Sloan Winters, of Martin, daughter of Todd and Susan Winters, will be a sophomore. She received the UTM Transfer 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.

LEGACIES — University of Tennessee at Martin alumni and their children who enrolled at the University for the fall semester arrived Aug. 21 at The Paul Meek Library for the annual Legacy Luncheon. The luncheon featured a scholarship presentation by the UT Alumni Association. Pictured above are Andy Sliger ('98) and Pam Sliger ('92) with their son, Wes, all of Martin. Pictured to the left are Patricia Johnson ('85) and her son, Andrew, both of Martin.
TENNESSEE SOYBEAN FESTIVAL

SUNDAY NIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA – Clockwise from top: Surf’s Up, a Beach Boys tribute band, provided the musical entertainment Sunday night at the Martin Recreational Complex, where thousands gathered for a night of fun. A spectacular fireworks show sponsored by Savant Learning Systems followed the concert. The concert and fireworks were proceeded by TN Rolling Thunder Chapter VI’s “Missing Man” ceremony to honor America’s POWs/MIA. (Photos by Christel Thomp- son Laney/Special to The Press)
The 21st annual Soybean Festival is in full swing. The 21st annual event started late last week and continues through Saturday.

Opening weekend activities included the Diesel Truck and Tractor Pull on Friday, followed by Soybean Saturday, which featured special sales and great deals from Martin businesses.

On Sunday, thousands gathered at the Martin Recreational Complex to hear a performance from Surf’s Up, a Beach Boys tribute band, followed by a fireworks show.

The good times continued Monday with the annual pageants and Disney Day, which was postponed from Saturday due to the weather.

Here’s the schedule for today through Thursday:

**TODAY:**
- The 2nd annual History of Farming in Weakley County Exhibit opened at 9:30 a.m. and runs through 5:30 p.m. The exhibit is on display at the C.E. Weldon Public Library through Friday.
- The Soybean Festival Parade steps off at 6:30 p.m. and will travel along University and Lindell streets. The UT Martin rodeo team will serve as grand marshals.
- The Cadillac Three performs at 8 p.m. at Festival Park.

**WEDNESDAY:**
- A prayer breakfast will be held in the fellowship hall at First United Methodist Church starting at 6:45 a.m.
- Dominoes for senior adults begins at 10 a.m. at the Senior Adult Center.
- The Crossroads Luncheon: A Celebration of Civic Organizations is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Life Center. Civic organizations will be packing food items for local food banks.
- A Community Health Awareness Fair begins at 5:30 p.m. in Historic Downtown Martin.
- A Varsity group training demonstration will be held at 5:30 p.m. at Lindell and Oxford streets. Also, there will be a cardio interval class at The Sideline, also at 5:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY:**
- The Farmer’s Breakfast is at 6:30 a.m. at TN Tractor in Martin. The speaker will be retired Marine Lt. General John “Glad” Castellaw.
- The City-Wide Merchant Sidewalk Sale will take place in Historic Downtown Martin.
- The Senior Adult Bingo at 10 a.m. at the Senior Adult Center.
- The Rotary Golf Tournament tees off at noon at Persimmon Hills in Sharon. Lunch is at 11 a.m.
- Senior Adult Bingo at the Senior Adult Center begins at 1 p.m.
- A street fair and carnival in Historic Downtown Martin begins at 5 p.m. and runs through midnight.
- The Cancer Crash Car Bash is from 5-10 a.m. in Historic Downtown Martin. The event benefits Relay for Life.
- The Friends of the Library Used Book Sale is from 5-10 p.m. at the C.E. Weldon Public Library.
- UT Martin Student Night begins at 7 p.m. in Festival Park. First, enjoy percussion sounds of the world under the direction of Dr. Julie Hill. At 9 p.m., We The Kings take the main stage.

---

**Local students make Chancellor’s Honor Roll**

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2013 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

**DRESDEN** — Robert L. Gertsch, Highest Honors.

**GLEASON** — Hollie L. Townes High Honors.

**GREENFIELD** — Carl R. Whitlow, High Honors and Megan A. Witherington, Highest Honors.

**MARTIN** — Pegeen J. Adams, Highest Honors; Charles H. Alley, High Honors; Sabrina D. Black, High Honors; Ronald Hammer, Honors; Chance E. Weldon, High Honors.

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
Will McNairy Sands help determine county's economic future?

By Christen Coulon  
Managing Editor

Did you know that McNairy County lends its name to a unique geological feature first discovered here more than 100 years ago? The McNairy Sands are the designation of a unique sand formation extending from McNairy County up into Southern Illinois.

The sands are remnants of a Mesozoic era beach which migrated in a swath from north to south across the county about 60 million years ago as an ancient sea (which in now known as the Gulf of Mexico) receded southward.

Despite the fact that the sands cover only about 2 percent of the overall county, the feature derives its name from the site in which it was discovered.

“When we identify a large deposit, if it is large enough for us to map it, then it gets its own name,” Dr. Michael Gibson, professor of geology at UT Martin said. “What ever place (the deposit) is first described or has the best exposure, (the deposit) is named after that. So, in our case, the McNairy Sands were separated out of a larger body called the Ripley Sands. The McNairy Sands turned out to be a little different than the Ripley deposit so it gets its own name.”

Gibson said that the McNairy Sands were first identified near a railroad track near where Big Hill Pond State Park is located today.

The McNairy Sands are unique in that they represent a transition from ocean to land with a unique composition of sands, minerals and heavy metals.

The term sand is simply a designation for a tiny particle, Gibson said. Quartz is a common element found in sand around the globe, however many other elements accumulate in coastal sands and the unique make-up of McNairy Sands distinguishes it from other types of sand.

Gibson said that McNairy Sands have a red tint from their high concentration of iron-oxide. McNairy Sands also contain heavy minerals Gibson said.

These dense, heavy minerals are basically sorted in the tides of the ocean and can accumulate on a beach. Gibson said that the McNairy Sands are somewhat rich in titanium ores which could, under the right economic conditions, make them useful for mining.

Currently, titanium is moderately valuable; trading for about $6 per kilogram ($2.70 per pound).

If companies can get enough of it out of an area for less than the cost it takes to mine, then it becomes profitable.

Gibson said that several companies including DuPont have already purchased mineral rights here and looked into mining the McNairy Sands.

Currently, Gibson said that the titanium in the McNairy Sands is considered a reserve because it is not profitable to mine it right now. However, he said that it is getting closer to becoming a profitable venture for the right company. There would likely need to be a global rise in the commodity price for titanium, or an industry requiring a local source for titanium for it to become profitable here in the near future.
Dr. Michael Gibson, professor of geology at UT Martin explains the geological processes which helped form McNairy County. Gibson details how a unique feature known as McNairy Sands could bring future industry to the county.

He said the area is more attractive for companies who are looking to develop a reserve in titanium right now. Gibson said that he thought it would be years or even decades before we would see a mine open up.

In addition to the titanium and iron content of the McNairy Sands, Gibson said that there were some other heavy minerals that could make this sand valuable. The sands here may also contain trace amounts of rare earth elements, many of which are more valuable than gold. These rare earth elements are used mainly in electronics. But Gibson said that the rare earth elements would be present in such small amounts that it may never be profitable to mine here for them.
Ribbon cutting held for new nursing wing at UTM Parsons

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Thursday, August 28, which officially opened the new West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation Nursing Wing at the UT Martin Parsons Center, located at 975 Tennessee Avenue North in Parsons.

University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro, UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes, local and state elected officials and university nursing faculty joined the Parsons Center students and a crowd of others for the ceremony. Dr. Kelli Deere, Parsons Center director proudly lead the event.

"I am so excited about the new addition and the growth that this will bring to Parsons," Deere stated. "This fall we have our highest enrollment in the history of the school. We look forward to the future growth at the UT Martin Parsons Center."

"I think this is a great addition to the campus and we are very fortunate to have a facility like this in Parsons, Decatur County," contends Parsons mayor Tim David Boaz. "This will attract people from miles around and keep our people from going other places, never to return to Decatur County. We're keeping them here to get their education, which increases our chances of keeping the best and brightest at home. What makes some communities successful, while others fail, is that they take the best and brightest and pay other communities to take them to educate them and they never return. This should change that."

A special recognition was given to Jim and Janet Ayers for their continuing support of the youth's education in Decatur County. Mr. Ayers is proud of his ability to contribute to the opportunities to young people and in 1999, he established The Ayers Foundation, which has since supported a wide range of programs and institutions with his emphasis being on education in Decatur County, along with surrounding counties. He and his wife have also established and funded the Ayers Institute at Vanderbilt University, which conducts advanced cancer research, the Ayers Children's Hospital in Jackson and the Ayers Institute for Learning and Innovation at Lipscomb University. Most of the students attending the UT Martin Campus at Parsons have the aid of a scholarship provided by The Ayers Foundation. A plaque on the wall of the campus pays tribute to the couple and a bust of Mr. Ayers was unveiled during the ceremony. He said he was very humbled and undeserving of the recognition and praise, but so pleased with the type of students the Parsons campus is producing and hopes
Ribbon cutting

FROM PAGE 1

this is only the beginning of a larger success for the campus.

According to an announcement made by Deere during the dedication ceremony, nursing students achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

Initial funding for the expansion was included in the 2013-14 budget proposed by Gov. Bill Haslam and approved by the Tennessee General Assembly. A $1 million appropriation was made to build a 10,000-square-foot addition to the current facility. The addition includes classrooms, a skills laboratory and a high-fidelity computerized simulation laboratory. The expansion plans received an added boost when the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation also made a $1 million commitment to the project.

The Parsons Center will have openings for up to 30 students annually for the program. BSN program graduates will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses and obtain licensure as registered nurses. The university recently announced that nursing graduates in the class of 2014 achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the NCLEX-RN.

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

The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing recommended reaccreditation for the UT Martin Department of Nursing in June.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Thursday, August 28, which officially opened the new West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation Nursing Wing at the UT Martin Parsons Center, located at 975 Tennessee Avenue North in Parsons.
SPIRITED FUN — Several members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Tennessee in Union City recently attended the annual Sports Extravaganza sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Among those who participated in a cheer camp were Megan Burney (back left) and Shamyah Davis (back right), who practiced a routine with a UT Martin cheerleader. A number of other camps were also offered at no cost, including football, basketball, baseball, soccer, volleyball, rodeo and golf camps.

COLLEGE CREW — Students (from left) Andrea Martin of Troy, Alex Adkins of Smyrna, Mason Warren of Union City and Macy Allison of Troy paused on campus recently during the first day of University of Tennessee at Martin fall classes. A freshman class of more than 1,100 students began arriving Aug. 21 to participate in the university’s First-Year Initiative Welcome Weekend, an orientation program that prepares students to navigate the university environment. All day and evening classes began Aug. 25.
Students, their families and friends arrived recently for move-in day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Faculty, staff, current students and area residents assisted students as they prepared for the fall semester, which began Aug. 25. Among those who participated in move-in day were Tristen Miller (second from left) and her parents, Tony and Teresa Miller, and grandparents, Ewell and Stella Baker, all of Hornbeak.

Nicole Storey and her mother, Linda Storey of Union City, were among the students, families and friends who arrived recently for move-in day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Faculty, staff, current students and area residents assisted students as they prepared for fall semester that began Aug. 25.
UT MARTIN MOVE IN DAY - Students, their families and friends arrived Thursday, August 21 for move-in day at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Faculty, staff, current students and area residents assisted students as they prepared for fall semester that began August 25. Pictured are freshman Hannah Houck, her father, Chris, and her brother, Noah, all of Gibson.

FEDERAL RESERVE FACTS - Dr. Thomas Payne, left, Professor of Finance at University of Tennessee at Martin, provided a program recently to the Rotary Club of Fulton, "The Federal Reserve, What is Really Going On". He offered an opportunity for members to ask questions and express their perspectives on the economy. Shown with Dr. Payne are Bob Mahan, and Dr. Harry Ward. (Photo submitted)
CLASS ACT — University of Tennessee at Martin students (from left) Joshua Dyer, Jake Bell and Nicole Storey, all of Union City, paused on campus during the first day of UT Martin fall classes recently. A freshman class of more than 1,100 students began arriving Aug. 21 to participate in the university's First-Year Initiative Welcome Weekend, an orientation program that prepares students to navigate the university environment. All day and evening classes began Aug. 25.

LEGACY LUNCHEON — University of Tennessee at Martin alumni and their children who enrolled at the University for the fall semester arrived recently at the Paul Meek Library on campus for the annual Legacy Luncheon. Among those in attendance were Hailey Clendenin (center) and her parents, Dr. John Clendenin and Pam Clendenin, both of Union City. The luncheon featured a scholarship presentation by the UT Alumni Association.
PANHELLENIC RECRUITMENT - The University of Tennessee at Martin held Panhellenic Recruitment this past weekend for interested students. Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority members lined the field of Graham Stadium on Monday afternoon to welcome new members into their sisterhood. Each student was announced individually over the loud speaker as she ran out to her new sorority sisters. Pictured are freshman Micah Capps of Dyersburg, with Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority members Ali Barros of Medway, Mass., and MaKensie Bawcum of Camden.

UTM students from Japan visit Jackson museum

By news admin
Story Created: Sep 4, 2014 at 5:24 PM CDT
(Story updated Sep 4, 2014 at 8:47 PM CDT)

WEST JACKSON – Dozens of international students learned about the Hub City during a Thursday visit.

Casey Jones Home & Railroad Museum and Casey Jones Village welcomed 32 Japanese students visiting through the University of Tennessee at Martin. It was all part of an international program at the school.

Students from Takasaki City University of Economics in Takasaki, Japan, have been coming to the campus of the University of Tennessee Martin for several years for a three-week program to enhance their English skills and to learn about the culture, history and economics that influence the area and region.

While at UT Martin, students live in the residence halls and attend morning classes that focus on practicing and improving their listening and speaking skills, according to a release. During the afternoons, the students take short field trips to areas of interest to experience aspects of the history and culture of the area.

During a private museum tour, the students learned about the Casey Jones Village's impact on West Tennessee.

The group is visiting Tennessee from August 27 through Sept 16.

http://www.wbbjtv.com/
Change in University funding, positive impact

Posted: Sep 04, 2014 4:39 PM CST
Updated: Sep 04, 2014 5:26 PM CST
By Amanda Roberts - email
By Randall Barnes - email

Martin, TN - A change in the way a local state funds universities appears to be doing a world of good for students.

Four years ago Tennessee enacted the Complete College Tennessee Act. Instead of funding public universities for the number of students they enroll, they'd be paid for how many graduate.

Since the change, graduation rates are up.

Nikki Roberson knows getting an education is important, "I try to keep up as much as possible." But deciding where to get that education wasn't as important until now. Professor Brian Donavant says both faculty and staff have made changes over the past 4 years, "We really revamped some of our curriculum to embrace this.

Especially in their approaches to educating, keeping, and graduating their students, "The faculty and staff across campus as well as administration have really stepped up their efforts at looking at outcomes." All of these changes are from 2010 legislation: the Complete College Tennessee Act. Donovan says, "We've embraced some of the changes that have come to us in terms of the CCTA.

In essence, the colleges have decreased acceptance rates, approximately 100 less freshman per year. Because of this, they're able to retain more students each year, that number hovers around 70 percent. They've in turn been able to increase their graduation rate. 3 percent over four years. Half a percent, or 5 percent growth per year is considered a success.

Donovan says, "That's really helped us to sort of refocus and increase our priorities and outcomes."

Because it all boils down to a quality education, "The purpose of a college education is not just to come here and sit in the classroom and spend your time it's to spend your time productively."

So students like Roberson can make the walk across the stage, "That's what I'm trying to do right now is just pass all my classes just to get to the end."

UT Martin has the third highest graduation rate in the state as a four-year institution.

One of the initial concerns with passing the CCTA was among community colleges. Would a two-year college receive state assistance if potential graduates continued to transfer to other universities?

UT Martin Chancellor, Doctor Tom Rakes says students who completing training and earn a certificates figure into a school's graduation rate. "If you account that certificate it's a post secondary credential it's not a college degree but we count it as extra training."

So, how do our other Local 6 states compare? Both Illinois and Missouri implemented performance-based funding for two and four year universities and colleges. Kentucky does not fund their public colleges and universities based on performance.

College Funding Changes, Positive Results
Importance Of Quality Education Emphasized
Tennessee agriculture commissioner presents grant check during Mayor’s Kickoff Luncheon

By THE PRESS

Martin Mayor Randy Brundige handed out a lot of awards Tuesday at a kick-off luncheon for the Tennessee Soybean Festival, but he was also the recipient of the event’s biggest award.

Tennessee Department of Agriculture Commissioner Julius Johnson presented Brundige with a check for $100,000—a Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program grant to help the city fund the construction of a new farmers market pavilion.

"This is in keeping with the Department of Agriculture's goals and efforts to increase economic activity in rural communities by responding to the growth in and demand for fresh and local foods," Johnson said during the Mayor’s Kickoff Luncheon inside the Russell Duncan Ballroom at UT Martin’s Boling University Center.

“It’s fresher,” Johnson said of local foods. “It’s more nutritious for you and—this can’t be proven scientifically—but I think it’s even safer for you, because you know the farmer you’re getting it from. Today’s consumers want to know where and how their food is produced. These kinds of venues are important to helping consumers connect with our local farmers. It makes sense economically, healthwise and environmentally to go local.”

The grant follows a recommendation to increase local marketing opportunities for Tennessee farmers as outlined in the "Governor’s Rural Challenge: A 10-Year Strategic Plan." The plan was developed last year at the request of Gov. Bill Haslam to guide the state’s agricultural development efforts.

“We are very excited to receive this grant,” Brundige said. “Supporting local farmers and locally grown products is important. The grant will help construct a much-needed facility and will be another great addition to our downtown.”

SEE AWARDS, PAGE 12
AWARDS
FROM PAGE 1

The grant is based on a proposal by the city to provide matching funds for the construction of a permanent pavilion in the city’s Historic Business District in keeping with historic guidelines and resembling a train depot. The pavilion will support year-round activity that is currently restricted to only certain times of the year based on weather conditions.

“This project will not only support local agriculture, but will enhance your downtown revitalization efforts,” Johnson said. “We look forward to seeing the project continue to fruition so we can come back and take advantage of some good local produce.”

Speaking on another issue, Johnson thanked the region for supporting The Port of Cates Landing. Located north of Tiptonville in Lake County, the port — a $20 million project — was completed in the summer of 2013.

“It’s going slow, but it’s going to work and we’re all going to work together to make it happen,” he said. “First of all, you and the counties in this region came together to focus as a group to make sure it was there. It’s going to pay dividends down the road as we work hard to make it a success. That’s the kind of regional approach the governor has been talking about in his ‘Jobs for Tennessee’ plan — taking a regional approach rather than a county versus neighboring county kind of approach. We’ve got to work together regionally to accomplish the things that we want to do, even in agriculture.”

ROdeo TEAM

Brundige presented a proclamation recognizing the UT Martin men’s rodeo team for winning the 66th annual College National Rodeo Finals in Casper, Wyoming — the first national championship of any UT Martin athletic team.

“Since it’s inception, the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk rodeo team has a long history of being one of the best programs in the nation,” Brundige said.

Head coach John Luthi and the men’s team were named grand marshals of the Soybean parade. “We are proud to name you the grand marshals of our Tennessee Soybean Festival,” said David Belote, the festival’s executive director.

The national championship team consisted of Clark Adcock, Colt Kitaif, John Alley, Tanner Phipps, Tyler Waltz and Will Lummus, as well as Luthi and assistant head coach Nelson Davis.

“Congratulations, national champions,” UT Martin athletics director Julio Friere said. “Thank you to everybody who supports this great university and this great city, but do remember, ‘It’s a great day to be a Skyhawk.’”

BIG bean

Brundige presented the Big Bean Award to J&R Agri-Power.

“The Big Bean Award is presented annually to a business, organization or person who exemplifies service to community, especially to the Tennessee Soybean Festival,” he said.

“This year’s winner does just this.”

H&R Agri-Power is a first-year festival sponsor.

“We are so glad that they have chosen to partner with us,” Brundige said. “Their roots are agriculture, which exemplifies what we celebrate. As the soybean is known for it’s magical properties, this year’s Big Bean winner has made magic right here in Martin.”

Fred Wilkerson accepted the award. “Thanks to all of you for letting us participate in this fine occasion,” he said.

service awards

UT Martin director of bands Dr. John Oerlich and Weakley County Press editor Brad Gaskins each received a Soybean Service Award. Presented annually, the award recognizes individuals or organizations who have committed their time and resources to the various festival activities and events, going above and beyond in service to the festival.

Oerlich received the award for his role in creating the Martin Community Band.

“He is a talented university and community servant who over the last two years has gathered a whole host of other talented and community servants,” Belote said of Oerlich “Together, they have made beautiful music, not only in Martin, but throughout northwest Tennessee, as the Martin Community Band. Their performance (Monday afternoon) at Disney Day was superb.”

Gaskins received the award for his role in producing the 64-page Tennessee Soybean Festival guide.

“The Weakley County Press has been a good friend and a partner in the Tennessee Soybean Festival since we started this festival 21 years ago,” Belote said. “For the past several years, they have produced our Soybean Festival booklet. I think you will agree with me that it is a beautiful piece of work. There are several people who work hard putting this together. Thank you Lynette (Wagster), thank you Beth (Crawens), thank you Suzanne (Peckham) — thank you everybody at the Weakley County Press.”

GIVING THANKS

Belote thanked former Martin Mayor Larry Taylor and Dr. Jerry Gresham, professor emeritus of Animal Science and chair of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources at UT Martin.

“These two gentlemen were the fathers of the Tennessee Soybean festival,” Belote said. “It was their idea. It was them that laid the foundation for the festival.”

Belote recognized Dr. Jim Byford and Larry Holder for authoring and
BEAN KING/QUEEN
He’s a bank president. She’s a media mogul.
For the remainder of the festival, though, you can refer to Sam Lewallen of First State Bank and Lynette Wagster of The Weakley County Press as King Bean and Queen Bean, respectively.
The Pilot Club of Martin bestowed the titles upon the two for raising the most money in the inaugural fundraiser. All proceeds go to buy bike helmets for the Pilot Club’s annual Bicycle Rodeo.
Lynn Gibson and Jerri Conley presented the awards on behalf of the Pilot Club.
“I have a feeling it’s a good idea to pay off your banker before you pay off your police chief or fire chief,” Lewallen joked as to how he raised more money than David Moore and Jamie Summers.
Queen Bean Wagster said, “I will serve my podlings with pride.”

STRONG PARTNERS
UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes praised the strong partnership between the university and the City of Martin.
“Thank you all for joining us and supporting the University of Tennessee at Martin at the Soybean Festival,” he said.
CHECK PRESENTATION — Taking part in the check presentation of the $100,000 Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program grant at the Mayor's Kickoff Luncheon on Tuesday were (from left) state Rep. Andy Holt, Martin Mayor Randy Brundige, Tennessee Department of Agriculture Commissioner Julius Johnson and state Sen. John Stevens. (Photos by Nathan Morgan/UT Martin University Relations)

SERVICE AWARD — UT Martin director of bands Dr. John Oelrich (left) accepts a Tennessee Soybean Festival Service Award from Mayor Randy Brundige
Casey Jones Village welcomes Japanese students

WEB EXTRA
Find a photo gallery from this event at jacksonsun.com

On Thursday, Casey Jones Home & Railroad Museum and Casey Jones Village welcomed 32 Japanese students who were visiting through the University of Tennessee at Martin International Programs department.

English as a Second Language Instructor Tom Johnson coordinated the students’ visit as he has previous groups, according to a news release. The group is visiting Tennessee from Aug. 27 through Sept. 16.

Museum director Jimmy Bailey gave the students a tour of the Casey Jones Home & Railroad Museum. Clark Shaw, CEO of Brooks Shaw’s Old Country Store, spoke to the group about the economic impact of the museum and Casey Jones Village on the area.

The students ate traditional Southern cuisine at Old Country Store and heard live music by members of the Jackson Area Plectral Society.

Students from Japan’s Takasaki City University of Economics have been coming to the campus of UT Martin for several years. They participate in a three-week program to enhance their English skills and to learn about the culture, history and economics that influence the area and region, the news release said. This year the 32 students participating in the program are majoring in economics, business management and regional policy.

While on UTM’s campus, students live in the residence halls and attend morning classes that focus on practicing and improving their listening and speaking skills, the release said. During the afternoons, the students take short field trips to areas of interest to experience aspects of the history and culture of the area. They often have an opportunity to meet with business owners, marketing directors and business managers to get insight into the economic influences different places have on the local and regional economy.

An example of places they will visit include Pinson Indian Mounds and Reelfoot Lake State Park, where the group will learn about the economic importance of these local parks on the Tennessee economy.

While in Martin, the students get a good dose of Tennessee culture by attending the Tennessee Soybean Festival, a tractor pull, parade, concerts and barbecue cook-off as well as a UTM football game. On the weekend before the students return to Japan, they will make a trip to St. Louis to visit the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Museum and Gateway Arch and the St. Louis Zoo.

They will have an opportunity to see a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game and spend a day at Six Flags amusement park.

Students from Takasaki City University of Economics in Takasaki, Japan have been coming to the campus of the University of Tennessee Martin for several years for a three week program.

Continued from Page B1

Casey Jones Home & Railroad Museum and Casey Jones Village welcomed a group of 32 Japanese students visiting through the University of Tennessee at Martin International Programs department Thursday.

Students
Actor and producer Robert Spencer is dreaming big in Jackson

By Beth Knoll
mbknoon@jacksonsun.com

From brushing shoulders with Amy Poehler on “Saturday Night Live” to being likened to James Stewart by Burt Reynolds, Robert Spencer has spent the past decade chasing his dream to act.

A Jackson native, Spencer has lived in cities such as Los Angeles and New York City, appearing in dozens of short and feature films and meeting some of Hollywood’s finest.

But the North Side High School graduate said he has returned to Jackson not only to raise his 16-month-old daughter around family but also to bring home the film industry.

“When you’re an actor, you get to have someone else’s story or someone else’s life for just a moment and blend it with yours and make it be real,” Spencer said. “I knew I couldn’t sit here and not do any film stuff in Jackson.”

With his father in the Navy, Spencer said he has traveled around the world and was influenced by a variety of people and cultures. He remained connected to Jackson, however, and his family eventually returned to West Tennessee, where he graduated from North Side and attended Jackson State Community College and the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he majored in theater and performed in black box theater and big-stage productions alike.

Spencer joined the Navy in 1993 before finishing his degree, and he served about five years before returning to college at Lambuth University. While he abandoned his theater major for sociology, he became involved with the drama group that reigned his thespian interests. He eventually moved with his wife, Beth, to New York City in 2004, where his acting aspirations took flight.

“I’m at the school of ‘make your own break,’” Spencer said. “And if it doesn’t happen the first time, try, try again. There are hundreds of actors and actresses told no hundreds of times.”

Connections

The world of acting is small, Spencer noted, with the industry heavily characterized by who you know. As a result, making — and keeping — connections are important.

An acquaintance his wife made with a “Saturday Night Live” producer, for instance, gave Spencer the chance to be a background actor on the show numerous times. He had the opportunity to star as a wise man during a Christmas skit for one episode, and he acted alongside Hugh Laurie and other “SNL” stars during a Halloween skit in another.

“Thats the thing about background (acting) — you don’t get to talk,” Spencer said. “You act, you wear costumes and run around (with the actors).”

But Spencer did have the chance to be on TV, as he was clearly seen under a faux beard as a wise man, as well as dressed in an old-fashioned costume chasing Frankenstein with Laurie.

Through his time spent on “Saturday Night Live,” he also had the chance to meet stars such as Steve Martin, Jimmy Fallon and Alec Baldwin, Spencer said. His conversation with Baldwin turned into a quick friendship, he noted, as Baldwin encouraged Spencer to continue fighting for his dreams to act.

“I really enjoy just being around those type of people,” Spencer said. “They’re very genuine, compassionate people. That’s what attracts me to acting.”
'Chasing that dream'

In addition to taking acting classes at HB Studio, which has been graced by actors such as Whoopi Goldberg, Spencer also took time to meet with other actors in New York City through the website meetup.com. Actors often gathered at restaurants to rehearse and practice together, keeping their dreams alive while honing their skills.

Spencer later moved to West Palm Beach, Fla., as well as Los Angeles, where he continued to pursue acting. With the help of connections, he also came across a master acting class taught by Reynolds. After auditioning for a spot in the class, he said he was instantly welcomed and embraced into the group.

Spencer noted that his acting evolved during this time, as he learned more about the dramatic transition between on-stage acting and acting in front of a camera. Reynolds taught actors about his experience and mistakes, and he encouraged the group to continue practicing their skills, which actors can “lose” quickly, Spencer noted.

Reynolds once told Spencer that he reminded Reynolds of actors James Stewart and Garry Marshall — people one couldn’t help but like. As a result, Spencer typically was cast in Andy Griffith-type roles as the innocent boyfriend or charming husband to whom the audience was naturally drawn.

“Even if you audition, and you don’t get the role, you’ve got to keep trying,” said Spencer, stressing points that he learned from Reynolds. “You’ll regret not chasing that dream.”

Spencer has scored roles in short and feature films, such as his role in George Romero’s “Deadtime Stories,” in which he played a research scientist protecting the woman he loved. He also played a concerned church usher in a faith-oriented comedy, where he followed the main character to make sure he was not stealing money from the church.
Spencer has had opportunities to co-write and produce movies as well, with his first film, called "Expectations," shot in Atlanta.

"I was almost to tears in happiness, because I was looking at something coming alive right in front of me," Spencer said. "Emotionally, it connected to me."

In October, Spencer will have a similar opportunity to connect with a film through "In the Dark," a suspense movie he not only has helped write but also will help produce. Set at a large home in Florida, the movie will be directed and filmed by cinematographer Jose Zambrano Cassella. Spencer, a horror movie buff, said the film is about an evil darkness present in a home.

While primarily focusing on the first film, Spencer noted that the sequel to "In the Dark" is already planned to be filmed in Jackson during the winter of 2015. He and Cassella have already selected a local home at which to film the sequel, with the duo having scouted variety of potential cinematic locations around town.

Spencer said he plans to also bring a film school to town, with the institute tentatively set to open by early next year — if not sooner. Currently looking for a location for the school, he hopes to teach aspiring film makers about the industry, including directing, editing and producing films. Aspiring actors also will have a chance to learn as well as build reels for their careers.

Until then, Spencer continues a tradition he began in New York City: Meeting with locals interested in the film industry through the "West TN Indy Film Makers and Actors," which he created on meetup.com to stay connected with other thespians.

"It's a very spiritual feeling to see when you have people of different faiths working together, different ethnicities working together, different cultures working together — they bond for a brief moment to last a lifetime," Spencer said. "That's why I want to bring it to Jackson.

"There has been a lot of controversy in Jackson since I've left," he added. "I'd love people to embrace this and learn from each other ... people from a very hard life working with people that take life for granted, and hope that both of these people work together and learn something from each other."

Audition opportunities for the "In the Dark" sequel will be available in Jackson, Spencer said. For more information about the films, visit the "In the Dark" Facebook page.

To learn more about the local acting group, visit "West TN Indy Film Makers and Actors" on meetup.com. Spencer also can be reached on his Facebook page, under "Robert Spencer."

Reach Beth Knoll at (731) 425-9641. Follow her on Twitter @merribeth-knoll.
WestStar Leadership Program
accepting applications for ’15 class

MARTIN — Applications are being accepted to participate in UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program. The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and serves the 21 counties of West Tennessee. The program has produced 710 graduates in its 25-year history.

For application and additional information, contact WestStar at 731-881-7298 or online at http://www.utm.edu. The application deadline is Oct. 15. Anyone can apply to participate in the program, and nominations are accepted but not required. Class members will be competitively selected to participate in the 2015 program.

The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing contemporary major issues important to West Tennessee’s development.

Each seminar takes place over one-and-a-half days. The program begins Dec. 11 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 18, 2015, with an evening graduation ceremony.

The WestStar mission is to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved, want to help West Tennessee become a better place and are willing to accept assertive and dynamic leadership roles.

Participants learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

Participants also become part of a growing network of other leaders who, through mutual support and assistance, shape West Tennessee’s future.

Business innovation symposium
set for Sept. 17 at UT Martin

MARTIN — A group of organizations and individuals dedicated to sparking entrepreneurship in northwest Tennessee is hosting a business innovation symposium in September at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

“Innovating for Profit: Building Rural Businesses from the Ground Up” is set for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 17 in the Watkins Auditorium, located in the Boling University Center on the university’s main campus. The symposium is designed to inform the public about the current state of rural innovation and business growth.

The UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, the Mid-South School of Advanced Agricultural Lending, the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Gill Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture, both at UT Martin, and the NextFarm Agricultural Innovation Accelerator are sponsoring the event.

Featured at the symposium is a panel discussion of regional ag-based business leaders speaking on building businesses from the ground up. Participating in the panel are Jimmy Tosh of Tosh Farms, Kelley Powers of Final Flight and Powers Farms, Chuck Doss of INCO Irrigation Systems, M.J. Anderson of The Andersons, Inc., and Neil Mylet of LoadOut Technologies.

Bryan Huddleston, president and chief executive officer of the Nashville Technology Council, is also speaking at the symposium.

Also included are presentations by AgSmarts and Fertility Focus, two of the companies from the 2013 NextFarm Ag Innovation Accelerator class. Participants in NextFarm include entrepreneurs with new ag-based technology ideas — “AgTech” — in the startup mode, as well as existing companies that are developing new technologies or innovations.

The event concludes with a free Ag Innovation Lunch, featuring keynote speaker Dr. David Millhorn, University of Tennessee executive vice president and president of the University of Tennessee Research Foundation.

Free registration for the “Innovating for Profit” symposium and information and an application for the NextFarm accelerator can be found at http://ntechconnect.com/.
Alan Youngerman named UT Martin McNairy County/Selmer Center director

Alan Youngerman, most recently district executive for the Boy Scouts of America, is the new director of the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer. He succeeds Deidra Beene who died in March following a long illness. She had served as center director since 2001. Youngerman began his new duties Sept. 2.

“I’ve always loved education,” Youngerman said of his appointment. “I’d like to see the university continue and expand its successes here.” He added that his long and varied business background would help him move the center forward.

Before his position with the Boy Scouts, Youngerman was co-owner and vice president of Stan’s Home Center Inc. in Jackson and the Home Center Inc. in Lexington and Henderson. He was previously associated with the McNairy County/Selmer Center from 2009-11 as an adjunct faculty member teaching geology.

Youngerman holds an associate degree in physical chemistry from Jackson State Community College, a bachelor’s degree in earth science from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville and a master’s degree with a major in economic geology from the University of Nevada, Reno - Mackay School of Mines.

Youngerman and his wife, Elizabeth, have two children and live in Selmer.

UT Martin opened the McNairy County/Selmer Center in cooperation with McNairy County and the city of Selmer. The university began offering lower-division courses at the center in summer 1998.

In fall 2004, the center began offering courses leading to the Education K-6 degree. Then in fall 2008, the center offered courses leading to bachelor’s degrees in history and social work. Four new classrooms were completed in fall 2009.

In addition to previous offerings, a major in criminal justice is now available, and a major in psychology is new for this fall semester. The center also offers a full rotation plan of general-education courses, upper-division courses and the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree.

Also available are non-credit classes, and the center can design training curriculums to meet the individual needs of local business and industry. The UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is the university’s administrative reporting channel for the center.

WestStar Leadership Program is now accepting applications for 2015 class

Applications are being accepted to participate in UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program. The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and serves the 21 counties of West Tennessee. The program has produced 710 graduates in its 25-year history.

For application and additional information, contact WestStar at 731-881-7298 or online at www.utm.edu. The application deadline is Oct. 15. Anyone can apply to participate in the program, and nominations are accepted but not required. Class members will be competitively selected to participate in the 2015 program.

The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing contemporary major issues important to West Tennessee’s development. Each seminar takes place over one-and-a-half days. The program begins Dec. 11 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 18, 2015, with an evening graduation ceremony.

The WestStar mission is to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved, want to help West Tennessee become a better place and are willing to accept assertive and dynamic leadership roles.

Participants learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential. Participants also become part of a growing network of other leaders who, through mutual support and assistance, shape West Tennessee’s future.
NEW FACULTY, ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF — New UT Martin faculty and administrative staff members were welcomed to the university at a dinner hosted Sept. 4 by Drs. Tom and Glenda Rakes at the Dunagan Alumni Center. Those attending, with the area in which each works noted in parentheses, were (front row, from left): Dr. Anderson Starling (Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science), Katie Smith (Student Organizations), Lora McDonald (Athletics-Administration), Steven Sanchez (Barnes & Noble Bookstore), Dr. Cindy Boyles (Behavioral Sciences), Amy Fenning (Tennessee Intensive English Program), LaQuita Morris (Mathematics and Statistics), Caroline Ideus (Tennessee Intensive English Program), Amy Richards (Family and Consumer Sciences), Dr. Hyungju Hur (History and Philosophy); (middle row) Master Sgt. James Postal (Military Science), Andrew Ioannides (Athletics-Administration), Dr. Emalee Buttre (Agriculture, Geoscience and Natural Resources), Rick Guarno (Baseball), Monty Taylor (Tennessee Intensive English Program), Josh Greer (Health and Human Performance), Kavitha Nambisan (Tennessee Intensive English Program), Rebecca Searle (Tennessee Intensive English Program), Jennifer Cooper (Finance and Administration), Kayce Beam (Jackson Center), Dr. Carl Libis (Mathematics and Statistics), Laura Taylor (Health and Human Performance); (back row) Rick Robinson (Baseball), Brian Carroll (Family and Consumer Sciences), John Aiken (Men’s Basketball), Heath Schroyer (Men’s Basketball), Dr. Aaron Rowland (Behavioral Sciences), Dr. Ty Perry (Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science), Julio Freire (Athletics-Administration) and Dr. Justin Martin (Behavioral Sciences). Attending the dinner but not pictured was Sarah Hendricks (Behavioral Sciences). Unable to attend the dinner were Capt. Troy Shoemaker (Military Science), Dr. Will Taeuk Kang (Management, Marketing and Information Systems), Dr. Morgan Miles (Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence), Cassondra Burks (Nursing), Dr. Hyonson Hwang (Biological Sciences), Dr. Robert Niedzialomski (Mathematics and Statistics), John Bond (Football), Justin Rascati (Football), Charles Covington (Finance and Administration), Jared Anderson (Greek Life) and Karen White (Paul Meek Library).
War of 1812 exhibit at UT Martin explores Tennessee's nickname

The War of 1812 was a defining moment in Tennessee's history, thrusting the state into the spotlight of American political and military history. Many Tennesseans emerged as important American figures, including Andrew Jackson, David Crockett, Sam Houston, Edmund Gaines (Act of Congress Medal winner) and Sequoyah.

To explore this long overlooked war, the University of Tennessee at Martin's J. Houston Gordon Museum presents the Tennessee State Museum's traveling exhibition "Becoming the Volunteer State: Tennessee in the War of 1812." The museum is located in the Paul Meek Library, and the exhibit is on view through Oct. 31.

The Tennessee State Museum collaborated with the Tennessee War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission on organizing the exhibition. The traveling exhibit is funded in part by a grant from Humanities Tennessee, an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The War of 1812, fought against Great Britain, culminated in the Battle of New Orleans in January 1815. The American public often overlooks this conflict, but it was incredibly important in establishing the American national identity. Some noted historians believe that it was the "second American Revolution," which marked true independence from Britain for the United States.

On display are period artifacts from the era, such as a 7th US infantry soldier's uniform and a book that was on the USS Constitution, swords, muskets, and other weapons owned by those who fought in the war, as well as a broad variety of documentary art, maps and illustrations that have been selected to recreate a flavor of the times.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Gordon Museum will present a talk by Dr. David Coffey at 3 p.m. on Sept. 18. Coffey is a professor and chair of the UT Martin Department of History and Philosophy.

For more information, visit the library's website at www.utm.edu/library.php or call Samuel Richardson or Karen Elmore at 881-7094.

Business innovation symposium set for Sept. 17 at UT Martin

A group of organizations and individuals dedicated to sparking entrepreneurship in Northwest Tennessee is hosting a business innovation symposium in September at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

"Innovating for Profit: Building Rural Businesses from the Ground Up" is set for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, in the Watkins Auditorium, located in the Boling University Center on the university's main campus. The symposium is designed to inform the public about the current state of rural innovation and business growth.

The UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, the Mid-South School of Advanced Agricultural Lending, the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Gill Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture, both at UT Martin, and the NextFarm Agricultural Innovation Accelerator are sponsoring the event.

Featured at the symposium is a panel discussion of regional ag-based business leaders speaking on building businesses from the ground up. Participating in the panel are Jimmy Tosh of Tosh Farms, Kelley Powers of Final Flight and Powers Farms, Chuck Doss of INCO Irrigation Systems, M.J. Anderson of The Andersons, Inc., and Neil Mylet of LoadOut Technologies.

Bryan Huddleston, president and CEO of the Nashville Technology Council, is also speaking at the symposium.
UTM Classes Begin

BACK TO THE GRIND - Chloe Joy, of Covington, and Sara Jane Ragin of Medina, pause on campus during the first day of UT Martin fall classes. A freshman class of more than 1,100 students began arriving Aug. 21 to participate in the University’s First-Year Initiative Welcome Weekend, an orientation program that prepares students to navigate the university environment. All day and evening classes began Monday, Aug. 25.
The Community Foundation awards scholarships to local students

The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, a charitable organization working to improve the quality of life in 40 Middle Tennessee counties, announced it is awarding 259 scholarships to students pursuing secondary education at accredited schools throughout the United States.

STAFF REPORTS WILSON COUNTY

SEP 9, 2014
The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, a charitable organization working to improve the quality of life in 40 Middle Tennessee counties, announced it is awarding 259 scholarships to students pursuing secondary education at accredited schools throughout the United States.

A total of $478,200 is being awarded to students from more than 75 scholarship funds within The Community Foundation.

"The Community Foundation has helped thousands access educational opportunities they might otherwise have been unable to afford by connecting them with the generosity of others," said Ellen Lehman, president of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. "This year we are honored to help hundreds more improve their futures, and the futures of their families, through the transformation offered by an education."

Scholarship recipients from Wilson County are:

• Bailey K. Allen was awarded the Lebanon High School Alumni Scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

• Elliott M. Benson was awarded the Lebanon High School Alumni Scholarship Endowment to attend the University of Tennessee.

• Kristen S. Dillon was awarded the Lebanon High School Alumni Scholarship to attend Tennessee Technological University.

• Katlin D. Eakes was awarded the Lebanon High School Alumni Scholarship to attend Cumberland University.

• Terry L. Moore was awarded the Scott Wolf Scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

• Charles M. Soto was awarded the Genesco Scholarship to attend Middle Tennessee State University.

• Jalyn B. Stewart was awarded the Lebanon High School Alumni Scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee.

Community Foundation scholarships, established by individuals, companies and civic groups, will assist students with tuition and other school-related expenses. Each year, The Community Foundation scholarship committee reviews applications on behalf of donors who entrust The Foundation with administering the annual awards. This year, The Foundation received 670 applications.

The scholarship committee carefully considers applicants’ academic records, test scores, extracurricular activities, work experience, community involvement and personal recommendations.
Students receive scholarships

Several Gibson 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. Included are:

- Brennan Cooper, of Dyer, son of Joy Cooper and the late Mike Cooper, will be a sophomore. He received the UTM Transfer Scholarship.
- Kyndal Hayes, daughter of Tracy Reed Hayes and Tracy King Hayes, of Milan, will be a sophomore. She received the UTM Transfer Scholarship.
- Eric A. Yates, of Milan, son of Dan and Jennifer Yates and Chris and Jennifer Carter, will be a freshman. He received the Elam Alumni Legacy 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, TN 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.

Exhibit explores how Tennessee became ‘Volunteer State’

WAR OF 1812 EXHIBIT – The Tennessee State Museum’s traveling exhibition, “Becoming the Volunteer State: Tennessee in the War of 1812,” includes several artifacts from this important time in the state’s history. In the display case are a flintlock pistol belonging to Samuel G. Smith, the Congressional Medal of Gen. Edmund Gaines, a piece of Fort Barrancas, a book from the USS Constitution and other items. The exhibit is on view through October 31 in UT Martin’s J. Houston Gordon Museum, located in the Paul Meek Library.

Beam is new UTM center director

Kayce Beam is the new director of the UT Martin Jackson Center. 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. She was most recently a multi-unit store manager for Walgreens in Jackson, Milan, Humboldt and Dyersburg. She also previously owned South Paw Designs and worked as an art director at Davidson & Chandler Advertising, both in Jackson.

The center is located at 3031 U.S. 45 Bypass; for more information call 425-9277.
The War of 1812 was a defining moment in Tennessee's history, thrusting the state into the spotlight of American political and military history. Many Tennesseans emerged as important American figures, including Andrew Jackson, David Crockett, Sam Houston, Edmund Gaines (Act of Congress Medal winner) and Sequoyah.

To explore this long overlooked war, the University of Tennessee at Martin's J. Houston Gordon Museum presents the Tennessee State Museum's traveling exhibition "Becoming the Volunteer State: Tennessee in the War of 1812." The museum is located in the Paul Meek Library, and the exhibit is on view through October 31.

The Tennessee State Museum collaborated with the Tennessee War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission on organizing the exhibition. The traveling exhibit is funded in part by a grant from Humanities Tennessee, an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The War of 1812, fought against Great Britain, culminated in the Battle of New Orleans in January 1815. The American public often overlooks this conflict, but it was incredibly important in establishing the American national identity. Some noted historians believe that it was the "second American Revolution," which marked true independence from Britain for the United States.

The war in the South was particularly a Tennessee war, waged predominately by Tennessee militia, volunteers or regular army units raised in the state. When the British threatened the Gulf Coast, Tennesseans contributed to the defeat of the Red Sticks at Horseshoe Bend and the British at New Orleans. Andrew Jackson's victory at the Battle of New Orleans propelled him to the White House and established Tennessee at the forefront of American politics. So many Tennesseans volunteered for service that the state soon began to be known by its now-famous nickname, the "Volunteer State."

On display are period artifacts from the era, such as a 7th US infantry soldier's uniform and a book that was on the USS Constitution, swords, muskets, and other weapons owned by those who fought in the war, as well as a broad variety of documentary art, maps and illustrations that have been selected to recreate a flavor of the times.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Gordon Museum will present a talk by Dr. David Coffey at 3 p.m. on September 18. Coffey is a professor and chair of the UT Martin Department of History and Philosophy.

For more information on museum hours, directions and parking locations, visit the library's website at www.utm.edu/library.php or call Samuel Richardson or Karen Elmore at 731-881-7094.
WestStar Leadership program accepting applications for 2015

Applications are being accepted to participate in UT Martin's WestStar Leadership Program. The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and serves the 21 counties of West Tennessee. The program has produced 710 graduates in its 25-year history.

For application and additional information, contact WestStar at 731-881-7298 or online at www.utm.edu. The application deadline is Oct. 15. Anyone can apply to participate in the program, and nominations are accepted but not required. Class members will be competitively selected to participate in the 2015 program.

The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing contemporary major issues important to West Tennessee's development. Each seminar takes place over one-and-a-half days. The program begins Dec. 11 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 18, 2015, with an evening graduation ceremony.

The WestStar mission is to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved, want to help West Tennessee become a better place and are willing to accept assertive and dynamic leadership roles.

Participants learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential. Participants also become part of a growing network of other leaders who, through mutual support and assistance, shape West Tennessee's future.

Business Innovation Symposium set for Sept. 17 at UT Martin

A group of organizations and individuals dedicated to sparking entrepreneurship in Northwest Tennessee is hosting a business innovation symposium in September at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

"Innovating for Profit: Building Rural Businesses from the Ground Up" is set for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 17, in the Watkins Auditorium, located in the Boling University Center on the university's main campus. The symposium is designed to inform the public about the current state of rural innovation and business growth.

The UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, the Mid-South School of Advanced Agricultural Lending, the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Gill Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture, both at UT Martin, and the NextFarm Agricultural Innovation Accelerator are sponsoring the event.

Featured at the symposium is a panel discussion of regional ag-based business leaders speaking on building businesses from the ground up. Participating in the panel are Jimmy Tosh of Tosh Farms, Kelley Powers of Final Flight and Powers Farms, Chuck Doss of INCO Irrigation Systems, M.J. Anderson of The Andersons, Inc., and Neil Mylet of LoadOut Technologies.

Bryan Huddleston, president and CEO of the Nashville Technology Council, is also speaking at the symposium.

Also included are presentations by AgSmarts and Fertility Focus, two of the companies from the 2013 NextFarm Ag Innovation Accelerator class. Participants in NextFarm include entrepreneurs with new ag-based technology ideas—"AgTech"—in the startup mode, as well as existing companies that are developing new technologies or innovations.

The event concludes with a free Ag Innovation Lunch, featuring keynote speaker Dr. David Millhorn, University of Tennessee executive vice president and president of the University of Tennessee Research Foundation.

Free registration for the "Innovating for Profit" symposium and information and an application for the NextFarm accelerator can be found at http://intechconnect.com/.
Exploring History

AN EXHIBIT, concerning the War of 1812, will be on display at the University of Tennessee at Martin to explore how Tennessee became known as 'The Volunteer State'. The War of 1812 was a defining moment in Tennessee's history, thrusting the state into the spotlight of American political and military history. Many Tennesseans emerged as important American figures, including Andrew Jackson, David Crockett, Sam Houston, Edmund Gaines (Act of Congress Medal winner) and Sequoyah. The display case holds a flintlock pistol belonging to Samuel G. Smith, the Congressional Medal of Gen. Edmund Gaines, a piece of Fort Barrancas, a book from the USS Constitution and other items.

To explore this long overlooked war, the University of Tennessee at Martin's J. Houston Gordon Museum will present the Tennessee State Museum's traveling exhibition "Becoming the Volunteer State: Tennessee in the War of 1812" through October 31st.

The Tennessee State Museum collaborated with the Tennessee War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission on organizing the exhibition. The traveling exhibit is funded in part by a grant from Humanities Tennessee, an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The War of 1812, fought against Great Britain, culminated in the Battle of New Orleans in January 1815. The American public often overlooks this conflict, but it was incredibly important in establishing the American national identity. Some noted historians believe that it was the "second American Revolution," which marked true independence from Britain for the United States.

The war in the South was particularly a Tennessee war, waged predominately by Tennessee militia, volunteers or regular army units raised in the state. When the British threatened the Gulf Coast, Tennesseans contributed to the defeat of the Red Sticks at Horseshoe Bend and the British at New Orleans. Andrew Jackson's victory at the Battle of New Orleans propelled him to the White House and established Tennessee at the forefront of American politics. So many Tennesseans volunteered for service that the state soon began to be known by its now-famous nickname, the "Volunteer State."

On display are period artifacts from the era, such as a 7th US infantry soldier's uniform and a book that was on the USS Constitution, swords, muskets, and other weapons owned by those who fought in the war, as well as a broad variety of documentary art, maps and illustrations that have been selected to recreate a flavor of the times.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Gordon Museum will present a talk by Dr. David Coffey at 3 p.m. September 18th. Coffey is a professor and chair of the UT Martin Department of History and Philosophy.
Business seminar set

"Innovating for Profit: Building Rural Businesses from the Ground Up" will be held in Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin Wednesday.
Registration for this event is free and includes lunch. To register, visit www.ntecconnect.com.
Registration will be held 9-9:30 a.m. Bryan Huddleston, president and CEO of the Nashville Technology Council, will speak at 9:45, followed by a pitch presentation from NextFarm Ag Innovation Accelerator Company on “Fertility Focus” at 10:15 and “AgSmarts” at 10:45. A regional ag-based business leaders panel discussion will be held at 11 with panel members Jimmy Tosh, Kelley Powers, Chuck Doss, M.J. Anderson and Neil Mylet.
Lunch will be served at 11:45 with the keynote speaker being Dr. David Millhorn, executive vice president of the University of Tennessee System and president of the UT Research Foundation.
The event is sponsored by the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, the Mid-South School of Advanced Agricultural Lending, the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, the Gill Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and the NextFarm Agriculture Innovation Accelerator.
For more information, call the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center at (731) 581-4213.

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

UTM continues top-tier U.S. News ranking

The University of Tennessee at Martin continued in the top tier for southern master’s level universities in the 2015 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings released this week. UT Martin was also ranked for the first time among southern regional institutions in the Best Colleges for Veterans category.

"The U.S. News rankings show that UT Martin maintains a strong reputation in this region and beyond," said Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor. "Rankings offer only a snapshot of any institution, but "I’m pleased to have this recognition for prospective students and their families to use when choosing a college to attend." Colleges are ranked against their peers using information submitted in a survey completed by the institutions and other sources. Categories used to determine the U.S. News rankings and to measure academic quality include peer assessment, average freshman retention and graduation rates, and faculty and financial resources.
Earlier in August, The Princeton Review named the university among the "Best in the Southeast" for 2015. The list is part of the company’s website feature “2015 Best Colleges: Region by Region” posted on PrincetonReview.com.
UT Martin has been included in this listing for 12 consecutive years.
Rickman works way up
UT Martin SID ladder

By RANDY CAVIN
Press Sports

Hard work pays off.
It has Ryan Rickman of
the UT Martin sports infor-
mation department.
Rickman has been with
the department since August
2008 and is now the sports
information director. He
was officially named as the
director of the department
back in July after serving
as interim director since
March of last year.
"I'd just like to thank
everybody who has helped
me get to this point in
my professional career," Rickman said. "I love UT
Martin and the Martin
community, and I hope to
derve Skyhawk athletics for
many years to come."

Alex Boggis was named
assistant director of the
department the same day
Rickman was promoted.
Boggis officially joined
the department as an assistant
in April of last year, after
two years a graduate assis-
tant and four years as an
undergraduate at UTM.

Rickman currently has
two student assistants and
one intern working in the
department.
The new sports informa-
tion director has a lot of
praise for all those involved
with UTM sports.
"Our student-athletes and
staff do a remarkable job
academically, athletically
and socially," Rickman
said. "I also look forward to
continuing our good work-
ing relationship with the
local, regional and national
media."

Being the sports informa-
tion director requires a
lot of hard work and long
hours. Rickman is already
accustomed to that as he is
constantly looking for new
ways to make the depart-
ment better and above the
rest in the conference.
"I take pride in keeping
our department amongst
the best in the Ohio Valley
Conference," Rickman said.
"This year, we have tried to
add more video content and
we have recently agreed to
terms with StatBroadcast
to provide our live stats for
select home events.
"We also have added
a new game day Twitter
account to help boost our
social media following.
Our main objective is to
keep our fans informed,
and I hope these three new
features help accomplish
that."

Some of Rickman's
responsibilities as sports
information director are
official statistician at most
home events, produce
media guides, game-day
programs, press releases,
serve as a media host,
coordinating event oper-
ations and set up player and
coaches interviews with the
media.

Rickman is originally
from Benton, Ky., and
came to UTM from Murray
State. He graduated in May
2008 with a degree in jour-
nalism and he minored in
recreation.

He has served as the
official statistician for the
OVC men's and women's
basketball tournament since
2010. Rickman was also
the official statistician for
the second and third rounds
of the 2012 NCAA Men's
Basketball Tournament in
Nashville.
UTM awarded equipment to benefit post 9/11 veterans

Post-9/11 veterans will benefit from new technology provided to the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to a news release. The university has received a laptop computer, complete with Microsoft Office software and a Jabra voice headset made possible from an award through Syracuse University. The award also includes access to free courses toward industrial certification for any post-9/11 veterans, not only those currently enrolled at UT Martin.

The Veterans Career Transition Program is operated under a grant to Syracuse University’s Institute for Veterans and Military Families. The program is delivered entirely online at no cost to veterans or spouses.

The award to UT Martin, which is part of the Veterans Career Transition Program, has been opened to non-students and their families and includes various courses from business to human relations and many others. A complete list of courses offered can be found at http://vets.syr.edu/employment/vctp-learning-paths/

The computer and headset are located in Clement Hall, accessible through the Student Services and Success Mentoring Center. Registration is currently open for the seminars launching in January 2015. Those interested can apply at http://vets.syr.edu/VCTPUserApp, or e-mail Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls at accarls@utm.edu.

Grand reopening today for dining hall, bookstore

The University of Tennessee at Martin will celebrate the grand re-opening today of two widely used areas on the main campus. A 10:30 a.m. ceremony will officially recognize the newly upgraded Barnes & Noble College Bookstore and Sodexo Skyhawk Dining Hall, according to a news release.

The ceremony will take place in the first-floor lobby between the dining hall and bookstore. The university community and public are invited to attend.

Beginning during the spring 2014 semester, the Barnes & Noble College Bookstore began moving
UTM recognized by US News, Princeton Review

UTM has once again been recognized as one of the top southern master's level universities in the 2015 US News & World Report Best Colleges.

For the first time, UTM was also ranked among southern regional institutions in the Best Colleges for Veterans category.

UTM Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes says the recognition shows that UTM maintains a strong reputation in the region and beyond.

Last month, The Princeton Review named the UTM among the "Best in the Southeast" for 2015. UTM has been included in this listing for 12 consecutive years.

UT Martin celebrates re-opening of upgraded bookstore, dining hall

The University of Tennessee at Martin on Thursday celebrated the re-opening of two of the most widely used places on campus: the college's bookstore and dining hall.

The new bookstore has expanded and now has a new study area called the POD. Across the hall from the bookstore is the newly renovated dining hall and brand-new coffee shop, The Hanger, which serves Starbucks coffee.

The Sodexo Skyhawk Dining Hall has a larger seating capacity and new dining options that include the 360 Degrees grill, Magellan international food option and an Italian food option, Bella Trattoria.

Staple dining options include the salad bar, now called Fresh From the Fields, the hot plate option called Daily Diner, the Basic Kneads sandwich station, and the Ignite Grill.

To celebrate the grand re-opening ceremony, special dining hall pricing is available through Friday, with lunch costing $5 and dinner costing $7.
UT Martin Among Magazine's Best Universities

By West Kentucky Star Staff

MARTIN, TN - The University of Tennessee at Martin is once again in the top tier for southern master's level universities in the 2015 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings released this week. UT Martin was also ranked for the first time among southern regional institutions in the Best Colleges for Veterans category.

"The U.S. News rankings show that UT Martin maintains a strong reputation in this region and beyond," said Dr. Tom Rakes, University Chancellor. "Rankings offer only a snapshot of any institution, but I'm pleased to have this recognition for prospective students and their families to use when choosing a college to attend."

Colleges are ranked against their peers using information submitted in a survey completed by the institutions and other sources. Categories used to determine the U.S. News rankings and to measure academic quality include peer assessment, average freshman retention and graduation rates, and faculty and financial resources.

Earlier in August, The Princeton Review named the university among the “Best in the Southeast” for 2015. The list is part of the company’s website feature “2015 Best Colleges: Region by Region” posted on PrincetonReview.com. UT Martin has been included in this listing for 12 consecutive years.

UTM professor to explore Tennesseans' roles in War of 1812

A University of Tennessee at Martin history professor will explore the role Tennesseans played in the War of 1812 in a presentation Thursday in the Paul Meek Library.

Dr. David Coffey, professor and chairman of the university's Department of History and Philosophy, will discuss “More Than Volunteers: Tennessee and the War of 1812” at 3 p.m. Thursday in the J. Houston Gordon Museum's reading room located in the library, according to a news release.

Coffey will focus on how the 1812 conflict was a war of expansion and as much an Indian war as a conflict with the British.

The lecture will be held in conjunction with the Gordon Museum's exhibit, “Becoming the Volunteer State: Tennessee in the War of 1812,” which features period artifacts from the era, such as a 7th U.S. infantry soldier's uniform and a book that was on the USS Constitution, swords, muskets and other weapons owned by those who fought in the war, the release said.

The exhibit, which is on display through Oct. 31, also includes a variety of documentary art, maps and illustrations that have been selected to recreate a flavor of the times.

Coffey's presentation and the exhibition are free and open to the public. A reception will be held immediately after the lecture.

For more information about museum hours, directions and parking locations, visit www.utm.edu/library.php or call Samuel Richardson or Karen Elmore at (731) 881-7094. For more information about Coffey's presentation, call Richardson or email him at richardson@utm.edu.
South Side students featured in art show

Work is on display at UT Martin Jackson Center

By Nick McFerron
nmcferron@jacksonsun.com

This week, South Side High School art students have the opportunity to see their artwork displayed and judged by professional artists at the University of Tennessee Martin Jackson Center.

Kayce Beam, director of the UT Martin Jackson Center, invited Melinda Hearn, executive director of the Jackson Arts Council, and Woody Woodard, president of the Jackson Art Association, to judge the student show.

"We were talking to Kayce about the Jackson Art Association doing a show, and she asked if we would judge this one that is prior to ours," Woodard said.

The show is being held along with an art show for Gene Gott, a local artist who teaches at UT Martin and the Jackson campus.

"We're both artists, and we both appreciate and encourage local art," Hearn said. "The Jackson area has so many great artists that nobody knows about."

The show is called "Into the Wild" and features work from Gott as well as the student work. Only the student work is being judged in the show.

"It's important as a high school student to see how an ex-

See ARTWORK, Page A4

Artwork

Continued from Page A3

hibit works and functions," Woodard said. "It's a sense of pride to see your art up on the wall."

The UT Martin Jackson Center will be holding a reception for the art show from 6 to 8 p.m. today in the Jackson campus building located at 3031 U.S. 45 Bypass.

Hearn and Woodard said they are impressed by the student artwork on display.

"It's a great motivator to see your art displayed in public," Woodard said. "If it's not exposed outside the school grounds, it doesn't carry the same merit to the kid."

At the reception, the first-, second- and third-place winners will be announced.

Reach Nick McFerron at (731) 425-9643. Follow him on Twitter @nick_mcferron
Art exhibit important step for art students

By WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff
By news@wbbjtv.com
Story Created: Sep 16, 2014 at 8:52 PM CDT
(Story Updated: Sep 16, 2014 at 10:58 PM CDT)

JACKSON, Tenn - Art students from South Side High School, along with a local artist and professor had their hard work on display tonight.

Professor and local artist Gene Gott and art students from South Side High School featured the "Into the Wild Art Exhibition" Tuesday night at the UT Martin-Jackson location.

The event included a selection of winners from first to third place.

Gott said it is an important step in art education.

"It's great to be able to have a bridge to see where one can go with this and how to get there and it's important to have that cooperation," said Gott.

25 students had 100 pieces of art on display.
The art will be on display until the middle of October and is open to the public.

The Milan Mirror-Exchange, Tuesday, September 16, 2014

UTM Freshmen participate in Greek Bid Day

UTM BID DAY - Monday was Bid Day for prospective greeks at University of Tennessee at Martin. Five Milan grads accepted bids from the ladies of Chi Omega on Monday: Haley Riggs, Haleigh Hoke, Erin Kelley, Mallory Staley, and Shelby Vasquez. Former Milan graduates Shelby Bledsoe, Julianna McMinn, and Brittany Hatfield are currently Chi-Omega sisters. Photo submitted by Amber Harris.
UT Martin unveils upgraded bookstore, dining hall

RIBBON CUTTING — A ceremony Thursday in UT Martin's Boling University Center showcased the newly upgraded Barnes & Noble College Bookstore and Sodexo Skyhawk Dining Hall. Ready to cut ribbon following the ceremony were (from left) John Abel, Boling University Center interim director; Steven Sanchez, Barnes & Noble College Bookstore manager; John Domanski, UT Martin SGA president; Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor; and Benjamin Long, UT Martin Sodexo Dining Services general manager.
New surroundings, expanded choices and cool places to spend time. All were officially unveiled Thursday as the University of Tennessee at Martin celebrated the grand re-opening of two widely used areas on the main campus. A 10:30 a.m. ceremony in the Boling University Center showcased the newly upgraded Barnes & Noble College Bookstore and Sodexo Skyhawk Dining Hall.

Barnes & Noble committed $350,000 to the bookstore’s relocation to the university center’s first floor, while Sodexo made a $3.25 million investment in the dining services area.

John Abel, Boling University Center interim director, emceed the program leading up to a ribbon cutting that was held on the first-floor hallway entrance leading to both the bookstore and dining services. “Both (projects) have been a long time coming,” Abel said, who welcomed the crowd that included Barnes & Noble and Sodexo representatives.

Abel said that both projects involved student input throughout and were completed almost simultaneously in eight months. SGA President John Domanski, of Dickson, described the changes as “something that we have needed.” He added, “I think it’s safe to say that everyone I’ve talked to likes the new areas.”

The Barnes & Noble College Bookstore began moving spring semester from its longtime second-floor location in the Boling University Center. With the move, the bookstore increased the amount of merchandise and textbooks, but appearances are deceiving as the new space is similar in size to the former location.

“The floor space is actually not a huge difference in square footage,” said bookstore manager Steven Sanchez in an earlier interview. “The difference comes from the layout. Upstairs the store was long and straight.

“Now we have a better layout with a better experience for everyone. We also can handle crowds for our back-to-school times a lot better now, too.”

Sanchez is especially pleased with the bookstore’s new combination study and leisure area called The POD, which is located in the store’s book sales area.

“Students can come in and watch TV between classes,” Sanchez said. “We have a table and chairs for people to work on schoolwork with a dry erase board behind it. We also have charging stations for anyone to come charge their phones, tablets, computers – whatever they might need.”

“I like it (the new bookstore) a lot,” said Matthew Morgan, a freshman engineering major from Clinton, Ky. “I mean it’s all wide open, and you can easily find stuff.” He also likes the textbooks located separately from other merchandise.

Bailee Barrett, a freshman chemistry major from Smyrna, has shopped the old and new bookstore. “It’s awesome,” she said of the new location. “It’s a lot bigger, and there’s a lot more selection of items for class and for apparel.”

Across the hall from the bookstore is the renovated dining hall and new coffee shop, The Hanger, which serves Starbucks Coffee. The Sodexo Skyhawk Dining Hall has a larger seating capacity and new dining options, including the 360 Degrees grill, Magellan international food option and an Italian food choice called Bella Trattoria.

Staple dining options include the salad bar, now called Fresh from the Fields, the hot plate option called Daily Dish, the Basic Kneads sandwich station, and the Ignite Grill. Desserts can be found near each food station, and soda fountains are in three different locations.

Jesse Koweleski, UT Martin Sodexo Dining Services promotions coordinator, is a senior communications major from McEwen. Koweleski, who has earned two years of professional experience working with Sodexo, has seen the area’s transformation firsthand. Work on the dining hall began the day after May graduation, and meals were served starting in mid-August when athletes returned to campus, he said.

“Pretty much if you look at it, every single thing from the spoon, the fork, the knife, the plate, is brand new. All of the equipment, brand new. Everything is new,” Koweleski said in an earlier interview.

As for reaction to the changes, “It’s almost been a complete shock. ... All the reactions of the students, some of the faculty as well, and then even some community members, they absolutely love it.” The dining hall is open to the public, and brunch is served on the first Sunday of each month.

“I like it,” said Morgan Threadgill, a freshman nursing major from Lexington. “I mean there’s a lot of choices, and it (the food) doesn’t get old, because there’s so many different choices.”
UT Martin's Dr. James Butler has received the highest FFA organization award. See page 12.

UTM's Butler receives highest national FFA organization award

The National FFA Organization has named Dr. James Butler, agricultural education professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin, a National VIP. The honor is the highest in the organization and recognizes Butler's significant contributions and dedication to FFA and agricultural education.

The FFA mission is to create a positive difference in the lives of students by developing leadership potential, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

"The VIP citation recognizes the dedicated individuals who contribute to the FFA mission of student success through their hard work and cooperation," said the National FFA Organization CEO Dwight Armstrong in a news release. "Without such strong and outstanding commitment, FFA would not be able to help build strong character in its members, who in turn build strong families, communities and industries."

Butler has a 25-year association with the National FFA Organization. During this time, he has served as a national proficiency judge and a national career development event judge. For the past 12 years, he has served as the co-coordinator for the national meats evaluation and technology career development event.

He has received the honorary state FFA degree and the Tennessee VIP Association VIP award. Butler has also served as a member of the career and technical education state staff in Tennessee and is a member of the Tennessee FFA Board of Directors and technical education state staff in Tennessee. Butler is the collegiate FFA board advisor and coordinates regional and state FFA career development events in livestock, equine and vet science.

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to almost 580,000 student members in grades seven through 12 who belong to one of 7,570 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

http://www.wbbjtv.com/

UT Martin tops 7K students with fall enrollment

By WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff
By news@wbbjtv.com

Story Created: Sep 17, 2014 at 5:13 PM CDT
Story Updated: Sep 17, 2014 at 6:03 PM CDT

MARTIN, Tenn. — New enrollment numbers at the University of Tennessee at Martin put the school at over 7,000 students.

That includes students at the Martin campus as well as centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and Selmer.

Final enrollment is calculated after the 14th day of classes and helps determine funding for many other public schools in Tennessee.

Enrollment is down 5.1 percent from last year.

Among the solid enrollment numbers is a record average ACT score from the new class.
A University of Tennessee at Martin history professor will explore the role Tennesseans played in the War of 1812 in a Thursday presentation in the Paul Meek Library.

Dr. David Coffey, professor and chair of the university's Department of History and Philosophy, will address "More Than Volunteers: Tennessee and the War of 1812" at 3 p.m. in the J. Houston Gordon Museum's reading room, located in the library.

Coffey will also focus on how the 1812 conflict was a war of expansion and as much an Indian war as a conflict with the British.

The lecture will be held in conjunction with the Gordon Museum's exhibit "Becoming the Volunteer State: Tennessee in the War of 1812," which features period artifacts from the era, such as a 7th U.S. infantry soldier's uniform and a book that was on the USS Constitution, swords, muskets and other weapons owned by those who fought in the war.

Also on display is a broad variety of documentary art, maps and illustrations that have been selected to recreate a flavor of the times. The exhibit is on view through Oct. 31.

Coffey's presentation and the exhibition are free and open to the public. A reception will be held immediately following the lecture.

For more information about museum hours, directions and parking locations, visit the library's website at www.utm.edu/library.php.
Program helping UTM-Ripley students

The University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center welcomed State Rep. Craig Fitzhugh on Sept. 8 to address students regarding social welfare, policy and services. Rep. Fitzhugh’s diverse experience with law, finance, education and politics made for an especially thorough presentation.

Social Work, Nursing and Education students all attended the discussion in the UT Martin Ripley Center lecture hall where Fitzhugh responded to all questions.

Jackee Williams, a social work student at the center stated, “Mr. Fitzhugh’s presence was greatly needed and appreciated. He delivered more facts than opinions when compared to media perspective while also providing a clear perception that our political leaders are human beings managing issues and sharing mutual perspectives as peers.”

Various legislators will be speaking throughout the semester at each of the UT Martin extension centers as part of a series arranged by Social Work Professor Amy McLean.

“We were extremely happy to have Rep. Fitzhugh with us at the UT Martin Ripley Center,” McLean said. “Social Workers serve as advocates for the people they serve, and legislative advocacy is a huge piece of that puzzle. By having the chance to meet their local legislators in person, my hope is that they will begin to see themselves as future advocates and partners with the lawmakers in our state.”

Applications Accepted For WestStar Program

University of Tennessee at Martin is accepting applications for its WestStar Leadership program through October 15th. It is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee, serving 21 counties of West Tennessee. It has produced 710 graduates in its 25-year history. The program will begin December 11th with an opening one-day retreat and end June 18, 2015, with an evening graduation ceremony.

For more information, call, 731-881-7298, or online, www.utm.edu.
Fall semester enrollment has reached 7,042 students at the University of Tennessee at Martin, which includes students at the Martin campus and the university's four centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and McNairy County/Selmer.

Final enrollment is calculated after the 14th day of classes and is among several factors that determine funding for Tennessee public colleges and universities.

Among positive numbers for the student body is a record average ACT score for the freshman class.

Enrollment is down 5.1 percent from last year when 7,423 students attended the university in fall 2013.

Factors affecting enrollment were the raising of admissions standards this fall and the loss of dual enrollment students in high schools where many are choosing to take these courses at community colleges. However, higher admissions standards contributed to the incoming freshman class holding the highest average ACT score in the university's history at 22.8.

Other positive enrollment numbers included a 10.1 percent increase in off-campus enrollment and a full-time online undergraduate enrollment increase of 16.5 percent.

NEWLY UPGRADED UT MARTIN BOOKSTORE AND DINING HALL OFFICIALLY UNVEILED

A 10:30 a.m. ceremony Thursday, Sept. 11 in UT Martin's Boling University Center showcased the newly upgraded Barnes & Noble College Bookstore and Sodexo Skyhawk Dining Hall.

Ready to cut the ribbon following the ceremony were (l to r) John Abel, Boling University Center interim director; Steven Sanchez, Barnes & Noble College Bookstore manager; John Domanski, UT Martin SGA president; Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor; and Benjamin Long, UT Martin Sodexo Dining Services general manager. Photo By www.utm.edu

UTM enrollment tops 7,000

Fall semester enrollment has reached 7,042 students at the University of Tennessee at Martin, which includes students at the Martin campus and the university's four centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and McNairy County/Selmer.

Final enrollment is calculated after the 14th day of classes and is among several factors that determine funding for Tennessee public colleges and universities.

Among positive numbers for the student body is a record average ACT score for the freshman class, the release said.

Enrollment is down 5.1 percent from last year, when 7,423 students attended the university in fall 2013. Factors affecting enrollment were the raising of admissions standards this fall and the loss of dual-enrollment students in high schools where many are choosing to take these courses at community colleges, university officials said in the release.

However, higher admissions standards contributed to the incoming freshman class holding the highest average ACT score in the university's history at 22.8.

Other positive enrollment numbers included a 10.1 percent increase in off-campus enrollment and a full-time online undergraduate enrollment increase of 16.5 percent.
Clarinet recital to feature Aleksander

Posted: Friday, September 19, 2014 12:00 am

TELEGRAPH HERALD

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville will host a clarinet recital featuring University of Tennessee's Dr. Elizabeth Aleksander, assistant professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she teaches clarinet and music history.

The recital will be at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24, at UW-P's Center for the Arts. The event is $5 and open to everyone.

Local alumni of the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program attended the ninth Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival Barbecue Luncheon sponsored by Mayor Randy Brundige on Sept. 5 in Martin. Each year, Brundige invites WestStar alumni to attend the event and also visit the Tennessee Soybean Festival in downtown Martin. The luncheon is held at First State Bank. Pictured left to right from Dyer County are Paul Carson, Chad Davis, Christie Baker, Lori Kelley, Tammy Hall and Hughes Clardy.
Military surplus items for police

Police say they’re better prepared for disasters; others question the need for heavy firepower

By Tyler Whetstone
twhetstone@jacksonsun.com

The town of Parsons, with a population of about 2,400, has received more than $4.2 million in surplus military equipment since 2011.

The items include Humvees, forklifts, tractor-trailers, wreckers and M16 rifles, according to documents from the Law Enforcement Support Office, or LESO, which manages the military surplus program for the federal government. Dale King, who serves as police chief and fire chief in Parsons, said the equipment is used to help support his departments and protect the town.

A review of LESO documents by The Jackson Sun shows that police and sheriff’s departments in Tennessee received more than $63 million in military surplus items in 2014, more than double what they received in 2013. In The Jackson Sun’s 13-county coverage area, departments have received more than $10 million worth of equipment this year alone.

The value placed on the surplus equipment is based on the cost when it was purchased by the military, so

WEB EXTRA
Watch video with this story at jacksonsun.com

See MILITARY, Page A2

The MRAP
The Jackson Police Department’s Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle (pictured above) is valued at $733,000, but police say it would be invaluable during a flood or after a tornado.

Some quick facts:
» It can travel up to 50 mph.
» Up to 20 people can fit into the back.
» It is equipped with air conditioning and heating to fit any weather situation.
» All of its windows are bullet proof.
» The windshield weighs some 300 pounds, light compared to the 500-pound doors that require hydraulic cylinders to open.
» It has an 18,000-pound winch.

INSIDE
Jackson police have 74 fully automatic M16 rifles in their inventory of military surplus. On page A3
Military
Continued from Page A1

the actual value may be less.
The practice of arming local police departments with heavy military equipment has received scrutiny since police in Ferguson, Missouri, responded to protesters this summer with armored vehicles and automatic rifles. President Barack Obama called for a review of how local law enforcement agencies obtain and use heavier military equipment.

"There is a big difference between our military and our local law enforcement, and we don't want those lines blurred," Obama said. "That would be contrary to our traditions."

Stephen Watts, assistant professor of criminology and criminal justice at the University of Memphis, said departments appear to be over-preparing for a perceived threat. "Is it overkill?" he asked. "I would be on the side of saying yes it is."

But police chiefs and county sheriffs across the region say the military surplus program offers them the opportunity to get specialized equipment they couldn't afford otherwise. In many cases, they say, the equipment prepares them for situations such as natural disasters or violent confrontations and allows them to better protect their officers and constituents.

How it's used

Among other items, Parsons has received seven tractor-trailers that are worth more than $1.1 million, two large "truck, vans" — large militarized trucks that can be used as a command post that are also worth almost $250,000 — and two wreckers worth more than $260,000. King's police department, which has nine officers, also has 20 M16 rifles.

"I don't possess any of the major military equipment," King said. "We don't utilize that. What we use is some of the heavy equipment and stuff for transportation. I stay away from heavy armor stuff."

King said the tractor-trailers he has are used for transporting other equipment when needed as well as to haul water for the fire department. The wreckers have yet to be used, King said, but they will be used to haul vehicles that are repossessed by the police.

Jackson has received the third most gear in the region behind Parsons and Selmer. In May, Police Chief Gill Kendrick signed off on a request for a Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, or a MRAP. Kendrick said it would have been "unreasonable" to ask the City Council to purchase such an expensive piece of equipment. The MRAP the city received was valued at $733,000 by the military.

The MRAP will be used mostly for natural disaster situations, but it could be used in situations where a threat is heavily armed, Kendrick said.

Jackson police Lt. Mike Siler said the ultimate goal is to protect citizens.

"We're not trying to emulate the military; we understand we're not the military," Siler said. "But at the same time, we also understand the fact that it's our responsibility to not only serve the citizens of Jackson, but to also protect our officers the best we can."

Small towns

Elbert Baker, the LESO state coordinator for Tennessee, said many small towns don't have enough money to provide the type of equipment available through the military.
Military

Continued from Page A2

surplus program, which helps them do their jobs better.

King, the Parsons police chief and fire chief, said he has to operate on a tight budget. The thinly stretched officers also serve as the city's first responders in any incident in the city limits.

"Equipment stuff (from LESO) relieves a lot of that," he said. "That money can (then) go to something else."

King uses his Humvees as all-in-one emergency vehicles. He has a fire hose mounted on one, and all carry everything they would need for anything from a police chase, to a car wreck, to a natural disaster.

Selmer, which has a population of about 4,541, has received over $2.7 million in supplies since 2012. Assistant Police Chief Kim Holley said that the department has items so that it is prepared for emergency situations that could happen. This explains why Selmer has received 50 fire extinguishers, 50 universal first-aid kits, 50 flashlights and 36 water canteens.

All of it was free.

Selmer also has four Humvees, two dump trucks and two tractors. Holley said that those pieces of equipment are rarely used but are available in case there is a disaster.

"Most of the stuff we got, not something that we use every day, but a lot of the stuff is going to be used for disasters," Holley said. "We wouldn't want to drive them around all the time, but four-wheel drive and such are used occasionally. Before (we) would have to borrow something.

"That's the kind of stuff we really need," Holley continued. "It stretches our budget to get that stuff, and it actually supplements what we buy and helps out."

LESO

LESO functions as an online storing house of military supplies, some used and some brand new, that are no longer needed by the military. Local police offices across the country can register to use LESO for a fee that ranges from $400 to $1,000 a year. The pieces of equipment are assigned values equal to their cost when they were first purchased by the military.

Offices put in requests for equipment, and if they are selected, LESO will give them the equipment free of charge. The only expense for the department is for transporting the equipment.

According to Baker, 88 percent of LESO's equipment nationwide is considered "non-controlled," or nonlethal, and can be anything from boots to desks to trashcans.

"It's not going to be like going to Sam's or Walmart or something, and you can't get everything you want the first time or even the first year," Baker said. "It varies with what's in the system and what's in the world and all sorts of things."

Baker said that departments must write up a justification for why they need a piece of property and what exactly it will be used for in order to even be considered for the property. King, for instance, has a dump truck, two forklifts and a road grader, but he is planning on constructing a gun range and a defensive driving course that he will use the equipment to build.

Nonlethal items drop off an office's inventory listing after a year. After a year, departments are in ownership of nonlethal items. The federal government allows departments to get rid of items, sell them or repurpose them. However, they must keep track of every item considered lethal, and if they are not using the lethal...
items, they must return them.

"You have to realize that the federal government is not buying this equipment with intent for local property to use," Baker said. "(They) have a choice — they can either destroy this equipment (or give it to police) because they can't sell this on eBay to an average citizen."

Sometimes the equipment is in various stages of repair, and it can be hard to determine whether it is even usable, Baker said.

"A lot of times you get this stuff you don't know what you're getting un-
Local alumni of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program recently attended the ninth annual Tennessee Soybean Festival barbecue luncheon sponsored by Mayor Randy Brundige in Martin. Each year, Brundige invites WestStar alumni to attend the event and also visit the Tennessee Soybean Festival in downtown Martin. The luncheon is held at First State Bank. Among those taking part this year from Obion County were (from left) Lindsay Frilling, Brad Thompson and Phyllis Rauchle.
Three alumni of the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program attended the ninth annual Tennessee Soybean Festival Barbecue Luncheon sponsored by Mayor Randy Brundige on Sept. 5 in Martin. Each year, Brundige invites WestStar alumni to attend the event and also visit the Tennessee Soybean Festival in downtown Martin. The luncheon is held at First State Bank. Pictured left to right from Henry County are Emory Bradley, Michele Atkins and Tony Lawrence.

UTM launches music academy

The UTM Department of Music is launching the Community Music Academy, which provides quality, affordable music lessons to instrumentalists and singers of all ages.

In particular, this provides area students with the opportunity for private study as they prepare for All-West auditions, solo and ensemble, and college auditions.

Teachers are UTM faculty and select students, and rates have been set at a low level to allow as many people as possible to experience the joy of making music.

Half-hour lessons are $15 with an Apprentice Teacher (UTM student) and $25 with a Master Teacher (UTM faculty); hour lessons are $25 for an Apprentice Teacher and $40 for a Master Teacher.

All lessons will be taught in the new Fine Arts Building, located at the northwest corner of campus (16 Mt. Pelia Rd.).

The UTM Community Music Academy is now accepting new students in all areas (voice and all instruments).

For more information or to enroll, visit www.utm.edu/communitymusic or email communitymusic@utm.edu.
UTM awarded equipment to benefit post-9/11 veterans

Post-9/11 veterans will benefit from new technology provided to UT Martin. The university has received a laptop computer, complete with Microsoft Office software and a Jabra voice headset made possible from an award through Syracuse University. The award also includes access to free courses toward industrial certification for any post-9/11 veterans, not just those currently enrolled at UT Martin.

The Veterans Career Transition Program is operated under a grant to Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families. The program is delivered entirely online at no cost to veterans or spouses.

The award to UT Martin, which is part of the Veterans Career Transition Program, has been opened to non-students and their families and includes various courses from business to human relations and many others. A complete list of courses offered can be found at http://vets.syr.edu/employment/vctp-learning-paths/

The computer and headset are located in Clement Hall, accessible through the Student Services and Success Mentoring Center. Registration is currently open for the seminars launching in January 2015.

Those interested can apply at http://vets.syr.edu/VC秦皇UserApp, or persons can e-mail Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls at accarls@utm.edu.

Phi Kappa Phi earns top award

The Phi Kappa Phi Chapter at the University of Tennessee at Martin has been named a 2013-14 Chapter of Excellence, the highest chapter award recognized by the National Honor Society.

Chapter awards were presented at the 2014 Phi Kappa Phi Biennial Convention held in St. Louis.

Only 27 chapters out of more than 300 across the United States earned this honor. A chapter must meet high standards set by the association in areas such as officer training, awards, campus events, service projects, membership, publicity, communications and grant applications to become a Chapter of Excellence.

Dr. Chris Hill, chapter secretary and associate professor of English, accepted the award at the convention. Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music, was chapter president for 2013-14, and Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, professor of mathematics, is chapter president for 2014-15.

Youth reading clinic to be offered

UT Martin is now offering a reading clinic twice a week for students in grades two through 12 from Thursday through Oct. 27 and Oct. 28 - Nov. 24 on the UT Martin campus.

Experienced reading professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center teach this sequential and intensive course for reading improvement.

The clinic is for students in grades two-12 who need extra support and practice in reading. Students will be individually tested to determine their specific levels of phonics and comprehension.

Using results, students will be placed into a research-proven course of study designed to build skills and to fill in any gaps that may exist in their reading skills and strategies.

Students meet twice per week for one hour per meeting and can select either a Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday schedule.

The reading clinic is offered for $100 per student, plus $25 for a workbook.

For more information about the reading clinic visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/non-degree.php or call Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies 731-881-7082.
UT Martin fall enrollment exceeds 7,000; freshman class has record average ACT score

Fall semester enrollment has reached 7,042 students at the University of Tennessee at Martin, which includes students at the Martin campus and the university's four centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and McNairy County/Selmer.

Final enrollment is calculated after the 14th day of classes and is among several factors that determine funding for Tennessee public colleges and universities. Among positive numbers for the student body is a record average ACT score for the freshman class.

Enrollment is down 5.1 percent from last year when 7,423 students attended the university in fall 2013. Factors affecting enrollment were the raising of admissions standards this fall and the loss of dual enrollment students in high schools where many are choosing to take these courses at community colleges. However, higher admissions standards contributed to the incoming freshman class holding the highest average ACT score in the university's history at 22.8.

Other positive enrollment numbers included a 10.1 percent increase in off-campus enrollment and a full-time online undergraduate enrollment increase of 16.5 percent.

UT Martin Alumnii Dinner Held Sept. 18

By: Richard Rucker

Fayette County UT Martin Alumni were treated to a fish fry dinner at the Warren Community Church, hosted by UT Martin Assistant Vice Chancellor Charley Deal and locally by Harris Armour and Steve Reeves, on September 18.

Local alumni were also presented with the opportunity to personally meet and talk with UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Tom Rakes.

Dr. Rakes gave a presentation on the future construction of the Fayette County Higher Education Center along with an update on classes currently being offered by UT Martin at the Career Center on the Somerville Court House Square. This fall, UT Martin is holding four classes at the Career Center and topics include Political Science, English, Animal Science, and Agriculture.

Dr. Rakes gave a history of UT Martin's four existing off-campus centers in Ripley, Selmer, Jackson, and Parsons. Each of the four off-campus centers have experienced constant growth since their inception and have been expanded. Dr. Rakes expressed his appreciation of being invited to be a part of our community and assured the audience that UT Martin is committed to bringing its established academic standard of excellence into Fayette County. Following the dinner, Dr. Rakes and Charley Deal mingled with the crowd, allowing everyone the opportunity to personally meet and question the representatives from UT Martin.

Members of the Higher Education Executive Committee and Advisory Board were also at the dinner and Executive Committee Chairman Richard Rucker announced that the Executive Committee and Advisory Board will be traveling to Parsons, TN September 26 and will follow up with an October 3 meeting at the Career Center with representatives from TLM Architects in Jackson as plans are being assimilated prior to construction of the Higher Education Center. Current status and updates can be monitored on the Higher Education Center's website, www.educating-fayette.com.
Youth reading clinic offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin is now offering a reading clinic twice a week for students in grades 2-12 from Thursday to Oct. 27 and from Oct. 28 to Nov. 24 on campus.

Experienced reading professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center teach this sequential and intensive course for reading improvement. The clinic is for students who need extra support and practice in reading.

Students will be individually tested to determine their specific levels of phonics and comprehension.

Using results, students will be placed into a research-proven course of study designed to build skills and to fill in any gaps that may exist in their reading skills and strategies.

Students meet twice per week for one hour per meeting and can select either a Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday schedule.

The clinic is offered for $100 per student, plus $25 for a workbook.

For more information, call the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082.

Preview Days set at UTM

Fall Preview Days are planned for Oct. 4 and Nov. 15 at the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus.

Current high school juniors and seniors are encouraged to attend with family members, but all students with an interest in UTM are welcome.

Both Fall Preview Days include informational sessions, campus tours and academic fairs. Student organization representatives will also be on hand to discuss opportunities for campus involvement.

The Oct. 4 preview day will be held in Boling University Center, while the Nov. 15 event will be held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Register online at www.utm.edu and select “Register for Fall Preview Day” under the “Discover” menu. Additional information is also available by calling the Office of Admissions at (731) 881-7020.

Freshman ACT average highest ever

UT Martin’s enrollment tops 7,000 for fall semester

Fall semester enrollment has reached 7,042 students at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The figure includes students at the Martin campus and the university’s centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and McNairy County/Selmer.

Final enrollment is calculated after the 14th day of classes and is among several factors that determine funding for Tennessee public colleges and universities. Among positive numbers for the student body is a record average ACT score for the freshman class.

Enrollment is down 5.1 percent from last year, when 7,423 students attended the university in fall 2013.

Factors affecting enrollment were the raising of admissions standards this fall and the loss of dual enrollment students in high schools where many are choosing to take these courses at community colleges. However, higher admissions standards contributed to the incoming freshman class holding the highest average ACT score in the university’s history at 22.8.

Other positive enrollment numbers included a 10.1 percent increase in off-campus enrollment and a full-time online undergraduate enrollment increase of 16.5 percent.
Youngerman named new UTM Director

Alan Youngerman, most recently district executive for the Boy Scouts of America, is the new director of the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer. He succeeds Deidra Beene who died in March following a long illness. She had served as center director since 2001. Youngerman began his new duties Sept. 2.

"I've always loved education," Youngerman said of his appointment. "I'd like to see the university continue and expand its successes here." He added that his long and varied business background would help him move the center forward.

Before his position with the Boy Scouts, Youngerman was co-owner and vice president of Stan's Home Center Inc. in Jackson and the Home Center Inc. in Lexington and Henderson. He was previously associated with the McNairy County/Selmer Center from 2009-11 as an adjunct faculty member teaching geology.

Youngerman holds an associate degree in physical chemistry from Jackson State Community College, a bachelor's degree in earth science from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville and a master's degree with a major in economic geology from the University of Nevada, Reno - Mackay School of Mines. Youngerman and his wife, Elizabeth, have two children and live in Selmer.

UT Martin opened the

See DIRECTOR, Pg. 3

Director From pg. 1

McNairy County/Selmer Center in cooperation with McNairy County and the city of Selmer. The university began offering lower-division courses at the center in summer 1998.

In fall 2004, the center began offering courses leading to the Education K-6 degree. Then in fall 2008, the center offered courses leading to bachelor's degrees in history and social work. Four new classrooms were completed in fall 2009.

In addition to previous offerings, a major in criminal justice is now available, and a major in psychology is new for this fall semester. The center also offers a full rotation plan of general-education courses, upper-division courses and the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree. Also available are non-credit classes, and the center can design training curriculums to meet the individual needs of local business and industry. The UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is the university's administrative reporting channel for the center.
WAR OF 1812 — UT Martin history professor David Coffey presented “More Than Volunteers: Tennessee and the War of 1812” on Sept. 18 in the J. Houston Gordon Museum’s reading room located at the university’s Paul Meek Library. Coffey explained the reasons for the war and its significance at the time for Tennessee. He also discussed how the war helped to position Andrew Jackson as a national political figure. The Tennessee State Museum’s traveling exhibition, “Becoming the Volunteer State: Tennessee in the War of 1812,” is on view through Oct. 31 in the museum.

Enrollment At UT Martin Is Down

The University of Tennessee at Martin has enrolled 7,042 students during the fall semester, including students at the Martin campus and the university’s four centers in Ripley, Jackson, Parsons, and McNairy County/Selmer.

Final enrollment is calculated after the 14th day of classes and is among several factors that determine funding for Tennessee public colleges and universities. Among positive numbers for the student body is a record average ACT score for the freshman class.

Enrollment is down 5.1 percent from last year when 7,423 students attended the university in fall 2013. Factors affecting enrollment were the raising of admissions standards this fall and the loss of dual enrollment students in high schools where many are choosing to take these courses at community colleges. However, higher admissions standards contributed to the incoming freshman class holding the highest average ACT score in the university’s history at 22.8.

UTM Ensemble To Perform At HES

The University of Tennessee at Martin Center Percussion Ensemble, Roots of Rhythm, is scheduled to tour West Tennessee schools with a scheduled performance at 1:30 p.m. Monday, September 29th, at Halls Elementary School. Roots of Rhythm is a multi-sensory performance designed to allow exploration of other cultures through music. The program includes steel drums and tambo bamboo instruments from Trinidad, shona marimbas from Zimbabwe, traditional dundun drums from Guinea, Brazilian samba instruments and many more worldly sounds.
UT Martin fraternities, sororities raise money for philanthropies

By SAMI MOBLEY
The Press

Last week, the Sigma Chi fraternity at UT Martin celebrated its 8th annual Derby Days competition, which is a week-long event that aims to raise money for Huntsman Cancer Institute. Nationally since 1992, the fraternity has raised over $4.2 million for its philanthropy. Each day a different event takes place on campus.

As the events proceed, points are awarded based on winners and highest donations. Sororities participating were Chi Omega, Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Omega Pi, Zeta Tau Alpha, Sigma Alpha and Free Agents.

Each day the sisters took turns painting the white cross that sits in front of the Sigma Chi chapter house. Whichever sorority had the most likes on the Facebook page 24 hours after being posted wins for the week.

The week began the way it always does, with the Derby Hat chase. All brothers and pledges wore a black "derby hat" to signify their participation in the event. Girls participating aimed to steal the hat in order to accumulate points for their sorority. Monday was a day of screaming, running and determination from many sisters to get the hat by any means possible.

Monday night was the first ever Derby Darling competition in the University Center ballroom. The darling competition was a pageant-style event with questions asked in relation to individual philanthropies, UTM and the girls themselves. A talent and fashion section followed the questions, with girls dressing their Derby Daddies up in a way that represented their philanthropy. Girls were selected from each group to represent their sorority. Erica Reed, a Free Agent competitor, won the title of darling. Her talent of hypnotizing people from the audience had those watching crying from laughter.

As the week continued, more events transpired, exemplifying the dedication the brothers of Sigma Chi and the sisters of each sorority hold for supporting cancer research. Tuesday during the Derbylympics, various events such as dodge ball, dizzy bat, and field events were played.

Sorority Jousting on Wednesday allowed the sisters an evening of friendly rivalry. After climbing into an inflatable ring, the girls aimed to knock one another off raised platforms.

Thursday a Southern dinner was hosted at the chapter house, which was followed by a Brother Auction. The brothers were auctioned off to the highest bidder. Groans could be heard coming from pledges who were purchased by their brothers.

The fate for those purchased is usually a washed car, mowed lawn or cleaned house.

After a week of hard work, the sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha came out on top. The sisters raised the most money and points from events. For the past four years the sisters of Chi Omega have won. All who participated raised $10,000 for cancer research. "I'm so excited," said Sean O'Brien of Sigma Chi. "It was my goal to be the first Philanthropy chair today to raise help raise $10,000."

Half of the money raised was awarded to Zeta Tau's philanthropy of breast cancer research in honor of their win.

UT Martin sets Fall Preview Days for Oct. 4 and Nov. 15

Fall Preview Days are set for Oct. 4 and Nov. 15, at the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus.

Current high school juniors and seniors are encouraged to attend with family members, but all students with an interest in UT Martin are welcome.

Both Fall Preview Days include informational sessions, campus tours and academic fairs. Student organization representatives will also be on hand to discuss opportunities for campus involvement. The Oct. 4 preview day will be held in the Boling University Center, while the Nov. 15 event will be held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Register online at www.utm.edu and select “Register for Fall Preview Day” under the “Discover” menu. Additional information is also available by calling the Office of Admissions at (731) 881-7020.
Skyhawk Veterans Association

New program available to help post-9/11 veterans

By BRYAN GRIFFIN
Special to The Press

The Skyhawk Veterans Association of the University Of Tennessee at Martin recently met for an "Open Social" to welcome new and current members of the student organization.

An announcement was made for a new Industrial Certification Program for veterans and their spouses. The program is the result of an award received by UT Martin that is designed to help post-9/11 veterans and their spouses. The award makes it possible for veterans to obtain industrial certification through 26 courses offered by Syracuse University that range from business to human relations, job application skills and many others. A complete list of course and eligibility requirements for the program can be found at http://vets.syr.edu/vcctp.

Those eligible for enrollment to the program are post-9/11 veterans who have already separated or retired from the military or who will transition from military service to the civilian workforce in the next 18 months. Service members must have served at least one day on active duty during 09/11/01. This includes Guard and Reserve members who have civilian sector employment or will be transitioning into the civilian sector within 18 months.

Spouses of eligible veterans, as well as spouses of all active duty service members, are eligible to apply to the program. Those employed and seeking career advancement or change, underemployed (working in a field other than your qualifications would prepare you for, or working for a lower salary or fewer hours than you would like) or unemployed. VCCTP requires an application, which reviews your preparedness and likelihood of success in the program, as well as your career goals and fit with the program’s offerings.

The registration deadline is Nov. 24 with courses starting Jan. 20, 2015, with course completion in March 2015. A certification exam will follow the completion of the course.

To register UTM students go to http://vets.syr.edu/VCTPLaptopUserAPP. Non-students go to http://vets.syr.edu/vcctpapp. Once on the website students will be asked to select your school (UTMartin) from a drop down menu if you are connected to UT Martin. UTM gets "credit" for the students enrollment. A letter of recommendation from your employer is a prerequisite for enrollment to the program.

The course is delivered entirely online and can be accessed from any PC or Mac that is relatively current, if the student does not reside in the Martin area. If the student resides in the Martin area, a laptop will be available for use at the Paul Meek Library.

Courses towards industrial certification and the cost of one certification examination are free. For more information about the program contact faculty administrator for the SVA Dr. Alice-Cathrine Caarls at 731-881-7472.

Industrial Certification Program for veterans and their families is just one of the programs offered by the SVA. The SVA works to uphold the traditions of the University of Tennessee and communicate the needs of student veterans. The SVA also seeks to serve all veterans on campus and in the community, by providing advice and updates on new V.A. information. Membership is open to UT Martin student veterans and veteran dependents, friends of veterans and their families as well as sponsors and honorary members. To learn more about the SVA, visit them at http://thehub.orgsacn.com/organ/skyhawkveteranassociation49726.

UTM Percussion Ensemble to give 'Roots of Rhythm' performances

The Tennessee Martin Percussion Ensemble is scheduled to perform "Roots of Rhythm" in Bells and Jackson on Monday.

The ensemble will be at Bells Elementary School at 9:30 a.m., and it will give a public performance at the UT Martin Jackson Center, 3031 U.S. 45 Bypass in Jackson at 6 p.m.

Roots of Rhythm is a multi-sensory performance designed to allow exploration of other cultures through music. The program includes steel drums and tamboo bamboo instruments from Trinidad, shona marimbas from Zimbabwe, traditional dundun drums from Guinea, Brazilian samba instruments and many more worldly sounds.

For more information on the performances, contact Julie Hill at Jhill@ut.edu or visit www.utm.edu/department/percussion.
UTM Jackson Center to hold Fall Festival

The University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center, at 3031 U.S. 45 Bypass, will hold its Fall Festival from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday.

Donnell Century Farms will offer free cow barrel rides, a fall photo shoot, pumpkin painting and “punkin' chunkin’.”

A free one-hour robotic Mindstorm Lego class will be offered for children, but it is limited to the first 20 who register.

All high school percussionists are invited to participate in a drumline competition. UT Martin's Roots of Rhythm percussionists also will perform.

A 5K/1K Run/Fun Walk for the American Cancer Society will begin at 6 p.m. The $15 pre-registration fee includes a T-shirt. Pre-register at makingstrides.org.

Walgreens will offer free blood pressure checks and water for all who attend.

The festival is free and open to the public. For more information or to register, call (731) 425-9277.

UT Martin Phi Kappa Phi chapter honored

The Phi Kappa Phi Chapter at the University of Tennessee at Martin has been named a 2013-14 Chapter of Excellence, the highest chapter award recognized by the National Honor Society.

Chapter awards were presented at the 2014 Phi Kappa Phi Biennial Convention held Aug. 7-9 in St. Louis, according to a news release.

Only 27 chapters out of more than 300 across the United States earned the honor, the release said. A chapter must meet high standards set by the association in areas such as officer training, awards, campus events, service projects, membership, publicity, communications and grant applications to become a Chapter of Excellence.

Dr. Chris Hill, chapter secretary and associate professor of English, accepted the award at the convention, the release said. Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music, was chapter president for 2013-14, and Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, professor of mathematics, is chapter president for 2014-15.

The UT Martin chapter was founded in 1971 and is the society's 127th chapter, according to a news release. To foster outstanding scholarship, the chapter annually sponsors two faculty lectures, honors outstanding freshmen and sophomores with certificates of recognition, and presents a Phi Kappa Phi scholarship award to the top senior.

The chapter also nominates one student for a national Phi Kappa Phi graduate fellowship.
Fun for all at Fall Festival

Alex Hubbard plays on a xylophone during the University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center's Fall Festival on Monday.

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Roots of Rhythm percussionists perform at the UT Martin Jackson Center's Fall Festival on Monday.

Luke Switzer pulls back on a pumpkin slingshot during the UT Martin Jackson Center's Fall Festival on Monday.
SOUTH SIDE STUDENTS, TEACHER SHOWCASE ART

‘Into the Wild’ joint art show is on display at the UT Martin Jackson Center

By Nick McFerron
nmcferron@jacksonsun.com

The University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center recently held a reception for a joint student-teacher art show called “Into the Wild.”

The show started when the UT Martin Jackson Center asked Gene Gott, an art teacher at South Side High School and UT Martin, to do a show of some of his work.

Kayce Beam, director of the Jackson Center, suggested bringing in work from some of Gott’s students to join the show.

“It started as an invitation to do a one-man show,” Gott said. “Kayce was talking with me about my students. It was her suggestion to bring the students aboard.”

The show is a unique experience for the students, as most high-schoolers do not get the opportunity to have work shown in an art show next to professional work.

“This is generally not done,” Gott said. “It is a great opportunity to showcase what some of our Art 2 students are doing.”

Dena Blake, a sophomore at South Side, had a few pieces in the show. One of them won first place in its category. Her piece was an optical illusion showing her hands popping off the paper.

“I learned how to do it last year,” Blake said. “I wanted to do something different, so I made my hands look like a butterfly.”

Ashlee Davis brought some students from her art club at Milan Middle School to see the show.

“Somebody sent the flier to our principal,” Davis said. “I think it’s really interesting. There seems to be a lot of diverse artwork, and it makes for a really great show.”

Davis had her students pick their favorite of the student pieces and write a critique, explaining why they chose it.

Some of the student’s work was not eligible for the art show judging because the pieces had already been shown during the West Tennessee State Fair.

“We had a student receive best in show, and one received an Art Association excellence award,” Gott said.

Those pieces were displayed separately from the other students’ work.

The show will stay up at the UT Martin Jackson Center until the next show comes in, which will be later in October.

Reach Nick McFerron at (731) 425-9643.
Follow him on Twitter @nick_mcferron
Two from Williamson earn 4-H scholarships

Staff reports  1:05 p.m. CDT September 30, 2014

Hundreds of 4-H members from across the state recently gathered at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the Tennessee 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference where two Williamson County students won college scholarships for their hard work.

The annual event recognized the outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments of senior high 4-H members.

Representing Williamson County at this year's roundup were Jordan Taylor of Fairview, Nathan Stickles of Thompson's Station, Christian Schweer of Franklin, Nathanael Jones of Nolensville and Hannah Gordon of Franklin. Angie Stickles of Thompson's Station attended as the adult volunteer leader for the delegation.

Taylor and Jones won college scholarships and Taylor also won a trip to the National 4-H Congress and a coveted Vol State Award.

Approximately 300 high school students from across Tennessee met for several days on the UT-Martin campus. They competed for college scholarship money and trips to the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta in projects involving communication and public speaking, livestock care, photography, computers and technology.

Delegates to the 2014 Tennessee 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference worked with Nashville-based Operation Troop Aid as their service project. The mission of Operation Troop Aid 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 organized fundraising events in their counties and then worked to assemble the care packages for shipping at Martin.

"Service-learning opportunities are a very important component of the 4-H program," said Steve Sutton, state director of 4-H youth development. "Each year, 4-H'ers 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."