Stewart County kids attend Drum Line Tune Up Day

11:58 a.m. CDT September 1, 2015

On Saturday, August 22, the Stewart County High School Drum Line participated in the UT Martin Drum Line Tune Up Day.

The Drum Line worked with famed percussionist, educator and composer Julia Davila as well as Dr. Julie Hill and Dr. Dan Piccolo from the UTM Faculty.

The professors taught the students a variety of ways to improve the individual and ensemble playing skills, from fundamentals to performance practices.

The students performed for other participating drum lines and learned new ways to rehearse, practice and play in an ensemble.

This was just one of the many music events the music students of Stewart County will have this year that allows the students to make contact with local universities, familiarize themselves with professors and college students and make lasting connections.

/localstudentbeginsclassesatutmartin

LOCAL STUDENT BEGINS CLASSES AT UT MARTIN

http://bulletintimesnews.com/

Geosoulia Miner, of Whiteville, and Laetitia Huntley, of Memphis, pause on campus during the first day of fall classes at the University of Tennessee at Martin on Aug. 24.

Miner is a senior majoring in food and nutrition/dietetics, and Huntley is a senior majoring in sociology.

A freshman class of more than 1,000 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.
Local student begins classes at UT Martin

UT MARTIN FALL CLASSES BEGIN – (from left) Hannah Houck, a sophomore from Gibson; and Alexandra Dalton and Hilary Whitten, freshmen from South Fulton, pause on campus during the first day of fall classes at the University of Tennessee at Martin on Aug. 24. A freshman class of more than 1,000 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.
It's all about family.
Final Flight Outfitters was recently recognized as the U.S. Small Business Administration's Tennessee Family Owned Business of the Year.

Owned by brothers Jon Ed Powers, Kelley Powers and Tripp Powers, the business offers the area's largest selection of top-quality, name-brand hunting gear.

"The word 'family' in this award perfectly describes our philosophy of daily business in that we consider all of our employees and customers an extended part of our family," the brothers said in a joint statement. "We thank everyone for entrusting us for your outdoor needs and here's to many more years of growth and enjoyable times in the outdoors."

"Without our staff and our loyal customers this couldn't be possible."

The business was nominated by Tennessee Small Business Development Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin REED Center.

Walter Perry, deputy director of the Tennessee U.S. Small Business Administration, took part in the award presentation at the store, which is located in the Midway community.

"Your hard work, innovative ideas and dedication to your community have helped your small business to succeed," he said. "The SBA is pleased to recognize your achievements and your role in driving the economic growth in the Volunteer State.

"There are over 566,000 small businesses in Tennessee, according to SBA statistics, and your business is one of the great success stories of 2015."

The family business, which started in 1998, also has a vast selection of range guns and bows for customers to try out and test-shoot on the new shooting range out back that was designed for handgun and archery practice.

Final Flight is continually expanding and growing rapidly to serve hunters throughout the country. Just recently, they expanded their retail store with an additional 8,700 square feet, creating a showroom of more than 25,000 square feet.

Always bustling with activity, Final Flight has hosted events such as the nationally televised Super Retriever Series, the HRC Grand, HRC Hunt Tests, U.S. Open Duck Calling Contest, Tennessee State Duck and Goose Calling Contests and many more.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR — Final Flight Outfitters, which is located in the Midway community, was recently recognized as the U.S. Small Business Administration's Tennessee Family Owned Business of the Year. The business was nominated by Tennessee Small Business Development Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin REED Center. Taking part in the presentation were (from left) Dr. Bob Smith, interim chancellor at UT Martin; Landy Fuqua, director of UT Martin TSBDC/REED Center; Jon Ed Powers, Kelley Powers and Tripp Powers, owners of Final Flight Outfitters; and Walter Perry, deputy director of the Tennessee U.S. Small Business Administration.
Robison is fifth countian to vie for national crown

BY ANN BROACH
POST-INTELLIGENCER

Many residents in Henry County will gather around their TV sets the night of Sept. 13 to cheer for Buchanan’s Hannah Robison as she competes for the title of Miss America 2016. The pageant airs at 8 p.m. on the ABC network.

Robison will be competing in Atlantic City, N.J. as Miss Tennessee, the title she won during the annual pageant in June at Jackson.

This year marks the fifth time in 85 years a Henry Countian has represented the state in a national beauty pageant.

Ethel McFadden Humphreys, who died in 2001, was named Miss Tennessee in 1930 and competed for “America’s Sweetheart” in Miami during a period when the Miss America program was temporarily suspended.

Marcia Murray Moss, who won the state title as Miss Paris, became Miss Tennessee in 1965.

Elise Neal Davis, as Miss Okra, captured the state title in 1979. Davis also won the Talent Award as a non-finalist in the national pageant.

And Paris native Carrie Folks Strang, as Miss Bluegrass Festival, won in 1988.

Frederick Hickman, president of the Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce 75 years ago, is quoted on missamerica.org as saying:

“Miss America represents the highest ideals. She is a real combination of beauty, grace, and intelligence, artistic and refined. She is a type which the American Girl might well emulate.”

Miss America travels about 20,000 miles a month. She tours the nation reaching out to support her ideals, committed to helping others.

The pageant seeks to involve family and friends each year on the eve of the finale with a Show Us Your Shoes parade.

Rain or shine, the 52 contestants will participate at 5 p.m. Sept. 12 in a noncompetitive two-mile parade that “celebrates the spirit of their home state through costumes and one-of-a-kind wearable handmade shoe creations.”

The current Miss America crown includes four points, which symbolize scholarship, success, style and service.

Guests must excel in all four areas to succeed in the Miss America system.

Martin Soybean Festival set to start this weekend

The 22nd annual Tennessee Soybean Festival begins this week in Martin for an eight-day run.

A wide variety of events will offer entertainment for the whole family, including the Soybean Festival Parade at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 8, along with the traditional carnival midway and craft fair through Sept. 12.

This year’s concert headliners include Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Night Ranger and Joe Nichols.

Among the highlights of the festival this year are:

- An “Under the Sea” for children in kindergarten through fifth grades will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom.

Children are encouraged to dress as their favorite princesses or superheroes. Tickets are $25 a child; gallery seats for parents and guardians are available for $5 each.

Tickets must be purchased online at www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.

- The annual Guitar as Art showcase competition will open Sunday with a reception and awards presentation from 2-4 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building Gallery.

- A new event this year, the soybean innovation competition, will take place from 4-6 p.m. Sept. 9 in Room 111 of the University Center.

The competition is open to all full-time college students to pitch new products, business ideas and production strategies using soybeans or soybean products.

- The UT Martin Skyhawks will take the field against the Bethel University Wildcats at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 10 in Hardy M. Graham Stadium for the first home game of the season.

- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame members Joan Jett and the Blackhearts will perform Sept. 10 for the student night concert. The group is best known for its 1982 hit, “I Love Rock and Roll.”

The band will take the Festival Park stage at 9 p.m. There is no admission charge.

Night Ranger is the featured 9 p.m. concert Sept. 11, while Joe Nichols is the headliner the night of Sept. 12.

- High school bands from across the state will compete in the annual Skyhawk Marching Band Invitational from 1-5 p.m. Sept. 12 in Graham Stadium.

Tickets for spectators are $10 a person for ages 12 and up, $5 for ages 6-11 and children under 5 may enter free.
Hannah Robison Is Miss America STEM Scholarship And Quality Of Life Finalist

Wednesday, September 2, 2015 - by Wendy King

From the Scenic City to Atlantic City, Hannah Robison has already made Miss Tennessee history at the Miss America Pageant and the competition doesn't begin until next week.

The former Miss Scenic City became the first Miss Tennessee to be named a finalist for both the Miss America STEM Scholarship and the Jean Bartel (Miss America 1941) Quality of Life for Community Service Awards in the same year at the finale of Tuesday's Arrival Ceremony on the famed Boardwalk where the 52 contestants made their first public appearance in Atlantic City. The ceremony is the kickoff to the pre-pageant activities that will lead up to next week’s three preliminary rounds starting on Tuesday and concluding next Sunday evening when The Bachelor's Chris Harrison announces the name of the 95th Miss America in the final moments of the ABC broadcast (WTVC NewsChannel 9 starting at 9 p.m.).

The 21-year-old Paris native whose family owns the Buchanan Resort on Kentucky Lake is one of eight finalists for the five STEM scholarships valued at $5,000 each and is awarded to contestants pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Miss Robison is a senior Chemistry major at the University of Tennessee at Martin and her career goal is to obtain her PhD and eventually teach Organic Chemistry at the university level. She is the UTM representative to the West Tennessee STEM Hub, a General Chemistry Recitation Leader and the recipient of the UTM Chancellor’s Ambassador Award.

Prior to becoming Miss Tennessee in June and the third Scenic City Pageants entrant to win the title in four years, she created the STEM Day at Children’s Miracle Network (hospitals) program which enables her to visit patients at the five state CMN affiliates including Chattanooga’s Children’s at Erlanger where they perform science experiments in the playroom.

Miss Robison is also heavily involved in community service in promoting her platform of Arthritis Awareness as five members of her family have contracted the inflammatory joint disorder. As the Philanthropy Chair for the UTM chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority whose national platform is the Arthritis Foundation she created the first “Attack Arthritis Week” on campus which resulted in $5,500 in donations. She has also raised over $20,000 through other events including a Fish Fry, a Cut-A-Thon and participation in the national Jingle Bell 5K Run.

She is among the eight finalists for the Quality of Life Award and is the fourth Miss Tennessee and the third locally affiliated nominee joining Chattanooga’s Chandler Lawson (2012), Soddy-Daisy’s Stefanie Wittler Beavers (2009) and Grace Gore Sturdvant (2007). The winner receives a $6,000 scholarship and the first and second runners-up are awarded $4,000 and $2,000 respectively. Miss Lawson was a second runner-up for her platform of eradicating childhood hunger.

Miss Robison and the state representatives are all wagering social media campaigns to be named as “America’s Choice” who will be the 165th Miss America finalist. Posting the phrase Tennessee MissAmericaVote daily on Facebook and Twitter from now until next Thursday will count as votes. Her video which was filmed at the Tennessee’s Paris Eiffel Tower, has been viewed over 22,000 times.
Fall preview days scheduled at UTM

Students interested in attending the University of Tennessee at Martin are encouraged to register for one of two fall preview dates — Sept. 26 or Oct. 24.

High school and transfer students and their parents or guardians can tour the campus and receive information on a variety of topics.

Both sessions will begin with registration at 9 a.m., followed by an official university welcome at 9:30. Attendees will be given a tour of the UT Martin campus at 10:30 and have the opportunity to speak with current students and faculty members from all five academic colleges at the academic and administrative fair beginning at noon.

Representatives will also be available to discuss financial aid options, housing, meal plans, special programs and campus life activities.

All events on Sept. 26 will be held in the Boling University Center, while all Oct. 24 activities will take place in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Advance registration is required and there is no fee to attend. Students may register up until the morning of the event.

To register in advance, visit www.utm.edu and select “Fall Preview Day Registration” under the “Discover” menu.

Students may also call the UT Martin Office of Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu for additional details.

Ballroom dance class slated at UTM

Anyone interested in learning the fundamentals of ballroom dancing is invited to participate in a five-week course to be offered Sept. 14 through Oct. 12 on the University of Tennessee at Martin’s main campus.

The class will be held 6:30-8 p.m. on Mondays.

This course will introduce students to the basic steps of the waltz, swing, foxtrot, rumba and cha-cha.

Fran Robinson, course instructor, has been dancing since the age of 5 and has led and taught ballroom dance for 30 years.

The course registration fee is $100 per person or $150 per couple. Singles are welcome to attend but are not guaranteed a partner.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082 or visit the course website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.

UT Martin to host ACT prep course

Students hoping to raise their ACT scores are invited to register for an ACT prep course to be held on Saturdays at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The class will be held from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays from Sept. 12 through Oct. 17 on the main campus.

This course is available just in time for the Oct. 24 national exam.

Students will learn to complete test problems based on question frequency, difficulty, substantive knowledge, curriculum and alternative test-taking strategies. Participants will also learn how to maximize scores in the allotted time.

Ron Ramage, a UT Martin adjunct instructor and teacher at Obion County Central High School, will direct the course.

Students will take an official off-record ACT exam at the beginning of the course to determine areas of need. Students will then take another official off-record exam at the end of the program to evaluate progress. Instructors will arrange one-on-one meetings Oct. 15 to provide final study plans in preparation for the real exam.

The registration fee is $225 per person, which includes two textbooks, one ACT pre-test, one post-test and two sets of diagnostic reports. Students should bring two No. 2 pencils and paper for taking notes. If a student chooses to use a calculator, it must be ACT approved. For a list of approved calculators, visit http://www.actstudent.org/faq/calculator.html.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082 or visit the course website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.
UT Martin included on “Best in the Southeast” list by Princeton Review

The Princeton Review has named the University of Tennessee at Martin one of the “Best in the Southeast” as part of the company’s website feature “2016 Best Colleges: Region by Region,” published online August 5.

“For 13 consecutive years, UT Martin students surveyed by The Princeton Review have placed us among the elite public universities in the Southeast,” said Dr. Robert Smith, interim UT Martin chancellor. “Having that testimony from our students about the quality of their education is indeed an honor. As we look to the 2016-17 year, we are promising our students an even better living-learning experience.”

The Southeast list includes 140 “regional best” institutions. In total, 649 schools are included in the feature, representing only 25 percent of the nation’s four-year colleges and universities. Institutions receive ratings based on six categories: academics, admissions selectivity, financial aid, fire safety, quality of life and environmental awareness.

“UT Martin is an affordable regional school with smaller classes, a significant selection of online courses and a down-home atmosphere,” wrote editors at The Princeton Review. The institution’s inclusion in the listing is based on a variety of factors, including student-professor ratios, campus life activities, availability of scholarship funding and the average test scores of the entering freshman class.

The complete list may be viewed online at http://www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings.

FALL CLASSES BEGIN - Hannah Houck (from left), a sophomore from Gibson, Tenn., and Alexandra Dalton and Hilary Whitten, freshmen from South Fulton, Tenn., pause on campus during the first day of fall classes at the University of Tennessee at Martin on August 24. A freshman class of more than 1,000 students began arriving August 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.
TN Soybean Festival, UT Martin offers events for the whole family

The 22nd annual Tennessee Soybean Festival will be held Sept. 5-12 in Martin. A wide variety of events offer entertainment for the whole family, including the City of Martin’s Tennessee Soybean Festival Parade at 6:30 p.m., Sept. 8, and the traditional carnival midway and craft fair Sept. 8-12. This year’s concert headliners are Joan Jett and the Blackhearts on Sept. 10, Night Ranger on Sept. 11 and Joe Nichols on Sept. 12. The University of Tennessee at Martin joins other businesses and organizations as a Big Harvester sponsor for the festival.

The university will host the Tennessee Soybean Festival/West Tennessee Dairy Show beginning at 8 a.m., Sept. 5, in the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex. There is no admission charge for spectators. Participants may register online at www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.

Sept. 5 is also “Magical Martin” day, which will include appearances and performances by Disney princesses and superheroes. An Under the Sea Tea for children in kindergarten through fifth grade will begin at 10 a.m. in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom. Children are encouraged to dress as their favorite princesses or superheroes. Tickets are $25 per child; gallery seats for parents and guardians are available for $5 each. Tickets must be purchased online at www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.

The annual “Guitar as Art” showcase competition will open Sept. 6 with a reception and awards presentation from 2-4 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building Gallery. The creator of the guitar chosen as “Best in Show” will receive a $500 prize. Debi Henry Danielson, director of the Murray Art Guild, serves as this year’s exhibition juror. The exhibition runs through Sept. 19 and may be viewed from 8 a.m., Monday-Thursday, and 1-5 p.m. on weekends. There is no admission charge. The exhibit is co-sponsored by the Tennessee Soybean Festival and the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts.

UT Martin will also serve as the backdrop for The Crossroads Luncheon: A Celebration of Civic Organizations from noon-1 p.m., Sept. 9. The luncheon will be held in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom and will include a service project to collect items for local food banks. For more information, contact Steve Vantrease, associate director of alumni relations, at 731-587-5198.

The 2015 Soybean Innovation Entrepreneur Center and the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. There is no entry fee. For more information, contact Carol Reed, director, Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center, at 731-587-4212 or by email at carol.reed@nwtdd.org.

The UT Martin Skyhawks will take the field in Hardy M. Graham Stadium against the Bethel University Wildcats at 6:30 p.m., Sept. 10, for the first home game of the season. Pre-game activities will begin at 5 p.m. For ticket pricing and information, contact the UT Martin Office of Intercollegiate Athletics at 731-881-7207.

Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, will perform Thursday for the student night concert, sponsored by the UT Martin Student Activities Council. The group is best known for its 1982 hit “I Love Rock and Roll,” written by Alan Merrill and Jake Hooker of the Arrows group. The band will take the Festival Park stage at 9 p.m. There is no admission charge.

The UT Martin world percussion ensemble will perform at 7 p.m., Sept. 11, in Festival Park. High school bands from across the state will compete in the annual Skyhawk Marching Band Invitational from 1-5 p.m., Sept. 12, in Hardy M. Graham Stadium. Tickets for spectators are $10 per person over the age of 12, $5 for ages 6-11 and children under five may enter free.

The traditional Skyhawk Sunday Brunch will take place from 10:30-1:30 p.m., Sept. 13, in the Skyhawk Dining Hall, located in the Boling University Center. All community members are invited. The all-you-can-eat buffet is $10.82 per person, with children 10 and under eating for $5.08. For more information, contact UT Martin Dining Services at 731-881-7770.

For more information on the Tennessee Soybean Festival and for a complete list of events not included here, visit www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.
Ballroom Dance Course Offered At UT Martin

Anyone interested in learning the fundamentals of ballroom dancing is invited to participate in a five-week course offered from 6:30-8 p.m., Mondays, Sept. 14-Oct. 12 on the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus. This course will introduce students to the basic steps of the waltz, swing, foxtrot, rumba and cha-cha. Fran Robinson, course instructor, has been dancing since the age of five and has led and taught ballroom dance for 30 years. The class registration fee is $100 per person and $150 per couple. Singles are welcome to attend, but are not guaranteed a partner. For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/econs/courses/healthcare/phlebotomy.php.

Stewart receives scholarship

A Weakley County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandy Cartmell, Interim Executive Director, Student Engagement. Spencer Cale Stewart, son of Steven and Wynafer Stewart, of Gleason, will be a freshman. He received the Alumni Valentiian 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.

Phlebotomy tech course at UT Martin

A 90-hour training course is available through the University of Tennessee at Martin for those interested in becoming phlebotomy technicians. The course will meet from 6-9:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, Sept. 9-Dec. 14, on the main UT Martin campus. There will be no class on Oct. 25. The course costs $1,799 per person, which includes all textbooks and supplies. This course is designed to prepare professionals to collect blood specimens for laboratory analysis. Students will become familiar with all aspects of blood collection and develop the skills to perform venipunctures safely. Classroom and lab work includes specimen practice, terminology, anatomy and physiology. The National Healthcare Association certification exam is given at the end of the course. The exam costs an additional $105 and is paid directly to the NHA. The course instructor will arrange exam registration and payment. For more information or to register, call the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082 or register online at utm.edu/departments/econs/courses/healthcare/phlebotomy.php.

Miss Tenn. makes scholarship finalist in Miss America

Miss Tennessee Hannah Robison was named one of eight scholarship finalists in the Miss America Pageant this week. Miss Tennessee Executive Director Jane Alderson said Robison could win additional scholarship money through the STEM scholarship program at the Miss America Pageant as a finalist. The top five finalists after an interview with judges will receive a $5,000 scholarship, according to the Miss America Organization. The Miss America Pageant will begin next week on Sept. 8. The pageant will be televised live on ABC on Sept. 13.
Tennessee soybean festival

UT Martin offer events for the whole family

The 22nd annual Tennessee Soybean Festival will be held Sept. 5-12 in Martin. A wide variety of events offer entertainment for the whole family, including the City of Martin’s Tennessee Soybean Festival Parade at 6:30 p.m., Sept. 8, and the traditional carnival midway and craft fair Sept. 8-12. This year’s concert headliners are Joan Jett and the Blackhearts on Sept. 10, Night Ranger on Sept. 11 and Joe Nichols on Sept. 12. The University of Tennessee at Martin joins other businesses and organizations as a Big Harvester sponsor for the festival.

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For more information on the Tennessee Soybean Festival, and for a complete list of events not included here, visit www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.
Martin ready to kick off annual event

This coming Saturday will mark one of the busiest weeks of the year for Martin as the Soybean Festival kicks off its 22nd year.

"This is when it all comes together," said David Belote, Tennessee Soybean Festival director. "It gets a little hectic at this point, but at the end of the day it's all fun, and it will be all fun once we get it started."

Saturday, which has been dubbed Magical Martin Day, will put an emphasis on children by giving them the opportunity to spend all day with their favorite princesses and superheroes.

"When you're working with it, you get attached to almost everything that's going on," Belote said. "You want it to be good for people. That's the effort. Early in the festival we're doing some special things focusing on kids and creating environments where they can have fun."

"A few years back, we had some folks say, 'The festival is great, but what about the little kids? What do they have?' We took that to heart. Last year, when we did the Disney Day, we put it in the University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Building, will get things under way on Sunday with a showing and awards ceremony from 2-4 p.m.

"Some of the guitarists that have come in so far, the artwork on them is just amazing and intricate, and they tell a story about our culture in Martin and in northwest Tennessee," Belote said.

Sunday will close out with performances by Jamaica-Me-Happy and 7 Bridges ... Tribute to the Eagles, concluding with fireworks celebration.

Like most festivals, many already have their eyes locked in on the headlining acts.

This year, the Soybean Festival is bringing Joan Jett and the Blackhearts (Sept. 10), Night Ranger (Sept. 11) and Joe Nichols (Sept. 12) to perform during the final three days. All three shows are set to start at 9 p.m.

While many are counting down the days to those three shows, there will be plenty of things going on in the days leading up.

Monday will feature the Soybean Talent Show, which will be broken down into four age groups (8 and younger, 9-12, 13-21 and 22 and older). Juniors will go on at 6 p.m. and teens will take the stage at 7.

The Soybean Festival Parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and lead up to a performance by Mike Snider and the String Band at 8.

Wednesday will feature a wide variety of events, including a Community Night Dinner, capped off with a performance from contemporary Christian band Sanctus Real.

Despite all of the moving parts and people involved, Belote said things have been going smoothly thus far.

"Everything is going as planned. We try to do a little bit more every year; of course, that brings about some of the challenges. It's just doing business and trying to create some good opportunities, but that's what makes it fun," he said.

For a complete list of events at this year's Soybean Festival, visit the website at www.tsoybeanfestival.org/festival-schedule/.

(Continued from Page 1)
Soybean Festival gets started on Saturday

By BRADLEY STRINGFIELD
Special to the Press

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“A few years back, we had some folks say, ‘The festival is great, but what about the little kids? What do they have?’ We took that to heart. Last year, when we did the Disney Day, we put it together and we worked hard on it. It was a Labor Day Weekend and we weren’t expecting but maybe a couple of hundred kids, but, good grief, they came out of the woodwork. ... We’re ramping that up this time. We’re adding the superhero piece to it and we have all kinds of good things for kids to do.”

Magical Martin Day will be staged Saturday at Festival Park in downtown Martin, with the main event taking place from 4-8 p.m.

Along with spending the day with the princess or hero of their choice, children will have the opportunity to see magic shows, enjoy an animal petting zoo, ride amusement park rides and make arts and crafts, among other activities. The day will be capped off with the Martin Community Band Superhero/Disney Concert starting at 7 p.m.

Not everything on Saturday is solely for children, though.

For the third year, the Soybean Festival Biodiesel Truck and Tractor Pull will be held at 7 p.m. inside the Martin Recreation Complex.

Guitar as Art, an exhibit in the University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Building, will get things under way on Sunday with a showing and awards ceremony from 2-4 p.m.

“Some of the guitars that have come in so far, the artwork on them is just amazing and intricate, and they tell a story about our culture in Martin and in northwest Tennessee,” Belote said.

Sunday will close out with performances by Jamaica-Me-Happy and 7 Bridges ... Tribute to the Eagles, concluding with fireworks celebration.

Like most festivals, many already have their eyes locked in on the headlining acts.

This year, the Soybean Festival is bringing Joan Jett and the Blackhearts (Sept. 10), Night Ranger (Sept. 11) and Joe Nichols (Sept. 12) all to perform during the final three days. All three shows are set to start at 9 p.m.

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While many are counting down the days to those three shows, there will be plenty of things going on in the days leading up.

Monday will feature the Soybean Talent Show, which will be broken down into four age groups (8 and younger, 9-12, 13-21, and 22 and older). Juniors will go on at 6 p.m. and teens will take the stage at 7.

The Soybean Festival Parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and lead up to a performance by Mike Snider and the String Band at 8.

Wednesday will feature a wide variety of events, including a Community Night Dinner, capped off with a performance from contemporary Christian band Sanctus Real.

Despite all of the moving parts, and people involved, Belote said things have been going smooth thus far.

“Everything is going as planned. We try to do a little bit more every year, of course that brings about some of the challenges. It’s just doing business and trying to create some good opportunities, but that’s what makes it fun," he said.

For a complete list of events at this year’s Soybean Festival, visit the website http://www.tnsoybeanfestival.org/festival-schedule/.

Community ballroom dance course offered at UTM

Anyone interested in learning the fundamentals of ballroom dancing is invited to participate in a five-week course offered from 6:30-8 p.m. Mondays, Sept. 14-Oct. 12 on the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus.

This course will introduce students to the basic steps of the waltz, swing, foxtrot, rumba and cha-cha. Fran Robinson, course instructor, has been dancing since the age of five and has been teaching and taught ballroom dance for 30 years.

The class registration fee is $100 per person and $150 per couple. Singles are welcome to attend, but are not guaranteed a partner.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.
Miss Tennessee finalist for two scholarships

Miss Tennessee Hannah Robison is the fourth quality of life scholarship finalist and the first Miss Tennessee to be a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) scholarship finalist with the Miss America Pageant, according to Miss Tennessee executives.

Amy Otto said Robison will interview with another panel for each scholarship to determine if she will be among the top three finalists for Quality of Life and top five as a STEM finalist. Robison will go through these interviews on Sept. 9.

The Quality of Life Scholarship means Robison will have to respond to questions on her platform, “Campaign Against Pain: Arthritis Awareness and the Arthritis Foundation.”

Robison is the fourth Miss Tennessee to become a Quality of Life Scholarship finalist. She is the first Miss Tennessee to become a finalist for the STEM scholarship, Otto said.

The Quality of Life Scholarship winner will receive a $5,000 scholarship. First runner-up will receive a $4,000 scholarship and second runner-up will receive a $2,000 scholarship.

The STEM scholarship will go to the top five finalists of the eight contestants selected. The top five finalists will receive $5,000 each.

The Miss America Pageant will begin on Tuesday. The final night of the pageant will be televised live on ABC on Sept. 13 at 9 p.m.
Soybean Festival kicks off in Martin

The 22nd annual Tennessee Soybean Festival begins today and continues through Sept. 12 in Martin.

A wide variety of events offer entertainment for the whole family, including the City of Martin’s Tennessee Soybean Festival Parade at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, and the traditional carnival midway and craft fair Tuesday through Sept. 12. This year’s concert headliners are Joan Jett and the Blackhearts on Thursday, Night Ranger on Friday and Jon Nichols on Sept. 12. The University of Tennessee at Martin joins other businesses and organizations as a Big Harvester sponsor for the festival.

The university will host the Tennessee Soybean Festival/West Tennessee Dairy Show beginning at 8 a.m. today in the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex. There is no admission charge for spectators. Participants may register online at tnsoybeanfestival.org.

Today is also “Magical Martin” day, which will include appearances and performances by Disney princesses and superheroes. An Under the Sea Tea for children in kindergarten through fifth grade will begin at 10 a.m. in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom. Children are encouraged to dress as their favorite princesses or superheroes. Tickets are $25 per child; gallery seats for parents and guardians are available for $5 each. Tickets must be purchased online at tnsoybeanfestival.org.

The annual “Guitar as Art” showcase competition will open Sunday with a reception and awards presentation from 2-4 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building Gallery. The creator of the guitar chosen as “Best in Show” will receive a $500 prize. Debi Henry Danielson, director of the Murray Art Guild, serves as this year’s exhibition juror. The exhibition runs through Sept. 19 and may be viewed from 4-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 1-5 p.m. on weekends. There is no admission charge. The exhibition is co-sponsored by the Tennessee Soybean Festival and the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts.

UT Martin will also serve as the backdrop for The Crossroads Luncheon: A Celebration of Civic Organizations from noon-1 p.m. Wednesday. The luncheon will be held in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom and will include a service project to collect items for local food banks. For more information, contact Steve Vantrease, associate director of alumni relations, at (731) 587-5198.

The 2015 Soybean Innovation Competition, new this year, will take place from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday in room III of the Boling University Center. The competition is open to all full-time college students to pitch new products, business ideas and production strategies using soybeans or soybean products. The top three ideas, as chosen by a panel of judges, will receive cash prizes. This event is co-sponsored by the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center and the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. There is no entry fee. For more information, contact Carol Reed, director, Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center, at (731) 587-4213 or by email at carol.reed@nwtdd.org.

The UT Martin Skyhawks will take the field in Hardy M. Graham Stadium against the Bethel University Wildcats at 6:30 p.m. Thursday for the first home game of the season. Pre-game activities will begin at 5 p.m. For information, contact UT Martin Office of Intercollegiate Athletics at (731) 881-7207.

Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, will perform Thursday for the student night concert, sponsored by the UT Martin Student Activities Council. The group is best known for its 1982 hit “I Love Rock and Roll,” written by Alan Merrill and Jake Hooker of the Arrows group. The band will take the Festival Park stage at 9 p.m. There is no admission charge.

The UT Martin world percussion ensemble will perform at 7 p.m. Friday in Festival Park. High school bands from across the state will compete in the annual Skyhawk Marching Band Invitational from 1-5 p.m. Sept. 12 in Hardy M. Graham Stadium. Tickets for spectators are $10 per person over the age of 12, $5 for ages 6-11 and children under 5 may enter free.

The traditional Skyhawk Sunday Brunch will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 13 in the Skyhawk Dining Hall, located in the Boling University Center. All community members are invited. The all-you-can-eat buffet is $10.82 per person, with children 10 and under eating for $5.08. For more information, contact UT Martin Dining Services at (731) 881-7770.

For more information on the Tennessee Soybean Festival, and for a complete list of events, visit tnsoybeanfestival.org.
UTM fall preview dates announced for high school students

UT-Martin is hosting a fall preview later this month and again in October for high school and transfer students and their parents and guardians.

The fall preview dates are September 26th and October 24th and advance registration is required. There's no fee to attend the fall preview.

Both sessions will begin that morning at 9:00 with registration, followed by an official university welcome at 9:30.

Attendees will get a tour of the UTM campus at 10:30 and will get to speak with current students and faculty members from all five academic colleges at the academic and administrative fair beginning at noon.

All events on September 26th will be held in the Boling University Center, and all October 24th activities will take place in the Elam Center.

Students may register up until the morning of the event at utm.edu.

Union City-based company named family-owned small business of year

UNION CITY, Tenn. -- Final Flight Outfitters Inc. has been named the Tennessee 2015 Family Owned Small Business of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The owners of the Union City-based business, Jon Ed, Tripp and Kelley Powers, were nominated by the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center in partnership with the Tennessee Small Business Development Center, according to a release from UT Martin.

Representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration visited the company Aug. 27 to formally present the award, according to the release.

Final Flight Outfitters Inc. specializes in retailing high-end hunting products, the release states.

The Powers brothers started the business in a storage trailer in 1998 and now boast a showroom of over 25,000 square feet, according to the release. The company maintains a physical presence on the outskirts of Union City but also provides online shopping options and a mail-order catalog company.

The brothers, all UT Martin alums, are committed to giving back to their local community and have donated more than $40,000 since the business's inception, the release states.
UT Martin and APSU Nursing Programs Rank Nationally

By ALLISON CRAWFORD /PEOPLE/ALLISON-CRAWFORD) • 9 HOURS AGO

Two regional universities have ranked in the top 100 best nursing programs in the eastern U.S.


Ranking Kentucky schools include Northern Kentucky University at 30, University of Louisville at 96, and University of Kentucky at 97.
CONTINUING THE FAMILY TRADITION – The University of Tennessee at Martin hosts a Legacy Luncheon at the beginning of each fall semester to welcome freshmen students who are the children or grandchildren of UT Martin alumni. These “legacies” and their families gathered in the Paul Meek Library on Aug. 21 for refreshments and remarks by Dr. Robert Smith, interim UT Martin chancellor, and Charley Deal, assistant vice chancellor of alumni relations. Pictured at the luncheon are Jessica Schaefer (center) and her parents Daniel (UT Martin 1991) and Cindy Schaefer. Jessica is a Milan High School graduate.

MARTIN, Tenn. – A Gibson County student has been awarded scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandy Cartmell, Interim Executive Director, Student Engagement.

Anna B. Santaniello, daughter of Nick and Amy Santaniello, of Medina, will be a senior. She received the Alpha Omicron Pi Mother’s Club Scholarship and the Mary Ann Walker Memorial Award.
FLYING HIGH — Christopher Pinto (left, dressed as Harry Potter) pursues Barrett Belote (right, dressed as superman) down a zip line that was set up on Lindell Street during Magical Martin Day, proving the affair was for both the young and the young at heart.
Magical Martin day draws hundreds

By CLAY SMITH
The Press

There was something for children of all ages and adults alike during the first annual Magical Martin Day. The festivities capitalized on the success of last year’s Disney Day and added many more activities, booths and prizes.

The day started off at 9 a.m. with an obstacle course sponsored by Sideline Physical Therapy. Dozens of children jumped, hopped and ran through cones, swimming pools, and tunnels on their way to the finish line, where they were rewarded with high-fives and chocolate milk.

Next on the schedule was an Under the Sea Tea featuring a real professional princess, Rachel Taulbee, dressed as Ariel from The Little Mermaid. Over sixty children gathered around tables to eat a snack, drink tea and learn a few etiquette lessons.

“Magical Martin Day was truly magical!” says Camille Noe, who helped organize the event. “It takes much planning and organization to put together an event of this magnitude. It was successful due to the many volunteers and community groups, organizations, and businesses that came together collaboratively. The happy faces of the children make the many hours of work worthwhile.

The day culminated with a slew of afternoon activities in Festival Park including: magic shows, an animal petting zoo, a dunking booth, amusement rides, crafts and pictures with favorite Marvel superheroes.

“TAKING IT EASY” — Hundreds gathered at Martin’s Recreational Complex Sunday to hear Eagles’ tribute band Seven Bridges and to watch a fireworks show to start the Soybean Festival off with a ‘bang.’

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rores and Disney characters. A zip line stretched nearly a football field’s length down Lindell Street. All of these events were free, and hundreds of children of all ages came out to take in the festivities. At 7 p.m., Martin’s Community Band teamed up with Rachel Taulbee, the professional princess from the Under the Sea, to play a host of familiar songs, including “Cruella de Vil” and the theme from “Batman.” Near the end of the performance, dozens of young girls lined up in front of the stage with Taulbee to sing along and dance to “Let It Go,” from Disney’s “Frozen,” perhaps the most popular song of the night.

“We are absolutely ecstatic about the turn out of Magical Martin Day this year and the overall support from our local businesses and community members who helped make this day a reality,” says Suzanne Peckham, another event organizer. “Seeing so many kids having the time of their lives and being so excited about the characters and activities provided by the vendors was the absolute highlight of the day. That is exactly why we put so much work into this event, and the Soybean Committee is very grateful to all those who participated and volunteered their time and resources.”

The event is sure to become a staple of the Soybean Festival.

“I am already planning for next year!” says Noe.

Art exhibit to be held

An art exhibit, special collection museum gallery, will be held at UTM Paul Meeks Library, first floor.

40 works of art will be displayed on Sept. 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Artist Les MacDiarmid will present “What is Art? Admit What is its Purpose?”

The public is encouraged to attend.
Scenes from Magical Martin Day
Jason Taylor wins Best in Show for Guitar as Art competition

FLYING HIGH — Jason Taylor’s entry, Antique Ivory, won Best in Show during the Guitar as Art show, held Sunday, Sept. 6 at the Fine Arts Building on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. The People’s Choice Award will be revealed on Sept. 19. Anyone interested can cast a vote for his or her favorite guitar in person at the Fine Arts Building Gallery where the event is being held. Online voting will also be open on the Guitar as Art event page on tssoybeanfestival.org.
By JESSICA WINDISCH
Special to The Press

In cooperation with the Visual and Theatre Arts Department at the University of Tennessee at Martin, the Tennessee Soybean Festival hosts Guitar as Art, a gallery event celebrating Martin's art community, for the second year in a row.

Beginning Sunday, Sept. 6, the event kicked off with a reception and award ceremony for the Best in Show purchase prize of $500. The gallery is free and open to the public for the duration of the Soybean Festival and features an eclectic collection of pieces by several local artists.

This year’s Best in Show was awarded to Jason Taylor for his piece, Antique Ivory. Taylor’s guitar features a large African elephant, laden with traditional and decorative trappings on a weathered background. The most striking aspect of the piece, outside of the artist’s exquisite attention to detail, is his modesty when discussing it.

“I like to mess with little homemade guitars so to jazz them up a little bit, I doodle something on them,” said Taylor. “So I’ve doodled several elephants, so when it came around, I decided to just do a bigger elephant.”

Taylor’s previous experience with this particular medium clearly shows in his work this year, though all of the art in the exhibit is similarly stunning. Grace Smith, one of the event’s co-creators along with Jason Stout and Doug Cook, expressed high hopes for the potential boost to Martin’s art community.

“One of the goals of this event was to try and find a way to make art more accessible,” said Smith. “Sometimes people view it, especially at the collegiate level, as this kind of Ivory Tower thing up here, and a lot of people just are really not interested. We hope to come up with more ideas like this, not only strengthen the art culture that we have here, but to get people excited and make people care in this community about art. We also want to bring new people into the fold.”

Judging by this year’s turnout and the number of participants, this goal is well on its way to being met. The Guitar as Art gallery will remain open through Sept. 19, when the People’s Choice Award winner will be revealed.

Anyone interested can cast a vote for his or her favorite guitar in person at the Fine Arts Building Gallery where the event is being held. Online voting will also be open on the Guitar as Art event page on tsoybeanfestival.org.

Other artists and pieces this year include:

Philadelphia is so proud of one of its own young women who recently entered the business world with her own makeup business. Madison Hardy Dennis, daughter of Mike and Sarah Hardy, who now lives in Nashville, Tennessee, has been an active participant in pageants of many types in several states. Since Madison has so much experience with pageants at many levels, she learned how to apply makeup and frequently traveled to state pageants where she worked with a team and applied makeup and styled hair for pageant contestants.

She was Miss University of Tennessee at Martin, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival and was a contestant in the Miss Tennessee Pageant. All of this experience led to an interest in a career as a makeup artist. She is a graduate of Belmont University where she majored in music, Madison is the lead singer with a wedding band, The Respectibles, which keeps her busy on many weekends during the wedding season.

After much soul searching and discussion with her husband and family, she decided to market her own brand of makeup under the name MHD. She launched her business a couple of months ago and her website has recently gone live online with the help and hard work of her husband, Daniel Dennis and others. Madison is now the owner as well as the lead hair and makeup artist at MHD Beauty.

On the afternoon of August 30, Madison held an open house in the home of her parents in Philadelphia where her MHD makeup was displayed for everyone to see and ask questions about the products. It was a pleasant afternoon of visiting and looking at the lovely makeup selections. We wish Madison the very best of luck in her new enterprise.

The company maintains a physical presence on the outskirts of Union City but also provides online shopping options and a mail-order catalog company.

The brothers, all UT Martin alums, are committed to giving back to their local community and have donated more than $40,000 since the business's inception.
Final Flight Outfitters, Inc. named Small Business of the Year

Final Flight Outfitters Inc., based in Union City, has been selected as the Tennessee 2015 Family Owned Small Business of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Representatives from the SBA visited the company Aug. 27 to formally present the award. Pictured (l-r) are Dr. Robert Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor; Landy Fuqua, director, UT Martin REED Center; Jon Ed, Kelley and Tripp Powers, owners, Final Flight Outfitters Inc.; and Walter Perry III, district director, U.S. Small Business Administration.

50 Hour Training Course
Pharmacy Technician Certificate Program Soon Available through UT Martin

Community members interested in careers as pharmacy technicians are encouraged to enroll in a 50-hour pharmacy technician training course. The class will be offered 6-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 22-Nov. 10, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This program prepares students to enter the pharmacy field and to take the certification exam. Pharmacy technicians work in hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, community pharmacies and other healthcare settings. Course content includes reading and interpreting prescriptions and defining drugs by generic and brand names. Students will also learn dosage calculations, IV flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control, and billing and reimbursement.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082.
Laura Fritscher, from Dover, Tenn., now lives in Martin. She teaches introduction to human studies, nutrition across the lifespan, foundations of fashion and design, and psychology at Humboldt Jr. & Sr. High School. Fritscher is a 2010 graduate of Stewart County High School. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2014.

Her goals as a teacher in Humboldt are to establish a classroom environment that is joyful, energetic, positive and safe; build rapport with the students; and build up the FCCLA program in order to provide leadership opportunities to all students.

Her first inspiration to teacher is Mrs. Nancy Myers, her former family and consumer science teacher from Stewart County High School. Her main focus, however, will always be being the best teacher I can possibly be for our amazing students," she added.

UT Martin fall preview day set

Students interested in attending the University of Tennessee at Martin are encouraged to register for one of two fall preview dates on September 26 or October 24. High school and transfer students and their parents or guardians can tour the campus and receive information on a variety of topics.

Both sessions will begin with registration at 9 a.m. followed by an official university welcome at 9:30. Attendees will be given a tour of the UT Martin campus at 10:30 a.m. and have the opportunity to speak with current students and faculty members from all five academic colleges at the academic and administrative fair beginning at noon. Representatives will also be available to discuss financial aid options, housing, meal plans, special programs and campus life activities.

All events on September 26 will be held in the Boling University Center, and all October 24 activities will take place in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Advance registration is required and there is no fee to attend. Students may register up until the morning of the event. To register, visit www.utm.edu and select “Fall Preview Day Registration” under the “Discover” menu. Students may also call the UT Martin Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu for additional details.
Local student wins scholarship to attend UTM

A Lauderdale County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2015-16 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandy Cartmell, Interim Executive Director, Student Engagement.

Symoane DeMoss of Ripley, daughter of Ida Williams and James DeMoss, will be a sophomore. She received the Elam 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.

Roots of Rhythm

The UT Martin Percussion Ensemble will be presenting their program, the Roots of Rhythm, in Selmer on September 21st. Their first performance will be that afternoon at Selmer Elementary School for the SES students and teachers. The percussion ensemble will perform again that night at Music at the Mural, a community music event hosted at the Rockabilly Park in downtown Selmer. Music at the Mural will start at 7:00 and is free to the public! The Roots of Rhythm program is a fun, interactive, and educational concert that explains musical sounds and patterns, where these rhythms come from, and how they have been adapted all over the world. Bring the whole family to this wonderful cultural experience!
Local student begins freshman year at UTM

Michaela Parish (center), of Decaturville, settled into her housing assignment at the University of Tennessee at Martin during Move-in Mania on Aug. 21. She and the rest of the incoming freshman class arrived early to participate in First-Year Initiative, a welcome and orientation weekend before classes began Aug. 24. Parish graduated from Scotts Hill High School and intends to major in animal science. She is pictured with her parents, Shanna Lyons and Chris Parish.

State leaders visit UTM Parsons Center

Senator Todd Gardenhire and Representative John Forgety visited the UT Martin Parsons Center last week to see the impact the center has on the region and the state. Pictured from left to right are: Senator Todd Gardenhire, Mr. Jim Ayers, Mrs. Janet Ayers, Ronnie Yeiser (student ambassador from Hohenwald), Shelby French (student ambassador from Lexington), UT President Dr. Joe DiPietro, Jessica Brownyard (student ambassador from Parsons), Cary Haggard Bivens (student ambassador from Parsons), Center Director Dr. Kelli Deere, Representative John Forgety, and UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Robert Smith.
Continuing a family tradition

UTM hosts a Legacy Luncheon at the beginning of each fall semester to welcome freshmen students who are the children or grandchildren of UT Martin alumni. These “legacies” and their families gathered on Aug. 21 for remarks by Dr. Robert Smith, interim UT Martin chancellor, and Charley Deal, assistant vice chancellor of alumni relations. Pictured are Haley Carpenter (center) and her parents Elizabeth and Chris Carpenter (UT Martin 1980). Haley, of Decaturville, is a graduate of Trinity Christian Academy in Jackson and plans to major in communications.

Horse lessons available through UT Martin

Anyone interested in private horsemanship and riding lessons for beginners may participate in individual instruction by appointment at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Participants will learn the fundamentals of horse safety and horsemanship, which includes handling, grooming, equipment and riding in Western and English styles. Riding lessons last for one hour, including at least 30 minutes of ride-time with care and saddling instruction before and after. Each lesson is $40. No prior riding experience is necessary. Riders must be at least 7 years of age. Participants are required to bring long pants and boots with a heel. Helmets will be provided. For information, contact the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082.

At the college level

The Educational and Memorial Foundation of the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants recently awarded scholarships to five West Tennessee residents for the 2015-16 academic year. The recipients include Amber Pippin, a student at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson; Daniel Regan, a student at Union University in Jackson; and Tara Adcock, Kelsey Gregory and Jamie Muller, all students at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Regan received the TSCPA West Tennessee Chapter Scholarship Award, which is given to the top accounting student in the West Tennessee chapter area as determined by the TSCPA Scholarship Awards Committee. TSCPA awarded a total of $276,000 in scholarships to 128 students attending colleges or universities throughout Tennessee this year.
UTM nursing program ranks high

Nursejournal.org has included the University of Tennessee at Martin nursing program as one of America's Best Nursing Schools for the Eastern Region for 2015.

The UT Martin program is ranked No. 31, making it the second-highest ranked program in Tennessee, just ahead of Clarksville-based Austin Peay State University at No. 32 and the University of Memphis at No. 35.

Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro took the top Tennessee slot.

Nursejournal.org is a social community website exclusively for nurses and health-care professionals and aims to provide educational resources for those interested in the career field.

This is the first year the website has released a rankings list.

According to the website, 1,189 nursing programs were evaluated for the top-100 list. Each institution was scored in five categories: quality, affordability, convenience, satisfaction and value.

Items such as NCLEX pass rates, program accreditations, graduation and retention rates, financial aid and total costs and overall professor ratings were taken into account.

"It is always an honor for our program to be recognized, and this recognition highlights not only the integrity of our program, but also the value of public education," said Dr. Mary Radford, associate professor and chair of the UT Martin Department of Nursing.

"UT Martin nursing students are some of the most well-rounded, competent and adaptable graduates because of the variety of clinical experiences they obtain during our unique requirement of three years of clinical rotations."

The UT Martin bachelor of science in nursing degree program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

The department also offers a basic baccalaureate degree to registered nurses who hold an associate degree or diploma in nursing. This program option is open to anyone with a registered nurse's license who meets university and departmental entrance requirements.

For more information on the UT Martin nursing program, contact the department by phone at (731) 881-7131 or by email at nursing@utm.edu.

ALL THE FAMILY — The University of Tennessee at Martin recently held its Legacy Luncheon, which is held at the beginning of each fall semester to welcome freshmen students who are the children or grandchildren of UT Martin alumni. Among those in attendance were Stella Preuett and her grandmother, Geneva Vaughn, a retired UT Martin staff member. Miss Preuett is a graduate of Obion County Central High School and plans to study in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. Her mother, Kelly Preuett, also graduated from UT Martin in 2003. These "legacies" and their families gathered in the Paul Meek Library for refreshments and remarks by Dr. Robert Smith, interim UT Martin chancellor, and Charley Deal, assistant vice chancellor of alumni relations.
Preliminary fall semester enrollment at UT-Martin is down just slightly from last fall’s enrollment numbers.

Fall enrollment stands at 6,827 students, and includes students at the main campus, the university’s four centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and Selmer, and students enrolled in UT Online.

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

Total enrollment is down from the fall 2014 final count of 7,042 students, which includes a decline of 152 students in the 2015 freshman class.

Among positive numbers are increases in graduate (up 27), dual enrollment (up 136 undergraduates) and online (up 179 undergraduate and graduate) students.

The release of preliminary fall enrollment numbers comes as the 2016 U.S. News & World Report rankings were released. UT Martin continued as a top-tier, southern master’s level university and is tied for 50th place among both public and private universities. Among top-tier southern public universities only, UT Martin is tied for 19th place.

Also, USA Today 2016 College Rankings released this week show UT Martin fourth in Tennessee in the category “Best Colleges for the Money – All Students”; third in the state for “Best Colleges for the Money – Students With No Aid”; and fifth in Tennessee for “Best Colleges for The Money – Students Receiving Aid.”
FAMILY TRADITION — The University of Tennessee at Martin hosts a Legacy Luncheon at the beginning of each fall semester to welcome freshmen students who are the children or grandchildren of UT Martin alumni. Among those in attendance were Karl Ullrich II, who was joined by his mother, Genie Ullrich (left), and his grandmother, Sara Seiber (UT Martin 1969 and 1972). Ullrich is a graduate of Union City High School and plans to major in engineering. These “legacies” and their families gathered in the Paul Meek Library recently for refreshments and remarks by Dr. Robert Smith, interim UT Martin chancellor, and Charley Deal, assistant vice chancellor of alumni relations.

FRESHMAN FRENZY — Claudia Cheatham (left) of Hornbeak settled into her housing assignment at the University of Tennessee at Martin during recent Move-in Mania last month. She paused on campus to visit with fellow freshman Stephanie Lowery of Clarksburg. They and the rest of the incoming freshman class arrived early to participate in First Year-Initiative, a welcome and orientation weekend before classes began Aug. 24. Ms. Cheatham, a graduate of Obion County Central High School, intends to major in nursing.

Benton County student receives scholarship to attend UT Martin

A. Britney Wanamaker, of Camden, has been awarded a scholarship for the 2015-2016 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Brandy Cartmell, Interim Executive Director, Student Engagement. She will be a junior and receive the Elam Transfer Scholarship.
The McNairy County News

Thursday, September 10, 2015

UT Martin Nursing Program

ranked among the Top-100 in the Eastern US

University of Tennessee at Martin nursing students Rhiannon Forrester and Taylor Swaim, both juniors from Martin, are pictured working in the university’s hands-on nursing laboratory. Nursejournal.org has included the university’s nursing program as one of America’s Best Nursing Schools for the Eastern Region for 2015. UT Martin’s student nurses are required to complete three years of clinical training before graduation, which sets them apart when entering the nursing profession.

Nursejournal.org has included the University of Tennessee at Martin nursing program as one of America’s Best Nursing Schools for the Eastern Region for 2015. The UT Martin program is ranked number 31, making it the second-highest ranked program in Tennessee, just ahead of Austin Peay State University at number 32 and the University of Memphis at number 35. Middle Tennessee State University took the top Tennessee slot.

Nursejournal.org is a social community website exclusively for nurses and health-care professionals and aims to provide educational resources for those interested in the career field. This is the first year the website has released a rankings list.

According to the website, 1,189 nursing programs were evaluated for the top-100 list. Each institution was scored in five categories: quality, affordability, convenience, satisfaction and value. Items such as NCLEX pass rates, program accreditations, graduation and retention rates, financial aid and total costs, and overall professor ratings were taken into account.

“It is always an honor for our program to be recognized, and this recognition highlights not only the integrity of our program, but also the value of public education,” said Dr. Mary Radford, associate professor and chair, UT Martin Department of Nursing. “UT Martin nursing students are some of the most well-rounded, competent and adaptable graduates because of the variety of clinical experiences they obtain during our unique requirement of three years of clinical rotations.”

The UT Martin Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. The department also offers a basic baccalaureate degree to registered nurses who hold an associate degree or diploma in nursing. This program option is open to anyone with a registered nurse’s license who meets university and departmental entrance requirements.

For more information on the UT Martin nursing program, contact the department at 731-881-7131 or by email at nursing@utm.edu.
Traditional African percussion music and instruments spread around the world through the migrations of the slave trade. The University of Tennessee at Martin percussion ensemble illustrates this journey through a unique performance called "Roots of Rhythm," which showcases authentic world percussion instruments in the style of countries around the globe.

The Roots of Rhythm tour will perform at the Selmer Elementary School on September 21. A public performance will take place at 7 p.m. that night in Rockabilly Park in Selmer. The community is invited and there is no admission charge.

For more information on the Roots of Rhythm show, visit www.utm.edu/departments/percussion/roots-of-rhythm.php or contact Dr. Julie Hill, professor and chair, Department of Music, at 731-881-7418 or by email at jhill@utm.edu.

Percussion students from the University of Tennessee at Martin are pictured during a Roots of Rhythm percussion performance at the Tennessee Soybean Festival. Students use authentic world percussion instruments to illustrate the migration of African rhythm styles throughout history.
All eyes on Miss America

The City of Paris will host a Miss America watch party in honor of Miss Tennessee Hannah Robison at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Henry County Fairgrounds.

Viewing will be on a large screen for everyone to see. All are encouraged to come and cheer Henry County native Robison on as she competes for the crown.

Chairs will be provided, but the public is allowed to bring their own lawn chairs if they prefer. Donations may be made to Miss Tennessee's Campaign Against Pain—Arthritis Awareness campaign.

DHS student gets a taste of college life

DHS student Trevone Warren, V.P. of student body, honor student, athlete, actor, dancer ... and more.

Trevone Warren, DHS senior and son of Tamela Warren, attended a program called Youth Scholars Academy this past summer. Warren was one of just a couple of DHS juniors or seniors (to be) chosen to live on the UT Martin campus for one week, giving them a taste of the college experience. Group leaders monitored each student's progress while they attended four different course classes all week long.

Warren said about his experience, "This program gave us a chance to really experience college and all the responsibilities that go with it. I plan on attending UT Knoxville and majoring in business, hopefully to be a successful accountant one day."

Warren is the DHS student body vice president, a member of the National Honor Society, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Youth in Action, and captain of the DHS step team since his sophomore year. He participates in track, cross-country, choir; cheer; drama, Spanish club and DECA.
Miss Tennessee Hannah Robison Receives Community Service And STEM Awards At Miss America
Thursday, September 10, 2015 - by Wendy King

Miss Tennessee and former Miss Scenic City Hannah Robison competes at the Miss America Pageant preliminaries in Atlantic City. The finals will be televised on News Channel 9 starting at 9 p.m. on Sunday.
- photo by Miss America Organization

Miss Tennessee Hannah Robison hasn't gambled during her stay in Atlantic City, but the aspiring professor of Organic Chemistry hit the scholarship jackpot on Wednesday evening at the Miss America Pageant receiving awards totaling $9,000.

The former Miss Scenic City who became Miss Tennessee in June was named as the first runner-up for the prestigious Jean Bartel (Miss America 1943) Quality of Life Award for Community Service winning a $4,000 scholarship and was one of five contestants chosen as recipients of the Miss America STEM Scholarship Awards giving her an additional $5,000 for her studies at the University of Tennessee at Martin and graduate school.

She is guaranteed to depart the Miss America competition which concludes on Sunday evening with a minimum of $12,000 as she and the 51 other national finalists receive at least $3,000. The pageant will be televised on ABC (News Channel 9) starting at 9pm ET and this year's telecast is expected to be a ratings smash with the return of Miss America 1984 Vanessa Williams who is not only the Head Judge but is making a triumphant comeback to Boardwalk Hall for the first time since being forced to resign her title 31 years ago in the aftermath of the publication of nude photos in Penthouse magazine.

Miss Robison has championed her platform of Arthritis Awareness since several members of her family have been diagnosed with the degenerative joint disease by raising over $20,000 for the Arthritis Foundation through various events at UT-Martin and in Henry County. She is the second Scenic City contestant to receive the national Quality of Life Award since 2013 following Miss Tennessee 2012 and former Miss Chattanooga Chandler Lawson who was the second runner-up for her platform of combating childhood hunger. Miss New Jersey Lindsey Gianni was the winner of the Quality of Life Award for her platform of the Dangers of Distracted Driving.

Miss Robison became the first Miss Tennessee to win the STEM Scholarship in its second year of existence. The scholarships are awarded to the contestants pursuing career in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields.

The third and final round of Miss America preliminaries will be held tomorrow night and the top 15 will compete on Sunday night for a $50,000 scholarship and the opportunity to succeed outgoing Miss America Kira Kazantsev of New York. Tennessee has produced two Miss Americas – the late Barbara Walker (1948) and most recently Kellye Cash Sheppard in 1987.

http://www.chattanoogan.com/

UT Martin fall enrollment at 6,827
Preliminary fall semester enrollment stands at 6,827 students at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The fall 2015 total includes students at the main campus, the university's four centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and Selmer, and students enrolled in UT Online.

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

Total enrollment is down from the fall 2014 final count of 7,042 students, which includes a decline of 152 students in the 2015 freshman class. Among positive numbers are increases in graduate (up 27), dual enrollment (up 136 undergraduates) and online (up 179 undergraduate and graduate) students.

The release of preliminary fall enrollment numbers comes as the 2016 U.S. News & World Report rankings were released. UT Martin continued as a top-tier, southern master's level university and is tied for 50th place among both public and private universities. Among top-tier southern public universities only, UT Martin is tied for 19th place.

Also, USA Today 2016 College Rankings released this week show UT Martin fourth in Tennessee in the category “Best Colleges for the Money — All Students”, third in the state for “Best Colleges for the Money — Students With No Aid” and fifth in Tennessee for “Best Colleges for The Money — Students Receiving Aid.”

Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor, is pleased with the new rankings and sees opportunities for improving future enrollment numbers. “I think we've got a great story to tell, and we need to do a better job of telling that story,” he said. “That story begins with what an extraordinary experience a student can have on our campus.
UTM enrollment up

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REMEMBERING 9/11 — (From left to right) Toby Chambers, Herb Penner, Doug Adams, John LaBarbera and Martin Fire Chief Jamie Summers pose in front of the ‘NEVER FORGET’ mobile exhibit created as a tribute to those lives that were lost during the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The exhibit will be displayed from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Festival Park area for the duration of the Soybean Festival.
Tennessee Soybean Festival Parade

FIRST PARADE — Kingston Elliott of Fulton enjoyed his first parade, riding with his cousin, Casey Rose of Martin.
ROLLING — George Crawford represents Rolling Thunder TN 6 as he cruises down Lindell Street during the festival.

BIG GREEN TRACTOR — Bobby Oliver, antique tractor collector and community supporter, rolls down the street on his John Deere tractor.
Awards ceremony of the Mayor’s Luncheon

KING AND QUEEN BEAN — Paul Tinkle crowns the Martin Pilot Club’s King and Queen Bean, Fire Chief Jamie Summers and Christy Williams.

GRAND MARSHAL — Paul Tinkle jokes with Dorothy Alexander of Weakley County Motors, this year’s grand marshal of the Soybean Festival.
Jason Briggance accepts the Bean Bean award on behalf of DuPont Pioneer. This award recognizes one individual or organization for their outstanding contributions to the Tennessee Soybean Festival.

HALL OF FAME — Mayor Brundige inducts Holly Holt into the Soybean Hall of Fame. Holt served as the pageant director for the festival for six years.
SERVICE RECOGNITION—Mayor Brundige presents the Soybean Festival Service Award to Elizabeth Pritchett for her help in designing the website for the festival and for her work the festival’s social media campaign.

Photography course offered

If you’ve always wanted to know more about digital photography, the time has come to snap to it.

Starting next week, a basic digital photography course will be offered from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Lee Academy for the Arts in Paris.

The course, which will run through Oct. 6, will prepare students to improve their photography skills on everything from family snapshots to professional techniques.

The course will focus on camera features and functions, exposure, composition, depth of field, focus, lighting exercises, and action and close-up shots.

The class will be taught by Roger Hughes, a retired special agent in charge of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

Hughes spent years photographing major crime scenes, and studied fine art imaging at the University of Tennessee and Rocky Mountain School of Photography under the mentorship of three wildlife and nature photographers.

Samples of Hughes’ work may be seen online at www.nwtpc.org.

Registration fee for the class is $25 per person. In addition, students will need a camera, operations manual and tripod.

Print and email handouts will be available during the class, and email and class evaluations of student images also will be used.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/non-degree.php.
West Tennessean competes for Miss America

Henry Countian Hannah Robison was awarded the opportunity of a lifetime when she was crowned Miss Tennessee on June 20 at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson.

She has been in Atlantic City, N.J., this week competing for the title of Miss America. She performed a classical piece on the piano Wednesday night as part of the preliminary talent contest and was in swimsuit and evening wear competitions earlier in the week.

So far, according to the Miss Tennessee (MAO) Scholarship Pageant Facebook page, she has won $31,000 in scholarship money — $18,000 for Miss Tennessee, $1,000 for Miss Tennessee Community Service, $5,000 for Miss America STEM Scholarship, $4,000 for first runner-up in Miss America Quality of Life Award and $3,000 for being a state representative at Miss America. The latter amount could change depending on how well she does during the Miss America competition, which will air on ABC channels Sunday at 8 p.m. These scholarships will allow Miss Robison, a chemistry student at the University of Tennessee at Martin, to graduate debt free with money remaining to pursue graduate school.

As Miss Tennessee, Kirkland’s Inc. sponsors Miss Robison as she serves as Gov. Bill Haslam’s official spokesman for character education and travels over 80,000 miles speaking to 50,000 schoolchildren about the Character Education Trait: Responsibility. Throughout her year of travels, she also serves as Tennessee’s Goodwill Ambassador for the five Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) hospitals across the state. She holds positions as an Arthritis Foundation Ambassador, Official Friends of Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt Board Intern and as Volunteer Tennessee’s Honorary Board Chair.

Miss Robison is a senior at UT Martin, where she is pursuing a bachelor of science degree in chemistry with a minor in psychology. At UTM, she has been on the dean’s list, a recipient of the HOPE Scholarship for four years, has worked on organic chemistry research projects under a UT Martin professor and is a member of the American Chemical Society and the National Society of Leadership and Success. She has enjoyed working for UTM as a General Chemistry Recitation leader and presented her Organic Chemistry Research project at the 2014 American Chemical Society Southeastern Regional meeting. For her outstand-
ing leadership and success at UTM, Miss Robison was honored with the UTM Chancellor’s Ambassador Award for academics and service.

For the past several years, Miss Robison has been dedicated to promoting and fundraising for the Arthritis Foundation. She has raised over $20,000 for arthritis and continues her fundraising efforts. This organization is incredibly meaningful to Miss Robison personally because she has had five close family members diagnosed with this debilitating disease. She has worked as a volunteer intern for the Tennessee Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation, allowing her to be on the production side of several fundraising events. She was also a session leader at Camp AcheAway in Nashville, a Juvenile Arthritis Camp that allows children who are suffering with the same disease to come together and become “Champions of Yes”!

Miss Robison is partnering with the Arthritis Foundation’s Washington, D.C., office to lobby Tennessee’s U.S. Congressional leaders as an official Ambassador for the Arthritis Foundation. She is urging her leaders to join the Arthritis Caucus and to co-sponsor bills that support lowering the cost of prescription drugs and increasing access to pediatric rheumatologists.

On UTM’s campus, Miss Robison recently served as Philanthropy Chair for Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority whose national philanthropy is the Arthritis Foundation. Her responsibilities included coordinating service projects for 100 members. She organized and chaired AOII’s first-ever “Attack Arthritis Week” that raised $5,500 for the Arthritis Foundation. In addition to her on-campus fundraisers, Miss Robison has conducted various fundraisers on her own that have allowed her to raise over $20,000 for the Arthritis Foundation. Some of these fundraising events include: “Axe Arthritis” Cut-A-Thon, Henry County Fish Fry with Mayor Greer, Arthritis Auto Challenge for a Cure, Benefit Concert, Strike Out Arthritis Softball Tournament and serving as team captain of National Arthritis Foundation fundraisers like the Jingle Bell 5k and the Walk to Cure Arthritis.

As a chemistry major and an advocate for STEM, Miss Robison helped launch STEM programs in several Tennessee counties this year. She loves science, technology, engineering and mathematics, which is why she has chosen to be a promoter of STEM education throughout her year of service.

She has been employed as UTM’s representative for the West Tennessee STEM Hub, served on the committee to bring STEM to the UTM campus and filmed a promotional video for bringing a new Science and Engineering building to UTM’s campus.

Over the past year, Miss Robison has traveled to each of the CMN hospitals across the state of Tennessee, science experiment in hand, promoting it as “STEM Day at CMN.” During the children’s hospital visits, patients join Miss Robison in the playroom to conduct their own science experiments. If patients are too ill to leave their room, she takes the science experiment to their bedside so they can participate. She allows the children to have fun, learn about STEM and take their minds off of being in the hospital.

Miss Robison has also held many of her own fundraisers for CMN, including the Buchanan Resort Fourth of July Golf Cart Parade, Cupcakes & Crowns with Miss Tennessee and a local business donation drive for CMN in Henry County.

In addition to her fundraising efforts for Children’s Miracle Network, Miss Robison has volunteered for Dairy Queen’s CMN Miracle Treat Day, IHOP’s CMN National Pancake Day, Queen/Superhero for a Day Events and Musicians On Call for the past few years. She also volunteered by participating in the opening of Speedway Gas Stations with proceeds going to CMN, as well as volunteering for the Nashville’s Channel 5 Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital CMN telethon.
Admissions counselors from the University of Tennessee have refined their pitches to high school students this year, emphasizing honors programs in an effort to recruit high-achieving students who might be drawn to prestigious private schools.

Staff from the UT campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin crisscrossed the state together over the last month to tout the programs, which offer added academic rigor and extra opportunities for research, travel and interaction with professors.

The staff also gave high school guidance counselors a new catalog that lists the costs, student profiles and offerings unique to each campus, including prestigious choral programs in Knoxville, a new library in Chattanooga and a growing veterinary program in Martin.

Dozens of counselors from Middle Tennessee came to a meeting with UT counselors in Franklin earlier this month. A counselor from Williamson County said some of her students who had considered high-priced private institutions might be swayed by the lower price tag for an honors college at UT.

Attracting high-achieving students could be good for UT’s bottom line, since those students are most likely to stay in college and graduate on time. State funding for universities in Tennessee is driven by those kinds of student successes.

“We always want to try to get the very best students we can,” UT system President Joe DiPietro said. “It enhances the reputation of the institution. I think honors colleges also are well done at all our places and provide people a tremendous opportunity.”

UT-Martin associate professor of music, Dr. Roberto Mancusi, will perform a bass-baritone faculty recital next Sunday afternoon at 3:00 in the Blankenship Recital Hall of the UTM Fine Arts Building.

The recital will feature music from Franz Joseph Haydn, Gustav Mahler, Giuseppe Verdi and Aaron Copland. Attendees will also hear the world premiere of a piece written specifically for Mancusi titled “Ulysses” by British composer F. L. Dunkin Wedd.

The event is free and open to the public.
Weststar leadership program accepting applications for '16

MARTIN — Applications are now being accepted to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's class of 2016.

The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and boasts 739 graduates in its 26-year history.

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 1½ days. The program begins Dec. 10 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 21, 2016, 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, help shape West Tennessee's future.

For additional information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at (731) 881-7298 or visit www.utm.edu/departments/weststar. The application deadline is Oct. 16. Anyone can apply to participate in the program; nominations are accepted but not required.
Miss Tennessee places in the top 7

DANICA SMITHWICK
contactus@jacksonsun.com

Millions tuned into the 95th Miss America Pageant Sunday night, and Miss Tennessee 2015 Hannah Robison was the first name they heard called into the top 15 semifinals. The 21-year-old Paris native won America's Choice vote.

After months of preparation and years of competing in pageants, Robison has spent the last two weeks in Atlantic City. "Thank you to all of my friends and family who have supported me throughout this journey," she wrote on Instagram. "I would not have made it this far without all of you."

During the finals Sunday night, she donned a bright pink swimsuit that led to a position in the top 12.

Joann's of Union City and designer Tony Bowls provided a red evening gown for the next round.

Robison moved on to the top 12 to perform her talent — Liberace's "El Cumbanchero" on the piano.

Celebrity judge Vanessa Williams went on to ask Robison a question about government funding of Planned Parenthood after reaching the top 7. Robison said she did not support defunding the organization because the hundreds of millions of dollars go toward female health care and reproductive issues.

Robison ultimately saw Miss Georgia Betty Cantrell crowned Miss America and win an additional $50,000 scholarship.

During her time in Atlantic City, Robison won $9,000 in scholarship funding — enough to allow her to graduate debt-free. She and four other competitors received a $5,000 STEM scholarship, and she placed first runner-up for the Quality of Life Award, for her community service work with the Arthritis Foundation.

A senior at UT Martin pursuing a degree in chemistry, Robison's philanthropy platform is Campaign Against Pain: Arthritis Awareness.

Pageant
Continued from Page A1

Having competed in pageants since age 12, Robison said wearing Miss Tennessee's crown has been a longtime dream that came true in June.

Formerly known as Miss Scenic City, Robison will travel across the state speaking to more than 50,000 schoolchildren about respect and opportunities in STEM education for the remainder of her reign as Miss Tennessee.

Reach Danica at (731) 425-9643. Follow her on Twitter @danicasmithwick
Hannah Robison (right), Paris' own Miss Tennessee, helps congratulate Miss Georgia Betty Cantrell (left) along with Miss South Carolina Daja Dial (center) after Cantrell was named Miss America 2016 in Atlantic City, N.J. Sunday night.

Robison

in top seven at Miss America
Henry Countian excels in national pageant at Atlantic City

From staff and AP sources

Hannah Robison steered her way through several hurdles to reach the final round of the Miss America pageant Sunday night.

Robison, who is the reigning Miss Tennessee, finished in the top seven contestants during the pageant at Atlantic City, N.J.

The daughter of Rusty and Pam Robison of Buchanan, she was the first contestant named as a top 15 finisher, drawing whoops from the crowd that had gathered Sunday night at the Henry County Fairgrounds to watch her compete.

About 40 people went to the fairgrounds' commercial building to watch the telecast on ABC.

During the next two hours, she passed through several elimination rounds unscathed, including the swimsuit, evening gown and talent competitions.

Her answer to a question on cutting Planned Parenthood funding from judge and former Miss America Vanessa Williams included knowing the amount of funding provided to the organization each year.

Miss Georgia Betty Cantrell was crowned the new Miss America, riding an opera performance of "Tu Tu Piccolo Idio" from "Madame Butterfly" to the title in Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall on Sunday night.

In addition to the strong finish, Robison earned several thousand dollars in scholarships, and was a big hit on social media.

"We're so proud of Hannah and all that she's accomplished," said Paris City Manager Kim Foster, one of those gathered to watch the broadcast. "We appreciate everything she's done to bring a spotlight on Henry County."

According to information from the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she is a senior chemistry major, Robison was selected as the America's Choice contestant. That was based on social media votes cast on her behalf and will receive a $7,000 scholarship for advancing to the final level.

She is the first Miss Tennesee to win the Miss America STEM Scholarship, which totals $5,000 and is awarded to a contestant enrolled in a declared field of study in science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

She also will receive a $4,000 scholarship as the first runner-up for the Jean Bartel Qualify of Life Award, given to a contestant who excels in her commitment to enhance the quality of life for others through volunteerism and community service.

It is the highest finish a Miss Tennessee has received for this award, and Robison is the first Miss Tennessee to qualify as a finalist for both preliminary scholarships.

She was recognized as one of three USA gold medalists for the Duke of Edinburgh International Award, introduced to the Miss America pageant in 2013.

This accolade was first given in the United Kingdom in 1956 and today is among the world's leading youth achievement awards.

Available to qualifying young people 14-24 years old, the award considers a variety of self-improvement areas, including community service, physical recreation, adventurous journey and a residential improvement project.

Since claiming the Miss Tennessee title in June, Robison has received more than $37,000 in scholarships from the Miss America organization, allowing her to fund her dream of earning a doctorate in chemistry and teaching at the university level.

Cantrell bested 51 other competitors in the nationally televised pageant, and won a preliminary competition earlier in the week, also with an opera performance.

"I'm still so overwhelmed, I don't know what to say other than thank you," Cantrell told reporters moments after being crowned Miss America.

She won a $50,000 scholarship along with her title.

Cantrell was due to make the traditional pageant-winner's frolic in the Atlantic City surf this morning.

Robison will return to Tennessee and complete her reign as Miss Tennessee 2015.

Her duties will include serving as Gov. Bill Haslam's ambassador for character education and supporting the state's Children's Miracle Network hospitals.
In the left photo (from left) Gwen Geiger, Cathy Herrera, Kim and Brian Foster and Martha Taylor react in glee as they learn Hannah Robison of Paris is a top 15 finalist at Sunday's Miss America pageant at Atlantic City, N.J., as they view the pageant during a watch party at the Henry County Fairgrounds.

In the right photo, an image of Robison performing in the talent portion of the pageant on the ABC telecast is seen on the 10-by-10-foot screen set up at the fairgrounds' commercial building. Robison went on to finish in the top seven.
4-H CENTER TOUR — UT Martin's WestStar Leadership Program sponsored an afternoon tour of Lone Oaks Farm, the new 4-H Center in Hardeman County, during the program's summer mini-session. The day began with a welcome by Hardeman County Mayor Jimmy Sain, a WestStar graduate, and a tour of downtown Bolivar. Pictured from left are: Marvin Flatt, director of vocational education, Weakley County Schools; Jordan Jones, administrative specialist, WestStar Leadership Program; Jerry Brigance, retired, TLM Associates, Inc.; John Salmon, affiliate broker, Century 21 Overton Real Estate; Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum; Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus; Charley Deal, executive director, WestStar Leadership Program; Jason Sullivan, assistant director of athletic development, UT Martin; Lisha Tuck, associate director of development, UT Martin; Landy Fuqua, director, UT Martin Regional Entrepreneur and Economic Development Center; Suezane Speight, administrative support assistant, UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources; and Virginia Grimes, coordinator, WestStar Leadership Program.

WestStar accepting applications for 2016

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For additional information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit www.utm.edu/departments/weststar.
Dr. Clinton Smith, assistant professor of special education at the University of Tennessee at Martin, went "Over the Edge" for Special Olympics on Aug. 29 by rappelling 30 stories down the I-Bank Tower in downtown Memphis. Smith serves as area director for Special Olympics of Upper West Tennessee and raised more than $1,200 for the organization as part of this event.

Smith has been an active participant and supporter of the Special Olympics program for 27 years and this is his fourth year to rappel the I-Bank Tower. He coached the Team Tennessee athletics team in 2006 and 2014 and served as head basketball coach for the 2010 Team Tennessee traditional basketball team at the Special Olympics USA National Games in Lincoln, Neb., where they won the gold medal.

"I have seen so many students over the years increase their self-esteem, improve their social skills by making friendships with their peers with and without disabilities, and develop their skills in various sports," Smith said. "I have also seen the peers without disabilities become more accepting toward their peers with disabilities."

The mission of Special Olympics of Upper West Tennessee is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The experience gives participants continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. Full participation is granted to every athlete regardless of his or her economic circumstances.

The ultimate goal of Special Olympics is to help persons with intellectual disabilities participate as productive and respected members of society at large by offering them a fair opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills and talents through sports training and competition. Special Olympics also increases the public's awareness of participants' capabilities and need.

'OVER THE EDGE'—Dr. Clinton Smith, assistant professor of special education at the University of Tennessee at Martin and area director for Special Olympics of Upper West Tennessee, is pictured preparing to rappel down the I-Bank Tower in downtown Memphis as part of his fourth Over the Edge for Special Olympics fundraising event. Smith raised more than $1,200 for the organization.

Special Olympics of Upper West Tennessee serves Henry, Lake, Obion and Weakley counties.

For more information, contact Smith at 731-881-7167 or by email at csmit279@utm.edu.
Soybean Festival entertains thousands

By CLAY SMITH
The Press

Another Soybean Festival has come and gone, bringing thousands of spectators and new events, in addition to now classic festival happenings like the MTD Car and Bike Show.

"The Soybean Festival is just so great and MTD wanted to be a part of it from the beginning," said Janet Elliott, who helped coordinate MTD’s event. "We had 72 vehicles this year and I think it might have been our best show yet."

This year’s main stage performers also seemed to be thrilled to be a part of the festivities. They included Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Night Ranger, and Joe Nichols.

"You brought your singing voices with you tonight, didn’t you?" asked Jack Blades, lead vocalist of Night Ranger, as he stood before an enthusiastic crowd. "I love it. I hope one day we can come play this festival again. You’re marvelous, Martin!"

Organizers of the festival also seemed delighted at the turnout.

"The festival this year from start to finish was one of the best festivals we have ever produced," said David Belote, the Executive Chairperson of the festival. "This Festival is about so many things, but at the end of the day, it is about bringing community together in some very entertaining and creative ways. We strategically worked this year to provide activities for all ages that sought to reach a variety of interests. I truly think - we - accomplished this."

"Our festival was ‘all about the bean,’ and we have grown to learn that the soybean is a magnificent gift to humankind,” said Belote. "The bean does so many things, but for us its greatest use is found in building the spirit of our community. It brings people together! The thousands of smiling faces we witnessed these past ten days gave testimony to the ‘magic of the bean.’ With that said, we give a big thank you to our Northwest Tennessee farmers and remember that the 23rd Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival is just twelve short months away!"

Brad Thompson, director of Community Development for Martin, also seemed pleased with this year’s festivities.

"What another great year of celebrating the bean," Thompson said. "Thanks to the many volunteers, sponsors, committees, participants and attendees all working together to making the Tennessee Soybean Festival the success that it is. We are always seeking out feedback for suggestions, new activities and improvements. Now is the time to get those to us, as planning for next year has already begun."

ROCKIN’ THE SOYBEAN FESTIVAL—Joan Jett played to a crowd of thousands during last Thursday’s student night at the 22nd annual Soybean Festival. She is pictured here singing one of her most famous songs, “I Love Rock ‘N Roll.”
TRIBUTE — The Weakley County community remembered the heroes of 9/11 during a ‘NEVER FORGET’ ceremony on Faith and Community Night of the Soybean Festival last Wednesday. Speakers included (from left): David Belote, Alicia Pinto, Collin Stricklin, and Jamie Summers.
Japanese students offer tea

By MADILYN PEAY
Special to the Press

On Saturday September 12th, students from the Takasaki City University of Economics (TCUE) offered a traditional tea ceremony, or sado, as part of the Soybean Festival events.

The tea ceremony is a Japanese tradition intended to bring people together to enjoy "a brief respite from the business of daily concerns" according to the information presented at the ceremony. Twenty-three TCUE students were visiting sister university. Two of the visiting students, Mr. Akinori Sonohara and Ms. Moeka Toramaru, are involved in the tea ceremony club at their home university, so they were trained in the traditional ceremony and volunteered to offer it to locals during the Soybean Festival.

The ceremony itself occurred inside The Looking Glass on Lindell St., but the 23 Japanese students visiting from TCUE and the UTM Japanese Culture Club had a tent near the main stage where they handed out sample of green tea lattés, Japanese snacks, and origami crafts.

Several Japanese students spoke with us about the ceremony and their experiences visiting Martin. Megumi Takahashi, Hanac Takata, Misaki Miyazawa, Kaho Monya, and Chihko Koshimichi said they particularly enjoyed watching the bacon eating contest during the Soybean Festival and playing volleyball at UTM. They wanted to share Omo te na shi, or Japanese hospitality, with other people visiting the festival.

Professor Kyoko Hammood, who helped organize the tent and ceremony, said she wanted to "give some opportunity for the students to meet UTM students and people in the community. It's a great opportunity also for [her] students who are learning Japanese."

Jessica Sohns, who watched the ceremony, said "it is a nice cultural opportunity to experience an authentic Japanese tea ceremony."

Caroline Ideus, a professor with the UTM International Programs, explained how many of her students spoke of a concept called ichi go ichie, which basically translates to "one chance, one encounter." This idea helps people remember to enjoy the opportunity to meet new people, even if you only see them one time in your life.
Community remembers fallen heroes of Sept. 11

By MADILYN PEAY
Special to the Press

On Faith and Community Night at the Tennessee Soybean Festival, the community came together for the 9/11 Never Forget Ceremony honoring firefighters, police officers and EMS workers.

The ceremony was moved inside Martin First Baptist Church due to impending rain, and the planned speaker canceled due to cardiac complications earlier that day. However, the First Baptist sanctuary held a large audience.

The ceremony opened with a statement from David Belote, the 2015 Soybean festival executive director, and a prayer from Mike Sams, the First Baptist pastor. Three honor guards presented the colors, heralded by a representative from the West Tennessee Bagpipers. The three guards represented the three attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

Collin Stricklin, the son of a local firefighter, played Alan Jackson’s “Where Were You When The World Stopped Turning.” Before he began, Stricklin asked the audience to forgive him since, “it has been hard to learn this song because of its significance to this country.”

In place of the scheduled speaker, retired NYC battalion chiefs Herb Pinnor and John Lebarber spoke about their experiences as firefighters that day.

“I shouldn’t be here,” Pinnor began, remembering all the other firefighters working that day. “When you’re called for duty, you just go.”

Pinnor was on the first crew to go downtown on a bus with a police escort. He remembered seeing old women in the Bronx cross themselves as the bus passed by. Pinnor mourned the more than 400 firefighters and police officers who died responding to the attacks. He closed his remarks by saying, “I’m just a regular guy. I did what I could.”

Lebarber spoke about the 9/11 NEVER FORGET mobile exhibit that was displayed in downtown Martin on Wednesday. He explained that the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation organized the exhibit because they “think it’s extremely important that people never forget (the 9/11 attacks), especially our school children.”

About 700 Weakley County schoolchildren toured the exhibit on Wednesday, along with members of the community. The Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation was created by the family of firefighter Stephen Siller, who ran through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel in full gear to respond to the Twin Tower attacks. Lebarber spoke of the foundation’s efforts to build smart homes for disabled veterans and first responders. The foundation hosts an annual run following Siller’s route through the tunnel, and they are currently building their 20th home. He closed his remarks saying, “Freedom is not free. Never forget.”

Alicia Pinto, the final speaker, represented professional flightcrews. Although she was not working on Sept. 11, she described how life changed for flightcrews across the country following the attacks. While describing the new defense training, she told the audience, “We are prepared, we are trained and we will do anything to protect your lives, even if it means sacrificing our own.”

When the speakers were finished, Martin Fire Chief Jamie Summers returned to the stage to ring a ceremonial bell. The ceremony is a tradition to honor the death of a firefighter, signaling the end of duty and the final return to heavenly quarters. After the event, Belote commented on its success, saying, “I’m just flabbergasted by the response. It’s just wonderful, and the ceremony was everything it needed to be.”

UT-Martin’s Hannah Robison finishes top seven in pageant

Hannah Robison, a senior chemistry major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, finished in the top seven contestants during the 2016 Miss America Pageant, broadcast Sept. 13. She was selected as the People’s Choice contestant based on social media votes cast on her behalf and will receive a $7,000 scholarship for advancing to the final level.

Robison received several recognitions before Sunday’s competition as well. She is the first Miss Tennessee to win the Miss America STEM Scholarship, which totals $55,000 and is awarded to a contestant enrolled in a declared field of study in science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

She was also named first runner-up for the Jean Bartel Quality of Life Award, given to a contestant who excels in her commitment to enhance the quality of life for others through volunteerism and community service. The first runner-up receives a $4,000 scholarship.

This is the highest finish a Miss Tennessee has received for this award. Robison is the first Miss Tennessee to qualify as a finalist for both preliminary scholarships.

She was also recognized as one of three USA gold medalists for the Duke of Edinburgh International Award, introduced to the pageant in 2013. This accolade was first given in the United Kingdom in 1956 and today is the world’s leading youth achievement award, available to qualifying young people 14-24 years old. The award considers a variety of self-improvement areas, including community service, physical recreation, adventurous journey and a residential improvement project. The Misses Alabama and South Carolina were also recognized for this award.

Since claiming the Miss Tennessee title in June, Robison has received more than $37,000 in scholarships from the Miss America Organization, allowing her to fund her dream of earning a doctoral degree in chemistry and teaching at the university level.

Robison will return to Tennessee and complete her reign as Miss Tennessee 2015, which includes serving as Gov. Bill Haslam’s ambassador for character education and supporting the state’s Children’s Miracle Network hospitals.
Robison Reaches Top 7 in Miss America Pageant

By Shannon McFarlin
WENK/WTIP News Director

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Miss Tennessee Hannah Robison of Buchanan made Henry County and the rest of Tennessee proud Monday night.

Robison finished in the top seven contestants during Sunday night’s Miss America Pageant and was selected as America’s Choice contestant based on social media votes cast for her.

Her late grandfather Buddy Robison is a native of McKen- zie and a long time pharmacist in Gleason. Hannah resides at Buchanan Resort on Kentucky Lake with her parents, Rusty and Pam, who were shown on TV when Hannah was on stage. Her uncle, Tom Wilson, is co-owner of Carroll County Lumber in McKenzie.

After her selection as America’s Choice was announced early in the broadcast, Robison swept through all the other levels of the contest at a quick pace: coming in the top 15, then top 10 and finally, the top seven.

Before the pageant, Robison said, “Well, the day has finally arrived! Tonight, a new Miss America will be crowned! Thank you to all of my friends and family who have continuously loved and supported me throughout this journey. I would not have made it this far without all of you. I am so honored to have had this experience and to be able to represent the great state of Tennessee.”

Robison will be busy this year, representing the state as Miss Tennessee. In a Paris! Magazine article in the Autumn 2015 edition, Robison said she will be taking a year off from school to work for Governor Bill Haslam as Miss Tennessee and will be the spokesperson for Character Education and speaking out for the state’s Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals during her public engagements during this year.

At Sunday’s pageant, Robison showed off her musical talents, with an exuberant piano solo and faced a difficult (and somewhat controversial) question from Top Judge Vanessa Williams about Planned Parenthood.

Robison is a senior chemistry major at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She will receive a $7,000 scholarship for advancing to the final level. Altogether, since claiming the Miss Tennessee title in June, Robison has received more than $37,000 in scholarships from the Miss America Organization, allowing her to be debt-free as she pursues her goal of a doctoral degree in chemistry and teaching at the university level.

Even before Sunday’s pageant, Robison had received other awards: She is the first Miss Tennessee to win the Miss America STEM Scholarship, which totals $5,000, and is awarded to a contestant enrolled in a declared field of study in science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

Robison also was first runner-up for the Quality of Life Award, given to a contestant who excels in her commitment to enhance the quality of life for others through volunteerism and community service. The first runner-up receives a $4,000 scholarship. This is the highest finish a Miss Tennessee has received for this award.

Even before competing for Miss Tennessee, Robison had already raised thousands of dollars while at student at UT-Martin for Arthritis Awareness, which became of platform as Miss Tennessee and at Miss America.

She was also recognized as one of three USA gold medalists for the Duke of Edinburgh International Award, introduced to the pageant in 2013. This accolade was first given in the United Kingdom in 1956 and today is the world’s leading youth achievement award, available to qualifying young people 14-24 years old.
UTM Roots of Rhythm show to be performed for Milan, Medina students

By Steve Short

The sounds of steel drums, tam-tam and bamboo, marimbas and other percussion instruments from around the world will come to life for elementary age students in Milan and Medina this month.

Students and instructors from the Univ. of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) World Percussion Ensemble will hold performances. On Monday, Sept. 21 at 8:30 am., the Milan High School band and Director John Scruggs are hosting the UT Martin Roots of Rhythm show. The show will be performed at Medina Elementary School on Sept. 22 at 1 pm. Performances are free.

The UTM Percussion Studio’s mission is “to help provide young people in our area with a joy, knowledge, and appreciation of world music and its evolution,” said UTM instructors.

Through a tour of area schools this fall and performances at the UTM Civil Rights Conference in the spring, the Roots of Rhythm show will be seen by about 5,000 young people, instructors said.

“Roots of Rhythm” explores the migration of rhythm throughout history as taken by African nations across the globe through the slave trade. Audiences attending the show can experience world geography, world history and live music demonstrations featuring authentic world percussion instruments.

“The Roots of Rhythm is a unique performance/presentation that strives to elevate cultural awareness to a variety of audience members,” said organizers. “The ensemble mission is to encourage cultural diversity on the UT Martin campus and within the greater West and Middle Tennessee community.

“The Roots of Rhythm presentation includes interdisciplinary subjects such as history, geography, and music that coincide with the National Standards for Arts Education that can be used in a variety of subject matters relating to the live concert being performed.”

In the show, the evolution of clave through the slave trade is an engaging multi-sensory performance/presentation designed to allow the exploration of other cultures through music.

“Our program includes steel drums and tam-tam bamboo instruments from Trinidad, Shona marimbas from Zimbabwe, traditional Dundun drums from Guinea, Brazilian samba instruments and much more,” said instructors.

“By focusing on the cultures of Africa, Cuba, Brazil, the U.S. and the Caribbean, students and audience members can observe how differing societies are formed and interact through music. Much more than an exciting concert, this complete program allows audiences to gather information through listening, participating, observing, and visualizing. Through the UT Martin World Percussion Ensemble’s Roots of Rhythm presentation, the possibility for community and student enrichment within the context of multicultural education is limitless!”

PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS such as steel drums are demonstrated during performances in the Roots of Rhythm show presented by students at the Univ. of Tennessee Martin. The show will be presented at Milan Elementary School, Sept. 21 at 8:30 am. and Medina Elementary School on Sept. 22 at 1 pm. Performances are free.

ROOTS OF RHYTHM - UTM students showcase many types of percussion instruments during the Roots of Rhythm shows. Performances will be given at Milan Elementary School Sept. 21 at 8:30 am. and at Medina Elementary School on Sept. 22 at 1 pm.
College enrollment jumps under TN Promise

NASHVILLE—Three weeks after thousands of Tennessee Promise students arrived on campus for the first time, administrators across the state are getting a clearer picture of how many students actually followed through with the program and how dramatic their impact will be.

Enrollment is up at many of the state’s 13 community colleges, and almost all of them have seen sharp gains in the number of students enrolled with a full course load, a requirement of the full-tuition scholarship program.

The 13 community colleges have seen a 6 percent jump in full-time students this year on average, according to a census taken on the 14th day of classes. At a number of schools, that number reaches even higher: Motlow State Community College has had full-time growth of almost 20 percent, to 3,541, while there was a 14 percent jump, to 5,373, at Volunteer State Community College.

That number is significant, administrators say, because full-time students have a clearer path to success. Students who only take a class or two at a time are much more likely to drop out before they get a degree.

“We’ve always struggled with getting our students, particularly with our students right out of high school, to take more classes and graduate on time,” said Warren Nichols, the vice chancellor of community colleges for the Tennessee Board of Regents.

It will still take some time to determine exactly how much of that growth was driven by Tennessee Promise, according to Mike Krause, the program’s executive director. But administrators at the college level say the impact is obvious.

Krause said the number of full-time community college students coming straight from high school jumped 14 percent this year, to about 13,500, according to an early estimate. He still expects the full number of Tennessee Promise students, which also will include students at technical colleges and some universities, to fall between 16,000 and 18,000.

“These are the early indicators you want to see at this point,” he said. “Tennessee Promise really turned out to be a decision that many students and families thought was their best path.”

Growth comes with challenges

Ripple effects of the sudden growth have been mostly positive, Nichols said. But it hasn’t come without challenges.

At Motlow State’s Smyrna campus, which is bearing the brunt of the college’s growth, “they are bursting at the seams,” Nichols said. The parking lot there has become so packed that students have started parking in the grass.

Tony Kinkel, the new president at Motlow, is lobbying for a third building on the packed Smyrna campus, but that is still several years away. He met with his deputies Friday to discuss plans to accommodate the growth. They’re taking steps to schedule classes on Saturday and Sunday.

“We’re taking drastic measures,” Kinkel said. “We just have to think differently to grapple with that kind of growth.”

But Kinkel, who said he came to Tennessee this year to be part of Tennessee Promise, said he is glad to confront those challenges.

“It would be an even bigger problem if you had parking lots you couldn’t fill,” he said.

Universities see a drop

While Tennessee Promise is boosting enrollment and excitement at community college campuses, early enrollment numbers suggest that it has siphoned students away from some four-year schools.

Enrollment is down at several state universities at small rates that mirror national trends, but one University of Tennessee campus saw a more significant drop. Early estimates suggest freshman enrollment at UT Martin in West Tennessee is down around 13 percent, according to UT system President Joe DiPietro.
"Those are the numbers. None of us are happy about it," he said during an interview last week. "The UT Martin community understands that everybody's job is recruiting now."

DiPietro said administrators in Martin are working to counter the drop by recruiting students from nearby counties in Kentucky. They also are working to beef up a dual-enrollment program that might pull in high school students who want to earn early college credit.

Universities in the UT and TBR systems have been ramping up efforts to entice Tennessee Promise students to transfer to a four-year school after community college.

Humboldt Chronicle, Wednesday, September 16, 2015

NEW TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Jason Wiles, originally from Humboldt, now calls Medina home. He teaches Agri-science, greenhouse and hydroponics at Humboldt Junior & Senior High School. Wiles is a 1996 graduate of Humboldt High School. He graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2001 with a degree in agriculture education.

"I do what I love and can be an influence in the lives of my students," Wiles said as a teacher in Humboldt. "My main goal is to provide a learning environment to let the students learn while enjoying it."

Wiles credits all of his agriculture teachers in high school for helping him in his love of agriculture, education and FFA for his inspiration to teach.

He sees as his biggest challenge coming back to the classroom after 11 years away from education. "But I am enjoying it every day as I learn," he added.
The 22nd Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival wrapped up this week celebrating Weakley County's cash crop, the soybean, honoring the soybean farmer and the economic benefit the soybean provides the West Tennessee region. The festival included food, fun and fellowship with live concerts, a street fair, a carnival, community cookout, talent shows, bike rodeo, pageants, car shows, and more. Performers included, Joe Nichols, "Night Ranger", Donna Ulisse, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Sanctus Real, Mike Snider and the String Band, and, 7 Bridges. For more information about the Tennessee Soybean Festival visit www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.

Guest voice recital planned at UTM

Dr. Christine Isley-Farmer, professor of voice at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, and Dr. Rebecca Tate-St. Goar, professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, will perform a duo recital titled “Two Plus One — An Evening of Duets” at 7 p.m. Friday in the Blankenship Recital Hall of the University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Building.

Joseph Walker, also from MTSU, will accompany the singers on the piano. The recital will feature pieces ranging from the Baroque period to the 21st century, including duets by Purcell, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Fauré, Offenbach, Osterfield, Dvorák and Laitmin.

The guest professors will also give a voice masterclass to students in the Department of Music from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday in the Blankenship Recital Hall.

Dr. Elaine Herriss, professor of music at UT Martin, will provide piano accompaniment.

Both events are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Amy Yeung, professor of music at UT Martin, at (731) 881-7408 or by email at ayung@utm.edu.
UTM hosting homeschool event

Homeschool parents interested in learning about the Paul Meek Library's educational resources are invited to attend the third annual “A Night at the Library: Watch Everything Come to Life” event from 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesday.

The event will include an interactive session on electronic resources, a scavenger hunt for children and an informational presentation from WLJT introducing online applications the television station has to offer home-schoolers.

Children are welcome to attend.

Bags of informative materials will be supplied to those in attendance. An RSVP before Saturday will guarantee this information is provided.

When calling or emailing an RSVP, the library asks that the child's grade level be included so sessions can be appropriately geared toward the specific grade levels represented.

For more information or to reserve a place at the event Tuesday, contact library staff members Cindy Gaylord at (731) 881-7078 or cgaylord@utm.edu or Sara Rachels at (731) 881-7083 or srachell@utm.edu.

Pharmacy tech program available

Community members interested in careers as pharmacy technicians are encouraged to enroll in a 50-hour pharmacy technician training course.

The class will be offered 6-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from Tuesday through Nov. 10 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

This program prepares students to enter the pharmacy field and to take the certification exam. Pharmacy technicians work in hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, community pharmacies and other healthcare settings.

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

Student tuition for this course is $1,199, which includes textbooks and supplies.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082 or visit the course website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/degree.php.

UTM to host fall previews

Students interested in attending the University of Tennessee at Martin are encouraged to register for one of two fall preview dates on Sept. 26 or Oct. 24. High school and transfer students and their parents or guardians can tour the campus and receive information on a variety of topics.

Both sessions will begin with registration at 9 a.m. followed by an official university welcome at 9:30. Attendees will be given a tour of the UT Martin campus at 10:30 and have the opportunity to speak with current students and faculty members from all five academic colleges at the academic and administrative fair beginning at noon. Representatives will also be available to discuss financial aid options, housing, meal plans, special programs and campus life activities.

All events on Sept. 26 will be held in the Boling University Center, and all Oct. 24 activities will take place in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Advance registration is required and there is no fee to attend. Students may register up until the morning of the event. To register, visit www.utm.edu and select “Fall Preview Day Registration” under the “Discover” menu. Students may also call the UT Martin Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admittance@utm.edu for additional details.
Continuing the Skyhawk Tradition

Pictured are Alan Rickman (second from right) with (from left) his grandparents, Vernon (UT Martin 1963, retired UT Martin baseball coach) and Aloha Prather (UT Martin 1975), and mother Janel Bolton (UT Martin 1986).

By Erin Chesnut
UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin hosts a Legacy Luncheon at the beginning of each fall semester to welcome freshmen students who are the children or grandchildren of UT Martin alumni.

These "legacies" and their families gathered in the Paul Meek Library on Aug. 21 for refreshments and remarks by Dr. Robert Smith, interim UT Martin chancellor, and Charley Deal, assistant vice chancellor of alumni relations.

Pictured at the luncheon are Alan Rickman (second from right) with (from left) his grandparents, Vernon (UT Martin 1963, retired UT Martin baseball coach) and Aloha Prather (UT Martin 1975), and mother Janel Bolton (UT Martin 1986). Rickman lives in Jackson but graduated from McNairy Central High School.
Applications Accepted For WestStar Program

University of Tennessee at Martin is accepting applications for its WestStar Leadership program through October 16th. It is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee. It has produced 739 graduates in its 26-year history. The program will begin December 10th with an opening one-day retreat and end June 21, 2016, with an evening graduation ceremony.

For more information, call, 731-881-7298, or online, www.utm.edu/departments/weststar.

ROSS GRADUATES: Courtney Ross, daughter of Dennis and Tina Ross of Newbern, graduated from the University of Tennessee National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program on July 31, 2015. The program is designed to teach college students as well as law enforcement needed skills in the forensics field. The course included fingerprinting crime scenes, excavating graves, autopsies and studying the criminal mind. Courtney completed the course with an A and received 9 college credit hours towards her Bachelors degree in Forensics that she will begin next Fall at UT Martin. She is currently enrolled at DSCC and will graduate in May of 2016 with her Associates Degree in Criminal Justice. She currently works as a shift manager at McDonald's in Newbern while attending college full time.
REFLECTING ON HER PAGEANT SUCCESS

Miss Tennessee Hannah Robison waves after she answered a question during the Miss America 2016 pageant on Sunday in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Looking back on her feats from the pageant, Robison says she feels "very, very honored."
America’s choice

Miss Tennessee Hannah Robison places in top 7, earns thousands in scholarships

KATHERINE BURGESS
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When Hannah Robison was called into the top 15 semifinals at the Miss America Pageant, she also became the first Miss Tennessee to receive the America’s Choice vote.

“I felt an overwhelming amount of support,” she said. “It was great knowing I wasn’t just a judges’ choice, I was also picked by the public.”

Robison said her two weeks in Atlantic City, which ended Sunday, was a rewarding experience filled with firsts.

The Paris native placed in the top seven, but was one of the last three women on stage before Miss Georgia Betty Cantrell was crowned.

Those last few minutes were surprisingly calm, Robison said, particularly because she had previously experienced such a moment on the stage of the Carl Perkins Civic Center before being crowned Miss Tennessee.

“I knew there was nothing I could do to change the outcome,” she said. “I knew regardless of what happened, it would either get to be Miss America or I would come home and be Miss Tennessee.”

Robison said her favorite moment of the competition was performing her talent, Liberace’s “El Cumbanchero” on the piano while wearing a bright yellow dress that made her feel like Belle from “Beauty and the Beast.”

An overwhelming moment was the onstage question, Robison said. The top seven contestants had their names called out one by one, only to immediately be asked a question with 20 seconds to answer.

“I felt very confident and as calm as I could possibly have been with a 20 second timer ticking down in front of me,” Robison said.

Celebrity judge Vanessa Wil-

See CHOICE, Page A5
Choice
Continued from Page A3

Williams asked Robison about government funding of Planned Parenthood. Robison said she did not support defunding the organization because the hundreds of millions of dollars go toward female health care and reproductive issues.

"I was actually very educated on the topic, but you can only fit so many facts and statements into 20 seconds," Robison said. "I wish I had 20 minutes to talk about all of my knowledge behind the issue."

Another challenge came as a surprise to Robison, when she and other contestants were faced with a dessert buffet at every meal except breakfast.

Preparing for the swimsuit portion of the competition meant saying no to desserts, although Robison said she and the other contestants did enjoy pizza the night before the pageant finale.

A senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin pursuing a degree in chemistry, Robison won enough scholarship money to graduate debt free. She also will have some money left over to use toward graduate studies, since she plans to pursue a doctorate degree. She received $16,000 total, she said.

One of her awards was a $5,000 science, technology, engineering and mathematics scholarship. She was Tennessee's first recipient of the STEM scholarship. She also was first runner-up for a Quality of Life award, given because of her work with the Arthritis Foundation — also a first for Miss Tennessee.

"I was really lucky to have a lot of firsts for the state," Robison said. "I was honored. I was very, very honored."

Reach Katherine at (731) 425-9748. Follow her on Twitter: @kathsburgess
UT enrollment not affected by success of Tennessee Promise

WBIR Staff, WBIR 9:26 p.m. EDT September 17, 2015

(WBIR-KNOXVILLE) With more than 15,000 students taking advantage of the Tennessee Promise program, some four-year universities in Tennessee are seeing a drop in enrollment--- but not the University of Tennessee.

Tennessee Promise is the new state program that provides two years of community or technical college to graduating high school seniors absolutely free of tuition and fees.

That was too good of a deal to pass up for many new high school grads, who chose to take advantage of the program instead of going to a traditional university. Enrollment in some of the community colleges climbed 6 percent.

The University of Tennessee Martin is one of the school's attributing a 13 percent decline in enrollment to the Tennessee Promise.

But students are still flocking to the state's flagship university in Knoxville. Even free tuition isn't enough to deter some students, who want the atmosphere and tradition of a school like UTK.

UTK officials say they had a record number of applicants this year and one of the largest freshman classes ever.

They are also reaching out to Tennessee Promise students who plan to transfer.

"We love working with transfer students. We're really ramping up our effort. We invested resources. We now have transfer regional recruiters based in Memphis, Nashville and East Tennessee to work directly with transfer students and our community college partners," said Karl Aldredge from UT Enrollment Management.

Meanwhile, as the interest in the Tennessee Promise program grows, so does the need for adult mentors.

Mentors help students navigate the college admissions process...and meet Tennessee Promise deadlines.

Knoxville-based Tennessee Achieves manages the program. They expect 60,000 members of the Class of 2016 to apply. That means they need 9,000 mentors statewide.

In Knox County, 4,500 students are expected to apply. More than 850 mentors will be needed to work with them.

Mentors must be 21 years or older and attend mandatory training and meetings.

The deadline to apply is Nov. 20. You can get more information here. (http://tennesseepromise.gov/volunteers.shtml)
2015 Miss Tenn. talks responsibility, hard work with students

Victoria Taylor
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JACKSON, Tenn -- Miss Tennessee 2015 Hannah Robison kicked off her tour of schools Friday in the Hub City.

As a character ambassador for Gov. Bill Haslam, Robison shared her message of responsibility with hundreds of Jackson Christian School students.

"I was so happy! I look forward to this chapel every year," seventh grader Alayna Hall said.

Many of the students in her audience Friday had watched Robison days earlier as she competed for the Miss America crown and finished in the top seven.

Robison says she will focus on the school visits as one of her many platforms for the next year. "The character trait that I talk about is responsibility," Robison said.

She'll share her simple message, divided into three parts, with students across the state — "The responsibility people have to their community for volunteerism, the responsibility people have to themselves to eat healthy and exercise, and respecting others," she said.

Robison revealed to students at the Friday Chapel she was victimized by high school bullies. She told students along with name calling, other students wrote hateful names on her car.

Despite being a chemistry major at UT Martin, the beauty queen says she wasn't always dedicated to her homework.

"I definitely feel like I relate to her," Hall said. "There are many times when I come home and I'm not wanting to do homework."

As an advocate for science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, education, Robison said her talks eventually will include lab work. "I'll be wheeling in science experiments to conduct with the children to talk a little bit more about STEM education."

Robison said she hopes to inspire others to go after their own crowns. "Things aren't just handed to you. You have to work really hard for them," she said.

Robison told students she has earned enough scholarship money from competing to graduate college debt free.
Miss Tennessee Hannah Robison visits a classroom of 3-year-olds Friday at Jackson Christian School.

Hannah Robison will speak at hundreds of schools as she spends the next year traveling across the Volunteer State as Miss Tennessee, but her Friday morning visit to Jackson Christian was her first school visit, and it was special.

Robison was born and raised in West Tennessee and is a chemistry major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, so being close to home is great, she said.

“I stayed in West Tennessee [for school],” Robison said before Jackson Christian’s elementary chapel. “A lot of girls are from East Tennessee or Middle Tennessee that win, so I feel like I’ve already gotten a lot of appearances booked for this area, which is great; I was hoping for...
Robison

Continued from Page B1

that.”
More importantly, however, Robison said speaking at Jackson Christian gave her the chance to do something she won't be able to do at some other schools: share her faith. Robison said she grew up in a Christian home, and she cherishes the chance to speak to students at schools like Jackson Christian.

"It's really exciting because here I get to talk about my faith," Robison said. "So, in most public schools, I don't get to do that, but this is a very special case because it is a Christian school."

Chris Ramey is the director of advancement at Jackson Christian. He said the school was proud to have Robison come be so vocal with her faith.

"We appreciate that she shared [her faith] unprompted, and we appreciate that she is proud to share her Christian heritage as she makes her way across the country and state," Ramey said.

Robison's speech to the elementary school lasted about five minutes, long enough for the children to sit still and hear her talk about character education. Friday morning's topic was on responsibility. Robison said everyone has a responsibility to their community, to volunteer and help where they can, to themselves, to eat right and exercise, and to others, treating others with respect.

After her speech Robison answered questions from the kids such as "How does your crown stay on your head?" "How much paperwork do you have to do?"

Jackson Christian had a piano on the stage, and after questions, Robison performed. Piano performance was Robison's talent in the Miss America pageant. She started learning to play the piano when she was 7.

Robison played and the chapel was silent.

Later in the morning Robison made her way to the middle and high school wings to speak about responsibility and education, particularly about the state's STEM education program, which deals with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

She said the STEM program is something she wants to incorporate in all of her speeches and is something she believes in enough that she is helping Carroll County launch a program in the coming weeks.

Reach Tyler at (731) 425-9629. Follow him on Twitter: @tyler_whatstone
From left: Marvin Flatt, director of vocational education, Weakley County Schools; Jordan Jones, administrative specialist, WestStar Leadership Program; Jerry Briganse, retired, TLM Associates, Inc.; John Salmon, affiliate broker, Century 21 Overton Real Estate; Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum; Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus; Charley Deal, executive director, WestStar Leadership Program; Jason Sullivan, assistant director of athletic development, UT Martin; Lisha Tuck, associate director of development, UT Martin; Landy Fuqua, director, UT Martin Regional Entrepreneur and Economic Development Center; Suezane Speight, administrative support assistant, UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources; and Virginia Grimes, coordinator, WestStar Leadership Program.

From left: (front row) Tracey Exam, regional director, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development; Sherri McCarver, community development specialist, USDA Rural Development; Katie Pace, membership, Jackson Chamber; Hope Cooper, regional account and marketing manager, Central Service Association; Terry Drumwright, vice president, P.E., TLM Associates, Inc.; (back row) Mike Hewitt, partner, Alexander Thompson Arnold, CPAs; Jack Matthys, partner and CPA, Alexander Thompson Arnold, CPAs; Kirk Newcom, sales manager, WBBJ-TV; Martin Jelinek, digital director, Forever Communications; Amy West, director, Office of Human Resources and Affirmative Action, Jackson State Community College; and Tony White, deputy mayor and human resources director, Madison County government.
From left: Vicki Bunch, LEAP Grant director, Jackson State Community College; Wendy Hopper, master instructor, Tennessee College of Applied Technology at Jackson; and Sandy Stanfill, director, Jackson State Community College-Lexington Center.

From left: Virginia Grimes, coordinator, WestStar Leadership Program; Jim Garland, city recorder, city of Henderson; and Jordan Jones, administrative specialist, WestStar Leadership Program.

From left: WestStar Leadership Program administrators Virginia Grimes, of Martin, WestStar coordinator; Dr. Robert Smith, of Martin, co-founder and UT Martin interim chancellor; Minnie Bommer, of Covington, WestStar founding trustee; and Charley Deal, of Martin, the leadership program's executive director.

From left: Amy West, of Crockett County, director, Office of Human Resources and Affirmative Action, Jackson State Community College; Charley Deal, of Martin, executive director, WestStar Leadership Program; and Melissa Cox Rayner, of Alamo, business development consultant, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.
UT Martin to host Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals

The Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals will hear cases from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sept. 29 on the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus. The court will convene in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium.

The Court of Criminal Appeals was created by the Legislature in 1967 to hear trial court appeals in felony and misdemeanor cases and post-conviction petitions. The 12 members of the court sit monthly in panels of three.

No witnesses, juries or testimonies are present in the Court of Criminal Appeals, which relies solely on oral and written arguments presented by defense and prosecuting attorneys.

The judges will hear four cases during the UT Martin session. Each appeal will feature 20-minute oral arguments from each attorney, after which the judges will leave the auditorium to deliberate. Students will have approximately 15 minutes to question the attorneys during this time.

Judges John Everett Williams, Roger A. Page and Timothy L. Easter will preside over this session. Williams, of Huntingdon, was appointed to the court in 1998 and is a graduate of the UT Martin criminal justice program. Page, of Jackson, was appointed in 2011 and Easter, of Nashville, joined the court in 2014. Judges for the Court of Criminal Appeals are elected on a “retain-replace” ballot every eight years.

The court’s visit to UT Martin is hosted by the UT Martin Criminal Justice Program, the Department of Behavioral Sciences and the College of Education, Health.
UT Martin to host state Court of Criminal Appeals

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UT Martin...
(Continued from Page 1)

The UT Martin Criminal Justice Program is housed with the Department of Behavioral Sciences in the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences. The program offers concentrations in law enforcement, courts and law, corrections, forensic science and generalist options on the main UT Martin campus. The generalist degree option is also available at UT Martin extended campus locations in Selmer, Parsons, Ripley and Jackson.

For more information, contact the department at (731) 881-7520.

http://www.thunderboltradio.com 9/21/2015

Gatwood, professor emeritus of music at UTM, began his UTM career in 1972 as an assistant professor of music and was promoted to full professor in 1986. He retired in 2008 with 36 years of dedicated service to the university.

Gatwood is currently director of music at Huntingdon First United Methodist Church, a position he has held since 1983.

The public ceremony will be held Friday afternoon at 2:00 outside Room 130.
The number of Tennesseans enrolling in community college immediately after high school jumped 14 percent this fall, according to the state. That’s due in large part to the first year of Tennessee Promise, which made community college free for graduating high schoolers.

But on the other side of the higher education equation were four-year universities. They, of course, were not offering free tuition to wide swaths of students, and they were nervous about competing for students (http://nashvillepublicmedia.org/blog/2014/08/19/response-haslams-tennessee-promise-mtsu-ups-academic-scholarships/) this year.

Tennessee State University president Glenda Glover says her college went into recruiting overdrive – by pitching the school at high schools, for example, and inviting prospective students to football games on campus.

"We beefed up our efforts," she says. "All of us have done extra work, but it looks like we overdid it because TSU enrollment is up this year."

Not all Tennessee Board of Regents schools were so successful. Across all six TBR universities, freshman enrollment stayed flat, says vice chancellor Tristan Denley. Still, that's an improvement over the trend of the past five years, when enrollment has been generally declining.

This year, many more students have certainly picked a community college over a four-year school, Denley says. "But the universities have found ways to identify other students who they otherwise wouldn't have reached."

Meanwhile, in the University of Tennessee system, enrollment is down at Martin and Chattanooga, according to preliminary data from president Joe DiPietro. But flagship UT Knoxville has one of its largest freshman classes ever.

The state is expected to release final Tennessee Promise enrollment numbers this week.
UT Martin hosting fall preview day Saturday

Students interested in attending the University of Tennessee at Martin are encouraged to register for one of two fall preview dates this Saturday, or Oct. 24. High school and transfer students and their parents or guardians can tour the campus and receive information on a variety of topics.

Both sessions will begin with registration at 9 a.m. followed by an official university welcome at 9:30. Attendees will be given a tour of the UT Martin campus at 10:30 and have the opportuni-

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Briefly

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The UT Martin Criminal Justice Program is housed with the Department of Behavioral Sciences in the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences. The program offers concentrations in law enforcement, courts and law, corrections, forensic science and generalist options on the main UT Martin campus. The generalist degree option is also available at UT Martin extended campus locations in Selmer, Parsons, Ripley and Jackson.
Nursejournal.org has included the University of Tennessee at Martin nursing program as one of America's Best Nursing Schools for the Eastern Region for 2015. The UT Martin program is ranked number 31, making it the second-highest ranked program in Tennessee, just ahead of Austin Peay State University at number 32 and the University of Memphis at number 35. Middle Tennessee State University took the top Tennessee slot.

Nursejournal.org is a social community website exclusively for nurses and health-care professionals and aims to provide educational resources for those interested in the career field. This is the first year the website has released a rankings list.

According to the website, 1,189 nursing programs were evaluated for the top-100 list. Each institution was scored in five categories: quality, affordability, convenience, satisfaction and value. Items such as NCLEX pass rates, program accreditations, graduation and retention rates, financial aid and total costs, and overall professor ratings were taken into account.

"It is always an honor for our program to be recognized, and this recognition highlights not only the integrity of our program, but also the value of public education," said Dr. Mary Radford, associate professor and chair, UT Martin Department of Nursing. "UT Martin nursing students are some of the most well-rounded, competent and adaptable graduates because of the variety of clinical experiences they obtain during our unique requirement of three years of clinical rotations."

The UT Martin Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. The department also offers a basic baccalaureate degree to registered nurses who hold an associate degree or diploma in nursing. This program option is open to anyone with a registered nurse's license who meets university and departmental entrance requirements.

There is more to vocal performance than just music. Singers ready to move beyond vocals are invited to attend a "Stage Craft for Singers" crash course to learn the basics of the stage, movement and etiquette from 9-11 a.m., Oct. 3, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The workshop is designed as an overview of stage craft. If time permits, there may be a discussion of character development and performance at the end of the session. This clinic is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Roberto Mancusi at 731-881-7405 or by email at rmancusi@utm.edu.
UTM professor receives award

The Tennessee Communication Association has named Dr. Teresa Collard, associate professor of communications at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Outstanding Communication Educator of the Year for 2015.

The award was presented during a joint conference of the Tennessee and Kentucky Communication Associations earlier this month at Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns.

According to the TCA website, the association recognizes "an individual who has made a significant contribution to communication education in the state of Tennessee" each year.

The award is typically given to a teaching member of TCA and candidates are nominated by other association members. Winners are selected by an association committee appointed by the TCA president.

Communication faculty members from universities and colleges across Tennessee are welcome to join and participate in TCA activities. Ms. Collard has been a member since she began teaching at UT Martin in 1993. She currently teaches courses in public speaking, voice and diction, interpersonal communications and communication in professional environments.

She also serves as faculty adviser to the UT Martin chapter of Women in Communications and is director of the UT Martin Women's Center. She received the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association's Outstanding Teacher Award in 2002 and 2013 and the TCA Presidential Service Award in 2011.

Ms. Collard holds bachelor of arts degrees in both political science and speech communication and a master's degree in speech communication from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Ill.

She also holds a doctor of education in leadership in higher education from Union University in Jackson.

Room to be named in ceremony at UT

Dwight Gatwood, professor emeritus of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will be honored with a ceremony to officially name the Dwight Gatwood World Percussion Room in the university's Fine Arts Building.

The ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. Friday outside room 130.

The public is invited to attend.

Gatwood began his UT Martin career in 1972 as an assistant professor of music and was promoted to full professor in 1986. He retired in 2008 with 36 years of dedicated service to the university.

He is director of music of Huntington First United Methodist Church, a position he has held since 1983.

The Gatwood family has supported the university and the fine arts program in a variety of ways and their son, David, is a UT Martin alumnus.

For more information about Friday's program, contact the UT Martin Office of Development at (731) 881-7620.
Fifth Third makes hires, promotions

Fifth Third Bank, Greater Indiana, has made hires and promotions of employees serving the Southern Indiana market.

Kelvin Canaday has been named as an assistant vice president and associate commercial relationship manager. Canaday has been with Fifth Third Bank for 10 years. He holds a MBA from Murray State University and a bachelor's degree in economics from University of Tennessee at Martin.

 PAL speaks to UTM-Ripley class

Xavier Lawrence Andrews, rear left, of the Anti-Drug Coalition of Lauderdale County gave a presentation to the “Drug’s And Behavior class at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center on Sept. 17. The presentation included a discussion on the Drug Take Back Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. which will be a collaboration between the 25th Judicial District Attorney’s office, Lauderdale County Drug Coalition and the Drug Enforcement Administration. This event will give the public its tenth opportunity in five years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Residents can take pills for disposal to the District Attorney General’s Office at 121 N. Main St. in Ripley (next to the Amphitheater). The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. The coalition also provided information to the class about the effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Mrs. Lisa Kent, front row end, is the instructor of the Drug And Behavior class at the UTM Ripley Center. The next coalition meeting will be held at the UTM Ripley Center on Oct. 29 at 6 p.m. The anti-drug coalition encourages all concerned citizens to get involved in the fight for children. For more information, contact Andrews, PAL Coordinator, at 612-6337 or email xandrews@utm.edu.
UT Martin's Robison is People's Choice

Hannah Robison, a senior chemistry major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, finished in the top seven contestants during the 2016 Miss America Pageant, broadcast September 13. She was selected as the People's Choice contestant based on social media votes cast on her behalf and will receive a $7,000 scholarship for advancing to the final level.

Robison received several recognitions before the competition. She is the first Miss Tennessee to win the Miss America STEM Scholarship, which totals $5,000 and is awarded to a contestant enrolled in a declared field of study in science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

She was also named first runner-up for the Jean Bartel Quality of Life Award, given to a contestant who excels in her commitment to enhance the quality of life for others through volunteerism and community service. The first runner-up receives a $4,000 scholarship. This is the highest finish a Miss Tennessee has received for this award. Robison is the first Miss Tennessee to qualify as a finalist for both preliminary scholarships.

She was also recognized as one of three USA gold medalists for the Duke of Edinburgh International Award, introduced to the pageant in 2013. This accolade was first given in the United Kingdom in 1956 and today is the world's leading youth achievement award, available to qualifying young people 14-24 years old. The award considers a variety of self-improvement areas, including community service, physical recreation, adventurous journey and a residential improvement project. The Misses Alabama and South Carolina were also recognized for this award.

Since claiming the Miss Tennessee title in June, Robison has received more than $37,000 in scholarships from the Miss America Organization, allowing her to fund her dream of earning a doctoral degree in chemistry and teaching at the university level.

Robison returns to Tennessee to complete her reign as Miss Tennessee 2015, which includes serving as Gov. Bill Haslam's ambassador for character education and supporting the state's Children's Miracle Network hospitals.

Robison has Trenton ties. She is cousin to Dr. Clint Sturgeon, pharmacist at Eddie's Pharmacy.

The university announced that dual enrollment programming is now in all three Fayette County High Schools: Fayette-Ware High School, Fayette Academy, and Rossville Christian Academy. Dual enrollment programs allow high school students to get the academic benefit and experience of taking a university course while also satisfying their high school graduation requirements. The opportunity challenges students to perform at the university level while providing the benefit of getting a head start on their baccalaureate degrees.

Students register for these classes through UT-Martin and receive the same benefits as any other university student with access to web resources, internet databases, the UT-Martin library, and much more. Upon successful completion of the course and graduation from high school, the student may continue coursework at UT Martin or transfer the course credits to another school.

 Presently, UT-Martin is offering Math and English courses at the schools for the Fall 2015 semester. The university has offered courses in Communications, U.S. History, World Civilization, Agricultural Economics, Animal Science, Political Science, Finance, Music & Theatre Arts, Psychology, Criminal Justice, and Sociology in the past to other regional High Schools.

Jackie Johnson, UT-Martin's coordinator of Dual Enrollment, and Dr. Adam Wilson, interim director of UT-Martin Somerville Operations, are planning to meet with administrators at all the county's high schools in the upcoming weeks to discuss future offerings from the university for Spring 2016 and beyond. The addition of dual enrollment students has pushed enrollment numbers up to eighty-five part-time students in Fayette County along with several full-time students.

UT-Martin Somerville is also hoping to add a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (B.S.B.A.) degree program in the near future. Wilson plans to meet with Dr. John Overby, Chair of the Department of Management, Marketing, and Information Systems on Wednesday, September 16, in Martin to discuss the logistics of extending the program to Somerville and the benefits it would provide for potential business students in the county.

If approved, the B.S.B.A. would join UT-Martin Somerville's programming for Spring 2015 which already includes bachelor degree courses for Agricultural Business, Criminal Justice, History, Interdisciplinary Studies, Psychology, and Social Work.

Wilson mentioned he has already received interest from the Fayette County community for an Animal Science program, a Nursing program that would provide an RN to BSN certification, and an extension of Agriculture and Natural Science programs.

In other university news, UT-Martin Somerville proudly participated in this year's Cotton Festival. The university had a tent where individuals could receive information about financial aid, classes, etc. If you missed the tent or are just interested in receiving updates from the university, Dr. Wilson encourages you to follow social media sites: "UT-Martin Somerville" on Facebook and "UTM Somerville" on Twitter and Instagram. These outlets are updated daily with information, and Dr. Wilson notes the Spring 2016 class schedule and an ACT-prep class schedule will be released soon via the social media sites. Additionally, if you are interested in taking classes or have questions, you can contact Dr. Wilson by phone: 465-7313 or email: awilson9@utm.edu.
The National Science Foundation has awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin a $586,000 grant to fund scholarships and academic support for students studying in science, technology, engineering and mathematics-based areas. The five-year grant is funded through the Division of Undergraduate Education: Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Program.

"I am excited about the opportunities this grant will create for our students, and I certainly appreciate the work of Dr. (Robbie) Montgomery and her faculty colleagues who prepared this winning proposal," said Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "These innovative programs will mean better-prepared students graduating with less debt, and I am pleased the NSF evaluators agreed this would be a smart investment in our nation's future."

The funds will be used to help students lighten the burden of educational loans and outside jobs and allow them to focus on their studies. Incoming freshmen planning to major specifically in chemistry, engineering, geology, computer science and mathematics can apply for the grant scholarships beginning in the spring 2016 semester. The first awards will be distributed the following fall.

"One of our main goals is to increase retention," said Montgomery, associate professor of chemistry and one of five faculty members listed on the grant proposal. "We’re implementing a STEM Academy over the summer – a two-week period where students will get extra help in coursework to fill any gaps in the academic areas. ... We’re trying to create a cohort of students to go through together so they have the support not only of faculty but of other students. We want to make sure they are prepared to be successful in a STEM field."

Students will also have increased opportunities to participate in undergraduate research and field-specific internships.

Interested students must submit two letters of recommendation from high school teachers, one of which is from a STEM area; an essay outlining their interest and career plans in a STEM area; a minimum ACT score of 24 and a minimum high school grade point average of 3.0. Students must also have taken high school biology, chemistry, and algebra I and II; those who have completed calculus are preferred.

Transfer students will also be considered if they have enough college credits to qualify for junior class status.

For more information, contact Montgomery at 731-881-7445 or by email at rmontgomery@utm.edu.
Roots of Rhythm

Students from the UT-Martin percussion ensemble illustrate a journey around the world through a unique performance called “Roots of Rhythm,” which showcased authentic world percussion instruments in the style of countries around the globe. The local event was sponsored by the City of Selmer, Arts in McNairy and McNairy First and included both a Selmer Elementary performance and a public performance in Rockabilly Park in Selmer last Monday. For more information on the Roots of Rhythm show, visit www.utm.edu/departments/percussion/rootsofrhythm.php or contact Dr. Julie Hill, professor and chair, Department of Music, at 731-981-7418 or by email at jhill@utm.edu.
How Jackson residents get profit from nonprofits

How many nonprofits are in Jackson? How many lives do they impact over the course of a year? If they were not here, who would meet the need? Which one have you decided to support?

When going through the WestStar program, one of the things I noticed during our session in Madison County was the number of nonprofits headquartered here. Having been born in Jackson, I had always heard we were historically referred to as the Hub City. This was mostly due to our reach into the more rural parts of West Tennessee, meaning the spokes extending from the hub created an economic center.

The big “aha” moment for me was the same could be said about our nonprofits. Whether they have an actual presence in the surrounding counties through brick-and-mortar facilities, or serve residents from other counties, the nonprofit spokes extend the same way “for-profits” do. Think about what it means for the smaller communities with limited resources to have these services available to them. Who would help addicts get sober? Who would stand in when child abuse reveals itself? Who would shelter women who have been raped or abused? Who would assist those with disabilities find gainful employment? Who would help those whose home burned to the ground? Who would provide shelter for women who find themselves homeless?

It is a rather scary thought. We often think the government will take care of us—but aren’t you glad we have other options available to us? These are many of the benefits we realize by living in this community, but it is also something that is very easy to take for granted. Unless you have been in these situations personally, it may not be “top of mind” for you. Much of what is done on behalf of others is done without any fanfare, and often

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Bratcher

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without anyone knowing.

Like anything else, these organizations require money to support their operations and they should not be ashamed of this fact. We find ourselves investing in many worthwhile endeavors. Often we have a savings account specific for many of these items, but could something be missing?

What if we had a budget line item for charitable giving, not because we think we might need the services one day, but because we know someone needs them today? Without ongoing investment, these great nonprofits will cease to exist and these problems will become ours. Instead of looking for ways to personally solve the world’s problems, why not invest in organizations that have a process in place to do it?

Leverage your dollars to do what you can’t do, because without you, it can’t be done. That’s how to profit from nonprofits.

Dave Bratcher is the founder of www.davebratcher.com, speaker, teacher and trainer in the area of leadership and organizational development. He serves as president of the STAR Center. He can be contacted at dave@davebratcher.com. 
Low bids now out for UTM home fix

Plans for the upgraded Hardy Graham Stadium renovation project remain on schedule after the sealed bids were made public in a meeting Wednesday on the UT Martin campus.

UTM officials convened with University of Tennessee officials as well as representatives from a pair of construction companies.

Allen Searcy Builder Contractor, Inc. from Union City is the apparent low bidder at roughly $5.5 million, which was well within the $6 million bid target.

The bids are currently being further evaluated. "This is a great step forward for our program," said Dr. Robert M. Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor. "Not only will our athletic teams benefit but the facility will provide needed classroom laboratories for our students. It's a win-win for UT Martin."

UTM athletic director Julio Freire thanked those who have kept the plan moving forward. "I could not be any happier for the community, our wonderful university and especially head coach Jason Simpson and the Skyhawk football program," Freire said. "We are forever grateful to the donors of this project and we are extremely excited to move forward."

A new home seating section of 3,560 seats, part of a complete renovation that also included a multi-purpose, four-story pressbox building, was put in motion by then-AD Phil Dane in 2013.

Various delays, however, have resulted in two years of delays in construction and a new look to the overall facility upgrade.
The Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals will hear cases next Tuesday on the UT-Martin main campus.

The court will convene from 9:30 until 3:30 in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium.

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Judges John Everett Williams of Huntingdon, Roger A. Page of Jackson, and Timothy L. Easter of Nashville, will preside over this session.

Judge Williams is a graduate of UTM’s Criminal Justice program.

The judges will hear four cases during the UTM session. Each appeal will feature 20-minute oral arguments from each attorney, after which the judges will leave the auditorium to deliberate.

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UT Martin and Dyersburg State Community College sign dual admission partnership agreement

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO (KFVS) - A dual partnership agreement has been signed between The University of Tennessee at Martin and Dyersburg State Community College that will provide a “seamless and guaranteed transition from a DSCC associate degree program to a UT bachelor’s degree program by providing one curriculum plan for earning both degrees.”

Students who can take advantage of the new agreement are one at DSCC who meet current admission criteria at UT Martin and major in an eligible Tennessee Transfer Pathway baccalaureate program.

“This is a benefit to both institutions because it provides a seamless transition for the accomplishment of a four-year degree,” said Dr. Robert Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor. “We know that 96 percent of all the good jobs that have occurred since the recession of 2008-2009 have required a four-year degree, so having a good start at Dyersburg State Community College and then transitioning to a high-quality academic program at UT Martin is a great benefit to the student.”

Eligible students will be contacted by the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

They may also complete an application for dual admission, available through both school’s websites.

UT Martin plans to create similar agreements with other community colleges in the future.
Alan Rickman, second from right, attends UT Martin's Legacy Luncheon Aug. 21 with (from left) his grandparents, Vernon (UT Martin 1963, retired UT Martin baseball coach) and Aloha Prather (UT Martin 1975), and mother Janel Bolton (UT Martin 1986). Rickman lives in Jackson but graduated from McNairy Central High School.

Carter Hays, center, attends UT Martin's Legacy Luncheon with his parents Glen (UT Martin 1987) and Christy Hayes. Carter is a graduate of Madison Academic Magnet High School and plans to study agricultural engineering technology. His older brother, Chris Hayes, is also a UT Martin staff member and 2012 graduate.

Members of the University of Tennessee at Martin's 2015 freshman class began settling into their campus housing assignments during Move-In Mania on Aug. 21. The incoming class arrived early to participate in First-Year Initiative, a welcome and orientation weekend before classes began Aug. 24. Susanna Brown, left, of Savannah, is a graduate of Hardin County High School and intends to major in psychology. She is pictured with her mother, Tammy; brother, Ben; and father, Bob.

Michaela Parish, center, of Decaturville, graduated from Scottsdaile High School and intends to major in animal science. She is pictured with her parents, Shanna Lyons and Chris Parish Aug. 24 at UT Martin's orientation weekend.
Students at the University of Tennessee at Martin started the fall 2015 semester on Aug. 24. A freshman class of more than 1,000 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. Alexis Reynolds, left, of Bruce, is a freshman planning to major in veterinary science. Daniel Calderon, of McKenzie, is a freshman planning to study business management.

Brandon Hilliard, left, and Dalton Sellers, both of Bruce, are graduates of Bruce Central High School. The pair attended UT Martin’s orientation weekend Aug. 24.

From left: Hannah House, a sophomore from Gibson; and Alexandra Dalton and Hilary Whitten, freshmen from South Fulton, at University of Martin’s First-Year Initiative Welcome Weekend, an orientation program that prepares students to navigate the university environment.

The University of Tennessee at Martin hosts a Legacy Luncheon at the beginning of each fall semester to welcome freshman students who are the children or grandchildren of UT Martin alumni. These “legacies” and their families gathered in the Paul Meek Library Aug. 21 for refreshments and remarks by Dr. Robert Smith, interim UT Martin chancellor, and Charley Deal, assistant vice chancellor of alumni relations. Jessica Shafer, center, attends with her parents, Daniel (UT Martin 1991) and Cindy Schaefer. Jessica is a Milan High School graduate.

Haley Carpenter, center, attends UT Martin’s Legacy Luncheon Aug. 21 with her parents, Elizabeth and Chris Carpenter (UT Martin 1990). Haley is a graduate of Trinity Christian Academy in Jackson and plans to major in communications.
Santa Fe resident to compete for Miss Tennessee USA 2016

Tanna Renea Norman, 20, of Santa Fe will compete for the title of Miss Tennessee USA 2016 on Oct. 8, 9, and 10, at the Austin Peay State University in Clarksville.

Norman is the daughter of Monte and Tonya Norman. She attends the University of Tennessee at Martin where she majors in communications with a sequence in broadcasting and a minor in agriculture.

She also is involved in barrel racing and pole bending her horse, gardening, pageants and is a P.E.P. Leader and a member of Sigma Alpha Beta Theta Professional Agricultural Sorority, Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society, Gamma Beta Phi National Honor Society, Leaders in Residence, Block & Bridle Club, Maury County Bridle & Saddle Club, Collegiate FFA, University Administrative Calendar Committee, Student Government Association for the past two years and volunteers regularly at Food for Friends in Martin.

Her sponsors for the pageant are the Rivers and Spires Festival, Bryan Wood of Studio Nooshin, Eskew Consulting, Clarksville Smiles, Goodwin Photography, Gina Hampton Hair & Makeup and her parents, Monte & Tonya.

Norman reigned as 2012 Miss Mule Day, 2014 Miss Maury County, 2013 Miss Maury County Fairest of the Fair, 2014 Miss Maury Regional Fairest of the Fair, 2014 Top 15 Miss Tennessee Teen USA, 2014 Miss Maury County, 2014 Miss University of Tennessee Martin Rodeo Queen, 2015 Miss River Queen USA and she also is ranked 27th in her junior class of 1,280 students with a 3.95 GPA as a junior at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The winner of the Miss Tennessee USA 2016 crown will go on to represent the state in the 2016 MISS USA® pageant as seen live on NBC television.
UT-Martin is hosting a Fall Preview Day tomorrow for high school and transfer students and their parents and guardians.

Tomorrow's session begins in the morning at 9:00 with registration, followed by an official university welcome at 9:30.

Attendees get a tour of the UTM campus at 10:30 and get to speak with current students and faculty members from all five academic colleges at the academic and administrative fair beginning at noon.

Tomorrow's events will be held in the Boling University Center.

Students may register up until the morning of the event at utm.edu.

A second Fall Preview Day will be held on October 24th.

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Pictured in the Dwight Gatwood World Percussion Room are (L to R) Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts; Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music and interim chair, Department of Music; Dwight Gatwood, professor emeritus of music; Dianne Gatwood; David Gatwood; Dr. Bob Smith, interim chancellor; and Andy Wilson, vice chancellor for university advancement.

**UT Martin Dedicates Dwight Gatwood World Percussion Room**

MARTIN (September 25) — Dozens were on hand Friday afternoon as the University of Tennessee at Martin honored Dwight Gatwood, of Huntingdon, professor emeritus of music, with a dedication ceremony to officially name the Dwight Gatwood World Percussion Room in the university's Fine Arts Building. Gatwood began his UT Martin career in 1972 as an assistant professor of music and was promoted to full professor in 1986. He retired in 2008 after 36 years of dedicated service to the university. He is currently director of music at Huntingdon First United Methodist Church, a position he has held since 1983. Dwight and Dianne Gatwood and their son, David, have given gifts totaling more than $93,000 to the university and the fine arts program over the years, and David is a UT Martin alum. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Development at 731-881-7620.
TO THE BEAT OF HIS OWN DRUM — Pictured in the new Dwight Gatwood World Percussion Room are (from left) Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts; Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music and interim chair, Department of Music; Dwight Gatwood, professor emeritus of music; Dianne Gatwood; David Gatwood; Dr. Bob Smith, interim chancellor; and Andy Wilson, vice chancellor for university advancement.

UT Martin names percussion room after Professor Gatwood

Dozens were on hand Friday afternoon as the University of Tennessee at Martin honored Dwight Gatwood, professor emeritus of music, with a dedication ceremony to officially name the Dwight Gatwood World Percussion Room in the university’s Fine Arts Building. Gatwood began his UT Martin career in 1972 as an assistant professor of music and was promoted to full professor in 1986. He retired in 2008 after 36 years of dedicated service to the university. He is currently director of music at Huntingdon First United Methodist Church, a position he has held since 1983. Dwight and Dianne Gatwood and their son, David, have established two scholarship endowments for UT Martin students, and David is a UT Martin alum.
Former Athletics Director Phil Dane is among the four new members of the UT-Martin Athletics Hall of Fame.

Joining Dane in the Hall in the Class of 2015 are former soccer player Dani Myrick-Devore, former golfer Chris Jones, and former football player Mike Taylor.

The honor is truly special for Martin native Dane, who worked for the university for 34 years, 14 of those as Athletic Director.

Dane administered facility upgrades for seven different Skyhawk programs and oversaw 21 OVC championship teams in his tenure, 15 of which came from 2009-13.

Myrick-Devore is the Skyhawk soccer career leader in points (91), goals (35), assists (21) and game-winning goals (eight), and will be the first soccer player enshrined into the UTM Athletics Hall of Fame.

A Dyersburg native, Jones was the first golfer in UTM history to earn a spot on both the All-OVC team and OVC All-Tournament squad in the same season.

Jackson's Taylor was a four-year starter on UTM's offensive line, logging 44 consecutive starts at either the center or guard position for head coaches Fred Pickard and Don McLeary.

WestStar Leadership accepting applications

Applications are now being accepted to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's class of 2016. The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and boasts 739 graduates in its 26-year history.

The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing community, education, health, spirituality, economy, culture, family, and outdoor adventure. Each program takes place over one-and-a-half days. The program begins Dec. 10 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 21, 2016, with an evening graduation ceremony.

For additional information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit www.utm.edu/departments/weststar/. The application deadline is October 16. Anyone can apply to participate in the program; nominations are accepted but not required.
UTM announces 2015 HOF Class

Justin Walters
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The University of Tennessee at Martin revealed their 2015 Hall of Fame Class on Wednesday.

This year’s inductees include former athletic director Phil Dane (2000-13), soccer standout Dani Myrick-Devore (2002-05), former golfer Chris Jones (1997-2001) and former football player Mike Taylor (1984-87).

"It's an honor to be inducted because of the association with the current Hall of Fame members," Dane said in the school's news release. "Since Martin is my home and I worked here for 34 years, I know most of them personally."

The group of four will be exalted during the 32nd annual Letter Winner's Breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 10. The ceremony will be held in the Student Life Center at 7:30 a.m.
Advanced digital photography course offered at UT Martin Parsons Center

Community members interested in advanced digital photography are encouraged to register for an advanced digital photography class offered from 6-9 p.m., Tuesdays, Oct. 13-Nov. 10, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center. There will be no class Oct. 19.

This course is designed as a follow-up to the basic digital photography class, but participation in that class is not required. Students in this course will learn advanced skills for DSLR and other digital cameras, creative imaging techniques for landscape, wildlife, portrait and close-up shots, and low-light and night-time photography skills.

Roger Hughes will instruct the course. Samples of his work may be viewed at www.nwtpc.org.

The registration fee for this course is $125 per person. In addition, students will need a camera, operations manual and tripod. Print and email handouts will be available. Email and class evaluations of student images will also be utilized.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.

UTM Jackson Center to host ACT prep course October 10

Students hoping to raise their ACT scores are invited to register for an ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon or 1-5 p.m., October 10, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center. This course is available just in time for the October 24 national exam.

Students will learn to boost their scores and improve test performance by practicing test problems based on question frequency, difficulty, substantive knowledge, curriculum and alternative test-taking strategies. These quick, efficient tips for test-taking will be offered by course instructor Alex Beene, college and ACT advisor for Fayette County Schools.

Beene is an author, journalist and Tennessee educator. He has been named one of the top 40 under 40 leaders in West Tennessee and his work can be viewed in various publications throughout the Southeastern United States. He received bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Mississippi.

There is a registration fee per person.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/nondegree.php.