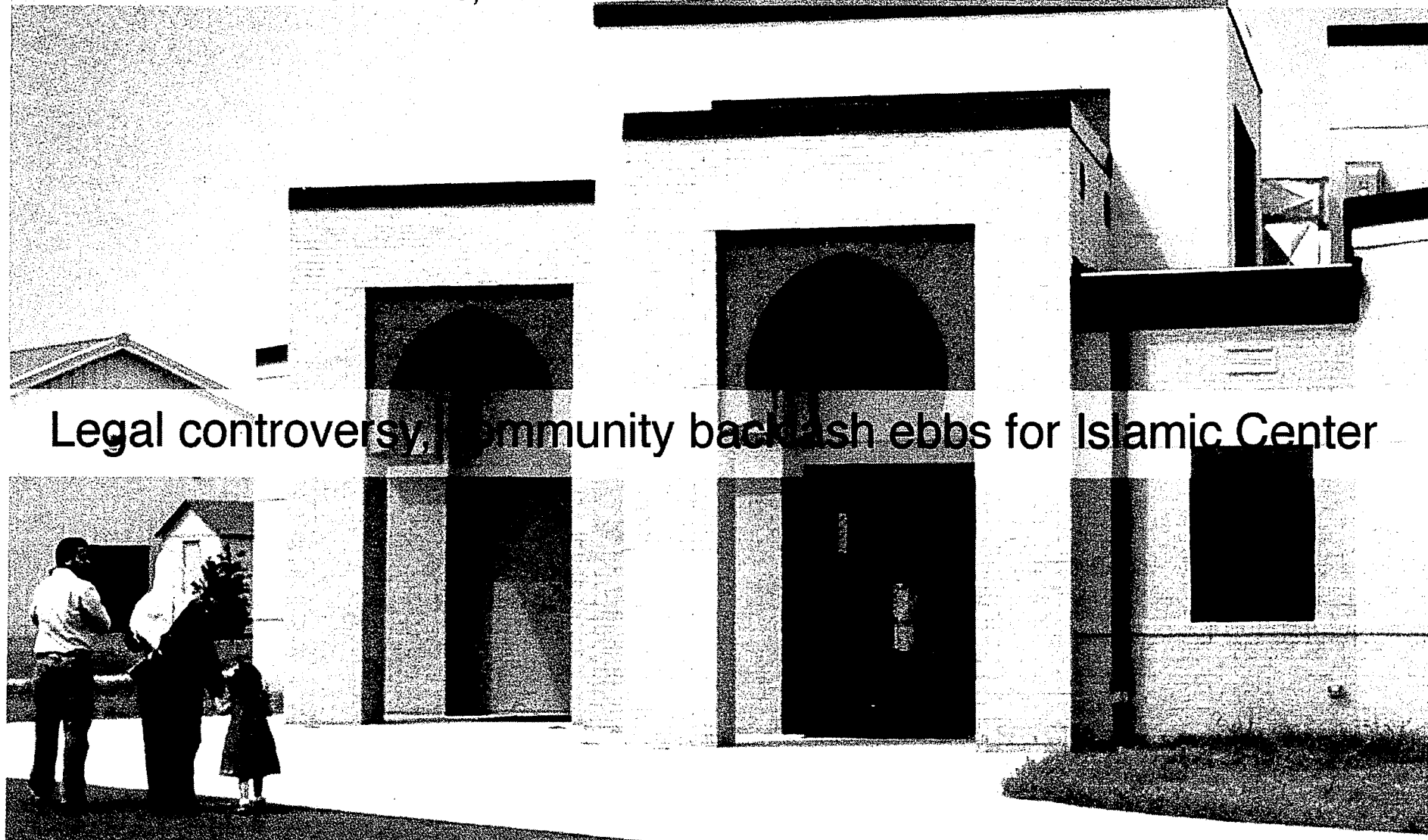


MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

SEPT. 26, 2012

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT



Legal controversy, community backlash ebbs for Islamic Center

A Murfreesboro Tradition



**We Have the Best
Happy Hour In Town!**
2 FOR 1 • Draft Beer • Well Drinks
• Daiquiri's • House Wine

2 for 1 Beer Specials Last Until Closing Time
2 for 1 Wine and Liquor Specials Last
Until 1 Hour Before Closing Time

8-CLOSE

CONTENT

NEWS

- 3 Smoking ban needs more solid enforcement, administration says
By Nick Georgiou
- Leadership Summit attracts young future professionals
Staff Report
- 4 Homecoming festivities bring the big top to campus Saturday
By Chris Marrano
- 5 Community banks are spotlighted at economic conference
By Jo-Jo Jackson

FEATURES

- 6 Blue Thestrals bring new meaning to 'fantasy sports'
By Mary Margaret Weatherford

COVER STORY

- Islamic center controversy slowing a year after groundbreaking
By Alex Hubbard and Emily West

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

- 10 The Boulevard's poor service belittles great menu
By Will Carrington
- 11 Band of Horses' new album reaches wider demographic
By Lauren Mandrell

RANTS AND RAVES

- 12 Check out local happenings
By Jessica Kryza
- 14 Awkward. season finale leaves fans anxiously waiting season three
By Meredith Galyon
- 15 Outdoor entertainment a great way to kick off the fall season
By Lauren Mandrell

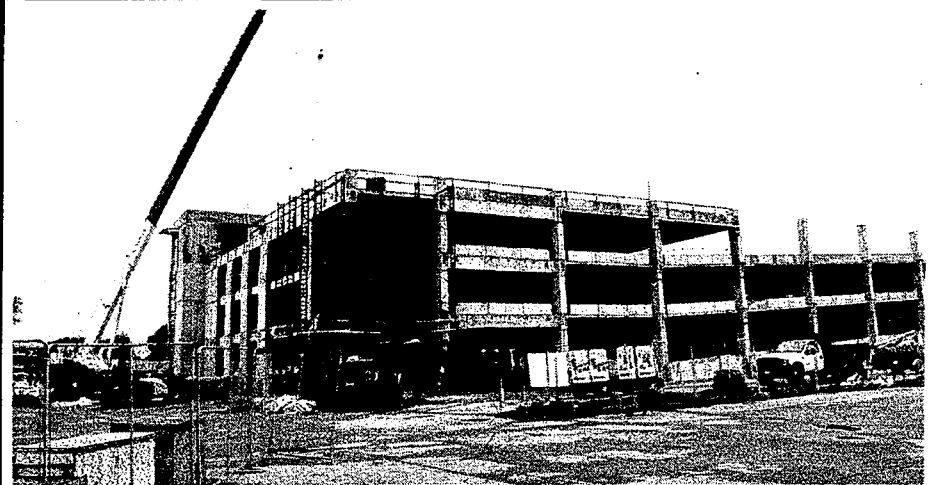
OPINIONS

- 16 High school-esque popularity contests pointless in college
By Jane Horne
- 17 A wasted vote is the best vote
By Alex Harris

SPORTS

- 18 Blue Raider Spotlight: Chelsea Ross shines despite early woes
By Connor Grott
- 19 Blue Raider Spotlight: Anthony Amos, redshirt senior leads victory
By Jordan Mayton

Sidelines Lens



Workers lay bricks on the exterior of MTSU's parking garage. The parking garage is scheduled to open in late spring/ early summer of 2013.
Photo by Matt Masters.

Cover designed by Andrew Williams. Cover photo by Briana Mailley.

Correction: In last week's edition, the photo for "Campus pantry opens: homeless, low income targeted" was mistakenly credited to MTSU News & Public Affairs. Briana Mailley took the photo.
Sidelines regrets this error.

Visit us at www.mtsusidelines.com

John Bragg Mass Communication Building
Center for Innovation in Media
1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8, Murfreesboro, TN 37132
Editorial: 615-494-7648

Sidelines Staff

Becca Andrews
Editor-in-chief
editor@mtsusidelines.com

Richel Albright
Managing editor
managing@mtsusidelines.com

Asher Hudson
Online director
online@mtsusidelines.com

Abena Ka-Dumasane
Online assistant
asstonline@mtsusidelines.com

Alex Hubbard
Campus news editor
news@mtsusidelines.com

Emily West
Community news editor
commnews@mtsusidelines.com

Emily Kubis
Features editor
features@mtsusidelines.com

Jane Horne
Arts & Entertainment editor
ae@mtsusidelines.com

Mark Mize
Sports editor
sports@mtsusidelines.com

Alex Harris
Opinions editor
opinions@mtsusidelines.com

Kelsey Klingenmeyer
Design manager
design@mtsusidelines.com

Nhu Duong
Photo editor
photo@mtsusidelines.com

Matt Masters
Associate photo editor
asstphoto@mtsusidelines.com

Justin Threlkeld
Ad manager
advertising@mtsusidelines.com

Leon Alligood
Adviser
leon.alligood@mtsu.edu

Smoking ban needs more solid enforcement, administration says



Students continue smoking despite posted signs for MTSU's tobacco free campus. Photo by Nhu Duong.

By Nick Georgiou Contributing writer

After more than a year of warning signs and nine months of a smoking ban, the enforcement to keep campus tobacco-free anticipates upcoming change.

As announced in the Sept. 13 Student Government Association meeting, university officials have taken notice that the enforcement policy needs re-evaluation because the ban is not entirely working.

"The smoke is clearing," said Coby Sherlock, SGA president. "At this point, it's not an attempt. It's done. There will be no more smoking on our campus."

According to Laura Sosh-Lightsy, assistant dean of Judicial Affairs, there have only been four referrals. Three were resolved peacefully while the fourth referral had a noncompliant student, who faced consequences.

The enforcement is currently implemented through student confrontation, requiring a student to gather information about the

offender and turn in the information to Judicial Affairs. At this point, there is no fine or fee approved, but the cases are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. If the list of offenses is substantial, punishment will be considered, and sanctions are based on the sum of the circumstance.

According to Sherlock, university President Sidney McPhee is ready to move forward with the tobacco-free policy and to begin enforcement immediately while the university still continues to handle smoking throughout campus.

"I don't think it's wrong," said Kaitlyn Crocker, junior mass communication major. "No one has asked me to stop."

Crocker said she would stop if she were given a fine.

The student argument of having the right to smoke anywhere is common, but university officials have a different vantage point.

"The school has the right to govern and limit its campus for the good of the campus," Sher-

lock said.

Regardless of student opinion, Deb Sells, the vice president of student affairs, said she is very optimistic about the effectiveness of the policy on campus.

"We're fooling ourselves if we think that we're going to get 100 percent compliance with the policy," Sells said.

Sells and Sherlock have noticed a significant decrease in the number of smokers on campus.

However, MTSU is not the only university experiencing smoking-ban enforcement problems. After three years of a ban, the University of Arkansas has started issuing citations for violations ranging from \$100-\$500, according to the UA's website. The school also offers cessation programs for students to quit smoking. Health services at MTSU cut prices on nicotine-replacement products in the pharmacy for students who wished to quit.

The punishment for violating the policy is still under development by McPhee and student affairs. ■

Leadership Summit attracts young future professionals



Graphic created by Christopher Do.

Staff report

The Murfreesboro Young Professionals will host a leadership summit on Nov. 9 for those interested in learning about business etiquette, networking opportunities and other business-focused sessions.

"MYP is excited to offer this unique opportunity," said Meagan Flippin, MYP president. "Our organization values its ability to develop the professional and personal aspects of young professionals to lead them to be productive members of the community. The MYP Leadership Summit is a direct reflection of those values."

MYP is a nonprofit, member-driven organization looking to create a unique community for professionals to develop

and grow their individual potential.

It created the branding phrase, "Know. Be Known. Contribute." to focus on three key areas of business: networking, professional development and philanthropy.

Featured speakers for the summit include, Allyn Walker with Dale Carnegie Training, Matt Chevront with Proof Branding, Van Richmond with Vantastic Seminars and Katie Kemp with MTSU.

Kemp, whose teaching interests include personal selling, retailing and principles of marketing, has been published in *Journal of Business Leadership*, *Journal of Marketing Education* and *Global Education Journal*, along with others.

This is the first leadership summit the organization has hosted and plans to make it an

annual event.

The event will take place at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Murfreesboro, off Old Fort Parkway, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Those who want to attend can register now until Nov. 8 at murfreesboroyoungprofessionals.org/registration.html. Cost of attendance is \$30 for members and \$50 for nonmembers; all proceeds will benefit The United Way of Rutherford and Cannon counties.

Sponsors for the event are Middle Tennessee Medical Center, DoubleTree by Hilton, CertaPro Painters, Fifth Third Bank, Reeves-Sain, *The Daily News Journal*, *Hob Nob Murfreesboro*, *Murfreesboro Magazine*, *The Murfreesboro Post* and *VIP Murfreesboro*. ■

Homecoming festivities bring the big top to campus Saturday



Members of Chi Omega create banners for their homecoming candidate. Photo by Taylor Humphrey.

By Chris Marrano Contributing writer

The university homecoming committee continues to expand its effort for the upcoming festivities as it places more than just the campus under its big top.

This year's homecoming has been dubbed "Under the Blue Top," a circus theme involving not only the campus community, but also the Murfreesboro community.

The week starts off on Sept. 29 with the homecoming golf tournament hosted by Campus Recreation Intramural Sports at Champion's Run Golf Course.

"I've had friends preparing for months for the tournament," said Brett Lanning, senior mass communication major.

Teams of four will participate in a friendly

competition open to all skill levels. Campus Recreation will also be hosting a 5k run Sept. 30 with the first 200 participants receiving T-shirts, and prizes awarded to the fastest male and female runners of each age group.

"Homecoming officially kicks off with the Homecoming Kick-Off event on Oct. 1 on the Intramural fields behind Greek Row," said Patrick Morrison, homecoming director.

Those attending the event can participate in the annual T-shirt swap. This year's swap, called "Out With the Old and in With the Blue," allows attendees to trade any T-shirt from any other university in Tennessee for an "Under the Blue Top" T-shirt. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the yard games competition, grab a bite

to eat and try out the inflatables.

The 2nd annual Horseshoe Pursuit will be a campus-wide hunt Oct. 2 for hidden horseshoes. New to this year's event, 10 golden horseshoes will be randomly hidden and can be turned in for a prize at Phillip's Bookstore. Those hunting for horseshoes should check the MTSU Homecoming page and the MTSU Alumni Association for clues to where the horseshoes will be hidden.

"It makes me feel like a pirate," said Patrick McSweeney, junior liberal arts major.

The annual Chili Cook-Off will take place at Stones River Mall on Oct. 3, which is the first time in several years it will be held off campus. The entire event will resemble a street fair with inflata-

bles and activities. Competitors in the cook-off will be judged on flavor, presentation, school spirit, attendance and student voting. Stones River Mall will also be hosting a "Paint the Mall Blue" event in order to celebrate school spirit.

Following the Chili Cook-off, Blue Coast Burrito will be hosting a Give Back Night Oct. 4 with 10 percent of the proceeds going back to MTSU.

Closing the homecoming week, the popular National Panhellenic

Council Step Show will take place at Murphy Center Oct. 5 at 7 p.m.

Homecoming week will conclude with the parade that starts at 10 a.m. and features floats, decorated golf carts and walking groups contributing to the circus theme.

Golf cart entries provide students and groups without the time or money to construct a float a fun and easy way to show school spirit.

The parade will start at the intersection of Robert Street and Maney Avenue continuing

down Maney Avenue, before turning left onto Main Street then left on MTSU Boulevard and then right onto Greenland Drive where it will end at the livestock parking lot.

"The parade is going to be incredible, with so many different entries and circus acts," Morrison said.

After the festivities, students can then attend the homecoming game at 2:30 p.m. where the queen and king will be announced.

CRIME BRIEFS

ASSAULT Womack Lane Apt. G Sept. 18, 12:31 a.m.

Authorities responded to a complaint of domestic disturbance. One party alleged that the other struck her with a door in the apartment. Officers spoke to both involved parties. Neither showed any sign of physical injury. Residential Life was notified, and both declined to stay in alternative housing. The procedure for obtaining warrants was explained to both parties.

ALARM Smith Hall Sept. 19, 9:18 p.m.

Authorities responded to a fire alarm. The fire department found no signs of fire. A steam pipe break activated the alarm.

THEFT Recreation Center Sept. 19, 11:28 p.m.

A complainant reported that his keys had been stolen.

TRAFFIC Alumni Drive Sept. 19, 11:08 p.m.

Authorities issued Keioshia Morgan, 25, for driving on a suspended drivers license.

TRAFFIC Bell Street Lot Sept. 20, 5:44 p.m.

A complainant reported that his vehicle had been struck while parked on campus.

TRAFFIC Greenland Drive Lot C Sept. 20, 6:31 p.m.

A complainant reported that his vehicle had been struck while parked on campus.

THEFT James E. Walker Library Sept. 20, 7:52 p.m.

A complainant reported that his flash drive had been stolen.

ALCOHOL Alumni Memorial Gym Sept. 21, 12:44 a.m.

Authorities arrested Michael Adkins, 19, and Keaton Baker, 20, on the charge of underage consumption of alcohol.

ALCOHOL James E. Walker Library Sept. 21, 1:58 a.m.

Authorities arrested Andrew Horn, 20, on the charges of underage consumption of alcohol and public intoxication.

Community banks are spotlighted at economic conference

By Jo-Jo Jackson
Staff writer

Community banks are essential to the future of Tennessee's economic growth, a top economic official told the MTSU Economic Outlook Conference last Friday.

"[Community banks] are under fire, and they're under challenge today," said Greg Gonzales, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions. "The biggest challenge that I face as the banking commissioner is the health of the community-banking system."

Small community banks, according to Gonzales, play a significant role in small business lending, economic development, job creation and market stabilization because they employ what Gonzales called "relationship lending" techniques that utilize soft data and human relationships between banks and business owners.

"Small businesses are the fuel for the U.S. economy," Gonzales said. "They represent approximately 99 percent of all employer firms in the US [and] employ half of all private-sector employees."

In addition to small banks' role in small business development, these financial institutions also play a crucial role in extending personal credit to small town and rural communities members.

"The nation's largest banks certainly have a tremendous presence in urban areas," Gonzales

said. "Community banks have the presence in small towns and rural communities all throughout the state and the country."

According to Gonzales, the way to find balance between regulation and growth is by tailoring community bank examinations and not imposing a "one size fits all" form of bank oversight.

"Community's banks serving the needs of Murfreesboro should not be subject to all the rules and requirements that JP Morgan is," Gonzales said.

Gonzales has been the department's commissioner since 2005. According to Gonzales, the primary goal within the department is to get state banks in a prime position to serve Tennessee.

Gonzales said federal policy that mainly addresses "too big to fail" financial institutions has a negative trickle-down effect on small community banks.

"I think it's critical that policy makers in Washington keep this balance that I'm talking about in mind as they add more regulation to the banking system," Gonzales said. "It has a tremendous impact on our economy—on local economies—as well."

Gonzales pointed to the issue of bank consolidation and the consolidation of their assets as a major concern for community financial institutions.

"The four biggest banks in the country—JP Morgan-Chase, Bank of America, Citi,

Wells—each have over \$1 trillion in assets," Gonzales said. "Together they have over 40 percent of the assets in the banking system."

In addition, he pointed to the size disparity between the big banks and small banks.

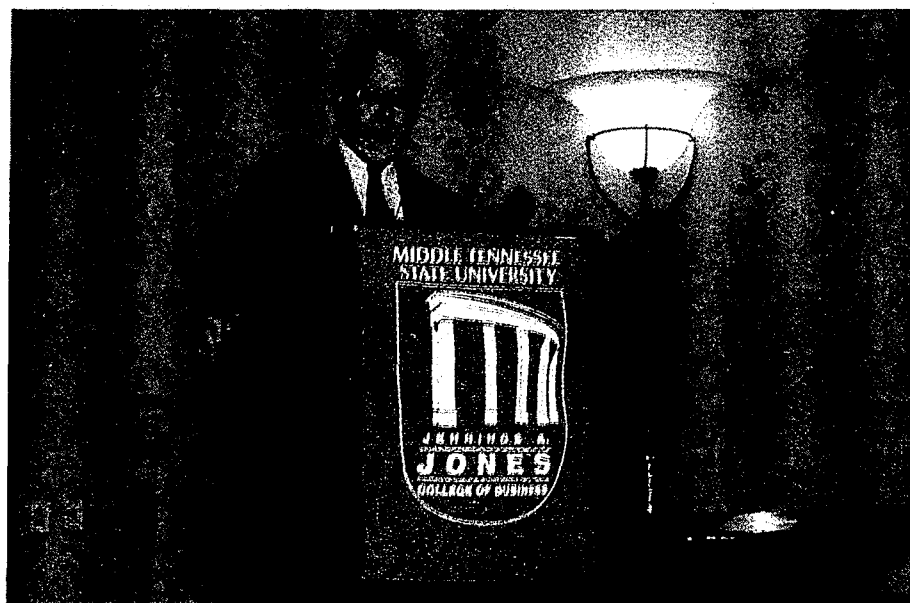
"The average big bank and the average community bank has grown from 12 times larger in [1985] to 64 times larger just two years ago," Gonzales said. "What I'm concerned about is that legislation and regulation created in Washington is helping to drive this consolidation in the industry."

Tennessee's State Banking Act promotes and fosters growth and development in the state's local banking industry and offers protection to consumers, Gonzales said, a clear sign that the act finds value in its community banking system.

"By law, we are required to find a balance in regulation," Gonzales said. "The Banking Act is a clear recognition that community banks are very important to Tennessee's economy."

In addition to Gonzales's keynote address, David Penn, director of MTSU's Business and Economic Research Center, presented the Economic Outlook for the city of Nashville and the state of Tennessee.

Tennessee's unemployment rate has decreased from last year's 9.4 percent to 8.5 percent. However, Penn said, this figure doesn't include under-



David Penn speaks to conference-goers about unemployment vs. underemployment. Photo by Jo-Jo Jackson.

employed Tennesseans, which increases the rate to 13.8 percent total unemployed and underemployed people.

Penn said that although there are positive signs in Tennessee economic growth, such as leveled or increased housing prices and increased sales tax collection, overall Tennessee's economy is slowing. He added that the Euro Zone crisis and the "fiscal cliff"—an uncertainty in future fiscal policy and public

budget cutbacks—contributed to the difficulties.

According to Teena Young, secretary for the dean of the College of Business, approximately 160 community members registered for the event. Among those registered were 10 MTSU students, and 25 faculty and staff members, including Jim Burton, dean of the College of Business. The conference was held from 8:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at Embassy Suites

Hotel and Conference Center in Murfreesboro.

The conference, now in its third year, was co-sponsored by the Jennings A. Jones Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise, MTSU Business and Economic Research Center and Weatherford Chair of Finance.

For more information on the Business and Economic Research Center, and its new and continuing project, visit mtsu.edu/berc.

MTSU ★ **HONEST & FAIR** ★

Students!

\$19.00

OIL CHANGE & FILTER

(\$40.00 value)

***call for an appt**

***must show student ID**

expires 10/10/12

ROBERT'S AUTO REPAIR

PROUDLY SERVING RUTHERFORD COUNTY FOR 21 YEARS EXPERIENCE
• FOREIGN & DOMESTIC • FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1991

ROBERT MCCONNELL • OWNER OPERATOR

(615) 896-1407

1515 NW Broad St. • Murfreesboro, TN 37129
(Across from Ford & Chevrolet of Murfreesboro)

www.RobertsAutoRepair.org

Find us on Facebook

AAA

ASE

Blue Thestrals bring new meaning to 'fantasy sports'

By Mary Margaret Weatherford
Contributing writer

Brooms down.

Clouds were beginning to creep overhead on the late summer afternoon and the air was heavy, humidity high, causing that uncomfortable sticky feeling—but the ritual continued. Kneeling, heads down, eyes closed, headbands strapped on, one hand gripping the broomstick lying in the grass, the other ready for take off—Middle Tennessee State University students and alumni prepare to battle. A short silence, anticipation builds. Brooms up!

Brooms advance across the field from both sides, moving closer to the opposing team. Straddling these brooms, of course, are the members of MT-SU's Quidditch team, the Blue Thestrals, at their weekly practice. Most "muggles," or those who fail to possess magical abilities, may know Quidditch only as the sporting event found within J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series. But the Blue Thestrals are an official part of the sport's muggle division—otherwise known as the International Quidditch Association.

A "thestral" is a winged horse-like figure with a skeletal body and bat-like wings. This figure, from the book series, was chosen in keeping with the university's mascot—Lightning, a winged-horse.



In Quidditch, the chaser tries to get the quaffle through the goal while avoiding a dodgeball hit from a beater. Photo by Nhu Duong.

Before beginning the actual practice game, the Blue Thestrals warmed up with jumping jacks and various stretches, ending with laps around the field as the humidity began to take its toll.

As the team filed

back to the sidelines, a white Igloo cooler full of cold water became the main source of interest, as cups were filled and thirst quenched.

"It is really physical," said Jake Sephton, 19, freshman and co-captain. "I played football

in high school, and this makes me almost as sore as football. You get hit so much."

"Think rugby with broomsticks and dodgeballs," said Jessica South, junior.

Senior and team captain Amanda Triplett,

21, is to thank for bringing this unique sport to campus. The team first became an official part of the IQA in early 2011, and by April, the team was approved as a campus organization. By fall the games began.

The first rule of Quidditch is that the broom has to be in between every player's legs at all times. It is a semi-contact sport, co-ed and rather fast-paced. There are two teams of seven, consisting

cont. on p. 7

cont. from p. 6

of three chasers, two beaters, one seeker and one keeper. A chaser's task is to get the quaffle (a semi-deflated volleyball) through opposing team's goal. They can run with it, pass or kick it to get it down the field and through the goal.

The goal consists of three hoops side by side each at a skinny pole, and senior Bonnie McCabe serves as keeper, whose job is to block the "quaffle" from entering the goal of her team.

Each seeker tries to catch the "snitch," and if captured, the game is automatically over. Fans of the series may wonder how the muggle players recreate the golden, winged ball that zooms so quickly it is nearly invisible.

The Blue Thestrals' snitch is from Vanderbilt University, and he shows up for games—he's sort of the "state snitch," the team said. A snitch typically dons yellow garb, with a tennis ball attached to the back of his or her shorts—this, the seekers must obtain.

Caitlin Wade, a sophomore, serves as a beater—she uses dodgeballs, referred to as bludgers in the wizard world, to hit opponents.

"I normally sneak behind them and hit them in the back," said Wade, 20.

"She likes to go for the face," cackled teammate Josh Duggin in the background.

Duggin, an MTSU graduate who serves as a beater or chaser, is a rarity among the bunch. He has not read the

"Harry Potter" books.

"He is frowned upon in our society," Sephton said with a chuckle.

Duggin has seen all the movies though. He has perhaps made up for this short-coming by tattooing the team's crest on his leg. Duggin designed the crest one day and had it tattooed on himself the next.

Despite popular belief, Triplett pointed out it is by no means a requirement to have read the books or to have seen the movies. She said some universities' Quidditch teams are comprised of guys who just want to play a new sport, but have not cracked open one book of the eight volume series.

Back on the field, Andrea Triplett, manager and mother of the captain, known as "Quid Mom" suddenly yells: "Time out! Tie shoe!"

Graduate Andrew Owensby, kneeled to the ground to tie his white tennis shoe, sporting an orange USA Quidditch jersey with an American flag stamped on the chest. His broom handle matches his shirt, covered in tie-dye orange duct tape. After a practice round, Owensby expressed the reactions he has received when telling others he plays Quidditch.

"[It] ranges from indifference to hostility," said the 22 year old matter-of-factly.

When the team used to practice on Bell Street, he said, "We'd often get people who pass by and yell random crap—people sayin' 'Harry Potter sucks.'"

The team doesn't seem to get discouraged



The Blue Thestrals practice protecting their goal from the opposing team. Photo by Nhu Duong.

by snide remarks or opinions, however.

"The entire team—we're a collection of nerds, it's amazing," said South with a giggle.

A "newbie" to the sport, freshman Sarek Futch, said he loves the sport after attending only one practice.

"It's awesome. It's adrenaline pumping," he said enthusiastically after finishing up a practice round.

"I feel like I'm definitely going to be sore tomorrow, but its worth it."

The team is set to play in the South Regional Tournament in Augusta, Ga., in March. If they place high enough, the Thestrals will be eligible to participate in the 2013 Quidditch World Cup in Florida.

As of late, there has been discussion on whether Quidditch should be a part of the NCAA, but there seem to be mixed opinions. Triplett said that the sport's officials don't necessarily want the game to be seen as serious enough to merit

induction.

"Like Alex Benepe (CEO of IQA) said, 'You can't be too serious when you're running around with a broom in between your legs,'" said Triplett.

"It's just like any other regular sport. It is nerdy, but don't diss it," said Tyler Gibson, sophomore.

The Thestrals' first game of the season is Oct. 21 at 1 p.m. against Belmont. The Quidditch team has bumper stickers, T-shirts for sale, and it is rumored that the team may acquire

robes to sport at upcoming games. Updates on games and happenings of the Blue Thestrals can be found at Facebook.com/MTSUquidditch.

And if you hear "brooms up!" be prepared to watch the Thestrals in action. ■

COVER STORY

Islamic center controversy slowing a year after groundbreaking

By Alex Hubbard
and Emily West
News editors

Imam Ossama Mohamed Bahloul spoke on reaching the community of Murfreesboro during the first Friday prayer last week in the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro on the anniversary of the building's groundbreaking.

In order to have this first worship service, Imam Bahloul, along with the rest of the Islamic community, underwent three years of controversy and strife for building a new facility.

"It feels like everything is in its place," Bahloul said. "It feels right. People are supposed to be excited and happy. It feels so special because we can celebrate the freedom of religion, and that the concept of liberty is alive and not dead. The facility has become a symbol because so many people didn't want us to be here, and so many have supported us worldwide."

The Islamic community has maintained a presence in Murfreesboro for at least three decades, and the previous facility opened in 1982.

In 2009, seeking larger accommodations, the center decided to find a new location, ultimately laying plans to build a completely new structure on Veals Road off Bradyville Pike. Within these



Members of the Islamic Center participate in Salah prayer during the first Jumu'ah service in the new mosque. Photo by Briana Mailley.

years of controversy in Middle Tennessee, other mosques in Memphis and Chattanooga have opened without protest, leaving only the Murfreesboro area with an upset community.

The construction area was vandalized on multiple occasions, including graffiti spray-painted on the sign announcing the construction of the Islamic center and eventually

leading to the arrest of a Texas man on federal charges after he threatened to bomb the center in a telephone message. The Federal Bureau of Investigation held a press conference June 2012 addressing the matter of the Texas man, and varied opinions from the community were spouted after it was over.

"We feel Murfreesboro is a target be-

cause it is the center of the United States," said Elizabeth Coker, Murfreesboro resident of 18 years, at the press conference. "We do feel Murfreesboro was pinpointed for the spread of Islam. This is not a peaceful mosque, and we do not support it."

Last September, after construction began, residents of Rutherford County brought a suit in Chancery Court seeking

to end construction on Veals Road.

Chancellor Robert Corlew twice ruled against challenges to construction of the mosque, citing freedom of religion in the First Amendment.

Much of the controversy in the beginning was due to ignorance of a religion most Americans do not know much about, said Ed Kimbrell, freedom of expression

professor.

"The ignorance is there of all the religions unless it is white, Anglo-Saxon protestant, which is the South," Kimbrell said. "An uneducated nation in the area of religion bodes ill of Thomas Jefferson's passionate belief of religious liberty. This idea of religious liberty is a sacred human right, and

Cont. on p. 9

COVER STORY

Cont. from p. 8

if it is that, set it free. It is something we have to protect endlessly.”

In the MT Poll surveyed the fall of 2010, 80 percent of Tennesseans polled agreed that Muslims should have the same religious liberties as other Americans. However, the poll also revealed that Tennesseans were on even footing as far as local communities being able to prohibit the building of mosques if the community does not want them. Of the surveyed, 43 percent agreed communities should have the right to prohibit, while 48 percent disagreed that communities reserve that right. The remaining eight percent was neutral.

According to Kimbrell, controversy was also stirred by a fear of Sharia law taking over Tennessee and the Constitution.

“They are running around saying, ‘they are going to take over and put in Sharia law,’” Kimbrell said. “In this country, to replace the Constitution would be one of the greatest ‘Hail, Mary’ passes in history, and it would fail. No one is going to do that, but that is the element of fear. We have people saying ‘Oh, the Muslims are coming,’ and, yes, they are coming. They are a people of peace.”

But opponents of the mosque turned to a different challenge—asserting that Rutherford County failed to provide public notice at the May 2010 meeting of the county planning commission, when

the commission voted unanimously to allow the construction plan to move forward.

At the heart of the argument was Murfreesboro’s small, twice-weekly newspaper, the *Murfreesboro Post*, in which the county routinely placed public notices and was the forum in which that particular meeting was announced.

Corlew ruled that the county erred when it did not announce the meeting to a wider potential audience and that it should have due to the high-profile nature of the mosque.

“What you have is a double standard,” said Luke Goodrich, an attorney representing the Islamic center for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty. “Christian churches get approved under one standard of notice, and the mosque is subjected to a different standard merely because some local residents oppose it.”

Goodrich said that, between 2000 and 2007, 20 Christian churches received approval at planning-commission meetings that were announced in the same manner as the mosque—only the mosque received a different set of rules after Corlew’s ruling.

Corlew issued an injunction to stop the center from opening, but a federal judge overruled Corlew when the Islamic Center and the U.S. Department of Justice sued Rutherford County to push the center’s opening forward.

Judge Kevin Sharp, of the Middle District

of Tennessee, ruled that preventing the mosque to open, even under Corlew’s ruling, would violate the “Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act,” a federal law that allows some religious organizations to deal with local land laws differently.

Due to ongoing legal action, Sharp declined to comment to *Sidelines*.

Mosque opponents, led by attorney Joe Brandon, Jr., filed a motion with Sharp to allow the group to enter the federal case. Sharp granted the motion under the condition that the opponents only address the legal question at hand—that Rutherford County failed to provide public notice.

Brandon did not return an email and phone call seeking comment.

Even as Sharp ruled that the mosque could open in August, legal action in Federal Court continues, and Rutherford County is appealing Corlew’s original ruling in state appellate court.

“We are looking to pass on what has happened these past few years,” said Saleh Sbenaty, an engineering professor. “It’s the exception of the controversy will only be for an exception period of time. I don’t see the case really going much further. In all the years of working at MTSU, I’ve only received positive feedback from my students and other faculty.”

The Islamic Center of Murfreesboro has ties with campus.

Prior to the move to Veals Road, the center hosted as many as 500



Osama Mohamed Bahloul, imam at the Islamic Center Murfreesboro, talks about the importance of community support and freedom of religion. Photo by Briana Mailley.

MTSU students for services, according to a fact sheet released by the Becket Fund.

Despite the controversy, the campus community has seemed unperturbed, said Drost Kokoye, vice president of the MTSU Muslim Students Association.

“On campus, everyone is very supportive for the most part,” Kokoye said. “People come up to me all the time and express words of encouragement. Off campus, it’s a different story.”

Kokoye, 21 and a

senior political science major, attributed the difference in attitude to a more diverse community on campus than what exists in Murfreesboro at large, as well as media coverage.

“People are very rude,” Kokoye said of leaving campus. “They stare. Some will say not-so-nice things. But it’s because the only Muslims they’ve been exposed to are the crazies shown on sensational news channels.”

Kokoye did not know the number of Muslims at MTSU, but

said the association’s regular meeting typically brought about 20 people.

The Muslim community is also receiving support from the Sojourners, a national Christian advocate group for faith in action for social justice. The Sojourners are placing a billboard with the message “Love Your Muslim Neighbors.” The sign is slated to go up Sept. 24 at 1015 S. Church St. ☐

The Boulevard's poor service belittles great menu items

By Will Carrington
Contributing writer

The Boulevard Bar and Grille has quickly become a popular destination for MTSU students in the few years it has been open, and it is easy to see why.

The Boulevard boasts an excellent drink menu, with its website promoting more than 29 beers on tap. Along with the standard watery American beer selection, several off-the-wall choices are included, such as several varieties of Nashville-brewed Yazoo. The bottled beer selection is equally as impressive, with everything from Milk Stout to Belgian staple Grolsh.

The food is surprisingly impressive and varied for a college bar. There are a few obvious bar-food fixtures, like bacon cheese fries, fried pickles and nachos. The Boulevard also has a few unique takes on macaroni and cheese, including lobster-infused and fried.

As well as the typical bar fare, The Boulevard features a wide variety of quesadillas, burritos and tacos, full of everything one would need in a tortilla. The Bam Bam Shrimp Tacos are definitely a meal to consider. The Boulevard also makes a fantastic pizza, with every topping imaginable. The amusingly named "Grant's PMS," a pretty standard pizza by most measurements, is made up of high-quality ingredients (on this one, for example, pepperoni, mushroom, sausage and mozzarella) and doesn't really necessitate a whole pile of exotic toppings to make a delicious pie.

College students won't



The conveniently located bar and grill is great for a night with friends, but not for a quick bite between classes. Photo by Nhu Duong.

pay a lot here, either — almost every single food item is somewhere in the range of \$8 to \$12, with large pizzas hitting the \$16 mark.

The quality of the food comes at a price, however. As mentioned before, the food will never disappoint. Unfortunately, the service at the Boulevard is the worst.

My most recent visit reinforced every criticism I've had with The Boulevard since I first started

eating there.

I visited with several friends, and we all came for at least a drink, although a few wanted to order food.

We ate there on a Wednesday night, a little after normal dinner hours. A waitress attended to our table roughly 10 minutes after we were seated. She took our orders, and then didn't return with our drinks for another 15 minutes.

During that time, I

watched our waitress engage in a lengthy conversation with someone she obviously knew at another table. Our party stayed at the restaurant for about an hour and a half, and our waitress returned to our table maybe three times, only to deliver food and drink.

This oversight was not an isolated incident. A previous visit to The Boulevard included watching several of the waitstaff seated around one of the

dining tables, completely ignoring the customers. Someone in our party had to actually walk over to the table and demand the waiter bring us our beverages, which we had ordered a while before. As if our waiter's indifference wasn't enough, he didn't immediately go to the bar for our drinks, instead wrapping up his conversation first.

The quality of The Boulevard's food is its saving grace.

Most establishments would not be worth a return visit after such shoddy service, but its convenience to campus and delicious food only benefits this type of establishment. Future patrons need to either be sure to carve out a substantial amount of time or, for the impatient, simply choose another option. ■

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Band of Horses' new album reaches wider demographic

By Lauren Mandrell
Contributing Writer

It has been nearly six years since Band of Horses has released an album with enough magnitude to get the attention of more fans, but with the Sept. 18 release of *Mirage Rock* they are getting right to it.

Mirage Rock shows fans all of their influences, from 50s country to alternative, that is clear to be a hit on all of the alternative charts, if it isn't already. It takes about two listens to actually catch all of the influences and to get into the album— but once that happens, it won't stop. It is the perfect driving music on a warm, fall day.

The album starts out with the single "Knock Knock," which has already seen airplay on alternative radio stations. It shows the listener that the band is still having fun while still making people wanting clap their hands and dance. Also, it might add a little lead foot to those jamming out while riding in the car.

"How to Live" really shows that the band's sound has grown since previous albums, while still holding onto that classic Band-of-Horses sound. It's sure to be a crowd pleaser at shows.

"Slow Cruel Hands of Time" is obviously influenced by 70s rock bands and sounds just like something that would have been in "Almost Famous." It makes the longing for high school days to come back to the listener while bringing back memories of old friends and childhood.

The next song is a little more upbeat than the last.



Those who felt lukewarm about Band of Horses in the past might be swayed by their new album. Photo courtesy of Facebook.

"A Little Biblical" sounds something that Elliott Smith would write, but his version would be a lot more depressing. Maybe Band of Horses wanted to go in that direction, but it doesn't really go well with the rest of the album. It is a little too up-tempo for the flow of the album as a whole.

The next song on the

album, "Shut-In Tourist," shows the vocals of previous songs from the band. The song goes back to "Ode to the LRC," and while waiting for the song to pick up, it ends without a climax worthy enough to be called a Band of Horses song.

"Dumpster World" is probably one of the more depressing songs on the

album. It is basically calling out people who don't care enough about suffering, and that they cannot imagine how people could let this happen in the modern world.

Mirage Rock picks back up with "Electric Music," the perfect roadtrip song. With influences from all different directions, like country and 70s rock, the

song has a clear climax that you will find yourself tapping your foot along to. The song even talks about driving down the interstate to Nashville.

"Everything's Gonna Be Undone" has a 50s country appeal and creates the feeling of being at a small venue watching your favorite country or bluegrass band playing

acoustically. It shows that the band is looking toward playing more diverse venues for a diverse audience.

To anyone listening to the album, it is clear that "Feud" will be the album's next single. With harsh lyrics like "I want you to fail," most people can identify with the band. This single proves the vocals of Ben Bridwell are never going to stop being wonderful.

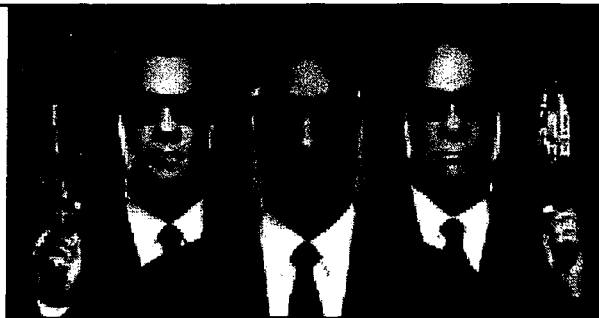
"Long Vows" also boasts a 50s country feel. With a soulful guitar that is distinct to the country community, the song makes anyone with a heart want to cry, laugh and remember past relationships or friendships. It is the perfect song to slow dance under a starlit sky or just lay in bed and dream of other times.

The album ends with "Heartbreak on the 101." If the previous song wasn't tormenting enough, this one is. Most people can identify with this song because at one point or another, people have become fed up chasing after something they can't have. The string pieces used in the song add the perfect sadness factor that will make you cry if you hadn't already. The shaking in Ben's voice makes it clear that it is a very personal song.

Mirage Rock is an overall success for the little-known band. It will certainly make a huge impression on the alternative community. ■

RANTS AND RAVES

Sept. 26-30
Men in Black 3
Wednesday - Saturday at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday at 7 p.m.
Theater
Student Union Building, Room 208
Admission: \$2



When Men in Black came out, most of us were kids, and the movie made us believe aliens roamed among us and that our scary math teacher was really a giant cockroach. The movie was a hit, and a few producers called for sequels. Consequently, Will Smith

and Tommy Lee Jones are at it again, making us laugh as they save the world from evil aliens. This time there is a huge change that drastically affects the MIB duo. History has been altered, and no one knows how or why. To understand the madness, J. (Smith) trav-

els back in time to 1969 to prevent K. (Jones) from being assassinated by an alien named Boris, who blames K. for his troubles. J. teams up with a younger K., played by Josh Brolin, to save K.'s life, the agency and the future of humankind.

Sept. 27
Lord T and Eloise
with Almost Kings and Hashbrown
8 p.m., Main Street Live!
527 W. Main St.
Admission: \$7
Age: 18+

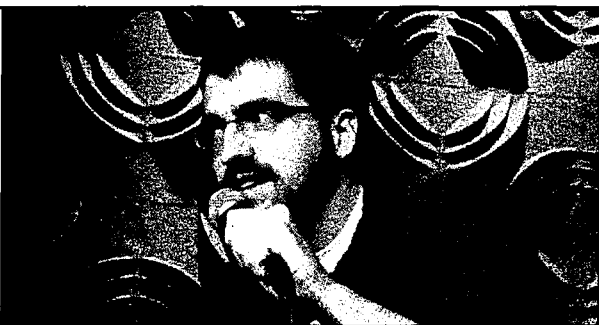


There will be an interesting experience Thursday at Main Street Live with Lord T and Eloise, Almost Kings and Hashbrown. Lord T and Eloise is a duo that has coined their own unique rap style as "aristocrunk." Almost Kings' style is a rock and hip-hop fusion,

and Hashbrown is a disc jockey that mixes the latest hits. Before attending this, the best way to decide if these acts are worth the money, is to check out their music first. It may not be what you are expecting. It might even come off as amateurish and not the

slightest bit catchy, and everyone knows that amateur rap is the worst. At least Hashbrown will be there to give you something familiar to dance to. If you end up second-guessing yourself on whether you should go, just skip it.

Sept. 27-29
Trae Crowder
9 p.m., Out Front On Main
1511 East Main Street
Admission: \$8
Age: 18+



Get ready for a night of laughs. Local comedians will be performing at Out Front On Main, a performance venue within walking distance from campus. The headliner for all three nights will be Knoxville-native Trae Crowder. Accompanying him each night will

be a few other comedians from Nashville and Murfreesboro such as Drew Morgan, Waylon Whisky, Denver Little, John Grimes, John Black and J.C. Ratcliff. You can expect some R-rated material from this gang. With that being said, if that is not your kind of

comedy, then don't show up arm in arm with your parents. This event is for those 18 and up, but it is also a B.Y.O.B. event for those who are 21 years old and up.

Sept. 28-Oct. 1
Ballet at the Park
Pre-show entertainment at 6:30 p.m.;
Show starts 7:30 p.m.
Centennial Park Bandshell
2500 West End Ave.,
Nashville
Admission: FREE/Donations accepted



For those of you who have always wanted to experience the ballet, this is your chance to enjoy a night of beauty and talent in a great location — Centennial Park. The Dance Theatre of Tennessee presents "Carmen." The tragic story based on the famous opera,

is laced in seduction, jealousy, betrayal and death. Opening the program will be a performance called "Ecole de Ballet," which is an introduction to the ballet world, giving the audience an inside look at the life of a ballet dancer. Before the show begins, food and beverage

will be available on site provided by local food trucks. The event is free, but there is a \$10 suggested donation if you wish to donate to DTT.

Sept. 28
Posh's Breathe in the Season Fashion Show
Doors open at 7 p.m., show starts at 8:30 p.m., Posh Boutique
4027 Hillsboro Pike,
Nashville
Admission: \$25/ VIP \$40



Posh Boutique at the Hill Center is hosting a fashion show to benefit the LUNgevity Foundation, the largest private funder of lung cancer research. Posh will showcase the newest fall fashion styles on the runway while serving hors d'oeuvres and beverage

ages. Additionally, 100 percent of the proceeds from the amount of ticket sales generated will go to the LUNgevity Foundation. This would be a good event to attend for those who are fashion conscious and for fashion majors as well. Familiarizing yourself with new

fall fashion for a great cause is an event worth checking out. For more information about LUNgevity and to purchase your ticket, go to lungevity.org and click on the events section.

RANTS AND RAVES

Sept. 28

Celebrate the City feat. Reptar, Rubblebucket and Cherub
7 p.m., War Memorial
301 6th Ave. N.,
Nashville
Admission: \$15+
Age: All ages



Artist Growth presents the first "Celebrate the City." This monthly concert event brings touring artists and emerging acts together to embrace the music and culture of Nashville. The first round of bands that have the honor of performing at the event this Friday will

be Reptar, Rubblebucket and Nashville's pop/funk duo Cherub, which many have enjoyed at house shows in Murfreesboro. All of these bands are currently on tour. For the price of a single ticket to only be \$15 is almost unbelievable, considering the talent that radiates

from these three acts. If you love to dance to pop, indie and electronic music and listen to some awesome tunes, then don't pass this up. To purchase your tickets, go to patron.tpac.org.

Sept. 29

Culture Cringe Movie Release Party/Festival
8:30 p.m., 3 Brothers Deli and Brewhouse
223 W. Main St.
Admission: \$5
Age: All ages



Aspiring filmmakers and horror buffs, this is just for you. The first ever Heebie Jeebies Horror Short Film Festival will be at 3 Brothers on Saturday and will be hosted by horror show host Doctor Gangrene, who was named Best Horror Movie Host by the

Nashville Scene. Locally-made horror short films will be screened for the public. Following the screening will be an award ceremony that has been cleverly named a "scaremony." Awards will be given for various titles: Best Director, Funniest Short, Scariest

Short, Best Young Filmmaker and more. Larry Underwood, a writer for "Scary Monsters Magazine" and award-winning writer and television producer, partnered with Culture Cringe for the film festival. Get ready for a monstrously entertaining night.

Sept. 29-30

Rennerfest
7 p.m., The Boro Bar and Grill
1211 Greenland Dr.
Admission: \$5
Age: 21+



You can enjoy five local acts for only \$5 at The Boro on Saturday thanks to Michael Renner, the former member for Hellbillies, who is now the front man for Calhoun. Renner organized a two-day event that features an eclectic group of local artists. The Likes of

Us, Dirty Proper, Doctor Gonzo, Calhoun and The Hardin Draw will keep you entertained all night. Each group has its own style that is sure to keep the event interesting. The action continues the following morning, which has been appropriately titled "Hangover

Sunday," featuring Levi Massie, Billy Plant and Paige Small, easing your hangover with some country music. Lauren Wray from the TV show "American Pickers" will host the event on Saturday.

Sept. 29

Ballroom Dance Demo
6 p.m., Cali Studios
855 W. College St.
Admission: FREE



Want to work out those two left feet? Cali Studios welcomes ballroom dance instructor Eddie Lorenz to its fitness studio to not only spice up your exercise routine, but also to teach those who want to learn and appreciate the art of ballroom dance. No

partner is required, but it would probably more fun to dance with a friend or spouse. There is an online survey on Cali Studios's website where you can let Lorenz know what you would like to learn to make your night more enjoyable. Maybe you end up having a great time

shedding those calories while moving your hips. For more information and to register, go to thecalstudios.com.

Sept. 30

PourTaste's East Nashville Cocktail Crawl
5:30 p.m., Bongo Java Roasting Co.
107 South 11th St.,
Nashville
Admission: GA: \$50
Age: 21+



Nashville's genius mixologists are increasing local cocktail culture. PourTaste presents The East Nashville Cocktail Crawl to show off the passion and imagination of each mixologist so they can present their talent behind the bar as well as some delicious

concoctions. Participating venues — No. 308, Watanabe World Cuisine, Pomodoro East, Rumors East and The Holland House Bar and Refuge — will entertain us with their skills and love for the art of the cocktail. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate

in a tasting, focusing on boutique, spirits, cordials and liquors in an informative and interactive way. Appetizers and live music will also be provided as well. To acquire more information and to purchase your ticket, go to eastnashvillecocktailcrawl.com/

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Steve Jobs' last hurrah in the iPhone 5 a success

By Asher Hudson
Online director

Last weekend brought the release of the last product that Steve Jobs had a hand in—the iPhone 5.

When the iPhone 4 was released in the summer of 2010, it was hailed as the best, cleanest and most beautiful smartphone on the market. So how does a company grow on “perfection?” By making it smaller and larger at the same time.

“We don’t want to make a new phone, we want to make a much better phone,” said Jony Ive, senior vice president of design at Apple. “With this unique relationship people have with their iPhone, we take changing it really seriously.”

The changes that have been made to the iPhone 5 are subtle at first glance, but can really be felt once the user starts playing around with it.

On the surface, it is noticeable that the two glass panels present on the iPhone 4/4S models have been ditched for an aluminum “slate” backplate.

The two things that become very apparent when picking up the phone is that the screen is larger, but the iPhone is no wider than the previous generation.

This was accomplished by increasing the height of the iPhone 5 to encompass a four-inch screen. The second is that the iPhone 5 is thinner than its predecessor. In fact, it is 20 percent thinner than the old iPhone 4/4S.

One thing anyone will notice around campus is that the vast majority of

people that have iPhones have a case to protect them.

This can make the phone larger and bulkier to handle and use. This 20 percent space-saving feature can really be felt when it has a protective case on, is a more comfortable fit and is not too chunky.

The changes are not just cosmetic; there have been performance boosts under the hood, too—a new Apple A6 processor for added performance, more internal processing memory and the inclusion of a LTE (4G) chip.

For Verizon and Sprint customers, the classic CDMA (3G) and LTE

(4G) chips have been combined into one, and AT&T customers will see a change from a mini-Sim-Card to a micro-SimCard.

A major concern for users is that the battery power has increased minutely from the iPhone 4/4S. However, Apple has addressed this issue with their new A6 pro-

cessor. The iPhone 5 has been designed to be more powerful than the A5 in the previous generation, but uses a fraction of the power to do it.

The iconic white headphones that Apple created an entire marketing campaign around have been redesigned. EarPods are a hybrid headphone design,

not quite outside the ear, but not entirely inside the ear either. They plug over the ear canal in the same way as a rubber stopper does, but they also have small channels to equalize ear pressure and enable the wearer to hear noises around them.

Another major change, as with all new iPhone releases, is a new iOS. iOS 6 looks and is similar to previous versions. This is because Apple believes in the design concept “if it isn’t broken, don’t fix it.”

There is nothing more frustrating for an end-user than having things changed around on them; for example, Windows 7 compared to Windows 8.

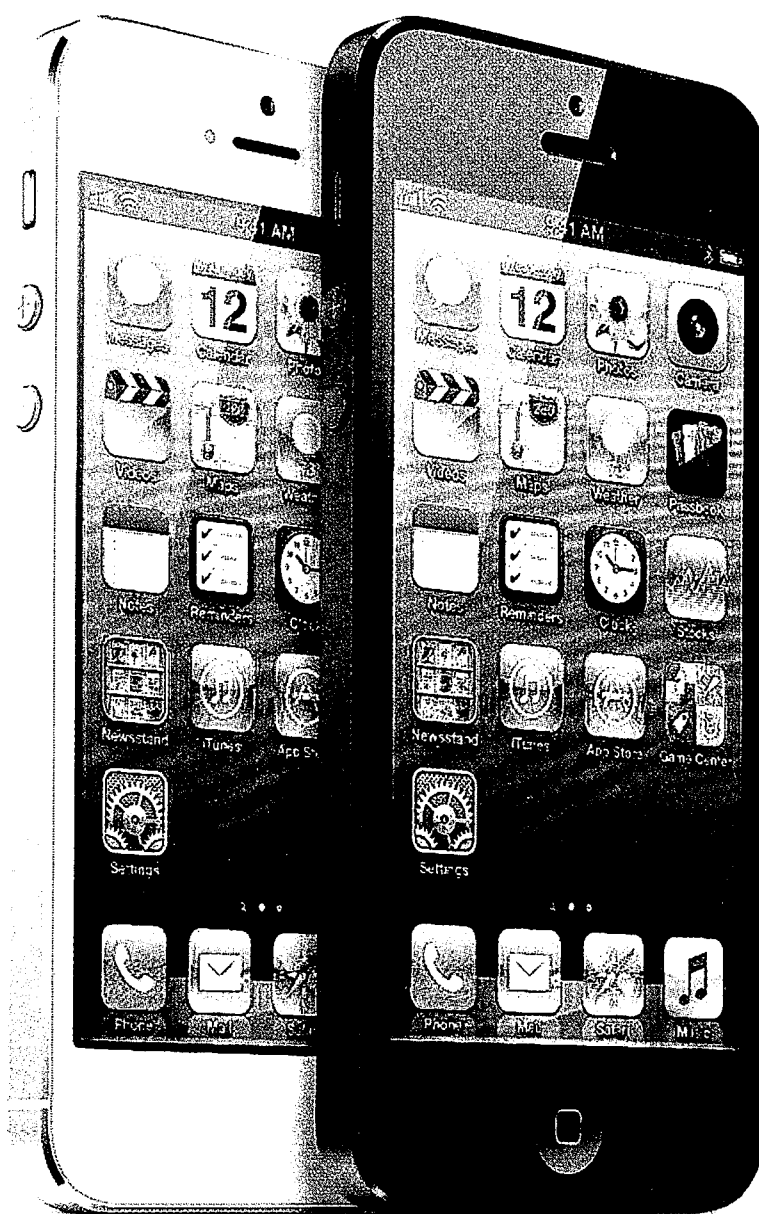
Really, the only major frustration that early iPhone 5 adopters will face is the disappearance of the previously incorporated Google Apps, the two biggest being Maps and YouTube.

Apple has incorporated its own version of “Maps” that now includes turn-by-turn navigation. The YouTube app can now be found in the new App Store.

Customary with all iPhones of late, there are 16GB, 32GB and 64GB versions available from \$199, \$299 and \$399, respectively.

As of last weekend, the online Apple Store has a three- to four-week shipping delay for the iPhone 5.

I guess this is what happens when they sold more than two million pre-orders in the first 24 hours, a statistic the late Steve Jobs would be proud of. ■



Apple follows the “bigger is better” mantra with the new four-inch display of the iPhone 5. Photo courtesy of Apple.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Outdoor entertainment a must during 'in-between season'

By Merideth Galyon
Staff writer

That perfect "in-between seasons" weather is right around the corner, so whether you are lamenting the end of summer or embracing the beginning of fall, there are plenty of things going on outdoors to help you take advantage of the beautiful weather.

Cheekwood Botanical Gardens & Museum of Art

Although it is most commonly known for its beautiful botanical gardens, Cheekwood has plenty of other exhibits open during the fall months. From Sept. 22-Oct. 31, as part of Cheekwood Harvest, you can take a tour of their new pumpkin patch and even paint or carve one to take home. You can also see their vast display of chrysanthemums, along with more than 40 scarecrows that are scattered throughout the trails.

Murfreesboro Saturday Market

From 8 a.m. - noon every Saturday through the end of October, vendors set up stands with fresh fruits, vegetables, bread and flowers around the courthouse in downtown Murfreesboro. It was even mentioned in *Spry* magazine as one of seven farmer's markets "worth the special trip." So if you live nearby, take a walk or ride your bike to grab some fresh goods and support local vendors.

Disc Golf at Barfield

Disc golf, sometimes referred to as "Frisbee golf," is a trend that has begun to sweep the nation. It is a sport that is inexpensive and requires little physical activity. The object of the game is to throw a disc into a basket, which could be on the ground or propped up against a tree. Barfield offers courses for both beginning and advanced players, with courses in open terrain and some in wooded areas. There are also doubles tournaments going on every Thursday.

Musician's Corner

This ongoing event on Saturdays throughout the end of October features free music from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Centennial Park. Upcoming events include a Music City Roots special square dancing event on Sept. 22 and Sixpence None the Richer on Oct. 13. Other features include a mobile food court that starts at 11 a.m. each Saturday, as well as a Beer and Wine Garden Happy Hour from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Rock Island

Surrounding the Great Falls of the Caney Fork River, Rock Island State Park offers a wide variety of activities to fit everyone's needs. In addition to camping, swimming, hiking, fishing, canoeing and various sports-related activities, during the weekend of Sept. 29 the park will host its 37th Annual Fall Festival and Craft Fair. The event will focus around crafts, an-

tiques and jewelry, as well as several different games and even some musical performances.

Bicycling

Although many students ride their bikes to class every day, there is a different element of fun that can be found when riding on a park trail for leisure rather than strictly for transportation. Murfreesboro offers several different options for bike trails, including the historic Fortress Rosencrans Trailhead, located just inside Old Fort Park. The trail passes through several remaining areas of the now abandoned fortress, which was built during the Civil War.

Photo shoot

A day spent with your friends capturing all of the fun on film can be a great way to enjoy the weather outside and help stimulate your creative side. Whether you are an amateur photographer or a professional, there are plenty of different approaches to be taken with this activity. You could take a disposable camera to a local park in Murfreesboro or load up the car and take your fancy gear to a larger park in Nashville, such as Centennial or Bicentennial. And even if it's just you and your friends goofing around rather than a serious work of art, you'll have proof of those memories to last forever. ■



The trees in Centennial Park provide a great location for taking photos with friends. Photo by Nhu Duong.

A SESSION FOR EVERY SEASON

WINTER SESSION 2012-2013

100% ONLINE
Over 60 courses to choose from

SESSION DATES
December 18, 2012 - January 30, 2013

COST FOR WINTER SESSION COURSES

In-state residency fees:
• Undergraduate *\$235 per credit hour • Graduate *\$378 per credit hour
*Plus university and any applicable fees.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 423.439.8306 OR VISIT WWW.ETSU.EDU/WINTER

TN-000839127

East Tennessee State University
Office of Summer & Winter Sessions

High school-esque popularity contests pointless in college

By Jane Horne
Arts & Entertainment
editor

What is the purpose of voting for homecoming kings and queens at a major university? Does anyone who isn't Greek have an answer? Much like high school, homecoming in college is still a popularity contest. So why run?

At more than 26,000 students, MTSU is the largest university in the state— even with a 5 percent decrease in enrollment. What makes a student here “popular?” And why should people who have never met any of these candidates take time out of their day to go online and cast a vote for something that means nothing?

They shouldn't.

Winning homecoming king or queen is a meaningless title that will do nothing to boost your chances in the professional world. Even in the question-and-answer feature of the candidates in last week's *Sidelines*, most of them answered that they wanted to win because “they love MTSU,” or “to be a face for the university.”

First, I would imagine a majority of students actually do care about their university to an extent. Second, can any of you name the candidate for king or queen who won last year? Or the year before that?

Being a representative does not matter if no one knows who you are.

Third, out of this year's candidates, few



Jane Horne

are involved in extracurricular activities besides their sorority/fraternity, some sort of student government, or the odd nursing club or athletic team.

Clearly, they are not faces for the university beyond their corners of campus.

It was reported that last year less than two percent of the student population voted in homecoming elections.

I believe this to be close to the truth, as I had also heard in the past few months that Greek life needed to get their involvement up to four percent of the campus population to avoid any sort of consequences.

If this is accurate, it can be proven that most of the university does not care about having a king or queen.

Greek life makes up a small portion of the student population. Yet homecoming is a week for Greek life to throw parties, promote their candidates and to have a personal popularity contest. Only, they force the rest of the university to listen to them as they try to hand you free cupcakes and assault your eyes with their handmade banners which, let's be honest, all look the same.

So if the majority of the student population does not vote/care about homecoming king and queens, why is it still around?

Those in charge of this sort of thing would be the Student Government Association.

It is my assumption that more than a fair amount of Greeks make up SGA. This “issue”

is not an issue to them— consequently, it is not going to be brought up as a possibility among them.

There is also a certain irony to this situation that needs to be addressed.

It is no surprise that more than a couple of student organizations have an issue with member involvement.

Greek organizations don't have that problem. The members they do have are involved and are constantly participating in something for their organization.

Why is it that the organization that is so

harshly judged by the rest of the university is the one with the most involvement, while the ones judging sit back and do nothing about it? The solution to doing away with the silliness of homecoming elections starts with more members becoming involved in organizations that have to do with their interests or future career.

Maybe by doing that, someone will step up in SGA and be able to realize how unnecessary this college popularity contest is.

Sidelines is seeking opinions columnists. If interested, please contact Alex Harris at opinions@mtsusidelines.com.

**DO YOU CARE?
DO YOU COUNT?
WILL ANYTHING CHANGE?**



Cartoon created by Matt Masters

A wasted vote is the best vote

By Alex Harris
Opinions editor

It's about six weeks away from election day, and most eyes in the media are on the nationwide polls, which indicate a fairly tight race between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney.

Although most polls show Obama up by a couple points, a few have Romney in the lead by one or two points, and the most recent Gallup poll shows them both tied at 47 percent at the time this column was written.

Some may point to the closeness of this race as an indicator of the political division, and the "clear choice" available in this election.

However, in my opinion, the closeness of the presidential race highlights the lack of a real choice between the two major parties on any of the important issues. The differences between Romney and Obama are nothing but rhetoric and other superficial qualities.

And even the superficial differences are not all that different. Both have been labeled by the opposing party as being "out of touch" and "elitist." They are both millionaires—Romney many times more wealthy than Obama. They also both possess questionable honesty, with Mitt's history of flip-flops and Barack's history of broken campaign promises.

This lack of a clear choice has disenfranchised many voters. The



Alex Harris

political slogan on the lips of many is "Just vote for the lesser evil," while many others opt to not vote at all, seeing no representation for their beliefs and ideals.

However, unknown to most of America—in part due to a lack of media attention—there is an option available that actually offers a clear choice to the American voter: the Libertarian Party's candidate, former governor of New Mexico, Gary Johnson, who is on the ballot in all 50 states and could potentially win enough electoral votes to become president.

Although the idea of a third-party candidate succeeding is usually derided as impossible idealism, and any attempt to convince people to vote their conscience rather than for the "lesser evil" is met with scorn and accusations of "wasting your vote," Johnson has potential to bring the idea of a third party into the mainstream.

Throughout the history of this country, parties have come and gone. Some lasted for

decades, and others died as quickly as they were born. Some parties have marginalized themselves or became obsolete naturally. Why is it unthinkable that the same could be happening in our current political climate?

While Johnson offers a true choice from the other candidates for independents, he also has a lot to offer to those members of the two major parties who may feel as if they are no longer represented by what their party has become over the years.

Obama, who campaigned hard against the policies espoused by the Bush administration, has clearly reversed his views on many of those policies.

He said he would stop the raids on medicinal marijuana dispensaries, but there have been more raids on dispensaries under his Justice Department than under Bush's.

Likewise, Obama's administration has overseen more deportations than Bush's did, as well as more drone strikes in foreign countries.

Now, while these situations probably have other factors that contribute to the increases (such as state immigration laws that are more strict and advancements in drone technology), the enforcement of these policies falls to the federal executive branch.

The president could offer more amnesty to immigrants not guilty of crimes and authorize more student and work visas with paths to

permanency, reduce our global military presence, and not only direct the mission of the DEA and other federal law enforcement agencies, but also change the schedule level of marijuana to allow for medical use and research.

Romney obviously does not offer any discernible choice in matters such as this. If what he says can be trusted—questionable at best for most politicians—Romney will be just as bad as (if not worse than) Obama when it comes to drone warfare and military interventionism, immigration policy and drug policy.

In addition to that, given that his "Romney-Care" was the inspiration for "ObamaCare," he offers no clear choice in healthcare policy from Obama. The GOP will criticize the Affordable Care Act, yet Romney's solutions lack substance.

Neither major candidate has any real plan to tackle the budget or our national addiction to debt, which has just recently hit \$16 trillion. (To put that in perspective: 1 trillion is equal to 1 million millions.)

Obama appears to be completely unconcerned by the exploding debt.

For Romney and Ryan, it is nothing more than a talking point, which is illustrated by the ineffectiveness of the Ryan budget plan at actually reducing spending. Instead, his plan still adds an additional \$3.1 trillion dollars in debt by 2022.

Neither candidate has made mention of Afghanistan or other mili-

tary interventions other than to declare that they could do it better than their opponent. Meanwhile, 2,121 troops have died in Afghanistan since the beginning of military actions, with 257 this year alone.

The only presidential candidate willing to have an open and frank discussion on these topics, as well as the only one to attempt to provide any real solutions to the problems we face is Gary Johnson.

He is anti-war and pro-gun; pro-gay and pro-choice; pro-cannabis and pro-immigration; pro-capitalism and anti-government.

He recognizes the need for a strong national defense, but also realizes that an endless war in Afghanistan, countless interventions around the globe and open ended wars on drugs and terror are not going to offer a solution.

Johnson supports less restrictions on immigration, understanding the importance of immigration to an economy. He wants to end the war on drugs because he understands that it has added to the ballooning prison population.

He wants to legalize marijuana because he understands the right of the individual to decide for himself what is right for his life, and because he understands the positive economic impact that legalizing cannabis will have.

Johnson also has a record to stand on. As the governor of New Mexico, he vetoed 750 bills during his two terms. He also cut spending, balanced

the budget and was so well-liked that he won re-election in a state that was 2-to-1 Democrat over Republican.

Additionally, he has a good record in the private sector, having started his own handy-man business that he eventually grew to employ over 1,000 people, becoming one of New Mexico's biggest construction companies.

Johnson has a lot going for him at the moment, actually.

Good ideas, a good record and an increasingly independent-minded younger generation who are most likely to be open to his ideas. The major obstacles in his path are garnering media attention and gaining name-recognition.

But even if you don't think all of his ideas are good, they are at least different.

The bottom line is that by having more ideas in competition, we have a broader discussion about the issues and can come to a better solution.

If you don't think you'd want to vote Libertarian, consider one of the many other party options available. There's the Green party, the Constitution party, the Socialist party, the Justice party or even Vermin Supreme.

If you can't stomach either of the major candidates there is no need to hold your nose and vote for the "lesser evil."

If we continue to think voting our conscience is wasting our vote, we can't really expect things to ever change. ■

Blue Raider Spotlight: Chelsea Ross shines despite early woes

By Connor Grott
Contributing writer

The MT volleyball team has struggled for the first half of the season, playing tough opponents such as LSU, Louisville, North Carolina, and Virginia Tech, en route to a 3-13 (0-1 Sun Belt) record.

Despite a slow start, there has been a bright spot to their season, freshman phenom and former Riverdale High School star, Chelsea Ross.

The Murfreesboro native leads the team in kills with 228, 27 more than any other player on the team, averaging a team best 3.80 kills per set. She has started all 16 matches this season and is first on the team with 14 serving aces, while also sitting at second on the team in digs and leading the team in points.

In high school, she was named to the All-District freshman team in 2009, along with earning All-District and All-Region honors in her sophomore campaign in 2010. She was also named District MVP in 2011 and 2012 and was selected to the 2011 Region All-tournament team, as well as the All-Region and TACA All-State teams in 2012.

She was an AAU and USA Volleyball All-American and accumulated an astounding 2,230 kills and 1,244 digs in her high school career.

Ross sat down with *Sidelines* to discuss her promising volleyball career and expectations



True freshman Chelsea Ross grins during an interview with *Sidelines*. Photo by Sarah Addleman.

for the remainder of the season.

SL: At least six true freshmen have started matches for your team this season. What challenges and advantages has this youth brought to the team?

CR: Our opponents don't really know what's coming. I think all the freshmen are really talented, and they all came from great programs.

SL: Being from Riverdale High School, what

does it mean to be able to start for your hometown team as a freshman?

CR: It's exciting. All my friends are from here, and they're all coming [to the games], and it's good to see them.

SL: What is your greatest motivation?

CR: My mom, she's a coach. She always played, and I always wanted to be as good as her.

SL: What is your great-

est accomplishment to date?

CR: I got All-American at nationals, and we [Riverdale] got 3rd or 4th place, and it was really exciting.

SL: Describe how your high school volleyball experience was.

CR: My freshman year we didn't get out of districts, and each year we just got better and built on it.

SL: What led you to choose MTSU over

other schools that were trying to recruit you?

CR: Just being from here. Always seeing it, I wanted to go here, but I never really thought I would be able to.

SL: What has Coach Peck helped improve most in your game?

CR: My defense. I've never played middle back before, so [I'm] getting to know the position. We're [definitely] working on it.

SL: Describe your role

on the team, and what is your mindset and goals when taking the court?

CR: My role on the team is that I need to [play] hard all the time, because I'm out there the whole time and to also better the ball.

SL: Who or what do you attribute your success to?

CR: My mom, she was always my coach. She's been my coach since pretty much right before I got here, and she's made me the player I am.

SL: What are your expectations for the remainder of this season?

CR: I expect us to win conference. I know we've had a rough start, but I think we can do it.

SL: Have any of the upperclassmen in particular helped you grow so far this season?

CR: Halie Vannoy (Defensive Specialist/Libero). She was the one on the court that showed us how, if we wanted to be a leader, the way we should act, and that's who we should look up to.

SL: What made you choose volleyball?

CR: My mom. Growing up, before I could play, I was in her practices shagging because she had coached. [It] wasn't really an option, I was going to play volleyball. ■

Blue Raider Spotlight: Anthony Amos, redshirt senior, leads victory

By Jordan Mayton
Contributing writer

Football has always been the passion of wide receiver Anthony Amos.

He embodies what MT football is all about. At 5-foot-11 and 195 pounds, he draws comparisons to Torrey Smith, Desean Jackson, Wes Welker and even his idol Steve Smith.

Although not the biggest receiver, when Amos has the ball in his hands, he has managed to stretch the field and find the endzone. He leads the Blue Raiders in each of the three major receiving categories with 21 receptions, 300 yards and three touchdowns and also leads the Sun Belt in both receptions and yards.

In three games this season, the Fayetteville, N.C. native and former walk-on transfer has been quarterback Logan Kilgore's most reliable target and recently garnered national attention. Amos was named to the Fred Biletnikoff Award Watchlist, an award given annually to the nation's top receiver.

Sidelines was able to catch up with MT's star receiver to get some insight on his individual performance, what led him to choose MT and how he expects the team to perform this year.

SL: What helped you choose MTSU in the recruiting process?

AA: I had other schools looking at me, and I was supposed to sign with Wyoming, but they signed another player



MT wide receiver Anthony Amos sheds a tackler from McNeese State. Photo by Bradley Lambert.

toward the end of signing day. Coach [Justin] Watts flew to my junior college and talked to my dad about walking-on at MTSU. My dad and I talked about it and decided that MTSU was the college for me.

SL: Explain the transition from junior college to Division I football.

AA: It's a better atmosphere, a faster pace, and it really involves learning more plays, as well as hand signals.

SL: What has MT Head Coach Rick Stockstill or MT Wide Receivers Coach Justin Watts done to help you improve your game?

AA: They've just helped me with route running and reading the defense; just little stuff to improve on.

SL: Explain what MT-SU's offense is trying to accomplish this year.

AA: We have an all-

around game. Coach Stockstill said we're going to spread the field out and throw it as much as we run. Our running game has been really good this year, and the linemen have really stepped up.

SL: Describe your leadership role on the team.

AA: I'm trying to step it up because I'm not a really talkative guy, but I just try to lead by example and just try to set the tone for the offense.

SL: How did it feel to be added to the Biletnikoff Watch List?

AA: It's very exciting. I was surprised when my coach told me. I didn't know anything about it before he told me, so I was very surprised, and it makes me want to work even harder.

SL: Describe the difference in playing with Logan Kilgore as opposed to Dwight Dasher

or another quarterback you have played with.

AA: It's really good that he came from [junior college] because we come from the same standpoint and learned the offense together.

SL: What NFL player would you compare your style of play to?

AA: Steve Smith because he's not a big guy— he's 5-foot-10 and like 195 pounds, and he plays the outside receiver spot and makes a lot of plays.

SL: How did it feel to receive Player of the Year at the 2012 Raiders Choice Awards?

AA: It was a great award to win because everyone can vote. It was a shock. I never thought I would win, so I didn't even have a speech ready or anything. It made my stomach drop.

SL: Who was your football idol growing up?

AA: I had a lot of them I idolized, but mainly Steve Smith, Randy Moss and Jerry Rice.

SL: If you could describe MT football this year in one word, what would it be and why?

AA: Enthusiastic. Everybody is ready to make plays coming off a 2-10 season. Everyone is hungry and ready to win the Sun Belt Conference. ■

GIVE IT
★ TO ME
LOCAL ★

**Subscribe Now.
Save 50%**

**ALL THINGS MURFREESBORO
AND RUTHERFORD COUNTY**

When, where and how you want it!

No one covers Murfreesboro like The Daily News Journal.

From breaking news and comprehensive watchdog reporting to growth and development, how our tax dollars spent and family health and activities – The Daily News Journal brings you everything Murfreesboro and Rutherford County across multiple devices, including:

- Full access every day to dnj.com
- Daily delivery of the e-Newspaper to your email
- Tablet and mobile sites and smartphone apps
- Home delivery of the print edition on the days you choose



Get a Full Access subscription starting at \$.33 per month.*

VISIT
dnj.com/M-MT

CALL
1.877.424.0203

SCAN



The Daily News Journal | dni.com

*Offer expires 12/31/12. Certain restrictions apply. For complete details visit dnj.com/M-MT or call 1.877.424.0203

Ask for Promo M-MT