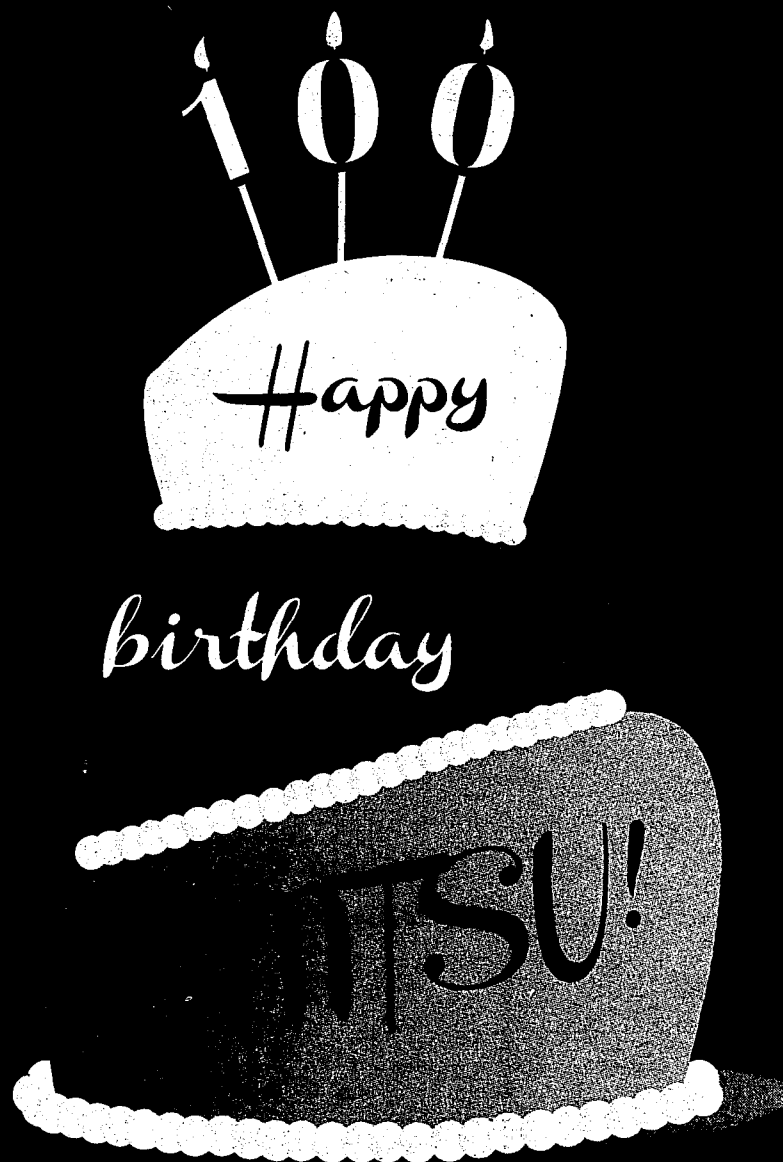


MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Photo courtesy of MTSU News and Public Affairs

Sidelines Lens

President Sidney McPhee plays the guitar Aug. 29 to students Panfilo Marbibi, Jordon Parks and Dhris Van Dijk, while they move into Corlew Hall.

100 Years of MTSU: Sport Spotlight

Middle Tennessee Athletics did not adopt the nickname of the Blue Raiders until 1934. The name was result of a contest held by the *Daily News Journal*, in which the winner received \$5.

Look for 100 Years of MTSU in every issue!

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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relax • glow up • indulge

Centennial Celebration at MTSU

By Amanda Haggard
Editor-in-Chief

This semester marks the 100th anniversary of MTSU, and officials said they have set aside \$100,000 to celebrate the university's birthday.

President Sidney McPhee said that while money was set aside for centennial festivities—the university's goal is to make the celebration a "cost neutral" venture for the university.

McPhee said the celebration is about pride, tradition and excellence.

"It sounds corny, but the branding of the ceremony is 'Traditions of Excellence' and that really sums it up," McPhee said, adding that while he is "the cheerleader" for the university, there is evidence to show that students and alumni share his excitement.



Students protest the Vietnam War during a peace rally held on campus in the late 1960s.



In 1912, librarian Betty Avent Murfree established the first library at Middle Tennessee State Normal School.

For example, the Blue Tie Centennial Gala is scheduled for Sept. 9 at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro Hotel and Conference Center, McPhee said.

"We sold out before we were even able to start a campaign," McPhee said. "We sold out in mid-April and we were supposed to start a heavy advertising campaign in June."

Bob Lamb, university alumnus from the class of 1969, was appointed chair of the Centennial Committee in 2009, in order to allow for plenty of time to plan, McPhee said.

Lamb is the owner of local business Exit Realty and a former member of the MTSU Foundation Board.

Donald Abels, homecoming director for the Student Government Association, said this year's homecoming would be "everything centennial," mixed in with traditions from the past, such as Fight Song, Paint the Halls Blue, T-shirt Swap Day and the homecoming parade.

The homecoming theme "Look to the Future, Remember the Past" will tie old traditions with the new campus culture.

"It is always important for students to take advantage of their opportunity to be involved in the university's homecoming events and activities," Abels said. "This year is especially important with it being the centennial celebration."

Although homecoming will be over in October, Abels said many centennial events would take place throughout the fall and spring semesters.

"I urge students to get involved because you're only in college for a short amount of time," Abels said.

Abels, who served as 2010 homecoming director, was reappointed to the position in February, even before the 2011-2012 SGA executive officers were elected.

Abels, a junior majoring in organizational communications, said he is working hard to assure that the 2011 homecoming festivities have a mixture of



On Sept. 11, 1911, the school began with only 125 students. Today, 26,000 students attend the university.

tradition and special activities to mark the momentous occasion.

The University Centennial Events Committee is made up of more than 25 members of faculty, staff and students.

Homecoming is slated for Oct. 1, which is earlier than in years past, but with advance notice from President Sidney McPhee, this should give the committee more time to start preparing, said Brandon Batts, former SGA president.

The centennial is a yearlong event, and homecoming is just a small portion of how the university plans to commemorate the milestone, Abels said.

"Many accomplishments have been made along with some unbelievable history," Abels said.

The university has a lot to be proud of in terms how far it has come as a university, McPhee said.

"We started out in 1911 as a normal school, mainly training teachers," McPhee said. "Look at where we are now—a school with nearly 26,000 students and many degree programs."

The Tennessee General Assembly passed the General Education Bill of 1909, authorizing the State Board of

Education to select three locations to open normal schools "for the educational and professional training of teachers." Board members chose Murfreesboro.

Officials accepted "the offer and site of Tom Harrison and Joe Black, a beautiful 100-acre plot located on East Main Street about a mile from the public square and just outside of the corporate city limits," according to a February 1910 article in *The Tennessean*.

The two men donated 80 percent of the 100 acres of the land, and the school purchased the remaining 20 percent for \$5,000.

On Sept. 11, 1911, the school opened its doors to 125 students. In-state tuition was free, and out-of-state tuition only cost \$10. Regardless of a student's residence, all paid a \$2 registration fee.

Students can now pick up applications to be part of the Homecoming Committee, either on the SGA website or at the Keathley University Center.

"A Blue Raider spirit and college experience is something all generations have had in common," Abels said. "No matter what year you attended school and what the name of the school was when you were here, you still had pride in your institution."

The lowdown on our rundown economy

By Christopher Merchant
News Editor

Even if you don't follow the economy very closely, it seems unlikely that you haven't heard all the commotion about the stock market these past few weeks.

In a market as uncertain as this one, it is easy to become overwhelmed by all of the arguments and speculation. Perhaps the best way for those unfamiliar with finance to get a grasp on what may happen in the future is to find out where we are now and how we got here.

So, why is the stock market fluctuating so drastically? What does it mean for the country? For college students?

Granted, international finance is a complex system. It's nearly impossible to attribute any major fluctuation in the economy to one factor in a simple cause-and-effect fashion. While this is by no means a comprehensive list, below are a few of the primary factors that have gotten us into the financial quagmire we are in today.

UNCERTAINTY'S EFFECT ON THE STOCK MARKET

One of the biggest influences on the economy right now is anxiety about the future, said William F. Ford, MTSU's Weatherford chair of finance and former president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

What is a stock market index?

Stock market indices, such as the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the Wilshire 5000 and Standard & Poor's 500 are methods that measure changes in the market value of specific publicly-traded companies. In other words, when an index rises, it means that the stocks of the companies measured by the index are worth more, and when the index lowers the stocks are selling for less.



William Ford, MTSU Weatherford chair of finance. Photo courtesy of MTSU.

Whether you are a Wall Street investor who is uncertain about the market, a professor wondering about how to invest for retirement or a student trying to spread every penny as far as you can, most everyone has one thing in common: our spending is down, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Moreover, major stock market indices have seen drastic highs and lows lately, often in a matter of hours. This back-and-forth in the stock market is called volatility, Ford said.

"We have seen a lot of sharp ups and downs motivated by uncertainty caused by factors both internally and internationally," he said.

However, now is not necessarily the time for panic, Ford said.

"For those who have a significant amount of their savings in stocks, don't overreact," he said. "Volatility is not an indication of another Great Depression."

Economic turmoil in countries that America trades with, such as Greece, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Japan has caused many to be cautious about how they invest their money, Ford said. Furthermore, some have reacted to market volatility by selling their shares, only to find that the stock recovered its value just days later.

For students though, now is the best time to start planning for the future, Ford said.

"Don't let this stop you from saving," he said.

THE HOUSING CRISIS

As a result of reliance on subprime mortgages with fluctuating interest rates, many people found it impossible to continue paying for their homes, resulting in a multitude of foreclosures. However, that was hardly the end of the housing crisis' impact on the economy, Ford said.

"Even in our relatively healthy Middle Tennessee area we are feeling the effects, with housing sales down and home prices down," Ford said.

What is a subprime mortgage?

A subprime mortgage is a special type of loan that allows people to purchase a home whose credit score is too low to qualify them for a conventional mortgage. Most of these mortgages have adjustable interest rates, meaning that the lender can change to amount of interest charged over the lifetime of the mortgage.

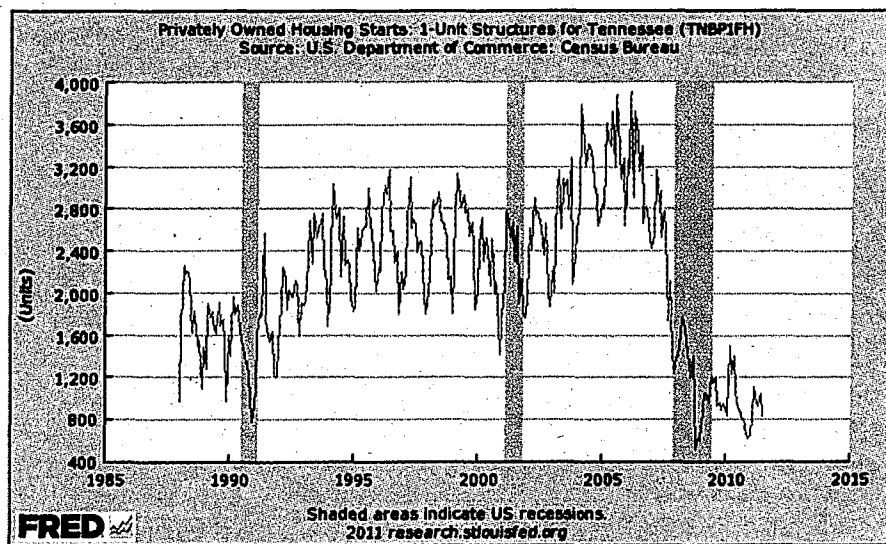
The impact does not end there, though. With housing sales nationwide so low, other related industries have been upset, Ford said. For instance, construction of houses and apartments has slowed, reducing the profits of contractors and municipalities that require permits for construction.

The ripples extend even further to the manufacturing industry, as demand for items as varied as construction supplies and furniture have reduced, Ford said.

On a national level, the stock market has faltered due to the struggling housing and construction industries, Ford said, adding that large investment firms that rely heavily on returns from housing developments have taken "a big hit."

While many countries are facing similar dilemmas, the United States is feeling a greater impact because of federal policies, Ford said.

"There has been a push for everyone, to have a house, instead of everybody to get a house who has good credit and can afford to make a down payment, to pay the mortgage payment, to pay the interest, to pay for the taxes," Ford said. "It's partly a push from Congress, and certainly from both Presidents Obama and Bush. It's just plain stupid to let someone have a house they can't afford to pay for."



There is good news, though: Rutherford County's population has grown four times more than the national average during the past ten years, Ford said.

"We are fortunate to be in a high-growth area," he said. "This is good news for students because of the employment picture [caused by a growing population.]"

UNEMPLOYMENT IS "WAY TOO HIGH"

Other areas are not facing this kind of population and employment growth, though.

While the recession ended in June 2009, according to the nonprofit National Bureau of Economic Research, the increase in jobs has been "way below what you would expect two years" later, Ford said.

"It feels like a recession to a lot of people even though technically it's not," Ford said, adding that the current national unemployment rate of 9.1 percent is "way

What is a recession?

A recession is determined by two things, Ford said.

Once: when hiring stops over a period of time, and there is no net increase of jobs.

Two: when hiring stops. New jobs are not created by companies because they are unwilling to spend unnecessarily, and the unemployment rate does not decrease.

too high." This percentage represents almost 14 million Americans who do not have a job. By now this number should

be closer to 4 percent, or about 6 million people, Ford said.

Tennessee's unemployment rate is 9.8 percent, according to a statement issued in July by Karla Davis, Tennessee commissioner of labor and workforce development.

However, Rutherford County's unemployment rate in July was 8.5 percent, according to a report on labor force estimates released by the state government. This is good news for students, Ford said.

"In spite of the nation's economic problems we are relatively insulated from that at MTSU," Ford said.

Additionally, students searching for money to fund their education been on the hunt for scholarships, grants and employment more than in the past, said Debra Sells, vice president for student affairs and vice provost for enrollment and academic services.

"Clearly some students are struggling

financially," Sells said. "We have noticed a lot more students filling out a FAFSA form than in the past. Last August 35,667 students filled them out. As of Aug. 17, 37,642 students had submitted them."

The university's administration took note of students' financial situation, Sells said, and took action to "connect students to the Career Development Center so they can acquire job search skills, learn how to market themselves and how to manage a job search both while they are in school and after graduation."

All students are eligible to use Lightning Job Source, an online database that connects job hunters to employers. There are also a variety of opportunities for on-campus employment, Sells said.

Though the future is never certain, college students have the opportunity to think seriously about their financial future and use their education as a tool toward economic success, Ford said.

The quality of our drinking water

By Alex Harris
Associate News Editor

The chemical content of our drinking water could be much higher than most people are aware of, according to John McFadden, the executive director for the Tennessee Environmental Council.

"There are about 60,000 chemicals that industries, businesses and residences emit into the environment every day, but we only monitor for about 400 to 500 of them in our drinking water," McFadden said.

While a lot of these chemicals are only found in trace amounts, tap water contains a chemical soup that people are putting into their bodies, McFadden said.

"We could sample your blood, and find 120 to 150 of the most common chemicals, and a third of those would be carcinogens, and you're probably getting it from the air you breathe, food you eat, and in the tap water, I believe," McFadden said.

However, Alan Schwendimann, the director of the Tennessee Division of Water Supply, does not think that the problem is as severe as some make it out to be.

"I don't know about 60,000, but the 400 to 500 chemicals monitored for are

found the most prevalently and have been determined to pose a certain risk to human health," Schwendimann said.

Tennessee's water treatment plants use variations of the Environmental Protection Agency's standard method in treating water, Schwendimann said. This method begins by drawing water from an outside source and adding chemicals, such as alum that attract the dirt and debris present in the water. This is known as coagulation.

The resulting material is known as floc, and it settles to the bottom. The water is then filtered through sand, gravel, or charcoal to further eliminate smaller particles that might still be present.

The next step is to disinfect the water with chlorine to remove naturally occurring bacteria and viruses that are present in the water. Following the disinfection, the water is stored for house, business and industrial usage.

Schwendimann said he believed chlorine disinfection is one of the greatest advancements to water treatment.

However, according to the Health Canada website, chlorine reacts with the

organic matter, like decaying leaves, that's naturally present in water. This chemical reaction forms disinfectant byproducts. The most common of these are trihalomethanes, which include chloroform.

The website also reports that several studies on humans have found a link between long-term exposure to high levels of the byproducts and a higher risk of cancer. One study shows an increased risk of bladder and colon cancer in people who drank chlorinated water for 35 years or more.

However, the home use of an activated carbon filter is a very effective way to remove chlorine and its by-products from your water, reports Health Canada.

Also, Health Canada has established a guideline to limit exposure to THMs. The guideline allows for THMs of 0.1mg per liter, a level at which there is an extremely low risk for cancer over a lifetime.

Once the water is disinfected and the process is finished, it's inspected more closely to ensure that there isn't a harmful level of THMs, Schwendimann said.

"The common use of pharmaceuticals

and personal care products has raised concerns of improper disposal, and a growing presence in our drinking water," Schwendimann said.

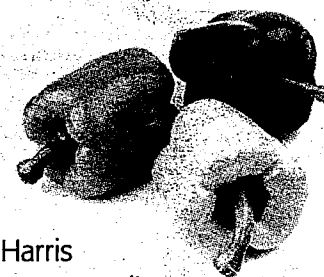
On April 22 Metro Nashville and state officials launched a county-wide initiative aimed at educating the residents about proper disposal of medication, and provided locations where medications could be disposed of, according to the Tennessee Department of Environmental Assistance's website.

The website reports that the drugs we take don't entirely absorb into our bodies, and when they leave our bodies they become a part of our water supply. With the advancement of technology, the ability to detect and quantify these chemicals is improving and so is the ability to determine any effects they might have, according to the website.

"The reality is, the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act needs to be re-evaluated and fixed," McFadden said. "They were created in the 70s for problems that existed in the 70s. This is 2011, and the problems are different."

features

Main Street Market: Economic Driver and Community Builder



By Alex Harris
Associate News Editor

On Saturday mornings, as the sun's light bathes the Murfreesboro town square, downtown turns into a bustling farmer's market. All around the historic Rutherford County Courthouse – one of only five functioning antebellum courthouses in the state – visitors meander through vendors' stalls, eyeing juicy red tomatoes, baskets of crisp cucumbers, tables of bright green spinach, brilliantly colored flowers and homemade jams and jellies.

"It's like Christmas every Saturday," says Amanda Hudson, a junior majoring in behavioral and health sciences. "It's very diverse. There are people of every different walk of life and they all come here to support local economy and local businesses."

The Main Street Market, situated in the roundabout around the old courthouse, is halfway through its second summer in existence, and the community response has been promising. This year it will be running for five months, extending through the end of October instead of ending in September.

"When I began the market last year, the first Saturday we only had 12 vendors," says Kathleen Herzog, director of Main Street for the nonprofit Downtown Revitalization Program.

Herzog says that this year, they have more than 60, and that she had a vendor for every spot by as early as April.

She recalls that when she moved to Murfreesboro in April of 1998, there has been a farmer's market at Canonsburg Village until about 2003 when the city told the farmers they would have to

move. It was at this time that Rutherford County was building a brand new agricultural center, the

On Aug. 27 a little girl checks out the brightly colored display of fruits and vegetables on a vendor's table at Murfreesboro's weekly Main Street Market.

A colorful array of tomatoes, zucchini, summer squash, bell peppers, eggplant and apples are on display for the market-goers.

Lane Agri-park on John Rice Boulevard, and there was talk of moving the farmer's market there upon its completion.

During this time, the citizens living downtown and on the south side of town began to feel that the Agri-park was too far away. They felt that given the size of Murfreesboro, the town could support two farmer's markets: the Main Street Market on Saturday mornings and the county market on Tuesdays and Fridays.

"This is really more than a market," Herzog says. "It's become a destination."

Herzog says that not only is it an attraction for locals and visitors alike, the farmer's market has also played a major role in spurring local business.

"It's been kind of a little economic driver," Herzog explains. "Saturdays we're kind of dead downtown, so the retail people have really loved it."

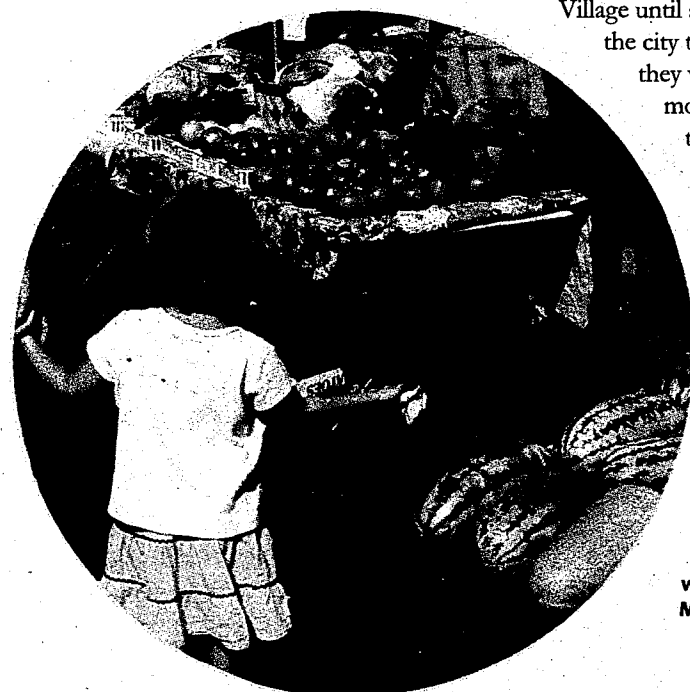
All around the market, people mill around. It's a diverse group; young and old, immigrants and locals, people who have lived in the town all their lives and people who just moved here last week. Everybody interacts and everybody enjoys themselves. The fresh air, the summer sun and the nice breeze offer a bit of relief from the heat.



For some, the breeze is not enough, and they opt for a cold cup of fresh homemade lemonade or fruit tea. Relaxing classical music washes over the crowd, and a young boy of about 12 or 13 plays his violin for change.

"There are over 100,000 people who live in Murfreesboro, but this kind of makes people feel connected I think," Herzog says. "It makes them still think they're in a small town, and gives them a sense of community."

Rob McDaniel, an associate professor of political science who has lived in Murfreesboro for about 13 years, considers the square to be one of the anchors of Murfreesboro life. He says he enjoys being able to come to the market on Saturdays not to shop, but just as a community event.



features



Ripe red tomatoes are on display in the summer morning sun.

"I bring my girls out here pretty much every Saturday," he says. "We wish that they kept it going a little bit later in the fall when the temperatures are a little bit cooler."

Farmers and growers are also well aware of the advantages the farmers market offers to them, and the community as a whole.

James Goodman, known as "Butch" to most people, has been a farmer all his life, farming since he became an adult, with occasional stints as a schoolteacher over the years. Butch is a corn man, and considering that his table is completely empty, there seems to be a high demand for his product.

"This is a good atmosphere for an open-air market," Goodman says. "It's what people are looking for. The atmosphere seems to be great, and everybody seems to be enjoying themselves and wanting to give you a big 'thank you' for bringing stuff down here."

Bruce Stevens, a farmer with Circle V Garden Farms, also feels like the Main Street Market is just as good for the farmer as it is for the community. He's been going to markets all his life and has

grown many vegetables, such as peppers, tomatoes, squash, potatoes, onions, turnip greens and cabbage.

"This is the best thing that ever happened to the farmer within a 50 mile radius of this place," Stevens says. "Whoever came up with this did the farmer a favor."

The market has also been an inspiration for a few enterprising locals, such as Marcy Beavers, owner of Marcy Jams, a homemade jam and jelly company with almost 30 different flavors. The eclectic flavors range from plain strawberry and grape, to flavors like strawberry habanero, firecracker pepper and pineapple lime.

Marcy was one of the first 10 vendors at the market in summer of 2010 and began with 42 jars of jam. After she sold out in two hours, she decided that she would make it her full-time job. She has since made an estimated 4,000 jars of jelly, and her company does four times the volume that they did at the beginning of the 2010 season.

Jean and Steve Bell moved to Murfreesboro from the West Coast about four years ago, and while visiting the farmer's market for the first time have really enjoyed their experience.

The Marcy Jams table attracts several customers with their variety of homemade jams and jellies.

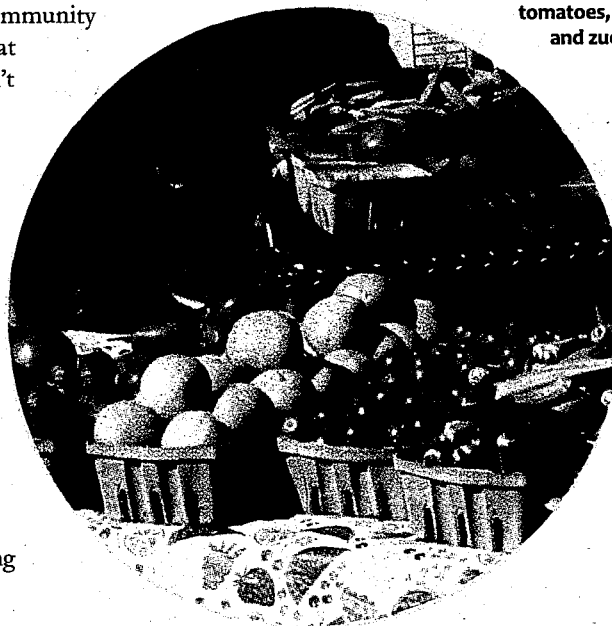


"It's very reasonably priced," Jean says. "We just don't even buy tomatoes in the grocery store anymore."

Steve agrees with his wife and says that not only do they save money on quality produce; they encounter a community atmosphere that you simply can't find at a chain grocery store.

"I really enjoy the people you get to talk to," he says. "There're all different kinds, so it's a really friendly environment. I think we're going to do this every Saturday."

A vendor's table displays a colorful assortment of tomatoes, okra, and zucchini.



Bonnaroo decade anniversary disappoints

By Sarah Sharp
Staff Writer

Bonnaroo. It's practically in our backyard. For music junkies and festival fans nationwide, this smoldering hot June weekend is one of the year's most anticipated events. People came from all over the country, from other countries and out of the pickens for the anniversary celebration that housed over 90,000 smelly, dirty, funky, sticky-icky and dusty, sweating bodies ready to rage on through the merciless Tennessee heat.

And roast and rage we did.

Since we have all had the summer to recoup and reflect on that wild weekend in Manchester, we must ask ourselves out of respect for the future of our beloved backyard farm festival, was it all that we hoped for? Was it the epic, magical experience that we see as the true essence of Bonnaroo?

It really stings at the core to hear a true vet say it, but the consensus is no. And for that, Bonnaroo, you have failed us.

Maybe our expectations are too high. But when you're spending close to \$300 per ticket, then whatever you're spending on camping gear, travel expenses, food and party supplies while you're in the festival, it adds up to a pretty stout investment. Why shouldn't our expectations be high? And for those who have been loyal to the festival year after year or since the beginning, like MTSU alumni Shaun Dunn, these folks were hoping for a little token of gratitude.

Dunn, who began his Bonnaroo relationship back in 2003, said he's seen Bonnaroo grow and morph into a festival more about money than music.

"This year they tried to branch out to so many different genres of music just to maximize ticket sales, and there weren't any true headliners," Dunn said, adding that in previous years there had been bigger names, like Tool and The Police in 2007, then Pearl Jam in 2008 and Phish in 2009.

Dunn, a Bonnaroo veteran of eight years, was anticipating something huge

for the decade anniversary festival—someone like U2, he explained. When he went to see Eminem, he admitted that he left after 10 songs, utterly disappointed in his lack of performance.

"If you're going to be a Bonnaroo headliner, you've got to come out with your A-game," the vet said, angry that Eminem was such a flop for him.

MOO

The most obvious change about this year's festival was the influx of people. With general admission tickets selling out at 90,000, there was not one second that we didn't feel the wave of people. Although Bonnaroo was much more organized and efficient with the flow of traffic and camp grounds, the crowds inside Centeroo—where all the entertainment happens—were massive and extremely congested and anything but comfortable in the melting heat.

If you wanted a beer, had to use the bathroom or were just going from one stage to another, "everytime you turned around, you were waiting in line," Dunn said.

Not only was getting into Centeroo at least a 15 to 20 minute wait at any given time, but once inside, it was a constant game of hopscotch over heads. Imagine what this was like for the plenty of people on psychedelics attempting to maneuver their way around the never-ending maze of sweaty people—a very, very bad trip.

This was grad student Caroline Buchholz's fourth year at the 'Roo, and she convinced her cousin from Cincinnati to come down this year for her first time. Within two days, Caroline said her cousin left Manchester and went back home because of the crowds.

"It's just upsetting because I talked it up so much to my cousin, who invested \$250 on a ticket, and to have her leave the second day because she was so uncomfortable," Buchholz said.

continued...on page 12



Patrons sitting down in front of the ferris wheel by Which Stage, people tried to get any escape from the heat and the crowds inside Centeroo.



Friday's artist press conference with (from left) Bela Fleck, Justin Townes Earle, Abigail Washburn, Warren Haynes, Grace Potter, Lewis Black, and Slug from Atmosphere.



The crowd goes wild for Man Man's wild gypsy punk rock performance.

Harry Potter: The Boy Who Lives On

By Emily Kubis
Staff Writer



Courtesy of Warner Bros.

According to the majority of young Americans, the biggest tragedy of this summer was not a devastating tornado, volcano or even a political riot. No, for many, the most catastrophic event of 2011 was simply the end of an era—the finalization of the Harry Potter film series.

With “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2” premiering earlier this summer, Harry Potter fans flocked to the theatres to get their final cinematic fix of “the boy who lived.”

Though you may be hard-pressed to find someone untouched by the magic of the series, there are actually people who

have not read the books or watched the movies. To these people, the intensity of the Harry Potter following seems a bit strange. However, for those of us who know—myself included—there has never been, and never will be another book or film series quite like Harry Potter.

I was nine years old when I received a copy of “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” for Christmas. An avid reader even then, I adored the book and could hardly wait for the sequel. It was well written without advancing beyond my comprehension level, and it was about magical children who were close to my own age. Naturally, I was enthralled, and I was not the only one. In the span of a decade, 325 million copies of the seven-book series have been sold, totaling close to \$450 million dollars in sales.

As the series progressed, so did the obsession. There were midnight releases to attend (and later, midnight premieres), thousand-page novels to be devoured over a weekend, and some of the most imaginative literature to come out of the young-adult genre since Roald Dahl.

“I love the strong, opinionated female characters such as Hermione and Professor McGonagall, as well as the actual intelligent dynamic plot line and

people with goethetical behavior,” says Casey Smith, a fan and university alumna.

Ultimately, the Harry Potter series is about so much more than a young boy determined to avenge his parents’ death—although that is indeed the series plot in a nutshell. There are themes of courage and bravery, of the merits of intelligence and the never-ending struggle between good and evil.

But those are not the themes in the series that created leagues of insanely obsessed fans. Rather, it was the artful way J.K. Rowling allowed her readers to watch their favorite characters grow up, as they themselves entered adolescence.

I do not believe it is an accident that the books get darker and more challenging as the series progresses. The reader is supposed to grow with Harry and witness his struggles as they correspond to their own. Eventually, by the end of the series, many readers felt as if the characters were just as real as the friends they knew and loved in real life.

With the creation of the movie series, that level of fandom was only intensified. Now there were real people that readers could associate with—the characters they thought of as friends.

When considering the series within this context, the sniffles heard around the theater as the credits rolled made sense. The friends we knew and loved were moving on, and there would be no more magic. No owls would come for us, no dementors would haunt us, and no spells would ever be cast over us from Rowling’s pen again. The end of an era, indeed.

However, we have yet to completely rid ourselves of Harry. Pottermore is an interactive website that opens to the public in October. It is designed to allow users to experience the books in a whole new way, allowing them to be sorted into the houses of Hogwarts School of Magic and use spells. Users will also have access to new material from Rowling.

Finally, Harry Potter fans must never forget that the beauty of literature is that though the books may never be new again, they will always exist for future generations. I know many fans that cannot wait to read the books to their own children and inspire delight in an entirely new league of little witches and wizards. If you are craving a fix yourself, you can always reread *The Prisoner of Azkaban* or rent *The Goblet of Fire* and relive the magic and glory of the one, the only, boy who lived.

Summer sizzles with hot music

By Brenton Giesey
Contributing Writer



The summer months played host to a wide palate of great and inventive new music. Of course, all the ordinary “radio pop” released this summer needs no mention here, but the bulk of the best albums came from lesser-known or rising artists.

The best album of the summer came at the end of June when singer-songwriter Josh Garrels released his 18-song masterpiece *Love & War & The Sea In Between*.

This album was completely fan-funded and Garrels released it for free on his Bandcamp page. It was downloaded over 10,000 times within the first 15 hours on Noisetrade.

This album is incredible because it blurs the lines of folk, rock, alternative, rap and acoustic. Songs such as “White Owl” and “The Resistance” lift this album off the ground and take folk to new places.

Love & War & The Sea In Between is still available for free on Noisetrade and is the best value in music so far this year.

One of the first great summer albums hit near the end of May when Los Angeles upstarts Foster The People released *Torches*. Powered by the popularity of the smash-hit, “Pumped Up Kicks,” *Torches* rocketed to number one on both the United States alternative and rock charts.

continued...on page 12

rants & raves

wednesday, august 31, 2011

L.O.V.E.

11 a.m., The Swan Performing Arts Center

Admission: \$15 for show, \$25 for show and meal

L.O.V.E. is a comedic performance heralding the highs and lows of romantic relationships. The play is seasoned with popular love songs, such as "Love Will Keep Us Together," "Fever," "Sway" and "My Funny Valentine."

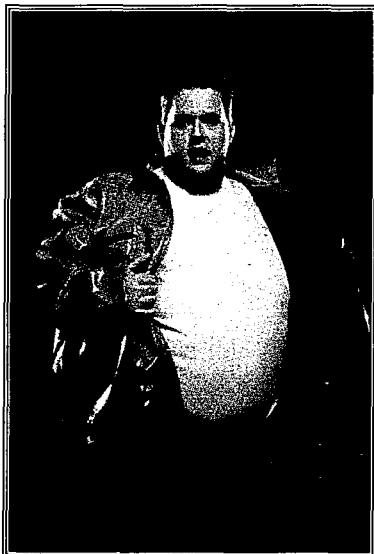
The Nashville's Phoenix Rising Entertainment, Inc. presents the two-hour musical revue, and stars Jenny Norris Light, Kim Nygren, Keith Hardy and Kevin F. Raymond.

Thor

7 p.m. & 10 p.m., Keathley University Center Theater

Admission: \$2

Starring Chris Hemsworth, Anthony Hopkins and Natalie Portman, this film is another epic adventure brought to theaters by the Marvel empire. When Thor's arrogant, reckless actions throw the realm of Asgard into an ancient war, he is banished to Earth to live among humans. When a villain from Thor's world invades Earth, Thor is forced to prove his mettle as a true hero. This two-hour film directed by Kenneth Branagh grossed \$181 million at the box "Thor" received a 77 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes.



Ralphie May

8 p.m., Murphy Center

Admission: FREE

The headlining entertainer for MTSU's 2011 Week of Welcome in none other than Ralphie May, the same sub-par comedian booked by Student Programming in 2009. Best known for his stint on season one of "Last Comic Standing," May is easily identified for his tasteless jokes aimed at women, ethnic groups and his own appearance.

However, May's credits range from four appearances on "The Late Late Show with Craig Kilborn" and eleven

appearances on "Jimmy Kimmel Live." Bottom line is: the event is free, which fits a college student's budget better than most entertainment. Attendees should not expect high-quality or tasteful comedy.

thursday, september 1, 2011

MTSU Department Fair

11 a.m.- 1 p.m., KUC Courtyard

Admission: FREE

Still an undeclared major? Check out all that the university has to offer at the MTSU Department Fair! Get a better feel for all the different colleges at the university and the programs that shape the colleges. By talking to professionals in each department, students can better choose which ones fit them best.

Greekfest

6 p.m., KUC Courtyard

Admission: FREE

"Shop" for your new sorority or fraternity at this year's Greekfest. Each Greek organization will have a promotional table set up for interested students to visit and get to know their possible future sisters or brothers. Also, Greekfest will provide general information about Rush Week and Greek life.

Romeo & Juliet:

Shakespeare in the Park
6:30 p.m., Centennial Park
in Nashville

Suggested donation: \$10

This year's Shakespeare in the Park is an adaptation of Shakespeare's most famous play—Romeo and Juliet. Director David Wilkerson set the play amidst the aftermath of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, infusing the issues of money and politics with the classic tale of two star-crossed lovers.

This is one date you won't want to forget to take your English-major girlfriend on. Don't forget a blanket and a picnic basket!



Photo by Jeff Frazier

rants & raves

friday, september 2, 2011

National Folk Festival

6:40 p.m., Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park, Nashville
Admission: FREE

The epicenter of folk this Labor Day weekend is our very own Nashville. Acts from all over the world will be present, fiddles and all, for the National Folk Festival. The three-day event is completely free and chock-full of talent. The most painful part of the weekend will be finding parking and maneuvering through traffic, with an estimated 40,000 attendees.

Elenowen at Cheekwood Nights

8 p.m., Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art, Nashville
Admission: \$15

Husband/wife duo Elenowen is one of the most charming acts around. Young and madly in love, it's hard not to fall for this couple's lyrics about romance and heartbreak. After an all-too-brief stint on NBC's "The Voice," it's only a matter of time before they join the ranks of Nashville celebrity. See them now, before their popularity overwhelms the intimate tradition of their shows.



The Gilligan's Lounge Takeover

9 p.m., Gilligan's
Admission: \$3

Unwind after the first week of school with a night of dubstep and free beer (for the 21+ crowd). While the club itself is your general sticky, trashy college dive, both the alcohol and the cover are cheap—important factors for any student.

saturday, september 3, 2011

Muddy Roots Music Festival

11 a.m.- 11:59 p.m.,
115 Waterloo Rd., Cookeville
Admission: \$60

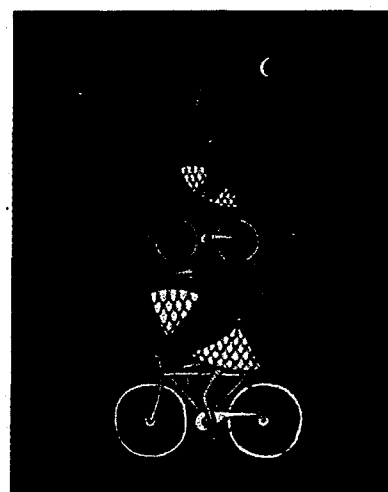
This music festival will play host to local Americana, country, rockabilly, bluegrass, blues, folk and rock acts in a toned-down Woodstock-esque festival. The event lasts through Sunday night and features Wanda Jackson, Wayne Hancock and Th' Legendary Shack Shakers.



Murfreesboro Owlley Cat 12 p.m.,

Smoopy's Vintage Bicycles
Admission: FREE

Sponsored by local businesses such as JoZoara's Coffee Shop and Smoopy's Vintage Bicycle Shop, the plan for the afternoon is to 'ride bikes, have fun and get some free s***', in the words of event creator Eric DeTorres. Cyclists will have the same start and end point, but the route is up to you.



Max Johns in Concert & Silent Auction Benefit

7:30 p.m., Murfreesboro Center for the Arts
Admission: \$15

Blues singer-songwriter Max Johns will perform a benefit concert for Alive Hospice of Murfreesboro. His 1995 album, "I Could Be Dangerous," received a Blues Album of the Year nomination at the Nashville Music Awards.

Photography by Jana Webb will also be available for bid during the silent auction portion of the benefit.

continued...

Summer sizzles... from page 3

May's end saw an explosion of great new music when Death Cab For Cutie and My Morning Jacket both released new albums: *Codes and Keys* and *Circuital*. That day also ushered in the release of Pearl Jam front man Eddie Vedder's solo ukulele album, *Ukulele Songs*.

Albums from rockers Arctic Monkeys and the Black Lips went on sale in early June.

Fans were disappointed with the monotony of the Arctic Monkeys album, titled *Suck It and See*. Their effort to be a unique band was transparent and overpowered any true artistry in their music, alienating fans of the older sound.

Luckily, the Black Lips' *Arabia Mountain* made up for it. This album flaunted their carefully crafted sound and the raw energy displayed in their legendary live shows.

Also released in early June was Owl City's third album, *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. Following the precedent set by the first two records, *All Things Bright and Beautiful* is a gorgeous, sonic masterpiece propelled by the singles "Galaxies" and "Alligator Sky." The upbeat, techno-esque sound leaves any listener feeling optimistic, even with fall classes looming.

Indie-folk fans rejoiced when Bon Iver's second self-titled album dropped at the end of June. Building on the success of the band's first full-length album, *For Emma, Forever Ago*, Bon Iver's Justin Vernon created a much more accessible and higher quality album. Songs such as "Perth" and "Holocene" take Bon Iver to places the first one couldn't go, with big choruses and creative melodies.

Beyonce came out with a new record entitled *4* this summer that

showcased her new style, produced by a willingness to experiment with new genres of music and songwriting. She's taken over the reins again as Queen of Pop with this one.

The best album July brought was *Within and Without*, from the ambient synth-pop band, Washed Out. The interesting, unique tracks on this release can be played on repeat for hours without becoming boring. The melodic "Eyes Be Closed" leads the album and takes the listener on an adventure through creative soundscapes.

August saw two great new releases from Mat Kearney and rap duo Jay-Z and Kanye West.

Kearney released his fourth album, *Young Love*, and rap royalty's latest collaboration released the highly anticipated *Watch the Throne*. Kearney's album was filled with track after track of catchy melodies and

interesting beats strengthened by Kearney's unique and creative lyricism.

Watch the Throne is easily one of the best rap albums to come out this year. It establishes Jay-Z and Kanye as the kings of rap and collaborative makers of great music.

The hotter months also brought a debut into the music scene from the band Leagues, fronted by veteran singer-songwriter Thad Cockrell. They released their self-titled EP this summer and were well-received by critics and casual fans alike. Their first single "Magic" epitomizes their sound, giving listeners an idea of the band's style and leaving fans eagerly awaiting the first full-length.

With all these great releases, lovers of music cannot help but wonder what the next move will be from all these great and innovative artists.

Bonnaroo... from page 8

We were all cattle, mooing and swaying with the crowd flow. There was barely enough room to breathe, let alone hop from show to show.

This held true for the late night electronic sets that were more sardine-packed than ever before. There's one sure thing about electronic shows: if you're not in the thick of it, with ears pounding and body vibrating from the bass, it's not the same experience. It's not even an experience at all.

AN UNDERWHELMING ANNIVERSARY

For Bonnaroo vets, they were expecting the crazy and the outlandish—naked, painted people, spontaneous patron parades and fearless fire throwers; perhaps surprise artist collaboration—in other words, the magic. Besides the fireworks after Eminem's performance and the parachuters that dropped little flickering

lights during Primus, there was very little surprise to honor the anniversary celebration.

However, in Bonnaroo's defense, there were a few performances that truly shaped the festival into a success. In the midst of all the Saturday night festivities, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band marched their way with members of My Morning Jacket to a tucked-away corner of Centeroo, where a black and white star-spangled float housed the blues-jamming Portugal the Man. Their sound was huge, and the band looked like glowing gods, dictating the small crowd that was lucky enough to stumble upon this magical surprise show. At a Bonnaroo press conference Friday, Warren Haynes said music that you make, which is not pre-determined is special. He may have been foreseeing this glorious improvised jam between Portugal and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band.

Another mentionable performance that left jaws dropped and hair raised was Grace Potter and the Nocturnals. Each song they took to another level of rock and roll, with such infectious energy between Grace, the Nocturnals and the crowd. There was absolutely no shortage of rippage. It wasn't just Grace killing it up there, it was the entire band going nuts. You know it's worth your while when the band is enjoying their show exponentially more than its raging audience. They were classy, country, stylish and just so damn sexy. As you left the show, there were endless gasps of "oh my Gods," screams and both men and women howling for Grace. The crowd was blown away.

FUTURE-ROO

As for the future of Bonnaroo, it looks as if it's only going to keep growing. Jason Hitchcock, a University of Tennessee architecture grad student built

the festival arches and arranged art inside Centeroo. Hitchcock said the festival will continue to grow, especially because the festival owns the grounds, giving them freedom and potential to expand. He added that Bonnaroo might have to change its format like Coachella decided to do with two separate weekends of the same lineup. As for potential revamping, "my boss and his partners are going to Burning Man," Hitchcock explained, referencing the popular Nevada arts festival. Hitchcock said the powers that be of the festival hope to gain inspiration on how to incorporate more art into the overall experience.

Despite patrons' disappointment over this year's experience, hope has not been lost. For something so close, we could never give up on this precious weekend of complete escape from reality. For many, it's a place for old friends, a place to lose all inhibitions and a place for tradition.

events

on campus

"John Adams: Unbound" exhibit

Aug. 31 – Sept. 30
James E. Walker Library, 1st floor
FREE

Meet Murfreesboro

Aug. 31, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Keathley University Center Courtyard
FREE

June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students Open House

Aug. 31, 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Keathley University Center, Room rtjknjkn
FREE

Department Fair

Sept. 1, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Keathley University Center Courtyard
FREE

Cowboy Mounted Shooting and Eastern U.S. Championships

Sept. 2 – 10, 8 a.m.
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
FREE

Annual Camping Trip

Sept. 2, 5 p.m. – Sept. 3, 6 p.m.
Cleveland, TN (depart from KUC parking lot)
FREE (bring money for food)

Volunteer Ranch Horse Show

Sept. 3 – 4, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Tennessee Livestock Center Main Arena
FREE

Music City Rabbit Show

Sept. 3, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Tenn. Livestock Center Small Animal Floor
FREE

Labor Day Paintball/Pool/Picnic

Sept. 5, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Campus Recreation Center
FREE

Volunteer Fair

Sept. 6, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Keathley University Center Courtyard
FREE

Student Organization Fair

Sept. 7, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Keathley University Center Courtyard
FREE

GRE Prep Workshop

Sept. 7, 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
University Honors College
Amphitheatre, Room 106
FREE

First Anime Club Meeting

Sept. 7, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Business and Aerospace Building, Room 324
FREE

off campus

Storytellers & Superheroes Writer's Night (Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Benefit)

Aug. 31, 7 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
The Building (1008-C Woodland Street, East Nashville)
Tickets: \$5

Kidsmeal

Sept. 1, 8 p.m.
Exit/In
Tickets: \$5

National Folk Festival

Sept. 2, 7:30 p.m. – Sept. 4, 6:30 p.m.
Bicentennial Mall State Park
Tickets: FREE

Texas Songwriters Night

Sept. 2, 7:30 p.m.
That's Cool
Tickets: \$5

Space Capone with the Great Barrier Reefs

Sept. 2, 9 p.m. – 12 a.m.
Gilligans
Tickets: \$10

Reggaerica presents: Back to School Bash

Sept. 2, 11 p.m. – 2 a.m.
Club Pig (1602 W. Northfield Blvd.)
Tickets: \$5 (ladies free until 11:30)

Details Details

Sept. 3, 6 p.m.
Rockettown
Tickets: \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door

Battle of the DJs

Sept. 3, 8:30 p.m.
12th & Porter
Tickets: FREE

Of Montreal with Yip Deceiver and Kishi Bashi

Sept. 3, 9 p.m.
Mercy Lounge
Tickets: \$18

Tea Dance

Sept. 4, 6 p.m.
Virago (1126 McGavoc)

Movies at the Town: Inception

Sept. 5, 7 p.m.
Rockettown
Tickets: FREE

BMI Presents: 8 Off 8th (21+)

Sept. 5, 9 p.m.
Mercy Lounge
Tickets: FREE

Blues Jam with C.J. Vaughn

Sept. 6, 8 p.m. – 12 a.m.
Bluesboro
Tickets: FREE

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opinions

Five opinions about...

By Brandon Thomas
Opinions Editor

There were a number of interesting events that happened throughout the summer. While you were partying like a rock star, we compiled a list of things you need to know and may or may not have an opinion about.

1. SMOKING BAN

Surprise, surprise. While the children were out to play, a smoking ban came to stay. Over the summer, President Sidney McPhee decided to institute a smoking ban. Every type of tobacco is banned. From the stuff you puff, including smokeless electronic cigarettes, to the stuff you chew. The ban comes with one little exception: students will still be able to use these products in their car. This will most likely be possible only for our elite minority of superhero students, who can stop a speeding bullet and fly at the speed of light to the parking lot in the 15 minutes between classes. There hasn't been a specific enforcement policy outlined as of yet to combat nicotine addicts, but the cigarette police have until Jan. 1 to figure it out.

2. TUITION INCREASE

Well, this isn't really news, but it's still something you should know: tuition has increased at all Tennessee Board of Regents schools. This increase includes the university. So, many of us will be forking out an extra \$200 per semester, or as one TBR board member put it, in a WPLN report, it's only about the cost of an iPhone. This would be a good argument, unless you consider the many students that don't own an iPhone and would never spend the money on one. Any student bourgeois enough to buy a new iPhone every semester probably goes to Vanderbilt, anyway.

3. SUMMER SESSION CASH

While you were out, Governor Bill Haslam visited campus to sign a bill that allows students to take advantage of summer sessions by using their lottery scholarship money for summer classes. The bill signing ceremony was held in the newly constructed College of Education building on June 6. The only downside to this law is

that there is an 120 hour cap on the number of classes that one can take before the state takes the scholarship away faster than you can say Humuhumunukunukuapua'a, Hawaii's state fish. If you were like me and entered MTSU before 2009, you'll have nothing to worry about because the cap doesn't apply to you. Instead you can point and laugh in the faces of those whom it affects. That is, if you haven't already lost your HOPE scholarship.

4. SIGMA PHI BETA INTEREST GROUP

From the department of shameless self-promotion, an organization that obtained student organization status over the summer is the first of its kind at the university. Sigma Phi Beta—once the ball gets rolling—will be the first fraternity to openly support gay, bisexual, transgender and allied men. Hopefully this organization will add to the diversity of the Greek community and campus. If anything, we will be a fabulous addition to Greek Row.

5. CENTENNIAL EXTRAVAGANZA

As we all know the university will be celebrating its 100 birthday this year. As we look forward into the years ahead it is also wise for us to take a look back into the past. It's wise to remember that campus wasn't always as diverse as it is now. There was a time where people of color attending were unwanted, let alone having organizations that support divergent view points. We have come a long way and still have a ways to go. I hope everyone will enjoy this year's homecoming, because so many people are hard at work putting it together. Remember, this is a birthday that comes once in a century. So, it's bound to be good.



Brandon Thomas is a senior majoring in political science. He can be reached at muckrakerthomas@gmail.com.

What the centennial means for *Sidelines*

In the year of the 100th birthday of MTSU, many changes are happening at the university. While change is inevitable—say, tuition increases—some decisions require more drive and decision-making behind them. This year at *Sidelines*, we find ourselves in a position to engage in a bit of both.

During the centennial year, the College of Mass Communication is constructing a media convergence center that will merge *Sidelines*, the university's campus radio stations,

WMOT and WMTS, and Channel 10 TV broadcasting facilities into one workspace. This means *Sidelines* will enter into a very important partnership with other student-run media—one that will be more like the working environments we will all encounter upon graduation.

In a highly digital age, *Sidelines* is attempting to connect with our readers in the places they most want to see us. This means kicking out one bad-ass print edition per week while attempting to do a better job of catching our

readers up on a daily basis on Facebook, Twitter and our website.

Many newsrooms have made adjustments to their traditional model—creating an environment where web presence is key. For example, Gannett, the largest newspaper publisher in the United States, dropped 31 staff members statewide in a decision based mostly on cost. In essence, newsrooms have to do more with less—and *Sidelines* is following that path just like any other newsroom.



By Amanda Haggard
Editor-in-Chief

However, this is an exciting year for everyone at the university and the *Sidelines* staff members are ready to cover it all. Good luck with your classes and get ready to celebrate 100 years of our excellent university!

MT Football looks to rebuild while seeking a third straight bowl appearance

By Mark Mize
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders hope to continue their recent success under head coach Rick Stockstill despite losing a number of key players and both coordinators from the 2010 campaign.

The last two seasons have been arguably the best for MT football since joining Division I. In 2009, they won a program record 10 games, including a New Orleans bowl victory over Southern Miss. In 2010, they followed up their record season with six wins and another bowl appearance; making back-to-back bowl games for the first time in school history.

This year, the Blue Raiders will attempt to make it three straight bowl appearances despite the loss of seven starters on defense and four on offense.

The team will break in a new offensive coordinator in Willie Simmons and a new defensive coordinator in Steve Ellis.

On offense the Blue Raiders were stunned last season to find that they would be without starting quarterback Dwight Dasher for the first four games. In his absence, a pair of young field generals stepped up to take control of the offense, Logan Kilgore and Jeff Murphy. The two players gathered valuable on-field experience that will now come into play after Dasher's graduation.

Kilgore and Murphy are currently listed as co-starters on MT's preseason depth chart. Kilgore played with the first-team offense in the annual Blue vs. White Spring game and threw for 163 yards and two touchdowns, but Murphy put on a show of his own in the two other spring scrimmages with 11 touchdowns and no interceptions. Stockstill praised both of his quarterbacks at media days.

"They're both very hard workers," Stockstill said. "They're both very good teammates, and the bottom line is they're like us, they just want to win."

Catching passes from the pair will be a mostly intact receiving corps from last year's squad. MT returns 74 percent of its 2011 receiving yards.

Wide receiver Malcolm Beyah led the team last year with 388 receiving yards and two touchdowns. Sancho McDonald, Tavarres Jefferson and Shane Blissard are the other three listed starters at wideout.

However, do not count out senior Harold Turner or transfer Anthony Amos. Amos led the offense in receiving yards in both of the spring scrimmages before hauling in five passes for 65 yards and two touchdowns in the Blue vs. White game.

The running game has to replace primary back Phillip Tanner who is now playing on Sundays with the Dallas Cowboys.

Benny Cunningham is listed as the starter ahead of D.D. Kyles. The two combined for 769 yards on the ground last year to go with eight touchdowns. Cunningham may only be a junior, but Stockstill said he is an experienced player despite having only one career start.

"Benny's played a bunch," Stockstill said. "He played a lot as a true freshman, and he played a lot last year."

Blocking for the running game will be an offensive line that returns four starters and 85 career starts overall. MT was third in the Sun Belt in rushing yards per game last year with just over 180.

Right tackle is the only position that will be breaking in a new starter in Jadareus Hamlin. Hamlin takes over for the departed Mark Fisher who earned all-conference honors and started 47 career games as a Blue Raider.

On defense, youth may prove to be more of an issue.

The defensive line returns only SaCoby Carter, and he is currently listed behind true freshman Patrick McNeil at defensive tackle.

"Our mindset doesn't change year-to-year based on expectations from the outside," Stockstill said.

Omar McClendon looks to pick up where Jamari Lattimore left off at defensive end. Lattimore piled up 11.5 sacks as a rush end last year and is now playing for the Green Bay Packers. At the other end position are co-starters Dearco Nolan and Gorby Loreus.

What the defensive line lacks in experience, the linebacking corps makes up for.

The defenses top two returning tacklers are the outside linebacker tandem of Darin Davis and Justin Jones. Davis had 81 tackles, three and a half sacks and three interceptions last season. Davis contributed 68 tackles and six tackles for loss.

Finally, the secondary may be the area of the most uncertainty for the defense. Rod Issac, Jeremy Kellum and Kevin Brown have all graduated, and with them they took 116 career combined starts. Senior corner Arness Ikner is the only returning starter from last year's defensive backfield, and he will look to stabilize a pass defense that will be key to the ultimate success of this year's team.

Seniors Eric Russell, Derek Crumpton and T.L. Edwards are the

other listed starters in the secondary. Russell is an above average athlete at the position, which is shown by the fact he is also the team's primary return man. Crumpton has the most experience of the three; he recorded 37 tackles last season in a backup role.

On special teams, place kicker Alan Gendreau is one of the most heralded of the Blue Raiders. Gendreau was the only player selected to the preseason Sun Belt first team and is also a candidate for Lowe's Senior CLASS Award. Gendreau connected on 10 of 12 field goals last year with a long of 55 yards.

MT tied for third in the preseason Sun Belt Conference poll. Florida International slightly edged out Troy for the top spot as judged by the conference's own coaches, but coach Stockstill said preseason rankings do not affect him or his team.

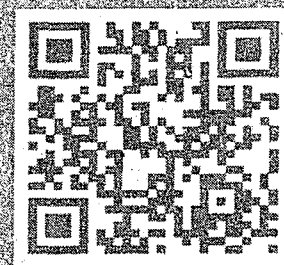
"Our mindset doesn't change year-to-year based on expectations from the outside," Stockstill said. "So, no it has no bearing on me. It has no effect on this football team, and it'll have no bearing on how we play against Purdue."

The Blue Raiders open up the season with an away game Saturday against Purdue. Purdue struggled to a 4-8 record in 2011 with a 2-6 conference record in the Big Ten.

The Boilermakers ranked 112th in the nation in passing yards last season and 105th in points scored with only 19.7. An area of strength for the team was the rushing game where they ranked in the nation's top 50. The run game will get a further boost from the return of Ralph Bolden after he missed all of the 2010 season; in 2009 he rushed for 935 and nine touchdowns.

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