

# EDUCATION

Local Schools • Colleges • State and National News



Photo courtesy of Union City Schools

**CAREER CHOICES** — Firefighter Michael Reeves (left) of the Union City Fire Department helped Union City High School student Kolby Craig try on firefighter turnout gear during last week's UCHS College/Career Fair. More than 40 vendors — including representatives from local businesses, first responders, multiple universities and several military branches — were on hand to provide information. UC Schools career counselor Lisa Carson put together the event, which drew various options that await 2023 graduates and

underclassmen who are still undecided about their career paths. High school students and eighth-graders from UC Middle School toured Marty Sisco Gymnasium interacting with the representatives and collecting information that could shape their futures. Ms. Carson, who worked extensively with Obion County Chamber of Commerce leaders Lindsay Frilling and Rachael McKinney, said she hopes to expand the event in the future and would like to collaborate with area businesses and industries to fill their workforce needs.



Photo courtesy of the University of Tennessee at Martin

**CALL ME MISTER** — The University of Tennessee at Martin's Call Me MiSTER program honored its first five graduating seniors recently at the 2023 Louis C. Glover UT Martin Call Me MiSTER Celebration. Gathered after the event were (from

left) Logan Davis of Memphis, Tydarius Blackwell of Jackson, UTM interim chancellor Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, Jonathan Utley and Lathon Ross, both of Jackson, and Justyn "Jax" Johnson of Union City. All five graduated this past Saturday.

## UTM's first 5 'MiSTER' grads honored

Students in the University of Tennessee at Martin Call Me MiSTER program learn how to change lives through teaching.

The first five UT Martin MiSTERS to complete the program are ready to make a difference in the classroom after being honored last month during the 2023 Louis C. Glover UT Martin Call Me MiSTER Celebration at Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom.

The event was named in memory of Dr. Louis C. Glover, initial program coordinator for the UT Martin Call Me MiSTER program and a Department of Educational Studies faculty member. The celebration was sponsored by Tosh Farms in Henry County and the celebration programs were donated by Rawls Funeral Homes.

The Call Me MiSTER® (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models) program that was founded at Clemson University in 2000 and strives to increase the pool of available teachers from a more diverse background, particularly among the state's lowest-performing elementary schools. Student participants are selected largely from among underserved, socio-economically disadvantaged and educationally at-risk communities. The students receive the preparation needed to pursue successful careers in Tennessee elementary and middle schools, possibly even at schools they attended.

The teacher leadership program has grown to include 13 states and provides participants with mentoring support and net-

working opportunities that benefit them both during and after earning college degrees. UT Martin has the only Call Me MiSTER program in Tennessee.

The celebration featured presentations of an official Call Me MiSTER blazer to each graduating senior. The blazer signifies a lifetime connection and commitment to the program's mission to prepare servant leaders, effective teachers and mentors to future generations.

Justyn "Jax" Johnson, a Union City High School graduate and education integrated studies 6-8 social studies major, told the celebration audience that he had few male minority leaders in his life before coming to UT Martin.

"But over my four years here, not only have I seen how great of a male minority leader I can be, but I've been blessed to be in the graces of some amazing people," he said.

Following the celebration, Johnson said the connections he made in the program led him to leadership opportunities with the university's Summer Orientation and Registration staff, working as a Peer Enabling Program leader, and serving as staff member with the UT Martin Young Scholars Academy for underserved youth.

His student-teaching experiences showed Johnson the demands of classroom teaching, but even after a long school day, he said "this one conversation that I might have had with a student" and "being able to see them smile even just for that few minutes" inspires him toward the teaching career that lies just ahead.

Other students honored during the celebration were Logan Davis of Memphis and Tydarius Blackwell, Jonathan Utley and Lathon Ross, all of Jackson.

The five new MiSTERS received their bachelor's degrees during the university's commencement ceremony this past Saturday in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Dr. Roy Jones, Clemson University's Call Me MiSTER national director, traveled from South Carolina to attend the celebration. He told the audience that the program looks beyond the participants becoming third-grade teachers, which is important.

"It's a legacy," he said to those who earned a blazer. "There is a need for you. This country has a need for you, for educators to make a difference, to raise the standard and raise the vision for this nation. ... This nation needs visionaries in ways to show the nation where and how to do it. We need the answers. That's how we see Call Me MiSTER."

Among other recognitions was a plaque presented to Samuel Tharpe of Paris for his service as the Call Me MiSTER coordinator of community outreach and advancement.

## At the college level

Obion County Central High School standout senior Alex Carpenter has been awarded the Distinguished Tennessean Scholarship by the University of Tennessee.

The Distinguished Tennessean Award is offered to one student from each of Tennessee's 95 counties who exemplifies academic excellence, leadership, community service and the Volunteer spirit. It covers full tuition and fees for all four years.

Carpenter has an outstanding résumé in leadership with local, state and international 4-H programs, traveling to both Hawaii and Puerto Rico in recent years to represent Tennessee. He earned the 4-H All-Star Award, the highest honor given to a Tennessee 4-H member.

At OCCHS, he served as vice president and president of the Student Council. He is the current Beta Club president, senior class president and co-chairman of the OC Ambassadors program.

Carpenter has won several local, state and national contests for essay and speech writing, including the VFW Voice of Democracy competition. He was an American Legion



Photo courtesy of OCCHS  
**ALEX CARPENTER**

Boys State delegate and was most recently voted the honor of Mr. OCCHS by his peers.

He was also the creator and host of "Rebel-Cast," a local podcast available on Spotify.

He plans to major in communications as an undergrad student in the fall at UT-Knoxville.

**University of Tennessee at Martin** students Kaylee Cook of Union City and Katie Parr of South Fulton were recently initiated into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.



Submitted photo

**MAJOR MILESTONE** — After completing her GED and determined to further her education, Misty Flatt Freeman of Union City enrolled at Bethel University in McKenzie in April 2017 to pursue a bachelor of science degree in emergency services management. Among the challenges of completing the degree was her medical diagnosis of neuroendocrine cancer in October 2017, followed by identification of a second type of cancer in November 2020. During that time, Ms. Freeman and her family were faced with multiple treatments, surgeries and setbacks. Despite it all, Ms. Freeman recently completed her degree, which was conferred March 30.

## Menus

Union City Schools has announced the following breakfast and lunch menus for the week of May 15-19:

### Breakfast

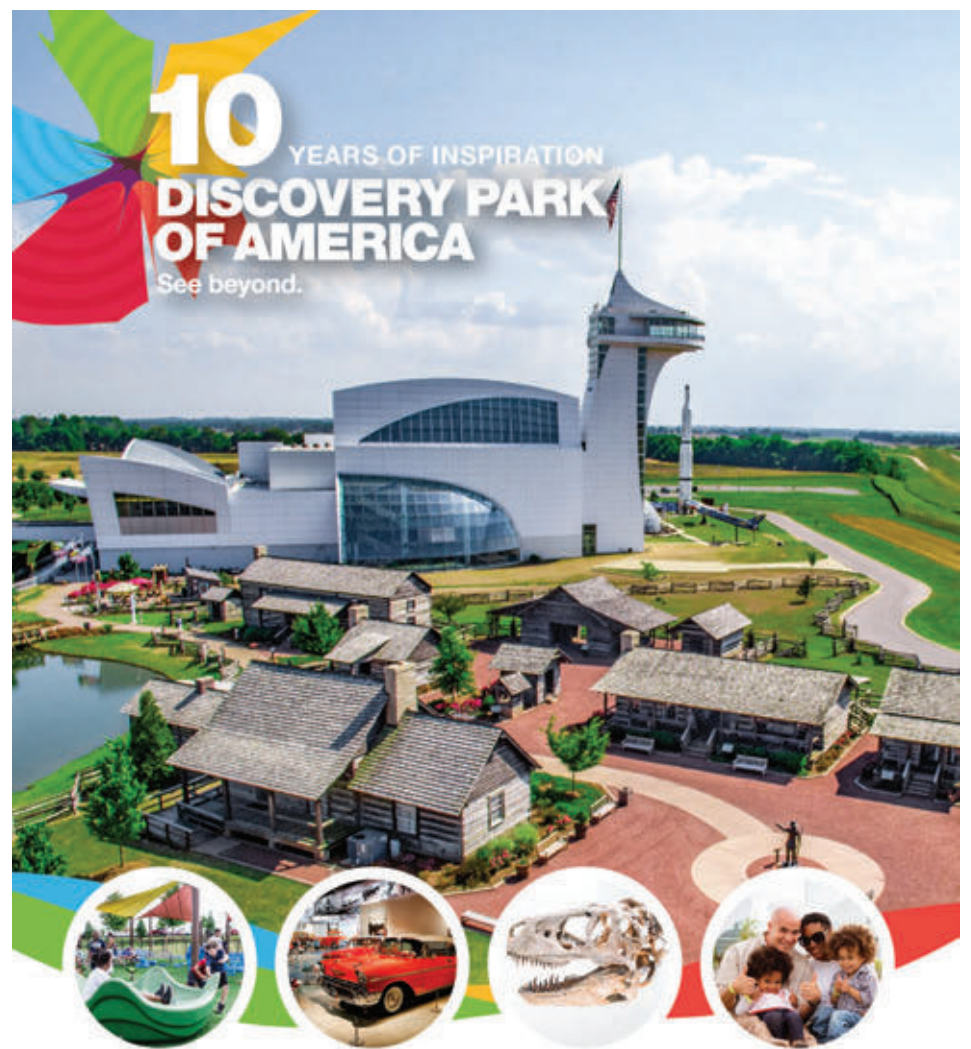
- May 15 — Ham and biscuit, fruit/fruit juice and milk.
- May 16 — Mini French toast, fruit/fruit juice and milk.
- May 17 — Links and biscuit, fruit/fruit juice and milk.
- May 18 — Apple frudel, fruit/fruit juice and milk.
- May 19 — Assorted muffin, fruit/fruit juice and milk.

### Lunch

- May 15 — Chicken strips or fish sticks, baked potato wedges, green beans, roll and diced pears.
- May 16 — BBQ pork nachos or fiestada pizza, baked beans, buttered corn and sliced peaches.
- May 17 — Beef ravioli or Italian meatballs, garden salad, glazed carrots, garlic bread and frozen fruit cup.
- May 18 — Chicken patty on bun or crispito with dip, salsa, broccoli with dip, sweet potato puffs and mandarin oranges.
- May 19 — Cheeseburger on bun or assorted pizza, crinkle-cut

fries, fresh veggie tray with dip, sandwich tray and Sidekicks.

*Note: Menus are subject to change. A choice of 1 percent or fat-free strawberry, chocolate or white milk is offered daily. All breads are whole grain except for biscuits and crackers. Fresh fruit is offered daily at all schools. UC Middle School and UC High School offer entrée salads daily at lunch.*



## Find inspiration around every corner at Discovery Park of America.

Discovery Park is a 100,000-square-foot museum with a 50-acre outdoor heritage park. Experience an earthquake room with a lesson about scenic Reelfoot Lake, see full-size replicas of dinosaur skeletons and wander through the gardens and grounds outside.

**BUY TICKETS ONLINE AND SAVE.**

discoveryparkofamerica.com | Union City, TN | 731-885-5455

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