

**Breaking laws?**  
**Professor's research creates**  
**sound pulses faster than light**  
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**Weather on the Web**  
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**'Sound into Print'**  
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# the RECORD

## NSF award to aid MTSU's outreach in math, science

from Staff Reports

A \$789,040 National Science Foundation award will help MTSU's efforts to increase fifth- through eighth-grade students' interest in math and science.

"In order to keep high-tech, high-paying jobs in Tennessee communities, we have to make technical fields more attractive to students," said Congressman Bart Gordon. "To do that, we need programs that will make a substantial improvement in K-12 science and math education and keep the United States in position to compete with the rest of the world."



MTSU's Energy, Earth and Civilization Project will work with fifth- through eighth-grade students and teachers from Woodbury Grammar School, Central Middle School, Mitchell-Neilson Elementary School and the Smyrna Boys & Girls

See 'Outreach' page 5

## Plan ahead: it's time for TSSAA tourney traffic

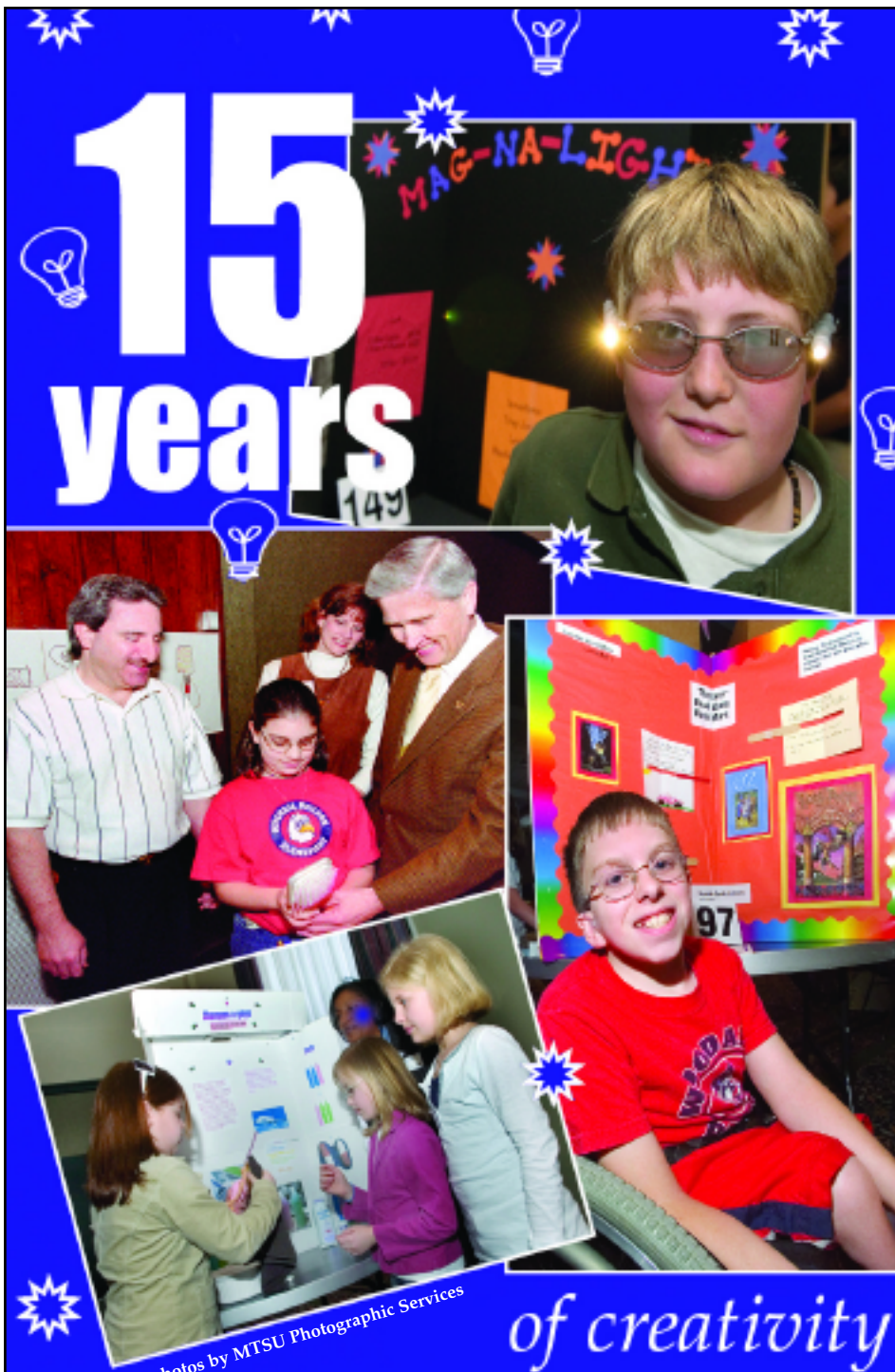
from Staff Reports

The TSSAA girls' and boys' Division I high school basketball tournaments have been scheduled for March 7-10 and March 14-17, respectively, in Murphy Center, and that means

temporary traffic and parking changes around campus for MTSU students, faculty and staff.

The girls' tournament occurs during spring break, which should help reduce congestion, but officials say MTSU motorists still will need to use caution and make room when necessary for tournament guests.

See 'TSSAA' page 6



file photos by MTSU Photographic Services

## Invention Convention '07 bubbling over with ideas

by Ashlea Ramey

A mother's legacy will once again lead area children to summon their creative and practical capabilities, and MTSU will be their showcase.

On March 1, MTSU's James Union Building will be the site where hundreds of student-created gadgets and games will be on public display at the aptly named Invention Convention.

Dr. Tracey Ring, MTSU professor of elementary and special education, said she began the program

in 1993 after finding homespun inspiration.

"My mother did this when she taught fifth grade at a private school," Ring said. "After she retired, I decided to do it on a bigger scale."

Now, 15 years later, the Invention Convention draws nearly 300 participants from schools across middle Tennessee. Ring said that the conference is open to students in fourth, fifth and sixth grades from public and private schools, as well as local home schools.

See 'Invention' page 7

## IN BRIEF

### MTSU RESEARCHERS WORKING TO PREVENT DISEASE IN AFRICA

MTSU's Department of Health and Human Performance is collaborating with the World Health Organization and the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention to help build capacity for health-care awareness in Ghana, West Africa. This initiative involves acculturating and implementing the Global School-Based Student Health Survey. Dr. Andrew Owusu of the Department of Health and Human Performance is the project coordinator. A final country report is expected in fall 2007. For more information, contact Owusu at [aowusu@mtsu.edu](mailto:aowusu@mtsu.edu).

### TENNESSEE AUTHOR SLATED FOR FREE PUBLIC READING MARCH 1

Fiction writer William Gay will deliver a free public reading at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1, in the James Union Building's Hazlewood Dining Room. A native of Hohenwald, Tenn., and past winner of the William Peden Award and the James Michener Memorial Prize, the author of three novels and one short-story collection will be available for a book signing immediately following the reading. For more information, call 615-904-8155 or e-mail [rtmackin@mtsu.edu](mailto:rtmackin@mtsu.edu).

### JUMP IN YOUR JAMMIES, BUT BUY SOME FOR NEEDY KIDS, TOO!

Kids of all ages, especially if they're battling an illness or living in a shelter, need a little comfort. That's why Jaz's Jammies Annual Pajama Drive will be collecting new pajamas for children through Feb. 28 at the entrance of The Grill in the Keathley University Center. This year's goal for MTSU's contribution is more than 1,000 pairs of PJs! All pajamas will be donated to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital and Room at the Inn shelter. For more information, call 615-898-5812 or visit [www.mtsu.edu/~sga](http://www.mtsu.edu/~sga).

### IDEAS ON BEAUTIFYING CAMPUS? SEND 'EM IN, WATCH 'EM GROW!

The MTSU Student Government Association and the Office of Student Organizations and Community Service are working together to coordinate the annual Campus Beautification Day, and they need your input! The tentative date for the project is Saturday, March 31, and organizers welcome your thoughts and suggestions at [mnf2b@mtsu.edu](mailto:mnf2b@mtsu.edu).



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