

May 20, 2026

“Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time.”

Today’s Program

Matt Bane, ABC Medical: their services, allergy testing, dealing with tick bites and more

Last Week’s Program



Dr. Cassondra Burks, assistant professor in the Department of Nursing at UT Martin, stressed the importance of vaccines in health care when she spoke at last week’s meeting of Kiwanis. In her presentation entitled “The Infrastructure of Immunity: Historical Foundations, Clinical Realities, and the Modern Schism in Pediatric Vaccination,” Dr. Burks guided the group through historical and scientific data. She explained that in the early 1900s, 1 in 5 children died before the age of 5 and that the development of vaccines and success of routine immunizations led to the near-total eradication of historic killers—smallpox, polio, and diphtheria. Since then, vaccination rates have fallen below the 95% protection threshold and there is a resurgence of preventable disease. For example, in 2025, there were 2,288 confirmed cases of measles and 3 deaths — the first mortalities in more than a decade. By April 2026, an additional 1,814 cases had been identified. In addition, the 2024-25 influenza season recorded 284 pediatric deaths. Of these 89% had not been vaccinated.

As Dr. Burks concluded her presentation, she stated: “In an era of institutional divergence, the preservation of child health now depends on the ability of pediatricians and frontline nurses to remain the ultimate trusted messengers of evidence-based care.”

Note: the dog’s name is Prissy —a frequent visitor to Kiwanis

Martin Kiwanis Calendar

- May 27 — Election of officers and Beth Mitchell Graves, RN from Magnolia Clinic will be discussing her career path since graduation & how it has led her back to Martin & Magnolia Clinic. Also, she will enlighten the attendees on the many services available at the clinic!
- June 6 — Fishing Derby, Martin Recreation Complex
- June 11 — Board Meeting, MPL and Zoom
- June 19-21 Juneteenth Celebration, Festival Park and Refreshing Church

Summer Meetings Schedule and Locations (12 noon)

- June 3 — Room 125 Presentation of Club Awards to local citizens
- June 17— Room 230
- July 1 — Room 230
- July 15 — Room 230

Kiwanians in the news:

Tennessee’s Clinton Smith honored as NEA’s 2026 Higher Educator of the Year

Google: Clinton Smith 2026 NEA educator of the year award

Laura Taylor: Got to spend my lunch hour yesterday with Kiwanis Club of Union City talking about Sports Plus Rehab Therapy, Martin Wellness Center, and Rock Steady Martin. It's always a great day when I can share my passions!!



Active Members

- Anita Airee
- Richa Airee
- Bill Austin
- Mary Elizabeth Bell
- Hannah Bilger
- Otha Britton
- Anna Clark
- Jim Clark
- Kayla Colvin
- Courtney Echols
- Danelle Fabianich
- Olivia Fernandez
- Ann Gathers
- Bettye Giles
- Vickie Hazlewood
- Jessica Hightower
- Steve Lemond
- Linda Luther
- Jennifer Medford
- Alexis Millsaps
- Mary Morgan
- Katie Parr
- Jayne Parrish
- Roberta Peacock
- Vincent Politte
- Linda Ramsey
- Sara Sieber
- Clinton Smith
- David Sudberry
- Jamie Summers
- Laura Taylor
- Earl Wright

