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Guests of the Mexico resort Naviva, raise their glasses to toast the Naviva Unplugged experience after Nashville artist Marc Scibilia played on the beach, followed by a family-style dinner. PROVIDED BY LIBERTY FLEMING

‘EXPERIENCE TRANSCENDS THE CONCERT’

Mexican resort adds unplugged series

Melonee Hurt
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

PUNTA MITA, MEXICO - Alvaro Mackissack ambled across the sandy beach.

It was just before sunset as he joined several friends on a gathering of soft couches oriented toward a small stage with waves lapping behind.

Most people have to crowd into a packed 1,000-seat venue for a show like this. But Mackissack and his family got an ocean sunset — and a front-row seat to see singer/songwriter Marc Scibilia — with only 20 or so others in attendance.

The small crowd is not something

Scibilia is used to, but this one was by design.

Scibilia was an invited guest at a boutique resort in Punta Mita, Mexico, called Naviva, A Four Seasons Resort. It’s a property that at full capacity houses only 30 guests in 15 tented bungalows. The resort is a frontrunner for “experiential tourism” and the most recent addition to the lineup of experiences there is its unplugged concert series.

But this is not just a resort offering live music. The evening is an experience for both the guests and the musician who flips a typical performance on its side a bit. It’s the Naviva way, really.

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“I said to the small crowd that this feels like I’m just sitting in my living room and you guys are all here at my house looking at me. It felt totally different than a normal gig. There was no pressure. I could play one of my songs, one of my dad’s songs, a Hank Jr. song or something I played the night before and nobody would know the difference. There was a feeling of everyone involved were friends even though I hadn’t met anyone yet.”

Shooter Jennings, musician

MTSU MONDAYS

National tech academy; preservation exhibit wins state award

Courtesy of Middle Tennessee State University

Here’s the latest news from Middle Tennessee State University.

Civil Air Patrol tech academy

Dozens of teenagers from around the nation enjoyed a variety of activities while visiting the campus of Middle Tennessee State University during the weeklong Civil Air Patrol National Cadet Engineering Technology Academy held Monday through Friday, July 7-11.

The participants were selected by CAP for the academy through a competitive process, with 40 cadets hailing from more than 20 states, including two from Hawaii.

Col. Larry Trick of Hollywood, Maryland, a 50-year member with CAP, said 240 teens applied this year. Those selected joined 12 cadet staff, 11 senior staff members and two U.S. Air Force reservists serving as liaisons.

“MTSU is so supportive,” said Trick, a CAP historian. “The faculty and facilities provide a wonderful experience for the cadets. ... Nearly 100% of them want to be pilots.”

Cadets took part in activities highlighting aerospace, engineering technology, physics and astronomy, data science, concrete and construction management, biology and chemistry, plus a few surprises.

A favorite activity of many cadets was driving MTSU’s Experimental Vehicles Program’s lunar rover and four-wheel Baha.

“The (moon) buggies (lunar rovers) always have been one of the highlights. Everyone has a smile on their face,” said Andrew Higgins, 19, cadet commander from Churchville, Maryland. This marks his third year at MTSU. “I love this school. It’s a brilliant place to hold this.”

Ava Zendejas, 15, of Auburn, Washington, is the deputy cadet commander and an aspiring pilot, as are most of the cadets. “I really like the aerospace opportunities, makerspace and exploring all of the STEM (science,

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Nashville’s longest-serving television meteorologist to retire after 44 years

Brad Schmitt
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Davis Nolan — Nashville television’s longest running weather forecaster — has announced he is retiring after 44 years as the meteorologist for WKRN News 2. His last day will be Aug. 22, WKRN posted in an online story announcing the move.

“Besides being 71 years old, I have some family that will be needing my help over the next few years,” Nolan told The Tennessean July 11. “And it all added

up to ‘it’s about time!’”

In a segment airing on WKRN July 10, Nolan said his colleagues — who supported him through his battle with cancer — have felt like family in his four decades on the air.

“Even in the worst times I’ve gone through,” Nolan said, “we’re like family.”

Nolan is only one of two Nashville news personalities with more than 40 years on the air at the same station. The other is News 2 anchor Bob Mueller, who has worked for WKRN for 45 straight years.

Nolan, who runs a meteorology con-

sulting business, said he’ll continue doing a fishing segment, Fishing Funtacular, from time to time on News 2. He also will continue to post about weather on WKRN’s social media channels.

News 2 chief meteorologist Danielle Breezy called Nolan’s announcement bittersweet.

“He is one of the hardest working & kindest soules (sic) I have ever worked with and has taught me so much over the years,” Breezy posted on Instagram.

“Davis, you are a joy to work with and

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WKRN News 2 meteorologist Davis Nolan at Centennial Park on Feb. 8. NICOLE HESTER/THE TENNESSEAN

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