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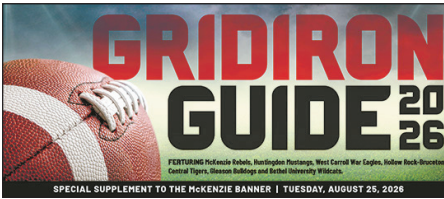
(L to R): Stephanie Slack-Allen, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC; Chris Blount, PA-C; Elly Riley, DO; Lori Holladay, NP; Jill Bennett, NP; Katharine Bullock, FNP; and Emily Ezell, DO.



THE BANNER

The Hub of Carroll, Henry and Weakley Counties Since 1870.

INSIDE THIS EDITION



Tuesday, August 25, 2026

McKENZIE, TENNESSEE

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McKENZIE WEATHER			
AUG. 25-31 • NWS FORECAST			
TUE AUG 25		91°/68° SUNNY	0%
WED AUG 26		92°/69° T-STORMS	30%
THU AUG 27		92°/66° T-STORMS	30%
FRI AUG 28		91°/66° SUNNY	0%
SAT AUG 29		93°/68° SUNNY	0%
SUN AUG 30		95°/72° SUNNY	0%
MON AUG 31		96°/72° MOSTLY SUNNY	0%

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OBITUARIES

Billy Altom, 71
Anthony Scott Brown, 48
Judy C. Cole, 80
George E. Howton, 80
Buddy Smothers, 74
Joy Bell Stacey, 60
June Williams, 92

QUOTE

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."
— William James

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Candidates for Municipal Elections in November

CARROLL COUNTY — The following candidates have qualified for the November 3 General Election for municipal offices in Carroll County.

Atwood

T.J. Herndon is the lone candidate for mayor. Candidates for aldermen include: Dustin Church, Joann Long, and Tommy Polinski.

Bruceton

Two have qualified as candidates for the office of mayor. Candidates are Incumbent Robert Keeton, III, and Brad Hurley, director of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce.

Candidates for aldermen are: Jack R. Blocker, Robert Cole, Jason McCord, Michael Wilson.

Thomas Ingram is seeking the lone seat to fill an unexpired term on the Board of Aldermen.

Hollow Rock

Two have qualified as candidates for the office of mayor of Hollow Rock. Ronnie Webb and Misty White have both qualified.

See ELECTIONS on Page 3

SWEET DRINKS, SWEETER MEMORIES

Left, Milly and Matthew Hart of Martin enjoy carnival rides on Main Street. Right, Meagan, Chris and Carson Barnett cool off with tea and lemonade in downtown McKenzie. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Fun at the Sweet Tea Festival

BY LYNDESEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (August 22) — The Sweet Tea Festival rocked downtown McKenzie over the weekend, with vendors and entertainers taking over Banner Row, Broadway Street and parts of Main Street and Cedar Street.

This year's festival had many firsts — its first car show, its first sweet tea taste-off and its first time with an emcee.

For the first time, this year's festival included a car show in the parking

lot of McKenzie Banking Company. McKenzie councilmen Bobby Young and Jessie Townes, who also collect show cars, put the show together after a few years of planning.

Young and Townes helped select the show's winners, judging based on paint, body, interior and wheels.

Don Cherry of Spring Creek won third place with his 1972 Chevrolet Nova, Charlie Estes of Atwood won second place with his 1970 Chevrolet C10, and Tom Montgomery of Medina took first place with his 1966

Ford Mustang.

Mike Parker of Linden, Tenn., won Best in Show for his restoration of an apple red 1969 Ford Bronco. The truck was custom built by Keeton Hot Rods in Decaturville. Parker and his wife, Kelly, bought the Bronco seven years ago, and Kelly said they spent the past six years restoring it.

The car show had almost 40 participants, about which Young was excited.

See TEA on Page 3

Long Heights Baptist Church Pays Off Mortgage

BY LYNDESEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (August 24) — Long Heights Baptist Church in McKenzie has paid off its mortgage. The church celebrated the occasion with a note-burning ceremony Sunday morning, concluded with four baptisms.

Young church member Griffin Bargery set the note on fire, supported by financial secretary Jenny Lehmkul, treasurer and former trustee Keith Robertson, and deacon emeritus and former trustee Bob Cole.

Long Heights Baptist Church moved into its new building at 260 Old Paris Road on August 28, 2005. The total relocation cost was \$1,932,297.98.

7,665 days later, the church building is now paid in full,

See CHURCH on Page 3

Young church member Griffin Bargery leads the ceremonial note burning, supported by Jenny Lehmkul, Keith Robertson and Bob Cole. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

HUNTINGDON Town Council to Consider \$1.8M Contract for Tennis Complex

HUNTINGDON — Huntingdon is set to significantly enhance its recreational offerings with the approval of a grant application for a new tennis and pickleball complex. In March, the town council authorized the submission of the 2026 Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) grant, paving the way for six new tennis courts and eight pickleball courts, complete with parking, ADA-compliant walkways, is at a guaranteed maximum cost of \$1,893,949 by construction

See TENNIS on Page 3

McKenzie School Board To Install New Members

McKENZIE — The McKenzie Special School District Board of Education will install four elected members from the August election and elect its officers when the board meets Tuesday, September 1, at 5:30 p.m. in the MSSD Board Room.

The elected board members Matt Lane, Spiros Roditis, Brian Stafford and Brian Winston are scheduled to be installed during the meeting. The board will then elect a chairman, vice chairman and treasurer. Members will also select a Tennessee Legislative Network member and alternate.

Other actionable items include consideration of

See SCHOOL on Page 3

Gleason's Tater Town Special Begins Sunday

GLEASON — Tater Week officially begins Sunday, August 30, 6 p.m. at First Baptist Church with a worship service led by Bethel University's Renaissance Choir.

The annual event honors Mrs. Debbie Robbins as the Tater Town Treasure.

The grand marshal of the annual grand parade is the Gleason Rotary Club.

Monday, August 31, begins with a block party in downtown Gleason, beginning at 6 p.m. It includes a costume contest at 7:30, children's chalk art, karaoke, food trucks, and music.

September 1 is the annual Tater Town Special Car Show, beginning at 7 p.m. in downtown Gleason. It also includes a Power Wheel Fun Race, 6:30 p.m. at Snider Park. A Youth Glow Run is 7 p.m. at Snider Park.

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 MEMBER
2026 WE RECYCLE



TVA Board Approves New Data Center Rates

MEMPHIS — The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors has voted unanimously to establish a dedicated rate structure targeting the region's growing boom of energy-intensive data centers. The decision, approved during the board's quarterly business meeting in Memphis, seeks to shift more of the financial burden of massive grid expansion onto tech developers rather than residential power customers.

The new rate structure

takes effect October 1, 2026, and will be phased in across three consecutive fiscal years. Under the approved guidelines, data centers will face an estimated 10% average rate increase compared to standard large-industrial customer rates, along with an additional surcharge for electrical loads exceeding 5 megawatts.

Balancing Growth and Grid Reliability

The move comes as rapid investments in artificial intel-

ligence and cloud computing — including mega-scale campuses like Elon Musk's xAI facility in Memphis — drive historic surges in electricity demand across the Southeast.

TVA officials framed the policy update around its commitment to a "Ratepayer Protection Pledge," designed to ensure private data center buildouts do not inflate monthly utility bills for the 10 million residents and small businesses across TVA's seven-state territory.

Whiting Welcomed as New VP of Operations at LIS

PARIS (August 18) — Nathan Whiting has been named the new vice president of operations at L.I. Smith & Associates, bringing more than two decades of leadership experience to the Paris-based company.

Whiting's experience spans the U.S. Army Green Berets and industries including aviation and professional skydiving, aerospace and defense, agriculture, logistics and enterprise technology.

Throughout his career, Whiting has focused on bringing teams together, improving communication, strengthening operations and developing systems that promote accountability and long-term success. His experience has given him a strong understanding of how to lead through change and turn organizational priorities into clear action.

Before joining LIS, Whiting served with management consulting firm Credera, founded Whiting Advisory — where he worked with organizations across several industries to improve efficiency and strengthen leadership alignment — and most recently served as se-



Nathan Whiting. Photo courtesy L.I. Smith & Associates

nior program manager at Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI).

As vice president of operations, Whiting will work across departments to improve coordination, strengthen internal processes and help ensure LIS is prepared to support its clients and continued growth. In a press release, the company said Whiting's experience will be especially valuable as LIS expands its capabilities and takes on increasingly complex projects across the Southeast.

"We are excited to wel-

come Nathan to the LIS leadership team," said Patrick Smith, president of L.I. Smith & Associates. "His experience leading teams, improving operations and building strong organizational systems will be a tremendous asset to our company. We look forward to the positive impact he will have on our employees, clients and the future of LIS."

L.I. Smith & Associates, Inc. (LIS) is a professional engineering and surveying firm headquartered in Paris, Tenn., with a branch office in Nashville. For more than 50 years, LIS has provided high-quality surveying, engineering, and construction layout services to public agencies, private clients, contractors, municipalities, and developers.

Licensed in 12 states across the Central and Southeast regions, LIS combines decades of proven experience with modern technology to deliver accurate data, practical solutions and dependable results. From concept to completion, the firm is committed to accuracy, responsiveness and client-focused service on every project.

Dr. Lee Carter is New TSBA President

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (August 19) — Dr. Lee Carter is now the president of the Tennessee School Board Association (TSBA). Dr. Carter announced his new role to the Huntingdon Special School District (HSSD) Board of Education during its August meeting.

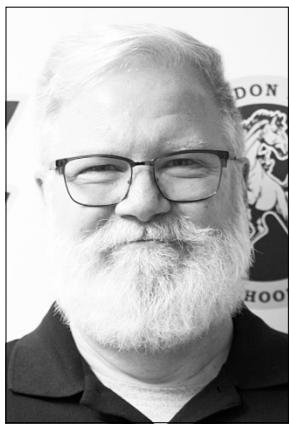
Dr. Carter, who chairs the HSSD Board of Education, served as the vice president of TSBA in 2025 and was elected to become president-elect for the 2026 year. However, when the acting president had to step down from his role after losing his local school board seat on August 6, Dr. Carter stepped into the presidential role five months prematurely.

What was supposed to be a year-long term as 2027 TSBA president is now a year and a half long term for Dr. Carter.

As president, Dr. Carter is, essentially, the face of school boards across the state of Tennessee. He is in charge of running the former president's two remaining state school board meetings this year in addition to three state school board meetings next year. He is also responsible for sharing TSBA board meetings and engaging with lobbyists who deal with legislation involving schools.

On Dr. Carter's role as TSBA president, HSSD Director of Schools Dr. Jonathan Kee said, "It's great for a small school system like us to have our board chair serving in that capacity... to be willing to do it and represent our community."

Dr. Carter joined the HSSD Board of Education



Dr. Lee Carter. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

in 2000 and became the board's chairman in 2004. If re-elected as chairman this year, Dr. Carter said he would be most excited to sign his granddaughter's diploma at graduation. In his time as chairman, he has also been able to sign both of his daughters' high school diplomas.

Also during Wednesday's meeting, the Huntingdon school board approved Huntingdon High School's next graduation date of Saturday, May 15, 2027, at 6 p.m. at Paul Ward Stadium. In the case of inclement weather, graduation will move to Sunday, May 16.

Dr. Carter and fellow board member Shawna Smith will attend graduation to represent the school board.

Dr. Kee requested for the board to approve the addition of another educational assistant position at Huntingdon Primary School. While the school might not need to add the position just yet, Dr. Kee wanted the board's support if he were to hire someone to fill the position. The

board voted its approval of Dr. Kee's request.

In a sweeping vote, the board also approved the SAVE Act Compliance Package, Cardiac Emergency Response Plan and an extended contract program presented during Wednesday's meeting.

The board acknowledged the August 6 re-election of Board Secretary Morgan Butler and Vice Chairman Brittany Foster, who waived their option to be sworn in during the meeting.

Huntingdon High School's school board representatives Lila Reed and Katherine Meggs spoke about Friday afternoon's pep rally ahead of the Huntingdon-McKenzie football game and about various fall sports kicking off. They also spoke about the addition of occasional "breaks" in their school schedule. High school students now receive a short break in their schedule as a reward for high attendance throughout the week.

Dr. Kee gave school board members an update on student enrollment. As of Wednesday, HSSD had 1,312 students. Of those students, 124 live outside of the district — approximately a 44-student increase from last year's open enrollment total.

Huntingdon Primary School has 411 students attending kindergarten through third grade.

Huntingdon Middle School has 513 students.

Huntingdon High School has 388 students.

The Huntingdon Special School District Board of Education's next meeting is Wednesday, September 16 at 5 p.m.



Top, MHSAA donation to McKenzie High School (L to R): Kelly Spivey (MHS Class of 1989)—MHS Principal, Lauren Hickman (2007)—MHSAA Treasurer, Ashley Barker Lowe (2014)—MHS Guidance Counselor, Betsy Hall Campbell (1973)—MHSAA President. Above, MHSAA donation to McKenzie Middle School (L to R): Josh Kee (MHS Class of 1995)—MMS Principal, Lori Ellis Robertson (1983)—MMS Guidance Counselor, Lauren Hickman (2007)—MHSAA Treasurer, Karen Cobb Moore (1984)—MMS and MHSAA Secretary, Betsy Hall Campbell (1973)—MHSAA President. Below, MHSAA donation to McKenzie Elementary School (L to R): Tonya Brown—MES Principal, Zach Renfro—MES Assistant Principal, Lauren Hickman (MHS Class of 2007)—MHSAA Treasurer, Carol Kemp Hill (1991)—MES Secretary, Betsy Hall Campbell (1973)—MHSAA President. Photos courtesy MHSAA



McKenzie High School Alumni Association Donates to Schools

COURTESY BRAD CAMP
McKenzie High School Alumni Association

McKENZIE (August 18) — McKenzie High School Alumni Association (MHSAA) President Betsy Hall Campbell (Class of 1973)

and Treasurer Lauren Hickman (2007) presented \$500 donations to McKenzie High, Middle and Elementary Schools on Tuesday to help students in need.

The donations are part of the MHSAA's mission of supporting students of the

McKenzie Special School District. The organization thanks those who have made financial contributions and provided support to various MHSAA activities which helped make these gifts possible!



Lindon Noe was commissioned by the Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center to paint a portrait of Hal Holbrook to complement an existing portrait of Dixie Carter-Holbrook. The new painting will soon be displayed at The Dixie in Huntingdon. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

New Portrait of Hal Holbrook Unveiled at The Dixie PAC

BY JOEL WASHBURN
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON, Tenn. — The legacy of the late actor Hal Holbrook has been immortalized in a new oil portrait, unveiled Wednesday, August 19, at the Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center. The painting, created by artist and former art professor Lindon Noe, now hangs in the Center, serving as a companion piece to an existing portrait of Holbrook's wife, the late Dixie Carter-Holbrook.

Both husband and wife were instrumental in the founding and ongoing success of the performing arts center that bears Carter's name. The late Mayor Dale Kelley was a personal friend of Dixie Carter. When he decided that Huntingdon needed a performing arts center, the town rallied around the idea and decided to name the Center in honor of one of the town's most famous citizens.

Both Dixie and Hal loved the rural life of Carroll County, and often could be

seen at their home in McMoresville or even shopping at Walmart. They both provided performances at The Dixie as fundraisers for the performing arts center, now in its 21st year.

The new portrait is intended to honor Holbrook's significant contributions to the venue, ensuring his presence remains a fixture alongside his wife's.

Noe, who grew up in Jackson, Tenn., and taught for years at Lambuth University, was selected for the commission of the painting. She had previously exhibited her work at The Dixie in 2013.

The project was a collaborative effort, guided by Huntingdon native, Laura (Smothers) Deville, who worked closely with Noe to ensure the new painting would harmonize with the existing portrait of Dixie Carter. While the original portrait of Carter is rendered in colored pencil, Noe—an oil painter by trade—worked to ensure the new piece captured a

similar spirit and scale.

"I made sure that everybody would be okay with that, but still tried to give the same feeling that you get from the one of Dixie Carter," Noe said.

The painting, which measures approximately 40 by 60 inches, was the result of a month-long process. Noe conducted extensive research, synthesizing photographs from Holbrook's iconic performances in "To Kill a Mockingbird" with additional reference material to capture the actor's likeness. She also attended Holbrook's live performance of "Mark Twain." For Noe, the commission was a deeply personal honor. "This was such an honor and such a privilege," she noted during the unveiling.

The two portraits will soon hang across from one another, creating a visual dialogue between the couple who were vital to the Center. The installation stands as a permanent tribute to the Holbrooks' enduring impact on the arts in the region.

USPS Drafts Policy for Mail-in Ballots

WASHINGTON — A federal rule overhaul by the United States Postal Service could radically change how mail-in ballots are processed in federal elections, assuming it survives an ongoing firestorm in federal court.

Under a 95-page regulation stemming from an executive order by President Donald Trump, state and local election offices are expected to upload voter records to a centralized federal database before mailing out ballots. The rule also mandates strict uniform standards for envelope sizing, barcode placement, and tracking.

Crucially, the policy gives USPS the authority to withhold or refuse delivery of ballot mailings from election districts that fail to comply with the federal data-matching protocols.

The Postal Service claims the measure is designed to standardize delivery and cut down on administrative errors. But critics call it a thinly veiled attempt to disrupt state-run elections and disenfranchise voters.

A High-Stakes Legal Standoff

For now, the policy remains in limbo. A federal judge in Boston issued a nationwide preliminary injunction, holding that the executive branch lacks the constitutional authority to dictate state election administration. Similar court orders currently block enforcement across more than twenty states.

The Justice Department is actively appealing the injunctions, and legal analysts expect the dispute to land before the U.S. Supreme Court. Unless higher courts intervene, the regulation will not apply to the upcoming 2026 midterm elections, leaving standard state-level mail-in procedures in place for the time being.

Stark Polarization Over Compliance

The policy has drawn sharp reactions from across the political spectrum:

- Supporters say cross-referencing state ballot files with Social Security and Homeland Security records guarantees that every ballot goes to an eligible, verified citizen.
- Voting rights organizations warn that bureaucratic mismatches could stall mailings to thousands of legitimate voters through no fault of their own.
- County clerks point out the practical nightmare: small election offices simply don't have the budget, staff, or software to retool their entire operation on short notice.

"The Postal Service is making sure we match the ballots that a state believes they're sending out to what actually gets sent out," Postmaster General David Steiner said, defending the policy.

Whether that pitch sways the Supreme Court remains to be seen. If the conservative-leaning bench decides to lift the lower court injunctions, election officials nationwide could face a scramble to alter their ballot operations before voters hit the polls this fall.



Long Heights Baptist Church's Sunday worship band is pictured with guest performers Daniel Doss, Andrea Cottrill, Matthew Holt, Brian Hill and Jerry Gaylord. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Church

...From Front Page

thanks to donations and various fundraising efforts from churchgoers throughout the years.

Brother Kenny Carr recounted the church's early years and how, though many things have changed, the church's mission remains the same: to reach up, reach out and reach in.

Sunday's celebration brought back memories

for some attendees, many of whom attended the building's groundbreaking. While the building was under construction, they would sometimes have worship services in the incomplete rooms. Attendees would write scripture and prayers on the walls, which were eventually covered.

Carr recalled leading a procession from the old church building to the new church on move-in day, carrying a replica of the Ark of the Covenant, built by Steve Bowden. As time

went on, children would put gathered donations into the Ark. Carr commented on how blessed he was to see some of those same children now raising families of their own in the church.

"Every single one of you matter in what we're celebrating today," Carr said during Sunday's sermon.

Former Long Heights worship leaders Daniel Doss, Brian Hill, Matthew Holt, Jerry Gaylord and Andrew Cottrill returned to the church on Sunday to lead worship.

Tennis

...From Front Page

managers Lashlee-Rich of Humboldt. The complex will be located at Huntingdon High School. Presently, the land is owned by the Huntingdon Special School District, but will be transferred to the ownership of the city to apply for the grant.

The project will move

forward if the Town of Huntingdon Mayor and Council approves the contract with Lashlee-Rich during its Tuesday, August 25 meeting.

In March, 2026, Dr. Jonathan Kee, director of schools, a proponent of the project, highlighted that the school system and the Wright Charitable Trust have committed to covering the 75/25 matching funds required by the grant, ensuring no additional financial burden on

town taxpayers. The site at the high school is already pre-graded, significantly reducing construction time and cost. Dr. Jonathan Kee emphasized that the courts would be a community venue, open to the public.

In other business during the August 25 meeting of city officials, a change to zoning regulations is expected to be approved to restrict any future data centers.

Tater

...From Front Page

Youth Bingo is Wednesday, September 2 at the Gazelle Grounds, beginning at 6 p.m.

Adult Bingo and Cake Walk are Thursday, September 3 at the Gazelle Grounds, beginning at 6 p.m.

Friday, September 3, is the Community BBQ Cook-Off at 5 p.m., \$10 per

plate. Live music will be provided by the Flashback Band.

The Tater Town Special Parade and Vendor Fair closes out Tater Week on Saturday, September 5.

JC Carey Memorial 5K Run is 7 a.m. with registration at 6:30 in front of the school. Registration fee is \$10 for students and \$20 for adults.

Jr. Parade begins at 9 a.m., followed by the Grand Parade.

An alumni co-ed softball tournament is scheduled

at Snider Park at 2 p.m.

The finale event is at the Gazelle Grounds from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The host organization, Gleason Gazelles shared a food truck application for individuals wishing to set up at this year's events: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1enuNX-ECE-o2aCxn9W_L8rwd-dwV1M2wvFNJxnXj2LgY/edit?tab=t.0

Visit the Gleason Gazelles-Tater Town Special's Facebook page for more information.

Elections

...From Front Page

Four are candidates for aldermen in Hollow Rock. They are Bobby Brotherton, Sherry Ozier, James Robison, and Angela Stockdale.

One candidate, Cathie Parude, is seeking to fill an unexpired term as a Hollow Rock alderman.

Huntingdon

Three incumbents have

qualified for councilman. They are Kelly Eubanks, Andrew Maddox, and John Sanders.

McKenzie

Mayor Ryan Griffin is the lone candidate for mayor of McKenzie.

Five candidates for three seats have qualified. They are Tom Alexander, Carol Arm Priest, Raymond Glisson, Armand Hebert, III, and Bobby Young.

McLemoresville

Three candidates have

qualified to run for the office of mayor. Incumbent Phil Williams, Nathan Worrell, and Austin Prater.

Six candidates are seeking the office of alderman. They are Robby Alfard, Sharron Holland, Adam Martin, Mike Pression, Lana Suite, and Kim Wheeler.

Trezevant

Five candidates are seeking the office of alderman of Trezevant. They are Don Barger, Dan Dieringer, Pam Joyner, Shane Rimmer, and Liz Yohman.

School

...From Front Page

updated MSSD travel regulations covering lodging and meal reimbursement rates and approval of an MSSD Facility Use Agreement.

The board will also consider on first reading amend-

ments to two policies in the McKenzie Special School District Board of Education Policy Manual. The proposed changes involve Policy 3.206, Community Use of School District Facilities, and Policy 4.600, Grading System.

The meeting will include an opportunity for public comments on actionable agenda items or matters under the school board's juris-

diction. Public comments are limited to 15 minutes under MSSD Board Policy 1.404.

Director of Schools Justin Barden will give the director's report before adjournment.

The MSSD Board of Education consists of Misty Aird, Chad Brown, Karen Fowler, Matt Lane, Spiros Roditis, Brian Stafford and Brian Winston.



1. Mike Parker is pictured beside his Best in Show 1969 Ford Bronco. 2. First place winner Don Cherry is pictured with third place winner Tom Montgomery in front of their winning vehicles. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner 3. Bethel University Renaissance's Bluegrass Band's Koltyn West on banjo, Paul Grace on guitar, Mary Parker on fiddle, Gordon Parker on mandolin, and Townes Boyd on bass. 4. Bethel University Renaissance Theater troupe acted as a flash mob and performed several dance numbers on Broadway Street immediately following the performance by the Renaissance Bluegrass Band. 5. DEK of Hearts was the headline act of the Sweet Tea Festival. DEK of Hearts is a powerhouse country-pop trio comprised of Dylan John, Emily Clapp and Kollin Bailey. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner



Tea

...From Front Page

"It turned out to be a really nice car show," Young said.

VP Racing Fuels had a booth set up at the car show and supplied giveaway gifts for a few lucky winners.

From 3-9 p.m. on Saturday, attendees had the chance to enjoy music on Broadway Street. The Bethel University Renaissance Bluegrass group took the stage at 3 p.m., followed by Vonda Peet & Company at 5 p.m. and "The Voice" alumni DEK of Hearts at 7 p.m.

Social media influencer Alx James ("Debbie"/"Someone's Mom") served as the event's emcee and provided entertainment between performances.

Fireworks concluded the festival's biggest night.

Though most of the action took place on Saturday, the Sweet Tea Festival began Friday, August 20, and

ended Sunday, August 23, with showings of "A Southern Fried Funeral," a play put on by Carroll Arts, Inc., at the Park Theatre.

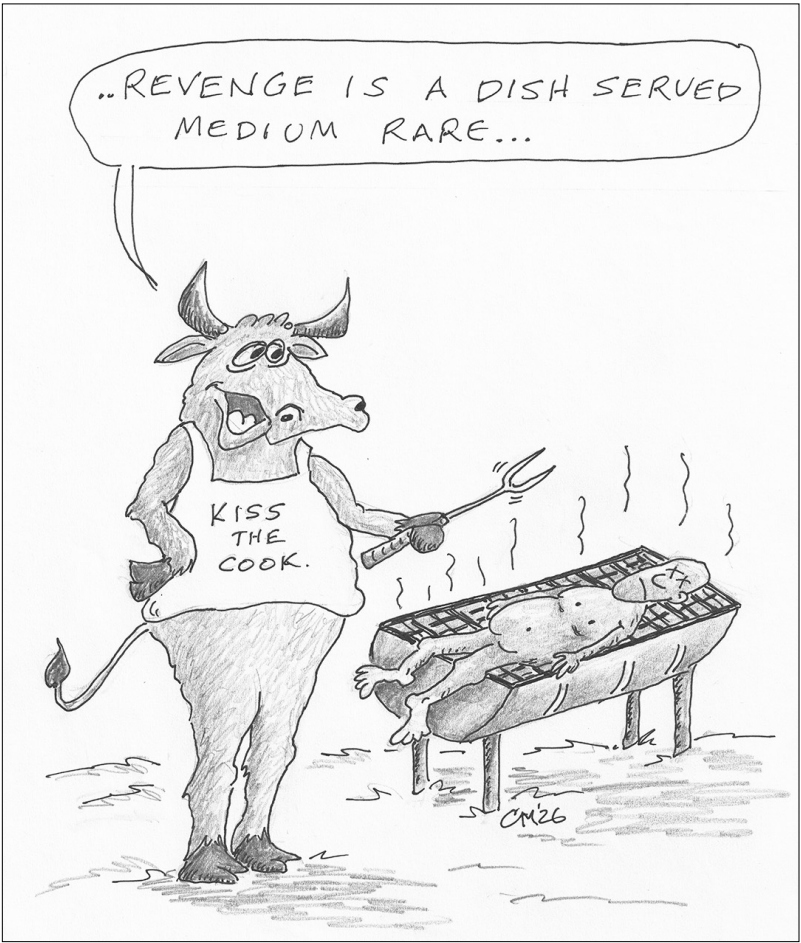
The Sweet Tea Festival's food vendors included Ol Glory Sweets & Treats, Perry's BBQ, Sweet Heifers, Smoochies Fresh Squeezed Lemonades, Yummy Sour-dough Pizza, Tiffany's Sweet Treats & More, Cheezy Express, Lemonades and More, Bubba's Hot Dogs, Nana's Treats, Moonlight BBQ, The Hangry Squeeze, The Kettle Corn Poppers, Elevate, and Ry Ro's Lemonade.

Craft vendors included From the Hive, Blessed Batch Bakery, Always in Bloom, Simplicity, Hoap Farm, Shop Season Boutique, Top Flight Strength & Conditioning, CJB Creations, Ornate Jackets, Artistic Expressions by Renee, Roger's 3D, Personally Yours/Parcord, Here & There Gifts, Magnolia's, LFG Design LLC, Top Tier Boutique, Evmore Jewelry Co., House of Stone, Mimi's T Shed, Davies Custom Designs, Halo Hat

Company, Twilight Designs by RM, Hand Woven Baskets, Big Buck Beef Chips, Kenny's Nutz, K & K Knick Knacks, Clear View Farm, Sweet Tea & D's Things, McKenzie High School Alumni Association, Gordon Browning Museum, Carroll County Humane Society, and CASA.

This year's festival was sponsored by McKenzie Banking Company, Big Bang Fireworks, Republic Services, Froggy 103.7, the Tennessee Entertainment Commission, Carroll Bank & Trust, Thunderbolt Radio News, Centennial Bank, Holston Gases, Total Tech Solutions, VP Racing Fuels, Pavement Restorations, Steve Morton State Farm, Carroll County Lumber, Holmes Auto Repair, McKenzie Taproom & Restaurant, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Bennett Hardware, Bradberry & Pemberton, Congetta's Chi-talian Favorites, Hometown Hangout, KMEN Electric, McKenzie Nutrition, The Silly Goose Children's Shop, Peppers Ford, and Premier Furniture.

Things In My Head with Charles Manfredi



HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

Those Operators Had Everybody’s Number

People look at me like I’m kinda weird when they learn that I don’t own a cell phone. Most just roll their eyes in disbelief. Some think I am kidding. A few try to explain the absolute necessity of having a cell phone. Some want to know how I order food. One asked, “Who do you talk to?”

I’m certainly not pulling anyone’s leg here. I’m just not a fan of anything that seems to be taking over our lives faster than that gooney stuff in the Steve McQueen movie, “The Blob.”

The “absolute necessity” group usually starts with how cell phones help in an emergency. And they are correct. I agree that a cell phone can be useful. I just don’t want to wake up each day planning, preparing, holding a machine in my right hand, just in case I have a problem.

I like to wake up thinking this day is going to be perfect!

Besides, if something really goes bad, there will be 16 people on the sidelines taking videos of my misfortune, and calling 911 at the same time. I would hope one of them, out of kindness, would drop their phone and run over and help stop the bleeding....

I don’t order food unless I’m inside a restaurant, talking face-to-face with a nice young person with a pen and ordering book in their hand. They will bring my medium-cooked hamburger and Diet Coke right to the table...while the meat is still hot and the drink is ice cold.

As to who I talk to: how about the neighbor next door, or the one across the street, or the young lady standing at the door with the Girl Scout cookies in her hand.

I try to greet everyone as I’m moving around town with a smile and a pat on the back, or a story about when I taught their daughter, or coached their son. It’s the same when I go in to Ace Hardware. Or the credit union.

Opportunities abound on every side to “make someone’s day” with a simple, kind, personal word. The trick is not to get yourself so distracted in any way or by anything that you miss a golden opportunity.

I talk to every kid in town every time I get the chance because they are real people, too.

My favorite person to talk to is my first wife of 52 years. I wake up telling her about the time Leon piled up several of those orange traffic cones and set them on fire. He was experimenting to see if, as they melted, the rubber would seal a crack he had created in the back fender of a 1958 Chevrolet pickup.

Cathy listens and nods and laughs at all the appropriate places.

I can’t remember for sure, but that might not be the first time she has heard that story....

Talking to live people can be a blast if you just lean into it a little.

Cell phone people get pretty close to the line when they question my sanity or go into great detail on how cell phones are the fastest, greatest, smartest, best communication device ever conceived....

When I was very young, we had a wooden box hanging in the hall that had a listening receiver device hanging on the left side, and a small crank handle on the right. I had to drag a straight-back chair out of the kitchen, put it under the phone, climb up and reach up on tip toes to get the crank in my hand. I took the receiver off the hook and stuck it to my ear, gave the crank a turn, and a nice, polite human on the other end immediately said, “Number please.” I leaned in close to the black tube sticking out of the middle of the box, “Ma’am, may I speak to Bobby please.”

In half a second Bobby Brewer came on the line. I didn’t push any buttons. I didn’t have a list of favorite contacts to call. Nothing lit up. No bells went off. I did not have to give Bobby’s last name.

When I told him what time the game was going to start, I hung up. And gave the crank another whirl, “Ma’am, may I speak to Buddy.”

“Kesley, are y’all playing baseball this morning?”

“Yes ma’am.”

“You want me to call Kenny and Larry, and tell them, while you are talking to Buddy?”

“Yes ma’am. Thank you.”

We could get up a game in half the time it ought to take.

You can tell me about modern. You can show me a hundred things the new phones can do. You can turn on the light and find my car keys. You can sing the cell phone praise song until the cows come home.

But you can’t fool me.

Nothing can, or will ever, top giving that crank a quick twirl and saying, “May I talk to Bobby?” And he’s instantly on the line. I never had to plug nothing in, tote something around everywhere I went, or worry about losing anything....

Respectfully,
Kes
kesley45@aol.com

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

Any Way You Measure It
Camping is an Adventure

I could probably write a book solely devoted to my camping adventures and the crazy, wonderful, amazing, unexpected things that happened.

I’d grown up camping with my family, but it was something brand-new for my wife. However, she became a devotee even when our two daughters were babies.

Tents.
Tents that leaked.

That’s how we started out. Sleeping bags on the ground.

Camping with no electricity, a bathroom lit by a skylight, and cold showers.

We envied some of our friends who had pop-up campers, the kind you cranked open by hand and plugged in so you could at least have fans running during hot summer nights.

One time, one of them offered to let us borrow their camper for the weekend. We couldn’t have been more excited if we were going to stay in a Holiday Inn.

Do you know what “in-service” means? It refers to: “training intended for those actively engaged in a profession or activity.” School teachers who have been teaching for thirty years have in-service trainings. Employees in factories have regular in-service trainings.

I didn’t need an in-service on how to camp; I’d camped my whole life. But an in-service on how to set up a pop-up camper would have been helpful. I just didn’t realize how helpful.

It all looked so easy when I watched from a distance. Kind of like how mountain climbing or swimming with sharks looks easy when you watch it on television.

Once I got the tongue height adjusted so the camper set level, I slipped the hand crank in place and raised the roof to its full height and slid out a platform over the tongue and another platform on the other side that we would be sleeping on. Next came the canvas sides and ends that had to be stretched and

snapped or tied into place.

That took me fifty-nine words to describe but over an hour to actually accomplish.

My shirt was soaked and sweat stung my eyes, but “mission accomplished.”

The July temperature was still in the upper 80s when it was time to go to bed, so I plugged in two plastic box fans and an oscillating fan on the three-foot countertop, pointing them toward the girls in their bed on one end of the camper and on Brenda and me on the other end. Lights out.

Sleep came quickly to us all as we’d spent the day swimming, walking, and riding Big Wheels and tricycles.

At precisely 2:13 a.m. a blinding bolt of lightning shot through the tree canopy and struck a tree fifty feet from our camper. The explosion of the tree and clap of thunder that followed sounded like a cannon.

All four of us screamed and shot out of bed. I couldn’t see the girls, but I felt them rush past me, crying for their mother. When they landed in bed with her, the tongue of the camper lifted into the air, sloping everything in a forty-five-degree angle, box fans and the oscillating fan banged onto the floor, all of which triggered more screams.

I had no idea why the camper was standing on its end, but I rushed to tilted end and flung myself on girls’ bed.

Like a slow-moving seesaw, the camper leveled itself out.

A deafening deluge ensued outside.

Shouting to be heard, I said to Brenda, “I’ll just sleep over here. Keep the girls with you.”

“What’s wrong with this camper?” she yelled back.

“I don’t know. I’ll figure it out in the morning.”

Of course, I couldn’t go back to sleep with my mind searching for answers to the question about the camper.

Come morning, no one could

get out of bed unless we choreographed it to keep the camper level.

But once we did get outside, I slowly walked around the camper, trying to see the problem. Not until I squatted down and looked underneath did I see there were four little legs that were supposed to be unfolded.

See? That’s why the in-service would have been helpful.

Being a man, my next thought was how thankful I was that the fiasco happened at night so no one could see what an idiot I was. It’s all about saving face, right?

After breakfast was cooked on my faithful Coleman stove, the man camping with his family beside us strolled over. (Camper people do lots of strolling and visiting.)

“What about that storm last night?” he said. “That lightning scared us all to death.”

“Same here,” I replied. “It nearly hit our camper.”

“How long you had that camper?” he asked.

“Oh, it’s not ours. We borrowed it.”

“I hear those things can be a little tricky if they’re not set up right.”

I started to agree with him, but I saw a smile flirting around the corners of his mouth. My heart sank.

“You didn’t, did you?” I asked.

“Just as I looked out the window of our R.V. I saw your camper rear up like a stallion. It was the funniest thing I ever saw.”

My face burned with embarrassment.

Shrugging my shoulders and shaking my head, I said, “No one ever told me about those legs.”

“Don’t worry,” he said. “I’ll never tell.”

I didn’t believe that for one second because another thing camping folks like to do is tell funny tales.

** Taken from The Wit and Wisdom of David Johnson, Volume III: A Harrowing Halloween Tale*

Bethel University Launches Seven
New Bachelor’s Degree Programs

MCKENZIE (August 20) — Bethel University today announced the addition of seven new undergraduate majors: Artificial Intelligence, Biology Business, Cybersecurity, Human Resource Management, Forensic Investigation, Forensic Science and Neuroscience.

Each major was developed in response to what employers are asking for, and each builds on academic strengths Bethel already has. Organizations increasingly depend on artificial intelligence, digital security and strategic workforce management. At the same time, the sciences continue to drive advances in research, healthcare and biotechnology. The new programs draw on Bethel’s established coursework in biology, business, information technology and criminal justice to give students a direct path into those fields.

“Bethel exists to prepare students for lives of purpose, and that means staying ahead of where the world is headed,” said Perry Moulds, president of Bethel University. “These seven programs reflect our commitment to giving students the tools, the training and the character to lead in fields that are shaping our future.”

Charting New Paths
for Bethel Students

Each new program is designed for the long run, preparing graduates not only for their first job but for a career that can adapt as their field changes.

Artificial Intelligence — Prepares students to build the intelligent systems reshaping how organizations operate, pairing technical skill with an understanding of the ethics and business context AI requires.

Biology Business — Combines Bethel’s rigorous biology curriculum with a strong business foundation, preparing graduates for careers where life science and commerce intersect, including biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, laboratory management, medical sales, regulatory affairs and science-based entrepreneurship.

Cybersecurity — Trains students to defend the systems, networks and data organizations depend on, with certification-aligned preparation for a field facing a persistent shortage of qualified professionals.

Forensic Investigation — Blends forensic science with criminal investigation and behavioral science, preparing students for investigative and crime-scene careers.

Forensic Science — Applies laboratory science to the pursuit of justice, preparing graduates for crime laboratories, forensic careers and graduate study.

Human Resource Management — Equips students to recruit, develop and support the workforce, opening pathways into virtually every industry.

Neuroscience — Explores the brain and nervous system through the combined lenses of biology, chemistry and psychology, positioning graduates for

research, graduate study, and medical or health professional programs.

“These programs reflect where our students’ interests and the job market are headed,” said Provost Joseph R. Hames. “Each one is built on real, hands-on training so graduates leave ready to contribute from day one.”

Expanding Access to
In-Demand Fields

This expansion is part of a broader commitment to creating opportunities for Bethel students. By investing in programs across emerging technology, business and the sciences, the University is working to ensure a Bethel degree leads somewhere real, whether that is industry, graduate school or a professional calling. These majors also carry forward what Bethel has always done. The University was founded to prepare students for lives of service, and each new program is built the way every Bethel program is built, with attention to academics, character and the practical skills a graduate carries into the working world. A student who defends a hospital’s data, who helps a jury understand what the evidence shows, or who builds the systems a growing company depends on is doing work that serves people. That is the standard to which Bethel holds these programs. As the workforce changes, Bethel intends to change with it, focused on ensuring that opportunity, not circumstance, determines how far a student can go.

All seven programs are open for enrollment now. Prospective students can learn more at bethelu.edu.

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Obituaries

JUDY C. COLE
1946 – 2026

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for Judy C. Cole were on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Mrs. Cole, 80, died Sunday, August 16, 2026, at Jackson Madison Co. General Hospital. She was a supervisor for Carhartt, MFG, and a member of Long Heights Baptist Church. She was born on January 16, 1946, in Milan to Johnny Vern and Geraldine Price Rimmer.

She is survived by her husband, Bobby Cole; two sons, Stephen (Stacey) Cole and Stuart (Erika) Cole; two sisters, Nellie (Malcolm) Horton and Bettie Horton; one brother, Johnny (Dixie) Rimmer, all of McKenzie; and five grandchildren, Laura (Blair) Carter, Mallory Cole, Julianna Cole, Andrew Cole and Sophie Cole.

She is preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Dorothy Franklin and Mary Savage; and two brothers, Jerry Rimmer and Terry Rimmer.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. If you need further information, please contact 731-352-4848 or brummittmckenziefuneralhome.com. +

BUDDY SMOTHERS
1951 – 2026

HOLLOW ROCK — Mr. Buddy Smothers, 74, of Hollow Rock, died Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at his home.

He was born December 23, 1951, in Milan, to the late Taylor and Hettie (Noles) Smothers. A graduate of Central High School, Buddy became a dedicated teacher and basketball coach.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, John Byron Smothers; his sister, Ruth Smothers Eason; and his brother-in-law, Hal Eason.

He is survived by his loving wife of 34 years, Joyce Smothers; a sister, Nelda Durham (Melvin) of Waverly; a brother, Ernie Smothers (Stacey) of Hollow Rock; twelve nieces and nephews, and twenty-one

great-nieces and nephews.

Graveside funeral services were at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 23, 2026, at New Prospect Cemetery with Bro. Jimmy Furr officiating.

Chase Funeral Home.

ANTHONY SCOTT BROWN
1977 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Anthony Scott Brown, 48, of Huntingdon, died Saturday, August 15, 2026, at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Huntingdon.

Anthony was born August 18, 1977, in Mount Clemens, Ill., to the late Mary Brown. In addition to his mother, he is preceded in death by his brother, Nicky Brown; and one sister, Michelle Wallace.

He is survived by his fiancé, Tabatha Payton of Huntingdon; one daughter, Jayden Brown of Huntingdon; two sons, Tristan Patterson of Trezevant, and Brayden Brown; one sister, Judy Carroll of McKenzie; and one brother, Sam (Sherri) Neahusan of Sharon.

Dilday-Carter Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, 731-986-8281.

GEORGE HOWTON
1946 – 2026

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for George E. Howton were Sunday, August 23, 2026. Interment was at TN State Veterans Cemetery, Parkers Crossroads.

Mr. Howton, 80, died Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at Tri-Star Centennial Medical Center. He served over 32 years in the United States Army and Army Reserve. He was a retired master sergeant. He was born on July 16, 1946, to the late DY and Mary Howton.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Linda, a son, a daughter and two grandchildren.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. If you need further information, please contact 731-352-4848 or brummittmckenziefuneralhome.com.

JUNE WILLIAMS
1934– 2026

BRUCETON — Mrs. June Williams, 92, of Bruceton, died Thursday, August 20, 2026, at her home.

Funeral services were

Saturday, August 22, 2026, in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home. Interment was in Parkers Crossroads Cemetery.

Mrs. Williams was born July 22, 1934, in Wildersville, Tenn., to the late M.E. and Zena Burgess Blankenship. She was preceded in death by her husband, Nhyle Williams.

She is survived by her son, Allan Williams, and a grandson.

Chase Funeral Home.

JOY BELL STACEY
1965 – 2026

TRENTON — A memorial visitation for Joy Bell Stacey was Friday, August 21, 2026, 5-8 p.m. at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

Ms. Stacey, 60, died Friday, August 14, 2026, at Jackson Madison Co. General Hospital. She was born on October 11, 1965, in Jackson, Tenn., to Talbert Dalton Richardson, Sr. and Bertha Mae Mullins Stone.

She is survived by her children, Celia (Trenton Smith) Blasingame of Trenton, and Demyan Anderson of Rutland, Vt., her husband, David Stacey of Trenton; two sisters, Joyce Vestals of Trezevant, and Glenda Richardson of McKenzie; four brothers, Roy Mullins of McKenzie, Tommy Mealer of Florida, Talbert Richardson, Jr. of McKenzie, and James Richardson of Florida.

She is preceded in death by her parents and granddaughter, Ash-Lynn Smith.

BILLY ALTOM
1955 – 2026

CLARKSBURG — Mr. Billy Altom, 71, of Clarksburg, died Thursday, August 20, 2026, at Jackson Madison General Hospital.

Funeral services were on Monday, August 24, 2026, in the Chapel of Dilday-Carter Funeral Home. Interment was at Roan's Creek Cemetery.

Mr. Altom was born January 11, 1955. Preceded in death by his father, James Edgar Maness; stepfather and mother, James Norman Miller and Virginia Altom Miller; and wife, Patricia "Di" Diane Altom.

He is survived by one daughter, Kristen Altom of Clarksburg; one son, Brett (Makayla) Altom of Clarksburg; and six grandchildren.

Dilday-Carter Funeral Home.

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

SHOP WITH A FIRST RESPONDER SHOOT
SEPTEMBER 12

McKenzie Fire/Rescue and McKenzie Police Department are hosting McKenzie Shop with a First Responder Shoot fundraising event on September 12, 2026 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Carroll County Shooting Sports Park at 680 McAdoo Cemetery Lane in Huntingdon, Tenn. to raise money for McKenzie Shop with a First Responder that happens in December.

Please consider donating to help children in McKenzie have a great Christmas.

The link to donate is [https://cash.app/\\$ShopwithfirstResp?qr=1](https://cash.app/$ShopwithfirstResp?qr=1)

For more info, contact McKenzie Fire 731-352-3306 or McKenzie Police 731-352-2265.

MHS TITLE I/PARENT INVOLVEMENT MEETING

The annual McKenzie High School Title I /Parent Involvement meeting is Thursday, Sept. 10 at 6:30 in the McKenzie High School Library. All parents are invited to attend. For questions, please contact Carol Nanney (MHS Parent/Family Engagement Coordinator) at 731-352-2133 or nanneyc@mckenziehschools.org.

MCKENZIE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DECADES REUNION

Plans are underway for the third annual MHSAA Decades Reunion weekend on September 25-26. All MHS alumni are invited to return to McKenzie to reconnect with friends, classmates, and former teachers through many reunions and other planned events. Updates on the upcoming weekend will be on the alumni association's Facebook site and in The McKenzie Banner. For more information, email mckenziehsalumni.tn@gmail.com.

MONTHLY GENEALOGY GROUP AT GORDON BROWNING MUSEUM

A Genealogy Group meets at the Gordon Browning Museum, 640 North Main Street, McKenzie, the first Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB AT HOMETOWN HEALTH

Everyone is invited to The Breakfast Club every Monday from 9-10:30 a.m. for coffee, snacks, mingling and a light activity. Take the chance to connect and socialize before getting interactive with games, light exercise and fun! Bring a friend and come make new ones at Hometown Health Clinic - Pediatrics/Specialty Entrance. We can't wait to see you there!

CARROLL HUMANE SOCIETY EVENTS, NEWS
Cat Vouchers

Cat spay/neuter vouchers are always available for \$60. To purchase by phone for use at Paris Vet Clinic, call 731-514-0878 and leave a message. These are available to anyone regardless of residency. We now offer cat vouchers to Carroll County residents for \$60 at the Huntingdon Animal Clinic. These must be purchased in person at the shelter with cash or card, and proof of residency is required. However, Carroll Co. residents can still use Paris Vet Clinic if preferred.

MCKENZIE TOPS MEETS WEEKLY

Win over weight with support and encouragement by meeting with the McKenzie Chapter of TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) each Monday at 3 p.m. in the McKenzie Church of Christ gymnasium. The first meeting is free. For more information, call 731-352-7309. If no answer, leave a message.

CARROLL COMMISSION MEETS MONTHLY

Carroll County Commission meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m., in the Conference Room of the Carroll County

Office Complex, High Street, Huntingdon. No meetings in February and July.

CARROLL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEETS MONTHLY

The Carroll County Democratic Party meets the second Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Carroll County Complex at 625 High Street, Huntingdon.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Huntingdon Location — Adult Education Building, 14155 Paris Street. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Classes are offered for one-on-one instruction on Mondays, 1-4 p.m. and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-NOON. For more information, phone 731-364-5481.

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INSIDIOUS: OUT OF THE FURTHER (PG-13)

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Wed. 7:25
Thurs. 7:25

MUTINY (R)

Tues. 7:30
Wed. 7:30
Thurs. 7:30

THE END OF OAK STREET (PG-13)

Tues. 7:30
Wed. 7:30
Thurs. 7:30

PAW PATROL: THE DINO MOVIE (PG)

Tues. 7:25
Wed. 7:25
Thurs. 7:25

SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY (PG-13)

Tues. 7:35
Wed. 7:35
Thurs. 7:35

THE ODYSSEY (R)

Tues. 7:20
Wed. 7:20
Thurs. 7:20

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1 (3 5/8oz.) pkg instant vanilla pudding
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1/2 cup water
1 (2oz.) envelope whipped topping
1 to 2 tablespoons grated orange rind
Combine pudding, concentrate, water and rind. Whip topping according to directions and add to first mixture. Place in 8 inch prebaked pie shell and refrigerate.

Peach Fruit Pie

1 can Eagle Brand milk
1 large carton cool whip
1/3 cup lemon juice

1 small pkg nuts
1 can peaches, drained and diced
Mix all together and pour over graham cracker crust.

Chocolate Chess Pie

1 1/2 cup sugar
1/2 stick margarine
2 eggs
1 small can or 3/4 cup carnation
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 tablespoons cocoa
Mix and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Crustless Quiche

8 eggs beaten
1 cup flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 cup cottage cheese
1/4 lb Cheddar cheese, grated
1/2 lb Monterey Jack cheese, grated
1/4 cup margarine, melted
7 oz. can green chilles,

diced
1 can water chestnuts, sliced
1 small onion, chopped
Stir all ingredients together. Pour into greased 2 quart flat baking dish. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes or until set.

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1. Best in Show: Avery. Stella Higdon (right), the newly-crowned Carroll County Fairest of the Fair, presented trophies and ribbons to the winners. 2. Randall Dunn Memorial Trophy: Avery, pictured with Sherry Smith (right), daughter of Randall Dunn, and owner Leslie Sanders. 3. Best Dressed: First - Blossom, Second - Atlas, Third - Punkin, Fourth - Avery, Fifth - Stella, Sixth - Festus. 4. Sporting Group: First - Avery. 5. Owner/Dog Look-Alike: First - Atlas, Second - Blossom, Third - Chester, Fourth - Festus, Fifth - Annabelle, Sixth - Sadie. 6. Prettiest: First - Avery, Second - Atlas, Third - Chipper, Fourth - Annabelle, Fifth - Stella, Sixth - Festus. 7. Most Unusual: First - Vivi, Second - Stella, Third - Sadie, Fourth - Chester. 8. Showmanship (under 12): First - Chipper, Second - Stella. 9. Showmanship (19 and up): First - Avery, Second - Punkin, Third - Chester, Fourth - Atlas. 10. Terrier Group: First - Punkin. 11. Herding Group: First - Vivi. 12. Hound Group: First - Hila, Second - Otis, Third - Chipper. 13. Toy Group: First - Stella, Second - Atlas, Third - Chipper, Fourth - Annabelle, Fifth - Blossom, Sixth - Festus. 14. Mixed Breed Group and Non-Sporting Group: First - Sadie, Second - Punkin. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Carroll County Fair Hosts Annual Dog Show

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (August 15) — The annual Carroll County Fair Dog Show was

Saturday morning in the civic center. There were 13 dogs competing in 15 categories. Stella Higdon, the newly-crowned Carroll County Fairest of the Fair, presented

trophies and ribbons to the winners.

Competing Dogs/Owners

-Annabelle, 10, Chihuahua, Judi Murphy, Bruceton

-Atlas, 7, Papillon, Heather

Lampi, Memphis

-Avery, 3, Black Labrador, Leslie Sanders, Huntingdon

-Blossom, 4, Pomeranian, Elaine Culver, Memphis

-Chester, 3, Maltese, Kathy Stewart, Huntingdon

-Chipper, 6 mos., Mini Dachshund, Tripp Todd, Huntingdon

-Festus, 2, ShihTzu, Sylvia Cary, Huntingdon

-Hila, 8, Bloodhound, Hannah Johnson, McKenzie

-Otis, 4, Basset Hound, Sally Martin, McLemoresville

-Punkin, 3, mixed breed, Pat Kelley, Huntingdon

-Sadie, 6, mixed breed, Robin Simpson, Clarksburg

-Stella, 1, Pomeranian, Mailey Holmes, Huntingdon

-Vivi, 1, Corgi, Jana Higdon, Bruceton

Categories

Prettiest: First - Avery, Second - Atlas, Third - Chip-

per, Fourth - Annabelle, Fifth - Stella, Sixth - Festus

Showmanship (under 12): First - Chipper, Second - Stella

Showmanship (19 and up): First - Avery, Second - Punkin, Third - Chester, Fourth - Atlas

Herding Group: First - Vivi

Hound Group: First - Hila, Second - Otis, Third - Chipper

Best Dressed: First - Blossom, Second - Atlas, Third - Punkin, Fourth - Avery, Fifth - Stella, Sixth - Festus

Terrier Group: First - Punkin

Non-Sporting Group: First - Sadie, Second - Punkin

Mixed Breed Group: First - Sadie, Second - Punkin

Most Unusual: First - Vivi, Second - Stella, Third - Sadie, Fourth - Chester

Owner/Dog Look-Alike: First - Atlas, Second - Bloss-

som, Third - Chester, Fourth - Festus, Fifth - Annabelle, Sixth - Sadie

Toy Group: First - Stella, Second - Atlas, Third - Chipper, Fourth - Annabelle, Fifth - Blossom, Sixth - Festus

Sporting Group: First - Avery

Best in Show: Avery

Randall Dunn Memorial Trophy: Avery

The Randall Dunn Memorial Trophy is given in memory of Randall Dunn, a police officer who worked for the Carroll County Sheriff's Office and the Huntingdon Police Department. He trained dogs and was a K-9 officer. Before his death, he also served as a judge in the dog show.

The award is selected and presented by Dunn's daughter, Sherry Smith, based on the bond she sees between dog and handler.

the West Carroll 3-2-1 Update

August 2026

Three Highlights • Two Quotes • One Challenge

A new school year is underway, and our buildings opened with the smoothest start our staff can remember. Here's what stood out across our district.

3-Highlights from Across the District

- **A Great Start to the School Year:** We welcomed students back on August 4 with more than a 97% staff retention districtwide. Credit goes to our school leaders, staff, and a board that continues to **invest in our people**.
- **\$67,000 in Grants for Our Schools:** Our district received a \$50,000 Perkins Reserve Grant supporting Career & Technical Education, an award earned by just 58 districts in Tennessee. A \$17,000 maintenance grant also covered a new heating and cooling unit without touching our general budget.
- **New Opportunities for West Carroll Students:** Our high school is partnering with Bethel University on a study abroad dual enrollment program. **The Roost**, our student-run mercantile, received the finishing touches and is set to open soon! A new student achievement trophy case & art gallery now greet visitors to showcase our student accomplishments.

2 Quotes from Our Leaders

"Our school is more than a place to learn, it is a family that supports every child's first steps in their educational journey."

– **Jackie Wester**, WCPS Principal

"Our theme this year is WCS Students Can. Each month we recognize students who live one of those words out. In August, that word is contribute." — **Dr. Jessica Williams**, WCES Principal

1 Challenge for Our Community

What is one thing you value about West Carroll? A teacher, an opportunity your child received, a favorite memory, or something happening in our schools today? **Share your story** with me by emailing me at preston.caldwell@wcassd.org. Everyone who responds is entered into a drawing for a **2026-2027 Regular Season Home Game Season Pass**.

Our next board meeting is September 3rd. I hope to see you there.

To a strong start and an even stronger year ahead,

Preston Caldwell

wcassd.com/321



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Keeping Snakes Away

COURTESY KENNY HERNDON
UT Extension Service - Carroll County

One of the most common calls I get in the summer is how to keep snakes away. Snake fences, moth balls and other approaches generally do not work. So how do we get rid of them?

The answer lies in understanding wildlife. All wildlife require food, shelter, cover and water. By modifying your environment to get rid of one or more of these needs, you have a much better chance of being snake-free.

The number one thing in reducing the chances of seeing a snake is getting rid of shelter or cover. Keep grass mowed, flower beds and shrubs weeded, trim shrubs back so they don't touch the base of the house, keep pond banks and vacant

lots mowed.

Get rid of piles. Snakes love piles, it can be cool, dark and moist under them and they offer excellent protection from predators plus they can also serve as habitat for food. Piles of leaves, rocks, firewood, lumber piles or any kind of junk needs to be removed.

Think about buildings as well. Storage sheds, basements and even attics where there is a lot of clutter can attract snakes. Hardware cloth and foam sealant can block small holes which snakes can gain access to your home's interior or in the crawl space under the house.

Also, try to keep pet and livestock feed in closed containers. This reduces the rodent population which will reduce the reasons that snakes will hang out there.

Mouse and rat poison also helps eliminate snakes. By getting rid of rodents you are removing a major source of food for snakes.

Fix leaky faucets or wet areas. These areas draw frogs and insects which snakes will consume.

Identification of snakes is important. In West Tennessee see the poisonous snakes we are likely to encounter are cottonmouths or water moccasins, copperheads and rattlesnakes.

If you see a snake and can't identify it, take a picture. Also, learn to identify King Snakes. The King Snake should be considered a friend as it will kill poisonous snakes.

For more information on home and garden issues contact The University Of Tennessee Extension Service-Carroll County at 731-986-1976. The University Of Tennessee offers its programs to all eligible participants and we do not discriminate.

Gibson County Woman Sentenced to 10 Years In Federal Prison for Child Sex Trafficking

JACKSON (August 21) — Brittany Gail Weeks, 28, formerly of Milan, Tenn., was sentenced to 120 months in prison for transporting a minor in interstate commerce with intent that the minor engage in prostitution. United States Attorney D. Michael Dunavant, of the Western District of Tennessee, announced the sentence today.

The investigation in this case revealed that in June 2023, Weeks transported a minor from Gibson County, Tennessee to a motel in or around Osceola, Arkansas, with intent that the minor engage in sexual intercourse with several adult males at the motel. Once at the motel, Weeks instructed the minor to go room-to-room to engage in sexual intercourse with the adult males in the rooms and then collect payment from them.

The minor went to around 10 rooms and had sexual intercourse with the males in the rooms, collected money from them, and turned

the money over to Weeks. When the minor’s sexual acts with the men at the motel concluded, Weeks drove the minor back to Tennessee.

In April 2024, Weeks was charged in a one-count federal indictment with transporting a minor in interstate commerce with intent that the minor engage in prostitution. In February 2026, Weeks entered a guilty plea to the one-count indictment.

On August 19, 2026, United States District Judge J. Daniel Breen sentenced Weeks to 120 months’ imprisonment and five years of supervised release. There is no parole in the federal system. Following her release from prison, Weeks will have to register as a sex offender under the Sex Offender Registration & Notification Act (SORNA).

U.S. Attorney D. Michael Dunavant said: “Human trafficking of minors for commercial sex purposes is an unconscionable crime that must be met with severe consequenc-

es. We commend the FBI and our local partners for their outstanding investigation of these heinous crimes, and we are pleased to achieve justice for the victim in this disturbing case.”

“Those who prey upon and exploit children should know this: law enforcement will find you, we will investigate you, and we will hold you accountable,” said Special Agent in Charge Terence G. Reilly of the FBI Nashville Field Office. “There is no place in our community for those who profit from the abuse of children. I commend the FBI Memphis Resident Agency and our partners for their diligent work on this case.”

This case was investigated by members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Milan Police Department, the Gibson County Sheriff’s Office, and the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services.

Assistant United States Attorney Josh Morrow prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

McKenzie Police Reports

Domestic Assault — Melvin Eugene Hall, Everett Street, McKenzie, was charged with Domestic Assault on August 17.

Officer Daniel Pollard filed a report stating that

Hall pushed and shoved a female and two other persons at the scene. Hall was transported to Carroll County Jail.

Shoplifting — Devon Alexander Wilson, Magno-

lia Street, McKenzie, was charged with shoplifting a \$2.62 piece of merchandise from the convenience store where he was newly hired. He was cited into court.

Carroll County General Sessions Court Report

HUNTINGDON (August 19) — The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on August 19.

The following cases were bound over to a grand jury:

Bree Lynn Hoffmeyer, Shadygrove Road, Martin, bound over, Meth-Mfg, Deliver, Sell, Possess with Intent (two counts).

Kenon Hutcherson, Wingo Circle, Trezevant, bound over, Cruelty to Animals.

Thomas K. Schultz, Cherry Avenue West, McKenzie, bound over, Identity Theft (10 counts).

The following cases resulted in a guilty plea or finding:

Terin Harris, Alabama Street, McKenzie, guilty-lesser charge, Drivers License to be Carried and Exhibited.

Richard Alan Dee Reaves,

Timberlake Wildsville Road, guilty-lesser charge, Meth-Possession or Casual Exchange, \$750 fine, 11/29, supervised probation for 11/29, can receive day-for-day credit upon successful completion of inpatient treatment; dismissed, Driving While License Revoked.

Michael Roberts, North College Street, Paris, guilty, Probation Violation-Booked, no fine, five months, report to jail on August 28 at 6 p.m., 20 days, serve consecutive weekends, balance of sentence, extend probation five months held in Henry County.

Anthony L. Taylor, Campbell Street, Humboldt, guilty-lesser charge, Drivers License to be Carried and Exhibited.

The following cases were dismissed:

Lucinda Ann Fendley,

Cedarmont Drive, Antioch, dismissed, Probation Violation-Booked.

Quinton DeVonte Jamison, Walnut Circle, McKenzie, dismissed, Probation Violation-Not Booked.

Maximo Rafael Lopez, Eagle Cove, Jackson, dismissed, Driving Without License.

Richard A. Reeves, Timberlake Wildersville Road, Lexington, dismissed, Contraband - Intoxicant/Drugs in Penal Facility.

Larriane D. Reyes, Lake-wood Lake Lane, Huntingdon, dismissed, Compulsory School Attendance-Penalty.

Anthony L. Taylor, Campbell Street, Humboldt, dismissed, Failure to Appear.

The following cases were rescheduled:

Justin D. Bryan, Amy Alene McCaskill, Wesley McCaskill.

Huntingdon Police Reports

Resisting Arrest — According to a report made on Aug. 5, Officer Daniel Inman responded to Main Street West after receiving a report of a male subject walking in the roadway, screaming, and jumping in front of passing vehicles.

Upon arrival, Officer Inman made contact with Mario Anderson-Mathews on the Court Square. Anderson-Mathews appeared highly intoxicated, with slurred speech, an unsteady gait, and difficulty standing. He told Officer Inman he was on his way to his girlfriend’s mother’s residence to retrieve a card containing his money.

While Officer Inman was speaking with Anderson-Mathews, his girlfriend arrived and agreed to take him home. Officer Inman advised her that she would be responsible for ensuring Anderson-Mathews remained at

the residence and instructed her to contact law enforcement immediately if he left. She acknowledged and agreed before leaving with Anderson-Mathews.

Approximately seven minutes later, officers were dispatched to a local liquor store after receiving a 911 call reporting a male yelling and threatening to hit a female. Upon arrival, Officer Inman observed Anderson-Mathews yelling at his girlfriend in a public place causing a disturbance that alarmed those nearby. Sgt. Bo Ezell attempted to detain Anderson-Mathews, who resisted by pulling away and refusing to be handcuffed. After a brief struggle, Sgt. Ezell secured him without further incident.

Anderson-Mathews was arrested and charged with public intoxication, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest. After being

transported to the Carroll County Jail, he again became aggressive and uncooperative before ultimately being booked without further incident.

Shoplifting — According to a report made on July 31, Sgt. Ethan Parham responded to Walmart regarding a shoplifting complaint.

After reviewing the available evidence, Sgt. Parham determined that on July 24, Judy G. Yancy used the self-checkout area, scanned multiple items, and exited the store without paying for all of the merchandise. The incident was captured on Walmart’s security surveillance system.

The unpaid merchandise totaled \$80.23. Yancy was cited into Carroll County General Sessions Court and charged with theft of property involving merchandise.

Property Transfers

Dillon Brent and wife Savannah Rose Drewry to Brandon and wife Emily Grisham in District 4.

Billy G. Norwood to Thomas Chadwick Taylor in District 15.

Richard and wife Jeanne Locher to Kylie Huckabee and husband Dustin Wade Spears and others in District 11.

Beverly Keymon to Mary Kathryn Sprouse in District 7.

James H. Smith to Barton Ellis Smith in District 11.

Sandra Huffman to Courtney Lewis and others in District 21.

Seth Thomas Ricketts to Donald H. Ricketts Jr. in District 11.

Tommy R. Decanter to Jennie Melissa Decanter in District 12.

Daniel Pearce and wife Emily Blacketter Freeman to Stephen W. and wife Michelle Everett in District 11.

Mack J. Napier to Jeffrey and wife Meredith Fuller. No District listed.

Lisa Marie Jacobs to Clayton Hammer in District 16.

Lorraine D. Belew Foster to Denisea D. Cartwright in District 22.

Michael Rex Austin and Sherrie Derenda to Austin Family Living Trust dated August 10, 2026 in District 4.

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Sherrie Derenda to Austin Family Living Trust dated August 10, 2026 in District 4.

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Michael Rex Austin and Sherrie Derenda to Austin Family Living Trust dated August 10, 2026 in District 22.

Michael Rex Austin and Sherrie Derenda to Austin Family Living Trust dated August 10, 2026 in District 4.

Brad and wife Kimberly Bynum to William Adam Stone in District 4.

Laura Burke to Anthony C. Overman in District 2.

Gloria Pate to Jeremy and Joel Pate in District 22.

James Randall and wife Peggy Kathleen Robinson to Coty James Cole and wife Rhiannon Michelle Gray Robinson in District 11.

Ricky L. and wife Linda Cagle to Lacy Lynn Cagle in District 21.

Tommy J. Garner to Tommy J. and Lori A. Garner in District 22.

Waddell Park II to Waddell Park II in District 15.

George W. Hollowell to George W. and wife Alexandra H. Hollowell Trust dated June 14, in District 14.

George W. Hollowell to George W. and wife Alex-

andra H. Hollowell Trust dated June 14, in District 14.

Brett Anthony Ide to Derinda Hess. No District listed.

Kevin M. Smothers to Joshua Lee Betz in District 11.

Dustin Ring to Morgan Davidson. No District listed.

Wayne and wife Fannie Yoder to Michael Ray Hampton in District 16.

Matthew Alexander and wife Sydney Wood Lane to Cameron and wife Karley Cantrell and others. No District listed.

Virginia Renee Pendergrass, executrix, to Virginia Renee Pendergrass in District 6.

Joseph O’Neil and wife Carol Lisa Church Fortner to Kelly Fortner and others in Districts 4 and 11.

Ensley Dirtwork & Investment Properties, LLC and others to Melissa R. Carpenter in District 12.

Shirley Bullington to Marshall Lee Eubanks in District 1.

Marriage Licenses

Rebekah Kathryn Draper, 21, of Trezevant, to James Dylan Cox, 24, of Atwood.

Adan Abundis, 37, of Huntingdon, to Brenda Gonzalez, 30, of Huntingdon.

Carroll County Sheriff’s Reports

Domestic Assault — On August 13, Deputy Lucas Coleman responded to a domestic disturbance at a residence in Cedar Grove. Deputies made contact with the victim and began investigating the incident.

According to the investigation, an argument began between Christopher Harris, 21, of Lavinia and the victim over friendships. During the altercation, Harris became agitated, grabbed the victim’s cell phone and went into his bedroom. When the victim attempted to retrieve the phone, Harris repeatedly shut the bedroom door on the victim’s arm and torso as the victim tried to enter the room. The victim also reported that at some point her lip was busted after being struck with the phone before leaving the residence to call 911.

Deputy Coleman observed evidence consistent with the victim’s account and determined Harris intentionally caused bodily injury and placed the victim in fear.

Harris was arrested and charged with domestic assault.

Driving Under the Influence — On August 16, Deputy Steven Scott attempted to stop a vehicle in McKenzie after observing it displaying an expired temporary registration. When emergency equipment was activated, the driver accelerated away at a high rate of speed instead of stopping.

During the pursuit, the driver passed another vehicle in a no-passing zone through a residential area before crashing. The driver, Jonathan Jones, 37, of Milan, exited the vehicle and attempted to flee on foot but was pursued and taken into custody.

Deputy Scott detected a strong odor of an intoxicating substance coming from Jones. Jones was unable to complete field sobriety tests, and Trooper Adam Harrison administered a horizontal gaze nystagmus test that showed signs consistent with impairment. Jones refused to provide a blood or breath

sample after being advised of Tennessee’s implied consent law.

A records check showed Jones’ driver’s license had been revoked for DUI and that he had prior convictions for driving on a revoked license. During a search of the vehicle, deputies recovered approximately 9.3 grams of marijuana, a marijuana pipe and a loaded 9mm handgun with 17 rounds of ammunition. Deputies also determined Jones is a convicted felon currently on federal probation.

Jones was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, second offense; driving on a revoked license, third offense; evading arrest; resisting arrest; reckless driving; unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon; possession of Schedule VI marijuana; and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was also cited for violation of implied consent and expired registration.

Possession of Methamphetamine — On August 17, Deputy Jeremy Smith conducted a traffic stop after observing a vehicle repeatedly cross both the center line and the fog line while traveling on Highway 220 near Atwood. The driver was identified as Dana Copeland, 52, of McKenzie.

During the stop, Deputy Smith observed Copeland displaying unusual nervous behavior. Although she admitted her driver’s license might be suspended, Deputy Smith advised her she would receive only a warning because it was her first offense. Despite this, her nervous behavior continued.

Deputies observed a torch lighter inside the vehicle, commonly associated with methamphetamine use, and

requested consent to search the vehicle. Copeland consented to both the vehicle search and a search of her person. While emptying her pockets, Copeland placed a cigarette pack on the hood of the patrol vehicle. When deputies examined the pack, Copeland admitted it contained illegal drugs. Deputies recovered a crystal-like substance that later field-tested positive for methamphetamine.

After being placed under arrest, Copeland repeatedly complained about being handcuffed. Deputy Smith advised her that bringing additional contraband into the jail could result in another felony charge. Copeland then admitted she had a glass pipe concealed on her person and surrendered it before being transported to the Carroll County Jail.

Copeland was charged with possession of methamphetamine.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Violation of Court Order — On August 17, Deputy Parker Graham was notified by Carroll County Dispatch and A21 Monitoring that Justin Bryan, 32, of Greenfield, had allowed the battery on his court-ordered GPS ankle monitor to become completely depleted.

Deputies determined Bryan was required by court order to wear and maintain the monitoring device as a condition of his bond. Investigators reported Bryan’s failure to keep the monitor operational constituted a direct violation of the court’s order and the Debbie and Marie Domestic Violence Protection Act.

Bryan was charged with violation of a court order.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Please notice that the Carroll County Mayor’s Office shall accept sealed written bids for **indoor gymnasium LED videoboard systems** at up to six school gymnasiums in Carroll County.

Proposals, bids, or responses must be submitted to the Office of the Carroll County Mayor, Joseph G. Butler, at 625 High St. Suite 101, Carroll County Office Complex, Huntingdon, Tennessee, 38344, no later than 9 a.m. CST, August 28, 2026, at which time the bids will be opened and considered at a public meeting of the Purchasing Committee.

Copies of bid documents may be obtained at the Carroll County Mayor’s Office at the above address, or by email at jbutler@carroll.tn.org.

All interested parties, without regard of race, color or national origin, shall be afforded the opportunity to bid and shall receive equal consideration. Title VI states “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” Carroll County strives to protect individuals’ civil rights through active compliance with the requirements of Title VI.

The Owner (Carroll County) further reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any and all informalities and to negotiate contract terms with the successful bidder, and the right to disregard all non-conforming, non-responsive, or conditional bids.

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Tri-County Publishing, Inc. dba The McKenzie Banner is seeking qualified news stringers to cover meetings and events in the Carroll, Henry and Weakley County area of West Tennessee while representing The McKenzie Banner. This is a part-time, contract position with the possibility of full-time. Some nights, weekends and holidays required.

AVAILABLE STRINGER POSITIONS (Contract)

- **TERRITORY:** McKenzie, Gleason
- **TERRITORY:** Huntingdon, Hollow Rock, Bruceton, Clarksburg.
- **TERRITORY:** West Carroll: Atwood, Trezevant, McLemoresville, Cedar Grove, Lavinia, etc.
- **TERRITORY:** Paris, Henry County

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AVAILABLE STRINGER POSITIONS (Contract)

- **TERRITORY:** McKenzie, Gleason
- **TERRITORY:** Huntingdon, Hollow Rock-Bruceton
- **TERRITORY:** West Carroll, Clarksburg

Please include resume and writing samples.

**RATE: \$25-\$50 PER EVENT,
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McKenzie Rotary Club members toured the new TCAT administrative building in McKenzie. Pictured are John Penn Ridgeway, President of TCAT Henry/Carroll; Armand Hebert, President of McKenzie Rotary Club; Dr. Jan Latimer, Vice-President of TCAT Henry/Carroll; and Jason Martin, Vice-President of McKenzie Rotary Club.

TCAT Henry/Carroll Solidifies Regional Presence with New Facilities

BY JOEL WASHBURN
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE — TCAT Henry/Carroll is reinforcing its commitment to the region while celebrating significant infrastructure investments that promise to bolster the local workforce.

During a recent presentation to the Rotary Club of McKenzie, meeting at the new TCAT facility in McKenzie, Dr. Jan Latimer, Vice-President of TCAT McKenzie, addressed community concerns regarding the future of the McKenzie campus, emphasized that the institution is stronger than ever following the merger of the McKenzie and Paris campuses two years ago.

The institution is celebrating the completion of a new 18,000-square-foot facility in McKenzie, a \$9 million investment that officially opened in January 2026. A formal ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new building is October 14 at 11:30 a.m.

John Penn Ridgeway, President of TCAT Henry/Carroll, reflected on the transition from the original

1965-era building to the modern facility. While acknowledging the challenges of construction and design, Ridgeway expressed pride in the new space, noting that it is designed to serve the residents of McKenzie and Carroll County for years to come.

The expansion extends beyond McKenzie. A new 99,687-square-foot campus in Paris, situated on 19 acres, is scheduled to open during the fall term on September 14.

At the heart of TCAT's mission is a focus on hands-on, post-secondary training designed to get students workforce-ready. The institution offers programs in healthcare, skilled trades, transportation, and IT, with approximately 88 to 89 percent of students attending without out-of-pocket costs.

Student success remains a primary metric for the school. Elizabeth "Lizzie" Ilko, an HVAC student, was highlighted as a standout example of the program's efficacy. Ilko was among 14 state medalists in the recent SkillsUSA competition, where she secured a gold medal.

Training programs at TCAT in McKenzie include: Administrative Office Technology, Automotive Technology, HVAC Technology, Information Technology Systems Management, Industrial Maintenance, Machine Tool Technology, Practical Nursing, Residential Building Maintenance, and Welding.

Despite the successes, leadership noted ongoing challenges, including the rising cost of training equipment and the need to fill critical gaps in the local labor market. Ridgeway emphasized a significant unmet demand for machinists and CNC operators in the area. "If we could get forty machinists, every company around needs a CNC or machinist," Ridgeway said, noting that while welding is popular, the industry requires a diverse range of skilled professionals to thrive.

As TCAT Henry/Carroll looks to the future, the administration plans to continue reconfiguring spaces to add new programs, building on the momentum of the recent practical nursing program launch in May.

McKenzie Alumni Association Announces Reunion Weekend

MCKENZIE — The Rebel spirit is about to be in full effect in McKenzie. The McKenzie High School Alumni Association (MHSAA) has announced a packed schedule that promises to bring graduates back to town for a three-day celebration of school history.

The reunion, running from September 24 through September 26, 2026, centers on a "Decades Reunion" theme, featuring specific events for ten different graduating classes alongside community-wide festivities.

The weekend gets underway on Thursday, September 24, with an open house at the Gordon Browning Museum in downtown McKenzie. From 4 to 8 p.m., the museum will showcase its McKenzie High School Historical Exhibit. The display will remain up through October 3 for anyone who misses the opening.

Friday turns toward tradition. The MHSAA Golf

Tournament kicks off the morning at 8 a.m. at Carroll Lake Golf Club—those interested in playing should reach out to Brian Winston at Carroll Bank and Trust to register. By lunchtime, the focus moves downtown for the Homecoming Parade, which starts at 12:30 p.m. The parade starts in the parking lot behind Edward Jones.

Later that afternoon, the historic Park Theatre will host a screening of the "Homecoming '86" 40th Anniversary Commemorative Video, presented by the Carroll County Historical Society at 2 p.m. It's free to attend, though donations are encouraged. The evening wraps up at Rebel Stadium, where the Alumni Tailgate Party starts at 5 p.m. Admission is \$7, which covers dinner from local food trucks and entry to the 7 p.m. homecoming football game.

Saturday morning shifts

focus to the school's longtime graduates, with a reunion for the classes of the 1950s and '60s running from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the McKenzie Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

The exhibit of McKenzie High School is available for viewing at the Gordon Browning Museum on Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sports history takes the stage at 3 p.m. at the historic Park Theatre, where a roundtable discussion will mark the 20th anniversary of the 2006 McKenzie Rebel state baseball championship. The final event is live music at Hometown Hangout, starting at 6 p.m. Saturday..

Throughout the weekend, ten individual classes—1966, 1971, 1976, 1979, 1986, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2010, and 2016—are organizing their own private gatherings to celebrate milestone anniversaries.

For more information, alumni can check the MHSAA Facebook page or send questions to mckenzieh-salumni.tn@gmail.com.



Honored for their volunteer service to The Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center were: Dennis Blackwell - Carter-Holbrook Award; Lavonne Nazik - Brooke Hodges Award; and Sherrye Hudson - Mayor's Award. Kimberly McLemore, executive director, announced the awards.

The Dixie Honors Dedicated Volunteers

HUNTINGDON (August 19) — The Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center recently hosted its annual volunteer usher luncheon, a celebration dedicated to the individuals who serve as the face of the organization. The event provided an opportunity for leadership to express gratitude for the thousands of hours contributed by volunteers over the past year.

Dr. Krista Martin, board president of the Friends of the Dixie, opened the program by acknowledging the volunteers' grace and dedication during a year of growth and change. During the luncheon, the Friends of the Dixie unveiled a new painting by local Jackson artist Lyndon Noe. The artwork, which will be displayed in the theater, serves as a tribute to the venue's namesake, Dixie Carter.

Kimberly McLemore, executive director of The Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center, emphasized that the

volunteers are the heartbeat of the venue. "You help set the tone for the entire experience," McLemore noted, praising their kindness, patience, and flexibility. She shared impressive statistics from the past twelve months: 66 volunteers contributed a combined 2,370 hours, serving 9,282 patrons and assisting 4,400 students across 36 schools.

The event recognized top contributors, including Jeff Masek (79 hours) and Allison Cummings and Denise Penticott, who tied with 81 hours each. Service milestones were celebrated, ranging from first-year volunteers to three individuals marking 20 years of service: Nancy Blaylock, Barbara Clifton, and Brooke Hodges. Special awards were also presented, including the Brooke S. Hodges Award for excellence in patron experience and the Carter Holbrook Award for leadership.

The Carter-Holbrook Award - For Excellence

In Organizational Volunteer Leadership of the Arts was presented to Dennis Blackwell. The award was presented by Kimberly McLemore.

The Mayor's Award - For Good Humor and Patience in the Public Service of the Arts was presented to Sherrye Hudson. The award was presented by Mayor Chad Edwards.

The Brooke S. Hodges Award - For Excellence in Providing a Positive Patron Experience was presented to Lavonne Mazik. The award was presented by Brooke Hodges.

The luncheon also served as a time of reflection, honoring the memories of three dedicated volunteers who died in the last year: Carol Pinson, Bob Epsey, and Ruby Allen. Their families were present to receive certificates in recognition of their years of service and commitment to the community.

West Carroll Recognizes SOAR Students

TREZEVANT (August 20) — West Carroll Elementary School continues to celebrate student achievement through its SOAR Awards program, which honors students who exemplify the school's core values of Safety, Ownership, Achievement and Respect. The program recognizes students who demonstrate strong academic effort, positive character and meaningful contributions to the school community.

Macie Bennett, Everlee Kopiar and Harper Tidwell are the first SOAR students of the 2026-27 school year.

"Macie is a very respectful and kind human, and even in the short time she has been in band is already showing signs of being a successful musician," said Brayden Campbell, West



Macie Bennett, Everlee Kopiar and Harper Tidwell are the first SOAR students of the 2026-27 school year. Submitted photo

Carroll Jr. High band director. "Ms. O'Bryan and I are excited to see how she will grow in this program!"

"Everlee has a sweet personality and is always willing to help her peers and the teacher. She is also ready to answer questions

during class discussion," said Jennifer Kemp, third grade teacher.

"I have seen Harper adjust to our school well, but also saw her helping her classmates to adjust," said Sherry Cockrill, guidance teacher.



The cast of "Southern Fried Funeral" takes a bow after Thursday's debut.

Carroll Arts Presents 'Southern Fried Funeral'

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (August 20) — The annual Sweet Tea Festival kicked off Thursday with a night of laughs at the historic Park Theatre as Carroll Arts, Inc. presented "Southern Fried Funeral." An encore performance was Sunday afternoon, closing out the festival.

The play, written by J. Dietz Osborne and Nate Eppler and set in the small town of New Edinburgh, Miss., is a warm-hearted Southern comedy filled with eccentric family members, unexpected visitors and laugh-out-loud funeral-day chaos.

When the Frye family gathers to lay a loved one to rest, old tensions, secrets and hilarious sur-

prises bubble to the surface, creating a touching and unforgettable celebration of family, friendship and life in the South.

Producing the play were Director Denise Sam and Production Assistant Carol Armpriest.

The cast included Kathie Crider as Martha Ann Fox, Nancy Davenport as Fairy June Cooper, Tom Keenan as Benny Charles Greenwood, Sissy Ball as Dorothy Frye, Isaac Stephen Walker as Dewey Frye Jr., Jesalyn Cozart as Sammy Jo Frye-Lefette, Danny Stover as Dub Frye, Destiny Lane as Harlene Frye, Wyatt Sanders as Atticus Van Leer, Andrew Evans as Beecham Lefette and Gina Rainey as Ozella Meeks.

The production crew

included Scott Armpriest, Darryl Ball, Jay Barnett, Gary Davenport, Leigh Goodwin, Mike Goodwin, Kim McMahan, Mabel Plank, Bonnie Teas, Eric Teas and Stephen Williams.

The tech crew included Freedom Sound Productions, Steve Morris and Ben Wolski.

Casting was by Chelsea Fuller Brown, Mitchell Fuller and Aubrey Doyle.

Carroll Arts thanked the City of McKenzie, the Park Theatre, McKenzie Senior Center, Bala Boyd of Bethel University, McKenzie City Florist and More, Bonnie Teas (t-shirts) and Hunter Smith.

Donors for the production were Carroll Bank & Trust, TNT Pizza, Super Drugs and Waddell Clinic.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER



Left, Lady Rebel Stephanie Padilla scores one of her three goals. Right, Lady Rebel Kaydynce Barksdale fires a shot on goal. Photos by Davarion Gilbert/The Banner

Lady Rebels Rout Obion County, 7-0

BY DAVARION GILBERT
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MCKENZIE (August 18) — The McKenzie High School Lady Rebels hosted Obion County Central

High School Tuesday for a soccer match. The Lady Rebels dominated all game to win 7-0.

Goalie Janyla Piro had one save. Stephanie Padilla scored three goals and had

one assist, Kaydynce Barksdale scored one goal and had one assist, and Sophie Dameron scored two goals. Millie Brigham scored one goal, and Ava Hastings had three assists.

Fillies Receive Championship Rings



The 2025-26 Basketball Fillies finished with a school record of 31-3 for the season and finished the season on a 21-game winning streak. Left, The Huntingdon Fillies basketball team receives state championship rings at halftime of McKenzie and Huntingdon game. Right, State tournament MVP Wylie Kee receives her state championship ring from Director of Schools Jonathan Kee who is also her uncle. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner



High School Football Scores from August 21

Fulton County 41, Gleason 0	Milan 48, Jackson South Side 0
Henry County 31, Haywood 28	Trinity Christian Acad. 49, Dresden 7
HR-Bruceton Central 16, Scotts Hill 8	Westview 30, MASE 14.
Huntingdon 28, McKenzie 21	Riverside 21, Camden 16

Upcoming High School Football for August 28

Gleason at Hollow Rock-Bruceton	Milan at Gibson County
Huntingdon vs Camden	Westview vs. Arizona Compass Prep
McKenzie at Dresden	Union City at Dyer County
West Carroll vs Fayette-Ware	Perry County at Scotts Hill
Henry County vs. Giles County	Greenfield vs. Stewart County

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL



Left, Lady Rebel Kynadie Brown serves for one of her four aces. Right, Lady Rebel Charlie Cassidy goes for a kill. Photos by Davarion Gilbert/The Banner

Lady Rebels Shut Out Lady Rockets

BY DAVARION GILBERT
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MCKENZIE (August 18) — The McKenzie High School Lady Rebels hosted Clarksburg Tuesday for a volleyball match.

The Lady Rebels breezed through the game for a 3-0 victory. McKenzie's varsity win was led by Jaycee Stafford with 12 kills, seven aces and one assist. Addison Milam had 11 kills, one ace and four assists. Braylin Auvenshine had nine kills and Kynadie Brown had one kill, four aces and 20 assists. With the win, the Lady Rebels began the season with a 2-0 winning streak.

MHS Volleyball Defeats JCM, 3-0

BY DAVARION GILBERT
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MCKENZIE (August 20) — The McKenzie High School volleyball team continued its dominant start to the season with a commanding performance against JCM on Wednesday, August 20. Both the varsity and junior varsity squads secured decisive victories, showcasing strong teamwork and impressive individual efforts across the court.

The Lady Rebels varsity squad cruised to a 3-0 sweep, maintaining their undefeated 3-0 record. McKenzie controlled the pace of the match from start to finish, winning sets by scores of 25-14, 25-9, and 25-12.

Kynadie Brown led the way with a stellar performance, racking up 12 aces and 9 assists.

Jaycee Stafford was a force at the service line and the net, recording 9 aces and 5 kills.



Lady Rebel Maggie Hall goes low for a dig. Photo by Davarion Gilbert/The Banner

Charlie Cassidy added to the offensive production with 5 kills and 4 digs. Addison Milam contributed 4 kills, 4 aces, and a block. Braylin Auvenshine chipped in with 4 kills and 2 assists. The junior varsity team matched the varsity's energy, securing a clean 2-0 victory. The young Rebels displayed depth and versatility throughout the match. Standout performances for the JV squad included: Serenity Bobo led the team with 6 aces and 3 kills. Kynlee Barden proved lethal from the service line with 6 aces. Abby Carroll orchestrated the offense with 7 assists and contributed 5 aces. Willow Stenberg added 5 aces and 2 kills. The Rebels look to carry this momentum into their upcoming matches, building on the balanced and aggressive play that defined this Wednesday night sweep.

Lady Rebels Top Lady Chargers, 3-1

BY DAVARION GILBERT
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MCKENZIE (August 17) — The McKenzie High School Lady Rebels traveled to Westview Monday for a volleyball match. The Lady Rebels cruised through the game to a 3-1

victory. McKenzie dominated the first two sets, 25-15 and 25-10. The Lady Chargers won the third set, but the Lady Rebels took the fourth set, 25-16. McKenzie's varsity win was led by Addison Milam with 17 kills and five aces. Jaycee Stafford had eight kills, six aces and two assists. Braylin Auvenshine had ten kills and four aces, and Kynadie Brown had 16 assists. With the win, the Lady Rebels begin the season 1-0.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Rebels Fall to Minutemen

BY BRAD SAM
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LEXINGTON (August 18) — The McKenzie Middle School Rebels traveled Tuesday to face Lexington Middle School football at Caywood Elementary. The host Minutemen stopped a deep Rebel drive to start the game, then took control on both sides of the ball en route to a 36-0 win.

McKenzie received the opening kick and started at their own 38. Quarterback Kenden Coleman threw to Navadius Owens for seven yards, then lost two yards on a keeper. A short pass to Owens brought up fourth-and-two, but Owens found a gap for 43 yards to keep the drive alive. He ran again for no gain, then Coleman threw to Colin Yeley for five yards. A Lexington penalty made it third-and-one at the 3, but Owens was stopped for a loss. Coleman threw incomplete on fourth down, and the Minutemen took over at their 8.

Lexington scored on their first snap with a 92-yard run. The two-point conversion was successful, and the Minutemen led 8-0 with just under three minutes to play in the first frame.

The Rebels went three-and-out on their second possession. Coleman's punt was downed at the McKenzie 46.

The Minutemen earned one first down, then scored on a 32-yard run. An incomplete pass on the two-point try made it 14-0 Lexington with under two minutes remaining in the opening quarter.

McKenzie went three-and-out again with three incomplete passes. Coleman punted, and a long return by Lexington was negated by a block-in-the-back penalty.

The Minutemen earned one first down, but the drive stalled around midfield as the quarter ended. Lexington turned the ball over on



Rebel Hayden Nolen (7) wraps up a Lexington player as Navadius Owens (6) closes in to assist. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

downs on the first play of the second frame.

The Rebels earned a first down on another good Owens run, but turned the ball over on downs four plays later at the Lexington 39.

The Minutemen struck again with a seven-play scoring drive, including a fourth-down conversion. Rebel Jonah Henson batted down a pass on the two-point try, and Lexington led 20-0 with a minute left in the half.

Three plays into McKenzie's next drive, Coleman's pass was intercepted. Reed Gaskins and the QB himself made the stop to prevent a Minutemen touchdown.

Taking over at the Rebel 27 with two seconds on the clock. Lexington completed a pass, but the receiver was stopped by a host of Rebels to end the half.

The Minutemen received the second-half kick and scored on their first snap with a long carry. The two-point conversion was good, and Lexington led 28-0.

Rebel Makhyn Gilbert ran for a first down to get McKenzie into Minutemen territory, but three plays later, Lexington made another interception.

The first Minutemen play of the possession was a 59-

yard touchdown pass. A successful two-point conversion gave Lexington a 36-0 lead halfway through the third quarter.

Owens made a good return to the Minutemen 44, but McKenzie turned the ball over on downs on four plays.

Lexington suffered some miscues on the ensuing drive and turned the ball over on downs as the fourth quarter began.

Owens earned the Rebels a first down, but a fumble on the next snap was scooped up by a Minutemen defender with a wide open path to the end zone. Owens outran the player to make a touchdown-saving tackle at the 17.

Gaskins made a stop for a loss, then a touchdown run was negated by a holding penalty. A false start moved Lexington back even more, and a host of Rebels made a second-down stop. On third-and-long, the Minutemen found space to the outside, but Gilbert forced the runner out of bounds at the 7. On first-and-goal, a fumble was recovered by Gaskins as time expired.

The Rebels return home to face Henderson North on Thursday, August 27. Kickoff is 6:30 p.m.

Huntingdon Middle Mustangs Cage Lions

BY RUSSELL BUSH
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Mustang running back Cohen Gray scored 28 points of the Mustangs 38 Thursday night in a 38-0 win over Camden for homecoming. Gray ran for 126 yards on seven carries, scored four touchdowns, added two conversions runs. Gray, as the Mustangs improve to 3-0 for the season, has 482 yards on the ground in those three games.

The Mustangs had a season low 214 yards on the ground but took advantage of a short field and field position. The Mustangs started their first four possessions inside Lion territory as they started at the Lion 26, 48, 16, and 46 in the first half and scored on all four possessions.

The first score came on a 22-yard run by Gray and the Mustangs led early 6-0 after the conversion failed. The Mustangs second score came on a 38-yard run by Gray to cap off a three-play 48-yard drive. Gray added the conversion run and the Mustangs led 14-0 after one quarter.

The Mustangs scored for



Brilyn Ford follows blockers. Photo by Russell Bush/The Banner

the third time early in the second quarter on a 13-yard run by Gray with 6:39 left in the half. Bryce Maddox added the conversion run and the score rose to 22-0. The Mustangs final score of the first half came with 1:43 left in the second when Gray sprinted 33 yards to paydirt. Gray also scored on the conversion to give the Mustangs a 30-0 lead at the half.

The Mustangs final score of the night came with 6:20 left in the game as Knox White scored from a yard

out. Brilyn Ford ran in the conversion for the final score of 38-0.

The Mustangs held Camden to 41 yards rushing on the ground and 5-12 passing for three yards in the game. Ford had a big game for the Mustangs as he ran for 69 yards in the game and White added 23 yards along with his touchdown run.

The Mustangs now 3-0 for the season, travel to Milan this Thursday as they face the Bulldogs for a 6:30 kickoff.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Left, Rebel Avery Brown makes a catch for a huge gain. Center, Mustang quarterback Kenton Smith trots into the end zone for one of his three rushing touchdowns. Right, Mustang Gavin Gray stops Rebel Jayden Callis near the line of scrimmage. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Mustangs Hang on to Top Rebels in Thrilling Season Opener, 28-21

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (August 21) — It's not often that a high school football season opens with a defending state champion and state runner-up mashing helmets, but the Huntingdon High School Mustangs (2025 Class 2A champs) hosted their rival McKenzie Rebels (1A runner-up) for a game that lived up to the hype and the history.

The Rebels struck first, but the Mustangs would come back to lead by two scores twice. McKenzie had a shot to tie or take the lead at the very end, but a timely Huntingdon interception sealed a 28-21 win.

Prior to the game, a brief ceremony was held to commemorate the naming of the playing surface "Eric Swenson Field" in honor of the head coach's championship and all-time Huntingdon wins record.

Also during the pre-game, athletes from the other HHS fall sports teams waved a massive American Flag, donated to the school by Woodmen Life, as the HHS and MHS marching band performed the National Anthem.

At halftime, the 2026 state champion Huntingdon Fillies basketball team was honored and presented rings.

McKenzie won the coin toss and elected to receive the opening kickoff, a touchback by Mustang Greyson Anderson. Rebel Jayden Callis earned a first down on two carries, then moved the chains again on a five-yard gain coupled with a Huntingdon penalty. McKenzie's drive stalled near midfield, and a fourth-down pass from Cole Brown to Matteo Tabadada was complete, but short of the line to gain.

The Mustangs took over and quickly went three-and-out. Rebels Aiden Carrington, Lelan Gordon and Cayden Gordon made big stops to force the punt.

The Rebels started at their own 18 and soon faced third down, but a Mustang penalty moved the chains. Callis ran four straight times for a couple of first downs. C. Brown kept for five, and Callis fol-

lowed with a 16-yard carry to the 16. Carrington ran for 12, then Callis took it to the 1. C. Brown recovered from a high snap to get in for the touchdown. Jony Hernandez kicked the PAT, and McKenzie led 7-0 with half a minute remaining in the first frame.

Huntingdon went three-and-out again as the second quarter got underway.

McKenzie started deep again after another good punt by Mustang Hayes Eubanks. Callis ran three times for a first down, the latter a forward lunge on third-and-inches. A penalty on the next snap doomed the drive, and three plays later, the Rebels punted.

Huntingdon had great field position, starting at the McKenzie 44. Colt Wood ran for seven yards, then Eubanks moved the chains. Mustang quarterback Kenton Smith kept twice for short gains, then Eubanks earned a first down. Smith kept again to the 6, then repeated for a touchdown. Anderson hit the PAT, and the game was tied at 7-7 halfway through the second frame.

A penalty on the kickoff return set the Rebels back deep, and the Mustang defense forced another three-and-out.

On the ensuing drive, Smith threw incomplete, then ran for a 58-yard touchdown. Anderson's PAT gave the Mustangs a 14-7 lead with two minutes remaining in the half.

McKenzie earned a pair of first downs, but stalled at midfield and punted with half a minute remaining.

Huntingdon ran one play before the break.

The Mustangs received the ball to start the second half. Big stops by Rebels Cooper Davidson and Aiden Essary forced a three-and-out, but a fumble on fourth down prevented a punt.

The Rebels took over in Mustang territory, but quickly faced fourth down. A pass interference penalty gave McKenzie a fresh set of downs. Callis and C. Brown combined runs for a first-and-goal, but Huntingdon made three stops and a fourth-down



Top, Prior to game time, the football field was official dedicated in honor of Coach Eric Swenson. Swenson finished the 2025 season with a career coaching record of 175-52 and the Mustangs' second state championship in school history. Swenson surpassed the late Coach Paul Ward's winning record with the Mustangs' win over Union City in the 2025 campaign. Above, The bands from Huntingdon and McKenzie perform Anthem together. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner Below Left, Rebel quarterback Cole Brown fires a pass. Below Right, Rebel Jayden Callis sheds a defender for a touchdown run. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Mustang Ayden Woods trips up Rebel Jacobi Melton after a catch. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

fumble turned the ball over on downs.

On the third play of the ensuing drive, Smith ran 93 yards for a Mustang touchdown. The PAT made it 21-7 with four minutes left in the third frame.

A good return paired with a Huntingdon penalty

started the Rebel drive at the Mustang 35. C. Brown kept for 14, then Callis gained five on a pair of carries. C. Brown threw to Jacobi Melton for eight and a first-and-goal, then Callis punched it in. Hernandez kicked, and the Rebel deficit was 21-14 in the final minute of the third.

A pair of runs by Eubanks, plus a McKenzie penalty, moved the chains to start Huntingdon's drive. Two plays later, Smith threw to Bryson Whiteside for a first down. C. Gordon, Hunter Winstead and Davidson made big stops to force fourth down, but Smith threw to Garvin Kee for a 32-yard touchdown. Anderson completed a perfect night of PATs, and the Mustangs led 28-14 with just under eight minutes left in the fourth quarter.

On McKenzie's first snap, C. Brown threw deep to a wide-open Melton for an 81-yard touchdown. Hernandez made it a perfect 3-for-3 on PATs, and Huntingdon's lead was 28-21 with seven minutes to play.

The Mustangs kept it on the ground to keep the

clock moving. Eubanks, Smith and Wood took turns, earning two first downs. The drive stalled on good defense by Rebels Dawson Reeder, L. Gordon and Parker Ross, and Eubanks punted with a minute and a half to play.

The Rebels played fast to race the clock, starting with a 20-yard pass from C. Brown to Melton. A penalty backed them up on the next snap, and an incomplete pass brought up third-and-long. C. Brown found Avery for 20 yards and a first down. Cole's next pass was intercepted by Mustang Zayden

Connelly with 13 seconds to play. Tensions flared between the teams, drawing a shower of yellow flags.

After the officials sorted out the penalties, some offsetting, to determine the spot of the ball, Smith took a knee to expire the clock.

As the final seconds ran off, animosity faded and the players congratulated each other on a great game and wished each other success going forward.

Huntingdon stays home next week to host another historical rival, Camden, while the Rebels remain on the road at Dresden.



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Outpatient Behavioral Health Services
Serving patients 6 and older

641 R.B. Wilson Drive
Huntingdon, TN 38344

731-986-7400

A1478/34-1

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THE BANNER

Call 731.352.3323