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A large, colorful banner for Peppers Toyota. The background is yellow with green and red starburst patterns. The text "PEPPERS TOYOTA" is in large, bold, red letters with a white outline. To the left, "HUGE INVENTORY" is in pink and white. To the right, "OVER 145 PRE-OWNED TO CHOOSE FROM!" is in blue and white. Below the main text, "OF PARIS IN WEST TENNESSEE" is in red. Further down, "Quality Hometown sales and service!" is in black, followed by "2400 E. WOOD ST., PARIS, TN 38242" in black. At the bottom, "CLICKPEPPERS.COM" and "TOLL-FREE 1-800-325-3229" are in red and black. The banner is framed by a repeating pattern of "clickpeppers.com" in small black text.



Trezevant Mayor and Council (L to R) Front Row: Vice-Mayor Pam Joyner and Mayor Bobby Blaylock. Back Row: Councilmen Leon Lyell, Don Barger, Dan Dieringer and Mark Argo.

Trezevant Purchases New Police SUV

Newly Reelected Members Administered Oath of Office

BY JOEL WASHBURN
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

TREZEVANT (November 12) — Trezevant City Attorney Charlie Trotter administered the oath of office to Mayor Bobby Blaylock, Councilman Leon Lyell, and Councilman Mark Argo as incumbent members recently reelected to their respective positions. The three ran unopposed in the November 5 election. During the monthly meeting, the Board voted to purchase a new 2023 Ford Explorer with 1,000 miles on the odometer. The vehicle is designed for police use and will be equipped with the necessary gear in Nashville. The vehicle is blue in color. Councilman Don Barger made the motion to purchase the vehicle. He noted the funds were included in the 2024-25 fiscal year budget. The Board also approved

the first of two readings for a new drug-testing policy for city employees. A second reading will be held in December. Trotter said Baptist Hospital will conduct the drug screen as needed and provide the requisite medical review officer. One student's grandmother made some strong comments about the city not providing a crossing guard when discussing a crossing guard at West Carroll Elementary School. That student walks to school and crosses U.S. 79 highway to get to the school. Trotter said that, according to state law, it is the school's responsibility to ensure the safety of the student. The responsibility does not rest with the city. A telephone conversation between Trotter and the school's attorney indicated that the school system will determine if a significant hazard exists. Trotter will attend the December 5 meeting of the West Carroll School Board to discuss the issue with WCSSD board members. Trotter said a school bus is available for the sixth grader to ride to and from

school. Roxanne Young, the student's grandmother, said the bus is available only when the student stays at one of two of his parents, but not the other. In previous years, the city provided a crossing guard, said Young. She said her grandson is not the only student who walks to school. Trotter invited Young to the West Carroll Board meeting to state her case. Speaking of U.S. 79 (State Route 76), the Tennessee Department of Transportation is constructing a bypass around the central business district of Trezevant. It is to be completed in December 2025. The city will then assume maintenance and ownership of the current U.S. 79 within the city limits. City officials believe the traffic in front of city hall and West Carroll Elementary will be significantly reduced once the traffic is diverted to the new four-lane highway. In the meantime, the Board discussed the ongoing problem of motorists disregarding the stop signs at the four-way stop in front of city hall. They discussed rumble strips on the roadway in the lanes as motorists approach the stop sign and some speed 'calming' radars to indicate the driver's speed as they travel along U.S. 79. Mary Jo Hall was instructed to contact TDOT about possibly adding some speed control measures. The Board welcomed Virginia Knott as the new city recorder-trainee. She is training with Kathy Edwards, City Recorder. Edwards plans to retire in April 2025 with 18 years with the city. Gabrille Davis, the city's certified municipal finance officer made a request to the Board to allow Knott to be added as a signator on the city's checking accounts. The Board approved the request. Councilman Dan Dieringer said the city's Halloween event at the park was very successful. It included events that attracted a couple hundred attendees. He said electricity has been added to the area at the new stage. A turnstile will soon be added at the park's entrance, said Dieringer. City employees will receive a year-end bonus of \$200 for full-time and \$100 for part-time service. After some discussion, the Board informally granted permission for the administrative staff to livestream the monthly meetings. Mayor Blaylock said the resource should not cost the city any city funds. The city's Christmas parade is December 9 at 7 p.m. A Christmas dinner for city employees is December 10.



New Highway, New School Sign

ATWOOD — With the opening of the new Atwood bypass highway, the purpose of a new digital informational sign at West Carroll School District's Central Office came to fruition. Last week, Tennessee Department of Transportation opened the long awaited highway that bypasses the Atwood business district. The new road currently terminates at SR 77 in Atwood near West

Carroll Junior/Senior High School. On May 2, the Board of Education for the West Carroll Special School District voted to install a digital roadside sign to inform motorists of the events at West Carroll Schools. GSC Signs of McKenzie installed the signage. Federal COVID relief funds, known as ESSER funds, were used to pay for the signs.

Statewide Graduation Rates Break Record Again at 92.1%

McKenzie, South Carroll, West Carroll Ranked in Highest in State

NASHVILLE — Today, the Tennessee Department of Education announced the 2023-24 statewide graduation rate is 92.1 percent, breaking the previous record achieved in the 2022-23 school year at 90.6 percent. "Once again, Tennessee's unwavering dedication to fostering student success has led us to achieve an extraordinary milestone—setting a new state record for graduation rates for the second consecutive year," said Lizzette Reynolds, Commissioner of Education. "This achievement reflects the tireless efforts of our district and school leaders, educators, and families working together to help all our stu-

dents achieve their goals and be successful." For the 2023-24 school year, the most notable takeaways from graduation data include: Clay County Schools, McKenzie Special School District, South Carroll Special School District, and West Carroll Special District each had over a 99% graduation rate. 73 districts graduated 95 percent or more of their students on time. 1,756 more students graduated in the 2024 cohort compared to last year, for a total of 67,232 students graduating across the state. 78 districts improved their graduation rates from 2023 to 2024, with seven districts improving by five percentage points or more. The English learners student group demonstrated a 12-percentage point increase in their graduation rate from 67% in 2022-23 to

79% in 2023-24. 23 districts finished the year with over a 99% graduation rate for at least one of the following student groups: English Learners, Black, Hispanic, Native American, Economically Disadvantaged, and Students with Disabilities. In order to advance academic achievement and prepare students for post-secondary success, districts continue to offer summer programming and tutoring supports for additional learning time, innovative college and career exploration, and access to Advanced Placement (AP) courses. For more information on graduation rates for individual districts and schools, please visit the department's Data Downloads webpage. For Tennessee Department of Education media inquiries, contact Edu.MediaInquiries@tn.gov.

Huntingdon Water Bills to be Averaged Until Automatic Meters are Installed

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (November 14) — The Mayor and Town Council held a special called meeting Thursday to consider action to mitigate discrepancies on water bills. A permanent solution to the ongoing issue of misread water meters is currently being implemented. Electronic, self-reading meters are being installed for every customer connected to the town's water system. The resolution presented at the meeting suspends the reading of meters for billing purposes until all of the electronic meters are installed and automated reading can be fully implemented. For each customer, the previous 12 months of bills will be averaged to determine a flat rate, which will be the monthly rate billed until the aforementioned process is completed. Newly-elected Mayor Chad Edwards informed

the council that he had contacted the state comptroller to seek advice about the proposed resolution. The comptroller endorsed the move as the best option. Councilmember Kelly Eubanks made a motion to approve the resolution. Will Atkins seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Councilmember Andrew Maddox was absent. The meeting adjourned after three minutes.

UT Launches Outdoor Recreation, Park Management Concentration

KNOXVILLE — Students hoping to work for national or state parks can now take courses under the new University of Tennessee Outdoor Recreation and Park Management (ORPM) concentration. The courses are available in the Herbert College of Agriculture School of Natural Resources. Courses in this new undergraduate forestry major concentration rolled out in Fall 2024. The curriculum includes recreation ecology, visitor use management, natural and cultural interpretation and outdoor leadership courses. It also uses the university's 21,000-plus acres of forest land for teaching, research and demonstrations and takes advantage of nearby natural areas such as the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Cherokee National Forest, state parks and outdoor recreation spaces within the city of Knoxville. "Given the proximity to so many recreation resources such as the Great Smoky Mountains, strong connections to outdoor recreation agencies and private

companies, and our new recreation faculty, we are well equipped to provide a strong education that incorporates the foundations of recreation in the classroom coupled with outstanding practical field experience," Don Hodges, School of Natural Resources director, said about the new concentration. Faculty members say it prepares students for careers in natural resource management agencies, non-profit organizations and small business operations. It also provides entrepreneurial training allowing students to be part of the growing outdoor recreation economy, which accounts for \$1.1 trillion in economic output including \$11.9 billion from Tennessee. "These numbers point to the immense popularity of recreating in the outdoors, which comes with a certain responsibility. The Outdoor Recreation and Park Management concentration will prepare students to be leaders in protecting our natural and cultural heritage and ensuring high quality opportunities for future generations of outdoor enthusiasts," Ryan Sharp, ORPM associate professor, said. You can learn about the new concentration and its courses on the School of Natural Resources website and the academic catalog. The UT School of Natural Resources is part of the Herbert College of Agriculture, UT AgResearch and UT Extension at the UT Institute of Agriculture. The curricula focus on a mastery learning approach, emphasizing practical, hands-on experiences. The school's faculty, staff and students conduct research and outreach programs that advance the science and sustainable management of our natural resources. For more information, visit naturalresources.tennessee.edu. The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture is comprised of the Herbert College of Agriculture, UT College of Veterinary Medicine, UT AgResearch and UT Extension. Through its land-grant mission of teaching, research and outreach, the Institute touches lives and provides Real. Life. Solutions. to Tennesseans and beyond. utia.tennessee.edu.

likely not affected but may be in people's homes. If you have any recalled carrots in your home, throw them out or return them to the store.

Bagged Carrots Cause E. coli Outbreak

The United States Center for Disease Control and public health officials in several states are investigating a multistate outbreak of E. coli O121 in-

fections linked to multiple brands of recalled organic whole bagged carrots and baby carrots sold by Grimway Farms. Carrots on store shelves right now are



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Commission Recognizes Dwayne Tordsen, Scouts

BY JASON R. MARTIN
jmartin@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (November 11) — The Carroll County Commission met Monday with three resolutions on the agenda. Before regular business, Boy Scout Troop 73 presented the colors for the Commission meeting. Dwayne Tordsen of the Carroll County Sheriff's Office was recognized for his work in the jail's re-entry program. Tordsen was recently named top facilitator of the year by the Tennessee Corrections Institute.

The following resolutions were approved. Resolution 11-01-2024 amended the FY25 Budget: Library Technology Grant for \$1,930; Election Grant for \$ 23,313.15; Sheriff Dept Government Highway Safety Operations Grant for \$18,525.23; Carroll Academy \$ 47,250 with the sale of equipment/vehicles; and County Clerk Reserve Account for \$ 6,300 for the purchase of credit/debit card readers.

Resolution 11-02-2024 recognized Investigator Jackie Wallace's retirement and allowed her to retain her service weapon. Sheriff Andy Dickson stated she began her career at the jail, then moved to dispatch and then finished her career serving as his senior investigator.

Resolution 11-03-2024 authorized an actuarial study to determine the financial impact of the hazardous duty supplemental benefit on the Carroll County Government. The proposed benefit is similar to that of the supplemental bridge program that the county is currently using. If the



Above, Scouts Te Piro and Dayton Miller served as the color guard for Scout Troop 73. Below, Sergeant Dwayne Tordsen is recognized by Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler for his work with the Carroll County Jail's Reentry Program.



county were to change this would allow officers to extend their career to age 67 versus the age 62 forced retirement through the bridge program.

The following were elected notaries: Kendra P. Carter, Monica Con-

roy, Leslie Foster, Tracy McAurthur, Maria Mejia and Justin Dallas Sanders.

The Carroll County Commission will not meet in December unless there is necessary business to be conducted.

Rep. Darby Announces \$15.1 Million to Expand Broadband, Digital Opportunity

NASHVILLE — State Rep. Tandy Darby, R-Greenfield, announced more than \$15.1 million in grant funding has been awarded to expand broadband availability and access to high-quality digital opportunities in Carroll, Weakley and Henry counties.

The counties will receive three separate grants as part of \$101.6 million in overall funding administered by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TN-ECD). This investment will provide broadband access and digital opportunity programs to more than 97,000 Tennesseans across 75 counties.

"Expanding reliable broadband internet access and digital opportunities will help our communities continue to thrive," Darby said. "I look forward to the profound impact these important grants will have in West Tennessee, and I thank TNECD and each grant recipient for their work getting Tennesseans digitally equipped and

connected."

Local Grant Recipients

Spectrum Southeast: \$12.5 million to facilitate high-speed broadband access and increase deployment of broadband in Carroll County through the Last Mile program.

Persevere, Inc: \$990,640 to facilitate high-speed broadband access and increase deployment of broadband in Carroll County through the Digital Skills, Education and Workforce Development program.

Weakley County: \$1.7 million to enable broadband access, workforce development, and virtual education and health monitoring in Weakley, Carroll and Henry counties through the Connected Community Facilities program.

The Last Mile grant program assists with facilitating high-speed broadband access and increasing deployment and adoption of broadband in underserved areas of the Volunteer State.

Digital Skills, Education and Workforce Develop-

ment grants support a variety of training and education programs to advance digital skills and workforce development, creating a pipeline for well-paying digital jobs. The Connected Community Facilities program supports the construction and renovation of spaces that offer services for digital advancement in workforce, health care and education.

TNECD's most recent broadband infrastructure grants, totaling \$34.5 million, will provide access to more than 5,241 locations in six counties. The \$67.1 million in digital opportunity grants will benefit more than 3 million Tennesseans with across 66 counties.

All grant recipients must complete their projects by December 31, 2026.

Additional information about Tennessee's broadband initiatives can be found here.

State Rep. Tandy Darby represents House District 76, which includes Weakley and part of Carroll and Henry counties.

Department and the Carroll County Rescue Squad.

He holds several certifications through Jackson State Community College and several other certifications and licenses. He has passed several TEMA and FEMA courses that are required for the position.

Foster stated, "I feel incredibly blessed and honored to have been given this opportunity. I thank Mayor Butler and the county commissioners for the confidence and trust they have bestowed upon me. I look forward to working cooperatively with the agencies, departments,

businesses, and schools within Carroll County."

He went on to say that his vision for the county EMA includes active involvement in the community and with stakeholders in improving the county in its emergency preparedness.

"I plan to hold drills and training with the local schools and hospital. I am currently working on social media profiles to better engage and notify the county in case of an emergency. I am a huge advocate of grants and inter-agency training," he concluded.

Christmas

...From Front Page

The children really enjoyed seeing the fire trucks and police cars, said Beeler.

Beeler said this is the second year for Hometown Hangout to participate in the event.

McKenzie Police Chief Ryan White said the first responders and others conduct fund raisers throughout the year. Lacey Lane organized a shoot at the Carroll County Sports Shooting Park that was very fruitful in the fund-raising effort. First responders had a dunking booth and a raffle during the Ice Tea Festival.

In total, the fund is now approximately \$16,000 to carry 40 children on a shopping trip on December 19.

Beta Sigma Phi with its Angel Tree project assists in identifying the children. Chief White said the first responders donate some of



Bryan Batchelder and Jackson Henderson of the McKenzie Police Department at Hometown Hangout. Photo by Hometown Hangout

the funds to Beta Sigma Phi for their efforts. Chief White thanked ev-

eryone who assisted with the fundraiser at Hometown Hangout.

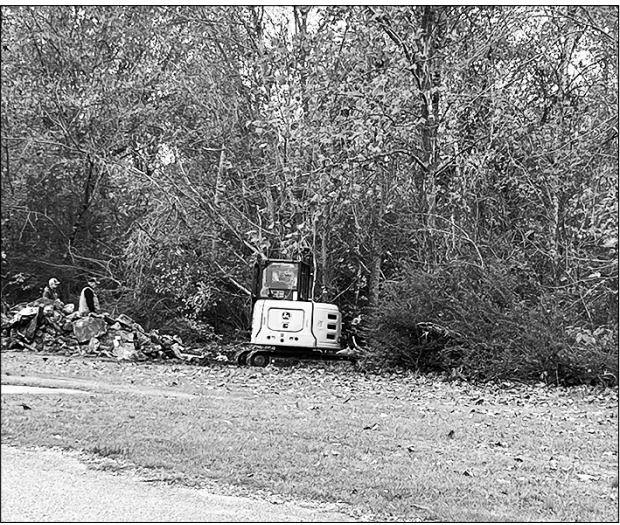
Water

...From Front Page

According to the statement provided by Huntingdon City Hall "the drop in pressure in the water distribution system, which may cause back-pressure, back-siphonage, or a net movement of water from outside the pipe to the inside through cracks, breaks, or joints in the distribution system that are common in all water systems. Such a system failure carries with it a high potential that fecal contamination or other disease-causing organisms could enter the distribution system."

The boil notice was issued at approximately 12 p.m. on Friday and was lifted the following day, November 16, around 4:30 p.m. There were no known contaminations.

Several restaurants were affected by the boil notice as fountain drinks were replaced by canned drinks and bottled water. Some venues could not provide



Huntingdon's Public Works Department dug behind First Baptist Church near Lexington Street to expose the broken main.

vegetable toppings like lettuce and tomatoes. Multiple food establishments closed for the day. The schools in town had bottled water on hand.

As part of the boil order, residents and restaurants were informed that all water for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation had to be boiled for at least three minutes in order

to kill any possible bacteria and organisms. The order went as far as to state that "all stored water, drink or ice made recently from this supply shall be discarded."

Following the lift of the boil order, residents were advised to flush their water lines. Flushing the lines would help in removing sediment and air, which caused a temporary milky discoloration.

Forbess

...From Front Page

to assist and helped save the girl.

Ryan Forbess grew up in McKenzie, Tennessee and completed his undergraduate education at the University of Tennessee. He worked as a mental health specialist at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center

starting in 2000. He then realized his passion for family medical care and went on to pursue his medical degree from St. Matthew's University School of Medicine in Grand Cayman.

He opened his own practice in 2022.

Ryan Forbess enjoys surfing, SEC football, golf, traveling, hunting, boating, and fishing. He resides with his family in Orange Beach with his wife, Toni, and his three

children: Scarlett, Knox, and Reed, who are 3, 5, and 6 years old. He and his wife were immediately drawn to Orange Beach after their very first visit and have decided to make it their forever home.

He is the son of Bob and Donna Forbess and brother to Julia Kirkland and Amanda Fortune.

Help us honor this hometown hero as the grand marshal for the Hometown Christmas Big Jingle Parade.

Batton

...From Front Page

Works along with the Parks Department are working together to decorate for the upcoming Christmas Holiday.

Parks and Recreation is also working on improvements to the baseball field which includes tearing down the outfield fence and moving it in. It is being done as there is erosion just outside the fence line. Also noted was the progress on the Mulberry Soccer Complex. According to Mayor Griffin, the National Guard will be on hand in June to start working to smooth out the playing surface. TLM will also be providing a master plan.

Also recognized in the meeting was McKenzie Police Investigator Labe Ezell. Ezell was recently named as the West Tennessee Narcotics Officer of the Year. As part of the 24th Judicial Drug Task Force, he has been instrumental in helping fight McKenzie's war on drugs. In 2024 year, his arrests have led to 85 felonies, ceased over \$500,000 of cash, over 6 pounds of methamphetamines and 2000 fentanyl pills have been taken off the street, and he has been involved in several busts of illegal vaping products.

Ezell praised Police Chief Ryan White along with city officials supporting him.

The Christmas bonuses of \$100 for full-time and \$50 for part-time employees were granted. The bonuses were already figured into the 2024-25 Fiscal Year Budget.

In department reports, Public Works was thanked for rebuilding the box for left pickup. The rebuild saved the City of McKenzie roughly \$16,000. Public

For October, the Police Department received 1226 calls; the majority were traffic stops at 516 and security checks at 290.

The Fire Department received 42 calls with 16 classified as medical related. The department was notified that they would receive a grant from the USDA Forestry Service with between \$5,000 and \$6,000 of equipment. The Fire Department and Police Department are working together for their annual toy drive/shop with a cop event.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the McKenzie City Council is December 12 at 6 p.m.

EMA

...From Front Page

has accepted the position."

In late August, former EMA Director Janice Newman announced she was retiring at the end of September after 26 years. Foster is a Carroll County resident who comes to the position with a background as a paramedic with the ambulance service, as the Captain of the Emergency Medical Responder program, and as a volunteer member of both the Carroll County Fire

Johnsonville Employees TVA Credit Union has moved to a new location.

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McKenzie Elementary School First Quarter Honor, Merit Roll

HONOR ROLL	MERIT ROLL
First Grade C. Barton: Sean Bomar, Delaney Gant, Mason Pruitt, Hunter Sedgwick, Larissa Staten A. Crowell: Selah Banuelos, Stella Brown, Avery Butler, William Luca Bynum, Dominic Gordon, Louie McLearen, Drake Simmons, Isabel Umsted R. Edlin: Brinley Dodd, Stetson Estes, Michael Hammett, Connor Russell, Hudson Wallace, Axel Wilson L. Flannery: Elizabeth Case, Max Cross, Lenox Ferguson, Caiden Grovett, Scout Sczesny, Callum Petering, Oliver Price	First Grade C. Barton: Avery Meddings, Easton Prince K. Brown: Brody Moore, Kirby Bell, Timothy Coleman, Faith Lynn French, Savannah Harris, Penny Jones, Mathias Robinson, Piper Russell, John Wallace A. Crowell: Willow Haberland, Kaci McCaig, Hadleigh Veazey, Kip Warmath R. Edlin: Graeme Brown, Emmy Eaton, Briella Howard, Richard Navarro-Venegas, Trinity Ross L. Flannery: Luis Ajin, Devanny Navarro, Halle Pierce, Liam Wilson, Cain Zuniga
Second Grade E. Bolin: Josiah Armstrong, Emeric Monteith, Liliana Paredes Jaime L. Brown: Landry Chappell, Kayelynn Riola, Caden Solomon S. Lane: Ruby Allen, Brilee Berry, Liam Neville, Charlie Smith C. Moore: Corbin Fowler, Cason Hernandez, Alexa Ramirez, Briley Stafford, Hazel Tippitt, Laylan Waller, Baylin Weimer K. Simmons: Chase Alexander, Isabella Benson, Santiago Padilla, Bailey Smith, Beckman Warren B. Turman: Jensen Cox, Wyatt Hartz, Charli Mann, Anderson Murphy, Kipton Taylor, Heidi Workman	Second Grade E. Bolin: Martin Gonzalez, Dakotah Jackson, Logan Wilson L. Brown: Kody Cowan, Cole Epperson, Isaac Griffin, Calee Hughes, Camden Wilson S. Lane: Jordan Baker, Thomas Dugger, Kaitlyn Long, Brooklyn Morton C. Moore: Nola Aldridge, Beckham Flippin, Emma Hopkins, Angel Mendoza-McEwen, O'Shyn Taylor K. Simmons: Carli Kintner, Rosy Flores, Parker Cantrell
Third Grade J. Brown: Maddox Ferguson, Liam Sevieri M. Spivey: Ellie Cross, Carver Holt, Sam Kee, Rachel Parham, Mya Vermillion M. Taylor: Jace Brown, Michael Rushing, Gatlin Weaver C. Wall: Amelva Becerra, Neyland Hollowell, Kyren Sczesny, Easton Webb, Avery Winston	Third Grade J. Brown: Caleb Bobb, Jazzlyn Carroll, Briley Cupples, Blair Eldridge, Lane Mathis, Ros McClerkin, Avery Pruitt, Lillian Vestal, Marlee Wheat M. Spivey: Grant Cunningham, Marcanna Cunningham, Danielle Hayes, Gabe Johnson, Olivia Kearschner, Ava Moore, Tyler Snead-Soto, Bryant Willingham, Hannah Winstead, Cooper Yehey M. Taylor: Amon Aldridge, Kaylee Olcott, Allison Padilla, Christopher Sneed, Lydia Walker C. Wall: Riley Barksdale, Willow Doster, Jana Glisson, Maddox Holmes, Ridley McClure, Essie Owen, Julianne Stafford, Tate Warmath, Kingston Wilson
Fourth Grade K. Brown: Waylon Malin, Abby Price C. Kee: Karson Hairrell A. Oakley: Grace Trevathan A. Sellers: Vera Tippitt	Fourth Grade K. Brown: Maylie



Danny Cronin, Jean McKinnie, Jana Roney Kahler and Dr. Sidney Leonard Swindle.

2024 Bethel Athletic Hall of Fame Induction, Alumni Awards Ceremonies

McKENZIE — Bethel University honored three former athletic greats and two contributors with inductions into the prestigious Bethel Athletic Hall-of-Fame Friday night. Bethel also presented Bethel's University's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Sidney L. Swindle Men's Basketball (1957)

Dr. Sidney Leonard Swindle came to Bethel from Trimble, Tennessee. He attended Bethel from 1953-57. He played center for the basketball team and was the team's captain for two years. Sidney graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science.

In 1958-60, Sidney attended and graduated from the University of Tennessee Dental School in Memphis, Tennessee. He served in the United States Army as a captain from 1962-64.

After his service, he moved back to Tampa and he established a dental partnership with Dr. Milton T. Wood, which lasted from 1964-1994 when Dr. Wood retired. Sidney retired in 1998.

Danny Cronin Men's Basketball & Baseball (1993)

Dan Cronin is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio. He lives in Cincinnati and is a retired high school basketball coach with over 400 plus wins. He was also an MLB scout with the Atlanta Braves organization.

Dan's brother Mick Cronin is the head men's basketball coach at UCLA.

Dan graduated from LaSalle High School in Cincinnati. He was an All-State

and All-City performer in baseball and basketball during his prep career.

Dan played summer ball and was the center field for the Midland Redskins in 1988.

Dan attended Wright State University and played baseball before transferring to Bethel College in 1989, where he earned an Accounting & Business Administration degree in 1993.

His collegiate accolades include:

All-Time Assist Leader in school history (851) in just three years, Most Assists in a season (328), 1992-93 led NAIA in assist-to-turnover ratio 1992-1993, 2nd in NAIA in assists 1992-93 (9.9 per game), 2nd most Assists in a game (15), 1992-93 Academic All TCAC in both basketball and baseball (3x for each), Estimated Career batting average of .375 as leadoff hitter (No official stats kept).

Jana Roney Kahler Women's Basketball (2011)

Jana (Roney) Kahler is a graduate of Obion Co. Central High School. She played for Bethel from 2009-2012, after transferring from Murray State.

Jana helped lead the Lady Wildcats to back-to-back NAIA Elite 8 appearances in 2010 and 2011. She was twice selected as a member of the TransSouth All-Conference team, including being named the conference's Defensive Player of the Year in 2011. In 2012, Jana was selected as an NAIA All-American after finishing in the top ten of the nation in scoring average and rebounds.

Jana finished her career with 1,204 points and 670 rebounds in only three seasons. She averaged 12.2 points per game and had an impressive career mark of shooting 47 percent from the floor.

Jean Killibrew McKinnie & Joe McKinnie Contributors (1961)

Jean Killebrew McKinnie was born and raised in Paris, Tennessee.

Jean graduated from Grove High School in 1957 and Bethel in 1961. She worked from 1961 until 1964 for President Roy Baker and was very involved in men's basketball.

Jean moved to Memphis in 1964 and met Joe, who was a long-time Cumberland Presbyterian.

The family moved to McKenzie in 1979 after Jean's dad had passed away. They both worked for Bethel in the 80s - Jean in Dean's office and Joe in maintenance. "We met our boys there," stated Jean.

Jean said, "Bethel had budget problems, especially within the athletic department. After the games, the boys were getting a thin ham and cheese sandwich, and we decided we could help Bethel, the athletic department, and the team."

Jean added, "Since we lived close to the gym, we started feeding our boys at our home. Thanksgiving dinner, evening cookouts, and any other time they needed help."

"Jean said, "The main thing we tried to do was give them a home away from home."

Cats Beat Faulkner on Senior Day

COURTESY BETHEL SID

McKENZIE (November 15) — The Bethel Wildcats closed their season Saturday in Walter Butler Stadium playing host to the Faulkner Eagles. It was Senior Day for the Wildcats with ceremonies taking place before the kickoff. It was also Pepsi Mid-America Day at the stadium.

Bethel scored 28 points in each of the second and third quarters to put away the win on a day in which it compiled 450 yards of total offense.

The Wildcats opened the scoring with a Jordan Cason 14-yard run early in the second quarter. A Gianni Gamble pick-six, followed by a rushing touchdown from Andre Neal and a scoring pass from Avaun Rucker to Jamarion Ferguson accounted for the 28-0 half-time lead. Rucker later threw two touchdown passes to Shawnee Jones before Neal and Ryan Kirk each added scoring rushes.

The Cats would go on to win 58-0 over the Eagles. Bethel has outscored Faulkner 120-0 in the last two meetings between the teams.

Bethel finished the day at 7-3 overall and 3-3 in the MSC. The Eagles finished



#80 Jamarion Ferguson and #29 Nick Butler celebrate an intercepted pass for a touchdown by #30 Gianni Gamble. Photo by Gary Owens

their season at 2-8 and 0-6 in the league.

It was the 12th meeting between the two programs with Bethel leading the series 8-4.

It was the 341st game in modern-day history for the Wildcats. Bethel is 152-189 all-time.

Cat Scratches:
Avaun Rucker- 221 passing yards-Three touchdowns
Jamar Carnell- Six carries- 70 yards

Shawnee Jones- Four receptions- 106 yards- two touchdowns

Gianna Gamble-Two interceptions - Pick six for touchdown

Andre Neal- Two rushing touchdowns

Oziel Hernandez- 8-8 point after attempts
Brayden Johnson-Nine punts, 45.8 average

Brody Franks-Team high eight tackles

Bethel was seven of seven in Red Zone scores

Coach Mike Jasper commented, "We are extremely happy for our seniors to win here on their day. We had several players step up and play well. Our second-quarter play was the difference in the game. We are grateful for the contributions of our seniors and wish the very best in the future."

West Carroll Honors Outstanding Students with Weekly SOAR Awards

COURTESY WCSSD

West Carroll Elementary School continues to uphold its tradition of recognizing exceptional students each week through the SOAR Awards program. This initiative celebrates students who embody the school's core values: Safety, Ownership, Achievement and Respect.

Mrs. Beth Hysmith, a teacher at WCES, recently honored two students from her class for their achievements. The selected students earned the highest Class Dojo points.

Mrs. Hysmith shared, "Liam Hudgins, a fourth-grade student, is an exceptional individual who consistently demonstrates a strong commitment to academic excellence. He tackles every challenge with a positive attitude and determination to succeed. Beyond his academic achievements, Liam is compassionate, respectful, and always willing to lend a helping hand."

Hysmith also spoke



WCES recent SOAR Award winners (L to R): Liam Hudgins, Caylee Howell and Holland Hudgins.

highly of Holland Hudgins, also in fourth grade, saying, "Holland is a dedicated and hardworking student who has a real passion for learning. Her thoughtful contributions to discussions and kindness toward others make her a valued member of our class. Above all, she consistently shows empathy and kindness to everyone around her."

In addition, Caylee Howell was nominated by the sixth grade teachers for her outstanding contributions at WCES. Ms. Shanna Pafford praised Caylee, saying, "Caylee is an incredibly hard worker. She always completes her work on

time, pays close attention to detail, and has been a model of respect and kindness. I have not had to correct her behavior once this school year. She frequently compliments both teachers and students, brightening their days. Over the past two years, Caylee has made significant improvements in all areas, and I am so proud of her."

The SOAR Awards program at West Carroll Elementary School continues to celebrate students like Liam, Holland and Caylee, who demonstrate excellence in both character and academics.

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Obituaries



SALLY MARTIN 1953 – 2024

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for Sally Martin were Sunday, November 17, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Ms. Martin, 71, died Sunday, November 10, 2024, at AHC of Paris. She was born to Ray and Frances Johnson Martin on May 25, 1953.

A graduate of McKenzie High School (1971), Bethel College, and the University of Tennessee at Martin, she was a Special Education teacher until her retirement. She was a member of First Baptist Church in McKenzie and was also an avid Atlanta Braves fan.

She is survived by her only sibling, a sister, Mona (Steve) Batchelor of McKenzie, an adored nephew, Maxwell (Lydia) Batchelor of Atlanta, and many cousins and extended family members. She was preceded in death by her parents.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made in Sally's memory to McKenzie High School Alumni Association, 114 West Bell Avenue, McKenzie, TN 38201.

If you need further assistance, please call Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home at 731-352-4848 or visit our website at brummittmckenziefuneralhome.com. +

PATTY C. PRICE 1929 – 2029

MCKENZIE — Graveside funeral services for Patty C. Price were Friday, November 15, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Carroll Memorial Gardens. Interment followed.

Mrs. Price, 95, died Monday, November 11, 2024, at Huntingdon Health and Rehab. She was born to Carlos Pratt Berry and Jessie Lenora Cauzy Berry on January 23, 1929. She was a member of Enon Baptist Church, and a retired seamstress.

She is survived by four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren and one sister, Cherry (Jay) Rittenberry of McKenzie.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, George Wyman Price, two sons, Garry Price and Vincent Price, two sisters, June Nanney and Peggy Sydnor and four brothers, Horace Berry, Milton Berry, Don Berry and Tony Berry.

If you need further assistance, please call Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home at 731-352-4848 or visit our website at brummittmckenziefuneralhome.com.

LUCINDA PRITCHARD 1974 – 2024

JACKSON — Mrs. Lucinda (Cindy) Pritchard, 50, of Jackson, died Sunday, November 10, 2024, at her home.

Graveside services were Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 2 p.m. at New Hope Cemetery with Bro. Denny Abernathy officiating.

Ms. Pritchard was born on June 19, 1974, to Mr. Charles Hays and the late Betty Jean Clayton.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Elaine Hays, and a stepbrother, Danny Baker.

She is survived by her husband, Jeff Pritchard, of Jackson, her father, Charles Hays (Joy), of Westport, a sister, Betty Jo Hays Sullivan, of Atwood, two stepbrothers, Michael and

Ronnie Baker, of Westport, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Chase Funeral Home, Huntingdon.



VIRGINIA LEE SANDERS WALTERS 1937 – 2024

Virginia Lee Sanders Walters, 87, of the Vale community, died Thursday, November 14, 2024, at her residence.

She worked as a sewing machine operator at HIS Clothing for over 40 years. She enjoyed her family and watching the Titans. Virginia was a member of New Hope United Methodist Church in Hollow Rock.

Virginia was born January 6, 1937, in Henry County to the late Raymond and Queenie Francisco Sanders.

She married the late Wesley Walters in 1951.

She is survived by two daughters, Rhonda (Danny) Hodge of Yuma, Penny (Gary) McGee of Hollow Rock; two sons, Roger Walters of Hollow Rock, Tony (Pat) Walters of Huntsville, Ala.; four sisters, Peggy Cate of Paris, Hazel Martin of Paris, Carol Vickers of Mansfield, Kathy Collie of Mansfield; one brother, Luke Sanders of Mansfield; 13 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and late husband, she was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Sherry Walters; two sons, Michael Walters, Timothy Walters; two brothers, Chuck Sanders, Ralph Sanders; and one sister, Betty Ruth Wheatley.

Ridgeway Funeral Home, 201 Dunlap St./P.O. Box 788, Paris, TN 38242, handled the arrangements. Her visitation was Monday, November 18, 2024, 9-11 a.m., with the funeral service at 11 a.m. at Ridgeway Funeral Home, with Steve Whitworth officiating.

Her grandsons served as pallbearers.

Burial was in New Hope Cemetery in Hollow Rock. Memorials may be made to the New Hope Cemetery fund.

MARGE TUCKER 1933 – 2024

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Marge Tucker, 91, of Huntingdon died Monday, November 11, 2024, at Harmony Hill Assisted Living.

Funeral services were Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at Huntingdon First Baptist Church. Interment was in Hickory Flat Cemetery.

Mrs. Marjorie Tucker was born July 10, 1933, to the late Mrs. Edith Irene Humphrey and Mr. Jesse Towater.

Mrs. Tucker is also preceded in death by her husband, Leon Tucker, son, Bob Tucker, and brothers, J.W. Towater and Roy Towater. She was a former bookkeeper at City Drug Company and a member of Huntingdon First Baptist Church.

She is survived by sons, Tony (Charlotte) Tucker and Tim (Diane) Tucker of Huntingdon; daughter-in-law Suzanne Tucker of Milan; grandchildren April Coleman, Shannon Tucker, Jessica (Brad Beck) Tucker, Tyler Weatherford, Will (Mary Grace) Tucker, Matt Tucker, and Jack Tucker; and great-grandchildren, Kennede Coleman, Kelan Coleman, Thomas Tucker, and Livi May Tucker.

Marge was always a very active member of the Huntingdon community. She served as a band booster officer almost every year her boys were in the band. Marge was also an active member of the Huntingdon Garden Club, Huntingdon Women's Club, where she served as president, Huntingdon Special School District board member, and chapter member of the Baptist Memorial Hospital Indigent Care Board, where she served as president.

Marge was a very active member of First Baptist Church in Huntingdon. She served as a teacher in the youth department and sang in the church choir for over 50 years. Marge was also the leader of the Children and Youth Bible Drill program for over 50 years and was

very active in the Women's Missionary Union at the church.

Marge was a 65-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 180 in Huntingdon. During that time, she served in many offices for the chapter, including several times as Worthy Matron. She was a member of the Grand Family for the State of Tennessee in 1991, serving as Worthy Grand Chaplain.

She was the Citizen of the Year in 2023 in Huntingdon.

She previously won the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce's Business Person of the Year award.

Dilday-Carter was in charge of arrangements, 731-986-8281.

JENNIFER LEE JOHNSON 1975 – 2024

GLEASON — Jennifer Lee Johnson, 49, died at her home in Gleason on November 10, 2024. Her wishes were to be cremated. She will have a memorial service announced at a later date and time.

She was born July 5, 1975, and died November 10, 2024.

Mrs. Johnson is survived by her three children, Ruby Wallace of Dresden, Ryan Johnson of Atwood, and Justina Johnson of Dyersburg. She is also survived by her mother, Ritta Dameron, sister, Catina Dameron-Dodd, both of Abington, Va., brother, Paul Dameron, and half-sister, Sandra Henson, both of Dyersburg. She leaves behind four grandchildren. Mrs. Johnson was preceded in death by her father, William Dameron.

Williams Funeral Home of Gleason.

BETTY WOLFE 1933 – 2024

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Betty Wolfe, 90, of Huntingdon, died Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at her home. A memorial service was

Friday, November 15, 2024, in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home, with Bro. Tim Atkins officiating.

Mrs. Wolfe was born December 31, 1933, in Johnston City, Ill., the daughter of the late W.O. (Tim) Evers and Lorraine Long Evers. She was preceded in death by her husband of 40 years, Dr. Martin D. Wolfe, and a son-in-law, Bob Carnie.

She is survived by one daughter, Teresa Carnie, of Huntingdon, two sons, Dan Wolfe (Diane) of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Frank Wolfe (Stephanie) of Medina, a sister, Eva Harris (Jerry), of Madison, Ind. She is also survived by five grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, many step-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

JERRY DONALD RICH 1946 – 2024

GLEASON — Services for Jerry Donald Rich, 78, of Gleason, are Wednesday November 20, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Tumbling Creek Baptist Church in Gleason. Burial will follow in Hopewell Cemetery.

He was born June 12, 1946, and died November 16, 2024.

Visitation is Tuesday, 4-7 p.m. at Tumbling Creek Baptist Church, and it will resume Wednesday at noon until time of service.

Don is survived by three children, Brad (Malita) Rich, Stacey (Brit) Blackburn both of Gleason and Brittany (Steven) Mitchell of Martin. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Tessie Rich, and thirteen siblings, Ruth, Frances, Coy, Ray, Raymond, Faye, Peggy, Johnnie, Billy, Dickie, CJ, Gaylon and Garland.

MAXINE WHITEHEAD 1938 – 2024

TREZEVANT — Funeral services for Maxine Whitehead were Saturday, No-

vember 16 at New Haven Baptist Church, Milan. Interment was to follow at Trezevant Cemetery.

Mrs. Whitehead, 86, died Thursday at NHC Milan. She was born in Gibson Co. on May 1, 1938, to John and Autry Morgan Hunter.

She is survived by her daughter, Phyllis (David) Broach of Milan, two brothers Mike Hunter of Paris and Herman Hunter of Fowlkes, Tenn., two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren Vivian Harris, Halston Harris and Henry Climber.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Harold Whitehead, son, Jimmy Whitehead, a sister, Sandra Kinnick, and six brothers, Howard Harper, Billy Hunter, Jerald Hunter, Joe Hunter, Jimmy Don Hunter and Gary Hunter.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home is in charge of the services. If you need assistance please call 731-352-4848.

MICHELLE E. WYATT 1972 – 2024

A memorial service for Michelle E. Wyatt will be announced later.

Ms. Wyatt, 52, died Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at Murray Calloway Co. Hospital, Murray, Ky. She was born on January 18, 1972, in Altoona, Pa., to Donald K. Wyatt and Eleanor E. Buchanan Wyatt. She was a hospital aide for Methodist Hospital McKenzie and a CNA at Paris Health and Rehab.

She is survived by her mother, Eleanor Wyatt of Henry, daughter, Audrey M. Mitchell of Henry, son, Joshua (Brooke) Wyatt of Henry, a sister, Beth Ann Sutton of Duncansville, Pa., a brother, Donald K. (Tracy) Wyatt of Hollidaysburg, Pa., one grandson and a fiancé.

If you need further assistance, please call Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home at 731-352-4848 or visit our website at brummittmckenziefuneralhome.com.



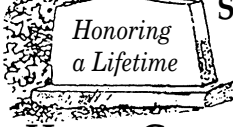
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TSSAA Releases Region, District Alignments

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association recently released its initial region and district alignments for the 2025-27 classification cycle.

With the release of classification earlier this month, McKenzie, West Carroll, Gleason, Hollow Rock-Bruceton and Clarksburg remain in Class 1A/A for all sports. Huntingdon remains in Class 2A in football, basketball, baseball and softball and Class A in soccer, golf, tennis, track, cross country and volleyball.

However, all of those schools are affected by changes in the region and district alignment. Some are changing themselves, while others stay put as the teams around them change.

Football

Region 6-1A still includes McKenzie, West Carroll, Hollow Rock-Bruceton, McEwen and Perry County. Moving into the region are Collinwood and Wayne County, while Houston County exits.

Region 5-1A, which pairs with 6-1A in the first round of the playoffs, retains Cornersville, Eagleville, Huntland, Moore County and Richland, while adding Fayetteville. Collinwood and

Wayne County were previously in this region.

Region 7-1A retains Dresden, Gleason, Greenfield, Humboldt, Lake County and South Fulton. Exiting the region are Union City and Halls.

Region 7-2A includes mostly teams that made up 6-2A in the previous cycle, including Huntingdon, Milan, Peabody, Jackson Central-Merry and Gibson County. Also in 7-2A are Halls and Union City. Former 6-2A teams not landing in 7-2A are Adamsville, Camden and Riverside.

The change means Huntingdon looks west instead of east to start the playoffs. Region 8-2A consists of eight Memphis teams.

Basketball, Baseball, Softball

Region 6-1A, District 12 still includes McKenzie, Hollow Rock-Bruceton, Houston County and McEwen, but adds Clarksburg. District 11 is unchanged: Collinwood, Frank Hughes, Perry County and Wayne County.

Region 7-1A, District 13 still includes West Carroll, Bradford, Halls, Humboldt and Middleton. Clarksburg exited the district. District

14 retains Gleason, Dresden, Greenfield, Lake County and South Fulton. Union City exited.

Region 6-2A, District 12 retains Huntingdon, Milan, Camden and Waverly. Stewart County exited. District 11 retains Cheatham County and Harpeth, adds Stewart County and Sycamore and loses East Hickman and Hickman County.

Soccer

Region 6A, District 12 remains unchanged: McKenzie, Huntingdon, Hollow Rock-Bruceton, Clarksburg, South Fulton, Westview and Union City.

Golf, Cross Country, Track & Field, Tennis

Region 7A, District 14 retains McKenzie, Huntingdon, Gleason, Hollow Rock-Bruceton, Bradford, Dresden, Greenfield, Obion County, South Fulton, Union City and Westview. Joining the district are West Carroll, Camden and Milan. Clarksburg exits.

Volleyball

Region 6A, District 12 retains Huntingdon, West Carroll, Clarksburg, Riverside, Jackson Central-Merry and Madison Academic. Humboldt and Peabody exit.

TSSAA FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Huntingdon Continues Strong Play

HUNTINGDON (November 15) — In the second round of TSSAA Football Playoff action, the Huntingdon Mustangs made short work of the defending 2A State Champion Riverside Panthers. After four quarters of play, the Mustangs advance to the third round with the 35-7 win.

Huntingdon kept to their run game which has proven tried-and-true this season throwing only one pass but rushing the ball 45 plays. Gray Eubanks completed the solo pass for 16 yards. Brady Warbritton led the rushing game with 239 yards with Eubanks right behind him with 219 yards.

The Mustang defense kept the Panthers in check with 151 yards passing and 148 rushing yards.

In the first quarter, Huntingdon picked up two touchdowns. Their first scoring drive started at the Mustang 35 yard line. They moved the ball with ease downfield. At the 4:35 mark, Eubanks punched it in from one yard out. Greyson Anderson posted the extra point giving Huntingdon the early 7-0 lead.

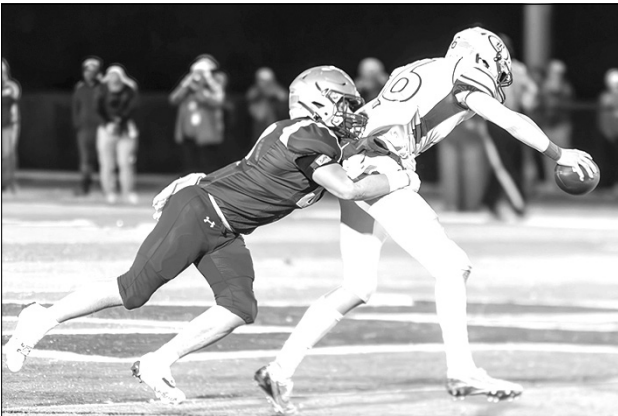
Riverside's next drive resulted in a punt following a key sack by Broox Bennett. On first and 10 from the Panther 43 yard line, Warbritton scored on a counter run. Anderson's PAT gave Huntingdon the 14-0 lead with 1:48 to play in the quarter.

Huntingdon's first drive in the second quarter led to a touchdown on a 95-yard drive. After nearly five minutes of winding down the clock, Eubanks scored his second touchdown of the night from six yards out. Anderson's extra point gave Huntingdon a 21-0 lead with 3:57 to play in the half.

The Panthers were forced to punt on the next drive. Starting at the Mustang 37 yard line, Warbritton moved the ball down to the Riverside 37 yard line. Then on another counterplay, Warbritton reversed field and picked up the touchdown. Anderson's kick put Huntingdon up 28-0 with less than two



Above, Huntingdon's Mr. Football Candidate Gray Eubanks breaks free for a Mustang touchdown. Below, Broox Bennett takes Jack Cupples down for the sack. Photos by Russell Bush/Huntingdon Sports Pics



minutes remaining in the second quarter.

Riverside responded on the next drive on a collection of passes. With little time remaining in the half, the Panthers scored from two yards out. The extra point narrowed the halftime lead to 28-7.

To start the third quarter, Riverside kicked off to Huntingdon. The Mustangs had the ball on their 45 yard line. Unable to move the ball, Huntingdon was forced to punt.

Riverside was unable to capitalize on the stalled drive. After punting away their possession, the Panthers forced Huntingdon to start the next drive at the opposing 26 yard line. Chipping five minutes off the clock, Eubanks posted a touchdown

at the 53-second mark of the third quarter. Anderson added the final points of the night as Huntingdon capped the 35-7 win.

The remaining time of the game was a systematic move of the ball as Huntingdon used most of the clock to finish out the game.

The win puts Huntingdon's record at 10-2 and advances the Mustangs to the third round of the playoffs in a rematch against Milan at Milan. In week five, Huntingdon was defeated 28-7 by Milan. The Bulldogs' only loss of the season came at the hands of Jackson Central Merry, who Huntingdon beat 21-7 in the regular season.

Kickoff time is 7 p.m. The winner will advance to play the winner of Memphis Business Academy and Fairley.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Fillies, Rebels Take Wins

BY BRAD SAM

brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (November 12) — McKenzie Middle School hosted Huntingdon Tuesday for a pair of basketball contests. The Fillies controlled the opener from the jump and ran away with a 58-12 win. The Rebels and Mustangs went back-and-forth in the nightcap, but McKenzie finished strong to claim a 33-28 victory.

Huntingdon Fillies 58, McKenzie Lady Rebels 12

The Fillies jumped out to a 20-0 lead after the opening frame, led by Wylie Kee with seven points. Millie Luther scored six, and Emma Smith had five points, including a three-pointer. Kaylee Eatmon had a pair.

Huntingdon built on the lead with a 21-7 advantage in the second quarter, led by Courtlyn Brewer with eight points. Kee and Eatmon each scored four, Anderson Pearson had three points, and Vivian Singleton had a pair. Lady Rebels Abby Carroll, Alleigh Britt and MaKayla Dabbs each scored two points, and Charlie Cassidy hit a free throw. At the half, Huntingdon led 41-7.

The Fillies enjoyed a 12-3 tilt in the third. Pearson and Krystin Moore each hit a three-pointer, and Kee, Brewer and Madelyn Anderson each had a pair. Britt added a pair for McKenzie, and AP Gordon hit a free throw. Entering the final frame, the Fillies led 53-10.

Huntingdon had a 5-2 edge in a quick fourth. Collins Wood hit a three, and Ella Atkins had a pair. Cassidy added a pair for McKenzie.

Huntingdon's Wylie Kee led all scorers with 13 points. Courtlyn Brewer had ten.

Alleigh Britt led the Lady Rebels with four points.

Rebels 33, Mustangs 28

Huntingdon had a 10-8 edge after the first frame, led



Above Left, Huntingdon's Wylie Kee pulls up in the paint for a fast-break basket. Kee led all scorers with 13 points in the win. Above Right, Rebel Dawson Reeder scores on a fast break. Reeder had nine points in the win. Below Left, Mustang Kingston Smith drives to the bucket for two. Smith led Huntingdon with nine points. Below Right, Lady Rebel Ridley Holt blocks a Huntingdon shot in the paint. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



by Kingston Smith with five points, including a three. Derius Pratcher scored four, and Mykel Govan hit a free throw. Rebels Seth Stafford and Dawson Reeder each scored three points, and Lane Brown had a pair.

McKenzie pulled ahead with a 10-2 advantage in the second quarter, led by Reeder with six points. Stafford had four. Mustang William Boals had a pair. At the half, the Rebels led 18-12.

The Mustangs shot back ahead with a 13-6 tilt in the third, led by Govan with seven points. Smith had four, and Kyle Bird had a

pair. Stafford had all six Rebel points. Entering the fourth quarter, Huntingdon led 25-24.

The Rebels claimed the win with a 9-3 rally in the final frame, led by Stafford with six points. Parker Ross scored three. Mustang Rush Sanders had a pair, and Pratcher hit a freebie.

Rebel Seth Stafford led all scorers with 19 points. Dawson Reeder scored nine.

Kingston Smith led Huntingdon with nine points, including a three-pointer. Mykel Govan had eight points.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL



Left, Rebel Parker Ross scores on a fast break. Ross led McKenzie with 16 points. Right, Lady Rebel Charlie Cassidy blows past a defender for two points. Cassidy led all scorers with 21 points. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Dresden Sweeps McKenzie

BY BRAD SAM

brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (November 14) — McKenzie Middle School hosted Dresden Thursday for a pair of basketball contests. The Lady Rebels led for most of the game, but the Lady Lions rallied late for a 37-35 win. The Lions pulled away in the second half to defeat the Rebels, 48-31.

Dresden Lady Lions 37, McKenzie Lady Rebels 35

McKenzie had a 10-8 edge after the opening frame, led by Charlie Cassidy with five points. Ellie Doede and Abby Carroll each had a pair, and Kristy Towne hit a free throw. Lady Lion Charlee Sutton scored four points, and Hallie Davis and Irah Cianfarani each had a pair.

The Lady Rebels doubled up Dresden 12-6 in the second quarter, led by Cassidy with ten points. Ridley Holt had a pair. Davis, Cianfarani and Emzy Collins each had a pair. At the half, McKenzie led 22-14.

The third frame was an 8-8 wash. Doede and Cassidy

each scored four for McKenzie. Davis and Cianfarani also had four points apiece. Entering the final frame, the Lady Rebels led 30-22.

Dresden claimed the win with a 15-5 rally in the fourth, led by Cianfarani with nine points. Sutton scored four, and Collins added a pair. Lady Rebel Alleigh Britt hit three free throws, and Cassidy added a pair.

Lady Rebel Charlie Cassidy led all scorers with 21 points, including seven of eight at the line. Ellie Doede scored six points.

Irah Cianfarani led the Lady Lions with 17 points. Hallie Davis and Charlee Sutton each scored eight.

Lions 48, Rebels 31

Dresden jumped out to a 10-4 lead after the first quarter, led by Athan Spaulding with a three-pointer and Cannon West with three points. Carson Moorefield and Tristin Walters each had a pair. Parker Ross had all four McKenzie points.

The Rebels cut the deficit with an 11-9 edge in the second frame, led by Seth

Stafford and Dawson Reeder with four points each. Ross scored three. Lion Connor Floyd had four points, Jon Reese Allman and Cannon West each had a pair, and Case West hit a free throw. At the half, Dresden led 19-15.

The Lions had a 15-9 advantage in the third, led by Floyd with seven points. Cannon West scored four, including a three-pointer, and Case West and Moorefield each added a pair. Ross led the Rebels with five points, and Stafford had four. Heading into the final frame, the Lions led 34-24.

Dresden sealed the win with a 14-7 tilt in the fourth, led by Floyd with six points. Caiden Mount scored four, and Case West and Moorefield each added a pair. Ross scored four for McKenzie, Reeder added a pair, and Hudson Garrett hit a free throw.

Lion Connor Floyd led all scorers with 17 points. Cannon West scored nine, including a three-pointer.

Parker Ross led McKenzie with 16 points. Seth Stafford scored eight.



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TSSAA FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS



1. Rebel Cole Brown makes a 43-yard circus catch near the sideline. 2. Rebel Tate Surber dives across the goal line for a touchdown. 3. Rebel Colt Norden gets low and powers forward for a four-yard touchdown. 4. Rebel Martez Teague makes a diving interception in the red zone to thwart an Eagleville drive. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Rebels Shake Off Slow Start for 28-0 Round Two Win

McKenzie Hosts Richland Friday For Quarterfinal

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (November 15) — McKenzie High School hosted Eagleville Friday for a second-round contest in the TSSAA Football Playoffs. The Eagles held the Rebels to a single first-half touchdown, but McKenzie’s defense was even more staunch from start to finish for a 28-0 shutout victory.

The Rebels will host Richland in Friday’s quarterfinal round.

McKenzie won the coin toss and elected to defer possession.

A pair of runs earned Eagleville a first down, but big stops by Rebels Cole

Brown and Craegen Travis and a third-down pass batted away by Landon Brown led to a punt.

The Rebels earned a first down on a keeper by quarterback Tate Surber, but the drive stalled and McKenzie punted.

Stops by Travis and Maddox Shiell led to an Eagle three-and-out. Jacobi Melton received the punt and returned it to the Rebel 47.

Skyler Fornera carried twice for eleven yards and a first down. Two plays later, Surber threw to C. Brown for another first down at the Eagle 30. Fornera and Surber combined runs for another first, then Surber went 8 to the 6. Colt Norden ran for two, then for a four-yard touchdown. Fornera kicked the PAT, and McKenzie led 7-0 with 1:46 left in the opening frame.

Eagleville earned a pair of first downs to finish the first quarter and start the second, both aided by McKenzie penalties, but barely ventured into Rebel territory before stalling out. The punt went out of bounds at the 12.

An eleven-play drive with five first downs ended with a turnover on downs at the Eagle 8.

After another quick three-and-out, Eagleville punted.

McKenzie managed one first down and got down to the 20 before halftime.

Rebel Guillermo Hickman received the second-half kick inside the 30 and returned it to the McKenzie 43. Surber threw incomplete, then found Norden for 12 yards and a first down. He connected with C. Brown for 20, then kept for 13. From the 12, Fornera ran twice for six

yards each to complete the scoring drive. He then kicked the PAT, and the Rebels led 14-0 less than two minutes into the third quarter.

Fornera, Travis and Barry Swalley made stops to force another Eagleville three-and-out. After the punt, the Rebels took over at their 20.

Surber threw to Avery Brown for 30 yards to start the drive. Two plays later, Fornera ran for eight. He repeated for three yards and a first down. Surber threw to Fornera for ten, then to a sliding Norden for 20 more. Surber kept for six, then for an eight-yard touchdown. Fornera’s kick made it 21-0 with 4:26 to play in the third.

After another Eagle three-and-out, the punt was downed at the 17.

McKenzie also went three-and-out, and the

punt was downed at the Eagle 35.

Eagle quarterback Daymin Pruitt completed three consecutive passes to Marshall Fields for two first downs, then Kaleb Snitzer ran for four as the quarter ended. On the first play of the final frame, Pruitt was intercepted by Martez Teague at the Rebel 5.

The Rebels kept it on the ground to expend the clock, mixing runs by Norden, Surber and Fornera. Surber capped the 12-play drive with a seven-yard touchdown run. Fornera completed a perfect night of PATs, and McKenzie led 28-0 halfway through the fourth.

Eagleville earned a pair of first downs before Surber forced a fumble. Rebel Gage Crosland made the recovery at the 29.

The Rebels moved the chains twice to run out

the clock.

McKenzie had 485 yards of total offense, 194 in the air and 291 on the ground. The defense held Eagleville to 107 yards (50 passing, 57 rushing).

Rebel quarterback Tate Surber was eleven of 25 passing for 194 yards. He rushed 15 times for 108 yards and two touchdowns.

Skyler Fornera rushed 13 times for 98 yards and a touchdown. Colt Norden had 13 carries for 85 yards and a touchdown.

Cole Brown had four catches for 97 yards. Norden had four catches for 60 yards.

Landon Brown led the defense with nine tackles (one for a loss) and three assists. Fornera had six tackles and two assists. Craegan Travis had five tackles and two assists.

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WCSS Student Government (L to R): Bailey Rogers, Jada Bradshaw, Taytum Jenkins, Jack Robinson, Zac Fowler, Hannah Fowler, Hannah Pinson and Britni Shepherd. Photo courtesy WCSSD

West Carroll Schools Host Veterans Day Programs

COURTESY WCSSD

TREZEVANT/ATWOOD (November 11) — West Carroll Elementary School and West Carroll Junior/Senior High School held their annual Veterans Day programs on Monday.

The events, which took place at 11 a.m., brought together students, faculty, and community members to pay tribute to those who have served our nation.

At West Carroll Junior/Senior High School, the gymnasium was filled with an attentive audience as guest speaker Mike Mulligan addressed the crowd. Sgt. Mulligan addressed the proper treatment of veterans and the sacrifices they make for their families,

all for love of country. Dr. Adam Douglas, principal, remarked, "We appreciate Mr. Mulligan sharing his first-hand experiences with our students."

The high school program, hosted by student government members, included a special recognition of veterans in attendance. Following the ceremony, honored guests were escorted to a private reception prepared by the West Carroll Culinary Arts students.

The West Carroll Elementary School program featured two distinguished guest speakers: Wayne Barentine, an Army veteran, and James Mealer, a National Guard veteran. Both speakers shared their experiences and the importance

of service to one's country.

Mr. Jonathan Wheeler led students in a musical tribute, featuring renditions of "Allegiance Rap" and "The Star-Spangled Banner." Knox Crews delivered a stirring performance of the National Anthem, while Harlynn Vernon led the Pledge of Allegiance with poise beyond her years. The event also showcased the musical talents of Aria Cechchini and Hazel Mitchell as soloists.

One veteran in attendance summed up the sentiment of the day, "Events like these remind us why we served. It's all about preserving the freedoms that allow these children to grow up in our great country."



Hollow Rock Bruceton Attends 2024 National FFA Convention

BY ANSLEY HOLLINGSWORTH

Last month, the Hollow Rock Bruceton FFA Officers attended the 2024 National FFA Convention in Louisville.

For months, the team prepared for the event, including scheduling, submitting applications, scanning events beyond the convention, and finally getting the infamous corn gold and national blue jackets together. The team comprised five students - Ansley Hollingsworth, Allie Paschall, Taylor Walters, Cadence Guinn, and Makray Brown and two adults - Amanda Paschall and the FFA advisor, Michael Stanford. They began their journey bright in the morning at dawn on October 22. Halfway into the drive, the members stopped at the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory for an educational experience of the history of the baseball bats. After hours of traveling, they arrived at their promising destination: Indianapolis, Indiana.

This year, 70,000 students from all 50 states, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico came together and cele-

brated Future Farmers of America. The club offered the students chances for educational experiences and options to make the proceeding four days memorable for every attendee. This included a private concert by country singer Megan Moroney and Nate Smith and a rodeo sponsored by the city of Indianapolis. The organization also arranged classes in which the Hollow Rock Bruceton Chapter and other teams participated. These classes taught the students about life and how they could make situations better simply by applying new ways of thinking. At the convention center, there were two things that the students loved to adventure. One of them was the FFA Mall, where many southern-themed brands set up little shops for the students to spend their money. Some of these brands were Wrangler, Cowpokes, Ozark Candy Delight, Newt's Hat Co., Epic Threads, and more. There was also a spot where the FFA members enjoyed a dance floor set up by Tractor Supply Co. by dancing their hearts out to classic country line dances. The

second was the National FFA Expo, where colleges all over the nation informed students about educational paths and classes. The tables were filled with merch from the colleges as well.

On October 25, the Hollow Rock-Bruceton FFA team prepared to leave the trip with new memories to last a lifetime. Hollow Rock-Bruceton FFA Officer Cadence Guinn said this about the experience, "It was one filled with memories and joyful times. We all loved everything about the event, and we hope to attend it in the future."

They arrived home that afternoon, and it was clear that the trip was worth all of the hard work that was put into it.

The officers thank every business that helped them visit the convention. And hopefully, there will be many more National FFA Conventions for Hollow Rock-Bruceton FFA Chapters in the years to come.

You can follow the Hollow Rock-Bruceton FFA chapter on Facebook to see their growth and endeavors as a new and growing chapter.



Students and SRO Andy Weaver watch a TV monitor as a fellow student attempts to drive the simulator.

The Arrive Alive Tour Visits McKenzie High School, Promoting Safe Driving

MCKENZIE (November 14) — The Arrive Alive Tour, sponsored by the Tennessee Highway Safety Office, visited area schools including McKenzie High School on November 14 to deliver an immersive experience aimed at preventing impaired and distracted driving among teens.

UNITE's Arrive Alive Tour stands as the nation's leading awareness event on drunk and distracted driving, featuring the country's first marijuana driving simulator. This state-of-the-art simulator gives participants a safe, hands-on experience of the real-life dangers of driving while distracted, intoxicated, or under the influence of marijuana - without any actual risk.

Students simulated driving under one of three conditions - drunk, distracted, or drugged. The other students monitored the driver's progress on a TV monitor.

Jaylin with Arrive Alive, started the simulator as each student entered the automobile. With a virtual reality headset placed on



Cooper Davidson, a freshman at MHS, drives the Arrive Alive simulator car.

the driver's eyes, he or she attempted to drive during a virtual reality simulated condition of being impaired or distracted.

McKenzie Police Officer and SRO Andy Weaver helped monitor the simulation and was available to advise students what the consequences would be in case of a real situation.

With Tennessee's 2023 statistics showing 178,154 car accidents, including 61,699

crashes involving young drivers aged 16-25, this event comes at a critical time. Distracted driving accounts for more than 11% of all accidents in the state, underscoring the need for impactful education. Tragically, young drivers with a BAC of .08% are 17 times more likely to die in a crash than those who have not been drinking, making the Arrive Alive Tour's message essential for Tennessee teens.

McKenzie Touchdown Club Presents J.A. Abernathy Awards



MCKENZIE (November 15) — Members of the McKenzie Touchdown Club presented the annual J.A. Abernathy Awards during halftime of Friday's win. The awards recognize outstanding contributions to McKenzie football. J.A. Abernathy Business Awards were presented to McKenzie Feed & Grain and Hometown Hangout. J.A. Abernathy Individual Awards were presented to Larry Joe Smith and Bobby Young. Pictured are (L to R): Dan Bradfield of McKenzie Feed & Grain, Raven Tharpe, Larry Joe Smith, Drew Beeler of Hometown Hangout, Lisa Stewart, Bobby Young and Chad Batton. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Walker, Parks Earn Silver in Senior Olympics Table Tennis

SHARON — Dottie Walker of Atwood (left) and partner Phyllis Parks of Idlewild earned silver medals in the Senior Olympics Table Tennis competition held at the Sharon Senior Center in October. The duo, sponsored by Carroll Bank & Trust, have competed in numerous Senior Olympics events in the area and earned several medals, as seen in the photo. Submitted photo



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