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Tuesday, December 10, 2024

MCKENZIE, TENNESSEE

Vol. 154 / No. 50 / 75¢

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QUOTE

"Failure will never overtake me if my determination to succeed is strong enough."

— Og Mandino

Leighann Horne Honored as West Division Supervisor of Year

NASHVILLE (December 6) — Leighann Horne, Supervisor of Education for McKenzie Special School District, was honored as the West Grand Division Supervisor of the Year for the year 2024-25 school year.

She received the honor on December 6 during a ceremony hosted by the Tennessee Department of Education to honor the principals and supervisors of the year.

"I am thrilled to honor these remarkable school leaders with the 2024-25 Principal and Supervisor of the Year awards," said Commissioner Lizzette Reynolds. "These individuals have played key roles in the success of their teachers and students, and I am proud to have them representing Tennessee."

See HORNE on Page 3



Leighann Horne

Huntingdon School Board Tours Schools

HUNTINGDON (December 3) — Members of the Huntingdon Special School District spent Tuesday morning, December 3, visiting schools and speaking with administrators, teachers, and students to get a first-hand view of the schools.

The Huntingdon High School tour was led by Principal Porsche McClerking. The Board visited the STEM

See TOUR on Page 3

New Roof At MHS Tops \$1.2 Million

Teachers Honored

BY JOEL WASHBURN
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (December 3) — A new roof for McKenzie High School was approved by the McKenzie Special School District Board of Education on December 3.

The Board approved a bid presented by Lashlee-Rich, the construction management company.

Strickland Roofing Company was the successful bidder at a guaranteed maximum price of \$1,231,721. The bid includes 60-mil PVC material with a 30-year warranty. The final price includes a new roof on the

See ROOF on Page 2

Three Weakley County Schools Named State Reward Schools

Weakley County Schools certainly has much to celebrate this year, and the latest news is no exception: three district schools — Dresden Elementary School, Gleason School, and Westview High School — have been named Tennessee Reward Schools by the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE). Based on data from the 2023-24 academic year, these schools have earned this recognition through outstanding performance according to the State's strict scoring matrix. A Reward School ranking means that the school

See WEAKLEY on Page 3

CITY OF MCKENZIE CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAY SEASON



Santa Claus made an appearance in the parade.

Hometown Christmas Parade

The City of McKenzie held its 2024 annual Hometown Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 7. Pleasant weather and a longer-than-usual pa-

rade delighted spectators who lined the streets to view the many entries.

The Banner will feature more photographs from this and other Christ-

mas events in the December 17 issue of The Banner.

See PARADE on Page 3



Trevor Roof of McKenzie receives his Master of Business Administration from Bethel President Dr. Perry Moulds.

Bethel University Commencement Had 255 Graduates

MCKENZIE (December 7) — Bethel University conferred 255 degrees during its Fall Commencement on Saturday, December 7 in the Crisp Arena. Two faculty members were honored upon their retirement during the ceremony.

Retiring were Dr. Shannon Godwin, professor of education, with 17 years of service to the university. She was presented a framed resolution from the Board of Trustees for her service.

Sandra Loudon, Dean of Student Development, were also honored upon her retirement with 32 years at the university.

Nancy Bean, Chairman of the Bethel Board of Trustees, was the commencement

See BETHEL on Page 3

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Relocation of Utility Lines in Trezevant

TREZEVANT — Construction crews are relocating utility poles along U.S. Highway 79 east of Trezevant to accommodate the construction of the U.S. 79 bypass around Trezevant. Trezevant officials indicated the highway is projected to open in December 2025 and will bypass the

of the U.S. 79 bypass around Trezevant. Trezevant officials indicated the highway is projected to open in December 2025 and will bypass the

Trezevant business district and school. Once completed, it will join the newly opened section of the bypass around Atwood.



Top, McKenzie Elementary School Honorees for excellent Value-Added to Students: Mary Spivey, Courtney Chadwick Kee, Kristi Brown, and Amanda Oakley with school board members LaShonda Williams (far left), Karen Fowler (far right), and back, George Cassidy, Bobby Young, and Director Dr. Justin Barden. **Above, McKenzie Middle School Honorees for excellent Value-Added to Students:** Kellett Hochreiter, Amanda Morris, Josephine Wright, Sherrie Austin, and Paul Carroll. Also pictured are school board members LaShonda Williams (left), Karen Fowler (right), and back, George Cassidy, Bobby Young, and Director Dr. Justin Barden. **Below, McKenzie High School Honorees for excellent Value-Added to Students:** Paula Doster and Jordan Jowers. School board members included (left) LaShonda Williams, (right) Karen Fowler, (back) George Cassidy, Bobby Young, and Director Dr. Justin Barden.



Roof

...From Front Page

field house and waterproofing several vertical walls around the building.

In the coming months, replacement doors and windows will be installed at the school. Those were approved months ago. Installation should begin when the windows are available for installation.

New seating at McKenzie Middle School Gymnasium was revisited, but no action was taken.

Bleachers and Seats of Nashville provided a bid of \$94,473 to replace the current visitors' seating, which involves adding more seating and changing the plastic to wood seating. A major change also consists of reversing the home and visitor sides.

Another company will be allowed to resubmit its bid since it originally provided a price for more seating than the bid from Bleachers and Seats. The gymnasium was constructed initially in the year 1954. It was built by Lashlee-Rich contractors. The gym once served as the home court for McKenzie High School, McKenzie Middle School, and Bethel University.

Willie Trevathan was recently contracted to replace



Teachers granted tenure (L to R): Jessica Hochreiter and Kristina Collins. Not pictured: Hunter Herrin.

the flooring of the basketball playing surface. The current floor has several 'weak' spots.

CQT Flooring, Willie Trevathan, of Martin was awarded the contract at \$99,900 to replace the flooring, install sleeves for volleyball netting, stain the floor and add striping for both basketball and volleyball, a sports program not yet at MSSD. Trevathan will also refinish the gym floor at McKenzie High School and install volleyball net sleeves.

Three teachers were granted tenure. Those were: McKenzie Elementary School, Kristina Collins; McKenzie Middle School, Jessica Hochreiter; and McKenzie High School, Hunter Herrin.

Eleven teachers were also recognized as Level 4 or 5 teachers as assessed by the State of Tennessee Val-

ue-Added Assessment. Each teacher received a vinyl banner indicating the honor.

This is the second year that MSSD has publicly recognized these teachers. Dr. Justin Barden, Director of Schools, initiated the concept of vinyl banners for the teachers to display in their classrooms.

This recognition is for the 2023-2024 school year. The TVAAS levels 4 and 5 indicate levels of student growth "Above" or "Significantly Above" the expected levels for the school year.

TVAAS Level 5: Paula Doster, Amanda Morris, Paul Carroll, Sherrie Austin, Josephine Wright, David Hochreiter, Amanda Oakley, Kristi Brown, Courtney Kee, and Mary Spivey.

TVAAS Level 4 honoree was Jordan Jowers.



Pictured is McKenzie Mayor Ryan Griffin reading the script about Dr. Ryan Forbess and family. Forbess was the grand marshal of the parade and had the honor of lighting the Christmas tree during a brief gathering following the parade. Pictured is Mayor Griffin, Dr. Forbess and his family, wife-Toni and children, Scarlett, Knox and Reed, during the tree-lighting ceremony.

Dr. Ryan Forbess Honored as McKenzie's Grand Marshal

MCKENZIE (December 7) — McKenzie is a long way from the sandy beaches of Orange Beach where

Dr. Ryan Forbess, his wife, Toni, and three children, Scarlett, Knox, and Reed reside. However, the family traded the warm climate for some Tennessee weather and a chance to lead the annual Christmas parade in the city where Dr. Forbess was raised. The Forbess family also had the honor of lighting the Christmas tree in McKenzie's Veterans Memorial Park in downtown.

Forbess made national news earlier this year as he and other vacationing medical professionals were at a beach during a shark attack. Forbess said

God had a hand in gathering all the medical professionals in one place during this emergency situation.

While vacationing in Florida this summer, Dr. Forbess played a critical role in saving a 15-year-old girl attacked by a shark. The incident occurred at Seacrest Beach on the Florida Panhandle. Dr. Forbess and his friend, Dr. Mohammad Ali, were in the water with their families when they noticed a commotion and saw blood. Acting quickly, they rushed to assist and helped save the girl.

Ryan Forbess grew up in McKenzie, Tennessee, and completed his undergraduate education at the University of Ten-

nessee. 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: He and his wife were immediately drawn to Orange Beach after their very first visit and decided to make it their forever home.

West Carroll School Board Honors Retiring Supervisor Alred

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

ATWOOD (December 5) — During Thursday night's meeting, the West Carroll Board of Education approved the retirement of Supervisor of Instruction Regina Alred.

A reception was held prior to the meeting in her honor, and the board members, administration and staff present all expressed appreciation for her service and well-wishes for her retirement.

Director of Schools Preston Caldwell said, "Mrs. Alred has been an excellent role model and educational foundation for everyone at West Carroll. She has an outstanding work ethic and tremendous passion in her work. During times of change, though the COVID pandemic, and when so much seemed uncertain in education, Mrs. Regina remained steadfast and unwavering in her role with West Carroll. It is her love for children and her desire to do what is best for them that kept her continuously focused in her career. West Carroll is blessed to have had Mrs. Regina as an educational leader in the district. Her knowledge, guidance, leadership and genuine care for children is exceptional, and she will truly be missed by all of us at West Carroll."

The board heard an update from Kristin Lindsey on plans to convert part of the junior-senior high library into a career-readiness center, which would be a resource for students for things such as filling out job applications, completing industry-certification exams, taking headshots and more.

Director Caldwell presented information to board members about options for the required seven hours of annual training for members. He offered further assistance in coordinating between members and registering for the training sessions.



West Carroll Supervisor of Instruction Regina Alred was honored with a reception and presented with a plaque in appreciation of her service prior to Thursday's board meeting, at which her retirement was approved. She is pictured (left) with Director of Schools Preston Caldwell. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

A lengthy discussion was held including West Carroll attorney Chris Hayden and Town of Trezevant attorney Charles Trotter on concerns raised by one student's guardian.

A sixth grade student who lives near the elementary school in Trezevant and chooses some days to walk to school must cross Highway 79 to do so. The child's guardian would like a crossing guard present at the crosswalk. A crossing guard has been stationed there in the past, but not in recent years.

The two attorneys agreed on the facts of the matter. The school district's obligation is to provide transportation, which it does in the form of a bus route that stops near the student's residence. The guardian has declined to have the student utilize the bus.

The crossing in question, Highway 79, is the property and responsibility of the Tennessee Department of Transportation. With the opening of the new bypass in the coming months, ownership of the roadway could potentially transfer to the Town of Trezevant.

In any case, the attorneys concurred that none of the three entities (the state, the town or the school district) have any obligation or liability to provide such an accommodation.

Hayden outlined the district's options. The board could simply choose to hire a crossing guard. The board could also take no action at all. Another option would be for the board to determine the crossing to be a "special hazard," a loosely-defined term in the legal statutes. That would trigger a need to reach out to the responsible party (currently TDOT) and request that action be taken to mitigate the hazard. Making such a determination is a discretionary decision for the board.

Board member Betty Wallace made a motion to take no action on the matter. Present members seconded and approved the motion unanimously.

Misty Mitchell and Kelly Weaver were absent.

The meeting adjourned after 50 minutes.

The board meets next on Thursday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Parade

...From Front Page



The McKenzie Marching Rebels performed in the parade.



Top, Sandra "Sandy" Louden was honored upon her retirement from Bethel. Presenting the award were Dr. Jim Scruton and Cindy Mallard (right). Above, Dr. Shannon Godwin was honored upon her retirement from Bethel. Presenting the honor were Dr. Jim Scruton and Cindy Mallard (right). Below Left, Twin Sisters Graduate — Aleah Robin Gallaher and Aliza Rachel Gallaher of Chattanooga received their Bachelor of Science degree during the December 7 commencement. Their father was a graduate of Bethel and their mother was once a professor at the university. Below Right, Nancy Bean was the commencement speaker. Mrs. Bean is a graduate of Bethel and serves as the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the university.



Bethel

...From Front Page

speaker. Mrs. Bean graduated from Bethel in 1969 and

returned to the university to serve as a vice president and dean prior to full retirement. She encouraged the graduates to have humility and gratitude in their life. She noted that graduates were able to achieve their goal of

graduating with the help and support of others. The university conferred degrees at the associate's, bachelor's and master's levels.

Horne

...From Front Page

Horne was originally one of nine finalists and then chosen as the supervisor for the west division. Horne obtained her Bachelor of Science in Special Education and a minor in Elementary Education from the University of Tennessee at Martin. She continued her education with masters degrees in Special Education and School Leadership and Administration. Her career started in Special Education in Gibson County Schools, where she taught for 10 years. She then

served as the Special Education Coordinator in Henry County before serving as the supervisor at McKenzie for the last seven years. In her role at McKenzie, she is the instructional supervisor for pre-kindergarten through sixth grade and the director of Special Education. In an interview earlier this year, Horne said, "I absolutely love working here. We have a small district and work very closely together; it just feels like family. We have some very dedicated teachers in our district, and we are truly here to serve our students, and we put them first." "My passions include

Special Education, classroom management and behavior, early literacy, and of course, my family. She participated in a formal interview process with the Tennessee Department of Education. Earlier, Horne said, "I'm honored to spotlight not only Special Education but also our district because I believe we have an amazing district, and we're moving forward and growing. We have great leaders, teachers, and staff members that come together every day for the betterment of our students, and I am blessed to be a part of this team - this family."



Above, Greenhouse — Huntingdon High School Principal Porsche McClerking speaks about the greenhouse to HSSD board members Kennedy White, Clay Nolen and Shawna Smith. Board members toured each of the three school sites during its annual tour of school facilities. Below, The HHS school store will sell products produced by students. Principal McClerking speaks about the store to board members Clay Nolen, Dr. Lee Carter, Shawna Smith and Dr. Morgan Butler.



Tour

...From Front Page

Lab, JAG classroom, and the Agriculture class, including the greenhouse and the HHS store, where students will sell student-grown or made items. At Huntingdon Middle School, board members heard about updates to instruction and health services; at Huntingdon Primary School, the board heard about school safety updates and viewed the newly constructed addition. Prior to the tour, the board met in formal session and approved tenure for three teachers: Hannah Chumney - seventh grade math teacher; Alicia Warbritton - seventh and eighth grade English Language Arts (ELA) teacher; and Misty Gray - first grade teacher. Staff changes were acknowledged.

Three persons were employed. Emily Cole - Huntingdon Food Service; Abigail St. Clair - HMS Sixth Grade ELA; Jeremy Jones - HMS Eighth Grade Science. Resignations acknowledged were: Christy Hanna - HPS Food Service; Kensley Crossno - HMS Sixth Grade ELA; and Michelle Forbess - HMS Eighth Grade Science. Director Jonathan Kee recommended a clarification to the school's requirements for graduation. The school requires a total of 28 credits prior to graduation. The state generally requires a minimum of 22 credits. Also, the state allows a student to graduate with as few as 17 credits under legislation called Move On When Ready Act. However, to qualify, a student must declare his or her intent when entering the freshman year. The board heard from supervisors Alan Eu-

banks, Scott Carter and Christy Carey to learn about updates to the Innovative School Model and its sustainability, new technology, and Special Education. Candance Todd addressed the board with a concern about proceeds from a junior class fundraiser that were deposited in a parent's individual bank account, not in the school's account. It was the junior class-sponsored homecoming dance. Todd is the mother of a member of the junior class. She said teachers help collect the funds, it was advertised as a school dance, but yet the funds were deposited in the individual person's account. Dr. Kee said he addressed the issue to ensure the segregation of school and private events and the money raised. He is additionally seeking legal opinions on how to prevent this from occurring in the future.

Weakley

...From Front Page

scored in the top 5% for achievement or growth on standardized tests. TDOE Reward Schools are among the top performers in the state, ranking high in several key areas, including TCAP achievement scores, growth, chronic absenteeism rates, graduation rates, and English language learner proficiency. These schools have proven their excellence by consistently meeting high standards and achieving remarkable results across many different areas of performance. Dresden Elementary School Principal Melanie Needham celebrates a third year as a Reward School and shared her pride in her students, staff, and teachers in working together to reach the goal. "Being named a Reward School shows what we can do when teachers,

students, families, and staff work together," Needham shared. "Everyone has an important part in making our school a place where learning and success happen every day and receiving this recognition for the third year in a row shows how seriously we take that responsibility." Lee Lawrence, Principal of Gleason School, also shared his pride in the honor, saying, "Being named a Reward School is a proud moment for all of us and truly shows what can happen when we all work together for a common goal. It highlights our dedication to teamwork, our commitment to accountability and excellence, and the belief that success is within reach for every student." Westview Principal Brian Allen also celebrated the achievement, stating, "Westview is thrilled to receive this recognition. Earning the Reward School ranking reflects the dedication, hard work, and

collaboration within our school community. From our passionate teachers to our determined students, supportive families, and committed staff, everyone played a part in this incredible achievement." Director of Schools Jeff Cupples shared that he believes this achievement continues to highlight the positive successes of our schools working together to help each student achieve their best. "This is an achievement for everyone to celebrate. Each of these schools has dedicated their time and effort to our students, and as a district, we couldn't be prouder of their devotion. The support our students receive is huge, and these achievements show how much of a positive difference that makes," said Cupples. To see more about Tennessee Reward Schools and district designations, visit tn.gov/education. [html](https://tn.gov/education).

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THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

These Two Men Nearly Got Me Killed!

In high school, I was not the rabble-rouser sort of teen. No fast-and-furious hot rod for me nor getting drunk on weekends.

That's not to say I had a halo around my head for there might have been a time or two that my friend, Bob, and I went to town on an errand for a teacher during school and we somehow got lost and found ourselves at the Northside Drive-In (a memory-making diner) eating one of their delicious hamburgers. And it seems like I might have been sick the morning of opening day of dove season but made a miraculous recovery that enabled me to go hunting at noon.

No doubt my teen years were tempered by my brushes (yes, that's plural) with death when I was a pre-teen during the 1960's because of two men: Johnny Weissmuller and Roy Rogers.

My Saturday mornings involved an hour or two of being mesmerized by reruns of Tarzan movies, starring the famous Johnny Weissmuller. I could hardly believe my eyes as he sailed through the jungle while swinging from one vine to another or by grabbing a limb and flipping to another.

Enter my vivid imagination. One place we lived had a field with a deep ravine in it, cut through by a creek and rain runoff. To cross it, I normally climbed down one side and up the other. However, one Saturday I noticed a tree leaning over the ravine with a limb hanging just about halfway across, and an idea sprang up. Yes, I would be Tarzan by taking a running leap, grabbing the limb, and flipping to the other side.

My heart pounded as I backed up and kneeled into a three-point racers stance thirty feet from the edge. My eyes glued on that one limb. This was my chance to make history (at least in my mind).

A tiny voice in my head said, "This might not be such a good idea."

But I told it to shut up and leave me alone. I was on the verge of greatness!

I sprang forward, legs and arms pumping in perfect rhythm.

Just as my foot touched the edge of the ravine, and I was about to launch myself toward the limb, I looked down. (You know, they tell you not to look down, and there's a good reason for that.) I let out what I hoped sounded like the famous Tarzan yell as I flew through the air. The truth, though, was that it was a scream of sheer terror.

I stretched my arm as far as I could, but my hand closed around thin air inches from the limb. I plummeted toward the yawning ravine.

Up until that moment in my life I had no idea that the human body could bounce like a tennis ball. I ricocheted from one side to the other. Sharp rocks fileted my flesh and shredded my clothes until I splashed into the creek.

The Death Angel circled overhead, laughing. Miraculously, I was able to drag my broken body and bruised ego up the side of the ravine and crawl back home.

One would think that experience would lessen a boy's imagination. One would think that. A few weeks later, I was watching a rerun of a Roy Rogers' movie. Mounted banditos were in hot pursuit of him as he urged his horse, Trigger, the most beautiful horse ever born, raced across the plain. As he rounded a large rock, there was a tree up ahead. Instead of going around it, Roy Rogers went under it, grabbed a long-hanging limb and pulled himself into the tree's canopy as Trigger continued running, drawing the banditos after him.

Undeterred by my Tarzan escapade, I went out and caught my steed (that may or may not have been sway-backed and may or may not have had vision problems in one eye). I quickly saddled her and headed to the pasture in search of the perfect tree for my adventure. And there it was—a sassafras tree, standing like a sentinel in the middle of the field, its low hanging branches beckoning me. Immediately, I kicked my trusty horse in the flank, and she sprang forward. Leaning forward, her mane flapping in my face, we raced toward the tree. Her ears were laid back and the wind whistled in mine. Neither she nor I had ever gone that fast. It was like she was doing her best imitation of Trigger. (Or perhaps she knew what was going to happen and couldn't wait to have a good laugh on me.) I timed it perfectly, which is not the same as saying I planned it perfectly. Either my horse was taller than I remembered, or the limb was lower than I calculated, because as I sat up to grab the limb, it struck me across the chest, knocking me off the saddle. I hung in mid-air for a split second before crashing to the ground flat on my back, after which, everything went black. How long I lay there, suspended between life and death, I do not know. It might have been days. But the next thing I knew, I was awakened by my horse nudging me with her nose and doing her best to stifle a laugh. I won't bore you with what happened after I watched runners doing the high hurdles in the 1964 Olympics, and I decided to jump a barbed-wire fence. Suffice it to say, I nearly made it. Nearly.

**Taken from The Wit and Wisdom of David Johnson, Volume 1: I Didn't Know Donkeys Could Laugh.*



The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development has awarded Bethel University \$196,000 to be used in the rehabilitation of McKenzie's Historic former First Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Bethel University, Henry County Receive Grants for Historic Building Preservation

NASHVILLE — Bethel University and the County of Henry each received grants to preserve and develop historic building from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD).

Bethel University – \$196,000 to rehabilitate the former First Cumberland Presbyterian Church building on Stonewall Street in McKenzie.

The Bethel-owned building was first occupied in 1873. The 18,000-square-foot Gothic building on Stonewall Street was built over the five-year period 1887 to 1892 at a cost of \$8,000. It stood out in the community for its architecture, including a tall steeple over a high-vaulted slate roof, as well as its art glass windows. The congregation constructed a new building on Highland Drive and sold the former building to Bethel.

Bethel University President Perry Moulds said, "This grant from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development is an incredible opportunity for Bethel University and the McKenzie community," stated President Perry Moulds, Ph.D. "Preserving and revitalizing historic spaces aligns with our mission to honor the

past while building a bright future. We are grateful for the state's investment in our vision and look forward to the economic and cultural impact this project will have for generations to come."

Henry County Government was awarded \$500,000 to rehabilitate the Henry County Courthouse in Paris. It was built in 1896 and among several county-owned building that need rehabilitation.

"Through the Historic Development Grant Program, we are helping restore and revitalize some of Tennessee's most historic buildings so that they once again can flourish, attracting further economic opportunity across our state," said TNECD Commissioner Stuart C. McWhorter. "Thank you to the Tennessee Historical Commission for partnering with TNECD on this program. We look forward to seeing the growth and prosperity that will follow in our communities."

Approved by the Tennessee General Assembly in April 2021, the program will provide \$6.1 million to projects that aim to renovate and preserve historic buildings across the state. The program encourages communities and private developers to invest in buildings that have contributed to a community's history but

now sit idle. These buildings can once again contribute to the economy through job creation and commercial opportunities.

For this round of the program, the state's \$6.1 million investment is expected to leverage more than \$13 million in private investment.

TNECD partnered with the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) to structure application requirements and review grant applications to ensure that each proposal would rehabilitate the structures while maintaining the historical integrity. The THC's mission is to protect, preserve, maintain and administer historic places and encourage the inclusive diverse study of Tennessee's history for the benefit of future generations.

"We are honored to participate with TNECD in this successful program that revitalizes historic buildings and energizes communities across our state," said THC Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Patrick McIntyre. "This round of funding will help restore iconic properties – such as county courthouses – as well as activate formerly vacant historic spaces for new and creative uses."

Bethel/Eastside FCE News

Members met in the home of Mary and Pennye Mays for the November meeting.

The devotion was given by Judy Roberts, the hostess for the evening. Minutes were read and approved from the last meeting. The treasury report was given.

Old business: Conven-

tion was discussed as to when to meet to set up the gift shop. Cakes for the nursing home were tabled to the January meeting. The scarves were sent to North Carolina.

New business: It was voted that we would send a boy or girl stocking with contents worth \$10 to North Carolina for Christmas.

These need to be delivered to Pennye by December 5.

Our Christmas dinner is at Mo's this year on December 12 at noon.

The cookie exchange is December 18. Bring a book for ages 4-5.

We played Christian bingo for our program.

Hope everyone has a merry Christmas.

Correction

In the December 3 issue of The McKenzie Banner, a news story about McKenzie native Mark Powell, 63, being found deceased by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has one correction.

The story indicated Mr. Powell drown. However, the actual cause of death has not been determined.

An autopsy will determine the cause of death.

Mark Edward Powell was born on May 13, 1961 and he died November 26, 2024.

He is survived by his wife, Larenda Powell; daughters, Lindsey (Colin) Perry, Meredith (Adam) Walters; four grandchildren, Jack-

son, Sophia, Cooper, and Carter; his brother, Carl (Melissa) Powell, sisters; Charlotte (Charles) Verner, Lisa Burnette, and Crystal Plentovich.

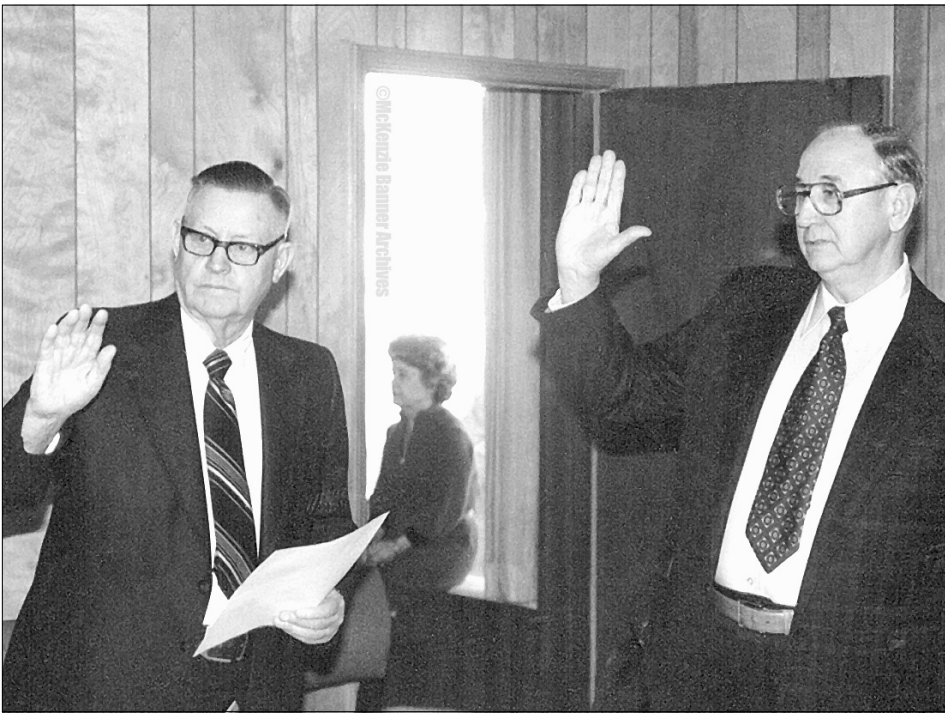
Mark was employed with Milan Army Ammunition Plant for 27 years. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed being at the river duck hunting the most. Mark passed away doing what he loved.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

From the pages of

Published in October 2004

A Pictorial History of McKenzie, Tennessee



City Attorney Ralph Stobbe administers the Oath of Office to Mayor H.B. "Swat" Scarbrough, 1980. File photo originally published in "A Pictorial History of McKenzie, Tennessee," by The McKenzie Banner in October 2004.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

Letters to the editor bear the opinion of the letter writer, and not necessarily that of the newspaper management or staff. Letters of opinion are not verified for accuracy of fact and truly stand only as the writer's opinion.

Letters to the editor of public interest are solicited. Most let-

ters, not libelous or harmful, will be published. The editorial staff may restrict the number of letters dealing with the same subject matter. The signature of the writer must be affixed to the letter with a verifiable address and phone number. The address and phone number will not be published at the request of the writer, however the name will be published. Tri-County Publishing does not publish unsigned letters of opinion.

The McKenzie Banner reserves

the right to refuse any item deemed libelous, not of public interest, or commercial in nature. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit the material while preserving the intent of the letter. Upon receipt in the offices of Tri-County Publishing, Inc., the letter becomes the property of the newspaper and will be retained in the files. Tri-County Publishing may solicit contrary opinion concerning the content of the letter.

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Obituaries



JERRY HAYNES
HAMLIN
1942 – 2024

HENRY — Jerry Haynes Hamlin, 82 of Henry, died Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at her residence surrounded by her daughters. Ridgeway Funeral Home in Paris, was in charge of arrangements. Her funeral service was Monday at 2 p.m., at Ridgeway Funeral Home with Chaplain Franklin Hicks and Rev. Don Williams officiating. Burial was in the Bethlehem Cemetery in Henry.

Jerry was a member of First Baptist Church of McKenzie. She worked as the executive director of the McKenzie Housing Authority for 13 years and was the executive director of the Paris Housing Authority for 19 years. Jerry loved camping, raising and riding horses, sewing, cardinals and bird watching. She loved spending time with her family, friends, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jerry was born June 21, 1942, in Clarksburg. She married Joe N. Hamlin on November 24, 1960, and he preceded her in death May 8, 2017.

Survivors include two daughters, LeAnn Hamlin (Debbie Rushing) of Kissimmee, Fla., and JoEllen Hamlin Garces of Knoxville; a sister, Mary Ellen Ellis of Paris; two grandchildren, Nick (Katie) Garces of Collierville, Tenn., and Katelyn (Robert) Tunnell of Knoxville; and four great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, Jerry was preceded in death by her father, Curtis Taylor Haynes; mother, Madelyn Jewell Simmons

Barham; and stepfather, H.C. Barham.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), P.O. Box 5021, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5021 (breakthrough1d.org) in honor of Liam Tunnell or Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF), 383 Main Avenue, 7th Floor, Norwalk, CT 06851 (themmrf.org). +

MARK EDWARD
POWELL
1961 – 2024

(Formerly of McKenzie) — Mark Edward Powell, 63, was born on May 13, 1961, and he died November 26, 2024.

He is survived by his wife, Larenda Powell; daughters, Lindsey (Colin) Perry, Meredith (Adam) Walters; four grandchildren, Jackson, Sophia, Cooper, and Carter; his brother, Carl (Melissa) Powell; sisters, Charlotte (Charles) Verner, Lisa Burnette and Crystal Plentovich.

Mark was employed with Milan Army Ammunition Plant for 27 years. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed being at the river duck hunting the most. Mark died doing what he loved.

A memorial service for Mr. Powell will be scheduled later by his family.

BERTIE
WARBRITTON
1934 – 2024

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Bertie Lou Warbritton, 90, of Huntingdon, died Saturday, November 30, 2024, at her home.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at Huntingdon Church of Christ. The interment was in Sellers Hill Cemetery.

Mrs. Warbritton was born October 6, 1934, to the late Vera Springer and Bennie Collins. Mrs. Warbritton worked for the Bank of Huntingdon for over forty years, retiring from there as a personnel director and trust officer.

She is also preceded in death by her husband, Glenn Warbritton; sister, Yevonne McCaslin; and

grandson, Josh Rainey.

She is survived by her two children: daughter, Gina Rainey of Huntingdon, and son, Barry Warbritton of Asheville, N.C.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to The Sellers Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund in care of First Bank-Huntingdon.

VELMA PARKINSON
1954 – 2024

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Velma Jean Parkinson, 70, of Huntingdon, died at her home on Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

Mrs. Parkinson was born September 11, 1954, to the late Junnis Long and Anna Louise Richardson. She was preceded in death by one daughter, Keisha Monroe; sister, Joanne Long; brothers, Jerome Long, Junnis Long and Frank Long.

She is survived by two daughters Toshiek (Eric) Long-Robinson and Julina Bik both of Huntingdon; five sisters, Sheila (Robert) Waters of Columbia, S.C., Gilda Gale of Bristol, Pa., Deborah Harris of Philadelphia, Pa., Dorene Greene of Camden, N.J., and Carol Long of Camden, N.J.; brothers, Melvin Long of Philadelphia, Pa., and Raymond Long of Pennsylvania; and fourteen grandchildren.

Dilday-Carter Funeral Home, Huntingdon.

BOBBIE JEAN SMITH
1940 – 2024

HUNTINDON — Mrs. Bobbie Jean Smith, 83, of Huntingdon, died Friday, December 6, 2024, at her home.

Funeral services were Tuesday, December 10, 2024, in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home with Bro. Scott Carter officiating. Interment was in Carroll Memorial Gardens.

The family received friends in the Cherrywood Room of Chase Funeral Home on Monday, 5-8 p.m. and on Tuesday, 9 a.m. until time of service.

Pallbearers who served were Bobby Smith, Brad Smith, Philip Barnett, Travis Ward, Jess Dill, Donnie Smith, Trevor Smith, and Ja-

son Hasting. Honorary pallbearer was Chance Carlton.

Mrs. Smith was born December 22, 1940, in Memphis, to the late Billy and Annie Mae Hunt Simmons. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry D. Smith, and an infant son, Steven Carlton.

She is survived by her son, Tim Carlton (Robbie), of Huntingdon, a sister, Joyce Ann Simmons, of Huntingdon, two grandchildren, Jessica Hunley (Kris), Chance Carlton (Samantha), two great grandchildren, Landry Jean Carlton, Ellsie Jo Carlton, and nieces Devonda Lynn, Lisa Jean and Andrea Dawn.

MICHELLE WYATT
1972 – 2024

McKENZIE — A visitation for the family of Michelle Elaine Wyatt is December 21, 2024, at McKenzie First United Methodist Church at 1-3 p.m.

Ms. Wyatt, 52, died 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 Buchanan Wyatt.

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

She is preceded in death by her father Donald Wyatt, sister Janet Moshkovski and grandparents Leroy and Bertha Buchanan and Doyle and Mabel Wyatt.

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

LORRAINE MARIE
BROCKMAN
1944 – 2024

GLEASON — Lorraine Marie Brockman, 80, of Gleason, died November 23, 2024.

A memorial service is on December 15, 2 p.m., at Beech Springs Missionary Baptist Church, 2696 Brawners-Levee Road, Gleason. Visitation begins at 1 p.m. Brother Jeff Moody is the officiant.

She was born January 10,

1944, in Westford, Vt., to Lionel DesLauriers and Doris (Meunier) DesLauriers.

She is survived by two sons, Jim Arthurs, II of Paris, and Greg Arthurs of Athens, Ala., and one daughter, Alicia Verdell (Wendell) of Gleason, and one sister, Shirley Courtney (Maurice) of Southaven, Miss.; she is survived by 10 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her brother, Bob DesLauriers.

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Card of Thanks

Thank you to our family, friends, and neighbors for thinking of us during this time. We cannot express how grateful we are for your prayers, presence, and words of encouragement. Joan loved you all and would want us to express sincere gratitude for your thoughtfulness.

Phillip Welch, Kathryn Smith & Family

11 recipes from mckenziebanner.com

By Teresa Washburn Call 731-352-3323

SMOTHERED STEAK AND POTATOES

1 (1 1/2 pound steak

2 (15 oz.) cans whole new potatoes, drained

1 (10 oz.) can golden mushroom soup

1 (1 oz.) packet dry onion soup mix

1 1/2 cup milk

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Cut steak into serving size pieces and brown in skillet with a little oil on high heat. Transfer to sprayed 9 x 13 inch baking pan and place potatoes over steak. In saucepan combine mushroom soup, dry onion soup mix and milk and heat just enough to be able to mix well. Pour over steak and potatoes. Cover and bake for 50 minutes. Serves 6

SAVORY RIB ROAST

1 tablespoon dried thyme

1 teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed

1 teaspoon rubbed sage

1 teaspoon pepper

1 (6 pound) beef rib roast

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine thyme, rosemary, sage and pepper in small bowl and rub over roast. Place roast, fat-side up, on rack in large roasting pan. Bake for 2 hours to 2 hours and 30 minutes or until meat reaches desired doneness (rare is 140 degrees and well done is 170 degrees). Remove roast to a warm serving platter and let stand for 10 minutes before slicing. Serves 6-8

HAM QUESADILLAS

2 cups shredded ham

1/2 cup chunky salsa

2 teaspoons chili powder

3/4 cup whole kernel corn

8 large whole-wheat tortillas

1 (8 oz.) package shredded Mexican 4 cheese blend

In large bowl, combine shredded ham, salsa, chili powder and corn. Spread mixture over 4 tortillas to within 1/2 inch of edge. Then sprinkle cheese on top. Top with remaining tortillas and cook (1 quesadilla at a time) on medium high heat, in large non-stick skillet about 5 minutes. Turn after 2 minutes or until light golden brown. Cut in wedges to serve and serve with pinto beans and guacamole. Serves 4-6

PRALINE HAM

2 (1 1/2 inch) thick ham slices, cooked

1/2 cup maple syrup

3 tablespoons brown sugar

1 tablespoon butter

1/3 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Bake ham slices in shallow pan for 10 minutes. Bring syrup, brown sugar and butter in small saucepan to a boil and stir often. Stir in pecans and spoon over ham. Bake for additional 20 minutes. Serves 8

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CHRISTMAS PARADES
Huntingdon's Christmas parade is Saturday, December 14, 6 p.m.

OFFICE CLOSED DECEMBER 25-26, EARLY DEADLINES

The McKenzie Banner and TCP Print Shop will be closed December 25-26 for Christmas. Open with limited staff on Friday, December 27.
Due to the holidays, the newspaper will be printed and distributed a day earlier. Deadline to submit ads and news for the Tuesday, December 24 edition is Friday, December 20. Deadline for Tuesday, December 31 is

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Thurs. 7:30

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Wed. 7:20
Thurs. 7:20

RED ONE (PG-13)
Tues. 7:30
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Thurs. 7:30

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Thank you for allowing us this time with our family.

GREENFIELD FIRST BAPTIST CHRISTMAS CANTATA
Greenfield First Baptist Church Choir & Musicians present their Christmas Cantata "Follow the Light" on Sunday, December 15 at 6 p.m. A finger food fellowship will follow. Everyone is invited to attend. The church is located at 3127 N. Meridian Street in Greenfield.

LIBERTY CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS SERVICE
A candlelight service will be held at the Liberty Wedding and Event Venue (formerly known as Liberty Methodist church) located at 5585 Hilliard Road in McKenzie, December 19 at 6:30 p.m. with food and fellowship following the service.

CARROLL COUNTY 911 BOARD TO MEET
The Carroll County Emergency Communications District Board of Directors meets Tuesday, December 17 at 6 p.m. at 125 Court Square, Huntingdon. Citizens desiring to publicly comment at the meeting on an agenda item must register with the district at 731-986-8911. A copy of the public comment policy may be obtained at the district office at 101 Dilahunty Lane, Huntingdon.

LIVE NATIVITY AT FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN
First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 16835 Highland Drive, McKenzie, presents a live nativity on Sunday, December 15 from 5-7 p.m.

MCKENZIE TOPS TO MEET
The McKenzie TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter meets on Mondays at 3 p.m. at the McKenzie Church of Christ gym. Anyone interested in losing weight can join. For more information, contact Linda Lawrence at 731-352-7309. If no answer, leave a message.

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
The Northwest Tenn. Economic Development Council is accepting applications for

the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. This program assists low-income households through direct energy payments to their energy provider. Individuals interested in applying for the LIHEAP Program should make an appointment at the Northwest TN Economic Development Council office in their county of residence. Go to our website for county site contact information: nwcommunityaction.org.

CARROLL HUMANE SOCIETY EVENTS
Cat Vouchers
We always have spay/neuter vouchers for cats at a cost of \$50 and to be used at Paris Vet Clinic. If you need to pay with cash, come by the shelter to purchase. Otherwise, we have a NEW NUMBER to purchase using a credit/debit card. Please leave a message and the volunteer will return your call very soon, 731-514-0878.

Dog Vouchers
Dog vouchers will be available starting December 10th. \$60 each cash or card only. These must be purchased at the shelter during business hours Tuesday-Saturday 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Appointments will be made at the time of purchase and begin on January 6, 2025. The participating vet clinic is Huntingdon Animal Clinic. You'll be responsible for paying the clinic when you pick up your animal. We do recommend that you have your pet vaccinated due to exposure to other animals. Puppies must be a minimum of 4 months of age (older if small breed) at the time of surgery.

CARROLL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEETS
The Carroll County Democratic Party meets the third Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at 12740 Lexington Street, Huntingdon.

CARROLL REPUBLICAN PARTY MEETS
Carroll County Republican Party meets monthly each fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m. in the Public Safety Building in 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.

GET THE WORD OUT
The newspaper publishes most news items for free. Submit to EVENT@mckenziebanner.com or call 731-352-3323 Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Thank you for reading and supporting your community newspaper.



Above, Cast members in the CCHS Murder Mystery Dinner Theater (L to R): Brad Sam, Tyler Perritt, Crystal King, Jayden Sarnik, Theresa Hilliard, Tommy Martin, Marilyn Wade, Jeremy King, Audra Reardon, Joshua King, Dr. Elizabeth Cunningham, Randall Wilson and Beverly Wilson. Not pictured is Catherine Clark Perritt. Photo by Laura Martin/CCHS Below, Members of the McKenzie High School band provided music during the event. Pictured are (L to R): Lucy Reynolds, Lola Barton, Connor Summers, Savannah Shelby, Ethan High, Janyla Piro and Dylan Bomar. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner



Carroll County Humane Society Hosts Mystery Dinner Theater

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (December 7) — The Carroll County Humane Society hosted a Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre Saturday at The Venue at Waddell Place.

The event, which served the role of the organization's annual gala, featured a delicious meal catered by Beala-Q of Huntingdon.

Guests were invited to dress to the theme, a dinner party at a mansion in Salem in the 1970s. Some guests, along with some CCHS members, were given roles in the murder mystery. Early in the evening, the festivities were interrupted by the "murder" of the party's host, Charles Stacey. A series of clues were presented over the course of the evening, and ultimately, the killers were identified. Guests had fun watching the drama unfold and playing detective.

The cast included: Crystal King (Hostess/Detective Bill McTell), Dr. Elizabeth Cunningham (Sergine Annabelle), Brad Sam (Roderick Cooper), Beverly Wilson (Maximiliane Emmy), Jayden Sarnik (Vinny Brandy), Tyler Perritt (Creighton Denver), Tommy Martin (Sherwood Bill), Audra Reardon (Ashlea Tigerlily), Jeremy King (Mayor Morris Kameron), Catherine Clark Perritt (Izzy Krystal), Marilyn Wade (Nia Kalla), Joshua King (Shelton Rolph), Theresa Hilliard (Kimmie Stacey) and Randall Wilson (Orlando Putnam).

During dinner and dessert, an ensemble from the McKenzie High School band provided entertainment with Christmas songs.

A silent auction was held during the event. Bidding on the dozens of donated items continues for another week on the Carroll County Humane Society Facebook page.

The Carroll County Humane Society is a no-kill animal shelter in McKenzie, Tennessee. (They do not euthanize to make space nor do they limit the amount of time an animal can stay at the shelter.) CCHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, with funding coming entirely from private contributions, bequeaths, fundraising and grants. They care for approximately 100 animals at one time in the shelter building and in foster homes. The goal is to utilize adoption and spay/neuter as the community's animal population control - not euthanasia. CCHS hopes to ensure that all companion animals have a warm, safe, loving home and to assist and educate the public about proper pet care. CCHS also gives shelter to abused animals while assisting law enforcement to prosecute their abusers.

Gleason City Appoints Department Supervisors

GLEASON (December 2) — Gleason Mayor and Board of Aldermen were administered the oath of office following their successful election bid on November 5. Mayor Charles Anderson and aldermen Mike Bennett, Mike Stafford, James Hines, and Alderwoman Shawn Francisco were elected to four-year terms.

The lone business was the appointment of city personnel and city attorney, and city judge.

Mayor Anderson nominated the following people:

- City Recorder - Marsha Hatley and Assistant City Recorder Tracy Gaylord.
- Police Chief - Marcus Hopper and Assistant Michael Lowe.
- Public Works Director Rodney Garner and assistants Carter Cook and Brandon Peevyhouse.
- Water Superintendent Clay Wright.

Fire Department Chief Mark Stafford and Assistant Greg Cook.

Librarian Michellia Wilson.

City Judge Tommy Moore.

City Attorney Beau Pemberton.

City Auditor - Alexander, Thompson and Arnold (ATA).

The next meeting is Tuesday, January 21, 7 p.m.

Huntingdon Council to Meet Tuesday

The Huntingdon Town Council meets Tuesday, December 10 at 5:15 p.m. at city hall.

A first reading will be held on an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Huntingdon to revise size standards for business identification signs.

Board members will consider a request from the Huntingdon High School JAG (Jobs of American Graduates) classes and the Mustang Mentors for a Storybook Trail Community Project at Kelley Sports Complex.

They will also consider a request from the Police Department for purchase of two 2025 Police Interceptor vehicles from Lonnie Cobb Ford at the state bid price of \$52,101 each for a total of \$104,202.

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Jeff and Teresa Stephens to K & L Holland 2, LLC in District 11.

Charles Turner to Donald Terry and Jean Ellen McMackin to District 11.

Stephen Nicholas Pridy to Donald Terry and Jean Ellen McMackin in District 11.

Donavon Simmons to Steadfast Home buyers in District 4.

Steadfast Home Buyers to Andrew R. and Amanda Holland in District 4.

Charlotte Duncan to David Duncan in District 20.

Luis Mangual to Jose M. Mejia Castillo in District 16.

David and Blanca Janeth Downing to Frank G. Bolin in District 6.

Jimmy Lee Crocker to Midway Storage in District 21.

Chadwick T. and Genji L. Prater to Linda S. Anthony in District 8.

Avery Wayne and Sadie Rae Coffman to First Community Mortgage, Inc.

Alan Rudolph and Melinda Kaye Kuta to Alan Randolph Kuta in District 11.

Ngan Kim Duong to Donald L. Perkins in District 7.

Nutrien Ag Solutions, Inc. to Seth Bennett Properties, LLC in District 11.

Jeremy J. and Stacey M. Goosetree to John and Deborah Anderson in District 19.

The Perkins Corporation to William J. and Melissa C. Taylor in District 4.

Richard E. and Kathy M. Simmons to Randall and Theresa Spivey in District 24.



Bethel Honors Graduating Student-Athletes

MCKENZIE — Bethel University Interim Director of Athletics Dave McCulley and the athletic staff honored graduating student-athletes Friday. The students were among the fall graduating class which received diplomas on Saturday in graduation ceremonies at the school.

Each student-athlete received a pin in a pinning ceremony, which is now a tradition with each graduating class. Coaches from various sports were in attendance and took part in the ceremony honoring their athletes.

McCulley commented on the event.

“We are honored to present each one of these young people a pin which represents what they have accomplished here at Bethel. Being a student athlete and meeting the challenges in their respec-

tive sports and classrooms can be difficult. These student-athletes have met these challenges with a determined spirit with eyes on the future. We are thrilled to honor them. This is and will continue to be a part of the Bethel Experience.”

McKenzie Police Reports

Theft of Merchandise — Shawn Tyrone Roy, 53, Birmingham Lane, McKenzie was charged with Theft of Merchandise on December 4.

Officer Bryan Batchelder filed a report stating that Roy entered Eagle Food Mart and took \$8.99 in store merchandise without paying. A store surveillance camera videoed the incident. Roy was banned from the store and charged, as noted.

Driving While Suspended — Quince Allen Glasgow, Jr., 38, Winchester Street, McKenzie was charged with Driving While Suspended

on December 5.

Officer Dustin McClure was stationed at a crosswalk with pedestrians attempting to cross the street when Glasgow reportedly failed to yield at the stop. A traffic stop indicated McClure’s license was suspended. He was cited into General Sessions Court.

Driving on Revoked License — Travis Bruce Nunn, 27, Cherrywood Avenue, McKenzie, was charged with Driving on Revoked and Display of Registration Plate on December 4.

Officer Dustin McClure stopped Nunn’s vehicle because it did not have

functioning lights on the registration plate. A check of Nunn’s license revealed the revoked status due to a prior DUI conviction. Nunn was transported to Carroll County Jail and his vehicle was towed from the scene.

Criminal Trespass — Kenneth W. Payne, 39, Walnut Avenue, McKenzie was charged with Criminal Trespass on December 2.

Officer Dalton Raspberry arrested Payne on Walnut Circle in the McKenzie Housing Authority, where he had a ban from the complex. Raspberry transported Payne to Carroll County Jail.

Bethel’s Madison Hart Closing in on 1,000 Points

COURTESY BETHEL SID

MCKENZIE — Prior to the season, eighteen players had scored 1,000 points in their basketball careers as a Lady Wildcat.

Bethel’s Madison Hart is poised to join that list soon as she has 981 career points entering Bethel’s next game on Tuesday at home against Simmon College. The tip-off is scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

Hart, the junior from Yorkville, has played 67 games and has a career average of 14.6 points per outing. She has started in all 67 games. Hart has averaged six rebounds per game, and shot 50 percent from the field in her career. Hart shoots 82 percent from the free-throw line.

Madison has scored twenty or more points in 16 games as a Lady Wildcat. She had a career high of 31 points which she did as a freshman against Wilberforce.

Coach Chris Nelson commented, “Madison has been the pillar of our program since day one of walking on campus. She covers all aspects of what we want the framework of



our team to be about. She is an old school basketball player that comes to work every day with the same mindset and work ethic. She is the type of person and player you wish you could coach your whole career. Madison is humble and doesn’t mind sharing the spotlight with her teammates.

The best compliment you can give a player is knowing you have respect of all your peers and opposing teams. It has been neat to see her open up and mature as a person since being here and especially fun to watch her play with her younger sister. We are going to cherish this next year and half getting to coach and watch her play.”

Huntingdon Police Reports

Aggravated Child Abuse and Neglect — According to a report by Officer Brad Allen, on November 25, 2024, he issued a warrant on Brenna Clark, 29, of Huntingdon. On October 28, the Department of Children services requested a hair follicle on Brenna’s -old child which came back positive for methamphetamine. On November 26, Brenna Clark was taken into custody at the D.C.S. office in Camden and transported to Carroll County Jail.

Domestic Assault — According to a report by Officer Jonathan McDowell, on November 21, Melissa Eason, 34, of Huntingdon, assaulted a family member by slapping the victim in the face during a heated argument. A call was made to dispatch and they both

admitted on scene the assault happened. Melissa was transported to Carroll County Jail for booking.

Criminal Trespass — According to a report made by Officer Kristen Lee, she observed James Hinson, 76, on Hucks convenience store property after having prior knowledge of him being banned from Hucks in November. Hinson committed Criminal Trespass by entering a property without the consent of the business.

Domestic Assault — According to a report made by Officer Malachi Arline, officers were dispatched to Hill Court in response to a domestic disturbance. The caller stated their 18-year-old son had physically attacked both his mother and father. Tristin’s mother had bruises from being punched

and his father had a busted nose from also being punched by Tristin. Tristin Whiteside, 18, of Huntingdon, was transported to Carroll County jail after the investigation

DUI, Reckless Driving, Resisting Stop — According to a report by Officer Jonathan McDowell, Eric Wright, 44, was seen driving reckless through the town running off the roadway and nearly striking other vehicles and driving into oncoming traffic. Eric wrecked his vehicle on Paris Street from being extremely intoxicated. A drug paraphernalia pipe with white residue and open containers of fireball whiskey was found in the vehicle. He was transported to Carroll County Jail.

Gasoline Prices Increase During Week

TENNESSEE (December 9) — Average gasoline prices in Tennessee increased 1.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.64/g today, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 3,821 stations in Tennessee. Prices in Tennessee are 9.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 14.1 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 2.3 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.491 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Tennessee was priced at \$2.27/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.72/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.27/g while the highest was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.72/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 3.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.97/g today. The national average is down 8.7 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 17.7 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas sta-

tions across the country.

Historical gasoline prices in Tennessee and the national average going back ten years:

December 9, 2023: \$2.78/g (U.S. Average: \$3.15/g)

December 9, 2022: \$2.85/g (U.S. Average: \$3.25/g)

December 9, 2021: \$3.02/g (U.S. Average: \$3.34/g)

December 9, 2020: \$1.89/g (U.S. Average: \$2.16/g)

December 9, 2019: \$2.28/g (U.S. Average: \$2.58/g)

December 9, 2018: \$2.14/g (U.S. Average: \$2.41/g)

December 9, 2017: \$2.23/g (U.S. Average: \$2.46/g)

December 9, 2016: \$2.04/g (U.S. Average: \$2.20/g)

December 9, 2015: \$1.82/g (U.S. Average: \$2.01/g)

December 9, 2014: \$2.47/g (U.S. Average: \$2.64/g)

“The national average has finally fallen below \$3 per gallon, and it couldn’t come at a better time for motorists with the holidays upon us. One would need to count over 1,300 days since we’ve seen the

national average this low, with the affordability of gasoline at its lowest non-COVID level since 2015,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “With average gas prices in 35 states and nearly 110,000 stations below \$3 per gallon, Americans are putting in just 5.44 minutes of work to buy a gallon, the fewest minutes of work needed (excluding the pandemic) since 2015, when Americans needed to do just 5.25 minutes of work to buy a gallon. The good news is that we’ll likely continue to see additional downward pressure on gas prices, with the national average potentially falling another 10 to 15 cents by Christmas.”

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data. GasBuddy’s survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy’s averages, graphs, maps and historical pricing data covering the U.S. and Canada is available 24/7 at <http://prices.GasBuddy.com>.

Carroll County General Sessions

HUNTINGDON (December 4) — The following cases resulted in a guilty finding or plea.

Jason Dean Chaney, Main Street, Trezevant, guilty, DUI-First Offense, \$350 fine, 10 days jail, probation, must complete rehab program; dismissed, Implied Consent; dismissed, Child Abuse/Neglect/Endangerment.

Charles Daniel Dunning, Old Highway 22, McKenzie, Escape, Probation Violation.

Deiontei Ferrell, Parkway Place, Clarksville, guilty, Driving While License Canceled-2nd or Subsequent Offense, Speeding, \$250 fine, probation; dismissed, Violation of Financial Responsibility.

Mary Michelle Horton, Walnut Circle, McKenzie, guilty, Fraudulent Use of Credit Card, \$172.10 restitution, no contact with victim, alcohol and drug evaluation, probation.

Jessica Marie Johnson, Elaine Street, Atwood, guilty, Probation Violation, 20 days jail, probation

extended.

Christopher Medlock, Bridgeman Street, Huntingdon, guilty, Probation Violation, probation extended.

Brianna Pugh, Thompson Road, Huntingdon, guilty, Driving While License Canceled, \$100 fine, probation.

Lacey Roberts, Highway 220, Cedar Grove, guilty, Simple Possession, \$750 fine, time served, probation, alcohol and drug evaluation.

Robert Steven Robertson, Lake Circle, Gadsden, Alabama, guilty, Speeding; dismissed, Driving While Suspended.

Larry Joe Tomblin, Jr., Butler Speedway, Bruceton, guilty, Probation Violation.

Katherine P. Trull, Bell Street, Rutherford, guilty, Probation Violation, 11/29 furloughed to rehab.

James Paul Voytek, Jr., Yeargan Road, Murfreesboro, guilty, DUI-First Offense, \$350 fine, 48 hours jail, probation; dismissed, Driver’s License Address Change Within 10 days; dismissed, Seatbelt Violation.

Dustin Walker, Buckley Street, Hollow Rock, guilty, Leaving Scene of Accident-Property Damage, 14 days jail, probation; dismissed, Violation of Financial Responsibility; dismissed, Driver Failed to Exercise Due Care.

James Webber, 423 Lane, McKenzie, pre-trial diversion, Assault-Physical Contact, no contact with victim, probation.

Alexis Natae Wilson, guilty, Probation Violation.

Clinton Dwayne Wright, Forrest Avenue, McKenzie, guilty, Probation Violation, probation extended; dismissed, Failure to Appear.

The following cases were dismissed.

Kenneth Ray Beckham, Dollar Hill Road, Huntingdon, dismissed, Probation Violation; dismissed, Fraudulent Use of Credit/Debit Card.

Clayton Milton, Booker Street, McKenzie, dismissed, Failure to Appear.

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NOTICE TO BID

The West Carroll Special School District will accept bids for System-Wide Mowing and Grounds Maintenance.

Instructions for bidders and specifications MUST be secured from the Central Office at 1415 Hwy 77, Atwood, TN 38220. Bid opening will be January 9, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the school board meeting.

A432/PO#29643/49-2

Marriage Licenses

John Jose Grabiell, 63, of McKenzie, to Linda Darnell Diddle Rempel, 58, of Ohio.

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ACCEPTING BIDS

West Carroll Special School District is currently accepting bids for a front-load, single-person, potting machine with a caster kit and tray filler attachment. Bidding will end January 7, 2025, at 3 p.m. For further information, please contact Kristin Lindsey at ljennifer.lindsey@wcssd.org or call 731-662-7116.

West Carroll Special School District is accepting bids for a library flooring remodel at the West Carroll Jr. Sr. High School thru January 7, 2025, at 3 p.m. The bid pack may be obtained only after a physical walk through of the property with Kristin Lindsey, CTE Director. To set up an appointment contact Jennifer. lindsey@wcssd.org or call 731-662-7116.

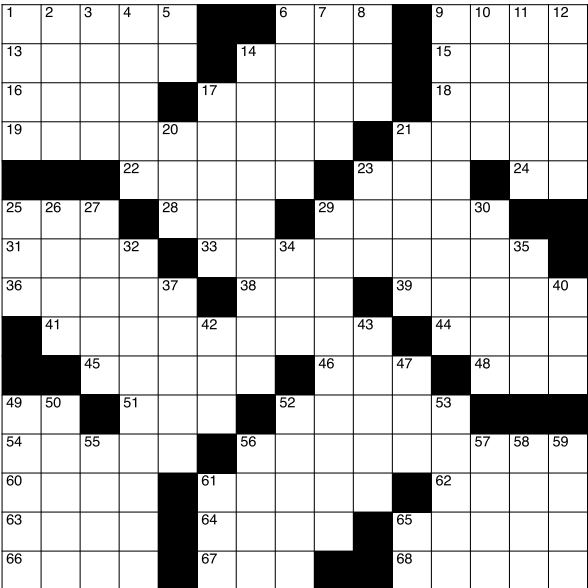
A432/PO#29655/50-2

Color A Masterpiece



Weekly Crossword

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Thou ___ do it
 - 6. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
 - 9. Brainstem part
 - 13. Town in New York state
 - 14. Little (Spanish)
 - 15. Continent
 - 16. Retch
 - 17. Short-billed rails
 - 18. Small period of time (abbr.)
 - 19. Confused
 - 21. A team needs one
 - 22. Woman in ancient times
 - 23. Republican Party
 - 24. Spanish be
 - 25. "The Godfather" character Johnny
 - 28. Not around
 - 29. City in Zambia
 - 31. A type of beginning
 - 33. Numb
 - 36. Gurus
 - 38. Small, gray-headed crow
 - 39. Vehicle type
 - 41. Disorders
 - 44. One point east of southeast
 - 45. Indian soldier
 - 46. Tree type
 - 48. Midway between south and southeast
 - 49. It cools your home
 - 51. Corn comes on it
 - 52. Ship's deck
 - 54. A way to bake
 - 56. Improvised
 - 60. Butterfly genus
 - 61. Baseball fields have them
 - 62. Designated space
 - 63. Discharge
 - 64. Two of something
 - 65. Once more
 - 66. Part of your face
 - 67. Tax collector
 - 68. Cassia tree



- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. One-time Aaron Rodgers target
 - 2. Wings
 - 3. Overly studious person
 - 4. They protect your valuables
 - 5. The Volunteer State
 - 6. Non-hydraulic cement
 - 7. Horse mackerel
 - 8. Jackson and Diddley are two
 - 9. Splendid displays
 - 10. Mountain in NE Greece
 - 11. A daughter or your brother or sister
 - 12. German surname
 - 14. Having more than one husband at a time
 - 17. Romanian city
 - 20. Energy
 - 21. Makes less hot
 - 23. Gas diffusion electrode
 - 25. Former CIA
 - 26. Set an example for others
 - 27. Support of a particular person
 - 29. One from the Big Apple
 - 30. Mountain range
 - 32. Violate the sanctity of something
 - 34. Supervises flying
 - 35. Talks
 - 37. Persian male given name
 - 40. Born of
 - 42. Forcibly take one's possessions
 - 43. Discounts
 - 47. Knockouts
 - 49. Posh Colorado destination
 - 50. Form of therapy
 - 52. British rock band
 - 53. Type of virus (abbr.)
 - 55. The U. of Miami mascot is one
 - 56. Volcanic crater
 - 57. Middle Eastern nation
 - 58. Sinn ___, Irish organization
 - 59. Ethiopian lake
 - 61. Bits per inch (abbr.)
 - 65. Equally

Week 50

See solution in next week's edition.

Games & Puzzles Word Search

A L T R J E X P E R A O Y U I Z W P X H
D O T G Y A L T C R E S A E T N I A R B
E V T T S S P D W C R O S S W I O R D A U
J S K S Y C Z S R L O G I C I I C U G B
O D E S W Z E U O O J M H D G R K X P S
B H O M P O B M N T W S U Y I O H B D E
C P D A C C R S U B I D E V D A Y R U B
V B M T W R Z D J V Z V I U R Y A C H B
G S U H X M Y S S A B D S E X C U O H D
D T Y E G M M P J E E J L S G S S M X E
T P U M S C N C T O A H H N L O R P M X
X E A A C K L M E G O I R I Z U T E U C T E
K L A T C Z A E A Z R G Y C T Y D K T T E
Y Z M I D Y M P T A A R H H T O C E E R
D Z M C X E Y T E L M H A B P D E R T I
H U G A S E G C P Z O K R M O R H S R T
A P W L E O N X X W A S G I J N C M I Y
D Y Y D B I N G O W H U H N H O I J S Z
S M A R G A N A N A B G E G P G G C W A
I T C D D H I D D E N P I C T U R E V P

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Bingo
Brain Teaser
Checkers
Chess
Computers

Crossword
Cryptogram
Dexterity
Hidden Picture
Jigsaw
Logic

Mathematical
Maze
Playing Cards
Puzzle
Sudoku
Sums

Tetris
Uno
Video Games
Word Search
Wordle

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- 1972: APOLLO 17 BECOMES THE SIXTH AND FINAL APOLLO MISSION TO LAND ON THE MOON.

SUDOKU

WEEK 50

		1		8		3	7	6
				3	9	5		
							1	
		4	6			1	3	
6								
	1	2				7		
	9	8			1			
	4		7	9				
		5		4	8			

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

See solution in next week's edition.



Solve the code to discover words related to games and puzzles. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 25 = A)

A. 16 5 25 22 16 13

Clue: Possibility

B. 21 24 23 6 6

Clue: Prowess

C. 11 13 22 1 25 6

Clue: Using the mind

D. 25 16 4 23 1 10

Clue: Keeness of thought, vision or hearing

Answers: A. chance B. skill C. mental D. acuity

LETTER MIX-UP

How many words can you make by rearranging the letters in the phrase below? Use each letter only once.

MATHEMATICAL

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____
- 11. _____
- 12. _____
- 13. _____
- 14. _____
- 15. _____
- 16. _____
- 17. _____
- 18. _____
- 19. _____
- 20. _____

Riddle Me This

What did the one puzzle say to the other puzzle?

Answer: I don't come in peace. I come in pieces!

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to this week's theme.

ARNBI

Answer: Brain

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actress born in New York on December 12, 1970. I began my career as a child model with the Ford Modeling Agency. I've starred in many movies, including opposite David Bowie and Tom Cruise. I'm married to one of the stars of the "Avengers" film series.

Answer: Jennifer Connelly

Peace of Mind.

One of the many services we provide.



PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 49 Crossword Puzzle Solution

T	A	B	S					T	S	P			A	A	R		
P	R	A	H	A				O	K	A			A	B	B	E	
A	C	R	I	D				L	A	N			B	A	U	D	
	A	B	A	S	H			E	T	A			E	S	T	E	
						A	B	D	I	C	A	T	E	S			
P	A	R	I	S	H	I	O	N	E	R							
P	R	E	S	E	N	T			G	A	T						
T	A	B	O	R								H	O	F	F	A	
						A	M	P			P	A	U	C	I	T	Y
						P	A	R	I	S	F	R	A	N	C	E	
	H	Y	P	E	R	E	M	I	A								
T	A	A	L			S	L	A		R	A	B	B	I			
E	B	L	A			H	A	G			G	A	L	A	S		
A	E	O	N			A	C	E			A	B	A	M	P		
T	R	W				L	Y	S				A	B	B	A		

SUDOKU SOLUTION WEEK 49

4	5	8	6	1	7	2	9	3
2	6	1	3	4	9	5	7	8
3	7	9	2	8	5	6	4	1
7	1	3	8	9	2	4	6	5
5	9	4	1	6	3	8	2	7
6	8	2	5	7	4	3	1	9
9	4	5	7	3	6	1	8	2
1	3	7	4	2	8	9	5	6
8	2	6	9	5	1	7	3	4

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MISCELLANEOUS

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



Above Left, War Eagle Skyler Wilhite pulls up in the paint for two points. Wilhite led West Carroll with 14 points. Above Right, Bulldog Kade Sawyers scores on a reverse underneath the basket. Sawyers led all scorers with 24 points. Below Left, Lady Bulldog Hylan Leach scores on a fast break. Leach scored 15 points. Below Right, Lady War Eagle Gracely Vernon drains one of her five three-pointers. Vernon led West Carroll with 18 points. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Gleason Sweeps West Carroll

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

ATWOOD (December 3) — West Carroll High School hosted Gleason Tuesday for a pair of basketball contests, and the visitors earned a road sweep. The Lady Bulldogs rode a big first quarter to a 55-32 win, and the Bulldogs pulled away in the second quarter for a 60-39 victory.

Gleason Lady Bulldogs 55, West Carroll Lady War Eagles 32

The Lady Bulldogs stormed out to a 17-1 lead after the opening frame, led by Skylar Arnold with eight points. Brinley Lehmkuhl scored four, Madi Dean hit a three-pointer, and Hylan Leach had a pair. Gracely Vernon hit a free throw for West Carroll.

Gleason had an 11-9 edge in the second quarter, led by Leach with five points, including a three. Dean hit another three-pointer, Arnold added a pair, and Lehmkuhl hit a freebie. Vernon scored five for the Lady War Eagles, including a three-pointer. Hailey Mitchell and Triniti Adkisson each had a pair. At the half, Gleason led 28-10.

The Lady Bulldogs had a 14-9 advantage in the third,

led by Leach with five, again with a three-pointer. Arnold scored four, Kadence Witherspoon had three points, and Lehmkuhl added a pair. Mitchell led West Carroll with four. Vernon hit a three, and Aubrey Hammett had a pair. Entering the final frame, Gleason led 42-19.

The fourth quarter was a 13-13 wash. Vernon led West Carroll with nine points on a trio of threes. Mitchell and Mackenzie Finley each had a pair. Arnold scored five for Gleason. Addy Black hit a three, and Leach and Maria Evans each had a pair.

Lady Bulldog Skylar Arnold led all scorers with 19 points. Hylan Leach scored 15 with a pair of threes.

Gracely Vernon led West Carroll with 18 points, including five three-pointers.

Bulldogs 60, War Eagles 39

Gleason had an 11-7 edge after the first frame, led by Brody Sanders with five points. Kade Sawyers scored four, including a three-pointer, and Drake Lehmkuhl had a pair. War Eagles Kayden Melton, Chandler Rimmer and Demarion Gilbert each had a pair, and Isaiah Snyder hit a free throw.

The Bulldogs pulled away with a 24-10 advantage in

the second quarter, led by Sawyers with nine points. Lehmkuhl scored six, and Sanders had five points, including a three. Andrew Harrison and Parker Morgan each had a pair. War Eagle Skyler Wilhite scored six on a pair of threes, and Rimmer had four points. At the half, Gleason led 35-17.

West Carroll rallied 17-10 in the third to cut the deficit, led by Wilhite with eight points, including a pair of three-pointers. Melton scored seven, and Snyder added a pair. Sawyers led Gleason with four, Morgan hit a three, Owen Taylor had a pair, and Sanders hit a freebie. Heading into the final frame, the Bulldogs led 45-34.

Gleason capped the win with a 15-5 tilt in the fourth, led by Sawyers with seven points. Ashton Morgan scored four, and Taylor and Sanders each added a pair. Gilbert scored three points for West Carroll, and Snyder added a pair.

Bulldog Kade Sawyers led all scorers with 24 points, including a three-pointer. Brody Sander scored 13, also with a three.

Skyler Wilhite led West Carroll with 14 points, including four three-pointers. Kayden Melton scored nine points.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL



Top Left, Lady Rebel Alleigh Britt pulls up in the paint for two points. Top Right, Bulldog Cooper Sawyers scores on a fast break. Below Left, Lady Bulldog Karlie Wilson drives toward the basket. Below Right, Rebel Dawson Reeder gets inside for an easy layup. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner



Lady Rebels, Bulldogs Pick Up Wins

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

GLEASON (December 2) — Gleason Junior High hosted McKenzie Middle School Monday for a pair of basketball contests. The Lady Rebels trailed by four at the half, but seized momentum down the stretch for a 38-35 win. The Bulldogs gradually built a lead throughout for a 32-21 victory.

McKenzie Lady Rebels 38, Gleason Lady Bulldogs 35

The Lady Bulldogs had an 11-9 lead after the opening frame, led by Gabi Pinkston with five points, including a three-pointer. Karlie Wilson scored four, and Brylee Robertson had a pair. Lady Rebel Charlie Cassidy scored five points, and Ellie Doede and Kristy Towne each had a pair.

Gleason had a 7-5 edge in the second quarter, led by Robertson with five points. Wilson added a pair. Cassidy hit a three for McKenzie, and MaKayla Dabbs had a pair. At the half, the Lady Bulldogs led 18-14.

McKenzie tied it up with a 14-10 advantage in the third, led by Alleigh Britt with ten points, including a pair of threes. Cassidy also hit a three, and Ridley Holt hit a free throw. Robertson scored four for Gleason, and Pinkston hit a three. Kinley Baumgartel had a pair, and Wilson hit a freebie. Entering the final frame, the score was knotted at 28-28.

McKenzie took the win with a 10-7 tilt in the fourth, led by Cassidy with seven points. Abby Carroll had a pair, and Britt hit a free throw. Wilson scored five Lady Bulldog points, and Robertson added a pair.

Lady Rebel Charlie Cassidy led all scorers with 18 points, including a pair of three-pointers. Alleigh Britt scored eleven, also with a pair of threes.

Brylee Robertson led Gleason with 13 points. Karlie Wilson scored a dozen.

Bulldogs 32, Rebels 21

Gleason had a 9-4 lead after the first frame, led by Conner Ballew with seven

points. Leiland Roney had a pair. Rebels Seth Stafford and Parker Ross each had a pair.

The Bulldogs had a 7-3 advantage in the second quarter, led by Cooper Sawyers with five points, including a three-pointer. Grant Pinkston had a pair. Rebel Dawson Reeder had a pair, and Lane Brown hit a free throw. At the half, the Bulldogs led 16-7.

Gleason had an 8-6 edge in the third, led by Sawyers with five, again with a three-pointer. Ballew added a pair, and Pinkston hit a freebie. Reeder scored all six McKenzie points. Heading into the final frame, the Bulldogs led 24-13.

The fourth quarter was an 8-8 wash. Sawyers led Gleason with six points, and Mikal Wescott had a pair. Reeder again scored six for the Rebels, and Stafford added a pair.

Bulldog Cooper Sawyers led all scorers with 16 points, including a pair of threes. Conner Ballew had nine points.

Dawson Reeder led McKenzie with 14 points.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Fillies Win Big Over Peabody, Mustangs Fall

BY BRAD SAM
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HUNTINGDON (December 5) — Huntingdon High School hosted Peabody Thursday for a pair of basketball contests. The Fillies rode a dominant first half to a 66-36 victory. The Mustangs led by six at the half, but the Golden Tide stormed back to claim an 81-60 win.

Huntingdon Fillies 66, Peabody Lady Tide 36

The Fillies stormed out to a 19-5 lead after the first frame, led by Delaney Byars with eleven points, including a three-pointer. Quinn Kelley scored six on a pair of threes, and Sara Beth Smith had a pair. Peabody's Nyasia Luten and A'Nyah Ross each had a pair, and Za'Kaysia Skinner hit a free throw.

Huntingdon pulled away with a 26-7 advantage in the second quarter, led by Byars with eight points. Kelley, Grier Bartholomew and Knox Bennett each scored six on three-pointers. Luten had six points for the Lady Tide, and Ya'Kira Linsley hit a free throw. At the half, the Fillies led 45-12.

Peabody trimmed the deficit with a 17-13 advantage in the third, led by Luten with seven points. Paislee Walls scored five

with a three. Emyiah Agnew hit a three-pointer, and Skinner added a pair. Smith led Huntingdon with eight points. Byars and Emalynn Maness each had a pair, and Bennett hit a freebie. Entering the final frame, the Fillies led 59-29.

The fourth quarter was a 7-7 wash. Huntingdon's Camdyn Sellers hit a three-pointer, and Maness and Ellie Wilson each had a pair. Luten scored five for Peabody, and Agnew added a pair.

Huntingdon's Delaney Byars led all scorers with 21 points, including a three-pointer. Quinn Kelley scored a dozen on four threes.

Nyasia Luten led the Lady Tide with 20 points.

Golden Tide 81, Mustangs 60

Huntingdon led 20-15 after the first frame, led by Kenton Smith with seven points. Caleb Ezell scored five, including a three-pointer. EJ Lewis and Braylin Dearmon each had four points. Emmanuel Cannon led Peabody with seven points, including a three. Jamarcus Haynes scored six, and Ryder Patterson had a pair.

The Mustangs had a 13-12 edge in the second quarter, led by Smith with nine points, including a pair of threes. Ezell and

Kelton Johnson each had a pair. Haynes scored six for the Golden Tide, and Cannon hit a three. Jamelvin Brooks had a pair, and Patterson hit a free throw. At the half, the Mustangs led 33-27.

Peabody rallied 23-15 to take the lead in the third, led by Patterson with a dozen. Brooks scored four, and Cannon hit a three-pointer. Haynes and Thomas Luten each had a pair. Lewis scored nine for Huntingdon on a trio of threes. Ezell and Bryson Whiteside each hit a three-pointer. Heading into the final frame, Peabody led 50-48.

The Golden Tide pulled away with a 31-12 advantage in the fourth, led by Patterson and Haynes with ten points each. Cannon scored seven with a three. Brooks and Zay Jelks each had a pair. Lewis scored five for the Mustangs with a three-pointer. Ezell scored four, and Smith hit a three.

Peabody's Jamarcus Haynes led all scorers with 24 points. Ryder Patterson scored 23, and Emmanuel Cannon had 20 points, including four three-pointers.

EJ Lewis led Huntingdon with 18 points, including four three-pointers. Kenton Smith scored 16 with a trio of threes.

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Huntingdon senior Gray Eubanks signs with Southern Miss Baseball. Pictured are (L to R) Seated: his mother, Kelly; Gray; and his brothers, Mac and Hayes. Standing: his dad and coach, Alan. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Mustang Gray Eubanks Signs With Southern Miss Baseball

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (December 4) — A large contingent of family, teammates, coaches, classmates and supporters gathered in the Huntingdon High School library to see two-sport standout Gray Eubanks sign with Southern Miss Baseball. The senior has played mostly shortstop for the Mustangs, but has played other positions at times, including pitching. He expects to play infield or outfield at Southern Miss. Eubanks’ three-year statistics speak for themselves and point to a talented player who has also put in the work to develop and reach his full potential. During his freshman season in 2022, his batting average was .250 over 40 at-bats with ten hits (all singles), nine RBIs, eight runs scored, one walk and five strikeouts. His slugging percentage was a low .215 with an on-base percentage of .315. As a sophomore, with 73 at-bats, his average nearly doubled to .411, as did his on-base percentage to .515. His slugging percentage more than tripled to .658. His 30 hits included eight doubles, two triples and two home

runs. He drove in 23 runs, scored 20, drew sixteen walks and struck out 13 times. Having greatly improved in most metrics in one year, in the next, he added to those gains and made huge leaps in two additional areas. As a junior, he more than doubled his walks drawn to 33 and slashed his strikeouts in half to just six. With 88 at-bats, Eubanks raised his average to .545, on-base to .664 and slugging to .977. He had 48 hits with eleven doubles and nine home runs. He drove in 42 runs and scored 42. Principal Porche McClerking expressed the school’s pride in Eubanks, who he described as “one of the hardest workers I know.” He said, “He out-worked everybody. He’s going to make his family and his community super proud.” Gray’s father and HHS head baseball coach Alan Eubanks spoke about the senior, first as a coach, then as a father. “It’s a memorable day for him, but for me it’s also a special day for Huntingdon High School. We expect you to go down there and represent Huntingdon well.” As a dad, he expressed his pride on behalf of himself and Gray’s moth-

er, Kelly. He added, “As proud as we are of him, we’re equally thankful for everybody that’s here. Today is more than signing a piece of paper. It’s a culmination of a lot of years of hard work, for sure on his part, but also from those around him. We want our boys to understand that when you accomplish individual things, you’ve got to have a support system around you. Yes, Gray’s name will be on the piece of paper, but we understand that it’s all of you signing as well. Because all of you played a major role in impacting him to help him get to this point, whether you realize it or not.” He thanked a great many groups and individuals. He especially noted the contributions of the late Jimmy Cary, for “treating him like he was his own and teaching him to be a good hitter.” Gray told The Banner he chose Southern Miss “for the town, the culture, it’s a baseball school, and I love the coaches too.” Eubanks will major in Business. The University of Southern Mississippi is located in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The Golden Eagles compete in the NCAA Division I Sun Belt Conference.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Rebels Top Panthers, Lady Rebels Fall

BY BRAD SAM
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DECATURVILLE (December 6) — McKenzie traveled to Riverside High School Friday night for a pair of basketball contests. The Lady Panthers pulled away in the second quarter to top the Lady Rebels, 61-46. The Rebels rode an early lead to a 66-56 win. **Riverside Lady Panthers 61, McKenzie Lady Rebels 46** The opening frame was a 12-12 wash. Braylin Auvenshine led McKenzie with five points, including a three-pointer. Molly French scored four, also with a three, and Jaycee Stafford had three points. Alyssa Pratt led Riverside with six points on a pair of threes. Bentley Rogers hit a three, and Lauren Camper also scored three points. The Lady Panthers had an 11-1 advantage in the second quarter, led by Camper with seven points. Pratt and Rogers each added a pair. Stafford hit a free throw for McKenzie. At the half, the Lady Panthers led 23-13. Riverside enjoyed a 16-10 tilt in the third, led by Pratt with eight points. Rogers scored seven with a three, and Emma Johnson hit a freebie. Stafford

scored eight for the Lady Rebels, and Auvenshine added a pair. Entering the final frame, the Lady Panthers led 39-23. McKenzie had a 23-22 edge in the fourth for a closer final, led by Stafford and Addison Milam with eight points each, both with a pair of three-pointers. French scored five with a three, and Aurora Johnson had a pair. Camper scored nine for Riverside, and Rogers and Lillian Wade each had four points. E. Johnson hit a three, and Pratt added a pair. Lady Rebel Jaycee Stafford led all scorers with 20 points, including a pair of threes. Molly French scored nine, also with a pair of three-pointers. Lauren Camper led the Lady Panthers with 19 points. Alyssa Pratt scored 18 with a pair of threes. Bentley Rogers scored 16, also with a pair of threes. **Rebels 66, Panthers 56** McKenzie led 20-13 after the first frame, led by Tate Surber with nine points, including a three-pointer. Carter Kee also hit a three, and Cole Brown, Martez Teague, Craegen Travis and KD Cunningham each had a pair. Jack Cupples led Riverside with eight points. Aidan Lunsford and Mat-

thew Wyatt each had a pair, and Kutter Potts hit a free throw. The Panthers closed the gap with a 13-10 edge in the second quarter, led by Gavin McClain with seven points, including a pair of threes. Wyatt, Austin Shelton and Jase England each had a pair. Surber scored eight for the Rebels, and Brown added a pair. At the half, the Rebels led 30-26. The third quarter was a 17-17 wash. Surber led McKenzie with ten points, Kee scored four, and Brown hit a three. Cupples scored a dozen for Riverside, Shelton had four points, and Potts hit a freebie. Heading into the final frame, the Rebels led 47-43. McKenzie capped the victory with a 19-13 advantage in the fourth, led by Surber with seven, including a three-pointer. Kee scored six, and Brown, Travis and Cunningham each added a pair. Cupples scored nine with a three for the Panthers, and Shelton and Colt Brooks each had a pair. Rebel Tate Surber led all scorers with 34 points, including a pair of three-pointers. Carter Kee scored 13 with a three. Jack Cupples led Riverside with 29 points, including a three-pointer.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL



West Carroll Junior High basketball eighth graders (L to R): Trinity Adkisson, Lilly Rainey Powers, Rileigh Marlow, Tatum Perry, Abby O’Bryan, Chloe Rimmer, Marissa Mueller, Kinsley Poff, Iseiah Strensrud and Lukas Pratt. Photo courtesy WCSSD

West Carroll Celebrates Eighth Grade Night, Drops Two to Dresden

BY BRAD SAM
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ATWOOD (December 5) — West Carroll Junior High recognized its basketball eighth graders Thursday night and hosted Dresden for a pair of games. The visiting Lady Lions built on an early lead for a 41-27 win. The Lions likewise pulled away in the early minutes for a 59-13 victory. Eighth grade cheerleaders are Trinity Adkisson, Lilly Rainey Powers and Rileigh Marlow. Eighth grade Lady War Eagles are Tatum Perry, Abby O’Bryan, Chloe Rimmer, Marissa Mueller and Kinsley Poff. Eighth grade War Eagles are Iseiah Strensrud and Lukas Pratt. **Dresden Lady Lions 41, West Carroll Lady War Eagles 27** The Lady Lions led 8-4 after the opening frame, led by Charlee Sutton with four points. Breelyn Horner and Irah Cianfarani each had a pair. Kinsley Poff scored all four West Carroll points. Dresden had a 9-3 advantage in the second quarter, led by Sutton with five points. Cianfarani and Hal-lie Davis each had a pair.

Lady War Eagle Marissa Mueller had a pair, and Poff hit a free throw. At the half, Dresden led 17-7. The Lady Lions enjoyed a 12-9 tilt in the third, led by Cianfarani with five points. Sutton, Hudson McDaniel and Abby Bissle each had a pair, and Davis hit a freebie. Poff led West Carroll with four points. Mueller hit a three-pointer, and Chloe Rimmer had a pair. Entering the final frame, the Lady Lions led 29-16. Dresden capped the win with a 12-11 edge in the fourth. Cianfarani and Sutton each scored six points. Rimmer and Mueller each scored four for the Lady War Eagles. Poff added a pair, and Anistan McAlpin hit a free throw. Lady Lion Charlee Sutton led all scorers with 17 points. Irah Cianfarani scored 15. Kinsley Poff led West Carroll with eleven points. Marissa Mueller had nine, including a three-pointer. **Lions 59, War Eagles 13** Dresden jumped out to an 18-4 lead after the first frame, led by Athan Spaulding with eight points, including a pair of three-pointers. Connor West scored six on a pair of threes, and Connor

Floyd and Tristen Wallers each had a pair. Iseiah Strensrud scored all four West Carroll points. The second quarter was also an 18-4 Lion advantage, led by West with five points, including a three. Floyd scored four, and Case West hit a three. Spaulding, Caiden Mount and Carson Moorefield each had a pair. Ian Pearson scored all four War Eagle points. At the half, the Lions led 36-8. Dresden outscored West Carroll 10-3 in the third. Colt Molton and Nate Taylor each hit a three-pointer, and Jon Allman and Blaze Turnbow each had a pair. Pearson added a pair for the War Eagles, and Kaleb Martin hit a free throw. Heading into the final frame, Dresden led 46-11. The Lions capped the win with a 13-2 tilt in the fourth, led by Will Forrester with five points. Ryker Jones scored four, and Turnbow hit a three. Benjamin Pettit hit a free throw. Pearson had West Carroll’s two points. Lion Connor West led all scorers with eleven points, including a trio of threes. Athan Spaulding scored ten with a pair of threes. Ian Pearson led West Carroll with eight points.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Lady Rebels Win at Camden, Rebels Fall

BY BRAD SAM
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CAMDEN (December 3) — McKenzie High School traveled to Camden Tuesday for a pair of basketball contests. The Lady Rebels trailed by four at the half, but took the lead in the third en route to a 47-42 victory. The Rebels had a two-point edge at the break, but the Lions rallied for a 60-52 win. **McKenzie Lady Rebels 47, Camden Lady Lions 42** The Lady Lions led 7-6 after the opening frame, led by Sadie Fry with a three-pointer. AG Wallace and Bailey Berry each had a pair. Lady Rebel Jaycee Stafford scored four points, and Braylin Auvenshine had a pair. Camden had a 13-10 edge in the second quarter, led by Addie Jo Melton with seven points, including a three. Wallace, Berry and Carson Douglas each had a pair. Stafford scored five for McKenzie, including a three-pointer. Molly French also hit a three, and Auvenshine added a pair. At the half, the Lady Lions led 20-16. McKenzie rallied 17-12 in the third to take the lead, led by Auvenshine with

eleven points, including a three. Stafford scored six. Berry scored seven for Camden, including a three. Melton also hit a three, and Wallace added a pair. Entering the final frame, McKenzie led 33-32. The Lady Rebels sealed the win with a 14-10 advantage in the fourth, led by Stafford with six points. French scored five with a three, and Ava Hastings also hit a three. Berry scored seven for Camden, and Melton hit a three. Lady Rebel Jaycee Stafford led all scorers with 21 points, including a three-pointer. Braylin Auvenshine scored 15 with a three. Bailey Berry led the Lady Lions with 18 points, including a three. Addie Jo Melton scored 13 with a trio of threes. **Lions 60, Rebels 52** Camden had a 16-13 lead after the first frame, led by Ayden Melton with seven points, including a three. Gage Johnson scored four, Isaac Moore had three points, and Nowah Porter had a pair. Eli Vinson led the Rebels with five points, including a three-pointer. Cole Brown, Martez Teague, Tate Surber and Carter Kee each had a pair. McKenzie took the lead

with a 20-15 advantage in the second quarter, led by Surber and Kee with seven points each, Kee with a three. Vinson scored four with a three-pointer, and Teague added a pair. Melton and Porter each had six for Camden, Porter on a pair of threes. Jake Reyiddson also hit a three. At the half, the Rebels led 33-31. The Lions regained the lead with a 15-11 edge in the third, led by Melton with ten points, including a pair of threes. Porter also hit a three, and Moore added a pair. Vinson scored five for McKenzie, including a three. Surber had four points, and Kee added a pair. Heading into the final frame, Camden led 46-44. The Lions sealed the win with a 14-8 tilt in the fourth, led by Melton with eight points. Angelo Arnold scored five, and Porter hit a freebie. Brown scored four for the Rebels with a three-pointer, and Teague and Surber each added a pair. Lion Ayden Melton led all scorers with 31 points, including a trio of threes. Nowah Porter scored a dozen, also with three three-pointers. Tate Surber led McKenzie with 15 points. Eli Vinson had 14 with a trio of threes.

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Restoring Life to the Historic Gazebo at Bethel University

McKENZIE — The gazebo at the center of Bethel University's campus in McKenzie received a facelift, thanks to student labor, a financial donation and the blessings of the university's administration.

The gazebo has been a gathering place for many years for students, faculty. It has been the place for outdoor graduations, weddings, and many student activities and special events. One year, actress Dixie Carter gave the commencement address from the gazebo.

Back in 1982, Randy Tanaka, the current head of the campus maintenance department, designed the gazebo and Phi Delta Sigma Fraternity constructed it in 1982. Every since, it has been a focal point on the campus. Students gather and fellowship daily at the gazebo, celebrate birthdays, and hold events under its roof, so it was important to SGA to uphold the integrity of the landmark.

In previous decades, dozens of Bethel Alumni have gotten engaged in the gazebo and some even got married there! Before the rapid growth in the student population and the expansion of the campus, graduation was held on the lawn next to the gazebo. When a graduate's name was called, they would walk up to the gazebo and receive their diploma. Numerous student-led church services and worship nights have been held there over the last forty years! Needless to say, the gazebo holds thousands of memories for thousands of students ever since its establishment in 1982.

In 2020, Phi Delta Sigma brother, Nathan Eaton and Advisor, Garrett Burns, re-



Bethel students celebrate the completion of the restoration project on the gazebo.

placed the roof and cupelo of the landmark with funding from Chaplain Anne Hames. Over the years, the paint has faded and the bricks developed a film of dirt over them, presenting itself as a dark environment.

Despite its appearance, it continued to be a place of life and laughter on campus. With the help of Phi Delta Sigma Fraternity, an anonymous donor, and the approval of Bethel's administration and maintenance department, the Student Government Association power washed the brick, concrete, and wood and repainted the wood a vibrant white. In total, this project took about 20 hours as SGA took attention to detail and enjoyed one another's company on the beautiful fall week. The gazebo with its fresh coat of paint, became a symbol of renewal and connection, preserving its appearance while honoring its past. Repainting the gazebo honors both the physical structure and the intangible sense of belonging that people associate with it, ensuring that this gathering spot remains a beloved fixture for generations to come.

SGA welcomes the community to stop by the gazebo as you pass through campus. May it be a place of fellowship and laughter for all who enjoy it.

Bethel University celebrated Homecoming on November 2. The restoration of the gazebo was part of the celebration. Despite all of the events occurring on campus, the Student Government Association wanted to leave a lasting impression even after Homecoming week came to a close.

Every year, the SGA Cabinet is responsible for finding and participating in a service project as they see fit. This year, they wanted to put their time, resources, and labor into restoring life back to the cherished gazebo on campus.

McKenzie Middle School Collects Items to Aid Cash Express Drive



McKENZIE (December 2-6) — McKenzie Middle School students collected coats, hoodies and toys for Cash Express to distribute to families for Christmas. Homerooms competed for an ice cream treat at lunch one day. Ms. Betsy Flynt's seventh grade homeroom collected the most items with 75. Pictured (L to R) are Ms. Betsy and three of her students, JaiBreon Horton, Jackson Barden and Ulises Ramirez. Homerooms collected a total of 270 items. Photo courtesy MMS

Baptist-Carroll County Hosts Area Students

HUNTINGDON (December 3) — Students from West Carroll High School recently participated in an educational tour of the laboratory and radiology departments at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Carroll County.

The visit provided valuable insights into the inner workings of a modern healthcare facility.

The students, enrolled in the Health Science program's Diagnostic Medicine course, were afforded the opportunity to observe state-of-the-art medical technology firsthand. The tour showcased the hospital's advanced equipment and diagnostic procedures, which play a crucial role in patient care and treatment planning.

During the visit, the aspiring healthcare professionals engaged with hospital staff, gaining a deeper understanding of the behind-the-scenes operations that are vital to the facility's daily



Pictured (L to R): HOSA Advisor and Health Science Instructor Heather Martin, BMH Lab Director Aimee Hebrand, Hailey Mitchell, Hailey Cantrell and Kalee Coleman. Photo courtesy WCSSD

functions. The experience highlighted the importance of interdepartmental collaboration in delivering comprehensive patient care.

The students were extremely engaged throughout the duration of the tour, with many expressing heightened interest in healthcare professions as a result of the experience.

Baptist Memorial Hospi-

tal-Carroll County demonstrated its commitment to community education and workforce development through such programs. This educational initiative underscores the importance of partnerships between educational institutions and healthcare facilities in nurturing the next generation of medical professionals.

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Christmas OPEN HOUSE

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50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
11:30 A.M.



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