



TDOT Commissioner Butch Eley, State Senator John Stevens, State Representative Brock Martin, State Representative Tandy Darby, Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler, TDOT Regional Communications Officer Nichole Lawrence, TDOT associates, and other local officials cut the ribbon of the new highway.

Officials Open State Route 76 with Ribbon Cutting

ATWOOD (December 13) — State and local officials gathered at the intersection of State Route 77 and the newly completed section of State Route 76 (US 79) on Friday, December 13 to mark the completion of the recently completed section of State Route 76.

At a ribbon-cutting ceremony, adjacent to the West Carroll Special School District office, Tennessee's Deputy Governor and Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Transportation Butch Eley,

praised Governor Bill Lee, TDOT associates, Dement Construction Company, and others for completing the roadway.

Known to many locals as the Atwood bypass, the new section extends from SR 77 near West Carroll High School to State Route 76 in Milan. A second leg of the construction is underway to bypass downtown Trezevant. It will extend from State Route 77 to Cutlip Lane along the existing State Route 76 on the McKenzie side of Trezevant.

Nichole Lawrence, spokesperson for TDOT - District 4 based in Jackson, said the new highway was first planned when she was in high school, when her late father worked with TDOT.

Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler, State Senator John Stevens, State Representative Brock Martin and State Representative Tandy Darby all praised Governor Bill Lee, the associates of TDOT, and Dement Construction Company.



Officials speak about the importance of good highways. (L to R) Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler, State Senator John Stevens, TDOT Commissioner Butch Eley (at the microphone), State Representative Tandy Darby, and State Representative Brock Martin.



The cast of 'A Christmas Extravaganza' takes a bow. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

MHS Theater Presents 'A Christmas Extravaganza'

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (December 14-15) — The McKenzie High School Theater department presented "A Christmas Extravaganza" with shows on Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

The show consisted of two one-act plays.

"How Santa Got His Christmas Tree" is set in Santa's workshop just before Christmas and tells the story of two misguided elves disrupting Mrs. Claus' plans to gift Santa his first

Christmas tree.

"North Pole's Got Talent" is a festive take on the reality competition with performances by elves, reindeer and antagonists Jack Frost and the Snow Queen.

Cast members included Zoey Morgan, Wyatt Risner, Matthias Pierce, Cheyanthony Risner, Molly Drewry, Katelyn Prather, Leah Harrison, Molly Drewry, JD Hitt, Maria Bell, Carlton Townes, Chloe Hitt, Devon Armstrong, Brayden Priddy, Maddison Mann, Abby Hamm, Xander Morgan and

McKenzie Risner.

The stage manager was Tobey Brooks. The set crew were Jasmine Curtis, Jayden Curtis and Natalie Heris.

Hair and makeup were done by Madelynn Pewitt, Kailynn Cowan and Emma Haynes. Lighting and set design were by Jack Hardwick and Dalton McKinnie.

Set and design assistance was provided by Denise Sam. Sound assistance was provided by Ben Wolski.

The MHS Theater department is under the direction of Billie Jo Hardwick.

Road Rage Leads to Shooting, Murder Charge

HARDIN COUNTY — An investigation by special agents with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the Hardin County Sheriff's Department has resulted in the arrest of a Savannah man on a charge of second degree murder.

On December 15, at the request of the 24th Judicial District Attorney General Neil Thompson, TBI special agents joined deputies with the Hardin County Sheriff's Department to investigate a homicide that occurred just

after 4 p.m. in the 100 block of Emmaus Way in Savannah. Upon the arrival of deputies, Zoe Johnson (DOB: 3/16/00) was found shot and transported to the Hardin County Medical Center, where she was pronounced deceased. A 3-year-old child was also found suffering from a gunshot wound with critical injuries and transported to a Nashville hospital. During the course of the investigation, authorities determined that Clint Newton (DOB: 12/31/81) was the

subject responsible.

Authorities obtained a warrant charging Clint Newton with Second Degree Murder. He is currently held in the Hardin County Jail.

The charges and allegations referenced in this release are merely accusations of criminal conduct and not evidence. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt and convicted through due process of law.



Recent SOAR students (L to R): Joseph Ferber, Kinley Box and Eli Joyner. Photo courtesy WCSSD

West Carroll Elementary School Recognizes SOAR Award Winners

West Carroll Elementary School continues its tradition of honoring exceptional students through the SOAR Awards program. This initiative recognizes students who embody the school's core values of Safety, Ownership, Achievement and Respect. Each week, the program highlights individuals who excel academically, display strong character, and contribute positively to the school community.

Fourth-grader Joseph Ferber was recognized as the Week 15 SOAR student. His teacher, Mrs. Beth Hysmith, praised Joseph for his remarkable dedication to learning. She remarked, "Joseph is an exceptional example of commitment to academic excellence. His enthusiasm for tackling challenging assignments and seeking additional resources is

inspiring. This year, Joseph has shown tremendous growth, especially in ELA, where he has emerged as a leader in the classroom. His newfound joy in reading has played a significant role in his success."

Fourth-grader Eli Joyner was named the Week 16 SOAR student. Mrs. Nikki Gilley, Eli's teacher, shared high praise for his exemplary behavior and work ethic. She stated, "Eli goes above and beyond our expectations. He follows all rules and procedures, is well-mannered, and willingly helps both students and teachers. Eli works diligently, uses text evidence to support his answers, and takes his assignments seriously while maintaining a great sense of humor. He is a fantastic role model and a true pleasure to have in class."

Fifth-grader Kinley Box was honored with the

SOAR Award for both Weeks 15 and 16. Her fifth-grade teachers commended her positive attitude and strong character. Mrs. Lindsey Jowers Lindsay shared, "Kinley consistently enters the classroom with a smile, ready to listen, learn, and set a positive example for her peers. Her work ethic, kindness and respect shine in every setting. In addition to excelling academically, Kinley is a supportive and helpful classmate, contributing to a positive and welcoming atmosphere in the fifth grade."

West Carroll Elementary School congratulates these outstanding students for their achievements and thanks them for setting a high standard for their peers. The SOAR Awards program continues to inspire excellence within the school community.

the

December 2024

West Carroll 3-2-1 Update

3-Exciting Highlights & Developments

- Celebrating Excellence:** Our Beta Club showed outstanding performance at the state convention, qualifying for nationals.
- Innovative Learning:** The B Pro Tour brought virtual reality experiences to our students, offering hands-on exposure to various trades.
- Community Engagement:** West Carroll Elementary's Literacy Night was a resounding success, with over 80 students and their families participating in engaging activities.

2-Quotes

"The TN Dept of Ed commended our school when meeting about data and were with the progress that we're making in the school." - Dr. Adam Douglas, West Carroll High School Principal

"The West Carroll Primary Thanksgiving auction was a great success. We are so thankful for our community." - Mrs. Jackie Wester, West Carroll Primary Principal

1-Community Challenge

This month's challenge is a Math Riddle.

Nick has one box of ornaments to decorate the tree. All of them are blue, except for six. All of them are green, except for six. All of them are red, except for six. How many of each colored ornaments does Nick have? Email your response to preston.caldwell@wcssd.org

Thank you for your continued commitment to our students and community!

Preston Caldwell

wcssd.com/321



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Above Left, Tate Surber with his father, Tommy, mother, Meredith, and older brother, Jack in the Titans locker room. Above Right, Tate with his former coach, Wade Comer and current coach, Keith Hodge. Below, Tate Surber stands with his coaches (L to R): David Duncan, Chris Wall, Keith Hodge, Trey Cantrell, and MHS Principal Kelly Spivey. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner



Surber

...From Front Page

defense. He maintains a 4.0 GPA and was named Mr. MHS by his fellow

students. Tate is the son of Tommy and Meredith Surber. Tate's father and brothers, Eli and Jack were all three quarterbacks for the Rebels. Tate will continue his athletic and academic ca-

reer at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The other finalists for Mr. Football Class 1A were Nate Adams, Clay County and Bennett O'Neal McDougas, Whitwell High School.

Fire

...From Front Page

State and CTAS. In the verbiage, it states, "Responsibilities include: reviewing the general operation of the department to determine efficiency; providing direction on major projects or problem areas; planning for the future; developing and implementing policies and procedures; providing policy guidance and providing support for volunteers; and emergency response. The Fire Chief develops and recommends improvements for the protection of life and property in the community to the County Mayor, Rural Fire Committee, and the Carroll County Legislative Body.

"Essential Functions: plans, coordinates, administers, and directs the activities and staff involved in the daily operations of the fire department; plans, develops, and implements department goals, objectives, policies, procedures, and guidelines; plan, organizes, leads, and directs a progressive public service agency with several functional areas to provide optimum fire services; develops, administers, and monitors the department budget; directs the forecasting of future needs; directs and participates in the development of the department's work plan; assigns projects and programs; reviews and evaluates methods and results; plan, prepare, and administer an annual departmental budget. Coordinates department activities with those of other departments and outside agencies; performs research, analyzes findings, prepares recommendations and reports for the County Mayor; responds to, and resolves, the most sensitive or complex complaints or problems; responds to major fire alarms and other emergency incidents; represents the County in relationships with outside agencies, community groups, and the public; represents the department at various conferences, conventions, and other meetings; speaks before public and professional groups to provide information on department activities and programs and to promote public understanding and awareness; develops special projects as requested by County Mayor; oversees a countywide fire training program for all stations, employees, and volunteers.

"Certifications, Licenses, Registrations: Must the certification as Firefighter I & II; must possess and maintain a valid driver's



Commissioner Daniel Willman (left) states his concerns about the lack of plan for the Carroll County Rural Fire Department. Commissioner Jimmy Halford (right) stated he was not opposed to raising taxes to help fund the department.

license; NIMS courses IS-100, IS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400, IS-700, and IS-800; Tennessee certification as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), with Advanced Emergency Medical Technician or higher being preferred; bachelor's degree from an accredited university with a major in Fire Science, Business Administration, Public Administration, or related field is preferred; Fire Instructor I and Fire Officer I and II; and Executive Fire Officer or Chief Fire Officer is preferred."

As part of the meeting, additional resolutions were included. In this were budget amendments (Resolution 12-03-24). Commissioner John Austin stated he was not happy with the fact that the salary for the new chief was bundled in the amendments and that it was a disservice to the citizens of the county. He then called for the salary portion to be separated by amending the resolution. The motion failed to receive the necessary ⅔ majority required.

From there, Austin stated he was not in favor of the proposed salary as it was the highest amongst non-elected officials. According to Austin, the proposed \$70,000-plus salary would go to an individual who does not manage a budget as substantial as that of Solid Waste. Commissioner Jimmy Halford responded that Carroll County should be putting more money into Rural Fire and should be more serious about having a fire department.

The response to Halford's suggestion was, "How do you plan to pay for the increase." Halford replied, "Then I guess we have to raise taxes."

Also questioned was the salary of Interim-Fire Chief Amanda Snead. Once a new chief is named, Snead will move down to administrative assistant. At her current salary, she will make more than any other "deputy/clerk" in the county. It was stated her retention and

role will be defined in the future by the chief.

Austin was the sole commissioner to vote against Resolution 12-03-24. Included in the amendments were Recycling/Solid Waste - \$20,000 — Solid Waste is purchasing three new recycling trucks at \$62,623 utilizing previously allocated ARPA funds for \$168,987 with the amendment/transfer of \$20,000 covering the remainder of the cost. Rural Fire - \$12,300 — these are funds received from surplus scrap equipment sale, to be used to purchase small items on the Fire Department's immediate needs list; Rural Fire - \$161,802 (from fund balance to motor vehicles) — this includes funds from insurance recovery funds from the Hico fire station \$61,339.38 and Hico pumper truck \$100,462.50 which will, in turn, be used to purchase the following: two brush truck Chassis estimated at \$40,000, one Air Van/Truck — estimated at \$120,000. Rural Fire - \$50,250 (from fund balance to salary/benefits) — the funds are for salary, benefits, and deductions for a new position of the Carroll County Fire Chief with an estimated start date of January 1, 2025.

In less dramatic form, the Commission approved Resolution 12-02-2024 to levy an occupancy tax in Carroll County. This authorizes a maximum rate of occupancy tax established of 4% within Carroll County in both the unincorporated and incorporated jurisdictions, which would stack onto any existing occupancy tax in an incorporated jurisdiction. Currently, McKenzie and Huntingdon have a municipal occupancy tax of 5%.

The next regular meeting of the Carroll County Commission will be on January 13, 2025, at 7 p.m. at the Carroll County Government Complex.

*The writer of the article holds an elected seat to the Carroll County Commission.

Officer

...From Front Page

each child provided with over \$300 to spend. The group is estimated to have raised over \$18,000. Some of the funds were donated to help with Beta Sigma Phi's annual Angel Tree.

Also approved in the meeting was the creation of a Youth Advisory Council. The group will consist of six to eight McKenzie High School students, preferably two from each grade. The goals of the group are to develop future leaders; encourage civic participation; foster an understanding of local government functions and

encourage participation in city initiatives; advocate for area youth; promote community service; and build collaboration.

To be considered for the Advisory Council the student must meet the following criteria: must be a high school student (grades 9-12) residing in the City of McKenzie; demonstrated leadership qualities and a desire to engage in community service; available to attend monthly meetings and participate in special projects or events; present a completed application form, including an essay on why you want to be part of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (no more than 500 words); and provide at least one recommendation letter

from a teacher, counselor or community leader.

In department reports, Fire Chief Brian Tucker stated his department had 40 calls in November, 22 of which were medical-related. Police Chief White reported the Police Department 1,117 for November and had two officers in the academy.

Water and Sewer Superintendent Ernest Umstead informed the Council of the completion of the fence project at the lift station on Como Street. He added the lights were also repaired on the water tower on Hospital Drive.

The next meeting of the McKenzie City Council is January 9 at 6 p.m. at McKenzie City Hall.



Huntingdon Mayor Chad Edwards, Dee Baker, and Walter Smothers, Director of Huntingdon Public Safety. Baker was commended for her outstanding service to the Department of Public Safety.

Cars

...From Front Page

that amended the size of advertising signs for businesses. It is designed to standardize the sizes of any new permanent advertising signs. All existing signs, including the mobile signs, are 'grandfathered' in and can remain. A public hearing is scheduled on January 28, 2025 prior to the second and final reading.

A proposal was postponed until January that would allow the Huntingdon High School Jobs of Americans Graduates classes and Mustang Mentors to install a Storybook Trail in Kelley Sports Complex. Councilwoman

Lori Dillahunty requested the delay to allow the JAG teacher sponsor, Ginger Taylor, to address the council.

Dee Baker was honored at the meeting for work effectiveness that saved the city money.

Mayor Chad Edwards and Walter Smothers, Director of Public Safety honored Baker by reading a letter of commendation.

The letter read, "On Monday December 9, 2024, the Mayor of the Town of Huntingdon received an email from Mr. Mike Abney, Founder and CEO of teamsolutionconsulting.com, the owner of the consulting, licensing, and support for the Police Departments Record System, PRMIS. His e-mail praised Ms. Baker for her work for the past

year as the City's Police Department PRMIS Administrator. Dee's positive attitude and unwavering commitment and dedication during the past 12 months have inspired Mr. Abney to waive the yearly fee for PRMIS, thus saving the town approximately \$4,500. Also, we would like to note that transferring to the PRMIS system, over the previous system, has saved the town an approximately \$45,000 in the Therefore we the undersigned do present this letter of commendation to Ms. Dee Baker for her contribution the success of the Huntingdon Police Department and saving the town approximately \$49,500 in the past year. We wish Ms. Baker a long and successful career with the Town of Huntingdon.

CWD

...From Front Page

and regulations. However, hunters are now eligible for the Earn-a-Buck Program. Hunters can earn additional bucks by harvesting antlerless deer in Carroll County and submitting them for testing. Hunters who have already submitted antlerless deer for testing this fall will be provided an earned buck. For more details on the CWD Management Zone and Incentive Programs, visit CWDinTN.org.

As a reminder, Carroll County is subject to the following wildlife feeding and carcass transportation restrictions: Deer carcasses can move within and between counties in the CWD Management Zone. Hunters may not move whole or field-dressed deer carcasses or unapproved parts outside of CWD-affected counties. Only approved parts may be moved out of CWD-affected counties. Once a carcass is

brought into the CWD Management Zone, it cannot be moved out of the zone.

Approved parts are free to be transported anywhere statewide. Approved parts are listed below.

- Deboned meat
- Antlers, antlers attached to cleaned skull plates, cleaned skulls (where no meat or tissues are attached to the skull)
- Cleaned teeth
- Finished taxidermy and antler products
- Hides and tanned products

Within the CWD Management Zone, the placement of grain, salt products, minerals, and other consumable natural and manufactured products is prohibited.

Feeding restrictions do not apply if the feed or minerals are:

- Placed within one hundred (100) feet of any residence or occupied building; or
- Placed in such a manner to reasonably exclude access by deer or
- Placed as part of a wild hog management effort authorized by the agency or

- Present from normal agricultural practices, normal forest management practices, or crop and wildlife food production practices.

Hunter's participation in CWD testing is critical for the continued surveillance and monitoring of CWD throughout the state. Hunters can access CWD testing through participating taxidermists and meat processors or by using drop-off freezers.

Carroll County drop-off freezers are available at:

Carroll County Sherriff's Office, 200 Norandal Dr, Huntingdon, TN 38344.

Carroll Lake, Carroll Lake Lane, McKenzie, TN 38201.

CWD is a progressive, fatal disease of the nervous system of cervids, including white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, and moose. The agency partners with certified laboratories to test samples, and TWRA has already submitted approximately 9,000 samples for testing. For more information on CWD, including additional freezer locations and current regulations, visit CWDinTN.org.

Without newspapers, where would you search to find the information on this page?

We do the legwork to keep you informed.

 **THE BANNER**
Call 731.352.3323

Editor's VIEWPOINT

BY BRITTANY WASHBURN MARTIN brittany@mckenziebanner.com



Love

My favorite word for as long as I can remember is "love." When I learned to write in cursive I fell in love with how it looked, so elegant with the loops through the L. It pairs well with the words peace and harmony. :)

As a child of parents raised in the 60s, love has always been part of their teachings.

I was raised Baptist (dad's side of the family), Methodist (mom's side) and Cumberland Presbyterian (current); and in all three love was a key feature in the message.

I find myself still drawn to the word "love" in adulthood. I use it at least 20 times a day.

I'm constantly telling my children I love them. It became what I say when I don't know what to say, like a tic almost; and I hope my children never go deaf to the phrase "I love you."

I hope one day they can feel the sheer magnitude of a parent's love, it consumes you, and in the absence of a child, it kills you.

I can't speak to that hurt, but seeing it in another feels like standing too close to a flame fully engulfed in flames, you can feel the heat, but the agony is theirs alone to uniquely understand.

A few people have been on my mind this holiday season.

I'm praying for anyone that has lost a child that with time the grief becomes more manageable.

Remember, you are so loved; and your love is still needed in this world. You are filling the void in other hearts. Losing you would bring unimaginable pain to your loved ones.

No one has the right to tell you what your timeline is for healing, but just know, you're not alone.

I digress slightly. The thought that prompted this editorial was, "love is at the center of everything in existence."

Everything in life has roots in love. Flowers, trees, animals, pets, family, your hobbies, your education, your profession, the lessons you teach, when you buy/build a house, the first deep breath of a crisp fall morning, summer break, Christmas presents, Santa, Jesus, the first snow, watching your children grow, the feel of warm towels coming out of the dryer, your success, your passions in life, everything you see was touched by love in some way.

Of course there are terrible things in this world, but hate and love are a two-sided coin. Sometimes hate is the death of love. Sometimes hate is present when we think we never knew love.

But love however small is enduring. It takes love to get over hate.

"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend." Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

He wanted a better world where people loved each other regardless of their differences. He was a reverend; he was "in his lane" and on message, Jesus' message.

Jesus died for love too. (For those having a hissy fit right now, I'm not comparing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the Lord, because Dr. King was human.)

Their voices could be heard over all the other noise at the time; and their words still continue to change the world.

To quote the Jackie DeShannon song, "What the world needs now is love sweet love, it's the only

thing that there's just too little of" (lyrics by Hal David).

So the takeaway from this rather long column is, be the change.

You don't have to be perfect to change the world, you just have to be willing.

Love without holding back. Be kind to strangers. Hold the door. Help them pick up what they dropped. Check in on the elderly. Hug your pets and spoil them rotten, children and grandchildren too. Overuse "I love you" because it means more than you know to others. Listen to others' life stories. Learn something new every day. That knowledge was someone's life's work and passion. Guard your mind against hate and throw love around like confetti.

Send Christmas cards and regular cards, "thinking of you," etc. I need to make more time for this myself. Tell someone how awesome they are, just because. Tell yourself that too, because you can't pour into others with an empty bucket.

Let go of fear and hate because they are heavy burdens to carry. You don't need them.

You are beautifully and wonderfully made and Jesus wants so much more for you than to carry around negativity.

What Jesus said (the words in red) are all you need.

Sending you all my love. I hope your holiday season is filled with fun and laughter and I hope your blessings always outnumber your struggles.

With Love, Britt

P.S. There are 30 pages of Christmas in this edition, and I love that so much! Thank you for sharing your children's letters with us.

From the pages of

Published in October 2004

A Pictorial History of McKenzie, Tennessee



Christmas Party for Pajama Factory employees' children, 1955. Photo submitted by Mrs. Ray Pryor. File photo published in "A Pictorial History of McKenzie, Tennessee," by The McKenzie Banner in October 2004.

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

Sorting Out the Wheat From The Chaff

I have tried to think of something bad about Christmas. So far, I'm coming up empty. Oh, it is easy today to complain about overspending, crowded shopping centers, gosh-awful traffic, and all the extraneous stuff that comes with the season.

Small potatoes all.

Nothing could beat getting out of school for two weeks! We would reexplore every nook and cranny in town. We'd play tackle football in the front yard. We'd wrestle on the braided rug in the living room. We'd lay on that same rug and turn over every single page in the Sears and Roebuck Christmas Catalog, selecting the thing we liked best on each page. There was no way we could afford it, but it didn't keep us from picking!

Dad would actually give Leon the ax and turn us loose in the woods behind the house. Mom could make any scraggly tree we brought home fit for Rockefeller Plaza. And the anticipation of a gift under that tree with your name on it had our little hearts beating like a hummingbird wing on steroids.

All was truly merry and bright. Our family spent an inordinate amount of wonderful time gathered around the fireplace in that little living room.

And David Mark and I are thankful to this day that Leon used the ax at Christmas on the tree...and not on us like he did the rest of the year!

We couldn't spell extraneous in 1956, but it was maybe our favorite part of Christmas. You couldn't hardly see the brand-new watches or the chrome pen and pencil sets through the window of Mr. Cannon's Rexall Drugstore for all the white snowflakes, green and red ribbons, and multicolored wreaths he had

painted on the glass.

You could walk three doors down Broadway Street from the drugstore and Mr. James Williams' Ben Franklin Store had Santa Clauses sprinkled in amongst the painted-on snowflakes and candy canes. You had to squint between Christmas scenes to see the giant shelves filled with Brach Jelly Nog, Candy squares, fold-out spy glasses, and Roy Rogers gun and holster sets.

If you turned the other direction and walked a couple of buildings up Broadway to the House of Furniture, Mr. Cecil Jackson had snow painted a foot deep on both windows and the door. Mr. Robert Hall, at the Western Auto just off of Broadway, on Cedar Avenue, had snow, reindeer, and a giant Santa Claus fixing to hop down a chimney painted across his gigantic window....

It was a bit hard to figure out exactly how the faux Christmas decorations adorning every storefront in town helped sell Timex watches, Lincoln Logs, sofas and loveseats, Tootsie Rolls, and Western Flyer bicycles.

But I guarantee you, it didn't hurt! It was a joy to go window-looking. We were not even thinking about shopping. It was a treat to walk around the square, taking in all the special Christmas scenes courtesy of every store owner in town. And, it didn't cost nothing!

Which, back in those days, was about all we had.

Overspending was out of the question. And we didn't have malls, Amazon Prime, shopping centers, or doorbuster sales. And, as to a traffic problem, we could park near 'bout every car in town in those large (to accommodate the Cadillac and Buick owners) parking spaces in the middle of the

forementioned Broadway Street.

Buddy Wiggleton discovered early in life we could hide between those cars in the middle of the road and throw snowballs at innocent Christmas shoppers scurrying by in four different directions. That is about the most extraneous Yuletide fun that the law would allow!

This was way before global warming. Almost every Christmas part, or all of the streets, would ice over. It was Bobby Brewer and Ricky Hale's idea to sled off that big hill where Forrest Avenue ran down into Main Street. We'd get a running start and all of us would jump on Ricky's four-man Flexible Flyer and down that hill we'd roar.

The telephone poles would be rushing by like a picket fence. Of course, we were completely out of control...with a crash landing being the only possible way to stop! About halfway down I'd get to praying that one of two things were taking place down on Main Street. Either the road was too iced over to have any traffic, OR, all the cars that could be on that street were already parked up in the middle of Broadway.

Sometimes we made a Christmas tradition out of extraneous stuff.

We didn't even mind when Mom would not let us open our present on Christmas morning until AFTER she had read near 'bout the entire second chapter of Luke. She'd really emphasize that part about where Mary pondered in her heart, the Heavenly Host were singing, and that baby boy wrapped in swaddling clothes was lying in a manger.

Let me tell you, there wasn't one thing extraneous about that!

Merry Christmas, Kes

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

School Sports and Small Towns

School sports in small towns are experienced differently than in large cities.

In a small town (less than 5,000 people) the whole town gets excited when one of its sports teams reaches the finals of the state tournament, like our girls' basketball team did one time.

School let out early, people took off work, and businesses closed just so people could travel 3+ hours to where the tournament was held. Buses were chartered and friends carpooled, with plenty of snacks, laughter, and cheers as they made

the journey and made memories.

Our local newspaper (The McKenzie Banner), which is always front and center of every school event (and has been for three generations), posted photos and videos on Facebook to make those who didn't make the trip feel connected to the excitement. For instance, when the team drove back into town with police and state trooper escorts, The Banner made a video of the procession that ended up being watched by three thousand people within just a few hours. Three thousand!

The story of McKenzie Girls winning the state championship will be told for generations, with expected exaggerations, which will be forgiven by those who remember it differently. Lying to someone's face in an effort to be deceitful is one thing but stretching the truth about what your daughter/granddaughter/sister/cousin/friend did in the tournament is accepted with enthusiasm.

That's what community is, and it feels pretty good.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Reader's Response

The following is a response to a letter to the editor from Joyce Hale published on December 3, 2024

Your prayer has been answered! God had put a Godly man (Donald Trump) in the White House to run our country the way it will please God and our Lord

and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank God for Trump
Virgil Bush, Jr.
McKenzie, TN

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 letters, 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.

THE BANNER
CONTACT US
PHONE 731.352.3323
FAX 731.352.3322
E-MAIL banner@mckenziebanner.com
MAIL The McKenzie Banner
3 Banner Row
McKenzie, TN 38201-2230
WEB www.mckenziebanner.com
HOURS Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
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3 Banner Row,
McKenzie, TN 38201-2230

OUR STAFF
BRITTANY WASHBURN MARTIN
Publisher • Graphic Designer • Editor
brittany@mckenziebanner.com
JASON R. MARTIN
Editor • News & Sports • TCP Print Shop
jmartin@mckenziebanner.com
JOEL WASHBURN
Publisher Emeritus • Editor • News & Sports
washburn@mckenziebanner.com
TERESA WASHBURN
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teresa@mckenziebanner.com
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Obituaries

ARTHUR LODGE 1954 – 2024

PARIS — Reverend Arthur L. Lodge, 70, of Paris, died Sunday, December 9, 2024, at St. Thomas Hospital West in Nashville.

He was retired from the Presbyterian Church after serving as pastor for 30 years. He previously served at churches in Paris, Huntingdon, and Trenton.

He was born August 15, 1954, in Martins Ferry, Ohio, to the late Herbert Barricklow Lodge, and the late Irma Louise Gillingham Lodge.

Arthur married Mary Elizabeth Michener Lodge October 16, 1976, and she survives of Paris.

Along with his wife of 48 years, he is also survived by his children, Carrie (Christopher) Lodge Sage of Covington, Tenn., and Jonathan David (Chelsea) Lodge of Paris; a sister, Linda Long of North Canton, Ohio; a brother, Dr. John Lodge of Batesville, Ark.; and five grandchildren

Ridgeway Funeral Home 201 Dunlap St./P.O. Box 788, Paris, TN 38242, handled the arrangements. His funeral service was Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at noon at Bridge of Hope, 1575 Hwy 641 S, Paris, TN 38242.

Burial was in Hillcrest Memorial Park.

The family has requested memorials be made to The Shepherd's Table of First

Presbyterian Church Paris 105 S. Market St. Paris, TN 38242, The Shepherd's Table of First Presbyterian Church in Huntingdon P.O. Box 651, Huntingdon, TN 38344.

RANDY BURNINE 1954 – 2024

McKENZIE — Funeral services for Randy Bill Burnine were Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 2 p.m., at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. The family received friends on Tuesday, 11 a.m. until service time. Interment followed at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Mr. Burnine, 70, died Thursday, December 12, 2024, at Baptist Memorial Hospital Huntingdon. He was a retired factory worker for Plumley. He was born on May 21, 1954, to Willis B. Burnine Sr and Evora Reaves Burnine.

He is survived by his daughters, Amy Burnine, Jill (Chase) Barton, and Holly Burnine, all of McKenzie; three brothers, Dan (Debbie) Burnine, Joel Burnine, and Sam Burnine, all of McKenzie; and four grandchildren, Sydney Burnine, Blaize Burnine, Landon Barton and Lola Barton.

He is preceded in death by his parents and wife, Mary B. Wheat Burnine, son, Stephen Burnine, brother Willis Burnine Jr, and two sisters, Linda Burnine and Cynthia Rimmer.

If you need further assistance, please call Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home at 731-352-4848 or

visit our website at brummittmckenziefuneralhome.com. +

JANE SMOTHERS 1942 – 2024

Graveside services for Jane Smothers were Thursday, December 12, 2024, at Mt Olivet Cemetery, McKenzie.

Mrs. Smothers, 82, died at her residence on December 10, 2024. She was born in Henry, on November 19, 1942, to Bruce S. McFadden and Mildred Haynes Hundley.

She is survived by her husband, Harold Smothers of McKenzie; her daughter, Melanie Spann of Louisville, Ky., a granddaughter, Felicia Smith of Paris; a sister, Kathy (Timmy) Gearin of Gleason; and brother, Joe (Martha) McFadden of Medina.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her son, David Adams; sisters Shirley Pierce, June Howell, Madeline Barker, and Judy Finley, and her brothers, Billy McFadden, Gordon Ray McFadden, and Tommy McFadden.

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

SUE PITCHER 1966 – 2024

DRESDEN — A memorial service for Jeannie Sue Pitcher is December 21,

2024, in Sharlotte, Mich.

Ms. Pitcher, 58, died at her residence on November 30, 2024. She was born in Eaton Rapids, Mich., on January 27, 1966, to Fred J. and Joanne Losey Pitcher.

She is survived by her mother, Joanne Pitcher, two daughters, Tamela Whitlow and Jolita Okeke, two brothers, Fred Pitcher and James Pitcher, two sisters, Jenny Pitcher and Pamela Weakley, five grandchildren, and one great-grandson, Cole-son Stockdale.

She is preceded in death by her father, and sister, Beth Pitcher.

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

DAVID EDWARD PUGH 1948 – 2024

McKENZIE — Funeral Services for David Edward Pugh are Saturday, December 28, 2024, at noon at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. The family will receive friends at 10 a.m. Interment will follow at Shiloh Cemetery.

Mr. Pugh, 76, died on December 7, 2024, at AHC of McKenzie, where he was a resident for 13 years. He was a member of McKenzie First United Methodist Church and was active with the United Methodist Men, the Logos program, and he was the tambourine player for Sunday Night Lights praise team. He was born

on August 7, 1948, in Milan, to Rev. John E. and Lois Reynaud Pugh.

Two sisters, Sandy Hunt and Grace Hubbard and a host of nieces and nephews survive him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Kenneth Ray Pugh and sister, Susan Pugh Beatty.

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

MORRIS E. GROVES 1951 – 2024

McKENZIE — Funeral Services for Morris E. Groves, Jr, is Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 12 p.m. at Binkley Ross Funeral Home, Marion, Ill. The family will receive friends at the funeral home at 10 a.m. until service time. Interment will follow at Odd Fellow Cemetery, Marion, Ill.

Mr. Groves, 73, died Sunday, December 15, 2024, at his residence. He is a retired custodian for Gleason schools and McKenzie Elementary School. He was born in Metropolis, Ill., on April 4, 1951, to the late Morris E. Groves and Lora McDaniels Groves.

He is survived by his wife Fay Groves of McKenzie, two daughters Angel (William) Phillips of Chester, Ill., and Tonya (Kris) Presler of Herrin, Ill., a son John (Ravyn) Taylor of Simpsonville, S.C., three sisters Irene Anderson of Marion, Ill., Jane Sills of McComb, IL and Diane Groves of Ariz., three brothers Billy Groves of Marion, Ill., Everett Groves of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Raymond Groves of Carterville, Ill., ten grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, daughter Tammy Groves, sisters Dinah Dollar and Judy Kraselt and brothers Terry Groves and John Logan Groves.

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TCAT Graduation is Wednesday

McKENZIE — Wednesday, December 18 is the date set for the McKenzie Branch TCAT Henry/Carroll Class of 2024 Fall Graduation. Commencement exercises begin at 1 p.m. at the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 16835 Highland Drive, McKenzie. The keynote speaker is Ms. Leslie Henegar, executive director for the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce.

The McKenzie Branch Tennessee College of Applied Technology Henry/Carroll offers seven full-time technical programs and serves Benton, Carroll, Gibson, Henry and Weakley counties. For additional information about graduation or the College's programs, call 731-352-5364.

Those receiving diplomas/certificates are:

Administrative Office Technology - Felicia Hildard; Automotive Technology - Jonathan Fuentes; Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning/Refrigeration - Darrin Kimmons, Braylon Tharpe, John Weaver; Industrial Maintenance Integrated Automation - Mason Arant, Kylan Borneman, Devyn Kerney, Brennen Willis; Information Technology Systems Management - Cameron Mason, Clissa Williams; Machine Tool Technology - Dusty Griffin; Welding Technology-McKenzie Campus - Dalton Hatley, Jack Johnston, Brantley Nanney, Jacob Welch; Welding Technology-Dresden Campus - Ashton Dick, Remington Sheffield, Jamison Simmons, and Dayton Todd.

Leslie Henegar is the executive director for the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce. She holds a bachelor's degree in Management & Organizational Development and a master's degree in Management & Marketing, underpinned by a diverse professional career spanning business, marketing, and administration.

Leslie has held positions in human resource management, business operations, budgeting and finan-

cial planning, customer service and sales, marketing and social media management, and event planning. While working in higher education, she served as college faculty for marketing and business courses, developed curriculum and academic programs, and held administrative roles such as College Registrar, Director of Operations, and Learning Services Support.

A lifelong resident of Henry County and a first-genera-

tion college graduate, Leslie values hard work, mentorship, and making a positive impact in her community. She believes in investing in others to help them achieve their goals and truly strives to leave the world better than she found it.

Leslie and her husband, Keith, reside in Springville and are parents of three children - Austin, Haleigh, and Hannah.

In her free time, Leslie enjoys spending time with her family and being outdoors exploring God's beautiful creation.



Leslie Henegar is the keynote speaker for the TCAT-McKenzie graduation on Wednesday.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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,

Parisian

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KRAVEN THE HUNTER (R)

Tues. 7:35

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Thurs. 7:35

LOTR: THE WAR OF THE ROHIRRIM (PG-13)

Tues. 7:30

Wed. 7:30

Thurs. 7:30

MOANA 2 (PG)

Tues. 7:30

Wed. 7:30

Thurs. 7:30

WICKED (PG)

Tues. 7:20

Wed. 7:20

Thurs. 7:20

RED ONE (PG-13)

Tues. 7:30

Wed. 7:30

Thurs. 7:30

THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER (PG)

Tues. 7:25

Wed. 7:25

Thurs. 7:25

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December 24 edition is Friday, December 20. Deadline for Tuesday, December 31 is Friday, December 27. Thank you for allowing us this time with our family.

SHILOH CP CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE
COMMUNION

Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian Church hosts a Christmas Eve Communion service at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome!

LIBERTY CANDLELIGHT
CHRISTMAS SERVICE

A candlelight service is 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.

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 web-

site for county site contact information: nwcommuni-tyaction.org.

CARROLL HUMANE
SOCIETY EVENTS

Christmas Open House

Join us for a celebratory open house Thursday, December 19 from 6-8 p.m. at the shelter at 21822 Highway 22, McKenzie. We'll have some light refreshments, and it's the perfect time to drop off angel tree gifts and visit with the animals.

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 are available for \$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.

CARROLL COMMISSION
MEETS MONTHLY

Carroll County Commission meets the second Monday of each month, 7 p.m., in the Conference Room of the Carroll County Office Complex, High Street, Huntingdon. There are no meetings in February and July.

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.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



Left, Rebel Landon Brown scores on a fast break. Center, Rebel Avery Brown floats to the basket on a fast break. Right, Lady Rebel Jaycee Stafford blows past the defense for two points. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Rebels Win Big at Greenfield, Lady Rebels Fall

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

GREENFIELD (December 10) — McKenzie High School traveled to Greenfield Tuesday for a pair of basketball contests. The Lady Rebels kept the game in reach into the fourth quarter, but the Lady Yellowjackets surged late to secure a 47-33 win. The Rebels pulled away down the stretch for an 82-48 victory.

Greenfield
Lady Yellowjackets 47,
McKenzie Lady Rebels 33

The Lady Yellowjackets led 8-7 at the end of the opening frame, led by Rayanna Fisher with six points. Jayleigh Bowers had a pair. Jaycee Stafford had all seven McKenzie points, including a three-pointer.

Greenfield had a 19-12 advantage in the second quarter, led by Bowers with seven points, including a three. Fisher scored six, Brenley Little had four points and Ashlee Sullivan had a pair. Stafford scored eight for the Lady Rebels. Molly French hit a three-pointer, and Aurora Johnson had a pair. At the half, Greenfield led 27-19.

The Lady Yellowjackets had a 9-8 edge in the third, led by Little with five points, including a three. Bowers and Fisher each added a

pair. Stafford again scored all eight McKenzie points. Entering the final frame, the Lady Yellowjackets led 36-27.

Greenfield sealed the win with an 11-6 tilt in the fourth, led by Fisher's six points. Little scored three, and Bowers added a pair. Johnson and Sophie Pate each hit a three for McKenzie.

Lady Rebel Jaycee Stafford led all scorers with 23 points, including a three-pointer.

Rayanna Fisher led Greenfield with 20 points. Jayleigh Bowers scored 13 with a three-pointer, and Brenley Little had a dozen, also with a three.

Rebels 82,
Yellowjackets 48

McKenzie led 23-17 after the first frame, led by Tate Surber with seven points, including a three-pointer. Cole Brown scored six with a three, Carter Kee had four points, and Eli Vinson, Craegen Travis and KD Cunningham each had a pair. Brady Archie led Greenfield with six points. Cruze Porter scored five with a three-pointer, Anthony Green had four points, and Will Edwards had a pair.

The Rebels had a 23-15 advantage in the second quarter, led by Surber with eleven, including a three.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Gleason Sweeps West Carroll

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

GLEASON (December 13) — Gleason High School hosted West Carroll Friday for a pair of basketball contests. The Lady Bulldogs pulled away in the late minutes of a low-scoring game for a 37-26 win. The Bulldogs rode a big early lead to a 71-19 victory.

Gleason Lady
Bulldogs 37, West Carroll
Lady War Eagles 26

The Lady Bulldogs had a 6-5 lead after the opening frame, all scored by Skylar Arnold. Lady War Eagle Hailey Mitchell scored four, and Taylor Robinson hit a free throw.

Gleason had an 8-7 edge in the second quarter. Arnold, Brinley Lehmkuhl, Hylan Leach and Madi Dean each had a pair. Gracelyn Vernon scored all seven for West Carroll, including a three-pointer. At the half, Gleason led 14-12.

The Lady Bulldogs had a 12-8 advantage in the third. Arnold and Dean each scored six, Dean with a three-pointer. Vernon scored four for the Lady War Eagles, Robinson had three points, and Mitchell hit a freebie. Entering the final frame, the Lady Bulldogs led 26-20.

Gleason sealed the win with an 11-6 tilt in the fourth, led by Arnold with



Above Left, Bulldog Drake Lehmkuhl goes strong to the basket. Lehmkuhl led all scorers with 19 points. Above Right, Lady War Eagle Gracelyn Vernon takes a contested shot in the paint. Vernon led West Carroll with 12 points. Below Left, War Eagle Kayden Melton goes to the hole. Melton led West Carroll with six points. Below Right, Lady Bulldog Skylar Arnold draws contact and follows through for a three-point opportunity. Arnold led all scorers with 21 points. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



seven points. Lehmkuhl and Leach each added a pair. Robinson scored three West Carroll points, Aubrey Hammett had a pair, and Vernon hit a free throw.

Lady Bulldog Skylar Arnold led all scorers with 21 points.

Gracelyn Vernon led West Carroll with a dozen, including a three.

Bulldogs 71, War Eagles 19

Gleason jumped out to a 16-2 lead after the first frame, led by Kade Sawyers with eight points. Drake Lehmkuhl scored six, and Brody Sanders had a pair. Ryder Krawczyk had West Carroll's two points.

The Bulldogs had a 15-8 edge in the second quarter, led by Parker Morgan with eight points, including a pair of three-pointers. Lehmkuhl scored five with a three, and Sawyers added a pair. War Eagle Kayden Melton scored six, and Isaiah Snyder had a pair. At the half, the Bulldogs led 31-10.

Gleason enjoyed a 32-7 advantage in the third, led by Sawyers and Lehmkuhl with eight points each, Sawyers with a three-pointer. Sanders scored six, and Morgan had five with a three. Aiden Legens hit a three, and Ashton Morgan had a pair. War Eagle Skyler Willhite scored five with a three-pointer, and Krawczyk added a pair. Heading into the final frame, Gleason led 63-17.

The Bulldogs capped the win with an 8-2 tilt in a quick fourth, led by Trey Mayo with three points. Wylan Gustafson and C.J. Reed each had a pair, and Bo Bailey hit a free throw. War Eagle Chandler Rimmer had two points.

Bulldog Drake Lehmkuhl led all scorers with 19 points, including a three-pointer. Kade Sawyers scored 18, also with a three. Parker Morgan had 13 points with a trio of threes.

Kayden Melton led West Carroll with six points.

Merry Christmas

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McKenzie Police Reports

Accidental Shooting, Stolen Firearm — Christopher Michael Norton, 37, Elm Street, McKenzie, presented himself at the emergency room of Baptist Memorial Hospital-Carroll County on the evening of December 10. He had sustained a gunshot wound to the hand and thigh.

McKenzie Officer Dustin McClure filed a report stating Norton's wife, Tabitha, stated her husband was cleaning the handgun when it discharged, and he sustained the bullet wounds.

Officers checked the home and the firearm. A registration check of the 9 mm firearm indicated it was stolen in Sharon, Tenn. The weapon was seized and held for Sharon Police Department. The Department of Children's Services was notified of a child in

the home when the weapon discharged. No charges were filed.

Driving on Suspended License — Mario Cornejo Gutierrez, 22, of Nashville, was charged with Driving on a Suspended License, Speeding, and Expired Registration on December 13.

Officer Bryan Batchelder witnessed Gutierrez's vehicle speeding and made a traffic stop on State Route 22 North. A check of his license revealed the suspended status and the license plate expired in 2021. Gutierrez was cited into court.

Driving on Suspended License — John W. Lackey, 28, Dickson, Tenn. was charged with Driving on a Suspended License, Display of Registration Plates and Light Law violation on December 14.

Officer Dustin McClure

observed a malfunctioning headlight on Lackey's vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. A check of Lackey's license revealed the suspended status. He was cited into court on the three charges.

Driving on Suspended License, Violation of Probation — Timothy G. Chappell, 58, Buck Ditch Road, Huntingdon, was arrested after a traffic stop for Speeding, Driving on a Suspended License, Violation of Financial Responsibility, Violation of Probation, and Failure to Appear.

Officer Matthew Cunningham clocked Chappell at 51 in a 40 miles per hour zone on December 14. The officer learned of two outstanding warrants during the stop and made the arrest. He was cited into court on the traffic violations. The vehicle was impounded.

Sheriff's Reports

Possession of Schedule II (Meth) — According to a report made by Deputy Sean Bongiovanni on December 12, he observed a Bronze Buick traveling West Bound on Broad Street in Hollow-Rock. He initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle for having a broken passenger taillight housing. The driver, Wanda C. Rainey, 56, of McKenzie, was driving the car and was showing unusual behavior. Deputy Bongiovanni asked Rainey to get out of the vehicle and she said she didn't want to comply. Deputy Sean said he was going to bring a K-9 and she then stated she had narcotics in the vehicle. He found .5 grams of a white crystal substance that tested positive for meth and a cut straw with crystal meth in it; both items were in the center console of her vehicle. She was charged with possession of schedule II meth and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Theft of Property — Ac-

cording to a report made by Deputy Sunny L. Crews on December 11, she observed a red in color Kia drop speed drastically once in the police view putting the vehicle into a nose-dive. Once the vehicle preceded past, Deputy Crews observed the tag light was out and the right tail light was broken. After conducting a traffic stop, the driver, Derontra Byrd, 26, of McKenzie, did not have a driver's license or current insurance. Deputy Sunny asked Byrd if he had anything in the vehicle and he said no. Deputy Sunny dispatched K9 and Deputy Townes to help with the search and Deputy Sunny asked Byrd again if he had anything in the vehicle, he then replied he had a weapon in the car, a gun under his seat. For officer safety, Deputy Crews asked Mr. Byrd and his passenger to step out of the vehicle. The only thing recovered from the vehicle was a firearm,

which came back as stolen, after K9 was deployed. Mr. Byrd was arrested for the stolen firearm and driving without a license.

Drug/ Narcotic Violation — According to a report made by Deputy Chance Townes on December 6, he initiated a traffic stop on a 2006 White Nissan Titian for failure to maintain lane on Republican Grove Road. The driver, Michael Hudson, 46, of Milan, was asked to step out of the vehicle so Deputy Townes could issue a warning ticket, and the smell of marijuana came out of the vehicle and a glass pipe also shattered when he stood up. Deputy Townes said he would be searching the vehicle and Michael stated he had marijuana, and it was a meth pipe that fell earlier, and he also had meth in the truck. Hudson was cited with possession of meth, possession of schedule VI, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was given 10 days to be booked into the Carroll County Jail.

Property Transfers

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

American Community investments, inc to Jeffrey S. Ekholm in District 3.

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

Marvin Ray and Lisa Burton Vinson to Mason Nelson Farms, LLV in District 21.

Martin L. and Lisa A. Batte to Johnny Steven Jr. and Amber Faith Wells in district 16.

Robert Todd and Janet Johnson Rainey to David Francis and Jennifer Jo Vella.

Jonathan A. and Brianna McClure Rice to Everett Kyle and Anna Mae Elizabeth Sadler.

Pamela and Netfali S. Sanchez to Tammy and Nefali S. Sanchez in District 16.

Jennifer L. Rhodes to Royal View Properties LLC.

Zachary A. Jones to Nathan R. Nanney in District 22.

Margie Elain Jackson to James Robert "Kyp" Jackson.

Jacob H. and Samantha Gale Malone to Brent M. Allen in District 22.

Darrell Ridgely to Joseph A. Sam in District 9.

William E. and Barbara Coleman to William Delano Coleman in District 2.

Priscilla S. Orders to Andrew and Jessica Winnett in District 14.

Jennifer L. Kinningham to Alicia Dawn Bawcum in District 11.

Brad Burns to Dana Burns in District 23.

Nolan and Brigitte Robinson to Jeremy and Brittany Fowler in District 21.

Plastic Product Formers, INC to Hi Tech Properties, L.L.C. in District 9.

Megan Catherine Vandyke to Megan Catherine and Michael Clint Vandyke as trustees.

Thomas B. Miller to Thomas Riley and Darla Renee Miller in District 13.

Malachi Silas Allen to Dillon Douglas and Alyssa Pits in District 2.

Bryan Bass to Rodney Carl Cooper in District 6.

Raymond P. Finch to Mary Finch in District 4.

Sylvester Thomas Jr. to Bruce Thomas in District 11.

Peter Matthew Glantschnig to Peter Sam Angelos.

Carroll County General Sessions

HUNTINGDON (December 11) — The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on December 11.

Two defendants were bound over to the Grand Jury of the Carroll County Circuit Court.

Brenna Clark, Hillcourt Circle, Huntingdon, bound over on charge of Child Abuse/Neglect/Endangerment.

Melvin Lee Donnell, Wilson Street, Greenfield, was bound over on charge of Meth-Manufacture, Deliver, Sell or Possess with Intent.

The following cases resulted in a guilty plea or finding.

Da'Lon Z. Boyd, McClure Street, McKenzie, guilty, Probation Violation, 12/29 jail, shall run concurrent with another sentence; guilty, DUI-First Offense, \$350 fine, 48 hours jail, probation, alcohol and drug evaluation, not to drive for one year, DUI school; dismissed, Implied Consent, dismissed, Driving While License Suspended; dismissed, Speeding.

Violet Cook, Oak Tree Villa, Hopkinsville, Kentucky, pre-trial diversion, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange, \$250 fine, 180 probation.

Joby Farough, Robin Ct., Nunnely, Tenn., guilty, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Use and Activities, \$750 fine, probation; dismissed, Window Tint; dismissed Simple Possession/Casual Exchange.

Chase Freeman, Blythe Street, Paris, pre-trial diversion, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange, \$250 fine, probation; dismissed, Drug Paraphernalia.

Terrie Funburg, Walnut Avenue, McKenzie, guilty, Allowing Dog to Run At Large.

Steven R. Gooch, Yuma, guilty, Theft of Merchandise-Shoplifting, 11-29 jail, suspended to 48 hours, \$28.27 restitution, probation, no contact with Walmart.

Cinda Kay Hampton,

East Walnut, McKenzie, guilty, Allowing Dog to Run At Large, \$100 fine.

James Rowland Hinson, Bright Rd., Huntingdon, guilty, DUI: First Offense, \$350 fine, 48 hours jail, probation, alcohol and drug evaluation and counseling; dismissed, Driving Without License; dismissed, Seatbelt.

Stephen D. Lott, Smith Road,, Bethel Springs, pre-trial diversion, Failure to Notice of Accident, \$100 fine, probation; dismissed, Leaving Scene of Accident; dismissed, Driver Failure to Exercise Due Care.

Kenneth Wayne Payne, Jr., Walnut Circle, McKenzie, guilty, Probation Violation; dismissed, Criminal Trespass.

Trent Townes, Linden Street, McKenzie, guilty, Meth-Manufacture, Deliver, Sell or Possess, \$750 fine, 30 days jail to run consecutive to other sentence, forfeit \$1,075 to 24th Judicial Drug Task Force; dismissed, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Patricia Watwood, Oakhill, Huntingdon, guilty, Meth-Manufacture, Deliver, Sell or Possess with Intent, \$750 fine, 180 days jail to run concurrent with

other sentence, probation, after 90 days, may be released to inpatient drug and alcohol treatment; dismissed, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia;

Eric Wright, Main Street, Huntingdon, guilty DUI-First Offense, guilty, Probation Violation, \$350 fine, \$300 restitution to Walmart, 90 days jail/18 days served, probation; dismissed, Open Container; dismissed, Resist Stop, Arrest, Search; dismissed, Disorderly Conduct; dismissed, Reckless Driving; dismissed, Implied Consent; dismissed, Theft of Merchandise.

The following defendant's cases were dismissed.

Amber Dawley, Winchester Street, McKenzie, dismissed, Driving While License Suspended; dismissed, Registration Expired; dismissed, Financial Responsibility Law.

Erica Gooch, Finch Road, Gleason, dismissed, Driving While Suspended; dismissed, Light Law Violation.

Casey C. Hillard, Winchester St., McKenzie, dismissed, Driving While License Suspended; dismissed, Window Tint Violation; dismissed, violation of Financial Responsibility.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



1. Lady Rocket Sam Segraves sidesteps a defender and eyes the basket. Segraves scored 17 points for Clarksburg. 2. Rocket Erin Dickson kicks it out to an open teammate. Dickson led Clarksburg with eleven points. 3. Lady Bulldog Hylan Leach drains a three. Leach led Gleason with 14 points. 4. Bulldog Kade Sawyers floats to the basket for two points. Sawyers led all scorers with 35 points.
Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner

Bulldogs, Lady Rockets Pick Up Wins

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

GLEASON (December 12) — Gleason High School hosted Clarksburg Thursday for a pair of basketball contests. The Lady Rockets earned a narrow road win, 46-44, over the Lady Bulldogs. The Bulldogs pulled away early for an 81-39 home victory.

Clarksburg Lady Rockets 46, Gleason Lady Bulldogs 44

The Lady Bulldogs led 13-9 after the opening frame, led by Hylan Leach with four points. Brinley Lehmkuhl hit a three-pointer, and Addi Black, Madi Dean and Ava Bennett each had a pair. Sam Segraves led Clarksburg with six points, and Maleigha Abdallah hit a three.

The Lady Rockets took the lead with a 10-4 advantage in the second quarter, led by Segraves with four points, including a three. Abdallah hit another three-pointer, and Carlie Swinford also had three points. Leach and Brylee Robertson each had a pair for Gleason. At the half, the Lady Rockets led 19-17.

Clarksburg had a 17-13 edge in the third, led by Segraves with seven points, including a three. Abdallah had six points, and MaKenna Bolen scored four. Leach led the Lady Bulldogs with five points, including a three. Skylar Arnold scored four, and Lehmkuhl and Bennett each added a pair.

Entering the final frame, the Lady Rockets led 36-30.

Gleason's rally in the fourth fell just short at 14-10, led by Arnold with seven points. Lehmkuhl scored four with a three-pointer, and Leach also hit a three. Abdallah had all ten Clarksburg points, including a pair of threes.

Lady Rocket Maleigha Abdallah led all scorers with 22 points, including four three-pointers. Sam Segraves had 17 points with a pair of threes.

Hylan Leach led the Lady Bulldogs with 14 points, including a pair of threes. Skylar Arnold had eleven points.

Bulldogs 81, Rockets 39

Gleason jumped out to a 23-8 lead after the first frame, led by Kade Sawyers with eleven points, including a pair of threes. Drake Lehmkuhl scored eight, and Brody Sanders had four points. Erin Dickson scored six for Clarksburg, including a three, and Gabriel Derryberry had a pair.

The Bulldogs doubled up the Rockets 24-12 in the second quarter, led by Sawyers with 14 points. Lehmkuhl scored four, and Ashton Morgan, Parker Morgan and Owen Taylor each had a pair. Trae Cobb scored three for Clarksburg. Derryberry, Garrett Bartholomew, Nathan Steele and Clay Glossom each had a pair, and Dickson hit a freebie. At the half, the Bulldogs led 47-20.

Gleason had a 19-14 edge in the third, led by Lehm-

kuhl and Sanders with five points each, Sanders with a three-pointer. Sawyers scored four with a three, P. Morgan also hit a three, and A. Morgan added a pair. Cobb led the Rockets with seven, including a three. Dickson scored four points, and Bartholomew and Derryberry each added a pair. Heading into the final frame, Gleason led 66-35.

The Bulldogs capped the win with a 15-4 advantage in the fourth, led by Sawyers with six points. Wylan Gustafson hit a three-pointer, and Lehmkuhl, C.J. Reed and Trey Mayo each had a pair. Rockets Wade Ward and Chris Peacock each had a pair.

Bulldog Kade Sawyers led all scorers with 35 points, including a trio of threes. Drake Lehmkuhl scored 19 points.

Erin Dickson led Clarksburg with eleven points, including a three-pointer. Trae Cobb had ten points with a three.

Marriage Licenses

Hannah Nicole Everly Hilliard, 26, of Buena Vista, to Daniel Gray Hilliard, 30, of Buena Vista.

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 atjennifer.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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

CITY OF MCKENZIE

INTENT TO APPLY FOR CDBG 2025

There will be a public meeting on Monday, January 6, 2025, at 10 a.m. at McKenzie City Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the City of McKenzie's intent to apply for a FY2025 Community Development Block Grant, to identify community needs and to explore the use of CDBG funds to address those needs. The public is urged to attend.

The City of McKenzie does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability. Persons needing special accommodations due to disability should contact McKenzie City Hall at (731) 352-3306.

Mayor Ryan Griffin
City of McKenzie

A1/51-1

JOB OPENING

Title of Position: Fire Chief – Carroll County, TN
Supervisor: County Mayor

Carroll County Government is currently accepting applicants for the position of Fire Chief. Under administrative direction of the County Mayor, the Fire Chief provides administrative direction and leadership for all fire department functions, operations, stations, and personnel.

Responsibilities Include: reviewing the general operation of the department to determine efficiency; providing direction on major projects or problem areas; planning for the future; developing and implementing policies and procedures; providing policy guidance and providing support for volunteers; and emergency response. The Fire Chief develops and recommends improvements for the protection of life and property in the community to the County Mayor, Rural Fire Committee, and the Carroll County Legislative Body.

Carroll County Government is an equal opportunity employer. Employment will be based upon consideration of the qualifications of all applicants for employment. Discrimination based upon an applicant's race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability will not be tolerated.

For inquiries, please contact Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler at jbutler@carroll.tn.org or 731-986-1936.

To submit a résumé, please email to jbutler@carroll.tn.org or submit in person to the Mayor's Office at 625 High St. Suite 101, Huntingdon, TN 38344.

Deadline for applicant submission: December 27, 2024 by 4 p.m.

A1361-2

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- Write stories in AP style using correct spelling and grammar.

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CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS:

- High school diploma or equivalent.
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Above Left, Rebel Craegen Travis puts back a rebound for two points. Above Center, Lady Rebel Sophie Pate gets a steal-and-score for two points. Above Right, Rebel Tate Surber squeezes his way past a defender and to the bucket. Surber led all scorers with 23 points. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Top, CHRISTMAS CHEER: The MHS cheerleaders were decked out in Christmas sweaters. (L to R) Front Row: Brooke Murphy, Laila Scott, Miley Prince, Lydia Pate, Madelynn Pewitt, Addi Davis and Olivia-Kay Pate. Back Row: Katelyn Prather, Tobey Brooks, Reese Gallimore, Baylee Barden, Cheyenne Risner and Carleigh Lunn. Above, The Rebels warm up in Christmas sweaters. Below, Lady Rebel Head Coach Dru Emerson, Assistant Coach Ashley Lowe and the team managers look festive in their Christmas sweaters, but it's all business during a timeout late in the fourth quarter of the close game. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Rebels Rout Panthers, Lady Rebels' Late Rally Just Short

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (December 12) — McKenzie High School hosted Riverside Thursday for a pair of basketball contests. The Lady Rebels fell behind in the third, but stormed back to tie the game with two minutes left before falling 70-66. The Rebels had a narrow lead at the half, but exploded in the second half for an 86-56 victory.

It was the final home games before the Christmas break, so the cheerleaders, coaches, managers and players (during warm-ups) wore Christmas sweaters.

Riverside Lady Panthers 70, McKenzie Lady Rebels 66

The Lady Panthers had an 18-16 lead after the opening frame, led by Alyssa Pratt with ten points, including a pair of three-pointers. Ella Davis scored four, and Bently Rogers and Lauren Camper each had a pair. Lady Rebel Ava Hastings scored six points on a pair of threes. Braylin Auvenshine had four points, Molly French hit a three, and Jaycee Stafford scored three points.

Riverside had a 14-13 edge in the second quarter, led by Davis with six points. Rogers hit a three, and Pratt also had three points. Emma Johnson had a pair. Stafford led McKenzie with six points. Addison Milam hit a three-pointer, and Sophie Pate and Gracie Aird each had a pair. At the half, Riverside led 32-29.

The Lady Panthers opened up the lead with an 18-10 advantage in the third, led by Pratt with nine points on a trio of threes. Johnson scored seven with a pair of threes, and Camper added a pair. Auvenshine scored four for the Lady Rebels, and Hastings and Stafford each hit a three-pointer. Entering the final frame, Riverside led 50-39.

McKenzie's rally in the fourth came up just short at 27-20, led by Stafford with 16 points. French scored eight with a pair of threes, and Aird also hit a three. Lillian Wade led the Lady Panthers with five points. Johnson and Davis each had four points, Johnson with a three. Rogers had three points, and Pratt and Camper each added a pair.

Lady Rebel Jaycee Stafford led all scorers with 28 points, including a three-pointer. Molly French had eleven points with a pair of threes. Ava Hastings scored nine on a trio of threes.

Alyssa Pratt led Riverside with 24 points, including five three-pointers. Ella Davis scored 14, and Emma Johnson had 13 with a trio of threes.

Rebels 86, Panthers 56

McKenzie led 19-15 after the first frame, led by Carter Kee with seven points, including a three-pointer. Landon Brown scored five with a three. Cole Brown hit a three, and Eli Vinson and Tate Surber each had a pair. Jack



Lady Rebel Jaycee Stafford pulls up short for a jumper. Stafford led all scorers with 28 points. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Cupples scored eight for Riverside. Landon Swindle had five with a three, and Kutter Potts had a pair.

The Rebels had a 15-14 edge in the second quarter, led by C. Brown with six points. Surber and Craegen Travis each scored four, and L. Brown hit a free throw. Swindle led the Panthers with five. Cupples scored four, Austin Shelton and Gavin McClan each had a pair, and Colt Brooks hit a free throw. At the half, the Rebels led 34-29.

McKenzie pulled away with a 28-9 advantage in the third, led by Surber with 13, including a pair of three-pointers. C. Brown scored seven with a three, and Kee also hit a three. Travis and KD Cunningham each had a pair, and L. Brown hit a freebie. Swindle scored four for Riverside, Cupples had three points, and Brooks added a pair. Heading into the final frame, McKenzie led 62-38.

The Rebels sealed the win with a 24-18 tilt in the fourth, led by Surber and Cunningham with four points each. Landyn Smith and Nolan Fawcett each hit a three. C. Brown, Kee, Kason Brown and Cooper Davidson each had a pair. Ace Brown and Avery Brown each hit a free throw. Brooks led the Panthers with seven points, including a three. Jase England scored three points, and McClan, Landon Vaughan, Aiden Lunsford and Izak Beasley each had a pair.

Rebel Tate Surber led all scorers with 23 points, including a pair of threes. Cole Brown had 18, also with a pair of three-pointers. Carter Kee scored a dozen with a pair of threes.

Jack Cupples led Riverside with 15 points. Landon Swindle scored 14 with a three.

Clements Have Gleason Yard of the Month



The Gleason Yard of the Month for December goes to Johney and Heather Clement at 204 West Orchard street. The Clements take great pride in decorating their yard for Christmas every year. They invite everyone to drive by and enjoy their lights. We appreciate their contributions to keep Gleason looking great. A generous gift card, compliments of Gleason Lumber Company, was presented to them. Sponsored by the City of Gleason and Mayor Charles Anderson.

McKenzie Rotary Adds New Member



William "Junior" Milam became the newest member of the McKenzie Rotary Club. The membership induction of Milam (center) was conducted by Secretary Jason R. Martin (left) and Vice President Ricky Price (right). Milam recently presented to the club and was later nominated for membership by Price. In recent years, the McKenzie Rotary has been one of the most successful clubs in Tennessee in rates of growth and fundraising. The club meets every Tuesday at noon at Bethel University's Vera Low Center.