







Left, The six MMS “houses” each decorated a Christmas tree for display in the lobby. From left are Sollevare, Reveur, Onraka, Nukumori, Isibindi and Altruismo. Right, Veda Haney’s music students perform with Addison Doede as a soloist. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Left, Eighth grade students perform the “Jingle Bell Rock” scene from Mean Girls. Right, Daniel Capua directs the MMS band in two holiday arrangements. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

# McKenzie Middle School Presents Christmas Program

**BY BRAD SAM**  
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MCKENZIE (December 20) — McKenzie Middle School wrapped the fall semester Friday with its annual Christmas program. The student body, staff and family members gath-

ered in the gymnasium for festive music, skits and games. Lillian Brown welcomed everyone, then the middle school band, under the direction of Daniel Capua, performed “Deck the Halls” and “Go Tell it on the Mountain.” Various groups of students performed original skits and dances. The MMS cheerleaders each chose

a teacher to perform a trendy dance with them. The cheerleaders also performed a dance routine. The school’s six “houses,” Sollevare, Reveur, Onraka, Nukumori, Isibindi and Altruismo, competed in several games. In the Gingerbread Cookie Challenge, four members of each house (one from each grade) were tasked with getting a cookie from their forehead to their mouth without using their hands. Elf, Elf, Santa was a festive version of Duck, Duck, Goose. The final game was a unique take on Rock, Paper, Scissors. Hadley Smith closed the program by wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday break. In the lobby, each house had a Christmas tree on display.



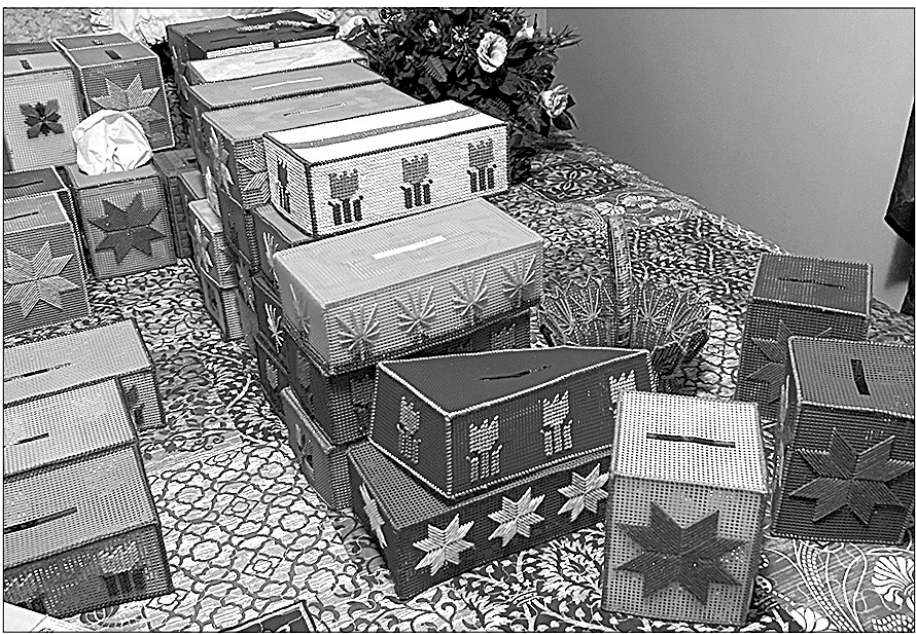
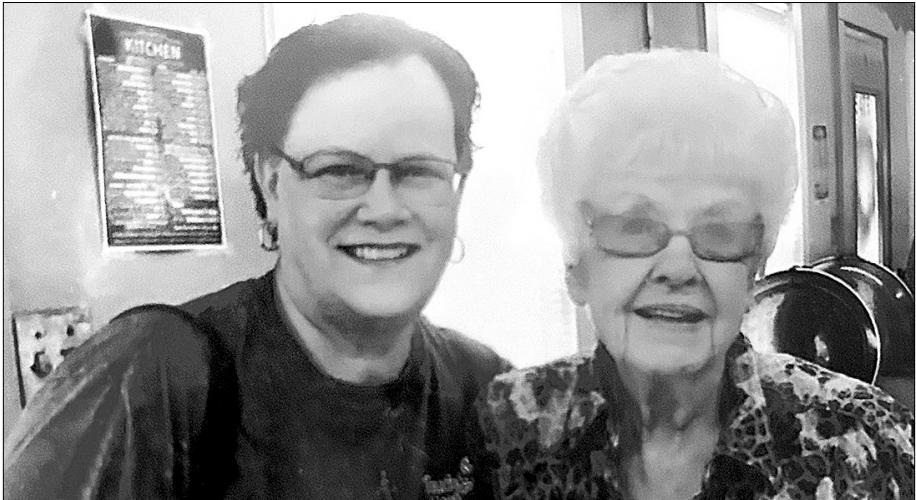
Rotary Vice President Ricky Price with Gretchen Turner, advocacy chair for long-term recovery in Waverly.

## Rotarians Hear Update About Waverly Flood

MCKENZIE (December 19) — Members of the Rotary Club of McKenzie heard about the devastation and hardships experienced in Waverly, Tennessee following the flash flood that occurred on Saturday, August 21, 2021. Gretchen Turner, the advocacy chair for long-term recovery in Waverly, was the club’s program speaker for the day. Mrs. Turner said a flash flood of 23 inches of rain in nearby McEwen caused the flooding in Waverly. The runoff from the excessive rain followed Trace Creek, that overflowed and became impounded against the bed of the rail-

road. Once the railroad bed eroded, the waters quickly rushed into Waverly and destroyed schools, businesses and homes, including public housing. The town is still recovering and schools are still rebuilding from the devastation. Some 700 homes were either damaged or destroyed. Mud was everywhere and the city was covered in mud-coated debris, much of which was moved to the sides of the road for removal. There were many heroes during and following the tragedy, said Turner. The city had an established disaster recovered plan, which helped in the recovery. Turner said churches

of all faiths worked together. FEMA provided some emergency funding for residents and helped the city in its recovery. However, without Federal flood insurance, many residents had no coverage for their home or businesses. United Way of Middle Tennessee was very instrumental in participating in the relief effort. Waverly was also greatly effected by a major propane explosion in 1978. At that time, a train car, transporting propane, overturned. As workers were setting the car back on the rails, it exploded, causing major damage and killing both the city’s police and fire chiefs.



Top, Alesia Griffin and Willodean Long. Above, Homemade decorated tissue box covers made by Willodean Long, Alesia Griffin, and Cyndi Shafer. Submitted photos.

## Willodean Long, Others Make Tissue Box Covers for Seniors

TREZEVANT — Willodean Long, 95, and Alesia Griffin, both of Trezevant, along with Cyndi Shafer of McKenzie worked to make tissue box covers for the residents of Lakeside Senior Living Community of McKenzie. In the past with Alesia making nu-

merous Hobby Lobby runs, Ms. Long has also made Easter baskets for both nursing homes in McKenzie, NHC in Milan and Harmony Hill in Huntingdon. Ms. Long likes to stay busy making things for others and it also keeps her mind sharp.

## Mandy Barnett Delights Audience at The Dixie

HUNTINGDON (December 21) — Grand Ole Opry member Mandy Barnett celebrated the warmth and joy of the holiday season, featuring classic ballads like “White Christmas,” “I’ll Be Home For Christmas,” and “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas,” along with spirited standards like “Jingle Bell Rock,” “A Holly Jolly Christmas,” “Marshmallow World,” and “Winter Wonderland” at The Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center on Saturday evening. Barnett takes her cue from the enduring Christmas repertoire of the golden era, updated with her soaring, sparkling vocals. Her holiday music has been featured in several television shows and the NYC Wall Street 100th Christmas Tree Lighting celebration, and is sure to put you in the holiday spirit! Called the “Nashville Sound Chanteuse” (Music Row) and “the Judy Garland of our time” (American Songwriter), Grand Ole Opry member Mandy Barnett has built a reputation for her commanding voice and unwavering devotion to classic country and popular standards. Barnett started singing at five years-old and has enchanted listeners around the globe with her world-class vocals

and musical chameleon qualities ever since. Of this singer’s singer, songwriter’s dream, and audience favorite, renowned songwriter/artist Jimmy Webb states simply, “Mandy Barnett has a voice for the ages.” In 2020, Barnett came full circle with her East Tennessee roots. She joined a select group of music luminaries running the gamut from Johnny Cash to Taylor Swift in being honored by the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development with a Tennessee Music Pathways marker. Erected in Barnett’s hometown, Crossville, the marker celebrates Barnett’s contributions in making Tennessee the “Soundtrack of America.” Barnett released a variety of acclaimed albums, including I’ve Got a Right to Cry, named “Top Country Album” by Rolling Stone in its year of release, produced by Nashville Sound pioneer Owen Bradley (who also produced Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn, and Brenda Lee). Other critically lauded Barnett albums are: her self-titled Warner Bros. debut; her Christmas celebration Winter Wonderland; the Cline-inspired Sweet Dreams; I Can’t Stop Loving You: The Songs of Don



Gibson, a tribute to her friend and Country Music Hall of Fame member Gibson; Strange Conversation, an Americana blend of roots, pop, and R&B tunes, which AllMusic hailed as the “richest record of her career: surprising, lively, and deeply felt”; A Nashville Songbook featuring reimagined, multi-generational pop and country songs that made Nashville famous; and Every Star Above, a Great Amer-

ican Songbook tour de force with orchestral arrangements by the late maestro Sammy Nestico, which Variety named one of the best albums of 2021. In addition to her own albums, Barnett has graced numerous movie and television soundtracks and multi-artist compilations. Barnett’s recordings have been featured in film and television projects starring Clint Eastwood, Tommy Lee Jones, Susan Sarandon, Martin Sheen, Reese Witherspoon, Matthew Broderick, Sigourney Weaver, Ellen Burstyn, Bill Paxton, SpongeBob SquarePants, and others. Barnett’s musical compilation work includes her duet with Great American Songbook Ambassador Michael Feinstein on his recent Gershwin Country collection from Concord Music Group. Of Barnett, Feinstein says, “Few singers have the gifts inhabiting the soul of Mandy Barnett. Her blessed voice connects to the truth of every note she sings. She’s simply one of my favorite voices.” Barnett’s television appearances include “The Tonight Show,” “The Late Show,” “CBS Sunday Morning,” PBS’s “Sessions at West 54th,” PBS’s “Bluegrass Underground,” and numerous other programs.



## President Jimmy Carter Dies at 100

Jimmy Carter promised a government “as competent, as compassionate, as good” as the American people. His achievements were notable, but in an era of rising energy costs, mounting inflation, and increasing world crises, he found it difficult to meet Americans' high expectations.

James Earl "Jimmy" Carter Jr. was born October 1, 1924, in Plains, Georgia. Peanut farming, talk of politics, and the Baptist faith were mainstays of his upbringing. Upon graduation in 1946 from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, Carter married Rosalynn Smith. The Carters had three sons, John William (Jack), James Earl III (Chip), Donnel Jeffrey (Jeff), and a daughter, Amy Lynn.

After seven years' service as a naval officer, Carter returned to Plains. In 1962 he was elected a state senator and eight years later he was elected governor of Georgia. Among the new young southern governors, he attracted attention by emphasizing efficiency in government and the removal of racial discrimination.

When Carter announced his candidacy for president in December 1974, he was virtually unknown, but in the wake of national disappointments over Vietnam and Watergate, Democratic voters welcomed a fresh choice. He chose Minnesota Senator Walter Mondale as his running mate. Carter debated against President Gerald Ford three times and won with 297 electoral votes to 241 for Ford.

Carter worked to combat the continuing economic woes of inflation and unemployment. By the end of his administration, he could claim an increase of nearly eight million jobs and a decrease in the budget deficit, measured in percentage of the gross national product. But inflation and interest rates were at near record highs, and efforts to reduce them caused a recession.

Carter dealt with the energy shortage by proclaiming a national energy policy and by deregulating domestic petroleum prices to stimulate production. He prompted government efficiency through civil service reform and demanded deregulation of the trucking and airline industries. His expansion of the national park system included protection of 103 million acres of Alaskan lands. He created the Department of Education and Department of Energy. He also appointed reored numbers of women, African Americans, and Hispanics to federal positions.

Carter's championship of human rights was coldly received by the leaders of the



Soviet Union, but it inspired dissidents throughout the Soviet empire. He prevailed in a tough fight to win Senate ratification of the Panama Canal treaties. He also established full diplomatic relations with China and completed negotiation of the SALT II nuclear limitation treaty with the Soviet Union. Through 12 days of talks between Egyptian and Israeli leaders at Camp David in 1978, he achieved a peace agreement between the two countries called the Camp David Accords.

But during Carter's final year in office, events seemed to conspire against him. The Soviets invaded Afghanistan. The revolutionary government of Iran refused to surrender 52 American hostages. (They were only released the day Carter left office.) Americans suffered from brutal inflation and unemployment. The national frustration culminated with Carter's landslide defeat by Ronald Reagan in November 1980.

Although stung by his loss, Carter became what many have called “the best former president in history,” building in Atlanta not only a presidential library but a center devoted to conflict resolution, supervising democratic elections abroad, and combating disease. For such efforts in 2002, Carter became the third American president (after Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson) to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Carter continued to devote his life to service through his nineties, building homes through Habitat for Humanity.

Carter died on Sunday, December 29, 2024.

*Source: The White House Historical Association*



**TDEC presented a check for \$20,000 to Paris for redevelopment. Pictured (L to R): Rob Goad, executive director of the Paris-Henry County Industrial Committee; Kathy Ray, mayor of Paris; and Rudy Collins, regional director of External Affairs for TDEC.**

## Paris Receives \$20,000 Check For Brownfield Redevelopment

PARIS (December 19) — The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) recently presented a check for \$20,000 to Paris from the Brownfield Redevelopment Area Grants (BRAG) program.

Paris will use the funds to identify priority sites for redevelopment. The grant

is one of 36 brownfield redevelopment grants across the state announced in July.

BRAG grants are derived from the Rural Brownfield Redevelopment Investment Act, which protects the environment and creates economic opportunities, especially in rural settings. The legislation empowers local governments and develop-

ment boards with resources needed for investigation, cleanup, and redevelopment of blighted properties.

A brownfield is a property vacant or underutilized due to potential contamination. Remediation minimizes threats to public health and the environment while incentivizing economic investment.

## State’s Public Schools Assigned Letter Grades

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Department of Education recently released the academic progress for Tennessee's public schools for the previous academic year.

The calculation to generate A-F letter grades for schools, presented on November 2 to the State Board of Education, includes four separate indicators—student achievement, student academic growth, growth of the highest need students and college and career readiness measure just for high schools—and will differentiate between elementary and middle schools, and high schools. Schools receive an indi-

cator score for each of the indicators, ranging from levels 1-5. Each indicator score will be multiplied by a weight based off the grade band to create a total score, which will then be used to determine the school's letter grade.

**McKenzie Special School District** - Advancing Status,1,220 students.

McKenzie Elementary School, Letter Grade B, grade of 4.4 of 5.

McKenzie Middle School, Letter Grade C, grade 3.4 of 5.

McKenzie High School, Letter Grade C, grade 3.4 of 5.

**Huntingdon Special School District** - Advancing

Status, 1,227 students

Huntingdon Primary School, Grade B, 4.4 of 5.

Huntingdon Middle School, Grade C, 2.6 of 5.

Huntingdon High School, Grade C, 2.9 of 5.

West Carroll Special School District - Advancing Status, 727 students

WC Primary, no grade.

WC Elementary, Grade C, 3 of 5.

WC Jr./Sr. High, Grade D, 2.3 of 5

**South Carroll Special School District** - Advancing Status, 319 students

No letter grade.

**Hollow Rock-Bruceton** - Advancing Status, 616 students

No letter grade assigned.

## Congressman Kustoff Introduces Grown in America Act of 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman David Kustoff (R-TN) recently introduced H.R. 10494, the Grown in America Act of 2024, in the House of Representatives with original cosponsors Reps. Jim Costa (D-CA), David Rouzer (R-NC), Mike Carey (R-OH), and Mark Alford (R-MO). This bipartisan legislation will create a federal tax credit to help businesses shift away from foreign markets and purchase more agricultural commodities here in the U.S.

“A strong and resilient agriculture and food sector is vital to America's economy and national security,” said Congressman Kustoff. “It is imperative we support our farmers here at home and ensure they are not losing out to foreign competitors. That is why I introduced the Grown in America Act of 2024. Incentivizing businesses to purchase from American farmers will help strengthen our supply chains, stimulate domestic investment and job creation, and reduce our over-reliance on foreign markets.”

“Our legislation is a win for American farmers, producers, dairymen, and women, especially those in the San Joaquin Valley, by lowering costs and boosting domestic manufacturing,” said Congressman Costa. “By offering tax credits for manufacturers who purchase U.S.-grown agricultural products, it strengthens supply chains and supports farmers who are price takers, not price makers. This vital step ensures American agriculture remains competitive, helping both farmers and manufacturers thrive in the global economy.”

“American goods should be made with American products. The Grown in America Act supports our farmers and ranchers while helping American First companies con-

tinue to compete against cheaper imported products. Bolstering the use of American agriculture products builds a more resilient supply chain for our manufacturing base while providing new and expanded markets for our producers,” said Congressman Rouzer.

“Missouri's farmers and ranchers are the backbone of our economy and our communities. The Grown in America Act prioritizes domestically grown and sourced agricultural products by incentivizing business to buy American. Through this we will strengthen markets for our agricultural producers and promote domestic investment to secure our U.S. food supply chain. I'm proud to support this legislation along with my other colleagues and look forward to getting it across the finish line,” said Congressman Alford.

The Grown in America Act of 2024 was endorsed by the Tennessee Farm Bureau and the Ag Investment for America Coalition.

“Tennessee Farm Bureau is proud to endorse the Grown in America Act of 2024,” said Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation President Eric Mayberry. “It is vital we establish tax policy which promotes domestic agriculture and the farm processing industry. Food security is national security, and Americans desire local food. This act will help secure these objectives.”

“Our broad coalition of American manufacturers and growers supports the Grown in America Act, a bipartisan proposal to encourage U.S. manufacturers to source more agricultural products from U.S. farmers,” said a spokesperson for Ag Investment for America. “This new incentive for purchasing American-grown crops would benefit the U.S. economy,

increase supply chain stability, and encourage domestic job growth. Now is the time to incentivize domestic investment and support American farmers and manufacturers.”

**Background:** Current geopolitical tensions with China, along with supply chain disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, have highlighted the vulnerability of U.S. food supply chains and the agricultural sector's exposure to foreign markets. Maintaining America's status as the global economic powerhouse depends in part on our ability to protect critical domestic industries and fortify our supply chains.

The Grown in America Act of 2024 will incentivize businesses to purchase agricultural commodities from U.S. farmers, instead of importing them from overseas. Specifically, this legislation creates a tax credit to qualifying businesses for purchasing agricultural commodities sourced from American growers:

Qualifying businesses include those using agricultural inputs to create products intended for human consumption.

Businesses must source a certain percentage of their agricultural products from domestic growers to be eligible for the credit.

The eligibility threshold (the percentage of agriculture products a business must source domestically) begins at 50% in year one and increases by 5% annually over an eight-year period until it reaches 85%.

The eligibility threshold(s) are based on a three-year rolling average to address potential, unavoidable market disruptions.

The credit is calculated as 25 percent multiplied by the ratio of US to non-US agriculture purchases.

## Solar

...From Front Page

plans for the Trezevant substation to support installing the new solar array, adjacent to the department's substation in Trezevant.

Due to some increased costs associated with the project, CCED approved splitting the additional fee of \$383,000 equally with Silicon Ranch, a Tennessee-based company that will own and operate the

solar array and supply electricity to Carroll County Electric at a price less than TVA.

The board approved the Trezevant Substation Addition Bid (Revision 2) from low bidder Power Grid Company, also known as the Silicon Ranch Trezevant Solar Project Construction Bid which is the source of increased cost mentioned above.

Scott Burleson of Allen & Hoshall, the project managers, discussed the project's cost and design history. He reviewed the

construction bid and the two redesigns completed to reduce the costs but maintain the intended reliability and flexibility.

The interconnection cost overrun was directly tied to the cost increases in the construction bids, as compared to cost estimates from one year earlier.

Solar Ranch is a Tennessee-based company with principals of former Governor Phil Bredesen and Matt Kisber, a Jackson native, who served as a commissioner in the Bredesen administration.

## Coach

...From Front Page

Clarksburg High School (1983–1995): Achieved the pinnacle of his coaching career by leading the 1987 team to a state championship.

After retiring in 1995, Coach Wooten devoted himself full-time to his passion for quarter horses and

became a breeder of paint horses. His love for the land and animals brought him as much pride as his years in education and athletics.

Coach Wooten's legacy was recognized with numerous honors, including induction into the Haywood County Sports Hall of Fame (1997) and the Carroll County Sports Hall of Fame (2009). In 2009, Clarksburg High School dedicated its gymnasium in his honor, a

testament to his profound impact on the community. His name is imprinted on the gymnasium floor.

He is survived by three daughters, Ann (Samuel) Gardner of Brownsville, Pam (James) Hathcock of Oakland, Tenn., Shannon (Brian) Motsett of Jacksonville, Florida; four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Chase Funeral Home, Huntingdon, Tenn.

## EV

...From Front Page

plant in Stanton, in West Tennessee. The Blue Oval plant will manufacture EVs.

Drewry said each new location has 240 kw and 250 kw load, equivalent to the electrical needs of McKenzie and Huntingdon high schools.

## Fire

...From Front Page

in the hiring process to review and schedule interviews with the top candidates. On January 20,

the top candidate will be presented to the Legislative Body for approval.

In the two weeks (December 13 through December 27) of accepting applications for the chief's position, the Mayor's office received over a dozen qualified applications.

**We do the legwork to keep you informed.**

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# New Year's Eve Traditions From Around the World:

• **Eating 12 grapes in Spain:** In Spain, it is customary to eat 12 grapes at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve. Each grape represents a month of the coming year, and eating them all before the clock strikes 12 is said to bring good luck. This tradition dates back to the late 19th century when a bumper grape harvest led to the idea of eating a grape for each chime of the clock.

• **Burning the Año Viejo in Ecuador:** In Ecuador, people create effigies called "Año Viejo" (Old Year) to represent the past year. These effigies are often filled with old newspapers and firecrackers. At midnight, the Año Viejo is set on fire, symbolizing the letting go of the past year's troubles and welcoming the new year with a fresh start. This tradition is believed to have originated in the 19th century.

• **First-footing in Scotland:** In Scotland, the first person to enter a house on New Year's Day is believed to bring good luck for the coming year. This person is called the "first-footer," and traditionally, they should be a tall, dark-haired man carrying gifts of coal, shortbread, and whiskey. This tradition dates back to ancient times when the first visitor was seen as a harbinger of good fortune.

• **Wearing red underwear in Italy:** In Italy, it is believed that wearing red underwear on New Year's Eve will bring good luck in love and prosperity in the new year. This tradition is thought to have originated in the 17th century when red was associated with good fortune and warding off evil spirits.

• **Making resolutions:** The tradition of making resolutions for the New Year is thought to have originated in ancient Babylon, where people made promises to the gods at the beginning of the new year. Today, people all over the world make resolutions to improve themselves in the

coming year, such as quitting smoking, losing weight, or learning a new skill.

• **Watching fireworks:** The tradition of watching fireworks on New Year's Eve is thought to have originated in China, where fireworks were invented centuries ago. Today, fireworks displays are a common sight in many countries around the world on New Year's Eve, symbolizing the hope and excitement of a new beginning.

• **Kissing at midnight:** The tradition of kissing at midnight on New Year's Eve is thought to have originated in England in the 18th century. It is a romantic gesture that symbolizes love and hope for the new year.

• **Singing Auld Lang Syne:** The tradition of singing Auld Lang Syne at midnight on New Year's Eve is thought to have originated in Scotland in the 18th century. The song is about the importance of old friends and memories, and it is a fitting way to say goodbye to the old year and welcome the new.

• **Carrying a suitcase around the block in Colombia:** In Colombia, it is believed that walking around the block with an empty suitcase on New Year's Eve will bring travel opportunities in the new year. The faster you walk, the more travel you're likely to experience. This tradition is a more recent one, gaining popularity in the late 20th century.

• **Eating Southern Comfort Foods:** In the Southern United States, a traditional New Year's Day meal often includes a combination of foods believed to bring good luck in the coming year. **Black-eyed Peas:** These are considered lucky because they resemble coins, symbolizing wealth. **Collard Greens:** The green color represents money. **Cornbread:** This symbolizes gold. **Pork:** Pork is often included because pigs root forward, signifying progress.

# Kustoff Announces Mobile Office Hours

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman David Kustoff (R-TN) announced mobile office hours for the month of January. Mobile office hours will be Tuesday, January 7, and Thursday, January 9.

"Mobile office hours are a good way for constituents to connect with our office and let us know how we can continue to best represent Tennessee's Eighth Congressional District in Washington," said Congressman Kustoff. "If you need assistance with a federal agency such as the Small Business Administration, Social Se-

curity Administration, or the Department of Veterans Affairs, I encourage you to visit our mobile office sites across West Tennessee."

**Tuesday, January 7:** Henry Co. (Paris Henry County Chamber of Commerce) — 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.; Henderson Co. (Henderson County Court House) — 1:00pm - 3:00pm

**Thursday, January 9:** Carroll Co. (Town of Huntingdon City Hall) — 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.; Gibson Co. (Milan City Hall) — 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.; Obion Co. (Obion County Mayor's Office) — 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

## THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

# Eating Broccoli with a Straw

## Part 1 of 11

Roger and I were asked to speak at small country church on a Sunday morning, something we were occasionally asked to do by churches in western Kentucky or northwest Tennessee where we practiced as Marriage and Family Therapists.

Covering topics related to building strong families, one of us would speak during the Sunday School hour and the other during worship.

While we were happy to share what we'd learned in school and in practice, these excursions cost us time, effort, and gas money. Sometimes churches would pay us an honorarium and sometimes they didn't.

B.B. James, an old-timey preacher who has long since passed, told me he held a revival for a church and when the week-long event ended, one of the church elders came to him and said, "This has been a lean year

for farmers in the area, so we're not able to give you any money, but I do have something in the car I want to give you."

B.B. followed him to the car where the man reached inside the back seat and pulled out a bulging pillowcase.

"This here is one of my country hams. I hope you enjoy it."

Even though he was gracious, B.B. was a bit dumbfounded. When he thanked the man, the man said, "That's not all."

Reaching back inside his car, the man extracted another pillowcase, but this was held something that was alive and writhing.

"Here's a litter of kittens that have just been weaned," the man explained. "I thought your children would enjoy them."

Every year after that, when B.B. was planning his summer itinerary of speaking engagements, his kids would say, "Can you go back to that church where you got the kit-

tens? We want some more."

Roger and I had learned there was something we called "the secret handshake" among churches. As we would shake hands with the church members, there would be one man who shook our hand with a check cradled in his palm. Crinkling the check while shaking our hand, the man would say, "Thank you for coming. This here's a little something for your trouble."

Sometimes, "little" was literal.

A preacher told me he went to a church to preach in 1932 and was paid with a check for \$1.25. The check bounced when he tried to cash it. Hard times is hard times, I guess.

That particular Sunday Roger and I spoke, we made certain we shook everyone's hand, but as the last member drove away, leaving us and our families alone in the parking lot, we looked at each other and asked, "Did you get the secret handshake?"

Unfortunately, the answer that day was, "No."

Unfazed, we decided to find a restaurant to eat lunch. The closest town we knew of was twenty miles away, so we loaded up and headed there.

On the way, I mentioned a Mexican restaurant I'd heard good things about, but when we got there, it was closed.

I looked around and spotted a restaurant attached to a small motel. You can usually tell how good a restaurant is by the number of vehicles parked around it, and this one was swarmed by cars.

When we went in, tables looked full and a throng of people was milling about like ants, moving in and out around a large buffet. Again, all promising signs of a good meal.

This was the era before you were met at the door by a hostess and escorted to a table. We stood there, surveying the situation and didn't see a single unoccupied table.

Look for the second portion in the January 7, 2024 edition.

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

# Lakeside Senior Living News

BY: SHEILA WILLIS

Greeting, When I say we were blessed the month of December I mean it. We had so many people donate their time, talents and gifts. I'm almost scared to mention them all in fear I will forget someone. If so, please charge it to my head and not my heart because we truly appreciated every gesture.

First let's talk about our outings as there were many. We went to the movies and watched The Christmas Pageant and yes, we all teared up. Such a good holiday film. We ventured to Discovery Park in Union City and had such a good time we drove through twice. We went to the Senior Citizen Christmas dance and party in Huntingdon.

We were treated to the Renaissance Program at Bethel College and had a group of students come to the building to perform as we had our tree lighting ceremony. Such a talented group of students. 2 of our young workers were in that production: Alyssia Fields and Kelly Krack. We washed our bus, adorned it with wreaths, gathered baskets of candy for the kiddos and joined the McKenzie parade. We also went to First Cumberland Presbyterian to drive through the live nativity and our shopping day took us to Save A Lot, Dollar General and Wal-Mart.

Our biggest outing, however, was when we visited Huntingdon Health & Rehab, Harmony Hills, AHC McKenzie and The Waters to share a Holiday Program with their residents. Lakeside residents dressed in holiday attire topped off with Santa and elf hats, lights and jingle bells. We sang 3 classic carols, had



a reading by Lonnette McMillin of "The Week Before Christmas," a reading by Thelma McCain of "The Night Before Christmas." Lena Morgan and Thai Saul presented gifts of Candy Cane Seeds and Santa Kisses along with a poem by Sheila Willis and we closed with a Prayer Blessing by Clark Brown. We are always happy when people come to see us, and we hope we touched the lives of those we went to visit.

We also performed the program at the Lakeside Resident Christmas Party for other residents and staff. On National Mitten Tree Day, December 6th, we collaborated with Partners in Care and the ladies of Beta Sigma Phi to fill a tree with items of warmth that we took and donated to a local shelter.

We completed most of our remodel with all new furniture this month, so we were extra excited for our Santa Sweet Shop Open House that was held on the 22nd. We had so many friends and family stop by for a visit. If you missed this opportunity to visit just know you are welcome anytime.

We love showing off our

beautiful home. Visitors entered a raffle, and it was won by Juleyanne Weatherford. Speaking of raffles, we had a couple more of those as well. Lisa Carroll Ellis donated a spectacular winter wreath that was won by Mrs. Mary Lacey. We had a Surprise Mug giveaway on national Cocoa Day and each mug had a raffle ticket for a very warm throw won by: Thai Saul. There is nothing cozier than a cup of cocoa and a warm blanket on a cold winter's day.

McKenzie Book Club donated a month's worth of BINGO prizes for residents to play their favorite game and win, win, win. Giesla Hodges hosted her retired Sunday School Class ladies for a Holiday Tea Party. Six of those ladies reside here at Lakeside, what a treat for them to all get together and reminisce about the many years of service and friendship. Judy Mehan, a Mary Kay consultant, organized an Adopt A Grandparent Program and through donations gifted products to every resident.

Willodean Long crafted tissue box holders and included a tissue for each resident. McKenzie Church of Christ, 1st Baptist of Glea-

son, Bethel Baptist Church and First United Methodist of Gleason all brought gifts for each resident when they came a caroling along with the Little Rebel Singers each group visiting and filling the halls with music as they performed familiar Christmas songs. Santa stopped by and passed out all the gifts at our Lakeside Resident Party.

All our regular monthly volunteer churches, performers and clergy came to see us and the residents worked on gifts and cards to present as a gesture of how much we appreciate the acts of kindness and giving not just during the holidays but all the year through.

We celebrated 3 birthdays this month: Cynthia Brewer, Birdie Johnson & John Waters. Ted & Evelyn Coleman celebrated their 71st Wedding Anniversary.

We treasured every annual Christmas tradition: candy canes, decorating, drinking boiled custard, eating gingerbread, visiting friends and family, wearing ugly Christmas sweaters, sending and receiving cards, but most of all we valued the reason for the season Jesus Christ born in Bethlehem...Until Next Year.

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# 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.



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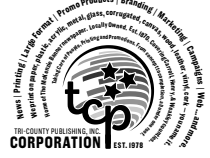
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Obituaries



COACH JOE DAN WOOTEN  
1940 – 2024

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Joe Dan Wooten, fondly known as “Coach Wooten,” died at his home on December 23, 2024. He was born to Maggie Graham Wooten and Allen Wooten in Selmer, Tennessee on August 14, 1940.

Coach Wooten was a graduate of Selmer High School (Class of 1958), Lambuth College (1964), and Memphis State University (1976), where he earned his Master’s Degree.

Coach Wooten was a dedicated educator, coach, administrator, and mentor who left an indelible mark on countless students and athletes. He was named Coach of the Year 12 times throughout his illustrious career. His contributions to high school athletics included:

Haywood High School (1968–1975): Led the 1974–1975 team to the school’s first-ever state tournament appearance. Selmer High School (1975–1979). Huntingdon High School (1979–1983). Clarksburg High School (1983–1995): Achieved the pinnacle of his coaching career by leading the 1987 team to a state championship.

After retiring in 1995, Coach Wooten devoted himself full-time to his passion for quarter horses and became a breeder of paint horses. His love for the land and animals brought him as much pride as his years in education and athletics.

Coach Wooten’s legacy was recognized with numerous honors, including induction into the Haywood County Sports Hall of Fame (1997) and the Carroll County Sports Hall of Fame (2009). In 2009, Clarksburg High School dedicated its gymnasium in his honor, a testament to his profound impact on the community.

He is survived by three daughters, Ann (Samuel) Gardner of Brownsville, Pam (James) Hathcock of Oakland, Tenn., Shannon (Brian) Motsett of Jacksonville, Florida; four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Chase Funeral Home, Huntingdon, Tenn.

GARY C. WINSTON  
1957 – 2024

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for Gary C. Winston were Sunday, December 29, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Brummitt McKenzie Funeral Home. Interment was at Trezevant Cemetery. Dr. Dennis Trull officiated.

Jimmy Bennett, William Milam, Ronnie Orr, Stephen Eason, Tracy Savage, Paul Savage, Jeff Marshall, and Greg Baker served as pallbearers.

Mr. Winston, 67, died Tuesday, December 24, 2024, at his deer stand. He attended First Baptist Church in McKenzie and retired from Ceco as a water treatment supervisor.

He was born in McKenzie on December 7, 1957, to the late William H. “Billy” Winston and Mary Frances “Cassie” Allen Winston.

He is survived by his wife, Tammie Marshall Winston of McKenzie; three children, Scotty Winston and wife, Kelly of Paris, Tami Winston of Dresden, and Brian Winston and wife, Allison of McKenzie; seven grandchildren, Grayson, Corban, Cohen, Regan, Riley, Avery and Owen and one great-grandson, Ellison.

If you need further as-

sistance, please call Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home 731-352-4848 or visit our website at brummittmckenziefuneralhome.com. +

BOBBY JOE STONE  
1962 – 2024

JACKSON — Graveside services for Bobby Joe “Jody” Stone were Monday, December 30, 2024, at. at Shiloh Cemetery, McKenzie.

Mr. Stone, 62, died Tuesday, December 24, 2024, at Jackson Madison Co. General Hospital. He was born in McKenzie on November 27, 1962, to Huie Arthur Stone and Bobbie Jean Allen Stone.

He is survived by a daughter, Maegan Perry and her husband Lance of Ft. Smith, Arkansas, a son Andrew Stone and wife Alice of Whitwell, Tenn., two sisters, Jeanette Stone and Christie Smythe and her husband, Tony, three brothers Dale Stone, Jimmy Stone and his wife, Belinda and Michael Stone, all of Jackson and two grandchildren,. Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

CHRIS KIRKSEY  
1976 – 2024

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Chris Kirksey, 48, of Huntingdon, died Friday, December 20, 2024, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville.

Funeral services were Friday, December 27, 2024 in the Chapel of Dilday-Carter Funeral Home. The interment was in Fairview Cemetery. Brother Billy Hollingsworth officiating.

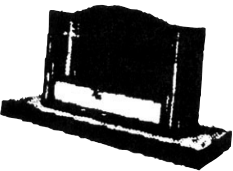
He was born February 13, 1976 to the late David Harold Kirksey and Carolyn Forrest. He is also preceded in death by his paternal grandmother, Alice Kirksey and maternal grandmother, Becky Forrest.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Kirksey of Huntingdon, Tennessee; one daughter, Sarah (Noah Nutting) Kirksey of McKenzie, Tennessee; two sons, David Kirksey and Lucas Bratton, both of Huntingdon, Tennessee; one sister, Lisa (Jason) Fields of Huntingdon, Tennessee and one brother, Wesley Campbell of Huntingdon, Tennessee.

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

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BOBBY JACK CANTRELL  
1939 – 2024

MCKENZIE — Graveside funeral services for Bobby Jack Cantrell were Monday, December 30, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Mr. Cantrell, 85, died Wednesday, December 25, 2024, at his residence. He was a retired supervisor for Brown Shoe Co. and Republic Doors, an avid golfer, and a St. Louis Cardinal baseball fan. He was born in Weakley County on June 21, 1939, to the late Jack and Carrie Lee Galey Cantrell.

He is survived by his son, Brad Cantrell, and his wife, Julie; a sister, Marsha Reaves, all of McKenzie’s. Two grandchildren, Austin Cantrell and Aaron Cantrell, and two great-grandchildren, Parker Cantrell and Kennedy Legends.

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

KAREN KLOPFENSTEIN  
1942 – 2024

HENRY — Karen Klopfenstein, 82, of Henry died at her residence on Wednesday, December 25, 2024. Her funeral service was Saturday, December 28, at McEvoy Funeral Home, with Rev. Tammy Blankenship of United Methodist Church officiating. Burial was in Palestine Cemetery.

Karen Klopfenstein was born April 13, 1942, in Cygnet, Ohio to the late Ferd and Vesta Burden Gross. On September 17, 1960, she married Marvin Klopfenstein, and he survives.

Karen was a dispatcher with the City of Paris, Henry Co. Sheriff’s Dept., Weakley Co. Sheriff’s Dept., and Murray State Campus Police. She was a member of Palestine UMC.

In addition to her husband, Karen is survived by daughter, Leah Klopfenstein of Henry; sons, Greg (Mary) Klopfenstein of McKenzie, Tenn., and Nathan Klopfenstein (Christi Snow) of Princeton, Kentucky; grandchildren, Chris (Nikki) Klopfenstein, Lexy Veliz, and Abigail (Blake) Garner;

great-grandchildren: Chloe and Claire Veliz; Oscar and Oliver Garner; and Eva Kay Klopfenstein; and sister-in-law, Georgia Gross of Arcanum, Ohio.

Besides her parents, Karen was also preceded in death by her sister, Mary Rotroff, and brother, Ronald Gross.

RICKY LYNN EATON  
1961 – 2024

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for Ricky Lynn Eaton are Tuesday, December 31, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. The family will receive friends on Tuesday noon until service time. Interment is at Concord Cemetery.

Mr. Eaton, 63, died at his home on December 27, 2024. He was born in McKenzie on August 7, 1961.

He is survived by two sons, Eric Eaton and Alex Eaton; his wife, Hope, all of Martin; two sisters, Darla Hicks and her husband, Mike of Chesapeake Bay, Virginia, and Melissa Moore of McKenzie; four brothers, Larry Eaton and his wife, Betty, Tim Eaton and wife, Michelle- all of McKenzie, Ronnie Eaton and his wife, Debbie of Milan, Joey Eaton and his wife, Jhanettia of Tennessee Ridge, and three grandchildren,. He is preceded in death by his parents, Vance and Irene Ham Eaton, and sister, Mary Melton.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home, 731-352-4848.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CARROLL ART'S TRIVIA BOWL

Carroll Arts' annual Trivia Bowl is Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall at First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in McKenzie, located at 16835 Highland Drive.

The cost per team is \$25 for a five person team. If you are interested in participating, please contact Brittany Martin at brittany@mckenziebanner.com.

FREE NEW YEARS LUNCH AT JOHNSON TEMPLE

Johnson Temple C.M.E. Church, 915 Walnut Ave. West, McKenzie, hosts a free lunch on New Years Day from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The public is invited.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Mustangs Runners-Up as Christmas Tournament Hosts

BY BRAD SAM

brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (December 27-28) — Huntingdon Middle School hosted its annual Christmas tournament with four boys teams competing in a bracket format on Friday and Saturday.

The host Mustangs rallied to defeat the Beaver Hornets in overtime in Friday's semifinal, but fell to the Northeast Jaguars in the championship game on Saturday.

The Henry Pirates fell to the Jaguars Friday and then to the Hornets in Saturday's consolation game.

**Championship: Northeast Jaguars 44, Huntingdon Mustangs 35**  
The Northeast Jaguars claimed the tournament championship with the win over Huntingdon.

The Jaguars led 14-7 after the first frame and had a 12-9 advantage in the second quarter to lead 26-16 at the half.

Huntingdon rallied 12-10 in the third, but Northeast clinched the win with an 8-7 edge in the fourth.

Mustang William Boals led all scorers with 17 points. Riley Ford scored six, and Kingston Smith had four points. Johns Nolen hit a three-pointer, and Kyle Byrd also scored three points. Derius Pratcher had a pair.

Desmond Lee and Aiden Bullock each scored a dozen for Northeast, Lee with a pair of threes and Bullock with one. LaBryant Perry had nine points, Shawn Curry scored six, and Jaiden Jimmerson had five with a three-pointer.

**Consolation: Beaver Hornets 46, Henry Pirates 28**

The Beaver Hornets claimed the third-place finish with the win over Henry.

The Hornets jumped out to a 14-2 lead after the opening frame and led by the same margin, 25-13, after an 11-11 wash in the second.

Beaver had an 8-6 edge in the third and sealed the win with a 13-9 tilt in the fourth.

Hornet Trace Parker led all scorers with 13 points. Justice Carter scored eleven



Above Left, Mustang Johns Nolen drains a three in the championship game. Above Right, Mustang Riley Ford fires a midrange jumper in the championship game. Below, Mustang William Boals nails a game-tying three-pointer to force overtime in the semifinal against Beaver. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

with a three-pointer. Leviticus Green had nine points, Bentley Taylor had six, and Nate French scored three. Taiden Williams, Madden Taylor and Hunter Smith each had a pair.

Creek Watson led the Pirates with seven points. Joshua Grgic and Eli Crosser each scored six, Zeb Beecham had five points, and Brayden Johnson scored four.

**Semifinal: Huntingdon Mustangs 39, Beaver Hornets 35 (OT)**

The host Mustangs trailed by 13 in the fourth quarter, but a furious rally in the final three minutes of regulation forced overtime, where Huntingdon maintained momentum to seal the victory.

Huntingdon had a 7-4 lead after the first frame, led by William Boals with three points. Kyle Bird and Riley Ford each had a pair. Hornet Nate French hit a three-pointer, and Bentley Taylor hit a free throw.

The Mustangs extended their lead with an 8-6 edge in the second quarter, led by Derius Pratcher with three points. Boals and Johns Nolen each had a pair, and Ford hit a free throw. French hit another three-pointer for Beaver. Taylor added a pair, and Justice Carter hit a free throw. At the half, Huntingdon led 15-10.

The Hornets jumped

ahead with a 13-2 advantage in the third, led by Carter with seven points, including a three. French hit another three, and Taylor also scored three points. Nolen scored the lone Mustang pair. Heading into the final frame, Beaver led 23-17.

Huntingdon rallied 17-11 in the fourth to force overtime, led by Mykel Govan with ten points. Boals scored four with a three-pointer, Kingston Smith had a pair, and Bird hit a freebie. Carter led the Hornets with six points. French hit yet another three-pointer, and Taylor added a pair. At the end of regulation, the score was knotted at 34-34.

The Mustangs clinched the semifinal win with a 5-1 tilt in overtime, led by Boals with four points. Byrd hit a free throw. French hit a free throw for Beaver.

Hornet Justice Carter led all scorers with 14 points, including a three-pointer. Nate French scored 13 with four three-pointers.

William Boals led Huntingdon with 13 points, including a three. Mykel Govan scored ten points.

**Semifinal: Northeast Jaguars 46, Henry Pirates 17**

Northeast had an 11-7 lead after the first frame and blanked the Pirates 13-0 in the second quarter to lead 24-7 at the break.



The Jaguars added to the lead with a 21-3 advantage in the third, but Henry closed the gap slightly in the fourth with a 7-1 edge.

Jaguar LaBryant Perry led all scorers with 16 points. Desmond Lee and Aiden Bullock each scored seven, each with a three-pointer. Jaiden Jimmerson and Anthony Cuyler each had five points, Cuyler with a three. Shawn Curry scored four points, and Michael Rouson had a pair.

Joshua Grgic led Henry with nine points. Eli Crosser scored four, Brayden Johnson hit a three, and Zeb Beecham hit a free throw.

Fillies 2-0 as Christmas Tournament Hosts

BY BRAD SAM

brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (December 28) — Huntingdon Middle School hosted its annual Christmas tournament with three girls teams competing in a round-robin format Saturday.

The host Fillies finished

the day undefeated with wins over the Beaver Lady Hornets and the Lakewood Lady Eagles.

The Hornets went 1-1 with a win over the Lady Eagles, who were 0-2.

**Game 1: Huntingdon Fillies 58, Beaver Lady Hornets 9**

The Fillies stormed out to a 22-2 lead after the opening frame, led by Krystin Moore with 12 points, including a pair of three-pointers. Courtlyn Brewer scored four points, and LaKeitha Cason, Kaylee Eatmon and Anderson Pearson each had a pair. Lady Hornets McKenna Nowell and Brelee Staten each hit a free throw.

Huntingdon had a 9-7 edge in the second quarter, led by Cason with three points. Eatmon, Pearson and Millie Luther each had a pair. Staten led Beaver with five points, and McKenzi Volner had a pair. At the half, Huntingdon led 31-9.

The Fillies shut out Beaver 19-0 in the third, led by Moore with nine points on a trio of threes. Brewer and Emma Smith each had three points. Vivian Singleton had a pair, and Cason and Eatmon each hit a freebie. Entering the final frame, the Fillies led 50-9.

Huntingdon blanked the Lady Hornets again in the fourth, 8-0. Collyns Wood scored four points, and Smith and Ella Atkins each had a pair.

The Fillies' Krystin Moore led all scorers with 21 points, including five three-pointers. Brelee Staten led Beaver with six points.

**Game 2: Beaver Lady Hornets 36, Lakewood Lady Eagles 24**  
The Lady Hornets led 15-7



Left, Huntingdon's Kaylee Eatmon pulls up for a midrange jumper in the Fillies' win over Lakewood. Right, Huntingdon's Millie Luther fires a shot on the run for two points in the Fillies' win over Lakewood. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

after the first frame and grew the lead with a 7-6 edge in the second quarter for a 22-13 score at the half.

Beaver doubled up Lakewood 12-6 in the third. The Lady Eagles rallied 5-2 in the fourth for a closer final.

Lady Hornet McKenna Nowell led all scorers with 21 points, including a pair of three-pointers. Brelee Staten scored eleven, Takiya Williams had three points, and Scarlett Carver hit a free throw.

Emma Hamlin led Lakewood with seven points. Anna Elliot scored five with a three, and Alexis Glatt had four points. Millie Brigham, Slate Trout, Kaylei Hepner and Presley Forrester each had a pair.

**Game 3: Fillies 43, Lady Eagles 16**

Huntingdon had a 9-7 edge after the opening frame, led by Madelyn Anderson with five points, including a three-pointer. LaKeitha Cason and Wylie Kee each had a pair. Lady Eagle Alexis

Glatt scored three points, and Emma Hamlin and Millie Brigham each had a pair.

The Fillies pulled away with a 14-5 advantage in the second quarter, led by Anderson with four points. Cason, Kee, Krystin Moore, Kaylee Eatmon and Courtlyn Brewer each had a pair. Glatt led Lakewood with three points, and Mary Beth Hutson had a pair. At the half, the Fillies led 23-12.

Huntingdon enjoyed an 18-2 tilt in the third, led by Eatmon with five points. Kee and Millie Luther each scored four. Moore and Brewer each added a pair, and Emma Smith hit a free throw. Glatt had Lakewood's lone pair. Entering the final frame, the Fillies led 41-14.

The fourth quarter was a quick 2-2 wash. Brewer scored for Huntingdon and Hutson for Lakewood.

Huntingdon's Madelyn Anderson led all scorers with nine points. Wylie Kee scored eight.

Alexis Glatt led the Lady Eagles with eight points.

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Left, Rudy enjoys his Sonic “pup cup” from his fans Lola Barton and Connor Summers, wearing their “Rudy for President” shirts. Right, Sir Godiva, held by Shayleigh Lewis, eyes some new cat swag under the tree. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



## Humane Society Hosts Christmas Open House

BY BRAD SAM  
brad@mckenziebanner.com

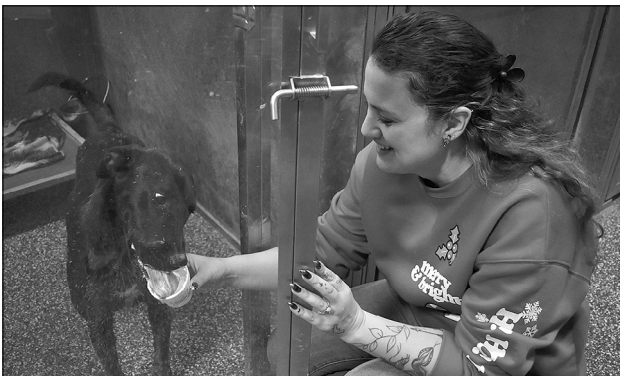
MCKENZIE (December 19) — It was a very merry Christmas for the animals at the Carroll County Humane Society at Thursday’s open house event thanks to the tireless work of the staff and the generosity of the community.

The walls of the shelter and multiple Christmas trees were lined with food, treats, toys and supplies for the resi-

dents of the shelter as well as those in foster homes.

Each animal in the care of CCHS had their name on an Angel Tree, and once those wishlists had been completed, donors kept the love coming with more donations up until and during the open house.

Sonic Drive-In of McKenzie donated frozen “pup cups” for the dogs to enjoy, and volunteers and guests had a blast feeding them to the eager pups.



Ida loves her “pup cup” to the amusement of Crystal King. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner



Picture (L to R): Elissa King, Ethan Thompson, Maddison Janda, Amber Knight, Summer Spain, Brilye Mueller, Brianna Legget, and Isabella Andre.

## West Carroll Students Earn Food Safety Certifications

ATWOOD — A group of West Carroll High School students recently achieved industry-recognized food safety certifications, demonstrating their commitment to culinary excellence and career readiness.

Students in Mrs. Jennifer Lindsey’s Culinary Arts 2 class and Ms. Erin Lewis’s Nutrition class successfully completed the National Restaurant Association’s ServSafe Food Handler certification program this week. The certification is a Level 2 industry credential valued in food-related occupations.

The ServSafe program covers essential food safety principles and foodborne illness prevention during food preparation. To earn certification, students completed an online course and passed a rigorous 45-question assessment, requiring

ing a minimum score of 75 percent.

West Carroll students excelled, achieving an impressive average score of 88 percent on the exam.

“These certifications validate our students’ understanding of crucial food safety practices,” said Dr. Adam Douglas, principal of West Carroll High School. “It’s a significant accomplishment that will serve them well in their future careers.”

Certified students include Abby Higgs, Linda Murphy, Elissa King, Ethan Thompson, Maddison Janda, Amber Knight, Summer Spain, Brilye Mueller, Brianna Legget, Isabella Andre, Cambri Shumate, Makayla Bryant, Valerie Castro, Constance Schexnider, Sarah Wascher, and Karma Wilkey.

The Food Handler certification is just the beginning



Abby Higgs and Linda Murphy. Not pictured: Cambri Shumate, Makayla Bryant, Valerie Castro, Constance Schexnider, Sarah Wascher, and Karma Wilkey.

for these aspiring culinary professionals. Students in these courses will have the opportunity to pursue the more advanced ServSafe Manager level certification next spring, further enhanc-

ing their credentials in the food service industry.

West Carroll High School continues to offer students practical skills that can help them in future jobs or college studies.

## Huntingdon Police Reports

**Shoplifting** — According to a report made by Officer Jonathan McDowell on December 22, he responded to Wal-Mart in reference to a shoplifting complaint. The security officer, Joe Lowe, stated Kimberly A. Smith, 51, stole a Rapunzel dress valued at \$21.95. The defendant returned to the store and said she would pay for the item taken, but she was still advised to report to the Carroll County Jail within 10 days for booking for shoplifting.

**Driving under the Influence** — According to a report made by Officer Jonathan McDowell on December 21, he and patrolman Malek Cannon were notified of a wreck located on Buena Vista within the city limits of Huntingdon. The driver, Caleb Balentine, 19, had a strong odor of alcohol. Balentine admitted to drinking prior to driving and appeared highly intoxicated. The defendant was operating a motor vehicle on Buena Vista Rd. when he ran off the roadway and struck a ditch, causing the Ford Ranger to flip onto the passenger side. Balentine was out by ambulance then sent to Carroll County Jail.

**Criminal Impersonation, Evading Arrest, Simple Possession** — According to a report made by Officer Kristen Lee on December 22, she observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed on Main Street West, so she conducted a traffic stop at Murphy’s gas station. Upon contact, the defendant was argumentative, so Officer Lee asked him to step out of the vehicle. The driver, Laderick Means, 26, said he did not have a driver’s license and initially gave

the wrong information about himself to Officer Lee. Dispatch confirmed that Means had warrants and his license was revoked. Laderick was getting handcuffed by Officer Lee but then took off running on foot through the ditch by Veterans Drive going toward Huntingdon Liquor and Wine and jumped into a stream of water. Officer Arline and Inman chased him, and Officer Inman placed Laderick in handcuffs and transported him to Carroll County Jail. Marijuana was also found inside the vehicle along with three other occupants.

**Driving with no license, Unregistered Vehicle** — According to a report made by Officer Jonathan McDowell on December 17, he and Officer Daniel Inman were patrolling on East Main Street when they noticed a black sedan driving westbound without a front bumper or tag. They turned around to make a traffic stop. The driver, Ralph Dennie Jr., 20, admitted to not having a license, registration, or proof of insurance to drive a vehicle. He was issued a citation and advised to go to the Carroll County Jail to be booked within 10 days to receive a court date.

**No Driver’s License** — According to a report made by Officer Jonathan McDowell on December 16, he arrived on Highway 22 in a single-vehicle accident. Upon investigation, it was determined that the defendant didn’t have proper identification or proof of insurance. The driver, Carla Yoslen Gonzalez-Padilla, 31, was cited into General Sessions court.

## Property Transfers

Michael Patrick and Zona Gayle Williams to John R. and Beth Ann Warren in District 11.

Jerry Calvary to Dillon H. Foster in District 2.

Mary Angela Gilley to Darrell Ridgely to District 8.

Sarah N. Chaney and Joseph Lynch to Justin T. and Alayna P. Christian in District 21.

Ashley Redmond to Town of McLemoresville in District 5.

Stacy Ann Forrest to Anna Walls in District 12.

Northwest Tennessee Property General Partnership to Deibold Enterprises, LLC in District 11.

Shana M. Pepper to Ashley N. and Justin Gahagan in District 13.

Fenfeng Wang to Marvin Zachery Lynn and Carly Faith Barker in District 16.

Regions Bank to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Joshua Moody to Angela Moody.

We do the legwork to keep you informed.

Call 731.352.3323



## Carroll County Sheriff Reports

**Violation of Order of Protection** — According to a report made by Deputy Alex Sherwood on December 22, he was dispatched to a home in Atwood in reference to a subject wanting people to leave his house. The complainant advised that the two subjects would not quit arguing and he wanted them to leave. The two subjects were Veronica Beckett, of Huntingdon and Matthew Britt, of Winston, Georgia. It was discovered that Veronica had an active order of protection on Britt, so he was arrested for violating the order of protection and taken to Carroll County Jail. Veronica was advised to leave the home.

**Driving on Revoked** — According to a report made by Deputy Sunny Crews-Sherwood on 12-22-24, she was behind a black 2006 Ford Fusion on Hwy. 79 going towards McKenzie, when she noticed it driving the white fog line then crossed it a few times. There was a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. Upon checking the license tag, it was discovered to have expired in November so she initiated a traffic stop. She contacted the driver, Joel Matthew Oyebi, of McKenzie. Deputy Sunny asked for registration and license and Joel said he didn’t have a

registration, that the lady he bought the car from did and Oyebi had a revoked license for DUI. A canine officer was deployed and after searching, they recovered a grinder and shake residue. Oyebi was arrested for Driving on Revoked, and the vehicle was seized and towed.

**Driving on Revoked** — According to a report made by Deputy Alex Sherwood on December 21, he conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in a convenience store parking lot. The deputy was sitting stationary on the other side of the parking lot and observed the defendant and sole occupant of the vehicle drive in from Hwy 79 and park on the side of the closed business, stumble to the front door and attempt to open the front door. He then returned to the vehicle and Deputy Sherwood then made contact with the defendant, Brian Garrett, 49, of Trezevant, and observed he had red and glassy eyes and slurred speech when he spoke to him. After performing poorly on standardized field sobriety tests, Garrett was arrested and transported to Carroll County Jail.

**Drug/Narcotic Violation** — According to a report made by Deputy Chance Townes and Deputy Daniel Thomas, deputies went to a home on Hebron Church

Road to execute a search warrant on Jessica Winter, 40, of Bruceton. Winter answered the door, and a second occupant, Justin Melton, 40, of Bruceton, came out of a bathroom and went to the back bedroom where Jessica Winter was headed to get her shoes. In the back bedroom, 1.5 grams of meth was found, so both were arrested for possession of Sch. II meth.

**Domestic Assault** — According to a report made by Deputy Sean A. Bongiovanni on December 21, deputies were dispatched to a home

in McKenzie for a domestic altercation. Upon arrival, Deputy Bongiovanni noticed the garage entry door of the caller’s home was destroyed by her husband when he became irate and tried to drag the victim out of their home by her wrists. She got away and closed the door, locked it and called for help. Her husband, John Bell, 29, of McKenzie, broke the door down to get back inside. Due to evidence and injuries, John Bell was arrested for Domestic Assault.

**PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
**IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

JOANNA ALLEN STILES,  
PLAINTIFF,  
VS.  
JOSHUA MICHAEL STILES,  
DEFENDANT,

DOCKET NO. 2024DR214

TO: JOSHUA MICHAEL STILES

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint which is sworn to, that the whereabouts of the Defendant, JOSHUA MICHAEL STILES, is unknown and cannot be ascertained by the diligent search and inquiry made to that end. JOSHUA MICHAEL STILES is therefore, hereby, required to appear and Answer the Complaint filed in this Cause against him/her in the CHANCERY Court of CARROLL County, Tennessee, within thirty days of the last publication of this Notice and served a copy of Answer on Howard F. Douglass, P.O. Box 39, Lexington, TN, 38351, Attorney for Plaintiff, within said time. If you fail to do so judgement by default will be taken against you for relief demanded in the Complaint at hearing of the cause without further notice.

It is further Ordered that this Notice be published for four consecutive weeks in *THE MCKENZIE BANNER*.

This the 17th day of December, 2024.

Kenneth Todd, Clerk & Master

A8515/R24939/52-4

**IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**PROBATE CASE NO: 2024PE220**

**ESTATE OF: PATRICIA ANN BARGER RICH, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

Notice is hereby given that on the **18TH** day of **DECEMBER, 2024** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **PATRICIA ANN BARGER RICH** deceased, who died **NOVEMBER 10TH, 2024**, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk & Master of Carroll County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required by law to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this Notice to Creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the Notice to Creditors, if the creditor received a copy of the Notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1) (A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent’s date of death.

All persons indebted to the above Estate must come forward and make proper settlement with the undersigned at once.

**This 18TH day of DECEMBER, 2024.**  
**THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.**

**FILE CLAIMS IN TRIPLICATE WITH:**  
**KENNETH TODD - CLERK & MASTER**  
**99 Court Square, Suite 105, Huntingdon, TN 38344**

**MEKLISHA COLE RIDGELY, Executor/Administrator**  
**STEPHEN L. HUGHES, Attorney**  
**KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master**

A561/R24948/52-2







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# Rebel Tate Surber Signs with UT Martin Football

BY BRAD SAM  
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (December 17) — McKenzie High School senior and three-sport stand-out Tate Surber will play football for the University of Tennessee at Martin. The reigning Class 1A Mr. Football made his decision official Tuesday with a signing ceremony in the MHS Theater.

Attending were numerous family members, coaches, teammates, classmates, teachers and supporters from the community.

Principal Kelly Spivey welcomed all and recalled watching Tate grow and develop over the years. He said, “He’s a guy that always loved sports and is always there for his teammates, and I get to brag that I’ve got a 4.0 student that valued academics

and it gave him a chance to go further. He’s always distinguished himself.”

Spivey spoke about Tate’s character. “He shows that he’s a competitor, but he also shows sportsmanship. He’s always represented McKenzie High School in the best possible way and will continue to do so.”

Tate’s father, Tommy Surber, spoke next, thanking all of the people that make up the support system that allowed his son to reach his full potential, including teammates, coaches, educators and the entire McKenzie community. He thanked his son for his hard work and expressed how proud he is of what he’s accomplished.

Tate spoke to The Banner about his decision between football, basketball and baseball. “It worked itself

out. [Football] is where the most opportunities came. When the offers came in, I thought it was time to focus on football when it came to playing college ball.”

He explained his choice of school as well. “There’s a lot of things that are really beneficial about UTM. Coach [Jason] Simpson is a great coach. He knows how to develop quarterbacks. He’s had a ton of success there. With it being so close, I’ve been able to get up there and really develop a relationship with all of those guys. It’s really convenient. Everything just kind of pointed to Martin. It made it a pretty easy choice.”

Tate told The Banner about his experience as a Rebel. “It’s meant the world to me. That’s been my identity for as long as I can remember. I’ve been in sports, around



McKenzie senior Tate Surber signs with UT Martin football, joined by family and coaches. Pictured are (L to R): Seated - dad Tommy Surber, mom Meredith Surber, Tate and brother Eli Surber; Standing - MHS football coaches Kentrell Diggs, Ben Carter, David Duncan, Head Coach Keith Hodge, Trey Cantrell and Merritt Spence. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

sports. This is everything I’ve ever dreamed of. Being able to grow up and represent this town and have some of the accomplishments I have. To know that my Mr. Football trophy will sit in the lobby for, I guess, the rest of eternity, it’s awesome.”

Surber is keeping his career options open for now.

The UT Martin Skyhawks compete in the NCAA Division I Ohio Valley Conference.



Left, Mustang football award winners (L to R): Front Row — Gray Eubanks, Brady Warbritton, Braylon Rich, Easton Byars and Aiden Hilliard; Back Row — Silas Sharp, Bryson Whiteside, Greyson Anderson, Owen King, Tyreke Hutch and Broox Bennett. Right, HHS football cheerleaders (L to R): Front Row — Greenlee Hilliard, Claudia Cooper, Emily Tippitt, Kansas Barnhill, Grace Smothers, Korra Doyle and Destani Whitson; Back Row — Aubrey McArthur, Madisyn Barton, Brylee Douglas, McKenzie Drinkard, Bella Souza, Aubrie Harris, Brooklyn Barnhill and Katie Pratcher. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



# Huntingdon High Celebrates Stellar Football Season

BY BRAD SAM  
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (December 16) — Players, coaches, cheerleaders, families and other supporters gathered at Huntingdon Church of Christ Monday to celebrate another phenomenal football season by the Huntingdon High School Mustangs.

Guests enjoyed a delicious meal catered by Mallard’s Restaurant.

Following the meal, a video of highlights from the season was shown.

Then, Cheer Coach Ashten Pierce and Co-Coach Amber Douglas recognized the cheerleaders and thanked supporters.

Next, Mustang Head Coach Eric Swenson thanked a great many groups and individuals for their support of the program.

Assistant coaches Robbie Miller, Jake Warbritton, Alan Eubanks, Adam Parish, Bryan Dickens, Rick Wallace and Trevor Burlison joined Swenson on stage to recognize each player, manager and ball boy.

The coaching staff then

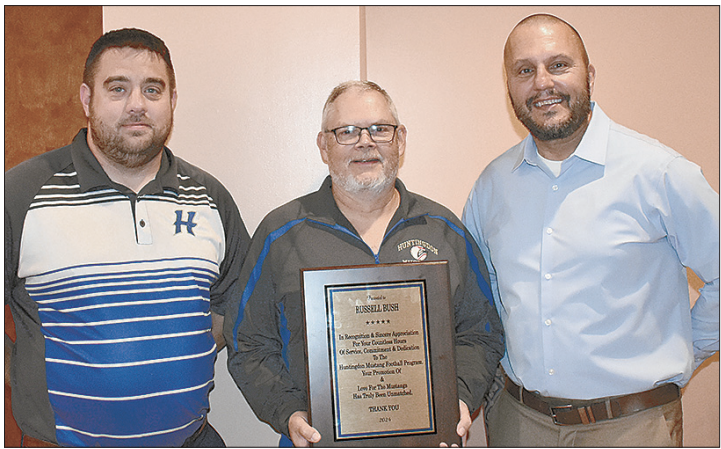
presented awards, beginning with the recognition of All-Region players. Named to the first team were Braylon Rich, Aiden Hilliard, Broox Bennett, Brady Warbritton, Easton Byars and Offensive MVP Gray Eubanks. Second-team players were Owen King, Silas Sharp, Tyreke Hutch and Bryson Whiteside.

Individual team awards were presented next:

- Special Teams Award - Greyson Anderson
- Defensive Back Award - Tyreke Hutch
- Defensive Lineman Award - Easton Byars
- Defensive Linebacker Award - Broox Bennett
- Offensive Lineman Award - Braylon Rich
- Offensive Back Award - Brady Warbritton and Gray Eubanks
- Most Improved - Owen King
- Paul Ward Senior Hustle Award - Aiden Hilliard
- Top Lifter - Braylon Rich
- Captain (player vote) - Brady Warbritton
- Co-Captain (player vote) - Gray Eubanks
- QB Club President Marcus



Left, QB Club Co-MVPs Gray Eubanks (left) and Brady Warbritton (right). Right, Photojournalist Russell Bush was honored for his years of dedication to Mustang football. Pictured (L to R) are QB Club President Marcus Beal, Bush and Mustang Head Coach Eric Swenson. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner



Beal then took the stage to present two awards.

First, a plaque was presented to photojournalist Russell Bush “in recognition and sincere appreciation for your countless hours of service, commitment and dedication to the Huntingdon Mustang football program.”

Then, the QB Club Co-MVPs were announced as Gray Eubanks and Brady Warbritton.

The banquet concluded, and guests lingered for photos and fellowship.

Mustang football seniors were Meal Leavitt, Gabe Smothers, Gray Eubanks, Wesley Williams, Brady Warbritton, Aiden Hilliard, Easton Byars, Braylon Rich and Rayshawn Parker.

Football juniors were Tyreke Hutch, Silas Sharp, Broox Bennett, DJ Armour, Dontavious Fowler, Tripp Johnson, Braylin Dearmon, Jaden Gordon and Jeramyah Cannon.

Football sophomores were Nick Smith, Taylor Jones, Ethan Raffield, Ashtyn Donald, Grant Wilson, Kaden

King, Brayden Davis, Hayden Strop, Zayden Connelly, Lucas Smith, Bryson Whiteside, Greyson Anderson, Brennan Meggs and Owen King.

Football freshmen were Gavin Gray, Colt Wood, Haven Dillahunt, Myles Pelonero, Colt Luther, K’Shun Carter, Keimonte Strayhorn, Maddox Holmes, Hayes Eubanks, Cody Abel, Ayden Woods and Wyatt Bradley.

Senior managers were Cayden Brewer, Carter Coleman and Evan Blakeman. Other managers were Zach

iryah Connelly Webb and Ryker Hollowell.

Ball boys were Dayton Miller, Brock Miller, Liam Martin and Elijah Harris.

Senior cheerleaders were Emily Tippitt, Kansas Barnhill and Grace Smothers. Other cheerleaders were Claudia Cooper, Aubrie Harris, Madisyn Barton, Aubrey McArthur, Korra Doyle, McKenzie Drinkard, Greenlee Hilliard, Brylee Douglas, Bella Souza, Brooklyn Barnhill, Destani Whitson and Katie Pratcher.

## HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

# Gleason Splits With Bradford

BY BRAD SAM  
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GLEASON (December 20) — Gleason High School hosted Bradford Friday for a pair of down-to-the-wire basketball contests. The Lady Bulldogs went back-and-forth until the final minutes, pulling ahead for a 45-37 win. The Red Devils led most of the game but had to hold off a vigorous Gleason rally in the fourth to claim a 44-41 victory.

**Lady Bulldogs 45, Lady Red Devils 37**

The Lady Red Devils had a 14-10 lead after the opening frame, led by Brooklyn Armstrong with five points, including a three-pointer. Ashlyn Reynolds scored four with a three, Abby Glisson had three points, and Rylee Jorgenson had a pair. Hylan Leach led Gleason with five points, including a three. Madi Dean and Ava Bennett each had a pair, and Ahmyre Allen hit a free throw.

The Lady Bulldogs took the lead with a 14-5 advantage in the second quarter, led by Leach with six points on a pair of threes. Skylar Arnold scored four, and Brinley Lehmkuhl and Kadence Witherspoon each had a pair. Reynolds hit a three for Bradford, and Armstrong added a pair. At the half, Gleason led 24-19.

Bradford regained the lead with an 11-5 edge in the third, led by Reynolds with four points. Princess Cain hit a three-pointer, and Armstrong and Mya Page each had a pair. Allen scored four for the Lady Bulldogs, and Lehmkuhl hit a free throw. Entering the final frame, the Lady Red Devils led 30-29.

Gleason claimed the win with a 16-7 tilt in the fourth, led by Addy Black with eight points, including a pair of threes. Allen scored seven, and Leach hit a freebie. Jorgenson hit a three for Bradford, and Reynolds and Armstrong



Left, Bulldog Parker Morgan scores on a fast break. Morgan scored a dozen for Gleason. Center, Bulldog Kade Sawyers goes up for a contested shot in the paint. Sawyers led all scorers with 17 points. Right, Lady Bulldog Skylar Arnold pulls up in the paint for two points. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

each added a pair.

Lady Red Devil Ashlyn Reynolds led all scorers with 13 points, including a pair of threes. Brooklyn Armstrong had eleven points with a three.

Hylan Leach and Ahmyre Allen led Gleason with a dozen points each, Leach with a trio of three-pointers.

**Red Devils 44, Bulldogs 41**

Bradford led 16-10 after the first frame, led by Carver Cates with six points on

a pair of three-pointers. Jax Richardson and Brodie McDaniel each hit a three, and Jax Street and Quacey Lewis each had a pair. Bulldogs Kade Sawyers and Drake Lehmkuhl each had five points.

Gleason cut the deficit to one with a 12-7 edge in the second quarter, led by Parker Morgan with seven points, including a three. Brody Sanders also hit a three, and Lehmkuhl added a pair. Richardson scored

five for the Red Devils with a three, and McDaniel added a pair. At the half, Bradford led 23-22.

The Red Devils had a 10-3 advantage in the third. Street and Lewis each scored five, Street with a three. Morgan added a pair for Gleason, and Sawyers hit a free throw. Heading into the final frame, Bradford led 33-25.

The Bulldog rally in the fourth came just short at 16-11, led by Sawyers with

eleven points. Morgan hit a three, and Lehmkuhl added a pair. Cates led Bradford with five points, including a three. Lewis scored four, and Street and Richardson each hit a freebie.

Bulldog Kade Sawyers led all scorers with 17 points. Parker Morgan scored 12 with a pair of threes.

Carver Cates and Quacey Lewis led Bradford with eleven points each, Cates with a trio of three-pointers.