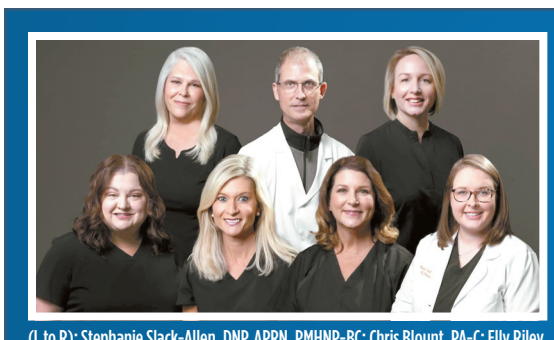


(L to R): Stephanie Slack-Allen, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC; Chris Blount, PA-C; Elly Riley, DO; Lori Holladay, NP; Jill Bennett, NP; Katharine Bullock, FNP; and Emily Ezell, DO.

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QUOTE

"Life isn't a matter of milestones, but of moments."

— Rose Kennedy

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Chance Carlton

Carroll County Lineman Dies During Severe Weather Outbreak

BY BRITTANY MARTIN
brittany@mckenziebanner.com

CLARKSBURG (April 3) — A Carroll County Electric lineman died in the line of duty in the early morning hours on Thursday during a severe weather outbreak that spanned multiple states and spawned deadly tornadoes and flooding.

Chance Carlton, 32, of Huntingdon was working in the Clarksburg area when the truck he and another lineman were in left the roadway on Purdy Road at Roan Creek. According to Tennessee Highway Patrol, Carlton was a passenger in the 2017 International 740 truck, the driver was

See LINEMAN on Page 3

10 DEAD FROM 'GENERATIONAL' WEATHER EVENT



Aerial view of Winston Road south of McKenzie. *Photo courtesy Steven Scott*

West Tennessee Reels from Deadly Storms, Flooding

McKENZIE (April 7) — A powerful and slow-moving weather system wreaked havoc across West Tennessee from April 2 to April 6, unleashing tornadoes and historic flooding that resulted in at least ten fatalities statewide and widespread damage.

Statewide Fatalities:

According to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA)'s latest report on Sunday, April 6, the severe weather claimed the lives of at least ten individuals across the state:

Carroll County: One fatality was confirmed – a Carroll County Electric lineman, Chance Carlton, who died in a weather-related vehicle accident while on duty.

Fayette County: Two fatalities occurred when a tornado destroyed

See STORMS on Page 3

Airport to be Renamed in Honor of Sgt. Lee Russell

HUNTINGDON (April 7) — In the coming weeks, it is likely the Carroll County Airport will undergo a name change. According to Resolution 4-11-2025, the Carroll County Commission will vote to honor the life and service of Sergeant Harold Lee Russell, II. Sgt. Russell tragically died in a helicopter crash while on duty in August 2022. If changed the new name will be the Sgt. Lee Russell Carroll County Airport.

Sgt. Russell served Tennessee for nearly 12 years, beginning as a reserve deputy for the Henry County Sheriff's Office in 2007 while attending UT Martin. He became a full-time Henry County Sheriff's Deputy in 2008 and, a year later, began his aviation career as a part-time pilot while serving on the 24th Judicial Drug Task Force. He transitioned to the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) in 2010 and was selected as a THP pilot in May 2012. He was transferred to the Carroll County Airport so there would be an available helicopter in northwest Tennessee. He was promoted to sergeant on November 12, 2017.

The Commission votes on the name change and other resolutions on April 14 at 7 p.m. at the

See AIRPORT on Page 2



Sergeant Harold Lee Russell, II

McKENZIE

Chamber's Annual Easter Egg Drop is This Saturday

McKENZIE — The McKenzie Chamber of Commerce & Industry invites families and children of all ages to the Annual Easter Egg Drop on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at McKenzie City Park, located at 570 Como Street. This free community event takes place from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

See EGG on Page 2

COUNTY COMMISSION

Department Heads Propose Budgets for the Upcoming Year

HUNTINGDON (April 3) — On Thursday, department heads for Carroll County government presented their requested budgets for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year. During talks, there were no big requests for budget increases other than the newly formed county fire department.

The County Fire Department submitted a proposal

See BUDGETS on Page 3



A $4 million donation in memory of Vera Low was presented to Bethel University to support the local university's mission.

Low Gifts $4 Million To Bethel

McKENZIE (April 1, 2025) — Administrators, faculty and students at Bethel University proudly announce a transformative $4 million gift from philanthropist and businessman, Robert Low and Prime, Inc. This generous contribution supports the University's ongoing

See BETHEL on Page 3

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Shining a light on people and businesses in the Carroll County area.





Left, Petals Azola owners Kaylynn Legg (left) and Angela Diller display a pair of beautiful floral arrangements. Right, Petals Azola owners Kaylynn Legg (left) and Angela Diller at the entrance, decked out in colorful Easter decor. *Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner*

Petals Azola

Mother-Daughter Duo Planting Creative Roots in McKenzie

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

Petals Azola, a florist and boutique located at 1907 Cedar Street in McKenzie, opened in November of 2022.

Angela Diller and her daughter Kaylynn Legg are co-owners of the small business. They spoke to The Banner about their creative roots and planting those roots here in McKenzie.

Angela is a Jackson native. She and her husband, Cliff, raised their family mostly in Parsons after living in McKenzie for a brief time.

She started in the floral world in Parsons about ten years ago. A job hunt led her to Cleda Newberry at The Flower Basket. Angela told The Banner, "She gave me a chance, brought me in. I learned a lot, mostly from watching."

The family moved back to McKenzie about six years ago. Angela then worked for City Florist for close to a year. "I love them [Michele and the late David Jarrett]. I loved working with them."

Angela then went to work at Boxwood and Blooms in Milan, owned by McKenzie native and fellow City Florist alum Cody Jarrett, for about three years. During that time, Angela brought Kaylynn, then in her late teens, on to train in the business.

Angela said owning her own shop was, "a dream of mine I did not think was possible, honestly."

But she received encouragement from Kaylynn's husband, Andrew, and finally decided to go for it.

"When we started looking into it and praying about it, God started opening the doors and laying everything out so easily. Anything we needed, if we had a little hiccup, we'd pray about it and He'd take care of it. It was really God's hand."

At the time, Milan was quite a drive. Angela was still homeschooling her children (they now attend public schools), so it wasn't ideal.

But mostly, Angela said, "I wanted to put roots down here. I have no intention of leaving. I wanted to connect to the town. I am a people person, a social butterfly. I never had that opportunity as a stay-at-home, homeschool mom.

"We've had the opportunity to do that here and meet lots of people. I actually feel connected to a community. I've never had that up until being in McKenzie. I can be out in town and see a customer and they'll come up and hug me. I love that. It caught me off guard the first time, but it made me happy. Or when I pull up to Brummit[-McKenzie Funeral Home] and they say, 'there's my girl.' I love that, to feel that connection with the people."

Angela explained what drew her to the floral business. "I've always been very creative, all my girls are very creative, I've passed that down to them. My dad was a jack-of-all-trades. He did everything, electric, plumbing, all the things. Part of that I think I've gotten from him, but in a different aspect, because I've always been very creative, can draw, put things together, fix things, troubleshoot, come up with solutions."

Kaylynn chimed in to add, "Design has always been part of my mom's character." She recalled being involved in creative endeavors (like making headbands) with her mother from a young age.

She spoke about her mother's influence on her own creativity. "My mom has always given me room to grow. She raised me with a lot of grace and love. She never made me feel like her floor was my ceiling. Her ceiling was my floor. She wanted me to go above and beyond her.

She allowed me to learn for myself, find my own design. I find a lot of joy and fulfillment in a simple task like making bows or floral arrangements. She taught me, but she never told me it had to be her way. She allowed me to grow and create my own style.

"My mom has always been somebody I've been very proud of and could look up to. She's always been herself. She's always been ahead of the trend. I'm my own person, and she's taught me to be true to myself. But I do want to follow in her footsteps. I love creating things. That is what the Lord has given me.

"I probably won't start my own florist, that's not really me, but there are so many ways [I want to follow], the way she loves people and connects with people."

Kaylynn is cultivating a budding passion of her own in photography. "If she had never opened this, I would have never believed I could do that. She's gone after her dream, and she's encouraged me to go after mine."

Petals Azola, besides the boutique, floral arrangements and giftware, offers something you might not find in a typical florist. Angela said, "We do a lot of custom work. People come in with a vision, and they let us create what they want. That's probably one of our strongest points."

She offered the example of a couple getting married that wanted the bride's bouquet to incorporate the state flowers from where they were each from as well as where they met.

Kaylynn added, "If the customer has a vision, we want that to be met with quality and excellence."

Angela said, "I feel like we go the extra mile," and she explained the importance of that mindset.

"I was told on the front end that McKenzie could be hard on small businesses. Especially me coming in as an outsider, I didn't grow up in McKenzie. At that time I didn't have kids in McKenzie schools. It has taken us time; it has not come easy.

"We really had to get in there and work for it, but we have some of the best customers. They're so good to us. And there have been other trying things, but overall I feel like McKenzie has welcomed us and loved us and accepted us."

A florist is in the unique and profound position of serving customers on days that can be their most joyful or days of tremendous grief, making customer service and quality even more important.

Angela said, "It means a great deal to me. When I do funeral work, it's a ministry to me. To me, this is the last thing I can do for this family to honor their loved one, and I want to do it with excellence. I want it to be the best for them."

Kaylynn added, "We are here for people on their best days and their worst. Across that counter, we've had people come to us and we were among the first people that they've told that they're expecting, told us they were engaged or shared with us an unexpected loss. We've cried, we've laughed, we've smiled. Honestly, it's a lot more to us than us just putting flowers together. We feel the heartbeat across the counter. It means a lot to us that customers come to us in such a vulnerable state, whether it's in a happy kind of way or a sad kind of way."

Fittingly, but not necessarily intentionally, the very name of the business adds to that sentiment. The word "azola" comes from the Xhosa language and roughly translates to "to bring peace and calmness."

Kaylynn said, "We want people to be able to come through these doors and feel the love of the Lord, His peace and calmness coming out of us."

Angela gave the back story behind the name. "My brother wanted to name me Pebbles. My mom told me that as a teenager, and I loved it. I was going to name my first daughter Pebbles, and I came up with the middle name Azola. I had no idea at that time that it meant what it meant. Then I grew up and realized it wasn't a great idea. [At this point, Kaylynn, the oldest daughter, expresses her relief with a laugh.] My sister came up with Petals Azola as a take on that. Then when we saw the meaning of 'azola,' that was it."

Angela's other two daughters, Cali, 14, and Ava, 12, are dipping their toes into the floral world as well, earning praise from mom and older sister alike. (Angela also has two sons, Nate, 21, and Clye, 16.)

Petals Azola is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Monday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Outside of those hours, the business can be reached on Facebook messenger.

Future plans for the business include offering classes in the evenings, beginning with wreath classes. If interest is good, Angela and Kaylynn will look to expand on that with other offerings.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Carroll County Government (Tennessee)

Please notice that the Carroll County Mayors Office shall accept sealed written bids for Three (3) Side-by-Side Vehicles to be used by School Resource Officers for patrol, community engagement, security purposes, and for emergency transportation purposes.

Proposals, bids, or responses must be submitted to the Office of the Carroll County Mayor, Joseph G. Butler, at 625 High St. Suite 101, Carroll County Office Complex, Huntingdon, Tennessee, 38344, no later than 9 a.m. CST, April 10, 2025, at which time the bids will be opened and considered at a public meeting of the Purchasing Committee.

For inquiries, please contact Mayor Joseph Butler by phone at (731) 986-1936 or by email at jbutler@carroll.tn.org. For copies of bid documents, please email Mayor Butler or pick up documents at the Carroll County Mayors Office.

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

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

Joseph G. Butler, Mayor
Publication Date: 3/31/2025

A5605/13-2

McKenzie School Board Approves Volleyball, Tours STEM, Nursing Rooms

BY JOEL LANCASTER
jlancaster@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (April 2) — The McKenzie Special School District Board of Education met April 1 and approved volleyball as a school-sponsored sport at McKenzie High School and McKenzie Middle School.

Director of Schools Justin S. Barden presented the volleyball proposal, listed as Item 6 on the agenda. Volleyball will begin as a fall sport at MHS, competing in TSSAA Division I, Class A, Region 6, District 12, alongside Clarksburg, Decatur Co. Riverside, Huntingdon, Jackson Central-Merry, Madison Academic Magnet, and West Carroll. Jordan Jowers, an MHS teacher, was named head coach. Practice officially begins July 28. MMS volleyball will be a spring sport with local match scheduling. Equipment has been purchased through district funds, with additional sponsorships and fundraising planned.

Board members asked about gym scheduling conflicts. Administrators said flexible summer conditioning schedules should minimize overlaps.

Facility Upgrades and Tours

Window replacements at the central office are complete, though several cracked panes will be replaced under supplier warranty. Door replacements at both schools are scheduled for summer to comply with Fire Marshal regulations. Roof repairs will start within three weeks, pending delivery of metal flashing, according to Brian Parkhill and Leslie Rich. No financial updates were discussed.

Principal Spivey led a tour of the STEM lab and media center, funded by an RSM Foundation grant. The lab includes 3D printers, laser cutters, and 3D pens, with workspace for student projects. A former news production room was repurposed to increase access. Staff noted renovation costs were lower than expected, allowing extra resources. Displayed student projects included keychains, articulated figurines, and a 3D-printed alpaca, which took five hours to print. Due to high student interest, equipment use now requires teacher supervision. The lab is accessible to students not enrolled in formal STEM courses.

The board also viewed the updated nursing wing, still under development. Maintenance installed temporary walls earlier in the day to combine two rooms into a single space, removing a dividing wall and repositioning shelving to open up the area. Staff described the project as an important improvement. Board members examined the layout and workspace. Staff emphasized both the nursing wing and STEM lab significantly enhance the district's learning environment.

Personnel and Contracts

All re-election forms from certified and classified staff were returned, with no retirements reported. Ben Carter submitted his resignation to return to Huntington; replacement interviews are pending.

The district is preparing a request for proposals (RFP) for custodial services. Several vendors, including current provider ABM, expressed interest.

The board reviewed progress on intercom upgrades at MES and MMS and discussed drainage concerns at MES. Roofing and engineering experts have been consulted.

The next regular board meeting is May 6.

Airport

...From Front Page

Carroll County Government Complex.

Other resolutions include: Resolution 4-01-2025 and 4-02-2025 deals with the construction of the substation located near the Leach Community. Resolution 4-01-2025 states it is the initial resolution authorizing the issuance of not to exceed $10,000,000 in electric system revenue and tax bonds of Carroll County. Resolution 4-02-2025 – resolution authorizing the issuance of not to exceed $10,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of electric system revenue and tax bonds, series 2025 of Carroll County, Tennessee; making provision for the issuance, sale and payment of said bonds; establishing the terms thereof and the disposition of proceeds therefrom; providing for the collection and disposition of revenues from the electric system of the county; and making provision for the operation of said system

Resolution 4-03-2025 – Authorizes Carroll County to participate in the 24th Judicial District Recovery Courts allocation of funds received from Opioid Abatement Funds. Resolution 4-04-2025 – Appoints Marty Towater to the Civil Service Commission. Resolution 4-05-2025 – Requires the Carroll County Clerk and Master to transmit monthly fees of the Office to the County Trustee and to pay the salaries and expenses of the office from the General Fund. Resolution 4-06-2025 – Amends the General Fund Budget for Rural Fire. Resolution 4-07-2025 – Amends the General Fund Budget for Trustee. Resolution 4-08-2025 – Amends the School General Fund Budget. Resolution 4-09-2025 – Amends the School Transportation Fund Budget. Resolution 4-10-2025 – Authorizes the County Mayor to Sign a Project Proposal with the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

Egg

...From Front Page

Eggs will be dropped from a helicopter, live at 9:00 a.m., followed by age-specific egg hunts for children from 0 to 10 years old. With over 50,000 eggs filled with prizes, this is a great way for families in the area to celebrate the Easter holiday.

Event Schedule:

Helicopter Egg Drop: 9 a.m.
0-2 years old: 9:30 a.m.
3-4 years old: 9:50 a.m.
5-7 years old: 10:10 a.m.
8-10 years old: 10:30 a.m.

In addition to the egg hunt, attendees can enjoy appearances by the Easter Bunny, food trucks, MelRhea Balloons, petting zoo, bouncy house, and an AeroLuxe Aviation Helicopter display. Vendors will be available

This event is hosted by the McKenzie Chamber of Commerce & Industry and sponsored by Allegion and Centennial Bank.

About the McKenzie Chamber of Commerce & Industry

The McKenzie Chamber of Commerce & Industry is dedicated to promoting business, enhancing McKenzie's economic and community development, and serving as a catalyst for improving the overall quality of life of all citizens in McKenzie, Carroll County, and West Tennessee.

For more information about happenings in our community or our upcoming events, visit our website at growmckenzie.com or follow us on Facebook.

Carroll Lake Drained Ahead Of Flooding, Refilled Quickly

Fishing Enthusiasts Fear Population Depleted

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (April 7) — Carroll Lake was partially drained on Wednesday in anticipation of the heavy rains to come over the following few days. By Friday afternoon, the water had risen to near normal levels and was again swollen on Saturday.

The lake is owned and operated by Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).

The drainage was a preemptive measure to prevent damage to the levee and flood gates.

In June 2014, extreme heavy rains caused flooding at the lake, which left the flood gates heavily damaged. The lake had to be emptied, and it remained that way for 32 months until the gates were repaired.

The process of refilling began in January 2017. Once the water reached a certain level, the TWRA began stocking the lake with a variety of species.



Above, Carroll Lake (docks view) on Friday following intentional drainage. *Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner*
Below, Carroll Lake on Sunday, refilled by the heavy rains. *Photo by Brittany Martin/The Banner*



The lake reopened for fishing in May 2020.

Fishing enthusiasts, both on social media and at the lake on Friday, expressed concerns over the fish population being depleted.

The Banner reached out to the TWRA, who have acknowledged the questions but had not responded as of press time.

Bethel

...From Front Page

efforts to provide excellent academic programs and student experiences.

The Low family has long supported Bethel's mission through philanthropy and service. Both Robert and his mother, the late Vera Low, previously served as members of Bethel's Board of Trustees. Robert's most recent gift stems from his deep admiration for Bethel University, inspired by his mother's enduring love for the institution.

"Bethel University held a special place in my mother's heart. She had deep appreciation for this institution," said Low. "It is a privilege to give back to Bethel, ensuring that future generations of students have access to opportunities —whether through scholarships, academic excellence or extracurricular activities."

Bethel University President Perry Moulds expressed profound gratitude for Low's generosity, emphasizing the gift's far-reaching impact.

"This incredible gift from Robert Low is a testament to the power of love, legacy, and belief in the mission of Bethel University," said Dr. Moulds. "His generosity will help us advance our commitment to academic excellence and student success. We are deeply honored and grateful for his support."

About Bethel University

Bethel University, located in McKenzie, is a Christian institution committed to academic excellence and personal growth. Offering a diverse range of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs, Bethel equips students to lead with purpose and impact in their communities and beyond.

About Prime, Inc.

Prime Inc., founded by Robert E. Low in 1970, is a prominent freight transport and logistics company headquartered in Springfield, Mo. The company offers a range of services, including refrigerated, flatbed, tanker, and intermodal transportation. While Prime Inc. has operations across the United States, its primary headquarters and main facilities are located in Springfield, Mo.

Budgets

...From Front Page

of $693,175, an increase of $297,588. Several line items submitted with increases include an assistant who is also a firefighter; data process service $19,900; maintenance (buildings) $60,000; maintenance (equipment) $42,500; maintenance (vehicles) $20,000; medical supplies $18,000; electricity $20,000; tires/tubes $12,000; and other charges $90,000.

The Carroll County Sheriff's Office had a budget request of $3,083,923, which was $615,484 less than the previous year. The County Jail's budget request totaled $3,799,140, an increase of $159,517 mainly due to salaries and other employee-related expenses. The Drug Fund has a proposed budget of $93,789; the budget does not come from tax revenue but from drug and other criminal confiscations.

The Highway Department had a multi-part proposal. Under Administration, the proposed budget was $272,723 which was a $5,308 decrease from the previous year. Under Highway and Bridge Maintenance, the request was $1,160,817. For Operation and Maintenance of Equipment, the request was $733,210 which was $28,272 less than last year. Under Capital Outlay, the request was made for $1,940,000, this was a $205,000 increase.

There are several budget sections under the dominion of the Carroll County Mayor's Office, the largest of which is County Buildings. The requested budget is $1,010,403 which is a $144,838 increase based on maintenance and a $68,000 on liability insurance. The second largest is Fund 101-51300 which is the personnel and other miscellaneous items. The proposed budget is $470,311. This is a $21,544 requested increase. The Mayor's Office will also provide $10,000 for industrial development and $17,000 for economic and community development to the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce.

The Juvenile and General Session Court presented a multi-part budget. Under just Juvenile Court the proposed budget was $230,378. Carroll Academy proposed a budget of $1,771,450. General Sessions proposed a budget of $222,903.

Solid Waste presented a proposed budget of $1,929,019. The proposition is $110,080 higher than the previous year mainly due to the 4% ($102,320) rate increase from Republic Services. The recycling center has a proposed budget of $649,205 which is a $31,945 increase primarily due to the need for new equipment.

The Carroll County Airport requested a budget of $523,786. This is an increase of $88,214 primarily based on a $45,000 facility improvement matching grant along with a $25,000 salary line item for part-time employees.

The County Clerk's Office presented a budget request of $368,923 resulting in an increase of $13,445. The majority of the increase came from staff salary and benefits increases.

The Health Department proposed a budget of $296,631. The previous year's budget of $915,698 included several renovations to the facility.

The Property Assessor's Office requested a $283,118 budget for next year which would be an increase of $7,923 mainly on the cost of living increase accrued to salaries.

The County Trustee's Office requested a $269,022 budget resulting in a $9,216 increase primarily focused on salary increases.

The Registrar of Deeds' Office requested a $259,353 budget which is a $9,089 increase from the previous year.

The Election Commission requested a budget of $241,752. This is a decrease of $39,722 mainly due to the lack of a general election in the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.

Carroll County Emergency Services requested a budget of $206,829. This came at an increase of $68,384. The reason was for a one-time ask for a new vehicle valued at $43,573.

The Carroll County Library requested an increase of $23,106 from their previous budget. The proposed budget of $189,730 would then include four full-time employees. According to Librarian Erin Crockett, the majority of grants require four full-time employees. Crockett also stated they have had increased traffic flow due to providing tax preparation aid along with other technical assistance.

The Civic Center requested a $160,365 budget. This is an increase of $17,197 due to a $10,000 line item increase for electricity and a $3,275 increase for equipment maintenance.

The Office on Aging has a proposed budget of $145,399 which is a $4,711 increase mostly based on salary increase.

The Carroll County Agricultural Extension Office requested a budget of $74,233. This is an increase of $4,632 due to an employee promotion.

The Budget Committee meets again on April 24 to continue work on the budget.

Storms

...From Front Page

a mobile home near La Grange.

McNairy County: Five deaths were reported, with three occurring in Selmer.

Obion County: One death was reported.

Tipton County: One death was reported.

Local Damage Reports

Carroll County: While no widespread structural damage from tornadoes has been reported, several roads and locations were flooded or washed out in the county, making several areas impassable through the weekend. According to Carroll County EMA Director Trevor Foster, 12.07 inches of rain fell within the last seven-day period. Foster confirmed three water rescues occurred in the last 48 hours.

Henry County: Strong straight-line winds on Saturday, April 5, damaged a barn and caused minor damage to four homes along Pleasant Hill Road. No injuries were reported. The county also experienced significant flash flooding due to heavy rainfall, leading to numerous road closures.

Weakley County: An EF-0 to EF-1 tornado touched down in the Latham/Palmersville area on Wednesday, April 2. Eight out of ten assessed homes sustained minor damage, one had major damage, and dozens of trees were uprooted. Fortunately, no injuries or fatalities were reported in the county.

Tornadoes, Warnings: More than 225 tornado warnings were issued across the region between April 2 and April 4, according to preliminary data. Two significant touchdowns were confirmed nearby:

In Selmer, an EF-3 tornado on April 3 caused widespread destruction, resulting in at least four deaths and more than 20 injuries, according to state officials.

In Martin, a tornado touched down on the evening of April 2 near Chestnut Glade Road, damaging ten homes—one of which was a total loss—along a 13.4-mile path. EMA reported wind estimates between 80–90 mph.

Utilities and Emergency Services

As of 9 a.m. on April 4, approximately 2,600 customers remained without power statewide—a sharp decline from the 15,400 outages reported the previous morning. In the Tri-County area, restoration efforts have been largely completed. As of 5:36 p.m., Carroll County Electric Department reported only one active outage across its entire service area.

Flooding also impacted critical infrastructure. Two wastewater lagoons in Huntingdon—located at Highway 22 and Barnett Street—were inundated. In Selmer, the municipal sewage system suffered power failures at ten lift stations. All affected sites remain under active mitigation.

TEMA's Latest Report: As of Sunday afternoon, April 6, TEMA reported the following:

Governor Bill Lee's request for an Emergency Declaration was approved, providing federal assistance for emergency protective measures.

Damage assessments are ongoing in the impacted counties.

Over 12,200 power outages remained statewide, a significant decrease from the peak of over 70,000 on April 5.

TEMA has provided significant resources to affected counties, including 2,000 gallons of fuel, 38,950 sandbags, 96 boxes of tarps, and 2,026 cases of water.

A boil water advisory was issued for the Grand Junction Water Department in Hardeman County.

TDOT Road Closures: The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) reported numerous road closures across West Tennessee due to flooding and debris. Significant flooding was reported throughout Northwest Tennessee, making many local roads impassable. TDOT urged motorists to avoid flooded roadways and never drive around barricades. On Saturday evening, flooding shut down I-40 in West Tennessee.

National Weather Service Alerts: During the severe weather event from April 2 to April 6, the National Weather Service (NWS) issued a high number of alerts for West Tennessee:

Tornado Watches: While the exact number is still being finalized, numerous tornado watches were in effect across the region as the atmospheric conditions were favorable for tornado development.

Tornado Warnings: Over 50 tornado warnings were issued as radar indicated rotation or tornadoes were sighted. Seven of these warnings included reports of actual tornadoes and damage.

Flash Flood Watches: Due to the potential for heavy rainfall over saturated ground, multiple flash flood watches were issued for West Tennessee.

Flash Flood Warnings: At least 21 flash flood warnings were activated as heavy rain led to rapid rises in water levels and imminent flooding.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) Information: The TWRA has been actively involved in monitoring the floodwaters and advising the public about potential dangers associated with rising rivers and displaced wildlife. They cautioned residents to be aware of increased debris in waterways and to avoid contact with any animals that may have been forced out of their natural habitats due to the flooding. TWRA also urged boaters to exercise extreme caution due to strong currents and submerged hazards.

Ongoing Recovery: As the floodwaters recede, the full extent of the damage will become clearer. Recovery efforts are underway across West Tennessee, with local communities and volunteer organizations like Samaritan's Purse mobilizing to assist those affected by the devastating storms and floods.

The state's Crisis Cleanup hotline (615-488-1875) remains active for residents needing help clearing storm debris.

See photos from the storm on pages 11-12 of this edition.

Lineman

...From Front Page

Jacob Blake, age 28. Blake survived the accident.

Carroll County Electric General Manager Ryan Drewry provided this statement regarding the tragedy, "There are no words to express the depth of sadness blanketing Carroll County Electric with the tragic loss of Chance Carlton. The outpouring of genuine compassion from the community, and so many others, has been much needed on such an unimaginable and devastating day. I would encourage all to share this compassion directly to the family of Chance Carlton by sending donations to the Chance Carlton Memorial Fund at any Carroll Bank & Trust location."

Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler echoed this sentiment, "We are truly heartbroken in the passing of Carroll County's own, Chance Carlton. Chance was a Godly and dedicated husband, father, son, brother, colleague, and friend. A true public servant, his passing occurring early this morning [April 3] while in service to our community as part of the Carroll County Electric Department. We pray today for a grieving family, a special work family, and community. I am thankful for the Lord's promise that He is with us when we are crushed in spirit (Psalm 34:18)."

Gibson County Electric Department offered their condolences, "We are deeply saddened to hear of the tragic loss of Chance Carlton, a dedicated lineworker with the Carroll County Electric Department, who lost his life during last night's storms. Lineworkers like Chance risk their lives daily to ensure that our communities have the power we depend on. During this incredibly difficult time, our thoughts and prayers are with Chance's family, friends and colleagues. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the Carlton family and the Carroll County Electric Department."

Many area electric departments, businesses and organizations have expressed their condolences.

The Huntingdon Mustangs Quarterback Club said, "My heart is broken for the family of Chance Carlton. Chance was a former Mustang Running back for the class of 2011. Let us lift up his family and the CCED up in prayer."

Carlton was a talented singer and musician. He loved horseback riding, music, and his community among many other things.

According to Kelly Green of Premier Realty (formerly 100.9 The Farm radio station), "He was a great young man and this is an absolute tragedy. Chance was our first Farmerican Idol winner and the first person to ever perform on our Barn Bash at the radio station in Huntingdon."

Funeral services were in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 2 p.m. with Bro. Scott Carter officiating. Interment followed in Shiloh Cemetery.

The family received friends in the Cherrywood Room of Chase Funeral Home on Sunday from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. and on Monday from 11 a.m. until time of the service.

In Lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to: The Chance Carlton Memorial Fund, Carroll Bank and Trust, P.O. Box 889, Huntingdon, TN 38344. Donations may also be made at any CB&T branch.

Pallbearers who served are Tim Carlton, Kris Hunley, Philip Barnett, Kyle East, Michael Butler, Jacob Blake, Travis Ward, and Jess Dill. Honorary pallbearers were Dallas Frazier, Nathan Ward, John David Carlton, James Ryman East, Henry Davis East, and Audrey Louise East, and the linemen of the Carroll County Electric Department.

Chance was born October 30, 1992 in Huntingdon, Tennessee to Tim and Robbie (Churchwell) Carlton. He was a devoted servant of Jesus, husband, father, son, brother, and friend. Chance loved being with his wife raising his babies, serving in his church at Shiloh Missionary Baptist in many ways, including leading the church in hymns, spending time with family, bird hunting with his dogs, Tillie and Fern, and traveling on his horse with his family and trail found family. He served his community as a lineman for the Carroll County Electric Department. He was preceded in death by an unborn child, paternal grandparents, Jerry and B.J. Smith, and maternal grandparents, Bobby and Frances Churchwell.

He is survived by his wife, Samantha Carlton, two daughters, Landry Jean Carlton and Ellsie Jo Carlton, his parents Tim and Robbie Carlton, a sister Jessica (Kris) Hunley all of Huntingdon as well as his in laws, Shannon and George Bedocs of Jackson. He also leaves a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, a church family he loved dearly, a God sent group of camping friends as well as many others, and special friends like family in South Dakota.





Top, Seniors. Above, Juniors. Below, Sophomores. Bottom, Freshman.





McKenzie High Hosts 30th Annual Honors Banquet

McKENZIE (April 1) — McKenzie High School hosted its 30th annual Honors Banquet on Tuesday, April 1 in the schools gymnasium. The annual event is sponsored by the McKenzie Rotary Club, that sponsored a pre-event meal for the honorees and provided the four-year plaques.

Students in grades 9 - 12, who have achieved a 95 or better grade average for the previous three nine-week grading period, who has satisfactory attendance and conduct, are invited as honorees for the event.

Christy Williams, president of the McKenzie Rotary Club, welcomed the students, parents and other guests to the annual event. Two of the local Rotary Club's goals are 'dedicated to the youth' and 'committed to academic excellence.'

The local service club also presented a $1,000 scholarship to senior Lydia Pate to attend the college of her choice.



Lydia Pate was the recipient of a $1,000 scholarship from the Rotary Club of McKenzie. Pictured are MHS Principal Kelly Spivey; LaDona Herrin, the featured speaker; Lydia Pate; and Rotary President Christy Williams.

Ninth: Braylin Auvenshine, Kaydynce Barksdale, Ethan Bradberry, Athena Chaput, Sophie Cole, Aden Cook, Cooper Davidson, Molly Drewry, Ethan High, Alex Hughes, Addyson Lee, Addison Milam, Ashton Nutting, Rakelle Oliver, Cayden Ownby, Stephanie Padilla, Olivia Pate, Janyla Piro, Katelyn Prather, Lillian Simmons, Bryson Smith, Jaycee Stafford, Sophie Taylor and Egan Woodruff.

Tenth: Devon Armstrong, Branson Baker, Lola Barton, Wade Chandler, Lashontiana Clark, Jasmine Curtis, Savannah Donat, Abbigail Ghyers, Allie Giles, Madeline Gottshall, Ava Hastings, Chloe Hitt, Kennedi Hutchens, Alejandro Garcia, Pedro Mendez, Madelyn Morris, Bianca Pryor, Alyssa Redmond and Brooklyn Shafer.

Eleventh: Gracie Aird, Ethan Batton, Carli Beeler, Brody Berryhill, Brady Blount, Dylan Bomar, Tobey Brooks, Makiya Cavette, Coleson Cook, Ashley Dunavant, Liberty Dyal, Matthew Gaylord, Morgan Little, Landyn McLearen, Landon Otis, Brayden Priddy, Emil Schreitmueller, Kaelyn Stebbins, Ryan Toombs, Matthew Townsend and Caden Tucker.

Twelfth: Briley Arnold*, Ariyana Ayers*, Baylee Barden, Landon Barton, Kyla Beveridge, Kortnee Brown, Reese Carroll, Gage Crosland, Rachel Essary*, Adyson Freeman, Reese Gallimore, Allyson Gibson*, Lacey Hamilton, Brooklin Hudgins*, Destiny Huitzache, Aubrey Jackson, Carter Kee*, Nathan Lease, Hannah Lee*, Cayden Lowrance, Anastasia Markham, Emily McMullin, Aydin Neely, Lydia Pate*, Sophie Pate*, Jacey Pinson, Aiden Pride, Taylor Rawls, Lucy Reynolds, Kristen Rimmer*, Laila Scott, Emma Smith*, Tate Surber*, Jaylin Taylor-Megaw*, Craegen Travis, Allie Walker and Anna Weatherford.

* Indicates four-year honors banquet attendee.

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

Bad Things Happen to Good People

Recently, a friend asked me how I deal with people who are angry at God for allowing bad things to happen to them.

It's the issue every Christian has struggled with at some time or other in their life. I know I have. When Satan has smashed the door of your life off its hinges and entered like a raging Viking, creating havoc and destruction on every hand, the question is, Why?

Here's what I shared with my friend:

When I counsel people who have been subjected to every form of abuse imaginable, they are often angry with God. I always tell them their feeling is normal, that it's one of the natural states of grief. If they know the story of Job, I tell them Job was angry and confused by what was happening to him, too.

When I read the book of Job, I don't find a patient, docile man enduring his suffering quietly. He even directly questions God to explain to him what's going on, and God patiently listens until Job is finished. Then, in chapter 38, God basically says to Job, "Okay, I've listened to your questions. Now, sit down, and let me ask you some things."

What God does next is to ask questions that no one can answer except God.

God was basically saying, "Even if I explained it to you, Job, you wouldn't be able to understand because my mind is so far above yours."

Job gets the message when, in chapter 42, he basically apologizes. "I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know."

So, I say to people, "I can't explain all the ways of God because I don't have the mind of God. But if we love, value, and appreciate God when he blesses us, shouldn't we love, value, and appreciate him when he allows evil to come our way? Can we trust there's a holy purpose to it?"

This is basically Job's message to his wife in chapter two, verse ten, when he says, "Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?"

God is not some kind of "Sugar Daddy," only looking to do things for us that make us happy, giving us what we want.

He always does the right thing, even if I don't understand it.

** Taken from The Wit and Wisdom of David Johnson, Volume I1: The Hairy Catfish Caper.*

GCAC Featured on WLJT-TV

Global Citizen Adventure Corps (GCAC) is the featured organization on "Tennessee is Talking," a special interest segment on WLJT-TV, West Tennessee's Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). GCAC is featured during the April 2025 airings.



WLJT Host Tom Britt interviews Dr. Julie Hill of Union City and Stacie Freeman of Dresden (pictured right). Hill and Freeman are the co-founders of Global Citizen Adventure Corps.

In an interview conducted by veteran TV personality and news anchor Tom Britt, GCAC's co-founders, Stacie Freeman, M.S.S.W., and Dr. Julie Hill, discussed their mission and experiences in leading student and adult groups to global destinations. Together, they bring over 35 years of experience in K-12 education, university teaching, administration, and nonprofit leadership. Both have personally led numerous global studies programs for hundreds of students and community members to various destinations.

"Tennessee is Talking" highlights local changemakers, small business owners, activists, and others from diverse backgrounds across West Tennessee. The show covers community issues, events in local neighborhoods, school initiatives, arts and culture, and much more, aiming to amplify the many untold stories that reflect life in Tennessee. The co-founders of GCAC have traveled to Brazil, Costa Rica, Peru, Ecuador, Guatemala, France, Italy, Nicaragua, Panama, Cuba, Mexico, Thailand, and Trinidad and Tobago. They have trips planned for 2025 to Cuba, France, Mexico, Brazil, Honduras, Colombia, and Costa Rica. The 2026 planned trips include Ireland, Scotland, Japan, West Africa, and more.

Founded in the summer of 2022, Global Citizen Adventure Corps is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Its mission is to facilitate service-based travel opportunities for young people from underrepresented backgrounds who might not have such opportunities otherwise. Three hours of college credit in Global Service Learning and Citizenship are available for high school and college students, along with scholarships to help fund the travels for those who need assistance.

GCAC strives to make the dreams of students who seek firsthand knowledge of the world a reality through service to their local and global communities.

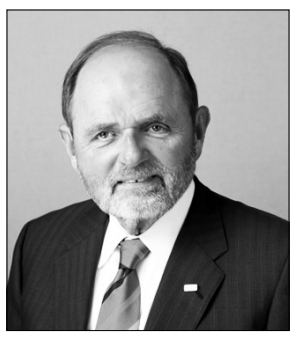
The nonprofit offers a range of travel opportunities, including student-only trips, trips for students and adults, and trips for civic, church and business groups. These programs can be pre-planned or custom-designed for individual group needs and interests.

New "Tennessee is Talking" episodes air on Thursdays at 8:30 PM and other times on West TN PBS. The show can also be streamed anytime on the PBS video app, YouTube channel, and the West TN PBS website:

https://video.westtnpbs.org/video/global-citizen-adventure-corps-pm-84ju/

Jim Ayers, Prominent Banker, Philanthropist, Dies at 81

PARSONS (April 2) — Jim Ayers, founder and former CEO of FirstBank and one of Tennessee's most influential business leaders, passed away April 1, 2025, in Nashville following an extended illness. He was 81.



Jim Ayers

Born in Parsons, Tennessee, on November 19, 1943, Ayers was renowned for transforming FirstBank from a small local institution into a financial powerhouse with assets exceeding $13 billion. His business career included significant success in healthcare, particularly in the nursing home industry, before he pivoted fully to banking in the mid-1990s.

In 1999, Ayers established The Ayers Foundation, dedicated to supporting education and improving quality of life for rural Tennesseans. The foundation's nationally recognized Ayers Scholars Program currently serves students across 33 high schools in Tennessee's most economically challenged counties.

Ayers received numerous accolades throughout his life, including induction into the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, and he held honorary doctorates from several universities, including Belmont, Bethel, and The University of Memphis.

Memorial donations can be directed to The Ayers Foundation Trust, located at 643 South Tennessee Avenue, Parsons, Tennessee 38363, or online at AyersFoundationTrust.org/JimAyersMemorial.

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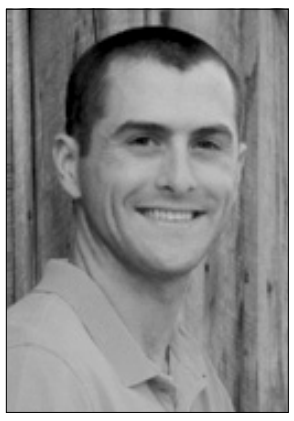
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Obituaries



CHANCE CARLTON
1992 — 2025

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Chance Carlton, 32, of Huntingdon, died Thursday, April 3, 2025, at Baptist Hospital-Carroll County, Huntingdon. Funeral services were at Chase Funeral Home on Monday, April 7, 2025. Interment was in Shiloh Cemetery.

Instead of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to: The Chance Carlton Memorial Fund, Carroll Bank and Trust, PO Box 889, Huntingdon, TN 38344.

Donations may also be made at any CB&T branch.

Chance was born October 30, 1992, in Huntingdon, to Tim and Robbie (Churchwell) Carlton. He served his community as a lineman for the Carroll County Electric Department. He was preceded in death by an unborn child, paternal grandparents, Jerry and B.J. Smith, and maternal grandparents, Bobby and Frances Churchwell.

He is survived by his wife, Samantha Carlton; two daughters, Landry Jean Carlton and Ellsie Jo Carlton; his parents, Tim and Robbie Carlton; a sister, Jessica (Kris) Hunley, all of Huntingdon; and his in-laws, Shannon and George Bedocs, all of Jackson.

STANLEY REYNOLDS
1950 — 2025

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Stanley Reynolds, 74, of Huntingdon, died Saturday, April 5, 2025, at his home.

Funeral services were Monday, April 7, 2025, in the Chapel of Dilday-Carter Funeral Home. Interment was in New Crossroads Cemetery.

Mr. Reynolds was born April 26, 1950, to the late Edd Reynolds and Sue Kelly Reynolds.

He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Judy Walker Reynolds; two sons, Dwayne (Patty) Reynolds of Savannah, Tenn., and Dwight (Julie) Reynolds of Huntingdon; two sisters, Donna (Mack) Moore and Linda (Gary) Wood of St. Peters, Mo.; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

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

BOBBY BAUMGARDNER
1936 — 2025

McKENZIE — Mr. Bobby Baumgardner, 89, of McKenzie, died Friday, April 4, 2025, at Cherrywood Nursing Home.

Graveside services are Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 2 p.m. at Cool Springs Cemetery in Cedar Grove.

The family will receive friends in the Cherrywood Room of Chase Funeral Home on Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m.

Mr. Baumgardner was born January 18, 1936, in Milan, Tenn., to the late Clarence and Dola (Collins) Baumgardner. He was also preceded in death by his wife Peggy Baumgardner.

He is survived by three daughters, Tammy Dodd (Tony) of Cedar Grove, Sandra Cooper (Ronnie), Debra Mayberry, both of McKenzie; and a son, Danny Baumgardner, of Lavinia. He also leaves six grandchildren, Joshua Mayberry, Lydia Armour, Matthew Cooper (Mallory), Meagan Cooper, Nick Dodd (Mery), Hope Dodd; and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Unemployment Rates Drop in 88 Tennessee Counties

NASHVILLE — More Tennesseans were on the job in February than the previous month as 88 of 95 counties reported a decline in their unemployment rates, the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) announced today.

In two Tennessee counties, unemployment rates in February were the same as in January. Five counties saw an increase.

Eighty-four Tennessee counties recorded unemployment rates of less than 5%. The remaining 11 counties had rates that were greater than 5% but less than 10%.

Williamson County reported the lowest unemployment rate for the month at 2.6%, a decline of two-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month.

Four counties — Cheatham, Wilson, Robertson, and Rutherford — had unemployment rates of 2.7%. Macon and Knox counties followed with rates of 2.8%.

Cocke County recorded the state's highest unemployment rate for February at 6.6%, a drop of four-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month.

Pickett County had the next-highest rate at 6.3%, a decline of seven-tenths of a percentage point. Lewis County followed with a rate of 5.9%. Its rate in January was 4.1%.

Tennessee's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has remained steady at 3.7% for six consecutive months. The national rate in February was 4.1%.

Unlike the statewide rate, county rates are not adjusted to account for seasonal impacts on employment.

Job seekers can work one on one with a career specialist — at no cost — at one of Tennessee's American Job Centers. Find a list of AJC locations.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training can help remove barriers to employment through funded education, skills training, and supportive services. Learn more about SNAP E&T eligibility and the services provided.

Tennessee will release statewide unemployment data for March on Thursday, April 17, 2025.



Italian No Bake Cake

1 box of vanilla wafers
1 can crushed pineapple with juice
1/4 cup lemon juice
1 can sweetened condensed milk
1 pkg of coconut
1 8 oz. Cool Whip
1 small jar cherries
1 cup chopped pecans (optional)

Layer bottom of the dish with vanilla wafers. Mix in a bowl the lemon juice and condensed milk. Add the pineapple and mix all together. Pour over the vanilla wafers. Add another layer of vanilla wafers on top of the pineapple mix. Then top with cool whip, coconut and cherries. Refrigerate overnight. Serve and enjoy. You can replace coconut with pecans if you like.

Quick and Easy Corn Relish

2 (12 oz.) cans whole kernel corn with sweet peppers
3 tablespoons cooking oil
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup vinegar
2 teaspoons minced dried onion
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon celery seed

Combine corn and oil. Heat sugar, vinegar, onion, salt and celery seed. Simmer for 2 minutes. Add to the corn and oil mixture. Cover and cool. Refrigerate for several hours. Drain and serve. Makes about 3 cups.

Sunshine Carrot Salad

2 cups grated carrots
1 (11 oz.) can mandarin oranges, drained
1 cup pineapple chunks, drained
1 cup flaked coconut
1/2 cup raisins
1 (8 oz.) carton sour cream

Combine all ingredients, except sour cream. Stir well. Chill for 2 or 3 hours. Stir in sour cream. Serve on lettuce. Yields 6 to 8 servings.

Homemade Thousand Island Dressing

3/4 cup salad dressing
1/4 cup tomato catsup
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup pickle relish (sweet)

Mix all ingredients together. Add a little milk if you want it to be thinner.

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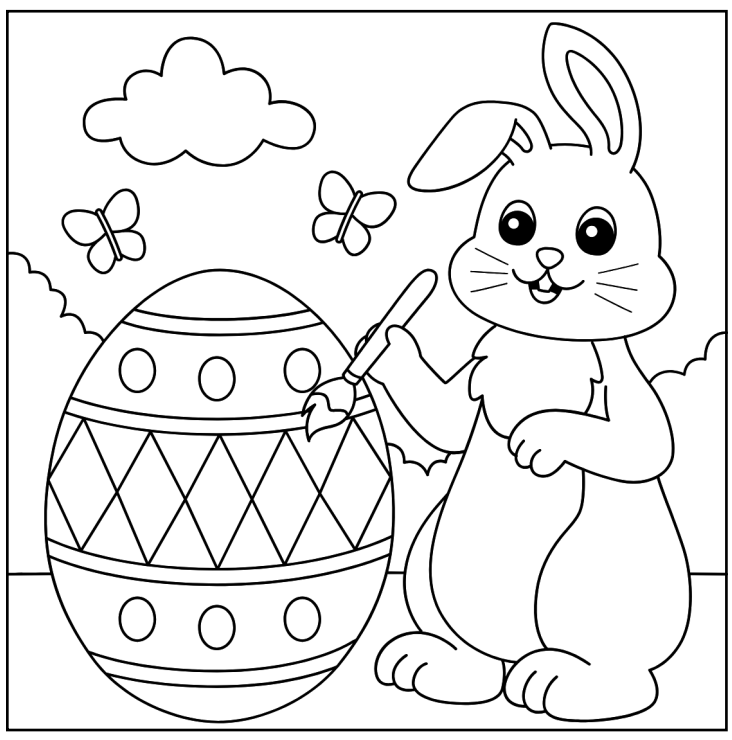
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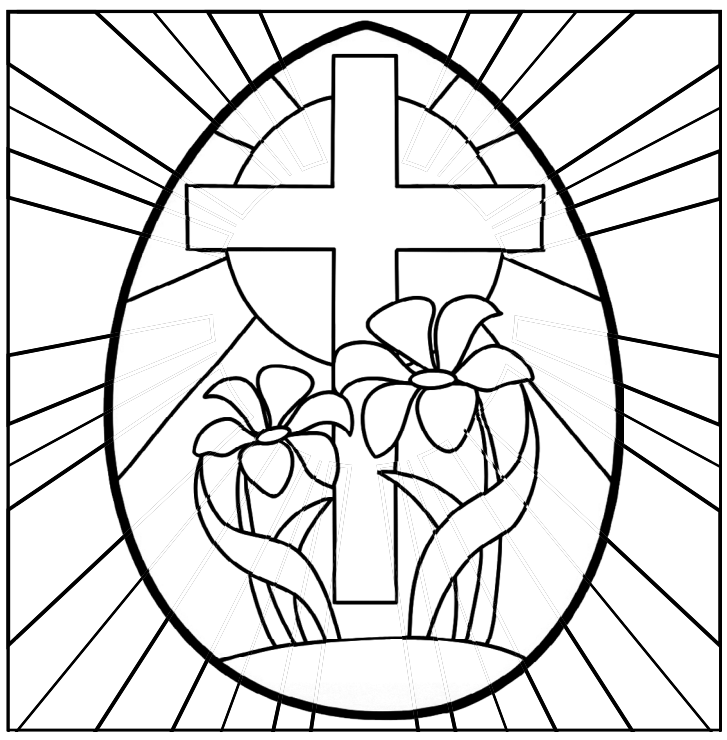
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Easter Art Gallery

April 15, 2025

Pick a picture to color and submit to be featured on the Easter Art Gallery page in the newspaper next week. Artists of all ages are welcome. Not a contest, just fun. The prize? Bragging rights, tell everyone your art has been published!





Artist's Information

Name _____

Age _____

City, State _____

Contact Info (Not Published)

Name _____

Phone _____

Email completed art to: ART@mckenziebanner.com **DEADLINE: Sunday, April 13, 2025** **QUESTIONS? Call 731-352-3323**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MACEDONIA COMMUNITY CENTER CAKE WALK

Macedonia Community Center, 4680 Highway 423, McKenzie, is hosting a cake walk on April 11. The event features live music, hamburgers, hot dogs. The music and food starts at 5:30 p.m. and the cake walk at 7 p.m.

FFA PLANT SALES AT AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Local Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapters are preparing for their annual plant sales, offering a wide selection of flowers, vegetables and hanging baskets just in time for spring planting.

McKenzie High School's FFA plant sale opens Friday, April 11, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and continues Saturday, April 12, from 8 a.m. to noon. Beginning April 14, the greenhouse will be open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. until sold out. The sale features dozens of plant varieties, including vinca, coleus, geraniums, marigolds, sweet potato vines and dwarf sunflowers. Hanging baskets, succulents and mixed planters are also available. Cash or check are accepted.

Huntingdon High School's FFA plant sale is Friday-Saturday, April 11-12 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the HHS greenhouse behind the school.

West Carroll FFA will hold its sale Friday, April 19, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the greenhouse on Norris Robinson Loop, 760 Highway 77 in Atwood. More than 30 types of bedding plants will be offered, along with tomato and pepper starters, succulents, and large porch pots. Prices range from $3 for vegetable 4-packs to $30 for 14-inch fern baskets. A silent auction will conclude at 1 p.m., and food will be available on site.

Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central's FFA plant sale is Saturday, April 12, beginning at 8 a.m. Items available include ferns, vegetables, flowers and hanging baskets.

Proceeds support student agriculture projects and greenhouse operations.

Parisian THEATRE
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MINECRAFT (PG)
Tues. 7:30
Wed. 7:30
Thurs. 7:30

THE CHOSEN: LAST SUPPER PART 2 (PG-13)
Tues. 7:00
Wed. 7:00
Thurs. 7:00

A WORKING MAN (R)
Tues. 7:25
Wed. 7:25
Thurs. 7:25

WOMAN IN THE YARD (PG-13)
Tues. 7:35
Wed. 7:35
Thurs. 7:35

SNOW WHITE (PG)
Tues. 7:25
Wed. 7:25
Thurs. 7:25

CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD (PG-13)
Tues. 7:30
Wed. 7:30
Thurs. 7:30

A4365/14-1

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McKENZIE BANDS SPRING CONCERT POSTPONED

The McKenzie Band's spring concert originally scheduled for Tuesday, April 8 has been postponed due to the school closure from severe weather. A new date has yet to be announced.

McKENZIE SCHOOL BOARD RETREAT

The McKenzie Special School District Board of Educations meets for a school board retreat Saturday, April 19 at 9 a.m. at the central office at 114 Bell Avenue. The meeting includes a walk-through of school buildings and discussion of strategies and goals. For more information, please contact the Director of Schools' office.

MISS MCKENZIE PAGEANTS

The Miss McKenzie Pageants are Saturday, April 19 in Bethel University's Bouldin Auditorium. General admission is $10. Doors open at noon.

Tentative start times for the six categories are: Mini Miss McKenzie (ages 4-5) - no sooner that 1 p.m.; Little Mr. McKenzie (4-9) - no sooner than 2 p.m.; Little Miss McKenzie (6-9) - no sooner than 3 p.m.; Junior Miss McKenzie (10-12) - no sooner than 4 p.m.; Teen Miss McKenzie (13-15) - no sooner than 5 p.m.; Miss McKenzie (16-18) - no sooner than 6 p.m.

The entry fee is $40 and must be turned in with the application (checks payable to McKenzie High School Band). Please return forms and fees to the offices of McKenzie Elementary, Middle or High School.

Contestants must: be a resident of McKenzie; be the minimum age and no more than the maximum by May 1, 2025 for their category; attend a mandatory rehearsal on Wednesday, April 16 at 3:30 p.m. at Bouldin; and arrive no sooner than one hour before the start of your age group. For Mini Miss McKenzie, a pageant dress is not required. A "Sunday" dress is acceptable. For ages 6-9, floor-length gowns are encouraged. Each contestant will be allowed one guest in the dressing rooms.

All decisions are final. No score sheets will be released to contestants. School faculty and pageant staff will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.

Naturopathic Doctor in McKenzie
April 18 & 19
Meet Doctor Annette at Merchant Outlet Mall Booth 101



At the booth, you will have the opportunity to:
- Discuss your health concerns with Annette Hasalone.
- Learn about the benefits of Angstrom Minerals and how they can support your health.
- Get personalized advice on natural health solutions

Annette will be available to offer her expertise and answer your questions. For more information call: (208) 691-5727 or visit: www.elementalresearchinc.com

McKENZIE SENIOR CENTER EVENTS

Wednesday, April 9 — Senior Movie "Last Breath", 2 p.m. at the Park Theatre.

Thursday, April 10 — BINGO at 2:30 p.m. at the Center.

Saturday, April 12, 5 p.m. — All you can eat Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for our community outreach program. Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and beverage for $10.

Every Tuesday — Jam session with Steve Morris, 6 p.m. Open to the public.

BETHEL RENAISSANCE PRESENTS 'ALICE BY HEART'

Bethel University Renaissance Theatre presents 'Alice by Heart' on Friday, April 11 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 12 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Bethel Performing Arts Center, 647 Stonewall Street North, McKenzie. Tickets can be purchased at www.bethel-renaissance.com/box-office.

McKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL DECADES REUNION

McKenzie High School is hosting the annual football Homecoming on Friday, September 19, 2025. The Rebels will play Camden Lions at Rebel Stadium. In conjunction, the MHS Alumni Association will host its second annual Decades Reunion. Any MHS class hosting a reunion should contact the MHS Alumni Association to help promote the class reunion.

CARROLL COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME CEREMONY

The Carroll County Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony is Saturday, May 3 at 6 p.m. at the Carroll County Civic Center. The event will honor one male and one female senior from each high school, along with outstanding athletes who have graduated from the five local high schools. For ticket information, contact Lex Suite at 731-415-2834.

CARROLL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY REORGANIZATION

The Carroll County Democratic Party Reorganization Convention is Thursday, April 10 at 7 p.m. at the Huntingdon Police Station, located at 1160 Lexington Street. Doors open at 6 p.m.

RELAY FOR LIFE CANCER BAKE AUCTION IS APRIL 14

The annual Carroll County Relay for Life Cancer Bake Auction is April 14-18, 1-4 p.m. at McKenzie Church of Christ, 16300 Highland Drive, McKenzie. The auction is hosted live on radio station WHDM, 1440 AM and 98.9 FM. each day. Tune in to place your bids and support cancer research and care. The Church of Christ opens daily at 7:30 a.m. for in-person activity and support. For more information, call 731-333-0194.

UPCOMING DATES, EVENTS

The following list of events was provided by Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. Specific information about events may be available at a later date.

May 1 — National Day of Prayer.

May 3 — Carroll County Sports Hall of Fame and Bethel University Spring Commencement.

May 17 — Bruceton in May.

May 22 — Chamber Golf Tournament.

May 22 — Last day of school spring semester.

May 26 — Huntingdon and McKenzie Memorial Day Celebrations.

June 28 — Eastview Fireworks Celebration.

July 4 — McKenzie and McLemoresville July 4th Celebrations.

August 5 — 2025-2026 school year begins.

August 22-23 — McKenzie Sweet Tea Festival.

September 27 — Huntingdon Heritage Festival.

October 13-17 — Fall Break.

October 27 — County Chamber Banquet.

November 7-8 — Carroll County Christmas Market.

November 24 — Ducks Unlimited Banquet.

December 19 — Last day of fall semester.

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.

HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS APRIL 12

Carroll Arts, Inc. presents the Celebration of the Arts, a free event showcasing Carroll County high school students involved in the arts, will be held on Saturday, April 12 at The Dixie Carter Performing Arts and Academic Enrichment Center in Huntingdon. The celebration is open to all high school students in Carroll County to exhibit or perform in the areas of visual arts, music, and drama. Performers will take to The Dixie stage to display their talents and artwork will be prominently displayed in the gallery. The art exhibit starts at 6:30 p.m. and performances start at 7 p.m. If students are interested in participating, please reach out to your school's art, drama, band, or guidance counselor.

Carroll Arts, Inc. is a non-profit dedicated to shining a light on the arts in Carroll County, Tenn. To learn more, e-mail carrollartsinc@gmail.com.

Other upcoming events include: An Evening with Carroll Arts is June 21; The Creativity Camp for Carroll County elementary and middle school students is July 7-11; Southern Fried Funnies during McKenzie's Sweet Tea Festival in August; Storytelling during the Huntingdon Heritage Festival in September; A Mistletoe Christmas Program during McKenzie's Christmas Celebration in December; and the 15th Annual Trivia Bowl in January 2026.

CAPITOL TALK DATES RELEASED

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce announced upcoming final date for "Capitol Talk". Senator John Stevens will be at the Civic Center on Friday, April 11. Events start at 8 a.m. with remarks from 8:10-8:30 a.m. and question and answer from 8:30-9 a.m.

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 HUMANE SOCIETY EVENTS

Cat Vouchers

We always have spay/neuter vouchers for cats at a cost of $60 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. 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.

McKENZIE TOPS MEETS MONDAYS

The McKenzie Chapter of TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets Mondays at 3 p.m. at the McKenzie Church of Christ gym. Anyone interested in losing weight can join. The first meeting is free. For more information, call (731)- 352-7309. If no answer, leave a message.

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.

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.

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2025 RABIES CLINIC
IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL DOG & CAT OWNERS
THE 2025 RABIES VACCINATION CLINIC IS BEING HELD BY THE CARROLL CO. HEALTH DEPT. WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE LOCAL VETERINARY OFFICES IN ORDER TO GIVE EVERYONE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLY WITH THE STATE LAW WHICH REQUIRES THAT ALL DOGS AND CATS SIX MONTHS OF AGE AND OLDER BE KEPT VACCINATED AGAINST RABIES.
THE COST PER ANIMAL WILL BE $8 FOR THE VACCINATION PLUS $1 FOR THE REGISTRATION OF DOGS.
THE CLINIC WILL BE CONDUCTED AT LOCAL VETERINARY OFFICES DURING REGULAR OFFICE HOURS.



SATURDAY, APRIL 12
THRU
SATURDAY, APRIL 26

PARTICIPATING VETERINARIANS
HUNTINGDON ANIMAL CLINIC
280 VETERANS DRIVE NORTH, HUNTINGDON, TN 38344
731-986-3693
TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL CLINIC
40 CONNIE ALLEN ROAD, McKENZIE, TN 38201
731-352-6000
A1846/PO#10141465/14-1

McKenzie Police Reports

DUI — Kerry L Suratt, 52, Mill Street, Gleason, was charged with Driving Under the Influence and Violation of Implied Consent on March 31.

Offficer Timothy Dillon stopped Suratt's vehicle, administered a field sobriety test, and arrested him for DUI. He was transported to Carroll County Jail.

Driving on Suspended License — Thomas Ray McKey, 42, Price Road, Huntingdon, was charged with Driving on a Suspended License, Violation of Financial Responsibility, and Violation of Display of Registration Plate on March 31.

Officer Darren Davis stopped McKey's vehicle for an inoperable registration light. McKey's license was suspended and he could not provide proof of insurance. He was cited into Carroll County General Sessions Court.

Driving on Suspended License - Second Offense — Brandy Belk, 32, Barksdale Avenue, McKenzie was charged with Driving on Suspended License and Violation of Registration Plate on March 31.

Officer Dustin McClure stopped Belk's vehicle for having a temporary license tag that was not visible in the rear window where the dealer had placed the license. A check of her license revealed the suspended status. She was cited into Carroll County General Sessions Court.

Counterfeit Merchandise, Simple Possession — Three persons were charged after a traffic stop for Violation of Light Law on April 6. The officer found some counterfeit merchandise in the vehicle. He also found prescription medications.

Officer Dustin McClure stopped a vehicle for a broken taillight. The driver was Vitas Saintelme, 34, Galaxy Drive, Jackson, who was charged with Violation of Light Law, Simple Possession Schedule II, and Counterfeit Merchandise.

Gertie Silencieux, 54, Galaxy Drive, Jackson, was charged with Simple Possession Schedule II and Possession of Counterfeit Merchandise.

Jean-Pierre Godener, 38, Galaxy Drive, Jackson, was charged with Simple Possession-Schedule II and Possession of Counterfeit Merchandise.

Driving on Suspended License — Jerry Wayne Bennett, 53, Button Avenue, Florence, Alabama, was charged with Driving on Suspended License, Violation of Vehicle Registration, Violation of Financial Responsibility on April 4.

Officer Darren Davis stopped Bennett's vehicle for an inoperable headlight. A check of the driver's license revealed the suspended status in Alabama. The vehicle was unregistered and the driver had no insurance. He was cited into Carroll County Jail.

Driving on Suspended License — Michael Antonio Gilbert, 41, Magnolia Avenue, McKenzie, was charged with Driving on a Suspended License and Violation of Probation.

Sergeant Cody Coleman observed Gilbert driving and initiated contact with him in Walnut Circle. Gilbert's license was suspended and he had an active arrest warrant for Violation of Probation. He was arrested and transported to Carroll County Jail.

Speeding, Driving on Suspended — Melvin Dartavious Tyson, 25, Highway 124, McKenzie, was charged with Speeding and Driving on a Suspended License on March 31.

Sergeant Cody Coleman observed Tyson's vehicle speeding and initiated a traffic stop. He learned of an outstanding suspension out of Milan. Tyson was cited into Carroll County General Sessions.

Aggravated Criminal Trespass — Carla Kay Wagner, 38, Park Circle, McKenzie was charged with Aggravated Criminal Trespass and Vandalism on April 2.

Officer Steven Scott responded to a residence on Park Cove, where a man stated his ex-girlfriend threw a brick at the house and broke the window. Warrants were issued for Wagner for Vandalism and Aggravated Criminal Trespass, because she had already been warned to stay away from the residence.

Disorderly Conduct — Matthew Moore, 46, Highland Drive, McKenzie was charged with Disorderly Conduct and Resisting Arrest on March 28.

Officer Dalton Raspberry arrested Moore after he was reported to be exposing himself to drivers passing by. Once he was confronted by officers, he attempted to walk/ run to his home and away from the scene, even though officers ordered him to stop. A family member stated he should be taking some medicine. She voluntarily surrendered his firearms in his home to officers.

Simple Possession — Daryl Eugene Ross, 66, Winston Street, Paris, was charged with Simple Possession on March 31.

Officer Justin Brister stopped the vehicle after Ross failed to use the turn signal during a turn. Officer Brister stopped the vehicle and learned of an active warrant for Violation of Probation in Henry County. During the arrest, Ross admitted to having drugs in his pocket and was charged with Simple Possession.

Simple Possession — Ginger Garrison, 44, Highway 70, Cedar Grove, was charged with Simple Possession and Drug Paraphernalia on April 1.

Officer Steven Scott stopped Garrison's vehicle for Failure to Maintain Lane. The officer indicated Garrison was nervous so he requested to search the vehicle. Garrison denied the request, and a canine was called to the scene and alerted on the vehicle. The officer located illegal drugs. Garrison was charged as listed above and Violation of Financial Responsibility.

Theft — Shayna R. Warmath, 39, Highway 104, McKenzie, was charged with Theft on March 30.

Officer Steven Scott responded to Liquorland, where Warmath had secreted a bottle of vodka in her purse and left without paying.

Failure to Appear — Keith Waldderain Haynes, 57, Forrest Avenue, McKenzie was arrested on an outstanding warrant of Failure to Appear on April 1.

Officer Dustin McClure stopped a vehicle in which Haynes was a passenger. The stop was initiated due to an inoperable brake light. A check of Haynes' status resulted in his arrest and transport to Carroll County Jail.

Failure to Appear — Thomas A. Walker, 20, McDonald Avenue, McKenzie was arrested on an outstanding warrant for Failure to Appear.

Officer Dustin McClure went to Walker's residence with an active warrant and arrested him. He was transported to Carroll County Jail.

Failure to Appear — Yolanda N. Robinson, 49, Park Circle, McKenzie, was arrested on a warrant for Failure to Appear.

Officer Dustin McClure stopped a vehicle that was speeding. McClure checked the occupants' identification. Robinson, a passenger, was wearing dark glasses at night. A check of her identification resulted in her arrest on the outstanding warrant.

Failure to Pay Child Support — Mercedes L. Gammill, 33, May Street, McKenzie, was arrested at her residence by Officer Darren Davis, who served a warrant on her for Failure to Pay Child Support. She was transported to Carroll County Jail.

Failure to Appear — McKinley R. Wasterwood, 46, James Cove, Tiptonville, was arrested on an outstanding warrant for Failure to Appear on April 5.

Officer Dustin McClure stopped a vehicle after it had just left a Dollar General, where the subjects had reportedly taken candy bars without paying. A check of Easterwood's status revealed the outstanding warrant in Weakley County. He was arrested and transported to Weakley County Jail.

Huntingdon Police Reports

Simple Possession, Driving on Revoked — On March 24, Patrolman Richardson observed a vehicle swerving on Lexington Street. The driver, Lamarcus Young, 27, was acting erratic and under the influence of substances. Mr. Young was asked to exit his vehicle for a field sobriety test in which he performed poorly so he was placed under arrest for driving under the influence. The vehicle was searched and a scale with white powder residue was found that tested positive for cocaine and small Ziploc plastic bags were found. It was also later confirmed he was driving on a revoked driver's license.

Simple Possession, Driving on Revoked, Speeding — On March 19, Patrolman Jonathan McDowell was on patrol on Lexington Street when a van was seen traveling at a high rate of speed. The driver, William Hickerson, 39, was speaking very fast and stated he was trying to pick up a family member due to a wreck occurring out of state. He did not have a driver's license and had one marijuana cigarette. He was given a citation and had 10 days to book in Carroll County Jail.

Driving on Revoked — On March 21, Officer Arline observed a vehicle running a stop sign on High Street. The driver, Eric Ford, 54, informed the officer his license was suspended. This incident marks his fourth offense of driving while suspended. He was given 10 days to book into Carroll County Jail.

Reckless Driving — On March 21, Sgt. Tony King witnessed a vehicle on Highway 22 traveling at 92 mph in a 55 mph zone. The vehicle also didn't have the correct license plate. The driver, Eric Poole, 20, stated the tag was from his grandmother's vehicle and he couldn't give accurate proof of owning the vehicle. He was arrested for reckless driving and cited for driving an unregistered vehicle.

Carroll County General Sessions Report

HUNTINGDON (April 2) — The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on April 2.

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

Ashton Siler, Greenview, Jackson, bound over on charge of Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Meth-Manufacture, Deliver, Sell or Possess with Intent; Possession of Schedule II Drugs.

Drew R. Smith, McCadams, Huntingdon, bound over on charges of Schedule IV Drugs-Manufacturing, Deliver, Sell or Possess; Schedule II Drugs; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; Meth- Possess or Casual Exchange.

The following cases resulted in a guilty finding or plea.

Joshua Cook, Howse Church Road, Atwood, guilty, Probation Violation, three months jail suspended to 30 days; supervised probation.

Oziel Hernandez, Berrypick Lane, Memphis, pre-trial diversion, Tampering with Evidence; dismissed, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange; dismissed, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Timothy Alen Hough, College Street, Bruceton, pre-trial diversion, Cruelty to Animals, no longer to possess the dog.

Janiaya Eriauna Miller, pre-trial diversion, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange, probation, alcohol and drug evaluation and counseling; dismissed, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; dismissed, Tampering with Evidence.

Daniel Wayne Parker, Highway 124, Yuma, guilty, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange, $750 fine, jail sentence suspended to 30 days; probation; dismissed, Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, forfeit weapon to sheriff; dismissed, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Paul Pease, North Carroll, Bruceton, guilty, Criminal Trespass, $50 fine, probation, no contact with victim.

Gavin Rosson, Gardner Road, Cedar Grove, guilty, Probation Violation, 11/29 jail, may be furloughed to rehab after 90 days.

Athena Stafford, Elm Street, McKenzie, guilty, Domestic Assault, 11/29 jail suspended to time served; defendant to complete mental health evaluation.

The following defendants' cases were dismissed.

Gregory Curry, Gwen Street, Paris, dismissed, Prohibited sell of Alcoholic Beverage; dismissed, Cruelty to Animals.

Eric Cain Hutchison, Wilson Street, Paris, dismissed, Theft.

Daryl E. Ross, Winston Place, Paris, dismissed, Theft.

Brandon Dee Swafford, Jones Street, Huntingdon, dismissed, Probation Violation.

Thomas Walker, McDonald Avenue, McKenzie, dismissed, Driving While Suspended; dismissed, Light Law Violation.

Carroll County Sheriff's Reports

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia — On March 28, Deputy Alex Sherwood conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for failing to maintain lane while driving on Forrest Ave. in McKenzie. The driver, Michael Fowler, 62, of McKenzie, was the sole occupant of the vehicle and appeared to have something in his front pocket. After a search, Deputy Sherwood found a glass meth pipe and 3 grams of meth.

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia — On March 29, Deputy Alex Sherwood conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle making an improper turn and failing to maintain lane. The driver, Ellis Ricardo Tharpe, 43, of Lavern, had a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. After a search 3 THC vapes were found and a small amount of marijuana was in a $1.00 bill. He was cited into general sessions for misdemeanor possession.

Possession of Meth — On April 2, Deputy Jeremy Smith noticed a white single cab truck approach with a passenger side headlight out. The driver, Bryan Allen Bradshaw, 40, of Atwood, admitted he did not have a driver's license. While speaking with Bradshaw, Deputy Smith smelled an odor of alcohol. Bradshaw was asked to exit the vehicle, and he admitted to drinking. In the vehicle, there was a firearm, 2.6 grams of meth, 3 Xanax pills, one meth pipe, and one weed pipe. He was transported to Carroll County Jail.

Domestic Assault — On April 4, Deputies Bongiovanni, Thomas, and Sherwood were dispatched to Highway 220 in Lavinia for a domestic assault. The victim had obvious injuries to her face, head and arms. She stated that she and her ex-boyfriend, Dylan L. Murdock, 32, of Lavinia were traveling from a gas station in Milan, and she was driving. She stated Murdock was being argumentative and began punching and slapping her while she was driving down the road. They made it to Murdock's residence whenever she realized she had left her phone at the Milan gas station, so Murdock began assaulting her again. She was able to get away and ran to a neighbor's home to get help. Murdock took off on foot and arrest warrants were issued. At the time of the report, he was not located.

Marriage Licenses

Brittany Marie Palmer, 32, of Lavinia, to Christopher George Rimmer, 40, of Lavinia.

Khang Andy Nguyen, 28, of Cedar Grove, to Ara Mariz Handayan Madera, 24, of Cedar Grove.

Samantha Leigh Dunn, 24, of McKenzie, to Matthew Alan Patterson, 26, of McKenzie.

Alexander Michael Scott, 22, of Bruceton, to Tristyn Nichole Yewell, 21, of Huntingdon.

Property Transfers

Ashley Barker to Ray Chamberlain.

Justin James and Whitney Crocker to David and Teresa Taylor in District 22.

Mark S. and Cindy D. Williams to Robert Seth and Jill Bennett in District 12.

Edd S. Scarbrough to Britani Realty Group, LLC.

Arc Investments, Inc. to Shawn Sadler in District 2.

Arc Investments, LLC to Benford E. and Joseph T. Wortham in District 11.

Town of Hollow Rock, Tennessee to Randy and Tina G. King in District 16.

Donald R. and Linda Nachtigal to Darrell J. Corwin in District 16.

Christopher P. and Amy M. Flippin to Fred James Hatler in District 7.

Tina G. and Randy King to Town of Hollow Rock, Tennessee in District 16.

Chad W. Batey to Crystal Jean Batey in District 7.

Tracy Chandler to Derek J. Doster in District 4.

Robert Clay McMackins to General Storage, LLC in District 12.

Connie P. Wilson to Steve Edwards.

Donna Edwards to Steve Edwards.

Steve Edwards to Jon. K. Zemanek in District 22.

Milo R. Miller to Eli N. Borntrager in District 23.

Brian Christopher Sykes to Donald Perkins in District 9.

Connie Sue Beasley to Zehra and Zainab, Inc in District 4.

Eric Eaton to Alex Eaton in District 22.

Samuel E. and Nettie J. Schwartz to Joe and Cheryl Lacroix in District 23.

Brandon J. and Lauren P. Harrison to Billy T. and Jennifer M. Burson in District 4.

Pamela Gallimore to Lauren and Brandon J. Harrison in District 16.

Preston and Morgan E. Carter to Christopher Paul Flippin in District 11.

April Michelle Mebane to Joshua Thomas and Nicole Leann Hastings in District 11.

Dalton Schofill to William Chad Schofill in District 4.

Larry M. and Sylvia Lynn Simmons to Charles D. and Julie L. Ford.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

TO: RHONDA RAE RUESS

PENDING IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

ROBERT THOMAS FRENCH,

Plaintiff,

VS. **DOCKET NO. 25-DR-71**

RHONDA RAE RUESS,

Defendant.

In this cause, it appearing from the Plaintiff's pleading, which is sworn to, that the residence of Rhonda Rae Ruess is unknown and cannot be ascertained upon diligent inquiry or she is a nonresident of Tennessee.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT publication be made for four (4) consecutive weeks as required by law in the McKenzie Banner, a newspaper of general circulation published in Carroll County, Tennessee, notifying Rhonda Rae Ruess to serve upon Plaintiff's attorney, Steven L. West, WEST & WEST ATTORNEYS, 19765 E. Main Street, Huntingdon, Tennessee 38344, and the Clerk of this Court, an Answer to the Complaint for Divorce filed against him in this action within thirty (30) days from the date of last publication which will be April 30, 2025, or a judgment by default will be entered on June 5, 2025, and the action set for hearing ex parte as to him.

Dated this the 5th day of June, 2025,

Kenneth Todd, Clerk and Master, Carroll County Chancery Court

Steven L. West, WEST & WEST ATTORNEYS
19765 E. Main Street, Huntingdon, TN 38344 (731) 986-5551

A8515/14-4

ACCEPTING BIDS

West Carroll Special School District is accepting bids for remodeling of a classroom at the West Carroll Jr. Sr. High School through April 25, 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#29908/14-2

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Carroll County Civic Center

Please notice that Barger Construction has been selected as the Construction Manager to oversee the renovation of the Carroll County Civic Center. The project includes but is not limited to painting, Flooring, roof repairs, repave asphalt parking lot, electrical, plumbing and LED digital signage.

A non-mandatory walk thru will be at the location on April 16, 1 p.m. Bid packages and requirements will be able to be picked up at Barger Construction, 23134 Hwy 22N, Yuma, TN 38390 or by email at lisat@bargerconstructionco.com by April 15.

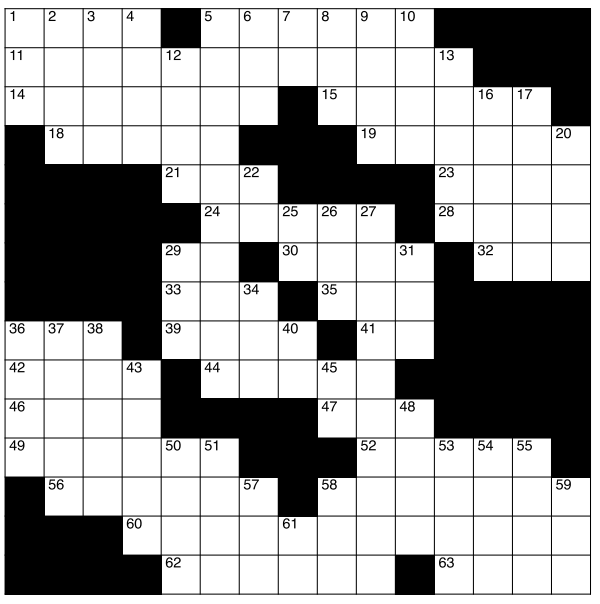
Bid dates and requirements will be included in the Bid Packages

A5605/13-2

Color A Masterpiece



Weekly Crossword



CLUES ACROSS

1. Garden tool
5. A way to preserve
11. Gratitude
14. Domestic sheep
15. Simpler
18. Cavities containing liquid
19. Large fish-eating bird
21. Ocular protection index
23. Phil __, former CIA
24. Icelandic poems
28. Pop
29. Device
30. Actor Rudd
32. A pituitary hormone
33. Focus on an object
35. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
36. Young women's association
39. Not shallow
41. Doctor
42. Furniture
44. Hindu male religious teacher
46. Highly spiced stew
47. A way to communicate
49. Almost last
52. Astronomer Carl
56. Small horses
58. A slender tower with balconies
60. A disrespectful quality
62. Fully shaded inner regions
63. Short convulsive intake of breath

CLUES DOWN

1. Popular Sunday dinner option
2. Oil cartel
3. Agile
4. Greek goddess of discord
5. Genetically distinct variety
6. Indicates badly
7. Popular Mr. T character
8. Consumed
9. Chinese dynasty
10. NFL great Randy
12. Within
13. Palm trees
16. Fungal disease
17. Tall, slender-leaved plants
20. Affirmative! (slang)
22. A passport is one
25. Two outs in baseball (abbr.)
26. Swiss river
27. Deferential
29. Where a bachelor lives
31. Portable computer screen material
34. A crying noise of a bird
36. Sticky, amorphous substance
37. Starchy dish of dried tubers
38. Type of acid
40. Partner to "Ma"
43. 16 ounces
45. The Bay State
48. A well-defined track or path
50. Substitution
51. Defined period
53. Group of toughs
54. Region
55. Famed Scottish Loch
57. Blood relation
58. Not around
59. Recipe measurement
61. Father to Junior

Week 14

See solution in next week's edition.

Safe Sports Word Search

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

Athlete
Concussion
Cooldown
Exhaustion
Eyewear
Flexibility
Guards
Helmet
Hydration
Injury
Ligament
Motion
Pads
Prevent
Proper
Protection
Repetitive
Rest
Season
Secure
Soreness
Stretch
Tendon
Warmup

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

APRIL 12

1606: The Union Flag is adopted as the flag of English and Scottish ships.

1900: President William McKinley signs the Foraker Act into law, giving Puerto Rico limited self-rule.

1934: A 231 mile per hour surface wind is measured at Mount Washington.

SUDOKU

WEEK 14

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

See solution in next week's edition.

CRYPTO FUN

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

Solve the code to discover words related to sports safety.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 9 = S)

A. 18 24 18 18 15 22 9
Clue: Protective eyewear

B. 2 24 25 2 4 9 9 3 24 25
Clue: Brain injury

C. 9 13 24 20 14 9
Clue: Athletic endeavors

D. 9 10 17 22 14 19
Clue: Protection

Answers: A. goggles B. concussion C. sports D. safety

LETTER MIX-UP

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

EXHAUSTION

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

Riddle Me This

If I eat I live yet if I drink I die. What am I?

Answer: Fire.

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

DHEA

Answer: Head

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in California on April 9, 1990. My parents were both in the film industry and I made my acting debut in a Disney Channel film. I became known for playing a lead role in a saga about vampires and werewolves.

Answer: Kristen Stewart



We do the legwork to keep you informed.
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PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 13 Crossword Puzzle Solution

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION WEEK 13

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

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JOB OPENING

Northwest Tennessee Development District & Human Resource Agency (NWTDD/HRA) Executive Director

The Northwest Tennessee Development District and Human Resource Agency (NWTDD/HRA) is seeking qualified candidates with relevant professional management and leadership experience for the Executive Director position. The NWTDD/HRA is a non-profit organization with its main office located at 124 Weldon Drive, Martin TN. NWTDD/HRA represents the interests of a nine-county region that includes Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Obion and Weakley counties.

The Executive Director is appointed by the Governing Board. The Executive Director provides leadership to a professional staff to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of an array of essential services.

Candidates shall possess a Master's degree or experience equivalent to such education requirements.

Candidates need to have considerable responsible experience in administration, economic development, planning activities or related fields of which three (3) years must have been in a responsible supervisory, consultative, or administrative capacity.

Salary schedule and job duties will be discussed with qualifying candidates during interviews.

Applicants must email a resume with cover letter to: Emily Payne at Emily.payne@nwtdd.org to be received by no later than noon, April 25, 2025.

***NWTDD/HRA** is an equal opportunity employer.*

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HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL



Rebel first baseman Tate Surber fields a grounder and wins the footrace to first base for the out. *Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner*

Rebels Dominate Irish To Begin District Play

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com



Rebel centerfielder Ace Brown makes a deep catch. *Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner*

McKENZIE (March 31) — The McKenzie High School Rebels began district baseball play Monday, hosting Houston County and slugging their way to an 11-4 victory.

McKenzie struck first with a run in the bottom of the first. Houston County took the lead with a pair in the top of the second, but the Rebels pulled ahead with a pair in the home half. McKenzie pulled away with three runs in each of the third and fourth frames. The Irish plated a pair in the top of the fifth, but the Rebels matched that in the bottom half.

Rebel Fletcher Holt was 2-for-3 with two RBIs and two runs scored. Xander Johnsey went 1-for-4 with a double, two RBIs and two runs scored. Craegen Travis batted 1-for-3 with a double, a walk, an RBI and a run scored. Ace Brown hit 1-for-3 with an RBI and two runs scored. Cole Brown was 1-for-3 with a walk, an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base. Tate Surber went 1-for-4 with a run scored and a stolen base.

Houston County's Connor Mahoney was 2-for-4 with a double, an RBI and a run scored. Ryder Forrester went 2-for-3 with a double and a run scored.

Craegen Travis earned the complete-game win for McKenzie, allowing four runs (one earned) on five hits while striking out five and walking none over seven innings.

Connor Mahoney got the start for the Irish, allowing eleven runs (five earned) on six hits while striking out three and walking three in five and a third innings of work. Ryder Forrester threw the final two-thirds of an inning, allowing no runs on one hit with two strikeouts and no walks.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL





Left, Huntingdon leftfielder Aubrey Castleman makes a leaping catch. Right, Filly Delaney Byars rips a triple. *Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner*

Fillies Fall to Patriots, 5-1

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (April 1) — Huntingdon High School hosted Henry County Tuesday for non-district softball at Fillies Field, falling 5-1 to the Lady Patriots.

Henry County struck first with a run in the top of the first and added another in the second. They plated three in the fourth, and the Fillies got on the board with a run in the bottom of the sixth.

Huntingdon's Karter Moore was 2-for-3 with an RBI. Delaney Byars went 1-for-4 with a triple and a run scored. Kylie Tippitt was 1-for-3 with a stolen base.

Lady Patriot Madaline Moroni was 1-for-3 with two RBIs and a run scored. Irelynn Beecham went 2-for-4 with two runs scored and a stolen base. Andie Barrett was 2-for-3 with a run scored and a stolen base. Reed Jackson batted 2-for-4 with a run scored and two stolen bases. Layne Latimer hit 1-for-3 with an RBI.

Irelynn Beecham earned the complete-game win for Henry County, allowing one earned run on four hits while striking out eight and walking one.

Bailey Cary took the complete-game loss for the Fillies, allowing five runs (four earned) on nine hits while striking out two and walking none.

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HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER



McKenzie Rebel Soccer seniors (L to R): Tyler McCalister, escorted by his mother, Sheri Dunham; Guillermo Hickman, escorted by parents Teddy Hickman and Guillermina Zaragoza; Skyler Fornera, escorted by parents Gary and Donna Fornera; Nathan Dameron, escorted by parents Steven and Danita Dameron; Alex Juarez Garcia, escorted by Erica Cole and Jessica Spaulding; and Emil Schreitmueller, escorted by Jennifer Belisle and Laura Beth Milam. *Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner*

Rebels Earn District Win on Senior Day

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (March 31) — McKenzie High School hosted Clarksburg Monday for a district soccer match and celebrated Senior Day. The Rebels led 3-0 at the half before pulling away for a 10-1 victory.

At halftime, six Rebels seniors were recognized on the field, joined by family and friends.

Tyler McCalister was escorted by his mother, Sheri Dunham. Guillermo Hickman was escorted by parents Teddy Hickman and Guillermina Zaragoza. Skyler Fornera was escorted by parents Gary and Donna Fornera. Nathan Dameron was escorted by parents Steven and Danita Dameron.

Spanish exchange student Alex Juarez Garcia was escorted by Erica Cole and Jessica Spaulding, and German exchange student Emil Schreitmueller was escorted by Jennifer Belisle and Laura Beth Milam.

Rebels Guillermo Hickman scored two goals and had an assist. Skyler Fornera scored two goals. Alex Juarez Garcia scored a goal and had an assist. OC Calderon, Nathan Dameron, Aiden Mason, Branson Baker and Emil Schreitmueller each scored a goal.





Above, Rebel Alex Juarez Garcia (7) scores with an unexpected kick through traffic. Below, Rocket goalkeeper Camden Blackburn lifts off for one of his 14 saves in the match. *Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner*

Gabriel Derryberry scored Clarksburg's goal.

McKenzie goalkeeper Nathan Dameron recorded one save.

Rocket goalkeeper Camden Blackburn recorded 14 saves.

MHS Alumni Decades Reunion is September 19-20

Courtesy Brad Camp

The McKenzie High School Alumni Association (MHSAA) has announced the MHS Alumni Decades Reunion Weekend is set for September 19-20, 2025. It is in conjunction with this year's MHS football homecoming.

Events this year include an alumni tailgate prior to the MHS homecoming game against Camden, the MHSAA golf scramble, an MHS Memorabilia Pop-Up Exhibit, and the MHS homecoming parade to feature McKenzie High alumni.

All graduates of McKenzie High School, plus all past and present faculty and staff of the McKenzie Special School District, are invited to attend. An area will be designated at the tailgate party for faculty and staff so that Rebel alumni can reconnect with their former teachers.

MHS graduating classes who are celebrating milestones in 2025 are encouraged to consider holding their reunions during the weekend. The MHSAA is happy to help spread the word on any class reunions.

Last year's events also included a Block Party on Broadway after Friday night's homecoming game, sponsored by the City of McKenzie. Live music featuring MHS alumni in the band "Flashback" was also enjoyed on Saturday night at Hometown Hangout. Other similar events are being considered again for this year.

Six graduating classes of McKenzie High celebrated milestone reunions at different locations around McKenzie on Saturday. It was estimated that over 500 MHS graduates from the late 1940s to 2024 and from throughout the U.S. participated in activities throughout the weekend.

Drew Beeler (Class of 2020), MHSAA President, said the first Decades Reunion held in 2024 was a huge success. "We learned a lot during planning the event last year, and we hope that our reunion this year will be even bigger and better. It was fun to see so many MHS alumni return to McKenzie, and we hope that even more will take advantage of our event, make the trip to our hometown, and help us have an even larger turnout in 2025!"

Terry Howell (Class of 1969), retired MHS principal and MHSAA Executive Board member, helped his class pull together their reunion in 2024. Howell shared, "Last year was one of those milestone years for my classmates and me, the 55th anniversary of our graduation from McKenzie High School. As we met to discuss the details and logistics of our reunion, we all agreed that having our reunion on the same weekend as the Decades Reunion hosted by the McKenzie High School Alumni Association would give people a greater incentive to celebrate McKenzie High School and those people who had an impact on their lives. The Decades Reunion would be a multigenerational gathering while the 1969 Class could celebrate the following day. Alumni of our school could meet as a group to rekindle friendships, recollect stories from our past, relate their life histories, and enjoy each other's company."

He added, "Eight to ten people from the 1969 Class met to plan our reunion. I think we told more stories than doing actual planning. But we did have a first-rate reunion with beautiful decorations, an excellent catered meal, an entertaining program, and a memorial moment for our deceased classmates. We had people from several states who made the trip back to McKenzie to celebrate McKenzie High School. Our old three-story high school is a distant memory having been razed in 1975. But the Decades Reunion reminded me that McKenzie High School is not a building; it is the collective memories, spirit, and soul of all those who have attended school there. I do look forward to the second Decades Reunion on September 19 of this year. Let us celebrate McKenzie High School together."

Cara Priestley Kelly, president of the McKenzie High Class of 1995, now living in Cross Plains, Tennessee, traveled home for last year's event. Her brother, Brice (Class of 2006), also came back to McKenzie from Dallas, Texas. "The alumni weekend festivities were so enjoyable for all ages. Alumni from various decades were seen mingling, catching up and reminiscing about their time at MHS. My class will celebrate 30 years at this year's annual alumni weekend. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there," said Kelly.

Mistee Vinson Cooper (Class of 1983), is a retired McKenzie Middle School teacher. She and her family all came to the 2024 reunion. Cooper said, "I can't wait for the 2025 Decades Reunion! This is such a wonderful idea created by our Alumni Association. It was so much fun seeing and visiting with my former teachers, old friends, classmates, as well as Kelsey's and Savanna's friends and my own recent students. The evening was perfect! It was in a relaxed atmosphere, with great conversations, lots of laughs, and Rebel football. I am looking forward to September and seeing everyone again!"

Betsy Hall Campbell (Class of 1973) got involved in helping set up various aspects of last year's event and is now Vice President of the MHSAA. "Months of meetings of the MHSAA officers, committees, and others, worked to make the weekend a great time for all. I was excited to see classmates from the MHS Class of 1973 and everyone else. To be able to work with the committee and officers and to help set up was fantastic! It was great to see old friends and make new ones. Smiles were shared and memories were made by all," Campbell said.

She added, "All McKenzie High graduates should mark their calendars for September 19, 2025, and come home for the next MHSAA Decades Reunion. You will not be disappointed!"

The MHSAA encourages alumni and former faculty and staff to follow The Banner, the MHSAA Facebook page or @mckenziehighthrowback on Instagram for updates on this year's events. The MHSAA also asks alumni to help spread the word about the weekend with MHS friends, classmates and fellow alumni who may not use social media.

See you in September!


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1. Enon Church Road south of McKenzie. *Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner* **2. A split tree beside the post office in Huntingdon.** *Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner* **3. Hinkledale Road near McKenzie.** *Photo courtesy Alan Nunnery* **4. Mayo Bottom on Highway 22 between McKenzie and Huntingdon on Thursday following the initial closure.** *Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner* **5. A driver made a splash crossing the railroad tracks on Main Street in McKenzie Friday.** *Photo by Brittany Martin/The Banner* **6. SR22 between Martin and Union City.** *Photo courtesy Dr. Michael Bryant* **7. A home on the corner of Oak Street and Main Street in McKenzie lost its back porch to a mudslide, causing a road closure.** *Photo by Brittany Martin/The Banner* **8. A resident wades through a yard in Martin.** *Photo courtesy Dr. Michael Bryant* **9. A sinkhole on Shades Bridge Road near Greenfield.** *Photo courtesy Pam Griffin* **10. Flooding in Martin.** *Photo courtesy Dr. Michael Bryant* **11. Union Church Road in Weakley County.** *Photo courtesy Hunter Smith*

New Wolf River State Forest Dedicated in Grand Junction

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry (TDF) celebrated the dedication of Tennessee's 16th state forest, Wolf River State Forest, at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 21, in Grand Junction, Tenn. It is located in West Tennessee in Fayette County.

The acquisition of Wolf River State Forest ensures the continuation of multigenerational research and secures the University of Tennessee's long-standing use of the forest to train future natural resources management professionals. It also supports the sustainable management of the 5,477 acres of forest land and the conservation of more than 30 miles of streams.

TDF advanced this project in partnership with The Conservation Fund, a nonprofit organization that works to protect natural land, cultural sites, recreation areas, and working forests and farms across the United States.

Funding for the purchase was made possible with grant funds from the USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy Program, supported by Tennessee's federal Congressional delegation, State Appropriations, and Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund. Matching funds were provided from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's Wetlands Funds, The Conservation Fund, and the seller.

The land, which is located along the Wolf River, is a portion of the historical Ames Plantation, a property located about 60 miles east of Memphis. It was established by Hobart Ames, a wealthy industrialist, in the early 1900s. After he passed, his wife created the Hobart Ames Foundation to benefit the University of Tennessee's (UT) scientific research programs and the National Championship for Bird Dogs.

The portion of Ames Plantation that is Wolf River State Forest includes one of the finest examples of bottomland hardwood forests in the state, including white oak stands that provide significant aid to white oak restoration and sustainability efforts. TDF will also conserve more than 30 miles of streams and riparian habitat and 1,560 acres of wetlands in the new state forest, helping to ensure water quality for Memphis drinking water, fisheries, and others downstream.

In addition to the natural resources on the forest, the tract contains 45 state-registered historical sites. Rhodes College and the Hobart Ames Foundation have invested in expanding historical knowledge of slavery at Ames, identifying more than 800 enslaved people who lived and worked on the property and documenting their cemeteries and remnants of dwellings. Rhodes College, UT, and the Hobart Ames Foundation will continue to collaborate with those descendants to identify enslaved ancestors.

Finally, the new state forest provides new public access for passive outdoor recreation activities in the area like hunting, wildlife viewing, hiking, and fishing.

TDF advanced this project in partnership with The Conservation Fund, a nonprofit organization that works to protect natural land, cultural sites, recreation areas, and working forests and farms across the United States. The Conservation Fund has partnered with TDF and numerous other state agencies over the years to protect more than 300,000 acres of Tennessee's land and water.

"We are pleased we were able to facilitate the acquisition of the Ames property and work with the state to permanently protect it," The Conservation Fund's Tennessee State Director Zachary Lesch-Huie said. "The property has tremendous environmental, economic, scientific, and cultural value. Protecting it as a state forest will ensure it keeps delivering that value for the people of West Tennessee."

Gasoline Prices Decline

TENNESSEE (April 7) — Average gasoline prices in Tennessee fell 2.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $2.76/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 3,821 stations in Tennessee. Prices in Tennessee are 10.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 43.1 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 3.6 cents in the last week and stands at $3.594 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Tennessee was priced at $2.45/g yesterday while the most expensive was $5.11/g, a difference of $2.66/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was $2.45/g while the highest was $5.11/g, a difference of $2.66/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 10.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.21/g today. The national average is up 13.2 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 35.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

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

April 7, 2024: $3.19/g (U.S. Average: $3.57/g)
April 7, 2023: $3.29/g (U.S. Average: $3.58/g)
April 7, 2022: $3.91/g (U.S. Average: $4.14/g)
April 7, 2021: $2.67/g (U.S. Average: $2.87/g)
April 7, 2020: $1.62/g (U.S. Average: $1.89/g)
April 7, 2019: $2.50/g (U.S. Average: $2.74/g)
April 7, 2018: $2.46/g (U.S. Average: $2.66/g)
April 7, 2017: $2.13/g (U.S. Average: $2.39/g)
April 7, 2016: $1.86/g (U.S. Average: $2.04/g)
April 7, 2015: $2.12/g (U.S. Average: $2.38/g)

"While the national average price of gasoline saw its largest weekly gain of the year, it likely won't last long, as oil prices have plummeted amid growing concerns about the global economy following the U.S. announcement of some of the most significant tariffs in over a century, along with OPEC+ restoring oil production faster than anticipated," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "In addition to falling oil prices, the stock market has dropped sharply, and the risk of a recession has increased— raising the likelihood of reduced global energy and oil demand, which is sending prices lower. As a result, motorists can expect gas prices to begin falling nearly coast-to-coast, with oil now at its lowest level since the early days of the pandemic in 2021. If tariffs aren't scaled back soon, the national average could fall below $3 per gallon in the weeks ahead, with no clear indication of how long it might stay there as market volatility persists."

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

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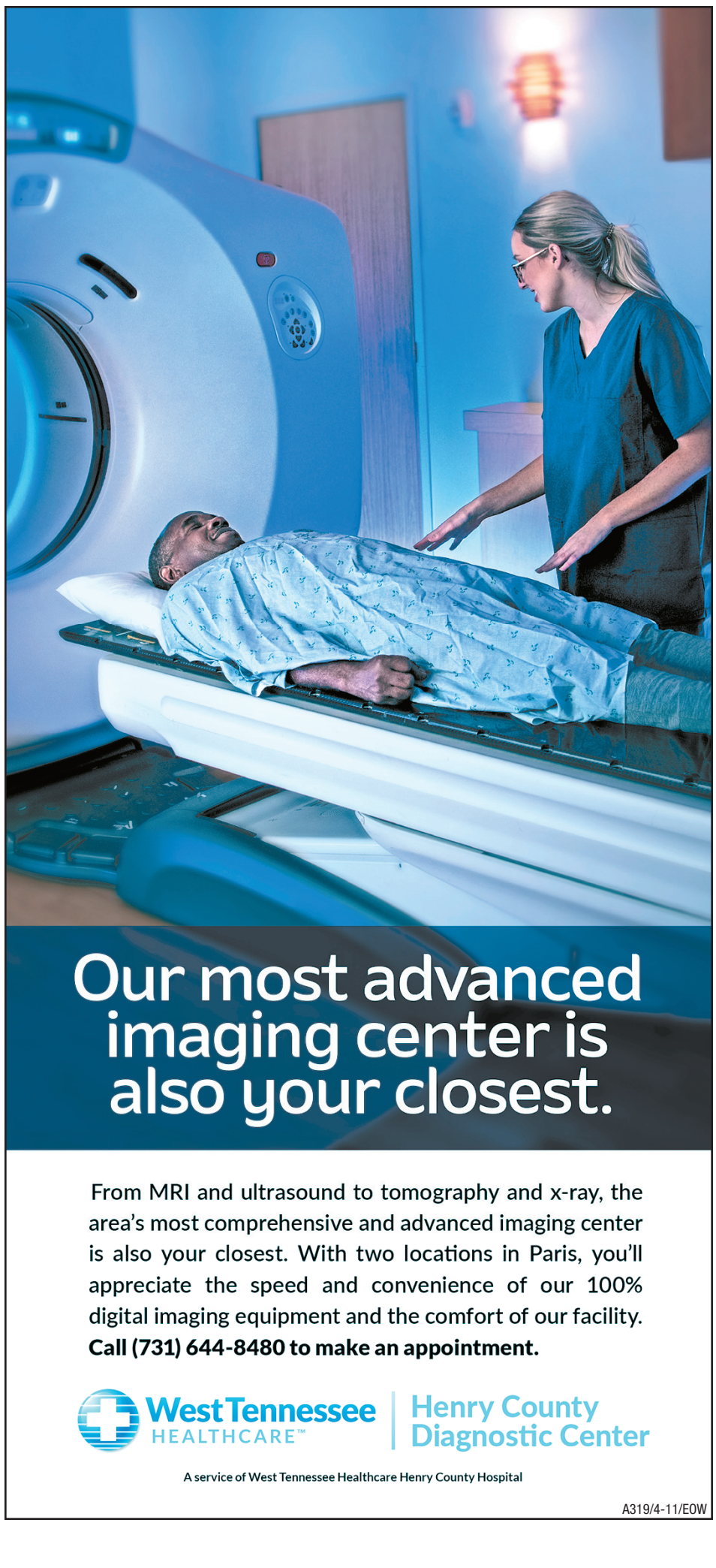


Top Left, South Main Street in McKenzie, in front of Block City Pizza. *Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner* **Top Right, A sinkhole on SR423 between SR79 and SR22 in McKenzie.** *Photo by Brittany Martin/The Banner* **Above Left, Carroll County Electric linemen replace a utility pole on Blount Lane near Westport.** *Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner* **Above Right, Adams Road in Weakley County.** *Photo courtesy Hunter Smith* **Below Left, Big Buck Road near Trezevant.** *Photo courtesy Chloe Dickson Glass* **Below Center, Como Street in McKenzie, near the park entrance.** *Photo by Joel Lancaster/The Banner* **Below Right, Reeds Levee Road in Weakley County.** *Photo courtesy Hunter Smith*









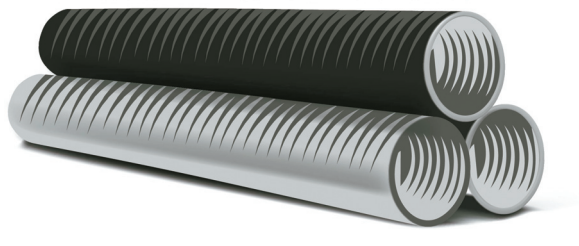






Above, Main Street in McKenzie, near Block City Pizza. Below, Triangle Circle in McKenzie. Bottom, Main Street in McKenzie, near Forrest Avenue and Triangle Circle. *Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner*

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THANK YOU!

Our hearts go out to all who experienced flooding and/or property damage during this severe weather event. We grieve with the family of Chance Carlton and Carroll County Electric. Thank you to all linemen, first responders, TDOT, TEMA, the National Weather Service, Carroll County EMA, and all county and city entities that kept us safe and informed during this event. Your dedication is seen and appreciated more than you know.

— The Banner Staff