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INSIDE THIS EDITION



2025 Spring FLING
Special Edition
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2025
FEATURING:
• MCKENZIE BASEBALL
• HUNTINGDON BASEBALL
• CENTRAL SOFTBALL
• TRACK & FIELD
TSSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
MAY 20-23, 2025

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

MCKENZIE, TENNESSEE

Vol. 155 / No. 22 / 75¢

A PRODUCT OF TRI-COUNTY PUBLISHING, INC.

Home of Bethel University



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- West Carroll School Board to Meet, Page 6
- Gray Eubanks Named Mr. Baseball, Page 9

OBITUARIES

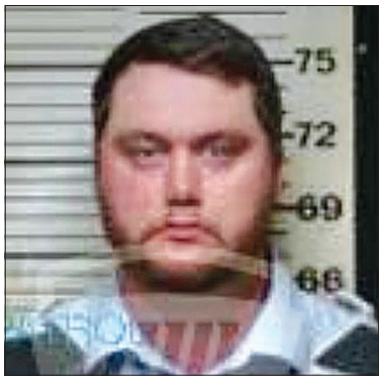
- Gina Gail Barnes, 62
James Clayton Furr, 89
Linda Joyce Kyle, 76
Gregory Alan Rimmer, 58
William 'Bill' Story, 76
Gaylon Winston, 73

West Carroll Valedictorian Seriously Injured in Crash with Impaired Driver

CARROLL COUNTY (May 31) — Sawyer Sutton is recovering from injuries sustained in a two-vehicle accident on Terry Road at 10:45 p.m. on May 31.

Sutton, 18, was the valedictorian in the 2025 West Carroll High School graduating class. Riding with him was a 16-year-old passenger, who also sustained injuries.

According to a report from the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Sutton's vehicle was struck on the rural road by a F150 pickup driven by Zachary D. Simpson, 25, who sustained minor injuries. Simpson was arrested for DUI, Vehicular Assault, and Violation of Implied Consent. Carroll County Rescue Squad re-



Left, Zachary Simpson was charged with DUI after the two-vehicle crash. Right, Sawyer Sutton was seriously injured in an automobile crash.



sponded to the scene to extricate the victims. Tennessee Highway Patrol, Baptist EMS, and Carroll County Sheriff's Department

responded.

A fund has been established at Carroll Bank and Trust to help with Sutton's medical expenses.

Electric Rates To Increase In October

BY BRAD SAM

brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (May 29) — Electric rates will increase in October following approval by the Carroll County Electric Department Board during Thursday's meeting.

The rate increase will amount to five percent for the average customer, but is broken down into specific changes. Residential

See ELECTRIC on Page 3

Huntingdon Council Approves Paving Bid

BY BRAD SAM

brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (May 27) — The Huntingdon Town Council met Tuesday with a light agenda including action on bids for the 2025 Street Resurfacing Project.

Three bids were opened and the low bid by Martin Paving Company was approved unanimously. The Medina-based company's bid was for \$133.12 per ton

See PAVING on Page 2

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MCKENZIE



Splash Pad, Harmony Park Opens for Season

MCKENZIE — The McKenzie Station Splash Pad reopened on Tuesday, May 27 to the delight of area children. The water park and adjacent Harmony Park for musical entertainment and the picnic pavilion are all popular summer

venues. The park is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

In the year 2022, the city earned an award from the Tennessee Municipal League Award for Small City Progress for its innovation in adding livability features to

the city.

The city took a neglected green space that was the location of the first railroad depot and passenger train track in McKenzie and turned it into a splash pad reflecting the spot's railroad history.

Northwest Tennessee Tourism Hosts Legislative Breakfast

UNION CITY (May 23) — Northwest Tennessee Tourism Association held its third annual Legislative Breakfast at Discovery Park in Union City.

The event featured two representatives from the Tennessee Department of Tourism Development, Debra Smith and Dennis Tumlin.

Debra is the assistant commissioner of marketing and Dennis is the chief customer officer.

They spoke about the impact tourism has on the local economy.

State government officials were also featured speakers at the event.

They included State Representative Tandy Darby, District-76; State

Representative Rusty Grills, District-77; State Representative Chris Hurt, District-82; State Senator Ed Jackson, District-25; and State Senator John Stevens, District 24.

Kasey Muench, NWTN Tourism Executive Director, welcomed everyone to the third annual event.

The event was sponsored by Total Tech Solutions, McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abbott's Print Shop and Gibson Electric.

See BREAKFAST on Page 3

MCKENZIE

Commission Discusses Zoning Revisions

BY BRAD SAM

brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (May 28) — The McKenzie Municipal-Regional Planning Commission met Wednesday afternoon to discuss proposed revisions to the Zoning Ordinance and a request to split a property into two lots.

Community Planner Donny Bunton of the Northwest Tennessee Development District was present to review the proposed ordinance changes, which are primarily intended to make the language more efficient and clear.

The proposed changes include reformatting of page

See ZONING on Page 2



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Numerous Rotary dignitaries were on hand to thank Ash Young for his generous donation. (L to R): Rotary Governor Darrell Ailshie, Past District Governor Ed Perkins, Ash Young, Past District Governor Eddie Allred and Past District Governor Robert Huffman.

Young Honored by Rotary

MCKENZIE (May 27) — Local businessman and philanthropist, Ash Young, CEO of Cachengo, was recently recognized for his financial contribution to Rotary International. The Young family donated \$250,000 to establish an endowment within The Rotary Foundation. The size of the donation put the Young as what is known in Rotary as the Arch Klumph Society. Named after the sixth international president of Rotary, the Arch Klumph Society recognizes The Rotary Foundation's highest tier of donors — those who have contributed \$250,000 or more during their lifetime. Klumph promoted the idea of "endowments for the purpose of doing good in the world." That year, the first gift of \$26.50 was made — the beginning of what would become The Rotary Foundation. Klumph was selected as one of the first trustees.

Paving

...From Front Page

of material for an estimated total of \$182,708.20. Arrow Paving Company came in at \$137 per ton, and Murray Paving's offer was \$133.60 per ton. The town's budget designated \$200,000 for the project. The resurfacing project includes paving on five streets: Clark Street (from Browning Avenue to Paris Street), Benton Street (from Browning Avenue to Spring Street), Clark Street Ext. (from Browning Avenue to Spring Street), Cox Street (from Hale Street to Paris Street) and Hale Street (from Jones Street to Cox Street). The council approved the Fiscal Year 2024 Audit report, which included no financial statement findings. A request by the Carroll County Juneteenth Committee was approved for the use of Edwards Park for the Juneteenth Freedom Festival on Friday, June 20 and Saturday, June 21. Two requests for the use of Sesquicentennial Park were approved, one for Omni Family of Services on Saturday, July 12 and another for Eastview Baptist Church on Saturday, July 19. Mayor Chad Edwards thanked those who participated and attended the town's Memorial Day Ceremony, noting "Major General Tommy Baker did an outstanding job as this year's speaker." Edwards also congratulated the Huntingdon High School athletes who participated in the TSSAA Spring Fling, saying, "The Town is proud of their accomplishments." The mayor also relayed that he had spoken to CSX about repairs at railroad crossings at East Paris Street, West Paris Street and Third Avenue and completion was expected the following week. The meeting adjourned in six minutes. Councilperson Kelly Eubanks was absent.



Staff, trustees and program participants at the Obion River District Association Homecoming (L to R) Front Row: Rev. Terry Fuller, Rev. Daniel Wynne, Rev. Leroy Brent, Rev. Devon Cunningham and Rev. Chris Johnson. Second Row: Debbie Moore, Daisy Dudley, Regina Turner, Martha Greer, Fay Hooker, Dorothy Pruitt, Willie M. Hill and Danny Donaldson. Third Row: Andrea Fuller, Felicia Taylor, Owens Taylor, William D. Sowell, Lincoln Barnett, Johnnie Moore and Daryl Williams. Back Row: Rev. Nelson Falls, Jessie Harrell, Edgar Harrell and Tommie Hooker. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Obion River District Association Celebrates 150 Years at Homecoming

BY BRAD SAM

brad@mckenziebanner.com

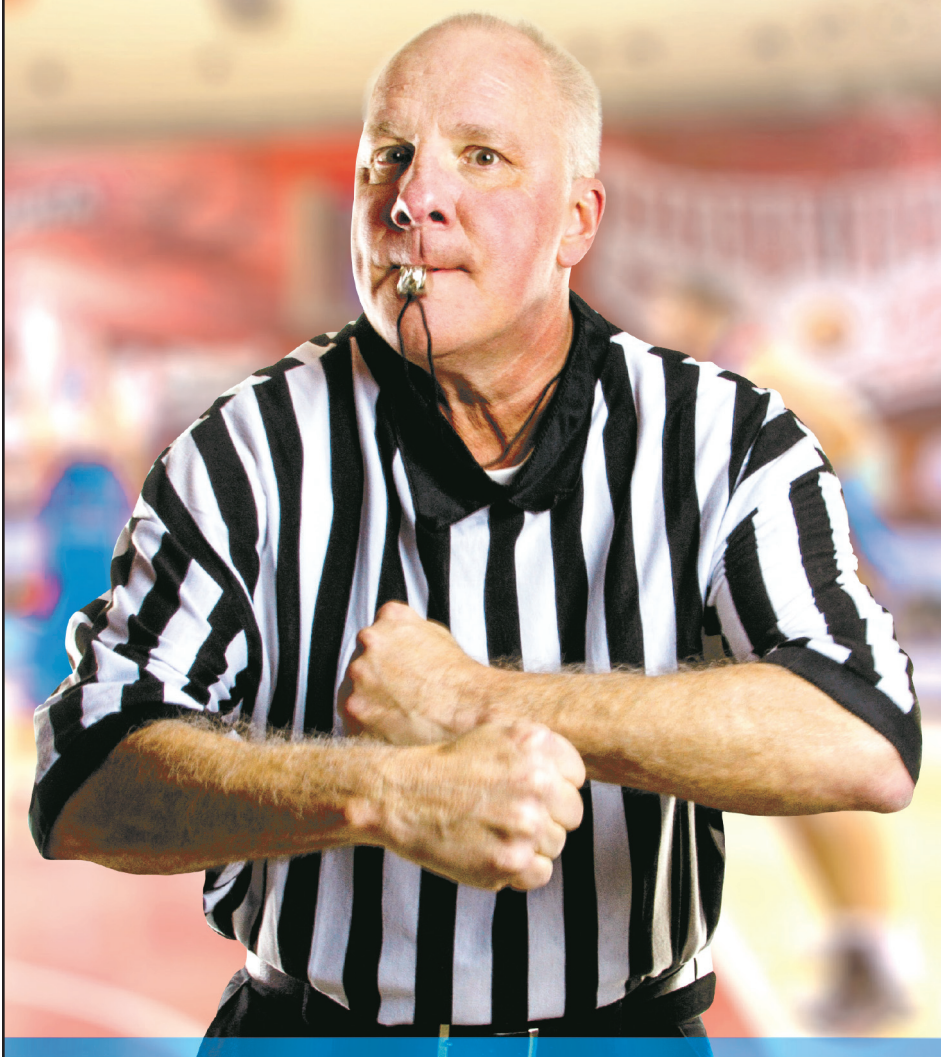
MCKENZIE (June 1) — The Obion River District Association, a regional organization of churches headquartered in McKenzie, held its annual Homecoming Sunday evening and marked 150 years of worship and fellowship. The collective currently includes eleven churches and has at times included over 50 congregations. Member churches include Greater Enon Missionary Baptist Church and St. John Baptist Church in McKenzie, Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Atwood, Reedy Creek Missionary Baptist Church in McMoresville, Fuller Street Baptist Church in Dresden, New Hope Primitive Baptist Church in Milan, Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Humboldt, First Baptist Church North in Trenton, Mount Olive Baptist Church in South Fulton, Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Union City and Fairview Baptist Church in Dyer. The theme of the special service was "We've Come this Far by Faith." Leading the program were URDA Moderator Rev. Terry Fuller, Vice Moderator Nelson Falls and worship leader Fay Hooker. Dorothy Pruitt of the Salem Baptist Choir sang "I Know I've Been Changed," "I Don't Know Why (I Have To Cry Sometimes)" and "The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow." The sermon was delivered by guest speaker Rev. Leroy Brent of Fairview Baptist Church in Mayfield. He tied the occasion to the 150th and final Psalm, "Praise Ye the Lord," saying "Praise ought to give way to worship. Worship is what binds us together." Rev. Brent made three points to underscore the strength of the church. One, "The fundamentals are right because the essentials are necessary." Two, "The foundation is sure because the founder is right." And three, "Our future is certain because the facts are clear." He closed by encouraging everyone to remain an active part of the ORDA. Others contributing to the program were Owens Taylor, Regina Turner, Daisy Dudley, Willie Hill, Rev. Chris Johnson, Martha Greer, Rev. Daniel Wynne, Rev. Devon Cunningham, Danny Donaldson, William D. Sowell, Lincoln Barnett, Johnnie Moore and Daryl Williams. Official ORDA staff include Moderator Rev. Terry Fuller, Vice Moderator Rev. Nelson Falls, VP/Secretary Jessie Harrell, Treasurer Felicia Taylor, Financial Secretary Andrea Fuller, President and Dean of Congress Rev. Chris Johnson, President of Ministers Rev. Wade Bryant, President of Laymen Ministry Tommie Hooker, President of Women's Ministry Daisy Dudley, President of Ushers' Ministry Willie M. Hill, Youth Director Regina Turner and Congress Secretary Janice Noel. Trustees are Tommie Hooker, Michael Tate, Christopher Scates, L.C. Coleman, Edgar Harrell and Daryl Williams.

Zoning

...From Front Page

numbers to a continuous numbering system, condensing of the sign ordinance and landscaping regulations, addition of wording for clarification on RVs and travel trailers, addition of recently adopted fencing requirements and addition of site plan requirements for industrial zoning districts. Chairman Carol Nanney noted the importance of getting the ordinance finalized and online for citizens to access. The urgency of the issue was reinforced by a citizen who brought forth concerns. Billy Burson is a recent transplant to McKenzie. After checking the regulations as they appear online, he had a fence built in his front yard on Diamond Drive and later discovered that the wording he saw online was out of date. Both the ordinance changes and the individual issue of Burson's fence will be addressed at the June meeting. Commission members expressed their intentions to assess the fence in person prior to that meeting. A final plat has been submitted that splits a 3.367 acre lot from a parent tract, leaving the parent tract at 14 acres. The property, owned by Verdine Beasley, is zoned R-1 (Low Density Residential), has water and sewer access and is not in a designated flood hazard area. Bunton expressed his only concern, a potential zoning compliance issue. A barn on the property would remain in the parent tract as the proposed lines are drawn, but Bunton suggested the lines be redrawn to include the barn in the new lot, where it would be in compliance. He noted that if the barn is being used as part of an ongoing agricultural operation, it would be exempt from the regulations. Commission member Sandi Roditis recused herself from voting on the issue due to her connections to it, which, coupled with the absence of members Tim Beeler and AJ Maxwell, prevented a voting quorum. The issue will be revisited in June. The meeting adjourned in around 45 minutes.

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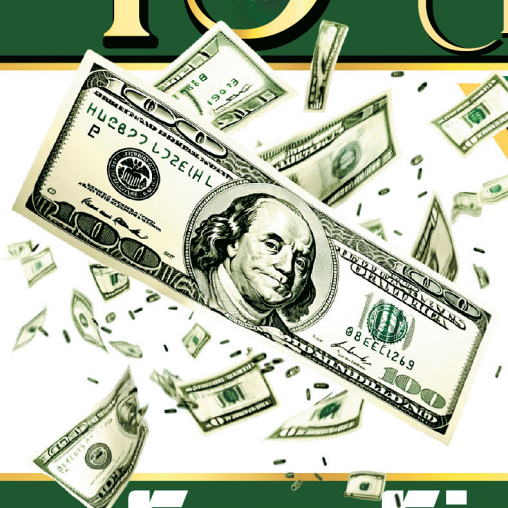
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A271/22-4

Councilman Townes Receives Judicial Diversion

HUNTINGDON (May 28) — McKenzie Councilman Jessie Townes received judicial diversion on charges of Assault on a First Responder during the May 28 General Sessions hearing.

Townes was charged with assaulting an officer when he was reported to have interfered with a traffic stop of his wife.

Townes must pay \$525 to McKenzie Police Department and serve probation. His case can be expunged in one year.

Charges of Prevent/Obstruct Service of Legal Process were dismissed.



American Legion Awards Central Students

In May, American Legion Post 180 of Bruceton recognized Central High School students for citizenship, boys state, and Americanism during the end-of-year Central Awards Banquet held at the Carroll County Civic Center in Huntingdon.

Pictured left to right are Perry Cook Post Adjutant, Sara Smith - Citizenship, Trevor Boyd - Boys State, Ramon Sala - Boys State, Bronson McGinnis - Americanism and Charles Sanders - Post Chaplain. Congratulations to all students. Keep up the good work. Photo courtesy of Joe Bishop/American Legion Post 180 Bruceton

Breakfast ...From Front Page



The McKenzie Industrial Board and Chamber was represented by: Executive Director Monica Heath, Joel Washburn, Chuck Sisson, Ricky Price, Christy Williams, John Wright, Mark Anderson, II, and Mayor Ryan Griffin.



Carroll County Electric Department General Manager Ryan Drewry plays a video showing progress at the Trezevant solar project. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Electric

...From Front Page

customers will see an increased charge of \$2.50 along with a kWh rate increase of \$0.00411. Various classes of commercial customers will see a kWh rate change ranging from \$0.00471 to \$0.00559. The kWh rate for outdoor lighting will increase by \$0.00375.

The changes will increase revenues by an estimated \$1.8 million.

CCED General Manager Ryan Drewry explained the need for the increase, citing inflation and an upcoming debt issuance.

He noted that the county had only increased rates

by 2.05 percent in the last ten years, while the TVA has increased its rates by 14.25 percent over the same period. The most recent increase for CCED was in 2023, necessitated by the expiration of pandemic relief.

The board also approved an Excess Generation Option Power Purchase Agreement with the TVA for the solar installation nearing completion in Trezevant. This will allow CCED to be reimbursed for excess electricity generated at the site that is absorbed by the TVA power grid. Drewry noted that it saved twice as much money to use the electricity than sell it to TVA and that the department is taking steps to maximize usage in the county's grid, but this

agreement would secure value for excess electricity when it can't be used locally.

Drewry played a video showing the progress at the solar site, which is quickly approaching mechanical completion. He noted that Silicon Ranch, the Nashville-based company that owns and operates the solar site, will host an event for the public to mark the completion of the project.

The site houses just under 20,000 panels for a maximum capacity of 6.5 megawatts.

The meeting adjourned in 30 minutes.

Board member Paul Moore was absent.

The board meets next on Thursday, June 26 at 2:30 p.m.

Lane, McKenzie, guilty, Probation Violation, supervised probation, \$150 fine.

Jessie Townes, McClure Street, McKenzie, judicial diversion on charges of Assault on a First Responder, \$525 fine and probation; dismissed, Prevent/Obstruct Service of Legal Process.

Brandon Vestal, Holmes Street, Trezevant, guilty, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange, \$750 fine, 11/29 jail - can receive day-for-day credit for successful completion of rehab; dismissed, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

The following defendants' cases were dismissed.

Monica Davenport, Barksdale Avenue, McKenzie, dismissed, Child Abuse/Neglect.

Franklin Gilliland, South Trenton Street, Rutherford, dismissed, Leaving the Scene of an Accident.

Jonathan Navarro, Stonewall Street, McKenzie, dismissed, Driving While Suspended; dismissed, Window Tint Violation.

McKenzie Police Reports

Driving on Suspended License — Austin J. McInnis, 30, Buchanan, was charged with Driving on Suspended License and Display of Registration on May 31.

Officer Jayden Rembert stopped McInnis' vehicle because it did not have a registration plate. The driver stated he had just purchased the vehicle. A check of the driver's license revealed the suspended status. McInnis was cited into General Sessions Court.

Driving on Revoked License — Ivan Loreda, 43, Camp Tyson Road, Paris, was charged with Driving on a Revoked License, Violation of Financial Responsibility, and Expired Registration on May 30.

Officer Dustin McClure observed Loreda's vehicle had an aftermarket L.E.D. light bar that was being used as headlights. The rear registration lights were also not working. After a traffic stop, the officer determined Loreda's license was revoked and the vehicle registration was expired. He was cited into Carroll County General Sessions Court on those two charges plus Light Law violation, Violation of Financial Responsibility and Display

of Plates.

Simple Assault — Shauntel Norman, 45, Church Street, McLemoresville was charged with Simple Assault on May 28.

Officer Dustin McClure responded to a complaint from a male subject who stated that Norman had twice verbally assaulted him and was following him. The complainant stated Norman followed him to a gas station and verbally assaulted and threatened him. The station's surveillance cameras captured a video of the event.

After consulting the district attorney, a warrant was issued for Norman's arrest.

Domestic Assault — Colton A. Pierce, 38, Stonewall Street, McKenzie, was charged with Domestic Assault on May 26.

Officer Jayden Rembert filed a report indicating that Pierce had struck a female family member while they were in the car. The victim was alerting MPD of her whereabouts during the altercation. She was dropped off at McKenzie City Park's Dog Park and Pierce drove away. Officers met the victim at the park, took her statement, and had EMS examine her for injuries. A

warrant was issued for Mr. Pierce, who turned himself in at the police station. He was transported to Carroll County Jail.

Theft of Merchandise — Crystal R. Mealer, 49, Oaklawn Drive, McKenzie, was charged with Theft of Merchandise/Shoplifting on May 28.

Officer Dalton Raspberry was dispatched to Dollar General, Highland Drive, McKenzie, where the clerk stated Mealer took several candles, each costing \$5, without paying. Ms. Mealer had a previous incident at the store.

Officers obtained an arrest warrant and went to Mealer's home, met with her, allowed her to make a few phone calls. While they were waiting, officers observed several Koze brand candles throughout the living and kitchen area.

Theshia Dawn Powers, 47, Highway 140, Buchanan, was charged with Theft of Merchandise/Shoplifting on May 27.

Officer Byan Batchelder responded to the BP station, where the owner showed the officer a video of Powers placing two vapes inside her purse without paying. Powers was cited for Theft of Merchandise and banned from entering the store.

Carroll County Sheriff's Reports

Driving on Revoked License — According to a report on May 23rd by Deputy Townes, the Sheriff's Department received a call regarding an unknown male riding his three-wheeler down the road yelling and saying he was going to kill someone. Another call came in from Little General in Trezevant regarding the same male, Roger Lawson, 35, of McKenzie, went into the store cussing people. The owner wanted him to leave but didn't want to press charges. Lawson was told to go home and then another call came in from a resident saying he was on his property and would

like him removed. He was then arrested for driving on revoked and disorderly conduct.

Unlawful Drugs — According to a report by Deputy Daniel Thomas on May 24, he was patrolling the Cedar Grove area when he observed a Dodge Durango driving off the road into the grass. He attempted a traffic stop but the driver kept driving through a stop sign and

throwing white substances out of his window and at times reaching towards the floorboard. He kept running from the police until he got boxed in at the Cedar Grove Country Store parking lot. The driver was Nick White, 32, of Cedar Grove. After a search was held there was methamphetamine found in the vehicle and in the road where he threw out the substances.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SELL TRACTS OF LAND BOUGHT BY CARROLL COUNTY AT DELINQUENT TAX SALES

In accordance with T.C.A. 67-5-2507 (b) (1), the County Mayor has received an offer for the total amount of taxes, penalty, interest and cost of the following parcel of land bought by Carroll County at Delinquent Tax Sales. The deed on this parcel shall not be executed and will not become final until (10) days after the publication in a newspaper in the county of the proposed sale. If anyone, during the (10) days. Shall increase the offer made for the land by ten percent (10%) or more, the party making the first offer shall be notified and a day fixed when both parties shall appear and make offers. To increase the offer by 10 percent (10%) or more contact the Carroll County Mayor's office, 625 High Street, Suite 101, Huntingdon, Tennessee 38344. If the original offer is raised by 10 percent (10%) or more the two parties shall appear on a day fixed and the tract of land shall be sold to the party making the highest and best offer. Conveyances of land shall be made without warranties of any sort and deeds shall be executed by the County Mayor of Carroll and County and the County Trustee, who shall collect the purchase price at the time of the execution of deed.

Map/Parcel Map No: 22/12/ Parcel No: 8.00; Deed Book 65 Page: 530

Bid \$769.23 by Raymond Hutcheson, 40 Park Lane, McKenzie, TN 38201.

A13/22-1

Marriage Licenses

Blake Richard Bryant, 26, of Atwood, to Olivia Faith Forgy, 28, of Atwood.

Alexis Jade Wilson, 22, of Lexington, to Samuel Levi Rogers, 26, of Lexington.

Willie Everette Fairley, 57, of Huntingdon, to Janina Klagge, of Huntingdon.

Property Transfers

William Thomas Williams to Bobby and Darlene Kirk in District 11.

Justin Taylor Longmire to Justin Longmire in District 24.

Melissa S. Nelson to Eddie M. Bolton in District 21.

Dana A. Headden to Gleda Gale Akins in District 4.

Andrew B. Pate and April F. Pate to Thomas G. and Kimberly Lynn Edwards in District 21.

Lillyann Marie Wortham to Lillyann Marie and Heather T. Wortham in District 4.

Andrew J. and Elizabeth Gajewski to Andrew and Elizabeth Carey Gajewski in District 16.

Tessa L. O'Brien to Rachel Harrison in District 4.

Shane and Courtney Oatsvall to Shelly Leigh and Nicholas Ray Maness in District 16.

Cathy Eaton to James Eaton II in District 13.

Stephen C. Jackson to Penny J. McKinney in District 22.

May Jo Parillo to Mark Frederick Parillo.

Janie J. and James A. Carney to Shane M. and Courtney R. Oatsvall in District 16.

Patricia Holt to Hal D. and Angela M. Boyd in District 12.

Patricia Holt to Patricia Holt in District 12.

Farm Credit Mid-America to Alex and Krystal Ramirez in District 15.

General Sessions Court Report

HUNTINGDON (May 28) — The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on May 28.

Cases bound over to the Grand Jury of the Circuit Court were:

James Breeden, II, Hollywood Drive, Jackson, bound over on charge of Forgery.

Cornelius Montes Orgain, Blackburn Avenue, McKenzie, bound over on charge of Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, Schedule IV Drugs, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

The following cases resulted in a guilty plea or finding.

Colton Breeden, Dameron Road, Huntingdon, judicial diversion, Reckless Driving, probation, \$100 fine.

Rachel Johnsonius, Union Church Road, McKenzie, guilty, Meth-Possession or Casual Exchange, \$750 fine, 11/29 jail suspended to 30 days, probation, al-

cohol and drug evaluation; dismissed, Speeding; dismissed, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Trinity Gordon Maynard, Enon Church Road, McKenzie, guilty, Criminal Trespass; guilty, Casual Exchange, \$150 fine, jail sentence to run concurrent with another case; dismissed, Drug Paraphernalia.

Jodi Neisler, State Route 301, Mayfield, guilty, Meth-Possession or Casual Exchange, \$750 fine, 30 days jail, probation, rehabilitation attendance to reduce sentence day-to-day; dismissed, Drug Paraphernalia.

Tara Neyman, Bray Road, Beech Bluff, pre-trial diversion, Harassment, supervised probation, no contact with victim.

Yong OU, Cotham Drive, Huntingdon, guilty, Theft of Merchandise, \$144.59 restitution to Walmart, no contact with Walmart, jail, probation.

Steven Thompson, 423

From the pages of

Published in October 2004

A Pictorial History of McKenzie, Tennessee



Owner H.H. Felts (far right) with employees and customers at Felts Drug Store. File photo originally published in "A Pictorial History of McKenzie, Tennessee," by The McKenzie Banner in October 2004.

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

What's a 'Road Map?'

On a recent camping trip to Arkansas, a horrific wind-storm buffeted our camper the night we arrived.

The next morning, thankful to be alive, we got up and checked to see if we'd received any text messages from family and to send them texts that we were okay. Unfortunately, the campground we stayed in was so isolated there was little to no cell service.

All that day, as we meandered around looking at scenery, there was no cell service outside the park either. I began to wonder if perhaps Verizon didn't have any towers in the area (a problem we've run into before in our travels).

Of course, since there was no cell service, that meant no GPS.

Read that line again. "No GPS."

When you're some place you've never been to before and don't have a GPS to help guide you, what do you do?

I know what you're thinking because that's the same thing I thought—"use a roadmap."

The problem, though, is I foolishly gave up use of road maps a couple of years ago, eschewing for the modern GPS.

So, not only did we have no GPS, but we also didn't have a roadmap.

Remembering a gas station we passed on the way into the park, I thought, "They'll have road maps." (I know they're called convenience stores nowadays, but I still call them gas stations. So shoot me.)

Inside the gas station, a young man who looked like he was twelve years old stood behind the cash registered and flashed me a smile. I was relieved to see he had all his teeth even if his eyes were crossed.

"Can I help you?" he asked.

"Where are your road maps?" I asked.

He gave me a vacant look. At least, I think he was looking at me. Then he turned his head toward a girl who could have been his twin (I didn't have a close look at her eyes, so who knows.) She was arranging chicken wings and potato wedges in

a display case. Looking at her brother, she shrugged her shoulders.

Confused, I thought I may have been misunderstood, and they thought I was asking for roach caps.

"Road maps," I said slowly, "I need a road map."

The young man's smile turned upside down as he said, "I don't know what that is. What's a 'road map?'"

My guess was the two of them thought I was an escapee from a local nursing home and was speaking a language only I could understand.

Before they decided to call the police, I quickly got back in my truck and headed down the road to another gas station...uh, convenience store.

I had somewhat better luck that time. The person behind the counter knew what a road map was but said they hadn't carried them in several years.

Cursed GPS! (That's pronounced "curs-ed" with two syllables.)

Brenda suggested Walmart as a place to purchase the fabled Road Atlas. (Bless her heart, she's a gem!)

Not trusting either of the proprietors of the gas stations to give accurate directions, we headed back to the park and asked the ranger in charge for directions.

Gripping the HANDWRITTEN directions, we struck out for Walmart in Hot Springs, ten miles away.

Have you noticed how cities are doing away with intersections and four-way stops and replacing them with something called a roundabout? Yeah, well, no one over sixty should be allowed in one of those. I drove in a circle for what I will say was an undiscovered amount of time before I chanced one of the exits. (Remember that "gem" of a gal I was telling you about? She's good with eyerolls, as well.)

Full of hope, we arrived at Walmart where I asked someone where their road atlases were.

"Oh, we don't carry those anymore," was the reply.

I promise I didn't cry. It was just something in my eye.

Clearing my throat, I asked if there was something wrong with Verizon service and if there was something we needed to do to make our phones work. That's when I learned there was a massive, state-wide outage of Verizon because of the storm.

Looking at my wife, I said, "How are we going to find our way home without GPS or a road map?"

It was a long, slow walk back to the truck in the parking lot.

Simultaneously, we thought about using Walmart's free Wi-fi to Google, "road maps for sale."

You want to guess what popped up?

"Books-a-Million."

We Googled directions, wrote them on the back of an envelope and drove from one side of Hot Springs to the other.

As luck would have it, my IBS decided to make an appearance, which required a quick stop and dash into a business of sorts, where English was a second language and scars and tattoos were required. My IBS didn't care, so neither did I.

Inside Books-a-Million, we were led to a tower underneath a spotlight that held multiple road atlases. I couldn't have been more elated if it had been the ark of the covenant.

The next day, armed with a yellow highlighter, I sat at the picnic table at our campsite and highlighted our path home. Then, I had an in-service with my wife and showed her how to flip from the page of eastern Arkansas, to the page for southern Missouri, and the page of western Tennessee.

I slept well that night.

The next morning, with my co-pilot/navigator beside me, we headed home.

Just outside the park we discovered cell service had been restored and GPS was working.

But we held on to the map.

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

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

Life Gets Very Real When A Princess Arrives

I watched my eldest granddaughter march across the football field in front of a makeshift stage and receive her high school diploma with 610 emotions flooding through my bones. They ranged from robust pride to a tad bit of trepidation.

Addison Grace was named after a street on the northside of Chicago and a major league baseball player. It can't get any better than that! And you see immediately why she is one of my all-time favorite people.

I remember the moment she was born like it was yesterday. They put that tiny soft thing in my hands and I near 'bout melted. She even smelled new and fresh. I remember the joy on my son's face. And the beautiful glow on his mother's.

I had two brothers and two sons. I didn't know diddly-squat about little girls. Addie taught me more than she could ever know. She would stand in a chair and show me how to make chocolate chip cookies. I would give her my famous karate chop rubdown and she would laugh so hard.

She just hugged better than little boys did. She definitely smiled more. And was a whole lot prettier. She could be so gentle and kind. But I'm telling you, she had a mind of her own. I made a point early in her life, not to get on her bad side! She was a joy to watch grow and mature over the years.

She was, is, and will always be my princess.

But as she moved gracefully back to her seat on this graduation night, my mind was more on her future than our past.

What kind of world were we sending her into? Have we as a family, a church, a neighborhood, a good

friend, a passing acquaintance, a grandfather....done everything in our power to ensure her happiness, her safety, her good will?

I don't know one person at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. But you can't believe how I am praying for them! I'm praying for a roommate, or roommates, that I may never meet. I'm praying for teachers, administrators, and lunchroom workers that might cross Addie G's path. Shoot, I'm praying for the head football coach! He might run into Addie at the Macon Chick-fil-A.

I have a special warning for every single young man that is going to be attending Mercer University this fall. I have guns. And I know how to use them!

The "C's" moved into the "D's" as other students made that monumental walk across the field in front of their parents and friends. I silently wished them all Godspeed. But my mind on this night was centered on one precious soul.

An old radio show from my very early days suddenly appeared in my mind. The opening line went something like, "What evil lurks in the hearts of men? Only the Shadow knows!" What a terrible thought at such a time and place.

But a very realistic one. We don't live in that perfect world. Peace and love don't abound on every street corner. We, as a people, seem to accentuate our differences and downplay our similarities. That cannot be healthy. I have learned to live with it. But as I sat on that cold, hard concrete bleacher on a late night in May I seethed a bit because it didn't seem fair to Addie G.

We (this older generation) have not done her any

favours. Why didn't we love more, and listen to political, ethnic, and social haranguing less? Were we all that selfish? Did we completely ignore the Addies that were coming down the pipeline?

Listen, I don't doubt that this new generation will "make do." They are smart. They will adjust, fit in, make the most of what lies before them. But I think we could have done more!

Some will say life is what it is. We can't change anything. The government is too big. We owe too much. The system is in place. The lines are drawn.

"They" may be right. But when it's your grandchild about to step out into this world.... I say again, we should, and could, have done better.

Of course, the key is loving them. It always comes down to love.

I don't have a clue how life is going to unfold in front of Addie. Her parents have done all the right things. She knows up from down. And I can't follow her around every step she takes for the rest of her life. Although I have thought about doing just that!

Part of the fun is the unknown. And in my heart, I know she will be fine. My head still has doubts about the world she is stepping into....

Addie was grinning from ear to ear after the graduation as classmates, aunts, cousins, siblings, friends, and one very proud grandfather stood by her as picture after picture was taken. I would be past naïve, even unrealistic, to believe her life was always going to be this joyful.

But it is my hope for her. My everlasting hope.

Love You Princess, KK

Henry County Hospital Keeps It Spotless 5-Star Cleanliness for the Second Year in a Row

PARIS (May 28) — West Tennessee Healthcare-Henry County Hospital has earned a prestigious 5-star rating for cleanliness from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

This rating was awarded based on the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) surveys conducted between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024. The CMS survey measures patient satisfaction with hospital cleanliness and the overall care environment.

This recognition places WTHHCH among the top hospitals in the nation, underscoring its commitment to providing a safe, clean, and welcoming environment for its patients.

"It is truly humbling to be one of only five hospitals in the state of Tennessee to achieve this recognition and to do it two years in a row is a remarkable accomplishment for our staff. Our team continues to hold themselves accountable for maintaining the highest



Pictured (L to R): EVS Partners — Cindy Bauer, Teresa Wood, and Sandy Girard.

standards of cleanliness for the protection of our patients and fellow partners," said Environmental Services Director at WTHHCH, Tommy Hayes.

The CMS HCAHPS survey is a national, standardized survey of hospital patients' experiences during their inpatient stay. The most recent data update was on January 8, 2025, and highlights the Paris hospitals' commitment to ensuring the best possible environment for its patients.

About West Tennessee Healthcare:

West Tennessee Healthcare is a public, not-for-profit healthcare system with locations serving 19 counties in West Tennessee and Southeast Missouri. The mission of West Tennessee Healthcare is to improve the health and well-being of the communities we serve while providing exceptional and compassionate care. For more information, visit www.wth.org.

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

Letters to the editor of public interest are solicited. Most letters, not libelous or harmful,

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

The McKenzie Banner reserves

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

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BILL OF RIGHTS: AMENDMENT I

Obituaries

JAMES CLAYTON FURR 1936 – 2025

Mr. James Clayton Furr, 89, of Huntingdon died Monday, May 26, 2025, at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Huntingdon.

Funeral services were Thursday, May 29, 2025, at Huntingdon First Baptist Church. Interment followed at Carroll Memorial Gardens in McKenzie.

James was born January 7, 1936, to the late John Furr and Opal Allen Furr. He is also preceded in death by four brothers and three sisters.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Betty Jo Furr; one son, Terry (Cami) Furr; one daughter, Cindy (Tim) McMinn; five grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

Dilday-Carter Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

WILLIAM ‘BILL’ STORY 1949 – 2025

McKENZIE — Funeral services for William “Bill” Wayne Story are Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. The family will receive friends on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 4-8 p.m. and Wednesday, 10 a.m. until ser-

vice time. A private burial at the Tenn. State Veterans Cemetery at Parkers Crossroads will follow.

Mr. Story, 76, died at his residence on Saturday, May 31, 2025. He was a retired journeyman electrician, an Army veteran, and a 1967 graduate of Greenfield High School. He was born in McKenzie on January 1, 1949, to the late Willie “Bill” Lee Story and Marcell McGehee Story.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Doris Gendreau Story; his siblings, Ronnie (Kay) Story of McKenzie, Carol (Tim) Pugh of Atwood, Regina Story of Atwood, and Lisa (Kevin) Flippin of McKenzie; and a host of nieces and nephews.

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

LINDA KYLE 1948 – 2025

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Linda Joyce Kyle, 76, of Huntingdon, died Saturday, May 24, 2025, in her home, with her family by her side.

Graveside funeral services were Tuesday, May 27 at Humbles Cemetery.

Ms. Joyce was born October 15, 1948, to Linden Pierce and Betty Oxford Pierce. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of

38 years, Jackie Lee Kyle; five sisters; one brother; two stepsons; and a daughter.

She leaves behind a daughter, Misty A. Pierce of Bruce-ton; three granddaughters; two great-grandchildren; two brothers, Donald (Pamela) McGee of Camden and Ray Pierce of Cedar Grove; six extra grandchildren; twelve extra great-grandchildren; and two extra great-great-grandchildren.

GAYLON WINSTON 1951 – 2025

McKENZIE — Funeral services for Gaylon Winston are Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 2 p.m. at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. The family will receive friends on Tuesday from 11 a.m. until service time. Interment will follow at Enon Cemetery, McKenzie.

Mr. Winston, 73, died at his residence on Saturday, May 31, 2025. He is a retired factory worker. During his career he worked at Gaines, MFG, New Generations, and retired from Dana.

He was born in McKenzie on June 25, 1951, to William “Billy” Horace Winston and Mary Frances “Cassie” Allen Winston.

He is preceded in death by his parents and brother, Gary Winston. He is survived by his sister-in-law, Tammy Marshall Winston; nephews, Scotty (Kelly) Winston and Brian (Allison) Winston;

niece, Tami Winston; and numerous great-nieces and nephews.

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

GREGORY ALAN RIMMER 1966 – 2025

TREZEVANT — Funeral services for Mr. Gregory Alan Rimmer, 58, were Friday, May 30, 2025, at 2 p.m. in the Hunt Funeral Home Chapel with burial in Republican Grove Cemetery. Mr. Rimmer was born on July 21, 1966, in Milan, at Climmer Clinic, and died at his residence in Trezevant, on May 27, 2025.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Monda Rimmer; his grandparents, Virgil and Estelle Rimmer and Chester and Willie Hampton; and six cousins.

He is survived by his father, Gary Rimmer of Trezevant; Uncle Cotton and Aunt Dorothy Rimmer; and twelve cousins.

Hunt Funeral Home served the family of Mr. Gregory Alan Rimmer.

GINA GAIL BARNES 1962 – 2025

TREZEVANT — Memorial service for Gina Gail Barnes, 62, of Trezevant, were at Bodkin Funeral Home on Friday,

May 30, 2025.

Gina was born on November 26, 1962, to William Eugene and Shirley Garner Herndon in Carroll County and died on May 24, 2025, at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Huntingdon. She attended the Atwood Church of Christ.

Gina is survived by three children, Jacob Gaia of Trezevant, James Russell Barnes (Sarah) of Murfrees-

boro, and Amy Beth Whitman of Panama City, Fla.; one brother, Terry Herndon (Marian) of Atwood; a sister, Julie Plunk of Milan; and three grandchildren, Hailee Nickole Hays of Panama City, Fla., Kenslea Barnes and Ayden Barnes, both of Murfreesboro.

Bodkin Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Gina Gail Barnes.

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Lakeside Senior Living News

BY SHEILA WILLIS

The beautiful Spring days of May brought many occasions for celebration at Lakeside Senior Living Community. The first was Derby Day. Residents gathered to compete in our version of a horse race, with Lula Mae Adams emerging as the victor and coming in first place. We served Virgin Mint Juleps; a special thank you to Amy Floyd for providing the fresh mint. The day included Derby trivia and fun facts. Racing sheets were handed out for everyone to select a winner. Peggy Work was a solo winner, picking the correct horse.

Cinco de Mayo gave us another reason to celebrate and brush up on our knowledge of Mexico. We feasted on enchiladas, guacamole, and mock margaritas. The kitchen staff served taco salads that evening.

Dresden celebrated the Iris Festival and invited us to join them for their Senior Day Meal and Baking Contest. Lonnelle McMillin baked a Tiger Paw Bundt Cake and won second prize, a red ribbon and \$20 prize. About 300 seniors attended from four counties. They also held a raffle, with Peggy Work and Charles Garner both holding winning tickets.

In honor of Mother's Day, we celebrated moms—past, present, and future—with a Fashion Show Tea Party. Families gathered for pictures; each mom shared motherly advice. Tables were decorated with fresh-cut flowers in elegant china teacups. We served fruit tea, sweet cheese sandwiches, butter cookies, and fresh fruit salad.

We recognized several special moms, gifting them leather purses filled with essentials. Awards: Youngest Mom - Phyllis Maddox, Oldest Mom - Margie Evans, Mom with the Most Children Present - Peggy Work, Youngest to be a Mom - Peggy Cole, and Mom with a Child Visiting from the Farthest Away - Janet Duck, whose son came from California. We honored the mom with the most children, Lula Mae Adams, whose mom had 12 children. Second place went to Freddie Brooks, whose mom had 10 children. Photos can be found on our Facebook page, Lakeside Senior Living.

May 23 was National Tortoise Day. A special thank you to Ryan Myracle for bringing his tortoises, Blanche and Rose, and sharing his knowledge about them.

In gratitude for special friends, we want to shout out Dr. Pam Evans and her church for donating 19 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies, used as prizes during a game of colored dimes. A big thank you

music from the Three Old Men Band, and delicious ice cream sundaes for dessert.

Adell Rich celebrated her 90th birthday, and her family hosted a large birthday party for her. We were happy to be invited and enjoyed the beautiful decorations, tasty food, and cake.

Other birthdays in May included Caryl Ingram, Chester Page, and Joan Williams. We welcomed one new resident, Ms. Cornelia Pugh, and bid farewell to Wanda Faye Smith.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TWRA FREE FISHING DAY IS SATURDAY

NASHVILLE — The 2025 Bobby Wilson Free Fishing Day is Saturday, June 7 in Tennessee. All state residents and visitors of any age may fish for free without a license in Tennessee's public waters. Additionally, youth ages 15 or younger may fish for free the entire week, beginning on Free Fishing Day (June 7) and continuing through the following Friday, June 13.

Every year since 1991, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) has provided the annual free fishing opportunity in hopes of introducing children and

families to fishing and outdoor recreation. Each year, the agency stocks several thousand pounds of fish across the state to ensure high-quality, exciting fishing for participants. Fishing is a great family activity and helps bring awareness to the natural environment.

NIGHTS ON BROADWAY KICKS OFF THIS WEEK

McKENZIE — The annual Nights on Broadway series kicks off Thursday, June 5, 7 p.m. in downtown McKenzie with the music of the James Greer Band. The second event is Thursday, June 19 with the band 24/7. Crooked Creek performs July 17. Longshot performs August 5. Fajita Brothers performs September 4. Flashback performs September 18. The events are in downtown McKenzie. Please bring a lawn chair. The events are free of charge.

CARROLL ARTS, INC. UPCOMING EVENTS

Carroll Arts, Inc. has a packed schedule of events for the summer of 2025.

An Evening with Carroll Arts is on Saturday, June 21, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in McKenzie. It is a free event featuring live music and visual artists from Carroll County.

Creativity Camp: The Wonderland of Creativity is July 7-11 from 1-4 p.m. at First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in McKenzie with a performance on Friday. Carroll County elementary and middle school students are encouraged to attend. The fee is \$40 for supplies.

The Southern Fried Funnies are back and rehearsals start in June! If you have performed the in past, we want you back! Performances are set for Thursday, August 21 and Saturday, August 23,

2025 at the McKenzie Park Theatre.

Other upcoming events include: Storytelling during the Huntingdon Heritage Festival in September; A Mistletoe Christmas Program during McKenzie's Christmas Celebration in December; the 15th Annual Trivia Bowl in January 2026; and a new event announcement coming later this year.

For more information, please email carrollartsinc@gmail.com.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER FOR KILLIBREW FAMILY

A pancake breakfast fundraiser for the Killibrew family is Saturday June 7 at the Clarksburg Church of Christ Activities Building from 7 a.m. until sold out. A \$10 plate includes pancakes, bacon or sausage and a drink. There will also be a bake sale. Funds support the Killibrew family as they prepare for the birth of baby Cal, who was diagnosed with hypoplastic left heart complex. Cal will require open-heart surgery the first week after he is born.

SHOOTING HUNGER IN WEST TENNESSEE

Shooting Hunger Sporting Clays Fun Shoot is Friday, June 20 at 7:30 a.m. at the Carroll County Shooting Sports Park located at 680 McAdoo Cemetery Lane, Huntingdon.

The format is five-person teams shooting at multiple stations with a 9 a.m. or 1 p.m. start time.

The entry fee will include 50 targets on the course, lunch and a goody bag, plus provide eligibility for door prizes.

Corporate sponsorships are available and will be recognized through signage at the event and on the event website.

Registration begins at 7:30

a.m. and fun games at 8 a.m.

Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

Prizes will be awarded for the top three teams and top individual shooter in both flights.

A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to the top youth shooter in each flight. To be eligible, youth must be a current student in elementary, middle or high school or a 2024 high school graduate and plan to attend a two-year college, four-year university or trade school.

Mulligans will be available for purchase.

Shooters should bring their own shotgun, shells (7 1/2, 8, or 9 shot) and eye and ear protection.

This is a rain or shine event. Be sure to bring your rain jacket!

RIBBON-CUTTING AT LAVENDER KISSES FARM

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce hosts a ribbon-cutting at Lavender Kisses Farm Saturday, June 7 at 9 a.m. The farm is located at 307 Marlboro Road, Hol-low Rock.

RIBBON-CUTTING AT HOSPITAL WING AT CARROLL COUNTY

A grand opening and ribbon-cutting for the official opening of Hospital Wing at the Carroll County Airport is Thursday, June 5 at 10 a.m. The airport is located at 456 Airport Lane, McKenzie.

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 host-

ing a reunion should contact the MHS Alumni Association to help promote the class reunion.

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 SENIOR CENTER EVENTS

Every Tuesday — Jam session with Steve Morris, 6 p.m.

Open to the public.

Saturday, June 7 — The center hosts its third annual shrimp boil. From 5-6 p.m., shrimp is all-you-can-eat for \$20. A block party is from 4-7 p.m. featuring live music, dancing and games. W.O. Warren Drive, adjacent to the center, will be blocked off for the event. Tickets for shrimp should be purchased by May 30. The shrimp boil is sponsored by Verne Plank of Jackson, son of member Mabel Plank. He donates and cooks the shrimp. The event is a fundraiser for the annual banquet held each summer.

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.

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Thurs. 4:30 (3D), 7:30

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: THE FINAL RECKONING (PG-13)

Tues. 3:50, 7:20
Wed. 2:00, 7:20
Thurs. 7:20

THE LAST RODEO (PG)

Tues. 4:30, 7:30
Wed. 1:30, 4:30, 7:30
Thurs. 4:30, 7:30

FINAL DESTINATION BLOODLINES (R)

Tues. 4:35, 7:35
Wed. 1:35, 4:35, 7:35
Thurs. 4:35, 7:35

THUNDERBOLTS* (PG-13)

Tues. 4:30 (3D), 7:30
Wed. 1:30, 4:30 (3D), 7:30
Thurs. 4:30 (3D), 7:30

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West Carroll Special School District Meeting Agenda

June 5, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
West Carroll Jr/Sr High School Cafeteria
Minutes from May 1, 2025 Board Meeting.
Retirement Letter from Mr.

Dwight Knight.
Resignations: Olivia Arnold, Artice Burkley, and Lisa Meals.
Recognition of West Carroll Retirees: Mrs. Sandra Hudgins and Mr. Dwight Knight - Director Caldwell.
Recognition of WCES Readers (100 Books or 100

Points) - Dr. Jessica Williams
Discuss/Approve 25/26 Board Meeting Dates and Yearly Calendar - Director Caldwell
Discuss/Approve WCJSHS FFA Field Trip Request to Wildersville, Tenn., for July 9-11, 2025 (1 Reading Required) – Mr. Noah Rogers.
Public Comment (*Prior Approval Required)

Discuss/Approve Policy 6.411 Student Wellness (2nd Reading) - Director Caldwell
Discuss/Approve WCJSHS FFA Field Trip Request to Wildersville, Tenn., for July 9-11, 2025 (1 Reading Required) – Mr. Noah Rogers.
Public Comment (*Prior Approval Required)

Principal Reports
Director of Schools Report Adjourn
* Approval for appearing before the West Carroll Board is outlined in West Carroll Policy 1.404. Visit wcssd.org - policy manual, or call West Carroll Central Office at 731-662-4200.



WCES students who reached the goal of reading at least 100 books. Photo courtesy WCSSD

West Carroll Elementary School Celebrates Literacy Milestone with Island-Themed Bash

TREZEVANT (May 20) — The gymnasium at West Carroll Elementary School was transformed into a tropical paradise on Tuesday as 32 percent of students celebrated reaching their end-of-year reading goals in a vibrant, island-themed celebration.

"This is such a wonderful feeling," said Principal Dr. Jessica Williams. "We've focused all year on strengthening literacy—everything from reading comprehension and vocabulary to understanding both informational and literary texts. It's incredible to see so many of our students

rise to the challenge and read 100 books."

The literacy initiative was led by school librarian Mrs. Pat Hudgins, who also coordinated the event. "We never imagined the level of excitement this program would generate or the impact it would have on our students' reading skills," Hudgins said.

The program tied into the school's theme for the year: "Reading Takes You Places." Each student received a reading passport to track their progress, logging each book read throughout the school year. The promise of

a mystery celebration kept students motivated, but few anticipated the festive island atmosphere awaiting them in the gym.

Students had access to a wide range of reading materials, including fiction, non-fiction, and informational books about topics such as plants and animals.

The celebration featured island-themed crafts, sand play, fruity treats including a chocolate fountain, limbo contests and festive accessories. Students even got to witness a simulated volcano eruption and learn about his-

torical events like the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"This event was not only fun, but it was also a powerful way to boost literacy among our third and fourth graders," said Dr. Williams. "That's especially important with the State of Tennessee's renewed focus on literacy and the new retention and promotion laws."

West Carroll Elementary extends its heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped bring this celebration to life and to the community for their continued support.

Chadwick on Samford University Dean's List

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (May 2025) — Presley Chadwick, Biology major from McKenzie, was named to Samford University's Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester.

To qualify for the dean's list, a student must earn a minimum 3.5 grade point average out of a possible 4.0 while attempting at least 12

credit hours of coursework. The Dean's List is the highest academic recognition given by the school at the end of each semester.

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and professional schools. Founded in 1841, Samford is the 87th-oldest institution of higher learning in the United States. Samford enrolls 6,101 students from 45 states, Puerto Rico and 16 countries in its 10 academic schools: arts, arts and sciences, business, divinity, education, health profes-

sions, law, nursing, pharmacy and public health. Samford fields 17 athletic teams that compete in the tradition-rich Southern Conference and ranks with the second highest score in the nation for its 98% Graduation Success Rate among all NCAA Division I schools.

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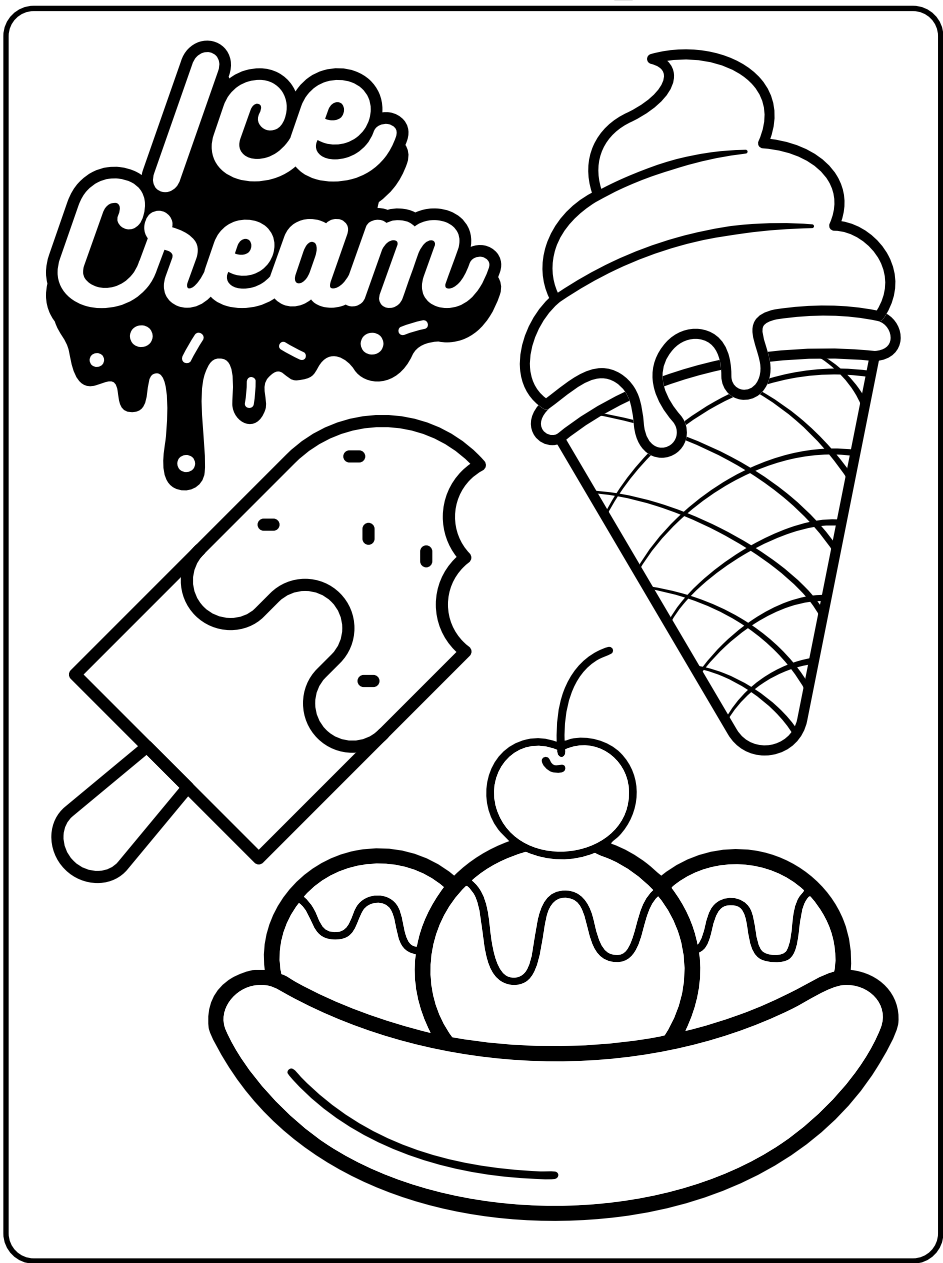
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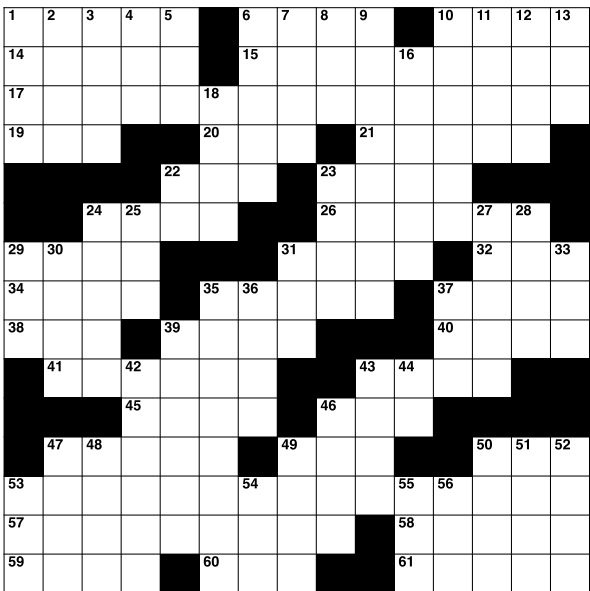
Weekly Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Marsh plant
- 6. Southern constellation ("The Peacock")
- 10. Fogginess
- 14. Home to Fools' Day
- 15. Absence of the sense of pain
- 17. Popular November holiday
- 19. Consume food
- 20. Buddy
- 21. Long-haired goat-antelope
- 22. Japanese honorific
- 23. Actor Malek
- 24. One point south of southeast
- 26. Illegal acts
- 29. As fast as can be done
- 31. Prevents harm to young
- 32. Exclamation of satisfaction
- 34. African nation
- 35. Slow-moving animal
- 37. Oh, goodness!
- 38. A team's best pitcher
- 39. Cleanser
- 40. Radioactivity units
- 41. Expectorated matter
- 43. Cover a wide range
- 45. The central area of a church
- 46. California capital (abbr.)
- 47. Dutch painter Klaver
- 49. 007's creator
- 50. Impression of dishonesty
- 53. Northeastern sports rivalry
- 57. Cloths
- 58. Stalin's police chief
- 59. Hostelries
- 60. Bitterly regret
- 61. Anwar __, Egyptian statesman

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Satisfy
- 2. European health advocate



- 3. Expression of annoyance
- 4. Strong liquor
- 5. Large red deer
- 6. Holder of less common religious beliefs
- 7. West Indian shrub
- 8. Family of proteins
- 9. Wealthy, influential business leader
- 10. Low spirits
- 11. Approves food
- 12. Monetary unit of Iran and Oman
- 13. Mary __, cosmetics
- 16. Expressed in pithy maxims
- 18. Relaxing spaces
- 22. The NFL's big game
- 23. Proof of payment (abbr.)
- 24. Starchy preparation of dried orchid tubers
- 25. Indicates near
- 27. Minneapolis suburb
- 28. Herring-like fish
- 29. Doctors' group
- 30. Pouches
- 31. Bread dipping in sauce
- 33. Commercial
- 35. A reminder of past events
- 36. Affected by injury
- 37. Geological time
- 39. Stationary part of a motor
- 42. Brings together
- 43. Of sound mind
- 44. Personal computer
- 46. Without (French)
- 47. A bank might give you one
- 48. Agricultural testing organization
- 49. A small island
- 50. Type of gene
- 51. Murres
- 52. Card game
- 53. A measure of human health
- 54. Australian airline (abbr.)
- 55. One point south of due west
- 56. Affirmative

Week 22

See solution in next week's edition.

Dairy Farm Word Search

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

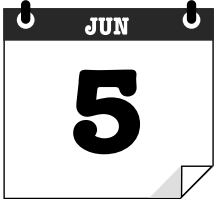
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THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1817: The first Great Lakes steamer, the Frontenac, is launched.

1883: The first regularly scheduled Orient Express departs from Paris.

1976: The Teton Dam in Idaho collapses.

SUDOKU

WEEK 22

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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

See solution in next week's edition.



Solve the code to discover words related to dairy. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 7 = D)

A. 7 1 16 22 4

Clue: Foods containing milk of mammals

B. 17 14 16 21 21 25 7

Clue: Kept cool

C. 17 13 24

Clue: Bovine

D. 7 16 25 6

Clue: Foods you eat

Answers: A. dairy B. chilled C. cow D. diet

LETTER MIX-UP

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

COTTON SEEDS

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

Riddle Me This

What do you call a cow's bedtime stories?

Answer: Dairy tales

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

SECEHE

Answer: Cheese

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actor born in England on June 1, 1996. I attended the BRIT School for Performing Arts and Technology. Early in my career, I portrayed Billy Elliott in a London musical. Recently, I've filled the tights of a web-slinging superhero.

Answer: Tom Holland

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PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 21 Crossword Puzzle Solution

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION WEEK 21

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

TSSAA CLASS 2A BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



Above, The Huntingdon Mustangs gather as a team before their first tournament game. Below Left, Mustang Brady Warbritton is greeted by teammates after scoring against Sweetwater. Below Right, Mustang Gray Eubanks awaits a pitch from Sweetwater. Eubanks was 2-for-3 with a home run, a walk, three RBIs and three runs scored. Photos by Jason Martin/The Banner



Mustangs Rout Sweetwater to Open Tourney

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MURFREESBORO (May 21) — The Huntingdon Mustangs opened the TSSAA Class 2A Baseball State Championship with a big, 12-0 win over Sweetwater in five innings at Riverdale High School.

Huntingdon set the tone with six runs in the top of the first and added three more in both the second and third innings.

Mustang Gray Eubanks was 2-for-3 with a home run, a walk, three RBIs and three runs scored. Easton Byars went 1-for-3 with a home run, three RBIs and a run scored. Broox Bennett was 1-for-3 with two RBIs and a run scored. Caleb Ezell went 1-for-1 with a double, two walks, an RBI and a run scored. Braylon Rich was 2-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored. Brady Warbritton

went 2-for-4 with two runs scored. Hayes Eubanks was 1-for-3 with two RBIs. Silas Sharp was 1-for-3.

Easton Byars earned the win for Huntingdon, allowing no runs on one hit while striking out seven and walking none in three and two-thirds innings. Owen Hugueley pitched an inning and a third in relief, allowing no runs on one hit while striking out one and walking one.



Huntingdon's Gray Eubanks was named Mr. Baseball for Class 2-A in the state of Tennessee this past week. Pictured from left, Hayes Eubanks, Alan Eubanks, Gray Eubanks, Kelly Eubanks, and Mac Eubanks. Photo courtesy Russell Bush/Huntingdon Sports Pics

Gray Eubanks Named Mr. Baseball

BY RUSSELL BUSH
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Huntingdon Mustang senior baseball player and Southern Mississippi commit Gray Eubanks was named Mr. Baseball in Murfreesboro prior to the state baseball tournament.

Eubanks for the season sported a .448 batting average with ten home runs on the season and a 1.562 OPS.

Eubanks helped lead the Mustangs to a 32-6 record

and a state runner-up finish for the second consecutive year.

He saved his best baseball for his last 13 games that saw the Mustangs win the district 12-AA tournament, the Region 6-2A tournament, two sectional games and the state runner-up finish.

In the district, regional and sectional games, Eubanks was 12-for-19 at the plate, scored 11 runs and had ten RBIs, seven walks,

four doubles and two home runs. Eubanks did not have a strikeout in those seven games.

In the state tournament, Eubanks was 9-for-18 at the plate in six games with nine runs scored, 11 RBIs, six walks, one double and two home runs and only struck out once.

For the season, Eubanks homered 14 times for a Mustang team that set a school record with 28 homers for the season.



Above, Shawn Simpson (left) finished sixth and Blaine Todd (right) second in the 3200 meter. Below, The Huntingdon Mustang 4x800 relay team earned a third-place finish at the state track meet. (L to R) Cole Chafin, Blaine Todd, Shawn Simpson and Carson Watters. Photos by Russell Bush/Huntingdon Sports Pics



Carroll County Has Strong Showing at State Track and Field

MURFREESBORO — Despite rain and various schedule changes, Carroll County had a strong showing in track and field at the TSSAA Spring Fling.

For McKenzie, Freshman Abigail Wallace placed first in the 800 meter race and 1600 meter race and third overall in the 3200 meter race. This is first gold metal for McKenzie in track.

Blaine Todd for Huntingdon was back at the 'Boro. This year, he place second in the 3200 meter race. Shawn Simpson had a good day also for the Mustangs in the 3200 meter race as he finished sixth. In the 4x800 meter relay, the Mustangs placed third. The team consisted of Shawn Simpson, Cole Chafin, Carson Watters, and Blaine Todd.



Abigail Wallace won three medals during the TSSAA Spring Fling Track Champion Series. File Photo

TSSAA CLASS 1A SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Lady Tigers Crush Oakdale in Opener

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MURFREESBORO (May 21) — The Hollow Rock-Bruceston Central Lady Tigers started the TSSAA Class 1A Softball State Championship strong Wednesday with a 10-0 win in five innings over Oakdale.

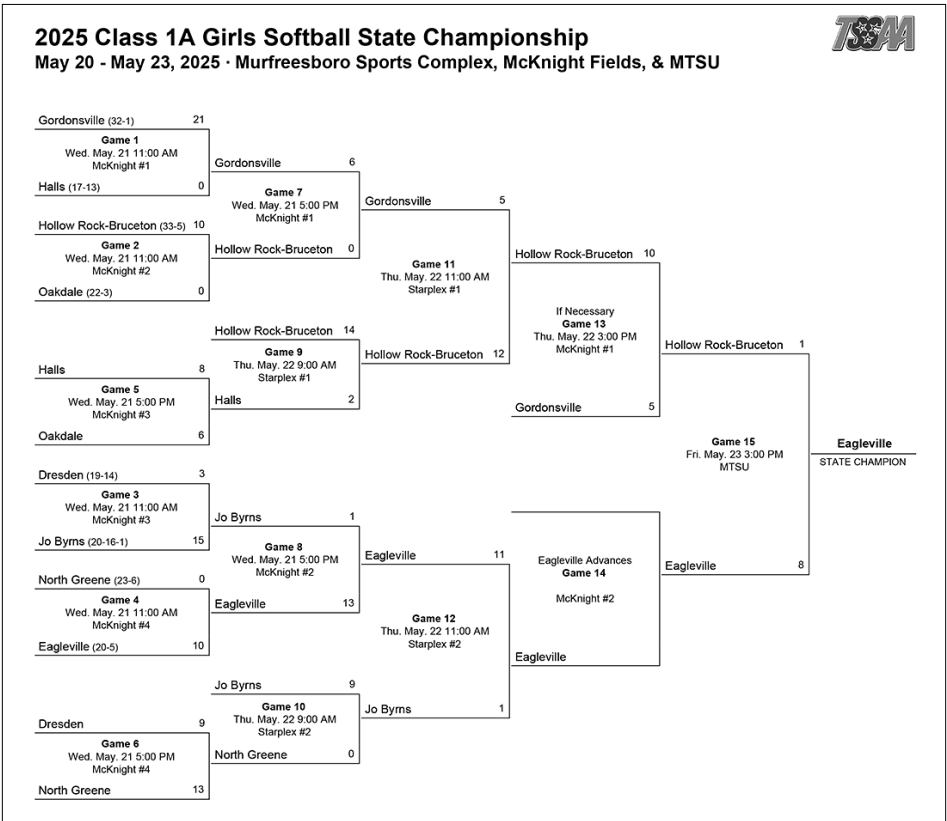
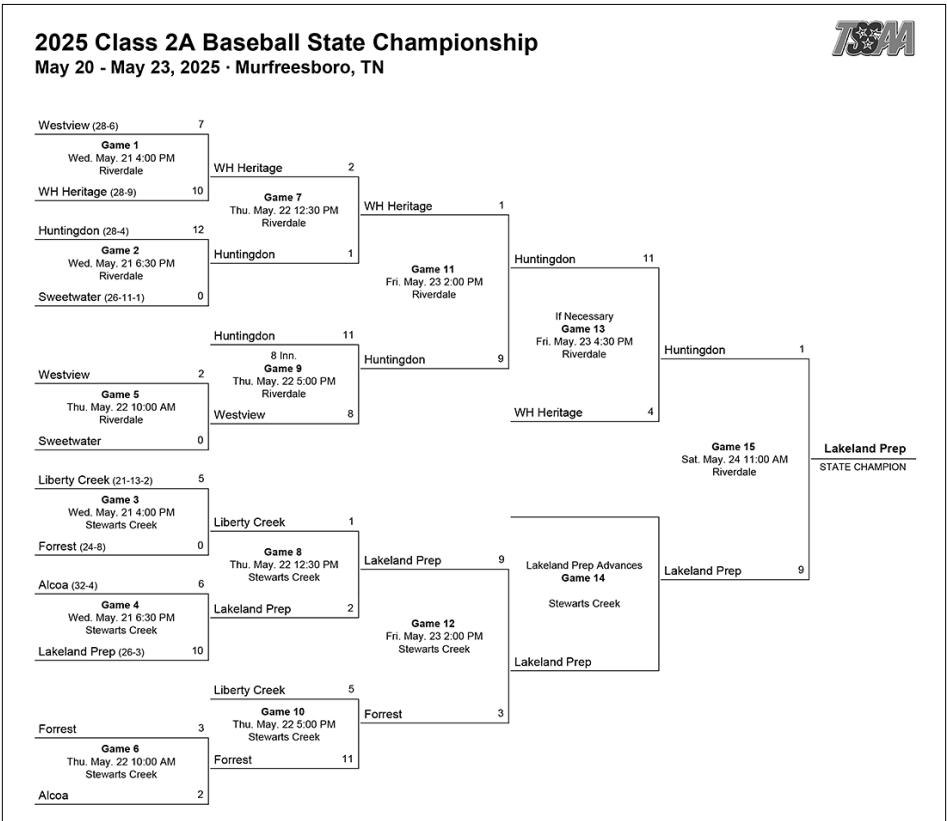
After three scoreless frames, Central exploded

for nine runs in the fourth and plated one in the fifth to end the game.

Lady Tiger Kyleigh Baker was 2-for-3 with three RBIs. Madison Holder went 3-for-3. Keely Williams was 2-for-3 with an RBI and two runs scored. Lilly McGee went 1-for-3 with two RBIs and a run scored. Cloe Morgan was 1-for-3 with a triple and a run scored. McKinley Gar-

ri-son went 1-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored. Spencer Ervin was 0-for-1 with a walk and a run scored.

Madison Holder earned the shutout win for Central, allowing two hits while striking out seven and walking none in four and a third innings. Kyleigh Baker pitched the final two-thirds of an inning, allowing two hits with no walks.



TSSAA CLASS 1A SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



The Central Lady Tigers are awarded the TSSAA 1A softball trophy.

Lady Tigers are Runner-Up With Loss to Eagleville

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MURFREESBORO (May 23) — The Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central Lady Tigers are the TSSAA Class 1A Softball State Championship runner-up following an 8-1 loss to Eagleville in the title game played at Middle Tennessee State University. Eagleville struck first with three runs in the top of the first. Central answered with one in the home half. The Lady Eagles pulled away with four in the second and added another in the third. Lady Tiger Spencer Ervin was 2-for-3 with a walk. Lilly McGee went 2-for-4 with a run scored. McKinley Garrison was 1-for-2 with two walks. Olivia Scott went 1-for-4. Madison Holder was 0-for-3 with a walk and an RBI.



Coach Jamie Williams accepts the coach's runner-up plaque.

Madison Holder got the start and took the loss for Central, allowing seven runs (five earned) on seven hits and a walk. Kyleigh Baker threw five and two-thirds innings of relief, allowing one earned run on five hits while striking out one and walking none.

TSSAA CLASS 1A SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Lady Tigers Win Three Straight to Reach Title Game

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MURFREESBORO (May 22) — The Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central Lady Tigers bounced back in a big way Thursday, rattling off three convincing wins to earn a spot in the TSSAA Class 1A Softball State Championship game. Central started the long day with a 14-2 rout of Halls, then took back-to-back games against Gordonsville, 12-5 and 10-5. Central Lady Tigers 14, Halls Lady Tigers 2. Central struck quickly with three runs in the top of the first inning. Halls scored two in the bottom of the second. Central pulled away with nine in the fourth and added a pair in the fifth for the early finish. Lady Tiger Spencer Ervin was 2-for-2 with a double, a walk, three RBIs and a run scored. Lilly McGee went 3-for-4 with a triple, two RBIs and three runs scored. Keely Williams was 1-for-4 with three RBIs and two runs scored. Olivia Scott went 2-for-3 with an RBI and two runs scored. Cloe Morgan was 2-for-3 with an RBI. Madison Holder went 2-for-4 with a double. McKinley Garrison and Amelia Bennett were

each 1-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored. Kyleigh Baker was 0-for-1 with two walks, an RBI and two runs scored. Madison Holder earned the complete-game win for Central, allowing two unearned runs on four hits while striking out five and walking one. Central Lady Tigers 12, Gordonsville Lady Tigers 5. Central jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the top of the first. Gordonsville closed the gap with three in the third, but Central put up four more in the fourth and padded the lead with three in top of the sixth. Gordonsville plated one in the home half, and both teams scored one in the seventh. Lady Tiger Kyleigh Baker was 2-for-4 with a double and five RBIs. Keely Williams went 3-for-4 with a walk, an RBI and three runs scored. Lilly McGee was 2-for-4 with a run scored. Spencer Ervin was 1-for-2 with a run scored. Madison Holder went 0-for-3 with two walks, an RBI and three runs scored. Amelia Bennett was 0-for-2 with two walks and a run scored. McKenzie Castleman went 0-for-1 with a walk and a run scored. Kyleigh Baker earned the complete-game win for Central, allowing five runs (three earned) on nine hits while striking out three and walking two. Central 10, Gordonsville 5. Central scored six in the top of the second inning. Gordonsville got one in the bottom half. Central added a run in the third, then scored three in the top of the fifth. Gordonsville plated a pair in the home half, then added a run in each of the final two frames. Lady Tiger Madison Holder was 3-for-5 with a home run, three RBIs and a run scored. Keely Williams went 1-for-4 with a double, three RBIs and a run scored. Kyleigh Baker was 2-for-5. Amelia Bennett went 1-for-2 with two walks, an RBI and a run scored. McKinley Garrison was 1-for-2 with two runs scored. Olivia Scott went 1-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored. Lilly McGee was 1-for-5 with an RBI and two runs scored. Spencer Ervin went 0-for-2 with a walk and a run scored. Cloe Morgan was 0-for-1 with two walks. Madison Holder earned the complete-game win for Central, allowing five earned runs on eleven hits while striking out six and walking none.

TSSAA CLASS 1A SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Central Falls to Gordonsville For First Tourney Loss

BY BRAD SAM
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MURFREESBORO (May 21) — The Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central Lady Tigers took a tough, 6-0 loss to Gordonsville Wednesday evening, send-

ing them to the lower bracket the next day. Gordonsville scored all six runs in the bottom of the second inning. Lady Tiger Kyleigh Baker was 1-for-2 with a walk. Madison Holder, Cloe Morgan and Olivia Scott were each 1-for-3. Madison Holder took the complete-game loss for Central, allowing six runs (two earned) on five hits while striking out three and walking two.

TSSAA CLASS 2A BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



Above, The Mustangs swarm Braylon Rich at home plate after his three-run home run in the second game of the day. Below Left, Mustang Easton Byars started and won the first game, then pitched two and two-third shutout innings in the second game. Below Right, Mustang shortstop Gray Eubanks flips the ball to second base for the out during the second game. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Huntingdon Advances to Title Game

BY BRAD SAM
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MURFREESBORO (May 23) — The Huntingdon Mustangs earned a spot in the TSSAA Class 2A Baseball State Championship game with a pair of convincing wins Friday over White House Heritage, who had handed the Mustangs their first loss the day before. In stark contrast with Thursday's 2-1 loss, Huntingdon's bats exploded for wins of 9-1 and 11-4. Huntingdon Mustangs 9, White House Heritage Patriots 1. Huntingdon struck first with a run in the bottom of the second inning and added one in the third, four in the fourth and two in the fifth. Heritage got on the board with a run in the top of the sixth, and the Mustangs matched that in the home half. Mustang Gray Eubanks was 2-for-3 with a double, a walk, three RBIs and a run scored. Caleb Ezell went 2-for-2 with an RBI and two runs scored. Broox Bennett was 2-for-3

with a double, a walk and a run scored. Easton Byars went 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI. Brady Warbritton was 2-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored. Silas Sharp went 1-for-2 with a walk and an RBI. Braylon Rich was 1-for-4 with a run scored. Hayes Eubanks was 0-for-2 with a walk, an RBI and a run scored. Easton Byars got the start and earned the win for Huntingdon, allowing one earned run on two hits while striking out six and walking one over six innings. Braylon Rich pitched the final inning, allowing no runs, hits or walks. Mustangs 11, Patriots 4. Huntingdon started things off with a pair in the top of the first, but Heritage tied it in the home half. The Mustangs then pulled away with a run in the third, three each in the fourth and fifth and two in the seventh. The Patriots scored two in the bottom of the seventh. Mustang Braylon Rich was 2-for-5 with a home

run, three RBIs and a run scored. Brady Warbritton went 3-for-4 with a walk and three runs scored. Broox Bennett was 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI. Gray Eubanks went 2-for-4 with a double, a walk, two RBIs and three runs scored. Caleb Ezell was 2-for-4 with a run scored. Hayes Eubanks went 1-for-3 with a walk, an RBI and a run scored. Braylin Dearmon was 1-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored. Silas Sharp went 1-for-4 with an RBI. Aiden Hilliard got the start and earned the win for Huntingdon, allowing two earned runs on three hits while striking out four and walking one in two and a third innings. Easton Byars pitched two and two-thirds innings, allowing no runs on one hits while striking out one and walking one. Braylin Dearmon threw an inning and two-thirds, allowing one unearned run on one hit while striking out two and walking none. Braylon Rich got the final out, allowing one earned run on two hits with no walks.

TSSAA CLASS 2A BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mustangs Outlast Chargers to Stay Alive

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MURFREESBORO (May 22) — The Huntingdon Mustangs needed eight innings to secure an 11-8 win against Westview Thursday night to stay alive in the TSSAA Class 2A Baseball State Championship at Riverdale High School. Westview jumped out to a 4-0 lead with two runs each in the first and second innings. Huntingdon lunged ahead with six runs in the top of the third. The Chargers cut their deficit in half with a run in the bottom of the fifth, but the Mustangs plated two in the sixth to pad the lead.

Westview forced extras with three runs in the bottom of the seventh, but Huntingdon pulled ahead with three in the eighth and held on for the win. Mustang Gray Eubanks was 1-for-3 with a home run, two walks, three RBIs and three runs scored. Braylin Dearmon went 3-for-4 with two RBIs and a run scored. Silas Sharp was 2-for-5 with three RBIs and a run scored. Broox Bennett went 2-for-3 with a double, a walk and an RBI. Braylon Rich was 2-for-4 with a double and two runs scored. Brady Warbritton went 1-for-4 with a double, a walk, an RBI and two runs scored. Hayes Eubanks was 1-for-5

with an RBI. Easton Byars went 1-for-5. Owen Kreuziger got the start for Huntingdon, allowing four runs (three earned) on five hits while striking out one and walking one in an inning and two-thirds. Caleb Ezell pitched two and a third innings of relief, allowing one earned run on two hits while striking out one and walking none. Gray Eubanks pitched three innings and earned the win, allowing three runs (one earned) on two hits while striking out four and walking three. Braylin Dearmon threw the final frame and earned a save, allowing no runs, hits or walks while striking out one.

TSSAA CLASS 2A BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mustangs Edged by Patriots For First Tourney Loss

BY BRAD SAM
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MURFREESBORO (May 22) — The Huntingdon Mustangs suffered a narrow, 2-1 loss to White House Heritage to start the second day of the TSSAA Class 2A Baseball State Championship at Riverdale High School. The loss moved Hunting-

don into the lower bracket. After four scoreless frames, Heritage broke through for a run in the bottom of the fifth. Huntingdon tied it in the top of the sixth, but the Patriots regained the lead in the home half. Mustang Braylon Rich

was 2-for-2 with a walk. Broox Bennett went 1-for-3 with an RBI. Caleb Ezell was 1-for-1. Silas Sharp went 1-for-3. Caleb Ezell took the complete-game loss for Huntingdon, allowing two earned runs on six hits while striking out two and walking none.

TSSAA CLASS 1A BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Rebels End Season with Semifinal Loss

BY BRAD SAM
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LEBANON (May 23) — The McKenzie High School baseball season came to an end Friday with an 8-4 loss to Coalfield in the semifinals of the TSSAA Class 1A Baseball State Championship held at Wilson Central High School.

Coalfield struck first with a pair of runs in the top of the first inning. The Rebels answered with a run in the home half. The Yellowjackets plated three more in the second, while McKenzie scored one in the third. After two scoreless frames, Coalfield added three more in the top of the sixth, and McKenzie scored a pair in the bottom half.

Rebel Avery Brown was 2-for-3 with a walk. Fletcher Holt went 1-for-3 with a walk, an RBI and a run scored. Craegen Travis was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Cooper Davidson went 1-for-4 with an RBI. Cole Brown was 2-for-5 with a run scored. Xander Johnsey went 1-for-5 with a run scored.

Craegen Travis took the complete-game loss for McKenzie, allowing eight runs (three earned) on six hits while striking out four and walking four.



Above, Rebel first baseman Tate Surber makes a catch in foul territory for an out. Below, Rebel second baseman Xander Johnsey fields a grounder and throws to first for the out. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



TSSAA CLASS 1A BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



Rebel pitcher Fletcher Holt catches a short pop fly coming off the back of the mound. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Rebels Fall to Coalfield for First Loss

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

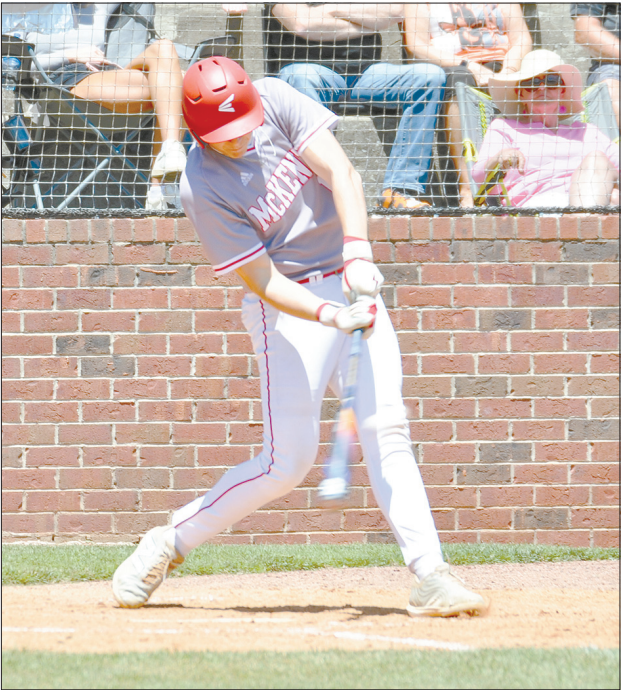
LEBANON (May 22) — The McKenzie Rebels took a tough loss to start the second day of the TSSAA Class 1A Baseball State Championship, falling to Coalfield 10-0 in five innings at Wilson Central High School.

The loss moved McKenzie to the lower bracket.

Coalfield scored a run in the top of the first, two in the third, four in the fourth and three in the fifth.

Craegen Travis had the lone hit for the Rebels, a double.

Fletcher Holt got the start for McKenzie, allowing one earned run on four hits and a walk in an inning and two-thirds. Cole Brown pitched two and a third innings of relief, allowing eight earned runs on seven hits while striking out two and walking three. Ripken



Rebel Craegen Travis connects for a double. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Thompson pitched the final frame, allowing one earned run on one hit while striking out two and walking two.

TSSAA CLASS 1A BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Rebels Stay Alive with Win Over Bradford, 8-5

BY BRAD SAM
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LEBANON (May 22) — The McKenzie Rebels bounced back from a loss earlier in the day Thursday to defeat Bradford 8-5 and advance to the semifinal round of the TSSAA Class 1A Baseball State Championship at Wilson Central High School.

McKenzie struck first with three runs in the top of the second inning. Bradford got on the board with one in the home half, then tied it with a pair in the third. The Rebels pulled ahead for good with four runs in the fourth. The Red Devils scored a pair in the bottom half, but McKenzie tacked on an insurance run in the sixth.

Rebel Xander Johnsey was 3-for-4 with an RBI and two runs scored. Avery Brown went 1-for-4 with a triple, two RBIs and a run scored. Fletcher Holt was 2-for-2 with a double and a walk. Cole Brown went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and a run scored. Ace Brown was 1-for-3 with a double and a walk. Lelan Gordon went 2-for-4 with two runs scored. Craegen Travis was 1-for-4 with a double and an RBI. Cooper Davidson went 1-for-4.

Craegen Travis got the start for McKenzie, allowing no runs on two hits and a walk in an inning and two-thirds. Fletcher



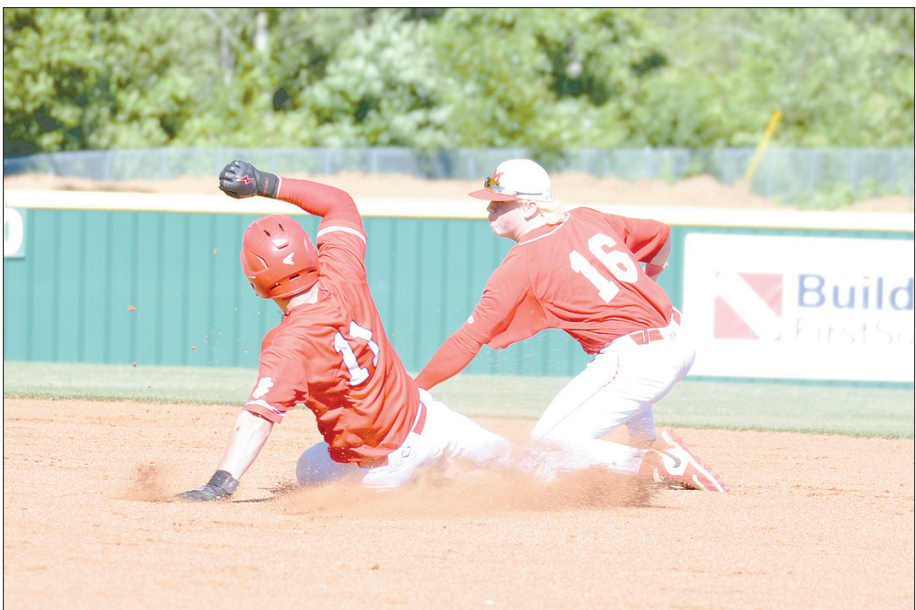
Above, Rebel Ace Brown hits a single in McKenzie's win over Bradford. Below, Rebel pitcher Craegen Travis just beats a sliding Bradford base runner to first for the out. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Holt pitched an inning and a third of relief, allowing five earned runs on six hits while striking out two and walking two.

Cooper Davidson threw the final four frames, allowing no runs on three hits while striking out three and walking two.

TSSAA CLASS 1A BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



Rebel second baseman Xander Johnsey tags a Whitwell runner attempting to advance to second base. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Rebels Top Whitwell in Opener

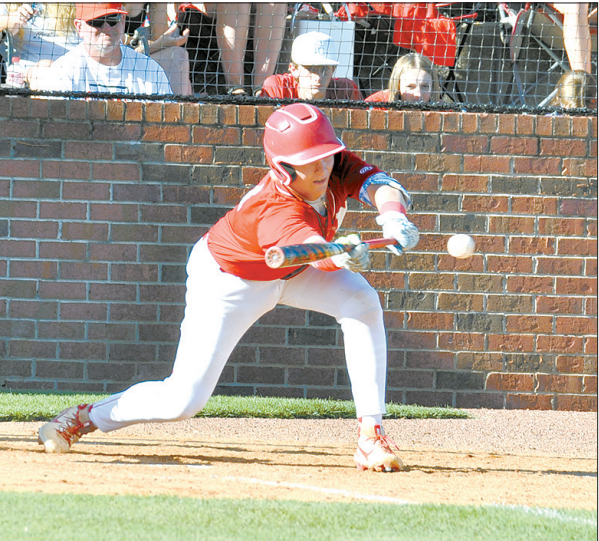
BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

LEBANON (May 21) — The McKenzie Rebels opened the TSSAA Class 1A Baseball State Championship Wednesday with a 6-1 win over Whitwell.

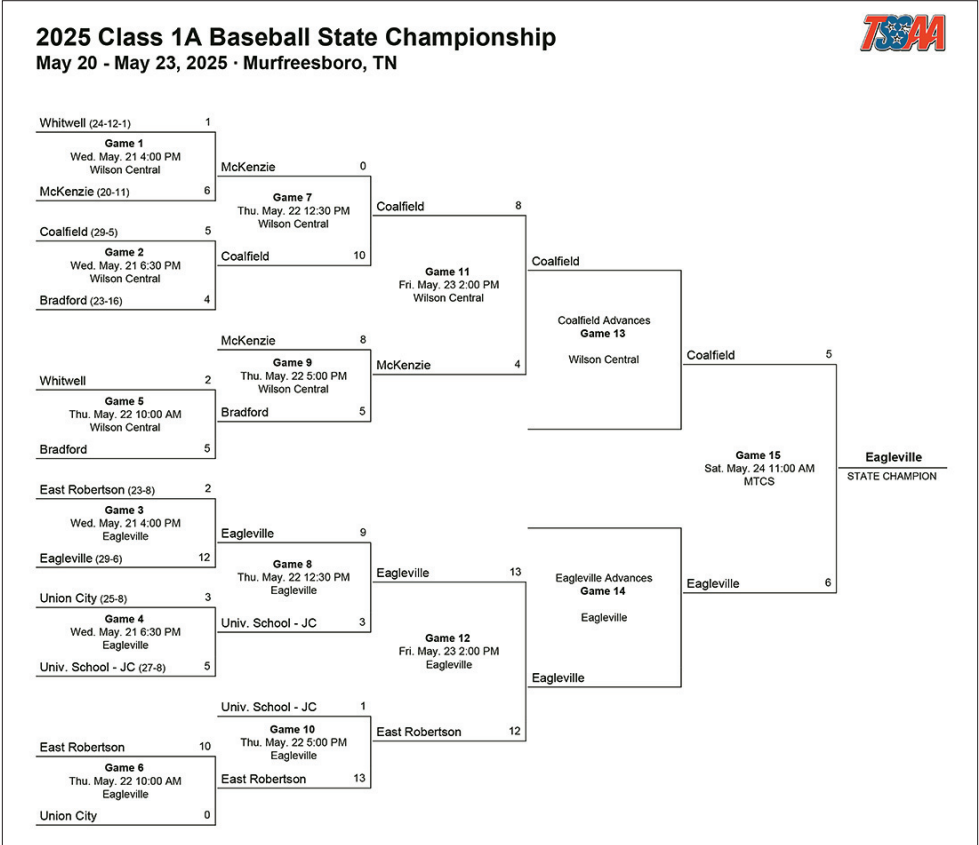
McKenzie struck first with a run in the top of the third inning and added a run in both the fifth and sixth. Whitwell got on the board with a run in the bottom of the sixth. The Rebels plated three insurance runs in the seventh.

Rebel Fletcher Holt was 3-for-4 with a double, an RBI and two runs scored. Tate Surber went 2-for-4 with a double, two RBIs and a run scored. Cole Brown was 3-for-4 with a double, a run scored and two stolen bases. Cooper Davidson went 2-for-4.

Tate Surber earned the win for McKenzie, allowing one earned run on two hits while striking out eight and walking two in five and a third innings. Xander Johnsey threw an inning of relief, allowing no runs on two hits while striking out one and walking none. Fletcher Holt got the final two outs with no runs on one hit with a strikeout and no walks.



Above, Rebel Cooper Davidson lays down a perfect bunt for a base hit. Below, Rebel center fielder Tate Surber charges in to make the catch. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



2025 Spring Fling

McKenzie, Tennessee

THE BANNER

Special Edition

TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2025

FEATURING:

- McKENZIE BASEBALL
- HUNTINGDON BASEBALL
- CENTRAL SOFTBALL
- TRACK & FIELD

TSSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

MAY 20-23, 2025

TSSAA CLASS 2A BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



The TSSAA Class 2A Baseball State Championship Runner-Up Huntingdon Mustangs. Photo by Russell Bush/Huntingdon Sports Pics



Above, Braylon Rich reaches first on a high throw in Mustangs loss to Lakeland in state title game. Above Right, Alan Eubanks accepts runner-up coaches award from TSSAA's Matt Gillespie. Right, Hayes Eubanks dives for a fly ball in Mustangs loss to Lakewood in state title game. Photos by Russell Bush/Huntingdon Sports Pics



Mustangs Fall Short In State Title Game

BY RUSSELL BUSH
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MURFREESBORO (May 24) — The Huntingdon Mustang baseball team, after playing two dramatic games on Friday to reach the state title game for the second year in a row, ran up against a talented Lakeland Prep team on Saturday and lost 9-1 to the Lions to claim a second consecutive runner-up finish in the state tournament.

The Mustangs, after recording 59 hits in their first five games of the tournament, only managed five hits on Saturday. They faced a situation that left them short with their pitching and walked seven Lion hitters and committed two errors in the game.

The Mustangs fell behind early as Lakeland scored three in the first and three in the second to lead 6-0 after two innings and added two more in the fifth as the Lions used the bunt-and-steal to their advantage to give the Mustangs an 8-0 hole before a Hayes Eubanks home run in the fifth to cut the score to 8-1, but a sixth-inning run gave the Lions a 9-1 lead and they held on for their first-ever state championship.

Silas Sharp recorded two hits for the Mustangs, Braylon Rich and Caleb Ezell singled, and Eubanks provided the only run with his homer in the fifth. Owen Kreuziger took the loss on the mound as the starting pitcher.

The Mustangs finished the season with a 32-6 record and their second consecutive state runner-up. This was the Mustangs tenth appearance in the state tournament in the 21 years Alan Eubanks has been head coach.

CONGRATULATIONS

To All Area Athletes Who Competed at the TSSAA Spring Fling!

WEST TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

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Above, Gray Eubanks lunges for a throw as a Lakeland runner tries to steal second. Below, Braylon Rich covers first as a Lakeland runner dives back on pickoff attempt. Photos by Russell Bush/Huntingdon Sports Pics

