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McKENZIE, TENNESSEE

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QUOTE

"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."

— Edith Wharton

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CARROLL COUNTY COMMISSION

\$38.8 Million Fiscal Budget Approved

\$7.19 Million Dipped From Reserves

BY JASON R. MARTIN
jmartin@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (June 30) — In what was termed as a "strategic decision" by Carroll County Mayor

Joseph Butler, on Monday night, the county passed its 2025-26 Fiscal Year Budget (Resolution 6-10-2025). The budget, while balanced at \$38.8 million, drew \$7.19 from reserves. The main draw from the

reserves came from the newly created/renovated county-wide Fire Department with the promissory purchase of \$5.5 million worth of fire trucks (other equipment).

See COUNTY on Page 2

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION



McKenzie's fireworks erupt with an enormous American flag waving in the foreground, held aloft by fire engines from McKenzie and Huntingdon. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

McKenzie Freedom Festival Draws Hundreds

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (July 4) — The City of McKenzie hosted its annual Freedom Festival Friday at the

City Park, drawing hundreds for food and fun to celebrate Independence Day.

A variety of food vendors provided a plethora of summer favorites throughout the evening.

Mayor Ryan Griffin welcomed all at the beginning of the evening and blessed the event.

McKenzie High School graduate

See McKENZIE on Page 3

McLemoresville Hosts Annual July 4th Celebration

McLEMORESVILLE (July 4) — McLemoresville hosted its annual July 4 celebration with a parade, cake walk, street dance, live music, food, and fireworks.

The annual event attracts people from throughout the area to enjoy the festivities.

Mayor Phil Williams led the parade, that attracts mostly children's entries.

Wallace and Company provided the live music for the evening on the downtown square.

A cake walk is also a highlight as the crowd hopes to win a cake or other baked items.

At dark, the event culminates with a fireworks show.

See McLEY on Page 3



Kinsley Prater won cookies during the cakewalk. Lex Suite hands the prize to Kinsley. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

McKenzie City Council to Vote On Budget Thursday

McKENZIE — The McKenzie City Council is set to vote on a proposed \$5.5 million budget and 32 percent property tax increase on Thursday, July 10, at 6 p.m. during the regular monthly meeting of mayor and council. During the June 24 special called meeting, the city held a public hearing on the budget, but was unable to vote due to

See CITY on Page 3

Power Supply has New Owner

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE — Power Supply, a provider of home, farm and industrial equipment and supplies at 2106 Cedar Street, has a new owner after over four decades.

Jack Redmond assumed ownership on March 1, 2025 from Dan Bradfield, who has owned the business since the 1980s.

Bradfield, a McKenzie native and a graduate of MHS and UT Martin, started at the business, then named Brush Brothers Milling, in 1977. He bought into the business just two years later, then took on full ownership

See POWER on Page 2

WEIO Radio Goes Off The Air

The FM broadcast radio station named WEIO in Huntingdon went off the air on July 1. In FCC terms, it is referred to as 'going dark.'

The studio and transmitter are located on Baker Road near Halford Lake, just outside of Huntingdon. It broadcasted on the frequency of 100.9.

Chris Freeland and his sister, Laurie Hendrickson, are the owners of the station and license. It was owned by their dad, Jim for many years. Jim's brother, Mike, started one of the first FM stations in the area. It was located in McKenzie.

See WEIO on Page 2



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New Tennessee Legislation Creates Public Safety Fund

Courtesy Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference

NASHVILLE (July 7) — Senator John Stevens (R-District 24) and Elected District Attorneys General Neil Thompson, Frederick Agee, Colin Johnson and Ray Crouch announced the enactment of Public Chapter 369, legislation that establishes a new, dedicated public safety fund to support the work of Tennessee's District Attorneys.

Modeled after the existing fund for public defenders, this measure strengthens the long-term stability of local prosecutorial offices without requiring new tax increases of appropriations.

"This legislation is strengthening the foundation of public safety in Tennessee," said Senator Stevens. "Our prosecutors work every day to deliver justice and protect communities. This law creates a stable, transparent source of funding to provide the tools and support they need to do that job well."

Under the new law, a

\$12.50 charge will be assessed on every misdemeanor and felony conviction across the state. This consistent and transparent fee structure will create a predictable revenue stream to maintain daily operations, address local safety needs and effectively deliver public safety services.

"This is a responsible solution to a persistent problem," said General Agee. "This public safety fund provides a consistent revenue stream without raising taxes, especially in judicial districts that face unique logistical and financial limitations."

In multi-county judicial districts, funds will be administered through the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference (TNDAGC). In single county districts, revenue will be remitted directly to the county government. All funds must be reported and accounted for with annual summaries: local district attorneys must submit reports to the Conference by January 1, and the Confer-

ence must submit a compiled report to legislative leaders by February 15 each year.

"This public safety fund gives us the flexibility to meet urgent needs, whether it is hiring qualified staff, upgrading technology or improving our victim services," said General Thompson. "Having a reliable funding source tied to the justice system allows us to better serve our communities without waiting on unpredictable budget cycles. This legislation builds upon and improves public safety, accountability and responsible government."

The legislation went into effect in May 2025.

The Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference was created by the General Assembly in 1961 to provide for a more prompt and efficient administration of justice in the courts of the state. It is composed of the elected District Attorneys General from the state's 32 judicial districts. www.tndagc.org

Carroll County Fair Schedule Announced

The Carroll County Fair Association recently announced the 2025 schedule for the Carroll County Fair. The schedule boasts a jam-packed week including pageants, a Mud Drag, a carnival, petting zoo, monster truck rides, a dog show and more. The annual fair is Saturday, August 2, through Saturday, August 9, in Huntingdon.

Fair week begins on August 2 with a day full of pageants. The Little Miss Carroll County pageant for ages 4 through 6 begins at 9 a.m., with the Little Miss Fairest of the Fair for ages 7 through 9 following at 9:30 a.m. The Junior Fairest of the Fair pageant for ages 10 through 12 begins at 10 a.m. and the Miss Teen Fairest of the Fair for ages 13 through 15 begins at 10:30 a.m. The Fairest of the Fair

pageant for ages 16 through 20 begins at 1 p.m. Pageant admission fee for spectators is \$5 per person.

Also on August 2 is the fair's newest spectacle: the Mud Drag at 201 Mustang Drive. The Mud Drag features Super Stock, Hot Street, Hobby Stock, and Local Stock Classes driving two passes through 125 feet of mud. Those with the fastest time win. Gates for the Mud Drag open at 4 p.m., and the race starts at 7 p.m. Gate admission is \$5, and children 5 years old and younger get in free. Concessions are available at the Mud Drag.

Pageants continue on August 3, beginning with the Fair Friends Baby Show for babies 0-23 months at 2:30 p.m. Directly after, at 3:30 p.m., is the Tiny Mr. and Miss Carroll County pageant

for children aged 2 and 3.

Exhibits are open to view on August 3 from 2 to 4 p.m. and August 4 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Exhibits close on Tuesday, August 5, for judging.

The carnival, petting zoo, and Predator Monster Truck rides begin on Wednesday, August 6, beginning at 5 p.m. These activities continue through Saturday, August 9. Admission is free, but bracelets for activities are available for purchase.

The Fair celebrates Senior Citizens Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, August 7.

The Carroll County Fair Dog Show is Saturday, August 9, beginning at 10 a.m. Spectator admission is \$5.

As Fair week comes to a close, exhibits are available for pick-up on Sunday, August 10, from 2 to 4 p.m.

County

...From Front Page

By drawing from the healthy \$11.56 million General Fund Balance Reserves, the county was able to better fund the Fire Department without forcing a tax increase. While numerous citizens throughout the county were upset about their property reappraisal increase, the county, at the State's recommendation, set the tax levy (Resolution 6-09-2025) at \$0.88 on each \$100 of taxable property. This is the second-lowest tax rate in Tennessee. The breakdown is as follows: General \$.6782; Solid Waste \$.0501; Highway \$.0797; School Transportation \$.0470; General Debt Service \$.025.

Other points in the 2025-26 Fiscal Budget include: Solid Waste/Sanitation with estimated expenditures at \$2,535,151 with \$2,568,100 in estimated revenue; Other General Government \$3,926,090 in estimated expenditures and \$2,706,654 in estimated revenue; Highway/Public Works with \$4,947,753 in estimated expenditures and \$4,719,545 in estimated revenue; General Purpose School has an estimated expenditure of \$3,431,670 with an estimated revenue of \$2,737,357; Special Purpose Funds/Grants has an estimated expenditure of \$1,013,632 with an estimated revenue of \$1,513,632.

Additionally, in the budget was Resolution 6-08-2025 allowing for appropriations to non-profit organizations in the amount of \$58,523. This included \$8,000 to the Carroll County Rescue Squad; \$5,000 to the Gordon Browning Mu-

seum; \$6,000 to McKenzie Memorial Library; \$25,000 to the Carl Perkins Center in Carroll County; \$500 to TN Rehab Center; \$200 to the McKenzie Senior Citizens Center; \$10,000 to the Carroll County Shooting Sports Park; and \$3,823 to the WRAP Organization.

In other business, Resolution 12-01-2024 (amended) was approved. The resolution was reworded from December's version regarding the funding of the Fire Department.

Resolution 6-01-2025 was approved, authorizing Mayor Butler to sign a project proposal with the Tennessee Department of Transportation. This related to a construction project in the County of Carroll, with the project described as "from near Old Loop 22/Thorne Lane to South of SR-124 Old McKenzie Road Route: SR-22" for improvements to State Route 22, including miscellaneous safety improvements and j-turn intersection, with the project being federally funded through the Highway Safety Improvement Program, and designated as State Project No. 09006-2219-94.

Resolution 6-02-2025 appointed Shelia Deringer to the Carroll County Library Board.

Resolution 6-03-2025 authorized the Mayor Butler to sign a probation services agreement with Supervisory Services, Inc. This came at the behest of General Sessions Judge Michael King.

Resolution 6-04-2025 amended the General Fund Budget for Circuit Court. This was an increase of \$8,460 towards employee "Bonus Payments" with a decrease from Employer Insurance.

Resolution 6-05-2025 amended the General Fund

Budget for the Sheriff's Office. This is from insurance recovery funds received (\$16,841.67) and to replace the damaged 2020 Ford Explorer, state issuing more salary supplement than expected (\$13,117), and to cover the shortage in overtime pay through the end-of-year for jail staff (\$38,070).

Resolution 6-06-2025 amended the Highway Fund Budget by increasing Garage Supplies \$15,000 and Equipment, Machines and Parts \$25,000, with a decrease from Highway Construction at \$40,000.

Resolution 6-07-2025 amended the General Fund Budget for year-end with increases to Drug Court \$4,107; County Maintenance \$85,000; General Welfare \$1,500; County Coroner \$8,000, with a draw from the Fund Balance of \$98,607.

The Commission heard from Janet James, who lives on Rowland Mill Road. James stated that she, along with her neighbors, are having issues with industrial noise produced by Covia/Unimin Corporation. The heavy machinery and pumps used for mineral extraction are above the 70 decimal level and have become an increasing issue. James added that citizens have asked Covia if there was a way to dampen the noise, but that has come to no avail. Now they are requesting intervention from the county.

The following individuals were elected notaries: Karen Brooks, Chloe Rae Crum, Michael King, Ashlee Dawn Prickard, Joni Marie Pollock, Natalie Porter, Elizabeth Tippitt, and Jessica Trevathan.

Carroll County Invests \$5.5 Million In New Fire Department Equipment

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (June 30) — The Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget approved by the Carroll County Commission Monday includes a \$5.5 million investment into new fire department equipment.

New additions to the fleet will include six new fire engines, four new 2,000-gallon tankers and two new mini-pumpers/rescue trucks.

According to Carroll County Fire Chief Jonathan Gaskins, the new vehicles will help replace a

portion of the aging fleet, of which many vehicles are nearly four decades old.

He said that some of the oldest vehicles will be eliminated and others will be shifted to reserve status. The department currently has no reliable vehicles in reserve. Having better vehicles in reserve, Gaskins said, will improve the department's rating in an ISO audit, which helps homeowners by improving insurance rates. The department is currently at a 6 rating (out of 10, with 1 being the highest rating).

The chief said the new equipment will be strate-

gically placed across the county at most of the department's 13 stations.

If the ordering process is completed soon, as Gaskins expects, the tankers and rescue trucks should arrive in approximately two months, and the engines should come late this year or early next year.

Chief Gaskins told The Banner, "With this large of an investment from Carroll County into the fire department, it will reduce response times, reduce maintenance costs and improve reliability for emergency services across Carroll County."



WEIO Studio located on Baker Road near Huntingdon.

WEIO

...From Front Page

Chris told The Banner that it's disappointing that they simply could not "make a go of it."

The Freeland family owned WEIO-FM and WDX-AM both in

Huntingdon. WEIO was successful in recent years with good local management. However, when that management team left and a shift in the local market occurred, the station struggled. The studio, located near Lake Halford, was more valuable than the operating business.

Chris said the sale of the real estate is under contract to be purchased. The

broadcast license is also available for separate purchase. Chris said he hopes someone will purchase the license and continue to broadcast in Huntingdon. If the license is not sold, then it will be surrendered to the Federal Communications Commission.

The Freelands still operate two stations in Benton, Kentucky and one in Calvert City, Kentucky.



Former Power Supply owner Dan Bradfield (left) and new owner Jack Redmond. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Power

...From Front Page

during the '80s.

Brush Brothers Milling began downtown and moved to the current location in the 1950s. Under Bradfield, it became McKenzie Feed and Grain, a name still associated with the business to this day.

Originally limited to feed and milling, Bradfield expanded the business to offer other products and supplies, eventually stocking mowers such as Snapper, Stihl, MTD and Exmark.

In 2002, he opened Power Supply across the street. In 2012, Bradfield merged the two into the 2106 Cedar location under the Power Supply name.

Bradfield has remained active in the business and plans to continue helping Redmond with the transition for another several months.

Bradfield told The Banner, "It's with mixed emotions, no doubt. You have a lot of customers. You've had some of them for 48 years, others are newer. You build relationships with customers. I think it's all about people doing business with people. It's hard. I think one reason I still come in as often as I do is just to see past customers and acquaintances. So it's hard to give it up."

He cites spending time with grandkids as one reason he's excited for the change. He also plans to continue his other role as a cattle farmer.

Bradfield said a big reason that he felt comfortable letting go of the business was that Redmond was ready and qualified to take the reins.

A ten-year employee of Power Supply and a fellow cattle farmer, Redmond is a graduate of Camden Central High School and was an auto mechanic prior to working for Bradfield. He now resides in McKenzie with his wife and three

children.

"I didn't want to have to start a new journey in life," Redmond told The Banner. "I love the agriculture part of it, and I wanted to keep it going for Dan. And hopefully the kids will come in behind me and take over later and build something for them."

Redmond offered some reassurance to longtime customers that the change in ownership won't change the customer experience. "Customer service is a big deal here. If you buy from us, we're going to cater to you. We'll take care of you."

He hopes to grow the mower side of the business, including eventually installing an awning to display mowers in front of the building.

Redmond said of Bradfield, "He's a good fella. Been good to me for a long time. Sort of like a father figure to me."

Power Supply is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 7 a.m. to noon.



Above, Hundreds gathered at McKenzie City Park for the Freedom Festival. Below Left, The city’s train shuttles park-goers to and from their vehicles. Below Center, McKenzie High School graduate Ady Freeman performs the National Anthem. Below Right, Mayor Ryan Griffin welcomes all and gives a blessing to open the festival. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



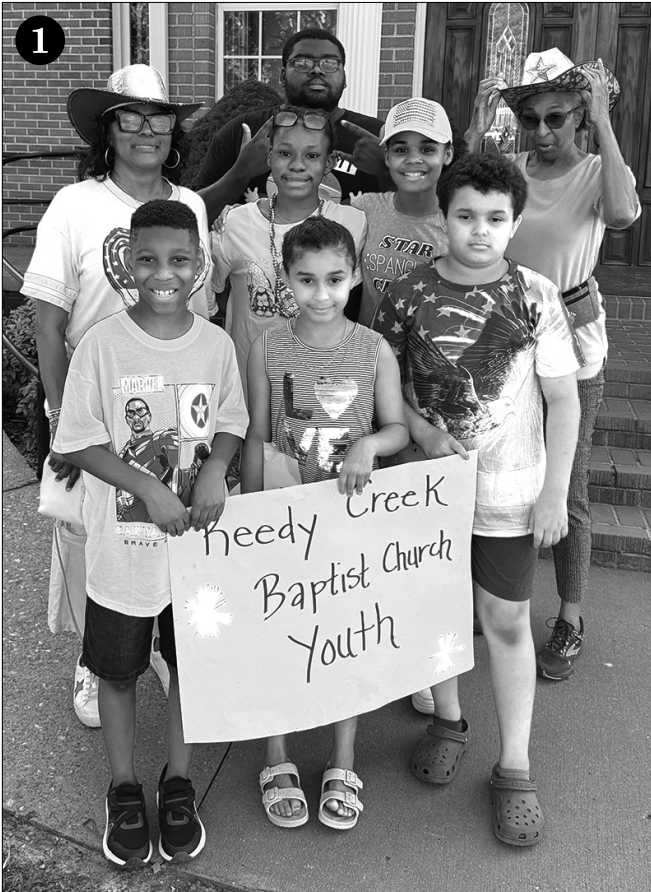
McKenzie

...From Front Page

Ady Freeman performed the National Anthem as those gathered watched an enormous American flag wave as fire trucks from McKenzie and Huntingdon held it high from extended ladders.

Music played and the fun continued until dusk, when Mayor Griffin led the countdown to the beautiful fireworks show.

The city’s train shuttled park-goers to and from their vehicles, and McKenzie police officers and firefighters maintained a strong presence to ensure safety.



McLey

...From Front Page

Parade Winners
WALKERS: 1st — Reedy Creek Baptist Church: Annalise Porter, Camilla Jenkins, Raylyn Darnes, Kameron Darnes, Laruy Sharpe IV, Natalie Porter, Justice Bigham and Natasha Sharp. 2nd — Anna Claire, Liam and Ryan Russell. 3rd — Gabriel Stutsman.
YOUTH BATTERY-POWERED: 1st — Bianca Reynolds. 2nd — Aliza Williams. 3rd — Caleb Hailey.
GIRLS BICYCLES: 1st — Kensley Martin.
BOYS BICYCLES: 1st — Greyson Garner. 2nd —

Fender Foster. 3rd — Christopher Garner.
SCOOTER: 1st — Kinsey Prater. 2nd — Ty Hollowell. 3rd — Jack Martin.
REMOTE CONTROL: 1st — Alex Caviness.
GOLF CARTS: 1st — Jackson Church. 2nd — Kason Martin and Kadi Martin. 3rd — Addi and Ella Puch, Caroline Campbell.
In a non-election year, two elected public servants still participated. They were State Representative Brock Martin and General Sessions Judge Michael King.
Thanks to Carroll County Sheriff’s Department and Carroll County Rescue Squad for providing helping keep everyone safe during the event.



1. Reedy Creek Baptist Church members participated in the Parade. 2. A bird’s eye look at the cake walk in McMoresville. 3. Judge Michael King and State Representative Brock Martin participated in the parade. 4. Matt Langley with his 1950 Model A tractor. 5. Myles Temple of Milan rode on a golf cart. 6. It was a hot day for Otis the dog, who enjoyed cups of water, desserts, and petting. He is pictured with Amanda and Javier Dominguez. 7. Alex Caviness with his remote controlled tanks participated in the parade. 8. Easton Barnes on his unusual Grand Haven tractor that has 15.5 h.p. He pulled a wagon in which his mother rode. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner

City

...From Front Page

councilmember absences, or failing to achieve a quorum.
The new fiscal year begins July 1, and City Attorney Beau Pemberton has indicated the city can continue operating under a continuing budget based on the 2024-25 budget if necessary, though he encouraged swift approval of the new budget.
Tax Increase Proposal
After nearly two decades without property tax increases, McKenzie is proposing to raise its tax rate from 62.18 cents to 82.18 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The increase would

generate an additional \$242,968 in revenue, specifically designated for street paving and infrastructure improvements.
The proposed tax hike comes following a state-mandated property reappraisal that increased property values by 60 to 70 percent throughout Carroll County. Street Superintendent Johnny Mercer noted that paving costs approximately \$220,000 per mile, making the additional revenue crucial for maintaining city infrastructure.
Public Concerns
At the June 24 public hearing, three property owners expressed concerns about the tax increase, particularly those who own rental properties. Glynn Mebane reported that one of his properties increased

in value from \$96,000 to \$166,000, which would result in an additional \$82 in annual taxes under the proposed rate.
Jerry and Wanda Merchant questioned whether the city could make any budget cuts, especially given the ongoing construction of a new soccer complex. Wanda Merchant suggested attracting more businesses to generate additional revenue.
Council Response
Council members Tom Alexander, Carol Arm-priest, and Bobby Young defended the tax increase, emphasizing that the city hasn’t raised taxes in approximately 20 years. They highlighted the need for competitive employee wages, with a minimum starting pay of \$12 per hour,

and stressed that additional funds are essential for maintaining city operations.
Young noted that the city has budgeted only \$100,000 for paving in each of the last six years, which allows for repaving just one street annually. Without additional funding, he warned that the city’s streets would deteriorate significantly.
Soccer Complex, Other Projects
The proposed budget includes an estimated \$260,000 loan for constructing a multi-field soccer complex at Mulberry Park. Currently, approximately 260 children participate in youth soccer, but the city lacks dedicated soccer fields and relies on school property for practices and games.

The new complex would accommodate local play and allow the city to host tournaments, potentially attracting recreational tourism. Earth-moving equipment completed preliminary site work during the week of June 16.
Upcoming Meeting
The council meeting is Thursday, July 10, at 6 p.m. at City Hall (2470 Cedar Street). The agenda includes:
Approval of the FY 2025/2026 budget
Discussion of Food Truck Ordinance 572
Approval of a proclamation honoring Abigail Wallace’s state track championship
Purchase of police department software and a vehicle for the drug investigator

Citizens wishing to address the council must contact city hall at 731-352-2332 at least 24 hours before the meeting to be added to the agenda.
Additional Developments
Mayor Ryan Griffin noted that the city now has a fully staffed and certified police force, which has contributed to reduced crime according to recent statistics. The city is also exploring the purchase of new equipment, including a potential electric dump truck available at a reduced price through a grant program.
Several new businesses have opened recently, with a children’s boutique and Taco Bell expected to open soon, potentially providing additional revenue for the city.

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

Water Wasn't The Problem With Mom's Tea

I took it for granted. I believe everyone else did too. It was just water after all. Oh sure, it was cool, clear, clean, and refreshing—especially on a hot July day after you'd run all the way from the baseball field over by the Pajama Factory to the house.

Or when you'd been hauling hay from "can to can't" for Dewayne Melton. Or splitting and stacking up a mountain of firewood in the dreadful heat of early August for the long winter ahead. Shoot, sometimes we'd stop and "water up" right in the middle of a hide-and-go-seek game because we'd about dehydrated ourselves to death chasing each other around the house.

Our water was so good and pure we could drink it out of a rubber hose with none of the ill effects and long-lasting consequences that you read about today.

And you talk about versatile! We drank it, cooked with it, made ice out of it, took baths in it, sprayed it on each other, filled balloons....

Of course, none of it taste as good as a Coca-Cola or a 7-UP. But I don't think it was supposed to. Water has been around longer than dirt. Towns grew into cities beside good watering holes. Civilizations depended on a fresh source of water to sustain them. And that is a good thing. I've never heard of a Root Beer or Dr. Pepper saving a man's life after he had been lost and wandering in the Sahara Desert for a week!

The best thing about water when we were kids.... there was a never-ending supply. And it didn't cost nothing!

It was as simple as turning on the facet. Mother would fuss at us for drink-

ing it right out of the spigot. But she didn't make a point to stop us. I reckon she figured it was one less glass to clean.

We didn't know back then that McKenzie, Tennessee, had the best drinking water in the entire known world. It was blissful ignorance. The water came from a deep well. Mr. Luther Brewer was in charge of the whole system. We didn't think nothing about it at the time. But I have come to realize over the years, he was possibly the most important person in our little town.

We had two options when we sat down to eat. Milk or water. It was one or the other. It could have been both, I guess, but we weren't all that smart out at the end of Stonewall Street. If Brother Hatcher was joining us for lunch after church, we had a third choice, tea.

But that option came with a terrible flaw. Because of World War II our tea wasn't fit to drink. When the War Board rationed sugar, Mom saved it all for Leon's cereal. (I've told you many times he was her favorite.) She drank her coffee and tea ever after with no sugar. That Brother Hatcher tea (or any she ever made) didn't have more than a pinch of sugar in it. I couldn't drink it. Bro. Hatcher did, but I saw him cringe a bit when Mom wasn't looking.

His good Southern Baptist Ecclesiastical training wouldn't allow him to spit it out!

I now believe Mother also missed the boat on the cauliflower, broccoli, and Brussel sprouts confrontations. You know about these, she would admonish us to "finish those last few bites of cauliflower

son, there are children in India that are going to bed hungry tonight." (Chick-peas used to be on this list, but after one serving in 1954, Daddy intelligently outlawed them forever.)

I'd say yes ma'am, but my heart wasn't in it. I saw no connection whatsoever between hungry little people in India and the last three bites on my plate. However, in retrospect both Mom and I should have been worried more about their water quality.

You don't know what you don't know.

I went off to college and discovered the water was ok. But it wasn't nothing like back home. I learned to drink it out of necessity. I moved to Florida and found the water was absolutely horrible.

I had no idea people lived like this! It was safe, I'm sure. But it wasn't as clear as real water. It sometimes had an odor and the taste was a bit off. It made me realize all over again how special my upbringing was.

And nobody, regardless of origin, birthright, religious affiliation, or number of likes on Instagram, can afford to take our water for granted anymore.

I found myself in a watery pickle. I couldn't get a job back home. Those people knew me too well. I couldn't live on this water. I refused to buy water someone put in a bottle and claimed it was purified, labeled it as dipped out of a mountain stream, or promoted it as being fresh as morning dew.... because not one single drop of it was certified by Luther Brewer!

I turned to Diet Cokes to survive. So far, so good....

Refreshingly yours,
Kes

Tuition Increases Three Percent at UT Martin

MARTIN — A 3% in-state tuition increase for University of Tennessee at Martin students was approved July 1 for the 2025-26 academic year by the UT Board of Trustees during the final day of the board's annual meeting in Chattanooga. A \$183 million UT Martin operating budget was also approved during the meeting held at the UT Chattanooga campus.

UT Martin undergraduate students will pay an additional \$264 per year starting this fall for a total tuition payment of \$9,066 for the academic year. Tuition and existing mandatory fees for full-time, in-state undergraduate students enrolled for 12 or more hours per semester will bring the total cost to \$10,824 per academic year. Tuition and current mandatory fees for full-time graduate students will be \$11,688 per academic year for an in-state student enrolled for nine or more

credit hours.

The proposed increases will cover growth in the costs of providing and maintaining the quality and effectiveness of academic programs, student services and campus infrastructure. The revenue increase will be used primarily for instructional support, student services, scholarships, faculty and staff promotions, fixed-cost increases, and the portion of the 2.6% salary pool not fully funded by state appropriations.

No increases in mandatory fees means a net cost increase for undergraduate students of 2.5% and 2.6% for graduate students. The proposed increases are within the 6.5% maximum recommended by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Although no mandatory fee increases were requested, veterinary technology students will pay \$1,400 and \$350 respectively to cover the Veterinary Tech-

nology National Exam cost with financial aid and the rabies vaccination protocol for students in the program.

Students who take dual enrollment courses through the university's Dual Enrollment Program will be assessed at a reduced, estimated rate of \$600.25 per three-credit hour course, which will be fully covered by the Tennessee Dual Enrollment Grant and UT Martin Dual Advantage Scholarship. The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation will approve the Tennessee Dual Enrollment grant amount this summer. Dual enrollment courses allow high school students to earn college-level coursework credit as they complete high school graduation requirements.

Find complete UT Martin tuition and fee information on the web at www.utm.edu/tuition.

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

Ridiculously Hardworking, Hilariously Funny

I was young and green, two things that often go together, which made me ripe for picking. And Vaughnell loved to pick at people, with genuine, good-hearted intent. You had to be careful around her or else she'd have you twisted up and turned around at the end of one of her tales.

She had the prettiest yard in town and worked at it to make it that way and did it all on her own because she was what was called "a widow lady."

One spring, I drove by her house and saw she was putting mulch on her shrubs by shoveling it out of the bed of a pickup truck into a wheelbarrow. So I decided to stop and give her a hand.

"Can I give you a hand?" I asked.

"No, I think you probably need both of yours," she replied with a straight face.

It took me a second before I got it. Just like that she had me on my heels

already.

I couldn't think of a quick or funny retort, so I stuck to my plan. "I thought I'd help you load your wheelbarrow."

Vaughnell surprised me by turning her back to the tailgate and leaning against it. Motioning to the shovel, she said, "Go ahead."

That day, she wasn't in her usual jovial mood.

I guess a lot can go on in a woman's mind whose husband died and she had to raise three children on her own, and her friend's husband committed suicide, and one of her grandchildren was killed in a car wreck. Yeah, that's the kind of stuff that can weigh on a person.

That day, her conversation with me was on life and death and heaven, awfully deep water for a young man to tread in. Thankfully, I was smart enough to do more listening than talking.

I just kept shoveling mulch into the wheelbar-

row because I felt like if I'd stopped it would've broken whatever spell had come over the two of us and the conversation would have been aborted.

Finally, though, she stopped, looked at the wheelbarrow, then at me. "You put too much in there. I can't move that."

"I'll do it," I gladly told her.

"No, I want you to take half of it out."

Sweat ran down the small of my back by the time I finished. The whole time, Vaughnell didn't say a word.

It's what she said when I finished that has stuck with me ever since.

"Always remember," she said, "don't put more on a person than they can carry because you'll make them feel weak."

**Taken from The Wit and Wisdom of David Johnson, Volume 11: The Hairy Catfish Caper.*

Rep. Martin Provides Legislative Session Recap

BY STATE REP. MARTIN

TENNESSEE (July 1, 2025) — As the 2025 session of the 114th General Assembly concludes, I am proud of the progress we have made on behalf of all Tennesseans. Through bipartisan cooperation, we passed meaningful legislation that prioritizes child protection, education, rural health care and public safety. It continues to be one of the greatest honors of my life to serve the people of Carroll, Gibson and Henderson counties in the Tennessee House of Representatives.

This session, 1,440 bills were introduced and 531 became law. These new laws address real concerns voiced by residents across our state and reflect our shared commitment to protecting citizens and ensuring opportunity for all.

One of the most important pieces of legislation I sponsored this year was the Tennessee Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation Act. The initiative prohibits electronic communication providers from notifying users about subpoenas or search warrants related to investigations involving Tennessee's obscenity laws. By closing this loophole, we are giving law enforcement the tools they need to protect vulnerable children from exploitation. Every child in our state deserves to be safe and I will continue working to make that a reality.

Supporting children goes beyond ensuring their safety. This session, I co-sponsored legislation that increases recess time for students in public schools. The new statute requires schools to provide at least 40 minutes of unstructured play each day, up from the previous requirement of 130 minutes per week. Kids need time to explore, build friendships and engage in creative activities. This law

helps ensure they have that opportunity.

We also addressed student health. I supported legislation that bans the use of food and beverage items containing Allura Red 40, commonly known as Red 40, in public and charter school nutrition programs. This dye, found in many processed foods, has been linked to hyperactivity, irritability and other behavioral concerns in children. By removing it from our schools, we are taking a proactive step to safeguard student well-being.

Illegal immigration and border security remain top concerns for many Tennesseans. I co-sponsored two new measures to help address these issues. The first makes it a crime to knowingly transport, harbor or conceal individuals who are in the country illegally. This legislation targets human traffickers who exploit the vulnerable and jeopardize community safety.

The second holds non-governmental organizations accountable when undocumented individuals they house long-term commit crimes. If an organization knowingly shelters someone who later harms another person it can be held liable.

Rural health care access continues to be a central focus of my work in the legislature. This year, I carried a new law requiring pharmacy benefit managers to follow the same timely payment rules as other insurance payers. This supports local pharmacies, especially in under-served areas and ensures patients can continue to receive reliable care close to home.

I also led the passage of a law allowing certain out-of-state health insurance plans, such as those created by banks in neighboring states, to operate in Tennessee. This increases access to affordable, flexible cover-

age options for families and small businesses.

Another significant law I co-sponsored was the Medical Ethics Defense Act. It protects health care providers from being forced to participate in procedures that violate their moral, ethical or religious beliefs. This act respects the conscience of medical professionals while maintaining patients' rights to access appropriate care.

Beyond legislation, the General Assembly passed a balanced \$59.8 billion budget that reflects our conservative approach to fiscal management. The budget includes funding for key priorities such as more than \$640 million for K-12 education, disaster relief for Hurricane Helene victims, school safety upgrades, transportation improvements and support for community services.

The budget also makes significant investments in rural Tennessee. It expands access to health care, strengthens schools and provides resources to stimulate local economies. As our state continues to rank among the fastest-growing in the nation, it is critical that we support every region and leave no community behind.

Looking ahead, I remain committed to working with colleagues from both parties to meet the evolving needs of our state. Whether it is defending our children, protecting our borders or fighting for health care, I will continue advocating for common-sense policies that put people first.

Thank you for trusting me to represent Carroll, Gibson and Henderson counties with honesty and dedication. It is a privilege to serve and I look forward to continuing this important work on your behalf.

May God bless you, our nation and the great state of Tennessee.

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Tennessee Law Expands 'Good Samaritan' Bill

The Tennessee General Assembly recently passed a bill that extends immunity from prosecution to individuals who seek medical assistance for themselves or others in the event of a suspected alcohol overdose. This intends to protect individuals from being charged with alcohol-related mis-

demeanors like public intoxication and underage drinking.

The addition was inspired by a University of Tennessee alumna who lost her 18-year-old brother from an alcohol overdose at a party. His friends were afraid to call for help because they were also drinking

underage. The law, which removes legal deterrents, aims to improve emergency response and save lives.

The bill, which went into effect on July 1, expands the initial Good Samaritan Law, which only protected individuals from prosecution in the event of a drug overdose.

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Obituaries



PEGGY PERRITT COLEMAN 1942 – 2025

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for Peggy Perritt Coleman were on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 11 a.m.

The family received friends on Monday, July 7, 2025, 5-8 p.m. and on Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service. Interment was at Shiloh Cemetery, McKenzie.

Mrs. Coleman, 83, died on Friday, July 4, 2025, at Baptist Memorial Hospital Carroll County.

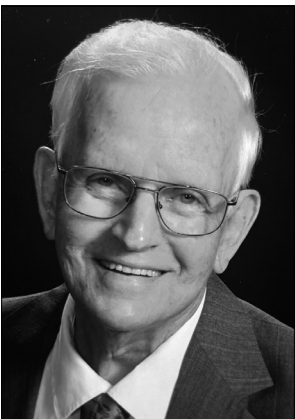
She was a member of McKenzie First Baptist Church, McKenzie Education Assn., T.E.A., N.E.A., and Delta Kappa Gamma. She taught school for 30 years for McKenzie Special School District.

She was born on January 20, 1942, in Dresden, to John and Mary Johnson Reaves.

She is survived by her daughters, Sherry (Joey) McGee of Huntingdon and Lisa Coleman of Palm Springs, Calif.; a son, Chris (Joy) Coleman of Paris; a sister, Wanda West of Silver Springs, Md.; and brother, Cecil Reaves of Trezevant; eight grandchildren, Jennifer Perritt, Clayton (Stefan) McGee, Katy (Cody) Knuutila, Jayden McGee, Hayley McGee, Hasadiah Coleman, Noah Floyd and Hadassah Coleman; and seven great-grandchildren, Porter, Micah, Noah, Rylee, Ava, Stone and Riggs.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Billy Perritt; and after her death, her husband, Dennis M. Coleman; her son, Jeff Perritt, a daughter, Jennifer Coleman; two sisters, Gladys Brethaver and Adell Skinner; five brothers, Eugene Reaves, Joe Reaves, Bobby Reaves, Jerry Reaves and Charles Reaves; and a

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



DENNIS M. COLEMAN 1941 – 2025

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for Dennis M. Coleman were Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 11 a.m. The family received friends on Monday, July 7, 2025, 5-8 p.m. and on Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. until service time. Interment will follow at Mt Olivet Cemetery.

Mr. Coleman, 83, died on Saturday, July 5, 2025, at Baptist Memorial Hospital Carroll County. He was a member of First Baptist Church and loved his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and his family.

He retired from Replogle Lumber Company as a lumber grader and was a staff sergeant and tank commander for the Tenn. National Guard.

He was born on July 24, 1941, in McKenzie, to John and Mary Elizabeth Cunningham Coleman.

He is survived by his daughters, Sherry (Joey) McGee of Huntingdon, and Lisa Coleman of Palm Springs, Calif.; a son, Chris (Joy) Coleman of Paris; a sister, Pamela Orrell of Calif, two brothers, Keith (Linda) Coleman and Robyn Coleman, all of McKenzie, eight grandchildren, Hasadiah Coleman, Noah Floyd, Hadassah Coleman, Jennifer Perritt, Clayton (Stefan) McGee, Katy (Cody) Knuutila, Jayden McGee and Hayley McGee; and seven great-grandchildren, Porter, Micah, Noah, Rylee, Ava, Stone and Riggs.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his wives, Carolyn Coleman and Peggy P. Coleman; a daughter, Jennifer Coleman; a son,

Jeff Perritt; a brother, Johnny Mack Coleman, and a grandson, Michael Floyd.

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



DORIS A. WALKER 1948 – 2025

MCKENZIE — Mrs. Doris A. Walker, 76, died early Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at her home in Wildersville.

She was born October 12, 1948, in Union City, to the late Albert and Zula Goodman Williams. She was a registered nurse and retired from Methodist Home Care in McKenzie and Community Health Systems in Lexington.

Mrs. Doris always gave 100% no matter what she did, and was very active in church ministry with Bro. Lynn. She was the epitome of a pastor's wife and a blessing to all who knew her. She was a very gifted pianist and she loved going on vacations.

Survivors include her husband of 38 years, Bro. Lynn Walker; her son, Bryan Keith Craddock; her daughter, Jennifer Lynne Craddock Travis; her step-son, Billy Lynn Walker (Tara); step-daughter, Cassandra Ann Norris; one brother, Garland Williams (Shirley); nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by four brothers, Albert Williams, Jr., Elmer Williams, William Henson, and Ebb Henson and four sisters, Lillie Mae Black, Brenda Green, Francis Williams, and Elizabeth Williams.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m., Saturday, June 28, 2025, at Pine Grove Baptist Church in Wildersville. Interment followed in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in McKenzie. Pafford Funeral Home of Lexington was in charge of arrangements. +

DR. J.B. JOHNSONIUS 1950 – 2025

PARIS — Dr. J B Johnsonius, Jr., 74, of Paris, died at his residence on Friday, June 27, 2025.

Dr. Johnsonius was born on September 25, 1950, in McKenzie, to the late J B Johnsonius, Sr. and to the late Ruth Skellion Johnsonius.

On September 21, 1974, J.B. married Jenny Ross Johnsonius, who survives, of Paris.

Dr. J B Johnsonius was a man of Presbyterian faith and a proud graduate of McKenzie High School, Class of 1968. He earned his dental degree from the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry in 1974 and faithfully served the Paris and McKenzie communities as a dentist for 50 years, retiring in 2024 due to health concerns.

Along with his wife, Dr. Johnsonius is survived by two daughters, Jill Johnsonius (Dennis) Krabill of Murfreesboro, and Natalie Johnsonius (David) Neubert of Lenox, Mass.; two sisters, Victoria (George) Hatcher of San Antonio, Texas, and Teresa (Loyd) Ford of Calvert City, Ky.; one brother, Hoppy (Kim) Johnsonius of McKenzie; one brother-in-law, Billy (Diane) Ross of Mt. Juliet, Tenn.; and two grandchildren.

Ridgeway Funeral Home, 201 Dunlap Street, Paris, handled the arrangements. His funeral service was at Ridgeway Funeral Home on Monday, June 30, 2025, with Joy Weathersbee, Billy Ross, and Steve Gallimore officiating.

Burial was at Maplewood Cemetery in Paris.

SUE LOWRY 1944 – 2025

MCKENZIE — Mrs. Sue Lowry, 80, of McKenzie died Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at The Waters of McKenzie.

Funeral services were Thursday, July 3, 2025, in the Chapel of Dilday-Carter Funeral Home. Interment was at Prospect Cemetery. Brother John Adams officiated.

Mrs. Sue was born August 12, 1944, to the late Clifford Doyle Hill and Lilly Mae Hill. She is also preceded in death by her husband, Billy Ted Lowry.

She is survived by her daughter, Susan (Jon) Da-

vis; one grandson, Janson Davis; one granddaughter, Jacey (Ian) Davis Harris; one great-granddaughter, Arden Harris, all of McKenzie.

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

RHONDA BOMAR 1958 – 2025

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for Rhonda Bomar were Saturday, July 5, 2025, at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. Interment was at Jones Cemetery, Parkers Crossroads, with Brother Tim Rogers officiating.

Mrs. Bomar, 67, died at her residence on Wednesday, July 2, 2025.

She was born in Milan, on March 30, 1958, to Warren E. and Nadine Hicks Wilson. She retired from Walmart as a pharmacy tech.

She is survived by her husband, Steve Bomar; two daughters, Reba (Roger) Birdwell and Rachel Austin; two sons, Sean (Lauren) Bomar and Damon Bomar; three sisters, Betty (Randy) Webb, Linda (Larry) Cherry and Mary Ann (Gene) Grimes; seven grandchildren, Micah Austin, Elijah Edmonson, River Birdwell, Dylan Bomar, S.J. Bomar, Brittany (Andrew) Wain-scott and Chase Birdwell; and two great-grandchildren, Skyy Austin and Landon Blackwell.

She is preceded in death by her parents; sister, Shelia Holbrook; and three brothers, Wayne Wilson, Billy Joe Wilson, and Jerry Wilson.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home had charge of arrangements.

JAMES HUBERT CANTRELL, JR. 1940 – 2025

MILAN — Mr. James Hubert Cantrell Jr., 84, of Milan, died Sunday, June 29, 2025, at Jackson Madison County General Hospital.

Memorial services were Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at Milan First Baptist Church.

Mr. Cantrell was born September 28, 1940, in Trezevant, to the late James Hubert Cantrell Sr. and Willie Grace (Stafford) Cantrell.

He is survived by a

daughter, Candice Wilson (Darren) of Jackson; a son, James Hubert Cantrell III (Amber) of McKenzie; a stepson, Anthony Thompson of South Fulton; and four grandchildren, Dylan Wilson (Lauren), Dalton Wilson (Shea), Olivia Cantrell, and Avery Cantrell. Chase Funeral Home.

ANNA ELIZABETH CROSSNO 1944 – 2025

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Anna Elizabeth Crossno, 80, of Huntingdon, died Saturday, June 28, 2025, at Lifecare Center of Bruceton.

Graveside Funeral services were Thursday, July 3, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Christian Chapel Cemetery.

Mrs. Crossno was born November 24, 1944, in Memphis, to the late Horace Baker Dugger and Mary Elizabeth (Davis) Dugger.

She is survived by a son, Gary Crossno of Huntingdon, and Rick Crossno of Bruceton.

JASON FUQUA 1976 – 2025

GLEASON — Graveside funeral services for Jason Fuqua are Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 10 a.m. at Shiloh Cemetery, McKenzie. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, 5-8 p.m.

Mr. Fuqua, 49, died at West Tenn. Healthcare Volunteer Hospital Martin on July 4, 2025. He is a front-end loader for Tosh Farms. He was born in Union City on January 16, 1976, to Carl Fuqua and the late Martha Horner Frye.

He is survived by his wife, Michelle Langley Fuqua of Gleason; a daughter, Autumn (Joseph) Umsted of McKenzie; a son, James (Megan) Middlebrooks of McKenzie; his father, Carl (Myla) Fuqua of Latham; a sister, Brittany Fuqua of Martin; a brother, Clint (Kelly) Fuqua of Gleason; and eight grandchildren.

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

Mama T's WHAT'S COOKIN' E: recipes@mckenziebanner.com By Teresa Washburn Call 731.352.3323

Strawberry Pie

5 tablespoons strawberry jello
5 tablespoons cornstarch
1 1/2 cup sugar
1 1/2 cup water
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon butter
Mix and cook until thick. Add red food coloring. Pour mixture over 1 quart of capped berries. Pour all into a 9 inch prepared pie shell. Serve with whipped topping.

Chocolate Mint Pie

1 graham cracker crumb crust
1 (4 oz.) pkg instant chocolate pudding mix
2 cup milk
1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
1 cup heavy cream, whipped and sweetened to taste
Prepare pudding according to package directions. Add peppermint extract. Pour into crust and let set. Garnish with whipped cream. Makes one 9-inch pie.

Canned Green Beans

7 qt green beans
7 pt cold water
1/2 cup vinegar
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup salt
Let beans come to a boil and boil 30 minutes. Pack in hot jars and cover with the vinegar mixture you cooked them in. Seal jars. Do not double this recipe. If canning more than 7 quarts make another cooking.

Chicken Macaroni Salad

2 cup macaroni shells
1/4 cup French dressing
2 cup diced cooked chicken
1 cup diced apples
1/2 cup chopped celery
2 tablespoon, chopped onion
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ginger
Dash of thyme
Dash of pepper
1/2 cup mayonnaise

1 tablespoon lemon juice
Cook macaroni shells in 4 quarts boiling salted water for 10 to 15 minutes. Drain. Rinse with cold water and drain well. Add French dressing and cool. Add remaining ingredients; mix well. Chill 1 to 2 hours. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Canned Peaches

Peaches
2 cup water
1 cup sugar
Make heavy syrup of water and sugar. Let come to a boil. Drop peaches, a few at a time, in syrup and heat through. Pack in jars. Pour syrup over peaches and seal.

Red N White Salad

2 (1 lb) cans whole cranberry sauce
1/4 cup lemon juice
1 cup whipping cream
2 tablespoon sifted confectioners sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 cup chopped pecans
In a small bowl, combine cranberry sauce and lemon juice. Spread evenly in 8-inch square pan. Whip cream. Fold in sugar, vanilla and pecans. Spread over cranberry mixture and freeze until firm. Serve on chilled salad plates. Makes 9 servings.

Layered Bean Dip

1 (31 oz.) can refried beans
1 (4 oz.) can chopped

green chiles, drained
1 (1 1/4oz.) envelope Old El Paso taco seasoning mix
2 ripe avocados, peeled
2 tablespoon lemon juice
1 jar taco sauce (hot or mild)

1 1/2 cup sour cream
3 cup shredded lettuce
1 1/2 cup shredded cheese

1 can black olives, sliced
Nacho or tortilla chips
In a medium bowl, mix together refried beans, green chilies and taco seasoning mix. Spread on a 12 inch round serving platter. Blend avocados, lemon juice and 1/2 the taco sauce until smooth. Spread over top of bean mixture. Spread sour cream over top of avocado mixture. Top with shredded lettuce, cheese, taco sauce and olive slices. Serve with chips.

Guacamole Dip

2 ripe avocados
1 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 teaspoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1 clove garlic
1/3 teaspoon red pepper
1/2 tablespoon grated onion
3 dashes of hot pepper sauce (optional)
Peel and mash avocados. Add salt and lemon juice. Stir in Worcestershire sauce, garlic, pepper and onion. Add hot pepper sauce, if desired and onion seasoning to taste. Serve with crackers. Yield 1 1/2 cups.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DISCIPLE JIU-JITSU

Disciple Jiu-Jitsu is now enrolling kids (ages 5-12) and adults in McKenzie/Gleason! Learn real self-defense, build confidence, and get in shape in a fun, faith-driven environment. Private lessons available. Text 731-203-0327 to join or learn more.

BACK TO SCHOOL CLOSET

Webb Alumni and First Baptist Church are hosting a Back To School Closet, July 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Webb School, 938 Walnut Avenue W. Children must attend to receive supplies of clothes, shoes, school supplies, food, and a haircut. For more information, call 731-697-5468.

McKENZIE SENIOR CENTER EVENTS DANCE ON SATURDAY

This Saturday, 7 p.m., dance to the music of The Cool Daddy Trio. Admission is \$7, doors open at 6. Free dance class with paid admission. Instructor is Nancy Davenport.

Exercise class weekdays at 9 a.m.

Billiards every day, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Canasta every Monday and Friday afternoon 12:30 p.m.

Line Dance class every

Monday and the first and third Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

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

Dominoes every Wednesday and Saturday, 12:30 p.m.

Game Day every Sunday at 3 p.m.

CARROLL ARTS, INC. UPCOMING EVENTS

Carroll Arts, Inc. has a packed schedule of events.

The Southern Fried Funnies are back! Performances are set for Thursday, August 21 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, August 23 at 2 p.m. at the McKenzie Park Theatre. Admission is \$5.

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.

SUE BUSH TO CELEBRATE 90TH BIRTHDAY JULY 19

The family of Mrs. Sue Bush is hosting her 90th Birthday Party on July 19 at the McLemoresville Activities Center between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m.

All family and friends are invited. Join us for a special day as we celebrate Sue's 90th Birthday. Light refresh-

ments will be served. No gifts, please.

CARROLL COUNTY CHAMBER JUNIOR GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Junior Golf Tournament is Tuesday, July 22 at Carroll Lake Golf Course. Four age groups each have a boys and girls division: 8 and under, 9-11, 12-14 and 15-17. Cost of registration is \$10 including golf cart. Carts must be driven by an age-appropriate driver. For more information, contact the chamber at 731-986-4664 or cchamber@earthlink.net.

MHS CLASS OF 1975 TO HOST REUNION

McKENZIE — McKenzie High School Class of 1975 is hosting a reunion in celebration of 50 years following graduation. Class members were the last to graduate from the three-story high school just weeks before it was razed to make room for a parking lot.

The reunion is in conjunction with the MHS Alumni Association Decades Reunion on Friday, September 19, where alumni from many classes gather for an informal reunion before the Homecoming football game featuring the McKenzie Rebels.

Members of the Class of 1975 will gather on Saturday, September 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for lunch and socializing at First Cumberland Presbyterian

Church. Class members can obtain more information by emailing mckenziehigh75@gmail.com.

CARROLL COUNTY REPUBLICAN RALLY

Carroll County Republicans are hosting a rally at the Inclusion Park, Mustang Drive, Huntingdon, on August 2, 10:30 a.m. It includes music, food, and a rally.

Congressman Tim Burchett is one of the guests.

UPCOMING 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.

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.

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 Re-

union. Any MHS class hosting a reunion should contact the MHS Alumni Association to help promote the class reunion.

CARROLL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEETS

The Carroll County Democratic Party meets the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 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 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. 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 An-

imal 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.

NWTN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO MEET

The board of directors of Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Board meets Friday, July 18 at 10 a.m. at the Northwest TN Head Start/Early Head Start Central Office at 938 Walnut Avenue W, McKenzie.

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. No meetings in February and July.

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.

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JURASSIC WORLD:
REBIRTH (PG-13)

Tues. 4:25 (3D), 7:25
Wed. 1:25, 4:25 (3D), 7:25
Thurs. 4:25 (3D), 7:25

F1 (PG-13)

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

MEGAN 2.0 (PG-13)

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

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR
DRAGON (PG)

Tues. 4:25 (3D), 7:25
Wed. 1:25, 4:25 (3D), 7:25
Thurs. 4:25 (3D), 7:25

ELIO (PG)

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

28 YEARS LATER (R)

Tues., Wed., Thurs. 7:35

ELIO (PG)

Tues. 4:35 (3D)
Wed. 1:35, 4:35 (3D)
Thurs. 4:35 (3D)

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Priscilla Presley to Open The Dixie's 20th Season

The Dixie Carter Performing Arts and Academic Enrichment Center is thrilled to announce An Evening with Priscilla Presley on Saturday, August 30, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., launching The Dixie's 20th Season with a captivating series of her life in stories and photos, including exclusive memories of her time with Elvis.

A beloved actress, producer, and cultural icon, Presley is known around the world for her unforgettable role as Jenna Wade on the hit television series Dallas, seen by over 300 million viewers globally each week during its run. Presley quickly became a fan favorite, holding audiences spellbound with her dynamic portrayal during her five-year tenure on the series.

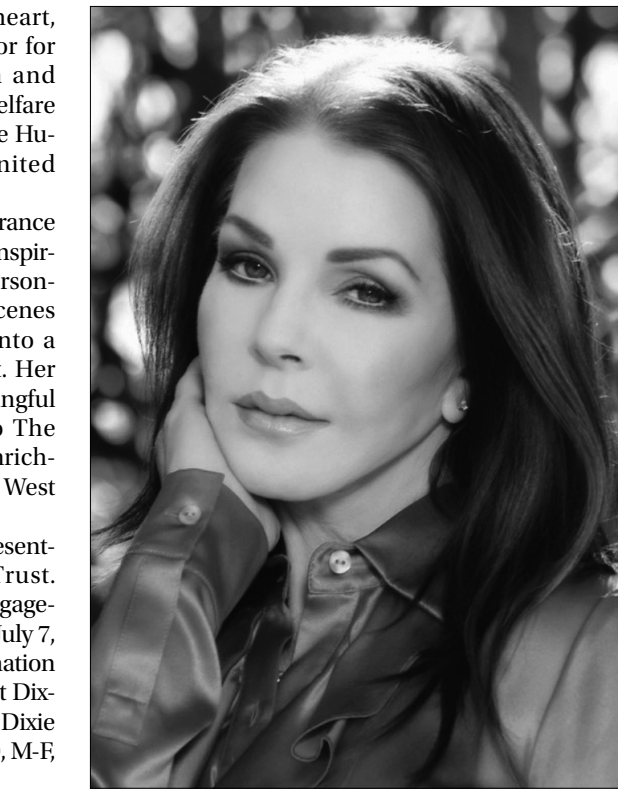
Beyond Dallas, Presley showcased her talent in film with the wildly successful Naked Gun comedy trilogy, as well as family and television projects including Breakfast with

Einstein, Haley Wagner Star, Melrose Place, Touched by an Angel, and Spin City, where her guest appearances drew record-breaking ratings.

In addition to her celebrated acting career, Presley is internationally respected for her business acumen and dedication to preserving the legacy of Elvis Presley. Since becoming co-executor of the Presley Estate in 1979, she transformed it into a global brand through Graceland, music publishing, merchandising, and partnerships with companies like Authentic Brands Group, where she serves as an advisor.

Her work as an executive producer on the critically acclaimed album If I Can Dream helped it top charts around the world, reinforcing her role as a steward of Elvis' enduring cultural impact.

A passionate philanthropist, Presley has long support-



Back-to-School Tax Holiday Begins July 25

Tennessee's traditional sales tax holiday on clothing, school supplies and computers begins at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 25, 2025, and ends at 11:59 p.m.

on Sunday, July 27, 2025.

During this time, clothing, school supplies and computers may be purchased tax-free. Certain restrictions apply. Items sold online are also eligible. Items must be purchased for personal use, not for business or trade.

\$100 or less per item, such as binders, backpacks, crayons, paper, pens, pencils, and rulers, and art supplies such as glazes, clay, paints, drawing pads, and artist paintbrushes.

Not Exempt:

School and art supplies individually priced at more than \$100.

Items that are normally sold together cannot be split up to stay beneath the \$100 maximum.

Computers

Exempt:

Computers for personal use with a purchase price of \$1,500 or less.

Laptop computers, if priced at \$1,500 or less, also qualify as well as tablet computers.

Not Exempt:

Storage media, like flash drives and compact discs.

Individually purchased software.

Printer supplies.

Household appliances.



Sue Bush to Celebrate 90th Birthday July 19

The family of Mrs. Sue Bush is hosting her 90th Birthday Party on July 19 at the McLemoresville Activities Center between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m.

All family and friends

are invited. Join us for a special day as we celebrate Sue's 90th Birthday.

Light refreshments will be served.

No gifts, please.

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July Lifeline Blood Drives

Lifeline Blood Services hosts the following donation drives in the area during July:

July 11 — Save-A-Lot, McKenzie, Noon-6 p.m.

July 12 — TN National Guard, Paris, 8 a.m.-Noon

July 14 — Save-A-Lot, Martin, Noon-6 p.m.

July 17 — West TN Healthcare, Camden, 1-6 p.m.

July 18 — Joe Mahan Ford, Paris, 1-6 p.m.

July 21 — Southside Church of Christ, Dresden,

1-6 p.m.

July 24 — Baptist Memorial Hospital, Huntingdon, 1-5 p.m.

July 27 — First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, McKenzie, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

July 29 — Life Care Center, Bruceton, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

July 29 — Milan General Hospital, 12:30-5:30 p.m.

July 29 — Walmart, Martin, 1-6 p.m.

July 31 — Cherrywood Post Acute, McKenzie, Noon-4 p.m.

All blood types are currently in need, especially Type O.

Phipps Pharmacy Marks 25 Years of Innovative Service

New Location in McKenzie Opening Soon

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (July 7) — Phipps Pharmacy recently marked 25 years of service and will soon celebrate a new beginning for the growing company with the opening of a new storefront.

Owner and pharmacist Dr. Jay Phipps spoke with The Banner about this exciting time for the company, its staff and, most importantly, its patients.

Phipps hails from the hills of Appalachia in Rogersville, Tennessee, 60 miles east of Knoxville. He recalls his drive to work hard, beginning with his first job on a farm at 12 and then in construction at 14. A first-generation college graduate, he worked the graveyard shift at a factory during his undergraduate program at Walter State Community College. Phipps earned a bachelor's at Carson-Newman University and worked in the pharmacy at Baptist Hospital in Knoxville.

With his sights fixed on pharmacy school, a dean told him he would never get in because he lacked leadership experience. The future pharmacist and business owner took those words to heart and became more involved in organizations and associations.

During his time at the UT Health Science Center College of Pharmacy in Memphis, he rose to national president of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Students of Pharmacy and developed relationships that would change the course of his career and life.

During Phipps' residency, Dr. Tim Tucker of Huntingdon sought his services in a new pharmacy. That discussion led to a partnership between the two and Tim's brother, Dr. Tony Tucker, to open City Drug on the McKenzie Medical Center campus on June 5, 2000.

After a year and a half of what Phipps calls "a good partnership," he bought out the Tuckers to become the sole owner and, around 2004, changed the name to Phipps Pharmacy.

2004 was also when Phipps first expanded with the purchase of Hopper Drug in Bruceton, which is no longer part of the Phipps company.

In 2008, the company expanded again with the purchase of a pharmacy in Jackson. Phipps also purchased a second building in Jackson near Union University and was mere weeks from opening when a tornado destroyed it. The second Jackson location was rebuilt and opened but was eventually closed and absorbed into the first Jackson store.

Phipps faced a crossroads in the mid-2010s when a health issue threatened to change his life. He developed weakness in his dominant right arm due to a bone growth issue and would need a series of surgeries to prevent paral-



ysis. "It really changed my trajectory. What I realized is, you have to be relentless to be successful. You either have to decide you want to take on life or you want life to beat you up. I decided I was going to take on life."

With a renewed sense of ambition, Phipps looked to expand further, first in Huntingdon in 2020 and again in 2021 in Waverly.

Phipps recently bought a building in Martin for a new pharmacy he hopes will open in late 2026. His son, Sawyer, a pre-pharmacy student and football player at UT Martin, will spend the summer doing demolition at the site.

In the past five years, Phipps' staff has grown from 14 to 45 people across all locations.

Until last year, the company's footprint reached into Mississippi, but Phipps cites challenging state laws as a reason he sold that location.

As a past president of the Tennessee Pharmacists Association, Phipps is active in making sure that pharmacists can practice at the top of their license and do what they were trained to do. He cites the help of people like State Representatives Brock Martin and Tandy Darby and State Senator John Stevens in ensuring there aren't as many barriers in this state.

"Since 2021, 2,700 pharmacies have closed in the nation. You've gotta find the right niche to be successful. It makes you be a better businessperson because of the challenges in the market."

Phipps spoke about the support he's felt over his 25 years in business here. "As somebody that moved here and didn't know anyone, the community really took me in and treated me like I was born and raised here. Hopefully, it's partly because I treat people the way I want to be treated and try to really take care of people. I've been involved here over the years, coaching youth sports and working with Scouts. Being involved has helped me get to know people outside of the pharmacy."

"McKenzie's been great. We work really hard on being engaged in the community, sponsoring little league teams and being at events, whether it's here or at other locations."

He noted that the Waverly location opened a month before the region's historic, devastating flooding. "We went door-to-door trying to help people. We try to fill the needs of the community." Jay's



partner, Daisy, organized over 15 donation sites around the region, and the family, including their son, Eli, spent weeks distributing food and clothing to the Waverly community."

He said, "Huntingdon has been great, really took us in. While we were remodeling [the former Regions building], people would stop and express excitement. They have made us feel welcome, patients and practitioners."

"Being in a small town is really our perfect business model. Even Jackson is a bigger town divided into smaller towns. They still want the same level of care you do in McKenzie. So there, we're still going to know people's names and about their pets and where they went on vacation."

Phipps summed it up, "It's about being relentless and building relationships. If you take really good care of them, they'll let you. If you don't, if you're just there to throw pills at them, they'll go somewhere else. I think that's where we've stood out over the years. I really think that's why we're 'the cure for the common drug store' [the company's slogan]. We treat people differently than everybody else."

Tentatively opening in the next 60 days, the new pharmacy at 15385 Highland Drive, the former McKenzie Auto Parts, represents a massive upgrade for the experience of Phipps patients and employees alike.

The current location is 740 square feet, while the new building covers 5500 square feet.

There will be two full-size exam rooms for testing (flu, strep, covid, etc.) and two rooms for consultations and immunizations.

A drive-thru window was the most common inquiry from patients curious about the new store, according to Phipps.

The store will eventually utilize robotics behind the counter, but patients won't miss out on the personal touches the staff offers, such as proactive calls prior to refills.

The extra space will allow for health-related classes to be offered, possibly after business hours.

Phipps is planning to offer weight loss and ED services at the new store, something already available in Huntingdon.

The new space means employees will now have a dedicated restroom and breakroom and, for the first time, the owner himself will have an office.

Dr. Phipps owns and operates Health Insurance Solutions, an agency focused on seniors and Medicare, which will have a dedicated office at the Highland store.

With the added lobby space, Phipps can stock more retail items and meet more customer demands.

Phipps hopes to keep a presence at Hometown Health Clinic (formerly McKenzie Medical Center) and is working with the clinic on

Above Left, Dr. Jay Phipps in front of the new Phipps Pharmacy location on Highland Drive in McKenzie, opening soon.

Above Right, Dr. Jay Phipps at the original Phipps Pharmacy location on the Hometown Health Clinic campus in McKenzie. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Left, The staff of Phipps Pharmacy's four locations at a recent gathering. Photo courtesy of Jay Phipps

how to do so. "Hometown Health has been essential for our success, and we want to continue to keep those relationships."

He said, "I think we have a very unique culture. We're solution-focused, we innovate, we change things often. I want to provide the best care. My first 25 years was trying to figure out how to run a business, the next is moving the profession forward."

Phipps beamed as he noted that his pharmacy was the first in the state to be credentialed by TennCare's providers for medical services (flu, strep, covid) and was the first in state to do tuberculosis skin testing. They're also the only pharmacy in west Tennessee to have a community pharmacy residency.

Aside from his duties as a pharmacist and business owner, Phipps is a Carroll County Commissioner in his first full term, reelected after being appointed to a vacant seat.

"It's been rewarding to get to talk to people you wouldn't, hopefully help solve problems, be on the proactive side."

Phipps also does keynote speaking and makes online content on facing and overcoming fear.

He earned his MBA at age 50 from Indiana University's top-rated online program. "I learned a ton. There's more that I don't know about business than I do. You've got to be curious."

Ultimately, he attributes the business's success to the entire team. "Our amazing team is paramount to Phipps Pharmacy's success. I could not ask for a better crew of pharmacy doctors, pharmacy technicians, patient success specialists, delivery drivers, facility management and administrative team members."

He added, "I also credit the unwavering support of Daisy, my sons, Sawyer and Eli, and my parents, Jerry and Barb Phipps."

Gasoline Prices Decrease During Week

TENNESSEE (June 30) — Average gasoline prices in Tennessee decreased 7.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.75/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 3,821 stations in Tennessee. Prices in Tennessee are 5.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 33.9 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 2.7 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.676 per gallon.

GasBuddy today also released (<https://go.gasbuddy.com/july-4-2025>) its 2025 Independence Day gas price forecast, projecting the national average price of gas to fall to \$3.15 per gallon on July 4, down nearly 35 cents from last year's July 4 average to the lowest Independence Day tally since 2021. Although recent events have caused some turmoil and volatility in energy markets, gas prices have declined due to cooling Middle East geopolitical tensions and increased oil production from OPEC in recent months.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Tennessee was priced at \$2.34/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.65/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was

\$2.34/g while the highest was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.65/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 3.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.14/g today. The national average is up 1.1 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 32.1 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:

June 30, 2024:	\$3.09/g (U.S. Average: \$3.46/g)
June 30, 2023:	\$3.06/g (U.S. Average: \$3.50/g)
June 30, 2022:	\$4.45/g (U.S. Average: \$4.85/g)
June 30, 2021:	\$2.86/g (U.S. Average: \$3.12/g)
June 30, 2020:	\$1.92/g (U.S. Average: \$2.18/g)
June 30, 2019:	\$2.39/g (U.S. Average: \$2.71/g)
June 30, 2018:	\$2.56/g (U.S. Average: \$2.85/g)
June 30, 2017:	\$1.98/g (U.S. Average: \$2.23/g)
June 30, 2016:	\$2.07/g (U.S. Average: \$2.28/g)
June 30, 2015:	\$2.53/g (U.S. Average: \$2.77/g)

"The national average price of gasoline has resumed its decline, with fall-

ing prices driven by easing tensions in the Middle East—just weeks after those same tensions had pushed prices higher," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "For motorists planning to hit the road for Independence Day, gas prices are expected to continue falling nearly coast to coast in the lead-up to July 4. Relief could expand as the holiday weekend approaches, with the national average on track to hit its lowest July 4 level since 2021 at \$3.15 per gallon, we project. As long as tensions in the Middle East remain contained and the U.S. avoids a major hurricane, we could see the national average fall below \$3 per gallon later this summer."

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>.

SOURCE GasBuddy

Boating License Exams Can Now Be Taken Unproctored — And Remotely

The Tennessee General Assembly passed almost 600 new bills in the spring. On July 1, 177 of those bills came into effect — including a bill that removes the monitoring requirement for boating safety examinations.

The bill, HB0530, was introduced to expand ac-

cess to rural Tennesseans and to provide flexibility to individuals who work during standard business hours. Boating safety education examinations can now be taken unproctored from any location.

Previously, individuals who wished to obtain a boating license had to take

a boating safety examination in person, under the supervision of a proctor.

Tennessee law requires Tennesseans born after January 1, 1989, to have a TWRA-issued Boating Safety Education Certificate to operate a personal watercraft or motorboat.

Freed-Hardeman University Announces President's, Dean's Lists for Spring 2025

HENDERSON (June 25) — Freed-Hardeman University has released the names of students who made the President's and Dean's Lists for the Spring 2025 semester. To be on the President's List, a student must be full-time and have a 4.0 grade point average. Students on the Dean's List have earned a minimum 3.4 grade point average for the semester.

The following local students are among the President's List honorees: Lilly Kee, a sophomore from Huntingdon, is studying Nursing.

Mariah Bryant, a junior from McMoresville, is studying Physical Therapy Assistant.

Nathan King, a senior from Huntingdon, is studying Bible: Christian Apologetics.

The following local students are among the Dean's List honorees: Jon Williams, a senior from Westport, is studying Interactive Digital Design: Designer.

Ellie Culbreath, a senior from Huntingdon, is studying Photography.

J.T. Moore, a senior from Westport, is studying Interactive Digital Design: Developer.

The mission of Freed-Hardeman University is to help students develop their God-given talents for His glory by empowering them with an education that integrates Christian faith, scholarship and service. With locations in Henderson and Memphis, FHU offers associate, bachelor's, master's, specialist's and doctoral degrees. More information is available at fhu.edu.

Jon Williams, a senior from Westport, is studying Interactive Digital Design: Designer.

Ellie Culbreath, a senior from Huntingdon, is studying Photography.

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State Designates Summer Months to Reflect on American Principles: Life, Liberty, Happiness

In recognition of America's 250th birthday on July 2026, the General Assembly passed a resolution designating June, July and August as commemorative months to celebrate the nation's core founding principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The designations are meant to inspire reflection, civic pride and renewed appreciation for America's values.

June is now "Celebration of Life" Month, July is "Celebration of Liberty" Month and August is "Pursuit of Happiness" Month.

These are permanent designations, per the Tennessee General Assembly.



Rotary Hears About Sports Podcast

MCKENZIE (June 3) — McKenzie Rotary Club had Jeremy Buckelew of Paris as the featured speaker at its noon meeting on June 3.

Buckelew has a sports podcast with subjects on national and local sports. He was at the local club to speak about his podcast and to expand its outreach to serve more athletes in the McKenzie and Carroll County area.

Pictured are Rotary Vice President Ricky Price, Jeremy Buckelew, and Rotary President Christy Williams.

Tas Gardner Elected President of Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference

Robert Taswell "Tas" Gardner was elected by his fellow public defenders to serve as president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference. The Conference is a statewide network of publicly elected district public defenders representing each of Tennessee's thirty-two judicial districts. Across the state, more than four hundred attorneys work within these districts to fulfill the critical constitutional duty of defending people who cannot afford legal representation in criminal cases where their freedom is at risk.

As president, Gardner will lead the Conference's Executive Committee, which supports public defenders across Tennessee and works with lawmakers on policies and procedures that impact the justice system. In this role, he will oversee the day-to-day business and affairs of the Conference.

Gardner serves as the public defender for Tennessee's 24th Judicial District, covering Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin, and Henry counties. He was appointed to the position by Governor Bill Haslam in February 2017 and elected to the role in August 2018. Gardner's career with the 24th Judicial District Public Defender's Office began in 1992 as an investigator, and he became an assistant public defender in 2008.

Alongside his work as a public defender, Gardner also served on the Board of Judicial Conduct from 2012 to 2015, where he helped review complaints filed against judges. He's also a member of the Henry County Bar Association and the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.



Property Transfers

Robert James Claghorn to Karen Dawson in District 16.

Mabry Farms, LLC to Michael Lamar and Alisha Suzanne Mabry in District 1.

Barney Myracle as trustee to Gordon and Ruby Wilbridge in District 13.

Dalton B. Caswell to Amy and Eric Black in District 14.

Marcia G. Wildridge to Gordon and Ruby Wilbridge. No district listed.

Taylor Ann Fortner to Dustin J. and Jodi A. Hertz in District 1.

Ken Robin Drinkard to Roberta Jean Drinkard in District 6.

Kevin Bradley and Melissa K. Jones to Nathan B. Jones in district 4.

William Keith Liady to Dwayne Reynolds in District 11.

Stephen L. Phillips to Matthew Shane Martin in District 20.

Mary Joyce Spain to Byron and Kassie Taylor in District 11.

Steven R. Dameron to Leslie E. Morris in District 16.

William James Love to Sarina Bishop.

Robert R. and Shirley Cox to Eric A. Cole in District 6.

Edward and Tammy Wolf to Phuong and Siu Ting Man Cooc.

Danny Ray and Mary Elizabeth Hastings to Billy and Megan Killibrew in District 13.

Nicholas Burns and Pamela Jane Appleton to Bradley W. and Angela D. Ulrich in District 21.

Tamme J. Winston to Dana Michele Crocker in District 22.

Shawn Bledsoe to Barry Allen Construction, LLC in District 21.

Michele Renee Noles to Alicia K. Busby.

Gina Gore to Jason Hale in District 22.

Carroll County Sheriff's Reports

Trespass — According to a report by Deputy Heather Townes on June 27, Kimberlee Arnold, 35, of Atwood, was found to be at 115 Atwood Street in Trezevant after being previously trespassed on the property. When deputies arrived to the home, Kimberlee was inside and insisted that she was not trespassing and turned to walk out of the door. Deputy Townes handcuffed Kimberlee before she could leave, but Kimberlee continued to resist arrest and said she wasn't going to jail. She was transported to Carroll County Jail.

Simple Assault — According to a report by Deputy Bo Ezell, on June 29, the Sheriff's Office received a call from a victim in Bruceton stating that David Scott, 31, of Bruceton, had assaulted her. Once deputies arrived at the home Scott was on the front porch extremely intoxicated. He was transported to Carroll County Jail.

Possession of Sch. II — According to a report by Deputy Alex D. Sherwood, on July 1, he was dispatched to Trezevant in reference to a family member taking a golf cart and possible trespassing of unknown accomplices. The complainant advised that her daughter had arrived in a U-Haul with two unknown male subjects and taken off on a golf cart without her permission. Deputies found the subjects, and the male, Brandon Phillips, 26, of Crossville, kept giving a fake name and also had one-half gram of a crystal-like substance on his person. He was arrested and taken to Carroll County Jail.

Marriage Licenses

Lillian Dawn Chandler Ross, 25, of McKenzie, to Colone Tyrone Sharp, 27, of McKenzie.

Gloria Marie Tibbs, 25, of Bruceton, to Damon Alexander David Odom, 23, of Bruceton.

Destiny Starr Hayes, 18, of Huntingdon, to Matthew Wade Parker, 20, of Huntingdon.

Stephen David Ulrich, 67, of Huntingdon, to Ailene Tabon Lingling, 50, of Huntingdon.

Carroll County General Sessions Report

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

The following cases were bound over to the Grand Jury of the Carroll County Circuit Court.

William Shannon Douglas, Christian Chapel Road, Cedar Grove, bound over on charge of DUI-First Offense.

Ryan White, Frances Street, Atwood, bound over on charge of Aggravated Neglect of Elderly/Vulnerable Adult; Cruelty to Animals.

The following cases resulted in a guilty plea or finding.

Billy Borum, Everett Street, McKenzie, guilty, Domestic Assault, 11/29 jail suspended to 19 days, probation extended, \$100 fine.

Terry Brown, Henley Park, Big Sandy, guilty, Driving While Revoked, no fine, plus court costs.

Nicholas J. Farmer, Butler School Road, Bruceton, guilty, Meth-Deliver, Manufacture, Sell or Possession with Intent, \$750 fine, probation, 11/29 jail, can serve sentence as in-patient treatment.

Rodger Dale Lawson, Bryant Extended, Trezevant, guilty, Probation Violation, Criminal Trespass, 90 days jail, may serve time in mental health counseling, probation extended; dismissed, Public Intoxication.

Ivan Loreda, Camp Tyson Road, Paris, guilty, Drivers License Must Be Carrie; dismissed, Light Law Violation; dismissed, Violation of Financial Responsibility; dismissed, Registration Expired.

Christopher McCaslin, Gardner Road, Cedar Grove, guilty, DUI-First Offense, \$350 fine, 11/29 jail suspended to 19 days, not to drive for one year, probation; dismissed, Driving While Revoked.

Brittany Nicole Neville, Lanes Ferry Road, Newbern, guilty, Probation Violation, 11/29 jail.

Joshua Adam Saylor, II, Spruce Street, McKenzie, guilty, Theft, guilty, Probation Violation, 11/29 jail, no contact with victim, can receive credit for successful completion of rehab; dismissed, Aggravated Criminal Trespass; dismissed, Burglary.

The following cases were dismissed.

Robert S. Anthony, Old Trezevant Road, Trezevant, dismissed, Driving While Suspended; dismissed, Display of Registration Plates.

Houston Perry Hays, Crooked Street, Trezevant, dismissed, Driving While Revoked; dismissed, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Maurice Lawrence, McKenzie, dismissed, Criminal Trespass.

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Limited time offer. **Print delivery special** valid only in the **LOCAL** tri-county area of Carroll, Henry and Weakley counties in Tennessee. **Online only special** valid **ANYWHERE** in the world. Good for new or renew. Regular price is \$39 for local print and online delivery and \$25 for 1 year online only. Offer entitles reader to 12 months membership to the newspaper. Payment is required to begin offer. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

McKenzie Police Reports

Theft — Investigator Steven Scott responded to a call regarding a bicycle theft on Booker Street on July 5. The victim said his bicycle, valued at \$300, was missing from his carport when he arrived from work. The bicycle is three-wheeled, VEOR brand, and lime green in color. It does not have an attached basket. The perpetrator has not been identified.

Simple Possession — Jacquelyn R. Hornbuckle, 49, of Murray, Ky, was charged with Simple Possession of Schedule IV Xanax and Public Intoxication on July 5.

Investigator Steven Scott responded to a call about a possible intoxicated person on Kirkwood Drive. According to the police report, he found Hornbuckle showing signs of intoxication. Investigator Scott searched the subject's bag and found unprescribed Xanax and lorazepam, which Hornbuckle admitted she received from a family member. Upon being given a drug test, Hornbuckle tested positive for THC and opioid consumption.

Driving on a Revoked License — Anthony L. Bomar, 54, of Paris, was charged with Driving on a Revoked License for a D.U.I. and Window Tinting on July 4. Patrolman Dustin McClure made a traffic stop for a vehicle that had what appeared to be lower than the legal limit of 35 percent window tint and discovered the revoked status. Bomar was arrested and transported to Carroll County Jail with a \$1,000 bond.

Theft — Juvenile peti-

tions were filed for three juveniles following Theft, Aggravated Burglary, and Vandalism on July 5.

Investigator Steven Scott responded to a call regarding a theft on Magnolia Avenue. The victim stated that they returned to their house to find several guns, totaling \$1,378, missing and a broken window.

The day before, Investigator Scott had responded to a call after three juveniles attempted to enter the same house through a window. After contacting the juveniles about the theft, one individual was found in possession of all four of the handguns and the accompanying magazines.

All possessions were recovered and returned to the owner.

Domestic Assault — Michael B. Smith, 62, of Huntingdon, was arrested and charged for Domestic Assault on July 4.

Officers arrived at a residence on Diamond Drive following a 911 call warning that a verbal altercation had turned physical. On the scene, officers noticed Smith smelled intoxicated and had a cut under his eye. A family member attempted to get Smith inside the residence when Smith reportedly pushed him and struck him. The family member admitted to hitting him after being struck first.

Officers determined Smith as the primary aggressor after being advised by witnesses. Patrolman Jayden Rembert placed Smith in custody for Domestic Assault. Smith was transported to Carroll County Jail.

Driving on a Suspended License — Rodger Allen Webb, 50, of McKenzie, was cited for Driving on a Suspended License, Misuse of Registration, and Financial Responsibility on July 4.

Chief Ryan White and Patrolman Dustin McClure made contact with Webb as he was driving a car whose registration belonged to a different vehicle. Upon requesting the driving status of Webb, Chief White determined Webb's license was indefinitely suspended as of January 2025.

Patrolman McClure cited Webb for Driving on Suspended, Misuse of Registration, and Financial Responsibility.

Theft of Merchandise — Robert Dean Sweatt II, 36, of McKenzie, was cited for Theft of Merchandise on July 4.

Security camera footage helped officers identify Sweatt for stealing a 12-pack of Mellow Yellow drinks from a gas station. Officers located Sweatt, who was cited for Theft of Merchandise (under \$1,000) and taken into custody for multiple active arrest warrants out of Weakley and Carroll counties.

Theft of Merchandise — There is a Theft of Merchandise Warrant out for Terry Lynn Parks, 60, of Henry, as of July 4.

Officers responded to a call regarding a theft that had occurred at a store on Highland Drive. An employee reviewed security camera footage from the day before and watched a customer take three items — a DGH Athlete's Foot cream and two Lotrimin AF Cream tubes — off the shelf, empty

the boxes of their contents, and place the empty boxes back on the shelf.

The employee identified the suspect as Parks, who is now banned from the store. As of July 4, Parks has not been located. Patrolman Dalton Raspberry is placing a Theft of Merchandise Warrant out of Henry County General Sessions on Parks.

Driving on a Revoked License — Ralph L. Dennie, Jr., 21, of Huntingdon, was arrested and charged with Driving on a Revoked License for DUI, a Failure to Appear Warrant out of Madison County, Misuse of Registration, Financial Responsibility, and Window Tint on July 4.

Patrolman Dustin McClure initiated a traffic stop on Dennie after noticing potentially illegal window tint and unmatching registration on his vehicle. Patrolman McClure verified Dennie's license status as revoked for DUI of alcohol or drugs.

A passenger in the vehicle, who had a valid license, handed Patrolman McClure a baggie containing about one gram of what appeared to be marijuana. Patrolman McClure took the substance and booked it into evidence for safekeeping. Before seizing the vehicle, he tested the window tint and found that the front and back windows' tint levels tested at 15 percent less than the legal limit.

Driving on a Suspended License — Ladislav Hanus, 67, of McKenzie, was cited for Driving on a Suspended License on July 4.

Patrolman Dustin McClure initiated a traffic stop on Hanus after seeing his vehicle driving in town. Af-

ter confirming his indefinite suspension, Patrolman McClure cited Hanus into the Carroll County General Sessions Court with ten days to report to court.

Driving on a Suspended License — Robert D. Doede, 45, of McKenzie, was cited for Driving on a Suspended License, Financial Responsibility, and Expired Registration on July 4.

Patrolman Dustin McClure initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle with an expired registration. The driver, Doede, admitted to the officer that his license was indefinitely suspended.

Patrolman McClure cited Doede into the Carroll County General Sessions with 10 days to report to court.

Public Intoxication — Clinton Dailey Hoard, 38, of McKenzie, was arrested for Public Intoxication on July 3.

Officer Bryan Batcheldor responded to a call from a hair salon, arriving at the scene to find Hoard lying down on a couch inside the business. According to the police report, Hoard had slurred speech and was unsteady on his feet.

Officer Batcheldor and Officer Matthew Cunningham conducted standardized field sobriety tests on Hoard before arresting him for Public Intoxication and transporting him to Carroll County Jail.

Criminal Trespass — Maurice L. Lawrence, 32, was charged and arrested for Criminal Trespassing on July 3.

Patrolman Jackson Henderson responded to a call from a business regarding Lawrence being on their property. Lawrence, who was banned from this establishment since November 2024, was arrested.

Driving on a Suspended License — Heather Renee Smith, 35, of Paris, was charged and arrested for Driving on a Suspended License and Text Messaging While Operating a Motor Vehicle on July 3.

Patrolman Jayden Rembert performed a traffic stop on Smith after observing her using her cellular device while driving. After running Smith's ID through the system, Patrolman Rembert was notified that Smith had an indefinitely suspended license. Because of two prior Driving on Suspended charges in 2016 and 2019, Smith was arrested on Driving on Suspended and was cited into General Sessions Court for Driving While Texting.

Text Messaging While Operating a Motor Vehicle — Tyler Keith Borchert, 29, of Hollow Rock, was cited for Text Messaging While Operating a Motor Vehicle and Driving on a Suspended License on July 1.

Patrolman Timothy Dillon initiated a traffic stop on Borchert for violating the Hands-Free law. After checking the validity of Borchert's license, Patrolman Dillon found that his license was suspended indefinitely. Borchert was given ten days to book in at Carroll County Jail.

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2022, BILL M. CHANEY (now deceased), by Deed of Trust of record in Trust Deed Book 725, at Page 368, in the Register's Office of Carroll County, Tennessee, conveyed the following described property in trust to secure the payment of a Promissory Note in the original principal amount of One Hundred Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$117,500.00), payable to CARROLL BANK & TRUST; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned was appointed Substitute Trustee by CARROLL BANK & TRUST, the legal owner and holder of the said Note, by appointment executed on June 12, 2025, and recorded in Trust Deed Book 754, at Page 1158, in the Register's Office of Carroll County, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, default has been made in the payment of said indebtedness and other provisions of the Deed of Trust have been violated, and CARROLL BANK & TRUST, the lawful owner and holder of the said indebtedness, has declared the entire amount due and payable as provided by the Deed of Trust in accordance with the terms thereof, and instructed the undersigned to foreclose.

NOW, THEREFORE, the public is hereby notified that the undersigned Substitute Trustee will sell the hereinafter described real estate at public auction, to the highest and best bidder, for cash in hand paid in certified funds paid at the conclusion of the sale, or upon a credit bid from a bank or other lending entity pre-approved by the Substitute Trustee. The auction shall occur at the east door of the Courthouse at Huntingdon, Carroll County, Tennessee, on Tuesday, July 23, 2025, at 4:00 o'clock p.m., said property to be sold in bar of the equity of redemption and subject to the lien of all special assessments against it.

Lying, and being situate in the City of Atwood, 1st Civil District of Carroll County, Tennessee, bounded and described as follows; to-wit:

BEGINNING at a point in the north margin of Church Street, being the southeast corner of the subject property and the southwest corner of Steve Mays, (Parcel 6.03); runs thence North with the west margin of Steve Mays, to a stake, being the northwest corner of Steve Mays (Parcel 6.03); thence East to a point being the upper southeast corner of the subject property, the southwest corner of Susan Essary (Parcel 8.01) and the northwest corner of Steve Mays (Parcel 6.02); runs thence North with the west margin of Susan Essary (Parcel 8.01) and Bobby Essary (Parcel 9.00) to a stake, in Billy Lovett's south margin (Parcel 10) at the northwest corner of Bobby Essary (Parcel 9.00) and the northeast corner of the subject property; runs thence in a westerly-southwesterly direction with the south margin of Billy Lovett (Parcel 10) as it meanders to a stake in Billy Lovett's southwest corner and in the east line of Nathan Browning (Parcel 5.00); runs thence in southerly direction with the east margin of Nathan Browning as it meanders to a point in the north margin of Church Street, being the southwest corner of the subject property and the southeast corner of Nathan Browning; runs thence East with the north margin of Church Street, to the point of beginning. (Description taken from prior deed of record)

It being the same property as that described in a Warranty Deed from Bernice White to Bill M. Chaney, dated June 1, 2018, and of record in Deed Book 383, page 618, Register's Office of Carroll County, Tennessee. Bill M. Chaney died intestate on January 10, 2025, and at his death title to his property vested in his heirs at law under the laws of intestate succession.

Map 079J, Group F, Parcel 006.00

The street address of the above-described property is believed to be 13820 Church St., Atwood, TN 38220 but such address is not part of the legal description and in the event of any discrepancy, the legal description herein shall control.

SALE IS SUBJECT TO TENANT(S) RIGHTS IN POSSESSION.

This sale is subject to all matters shown on any applicable recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements, or setback lines that may be applicable; any statutory rights of redemption of any governmental agency, state or federal; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. Other interested parties: None.

Title to said property is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell as Substitute Trustee only and will assign to the purchaser all covenants of warranty contained in said Deed of Trust.

The sale held pursuant to this Notice may be rescinded at the Successor Trustee's option at any time. Said sale may be adjourned to another time or may be postponed to another date by public announcement at the appointed time of sale without readvertisement.

This office is a debt collector. This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

WITNESS my signature, this the 1st day of July, 2025.

KIZER, BONDS, HUGHES & BOWEN, LLC

BY: STEPHEN L. HUGHES, Substitute Trustee
P. O. Box 320, Milan, TN 38358 (731) 686-1198

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The **Town of Trezevant** will be soliciting bids for **Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades**, located at Dorsey Road, Trezevant, TN 38258. The **Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades** is a utility improvement project with several functions for the Trezevant, Tennessee community. Project consists of the installation of a floating wetland treatment system and new, bank-mounted aerators.

A **non-mandatory** pre-bid conference will be held at **10 a.m. on July 23, 2025 at Town of Trezevant, City Hall, 5560 Broad Street N, Trezevant, TN 38258.**

This project is being supported American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Fund grant funding. Therefore, certain restrictions and other federal requirements attach to this opportunity.

Separate sealed bids for **Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades** will be received by the **Town of Trezevant, City Hall, 5560 Broad Street N, PO Box 100, Trezevant, TN 38258**, until **10 a.m. on July 30, 2025**, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud. Any person with disability requiring special accommodations must contact the Town of Trezevant no later than 7 days prior to the bid opening.

All bid documents may be examined at the following:

1. Town of Trezevant, City Hall, 5560 Broad Street N, Trezevant, TN 38258.
2. A2H, Inc., 65 Germantown Ct, Suite 300, Memphis, TN 38018, www.a2hplanroom.com.
3. Builders Exchange, 642 South Cooper, Memphis, TN 38104, www.memphisbx.com.
4. West TN Plans Room, 439 Airways Blvd., Jackson, TN 38301, www.wtplanroom.com.

Electronic files may be downloaded free of charge from the A2H Planroom at www.a2hplanroom.com. Hard copy sets of plans and specifications will also be available for purchase on the planroom at the contractor's expense. For questions regarding obtaining the plans and specifications, please email Laurie Smith, Project Coordinator at lauries@a2h.com.

PLEASE NOTE: Official plan holders list **will only be the list maintained by A2H, Inc.** It is the sole responsibility of all plan holders, whether they have received digital downloads or paper copies of the plans and specifications, to periodically to check for Addenda which may have been posted on the **A2H Planroom** at www.a2hplanroom.com.

Town of Trezevant hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin in consideration for an award. Town of Trezevant is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Any contract that uses federal funds to pay for construction work is a "federally assisted construction contract" and must include the equal opportunity clause found in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, unless otherwise stated in 41 C.F.R. Part 60. We encourage all small and minority owned firms and women's business enterprises to participate. No bidder may withdraw his bid within (60) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

The Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act is also applicable, which prohibits workers on construction contracts from giving up wages that they are owed. Contractors must not appear on Sam.gov disbarment list.

A detailed listing of all subcontractors shall be provided by the Bidder. In accordance with the Contract Documents, documentation that the prospective General Contractor and its subcontractors meet minimum qualifications shall be provided and submitted. Subcontractors must also not appear on Sam.gov disbarment list. Mark-ups on subcontractor work or Cost Plus Overhead will be disallowed for reimbursement.

A bid bond or certified check for **five percent (5%) of the total bid amount** must accompany each bid. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond in the amount of his bid and shall, before entering on the work of said contract, be licensed as a contractor of Town of Trezevant. **Bids must be submitted with envelope label (provided in the bid documents) affixed to the front of the envelope.**

The owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The **Town of Trezevant** will be soliciting bids for **Wastewater System Improvements**, located at Trezevant, Tennessee. The **Wastewater System Improvements** is a utility improvement project with several functions for the Trezevant, Tennessee community. Project includes rehabilitation of existing wastewater collection system gravity lines and rehabilitation of existing wastewater manholes. The rehabilitation methods include Cured in Place Pipe lining, point repairs, and manhole lining for reduced infiltration and inflow.

A **non-mandatory** pre-bid conference will be held at **10:45 a.m. on July 30, 2025 at Town of Trezevant, City Hall, 5560 Broad Street N, Trezevant, TN 38258.**

This project is being supported American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Fund grant funding. Therefore, certain restrictions and other federal requirements attach to this opportunity.

Separate sealed bids for **Wastewater System Improvements** will be received by the **Town of Trezevant, City Hall, 5560 Broad Street N, PO Box 100, Trezevant, TN 38258**, until **10 a.m. on August 6, 2025**, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud. Any person with disability requiring special accommodations must contact the Town of Trezevant no later than 7 days prior to the bid opening.

All bid documents may be examined at the following:

1. Town of Trezevant, City Hall, 5560 Broad Street N, Trezevant, TN 38258.
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3. Builders Exchange, 642 South Cooper, Memphis, TN 38104, www.memphisbx.com.
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The Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act is also applicable, which prohibits workers on construction contracts from giving up wages that they are owed. Contractors must not appear on Sam.gov disbarment list.

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Bethel Names Dr. Keith D. Herris as Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences

MCKENZIE — Bethel University announces the appointment of Dr. Keith D. Herris as Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, effective immediately. He has served as Interim Dean since May 5, 2025, and brings nearly two decades of dedication and leadership to this new role.

Selected following a national search that attracted a competitive pool of candidates from across the country, Dr. Herris stood out for his experience, institutional knowledge, and student-centered vision.

A member of the Bethel University faculty since 2006, he has served as Chair of the Division of Music & Religion for 13 years. In addition to his administrative leadership, Dr. Herris is a Professor of Music, teaching courses in piano performance, music theory, and piano pedagogy. Widely respected for his academic excellence, artistic contributions, and commitment to students, he has become a cornerstone of the University's faculty.

"Dr. Herris exemplifies the mission and spirit of Bethel University," said Interim Provost Dr. Joe Hames. "His proven leadership, long-standing dedication to academic quality, and unwavering commitment to students make him the ideal person to lead the College of Arts & Sciences into the future."

President Perry Moulds emphasized the significance of his appointment at a pivotal time for the University. "The College of Arts & Sciences is central to



Dr. Keith D. Herris is the newly appointed Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

how we help students grow intellectually, explore their calling, and prepare for meaningful lives after graduation," Dr. Moulds said. "Dr. Herris brings a deep understanding of our mission and the experience to guide this important work."

Dr. Herris earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in piano performance from Michigan State University, where he studied with internationally renowned pianist Panayis Lyras. He also holds a Master of Music in piano performance and pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma, and a Bachelor of Arts in piano performance and pedagogy from Goshen College (IN). Dr. Herris notes that professors, Jane Magrath and Marvin Blickenstaff impacted his life and helped shape where he is today.

Outside the classroom, Dr. Herris is an accomplished pianist and chamber musician. He serves as the Principal Pianist for the Jackson Symphony and has performed at venues including Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall. His ac-

colades include top prizes in numerous piano competitions across Indiana, Michigan, and Oklahoma.

As a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM) through the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), Dr. Herris remains active in MTNA, Tennessee Music Teachers Association (TMTA), and Martin Area MTA. Through these associations, he has served as an adjudicator for auditions and competitions throughout west Tennessee and as a presenter for local music teachers.

"I am deeply honored to step into this role and continue serving the Bethel University community," said Dr. Herris. "This University has been my professional and personal home for nearly 20 years, and I am committed to supporting our students, faculty, and programs as we move forward."

In addition to his work at the University, Dr. Herris is a member of the McKenzie Rotary Club and serves as Music Director at the McKenzie First Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He lives in McKenzie with his wife, Melissa, and their three daughters.

About Bethel University

Bethel University, located in McKenzie, Tennessee, 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.



Above, Summer readers interact with Leo, a Baird's rat snake handled by Park Ranger Aaron Schapley. Below, Summer readers interact with Ren, an eastern box turtle handled by Park Ranger Jackson Daniels. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



County Library Summer Readers Interact With Animals During Park Ranger Program

BY BRAD SAM

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HUNTINGDON (June 3) — Dozens of summer readers packed the Carroll County Library Thursday for an informative and interactive program presented by rangers from Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park in Camden.

Ranger Jackson Daniels introduced the kids to Ren, an eastern box turtle. He discussed the turtle's habitat and behavior, including

how his shell works to provide protection from predators and other dangers. Kids had the opportunity to pet or hold Ren.

Ranger Aaron Schapley brought out Leo, a Baird's rat snake. He discussed Leo's natural habitat of the desert Southwest, his hunting and eating habits and how he sheds his skin. The kids were also allowed to pet or hold Leo, who was calm and well-behaved throughout.

Ranger Daniels present-

ed a collection of pelts and allowed kids to feel the fur of different animals such as raccoons, foxes, beavers and coyotes.

Carroll County Library's Summer Reading Program continues Tuesday, July 8 with a paint party at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, July 10 with a visit from Smokey Bear at 10:30 a.m. and concludes with the "Color Our World" Summer Reading Finale on Thursday, July 17 at 10:30 a.m.



Left, Taniyah Diggs in 2025, a junior at Bethel University. Right, Taniyah Diggs, an elementary student, with Mrs. Stacie Freeman.

Bethel's Community Engagement Program Encourages Taniyah Diggs To Pursue Her College Dream

MCKENZIE—Taniyah Diggs of McKenzie is grateful for Bethel University's loving and caring atmosphere. The junior at the local Christian university recently shared how Bethel's Community Engagement After-School Program inspired her to continue her education. She participated in the free tutoring program provided by Bethel and began as an elementary student. She now gives back to her community, serving as a tutor.

Bethel's former Community Engagement Program worked with students in and around the Housing Authority, where university students tutored children in the McKenzie Special School District. This program transformed the lives of many students through the support provided.

Garrett Burns, Chaplain at Bethel, who now leads the student volunteer programs in the community, said he directs student referrals for community service to existing programs in the area, including the Two Sisters and a Book headed by Renee Hobson, a certified Special Education teacher, plus other local agencies that need volunteers.

The Bethel University Community Engagement Scholarship Program was established with a single goal in mind: to serve the immediate community. So, in partnership with the Walnut Heights Housing Authority, two directors and a handful of scholars began hosting an after-school program.

Miss Diggs was among

those early students who received assistance from Bethel University students.

The current Bethel student said, "I remember my first encounter being all about the great snacks—haha! But it wasn't just about the snacks; it was about the community of people who were incredibly helpful when I needed assistance. The friendly environment made it easy to engage with everyone."

"Although the program was short, it significantly helped me with my homework. I was able to meet people there whom I also encountered at Bethel later on."

Miss Diggs continued, "I remember the program's founder, Mrs. Stacie Freeman, who always brightened the room with her smile and was consistently there for me. I also recall a Bethel student named Lauren, whom I met during my time in the program; she felt like a sister to me. Mr. Garrett Burns took leadership of the program during my last year, and I received a gift upon graduating from the tutoring program."

"McKenzie means so much to me because it was the place I grew up in and always knew. The small community was always welcoming; everyone either knew you or you knew them. McKenzie truly feels like home to me. Yes, it is a small town, but I wouldn't trade it for any other place. This is my home. I remember cheering, being a football manager, and running track in high school, and I can recall how the community took care of me. The parents of my

teammates always checked in on me and expressed their gratitude for looking after their children. You simply can't experience a sense of belonging like this in any other town but McKenzie.

"One of the reasons I chose Bethel is because it's close to home. If I ever need anything from home, I can just drive five minutes or walk ten minutes. Additionally, I didn't have a car at the time to attend a school farther away. Looking back, I'm actually really glad I chose Bethel; if I hadn't, I wouldn't be the God-fearing woman I am today. I wouldn't have met my long-term friends, whom I now consider sisters, and I wouldn't have had the experiences that brought me to where I am today. Bethel has shaped my faith and introduced me to those who now walk in faith with me."

"Don't get me wrong; it's not an easy journey, but I can confidently say it has been the most rewarding path I have ever chosen for myself."

I want to emphasize that while Bethel may be a small campus located in a town some might consider "boring," it is also a place that helps you develop your walk with Christ, cultivate long-term friendships, and feel genuinely welcomed.

Burns is the Chaplain at Bethel University and pastor of Fulton Cumberland Presbyterian Church and a chaplain in the United States Navy.

Freeman is a professor of Sociology at Bethel. She is also the director of Bethel University's Global Studies.



Members of the MHS Class of 1979 enjoyed the 2024 MHSAA Decades Reunion tailgate party. Photo courtesy MHSAA

McKenzie High Decades Reunion Taking Shape

COURTESY BRAD CAMP

Planning continues for the McKenzie High School Alumni Association (MHSAA) Decades Reunion that is less than three months away. It will take place on Friday-Saturday, September 19-20, 2025 in conjunction with the MHS football homecoming.

All alumni as well as past faculty and staff of McKenzie High School are invited to attend the events of the weekend, including a golf scramble, memorabilia exhibit, a tailgate party prior to the Homecoming football game against Camden at Rebel Stadium and the annual MHS Homecoming parade, as well as other gatherings and events that are being planned.

Seven milestone class reunions are being planned by respective class members for Saturday of the reunion weekend. The MHSAA will help spread the word for any class reunions.

The Class of 1965 will participate in the MHSAA Decades Reunion and will host their 60th class reunion at Mallard's Restaurant in Huntingdon on Saturday, September 20 at 1 p.m. For more information, call Emily Archer at 731-352-5816 or 731-697-1197.

The 55th reunion of the Class of 1970 is Saturday at 4:30 p.m. at R&R Farms Event Venue, 700 Hill Rd., McKenzie, with a meal catered by Say Cheese. The cost is \$20 per per-

son. To RSVP, text or call Joyce Hayes at 731-697-0681 or Charlotte Verner at 731-414-2705.

Members of the Class of 1975 are invited to participate in the Decades Reunion and will gather on Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for lunch and socializing at First Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Class members can obtain more information by emailing mckenzie-high75@gmail.com.

The Class of 1980 celebrates 45 years at the football game and then on Saturday at Liberty Church Event Venue from 5:30-8 p.m. with a meal and social time. The food and venue costs have been covered by an anonymous donation. Donations will be accepted for the class fund. Please send two or three current photos of yourself and your family to be included in reunion activities. RSVP to Karen Toombs Fowler at 731-336-5848 or Pam Robertson Ridley at 731-415-7204 by August 20.

A 40-year reunion for the Class of 1985 is Saturday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Farmers Market across from city hall. Food will be provided. Class members are also encouraged to meet at the home of Sandi Stafford Roditis (846 Stonewall St.) to view the Homecoming parade on Friday at 12:30 p.m. For more information on Class of

1985 plans, contact Roditis at 731-415-2927.

For any alumni who wish to join the MHSAA or renew their memberships, dues are \$10/annual or \$100/lifetime. Payment may be made via Venmo to MHSAA Treasurer Lauren Hickman (Class of 2007) @labhickman, or you may pay by check, mailed to:

MHSAA
114 W. Bell Avenue
McKenzie, TN 38201

Please include your name, year of MHS graduation and best contact information with payment. Alumni may also join or renew memberships during the tailgate event at the homecoming game.

The MHSAA was established in 2023 and has since made financial contributions in support of programs at McKenzie elementary, middle and high schools to help students in need. Annual MHSAA Alumni Scholarships were first awarded in 2024 to help deserving graduates as they further their education.

Everyone is encouraged to mark their calendars, follow the MHS alumni association Facebook page and the McKenzie Banner for updates and help spread the word with their classmates and fellow graduates.

The McKenzie High School Alumni Association hopes to see everyone on the weekend of September 19-20!