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## BACK TO SCHOOL TAX HOLIDAY

See the story on Page 6.

**Tuesday, July 22, 2025**

**McKENZIE, TENNESSEE**

**Vol. 155 / No. 29 / 75¢**

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QUOTE

"Life consists not in holding good cards but in playing those you hold well."  
— Josh Billings

Atwood Man Injured in Car, Train Accident

ATWOOD (July 21) — An Atwood man was seriously injured on Monday morning, around 9:30 a.m., when he drove his automobile into the path of a CSX maintenance vehicle that was traveling along the railroad tracks, just behind the old Atwood School

Steven King was driving a Mercury vehicle and was attempting to cross the railroad track when his vehicle was struck on the driver's side and pushed approximately 60 feet down the track.

First responders from Atwood and McLemoresville were first on the scene to extricate the trapped driver. Other first responders from



First responders extricated Steven King from his vehicle after it was struck by a CSX maintenance vehicle. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

See TRAIN on Page 3

McKENZIE MIDDLE



The McKenzie Middle School gymnasium has an entirely new playing surface. The previous floor was the original floor installed in 1954. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

School Gym Receives Major Upgrade of Seating, Flooring

BY JOEL WASHBURN  
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (July 21) — Within a period of under one week, the entire playing surface of the McKenzie Middle School gymnasium was removed, its base floor repaired, all

new playing surface was installed, sanded and stained, and new decals were added.

The McKenzie Board of Education voted in November 2024 to spend \$95,900 to replace the entire playing surface of the McKenzie Middle School Gymnasium to correct 11 weak (dead) spots in the 71-year-old floor.. Another \$4,000 was approved to install volleyball lines and sleeves for the volleyball program that begins when school

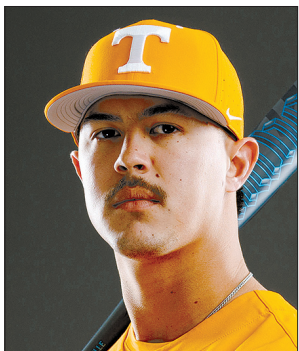
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Rural Home Destroyed by Fire

McKENZIE (July 18) — A rural home was destroyed on Clear Lake Road, McKenzie on Friday, July 18.

Firefighters from departments throughout Carroll County and McKenzie responded on Thursday night and left the scene. They returned on Friday to a burning structure that was mostly destroyed. Firefighters shuttled water from a water hydrant along Old Paris Highway in McKenzie.

Henry Fire Department assisted at the scene.



Hunter Ensley

Ensley Signs To Kansas City Royals As Free Agent

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS  
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

After spending five years on the Tennessee Volunteers baseball roster, Huntingdon native Hunter Ensley has found a new home field — in Kansas City. Though he rose to become a fan favorite following the 2024 College World Series, the Volunteer went undrafted

See ENSLEY on Page 3

HUNTINGDON School Board Approves New Budget, Salary Increases

BY BRAD SAM  
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (July 16) — The Huntingdon school board approved during Wednesday's regular meeting the 2025-26 operating budget, which includes district-wide salary increases.

Prior to the meeting, board members and Director of Schools Dr. Jonathan Kee

See BUDGET on Page 3

Postal Rates Increased On July 13

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. Postal Service implemented mailing services price changes on July 13. The new rates include a 5-cent increase in the price of a First-Class Mail Forever stamp from 73 cents to 78 cents.

The adjustments, approved by the governors of the Postal Service, increase mailing services product prices by approximately 7.4

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# MMS Principal Royle Retires, Passes Torch to Kee

**BY BRAD SAM**  
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (July 15) — McKenzie Middle School announced the retirement of Principal Dorethea Royle Tuesday. The same day, Assistant Principal Josh Kee was named the new principal.

The two lifelong educators spoke to The Banner about the transition.

Royle served as principal for 12 years in the building where she attended and graduated high school (1977).

She earned degrees at Lane College, Troy State and Cambridge College, the latter an Education Specialist degree. She also served for three years as an administration specialist in the U.S. Army, continuing a history of military service in her family.

Royle is admittedly a “no-nonsense kind of person,” though she says she loves to have fun. “That’s one of the things that has taken a while for people to get to know.”

She attributes her notoriously (and, she says, sometimes misleading) serious demeanor to growing up in a strict family environment. “My mom was incredibly strict. My mom and dad were tough on us, so you did what you were supposed to do and, if you didn’t, you suffered the consequences.”

She said, “Honestly, though, I love what I do. I love kids. I want students to be able to do the right thing, make good choices. I love to support them. I’ll do whatever I can for them. I guess maybe it’s called tough love,

because you can mess up and I’m going to love you, but you’re going to have consequences.

“My focus has always been on what’s best for our students, and every decision I’ve made, I’ve tried to base upon what’s best for our students and then what’s best for our teachers. I have a passion for middle schoolers, for this age group, for education, and working with teachers.

“Treating other people the way that you want to be treated and listening to them, really listening. Not judging, just listening to them. And asking God to guide me so I know how to guide them. My prayer every single day is ‘God show me how to be the kind of leader that you want me to be that will bring glory and honor to you, whatever that looks like.’

“I’ve made mistakes. I’ve done my best, but I’ve made mistakes. I try to own up to my mistakes, and I try to get our students to own up to theirs and to know that regardless, you’re going to keep on going and you’re going to be loved anyway.

“I would like to think that my teachers know that I put kids first all the time, but I support my teachers too, because they need support. I listen to them, because they go through good times and hard times. I want to be there for them.

“I just have a passion for what I do and this school has been my passion. I want to see this school thrive, go beyond anything that anybody could possibly have imagined. I want to see the



**Retiring McKenzie Middle School Principal Dorethea Royle (left) and Assistant Principal Josh Kee, who was named the next principal. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner**

kids do some amazing things. I want the kids to know I believe in them. I believe in our kids. I see the good in them. On their worst days or on my worst days, I see the good in every single student that I’ve ever worked with.”

Royle had high praise for her successor and optimism for the school’s future.

“Josh was a seventh grade science teacher when I first came. I’ve watched him throughout these years and I’ve always known that he was going to be a great leader. When he went over to the elementary school to be an assistant principal there, I was proud of him. He was trained very well under Tonya [Brown, MES principal]. And for him to be able to come back here to this school and for me to be able to work these last two years with him, it’s been the best. I’ve had the best two years of the 12 that

I’ve been here. He has a heart for students; he has a heart for teachers.

“He took over for me when I had to go out on medical leave for four months. I didn’t have to worry about a thing. I knew it was going to be taken care of, because he’s disciplined. He’s been at the elementary, so he understands where they’re coming from and I think that’s important. You have to go where students are coming from in order to meet them where they are, and he’s been able to do that as well. I know that the school is going to do some amazing things because he’s going to lead it. So, I’m very very excited about that.

“He supports the staff too, tremendously, so I think that the staff is pretty excited too.”

Kee has similarly glowing remarks about his predecessor.

“She’s leaving an outstand-

ing legacy. There are many people whose lives she’s touched, mine in particular. She always pushed me to be a leader. One of the reasons I wanted to get into administration was her encouragement, which she’s shown me a lot through the years. It’s been a joy to work with her. She’s not only my boss, she’s my friend.”

Kee is a 1995 MHS graduate, also attending and graduating in the very building he now leads.

He earned his bachelor’s and Masters degrees at Bethel College in 1999 and 2000, respectively, and earned his Instructional Leadership License at Bethel University in 2016.

He began his career as a seventh grade science teacher and coach in 2000, which he continued until 2019, when he served as the MES assistant principal until 2023. He then returned to MMS for the same role.

Much like Royle, Kee keeps his focus on the kids, and then the staff. “Students first, what’s best for them, what’s best for my faculty and staff. I want to be someone who is looked at as a servant leader, not as a boss. We’re working together to accomplish the goal. From me all the way down to our students, what can we do to make McKenzie Middle School the best that it can be?”

“I hope to build on what Ms. Royle has started and that I’m able to partially fill her shoes, because there’s no way with what she’s accomplished to fill her shoes. I’m not her, my style will be

different than hers, but the things we’ve got going here that she’s led are good things, and I want to continue building upon those.

“The four years that I was at the elementary school were very important in my overall growth as an administrator. It gives you a better perspective of what they do there, building them up to come here. Those teachers work very hard and do a great job. Working with Mrs. Tonya was very beneficial for me as well. It helped grow my leadership abilities. It gave me a different perspective, helped me see things differently.”

“The first year, I don’t know that you make a bunch of changes,” Kee said. He quoted someone from a recent conference, “‘Change is a cruise ship, not a speed boat.’ So, change is going to take place gradually.

“This year, I just want to see us be able to tell our story. I want people to understand what we do here, that we are a great school. That our teachers are the best teachers, that our students are the best students. That we all care for each other, and we care for our community and we want our community to be a part of what we’re doing.

“If I can get that to come together more, if we can keep getting closer and closer to one another to tell our story. Then, if you start wanting to change some things, now everybody’s on board because we know it’s best for everybody.”

Kee summed it up with the old adage, “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

## Huntingdon Receives \$292,500 Parks Grant

NASHVILLE (July 14) — The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation’s Office of Outdoor Recreation announced Monday \$22,059,191 in grants from the Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) program, the Tennessee Recreation Initiative Program (TRIP), and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for 31 communities across the state.

The Town of Huntingdon received \$292,500 from the LPRF program for ball field and parking lot improvements at Kelley Sports Complex, including lighting for two existing fields, grading and development for two new fields and an additional parking area.

The LPRF program provides state funding to match

local government investments for projects and the purchase of land for parks, natural areas, greenways, and recreational facilities. All grant projects must be on publicly owned land.

The TRIP is a state-funded program that provides grant money to cities and counties who lack professional park and recreational directors and do not provide a comprehensive recreation delivery system in their community to assist with the establishment of the first Parks and Recreation Department.

The RTP program provides federal funding to match local government investments for land acquisition for trails, non-routine trail maintenance, trail construction, trail rehabilitation and trail head support facilities.

“Local parks are an important aspect of outdoor recreation, and we are glad these grants will help communities across the state,” said Greer Tidwell, deputy commissioner of Conservation for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. “This makes parks affordable for local governments, and we look forward to the results of this assistance.”

“We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with our local communities to help enhance enjoyment of the great outdoors,” said Brian Clifford, director of the Office of Outdoor Recreation. “These projects will directly improve health and strengthen economies, helping Tennessee thrive through parks and outdoor recreation.”

### WEST CARROLL

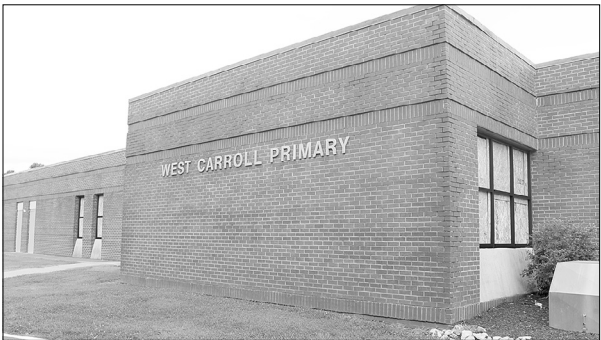
## Primary Upgrades on Target for Start of School

**BY BRAD SAM**  
brad@mckenziebanner.com

McLEMORESVILLE (July 18) — Renovations at West Carroll Primary School are on target for completion before the first day of school on Tuesday, August 5, according to Director of Schools Preston Caldwell.

Caldwell told The Banner Friday that, while there may be some finishing touches to complete, “there shouldn’t be any disruption to in-service [or to the start of school].”

Projects underway at the school include replace-



**The windows at West Carroll Primary School are currently boarded up as renovations continue. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner**

ment of all windows and frames, replacement of resurfacing of all interior doors, new locking sys-

tems throughout the building, new exterior doors and a new vestibule at the main entrance.

## Roadside Signage Marks Sgt. Lee Russell Airport

MCKENZIE — New signage along State Route 22, McKenzie marks the location of the newly renamed Sgt. Lee Russell/Carroll County Airport

In April 2025, the Carroll County Commission unanimously approved the renaming of the county airport, located at Airport Lane, McKenzie.

The county airport is now the Sgt. Lee Russell Carroll County Airport. With a unanimous vote, the Carroll County Commission approved Resolution 4-11-25, naming the airport in honor of the late Tennessee State Trooper. Sgt. Russell tragically died in a helicopter crash while on duty in August 2022.

Sgt. Russell served Ten-



nessee for nearly 12 years, beginning as a reserve deputy for the Henry County Sheriff’s Office in 2007 while attending UT Martin. He became a full-time Henry County Sheriff’s Deputy in 2008 and, a year later, began his aviation career as a part-time pilot while serving on the 24th Judicial Drug Task

Force. He transitioned to the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) in 2010 and was selected as a THP pilot in May 2012. He was transferred to the Carroll County Airport so there would be an available helicopter in northwest Tennessee. He was promoted to sergeant on November 12, 2017.

## West Carroll Continues Free/Reduced Meals

The West Carroll Special School District announced its plans to continue serving free and reduced-price meals to children during the 2025-26 school year. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows children to participate in the school meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit a meal application.

CEP is a key provision of

the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, which allows schools and school districts in low-income areas to eliminate school meal applications and serve breakfast and lunch at no charge to all enrolled students. By offering all students a nutritious breakfast and lunch at no cost, CEP helps ensure more students come to class well-nourished and ready to learn.

West Carroll Special School District offers healthy meals every school day, following the guidelines set by the USDA.

Students are automatically enrolled in the free meal program; no further action is required. Parents or guardians who need further information may contact Mandy Drewry, Child Nutrition Program Supervisor, at 731-662-4200.

### HIGHWAY 79 CONSTRUCTION

## Clay Farm Road Closure Begins July 23

CARROLL COUNTY (July 16) — A section of Clay Farm Road between Trezevant, McLemoresville and Atwood will close for an extended period of time beginning Wednesday, July 23 as construction contin-

ues on the new U.S. Highway 79 alignment.

Clay Farm Road will be closed between Newsome Road and Highway 70. The detour for the closed section will be Newsome Road, which also connects

directly to State Route 70.

Larger vehicles are encouraged to utilize Highway 79 or State Route 105.

During the closure, Vaughn Contractors, Inc. will conduct grading, drainage and utility work in the area.

## County Eligible for FEMA Public Assistance

NASHVILLE (July 14) — Local governments and certain nonprofit organizations in Carroll, Houston and Wayne counties are now eligible for FEMA Public Assistance grants for debris removal, emergency protective measures and permanent work to repair public facilities that were damaged by the April 2-24 severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes and flooding.

These counties join Cheatham, Davidson, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Grundy, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henry, Hickman, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Perry, Stewart and Tipton counties which were all previously approved for FEMA Public Assistance.

FEMA’s Public Assistance program provides reimbursement to local and state government agencies

for the costs of emergency response, debris removal and restoration of disaster-damaged public facilities and infrastructure.

Houses of worship and other nonprofit organizations may also be eligible for FEMA Public Assistance.

For the latest information about Tennessee’s recovery, visit tn.gov/tema or fema.gov/disaster/4878.

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Workers with CQT Flooring remove the old flooring on Wednesday, July 16. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

# Gym

...From Front Page

begins in August. CQT Flooring-Wil-lie Trevathan of Martin was the contractor on the project.

The gymnasium was once the home court of McKenzie Junior High, McKenzie High School and Bethel University - until the year 1970, when Baker Fieldhouse on the campus of then Bethel College was first opened.

Many McKenzie alumni graduated in the gymnasi-um, and many others also played basketball there.

Bobby Young and Brad Camp of the McKenzie High School Alumni As-sociation were on hand Wednesday to salvage floor boards as they were removed. The organiza-tion will use the boards in some capacity yet to be determined.

Additionally, new wooden bleachers were installed in the MMS Gym-nasium during the sum-mer. The new bleachers add approximately 150 seats, including six new handicap-accessible spots, which brings the total ca-pacity to approximately 350. The new seating will become the home side, and team benches and the scoring table will move to the opposite side.

Volleyball will begin as a fall sport at MHS, com-peting in TSSAA Division I, Class A, Region 6, Dis-trict 12, alongside Clarks-



Above, McKenzie High School Alumni Association member Bobby Young salvages boards from the old gym floor. Below Left, Dr. Justin Barden, director of schools, helps remove old gym flooring. Below Right, McKenzie High School Alumni Association member Brad Camp salvages boards from the old gym floor. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



burg, Decatur Co. River-side, Huntingdon, Jackson Central-Merry, Madison Academic Magnet, and West Carroll. Jordan Jow-ers, an MHS teacher, was named head coach. Prac-tice officially begins July 28. MMS volleyball will be a spring sport with local match scheduling. Equip-ment has been purchased through district funds, with additional sponsorships and fundraising planned.

Fixtures for the volley-ball nets will be installed

before school resumes.

Other renovations and additions at the school dis-trict include: new exterior doors at MMS, a new roof at McKenzie High School, and a new outdoor class-room equipped with re-strooms at MHS. The re-strooms will be available to serve teams and vis-itors during soccer match-es at MHS. Additionally, drainage problems were corrected on the campus at McKenzie Elementary School.

# Ensley

...From Front Page

in the 20-round MLB Draft. On Wednesday, July 16, the Tennessee Baseball Insta-gram account announced Ensley's decision to sign an undrafted free agent deal with the Kansas City Royals in Missouri.

Ensley, the son of Marty and Alice Ensley, was Ten-nessee's underdog going into the 2024 baseball sea-son and became a staple of the 2025 team. The cen-ter fielder joined the team in the 2020-21 season but largely flew under the radar for his first three seasons.

"I guess you could say I thought it was gonna be a little bit easier than, ob-viously, it is," Ensley said in an interview with the Banner in 2023. "Coming from Huntingdon, I had big expectations. I wanted to play immediately when I got there, but that wasn't the case, unfortunately."

During those first few years on the team, Ensley assumed different respon-sibilities. "I needed to be a great teammate," he said. "That's what I could do to help this team be better, because I wasn't playing on the field."

In 2024, Tennessee's head coach Tony Vitello gave Ensley a chance to prove himself in the start-ing lineup. That season, Ensley became the face of Tennessee's perseverance

as his efforts led the Vols to earn their first national championship in program history.

In the quarterfinal game against North Carolina, Ensley made a catch that would make headlines and cement his name in Tennessee baseball histo-ry. The center-fielder bar-elled into the outfield wall to catch a deep fly ball, effectively sending the bat-ter back to the dugout and smudging his eye black on the wall of Charles Schwab Field in Omaha. The mo-ment went viral in sports communities, with the University of Tennessee Vol Shop selling t-shirts with his name and image that said, "I Gave My All for Tennessee Today!" and Alumni Hall selling t-shirts and hats with the phrase "I will run thru a wall for Tennessee today!" printed on them.

Ensley's iconic efforts for the national title did not end there. Not only did he run into a wall for Tennessee, he also made the winning slide to home plate in the championship game against Texas A&M.

The Knoxville commu-nity celebrated Ensley and the Volunteers with a pa-rade through their down-town streets. His photo graces Knoxville billboards and endorses Calhoun's, a Knoxville BBQ restaurant, and Weigel's, a regional gas station and convenience store. University of Ten-nessee students made a

documentary highlight-ing the baseball star, titled "HUNTER."

More than that, Ensley's hometown community celebrated "Hunter Ensley Day" with a parade and ceremony on Hunting-don's Court Square in July 2024. Huntingdon's may-or, director of schools and high school football and baseball coaches spoke highly of Ensley, who mod-estly thanked them for the celebration.

Ensley returned as a starter for his redshirt se-nior season in 2025, during which he hit .336 with ten home runs, 17 doubles and 62 RBIs. He remained a fan favorite and built a reputation for confidently running into outfield walls when needed.

The Tennessee Vols end-ed their 2025 season, Ens-ley's final season of eligibil-ity, after losing to Arkansas in the Fayetteville Super Regional.

Ensley's decision to join the Kansas City Roy-als followed the two-day, twenty-round MLB Draft during which nine of his teammates were drafted.

Because he is out of el-igible years at Tennessee and was unselected in the draft, Ensley became avail-able to sign with a profes-sional team as a free agent. The Royals actively pur-sued Ensley, and the two parties agreed to a deal.

Ensley joins former Vols AJ Causey and Drew Beam in the Royals system.



The damaged Mercury after it was struck by the CSX maintenance vehicle and after first responders removed portions of the vehicle to free him from it. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

# Train

...From Front Page

the Carroll County Rescue Squad, Carroll County Sher-

iff's Department, Tennessee Highway Patrol, Baptist EMS and Hospital Wing AirEvac responded to the scene.

The Jaws of Life was used to extricate the patient, who was then moved to an

awaiting ambulance and air ambulance.

Details of the accident were not available at press-time. The Tennessee High-way Patrol will file the offi-cial accident report.

# Postal

...From Front Page

percent. The price changes include:

Letters (1 ounce) - 73 cents to 78 cents

Letters (metered 1 ounce) - 69 cents to 74 cents

Domestic postcards - 56 cents to 62 cents

International postcards - \$1.65 to \$1.70

International letter (1 ounce) - \$1.65 to \$1.70

The additional-ounce price for single-piece letters increased from 28 cents to 29 cents. The Postal Service also implemented price ad-

justments for the Special Services products. Notably, the Postal Service will apply a 12 percent price reduction to postal insurance when mailing an item.

As changes in the mailing and shipping marketplace continue, these price adjust-ments are needed to achieve the financial stability sought by the organization's Deliv-ering for America 10-year plan. USPS prices remain among the most affordable in the world.

Following a directive from the PRC, the Postal Service is filing two sets of prices for Marketing Mail and Package Services products.

The complete Postal Ser-vice price filing, with pric-

es for all products, can be found on the commission's website under the Daily Listings section. The Mail-ing Services filing is Docket No. R2025-1. The price ta-bles are also available on the Postal Service's Postal Explorer website at pe.usps.com/PriceChange/Index.

## Postal Products

Customers may purchase stamps and other phila-telic products through the Postal Store at usps.com/shopstamps, by calling 844-737-7826, by mail through USA Philatelic or at Post Of-fice locations nationwide. For officially licensed stamp products, shop the USPS Of-ficially Licensed Collection on Amazon.



From left, Director of Schools Dr. Jonathan Kee, student school board representatives Madison Dill and Paige Costello and Board of Education Chairman Dr. Lee Carter. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

# Budget

...From Front Page

held a workshop to discuss the proposed budget.

The total balanced budget, approved unanimously, is \$15,263,145, an increase of \$677,985 from the previous year.

Increases to salaries in-clude a \$3,000 across-the-board increase in the certified staff salary schedule and a five percent across-the-board raise in the non-certified staff schedule. (The raises for certified staff average 5.1 percent.)

To further boost staff ben-efits, an additional personal day is granted to all certified and non-certified staff with over 20 years of experience, at which point the salary sched-ule maxes out.

The budget is based on the new certified tax rate of \$0.7022, which was lowered from \$1.1211 to keep revenue steady following the county's updated real estate appraisal.

Included in the budget is free student admission to all regular season home athlet-ic events and free student breakfast and lunch.

The art teacher position at Huntingdon Primary School was upgraded from a non-certified to a certified po-sition. Dr. Kee said he hopes to retain the teacher, Alex Gooch, who has earned cer-tification since being hired.

The board approved Al-exander Thompson Arnold to conduct the annual audit of the district. The fees for the audit total \$39,250, an

increase of \$12,500. Kee re-com-mended the firm for this year, but intends to compare other options going forward.

Additional paving at Huntingdon High School was approved following the com-pletion of the back parking lot. The student parking lot on the north side of the build-ing and the area surrounding the new baseball press box will be paved by Martin Pav-ing for \$84,221.50.

Several board policies were updated to reflect new state laws and policies:

-Materials may not be ex-cluded from school libraries solely on the grounds that they are religious.

-Limits must be in place for district-provided internet, including restricting access to social media platforms unless expressly authorized by a teacher for educational purposes.

-Report cards for K-8 stu-dents must include the stu-dent's score on the most-re-cently administered univer-sal reading screener, as well as the results of a dyslexia screener when applicable.

-Employees retiring must complete sixty days of sep-aration of service prior to reemployment, and there can be no prior agreement in place.

-Employees choosing to take approved Family and Medical Leave nonconsec-utively must do so in incre-ments of no less than one week.

-The number of days a substitute teacher may teach without a license was in-creased from 20 to 30.

-Searches of students must be carried out by a school

resource officer, security offi-cer or administrator who has completed training required by the state and developed by the Tennessee Department of Education. (Kee noted that districts are still awaiting the development of the training.)

-Students may possess wireless communication devices, but they must be turned off and may only be used in an emergency or if authorized by a teacher. Other exceptions include students with specific dis-abilities, health conditions or Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

-Elementary students must now receive 40 min-utes of unstructured phys-ical activity per full school day. This is separate from physical education classes. (For Huntingdon, this affects only primary school students, Pre-K through third grade.)

-If a student transfers from one school to another, the former district must provide a copy of the student's records to the new school within five business days.

Board members approved an increase in the Ruth Rigs-by Scholarship of Excellence (established in 1988 and awarded to one senior each year) from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

The board meeting was the first official meeting as student representatives for seniors Madison Dill and Paige Costello, who actively participated in discussions during both the budget work-shop and meeting.

The meeting adjourned after 40 minutes.

The board meets next on Wednesday, August 20 at 5 p.m.



## Mississippi Mud Cake

1 cup oil  
1 3/4 cup sugar

1/3 cup cocoa  
1 1/2 cup flour  
4 eggs, well beaten  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 cup nuts, chopped  
Preheat oven to 325 degrees, bake cake 30-40 minutes. Mix all ingredi-ents well. Bake in 9x13x2 inch pan. Spread 1 cup marshmallow cream on

top of cake.

## Icing:

1 box powdered sugar  
1 1/2 stick oleo  
1/4 cup pet milk  
1/3 cup chopped  
1 t vanilla  
Mix together and spread on top of marshmallow cream.

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

# Things Are Not Always As They Appear

I don't know if you grew up close to a rival town. But if you did, I have a story for you today.

I hated Huntingdon, Tennessee, with, as Aunt May White used to say, "a deep, abiding, anger only fit for Union soldiers." I didn't like nobody over there. It was only eleven miles. But I wished everyday it was ten hundred thousand. I remember thinking in one of my lucid moments, "Why can't we trade the whole town for Izmir, Turkey."

Just let them swap places! The Turks can have E. W. James Grocery, Pug Vickers Motor Company, the Oasis Club, and the skating rink. We'll take...uh...er...uh... whatever they have in Izmir. My dislike started with the County Fair. When I was very young, it was the only reason to go to Huntingdon. I'd eat two hot dogs, some cotton candy, a couple of caramel popcorn balls, and the rest of David Mark's funnel cake, and end up throwing up over behind the two-headed calf's tent.

It had to be the Huntingdon people. The same thing happened every year! Of course, in all honesty, some of the sickness could have been attributed to the loud music, the swirling bright lights....and back-to-back rides on the Tilt-A-Whirl and one extended trip on the Scrambler.

I 'bout disowned Daddy because he bought cars from Pug Vickers; he liked the manager, Bill Moody. Miss Lou Owens wanted to interview me once for "their" newspaper, I politely, but firmly, declined. Dr. Jerry Atkins made me mad by opening his practice in Huntingdon.

I wouldn't go see a movie at the Court Theatre if Elvis and Carl Mann were signing autographs in the lobby.

As the years passed my dislike moved from the car-

nival to Coach Paul Ward. "And therein," as Aunt May White would say, "is the rub." The Huntingdon High Mustangs beat us in football something like nine out of ten years in a stretch from the mid 1950's to after I graduated. They out coached, outplayed, outran and overpowered us.... and, to add insult to injury, it seemed "mother-luck-found-their-nesting-hole" (Aunt May again) every time we suited up against each other.

The only win we managed was 1963; Wesley Beal threw the winning pass to Scotty McCullar late in the game. 'Course, we were not alone in losing to Huntingdon. That win was one of only seven losses they had in that ten, or eleven, year stretch.

Coach Ward, for good reason, wasn't on my favorite list. But I admired and respected him from afar. He could flat out coach football. They named the stadium after him for goodness sakes!

Listen, they had a running back slightly ahead of my playing time, Bobby Hayes, who I don't think could be tackled. Roy Dill was tough. Tim Priest was a year or two behind me, but he was as good as I ever saw. Mud Brown hit me so hard one night he knocked me into the middle of the next week.

1963 was also a watershed year for my relationship with the town. Larry Ridinger came to me at Frank's Dairy Bar, "Kes, take me to Huntingdon, there's a girl I want to see." This was a week and a half after I'd gotten my driver's license. I'd never taken a road trip.

And I didn't even know they had girls in Huntingdon. The party was at Brenda Anderson's house on Highway 22, south of town. Billie Jean Barham

was there. She was nice and attractive, and she talked to me. And handed me her telephone number before I left.

Remember my earlier statement about the Court Theatre. Well, a week later I went to the place I'd sworn never to enter. The movie on that first date was "Cleopatra." And if Elvis and Carl Mann were in the lobby, I didn't notice them.

I got to making that eleven-mile drive so often Betty Ann Portis said they had voted me an honorary Mustang.

In that same summer Huntingdon High standout Bobby Hayes joined our town baseball team. He was big, strong, and could, in the vernacular of the day, "throw a ripe strawberry through a battleship." He was a great pitcher. And even better person. He was quiet, but so nice and friendly. It was a joy to be around him. I did not try to tackle him one time the entire summer....

A few years later Dale Kelley invited me to play with a baseball team IN HUNTINGDON! Joel Collins, Jimmy Redden, Glendon Rich, Gene Wilson, James and Early Neely rolled out the red carpet for me. It's hard to hate folks that treat you like family. You talk about a special group!

Billie Jean and I went to the County Fair three years in a row. And I did not get sick one time. It was a miracle! And I believe it showed how much the people in Huntingdon had changed since I was a little boy. Of course, I wore sunglasses and ear plugs each time we went, and I didn't eat a thing or get on one single ride....

Respectfully,  
Kes

# Bethel/Eastside FCE

Eight members of the Bethel/Eastside FCE gathered at the home of Mary and Penny Mays on July 10. The meeting was called to order by our president, Gail Eubanks. For the devotion, she read the Club Pledge from the front of our book. Roll call was answered with the prompt: "Take an item from your purse and share its significance to you." The treasury report was presented and approved, with no changes to the minutes, which were accepted as read.

In old business: Cakes for last month's visit to Huntingdon Health and Rehab (the nursing home) were made by Judy Roberts and Jean

Wininger. This month, cakes will be prepared by Danita Laman and Gail Eubanks. It was voted to provide cakes each month instead of quarterly as we had previously done.

In new business:  
- Important dates to remember:  
- Cluster meeting on July 25th in Erin, Tennessee.  
- Carroll County Fair starts on August 3rd.  
- Mini Conference is on August 5th in Jackson.

Ms. Sue Smith has moved to Lakeside Retirement Home and will be joining the Macedonia FCE Club. We will miss her but look forward to seeing her at the

rallies. The educational program was presented by our hostess, Danita Laman. She focused on "Why We Say Some of the Phrases We Say," discussing various old wives' tales, adages, and idioms. Some examples included "Take what he says with a grain of salt," "He's dead as a doornail," and "By and large." It was quite interesting. The meeting concluded with the reading of a household hint: Your lint filter could be clogged without you realizing it. Run it under a stream of water; if the water doesn't pass through, wash it with soap and water. They often get clogged from the chemicals in dryer sheets. The hostess for our next meeting on August 14 will be Judy Roberts.

# Tate Recognized During Men's Focus Month

Markee Tate, a Huntingdon High School and Middle Tennessee State University alum, received a spotlight from the Cascade Business Merchant Association (CascadeBMA) for Men's Focus Month for his leadership, dedication and business achievements. CascadeBMA promotes the growth and development of businesses in the Cascade Road community in Atlanta.

Tate, son of Huntingdon's Michael Tate, is chair of the

Governing Board for both the Atlanta Black Chambers, Inc. and chair/president for Advancing Black Businesses, Inc.

Tate advocates for the establishment and expansion of competitive, profitable and sustainable black-owned enterprises. His strategic vision drives the development of educational programs, creation of business opportunities and formulation of public policy initiatives — all aimed at

fostering growth for black businesses and enhancing value for black customers.

Additionally, Tate served as the president and CEO of the Atlanta Black Chambers from 2016-22.

Tate is principal and managing partner at Tilcam Services Group LLC, a seasoned tax preparation, accounting and insurance product company with offices in Georgia and Tennessee.

# THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

# You Might be Right, but It Doesn't Matter

My mother's voice came to me in a dream. "David, wake up."

I lay still, dormant in my sleep state.

Again she said, "David, wake up."

This time her voice stirred me, and my brain made a slow ascent to consciousness. I remembered where I was and realized something must be wrong.

Only a month ago, mother had returned from working and living in Ghana, West Africa. A swollen spleen had sent her back here. Tests at Vanderbilt Hospital revealed the culprit — non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.

Thus began the march of chemotherapy through her bloodstream; that delicate balance of poisoning the body enough to kill the disease but stopping short of killing the patient.

At that moment, we were in the worst stages of chemo. Mama was deathly sick. Pain and nausea medications did the best they could to alleviate her suffering.

My sister, one of my brothers, and I were taking turns holding vigil at her side, feeling powerless to make a difference, but ready to hold her hand.

Mama calls my name again.

I rouse myself from the chair I had been sleeping in. In the dim light of the room, I look at my watch. 2:00 a.m.

"What's wrong mama?" "I can't sleep," was her weak response.

Standing, I moved toward her bed. Checking the bag on the I.V. pole, I saw it still had fluid in it, and tracing

the clear, plastic line to her arm, I saw its steady drip still flowing.

"Why can't you sleep?" Raising her head, she said, "These bugs in my bed are driving me crazy."

I rubbed my eyes (a useless gesture that would do nothing to improve my hearing).

"Say that again? What are you talking about mama?"

With great effort she pushed herself to a sitting position, legs over the side of the bed. Pulling back the covers, she revealed the bottom sheet.

Sweeping her hand above the sheet she told me, "See? Look at them. They're everywhere."

Switching on the light over mother's bed, I saw the sheets were rumpled, but clearly bug-free.

Looking around the room I spy the small trash can. Picking it up, I said, "Then let's get rid of them."

I made the motions of picking something off her bed sheet and placing it in the trash can. As I continue this imaginary game, mother joined me, her frail hands picking at the sheets and dropping the "bugs" into the can.

After a few minutes, she stopped and seemed to relax.

I, too, stopped, and asked, "Is that better?"

"Yes, yes. Thank you so much."

And with that mama laid back on her pillow.

Pulling up the sheet and blanket, I tucked her in, and in moments she was sound asleep.

I've told that story of my time with mother scores of times to illustrate this important principle: Sometimes you have to accept another person's point of view, even if you don't agree with it.

Were there any bugs in my mother's bed? Of course not. They were the product of the mixture of chemicals flowing through her veins.

What would have happened if I'd tried to convince her she was wrong? I would have gotten frustrated. She would have become frustrated. I might have said something that hurt her feelings.

And what would have been accomplished? Absolutely nothing.

Oftentimes, in our interactions with people, we need to step back, take a breath, and tell ourselves that just because we have a right to our view doesn't mean they have to share it.

Others have just as much a right to their view as we do to ours.

People can hear us and understand us, but that doesn't mean they'll agree with us.

While there are some situations when there has to be agreement, there are a large number of issues in which it just doesn't matter.

We need to practice the skill of agreeing to disagree without being disagreeable about it.

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

# Holland Shares with Historical Society

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS  
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (July 16) — Guest speaker Jack Holland shared stories from McKenzie's history, from the city's creation to moments from more recent memory, at the Huntingdon Historical Society (HSS) meeting on Wednesday.

Holland, known for his special interest in McKenzie's history, told the abridged versions of McKenzie tales he uncovered with the help of Brad Camp, Brent Cox and Nola Hobbs.

He told stories about celebrities, including the day President Grover Cleveland almost spent the night in McKenzie after his train took off without him, and when Elvis Presley stopped for a bite to eat at the Dixie Coffee Cup diner.

He told funnier crime tales, like when McKenzie residents chased bank robbers into Routon after the robbers beat up the head bank teller.

He talked about McKenzie residents' athletic success stories, from the late Detroit Lion turned Miami Dolphin coach Lester Bingaman to more recent athletes including triathlete Kirsten Sass; Middle Tennessee State University basketball star Savannah Davis and Tennessee Mr. Football winners Drew Hayes, Jackson Cassidy and Tate Surber.

Holland spoke about the Snead picnics, which drew the attention of Grand Ole Opry greats and at one point amassed as many as 18,000 attendees. He talked about the largest couch in the world, which he said



**Jack Holland, who insists he's not a historian but is fascinated by history, speaks with the Huntingdon Historical Society. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner**

was so orange and so large that it could probably be seen from space, built by McKenzie's Gaines Manufacturing Company. He also mentioned the time when car salesman Gary Simmons was recognized for being the number one Yugo salesman in the world for selling 72 Yugo cars in 72 hours.

He spoke highly of the Gordon Browning Museum, which he said is "probably the only place in America that's got three Nazi flags hanging from the wall, but not as a tribute to the Nazis."

Holland sped through all of McKenzie's history he could fit into the one-hour program, but he took his time to share one last quote from Martha McKenzie, the great-granddaughter of James Monroe McKenzie: "McKenzie has always been a good place to live...I hope those who choose to leave McKenzie will always have a longing to return someday. I honestly believe the happiest

people in the world are those who were born and raised here and never left."

At the conclusion of Holland's presentation, several HHS members agreed they would love for him to return and tell the unabridged stories from his speech. They shared their memories from Elvis's visit, including when McKenzie police had to pry two teenage girls away from the celebrity's car.

Johnny McClure, HHS president, thanked Holland for his time. He said, "The wonderful thing about these gatherings is, we are reminded of... things that are very curious to us. I have not heard the car brand Yugo mentioned in 50 years."

HHS meets the third Wednesday of each month, typically in the meeting room attached to Huntingdon's City Hall. Next month's speaker is Major General Tommy H. Baker, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services.

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Scan Website

## A black and white portrait of a man from the chest up. He is wearing a light-colored baseball cap with a dark logo on the front, which appears to be a stylized 'B' or a similar emblem. He is also wearing dark sunglasses. He has a serious expression and is looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a light-colored collared shirt. The background is slightly out of focus, showing what might be a wooden fence or structure.

## A black and white portrait of a woman with short, light-colored hair, wearing glasses and a dark top. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is plain and light-colored.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**McKENZIE SENIOR CENTER EVENTS**

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.

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**SMURFS (PG)**  
Tues. 4:30, 7:30  
Wed. 1:30, 4:30, 7:30  
Thurs. 4:30, 7:30

**I KNOW WHAT YOU DID (R)**  
Tues. 4:35, 7:35  
Wed. 1:35, 4:35, 7:35  
Thurs. 4:35, 7:35

**SUPERMAN (PG-13)**  
Tues. 4:30 (3D), 7:30  
Wed. 1:30, 4:30 (3D), 7:30  
Thurs. 4:30 (3D), 7:30

**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

**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

**F1 (PG-13)**  
Tues. 3:50, 7:20  
Wed. 2:00, 7:20  
Thurs. 3:50, 7:20

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**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.

**McKENZIE YOUTH FOOTBALL SIGN-UPS CONCLUDE SATURDAY**

Final sign-ups for the McKenzie Youth Football League are Saturday, July 26 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Farmers Market.

Registration for K-Second Grade and Third-Fourth Grade Flag Football is \$65. Fifth-Sixth Grade Tackle Football is \$90.

Late sign-ups will be charged an additional \$30 administration fee.

For more information,

reach out to the McKenzie Youth Football League Facebook page.

**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.

**NIGHTS ON BROADWAY PRESENTS CROOKED CREEK ON THURSDAY**

McKenzie's downtown summer music series Nights on Broadway continues Thursday, July 17 with the band Crooked Creek. Music begins at 7 p.m. Spectators sit on the town square facing the stage on Banner Row; lawn chairs are encouraged.

Nights on Broadway con-

tinues with Longshot performing Tuesday, August 5. Fajita Brothers performs Thursday, September 4. Flashback performs Thursday, September 18.

**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.

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.

will be discussed, and sign up sheets will be available for different volunteer opportunities. Those interested are encouraged to attend the meeting, and the alumni association would love for you to get involved!

**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.

**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 Animal Clinic. You'll be responsible for paying the clinic when you pick up your animal. We do recommend that you have your pet vaccinated due to exposure to other animals. Puppies must be a minimum of 4 months of age (older if small breed) at the time of surgery.

**Thank You So Much!**

To all who supported Sawyer Sutton during his protracted hospital stay, the family wishes to say a heartfelt and grateful thank you. Please continue to pray for Sawyer's healing.

**Sincerely, The Sutton Family**

**BACK TO SCHOOL**  
**July 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**Webb Alumni & First Baptist Church**  
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**McKENZIE YOUTH SOCCER REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

Online registration is now open for the McKenzie Youth Soccer League fall season, and in-person registration begins next month.

The online registration form is available on the McKenzie Youth Soccer League Facebook page.

In-person registration will be held at the depot building on Saturday, August 9 from 9-11 a.m.; Tuesday, August 12 from 6-8 p.m.; and Saturday, August 16 from 9-11 a.m.

A coaches meeting is Saturday, August 23, and the season begins Saturday, September 6.

Pictures will be taken on Sunday, September 7.

A tournament will be played Saturday, November 1 and a closing ceremony held Monday, November 3.

**MHS CLASS OF 1975 TO HOST REUNION**

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.

**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.

**McKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL DECADES REUNION**

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

**MHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER MEETING**

The McKenzie High School Alumni Association hosts a meeting on Tuesday, July 29, at 6 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church fellowship hall. Volunteers are needed to help with making all activities of the MHSAA Decades Reunion (September 19-20) a success. Updates on activities of the weekend

**ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES**

Huntingdon Location — Adult Education Building, 14155 Paris Street. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Classes are offered for one-on-one instruction on Mondays, 1-4 p.m. and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-NOON. For more information, phone 731-364-5481.

**CARROLL COMMISSION MEETS MONTHLY**

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

the **West Carroll 3-2-1 Update** July 2025

**3-Exciting Highlights & Developments**

- ACT Prep Expansion: College and Career Readiness at Every Level:** We've partnered with AnalyzeEd to roll out targeted ACT instruction across grades 7-12. Teachers will use data-driven insights using the Pareto analysis rule to focus on each student's top areas for growth.
- Faster Access, Friendlier Design for Our Website & App:** Thanks to feedback from parents & staff, our communications team streamlined the West Carroll website & app. Navigation is much easier so families can now quickly find what they need without digging through pages.
- Primary School Construction Nearing Completion:** The extensive construction project at West Carroll Primary is entering its final phase and on track to finish before the first day of school. New safety features and updated learning spaces are being finalized.

**2-WCSSD Leader Quotes**

*"Our new ACT prep program is a more intentional approach for students. Combined with more purposeful class scheduling, our new house system, and strengthened RTI supports, our school environment will be more focused and truly centered on student success."*  
— Dr. Adam Douglas, West Carroll High School Principal

*"Our theme for this school year is "Building Our Best Year." We're focusing on the assessment portion of our rubric for the 25-26 school year, specifically on Tier 1 instruction & RTI to make this our best year yet."*  
— Dr. Jessica Williams, West Carroll Elementary School Principal

**1-Community Challenge**

Join us for the Back to School Bash on July 29! Bring your students to this event for West Carroll Junior/Senior High School. This fun event will be like our annual trunk-or-treat, but for school supplies. Help us kick things off strong by spreading the word!

Our next board meeting will be August 7<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there!

*Preston Caldwell*

wcssd.com/321

Download Our West Carroll App

**Back-to-School Tax Holiday Begins Friday**

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.

**Clothing**

**Exempt:** General apparel that costs \$100 or less per item, such as shirts, pants, socks, shoes, dresses, etc.

**Not Exempt:** Apparel items priced at more than \$100; items such as jewelry, handbags, or sports and recreational equipment. Items sold together, such as shoes, cannot be split up to stay beneath the \$100 maximum.

**School Supplies**

**Exempt:** School and art supplies with a purchase price of \$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.

**Headliners:**

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JACE  
HAMMETT  
KAKI  
DILLAHUNTY

**OLD-FASHIONED REPUBLICAN RALLY**  
**AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup> 10:30AM**

**U.S. Congressman Tim Burchett**

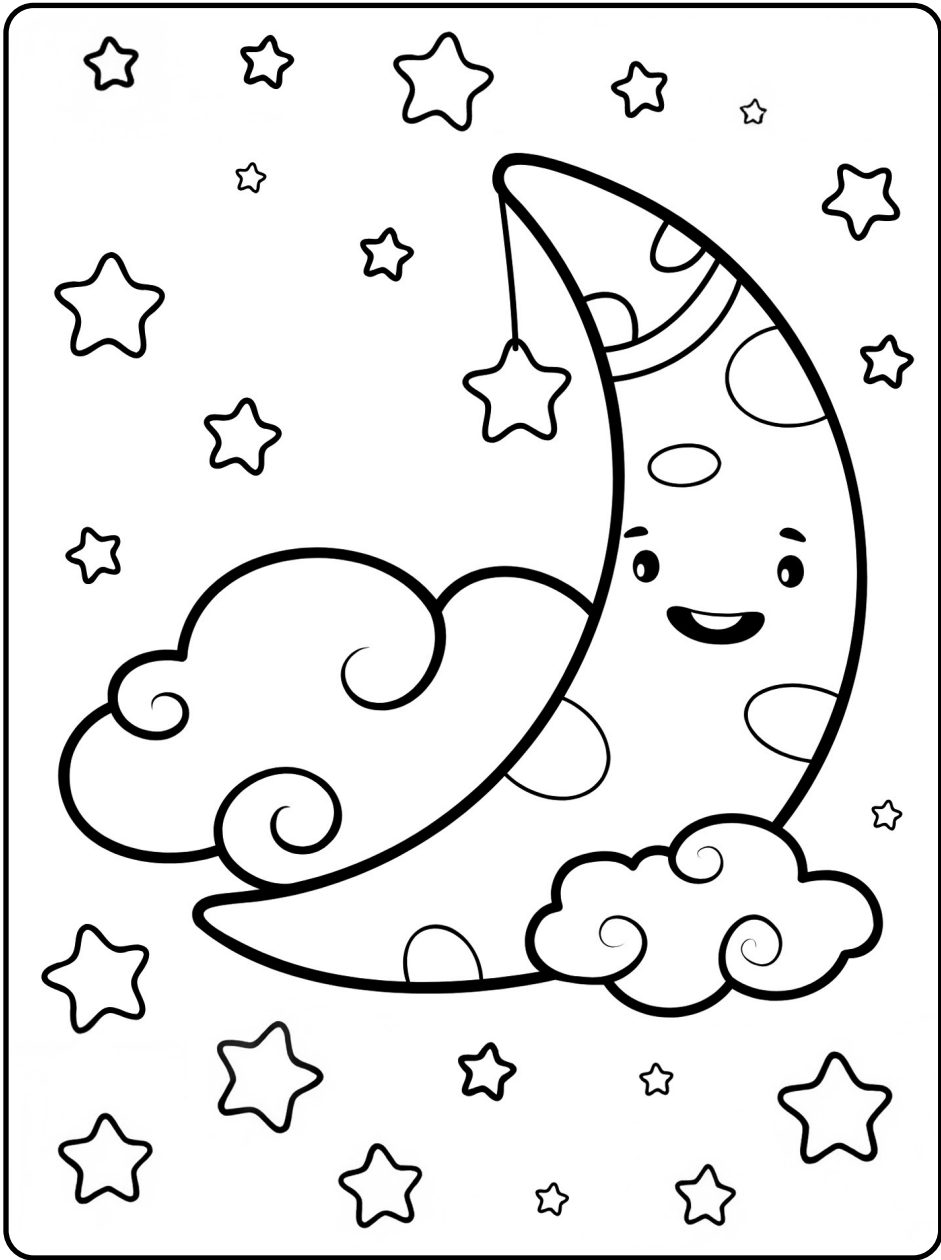
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Sponsored by the Carroll County Republican Party



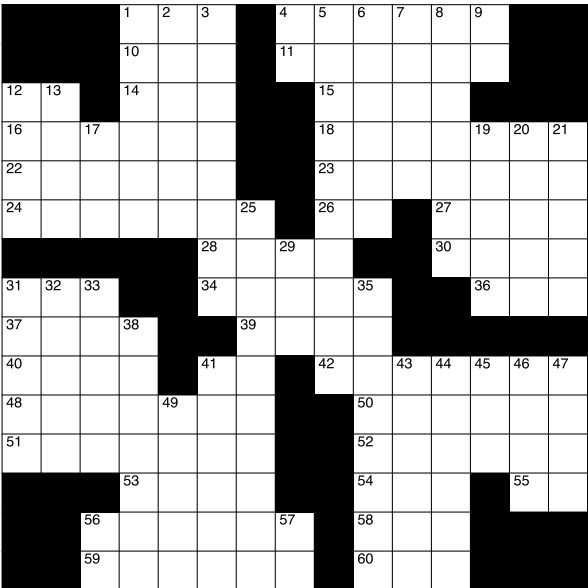
Color A Masterpiece



Weekly Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Pacific Standard Time
- 4. Extracts through heating and melting
- 10. Express delight
- 11. More curvy
- 12. Expression of uncertainty
- 14. Indicates before
- 15. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
- 16. Southwestern CA city
- 18. Unified
- 22. Less attractive
- 23. Base of jellies
- 24. A large and noisy party
- 26. He was traded for Luka
- 27. Wolverine genus
- 28. "Happy Days" actress Moran
- 30. Root of taro plant
- 31. Student environmental group (abbr.)
- 34. Silk garments
- 36. Unique power
- 37. Ray Liotta cop film
- 39. Leak slowly through
- 40. Notion
- 41. Atomic #55
- 42. Fixed in one place
- 48. About heat
- 50. Type of baseball pitch
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Large wading birds
- 53. Similar
- 54. Time zone
- 55. Atomic #34



- 56. Program
- 58. Old world, new
- 59. Contrary belief
- 60. "To the \_\_\_ degree"
- 20. Small immature herrings
- 21. Eavesdropper
- 25. Parcels of land
- 29. Anger
- 31. Irritations
- 32. Hindu holy man
- 33. Wicker basket for fish
- 35. Natural object
- 38. Transporting in a vehicle
- 41. A dog is one
- 43. Smaller portion
- 44. Sew
- 45. Belonging to a thing
- 46. Horsley and Greenwood are two
- 47. Scottish language
- 49. Producer
- 56. Exclamation of surprise
- 57. Russian river

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Plain-woven fabric
- 2. Classed
- 3. Suppositions
- 4. Midway between south and west
- 5. Tropical American trees
- 6. Leveled
- 7. Published false statement
- 8. Adolescent
- 9. Junior's father
- 12. Aurochs
- 13. Not low
- 17. Boxing's GOAT
- 19. Short musical composition

Week 29

See solution in next week's edition.

Protect Pets Word Search

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

Carrier  
Collar  
Cords  
Crate  
Dangerous  
Emergency

Fence  
Harness  
Hazards  
Heatstroke  
Hydration  
Identification

Locked  
Lost  
Microchip  
Pet-Proofing  
Preventive  
Restraint

Secure  
Supervision  
Ticks  
Toxins  
Vaccination  
Veterinarian

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1840: The Province of Canada is created by the Act of Union.

1903: The Ford Motor Company sells its first car.

1962: Jackie Robinson is inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

SUDOKU

WEEK 29

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

See solution in next week's edition.



Solve the code to discover words related to lost pets. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 11 = C)

A. 5 26 11 25 15 11 14 26 23

Clue: Identification implant

B. 10 17 1 7 14

Clue: Secures animals

C. 11 15 10 10 1 25

Clue: Worn around a pet's neck

D. 6 17 21 11 26 21 18

Clue: Property barrier

Answers: A. microchip B. leash C. collar D. fencing

LETTER MIX-UP

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

VETERINARIAN

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

Riddle Me This

What do you call a fish that wears a bowtie?

Answer: So-fish-ticated!

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

ECSREU

Answer: Secure

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actress born on July 24, 1968 in Oklahoma. I studied musical theater and opera performance in college. I won a Tony for playing a Charlie Brown character, but fans know me best as originating the role of a good witch on Broadway.

Answer: Kristin Chenoweth

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PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 28 Crossword Puzzle Solution

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION WEEK 28

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

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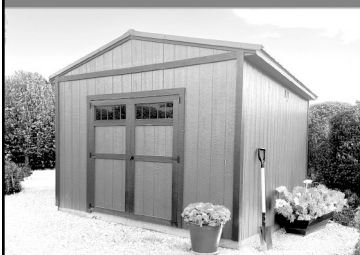
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Above, Rebel wide receiver Avery Brown completes the catch in the endzone for a touchdown. Below Left, Rebel defensive back Gakhari Thomas intercepts the ball in the end zone against McNairy. Below Right, Rebel quarterback Cole Brown connects with Matteo Campbell for a touchdown. Photos by Davarion Gilbert/The Banner



## Rebels Travel to Lexington for 7-on-7

BY DAVARION GILBERT  
banner@mckenziebanner.com

LEXINGTON (July 15) — The McKenzie Rebels played JCM, Lexington and McNairy in a 7-on-7

Tuesday. McKenzie started off strong in the competition with minor issues, but continued to improve every play. The Rebels continue a tough summer practice schedule, including 7-on-7s, until their first scrimmage on Friday, August 1 at Obion County at 6 p.m.



Above, Top readers received prizes during the finale celebration. Pictured are (l to r): Colton Sellers, Children's Librarian Grace Hawkins, Kenadie Sanders, Grace Vincent, Cheyenne Overpeck, Amelia Godwin and Denise Coleman. Below, From left, Library Director Erin Crockett helps the Vincent siblings (Sofia, Grace, Tobias and Jack) leave their mark on the benches in front of the library. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



## Carroll County Library Summer Readers Enjoy Fun-Filled Finale

BY BRAD SAM  
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (July 17) — The Carroll County Library hosted its Summer Reading Finale Thursday, with a variety of activities throughout the library for more than 40 kids in attendance. There was a photo booth, a scavenger hunt and several art stations. Outside, readers of all ages left colorful handprints (and a few tiny footprints) on the benches. Kids received "book bucks" for their reading efforts over the summer and had the chance to win more in the "color walk". They spent their bucks at

the prize table, which had dozens of goodies to choose from. There were also drawings for bigger prizes such as art kits and tickets to Discovery Park. Top readers in several categories were recognized and presented prizes. Reading the most books were Colton Sellers (250), Landry Kendall (150) and Kenadie Sanders (135). Leading the way in time spent reading by children were Grace Vincent (138 hours), Cheyenne Overpeck (126 hours) and Amelia Godwin (120 hours). Top adult readers were Carol Hawkins (202 hours), Amy Rangnow (208 hours), Denise Coleman (151.5

hours) and Patsy Crockett (94 hours). Children's librarian Grace Hawkins also recognized the Nance family for attending the most Summer Reading events. According to Hawkins, in all, 135 people participated in Summer Reading. They read 1,588 books over 2,413.5 hours. Later in the day, Closet by Cachengo distributed free backpacks at the library. Though the finale marked the official end of Summer Reading, there will be an epilogue Thursday, July 24 at 10:30 a.m. as Smokey Bear visits the library. Smokey was scheduled to appear earlier this month but was unable.



Above, The Bank of Gleason staff from McKenzie and Gleason honored Wayford Washburn, Sr. on his 100th birthday on Monday. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner Below, Wayford Washburn, Sr. reads a birthday card presented to him by the staff of the Bank of Gleason. Photo by Brittany Martin/The Banner

## Wayford Washburn, Sr. Honored by Bank of Gleason on 100th Birthday

MCKENZIE (July 21) — Wayford Otis Washburn, Sr. of McKenzie, was honored by the staff of the Bank of Gleason-McKenzie branch on Monday, July 21 on his 100th birthday.

He and wife, Elizabeth, were presented with a cake, punch, and a giant birthday card. Then Wayford sat in the front lobby and was greeted by bank customers as they entered the local bank. Wayford has been a customer of the bank for over 50 years.

He is one of the few World War II veterans remaining in Carroll County. His military service was in post-conflict (Yokohama), Japan.

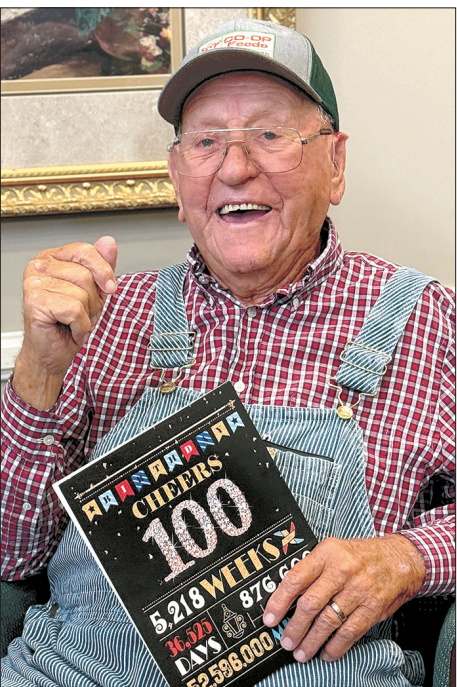
The centurion was born in Henderson County on July 21, 1925 to Vester and Ardell Dovie Ross Washburn. He was the second born of seven children — Fred, who died at age 99 in January 2023; Leo, who died at age 2 in July 1932; James Lloyd Washburn, who died at age 57 in February 1985; Arlene Washburn Davis, who is the lone surviving sibling; Billy Washburn, who died at age 85 in October 2020; and Helen Louise Washburn Moore, who died at age 87 in January 2025.

The family grew up as children of a sharecropper. They moved from Henderson County in 1938, first moving to a farm, where Lakeside Retirement Community Center now stands and prior to the construction of Carroll Lake, built in 1949-1950.

The family moved to Tennessee Street in McKenzie to the Bateman farm in 1947 and farmed the land around the now McKenzie Elementary School.

In 1947, the family moved and worked the farm of Eulas Pickler Farm, where the family milked cows and farmed the 147 acres in Henry County off Ben Smith Road (Cole Street) McKenzie. The family later purchased the farm using James Washburn's GI Bill money.

Wayford O. Washburn, Sr. is a lifelong farmer, who owned farms on Como Road, McKenzie and Hinkledale Road in McKenzie. Still today, he manages his cattle on Hinkle-



dale Road farm. He is known to many former students at McKenzie Schools as their school bus driver, a job he performed each morning and afternoon for many years. His son, Wayford O. Washburn, Jr., was his substitute driver. Wayford, Sr. also served as an elected constable. Wayford Sr. joined the Army on April 16, 1946, and served in Japan as part of the American Occupational Forces. He was assigned to a transportation unit and received a World War II Victory Medal upon his honorable discharge. He received an early discharge due to a family hardship after his dad was injured on the farm. He and his younger brother, James Lloyd Washburn, both served in Japan at the same time. James was enlisted on June 7, 1946 in the Army/Air Force and served in Yamato, Japan. He was listed on his Honorable Discharge document as a light truck driver.

## Titans Player Speaks to Local Football Teams

BY DAVARION GILBERT  
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MILAN (July 18) — Several local football teams gathered at First Baptist Church Friday as Tennessee Titans defensive back Gabe Jeudy-Lally spoke to the players about his journey in faith and football.

Teams from McKenzie, West Carroll, Milan, South Gibson, Gibson County, Crockett County and Peabody attended the meet-and-greet event.

The former Tennessee Vol spoke about the importance of community, faith and supporting the people around you.

He said, in part, "The biggest thing is, reach out to people in your community, around you, guys on your team that you don't talk to, even people in your family that you might not talk to. Being in the situation I'm in now, there's a lot of people that deal with a lot of stress that you might not know about if you don't talk to them. That's one way that you can use your faith but also use your own person-



McKenzie High School senior football player Davarion Gilbert (left) with Tennessee Titans defensive back Gabe Jeudy-Lally. Photo courtesy of Davarion Gilbert/The Banner

al platform to talk to those people. "The community that you live in, the people that you keep around you, they affect who you become later on. And there are some people that may not be strong enough to talk to people. So, reach out to anybody around you to make sure that they're ok at the end of the day. Being in the space I'm in, I see a lot of guys that

are going through stuff, and they probably need someone to talk to." Jeudy-Lally concluded, "Make sure you check in on the people around you. When you get the chance to, spread a little faith, because it can go a long way." After the NFL player spoke, the players and coaches in attendance had the chance to meet him one-on-one for questions and photos.

## Nights on Broadway Presents Crooked Creek



MCKENZIE (July 17) — Downtown summer music series Nights on Broadway continued Thursday with Crooked Creek. The local band entertained the crowd with an eclectic set, inspiring some to turn Banner Row into a dance floor. Nights on Broadway continues with Longshot on Tuesday, August 5. Fajita Brothers performs Thursday, September 4. Flashback closes out the summer series Thursday, September 18. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

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