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OBITUARIES

Richard Phillip Allen, 75
 Billy Baker, 87
 Destiny Nichole Henry, 24
 Alissa King, 47
 Joyce Rodgers, 79
 Arville Gray Wilks, 95

QUOTE

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant."
 — Robert Louis Stevenson

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Bethel Students Return to Campus



McKENZIE (August 16) — Bethel University freshmen just completed a week of orientation at the McKenzie campus that culminated with the Freshman Fair on Saturday.

The front lawn of Campbell Hall was lined with tents and tables by representatives of local businesses, organizations, and churches, plus college clubs and Greek organizations to welcome the university students to McKenzie.

See BETHEL on Page 3

TRAGEDY ON THE TRACKS



A stuck sprint car hauler was demolished when it was struck by a train.

Train-Pickup Truck Collision Claims Life Of Local Woman

McKENZIE (August 13) — A 24-year-old woman from McKenzie tragically lost her life after the pickup truck she was riding in was struck by a freight train at the crossing on Harris Road.

According to a report by the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Destiny Nichole Henry, 24, of McKenzie, died when the train collided with a 2021

See LIFE on Page 3

Race Car Hauler Destroyed by Train

TREZEVANT (August 15) — On Friday afternoon, a semitruck owned by Arlie Rains of Marion, Arkansas, pulling a sprint car trailer, became lodged on a railroad crossing on Highway 105. The trailer was struck by a CSX train.

The driver was able to get out safely before the train made impact. No injuries reported.

The trailer was demolished, and parts of the sprint car were scattered on both sides of the train.

See HAULER on Page 3

Tater Town is Next Week

Gleason Gazelle's annual Tater Town Special Begins August 27. It includes games, barbecue contests, worship services, cake auctions, a 5K race, and parades.

This year's grand marshals are Eddie and Becky Trevathan. Joyce Wray has been selected as the Tater Town Treasure. All activities are in the downtown area.

See TATER on Page 3

Sweet Tea Festival Is This Week

West Tennessee's annual Sweet Tea Festival returns to McKenzie's Downtown Veterans Park August 22 and 23.

Festivities begin Thursday, August 21, with Carroll Arts' Southern Fried Funnies. The "Classic Redneck Variety Show," directed by Glynda Rich and Denise Sam, features sketches inspired by Hee-Haw, Carol

See TEA on Page 3

McKENZIE COUNCIL \$72,400 Bid Approved For Soccer Complex

BY JASON R. MARTIN
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McKENZIE (August 14) — On Thursday, the McKenzie City Council approved a \$72,400 bid for irrigation and sod from Tri-Turf Sod of Paris, Tennessee, for the irrigation and sod work on the Mulberry Soccer Complex. A second bid was placed by Final

See SOCCER on Page 3

COUNTY COMMISSION Crossno Resigns

BY JASON R. MARTIN
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HUNTINGDON (August 14) — The Carroll County Commission met Monday, August 14 at 7 p.m. at the Carroll County Government Complex. At the closing of the meeting, County Mayor Joseph Butler announced the resignation of Commissioner Manuel Crossno. Commissioner Crossno had served 13 years on the Legislative Body and was a valued member. The

See CROSSNO on Page 3

TREZEVANT Wastewater System Improvements Approved

TREZEVANT (August 12) — City officials in Trezevant approved two bids to enhance the city's wastewater systems during the mayor and council meeting on August 12.

David Smith from A2H Engineering presented proposals to improve the wastewater lagoon and to reduce rainwater infiltration into the city's sewer system. The city has unused grant funds from the federal government through the American Rescue Plan, which will cover the entire cost of the two projects.

See SYSTEM on Page 3



The architect’s rendering of the new FirstBank main office to be constructed after the demolition of the existing building. Photo courtesy FirstBank

Huntingdon FirstBank to be Razed, Rebuilt

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (August 18) — The main office of FirstBank, the oldest bank and longest-running business on the Court Square, will receive a major upgrade as the existing building is razed and a new one constructed.

Market President Braden Maddox told The Banner the demolition is expected to occur in the next six months, and the new bank is anticipated to open in the fall of next year.

FirstBank is in the process of allowing customers to retrieve property from safety deposit boxes in the building.

The office, located at 19685 E. Main Street, closed last fall for long-overdue renovations. However, the architects and construction teams discovered significant structural damage that was beyond safe repair and

removal was determined the best course of action.

As stated in a letter to bank customers, “This decision was not made lightly. At FirstBank, we’re deeply committed to the growth and vitality of downtown Huntingdon. We understand the historical and cultural importance of the original building and have worked closely with the Mayor’s Office and other city leaders to ensure the new design honors that legacy. We also took your input to heart to help shape the vision for the new space.”

Customers were provided a rendering of the new building, which the company says “blends historic charm with modern design.”

Maddox said the architects considered design elements of other buildings on the square.

The bank originated as the Bank of Huntingdon in

1887 in the building that is now Maddox Law Office. A merger with Farmer’s State Bank moved the bank into the Johnson Building, where it currently sits.

Bank of Huntingdon merged with FirstBank in 2001.

During the project, customers will continue to be served at the drive-thru locations at 123 Second Avenue N. and 20340 E. Main Street.

There is also a temporary service location at the FirstBank Activities Building at 108 Second Avenue for service on new and existing accounts, debit card printing and loan applications.

Maddox said, “As an employee, and as someone who lives in Huntingdon, the commitment from FirstBank to a project of this size and nature shows how committed [the company is] to Huntingdon and the people here.”



Top, Senior Center award winners (l to r): George Harper, Dot Harper, Carol Armpriest, Tony Menne, Ruth McElroy, Scott Armpriest, Nancy Davenport, Tammy Host, Kelly Frye, Mike Abrams, Jimmie Martin and Nancy Barletto. Above, Seated (l to r) are 2025 Queen Nancy Davenport and King Kelly Frye. Standing are 2024 Queen Dot Harper, Senior Center President Carol Armpriest and 2024 King George Harper. Below, The eclectic set by Flashback had many banquet guests dancing the night away. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



McKenzie Senior Citizens Center Hosts Banquet

BY BRAD SAM
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HUNTINGDON (August 16) — The McKenzie Senior Citizens Center held its annual banquet Saturday at the Carroll County Civic Center.

Dozens attended the beach-themed event, which featured a delicious catered meal by Debbie and Steve Thompson, live music by Flashback, awards and the crowning of the new king and queen.

Last year’s king and

queen, George and Dot Harper, crowned their successors, Kelly Frye and Nancy Davenport.

Other award winners included:

Carol Armpriest: Most Likely to be at Nights on Broadway
Tony Menne: Most Likely to Give Hugs
Ruth McElroy: Most Likely to Crochet an Outfit
Scott Armpriest: Most Likely to Play Pool, Most Likely to be Silly
Nancy Davenport: Most

Likely to Eat Dessert Before Dinner
Tammy Host: Most Likely to Quilt a Car Cover
Mike Abrams: Most Likely to Win Bingo
Jimmie Martin: Most Likely to Tell a Long Story
Nancy Barletto: Most Likely to Cheer Up a Room
George and Dot Harper: Most Likely to be Holding Hands

Guests enjoyed the fun and fellowship and danced the night away to Flashback’s eclectic set.



Taco Bell Opens in McKenzie

The new Taco Bell in McKenzie is open at the former location of Old West Steakhouse. It opened on Tuesday, August 12.

The franchise, owned by Kari Keller of Pacific Bells, LLC, is located at 15895 Highland Drive.

The McKenzie Planning Commission approved the site plan and construction

of the new Taco Bell in December 2024, allowing for the demolition of the Old West Steakhouse building.

Before demolition could begin, on January 7, 2025, the Old West Steakhouse was completely destroyed by fire. The blaze resulted in a total loss of the building’s contents and structure, with early estimates placing the property loss at

\$193,800 and the losses of contents at approximately \$150,000.

Taco Bell Corp. is an American multinational chain of fast food restaurants founded in 1962 by Glen Bell in Downey, California. Taco Bell is a subsidiary of Yum! Brands, Inc. The restaurants serve a variety of Mexican-inspired foods.



West Carroll Elementary School 4-6th grade Beta members at the convention. Photo courtesy WCSSD

West Carroll Elementary Named National Beta School of Merit

COURTESY WCSSD

TREZEVANT (August 14) — West Carroll Special School District is proud to announce that West Carroll Elementary School is a 2024-2025 National Beta School of Merit.

The school earned this recognition by offering National Beta to all eligible grades on their campus.

The National Beta School of Merit award is given to honor a club’s dedication and commitment to academic excellence.

To achieve this prestigious honor, a school must include members from all eligible grade levels in their Beta Club. This year, 5,930 Beta Clubs across the country received this award.

In a congratulatory letter to the school, CEO Bobby Hart said, “Thank you for your continued support of National Beta and commitment to developing future leaders!”

“We take great pride in our Beta Club students

and their dedicated sponsors for exemplifying the core mission of National Beta Club: Let us lead by serving others. Their commitment to this mission, alongside their pursuit of academic excellence, truly sets them apart. Their efforts not only reflect their character but also inspire those around them to strive for greatness in both service and scholarship,” shared Dr. Jessica Williams, principal of West Carroll Elementary School.



WCES 2025-2026 faculty and staff. Photo courtesy WCSSD

West Carroll Elementary School Welcomes Students, Families at Annual Open House

COURTESY WCSSD

TREZEVANT (August 4) — West Carroll Elementary School kicked off the 2025-2026 school year with its annual open house Monday. Students and their families were warmly welcomed to campus for an evening of introductions, information and community connection.

Visitors had the opportunity to meet teachers and staff, tour classrooms and attend Title I meetings held in individual classrooms. These meetings provided parents with valuable information about academic expectations and resources for the year ahead.

In addition to meeting their new teachers, students explored their learning spaces and prepared for the first day of school. The evening also included community involvement,



Sisters McKynna Capps (left), third grade, and Kynlea Belk, sixth grade, were among many students enjoying the evening. Photo courtesy WCSSD

with the junior football league hosting registration during the event.

Sisters Kynlea Belk, a sixth grader, and McKynna Capps, a third grader, were among the many students enjoying the evening. “I am really excited to meet my teachers and see my classroom,” Kynlea shared. “I’m looking forward to a great sixth-grade year

and hope to make good grades.”

The event’s success was the result of teamwork among faculty and staff, who worked together to ensure a welcoming and organized experience for all. West Carroll Elementary extends its best wishes to all students for a successful and rewarding school year.

Bethel

...From Front Page

The event is designed to educate the freshmen about the McKenzie community and foster connections between the university and the area.

Orientation officially started on August 15 with registration at 9 a.m. at the Dickey Fine Arts Building. The orientation opening ceremony was at 9:30 a.m. with a campus tour at 11 a.m. At noon, the freshman students had a lunch break at the Cafe. More activities began at 2 p.m. with STAR Time. Dinner was at 5:30 at the Cafe.

Orientation festivities continued on August 16. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., students had a proper introduction to McKenzie. At 2 p.m., they participated in freshman skits. Orientation week concluded on August 17 with a worship service at 10 a.m. in Bouldin Audi-



torium, which was the final event for freshmen.

Members of Renaissance and athletes moved

into the dorms during the previous week.

Classes for new and returning Bethel students begin on August 18.

Hauler

...From Front Page

Later in the afternoon, a second hauler also got stuck on the tracks in Atwood.

On Monday, August 18, according to CSX, the crossing at Main St. and Park St. in Trezevant will be closed until either Wednesday, August 20, or Thursday, August 21, due to the railroad crossing being out of service at this time.

CSX provides a contact number for railroad emergencies, like blockages or potential hazards.

This number SHOULD NOT replace contacting 911 for life-threatening emergencies.

From the CSX website: To Report a Railroad Emergency: 1-800-232-0144

Any issue or incident



Debris was scattered along the tracks.

that risks the safety of any person should be reported immediately. Be

prepared to tell us your name, location, and what you observed.

System

...From Front Page

Grinder Taber and Grinder of Memphis will install aerators at the wastewater lagoon to decrease the discharge of nitrogen and phosphorus, costing \$511,114. Meanwhile, Sun Coast Infrastructure from Florence, Mississippi, will provide cured-in-place lining for 1,800 feet of sewer line and replace two manholes for a total price of \$168,177. Both projects are expected to be completed in the first half of 2026.

Erik Grimes, the city's water superintendent, reported that the city experiences approximately 41 percent "water loss," which is the difference between the amount of water pumped and the amount recorded at the customer's water meter. The city's aging water meters could be replaced with newer, more accurate, electronic models through a grant. Grimes noted that Smith informed him about a possible grant



David Smith of A2H Engineering presented to the Trezevant Mayor and Council two proposals to improve the city's wastewater system.

for replacing more than 200 meters in the city. If awarded, the new meters will report customers' usage electronically, reducing the need for manual readings.

For months, residents have expressed concerns about the condition of city sidewalks. City employees are currently repairing sidewalks along East Main Street and will then move

on to Broad Street for further repairs.

Councilman Leon Lyell reported that the fire department's van is inoperable and needs to be replaced. Councilman Don Barger mentioned that the police department now employs three part-time officers who work different shifts; all three also serve as full-time officers in McKenzie.

Tater

...From Front Page

Activities include:

Wednesday, August 27

Youth Bingo and Devotional, Gazelle Grounds begins at 7 p.m. for Ages 4-17. Must attend devotion to play.

Speaker: Jason Allison.

Thursday, August 28

Bingo and Cake Auction at the Gazelle Grounds, 7 p.m. for ages 18 and up. Cake Auction at 8 p.m.

Sponsored by WoodmenLife Food Trucks

Friday, August 30

Community BBQ and Sweet Potato Cook-Off (all ages), Sweet potato entries are due by 5 p.m. in the Cook Booth to be judged.

BBQ Cook-off gate opens at 5 p.m. at the Gazelle Grounds.

\$10 Per Plate Live Music by Magnolia!

Saturday, August 30

JC Carey Memorial 5K Run, Register at 6:30 a.m. in front of the School with the race beginning at 7 a.m. \$10 for students, \$20 for adults.

Sponsored by: The Refinery and Hometown Clinic

9 a.m. — Junior Parade Registration (Gleason

Lumber)

9 a.m. — Grand Parade Registration (American Legion)

10 a.m. — Grand Parade begins

Vendor Fair — Gazelle Grounds

Following the Parade til 2 pm. Vendors, Food Trucks, and Live Music by Midlife Crisis

Sunday, August 31

Community Worship Service at 11 a.m. at Gleason Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Gleason School Alumni Association: Welcomes all former GHS students to the annual reunion at the Gleason School, beginning at 2 p.m.



Life

...From Front Page

Ford pickup truck driven by 20-year-old Annette Winstead. The railroad crossing is located in a rural area of McKenzie, which several residents have described as dangerous.

The report states that the truck was traveling westbound on Harris Road when it was hit by the train,

causing the pickup to burst into flames.

First responders from the McKenzie Fire Department, McKenzie Police Department, Carroll County Sheriff's Department, Baptist EMS, Carroll County Fire Department, Tennessee Highway Patrol, Carroll County Rescue Squad, and Carroll County Emergency Management arrived at the scene. They worked in 90-degree temperatures to assist.

Brian Tucker, Chief of the

McKenzie Fire Department, reported that they were the first fire department on the scene at 2:38 p.m. and remained there five hours. He mentioned that first responders extinguished the fire and extricated the victim from the vehicle. The driver was able to exit the vehicle.

Destiny Henry was a 2019 graduate of Gleason High School. Her memorial service is Saturday at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

Crossno

...From Front Page

vacancy is expected to be filled during the September meeting.

The following resolutions were approved on the agenda:

Resolution 8-01-2025 — Amend the School General Fund Budget (increase of \$386 to Technology – Other Salaries & Wages from Technology – Administrative Equipment.

Resolution 8-02-2025 — Reappoint Chris Gurley to the Carroll County Electric Department Board.

Resolution 8-03-2025 — Authorize Carroll County to join the State of Tennessee and other local governments in amending the Tennessee State-Subdivision Opioid Abatement Agreement and approving the related settlement agreements.

Resolution 8-04-2025 — Increases the Mineral Severance Tax in Carroll County. Due to factors such as rising material costs, inflation, and supply chain disruptions, the cost of county road and bridge construction and maintenance has increased dramatically and Carroll County needs additional revenue for construc-



Mayor Joseph Butler (left) presents Commission Manuel Crossno (right) will a plaque of appreciation for his service to Carroll County.

tion and maintenance of its roads and bridges. The levied increase in mineral severance tax will be twenty cents per ton.

Resolution 8-05-2025 — Authorizes the County Mayor and EMA Director to sign an agreement with Crisis24 for CodeRED which delivers emergency notifications and alerts like severe weather warnings, evacuations, boil water notices, etc.

Resolution 8-06-2025 — Approve the interlocal contract for cooperative purchasing through Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC).

Resolution 8-07-2025 —

Authorizes Carroll County to purchase land and building for fire protection in Cedar Grove from Christopher Daniel Smith for \$15,000.

Resolution 8-08-2025 — Authorizes Carroll County to purchase land and building for fire protection in Macedonia from Robin and Tamara Popplewell for \$10,000.

The following were elected notaries: Carisa Erin Bennett, Kelli Britt, Christina Drinkard, Alyson Frenshley, Kim Gilmore, Megan Lowe, Angel Newbill, Christine Farley Randell, Tonyia Rush, Suzanne Snider, and Jimmie Sue Staten.

Soccer

...From Front Page

Touch Sod and Landscaping of Jackson at \$85,000. Both bids were of the same specifications with a higher grade Bermuda sod that stays greener longer and is considered more hearty.

McKenzie track standout Abigail Wallace was recognized with a proclamation for state championship runs in May. As a freshman, Wallace placed first in the 800 meter race and 1600 meter race and third overall in the 3200 meter race. This is the first gold medal for McKenzie in track.

The Council approved on the first reading Ordinance 573 concerning revisions to the City of McKenzie's



McKenzie Mayor Ryan Griffin reads a proclamation recognizing McKenzie's Abigail Wallace for her three medalist performances at the TSSAA State Championship in May.

Zoning Ordinance. According to City Planner Donny Bunton, the revisions are clearing up the language of the ordinances, making them easier to follow and,

in certain places, making them less restrictive.

The next meeting of the McKenzie City Council is September 11 at 6 p.m.

Tea

...From Front Page

Burnett and Ray Stevens. Catch some familiar faces acting in Southern Fried Funnies on August 21 at 7 p.m. and August 23 at 2 p.m. at McKenzie's Park Theatre.

Craft and food vendors set up in downtown McKenzie on Friday, August 22 and opens at 6 p.m. and Saturday, August 23, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

City Recorder Jennifer Waldrup confirmed the festival will have a petting zoo and several carnival rides. Saturday evening, the Sweet Tea Festival will have

a musical performance in front of the old Wrinkle Hardware building. Music begins 4 p.m. Saturday with a performance by the band "Sticks."

While all spots for food vendors are full, there are still spaces for craft vendors. To apply for a craft booth, email madelyn.morris@cityofmckenzie.com.

Everything is Better When It’s Southern Fried

COURTESY OF
CARROLL ARTS, INC.

Y’all better watch out, word on the street is that a group of “classy rednecks” has taken over the Park Theatre and will be putting on two shows for folks this week during the Sweet Tea Festival in downtown McKenzie.

Yes sire! They are calling it the Southern Fried Funnies, and it kicks off at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 21 and again at 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 23.

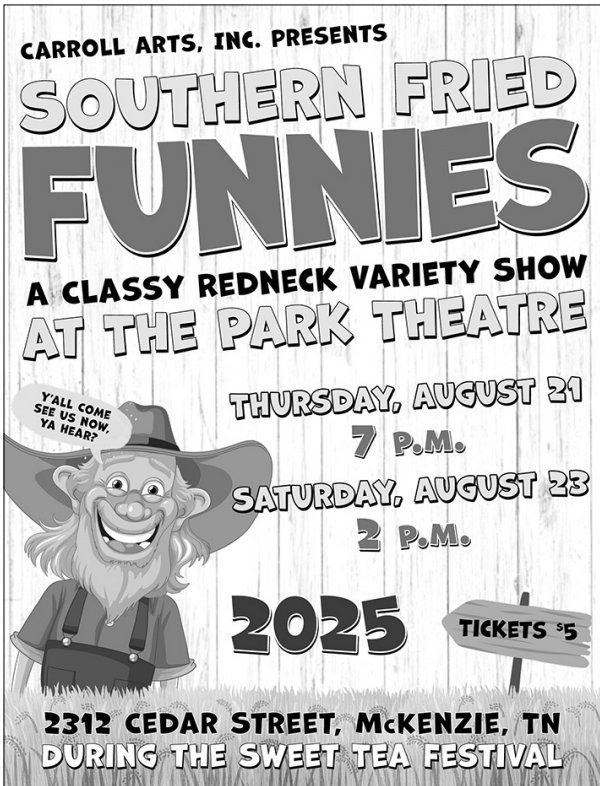
The Southern Fried Funnies is a variety show brought to you by Carroll Arts, Inc. that includes sketches from and based on Hee Haw, The Carol Burnett Show, Abbott and Costello, The Dean Martin-Jerry Lewis Comedy Hour, The Tim Conway Comedy Hour, Minnie Pearl and Ray Stevens.

Cast members include: Carol Armpriest, Scott Armpriest, Alene “Sissy” Ball, Darryl Ball, Gary Davenport, Nancy Davenport, Veronica Giaimo Davis, Andrew Evans, Mayor Ryan Griffin, Thomas Keenan, Marlene Kreuter, Destiny Lane, Lynda Lankford, Tricia Lee, Brittany Martin, Melissa “Missy” McDonald, Fran Musser, Martha Sue Peters, Gina Rainey, Glynda Rich, Brad Sam, Bonnie Teas, Jesse Turner and Isaac Stephen Walker. The production is directed by Glynda Rich and Denise Sam. The stage crew is Allison Cummings (manager), Carol Armpriest and Missy McDonald. Sound and lighting are provided by Ben Wolski.

Y’all might be asking yourselves, what would a group of misfits such as this be doing together? Well, they all came together with a common goal, to administer a dose of nature’s best medicine, laughter.

Speaking of medicine, there is a very disorderly orderly that patrons (and patients) need to watch for while at the theatre. She’s on call during the second act and is guaranteed to fix your ailment or cause a new one. Alene Ball hams it up in The Orderly with co-stars Carol Armpriest, Darryl Ball, Nancy Davenport and Brittany Martin.

Can you imagine what it would look like if a redneck listened to a fashion show on the radio and then tried to have their own fashion show? Bless their hearts, they might take the descriptions of a “spaghetti



strap top,” a “crop top,” a “plunging neckline” and a “wedding dress train” too literally!

If you attach this season’s crops to your shirt because you wanted to make a “crop top,” you might be a redneck.

If I didn’t know any better, I’d swear Minnie Pearl has a cameo in the Funnies! You won’t believe your eyes and ears when Gina Rainey takes the stage portraying the late country comedian.

You might be a redneck if your church uses hubcaps from a ‘56 Chevy as offering plates. Tricia Lee, Missy McDonald and Bonnie Teas discuss some of the changes happening in their “Redneck Church.”

What do a local schoolmarm and a town floozy have in common? Well, in the skit titled “Happy Trails,” they are the same person, played by Carol Armpriest, as she tries to convince an old prospector (Andrew Evans) to stay with her at the Old Saloon in New Skunkville.

The tomfoolery reaches a fever pitch by the end of the first act, when city mayor Ryan Griffin, portraying Jones, rides in on a horse and gallantly saves Sweet Sue (Tricia Lee) from a gunslinger named Salty Sam (Thomas Keenan). Isaac Walker gives a rousing rendition of the song, “Along Came Jones,” with background accompaniment from Alene Ball, Gina Rainey and Nancy Davenport. Darryl Ball looks on from the comfort of his easy chair.

If for no other reason, you have to come see Gramps (played by Scott Armpriest) go on a slow-speed chase

after a young temptress (Destiny Lane) as she disrupts lives and marriages by merely existing in “As the Stomach Turns.” After Gramps falls and can’t get up, Doctor Hopper (Jesse Turner) makes a housecall to wrestle Gramps back into his chair. Yes, it is becoming evident that something has to be done about Gramps and soon. To find out what, you’ll have to come see for yourself.

Tensions start to rise in the second act when Abbott (Brad Sam) and Costello (Jesse Turner) discuss “Who’s on First.”

Despite the stereotype, most southerners are actually quite smart, but you won’t find evidence of that in “Mason-Dixon and the RAM,” as we travel back in time to the Civil War era. After terrible news is delivered via an upside down newspaper, identical twin brothers are forced to go to RAM against each other. Crinoline (Alene Ball) is a southern belle who can’t decide which of the Colonel’s (Andrew Evans) sons to marry, Mason (Isaac Walker) or Dixon (Brad Sam).

This hootenanny would not be complete without live music from Steve Morris, Steve Bomar and Carl Byars interspersed throughout the show. With all this and more cram-packed into the two-hour production, the Southern Fried Funnies are sure to have you rolling on the floor laughing in the aisles. Only two performances, Thursday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. Admission is \$5.

Y’all come see us now, ya hear?!

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

The Hairy Catfish Caper, II

...Picking up from last week’s edition.

Wrapping my prize in newspaper as carefully as my wife would wrap a fine piece of China, and feeling like a kid on Christmas morning, I couldn’t wait to show Jim what Santa brought me.

At the office, Patrick hadn’t arrived yet, so I eagerly showed the fish to Jim.

“Oh, this is going to be good,” he said slyly.

Rolling the fish back up, we placed it on a shelf beside Jim’s desk.

Within a few minutes Patrick came in innocent as a lamb to the slaughter.

Another key to a good practical joke is to not hurry it along, so Jim and I shared some pleasantries with Patrick.

Then, as though we’d forgotten about it, Jim said, “Oh yeah, we’ve got something to show you.”

Because Patrick had been working with us a few months, he was immediately suspicious and took a step back, laughing nervously.

I took the lead. “Jim and I caught a hairy catfish, and we thought we’d bring for you to see.”

Patrick followed my pointing finger to the rolled newspaper on the shelf beside him. He made a quick sidestep away.

Keeping an eye on the newspaper bundle, he said, “I’m tired of you two talking about the hairy catfish. There isn’t any such thing.”

“Whatever,” Jim said. “But there’s one in that newspaper, if you want to see it.”

“I’m not about to open that paper up! I don’t trust you two!”

I reached for the bundle. “Here, let me show you. There’s nothing to be afraid of.”

As if I was unwrapping an ancient mummy, I slowly unrolled the bundle onto Jim’s desk.

When Patrick saw the catfish with its perfectly coifed hairpiece, he sprang backwards as if he’d seen a snake.

Leaning forward while still keeping his distance, he said, “That’s not even real.”

Giving him our best poker faces, we feigned hurt.

“Go ahead and touch it,” Jim urged him. “See for yourself and you tell us what it is.”

Patrick touched the fish ever so lightly then quickly jerked his hand back as a nervous laugh escaped him.

Emboldened that the fish didn’t move, he eased closer and touched the hair. Without warning, he gingerly picked it up by the hair.

Dropping it back on the desk, Patrick looked at us in amazement. “I can’t believe it! It’s really true! A catfish with hair! And I thought you two were just pulling my leg. That’s amazing. I wouldn’t have ever believed it if I hadn’t seen it. Wait till I tell my dad!”

Jim and I just couldn’t bring ourselves to end the charade. Biting our lips and the inside of our cheeks, we held onto our laughter.

Instead, we echoed Patrick’s amazement at the unusual fish.

After we marveled at the fish that looked like it came from the Galapagos Islands, I rolled it back up and put it in the trunk of my car.

A couple of hours later, Jim and I went to drink coffee at the local coffee shop where the men of our town gathered to gossip.

We found ourselves at a table with Joe and John. Joe, old and grizzled, was a renowned hunter and fisherman. So, of course, the conversation ended up on the topic of hunting and fishing.

That’s when Jim surprised even me by saying, “Have you guys ever seen a hairy catfish?”

My immediate reaction was to try and kick him in the shin! Playing a prank on naïve Patrick was one thing, but trying to fool these two old timers was out of the question!

John said sagely, “I’ve seen walking catfish down in Florida.”

Joe scoffed. “There’s no such thing as a hairy catfish.”

I kept my mouth shut, but Jim pressed on.

“We caught one the other day. It’s out in David’s trunk, if you want to see it.”

Jim, Jim! You’ve bitten off more than you can chew this time. I thought to myself.

Joe and John said simultaneously, “I’ve got to see this.”

Like the boy who knows his parents are going to find out it was his baseball

that broke the neighbor’s window, I dragged myself along with them.

I opened the trunk and unrolled the newspaper bundle to reveal mine and Jim’s creation.

Closing my eyes, I wait to hear the guffaws of laughter from Joe and John. When no laughter came, I opened my eyes and saw them both craning their necks and focusing their bifocals to get a better look.

“That’s the beatinest thing I’ve ever seen,” Joe exclaimed.

John chimed in, “Yes, it is.”

They asked if they could pick it up for a closer inspection.

“Sure,” I say.

Why not? We’ve carried the pretense this far. How far can it really go?

They then begin speculating how such a creature came to be.

John said, “Maybe it’s a cross between a catfish and a beaver.”

Only by faking a coughing spell was I able to conceal my laughter, and Jim was wiping tears he was so close to losing it.

Joe said, “We’ve got to carry it in the coffee shop and show it to everyone else.”

He grabbed it up and headed that way without waiting for permission from me or Jim.

As we approached the door, I could see all the men had left their tables and were peering out the windows, trying to figure out what was in my trunk that had created such an interest.

Joe walked into the middle of the crowd, scooted some coffee cups out of the way and plopped the hairy catfish on a table.

“Take a look fellas. It’s what they call a hairy catfish.”

No one was about to challenge Joe’s authentication of the creature, so they simply marveled at it.

Then one man in the back of the crowd said, “Oh I’ve seen those before. There’s a lot of them down in Florida.”

I just rolled my eyes and thought, “The first liar in this bunch doesn’t stand a chance!”

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

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

We’ve Gone From Watergate To Tipgate

Listen, I’m not the guy to point out when something gets out of whack. We’ve got real writers for that. And I’m not angry, or about to jump off the Golden Gate Bridge over this. But I do have a bit of a burr under my saddle this morning.

It’s about the latest theme in the tipping business. To paraphrase an old Jerry Reed line, “to say the least, this has got a little out of hand.”

I took my family to the famous Tennessee barbecue place for some brisket and baked beans. We don’t go in and sit down and have Laverne, Maggie (surely you didn’t think I was going to say Shirley), or Tyler rush over with a smile and take our drink order. It doesn’t seem to work that way anymore.

We had to stand in line

like cattle being run through an auction barn. The menu was written on the wall. Believe me, we had plenty of time to read the different offerings before we got up to.... wait for it....the cashier! Not the waitress, waiter, cook, chief bottle washer, maître d, or owner.

She took our order and rung up our ticket about as simultaneously as is humanly possible. And she turned the screen around for me to tap my card and pay for the whole dinner. I hadn’t even taken a swallow of my sweet tea yet. As a matter of fact, we had to get into another line to get our drinks.

They had added an automatic 20 percent tip. All I had to do was press continue and the bill was paid. Now, they did give me a choice. I could change the 20 per-

cent to 18 or 22; and then hit continue.

I felt hornswoggled. And put upon. Victimized. And to add insult to injury, the whole thing was set-up to make me look like the cheapskate of all mankind if I don’t just push continue and move on down the line. If my sweet, polite, don’t-ever-make-a-scene first wife hadn’t a’been standing right close, I would have told the little 14-year-old cashier that this ain’t the way they did it at the City Café in 1962!

If Leon hadn’t up and died on us, he would have explained it to her in terms that even a Tennessee woman couldn’t misconstrue about what she could do with a tip that was demanded BEFORE any service was rendered! It wouldn’t have mattered to him if Amy Vanderbilt and

Dale Carnegie were rubbing elbows with him and listening to every word.

But here is the real rub. And where the scandal comes in. There was nothing about the 20 percent that was a tip. It was a surcharge at best. And plain out extortion at worst.

We carried our own tea over to the table. And two young gentlemen eventually brought our food out. And they did not return. I had to get up and get back in line to get more tea. I spent the whole meal wondering exactly who it was that got my 20 percent “tip.” How much went to the two guys who spent eight seconds hustling the meal out to us? Did the cook get a cut? Did the young girl who took our order AND our money get a double portion? Did management make anything off this deal?

And what part of the tip

did they owe back to me because I had to wait on myself when my glass was empty.... Only in America.

Leon was the biggest tipper I ever saw. He paid for most all the eat-out meals when we were growing up. If he didn’t have enough to buy three 40 cent hamburgers AND leave a quarter or a couple of dimes for Cora at the City Café, we didn’t go in.

He was fourteen, I was nine, David was almost eight. But we understood you paid the tip AFTER you reviewed the service. And we really liked Miss Cora. She’d bring us extra French fries because, I reckon, we looked hungry. We figured she had earned the two dimes.

Cathy and I were traveling home one Christmas years ago when the boys were very small. We were both teaching and had almost no money. You’ve been there. We had to examine closely

what we had to even make the trip. It was that tight.

We stopped fairly late at night at a roadside diner in Moulton, Alabama. The boys were extra cranky. Our friendly waitress was about 11 and a half months pregnant. I can still see her shoes, worn down at the heels and a bit worse for wear.

She was nice to the boys, won them over in a heartbeat. Nobody would be working at Christmas, in her condition, unless they absolutely had to! Our order came to 12 dollars and some change.

I left a 20-dollar bill on the table. And listen to my heart here, don’t think yeah Kesley Colbert. You would have, and have done, the same thing. It happens all the time around this great nation.

And that dear hearts, is the correct, and only, way to tip. Respectfully, Kes

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Obituaries

DESTINY HENRY 2001 – 2025

MCKENZIE — A celebration of life for Destiny Nichole Henry is Saturday, August 23, 2025, at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home 5-8 p.m.

Ms. Henry, 24, died on Wednesday, August 13, 2025. She is a 2019 graduate of Gleason High School, and an employee of MSHN Enterprises. She was born in Huntingdon on April 9, 2001, to Joseph Henry and Cynthia Abare Harbison.

She is survived by her parents, Joseph and Cynthia; two sisters, Annie (Nathan) Winstead and Chris Henry; a brother, Daniel Henry; maternal grandparents, Thelma (Tommy) Bell and Robert Abare; paternal grandmother, Vickie Gantt; and fiancée, Jaden Schukert.

She is preceded in death by her grandfather, Danny Joe Henry; grandmother, Thelma Abare; and stepfather, Linder Harbison Jr.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

RICHARD PHILLIP ALLEN 1950 – 2025

Funeral services for Richard Phillip Allen were August 18, 2025, at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

Bro. Richard was 75 years old. He died August 15 at 5 a.m. at Patriot Nursing Home in Paris. He was a retired mechanic for the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

He was a minister for many years at Enon Missionary Baptist Church. He was a member of First Baptist Church in McKenzie.

He always had a smile for everyone. He loved and was loved by many.

He leaves his wife of 55 years, Patsy Noble Allen; and three grandchildren, Jacob (Mary) Allen, Amber (Blake) Alexander and Savanna Murray. He also leaves three sisters and five brothers, Sarah Bartholomew, Betty Burke, Kay (Charlie) Beal, Gene (Sally) Allen, William Allen, Jimmy (Liz) Allen, Thomas (Susan)

Allen and Donnie (Jackie) Allen.

He was preceded in death by his children, Jeremy Allen and Amanda Murray; his parents, Tommie James Allen and Artie Lissie Ervin Allen; three sisters, Pearl Gillette, Helen Crowder and Carolyn Roedel; and one brother, Howard Allen.

He is at peace now with the Lord and his children. He will be missed by many. +

JOYCE RODGERS 1945 – 2025

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Joyce Rodgers, 79, of Huntingdon, died Tuesday, August 12, 2025.

A private graveside service was conducted at Sellers Hill Cemetery.

Ms. Rodgers was born on December 24, 1945, to the late Ashley Boyd Hodge and Vickie Dykes. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her daughter, Delana Rodgers; two brothers, Michael Hodge and Ray Hodge; and one sister, Angie Elkins.

She is survived by her son, Adam Rodgers.

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

ARVILLE WILKS 1930 – 2025

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Arville Gray Wilks, 95, of Huntingdon, died Sunday, August 10, 2025, at his home. A Celebration of Life was Saturday, August 16, 2025, in the Chapel of Dilday Carter Funeral Home. A military honors service was at Carroll Memorial Gardens.

Mr. Wilks was born May 15, 1930, in Huntingdon, to the late Homer Dixon Wilks and Gracie Maurine (Brandon) Wilks. He is survived by a daughter, Connie (Jay) Bond of Huntingdon; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He also leaves a brother-in-law, Buddy (Bobbie) McMillin of Medina; and a sister-in-law, Lonelle McMillin of McKenzie. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Martha Jane (McMillin) Wilks; a daughter, Donna Kay Wilks; a sister-in-law, Betty Trull; a brother-in-law,

Frank Trull; and a brother-in-law, Barbee McMillin.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to: Carroll County Inclusion Park, 957 Tate School Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344, In memory of Arville Wilks.

BILLY BAKER 1937 – 2025

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Billy Baker, 87, of Huntingdon, died Tuesday August 12, 2025, at Baptist Memorial Hospital.

Funeral services were Friday August 15, 2025, in the Chapel of Dilday-Carter Funeral Home. Interment was at New Crossroads Church Cemetery in Huntingdon with Brother Scott Carter and Brother Phillip Halter officiating.

Mr. Baker was born October 3, 1937, to the late John Clarence Baker and Bula Odell Baker. He is also preceded in death by his son, Jeff Baker; granddaughter, Megan Inman; and brothers, Donald Baker and Gerald Baker.

He is survived by his loving wife, Louise Baker; daughters, Melinda Vailes and Amanda (Larry) Miller; son, Johnny (Teresa) Baker; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

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

ALISSA KING 1978 – 2025

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Alissa King, 47, of Huntingdon, died Thursday, August 7, 2025, at Jackson Madison County General Hospital.

Mrs. King was born May 1, 1978, in Chicago, Ill. She was preceded in death by her Gramma, Doris Donat.

She leaves behind her husband of 20 years, Kevin King; her mother, Debbie Darnell (Trent) of McKenzie; four daughters, Shyanne Trevathan (Jacob) Kristina Warren (Niko) both of Gleason, Katelyn Johnson, of Bruceton, Alexis Donat, of Union City; and two brothers, Paul Murphy of McKenzie, and Joe Donat, of Paris. She also leaves six beautiful grandchildren,

Chase Funeral Home.



Chocolate Cheesecake

- 1 (8.5 oz.) pkg chocolate wafers
- 6 tablespoons melted butter
- 12 oz. chocolate chips
- 3 (8 oz.) pkg cream cheese
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon brandy (optional)
- 3 eggs
- 8 oz. sour cream

Crush wafers and mix with melted butter; pat into 9x13 inch spring form pan, leaving a 1 inch space at top. Melt chocolate chips in double boiler. Beat cream cheese, sugar and brandy until smooth. Add chocolate chips and 3 eggs, 1 at a time. Add sour cream; mix until smooth. Pour into pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 1 hour. Cook on rack.

Frozen Passion

- 2 cans Eagle Brand milk
- 2 (28 oz.) bottles or 4 (12 oz.) cans of any flavor soda
- Pour Eagle brand milk and soda pop into freezer drum and freeze according to freezer directions. Makes 2 quarts.

Sweet Potato-Pineapple Puffs

- 2 cup mashed cooked sweet potatoes
- 2 egg yolks
- 2 tablespoon melted butter
- 2 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Dash of nutmeg
- 1/2 cup crushed drained pineapple
- 1 cup crushed corn flakes
- 2 egg whites
- 1 cup crushed corn flakes
- Combine potatoes, egg yolks, butter, sugar, salt,

- 2 tablespoon vanilla
- 1 box instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1 can cherry pie filling
- 1 oz. chocolate sprinkles
- Maraschino cherries
- Bake cake according to directions on box in 9x13x2inch baking pan. Mix pie filling and almond flavoring. While cake is still warm, poke top with fork and spread cherry pie filling over cake. While cake cools, prepare pudding according to package directions, adding extra vanilla flavoring. Fold in whipped topping. Spread pudding mixture over cake, carefully covering cherry pie filling. Decorate with chocolate sprinkles and maraschino cherries. Cover and refrigerate.

Black Forrest Cake

- 1 box devil's food cake mix
- 8 oz. whipped topping, thawed
- 1 tablespoon almond flavoring

More Obituaries available at mckenziebanner.com

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Bethel Golf Facility Becoming a Reality

MCKENZIE — The dream of a Coach Jerry Wilcoxson Golf facility for current and future Bethel University golfers is becoming a reality. The facility off Highway 22, just north of the Dr. Deb Thompson Tennis Complex, is taking shape.

Dirt work by Surber Farms, prompt work by the city of McKenzie, and construction by Nathan Eaton and Eaton Construction are making the dream become a reality. In-house assistance by Bethel golf coaches, John Austin and Larry Joe Smith, is playing a key role in getting the 60 X 40 facility off the ground.

The building will house an indoor putting green, player's lounge and study

area, coaches' offices, a simulator and two indoor bays that would hit onto a 300-yard outdoor range. A two-tier hitting area with a sprinkler system is also in the plans.

The effort would not have been possible without the contributions of Bethel supporters, the Rosenjack and Flangan families.

During Dr. Wilcoxson's time at Bethel, he served as the Athletic Director, Coach, and Professor. After he passed away in 2015, the annual homecoming golf tournament was named in his memory to honor his many contributions to Bethel golf and to the athletic program.



Inglenook Book Club Notes

The Inglenook Book Club held its monthly meeting at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, August 13, at Lakeside Senior Living Community in McKenzie. President Gail Mack called the meeting to order, welcoming everyone and introducing a potential new member, Karen Forrester, who was invited to attend. A special thank you was extended to hostess Beverly Mueller for providing brownies, fresh fruit, assorted nuts, and beverages.

All attendees stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, the Club Aim, and the Club Motto. We celebrated the August birthdays of Jean Hollomon and Donna Ward with a group rendition of "Happy Birthday."

Eighteen members responded to the roll call,

followed by the reading of the July meeting minutes. Jean Hollomon made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Victoria Ard, and the motion was unanimously approved. Treasurer Donna Ward was absent, so Vice President Shirley Martin delivered the Treasurer's report, which was also approved.

President Mack requested reports from the Sunshine Chair, Telephone Chair, Publicity Chair, and Membership Chair, all of which were read and approved.

The discussion on old business from last month's meeting regarding the Happy Book Stack store continued, with Mona Batchelor providing further updates. It was decided to table the dis-

cussion for further consideration during the September meeting, as the guest speakers for today were the employees of the Happy Book Stack. Mary Newman led the program by inviting the bookstore employees to share information about their establishment.

In new business, Shirley Martin announced the upcoming Carroll Arts Southern Fried Funnies event at the Park Theatre on Thursday, August 21, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, August 23, at 2 p.m. during the Sweet Tea Festival. Additionally, member Geneva Johnson was recognized in the McKenzie Banner this week for her 20 years of volunteer service at the Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center.

Mary Newman then continued with the book passing, with the next book passing date scheduled for

August 27. The next meeting will take place on September 10 at 3:00 PM at Lakeside, hosted by Jean McKinnie and Genia Sherwood. The program will be presented by Victoria Ard. Members are encouraged to bring scissors or school supply donations for the next month. The meeting adjourned following the recitation of the Benediction.

Members present were: Victoria Ard, Mona Batchelor, Peggy Chappell, Joyce Hayes, Jean Hollomon, Geneva Johnson, Jean McKinnie, Gail Mack, Shirley Martin, Carolyn Moore, Beverly Mueller, Mary Newman, Carolyn Potts, Sheila Rogers, Suzanne Russell, Genia Sherwood, Elaine Williams, and Jenny Wilson.

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary, Beverly Mueller.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

McKENZIE INDUSTRIAL BOARD TO MEET

McKenzie Industrial Board meets Thursday, August 21, 6 p.m., at The Railyard, 9 Broadway, McKenzie.

McKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL GOLF TOURNAMENT

McKenzie High School Basketball's annual Four-Man Scramble Golf Fund-raiser Tournament is Saturday, August 30 at Carroll Lake Golf Club with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Check in from 7:15-7:50 a.m.

Registration is \$200 per team by Friday, August 22 through an MHS basketball player.

Prizes will be awarded for Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive and Longest Putt Made. Lunch and awards will be at the conclusion of play.

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Thurs. 7:35

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Wed. 7:30
Thurs. 7:30

WEAPONS (R)

Tues. 7:25
Wed. 7:25
Thurs. 7:25

THE BAD GUYS 2 (PG)

Tues. 7:25
Wed. 7:25
Thurs. 7:25

THE NAKED GUN (PG-13)

Tues. 7:35
Wed. 7:35
Thurs. 7:35

FANTASTIC FOUR (PG-13)

Tues. 7:30
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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.
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.

FIFTH SUNDAY NIGHT SINGING AT HENRY BAPTIST

A Fifth Sunday Night singing is at Henry Baptist Church, 20 E College St., Henry, on Sunday, August

31 at 5 p.m. with Bendell Ellis and family. A love offering will be taken.

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 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.

NIGHTS ON BROADWAY ON THURSDAYS

McKenzie's downtown summer music series Nights on Broadway continues Thursday, September 4 with the band Fajita Brothers. Music begins at 7 p.m. Spectators sit on the town square facing the stage on Banner Row; lawn chairs are encouraged. Flashback performs Thursday, September 18.

MHS CLASS OF 1970 TO HOST REUNION

The 55th reunion of the Class of 1970 is Saturday, September 20 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 person. To RSVP, text or call Joyce Hayes at 731-697-0681 or Charlotte Verner at 731-414-2705.

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 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.

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.
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 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.

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.

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.

Schedule:
Friday, 8 a.m.: Golf Tournament at Carroll Lake Golf Club
Friday, 12:30 p.m.: MHS Homecoming Parade, downtown
Friday, 4:30 p.m.: Tailgate Party at Rebel Stadium (\$7 admission to stadium for game)
Friday, 9-11 p.m.: Block Party on Broadway sponsored by the City
Saturday: Class Reunions throughout the day
Saturday, 6 p.m. Live music at Hometown Hangout (Flashback)
The MHS Pop-Up Memorabilia Exhibit will be on display at The Happy Book Stack from Labor Day through the Decades Reunion weekend.
Any MHS class hosting a

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

For more info, follow the MHSAA Facebook page or email mckenziehsalumni@gmail.com.

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.

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.

HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY



Left, McKenzie's Abigail Wallace finishes first in the girls' race by a wide margin. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner Right, Medalists from jamboree host McKenzie (l to r): Alister Wallace, Bella Sass, Abigail Wallace, Autumn Haywood and Cal Fawcett. Photo courtesy Beth Mathis



Boys cross country runners take off from the starting line at the McKenzie jamboree. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

McKenzie Hosts Season-Opening Jamboree

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (August 12) — The high school cross country season began Tuesday with a jamboree at the city park including runners from host McKenzie High School as well as Huntingdon, Hollow Rock-Bruceton, Westview, Lexington, Obion County, Greenfield, Fayette Ware and Augustine.

Medals were awarded to the top 20 finishers in the girls' and boys' races, respectively.

- Girls Top 20 Finishers**
1. Abigail Wallace, McKenzie
 2. Alaina Ushelton, Westview
 3. Abby Hughes, Fayette Ware
 4. Emeri Lee, Obion County
 5. Autumn Haywood, McKenzie
 6. Ainsley Phillips, Westview
 7. Klicey Campbell, Obion County
 8. Madison Holder, Hollow Rock-Bruceton
 9. Bella Sass, McKenzie
 10. Brylee Patrick, Obion County
 11. Avery Coffey, Obion County
 12. Jillian Menees, Obion County
 13. Chloe Anderson, Obion County
 14. Riley Moore, Obion County
 15. Paige Costello, Huntingdon
 16. Agnes Randolph, Augustine
 17. Lilah McBride, Huntingdon
 18. Filly Tuscan, Obion County
 19. Adlee Sullivan, Greenfield
 20. Katy Franer, Obion County

- Boys Top 20 Finishers**
1. Blaine Todd, Huntingdon
 2. Deagan Arant, Greenfield
 3. Shawn Simpson, Huntingdon
 4. Alister Wallace, McKenzie
 5. Hayden Blakley, Obion County



McKenzie High School Principal Kelly Spivey (left) and McKenzie Parks Director Billy Hollowell. Hollowell and the parks department were complimented by all of the visiting coaches on the beautiful course. Photo courtesy Beth Mathis

6. Jackson Woodrough, Westview
7. Carson Watters, Huntingdon
8. Zach C., Obion County
9. Ethan Armstrong, Lexington
10. Brady Dunn, Obion County
11. Brody A., Obion County
12. Kody Gegg, Obion County
13. Zach Watkins, Huntingdon
14. Dominic Ledezma, Westview
15. Cal Fawcett, McKenzie
16. Fulton Armstrong, Lexington
17. Brian Lofton, Obion County
18. Cody Partridge, Huntingdon
19. Graham S., Augustine
20. Charlie Logan, Huntingdon
MHS Cross Country Coach Beth Mathis expressed her appreciation to everyone who participated in and spectated the event. She offers special thanks to McKenzie Parks Director Billy Hollowell and the parks department. Mathis told The Banner, "Every coach commented on how beautiful our course was, and that is all thanks to Billy and his crew!"

the West Carroll 3-2-1 Update

- 3-Exciting Highlights & Developments**
- **Growing Enrollment and Expanding Opportunities:** We're celebrating a 5% increase in student enrollment. We're excited to welcome these students into our classrooms, teams, & clubs.
 - **Enhanced Facilities and Learning Environments:** From the near-completion of the high school library media center to building improvements across the district, our schools are becoming safer, more engaging places to learn. Athletic facility upgrades are also improving the student experience.
 - **Stronger Support and Transparency in Student Programs:** The board reviewed detailed athletic funding and reaffirmed support for growing sports like junior high volleyball, and approved exciting trips for our students, including girls' basketball to Panama City and FBLA to Nashville.

2-WCSSD Leader Quotes
"The upgrades to our buildings and grounds have transformed the learning environment. Not only has it enhanced the safety of our school, but also it's creating real excitement for students and parents."
— **Jackie Wester**, West Carroll Primary School Principal

"Sorting students into houses is not just about friendly competition. It is about creating a sense of belonging for every student, providing opportunities for them to develop leadership skills, and intentionally building a school culture where students support one another and take ownership of their role in their community."
— **Dr. Adam Douglas**, West Carroll High School Principal

1-Community Challenge
This month, set a goal to attend at least one fall sporting event such as volleyball, football, or golf. Your presence in the stands sends a powerful message to our student-athletes that their community is behind them.

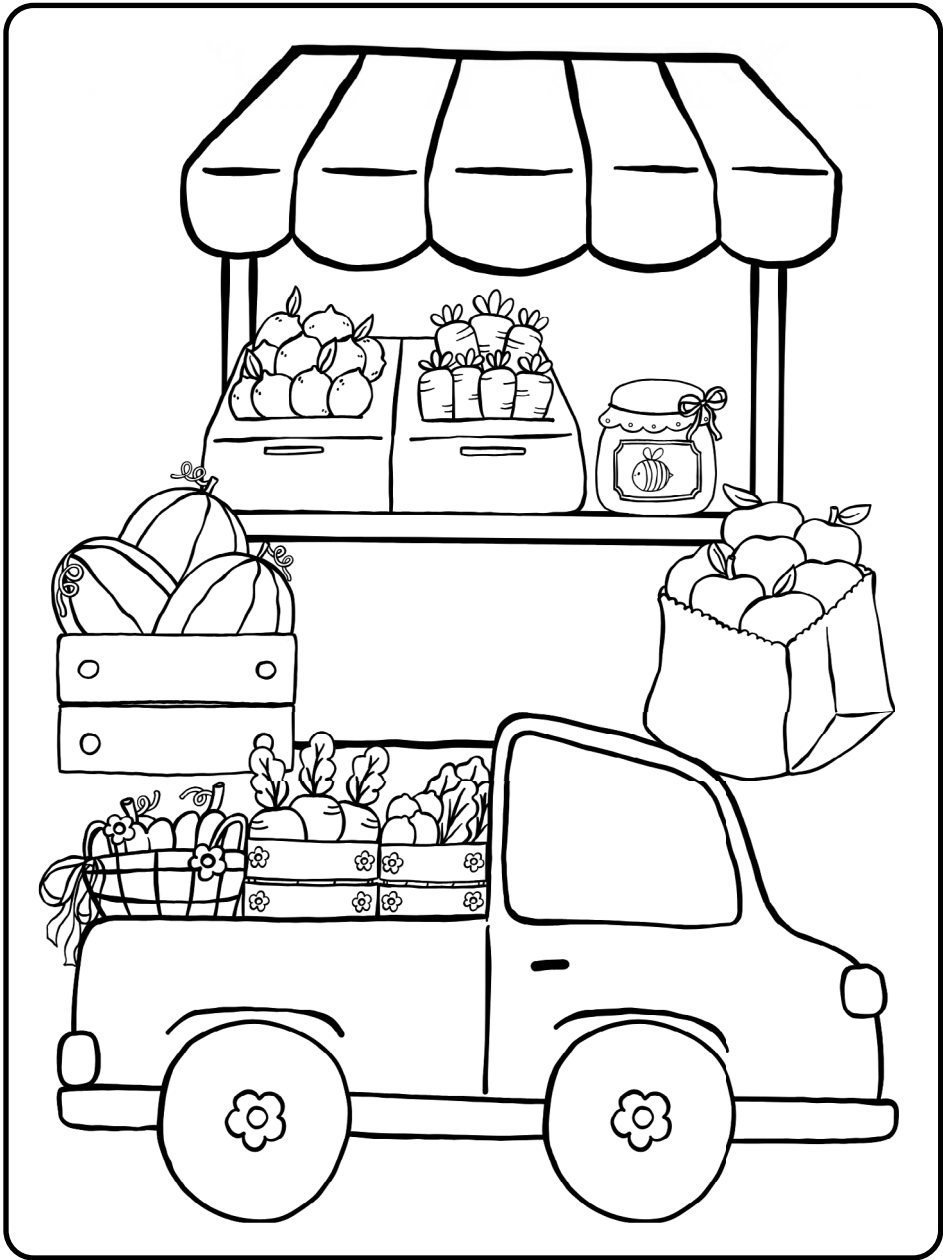
Our next board meeting will be September 4th.
Hope to see you there!
Preston Caldwell
wcssd.com/321



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A3150/33-1

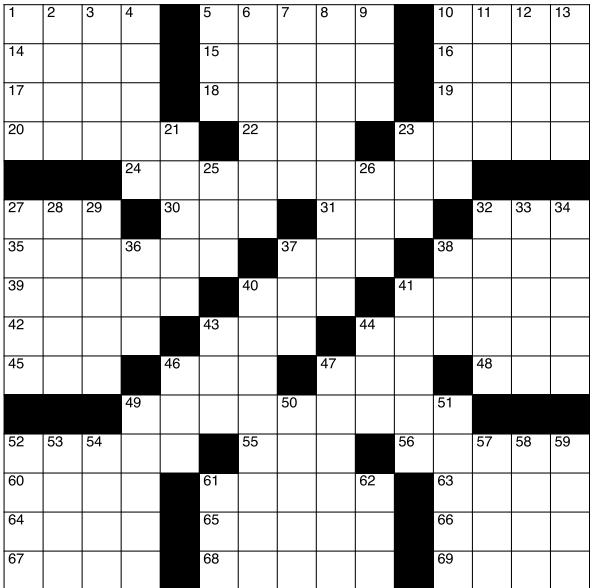
Color A Masterpiece



Weekly Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Mongolian politician
- 5. Coconut palms
- 10. Rounded knob
- 14. Japanese city
- 15. Covers in soft material
- 16. Walk around
- 17. Ancient region in Syria
- 18. French painter
- 19. Grandmother
- 20. Cow part
- 22. Rocky peak
- 23. Secret plan
- 24. Sings to one's lover
- 27. More (Spanish)
- 30. Father
- 31. Chinese philosophical principle
- 32. Hat
- 35. In agreement
- 37. A person's brother or sister
- 38. Evil spirit
- 39. Monetary units
- 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. About Sun
- 42. A place to dance
- 43. Performer ___ Lo Green
- 44. Beach accessory
- 45. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
- 46. Partly digested food
- 47. Pooch
- 48. Honorific title added to family name
- 49. Salts
- 52. Lichens genus
- 55. Lowest point of a ridge
- 56. Type of sword
- 60. Albanian language
- 61. Gold measurement
- 63. Italian seaport
- 64. Longtime late night host
- 65. Extremely angry
- 66. U. of Miami mascot
- 67. Mid-month day



- 68. Omitted from printed matter
- 69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Two-toed sloth
- 2. Cooking ingredient
- 3. Iranian city
- 4. Publicly outs
- 5. Steep-sided hollow
- 6. Spoke
- 7. General law or rule
- 8. Extravagantly theatrical
- 9. Very fast airplane
- 10. Arm bones
- 11. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 12. ___ fide: legitimate
- 13. Gemstone
- 21. Counsels
- 23. Top exec
- 25. Cool!
- 26. Touch lightly
- 27. Extract money via taxation
- 28. Dyes
- 29. Cloying sweetness
- 32. Soft drinks
- 33. Capital of Guam
- 34. Chemical compound
- 36. The bill in a restaurant
- 37. Car mechanics group
- 38. Late comedian Newhart
- 40. Health care for the aged
- 41. Wise individuals
- 43. A passage with access only at one end
- 44. Trim
- 46. Former OSS
- 47. The upper surface of the mouth
- 49. Edible lily bulbs
- 50. Type of reef
- 51. Vaccine developer
- 52. Mottled citrus fruit
- 53. A place to store lawn tools
- 54. Rare goose native to Hawaii
- 57. Hollywood pig
- 58. Musician Clapton
- 59. Take a chance
- 61. Spanish soldier
- 62. Mark Wahlberg comedy

Week 33

See solution in next week's edition.

Farmers Market Word Search

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

Apples
Basket
Bread
Cheese
Cider
Corn

Eggs
Farmer
Herbs
Jam
Oil
Organic

Peaches
Pickles
Plants
Pumpkin
Samples
Scale

Seasonal
Sign
Strawberries
Syrup
Tomatoes
Tote

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1680: Pueblo Indians capture Sante Fe from the Spanish.

1911: The Mona Lisa is stolen by Vincenzo Peruggia, a Louvre employee.

1959: U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower signs an executive order proclaiming Hawaii the 50th state.

SUDOKU

WEEK 33

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

Level: Advanced

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 farmers markets. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 10 =R)

A. 11 4 2 13 15 10
Clue: Merchant

B. 1 17 10 4 8
Clue: Products

C. 20 10 15 13 6 18 4
Clue: Fruits and vegetables

D. 18 10 17 14 22 8
Clue: Handmade items

Answers: A. Vendor B. wares C. produce D. crafts

LETTER MIX-UP

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

FARMERS MARKET

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

Riddle Me This

What happened when the strawberry attempted to cross the road?

Answer: There was a traffic jam!

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

WLF SRE O

Answer: Flowers

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actor born on August 19, 1963 in California. I earned my first role on a popular soap opera set in a hospital despite not reading for a specific part during my audition. I'm best known as a TV uncle with great hair and for having impressive skills behind a drum kit.

Answer: John Stamos

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2025

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PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 32 Crossword Puzzle Solution

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION WEEK 32

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

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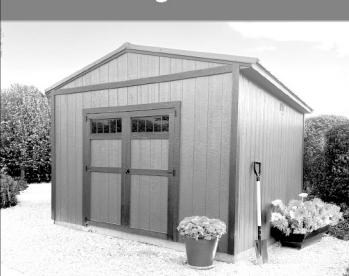
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Above Left, Rebel Timmy Arline breaks away from a sliding defender for extra yards. Above Right, Rebel Avery Brown makes a catch in the end zone for McKenzie's third touchdown. Left, Rebel Fletcher Holt takes down a Mustang ball carrier. Below Left, Rebel Kason Brown hauls in a catch to set up first-and-goal on McKenzie's first scoring drive. Below, Rebel quarterback Cole Brown outruns the pack for a 36-yard touchdown. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Rebels Close Preseason Strong at Jamboree

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

PARIS (August 15) — The McKenzie High School Rebels completed their preseason football schedule Friday at the Henry County High School Football Jamboree with a strong showing against the McCracken County Mustangs.

The Rebels played for one hour, outscoring the Mustangs 20-14, but more importantly, making some final adjustments and evaluations leading into the regular season. McKenzie hosts rival Huntingdon Friday at 7 p.m.

McCracken County had the first possession, and the

McKenzie defense allowed one first down before shutting the drive down.

The Rebels also managed one first down on their opening drive before punting, but forced a three-and-out on the Mustangs' second possession.

McKenzie found a rhythm in their second drive, going 64 yards on five plays, capped by a one-yard keeper by quarterback Cole Brown. Aiden Mason kicked the point-after, and the Rebels led 7-0.

The Mustangs tied it with a five-play, 70-yard drive, 7-7.

The teams traded punts, then McKenzie went 68 yards on three plays. Timmy Arline ran for eleven, C. Brown

threw to Lelan Gordon for 21, then C. Brown kept again for 36 yards. Another kick by Mason made it 14-7.

The Rebel defense continued to shine with another three-and-out.

McKenzie scored their final touchdown on a seven-play, 61-yard drive capped by a 14-yard pass from C. Brown to Avery Brown. Mason missed the kick, but the Rebels led 20-7.

The teams swapped punts again, then McCracken County sustained a long drive to score again and make it 20-14.

The Rebels took over and managed two plays before time expired.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Above, Mustang Kingston Smith scores a touchdown in JV action at the Jamboree against Lexington. Below Left, Mustang Garvin Kee drags down a Lexington runner in JV action at the Jamboree. Below Right, Mustang defenders tackle a Lexington runner in Varsity action in the Jamboree at Lexington. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner



Mustangs Edge Lexington in Jamboree

BY RUSSELL BUSH
banner@mckenziebanner.com

LEXINGTON (August 15) — Huntingdon traveled to Lexington Friday to face the Tigers in the state's oldest Jamboree.

The Jamboree that started in 1964 has changed over the years but the old rivalry between the Mustangs and Tigers continued this past Friday as JV teams from both schools competed in two 15-minute quarters with a running clock.

The varsity followed with one quarter that was timed as a regular game and one quarter with a 12-minute running clock.

The Mustangs and Tigers tied 12-12 in JV action, and the Mustangs defeated the Tigers 7-0 in varsity action.

Mustang JV 12, Lexington JV 12

Both offenses were on display in the JV portion of the Jamboree as the Mustangs and Tigers scored on their first two possessions.

Lexington started the scoring first when Webb Wyatt connected with Gino Garver for an 8-yard TD pass to complete a nine play 70-yard drive.

The Mustangs answered back with a nine-play drive

for a touchdown. Kingston Smith scored the TD on a one yard run to tie the game at 6-6.

Lexington responded with a five-play drive that found the end zone on a 33-yard pass play from Wyatt to Maurice Johnson.

The Mustangs then tied the score at 12-12 with a four-play drive that covered 70 yards. The touchdown came on a 34-yard scamper by Ayden Woods. Neither team kicked extra points in the JV portion of the Jamboree.

Lexington rushed for 45 yards and completed 4 of 7 passes for 77 yards. The Mustangs didn't attempt a pass but rushed for 162 yards in two quarters. Woods led the Mustangs with 55 yards rushing, Smith 53 yards, and Colt Wood 54 yards.

Mustang Varsity 7 Lexington 0

Despite only scoring one time, the Mustang offense moved the ball well in the varsity portion of the Jamboree. The Tigers started with possession but went three-and-out and punted to the Mustang 22.

The Mustangs reeled off 11 plays and reached the

Tiger 27 but turned the ball over on downs. The Mustangs had one pass dropped for a touchdown and another dropped for a first down during the drive.

Huntingdon's Tyreke Hutch recovered a Tiger fumble two plays later at the Tiger 31, setting up the only score of the game. The Mustangs kept the ball on the ground and found the end zone on a three-yard run by Braylin Dearmon. Greyson Anderson tacked on the point after and a 7-0 lead for the Mustangs.

Neither team was able to find the end zone for the remainder of the Jamboree and the highlight of the final minutes of the Jamboree came when Hayes Eubanks booted a 69-yard punt.

Lexington rushed 15 times for 30 yards and completed 4 of 7 passes for 75 yards. The Mustangs rushed 17 times for 80 yards and were 0-3 passing. Dearmon rushed for 28 yards, Hutch 24 and Kenton Smith had 17 yards on the ground.

The Mustangs start the season this Friday night as they travel across the creek to take on the McKenzie Rebels.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Rotarians Hear About Plastic Product Formers

MCKENZIE (August 12) — Patrick Ross, operations manager of Plastic Product Formers, a division of VP Racing, was the featured speaker at the Rotary Club of McKenzie on Tuesday, August 12.

Ross, a McKenzie native, said the company, located on Rochelle Store Road, McKenzie, is a new startup operation that manufactures utility jugs to hold various fluids.

The manufacturer is located in the former Nest-away building, located in the McKenzie Industrial Park-South. It has 35 employees and operates on two work shifts for six



Patrick Ross, center, was the speaker at the McKenzie Rotary Club. Pictured are Armand Hebert, Rotary Vice President, Mr. Ross, and Ricky Price, President, McKenzie Rotary Club.

days weekly. The company hopes to operate around the clock.

The Rotary Club of McKenzie meets each Tuesday noon in the Vera Low Center on the campus of Bethel University.

McKenzie High School Volleyball Begins Inaugural Season Thursday

BY BRAD SAM
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MCKENZIE — McKenzie High School begins its newest athletic endeavor Thursday, August 21 with the volleyball season opener. The Lady Rebels host Waverly in the MHS gymnasium.

JV begins play at 5 p.m., followed by the varsity teams.

Coach Jordan Jowers spoke to The Banner about the new program. "I'm so excited, and I'm so proud. We started the first week of July, and we have worked incredibly hard. These girls have put in so much work. They knew nothing about volleyball at the start of July. They have learned so many fundamentals. They have been so coachable. It has been a true joy to watch them grow as athletes."

Jowers played volleyball in high school as well as for travel and club teams. She has previously coached softball for McKenzie.

She said the team's goal is to work hard. "What we do on the court

will speak for our success. They are working very hard, and I'll always be proud if they work their hardest."

As a brand new team, there's no natural succession of leadership. Jowers said, "You don't have to pick leaders, leaders just make themselves known. I told the girls, a true leader is not one with athletic ability, but one that is mentally tough."

The coach noted, "Volleyball is a very emotional sport, you'd be shocked at how the momentum changes just based on emotions. It's so important to be mentally strong. Athleticism is pretty natural at McKenzie, we have lots of athletic girls. I'm more worried about their character than anything else. I feel like that's what will take them to the next level athletically. Wanting the best for their team, staying mentally tough. Saying 'If I make a mistake, it's ok. I can do better next time.' Our motto is, 'If we know better, we do better.'"

Jowers expressed her appreciation for the community's support. "I'm so grateful for all of the sup-



McKenzie High School Volleyball — (L to R) Front Row: Raychel Oliver, Haylee Beard, Ashley Dunavant and Molly French; Second Row: Janyla Piro, Natalia Taylor, Breanna Townsend, Kailie Hudgins, Ava Newman, Maggie Hall and Kynadie Brown; Back Row: manager Carlton Townes, Braylin Auvenshine, Chloe Giddens, Kynlee Barden, Coach Jordan Jowers, Ridley Holt, Addison Milam, Jaycee Stafford and manager Carli Beeler. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

port. People have been so positive and so excited. We have had incredible people and businesses fundraising. We're so grateful for anybody who has made it possible. It has been so much fun."

She's optimistic that that support will continue in the stands. "It

makes all the difference when people are cheering. I'm very hopeful for the season because it's new. The more support we have, the better the girls are going to play. Volleyball is incredibly momentum-based, so the crowd makes all the difference. If we have a big crowd and our girls

are being cheered for, the way that they play is heightened."

MHS is the newest team in District 12A, which includes Clarksburg, West Carroll, Riverside, JCM, Madison and Huntingdon.

The team includes seniors Ashley Dunavant, Haylee Beard, Molly French and Raychel Oliver; sophomores Addison Milam, Ava Newman, Braylin Auvenshine, Breanna Townsend, Janyla Piro, Jaycee Stafford, Kailie Hudgins, Kynadie Brown, Maggie Hall and Natalia Taylor; and freshmen Chloe Giddens, Kynlee Barden and Ridley Holt. Managers are seniors Carlton Townes and Carli Beeler.

MHS 2025 Volleyball Schedule

- 8-21 Waverly
- 8-28 Clarksburg
- 9-2 @ JCM
- 9-4 JCM
- 9-8 @ South Gibson
- 9-15 Huntingdon
- 9-16 @ Riverside
- 9-18 Riverside
- 9-22 Madison (DH)
- 9-23 West Carroll
- 9-25 @ Huntingdon
- 9-29 @ Clarksburg
- 9-30 @ West Carroll
- 10-2 @ Waverly

All matches begin at 5 p.m.