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Commission Discusses Harris Road Rail Crossing

BY JASON R. MARTIN
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HUNTINGDON (September 8) — On Monday, the Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler and Chief Deputy Joel Pate of the Sheriff's Office addressed the Carroll County Commission regarding three deaths at the Harris Road railroad crossing in McKenzie.

Mayor Butler stated that, while emotions are high, the county is addressing the issue. While the county does not have the answers to the problem, he wanted the Commission and the citizens of Carroll County to know that something will be done.

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Signage marking the temporary closure of Harris Road at the CSX railroad crossing. Photo by Jason Martin/The Banner

McKenzie Streets to be Resurfaced

BY JASON R. MARTIN
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McKENZIE (September 11) — During Thursday's meeting of the McKenzie City Council, paving bids were top of the list. Three companies submitted bids for the paving of Florida Avenue, Florida Court, Manley Street, and a portion of Bell Avenue.

Martin Paving of Medina was awarded the bid with a price of \$140.40 per ton. Pavement Restorations,

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BARBECUE FUNDRAISER



McKalee Graham and mother Lindsay Robinson prepare a barbecue sandwich combo for Marcia Baucum. The donation box is to the left of the meal bags. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Community Unites for Scott, Perez Families

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
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McKENZIE (September 11) — When the train accident on Saturday, September 6, left the Carroll County community reeling

over the sudden loss of Luke Scott and Martin Perez, Lindsay Robinson, owner of LaLa's BBQ, saw an opportunity to help the grieving families.

"I, like everyone else, was at a loss of how to show my love

and support during such a tragic situation," Robinson shared via LaLa's BBQ's Facebook page. Having known Scott and his family

See BARBECUE on Page 3

Trezevant Delays Tiny House Regulations

TREZEVANT (September 9) — What qualifies as a "tiny house" was a significant topic during the public hearing of the Trezevant Mayor and Council at their September 9 meeting.

Meeting at the Trezevant Community Center, the Council considered several proposed changes to the city's zoning ordinances, one of which included defining a tiny house. Donny Bunton from the Northwest Tennessee Development District's planning office presented the proposed changes. The

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McKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL



Members of the MHS Homecoming royalty are seniors (L to R): Morgan Little, Nadia Sise-more, Carli Beeler, Olivia Cantrell and Charli Weatherford. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Homecoming Week is Underway

BY BRAD SAM
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McKENZIE (September 15) — McKenzie High School began its Homecoming festivities Monday, continuing

all week leading up to the football game Friday night.

Each day this week has a dress-up theme. Monday is Pajama Day, Tuesday is Character/Movie Day and Wednesday is Generations Day (fresh-

men are babies, sophomores are toddlers, juniors are adults and seniors are... seniors).

Thursday, students dress as

See MHS on Page 3

McKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL

Decades Reunion Is This Friday

COURTESY OF MHSAA

McKENZIE — It is time for the second annual McKenzie High School Alumni Association (MHSAA) Decades Reunion. It is this weekend, September 19-20, 2025, in conjunction with the 95th edition of the MHS football homecoming.

The first football homecoming at MHS was in 1930. Last year's event drew an estimated 500 alumni and friends to McKenzie, and more are expected this year. All alumni, as well as past faculty and staff of McKenzie High School, are invited to attend the events of the weekend, which include a golf scramble, a popup memorabilia exhibit at The Happy Book Stack in downtown McKenzie, a Friday night block party hosted by the City of McKenzie, the annual MHS homecoming parade, as well as other gatherings and events. A tailgate party inside

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Left, Cash Express representatives Monica Harrison and Amanda Thatcher gifted the McKenzie Fire Department with a cake. Pictured are Harrison and Thatcher (front) with Mayor Ryan Griffin and MFD representatives Kevin Hill, Brian Tucker and Mikayla Vincent. Right, Cash Express representatives Monica Harrison and Amanda Thatcher gifted McKenzie's EMTs with a cake. Pictured are Harrison and Thatcher (front) with EMT Mike Robertson, Mayor Ryan Griffin and EMT Chazz Prestwood. Below, Cash Express representatives Monica Harrison and Amanda Thatcher gifted the police department with two cakes. Pictured are Harrison and Thatcher (front) with McKenzie Police Department representatives and Mayor Ryan Griffin. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Cash Express Honors Local First Responders on 9/11

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (September 11) — Cash Express of McKenzie honored its long tradition of donating cakes to McKenzie's first responders in remembrance of the terror attacks that took place

24 years prior, on September 11, 2001. The McKenzie Police Department, McKenzie Fire Department and McKenzie Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics each received cakes and posters thanking them for the work they do for their communities.



Colonel Hawkins Reflects on 9/11 Attacks

MCKENZIE — Lieutenant Colonel Robert Hawkins serves as the Professor of Military Science for the Army ROTC "Skyhawk Battalion" at the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM). On September 9, he was the featured speaker at the Rotary Club of McKenzie.

Colonel Hawkins has served on active duty in the Army and is currently at UT-Martin, where he trains cadets for both military and community service.

On September 11, 2001, while he was a college student, Hawkins was heading to class when he noticed his roommate intently watching television. Although the channel was a sports network, it was broadcasting the destruction of the Twin Towers. After turning in his



Colonel Robert Hawkins

assignment to his professor, Hawkins decided to skip class and monitor the news coverage.

In the aftermath of the attacks, both Hawkins and his brother made the decision to join the military. They waited for the recruiting stations to reopen and

subsequently enlisted in the Army, which was not their first choice for military service.

Colonel Hawkins initially trained as a tanker and was deployed to Kuwait, followed by two tours of duty in Iraq. He has also served in Japan and Germany, leading soldiers in both combat and peacetime missions around the globe. He noted that he has collaborated with multinational partners to further U.S. interests.

Currently residing in the Martin area with his family, Colonel Hawkins continues his work at UT-Martin, training the next generation of cadets. His military service commenced following the attacks on September 11, 2001.



The multi-purpose pavilion outside of McKenzie High School allows for outdoor class instruction. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

McKenzie High School Installs New Multi-Purpose Outdoor Pavilion

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

McKenzie High School's campus amenities have expanded with the addition of a multi-purpose outdoor pavilion. The pavilion, situated across from the soccer field, is the answer to many educators' wishes to have a dedicated location to teach outside of the classroom.

When Susan Dyer, career and technical education (CTE) director, began writing grant requests for the new school year, she sought advice from teachers about what they might want to see on campus. Several teachers mentioned wanting an alternative learning environment.

"Learning outside of the classroom is important, and we wanted the high school to have a space for classes to come outside of the walls of the classroom," said district superintendent Dr. Justin Barden. Now that the pavilion is fully functional, he said, "Any class has access

and can use it for a variety of activities."

The pavilion has restrooms, an ice machine in the storage closet and a water fountain and an exterior faucet for filling water coolers. All three rooms have air conditioning for a welcome reprieve on hot days. There are lights in each room, and the exterior poles contain electricity. The building also has a WiFi access point to aid in student learning.

Eventually, the pavilion will be outfitted with picnic tables, one of which will be handicap accessible, along with an outdoor bench and a grilling space. The storage room will also hold a rolling white board and clipboards for instructional use.

Though primarily built for outdoor learning, the pavilion serves as a multi-purpose facility.

Because of its proximity to the soccer field and the marching band's practice space, Barden said it made sense to open the space for restroom use and a place to

escape from the sun during extracurricular activities. Eventually, he and Dyer hope the pavilion will become a space for alumni, sports teams and community gatherings.

"Like we've done with multiple projects, we want to add value and benefit to our district facilities, and we feel the pavilion will be another one of those valuable resources for our schools and community," said Barden. "The pavilion is a point of pride for us now and we plan to maintain it for years of great use."

The pavilion hosts its first community event Saturday, September 20. The high school's agriculture department will set up to sell mums and pumpkins for its annual Fall Frenzy event. In past years, the event was held at the on-campus greenhouse.

The pavilion, built by Greg Barker's Integrity Construction Management, was completed and approved for use in August.

County Property Taxes Notices to be Mailed Soon



The 2025 Carroll County property tax season is officially underway. Mr. Robert Cole of Bruceton was the first to pay his 2025 property taxes. The Carroll County Trustee's Office is ready for the tax season. Tax Notices will be mailed out on September 30. Submitted photo

NEW AT WEST CARROLL PRIMARY Facility Updates, Playground Addition

ATWOOD — West Carroll Primary School began the 2025–26 school year with updates to staffing, building infrastructure and student play areas, part of a district-wide focus on supporting student safety, learning, and well-being.

New staff members were welcomed ahead of the first day of school. Ms. Katie Ann Waring, a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, joined the faculty as a first-grade teacher. Mrs. Jeanene Jones was named cafeteria manager and now oversees nutrition services. Teaching assistants Taelor Byers, Amanda Trevathan and Kelly Teague were added to help provide smaller group learning. The custodial team also expanded with the addition of Ms. Crystal Godinez. Returning staff marked the start of the year by welcoming new colleagues with small gifts and refreshments.

Outside the classroom, students returned to a new playground feature known as the "bouncy bus," a bus-shaped structure mounted on springs. The addition gives students a playful space for movement and imagination during recess.

Building improvements are also near completion. Upgrades include the installation of new windows and doors, along with the construction of a secure foyer at the school's main entrance. The safety-focused



Students have a blast on the new bouncy bus playground equipment. Front row: Waylon James, Ellie Glover; Middle row: Colton Sellers, Russell Woodall; Back row: Lyndon Nilsen, Dawson Williams. Photo submitted by Michelle Robinson.

renovation required temporary relocation of registration, which was held at West Carroll Junior/Senior High School.

The start-of-year updates reflect West Carroll Primary's focus on maintaining a safe, structured and student-centered environment. School leaders anticipate a productive year ahead supported by new staff, improved facilities and engaging opportunities for students.

West Carroll Elementary School Recognizes Weekly SOAR Students

West Carroll Elementary School continues its tradition of celebrating outstanding students through the SOAR Awards program. The initiative recognizes students who demonstrate the school's core values of safety, ownership, achievement and respect. Each week, students are honored for their academic effort, positive character and contributions to the school community.

The week one SOAR Award was presented to Landon Moffler, a third grader who earned the highest number of dojo points on ClassDojo for the week. Third grade teacher Mrs. Lindsey Lindsay praised Landon's positive influence in the classroom.

"We are proud to honor Landon as a SOAR student," said Lindsay. "He brightens our classroom every day with his positive energy, enthusiasm and willingness to help others. Whether it's lending a hand to classmates, participating eagerly in discussions or spreading kindness with a smile, Landon makes our learning community stronger and



West Carroll Elementary School's August SOAR students (L to R): Chris James, Olivia Willis and Landon Moffler. Photo submitted by Michelle Robinson, West Carroll Special School District

happier."

The week two award went to Chris James, also a third-grade student, who was recognized for his impressive dojo points. Mrs. Lindsay shared her thoughts on Chris, noting his kind spirit.

"Chris shines brightly through his kindness, hard work and gentle presence," said Lindsay. "He is always showing respect and thoughtfulness to classmates and teachers. As his teachers, we look forward to getting to know more about the wonderful person he is becoming."

One student was nominated by teachers and staff for recognition across both

weeks. That honor went to Olivia Willis, a sixth-grade student. Sixth grade teacher Mrs. Shanna Pafford spoke highly of Olivia's leadership and character.

"Olivia is a bright, creative student who always chooses the right path," said Pafford. "She exemplifies safety, ownership, achievement and respect in and outside of the classroom."

Through the SOAR Awards, West Carroll Elementary School continues to highlight the achievements and positive contributions of its students, encouraging them to serve as role models for their peers.

Harris

...From Front Page

Butler turned the floor over to Chief Pate, who affirmed that CSX, TDOT and all parties involved have had positive conversations. In short, the process to put up safety signals or apparatuses could take up to two years due to TDOT requiring an engineering study and a diagnostic review. The cost for the signals and apparatuses would run between \$350,000 to \$500,000, which could possibly be paid for through a grant.

On Wednesday, September 10, the following message was sent by Mayor Butler: “We have made the decision to temporarily keep the Harris Rd. and CSX crossing closed. It was closed as CSX continued investigation and repairs, and is now closed under the direction of County leadership.

“We will do so as we continue discussion with CSX and TDOT, and other stakeholders, and as we seek more answers and work towards a solution. We hope this closure is short, but will depend on the timeline of any solution that will limit the danger of this crossing. This does present some concern as it relates to emergency response in that area, so this is temporary and not a long-term fix.

“We have had productive meetings and discussions with both CSX and TDOT, and hope to provide additional information on a solution soon.”

In other business from the September 8 meeting, Huntingdon resident Lori Dillahunty was selected to fill the vacancy in District 7 previously held by Manuel Crossno. Three others vied for the seat: Johnny Hill, Jimmy Sue Staten and Lynn Grice.

Mayor Butler was elected Chairman of the Carroll County Legislative Body with Commissioner Darrell Ridgely serving as the Chairman Pro Tempore. The Commission also approved the committees of the Carroll County Legislative Body.

Resolution 9-01-2025 was approved, appointing Willie Huffman to the



Lori Dillahunty takes the oath of office as she was selected by the Commission to fill the District 7 vacancy. *Photo by Jason Martin/The Banner*

Carroll County Indigent Care Board.

Resolution 9-02-2025 was approved, authorizing Mayor Butler to sign a contract with Raekar for dumpster service at Sgt. Lee Russell Carroll County Airport. This is a two-year contract for weekly service at a rate of \$70 per month.

Resolution 9-03-2025 was approved to amend the General Fund Budget for the Carroll County Library. This was a \$10,960 line item transfer from Office Equipment to account for a technology grant.

Resolution 9-04-2025 was approved to amend the General Fund Budget for the Sheriff’s Office. This is to account for the transfer of funds (\$40,796) from the General Fund to the Grant Fund for carryover grant funds received in FY25 for the Sheriff’s GHSO Grant and for the purchase of a new water heater and boiler system (\$80,000) for the Carroll County Jail.

Resolution 9-05-2025 was approved to amend the General Fund Budget for Prevention Coalition to account for the transfer of funds (\$8,443) from the General Fund to the Grant Fund for carryover grant funds received in FY25 Prevention Coalition grants.

Resolution 9-06-2025 was approved to amend the Grant Fund Budget for the Sheriff’s Office. This is to account for the transfer

and allocation of funds from the General Fund to the Grant Fund for carryover grant funds received in FY25 for the Sheriff’s GHSO Grant (\$23,288); the transfer and allocation of funds from the General Fund to the Grant Fund for carryover grant funds received in FY25 for the Sheriff’s Mental Health Grant (\$58,304); and allocation of funds for the Sheriff’s Recruitment Grant (\$44,000).

Resolution 9-07-2025 was approved to amend the Grant Fund Budget for Prevention Coalition to account for the transfer and allocation of funds from the General Fund to the Grant Fund for carryover grant funds received in FY25 for the Prevention Coalition’s Strategic Grant (\$16,886); allocation of funds for the Prevention Coalition’s SOR 4 Grant (\$107); and allocation of funds for the Prevention Coalition’s Block Grant (\$1,303).

The following were elected notaries: Mary Berry, Jennifer Leigh Bolen, Alison Branch, Gabrielle Davis, Cayce Dempsey Maddox, Andrew William Morrow, Christina Mulliford, Amy E. Noles, Mary Roland Jenks, and Michael E. Stafford.

The next regular meeting of the Carroll County Commission is October 13 at 7 p.m. at the Carroll County Government Complex in Huntingdon.

Barbecue

...From Front Page

personally, she felt a need to help.

Robinson partnered with McKenzie’s Phipps Pharmacy and Huntingdon’s Cash Saver to host a donation-only fundraiser to raise money for burial expenses for Scott and Perez.

Robinson and her daughter, McKalee Graham, set up a tent at Phipps Pharmacy on Thursday, September 11, to sell 320 smoked bologna and pulled pork barbecue sandwich meals — includ-

ing a bottle of water and a bag of chips — beginning at 10 a.m. Sales were donation-based, so anyone could pay via cash donation or through Robinson’s Venmo or CashApp. While Robinson’s sandwich combos were typically \$8, she urged customers to give whatever they could afford.

Allison and Brice Webb, owners of A&B Minis & Mobile Petting Zoo, decided Thursday morning to bring some of their petting zoo animals to Phipps Pharmacy to help gather donations.

Robinson ran out of sandwiches within three hours on the first day.

That night, she regrouped and prepared 320

more sandwich combos for Friday. She and the Webbs set up for another day of fundraising — this time, at Cash Saver.

Robinson shared her thanks on Facebook Friday night. “Carroll County sure united at my little tents the last two days and I’m forever thankful,” she wrote.

The train/automobile accident on September 6 was the second accident on Harris Road in less than a month. Since the accident, Carroll County politicians have met and discussed measures to make the train crossing safer for car drivers. At this time, the train crossing at Harris Road is closed to car traffic.

Streets

...From Front Page

Inc. (PRI) of Martin was the second lowest at \$141 per ton. The third bid came from Arrow Paving of Lexington with a cost of \$148.50 per ton.

The estimated tonnage for the project is 877 at a cost of \$123,165.88. It is believed the paving will commence in October.

In other business, Ordinance 573 was approved on the second reading. This was a general amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, clearing up verbiage and making the ordinances easier to follow and interpret.

During citizens’ input, a representative for

Parkwood Enterprises addressed the Council, informing them that the mobile home park located on Forrest Avenue will not be demolished for the construction of townhouses. Now, the property owners would like the area zoned back to R-4 (residential mobile home) from R-3 (high-density residential).

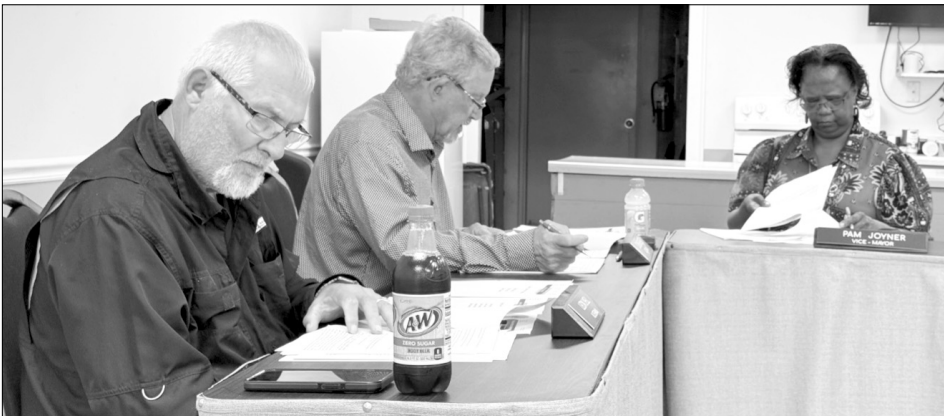
Mayor Griffin stated that the request would have to go before the McKenzie Regional Planning Commission. If recommended for rezoning, then the ordinance can be voted on by the Council.

During department reports, Public Works will begin culvert repair on David Street. The Water Department has set a water meter at the Mulberry Soccer Complex. The Parks Department

noted the irrigation and turf have been installed at Mulberry, and TriTurf also helped with other projects with the Parks Department. The Fire Department received 68 calls in August; 40 of which were classified as medical related. The Police Department received 1456 calls and are working to build out its new E Force Software.

Prior to the meeting, the McKenzie Alcohol Board granted new certificates for Type A “Off Premise” permits to Virendra B. Patel, dba: Kriya 01, Inc., 15300 Highland Dr and Virendra B. Patel, dba: Kriya 02, Inc., 528 Magnolia Ave.

The next meeting of the McKenzie City Council is on October 9 at 6 p.m. at McKenzie City Hall.



Councilman Leon Lyell, Councilman Don Barger and Councilwoman Pam Joyner review the proposed regulations for tiny houses in Trezevant. *Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner*

Tiny

...From Front Page

Planning Commission recommended that a tiny house have a minimum size of 900 square feet, be placed on a permanent foundation, be connected to utilities, and have any axles or towing hardware removed.

Councilman Don Barger disagreed with the proposed minimum of 900 square feet, arguing that this size does not fit the definition of a tiny house. He noted that the national average for tiny house size is approximately 425 square feet. Barger also highlighted that McKenzie’s regulations set a minimum of 800 square feet. He emphasized that any size of house should be acceptable as long as it is on a permanent foundation and connected to utilities. He pointed out that there are tiny houses sold regionally that are smaller than 900 square feet.

During the public hearing, several residents expressed concerns that very small tiny houses could negatively impact the property values of neighboring homes.

In addition to defining tiny houses, the proposed changes included clarifying that accessory buildings cannot be used for residential living.

After the public hearing, the Council deferred a vote on the zoning ordinance changes until new revisions are made regarding the proposed tiny house regulations.

The Council approved a bid from Mid-South Tank Consultants of Cookeville for \$4,700 to drain and pressure wash the interior of the

standing water tank. This bid was the lowest among four submitted, which ranged from \$4,700 to \$24,250. Water Superintendent Erik Grimes stated Mid-South is well aware of the scope of the work to be performed.

Grimes also mentioned that a road construction company is using over 100,000 gallons of water monthly from fire hydrants, for which they are paying. Construction continues on the U.S. 79 bypass around Trezevant.

Additionally in the Water Department, Jones Electric of McKenzie is extending electrical power to new aeration pumps at the sewer lagoon, funded through federal grant money.

A2H engineers are surveying the city’s wastewater lines to identify where stormwater is infiltrating through leaky pipes. A grant will assist the city in mitigating stormwater infiltration by funding a project that will install a cured-in-place inner liner inside selected sewer pipes in town.

The Council approved rezoning a parcel of land along U.S. 79 for Edward and Kimberly Whitten, who plan to place a manufactured home on the site. The second and final reading for this rezoning is scheduled for October.

Mayor Bobby Blaylock recommended changing the town’s brush pick-up day to allow residents to call City Hall to request pick-up during weekdays throughout the month. City workers could then dispose of the brush during their downtime. Gabby Davis from the city expressed that the current one-day monthly pick-up is more efficient. Mary Jo Hall added that city em-

ployees already collect brush throughout the month as needed. Mayor Blaylock appointed Councilwoman Pam Joyner to meet with city employees to review the matter for a recommendation.

A settlement proposal concerning the lawsuit “Town of Trezevant v. Quinn” was forwarded to the Trezevant Board of Zoning Appeals for consideration.

In the Council reports, Councilman Leon Lyell emphasized the need for additional volunteer firefighters. Trezevant’s fire department is part of the Carroll County Fire Department network, which provides extra equipment and manpower when necessary.

Councilman Don Barger reported that the Police Department received 24 calls in August and currently has three part-time officers.

Councilwoman Pam Joyner noted that the town’s Street Department has been busy mowing and decorating the park in addition to other responsibilities.

Councilman Dan Dieringer mentioned that drainage work is also underway at the park, and he advised that the town’s garbage dumpsters should be locked after hours and on weekends.

Finally, the town is preparing for a Halloween event on October 25, which will include free concessions, candy giveaways by residents, costume contests, and karaoke. Councilman Mark Argo stated that work has begun on installing aerator pumps at the sewer lagoon and that engineering efforts are underway to locate stormwater infiltration in the deteriorating sewer lines.

Reunion

...From Front Page

Rebel Stadium for alumni, faculty, and staff will take place before the Friday night homecoming football game against Camden, beginning at 4:30 pm.

The Friday schedule is: 8 a.m. Golf Tournament; 12:30 p.m. MHS parade -begins at Edward Jones and ends at Rebel Stadium with a pep rally; 4:30 p.m. Decades Reunion; 6:30 p.m. Crowning of the Homecoming queen; 7 p.m. Football; 9 p.m. Block Party in Downtown McKenzie.

The price of admission is \$7, and the kickoff for the game is at 7 pm. Limited seating will be available at the event, but everyone is asked to consider bringing a lawn chair. Food will be available for purchase with nearby food trucks and the stadium concession stands.

Respective class members are planning nine class reunions for Saturday of the reunion weekend. The MHSAA will also host a casual reunion gathering for McKenzie High alumni of the 1950s and ‘60s. It will take place from 9 am until noon on Saturday, September 20,

at the First United Methodist Church fellowship hall in downtown McKenzie. At the tailgate party and the 1950s and 60s reunion, the MHSAA will be selling pieces of original hardwood flooring from the McKenzie Middle School gymnasium that was installed when it was built for McKenzie High School in 1954.

The flooring was removed in July after 71 years of use. Each flooring section is approximately 18 inches long and 2 inches wide, and the cost is \$20 each. Any McKenzie High alumni who are interested in joining the MHSAA or in making donations will have the opportunity to do so at the tailgate party on Friday night, as well as the 1950s and ‘60s event on Saturday. Annual dues are \$10, or alumni may also become lifetime members for \$100.

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

Cheryl Oglesby-Townes graduated from McKenzie High in 1988 and is a board member of the MHSAA.

She is excited for this year’s weekend and said, “Time is quickly approaching for our 2nd Annual MHS Decades Reunion! Last year’s reunion was a great success, and I enjoyed having the opportunity not only to be involved in the planning but also to participate in the Homecoming parade and assist with registrations. It was great to see so many faces from over the years, as well as make connections with those who were classmates of some of my family members. If you missed this event last year, make sure you get it added to your calendar for this year.. September 19-20, 2025! Also, we remind you that reunion dues are due once again, unless you have already taken the opportunity to join as a lifetime member! We look forward to seeing you on September 19th!” Everyone is encouraged to mark their calendars, follow the McKenzie High School Alumni Association Facebook page for updates, and help spread the word with their classmates and fellow graduates. You may also email any questions to mckenziehsalumni.tn@gmail.com. The McKenzie High School Alumni Association hopes to see everyone on the weekend of September 19-20!

MHS

...From Front Page

something that starts with the first letter of their names, and Friday is Red and Gray Rebel Day.

Each class is decorating a set of lockers and creating a banner to be displayed at the stadium.

On Wednesday and

Thursday, classes will participate in intramural competitions.

Friday will be a day full of activities throughout the school, leading up to the downtown Homecoming parade.

The parade begins downtown at 12:30 p.m. and ends at the stadium at McKenzie Middle School, where a citywide pep rally will be held.

Friday night, the McK-

enzie High School Alumni Association Decades Reunion begins with a tailgate at Rebel Stadium at 4:30 p.m.

The crowning of the Homecoming Queen is 6:30 p.m., followed by kickoff of the game against Camden at 7 p.m.

Five seniors make up the Homecoming royalty: Carli Beeler, Olivia Cantrell, Morgan Little, Nadia Sisemore and Charli Weatherford.

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

I Don’t Recognize My Own House

My first wife is sooo excited. Her brother is bringing his whole family down for a visit. She has been trying to get him to come see us for years. I am excited for her. But I’m also counting; he’s got children and grandchildren, a son-in-law, or two....

“Cathy, where are we going to sleep 36 people?” She quickly assuaged my fears, “They want to stay at the beach. We’re going to rent them a house.”

Oh, there is a God in Heaven! We’re not running a hotel over here.

This is a pretty big deal. Bobby Brown Cotham is a typical West Tennessee country boy. He is quiet, polite, and treats every human being with the utmost courtesy and respect. He doesn’t often venture far from his house, if you don’t count the trips over to Knoxville during the football season to see the Volunteers play.

I have known him since he was ten years old. And I don’t want to cast aspersions on my wife or her sisters, but it is fairly well known by all in our extended family circle, Bobby is the best one of that bunch.

It will be good to see him, and catch up on recent happenings in West Tenne—“Honey,” Cathy interrupted my thoughts, “you might want to move that pile of boards in front of the shed. Maybe put them in the back, out of sight”

“Well, I was thinking I might need them for—“And while you are out there, you could trim the back hedge and the one between the house and the garage.”

“Cathy, they are staying at the beach!”

I don’t think she heard me. Because just as I finished raking up the last of the clippings, she strolled out and pointed towards the front

yard, “Since you’ve got the trimmer out, the horseshoe hedge could use a going over.”

Something wasn’t making sense here. And it wasn’t about to get any better.

It took me a couple of hours to work myself around the bending hedge. By the time I got everything put away, it was too late to go to the golf course. And I was too tired anyway. I was going to take a bath and find a John Wayne movie.

I thought. Cathy was standing in the middle of our baseball locker room with the shop vac. I kid you not! She had all the bats out in the den; she’d already dusted them off. My job was to take every item out of the lockers, vacuum them out, then vacuum each jersey, undershirt, belt, shoe, glove.... and EVERY hat!

That may not sound like a lot to you, but there’s 42 gloves in there. And uniforms dating back to 1962. Caps and baseballs galore. Four pictures of Stan Musial, three batting helmets, two very special autographed major league jerseys, and a partridge in a pear tree....

I calmly (on the surface) mentioned again, these folks we are cleaning up for are staying at a beach house twenty miles away!

Wasn’t there a song from long ago, “We’ve Only Just Begun?” We moved from the locker room to the kitchen. She handed me the furniture polish and a rag. I immediately regretted enlarging that room years ago....and putting in all those cabinets!

We rented some kind of water induced, deep steam cleaning machine for the carpets. We bought a brand-new sofa and love seat for the den. We moved the very heavy antique bed away from the wall in our very personal

and private bedroom (where we don’t invite anyone in no matter how kin they are) so she could clean the blinds behind it.

I began thinking, “We might be overdoing this thing.”

She pulled the two guitars out from under the bed in Jesse’s old room and had me wipe off the cases. I changed the lights in three different rooms because “the old ones were not bright enough.” Aw man, then we started cleaning windows. She wiped from the inside; I’m taking every screen off the outside....

Cathy made two trips to Sams to buy “all the things they might need” at the rental house, which, did I mention already, is not even remotely close to our house. If they drive straight down Highway 98 and then turn off towards Cape San Blas, they WON’T EVEN SEE OUR HOUSE!

Stuff like this will keep you up at night. We’ve done a total makeover for nothing. But while I was staring at the ceiling at two in the morning, I believe I came up with a solution. I’ve already started taking pictures....of everything!

The first day they arrive, I’m going out there with photo evidence of our ultra clean locker room, new furniture, evenly trimmed hedges, sparkling kitchen cabinets, windows you can actually see through, daisy fresh carpets, spotless guitar cases, and our new Elvis TV trays.

The only flaw in this plan might be the TV trays. Tennessee folks are drawn to Elvis like a moth to a backyard barn burning. They might just naturally want to come and take a look for themselves....

Respectfully,
Kes

Editor’s Sidelines

BY JASON R. MARTIN jmartin@mckenziebanner.com

To the Citizens of Carroll County

The deaths of Destiny Henry on August 13 and Luke Scott and Martin Perez on September 6 at the railroad crossing on Harris Road are a tragedy that weighs on the hearts of this community. These deaths are not to be ignored, as they have shed light on an issue that needs to be addressed about this crossing and others like it.

In this moment of profound grief, it’s crucial that we resist the urge to assign blame. Fingers pointed now do nothing to heal the gaping wounds in our hearts or bring back the vibrant young lives that have been so cruelly cut short. The raw, undeniable fact is that a problem exists, a terrifying flaw in our safety net, and it must be addressed.

Over the last several days, I have received numerous phone calls and messages encouraging me, as a Carroll County Commissioner, to fix the problem. My deepest desire is to do just that. While this is a horrific tragedy, at the county level, there is only so much that can be done in matters of transportation due to bureaucratic red tape.

During Monday night’s meeting (September 8, 2025) of the Carroll County Commission, the legislative body was informed by Chief Deputy Joel Pate of the Sheriff’s Office of the process that will have to take place in order to add safety devices to the Harris Road crossing.

The first question is, who is responsible for the signal lights or bar system? That would be determined by the location of the road, i.e. city, county or state. In this instance, Harris Road is a county road, but Carroll County can not just freely write a check towards the installation, which would cost between \$350,000 to \$500,000.

In order to begin the process, the county has to make a request for a diagnostic review to CSX Railroad and the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). Once the review has been



Signage marking the temporary closure of Harris Road at the CSX railroad crossing. Photo by Jason Martin/The Banner

submitted, TDOT then provides an engineering study for the safety signals.

According to Chief Pate, TDOT representatives have stated that due to the multiple deaths and accidents at the crossing, the case would be considered “high priority.”

The good news is that the State of Tennessee receives around \$5.4 million annually from the federal government to be applied to transportation grants. Being considered a high priority would almost guarantee the county the necessary funds for the safety signals.

The bad news is that the entire process, on average, takes about two years; if we were to get lucky, then a year at best.

This is an example of bureaucratic red tape at its finest. While all parties have been cooperative and willing to come to the table for conversations, it does not expedite the process.

In order to expedite the process, this falls onto the people of Carroll County. Pressure has to be applied on the proper departments.

I implore each and every one of you to contact the following:

- TDOT Rail and Freight Division: (615) 741-4031
- CSX: (904) 359-3200
- Representative David Kustoff: Washington, DC (202) 225-4714; Memphis, TN (901) 682-4422; Jackson, TN (731) 423-4848; Martin, TN (731) 412-1043
- Senator Marsha Blackburn: Washington, D.C. (202) 224-3344; Jackson, TN (731) 660-3971
- Governor Bill Lee: (615) 741-2001

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

Fred’s Place

Picking up from the previous week’s edition...

Until I awoke in the middle of the night hot as blazes. Our sheets were damp with sweat, and not from a night of passionate lovemaking.

“Why is it so hot in here?” Brenda asked.

I heard footsteps overhead and murmuring voices, so I headed up the stairs.

Jimmy was staring at the thermostat.

“What’s going on?” I asked.

“The air conditioner has quit working. Maybe it’s just a breaker that’s tripped. I wonder where in this house the breaker box is.”

By that time, everyone was up and complaining. Jimmy’s four-year-old twins, his and Tania’s surprise kids, peered down from the loft they were sleeping in. Their cheeks were rosy red and their hair was stuck to their sweaty faces, but, bless their hearts, they were smiling.

I helped them down while Jimmy struck out in search of the breaker box.

When he returned, his glum expression said it all. “It’s not the breaker.”

So, we put in a call to Fred, who sounded like he was in high spirits, “spirits” being the operative word. He reassured us he would call a friend of his in the morning and it’d be fixed right up, which turned out to be only half true. He did call him, but it was two scorching July days before he showed up.

In the meantime, the Johnsons and Kings resorted to

our tried-and-true method of cooling — box fans. We bought out Walmart’s supply.

We stayed on the boat and in the water during the day to stay cool, and at night slept on top of the sheets.

The day the air conditioner was repaired and cool air filled the house, we acted like lost travelers who’d crossed the Sahara and finally found an oasis. We were all smiles and played games that night. “Fred’s Place is the best!”

Until. Until a thunderstorm in the middle of the night knocked out the power.

All the children screamed like Freddie Krueger was in the room with them.

No air conditioning. No electricity to run the fans.

About fifteen minutes later, right after one of the kids flushed the commode, we discovered Fred’s Place wasn’t on city water. Its water came from a well....that required electricity to work...

Suddenly, everyone had the urge to use the bathroom, and while going outside to pee was an option for Jimmy and me, the females in the crowd balked at the idea.

That’s when Jimmy, bless his heart, volunteered to carry a 30-gallon trashcan down to the boat dock and fill it with lake water and carry it back up.

I wish I could say I felt guilty about not helping him, but I can’t. I think I may have said something about having back spasms and grimaced accordingly.

When Jimmy returned, he looked like he’d lost twenty

pounds, his cheeks were sunken and his face was pale. Of course, that pale part was probably because the kids kept shining their flashlights directly at his face. The main thing, though, was Jimmy was a hero and everyone took turns using the bathroom.

Later that night, after everyone had settled back in bed, Jimmy’s bowels that had been tensed for hours decided it was time to relax. And you know how impatient bowels can be.

Rising from his bed, he went to the bathroom only to discover there was no more water in the trashcan. And it wasn’t physically possible to traverse the steps to the lake and back up. No sphincter muscle in the world would be strong enough to hold back that kind of pressure.

So, he grabbed a roll of toilet paper and headed outside into the woods to let nature take her course.

Unfortunately for him, when he pulled down his shorts and squatted, his buttocks must have shown like a streetlamp, because 10,000 thousand mosquitoes swarmed it and extracted a pint of blood before he could get finished.

He made it back to the cabin, feeling washed out and badly in need of a transfusion.

Sometimes, years after a traumatic experience, you can look back and say that it really wasn’t all that bad. That’s not the case for Fred’s Place.

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

Inglenook Book Club

The monthly meeting was held on September 10 at 3 p.m. at Lakeside in McKenzie. President Gail Mack called the meeting to order, and thanked hostesses Jean McKinnie and Genia Sherwood for serving delicious chocolate cake, mints, and assorted beverages.

Everyone stood for the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the Club Aim and Motto. The Birthday ladies for September are Peggy Chappell, Mary Newman, Mona Batchelor, and Carolyn Potts. Happy Birthday was sang by all.

Roll call was taken, with 18 members in attendance. July minutes were read, motion to approve by Jean Holloman and seconded by Shirley Martin, all approved the reading. Treasurer Donna Ward gave the Treasurer’s report, which was also approved a read. Sunshine chair, Elaine Williams, said cards were sent out, Telephone Chair, Carolyn Moore made sure everyone was aware of date, time, and what items to bring for school donation to the next

meeting,

Publicity chair, Beverly Mueller stated the minutes have been getting into the Banner, and Membership Chair, Suzanne Howell, introduced the newest member, Karen Forester, and mention that there is still room for new member(s). Get names to Suzanne if you know someone interested in becoming a member. President Mack thanked all the committee chairs for all they do, and it is greatly appreciated.

In old business, discussion on the upcoming Christmas Party, location and menu. Beverly will present a menu next month for everyone to look at, and make final decisions. Discussion tabled until October meeting.

There was no new business so President Mack called on Jean Hollomon to present the program for Victoria Ard, and she read the traditional folktale story-The Tale of Three Trees by Angela Elwell Hunt. Excellent book, and beautifully drawn pictures.

Book Chair, Mary Newman completed the book passing, with the next book passing date being September 24.

Announcements were mentioned of the next meeting on October 8 at 3 p.m. at Lakeside. Hostesses will be Victoria Ard and Carolyn Potts.

The program will be presented by Suzanne Russell. Bring assorted trinket items for the coupons awards box for the school donation. President Mack thanked everyone for the items we donate each month to the school. They greatly appreciate the donations. The Benediction was recited by all, and the meeting adjourned.

Members present were: Victoria Ard, Peggy Chappell, Karen Forester, Jean Hollomon, Suzanne Howell, Geneva Johnson, Jean McKinnie, Gail Mack, Shirley Martin, Carolyn Moore, Beverly Mueller, Mary Newman, Carolyn Potts, Suzanne Russell, Genia Sherwood, Deb Simon, Donna Ward, and Elaine Williams.

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary, Beverly Mueller.

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Scan Website

Obituaries

BRUCE HERRIN 1947 – 2025

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for Bruce Herrin were Monday, September 15, 2025, at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. Interment was at Herrin Cemetery, Somerset, Ky.

Coach Herrin, 77, died Friday at his residence.

He was a member of Henry Church of Christ and was a member of Somerset Baptist Church. He was a retired teacher and coach at McKenzie Schools, a member of Bethel College Hall of Fame, where he played basketball during his collegiate years, An Outstanding Athletics of America in 1969, and an Honorable Mention on the All-Kentucky team.

He was born on October 2, 1947, in Somerset, Ky., to Otis and Mattie Minter Herrin.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Donna Barnett Herrin; daughter, Holly (David) Porter of Henry; a son, Brad Herrin of Murfreesboro; two sisters, Hadie (Benny) White and Myrna Florence Criswell, all of Somerset, Ky.; four grandchildren, Ryleigh H. (Troy) Mruk, Brycen Herrin, Will Porter and Evie Porter; and one great-granddaughter, Hadlee.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and brothers, Jr. Herrin and Jimmy Herrin.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home, McKenzie.

MARTIN RAUL PEREZ 1999 – 2025

CAMDEN — Funeral services for Martin Raul Perez were Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 1 p.m. at Long Heights Baptist Church in McKenzie. Interment was at Carroll

Memorial Gardens. Mr. Perez, 26, died Saturday, September 6, 2025. He was an apprentice lineman with Drewry Communications and a graduate of McKenzie High School.

He was born on June 3, 1999, in Wichita, Kan., to Juan Perez and Patricia Cardoza Juarez.

He is survived by his father, Juan; his mother, Patricia; stepfather, Everardo Hernandez; girlfriend, Kristen Jenkins; a son, Atlas Raul Perez; five sisters, Lizbeth Alejandra Torres – Cardoza, Gabriela (John) Ramos, Sanjuanita Cardoza (Matthew Coleman), Ciria (Jorge) Zuniga and Marilyn Hernandez; a brother, Juan (Bianaca) Perez; one niece, Dayrany; and seven nephews, Samuel, Thiago, Cristian, Daniel, Luis, Miguel and Uriel.

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

TERESA ROSS 1958 – 2025

GLEASON — On Wednesday, September 10, 2025, Teresa Pat Blassingame Ross, 67, of Gleason, died while surrounded by the love and presence of her family. She was born on April 4, 1958, to parents, Laymon and Pat Blassingame, of Gleason.

Teresa and her husband of 50 years, Steve Ross, married on March 7, 1975. They had three children and six grandchildren.

Teresa is survived by her children, Chad, Casey (Erica), and Jenny (Kurt); and her grandchildren, Craig, Drake, Brinley, Deacon, Aniston, and Ashton. She is also survived by her siblings, Tina, Shane, and Shawn; and Steve's siblings, Marcia (Kerry) and Kathy. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral services were at Williams Funeral Home in Gleason on Saturday,

September 13, 2025. Burial was at New Valley Cemetery.

PHILLIP RORER 1968 – 2025

MCKENZIE — A Celebration of Life for Phillip J. Rorer is Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 5-8 p.m. at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

Mr. Rorer, 57, died Monday, September 8, 2025, at his residence. He was born in Huntingdon on January 16, 1968, to Phillip Rorer and Janie Burroughs Hopewell.

He is survived by his mother and stepfather, Janie and John Hopwell; brothers, David Rorer and Reid Howell. He is preceded in death by his father, Phillip "Buddy" Rorer.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

CHARLES SMITH, JR. 1969 – 2025

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Charles "Bubba" Smith Jr. 56, of Huntingdon, died Monday, September 8, 2025, in Louisville, Ky.

Funeral services were Saturday, September 13, 2025, in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home with Bro. James Moore officiating. Burial was in Liberty Cemetery in McKenzie.

Mr. Smith was born July 8, 1969, in Chicago, Ill., to the late Charles Hammond Smith Sr. and Patricia Ann (Bennett) Elson, who survives.

He is survived by his wife of eight years, Tonya Smith; a daughter, Montana McGee, of Senatobia, Miss.; a son, Dakota Maness (Taylor) of Huntingdon; three sisters, Leasa Smith (Mike) of Lake City Mich., Trisha Shahan, of Huntingdon, Candi Boyer (Terry) of Panama City, Fla.; and two brothers, Roy Smith (Tammy) of Columbus, Ohio, and Jason Smith (Michelle), of Cordelle, Ga. He also leaves behind ten grandchildren.

Gasoline Prices Drop in Tennessee

TENNESSEE (September 15) — Average gasoline prices in Tennessee decreased 7.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.74/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 3,821 stations in Tennessee. Prices in Tennessee are 2.2 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 5.9 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 2.6 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$3.658 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Tennessee was priced at \$2.34/g yesterday, while the most expensive was \$3.49/g, a difference of \$1.15/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.34/g while the highest was \$3.49/g, a difference of \$1.15/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 3.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.12/g today. The national average is down 1.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 2.8 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

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

September 15, 2024: \$2.68/g (U.S. Average: \$3.15/g)

September 15, 2023: \$3.43/g (U.S. Average: \$3.85/g)

September 15, 2022: \$3.22/g (U.S. Average: \$3.68/g)

September 15, 2021: \$2.85/g (U.S. Average: \$3.19/g)

September 15, 2020: \$1.90/g (U.S. Average: \$2.18/g)

September 15, 2019: \$2.25/g (U.S. Average: \$2.55/g)

September 15, 2018: \$2.57/g (U.S. Average: \$2.85/g)

September 15, 2017: \$2.57/g (U.S. Average: \$2.62/g)

September 15, 2016: \$2.01/g (U.S. Average: \$2.18/g)

September 15, 2015: \$2.04/g (U.S. Average: \$2.32/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices: Chattanooga- \$2.67/g, down 10.3 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.77/g.

Nashville- \$2.81/g, down 8.8 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.90/g.

Huntsville- \$2.75/g, down 2.3 cents per gallon

from last week's \$2.77/g.

"While gas prices fell in more states than they rose last week, the West Coast continues to face challenges, with Oregon and Washington seeing some of the largest increases due to regional infrastructure issues," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "The good news is that the transition to cheaper winter gasoline begins tomorrow across most of the nation, and with improvements underway in the West Coast market, I expect that average gas prices will continue to decline in the weeks ahead in most states— assuming hurricane season remains quiet."

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

SOURCE GasBuddy

MCKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL

Football Homecoming Queens Since 1930

COURTESY OF MHSAA

McKenzie High School football homecoming queens since 1930. Maiden names are listed.

The list is one of five McKenzie High School Traditions lists at the MHSAA Pop Up Memorabilia exhibit running through September 21 at The Happy Book Stack. The exhibit contains almost 250 stories and artifacts about the history of McKenzie High School, dating back to 1896.

1930: Thisbe Chandler; 1931: Morie Algea, 1932: Carolyn Cannon; 1933: Mary Margaret Williams; 1935: Gray Moore; 1936: Frankie Garrett; 1937: Mildred Thomas; 1938: Mary Collier; 1940: Mary Jane Hamilton; 1941: Christine Smith; 1942: Russellene Hilliard; 1944: Caroline Vawter; 1945: Christine Thompson; 1946: Betty Jane Thompson; 1947: Carolyn Cook; 1948: Janice Galloway; 1949: Joyce Ridley;; 1950: Mary Ann Young; 1951: Mary Alice Ross; 1952: Jean Bateman; 1953: Norma Deck; 1954: Nancy Patterson; 1955: Barbara Adams; 1956: Molly Sue Hopper; 1957: Barbara Edlin; 1958: Cindy Smith; 1959: Patty Houston; 1960: Gina Hansen; 1961: Paula Pinson; 1962: Barbara Cozart; 1963: Ann Carol McCaleb; 1964: Donna Leatherwood; 1965: Betty Scates; 1966: Janet Mayo; 1967: Deborah Murphy; 1968: Brenda Barksdale; 1969: Sherrye Carter; 1970: Diane Headden; 1971: Sarita Woodard; 1972: Ann Headden; 1973: Kaye Kirk; 1974: Barbara Sanders; 1975: Anne Holland; 1976: Barbara Ridley; 1977: Betsy Kee; 1978: Ann Hollowell; 1979: Pam Robertson; 1980: Lisa Rich; 1981: Tracy Brewer; 1982: Amy Hall; 1983: Sherry Perry; 1984:



First MHS Homecoming Queen and Court (L to R): Mary Margaret Williams, Kathryn Martin, Carolyn Cannon, Marjorie Moore, Queen Thisbe Chandler, Eleanor Johnson, Suline Bunn, Louise Holland and Sue Childress. Queen Thisbe later married James Downly.

Sandi Stafford; 1985: Laura Hardy; 1986: Donna Perry; 1987: Kristi Barlow; 1988: Stefanie Beasley; 1989: Lynn Putman; 1990: Shannon Padgett; 1991: Kim Jones; 1992: Heather Oakley; 1993: Adria Austin; 1994: Holly Oakley; 1995: Courtney Chadwick; 1996: Heather Gozzard; 1997: Beth Ann Hartz; 1998: Autumn Ghyers; 1999: Hollie Hudgins; 2000: Beth French; 2001: Angie Birdwell; 2002: Jennifer Johnson; 2003: Heather Flippin; 2004: Rachael

Clark; 2005: Rema Salameh; 2006: Jenna Smith; 2007: Sarah Edwards 2008: Kelsey Cooper; 2009: Katie Chadwick 2010: Kelsey Carr; 2011: Kendra Gilmore; 2012: Hannah Harris; 2013: Brooke Baucum; 2014: Dorie Cook; 2015: Mariah Kautz; 2016: Anna Comer; 2017: Hannah Bilger; 2018: Olivia Wright; 2019: Allie Chappell; 2020: Lauren Mansfield; 2021: Sadie O'Brien; 2022: Briley Auvenshine 2023: Belle O'Brien; 2024: Reese Carroll.



COCONUT PECAN POUND CAKE

1 box super moist butter pecan cake mix
½ cup oil
1 cup water
4 eggs
1 can Duncan Hines coconut pecan icing

Combine cake mix, oil, water and eggs together and mix well. Add icing and mix well. Pour batter into bundt cake pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until cake is done.

RICE AND HAM CASSEROLE

1 pkg long grain rice
1 pkg 10oz. frozen cut broccoli, thawed and drained
2 cup fully cooked ham, cubed

1 can cream of mushroom soup
½ cup mayonnaise
1 tablespoon mustard
1 cup shredded cheese
Ritz crackers
Mix all ingredients except cheese, crackers and margarine. Pour into glass baking dish. Spread cheese over mixture. Melt margarine and crumble crack-

ers into margarine; spread over casserole. Bake 20 minutes at 350 degrees.

BUTTERNUT BROWNIE PIE

4 egg whites
1/8 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon cream of tartar
1 ¼ cup sugar
14 graham cracker squares, crumbled
1 cup pecan pieces
1 teaspoon vanilla
Heat oven to 300 degrees.

Lightly spray or grease a 9 inch pie plate. Beat egg whites with baking powder until soft peaks form; add cream of tartar. Beat constantly while adding sugar, one tablespoon at a time. Beat until peak forms and sugar is dissolved. Fold in graham cracker crumbs and pecans and vanilla. Spoon on a pie plate. Bake 30 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool

completely on wire rack. Cover top with cool whip and sprinkle of pecans on top. Chill well.

PARMESAN CHICKEN

½ cup butter or margarine, melted
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup dry bread crumbs
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

6 to 8 skinless boneless chicken breasts
In pie plate or shallow bowl, combine butter, mustard, Worcestershire and salt to a plastic bag. Combine crumbs and Parmesan cheese. Dip chicken in butter mixture, then shake in crumb mixture. Place in ungreased 13x9x2 inch dish. Drizzle with any remaining butter mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink and juices run clear.

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Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler (seated) proclaimed September 2025 Library Card Sign-Up Month on Wednesday at the Carroll County Library. Standing are (L to R) Adora Carty, assistant director of McKenzie Memorial Library; Denise Coleman, assistant director of Carroll County Library; Ceil Pomphrey, director of MML; Erin Crockett, director of CCL; April Newman, CCL clerk; and Grace Hawkins, CCL children’s librarian. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Butler Proclaims September ‘Library Card Sign-Up Month’

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (September 10) — Carroll

County Mayor Joseph Butler took the short walk over to the Carroll County Library Wednesday morning to make an official proclamation designating September 2025 as Library Card Sign-Up Month.

Mayor Butler was joined by the staff of both the Carroll County Library and McKenzie Memorial Library for the signing of the proclamation.

The official document lauds libraries as “foundational to education, imagination and opportunity, offering everything from early literacy programs to digital tools that support lifelong learning and personal growth.”

It declares, “Libraries welcome all people, serving as inclusive and accessible community hubs that connect individuals across cultures, generations and experiences.”

The mayor’s proclamation praises libraries for their various contri-

butions to communities and concludes, “a library card opens doors to endless possibilities, from books and technology to lifelong learning and imagination.”

Mayor Butler heeded his own official advice, signing up for his library card immediately afterward.

Carroll County Library is located at 625 High St, Suite 102, Huntingdon.

Hours are Monday through Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

McKenzie Memorial Library is located at 15 Broadway, McKenzie.

Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Check out both libraries on Facebook for events and announcements.

3 Families YARD SALE

4475 Hinkledale Road
McKenzie, Follow Signs

Friday & Saturday, Sept. 19 & 20 • 7 a.m.-?

Hosp bed new mattress & trapeze bar for bed, corner desk, furniture, few good tools, lots of everything.
Come & See!

FALL CLEANING Yard Sale

1047 Old State Route 22
McKENZIE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 8 a.m. - ?

Furniture, knickknacks, collectibles, housewares, Willow Tree figurines, yard/garden, too much to list.

LAST WEEK OF ESTATE Sale

420 PARIS STREET
McKENZIE, TN 38201

EVERYTHING \$5 AND UNDER

Boo Bash is October 23

McKenzie’s twelfth-annual Boo Bash is fast-approaching. The Halloween event, sponsored by Bethel University and the City of McKenzie, is Thursday, October 23, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in downtown McKenzie.

This year, the festivities include trunk-or-treating, bouncy houses, a cake walk, a costume contest, a “Best Trunk” contest, haunted train rides and a “Bail-Me-Out!” fundraiser.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BOARD TO MEET

The Carroll County Emergency Communication Board of Directors meets Tuesday, September 23, at 5:30 p.m. at 200 Norandal Drive, Huntingdon. Citizens desiring to publicly comment at the meeting, on an agenda item, must register with the district at 731-986-8911. A copy of the public comment policy may be obtained at the district office at 101 Dillahunt Lane, Huntingdon.

MMS TITLE I/PARENT INVOLVEMENT MEETING

McKenzie Middle School’s annual Title I/Parent Involvement Meeting is Wednesday, October 1 from 4:30-5 p.m. in the MMS Library. All parents and guardians of MMS students are invited to attend. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Jill Renfro, Parent Involvement Coordinator for MMS at renfrojl@mckenzie-schools.org or 731-352-2792.

McKENZIE SENIOR CENTER EVENTS

Exercise class on 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.

NIGHTS ON BROADWAY ON THURSDAYS

Nights on Broadway continues Thursday, September 18 with Flashback. Music begins at 7 p.m. Spectators sit on the town square facing the stage on Banner Row; lawn chairs are encouraged.

CARROLL ARTS, INC. UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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.

HERITAGE DAY CRUISE-IN

Calling all car enthusiasts! Small Town Cruisers of Huntingdon is hosting a cruise-in during the Heritage Day Celebration in Huntingdon Saturday, September 27, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dash plaques provided for first 50 cars registered.

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.
September 27 — Huntingdon Heritage Festival;
October 13-17 — Local Schools 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.

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.

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 is 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.

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.

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

September 2025

3-Exciting Highlights & Developments

- New Contract for Director of Schools:** Our school board recently approved a 2.5-year renewal of my contract as Director of Schools. I’m grateful for the opportunity to continue serving and supporting our schools, families, and staff.
- Reading Focus at All Levels:** Literacy is front and center across all WCSSD schools this fall. Elementary students are working toward 100-book challenges with incentives, Primary launched weekly DEAR Fridays, and the Jr./Sr. High library has been refreshed with new titles and AR for junior high.
- College and Career Readiness in Action:** From field trips to ACT prep, students are exploring life beyond the classroom. Students explored next steps with visits to Bethel, UT Martin, and a Jackson career fair. ACT prep is also underway with WCHS piloting an expanded program led by Alex Beene and individualized, data-driven action plans based on AnalyzeEd.

2-WCSSD Leader Quotes

“Our recent parent-teacher conferences were such a positive experience. These conferences provide a valuable opportunity to strengthen the partnership between home and school.”
— **Dr. Jessica Williams**, West Carroll Elementary School Principal

“The National FFA Convention is more than a trip. It’s a chance for our students to see their future careers in action.”
— **Noah Rogers**, FFA Sponsor

1-Community Challenge
Mark your calendar for **September 26**. That night, our home football game will be a community-wide tailgate celebration. Bring your school spirit, your cornhole skills, or just your smile. Let’s pack the lot and cheer on our War Eagle football team. You can check the full season schedule at wcssd.org/football.

Our next board meeting will be October 2nd. Hope to see you there!

Preston Caldwell
wcssd.com/321

Parisian THEATRE
Jim Adams Drive
Paris, TN • 642-1696

DEMON SLAYER (R)
Tues. 7:20
Wed. 7:20
Thurs. 7:20

DOWNTON ABBEY (PG)
Tues. 7:30
Wed. 7:30
Thurs. 7:30

THE LONG WALK (R)
Tues. 7:35
Wed. 7:35
Thurs. 7:35

THE CONJURING: LAST RITES (R)
Tues. 7:35
Wed. 7:35
Thurs. 7:35

TOY STORY (G)
Tues. 7:30
Wed. 7:30
Thurs. 7:30

FANTASTIC FOUR (PG-13)
Tues. 7:25
Wed. 7:25
Thurs. 7:25

INFOLINE 731-642-7171
All Movies Now in Digital DLP/HD

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McKenzie is Ranked First In Writers’ Prep Poll

NASHVILLE (September 15) — The Tennessee Sports Writers Association and USA Today Network announced football rankings after Week 4 on Monday. Top 10 teams in each of the six Division I classifications and Top 5 in three Division II classes were selected by TSWA members and USA Today writers with first-place votes in parentheses and total points based on 10 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 10th-place vote.

The Banner is condensing the list to three divisions of public schools in which area schools are listed.

Division I

Class 1A

- 1. McKenzie (3-1) – 198 (18). Last Week: No. 1
 - 2. South Pittsburg (2-1) – 182 (2). Last Week: No. 2
 - 3. Coalfield (2-2) – 151. Last Week: No. 4
 - 4. Oliver Springs (3-1) 145. Last Week: No. 5
 - 5. Clay County (3-1) – 93. Last Week: No. 10
 - 6. Eagleville (2-2) – 76. Last Week: No. 3
 - 7. Dresden (2-2) – 57. Last Week: No. 8
 - 8. Hampton (3-1) – 49. Last Week: No. 6
 - 9. South Fulton (3-0) –46. Last Week: Not Ranked
 - 10. Huntland (3-1) – 43. Last Week: Not Ranked
- Other who received 10 or more points: Cornersville (26), Richland (12)

Class 2A

- 1. Marion County (4-0) –

- 194 (15). Last Week: No. 1
 - 2. Milan (3-0) – 183 (5). Last Week: No. 2
 - 3. East Robertson (4-0) – 162. Last Week: No. 3
 - 4. Peabody (4-0) – 127. Last Week: No. 5
 - 5. Huntingdon (3-1) – 111. Last Week: No. 6
 - 6. Gordonsville (4-0) – 95. Last Week: No. 7
 - 7. East Nashville (03) – 76. Last Week: No. 4
 - 8. Fairley (2-2) – 58. Last Week: No. 8
 - 9. Bledsoe County (3-1) – 57. Last Week: Not Ranked
 - 10. Lewis County (4-0) – 19. Last Week: Not Ranked
- Other who received 10 or more points: Happy Valley (14).

Class 3A

- 1. Westview (3-0) – 200 (20). Last Week: No. 1
 - 2. Gatlinburg-Pittman (4-0) – 168. Last Week: No. 2
 - 3. Covington (4-0) – 164. Last Week: No. 3
- Publications that participated in the voting include The Tennessean in Nashville, The Knoxville News-Sentinel, The Commercial Appeal in Memphis, The Daily Herald in Columbia, The Daily News Journal in Murfreesboro, The Leaf-Chronicle in Clarksville, 615Preps.com, Main Street Maury, Wilson Post, the Chattanooga Times-Free Press, Five Star Preps, The Mirror-Exchange in Milan, Tri-Cities Sports, the Herald-Citizen in Cookeville, the Union City Messenger and the Westmoreland News.

Marriage Licenses

Allie Marie Watson, 24, of Mansfield, to Ethan Tyler Ellis, 27, of Huntingdon.

Samantha Madison Barrow, 28, of Atwood, to Joshua David Brasher, 28, of Lavinia.

John Edwin Reed, 43, of Yuma, to Ashley Starr Coste Gibson, 38, of Yuma.

James Franklin Cowan, 76, of Atwood, to Reeda Cheryl Baggett Cowan, 65, of Medina.

Carroll County Sheriff’s Report

Drug Charges — Anthony Dalton Young, 32, Jackson, was arrested on September 4 with drug charges.

Deputy Daniel Thomas initiated a traffic stop on a white Chevrolet pickup truck in Leach after observing it cross the center and fog lines. Young was identified as the driver.

According to the report, deputies noted nervous behavior from both Young and his passenger. Deputies deployed K9 Abby for a free-air sniff, and the K9 alerted to the passenger-side door area. A subsequent search of the vehicle uncovered a pill bottle hidden between the driver’s seat cushion and center seat. Inside the bottle was \$280 in cash along with two small baggies: one containing approximately 2.5 grams of methamphetamine and another containing approximately five grams of THC.

After further questioning, the passenger produced additional contraband from her person, including a half-smoked blunt, a small baggie with about one gram of suspected methamphetamine, a nail file, and a lighter. She admitted Young had instructed her to conceal the items in her bra.

Young was taken into custody and charged with possession of Schedule II with intent to distribute and simple possession of Schedule VI.

Theft — On September 6, Deputy Heather Townes responded to a larceny call at a business on West Main Street in Trezevant.

A 16’ faded (pink) trailer had been stolen from the commercial building. Deputies took the report and listed the case as all other larceny. The investigation is ongoing.

Aggravated Assault Arrest — Shannon Ellis, 43, Buena Vista, was arrested for Aggravated Assault on

September 9.

Deputy Paul Williams responded to Rowland Mill Road in Buena Vista for a report of a suspicious person and found Ellis walking in a driveway while drinking alcohol. Ellis became combative, threatened deputies, and refused to show his hands.

According to the report, Ellis became agitated, yelled at the deputy to leave, and threatened to kill him. When backup arrived, Ellis continued to refuse commands to show his hands and made movements suggesting he might have a weapon. As deputies advanced, Ellis spun toward his vehicle and appeared to throw something inside.

Corporal Smith deployed a taser, and Ellis was taken into custody. Ellis was transported to Carroll County Jail and charged with aggravated assault on law enforcement, resisting arrest, and public intoxication

Drug Possession — Dakota Baker, 21, Trezevant, and Jeremy Christy, 27, Trezevant, were charged for Drug Possession on September 9.

Deputies responded to a residence on Clearview Avenue in Trezevant for a disorderly person call. During the investigation, a resident reported that Baker and Christy had a marijuana plant in the backyard.

Deputies located a four-foot plant in a flowerpot behind a cedar tree, and both men admitted ownership. A consent search of the home uncovered additional paraphernalia, including two glass pipes, four grinders, and five water bongs in their bedroom.

Baker and Christy were each cited for simple possession of Schedule VI and possession of drug paraphernalia.

McKenzie Police Reports

Aggravated Assault — Deon M. Matthews, 43, Everett Street, McKenzie, was charged with Aggravated Assault and Assault on September 6.

Officer Daniel Pollard filed the report that stated Matthews assaulted his female friend and others at a residence on Walnut Circle.

The original victim phoned 911 and asked for help as she stated her boyfriend had been drinking and would not leave the area of her apartment. She locked Matthews outside and he fled and hid when officers arrived. The dispatcher alerted officers that Matthews had active warrants for Violation of Probation for Reckless Endangerment With A Firearm. The officers watched the area and then departed.

Shortly after their departure, Matthews returned and climbed through a bedroom window, assaulted the victim in the house, and then on the front lawn. She phoned 911 as she was being attacked, and the 911 operator could hear the assault. The assault left visible bruising on her face. Officers found the victim in the house, lying on the floor. Several bystanders witnessed the incident. Again, Matthews had fled the scene into a nearby wooded area.

She was advised to leave the area with a friend, with whom she felt comfortable. She told officers she was good, and they stayed in the area.

When officers left, Matthews again entered the victim’s residence, assaulted her and two additional victims. His assault had bloodied the original victim. Again, Matthews

fled and hid. MPD assisted the victim and got her medical assistance. MPD and the Carroll County Sheriff’s Department deputies searched for Matthews. Officers pursued Matthews on foot and set up a perimeter to apprehend him. When he was arrested, he complained of pain to his right hand.

The original victim had contusions, a broken nose, and possibly broken ribs.

Domestic Assault — Kimberly L. Boyd, 19, Holmes Mill Road, Huntingdon, was charged with Domestic Assault on September 9. Officer Austin Jones arrested Boyd and transported her to Weakley County Jail after she and a family member had argued. Boyd is accused of kicking the family member.

Drug Paraphernalia — Shannon M. Patey, 41, Linden Heights, McKenzie, was charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Possession of Medication Without a Prescription on September 12.

Sergeant Cody Coleman stopped a vehicle for failure to obey a stop sign. The driver appeared nervous and denied consent to search. Sgt. Coleman deployed his canine officer, that alerted on the vehicle, creating probable cause for a search.

The officer found a grinder containing marijuana residue, a glass pipe, and a pill bottle with no label containing several different pills.

The driver was warned about the traffic violation and Patey was cited into Carroll County General Sessions Court.

Property Transfers

Linda C. and James L. Depriest to Linda C. and Jimmy L. Depriest in District 13.

William E. and Barbara D. Coleman to William D. Coleman in District 21.

Lashonda Williams to Aaron J. Peachy in District 22.

Judy K. Jones to Terry Hamlett. No district listed.

Christine O. Rawls to Ashley Barker and others in District 2.

Ryan A. and Carissa L. French to Andrew T. and Mariah T. Hayes in District 4.

Jane A. Thomas to Leiker Family Trust dated March 2, 2017 in District 22.

Sandra P. Hunt as trustee to Jacob and Melanie H. Drinkard in District 4.

Sandra P. Hunt as trustee to Jacob and Melanie H. Drinkard in District 4.

Robert G. Harris as trustee to Robert G. Harris as trustee. No District listed.

Robert G. Harris as trustee to Robert G. Harris as trustee in District 18.

Robert G. Harris as trustee to Robert G. Harris as trustee in District 18.

Oliver B. and Morgan W. Grosch to Angela M. and Anthony Arvizu in District 7.

Kurt M. Wilson to Robert and Elizabeth Bullington in District 24.

Daniel T. Mitchell to Daniel T. Mitchell as trustee in District 17.

Carroll County General Sessions Court Report

The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on September 10.

Chance H. Johnson, Fowler Circle, Paris, bound over, Driving on Roadways Lanes for Traffic; bound over, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange; bound over, Aggravated Child Abuse/Neglect/Endangerment (8 & Under); bound over, Driving While License Suspended; dismissed, Schedule IV Drugs: MFG, Del, Sell, Possession - Sol; dismissed, Contraband - Intoxicant/Drugs in Penal Facility; dismissed, Use or Possession of Substance or Device to Falsify Drug Test.

Brandie White, Calhoun Street, Humboldt, bound over, Financial Exploitation Elderly/Vulnerable Person; bound over, Aggravated Neglect of an Elderly/Vulnerable Adult.

The following cases resulted in a guilty plea or finding.

Jerry Kyle Jr., Eden Farm Road, Camden, guilty, Public Intoxication, \$10 fine; guilty, Violation of Order of Protection/Restraining Order, \$100 fine, 11/29 supervised probation, must obtain and wear a GPS monitor, may request termination of GPS device by petitioning court, counts 1 & 2 concurrent - GPS required post-conviction.

Tyriana Lewis, Hwy 45, Martin, guilty, Probation Violation - Booked, probation extended for five months, may receive day for day credit following inpatient rehab.

John D. McDaniel, West Main Street, Union City, DUI: First Offense, \$350 fine, 11/29 supervised probation until all conditions completed, must not drive in Tennessee for one year, DUI school.

Justin R. Page, Country Lane, Dover, guilty, Probation Violation - Not Booked, no fine, 11/29 sentence credit for 297 days, was incarcerated in Stewart County.

Chasidy S. Robinson, Green Oak Drive, Huntingdon, guilty, Driving While License Cancelled - 2nd or Subsequent, \$100 fine, supervised probation until conditions met, must obtain a valid Tennessee driver’s license; dismissed, Light Law - Motor Vehicle; dismissed, Financial Responsibility Law.

Chasidy S. Robinson, Green Oak Drive, Huntingdon, guilty, Driving While License Revoked - 2nd or Subsequent, \$100 fine, supervised probation until all conditions complete, must obtain a valid Tennessee driver’s license; dismissed, Use of Hand-held Mobile Telephone Prohibited While Driving.

Romulus D. Taylor, 5th Avenue, Huntingdon, guilty, Driving While License Suspended, \$100 fine, six months supervised probation until conditions completed; dismissed, Financial Responsibility Law; dismissed, Seat Belt - 18 and Older.

The following cases were dismissed.

Brittany Nicole Arand, Hunter Ridge Apt., Huntingdon, dismissed, Probation Violation - Booked.

Corri Arnell Fuller, Johnny Cook Road, Yuma, dismissed, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses & Activities; dismissed, Schedule II Drugs: MFG, Del, Sell, Poss; dismissed, Schedule IV Drugs: MFG, Del, Sell, Poss; dismissed, Schedule II Drugs: Cocaine < 1/2 gram.

Corri Arnell Fuller, Johnny Cook Road, Yuma, dismissed, Unlawful Possession of a Weapon; dismissed, Unlawful Possession of a Weapon; dismissed, Unlawful Possession of a Weapon.

Ladislav Hanus, Arnold Road, McKenzie, dismissed, Driving While License Suspended.

Chance H. Johnson, Fowler Circle, Paris, dismissed, Driving While License Suspended - 2nd or Subsequent; dismissed, Driving While License Suspended.

Chris Michael Moses Jr., Paris Street, McKenzie, dismissed, Driving While License Suspended.

Jerry N. Neisler, Cecil Walls Road, Yuma, dismissed, Theft of Merchandise - Shoplifting.

Sierra Sauls, Fowler Circle, Hollow Rock, dismissed, Failure to Appear.

Sherif Terrell Smith, Blake Bottom Road, Huntsville, Ala., dismissed, Leave Scene of Accident - Property Damage.

Rodger Allen Webb, Park Cove, McKenzie, dismissed, Driving While License Suspended; dismissed, Financial Responsibility Law; dismissed, Vehicle Registration - Improper Use.

The following cases were rescheduled.

Alan Jastrzembski, Alan Donald Jastrzembski, Sierra Sauls.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2025PE169

ESTATE OF: DARTHINE JOYCE HOUSE, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the **29TH** day of **AUGUST, 2025** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **DARTHINE JOYCE HOUSE** deceased, who died **JANUARY 4TH, 2025**, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk & Master of Carroll County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required by law to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this Notice to Creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the Notice to Creditors, if the creditor received a copy of the Notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1) (A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent’s date of death.

All persons indebted to the above Estate must come forward and make proper settlement with the undersigned at once.

This **29TH** day of **AUGUST, 2025.**

THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

FILE CLAIMS IN TRIPLICATE WITH:

KENNETH TODD - CLERK & MASTER

99 Court Square, Suite 105, Huntingdon, TN 38344

MELENA MARIE HOUSE, Executor/Administrator

W. KENT JONES, Attorney

KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R26310/36-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2025PE170

ESTATE OF: LARRY GLYNN WILLIAMS, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the **29TH** day of **AUGUST, 2025** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **LARRY GLYNN WILLIAMS** deceased, who died **JUNE 8TH, 2025**, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk & Master of Carroll County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required by law to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this Notice to Creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the Notice to Creditors, if the creditor received a copy of the Notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1) (A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent’s date of death.

All persons indebted to the above Estate must come forward and make proper settlement with the undersigned at once.

This **29TH** day of **AUGUST, 2025.**

THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

FILE CLAIMS IN TRIPLICATE WITH:

KENNETH TODD - CLERK & MASTER

99 Court Square, Suite 105, Huntingdon, TN 38344

KYLE WILLIAMS, Executor/Administrator

PAM F. WRIGHT, Attorney

KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R26311/36-2

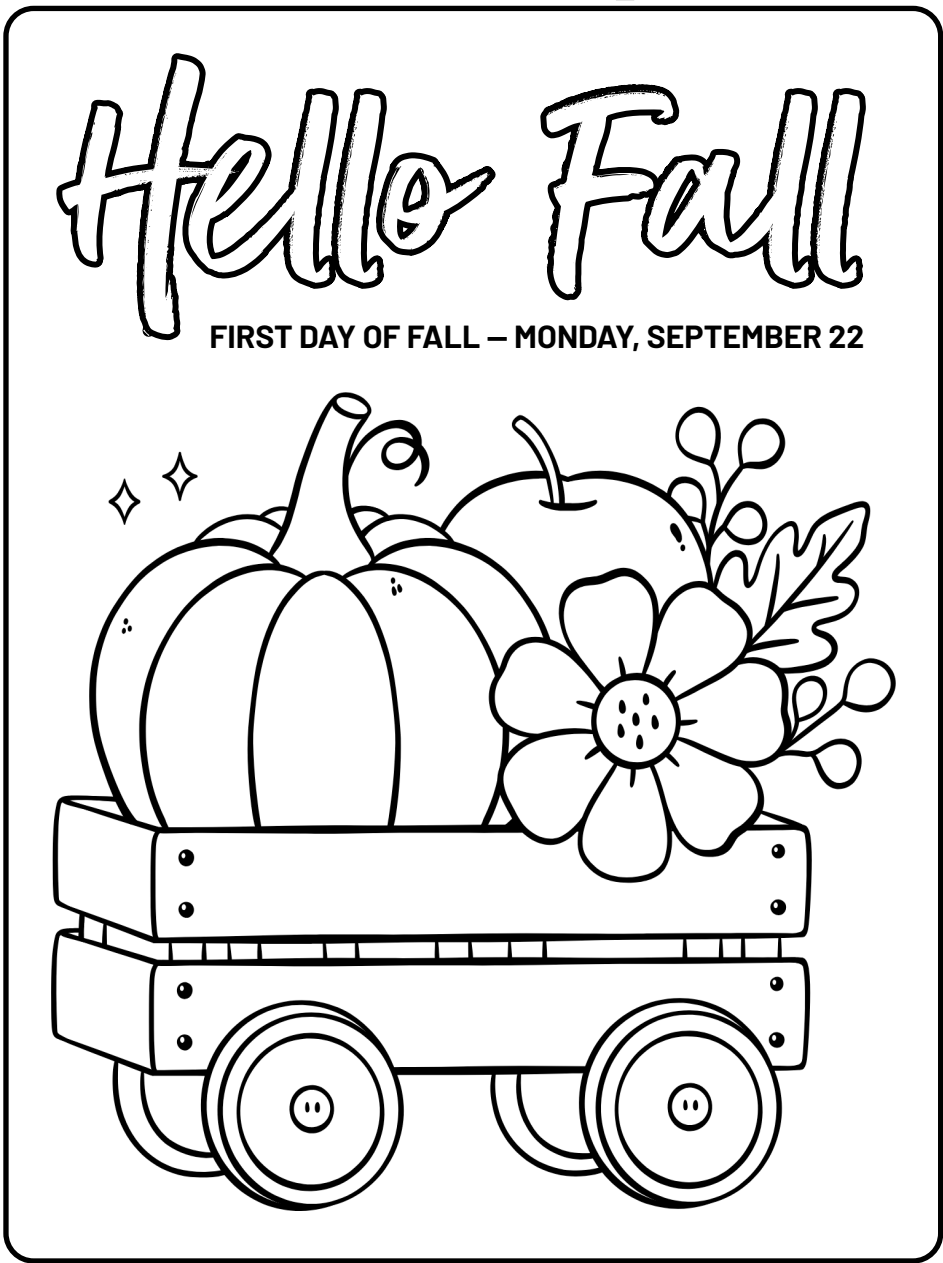
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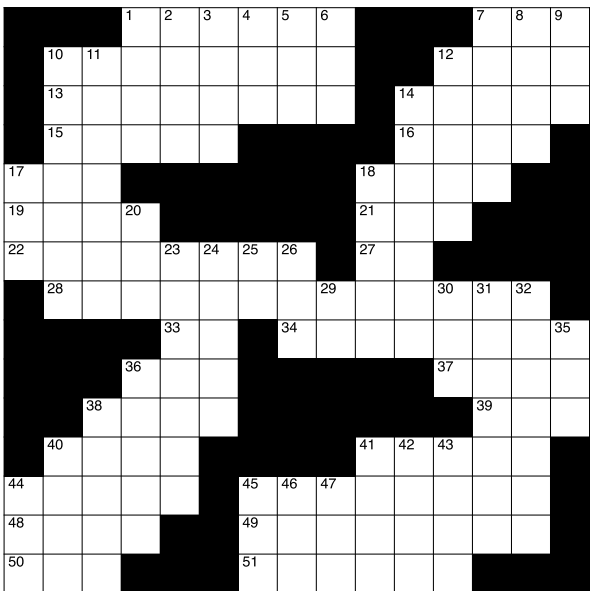
Weekly Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Carved into
- 7. ___ Rogers, cowboy
- 10. Unruly locale
- 12. Edible mushroom
- 13. Influential noblemen
- 14. Rattling breaths
- 15. David ___ George, Brit. P.M.
- 16. Musician Clapton
- 17. Small Eurasian deer
- 18. Invests in little enterprises
- 19. Perimeter
- 21. Chicago ballplayer
- 22. Animal body part
- 27. It's everywhere these days
- 28. Fictional ad exec
- 33. Mr. T character Baracus
- 34. Against the current
- 36. Subway rodent
- 37. Armor plate
- 38. Hair on the head
- 39. Strong insect
- 40. Swollen lymph node
- 41. A way to lessen
- 44. Walter White poison
- 45. Sleeveless garment
- 48. Long accompanied song
- 49. Without features
- 50. Yankee great Mattingly
- 51. Removes from record

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Root of taro plant
- 2. Those ones
- 3. Appliances have one



- 4. A way to sing
- 5. Midway between east and southeast
- 6. Animal dwelling
- 7. An object that as survived from the past
- 8. Oil cartel
- 9. Affirmative
- 10. Foul smell
- 11. Brisk tempo
- 12. S. American indigenous person
- 14. Restored
- 17. Official
- 18. Skin lesions
- 20. Electroencephalograph
- 23. Middle Eastern country
- 24. Extremely angry
- 25. Title used before a woman's name
- 26. British thermal unit
- 29. By the way (abbr.)
- 30. Anger
- 31. Nullifies
- 32. Ones who acquire
- 35. Time zone
- 36. Arabic name
- 38. Protein in mucus
- 40. Ballpoint pen
- 41. Mimics
- 42. Humans have a lot of it
- 43. Expressions of good wishes
- 44. Cool!
- 45. One point east of due south
- 46. City of Angels football team (abbr.)
- 47. A way to save for retirement

Week 37

See solution in next week's edition.

Fall is Here Word Search

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

Acorns
Apple
Autumn
Bonfire
Chilly
Cider

Cinnamon
Cornucopia
Crisp
Festival
Foliage
Gourds

Harvest
Leaves
Maple
Maze
Orchard
Pumpkin

Rake
Scarecrow
September
Spice
Sunset
Sweater

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1778: The Treaty of Fort Pitt is signed between the United States and a Native American tribe.

1961: The world's first retractable roof stadium, the Civic Arena, opens in Pittsburgh.

1983: Vanessa Williams becomes the first Black Miss America.

SUDOKU

WEEK 37

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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

See solution in next week's edition.



Solve the code to discover words related to fall. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 13 = L)

A. 22 18 2 9 8 19

Clue: Cleaning up leaves

B. 3 4 9 13 13 15

Clue: Slightly cold

C. 1 23 24 21 23 26 14 23 22

Clue: Falls starts here

D. 17 18 13 13

Clue: Autumn

Answers: A. raking B. chilly C. September D. fall

LETTER MIX-UP

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

SCARECROW

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

Riddle Me This

What is a tree's least favorite month?

Answer: Sep-TIMBER.

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

BOCNROC

Answer: Cornucob

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actor born on September 16, 1992 in Maryland. I attended the University of Central Florida. In 2016, I had a small role on "Stranger Things." I gained fame as a character on a Netflix teen drama named after an area in North Carolina.

Answer: Chase Stokes

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PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 36 Crossword Puzzle Solution

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION WEEK 36

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

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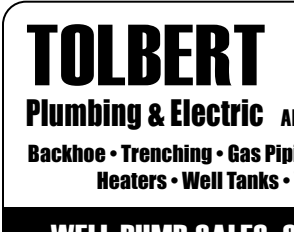
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A ribbon-cutting was held at The Happy Book Stack McKenzie Saturday afternoon, hosted by the McKenzie Chamber of Commerce & Industry. In attendance were the shop's staff, Store Manager Stephanie McClerkin, owner David Jacobs and many business and community leaders, including McKenzie Mayor Ryan Griffin. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Ribbon-Cutting Held at The Happy Book Stack

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (September 13) — A ribbon-cutting was held at The Happy Book Stack McKenzie Saturday afternoon, hosted by the McKenzie Chamber of Commerce.

In attendance were the shop's staff, Store Manager

Stephanie McClerkin, owner David Jacobs and many business and community leaders, including McKenzie Mayor Ryan Griffin.

Since opening on June 9, The Happy Book Stack has expanded its hours, offerings and staff.

Led by McClerkin, the shop employs 18 and re-

cently added new coffee flavors, soups and plant-based Lotus energy drinks. The newest innovation is flight boards with a sampling of four different drinks for \$10.

McClerkin told The Banner that the support has been amazing since opening.

The store hosts events

such as crafts, worship nights, trivia and live music.

The Happy Book Stack is also currently hosting a pop-up McKenzie High School memorabilia exhibit.

Jacobs told The Banner, "The most fun thing about all of this has been building all of this in a building this old that has this much

natural beauty. The most fulfilling part is seeing a lot of the staff taking ownership of the store, taking pride in the community, taking this to the next level. It really is their work and what they've done that has made this what it is. I look forward to this becoming more and more of a community

space. People young and old can get together and have fun with events and live music, really just enjoy themselves in the context of community."

The Happy Book Stack is open Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunrise Cafe Feeds Bethel Lady Wildcat Soccer Team



MCKENZIE (September 13) — On Saturday, Sunrise Cafe located at 62 Waldren St. donated the pregame breakfast to the Lady Wildcat Soccer team. Saturday marked the home opener for the Bethel Women's Soccer program.



Left, Madison Endres, marketing manager for WTPU. Right, Brent Dillahunty, general manager for WTPU. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner

WTPUD Hosts Safety Presentation

MCKENZIE (September 11) — West Tennessee Public Utilities (WTPU) held its fifth annual safety presentation for civic and government officials in Carroll County on Thursday, September 11.

The event began with a luncheon at Bethel University, catered by the university's Dining Services. WTPU officials emphasized that natural gas is a safe, reliable, and economical energy source.

Based in Huntingdon, WTPU serves 17,000 customers across five counties and employs 70 people. Natural gas is typically a more cost-effective option for heating and cooking compared to electricity.

Madison Endres, marketing manager, and Brent Dillahunty, general manager, noted that WTPU is actively exploring ways to serve the community bet-

ter. The company offers installation of gas appliances and gas water heaters, and has a dedicated line crew to extend gas lines to customers. Although it is uncommon for natural gas distributors to provide this level of service, Dillahunty stated that WTPU offers the extended services for convenience while also supporting independent contractors who offer these services.

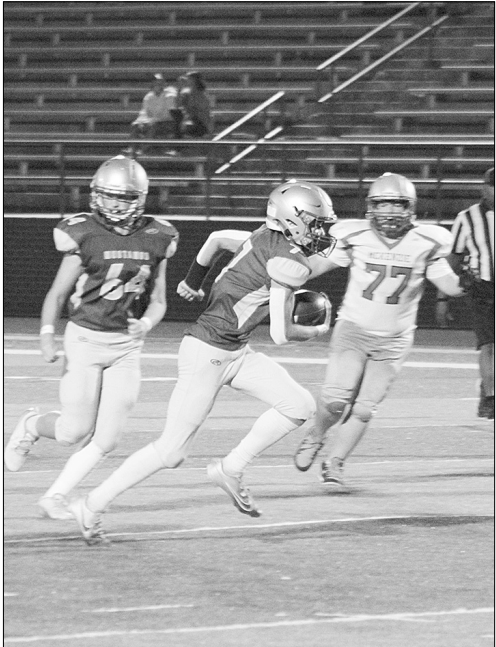
Damage to underground gas lines can easily occur during excavation by contractors or others digging in the area. The law requires that contractors and others to contact 811 locator services at least three days before starting any digging where a natural gas line or other underground services might be present. Over half of the reported damage to underground utilities is due

to the failure to call 811 in advance. Once utilities are marked, it is essential to maintain a two-foot clearance on either side of the marked path when digging.

A current challenge for gas distribution is the limited capacity of major cross-country gas lines. WTPU is served by two of the three existing cross-country lines, which provide significant redundancy. However, with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and other electrical utilities increasingly relying on natural gas instead of coal to power their generation units, the additional demand is limiting availability for traditional natural gas distributors.

At the close of the meeting, several door prizes were given to the winners of a random drawing.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Left, Rebel Lane Brown scores on a 48-yard catch. Right, Mustang Noah Webb scores on a long run. Photos by Davarion Gilbert/The Banner

Rebels Fall to Mustangs

BY DAVARION GILBERT
banner@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (September 11) — The McKenzie Middle School Rebels traveled to Huntingdon Thursday to take on the Mustangs. Huntingdon pulled away in the second quarter for a 32-8 win.

The Mustangs won the toss and elected to receive the ball to start the first half.

Huntingdon began the first drive with a 39-yard touchdown by Noah Webb. The two-point conversion was no good, making it Mustangs 6, McKenzie 0.

Drelyn Carter kicked off to the Rebels to start their first drive. Rebel quarterback Seth Stafford started the series with a one-yard gain, then a pass to Dierks Ghyers. The Rebels punted on fourth-and-5 to start the Mustangs' second drive.

Mustang Noah Webb ran to the outside down the sideline for a 78-yard touchdown. The two-point try was again no good, making it Mustangs 12, McKenzie 0.

The Mustangs kicked off to the Rebels to begin their

second drive. Stafford kept the ball twice for a gain of one then a gain of two. A host of Mustangs sacked Stafford for a loss of five yards. The Rebels punted to the Mustangs for their third drive.

Davey Strayhorn ran the ball, but was stopped at the line of scrimmage for a second down and ten. Noah Webb ran for a gain of four yards to end the first quarter. Mustang Noah Goble ran the ball, but was tackled by Rebel Parker Standridge for a loss of five yards to make it fourth-and-11. The Rebel defense held the Mustangs off for a turnover on downs to start McKenzie's third drive.

Rebel Seth Stafford's pass was complete to Jake Ghyers for a gain of eight yards. Stafford then found Lane Brown for a 48-yard touchdown. The two-point conversion run by Stafford was good, making it Rebels 8, Mustangs 12.

Huntingdon ended their fourth drive with a 39-yard touchdown by Strayhorn. Noah Webb found Strayhorn for the two-point conversion to make it Mustangs 20, Rebels 8.

The Rebels got the ball back, but were forced to punt to the Mustangs for their fifth drive.

Mustang Noah Webb ran to the outside for a 36-yard touchdown. The two-point conversion was no good, making it Mustangs 26, Rebels 8.

A McKenzie fumble was recovered by the Mustangs. The Rebels held them to a punt, but had two incomplete passes to end the first half.

The Rebels received the ball to start the third quarter. Stafford kept, but fumbled the ball to Cohen Gray to start the Mustangs first drive of the second half.

Noah Webb ran for a gain of four, and, on the next play, ran to the outside down the sideline for a 50-plus yard touchdown. The two-point conversion was no good, making it Mustangs 32, Rebels 8.

McKenzie marched down the field, but the Mustangs held them to get the ball back.

The Rebels held the Mustangs off to punt the ball for McKenzie's last drive of the game.

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Lady Rebels Fall 3-1 to South Gibson

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MEDINA (September 8) — The McKenzie Lady Rebels traveled Monday to face South Gibson in a nondistrict volleyball match, falling in four sets to the Class AA Lady Hornets.

South Gibson took the first set 25-9, but the Lady Rebels rallied to take the second 25-21. The Lady Hornets claimed the match by winning the third and fourth sets, both 25-18.

Lady Rebel Ridley Holt had five aces and two kills. Molly French had one ace

and three kills. Addison Milam had three kills and a block. Jaycee Stafford had two aces, two kills, one dig, two assists and two blocks. Kynadie Brown had two aces and four assists. Ashley Dunavant had one kill and four digs. Kynlee Barden had two aces and two digs.

West Carroll Honors August Eagles of the Month

ATWOOD – West Carroll Junior/Senior High School has announced its August Eagles of the Month, honoring individuals whose contributions reflect the values of leadership, service and school spirit.

Eighth-grade student Anastin McAlpin was named Student of the Month. McAlpin is known among peers and teachers as a dependable presence in the classroom and a positive influence on campus.

One teacher said, “Anastin is a true leader in the 8th grade. She always goes above and beyond, and we are so proud to have her with us!”

Jay Taylor, high school math teacher and head football coach, was selected as Employee of the Month. Colleagues noted his ability to create a welcoming atmosphere while maintaining high expectations for students, both in the classroom and on the field.

The Supporter of the Month honor went to Wendy Pinson for her active involvement in student events, including her work with Project Graduation and the Back to School Bash. Pinson has also supported events such as prom and other student-led initiatives, providing steady assistance and encouragement behind the scenes.

Dr. Adam Douglas said, “There have been many events and activities that Mrs. Pinson has helped with, including last year’s prom. She and Hannah both are all-hands-on-deck on many of the ‘extra’ things that make WC fun for all.”

The district extends its thanks to these individuals for their consistent contributions to the West Carroll community.



Above, McKenzie High School Beta Club inductees. Below, MHS Beta officers and guest speaker (L to R): Parliamentarian Landyn McLearen, Reporter Madelyn Morris, member Emma Haynes, Treasurer Savannah Donat, guest speaker Emily Lunn, Secretary Kailynn Cowan and Vice President Brody Berryhill. Not present was President Tobey Brooks. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



McKenzie High School Beta Club Inducts 33 New Members

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (September 14) — The McKenzie High School Beta Club welcomed 33 new members Sunday afternoon in the annual Induction Ceremony in the high school theatre.

Parliamentarian Landyn McLearen called the ceremony to order, and Vice President Brody Berryhill welcomed all. Secretary Kailynn Cowan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer Savannah Donat, Reporter Madelyn Morris and member Emma Haynes spoke about the National Beta Club and its mission and vision. Cowan, McLearen and Donat explained the significance of the Beta Emblem.

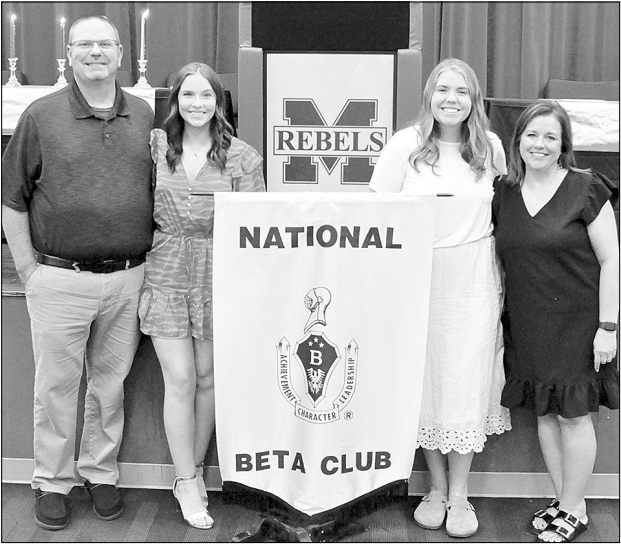
Morris, Haynes, Cowan and Berryhill then recited the Beta Club Creed, which highlights the principles of honesty, justice, service, cooperation, responsibility, industriousness, humility and charity.

Next, Beta sponsor Traci Lunn introduced guest speaker (her daughter) Emily Lunn. A 2018 MHS graduate, Lunn was actively involved in Beta. She graduated from Bethel University in 2021. She now serves as the Southwest Regional Director of the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network as well as worship leader of the Young Adult ministry at Overflow Church.

Lunn spoke about the importance of Beta in shaping her growth. She said Beta taught her not to let obstacles define her and that she found more than academics in the club, she developed a sense of service and relationships.

She spoke with pride about being part of the Beta team that earned second in the nation with its project, “Rebel Closet”, a program to serve the less fortunate that continues today. She said, “Lives were changed because of small acts of kindness and generosity.”

Lunn spoke about the importance of challenging yourself while not compar-



The name Lunn was prominent in Sunday’s induction ceremony. Pictured are (L to R) Craig Lunn, inductee Carleigh Lunn, guest speaker Emily Lunn and sponsor Traci Lunn. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

ing yourself to others. “What truly matters is your heart, your kindness and your relationships with people. In a world where you can be anything, choose kind.”

She reminded the Beta members that reputation is created from repetitive acts and challenged them to ask themselves how they want to be remembered.

Lunn concluded by expressing her love for Beta and urging members not to take it lightly. “It’s a true honor that you will carry with you the rest of your life.”

The event continued with the candle-lighting ceremony.

Berryhill lit the white candle, which signifies light, purity and faith.

Cowan lit the red candle, which signifies pure love, wisdom and bravery.

Donat lit the blue candle, which signifies truth, constancy and fidelity.

Morris lit the black candle, which signifies dignity, restraint and seriousness.

Haynes lit the gold candle, which signifies warmth, friendship and faithfulness.

Beta sponsors Derek Collins, Gina Pate and Traci Lunn addressed the inductees and administered the Pledge of Membership. Each inductee was presented a certificate.

Principal Kelly Spivey de-

livered the Principal’s Challenge. He said he hoped the inductees listened to the words of the club’s mission and took them to heart. He noted academics are just a qualifier and a gateway to Beta, but that the other pillars, such as character, service and leadership, are just as important. He challenged each of the students to live up to the motto “be of good character, be a servant,” and to be vigilant with their academics, “the key to the door.”

McLearen officially closed the event and invited all to enjoy refreshments in the lobby.

Inductees included juniors Lashontiana Clark, Jasmine Curtis and Allie Giles and sophomores Braylin Auvenshine, Delta Baker, Kaydynce Barksdale, Kynadie Brown, Sophie Cole, Aden Cook, Addison Courtney, Cooper Davidson, Addison Davis, Molly Drewry, Maggie Hall, Breah Harris, Addyson Lee, Addyson Littleton, Carleigh Lunn, Addison Milam, Mia Nerie, Cayden Ownby, Stephanie Padilla, Olivia Pate, Matthias Pierce, Katelyn Prather, Bella Sass, Lillian Simmons, Kortlyn Sisemore, Jaycee Stafford, Natalia Taylor, Sophie Taylor, Breanna Townsend and Marshal Vinson.

Football Cats Forced to Forfeit at Keiser

COURTESY BETHEL SID

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — The Bethel University Wildcats and the No. 2-ranked Keiser Seahawks met Saturday afternoon in West Palm Beach, Florida, in a matchup that was halted prematurely.

With 2:27 remaining in the first quarter and Keiser holding a 7-0 advantage, a series of lightning delays forced Bethel to make the difficult decision to forfeit the contest.

Bethel Interim Director of Athletics, Dave McCulley, addressed the situation following the announcement: “It is unfortunate we were forced to forfeit, but due to the delays and limitations

with the flight home, we felt it was in the best interest of our players and staff. We certainly considered all the factors and variables, but the safety of our players was the deciding factor in our decision.”

The decision left the Wildcats at 0-2 on the season, while Keiser improved to 2-0.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL West Carroll Falls to TCA

ATWOOD (September 12) — West Carroll High School hosted Trinity Christian Academy (TCA) Friday for a non-region football contest. The visiting Lions controlled the game and claimed a 42-0 victory.

TCA scored three times in the first quarter, twice in the second and once in the fourth.

The War Eagles were held to 30 yards of total offense, while the Lions had 334 yards.

All of West Carroll’s gains came on rushes, while TCA had 183 yards rushing and 151 in the air.

The War Eagles travel to Humboldt Friday for a region contest. Kickoff is 7 p.m.

Rotarians Hear About United Way

McKENZIE (September 2) — Representatives of the United Way of West Tennessee spoke to members of the McKenzie Rotary Club on Tuesday, September 2.

Stefania Wheeler, Jennifer Medford and Sabrina Bates spoke about the expanded services now being offered to communities in West Tennessee.

Medford serves Carroll County. She told of the agency supporting families, some of whom are temporarily homeless. U.W. helps pay for temporary shelter while working with the family to address the need for daycare and for gainful employment. Medford said she helped 125 families in a single year.

Bates is new to United Way and is working in



United Way of West Tennessee representatives Sabrina Bates, Stefania Wheeler, Jennifer Medford and Rotary President Ricky Price.

Henry County. She works with families and often coordinates with other human service agencies to serve the community’s needy. She said she also helps elderly citizens in completing necessary paperwork, which is often online.

United Way of West Ten-

nessee is based in Jackson and serves the counties of Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Madison, McNairy, and Weakley.

For more information, call 731-422-1816 or visit www.uwwt.org.

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Left, Rebel Avery Brown makes a contested catch in the end zone for one of his three touchdowns (two receiving, one fumble return). Right, Rebels Lelan Gordon and Jacion Townes bring down Viking Ayden Flowers. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Rebels Sink Vikings, 42-0

BY BRAD SAM
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LINDEN (September 12) — The McKenzie High School Rebels began region play Friday at Perry County. The Rebels scored early and often en route to a 42-0 victory over the Vikings.

Perry County received the opening kick and made a couple of short gains on the ground. A Rebel penalty moved the chains, but it was quickly third down again. Rebel Dawson Reeder intercepted a Viking pass and returned it to the Perry County 6.

Timmy Arline punched it in on the first McKenzie snap, and Aiden Mason kicked the PAT. The Rebels led 7-0 with eight minutes to play in the first frame.

McKenzie's defense forced a three-and-out, and Rebel Avery Brown made a short return on the Viking punt.

Quarterback Cole Brown started the Rebel drive with a 42-yard pass to A. Brown. Two plays later, they connected again for an eight-yard touchdown. Mason kicked, and McKenzie led 14-0 with 5:07 remaining in the opening quarter.

The Vikings quickly faced third down again, but this time, quarterback Weston Martin threw to Ayden Flowers for a first down at mid-field. The drive stalled there, and Perry County punted. A penalty against McKenzie on the return pinned the Rebels back at their 16.

C. Brown kept for five, then Arline ran for 17. Brown threw to Lelan Gordon for another 17 and, a couple of plays later, found Jacobi Melton for 19 as the first quarter ended. Arline took the first snap of the second quarter 46 yards to paydirt. Another Mason PAT put McKenzie ahead 21-0.

Viking Dereon Morin made an excellent return from near the goal line to the Rebel 46, but A. Brown picked off a Martin pass on the first snap.

McKenzie went three-and-out and punted for the first time in the contest. Morin again proved tough to tack-



Rebel Dawson Reeder set the tone early with an interception and long return to spoil the Vikings' opening drive. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

le, returning the punt to the Rebel 25.

A fumble on the first snap was picked up by A. Brown and taken 68 yards for a touchdown. Mason kicked, and McKenzie led 28-0 with ten minutes to play in the first half.

Perry County managed a first down, but soon faced fourth-and-two near mid-field. A fumbled snap led to a big loss and a turnover on downs.

Taking over at the Viking 28, Rebel Aiden Legens plowed up the middle for seven yards, and a Perry County penalty moved the chains. Two plays later, C. Brown found A. Brown for a 16-yard touchdown. Mason hit the PAT, and McKenzie led 35-0 halfway through the second quarter.

The Rebel defense forced another three-and-out, but the offense stalled and turned the ball over on downs. Perry County managed two plays before time expired.

The second half was played with eight-minute quarters and a running clock.

Perry County attempted an onside kick to start the third, but Rebel Cooper Davidson snagged the kick and made a return to the Viking 40. Arline ran for 22, and C. Brown threw to A. Brown for 17 down to the 1. The defense held, and McKenzie turned the ball over on downs at the 4.

The Vikings picked up a first down on a McKenzie penalty, but stalled as the third ended and turned the ball over on downs on the

first play of the final frame.

C. Brown's pass on the first play was intercepted by Javon McFadden at the 7.

Perry County went three-and-out, and Melton made a long return down to the Viking 7.

Arline got the seven yards on one try, and Mason completed a perfect night of PATs for a 42-0 McKenzie lead with three minutes to play in the game.

The Rebel defense held strong one last time, and time expired before Perry County snapped on fourth down.

Rebel quarterback Cole Brown was 8 of 10 passing for 146 yards and two touchdowns. He had four carries for 19 yards.

Timmy Arline carried eleven times for 108 yards and three touchdowns.

Avery Brown had four receptions for 91 yards and two touchdowns. Jacobi Melton caught three passes for 37 yards, and Lelan Gordon made one catch for 18 yards.

Gordon led the defense with six solo tackles and four assists. Cooper Davidson had four solo and four assists. Mason Batten had four solo tackles and one assist, including a sack.

Jacion Townes had three solo tackles and two assists. Aiden Callis had three solo and one assist, including a sack. Xander Johnsey had three solo and one assist.

The Rebels (3-1, 1-0) host Camden Friday and celebrate Homecoming. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m.; kickoff is 7 p.m.



Left, Tyreke Hutch cuts back for yards. Right, Colt Wood steps across the goal line for a TD. Photos By Russell Bush/The Banner

Mustangs Romp Back with 49-6 Win Over Halls

BY RUSSELL BUSH
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HALLS (September 12) — After only scoring nine points and rushing for 107 yards last week against Milan, the Mustangs bounced back with 355 yards of total offense and defeated Halls 49-6 to improve to 3-1 for the season and 1-1 in Region 7-2A. The Mustangs also intercepted two passes and returned one for a TD for the second week in a row, and held the Tigers to 46 yards and 14 of 26 passes for 155 yards in the game.

The Mustangs scored three times in the first half, and the first touchdown came after a Tiger punt. Tyreke Hutch on the Mustangs' second play from scrimmage, scampered for 42 yards to paydirt. Greyson Anderson made the first of his seven PATs for the night to give the Mustangs a 7-0 lead.

The Mustang defense then forced another Tiger punt and took over at midfield, and reached the Tiger 12 yard line and fumbled the ball. The Tigers recovered at the 14. Hayes Eubanks then intercepted a pass on second down and returned it 16 yards for a touchdown. Anderson made the score 14-0 with the PAT.

The Mustangs then took over after a Tiger punt at the Halls' 47 and six plays later found the end zone on an 11-yard run by sophomore running back Colt Wood. Anderson was true on the kick, and the Mustangs held



A pair of Mustangs defenders take down a Halls runner. Photo By Russell Bush/The Banner

a 21-0 lead late in the second quarter.

The Tigers answered with their only scoring drive of the game by going to the air. The Tigers moved 69 yards in 11 plays with five of those plays being through the air, and Tiger QB Jackson Booker completed four and the last completion covered 18 yards to Caden Pipus for the touchdown. The extra point was missed and the score stood at 21-6 at the half.

The Mustangs started the second half with possession and scored in four plays after starting at their 44, and Hutch scored his second TD of the night on a 39-yard run. Anderson was perfect again and the Mustangs led 28-6.

The Mustang defense then held Halls on downs at their own 29, and Hayes Eubanks scored on second down on a 21-yard run. Anderson booted the PAT for a 35-6 lead.

The Tigers moved from their 17 to the Mustang nine in 12 plays, but the Mustangs held and covered the 91 yards to the end zone in 10 plays and scored on a 24-yard run by Kenton Smith on the fifth play of the 4th quarter. Anderson gave the Mustangs a 42-6 lead with the point after.

Lucas Smith then intercepted a Booker pass at the Tiger 13 and two plays later, Kenton Smith put the final points on a Mustang win with an eight-yard run for the TD and Anderson dotted the final point for a 49-6 win.

Hutch led the Mustangs with 133 yards on six carries. Eubanks ran for 103 yards on 10 carries and Smith added 62 yards on nine carries.

The Mustangs play their first home game of the season Friday at Paul Ward Stadium as they will host JCM for a region contest. Kickoff is 7 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER



Lady Rebel soccer seniors were honored during halftime of Tuesday's win. Pictured are (L to R): Assistant Coach Jeremy Bilger, senior Katlynn Hoffman with mom Sharie Kalis, senior Katelynn Essary with parents Jason and Kim Essary, senior Sydney Rimmer with parents Shane and Kelly Rimmer and Head Coach Karlene Ellis. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Lady Rebels Win Senior Night Thriller

BY BRAD SAM
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MCKENZIE (September 9) — The McKenzie High School Lady Rebel soccer team hosted the Hardin County Lady Tigers Tuesday and celebrated Senior Night. Momentum swung back and forth in the contest, but the Lady Rebels edged out a 4-3 win.

At halftime, three senior players were recognized on the field with their parents.

Katelynn Essary is the daughter of Jason and Kim Essary and a four-year member of the team. She plays defender.

Katlynn Hoffman is the daughter of Sharie Kalis and a three-year member of the team. She plays midfield and defender.

Sydney Rimmer is the daughter of Shane and Kelly Rimmer and a four-year member of the team. She plays striker and wing.

Both teams scored in the early minutes, and McKenzie added two goals late in the first half for a 3-1 lead. Hardin County tied it at 3-3 down the stretch, but the Lady Rebels quickly regained the advantage. The Lady Tigers attacked the goal in the final seconds,



Above, Lady Rebel Sydney Rimmer scores a first-half goal against Hardin County. Below, Lady Rebel Kaydynce Barksdale scores one of her two goals in the win. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



but McKenzie goalkeeper Alleigh Britt made a save as time expired to secure the win.

Lady Rebel Kaydynce Barksdale scored two goals. Sydney Rimmer scored a

goal, and Sophie Dameron had one goal and one assist. Ava Hastings had two assists.

Goalkeeper Alleigh Britt had eight saves.



Left, Brody Sanders, 89, reaches for a pass as a Dresden player heavily defends him. Right, Drake Lehmkuhl, 18, hauls in a long pass from Bo Bailey for the Bulldogs. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner

Dresden Claims 48-6 Victory Over Gleason

GLEASON (September 12) — Cross-county rivals Gleason Bulldogs (1-3) and Dresden (2-2) battled for bragging rights in Class 1A football on Friday. The teams played head-to-head during the first quarter. Dresden pulled ahead with a score and a PAT with 38 seconds remaining in the quarter. Cooper Allman scored and Valdimar Pederson made the PAT.

At the 9:15 mark in the

second quarter, Dresden's Cooper Allman again scored and Pederson added the PAT for a score of 14-0. Aiden Carrington bumped the score with a touchdown and the Dresden Lions led 27-0 at the 2:44 mark in the second quarter. The PAT was missed making the score of 27-0 at the half.

Gleason came out strong in the second half with a touchdown by Gage Byington. The extra point failed,

and the score stood at 27-6 with 11:36 remaining in the third quarter.

Dresden struck again at the 8:34 mark on a touchdown by DiPietro followed by a TD by Ayden Flora to make the score 41-6.

Elliott Stafford, Jr. added the final TD for the Lions. The PAT made the final score 48-6.

Gleason travels to Lake County on September 19. Game time is 7 p.m.



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