



Pictured are the vehicles of first responders at the scene on Baker Road near Lake Halford.

Missing Child Found Safe

HUNTINGDON (November 1) — Carroll County authorities responded to Baker Road, Huntingdon to a report of a missing two-year-old male on Saturday morning.

The Carroll County Sheriff's Department, Baptist EMS, Carroll County Rescue Squad, Tennessee Highway Patrol, a tracking canine, and its handler responded from Henry County.

After more than one hour of searching, the young child was safe inside his home, according to authorities. He was reportedly asleep and out of sight.

McKenzie Rotary, The Banner, Carroll County Carl Perkins Center Work to Fight Hunger

MCKENZIE (October 28) — The McKenzie Rotary Club teamed up with the Carroll County Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse to support people who need food during the holiday season. The Rotary Club gave \$500 to the Carl Perkins Center to help refill their food pantry.

The Baxter-Moore Fund, a benevolent branch of the Rotary Club, donated \$500 to The McKenzie Banner. The local newspaper is running a non-perishable food drive and will give two rounds of food to the Carl Perkins Center—one before Thanksgiving and another closer to Christmas.

Those interested in donating goods or helping financially can give at The McKenzie Banner office located at 3 Banner Row in McKenzie.



Pictured (L to R) are McKenzie Rotarians Dr. Perry Moulds, Kim Bell-Webb, Alyse McMinn and Ricky Price.



McKenzie Marching Rebels earned fourth place overall band for the second year in a row.

McKenzie, Huntingdon Bands Rank in Tennessee Small Bands Championship

THOMPSON'S STATION, Tenn. — Tennessee Small Bands Division I competition was held at Independence High School on Saturday, November 1. Sixteen bands competed.

McKenzie earned fourth place in competition while Huntingdon placed at sixth place.

Tennessee Division 1 State Marching Band Championship Results for McKenzie.

Preliminary (Round 1 of 2) Competition: Superior Rated Drum Major, Superior or Rated Color Guard; Superior Rated Percussion; Superior Rated Band

McKenzie was one of only three band programs to receive superior ratings in all captions.

In Finals Competition, McKenzie was 2nd Place Overall Drum Major (Katelynn Essary); 2nd Place Overall Percussion; 4th Place Overall Band for two years in a row.

The top 10 bands were: 10 - Harpeth (70.0); 9 - Waverly (70.95); 8 - Scotts Hill (71.5); 7 - Jackson Christian (75.25); 6 - Huntingdon (77.425); 5 - Gibson County (80.55); 4 - McKenzie (81.65); 3 - Peabody (82.6); 2 - Lakeway (84.1); 1 - Adamsville (84.5) State Champion

Hollow Rock Bruceton Central Tigers Marching Band Earns Honor at State Small Bands Championship: First Place Color Guard; Top Soloist Kalani Joyner; 2nd Place Reserve Guard Champion.



McKenzie City Florist owner Courtney Satterfield cuts the ribbon provided by the McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Development Board surrounded by her family, friends and fellow chamber members. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

City Florist Enters New Era with Ribbon Cutting

BY LYNDESEY SUMMERS
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MCKENZIE (October 28) — The McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Development Board ushered in a new era of McKenzie City Florist & More with a ribbon cutting Tuesday, celebrating Courtney Satterfield's purchase of McKenzie's landmark flower and gift shop.

McKenzie City Florist is a landmark business that has served McKenzie and its surrounding communities since 1983. In 42 years, the business has had only three owners: Violet Satterfield (1983-2018), David Jarrett and Michele Jarrett Love (2018-2025) and, now, Satterfield.

"I was worried for a while that we were going to lose our florist," said Monica Heath, director of the McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Development Board. "So I was very happy when I heard [the Satterfields] were taking over. It's important to have them, and it's important for the community to support them."

Satterfield and her family assured attendees that they would take care of the florist and keep its legacy alive. As Satterfield's daughter, Kylie, said, "Mama will work here forever."

Satterfield took over McKenzie City Florist in August, just in time for McKenzie's annual Sweet Tea Festival. Since then, she's also contributed to McKenzie High School's homecoming festivities and various other local events. Now, she and her employees — Lisa Hawkins and Ashlee Simer — are working to prepare the florist for Christmas Open House November 15 and 16.

McKenzie City Florist & More, located at 17 Broadway Street in McKenzie, sells flowers and gifts for nearly every occasion. The store is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bethel President Moulds Gives Update to McKenzie Rotary

MCKENZIE (October 28) — Bethel University President Perry Moulds addressed the McKenzie Rotary Club, offering an inside look at the university's current status and future direction. He began by outlining significant challenges in higher education nationwide, including the "demographic cliff," intensified competition for students, and growing demand for clear workforce outcomes. He then detailed Bethel's proactive responses, such as adopting a new provost-led administrative structure, returning to financial stability after a challenging year in 2023-24, and launching a new strategic planning process. He presented Bethel's value proposition to prospective students—highlighting affordability versus other private universities, a personalized 15-to-1 student-faculty ratio, robust student support services, and vibrant campus life. He concluded with a call to action, inviting the community to engage with the university by attending upcoming homecoming and athletic events to support students.



Perry Moulds

student life areas to foster a "One Bethel" approach.

New deans: Dr. Wayne Scott leads the College of Professional Studies (online programs); Dr. Keith Harris is Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS); and Dr. Delicia Parker is Dean of the College of Health Sciences (CHS).

CAS and CHS deans share an office to promote collaboration on innovative degree and certificate programs.

Lougan Bishop was hired as Vice President for Enrollment and Engagement, leading a revitalized marketing team.

After ending the fiscal year on July 31, 2024, with a significant loss, the university balanced its budget in the most recent fiscal year ending July 31, 2025.

A strategic planning process is launching to define direction through 2030.

Input from internal (campus) and external (community) stakeholders will ensure programs meet regional needs and produce hireable graduates.

Total enrollment is nearly 3,000 students, including just under 1,000 on-campus undergraduates, as well as online and dual-enrollment students.

Dual enrollment includes high school students in the local geographic area plus over 200 students at Smyrna High School in middle Tennessee.

Bethel offers a personalized environment with a 15-to-1 student-faculty ratio and an average class size of 16.

Students come from 33 states and 41 countries.

Bethel's home campus

in McKenzie provides access to Memphis and Nashville for internships and recruitment.

Educational offerings include 42 majors and programs, one-to-one academic advising, tutoring in 25 subjects, and career services at the Burroughs Learning Center.

A robust Global Studies program offers trips to Costa Rica, Japan, Colombia, Mexico, France, and Italy, open to the entire community.

Campus life is vibrant, with 30-plus events per month, 20-plus student organizations, and 14 fraternities and sororities.

Strong focus on well-being: on-campus health clinic, disability services, counseling, and Title IX support addressing the student mental health crisis.

Bethel is "unapologetically Christian," affiliated with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, welcoming all faiths while requiring chapel for first-year students.

Approximately 70 percent of undergraduates are student-athletes across 21 teams.

Athletics have earned the NAIA Champions of Character five-star award for ten consecutive years and boast 23 national champions. Bethel's Lady Wildcats Basketball Team is ranked second in the nation in NAIA.

The Renaissance performing arts program includes 100-plus students in nine groups, delivering 100-plus performances annually, including "Christmas with Renaissance" and the upcoming musical "Newsies" at the Dixie Performing Arts Center.

Annual tuition and fees are \$29,500, which is significantly more affordable than the private university national average of \$58,600.

Academic scholarships range from \$4,000 to \$12,000 and are awarded based on criteria such as a 3.0 GPA or a 20 on the ACT.

(This article was abridged for the print edition. Read the full story at mckenziebanner.com.)

Railroad

...From Front Page

These installations stand at no charge to the county, as TDOT will fully fund both installations through a federal program.

Vegetation cleanup around the railroad crossing is allowed at the discretion of the property owners. Carroll County leaders were approved to proceed with this cleanup, working with property owners and possibly the Highway Department to clear visibility. A CSX flagman is required to join the

cleanup process.

The Tennessee Highway Department made a few requests at the meeting, which were agreed upon. One request was for the Carroll County Electric Department to install a power pole to supply the new lights and gates.

CSX will proceed with their survey of the railroad track, followed by their design and estimate. Each process could take up to 30 days.

Typically, this process takes roughly 18 months, but there is a process in place to expedite each step. Mayor Butler said a six-month range was consistently thrown around

during the meeting.

"As with anything that involves federal entities, a State department and local government, this process has been slow and will seem slow as we progress," said Butler. "I appreciate TDOT's desire to push this forward."

Butler publicly thanked Carroll County Chief Deputy Joel Pate and Carroll County Highway Department road supervisors Ronnie Wade and Ricky Scott for their involvement and leadership in this process.

TDOT will provide a formal report for the field review soon.

911

...From Front Page

initial dispatch to emergency personnel throughout the county. If a call is for Huntingdon or McKenzie, it is forwarded to the appropriate city dispatchers. However, Huntingdon's dispatch center does not fully integrate with the 911 center, causing the Huntingdon dispatcher to have limited information about the emergency call.

Kristy Meggs, director of the Carroll County Emergency Communications District, stated that the new agreement will allow both county and Huntingdon dispatchers to monitor every aspect of an emergency call, including dispatch and response times, the nature of the call, and the responding

units.

In other business, the Council voted to reject the remaining portion of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) intended to replace a bridge on Williams Street. The remaining funds totaled \$187,047. Mayor Chad Edwards explained that the bids for constructing the bridge exceeded the original budget by over \$100,000. Consequently, the city would need to provide unbudgeted matching funds to replace the bridge. Edwards suggested that the city install culverts instead, at a cost of \$15,000 to \$20,000.

The city has slightly increased building permit fees during the first of two readings, with a minimum fee set at \$25. This is the first increase since October 2010.

Additionally, the city's travel allowance for per-

sonnel on official business has been updated. Mileage reimbursement for driving a personal vehicle is now set at 70 cents per mile. If a government-owned vehicle is available but an employee chooses to drive his or her own vehicle, the rate will be reduced to 35 cents per mile.

City associates' meal reimbursements for in-town travel are as follows: Breakfast - \$6; Lunch - \$8; Dinner - \$12. For out-of-town travel, reimbursements are: Breakfast - \$12; Lunch - \$16; Dinner - \$28.

Starting January 1, a flat fee of \$3 will be added for credit card payments to the Town of Huntingdon.

Lastly, two streets in the Huntingdon Industrial Park-South, Dale Kelley Drive and Addison Drive, have been added to the city's street maintenance program.

Carroll County Commission Meets Monday

The Carroll County Commission meets Monday, November 10 at 7 p.m. with the following items are the agenda.

There will be a debt report for the Carroll County Electric System dealing revenue and tax bonds for Series 2025.

Resolution 11-01-2025 – Resolution to Submit Application and to Commit Matching Funds for the Historic Development Grant Program.

Resolution 11-02-2025 – Resolution to Authorize a Twelve Dollar and Fifty Cent Charge by the Clerk of Every Court in Carroll County Having Jurisdiction of State Misdemeanors and Felonies for the Purposes Authorized and Set Out in T.C.A. § 40-

3-106 for District Attorney General.

Resolution 11-03-2025 – Resolution to Authorize a Twelve Dollar and Fifty Cent Charge by the Clerk of Every Court in Carroll County Having Jurisdiction of State Misdemeanors and Felonies for the Purposes Authorized and Set Out in T.C.A. § 40-3-106 for Public Defender.

Resolution 11-04-2025 – Resolution to Amend the Grant Fund Budget for Prior Sheriff's Office Highway Safety Grant.

Resolution 11-05-2025 – Resolution to Amend the Grant Fund Budget for Office on Aging Senior Center Grant.

Resolution 11-06-2025 – Resolution to Amend the Grant Fund Budget for

ThreeStar Grant.

Resolution 11-07-2025 – Resolution to Amend the Grant Fund Budget for Sheriff's Office School Resource Officer Grant.

Resolution 11-08-2025 – Resolution to Amend the Grant Fund Budget for New Sheriff's Office Highway Safety Grant.

Resolution 11-09-2025 – Resolution to Amend the Grant Fund Budget for Airport Grants.

Resolution 11-10-2025 – Resolution to Amend the Grant Fund Budget for Prevention Coalition Grants.

The Carroll County Commission meets in the conference room at the Carroll County Government Complex on High Street in Huntingdon.

Mann

...From Front Page

Salazar praised the city and the Huntingdon Historical Society for honoring her uncle's life and legacy.

"I can't tell you how much this means to Carl's family. Carl was a pioneer in the Rockabilly scene and contributed much to the music world back in the day," said Salazar.

The honor of unveiling the sign was granted to Remy Mann, Carl's granddaughter, who flew in from Germany for the occasion.

Charlottee Mann Belew, Carl's daughter, also attended the event.

History of Carl Mann

Born in Huntingdon, Mann was a child musical prodigy who began recording at age 15. He signed with Sun Records and, at 16, reached #25 on the Billboard Hot 100 with his cover of "Mona Lisa."

He performed and recorded for over six decades until his death in 2020 at age 78. Mann was inducted into the Rockabilly Hall of Fame in 2006.

Mann's niece, Andrea Salazar, addressed the Huntingdon Town Council on behalf of Carl's family to request the signage and offer to cover the costs. Also present were Salazar's sister, Sabrina Bailey, and Mann's son, Richard Mann.

During the Council meeting, Salazar said, "Carl Mann was a rockabilly pioneer and spent a lifetime performing for fans all over the United States and Europe. He was the last and youngest artist signed with Sun Record label. He was a guest performer on the Dick Clark show multiple times. Carl spent time touring with Johnny Cash, George Jones, Carl Perkins, Brenda Lee and was personal friends with Loretta Lynn and with Patsy Cline. He had many musical accomplishments, and he is a gold record recipient.

"He was somewhat disappointed that the town of Huntingdon never seemed to recognize him for all that he did. He would be a little hurt when he would go to McMoresville and see the welcome sign with Dixie [Carter]'s name on it, or he would go to Parsons and see the highway named after Little David Wilkins, or he would go to Jackson and see 'Home of Carl Perkins.'

Carl Mann: Sun Records Artist Career Highlights

- At age 11 he was performing regularly on the WDXI Jackson Station.
- In 1954, age 12, he performed on the Jr. Grand Ole Opry which was broadcast on WSM Nashville. (First significant appearance)



Remy Mann, Carl Mann's granddaughter, had the honor of unveiling the new signage honoring Carl Mann. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

- In 1954 he formed the band, The Kool Kats with four other band members
- The band played local radio shows in Milan, Tennessee

- Auditioned for Jimmy Martin on the Jaxon label
- First record released on the Jaxon label.

- 1957 "Gonna Rock and Roll Tonight and Rockin' Love was first single released by Carl Mann and the Kool Kats

- At the age of 16, Carl was signed to a contract with Sun Records in Memphis Tennessee by Sam Phillips as the youngest artist to be signed to the Phillips Label.

- In 1959, "Mona Lisa" was recorded and released as Carl's faster version of a well-known Nat King Cole song. It reached #25 on the Billboard Hot 100 and #24 on the R&B singles chart. The song sold over a million copies and Carl eventually received gold record status.

- Carl signed to other labels including Rockhouse Records, Monument and ABC.

- Carl appeared on The Dick Clark Show twice (April, 1959 Oct., 1959)

- 1959 Caravan of Stars Concert Series Hollywood Bowl in California

- Carl performed in New York City, where he became friends with Annette Funicello (American actress and singer)

- Carl performed in Las Vegas with Johnny Cash, Brenda Lee and Charlie Feathers at The Golden Nugget at the same time that Patsy Cline played across the street at the The Mint where he would go visit and watch her show.

- Carl was one of the first few to show up at the site of the plane crash of Patsy Cline in Camden, Tn.to assist, immediately upon hearing the news on the radio.

- Carl played with Loretta Lynn at La Grange out of Chicago in the 60's. He later visited her in Germany where she was performing.

- Carl became acquainted and toured with George Jones for a couple of weeks in Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico.

- Carl toured and played many appearances across the U.S. and abroad including: Germany, Finland, Holland, Sweden, Europe, New York, Las Vegas, Spain, Bismark, Switzerland, Worcester, Phil-

adelphia, Chicago, North Carolina, Atlanta, Kentucky, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin, Louisiana, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico and Tennessee.

- Charlie Rich wrote "m Coming Home" exclusively for Carl Mann.

Mann recorded this song March 14, 1960. Elvis later recorded the song in 1961 with Floyd Cramer using the same piano arrangement as Carl. This song, performed by Elvis was later used in the 2022 movie "Elvis"

1960 South of the Border/I'm Coming Home/Pre-tend London Records

- 1964 Carl served in the United States Army

- 1974 "Twilight Time" reached top of the charts

- 1977 Deal with Dutch record label

- 1980's Toured Europe, Holland, Sweden

- 1987 Roy Orbison/Carl Mann The Sweet Rockin Stars released

- 1993 4-CD/picture book boxed set released.

TOP Pop Charts book Carl's Mona Lisa appears listed in this book

- Carl has appeared in various magazine articles including Vintage Rock (on the cover photo), American Music magazine Mar 2006, American Music Sept 2006, Now Dig This, and Keep Rockin magazine

- Extensive list of discography recordings, single and compilation CD's with such artist as Charlie Rich, Jerry Lee Lewis and other Sun Records artists.

- Performed at Rockabilly Festival Jackson, Tenn.

- Inducted into the Rockabilly Hall of Fame in Jackson, 2006

- Performed at annual festival at Tina Turner museum in Brownsville, Tenn.

- 2005 Performed on the Huntingdon Hayride with Dixie Carter, former Miss America Kelley Cash and others.

- First gospel album released in 2005.

- Memorabilia located at Tine Turner Museum in Brownsville.

- Memorabilia located at The Carnegie Museum in Jackson, Tenn.

- Last show 2018 alongside Jerry Lee Lewis in Las Vegas.

- Referred to as "The Last Son of Sun" as he was one of the final artists introduced by Sam Phillips of Sun Records.

for a late 2026 completion.

Drewry reported to the board the sale of a truck at auction for \$20,000.

The meeting adjourned in 16 minutes.

Board member Vicky Williams was absent.

The next meeting of the CCED board is Thursday, November 20 at 2 p.m., a week earlier than usual due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The December meeting will also be moved up one week.

McKenzie Council Meets Next Week

The McKenzie City Council meets November 13 with a light agenda. Items included are: second reading for Ordinance 574

Occupational Safety and Health;resolution honoring Charli Weatherford of McKenzie High School Ladies Golf for State Appearance;

and the discussion/approval of employee Christmas bonus.

The Council meets at McKenzie City Hall at 6 p.m.

Chamber

...From Front Page

ahead of the country's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Walmart Honored as 2025 Business of the Year

Huntingdon's Walmart, a cornerstone of the Carroll County community for nearly 50 years, was named the 2025 Business of the Year. Store Manager Monica Hill, a 23-year Walmart veteran, accepted the award, expressing gratitude to the community and acknowledging the store's impressive annual growth to approximately \$76-78 million, with 12% coming from pickup and delivery services. The store, which moved to its current Veterans Drive location in 2004, employs over 160 individuals, some with more than 30 years of service. Walmart's commitment extends beyond retail, with substantial support for local schools, civic organizations, police, hospitals, and charities, further cemented by a recent \$7 million renovation.

Bennett Farm: A Century of Agricultural Legacy

The 2025 Ag Business/Farmer of the Year award was presented to Bennett Farm, a distinguished Tennessee Century Farm established in 1822. John Sanders presented the honor to Burton and Sharon Bennett, recognizing their family's deep roots in Carroll County agriculture, tracing back to early land grants in 1791. The farm, the oldest Century Farm in Carroll County, continues its legacy through the stewardship of the Bennett family and Townsend Farms' operations. Burton Bennett thanked the Chamber and his family, acknowledging the encouragement to pursue the Century Farm designation.

Colonel James Harding Receives Distinguished Career and Leadership Award

Award

Colonel James Harding, a decorated Air Force pilot with 442 combat missions during the Vietnam War and numerous awards, including the Air Force Cross and three Silver Stars, was honored with the Distinguished Career and Leadership Award. Although unable to attend due to a reunion, Colonel Harding was recognized for his extraordinary heroism, leadership in a notable rescue mission, and post-service dedication to AFJROTC programs.

Awards: Air Force Cross; Silver Stars (3); Distinguished Flying Crosses (9); Legion of Merit (2); Bronze Stars (2); Purple Hearts (4); and more.

A plaque will be presented to him at a later date.

Coach Chris Nelson Leads Bethel Lady Wildcats to National Recognition

Bethel University Lady Wildcats Basketball Coach Chris Nelson was presented with a Special Recognition Award, celebrating his exceptional coaching career and the team's national achievements. Under Coach Nelson's leadership, the Lady Wildcats advanced to the NAIA semifinals in the 2024-25 season, boasting a 27-8 record and securing the Mid-South title. With 402 career wins and multiple Coach of the Year honors, Nelson's influence extends beyond the court through his leadership roles in NAIA and the team's strong academic record and community involvement. He praised the community support: the Chamber and local institutions that supported hosting the national tournament in McKenzie.

The team is ranked number 2 in the nation in the NAIA.

Dan Bradfield Named Carroll County Business Person of the Year

Dan Bradfield, previous owner of McKenzie Feed & Grain/Power Supply for 49 years, was recognized as the Carroll County Business

Tax

...From Front Page

Brad Davis, finance director, led the meeting and informed board members of projected budget deficits that would affect the district in the coming year.

According to Davis' calculations, MSSD is projected to enter a \$422,299.19 deficit in the 2026-27 school year. This number results from a combination of salary and benefits increases due to Governor Bill Lee's Teacher Paycheck Protection Act and the loss of ISM and IDEA Systemic Change grants.

To make up for the deficit, Davis recommended raising McKenzie's property tax rate by 25 cents per every \$100 of assessed value. The 25-cent tax increase would generate an additional \$427,750 in revenue for the school district.

McKenzie's current tax rate is \$0.7483, so the potential increase would increase the rate up to an even dollar per \$100 of assessed value.

If approved, the school board may opt to increase the tax rate by 25 cents per \$100 of assessed value, or they could raise it by a smaller amount depending on the district's budgetary needs.

Davis said, "I think there's a distinct possibility that we could do something less than 25 cents. At this time, it's too far into the future."

Davis' budget projections are based on the "worst case scenario," in which the district receives insufficient Tennessee Investment

in Student Achievement (TISA) funding to make up for the required salary increases.

Until summer 2026, Davis will not know the precise funding MSSD will receive from TISA for the 2026-27 school year.

In 2026, MSSD is required to raise the minimum salary for first-year teachers to \$50,000 — as a result of Governor Bill Lee's Teacher Paycheck Protection Act. MSSD currently pays starting teachers \$48,000 per year. To raise the minimum salary by \$2,000 and increase all experienced teachers' salaries proportionally, the school district plans to increase all teachers' salaries by three percent and adjust benefits accordingly. This results in a \$350,936.80 increase in salary and benefits cost to the district.

Additionally, the ISM grant is scheduled to expire soon. This grant pays the salaries of Susan Dyer, CTE director, and Beverly Emerson, STEM teacher.

The IDEA Systemic Change grants, which pay for teacher's aides Jenny Allen and Ashli Solomon, also expire soon.

To increase teacher pay and benefits, keep the teachers employed by expiring ISM and IDEA grants and continue paying non-payroll costs, the district needs \$422,299.19 in funding.

School board chair LaShonda Williams asked Davis and Superintendent Dr. Justin Barden if there were any possible cuts the district could make to decrease the deficit.

"As we look across our schools," Barden said, "we

Person of the Year. Bradfield's career exemplifies adaptability and strategic vision, from adding lawn-mower repair services to merging into Cedar Street Power Supply before its sale on March 1, 2025. Beyond his entrepreneurial success, Bradfield has served as a church deacon, on various boards, and as a city councilman. In his acceptance speech, he credited employees, customers, his faith, and family, transforming "problems" into "opportunities," even while bravely sharing his leukemia diagnosis.

Major General Tommy H. Baker Honored as Carroll Countian of the Year

Major General Tommy H. Baker, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services, was named Carroll Countian of the Year. Since December 2020, General Baker has overseen 127 employees and championed the rights of veterans. His distinguished 41-year career in the Tennessee National Guard included overseeing over 13,000 soldiers and holding multiple command roles, with deployments to Kuwait. A graduate of UT Martin, Trident/Chiro University, and the Army War College, his extensive awards include the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star. General Baker thanked the Chamber and his family, emphasizing the importance of community values, faith, and a deep commitment to service.

America 250 Celebration and Past Honorees

The event also introduced a red, white, and blue theme in anticipation of the America 250 celebration leading up to July 4, 2026. Former honorees were invited to the stage, and a heartfelt tribute was paid to the late John Mann for his unwavering dedication. The evening concluded with a sense of patriotism and community spirit, looking forward to a year-long celebration of American history and local achievements.

feel like we are staffed appropriately. We're not over-staffed in any area...It is extremely difficult for us to see where we can make cuts with current staff and keep the opportunities that we have for our students."

While none of the board members seemed opposed to the property tax increase, some did have concerns about the difference a 25-cent increase would make.

"I mean, we're raising taxes to break even," said Williams. "If we're going to raise them, we need to raise them to where we're able to get some extra money to have some flexibility."

In response, Davis told the board that every additional penny would generate \$17,110 more for the school district.

Davis and Williams were open to the idea of increasing McKenzie's property taxes by 30 cents per every \$100 of assessed value.

"It doesn't hurt to err on the side of caution," said Davis.

The tax increase goes to a vote in the school board's December meeting.

Until that time, Williams said, "I think this is something that we need to continue to talk to the community about because that's who voted us in."

Upon approval, the board will have to present the tax rate increase to Tennessee Representative Tandy Darby and Senator John Stevens in January for legislative action.

If approved, this would be the first time MSSD has changed McKenzie's property tax rate since 2006, according to Tennessee's Private Act Index.

Electric

...From Front Page

CCED General Manager Ryan Drewry informed the board that some final studies and approvals, including environmental, were nearly complete and dirt work on the Leach site could begin after that.

Municipal Advisor Scott Gibson joined the meeting

via video to discuss the bond associated with the Leach project.

Out of seven bidders, the bond will go through Raymond James at an interest rate of 3.77 percent over 20 years. The majority of the \$9,650,000 bond funds (approximately \$7,000,000) will be used for the Leach substation, while the rest will be available for other needs that arise.

Drewry told The Banner the project was still on pace

Editor's View

BY BRITTANY WASHBURN MARTIN
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‘Tis The Season

This weekend, I talked to someone at the grocery store who looks and sounds different from me that has been targeted recently for being different. It broke my heart because if I had to make a list of the best people I know in this world, that person would be near the top.

Interestingly enough, a few minutes later, the card chip reader wouldn't work and I thought I didn't have the cash to cover my purchase; immediately that person opened [his/her] wallet to help.

I politely declined because I did have the necessary funds.

Later, the person behind me didn't have the cash for their purchase and I turned to [him/her] and opened my wallet; they politely declined as well.

Three people, three different races, three different situations, united by compassion.

This is what I know to be true about people when they are together, there is goodness in them.

But then people get on social media and say the most horrible things about those who are different or don't have as much money as them.

All the hate and gleeful

celebration of it is getting to be too much.

I can't believe all these people are incapable of empathy because then that would mean that all hope is lost for us.

We don't deserve the kingdom of Heaven, if we don't know how to act on earth. Earth is the test and many are failing. Yes, we fall short sometimes, but willful disregard of the task is the devil's work.

I'd rather look into the eyes of my friend who is different and see peace not fear, but here we are.

We are better than this. I see it every day. The hateful words don't match the hearts.

It's time to do better and expect better from others. 'Tis the season of WE not ME.

When the world is telling you to hate, love is a revolutionary act.

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES Solving the West Tennessee Time Tangle

I don't have any idea who invented Daylight Savings Time, but I can guarantee you, whoever it was never had to milk a cow in the dark.

Uncle Wommack believed until the day he died that Benjamin Franklin was the culprit. I thought ole Ben was into flying kites, electricity, stoves, bifocals, a revolution, newspapers, Poor Richard's Almanac, printing presses, and witty sayings.

You'd think him a mite too busy to worry about what time it was, but he sure would have needed more daylight than most.

Growing up, we loved the extra hour in the summer. We didn't have a clue about saving energy in the World War I and II eras. We didn't know nothing about springing forward or falling back. We knew if we ate supper in a hurry, we had two hours, or more, left in the day.

We could get 30 innings in if everybody hustled. Or slide down that bank beside George Sexton's house on a flattened out cardboard box 16 times apiece. We could play chase all the way out to Pat Houston's Grocery and back. Or we could sit on the porch and ponder out loud, which we did at times, on exactly how anyone could "save" daylight.

Believe it or not, there was a down side to the extra sunshine. By the time it got dark enough to shift the games to hide-and-go-seek, Stalag 17, or kick-the-can, Mom would be calling out the back door, "Bedtime."

Talk about a bummer! Mornings were an altogether different "time zone" in this deal. I told you about the cows. The dogs stayed up late, chasing rabbits and such by moonlight like always, but moonlight didn't come until near 'bout midnight. They then slept in till

noon. It messed up their whole rhythm.

I've often wondered if it didn't do the same thing with people.

We couldn't get Leon up in the mornings. Daddy accused him of running with the dogs. I've actually seen him eating biscuits and gravy sound asleep. In early August and September, before the time changed back, we walked to school in the dark. It took some careful stepping until we got down to where the streetlights started.

When I finally got old enough to date, the extra hour of sunlight in the summer turned from a beneficial friend to a romantic nightmare. Good golly, merciful heavens, I' be on Millicent Blackburn's front porch swing, waiting for just enough darkness to edge a bit closer...hoping to make good use of some serious stargazing....

I'd told her about Leon getting captured by aliens, chasing goats around the stock pens at the Tri-County Stockyards, swimming at the clay pits, and the complete story behind how David Mark fell through the ice. I drew each one out as long as I could and that sun hadn't moved one inch in the western skies.

It was true love sabotage. Plain and simple. Millie's usually sweet and polite grandmother was tapping on the inside of the front door window and pointing to her watch. I got home in time to play the last three innings of the after-supper baseball game.

I didn't think to call Milliecent and ask if I could come over for breakfast. We'd have a good hour or so afterwards to gaze up at all the stars in the world....

Daddy used to say the government didn't have any cause to be messing with the good Lord's time clock. I liked it when it fit my life-

style. Not so much when it didn't. The trick back then was how to make it work for you on a day-to-day basis.

I've spent some serious time pondering on the ebb and flow of that very question. And maybe I have found the solution.

Why couldn't we make Daylight Savings Time work for us every single day of the year. We could all turn our clocks forward one hour at noon every day. It would be 1:00 PM. And we'd have an extra hour of sunlight all year around. Of course, that would eliminate the normal lunch period, which should not be a problem. It wouldn't hurt most of us to skip a meal. Fasting is good for the soul.

Come 1 a.m. the next morning, everyone would move their clocks back to midnight. That would allow for ample early morning sunshine. Plus, you can eat two midnight snacks if you are a mind to, to make up for lunch.

We'd all have that wonderful extra hour of sunshine to enjoy every morning, and every evening, of the year. If you happen to have an after-dinner engagement with Millicent Blackburn on her front porch, just don't move your watch up that day!

More sun in the mornings for getting the youngsters to school, or an early run, or breakfast at the City Café watching a small town come to life; more sun in the evenings for extra baseball and porch sitting.

Talk about win-win! 'Course, it remains to be seen how it will affect dogs, cows, and little children.

But this is such a good idea I'm surprised Ben Franklin didn't think of it years ago....

Respectfully,
Kes
kesley45@aol.com

Living at Lakeside News

BY SHEILA WILLIS

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and we kicked off the month with a visit from Megan Webb, a public health educator from the Tennessee Department of Health. She shared information about prevention, early detection, and factors that increase susceptibility to breast cancer. We took a moment to recognize our residents who are cancer survivors. Everyone wore pink to show their support, and Cris Stafford provided a raffle basket that included Mary Kay Moisturizing Lotion, which many who have undergone treatment found beneficial. The lucky winner was Sue Smith.

One of the key points highlighted during this program was the importance of staying active. Lacy Yeley from the UT Extension Office also joined us to discuss her Chair Yoga classes. She offered to return to demonstrate some exercises for seniors, and we look forward to her next visit.

This month, we were also entertained by the Legacy Players, who conducted workshops at Bethel College and treated us to an afternoon of delightful skits and harmonious music. They graciously visit us each spring and fall, providing a wonderfully enjoyable experience for our residents.

We had our regular breakfast club and errand day outings, but one afternoon, we attended the Senior Health Fair in Milan, TN. This event welcomed many local vendors that offer services to senior citizens. The day had a sports theme, and Lakeside was easily recognizable with our Rebel-inspired table. We collected various goodies, enjoyed lunch, and even met former NFL athlete Avery Williamson.

At Hometown Clinic, we participated in the community Monday Coffee, where we socialized over refreshments, played BINGO, and took part in an exercise class. A representative from Baptist Hospice brought snack cakes and led a categories game.



Every other week, Baptist Home Health and Gentiva Hospice visit to check residents' blood pressures. Amedisys hosts a monthly trivia and prize auction for residents. The services provided by these facilities can significantly improve both longevity and quality of life.

Musical entertainment this month included performances by Bo Solomon, Kenneth Johnson, 3 Old Men, Shamrock Band, Steve Morris, Chaplain Randy Blankenship, Larry & Mary Jo, and Billie Christian.

We also celebrated some national holidays in October. For Good Buddy Day, we enjoyed Nutty Buddy Bars. On National Apple Day, we hosted an apple-picking-themed celebration featuring cinnamon apple cider and games, with winners receiving fried apple pies. We played a lively "Price is Right" game, with residents competing in a Showcase Showdown; Lonnelle McMillin, Cornelia Pugh, and Sue Smith faced off, with Sue winning a large gift basket by coming within \$23 of the correct guess. Additionally, we played a Candy Corn Day Ping Pong Toss Game.

The Lakeside staff has been busy creating autumn scenes inside and outside the building, adorning it with fall décor like hay bales, pumpkins, mums, leaves, and scarecrows. A crafting group made pumpkins out of toilet paper rolls, fabric, and foliage. You can see their

creations on our Lakeside Senior Living Facebook page.

We also celebrated October birthdays, including Thai Saul, who treated us to strawberry cake; Imogene Brasfield, whose family held a birthday party for her and invited residents; and Peggy Work, whose family served cupcakes one day and cake the next. Others celebrating included Sheila Rogers, Sue Blow, Joan Brown, and our newest resident, Eileen McDoo. Sadly, we bid farewell to one of our own, as Evelyn Coleman gained her wings this month.

We saved the best for last: The Lakeside Wizard of Oz Experience! On Halloween, we transformed our entrance into a yellow brick road that led to an enchanting Emerald City. Approximately 200 children were greeted along the way by Glinda the Good Witch (Cris Stafford), the Wicked Witches of the East and West (Maxine Garner and Chery King), the Wizard (Sheila Willis), the Lion (Clark Brown), the Scarecrow (Earl Ray Kee), the Tin Man (Charles Garner), and a host of Dorothys played by Lakeside ladies. We filled baskets with fruit juice barrels, fudge rounds, goldfish crackers, chips, blow pops, fun dip, Lifesavers, rice Krispy treats, moon pies, toys, double bubble gum, and assorted candies. Residents eagerly anticipate this event every year. Truly, there is No Place Like Our Lakeside Home!

Until next time...

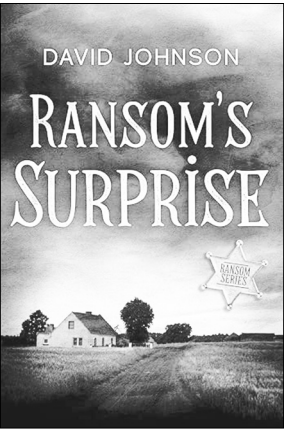
David Johnson Releases 'Ransom's Surprise'

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

How does your definition of love evolve as you age? Has your definition of love changed in 50 years?

These are the questions David Johnson, McKenzie's resident bestselling author and licensed therapist, sought to explore when writing his twenty-first novel, the fifth in the "Ransom" series: "Ransom's Surprise."

The story starts when Junior Ransom receives a phone call that rushes him to Dresden, Tennessee, to solve a murder investigation and clear his childhood best friend's name. During his investigation, though, the titular character reconnects with one of Johnson's most beloved characters — Tucker — and has to face emotions he had buried for decades. Johnson hadn't planned



to continue Tucker's story, as he had already completed her five-book series. Though he said people were "clamoring for more" of Tucker, Johnson was content with leaving her story where the series ended.

"You wanna leave people wanting more," said Johnson. "Whether you're a musician or a writer, you want people wanting more."

But as he began writing "Ransom's Surprise," he surprised himself when he typed Tucker's name into the story.

"My stories are so strongly character-driven that, sometimes, I'm surprised by what a character does or says," said Johnson. That was the case with Tucker's entrance into Ransom's story.

While Johnson finds it difficult to pigeonhole his stories into specific genres, he describes "Ransom's Surprise" primarily as a family saga. But it's also women's fiction and an adventure novel, a mystery and a romance.

"Ransom's Surprise" — Johnson's self-published novel about redemption, loyalty and the enduring power of love — is available for purchase November 8 only on Amazon.

Matt Aird Addresses Rotary Concerning Protection of Financial Assets

MCKENZIE (October 21) — Matt Aird of Lewis and Aird Associates, was the featured speaker at the meeting of the McKenzie Rotary Club on October 21.

Mr. Aird spoke about individuals, families and businesses protecting their assets and building wealth.

The speech concerned strengthening one's assets through life insurance, systematic saving money through a working career, planning for tax consequences, and placing one's major assets inside a protective trust.

Lewis and Aird works with clients to assess their

financials and works to help the client accumulate money. Aird recommended families create a will or trust to assure the transfer of wealth and assets upon death.

Lewis and Aird practices a protection-first philosophy, leveraging partners such as Penn Mutual,

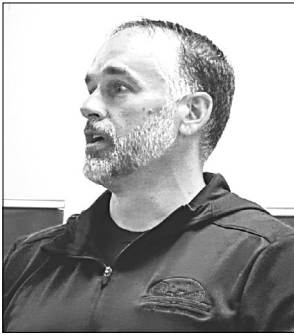
Legacy Locker for estate organization, Student Loan Tutor for repayment optimization, and Churchill Mortgage for reverse mortgages.

The company also works with businesses to help them with their finances or to help determine the company's value when it

is time to sell.

He also mentioned programs to help provide forgiveness from federal student loans.

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



Matt Aird

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Obituaries

DON LEE HAWKINS
1945 – 2025

MCKENZIE — A Celebration of Life for Don Lee Hawkins is Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home at 7 p.m. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until service time on Wednesday night.

Mr. Hawkins, 79, died at his home surrounded by his family on October 8, 2025. He was born on November 12, 1945, to James and Eva Inez Vinson Hawkins. He attended school in Milan and was a member of the football team, some called him a legend, others a football star. He was a Methodist in faith, a member of the Local Steamfitters Union 407 and 617, was an avid duck hunter, and loved to fish. Throughout the years, he hosted several benefit shoots at his residence.

He is survived by his wife, Rhonda Wilson Hawkins, they were together in love since 1995 and married in 2012; his children, Donald “Bubba” Hawkins, John (Camie) Hawkins, Janet (Bart) Gibson, and Anthony (Bethany) Lake; a sister, Connie (Roger) Birdwell; two brothers, Ralph (Reba) Hawkins and Tommy Hawkins; nine grandchildren Dylan (Hannah) Hawkins, Matthew Hawkins, Laine (Colton) Ulrich, Luke Gibson, Lydia Gibson, Carsyn Hawkins, Mason Hawkins Scarlett Selman and Canyon Chandler; and two great-grandchildren, Heath and Paisley Hawkins.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his son, Andrew Wilson Hawkins; a brother, Ronnie Hawkins; and a sister, Mary Smith.

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

JAMES DRIGGERS
1972 – 2025

HUNTINGDON — Mr. James L. Driggers, 53, of Huntingdon, died Monday, October 27, 2025, at his home.

Memorial services were in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home on Thursday, October 30, 2025.

Mr. Driggers was born June 12, 1972, in Frankfort, Mich., to the late James O. “Jimmy” Driggers and Mary Ann (Williams) Driggers.

He is survived by three daughters, Tasha Driggers, Kisa Driggers and Miranda Driggers; and granddaughters, Chastyn Driggers, Olivia Cater, and Sophia Driggers. He is also survived by a brother, Paul Driggers (Kathy).

SANDRA ABELL
1942 – 2025

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for Sandra Abell were Sunday, November 2, 2025, at Seminary Methodist Church.

Mrs. Abell, 83, died Friday, October 31, 2025, at Patriot Health & Rehab in Paris.

Obituaries are updated daily on our website

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* We check local funeral home websites daily, but if you wish to see a loved one's obituary in print or online, please contact us so we can publish it. Thank you.

She was born on September 4, 1942, in McKenzie to William W. and Mary Lee Walker Scarbrough.

She is survived by her children, Felecia (Donald) Day of White House and Kevin (Nancy) Patterson of Yellville, Ark.; her sister, Diane Knott of McKenzie; three brothers, Marshall Scarbrough of Clarksville, Billy (Pat) Scarbrough and Edd Scarbrough, all of McKenzie; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents and husband, Darriel Abell.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

JOHN AARON MANN
1937 – 2025

MIXIE, Tenn. — John Aaron Mann, a lifelong resident of the Mixie community, Tenn., died at home on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at the age of 88. Born March 8, 1937, in Mixie, Tenn., to Aaron Jefferson Mann and Mary Lou (Tate) Mann.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Ruth Ann (Schantz) Mann; daughters, Pamela Ruth Mann Evans, Jennifer Katherine Mann Austin, and Melissa Jane Mann; sons-in-law, Thomas Paul Evans, James Dub Austin, and Jason Trent Moody; grandchildren, Jeanne Wake, Patrick Evans, Chester Evans, Silas Mann Moody, Amalie Mann Moody, and Zoe Austin; granddaughters-in-law, Beth Wake and Miu Evans; a sister, Mildred Ann (Mann) Barker; close cousins, Alberta Cook, Betty Price, Shirley Connell, Bobby Joe Mann; and numerous cousins in the Tate and Mann families. He was preceded in death by his sister, Mary Ruth (Mann) Wilson.

John's life was one of service. During high school, he helped construct roads in Carroll and Henry counties, including Mansfield Road in

Henry County. He worked as a farmer, Civil Corpsman, U.S. Army serviceman, deputy sheriff, EMT, and with the L&N Railroad and CSX Transportation. He was proud to be a member of the United Transportation Union (UTU) and served as the UTU representative and past chairman for his local 974. He was a lifelong Democrat who valued progressive policies to improve the lives of all people. Most notably, he dedicated 55 years of his life to public service as a Carroll County commissioner, serving as a tireless advocate for his community. He played a key role in establishing the 911 emergency service in the county and was deeply committed to maintaining a balanced county budget and standing up for working families. John also served on the board for Carroll and Henry counties for the maintenance of the Kentucky West Tennessee Short Line Railroad.

John's commitment to public service extended far beyond his elected role. He was a Lifetime Girl Scout, a dedicated volunteer committed to making the world a better place. He was a charter member of the Carroll County Rescue Squad and a founding force behind many of the county's essential emergency and public services. His efforts helped establish the Carroll County Rural Fire Departments and the First Responder Program, expanding access to lifesaving resources across the region. He served as director of the Carroll County Ambulance Service and was instrumental in creating the county's 911 Program, where he served as board

chairman for many years.

John also played a key role in developing and leading numerous community programs. He helped launch the Carroll County Solid Waste and Recycling Programs, serving as board chair to promote sustainable, responsible practices. His leadership continued as chair of the Carroll County Electric Board, the County Highway Committee, and the County Budget Board, where his commitment to fiscal responsibility helped ensure the county's long-term financial health.

In addition, John gave generously of his time to education and public welfare. He served five years on the County School Board, was a member of the Indigent Care Board, and managed the County Commodity Program for several years, ensuring basic needs were met for the most vulnerable. As a past president of the Huntingdon Band Parents, he also supported students and the arts, investing in the next generation.

Whether in uniform, behind a desk, or out in the community, John worked tirelessly to improve the lives of others. His wisdom, integrity, and servant's heart earned him the trust and respect of countless colleagues, friends, and constituents. His influence will continue to shape Carroll County for years to come.

Visitation is at Chase Funeral Home in Huntingdon on Saturday, November 22, from 3-7 p.m. A Celebration of Life will be held at Chapel Hill Methodist Church on Sunday, November 23, at 3 p.m.



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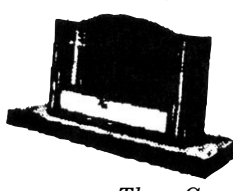
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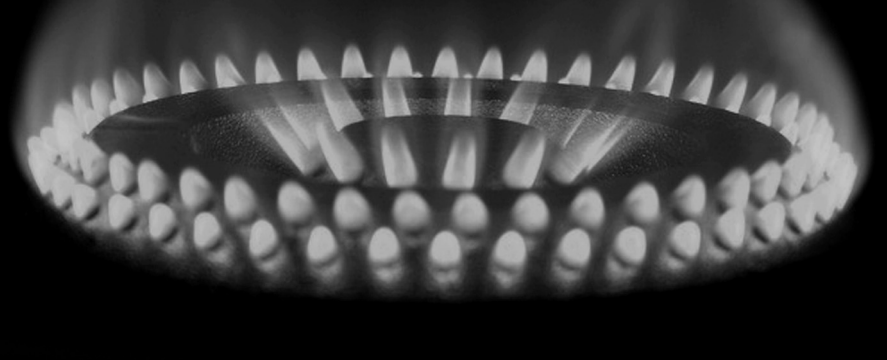
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MSSD TO HOST VETERANS DAY EVENT

MCKENZIE — Area veterans are invited to the annual Veterans Day event at McKenzie High School on Tuesday, November 11 at 10 a.m. Veterans are requested to enter the school through the rear entrance, sign the visitors’ register, and sit in the designated area in the

gymnasium. Veterans, please arrive between 9:40 a.m. 9:50 a.m. This year’s speaker is Andy Weaver. McKenzie Middle School is hosting its Veteran Day program at 8:15 in the school’s gymnasium. Veterans are invited for breakfast.

HARVEST DAY AT ENON BAPTIST CHURCH

Everyone is cordially invited to attend Harvest Day Services on Sunday, November 9 at Enon Baptist Church, 13025 Highway 25 South, McKenzie. Sunday School services begin at 10 a.m. with preaching to follow at 11 a.m. There will also be a meal at noon. The Bethel University Renaissance Bluegrass performs at 1:30 p.m.

MCKENZIE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSES

McKenzie’s Christmas Open House schedule has been released, with 10 McKenzie businesses participating on November 15 and 16. The annual open house event is Saturday, November 15, from 5-8 p.m. and Sunday, November 16, from 1-5 p.m. and will give shoppers the opportunity to travel across the city and explore businesses new and old while they’re decorated for the holidays. Participating food and retail businesses are Cedar Street Studio Boutique, The Silly Goose Children’s Shop,

The Happy Book Stack, McKenzie City Florist & More, Petals Azola, McKenzie Taproom & Restaurant, Phipps Pharmacy Retail & Gifts, MJ Mercantile, Congetta’s Chi-talian and War Zone Ax-N-Tag.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB AT HOMETOWN HEALTH CLINIC

Everyone is invited to The Breakfast Club every Monday from 9-10:30 a.m. for coffee, snacks, mingling and a light activity. Take the chance to connect and socialize before getting interactive with games, light exercise and fun! Bring a friend and come make new ones at Hometown Health Clinic - Pediatrics/Specialty Entrance. We can’t wait to see you there!

MISTLETOE CHRISTMAS IS DECEMBER 4

Carroll Arts, Inc. presents “A Mistletoe Christmas” show at the Park Theatre on Thursday, December 4. An exciting lineup of performers to be announced soon! For more information, please email carrollartsinc@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS WITH (BETHEL) RENAISSANCE

The annual musical and theatrical production with Bethel University’s Renaissance is Friday, December 5,

7 p.m., Saturday, December 6, 2 p.m.; Saturday, December 6, 7 p.m.; and Sunday, December 7, 2 p.m. For tickets, visit bethelrenaissance.com.

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. November 7-8 — Carroll County Christmas Market; November 24 — Ducks Unlimited Banquet; December 19 — Last day of fall semester.

MCKENZIE SENIOR CENTER EVENTS

Saturday, November 8, the monthly dance with Carl Byars and the Cool Daddy Trio! Free line dance class at 6 p.m. with the price of admission of \$7. The band starts at 7 p.m. Line dance class every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 6 p.m. Open to the public. Tuesday Jam session starts at 6:30 p.m. Open to the public. 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. Every Tuesday — Jam session with Steve Morris, 6 p.m. Open to the public. Dominoes every Wednes-

day and Saturday, 12:30 p.m.

CARROLL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEETS

The Carroll County Democratic Party meets the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at 12740 Lexington Street, Huntingdon.

CARROLL REPUBLICAN PARTY MEETS

Carroll County Republican Party meets monthly each fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m. in the Public Safety Building in Huntingdon.

CARROLL HUMANE SOCIETY EVENTS

Cat Vouchers

Cat spay/neuter vouchers are always available for \$60. To purchase by phone for use at Paris Vet Clinic, call 731-514-0878 and leave a message. These are available to anyone regardless of residency. We now offer cat vouchers to Carroll County residents for use at the Huntingdon Animal Clinic for \$60. These must be purchased in person at the shelter with cash or card and proof of residency required. However, Carroll Co. residents can still use Paris Vet Clinic if preferred.

Dog Vouchers

Dog spay/neuter vouchers are still available for \$60 and must be purchased in person at the shelter using

cash or card. We have lots of neuters available so those are available regardless of residency. Spay vouchers are currently for Carroll Co. residents only and appointments are backed up into November. 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. We do recommend that you have your pet vaccinated due to exposure to other animals. Puppies must be a minimum of four 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.

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Renaissance Presents ‘Newsies’ at The Dixie

Based on the real-life Newsboys Strike of 1899, Newsies tells the story of Jack Kelly - a charismatic newsboy and leader of a ragtag band of teenage “newsies” who dream of a better life far from the hardships of the streets. When publishing titans raise the distribution prices at the newsboys’ expense, Jack rallies his fellow newsies to fight for justice.

From the theatre troupe that brought you Phantom of the Opera, Anastasia, and A Christmas Carol; Newsies will be another example of Renaissance Theatre’s passion for what they do. Their incredibly talented students will shine as they take you to the streets of New York! With non-stop energy, unforgettable songs like “Seize the Day” and “Santa Fe”, and thrilling

choreography, Newsies is a high octane Broadway smash that’s perfect for the whole family. Don’t miss this inspiring story of standing strong, speaking up, and making headlines! Dates and times for these performances are: November 7 at 7 p.m., November 8 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.



Bethel Renaissance’s production of Newsies at The Dixie. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Dixie

Rotary Club of McKenzie Presents Annual Charity Auction

FOR THE BENEFIT OF LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Saturday, November 8, 2025 • 6-8 p.m.
At Bethel’s Vera Lowe Center
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Call Sandi Roditis for more information at 731-415-2927.

Proceeds from the auction allow the club to carry out many community service projects. Projects include: yearly donations of warm jacket for foster children of Carroll County, hosting high school and middle school honor banquets, providing scholarships, supporting girls and boys state representatives, providing donations to various clubs and sports teams at McKenzie Schools and Bethel University, providing donations to the McKenzie Library and United Neighbors, providing meals to local students in need and supporting the Rotary Foundation.

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Auto Clinic
Auto Zone
Bank of Gleason
Bennett Hardware
Bethel Renaissance
Bethel University
Big Daddy’s BBQ
Bobby Gee’s Diner
BR Supply
Buchheit
Campbell Water Well Service
Carroll Bank & Trust
Carroll County Lumber
Carroll Lake Golf Course
Casey Drewry Realty
Cash Express
Centennial Bank
Chick-fil-A @ Bethel University
Chris Chadwick – Pit Master
Chris Chadwick – Pit Master
Clifty Farms (Paris)
Congetta’s Chitalian Favorites LLC
Cornerstone Pizza (Huntingdon)
Dairy Queen
Designing Women
Dynamix
Edward Jones Investment
El Vallarta
EW James & Sons
Factory Connection
Farm Bureau Insurance
Friends of Land Between the Lakes
Furniture World, Jackson
Gleason Lumber and Supply
Haven Steel
Hometown Hangout
Hometown Hangout
Hudgins Appliance & Repairs
Humboldt Golf & Country Club
Jackson Country Club
Jackson Symphony Orchestra
J&J Auto Racing
Joe Mahan Ford
Joel Washburn
Lakeway Nutrition
Lewis, Aird & Associates
Maddox Insurance
Mallards (Huntingdon)
Maria’s Mexican Restaurant
McCartney Produce
McKenzie Banking Company
McKenzie Banner
McKenzie City Florist

\$25 gift card
Stihl battery weed eater
Weather Tech floor mats
\$100 gift card
Auto detail kit
Item
Tennessee Orca cooler
4 tickets – Christmas with Renaissance (Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.)
(2) \$2,000 scholarships
Gift certificate for a 12-14lb turkey (Smoked or Big Daddy Style)
4 burger baskets and 4 breakfast platters
Channel Lock Pliers
Bucket of tools
Home and Garden FH25E sprayer
Item
Item
Single membership
Item
Gift Certificate to Sweet Jordan’s
Item
Large nugget tray
Thanksgiving BBQ ham
Thanksgiving or Christmas BBQ Ham
Country ham
\$50 gift card
\$10 gift card (2)
\$25 gift card
Product basket
Item
Stihl item
\$25 gift certificate
2 certificates for 10-12 lb turkey
\$20 gift card
Item
Gift basket w/ 2 tickets to planetarium
Vase & decorative plate
\$50 gift card
65” ROKU Flat Screen TV
Steak Dinner for 4 @ Hometown Hangout
Game Day Party Catering
Garbage disposal
4 green fees & 4 carts
Taylor Made TP5f pix golf balls (4)
2 Gold Level Balcony Tickets
Item
Tailgate party basket
Black Sierra XL padded tension chair
Item
2 Carhartt toboggans, 2 caps, \$100 gift card
Item
Item
\$25 gift certificate
Fruit basket
Item
Item
\$50 gift card

McKenzie High School FFA
McKenzie Nutrition
McKenzie Schools
Melton’s
Memphis Grizzlies
Milan Country Club
MJ’S
Modern Cleaners
Nicky Joe Stafford Real Estate
Nikki Dee Wray
Olive Garden (Jackson)
One Chiropractic
O’Reilly Auto Parts
Patti’s Restaurant (Grand Rivers)
Peppers Ford
Pepsi Mid- American
Perry’s BBQ
Phipps Pharmacy
Picasso Bistro and Pizzeria
Power Supply
Premier Furniture
Premier Real Estate
Quick Lube
Raymond James (Matt Merrick) CB&T
Refinery
Refinery
Russell Family Dentistry
Russell’s Well Drilling
Shomaker Lumber
Southern Chiropractic – Krista Martin (Huntingdon)
Spivey Eye Clinic
Subway
Sweet Jordan’s

Sweet Jordan’s
TCAT
Teresa Washburn
Teresa Washburn
The Happy Book Stack
The Meat Place
TNT BBQ
Tosh Farms
Union University (Jackson)
Union University (Jackson)
Venture River Water Park, Eddyville, KY
Vintage Mall
V-Mack Photography
VP Racing & Fuel
VP Racing & Fuel
VP Racing & Fuel
Waddell Clinic
West Tennessee Brewing – McKenzie
West Tennessee Brewing – Paris
West TN Public Utilities District

2 bird houses
Steak Dinner for 4 @ Hometown Hangout
2 all sports passes
\$25 certificate for auto detail
4 tickets & parking pass Philadelphia 76ers game
3 rounds of golf with cart
\$25 gift card
\$25 gift certificate
Item
Gift basket & Channel 5 station tour
Gift certificate \$25
Pillow
Auto detail kit
Gift basket
2 certificate for 1 free oil change
Cooler
\$50 gift card
Item
\$50 gift card
\$100 certificate off any Stihl product
\$150 gift card
item
Oil Change up to \$47.14
Sally Lane basket of goodies
One year single membership
\$150 nutrition items
Gift certificate for cleaning, exam, x-ray
Item
3 buckets of mulch
Hyperbolt Go 2 massage gun

Sunwear
1 party platter box
1/2 pound bag of Sweet Jordan blend coffee & tray of bread pudding
1/2 pound bag of Sweet Jordan blend coffee & assorted cookies
Custom-made Rebel wall hanging
Fresh Homemade Coconut cake
Certificate for homemade coconut cake
Gift basket / \$25 gift card
\$50 gift card
\$25 gift certificate
Electric Scooter
RTIC Union tumbler, socks, umbrella
One season ticket for 2025-26 basketball season
2 tickets for adult or child, baseball cap
\$25 gift certificate
Free family session
4 – 3 gallon jugs
4 – 5.5 gallon jugs
XXL t-shirt, 2 – XL sweatshirt
Item
\$50 gift card
\$50 gift card
Swag bag

Homer’s Halloween Hootenanny Is a Sickeningly Good Time

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (October 28) — On an otherwise cold and rainy night, Hometown Health Clinic stirred up some Halloween fun Tuesday with Homer’s Halloween Hootenanny — named after Homer, the clinic’s canine mascot.

The Halloween event was inside the Hometown Health’s main McKenzie clinic at 205A Hospital Drive. Clinic staff, dressed in a mix of scrubs and various Halloween costumes, decorated the clinic’s rooms and halls in Halloween themes from a vampire’s lair to the halls of Hogwarts. As attendees walked through the clinic, staff were spaced out and ready to hand out candy.

One hallway led attendees to one very special guest: Homer himself. Hometown Health Clinic’s mascot stood waiting to hand out candy and take photos with the visiting children.

Once attendees finished walking through the halls, they arrived at a room with games including a rope toss, “pin a pumpkin” and more.

“We want to have a place for the community to come and know that we’re here for more than just their healthcare needs. We’re a family, and we love our community,” said Ellen Pruitt, marketing and human resources director at



Children Hallie Ann and Easton Flannery grab a picture with Ellen Pruitt, Hometown Health Clinic Marketing and Human Resources Director, and an inflatable Homer. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Hometown Health Clinic.

Pruitt said they decided on the name “Homer’s ‘Very Not Too Scary’ Halloween Hootenanny” because they wanted the event to be accessible to all ages and all fear levels.

“We didn’t want kids to be scared to come through [the clinic],” said Pruitt, “but we do have some spooks. For the most part, this is more of a fun house

set-up instead of a scary, haunted house.”

Homer’s Halloween Hootenanny attracted a large number of families ready to trick-or-treat and play some Halloween games. Hometown Health Clinic staff left their decorations up until November 1 so patients could enjoy the clinic’s Halloween spirit until the holiday passed.



Above, Staff from Evans Clinic invited kids to “Follow the Yellow Brick Road” for some sweets. Pictured (L to R): Amanda Fuller, NP; Ashley Ward and Allie Elliot, medical assistants; Amy Haywood, office manager; and Angelia Hampton and Hailey Frizzell, health navigators, welcome Adalynn Crossett, six; Emry Price, five; and Dean Wortham, eight, to Oz. Below Left, Austin Prater and AP’s Dairy Bar had their holidays mixed up, but (L to R) Ally (eight), Hattie (five) and Noah (seven) Hanna and all of the other kids were willing to forgive as long as Prater kept the candy and balloon animals coming. Below Right, Town of Huntingdon officials greeted kids at the festive event. Pictured are (L to R): Police Chief Jason Oliver, Mayor Chad Edwards, Fire Chief John Fordon and HR Director and Assistant to the Mayor Michelle Anglea. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Huntingdon Primary Hosts ‘Blue and Gold Boo Bash’

HUNTINGDON (October 30) — Huntingdon Primary School hosted the Blue and Gold Boo Bash Thursday for a mix of school spirit and Halloween fun.

Businesses, organizations, churches, clubs and more decked out their trunks and stations with themes and offered games, activities and, of course, plenty of sweet treats.

Kids came wearing either their costumes or their best Huntingdon gear.

The event led up to the Mustang football game across town at the high school.

West Carroll Jr/Sr High Welcomes Williams

West Carroll Special School District welcomes Kaitlin Williams to the West Carroll Jr/Sr High team. This is Williams’ first year serving as a special education assistant. Originally from Medina, Tennessee, she brings a strong sense of purpose to her work and a natural connection with students. “I enjoy helping students and being around the kids,” Williams said. “They keep me on my toes and keep a

smile on my face.” Outside the classroom, Williams enjoys a full and lively home life. She and her husband of seven years are raising three children and own two dogs and nearly 40 chickens. In her free time, Williams enjoys baking sourdough and trying new recipes. Williams’ student-first mindset makes her a great addition to the West Carroll school community.



Kaitlin Williams



Above Left, Madeline (four) and Emilie (eight months) Trent visited alien invaders Teneisha Taylor (left) and Raven Tharp for a treat. Above Right, Anakin Hunley, three, braves the dinosaurs at Jurassic Park in search of sweets. Below Left, Mario (Head Start center manager Amie Jones) welcomes Zyaire Phelps, six, and Kingston Lisenbee, four, to Super Mario World. Below Right, Harmony Johnson, five, rides in a rocket ship to get some candy from Martian Marisa Neely. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



McKenzie Head Start Hosts Trunk or Treat

BY BRAD SAM
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McKENZIE (October 28) — Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start hosted a Trunk or Treat Tuesday evening.

Head Start staff, parents, organizations and other volunteers set up trunk displays (and some displays inside, due to uncertain weather) for kids to collect sweet treats and play games.

Displays had fun themes based on popular movies, video games, books and more.

The evening was a safe and fun Halloween event tailored to the youngest of audiences.



Astronaut Zion Yates, seven months, helps his grandmother, Summer Champion, deliver treats to the other kids in his space shuttle. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner



Residents at Cherrywood Post Acute lined up on the facility’s sidewalk to hand out candy. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Cherrywood Residents Join Halloween Festivities

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS
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Beginning what they hope to make an annual tradition, staff from the Cherrywood Post Acute assisted living facility, located at 175 Hospital Drive in McKenzie, hosted a trunk-or-treat event Thursday, October 30.

Staff and their families decorated their cars’ trunks and set them up at the fa-

cility’s parking lot. Some residents even sat outside, making a line nearer to the facility, to give candy out to attending families.

Stephanie Warbritton, administrator at Cherrywood Post Acute, said she and her staff planned the event to drive community involvement to the facility. “It’s also a good opportunity for interaction with our residents,” she said. “They love kids,

and they love to interact with them, too.”

This trunk-or-treat is Cherrywood Post Acute’s first program in what they hope to be an eventful holiday season. Warbritton shared that they will also host a Thanksgiving family meal in November and different Christmas events throughout December, which she hopes will drive traffic to the assisted living facility.



Georgia Gibson



Annalee Holley



Mariska Anguiano

West Carroll Spotlights Students of the Week

WEST CARROLL (October 29) — The West Carroll Special School District announced its newest round of students of the week for Week Five (October 27-31) from its primary, elementary and junior/senior high schools. The three students — Georgia Gibson, Annalee Holley and Mariska Anguiano — were each nominated for their leadership and kindness.

Pre-kindergarten student Georgia Gibson is West Carroll Primary School’s student of the week, nominated by Ms. Katy Johnsonius.

“Georgia consistently makes good choices and looks out for those around

her,” said Johnsonius. “She has been known to invite classmates to play when they are feeling down and shows strong participation during lesson time.”

Sixth grade student Annalee Holley is West Carroll Elementary School’s student of the week, nominated by Shanna Pafford.

“Annalee is dependable and proactive,” said Pafford. “She often steps in to help without being asked and is quick to notice when something needs to be done. Her work in Science and Social Studies continues to improve through consistent effort and focus.”

Seventh-grade student

Mariska Anguiano is West Carroll Jr/Sr High School’s student of the week, nominated by Ms. Tammy Davis.

“Mariska demonstrates respect toward adults and follows classroom expectations,” said Davis. “She leads by example, treats her peers with kindness, and is always willing to offer help when needed.”

The West Carroll Special School District also recognized West Carroll Jr/Sr High School Special Education Assistant Kaitlin Williams as teacher of the week.

West Carroll honors three students and one educator each week for their efforts in the classrooms.



Reading night volunteers dressed as different Disney characters and helped students achieve their reading goals. Submitted photo

McKenzie Elementary Hosts Disney Reading Night

The McKenzie Elementary School Library hosted a special, Disney-themed reading night for students Monday, October 27.

Students from McKenzie High School and Bethel University, plus teachers and principals from the McKenzie Special School District, dressed as familiar Disney characters to make the reading night a success.

“Community involvement is an important element of family reading nights,” said librarian Jill Wilson. She and computer teacher Jill Warren organize and facilitate reading night events throughout the year.

Upon entering through the library’s double doors, children were greeted with magic bands and autograph books and then had the opportunity to meet, take pictures and read with the Disney characters.

“It is our goal to instill the



McKenzie Elementary School Assistant Principal Zach Renfro reads to a student with some help from middle school librarian Jill Renfro (right). Submitted photo

lifelong love of reading for our students and create happy memories for our children and families,” said Wilson.

The McKenzie Elementary School Library hosts family reading nights as opportuni-

ties for students to become better, stronger readers. Giving students extra time to check out books and take tests in Accelerated Reader, reading nights urge students to discover the joy of reading.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Dresden Sweeps McKenzie

BY DAVARION GILBERT
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MCKENZIE (October 27) — McKenzie Middle School hosted Dresden Monday for a pair of basketball games, their second home set of the season. The visiting Lady Lions led the game throughout for a 38-23 win. The Rebels and Lions kept it close, but Dresden secured the 39-22 win.

Dresden Lady Lions 38, McKenzie Lady Rebels 23

The Lady Lions started with a 11-5 lead to set the tone for the first quarter. Dresden’s C. Fulton had three pairs, followed by E. Collins and K. Smith, each with a two-pointer. Lady Rebel Charlie Cassidy had a pair and a free throw shot. Kristy Towne had two points.

The Lady Lions extended a 21-11 lead before the end of the second quarter. Fulton and Collins had two pairs each, and H. Davis had a pair. Cassidy, Abby Carroll and Ruthie Adkins each had a pair.

The Lady Lions kept a 30-16 lead in the third quarter against McKenzie. Lady Lions Fulton had two pairs, Smith had a pair, and Collins hit two free throws. Lady Rebel Cassidy had three free throws, Towne had one free throw shot and Willow Stenburg also hit a free throw.

Lady Lions secured the 38-23 win in the fourth, Sulton with two pairs, along with Collins and Parham each having a pair. McKenzie’s Towne hit five free throw shots, and Carroll had a pair. C. Fulton led the Lady Lions in scoring with 18 points on nine two-point shots. E. Collins scored nine points with four two-point shots and one free throw shot.

Charlie Cassidy and Kristy Towne led the Lady Rebels with eight points each, and Abby Carroll had four points.

Lions 39, Rebels 22

Dresden kept it close but took the first-quarter lead with the score of 9-5. Lion Cannon West hit a three-point shot and a free throw shot. Will Forester and Joe

Reese Allman each had a pair. McKenzie’s Seth Stafford hit four free throw shots.

Dresden and McKenzie had a close quarter, but Dresden kept a 20-15 lead at half-time. Case West hit a three-point shot, Cannon West had three two-point shots, and Forester had a pair. Stafford hit a three-pointer, two pairs and a free throw shot. Kamden Lee had a pair, and Jackson Barden hit a free throw shot.

Dresden extended the lead with a 28-17 score after the third quarter. Allman had two pairs, along with Case West and Walters each with a pair. Stafford had a pair for the Rebels.

Dresden further extended the lead in the fourth for the 39-22 win. Allman and Case West had two pairs, and Walters hit a three-pointer. Kamden Lee hit a three-point shot for McKenzie, and Dierks Ghyers had a pair.

Jone Reese Allman, Cannon West and Case West led the Lions with ten points each.

Seth Stafford led the Rebels with 14 points. Kamden Lee scored five points.

McKenzie Banking Donates to School District

MCKENZIE (October 31) — At halftime of the McKenzie High School football game Friday night, McKenzie Banking Company made a donation of \$2,200 to the McKenzie Special School District. The funds are based on customers making purchases with McKenzie Rebel-branded debit cards. Pictured (L to R) are McKenzie Director of Schools Dr. Justin Barden, MBC representatives Lisa Stewart and Shawna Fowler and MHS Principal Kelly Spivey. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Rebels, Mustangs Host First-Round Games

BY BRAD SAM
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The five-round, single-elimination gauntlets that are the TSSAA Football State Playoffs begin Friday, November 7. McKenzie and Huntingdon host first-round games in their respective brackets.

The McKenzie Rebels (9-1), as Region 6-1A champions, host Huntland (6-4), the four seed out of Region 5-1A.

With a win, the Rebels will host a second-round game.

A new twist in the TSSAA bracket system shakes up second-round possibilities. For example, McKenzie’s potential opponents are Region 8 two-seed Oakhaven (7-3) and Region 7 three-seed Greenfield (6-4), who meet in the first round.

Under the previous format, teams from Regions 5 and 6 wouldn’t face teams from 7 and 8 until the fourth round

(semifinals).

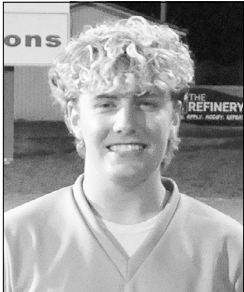
In Class 2A, Huntingdon (9-1, Region 7 two seed) hosts Region 8 three-seed Memphis Business (6-4). The Mustangs are also in position to host round two.

Huntingdon’s potential second-round opponents are Region 5 champion Lewis County (9-1) and Region 6 four-seed Houston County (4-6).

All playoff games kick off at 7 p.m.



Above, Rebel football seniors (L to R): Shane Barrick, Alijah Darnes, Matthew Gaylord, Ethan Batton, Ryan Toombs, Aiden Legens, TJ Johnson, Jackson Cantrell, Aiden Mason, Aiden Callis, Khamari Coleman, Olivia Cantrell (manager), Davarion Gilbert, Landin Deatherage, Fletcher Holt, Xander Johnsey, Mason Batten and Timmy Arline. Below Left, Senior cheerleader Tobey Brooks. Below Right, Marching Rebel seniors (L to R): Dylan Bomar, Kaelyn Stebbins, Katelyn Essary, Chloe Garduno and Connor Summers. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



McKenzie High Honors 24 on Senior Night

BY BRAD SAM
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MCKENZIE (October 31) — Prior to Friday night’s final regular season football game, McKenzie High School celebrated Senior Night. 17 football players, one manager, one cheerleader and five band members were honored on the field with family members.

Senior football players are: Timmy Arline, grandson of Rick and Shari Fisk; Shane Barrick, nephew of Rikki Barrick; Mason Batten, son of Jeb and Tisha Batten; Ethan Batton, son of Chad and Josefina Batton; Aiden Callis, son of Scott and Chelsea Austin; Jackson Cantrell,

son of Brandy Greer and Matt Hudgins; Khamari Coleman, son of Tierra Parker and Cord Coleman; Alijah Darnes, son of Jarrod Darnes; Landin Deatherage, son of Steven and Wendy Deatherage; Matthew Gaylord, nephew of Jeff and Anna Marie Gaylord; Davarion Gilbert, son of Ambi Gilbert and nephew of Nellie Gilbert; Fletcher Holt, son of Matthew and Lindsey Holt; Xander Johnsey, son of Brad and Courtnei Campbell and Evan and Jennie Johnsey; TJ Johnson, son of Melissa Woodard and Spencer Johnson; Aiden Legens, son of Jeremy and Crystal Legens; Aiden Mason, son of Michael and

Danielle Case; and Ryan Toombs, son of Randy and Reni Toombs.

Senior football manager is Olivia Cantrell, daughter of Trey and Amber Cantrell.

Senior cheerleader is Tobey Brooks, son of Sonny and Misty Brooks.

Senior band members are: Dylan Bomar, son of Sean and Lauren Bomar; Katelynn Essary, daughter of Jason and Kimberly Essary; Chloe Garduno, daughter of Kyle and Stephanie Harris; Kaelyn Stebbins, daughter of Megan Stebbins and Blake Harrison; and Connor Summers, son of Tommy and Carla Summers.

(See additional photos at mckenziebanner.com.)

War Eagles Fall to South Fulton in Season Finale

ATWOOD (October 31) — West Carroll High School wrapped up their football season Friday with a 17-0 loss to region opponent South Fulton.

The visiting Red Devils scored a touchdown in the first quarter and added a field goal and another TD in the second frame.

South Fulton had 270 total yards of offense, 188 on

the ground and 82 in the air. West Carroll had 179 total yards, 160 rushing and 19 passing.

War Eagle quarterback Caleb Vermillion was 1 of 3 passing for 19 yards, with Joseph Brogdon making the lone catch.

Mason Taylor led West Carroll rushing with 126 yards on 26 carries. Brogdon ran twice for 14 yards. Ver-

million had five carries for 13 yards, and Parker Newman rushed three times for seven yards.

Vermillion led the defense with four solo tackles and three assists, including one tackle for a loss. Cole Mueller had two solo and five assists. Brogdon had three solo and four assists, including a sack. Braden Marise had two solo and three assists.

Homecoming Royalty Honored During Wildcat Football Game

This year, Bethel started a new Homecoming tradition. It is one that celebrates the incredible students, faculty and staff who make this community so special.

For the first time, Bethel honored a Homecoming King and Queen from our faculty and staff, recognizing the individuals who go above and beyond to serve, inspire, and represent the heart of Bethel.

The first-ever Faculty and Staff Homecoming king and queen are Myra Carlock and Dave McCulley.

The long-standing celebration of honoring students, who represent their class and the heart, pride, and spirit of Bethel’s campus community.

Representing the Freshman class were Brooke Beard and O’Ryan Williamson. Brooke Beard is a freshman from McLeansboro, Ill., majoring in Nursing. She is the daughter of Mike and Katrina Beard. Brooke is involved with cheer along with being a student ambassador. O’Ryan Williamson is a freshman from Milan, Tenn., majoring in Computer Information and Hardware and is the son of Raven and Carl Williamson. O’Ryan is involved with Bethel Track and Field and BSU (Black Student Union).

Representing the Sophomore class are Brooklyn McDowell, and Billy Currie, Jr. Brooklyn McDowell is a sophomore from Gleason, Tenn., majoring in Elementary Education (K-5) and is the daughter of Jonathan McDowell and Lindsay and Nicky Jackson. Brooklyn is involved in STEA, Delta Phi Nu sorority, and a cheerleader on the Bethel Cheerleading Team. Billy Currie, Jr. is a sophomore from Ripley Tennessee, majoring in Accounting and is the son of Lisa and Billy Currie, Sr. Billy is involved with SGA as the

treasurer, and the captain of Bethel’s FCA.

The Junior class representatives are Addie Roberson and Randall Foster. Addie Roberson is a junior from Newbern, Tenn., majoring in Elementary Education and is the daughter of Randy Shane and Wendi Roberson. Addie is involved with Cross Country, Cheerleading, and Track and Field. Addie is a student ambassador. Addie is the press secretary for SGA and the secretary for the Greek Council. Addie is a sister of Delta Phi Nu sorority, where she serves as the treasurer for the executive cabinet. She is a member of STEA and holds the position of historian. Addie is a member of the Student Activity Committee. Randall Foster is a junior from Paris, Tenn., majoring in sports management and is the son of Linnie Brown and Randall Foster Sr. Randall is a member of the Bethel University football team.

The first couple representing the Senior class is Madison Northern and Ivan Arroyo. Madison Northern is a senior from Obion County, Tenn., majoring in business management and is the daughter of Nelson and Danielle Northern. Madison is involved in the sisters of Delta Phi Nu as well as Cross Country and track teams. After graduation, she plans to be an accountant and then continue to run her own business. Ivan Arroyo is a senior from Augusta, Georgia, majoring in Sports Management and is the son of Renan Arroyo and Ivonne Mena Van. Ivan is a member of the Bethel University Varsity Football Team. After graduation, Ivan plans to pursue his career in Sports Management in the Nashville and/or Atlanta area with a semi-pro/ professional sports team.

The second couple repre-

senting the senior class was Jacey McClure and Jaheim Lee. Jacey McClure is a senior from Dresden, Tenn., majoring in Mathematics with a minor in Secondary Education and is the daughter of Mark McClure and Dede Morris. Jacey is involved with Bethel cheer, the Lambda Sigma Sorority, and STEA. After graduation, Jacey plans to get her Master’s degree in Education. Jaheim Lee is a senior from Ripley, Tenn., majoring in Music Education and is the son of Wanda Graves and Curtis Lee. Jaheim is a part of Bethel Renaissance Regiment, president of Black Student Union, a member of STEA, and a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated. After graduation, Jaheim plans to pursue his career in Music and perform and teach across the world.

The third couple representing the senior class was Jada Wynn and Cody Farmer. Jada Wynn is a senior from Selmer, Tenn., majoring in Criminal Justice and is the daughter of Shelley Walker. Jada is involved with Bethel University’s softball team, and Black Student Union. After graduation, Jada plans to move to Nashville or Memphis and pursue a career of being a Forensic Interviewer for a child advocacy center. Cody Farmer is a senior from Nolensville, Tenn., majoring in Sports Management and is the son of Joey and Stephen Farmer. Cody is involved with the track and field team, president of the Gamma Beta Phi Honors Society, and a brother of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. After graduation, Cody plans to continue his education by getting his Masters Degree.

Crowning this year’s Homecoming king and queen were Makenzie Hardin and Jake Lilly, Bethel University’s 2024 Homecoming Royalty. The Bethel University 2025 Homecoming King and Queen are Jada Wynn and Cody Farmer.

McKenzie Police Reports

Driving on Revoked License — Christopher Page, 41, Highway 69, Paris was charged with Driving on Revoked License - Second Offense as he operated his riding lawnmower on Magnolia Street on October 29, 8:46 p.m.

Officer Timothy Dillon observed Page operating the lawnmower, traveling westbound, when a motorist almost struck the mower because it did not have proper lighting.

Officer Dillon stopped the mower and learned

Page's driver's license was revoked. He was cited into General Sessions Court.

Gasoline Theft — Pocket's Convenience Store reported theft of \$50 of gasoline after an elderly man pumped fuel and drove away without paying on November 2.

Public Intoxication — David E. Palmer, 57, McClure Street, McKenzie, was charged with Public Intoxication on November 1.

Officer Jayden Rembert was dispatched to Walnut Circle where occupants of

the apartment said Palmer would not leave and was threatening individuals at the house.

Palmer was arrested and transported to Carroll County Jail. He was on probation and parole for a prior conviction out of Paris, Tenn.

Theft — Angela Thornton, 47, McKenzie reported she had a gold bracelet stolen from a room at the Relax Inn in McKenzie on October 30. The housekeeper stated she had not been in the room.

Officer Timothy Dillon filed the report.

Huntingdon Police Reports

Vandalism — According to a report made October 26, Officer Kristen Lee responded to Green Oaks Drive regarding a complaint of vehicle damage. The victim reported that all four tires on her vehicle had been slashed sometime overnight. After inspection, officers confirmed each tire had been punctured with a knife. The victim stated she believed Kevin McMinn was responsible, explaining that he had entered her home late the previous night and had been drinking before she asked him to leave. The case remains under investigation.

Driving Under the Influence — According to a report made October 22, Officer Malachi Arline was notified of a reckless driver operating a silver Toyota Corolla traveling into the Huntingdon city limits. A traffic stop was conducted near Baptist Memorial Hospital, and the driver, Alice Hill, 65, identified herself as "Cherie Hill." Hill displayed slurred speech, glassy eyes and the odor of alcohol. She admitted to consuming alcohol earlier in the day, performed field sobriety tests and consented to a blood draw at Baptist Memorial Hospital. Hill was charged with Driving Under the Influence, (First Offense), Failure to Maintain Lane and Improper Registration.

Driving on a Revoked License — According to a report made October 25, Officer Kristen Lee observed a white vehicle traveling west on Main Street that failed to maintain its lane and had a light law violation. The driver was identified as Cheyene Fitzpatrick, 22, who was found to have a revoked license for failure to comply with financial responsibility. Fitzpatrick was issued a citation for Driving on a Revoked License, and verbal warnings were given for Failure to Maintain Lane and Light Law Violation.

Driving on a Suspended

License, Speeding — According to a report made October 23, Officer Malachi Arline observed a maroon Chevrolet Avalanche traveling 49 mph in a 35-mph zone on Highway 22 North. The driver, Christopher R. Fisher, 44, was found to have a suspended license since 2013 for failure to pay fines. Fisher was cited for Speeding and Driving While License Suspended, first offense. He was advised that he had ten days to report to the Carroll County Jail for booking and to receive a court date.

Motor Vehicle Theft, Leaving the Scene of an Accident — According to a report made October 26, Officer Angie Barker responded to a single-vehicle accident on Mustang Drive. The vehicle had left the roadway and sustained disabling damage. The driver, identified as Kevin McMinn, 60, fled the scene before officers arrived. A records check revealed that the vehicle had been reported stolen the day before by the owner. Later that afternoon, McMinn was located at Sonic in Huntingdon and taken into custody. He was found to have the stolen vehicle keys in his pocket.

Aggravated Assault, Unlawful Possession of a Weapon — According to a report made October 11, Sgt. Ethan Parham responded to a disturbance on East Main Street in Huntingdon. The investigation determined that Verl S. Weaver Jr. broke out a window of Apartment 8 and then entered Apartment 10, where the victim was located. While inside, Weaver brandished a handgun, racked a round into the chamber, and placed the barrel of the firearm against the victim's head, stating, "I've killed people."

Weaver then took the victim's cellphone and broke it, struck the victim on the side of the face, and knocked a drink from her hand. Officers observed blood on the

floor, a damaged soda can and spilled liquid consistent with the knocked-over drink. The victim sustained visible injuries. Further investigation revealed Weaver has multiple prior felony convictions. Warrants were issued for Aggravated Assault and Unlawful Carrying or Possession of a Weapon.

Driving on a Suspended License, Speeding, No Proof of Insurance — According to a report made October 24, Officer Angie Barker observed a vehicle traveling 47 mph in a 30-mph zone on Buena Vista Road. The driver, Ronald Williamson, 48, was unable to provide identification or proof of insurance. A records check revealed his driver's license was suspended for failure to pay child support. Williamson was cited for Driving on a Suspended License, Speeding, and No Proof of Insurance. He was advised that he had ten days to report to the Carroll County Jail for booking.

Theft of Property, Forgery — According to a report made October 14, Sgt. Ethan Parham investigated a fraud case reported by Carroll Bank & Trust. The investigation determined that Robert W. Brewer, 57, unlawfully obtained checks issued from Landwork Contracting, LLC. On Sept. 19, Brewer forged and cashed three separate checks made payable to "Robert Brewer" at the following Carroll Bank & Trust branch locations: Camden Branch - \$1,622.72, Lexington Branch - \$1,875.81, and Huntingdon Branch - \$1,886.67.

While conducting the transactions, Brewer presented an Indiana State ID. Each incident was captured on security cameras, positively identifying Brewer as the individual who cashed the checks. The total amount obtained was \$5,386.20, which is owed in restitution to Carroll Bank & Trust. Warrants were issued for Forgery and Theft of Property (\$2,500-\$10,000).

Carroll County General Sessions Report

The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on October 29, 2025.

Michael Gukeisen, Terry Road, Huntingdon, bound over, Theft of Property - \$2,500 to <\$10,000; bound over, Meth - Possession or Casual Exchange; bound over, Driving While in Possession of Methamphetamine; bound over, Reckless Driving; bound over, Driving While License Suspended.

Heath Rhodes, Hwy 104 North, Lexington, bound over, Schedule II Drugs: Cocaine - 0.5 grams or greater.

The following cases resulted in a guilty plea or finding.

Joshua Cook, House Church Road, Atwood, guilty, Probation Violation - Drugs, supervised probation for balance, extend for three months.

Michael Lee Fowler, Bell Avenue, McKenzie, guilty, Meth - Possession or Casual Exchange, \$750 fine, 11/29 supervised probation for balance, cognitive behavioral training course, alcohol drug evaluation recommendations, forfeits interest in motorcycle seized, sentence will run concurrent with Carroll VOP; dismissed,

Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses & Activities.

Larry Brent Leach, McCowat Street, Jackson, guilty, Tampering With Evidence, \$150 fine, 11/29 supervised probation for minimum of 90 days then unsupervised probation if all conditions are met, cognitive behavioral training course.

Sucatus L. Long, Walnut Lane, McKenzie, guilty, Leave Scene of Accident - Property Damage, no fine, six months supervised probation until conditions met; dismissed, Driving Without License; dismissed, Immediate Notice of Accident.

Daryl E. Ross, Tate School Road, Huntingdon, guilty, Probation Violation - Booked, no fine, 11/29 consecutive to sentence in Humphreys County.

James Travis, Curtis Street, Paris, guilty, Probation Violation - Not Booked, supervised probation for nine months, probation extended by nine months; guilty, Failure to Appear, no fine.

Keon J. Williams, North Main Street, McKenzie, guilty, Evading Arrest, no fine, 30 days.

The following cases were dismissed.

Samantha Hughes, West Walnut Avenue, McKenzie, dismissed, Schedule III Drugs: MFG, Deliver, Sell, Possess; dismissed, Meth - Possess or Casual Exchange; dismissed, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses & Activities; dismissed, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange.

Timothy S. Hickey, Herd Law Road, Trenton, dismissed, Meth - Possession or Casual Exchange.

The following cases were rescheduled.

Ramsey William Carter, Richard B. Hinson.

Property Transfers

Belinda Faye Walker to Jack Joyner in District 3.

Ronnie and wife Sandra Cooper to Jacklyn Brewer in District 3.

Johnny W. Drinkard Jr. to Alexander Scott in District 23.

Larry Michael Ledsinger to Larry M. Ledsinger as trustee. No district listed.

Larry Michael Ledsinger to Larry M. Ledsinger as trustee. No district listed.

Madison E. Hughes and others to Brandy L. Kyle in

District 11.

Christopher E. Becker to Michael Jenkins. No District listed.

Danny E. Blackburn and others to GL Land, LLC. No District listed.

William Brock and wife Krista Martin to Royal Health Association of Tennessee, INC. In District 11.

Janet Marie Barcroft co-executor to Janet Marie and Alice Carol Barcroft. No District listed.

David D. Byrd Jr. to Alec and wife Colby Akin in District 22.

Paula and husband Kenneth Anderson and others to Paula Anderson and others in District 11.

Tony T. and wife Jackie Holladay to Christina Crocker in District 11.

Nadine Herndon to Nadine Herndon and others in District 19.

David A. Searle Jr. to Thomas A. Searle in District 16.

Casey Drewry to Logan W. and wife Meredith B. Drewry in District 4.

James Williams to Baylees Place, LLC. in District 4.

Stephanie Sims as trustee to Northwest Tennessee Property General Partnership in District 21.

Alicia Dawn Bawcum to Austin Millwood in District 11.

Donna K. Crossno to Michael L. and wife Alison R. Cooper in District 16.

Linda Sue Pitcher and others to James Dennis and wife Shannon Marie Lance in District 9.

Carroll County Sheriff's Reports

Vandalism — On October 22, deputies responded to a property dispute that resulted in a vandalism investigation involving James R. Carter, 47, of Atwood, and Hunter J. Taylor, 31, of Atwood.

Earlier that evening, dispatch received a call from Hunter Taylor reporting that a female subject had his vehicle and would not return it. Taylor later called back to say he had the vehicle in his possession and did not wish to press charges. Shortly afterward, deputies were requested to respond to 3450 Republican Grove Road in Atwood regarding a property exchange. Kevin Lambuth advised he was concerned the homeowner might become physical.

While deputies were en route, dispatch advised that a male subject had busted out a window. Deputies met with the complainants, who reported that while leaving the residence, two male subjects came outside with objects in their hands, and the back window of a 2003 gold Ford Taurus was struck and shattered.

Deputies later spoke with Taylor and Carter, who denied having any objects in their hands. Taylor stated that Carter used a machete, later located in the bed of a pickup truck, to break the vehicle's rear window. Lambuth, however, alleged that Taylor was the one who caused the damage.

During the investigation, Taylor informed deputies that Carter had asked him to stop near Republican Grove Road so he could "drop something off." Deputies later recovered a bag containing approximately 1.3 grams of a crystal-like substance believed to be methamphetamine from that location.

Taylor was cited into Carroll County General Sessions Court for vandalism, while Carter was arrested and transported to the Carroll County Jail for vandalism with bond set at \$1,000. The suspected meth and machete were collected as evidence and secured for processing.

Violation of bond conditions — On October 24, deputies reported that Dalton Scott Allen, 26, of Bruceton, violated the conditions of his bond after allowing the battery on his court-ordered ankle monitor to completely deplete.

Maintaining a charged ankle monitor is a required condition of his release, established to ensure compliance with supervision terms. By failing to keep the device charged, Allen was found to be in violation of his bond conditions set under The Debbie and Marie Domestic Violence Protection Act.

Allen was charged with violation of conditions of release.

Drug charges — On October 24, Cpl. Bongiovanni observed Jeffrey W. Harrington, 59, of Huntingdon, leaving a business on Veterans Drive North in Huntingdon. Having prior knowledge that Harrington had an active warrant for failure to appear out of Carroll County, Cpl. Bongiovanni initiated a traffic stop after observing Harrington fail to maintain his lane of travel on Main Street.

During the stop, a K-9 unit conducted an open-air sniff around Harrington's vehicle, resulting in a positive alert for the odor of narcotics. Before the search, Harrington admitted to having methamphetamine inside the vehicle. A subsequent search revealed four plastic bags, each containing approximately 3.5 grams of a white crystal-like substance that field-tested positive for methamphetamine. The total weight was approximately 12 grams, packaged in a manner consistent with resale.

Harrington was arrested and charged with possession of Schedule II (methamphetamine) with intent to sell.

Aggravated assault arrest — On October 25, deputies responded to a disturbance call at a residence on Broad Street in Trezevant after receiving a report involving Thomas B. Patterson, 38, of Trenton, and Jessica M. Bar-

nette, 32, of Milan.

The complainant advised that Barnette had come to the home to see her child, who is currently in the custody of the Department of Children's Services. When told she could not see the child, Barnette became angry, throwing a mason jar at the home and at the family's dog, striking both. During this time, Patterson was in the carport, kicking and knocking over the victim's belongings.

The victim stated that when he went back outside, Patterson pointed a nickel-plated handgun at him and threatened to kill him. Patterson then attempted to flee the driveway, nearly striking the victim with the vehicle. A few minutes later, Patterson returned, parking across the street at a nearby gas station, where he again shouted threats toward the residence. When the victim approached to get the tag number, Patterson reportedly pointed the handgun a second time before driving off and attempting to strike the victim and his dog with the vehicle.

Patterson, who is currently on probation, was arrested and charged with aggravated assault. He is being held without bond pending appearance before Judge King.

Theft investigation — On October 24, Deputy Tucker responded to a report from the owner of the BP Convenience Store in Atwood, regarding multiple thefts of torch lighters from the front counter.

The owner reported that a man had entered the store on several occasions, placing lighters in his pocket and leaving without paying. Video footage from October 24 at 3:39 p.m. showed an unidentified Black male with cornrow-style hair taking a lighter valued at \$17.99 and concealing it before exiting the store.

Once identified, the suspect will be cited into court for theft of property—conduct involving merchandise.

The incident was documented by deputies.

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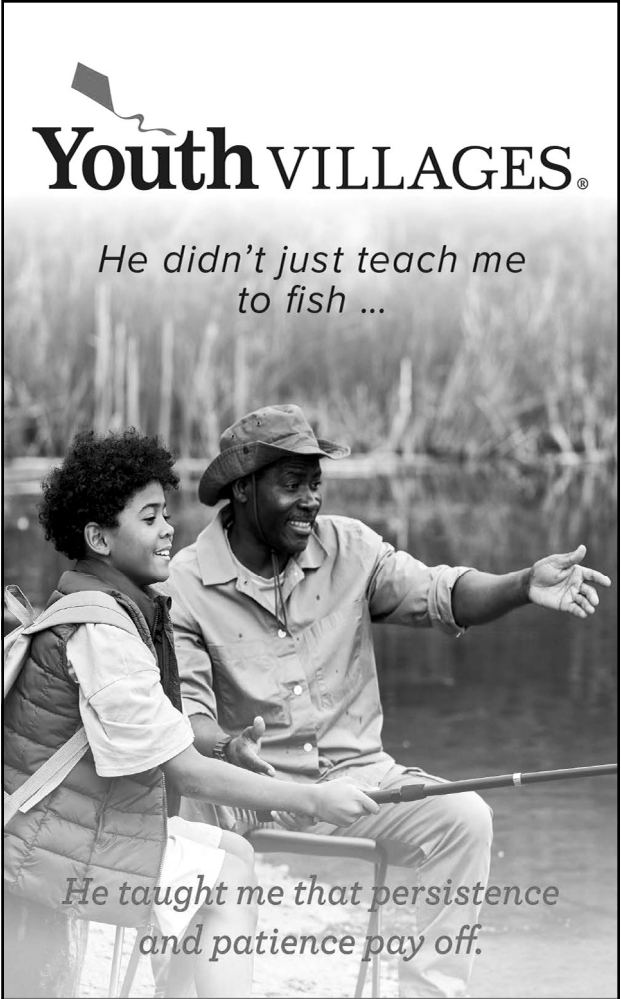
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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Above Left, Lucas Smith looks to score after intercepting a Union City pass. Above Right, Owen King takes the oath of the Army prior to the Mustangs game against Union City. Below Left, Tyreke Hutch breaks away for a Mustang touchdown. Below Right, Broox Bennett dives for a catch. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner



Huntingdon Rolls Over Union City Tornadoes
Swenson Becomes All-Time Wins Leader for Mustangs

BY RUSSELL BUSH
banner@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (October 30) — The Huntingdon Mustangs finished the regular season Thursday night at Paul Ward Stadium as they defeated Union City 42-0. With the win, the Mustangs finish the regular season 9-1 and 5-1 in Region 7-2A. The win over the Golden Tornadoes gave the Mustangs a #2 seed in the playoffs and a home game against Memphis Business School to open the playoffs next Friday.

The win over Union City marked the 170 career victory for head coach Eric Swenson at Huntingdon, passing Coach Paul Ward and making Swenson the all-time winningest football coach. Prior to serving as head coach at Huntingdon, Swenson spent three years at Hickman County; his overall coaching record is 188-67.

The Mustangs started quickly against the Tornadoes and sprinted to a 35-0 lead at the half. Huntingdon scored on its first possession of the game after Union City tried an onside kick to

start the game. The Mustangs recovered the ball at the Tornado 48 and scored in five plays as Tyreke Hutch raced 29 yards for the score. Greyson Anderson gave the Mustangs a 7-0 lead.

DJ Armor then recovered a Union City fumble at the Tornado 31, and Braylin Dearmon scored the first of his three touchdowns on the night with a one-yard run. Anderson tacked on the point after, and the score was 14-0.

It took less than a minute before Huntingdon was back in the end zone once again as Union City threw a pass on second down that Huntingdon's Lucas Smith intercepted at the Tornado 25 and ran it back for a touchdown with six minutes left in the first quarter. Anderson was true on the PAT, and the lead grew to 21-0.

The Mustangs started their next possession at their own 20, after Union City turned the ball over on downs. Huntingdon covered the 80 yards in nine plays and scored on a Dearmon 29-yard run with 8:15 left in the second quarter.

Anderson booted through the point after, and the Mustangs led 28-0.

Union City started at their 12 on the ensuing kickoff, and Broox Bennett, who led the Mustangs in tackles with 10 for the game, forced a fumble and recovered the ball at the Union City five. Two plays later, Dearmon bulled his way in from the one, and Huntingdon, with Anderson's extra point kick, held a 35-0 lead at the half.

The second half was played with a running clock, and the only score came from the Mustang reserves on a 66-yard run by sophomore Colt Wood. Ethan Raffield kicked the point after, and the Mustangs would earn a 42-0 win over the Tornadoes.

The Mustangs rushed for 222 yards in the game and passed for seven. Dearmon led all rushers with 72 yards on nine carries and three scores. Wood ran twice for 69 yards and a score; Hutch had four carries for 37 yards and a TD.

Huntingdon held Union City to 66 yards rushing and passed 3 of 14 attempts for 20 yards in the game.

Centennial Bank Gives Coats to McKenzie Head Start



McKENZIE (October 28) — Representatives from Centennial Bank delivered winter coats to Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start Tuesday morning. The bank donated approximately 75 coats, one for each student. A few of the kids met the bank staff and tried on their cozy new coats. Pictured are (L to R): Kim Gilmore, VP of McKenzie's Centennial branch; Andrea Browning, Centennial CEO; Chandler Sharp; Malakai Nutting; Caide McKinney; Pai' cheynce Staten; Amie Jones, McKenzie Head Start center manager; Skye McCaslin; Mary Beth Howington, Centennial McKenzie customer service specialist; and Chuck Sisson, city president, McKenzie branch. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Left, Rebel seniors Mason Batten (10) and Aiden Callis (40) converge on a McEwen ball carrier at the line of scrimmage. Right, Rebel Avery Brown turns to make a 48-yard touchdown catch. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Rebels Rout Warriors for Region 6-1A Title

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (October 31) — McKenzie High School claimed the Region 6-1A championship Friday night with a 54-0 drubbing of McEwen in the regular season finale.

It was also Senior Night at Randy Thomas Field. 17 senior football players, one manager, one cheerleader and five band members were honored before the game with family members on the field. (See separate story.)

The Halloween night game was certainly scary for McEwen as the Rebel defense was smothering and the offense was running on all cylinders. McKenzie won the toss and deferred possession to the second half.

The Warriors went three-and-out on their first drive, and the punt was returned to midfield.

The Rebels traversed the 50 yards on six plays, capped by a five-yard pass on fourth-and-goal from Cole Brown to Lelan Gordon. Aiden Mason kicked the PAT, and McKenzie led 7-0 with seven minutes left in the opening frame.

Another three-and-out for McEwen was highlighted by a third-down sack by Rebel Maddox Shiell. A short punt gave the Rebels the ball at the Warrior 41.

Rebel Jayden Callis ran for 13 yards, then C. Brown threw to Avery Brown twice for ten and 17 yards, respectively. C. Brown punched it in from the 1, and Mason kicked for a 14-0 McKenzie lead with four minutes remaining in the first.

McEwen went backwards again for another three-and-out. Mason Batten and Dawson Reeder each made a tackle for a loss, then Shiell, Batten and Aiden Callis made a big third-down stop to force the punt.

McKenzie needed just one snap for a 48-yard touchdown pass from Cole to Avery. The PAT was no good, and the Rebels led 20-0 with a minute and a half left in the opening quarter.

Mason kicked for a touch-back, and McEwen quarterback Tylon Carter's pass attempt was intercepted by A. Brown and returned to the Warrior 36.

C. Brown kept the first snap for a 36-yard score. After a failed PAT, McKenzie led 26-0 just 16 seconds after the previous touchdown.

McEwen started deep



Rebel Jacobi Melton hurdles a McEwen defender for a large gain. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

again, and a fumble on second down was recovered by Shiell at the 15.

Three carries by J. Callis brought up fourth down as the game moved into the second quarter, and C. Brown threw incomplete for the first blank drive by the Rebels.

Pinned even deeper in their own territory, the Warriors went three-and-out again and punted from the 12.

McKenzie took over at the 37 and scored on four plays. Cole connected with Avery for a 17-yard touchdown, then again for a two-point conversion. With 8:36 to play in the first half, the Rebels led 34-0.

McEwen found some momentum, earning a first down, but it fizzled quickly and resulted in another punt.

The Rebels started at their 38 and scored on five plays, alternating passes from C. Brown to A. Brown with runs by J. Callis. Cole kept for another one-yard touchdown. Mason's kick was good, and McKenzie led 41-0 with three minutes left in the half.

The Warriors managed to move the chains one time, but the Rebels then pushed them backward until time expired.

A short kickoff to start the second half put the Rebels at their 43. One of McKenzie's grindier drives, it took nine snaps to close the distance. C. Brown found Kason Brown for a six-yard catch, and a failed PAT made it 47-0 halfway through the third.

The Rebel defense forced yet another three-and-out, but the punt was touched by McKenzie and recovered by McEwen.

The miscue sparked something in the Warriors, and they moved the ball well as the third quarter ended. Two first downs brought them down to the Rebel 14, but a fumble was recovered by Rebel Cooper Davidson at the 17 halfway through the fourth.

J. Callis took the first snap seven yards, then took the next 76 yards to paydirt. Mason hit the PAT, and McKenzie led 54-0 with five minutes remaining.

McEwen ran three plays before time expired.

The Rebels had 460 yards of total offense on a balanced attack of 254 passing yards and 206 rushing. The Warriors were held to 61 total yards, 37 in the air and 24 on the ground.

McKenzie quarterback Cole Brown was 16 of 19 passing for 254 yards and four touchdowns. He also had six carries for 80 yards and three touchdowns.

Jayden Callis had eleven carries for 126 yards with one touchdown.

Avery Brown had seven catches for 135 yards and two touchdowns. J. Callis caught three passes for 42 yards. Jacobi Melton had three catches for 38 yards. Kason Brown caught three passes for 34 yards with a touchdown. Lelan Gordon had one catch, a five-yard touchdown.

Dawson Reeder led the defense with five solo tackles and two assists. C. Brown had four solo and two assists, including one for a loss. Cooper Davidson had four solo and two assists with two for a loss. Aiden Legens had four solo and an assist with one for a loss. Lelan Gordon had four solo and one assist.

Maddox Shiell had three solo tackles and four assists, including two for a loss and a sack. Mason Batten had three solo and four assists with one for a loss. Avery Brown had three solo and one assist. Aiden Callis had two solo and two assists. Davarion Gilbert had a solo and two assists. Ethan Batton had one solo tackle and one assist.

The Rebels (9-1) begin postseason play Friday as they host the Region 5-1A fourth seed Huntland (6-4). Kickoff is 7 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

Lady Rebels, Mustangs, Central Earn State Championship Berths

DRESDEN (October 28) — Carroll County will be well-represented at the 2025 TSSAA Cross Country State Championships with two teams and one individual qualifying after their performances in the Class A Section 3 regional meets on Tuesday.

McKenzie's girls team finished as the Section 3 runner-up to claim a state berth. Abigail Wallace was the individual runner-up,

and three other Lady Rebels finished in the top 20 to earn medals. Autumn Haywood was fourth, Bella Sass was ninth and Sophie Dameron was 14th.

Huntingdon's boys team earned fourth to advance. Mustang Blaine Todd claimed the individual crown and Shawn Simpson finished fourth.

Hollow Rock-Bruceton's Madison Holder earned an individual berth with a fifth-

place finish.

Section 3 includes 28 boys teams and 26 girls teams.

The state championship meets for Division 1, Class A are Thursday, November 6 at Shelby Farms Park in Cordova (near Memphis).

The boys meet begins at 11:30 a.m., and the girls meet follows at 12:20 p.m. Awards for Class A are at 1 p.m.

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A SPECIAL EDITION THE McKenzie, Tennessee BANNER
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025

Businesses Learn About AI, Innovation
At Annual Manufacturing Breakfast

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

Leaders from McKenzie-area industries gathered at Bethel's Vera Low Center for Student Enrichment Friday, October 10, for the McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Development Board's annual Manufacturing Breakfast, celebrating Manufacturing Month.

Danny Norman, advanced manufacturing consultant at the University of Tennessee's Center for Industrial Services and lead for Manufacturing Extension Partnership's (MEP) National Center for Advanced Tech Solutions, was the morning's distinguished speaker. Norman travels to businesses across the state of Tennessee to teach manufacturing leaders about cost-efficient ways to remain innovative and competitive in their markets.

Norman's presentation, titled "Building McKenzie Manufacturers' Advanced Manufacturing Capabilities" primarily focused on ways artificial intelligence (AI) can bridge the gap between employee error and machine error and altogether improve manufacturing business systems.

Norman presented several anecdotes of the recreational ways people can use AI, like creating funny photos and videos, but explained how AI should be used more specifically for businesses.

"AI is way, way better and way more significant than the image generator that makes cute bunny rabbit pic-



Above, McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Development Board members attended the Manufacturing Breakfast October 10. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner Below Left, Guest speaker Danny Norman is photographed with McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Development Board Director Monica Heath and University of Tennessee's Center for Industrial Services Business Development Manager, Manufacturing Extension, Todd Reeves. Below Center, McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Development Board Director Monica Heath speaks to breakfast attendees. Below Right, Danny Norman, advanced manufacturing consultant at the University of Tennessee's Center for Industrial Services and lead for Manufacturing Extension Partnership's (MEP) National Center for Advanced Tech Solutions, was the distinguished speaker at McKenzie's Manufacturing Breakfast. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



tures," Norman said. "We've gotta use it and be trained to use it."

He explained that, by giving AI generators like ChatGPT specific instructions and context, users can receive very helpful advice and insights like how to optimize employee output with a short staff. Additionally, he said AI can be the quick, cost-efficient answer to problems rather than purchasing new and expensive software.

"It's such a bright time to be in manufacturing," Norman said. With AI tools and the ability to use smart manufacturing, which Norman defined as communicating data through a reliable and ongoing data structure, companies have advancing opportunities for innovation.

Norman concluded his speech by inviting McKenzie industries to an AI and manufacturing training session in Knoxville and said, with

enough interest, he could visit McKenzie again to present a comprehensive training course.

McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Development Board Director Monica Heath thanked Norman for speaking and thanked attending businesses for their support.

"None of this work is possible without us all coming together," said Heath. "Manufacturing Month is about

celebrating our industries and our employees, opening the doors for our students and showing families the strong, high-paying careers we have in McKenzie. It's about building futures where businesses thrive, families remain rooted and the next generation can see a clear path forward staying home."

Manufacturing Month events stretched throughout the month of October, with several manufacturing

plant tours and free meals scheduled for manufacturing employees.

McKenzie's featured businesses during Manufacturing Month were Profile Metal Forming, PolyKem Materials Processing, Cachengo, Stanley Black & Decker, J&J Auto Racing, Pottery Direct, Plastic Product Formers, Commercial Metals, Haven Steel Products, Centennial Bank, Allegion and McKenzie Valve & Machining LLC.

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MFCG
MONTH



McKenzie Chamber Members Tour Plastic Product Formers, Pottery Direct

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
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Kicking off Manufacturing Month festivities, the McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industry scheduled factory tours at VP Racing's Plastic Product Formers and Pottery Direct Wednesday, October 8.

The morning began with a tour of VP Racing's Plastic Product Formers, led by Operations Manager Patrick Ross. Touring chamber members were Mike Stafford (WTPUD), Joseph Butler (Carroll County Mayor), Chuck Sisson (President, Centennial Bank, McKenzie, IDB board member), Tim McBride (McKenzie City Council), Monica Heath (Executive Director, McKenzie Industrial Development Board and Chamber of Commerce) and Noah McEwen (Centennial Bank, McKenzie Chamber of Commerce board member).

Ross led the group through the screenprinting area, in which David Trotter demonstrated how to use the screenprinting machine to print t-shirts. With a full team, he said he could print 675 shirts per hour. Alone, he can print about 400 shirts per hour.

The tour then moved into the main factory area, where the group watched as machines created five-and-a-half gallon jugs out of tiny plastic pellets. The machines are unique to Plastic Products Formers and make two jugs every 55 seconds.

While inside the factory, the tour group marveled at the inventory of plastic jugs ready to be shipped to



Above, Plastic Product Formers Tour Group: Mike Stafford, Mayor Joseph Butler, Chuck Sisson, Plastic Product Formers Operations Manager Patrick Ross, Tim McBride, Monica Heath and Noah McEwen. Below, Pottery Direct Tour Group: Mayor Joseph Butler, Pottery Direct/Syndicate Grower Direct Plant Manager Nick Davis, Mike Stafford, John Wright, Monica Heath, Noah McEwen and Chuck Sisson. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



distributors.

Plastic Products Formers sells their jugs to Rural King, Menards, Tractor Supply Co., Bass Pro Shops, Ace Hardware,

Lowe's, Academy Sports, Summit Racing Equipment, True Value Hardware, Do It Best, AutoZone and Orgill. Customers may also find them on Amazon or TikTok

Shop.

In a raffle drawing, Mike Stafford won a free 5.5-gallon jug. Before leaving, several chamber members also purchased jugs.

Chamber members took a short drive down the road to Pottery Direct for their second tour of the day, led by Nick Davis, plant manager at Pottery

Direct/Syndicate Grower Direct. Touring chamber members at Pottery Direct were Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler, Mike Stafford (WTPUD), John Wright (McKenzie Industrial board member), Monica Heath (Executive Director, McKenzie Industrial Development Board and Chamber of Commerce), Noah McEwen (Centennial Bank, McKenzie Chamber of Commerce board member) and Chuck Sisson (President, Centennial Bank, McKenzie, IDB board member).

The Pottery Direct tour began in the showroom, where pots are displayed showing their different colors, shapes and designs. Davis introduced a new line of Tennessee Clay pots named after Tennessee towns and cities to the tour group.

Inside the factory, Davis showed the group how machines shape the wet clay into pots, dry the pots and glaze the pots. He showed them special 3D-printed tools used to make design imprints in the pots.

One of the last stops showcased the kiln, which reaches 2,093 degrees Fahrenheit. Each pot spends about five hours in the kiln after glazing.

Davis said Pottery Direct can make up to 10,000 pots in a day at their factory.

Following the tour, Davis encouraged chamber members to take a flower pot home with them.

Manufacturing Month events continued throughout October, with more tours at TCAT Henry/Carroll October 22 and UTM Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building October 29.

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Left, Administrative Office Technology Instructor Maureen Sledd informs McKenzie Chamber members about her class. Right, Information Technology Systems Management Instructor Tim Fann tells the tour group about his IT program inside the IT lab. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

McKenzie Chamber Members Tour TCAT Henry/Carroll Facilities

BY LYNDESEY SUMMERS
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McKENZIE (October 22) — Continuing Manufacturing Month celebrations, members from the McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Development Board toured McKenzie's Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) Henry/Carroll campus Wednesday, October 22. Instructors and select students guided the present chamber members through their campus' classrooms and labs and spoke about their curriculum.

TCAT Henry/Carroll is a training facility designed to simulate the occupational environment found in potential places of employment. The McKenzie campus offers seven full-time educational skill programs: administrative office technology; automotive technology; heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) and refrigeration; industrial maintenance/integrative automation technology; information technology systems management; machine tool technology; and welding technology. The tour began in the HVAC/refrigeration room, and instructor Darrell Pittman showed the tour group all of the HVAC and refrigeration

units students use for practice. Twenty students attend Pittman's class, and there is a 50-person waiting list for the class.

Students attend the HVAC/refrigeration class for 12 months to receive an HVAC diploma, and some students stay an additional four months to receive training in commercial light refrigeration or light commercial air conditioning.

The next stop was the machine tool technology room. Students Jonathan Fuentes and Brantley Nanney led the tour, stepping in for instructor Zak Crider. Fuentes and Nanney explained the role of a machine tool technician and the overall machining process.

Nanney showed the tour group a digital representation of how their machines can create products. Chamber members observed 3D printed products Crider made as a physical representation of the class' work.

Fuentes told the group, "Job security's always been a big thing for me...There's not a lot of automated processes that could take this job."

Students also led the automotive technology tour, stepping in for instructor Shanna Franklin who was helping students with a project. Stu-



Machine tool technology students Jonathan Fuentes and Brantley Nanney show the tour group a product they can make with their machines. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

dent Eric Rogers showed the tour group around the facility, stopping in a room containing several practice automotive systems.

The automotive technology class is a fourteen-month program at TCAT Henry/Carroll, and most graduating students are matched with an employer upon graduation.

David Earley, welding technology instructor, led the next tour. Earley recently earned certification from the American Welding Society as a Certified Weld Educator, becoming one of three or four in the state to achieve such a feat.

TCAT Henry/Carroll's welding technology class

has 27 students, 15 of which are full-time students, and a 50-person waitlist.

The next stop on the tour was the industrial maintenance integrated automation facility. Instructor Jason Bloodworth spoke with chamber members about his program's curriculum. The industrial maintenance integrated automation is a full-time, 16-month program in which students gain experience in electronics, electrical, pneumatics, hydraulics, motor controls, programmable controllers, robotics, machine shop and related math.

Next was the information technology systems man-

agement classroom and lab room. Instructor Tim Fann led the tour group into the working lab, which will be demolished and moved to a different room once construction of McKenzie's new TCAT Henry/Carroll main campus building is complete.

The information technology systems management class is a 20-month program broken up into certification benchmarks. During the first term, students complete the A+ exam on computer building, maintaining, and repairing. The second term is for the network exam which focuses on routing, switching and cabling. The third term is Security+ and Linux, which focuses on data security. The fourth and fifth terms prepare students for the Cisco CCNA exam, which is for higher level networking. Most of Fann's students become IT specialists for banks, hospitals or manufacturers upon graduation.

Fann has 25 students in the information technology systems management class and a 20-person waitlist.

The last stop on the tour was Maureen Sledd's administrative office technology classroom, where she teaches nine students. Her class is a 12-month, 30-hour-per-week program. The first

term provides students with knowledge to become a general office assistant, and the second term provides students with the administrative support specialist certificate. The class also allows students to pick from four elective diplomas: accounting assistant, administrative assistant, medical administrative assistant and marketing assistant.

Sledd's current classroom will be demolished and relocated to the new campus building in December 2025 or January 2026.

TCAT Henry/Carroll teaches almost 100 full-time students and roughly 200 part-time, dual enrollment students across its campuses in Carroll, Benton, Henry and Weakley counties. To apply for a program at McKenzie's TCAT Henry/Carroll campus, prospective students need only to fill out an application and join the waitlist for their preferred class.

The McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Development Board took TCAT Henry/Carroll students to Pottery Direct and Plastic Product Formers for tours on Friday, October 24, as part of their Manufacturing Month initiatives.



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TCAT students gather for a photo in front of Plastic Product Formers. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

TCAT Students Tour McKenzie Industries

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (October 24) — In an initiative to keep McKenzie's future technical workers in the community after school, McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Development Board Director Monica Heath invited students from the Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Henry/Carroll (TCAT) McKenzie campus to tour Plastic Product Formers and Pottery Direct.

"These students are our future workforce," Heath said, "so I think it's important for them to get out and see what jobs are here [in McKenzie]. We want to retain all of our local talent."

The McKenzie Chamber has brought TCAT students on tours of McKenzie industries every year since 2021, with tour groups growing in size each year. This time, the group consisted of full-time TCAT students from the McKenzie campus and dual enrollment students from McKenzie High School, Weakley County Schools and Trenton Peabody High School. Also attending were Tessa Kyle, northwest Tennessee business development consultant from the Tennessee Department of



TCAT students gather for a photo in front of Pottery Direct. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Economic and Community Development; Jan Latimer, vice president of student services at TCAT Henry/Carroll; and several instructors from TCAT McKenzie.

The information technology systems management (IT), welding technology, industrial maintenance/integrated automation technology, administrative office technology (AOT) and machine tool technology classes were each represented in the tour group.

The morning began at Plastic Product Formers, where Operations Manager Patrick Ross led students through the industry's production lines and vast warehouse.

Plastic Product Formers, owned by VP Racing Fu-

els, mass-produces plastic multi-purpose utility jugs, which are sold in many hardware and utility stores.

Ross explained the industry's machining processes — how their three machines turn tiny plastic pellets into five-gallon jugs twice per minute — and what skills he looks for when hiring machine maintenance technicians. He also told students that the Plastic Product Formers building is climate-controlled, unlike many other local industries.

Students asked Ross about the company's starting pay and how to stand out in the hiring process. "Look, you guys in maintenance," Ross said, "don't be afraid...Go on Indeed and apply. When we see your

TCAT experience, we're probably going to call you."

Plastic Product Formers employs 39 workers. They are broken into two shifts — first shift from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and second shift from 3:30 p.m. to midnight — and work five days a week.

Plastic Product Formers has two open positions: one machine maintenance technician and two production line workers.

After the general tour, students broke into groups to receive more targeted tours. IT and AOT students toured the office rooms; welding, maintenance and machine tool students toured the machines and production lines.

The tour group then migrated down the road to Pot-

tery Direct, where Plant Manager Nick Davis met them.

Pottery Direct, recently bought by Syndicate Grower District, completes a flower pot every five to six seconds. The plant runs six days a week and produces around 60,000 pots per week.

Though the production line was down, Davis led the TCAT students through the plant and showed them the different steps of pottery-making while maintenance technicians troubleshooted the issue.

"In manufacturing, there will always be something that needs to be fixed. I promise you that," Davis said to the students.

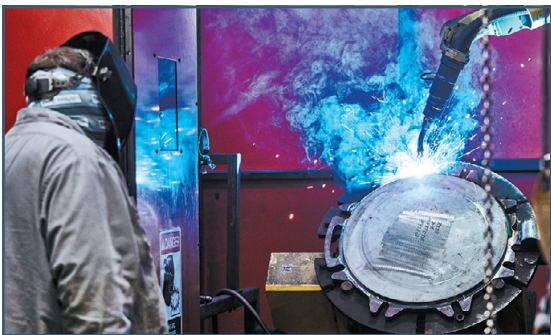
Davis responded to students' questions about starting pay for mainte-

nance employees (about \$25/hour) and where their IT work is handled (Kokomo, Indiana) before concluding the tour.

Following the Pottery Direct tour, maintenance student Michael Watson said he thought the tours were really interesting. "They gave me a chance to better look at how the industries operate," he said.

Watson will graduate from TCAT in December and said the tours were very helpful as he plans his next steps.

At the conclusion of the tours, students headed back to TCAT and enjoyed pizza provided by the McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Development Board.





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