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McKENZIE, TENNESSEE

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Paris Attorney Pleads Guilty, Agrees to Disbarment

PARIS — Michael Ainley, a Paris-based attorney, pleaded guilty to lesser charges and has agreed to be disbarred from practicing law.

Judge Roy B. Morgan, Jr. accepted an amended plea to lesser charges during a hearing in Henry County.

With counsel present the Defendant offered to enter a plea of Guilty pursuant to a negotiated best interest (Judicial Diversion) plea agreement and to be sentenced as follows, pending the approval/

acceptance of the application for Judicial Diversion by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI):

Count 1: charged - Sexual Battery by an Authority Figure (Felony C), amended to Assault; (Misd. A), 11 months 29 days, RCS 75%, No Fine.

Count 2: charged - Sexual Battery (Felony E), amended to Assault; (Misd. A), 11 months 29 days, RCS 75%, No Fine.

See GUILTY on Page 3

McKenzie Man Indicted On 15 Federal Child Exploitation Offenses

JACKSON (November 19) — A federal grand jury in Jackson, Tenn., recently returned an indictment charging a McKenzie man with multiple federal child sexual exploitation offenses, according to a press release from the Henry County Sheriff's Office. United States Attorney D. Michael Dunavant announced the return of the indictment today.

According to the indictment, John A. Bell, 59, is charged with 14 counts of using and employing a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct and a single count of possessing a cell phone that contained visual depictions of

See INDICTED on Page 3

McKenzie's Dr. Brooke Spivey Named Young Optometrist of the Year

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS  
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

Dr. Brooke Spivey Bureess, of Spivey Eye Clinic, was named Young Optometrist of the Year at the Tennessee Association of Optometric Physicians Annual Congress this past October.

Dr. Spivey is an alumna of McKenzie High School, the University of Tennessee at Martin and the Southern College of Optometry. She began her practice shortly after graduating with honors in May 2021, joining Spivey Eye Clinic and continuing the legacy her father and grandfather built in McKenzie.

In her fourth year of practice, Dr. Spivey said she was "extremely honored and humbled" to be named Young Optometrist of the Year, representing the best of optometry's next generation.

While presenting the award, Tennessee Association of Optometric



Dr. Brooke Spivey Bureess is pictured with her award.

See SPIVEY on Page 3

McKenzie Industrial Board Elects New Officers

McKENZIE (November 20) — The McKenzie Industrial Board elected new officers for its Executive Committee during the November 20 meeting. John Wright was elected as chairman, Chuck Sisson as vice-chairman, and Mark Anderson II as secretary. The three will lead the appointed nine-member volunteer board, alongside Monica Heath, the full-time executive director.

See ELECTS on Page 3

Carroll County Electric To Have New Hours in 2026

BY BRAD SAM  
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (November 20) — Beginning January 2, 2026, business hours for the Carroll County Electric Department will shift from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., a change approved by the board during Thursday's regular monthly meeting.

The proposal was presented by General Manager Ryan Drewry, prompted by the observation that many customers routinely come in the morning and must wait for the office to open at 8 a.m., while few customers come during the 4-5 p.m. hour.

Another change to hours will affect linemen specifically during the summer. From June through August, linemen will work from 6 a.m.-2:30 p.m. to

See HOURS on Page 3

United Way Installs Little Free Library Near Splash Pad

McKENZIE (November 19) — United Way of West Tennessee and the City of McKenzie have partnered to bring a new Little Free Library to the McKenzie community, expanding access to books for children and families.

Located on-site at the McKenzie Station Splash Pad Park, the Little Free Library is open to residents and community members of all ages — providing free, around-the-clock access to books. The initiative supports United Way's ongoing efforts to promote early literacy and a lifelong love of reading across West Tennessee.

"Our goal is simple: we just want to



Jennifer Medford stocked McKenzie's newly-installed Little Free Library with children's books. She and her husband painted the library to represent United Way's brand colors. Photo by Lindsey Summers/The Banner

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## Mike Cary Participates in WestStar Leadership

MARTIN — Mike Cary, president of Carroll Bank and Trust, is a member of the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program's Class of 2026. Participants in the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program will take part in learning sessions throughout the school year, starting with an opening retreat December 11-12. Ses-

sions are held at different locations throughout West Tennessee and include topics like the humanity of leadership, education, community development and tourism. Information about WestStar is available by calling the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298.



## Ryan White Participates In WestStar Leadership

MARTIN — Ryan White, chief of police in the McKenzie Police Department, is a member of the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program's Class of 2026. Participants in the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program will take part in learning sessions throughout the school year, starting with an opening re-

treating December 11-12. Sessions are held at different locations throughout West Tennessee and include topics like the humanity of leadership, education, community development and tourism. Information about WestStar is available by calling the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298.



McKenzie Rotary Donates \$1,000 to First Responders' Christmas for Kids. Pictured are General Sessions Judge Michael King (the guest speaker), Rotarian Kim Webb, Rotary President Ricky Price, McKenzie Police Chief Ryan White, McKenzie Firefighter/EMT Lacey Lane, and Assistant Fire Chief Roger Christian.

## McKenzie Rotary Club Donates \$1,000 To First Responders' Christmas for Kids

The McKenzie Rotary Club and the Fanny Baxter Moore Fund combined resources to donate \$1,000 to the McKenzie First Responders Christmas for Kids program.

The local club is actively supporting the third annual event that provides Christmas gifts for children.

McKenzie Police Chief Ryan White and McKenzie Fire Department Assistant Chief Roger Christian along

with firefighter/EMT Lacey Lane accepted the giant facsimile check from Rotarian Kim Webb and Rotary President Ricky Price.

Chief White said the local first responders worked with Beta Sigma Phi's Angel Tree Project to assure children in the McKenzie community have a wonderful Christmas. Jennifer Waldrup has helped with the Angel Tree Project for probably 30 years, according to White.

Approximately 60 kids are lined up for the shopping spree on December 15. The kids will go to Walmart with first responders - police, firefighters, TWRA agents, THP officers, and others.

The first responders also support the Angel Tree project and will support another 20 kids at \$100 per child. A total of 80 kids are supported through combined efforts.



Marketing students from the Carroll County Technical Center are collaborating with the Huntingdon Historical Society — (L to R): Chevy Robinson, Kainan Moore, Ms. Hillary Clifft, Daniel Campbell, featured speaker Mr. Hershel Wilkes, Greenlee Hilliard, Mahogany Pratcher and Colt Luther. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

## Wilkes Teaches Huntingdon Historical Society About the Armed Forces

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS  
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (November 19) — The Huntingdon Historical Society met Wednesday to hear Mr. Hershel Wilkes present an informational program honoring the military and recognizing Veterans Day.

Wilkes, a military veteran himself, served two years of active duty. He spent the last eleven months of his service in Vietnam as an Infantry Squad Leader. Upon his homecoming, he joined the Tennessee National Guard, of which he remained a member for 34 years before his retirement.

Wilkes' presentation began as a historical lecture, teaching all in attendance about each branch of the military, their structures, duties and cultures. The second half of his presentation was a tribute to the veterans of the United States



Mr. Hershel Wilkes, a military veteran, spoke with the Huntingdon Historical Society about the branches of the military and presented a tribute to veterans. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Armed Forces.

"On June 14th, 1775, the Continental Congress established a regular army. Over 250 years since, over 41 million men and women have worn the service uni-

form," said Wilkes. "Those 41 million [people] who have served their country well and honorably...deserve our praise, our remembrance and our gratitude for the sacrifices they have made."

Huntingdon High School vocational students from the Carroll County Technical Center's marketing class attended Wilkes' presentation, marking the first day of the class' collaboration with the Huntingdon Historical Society. Hillary Clifft, marketing teacher, assisted student Colt Luther in recording the presentation for the society's YouTube channel. She will teach her class the skills needed to grow the Huntingdon Historical Society's digital presence.

The Huntingdon Historical Society will not meet in December. The next meeting is in January, and Joe Norval will be the featured speaker.

## Carroll County Christmas Parades

The Christmas season has arrived. Several Carroll County towns have announced the dates of their highly-anticipated Christmas parades, beginning December with festive

celebrations.

The Town of Clarksburg's Christmas parade is Thursday, December 4, at 7 p.m.

The City of McKenzie's Christmas parade is Saturday, December 6, at 4 p.m.

The Town of Huntingdon's Christmas parade is Monday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m.

The Town of Trezevant's Christmas parade is Monday, December 8, at 7 p.m.

## McKenzie Special School Board to Consider Tenure, Director Contract

MCKENZIE — McKenzie Special School Board of Education convenes on Tuesday, December 2, 5 p.m. at 114 Bell Avenue.

On the agenda is:  
\*Approval of teacher tenure  
\*Discussion on Director Justin Barden's em-

ployment contract  
\*Approval of budget amendments and the director's report.

## Superintendent Issues Update On Threat Against MSSD School

MCKENZIE (November 20) — Thursday afternoon, McKenzie Special School District Superintendent Dr. Justin Barden released a statement regarding a potential verbal threat made by a McKenzie High School student. Upon investigation, Homeland Security determined there was no credible threat to the safety of students or to McKenzie High School.

Below is a letter from Dr. Barden regarding the incident:

McKenzie High School Parents, Students, and Staff,

We are writing to inform you about a situation that was reported late Wednesday evening involving a potential verbal threat made by a MHS student.

The report was initially made to the McKenzie Police Department, who then contacted Homeland Security.

Homeland Security immediately engaged with the student and their family to begin an investigation. Based on their findings, Homeland Security determined there was no credible threat to the safety of students or the school.

Out of an abundance of caution, MHS and district administration continued the investigation Thursday morning. Again, no credible threat to student or school safety was found.

In accordance with Tennessee law, school districts are required to notify families any time law enforce-

ment is contacted in connection with a potential school threat. We want to assure you that the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff remain our top priority. We are grateful to McKenzie PD, Homeland Security, and other local law enforcement partners for their swift response and ongoing collaboration.

We encourage our students, staff, and community members to continue reporting any safety concerns they may have. Sharing concerns quickly allows us to investigate thoroughly and respond appropriately.

Thank you for your continued support in helping keep our school community safe and for your attention to this update.

Respectfully,  
Justin Barden  
Director of Schools



McKenzie Mayor Ryan Griffin tells McKenzie High School students about theDEPOT. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

## Applications Open for theDEPOT Retail Incubator

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS  
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE — Entrepreneurs, unite. Applications are now open for aspiring business owners to jumpstart their entrepreneurial journeys and become one of the first to move into theDEPOT, McKenzie's new downtown retail incubator.

theDEPOT, situated between McKenzie's Splash Pad and the railroad tracks, used to be a working train depot. Over the years, as train travel became obsolete for the common man, the building found different purposes. Once the home of the McKenzie Industrial Board, the building now sits as a city-owned event space, bringing in about \$2,500 per year for the city.

Though McKenzie's downtown area has become a breeding ground for retail and food spaces in the past year, McKenzie Mayor Ryan Griffin said the city still loses almost \$8 million in food and retail spending to nearby cities and online storefronts.

"Downtown has started to pick up momentum," said Griffin. He began to think, "How do we build up on that? How do we create an environment where folks want to start a business — and where McKenzie customers will support it?"

Looking at the depot building, Griffin found his

answer.

The building is divided into four rooms — each with its own outdoor entrance. The rooms each have an attached private restroom, and one has an attached kitchen area. They each have their own air conditioner and meter. Three rooms are approximately 500 square feet, and one is about 700 square feet.

Mayor Griffin and several city officials realized the rooms would be great storefronts for new retail startups. After conversations with Paul Taylor, with Taylor Investments out of Jackson, the idea began to take shape. The building, renamed theDEPOT, will soon become a retail incubator, or a small business launchpad, for dreamers to give their business ideas a try.

Each room will cost about \$500-\$600 monthly in rent, and the City of McKenzie will help owners with some marketing efforts. The only stipulations are that the business must be in the food or retail industry, and the business must be open to consumers for more than three days per week — including Friday or Saturday.

The lease will have the option to renew each year, with a two-year limit in the building.

In a discussion with high school students, Mayor Griffin said there is no age

restriction on the lease. If someone under the age of 18 has a winning business idea, their parents must approve before they sign the lease.

Right now, in the early stages of theDEPOT, Mayor Griffin said his ultimate goal is to get people thinking: "What can we open here?"

"Maybe you just started," Griffin said. "Maybe the concept is in your head. We can help point you to someone who can help flesh out that business plan."

The Main Street Committee, which is made up of business owners downtown, will review applications as they come in. Mayor Griffin plans for theDEPOT businesses to open to customers in April 2026.

While open to all ideas and efforts, Griffin said the committee will favor entrepreneurs who have already built their business out of their homes or online, giving them a storefront to attract more local customers.

The City of McKenzie posted applications for the retail incubator on Facebook on Thursday, November 13. Applications are open now through January 31, 2026. Once applications close, the Main Street Committee will move forward with interviews before choosing the first four businesses to move into theDEPOT.

# Free Senior Christmas Dinner, Dance is December 2

A free Christmas dinner and dance for area senior citizens is Tuesday, December 2 at the Carroll County Civic Center, 201 Fairgrounds Road, Huntingdon.

The event is sponsored by the Carroll County Office on Aging, the McKenzie Senior Center and Lakeside Senior Living Community.

Doors open at 5 p.m. for friendship and fun. Dinner is served at 5:45 p.m., and live music by the Trailblazer Band begins at 6:30 p.m.

There will be an ugly sweater contest and door prizes.

# Gasoline Prices Decrease During Week

TENNESSEE (November 24) — Average gasoline prices in Tennessee decreased 6.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.60/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 3,821 stations in Tennessee. Prices in Tennessee are 1.1 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 8.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased by 0.8 cents from a week ago and stands at \$3.777 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Tennessee was priced at \$2.22/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.69/g, a difference of \$1.47/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.22/g while the highest was \$3.69/g, a difference of \$1.47/g.

The national average price of gasoline is unchanged in the last week, averaging \$3.03/g today. The national average is down 2.0 cents per gallon from a month ago. It stands 2.5 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

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

November 24, 2024: \$2.68/g (U.S. Average: \$3.01/g)

November 24, 2023: \$2.85/g (U.S. Average: \$3.24/g)

November 24, 2022: \$3.11/g (U.S. Average: \$3.55/g)

November 24, 2021: \$3.09/g (U.S. Average: \$3.40/g)

November 24, 2020: \$1.84/g (U.S. Average: \$2.11/g)

November 24, 2019: \$2.27/g (U.S. Average: \$2.60/g)

November 24, 2018: \$2.31/g (U.S. Average: \$2.54/g)

November 24, 2017: \$2.26/g (U.S. Average: \$2.50/g)

November 24, 2016: \$1.93/g (U.S. Average: \$2.11/g)

November 24, 2015: \$1.89/g (U.S. Average: \$2.05/g)

"Ahead of the peak of Thanksgiving travel, the national average has remained relatively steady, holding close to where it's been for the last few weeks," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "With refinery maintenance wrapping up, we're likely to see more relief soon, particularly in the Great Lakes and West Coast regions. While Washington and Oregon may still see issues related to the Olympic pipeline shutdown, the broader outlook is promising— especially with oil prices dipping below \$60 per barrel. Many states could begin to see further declines in the weeks ahead, just in time for the holidays."

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

SOURCE GasBuddy



# United Neighbors Seeks Winter Clothing, Food Donations

MCKENZIE (November 19) — McKenzie-Carroll County United Neighbors is asking for donations of winter coats and clothes, canned ravioli, canned meat, oatmeal, Pop-Tarts and similar breakfast foods at this time. Employees request that people bring in their donations during open hours.

The thrift shop and donation center, located at 2455 Cedar Street in McKenzie, is open from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 9 a.m. until noon on Wednesdays. The shop is closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Those in need of food assistance need only bring their valid paperwork to the cashier, who will help set them up with donated items.

United Neighbors also has a free food shelf standing to the side of the cashier counter, near the entrance. Anyone may take up to four items of food per visit.

# Two Residential Subdivisions Up for Final Approval

McKenzie Planning Commission will consider approval for two residential subdivisions during its November 26, 3:30 p.m. meeting at McKenzie City Hall.

The two subdivisions are located on Como Street and Kencindot and the developer is Daniel Mueller.

The first is a revised final plat that has been submitted by the, Marvin Alexander Trust which would subdivide seven lots and a parent tract on 14.887 acres. The parent tract does not have street frontage, but it is proposed to access Como Street via a 50'-wide access easement which runs through Lot 7. The subject property is located on Como Street (Tax Map 1, Parcel 1.02).

It extends from the pickleball courts along Como Street and extends to where Joy Drive meets Como Street.

The second subdivision is three parcels facing Kencindot and adjoining Cherrywood Road.

# Guilty

...From Front Page

Count 3: charged - Assault (Misd. B), amended to Assault; (Misd. C), 6 months, RCS 75%, No Fine.

NEW - Count 4: charged - Introduction of Contraband into a Penal Institution Where Prisoners are Quartered (Felony C), 5 years, Range 1 Offender, RCS 30%, No Fine.

All counts run concurrently for five years; RCS 30%; 'Regular' Probation; no contact with victims; Ainley's property seized is to be returned. Defendant

# Indicted

...From Front Page

minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct, including visual depictions involving a prepubescent minor who had not attained 12 years of age engaging in such conduct.

The indictment concerns Bell's alleged acts against six minors and ranges in time from the fall of 2021 until October 2025.

This case is pending before United States District Court Judge J. Daniel Breen in Jackson. Bell faces a 15-year mandatory minimum sentence and a maximum sentence of 30 years' imprisonment on each of the production counts and a maximum of 20 years' imprisonment on the possession count. There is no parole in the federal system.

This case is being investigated by Special Agent Eric McCraw, FBI Nashville Division, Jackson Resident Agency, and Lt. David Andrews with the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

If anyone has any additional information regarding this case or any matter involving the abuse of minor children, please contact the FBI Nashville Division (615-232-7500) or the Henry County Sheriff's Office (731-642-1672).

Assistant United States Attorney Josh Morrow is prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

The charges and allegations contained in the indictment are merely accusations of criminal conduct, not evidence. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt and convicted through due process of law.

# Spivey

...From Front Page

Physicians President-Elect Dr. Lisa Privett said, "Dr. Spivey has shown remarkable dedication and care, professional growth and service to both her community and our association. She brings enthusiasm, compassion and an unwavering sense of purpose to everything she does."

Dr. Spivey cares for patients of all ages and all seasons of life. An advocate for in-person care, Dr. Spivey's greatest lesson she's learned since joining Spivey Eye Clinic is the importance of connecting with her patients.

"Nothing can replace the patient-doctor connection that in-person care provides," said Dr. Spivey. "It truly makes a difference in the understanding of the patient as a whole. Their personality, the obstacles they face in daily life, their proximity or lack thereof to resources, community — all of these factors play a major role in treatment and management courses we decide on and how we care for our patients. Listening to our patients and taking the time to educate them also plays a big role in outcomes. People rely heavily on their vision for the majority of everyday life. We can't take that for granted as we care for our patients."

Dr. Privett also applauded Dr. Spivey's efforts beyond the exam room.

"Dr. Spivey is an active advocate for optometry in Tennessee, showing a willingness to serve and speak on behalf of her colleagues through legislative efforts that protect and advance our profession," said Dr. Privett. "Her energy and engagement reminds us of all the strength that comes from young doctors stepping forward to lead."

In her acceptance remarks, Dr. Spivey told her colleagues, "Optometry has given me the life I have always dreamed of."

Since 2021, Dr. Spivey has grown in both her professional and personal life. She and her husband — Corey Burress, an optician at Spivey Eye Clinic — welcomed a baby girl to their family in November 2024.

# Elects

...From Front Page

These new officers replace Joel Washburn, the outgoing chairman, Ricky Price, the outgoing vice-chairman, and Dennis R. Coleman, the outgoing secretary, whose terms will end on December 31.

Mayor Ryan Griffin plans to submit three nominations to fill the vacant board seats at the McKenzie Mayor and Council's December meeting. He intends to propose Chris Nelson, LaDona Herrin, and John Hodgson for six-year terms on the board.

During the November meeting, the Board also discussed the situation

# Library

...From Front Page

put books in the hands of children and their families," said Kaitlyn Mingle, director of early education initiatives at United Way of West Tennessee. "We are grateful for partnerships that allow us to do so, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to experience the joy of reading."

The project was made possible through the generous donation of materials from Forcum Lannom Building Materials, Delta Siding and Carroll County Lumber, as well as the design and construction expertise of students and instructors at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) in Newbern.

The Little Free Library is stocked with a variety of titles for all reading levels, from board books for young readers to chapter books and family-friendly adult novels. Community members are encouraged to take a book and leave a book to help keep the library full and diverse.

This installation is part of United Way's larger literacy initiatives, which includes programs such as "All Star Readers" and the "WOW Wagon," both

# Hours

...From Front Page

avoid the hottest part of the day. Managers will have discretion to adjust those hours in May and September as well when temperatures merit it.

Drewry surveyed all employees anonymously to gauge each of the changes, and the overwhelming majority (90-plus percent for each) were in favor of the new hours.

Drewry and Operations Manager Danny Toombs proposed a change in the department's right-of-way contractor from Davey Tree to Xylem I, LLC. Xylem offers lower costs, newer equipment and better regional support. Estimated annual savings from the shift are around \$53,000. Toombs recommended that Xylem retain the current local crew members working under Davey Tree.

The board unanimously approved the change.

Also approved was renewal of employee group health insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield. S&S Insurance agent Jacob Smothers was present to offer insights into changes and options and to answer any questions from the board. He explained that the rate increase of 16.17 percent was in line with other businesses of a similar size in the area.

Board members lamented the increase, but Drewry noted that the better-than-expected savings from the new solar farm would prevent the insurance hike from impacting electric rates.

Drewry also reported some potentially negative

regarding Cachengo, the owner of the former McKenzie hospital building. The company's future plans for the building, which has been used as a data center, remain unclear. Recently, Cachengo corporation replaced its local management officials, the Ash Young family. Local Cachengo employees have reported not being paid.

designed to encourage independent reading among young learners throughout West Tennessee.

Established in 1941, United Way of West Tennessee is a nonprofit organization that mobilizes communities to action so all can thrive. It serves 15 counties in West Tennessee with a focus on health, youth opportunity, financial stability and community resiliency.

For more information about United Way of West Tennessee's early literacy efforts or to learn how you can donate books, visit [www.uwwt.org](http://www.uwwt.org)

tive news on the Leach substation project. Preliminary results of the environmental survey indicate that the department could potentially be forced to purchase up to \$50,000 in mitigation credits due to non-isolated wetland on the project site. The matter is now in the hands of the State, who will determine the department's requirements.

This development has delayed the start of dirt work at the site, now tentatively to begin in February. Drewry told The Banner that the overall projection of completion by late 2026 shouldn't be affected.

The meeting adjourned after 30 minutes. Board member Paul Moore was absent.

The board next meets on Thursday, December 18 at 2:30 p.m.



# Editor's View

BY BRITTANY WASHBURN MARTIN  
Publisher • Graphic Designer • brittany@mckenziebanner.com



## Thankful Determination

It is the time of year where we count our blessings and realize all that we have to be thankful for.

If you stop and really think about it, you might find that your blessings outnumber your struggles.

You might see that when you focus on the good and let the shadows fall behind you, you feel better.

Sometimes it's hard to look on the bright side though. Turn on the news, it's bad. Hop on social media, it's worse. Phone a friend... you get the idea.

It is hard to have a positive mindset when you feel like you are marinating in a negativity stew.

Thinking positive isn't easy, especially if you struggle with depression or grief.

However, it is because of those things that positivity is so important.

Choosing to "think positive" may actually wire your brain to think positive in the future.

"Neurons that fire together, wire together."

Hear me out...

The phrase is a simplified version of Hebbian dynamics, a principle in neuroscience that states that if two neurons in the brain are repeatedly activated at the same time, their connection becomes stronger. This process strengthens neural pathways, making them more efficient over time, explaining how the brain learns and forms habits. This experience-dependent

neuroplasticity means the brain can change and adapt throughout life based on repeated thoughts, feelings, and experiences.

### How It Works (Courtesy of Google)

**Synaptic strengthening:** When neurons are activated simultaneously, the connection (synapse) between them is strengthened.

**Repeated activation:** The more often this simultaneous firing occurs, the more efficient the connection becomes, leading to a more ingrained neural pathway.

**Neural networks:** This repeated strengthening forms networks of connected neurons that fire in a coordinated way, which can become the basis for a specific thought, behavior, or skill.

**Physical changes:** This process isn't just abstract; repeated use can lead to physical changes in the brain, such as the strengthening of specific brain regions.

### Examples

**Learning a new skill:** When learning to play an instrument, the neural pathways associated with that skill are repeatedly activated, strengthening those connections until the actions become more automatic.

**Developing habits:** Similarly, repeating a behavior over and over again strengthens the "wiring" for that behavior, making it the default response.

**Practicing gratitude:** Repeatedly focusing on what

you are grateful for creates and strengthens specific neural pathways, making it easier to process gratitude in the future.

Translation, your repeated thoughts and actions create a well-beaten path in your brain, each time you repeat thoughts or feelings, you make the pathway stronger. You make it easier and quicker to get there next time. Your negative thoughts can make you more negative over time. The darkness compounds.

It takes stubborn determination to break old patterns, but it is possible.

They say you are what you eat, well, you become what you think, so change your mindset.

When you wake up in the morning, think of three things you are grateful for.

That's an easy one, my feet hit the floor, I'm above ground and I get to take in the beauty of this world for one more day. What are your three things?

If you start to think the worst, say "Not today, Satan!" and try to think of a positive outcome for the situation.

You will always find what you are looking for, so look for the good.

**Brief side quest:** A thing that my family and I do every year at Thanksgiving is list the things we are thankful for, then we give thanks for those blessings. Some things mentioned are: health, children/grandchildren, family, friends, and a roof overhead.

Everyone's list is different but the idea is the same; focus on the good and let the bad fade away.

What are you thankful for? Have a blessed Thanksgiving.

### HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

## Mr. Paschall Understood Those Atwood Boys

Ah, Thanksgiving is here. What a special time! The meal is carefully laid out. Family is gathered around the table. Memories entwine themselves in the aroma of homemade dressing, honey baked ham, and Aunt May White's exquisite sweet potato casserole.

Surely, our cup runneth over....

Being thankful for the many blessings showered upon us is the order of the day. And, at some point during the meal, or shortly thereafter, we start around the room, counting our blessings one by one.

If y'all don't mind, I will go first. I am blessed NOT to be the oldest brother. Leon would lean his ear against the wall in the hall between the bedroom and the kitchen. And just stand there. After a while he would motion me over, stick my ear to the wall and whisper, "L-i-s-t-e-n!"

I'd strain with all my might for an inordinately long time, "Leon, I don't hear anything."

"Yeah, I know," he was still whispering like something big was going on, "it has been that way all day!"

Leon would chase Mr. Archie Moore's cows into the middle of the pond, then swim out with them and attempt to ride one back to dry land. I don't know if you have ever tried to ride a half-drowned cow, but they are not exactly amendable to the idea.

He got called up into the space ship. At first, I thought it was just an excuse he made up because he had stayed out all night. But then, he got to wearing tinfoil on his head with an antenna attached to one side. He'd sit out by the woodpile at night and "commune" with something or somebody.

You would think him to be half nuts. Unless you grew up with him.

He was the smartest of the Colbert boys. By far! But, as Daddy would say on many occasions, "Son, I don't doubt your circuits are OK, I just don't know what terminal you are plugged in to."

I was blessed NOT to be in our 1951 Chevrolet when Leon, with Jackie Burns and six girls aboard, rolled that car over three times down the huge embankment built up for the new highway to Gleason. He was 15 years old. And the road was not even paved yet. It wasn't open to traffic. He had to pull around the fluorescent orange covered barricades, two dump trucks and a road grader to get out there.

I was blessed the fire did NOT burn the whole town down. And I don't think I started it. Yogi had the lighter. We were in that dry field down by the big ditch, practicing hitting the small roller that would ignite the thing. Somehow, we got to throwing the burning lighter at each other.

The field went up in flames quicker than a lightning bolt flashing across the sky. They managed to save Aunt Jessie's house, but it took some doing. Daddy turned to me with his soot covered face as the last hotspots were being dashed, "Son, what happened?"

"Well Dad, you know Leon...."

I was blessed to come away from the confrontation down in Atwood with only a cracked rib and a swollen eyeball socket. I knew better than to get on the back of Rollin Trull's big Harley-Davidson. He wanted to see a girl, so we cruised the short distance over to Atwood. The girl, as it turned out, had a boyfriend who (rightly so) resented our invasion.

Mr. Paschall, one of our favorite teachers, had warned us about "those Atwood boys" many times. When they sur-

rounded the motorcycle, I quickly explained I was the innocent bystander that didn't know, or care a thing about, any girl in town. It was all for nought.

Mr. Paschall's warning flashed across my mind just as I got hit. Right in the middle of the fight Rollin grabbed his bike and made a startling get-a-way. As the Atwood boys' attention momentarily turned to the roaring engine, flying gravel, and fading taillight, I broke and ran for home.

I passed Rollin and his big Harley before he got halfway across Jarrell Switch Bottom!

I was blessed that I did NOT marry the girl from Lexington. There wasn't nothing bad wrong with her. But, bless her heart, she did have a tendency to talk about herself. After a year and a half, it dawned on me, it wasn't always a soliloquy about her, it was just talking ad infinitum. She had no pause button....

I was blessed to find Northwest Florida early in life. I don't hunt, fish, or own a boat. I cannot stand the beach—too much sand! Sunsets are OK, if you don't get too close to the water. You would think I could find no cause to stay.... But the people along the coast don't know about Leon, the big fire back of Aunt Jessie's house, those Atwood boys, or some talking head from Lexington.

They think I am normal. And they have treated me like kinfolks from the very beginning.

So, as we pay homage to this wonderful Thanksgiving season, let's make sure to count every single blessing...especially those that deal with letting sleeping dogs lie....

Respectfully,  
Kes  
kesley45@aol.com

## New Memoir Pays Tribute to McKenzie

McKENZIE (November 20) — A newly-published memoir, titled "Little Miss McKenzie: Memories of an Average Girl in an Average but Perfect Small Town," chronicles the childhood and youth of McKenzie native Jennifer Kee Glass, and, in Glass' words, pays tribute to her hometown, which she considers "average but perfect."

"When I first began compiling all the stories of Little Miss McKenzie, I wasn't even sure where I was headed," said Glass. "And for the longest [time], the book was nameless. And then, suddenly, these stories took shape, and the title just made perfect sense."

According to Glass, Little Miss McKenzie is the city itself, and like any young

beauty queen, it should be spotlighted and applauded. Glass said people from all aspects of McKenzie life are parts of her stories.

"They really are the reason McKenzie shines so brightly in my eyes," she said. "Every person mentioned shaped me into the person I am today. That sounds a little corny, but it is very true."

Glass said the book focuses specifically on the time period of around 1973 until her graduation from McKenzie High School in 1988.

"I have a lot of cultural references that I think define the era, so anyone who grew up during this time period will be able to relate to Little Miss McKenzie's stories regardless of grow-

ing up here or not. But it's a book for all ages in my opinion," said Glass.

A book launch for Little Miss McKenzie is Sunday, December 7 at 2 p.m. at the Happy Book Stack bookstore on the corner of Cedar and Broadway in McKenzie.

"I welcome all who have an interest in celebrating this sweet town and the people who have made it so special to join us," Glass said. "Many have requested that I sign their book copy. I am humbled and honored to do this at the book launch."

There will be limited copies available for purchase on the date of the book launch, or anyone planning to purchase a copy can go to Amazon.com. The book costs \$14.50.

## Inglenook Book Club Hosts November Meeting

McKENZIE (November 12) — The Inglenook Book Club held its meeting at the Lakeside Senior Living Community in McKenzie at 3 p.m., with 14 ladies in attendance. Special thanks to Geneva Johnson and Beverly Mueller for hosting and serving delicious pumpkin cheesecake and chocolate caramel cake, along with assorted snacks and beverages. The Pledge of Allegiance, club aim, and motto were recited by all.

November birthdays include Carolyn Potts and Beverly Hills Mueller, and the group sang "Happy Birthday" to them. President Gail Mack called the roll and read the October minutes, which were approved as read. Treasurer Donna Ward followed with the treasurer's report, which was

also approved. The chairs for Sunshine, Telephone, Publicity, and Membership each presented their reports. There are vacancies for new members, so please let Suzanne Howell know if you have someone interested in joining.

In unfinished business, the final plans for the December Christmas luncheon were completed. In new business, Peggy Chappell announced the new slate of officers for 2026. All officers will remain for the new year, except for the book-passing chair. Please submit the title and author of your book for the 2026 reading so it can be included in the program book.

Geneva Johnson gave a presentation on the book club's history to fill in for Suzanne Russell, who was

out of town. She discussed how the club was first organized in June 1900, with its first group gathering on July 4, 1920. It was an interesting presentation, full of history.

Mary Newman continued with book passing, with the next book passing scheduled for November 26. She announced that the next meeting will be on December 10 at Lakeside at noon for the annual Christmas luncheon. Everyone is asked to bring individual food items for school donations. Carroll Arts will host a Christmas concert on December 4 at 7:00 PM at the Park Theatre.

All recited the Benediction, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary, Beverly Mueller.

### THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

## Don't Stop Worrying

One thing you must remember is that ANXIETY AND WORRY feed off each other. More anxiety produces more worry. More worry produces more anxiety.

It's not helpful to tell someone to quit worrying. Besides, it's very difficult to teach someone not to worry.

However, there's a technique you can practice that will keep worry from contaminating every moment of your day. It's called A Worry Hour. And here's how it works: You set aside a specific hour in your day, let's say 7:00 p.m. Nothing is to interfere with you keeping that appointment—nothing. When Worry Hour arrives, find a solitary place (your bedroom, a closet,

the bathroom, etc.), and begin writing down everything you're worried about. Write down all the scary "what ifs?" your anxiety is telling you. You must not think about anything else except your worries. Dwell on them; let your imagination run wild to horrible places.

If you get finished before your hour is up, go back and read everything you've written. Concentrate on it. Add any additional worries you can think of.

Then, when your worry hour is up, you must stop.

Make this a regular, daily practice, even if you feel like you don't need to. You must be vigilant. But here is a very important rule—if you find yourself worrying during any other moment of the day, tell yourself,

"I can't worry about that right now. I'm supposed to save it for my Worry Hour."

After you've practiced this every day for some time, and you believe sixty minutes has become too much time to set aside for worrying, you can reduce the Worry Hour by ten minutes and see how that works for you.

Going forward with this practice, you're allowed to reduce the Worry Hour to a number that works for you. And, as challenging events come and go in your life, you can increase it or decrease it based on your need.

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

## Correction

In the November 18 edition of The McKenzie Banner, in the article

"First Responders Lauded for Bravery," one of the honored first responders' names was misspelled.

Mikayla Vincent, a dispatcher for the McKenzie

Police Department, was honored during the November 13 McKenzie City Council meeting.

The Banner regrets the error.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FREE SENIOR CHRISTMAS DINNER, DANCE IS DECEMBER 2

A free Christmas dinner and dance for area senior citizens is Tues-

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**WICKED: FOR GOOD (PG)**  
Tues. 7:20

**THE RUNNING MAN (R)**  
Tues. 7:25

**NOW YOU SEE ME, NOW YOU DON'T (PG-13)**  
Tues. 7:35

**PREDATOR: BADLANDS (PG-13)**  
Tues. 7:35

**SARAH'S OIL (PG)**  
Tues. 7:30

**REGRETTING YOU (PG-13)**  
Tues. 7:30

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day, December 2 at the Carroll County Civic Center, 201 Fairgrounds Road, Huntingdon. The event is sponsored by the Carroll County Office on Aging, the McKenzie Senior Center and Lakeside Senior Living Community. Doors open at 5 p.m. for friendship and fun. Dinner is served at 5:45 p.m., and live music by the Trailblazer Band begins at 6:30 p.m. There will be an ugly sweater contest and door prizes.

LIVE NATIVITY AT CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

McKenzie First Cumberland Presbyterian Church is hosting a live nativity scene on Wednesday, December 3, 5 to 7 p.m. at the church, 16835 Highland Drive. Visitors can walk up or drive by the live scene featuring Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, wise men, and live animals.

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AT CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN

McKenzie First Cumberland Presbyterian Church is hosting a candlelight service on December 24, 7 p.m. at the church, 16835 Highland Drive.

FREE CHILI SUPPER

The McKenzie Church of Christ is hosting a free chili supper at the church building on Highland Drive, Thursday, December 11, 5 to 6:30 p.m. or until all food is gone. Dine in or carry out is available. The menu includes chili, hot dogs, chips, cookies

and a drink (dine-in only). The meal is available to all who are hungry or in need of Christian fellowship. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact 731-352-2106 or 731-695-6576.

MMS WINTER WONDERLAND HOLIDAY MART

McKenzie Middle School presents the Winter Wonderland Holiday Mart on Saturday, December 6 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the gymnasium. Tickets are on sale now; students will bring home a form. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door. Come shop, eat and celebrate the holiday season with the school community.

CARROLL COUNTY CHRISTMAS PARADES

Clarksburg - Thursday, December 4 at 7 p.m.  
McKenzie - Saturday, December 6 at 4 p.m.  
Huntingdon - Monday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m.  
Trezevant - Monday, December 8 at 7 p.m.

A MISTLETOE CHRISTMAS IS DECEMBER 4

Carroll Arts, Inc. presents "A Mistletoe Christmas" show at the Park Theatre in downtown McKenzie, Tenn. on Thursday, December 4 at 7 p.m. Featuring musical performances by local entertainers, including McKenzie Elementary School's Rebel Singers, Melissa Herris with Dr. Keith Herris, Gina Rainey, Veronica Giaimo Davis, Dana Wyatt with Larry Bulion, Isaac Stephen Walker,

and more. Plus, a special visit from Santa Claus! Admission \$5.  
For more information, please email carrollart-sinc@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 24-30 — Bethel University Thanksgiving break.  
November 26-28 — Carroll County School Thanksgiving break.  
December 19 — Last day of fall semester.

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!

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 shel-

ter 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.

MCKENZIE TOPS MEETS WEEKLY

Win over weight with support and encouragement by meeting with the McKenzie Chapter of TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) each Monday at 3 p.m. in the McKenzie Church of Christ gymnasium. The first meeting is free. For more information, call 731-352-7309. If no answer, leave a message.

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.

McKenzie Middle School  
**WINTER WONDERLAND HOLIDAY MART**  
Saturday, December 6 \* 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Come shop our 30 wonderful vendors booths and a silent auction.  
\$7 tickets at the door.  
All proceeds raised will go to McKenzie Middle School.

**WHAT'S COOKIN'**  
By Teresa Washburn  
Call 731.352.3323

**Pineapple Angel Cake**  
1 (1step) Angel food cake  
1 (20oz.) can crushed pineapple with juice

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place angel food cake mix in bowl and add in pineapple. Beat according to directions on cake mix box. Pour into unsprayed 9x13 baking pan. (Do Not spray pan) Bake for 30 minutes. (This is good low-calorie cake, but if you want it iced, just use prepared vanilla icing.) Serves 16-20.

**A Different Macaroni**  
1 (8oz.) package shell macaroni  
1/2 cup whipping cream  
1 (8oz.) carton shredded Gorgonzola cheese  
1 (10oz.) package frozen green peas, thawed  
2 cups cubed ham  
Cook macaroni accord-

ing to package directions and drain. Add cream and Gorgonzola cheese and stir until cheese melts.  
Fold in peas and ham and cook on low heat, stirring constantly, 5 minutes or until mixture is thoroughly hot. Spoon into serving bowl and serve hot. Serves 10.

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## West Carroll Students Celebrate Good Behavior

BY CINDY SMITH

Students at West Carroll Primary School in McMoresville had an exciting week as they enjoyed cashing in their hard-earned Dojo points for positive behavior. These points, collected over the past several weeks, allowed students to choose from a variety of fun rewards. Some popular options included wearing a hat to school, bringing a stuffed pet for the day, helping out during PE, selecting a surprise from the treasure box, and several other special privileges. The rewards added an extra boost of motivation and joy throughout the building.

In addition to the Dojo



**Mrs. Malorie Jo Watkins (center) wears an “I Survived 67 Days of School” shirt and smiles for a photo with students (L to R) Olivia Pierce, Kynlee Wilson, Karsyn Jackson, Everlee Kopiar, River Bynum and Mary Bell. Submitted photo**

celebrations, students also marked a major milestone—67 days of school. The combination of rewards and celebration cre-

ated a positive atmosphere and reminded students that their efforts and good choices truly make a difference.

## Murray State President Addresses Rotarians

MCKENZIE (November 11) — Dr. Ron Patterson, President of Murray State University, shares his journey from being a first-generation college student from Corinth, Mississippi, to his current leadership role. Speaking to McKenzie Rotarians, he outlined his career through coaching, human services, and various roles in higher education, highlighting mentors who guided him.

He detailed Murray State’s current successes, including strong enrollment, high student retention, and major construction projects, such as Jackson Hall. He also discusses his “listening and learning” tour, which identified key themes for the university’s future—foremost, community and academic excellence. He concludes by inviting the audience to campus events and providing an update on the potential new veterinary school.

Dr. Patterson was born in Corinth, Mississippi. He was a first-generation college student and the oldest of three siblings.

A guidance counselor and football coach, Coach Sherman, was a vital mentor who kept him focused on education and on the right path.

He attended Northeast Mississippi Community College on a basketball scholarship for two years.

He then transferred to Martin Methodist College,



**Dr. Ron Patterson, president of Murray State University.**

where he competed in basketball, even against the Bethel Wildcats.

He graduated from Martin Methodist College in 1998, having changed his major three times and taken five years to complete his degree.

Patterson began his career as a student assistant basketball coach at Martin Methodist College. He is now the president of Murray State University, where he has served for five months.

In his first 120 days, he conducted a listening tour across the 18-county service region, St. Louis, and Louisville.

Asked two main questions: “What does Murray State University do well?” and “What can Murray State University do better?”

Held over 30 events and gathered hundreds of on-line responses.

Six key themes emerged; the most prominent is that Murray State is a “community.”

These findings provide a roadmap for the university’s future.

### Enrollment and Student Success

As of October 25, 2025, enrollment is 9,902 students, the second-largest student body in recent history.

Students come from 116 Kentucky counties and 49 states.

Growth includes a 13.3% increase in first-time freshmen, nearly a 20% increase in first-time graduate students, and a 165% increase in international students.

Total enrollment has increased by about 5%.

The new Jackson Hall is on track to open in the fall of 2026, addressing healthcare and nursing shortages.

Ground has been broken for a new Living and Learning Commons (a residence hall), with occupancy expected in two years.

The Centennial Fundraising Campaign (completed in 2022) exceeded its goal, raising over \$121.2 million; more than half will fund student scholarships.

The Kentucky General Assembly awarded \$60 million for a future veterinary school facility.

The program’s approval is anticipated in November 2025 or by January 2026 at the latest.

Once approved, the university can proceed with facility planning, accreditation visits, and determining the first cohort.

## Judge King Gives Update to Rotary Club

MCKENZIE (November 18) — Judge Michael King, who presides over General Sessions and Juvenile Court in Carroll County, Tennessee, recently shared important information about how the courts are operating and the challenges they face. He discussed the different types of cases handled in his courts, including civil and criminal matters, as well as changes in laws that affect court procedures and probation practices. He also gave an overview of what’s happening at Carroll Academy.

The General Sessions Court is split into two parts: Civil and Criminal. The Criminal Court handles everything from serious crimes like murder to minor offenses like speeding tickets. In these cases, if a crime is serious enough, it may go to a grand jury for further review and possibly involve higher courts.

On the other hand, the Civil Court deals with issues like rent disputes, smaller civil lawsuits (up to \$25,000), and protective orders. This court is open for the public to attend.

Juvenile Court operates differently. Its sessions are closed to the public and deal with two main types of cases: Delinquency, for youths who commit offenses like drug use or skipping school, and Dependency and Neglect, which involves matters like child custody and parental rights.

General Sessions Court also operates Carroll Academy, a school located at



the Carroll County Office Complex. The students are remanded to attend by the courts or through a special request from area school. It serves around 150 students from several counties, including Carroll, Henry, Benton, and Weakley, and Milan. It’s goal to educate and protect students who are facing various challenges, including issues at home or problems in school.

The Academy has a dedicated staff led by Director Renee Sutton, who has nearly three decades of teaching experience. The school offers traditional high school curriculum, plus life skills training, which includes important lessons on managing money and understanding vehicle insurance, aiming to prepare students for real-world responsibilities. The goal is to educate young people in grades 7 through 12 and help them return to traditional schools on track academically.

Last year, the school introduced a life skills program that students have found very helpful. The Academy also partners with local community col-

leges to offer vocational training, helping students explore further education and career options.

Judge King highlighted that Carroll County is recognized for its strong community and family support, with Carroll Academy playing a significant role in keeping kids out of state custody and providing them with a safe and constructive environment.

The CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) program has been established to support Juvenile Court cases. This program recruits volunteers to advocate for the well-being of children in the system. Recently, several community members have become CASA volunteers, but there is still a need for more people to help, especially as some areas have a shortage of volunteers.

A new law now allows extended support services for foster youth beyond the age of 18, recognizing that many young people need help as they transition to adulthood. This change aims to provide essential support to those who have been in the foster care system, ensuring they have a chance to succeed as they grow older.

Overall, the efforts being made in the courts and through programs like Carroll Academy and CASA are aimed at improving the lives of young people in the community and ensuring a safer, brighter future for them.

## Weakley County Leaders, Coaches Recognized in TSSAA Awards

Strong leadership and sportsmanship continue to shine across Weakley County Schools, reflected this year in several TSSAA honors awarded to the school district’s coaches, administrators and school communities.

Director of Schools Jeff Cupples was named School System Administrator of the Year, an honor he says reflects far more than his own work.

“I’m grateful for this recognition,” Cupples said. “When I look at what it represents, I see the daily efforts of our coaches, our schools and the many people who invest in students across Weakley County. They’re the ones encouraging teamwork, modeling sportsmanship and creating opportunities that help students grow. This award reflects their dedication and the strength of our school communities. I’m proud to be part of that work.”

Gleason School was recognized as an A.F. Bridges Divisional Finalist in the West Grand Division, one of only 27 schools in Tennessee to receive this statewide honor.

According to the TSSAA, a school must have zero reported unsportsmanlike conduct incidents during the previous school year



**Principal Lee Lawrence represented Gleason School at the TSSAA West Grant Division Awards. Submitted photo**

and must consistently model a positive culture at all sporting events to receive this award. Nominations come from each athletic district’s Citizenship/Sportsmanship Committee, with final selections made by the State Selection Committee. As part of the recognition, Gleason School received a \$1,500 award to support its athletic programs.

“I’m deeply honored,” shared Lee Lawrence, principal at Gleason School. “I want to thank the Gleason Bulldogs for the way they carry themselves. Their sportsmanship and integrity reflect the character of our athletes, our coaches and our community; and I’m grateful to be part of a program that values doing things the right way.”

Greenfield’s Tori Liggett was also recognized as Female Coach of the Year, a distinction that highlights her leadership both on and off the courts.

“It’s an honor to receive this,” Liggett said. “I’m proud to represent Greenfield and Weakley County Schools, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to coach young people who work hard, show up for each other, and give their best every day.”

These recognitions—across coaching, school leadership and athletic culture—exemplify what makes Weakley County Schools exceptional: people who lead with character, teams who compete with heart and school communities that model sportsmanship in every arena.

## West Carroll Recognizes SOAR Students

TREZEVANT — West Carroll Elementary School faculty continue their tradition of celebrating outstanding students through the SOAR Awards program. This program recognizes students who exemplify the school’s core values of Safety, Ownership, Achievement and Respect. Each week, students are honored for their academic effort, positive character and meaningful contributions to the school community.

The Week 11 SOAR Award was presented to Whitley White, a fourth grader who earned the highest number of dojo points for the week.

Mrs. Beth Hysmith said, “Whitley has been working really hard and always tries her best. She takes her time on assignments, checks her work and asks for help when she needs it. I’ve seen so much growth from her in the last few weeks, and this previous one was one of her best. While tackling division, she worked out problems carefully and made sure to ask for help when she needed it while still being independent.”

For Week 12, the award was given to Sapphire McMinn, also a fourth grader recognized for her impres-



**Weeks 11 and 12 SOAR Students — (L to R) Carly Willis, Whitley White and Sapphire McMinn. Submitted photo.**

sive dojo points.

Mrs. Hysmith said, “Sapphire is always excited to learn each and every day. She tackles new concepts with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. She is kind and helpful to both her classmates and her teacher. During group work, you can always hear her facilitating good group discussion with her tablemates.”

In addition to the weekly winners, teachers and staff selected one student for recognition across both weeks. This honor went to Carly Willis, a fifth grader admired for her character and classroom engagement.

Fifth-grade teacher Mrs. Beth Bridges said, “Carly has the sweetest personality. She is kind to everyone, especially her teachers. In class, she is always paying attention and participating in discussions. She is a very special student to have in class, and we are blessed for it.”

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

## Baptist Carroll Awarded ‘A’ Hospital Safety Grade

MEMPHIS (November 18) — The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit watchdog focused on patient safety, awarded five Baptist Memorial hospitals “A” Hospital Safety Grades for their commitment to patient safety and quality care.

Baptist Memorial Hospital-Carroll County, Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle, Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi, Baptist Memorial Hospital-Union City and Baptist Memorial Hospital-Union County — all earned “As” for fall 2025.

“This is a great achievement for the five Baptist Memorial hospitals recognized with ‘A’ Hospital Safety Grades from Leapfrog,” said Dr. William Cloud, vice president and chief medical officer at Baptist Memorial Health Care. “Baptist Memorial hospitals have participated with hospital rating programs since they were first developed because of our commitment to continuous improvement and advancing quality care.”

Leapfrog assigns an “A,” “B,” “C,” “D” or “F” grade

to general hospitals across the country using evidence-based measures of patient safety focused exclusively on errors, accidents, injuries and infections.

“Earning an ‘A’ Grade means Baptist Memorial hospitals made a true commitment to put patient safety first,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of the Leapfrog Group. “We congratulate the leadership, board, clinicians, staff and volunteers that all had a role to play in this achievement.”

Founded in 2000 by large employers and other purchasers, the Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit organization driving a movement for giant leaps for patient safety. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade stands as the only hospital ratings program focused solely on preventable medical errors, infections and injuries that kill more than 500 patients a day in the United States. This program is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

Baptist Memorial Health

Care is one of the country’s largest not-for-profit health care systems and the largest provider of Medicaid in the region. Consistently ranking among the top integrated health care networks in the country, Baptist Memorial comprises 24 affiliate hospitals in West Tennessee, North and Central Mississippi and East Arkansas; a freestanding emergency department; more than 7,000 affiliated physicians; Baptist Medical Group, a multispecialty physician group with more than 1,500 providers in 50 specialties; Baptist Cancer Center; home, hospice and psychiatric care; walk-in and urgent care clinics; a network of surgery, rehabilitation and other outpatient centers; and an education system that includes Baptist Health Sciences University and a college of osteopathic medicine. Baptist employs more than 23,000 people, and in fiscal year 2024 contributed more than \$388 million in community benefit and uncompensated care to the communities it serves.



## Rebels Still Number One as Semifinals Loom

BY BRAD SAM  
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NASHVILLE (November 24) — The Tennessee Sports Writers Association and USA Today Network announced football rankings Monday morning following the quarterfinal round of the state playoffs.

In Class 1A, McKenzie (12-1) retains the top spot over South Pittsburg (12-1). The Rebels earned ten first-place votes to the Pi-

rates' six as South Pitt won their quarterfinal by a large margin while McKenzie advanced on a last-minute field goal. The other two teams still alive in 1A are number three Coalfield (11-2, hosting South Pitt) and number four Fayetteville (7-5, traveling to McKenzie). Dresden (9-3) and South Fulton (9-3), each eliminated in the second round, remain ninth and tenth, respectively.

In Class 2A, Milan (12-0) holds on to the number one

spot with a unanimous 16 votes over Marion County (12-1). Huntingdon (12-1) sits at number three and will travel to Milan, while Eagleton (10-3) is fourth and will host Marion County.

In Class 3A, Westview (12-0) is the unanimous number one (16 votes) over Gatlinburg-Pittman (13-0). Third-ranked Tyner Academy (12-1) travels to Gatlinburg-Pittman, while fourth-ranked Covington (12-1) goes to Westview.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL



Above Left, Lady Rebel Kristy Towne pulls up in front of a defender for two points. Towne led all scorers with 13 points. Above Right, Rebel Seth Stafford scores on a fast break. Stafford led all scorers with 31 points. Below Left, Lady War Eagle Aliveah Harrell dodges a defender on a fast break and scores with an off-balance shot. Harrell led West Carroll with nine points. Below Right, War Eagle Chris Pruitt scores on a fast break. Pruitt scored a team-high 14 points. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



## McKenzie Sweeps West Carroll

BY BRAD SAM  
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ATWOOD (November 20) — West Carroll Junior High hosted McKenzie Thursday for a pair of basketball contests. The Lady Rebels pulled ahead early and coasted to a 30-19 win. The War Eagles also fell behind quickly, but rallied late before the Rebels sealed a 44-35 victory.

### McKenzie Lady Rebels 30, West Carroll Lady War Eagles 19

The Lady Rebels jumped out to a 9-0 lead after the opening frame, led by Kristy Towne with four points. Willow Stenberg scored three, and Macy Brooks had a pair.

McKenzie had a 9-2 advantage in the second quarter, led by Towne with seven points. Brooks added a pair. Annalise Porter had a pair for West Carroll. At the half, the Lady Rebels led 18-2.

The third quarter was a 6-6 wash. Aliveah Harrell scored all six for the Lady War Eagles. Stenberg had

four McKenzie points, and Towne added a pair. Entering the final frame, the Lady Rebels led 24-8.

West Carroll rallied 11-6 in the fourth for a closer final, led by Camilla Jenkins with six points on a pair of three-pointers. Harrell also hit a three, and Kate Jackson had a pair. Stenberg led McKenzie with four points, and Serenity Bobo had a pair.

Lady Rebel Kristy Towne led all scorers with 13 points. Willow Stenberg scored 11.

Aliveah Harrell led West Carroll with nine points, including a three-pointer. Camilla Jenkins scored six on a pair of threes.

### Rebels 44, War Eagles 35

McKenzie had a 10-6 lead after the first frame, led by Seth Stafford with eight points. Fisher Allen had a pair. Chris Pruitt led West Carroll with four points, and Kaven Baker had a pair.

The Rebels had an 11-9 advantage in the second quarter, led by Stafford with seven points, including a

three. Allen and Lane Brown each had a pair. Pruitt led the War Eagles with four points. Baker scored three, and Drake Herndon had a pair. At the half, McKenzie led 21-15.

West Carroll cut the deficit with a 12-11 edge in the third, led by Herndon and Baker with five points each. Pruitt added a pair. Stafford led the Rebels with six points. Brown hit a three-pointer, and Allen added a pair. Heading into the final frame, McKenzie led 32-27.

The Rebels capped the win with a 13-8 tilt in the fourth, led by Stafford with ten points. Brown added a pair, and Allen hit a free throw. Pruitt and Baker each scored four for West Carroll.

Rebel Seth Stafford led all scorers with 31 points, including a three-pointer. Fisher Allen had eight points, and Lane Brown scored seven with a three.

Chris Pruitt and Kaven Baker led the War Eagles with 14 points each. Drake Herndon scored seven.

## #1 Seed Wildcats Punch Ticket to the Final Site

### National Title Hopes Remain Alive

MCKENZIE — Behind a blistering first half and a resilient closing stretch, the No. 1-seeded Bethel Wildcats Men's Soccer Team secured its place at the national final site Saturday afternoon, outlasting Union Commonwealth 2-1 at Walter Butler Stadium.

Bethel wasted no time asserting its top-seed status, pouring on pressure from the opening whistle and outshooting the visitors 16-5 in the first half. The breakthrough came in the 13th minute when Stanley Grand-Pierre slipped a perfectly weighted ball across the box to Freddie Pickford, who buried the opener to ignite the home bench.

Just over twenty minutes later, defender Ishmael Fuseini doubled the Wildcats' lead, smashing home a set-

piece delivery from Roberto Rangel in the 35th minute to put Bethel firmly in control.

Union Commonwealth refused to go quietly. After regrouping at halftime, they found life in the 62nd minute when Donte Campbell headed in a service from Patrick Taylor, trimming the deficit to 2-1 and shifting momentum.

The visitors launched wave after wave of attacks, firing 11 second-half shots, but Bethel goalkeeper Diego Camargo matched the moment with seven saves, three of them late, full-stretch denials.

Bethel's back line—anchored by Fuseini, Sa-Jar Blair, and Enock Owusu—held strong through a physical final 20 minutes that featured multiple cautions and tense midfield battles. The Wildcats finished with a commanding 30-16 shot

advantage and a 7-2 edge in corner kicks, evidence of their sustained control even as the score tightened.

With the victory, Bethel improves to 14-1-2 and advances to the national tournament final site, keeping championship aspirations alive. Union Commonwealth concludes a strong season at 14-4-4, their rally falling just short against the nation's top seed.

It is the 12th appearance in the nationals for Bethel. The Cats are 11-8-1 all-time in the tournament. Bethel won the national championship in 2007.

Bethel has won five straight matches. The Cats outscored their opponents 13-3 during the win streak.

With a 4-1-1 mark, the Cats won their first-ever Mid-South Conference championship.

## McKenzie Girls' Basketball Organizing Youth League

BY BRAD SAM  
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Youth girls' basketball is coming to McKenzie this winter.

McKenzie High School girls' basketball Head Coach Dru Emerson is organizing youth league basketball for grades 2-5.

Emerson told The Banner middle school Head Coach Kinleigh Harris will be "heavily involved", as will high school players.

Emerson said the program was needed to increase numbers and give

girls an earlier start learning "such a high-skilled game." The coach hopes the league leads to more sixth graders trying out for the middle school team.

"It'll take some time," he said. "But, in the future, you'll see the program flourish."

The young ballers will play in the high school and middle school gymnasiums, which Emerson hopes will give them something to look forward to if they continue to play.

Five practices will be held in December, where players

will work on fundamentals.

There will be two play dates each in January and February, where teams from other communities will be invited to play.

Emerson hopes the league will parlay into travel ball in the spring to get the young players even more experience.

The coach hopes that involvement in practices and officiating games will also be a boon for high school players aspiring to coach.

The introduction of the girls' youth league follows the creation of a boys' youth league last year by high school Head Coach Justin Lowery and middle school Head Coach Colin Lester.



(L to R) Zelda Windom, Norah Reynolds and Taytum Jenkins.

## West Carroll Schools Spotlight Students of the Week

WEST CARROLL (November 20) — The West Carroll Special School District announced its newest round of students of the week from its primary, elementary and junior/senior high schools. The three students — Zelda Windom, Norah Reynolds and Taytum Jenkins — were each nominated for their kindness and hardworking attitudes.

Kindergarten student Zelda Windom is West Carroll Primary School's student of the week, nominated by Ms. Brittany.

"Zelda is always kind, looking out for others, paying attention in class and working hard in everything she does," said Ms. Brittany.

Sixth-grade student Norah Reynolds is West Carroll Elementary School's student of the week, nominated by Ms. Marcia.

"Norah stands out not only for her academic excellence, but also for the respect, kindness and care she shows to others. Norah has a caring heart," said Ms. Marcia.

Eleventh-grade student Taytum Jenkins is West Carroll Jr/Sr High School's student of the week, nom-

inated by Ms. Sally.

"Taytum demonstrates many of the qualities listed. She is always kind to others, willing to help with whatever is asked of her, and she is a great leader. Taytum got Bible club started. They meet on Wednesdays during break. She is a great example of a West Carroll Student," said Ms. Sally.

The West Carroll Special School District also recognized West Carroll Elementary School third-grade and fifth-grade intervention teacher April Gonzales as teacher of the week.

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

## West Carroll Special School Shines Spotlight On Dedicated Educator April Gonzales

### COURTESY OF WEST CARROLL SSD

West Carroll Special School District is proud to feature April Gonzales in this week's Teacher Spotlight.

Mrs. April, a passionate educator from Humboldt/Milan, Tennessee, is currently teaching 3rd and 5th grade intervention at West Carroll Elementary School (WCES). With 16 years in education, including 11 years in classroom teaching, Mrs. April brings both experience and heart to her work with students.

Mrs. April earned her Bachelor of Science in Special Education K-12 from the University of Tennessee at Martin, with additional endorsements in General Education K-6 and English 7-12.

She furthered her education with a Master's in Teaching and Learning from Union University and is currently pursuing her Education Specialist degree in School Psychology at Lipscomb University.

"I became a teacher because I wanted to make a difference in children's

lives," Gonzales shared.

"What I enjoy most is the bonds that are made with my kiddos, and the excitement when they accomplish something or master a skill we've been working on. Seeing former students grow into successful young adults makes all the hard days worth it."

One of Mrs. April's favorite classroom memories highlights her dedication and joy in teaching.

"I had a student who really struggled with reading, especially sounding out unfamiliar words. One day, after going back and forth on a tricky word, he finally got it! I screamed with excitement, which startled him. He laughed and said, 'Mrs. April, you almost gave me a heart attack!' That moment reminded me why I teach—it was huge for him and just as meaningful for me."

In her classroom, Mrs. April emphasizes the importance of safety and trust. "I hope my students know that I see them and hear them. They need to feel comfortable and cared for before the academics come. When they trust me, they want to work hard."

Outside of the classroom, Mrs. April enjoys spending time with her family at the lake or beach.

She has been married to her husband, Justin, for 21 years, and together they have six children—Bradley, Taylor, Brooklyn, Ja'Darius, Blake, and Lyrik—and two grandchildren, Paris and Preston. "I don't show them enough, but I don't know what I would do without them," she said.

Mrs. April draws inspiration from her life verse, Isaiah 41:9-10:

"I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

April Gonzales's dedication, warmth, and unwavering commitment to her students make her a stand-out educator and a valued member of the WCSSD community.

## Lady Cats Remain Perfect With Statement Win at Home

MCKENZIE — The Bethel Lady Cats basketball team left no doubt Saturday afternoon inside Crisp Arena, overpowering Texas A&M-San Antonio 91-51 to remain unbeaten and move to 10-0 on the season.

From the opening tip, Bethel looked every bit like a team determined to protect perfection. The Lady Cats exploded for a 32-3 first-quarter lead, combining sharp shooting, relentless rebounding, and suffocating defense that left the Jaguars searching for answers. By halftime, Bethel had built a commanding 57-9 advantage.

Sophomore stand-out Mikee Buchanan delivered a monster per-

formance, pouring in 27 points on 12-of-18 shooting while controlling the glass with 12 rebounds—her latest double-double in a season full of them. Micah Hart added 16 points and seven rebounds, continuing her steady and efficient play, while MJ Simmons and Adalyn Koelling each chipped in 11. The three-point line was friendly as well, with Bethel knocking down 12 triples, including three from Buchanan and three from Kylie Reynolds, who finished with nine.

Bethel dominated nearly every statistical category—shooting 52.3% from the field, pulling down 51 rebounds, and dishing out 23 assists, a testament to the

team's chemistry and unselfish play. Defensively, the Lady Cats forced 17 turnovers and held the Jaguars to just 26.5% shooting, including an ice-cold 0% performance in the opening quarter.

Texas A&M-San Antonio found rhythm late, scoring 42 of its 51 points after halftime, led by Maya Simon's 14, but the early deficit proved far too steep.

For Bethel, the formula remains clear—depth, balance, toughness, and a confidence that grows with every victory.

The Lady Cats stay perfect, streaking into the heart of the season with momentum, identity, and belief. The Cats return to action Tuesday at home against Faulkner University at 2 p.m.

## Marriage Licenses

Justin Brent Searatt, 44, of Bruceton, to Nikisha Alene Israel Gipson, 39, of Bruceton.  
Kaleb Christopher Coleman, 22, of Huntingdon, to

Allison Drake Parker, 20, of Huntingdon.  
Jason Lamar Taylor, 47, of Atwood, to Emmy Lynette Donald, 48, of Atwood.

Brooke Maria Laprade, 29, of Huntingdon, to Christopher Todd McCarson, 29, of Huntingdon.  
Michael Lynn Umstead, 60, of Huntingdon, to Richard Dean Hobby Jr., 60, of Huntingdon.

## Property Transfers

Jeffery and wife Kristin Gordon to Martin and wife Lara Montgomery Reynolds. No District listed.  
Timothy N. Clifton to Brandy H. and Monty Pickell and others in District 16.  
Jason and wife Rebekah Pendergrass to Jason L. and Rebekah L. Pendergrass as co-trustees in District 16.  
Danny Maness to Garrett James Brown in District 18.  
Jane Alice Thomas to Joshua L. Withrow in District 22.  
Richard and wife Barbara Kay Kee to Guy A. and wife Kimberly D. Williams and others in District 13.  
Roy Trencce Johnson to Tammy M. and husband Marlin M. Cathey in District 22.  
Melissa K. Cabler to Toxey H. and wife Madison Hughes Perritt in District 8.  
Christy Phillips to Joshua Phillips in District 10.  
Amanda P. Pruitt to

Charles L. and wife Sarah H. Voegeli in District 13.  
Dave and wife Camille C. Peterson to Timothy J. and wife Jill A. Nutting Comes co-trustees in District 6.  
Scott Turnman to Larry D. and wife Beverly G. Fowler in District 23.  
Janelle Couch to Jason S. and Misty A. Walker. No District listed.  
John and wife Leigh Ann Sutton to Brian and wife Alane Zimny in District 21 and District 5.  
Crystal D. Clarke as executor and others to Crystal D. Clarke and others in District 15.  
Marilyn Gooch to Marilyn and Billy Gooch in District 13.  
Regions Bank to Secretary of Veterans Affairs in District 12.  
Kamilah Rentals and Renovations LLC, A Tennessee Limited Liability Company to Jeffrey P. and wife Layra

Brick in District 11.  
Jennifer Bickowski to Jennifer L. Bickowski and others in District 10.  
Sherry Pierce to Sherry Lynn Pierce and others in District 22.  
Alan B. Cole to Alan B. and wife Dawn Y. Cole in District 12.  
Terry W. Guy and others to Greg and wife Tina A. Rader in District 21.  
Dewayne Valentine Underhill to Austin Jones and others. No District listed.  
Angela Dawn Adams Walters administrator to Angela Dawn Walters and others in District 21.  
Stephanie Tremmel, as personal representative, to Stephanie Tremmel in District 45815.  
Nicole M. and husband Bobby L. Spearman to Donald E. and wife Donna L. Jackson in District 23.  
Jonathan L. and wife Fannie E. Borntrager to Benjamin J. and wife Esther E. Borntrager in District 23.

## Carroll County Sheriff's Reports

**Driving on revoked (5th offense)** — On November 13, Deputy Ezell initiated a traffic stop on a silver 2012 Nissan Altima for a brake light that was not working properly. The driver, Terry Paul Cahill, 34, of Hollow Rock, was asked for his driver's license, which deputies confirmed to be revoked.  
Cahill's license showed a revocation for failure to satisfy fines, costs, and taxes, effective since March 30, 2022, with no reinstatement date. Deputies also confirmed that Cahill had four prior convictions for driving on a revoked license from February 24, 2021, November 18, 2019, out of Montgomery County, October 23, 2017, out of Carroll County, and April 12, 2018, out of Henderson County.  
Cahill was arrested and transported to the Carroll County Jail for driving on revoked, fifth offense. The incident occurred in Carroll

County.  
**Impersonation** — On November 14, Deputy Williams responded to the Carroll County Jail lobby for a report of unauthorized debit card transactions. The reporting party stated he discovered several suspicious charges on his bank account that he did not make.  
The first attempted transaction was to a service identified as "MoonPay," which he was able to stop before it processed. He also observed a Walmart online purchase for approximately \$42, which he halted. While reviewing his account, he then located an older Walmart online purchase for approximately \$160.  
The reporting party advised he had contacted his bank, updated his information, and was working with them to recover his funds. Records indicated the online Walmart transactions

were processed through the Huntingdon Walmart system.  
The case was forwarded to investigations.  
**Motor vehicle theft** — On November 12, Deputy Ezell responded to a residence on Highway 436 for a report of stolen property. Upon arrival, deputies spoke with the reporting parties, who stated that two off-road vehicles and multiple tools had been taken from the property.  
One of the stolen vehicles was described as a red 2012 Polaris RX8, valued at approximately \$5,000. The second vehicle, a forest green 2019 Honda TRX four-wheeler, was also valued at approximately \$5,000. The total value of the missing tools was unknown at the time of the report.  
Both vehicles were last seen on or about November 9. The incident remains under investigation.

## Huntingdon Police Reports

**Theft of Merchandise Over \$1,000** — According to a report made on October 28, Officer Malachi Arline responded to Walmart in Huntingdon regarding a shoplifter. Upon arrival, Walmart Asset Protection advised that Karen E. Cox, 61, had been observed concealing and stealing items valued at \$43.56. Cox was detained by store personnel before police arrived. She was issued a misdemeanor citation for Theft of Merchandise Under \$1,000 and advised to report to the Carroll County Jail within ten days for booking. Walmart management also issued a one-year trespass ban against her from all Walmart properties.  
**Driving on a Revoked License, Speeding** — According to a report made on November 1, Officer Malachi Arline was running radar on Highway 22 North when he observed a gray Nissan Pathfinder traveling 73 mph in a 55-mph zone. A traffic stop was initiated, and the driver was identified as Gabriel Ramos, 26. Ramos told the officer he did not have a valid license due to a prior DUI.  
Dispatch confirmed that his license had been revoked for DUI since January 2023. Ramos was cited for Speeding (73/55) and Driving While License Revoked (first offense) and advised he had ten days to report to the Carroll County Jail for booking. Ramos then switched seats with his girlfriend, who possessed a valid drivers license. The vehicle was released to her.  
**Public Intoxication, Resisting Arrest** — Ac-

cording to a report made on November 6, Sgt. Ethan Parham and Ptlm. Dexter Richardson responded to West Main Street regarding a man lying near the roadway. Upon arrival, officers found William H. Hollowell Jr., 42, lying with his head only inches from the pavement on Highway 70. Hollowell appeared disoriented, with slurred speech, unsteady balance, and impaired coordination, and stated that he had taken Xanax earlier. For his safety, officers offered to transport him home or to the hospital, but he refused and stated he was "not going to jail". When officers attempted to take Hollowell into custody, he resisted multiple commands and tried to pull away. Sgt. Parham deployed his Taser to gain compliance, and Hollowell was safely placed into handcuffs. He was transported to the Carroll County Jail and charged with Public Intoxication and Resisting Arrest.  
**Driving on a Suspended License, Speeding (Juvenile)** — According to a report made on November 8, Ptlm. Daniel Inman observed a black Ford Fusion traveling 54 mph in a 30-mph zone on West Main Street. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver, a 17-year-old juvenile, was unable to provide a driver's license. A check through dispatch confirmed the license was suspended for failure to appear in Milan City Court. The juvenile and his mother were advised of the juvenile petition process, and he and the vehicle were released to his sister.

**Theft of Merchandise Over \$1,000** — According to a report made on November 19, Officer Brad Allen responded to Walmart in Huntingdon for a shoplifting complaint. Store security reported that Jeannie A. Gaskin, 66, had taken several items on November 17 without paying.  
The stolen merchandise was valued at \$25.14. Gaskin was issued a citation into General Sessions Court and charged with Theft of Property – Conduct Involving Merchandise.

## McKenzie Police Reports

**DUI** — Eugene M Cummings, 59, Germantown, Tenn., was charged with DUI, Implied Consent on November 22.  
Officer Jayden Rembert observed a vehicle stopped in the middle of the roadway for no apparent reason; it then advanced, activated a turn signal without turning, and continued in the middle of the roadway. Officer Rembert administered a field sobriety test and arrested Cummings on the DUI-First Offense charge. He was transported to Carroll County Jail after refusing a blood-alcohol test.  
**Driving on Revoked License** — Zareya Venae Webber, 25, Park Cove, McKenzie, was charged with Driving on a Revoked License after a verbal altercation with a school bus driver on November 21.  
Officer Timothy Dillon was dispatched to Cedar Street, where a verbal altercation was taking place between a school bus driver and Webber. After convers-

ing with Webber, the officer determined her license was revoked and cited her into General Sessions Court. The bus driver was permitted to leave the scene.  
**Driving on Canceled License** — Theodore Arnes Grant, 32, Jackson, was charged with Driving on a Canceled License on November 21.  
Officer Timothy Dillon observed a box truck partially off the road at the intersection of Cedar and Walnut. A check with the driver determined the canceled status. He was cited into General Sessions Court.  
**Domestic Assault** — Dameron L. Byrd, 24, Hamilton Street, McKenzie was charged with Domestic Assault on November 19.  
Officer Billy Burson arrested Byrd after Byrd's live-in girlfriend accused him of assaulting her. She stated he also had a protective order filed by his ex-girlfriend in another state from an assault.  
MPD arrested Byrd and

transported him to Carroll County Jail.  
**Driving on Suspended** — Tierra S. Diggs, 40, Nashville was charged with Driving on a Suspended License on November 22.  
Officer Steven Scott stopped Diggs' vehicle for a display of plate violation. He learned of the suspended status resulting from a conviction for prior convictions of driving on a revoked/suspended/canceled license in Carroll County General Sessions. She was arrested for Driving on Suspended - third offense and cited for Display of Registration violation.  
**Criminal Trespass** — Maurice Lawrence, 32, McKenzie, was charged with Criminal Trespass after he was lying in the floor at Wyatt's Coin Laundry and harassing a customer on November 20.  
Officer Jackson Henderson arrested Lawrence for Criminal Trespass because the owners of the laundry had issued a ban notice against Lawrence.

## Carroll County General Sessions Report

The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on November 19.  
Joseph Long, Highland Drive, McKenzie, bound over, Meth - MFG, Deliver, Sell, Possess With Intent.  
Kenny Ray Mann, Hamilton Street, McKenzie, bound over, Meth - Possession or Casual Exchange.  
Dylan Shane Mayo, Harmon Arnold Road, Bradford, bound over, DUI: First Offense; bound over, Open Container; bound over, Drivers to Exercise Due Care.  
The following cases resulted in a guilty plea or finding.  
Terry Paul Cahill, New Hope Road, Hollow Rock, guilty, Driving While License Revoked, no fine, 30 days, must take steps to obtain a valid license, unsupervised probation for balance.  
Shawn Dill, Purdy Road, Huntingdon, guilty, Driving While License Suspended, \$50 fine, six months supervised probation until conditions complete, must obtain a valid Tennessee drivers license as condition of sentence or will make reasonable efforts to obtain.  
Dillon Gregory, Park Cove, McKenzie, guilty, Driving While License Canceled - Second or Subsequent, \$250 fine, 11/29 supervised probation for 11 months 29 days or all conditions complete, must obtain a valid drivers license; dismissed, Financial Responsibility Law.  
Dillon Gregory, Park Cove, McKenzie, guilty, Probation Violation - Booked, sentence may be served on consecutive weekends last

10 days.  
Antonio Harris, University Avenue, Clarksville, guilty, Probation Violation - Booked, no fine, 11/29.  
Scott Alan Johnson, Chester Levee Road, Jackson, guilty, Probation Violation - Booked, no fine, sentence may be served on consecutive weekends for the last 10 days, probation extended three months.  
Joseph Long, Highland Drive, McKenzie, guilty, Probation Violation - Booked, no fine, 11/29, can receive day-for-day credit upon successful completion of inpatient rehab.  
Kenny Ray Mann, Hamilton Street, McKenzie, guilty, Probation Violation - Booked, no fine, 30 days, probation extended for six months.  
Beverly Overton, Lucille Lane, Dover, guilty, Probation Violation - Not Booked, no fine, 30 days, extend nine months.  
Sydney Owens, Pleasant Hill Road, Dresden, guilty, Probation Violation - Booked, no fine, can receive day-for-day credit upon successful completion of inpatient rehab.  
Crystal Porter, Milan Highway, Trenton, guilty, Probation Violation - Booked, no fine, 11/29, had hold in Gibson County.  
Anthony Stawicki, Hilltop Drive, McKenzie, guilty, Public Intoxication, no fine, 30 days; dismissed, Obstruct Highway or Other Passageway.  
The following case resulted in pre-trial diversion.

Deziray Buckley, Benton Street, Huntingdon, pre-trial diversion, Meth - Possess or Casual Exchange, \$750 fine, 11/29 supervised probation for sentence, alcohol drug evaluation and counseling, may receive day-for-day credit for successful completion of inpatient drug treatment; dismissed, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange; dismissed, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses & Activities.  
The following cases were dismissed.  
Janessa Katria Gilbert, Cotham Drive, Huntingdon, dismissed, Driving While License Suspended.  
Maurice Lawrence, dismissed, Criminal Trespass.  
Joseph Long, Highland Drive, McKenzie, dismissed, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses & Activities.  
Joseph Michael Long, Mills Darden Road, Eaton, dismissed, Driving on Roadways Laned for Traffic; dismissed, Driving While License Suspended.  
Kevin L. Milton, Kemp Street, McKenzie, dismissed, Driving While License Suspended.  
Matthew Parker, Smyrna Road, Huntingdon, dismissed, Community Supervision Violation.  
The following cases were rescheduled for a later date.  
Charlie A. Davis Jr., Dale William Foga, William Hollowell, Chad Maceri, Demarcus M. Robinson, Jason Taylor.

CARROLL COUNTY BEER BOARD

NOTICE

The Carroll County Beer Commission has received an application for a beer permit for Rami Abusaada (CG Country Store INC.). Application is for off premises consumption.

The business is located at 3510 US Highway 70, Cedar Grove, TN 38321. The business is bounded north by Highway 104, south by Porter Jones, east by Highway 70, west by Phillip Williams.

A hearing will be held December 9 at 9 a.m. at the Carroll County office Complex conference room, 625 High Street, Huntingdon, TN 38344.

All people who wish to be heard may be present at this time.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Corrective Action Plan Submitted for Cornerstone Mart (Facility ID# 7-090092) by Sam Enterprises.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) is seeking public comments on the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) submitted for Cornerstone Mart on August 28, 2025. The CAP describes the proposal for remediating petroleum contamination in soil and groundwater. Cornerstone Market is located at 15815 Highland Drive, McKenzie, TN 38201.

A copy of the CAP may be viewed at TDEC - Division of Underground Storage Tanks (DUST) Environmental Field Office located at 1625 Hollywood Drive, Jackson, TN 38305 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Comments must be received at the DUST office within 30 days.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2025PA2324

ESTATE OF: **BOBBY DWAIN PATE, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

Notice is hereby given that on the **19TH** day of **NOVEMBER, 2025** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **BOBBY DWAIN PATE** deceased, who died **MARCH 16TH, 2025**, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk & Master of Carroll County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required by law to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

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

**This 19TH day of NOVEMBER, 2025.**

**THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.**

**FILE CLAIMS IN TRIPLICATE WITH:**

**KENNETH TODD - CLERK & MASTER**

**99 Court Square, Suite 105, Huntingdon, TN 38344**

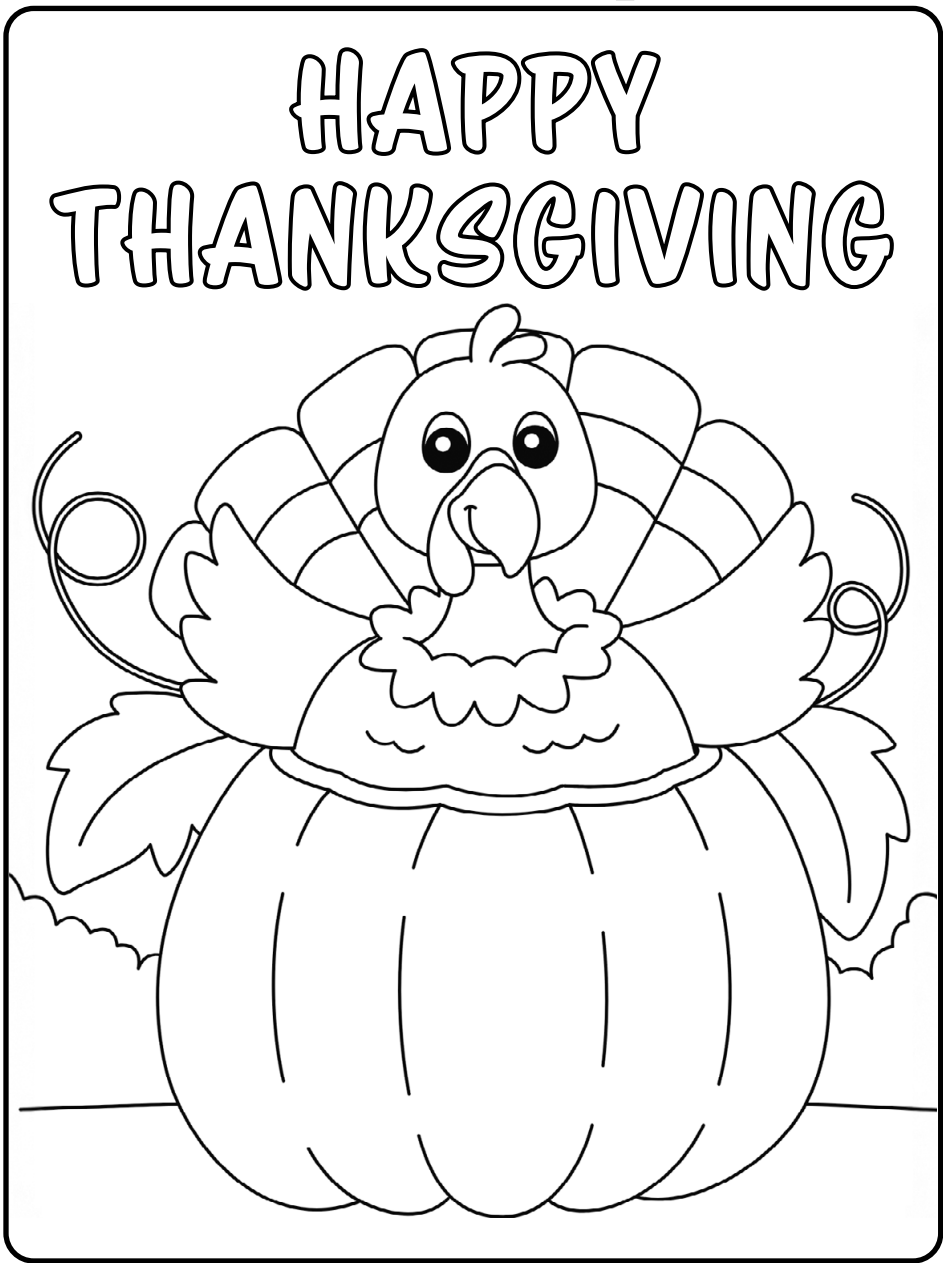
**GLORIA PATE, Executor/Administrator**

**STEVEN L. WEST, Attorney**

**KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master**



Color A Masterpiece



Weekly Crossword

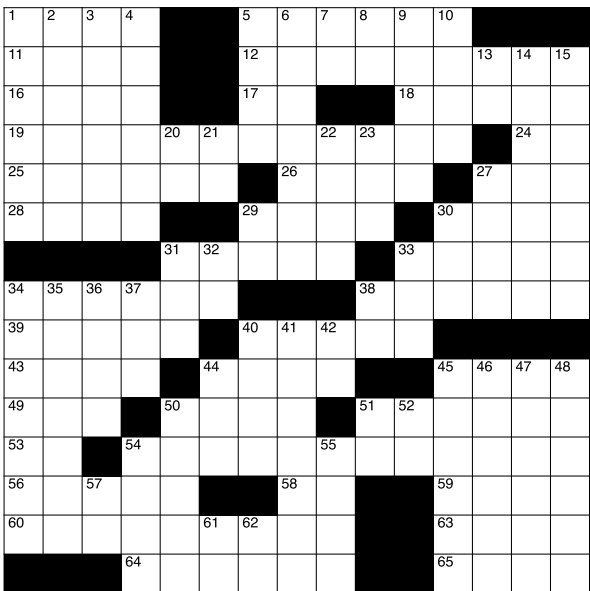
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Popular wine \_\_\_ Spumante
- 5. Greatly impressed
- 11. \_\_\_ and that
- 12. Uttered with passion
- 16. Boats
- 17. Veteran actor Harris
- 18. Casserole with game
- 19. Reprehensible acts
- 24. They precede C
- 25. Says under one's breath
- 26. Taxis
- 27. It transfers genetic info
- 28. NFL great Randy
- 29. Where college students sleep
- 30. Major European river
- 31. Taco condiment
- 33. -frutti
- 34. Polish city
- 38. Astronomy unit
- 39. Khoikhoi peoples
- 40. Bears QB Williams
- 43. Scrambled, fried, boiled
- 44. Price indicators
- 45. One-time world power
- 49. When you hope to get somewhere
- 50. Farm building
- 51. Choose carefully
- 53. Magnum was one
- 54. One who combines
- 56. Nursemaids
- 58. Partner to Pa
- 59. Notable river
- 60. Officially honors
- 63. Colorless compound
- 64. A fancy chair
- 65. Email function

CLUES DOWN

- 1. The central area in a building

Week 47



- 2. Religion of Japan
- 3. Leggings
- 4. Officially distributes
- 5. Arabian Sea seaport
- 6. Spanish doctors
- 7. It cools your house
- 8. Currency of Poland
- 9. Slowly moves into
- 10. Days (Spanish)
- 13. Unit of volume
- 14. Emit
- 15. With two replaceable hydrogens
- 20. Title for a man
- 21. Equally
- 22. Scarlett's home
- 23. One-time tech titan
- 27. Subway dwellers
- 29. One-tenth of a liter
- 30. Central European river
- 31. Distress signal
- 32. Expression of sympathy
- 33. The bill in a restaurant

- 34. Football equipment
- 35. Dance music
- 36. Russian river
- 37. Cosmetics giant Mary \_\_\_
- 38. Gym class
- 40. Automobiles
- 41. Roman honorific
- 42. Losses in sports
- 44. Skin tone in summer
- 45. Distant planet
- 46. Critical humor
- 47. Illegally obtained
- 48. Go back over
- 50. Home appliance brand
- 51. Unit of radioactivity
- 52. Home of the Flyers
- 54. Short official note
- 55. Emit coherent radiation
- 57. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- 61. Most common noble gas (abbr.)
- 62. Toward

See solution in next week's edition.

Get Cooking Word Search

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

Bake  
Baste  
Beat  
Blanch  
Blend  
Boil

Braise  
Brining  
Broil  
Brown  
Caramelize  
Chop

Cookware  
Cream  
Deglaze  
Dice  
Dredge  
Fold

Frying  
Grill  
Julienne  
Poach  
Roast  
Sift

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1833: A massive undersea earthquake rocks Sumatra.

1915: Albert Einstein presents the field equations of general relativity.

1963: The state funeral of John F. Kennedy takes place and the President is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

SUDOKU

WEEK 47

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

See solution in next week's edition.



Solve the code to discover words related to cooking. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 10 = E)

A. 25 4 2 12 10 21 25 10 4 7 26  
Clue: They make a meal

B. 7 25 19 25 4 2  
Clue: Duration

C. 19 10 9 17 26  
Clue: Dinner and breakfast are two

D. 20 12 10 20 9 12 10  
Clue: Get ready

Answers: A. ingredients B. timing C. meals D. prepare

LETTER MIX-UP

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

COOKWARE

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

Riddle Me This

Why didn't the turkey finish its dessert?

Answer: Because it was stuffed.

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

BERLDIO

Answer: Broiled

GUESS WHO ?

I am a music producer born in Louisiana on November 26, 1975. I began my career as a Florida radio DJ in the 1990s. In 2008, I won the DJ of the Year Award at the Ozone Awards. I collaborated with Lil Wayne on one of my songs.

Answer: DJ Khalid

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PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 46 Crossword Puzzle Solution

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION WEEK 46

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

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A519/44-TF

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A8661/34-TF

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TSSAA CLASS 1A FOOTBALL STATE QUARTERFINALS

Rebels Escape Richland with Last-Second Field Goal, Will Host Black Friday Semifinal

BY BRAD SAM  
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LYNNVILLE (November 21) — For the fifth consecutive year, McKenzie High School has advanced to the TSSAA Class 1A Football State Semifinals after a thrilling, 24-21 road win over Richland in Friday's quarterfinal round.

The Rebels will host Fayetteville on Black Friday with a state championship berth on the line. Kickoff is 7 p.m.

Momentum was hard to come by Friday night as McKenzie and Richland went back-and-forth, but the Rebels ended up with the ball at the end of a tie game. Aiden Mason kicked a 32-yard field goal as time expired to seal the win.

Richland won the coin toss and elected to receive the opening kickoff.

A strong return gave the Raiders a short field, and they capitalized with a seven-play, 35-yard drive to take a 7-0 lead.

Rebel fans would be left holding their breath as McKenzie went three-and-out on their first possession, but a great punt by Cole Brown pinned the Raiders deep.

The Rebel defense returned the favor and forced a three-and-out. Richland's punt was downed at midfield.

McKenzie kept it on the ground as Brown, Timmy Arline and Jayden Callis kept the Raiders guessing on a ten-play drive capped by a one-yard touchdown

by Brown on the second play of the second frame. Aiden Mason kicked the point-after, and the Rebels tied it at 7-7.

Richland earned one first down but couldn't get across midfield and turned the ball over on downs at their 45.

The teams swapped penalties to start the drive, then Cole Brown threw to Avery Brown for a 35-yard touchdown. Avery made the catch falling into the end zone under double-coverage. Mason kicked, and McKenzie led 14-7 with seven minutes remaining in the first half.

The Raiders answered with a nine-play, 64-yard drive to tie it at 14-14 just under three minutes before intermission.

The Rebels earned one first down, but then faced fourth down and took a knee to end the half.

McKenzie received the second-half kickoff with a chance to regain the lead, but the drive stalled after one first down and Brown punted.

Richland earned a pair of first downs and got across midfield, but a penalty doomed the drive to a punt.

Brown and Callis took turns carrying the ball on a seven-play, 58-yard drive, capped by a five-yard run by Brown. Mason kicked the PAT, and the Rebels regained the lead, 21-14, with a minute left in the third quarter.

The Raiders threatened again, starting with a solid return and earning three



first downs to get to the Rebel 16. Big stops by Cole Brown, Aiden Callis and Aiden Legens (with a third-down sack) made it fourth down, and Avery Brown defended a pass attempt for the turnover.

McKenzie went three-and-out, but another strong punt by C. Brown started Richland at their 27.

The Raiders quickly faced fourth down, but converted on a quarterback scramble. Six plays later, they found the end zone and tied it with a PAT, 21-21 with just over two minutes remaining in regulation.

Four quick first downs, including a gutsy, 41-yard scramble by C. Brown, got the Rebels to the 16, but the next two plays yielded no yards. McKenzie used their third down to move the ball over to give Mason a straight kick. On fourth down as time expired, the senior soccer transplant

nailed it from 32 yards to give his team the victory.

The Rebels earned 322 yards of total offense, 147 passing and 175 rushing. Richland had 227 total yards, 42 in the air and 185 on the ground.

Rebel quarterback Cole Brown was 12 of 17 passing for 147 yards and one touchdown. He had 13 carries for 116 yards and two touchdowns.

Jayden Callis rushed six times for 39 yards. Timmy Arline had five carries for 20 yards.

Avery Brown had five receptions for 71 yards and a touchdown. Jacobi Melton had two catches for 24 yards. Arline caught two passes for 16 yards. J. Callis had one reception for 13 yards, and Lelan Gordon caught two passes for nine yards.

Cole Brown led the defense with nine solo tackles and five assists, including



Above Left, Rebel quarterback Cole Brown completes a short pass. Above Right, Rebel Lelan Gordon makes a catch and turns upfield. Below, Rebels Kason Brown (12) and Xander Johnsey (8) wrap up a Raider ball carrier. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



one for a loss. Maddox Shiell had six solo and one assist. Mason Batten had five solo and five assists.

Cooper Davidson had four solo tackles and four assists. Aiden Legens had four solo and three assists

with a sack. Kason Brown had four solo and four assists with one for a loss.

Aiden Callis had three solo and two assists. Matteo Tabada and Cayden Gordon each had two solo and three assists.

Mustangs Outrun Indians To Advance to Semifinals

BY RUSSELL BUSH  
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HUNTINGDON (November 21) — The Huntingdon

Mustangs punched their ticket to the semifinals of the TS-SAA Class 2-A playoffs and a rematch with the Milan Bulldogs this past Friday night at

Paul Ward Stadium as they defeated the East Robertson Indians 42-20. The Indians had entered the game undefeated and ranked second in

the state, but the Mustangs took advantage of their running game and some timely passes to win and improve to 12-1 for the season.

The game was sloppy for a quarter-final round, as 22 penalties were called against both teams combined. The Mustang offense rushed for 285 yards, and QB Kenton Smith rushed for 120 yards and scored four touchdowns, and threw for 96 yards on 3 of passing and one touchdown.

The Mustang defense played well against a high-scoring Indian squad, holding East Robertson to 62 yards on the ground. The Indians, who never had the lead in the game, went to the passing game, and QB Kason Young completed 27 of 47 passes for 354 yards.

The Mustangs made a statement on their opening possession of the game as they drove from their 34 to score the first points of the night on nine plays. The Mustangs scored on a one-yard run by Smith with 8:01 left in the first quarter, and Greyson Anderson's PAT gave the Mustangs a 7-0 lead.

East Robertson answered with a nine-play drive of their own but settled for a 24-yard field goal by David Summerer with 3:25 left in the quarter to cut the lead to 7-3.

It took the Mustangs one play to stifle whatever momentum the Indians had gathered on the field goal as Tyreke Hutch scampered 65 yards for a touchdown with 3:13 left in the first. Anderson added the point after, and the Mustangs led 14-3.

The Indians inched closer with 6:40 left in the second quarter when Young connected with Brock Taylor for an 82-yard scoring strike, and Summerer added the point after. The lead for the Mustangs shrank to 14-10.

The Indians refused to kick deep after scoring the entire game, and the Mustangs kept getting the ball in great field position. After the Indian score, the Mustangs took over at their 40, and two plays later found the end zone on a 32-yard run by Smith with 6:03 left in the half. Anderson was good on the PAT, and the lead was 21-10 at the half.

The Indians managed more points on their second possession of the third quarter, but the Mustang defense



Top, Ashtyn Donald blocks for Kenton Smith in Mustangs win over East Robertson. Above, Three Mustang defenders tackle an East Robertson ball carrier. Below, DJ Armour and Broox Bennett chase an East Robertson runner. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner



held the Indians to a 33-yard field goal with 3:04 left in the third, and the lead stood at 21-13.

The Mustangs again started in great field position at their 39, and Smith gained 45 yards on first down and scored two plays later from six yards away, and the Mustangs led 28-13 with Anderson's extra point.

The Indians started at their 20 and completed six of 10 passes for 57 yards and drew within eight points of the lead when Young completed a 27-yard pass to Christopher Groves with 10:07 left in the game. Summerer tacked on the point after, and the score stood at 28-20.

The Mustangs again answered quickly as Smith

tossed a short pass to Broox Bennett, who turned it into a 70-yard pass play as he broke a couple of tackles and sprinted to the end zone with 9:59 left. Anderson was true again on the point after, and the Mustangs led 35-20.

The Mustangs added a final score after East Robertson turned the ball over on downs at their own 20 and Smith scored on a five-yard run five plays later, and the Mustangs, with Anderson's PAT, had their 42-20 win to advance to the semifinals.

The Mustangs, who lost to Milan 34-9 earlier in the season, will travel to Milan this Friday for a 7 p.m. kickoff and the chance to advance to the championship game.

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